

Booking.com RecSys RecTour 2024 Challenge



Eran Fainman, Amit Livne

Booking.com

<https://tinyurl.com/RecTour24Challenge>

Booking.com Introduction

Booking.com

Search

Destination/property name:

Check-in date

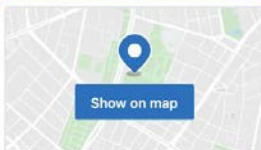
Check-out date

1-night stay

Entire homes & apartments

I'm traveling for work

Search



Filter by:

Your Budget (per night)

Set your own budget



Popular Filters

Hotels 369

Amsterdam: 513 properties found

Show on map

Our Top Picks

Homes & apartments first

Price (lowest first)

Best reviewed & lowest price

Genius

...

Breakfast included



't Hotel ★ ★ ★

[Amsterdam City Center, Amsterdam](#) · [Show on map](#) ·

450 m from center

Pay with Wallet

Family Room

3 beds (2 twins, 1 king)

Breakfast included

Only 1 room left at this price on our site

Wonderful 9.1

827 reviews

Location 9.7

1 night, 2 adults

~~€ 532~~ **€ 456**

+€ 56 taxes and charges

See availability >



Hotel Bellington ★

[Oud Zuid, Amsterdam](#) · [Show on map](#) · 1.6 km from center

Basic Double Room with Shared Bathroom

1 full bed

Only 1 room left at this price on our site

Very Good 8.0

591 reviews

1 night, 2 adults

€ 198

+€ 34 taxes and charges

See availability >

Breakfast included



Vita Nova

[Amsterdam City Center, Amsterdam](#) · [Show on map](#) ·

1.2 km from center

Pay with Wallet

Twin Cabin

2 bunk beds

Breakfast included

Good 7.1

1,144 reviews

1 night, 2 adults

~~€ 166~~ **€ 153**

+€ 33 taxes and charges

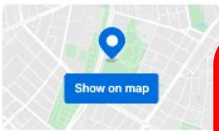


Product types

Booking.com EUR Moran Belaved Genius Level 3

Stays
 Flights
 Flight + Hotel
 Car rentals
 Attractions
 Airport taxis

Home > Search results



Crete: 3,831 properties found

Get inspiration for your next trip

- Beaches
- Relax in nature
- Romantic
- City trip
- Family-friendly

Chania Town
Boating · Beaches · Romantic
989 properties

Hersonissos
Beaches · Nightlife · Family-friendly
362 properties

Filter by:

Your budget (per night)
€ 20 - € 300+

Popular filters

- Beachfront 724
- Breakfast included 645
- Parking 3146
- Private bathroom 9337
- Superb: 9+ 1911
- Swimming Pool 1356
- Holiday homes 526

Facilities

- Parking 3146
- Free WiFi 3662
- Restaurant 620
- Pets allowed 1059
- Room service 558

Meals

- Self catering 3174
- Breakfast included 645
- All meals included 12
- All-inclusive 112

Sort by: Our top picks

74% of places to stay are unavailable for your dates on our site

Commission and other factors may affect property rankings. Learn about these ranking parameters and how to select and modify them. Find out more

Creta Maris Resort ★★★★★ **Genius**
Limenas Hersonissou, Hersonissos [Show on map](#)
Sustainability certification

Deluxe Room with Garden or Mountain View
Multiple bed types
All-inclusive
Only 2 rooms left at this price on our site

3 nights, 2 adults
~~€ 1144~~ **€ 946**
Includes taxes and charges

Naiades Village Elounda ★★★
Elounda [Show on map](#)
Limited-time Deal

Family Studio
Entire studio · 1 bathroom · 39m²
2 beds (1 double, 1 sofa bed)
Only 1 left at this price on our site

3 nights, 2 adults
~~€ 998~~ **€ 235**
Includes taxes and charges

Recommendations

Content selection

Ranking



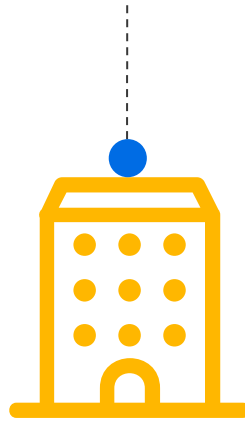
Reviews in Booking.com

45 Languages



320M+
Reviews

**Hotels, Homes,
Apartments & more**



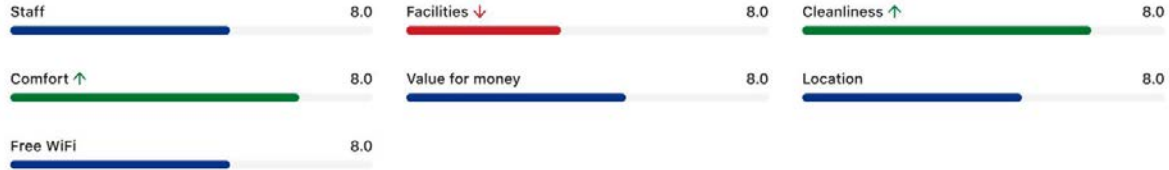
29M+
Listings

Guest reviews

[See availability](#)

