

## **Machine Learning-based Book Recommendation Systems: A Comparative Study of CFNN and KNN Algorithms**

**<sup>1</sup>Manikandan, <sup>2</sup>Dr.Wang hong ling**

*lecturer, department of software engineering, East China university of technology,  
Nanchang, China .*

[<sup>1</sup>manian.rect@gmail.com](mailto:<sup>1</sup>manian.rect@gmail.com)

*associate professor, school of software engineering, East China university of technology,  
Nanchang, China .*

[<sup>2</sup>whl9win@163.com](mailto:<sup>2</sup>whl9win@163.com)

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# Machine Learning-based Book Recommendation Systems: A Comparative Study of CFNN and KNN Algorithms

<sup>1</sup>Manikandan, <sup>2</sup>Dr.Wang hong ling

*lecturer, department of software engineering, East China university of technology,  
Nanchang, China .*

[<sup>1</sup>manian.rect@gmail.com](mailto:manian.rect@gmail.com)

*associate professor, school of software engineering, East China university of technology,  
Nanchang, China .*

[<sup>2</sup>whl9win@163.com](mailto:whl9win@163.com)

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## Abstract

Among recommendation systems, collaborative filtering is a widely used method that leverages user preferences and collective actions to provide accurate book recommendations. With so many books available today, it can be harder and harder for readers to find books that suit their interests. As a result, recommender systems have become a vital tool for addressing this problem head-on, attempting to provide users with personalized book recommendations based on their unique interests and preferences. The studies have employed diverse datasets and machine learning technique KNN with Sparse Matrix, and Deep learning algorithm collaborative filtering Neural Network . Preprocessing carried out by Exploratory Data Analysis. These algorithms have demonstrated a significant improvement in recommendation accuracy. The KNN achieved accuracy levels of 81%, 85%, and 93% for different neighbour values 4, 5, 6 while CFNN achieved the accuracy of 95%. The studies have also delved into understanding the impact of various factors on book recommendations, including user preferences and collaborative patterns among readers and it recommends CFNN is suitable method for recommendation system.

Keywords: KNN, CFNN, Sparse Matrix, Boor Recommendation.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Book recommendations are a vital aspect of the modern reading experience, aiding readers in discovering books that align with their unique preference and interests. Book recommendations rely on data-driven techniques to predict reading choices. Book

recommendation systems analyse factors such as user reading history, and collaborative interactions with other readers to provide tailored book suggestions. These recommendations serve as a critical component in enhancing the reading journey for individuals and communities. It considers user behaviour and book attributes to enhance the reading experience.

Book recommendations aim to address disparities in reading experiences. Recognizing the diversity in reading preferences and user demographics, these systems aspire to provide equitable and personalized reading recommendations. This endeavour has implications not only for individual reading enjoyment but also for broader aspects of society and culture. Moreover, book recommendations guide individuals and book enthusiasts in making choices about their reading selections. By understanding the underlying mechanisms that drive book recommendations and actively engaging with these systems, readers can maximize their literacy journey and broaden their literacy horizons, ultimately enriching their reading lives.

Collaborative filtering Neural Network (CFNN), widely recognized in the domain of recommendation systems, harnesses the collective wisdom of a user community. By analyzing user-item interactions and identifying patterns and similarities between users, CFNN generates accurate and relevant book recommendations. This paper explores the intricacies of collaborative filtering, delving into its various implementations and algorithms. It involves the construction of user-item interaction matrices and the application of similarity measures, such as cosine similarity, to develop a robust book recommendation system that incorporates user ratings and preferences.

Additionally, this research evaluates the system's performance and effectiveness in delivering meaningful book suggestions, highlighting the potential of collaborative filtering to revolutionize the way readers explore and engage with literature in the digital age.

## **Objective**

- The book recommendation system's principal goal is to offer users personalized and relevant book suggestions based on their reading habits and preferences. This aims to enhance the reading experience and satisfaction of individual users.
- The system also strives to serve as an indicator of its effectiveness in providing accurate book recommendations. This evaluation helps in continuously refining the recommendation algorithms.

