

# An introduction to Collaborative Filtering

([http://www.tsc.uc3m.es/~jarenas/CF\\_package.zip](http://www.tsc.uc3m.es/~jarenas/CF_package.zip))

Aplicaciones del Tratamiento De Datos  
Master Inter. en Multimedia y Comunicaciones

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## Presentation Outline

1. Recommender Systems
2. Collaborative Filtering: Strengths and Limitations
3. Collaborative Filtering Algorithms
4. Data Bases
5. Further reading

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Agenda

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## Recommender Systems: Examples

Definition: Systems that apply knowledge discovery techniques for making personalized recommendations for information, products or services, etc, usually during a live interaction

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought Page 1 of 1

				
<a href="#">Eclipse (The Twilight Saga, Book 3)</a> by Stephenie Meyer ★★★★☆ (1,577) \$10.99	<a href="#">Twilight: The Complete Illustrated Movie Companion</a> by Mark Cotta Vaz ★★★★☆ (259) \$9.68	<a href="#">The Twilight Saga: The Official Guide</a> by Stephenie Meyer \$14.95	<a href="#">Marked (House of Night, Book 1)</a> by P. C. Cast ★★★★☆ (255) \$8.95	<a href="#">Twilight: The Score</a> ~ Carter Burwell ★★★★☆ (202) \$12.99


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1. Recommender Systems


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## Recommender Systems: Examples

So You'd Like to...

 [thrillers and more!](#): A guide by Linda Xio Chu "ciao!"

 [Indulge in YA Urban Fantasy](#): A guide by Moschell "A Happy Book Worm"

 [stay up all night reading the best books](#): A guide by Hilary May Winston

[Create a guide](#)

**Look for Similar Items by Category**

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[Teens](#) > [Literature & Fiction](#) > [Love & Romance](#)

[Teens](#) > [Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) > [Fantasy](#)

[Teens](#) > [Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) > [Science Fiction](#)

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Last.fm convierte lo que escuchan millones de usuarios en la combinación perfecta para tus oídos.

[Pruébala](#)

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1. Recommender Systems

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## Recommender Systems: Examples



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1. Recommender Systems

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## Recommender Systems: Available Info

- Contents Metadata
- Users' evaluation: either explicit or implicit
- Socio-demographic user information

Normally, there is a lot of missing information. The goal of a recommender system is, precisely, to predict users' interest on unrated items. In other words: to fill in the blank positions in the user-item evaluation table.

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1. Recommender Systems

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## Recommender Systems: Taxonomy

Depending on which information is used to predict users' interest, we can classify them as:

- Content filtering systems: a user is recommended items similar to those he/she liked in the past
- Collaborative filtering systems: a user is recommended items positively ranked by users that usually agree with the active user
- Socio-demographic filtering systems: a user is recommended items positively ranked by users with a similar socio-demographic profile  
(not a very generally applied approach)
- Hybrid systems: exploit strengths and limitations of the different approaches

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1. Recommender Systems

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## Collaborative Filtering

Definition: trying to predict the opinion the user will have on the different items, and be able to recommend the “best” items to each user based on the user's previous likings and the opinions of other like-minded users

Pedro: 'Las Dos Torres', 'X-Men 2', 'La Liga de...'

Joaquín: 'Las Dos Torres', 'Love Actually', 'Notting Hill'

Alba: 'Love Actually', 'Notting Hill'

Jacinto: 'Las Dos Torres', 'X-Men 2'

Underlying assumption: users' who have agreed in the past will tend to agree again in the future ...