9.0 Fabulous · 1,234 reviews [Read all reviews](#)

Categories:



↑ High score for Amsterdam ↓ Low score for Amsterdam

Select topics to read reviews

[+ Location](#) [+ View](#) [+ Rooms](#) [+ Food](#)



Review Summary

AI-generated summary based on 340 reviews from the last year ⓘ

Overall, guests were impressed with the property's convenient location, friendly staff, and clean and comfortable rooms. They also enjoyed the generous and varied breakfast offerings.

Frequently mentioned

[Good location](#) Beautiful views Average rooms Limited food options

[Read all reviews](#)

Topics Filtering

Personalized Summarization

Reviews Ranking

B.

Guest reviews for Riu Plaza London Victoria

8.4 Very good
7,104 reviews

We aim for 100% real reviews ⓘ

Guest reviews Sort reviews by: Most relevant ▾

Charlynnne Reviewers' choice Reviewed: June 4, 2022 **10**

📍 Marshall Islands

🛏️ [One-Bedroom Suite](#)

📅 3 nights · May 2022

👨👩👧👦 Family

loved it!

😊 · the staff were very friendly and helpful. liked how they had laundry in every floor. the kids enjoyed the pool. spacious room for my family at a good price..

😞 · loved the property!

👍 Helpful 👎 Not helpful

Jianhui Reviewed: February 3, 2023 **7.0**

📍 United States of America

🛏️ [One-Bedroom Suite](#)

📅 5 nights · February 2023

👨👩👧👦 Family

Good

😊 · location

😞 · Parking facility is convenient but the women who run the gate causing difficulty to get out from the garage each time.

👍 Helpful 👎 Not helpful

Kim Reviewed: February 1, 2023 **9.0**

📍 Australia

🛏️ [One-Bedroom Suite with Mountain View](#)

📅 11 nights · January 2023

👨👩👧👦 Family

Wonderful

😊 · The 33rd Floor Mountain View Room was absolutely amazing! Amenities were great, especially having a minimart in the building was very convenient. Location was quite good. Staff were very friendly and accomodating. Loved our stay and would stay here again!

😞 · Not much to be honest, maybe a little closer to the beach but we genuinely enjoyed the walking after all the eating we did.

Reviews Ranking

B.

Personalized Review Ranking

Related Work

Non-Personalized Review Ranking

- **Text-based features** (TF-IDF [6], contextual embeddings [4], readability [17], sentiment [35] and subject analysis [11]).
- **Temporal features** (time decay over review age, past reviewers average score [24])
- **Multimodal** (review images & textual embeddings [13, 27])
- **Labels** are a function of the number of the number of helpful votes



Related Work

Personalized Review Ranking

- **Context-aware features** (previous helpfulness votes, product purchases, past user reviews etc [15, 25, 33])
- **Ground truth is subjective**
- **Graph based features** (social relations between users [33], relations between users and products and users and reviews [15, 25])
- Usage of **recommendation methods** like matrix factorization [23]



Challenges in Modeling Helpful Votes

S **Simona**
Romania

Reviewed: September 12, 2021

8 Days in Greece 10

Panorama Junior Summer House

8 nights · September 2021

Family

😊 Very clean, spacious, cleaning was done on a daily basis, nice views, private beach, friendly staff.

😞 Villas are not on the beach side, but there are amazing views of the sea, and beach is reachable in a 5 min walk

