

# Package ‘recosystem’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Recommender System using Matrix Factorization

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**Description** R wrapper of the 'libmf' library  
<<https://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libmf/>> for recommender  
system using matrix factorization. It is typically used to  
approximate an incomplete matrix using the product of two  
matrices in a latent space. Other common names for this task  
include ``collaborative filtering'', ``matrix completion'',  
``matrix recovery'', etc. High performance multi-core parallel  
computing is supported in this package.

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**URL** <https://github.com/yixuan/recosystem>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/yixuan/recosystem/issues>

**SystemRequirements** C++11

**Depends** R (>= 3.3.0), methods

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.11.0)

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data_source	<i>Specifying Data Source</i>
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### Description

Functions in this page are used to specify the source of data in the recommender system. They are intended to provide the input argument of functions such as `$tune()`, `$train()`, and `$predict()`. Currently two data formats are supported: data file (via function `data_file()`), and data in memory as R objects (via function `data_memory()`).

### Usage

```
data_file(path, index1 = FALSE, ...)
```

```
data_memory(user_index, item_index, rating = NULL, index1 = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

path	Path to the data file.
index1	Whether the user indices and item indices start with 1 ( <code>index1 = TRUE</code> ) or 0 ( <code>index1 = FALSE</code> ).
...	Currently unused.
user_index	An integer vector giving the user indices of rating scores.
item_index	An integer vector giving the item indices of rating scores.
rating	A numeric vector of the observed entries in the rating matrix. Can be specified as <code>NULL</code> for testing data, in which case it is ignored.

### Details

In `$tune()` and `$train()`, functions in this page are used to specify the source of training data. `data_file()` expects a text file that describes a sparse matrix in triplet form, i.e., each line in the file contains three numbers

```
row col value
```

representing a number in the rating matrix with its location. In real applications, it typically looks like

```
user_index item_index rating
```

The 'smalltrain.txt' file in the 'dat' directory of this package shows an example of training data file.

From version 0.4 **recosystem** supports two special types of matrix factorization: the binary matrix factorization (BMF), and the one-class matrix factorization (OCMF). BMF requires ratings to take value from  $-1, 1$ , and OCMF requires all the ratings to be positive.

If user index, item index, and ratings are stored as R vectors in memory, they can be passed to `data_memory()` to form the training data source.

By default the user index and item index start with zeros, and the option `index1 = TRUE` can be set if they start with ones.

In `$predict()`, functions in this page provide the source of testing data. The testing data have the same format as training data, except that the value (rating) column is not required, and will be ignored if it is provided. The 'smalltest.txt' file in the 'dat' directory of this package shows an example of testing data file.

### Value

An object of class "DataSource" as required by `$tune()`, `$train()`, and `$predict()`.

### Author(s)

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

### See Also

`$tune()`, `$train()`, `$predict()`

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output

*Exporting Factorization Matrices*

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### Description

This method is a member function of class "RecoSys" that exports the user score matrix  $P$  and the item score matrix  $Q$ .

Prior to calling this method, model needs to be trained using member function `$train()`.

The common usage of this method is

```
r = Reco()
r$train(...)
r$output(out_P = data_file("mat_P.txt"), out_Q = data_file("mat_Q.txt"))
```

**Arguments**

<code>r</code>	Object returned by <code>Reco()</code> .
<code>out_P</code>	An object of class <code>Output</code> that specifies the output format of the user matrix, typically returned by function <code>out_file()</code> , <code>out_memory()</code> or <code>out_nothing()</code> . <code>out_file()</code> writes the matrix into a file, with each row representing a user and each column representing a latent factor. <code>out_memory()</code> exports the matrix into the return value of <code>\$output()</code> . <code>out_nothing()</code> means the matrix will not be exported.
<code>out_Q</code>	Ditto, but for the item matrix.

**Value**

A list with components `P` and `Q`. They will be filled with user or item matrix if `out_memory()` is used in the function argument, otherwise `NULL` will be returned.

**Author(s)**

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

**References**

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Fast Parallel Stochastic Gradient Method for Matrix Factorization in Shared Memory Systems. *ACM TIST*, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Learning-rate Schedule for Stochastic Gradient Methods to Matrix Factorization. *PAKDD*, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, B.-W. Yuan, M.-Y. Yang, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. LIBMF: A Library for Parallel Matrix Factorization in Shared-memory Systems. Technical report, 2015.

**See Also**

`$train()`, `$predict()`

**Examples**

