

# Enhancing Interpretability in Diverse Recommendation Systems through Explainable AI Techniques

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Received: 18.01.2024

Revised: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 24.02.2024

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## ABSTRACT

This paper explores the application of XAI methodologies, particularly focusing on the utilization of the Shapley Additive explanations (SHAP) framework, and implement it into three distinct recommendation systems with explainability: matrix factorization, content-based filtering, and collaborative filtering. Using a novel blend of SHAP values and a multimodal Large Language Model (LLM), namely GPT-4, we highlight a unique methodology utilized for understanding the decision-making processes underlying recommendation algorithms. The exploration of SHAP values reveals granular insights into the factors which influence individual recommendations, embiggening users understanding of the suggestions provided by these algorithms. Leveraging a multimodal LLM further augments interpretability by providing a detailed yet succinct explanation of SHAP-derived insights. By laying bare the inner working of the chosen recommendation models, our research seeks to foster transparency and increased user control in the domain of recommendation systems.

**Keywords:** Recommendation Systems, Matrix factorization, Content-based filtering, Collaborative filtering, xAI, SHAP, GPT-4

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this era, recommendation systems play a crucial part in helping users navigate through the enormous collection of online content and services. From personalized movie suggestions on streaming platforms to customer specific product recommendations on e-commerce websites, these recommendation systems are now an essential part of our digital experience, consciously and subconsciously shaping our choices and preferences [1].

As recommendation systems continue to expand across various domains, the importance of trust and transparency in their operation cannot be overstated. Every day, millions of users rely increasingly on algorithmic suggestions to discover new content, make purchasing decisions, and explore complex information spaces. However, the fact that recommendation algorithms are essentially black boxes raises concerns about their fairness, accountability, and potential biases. In an age where AI-driven decisions influence various aspects of our lives, establishing trust in recommendation systems becomes paramount. This paper thus introduces explainable AI (XAI), a recently expanding field aimed at decoding the "black box" of machine learning models and providing insights into its decision-making processes [2]. XAI when applied to recommendation techniques, offers a means to shed light on why specific items or content are recommended to users, which helps solidify user understanding. By elucidating the underlying factors which determine recommendations, XAI not only empowers users to make knowledgeable choices but also allows developers to address potential issues in the algorithm such as biases or improper feature selection.

This research paper explores diverse recommendation systems spanning collaborative filtering, content-based filtering, and hybrid approaches. We not only look at the implementation and evaluation of these systems but also on integration of explainable AI techniques to increase their interpretability. By listing the decision-making rationale behind recommendation algorithms, our target is to bridge the gap between users and algorithms, and facilitate more knowledgeable interactions in recommendation-driven environments. By following empirical

analysis and case studies, this paper explores the efficiency of XAI methods in enhancing the interpretability of various recommendation paradigms and discuss implications for trust and transparency in AI-driven systems.

## 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

The ability of recommendation systems to be interpreted or understood is highly significant in various domains, including health, financial, and criminal justice. The development of Explainable AI (XAI) techniques is opening up a pathway toward enhancing the interpretability of recommendation systems across several applications. This survey provides an overview of recent research, synthesizing results to better understand the state of XAI techniques in recommendation systems and identifies possible future research directions.

Linardatos et al. (2020) [3] proposed a comprehensive literature review and taxonomy of approaches for interpretability in machine learning. Their research acts as a reference for theoreticians and practitioners to gain exposure to various XAI methods and their programming implementations. It provides a foundational understanding of interpretability methods in machine learning and sets the stage for further in-depth exploration of diverse XAI techniques in recommendation systems.

Sewada, Ranu, Jangid, Ashwani, Kumar, Piyush, and Mishra, Neha (2023) [4] explored the relevance of XAI across various domains, including healthcare, finance, and criminal justice. The authors considered various XAI methodologies and techniques, such as LIME and SHAP, evaluating their interpretability against computational efficiency and accuracy. Their study highlights the potential of XAI techniques to enhance interpretability in diverse recommendation systems and emphasizes the need for further exploration of these methods across different domains. Furthermore, Sewada et al. presented a survey and framework that categorizes XAI design goals and their corresponding evaluation methods, providing insights into how different XAI user groups' design goals can be mapped to evaluation methods. This framework serves as a valuable resource for understanding the design and evaluation of XAI techniques, laying the groundwork for future research in this area.

