

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling for Location-based recommender systems

**Federica Cena**  
University of Torino



## **Who I am:** Federica Cena

Associate Professor @Department of Computer Science,  
Univ.Torino -Italy

**Topics of research:** user modeling, adaptive systems, intelligent user interface, semantic web and semantic web of things, assistive technologies

And you?

# Outline of the day

## **Morning**

- Adaptive systems
  - User modeling
  - Recommender systems
  - Location-based recommenders
  - Context-aware recommenders
- Inclusive smart cities
  - Technology for inclusiveness
  - Spatial support for disabilities

# Outline of the day

## Afternoon

- Spatial Support for Autism
  - PIUMA project
  - **EXERCISE & PRESENTATION**

# Adaptive Systems



# Adaptive Systems

Adaptive systems are systems that *adapt* themselves to the current, individual user.

For example:

- › the system displays only a selected number of **documents** that are deemed relevant to the user
- › the system displays only selected, relevant **parts of** a document
- › the system provides additional **links** to external content
- › only a selected number of **relevant links** is displayed
- › the system **recommends** certain items or products (recommender system)

*In which situations would such adaptations be useful?*

# Does one size fit all?



Jeff Bezos, amazon.com

If I have 3 million customers on the Web, I should have 3 million stores on the Web

# Goals of adaptive systems

The general goals of adaptivity are to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the interaction. Adaptive systems aim to make complex systems more usable, present the users with what they want to see, as well as speed up and simplify the interaction.

This includes:

- › helping users to find information
- › tailoring information presentation
- › recommending things
- › supporting collaboration

# Adaptive versus Adaptable Systems

- › *Adaptable* means that users can adapt system behavior themselves
- › *Adaptive* means that the system adapts its own behavior on the users behalf (e.g. Amazon recommendations)

There are in-between solutions: the system suggest the user to execute a particular adaptation (remove a menu item, add a widget to the portal page, register to a particular news feed, ...)

# Adaptive System: A definition

By adaptive systems we mean all (hypertext and hypermedia) systems which reflect some features of the user in a user model and apply this model to adapt various visible aspects of the system to the user.

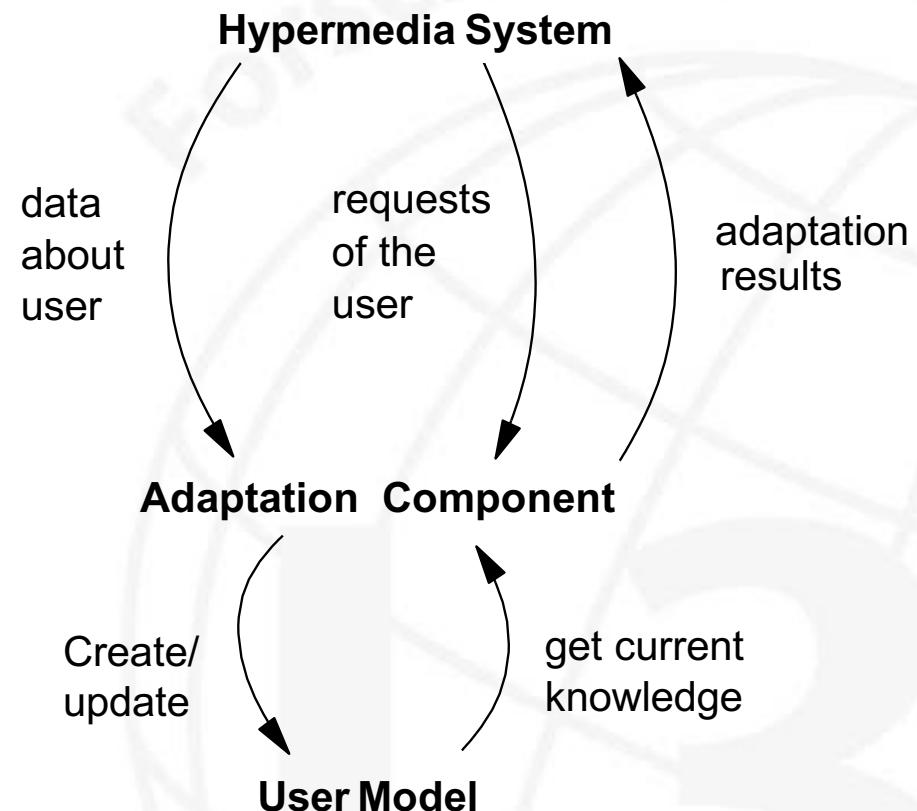


Peter Brusilovsky: Methods and Techniques of Adaptive Hypermedia. User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction 6 (2-3), 1996

# Different voices on adaptive systems

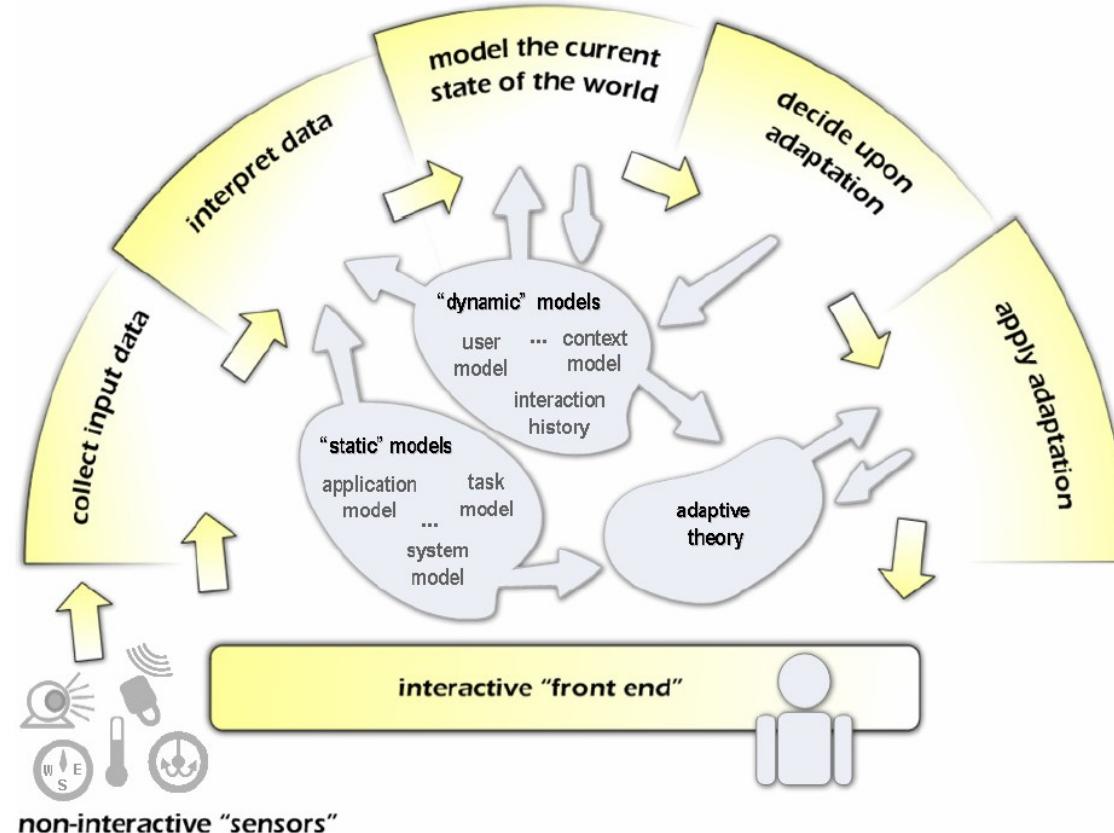
- › The ambition of adaptivity is that not only 'everyone should be computer literate', but also that 'computers should be user literate' (Browne, 1990) ☺
- › Personalization is a designers' approach to achieve harmony between users, tasks, environments and the system (Benyon, 1993) ☺
- › Personalization is an overrated concept. Rather than investing time and energy on trying to predict individual users' needs it would be better to enhance the overall site design. (Nielsen, 1998)  
:(

# The adaptation: a data-oriented view



P. Brusilovsky: Methods and Techniques of Adaptive Hypermedia. User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction 6 (2-3), 1996

# The adaptation: a process-oriented view



Alexandros Paramythis, Stephan Weibelzahl, Judith Masthoff. Layered evaluation of interactive adaptive systems: framework and formative methods. *User Model. User-Adapt. Interact.* 20(5): 383-453 (2010)

# Application Areas

- › *Educational hypermedia.*

The most popular application area. User needs are well-identified: acquiring knowledge on a certain topics. User characteristics (e.g. knowledge level, interest) are well-known.

Amazon.co.uk: Recommen... X WWWIS Information Systeme... X + New Tab

pcwin889.win.tue.nl:8080/portal/site/4275743b-bc97-425d-8869-0d0cd6b6523a/page/61f3ac90-f65b-4f59-a03c-7b5t Star Bookmark Print Home

University of Technology  Where innovation starts

My Workspace | 2ID15 - Mens-Machine Interaction | 2ID55 - Adaptive Systems | **2ID65 - Hypermedia**

[Home](#)  [Adaptive Course Text](#)  
Adaptive Course Text 

[Assignments](#) 

[Announcements](#) 

[Roster](#) 

[Site Info](#) 

[Messages](#) 

[Help](#) 

**Hypermedia Structures and Systems**

Welcome back to the hypermedia course at the Eindhoven University of Technology.

This course contains the following (not necessarily disjoint) parts:

- [Introduction](#) (it is advised to read this before the other items)
- [Definition of hypertext and hypermedia](#)
- The [history](#) of hypertext and hypermedia

We advise to first study the above chapters, and then proceed with the more advanced chapters below.

- The architecture of hypertext systems
- Navigation (and browsing semantics) in hypertext
- Information Retrieval using hypertext
- Creating (or authoring) hypertext
- Multimedia aspects of hypermedia.
- Open hypermedia and Web-Based Information Systems
- Distribution and Concurrency issues
- Adaptable and Adaptive Hypermedia
- The Future of Hypertext and Hypermedia
- Assignment for this course. This item only becomes available when you have finished most of the other sections.

Copyright © Paul De Bra, 1994-2009  
All rights reserved.



| Information Systems Section | OWInfo TU/e |

Powered by Sakai

**An adaptive course.** Links to 'advanced' topics are disabled  
(made invisible) - the learner first needs to follow the introduction.

# Application Areas

- › *E-commerce.*

Product recommendations and personalized offers are particularly important in the field of e-commerce → **recommender systems**

Amazon.co.uk: Recommendations

Eelco, Welcome to Your Amazon.co.uk (If you're not Eelco Herder, click here.)

Today's Recommendations For You

Here's a daily sample of items recommended for you. Click here to see all recommendations.

Page 1 of 35

**Coming Soon for You**

**New for You**

Page 1 of 6

**Improve Your Recommendations**

A Town Called Eureka - Season 4.0 [DVD]

Rate this item  ★★★★★  ★★★★★

Don't use for recommendations

Items you own (35) Items you've rated (28)

**Product recommendations in Amazon.** These recommendations are based on past purchases, past browsing behavior, similar users. The user can improve the recommendations by editing his or her user profile.

[Feedback annuncio](#)

### Chi ha acquistato questo articolo ha acquistato anche

### Who bought this item also bought

Pagina 1 di 13



Orologio sportivo uomo, 30m impermeabile digitale militare Orologio, Prevenire la rottura/Sveglia...  
EUR 13,99



Bottiglia Acqua di Sport,CAMTOA 500ml/17oz Borraccia Sportiva,Senza BPA Eco...  
EUR 12,99



Koooper Collana ciondolo donna - Argento 925 - Lunghezza catena 45cm - Per la fidanzata della...  
EUR 14,99 - EUR 16,99



Zaino Antifurto per PC Portatile,CAMTOA Zaino Porta Computer da 15.6 inch Laptop Backpack...  
EUR 32,99



SOLMORE Luci per Armadio a Batterie 3 pezzi, Luci Notturne Sensore Movimento...  
EUR 23,89



LED Lampada da Testa,CAMTOA 5LED 8000 Lumens Super Luminosa Headlamp XML-T6...  
EUR 19,99



Accendino Elettrico,CAMTOA Accendino ad Arco Elettrico USB...  
EUR 15,99



### Prodotti sponsorizzati relativi a questo articolo (Cos'è?)

Pagina 1 di 10



YOUR Bottle! di SHO - Bottiglia Acqua - Bottiglia in Acciaio Inossidabile per Acqua...  
EUR 19,99



Zanmini cola vuoto isolato bottiglia d'acqua, a doppia parete in acciaio INOX - bo...  
EUR 14,99



RevoMax Borraccia in acciaio INOX con imboccatura standard e tappo senza avvitamento...  
EUR 16,99



Bottiglia a Doppia Parete Termoisolante Liveup SPORTS Bottiglia d'acqua da 500 ml S...  
EUR 16,99



Grsta Sport Bottiglia per Acqua in Acciaio Inossidabile Isolamento Sottovuot Frutta...  
EUR 15,99



Bottiglia Acqua 500ml Senza BPA PIUIESOLEIL Doppia Parete Bottiglia in Acciaio Inos...  
EUR 12,80



Aorin Doppia bottiglia per vuoto in acciaio inossidabile, processo di verniciatura ...  
EUR 13,99

[Feedback sull'annuncio](#)

### Quali altri articoli acquistano i clienti, dopo aver visualizzato questo articolo?

# Application Areas

- › *Online information systems* (Web sites, social media provider, social network).

A popular adaptation technique is collaborative filtering and automated selection of content to present to the user

- ›

# movielens

Non-commercial, personalized movie recommendations.

[sign up now](#)

or [sign in](#)



yong, choose 3 you like

It will help us find TV shows & movies you'll love! [Click the ones you liked!](#)

Continue

## recommendations

MovieLens helps you find movies you will like. Rate movies to build a custom taste profile, then MovieLens recommends other movies for you to watch.

### top pi...

based on your ratings, M...

Band of Brothers

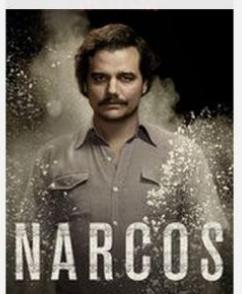
2001 | 705 min |

5 stars

### recent...

movies released in last 90

[FaninFocus](#)



Movilens suggests movies based on explicit initial training of the system  
(telling what you like)

The screenshot shows the Netflix homepage with the following layout:

- Top Navigation:** NETFLIX logo, Browse ▾, Kids, DVD.
- Section Header:** Top Picks for YONG
- Grid of Shows:** Four promotional images for TV shows:
  - LOST:** ABC Studios logo, title card with silhouettes of the cast against a cloudy sky.
  - HOUSE of CARDS:** Netflix logo, title card featuring Frank Underwood and Claire Underwood standing in front of a train.
  - NCIS:** Title card featuring Abby Sciuto in her signature black outfit.
  - HEROES:** Title card featuring the ensemble cast standing in front of a city skyline at night.
- Section Header:** Exciting TV Action & Adventure
- Grid of Shows:** Four promotional images for TV shows:
  - SUPERNATURAL:** Image of Sam Winchester in a dark, industrial setting.
  - NARCOS:** Netflix logo, title card featuring a close-up of a textured surface with a red drop of blood.
  - PRISON BREAK:** Title card featuring Michael Scofield and Lincoln Burrows.
  - LOST:** ABC studios logo, title card with silhouettes of the cast against a cloudy sky.

Netflix suggests movies based on your behaviour and similar users saw.

Manuscripts | IGI Global halloween Idea Giovanni Prin autismo Modello RecHOL Google Trad Elsevier Editorial SystemTM Google Drive Federica Cena dip EasyChair YouTube Sci-Hub: remo...y of science Corona svedese (SEK)

Google Trad content-level adaptation link-level ... Idea Giovanni iGoogle - Wikipedia Norme sulla privacy – Privacy e ter... (39) YouTube +

**YouTube IT**

Cerca

**Home**

**Tendenze**

**Iscrizioni**

**RACCOLTA**

**Cronologia**

**Guarda più tardi**

**Favorites**

**fitness**

**Mostra altro**

**ISCRIZIONI**

- Masha e Orso 3 Sheep in the Island 1 and 2 HD 1080p
- SURPRISE Il can... 5 Alexander Clipper
- Antoniano di Bol... 1
- DisneyXDIT 4
- StoryBots 2
- Agnauro2015 C... 1
- bambinicanzoni 1
- CARTONI MORTI 0

**Consigliati**

Pimpa - Il Pane e il Panino  
RealChri10 5:00

Under Water Horse Colores Change Rhymes - Learn...  
Baby Nursery Rhymes 10:12

Bob, il treno | Animal Sounds Canzone | bambini poesie |...  
Kids Tv Italiano - canzoni per b... 15:57

JAWS Ride POV Universal Florida  
TheCoasterViews 5:58

I Barbapapà S02e53 L'ombrellino  
Agnastro2015 Channel 4:59

Sheep in the Island 1 and 2 HD 1080p  
Alexander Clipper 18:50

Tutte le canzoni di Peppa Pig - prime 4 serie  
Super Peppa 16:04

Giant Gorilla Vs Spiderman Dinosaurs | Dinosaurs Vs...  
Cartoon World 10:24

La Pimpa italiana nuovi episodi 40 minuti Cultitalian...  
SURPRISE Il canale Cult dei ba... 39:20

Bob, il treno- Animal Sounds Canzone  
Kids Tv Italiano - canzoni per b... 1:01:15

**Peppa Pig Italiano - Canale Ufficiale** Canale consigliato per te

ISCRIVITI 113.000

NETFLIX

Netflix suggests movies based on your behaviour (ratings).

facebook.com

Manuscripts | IGI Global halloween Idea Giovanni Prin autismo Modelo RecHOL Google Trad Elsevier Editorial SystemTM Google Drive Federica Cena dip EasyChair YouTube Sci-Hub: remo...y of science Corona svedese (SEK)

Google Trad content-level adaptation link... Idea Giovanni iGoogle - Wikipedia Norme sulla privacy – Privac... (39) YouTube Facebook +

**f** Cerca

Federica Cena

**Notizie**

Messenger Marketplace

Collegamenti rapidi User Modeling PIUMA Project ASN Abilitazione S... ROARS Return on ...

Esplora Eventi Gruppi Pagine Gestisci applicazioni Lista amici Accadde oggi Notizie delle Pagine Foto Giochi Offerte Altro...

Crea Inserzione · Pagina · Gruppo · Evento · Raccolta fondi

A cosa stai pensando Federica?

Foto/video Stato d'animo/attività

Kotiomkin 1h #Kotiomkin #Befeldo

SU UN AEREO...

Stories

Aggiungi qualcosa alla tua storia Condividi una foto, un video o scrivi qualcosa

The Pozzolis Family Circa un'ora fa

Mumadvisor 15 ore fa

Altro...

La tua Pagina (1)

3 inviti a eventi Paola Abbate e altre 3 persone

Sponsorizzata Crea un'inserzione

JO NESBO MACBETH A solo €3.99 Da €9.99 Risparmia 6€ con il codice JONESBO kobo.com Usa il codice JONESBO per risparmiare sull'ebook Macbeth, di Jo Nesbø.

GIOCHI ISTANTANEI ALTRO

I TUOI GIOCHI ALTRO

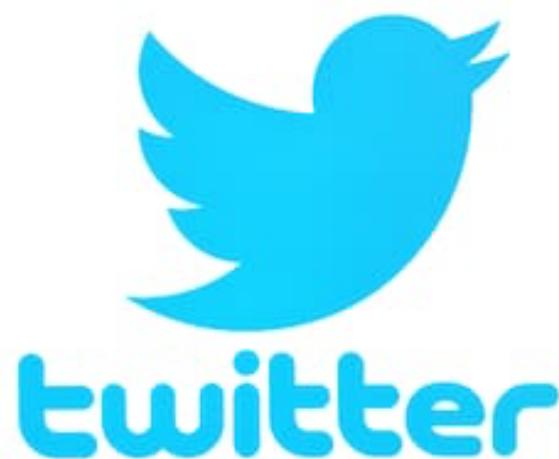
Le tue Pagine PIUMA Project Comunicazione, ICT ...

CONTATTI Enrico Mensa Daniele Plumatti Arianna Cena Noemi Mauro Andrea Marchetti Assunta Matassa Silvia Amisano Romina Castaldo

Conversazioni di gruppo Attiva chat per vedere chi è disponibile.

Cerca

Facebook post selection is always personalized



shutterstock.com • 281364161



A screenshot of a Twitter profile page for "Yong Zheng". The profile picture shows a hand holding a lightbulb. Below it, the name "Yong Zheng" is displayed with a "View my profile page" link. The stats show 553 tweets, 145 accounts followed, and 62 followers. A red circle highlights the "Who to follow - Refresh" section, which lists three accounts: SAP (@SAP), Network Fact (@NetworkFact), and Joe Konstan (@jkonstan). Each listing includes a "Follow" button and a "Promoted" tag for SAP. At the bottom of this section is a "Find more suggestions" link.

Tweets	Following	Followers
553	145	62

Compose new Tweet...

Who to follow - Refresh

SAP @SAP  
Followed by Cloudera and others  
[Follow](#) Promoted

Network Fact @NetworkFact  
Followed by Tom schimoler and o...  
[Follow](#)

Joe Konstan @jkonstan  
Followed by Zeno Gantner and ot...  
[Follow](#)

Find more suggestions >

- › *Information retrieval.*

The filtering, sorting, categorizing or annotating of search results based on the users' search history

The screenshot shows a Google search results page for the query "adaptive hypermedia". The results are personalized for the user Eelco Herder. The first result is a link to "Scholarly articles for adaptive hypermedia" from Peter Brusilovsky's Formal Home Page. Below it is a link to the Wikipedia article on Adaptive hypermedia. Further down are links to a PDF document by Brusilovsky, images related to adaptive hypermedia, and conference pages for Adaptive Hypermedia 2008 and Adaptive Hypertext and Hypermedia.

adaptive hypermedia - Google ...

adaptive hypermedia

Search Images Maps Play YouTube News Mail Documents Calendar More

Google adaptive hypermedia

150 personal results. 3,550,000 other results (0.38 seconds)

Everything Images Maps Videos News Shopping More Show search tools

Scholarly articles for adaptive hypermedia  
Adaptive hypermedia - Brusilovsky - Cited by 1851  
Methods and techniques of adaptive hypermedia - Brusilovsky - Cited by 2053  
From adaptive hypermedia to the adaptive web - Brusilovsky - Cited by 432

Adaptive hypermedia - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptive\_hypermedia  
Adaptive hypermedia is the answer to the "lost in hyperspace" syndrome, where the user has normally too many links to choose from, and little knowledge about ...  
↳ Application fields - Related research fields - Adaptivity versus adaptability

Peter Brusilovsky - Formal Home Page  
www.sis.pitt.edu/~peterb/  
25+ Items - ... lab logo · PAWS Lab Logo · AH&H Book · Adaptive Web Book ...  
UMAP 2012, 20th International Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation, and ...  
Hypertext 2011, 22nd ACM Conference on Hypertext and Hypermedia ...

Erik Duval shared this on wordpress.com · 19 Jul 2010 · Public

[PDF] Adaptive Hypermedia  
www.cs.odu.edu/~jbollen/spring03\_IR/.../brusilovsky2001.pdf  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View  
by P BRUSILOVSKY - 2001 - Cited by 1851 - Related articles  
Abstract. Adaptive hypermedia is a relatively new direction of research on the crossroads of ... Adaptive hypermedia systems build a model of the goals, prefer- ...

Images for adaptive hypermedia - Report images

Adaptive Hypermedia 2008  
www.ah2008.org/  
The Adaptive Hypermedia conferences are the major forums for the scientific exchange and presentation of research on adaptive hypermedia and adaptive ...

Adaptive Hypertext and Hypermedia  
wwwis.win.tue.nl/ah/  
The Fourth Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-Content Systems

Google **search results** are personalized. Not only the 'personalized results', but the other results as well. Based on past searches, current location, language settings, etcetera.

