

PES UNIVERSITY RR CAMPUS ALGORITHMS FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND INTELLIGENT WEB UE20CS332 - REPORT

ASSIGNMENT: 2

TITLE: Implementing a Recommender system.

CORPUS: Steam games Dataset.

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT:

A recommender system is an information filtering system that predicts and suggests items to users based on their past behavior and preferences. To implement a recommender system, you will need to choose a relevant corpus, which is a collection of documents or text that can be used for analysis.

Tasks:

- 1. Perform EDA on the data: The first step in implementing a recommender system is to perform exploratory data analysis (EDA) on the dataset. EDA helps to understand the structure and features of the data. You can use techniques such as data visualization, summary statistics, and correlation analysis to explore the data.
- 2. Preprocess the data: After performing EDA, the next step is to preprocess the data. Preprocessing involves cleaning and transforming the data into a format suitable for analysis. This may involve tasks such as removing duplicates, handling missing values, and tokenizing the text data.

- 3. Use neighborhood-based or model-based collaborative filtering for recommendation: Collaborative filtering is a technique used in recommender systems to predict user preferences by analyzing their past behavior and comparing it with that of similar users. Neighborhood-based collaborative filtering involves finding similar users and recommending items that they have liked. Model-based collaborative filtering involves building a model that can predict user preferences based on features such as item attributes and user demographics.
- 4. Content-based recommendation: Content-based recommendation is another technique used in recommender systems. It involves analyzing the features of items and recommending items that are similar to those that a user has liked in the past.
- 5. Analyze the results: After implementing the recommender system, you will need to analyze the results to determine its effectiveness. You can use techniques such as A/B testing and user surveys to evaluate the system's performance.

6. Use suitable evaluation metrics: To evaluate the performance of the recommender system, you will need to use suitable evaluation metrics such as precision, recall, and F1 score. These metrics help to measure the system's accuracy and effectiveness in recommending relevant items to users.

In conclusion, implementing a recommender system involves performing EDA, preprocessing the data, choosing a suitable recommendation technique such as neighborhood-based or model-based collaborative filtering, content-based recommendation, analyzing the results, and using suitable evaluation metrics to evaluate the system's performance.

2. INTRODUCTION:

The video game industry has experienced exponential growth in recent years, with the availability of online platforms making it easier for gamers to access a wide range of titles. However, with so many options available, it can be challenging for users to discover new games that align with their interests. This is where a recommender system can prove to be invaluable. In this project, we will explore the use of collaborative filtering and content-based recommendation methods to build a game recommendation system using the Steam dataset. Additionally, we will perform an analysis of the popularity of different game

genres to gain insights into user preferences. Finally, we will evaluate the effectiveness of our recommender system using various metrics, including MAP, MAR, coverage, and novelty, and compare it to random and popularity-based recommenders. Overall, this project aims to provide a useful tool for gamers to discover new titles and enhance their gaming experience.

3. DATASET DESCRIPTION:

The dataset we are using is called "Game Recommendations on Steam," and it contains information related to video games on the Steam platform, including user data, game data, and interactions between users and games. The dataset includes three files:

1. **games.csv**: The file contains information about games and add-ons available on steam.

We have nearly 60k rows in this file.

It has column header as:

- 1. app_id: which has the id number of a product
- 2. **title**: product title is the second column which has the name of the product.
- 3. **date_release**: product release data is the third column which has information about the release date of that product(mean Game).

- 4. **Win**: Support windows which tells which operating system the product (Game) works fine. It is just a binary classification which is true or false.
- 5. **Mac**: Support MacOS which tells which operating system the product (Game) works fine. It is just a binary classification which is true or false.
- 6. **Linux**: Support Linux which tells which operating system the product (Game) works fine. It is just a binary classification which is true or false.
- 7. **rating**: Product Rating Category is the column where it tells about the rating the user has given to that particular product (Game). Here the rating will be in three different categories: Very positive, positive and Other.
- 8. **positive_ratio**: Ratio of positive feedback contains what is the ratio of users given positive feedback.
- user_reviews: Amount of user left means the user who has left/ uninstalled the product.
- 10. **price_final**: Final price in US dollar \$.

2. users.csv: The file contains about the users registered on stream.

The file has three columns that is user_id, products and reviews and it has 6.17M rows.

