

# Deep Learning For Recommendation Systems

---

James Le

CSCI 736 - Neural Networks and Machine Learning

April 7th, 2020

# About Me

- MS in Computer Science (Intelligent Systems)
- Member of [Neural Adaptive Computing Lab](#)
- Work Experience in FinTech and SaaS domains
- Writer on [Medium](#): Data Science, Machine Learning, Statistics, Recommendation Systems, ML Infrastructure



# Agenda

- 1 - Recommendation Systems Overview
- 2 - Deep Learning Overview
- 3 - Deep Learning For Recommendations
- 4 - Experiments
- 5 - Future Directions

# 1 - Recommendation Systems Overview

---

Deals recommended for you [See all deals](#)



Amazon deals for various electronics:

- Power supply: \$15.39 - \$25.89 (Ends in 23:00:28)
- Microscope: \$99.99 (Ends in 23:05:27)
- Laptop: \$699.99 (Ends in 23:00:28)
- Speakers: \$54.99 (Ends in 23:00:28)
- Another speaker: \$33.99 (Ends in 23:00:28)



Amazon Gift Cards

Millions of items, no expiration.

> Shop now



Valentine's Day Gift Shop

Inspired by your shopping trends



Book recommendations:

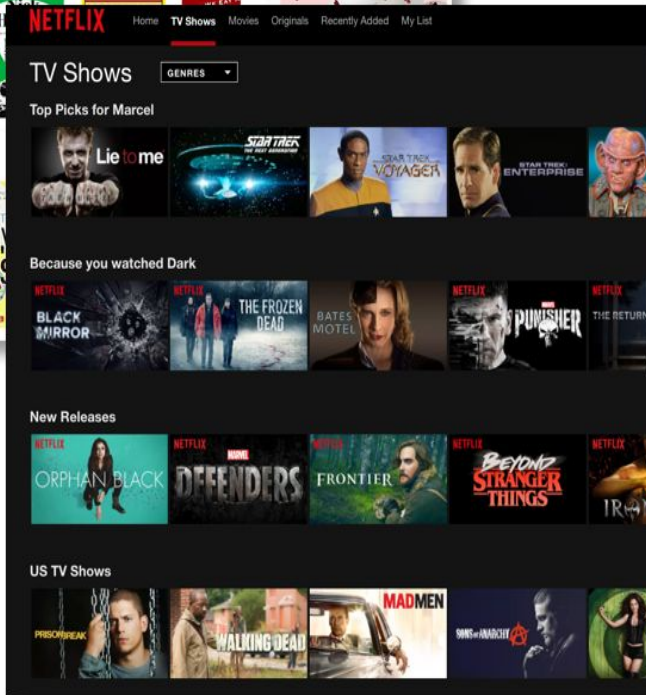
- INFLUENCE: The Psychology of Persuasion by Robert C. Cialdini, PhD.
- flow: The Psychology of the Flow Experience by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi.
- THINKING, FAST—SLOW by Daniel Kahneman.
- NEGOTIATION ANALYSIS: How to Negotiate Like a Pro by Howard Raiffa.

Recommendations for you in Books



Book recommendations:

- SPEAKERS' GUIDEBOOK: The Art of Public Speaking.
- THE CHOICE: The Art of Making It.
- Tinkering: How to Bring Out the Best in Everyone.
- Theory of Constraints: The Heart of the Matter.



NETFLIX Home TV Shows Movies Originals Recently Added My List

TV Shows GENRES

Top Picks for Marcel

- Lie to me
- STAR TREK: VOYAGER
- STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE

Because you watched Dark

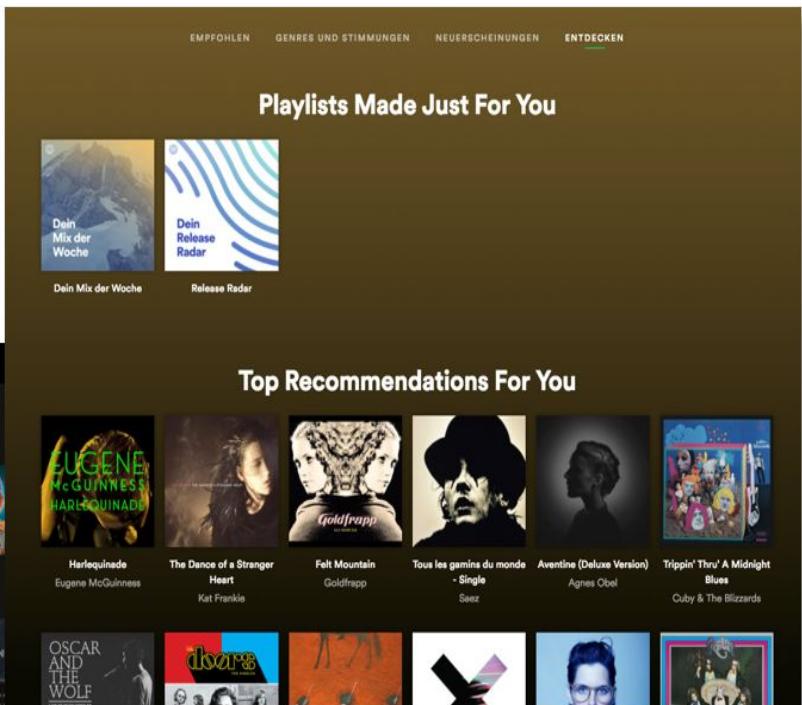
- BLACK MIRROR
- THE FROZEN DEAD
- BATES MOTEL
- PUNISHER: THE RETURN

New Releases

- ORPHAN BLACK
- DEFENDERS
- FRONTIER
- BEYOND STRANGER THINGS
- IRON FIST
- LAST KNIGHT

US TV Shows

- PRISON BREAK
- WALKING DEAD
- MAD MEN
- SHAW-EMERSON
- weeds
- COSMOS: A SPACE TIME Odyssey



EMPFOLHEN GENRES UND STIMMUNGEN NEUERSCHEINUNGEN ENTDECKEN

### Playlists Made Just For You

- Dein Mix der Woche
- Dein Release Radar

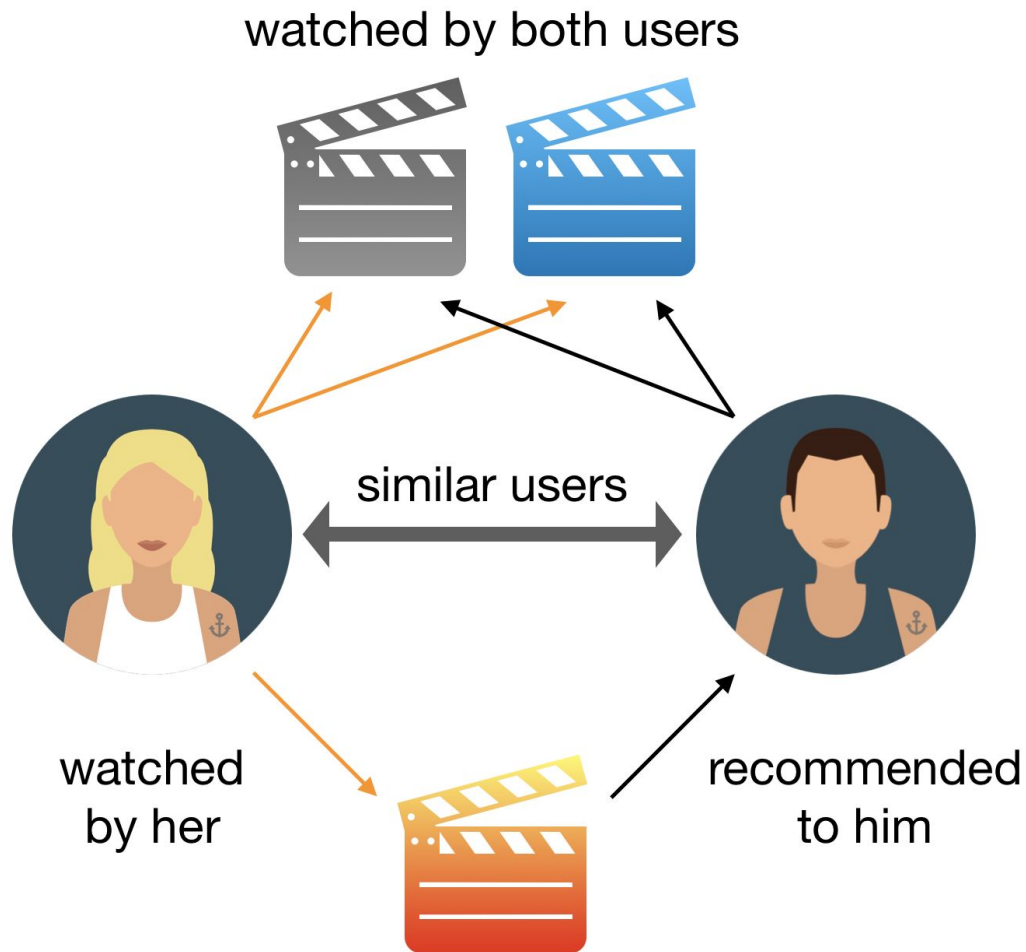
Dein Mix der Woche Release Radar

### Top Recommendations For You

- Herlequade - Eugene McGuinness
- The Dance of a Stranger - Heart
- Felt Mountain - Goldfrapp
- Tous les gamins du monde - Single
- Aventine (Deluxe Version) - Agnes Obel
- Trippin' Thru' A Midnight Blues - Cuby & The Blizzards

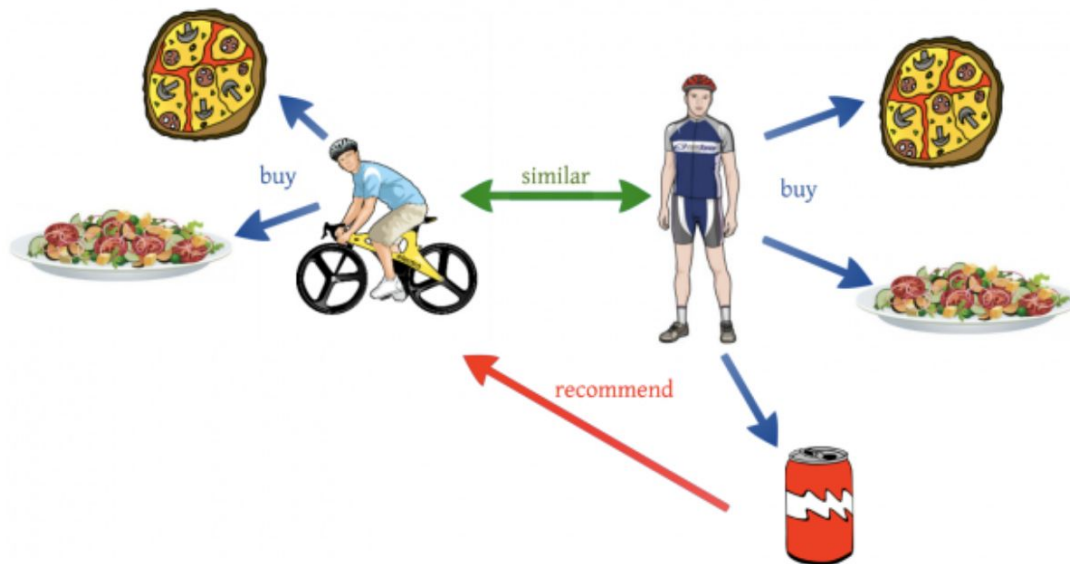
# Content-Based Filtering

- Makes recommendations based on the user's purchase or consumption history
- Becomes more accurate the more actions/inputs the user takes
- By Content Similarity
- By Latent Factor Modeling
- By Popular Content Promotion