<https://policies.google.com/privacy?hl=it#infocollect>

- › *Contextualization and localization.*

Adaptation of the user interface to the (mobile) device, network connection speed, current location (geocode, country, language)  
→ **Location-based services**

google.it

Idea Giovani Google Drive DINO LEGO EasyChair dip Editor's Que...b-journal.net UMUAI JAIR Springer Logo IJHCl Cognitive Acc...Issue Papers Federica Cena - Homepage element of riesame ciclico

Ristoranti - Google Maps

Ristoranti

Valutazione minima

Qualsiasi valutazione ▾

ALTRI FILTRI

**Wang Jiao**  
4,3 ★★★★★ (508)  
€€ - Cinese · Corso S. Martino, 4  
Piatti cinesi in un ambiente minimal  
Aperto fino alle ore 10:30

**Ristorante Pizzeria Ristoritaly**  
3,9 ★★★★★ (208)  
€€ - Pizza · Corso S. Martino, 10  
Pizza e piatti di mare tra arredi sobri  
Chiude alle ore 01:00

**Trattoria Forchetta e Scarpetta**  
4,0 ★★★★★ (371)  
€ - Cucina tradizionale · Corso Inghilterra, 23/B  
Cucina piemontese in un ambiente rétro  
Apre alle 12:00

**Soup & Go**  
4,4 ★★★★★ (179)  
€ - Ristorante · Via Susa, 5  
Apre alle 08:00

**GustiSani**  
4,7 ★★★★★ (390)  
€€ - Ristorante · Corso Inghilterra, 33

Risultati visualizzati 1 - 20

Aggiorna i risultati quando si sposta la mappa

Dati cartografici ©2019 Google Italia Termini Invia feedback 200 m L

Google maps present places based on closeness and location history of the user

# Adaptation techniques (Brusilovsky 96).

- › Nodes (pages) —→ **Content-level adaptation, adaptive presentation techniques**  
Select, modify, rearrange the content: Which documents to show, which parts of documents to show, order of the contents
- › Edges (link) —→ **adaptive navigation support**  
to select the appropriate link to present, delete them, or generate new one. Conditional links, adaptive menus, breadcrumbs, graphical overviews, direct guidance

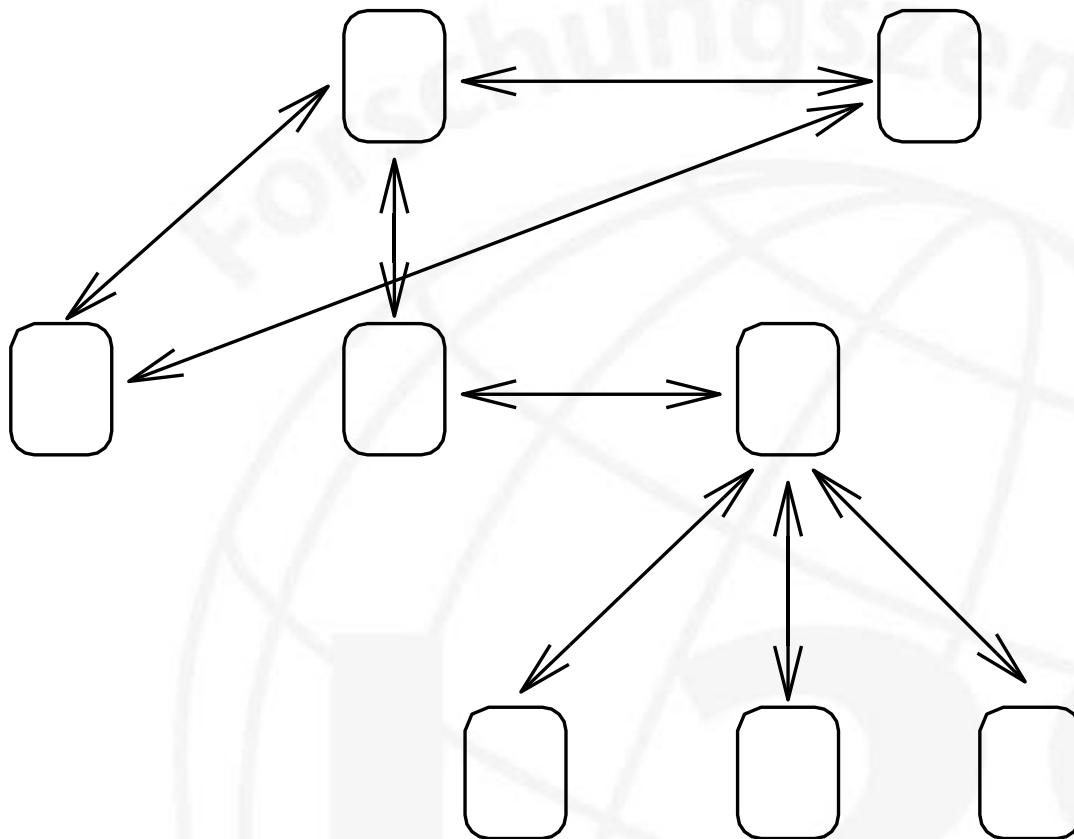


Figure:Hypertext

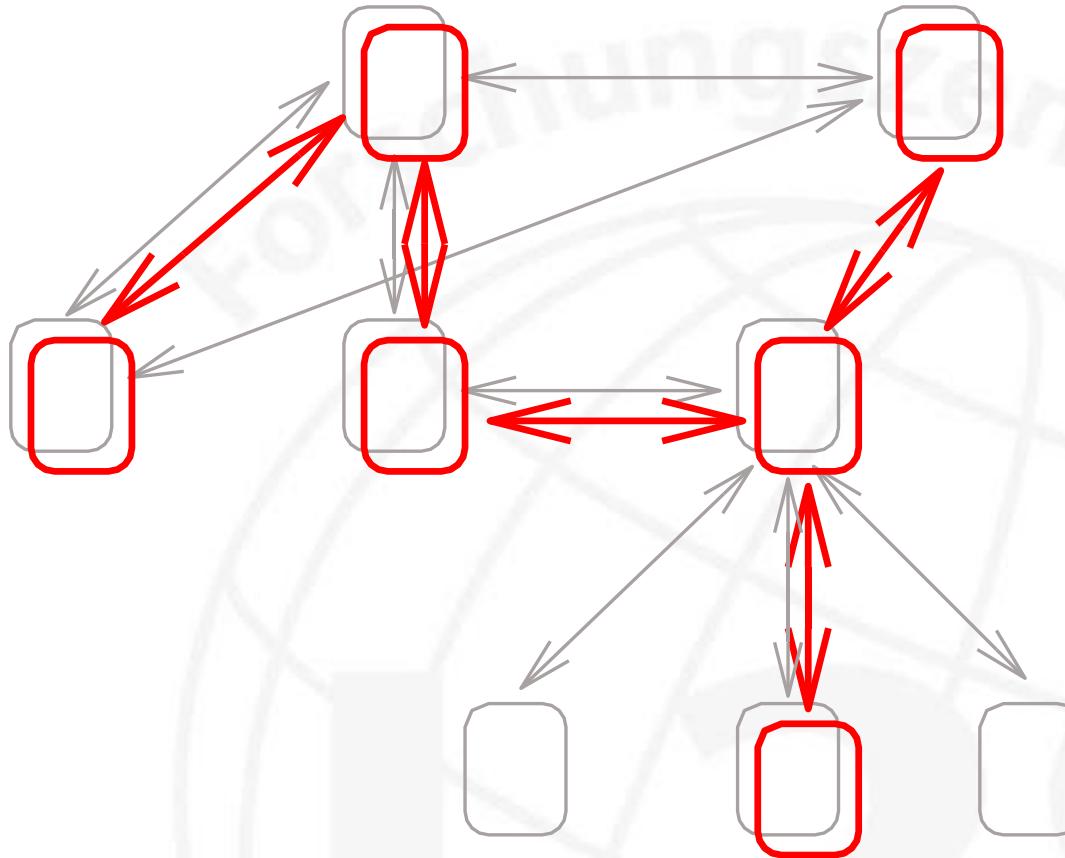


Figure: Relevant contents and links for an individual user at a specific point in time

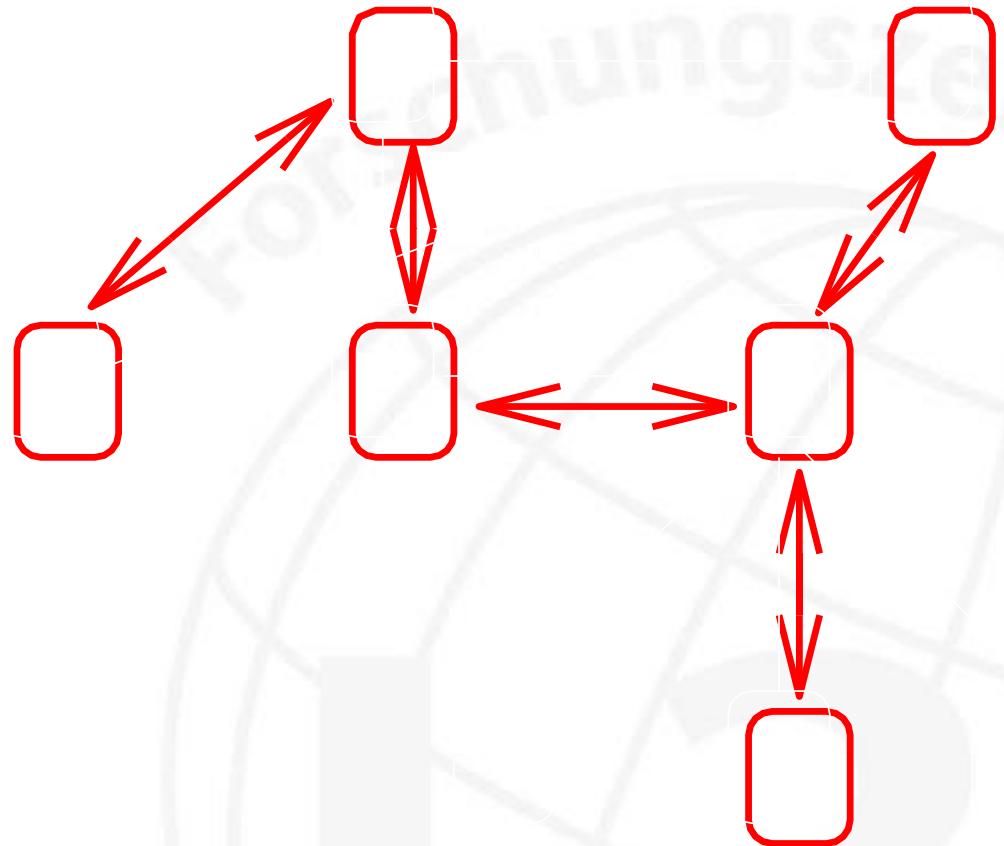
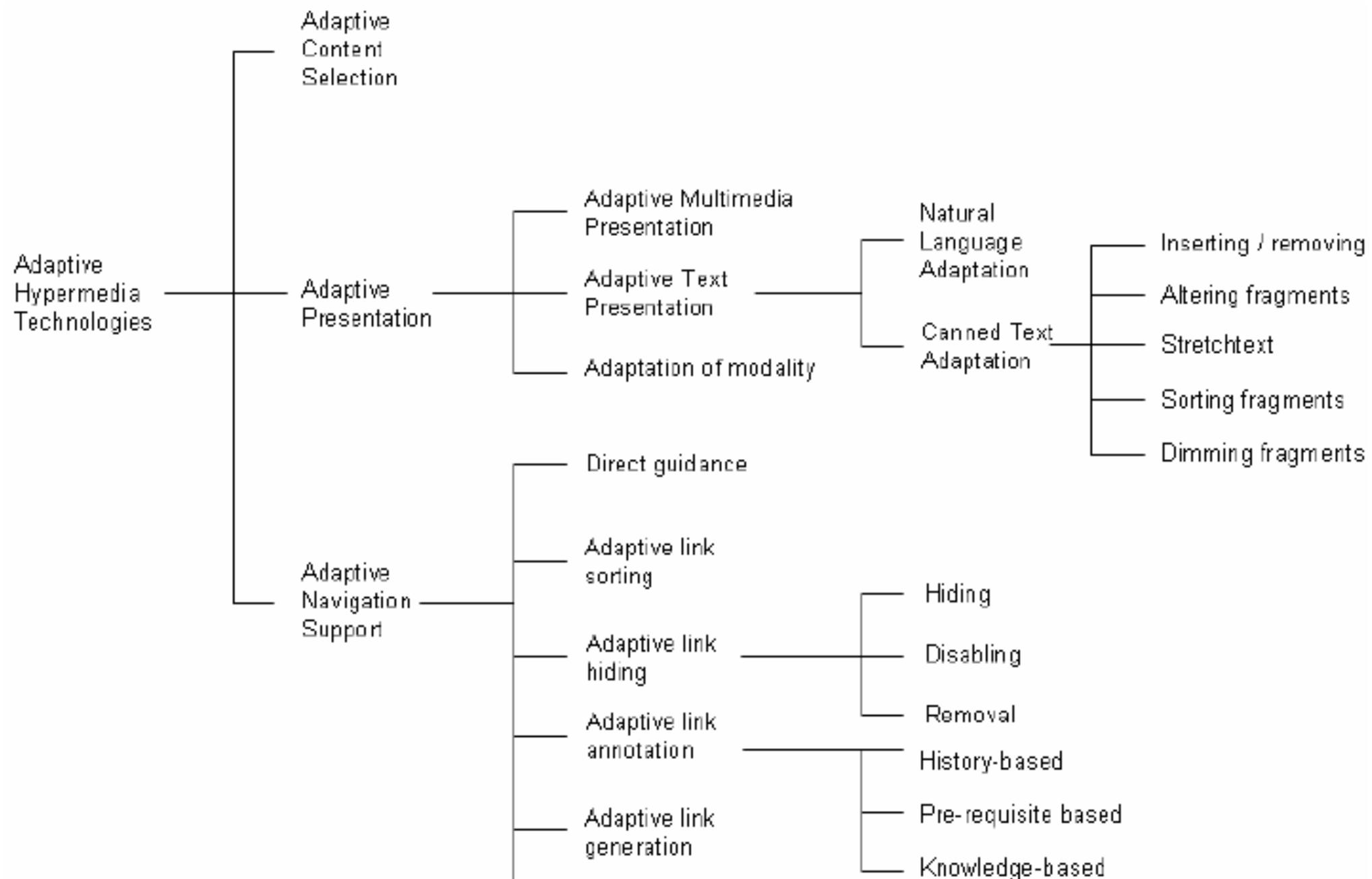


Figure: Adaptive hypertext - for an individual user at a specific point in time  $t$ )

# Adaptation techniques (Kobsa, 2001)



# 1) Content-Level Adaptation

- **1.1. Text adaptation.** The general goal of text adaptation is to hide some parts of information that are deemed not to be relevant for the user
- **1.2 Content selection** (recommender systems): which objects (documents, items, products..) to present to the user (see later)

## 1.1 Text adaptation

**Language adaptation:** changing the style and complexity of the language.

E.g., simplify the readability at lexical level (word substitutions) and at syntactic level (long-sentences splitting, passive-to-active transformation, etc.)

**Additional text or material:** explanations, introductions, definitions

- › **Summary:** only the relevant or important parts are displayed
- › **Comparison:** alternative (versions of) documents are displayed side to side
- › **Alternative presentation:** based on user preferences, device characteristics
- › Combinations of the above points

## 1.1 Text adaptation

- **Canned text adaptation.** conditioning the view on certain ready-made text fragments.
  - › **Conditional Text** – text that is only displayed when certain conditions are met
  - › **Stretch text** – text that is initially hidden or collapsed, but that can be extended by the users themselves
  - › **Page fragments / Page variants** – Different versions of the content (e.g. easy, intermediate, advanced) that can be chosen from

## 2) Presentation adaptation techniques: (Kobsa et al- 2001)

The content remains the same, while the layout and the modality of representation of the content change.

- › **Adaptation of modality:** text to voice, reduction of images,
- › **Personalized presentation:** style sheet, background image, alternative designs

### Example

- AVANTI, which selects different representation modalities based on the user's physical abilities,

### 3) Navigational Adaption

Disorientation or cognitive overload is addressed with adaptation of the navigation aids (menus, navigation bars, graphical overviews):

- › *Direct guidance*: next page, next step, menu outline
- › *Adaptive link sorting*: based on similarity, user background knowledge, relevance, ...
- › *Adaptive link hiding*
- › *Adaptive annotation*: color coding — traffic light metaphor: red (not recommended), yellow (suitable), green (priority)
- › *Adaptive overview maps*: site maps, history visualizations

## examples

- ISIS-Tutor, an educational hypermedia system, shows a limited number of links to beginner students and gradually increases them mirroring the increased student's knowledge;
- ELM-ART II , an interactive and intelligent online textbook for LISP programming, provides adaptation support by link annotation

# User Modeling



## USER MODEL



[UM in AI](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# WHAT IS A USER MODEL

## USER MODEL



[UM in AI](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling in Artificial Intelligence

Algorithms and methods for:

- creating digital representations of users,
- inferring knowledge about the user based on past and present interaction,
- using these models for adapting the interface or the content

Personalized systems maintain a model of the user and then use it for adapting themselves to the user. Recommender systems are the most well-known type of such systems.

## USER MODEL



[UM in AI](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User model: definition

USER MODEL (UM): a UM is a **data structure** that describes a user U in a certain moment in time.

At time t, the UM contains a snapshot of the characteristics of the user U, as collected, inferred and stored by the system S.

## USER MODEL



[Which user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User data

They are data about the user and observations about the user interaction with the system:

- that can be directly used for adaptation,
- need to be further elaborated.

## USER MODEL



[Which user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Which User Data

## Domain independent:

*Demographic information:* age, gender, profession, etc.

*Contextual information:* location

*User goals:* long and short term user objectives

*User habits:* user recurrent actions

*User skills:* abilities of the users

*User traits:* personality factors, cognitive factors, learning styles

*User mood:* happy, stressed, relaxed, tense, afraid, motivated, bored, engaged, frustrated, .

## USER MODEL



[Which user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Which User data

## Domain dependent

*User knowledge:* which concepts a user is familiar with, and which need additional explanation

*User interests:* in some domain concepts

Some data are easier to obtain or to infer than others  
(e.g., demographic data easier to obtain than traits).

### USER MODEL



[Implicit vs. Explicit user model](#)

### USER MODELING



### RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



## Implicit vs. Explicit model

The UM can explicitly represent user features (**explicit UM**) or can be a function obtained by an inductive learning process (**implicit UM**).

## USER MODEL



[Implicit vs. Explicit user model](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Explicit user model

The user model explicitly represents the relevant aspects of the user as closely as possible (heuristics-based approach). Explicit user profile can be represented as a set of feature-value pairs or as vectors of terms.

**Pros:** the process is intuitive and the models are interpretable and reproducible

**Cons:** limitations in scalability and extendability

## USER MODEL



[Implicit vs. Explicit user model](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Implicit user model

Derived by machine learning techniques. Model-based approaches can learn a regression or classification model starting from a collection of items rated by users.

**Pros:** more flexible and better suitable for dealing with huge quantities of data

**Cons:** less human-readable

## USER MODEL



[Life time and scope](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Lifetime and scope

## **Lifetime:**

- short-term UMs that are valid for a specific session/task
- long-term UMs that store knowledge, interests, demographics etc. valid for longer time periods

## **Scope:**

- individual UMs store information about single users
- group models represent groups of users (e.g. a class of learners)

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# WHAT IS USER MODELING

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling: definition

User Modeling is the process of creating and updating a user model, by deriving user characteristics from user data.

## USER MODEL



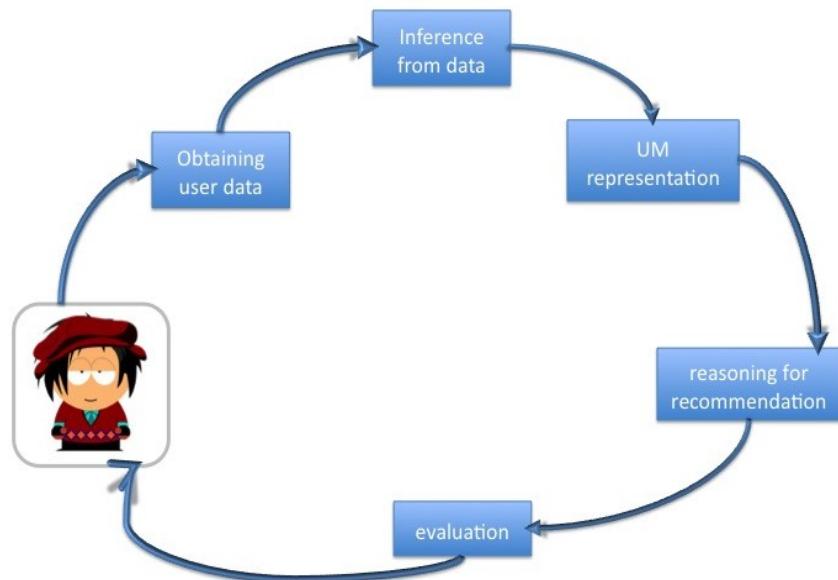
## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling process



- **obtaining user data** (explicit or implicit methods)
- **inferring knowledge from data** (e.g., usage pattern, classification, inference of new user features...)
- **representing UMs**, (e.g., flat, hierarchical, overlay model...)
- **reasoning on data**, (e.g., techniques for adaptation)
- **evaluating UMs**, (e.g., user centered and/or dataset-based methods)

## USER MODEL



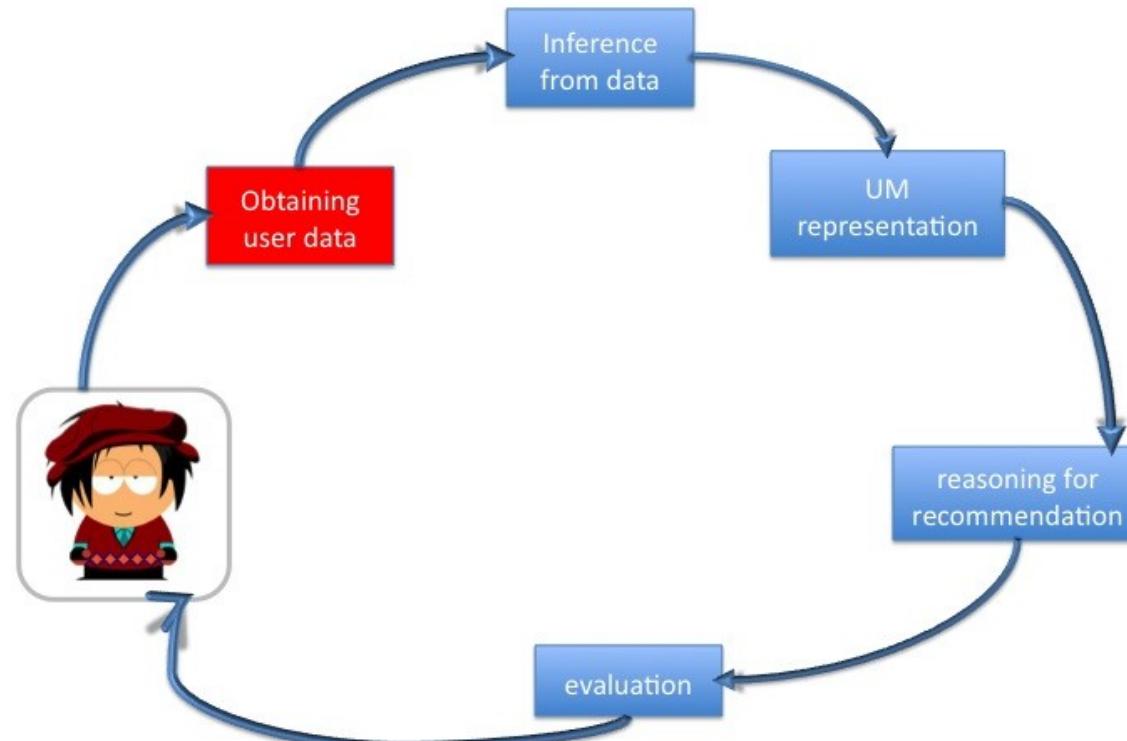
## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling process



## USER MODEL



[Obtaining user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Obtaining user data

User data can be:

- explicitly provided by the user
- implicitly inferred from raw data (by observation)



Ratings



Binary Feedback



Reviews



Behaviors

Explicit

Implicit

## USER MODEL



[Obtaining user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Direct input from user

User input is often gathered **during the first usage** of the system using forms or questionnaires.

## Race registration

[Race map](#)  
[Video from previous year](#)  
[Contact to organizer](#)

### Racer data

Name:

Surname:

Date of birth: 12.7.2011

Address:

I am:  amateur  
 profesional by section:

phone:

email:

race terms agreement

## USER MODEL



[Obtaining user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Direct input from user

Or user input can be gathered **while the user interacts with the system**. The user can give relevance feedback by means of **rating scales**. For example, in Movielens, the recommendation process exploits user ratings of movies.



## USER MODEL



[Obtaining user data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Observing the user

Users do not want to fill out forms or follow an introductory tour. Many adaptive systems try to infer knowledge directly by unobtrusively monitoring the user interactions with the system:

- browsing history (bookmark folder, search history)
- device information (display resolution, network speed and bandwidth, software)
- location (position, direction...)
- social network data (group membership...)
- Post, reviews, (sentiment analysis..)

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING

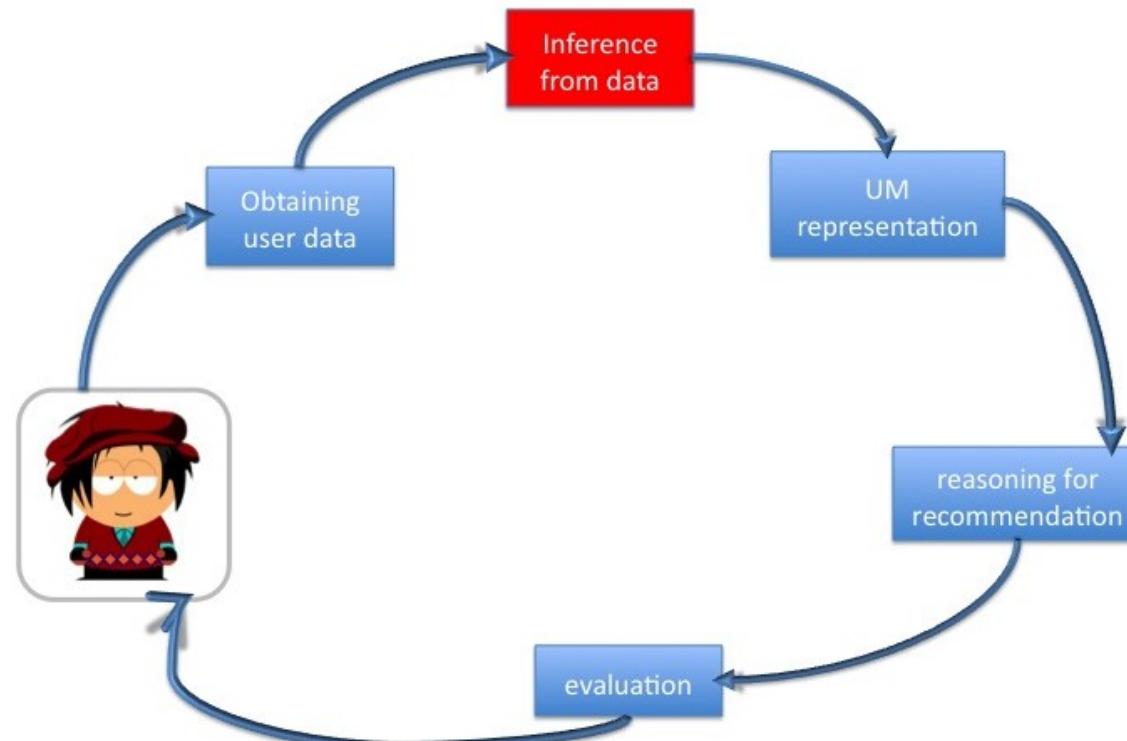


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



[Obtaining user data](#)

# User Modeling process



# Inference from data

- For UM creation
- For UM update

## USER MODEL



[Inference of knowledge from data](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Inference from data

The process of interpreting the observations about the user U, using conditions, rules or other forms of reasoning, and the storage of the inferred knowledge in the UM.

