



# **Airbnb Recommendation Engine for NYC through Sentiment Analysis**

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#### 1. Business Case

**About Airbnb:** You can host anything, anywhere, so guests can enjoy everything, everywhere.

Nowadays the demand for short and long-term temporary accommodation is increasing thanks to easing travel conditions. This demand positively affects the number of online platforms that allow you to make reservations before traveling. **Airbnb** is one such platform, which allows travelers to make accommodation reservations based on the fact that the host leases all or part of his or her home to the traveler.

Customer reviews play an important role in the customer's decision to purchase a product or use a service. Customer preferences and opinions are affected by other customers' reviews online, on blogs or over social networking platforms

The main goal of this work is to combine both recommendation system and sentiment analysis in order to recommend the most accurate listings for users based on their preferences in **New York City**. Since both domains suffer from the lack of labeled data, to overcome that, this project detects the opinions polarity score using **NLTK VADER** (Valence Aware Dictionary and Sentiment Reasoner) Lexicon.

We'll therefore split our approaches into following sections:

- Exploring available AirBnb listings in NYC
- Measuring polarity/sentiment scores along with vader\_lexicon. This polarity

measurement adapts to *pos, neu, neg*, and compound. By simply taking the compound from these values, a new feature was created on the data.

• Building a recommendation engine with Collaborative Filtering to predict sentiment score for all reviewer-listing pairs and making personalised recommendations for each user based on their ranked preferences.

# 2. What is a Recommendation Engine?

In general, recommendation engine consist of algorithms that can present similar elements to users. Recommended application, articles, videos, etc. It's about the user. It analyzes the user's previous habits and makes recommendations. Each item shown to the user has a ranking. This sequence is based on the recommended system and is created by examining the user's historical data. This system consists of two separate categories. **Content-Based (CB)** and **Collaborative Filtering (CF)** systems.

The CF method focuses on collecting and analyzing data on user behavior, activities, and preferences, to predict what a person will like, based on their similarity to other users.

To plot and calculate these similarities, collaborative filtering uses a matrix style formula. An advantage of collaborative filtering is that it doesn't need to analyze or understand the content (products, films, books). It simply picks items to recommend based on what they know about the user.

more

#### 3. Aim of the Notebook

This is the last Notebook and last project section which aims to building a recommendation engine with Collaborative Filtering to predict sentiment score for all reviewer-listing pairs and make personalised recommendations for each user based on their ranked preferences.

# 4. Data Understanding

We will use the dataset of review\_polarity which was preprocessed during the Sentiment Analysis section. Let's dive deep into the most exciting part of the project.

In [1]:

```
# Import necessary cloraries
          import numpy as np
          import pandas as pd
          pd.set option('display.max colwidth', None)
          # Data visualization
          import seaborn as sns
         from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         %matplotlib inline
          # Seaborn's beautiful styling
          import seaborn as sns
         # to get rid of the warnings
          import warnings
         warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
         sns.set_style('whitegrid')
          from collections import Counter
          from scipy import stats
          from scipy.linalg import sqrtm
          from sklearn.metrics import mean squared error
          from math import sqrt
In [ ]:
         %rm -rf sample data/
In [2]:
         # Load dataset
         df_reviews = pd.read_csv('/content/reviews_polarity.csv')
         df reviews
Out[2]:
                listing_id
                                id reviewer_id reviewer_name
                                                                                    weekday language text_length polarity_score
                                                                 comments month
                                                             i ve stayed with
                                                                my friend at
                                                                the midtown
                                                                castle for six
                                                             days and it was
                                                               a lovely place
                                                                 to be a big
                                                              spacious room
```

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					you feel like					
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					castle the					
					location is					
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					time square					
					and theatre					
					district					
					everything					
					worked just					
					perfect with					
					the keys etc					
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					much jennifer					
					we had a great					
					time in new					
					york attention					
					it's on the floor					
					without a lift					
					but definetely					
					worth it					
					Worthite					
					we ve been					
					staying here					
					for about					
					nights enjoying					
					to be in the					
					center of the					
					city that never					
					sleeps short					
					ways to					
					everywhere in					
					manhattan by					
					subway or by					
					walk midtown					
1	2595	34320	71130	Kai-Uwe	castle is a	4	Friday	en	366	0.9136
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					and friendly					
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						wifi and a little					
						kitchen too					
						KITCHEH 100					
						we had a					
						wonderful stay					
						at jennifer s					
						charming					
						apartment they					
	_					were very	_				
	2	2595	46312	117113	Alicia	organized and	5	Tuesday	en	155	0.9409
						helpful i would					
						definitely					
						recommend					
						staying at the					
						midtown castle					
						acom. cast.c					
						hi to everyone					
						would say our					
						greatest					
						compliments					
						to jennifer the					
						host of					
						midtown castle					
						we spent in					
						this lovely					
						apartment in					
						the heart of					
						manhattan one					
						month april					
						and will					
						remember this					
						time as ours					
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					very					
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					host thanks her					
					and highly					
					recomend this					
					apartment for					
					everyone who					
					are looking for					
					a quiet place					
					right in the					
					center of the					
					boiling					
					midtown					
					jennifer was					
					very friendly					
					and helpful					
					and her place					
					is exactly as					
					advertised the					
					location is very					
4	2595	1293632	1870771	Loïc	convenient and	5	Thursday	en	204	0.9542
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					pleasure to					
					stay at the					
					midtown castle					
					i definitely					
					recommend it					
					thanks					
					tilatiks					
•••										
					vanessa was					
					very pleasant					
70806	72265	161050979	109542482	John	and	6	Friday	en	58	0.7774
					communication					
					was very good					
					great location					
70807	72265	163401732	1282541	Sofia	close to g train	6	Saturday	en	34	0.6249
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70808

