



Personalization

A Collaborative Filtering Approach

The YouTube recommendations algorithm is way too reactive. I watched one Jordan Peterson video and this is my home page.

Recommended



"His Ideas Are Idiotic" Jordan Peterson DESTROYS Justin

Conservative Network
403K views • 1 month ago



Jordan Peterson: Advice for Hyper-Intellectual People

PhilosophyInsights
865K views • 8 months ago



Jordan Peterson Dissects the Mind of a Mass Murderer

Cheap Virtue
671K views • 1 year ago



Accessing a scammer's PC

Jim Browning
2.1M views • 1 year ago



7 Times Jordan Peterson Went Unhinged Genius

ScienceNET
458K views • 8 months ago



Jordan Peterson Destroys Islam in 15 Seconds

Acts17Apologetics
504K views • 1 month ago



'All White men are R@CIST' Smart Man OWNS Race-

50 Stars
159K views • 5 months ago



Jordan Peterson: Milo is a walking Contradiction and He

Conservatism
277K views • 1 month ago



Jordan Peterson Destroys Gender Denying Ideologue

AustralianRealist
733K views • 2 years ago



Jordan Peterson: My Encounter With Hell's Angels

Clash of Ideas
282K views • 6 months ago



Leftist Host SNAPS At Jordan Peterson, Instantly

Conservative Network
993K views • 1 week ago



How to Easily Overcome Social Anxiety - Prof. Jordan

Psyche Matters
908K views • 7 months ago

SHOW MORE



Nakilis 2 years ago

I couldn't agree more. After watching one Tyler Perry interview on Jimmy Fallon, all of my recommendations are now Tyler Perry and Jimmy Fallon related.. And not all of the other content that I watch in ungodly amounts. But sure, Youtube still knows what they're doing.

↑ 1 ↓ [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



Poenaconda 2 years ago

I once watched ONE video from a creator I enjoy. The next day my ENTIRE recommended was their videos. I understand that YouTube thinks I will watch them but that is insane.

↑ 1 ↓ [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)

有人只是去参加了一次北京婚博会，晚上回到家打开微博和微信，发现信息流广告全部变成了婚纱照、婚庆公司、婚礼礼服等。令他感到恐怖的是在此之前从未在手机进行过结婚相关的任何搜索。这一切发生改变的原因仅仅是因为他去了一次婚博会这个地方而已。

有人在知乎看到除甲醛的相关问题，只是百度了一下，结果连一个美食app都开始推荐除甲醛公司。在百度上打开某理财网站，不到半小时推销电话就打过来了。

有时候你在网上搜了一本小說，然后突然就会有很多假网站在百度上显示他们网站有这本小说可以下载，然后让百度把他推在首页，你打开链接一看其实里面没有，但是有其他东西的广告。

TECHNOLOGY

Google Knows You Better Than You Know Yourself

Predictive analysis combs through calendars and search histories—and gets in the way of routine self-deception.

JAMES CARMICHAEL AUGUST 19, 2014

Facebook Knows You Better than You Know Yourself



Erman Misirlisoy, PhD Oct 18, 2018 · 7 min read ★



The Internet Knows You Better Than You Know Yourself

When Amazon or eBay recommend us something we like but were not looking for, they effectively know us better than we know ourselves.

How Target Figured Out A Teen Girl Was Pregnant Before Her Father Did

Kashmir Hill Former Staff

Welcome to The Not-So Private Parts where technology & privacy collide



TARGET HAS GOT YOU IN ITS AIM
COMPANY USES CONSUMER DATA TO ADVERTISE







DATA THAT FITMS COLLECT

Even the traditional brick-and-mortar (offline) shops are also collecting your data.

Your payment method (Credit? Mobile pay? Cash?)

Loyalty program information (Are you using Yuu?)

Personal profile (If you ever registered there...)





DATA THAT FITMS COLLECT

With new technologies, brick-and-mortar stores can also get much more information than what they had before.

As described in the video, if you use the free Wi-Fi they provide you, they will be able to collect data from your smartphone!

Facial recognition and mobile payments help collect data from you (“刷脸支付”).



BUYING FOOD WITH FACIAL RECOGNITION





Personalized Pricing

With personalized pricing, a seller offers each consumer an individualized price, and two persons can receive two different prices at the same time.

Note that personalized pricing is different from dynamic pricing. With dynamic pricing, the price is changing over time. For personalized pricing, the price is changing over consumers.