- 1. user id: User's auto-generated ID.
- 2. products: Number of products in the user's library.
- 3. reviews: Number of reviews published
- **3. recommendation.csv:** The file contains eight columns with 10M rows.

It has user reviews with product Id to user Id relations.

The file has column header as:

- 1. app_id: Native product Id on Steam.
- 2. **helpful**: how many users found a recommendation helpful.
- 3. **funny**: how many users found a recommendation funny.
- 4. date: Date of publishing.
- 5. **is_recommended**: Is the user recommending the product?
- 6. **hours**: How many hours played by the user.
- 7. user_id: User's auto-generated ID.
- 8. **review_id**: User's review auto-generated ID.

The dataset contains cleaned and preprocessed 10M+ samples of user recommendations (reviews) from a Steam Store - a leading online platform for purchasing and downloading video games, DLC, and other gaming-related content. Additionally, it contains detailed information about games and add-ons.

Overall, this dataset provides a rich source of data for building a game recommendation system on the Steam platform using various techniques such as collaborative filtering, contentbased filtering, and hybrid methods.

Acknowledgements:

The dataset was collected from the Steam Official Store. All rights on the dataset thumbnail image belong to the Valve Corporation.

Inspiration:

Use this dataset to practice building a game recommendation system or performing an Exploratory Data Analysis on products from a Steam Store.

4. EDA (EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS):

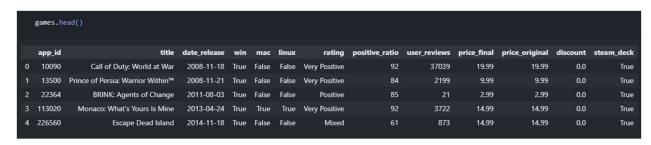
In this phase we are doing various analysis on the steam games dataset we have downloaded.

At first, we append the metadata of this dataset with the existing dataset to get a dataframe. After that, these are the number of samples :-

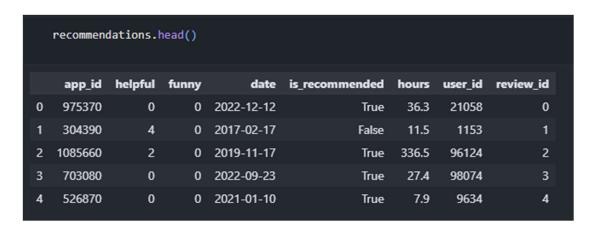


These are the tables with their data

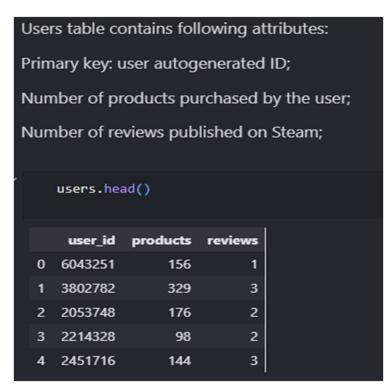
Games table :-



Recommendations table:-



Users table:-



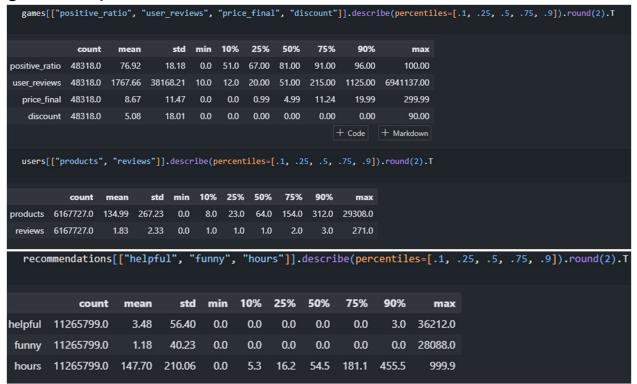
We also confirmed that, there are no missing values in any of the tables.

Dataframe	% of missing values
Recommendations	0.000000
Users	0.000000
Games	0.000000

Now let us move on to the statistics:-

Base statistics

Before we proceed with the key investigations, we need to get descriptive statistics on numerical data.



Popularity Analysis:

In this analysis we will define "popular" as games having a high number of user reviews. So, games with higher number of reviews means it is much more popular than games with lower number of user reviews.

