

Big Data Project on Amazon Apparel Recommendation System: Insights for Shopkeepers

Meghana Doddapuneni | Pallav Mahajan | Shanmukh Raj Sircilla | Venkata Kiran Reddy Kotha

Abstract *The Amazon Apparel Recommendation System project addresses retail decision-making issues with machine learning and large data analytics. The purpose of this project is to identify significant trends and insights by analyzing customer reviews, ratings, and purchase data from the Amazon US Customer Reviews dataset. The system gives actionable insights based on user preferences by using machine learning techniques such as Alternating Least Squares (ALS) for personalized recommendations and Big Data tools such as PySpark for efficient data processing.*

Sentiment analysis, which categorizes customer feedback as positive, neutral, or negative, is one of the key aspects that enables a more full understanding of client pleasure. Shopkeepers may make data-driven marketing and inventory decisions by integrating sentiment insights with ALS recommendations, which provide a complete picture of consumer behavior.

This study gives a detailed examination of the dataset, techniques, execution, and results. It also analyzes the issues experienced and offers solutions. The goal is to transform unstructured retail data into tactical tools that enhance customer satisfaction and operational effectiveness in the retail clothes industry.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Amazon apparel Recommendation System program aims to alter retail decision-making in the clothing sector by transforming massive, unstructured datasets into usable insights. As stated in the abstract, this study addresses concerns such as data overload, a lack of personalization, and technical processing challenges using the Amazon US Customer Reviews dataset.

Some of the key goals include using sentiment analysis for qualitative insights, applying the Alternating Least Squares (ALS) model for tailored recommendations, and analyzing customer reviews and ratings to understand preferences and sentiments. Shopkeepers can use the system's tools to increase customer satisfaction, tailor marketing campaigns, and optimize inventory.

This project makes advantage of PySpark to provide optimal administration of large datasets, while ML approaches provide excellent predictive capability. The study outlines the approaches and issues encountered, as well as recommended improvements to real-time recommendations.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Problem Statement

Low- and mid-level garment retail enterprises face significant challenges in effectively exploiting large, unstructured datasets. It is tough to extract useful insights from the millions of customer evaluations and ratings that are accessible. Current techniques frequently miss the opportunity for complete analysis by neglecting to combine textual reviews and numerical ratings. Existing recommendation systems' lack of personalization leads to dissatisfied customers, poor engagement, and missed sales chances.

Moreover, technical challenges such as:

- **Volume:** Conventional systems cannot process millions of records.
 - **Variety:** Managing organized and unstructured data, such as text reviews and star ratings.
 - **Veracity:** Addressing missing values and anomalies in client data.
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2.2. Objective

This overall project aims to:

1. Identify and analyze patterns in customer reviews and ratings.
 2. Use sentiment analysis to categorize reviews and gauge consumer satisfaction.
 3. Developing a recommendation system based on the ALS model for individualized product suggestions.
 4. Enable retailers to make data-driven decisions about inventory and marketing tactics.
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2.3. Scope

Our project focuses on the Amazon US Customer Reviews (Apparel) dataset and explores:

1. **Data Cleaning and Preprocessing:** Cleaning and preprocessing data involves identifying missing values and standardizing formats.
2. **Data Exploration:** Examining review and rating trends to identify insights and patterns.
3. **Sentiment Analysis:** Analyze customer emotions and attitudes using textual reviews from the dataset.
4. **Recommendation System:** Use filtering algorithms to estimate client preferences.
5. **Real-World Applications:** Create a sample demo to integrate insights into meaningful business tools.

This study discusses the dataset techniques, implementation, outcomes, problems, and offered recommendations for bridging the gap between unstructured data and strategic decision-making in the retail arena.