Example of dynamic pricing: Uber adjusts prices timely.





Price Discrimination

Broadly speaking, personalized pricing is a form of price discrimination. Let's review types of price discrimination (video [here](#)):

1st degree: The firm sells a product at the maximum price that every consumer is willing to pay.

2nd degree: price varies according to quantity demanded.

3rd degree: charging a different price to different consumer groups.






Personalized Pricing

Personalized pricing is close to first-degree price discrimination.

Firms can learn about your income (e.g., from your bank account), your geo-location (e.g., in the US or India), your neighborhood (a high-end one?), your device (iOS or Android), your purchase habits (bargain hunter?), your gender,...

Based on this information, firms can infer how much you are willing to pay for the product and offer you a personalized price.



Examples

Are you using a Mac or a PC?



On Orbitz, Mac users spend as much as 30% more a night on hotels that PC users do.

Examples

Websites Vary Prices, Deals Based on Users' Information

Getting Different Deals Online

A Journal examination found online retailers adjusted prices by a shopper's location, among other factors

Staples.com

SnapSafe Titan safe

HIGHER PRICE

\$1,199.99

DISCOUNT PRICE

\$1,099.99

DIFFERENCE

9.1%

Homedepot.com

A 250-foot spool of electrical wiring



Six price-groups, including:

\$70.80 in Ashtabula, Ohio

\$72.45 in Erie, Pa

\$77.87 in Monticello, NY

RosettaStone.com



...for buying multiple levels of German lessons, when test-shopping from the U.S. or Canada. But not from the U.K. or Argentina

Photos: (l to r) Staples; Home Depot; Rosetta Stone

Source: WSJ testing

The Wall Street Journal

MOST POPULAR NEWS

1. What You Can and Can't Do if You've Been Vaccinated: Travel, Risk Factors, What You Need to Know
2. Europe Confronts Covid Rebound as Vaccine Hopes Recede
3. Biden's \$1,400 Stimulus Checks Hit Bank Accounts Starting Today
4. Schumer and Gillibrand Call for Cuomo to Resign

The US retailer *Office Depots* uses customers' browsing history and location data to vary prices




Examples

These Brands Have Some of the Best Abandoned Cart Email Strategies

Aug 28, 2019 5:03:58 PM

When you abandon an item from your online shopping cart, e-tailers may issue you a discount to lure you to make a purchase.






Behavior-Based Pricing

The more common approach is pricing with consumers' purchase history, a practice known as “**behavior-based pricing**”.

The idea is very simple: The price you receive depends on whether or not you have purchased the products before. In other words, we offer new and existing consumers different prices.





QUESTION

Suppose that a firm uses “behavior-based pricing”, how should the firm charge its prices? Should the firm offer new consumers a higher or lower price?



Is It Legal?

While consumers often object to personalized pricing, it is legal in most countries.

In 1996, a consumer living in Manhattan sued Victoria's Secret for distributing different versions of catalogs with identical items but different prices. However, the New York Court dismissed the claim by noting that it was an accepted business practice to reward repeat consumers or to draw in new consumers with special savings.





Is It Legal?

Any form of price discrimination is legal in the United States, as long as the basis of discrimination is not race, religion, national origin, gender, and the like.

Recently, China banned behavior-based pricing in the traveling and hospitality industry. According to a 2020 regulation by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, online traveling website is not allowed to offer consumers discriminated prices (see [news](#) here).

In the EU, there is a recent GDPR regulation on big data.





EU's GDPR regulation



How Firms Use Your Data

**Personalized
Pricing**

**Personalized
Recommendation**

Recommendation is everywhere

amazon.com

Recommended for You

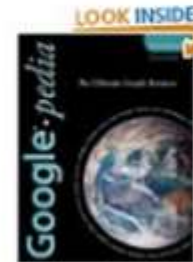
Amazon.com has new recommendations for you based on [items](#) you purchased or told us you own.