In the context of sentiment analysis, Xu, Feiyu, Uszkoreit, H., Du, Yangzhou, Fan, Wei, Zhao, Dongyan, and Zhu, Jun (2019) [5] proposed a commonsense-based neurosymbolic framework that overcomes limitations and provides fully interpretable and explainable results. This approach offers new perspectives on enhancing interpretability in recommendation systems by leveraging neurosymbolic techniques, opening avenues for future research in developing neurosymbolic XAI techniques for diverse recommendation systems.

The work by Buccinca, Zana, Lin, Phoebe, Gajos, Krzysztof Z., and Glassman, Elena L. (2020) [6] proposed an efficient and effective Tuning framework for Aligning LLMs with Recommendations, known as the TALLRec framework, which significantly enhances the recommendation capabilities of LLMs in the movie and book domains. This study demonstrates the potential for enhancing recommendation systems through specialized XAI techniques, paving the way for further research in this domain.

While existing research provides valuable insights into XAI techniques for enhancing interpretability in diverse recommendation systems, there are still knowledge gaps that warrant further investigation. For instance, further research should explore the applicability of XAI techniques in specific domains such as healthcare and finance, and develop specialized XAI methods tailored to these applications. Additionally, the ethical implications of XAI in diverse recommendation systems remain an important area for future research, particularly concerning

transparency and accountability. Moreover, the development of standardized evaluation metrics for XAI techniques across different domains and applications is essential to ensure their effectiveness and reliability.

In conclusion, this literature review on the application of explainable artificial intelligence in enhancing interpretability across different types of recommendation systems provides a comprehensive understanding of the current research landscape. The synthesis of findings from previous studies indicates that XAI techniques hold great promise for improving interpretability in recommendation systems across various domains. However, future work must address existing gaps and explore the ethical implications of XAI in diverse recommendation systems to develop more effective and reliable XAI techniques.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### A. Dataset

Some of the key steps in the methodology that have been followed in this research start with choosing matrix factorization, content-based filtering, and collaborative filtering as three different recommendation systems and extend to their widespread use. These techniques are representative of different recommendation approaches and provide a broad basis on which to apply XAI techniques.

Then, the SHapley Additive exPlanations framework is integrated into each of these systems. The respective SHAP values are computed as a way of quantifying the contribution every feature has made to recommendations made by algorithms. This will be one very important step towards showing

what granular factors influence every recommendation with the purpose of providing model decision-making transparency.

**Improving Interpretability of SHAP-Derived Insights:** For improving the interpretability of SHAP-derived insights, a multimodal Large Language Model is used-GPT-4. The LLM will generate long, short explanations of the SHAP values that translate numeric insights into user-friendly narratives. Closing the gap between complex model outputs and the end-user's comprehension, the recommendations are more accessible and easy to understand.

Besides disclosing the internal mechanisms of recommendation algorithms, this combination of SHAP values and GPT-4 is a novel approach toward enhancing the transparency and user control in recommendation systems. By laying bare the drivers of recommendations, this work aims at empowering users with deeper insights into the suggestions made hence eliciting greater trust and responsibility in AI-driven systems.

The study makes use of the ML-100k dataset, it is a very popular dataset [7], for recommendation systems research that is based from the MovieLens database. User-item interactions, including timestamps and ratings, are gathered from a wide range of users in this dataset.

**Matrix Factorization:** The ML-100k dataset is put in a Surprise trainset object designed for the Matrix Factorization technique, and a Singular Value Decomposition algorithm is trained by the dataset. We will have to use matrix factorization in extracting latent factors which will be equivalent to user and item embeddings. These factors are then used for the user-item ratings.

**Content-Based Filtering:** For Content-Based Filtering, the ML-100k dataset is pre-processed and augmented with item features extracted from the movie information. These features include genre information, such as Action, Adventure, Comedy, Drama, etc. The dataset is converted into a pandas dataframe and merged with movie information, enabling the extraction of item features. Features of the items are then processed using TF-IDF representation. This basically quantifies how important a feature is within the dataset and, in turn, how relevant a feature is to a particular movie.