1. Top 10 popular games of 2022 with positive reviews

First, filtering games which were released in 2022 and have a positive_ratio more than 90. Then sorting the data by user_reviews and positive_ratio in descending order to get popular games that people liked the most.

	title	user_reviews	positive_ratio
9226	ELDEN RING	481754	91
3591	Raft	218598	93
2668	Vampire Survivors	175903	98
1351	Stray	101109	97
6587	God of War	65968	97
13119	Teardown	60815	96
12167	Marvel's Spider-Man Remastered	41232	96
7964	Cult of the Lamb	40135	93
8307	PowerWash Simulator	29465	97
10731	LEGO® Star Wars™: The Skywalker Saga	28451	92

2. Top 10 popular games of 2022 with mixed or lower reviews

Filtering data which has positive_ratio less than 70 and sorting by user_reviews and positive_ratio columns.

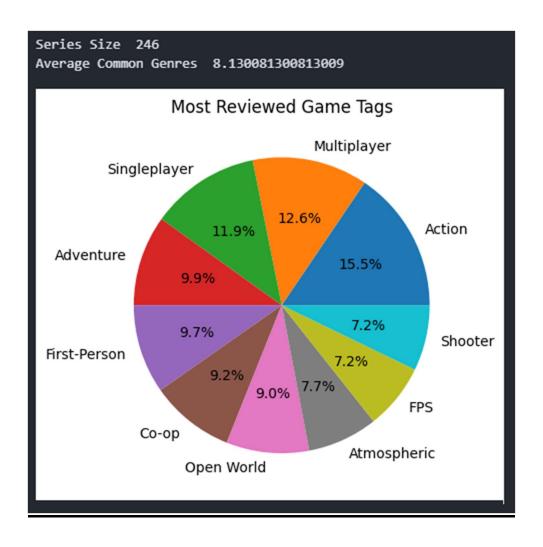
	title	user_reviews	positive_ratio
16364	Call of Duty®: Modern Warfare® II	316804	62
38840	Mirror 2: Project X	110981	26
2112	EA SPORTS™ FIFA 23	67263	50
12660	Warhammer 40000: Darktide	54741	54
19737	World War 3	49594	54
20602	The Cycle: Frontier	39025	61
393	Dread Hunger	38500	61
10539	The Callisto Protocol™	21737	62
28674	Call of Duty®: Warzone™ 2.0	19770	34
14964	Victoria 3	19223	67
			ĵ

3. Top 10 popular games of 2022 among mac apple users

Filtering data that was released in 2022, has positive_ratio more than 90 and are available for mac users.

	title	user_reviews	positive_ratio
2668	Vampire Survivors	175903	98
7964	Cult of the Lamb	40135	93
2773	NEEDY STREAMER OVERLOAD	19517	95
18158	20 Minutes Till Dawn	18493	92
4267	The Stanley Parable: Ultra Deluxe	18171	94
17732	Stacklands	16917	96
3820	Rogue Legacy 2	11679	90
10504	Quaver	11567	92
28789	The Looker	10889	97
17413	Soulstone Survivors	8873	91

Genre Popularity Analysis:

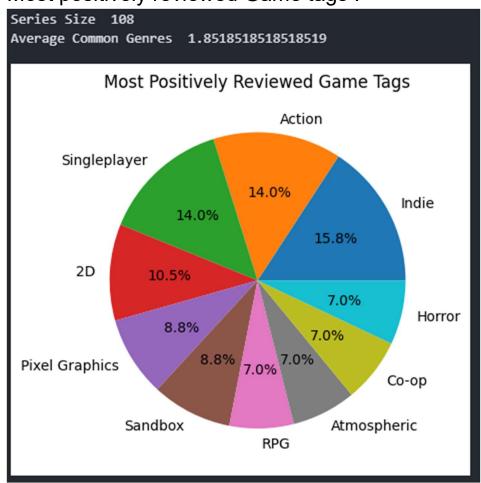


Based on this, we can see that some of the most popular games share common tags. However, some of these tags seem like they are very similar, things like Multiplayer, Coop, and Online Co-op are three tags that one game could have. Some insights that we can find from this list is that Action is the most popular genre, with other notable tags such as Adventure, Simulation, FPS, RPG, and Strategy. Some of these tags describe features in a game rather than a genre, popular features seem to be Multiplayer, Open World, and First Person Shooter (FPS). The amount of multiplayer and singleplayer games are very close to being

even, therefore it does not seem like there is a strong preference between one or the other.