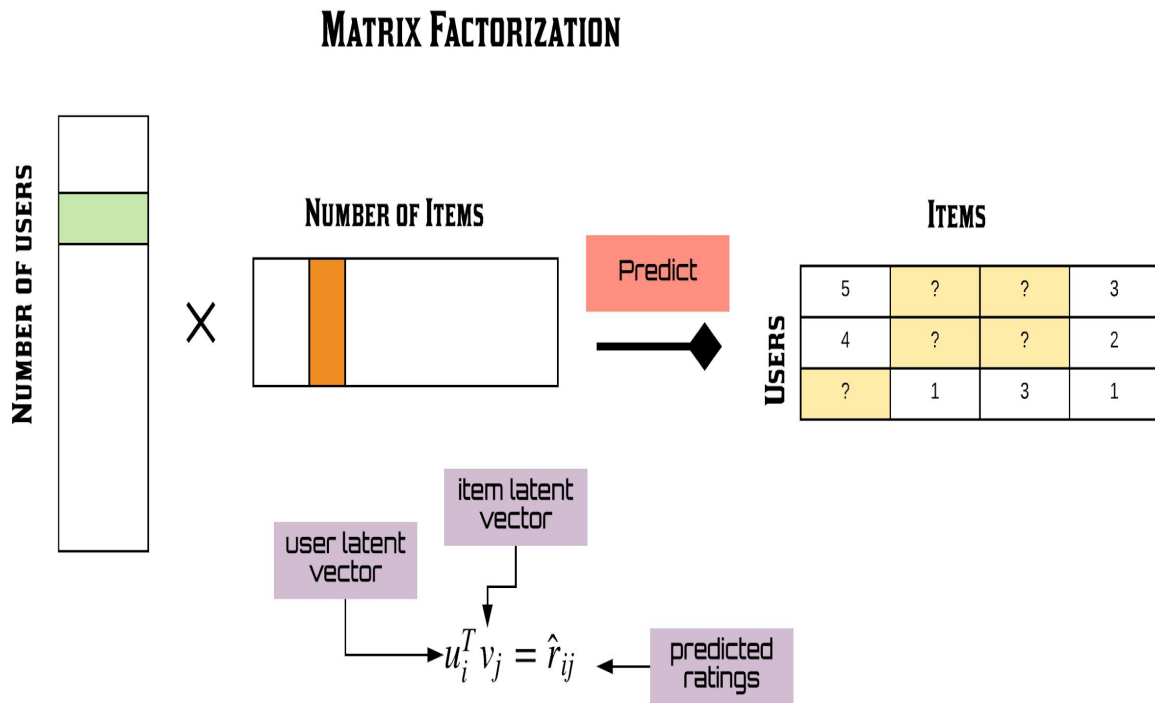
# Collaborative Filtering

- Primarily makes recommendations based on inputs/actions from other people (rather than only the user for whom a recommendation is being made)
- By User Similarity
- By Association



# Matrix Factorization

- The de facto standard model for collaborative filtering
- Represent user ratings as a user-item matrix
- Find two smaller matrices (called the latent/factor matrices) that approximate the full matrix
- Minimize the rating prediction errors (i.e. RMSE)
- Can be optimized via Gradient Descent
- Prediction is simple





# 2 - Deep Learning Overview

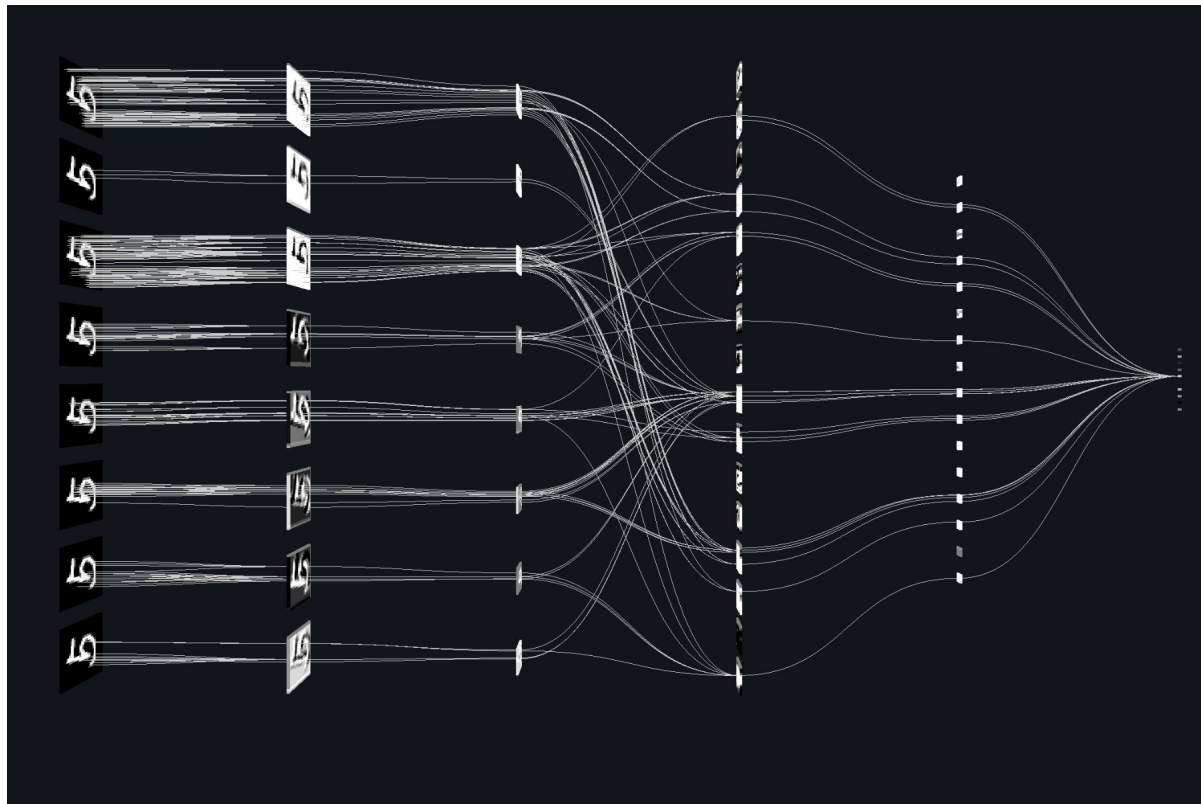
---

# Deep Learning Techniques

- Subfield of Machine Learning
- Learns *deep representations*
- Demonstrated success in both supervised and unsupervised learning tasks.