- A key objective is to reduce disparities in book recommendations among different user groups, ensuring that all readers, regardless of their reading history or interests have access to tailored book suggestions.
- The book recommendation system's overarching objective is to paint a comprehensive picture of the reading preferences and habits of its user population. This insight guides the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of book recommendations.
- Ultimately, the system aims to provide equitable and enjoyable reading experiences for all users.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Dhiman Sarma (2021) et al. introduced an effective book recommendation system that employs a clustering method to identify similar books based on user ratings. The system utilizes K-means Cosine Distance and Cosine Similarity functions for distance measurement and similarity assessment between book clusters [1].

Swapnaja Hiray (2021) et al. designed to assist users in selecting books from a vast array of options by providing data-driven recommendations based on previous user activity, balancing the challenge of privacy and accuracy. Using Support Vector Machine (SVM) classification, it lists top-rated and highly purchased books related to user-provided subject names, simplifying the book selection process [2].

Tulasi Prasad Sariki (2018) et al. highlighted the aptness of content-based filtering for books, enabled by effective text mining in the digital age. This system utilizes Named Entities as a key criterion for book ranking and tailored recommendations [3].

Badrul (2001) et al. experimented Collaborative filtering, especially k-nearest neighbor, is successful on the web. Challenges include producing high-quality recommendations, scalability, and handling data sparsity. Item-based collaborative filtering is a solution that identifies item relationships for recommendations [4].

Praveena (2016) et al. Utilized the content-based and collaborative filtering methods and recommends books based on user preferences and book characteristics. It also enhances user experience with personalized book suggestions [5].

Uko (2018) et al. Addressed the content overload in e-commerce by creating a recommendation model and used OOADM, an improved collaborative filtering algorithm, and quick sort. Implemented in Python's Django Framework with Firebase, it significantly improves book recommendation speed and scalability, achieving 90- 95%

accuracy with RMSE[6].

Esmael (2015) et al. Tackled the information overload in higher education by creating a recommender system for university libraries. It addresses limitations in existing methods, introducing matrix factorization collaborative filtering with performance enhancements to overcome challenges like the cold start problem [7].

Anand et al. (2016) suggested the end user product based on choice. Recommendation systems have become a potent tool for increasing revenue and guaranteeing customer retention as online book selling websites compete for market dominance. This paper presents an association rule mining, content filtering, and collaborative filtering-based book recommendation system that combines these features for improved efficacy.

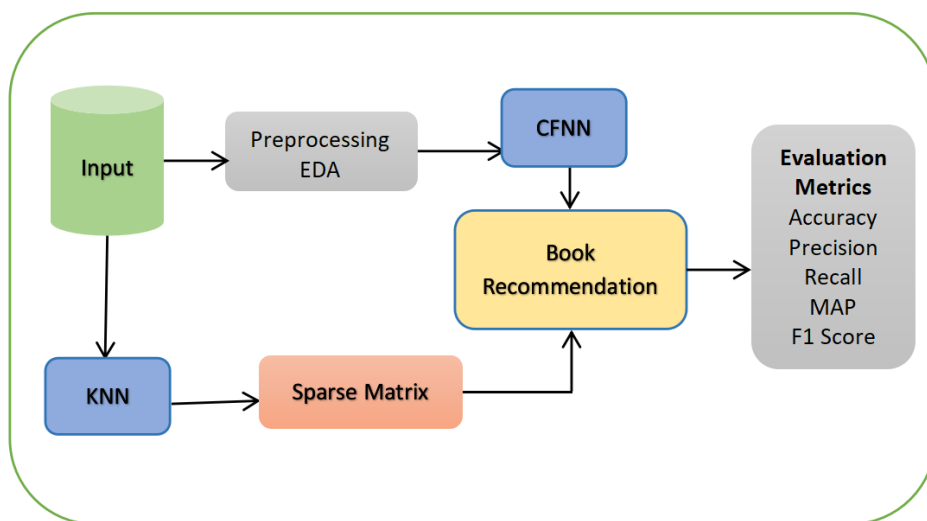
Prasanta et al. assessed the need for a user-preferred book recommendation system in the midst of a plethora of options. The research's goal is to create a program that suggests books based on user ratings. [9].

