

Recommender Systems

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 Crossing Minds

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Recommender systems

Outline

1. Introduction
2. The Recommendation Problem
3. User Feedback
4. Challenges
5. Evaluation of RS
6. Collaborative Filtering
7. Content-Based Filtering
8. Hybrid Approaches
9. Context-Aware Recommendation
10. Reinforcement Learning for Recommender Systems
11. Deep Learning for Recommender Systems
12. Short Intro to Large Language Models for Recommender Systems
13. A Practical Example: Recommendation in Location-Based Social Networks

Collaborative Filtering

Origin of collaborative filtering

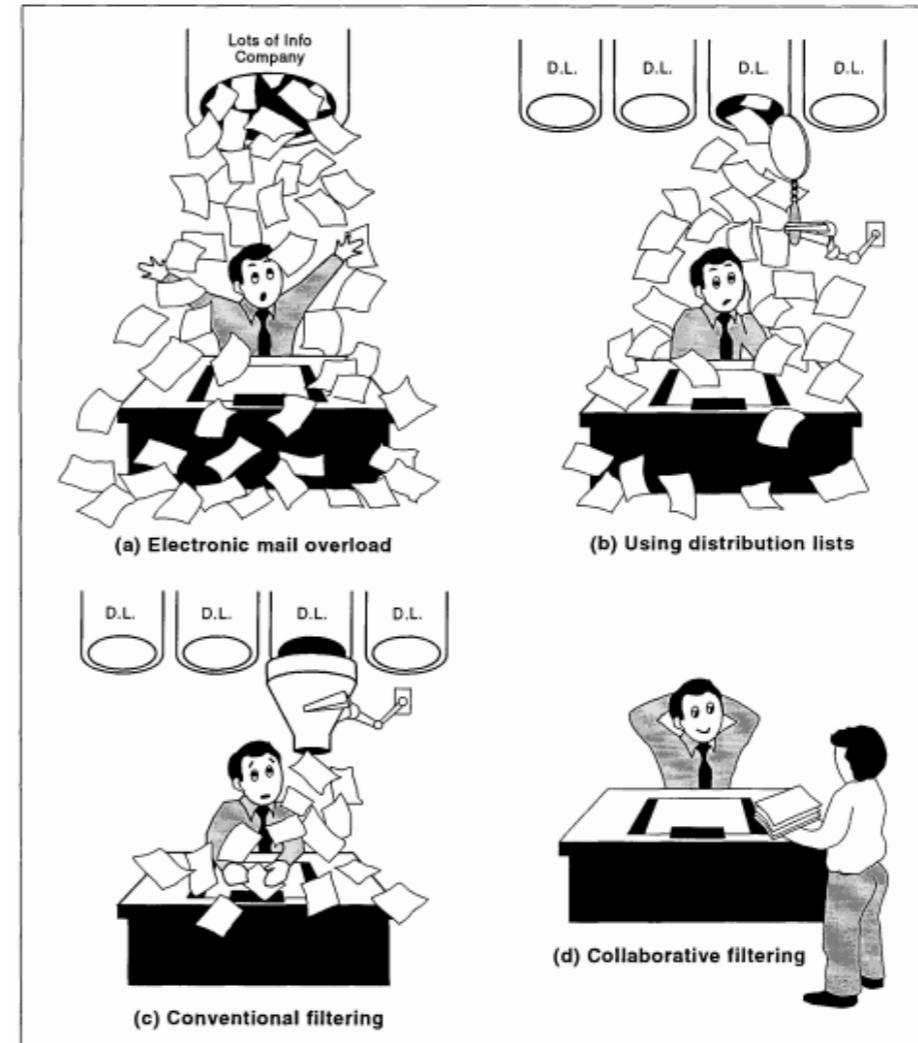

**Using
COLLABORATIVE
FILTERING**
 to Weave an Information
TAPESTRY

David Goldberg, David Nichols, Brian M. Oki, and Douglas Terry

Tapestry is an experimental mail system developed at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. The motivation for Tapestry comes from the increasing use of electronic mail, which is resulting in users being inundated by a huge stream of incoming documents [2, 7, 12]. One way to handle large volumes of mail is to provide mailing lists, enabling users to subscribe only to those lists of interest to them. However, as illustrated in Figure 1, the set of documents of interest to a particular user rarely map neatly to existing lists. A better solution is for a user to specify a *filter* that scans all lists, selecting interesting documents no matter what list they are in. Several mail systems support filtering based on a document's contents [3, 5, 6, 8]. A basic tenet of the Tapestry work is that more effective filtering can be done by involving humans in the filtering process.

In addition to content-based filtering, the Tapestry system was designed and built to support *collaborative filtering*. Collaborative filtering simply means that people collaborate to help one another perform filtering by recording their reactions to documents they read. Such reactions may be that a document was particularly interesting (or particularly uninteresting). These reactions, more generally called *annotations*, can be accessed by others' filters. One application of annotations is in support of moderated newsgroups.

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ACM | December 1992 | Vol. 35, No. 12 | 61



Users *collaborate* to help each others *filter* the emails by annotating their usefulness and propagating the information to the others

Collaborative filtering

- General idea: Users who are similar with regards to the history of interactions are considered to be like-minded and are susceptible to share similar preferences in the future.
 - Recommendations are based on the user history and on the past behavior of similar users.

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- ▶ Requires a large number of user interactions
- ▶ Requires products to be standardized
- ▶ Assumes that prior behavior determines current behavior

Categories of collaborative filtering approaches

- Memory-based approaches
 - Directly use the recorded user interactions to compute recommendations
 - Can be *user-based* or *item-based*
 - Example: Neighborhood-based approach

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- **Model-based** approaches
 - Learn a predictive model which is then used for recommendation
 - Example: Matrix factorization

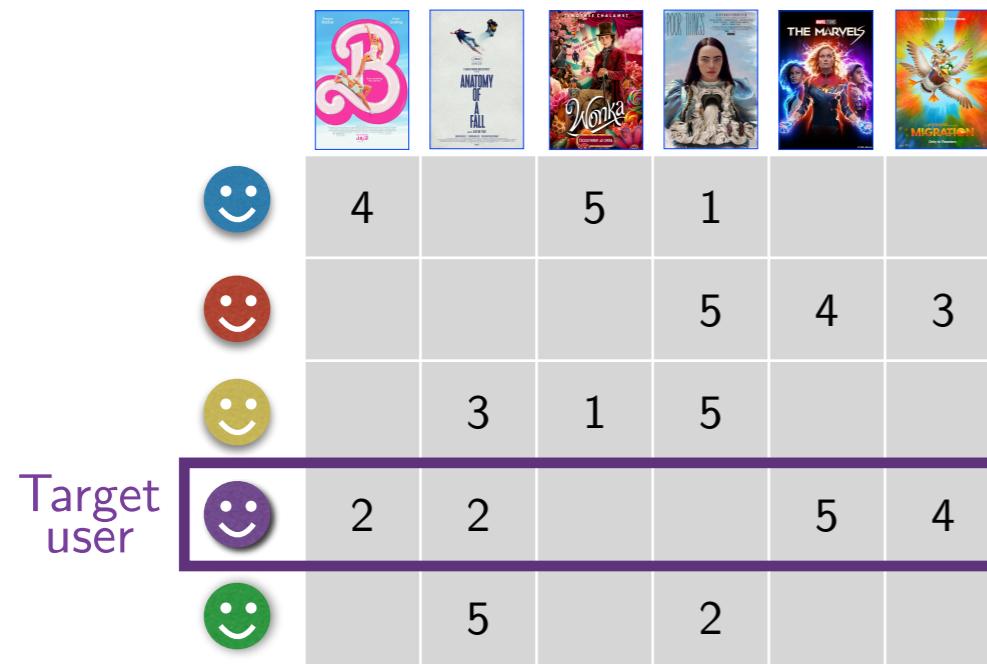
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 - Similar users are interested in the same items, or
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 - Similar items interest the same users,assuming that user preferences remain stable over time.
- Components of a *k*-Nearest Neighbor (*kNN*) approach:
 - Determine the **neighbors** of an entity using a **similarity measure**
 - Compute relevance scores and **recommendations** based on the **neighbors** and on previous **user interactions**

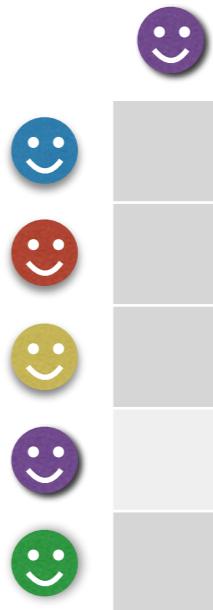
User-based neighborhood approach



	2	2	1.2	4.8	5	4
--	---	---	------------	------------	---	---

$$\hat{r}_{ui} = \frac{\sum_{v \in \mathcal{B}(u)} sim(u, v) \cdot r_{vi}}{\sum_{v \in \mathcal{B}(u)} sim(u, v)}$$

Compute similarities between users

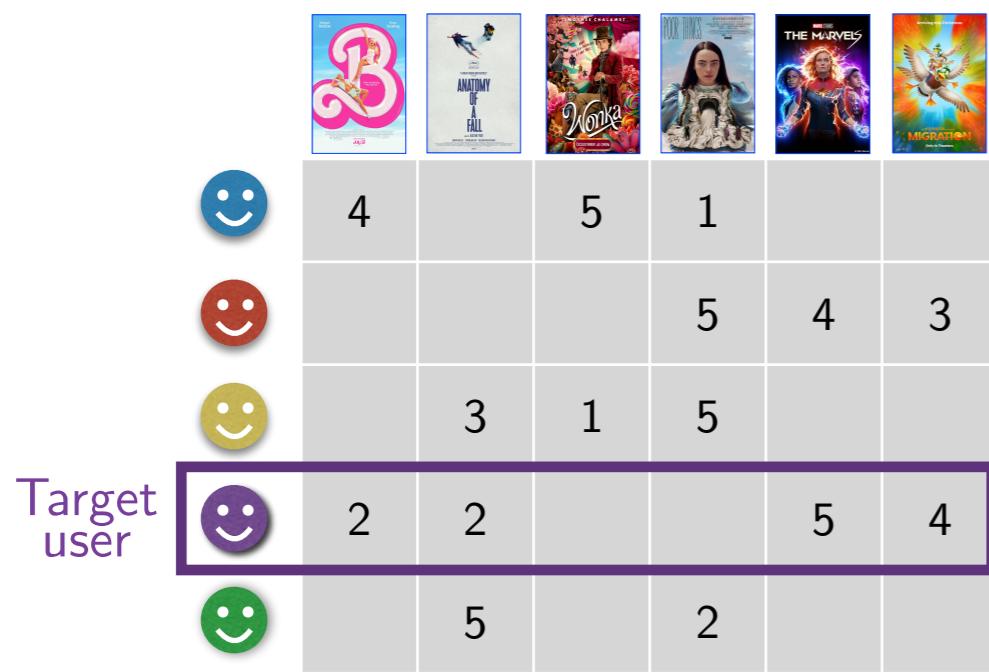


Select k neighbors

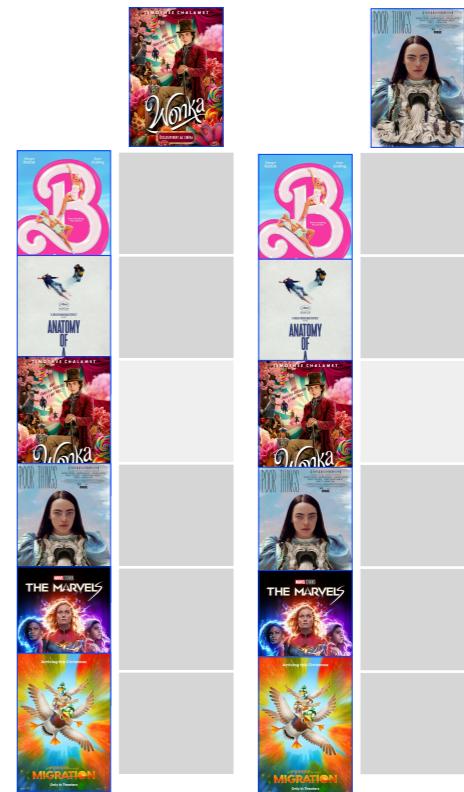
Compute relevance scores and generate recommendations



Item-based neighborhood approach



Compute similarities
between items



Select k neighbors

A diagram showing the final relevance scores and recommendations. A smiley face icon is next to a row of scores: 2, 2, 2, 3.5, 5, 4. Below this, two groups of movie posters are circled: one group contains 'Wonka', 'Migration', and 'Anatomy of a Fall'; the other group contains 'B' and 'The Marvels'.

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Similarity measures

- Jaccard similarity coefficient

$$sim_{JS}(u, v) = \frac{|\mathcal{I}_u \cap \mathcal{I}_v|}{|\mathcal{I}_u \cup \mathcal{I}_v|}$$

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JS

							JS
	4		5	1			0.16
		5			4	3	0.75
		3	1	5			0.16
Target user		2	2		5	4	
		1	5		2		0.4

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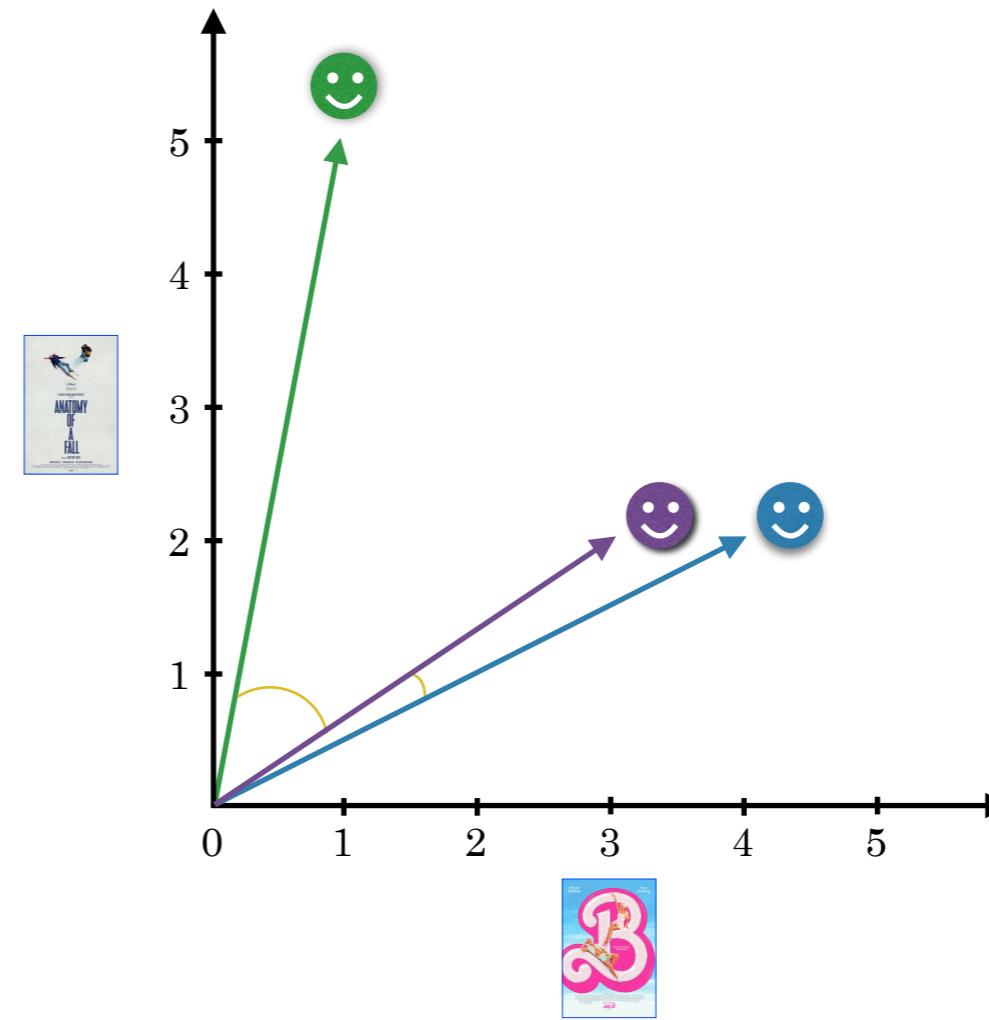
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A 5x2 matrix representing movie ratings. The columns represent movies: 'B' and 'ANATOMY OF A FALL'. The rows represent users, indicated by smiley face icons. The ratings are as follows:

User	Movie B	Movie ANATOMY OF A FALL
Blue smiley	4	2
Brown smiley		5
Yellow smiley		3
Purple smiley	3	2
Green smiley	1	5



Similarity measures

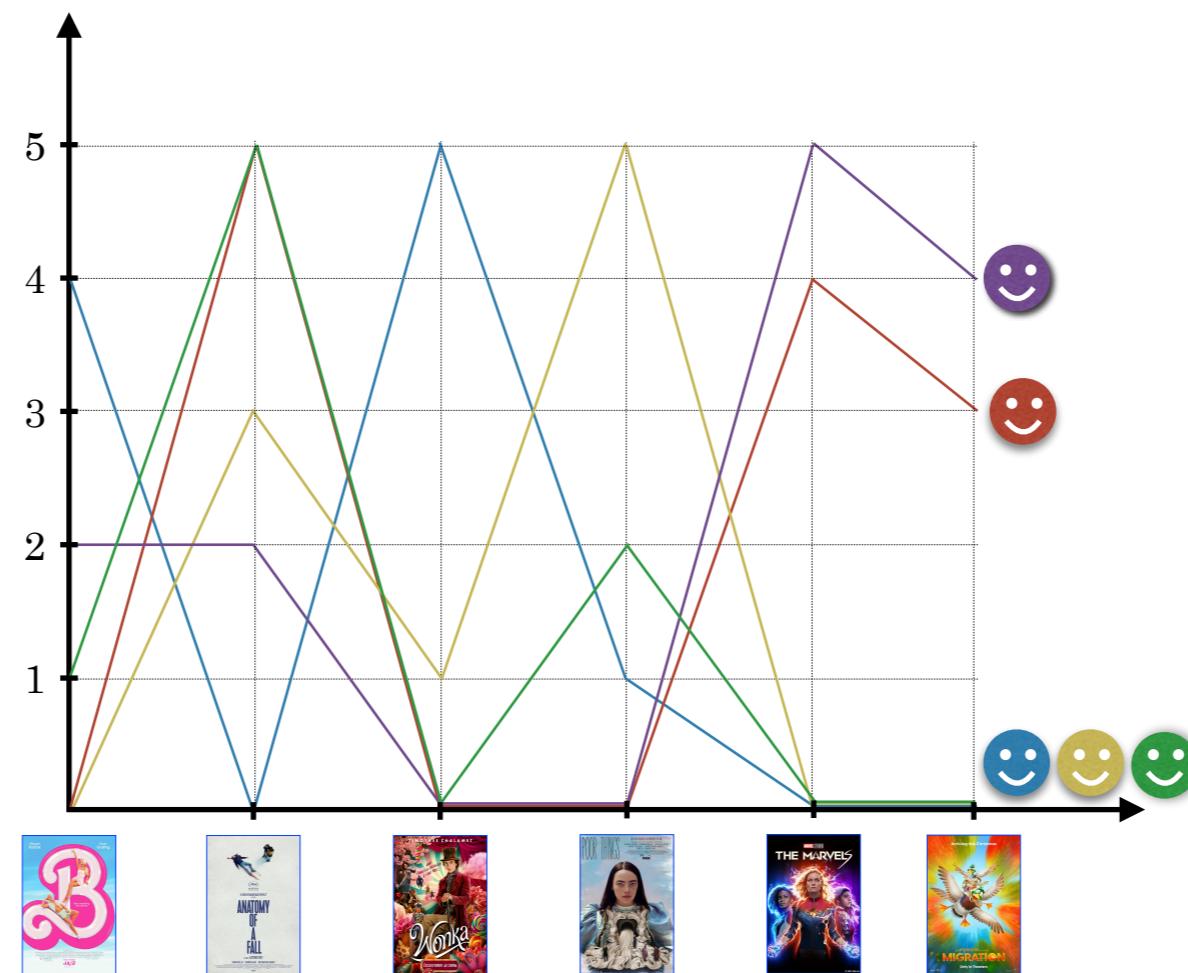
- Pearson correlation

$$sim_{PC}(u, v) = \frac{\sum_{x \in \mathcal{I}_{uv}} (r_{ux} - \bar{r}_u)(r_{vx} - \bar{r}_v)}{\sqrt{\sum_{x \in \mathcal{I}_{uv}} (r_{ux} - \bar{r}_u)^2} \sqrt{\sum_{x \in \mathcal{I}_{uv}} (r_{vx} - \bar{r}_v)^2}}$$

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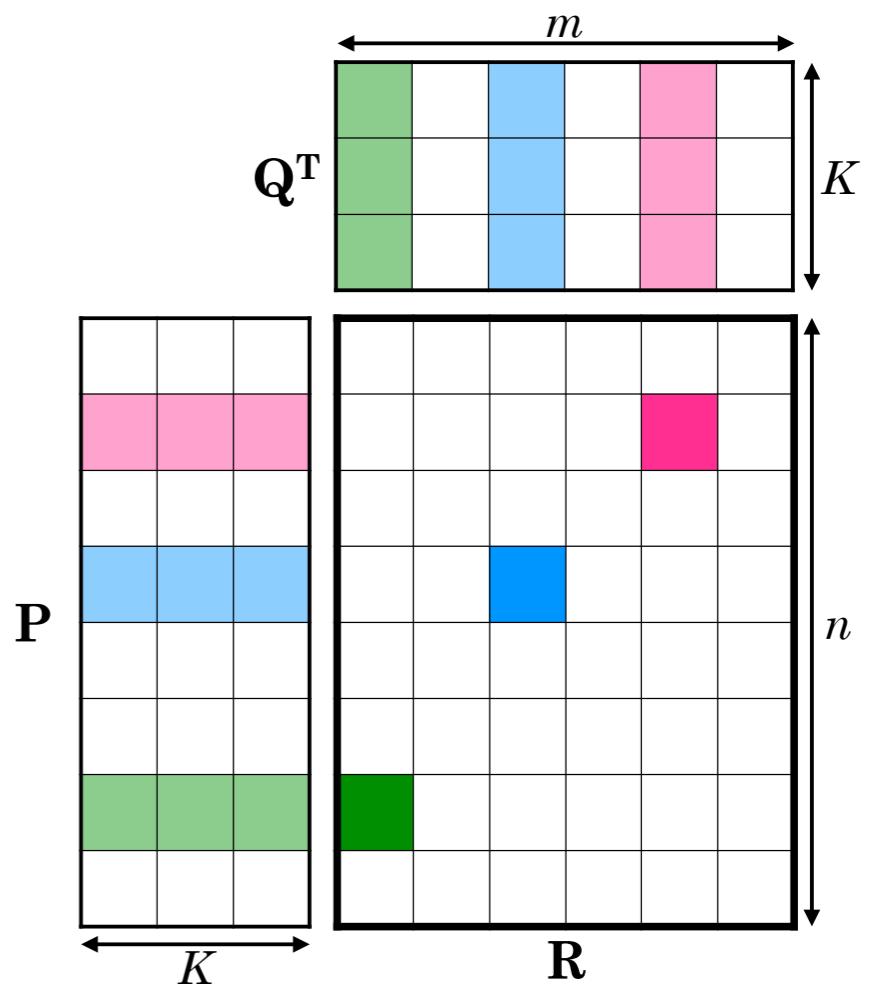
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- Cons:
 - Scalability issues (neighborhood computation)
 - Lack of sensitivity to sparse data
 - Usually perform worse than model-based approaches

Model-based approaches

- Learn a predictive model representing users and items.
- Most popular technique: **Matrix Factorization (MF)**
 - ▶ Good accuracy and scalability

Matrix Factorization framework

- Represent users and items in a common space of latent factors of dimensionality K .
- Values of P and Q represent to which extent the user is attracted by or the item has a certain feature, respectively.

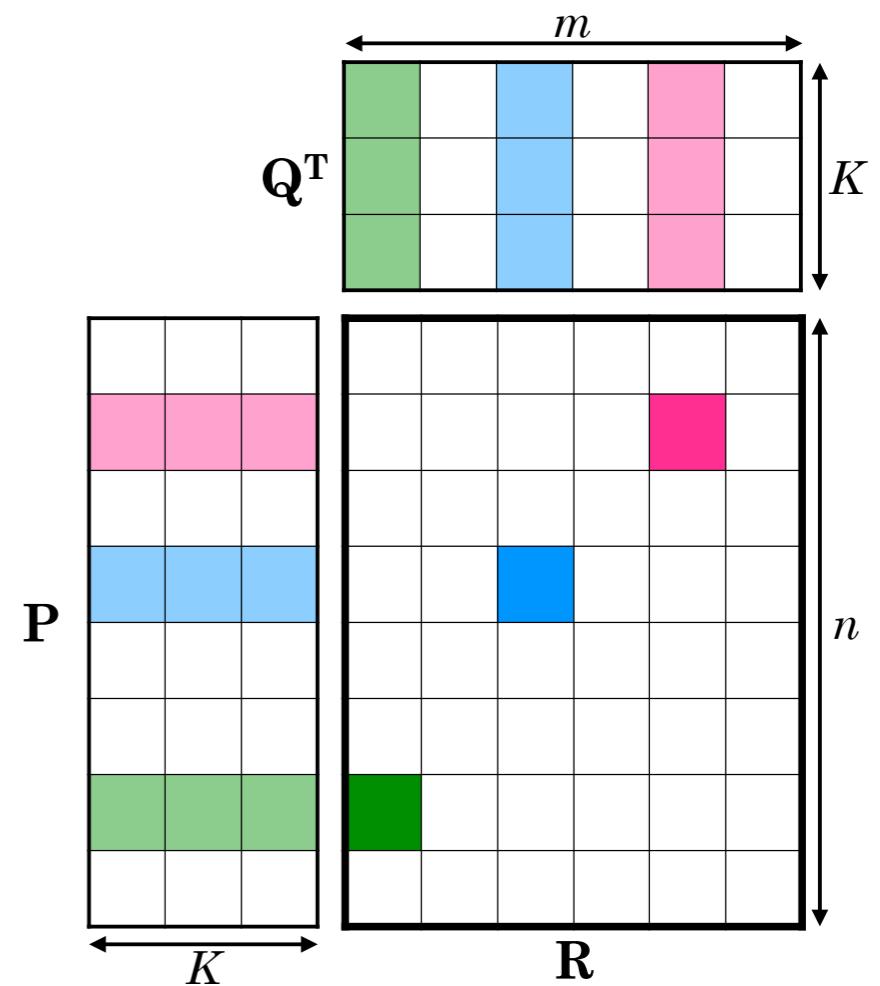


P : User latent matrix
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 R : Feedback matrix

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$$\hat{r}_{ui} = \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top$$



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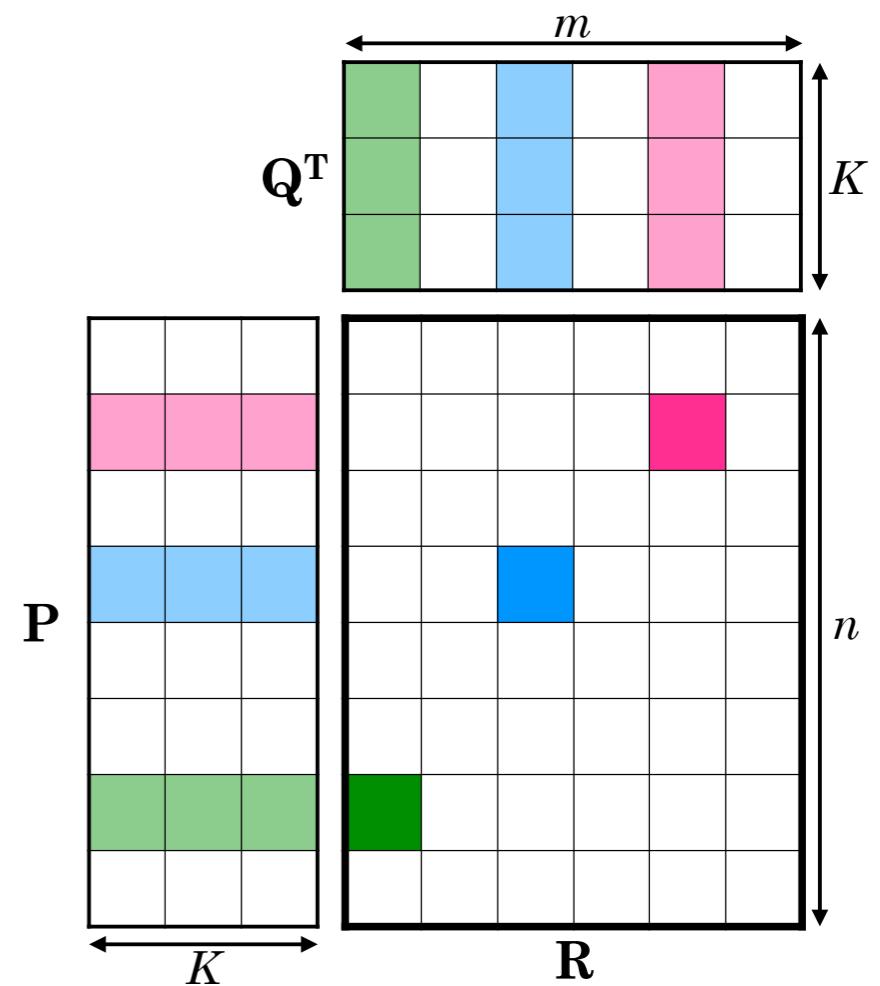
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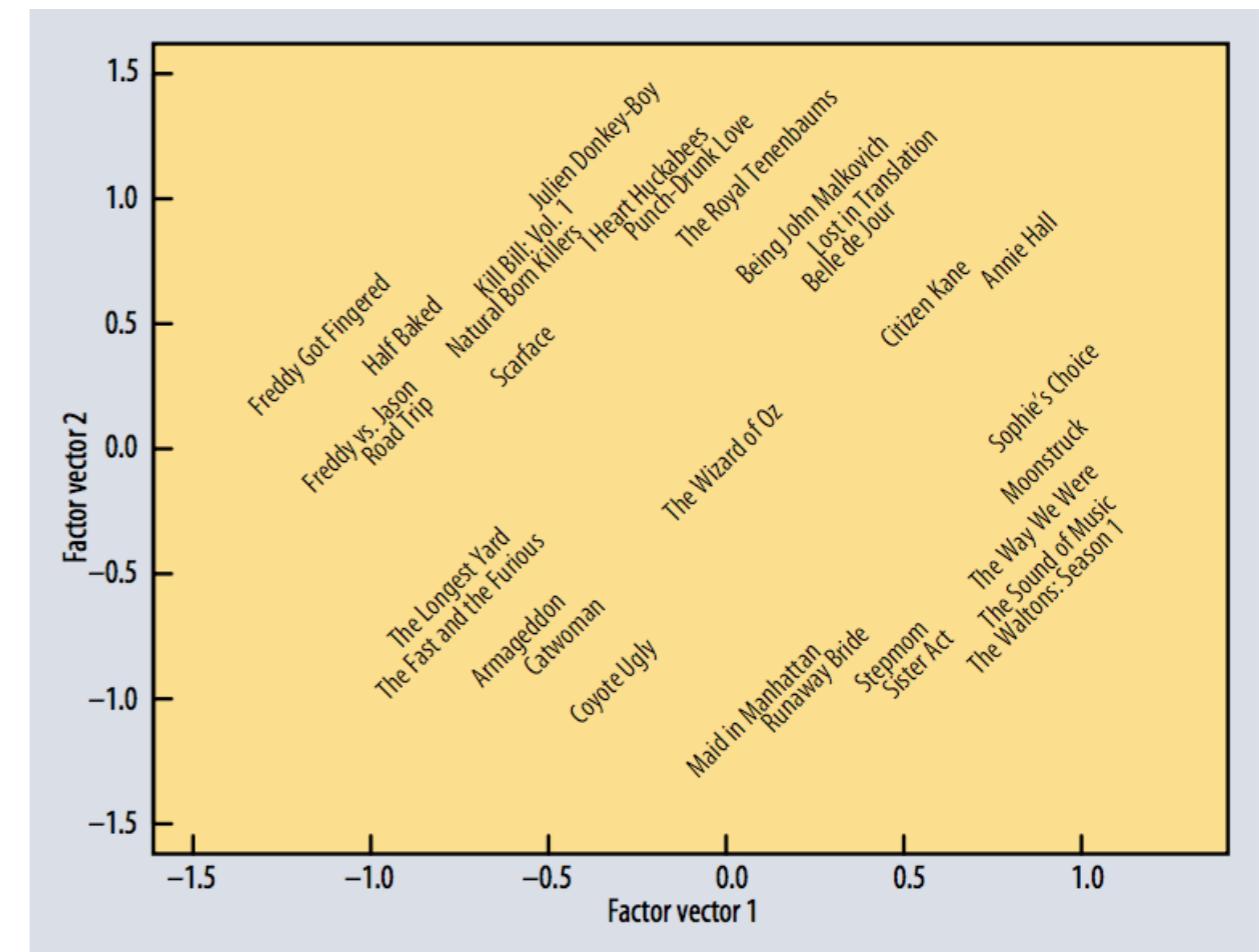
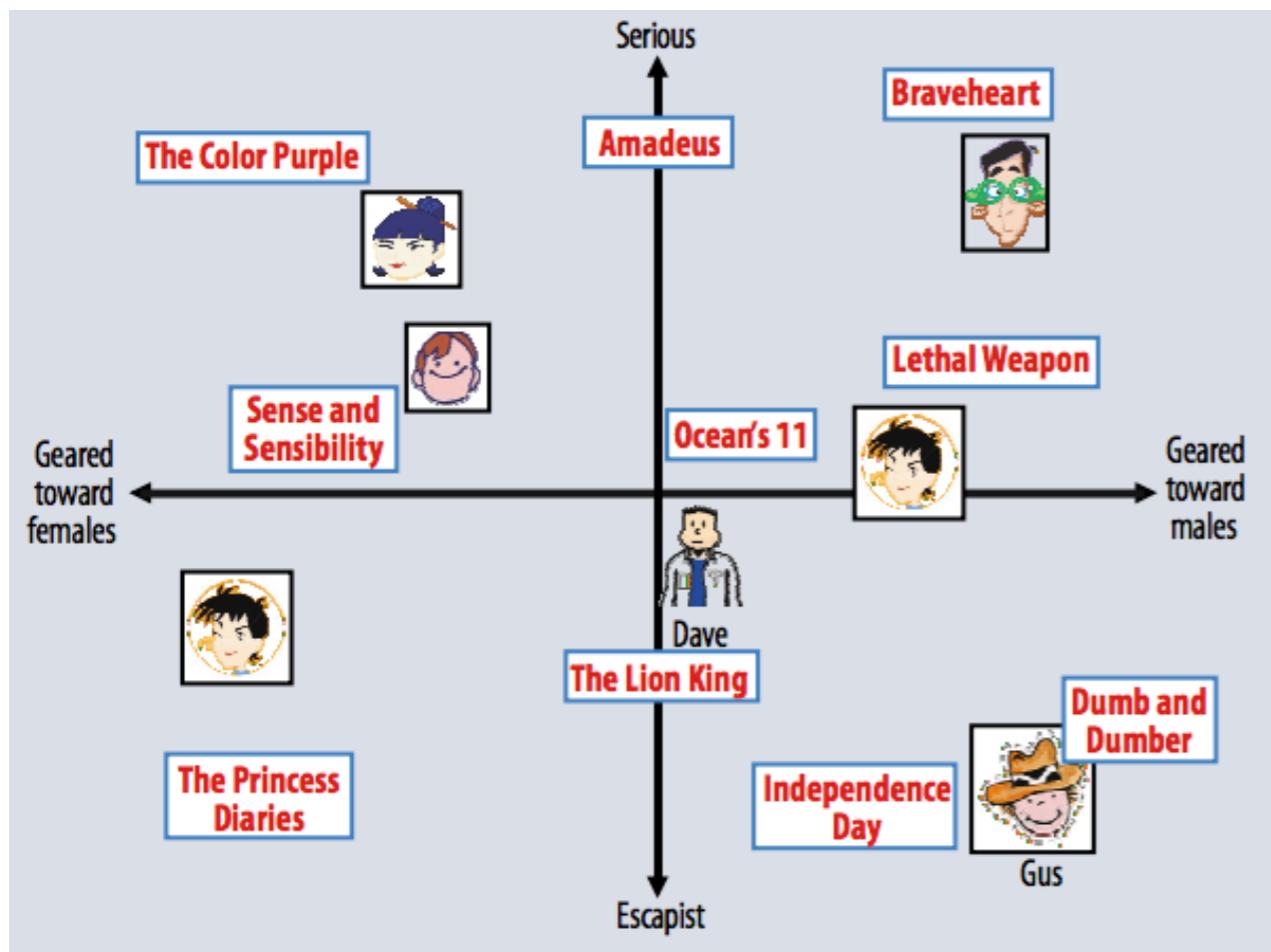
Learning task. Determine P and Q given R .

