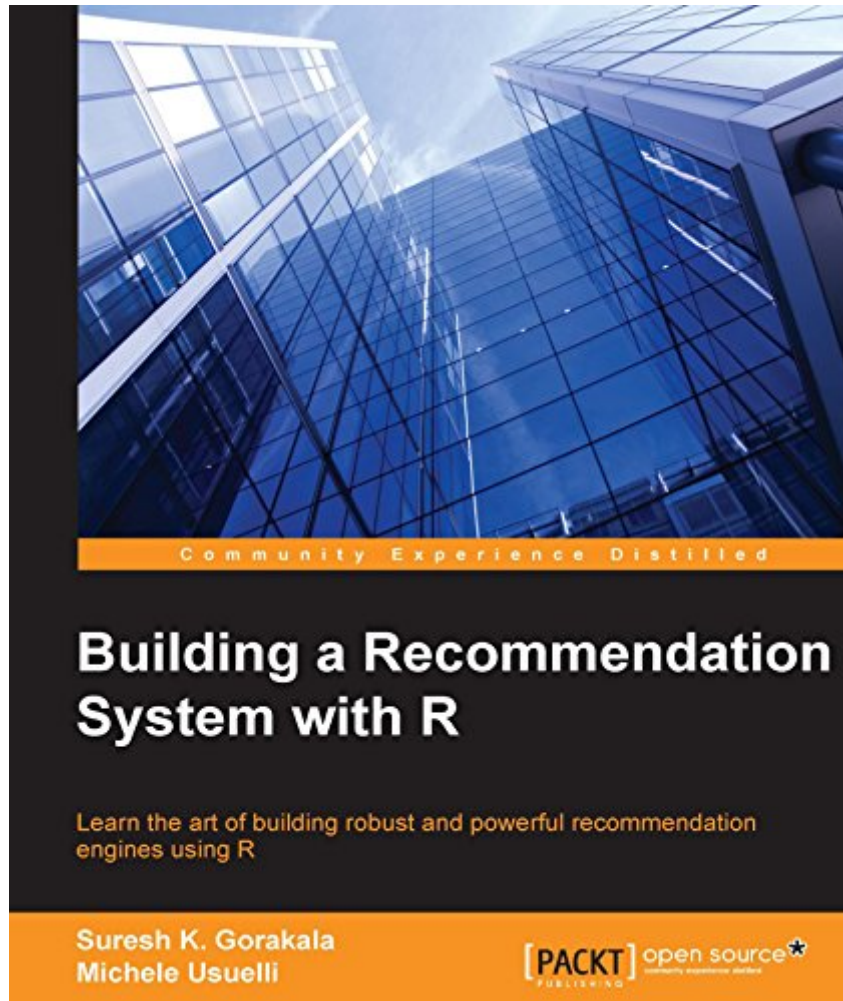


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# Building A Recommendation System With R



## Synopsis

Learn the art of building robust and powerful recommendation engines using R  
About This Book  
Learn to exploit various data mining techniques  
Understand some of the most popular recommendation techniques  
This is a step-by-step guide full of real-world examples to help you build and optimize recommendation engines  
Who This Book Is For  
If you are a competent developer with some knowledge of machine learning and R, and want to further enhance your skills to build recommendation systems, then this book is for you.  
What You Will Learn  
Get to grips with the most important branches of recommendation  
Understand various data processing and data mining techniques  
Evaluate and optimize the recommendation algorithms  
Prepare and structure the data before building models  
Discover different recommender systems along with their implementation in R  
Explore various evaluation techniques used in recommender systems  
Get to know about recommenderlab, an R package, and understand how to optimize it to build efficient recommendation systems  
In Detail  
A recommendation system performs extensive data analysis in order to generate suggestions to its users about what might interest them. R has recently become one of the most popular programming languages for the data analysis. Its structure allows you to interactively explore the data and its modules contain the most cutting-edge techniques thanks to its wide international community. This distinctive feature of the R language makes it a preferred choice for developers who are looking to build recommendation systems.  
The book will help you understand how to build recommender systems using R. It starts off by explaining the basics of data mining and machine learning. Next, you will be familiarized with how to build and optimize recommender models using R. Following that, you will be given an overview of the most popular recommendation techniques. Finally, you will learn to implement all the concepts you have learned throughout the book to build a recommender system.  
Style and approach  
This is a step-by-step guide that will take you through a series of core tasks. Every task is explained in detail with the help of practical examples.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is, as far as I know, the only book on the subject of recommender systems in R. The book is a great resource for those interested in building a recommender system in R from the grounds up. The authors start by giving a good overview of the recommender problems with detailed examples, then in the second chapter they cover the techniques used in recommender systems. The last three chapters present the in-depth process of building and evaluating a recommender system in R. Chapter 5 gives a very detailed example of building a recommender system using unstructured data. I would highly recommend this book!

As a software engineer and data scientist, I read a lot of technical books. This one is a poorly executed attempt at explaining how to build recommendation systems in R. The book suffers from syntax errors and poor editing - downloading the dataset required an email because of problems with their [the publisher's] website. The kindle version (at least on kindle cloud reader) does not allow copy/paste -- must manually type to do exercises. This is the last publication I will buy from Packt Publishers, and I will do my best to persuade others to boycott this company. If you want to buy a book on recommendation engines, I would go with "Recommender Systems" by Charu Aggarwal (Springer Press).

The book provides a good account of a single case study, but not much more. The first couple of chapters are short, general description of few well rehearsed machine-learning algorithms. However, if you really want to understand those algorithms you will have to look elsewhere for more elaborate sources, and better sources are abound. As for the recommendation system case study, it is quite

detailed and can possibly be adapted to other applications. So if this is the one thing you are after, the book fits.

This book provides a good and quick introduction to recommender systems (RS) and implementation details of such systems in R. It starts from basic definitions and an overview of different types of RS, followed by a non-mathematical description of several, most common data mining algorithms that could be used in RS. The R package 'recommenderlab' is discussed in detail, together with numerous R snippets demonstrating the package functionality on the MovieLense database of real recommendations. The important task of RS performance evaluation is given enough space as well as the whole chapter of how to build your own recommendation package based on recommenderlab functions is provided. Thus, entrants into this field who have basic knowledge of data mining algorithms as well as R may find this book easy to read and understand. However, for more experience users, especially with RS experience, this book might not bring much new information: The important question of how RS perform recommendations when either a product is totally new (there are still no users who reviewed it) or a user doesn't yet have any reviews is only briefly touched.

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