

with universal choice sets in Figure 1). There is no methodology for learning determinantal point processes with variable choice sets, so we do not compare against them here.

Figure 3 shows the mean per-choice likelihood improvements over the separable model. In both datasets, our model achieves over 5% likelihood gain with $|H| < 10$. With YCIITEMS, we see the same pattern in likelihood gains as for the datasets with universal choice sets: a rapid increase for the first several corrections and then a leveling of the gains. For this dataset, $|H|$ is less than 1% the number of items, and we achieve substantial likelihood gains with an extremely sparse model.

5 RELATED WORK

There are variable-size choice models for universal choice sets based on pairwise interactions and conditional distributions [26], correlated random utility errors [17], or a priori knowledge of utilities [11, 35]. Our model makes no assumptions on pairwise interactions and can handle arbitrary-order interactions. Also, the datasets used in our experiments contain orders of magnitude more items than experiments for pairwise interaction models in market basket data [5, 9]. Set prediction functions in neural networks [22, 37] and multi-label classification methods more broadly [23, 34] are also relevant to the subset prediction problem. However, these methods are designed to predict a set of labels from features (e.g., predict several tags of an image), whereas our experiments predict new subsets given previous subset selections. The recently developed set embedding model offers a statistical approach to the subset choice problem with universal choice sets [25]. Unlike our models, neural networks and the embedding models are not known to carry a random utility maximization interpretation.

Another variant of subset choice is approval voting, where an individual selects all candidates that she approves [10, 24, 29]. In this case, there is an implicit assumption that only one alternative will ultimately be selected (only one candidate will win the election), whereas we deal with subsets that give complementary utility.

Lastly, our work fits into the context of several recent analyses on effectively learning discrete choice models [4, 16, 18, 19, 21, 38] as well as applications of discrete choice models to user behavior on the Web [7, 30, 36].

6 DISCUSSION

We developed a general random utility model for how individuals choose a subset of items from a given choice set and analyzed its structure in two contexts: (i) the choice set is universal and is the same for all selections and (ii) the choice set varies. In both cases, we prove that after identifying subsets receiving corrective probability within our model, we can efficiently find the optimal model parameters. However, we also showed that finding the best set of subsets to receive corrections is NP-hard. Approximation algorithms for coping with this issue are a direction for future work. Nevertheless, our sparse model provides substantial likelihood improvements in subset prediction compared to competing baselines.

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