Many interactions contain meaning themselves, such as page visits, bookmarking or saving actions, queries issued by the user and items inspected or bought from an e-commerce Web site (no inference).

## USER MODEL



Inference of knowledge from data

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Inference from data

Other interactions need to be interpreted in order to become meaningful, such as key strokes, mouse clicks and eye gaze behavior.

Examples:

- detecting patterns in user behavior (to infer items that may be of interest for users);
- matching user behavior with the behavior of other users;
- classifying a user based on her behavior (stereotyping and the modeling of user interests).

## Inference from data

**By means of ad hoc algorithms** es. a function that calculates the ensurance level starting from some input

## Inference from data

### **By means of Analogic reasoning:**

form of inductive argumentation for which if two or more entities are similar in one or more aspects, it is probable that they will also be in the other aspects.

### **Collaborative filtering, CBR, cluster**

Algorithms to identify subjects or groups of subjects similar to the user, which allow us to predict the preferences of the original user.

## Inference from data

**By means of deductive reasoning**

starting from a general knowledge to derive a particular one.

**Production rules, stereotypes, semantic network,  
bayesian network**

## Inference from data

- e) **By means by Inductive reasoning:** derive a general rule starting from a set of particular examples

**CBR, decision tree, neural network**

# Inference from data

- For UM creation
- For UM update

## Update of the user model

The starting user model may require some change since:

- The data can change in time
- New evidences can be gained from new sources (consistency issue)
- The model required to be corrected, especially if it is created by means of stereotypical knowledge
- It could be necessary to include other features

## Update of the user model

- 1) It is necessary to collect **USAGE DATA about the interaction of the user with the system**
- 2) it is necessary to define a **strategy of updating**, i.e. to decide how to integrate the new data in the existing data structure (merge of the 2 models, regeneration of a model, incremental learning)
  - what user actions to track
  - how to define the impact of actions on the user model
  - how much to update the model
  - when to update the user model

## USER MODEL



Inference of knowledge from data

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Inference from data

$$\text{UpdatedModel} = k1 * \text{oldModel} + k2 * \text{newModel}$$

where

$$k1 + k2 = 1$$

at the beginning, k1 near to 0 (0.2) and k2 near to 1 (0.8)

then, k1 increases and k2 decreases (k1 0.8 k2 0.2)

At the beginning of the interaction, the present is more important, then after the past becomes more important

## USER MODEL



Inference of knowledge from data

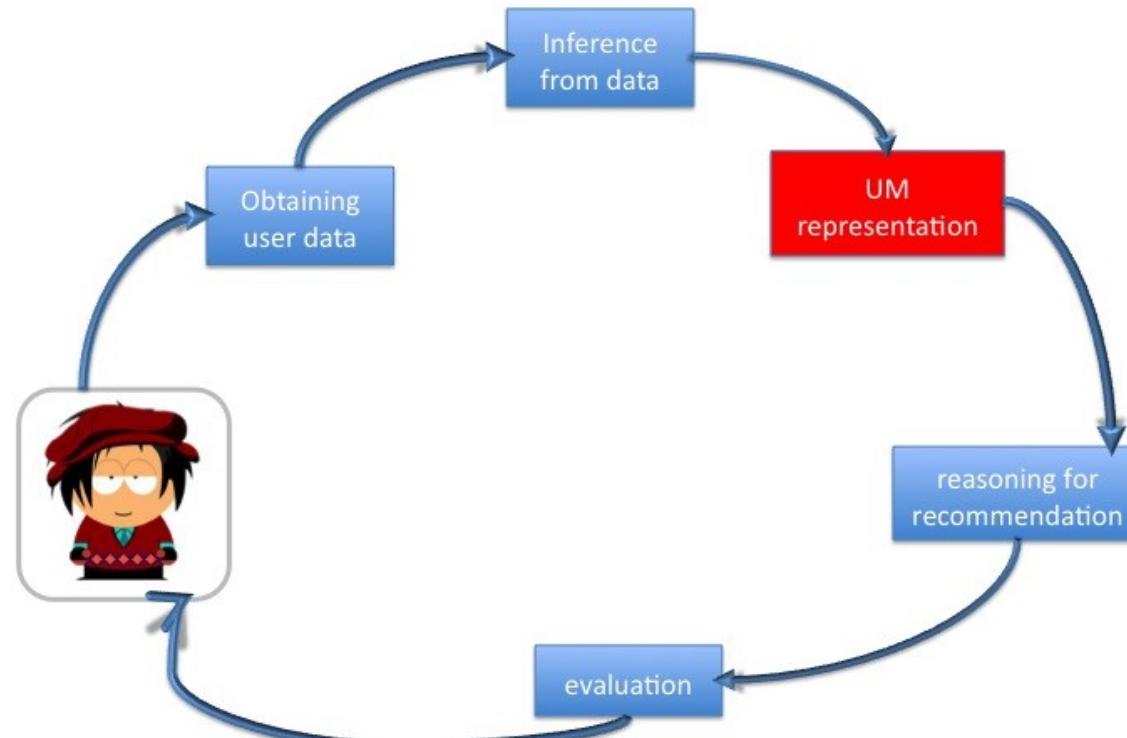
## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling process



## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Model structures

A User Model is a data structure that characterizes the user U at a certain moment in time.

As seen before, UM features can be **domain independent** (user's demographics) or **domain dependent** (knowledge or preference on certain topics). The latter requires a domain representation as well.

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Model structures

It is possible to use different knowledge structure for UM, from simpler to more complex:

Flat Models

Hierarchical models

Overlay models

Stereotypes

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User model representation

In each structure, domain independent and dependent user features can then be represented in any of the following ways:

Attribute-Value Pairs

Booleans

Probability distributions, Fuzzy Intervals

Vectors of terms, possibly including weights

Logic Based representation

Triples, semantic representations

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Flat model

**Attribute-value pairs:** the most simple way to represent user model is a collection of variables and associated values.

An example can be:

{age, 15}  
{sex, male}  
{profession, student}

They may be combined as basic rules to provide adaptivity. A rule might indicate that if a user's age < 18 and user gender=female, select news items interesting to young females. It is hard to make more complex deductions.

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Flat model

An example of **attribute-value with *probability distribution*** can be:

Art-Architecture/Design 0.023181  
Art-Multimedia/Performances 0.013145  
Art-Museums 0.001416  
Cinema-Movies 0.004132

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Flat model

Another example of a flat model is **bags-of-words** model, where using Information Retrieval techniques we construct a set of concepts which describe the user's interest. For example, in a movie domain, the following concepts describe the categories of movies that the user might be interested in:

sport  
rock  
music  
gym  
cartoon }

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Flat model

An example of **vector space model** where items and user's profile are represented as a weighted vector computed using TF-IDF formula:

$$\begin{bmatrix} & T_1 & T_2 & \dots & T_t \\ D_1 & w_{11} & w_{21} & \dots & w_{t1} \\ D_2 & w_{12} & w_{22} & \dots & w_{t2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ D_n & w_{1n} & w_{2n} & \dots & w_{tn} \end{bmatrix}$$

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING

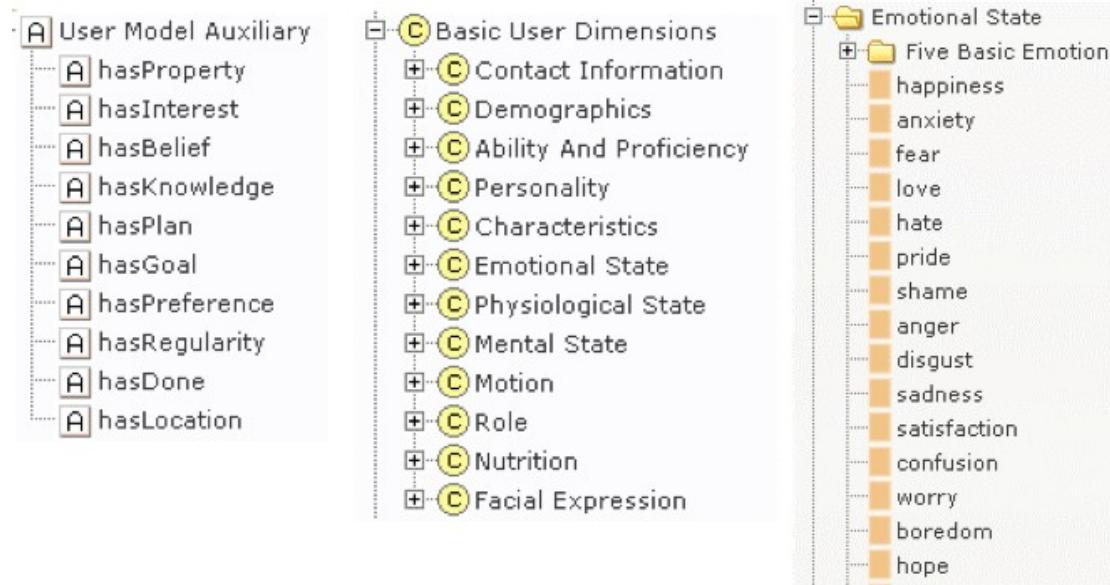


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Hierarchical model

Some aspects of the UM are more general than others, relations between user characteristics. A common **hierarchical structure** is a tree or a directed acyclic graph (ontology). They are hand-crafted based on the domain knowledge of the designer.



An example of a hierarchical model for domain-independent user features

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING

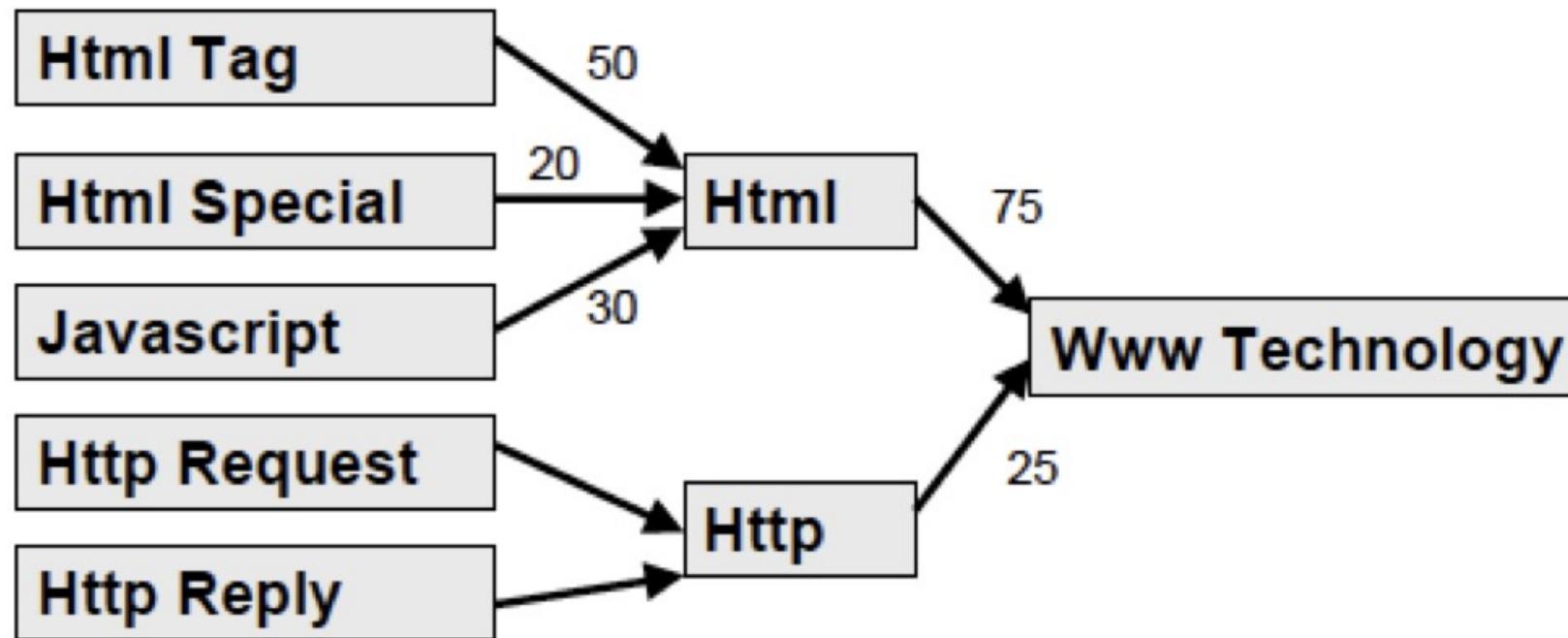


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Overlay model

Domain-dependent user features (interest or knowledge) are usually represented as an overlay of the domain. For each item in the domain, the user's current state (knowledge in the example) with respect to the item is recorded.



## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Stereotypes

People often make assumptions about other people, often based on fairly simple observations. Stereotypes contain:

- a classification part (with domain-independent features) to classify a user in a category;
- a predictive part (with domain-dependent features) to make predictions based on the category, i.e. standard features associated.

## USER MODEL



[User model structure](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Stereotypes

A stereotype is composed of two parts [Rich, 1989]:

- a set of triggers which can apply the stereotype to the user.
- a body, with information that is typically true for the member of the stereotype;

Reasoning by stereotypes means to evaluate the triggers for the specific users, and when activated, to insert in the UM the body content as assumption on user behaviour.

## USER MODEL



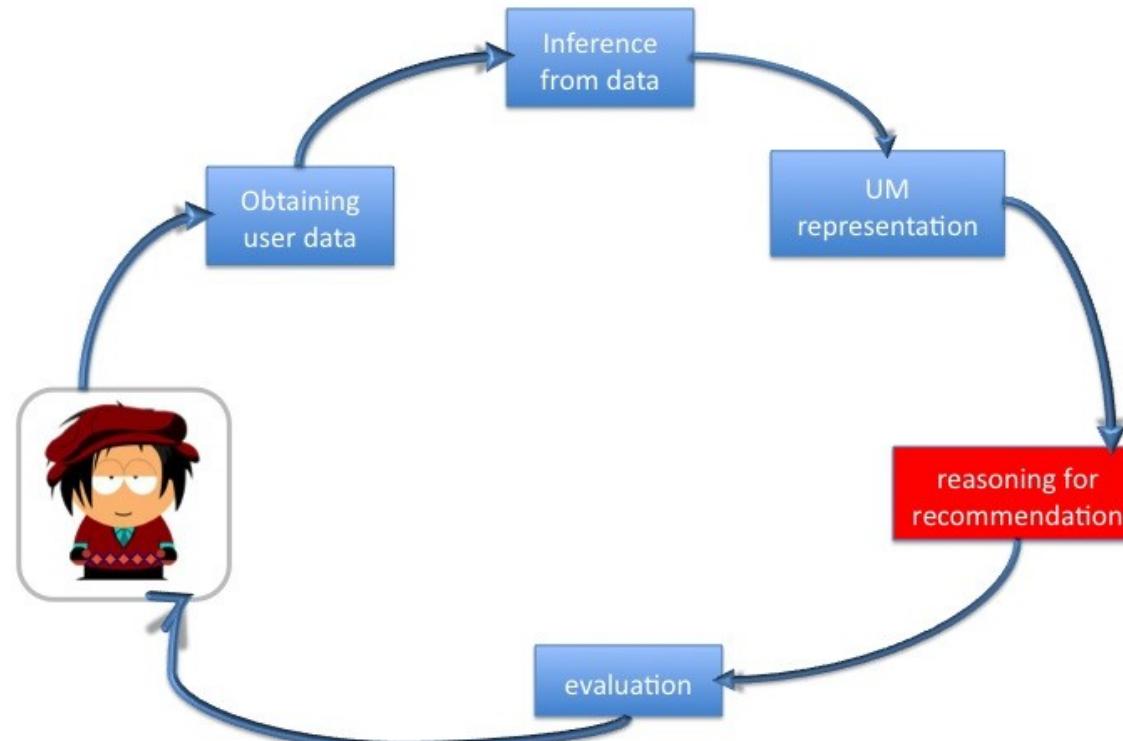
## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling process: adaptation



## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# User Modeling process: (content) adaptation

The goal of a UM is to create a digital representation of users to be used to adapt interface and content.

In this tutorial, we focus on *content adaptation*, describing in particular the

**recommendation process.**

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommender systems

A family of information filtering tools providing suggestions for items.

Differently from *search systems*, they allow users to discover new resources that they may have not initially thought about.

*"Search is what you do when you are looking for something.  
Discovery is when something wonderful that you didn't know existed finds you"*



## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommender systems

The recommendation problem:

$$f: UXI \rightarrow R$$

The utility function  $f$  measures the usefulness of item  $i \in I$  for user  $u \in U$ .

The recommendation problem consists of finding for each user  $U$  an item  $i \in I$  maximizing the utility function  $f$ .

$$\forall u \in U, i^{max,u} = \arg \max_{i \in I} f(u, i)$$

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommender systems

Typically, the utility of an item is represented by a rating. Only ratings for a subset of items are available.

The main task of a RS is to estimate the utility function (rating) from the available data (**predictive system**).

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Prediction tasks

**Rating prediction task:** to accurately predict ratings (metrics: MAE, RMSE)

**Top-n recommendation task:** to find new specific items supposed to be the most appealing (metrics: precision, recall)

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommender systems

Four movie posters: The Bourne Identity, The Bourne Supremacy, The Bourne Ultimatum, and The Bourne Legacy.

	The Bourne Identity	The Bourne Supremacy	The Bourne Ultimatum	The Bourne Legacy
John	5	1	3	5
Tom	?	?	?	2
Alice	4	?	3	?

Basic elements of a RS are:

**Items:** numeric id in a data base, or bag of keywords or set of attribute/values, or ontology based descriptions

**Users:** represented explicitly or implicitly depending on the approach (heuristics vs. model based)

**Ratings:** explicitly gathered by rating scales or implicitly inferred from user behavior.

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommendation techniques

Main families of recommender systems:

content-based

collaborative filtering

on the basis of:

the way the utility function is estimated

the way the users and the items are represented

## USER MODEL



[Content-based filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Content-based RSs



A CB matches up the attributes of a user profile in which preferences are stored with the attributes of an item

The basic intuition behind this approach is : since Alice likes Argo she may like Heat because they both belong to the Drama genre.

## USER MODEL



[Content-based filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Content-based RSs

There are two main CB-RS approaches:

**heuristics-based**: explicit representation of user features in the model: items are recommended based on a comparison between their content and the user model

**model-based**: no need of explicit representation of user features in the model: first a model is created starting from examples and then used to predict unknown ratings.

## USER MODEL



[Content-based filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Heuristics-based approach

The UM is represented using typical **Information Retrieval** techniques, for analysing the items the users liked. A typical approach is to use a **Vectors of Terms, Bags of Words** or a more sophisticated **Vector Space Model (VSM)** (where items and user profiles can be represented as a weighted vectors computed using the tf-idf formula).

The match between items and user profile can be computed using *similarity metrics* (e.g., cosine similarity) and the most similar items to the user profile are recommended.

## USER MODEL



[Content-based filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Model-based approach

**Machine Learning** techniques are used to learn a model (regression or a classification) of the user preferences by analyzing the content of the items the user rated.

The training set consists of item feature vectors labeled with ratings. Such learnt user model can be used for estimating the unknown ratings. Limitation: a large number of examples is necessary.



Training Set		
Drama	Crime	class
1	0	<i>like</i>
0	1	<i>dislike</i>



Test Set		
Drama	Crime	class
1	0	?

(source: Di Noia and Ostuni, 2015)

## USER MODEL



[Content-based filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Limitations of content-based

*content overspecialisation*, i.e. the incapability of the RS to recommend relevant items different from the ones already known

*portfolio effect*, i.e. redundancy and low diversity in the recommendation list

*limited content analysis*, i.e. the quality of CB recommendations depends on the quality of features extracted from items

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering

CF is the process of filtering items using the opinions of other users having similar tastes.

Differently from CB, the only input data that CF-RSs need is the user-item ratings matrix.

John	5	1	3	5
Tom	?	?	?	2
Alice	4	?	3	?

(source: Di Noia and Ostuni, 2015)

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING

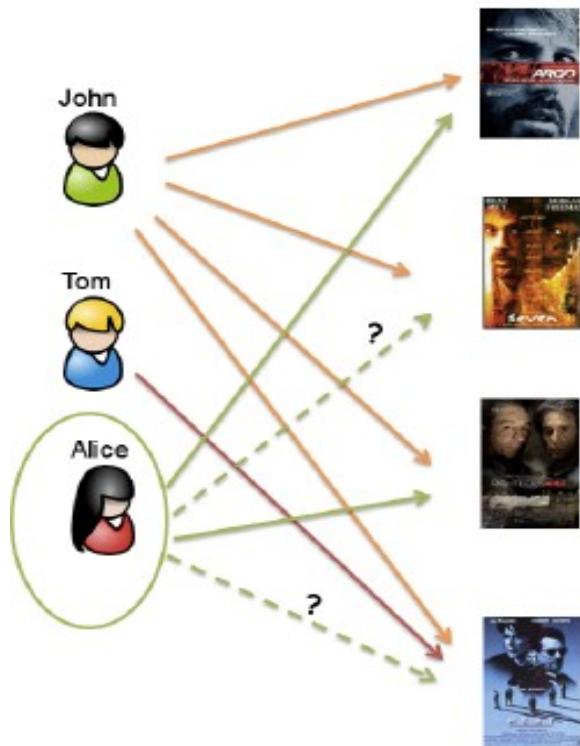


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering

The CF recommendation process:



Recommendations are generated considering the ratings given by other users with similar tastes. In this case, both John and Alice have similar tastes because they both rated similarly Argo and Righteous Kill. The system can exploit John's ratings for estimating Alice's unknown ratings. The basic intuition behind this method is that since John really likes Heat then also Alice may like it.

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering approaches

Two typologies of CF exist:

**heuristics-based:** based on neighborhood models (nearest neighborhood (k-NN) algorithm), which uses similarity metrics (Pearson, cosine similarity) for finding similar users and items. It does not require any preliminary model building phase.