## Architecture Paradigms:

1. Multilayer Perceptron
2. Autoencoder
3. Convolutional Neural Network
4. Recurrent Neural Network
5. Restricted Boltzmann Machine



Blog Post: [The 10 Neural Network Architectures Machine Learning Researchers Need To Learn](#)

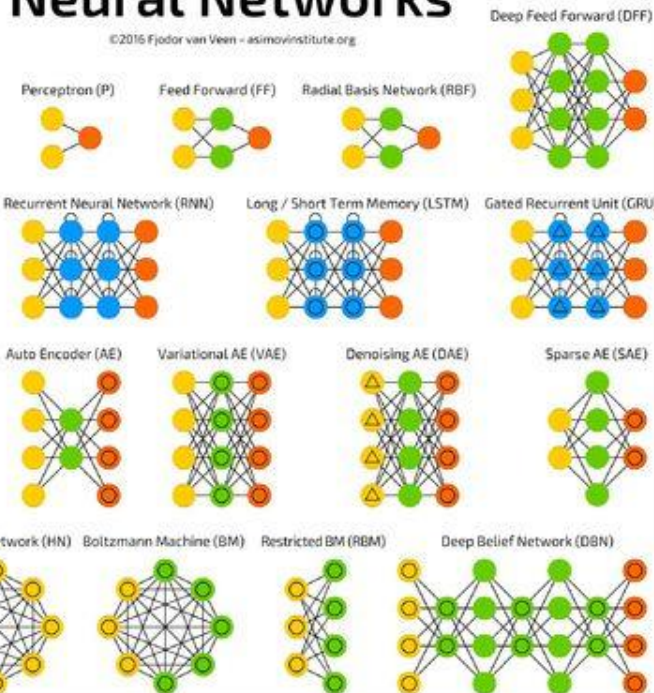
# The Neural Networks Zoo

A mostly complete chart of

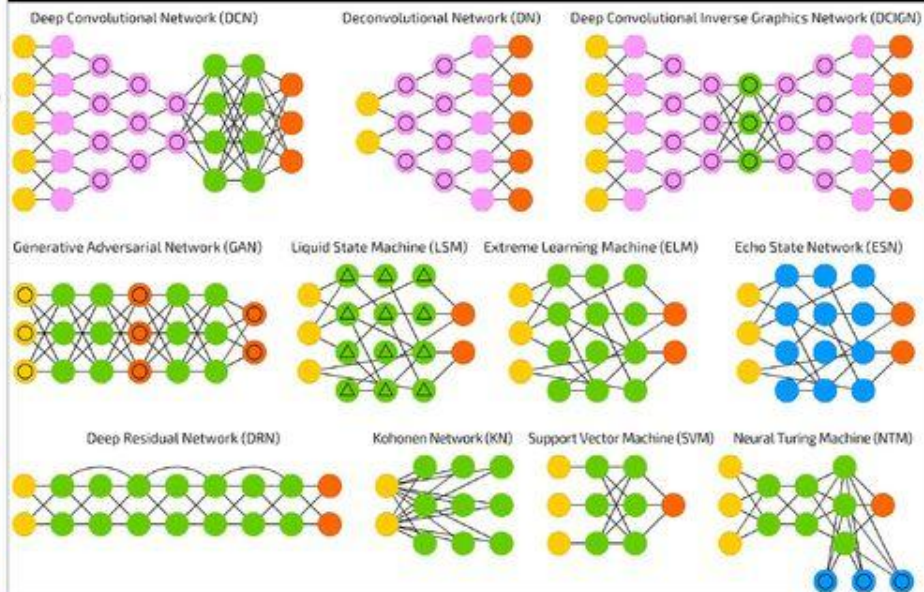
## Neural Networks

©2016 Fjodor van Veen - asimovinstitute.org

- Backfed Input Cell
- Input Cell
- ▲ Noisy Input Cell
- Hidden Cell
- Probabilistic Hidden Cell
- ▲ Spiking Hidden Cell
- Output Cell
- Match Input Output Cell
- Recurrent Cell
- Memory Cell
- Different Memory Cell
- Kernel
- Convolution or Pool

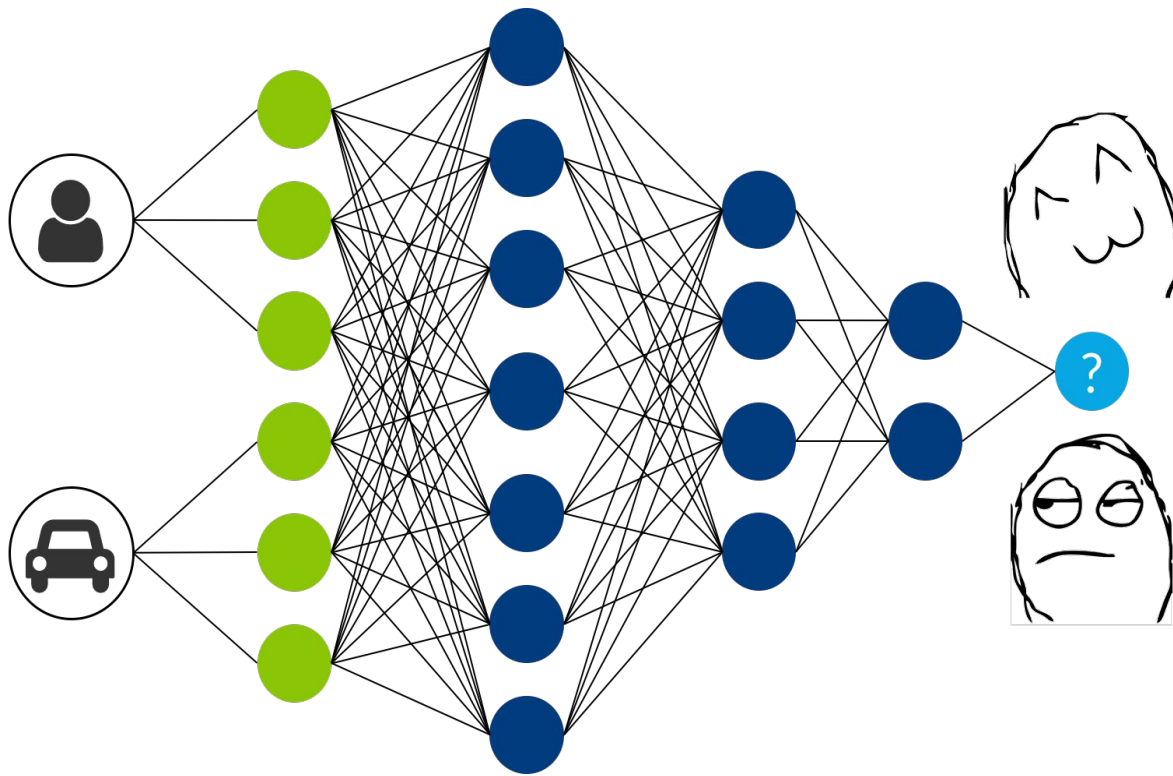


<http://www.asimovinstitute.org/neural-network-zoo/> by [Asimov Institute](#).



