



14-15 NOVEMBER 2022
PARIS

ACM Recsys Challenge 2022 – Fashion Recommendations

Team NVIDIA Third Place Solution
Gilberto Titericz (Giba)

Organizers



SEPHORA

LOUIS VUITTON

Dior

Christian Dior
PARFUMS

CELINE

GIVENCHY

BVLGARI

MoëtHennessy

TIFFANY & CO.





Giba

RAPIDS at NVIDIA

Curitiba, State of Paraná, Brazil

Joined 10 years ago · last seen in the past day

[GitHub](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) <https://rapids.ai/>

Followers 11075

Following 31



Competitions
Grandmaster

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Competitions Grandmaster



Current Rank

9

of 193,585

Highest Rank

1



- [PetFinder.my - Pawpulari...](#)
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Top 1%
1st of 3537
- [Santander Value Predicti...](#)
🥇 · 4 years ago
Top 1%
1st of 4463
- [Melbourne University AE...](#)
🥇 · 6 years ago
Top 1%
1st of 477

Datasets Contributor



Unranked



- [Homecredit Best Solution](#)
🥉 · 4 years ago
9 votes
- [segmentation-models-01...](#)
🥉 · 2 years ago
8 votes
- [pytorch_pretrained_1](#)
a year ago
5 votes

Notebooks Grandmaster



Current Rank

110

of 243,120

Highest Rank

23



- [The Property by Giba](#)
🥇 · 4 years ago
388 votes
- [Building and Visualizing ...](#)
🥇 · 3 years ago
216 votes
- [Giba R + data.table + Si...](#)
🥇 · 3 years ago
196 votes

Discussion Grandmaster



Current Rank

50

of 313,263

Highest Rank

6



- [Data Scientist Hero](#)
🥇 · 7 years ago
525 votes
- [1st PLACE - WINNER SO...](#)
🥇 · 7 years ago
475 votes
- [1st Place Removed Soluti...](#)
🥇 · 2 years ago
389 votes



Timeline^{▲ top}

When?	What?
7 March, 2022	Start RecSys Challenge Release dataset
14 March, 2022	Submission System Open Leaderboard live
14 June, 2022	End RecSys Challenge
21 June, 2022	Final Leaderboard & Winners EasyChair open for submissions
28 June, 2022	Code Upload Upload code of the final predictions
14 July, 2022	Paper Submission Due
1 August, 2022	Paper Acceptance Notifications
14 August, 2022	Camera-Ready Papers

RecSys Challenge 2022

[About](#) [Participation](#) [Timeline](#) [Program](#) [Organization](#) [RecSys 2022](#)

About^{▲ top}

The RecSys Challenge 2022 is organized by Nick Landia ([Dressipi](#)), Bruce Ferwerda ([Jönköping University, Sweden](#)), Saikishore Kalloori ([ETH Zürich, Switzerland](#)), and Abhishek Srivastava ([IIM Visakhapatnam, India](#)).

Dressipi^{▲ top}

Dressipi are the fashion-AI experts, providing product and outfit recommendations to leading global retailers.

Our recommendations enable retailers to create new product discovery experiences that are personalized and inspiring and can be used at all steps of the shopper journey.

Our algorithms enable retailers to make better buying and merchandising decisions by more accurately forecasting product demand and size ratios.

Our focus is to provide the world's best apparel recommendations and predictions. We do this by taking a domain specific approach across the data we collect and create, how we structure that data and the models we build. Everything we do is optimized to handle the nuances of fashion.

We work with brands across the US, UK, Europe, and Australia and outperform every competitor when A/B tested.



Benedikt Schifferer
DL Engineer



Chris Deotte
Sr. Data Scientist



Gabriel Moreira
Sr. Research Scientist



Gilberto Titericz
Sr. Data Scientist



Jiwei Liu
Sr. Data Scientist



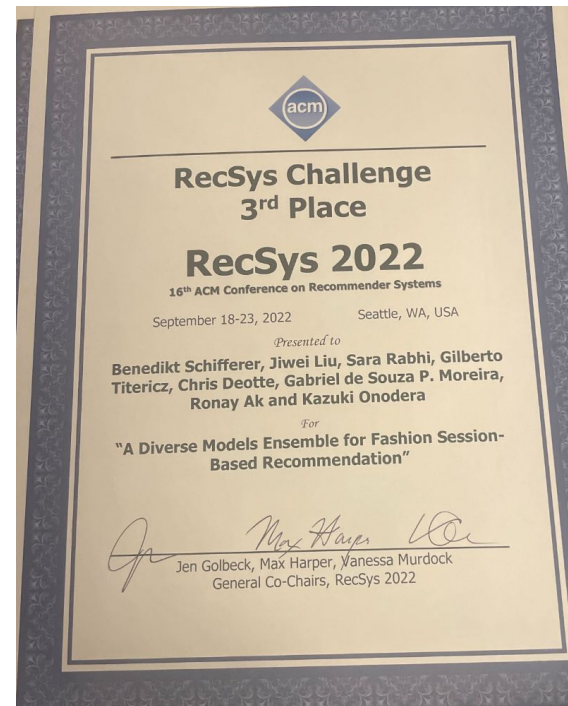
Kazuki Onodera
Sr. Data Scientist



Ronay Ak
Sr. Data Scientist



Sara Rabhi
Research Scientist

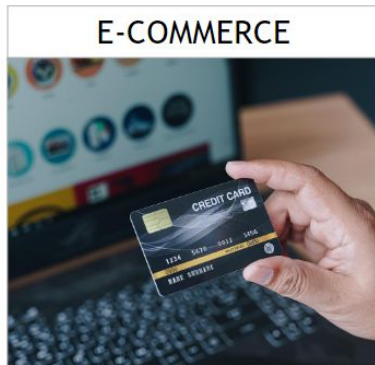




Personalization Engine of Online Services



4.3B Watch Videos Online



3.7B Shop Online



4.3B Active Users



4.7B Internet Users

“Already, 35 percent of what consumers purchase on Amazon and 75 percent of what they watch on Netflix come from product recommendations based on such algorithms.”

Source: [McKinsey](#)



Users behaviour for different sessions might be very distinct

Session #1 - Looking for TVs



15 days later...

Session #2 - Browsing smartphones

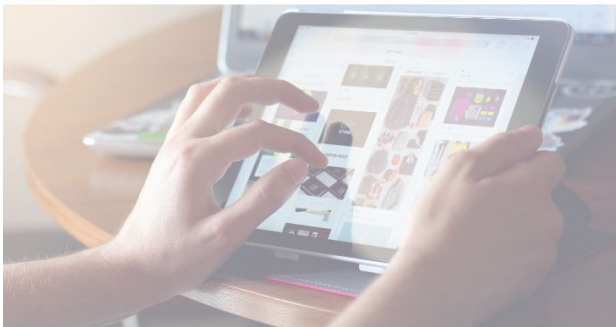


Photo by [Taras Shypka](#) on [Unsplash](#)



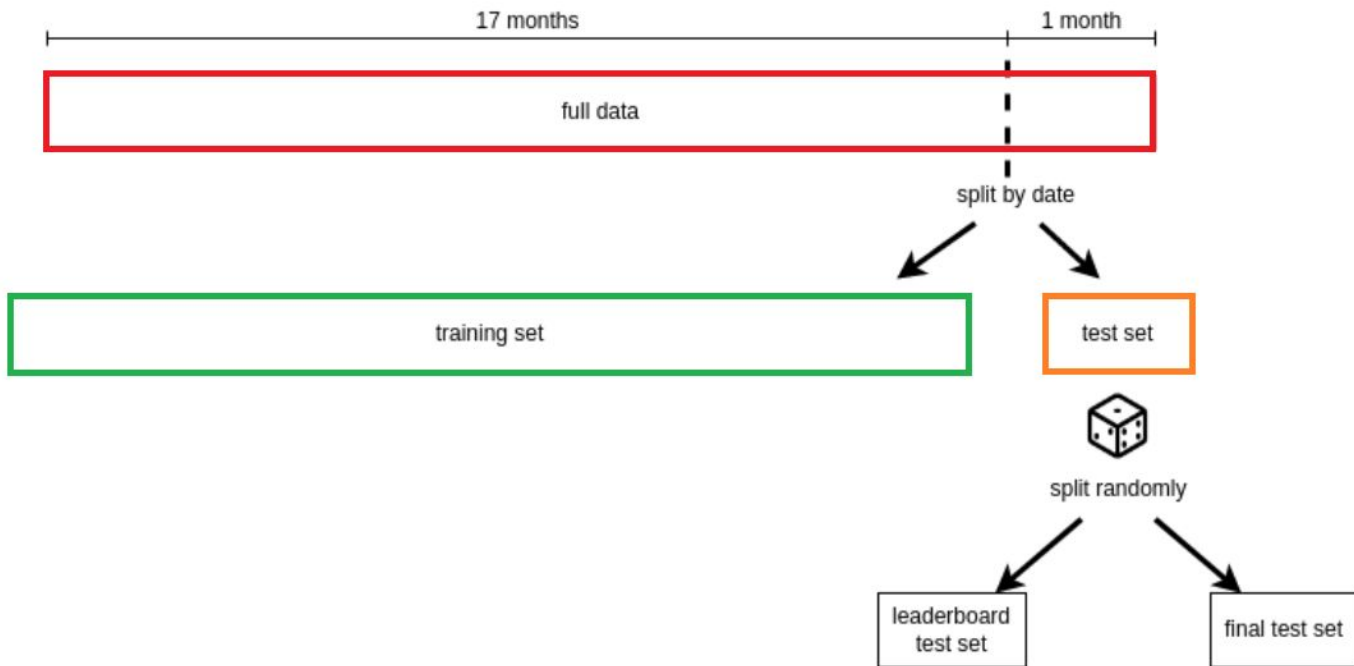
Session Flow



Fig 1: Example Session and Purchase Data



Data Split



* Not allowed to fit models using test data.