**Collaborative Filtering:** The collaborative filtering results were conducted using the SVD model trained on the ML-100k dataset. ML-100k is a dataset that contains interaction data between users and items, including ratings and timestamps. The dataset was pre-processed, and a full training set was constructed for the SVD model to train latent factors representing users and items. Using this trained model, it is then possible to predict ratings for all items by one randomly chosen user. At heart, the predictions are the basis for recommendations made by collaborative filtering; that is, the system should recommend items that have higher predicted ratings for the user.

**Dataset Preprocessing:** Data preprocessing includes data cleaning, filtering, and feature engineering steps performed on the dataset before passing it to the model for training and evaluation. Data cleaning then refers to the handling of missing values by making data consistent and wiping out redundant information. Filtering might involve selecting some subset of users or items based on some criteria to reduce computational complexity or focus on some specific user segments. Feature engineering is the process of taking raw data and constructing

features that can be fed into recommendation algorithms. This dataset further gets divided to become both a training dataset and a test dataset, thus allowing the possibility of evaluation and model performance testing.

**Subset Selection:** In order to make post-training computation easier and more scalable, the dataset is selected for experimentation in analyzing explainability. With a representative sample of user-item interactions, ratings, and item features, this subset shall be used for a comprehensive evaluation of recommendation algorithms, while avoiding computational resource constraints.

The preparation and preprocessing steps of the dataset should aim at laying an appropriate foundation with which to train and evaluate the recommendation algorithms in a robust and scalable manner while maintaining the interpretability of the experimental framework.

## B. Recommendation Algorithms Studied

- 1) **Matrix Factorization:** Matrix factorization, in particular Singular Value Decomposition, is a core method for recommendation systems that model user-item interactions to make personalized suggestions [8] [9]. SVD is one of the ways of building recommendation systems via matrix factorization in an attempt to learn latent factors signifying users and items from observed user-item interactions. SVD factorizes a user-item interaction matrix into three matrices: a user matrix, an item matrix, and a diagonal matrix of singular values. These matrices describe the latent factors underlying user preferences and item characteristics. Therefore, it, in approximating an original matrix by lower-dimensional representation, consequently leads to the reduction of the

dimensionality of the user-item space while preserving important patterns or relationships. Singular Value Decomposition is understood through the given formula:

$$R = U\Sigma V^T$$

Where:

R is the user-item interaction matrix,

U is the user matrix containing latent factors representing users,

$\Sigma$  is the diagonal matrix of singular values representing the importance of latent factors,

$V^T$  is the item matrix containing latent factors representing items.

- 2) **Content Based Filtering:** It is a recommendation approach focusing more on the intrinsic characteristics of items (e.g., movies, products) and users' preferences to make recommendations that are personalized. Unlike collaborative filtering, which relies on previous interactions among users and items, content-based filtering utilizes item features or attributes in order to suggest recommendations. [9] In content-based filtering, each item can be described by a set of features or attributes, such as genre, keywords, or metadata. In addition, user profiles are created based on their preferences—often derived from their interactions with items or explicitly provided preferences. Recommendations then become feature similarity-based of items to the user profile. This is essentially a recommendation of items that are similar in content to what the user had liked before. Several methods exist for this computation of closeness or similarity such as cosine similarity and TF-IDF (Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency).

In practical terms, SVD learns latent factors such as user preferences for specific features (for example, movie genres) and item attributes (e.g., movie ratings). By leveraging these learned factors, recommender systems based on SVD can predict user ratings for items that they have not interacted with yet, enabling personalized recommendations.

The formula for content-based filtering can be represented as:  $\text{score}(u, i) = \text{similarity}(\text{user profile}(u), \text{item features}(i))$

Where:

- $\text{score}(u, i)$  represents the predicted score or relevance of item  $i$  for user  $u$ ,
- $\text{user profile}(u)$  represents the profile of user  $u$ , often derived from their past interactions or explicitly provided preferences,
- $\text{item features}(i)$  represents the features or attributes of item  $i$ ,
- $\text{similarity}(\cdot, \cdot)$  represents the similarity measure used to compute the similarity between the user profile and item features.