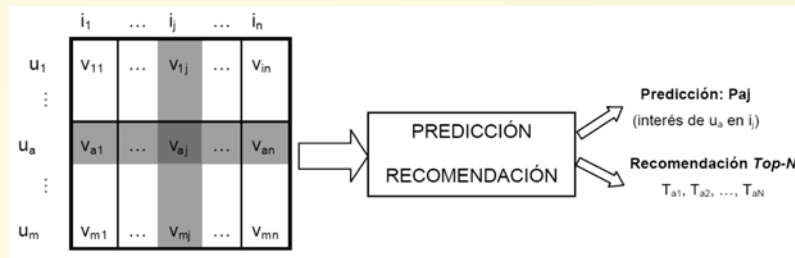
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## Collaborative Filtering: Available data

Only user-item ratings are necessary:



- Each user has a list of items he/she expressed their opinion about (can be a null set)
- Explicit opinions: a rating score (numerical value)
- Implicit opinions (e.g., purchase records)

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## Collaborative Filtering: Applications

- Recommender Systems: inferred ratings can be used in information-pull and info-push environments. Tracking of "typical" user tastes paths
- Social Network: establishing interactions among users with similar tastes
- "Breaking reputation" systems: reducing the importance of direct marketing and well-known trademarks
- Production of new products/services
- Personalized information representation: highlighting the information which is more relevant for the user

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## Collaborative Filtering: Strengths

- No need to exploit user socio-demographic information or content metadata
- No need to develop metrics among users and/or metrics among products

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2. Collaborative Filtering

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## Collaborative Filtering: Limitations

- New-user problem: To be alleviated with
  - Standard profiles
  - Hybrid systems incorporating demographic info
  - Requesting a minimum number of explicit ratings
- New-item problem: To be alleviated with
  - Hybrid systems incorporating metadata info
  - Rewarding users that rate new items
  - Intelligent Agents
- Sparsity in the user-item ratings table (e.g. users purchases are under 1%)
- Scalability: More important for certain types of algorithms

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## Collaborative Filtering Algorithms

CF algorithms can be classified according to 2 different criteria

CRITERION 1

- User-to-user: users similarity is first inferred based on their ratings. A user is then recommended items liked by similar users
- Item-to-item: contents similarity is first inferred based on user ratings only. A user is then recommended items similar to the ones he/she likes

CRITERION 2

- Memory-based: during the recommendation phase it is necessary to access the ratings of all users
- Model-based: the algorithm learns a model for carrying out predictions during the operational phase

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## User-to-user CF

We study first a "standard" memory-based algorithm:

### 1) Computing user similarity (off-line)

$$w(a, i) = \frac{\sum_j (v_{a,j} - \bar{v}_a)(v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_i)}{\sqrt{\sum_j (v_{a,j} - \bar{v}_a)^2 \sum_j (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_i)^2}}$$

(Correlation)

$$w(a, i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in I_{ai}} v_{a,j} v_{i,j}}{\sqrt{\sum_{j \in I_{ai}} v_{a,j}^2} \sqrt{\sum_{j \in I_{ai}} v_{i,j}^2}}$$

(Cosine Distance)

### 2) Computing predictions (on-line)

$$p_{a,j} = K \sum_{i=1}^m w(a, i) v_{i,j}$$

$$p_{a,j} = \bar{v}_a + K \sum_{i=1}^m w(a, i) (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_i)$$

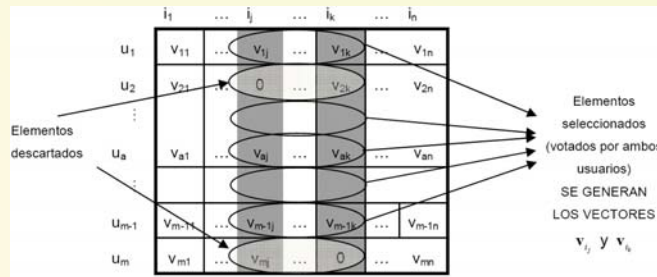
- Default voting: for non-rated items
- Inverse frequency: Users who like most items or items which are liked by most users are not very discriminative
- Case amplification: Extreme ratings are more informative