- Several possible approaches, for the application of RS.



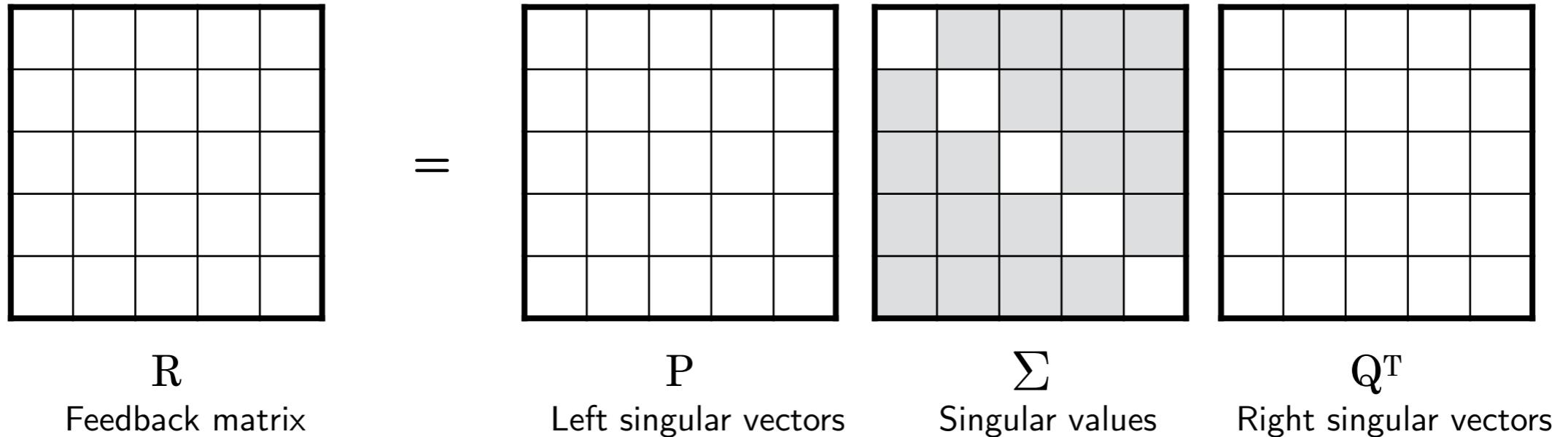
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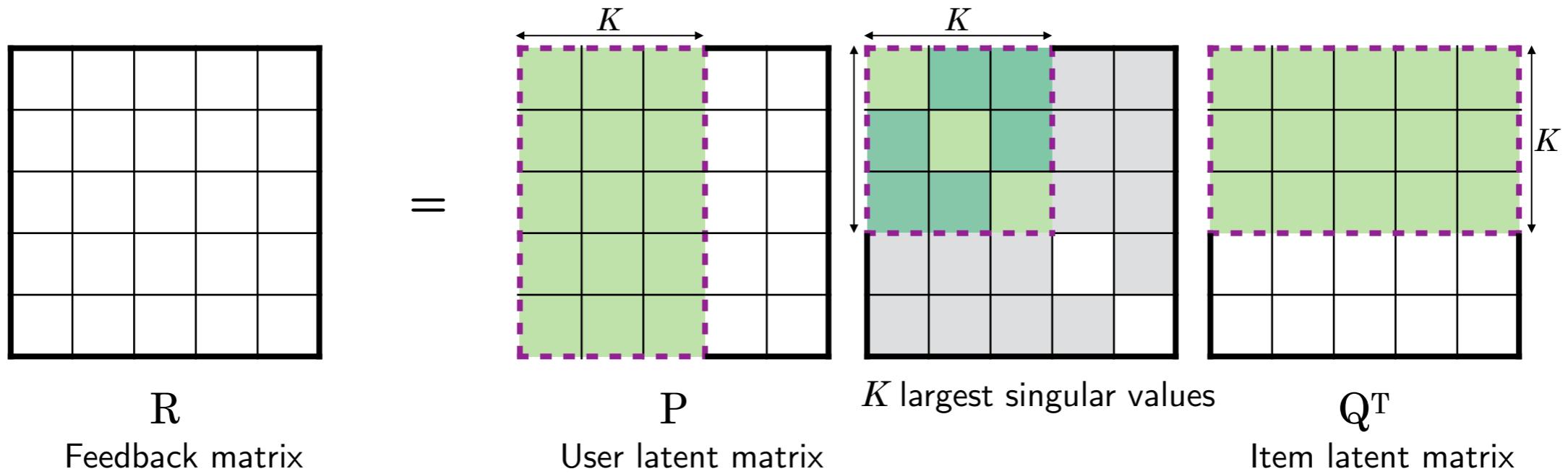
Yehuda Koren, Robert Bell, and Chris Volinsky. *Matrix Factorization Techniques For Recommender Systems*. IEEE Computer, (8), 2009.

Singular Value Decomposition



$$R = P \Sigma Q^T = \sum_{s=1}^d \sigma_s p_s q_s^T$$

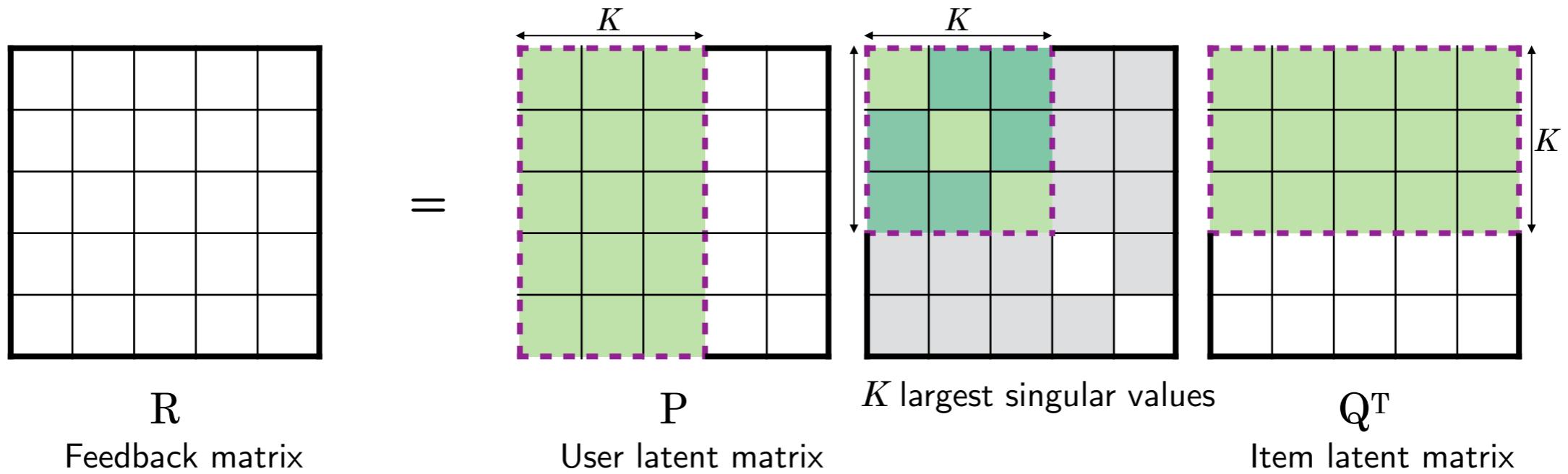
Singular Value Decomposition



Rank- K approximation of R :

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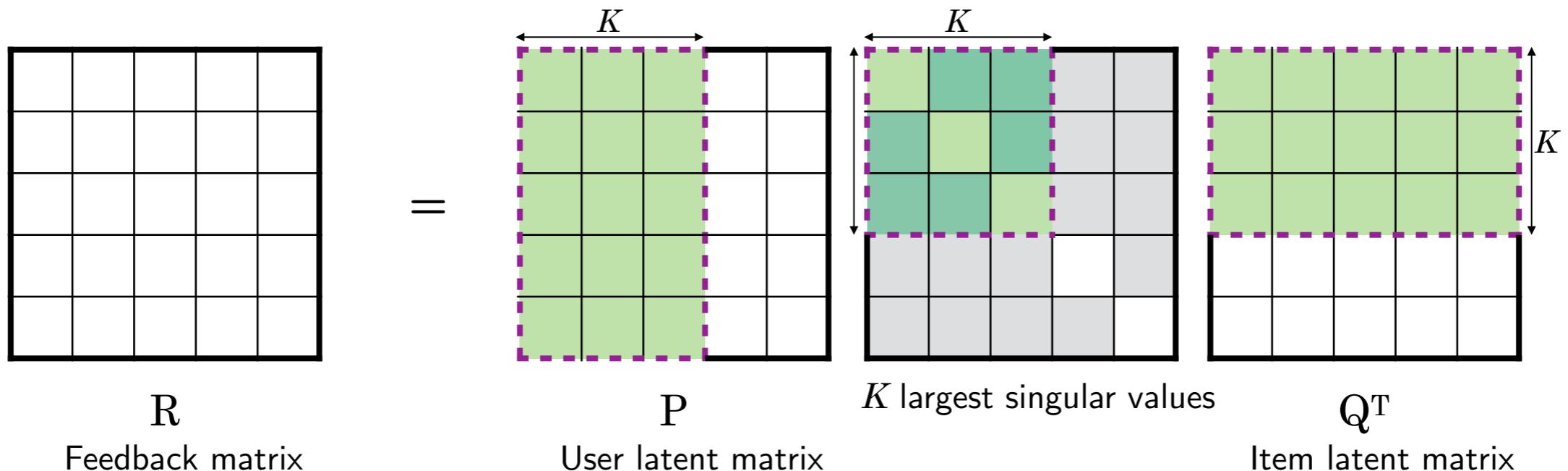
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- Applying SVD for collaborative filtering: **Sparsity issue**
 - Filling R with default values, e.g., average value per user or item