# Why Deep Learning For Recommendations?

- **Nonlinear Transformation**  
=> Dealing with complex user-item interaction patterns
- **Representation Learning**  
=> (1) Feature engineering and (2) Multi-task learning
- **Sequence Modeling** =>  
Mining temporal dynamics of user behavior and item evolution
- **Flexibility** => Modular frameworks with active community

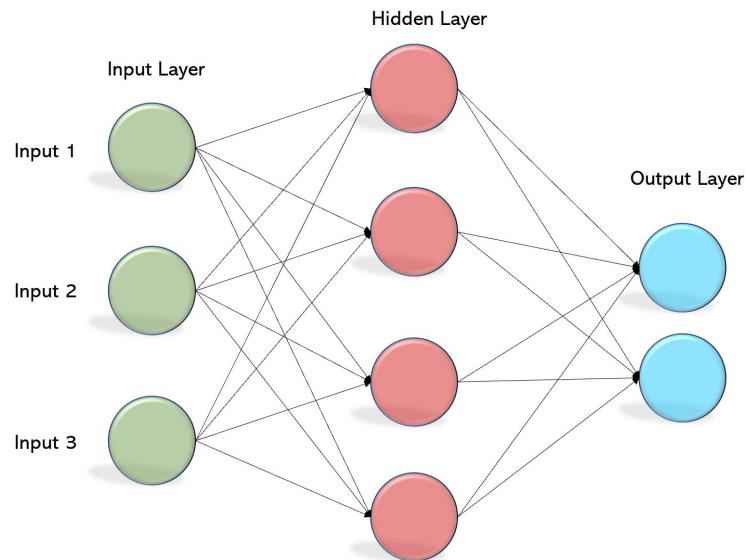


# 3 - Deep Neural Networks For Recommendation Systems

---

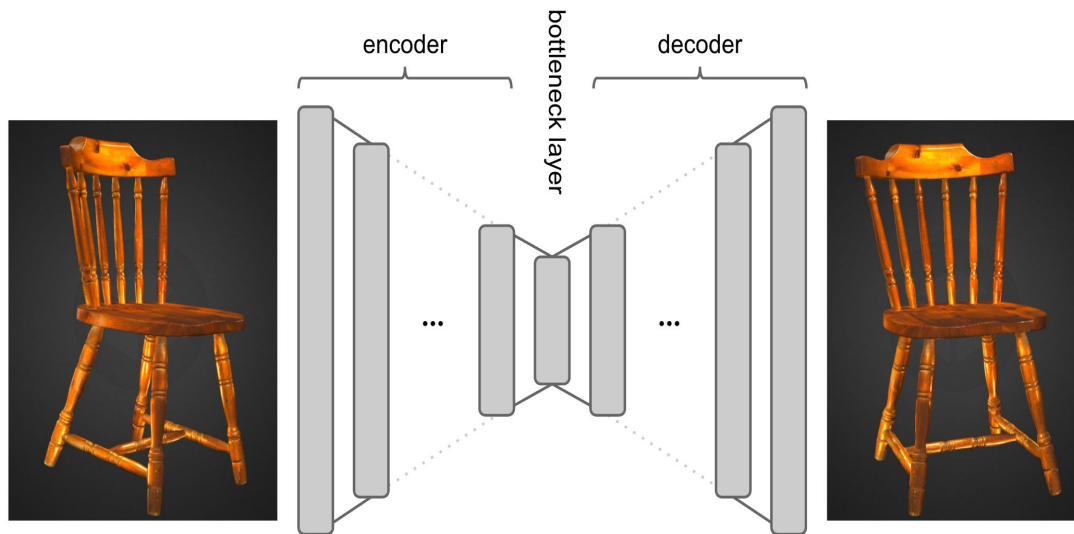
# Multilayer Perceptron Based Recommendation

- MLP can add the non-linear transformation to existing recommendation approaches and interpret them into neural extensions
  - [Neural Collaborative Filtering](#) (National University of Singapore, 2017)
  - [Deep Factorization Machine](#) (Harbin Institute of Technology & Noah Research Lab, 2017)
- MLP can be used for feature representation
  - [Wide and Deep Learning](#) (Google, 2016)
  - [Deep Neural Networks for YouTube Recommendations](#) (Google, 2016)
  - [Collaborative Metric Learning](#) (Cornell Tech, 2017)



# Autoencoder Based Recommendation

- AE can learn the lower-dimensional feature representation at the bottleneck layer
  - [Collaborative Deep Learning](#) (Hong Kong University of Science & Tech, 2015)
  - [Collaborative Deep Ranking](#) (Zhejiang University, 2016)
  - [Deep Collaborative Filtering](#) (Northeastern University and Adobe Research, 2015)
- AT can fill in the blanks of the user-item interaction matrix in the reconstruction layer
  - [AutoRec](#) (Australian National University, 2015)
  - [Collaborative Denoising Autoencoder](#) (Simon Fraser University and Dato Inc., 2016)
  - [Multi-VAE and Multi-DAE](#) (Netflix, Google, and MIT, 2018)





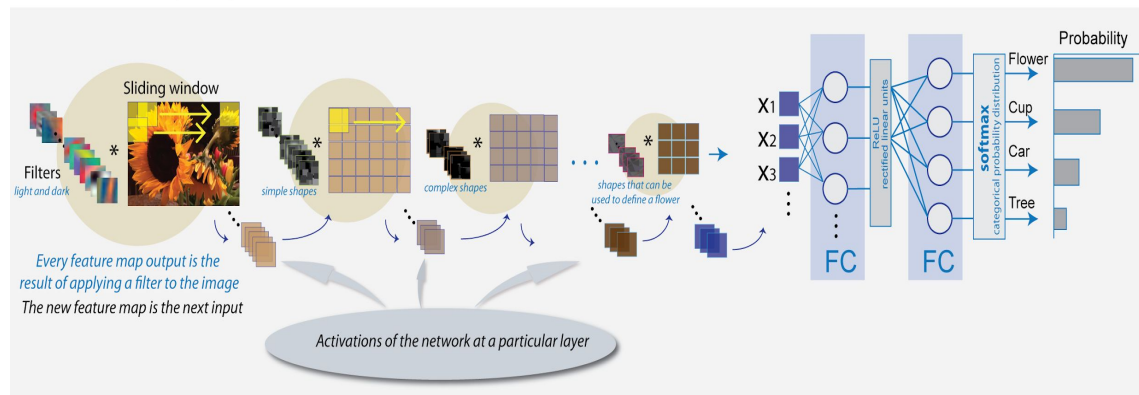
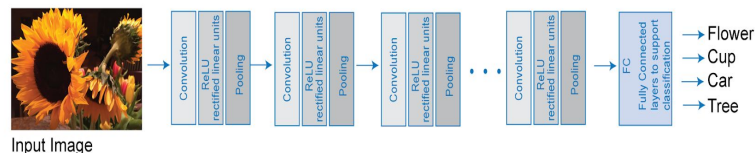
# Convolutional Neural Nets Based Recommendation