Competition Dataset

Train set:

- Number of sessions: 1,000,000
- Date range: Jan-2020 to May-2021 (514 days)
- Number of items: 23,496
- Average item views per section: 4.74

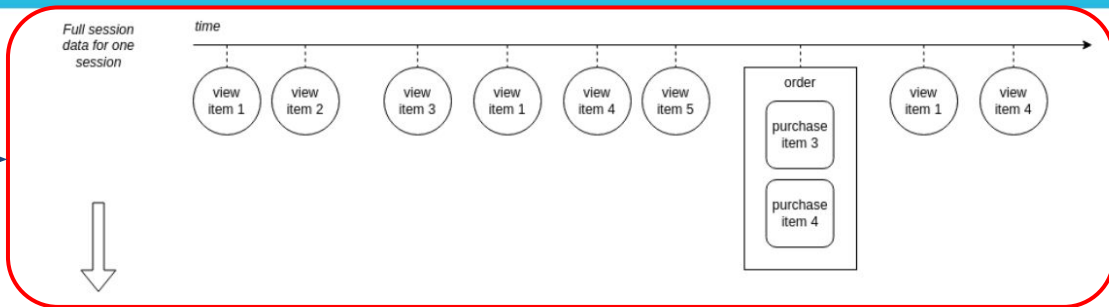
Test set leaderboard:

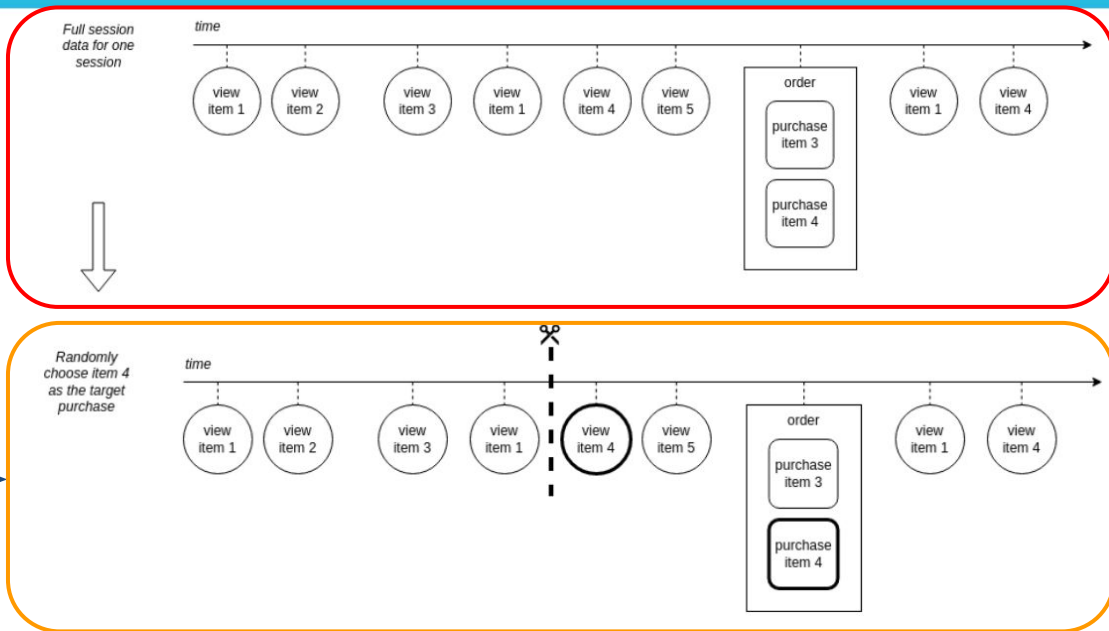
- Number of sessions: 50,000
- Date range: Jun-2021 (30 days)
- Number of items: 5,647 (65 new items not in trainset)
- Average item views per section: 4.52

Test set final leaderboard:

- Number of sessions: 50,000
- Date range: Jun-2021 (30 days)
- Number of items: 5,648 (67 new items not in trainset)
- Average item views per section: 4.58

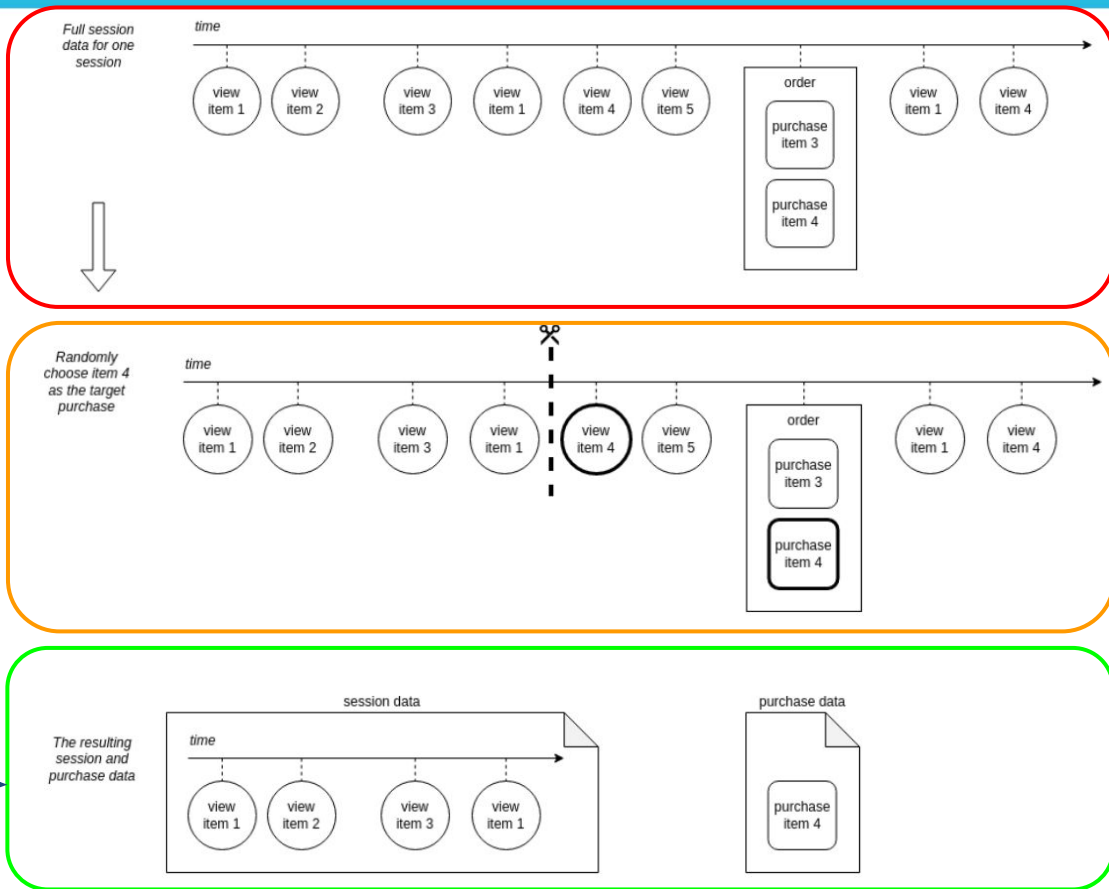
Original raw
Session
Data





Select Target
and Cut history





Trainset
Clean Data





Train set:

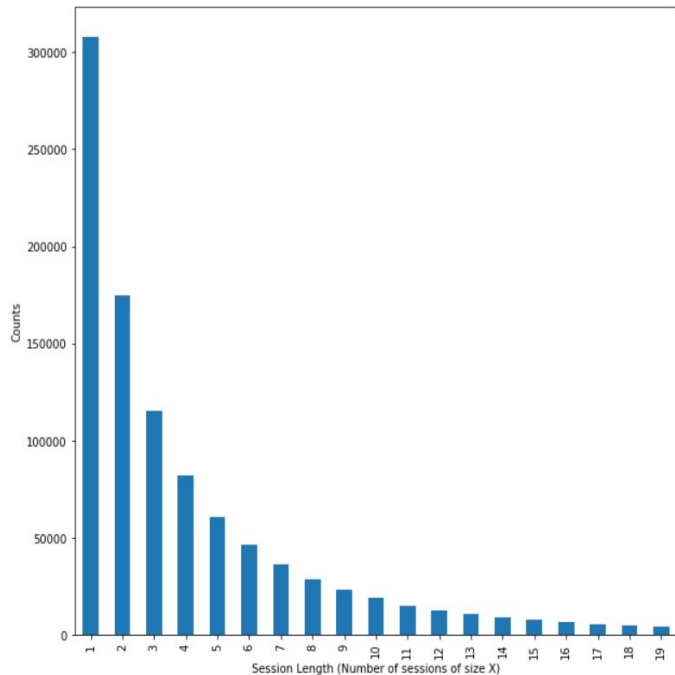
```
1 train.loc[train.session_id == 18].reset_index(drop=True)
```

	session_id	item_id	date	purchase_item_id	purchase_date
0	18	4026	2020-08-26 19:15:47.232	24911	2020-08-26 19:20:32.049
1	18	2507	2020-08-26 19:16:31.211	24911	2020-08-26 19:20:32.049
2	18	18316	2020-08-26 19:18:30.833	24911	2020-08-26 19:20:32.049

INPUT DATA

LABEL

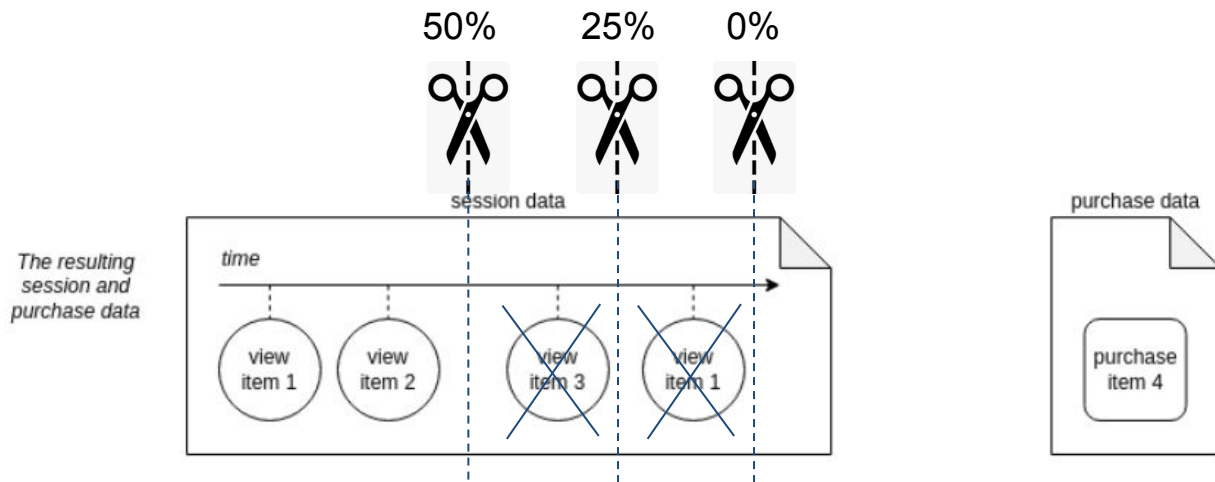
Session Length Histogram





Test set

- Random cut sessions from 0 to 50%





Item Description:

- All item descriptions are anonymized

item_id	feature_category_id	feature_value_id
2	56	365
2	62	801
2	68	351
2	33	802
2	72	75
2	29	123
2	16	38
2	50	76
2	61	462
2	53	6
2	7	394
2	69	885
2	47	123





Evaluation Metric

Mean Reciprocal Rank @100 (MRR@100)

$$\text{MRR} = \frac{1}{|Q|} \sum_{i=1}^{|Q|} \frac{1}{\text{rank}_i}$$

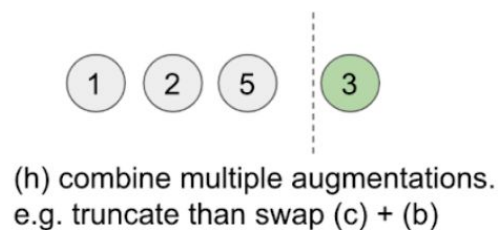
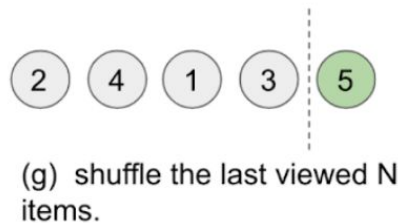
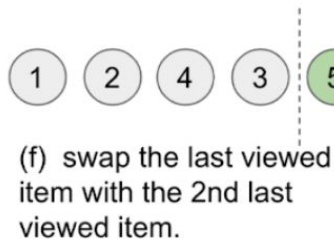
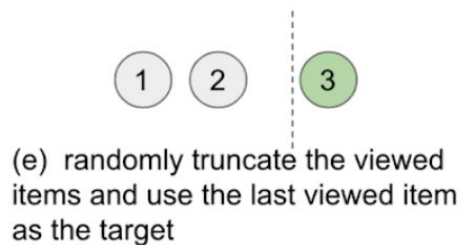
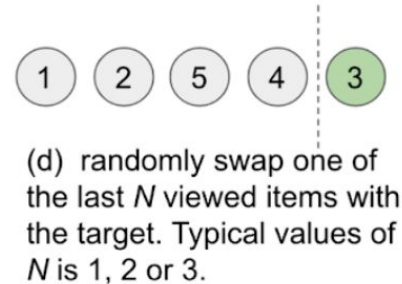
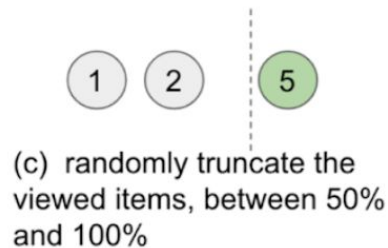
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mean_reciprocal_rank

Ground Truth	Prediction	Rank	Reciprocal Rank
shirt	pants, socks, shirt	3	$\frac{1}{3} = 0.333$
pants	pants , shirt, skirt	1	$1/1 = 1.000$