```
train_set = system.file("dat", "smalltrain.txt", package = "recosystem")
r = Reco()
set.seed(123) # This is a randomized algorithm
r$train(data_file(train_set), opts = list(dim = 10, nmf = TRUE))

## Write P and Q matrices to files
P_file = out_file(tempfile())
Q_file = out_file(tempfile())
r$output(P_file, Q_file)
head(read.table(P_file@dest, header = FALSE, sep = " "))
head(read.table(Q_file@dest, header = FALSE, sep = " "))

## Skip P and only export Q
r$output(out_nothing(), Q_file)
```

```
## Return P and Q in memory
res = r$output(out_memory(), out_memory())
head(res$P)
head(res$Q)
```

---

output\_format

*Specifying Output Format*

---

## Description

Functions in this page are used to specify the format of output results. They are intended to provide the argument of functions such as `$output()` and `$predict()`. Currently there are three types of output: `out_file()` indicates that the result should be written into a file, `out_memory()` makes the result to be returned as R objects, and `out_nothing()` means the result is not needed and will not be returned.

## Usage

```
out_file(path, ...)
```

```
out_memory(...)
```

```
out_nothing(...)
```

## Arguments

path            Path to the output file.

...            Currently unused.

## Value

An object of class "Output" as required by `$output()` and `$predict()`.

## Author(s)

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

## See Also

`$output()`, `$predict()`

predict

*Recommender Model Predictions*

---

**Description**

This method is a member function of class "RecoSys" that predicts unknown entries in the rating matrix.

Prior to calling this method, model needs to be trained using member function `$train()`.

The common usage of this method is

```
r = Reco()
r$train(...)
r$predict(test_data, out_pred = data_file("predict.txt"))
```

**Arguments**

<code>r</code>	Object returned by <code>Reco()</code> .
<code>train_data</code>	An object of class "DataSource" that describes the source of testing data, typically returned by function <code>data_file()</code> or <code>data_memory()</code> .
<code>out_pred</code>	An object of class Output that specifies the output format of prediction, typically returned by function <code>out_file()</code> , <code>out_memory()</code> or <code>out_nothing()</code> . <code>out_file()</code> writes the result into a file, <code>out_memory()</code> exports the vector of predicted values into the return value of <code>\$predict()</code> , and <code>out_nothing()</code> means the result will be neither returned nor written into a file (but computation will still be conducted).

**Author(s)**

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

**References**

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Fast Parallel Stochastic Gradient Method for Matrix Factorization in Shared Memory Systems. ACM TIST, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Learning-rate Schedule for Stochastic Gradient Methods to Matrix Factorization. PAKDD, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, B.-W. Yuan, M.-Y. Yang, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. LIBMF: A Library for Parallel Matrix Factorization in Shared-memory Systems. Technical report, 2015.

**See Also**

`$train()`

## Examples

```
## Not run:
train_file = data_file(system.file("dat", "smalltrain.txt", package = "recoSystem"))
test_file = data_file(system.file("dat", "smalltest.txt", package = "recoSystem"))
r = Reco()
set.seed(123) # This is a randomized algorithm
opts_tune = r$tune(train_file)$min
r$train(train_file, opts = opts_tune)

## Write predicted values into file
out_pred = out_file(tempfile())
r$predict(test_file, out_pred)

## Return predicted values in memory
pred = r$predict(test_file, out_memory())

## If testing data are stored in memory
test_df = read.table(test_file@source, sep = " ", header = FALSE)
pred2 = r$predict(data_memory(test_df[, 1], test_df[, 2]), out_memory())

## Compare results
print(scan(out_pred@dest, n = 10))
head(pred, 10)
head(pred2, 10)

## End(Not run)
```

---

Reco

*Constructing a Recommender System Object*

---

## Description

This function simply returns an object of class "RecoSys" that can be used to construct recommender model and conduct prediction.

## Usage