[Google Apps
Deciphered: Compute in
the Cloud to Streamline
Your Desktop](#)



[Google Apps
Administrator Guide: A
Private-Label Web
Workspace](#)



[Googlepedia: The
Ultimate Google
Resource \(3rd Edition\)](#)

Recommendation is everywhere

us house of representatives

myFINANCE
Did you know?
Two Savings Accounts
That Pay 10x What
Your Bank Pays.
Save More

Up next

(Part II) A Day in the Life of
Arizona Rancher: Fences, Il
Center for Immigration Studie
43K views

13:29

CNN
Gillespie: Criticizes Trump
You promised Mexico wou
CNN
3.7M views
Now

10:06

People Are Fleeing Preside
Trump's America To This T
NBC News
308K views

7:23

Scrambling onto trucks for
better life
Sky News
2.4M views

2:58

Polar Bear vs Walrus colon
BBC Planet Earth | BBC Stu
BBC Studios
Recommended for you

WSJ

Arizona Border Ranchers Torn in Support for Trump's Wall

172,275 views

603 349 SHARE SAVE

Wall Street Journal
Published on Mar 16, 2017

Subscribe 1.2M

Despite enthusiastic backing for President Donald Trump and pleas for a stronger border, Arizona ranchers are conflicted in their support for Trump's promise to build a wall along the border with Mexico. Photo/Video: Jake Nicol/The Wall Street Journal

SHOW MORE

Recommendation is everywhere





The Importance of Recommendation

Netflix: 2/3 of the movies watched are recommended.

Google News: recommendations generate 38% more click-throughs.

Amazon: 35% sales from recommendations.

ChoiceStream: 28% of the people would buy more music if they found what they liked.





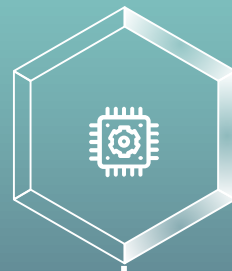
Items

movies, songs,
products, etc. (often
many thousands)



Users

watchers, listeners,
purchasers, etc.
(often many
millions)



Feedback

5-star ratings, not-
clicking 'next', purchases,
etc.




Collaborative Filtering

Everyday examples of collaborative filtering:

Bestseller lists, Top 40 music lists, The “recent returns” shelf at the library, “Read any good books lately?”

The intuition behind collaborative filtering: **personal tastes are correlated**

If Alice and Bob both like X and Alice likes Y, then Bob is more likely to like Y – especially (perhaps) if Bob knows Alice

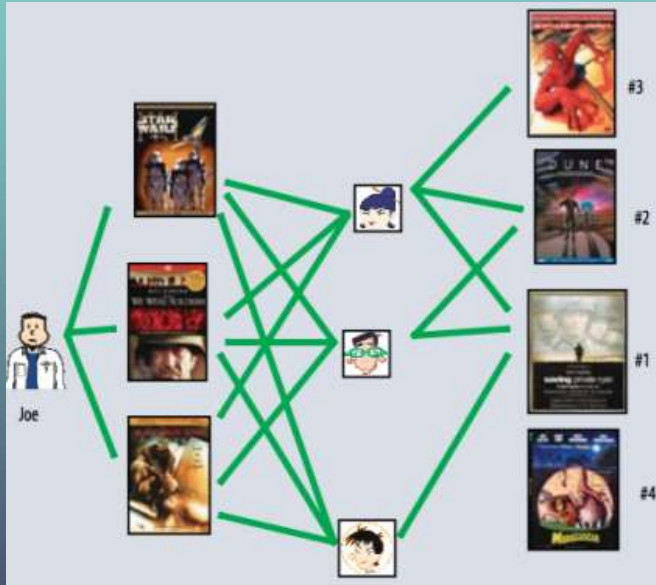


Question

						
	2			4	5	
	5		4			1
			5		2	
		1		5		4
			4			2
	4	5		1		

Suppose that you want to recommend a movie to this person. Which movie would you recommend? Why?

Neighborhood Method



In the figure, assume that a green line indicates the movie was watched.

Algorithm:

1. **Find neighbors** based on similarity of movie preferences
2. **Recommend** movies that those neighbors watched

User-Based Collaborative Filtering



						
	2			4	5	
	5		4			1
			5		2	
		1		5		4
			4		2	
	4	5		1		

Each user has reviewed some items, but not every item.

We want to know their preferences for the unrated items.

User-Based Collaborative Filtering



	2			4	5	
	5		4			1
			5		2	
		1		5		4
			4			2
	4	5		1		

Suppose that you want to understand this specific user's preferences.

User-Based Collaborative Filtering



Movie posters shown above the table: Toy Story, Date Night, Mickey Blue Eyes, The Rainbow, The Matrix, and The Bourne Supremacy. The posters for Mickey Blue Eyes and The Bourne Supremacy are circled in green.

