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Approaches to Reasoning with Uncertainty

# A Clustering Approach for Collaborative Filtering under the Belief Function Framework

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Belief Function Theory
- 3 Collaborative Filtering Recommender
- 4 Evidential Clustering Collaborative Filtering
- 5 Experimental Study
- 6 Conclusion and Future Works



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- What is the suitable country to visit?
- Which book should I buy for my next vacation?
- Which movie should I watch?
- etc.



# Context

How much information can we handle?



## A plethora of information

- Confusion.
- Wasting time.
- Reaching unsatisfiable options.



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- Predicts the active user's preferences based on past ratings from users similar to him.

## Item-based

- Computes how similar a set of items the active user has rated, to the target item.



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# Item-based CF approach



## Item-Based CF

Selecting similar items in the system to predict the user's preferences.



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# Item-based CF approach

Example



Similarity ?

	Movie 1	Movie 2	Movie 3	Movie 4	Movie 5	Movie 6	Movie 7
User 1	2	4	?	3	3	5	3
User 2	5	5	2	4	2	4	?
User 3	?	?	4	2	4	1	5
User 4	3	1	5	1	?	?	2
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A red bracket labeled "Similarity?" spans across Movie 4 and Movie 7 in the header row.





# Item-based CF approach

Example



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# Item-based CF approach

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# Item-based CF approach

Example



movielens

MovieLens recommends these movies

## top picks

view:



filters:

rated movies: hide

more

Inception

2010 PG-13 148 min



Harry Potter and th

2011 PG-13 130 min



Harry Potter and th

2010 PG-13 146 min



Interstellar

2014 PG-13 169 min





## Limitations

- CF needs to search the whole user- item space to compute items similarities.
- This computation leads to poor scalability performance.
- ⇒ Clustering items to reduce the consuming time.



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## Problem statement

- Does not take into account the uncertainty involved during the clusters assignments.
- An item may potentially belong to more than only one cluster.

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- 1 Dealing with the **uncertain** aspect of the items' clustering.
  - 2 Improving the **scalability** of the CF approach under uncertainty.
- ⇒ Maintaining a good recommendation performance.

## Goal

A Clustering Approach for Collaborative Filtering under the Belief Function Framework



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### Definition

- A flexible and rich framework for dealing with imperfect information.

Frame of discernment:  $\Theta$

$$\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n\}$$

$$2^\Theta = \{A : A \subseteq \Theta\}$$

Basic belief assignment: *bba*

$$m : 2^\Theta \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$\sum_{A \subseteq \Theta} m(A) = 1$$



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# Belief function theory

## Combination rule

- The combination rules combine the *bba*'s induced from independent information sources into a unique one.

### Dempster's rule of combination

$$(m_1 \oplus m_2)(A) = k \cdot \sum_{B, C \subseteq \Theta: B \cap C = A} m_1(B) \cdot m_2(C)$$

$$k^{-1} = 1 - \sum_{B, C \subseteq \Theta: B \cap C = \emptyset} m_1(B) \cdot m_2(C) \text{ and } (m_1 \oplus m_2)(\emptyset) = 0$$



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## Pignistic probability

$$\text{Bet}P(A) = \sum_{B \subseteq \Theta} \frac{|A \cap B|}{|B|} \frac{m(B)}{(1 - m(\emptyset))} \text{ for all } A \in \Theta$$



Representation and fusion of beliefs

Decision making



### Examples

- Belief K-modes: Dealing with uncertainty in the attribute values.
- Evidential C-means: Handling uncertainty for objects' assignment.
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- **Allows a credal partition of the objects.**

## Principle

- Determining the mass  $m_i$  representing partial knowledge regarding the cluster membership to any subset of  $\Theta$ .
- $\Theta = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\}$ .
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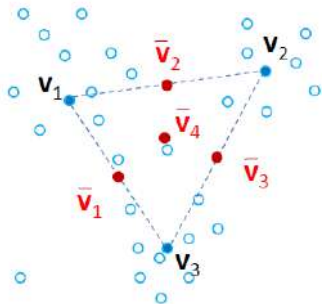
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## Principle

- Every partition is represented by a prototype  $v_k \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .
- Each subset  $A_j$  of  $\Theta$  is represented by the barycenter  $v_j$  of the centers  $v_k$ .



