

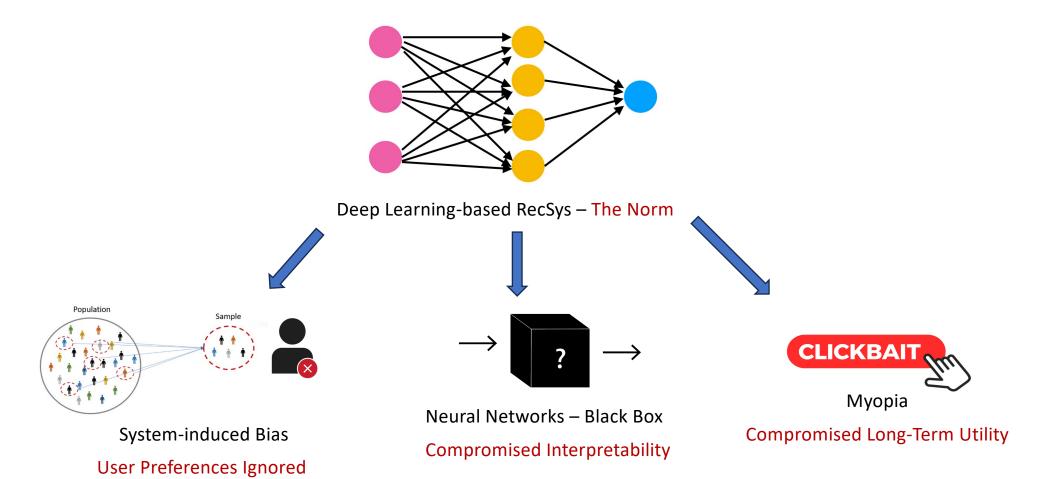
CSCI 566 – Deep Learning and its Applications

Reinforcement Learning for Recommender Systems – Environment Suite

PRANAV PARNERKAR



RL-based RecSys — WHY?

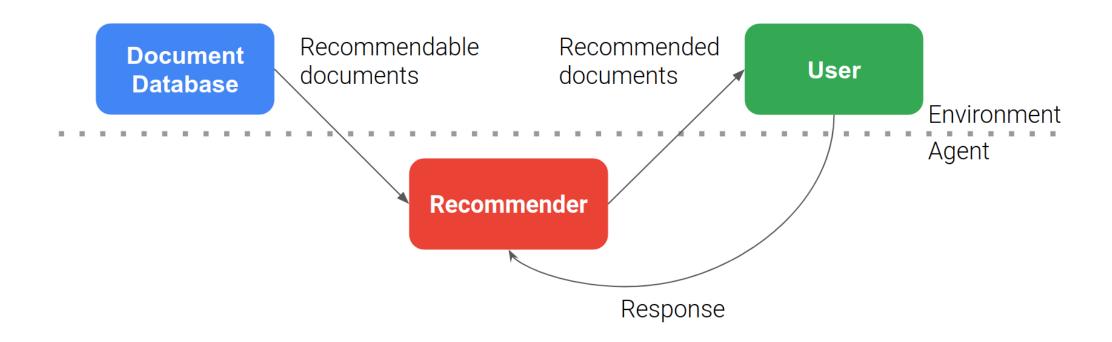


April 26, 2024 CSCI 566 - Spring 2024 2



Problem Statement

- Building an RL-RecSys Environment for Video Recommendations (Netflix/YouTube) Using Google RecSim.
- Benchmarking simple RL agents on developed environment.
- Identifying relevant RL-RecSys challenges/future scope.



