

# Recommendation as Language Processing (RLP): A Unified Pretrain, Personalized Prompt & Predict Paradigm (P5)

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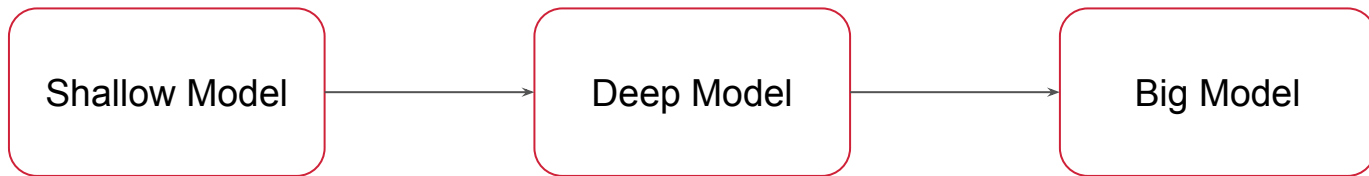
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# Development Trend of Recommender Systems

- Recommender Systems have advanced from shallow models to deep models and now entering the stage of big models (or foundation models).



# Development Trend of Recommender Systems

- In retrospect of the past decades, we can summarize the development trend of recommender systems as a more comprehensive system that accommodates
  - **more diverse features**
    - For feature engineering / learning:
      - user-item interaction records ->
      - rich contextual features ->
      - directly utilize raw data contains natural language
  - **wider spectrum of application scenarios**
    - For real-world applications:
      - user-item matching-based recommendation, rating prediction, CTR prediction ->
      - sequential recommendation, session-based recommendation, conversational recommendation, explainable recommendation

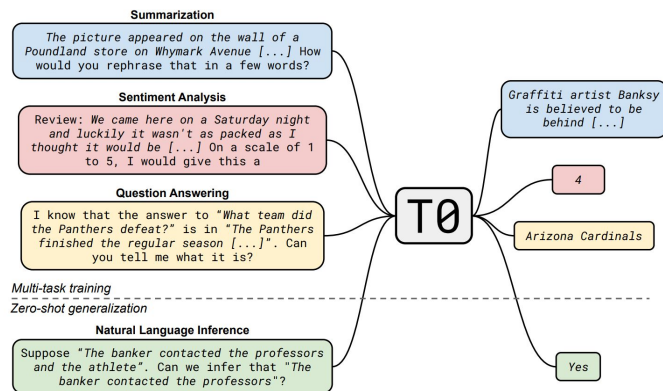
# Motivation

- Though achieving great success, current recommendation systems still **need** to design **specific model architectures** & **training objectives** for different recommendation tasks
- Since recommendation tasks usually share a **common user–item pool** and have **overlapping contextual features**
- It's promising to merge more recommendation tasks into a **unified framework** thus they can implicitly transfer knowledge and better benefit each other

# Motivation (Cont'd)

- Considering **language** is a powerful medium to describe and represent **various problems / tasks** as well as the **rich natural language raw data**
- We believe language models are a good candidate for building such **unified framework for recommender systems** and can enable recommendation models a **better generalization ability**
- **Challenges**: how to **convert all data** (such as user-item interactions, item metadata, and user reviews) & **different tasks** into a common format – natural language sequence
- We get inspiration from recent progress in **multitask prompt-based training** with **large language models**

# Multitask Prompt-based Training with LLMs



T0<sup>[1]</sup>

## Finetune on many tasks ("instruction-tuning")

### Input (Commonsense Reasoning)

Here is a goal: Get a cool sleep on summer days.  
How would you accomplish this goal?

#### OPTIONS:

- Keep stack of pillow cases in fridge.
- Keep stack of pillow cases in oven.

#### Target

keep stack of pillow cases in fridge

### Input (Translation)

Translate this sentence to Spanish:  
The new office building was built in less than three months.

#### Target

El nuevo edificio de oficinas se construyó en tres meses.

Sentiment analysis tasks

Coreference resolution tasks

...