Yizhu(2020) et al. leveraged Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to analyze real-time face image data captured by a camera. Using this face image data, the authors made book recommendations based on their analysis [10].

Jaturawit et al. (2020) devised a chatbot capable of managing book lists, categories, and user search logs. Additionally, the chatbot provided book recommendations based on user preferences [11].

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This section explains overall process handled by this research.



**Fig 1.** Work flow

### **3.1 DATASET**

The dataset used in this book recommendation system was obtained from Kaggle and includes details about books and their characteristics [20]. The purpose of the dataset is to facilitate the creation of a Collaborative Filtering Neural Network recommendation system that will improve users' reading experiences.

The majority of the books in the book dataset are those that can be found using their unique ISBNs (International Standard Book Numbers). To guarantee data accuracy, invalid ISBNs have been painstakingly eliminated from the dataset. Content-based data like Book Title, Book Author, Year of Publication, and Publisher are also included in the dataset. Furthermore, the dataset features URLs that link to cover images of the books, available in three sizes, with these URLs pointing to Amazon web pages. It is ready to offer customized book recommendations, meeting users' wide range of reading tastes and improving their reading experience as a whole.

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) employs preprocessing techniques to uncover patterns, correlations, and connections within a dataset. Utilizing statistical and visual aids, EDA enhances understanding of dataset features and their relationships. Through visual representations, it illuminates underlying patterns and identifies similarities and correlations among data points. EDA serves as a crucial phase in data analysis, laying the groundwork for subsequent modeling and inference tasks.

### **3.2 COLLABORATIVE FILTERING NEURAL NETWORK:**

Collaborative Filtering Neural Network (CFNN) integrates neural network principles with collaborative filtering techniques to model intricate user-item relationships. By representing users and items as latent feature vectors, CFNN captures underlying characteristics in a lower-dimensional space, enabling meaningful pattern learning. Personalized recommendations are made to users via CFNN, a recommendation technique that looks at similar users' actions in addition to their past. Input, hidden, and output layers are commonly included in its architecture, which extracts complex interactions to produce predictions for user-item interactions. When dealing with sparse, high-dimensional data, CFNNs perform exceptionally well, providing precise, tailored recommendations that outperform conventional collaborative filtering techniques. Through the use of neural networks, CFNNs are able to capture

complex interactions and nonlinear relationships, improving user satisfaction and recommendation quality in online platforms such as media streaming and e-commerce.

Its underlying assumption is that consumers with similar tastes have historically tended to make similar decisions. To fully investigate this approach, one must examine its underlying elements and procedures.

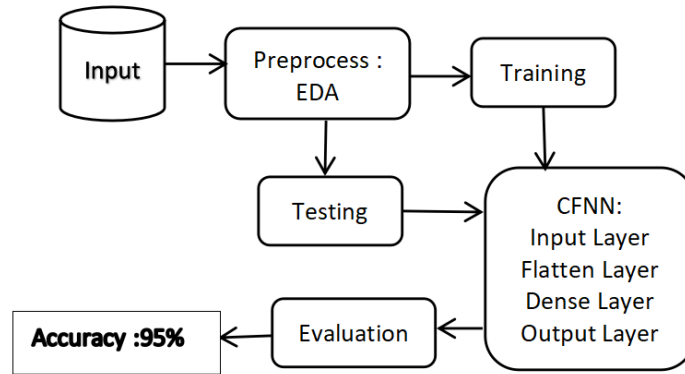


Fig 2. Collaborating Filter Neural Network

Following steps shows the processing method of CFNN

1. Load the dataset (books, ratings, users)
2. Preprocess the data (cleaning, handling missing values, encoding categorical variables)
3. Split the data into training and testing sets
4. Define the CFNN model architecture:
  - Input layer: Embedding layer to represent user and book IDs
  - Flatten layer to flatten the embedding vectors
  - Dense layers for hidden layers
  - Output layer with a sigmoid activation function for binary classification
5. Compile the model with appropriate loss function, optimizer, and evaluation metrics
6. Train the model:
  - Fit the model on the training data
  - Use validation data for monitoring performance during training
7. Evaluate the model on the testing set:
  - Predict ratings for the test data