	2			4	5	
	5		4			1
			5		2	
		1		5		4
			4			2
	4	5		1		

Identify items that have been rated by this user.

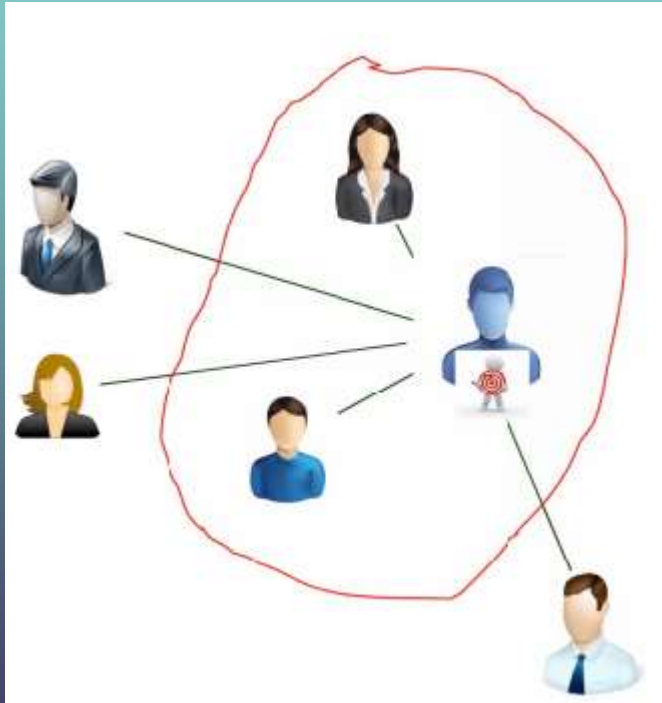
User-Based Collaborative Filtering

	2			4	5	
	5		4			1
			5		2	
		1		5		4
			4			2
	4	5		1		

Identify items that have been rated by this user.

Identify other users that have rated the same items.

User-Based Collaborative Filtering



Compute how similar each neighbor is to the target user (similarity function). This is usually done by calculating the correlation between their ratings.


In case, select k most similar neighbors.

Make predictions based the similar neighbors' preferences.



Item-Based Collaborative Filtering

The idea is very similar to user-based collaborative filtering.

1. Identify set of users who rated the target item.
 2. Identify which other items (neighbors) were rated by the users set.
 3. Compute similarity between each neighbor & target item.
 4. In case, select k most similar neighbors.
 5. Predict ratings for the target item.
- 



Matrix Factorization Method

Here, we assume that each individual and each movie has some “latent factors”. For movies, these factors can measure dimensions such as **comedy versus drama, amount of action, or orientation to children; depth of character development or quirkiness, ...**

Each user has his or her preference for the factors and each movie has its value on each of these factors.






Matrix Factorization Method

Let us consider a very simple example. Suppose that there are two factors, amount of action (X) and seriousness (Y). A user also has her preference for action β_X and preference for seriousness β_Y .

When a movie has a large X, it means the movie has more actions, and when a movie has a large Y, it means the movie is more serious. Similarly, if β_X is large, it means the user prefers more actions in the movie.





Matrix Factorization Method

Then, if we know X, Y, β_X, β_Y , we can predict the user's preference for the movie, which is given by

$$\text{Preference score} = \beta_X X + \beta_Y Y$$

And we should recommend movies with the highest preference score.



Rating Matrix as a product of its factors



1

1

F1

0

1

F2

F1

F2



3

2

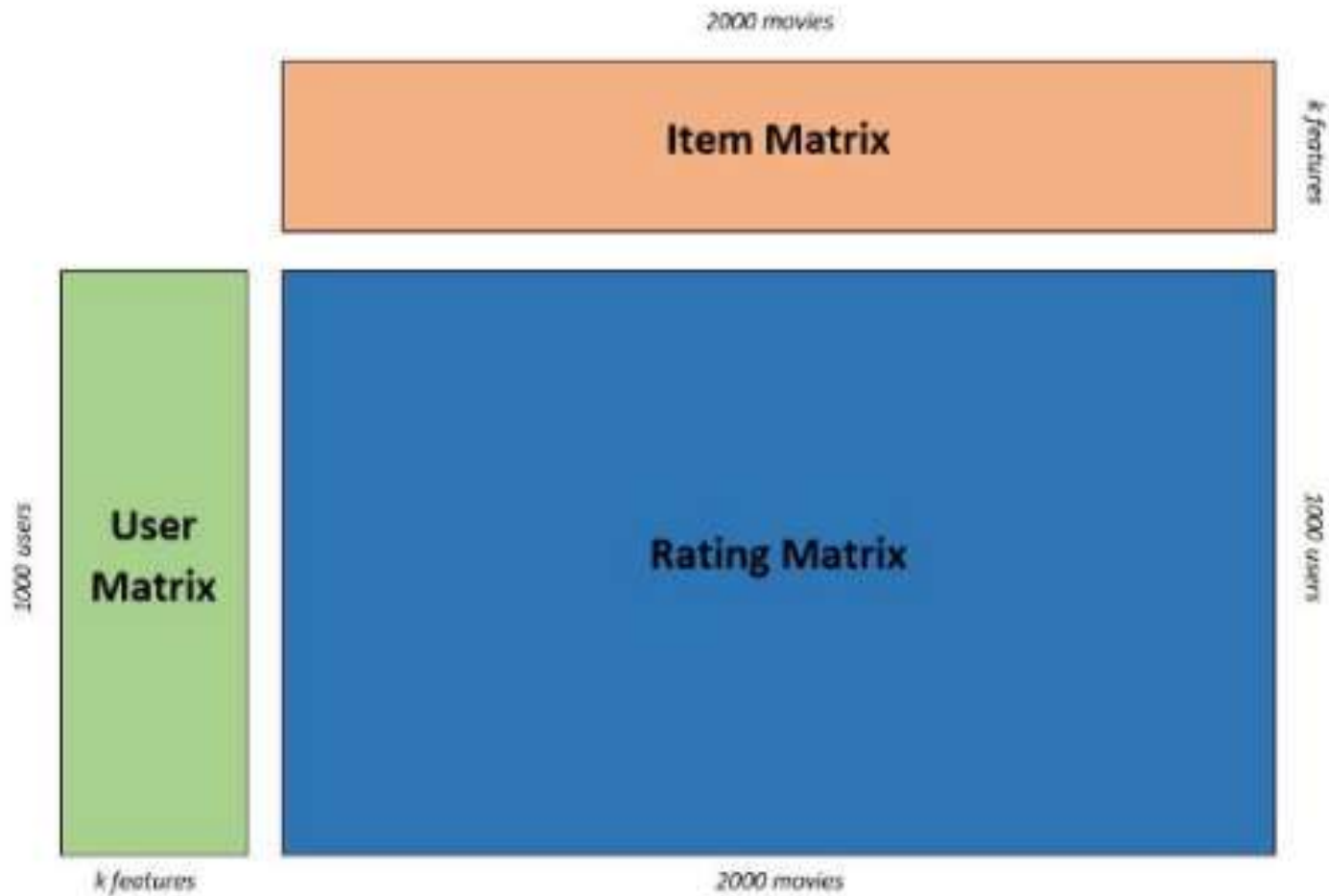
3

5

DOT PRODUCT

$(3 \times 1) + (2 \times 0)$

$(3 \times 1) + (2 \times 1)$



Matrix Factorization Method

	Doctor Strange	Star Trek: Beyond	Zootopia
Alice	1		5
Bob	3	4	
Charlie	3	5	2

Usually, each user has only watched or rated a few movies.

So, the entire rating matrix has a lot of missing values.

We want to fill these missing values.




Matrix Factorization Method

Based on the data that we already have (i.e., existing ratings from users), we can decompose the rating matrix into the user matrix and the movie matrix.

How to decompose? One approach is to minimize the sum of squares of errors like we do in linear regression.

Then, we can multiple these two matrices to predict a user's preference for an unwatched movie.






Matrix Factorization Method

In sum, based on what users have already watched, we can infer the user's preference for various movie attributes.

In addition, based on the ratings from the users who have watched the movie, we can infer the movie's attributes.

Finally, based on the user's preferences and the movie's attributes, we can predict a user's preference for this movie.






Matrix Factorization Method

We can compare it with linear regression:

In linear regression, we infer the value of α and β , and then we can use the regression formula $Y = \alpha + \beta X$ to make predictions.

In matrix factorization, we infer both β_X and β_Y for each user, and X and Y for each movie, and use the formula $\beta_X X + \beta_Y Y$ to predict the user's preference for the movie.





Summary Video

