**Location-based Collaborative Filtering**

**and Frequent Itemset**

**A Restaurant Recommendation System for Yelp**

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# Abstract

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| --- |
| Before going out for a meal, Yelp has been one of the most popular choices for customers to check for restaurants quality. To help users make better choices, we use techniques and principles of recommendation systems to create an application which makes predictions based on the user similarities. Using Yelp’s dataset, we develop an enhanced collaborative filtering using location as a key criterion for generating recommendations and then extract collaborative and content-based features to identify customer and restaurant profiles. Besides, we also provide frequent itemset references to users subsequently based on their chosen restaurants. We would evaluate our algorithm using Root metrics Mean Squared Error and Mean Absolute Error, we then evaluate and compare the algorithms. Due to limitation of time and resources, our scope of work will be narrowed to businesses within Canada. |

## Keywords

collaborative filtering, frequent itemset, recommendation, location-based, location, Yelp dataset.

# Introduction

As a very popular platform for choosing restaurants, Yelp contains an immense database of reviews, ratings, and other information provided by the community about businesses. Yelp’s restaurant ratings are being becoming a key performance indicator of to access whether a restaurant is successful and popular. However, reading all the reviews and ratings of a single business and compare them with others could take so much time from users. Therefore, we decided to build a recommendation system based on restaurant ratings which could greatly benefit Yelp users and food lovers by removing all the challenges processing a huge amount of data to make an informed choice.

Recommendation systems have been widely implemented in e-commerce websites to recommend and provide customers with suggestive information helping them decide which products to buy. For example, media-services providers, such as Netflix, iTunes and Spotify, utilize recommendation systems to suggest songs, videos, movies to users based on their previous choices and taste. Given this general theme, techniques and principles of recommendation systems as well as taking users’ locations into consideration, we shall create a simple restaurant recommendation app to help Yelp users make quick and better choices

### Related Work

Thanks to the vast amount of information contained in the Yelp dataset, numerous past projects and researches and tried to use it to give food and restaurant recommendations to users. For example, Sumedh Sawant and Gina Pai [1] used the network-based-inference collaborative filtering algorithm to develop a recommendation system on the Yelp Dataset Challenge dataset. Sawant also had another Collaborative Filtering recommendation system project on Yelp dataset using Weighted BiPartite Graph Projection [2]. In addition, with regards to using location for personalized POI recommendations in mobile environments, we found a research paper of done by Tzvetan Horozov, Nitya Narasimhan, Venu Vasudevan [3] proposing GeoWhiz app - a real-world deployment of our restaurant recommender system for location-based points of interest (POI). In this project, we apply collaborative filtering and frequent itemset recommendation methods on restaurants ratings and aims to work on a location-based analysis instead of a nationwide user-based analysis in order to provide suggestions to Yelp restaurants.

# Materials and Methods

## Materials

Our primary dataset is the Yelp's businesses retrieved from [www.kaggle.com/yelp-dataset/yelp-dataset](http://www.kaggle.com/yelp-dataset/yelp-dataset) that contains actual business, user, and users’ review data from North America region. From the original dataset, we extracted business information located in Canada as our predefined scope of work. The Canadian businesses were found using postal codes. The Canadian postal code listing is obtained from Google Fusion Tables at <https://fusiontables.google.com/>. Some basic characteristics of the dataset are summarized as below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Original Dataset** | **Number of entries** |
| * Number of businesses | 192,609 |
| * Number of reviews | 6,685,900 |
| * Number of users | 1,637,138 |
| **Canada** |  |
| * Number of Canadian businesses | 50,644 |
| * Number of Canadian reviews. | 1,063,142 |
| **Canadian Postal Codes** |  |
| * Number of postal codes | 889,320 |

For this project, we combined the review, business and user datasets and picked diverse feature set for developing the machine learning model. The structure of the different datasets was available in individual json files. We co­related the data in the files, joined, denormalized them and extracted the desired features.

## Methods

Recommendation systems use a well-known technique called collaborative filtering when trying to predict the rating of a

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product to a particular user. The general idea behind collaborative filtering is that similar users vote similarly on similar items. Therefore, if similarity is determined between users and items, a potential prediction can be made for the vote of a user for some item."

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The heading of a section should be Georgia 13-point bold, left justified (Heading 1 Style in this template file). Sections should not be numbered.

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Treatment 1 | Treatment 2 |
| Setting A | 125 | 95 |
| Setting B | 85 | 102 |
| Setting C | 98 | 85 |
| Table 1. A Very Nice Table | | |

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With regard to spelling and punctuation, you may use any dialect of English (e.g., British, Canadian, US, etc.) provided this is done consistently. Hyphenation is optional. To ensure suitability for an international audience, please pay attention to the following:

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# REFERENCES (Ensure that all references are fully complete and accurate as per the examples)

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