

# Location Based Restaurants Recommendation System

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**Abstract**—Technology has become an important part of our lives. Reviews play a key role for users in decision making. People are sharing their experiences on products or services in the form of reviews, which enables other users for their decision making. It is hard for the user to go through each review, and it might mislead the user to use a wrong service or a product if he/she goes by the review given by a user with opposite taste. Therefore, we came up with a system which recommends the user depending on his needs.

**Index Terms**—Static Recommendation System, Streaming Recommendation System, Apache Kafka, Apache Zookeeper, Apache Spark, Elasticsearch and kibana

## I. INTRODUCTION

THESE days reviews play vital role in every individual's life. It helps in choosing the best product or service. They have enhanced the probability of buying the right product, going to a good movie, eating at the best restaurant etc. But sometimes they could mislead a user in making a bad choice if he/she has opposite tastes when compared to the user who has written the review. So to overcome this problem we have developed a system, which helps the user in choosing the right restaurant according to his/her requirements.

Our work comprises of two recommendation systems in which, one uses the Static data and other uses the real time streaming data. Both of these systems are discussed in the later sections of this paper.

To withstand the high competition, restaurants try to improve their quality to satisfy their customers. We processed tips data on daily basis through streaming and recommended top restaurants to the user.

Apache Zookeeper, Apache Kafka servers are used to stream our static data, which are discussed in the later sections of this paper. Inverted index have been created in Elasticsearch and visualized using Kibana.

Our systems were experimented on Yelp dataset and the results, future works are also discussed in the later sections. Java, Scala and Python were used for accomplishing the project.

### A. Yelp Dataset

Yelp hosted Academic dataset challenge, which has been used as our dataset, which comprises of business, review, tip, checkin, user information in CSV format.

Business data comprises of City, State, Latitude, Longitude, Business Id, Name, Stars etc. Detailed description and JSON format of the business dataset is shown in Fig. 1[1].

```
business
{
  'type': 'business',
  'business_id': (encrypted business id),
  'name': (business name),
  'neighborhoods': [(hood names)],
  'full_address': (localized address),
  'city': (city),
  'state': (state),
  'latitude': latitude,
  'longitude': longitude,
  'stars': (star rating, rounded to half-stars),
  'review_count': review count,
  'categories': [(localized category names)],
  'open': True / False (corresponds to closed, not business hours),
  'hours': {
    (day_of_week): {
      'open': (HH:MM),
      'close': (HH:MM)
    },
    ...
  },
  'attributes': {
    (attribute_name): (attribute_value),
    ...
  }
}
```

Fig. 1. Business Dataset

Review data comprises of User\_Id, Review\_Id, Stars, Date, Text etc. Detailed description and JSON format of the Review dataset is shown in Fig. 2[1].

```
review
{
  'type': 'review',
  'business_id': (encrypted business id),
  'user_id': (encrypted user id),
  'stars': (star rating, rounded to half-stars),
  'text': (review text),
  'date': (date, formatted like '2012-03-14'),
  'votes': {(vote type): (count)},
}
```

Fig. 2. Review Dataset

Tip dataset comprises of Text, User\_Id, Business\_Id. Detailed description and JSON format of the Tip dataset is shown in Fig. 3[1].

```
tip
{
  'type': 'tip',
  'text': (tip text),
  'business_id': (encrypted business id),
  'user_id': (encrypted user id),
  'date': (date, formatted like '2012-03-14'),
  'likes': (count),
}
```

Fig. 3. Tip Dataset

The data comprises of various businesses reviews and we

have contained ourselves to Restaurants domain. For the convenience of analyzing we have converted the JSON format to CSV files using Python script.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. Apache-Spark [2]

Apache Spark provides programmers with an application programming interface centered on a data structure called the resilient distributed dataset (RDD), a read-only multiset of data items distributed over a cluster of machines, that is maintained in a fault-tolerant way. It was developed in response to limitations in the MapReduce cluster computing paradigm, which forces a particular linear dataflow structure on distributed programs: MapReduce programs read input data from disk, map a function across the data, reduce the results of the map, and store reduction results on disk. Spark's RDDs function as a working set for distributed programs that offers a (deliberately) restricted form of distributed shared memory.