- ConvNet can extract features from images content

- [What Your Images Reveal](#) (Arizona State and Michigan State, 2017)
- [Comparative Deep Learning of Hybrid Representations for Image Recommendations](#) (University of Science and Tech of China, 2016)
- [ConTagNet](#) (National University of Singapore, 2016)

- ConvNet can extract features from text content

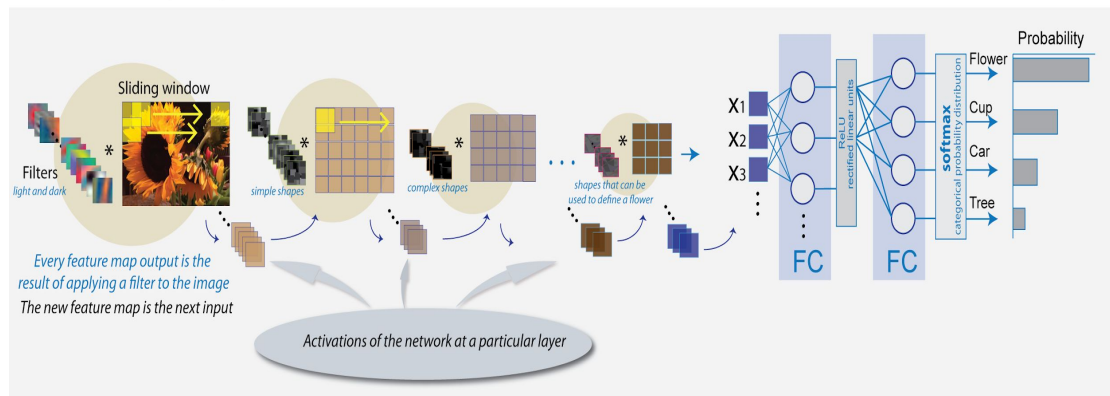
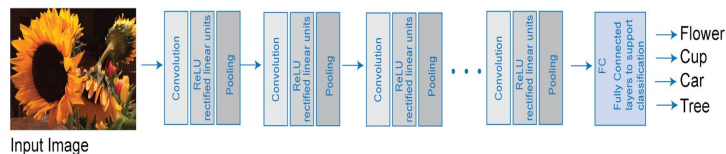
- [DeepCoNN](#) (U of Illinois - Chicago, 2017)
- [Automatic Recommendations Technology for Learning Resources](#) (Central China Normal University, 2016)





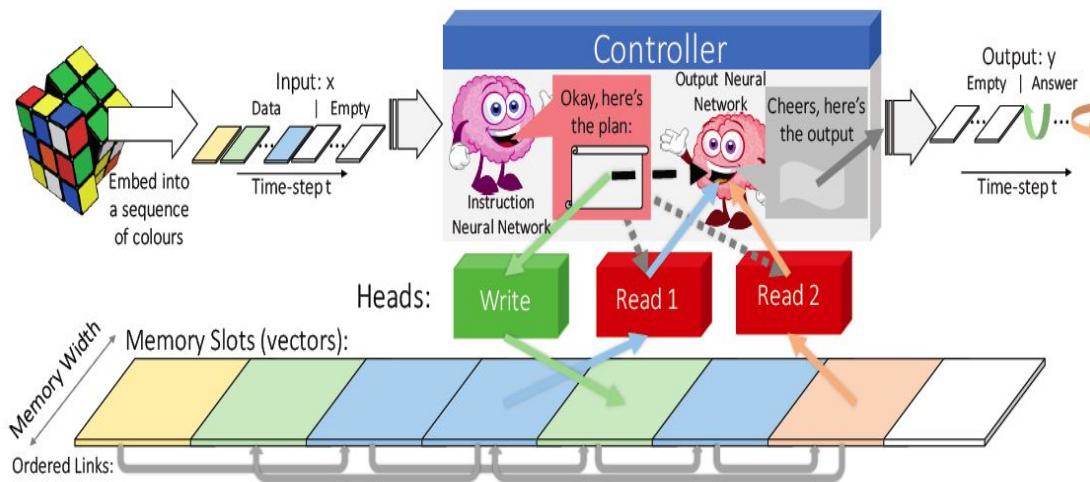
# Convolutional Neural Nets Based Recommendation

- ConvNet can extract features from audio and video content
  - [Deep Content-Based Music Recommendation](#) (Ghent University, 2013)
  - [Collaborative Deep Metric Learning for Video Understanding](#) (Google, 2018)
- ConvNet can be applied to vanilla CF
  - [Outer Product-Based Neural Collaborative Filtering](#) (National University of Singapore, 2018)
  - [Personalized Top-N Sequential Recommendation via Convolutional Sequence Embedding](#) (Simon Fraser University, 2018)
- Graph-Based ConvNet can handle the interactions in recommendation tasks
  - [Graph Convolutional Matrix Completion](#) (University of Amsterdam, 2017)
  - [PinSage](#) (Pinterest, 2018)



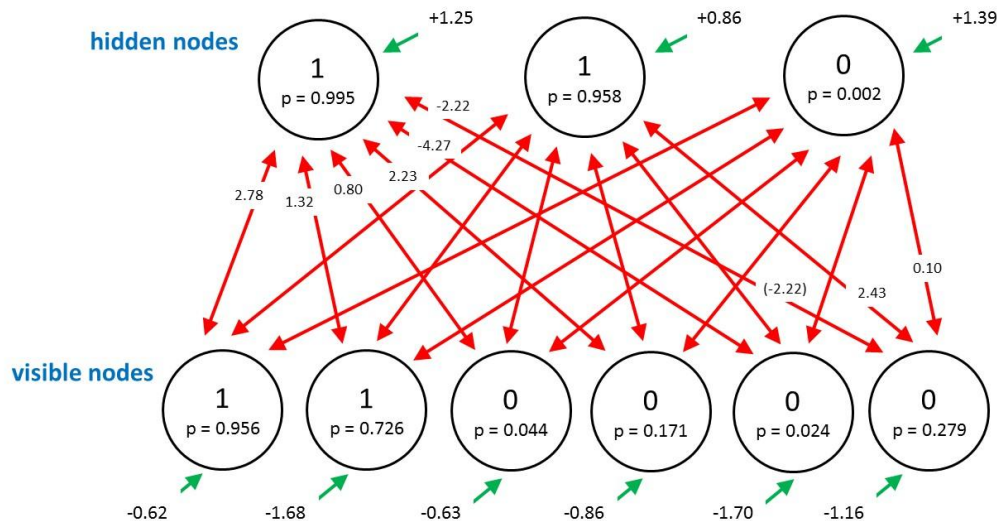
# Recurrent Neural Nets Based Recommendation