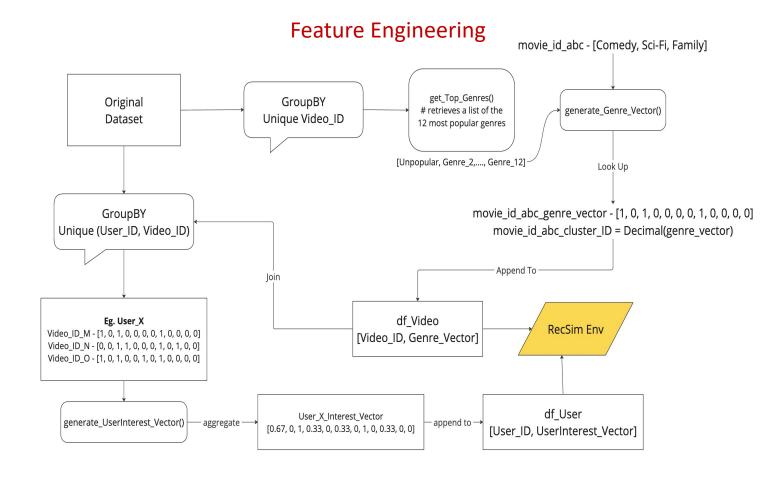


Dataset and Feature Engineering – Netflix Environment

Dataset

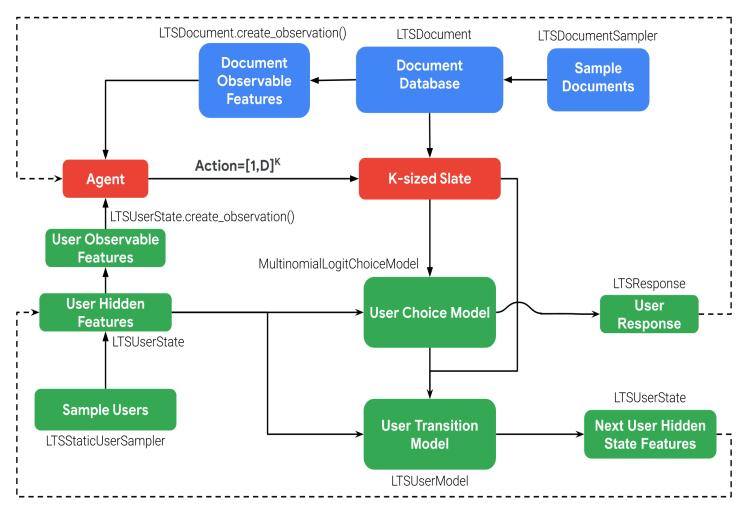
1	datetime	duration	title	genres	release_date	movie_id	user_id
2 583	73 1/1/17 1:15	0	Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging	Comedy, Drama, Romance	7/25/08	26bd5987e8	1dea19f6fe
3 587	74 1/1/17 13:56	0	The Curse of Sleeping Beauty	Fantasy, Horror, Mystery, Thriller	6/2/16	f26ed2675e	544dcbc510
4 58	75 1/1/17 15:17	10530	London Has Fallen	Action, Thriller	3/4/16	f77e500e7a	7cbcc791bf
5 58	76 1/1/17 16:04	49	Vendetta	Action, Drama	6/12/15	c74aec7673	ebf43c36b6
6 58	77 1/1/17 19:16	0	The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie	Animation, Action, Adventure, Comedy, Far	11/19/04	a80d6fc2aa	a57c992287
7 58	78 1/1/17 19:21	. 0	London Has Fallen	Action, Thriller	3/4/16	f77e500e7a	c5bf4f3f57
8 58	79 1/1/17 19:43	4903	The Water Diviner	Drama, History, War	12/26/14	7165c2fc94	8e1be40e32
9 58	80 1/1/17 19:44	. 0	Angel of Christmas	Comedy, Romance	11/29/15	b2f02f2689	892a51dee1
10 58	81 1/1/17 19:46	3845	Ratter	Drama, Horror, Thriller	2/12/16	c39aae36c3	cff8ea652a
11 58	82 1/1/17 20:27	0	The Book of Life	Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fa	10/17/14	97183b9136	bf53608c70

Netflix Audience Behavior Dataset – UK movies by Vod Clickstream et al. – Hosted on Kaggle [https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/vodclickstre am/netflix-audience-behaviour-uk-movies]





Technical Details – RecSim Environment Development



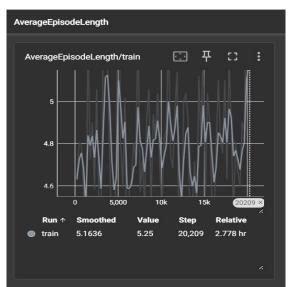
Salient Features

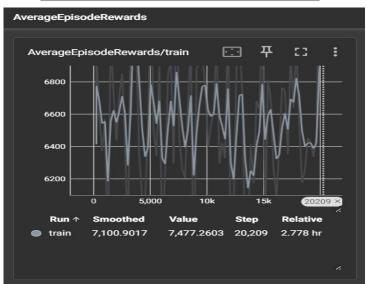
- Relevance Score = (UserInterest_Vector) . (Video_Genre_Vector)
- Choice model → Softmax(Relevance Score)
- Updates:
 - (Time Budget Watch Time)
 - Evolving interests Update(UserInterest_Vector) based on Selection
- Increase(Time Budget) based on Diversity(Recommendation)
- Reward Watch Time(Clicked Video)
- Trade off for longer sessions Right balance b/w
 Diversity(Recommendation) & Relevance(Recommendation)