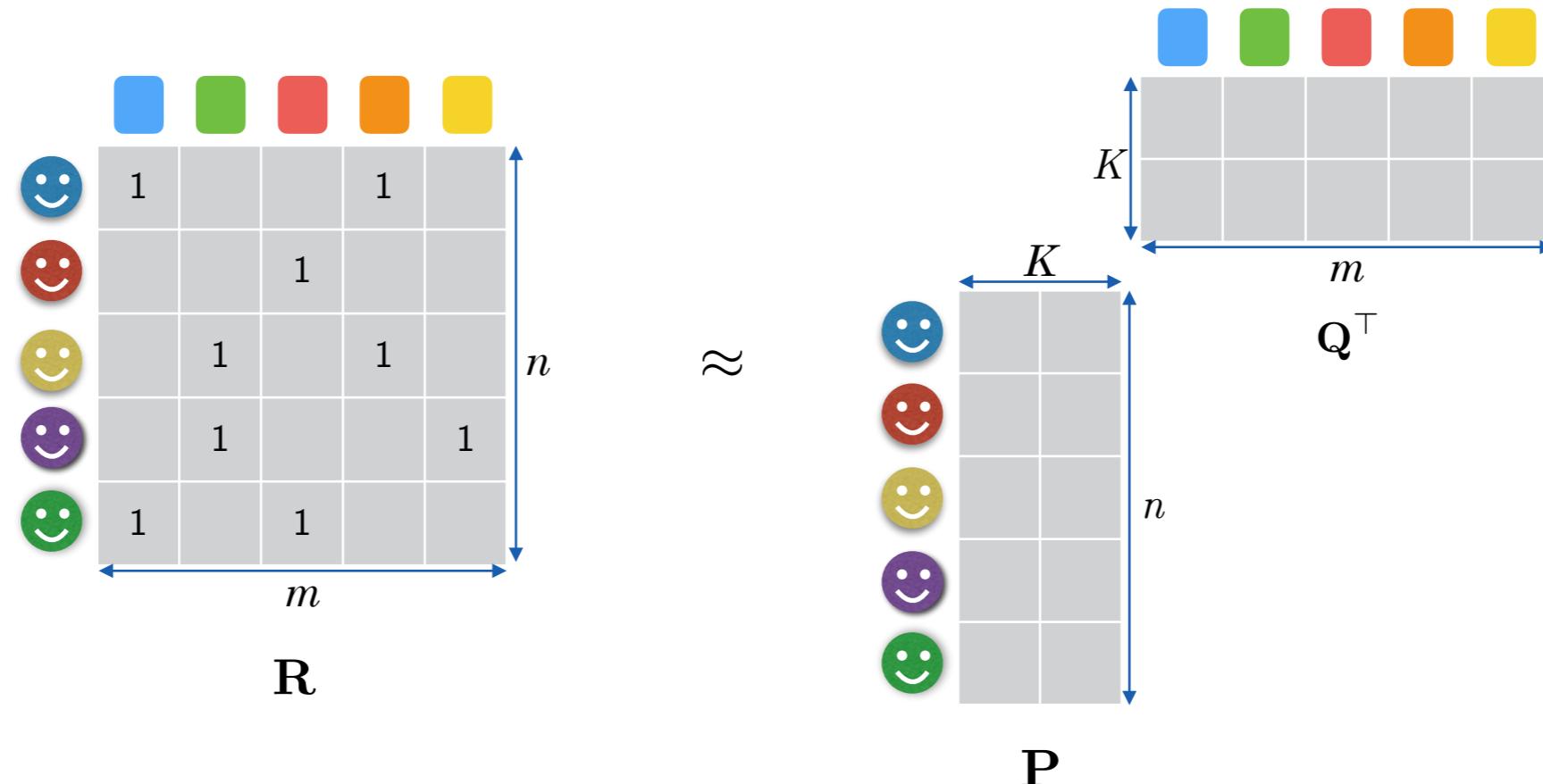
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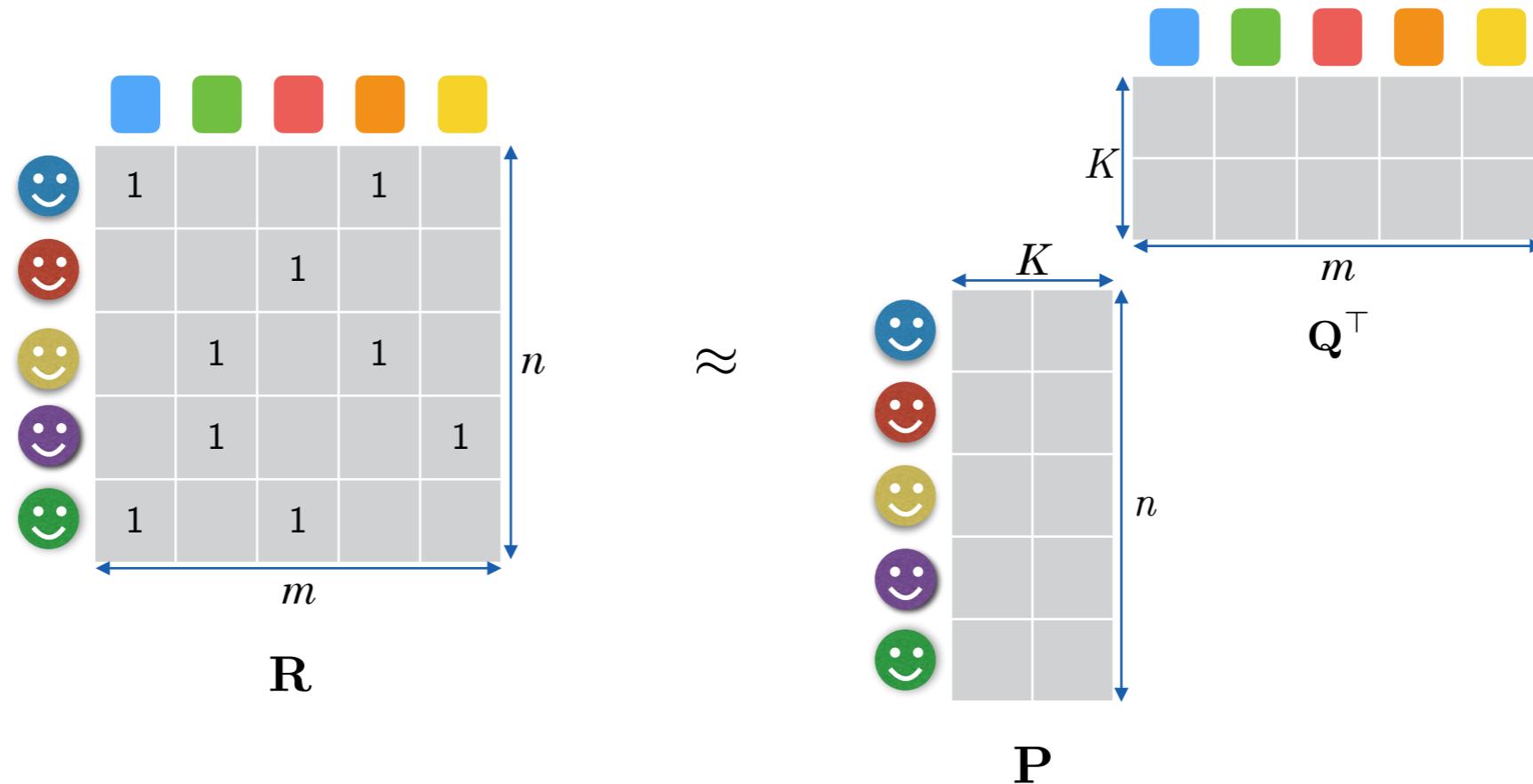
Rank- K approximation of R : $\hat{R} = \sum_{s=1}^K \sigma_s p_s q_s^\top$

- Applying SVD for collaborative filtering: **Sparsity issue**
 - Filling R with default values, e.g., average value per user or item
 - Inaccurate and very expensive

Minimizing the squared loss



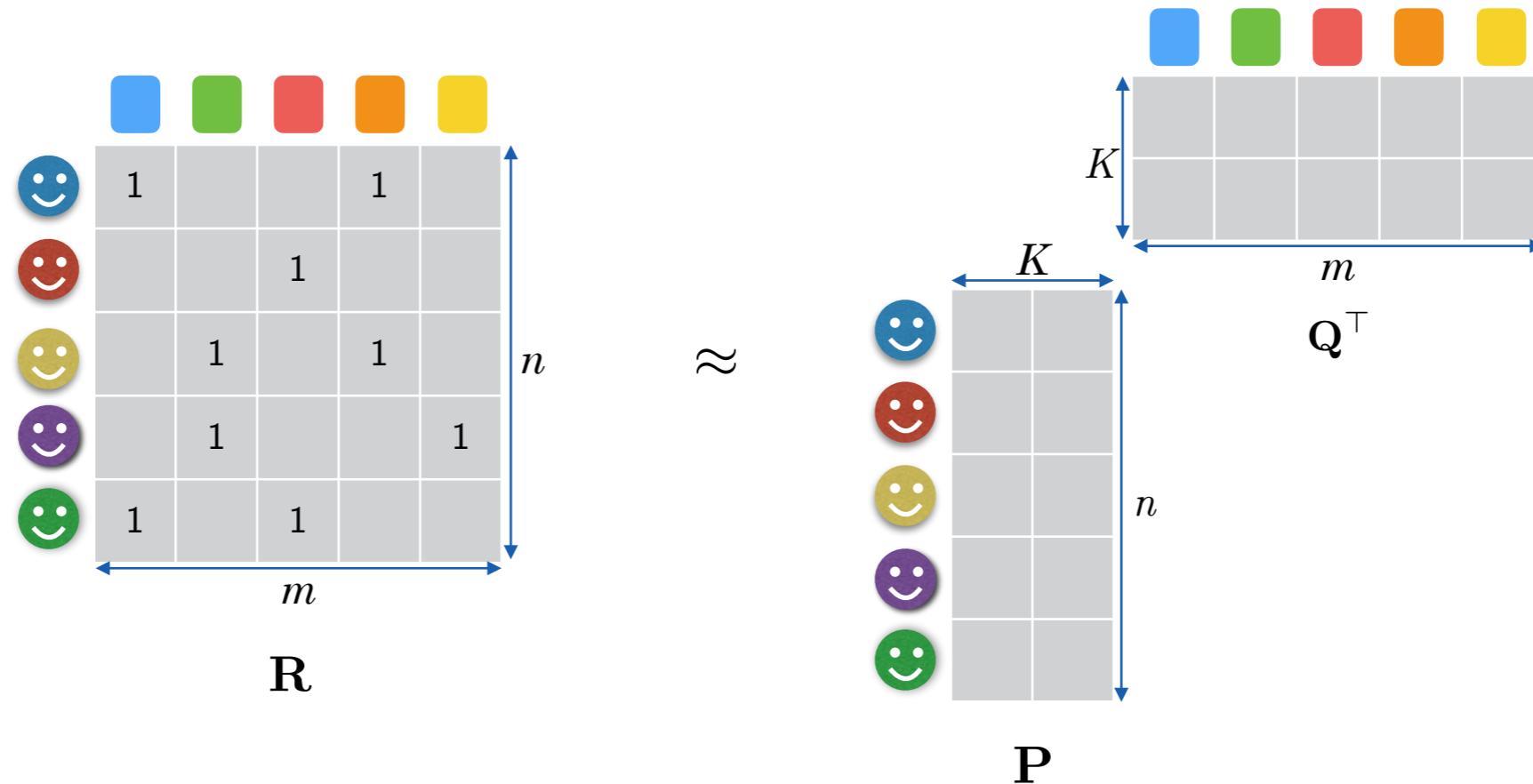
Minimizing the squared loss



$$\min_{\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}} \|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}^\top\|_F^2 + \lambda(\|\mathbf{P}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{Q}\|_F^2)$$

Least-squares - fitting ability Regularization - prevent overfitting

Minimizing the squared loss

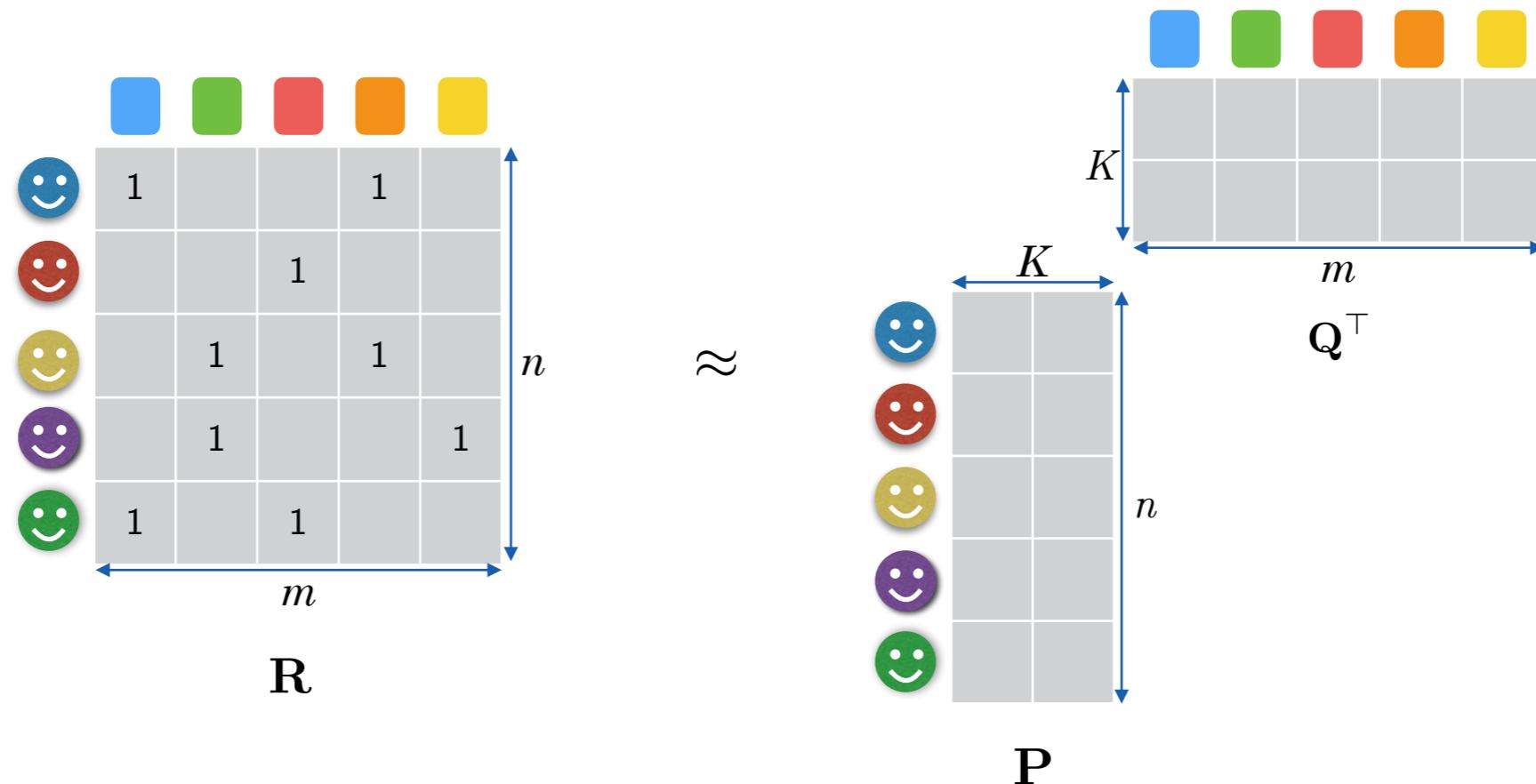


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Least-squares - fitting ability Regularization - prevent overfitting

$$\min_{\mathbf{p}_*, \mathbf{q}_*} \sum_{(u,i) \in \mathcal{D}} (r_{ui} - \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top)^2 + \lambda \left(\sum_{u=1}^n \|\mathbf{p}_u\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathbf{q}_i\|^2 \right)$$

Minimizing the squared loss



$$\min_{\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}} \|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}^\top\|_F^2 + \lambda(\|\mathbf{P}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{Q}\|_F^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})$$

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Learning the parameters

Stochastic Gradient Descent

- Performs a parameter update for each observation (u, i)
- Faster than gradient descent
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Parameter updates:

$$\mathbf{p}_u \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_u - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})}{\partial \mathbf{p}_u}, \quad \mathbf{q}_i \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_i - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}_i}$$

For each factor l :

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})}{\partial p_{ul}} = 2q_{il}(\mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top - r_{ui}) + 2\lambda p_{ul}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})}{\partial q_{il}} = 2p_{ul}(\mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top - r_{ui}) + 2\lambda q_{il}$$

Learning the parameters

Algorithm 2 Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

Input: Rating matrix \mathbf{R} , set of observed ratings \mathcal{D} , stopping criterion ϵ , rank K , learning rate η , and regularization parameter λ

Output: Optimal user feature matrix \mathbf{P} , optimal item feature matrix \mathbf{Q}

```
1 Initialize  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$ , e.g., randomly
2 while not converged, e.g.,  $\|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}^\top\| > \epsilon$ , do
3   for each  $(u, i) \in \mathcal{D}$  do
4      $e_{ui} = \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top - r_{ui}$ 
5      $\mathbf{p}_u \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_u - 2\eta(e_{ui}\mathbf{q}_i + \lambda\mathbf{p}_u)$ 
6      $\mathbf{q}_i \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_i - 2\eta(e_{ui}\mathbf{p}_u + \lambda\mathbf{q}_i)$ 
7   end for
8 end while
```

Learning the parameters

Alternating Least Squares

- Iterate over the parameters, fix them, and solve the optimization problem
- Well-designed for parallelization

Learning the parameters

Algorithm 3 Alternating Least Squares (ALS)