**model-based:** first learn a predictive model which is used to make predictions.

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering: user to user

It consists of predicting the relevance of an item for the target user by a linear combination of her neighbour's ratings, weighted by the similarity between the target user and such neighbours

## STEP 1: INPUT DATA

	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$u_6$
item <sub>1</sub>	5	1	5	4	0	3
item <sub>2</sub>	3	3	1	1	5	1
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	2	1	4
item <sub>4</sub>	1	1	4	1	1	2
item <sub>5</sub>	3	2	5	0	0	3
item <sub>6</sub>	4	3	0	0	4	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	1	5	1	1	1

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering

## STEP 2: CALCULATE SIMILARITY

	u <sub>1</sub>	u <sub>2</sub>	u <sub>3</sub>	u <sub>4</sub>	u <sub>5</sub>	u <sub>6</sub>
item <sub>1</sub>	5	1	5	4	0	3
item <sub>2</sub>	3	3	1	1	5	1
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	?	2	1	4
item <sub>4</sub>	1	1	4	1	1	2
item <sub>5</sub>	3	2	5	0	0	3
item <sub>6</sub>	4	3	0	0	4	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	1	5	1	1	1

Similarity measure    **0.63 0.56    0.71 0.22 0.93**

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING

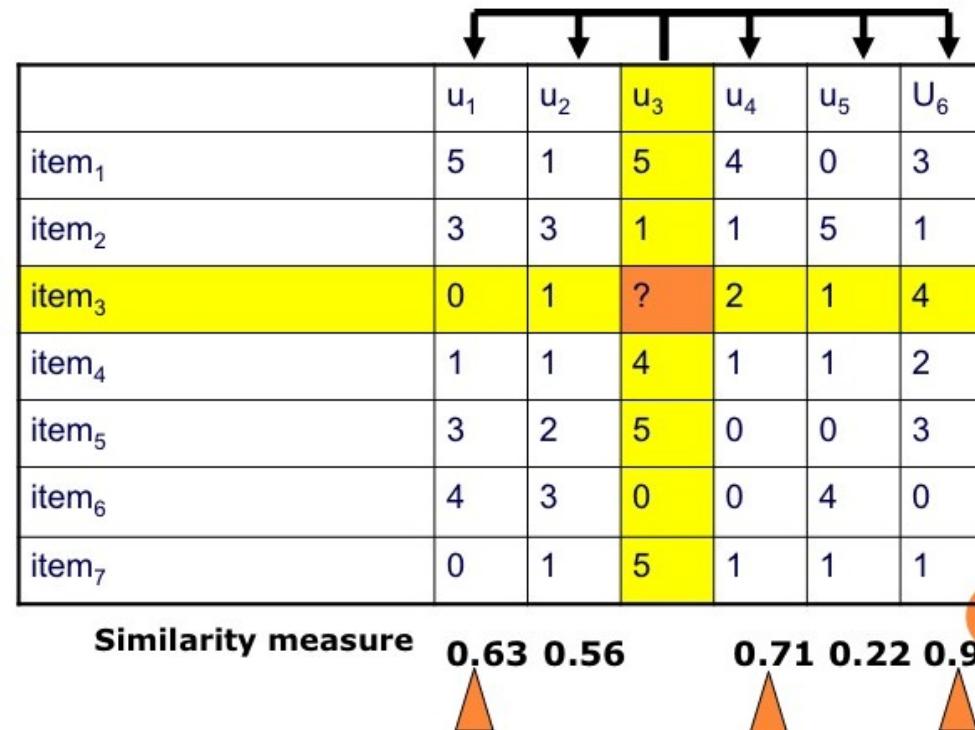


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering

## STEP 3. DEFINE NEIGHBOURHOOD



## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING

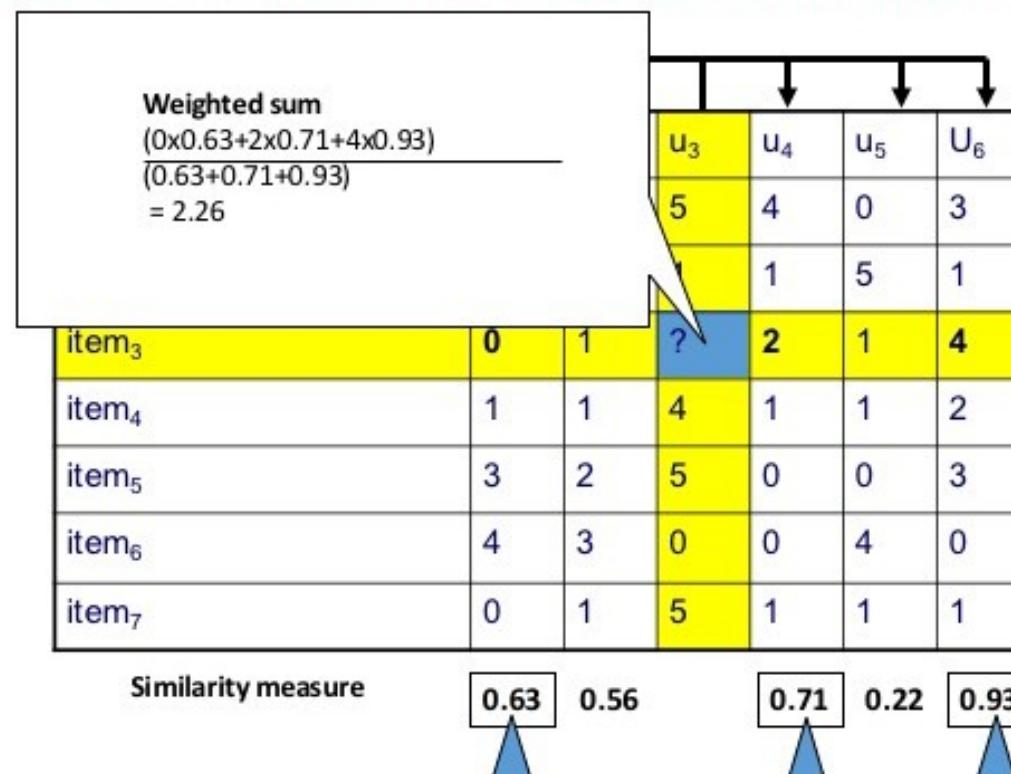


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering

## Step 3. Predictions/Recommendations



## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING

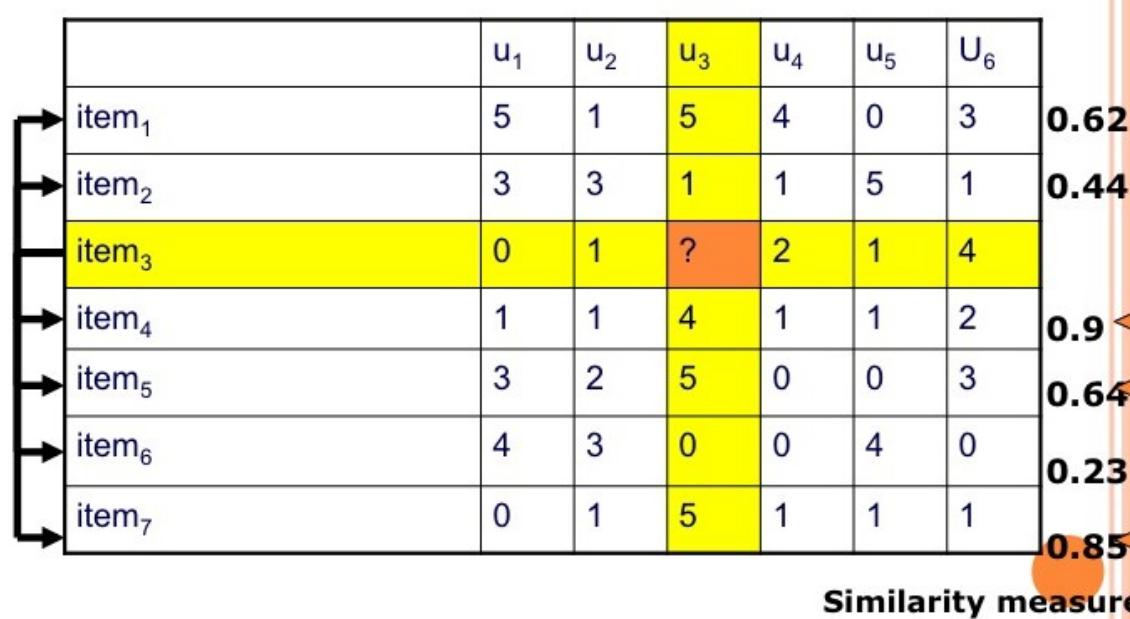


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering: item to item

It is based on the usage of the same correlation-based or cosine-based techniques to compute similarities between items instead of users. The idea is to derive a notion of item similarity from user rating and recommend items similar to those the user has already liked.



## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING

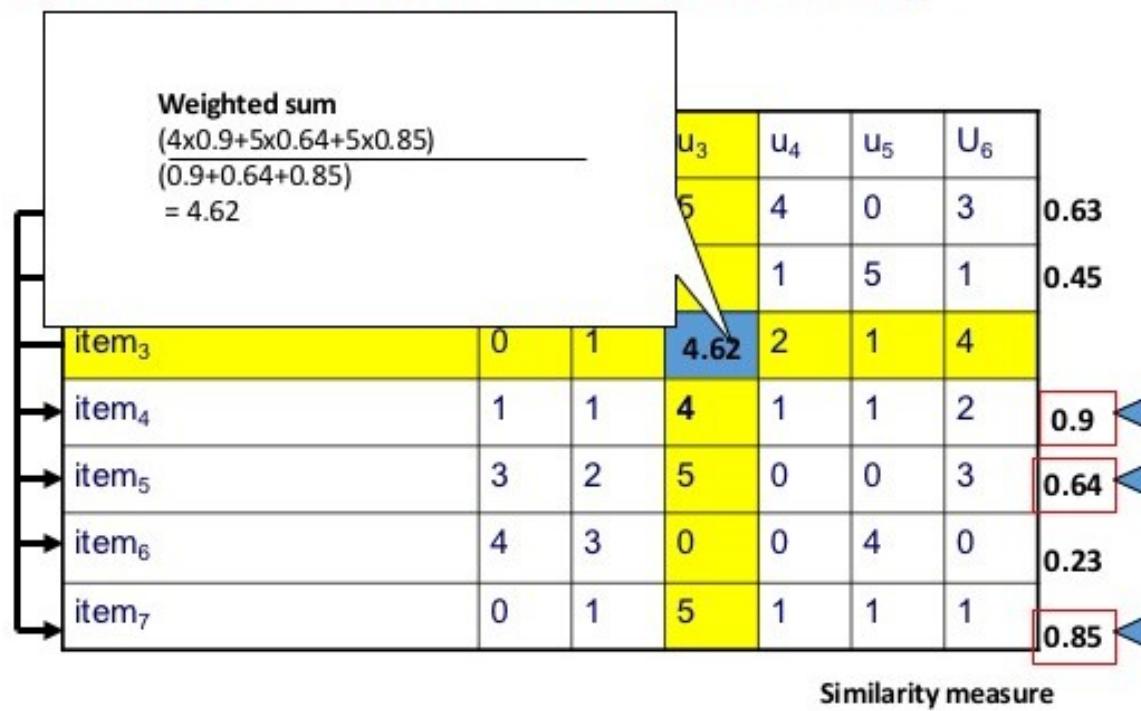


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Collaborative filtering: item to item

## Item-Item Collaborative filtering



# Amazon Item-Item filtering

**Context:** Items that have been bought are marked with

**Task:** Recommend items to the user

	u <sub>1</sub>	u <sub>2</sub>	u <sub>3</sub>	u <sub>4</sub>	u <sub>5</sub>	U <sub>6</sub>
item <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	1	0	0
item <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	0	0
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	0	0	1
item <sub>4</sub>	0	1	1	1	0	0
item <sub>5</sub>	1	0	0	0	1	1
item <sub>6</sub>	1	1	0	0	1	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	0	0	1	0	0

Linden, Smith and York (2003) from the resources for this lecture

**Context:** Items that have been bought are marked with 1

**Task:** Recommend items to the user

	u <sub>1</sub>	u <sub>2</sub>	u <sub>3</sub>	u <sub>4</sub>	u <sub>5</sub>	U <sub>6</sub>
item <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	1	0	0
item <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	0	0
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	0	0	1
item <sub>4</sub>	0	1	1	1	0	0
item <sub>5</sub>	1	0	0	0	1	1
item <sub>6</sub>	1	1	0	0	1	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	0	0	1	0	0

	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$U_6$
<b>item<sub>1</sub></b>	1	0	1	1	0	0
item <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	0	0
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>item<sub>4</sub></b>	0	1	1	1	0	0
item <sub>5</sub>	1	0	0	0	1	1
item <sub>6</sub>	1	1	0	0	1	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	0	0	1	0	0



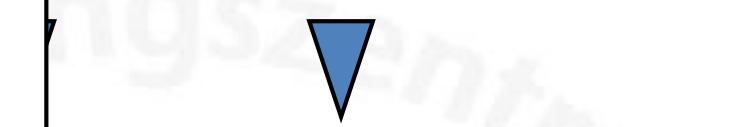
### Register pairs:

$[u_3, u_1, i_1]$  -  $(i_1, i_5), (i_1, i_6)$

$[u_3, u_4, i_1]$  -  $(i_1, i_2), (i_1, i_7)$

$[u_3, u_2, i_4]$  -  $(i_4, i_2), (i_4, i_3), (i_4, i_6)$

$[u_3, u_4, i_4]$  -  $(i_4, i_2), (i_4, i_7)$



	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$U_6$
$item_1$	1	0	1	1	0	0
$item_2$	0	1	0	1	0	0
$item_3$	0	1	0	0	0	1
$item_4$	0	1	1	1	0	0
$item_5$	1	0	0	0	1	1
$item_6$	1	1	0	0	1	0
$item_7$	0	0	0	1	0	0



	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$U_6$
$item_1$	1	0	1	1	0	0
$item_2$	0	1	0	1	0	0
$item_3$	0	1	0	0	0	1
$item_4$	0	1	1	1	0	0
$item_5$	1	0	0	0	1	1
$item_6$	1	1	0	0	1	0
$item_7$	0	0	0	1	0	0

Calculate similarity for all pairs identified at Step 2

## Calculate similarity between items

$(i_1, i_5) = .33, (i_1, i_6) = .33$

$(i_1, i_2) = .41, (i_1, i_7) = .58$

$(i_4, i_2) = .82, (i_4, i_3) = .41, (i_4, i_6) = .33$

$(i_4, i_7) = .58$

	$i_1$	$i_2$	$i_3$	$i_4$	$i_5$	$i_6$
$i_1$	1	0	1	1	0	0
$i_2$	0	1	0	1	0	0
$i_3$	0	1	0	0	0	1
$i_4$	0	1	1	1	0	0
$i_5$	1	0	0	0	1	1
$i_6$	1	1	0	0	1	0
$i_7$	0	0	0	1	0	0

Calculate similarity for all pairs identified at Step 2

	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$U_6$
$item_1$	1	0	1	1	0	0
$item_2$	0	1	0	1	0	0
$item_3$	0	1	0	0	0	1
$item_4$	0	1	1	1	0	0
$item_5$	1	0	0	0	1	1
$item_6$	1	1	0	0	1	0
$item_7$	0	0	0	1	0	0

## Calculate similarity between items

$$(i_1, i_5) = .33, (i_1, i_6) = .33$$

$$(i_1, i_2) = .41, (i_1, i_7) = .58$$

$$(i_4, i_2) = .82, (i_4, i_3) = .41, (i_4, i_6) = .33$$

$$(i_4, i_7) = .58$$

	$u_1$	$u_2$	$u_3$	$u_4$	$u_5$	$U_6$
item <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	1	0	0
item <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	0	0
item <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	0	0	1
item <sub>4</sub>	0	1	1	1	0	0
item <sub>5</sub>	1	0	0	0	1	1
item <sub>6</sub>	1	1	0	0	1	0
item <sub>7</sub>	0	0	0	1	0	0

## USER MODEL



[Collaborative filtering](#)

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Hybrid recommender systems

They combine different recommender techniques (content and collaborative) to mitigate the weakness of the individual approaches. Several ways to merge:

mixed, recommendation generated from several RSs are presented together

switching, one RS is turned on and the other is turned off  
features combination, the features used by different recommender are integrated and combined in a single data source

## USER MODEL



## USER MODELING

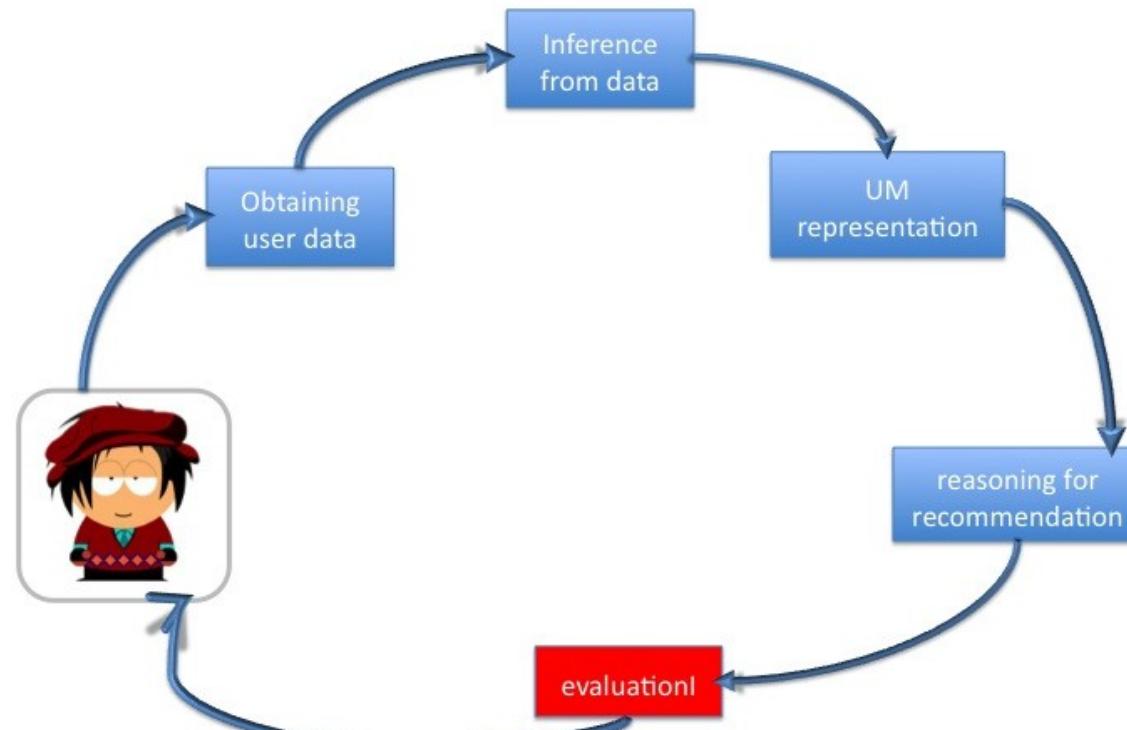


## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



## EVALUATION

# User Modeling process: evaluation



## USER MODEL

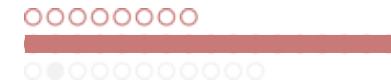


## EVALUATION

## USER MODELING



## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Evaluation

Need for a layered-evaluation

- user-based: formative and summative evaluation with users

- data-set based: metrics and statistics (MAE –RMSE, precision, recall)

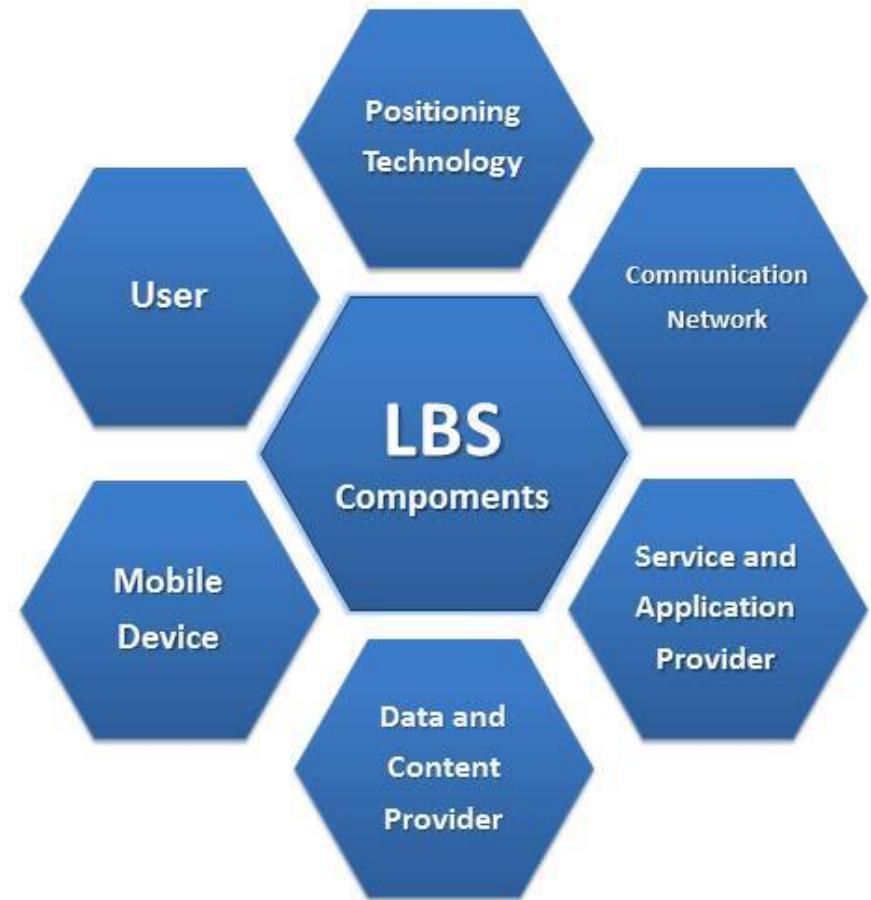
We don't have time to see this

# Location based recommenders



# Location-based services

The term *location-based services (LBS)* i-  
denotes applications integrating  
geographic location (i.e., spatial  
coordinates) with the general notion of  
services. Examples of such applications  
include emergency services, car  
navigation systems, tourist tour  
planning, or "yellow maps"  
(combination of yellow pages and  
maps) information delivery.



Phillips, Alan, et al. "Location-based services." U.S.  
Patent No. 7,848,765. 7 Dec. 2010.

# Location-based services

Location Based Services include a very wide range of services that provide information to the user based on her physical location

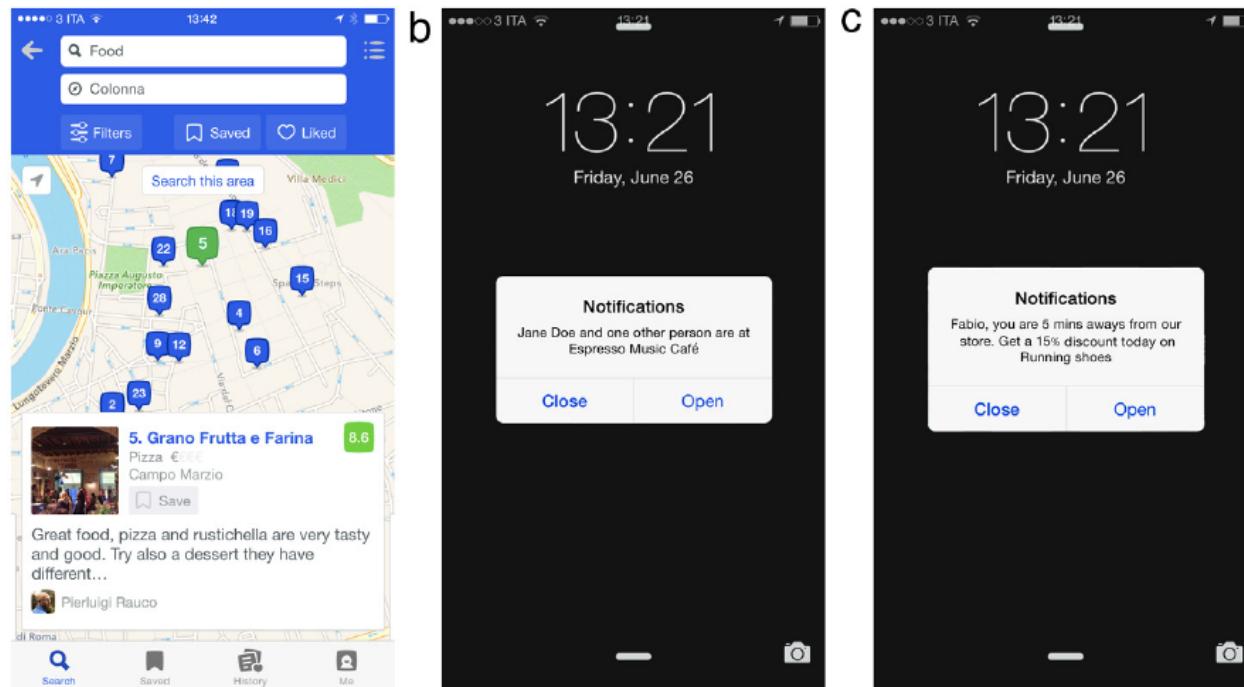
Location services can be defined as *services that integrate a mobile device's location or position with other information so as to provide added value to a user.*

Mobile services are of three types:

1. for navigation (interactive maps, route calculation ...),
2. for information (signaling places of POIs tourist-cultural interest, news, events, contacts ...)
3. for marketing (marketing of proximity, in-store actions, targeted promotions ...).

# Interaction paradigms

- **Pull:** when the user takes the initiative by querying the LBS
- **Push:** when the service is given the initiative to deliver POIs
- **Ads:** where the POIs take the form of a location-enabled mobile ads.