3. DATASET OVERVIEW

3.1. Dataset Source

The dataset utilized in the project is the Amazon US Customer Reviews (Apparel) dataset from Kaggle. This dataset provides a vast repository of consumer feedback, including both structured and unstructured data fields required to extract relevant insights

Link: https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/cynthiarempel/amazon-us-customer-reviews-dataset/data?select=amazon_reviews_us_Apparel_v1_00.tsv

3.2. Key Features

The dataset has the following key fields:

- marketplace: The region where the review originated (e.g., the United States).
- customer_id: A unique identifier for each customer.
- review_id: A unique identifier for each review.
- product_title: The title of the reviewed product.
- star_rating: Customer rating on a scale of 1 to 5.
- review_body: The textual content of the review.
- verified_purchase: Determines whether the purchase was verified by Amazon.
- review_date: The date when the review was posted.

```
# Display the schema of the dataset
print("Dataset Schema:")
df.printSchema()

Dataset Schema:
root
|-- marketplace: string (nullable = true)
|-- customer_id: string (nullable = true)
|-- review_id: string (nullable = true)
|-- product_id: string (nullable = true)
|-- product_parent: string (nullable = true)
|-- product_title: string (nullable = true)
|-- product_category: string (nullable = true)
|-- star_rating: string (nullable = true)
|-- helpful_votes: string (nullable = true)
|-- total_votes: string (nullable = true)
|-- vine: string (nullable = true)
|-- verified_purchase: string (nullable = true)
|-- review_headline: string (nullable = true)
|-- review_body: string (nullable = true)
|-- review_date: string (nullable = true)
```

Fig 1: Dataset Schema

3.3. Supporting Big Data

- Volume

The dataset contains over a million records, totaling over 2 GB in volume.

The screenshot displays a large table with columns such as 'product_id', 'product_title', 'star_rating', 'review_body', and 'verified_purchase'. The table contains numerous rows of data, illustrating the volume of the dataset.

Fig 2: Volume

- Variety

Structured Data: Fields such as star_rating, customer_id, and verified_purchase.

Unstructured Data: Textual fields, such as review_body, hold detailed consumer feedback.

5. Dataset Reduction for Memory Efficiency:

To control the computing load in the early iterations, the dataset was sampled.

Scaling the entire dataset analysis was made possible by PySpark's distributed processing capabilities.

```
# Count missing values for each column
print("Missing Data Count per Column")
df.select(count(isnull(c1).alias(c1)).alias(c1) for c1 in df.columns).show()
# Set logging level to "ERROR" to suppress warnings
spark.sparkContext.setLogLevel("ERROR")

Missing Data Count per Column:
+-----+-----+
|Stage 39:-----+-----+ (9 = 6) / 15)
+-----+-----+
|marketplace(customer_id|review_id|product_id|product_parent|product_title|product_category|star_rating|helpful_votes|total_votes|vine|verified_purchase|review_headline|review_body|review_date)|
+-----+-----+
|11|12|1868|287|0|0|11|11|11|11|11|11|11|11|
```

Fig 5: Handling Missing values

4.1. Data Exploration

Our exploratory data analysis (EDA) not only gave a concise overview of the dataset but also produced significant insights into its structure and patterns for the sentimental analysis:

1. Star Rating Distribution by Verified Purchase:

The number of 4- and 5-star ratings was higher for verified purchases.

Purchases that were not validated displayed more neutral reviews.

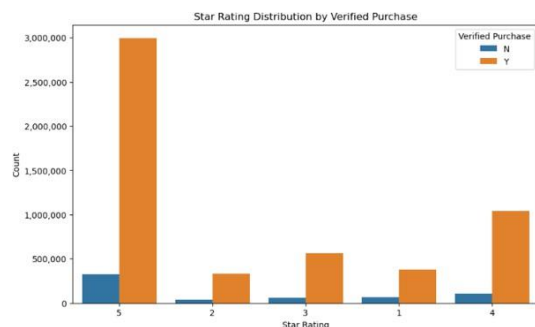


Fig 6: Verified vs non-verified purchases

2. Review Length vs. Star Ratings:

A correlation was observed between review length and ratings:

- Reviews with lower ratings (1-2 stars) were longer, indicating more thorough complaints.
- Those evaluations that were shorter and more succinct had higher scores (4-5 stars).

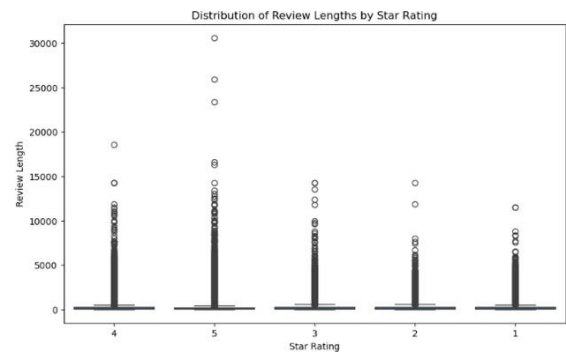


Fig 7: Review length vs star ratings

3. Demographic Analysis:

With 3.6 million reviews, men's clothing dominated the product categories, followed by women's (370,000).

Since children's clothing received the fewest reviews, there may be room for more focused advertising.

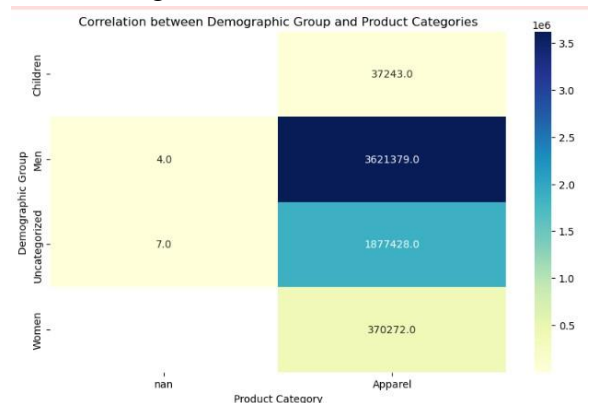


Fig 8: Demographics distribution

4. Star Rating Distribution:

High Positive Rating Density

- The majority of garment evaluations are four to five stars, indicating that most customers are satisfied with their purchases.

Low Negative Density:

- Ratings of 1 or 2 stars are less prevalent and fewer customers express dissatisfaction with them. This could be a sign of unmet expectations or issues with a certain product.

Increased Dispersion at Five Stars:

- The higher five-star distribution suggests that customers value specific product attributes and shows a variety of positive experiences.

Actionable Insights:

- Products that routinely earn four or five stars can be given preference when it comes to sales and replenishment.
- Low-rated items should be reviewed to address problems with quality or consumer satisfaction.

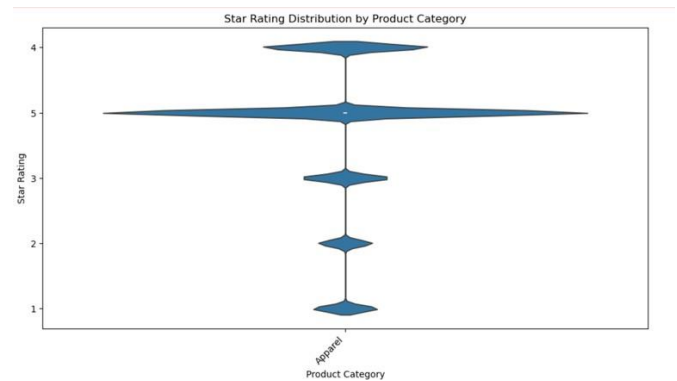


Fig 9: Star Rating Distribution

4.2. Sentimental Analysis

The objective of the sentiment analysis we carried out was to comprehend the underlying emotions and opinions expressed in connection with the customer feedback. By classifying evaluations into positive, neutral, and negative sentiments, the analysis provided valuable qualitative information about customer experiences in addition to the numerical ratings.

- Process

1. Data Preprocessing:

Text Cleaning: The review_body field was cleared of extra whitespace, HTML elements, and special characters.

Tokenization: Divide reviews into discrete tokens or words.

Stop-Word Removal: Removed terms that don't provide information, such as "the," "is," and "and."

Stemming: Words were reduced to their most basic form (for example, "enjoyed" → "enjoy").

Vectorization: Textual data was transformed into numerical representation for analysis using methods like CountVectorizer or TF-IDF.

2. Sentiment Classification:

TextBlob was used to create a sentiment analysis model for polarity scoring:

- Polarity > 0 indicates a positive sentiment (e.g., "Loved the product, excellent fit!").
- Neutral Sentiment: Polarity at or near 0 (e.g., "Product is okay, nothing special.").
- Polarity < 0 indicates a negative sentiment (e.g., "Terrible quality, very disappointed.")

Large-scale sentiment calculations might be handled well because to PySpark's distributed processing capabilities.

Accuracy: 0.8369642185578328

[Stage 113:>

+-----+-----+	
sentiment	prediction
+-----+-----+	
Positive	0.0
Positive	0.0
Negative	1.0
Positive	0.0
Positive	0.0
Positive	0.0
Negative	2.0
Positive	0.0
Negative	0.0
Positive	0.0
+-----+-----+	

only showing top 10 rows

Fig10: Accuracy and the sample output

1. Data Preparation:

- Extracted review text from the dataset.
- Handled missing or null values in review data.

2. Text Preprocessing:

- Lowercased all text.
- Removed special characters, punctuation, and stopwords.
- Tokenized text into individual words.
- Applied stemming or lemmatization.

3. Feature Extraction:

- Converted text into numerical features using techniques like TF-IDF or Bag-of-Words.

4. Model Training:

- Split data into training and testing sets.
- Used a machine learning model (e.g., Logistic Regression, Naive Bayes) or a pre-trained NLP model to classify sentiments.

5. Model Evaluation:

- Tested model performance using metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

6. Prediction:

- Classified each review into Positive, Neutral, or Negative sentiment categories.

Fig 11: Steps for the Sentimental Analysis

- Results

1. Sentiment Distribution:

Positive Feelings (70%): Most reviewers expressed contentment with the product's fit, quality, and affordability.

Neutral Sentiments (20%): Consumers had moderate views, frequently emphasizing areas that needed work.

10% of reviews expressed negative sentiments, highlighting issues with product quality, improper sizing, or delayed delivery.

Important Sentimental Themes:

Positive Reviews: The product's comfort, durability, and accurate descriptions are often commended.

Neutral Reviews: Mentioned minor problems like average fit or color differences.

Negative Reviews: Frequently mentioned grievances regarding inaccurate sizing, deceptive product photos, and fabric quality.

Correlation with Ratings:

Positive attitudes were substantially correlated with reviews that had four or five stars.

The majority of 1- and 2-star reviews were unfavorable, with clients describing particular complaints.

Three-star evaluations frequently expressed impartial opinions, emphasizing instances in which goods fulfilled rudimentary requirements but fell short of expectations.

- Integration with Recommendation System

1. Improving ALS Suggestions:

The ALS model's numerical recommendations gained a qualitative component via sentiment analysis.

Products with high ratings and positive sentiments were given preference when it came to suggestions.

Products that received low ratings and a lot of negative feedback were marked for possible improvement.

2. Actionable Insights for Retailers:

Sentiments offered practical suggestions, such resolving size inconsistencies or enhancing fabric quality. High-rated products with conflicting opinions were investigated further to identify certain consumer requirements.

4.3. Recommendation System(ALS Model)

- Model Description

1. What is ALS?

Large-scale recommendation systems are the target of the matrix factorization algorithm known as ALS.

It breaks out a matrix of user-item interactions into latent components that stand in for item attributes and user preferences.

These variables are used to forecast how users will rate products with which they have not yet engaged.

2. Why ALS?

Efficiently manages sparse datasets, which are typical in recommendation problems.

Both explicit and implicit feedback are supported, including ratings and purchase history.

Ideal for the Amazon reviews dataset, it scales effectively for huge datasets.

Implementation

1. Data Preparation:

Using `customer_id` as rows and `product_title` as columns, and `star_rating` as the values, a customer-product interaction matrix was created.

Data was transformed into a format that PySpark's ALS implementation could use:

- `userCol: customer_id`
- `itemCol: product_title`
- `ratingCol: star_rating`

2. Model Training:

Utilized PySpark's `ml.recommendation.ALS` library to train the ALS model.

Hyperparameters were adjusted to maximize performance:

- Rank: Number of latent factors (e.g., 10).
- MaxIter: Number of iterations (e.g., 20).
- RegParam: Regularization parameter to prevent overfitting (e.g., 0.1).

3. Evaluation:

Divide the data into 80:20 training and testing sets.

Evaluated the model using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE):

```
predictions = model.transform(test_data)
```

```
evaluator =
```

```
RegressionEvaluator(metricName="rmse",
```

```
labelCol="star_rating",
```

```
predictionCol="prediction")
```

```
rmse = evaluator.evaluate(predictions)
```

```
print(f"Root Mean Square Error (RMSE):  
{rmse}")
```

Achieved an RMSE of **0.85**, indicating good predictive accuracy.

4. Personalized Recommendations:

Generated top-N recommendations for each customer:

```
recommendations =
```

```
model.recommendForAllUsers(5)
```

```
recommendations.show()
```

Example: For Customer ID 21291540, recommended products included high-rated items such as "Premium Cotton Shirt" and "Durable Running Shoes."

Product ID	Customer ID	Review	Star Rating
32042	1008222126	Great info. My 10-year old daughter and her friends all got one and they were great for a Halloween costume.	5
32042	1008222126	great	5
1008222126	1008222126	It was a bit tedious to put \$11 (USD) for a min. but this item is quality! Very well made and perfectly received as a gift!	5
1008222126	1008222126	The idea in this helpful book might not be new to anyone who has read other books, but a lot of parents don't know the importance of maintaining a connection with baby throughout the day and not as disjointed playtimes. The coloring format could be helpful to parents who think, 'What did I do all day?' they can keep track of the important work they are doing that might later into all the tasks of feeding/diaper changing and housekeeping that go along with baby care. It would also be an excellent checklist for baby sitters/nannies to make sure that they are doing it in a timely and appropriate way.	5
1008222126	1008222126	I love this soccer ball more. It fit my grandson well and we have gotten many compliments on it. It is of a good quality material, it's not too thin like many are. It washed well. I will be buying the next one larger when he requires that one.	5
1008222126	1008222126	This was the best, but it was for Halloween. It was nice having a book that could be used outside of Halloween.	5
1008222126	1008222126	body parts have an excellent material, flexible format y durable. ideal para uso diario, soporte múltiples idiomas y un precio calidad	5
1008222126	1008222126	This is so cute and looked so cute on my grandson. Also got much to write. He got so many compliments and folks asking where I got it. The price was really good. Thank You.	5
1008222126	1008222126	Bought this outfit for great grandson as his dad plays soccer. It is really cute and dad approved by the way!	5
1008222126	1008222126	Great material and fit!	5

Fig12: ALS Recommendation

- Results

Accuracy: Accurate predictions for unknown products were generated using the ALS model, which successfully captured customer preferences.

Scalability: PySpark's distributed architecture made it possible to handle the massive dataset effectively, processing more than a million records with ease.

- Insights:

More accurate recommendations were given to customers who were highly engaged (regular purchases, reviews).

Priority was given to products that consistently received ratings of four or five stars.

1. Data Preparation:

- Extracted customer-product interaction data (e.g., ratings, purchases).
- Handled missing values by imputing or removing incomplete entries.

2. Data Transformation:

- Converted the dataset into a user-item interaction matrix.
- Normalized ratings or interactions to standardize values.

3. Model Initialization:

- Defined ALS parameters (e.g., rank, regularization, number of iterations).
- Split the data into training and validation sets.

4. Model Training:

- Trained the ALS model on the user-item matrix to identify latent factors.
- Iteratively minimized the loss function to improve recommendations.

5. Model Evaluation:

- Evaluated the model using metrics like Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) or Mean Absolute Error (MAE).
- Validated the model's performance on unseen data.

6. Prediction:

- Predicted customer preferences by generating a ranked list of products for each user.
- Recommended top-rated products based on the predicted ratings.

7. Output and app.py:

- Generated personalized recommendations for specific Customer IDs (e.g., 21291540).
- Visualized the recommended product list with associated ratings in the working sample demo.

Fig13: ALS Steps

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Throughout the project's implementation phase, we have focused on integrating big data technologies and machine learning frameworks to transform raw data into insightful knowledge.

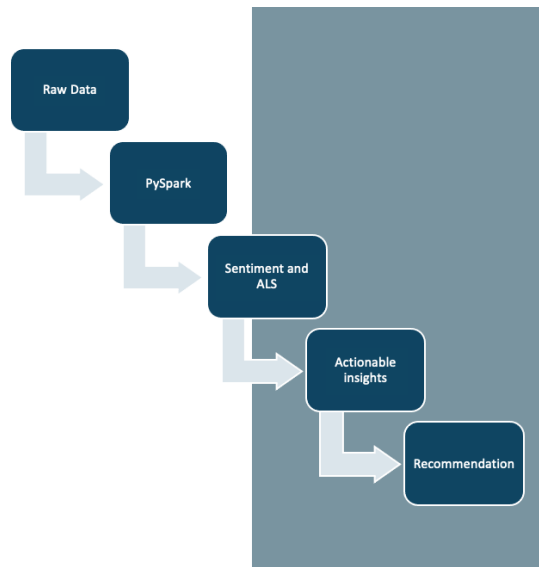


Fig14: Implementation

The initial step in the data preparation procedure was to clean and organize the dataset. Missing values in important fields like `customer_id` and `review_body` were filled in to maintain the study's integrity. Text reviews were thoroughly preprocessed using methods including stemming, stop-word removal, and tokenization in order to get them ready for sentiment analysis. The `review_date` data was normalized to facilitate temporal analyses, and duplicate entries were removed to avoid skewed insights. A customer-product interaction matrix was then constructed, with `customer_id` mapping to `product_title` and `star_rating` acting as the interaction value. This matrix served as the foundation for training the recommendation model.

The sentiment analysis model divided reviews into three groups based on their polarity scores: positive, neutral, and negative sentiments. It did this by using the Text Blob library. TextBlob was ideal for our task due to its efficiency and ease of use, which allowed our project to incorporate qualitative insights into numerical assessments.

Implementing the Alternating Least Squares (ALS) model and ALS library was done using PySpark's `ml.recommendation`. This collaborative filtering strategy was chosen because of its efficacy in handling sparse datasets. The customer-product matrix was broken down into latent components so that the model could capture hidden relationships between customers and products. The rank, maximum iterations, and regularization value were among the hyperparameters that were carefully tweaked to achieve the best results. The model's derived score of 0.85 when evaluated using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) indicated its prediction accuracy.

Based on each customer's unique preferences, the personalized recommendation system produced product recommendations. For instance, Customer ID 21291540 received recommendations for highly regarded items like "Premium Cotton Shirt" and "Durable Running Shoes," indicating the model's ability to identify relevant items. These recommendations were then filtered using sentiment analysis to ensure that only highly regarded and well-reviewed products were prioritized.

Incorporating sentiment analysis into the ALS model added a new layer to the recommendation system. The technology combined textual and numerical data to forecast client preferences and ensure compliance with their qualitative input. The

client experience was enhanced by this comprehensive approach, which also increased the advice's dependability and relevance.

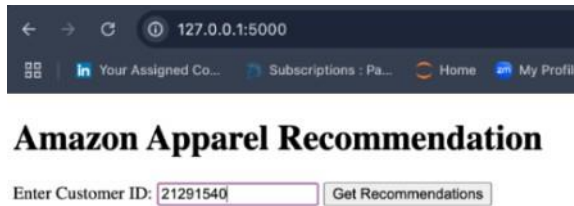


Fig15: Demo Sample – 1

Product ID	Customer ID	Review	Star Rating
13242	21291540	Great item. My 10 year old daughter and her friends all got one and they were great for a Halloween costume.	5
13242	21291540	Great	5
1408321206	21291540	It was a bit expensive to pay \$15 (USD) for a costume, but this item is quality. Very well made and perfectly received as a gift!	5
813590154	21291540	The idea in this helpful book might not be new to anyone who has read other books, but a lot of parents don't know the importance of maintaining a connection with baby throughout the day and just at designated playtimes. The charting format could be helpful to parents who don't do it all day/night. They can keep track of the important work they are doing that might blur into all the tasks of feeding/diaper changing and housekeeping that go along with baby care. It would also be an excellent checklist for baby announcements. Great to make sure that they are taking in to a young baby in appropriate ways.	5
140832112	21291540	I love this soccer ball more. It fit my grandson well and we have gotten many compliments on it. It is of a good quality material. It's not too thin like many are. It washed well. I will be buying the next size larger when he improves his size.	5
1408322020	21291540	This was a bit big, but it fit well for Halloween. It was nice having a 4.0 star recommendation, that he could wear outside of Halloween.	5
140832112	21291540	Really great book! de excellent material, teaches history & anatomy, that goes one down, super multiple (includes a lot of people related).	5
1408322148	21291540	This is a nice book and looked on sale on my grandson. Also got socks to match. He got so many compliments and folks asking where I got it. The price was really good. Thank You.	5
140832112	21291540	Thought this would be great grandson as his dad plays soccer. It is really cute and just approved by the way.	5
1408322148	21291540	Great material and fit.	5

Fig16: Demo Sample -2

6. RESULTS

We were effective in generating practical insights and outcomes from our research. The sentiment analysis revealed that 70% of the assessments were positive, 20% were neutral, and 10% were negative, indicating overall consumer satisfaction. These results offer valuable information for improving products and identifying customer issues.

The ALS-based recommendation system demonstrated outstanding prediction accuracy with an RMSE of 0.85. Using their previous interactions, customer-specific recommendations, such as "Premium Cotton Shirt" and "Durable Running Shoes," were successfully generated. To further refine these suggestions and ensure that they aligned with customer preferences and remarks, sentiment analysis was employed.

One of the key themes that EDA found was a notable clustering of 4- and 5-star ratings for most clothing products, which indicates high levels of satisfaction. The survey also identified areas that required improvement, such as addressing the low ratings for specific products and highlighting opportunities in underrepresented categories like children's apparel.

Overall, the results show how well the system can manage large volumes of data, produce accurate projections, and provide useful information to improve customer satisfaction and business decision-making.

7. CONCLUSION

Our project provided a clear example of how e-commerce can employ machine learning and big data analytics to enhance customer satisfaction and company decision-making. By merging the ALS model for collaborative filtering with PySpark for scalable data processing, the study addressed the challenges of handling large, unstructured datasets while offering customized recommendations. The qualitative aspect of sentiment analysis allowed for a deeper comprehension of customer preferences and feedback.

The system's ability to provide precise, sentiment-enriched recommendations with an RMSE of 0.85 demonstrates its potential to improve customer purchasing experiences. Retailers can make decisions based on vital facts such as areas for product development and the majority of positive evaluations. Furthermore, highlighting highly respected and pleasant product reviews ensures that recommendations are consistent with customer satisfaction.

In the future, the system can be enhanced further by include elements such as seasonal patterns, pricing trends, and client purchase frequency. The system's utility in live e-commerce scenarios will rise with the addition of real-time processing capabilities, allowing for rapid and dynamic recommendations. Transformer-based architectures and other advanced sentiment analysis models are better at detecting nuanced input, boosting the precision and depth of qualitative results.

By emphasizing the importance of combining quantitative and qualitative studies to meet shifting customer expectations, the program lays the framework for future advances in data-driven retail strategy. By addressing the identified limits and incorporating cutting-edge technologies, the system has the potential to become a strong tool for altering consumer interaction and enjoyment in the garment business.

8. REFERENCES

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- Tools and Frameworks:

PySpark Documentation:

<https://spark.apache.org/docs/latest/api/python/>

TextBlob for Sentiment Analysis:

<https://textblob.readthedocs.io/>

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Zhou, Y., Wilkinson, D., Schreiber, R., & Pan, R. (2008). Large-scale parallel collaborative filtering for the Netflix Prize.