**TF-IDF Vectorizer:** In our implementation, we utilized Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency as a means of computing similarity between data points. TF-IDF is a common technique used to transform text data into numerical vectors, often used in natural language processing tasks like document classification and information retrieval. When applied to content-based filtering for recommendation systems, TF-IDF can be applied to represent item features (e.g., movie genres) as numerical vectors [10]. The TF-IDF representation assigns weights to each term (feature) in a document (item) based on its frequency within the document and its importance across all documents. TF-IDF is given by the following formula:

$$\text{TF-IDF}(t, d, D) = \text{TF}(t, d) \times \text{IDF}(t, D)$$

where:

- $\text{TF}(t, d)$  represents the term frequency of term  $t$  in document  $d$ ,
- $\text{IDF}(t, D)$  represents the inverse document frequency of term  $t$  across all documents in corpus  $D$ .

**Cosine Similarity:** Cosine similarity is a metric which is used to compute the similarity between two vectors by determining the cosine of the angle between them. Applied to content-based filtering, we used cosine similarity in order to quantify the similarity between a user profile (which represents user preferences) and item features (which represents item attributes). The formula for cosine similarity between two vectors  $A$  and  $B$  is given by:

$$\text{Cosine\_Similarity} = \frac{A \cdot B}{\|A\| \|B\|}$$

Where:

- $A \cdot B$  represents the dot product of vectors  $A$  and  $B$ ,
- $\|A\|$  and  $\|B\|$  represent the Euclidean norms of vectors  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively.

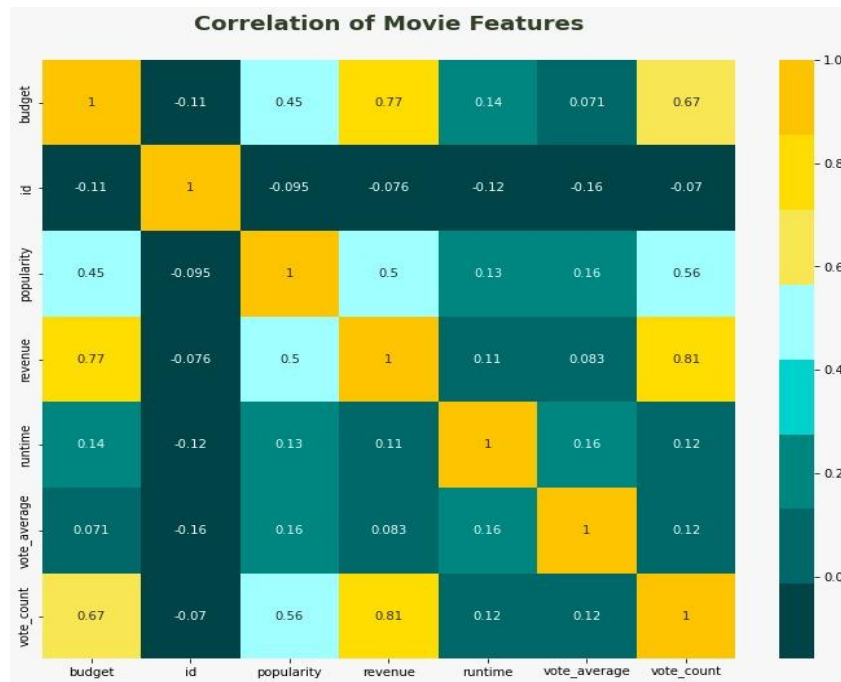


Fig. 1: Heat Map for Content Based Filtering

3) **Collaborative Filtering:** The predominant technique in recommendation systems is collaborative filtering, where the system predicts personalized recommendations to users based on their past interactions and tastes. Such models synthesize knowledge from the audience to predict new items likely to be of interest or utility to the user. We begin by introducing collaborative filtering and describing a formula for calculating predicted ratings, the methodology used to make recommendations [11].

In collaborative filtering, the predicted rating  $\hat{r}_{ui}$  for user  $u$  and item  $i$  is computed as a weighted sum of the ratings given by similar users to item  $i$ . Mathematically, it can be expressed as:

$$\hat{r}_{ui} = \bar{r}_u + \frac{\sum_{v \in N(u)} \text{sim}(u, v) \cdot (r_{vi} - \bar{r}_v)}{\sum_{v \in N(u)} \text{sim}(u, v)}$$

where

- $\hat{r}_{ui}$  is the predicted rating of user  $u$  and item  $i$
- $\bar{r}_u$  is the average rating given by user  $u$
- $r_{vi}$  is the rating given by user  $v$  to item  $i$
- $\bar{r}_v$  is the average rating given by user  $v$
- $N(u)$  represents the set of users similar to user  $u$
- $\text{sim}(u, v)$  is the similarity between users  $u$  and  $v$ , typically computed using metrics like cosine similarity or Pearson correlation.