F. Gasparetti  
/ Pervasive  
and Mobile  
Computing  
38 (2017)  
446–473

# Points of Interest (POI)

A POI is a specific location (e.g., museum, restaurant) or a clearly defined area (a park, a nature reserve) that someone may find interesting or important in a given situation (Gasparetti, 2019)

POIs are characterized by different features:

- categories and sub-categories
- coordinates
- popularity
- Category-related dimensions (price, cleanliness, etc)

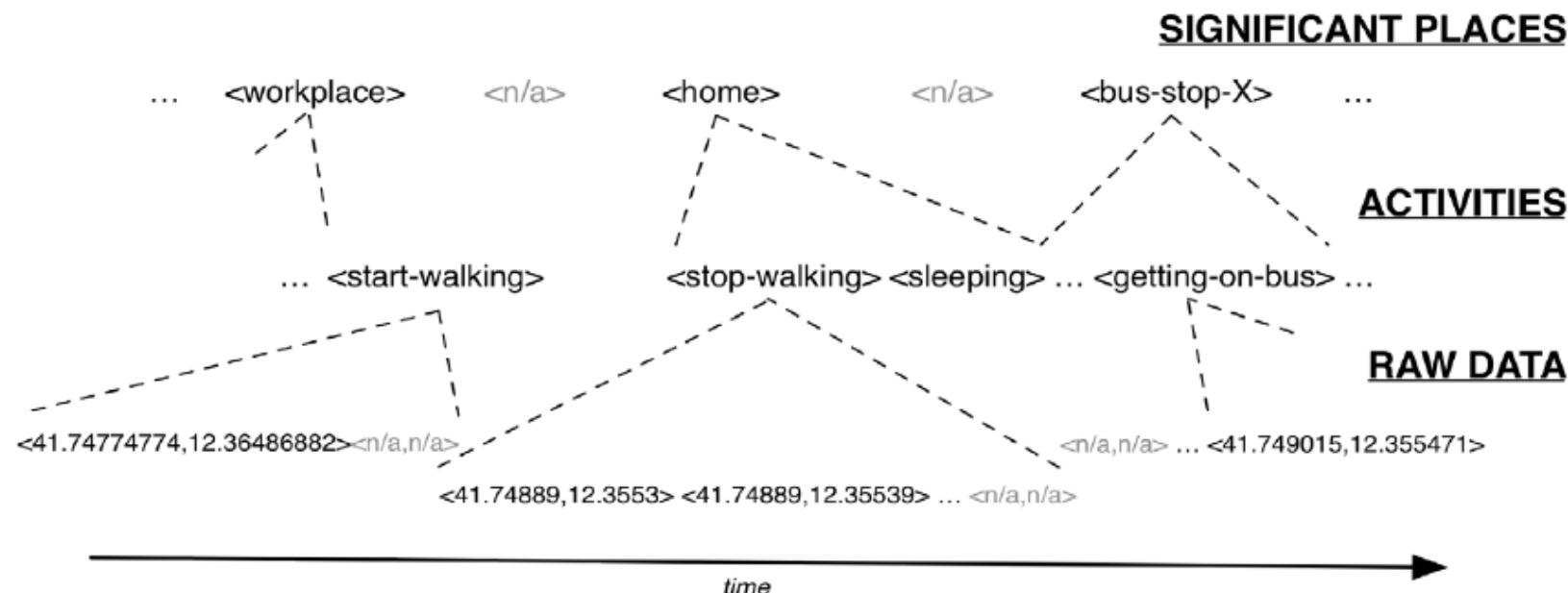
# How to gather POIs features

## EXPLICIT FEEDBACK

- check-in of user
- tags, comments

## IMPLICIT FEEDBACK

- GPS
- Sensors in the mobile phone (→ features extractions)



# Location-based services

Current, LBSs provide users with service based on current location, customers ratings, and features of the venue, **but do no take into account user features.**

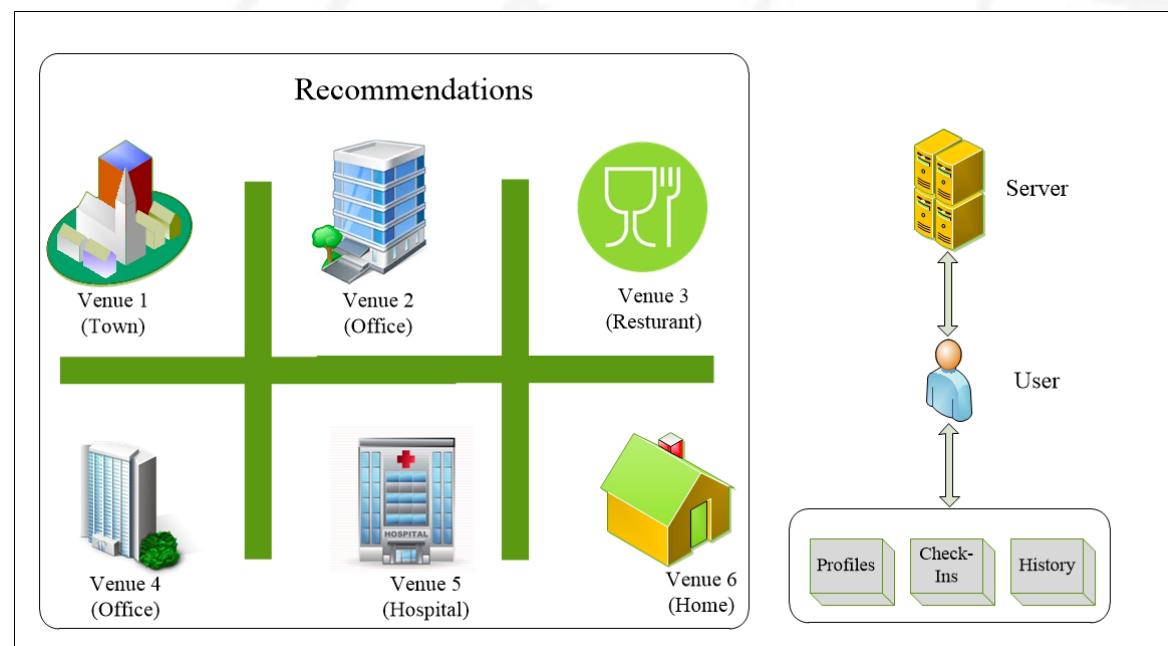
LBS can be enhanced by

- Considering other user features (user preferences and needs)
  - LB Recommenders
- Considering other information regarding the situations or contexts beside place (time, people that are present, ..)
  - CONTEXT (CAR) Recommender systems
    - POIs recommender
    - Routes recommender

# Location recommendations

Based on

- experts' opinions
- popularity
- user preferences (Bao et al.2012)



CICERO	Sansonetti et al, 2019
<b>What is recommended</b>	POIs and Routes
<b>How</b>	Collaborative filtering, linked open data to represent resources
<b>User features:</b>	User interests
<b>Context features</b>	Location, time
<b>How gathered</b>	Social media analysis

[Giuseppe Sansonetti](#), [Fabio Gasparetti](#), [Alessandro Micarelli](#), Federica Cena, [Cristina Gena](#): Enhancing cultural recommendations through social and linked open data. [User Model. User-Adapt. Interact.](#) 29(1): 121-159 (2019)

SMARTMUSEUM	Ruotsalo et al. 2013
<b>What is recommended</b>	museums or buildings of architectural interest, and objects on those sites, such as sculptures or other works of art, and provides explanatory descriptions and multimedia content associated with individual objects).
<b>How</b>	SemanticWeb languages (RDF, RDFS) as the form of data representation. Ontologies are used to bridge the semantic gap between heterogeneous content descriptions, sensor inputs, and user profiles.
<b>User features:</b>	User interests
<b>Context features</b>	Location, time
<b>How gathered</b>	Social network (facebook), proposed items

Ruotsalo, T., Haav, K., Stoyanov, A., Roche, S., Fani, E., Deliai, R., Mäkelä, E., Kauppinen, T., Hyvönen, E.: Smartmuseum: a mobile recommender system for the web of data. *Web Semant. Sci. Serv. Agents World Wide Web* **20**, 50–67 (2013).

Kurashima et al. (2010)	
<b>What is recommended</b>	routes
<b>How</b>	Exploits photographers' histories as held by Flickr.
<b>User features:</b>	User interests
<b>Context features</b>	Location, time
<b>How gathered</b>	Social network (flickr):geotagged pictures, , past travels

Kurashima, T., Iwata, T., Irie, G., Fujimura, K.: Travel route recommendation using geotags in photo sharing sites. In: Proceedings of the 19th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, pp. 579–588. ACM, New York, CIKM '10 (2010).

	Hagen et al. 2005)
What is recommended	When to visit a POI (time-based itineraries)
How	Ontologies to model user interests. The recommender proposes one or more itineraries that maximize the number of POIs given the initial time frame. Non-accessible POIs (e.g., opening hours do not fall back into the time frame) are not included in the itineraries.
User features:	User interests, tastes, constraints
Context features	time
How gathered	Social network (fliker):geotagged picturs, , past traverls

Hagen, K., Kramer, R., Hermkes, M., Schumann, B., Mueller, P.: chap Semantic Matching and Heuristic Search for a Dynamic Tour Guide. In: Proceedings of the International Conference in Innsbruck, pp. 149–159. Springer, Vienna (2005).

# Challenges

- Data sparsity
- Cold start
- Over specialisation problem
- Scalability
- evaluation metrics
- Trust (The users are more likely to accept the recommendations if their confidence in the system is high (Avazpour et al. 2014).  
• → (Shani & Gunawardana 2011). The user has more trust on the system if the recommendations generated by the system best match the users preferences. → CARS

# Context-aware Recommendation

slides partially derive from Yong Zheng

# What is context

- “**Context** is any information that can be used to characterize the situation of an entity” by Anind K. Dey, 2001

Objective features:

- physical context (= LBS)
- temporal context (= LBS)
- social context
- interaction media context (the device used)
- Subjective features
  - modal context (the current state of mind of the user, the user's goals, mood, experience, and cognitive capabilities)

Adomavicius, Gediminas, and Alexander Tuzhilin.

"Context-aware recommender systems." *Recommender systems handbook*.  
Springer, Boston, MA, 2011. 217-253.

# What is context

Baldauf et al. 2007 introduce three principal categories of context factors:

- **spatio-temporal/environmental:** basic attributes such as time, location, direction and the current external circumstances surrounding the user such as the weather condition
- **task-related:** what the user is currently doing, e.g., driving or listening to music.
- **Personal:** related to the personal state or condition such as her emotional and physical states.

M. Baldauf, S. Dustdar, F. Rosenberg, A survey on context-aware systems, Int. J. Ad Hoc Ubiquitous Comput. 2 (4) (2007) 263–277.

# What is context

Contexts are those variables which may change when a same activity is performed again and again.

- **Examples:**
  - Watching a movie: time, location, companion, etc
  - Listening to a music: time, location, emotions, occasions, etc
  - Party or Restaurant: time, location, occasion, etc
  - Travels: time, location, weather, transportation condition, etc

# Context-aware RecSys (CARS)

- Traditional RS: Users × Items → Ratings
- Contextual RS: Users × Items × Contexts → Ratings

User	Item	Rating	Time	Location	Companion
U1	T1	3	Weekend	Home	Kids
U1	T2	5	Weekday	Home	Partner
U2	T2	2	Weekend	Cinema	Partner
U2	T3	3	Weekday	Cinema	Family
U1	T3	?	Weekend	Cinema	Kids

# Terminology in CARS

- Example of Multi-dimensional Context-aware Data set

User	Item	Rating	Time	Location	Companion
U1	T1	3	Weekend	Home	Kids
U1	T2	5	Weekday	Home	Partner
U2	T2	2	Weekend	Cinema	Partner
U2	T3	3	Weekday	Cinema	Family
U1	T3	?	Weekend	Cinema	Kids

- Context Dimension: time, location, companion
- Context Condition: Weekend/Weekday, Home/Cinema
- Context Situation: {Weekend, Home, Kids}

# Context Acquisition

## How to Collect the context and user preferences in contexts?

- **By User Surveys or Explicitly Asking for User Inputs**

Predefine context & ask users to rate items in these situations;

Or directly ask users about their contexts in user interface;

- **By Usage data**

The log data usually contains time and location (atleast);

User behaviors can also infer context signals;

## Examples: Context Acquisition (Explicit)

 tripadvisor® Bologna Hotel Pisa

### Bologna Hotel Pisa

2,026 Reviews | #6 of 67 Hotels in Pisa

Via Giuseppe Mazzini, 57, 56125, Pisa, Italy |  Hotel amenities

Traveler rating	Traveler type	Time of year	Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent 789	<input type="checkbox"/> Families (385)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar-May (486)	All languages
<input type="checkbox"/> Very good 865	<input type="checkbox"/> Couples (933)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun-Aug (580)	English (1,331)
<input type="checkbox"/> Average 258	<input type="checkbox"/> Solo (161)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep-Nov (512)	Italian (378)
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor 77	<input type="checkbox"/> Business (142)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec-Feb (448)	Spanish (105)
<input type="checkbox"/> Terrible 37	<input type="checkbox"/> Friends (182)		<a href="#">More</a>

Start your review of Bologna Hotel Pisa (Receive 100 points)

 Yong Zheng

 [Click to rate](#)

## Examples: Context Acquisition (Explicit)

 tripadvisor® Bologna Hotel Pisa

Your overall rating of this property Draft saved at 10:01 AM.

 Excellent

**Title of your review**  
Summarize your visit or highlight an interesting detail

**Your review** Tips for writing a great review  
Tell people about your experience: your room, location, amenities?  
(200 character minimum)

**What sort of trip was this?**

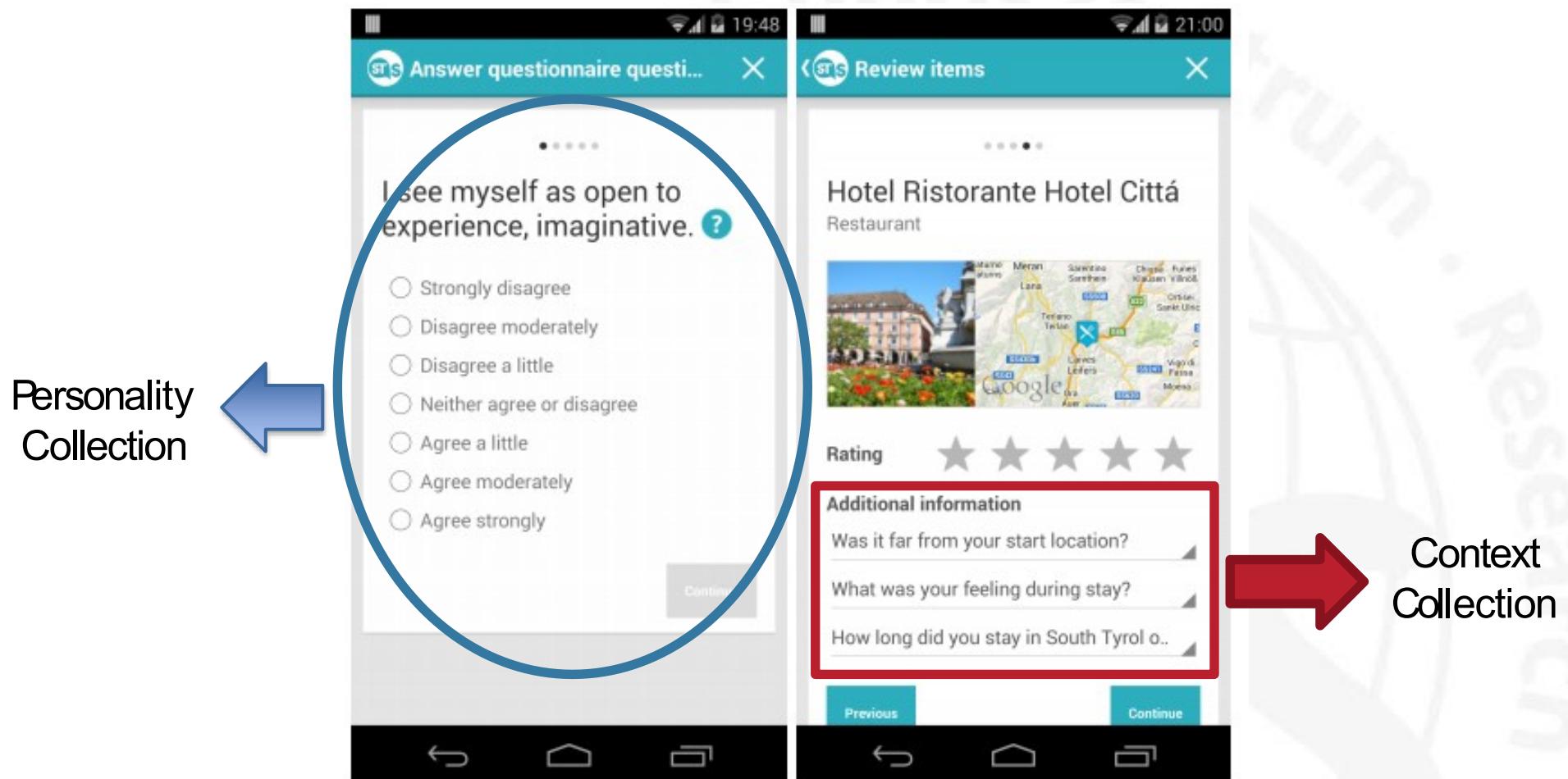
Business    Couples    Family    Friends    Solo

**When did you travel?**

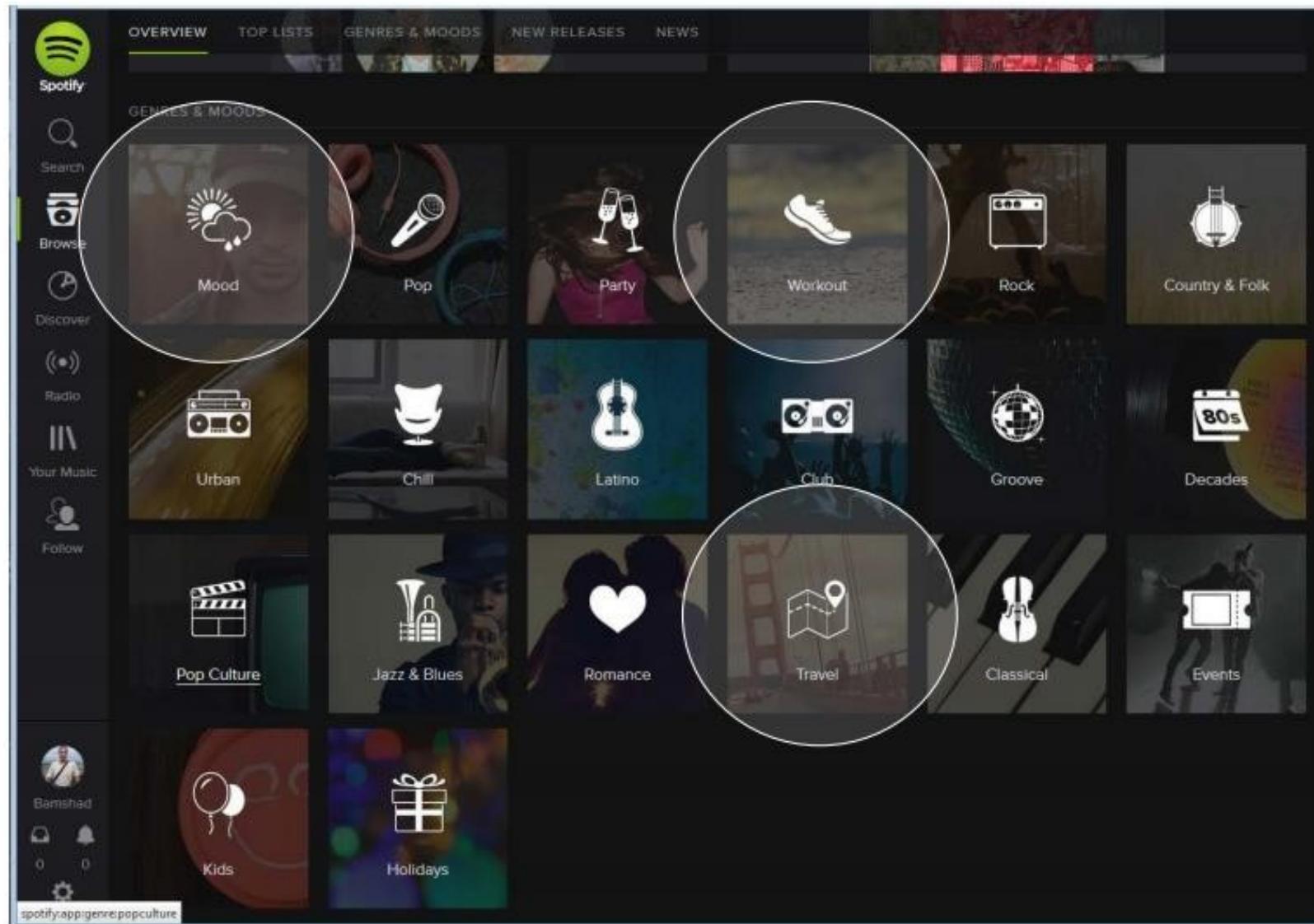
Select one ▾

# Examples: Context Acquisition (Explicit)

Mobile App: South Tyrol Suggests

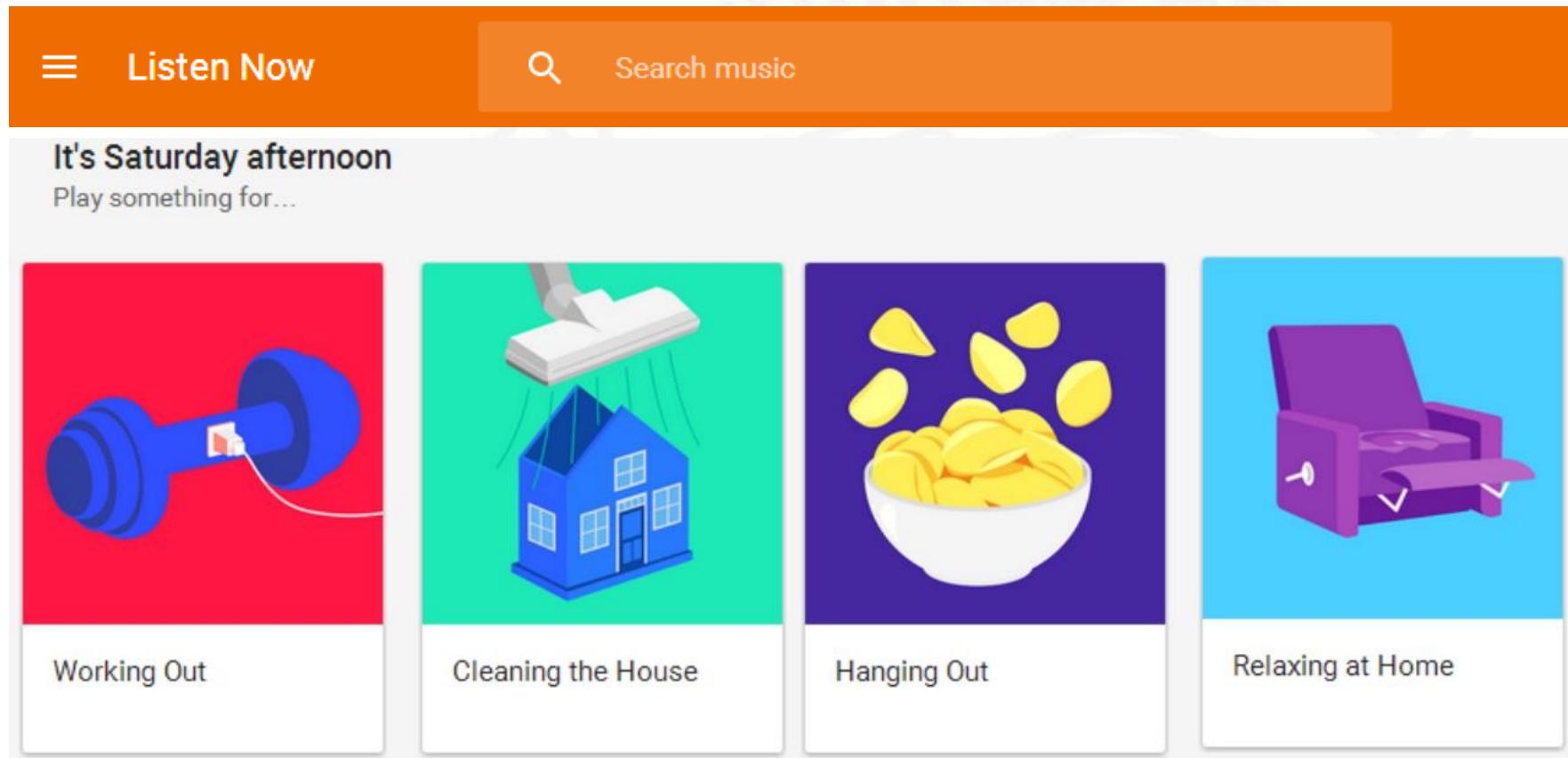


# Examples: Context Acquisition (PreDefined)

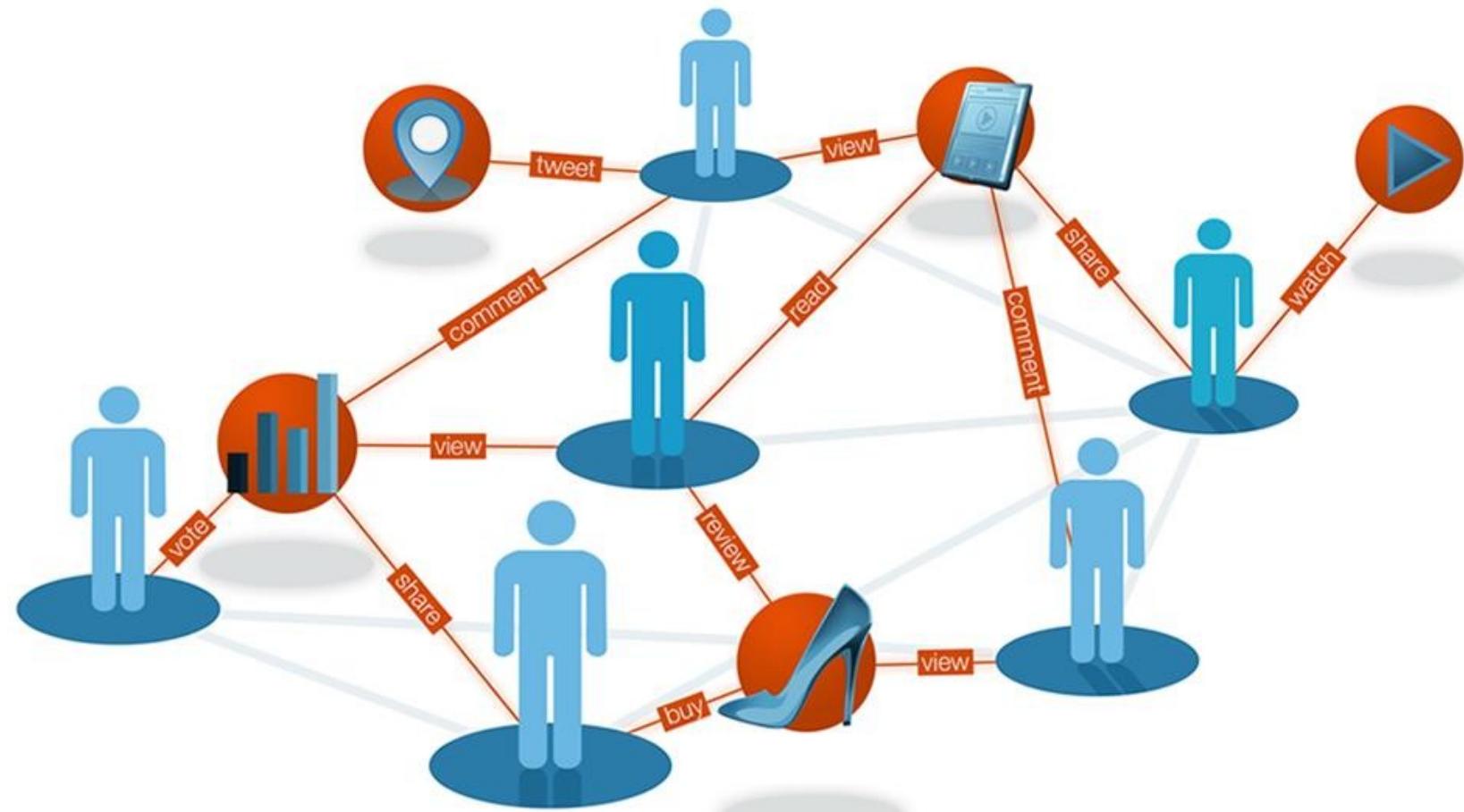


# Examples: Context Acquisition (PreDefined)

Google Music: Listen Now



# Examples: Context Acquisition (User Behavior)



# Context Relevance

Apparently, not all of the context are relevant or influential

- **By User Surveys**  
e.g., which ones are important for you in this domain
- **By Feature Selection**  
e.g., Principal Component Analysis (PCA) e.g.,  
Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA)
- **By Statistical Analysis or Detection on Contextual Ratings** Statistical test,  
e.g., Freeman-Halton Test, entropy, mutual information, etc