This list does have some flaws however. This list of games was gathered based on the amount of reviews a game has, whether the reviews were positive or not had no bearing. Now it could be worthwhile looking at some of the most positively reviewed games and comparing their tags to the most common ones that we have found here.





Now we find a very interesting result. After taking the most positively reviewed games, the common tags look very different from before. We see now that instead of Action,

Indie is the most popular tag on this list. Action is still a close second. We also see that singleplayer is more common now than multiplayer. New tags that were previously not as significant in the larger list, such as 2D, Pixel Graphics, Horror, Building, and Roguelike. From this we can see that indie games perform extremely well when they focus on creating a strong single player experience, with some of the other tags mentioned in the graph such as Sandbox and RPG. On the other hand, larger studios will have more success with making a game that is either singleplayer or multiplayer and it has elements which would make it an Adventure, FPS, and Open World.

5. PREPROCESSING AND HANDLING DOMAIN CHALLENGE:

As far as the preprocessing is concerned, the dataset is precleaned with all the irrelevant words not present and null words not present.

Some of the other preprocessing done were, converting the dataset to dataframe, converting some member objects to the respective data type, etc...

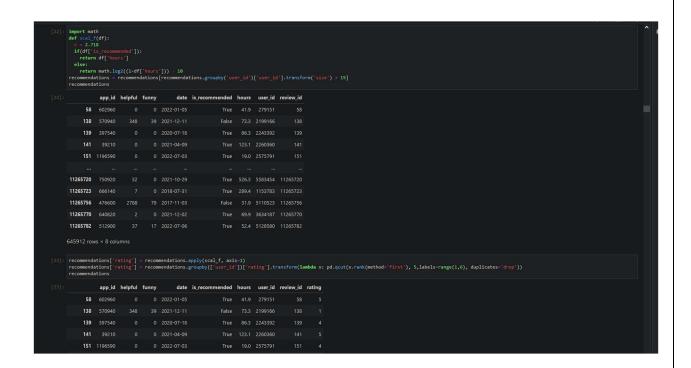
Also, not all the data were loaded, but a subset in it is taken to accommodate the system requirements.

Thus, we begin by reading a CSV file containing recommendations. Then, we filter the recommendations based on the number of times a user has recommended an item. If a user has recommended an item less than 15 times, the recommendation is removed from the data.

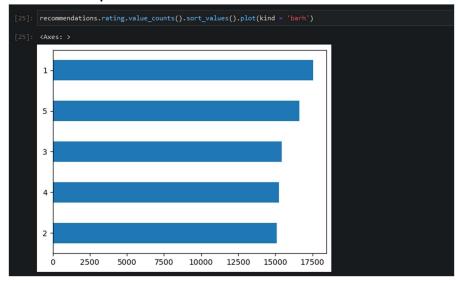
Since the data is merely recommended = True/False, using this directly will lead to suboptimal results. For example, a person who played 1000/2000 hours of a game recommending against it should not be taken as negatively as a person recommending against it after 1 hour. Similarly, a person playing a game for 1000 hours should be taken as a higher positive recommendation than one playing for simply 1 or 2 hours.

Thus, a scaling function is defined and applied to each recommendation. This function scales the rating of each recommendation based on the number of hours played by the user. If the user has recommended an item, the rating is simply the number of hours played. If the user has not recommended an item, the rating is calculated using a logarithmic function.

After this, the data is transformed using a quantile cut to assign each rating to one of five labels, based on their rank within their user_id group.



This is the distribution of ratings after the transformation, which is even as expected.



The slight bias towards ratings 1 and 5 can be explained by the law of extremes: people who really dislike a game are more likely to vent their anger/annoyance by posting a bad review. Similar for

people who really like a game, this accounts for the relative increase in the amount of 1 or 5 reviews.

6. METHODOLOGY (NEIGHBORHOOD BASED OR MODEL BASED COLLABORATIVE FILTERING) :-

Collaborative filtering is a technique used by recommender systems to recommend items to users based on their similarities with other users. Neighborhood-based collaborative filtering is a type of collaborative filtering that uses similarities between items or users to make recommendations. In this approach, the system identifies similar items or users to the target user, and recommends items that are liked by similar users or items.

The KNNWithMeans class is a subclass of SymmetricAlgo that implements a basic collaborative filtering algorithm, taking into account the mean ratings of each user.

