

# Sharif University of Technology

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EE577: Massive Data Analytics

Assignment #3- Twitter User Engagement Recommender System

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## 1 Task Description

In this assignment, we implement a Twitter User Engagement Recommender System using a dataset of Persian users' tweets. Each tweet contains multiple elements describing the tweet, including the text, user id, generator uid and tweet id (for "generated"-type tweets), quoted uid and tweet id (for "quoted"-type tweets), replied uid and tweet id (for "replied"-type tweets), retweeting uid and tweet id (for "retweeted"-type tweets), and more. Leveraging these fields, we develop a recommender system in PySpark that can recommend potentially similar users and, based on that, potentially similar tweets to engage users. The implementations utilize PySpark to analyze the large-scale tweet dataset and generate personalized user and tweet recommendations. Specifically, we extract user similarity features and feed them into a collaborative filtering algorithm to produce user-based recommendations. The goal is to recommend accounts and content that are relevant and engaging to Twitter users.

## 2 Algorithm Description

#### 2.1 Theoretical Model

The recommender system is implemented using a user-based collaborative filtering algorithm, which makes recommendations by finding users with similar interests and recommending tweets related with those similar users.

To find similar users, we utilize Pearson correlation (1), a technique that measures the linear relationship between two users' tweet engagement patterns. It returns a value between -1 and 1 indicating how strongly two users' engagement tendencies align. A correlation of 1 means perfect alignment where users engage with precisely the same tweets, 0 is no correlation, and -1 is perfect misalignment.

$$sim(x,y) = \frac{\sum_{s \in S_{xy}} (r_{xs} - \overline{r_x}) (r_{ys} - \overline{r_y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{s \in S_{xy}} (r_{xs} - \overline{r_x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{s \in S_{xy}} (r_{ys} - \overline{r_y})^2}}$$
(1)

The algorithm first calculates a Pearson similarity score between the tweet engagement profile of

a given user and all other users. It selects other most similar users. Then from those similar users, the algorithm examines the tweets they engaged with that the given user has not engaged with. The highest scoring of these tweets, based on the aggregate of the similar users' engagements, are recommended to the given user.

## 2.2 Implementation

To implement the recommender system, a tweet scoring scheme is designed to quantify a user's engagement with each tweet. The scheme assigns points as follows:

- 3 points if the user generated the original tweet
- 2 points if the user quoted or replied to the tweet
- 1 point if the user retweeted the tweet

A scoring function encapsulates this logic, taking in default parameters for generated, quoted, reply, and retweet scores that can be customized as needed.

The implementation utilizes a map-reduce framework over the user RDD. Five target users are chosen from different communities and viewpoints. For each target user, the Pearson Correlation is calculated between them and all other users to measure tweet engagement profile similarity. Specifically, the correlation examines the subset of tweets rated by both user x and user y, comparing their assigned engagement scores  $r_{xs}$  and  $r_{ys}$ . In our Pearson correlation calculation, we omit subtracting the average rating values for  $r_x$  and  $r_y$  for two reasons. First, averaging is typically done to account for user rating biases; however, in our domain user averages do not represent systematic biases. Second, some users have no rating variance (e.g. a user only retweets), causing their average to equal every rating and produce undefined correlation values. By removing averages, we avoid invalid divisions while not needing to correct biases. The raw rating vectors still capture relative tweet engagement differences between users necessary for measuring similarity. Omitting averages retains computational stability without affecting the

utility of the resulting correlations for modeling tweet engagement tendencies. As a consequence, the calculated similarity is not necessarily between -1 and 1.

The most similar users to the target are selected. The tweets those similar users engaged with that the target user did not are extracted. The tweets are scored according to:

$$tweet\ score(t) = sim(x, y) * r_{yt}$$
 (2)

Where  $r_{yt}$  is similar user y's rating of tweet t. The top scoring tweets are recommended to the target user. This personalized recommendation pipeline allows suggesting potentially relevant tweets tailored to users based on those with historically analogous engagement tendencies.

## 3 Results

In this section the target user's tweets, similar users id's, and recommended tweets are shown for 5 different type of users.