Odic, Ante, et al. "Relevant context in a movie recommender system: Users' opinion vs. statistical detection." [CARS Workshop@ACM RecSys 2012](#)

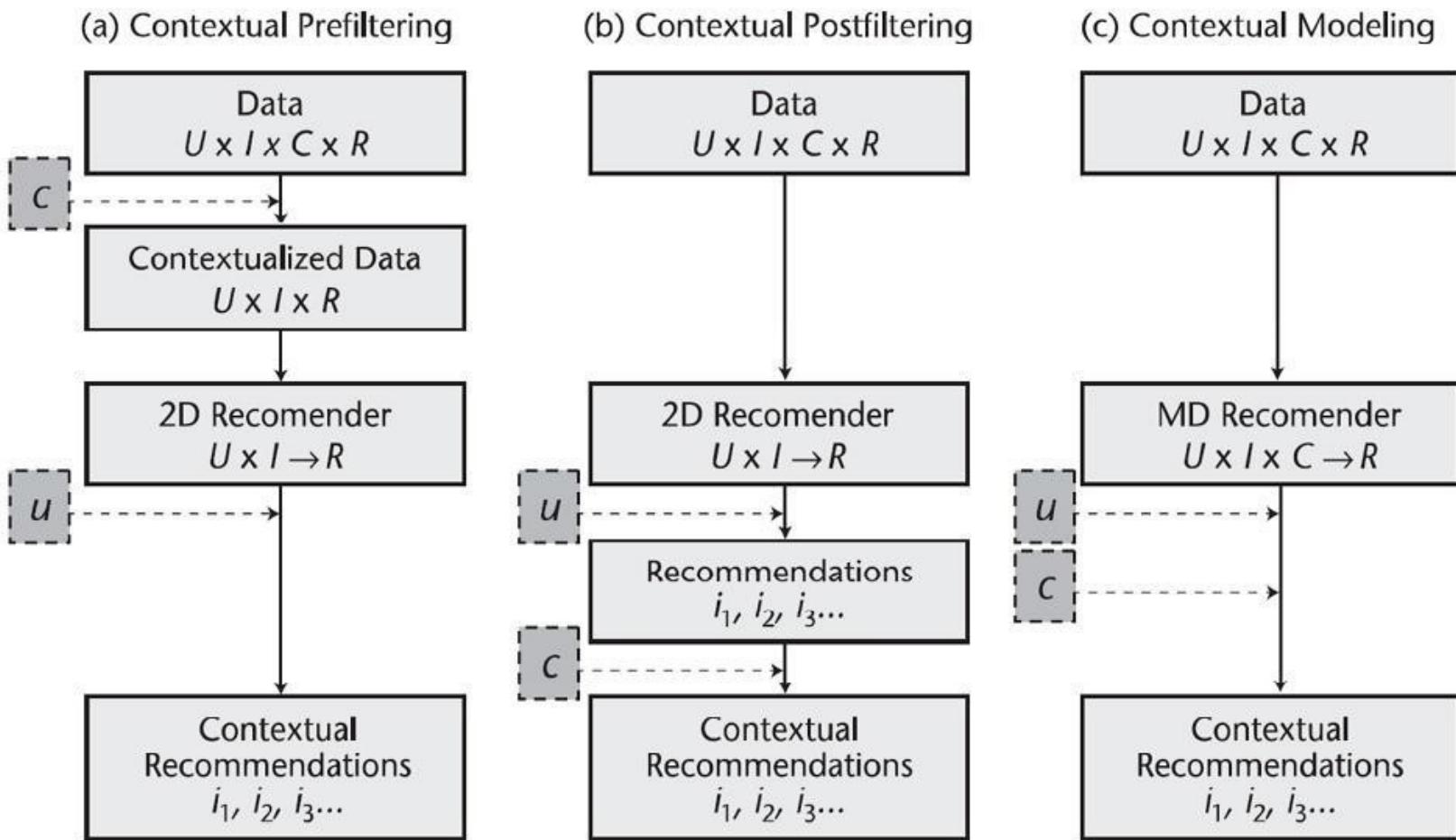
# Outline

- **Context-aware Recommendation**

- Intro: Does context matter?
  - Definition: What is Context?
  - Acquisition: How to collect context?
  - Selection: How to identify the relevant context?
- Context Incorporation: Algorithms
  - Context Filtering
  - Context Modeling
- Other Challenges and CARSKit

# Context-aware RecSys (CARS)

- There are three ways to build algorithms for CARS



## There are 3 ways to incorporate context in a RS

1. Context filtering (pre): before computing the rating estimation the context features are used to filter items to be considered
2. Context filtering (post): the rating estimation doesn't change and then the list of solutions is filtered based on context features
3. Context modeling: context feature can become part of rating estimation, for example by means of tensor factorization ([43, 6], latent-factor models [45, 7, 75, 74], distributional semantic [56])

# 1. Example

User	Movie	Rating
U1	<i>Titanic</i>	4
U2	<i>Titanic</i>	5
U3	<i>Titanic</i>	4
U1	<i>Titanic</i>	?

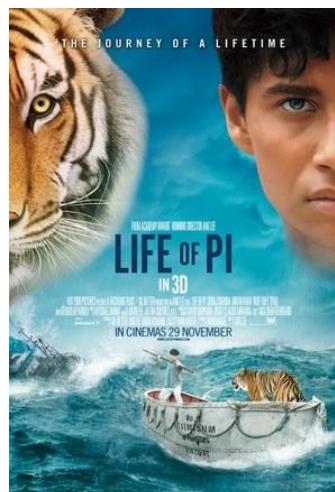
context

User	Movie	Time	Location	Companion	Rating
U1	<i>Titanic</i>	Weekend	Home	Girlfriend	4
U2	<i>Titanic</i>	Weekday	Home	Girlfriend	5
U3	<i>Titanic</i>	Weekday	Cinema	Sister	4
U1	<i>Titanic</i>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Sister</u>	?

**Context Matching** → Only profiles given in <Weekday, Home, Sister>  
**Context Relaxation** → Use a subset of context dimensions to match  
**Context Weighting** → Use all profiles, but weighted by context similarity

## 2. Item Splitting

The underlying idea in item splitting is that the nature of an item, from the user's point of view, may change in different contextual conditions, hence it may be useful to consider it as two different items. (L. Baltrunas, F.Ricci, RecSys'09) –



At Cinema



At Home



At Swimming Pool



# Item Splitting

User	Item	Location	Rating
U1	M1	Pool	5
U2	M1	Pool	5
U3	M1	Pool	5
U1	M1	Home	2
U4	M1	Home	3
U2	M1	Cinema	2

} High Rating

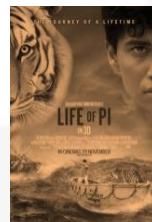
} Low Rating

Significant difference?  
Let's split it !!!

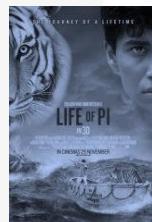
Same movie,  
different IDs.



M1



M11: being seen at Pool



M12: being seen at Home

# Item Splitting

User	Item	Loc	Rating
U1	M1	Pool	5
U2	M1	Pool	5
U3	M1	Pool	5
U1	M1	Home	2
U4	M1	Home	3
U2	M1	Cinema	2

Transformation

User	Item	Rating
U1	M11	5
U2	M11	5
U3	M11	5
U1	M12	2
U4	M12	3
U2	M12	2

# Splitting and Transformation

User	Item	Rating	Time	Location	Companion
U1	T1	3	Weekend	Home	Friend
U1	T1	5	Weekend	Cinema	Girlfriend
U1	T1	?	Weekday	Home	Family



(a) by Item Splitting

User	Item	Rating
U1	T11	3
U1	T12	5
U1	T11	?

(b) by User Splitting

User	Item	Rating
U12	T1	3
U12	T1	5
U11	T1	?

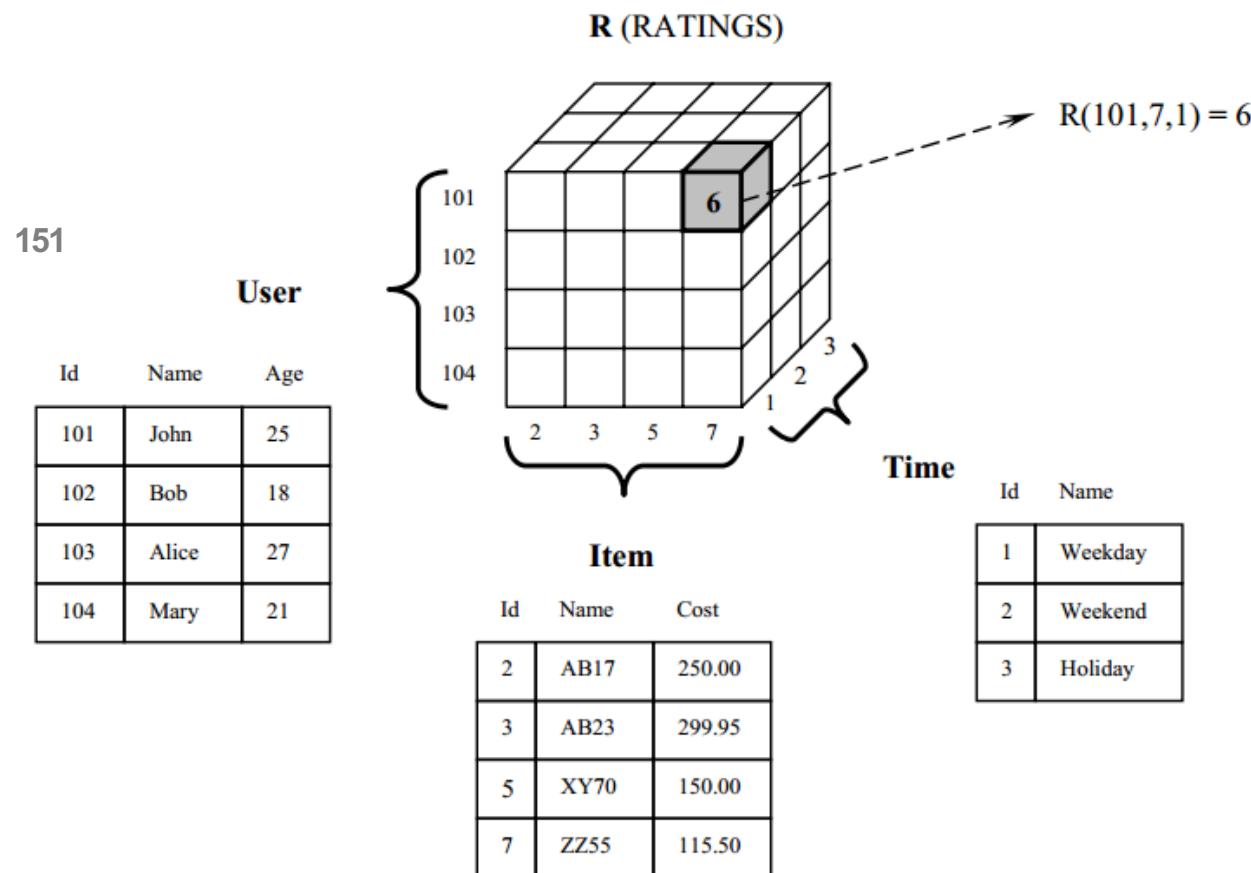
(c) by UI Splitting

User	Item	Rating
U12	T11	3
U12	T12	5
U11	T11	?

# Independent Contextual Modeling

- Tensor Factorization

Multi-dimensional space:  $Users \times Items \times Contexts \rightarrow Ratings$



Each context variable is modeled as an individual and independent dimension in addition to user & item dims.

Thus we can create a multidimensional space, where rating is the value in the space.

# Dependent Contextual Modeling

- Dependence between Users/Items and Contexts
  - User and Context, such as user splitting
  - Item and Context, such as item splitting
- For example, if a user can be splitted by time is weekend or not. It tells this user is dependent with this context.  
<sup>152</sup>
- Dependence between Every two Contexts
  - Deviation-Based: rating deviation between two contexts
  - Similarity-Based: similarity of rating behaviors in two contexts

# New Applications

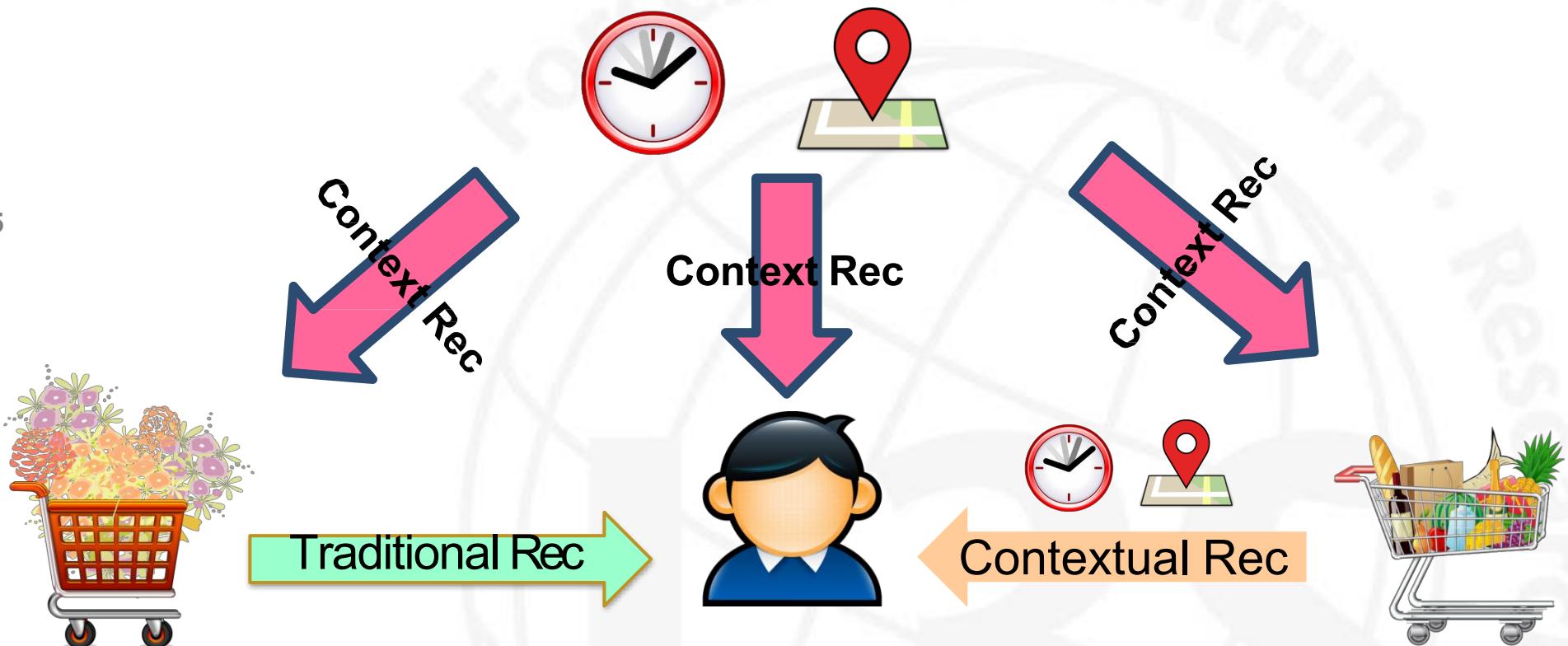
- More applications are in demand:
  - Not only e-commerce, movies, music, etc
  - Tourism: Trip planner, Traffic analyzer and planner
  - MOOC: online learning via different characteristics
  - Life Long: Digital health, daily activity tracker
  - Shared Economy: Uber, Airbnb

# Context Suggestion

# Context Suggestion

- Task: Suggest a list of contexts to users (on items)

155



## Context Suggestion: Motivations

- **Maximize user experience** It is not enough to recommend items only

156



Partners at Cinema



Family at Home



Partners at Swimming Pool



# Context Suggestion: Motivations

- To maximize user experience (UX)  
**Example: Evolution in Retail**

157

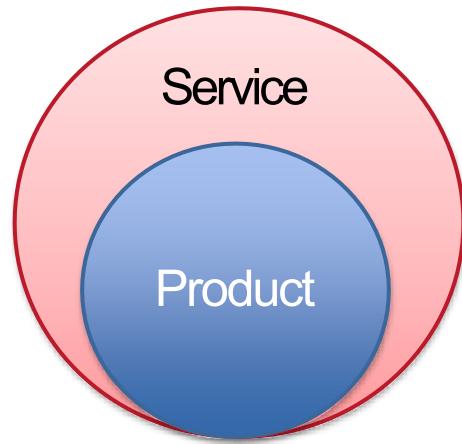


# Context Suggestion: Motivations

- To maximize user experience (UX)

Example: Evolution in Retail

158

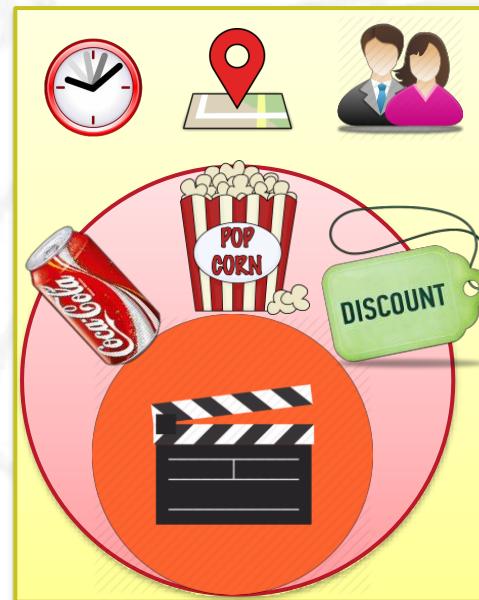
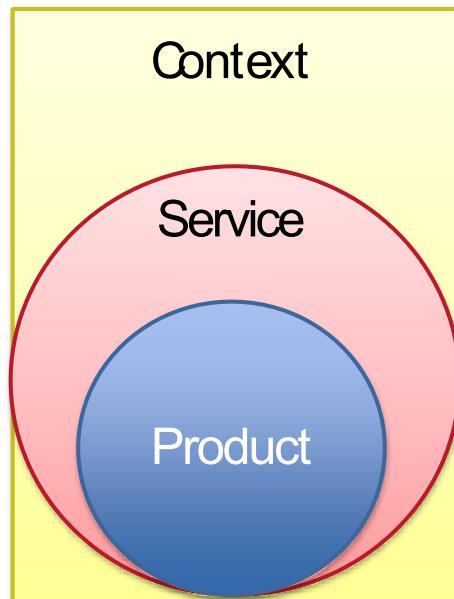


# Context Suggestion: Motivations

- To maximize user experience (UX)

Example: Evolution in Retail

159



# Context Suggestion: Applications

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought

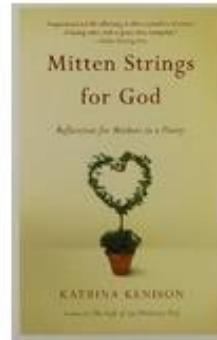
As a gift for Mother's Day

Input is user;  
Output is  
day + books

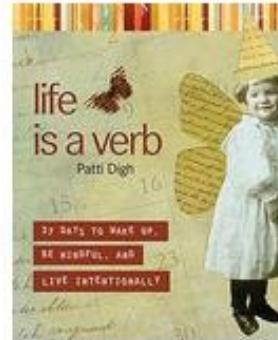


160

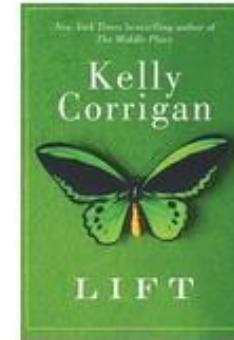
[Magical Journey: An Apprenticeship in Contentment](#)  
› Katrina Kenison  
 135  
Paperback  
\$12.05 



[Mitten Strings for God: Reflections for Mothers in a Hurry](#)  
› Katrina Kenison  
 64  
Paperback  
\$11.95 

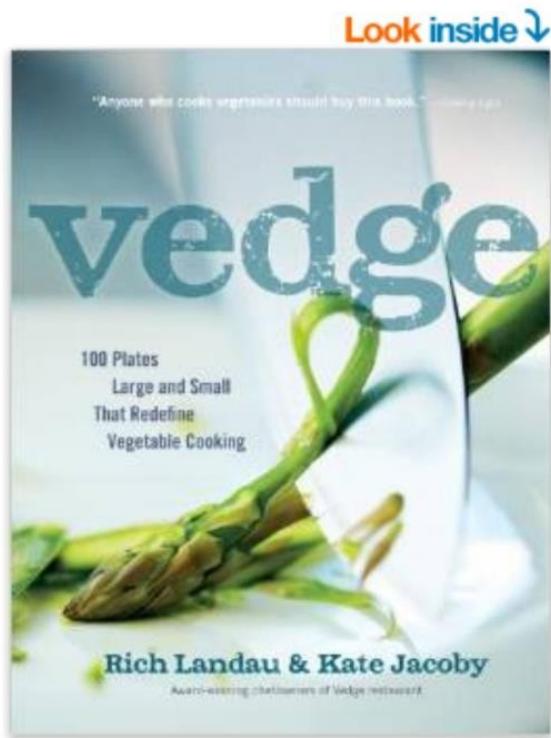


[Life Is a Verb: 37 Days To Wake Up, Be Mindful, And Live Intentionally](#)  
› Patti Digh  
 146  
Paperback  
\$13.96 



[Lift](#)  
› Kelly Corrigan  
 98  
Hardcover  
\$13.37 

# Context Suggestion: Applications



[See all 2 images](#)

## Vedge: 100 Plates Large and Small That Redefine Vegetable Cooking

Hardcover – September 3, 2013

by Rich Landau ▾ (Author), Kate Jacoby ▾ (Author), Joe Yonan (Foreword)

★★★★★ ▾ 54 customer reviews

*This is a good gift for your Mom!*



[See all 4 formats and editions](#)

Kindle

\$9.48

Read with our [free app](#)

Hardcover

\$18.27

28 Used from \$12.07

48 New from \$15.00

Paperback

from \$32.67

2 Used from \$32.67

5 New from \$34.00

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought **As a gift for Mother's Day**



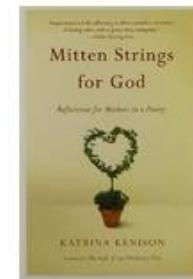
[Magical Journey: An Apprenticeship in Contentment](#)

› Katrina Kenison

★★★★★ 135

Paperback

\$12.05



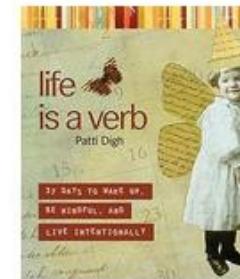
[Mitten Strings for God: Reflections for Mothers in a Hurry](#)

› Katrina Kenison

★★★★★ 64

Paperback

\$11.95



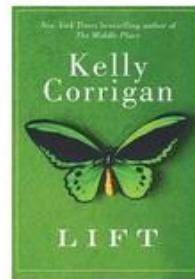
[Life Is a Verb: 37 Days To Wake Up, Be Mindful, And Live Intentionally](#)

› Patti Digh

★★★★★ 146

Paperback

\$13.96



[LIFT](#)

› Kelly Corrigan

★★★★★ 98

Hardcover

\$13.37

# Context-aware Data Sets

## Public Data Set for Research Purpose

- Food: AIST Japan Food, Mexico Tijuana Restaurant Data
- Movies: AdomMovie, DePaulMovie, LDOS-CoMoDa Data
- Music: InCarMusic
- Travel: TripAdvisor, South Tyrol Suggests (STS)
- Mobile: Frappe

Frappe is a large data set, others are either small or sparse

Downloads and References:

[https://github.com/irecsys/CARSKit/tree/master/context-aware\\_data\\_sets](https://github.com/irecsys/CARSKit/tree/master/context-aware_data_sets)

## References

- AKaratzoglou, XAmatriain, LBaltrunas, N Oliver. Multiverse Recommendation: N-dimensional Tensor Factorization for Context-aware Collaborative Filtering. ACM RecSys, 2010
- LBaltrunas, BLudwig, FRicci. Matrix factorization techniques for context aware recommendation. ACM RecSys, 2011
- <sup>163</sup> YZheng, BMobasher, RBurke. Deviation-Based Contextual SLIM Recommenders. ACM CIKM, 2014
- YZheng, BMobasher, RBurke. Similarity-Based Context-aware Recommendation. WISE, 2015
- LBaltrunas, M Kaminskas, FRicci, et al. Best usage context prediction for music tracks. CARS@ACMRecSys, 2010
- YZheng, BMobasher, RBurke. Context Recommendation Using Multi-label Classification. IEEE/WIC/ACM WI, 2014
- YZheng. Context Suggestion: Solutions and Challenges. ICDM Workshop, 2015
- YZheng. Context-Driven Mobile Apps Management and Recommendation. ACM SAC, 2016

# INCLUSIVE CITY

A safe place for  
all our residents

---



**Personalized Spatial Support for People with  
Special Needs**

Federica Cena

September, 12 2019



UNIVERSITA  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO



# Index

- Inclusive cities (Disabilities)
- Technologies for inclusive cities
  - IoT
  - Crowdsourced paradigm
  - Personalisation
- Spatial support for disabilities
  - Disability-based
  - Profile-based
- Spatial supports for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (Afternoon)
  - PIUMA project



# Inclusive city: why, who, how



# Why inclusive cities?

- An inclusive city is a city in which the **processes of development include a wide variety of citizens** and activities.
- These cities maintain their wealth and creative power by **avoiding marginalization**, which compromises the richness of interaction upon which cities depend.