Benchmarking Agents – Random, Greedy, DQN

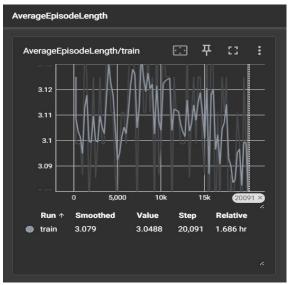
USC Viterbi School of Engineering Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science

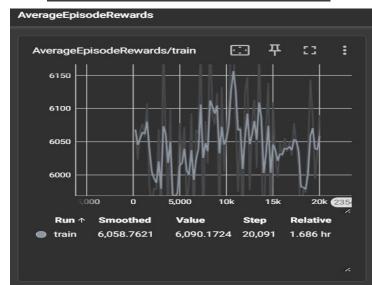
Random



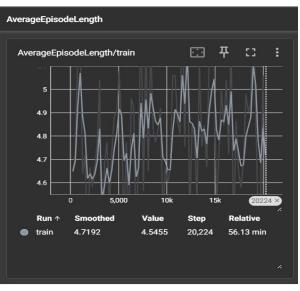


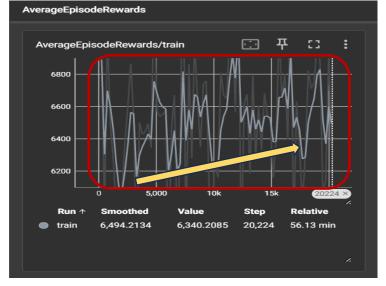
Greedy





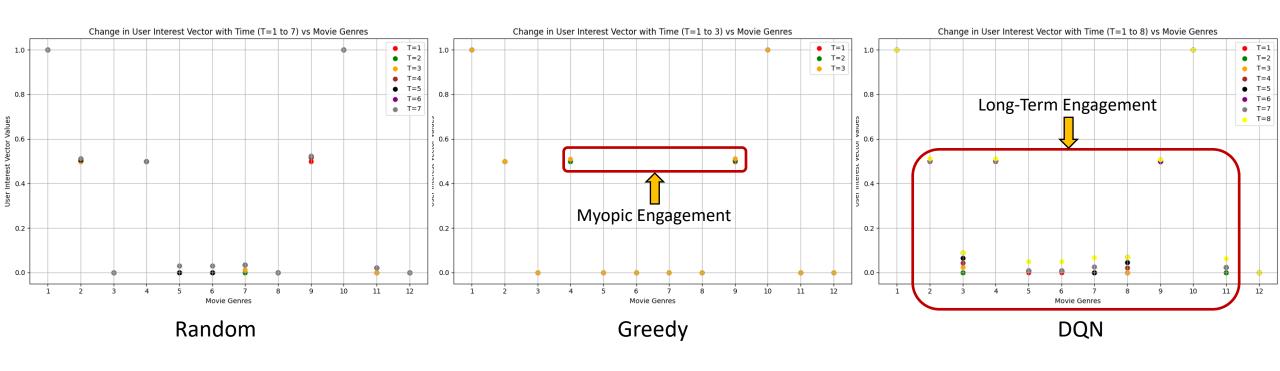
QN







Benchmarking Agents – Random, Greedy, DQN





Challenges	Future Scope		
a. Feature Ingestion	a. Development of data ingestion modules for RecSim.		
b. Exploration vs Exploitation - Environment Design & Tuning	b. AutoRL-based Tuning		
c. Scalability1. Handling larger datasets/online data2. Training - Time/Compute	 c. Rapid evolution of formal libraries, offering enhanced plug-n-play functionalities. 1. Richer/Refined Data Sources 2. Matured GPU-enabled training infrastructure for RecSim. 		