## Inference on unseen task type

### Input (Natural Language Inference)

Premise: At my age you will probably have learnt one lesson.

Hypothesis: It's not certain how many lessons you'll learn by your thirties.

Does the premise entail the hypothesis?

#### OPTIONS:

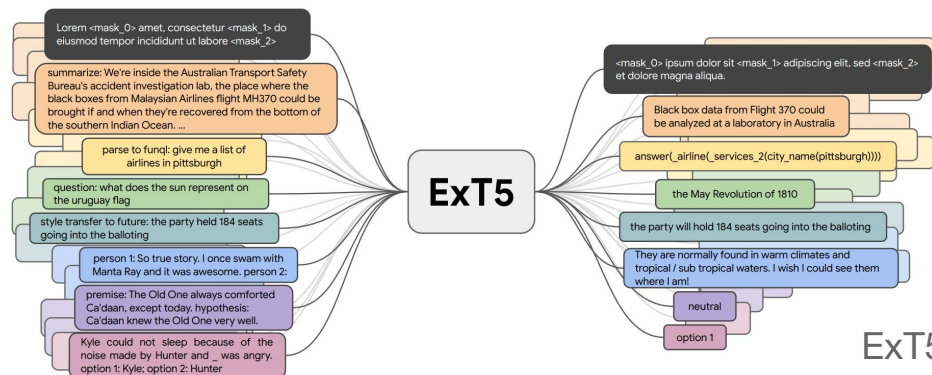
- yes
- it is not possible to tell
- no

#### FLAN Response

It is not possible to tell

FLAN<sup>[2]</sup>

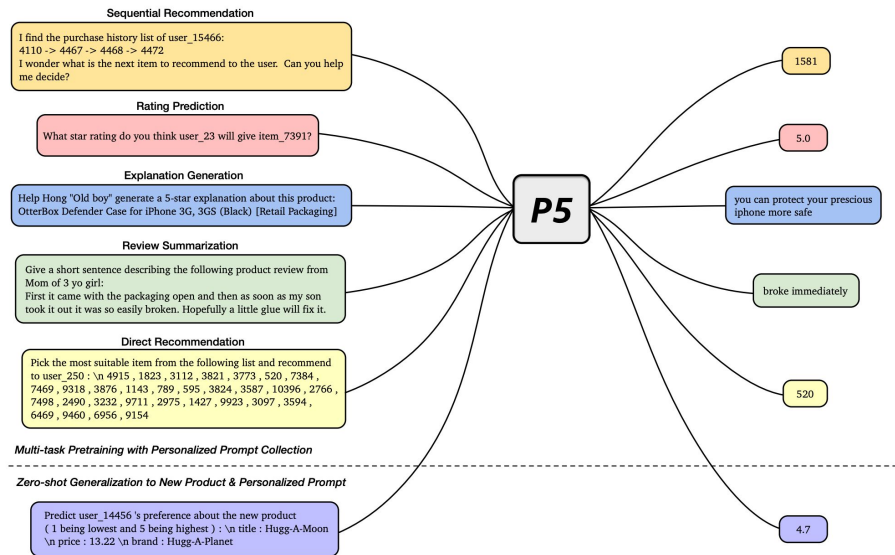
- [1] Sanh, Victor et al. "Multitask prompted training enables zero-shot task generalization." ICLR. 2022
- [2] Wei, Jason et al. "Finetuned language models are zero-shot learners." ICLR. 2022
- [3] Aribandi, Vamsi et al. "Ext5: Towards extreme multi-task scaling for transfer learning." ICLR. 2022



Ext5<sup>[3]</sup>

# A Unified Pretrain, Personalized Prompt & Predict Paradigm (P5)

- Learns multiple recommendation related tasks together through a **unified sequence-to-sequence framework**
- Formulates different **recommendation** problems as **prompt-based natural language tasks**
- User-item information and corresponding features are integrated with **personalized prompt templates** as model inputs