# Who is Included?

Inclusive cities bring marginalized activities into the center :

- rich and poor
- different ethnicities
- students, workers and retirees
- people and products from the surrounding countryside
- children and adults
- new immigrants, visitors, and founding families
- people of all varieties of ability and **disability**



# Disabilities

- Based on the definition by ONU, disability is **not a characteristic of the individual**, but is defined in relation to the surrounding environment and the result of an **interaction with a social organization that restricts activities** and participation due to the barriers (Bucci 2015, p. 1).
- Inclusion of people with disability is extremely important since 1 person over 10 in the world show some form of disabilities. ONU estimates indicate the presence of around 650 million disabled people across the globe.

# ICIDH (1980)

## LINK

International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps

**IMPAIRMENT**  
(Deficit)



**DISABILITY**



**HANDICAP**

any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function

**BODY**

any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.

**ACTIVITY**

a disadvantage for a given individual that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal

**SOCIETY**

# Classification of disabilities

## COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

<b>Developmental Disabilities</b>	Attention Deficit Disorder
	Autism
	Down syndrome
	Dyslexia
<b>Mental Disabilities</b>	Alzheimer's Disease
	Anxiety Disorder
	Depression
	Dyscalculia
	Intellectual disability
	Phobia
	Sensory disability (hear, sight dis)
<b>Physical Disabilities</b>	Mobility Impairment



## Type of disabilities considered in the **urban space design**

	Always (%)	Sometimes (%)	Rarely (%)	Never (%)
Vision impaired	44 (21)	86 (42)	44 (21)	14 (7)
Hard of hearing	25 (12)	71 (34)	58 (28)	29 (14)
Physical / mobility impaired	166 (80)	26 (13)	3 (1)	0 (0)
Learning difficulties	17 (8)	44 (21)	67 (32)	58 (28)

**COGNITIVE DISABILITIES ARE LITTLE CONSIDERED!!**



# How can technology help in the inclusion?

- It's well known that social exclusion are multi-dimensional problems, and there is no magic bullet.
- Technologies are now pervasive in the urban environment and can be used to foster the inclusion of people with special needs.
- Technology can help to gain **ACCESSIBILITY** of the resources.



# Accessibility

- The design of products, services, devices and environments so as to be usable by people with disabilities or special needs
- To give the “ability to access”
- (different from USABILITY: a product can be used by a specific user to gain a goal with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction).



# Accessibility

Accessibility is strongly related to **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

- “the process of creating products (object, a service, or an environment) that are usable by people with all abilities and disabilities. Making things accessible for ALL PEOPLE (whether they have disabilities or not).



# Tecnologies for inclusiveness through accessibility

- Internet of Things
- Crowdsourcing and crowdsending paradigm
- Personalisation and adaptation



# **Internet of Things for universal access**

**Cena, Rapp, Torre, Internet of Things: An Opportunity for Advancing  
Universal Access, 2019, Y. Yesilada and S. Harper (eds.), Web Accessibility,  
Human–Computer Interaction Series**



# What is IoT?

- A worldwide **network of interconnected heterogeneous objects** (RFID, sensors, actuators, wireless devices, smart objects, embedded computers, etc.) uniquely addressable, based on standard communication protocols.
- All things are seamlessly integrated into the information network (Bandyopadhyay and Sen 2011 ).



# IoT for accessibility

- In principle IoT can offer people with disabilities the **assistance** and **support** they need to achieve a good quality of life and allow them to participate in the social and economic life
- Conversely, if IoT devices and applications are designed **without taking into account the needs** of people with special needs they could become more of a **disabler** than an enabler (Abou-Zahra, 2017)



# IoT for accessibility

The IoT paradigm can be **advance universal access**, with the aim for all people to have equal opportunity to access to information, health, education, mobility, energy, etc:

- enabling everybody, including people with physical disabilities, to have easy access to all computing resources and information services,
- providing people with disabilities with advanced assisted living (smart building, smart mobility, smart health)

(Nicolau and Montague, 2019, Carbonell, 2009)



# Smart Building

- **Remote controlling:** IoT can help users perform tasks such as controlling appliances, switching lights and being aware of the state of home components that cannot perform otherwise.
- **Head-Tracking Devices:** devices involving facial movements, eyes movements, brain control, gesture recognition, to help people affected by paralysis
- **Voice-controlled interfaces:** for helping people with visual impairments to control household equipment.
- **Touch-screen devices:** enable access to graphics information and reading of text content by people with hearing disabilities.



# Smart Mobility

IoT may make transportation systems and city environments more accessible by opening a variety of opportunities:

- **Self-driving vehicles:** by making disable population more autonomous and independent. Driverless car technology can reduce the need for special adaptations for disabled users, such as hand controls to operate the accelerator (Kennedys, 2017).
- **Location-based services:** IoT technology may further enable visually / cognitive / age challenged persons to acquire the necessary guidance to travel across city environments by e.g., capturing geo-tagged information through their mobile phone, and return information about a pharmacy, or points of interest (Tektonidis, 2012).



# Smart Health

- **Remote health monitoring**, which allows individuals to constantly track physiological parameters and share data directly with their physicians.
- For example, SPHERE employs wearable, environmental, and camera-based sensors for tracking health allowing old and patients with a chronic disease to remain in their own homes while their health continues to be monitored, as well as caretakers and doctors to promptly intervene if something happens (Zhu et al., 2015).



# Crowdsourced and crowdsensed paradigm



# Crowd-based paradigm

- The lack of information about the urban environment represents itself a barrier. Thus, data about places, routes, urban facilities would be of great benefit [1].
- People can provide information about urban environment (internet of persons).



# Crowd-based paradigm

- **Crowdsensing** paradigm → i.e., people while moving (passively) collect data from different places using sensors from their smart phones or smart devices
- **Crowdsourcing** paradigm → people actively provide information and data about places (adding points in map, or reviews, etc)
- These paradigms can:
  - help to gather information
  - increase the sense of inclusion and participation of people with special needs



# Crowdsourcing

- the last years, several crowdsourcing services have been developed to allow citizens to collaborate collecting data about urban accessibility, focusing mainly on physical disabilities
- <https://wheelmap.org>

**See later other examples**



# Crowdsensing

- Some academic projects allowed to collect data about urban accessibility, again focusing mainly on physical disabilities, exploiting for example accelerometer sensors on smartphones and ad hoc sensors in wheelchair
- mPASS project (Prandi, et al . 2014. mPASS: integrating people sensing and crowdsourcing to map urban accessibility. *IEEE 11th Consumer Communications and Networking Conference (CCNC '14)*.

**See later other examples**



# Personalisation techniques



# Personalisation

- Personalization involves tailoring aspects of the user experience to meet the preferences or needs of the user.
- Adaptive systems based on user model are examples of personalized systems (see the MORNING TUTORIAL)
- To design services for people with special needs **a new generation** of USER MODEL is needed: **HOLISTIC USER MODEL**



# Holistic User Modeling (HUM)

**Holistic representation of the user** that brings together:

- ▶ data on user behavior in real life from sensors (wearable devices or in the environment)
- ▶ data on user behavior on the web (pattern usage, comments, posts,...)

to inferring **complex user features**

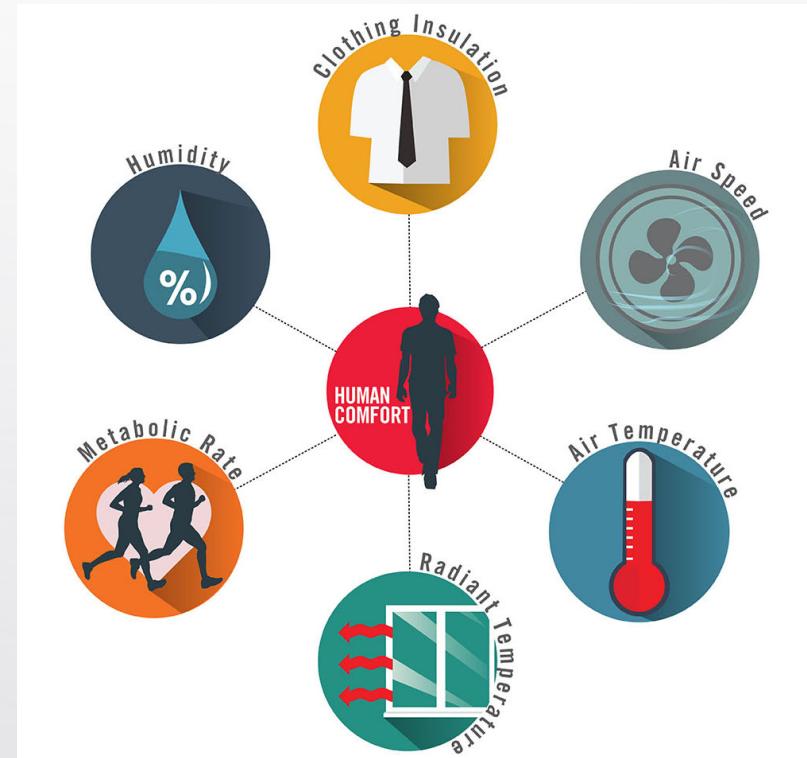
(such as habits, cognitive abilities, emotional states)





This HUM can contain information related to many aspects of the user:

- ▶ medical records
- ▶ food behavior
- ▶ physiological parameters
- ▶ psychological states, ...



creating a sort of **total, holistic representation of an individual**



# Holistic recommendation

- built on the ground of such holistic representation of the user
- which considers:
  - Multiple user features at the same time
  - Features relationships and conflicts
  - Constraints in providing a suggestions
- which can affect the everyday life of a person (what to do, goals to achieve, etc)

- to give suggestions on an aspect in a domain starting from data about multiple user's facets.





# Holistic recommendation

- Health recommender
- Food recommender, activity recommender
- Recommender for people with special needs/frailty
  - Considering only preferences cannot be enough to support them in daily life
  - it should be extremely accurate (a wrong recommendation can cause anger or anxiety)



## Open Issues

Even if accurate and useful for users, HORs use large amount of sensitive/ private data (e.g., health data, location data, etc). Thus, **privacy** becomes a fundamental concern.

An **ethical holistic recommender system** must **be fair, explainable and privacy-preserving, as well as accurate**



# Spatial supports for disabilities



# Type of spatial support

- Wayfinding
- Information about surrounding
- **Disability-based** (exploiting a disability model, the same for all the users)
- **Profile-based** (exploiting a user model)



# **Disability-based** for visually impaired

- **Input:**
  - Shaking the device
  - vocal messagges
- **Output:**
  - Tell the user her position (name of the street)
  - Describe the sourround
  - Alert with sound, vibration or voice



**No personalisation! Only a model of the disability**

# List of apps



- **Ariadne (iOS):** tells user position and allows her to monitor it while walking, telling street numbers or street names. User can be alerted with a sound, vibration or a voice.
- **Lazzus** help visually impaired people to know what is around them in real time, giving auditive information about places of interest nearby the users
- **Lazarillo:** Using audio messages, Lazarillo will tell user about nearby places, the street user is walking on, street intersections
- **Sendero (iOS & Android):** app that speaks the location, what direction user is facing and what points of interests are around.
- **BlindSquare (iOS):** app that finds location using Apple's GPS then looks up information about the surroundings. When user shakes her device it tell her current address and the venues around her.
- **Get There GPS (Android):** app that tells user where she is and how to get to her destination. the user can ask it to tell her where she is at any time by shaking the device.
- **Around Me (Android):** app that identifies user position and shows a list of the POI and the distance to them



- **Lazzus:** an mobile application developed to help visually impaired people to know what is around them. It allows them to explore their surroundings in real time, giving auditive information about places of interest nearby the users. It has two main modes: beam mode, where the user points wherever you want to explore; or 360 mode, to put your mobile in your pocket and use it as an assistant.
- [www.lazzus.com](http://www.lazzus.com)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKDzs\\_ ncN4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKDzs_ ncN4)



- **Ariadne** offers the possibility to know the position at any time and monitor it while walking, you can decide to be informed about what changes along the way, street numbers, street names, etc..
- There is also the option to save favorite points and to be alerted, when you approach one of them using sound, vibration, and even voice.
- Allow to explore the map, giving an idea of the conformation of a certain area by tapping the map with their finger. Moving the finger on the map, you can hear the street names and make a mental map of the area.
- <http://www.ariadnegps.eu/?lang=eng>



- **LazarilloApp** is a specialized GPS app that brings mobility tools for blind people. Using audio messages, Lazarillo tells about nearby places, the street you are walking on, street intersections.
- Like a radio, Lazarillo will announce the places around you while you move.

The GPS resource is used even if the App is in the background.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTrXj3yQQYM>



# **Disability-based** for motor disabilities

- **Input:**
  - Crowdsourcing
  - Crowdensing
- **Output:**
  - Indicates the accessible paths to a places
  - Indicate accessible services in the surroundings (toilets, etc)



**No personalisation! Only a model of the disability**

# Crowdsourcing

---

Some apps are aimed to collect data about urban accessibility directly from user, focusing mainly on motor disabilities:

- **Axs Map** (<https://www.axsmap.com>).
- **Wheelmap** ([www.wheelmap.org](http://www.wheelmap.org))
- **Liberi di muoversi** (<http://www.liberidimuoversi.it/map/>)
- **Mapability** (<http://www.mapability.org>)
- **Wheelmate** (<https://www.coloplast.com/products/bladder-bowel/wheelmate/>)



**They require a community of people willing  
to participate in data collection**

# Crowdsensing



Thus, crowdsensing solutions have been developed, in order to exploit sensors and GPS capabilities to automatically gather data

- **Path 2.0** [1] is one of the first geo-crowdsensing proposals that allow users to passively contribute routes during their everyday movements, by assuming that these routes can be useful to other users with similar needs.
- **PAM** (Personalized Accessibility Map) [2] is able to combine the general needs of wheelchair users with individual specific preferences to obtain personalized paths.
- **IBM Sidewalks** [3] is a geo-crowdsourcing mobile application that allow users to capture pictures and upload data about relevant aspects of sidewalks, such as steps, holes, etc.

# Crowdsensing



- **MEP** (Maps for Easy Paths), a project aimed at providing users with two mobile apps for automatically collecting users' pedestrian routes and visualizing relevant information on accessibility maps respectively [4]
- **mPASS** [5] is able to integrate data from three different sources: i) smartphone sensors, ii) users who voluntarily review urban accessibility information, and iii) official reviews provided by authorities and organizations. MIXED



# Wayfindings in limited areas

- The problem of finding accessible paths in limited areas is being addressed by several universities and colleges all over the world.
- **Way-finder** [6], a system targeted at students and visitors of the University College Cork (Ireland), which supports blind and low-vision people in traditional and mobility training.
- **PAM** application [7] has been developed on the basis of the requirements provided by 20 campuses in US and then tailored to support the students of the University of Pittsburgh in trip planning.
- **UniBS4All** [8], which adopted a Universal Design Approach to Wayfinding and Navigation, first applied to Brescia campus.



## Apps for cognitive-impaired people

- No apps specifically designed for people with cognitive disabilities (dementia, down, etc)
- Only some **GPS Trackers** which app allows family members to track each other



**No personalisation!**



1. Palazzi C. E., Teodori L., Roccati M. 2010. Path 2.0: A participatory system for the generation of accessible routes. In: Proceedings 2010 IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo. 1707–1711.
2. Karimi H. A., Zhang L., Benner J. G. 2014. Personalized accessibility map (PAM): a novel assisted wayfinding approach for people with disabilities. *Annals of GIS* 20, 2 (2014), 99–108
3. Shigeno K., Borger S., Gallo D., Herrmann R., Molinaro M., Cardonha C., Koch F., Avegliano P. 2013. Citizen Sensing for Collaborative Construction of Accessibility Maps. In: Proceedings of the 10th International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility (W4A '13). ACM, New York, NY, USA, Article 24, 2 pages
4. Sara Comai, Emanuele De Bernardi, Matteo Matteucci, Fabio Salice: Maps for Easy Paths (MEP): Enriching Maps with Accessible Paths Using MEP Traces. GOODTECHS 2016: 254-263
5. Catia Prandi, Paola Salomoni, and Silvia Mirri. 2014. mPASS: integrating people sensing and crowdsourcing to map urban accessibility. in *Proceedings of the IEEE 11th Consumer Communications and Networking Conference (CCNC '14)*, pp. 591–595, LasVegas, Nev, USA, January 2014.
6. Mehigan T. J., Pitt I. 2012. Harnessing Wireless Technologies for Campus Navigation by Blind Students and Visitors. In Klaus Miesenberger, Arthur Karshmer, Petr Penaz, and Wolfgang Zagler (Eds.), *Computers Helping People with Special Needs*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 67–74.
7. Karimi H. A., Zhang L., Benner J. G. 2013. Personalized Accessibility Maps (PAMs) for Communities with Special Needs. In: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS'13). Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, 199–213.
8. Arenghi A., Belometti S., Brignoli F., Fogli D., Gentilin F., Plebani N. 2018. UniBS4All: A Mobile Application for Accessible Wayfinding and Navigation in an Urban University Campus. In: Proceedings of the 4th EAI International Conference on Smart Objects and Technologies for Social Good (Goodtechs '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 124-129.



# Profile-based support for disabilities

- Personalized systems that create a model of the user and then adapt the services and the interaction to it
- Consider that people with disability are different with different interests, preferences and idiosyncrasies
- An Holistic User Model could help in providing more accurate recommendation

Goal	Recommendation of app for people with special needs
Techniques	Ontology for user modeling,
Personalisation:	Yes
Spatial support	no
domain	<b>E-commerce</b>

**Torres-Carazo M.I., Rodríguez-Fortiz M.J., Hurtado M.V., Samos J., Espín V. (2014)**  
**Architecture of a Mobile App Recommender System for People with Special Needs.** In:  
**Hervás R., Lee S., Nugent C., Bravo J. (eds) Ubiquitous Computing and Ambient**  
**Intelligence. Personalisation and User Adapted Services. UCAmI 2014. Lecture Notes in**  
**Computer Science, vol 8867. Springer, Cham**

User modeling wizard	Kurschi et al, 2013
Goal	user modelling wizard that is specific for people with motor disabilities, that adapt the interaction according to motor disability (automatic app configuration according to user needs)
Techniques	Ontology, adapt webpages according to the user's preferences, thus making it easy for the user to achieve his or her goals when accessing a given information. The recommendation algorithm is based on probability that estimate the user's objective (based on past user reading and browsing behaviour) (content-based approach)
Personalisation:	Yes
Spatial support	no
Domain	<b>Intelligent user interface</b>

**W. Kurschl, M. Augstein, H. Stitz, P. Heumader, and C. Pointner, “A user modelling wizard for people with motor impairments,” in Proceedings of International Conference on Advances in Mobile Computing & Multimedia - MoMM13. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), 2013**

SOLVE-D	Sohn et al, 2013
Goal	context-sensitive recommendation framework of personalized services for disabled people in smart home environments.
Techniques	Ontologies for representing data, makes recommendations considering the user's profile and his or her context, content-based recommendations
Personalisation:	Yes
Spatial support	Yes (indoor)
domain	<b>Smart home</b>

**M. Sohn, S. Jeong, and H. J. Lee, “Self-evolved ontology-based service personalization framework for disabled users in smart home environment,” in 2013 Seventh International Conference on Innovative Mobile and Internet Services in Ubiquitous Computing. Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE), jul 2013. [Online].**

<b>Batouche et al., 2012</b>	
Goal	Recommendation of Travel Plans for <b>Elderly People</b> who usually have capacity and health restrictions
Techniques	Semantic Web (ontology for the domain), a mixed approach for recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stereotype</li> <li>- Content-based (similarity wrt to previous destinations)</li> <li>- Collaborative (similarity among users)</li> </ul>
Personalisation:	Yes, group recommendation
Spatial support	yes
domain	<b>Turism guide</b>

**B. Batouche, D. Nicolas, H. Ayed, and D. Khadraoui, “Recommendation of travelling plan for elderly people according to their abilities and preferences,” in 2012 Fourth International Conference on Computational Aspects of Social Networks (CASON). Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE), nov 2012.**



# Maps personalisation

Usually it takes the form of a personalisation of the map

- **Compass** (MacAoidh & Bertolotto, 2007), a GIS application that monitors user behaviour and interaction with maps.
- **Vulcanos** ()
- **Mapper** (Weakliam et al., 2008) generates maps considering users' preferences and context: starting from monitoring user behaviour with maps, the system infers individual and group preferences
- **RecoMap** (Ballatore et al., 2010) calculates a score based on the interest shown by users for specific geographical features.
- **Piuma** (Cena et al, 2018) a personalized interactive urban maps for autism

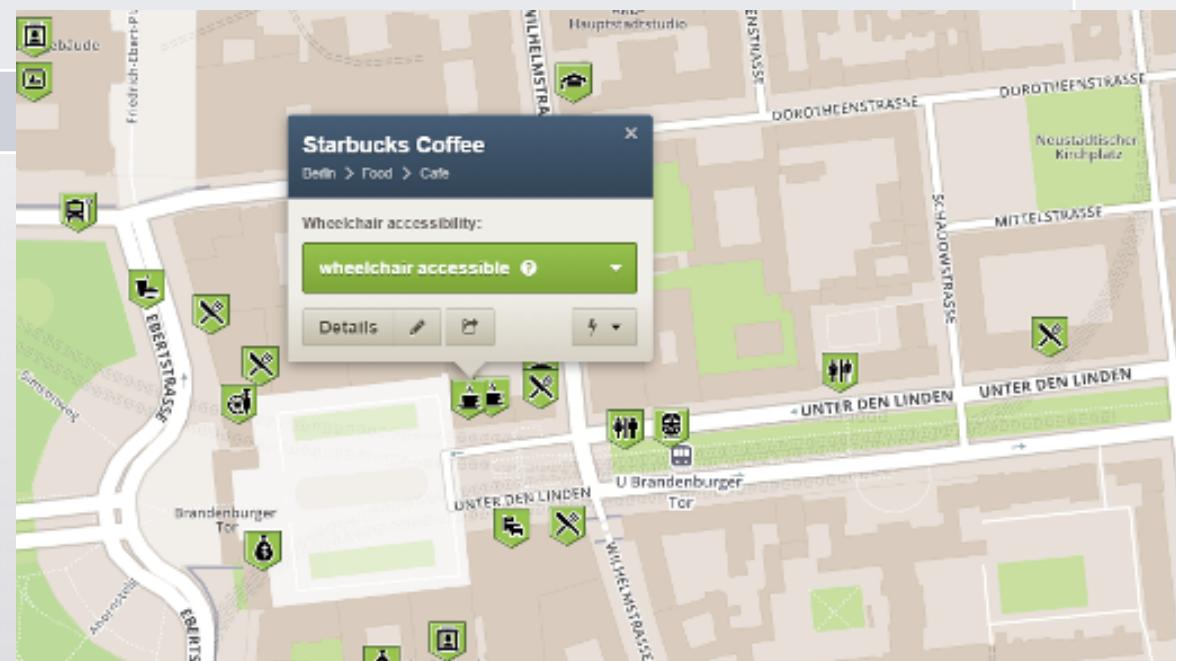


# Maps personalisation

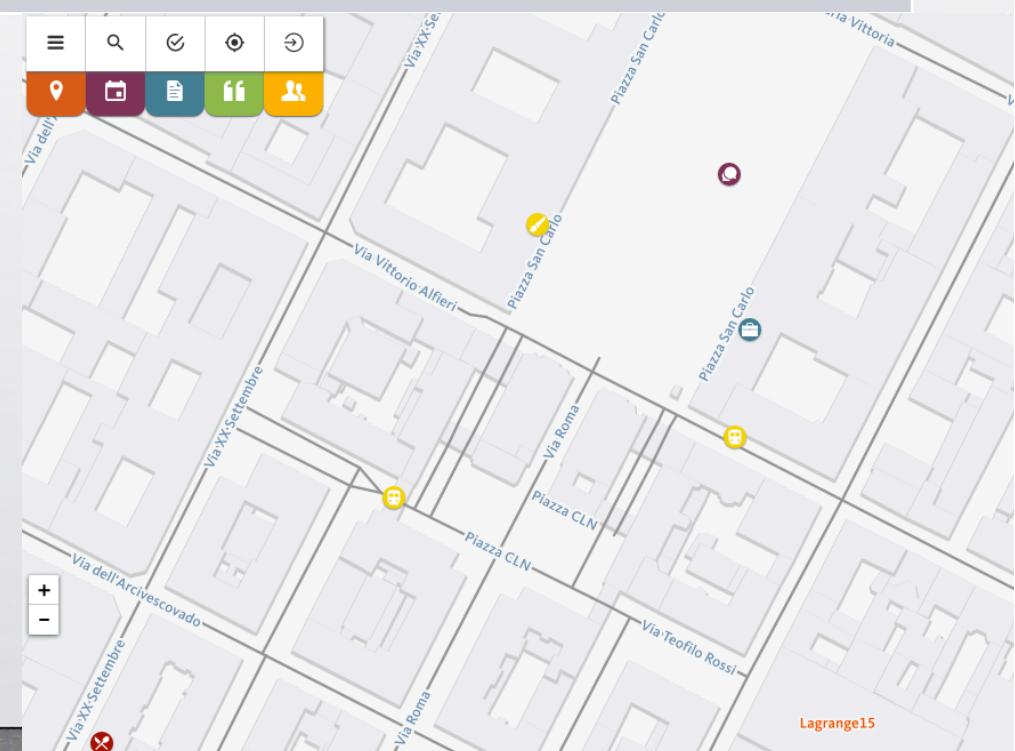
Usually it takes the form of a personalisation of the map, generating maps considering users' preferences and context: starting from monitoring user behaviour with maps, the system infers individual and group preferences

- **Compass** (MacAoidh & Bertolotto, 2007)
- **Mapper** (Weakliam et al., 2008)
- **RecoMap** (Ballatore et al., 2010)
- **Vulcanos** (Gomez, 2019)
- **Piuma** (Cena et al, 2018)

Vulcanus 2.0	Gomes, 2016
Goal	recommends accessibility resources to the user (parking places, parking ramps, elevators, sound signals, notifications in Braille, etc) , considering information of the user's context and profile (all disability but use case on motor disability)
Techniques	Ontologies, Analysis of previous trails (resources that user consumes in the day, with the context where the user was while using the resource), user similarity
Personalisation:	Yes
Spatial support	yes
domain	LBS



Piuma	Cena et al, 2018
Goal	Promote the urban mobility of ASD people
Techniques	Personalized POIs suggestions, crowdmapping, personalized routing
Personalisation:	Yes, provide personalised suggestions of POIS and of routes
Spatial support	yes
domain	LBS-service





# (Personalized) spatial support for Autism



# Austism Spectrum Disorder

- **Autism spectrum**, also known as **autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**, is a range of mental disorders. It includes autism and Asperger syndrome.
- Symptoms are typically recognized between one and two years of age.
- .