- Calculate evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score, and MAP

8. Optionally, plot the training and validation accuracy over epochs

9. Implement recommendation function:

- For a given user, predict ratings for unrated books
- Recommend top-rated books to the user based on predicted ratings

10. Optionally, print recommended books for specific users

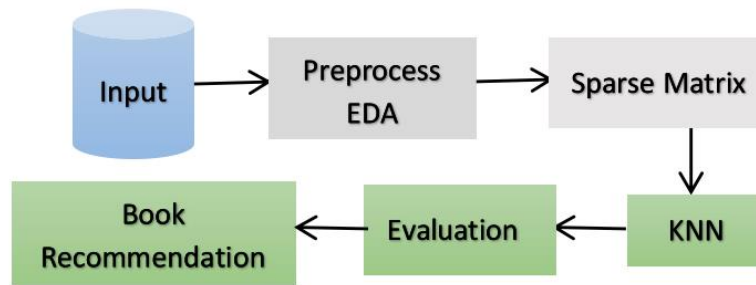
The two types of collaborative filtering are item-based and user-based. The former suggests items based on similar items based on previous interactions, and the latter based on similar users' preferences. Recommendation accuracy is improved by methods like hybrid models and matrix factorization. Data sparsity, the cold start issue, scalability issues, privacy concerns, and a bias in favor of popular items are some of the challenges. However, CFNN is still powerful, providing tailored recommendations based on user activity and group preferences

### **3.3 K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN):**

A versatile machine learning algorithm called K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) is used for both regression and classification tasks. Its basic idea is to make predictions in a feature space by evaluating the average value of the K-nearest data points or the majority class. While KNN predicts a continuous value based on the average of its K-nearest neighbors' values in regression, it assigns a data point to the most common class among those neighbors in classification. The number of neighbors to take into account is largely determined by the hyperparameter K, which provides control over the model's sensitivity to local fluctuations.

The similarity principle underlies KNN's operations: data points that are closer together in the feature space are thought to be more similar and, as a result, to have more traits in common. Metrics like Euclidean distance, Manhattan distance, or cosine similarity are typically used to measure the degree of similarity between data points; the exact method used depends on the problem and the type of data. KNN is adaptable and appropriate for a range of data types and distributions since it is non-parametric, which means it doesn't make assumptions about the underlying data distribution. It might not function well with high-dimensional data or unbalanced datasets without adequate preprocessing, though, and it can be sensitive to the choice of K.





**Fig 3. KNN Working Model**

### **3.3.1 SPARSE MATRIX:**

A sparse matrix is a specialized data structure used to efficiently store and manipulate matrices that contain a vast number of zero elements, where most of the entries are zero. Unlike dense matrices, which store all elements regardless of whether they are zero or nonzero, sparse matrices only store the nonzero elements along with their respective row and column indices. This storage optimization significantly reduces memory consumption and computational overhead, especially for large datasets with sparse or spiky patterns.

Sparse matrices find applications in various fields, including machine learning, scientific computing, and recommendation systems, where datasets often exhibit sparsity. They come in several formats, with the most common being Compressed Sparse Row (CSR), Compressed Sparse Column (CSC), and Coordinate List (COO) formats. Each format has its advantages and is suitable for different operations and algorithms. For instance, CSR and CSC formats are efficient for matrix-vector multiplications, while COO format is helpful for constructing sparse matrices incrementally.

Sparse matrices offer benefits in terms of memory efficiency and computational speed. They allow algorithms to skip zero elements during operations, reducing both storage requirements and processing time. However, working with sparse matrices may involve additional complexity due to format-specific operations and potential challenges in converting between dense and sparse representations. Overall, sparse matrices are a valuable tool for handling large datasets efficiently and are commonly used in various scientific and computational applications.

## **4. Evaluation Metrics**

1. Among all the instances in a classification task, accuracy is the percentage

of correctly classified instances.