To compute predicted ratings using collaborative filtering, the following steps are performed:

- Data Preparation:** Load the MovieLens-100k dataset in the Surprise library. This is a tabular form of data containing user-item interactions.
- Model Training:** Train the Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) model on the full dataset. SVD is type of the matrix factorization models majorly used in collaborative filtering.
- Random User Selection:** Generate a random user ID to simulate a user for which recommendations will be generated.
- Predicting Ratings:** Predict ratings on all items from the dataset of a randomly selected user. This is done by using the trained SVD model to predict the ratings.

### C. Explainable AI (XAI)

The techniques within the domain of eXplainable AI (XAI) make an attempt to give transparency in machine learning models in a way that makes the decision process understandable. This is important since black-box models are hard to interpret, which in turn increases a lack of trust and potential biases. XAI helps it to be possible that users understand why certain decisions are made,

thereby increasing confidence and giving stakeholders the opportunity to pinpoint and rectify potential models [12].

XAI techniques play a big role in adding transparency and interpretability to the recommendation systems, putting an end to the black box normally associated with these machine learning models [4]. Incorporation of techniques such as the SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) framework offers the user insights into the recommendations made by the algorithms.

SHAP values are among the leading tools within the XAI toolbox, which allow for the well-systematic evaluation of each input feature's contribution to the output of a model. For a recommendation engine, such features could be user preferences or item attributes, among other factors important to the recommendation process. Computing SHAP values for each recommendation offers the possibility of gaining deep insight into the rationale behind each single recommendation [13].

The implementation of SHAP involves several tangible steps:

- 1) **Training Recommendation Models:** Our next step will be to train the recommendation models using the selected algorithms on the prepared dataset. For this, algorithms come into range like matrix factorization techniques: Singular Value Decomposition (SVD), content-based filtering, and collaborative-filtering methods.
- 2) **Generating SHAP Values:** Once we have trained the models, SHAP values are computed for each recommendation made by the model. We calculate these using the SHAP values of each feature in the input data and then display them in such a way that all the black boxes in the recommendation can be opened up.
- 3) **Visualizing SHAP Values:** We have applied relevant visualization techniques that make the presentation of SHAP values interpretable and understandable. Summary plots, or individual feature attribution plots, can be used to display the effect of any one feature on the model's output.
- 4) **Analyzing SHAP Results:** Finally, SHAP results were analyzed to unveil patterns, biases, or anomalies in the recommendation process. Through the evaluation of SHAP values for different recommendations, we get an insight into how the model was making decisions and what room there would be for further improvement or finetuning.

By integrating SHAP-based XAI techniques in our recommendation systems, users become more empowered to comprehend and trust the recommendations being given to them. This transparency gives a better experience not only to users but also helps stakeholders identify issues and improve the general performance of the recommendation algorithms.

#### **D. Utilizing multimodal LLMs to improve explainability**

Our setting enhances the interpretability of recommendation systems by building on new advances in Multimodal Large Language Models (LLMs) specifically using GPT-4. Large Language Models are state-of-the-art models in a series of very influential methods for very hard benchmarks. One difference of the Multimodal LLMs is that they support different modalities, like text, images, and graphs. Built on deep learning and natural language processing, these models utilize advanced techniques for the comprehension and generation of human-like responses across data types.

To improve the interpretability of our recommendation systems, we leverage recent developments in the field and incorporate GPT-4 into our framework. The incorporation process is detailed as follows:

- 1) **Graph Generation:** A SHAP-based explanation graph, showing the contribution of each feature towards the recommendation model output, is generated. Generate graphs as generated output.
- 2) **Input Preparation:** Generate graphs as generated output.
- 3) **Prompt Design:** Prepare a prompt tailored to guide the GPT-4 model in analyzing and interpreting the explanation graphs properly.
- 4) **Model Inference:** Pass the explanation graphs and prompt through the GPT-4 model for inference.
- 5) **Explainability Analysis:** Analyze the output provided by GPT-4, with clear and concise explanations about the interpretability of the SHAP-based graphs.