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```

1 Initialize  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$ , e.g., randomly
2 while not converged do
3   for  $u \in 1, \dots, m$  do                                      $\triangleright$  update users
4      $\mathbf{p}_u \leftarrow (\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_u} \mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{q}_i^\top + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_u} r_{ui} \mathbf{q}_i$ 
5   end for
6   for  $i \in 1, \dots, n$  do                                      $\triangleright$  update items
7      $\mathbf{q}_i \leftarrow (\sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}_i} \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{p}_u^\top + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}_i} r_{ui} \mathbf{p}_u$ 
8   end for
9 end while

```

Beyond optimizing the squared loss function

Rating prediction problem

- Task: *Matrix completion*, i.e., accurately predict missing ratings
 - Performance metric: RMSE
 - Objective function: Squared loss function

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With the evolution of the recommendation problem, several objective functions were explored.

- **Point-wise** functions, e.g., squared loss, $\ell^{point}(r_{ui}, \hat{r}_{ui})$
 - Focus on the accuracy of individual preferences

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 - Consider the relative ranking of predictions for pairs of items
- **List-wise** functions
 - Reflect the distance between the complete recommended list and the reference one

Dealing with implicit feedback

Implicit feedback is often *positive-only*

- ▶ One-Class Collaborative Filtering
- Transform the set of implicit observations by integrating additional negative feedback,
- Adapting the objective function

Augmenting implicit feedback datasets

- **All Missing As Negative:** Convert implicit feedback to binary ratings
 - Observed interactions take the value of 1 in the rating matrix and unobserved interactions the value of 0.
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- **In-between solution:** Discriminate negative items from the unobserved ones
 - Randomly sampling negative items, or
 - Using weighting techniques.

Defining the objective function

- Focus on the ranking quality of items instead of the value of predicted ratings
- Two seminal MF approaches to deal with implicit feedback:
 - [Weighted Regularized MF \(WRMF\)](#)
 - Relies on a weighted point-wise function
 - [Bayesian Personalized Ranking \(BPR\)](#)
 - Relies on a pair-wise function

Weighted Regularized Matrix Factorization

- The weight indicates the confidence we have in the corresponding observation
 - If user u interacted with i , we are confident that u likes i
 - Otherwise, we can make assumptions with different levels of confidence

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}) = \sum_{(u,i) \in \mathcal{D}} c_{ui} (r_{ui} - \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top)^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{P}) + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{Q})$$

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- Definition of c_{ui} :
 - Constant values for positive and negative observations
 - Consider additional parameters

Weighted Regularized Matrix Factorization

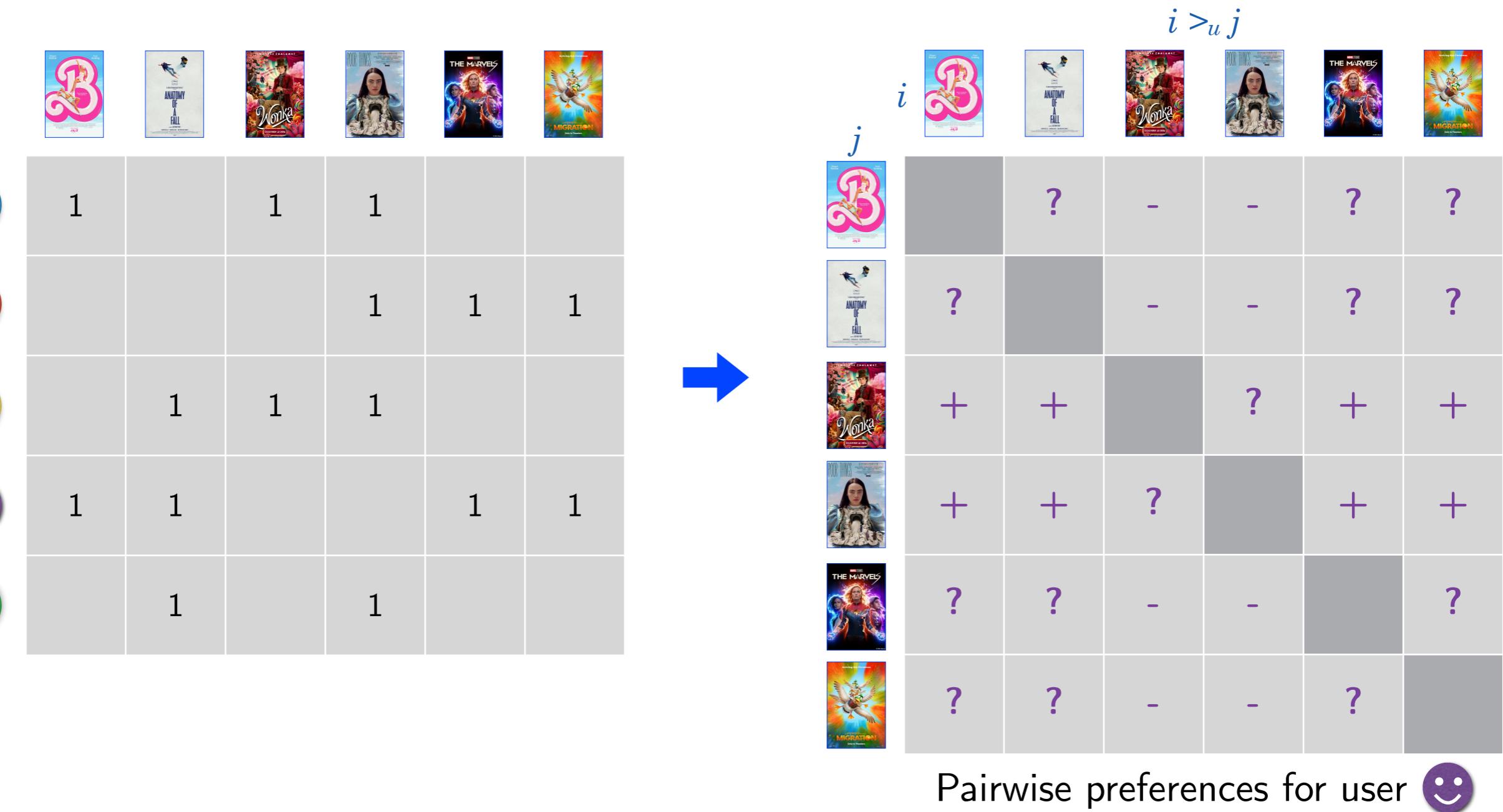
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 - Otherwise, we can make assumptions with different levels of confidence

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}) = \sum_{(u,i) \in \mathcal{D}} c_{ui} (r_{ui} - \mathbf{p}_u \mathbf{q}_i^\top)^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{P}) + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{Q})$$

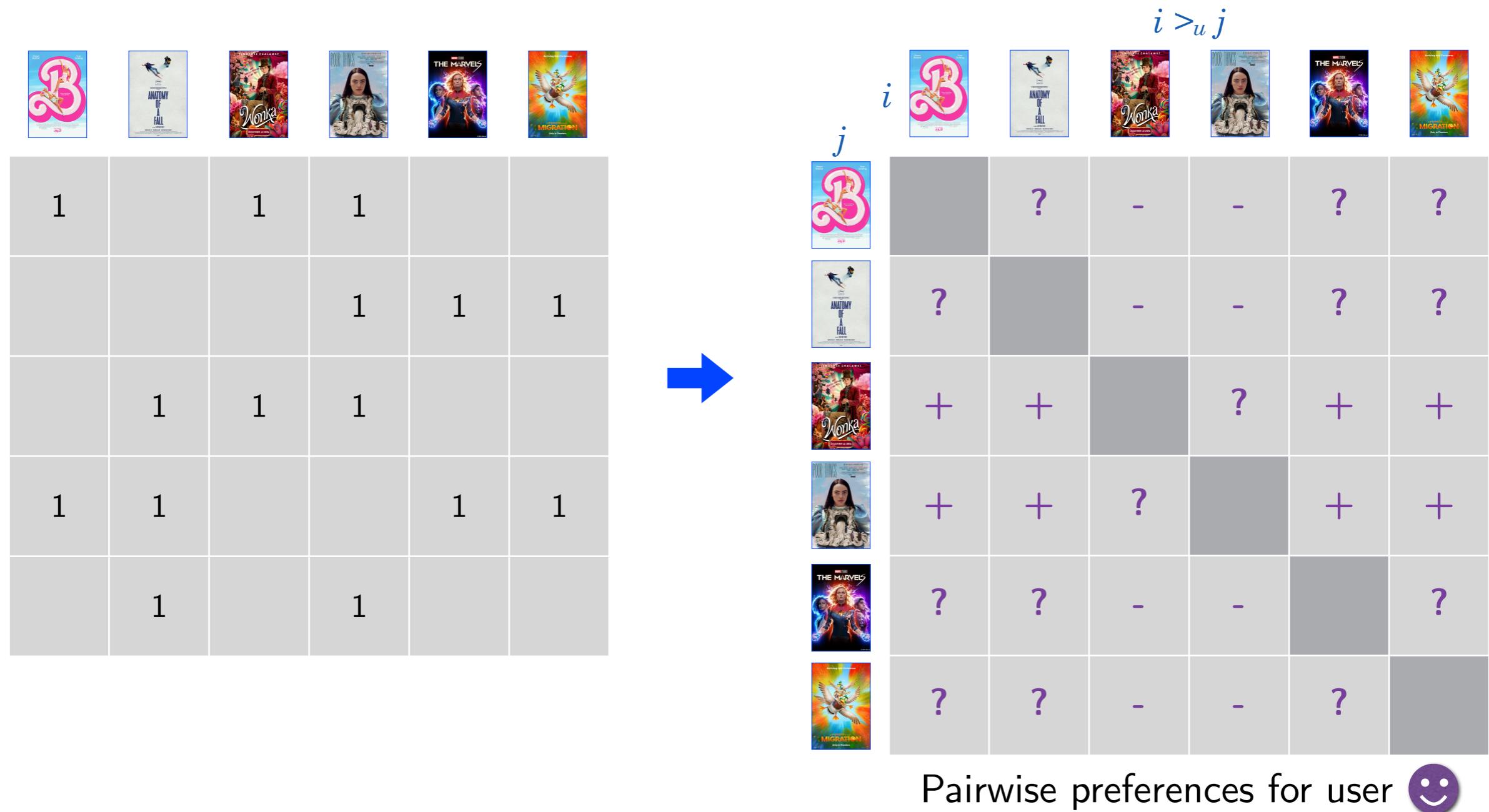
- Definition of c_{ui} :
 - Constant values for positive and negative observations
 - Consider additional parameters

Alternating Least Squares (ALS) is used for optimization in cases where c_{ui} is constant for unobserved items.

Bayesian Personalized Ranking



Bayesian Personalized Ranking



$$\mathcal{D}_{bpr} = \{(u, i, j) | i \in \mathcal{I}_u \wedge j \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{I}_u\}$$

Bayesian Personalized Ranking

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- Optimization solved using SGD
- Triples are uniformly sampled from \mathcal{D}_{bpr}

Collaborative filtering recap

- Memory-based approaches
 - ▶ User-based neighborhood approach
 - ▶ Item-based neighborhood approach
 - ▶ Similarity measures

Collaborative filtering recap

- **Memory-based** approaches
 - ▶ User-based neighborhood approach
 - ▶ Item-based neighborhood approach
 - ▶ Similarity measures
- **Model-based** approaches
 - ▶ Matrix Factorization framework
 - ▶ SVD
 - ▶ Minimizing the squared loss
 - ▶ Learning the parameters: SGD, ALS
 - ▶ Dealing with implicit feedback: WRMF, BPR

Content-Based Filtering

Content-based filtering for recommendation

- Use content information about users and items to generate recommendations, rather than other users' interactions and preferences.

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Content of an item

- Explicit features or characteristics of the item

The Marvels

2023 · 12A · 1h 45m

IMDb RATING ★ 5.5/10 128K YOUR RATING Rate POPULARITY 563 ▾

Play trailer 2:01

22 VIDEOS 99+ PHOTOS

Action Adventure Fantasy

Carol Danvers gets her powers entangled with those of Kamala Khan and Monica Rambeau, forcing them to work together to save the universe.

Director Nia DaCosta

Writers Nia DaCosta · Megan McDonnell · Elissa Karasik

Stars Brie Larson · Teyonah Parris · Iman Vellani

RENT/BUY prime video from €4.99

+ Add to Watchlist Added by 155K users

1K User reviews 268 Critic reviews 50 Metascore

IMDbPro See production info at IMDbPro

Wonka

2023 · PG · 1h 56m

IMDb RATING ★ 7.0/10 148K YOUR RATING Rate POPULARITY 120 ▾

Play trailer 2:42

17 VIDEOS 99+ PHOTOS

Adventure Comedy Family

With dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers.

Director Paul King

Writers Roald Dahl · Paul King · Simon Farnaby

Stars Timothée Chalamet · Gustave Die · Murray McArthur

RENT/BUY prime video from €4.99

+ Add to Watchlist Added by 190K users

738 User reviews 263 Critic reviews 66 Metascore