# Main Advantage of P5

- Immerses recommendation models into a **full language environment**; Thanks to the flexibility and expression ability of language, there is **no need to design feature-specific encoders**
- P5 treats all personalized tasks as a conditional text generation problem: **one data format, one model, one loss** for multiple recommendation tasks
- P5 attains sufficient **zero-shot performance** when generalizing to novel personalized prompts or unseen items in other domains



# Challenges to Adopt Multitask Prompt-based Training to Recommendation

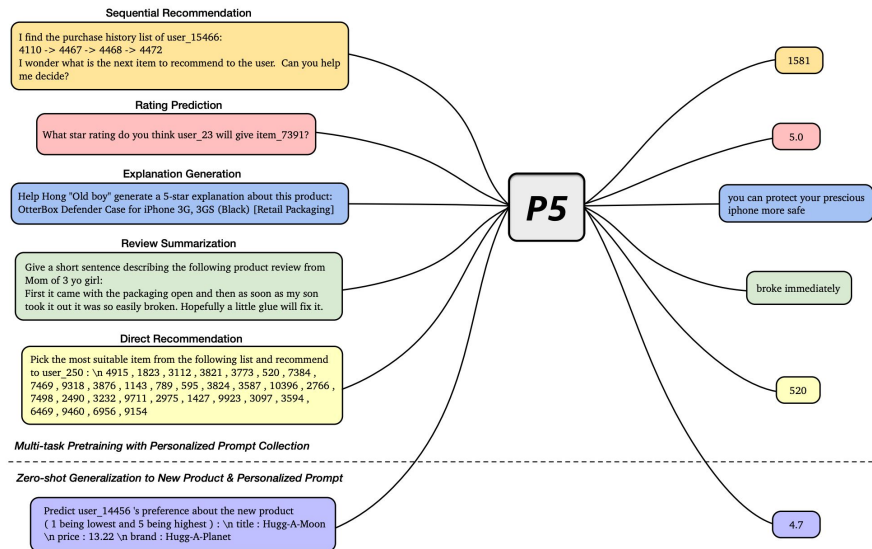
1. What tasks are covered by P5?
2. How to represent **user preferences** and **item features** in P5?
3. How to **design personalized prompts** for different recommendation tasks?
4. What **architecture** to use as backbone for P5?
5. How to conduct **training** and **inference** of P5?

# C1. Recommendation Tasks Covered by P5

- P5 currently covers **5** different **task families**

- **rating prediction**
- **sequential recommendation**
- **explanation generation**
- **review-related**
- **direct recommendation**