72265 252657179

recommend cannot beat this value great location minute walk to subway and sec to bus which connects you easily and quickly to various parts of manhattan and brooklyn organic as well as regular grocery stores and lots of awesome restaurants and stores near by very safe neighborhoods 8936723 4 Wednesday nice room not big but it s plenty enough and everything works well it s nice warm in the winter even though the bedroom is separated by a curtain to the kitchen because the host is mainly in the other section of the apartment you have a lot of privacy vanessa is a very friendly interesting and helpful host

0.9870

626

en

70809		277084426	17160406	loannis	great and very polite host and gives you as much privacy as you want the room can be seen in the photos and has everything you need the location is amazing as well with plenty of bars restaurants and stores around and literally half a block away from g train	6	Friday	en	275	0.8126
70810	72265	294169497	165490874	Elsa	vanessa is a very hospitable and friendly person i was able to interact with her a lot the apartment is ideally located the room very convenient i have nothing to say except that i had a great time and it was a great experience for me thank you vanessa i would definitely go back	7	Saturday	en	287	0.9621

70811 rows × 11 columns

```
In [3]:
          # Print dataFrame columns
          df reviews.columns
Out[3]: Index(['listing_id', 'id', 'reviewer_id', 'reviewer_name', 'comments', 'month',
                 'weekday', 'language', 'text length', 'polarity score',
                 'sentiment type'],
                dtype='object')
In [4]:
          # Drop unnecessary columns
          df reviews.drop(columns=['id','comments','month','weekday','language','text length'],inplace=True)
In [5]:
          df reviews
Out[5]:
                 listing_id reviewer_id reviewer_name polarity_score sentiment_type
             0
                                38960
                                                             0.9274
                     2595
                                               Anita
                                                                           Positive
              1
                     2595
                               71130
                                             Kai-Uwe
                                                             0.9136
                                                                           Positive
              2
                     2595
                              117113
                                                             0.9409
                                                                           Positive
                                               Alicia
              3
                     2595
                              1783688
                                              Sergey
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                                                                           Positive
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                                                             0.9870
                                                                           Positive
          70809
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                            17160406
                                              Ioannis
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                                                                           Positive
         70810
                    72265
                           165490874
                                                 Elsa
                                                             0.9621
                                                                           Positive
         70811 rows × 5 columns
```

```
In [6]:
         df reviews.polarity score.describe()
                 70811.000000
Out[6]: count
                     0.877807
        mean
                     0.205164
        std
        min
                    -0.995000
        25%
                     0.872000
        50%
                     0.945100
        75%
                     0.974700
        max
                     0.999400
        Name: polarity score, dtype: float64
In [7]:
         # Install surprise package
         ! pip install surprise
        Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://us-python.pkg.dev/colab-wheels/public/simple/
        Collecting surprise
          Downloading surprise-0.1-py2.py3-none-any.whl (1.8 kB)
        Collecting scikit-surprise
          Downloading scikit-surprise-1.1.3.tar.gz (771 kB)
                  771 kB 7.4 MB/s
        Requirement already satisfied: joblib>=1.0.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->s
        urprise) (1.2.0)
        Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.17.3 in /usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->s
        urprise) (1.21.6)
        Requirement already satisfied: scipy>=1.3.2 in /usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages (from scikit-surprise->su
        rprise) (1.7.3)
        Building wheels for collected packages: scikit-surprise
          Building wheel for scikit-surprise (setup.py) ... done
          Created wheel for scikit-surprise: filename=scikit surprise-1.1.3-cp38-cp38-linux x86 64.whl size=2626469 sha
        256=d8cf6e8429c5eaafc4f9f01bb21054a641f910d1fc63fce70977eb0da70c693c
          Stored in directory: /root/.cache/pip/wheels/af/db/86/2c18183a80ba05da35bf0fb7417aac5cddbd93bcb1b92fd3ea
        Successfully built scikit-surprise
        Installing collected packages: scikit-surprise, surprise
        Successfully installed scikit-surprise-1.1.3 surprise-0.1
In [8]:
         # Import an additional libraries
         from surprise import SVD, NMF, KNNBasic, Dataset, Reader, accuracy
         from surprise.model selection import cross validate, train test split, GridSearchCV
```

## 5. Building Recommender Engine

The recommender systems will be built using surprise package (Matrix Factorization - based models).

#### **SVD and NMF** models comparison

Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) is a matrix factorization technique used for dimensionality reduction. Surprise package provides implementation of this algorithms. It's clear that for the given dataset much better results can be obtained with SVD approach - both in terms of accuracy and training / testing time.

```
In [9]:
          reader = Reader(rating scale=(-1,1))
In [10]:
          df = Dataset.load from df(df reviews[['listing id', 'reviewer id', 'polarity score']], reader)
In [11]:
          # We'll use the famous SVD algorithm.
          model svd = SVD()
          cv results svd = cross validate(model svd, df, cv=5)
          pd.DataFrame(cv results svd).mean()
Out[11]: test_rmse
                       0.153155
         test mae
                       0.084649
         fit time
                       0.980989
         test time
                       0.119647
         dtype: float64
```

### 5.1. Optimisation of SVD Algorithm

Grid Search Cross Validation computes accuracy metrics for an algorithm on various combinations of parameters, over a cross-validation procedure. It's useful for finding the best configuration of parameters.

it is used to illid the best setting of parameters.

- n\_factors the number of factors
- n\_epochs the number of iteration of the SGD procedure
- Ir\_all the learning rate for all parameters
- reg\_all the regularization term for all parameters

As a result, regarding the majority of parameters, the default setting is the most optimal one. The improvement obtained with Grid Search is very small.