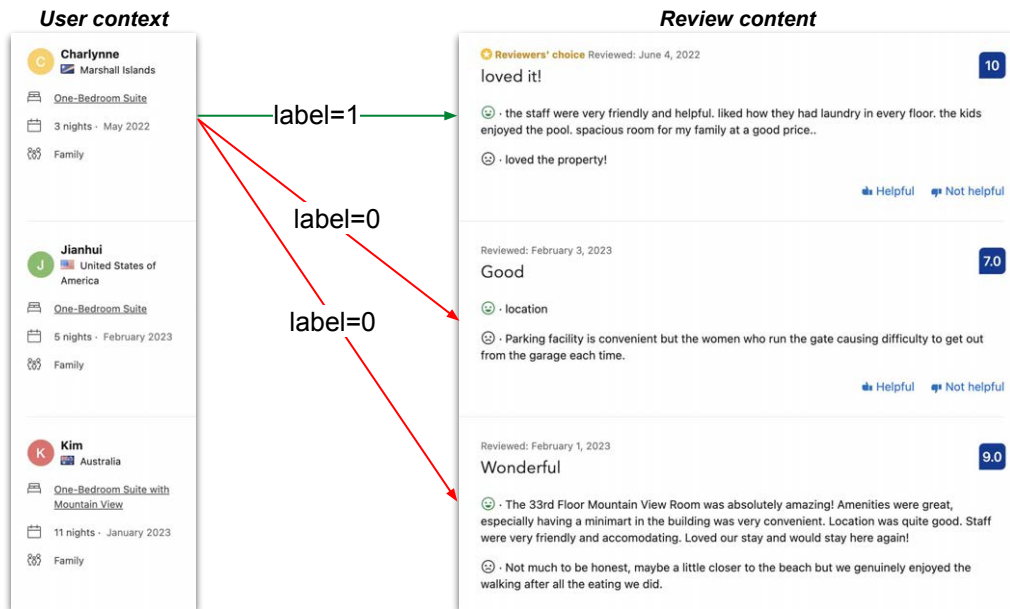
1 person found this review helpful. Helpful Not helpful

- Votes are aggregated and anonymous
- Votes are sparse (~8.7% of reviews)
- Votes suffer from a presentation bias [23, 33]
- Cold-start problem [16]



Problem formulation

- Model the relationship between **user context** and **review content**
- Use the combination of **reviews content with their corresponding reviewers' context** as positive labels

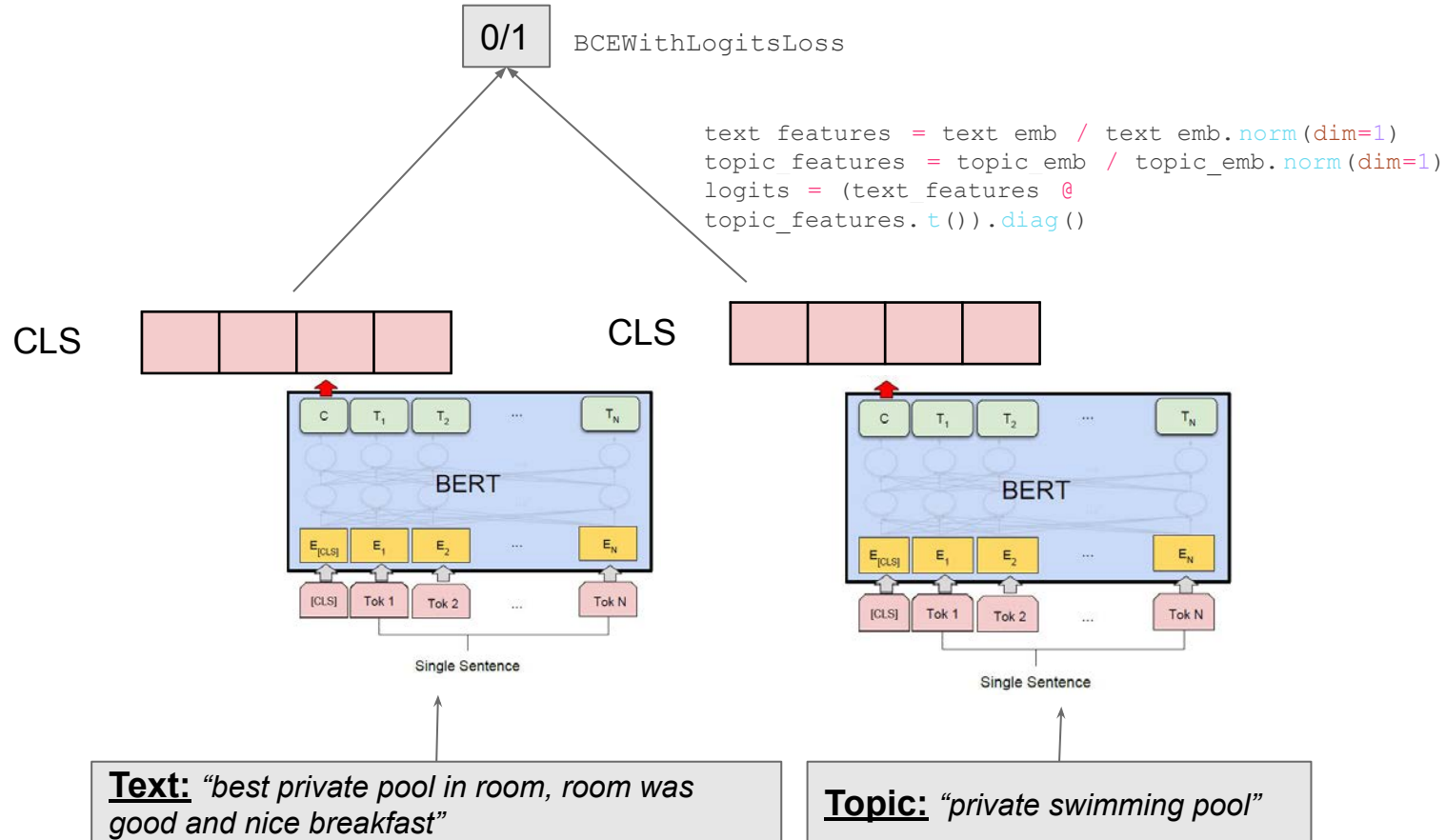


Dataset Creation

Text2Topic [9]