The availability of RDDs facilitates the implementation of both iterative algorithms, that visit their dataset multiple times in a loop, and interactive/exploratory data analysis, i.e., the repeated database-style querying of data. The latency of such applications (compared to Apache Hadoop, a popular MapReduce implementation) may be reduced by several orders of magnitude. Among the class of iterative algorithms are the training algorithms for machine learning systems, which formed the initial impetus for developing Apache Spark.

Apache Spark requires a cluster manager and a distributed storage system. For cluster management, Spark supports standalone (native Spark cluster), Hadoop YARN, or Apache Mesos. For distributed storage, Spark can interface with a wide variety, including Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS), MapR File System (MapR-FS), Cassandra, OpenStack Swift, Amazon S3, Kudu, or a custom solution can be implemented. Spark also supports a pseudo-distributed local mode, usually used only for development or testing purposes, where distributed storage is not required and the local file system can be used instead; in such a scenario, Spark is run on a single machine with one executor per CPU core.

### B. Spark Streaming [2]

Spark Streaming leverages Spark Core's fast scheduling capability to perform streaming analytics. It ingests data in mini-batches and performs RDD transformations on those mini-batches of data. This design enables the same set of application code written for batch analytics to be used in streaming analytics, thus facilitating easy implementation of lambda architecture. However, this convenience comes with the penalty of latency equal to the mini-batch duration. Other streaming data engines that process event by event rather than in mini-batches include Storm and the streaming component of Flink. Spark Streaming has support built-in to consume from Kafka, Flume, Twitter, ZeroMQ, Kinesis, and TCP/IP sockets.

### C. Apache Kafka [3]

Apache Kafka is an open-source stream processing platform developed by the Apache Software Foundation written in Scala and Java. The project aims to provide a unified, high-throughput, low-latency platform for handling real-time data feeds. Its storage layer is essentially a "massively scalable pub/sub message queue architected as a distributed transaction log," making it highly valuable for enterprise infrastructures to process streaming data. Additionally, Kafka connects to external systems (for data import/export) via Kafka Connect and provides Kafka Streams, a Java stream processing library.

### D. Apache Zookeeper [4]

ZooKeeper is a centralized service for maintaining configuration information, naming, providing distributed synchronization, and providing group services. All of these kinds of services are used in some form or another by distributed applications. Each time they are implemented there is a lot of work that goes into fixing the bugs and race conditions that are inevitable. Because of the difficulty of implementing these kinds of services, applications initially usually skimp on them, which make them brittle in the presence of change and difficult to manage. Even when done correctly, different implementations of these services lead to management complexity when the applications are deployed.

### E. Elasticsearch [6]

Elasticsearch is a search engine based on Lucene. It provides a distributed, multitenant-capable full-text search engine with an HTTP web interface and schema-free JSON documents. Elasticsearch is developed in Java and is released as open source under the terms of the Apache License. Official clients are available in Java, .NET (C#), Python, Groovy and many other languages. Elasticsearch is the most popular enterprise search engine followed by Apache Solr, also based on Lucene.

Elasticsearch is developed alongside a data-collection and log-parsing engine called Logstash, and an analytics and visualisation platform called Kibana. The three products are designed for use as an integrated solution, referred to as the "ELK stack".

### F. Kibana [7]

Kibana is an open source data visualization plugin for Elasticsearch. It provides visualization capabilities on top of the content indexed on an Elasticsearch cluster. Users can create bar, line and scatter plots, or pie charts and maps on top of large volumes of data.

The combination of Elasticsearch, Logstash, and Kibana (also known as ELK stack or Elastic stack) is available as products or service. Logstash provides an input stream to Elastic for storage and search, and Kibana accesses the data for visualizations such as dashboards.