- RNN can handle temporal dynamics of interactions and sequential patterns of user behaviors in session-based recommendation tasks
  - [GRU4Rec](#) (Gravity R&D, Netflix, Telefonica Research, 2016)
  - [Personal Recommendation Using Deep Recurrent Neural Nets](#) (Zhejiang University, 2016)
  - [Recurrent Recommender Network](#) (Google, LinkedIn, UTA, CMU, 2017)
- RNN can learn the side information with sequential patterns
  - [Recurrent Coevolutionary Latent Feature Process for Continuous-Time Recommendation](#) (GA Tech, 2016)
  - [Ask the GRU](#) (UMass Amherst, 2016)
  - [Embedding-Based News Recommendation For Millions of Users](#) (Yahoo Japan, 2017)



# Restricted Boltzmann Machine Based Recommendation

- [RBMs For Collaborative Filtering](#) (University of Toronto, 2007)
- [A Non-IID Framework For Collaborative Filtering with RBMs](#) (VMware and Qatar Computing Research Institute, 2018)
- [Item Category Aware Conditional RBM Based Recommendation](#) (Beihang University, 2015)



# 4 - Experiments

---

# MovieLens1M Data

- 1 Million Ratings
  - UserID
  - MovieID
  - Rating
  - Timestamp
- 4,000 Movies
  - MovieID
  - Title
  - Genres
- 6,000 Users
  - UserID
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Occupation
  - Zipcodes

[Data Repository](#)

# movielens

Non-commercial, personalized movie recommendations.

sign up now

or [sign in](#)

## recommendations

MovieLens helps you find movies you will like. Rate movies to build a custom taste profile, then MovieLens recommends other movies for you to watch.

The screenshot displays the MovieLens interface with two main sections: 'top picks' and 'recent releases'. The 'top picks' section features a grid of movie cards, each with a title, year, duration, and a star rating. The cards include 'Band of Brothers', 'Casablanca', 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest', 'The Lives of Others', 'Sunset Boulevard', and 'The Third Man'. The 'recent releases' section shows a similar grid of newer movies, including 'CartiniFas', 'Felony', 'What if', 'Frank', 'Sin City: A Dame to Kill For', and 'If I Stay'. A 'see more' button is visible in the top right of each section.

# Matrix Factorization Experiments

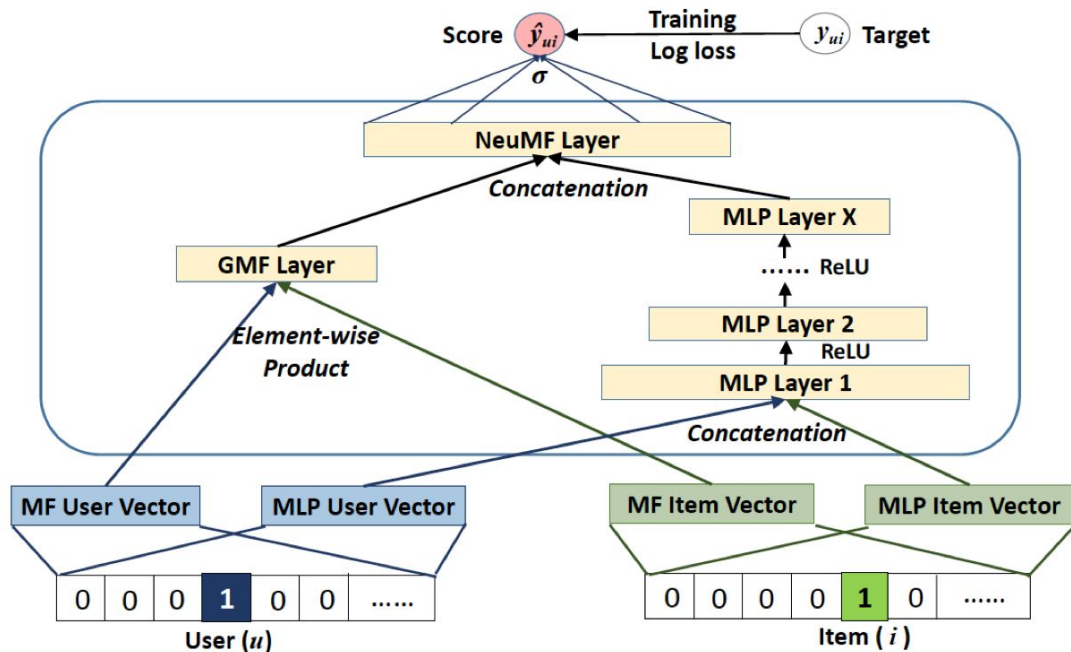
1. Vanilla Matrix Factorization
2. Matrix Factorization With Biases
3. Matrix Factorization With Side Features
4. Matrix Factorization With Temporal Features
5. Factorization Machines
6. Matrix Factorization With Mixture of Tastes
7. Variational Matrix Factorization

Model	Training Loss	Test Loss	Training Time
Vanilla MF	0.6947	0.8174	6m5s
MF Biases	0.6789	0.7895	11m38s
MF Side Features	0.6602	0.7843	13m34s
MF Temporal Features	0.7088	0.7939	18m51s
Factorization Machine	0.6542	0.8225	3m40s
MF Mixture of Tastes	0.6366	0.7878	13m44s
Variational MF	0.6206	0.8385	16m51s

Blog Post: [The 7 Variants of Matrix Factorization For Collaborative Filtering](#)