Finally, the KNNWithMeans class is defined, which is a neighborhood-based collaborative filtering algorithm. This class defines a fit() method, which computes similarities between items or users, and an estimate() method, which uses these similarities to make recommendations for a given user. The algorithm computes the weighted average of ratings from k similar users to recommend items to the target user.

7. RESULTS FOR COLLABORATIVE FILTERING:

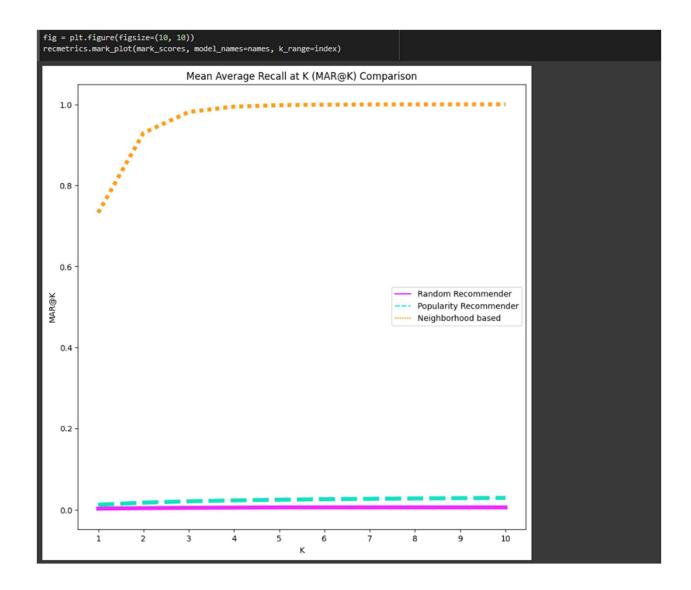
A collaborative filtering algorithm, taking into account the mean ratings of each user

> k Nearest ,i.e,games most similar to that of the game (argument passed by the user) the user needs.

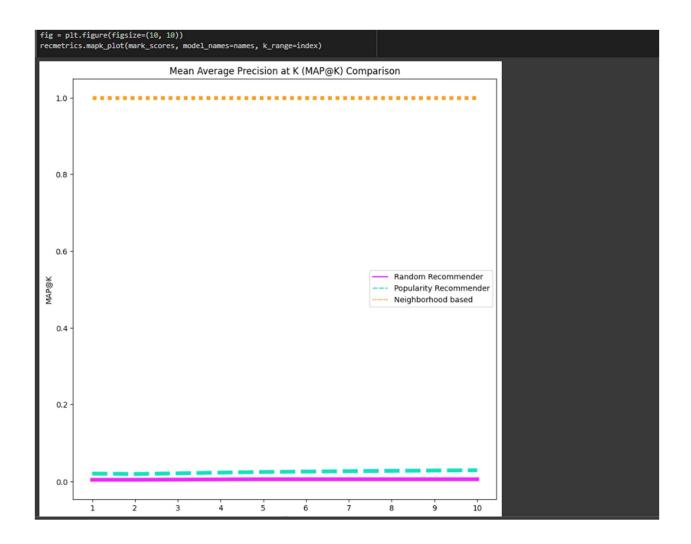
```
print k nearest apps(recommendations, games, 'Rust')
Estimating biases using als...
Computing the pearson_baseline similarity matrix...
Done computing similarity matrix.
The 10 nearest neighbors of Rust are:
Grand Theft Auto V
Space Engineers
VRChat
BeamNG.drive
RimWorld
Metro Exodus
Red Dead Redemption 2
Call of Duty®: Black Ops III
The Witcher® 3: Wild Hunt
Call of Duty®: Modern Warfare® II
print_k_nearest_apps(recommendations, games, 'Team Fortress 2')
Estimating biases using als...
Computing the pearson_baseline similarity matrix...
Done computing similarity matrix.
The 10 nearest neighbors of Team Fortress 2 are:
Borderlands 2
Stellaris
Killing Floor 2
Grand Theft Auto IV: The Complete Edition
Sonic Adventure 2
Shadow of the Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition
Chicken Invaders Universe
Slime Rancher
Call of Duty®: Modern Warfare® 3
Friday the 13th: The Game
```

