

Updates: - Created this pdf (<https://www.coursera.org/course/mmds>) in latex to have easy access to notes, and other research info.

- Created rough-draft baseline experiment
- 3 different recommender systems
- One per subtopic (Books, Music, Watches, etc.)
- 28x3 combinations
- Didn't evaluate any of them yet.
- Printed out top 5 items predicted for first 1k users.
- Needed to map alphanumeric IDs to numeric IDs.

- Some of the recommenders are not producing all 5 recommendations for some users. In the Nearest Neighbor recommenders Some users may not have any neighbors as their similarity may be undefined for all other users in the dataset. For the SVD recommender there may be a default threshold of rating predictions which I am unaware of.

Next steps:

- Dig deeper into the actual algorithms being used in Mahout (read source code) to find source of recommendation failure.
- Finish notes, continue to add to notes.
- Consider approaches to improve on Matrix Factorization (SVD).
- Figure out how to use Rival recommender evaluation tool.