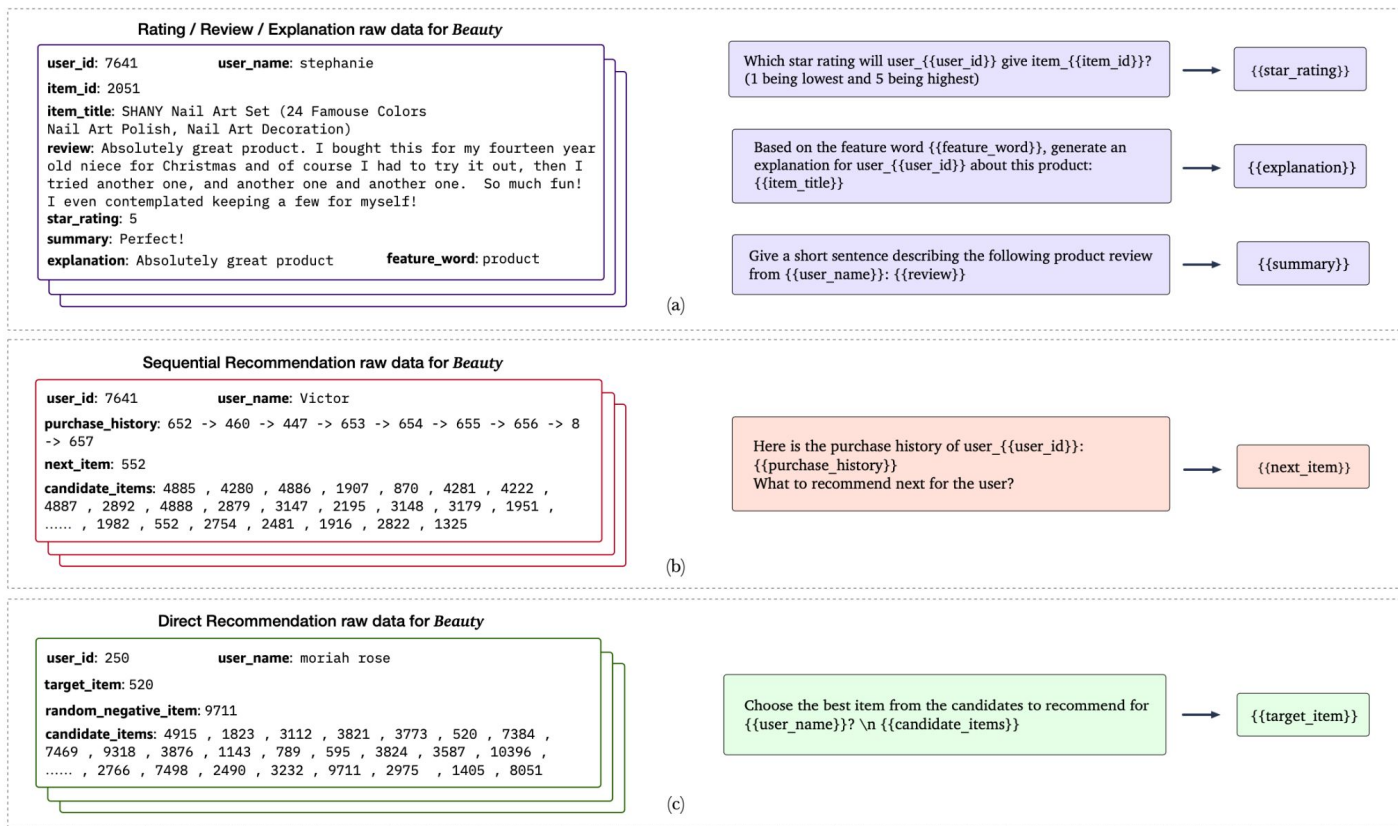
- But is not limited these five task families, can be easily and flexibility extended with new personalized prompts



## C2. Represent Personalization in Prompts

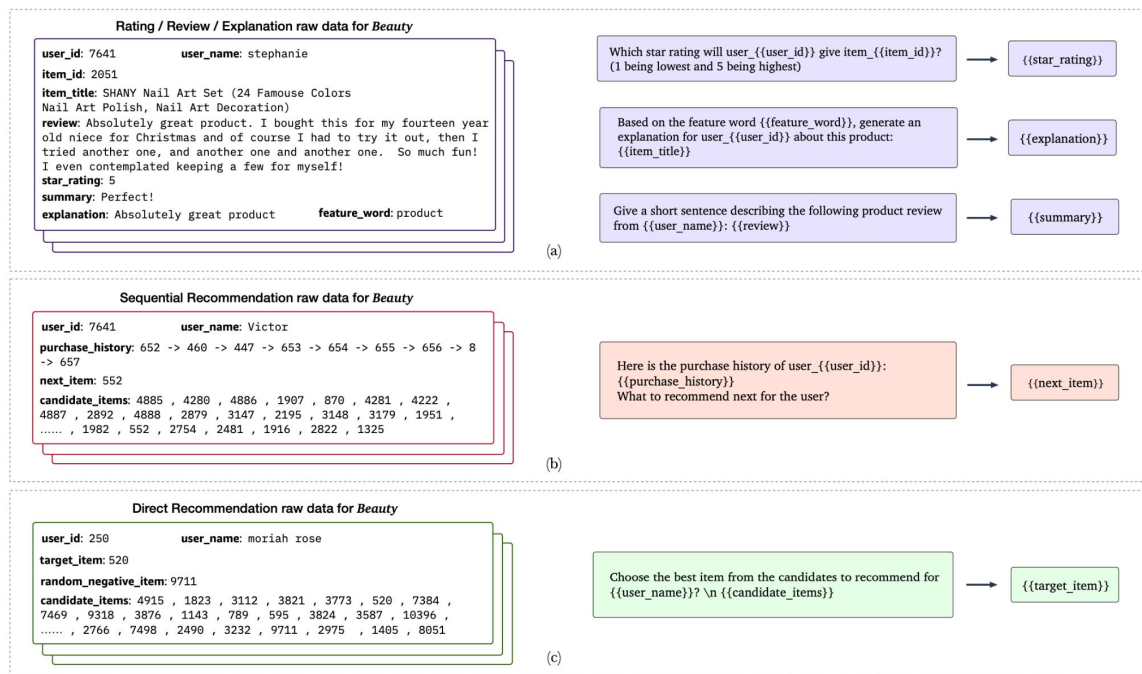
- Definition of **personalized prompts**
  - a prompt that includes **personalized fields** for different **users and items**
- User's preference can be indicated through
  - a **user ID number** (e.g., "user\_23")
  - a **description of the user** such as name, gender, age, etc
- Item field can be represented by
  - an **item ID number** (e.g., "item\_7391")
  - **item** metadata that contains **detailed descriptions**

