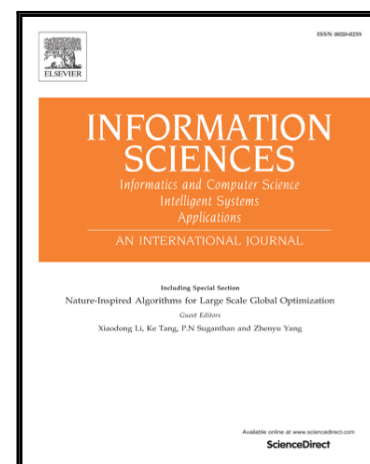


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Adaptive Multi-attribute Diversity for Recommender Systems

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Abstract

Providing very accurate recommendations to end users has been nowadays recognized to be just one of the tasks an effective recommender system should accomplish. While predicting relevant suggestions, attention needs to be paid also to their diversification in order to avoid monotony in the returned list of recommendations. In this paper we focus on modeling user propensity toward selecting diverse items, where diversity is computed by means of content-based item attributes. We then exploit such modeling to present a novel approach to re-arrange the list of Top-N items predicted by a recommendation algorithm, with the aim of fostering diversity in the final ranking. An extensive experimental evaluation proves the effectiveness of the proposed approach as well as its ability to improve also novelty and catalog coverage values.

1. Introduction

Recommender systems have been proposed as essential tools in assisting users to face the “information overload” problem and they have been applied across several domains [8], such as music [26], TV programs [5], taxi suggestion [22], digital libraries [3], just to cite a few of them. The main task of a recommendation engine is suggesting unknown items in a personalized way and recommend the top N items by considering the highest predicted ratings. As a result, in the recommender systems field new algorithms and approaches have been proposed over the years mostly devoted to maximizing recommendation accuracy. However, more recently, the drawbacks of building recommendation engines focusing exclusively on accuracy maximization have been also widely explored and highlighted [1, 9, 30]. Simply put, the most accurate recommendations for a user are often too similar with each

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