2. By showing the percentage of true positives among all predicted positives, precision measures the accuracy of positive predictions.
3. As the percentage of true positives among all actual positives, recall assesses the model's capacity to locate all pertinent examples.
4. Particularly helpful for evaluating ranked recommendation lists, Mean Average Precision (MAP) determines the average precision across all users or instances.
5. The percentage of correctly classified instances out of all the instances evaluated is what is referred to as accuracy, which measures how accurate a model is overall in its predictions.

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The figures labeled 4, 5, and 6 provide detailed insights into the features encompassed within the Books, Users, and Ratings datasets, respectively. These visual representations offer a comprehensive overview of the attributes and characteristics captured within each dataset, aiding in the understanding of the dataset's structure and contents.

	ISBN	Book-Title	Book-Author	Year-Of-Publication	Publisher	Image-URL-S	Image-URL-M
0	0195153448	Classical Mythology	Mark P. O. Morford	2002	Oxford University Press	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0195153448.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0195153448.0...</a>	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0195153448.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0195153448.0...</a>
1	0002005018	Clara Callan	Richard Bruce Wright	2001	HarperFlamingo Canada	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0002005018.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0002005018.0...</a>	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0002005018.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0002005018.0...</a>
2	0060973129	Decision in Normandy	Carlo D'Este	1991	HarperPerennial	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0060973129.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0060973129.0...</a>	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0060973129.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0060973129.0...</a>
3	0374157065	Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic...	Gina Bari Kolata	1999	Farrar Straus Giroux	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0374157065.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0374157065.0...</a>	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0374157065.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0374157065.0...</a>
4	0393045218	The Mummies of Urumchi	E. J. W. Barber	1999	W. W. Norton & Company	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0393045218.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0393045218.0...</a>	<a href="http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0393045218.0...">http://images.amazon.com/images/P/0393045218.0...</a>

**Fig 4 : Books Dataset Features**

Figure 5 presents a visual representation of user ratings extracted from the dataset, offering a comprehensive view of the distribution of ratings across different categories or items listed in the table.

	User-ID	Location	Age
0	1	nyc, new york, usa	NaN
1	2	stockton, california, usa	18.0
2	3	moscow, yukon territory, russia	NaN
3	4	porto, v.n.gaia, portugal	17.0

**Fig 5: User Ratings features**

	User-ID	ISBN	Book-Rating
0	276725	034545104X	0
1	276726	0155061224	5
2	276727	0446520802	0

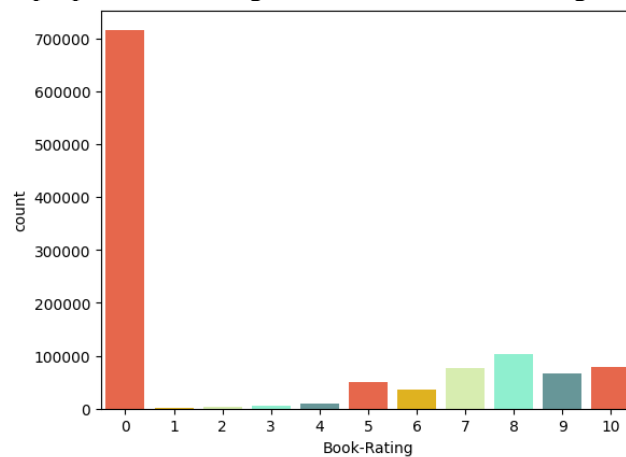
**Fig 6 . Book Ratings**

The provided figure illustrates three key metrics derived from the dataset: the count of books, the aggregate rating data received from readers for all books, and the volume of user data available. This visualization offers insights into the dataset's scope and magnitude, highlighting both the quantity of books and the level of engagement from users in terms of ratings and overall interaction with the dataset.