## **4. RESULTS**

### **A. Matrix Factorization**

For understanding, the x-axis is utilized to plot distinct features of the model that have been applied to predict user ratings for items. Given these, the features can be further categorized as follows:

**User and Item IDs:** These are individually unique identifiers for users and items.

**User-Item Interaction Features:** These describe how users interact with items.

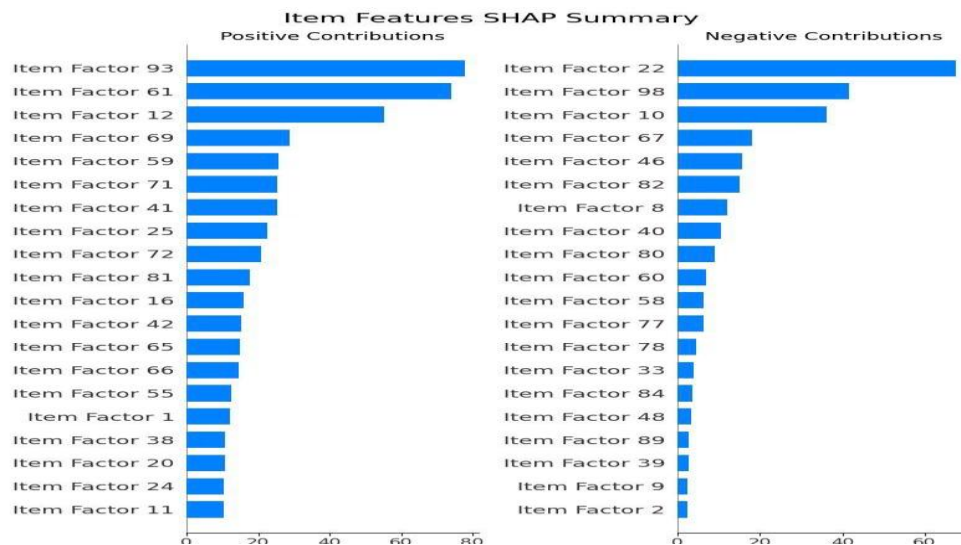


Fig. 2. Matrix Factorization- Highlighting SHAP VALUES and Average impact on model

The value of the SHAP values corresponding to a feature gives the average magnitude of feature importance in a model's rating prediction for any user-item pair. SHAP values represent this feature's importance towards the prediction in either a positive or negative direction. Here, the absolute average value is taken, so you can interpret it as how important a feature is in general for the model's output. Higher values on the y-axis for a specific feature indicate that, on average, changes to that feature have a more significant impact on predicted ratings. For instance, a high value for "Item ID 10" suggests that the model heavily relies on a user's interaction with item 10 (or its inherent qualities captured by associated latent factors) when making predictions. Lower values on the y-axis suggest that the feature has a relatively minor impact on the overall magnitude of the model's predictions. This may indicate that the model finds other features more informative for making accurate predictions.

**B. Content Based Filtering**

**Item Attributes**

**X-axis:** Textual descriptions, genre categories, demographic information about actors/directors (for movies), and so on, depending on the domain of our recommender system.

**Y-axis:** The y-axis represents the average absolute SHAP value. The SHAP value for a specific feature and data point (user-item pair) indicates the impact (positive or negative) that feature has on the model's predicted rating for that data point. Averaging the absolute values provides a sense of the overall magnitude of a feature's influence on the model's output.

**Interpretation:** If "action" has a high SHAP value, it suggests the model prioritizes the "action" genre when recommending movies to users who have watched action movies in the past.