8. EVALUATION METRICS for NEIGHBORHOOD BASED COLLABORATIVE FILTERING:

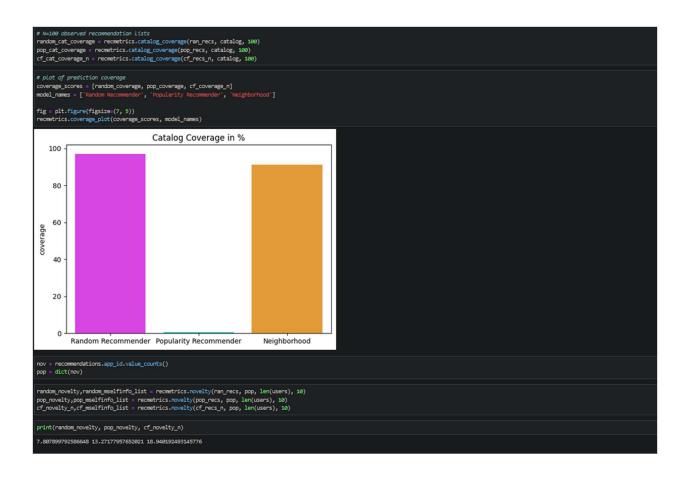
> We have Performed Mean Average Recall Calculation on a Random Recommender system, a Popularity recommender system and our neighborhood based recommender model.



> We have also Performed Mean Average Precision Calculation on a Random Recommender system, a Popularity recommender system and our neighborhood based recommender model



Calculation for coverage(percentage of items that are recommended by the system) and novelty(a measure of newness or distinctness) is done for the same.



As expected a random recommender achieves near 100% coverage since it recommends anything regardless of any measure. Popularity based recommender just recommends the most popular 10 to everyone so it suffers. Our model achieves a good score on this metric, nearly 90% coverage.

For reference:

Random recommender: recommends a random sample of apps

Popularity: Always recommend the top k items in terms of occurrences

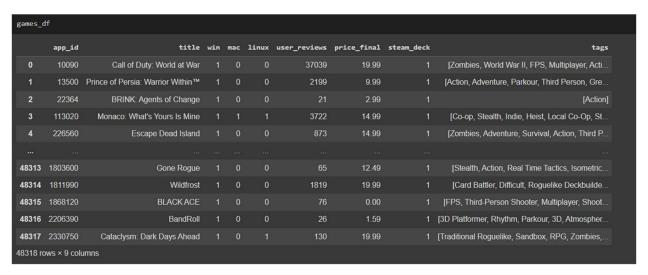
Neighborhood based: Our KNN model, collaborative

9. CONTENT BASED FILTERING:

Content-based filtering is a type of recommendation system that uses the attributes or features of an item to recommend other similar items to users. In content-based filtering, the system learns the user's preferences based on their interactions with items and then recommends similar items that match those preferences.

In the context of Steam games dataset, content-based filtering recommends games to users based on the attributes or features of the games.

> Screenshot of the games dataframe:



> We Totally have 441 genre Labels.

> Dimensions of our game features cosine similarity matrix: (48318, 48318)

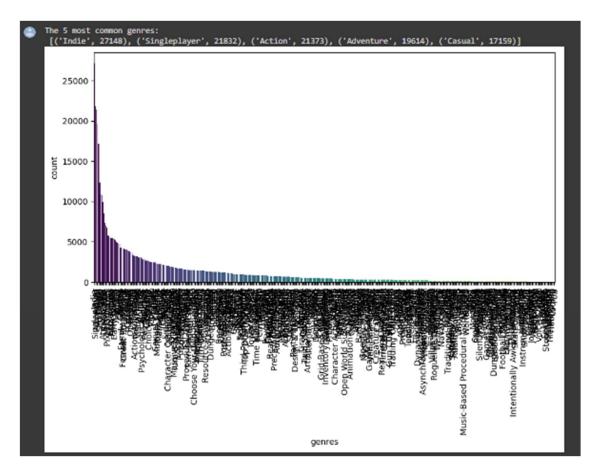
```
from sklearn.metrics.pairwise import cosine_similarity
tmp = games_df.drop(columns=['app_id', 'title'], axis=1)
cosine_sim = cosine_similarity(tmp, tmp)
print(f"Dimensions of our game features cosine similarity matrix: {cosine_sim.shape}")

Dimensions of our game features cosine similarity matrix: (48318, 48318)
```