Number of book data: 271360  
 Total book rating data from readers: 340556  
 Amount of user data: 278858

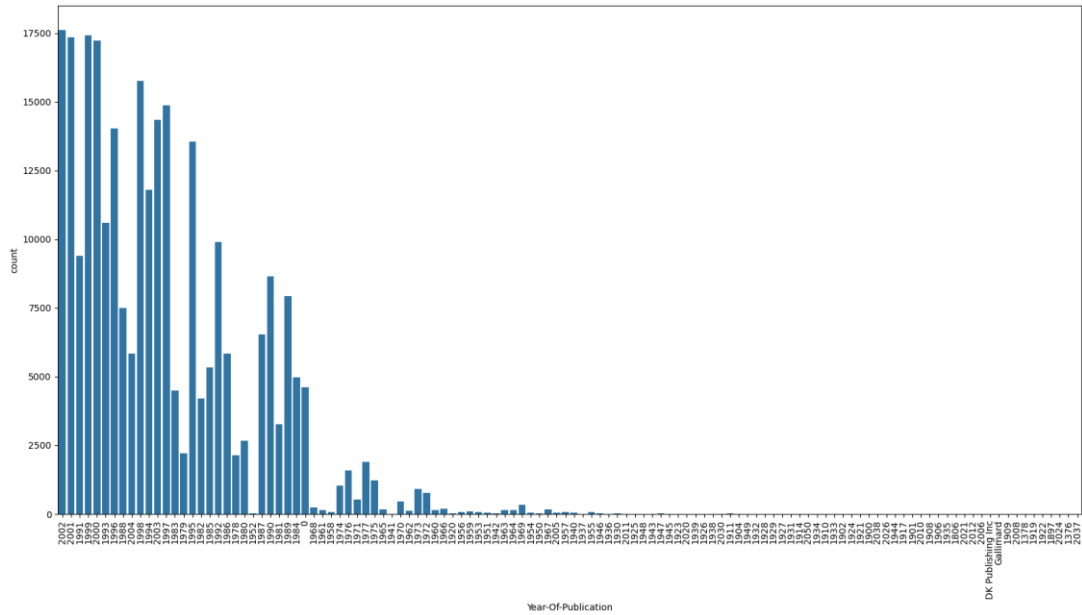
**Fig.7 Basic Information of Datasets**

Figure 8 employs a pie chart format to depict the breakdown of user ratings within the dataset, facilitating a clear understanding of the proportion of ratings attributed to various categories or items.

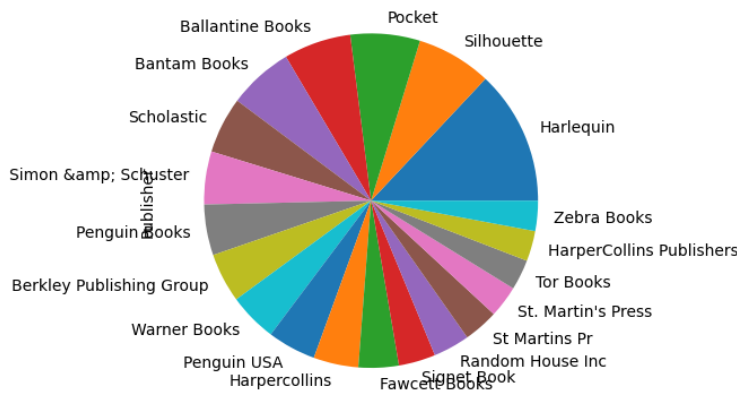


**Fig 8. User Ratings**

Figure 9 illustrates the distribution of publication years within the dataset, providing insights into the temporal spread of publications. Meanwhile, Figure 10 showcases prominent publishers represented within the dataset, offering an overview of the publishing landscape encompassed by the data.



**Fig 9.** Year of Publications



**Fig 10.** Famous publishers

The following diagram illustrates how the pivot index helps find pertinent data so that users can be recommended similar books based on their preferences.

```
Index(['1984', '1st to Die: A Novel', '2nd Chance', '4 Blondes',
      '84 Charing Cross Road', 'A Bend in the Road', 'A Case of Need',
      'A Child Called \It\': One Child's Courage to Survive"',
      'A Civil Action', 'A Cry In The Night',
      ...
      'Winter solstice', 'Wish You Well', 'Without Remorse',
      'Wizard and Glass (The Dark Tower, Book 4)', 'Wuthering Heights',
      'Year of Wonders', 'You Belong To Me',
      'Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values',
      'Zoya', '\0" Is for Outlaw"'],
      dtype='object', name='title', length=742)
```