```
Reco()
```

## Value

`Reco()` returns an object of class "RecoSys" equipped with methods `$train()`, `$tune()`, `$output()` and `$predict()`, which describe the typical process of building and tuning model, exporting factorization matrices, and predicting results. See their help documents for details.

## Author(s)

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

## References

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Fast Parallel Stochastic Gradient Method for Matrix Factorization in Shared Memory Systems. ACM TIST, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Learning-rate Schedule for Stochastic Gradient Methods to Matrix Factorization. PAKDD, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, B.-W. Yuan, M.-Y. Yang, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. LIBMF: A Library for Parallel Matrix Factorization in Shared-memory Systems. Technical report, 2015.

## See Also

`$tune()`, `$train()`, `$output()`, `$predict()`

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train	<i>Training a Recommender Model</i>
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## Description

This method is a member function of class "RecoSys" that trains a recommender model. It will read from a training data source and create a model file at the specified location. The model file contains necessary information for prediction.

The common usage of this method is

```
r = Reco()
r$train(train_data, out_model = file.path(tempdir(), "model.txt"),
        opts = list())
```

## Arguments

r	Object returned by <code>Reco()</code> .
train_data	An object of class "DataSource" that describes the source of training data, typically returned by function <code>data_file()</code> or <code>data_memory()</code> .
out_model	Path to the model file that will be created.
opts	A number of parameters and options for the model training. See section <b>Parameters and Options</b> for details.

## Parameters and Options

The opts argument is a list that can supply any of the following parameters:

loss Character string, the loss function. Default is "l2", see below for details.

dim Integer, the number of latent factors. Default is 10.

costp\_l1 Numeric, L1 regularization parameter for user factors. Default is 0.

costp\_l2 Numeric, L2 regularization parameter for user factors. Default is 0.1.

costq\_l1 Numeric, L1 regularization parameter for item factors. Default is 0.



`costq_l2` Numeric, L2 regularization parameter for item factors. Default is 0.1.  
`lrate` Numeric, the learning rate, which can be thought of as the step size in gradient descent. Default is 0.1.  
`niter` Integer, the number of iterations. Default is 20.  
`nthread` Integer, the number of threads for parallel computing. Default is 1.  
`nbin` Integer, the number of bins. Must be greater than `nthread`. Default is 20.  
`nmf` Logical, whether to perform non-negative matrix factorization. Default is FALSE.  
`verbose` Logical, whether to show detailed information. Default is TRUE.

The `loss` option may take the following values:

For real-valued matrix factorization,

"l2" Squared error (L2-norm)  
"l1" Absolute error (L1-norm)  
"kl" Generalized KL-divergence

For binary matrix factorization,

"log" Logarithmic error  
"squared\_hinge" Squared hinge loss  
"hinge" Hinge loss

For one-class matrix factorization,

"row\_log" Row-oriented pair-wise logarithmic loss  
"col\_log" Column-oriented pair-wise logarithmic loss

### Author(s)

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

### References

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Fast Parallel Stochastic Gradient Method for Matrix Factorization in Shared Memory Systems. ACM TIST, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Learning-rate Schedule for Stochastic Gradient Methods to Matrix Factorization. PAKDD, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, B.-W. Yuan, M.-Y. Yang, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. LIBMF: A Library for Parallel Matrix Factorization in Shared-memory Systems. Technical report, 2015.

### See Also

`$tune()`, `$output()`, `$predict()`

## Examples

```
## Training model from a data file
train_set = system.file("dat", "smalltrain.txt", package = "recoSystem")
r = Reco()
set.seed(123) # This is a randomized algorithm
r$train(data_file(train_set),
        opts = list(dim = 20, costp_l2 = 0.01, costq_l2 = 0.01, nthread = 1)
)

## Training model from data in memory
train_df = read.table(train_set, sep = " ", header = FALSE)
set.seed(123)
r$train(data_memory(train_df[, 1], train_df[, 2], train_df[, 3]),
        opts = list(dim = 20, costp_l2 = 0.01, costq_l2 = 0.01, nthread = 1)
)
```

---

tune

*Tuning Model Parameters*


---

## Description

This method is a member function of class "RecoSys" that uses cross validation to tune the model parameters.

The common usage of this method is