ML architecture - Bi Encoder - cosine



Review dataset publication

- The training dataset contains **1.6M** moderated English reviews from 2023 originating from **40,000** unique properties.
- We selected English reviews with ≥ 3 **topics** (using text2topic) and sampled properties with at least **10 reviews**. All reviews are moderated and approved for publication.

Column	Description
review_title	Review title
review_positive	Positive ('liked') section in review
review_negative	Negative ('disliked') section in review
guest_score	Review score for the stay
review_helpful_votes	How many users marked the review as helpful
guest_type	There are 4 types of traveller types: Solo traveller (1 adult) / Couple (2 adults) / Group (>2 adults) / Family with children (adults & children)
guest_country	Anonymized country from which the reservation was made
room_nights	What is the length of the reservation, i.e. number of nights booked
month	The month of the check-in date of the reservation
accommodation_id	An anonymized accommodation ID
accommodation_type	The type of the accommodation, e.g. hotel, apartment, hostel
accommodation_score	The overall average guest review score for the accommodation
accommodation_country	Country of the accommodation
accommodation_star_rating	Accommodation star rating is provided by the property, and is usually determined by an official accommodation rating organisation or another third party
location_is_beach	Is the accommodation located in a beach location
location_is_ski	Is the accommodation located in a ski location
location_is_city_center	Is the accommodation located in the city center


Mapping between review UI and fields in dataset

 **Simona** Reviewed: September 12, 2021

 Romania **guest_country**

8 Days in Greece **review_title**


review_score **10**

 Panorama Junior Summer House

room_nights **month**

 8 nights · September 2021

 Family **guest_type**

 Very clean, spacious, cleaning was done on a daily basis, nice views, private beach, friendly staff. **review_positive**

 Villas are not on the beach side, but there are amazing views of the sea, and beach is reachable in a 5 min walk **review_negative**