#### 3.1 User #1

```
target_user = grouped_rdd.takeSample(False,1,55)[0]
target_user
('1697206791715635200',
[('1710302619371982848',
                         '1736250426230493213
   1710302619371982848',
                          '1736250178363883872
                          '1736249928018764235
   1710302619371982848
                          '1735951927584682444
   1578454116107517962
                          '1736108738921033809
   1633911157755879425
                          '1736287140860829901
   1654409094076268546
   1205723159984574464
                          1736622445505741159
   1654179648761102337
                          1734655981412573264
   1654179648761102337
                          1734657820010991962
                          '1734661707908120774
   1654179648761102337
                          1734661220601352349
   1654179648761102337
   1654179648761102337
                          1734659777710498122
   1654179648761102337
                          1734658201302577473
   1398658879827886085
                          1734656185226424457
   1710302619371982848
                          1734799518305034308
   1710302619371982848
                          1734798971577536976
   1710302619371982848
                          1734798971577536976
   1710302619371982848
                          1734798173476950425
   1697206791715635200
                          1734826498190717030
                          1734531657623859526
   1147519752740491266
   1659343792422395907
                          1734526333823176854
   1489683639180869634
                          1734555309257982198
   1697206791715635200',
                          1734830893259239623
```

Figure 1: Targer user 1

```
target_user_tweets = parsed_rdd.flatMap(lambda x: target_user_tweets_parser(target_user,x))
target_user_tweets.collect()
وصیت نامه یکی از شهدای بزرگوار : خدایا نشود که در زندگی دو دستی به درخت زندگی بچسیم و همچون میره ایی پوسیده بیافتم خدایا تا ایمانی هست مرا برای خود فریاتی")]
/ https://t.co/CzBw8KoKmM لشکر_علویان#nاگمنام_سلّ_مادر#nn/کن
'generated'),
اشکر_علویان#۱۸گفنام_مثل_ملار#۱۸کنند، اینکه قهرمان زندگی چه شخصی باشه در عاقبت بخیری خیلی مهمه/u200cزندگی بر از انتخاب هایی است که مسیر ها رو عوض می')
https://t.co/0gEkchpZ14',
  'generated'),
| https://t.co/JWygiokZzn گفتام مثل مادر #۱۸هامای۷۵۵وداع را ۲له#۱۱هامای۷۵۵ودمور مردم قدر نشاس دیار علویان در مراسم رداع با لاله')
    'generated'),
  , 'https://t.co/1NNoFp1AGe گمنام مثل مادر #n\هاء4000اوداع با لاله#n\دبار علوبان و مردم همیشه در صحفه')
    'generated'),
                      , 'https://t.co/QgF5gIXki9 هاu200cداع با الأله#n\گمنام مثل مادر #n.\.
  ر 'generated'),
"generated'), منت قلمu200c)فیلا باور نمی کرد<sub>ا</sub>ولی بلچشمان خودم می بینم همونلیکه دم از وحدث و برادری می زانندمتکشمانه اینجا علیه مقسات اهل')
ی زنند کوهین می کنند و په آب هم میزنن u200cمنت قلمu200cاقیلا باور نمی کردهٔ ولی بلود المی این میدونید و بلود و بلود رهبری فرزانه مان میدونید وجور از آو
('senerated'),
n\n\مسائر من u200c/اومدی u200دخوش ۱۸\n\مراتبید گذانم سلام')
| https://t.co/w8TdS4BqIM آشکر علویان#۱۸گذام_مثل_مادر#۱۸\<mark>۷</mark> وطن را در آغوش میکند
                                                                                                              و اینک رهروان مکتب حاج قاسم در بابل ،فرزندان خوشنام۱۸\حسته نباتسی یهلوون
  '(generated'),
ر'گنذام مثل مادر #nh هایuz00cلردناع با لاله#nh بری مادر میدهدم\ آمدنت چه آمدنیست که عجب هرای شهرم\ شهید گفتام سلام')
  ً ('generated'),
('https://t.co/zj4jzA9tCG شکر_علویان#nاگمنام_مثل_مادر#h\ فلم خاطرات مردانی که پروای نام ندارند و در کهف گمنامی هممنندn\.. چه زیبامت')
    'generated'),
  , 'گمنام_مثل_مادر#n\لشكر_علويان#n|تو نشان از مادر دارى گمنام بمانn\بخدا گمنام بودن زيباستn\گمنام بُمان شهيد عزيز')
  ( 'h<u>ttps://t.co/io00zwzBgc</u> لشكر_طويان الان ميمدلقى كه #گعذام_مثل_مادر هستندم\هاى حماسه و نفاع مقدس\2000مالهمدلمقى ويژه از سالn\دبار علويان اين روزها مهمان دارد' )
    'generated'),
و'نشکر_علویان#nاگمنام<sub>ر</sub>مثل_مادر#nا..تمهید گمنام مایه برکت برای نظام و باعث وحدت و همدلی میشود
```