IMDbPro See production info at IMDbPro

Content of an item

- Explicit features or characteristics of the item
- Textual content: Title, description, tags
 - ▶ Exploit NLP techniques to extract content

The Marvels

Article Talk
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the film. For other uses, see [The Marvels \(disambiguation\)](#).

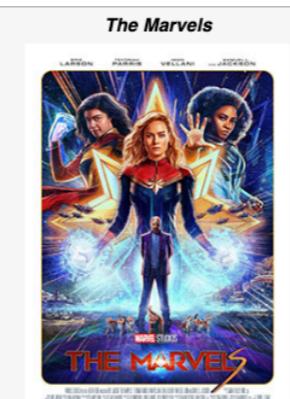
The Marvels is a 2023 American superhero film based on [Marvel Comics](#). Produced by [Marvel Studios](#) and distributed by [Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures](#), it is the sequel to the film [Captain Marvel](#) (2019), a continuation of the television miniseries [Ms. Marvel](#) (2022), and the 33rd film in the [Marvel Cinematic Universe](#) (MCU). The film was directed by [Nia DaCosta](#), who co-wrote the screenplay with [Megan McDonnell](#) and [Elissa Karasik](#). It stars [Brie Larson](#) as [Carol Danvers / Captain Marvel](#), [Teyonah Parris](#) as [Monica Rambeau](#), and [Iman Vellani](#) as [Kamala Khan / Ms. Marvel](#), alongside [Zawe Ashton](#), [Gary Lewis](#), [Park Seo-joon](#), [Zenobia Shroff](#), [Mohan Kapur](#), [Saagar Shaikh](#), and [Samuel L. Jackson](#). In the film, Danvers, Rambeau, and Kamala team up as "the Marvels" after they begin swapping places with each other every time they use their powers.

Marvel Studios confirmed plans to make a sequel to [Captain Marvel](#) in July 2019. Development began in January 2020 with McDonnell hired after working on the television miniseries [WandaVision](#) (2021). Larson was set to return from the first film as Danvers, and DaCosta was hired to direct that August. In December, Parris was revealed to be reprising her role as Rambeau from [WandaVision](#) alongside Vellani returning as Kamala from [Ms. Marvel](#). Second unit filming began in mid-April 2021 in [New Jersey](#), and the title—referring to the three characters and their similar abilities—was revealed in early May. [Principal photography](#) began in July 2021 and concluded by mid-May 2022, taking place at [Pinewood Studios](#) in [Buckinghamshire](#) and [Longcross Studios](#) in [Surrey](#), England, as well as in Los Angeles and [Tropea](#), Italy. Karasik's involvement was revealed during post-production.

The Marvels premiered in Las Vegas on November 7, 2023, and was released in the United States on November 10 as part of [Phase Five](#) of the MCU. It received mixed reviews from critics, with praise for its performances but criticism for its script and tonal inconsistencies. The film was a [box-office bomb](#), grossing \$206 million worldwide against a gross production budget of \$274.8 million, making it the lowest-grossing film in the MCU and one of the few MCU films not to [break even](#) in its theatrical run.

41 languages ▾

Read View source View history Tools



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Nia DaCosta
Written by	Nia DaCosta Megan McDonnell Elissa Karasik
Based on	Marvel Comics
Produced by	Kevin Feige
Starring	Brie Larson Teyonah Parris

Wonka (film)

Article Talk
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the soundtrack, see [Wonka \(soundtrack\)](#).

Wonka is a 2023 musical fantasy comedy film directed by [Paul King](#), who co-wrote the screenplay with [Simon Farnaby](#) based on a story by King. It tells the origin story of [Willy Wonka](#), a central character in the 1964 novel [Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#) by [Roald Dahl](#), depicting his early days as a [chocolatier](#), and serves as a prequel to the first film based on Dahl's novel, [Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory](#).^[6] The film stars [Timothée Chalamet](#) as the title character, with an ensemble cast including [Calah Lane](#), [Keegan-Michael Key](#), [Paterson Joseph](#), [Matt Lucas](#), [Mathew Baynton](#), [Sally Hawkins](#), [Rowan Atkinson](#), [Jim Carter](#), [Olivia Colman](#), and [Hugh Grant](#).

Development began when [Warner Bros. Pictures](#) reacquired the rights to the character in October 2016 and announced that the film would be an origin story. The film tells an original story and was developed by King to exist as a "companion piece" to the 1971 film by reprising some of the music, thematic elements, and the visual design of the [Oompa Loompas](#).^[7] In May 2021, Chalamet was confirmed to portray Wonka, and the supporting cast was announced in September of that year. Filming began in the United Kingdom in September, at [Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden](#), in [Watford](#), as well as [Oxford](#), [Lyme Regis](#), [Bath](#), [St Albans](#), and at the [Rivoli Ballroom](#) in [Crofton Park](#), London.^[8] The film's original songs were written by [Neil Hannon](#), and its original score by [Joby Talbot](#).

Wonka premiered in London at the [Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre](#) on November 28, 2023, and was released in the United Kingdom on December 8 and in the United States on December 15 by [Warner Bros. Pictures](#). It received generally positive reviews from critics, who praised Chalamet's performance, the music and visuals, and was a commercial success, grossing \$632 million worldwide against a \$125 million budget, becoming the eighth-highest-grossing film of 2023. It received a nomination for the [BAFTA Award for Outstanding British Film](#), and Chalamet was nominated for a [Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Musical or Comedy](#).

37 languages ▾

Read Edit View history Tools

Wonka



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Paul King
Screenplay by	Simon Farnaby Paul King
Story by	Paul King
Based on	Characters by Roald Dahl

Content of an item

- Explicit **features** or **characteristics** of the item
- **Textual content:** Title, description, tags
 - ▶ Exploit NLP techniques to extract content
- Features extracted from the **signal** (image, audio)

Content-based recommendations

- Pros:
- Cons:

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 - ▶ Item cold-start
 - Able to recommend new and unpopular items
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 - ▶ Overspecialization
 - Unable to provide novel or serendipitous recommendations
 - ▶ User cold-start