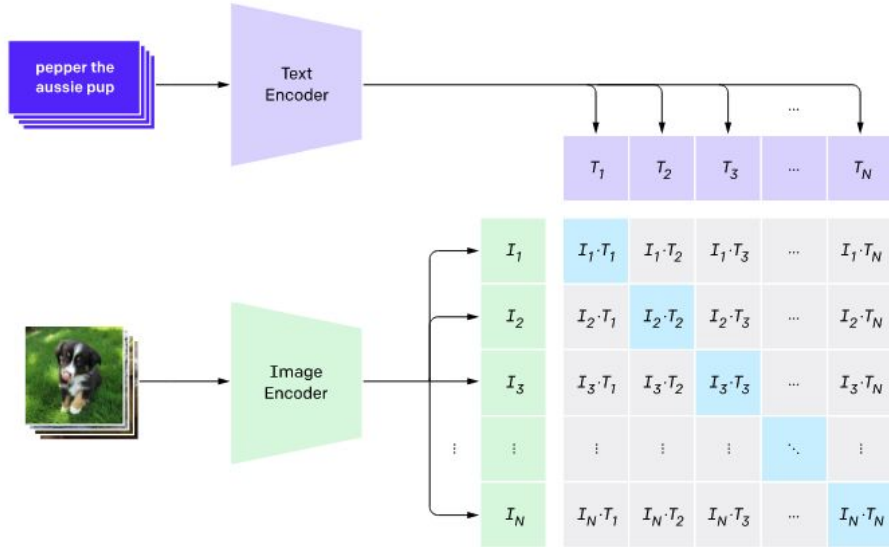
review_helpful_votes

1 person found this review helpful.  Helpful  Not helpful

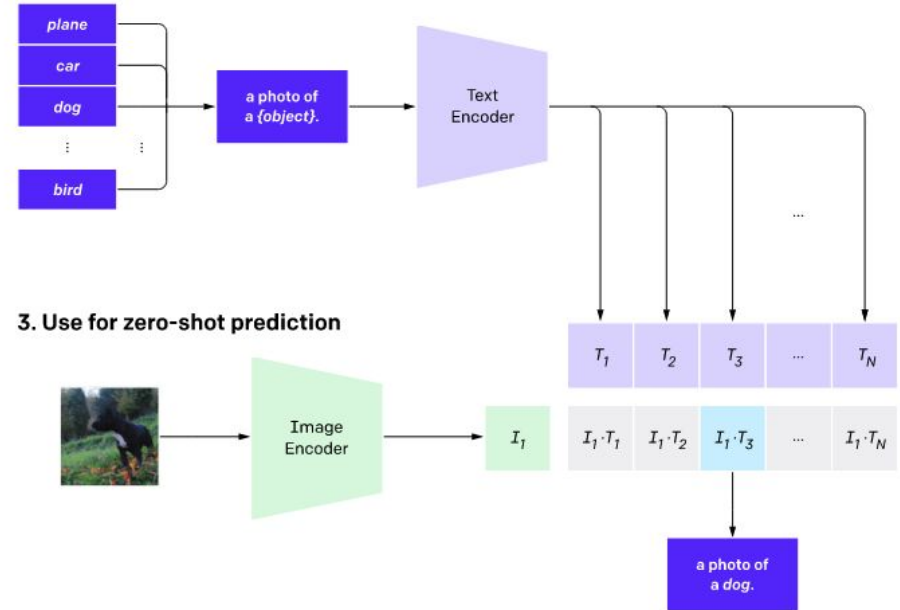
Our Solution

Recap on CLIP (Contrastive Language–Image Pre-training)

1. Contrastive pre-training



2. Create dataset classifier from label text



* <https://openai.com/blog/clip/>

** <https://github.com/openai/CLIP>

How?

(1) User-generated review input

"The bed was horrible. I booked double room with double bed but actually it was terrible."

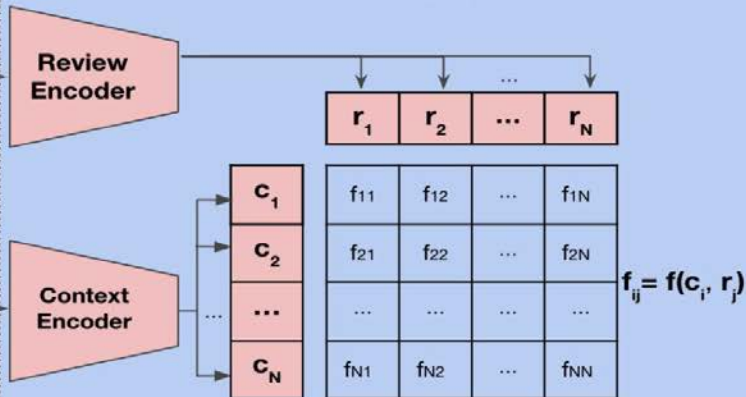
"The hostel had a very nice garden and bar. The staff was very nice and helpful. The location was great."

"Big room and very big bathroom. Comfortable bed. We enjoyed the outdoor swimming pool!"

(2) Contextual features are transformed into text

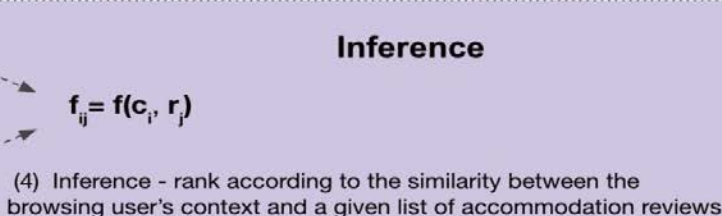


Fine-tune



(3) Fine-tune the model to optimize the similarity between the reviewer's context and self written review

Inference



Data Preprocessing

guest_type	guest_country	room_nights	month	accommodation_type	accommodation_country
Couple	Cobra Island	3	August	Hotel	Greece