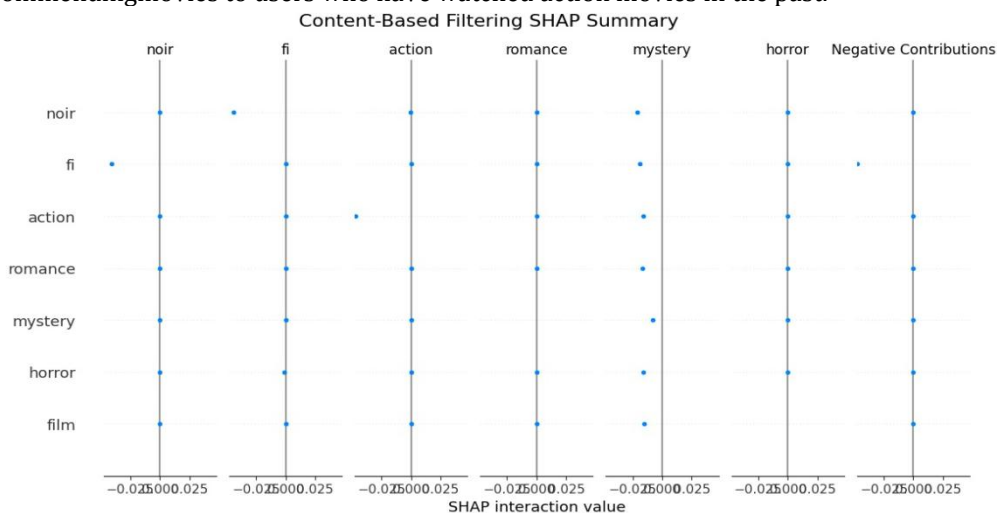


Fig. 3. Content Based Filtering- Highlighting SHAP VALUES and Average impact on model

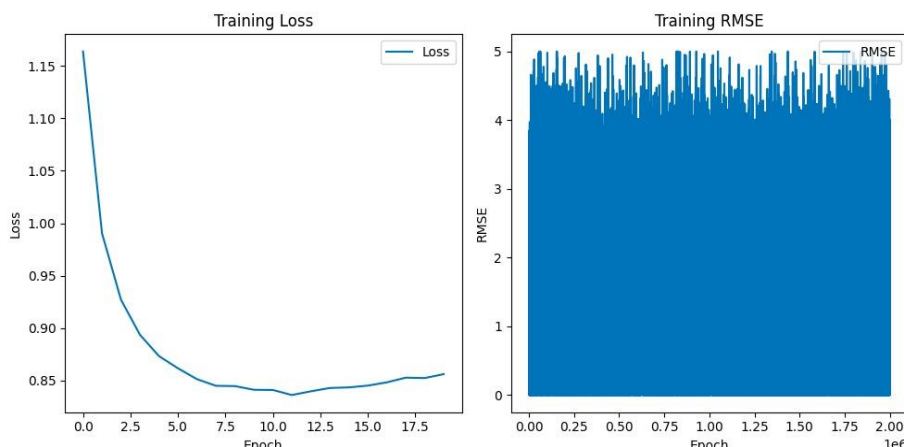


Fig. 4. Loss Function vs Epoch Graph for Collaborative Filtering

**C. Collaborative Filtering**

The features observed can be described as the following:

**User ID:** Encodes a specific user.

**Item ID:** Encodes a specific item.

**User-Item Interaction Features:** These capture interactions between users and items, potentially including:

- Explicit ratings provided by users for items.
- Implicit interaction data like clicks, views, or purchases.

Interpretation of the Axes:

**X-axis:** The x-axis represents the SHAP values, ranging from negative (blue) to positive (red), with zero in the center (white). Negative values indicate the feature contributes negatively to the predicted rating (reduces the rating), while positive values indicate a positive contribution (increases the rating).

**Y-axis:** The y-axis represents the feature names or indices depending on the specific plot. Example: Imagine a dot for “Item ID 10” positioned relatively high on the positive side (red). This suggests that for many user-item interactions, user interactions with item 10 (high ratings, frequent views, etc.) contribute positively to the predicted ratings for other items. This might indicate that users who liked item 10 also tend to like similar items.

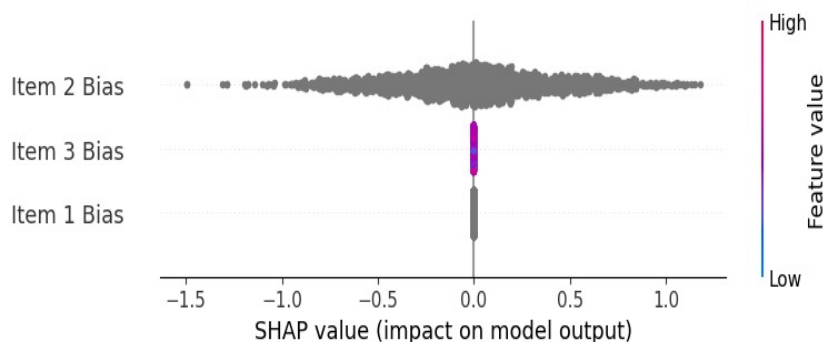


Fig. 5. Collaborative Filtering- Highlighting SHAP VALUES and Average impact on model

**D. Explainability using GPT-4**

As mentioned before, after obtaining individual graphs for each recommendation system process, we passed the graphs to the multimodal GPT-4 model along with a curated and tested prompt. The prompt and the interpretable response given by GPT-4 are given below.

