3. K-Nearest Neighbor Method

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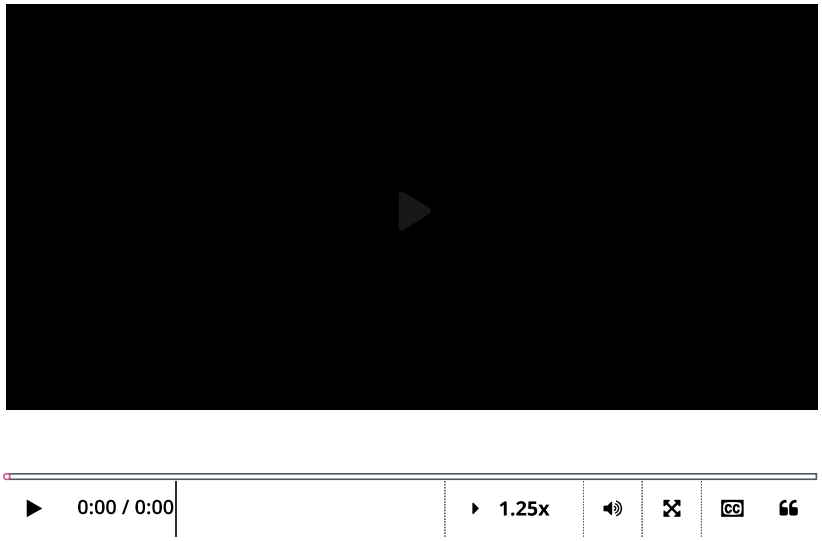

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Our goal in the movie recommender system problem is to predict the movie ranking that a user would give on a movie that (s)he has not seen.

Let m be the number of movies and n the number of users. The ranking Y_{ai} of a movie $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ by a user $a \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ may already exist or not. Our goal is to predict Y_{ai} in the case when Y_{ai} does not exist.

K-Nearest Neighbour

The K-Nearest Neighbor method makes use of ratings by K other "similar" users when predicting Y_{ai}.

Let $\mathrm{KNN}(a)$ be the set of K users "similar to" user a, and let $\mathrm{sim}(a, b)$ be a **similarity measure** between users a and $b \in \mathrm{KNN}(a)$. The K-Nearest Neighbor method predicts a ranking Y_{ai} to be :

$$\widehat{Y}_{ai} = \frac{\sum_{b \in \mathrm{KNN}(a)} \mathrm{sim}(a, b)\, Y_{bi}}{\sum_{b \in \mathrm{KNN}(a)} \mathrm{sim}(a, b)}.$$

The similarity measure $\mathrm{sim}(a, b)$ could be any distance function between the feature vectors x_a and x_b of users a and b, e.g. the euclidean distance $\|x_a - x_b\|$ and the cosine similarity $\cos\theta = \frac{x_a \cdot x_b}{\|x_a\|\,\|x_b\|}$. We will use these similarity measures again in *Unit 4 Unsupervised Learning*.

A drawback of this method is that the success of the K-Nearest Neighbor method depends heavily on the choice of the similarity measure. In the next section, we will discuss collaborative filtering, which will free us from the need to define a good similarity measure.

Discussion

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?	How do we choose the movies for which the similarity scores are calculated? Since most of the values of the matrix are not available how do we select the movies that we will take into account for similarity scores? ...	2
?	[STAFF] Is there any archive with full set of lectures of Regina Barzilay? It is really annoying to hear again and again the words, "...as I told you before...", "...as we saw for similar problems..." and so on. It is felt...	6

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