$$\text{MRR@3} = (1 + 0.333)/2 \sim 0.67$$

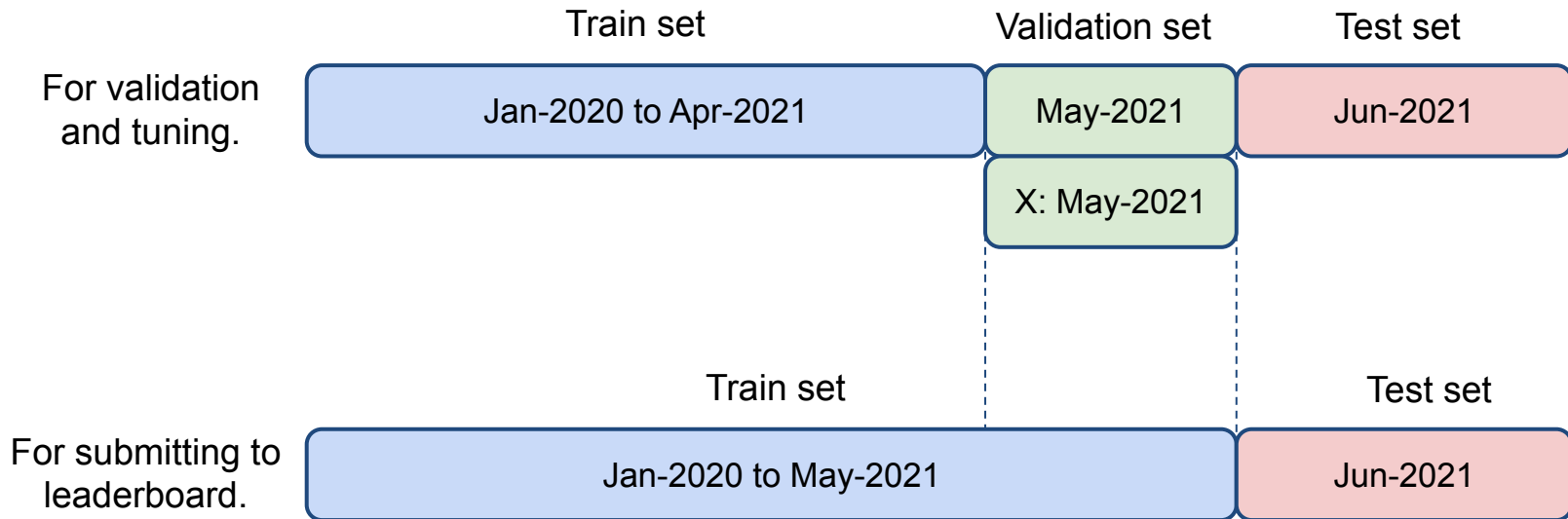


Data Augmentation



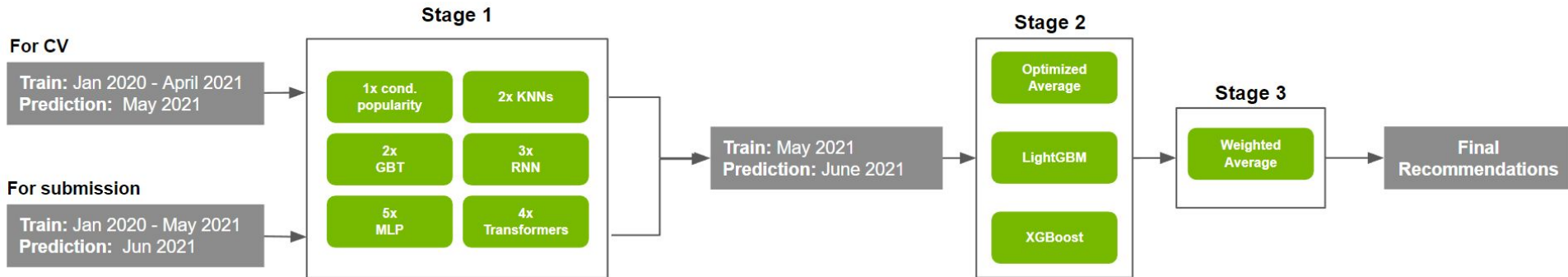


Validation Strategy:





3-stage pipeline of ensembling and stacking



- Last month of training data as local validation set
- Random 50% truncation of validation sessions
- Full re-training for submission
- 17 single models
- Optimize performance and diversity
- 6 models groups
- 3 stacking models
- Stage-1 candidates and in-session features as inputs
- Weighted average as final recommendation score

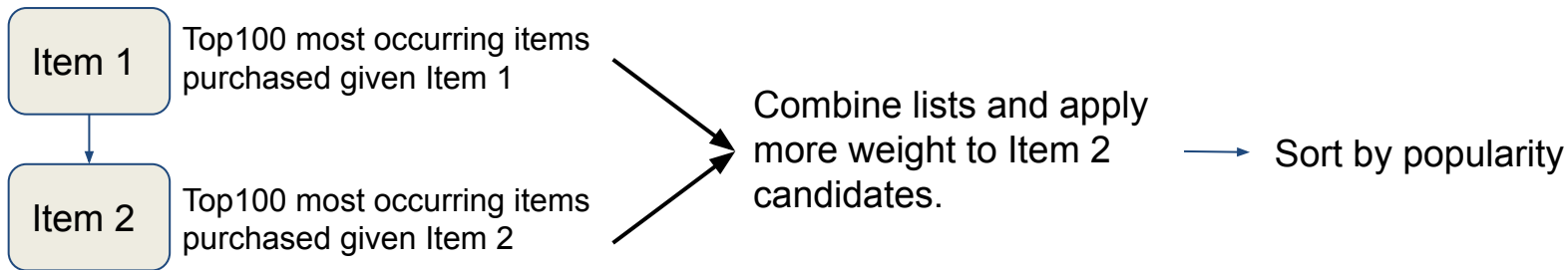


1. Time Weighted Conditional Popularity Model (Baseline):

- Only two features: 'item_id' and 'timestamp'.
- Uses data augmentation in trainset.

Algorithm:

- Calculate co-occurrence popularity of purchased **item_id** given previous viewed **item_ids**.
- Weight by time decay. Last viewed item_id gives more weight.
- For each item in the session, retrieve a list of top 100 most co-occurring items. Combine all top 100 for all items in the session and apply a time decay factor before sorting by popularity.





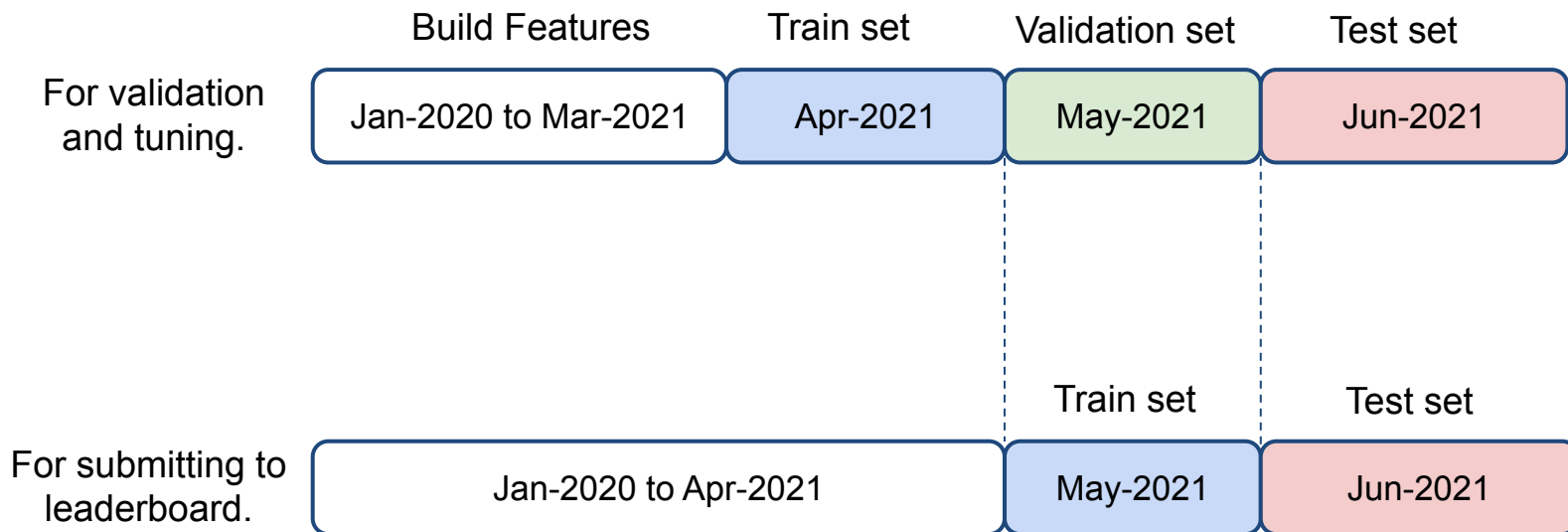
2. Session based Nearest Neighbors:

- Only two features: 'item_id' and 'timestamp'.
- Uses data augmentation in trainset.
- SkNN and VSTAN algorithms: Retrieve a list o similar sessions.
 - Fit on 4 periods of trainset: last 120 days, last 90 days, last 60 days, last 30 days.
 - Ensemble predictions scores for the 4 fits.



3. Gradient Boosting Decision Trees:

- Uses data augmentation in trainset.
- Convert the task to binary classification.
- Use 200 candidates item for each session.





3. Gradient Boosting Decision Trees:

- Train set with ~80k sessions x 200 candidates = 16M rows.

Binary Dataset

Session_id	Candidate number	Target Item_id	Binary Target	Other features (F.E.)
1	1	8	0	xxx
1	2	10	1	xxx
1	3	55	0	xxx
1		xxx
1	200	43	0	xxx

Features Based in Candidate Item:

- Purchase count of last N days.
- View Count of last N days
- Min, mean, max and std of purchase count of item pairs by day in last N days.
- Min, mean, max and std of view count of item pairs by day in last N days.
- Number of unique session containing the item.
- Purchase and view counts based in item properties at different time windows.