1) **Prompt utilized:**

You are an AI model which helps in simplifying and explaining research on Explainable AI in Recommender Systems.

You will be given information in the form of graphs about matrix factorization, Content-based, and Collaborative filtering methods. Provide insight about SHAP values and why they are used.



Based on the calculated SHAP values for all three methods, give an easy-to-understand observation of how the particular value AFFECTS the particular recommendation based on the graphs provided for EACH method.

## 2) Response Generated

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SHAP values are utilized because they offer a clear and quantifiable way to determine how each feature within a model influences the model's output. This is crucial for transparency and trust, particularly in recommender systems where decisions directly affect user experience.

### 1. Content-Based Filtering SHAP Summary

**Graph Overview:** This graph illustrates SHAP interaction values among various genres in a content-based filtering system. Each dot represents how much the interaction between two genres contributes to the model's predictions.

**Observations:**

- Negligible Interaction Values: Most genre interactions are clustered around zero, indicating minimal impact on the recommendations. This suggests that while genre features are used, their direct interactions do not significantly influence the recommendation output.
- Subtle Genre Effects: For a user, this means the system doesn't heavily rely on combined genre preferences to make recommendations, possibly focusing more on individual genre traits or other item attributes.

### 2. Item Bias in SHAP Values

**Graph Overview:** This visualization targets the bias associated with specific items, with SHAP values indicating the direction and magnitude of their impact on the model's output.

**Observations:**

- Significant Negative Bias for Item 1: The prominent negative SHAP value for Item 1 indicates a strong bias against recommending this item, regardless of its content or user preferences. It suggests an underlying factor in the model or data that leads to consistently lower scores for this item.
- Minimal Bias for Other Items: Other items show a neutral bias, implying that their recommendations are more influenced by user preferences or item characteristics rather than inherent biases.

### 3. Item Features SHAP Summary from Matrix Factorization

**Graph Overview:** This chart shows the positive and negative contributions of item factors (latent features derived from matrix factorization) to the model's predictions.

**Observations:**

- Positive Factors: High SHAP values for certain factors (e.g., Item Factor 93, 61) suggest these aspects of the items strongly resonate with user preferences, driving recommendations.
- Negative Factors: Conversely, factors like Item Factor 22 and 98 detract significantly from an item's likelihood of being recommended, indicating traits that are generally unfavorable or irrelevant to user interests.

**Conclusion:**

These insights demonstrate the power of SHAP values in making machine learning models more interpretable. In recommender systems, understanding these contributions:

- Enhances Model Transparency: Allows developers to explain why certain recommendations are made, increasing user trust.
- Guides Model Improvement: Pinpoints which features (or biases) have the most impact, suggesting where adjustments or rebalancing might be needed to improve recommendation quality and fairness.

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## 5. CONCLUSION

This work explores the important area of improved interpretability and transparency in recommendation systems via techniques extracted from Explainable AI (XAI). With the framework of SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP), we unlocked valuable insights into decision-making processes from a diverse variety of recommendation algorithms. Through a careful methodology of model training, the generation of SHAP values, and visualization, we have presented the concrete steps to understand the explanation results.

The additional integration of a multimodal Large Language Model, as exemplified by the GPT-4 model, has further increased the power of explanation our approach offers manifold.

By letting the model learn how to critically analyze SHAP-generated graphs and communicate their meaning in clear, brief language, we bridged the gap between outputs of a blackbox model and human understanding.

Our exploration has underscored the significance of explainability in recommendation systems, not only in fostering user trust and satisfaction but also in facilitating model refinement and domain insights. The findings presented herein lay a solid foundation for future research endeavors aimed at further advancing the interpretability and usability of recommendation systems.

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