# C3. Design of Personalized Prompt Templates

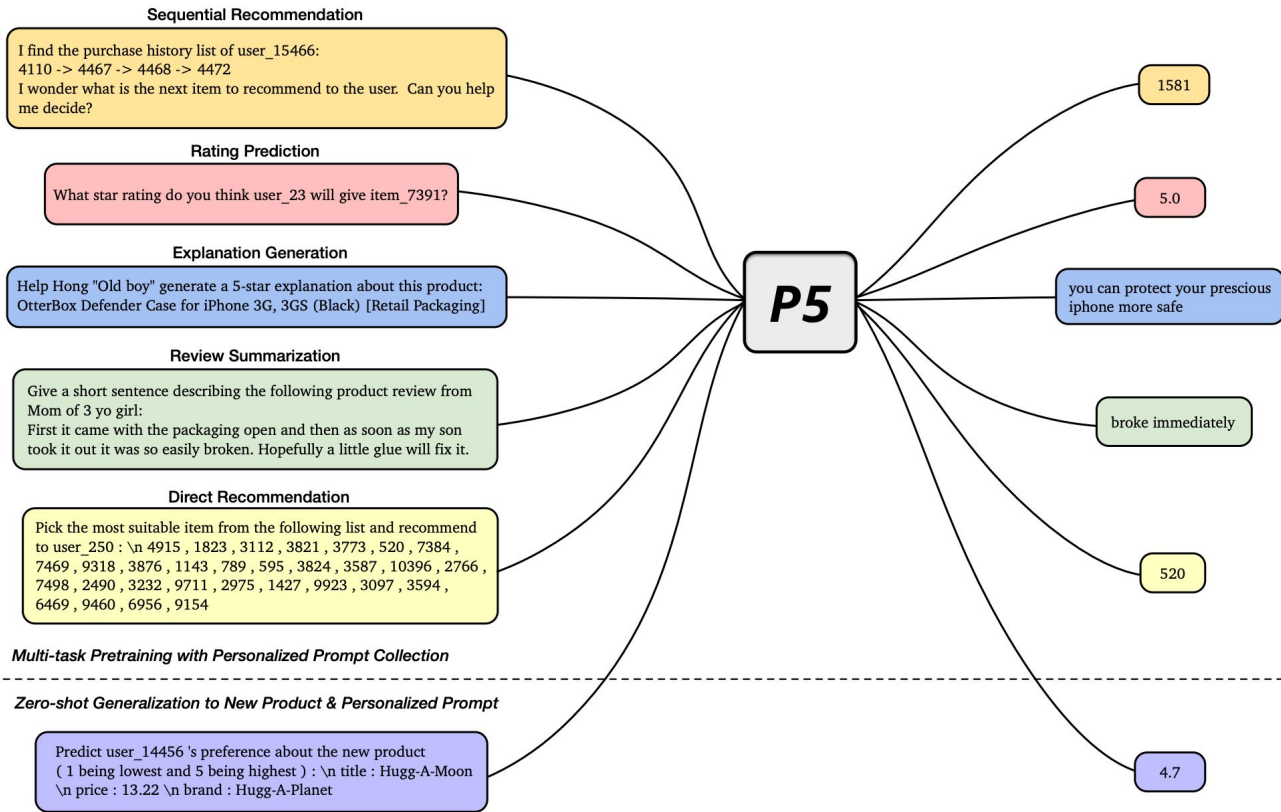


# C3. Personalized Prompts

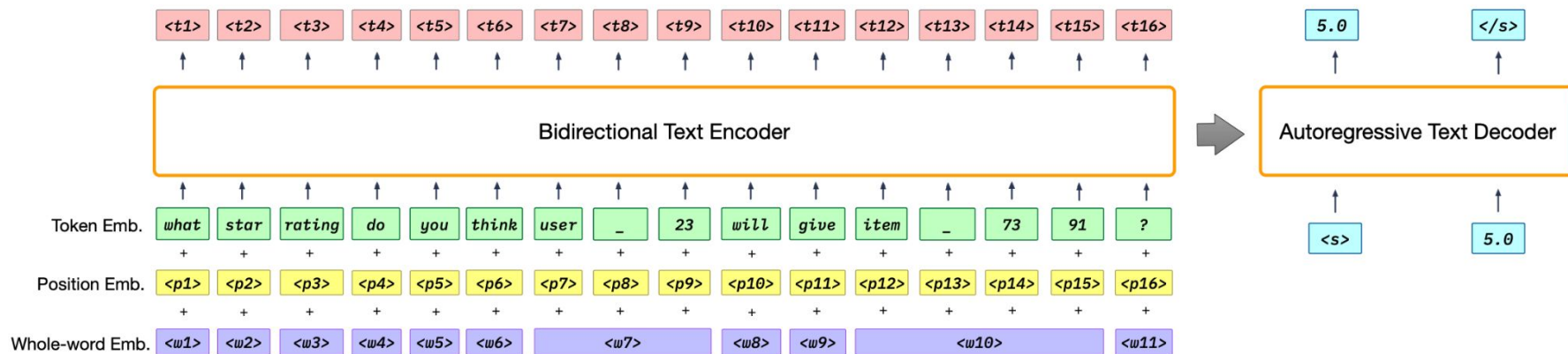
- Design **various personalized prompts** for each category can help improve P5's generalization ability; Finally, we created 47 personalized prompts to cover 5 task families
- Then we can construct training prompts from personalized prompt templates by simply filling raw data:



# A Unified Pretrain, Personalized Prompt & Predict Paradigm (P5)



# C4. Architecture of P5



- P5 is built on top of pretrained T5 checkpoints (to enable P5 basic ability for language understanding), so **P5** is a **sequence-to-sequence model**
- By default, we use **multiple sub-word units** to represent personalize fields (e.g., [“item”, “\_”, “73”, “91”])
- To help the model to understand [“item”, “\_”, “73”, “91”] is a complete field, we apply **whole-word embedding** in P5

# C5. Pretraining & Inference of P5

- Like other text-to-text model, the encoder takes input sequence and decoder autoregressively generates next words:
  - **Autoregressive LM loss** is shared by all tasks:  $\mathcal{L}_{\theta}^{\text{P5}} = - \sum_{j=1}^{|y|} \log P_{\theta} (y_j \mid y_{<j}, \mathbf{x})$
- As a result, we unify recommendation tasks with **one model, one loss, and one data format**
- Inference with pretrained P5 on seen or unseen prompts / items
  - For **rating**, **explanation**, and **review** tasks, we simply use **greedy decoding** to generate answer
  - For **sequential recommendation**, we apply **beam search** to generate a list of **potential next items** and evaluate it under the all-item setting
  - For **direct recommendation**, we predict the recommended items **from a candidate set**, and also use **beam search** to decode a list of potential target items with the highest scores and then conduct evaluation



# Research Questions

1. How does our unified P5 framework perform **compared with task-specific methods** on all five task families?
2. Does P5 have enough **zero-shot generalization ability** when transferring to unseen personalized prompts for either existing or new items?