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## Item-to-item CF



### 1) Computing item similarity (off-line)

$$s(i_j, i_k) = \frac{\mathbf{v}_{ij}^T \mathbf{v}_{ik}}{\|\mathbf{v}_{ij}\| \|\mathbf{v}_{ik}\|} \quad s(i_j, i_k) = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_{i,j})(v_{i,k} - \bar{v}_{i,k})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_{i,j})^2 \sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,k} - \bar{v}_{i,k})^2}} \quad s(i_j, i_k) = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_{i,j})(v_{i,k} - \bar{v}_{i,k})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,j} - \bar{v}_{i,j})^2 \sum_{i \in I_{jk}} (v_{i,k} - \bar{v}_{i,k})^2}}$$

### 2) Computing predictions (on-line)

$$p_{aj} = \frac{\sum_{k \in I_a} s(i_j, i_k) v_{ak}}{\sum_{k \in I_a} |v_{ak}|}$$

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## Neighborhood methods

Use statistical tools to find a set of neighbors with a similar profile to the active user, simplifying the sum for computing predictions (close in philosophy to model-based CF algorithms). Improved scalability and performance.

Neighbors can be found:

- Thresholding similarity weights (non-uniform neighborhood size)
- K-NN (selection of K is critical)
- Clustering methods

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## Model-Based CF

- Clustering methods: users or items are grouped according to similarity (based on ratings). Precision vs complexity tradeoff
- Bayesian networks: node states reflect the different possible ratings, and links represent user information
- Expert Systems: the ratings matrix is used to infer a set of rules which are then followed to infer new ratings
- Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis (PLSA): users and contents are modeled using a set of (hidden) latent variables. During the training the latent semantics are learned. For the recommendation, only the semantics are needed

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## CF Algorithms evaluation

- Predictive precision: Mean Square Error (MSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE). Baselines: Mean and median. It is possible to weight differently extreme ratings
- Classification precision: precision (P), recall (R), ROC curves, Mean Average Precision ( $F = P R / (P + R)$ )
- Sort out precision: Average Precision (AP), Precision at different depths, Inferred Average Precision (infAP)

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## Data Bases for Collaborative Filtering

### Book-Crossing Dataset ... mined by [Cai-Nicolas Ziegler](#), [DBIS Freiburg](#)

Collected by Cai-Nicolas Ziegler in a 4-week crawl (August / September 2004) from the [Book-Crossing](#) community with kind permission from Ron Hombaker, CTO of [Humankind Systems](#). Contains 278,858 users (anonymized but with demographic information) providing 1,149,780 ratings (explicit / implicit) about 271,379 books.

### Collaborative filtering dataset - dating agency

- [Reading](#)
- [Users' gender](#)
- [Rating matrix](#)
- [Zipped rating and gender data](#)

Questions and comments: [Vaclav Petricek](#) [petricek\(at\)acm.org](mailto:petricek(at)acm.org)

#### SUMMARY

These files contain 17,359,346 anonymous ratings of 168,791 profiles made by 135,359 LibimSeTi users as dumped on April 4, 2006.

The data is available from

<http://www.ocoamlab.com/petricek/data/>

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## Data Bases for Collaborative Filtering (II)


### Anonymous Ratings Data from the [Jester](#) Online Joke Recommender System

Collaborative Filtering Data:

4.1 Million continuous ratings (-10.00 to +10.00) of 100 jokes from 73,421 users: collected between April 1999 - May 2003.

### MovieLens Data Sets

Submitted by harper on Thu, 2006-10-05 15:53.

 Tagged: [Data Sets](#)

We currently have three datasets available:

- 100,000 ratings for 1682 movies by 943 users
- 1 million ratings for 3900 movies by 6040 users
- 10 million ratings and 100,000 tags for 10681 movies by 71567 users

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5. Further Reading

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## Proposed work

Experimental procedure:

- Divide data set into training and validation (5-fold)
- Assess the quality of the recommendations using some CF algorithm (implementation of your own, or use some public toolbox). Report averages over the 5 folds

Analyze some of the following aspects:

- CF versus content-based filtering
- User-to-user vs item-to-item
- Case amplification, inverse frequency, default voting
- Effect of different similarity measures
- Neighborhood algorithms: sensitivity to the neighborhood size, scalability ...

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