 - Require gathering enough user interactions

Example of a content-based filtering approach

- Develop a content-based RS:
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 - User Profiler. Build user profiles
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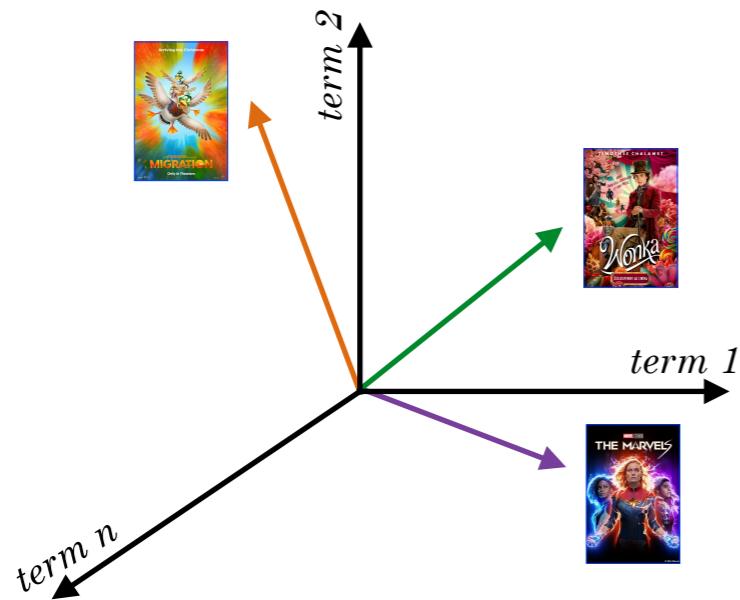
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 - Compute similarities between user and items

Building item profiles

- Exploit textual descriptions of items extracted from different sources
- Representation based on [Vector Space Model \(VSM\)](#)
 - Spatial representation of text documents

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- Each dimension corresponds to a feature (word from the vocabulary)
 - Extracted using NLP techniques (normalization, tokenization, stemming)
- Each value corresponds to the term weight
 - Defined using *TF-IDF*

Building item profiles

Weighting terms is done with **TF-IDF**, the product of *Term Frequency (TF)* and *Inverse Document Frequency (IDF)*:

$$TF_{w,d_i} = \frac{f_{w,d_i}}{\max_{w' \in d_i} f_{w',d_i}}, \quad IDF_{w,d_i} = \log \frac{|\mathcal{I}|}{|\{i \in \mathcal{I} : w \in d_i\}|}$$

where f_{w,d_i} is the number of occurrences of the word w in document d_i .

Building item profiles



Barbie is a 2023 fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach. It is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous animated films and specials.



Anatomy of a Fall is a 2023 French legal drama film, directed by Justine Trier from a screenplay she wrote with Arthur Harari. It stars Sandra Hüller trying to prove her innocence in her husband's death.



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Poor Things is a 2023 film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos and written by Tony McNamara. It is a co-production between Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



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Building item profiles

		TF(comedy)	IDF(comedy)	TF-IDF
	Barbie is a 2023 fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach. It is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous animated films and specials.	1	$\log(6 / 2)$	0.47
	Anatomy of a Fall is a 2023 French legal drama film, directed by Justine Trier from a screenplay she wrote with Arthur Harari. It stars Sandra Hüller trying to prove her innocence in her husband's death.	0	$\log(6 / 2)$	0
	Wonka is a 2023 musical fantasy film directed by Paul King, who co-wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby based on a story by King.	0	$\log(6 / 2)$	0
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	The Marvels is a 2023 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the sequel to the film Captain Marvel.	0	$\log(6 / 2)$	0
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Building item profiles

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	Barbie is a 2023 fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach. It is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous animated films and specials.	3	$\log(6 / 6)$	0
	Anatomy of a Fall is a 2023 French legal drama film , directed by Justine Trier from a screenplay she wrote with Arthur Harari. It stars Sandra Hüller trying to prove her innocence in her husband's death.	1	$\log(6 / 6)$	0
	Wonka is a 2023 musical fantasy film directed by Paul King, who co-wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby based on a story by King.	1	$\log(6 / 6)$	0
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	The Marvels is a 2023 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the sequel to the film Captain Marvel.	2	$\log(6 / 6)$	0
	Migration is a 2023 American animated adventure comedy film produced by Universal Pictures and Illumination, and distributed by Universal.	1	$\log(6 / 6)$	0

Building user profiles and measuring similarities

- **User profiles** indicate the user interest in the various item dimensions.
 - They are created in the same space where items are represented.
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 - ▶ Using cosine similarity, for example.
- Other techniques can be used for content-based recommendation.
 - ▶ Bayesian classifiers, clustering, decision trees, neural networks.

Hybrid approaches

Hybrid approaches

- Collaborative filtering approaches
 - Leverage other users' interactions
 - Suffer from the cold-start problem

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The best results are often achieved when different recommendation algorithms are combined in a single model.

Hybridization methods

- Weighted
- Switching
- Mixed
- Feature combination
- Cascade
- Feature augmentation

Weighted

- The score of a recommended item is computed by combining the scores from different recommendation techniques. Examples:
 - Linear combination of scores;
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 - Linear combination of scores;
 - The output of each recommendation technique is treated as a set of votes, combined in a consensus scheme.
- Pros:
 - Straightforward way to do hybridization
- Cons:
 - Assumption: The relative value of the different techniques is more or less uniform across the space of possible items
 - Generally not true; a collaborative recommender will be weaker for items with a small number of ratings

Switching

- The RS switches between different recommendation techniques.

Example:

- Use first a content-based recommendation method to generate recommendations;
- If the content-based method cannot provide recommendations with sufficient confidence, switch to a collaborative filtering method;
- Both methods suffer from the user cold-start problem.

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 - ▶ If the content-based method cannot provide recommendations with sufficient confidence, switch to a collaborative filtering method;
 - ▶ Both methods suffer from the user cold-start problem.
- Pros:
 - ▶ Benefit from the strengths of the constituent recommenders
- Cons:
 - ▶ Introduce additional complexity related to the definition of the switching criterion

Mixed

- Recommendations from more than one technique are presented together.

Feature combination

- Features from different recommendation data sources are fed to a single recommendation approach.

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Examples:

- Treat collaborative information, *i.e.*, user interactions, as additional features associated with each observation and use content-based techniques on the augmented dataset;
- Treat content features as additional features in the collaborative setting, *i.e.*, as additional feedback from virtual users.

Cascade

- One recommendation technique is used first to produce a coarse ranking of items and another technique refines the recommendations from the candidate set.

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 - Requires a meaningful ordering of techniques.

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- One technique is used to predict a rating or classify an item, and that information is incorporated into another recommendation technique.

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 - ▶ Example:
 - ▶ Make content-based recommendations of items based on textual data;
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- Similar to the feature combination method:
 - ▶ In feature augmentation, the output is used for another RS;
 - ▶ In feature combination, the representations used by two systems are combined.

Hybridization methods

- Weighted
- Switching
- Mixed
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Context-aware recommendation

Contextual information

- User choices are not solely guided by a fixed set of preferences related to item features, but strongly depends on their **context**, their **current needs**, and the **situation** they are in.

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Example: Recommendation in the tourism domain



Location



Time



Trips' intent



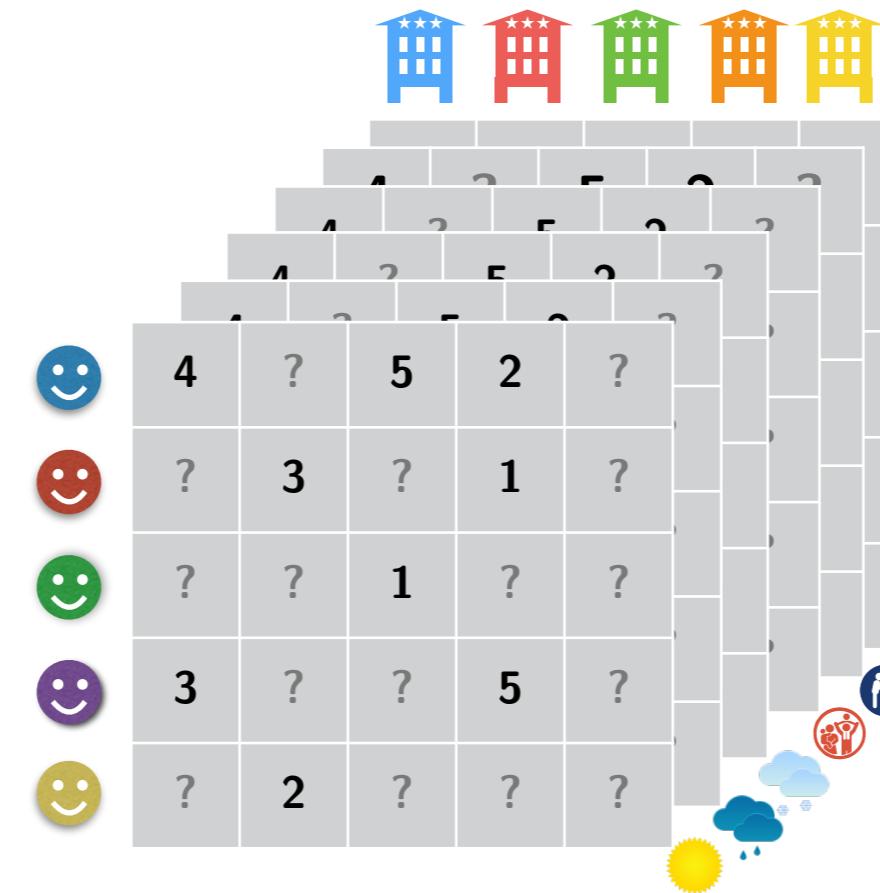
Events



Weather

Context-aware recommendations

- Additional dimensions besides the user and item ones are considered.
- The representation space of feedback becomes multidimensional.
- The utility function is defined on the space $\mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{C}$ where \mathcal{C} is the set of relevant contextual factors.

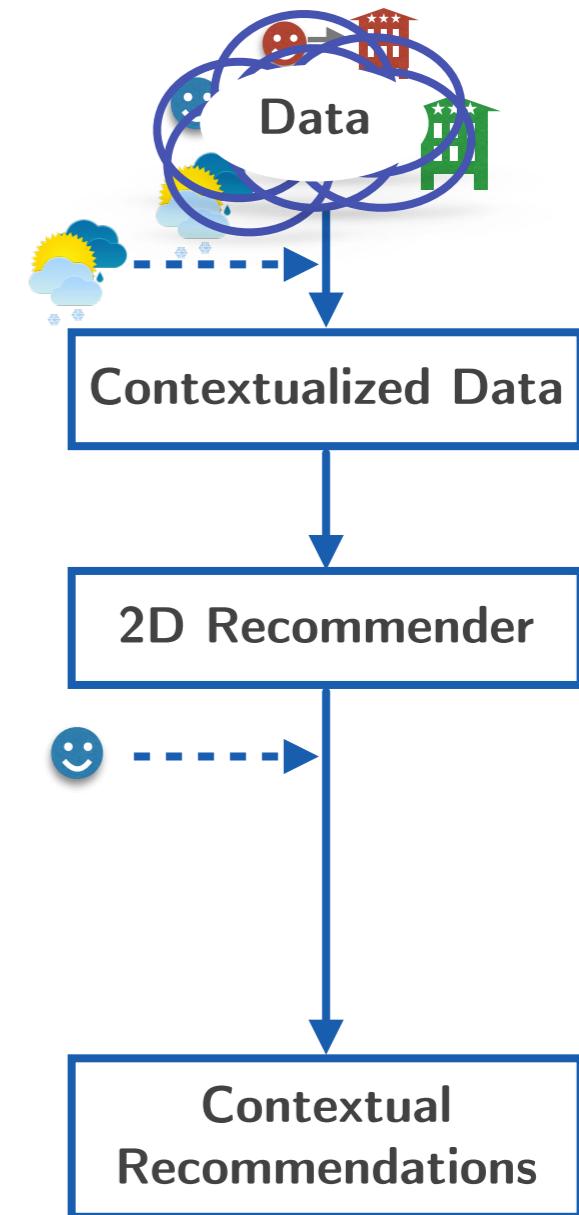


Paradigms for context-aware recommendation

- Contextual pre-filtering
 - Context is used for input data selection
- Contextual post-filtering
 - Context is used to filter recommendations
- Contextual modeling
 - Context is directly incorporated into the model

Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.



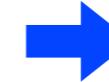
Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.

Examples:

- User splitting approach
 - Users are split into several sub-profiles, each of them representing the user behavior in a particular context.

User	Item	Rating	Season	Location	Companion
u_1	i_1	5	Summer	France	Family
u_1	i_1	1	Winter	France	Friend
u_1	i_1	2	Summer	Canada	Partner



User	Item	Rating
u_{11}	i_1	5
u_{12}	i_1	1
u_{13}	i_1	2

Contextual pre-filtering

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Examples:

- Item splitting approach
 - Items are split into several fictitious items, according to the contexts in which they were selected.

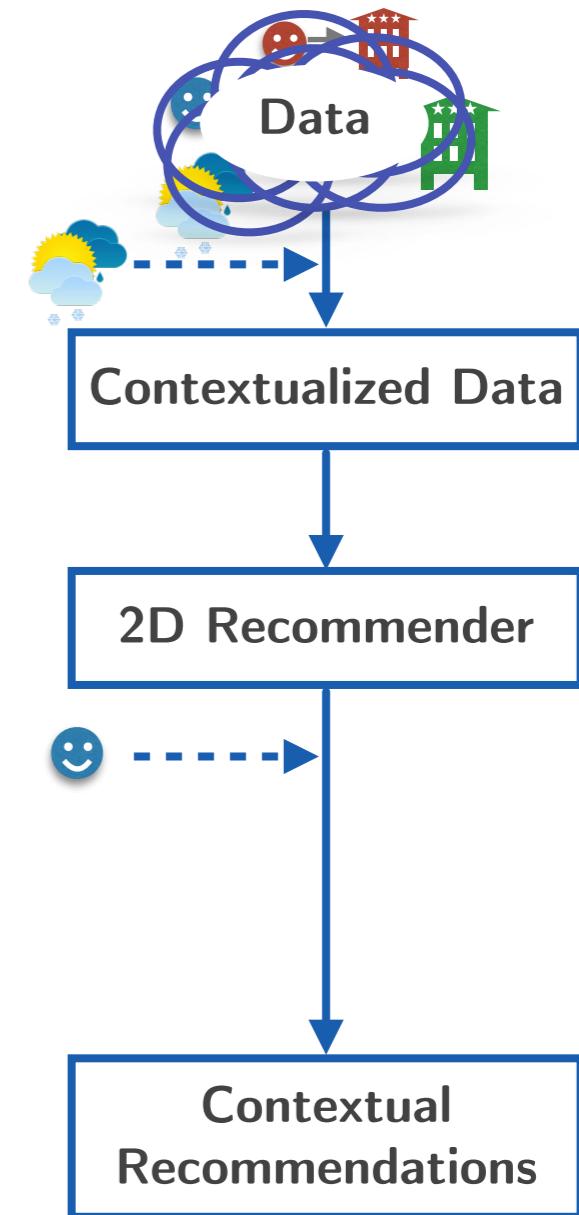
User	Item	Rating	Season	Location	Companion
u_1	i_1	5	Summer	France	Family
u_1	i_1	1	Winter	France	Friend
u_1	i_1	2	Summer	Canada	Partner



User	Item	Rating
u_1	i_{11}	5
u_1	i_{12}	1
u_1	i_{13}	2

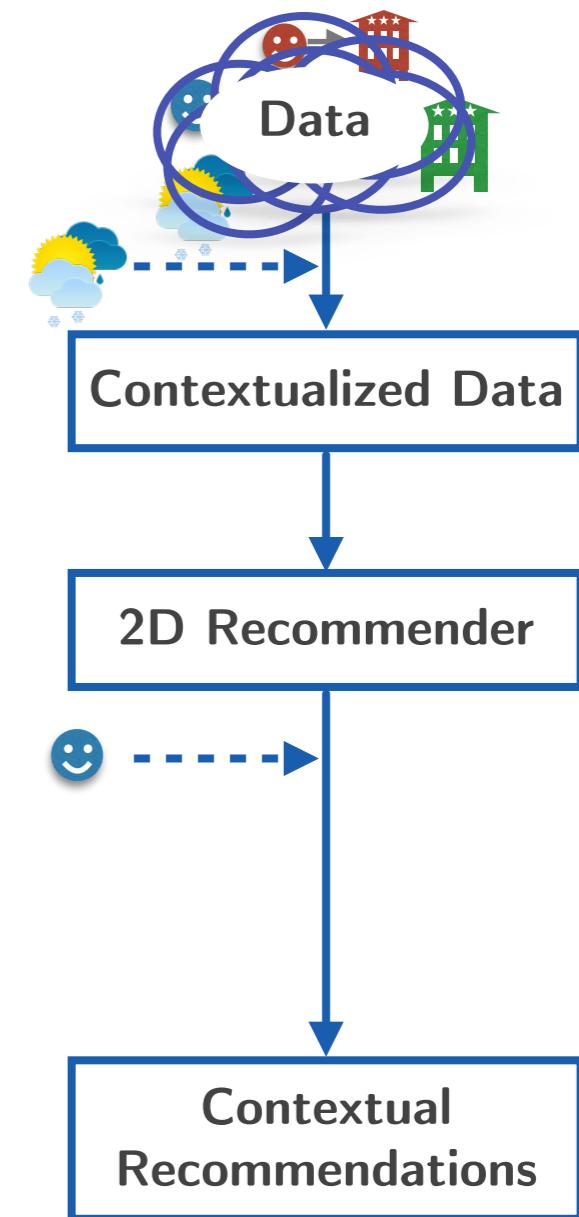
Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.
- **Pros:** The contextual information is incorporated into user and item dimensions.



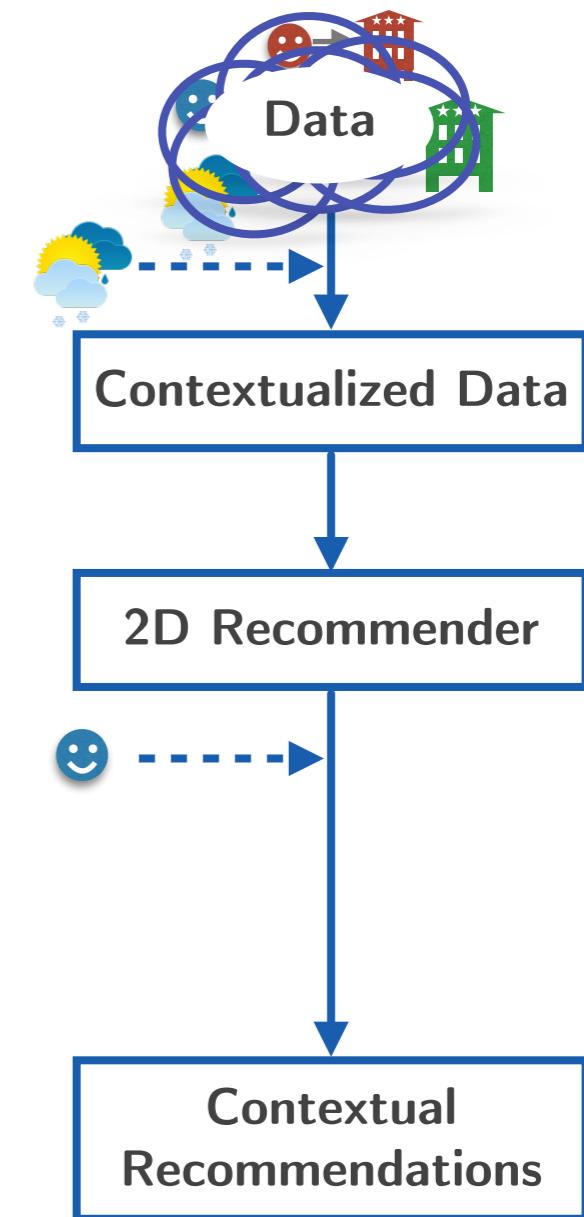
Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.
- **Pros:** The contextual information is incorporated into user and item dimensions.
- **Cons:** Creating new users and items increases sparsity.



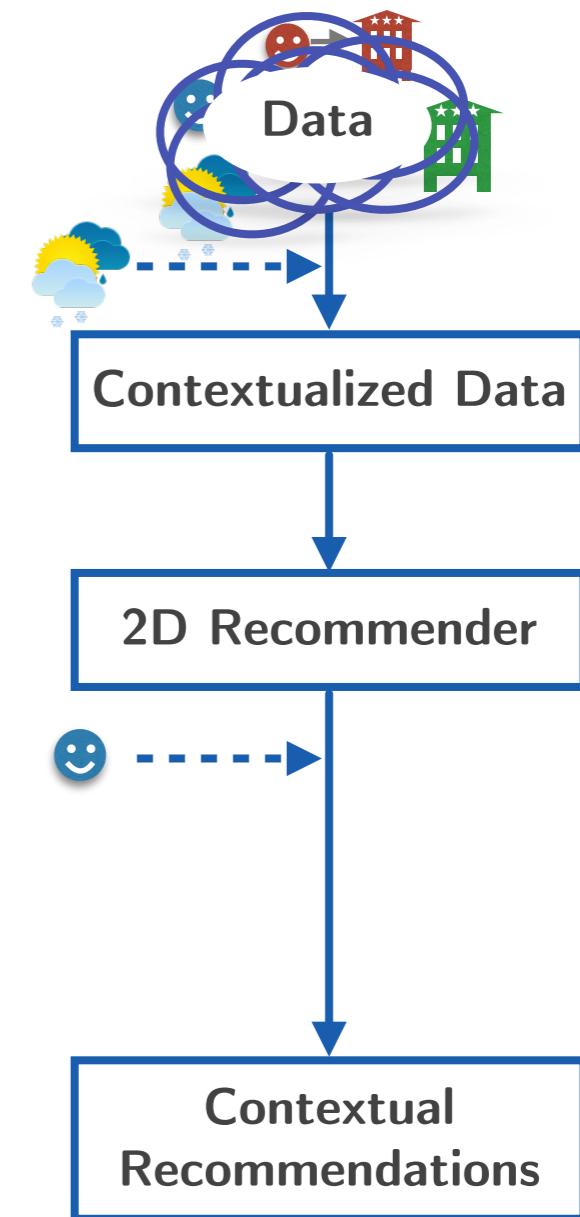
Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.
- **Pros:** The contextual information is incorporated into user and item dimensions.
- **Cons:** Creating new users and items increases sparsity.
 - The exact context may be too narrow, and certain of its aspects may be insignificant, with only a few observations to learn from.



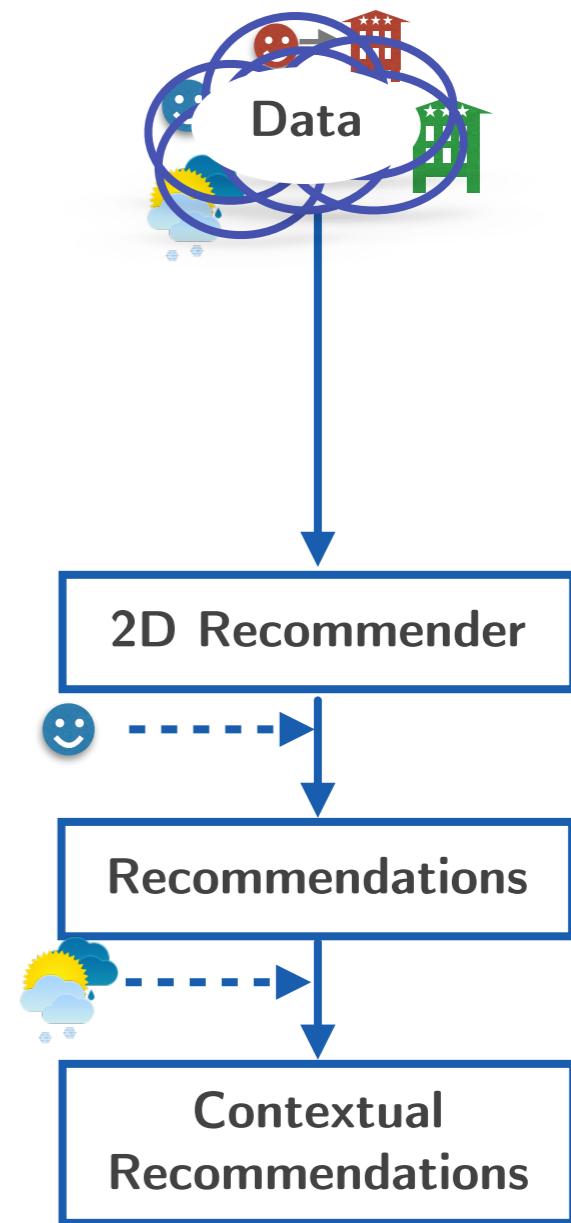
Contextual pre-filtering

- Context drives the selection of data given as input to the recommendation method.
- **Pros:** The contextual information is incorporated into user and item dimensions.
- **Cons:** Creating new users and items increases sparsity.
 - The exact context may be too narrow, and certain of its aspects may be insignificant, with only a few observations to learn from.
 - Generalize context, using for example higher levels concepts in context hierarchies.



Contextual post-filtering

- Context is used to refine the recommendation list, generating by a recommendation approach ignoring the context.

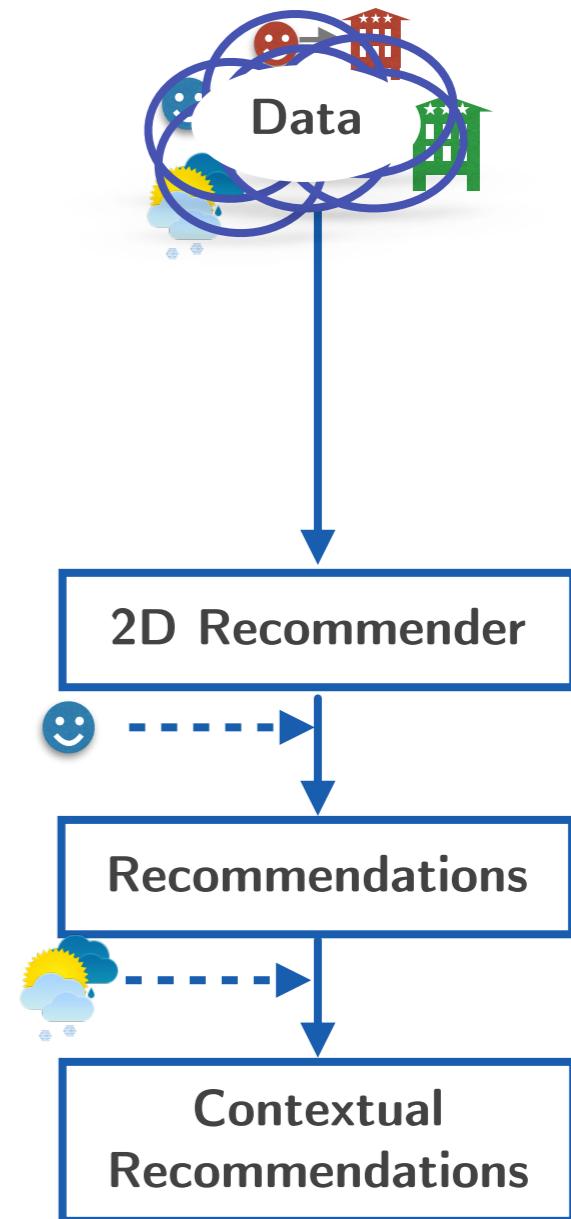


Contextual post-filtering

- Context is used to refine the recommendation list, generating by a recommendation approach ignoring the context.

Examples:

- Remove recommendations that are irrelevant to the context;
- Adjust the ranking of items using the context.



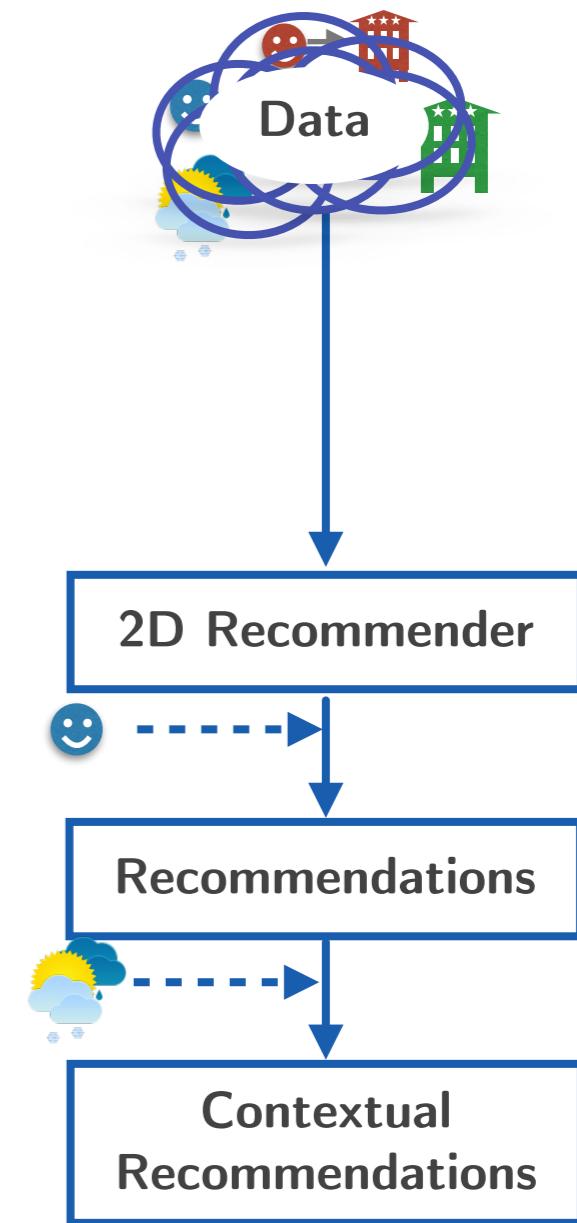
Contextual post-filtering

- Context is used to refine the recommendation list, generating by a recommendation approach ignoring the context.

Examples:

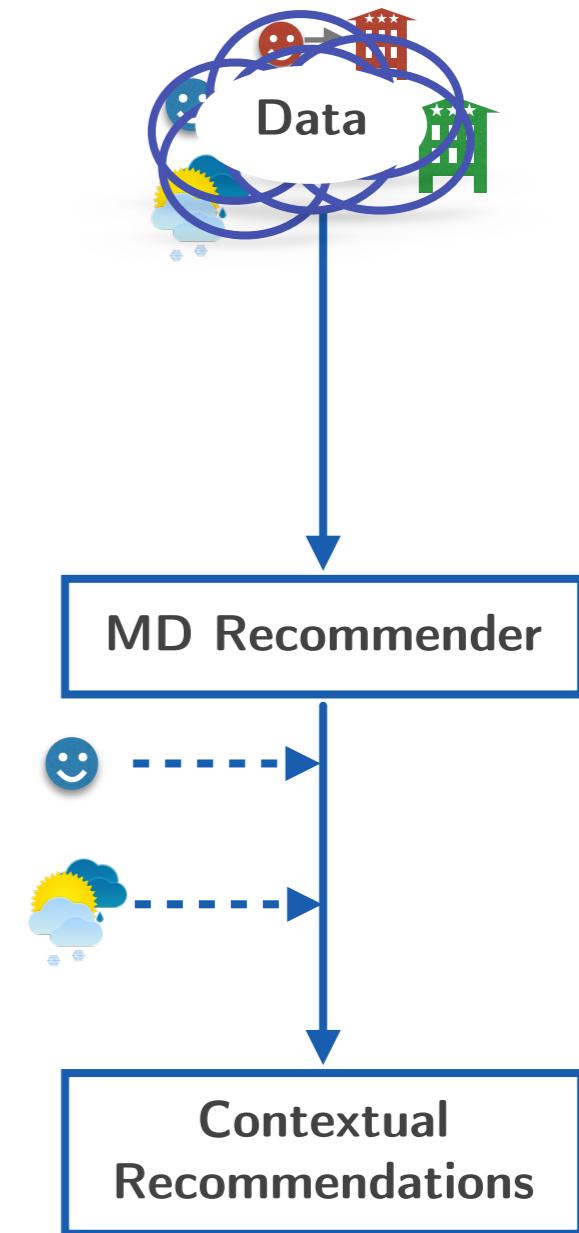
- Remove recommendations that are irrelevant to the context;
- Adjust the ranking of items using the context.

- Pros of contextual pre-filtering and post-filtering:
 - Ability to leverage traditional recommendation algorithms.

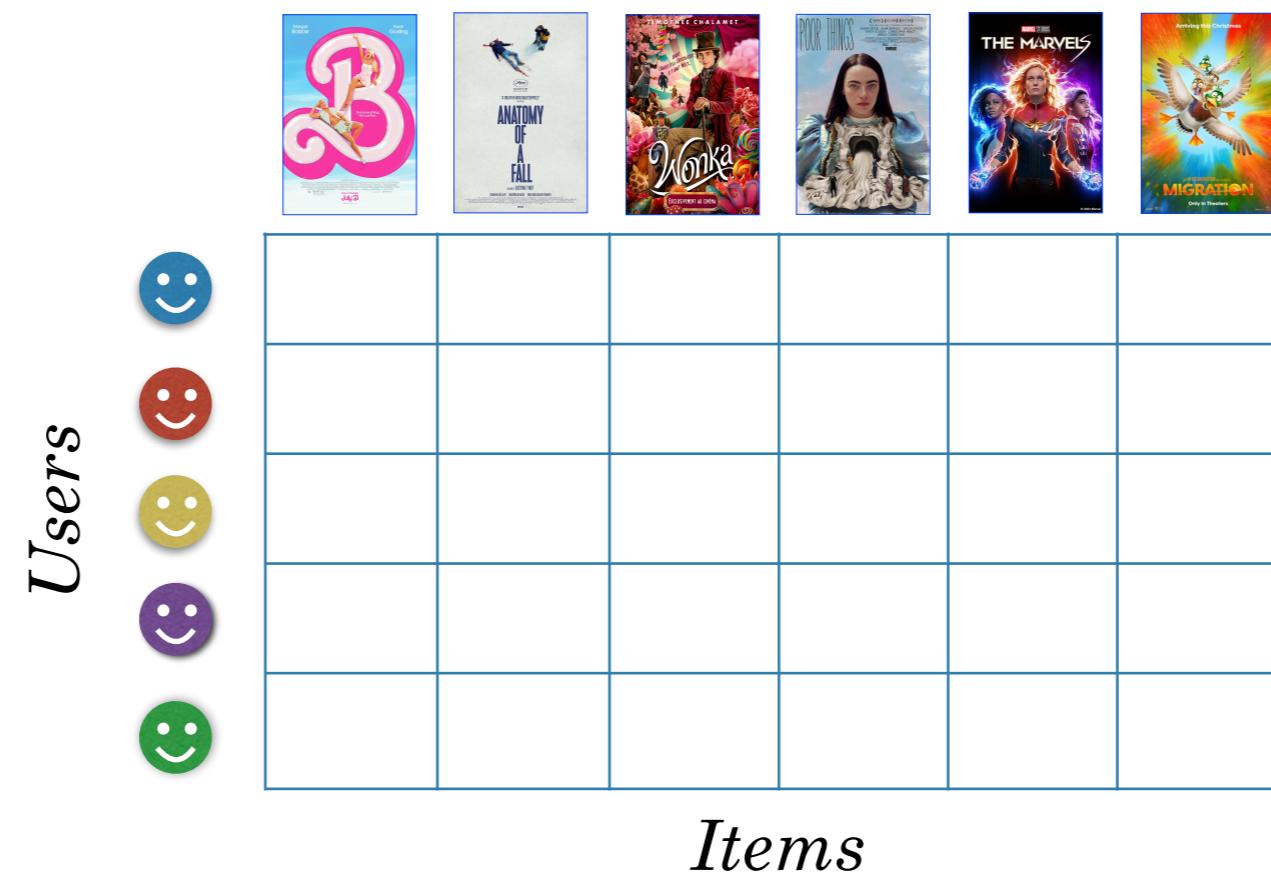


Contextual modeling

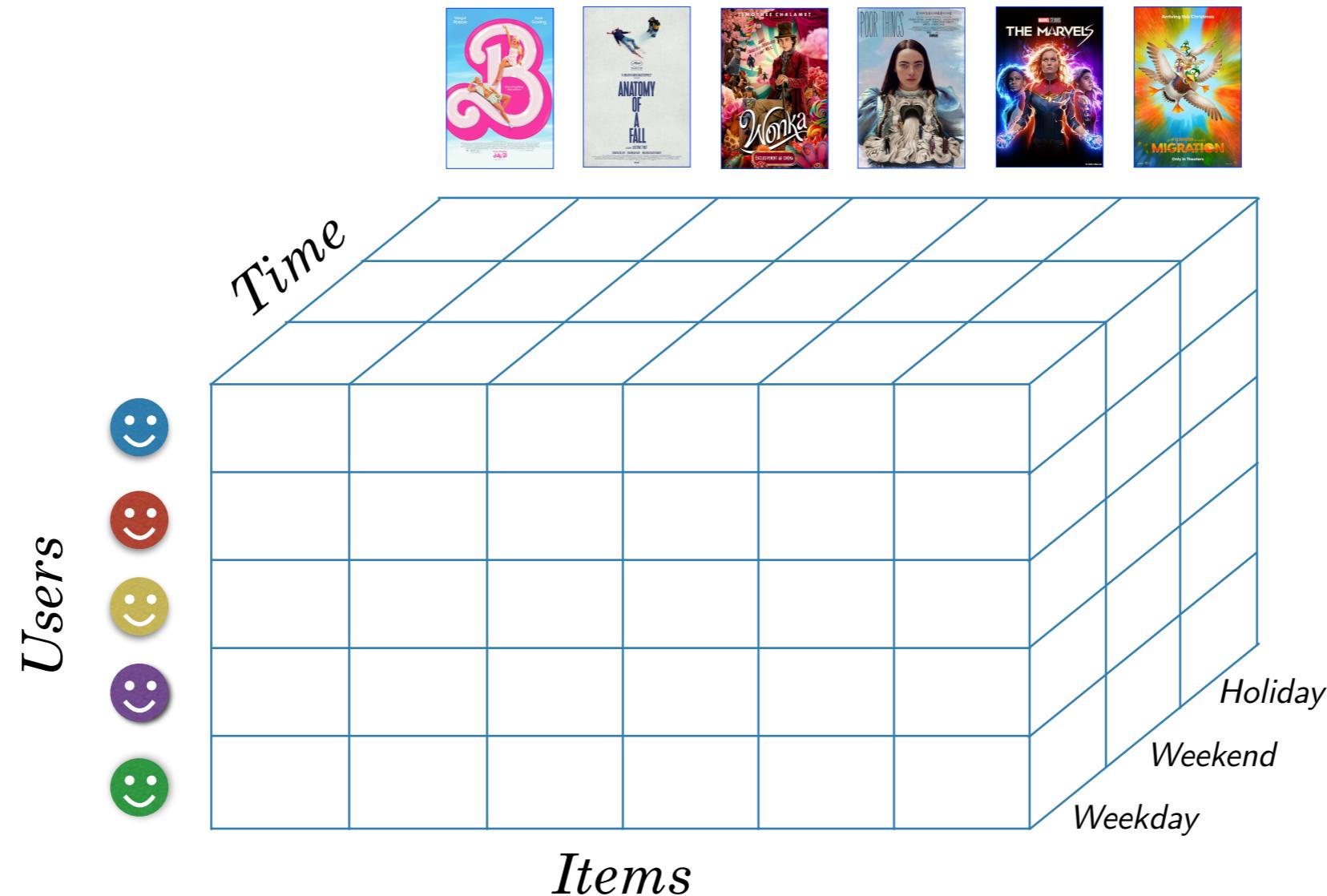
- Context is used directly in the model learning phase.
- Contextual variables are added as additional dimensions in the feature space, alongside the *user* and *item* dimensions.



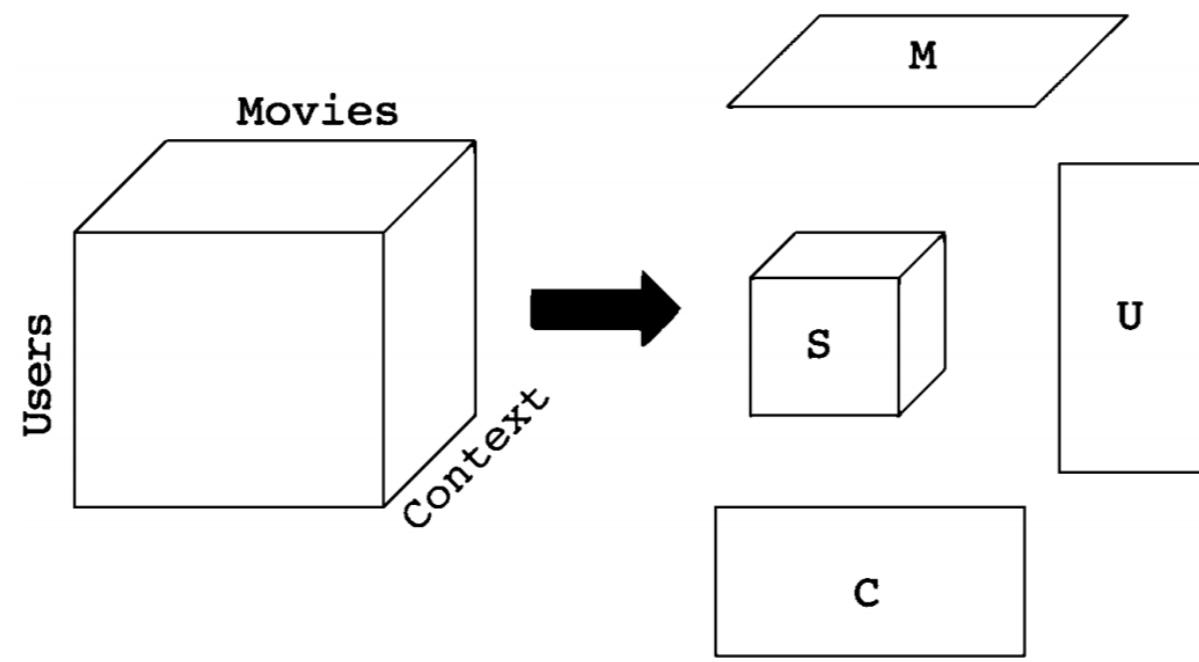
Two-dimensional model



N -dimensional model

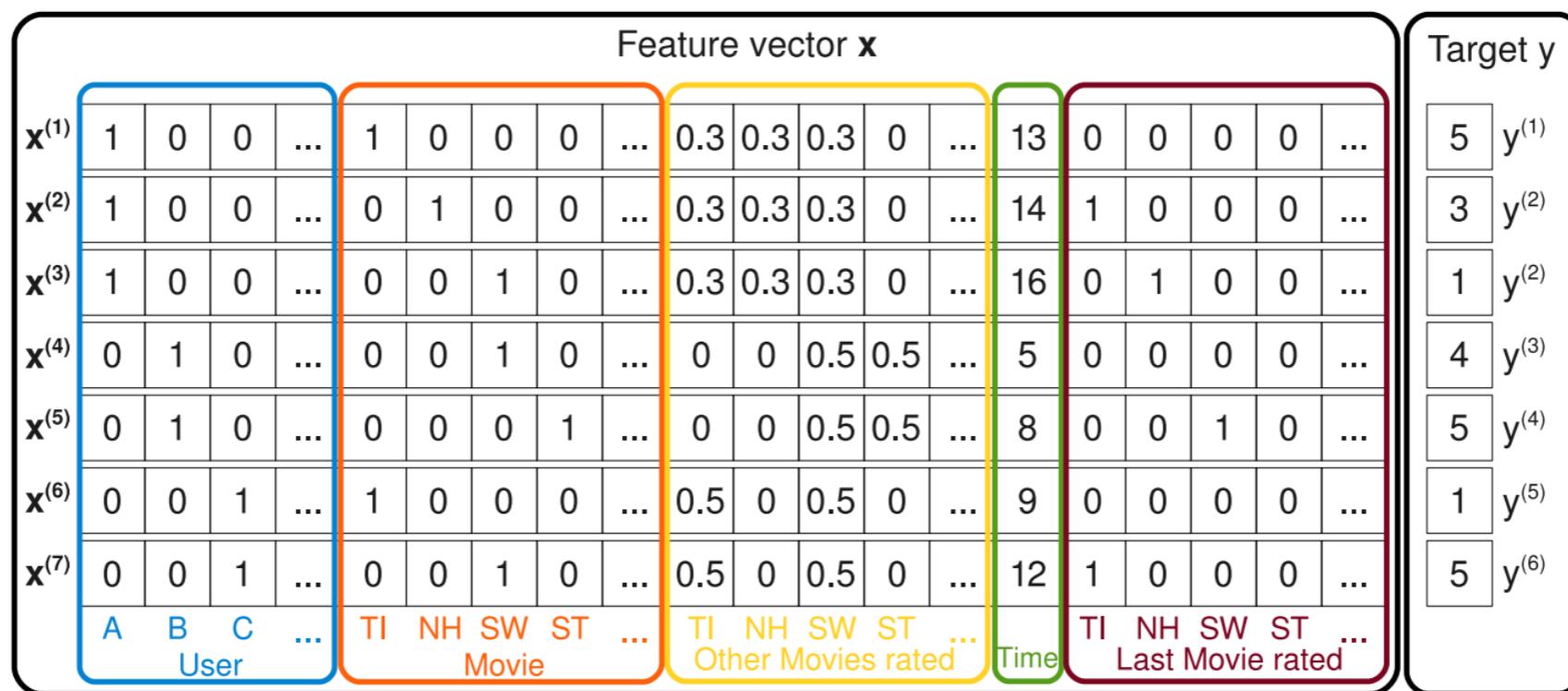


Tensor factorization



$$F_{ijk} = S \times_U U_{i*} \times_M M_{j*} \times_C C_{k*}$$

Factorization Machines



$$\hat{y}(\mathbf{x}) := w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n \langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle x_i x_j$$

Steffen Rendle. *Factorization Machines*. In Proc. ICDM, 2010.

Conclusion