

Content Based Recommendations and Collaborative Filtering (*Documentation*)

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Abstract - In this paper we'll represent two techniques used by recommender systems in E-Shop. A recommender system or a recommendation system is a subclass of information filtering system that seeks to predict the desired item which user would like to buy.

Content-based recommendation system tries to recommend items similar to those a given user has liked in the past. Indeed, the basic process performed by a content-based recommender consists in matching up the attributes of a user profile in which preferences and interests are stored.

Collaborative filtering is a technique used by recommender systems. It is a method of making automatic predictions about the interests of the user by collecting preferences or taste information from many users.

I. Introduction

Recommender Systems (RSs) are software tools and techniques providing suggestions for items to be of use to a user. The suggestions relate to various decision-making processes, such as what items to buy, what music to listen or what online news to read.

In this context "Item" is the general term used to denote what the system

recommends to users (like some product, or news article).

RSs are primarily directed towards individuals who lack sufficient personal experience or competence to evaluate the potentially overwhelming number of alternative items that given Web site has to offer. In the simplest form, personalized recommendations are offered as ranked lists of items. In performing this ranking, RSs try to predict what the most suitable products are, based on the user's preferences and constraints. Preference can be almost anything, example is simple navigation to particular product page.

RSs development initiated from a rather simple observation: individuals often rely on recommendations provided by others in making routine, daily decisions. For example it is common to rely on what one's peer recommends when selecting a book to read.

As e-commerce Web sites began to develop, a pressing need emerged for providing recommendations derived from filtering

the whole range of available alternatives.

Users were finding it very difficult to arrive at the most appropriate choices from the immense variety of items (products and services) that these Web sites were offering.

RSs have proved in recent years to be a valuable means for coping with the information overload problem. Ultimately a RS addresses this phenomenon by pointing a user towards new, not-yet-experienced items that may be

relevant to the user's current task. Upon a user's request, which can be articulated, depending on the recommendation approach, by the user's context and need, RSs generate recommendations using various types of knowledge and data about users, the available items, and previous transactions stored in customized databases. The user can then browse the recommendations. He may accept them or not and may provide, immediately or at a next stage, an implicit or explicit feedback. All these user actions and feedbacks can be stored in the recommender database and may be used for generating new recommendations in the next user-system interactions.

Content Based Recommendation System – try to recommend items similar to those given user has liked in the past, whereas system designed according to the *collaborative* recommendation paradigm identify users whose preferences are similar to those of the given user and recommend items they have liked.

Systems implementing a content based recommendation approach analyze a set of documents and/or descriptions of items previously rated by a user, and build a model or profile of user interests based on the features of the objects rated by that user. The profile is a structure representation of user interests, adopted to recommend new interesting items. The recommendation process basically consists in matching up the attributes of the user profile against the attributes of a content object. The result is a relevance judgment that represents the user's level of interest in that object. If a profile accurately reflects user preferences, it is of tremendous advantage for the effectiveness of an information access process. For instance,

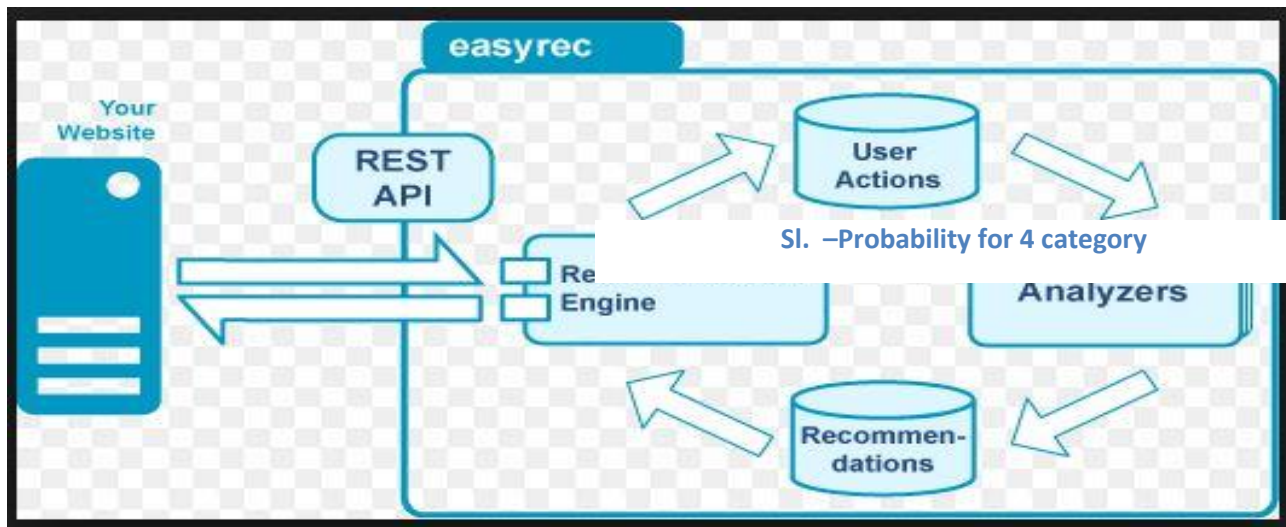
it could be used to filter search results by deciding whether a user is interested in a specific Web page or not and, in the negative case, preventing it from being displayed.

