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Assignment 5 - Recommender Systems

Writeup

A Recommender System Trail

I decided to go down the rabbit hole of Aliens Abductions, whether they are real or not. I started with "An Alien Abducted My Family and I Can Prove It! | This Morning", and followed the top recommended list 10 times.

For each video you choose, record a screenshot of the video preview in your document.

1. An Alien Abducted My Family and I Can Prove It! | This Morning



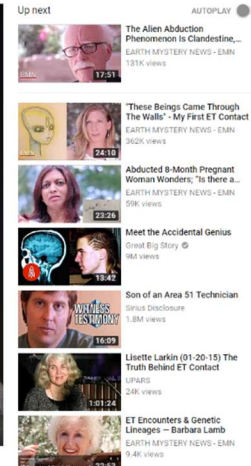
2. The Woman Who Claims She Was Abducted By Aliens | Studio 10



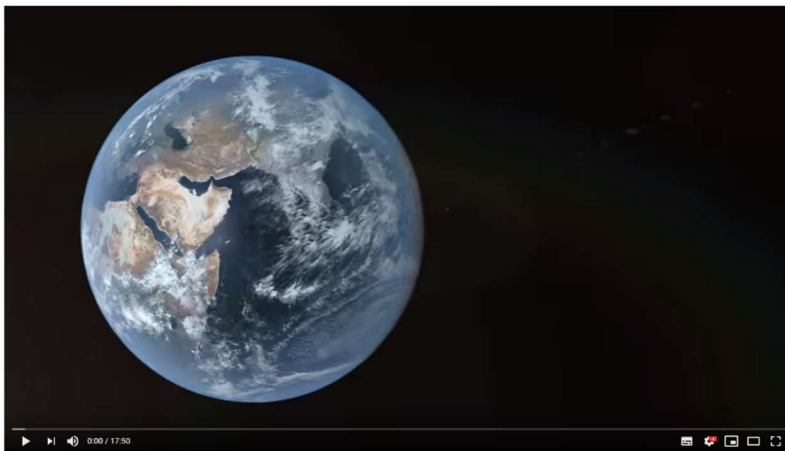
3. My First ET Contact Experience - 6 Years Old



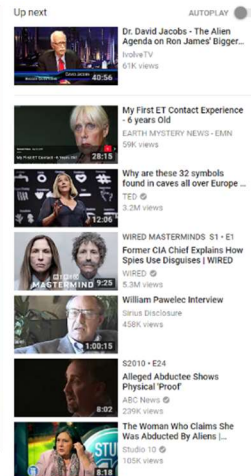
My First ET Contact Experience - 6 years Old



4. The Alien Abduction Phenomenon Is Clandestine, David Jacobs Speaks Out



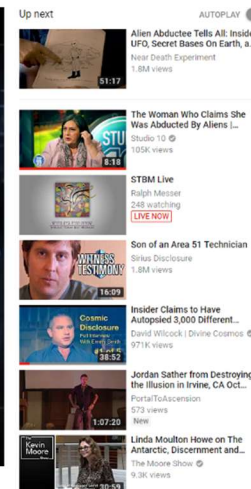
The Alien Abduction Phenomenon Is Clandestine, David Jacobs Speaks Out



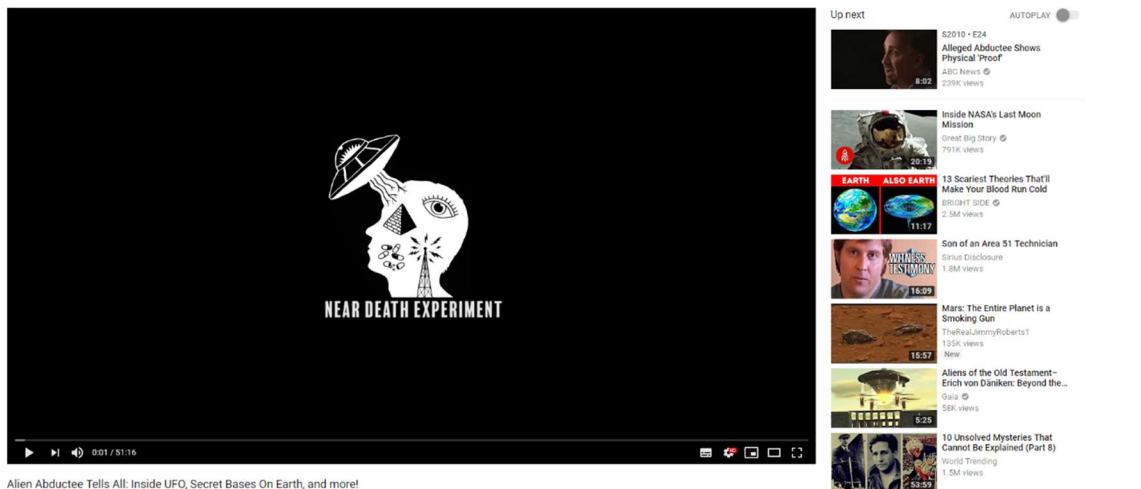
5. Dr. David Jacobs - The Alien Agenda on Ron James' Bigger Questions



Dr. David Jacobs - The Alien Agenda on Ron James' Bigger Questions.



6. Alien Abductee Tells All: Inside UFO, Secret Bases On Earth, and more!



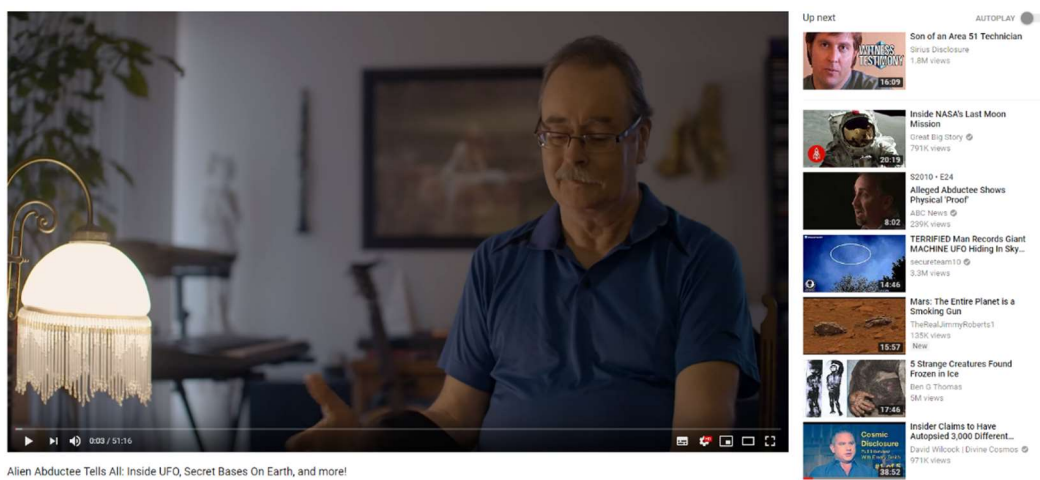
Alien Abductee Tells All: Inside UFO, Secret Bases On Earth, and more!

7. Alleged Abductee Shows Physical 'Proof'



Alleged Abductee Shows Physical 'Proof'

8. Alien Abductee Tells All: Inside UFO, Secret Bases On Earth, and more!



Alien Abductee Tells All: Inside UFO, Secret Bases On Earth, and more!

9. Son of An Area 51 Technician



10. 5 Incredible Lost Photos Found On Missing Cameras



What do you notice about the videos? How does the topic change over time? Do you notice progressions toward more extreme views like those we read about?

I notice that on some level, the videos get progressively more extreme to an extent. From the first video, which is just proof, we go into more detail onto the insides of UFOs and the alien agendas. However, towards the end, one video is repeated and the videos get less extreme and less relevant. This may be because the library on alien abductions were not that popular, or that they did not believe the videos were worth recommending due to other user's dislike of them. In any case, for the most part, the videos seemed to get more extreme, but not the extent that the articles stated.

Creating a Recommender System

How well do you think it does at predicting movies that you'd like? How would you improve it?

Right now, it works by looking at the genres of the movies I liked, and weighting the other movies based on the genres as well as their overall rating. By doing so, I get a 'score' that takes into account whether the movie is within my genre and if other people liked it. With this initial test, it seems like they recommend Drama and War movies because in my initial 20 ratings, I had only one rating with War, and I gave it a 5. Therefore, the system thinks I like War movies a lot.

After inserting our top recommended movie into our watched list with high recommendations for each one, we make a few observations. Since at the start, we had only one movie of War, and this was rated highly, this is reflected in our recommendations. As we continue to rate war movies highly, and most war movies are paired with drama, our final recommendations are entirely drama and war. If we started with a more complete dataset of over 20 movies, this recommendation algorithm might be more effective in giving you recommendations other than singling out one genre. Below we have the list of movies we have "watched" at the end and our final user data.

A Recommender System for a New Dataset

We will now adapt and train a recommender algorithm for a new dataset that we find. We choose the dataset of Games Reviews, and will be using genres and ratings to build this recommender system once more.

For your dataset, what are good features for making recommendations? How well does the recommender work now? What would you do to improve it?

Since we are using games, genres are also applicable to make recommendations. It works pretty well, because a few of the games recommended to me were games I have played before and enjoyed. However, since these games are cross-platform, there are some games that I do not own the platform for, or do not like the platform for. The recommender system could keep track of which platforms the user has used before and adjust its recommendations accordingly.