## Objective Criterion

- The credal partition is determined by minimizing the following objective function:

$$J_{ECM} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\{j/A_j \neq \emptyset, A_j \subseteq \Theta\}} |A_j^\alpha| m_{ij}^\beta d_{ij}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta^2 m_{i\emptyset}^\beta$$

- $\alpha \geq 0$  is a weighting exponent for cardinality.
- $\beta > 1$  is a weighting exponent controlling the hardness of the partition.
- $\delta$  represents the distance between all instances and the empty set.



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## Basic concepts

- **Target item:** The current item for which we would like to predict users' preferences
- **Active user:** The user for whom the task is to find items' suggestions.
- **Rating  $r_{u,i}$ :** The preference expressed by the user  $u$  for the item  $i$  in the system.
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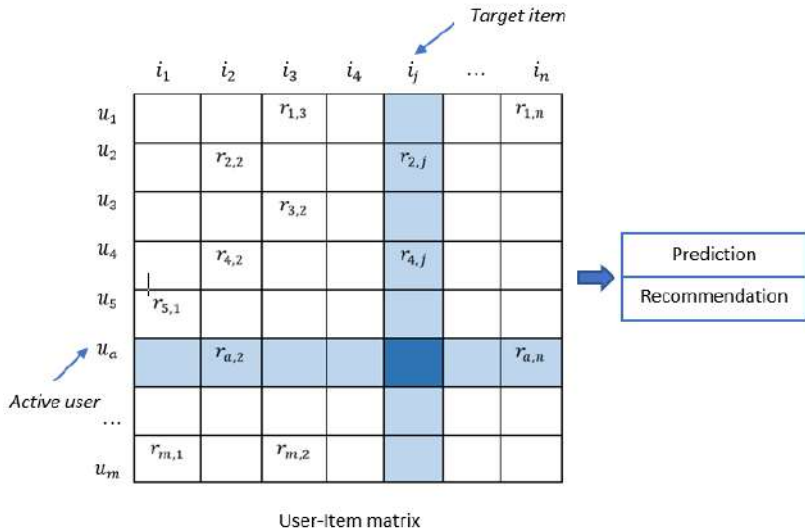


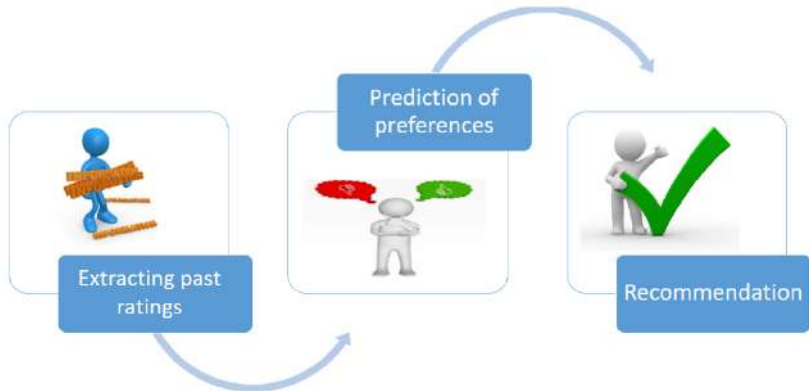
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# Collaborative Filtering







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Step1

Items Clustering

Step2

Clusters Selection

Step3

Ratings Prediction





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## Principle

- 1 Exploiting the user-item matrix and randomly initializing the cluster centers.
- 2 Computing the euclidean distance between the items and the non empty subsets of  $\Theta$ .
- 3 Allocating for each item in the matrix a mass of belief to any subsets of the  $\Theta$ .  
⇒ Credal partition.



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# Step1: Items Clustering

Example

User-item matrix

	<i>Movie<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>Movie<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>Movie<sub>3</sub></i>	<i>Movie<sub>4</sub></i>	<i>Movie<sub>5</sub></i>
<i>User<sub>1</sub></i>	3	?	4	1	2
<i>User<sub>2</sub></i>	4	4	2	?	?
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- The clustering process consists of providing a credal partition for the 5 movies.



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# Step1: Items Clustering

Example



The credal partition corresponding to the five movies ( $c=3$ )

	$\emptyset$	$\{C_1\}$	$\{C_2\}$	$\{C_1, C_2\}$	$\{C_3\}$	$\{C_1, C_3\}$	$\{C_2, C_3\}$	$\Theta$
$M_1$	0.002	0.968	0.009	0.007	0.004	0.004	0.001	0.001
$M_2$	0.046	0.294	0.271	0.110	0.113	0.073	0.051	0.038
$M_3$	0.005	0.001	0.001	0.004	0.993	0.009	0.001	0.004
$M_4$	0.006	0.021	0.885	0.017	0.024	0.010	0.024	0.009
$M_5$	0.036	0.148	0.493	0.090	0.094	0.047	0.055	0.032



### Principle

- Computing the pignistic probability  $BetP_i$  induced by each  $bba$ .
- Assigning each item to the cluster with the highest pignistic probability.