# Special needs

- Autistic people show difficulty in social relations
- They show restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities.
- They have a weak central coherence
- They find safe in the routine
- Specific spatial needs
  
- Long term issues may include difficulties in performing daily tasks, creating and keeping relationships, and maintaining a job

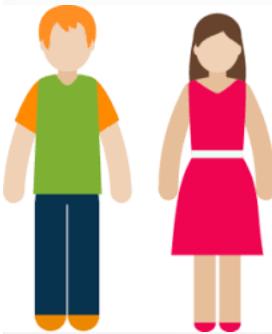


# Technologies for autism

---

**Children:** medical model promotes early intervention targeting school-aged individuals (Kientz et al,2013, Boucenna et al, 2014):

- Frauenberger et al. (2016) develop smart objects designed from and for their idiosyncratic perspective.
- **vSked** (Hirano et al. (2010)): an interactive and collaborative visual scheduling system for supporting primary school classroom activities
- **EnhancedTouch** (Suzuki et al. (2016)): a bracelet wearable device that can measure human-human touch and provide visual feedback, to facilitate physical contact
- **PEACE** (Participatory Evaluation with Autistic ChildrEn) Spiel et al. (2017) an approach to include autistic children in dedicated evaluation phases through the co-definition of goals and methods, joint processes of data gathering and cointerpretation of findings.



# Technologies for autism

---

**Adult:** Focus on social communication skills, emotion management and social interaction:

- **SocialMirror** (Hong et al. (2012), a device connected to an online social network that allows autistic adults to seek advice from a trusted network of family, friends and professionals
- **Clasp** (Simm et al, 2014), a tactile anxiety management, communication and peer support tool developed with, by and for adults with high ASD.
- **SayWat** (Boyd et al., 2016), a wearable assistive technology that provides feedback to adults with autism about their prosody during face-to-face conversations.
- **Snap** (Simm et al., 2016) a digital stretch wristband that collects interaction for later reflection and the self-management of anxiety
- **HygieneHelper** (Hayes & Hosaflook, 2013) supports teens and young adults in developing skills for independent living by tracking and monitoring progress on hygiene routines, and prompting feedback through a virtual coach.



# Personalisation and autism

Personalized technologies for autism are still very rare (Simm et al., 2016). Most of the applications regard the educational domain (Mintz, 2012):

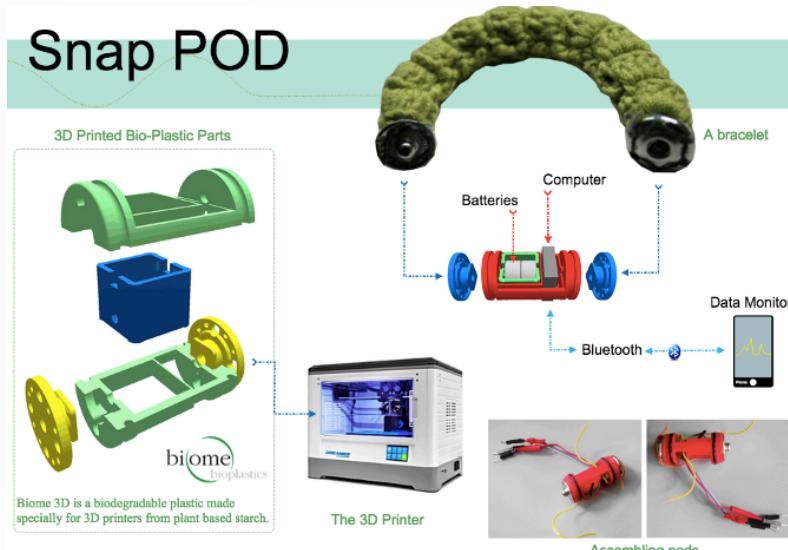
- in (Judy, 2012) a personalized e-learning system that exploits semantic web technologies is proposed.
- Social Mirror: (Hong, 2012), proposed a social networking aiming at supporting the independence of young adults with autism by providing recommendations and suggestions
- (Khosla, 2015) reported in the results of a nine-month trial investigating the impact of an adaptive humanoid robot able to change its behavior (voice tone, expressions, sound effects) on the ground of the activity patterns and the preferences of the participants
-

# Systems for ASD



name	personalized	Spatial support	domain
Snap (Sim et al., 2016)			Anxiety detection
Hands (Mints et al., 2012)			elearning
Montes, 2012			elearning
Judy at al, 2012	#		elearning
Social Mirror (Hong 2012)	#		Social interaction training
<b>Lucy (Khosla et al, 2015)</b>	#	#	Home assistance
<b>AUTISM&amp;UNI (Garcia, 2014)</b>		#	Indoor wayfinding
<b>PIUMA (cena, 2018)</b>	#	#	Outdoor wayfinding

Snap	Sim et all, 2016
Goal	Design a wearable device to track level of anxiety
Techniques	Snap is a customizable hand-made digital stretch wristband that records interactions for later reflection.
Personalisation:	Yes, in the design (3D printing)
Spatial support	no
Domain	Self-management of health



Simm, Ferrario, Gradinar, Tavares Smith, Forshaw, Smith, Whittle. 2016. Anxiety and Autism: Towards Personalized Digital Health. In *Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '16)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 1270-1281.

HANDS	Minz and Aagaard, 2012
Goal	(Helping Autism Diagnosed young people Navigate and Develop Socially) Design a system to support them to develop ADS social skills and self-management skills
Techniques	a web based flexible toolkit that teachers use to develop specific support and intervention sequences specific to the need of each child. These sequences consist of a series of linked screens, each of which can include customizable text, images, video and sound.
Personalisation:	Yes, customized “personal trainer”
Spatial support	no
domain	elearning

Joseph Mintz and Morten Aagaard . 2012. The application of persuasive technology to educational settings. Educational Technology Research and Development 60(3) 483-499

<b>Judy et al, 2012</b>	
Goal	An adaptive e-learning system based on soft semantic web technologies can be developed to teach the students with autism
Techniques	ontologies to describe learning materials, annotation schemas and ontology of services.
Personalisation:	Yes, Individual Education Plan (IEP) based on goals and objectives that are unique to the individual
Spatial support	no
domain	elearning

M. V. Judy, U. Krishnakumar and Hari Narayanan. 2012. Constructing a personalized e-learning system for students with autism based on soft semantic web technologies. 2012 IEEE International Conference on Technology Enhanced Education (ICTEE), Kerala, 2012, pp. 1-5. doi: 10.1109/ICTEE.2012.6208625

<b>Lucy</b>	<b>Khosla et al, 2015</b>
Goal	To study the best communication modalities to trail ADS people (quiz) and remember activities in the calendar
Techniques	The integration of service delivery includes human-like communication attributes like voice, emotive expressions, head and body motion in dancing style to generate positive emotional engagement of the person with autism and breaking technology barriers.
Personalisation:	Yes, adaptation of the interaction + provide personalized contents (favourite music, songs..)
Spatial support	no
domain	Home-base care assistive robot

**Khosla, R., Nguyen, K., & Chu, M. T. (2015, November). Service personalisation of assistive robot for autism care. In IECON 2015-41st Annual Conference of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (pp. 002088-002093). IEEE.S**

Montes Garcia et al, 2016	
Goal	Support student in higher education + reassuring on privacy preservation
Techniques	Wibaf + wordpress
Personalisation:	Yes, Adaptive le learning objects
Spatial support	no
domain	learning

Alejandro Montes García, Natalia Stash, Marc Fabri, Paul De Bra, George H. L. Fletcher, Mykola Pechenizkiy. 2016. Adaptive web-based educational application for autistic students. Published in: Extended Proceedings of Hypertext 2016, Halifax, Canada.

Social Mirror	Hong et al., 2012
Goal	supporting the independence of young adults with autism
Techniques	social network
Personalisation:	Yes, provide personalized information tailored to the current situation the individual is facing (e.g. personalized help reminder: to encourage the individual to seek advice)
Spatial support	indoor
domain	Independent living

**Hwajung Hong, Jennifer G. Kim, Gregory D. Abowd, and Rosa I. Arriaga. 2012. Designing a social network to support the independence of young adults with autism. In Proceedings of the ACM 2012 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '12). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 627-636**

AUTISM&UNI	Garcia, Stash and De Bra, 2015
Goal	To support autistic users @ TUE university
Techniques	framework for adaptive web interaction
Personalisation:	Yes, adaptation of the presentation of the content to the cognitive level of the user
Spatial support	Yes, People with autism find it difficult to find their way around big areas such as a university campus and suffer from anxiety when they do not know where to go. They need to know when and where the next lesson is going to be, how to reach the library, the cafeteria, registration offices, etc. They need very concrete pointers, not a site overview to explore
domain	University education

- **Garcia, Stash and De Bra, 2015, Adaptive Applications to Assist Students with Autism in Succeeding in Higher Education, UMAP 2015**
- Alejandro Montes García, Natalia Stash, Marc Fabri, Paul De Bra, George H. L. Fletcher, Mykola Pechenizkiy. 2016. Adaptive web-based educational application for autistic students. Published in: Extended Proceedings of Hypertext 2016, Halifax, Canada

<b>Piuma</b>	<b>Cena et al, 2018</b>
Goal	Promote the urban mobility of ASD people
Techniques	Personalized POIs suggestions, crowdmapping, personalized routing
Personalisation:	Yes, provide personalised suggestions of POIS and of routes
Spatial support	yes
domain	LBS-service



**Personalized Interactive Urban Maps for Autistic  
Spectrum Disorder**



## PROJECT

<http://piuma.di.unito.it>

- Ongoing project (May 2017-May 2020)
- mix of personalisation, crowdsourced and IOT for making a City accessible to autistic people
- Founded by:





TEAM

- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Psychology
- Local healthcare agency



UNIVERSITA  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO





## Starting problems

- Lack of aid for autistic adults
- Supports mainly of a communicative / cognitive nature, no spatial support
- Maps for physical, non-cognitive disabilities



## Goals

A horizontal bar consisting of several dark blue diagonal stripes.

- Understand how autistic people represent urban space
- Support them in their movements in space, helping them in managing daily life and anxiety

Understanding how autistic people represent urban space

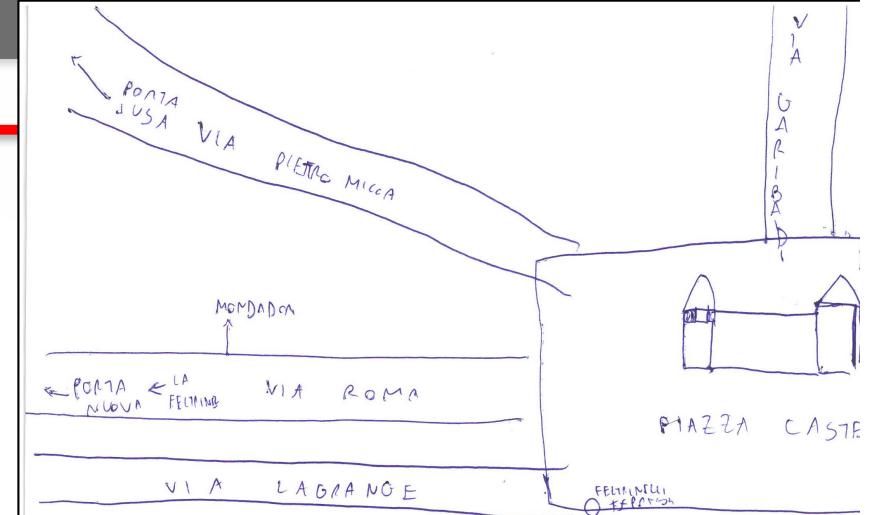
1.1 spatial needs

1.2 sensoriality

Interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, participatory design sessions by psychologists → USER

## REQUIREMENTS

Rapp, A., Cena, F., Castaldo, R., Keller, R., & Tirassa, M. (2018). Designing technology for spatial needs: Routines, control and social competences of people with autism. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 120, 49-65.

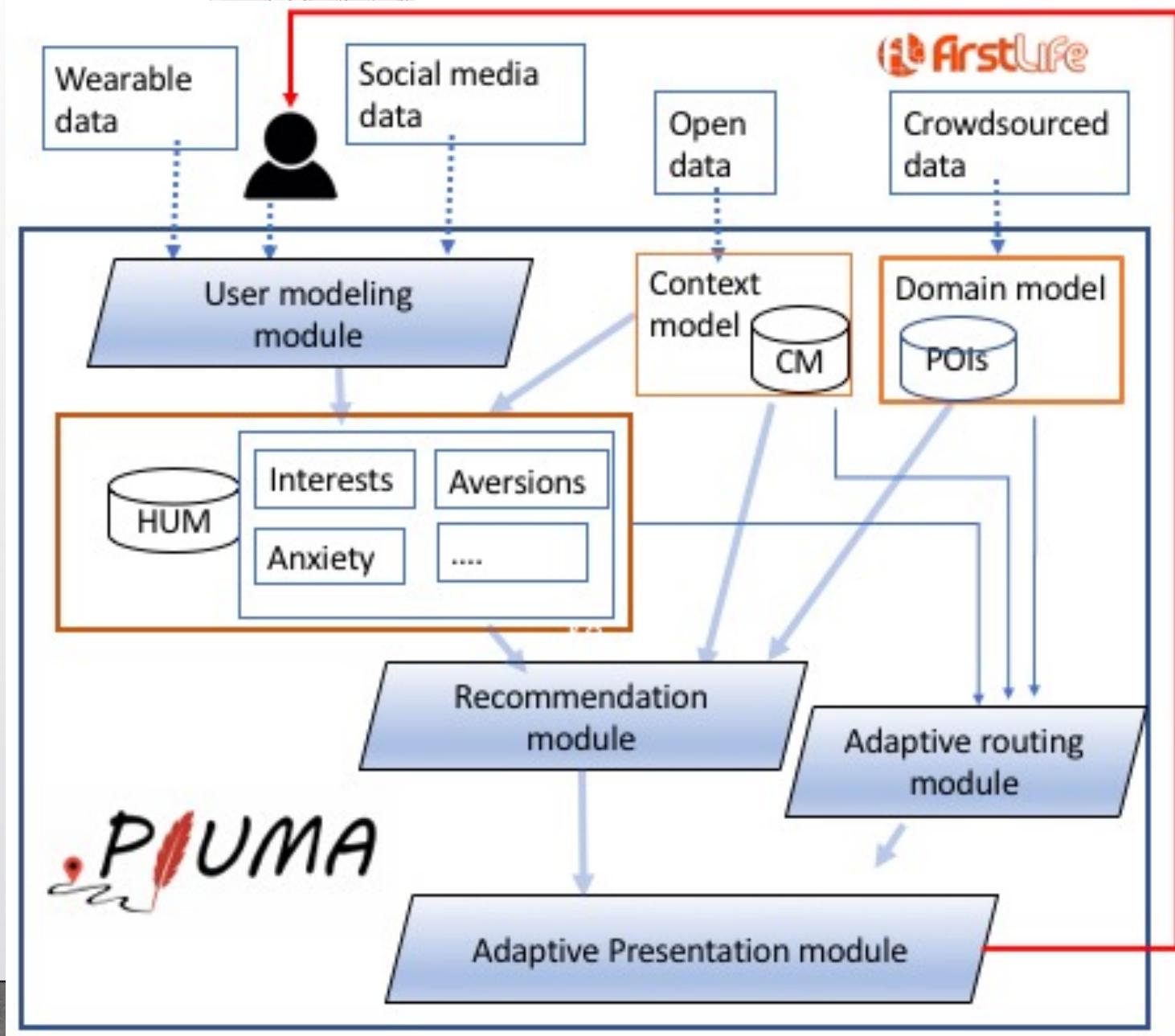




## Goal 2

Design a urban maps that is

1. **crowdsourced**: annotated by users with sensory characteristics of places
2. **assistive**: able to support people in space movements through intelligent safe routing based on their level of anxiety
3. **personalized**: able to suggest safe POIs based on preferences, aversions of the user towards sensory characteristics (recommender system)

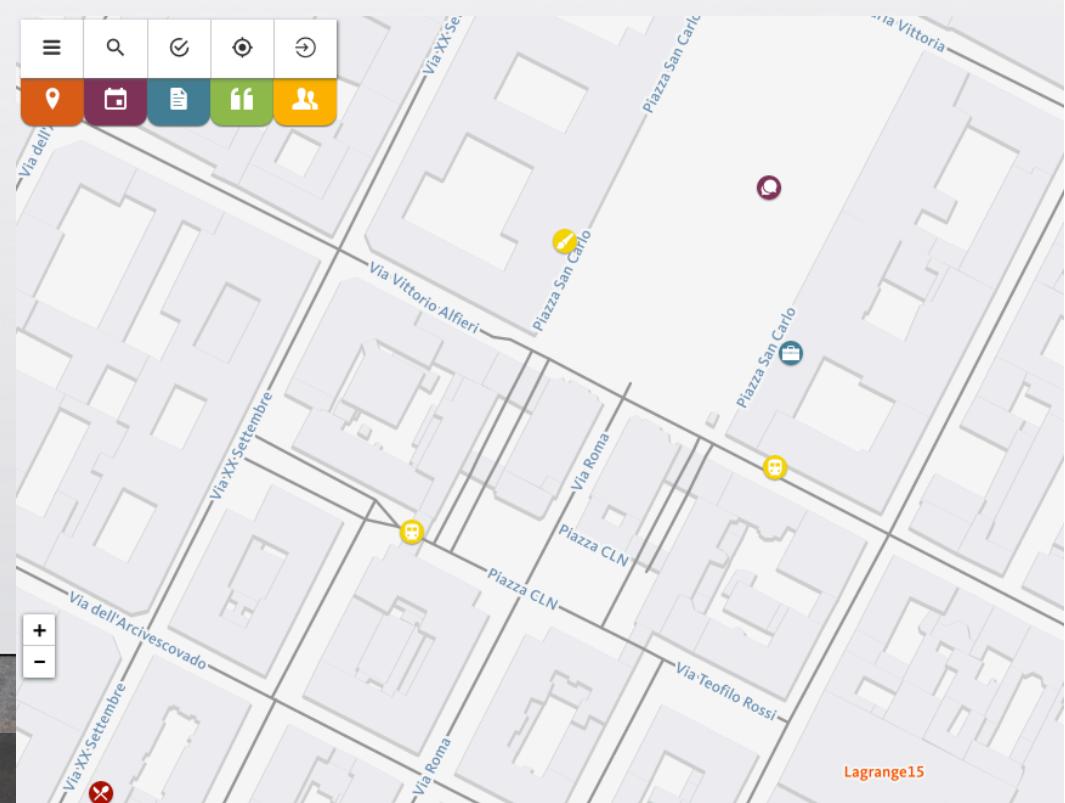




## 2.1 Crowdsourced map

- Populated by comments, reviews, suggestions about places/events/activities that are ASD “safe”
- Particular emphasis on sensorial features of a place (noise level; temperature; brightness..)

<https://maps4all.firstlife.org>





## Test 1

[+ Follow](#)[◀ Share](#)[Locate on map](#)[Add a rating](#)[X](#)**Noise level****Crowding****Brightness****Dimension****Temperature****Odour**[X Close](#)

- Based on a **holistic user model**:
  - **Preferences** (declared by users or inferred from social networks)
  - **Aversions** with respect to the sensorial features (declared or inferred from the evaluations made in the crowdsensed map)
  - **Anxiety level** (detected by wearables devices or inferred from context such as breakdown of routine, traffic, whether or by smartphone sensors (wandering) )
  - **Cognitive abilities**
  - **Spatial habits**
  - **Causes of anxiety and coping strategies**
  - **Other diseases**

- Starting from the crowdsourced data, and taking into account the Holistic User Model, it recommends:
  - “safe” POIs/activities to calm her down
  - “safe” paths to reach them
- PUSH or PULL modality:
  - The user asks for help
  - The system proactively provides suggestions:
    - In case of high anxiety level of the user
    - In case of problem where she is (car crash, traffic, bus deviations, bad weather conditions..)

Cascade hybrid approach (Burke, 2002):

1. *Content-based* (Pazzani, Billsus, 2007): used inferred preferences on places categories
2. *Collaborative filtering* (Schafer et al, 2003): we consider aversions in similarity calculation (Pearson correlation) and then suggested POIS that similar users liked the most
3. Context-awareness: POIs in the nearby (with a radius of 500 meters) and reachable by means of a “path safe”



## 2.2 Personalized map: routing

- **Safe PATH:**
- route to reach a destination calculated on the fly based on the user's characteristics, avoiding roads with features that may annoy the user (very noisy and crowded way such as through open markets, shopping roads..)
- Based on tags and annotation from OpenStreetMap and from Open Data of Turin Municipality



## To do

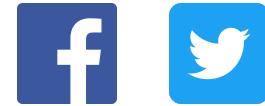
- **Field evaluation of the system** (not only usability, but how it can cause a behavioural change → increase spatial autonomy of persons)
- **Online population campaign** to have more data about places

- **Adaptation of the map interface** (vocal, textual, graphic, 3D) on the basis of the person's cognitive capability (orientation problems, difficulty in understanding verbal instructions) and possibly cognitive overload (eg level of attention at the moment)
- **Training for social behavior** (i.e. going to the post office, hospital, supermarket, etc.) with different tools (game, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality)

1. Rapp, A., Cena, F., Castaldo, R., Keller, R., & Tirassa, M. (2018). Designing technology for spatial needs: Routines, control and social competences of people with autism. *Int. Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 120, 49-65.
2. Rapp, Cena, Boella, Antonini, Calafiore, Buccoliero, Tirassa, Keller, Castaldo, Brighenti: Interactive Urban Maps for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder. CHI Extended Abstracts 2017: 1987-1992
3. Cena, Rapp, Tirassa, Boella, Calafiore, Keller: Personalized interactive urban maps for autism: enhancing accessibility to urban environments for people with autism spectrum disorder. UbiComp/ISWC Adjunct 2017: 9-12
4. Rapp, Cena, Tirassa, Boella, Calafiore, Keller. Tracking personal movements in urban environments: personalized maps for people with autism spectrum disorder.UbiComp/ISWC Adjunct 2017: 883-886
5. Rapp, Cena, Boella, Antonini, Calafiore, Buccoliero, Tirassa 2017 Interactive Maps for Cognitive Disabilities, UbiComp/ISWC Adjunct
6. Cena, Rapp, Mattutino, Personalized Spatial Support for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder, UMAP extended proceedings 2018
7. Rapp, Cena, Mattutino, Boella, Schifanella, Grassi. Holistic User Models for Cognitive Disabilities: Personalized Tools for Supporting People with Autism in the City. UMAP 2018 workshop
8. Cena, Rapp, Mattutino, Boella, Schifanella, Grassi, Calafiore, Keller, Castaldo, Brighenti, Tirassa Towards Inclusive Smart City for People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, iCities 2018 CINI conference



Follow us!



<http://piuma.di.unito.it>

<https://maps4all.firstlife.org>

**We are looking for candidates!!! Or for other places where  
to export PIUMA**

piuma@di.unito.it



UNIVERSITA  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO