



Collaborative Filtering based Recommender System using Non-negative Matrix Factorization

Estimated time needed: **60** minutes

In the previous lab, we have performed KNN on user-item interaction matrix to estimate the rating of unknown items based on the aggregation of the user's K nearest neighbor's ratings. Finding nearest neighbors are based on similarity measurements among users or items with big similarity matrices.

The KNN algorithm is memory-based which means we need to keep all instances for prediction and maintain a big similarity matrix. These can be infeasible if our user/item scale is large, for example, 1 million users will require a 1 million by 1 million similarity matrix, which is very hard to load into RAM for most computation environments.

Non-negative matrix factorization

In the machine learning course, you have learned a dimensionality reduction algorithm called Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF), which decomposes a big sparse matrix into two smaller and dense matrices.

Non-negative matrix factorization can be one solution to big matrix issues. The main idea is to decompose the big and sparse user-interaction into two smaller dense matrices, one represents the transformed user features and another represents the transformed item features.

An example is shown below, suppose we have a user-item interaction matrix A with 10000 users and 100 items (10000×100), and its element (j, k) represents the rating of item k from user j . Then we could decompose A into two smaller and dense matrices U (10000×16) and I (16×100). For user matrix U , each row vector is a transformed latent feature vector of a user, and for the item matrix I , each column is a transformed latent feature vector of an item.

Here the dimension 16 is a hyperparameter defines the size of the hidden user and item features, which means now the shape of transposed user feature vector and item feature vector is now 16×1 .

The magic here is when we multiply the row j of U and column k of matrix I , we can get an estimation to the original rating \hat{r}_{jk} .

For example, if we preform the dot product user ones row vector in U and item ones column vector in I , we can get the rating estimation of user one to item one, which is the element (1, 1) in the original interaction matrix R .

Non-negative Matrix Factorization

User-item interaction matrix: R 10000 x 100

	item1	...	item100
user1
user2	3.0	3.0	3.0
user3	2.0	2.0	-
user4	3.0	2.0	3.0
user5	2.0	-	-
user6	3.0	-	3.0
...

User matrix: U 10000 x 16

	feature1	...	feature16
user1
user2
user3
user4
...
user6

Item matrix: I 16 x 100

	item1	...	item100
feature1
feature2
...
feature16

≈

X

Note I is short for Items, and it is not an identity matrix.

Then how do we figure out the values in U and I exactly? Like many other machine learning processes, we could start by initializing the values of U and I , then define the following distance or cost function to be minimized:

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \text{train}} \left(r_{ij} - \hat{r}_{ij} \right)^2$$

where \hat{r}_{ij} is the dot product of u_j^T and i_k :

$$\hat{r}_{ij} = u_j^T i_k$$

The cost function can be optimized using stochastic gradient descent (SGD) or other optimization algorithms, just like in training the weights in a logistic regression model (there are several additional steps so the matrices have no negative elements).

Objectives

After completing this lab you will be able to:

- Perform NMF-based collaborative filtering on the user-item matrix

Load and exploring dataset

Let's first load our dataset, i.e., the user-item (learn-course) interaction matrix

```
In [1]: import pandas as pd
```

```
In [2]: rating_url = "https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloud-object-storage.appdomain.cloud
rating_df = pd.read_csv(rating_url)
```

```
In [3]: rating_df.head()
```

Out[3]:

	user	item	rating
0	1889878	CC0101EN	5
1	1342067	CL0101EN	3
2	1990814	ML0120ENv3	5
3	380098	BD0211EN	5
4	779563	DS0101EN	3

The dataset contains three columns, `user id`, `item id`, and `the rating`. Note that this matrix is presented as the dense or vertical form, you may convert it using `pivot` to the original sparse matrix:

In [4]: `rating_sparse_df = rating_df.pivot(index='user', columns='item', values='rating')`
`rating_sparse_df.head()`

Out[4]:

	user	AI0111EN	BC0101EN	BC0201EN	BC0202EN	BD0101EN	BD0111EN	BD0115I
0	2	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	4.0	(
1	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	3.0	4
2	5	3.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	(
3	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(
4	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	(

5 rows × 127 columns

Next, you need to implement NMF-based collaborative filtering, and you may choose one of the two following implementation options:

- The first one is to use `Surprise` which is a popular and easy-to-use Python recommendation system library.
- The second way is to implement it with `numpy`, `pandas`, and `sklearn`. You may need to write a lot of low-level implementation code along the way.

Implementation Option 1: Use `Surprise` library (recommended)

Surprise is a Python scikit library for recommender systems. It is simple and comprehensive to build and test different recommendation algorithms. First let's install it:

In [5]: `!pip install scikit-surprise`

Requirement already satisfied: scikit-surprise in /home/jupyterlab/conda/envs/python/lib/python3.7/site-packages (1.1.1)
 Requirement already satisfied: joblib>=0.11 in /home/jupyterlab/conda/envs/python/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from scikit-surprise) (1.3.2)
 Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.11.2 in /home/jupyterlab/conda/envs/python/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from scikit-surprise) (1.21.6)
 Requirement already satisfied: scipy>=1.0.0 in /home/jupyterlab/conda/envs/python/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from scikit-surprise) (1.7.3)
 Requirement already satisfied: six>=1.10.0 in /home/jupyterlab/conda/envs/python/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from scikit-surprise) (1.16.0)

We import required classes and methods

```
In [6]: from surprise import NMF
        from surprise import Dataset, Reader
        from surprise.model_selection import train_test_split
        from surprise import accuracy
```

```
In [7]: # Save the rating dataframe to a CSV file
        rating_df.to_csv("course_ratings.csv", index=False)

        # Read the course rating dataset with columns user item rating
        reader = Reader(line_format='user item rating', sep=',', skip_lines=1, rating_scale=5)

        # Load the dataset from the CSV file
        course_dataset = Dataset.load_from_file("course_ratings.csv", reader=reader)
```

Now we split the data into a train-set and test-set:

```
In [8]: trainset, testset = train_test_split(course_dataset, test_size=.3)
```

Then check how many users and items we can use to fit the KNN model:

```
In [9]: print(f"Total {trainset.n_users} users and {trainset.n_items} items in the trainset")
```

Total 31393 users and 125 items in the trainingset

TASK: Perform NMF-based collaborative filtering on the course-interaction matrix

TODO: Fit a NMF model using the trainset and evaluate the results using the testset The code will be very similar to the KNN-based collaborative filtering, you just need to use the `NMF()` model.

```
In [10]: # 1. Define the NMF model
        nmf_model = NMF(
            n_factors=16,          # Latent factors
            n_epochs=50,          # training iterations
            random_state=123,
            verbose=True
        )

        # 2. Train the model on the trainset
        nmf_model.fit(trainset)

        # 3. Predict ratings for the testset
```

```
predictions = nmf_model.test(testset)
```

```
# 4. Evaluate using RMSE
```

```
rmse = accuracy.rmse(predictions)
```

```
Processing epoch 0  
Processing epoch 1  
Processing epoch 2  
Processing epoch 3  
Processing epoch 4  
Processing epoch 5  
Processing epoch 6  
Processing epoch 7  
Processing epoch 8  
Processing epoch 9  
Processing epoch 10  
Processing epoch 11  
Processing epoch 12  
Processing epoch 13  
Processing epoch 14  
Processing epoch 15  
Processing epoch 16  
Processing epoch 17  
Processing epoch 18  
Processing epoch 19  
Processing epoch 20  
Processing epoch 21  
Processing epoch 22  
Processing epoch 23  
Processing epoch 24  
Processing epoch 25  
Processing epoch 26  
Processing epoch 27  
Processing epoch 28  
Processing epoch 29  
Processing epoch 30  
Processing epoch 31  
Processing epoch 32  
Processing epoch 33  
Processing epoch 34  
Processing epoch 35  
Processing epoch 36  
Processing epoch 37  
Processing epoch 38  
Processing epoch 39  
Processing epoch 40  
Processing epoch 41  
Processing epoch 42  
Processing epoch 43  
Processing epoch 44  
Processing epoch 45  
Processing epoch 46  
Processing epoch 47  
Processing epoch 48  
Processing epoch 49  
RMSE: 1.3018
```

► [Click here for Hints](#)

To learn more detailed usages about *Surprise* library, visit its website from [here](#)

Implementation Option 2: Use `numpy`, `pandas`, and `sklearn`.

If you do not prefer the one-stop *Surprise* solution, you may implement the KNN model using `numpy`, `pandas`, and possibly `sklearn`:

```
In [11]: # Pivot to user-item matrix
rating_matrix = rating_df.pivot(
    index='user',
    columns='item',
    values='rating'
).fillna(0)

rating_matrix.head()
```

```
Out[11]: item  AI0111EN  BC0101EN  BC0201EN  BC0202EN  BD0101EN  BD0111EN  BD0115EN
user
2          0.0        4.0        0.0        0.0        5.0        4.0        0.0
4          0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        5.0        3.0        4.0
5          3.0        5.0        5.0        0.0        4.0        0.0        0.0
7          0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0
8          0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        0.0        3.0        0.0
```

5 rows × 126 columns

Summary

In this lab, you have learned and practiced NMF-based collaborative filtering. The basic idea is to decompose the original user-item interaction matrix into two smaller and dense user and item matrices. Then, we have built the two matrices, we can easily estimate the unknown ratings via the dot product of specific row in user matrix and specific column in item matrix.

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Other Contributors

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