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## Step2: Clusters Selection

Example

The pignistic probabilities corresponding to the five movies

Movies	$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	Selected cluster
$Movie_1$	0.9773	0.0144	0.0083	?
$Movie_2$	0.4188	0.3833	0.1979	?
$Movie_3$	0.0017	0.0029	0.9953	?
$Movie_4$	0.0387	0.9155	0.0458	?
$Movie_5$	0.2374	0.5992	0.1633	?

- Making a final decision about the cluster of each movie.



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- Selecting the corresponding cluster having the highest value.



# Step3: Ratings Prediction

Example



## Principle

- Extracting the items belonging to the same cluster as the target item.
- Computing the average of the ratings corresponding to the same clusters members.



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### Rating Computation

- The rating prediction is performed as follows:

$$\hat{R}_{u,i} = \frac{\sum_{j \in C_i(u)} R_{uj}}{|C_i(u)|}$$

- $C_i(u)$  is the set of items  $\in$  to the cluster of the item  $i$  and rated by the user  $u$ .
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- The rating  $\hat{R}_{1,2}$  given by *User*<sub>1</sub> to *Movie*<sub>2</sub> ?



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- The rating  $\hat{R}_{1,2}$  given by *User<sub>1</sub>* to *Movie<sub>2</sub>* ?
- *Movie<sub>2</sub>* and *Movie<sub>1</sub>*  $\in C_1$ .
- $\hat{R}_{1,2} = \frac{3}{1} = 3$ .



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## MoviesLens



- 943 users
- 1682 movies
- 100 000 ratings
- Ratings scale: [1,5]



## Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

- Evaluating the prediction accuracy.

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{u,i} |\hat{R}_{u,i} - R_{u,i}|}{\|\hat{R}_{u,i}\|}$$

- $R_{u,i}$ : Real rating for the user  $u$  on the item  $i$
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- $R_{u,i}$ : Real rating for the user  $u$  on the item  $i$
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⇒ Lower values of MAE = Better prediction accuracy





## Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

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## Precision

- Evaluating the quality of recommendations.

$$Precision = \frac{IR}{IR + UR}$$

- *IR*: Interesting item has been correctly recommended
- *UR*: Uninteresting item has been incorrectly recommended

⇒ Higher precision values = Better performance



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## Scalability Performance

- The ability of the recommendation approach to be run quickly.



## Proposed Approach

- Evidential clustering item-based CF (EC-IBCF)



VS

## Traditional Approach

- Evidential item-based CF (EV-IBCF)



## Proposed Approach

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VS

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- Evidential item-based CF (EV-IBCF)



- Performance in terms of prediction and recommendation

	<b>Traditional approach</b>	<b>Proposed approach</b>
<b>Metric</b>	EV-IBCF	EC-IBCE
Mean_MAE	0.809	<b>0.793</b>
Mean_Precision	0.733	<b>0.75</b>

⇒ EC-IBCE has the lowest error values in terms of Mean\_MAE.

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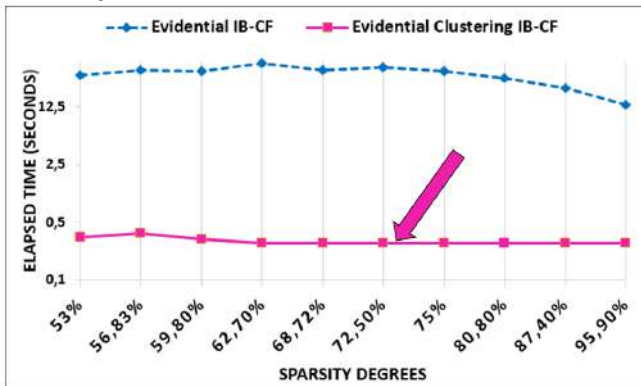
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⇒ The execution time of the clustering CF approach is substantially lower than the basic evidential CF.



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Belief Function Theory
- 3 Collaborative Filtering Recommender
- 4 Evidential Clustering Collaborative Filtering
- 5 Experimental Study
- 6 Conclusion and Future Works**



## Conclusion

- A new clustering CF approach based on the Evidential C-Means method.
- Maintaining a good scalability and recommendation performance.

## Future works

- Relying on the different *bba*'s corresponding to the different clusters rather than the most significant one.



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**Thank you**