# Neural Collaborative Filtering

- [He, Liao, Zhang, Nie, Hu, and Chua, 2017](#)
- 3 Layers: Generalized Matrix Factorization + Multi-Layer Perceptron = Neural Matrix Factorization
- Epochs = 50, Optimizer = Adam, Batch Size = 1024, Learning Rate = 0.001, L2 Regularizer = 0.01
- Hit Ratio @ 10 = 0.730
- Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain @ 10 = 0.173



# VAEs For Collaborative Filtering

- [Liang, Krishnan, Hoffman, and Jebara, 2018](#)
- Variational Autoencoders With Multinomial Likelihood
- Epochs = 100, Optimizer = Adam, Batch Size = 128, Learning Rate = 0.01
- Hit Ratio @ 10 = 0.837
- Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain @ 10 = 0.403

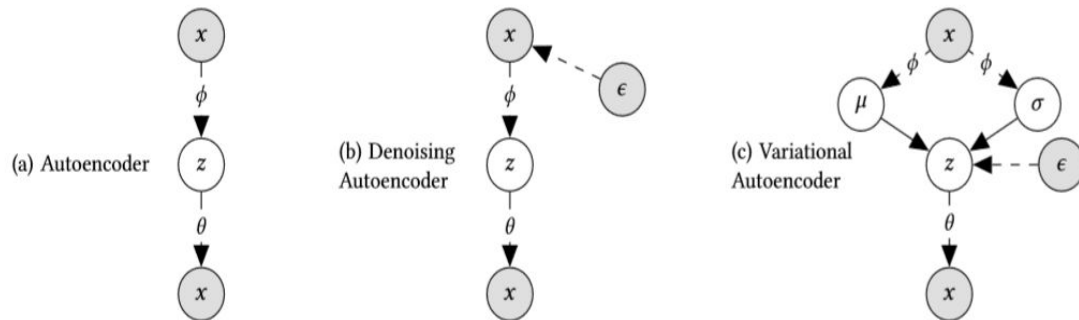


Figure 2: A taxonomy of autoencoders. The dotted arrows denote a sampling operation.



# RBM For Collaborative Filtering

- [Salakhutdinov, Mnih, and Hinton, 2007](#)
- 1 Layer of Visible Units
- 1 Layer of Hidden Units
- 1 Bias Unit
- Epochs = 200, Batch Size = 100, Hidden Units = 100
- Test Reconstruction Loss: 0.403

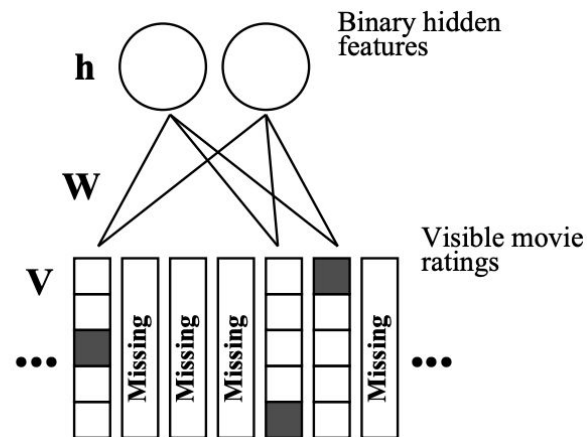


Figure 1. A restricted Boltzmann machine with binary hidden units and softmax visible units. For each user, the RBM only includes softmax units for the movies that user has rated. In addition to the symmetric weights between each hidden unit and each of the  $K = 5$  values of a softmax unit, there are 5 biases for each softmax unit and one for each hidden unit. When modeling user ratings with an RBM that has Gaussian hidden units, the top layer is composed of linear units with Gaussian noise.

# To Be Completed

## Approaches

- Multi-Layer Perceptron Experiments
  - Neural Network Matrix Factorization
  - Wide and Deep Learning
- Autoencoders Experiments
  - AutoRec: Autoencoders Meet Collaborative Filtering
  - Denoising Autoencoders With Multinomial Likelihood
- Boltzmann Machines Experiments
  - Deep Boltzmann Machines
- Hybrid Experiments?

## Datasets

- [RecSys 2018 Challenge](#): Playlist Recommendation (Spotify)
- [RecSys 2019 Challenge](#): Hotel Recommendation (trivago)
- [RecSys 2020 Challenge](#): Tweet Engagement Prediction (Twitter)

# 5 - Future Directions

---

# Research Directions

## 1 - Explainable Recommendation

- Make explainable predictions to users
- Focus on explain-ability to the practitioner
- Attentional models => Design **better** attentional mechanisms
- [Neural Rating Regression with Abstractive Tips Generation For Recommendation](#) (Chinese University of Hong Kong, JD.com, Tencent, 2017)

## 2 - Cross Domain Recommendation

- Domain adaptation via **transfer learning**
- [A Multi-View Deep Learning Approach For Cross-Domain User Modeling in Recommendation Systems](#) (Microsoft Research, 2015)
- [A Content-Boosted Collaborative Filtering Neural Network for Cross-Domain Recommendation Systems](#) (Microsoft Research, 2017)

# Research Directions

## 3 - Multi-Task Learning

- Learning several tasks at a time can prevent overfitting by generalizing the shared hidden representations
- Auxiliary task provides interpretable output for explaining the recommendations
- Multi-task provides an implicit data augmentation for alleviating the sparsity problem.
- [Neural Survival Recommender](#) (LinkedIn, Amazon, 2017)
- [Recommending What Video To Watch Next](#) (Google, 2019)

## 4 - Scalability For Large-Scale Settings

- Incremental learning for non-stationary and streaming data
- Computation efficiency for high-dimensional tensors and multimedia data sources
- Balancing of the model complexity and scalability with the exponential growth of parameters
- **Compression** techniques (model pruning and model quantization)
- Knowledge **distillation** ([Hugging Face's DistilBERT](#))

# Research Lessons

An Opinionated Guide To ML  
Research (Open AI)

- 1 - Choosing Problems
  - 2 - Making Continual Progress
  - 3 - Building Knowledge of ML
-

# Contact Info

- Email: [jl1165@rit.edu](mailto:jl1165@rit.edu)
- Twitter: [@le\\_james94](https://twitter.com/@le_james94)
- LinkedIn: [khanhnamle94](https://www.linkedin.com/in/khanhnamle94)
- GitHub: [khanhnamle1994](https://github.com/khanhnamle1994)
- Medium: [@james\\_aka\\_yale](https://medium.com/@james_aka_yale)
- Website: [jameskle.com](http://jameskle.com)



Questions?