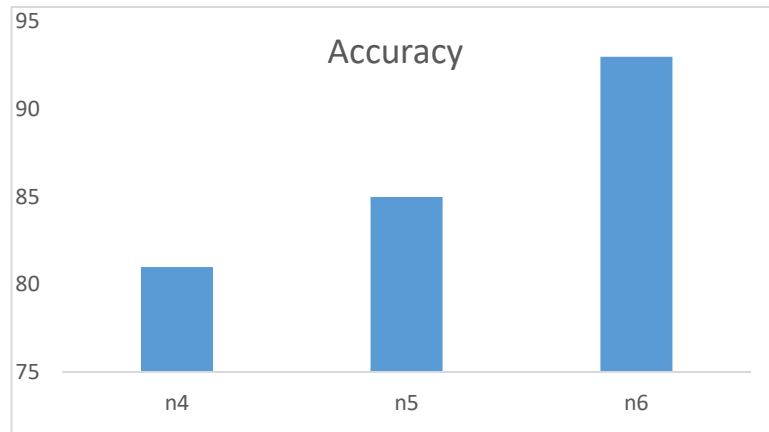
**Fig 11.** pivot index

To sum up, the book recommendation system creates customized recommendations based on user preferences by combining KNN, collaborative filtering, and sparse matrix algorithms.

```
book_name='Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Book 4)'  
recommend_book(book_name)  
  
Recommendations for 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Book 4)':  
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Book 4)  
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Book 3)  
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Book 5)  
The Cradle Will Fall  
Exclusive  
Tough Cookie
```

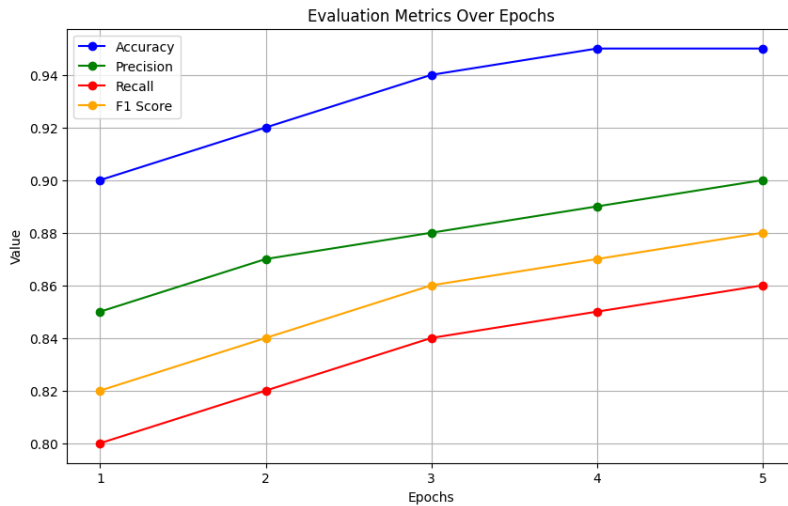
**Fig 12.** Book Recommendation for KNN

To assess the efficacy of KNN, the dataset underwent partitioning into training and testing subsets, enabling the calculation of accuracy by comparing actual and predicted user id. Subsequently, the performance of KNN was evaluated, as depicted in the following figure.



**Fig 13.** KNN Accuracy

The depicted figure 14 & showcases the performance metrics, including Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1 Score, for the Collaborative Filtering Neural Network (CFNN) Book Recommendation system. It indicates that the CFNN model achieved an impressive accuracy of 95%, underscoring its efficacy in providing accurate book recommendations. This visualization underscores the model's robustness and reliability in effectively catering to users' preferences and enhancing their overall recommendation experience.