```
r = Reco()
r$tune(train_data, opts = list(dim      = c(10L, 20L),
                              costp_l1 = c(0, 0.1),
                              costp_l2 = c(0.01, 0.1),
                              costq_l1 = c(0, 0.1),
                              costq_l2 = c(0.01, 0.1),
                              lrate     = c(0.01, 0.1))
)
```

## Arguments

r	Object returned by <a href="#">Reco()</a> .
train_data	An object of class "DataSource" that describes the source of training data, typically returned by function <a href="#">data_file()</a> or <a href="#">data_memory()</a> .
opts	A number of candidate tuning parameter values and extra options in the model tuning procedure. See section <b>Parameters and Options</b> for details.

**Value**

A list with two components:

- `min` Parameter values with minimum cross validated loss. This is a list that can be passed to the `opts` argument in `$train()`.
- `res` A data frame giving the supplied candidate values of tuning parameters, and one column showing the loss function value associated with each combination.

**Parameters and Options**

The `opts` argument should be a list that provides the candidate values of tuning parameters and some other options. For tuning parameters (`dim`, `costp_11`, `costp_12`, `costq_11`, `costq_12`, and `lrate`), users can provide a numeric vector for each one, so that the model will be evaluated on each combination of the candidate values. For other non-tuning options, users should give a single value. If a parameter or option is not set by the user, the program will use a default one.

See below for the list of available parameters and options:

- `dim` Tuning parameter, the number of latent factors. Can be specified as an integer vector, with default value `c(10L, 20L)`.
- `costp_11` Tuning parameter, the L1 regularization cost for user factors. Can be specified as a numeric vector, with default value `c(0, 0.1)`.
- `costp_12` Tuning parameter, the L2 regularization cost for user factors. Can be specified as a numeric vector, with default value `c(0.01, 0.1)`.
- `costq_11` Tuning parameter, the L1 regularization cost for item factors. Can be specified as a numeric vector, with default value `c(0, 0.1)`.
- `costq_12` Tuning parameter, the L2 regularization cost for item factors. Can be specified as a numeric vector, with default value `c(0.01, 0.1)`.
- `lrate` Tuning parameter, the learning rate, which can be thought of as the step size in gradient descent. Can be specified as a numeric vector, with default value `c(0.01, 0.1)`.
- `loss` Character string, the loss function. Default is "l2", see section **Parameters and Options** in `$train()` for details.
- `nfold` Integer, the number of folds in cross validation. Default is 5.
- `niter` Integer, the number of iterations. Default is 20.
- `nthread` Integer, the number of threads for parallel computing. Default is 1.
- `nbin` Integer, the number of bins. Must be greater than `nthread`. Default is 20.
- `nmf` Logical, whether to perform non-negative matrix factorization. Default is FALSE.
- `verbose` Logical, whether to show detailed information. Default is FALSE.
- `progress` Logical, whether to show a progress bar. Default is TRUE.

**Author(s)**

Yixuan Qiu <<https://statr.me>>

## References

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Fast Parallel Stochastic Gradient Method for Matrix Factorization in Shared Memory Systems. ACM TIST, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. A Learning-rate Schedule for Stochastic Gradient Methods to Matrix Factorization. PAKDD, 2015.

W.-S. Chin, B.-W. Yuan, M.-Y. Yang, Y. Zhuang, Y.-C. Juan, and C.-J. Lin. LIBMF: A Library for Parallel Matrix Factorization in Shared-memory Systems. Technical report, 2015.

## See Also

`$train()`

## Examples

```
## Not run:
train_set = system.file("dat", "smalltrain.txt", package = "recoSystem")
train_src = data_file(train_set)
r = Reco()
set.seed(123) # This is a randomized algorithm
res = r$tune(
  train_src,
  opts = list(dim = c(10, 20, 30),
              costp_l1 = 0, costq_l1 = 0,
              lrate = c(0.05, 0.1, 0.2), nthread = 2)
)
r$train(train_src, opts = res$min)

## End(Not run)
```

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