Context textual representation →

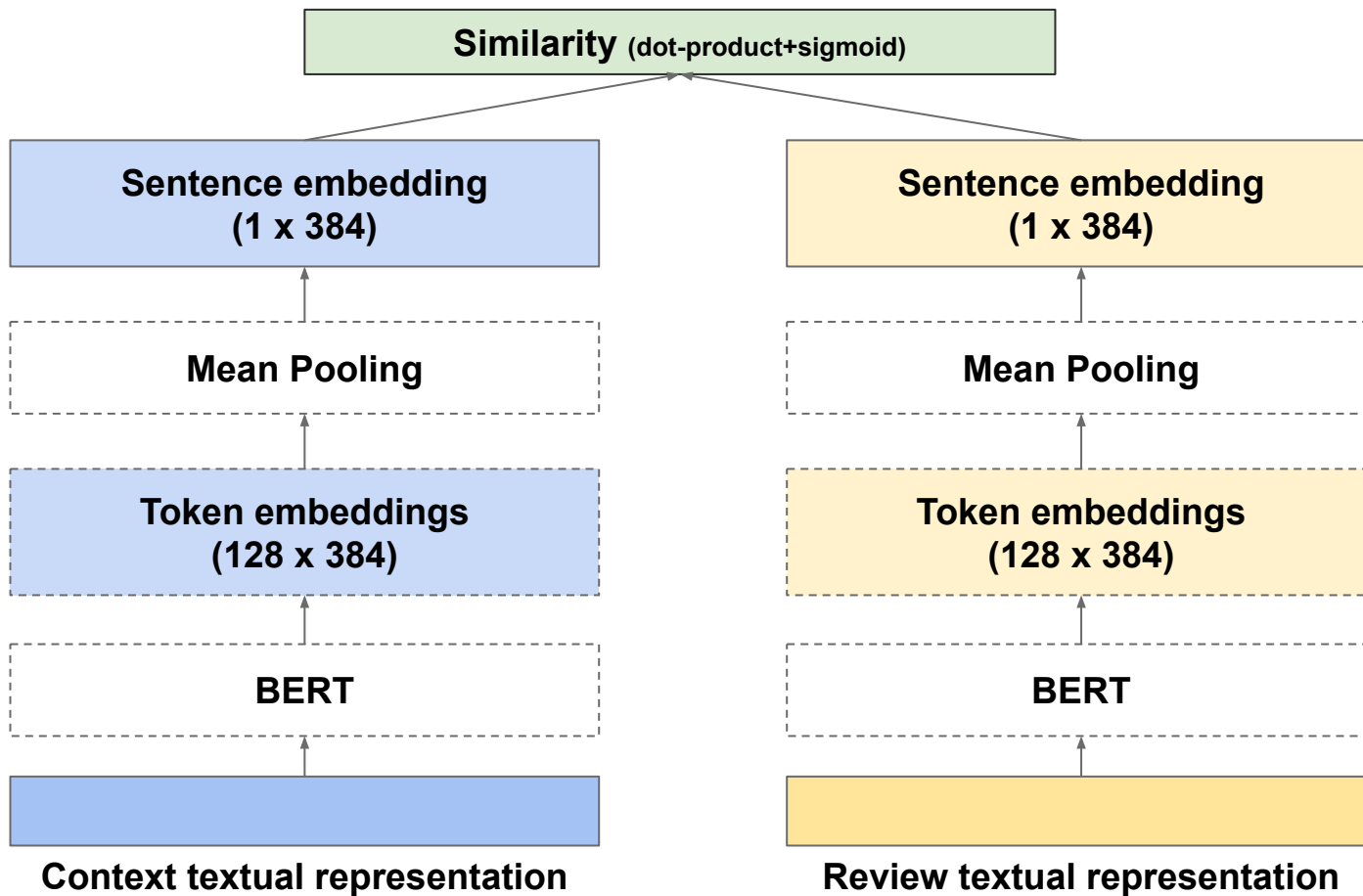
“Guest type: Couple
Guest country: Cobra Island
Room nights: 3
....”

review_title	review_positive	review_negative	review_score
Amazing!	We enjoyed the pool, our clean room and the breakfast was fab!	It would be nice to have fresh towels on a daily basis	8

Review textual representation →

“Review title: Amazing!
Review positive: We enjoyed the pool, our clean room and the breakfast was fab!
Review negative: It would be nice to have fresh towels on a daily basis
Review score: 8”

Architecture



Loss Functions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BCE}} = -\frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N [\mathbf{I}_{i,j} \log(f_{i,j}) + (1 - \mathbf{I}_{i,j}) \log(1 - f_{i,j})]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{InfoNCE}} = -\frac{1}{2N} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(f_{i,i})}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(f_{i,j})} + \sum_{j=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(f_{j,j})}{\sum_{i=1}^N \exp(f_{i,j})} \right)$$

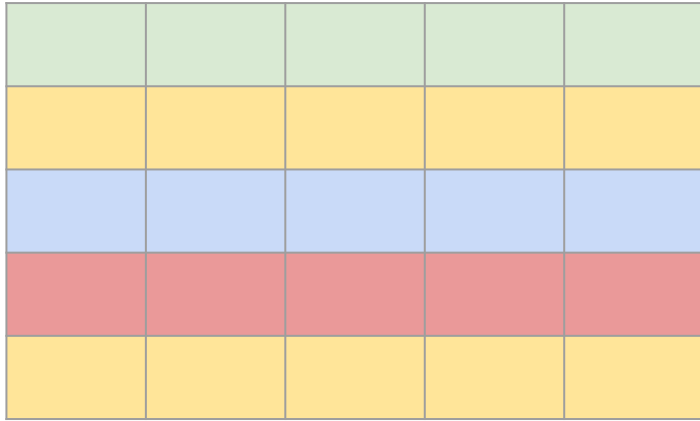
Where:

- $f_{i,j}$ is the **similarity** between context i and review j
- N is the number of context-review pairs within the batch

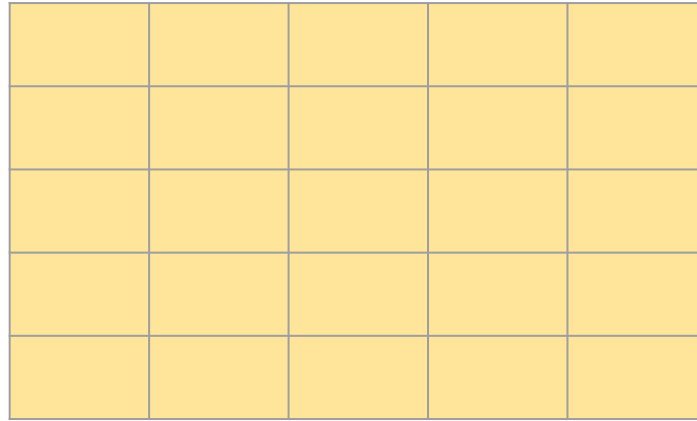
Review embeddings

	$f_{0,0}$	$f_{0,1}$	$f_{0,2}$	$f_{0,3}$	$f_{0,4}$
	$f_{1,0}$	$f_{1,1}$	$f_{1,2}$	$f_{1,3}$	$f_{1,4}$
	$f_{2,0}$	$f_{2,1}$	$f_{2,2}$	$f_{2,3}$	$f_{2,4}$
	$f_{3,0}$	$f_{3,1}$	$f_{3,2}$	$f_{3,3}$	$f_{3,4}$
	$f_{4,0}$	$f_{4,1}$	$f_{4,2}$	$f_{4,3}$	$f_{4,4}$
Context embeddings					

Batch sampling



Random batch sampling



In-accommodation batch sampling

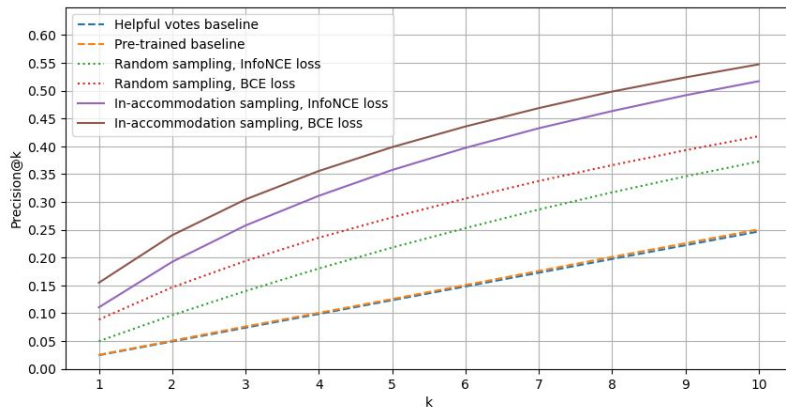
Might lead to learn differences between accommodations and reviews instead of between users and reviews within the same accommodation

Fine-tune Details

- **Model:** sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2 ([link](#))
- **Optimizer:**
 - AdamW optimizer [20]
 - Weight decay=0.01
 - Initial LR=3e-5
- **Batch size:** 64
- **Warm up:** 0.05
- Fine-tune took ~9h on a computation instance with 1 NVIDIA A10G GPU, 8 vCPU and 32GB RAM.

Results

Model	MRR		Precision@1		Precision@10	
	Mean	Std	Mean	Std	Mean	Std
Random sampling, InfoNCE loss	0.147	0.051	0.049	0.048	0.375	0.106
Random sampling, BCE loss	0.191	0.063	0.089	0.064	0.419	0.111
In-accommodation sampling, InfoNCE loss	0.237	0.067	0.111	0.069	0.519	0.111
In-accommodation sampling, BCE loss	0.278	0.074	0.154	0.079	0.549	0.110



Challenge

RecTour 2024 Challenge <https://workshops.ds-ifs.tuwien.ac.at/rectour24/rectour-2024-challenge/>

- Data is published in <https://tinyurl.com/RecTour24-Data>
- There are 3 files (currently only training set data is available):
 - **{set_name}_users.csv** - holds the contextual data (user and accommodation)
 - **{set_name}_reviews.csv** - holds the review data (title, positive section, negative section etc)
 - **{set_name}_matches.csv** - holds the positive labels in form of matches between user_id, accommodation_id and review_id
- We will assess performance using MRR@10. Participants will submit a prediction file containing accommodation_id, user_id and top 10 review_ids sorted by their algorithm:

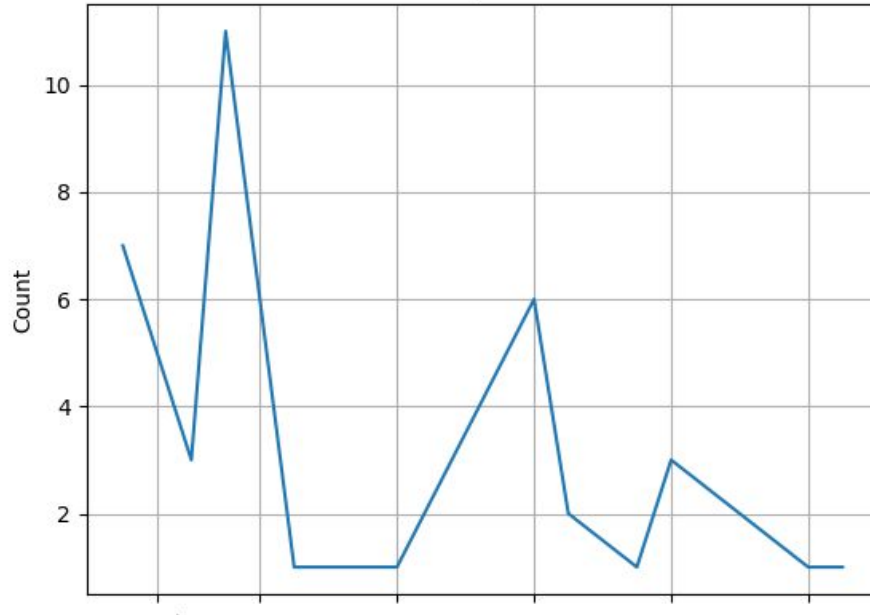
accommodation_id	user_id	review_1	review_2	review_3	...	review_10
1	24	123	764	129		325

Statistics

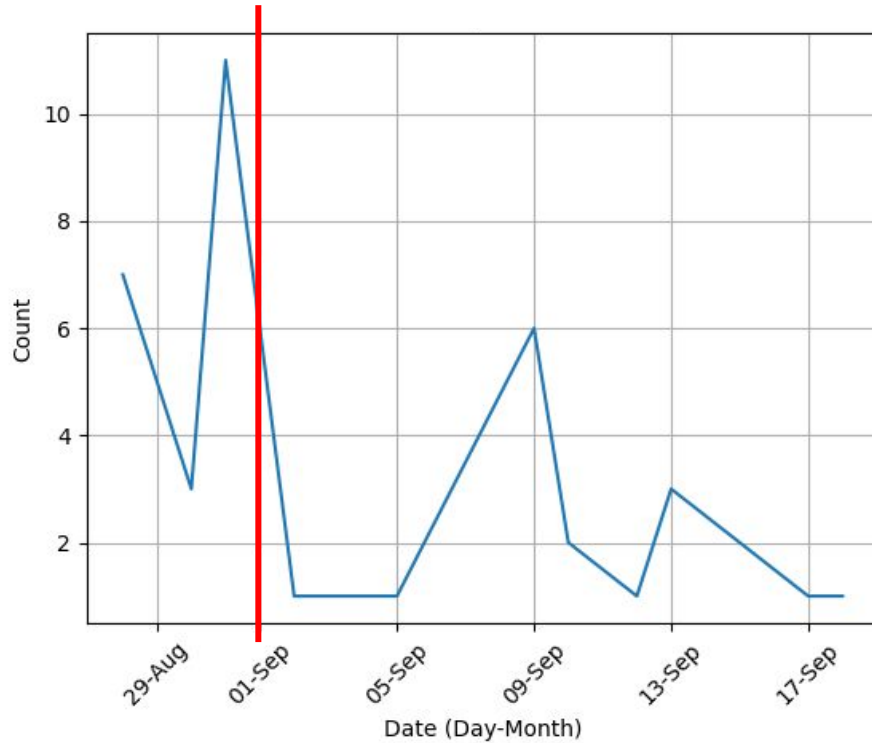
- 31 teams
- 60 participants

Statistics

- 31 teams
- 60 participants



Statistics



Top teams

	Team	MRR@10
1	ringo	0.1662
2	TMU-Rec	0.0775
3	BMS Hunters	0.0735
4	qtravel.ai	0.0735

Top teams results after submission deadline

	Team	MRR@10
1	ringo	0.1662
2	TMU-Rec	0.0775
3	BMS Hunters	0.0735
4	qtravel.ai	0.0735



	Team	MRR@10
1	ringo	0.1662
2	BMS Hunters	0.0829
3	TMU-Rec	0.0787
4	qtravel.ai	0.0736

Thank you!

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