Figure 2: Targer user tweets

```
[] similar_users = sorted_similars_rdd.top(20) similar_users

[(1.6035674514745464, '1724483603600486400'), (1.6035674514745464, '1632351425383522312'), (1.6035674514745464, '1487097029990002688'), (1.3416407864998738, '1725652340043100160'), (1.3416407864998738, '1725652340043100160'), (1.3416407864998738, '1725280261300965378'), (1.3416407864998738, '1721135891308007424'), (1.3416407864998738, '1719916251404021760'), (1.3416407864998738, '1719773177503682560'), (1.3416407864998738, '171973177503682560'), (1.3416407864998738, '1719696919692292096'), (1.3416407864998738, '1710302619371982848'), (1.3416407864998738, '1708866964020514816'), (1.3416407864998738, '1704606183858880513'), (1.3416407864998738, '1704531218174251012'), (1.3416407864998738, '1692155672807325699'), (1.3416407864998738, '1692155672807325699'), (1.3416407864998738, '1689309272180482048'), (1.3416407864998738, '1685928050708418560'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'), (1.3416407864998738, '1675154446966312962'),
```

Figure 3: Similar users and corresponding similarity score

Figure 4: Recommended tweets and corresponding tweet score

Figure 5: Recommended tweets

## 3.2 User #2

Figure 6: Targer user 2

Figure 7: Targer user tweets

```
[] similar_users = sorted_similars_rdd.top(20) similar_users

[(1.3416407864998738, '988684923203710976'), (1.3416407864998738, '952463173868818432'), (1.3416407864998738, '951201559597191169'), (1.3416407864998738, '948126072603754496'), (1.3416407864998738, '941220112845164544'), (1.3416407864998738, '919323412195102721'), (1.3416407864998738, '918806712995348480'), (1.3416407864998738, '911453224049164288'), (1.3416407864998738, '901777753833332736'), (1.3416407864998738, '880353064477233152'), (1.3416407864998738, '878382611730751488'), (1.3416407864998738, '878217414323961856'), (1.3416407864998738, '874242781790818305'), (1.3416407864998738, '874242781790818305'), (1.3416407864998738, '8855438360730578946'), (1.3416407864998738, '882564412997402624'), (1.3416407864998738, '819266108351856640'), (1.3416407864998738, '819266108351856640'), (1.3416407864998738, '818514349782405120'), (1.3416407864998738, '818514349782405120'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '818536090998374400'), (1.3416407864998738, '81853400998374400'),
```

Figure 8: Similar users and corresponding similarity score

```
[] recommend_tweets_ids = recomm_tweets_ids[0:20] recommend_tweets_ids

[(4.024922359499621, '1736200632980103386'), (4.024922359499621, '1736571240553283866'), (4.024922359499621, '1736571274892296333'), (4.024922359499621, '1735849256391475619'), (4.024922359499621, '1735849284082303219'), (4.024922359499621, '1735867134490607746'), (4.024922359499621, '1735867134490607746'), (4.024922359499621, '1736663226119512083'), (4.024922359499621, '1736663226119512083'), (4.024922359499621, '1735958921079112138'), (4.024922359499621, '1736703321509892379'), (4.024922359499621, '1736703321509892379'), (4.024922359499621, '173678321509892379'), (4.024922359499621, '17356722218724274318'), (4.024922359499621, '1735648652553560540'), (4.024922359499621, '1735648652553560540'), (4.024922359499621, '17356749514624016488'), (4.024922359499621, '1735674953446736373'), (4.024922359499621, '1735674954925515228')]
```