### G. MLLib Machine Learning Library [2]

Spark MLLib is a distributed machine learning framework on top of Spark Core that, due in large part to the distributed memory-based Spark architecture, is as much as nine times as fast as the disk-based implementation used by Apache Mahout (according to benchmarks done by the MLLib developers against the Alternating Least Squares (ALS)

implementations, and before Mahout itself gained a Spark interface), and scales better than Vowpal Wabbit. Many common machine learning and statistical algorithms have been implemented and are shipped with MLlib which simplifies large scale machine learning pipelines, including:

- summary statistics, correlations, stratified sampling, hypothesis testing, random data generation
- classification and regression: support vector machines, logistic regression, linear regression, decision trees, naive Bayes classification
- collaborative filtering techniques including alternating least squares (ALS)
- cluster analysis methods including k-means, and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)
- dimensionality reduction techniques such as singular value decomposition (SVD), and principal component analysis (PCA)
- feature extraction and transformation functions
- optimization algorithms such as stochastic gradient descent, limited-memory BFGS (L-BFGS).

### III. STATIC RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

For this system, we planned to recommend the user, top 5 restaurants based on his/her location and preferred food category. For improved results, we planned to build the model only if user has rated at least one of the nearby restaurants

Step 1: Depending on the location of the user, list of nearby restaurants was obtained.

Step 2: Restaurant list is filtered based on the cuisine choice.

Step 3: If user has already rated any of the restaurants in the list from the Step 2, then we built an ALS model using the current user and all users' recent ratings on the list of the restaurants obtained in the Step 2.

Step 4: Predicted the user rating on the list of restaurants obtained.

Step 5: Recommended the top 5 predicted restaurants.

Step 6: If the user hasn't rated any of the restaurants then we have recommended the top 5 rated restaurants nearby.

Steps are shown below:

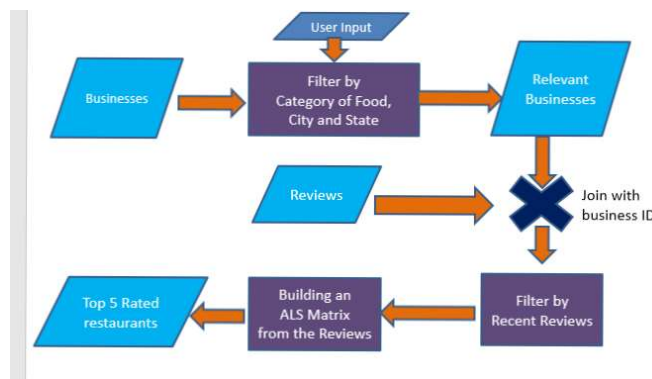


Fig. 3. Static Recommendation System flow chart

System is built on Apache Spark using Scala, results are discussed in later sections.

### IV. STREAMING RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

For coping up with the cut throat competition restaurants work on negative reviews for getting better. For example, if the restaurant which didn't serve better pizza yesterday tries to improve. We wanted to recommend the user depending on the reviews given on the same day, which helps him/her to choose the best restaurant on that day. For our project, we couldn't get the real time streaming data to work on, so we came up with our own Python program using Kafka and Zookeeper servers which streams the customer reviews of the restaurants nearby.

Step 1: Streamed data using Python program and matched the users input with the category attribute of the streamed data.

Step 2: Took the information from the user, depending on the food he/she wants to eat Example: pizza.

Step 3: clustered Restaurant within 10 miles of the user location.

Step 4: Sorted top 5 Restaurant based on the user input and the location.

Step 5: Sending the data to Elasticsearch and visualizing it using Kibana.

Steps are shown in the below flowchart:

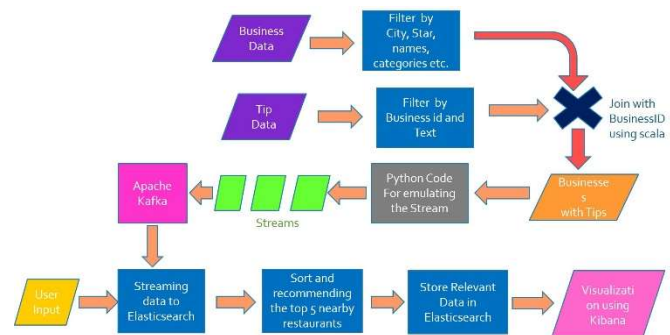


Fig. 4. Streaming Recommendation System flow chart

System is built on Apache Spark using Python, Apache Kafka, Apache Zookeeper Servers, Elasticsearch and Kibana.

### V. RESULTS

Results of the Static Recommendation System is displayed below which consists of top 5 restaurants obtained through ALS model. Restaurant along with the predicted rating is shown.