Collaborative Filtering Recommendation System – is the process of filtering or evaluating items using the opinions of other people. While the term collaborative filtering has only been around for a little more than a decade, CF takes its roots from something humans have been doing for centuries – sharing options with others.

Computers and the web allow us to advance beyond simple word-of-mouth. Instead of limiting ourselves to tens or hundreds of individuals the Internet allows us to consider the opinions of thousands. The speed of computers allows us to process these opinions in real time and determine not only what a much larger community thinks of an item, but also develop a truly personalized view of that item using the opinions most appropriate for a given user or group of users.

In the more general sense, collaborative filtering is the process of the filtering for information or patterns using techniques involving collaboration among multiple agents, viewpoints and data sources. Applications of collaborative filtering typically involve very large data sets. It can be applied to many different kinds of data like: financial sources, environmental sensing and in electronic commerce.

II. Implementation E-Commerce Web Shop



SL. 1 - Rest Api for Recommendation

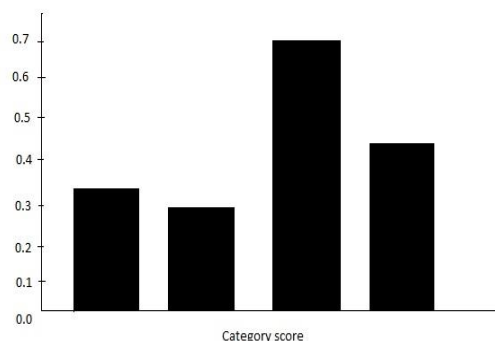
Content Based Recommendation System

In our Web Shop applications we use content based recommendation to predict best fitting items category. Input data is collected from all previous user's purchases stored in side database. This data collection contains all items purchased by user – and grouped by category. It should calculate the category from which is items purchased most frequently, CB using **Term frequency – Inverse Doc Frequency (TF-IDF)** - returns the probability that from given category user will buy next item.

$f_{ij} \rightarrow$ frequency of term

$$TF = \frac{f_{ij}}{\sum f_{ij}}$$

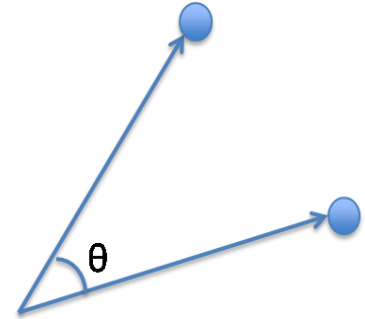
$\sum f_{ij} \rightarrow$ sum of f_{ij} element for one category



Collaborative Filtering Recommendation System (CF)

As we had seen from introduction, CF calculates prediction using previous purchases of given user. Then he compares his list of bought items with items of other users. The algorithm behind matching user items is simple formula for finding the cosine of two given vector (see image below). Firstly all items from all other users all loaded from database put inside vector. Then dot product between two users is calculated. After that the product of length of those vector is calculated. By dividing dot product with length product, we get cosine of the angle between those vectors. The bigger the cosine the smaller the angle which means that those two vectors are more similar. So we will choose the vector with maximum cosine value, and after subtracting the items original user had bought, will return the all items which original user hadn't bought, but might be interested.

$$\text{sim}(A, B) = \cos(\theta) = \frac{A \cdot B}{\|A\| \|B\|}$$



Sl. 3 – Finding the angle between two vrectors

III. Conclusion

Recommendation System is very often used for predicting user desired content based on user previous actions. People use them to find books, music, news, smart phones and vacation trips. Nearly every product, service or type of information has recommenders to help people select from among the myriad alternatives the few they would most appreciate.

Content-based recommendation systems recommend an item to a user based upon a description of the item and a profile of the user's interest. While a user a profile may be entered by user, it is commonly learned from feedback the user provides on items. A variety of learning algorithms have been adapted to learning user profiles, and the choice of learning algorithm depends upon the representation of content.

Collaborative Filtering does the item prediction using items from other user and gives us the list of predicted items. Of course this approach isn't always the best, because people behaviour isn't so easily predicted. But its advantages lies in simplicity of algorithm and its efficiency.

IV. References

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