Figure 9: Recommended tweets and corresponding tweet score

Figure 10: Recommended tweets

## 3.3 User #3

Figure 11: Targer user 3

Figure 12: Targer user tweets

Figure 13: Similar users and corresponding similarity score

Figure 14: Recommended tweets and corresponding tweet score

```
المن المحدود المعالم المعالم
```

Figure 15: Recommended tweets

## 3.4 User #4

Figure 16: Targer user 4

```
[ ] target_user_tweets = parsed_rdd.flatMap(lambda x: target_user_tweets_parser(target_user,x))
        target_user_tweets.collect()
            'generated'),
            زده ۲۵ گوگ اینترنت با ۳ ماه بوتیوب پرمیوم و دینتای نامحدود برای واتساب, پرتیوب, اسیتیبای. همه اینا برای ۳ ماه اول ۱۸۱۸ آفا چرا بسکه های اینترنتی این کنار اینتمر خوین آفت:
ماه*\n#Vodafone https://t.co/xoSKCGtk1k', چرا کو ایران همچنین چیزایی نداریم،\n*yodafone https://t.co/xoSKCGtk1k
'generated'),
          قدم بعدی حتّما خرید یک رونرم۱۸۱ 📵 چورتمی الدرویدم که واقعا وضعیت وخیمی داره رو بعدها میدم تعمیر ولی تا اون موقع به عفوان رونر دارم استفاده موکنم ازش و ُخیلی خوب شدهٔ ')
             generated'),
        برای گوگلn/ولی چرا سیستم پرداخت ایل اینتدررر بی دردسر تر از گوگله/۱۸/۱۸.کلی هم پاییند به قوانین مالی آمریکا هستندم/ایل هم بزرگهم/گوگل بزرگهم/n/من درک نمیکتم این قصیه رو")
همین موردم باعث میشه بازم بخوام این گوشیو نگه/۱۸/م.باید کلی سند و مدرک و آییی رزیننشال جور کنی، ولی ایل میگه فقط پولو بده بهم و به روش پرداخت تو اون کشور داشته باش و تمام
• ایا
          'generated'),
('((: ها، ولی حالا دیگه مجبورم داخل فولدرشم بزنم200cمارک200cکل برک برک Nikolaona')')
          , ((: ها، ولمى حالا ديگه مجبورم داخل فولدرشم بزنم/u200cماركu200cكل بوک Mikolaona')
             replied'),
          اهیدوارم مدت زیادی۱۳۱هگرتیم خیلی خوب باطری نگه میداره و منی که از یک گوشی با اسکرین نایم نهایت ۲ ساعت میام. اینی که کل روز شارز نگه میداره برام خیلی خوشحال کنندس' )
        رو همینطوری بمونه
        ملت از دید آزادی اینترنت و گرون بودنتن موگن که خدب هر دو۱۱۸ اون از دید اقتصادی موگه آفا وضعیت درآمدی خرابه ۱۸ ولی هر باز که مدیرعامل شائل توبیت میزنه ییش حمله موکنن')
و ((((: اینا دست حکومته و نه یک شخص و مدیریتش. دیگه در این حد آزادی نداریم
و ((generated)
        ملت از دید آزادی اینترنت و گرون بودنش میگن که خب هر۱۸مالون از دید اقتصادی موگه آقا وضعیت درآمدی خرابه۱۸.ولی هر بار که مدیرعامل شکل مویلل کربیت میزنه بهش حمله میکنن ؟
ر' ((((: دو اینا دست حکومته و نه یک شخص و مدیریتش. دیگه در این حد آزادی نداریم
         "(generated"), (() فویوای باطری بد دارم۱۱٫یکی بولد یک توضیح عطلی و درست حسابی بده من چطوری این آینون رو نگه دارم که باطریش به فقا نره')
سال با په گوئمی سر کردم که اسکرین یک ۱۱۵(((: فویوای باطری بد دارم۱۱٫یکی بولد یک توضیح عطلی و درست حسابی بده من
و' 📵 این الان په ۷ ساعتی موده خیلی خرکونم۱۱٫نیم ۲
         رېر مستخت ميدا
,('generated')
```

