Designing and Evaluating Explanations for Recommender Systems

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Questions (1)

1. What kind of information a recommender system can provide as an explanation? Provide at least four different examples (types or scenarios) of explanations.

2. Describe the think-aloud protocol for usability testing.

3. Discuss the drawbacks of explanations: possible technical, social, usability issues related to explanations. When and why explanations should not be used?
Contemporary electronic wearables, e.g. smartwatches, cycling computers, fitness bracelets allow recording, storing and interchange of sport-related personal information. These wearables possess networking capabilities, GPS, accelerometer, pulsometer, thermometer and other instruments which allow various measurements. These devices are extensively used by cyclists, joggers and so on. Imagine that you have access to all this information. Your goal is to build a recommender system for this domain. The system should suggest a group or an individual to participate in the same kind of sport activity.

Design a recommender system with explanations. Sketch the recommender algorithm, use cases and pay attention to explanations.