10. RESULTS FOR CONTENT FILTERING:

Printing the 5 most common game genres:

• 'Indie','Singleplayer', 'Action','Adventure','Casual' are the top 5 most common game genres according our analysis



Final Result:

- The First Argument passed through the get_recs function is the number of recommendations the user would like to receive.
- The Second Argument is the app_id of the game the person likes.

```
get_recs(10, 1)
get_recs(4, 300)
Because you liked 1
                    Prince of Persia: Warrior Within™
Name: title, dtype: object:
                    Prince of Persia: Warrior Within™
                              BRINK: Agents of Change
                                   Escape Dead Island
                                        METAL SLUG 3
                         Mount & Blade II: Bannerlord
     Men of War: Assault Squad 2 - Deluxe Edition u...
           Hyperdimension Neptunia Re;Birth1
10
                               The Sum of All Fears
                                         Cold Fear™
                        LEGO® Harry Potter: Years 1-4
Name: title, dtype: object
Because you liked 300 The Witch & The 66 Mushrooms
Name: title, dtype: object:
    Prince of Persia: Warrior Within™
            BRINK: Agents of Change
                   Escape Dead Island
                        METAL SLUG 3
Name: title, dtype: object
```

11. Hybrid Recommender System:

This Hybrid Recommender model allows the users to provide their game genre, price range, and OS preferences, and generates initial recommendations using content-based filtering.

Collaborative filtering is then used to refine the recommendations based on the user's further preferences and likings.

This approach provides more personalized and relevant recommendations to users.

```
| Restance | Accordance | Accor
```

```
class HybridModel(SymmetricAlgo):
     def __init__(self, k=40, min_k=1, sim_options={}, verbose=True, **kwargs):
          Symmetric Algo.\_init\_(self, sim\_options=sim\_options, verbose=verbose, \\ \\ ^{**}kwargs)
          self.min_k = min_k
self.liked = []
     def fit(self, trainset):
          SymmetricAlgo.fit(self, trainset)
self.sim = self.compute_similarities()
          return self
         "msd": sim_p,
}
          if self.sim_options["user_based"]:
    n_x, yr = self.trainset.n_users, self.trainset.ir
          else:
          min_support = self.sim_options.get("min_support", 1)
          args = [n_x, yr, min_support]
          name = self.sim_options.get("name", "msd").lower()
if name == "pearson_baseline":
               shrinkage = self.sim_options.get("shrinkage", 100)
bu, bi = self.compute_baselines()
                args += [self.trainset.global_mean, bx, by, shrinkage]
          try:
    if getattr(self, "verbose", False):
        print(f"Computing the {name} similarity matrix...")
               print(f"Computing the {name} simi
sim = construction_func[name](*args)
              if getattr(self, "verbose", False):
    print("Done computing similarity matrix.")
return sim
                raise NameError(
                    "Arong sim name"
+ name
+ ". Allowed values "
+ "are" ".join(construction_func.keys())
+ "."
           if not (self.trainset.knows_user(u) and self.trainset.knows_item(i)):
```

```
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process of the state of play to natural transport for the state of the
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| Cont., cont.,
```

```
| Contact | Cont
```

```
algo.mid_line(1)
cont, cont = real_tem_mant(gener.line(gener.leg_idi.izin(n_id)))
print(frow from recommendation wer )

for 1 in get_fract_met_delay, n_id():
    # print(cont[1)
    # pr
```

12. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our analysis of the Steam game dataset has led to the implementation of several recommendation models that can be used to personalize game recommendations for users. We started by performing exploratory data analysis on the dataset, which helped us understand the distribution of features and identify potential issues in the data. We then performed pre-processing on the dataset, which included cleaning and transforming the data into a format that could be used for analysis.

Next, we implemented three different recommendation models on the dataset: content-based filtering, collaborative-based filtering, and a hybrid recommender system. The content-based filtering model used the attributes of games to recommend similar games to users, while the collaborative-based filtering model used user-item interactions to make recommendations. The hybrid recommender system combined the strengths of both models to provide more personalized recommendations.

Overall, our analysis and implementation of different recommender models on the Steam game dataset have shown the potential of using recommendation systems to personalize game recommendations for users. Our models can help improve the user experience on the platform by providing tailored recommendations and promoting game discovery. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of increasing the diversity of recommendations and addressing the coldstart problem for new users.