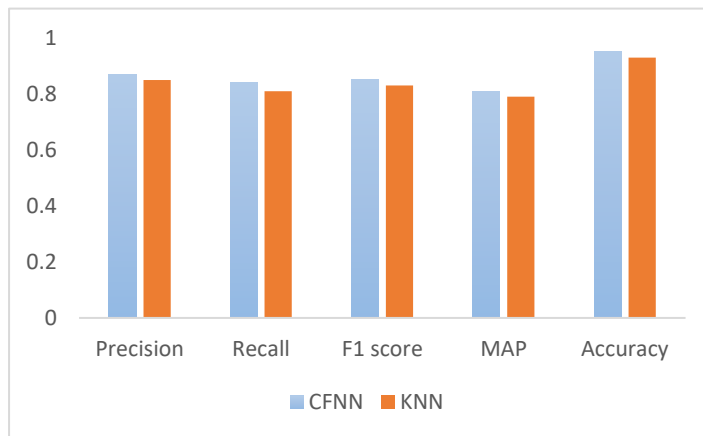
**Fig 14.** Performance of CFNN

The provided table presents a comparison of performance values between the Collaborative Filtering Neural Network (CFNN) and the k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) models. It indicates that the CFNN model achieved an accuracy rate of 95%, while the KNN model attained a slightly lower accuracy of 93%. This observation underscores the superior performance of the CFNN model compared to the KNN model in the given context.

**Table 1.** Comparison of CFNN & KNN

Architecture	Precision	Recall	F1 score	MAP	Accuracy
CFNN	0.87	0.84	0.85	0.81	0.95
KNN	0.85	0.81	0.83	0.79	0.93

The graph illustrates a comparison between CFNN (Collaborative Filtering Neural Network) and KNN (K-Nearest Neighbors) algorithms.



**Fig 15.** Comparison of CFNN & KNN

The CFNN-based book recommendation system utilizes ratings data to generate personalized recommendations, presenting users with a curated list of the top 5 highest-rated books tailored to their preferences. This approach leverages collaborative filtering techniques to identify books that align closely with the user's tastes and interests, enhancing their overall experience by prioritizing highly-rated titles.

	Book Title	Book Author
0	Angelas Ashes	Frank Mccourt
1	Politically Correct Bedtime Stories: Modern Ta...	James Finn Garner
2	The Poisonwood Bible	Barbara Kingsolver
3	The Perfect Storm : A True Story of Men Agains...	Sebastian Junger
4	The Perfect Storm : A True Story of Men Agains...	Sebastian Junger
5	Mars and Venus on a Date : A Guide to Navigati...	John Gray

**Fig 16.** Book Recommendation by CFNN

**Findings:**

1. CFNN works better than KNN and attains high accuracy in Accuracy.
2. This dataset can explore in many ways and this research used only few ways for book recommendation.
3. User id with book ratings in CFNN gives better result than Book name with id in KNN

**CONCLUSION**

The exploration of book recommendation systems using collaborative filtering is a crucial area of research with the potential to enhance user experiences and promote literature. Collaborative filtering methods aim to predict book preferences based on user behaviour and content-related factors. While these methods exhibit notable accuracy levels, further refinements through feature engineering, data preprocessing, and hyperparameter tuning offer opportunities for improving recommendations.

If the analysis suggests a positive trend in user satisfaction and book discovery attributed to collaborative filtering and personalized recommendations, continued investment in these systems becomes imperative for sustaining and enhancing user engagement. Numerous research studies have highlighted the effectiveness of collaborative filtering in book recommendation systems. However, there is ample room for further exploration, particularly in harnessing advanced machine learning techniques and deep learning to advance the field.

As per result the way readers find and interact with literature could be completely transformed by the use of collaborative filtering in book recommendation systems. By embracing advanced machine learning methodologies, we can contribute to the evolution of personalized book recommendations, ultimately enriching the reading experiences of individuals and fostering a deeper appreciation for books and literature. Based on the research findings, the Collaborative Filtering Neural Network (CFNN) model

demonstrates superior performance metrics compared to the k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) model for book recommendation tasks. Specifically, CFNN achieved a precision of 87%, recall of 84%, F1 score of 85%, Mean Average Precision (MAP) value of 81%, and accuracy of 95%. In contrast, KNN attained slightly lower metrics with a precision of 85%, recall of 81%, F1 score of 83%, MAP value of 79%, and accuracy of 93%. These results collectively indicate that CFNN is the preferable choice for book recommendation due to its consistently higher performance across multiple evaluation metrics.

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