

Introduction to Recommender Systems

Assignment 1

1. Problem 1

We have a linear model that gives us score for every pair of user and item:

$$r(\text{user}, \text{item}) = \theta x_{(\text{user}, \text{item})} + \epsilon \quad (1)$$

If we suppose that item's and user's features can be collected independently:

$$r(\text{user}, \text{item}) = \theta_u x_u + \theta_i x_i + \epsilon \quad (2)$$

Where θ_u and θ_i are user's and item's parameters and x_u , x_i are user's and item's features respectively.

Personalization task becomes:

$$\text{toprec}(u, n) = \arg\max_i^n r(u, i) = \arg\max_i^n (\theta_u x_u + \theta_i x_i + \epsilon) = \arg\max_i^n (\theta_u x_u + \theta_i x_i) = \quad (3)$$

$$= \arg\max_i^n (\theta_i x_i) \quad (4)$$

First we drop the noise ϵ since it does not depend on user or item, and then we drop the term corresponding to the user's features because it does not affect the $\arg\max$ taken over all the items. As we can see our $\text{toprec}(u, n)$ does not actually depend on user u .

2. Problem 2

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_U \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_V \quad (5)$$

V corresponds to items in some latent space. Recommendations are defined by an orthogonal projection of a user's preferences p onto the latent features space of items:

$$r = V^T V p \quad (6)$$

However, since for 3 given users their items do not intersect we can not give them any new personal recommendations.