Figure 17: Targer user tweets

Figure 18: Similar users and corresponding similarity score

```
[] recommend_tweets_ids = recomm_tweets_ids[0:20] recommend_tweets_ids

[(4.160251471689219, '1736313883789312092'), (4.160251471689219, '1734302996685582511'), (4.160251471689219, '1736543598210908218'), (4.160251471689219, '1736191078921826671'), (4.160251471689219, '1736194209722352050'), (4.160251471689219, '1736196909767745970'), (4.160251471689219, '1735911029438083239'), (4.160251471689219, '1734100975072207178'), (4.160251471689219, '173451686357782537'), (4.160251471689219, '173451686357782537'), (4.160251471689219, '1734597062904140077'), (4.160251471689219, '1736693297865806316'), (4.160251471689219, '1736693297865806316'), (4.160251471689219, '1736693297865806316'), (4.160251471689219, '1736693297865806316'), (4.160251471689219, '173663108656689410'), (4.160251471689219, '1736321041838879073'), (4.160251471689219, '1736321041838879073'), (4.160251471689219, '1736336769023385988')]
```

Figure 19: Recommended tweets and corresponding tweet score

Figure 20: Recommended tweets

## 3.5 User #5

Figure 21: Targer user 5

Figure 22: Targer user tweets

Figure 23: Similar users and corresponding similarity score

Figure 24: Recommended tweets and corresponding tweet score

Figure 25: Recommended tweets

## 4 Future works

Here are some additional metrics and features that could be incorporated to improve user similarity analysis and tweet recommendations:

#### • Hashtag usage

tracking which hashtags users frequently use can help identify shared topical interests.

Correlating common hashtags can boost similarity.

#### • Tweet entity extraction

extracting mentioned users, links, media, locations etc. can uncover more semantic similarities between users' tweets.

## • Follower/following overlap

users sharing a lot of followers/followings may have closer alignment of interests. The social graph offers useful signals.

#### Tweet timestamp analysis

users tweeting at similar times of day or days of week may have linguistic/interest similarities.

#### • Tweet language modeling

topic models and distributional semantic vectors derived from tweet text can reveal similarities.

#### • Profile metadata

shared descriptors in user profiles like location, website, bio keywords could indicate similarities.

#### • Tweet propagation patterns

how tweets spread can indicate influence and interest similarities between original posters.

## 5 Conclusion

The results verify the proper functionality of the implemented recommender system, which effectively recommends tweets highly similar to a user's related tweets. The system was tested on various users with differing tweet volume, viewpoints, and tweet subjects. In all cases, accurate recommendations were generated, with only a negligible amount of uncorrelated tweets. The implementations were demonstrated for 5 sample users due to resource constraints, but could be scaled up to all users given a more powerful system configuration.

A key advantage of this system is that it can operate in both online and offline settings. When new tweets or users are added, only the affected user recommendation lists need to be efficiently updated while all other users remain unchanged. This allows incorporating new data with minimal computation by incrementally updating tweet scores as needed, rather than in real-time. In summary, the personalized tweet recommendation engine developed provides relevant engagement suggestions by modeling user similarity based on tweet activity patterns. The map-reduce algorithm combined with Pearson correlation user profiling effectively produces customized recommendations. The system's scalability and updatability makes it well-suited for real-world usage on Twitter's firehose of ever-growing data.

#### Is the implemented model online or offline?

Implemented collaborative filtering algorithm is naturally more amenable to online updates:

- User tweet engagement profiles are directly compared via Pearson correlation without a full graph precompute
- New tweets or users can have their profiles appended to the system and correlated against existing ones
- Only correlations involving the new data would need recomputation

So as new tweets come in:

• Their engagements would update related user profiles

• Those user profile changes would incrementally adjust correlations and recommendations

This localized adjustment to impacted user profiles and correlations enables easy assimilation of streaming data.

Additionally, optimization strategies like approximate similarity search techniques could accelerate inbox recommendation generation over growing user bases.

The intrinsic design of profiling users, correlating their behaviors, and making recommendations avoids an upfront graph construction allowing innate online capabilities as data evolves.