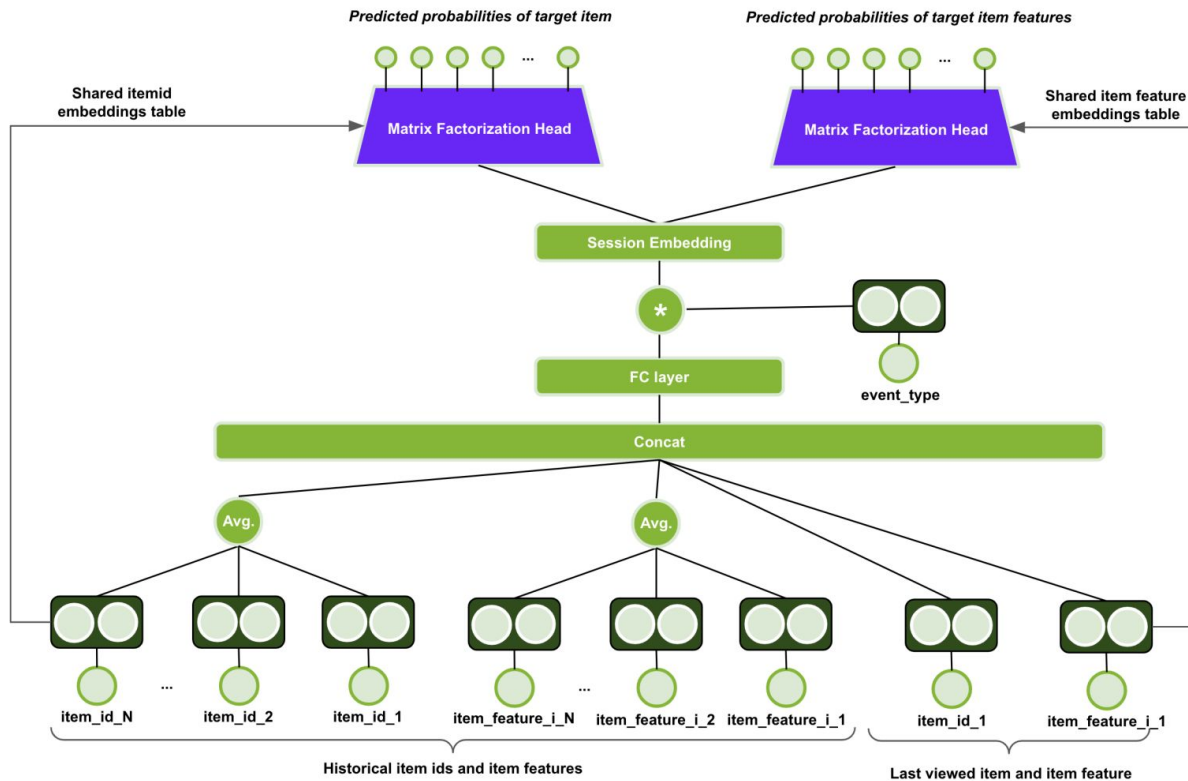


3. **Gradient Boosting Decision Trees:**

- XGBoost: using binary classification objective.
- LightGBM: using lambda rank objective.
- Hyperparameters tuned based in validation set metrics.



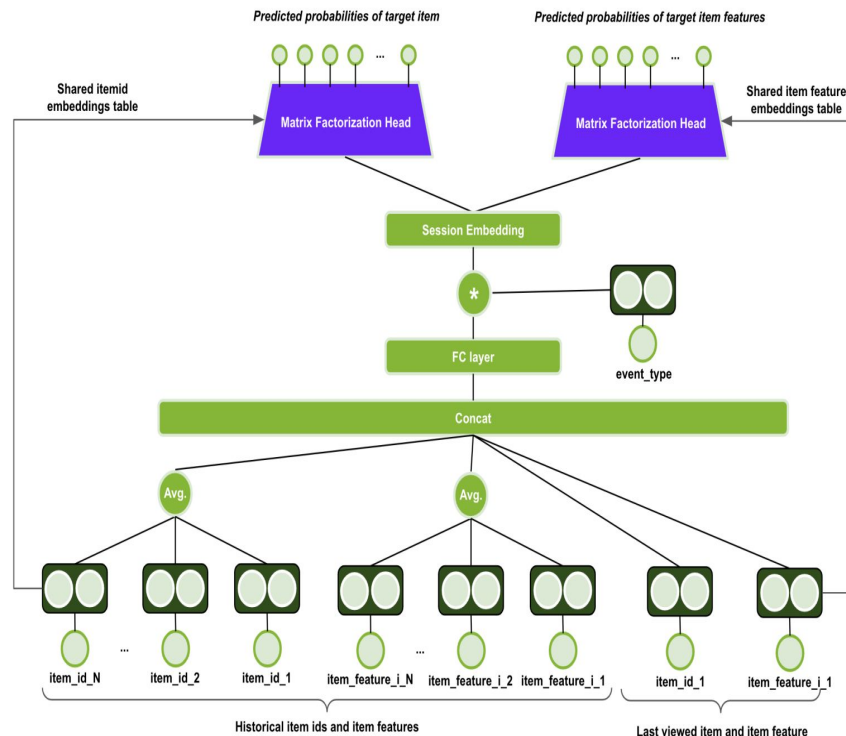
4. MultiLayer Perceptron (MLP):





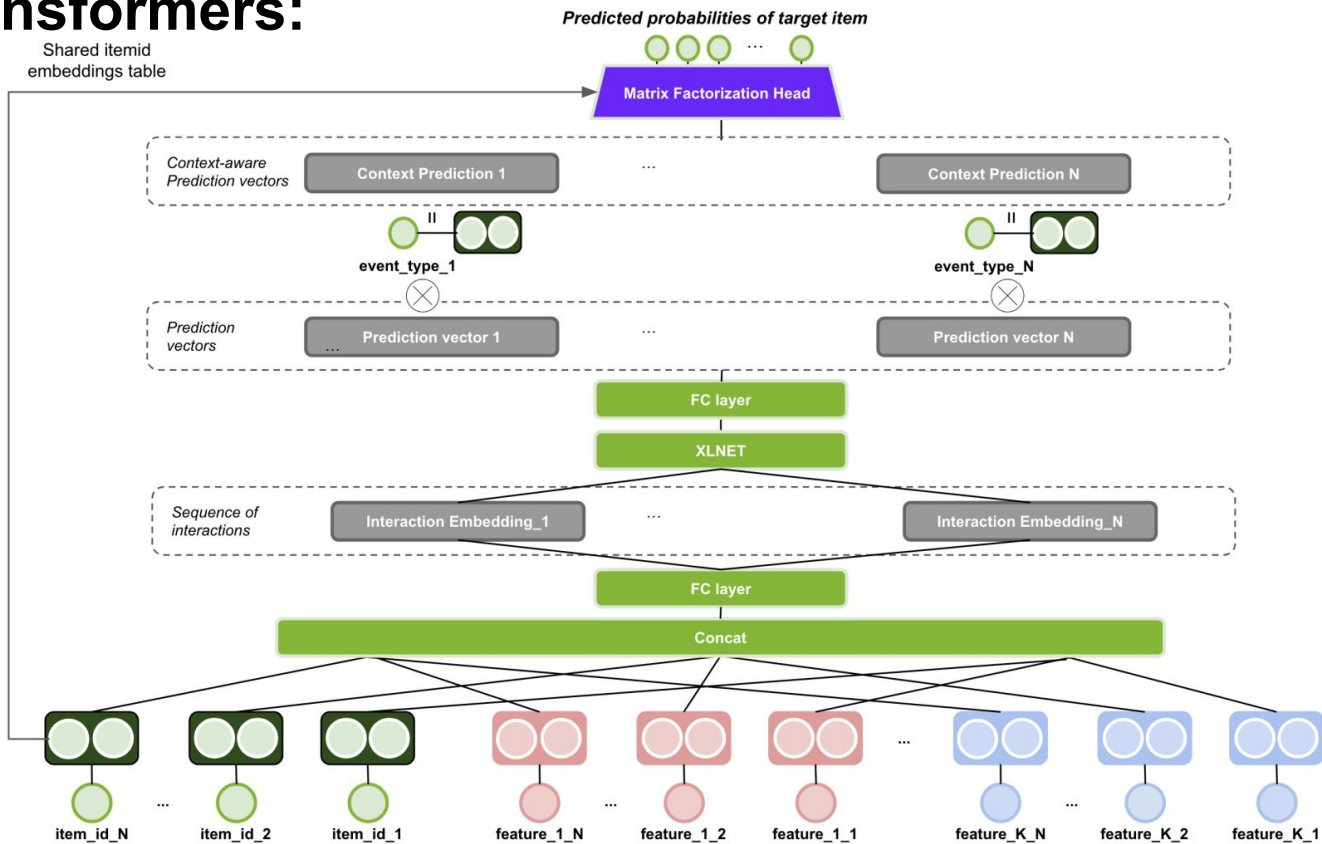
4. MultiLayer Perceptron (MLP):

- Trained on two tasks:
 - Predict final purchased item
 - Predict next item viewed or purchased.
- Multi task loss: Predict target item and target item features
- Bagging 6 times (run with different seeds)
- Stepwise learning rate decay



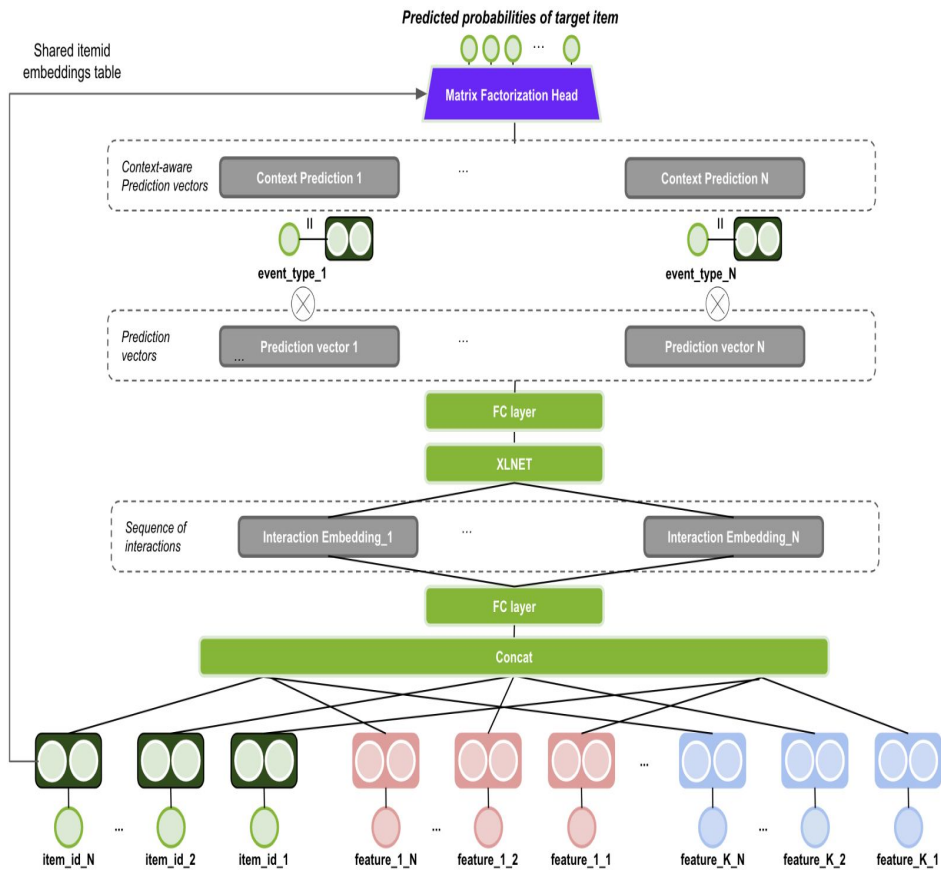


5. Transformers:



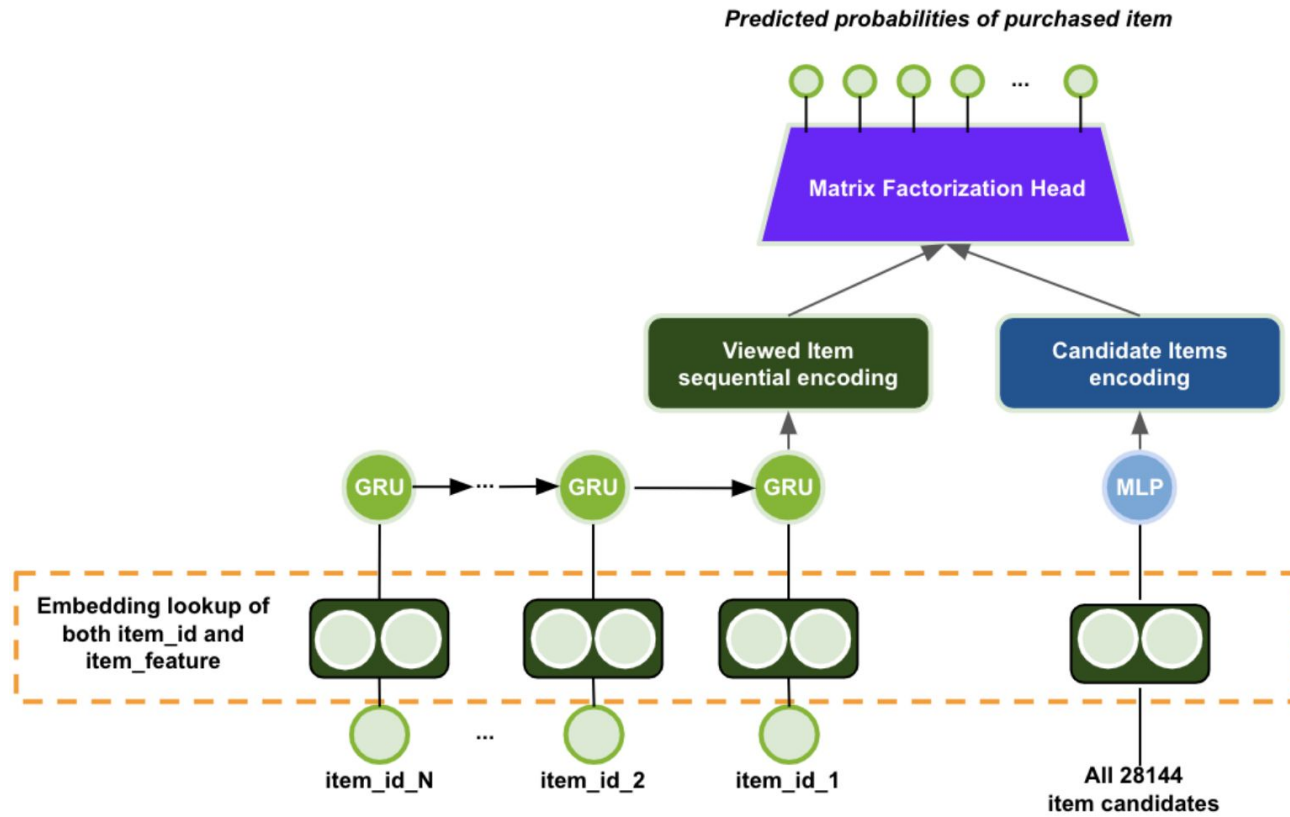
5. Transformers:

- Transformers4Rec library
- XLNet architecture
- Training using event_type flag boost score by +0.003





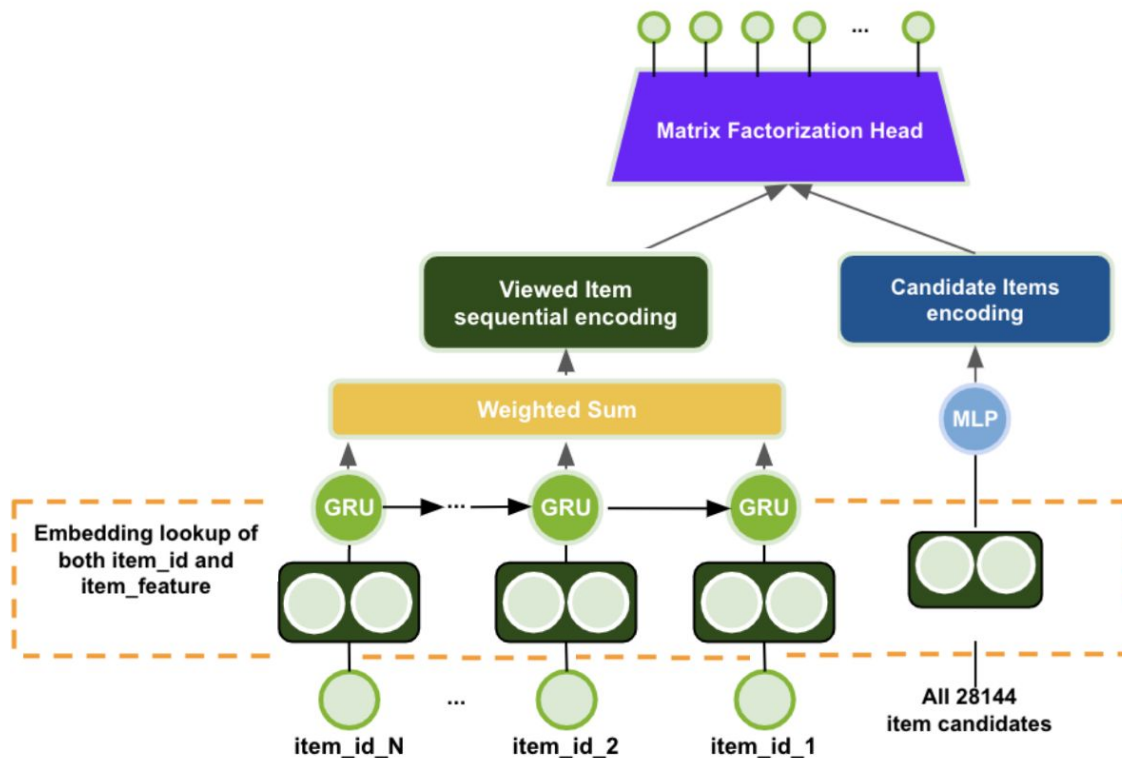
6. Recursive Neural Networks (RNN):





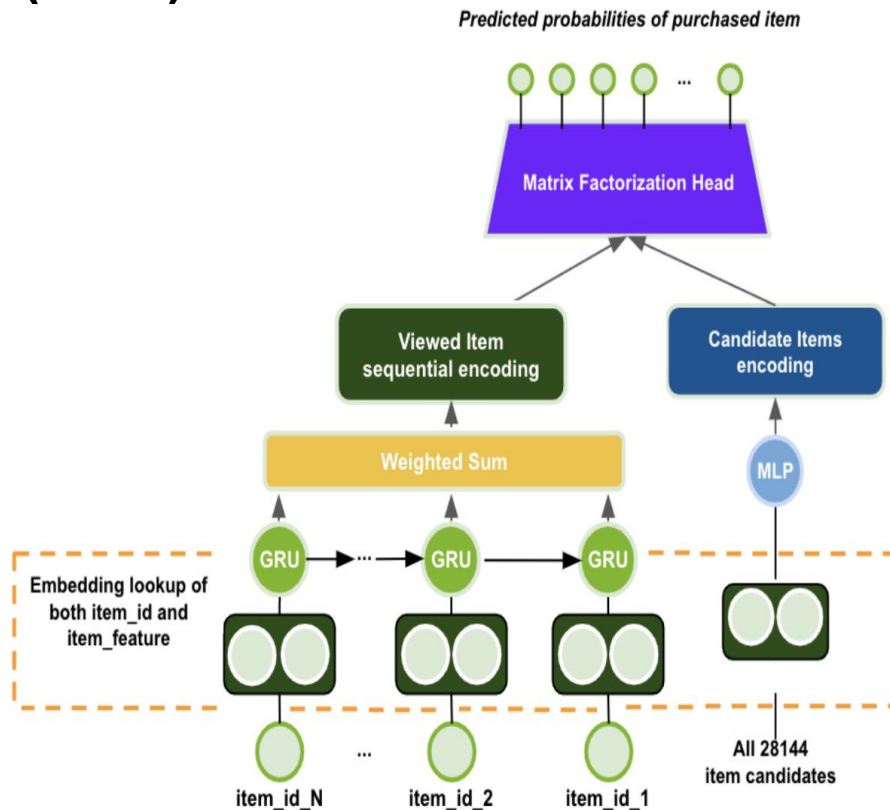
6. Recursive Neural Networks (RNN):

Predicted probabilities of purchased item



6. Recursive Neural Networks (RNN):

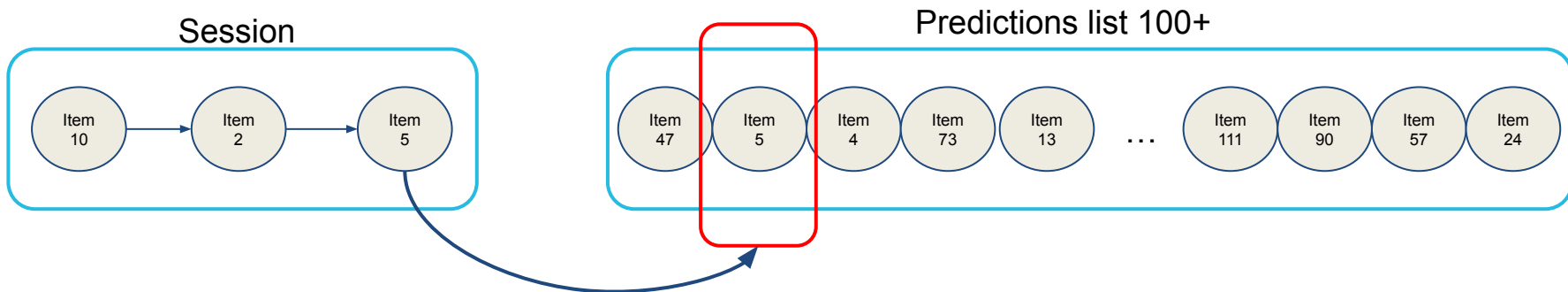
- Uses unidirectional GRU.
- Weighted Sum GRU embeddings.
- RNN are good for short sequences.
- Achieved best MRR@100 leaderboard metric over all single models: 0.2044





Post Processing:

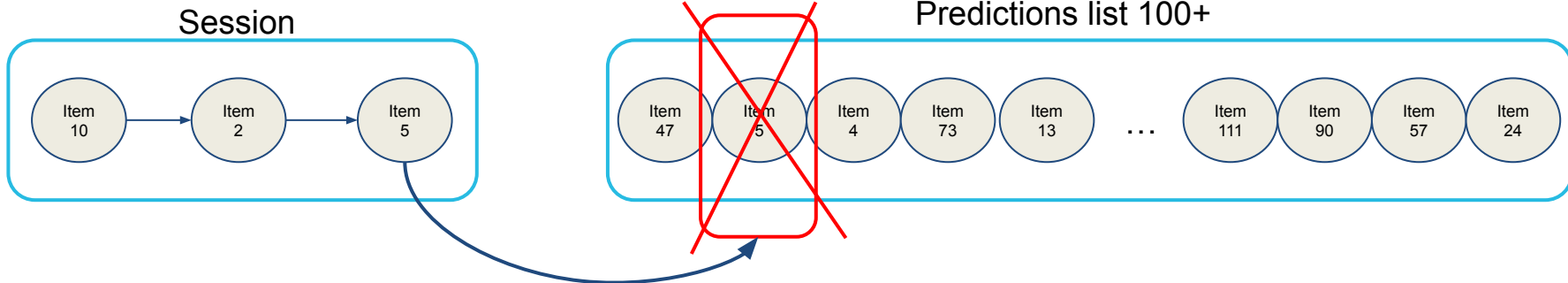
- Filter out from the list of predictions any item previously viewed.
(Boost +0.001 the metric)





Post Processing:

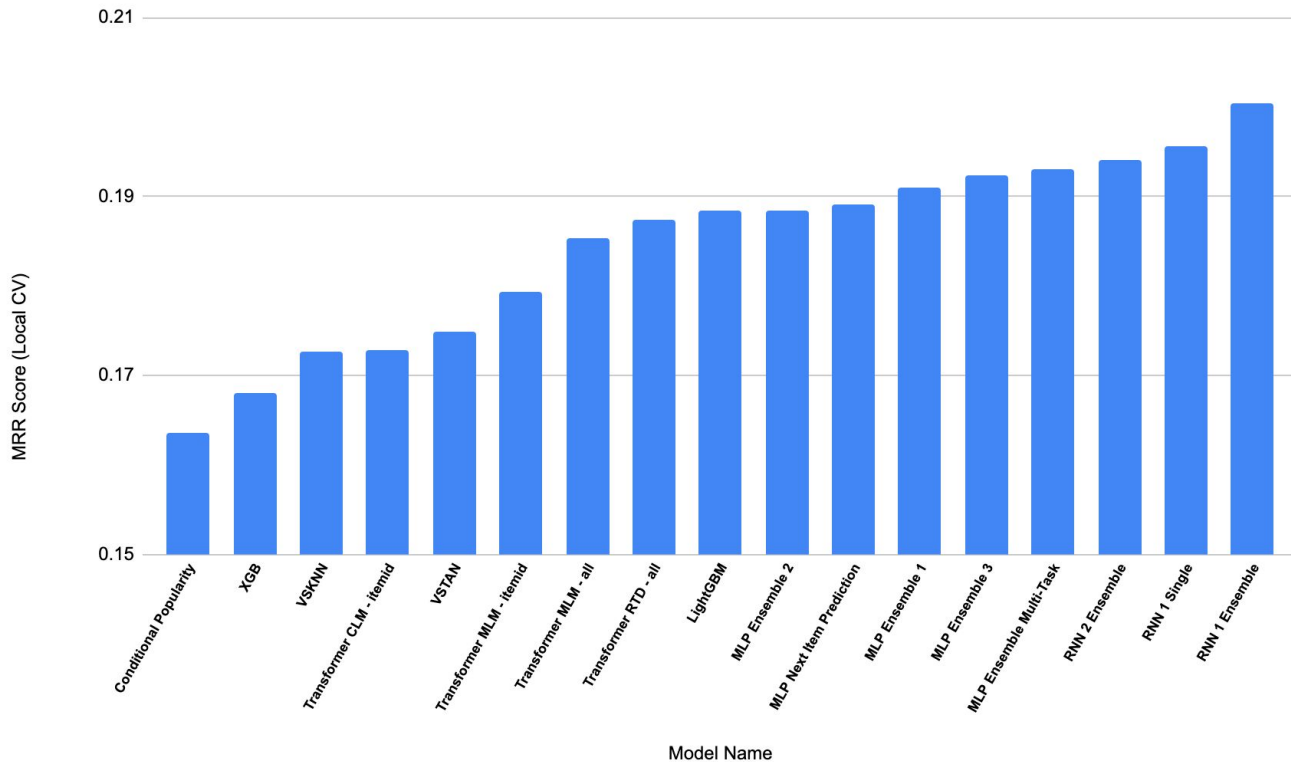
- Filter out from the list of predictions any item previously viewed.
(Boost +0.001 the metric)





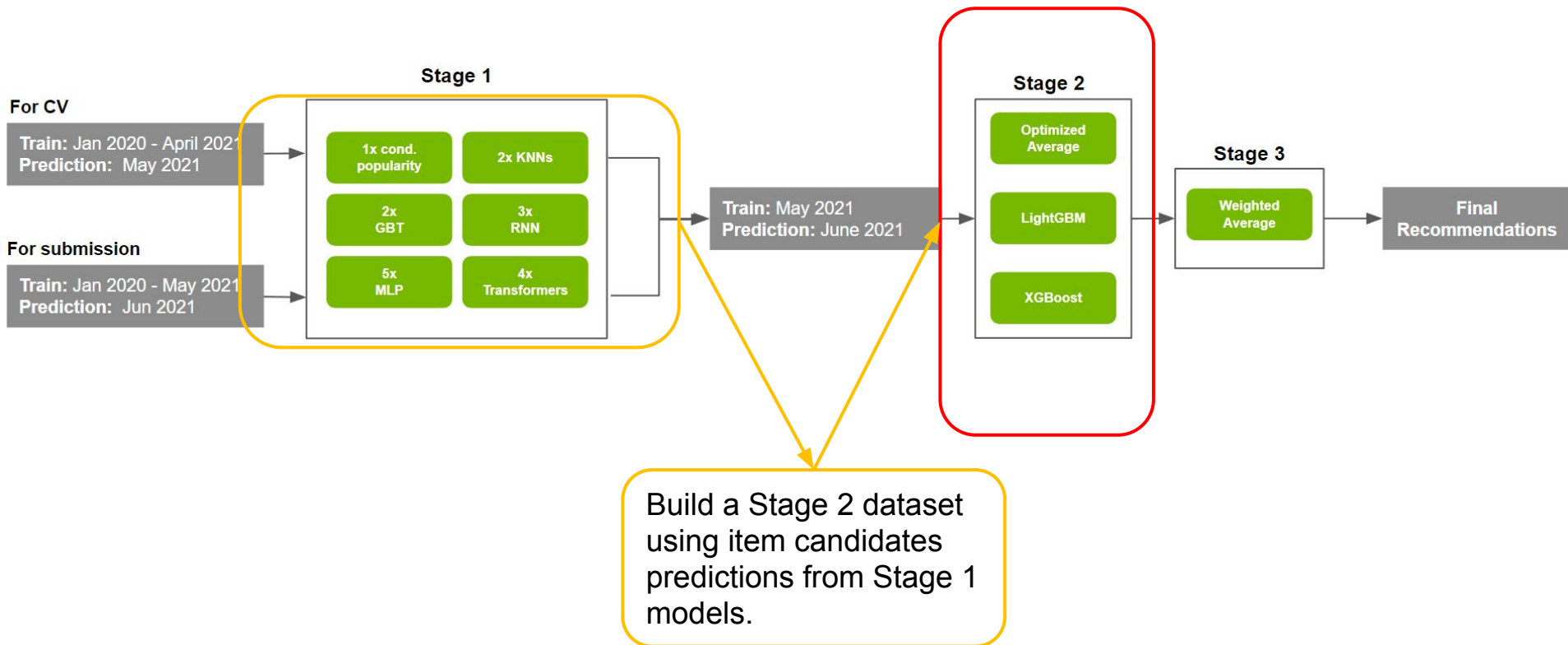
Single Models Scores :

Model	MRR@100
Conditional Popularity	0.164
VSTAN	0.174
Transformer4 Rec	0.185
LightGBM	0.187
MLP	0.194
RNN	0.204





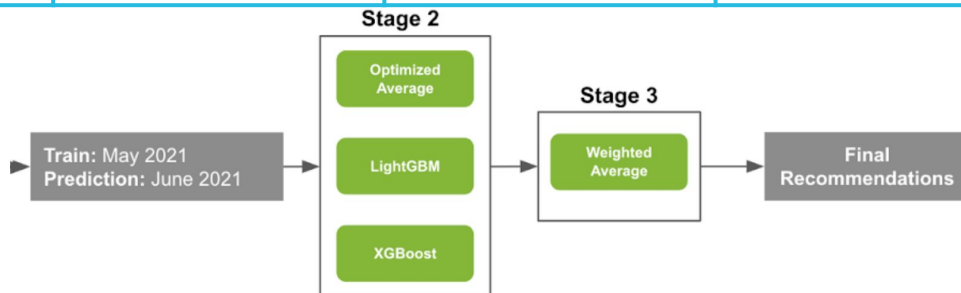
Levels 2 and 3





Ensembling Strategy

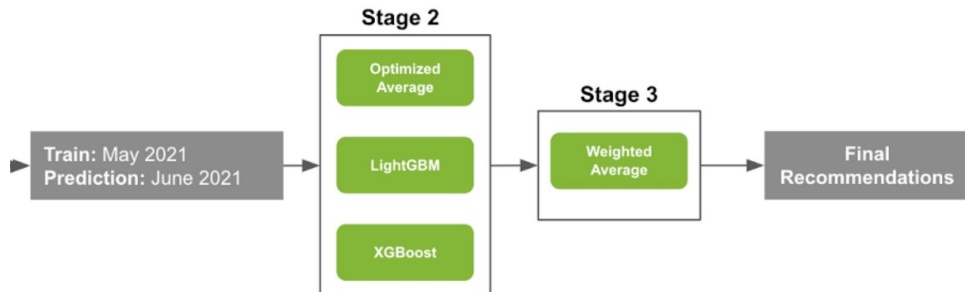
	Stage 2 - Optimization algorithm	Stage 2 - LightGBM	Stage 2 - XGBoost	Stage 3 - Weighted Average
Cross-validation strategy	No CV	25 random CV splits based on session-id (85%-15%)	3 seeds of temporal 4-fold splits	No CV
Objective function	Original MRR@100	Lambda Rank	Binary Cross-Entropy	Original MRR + Conservative constraint
Item candidates filtering strategy	Use all candidates from Stage1	Item-ids in at least two Stage1 models	Item-ids in at least two Stage1 models	-





Models Ensemble Scores

	Stage 2			Stage 3
	Optimized Weighted Average	XGBoost	LightGBM	Weighted Average
Public LB	0.2073	0.2074	0.2076	0.2082
Final LB	-	-	-	0.2086





QUESTIONS?

Organizers

LOGICW

kaggle

LVMH

SEPHORA

GIVENCHY

LOUIS VUITTON

BVLGARI

Dior

MoëtHennessy

Christian Dior
PARFUMS

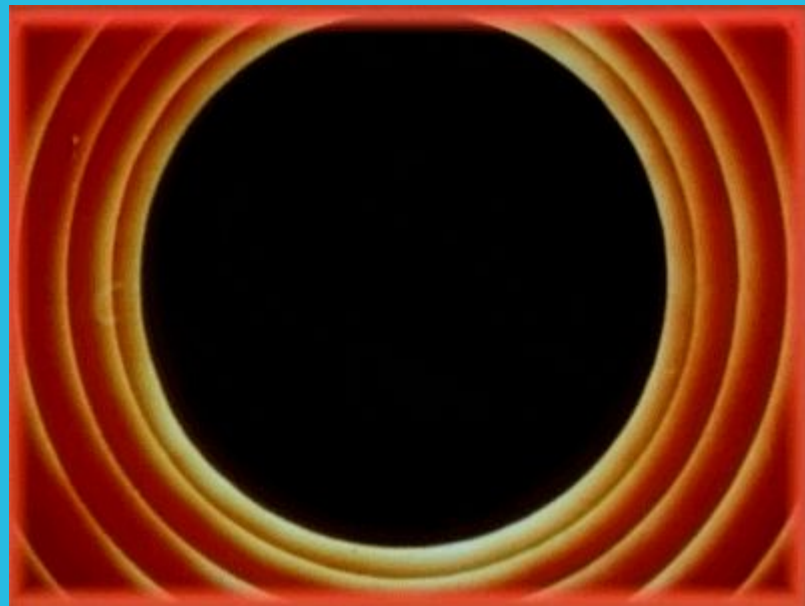
CELINE

TIFFANY & CO.



THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

www.linkedin.com/in/giba1
<https://twitter.com/giba1>



Blog: <https://medium.com/nvidia-merlin/building-a-diverse-models-ensemble-for-fashion-session-based-recommendation-for-recsys2022-2419d2182c4c>

Paper: https://github.com/NVIDIA-Merlin/competitions/blob/main/RecSys2022_Challenge