# RQ1: Performance of P5

## Rating Prediction:

## Sequential Recommendation:

Methods	Sports		Beauty		Toys	
	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE
MF	<b>1.0234</b>	0.7935	<b>1.1973</b>	0.9461	<b>1.0123</b>	0.7984
MLP	1.1277	0.7626	1.3078	0.9597	1.1215	0.8097
P5-S (1-6)	1.0594	<b>0.6639</b>	1.3128	<b>0.8428</b>	1.0746	<u>0.7054</u>
P5-B (1-6)	1.0357	0.6813	<u>1.2843</u>	0.8534	1.0544	0.7177
P5-S (1-10)	1.0522	<u>0.6698</u>	1.2989	<u>0.8473</u>	1.0550	0.7173
P5-B (1-10)	<u>1.0292</u>	0.6864	1.2870	0.8531	<u>1.0245</u>	<b>0.6931</b>

Methods	Sports				Beauty				Toys			
	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10
Caser	0.0116	0.0072	0.0194	0.0097	0.0205	0.0131	0.0347	0.0176	0.0166	0.0107	0.0270	0.0141
HGN	0.0189	0.0120	0.0313	0.0159	0.0325	0.0206	0.0512	0.0266	0.0321	0.0221	0.0497	0.0277
GRU4Rec	0.0129	0.0086	0.0204	0.0110	0.0164	0.0099	0.0283	0.0137	0.0097	0.0059	0.0176	0.0084
BERT4Rec	0.0115	0.0075	0.0191	0.0099	0.0203	0.0124	0.0347	0.0170	0.0116	0.0071	0.0203	0.0099
FDFA	0.0182	0.0122	0.0288	0.0156	0.0267	0.0163	0.0407	0.0208	0.0228	0.0140	0.0381	0.0189
SASRec	0.0233	0.0154	0.0350	0.0192	0.0387	0.0249	0.0605	0.0318	0.0463	0.0306	0.0675	0.0374
S <sup>3</sup> -Rec	0.0251	0.0161	0.0385	0.0204	0.0387	0.0244	0.0647	0.0327	0.0443	0.0294	0.0700	0.0376
P5-S (2-3)	0.0272	0.0169	0.0361	0.0198	0.0503	0.0370	0.0659	<u>0.0421</u>	<b>0.0648</b>	<b>0.0567</b>	<b>0.0709</b>	<b>0.0587</b>
P5-B (2-3)	<u>0.0364</u>	<u>0.0296</u>	<u>0.0431</u>	<u>0.0318</u>	<b>0.0508</b>	<b>0.0379</b>	<b>0.0664</b>	<b>0.0429</b>	0.0608	0.0507	0.0688	0.0534
P5-S (2-13)	0.0258	0.0159	0.0346	0.0188	0.0490	0.0358	0.0646	0.0409	<u>0.0647</u>	<u>0.0566</u>	<u>0.0705</u>	<u>0.0585</u>
P5-B (2-13)	<b>0.0387</b>	<b>0.0312</b>	<b>0.0460</b>	<b>0.0336</b>	0.0493	0.0367	0.0645	0.0416	0.0587	0.0486	0.0675	0.0536

## Explanation Generation:

Methods	Sports				Beauty				Toys			
	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL
Attn2Seq	0.5305	12.2800	1.2107	9.1312	0.7889	12.6590	1.6820	9.7481	1.6238	13.2245	2.9942	10.7398
NRT	0.4793	11.0723	1.1304	7.6674	0.8295	12.7815	1.8543	9.9477	<u>1.9084</u>	13.5231	3.6708	11.1867
PETER	<b>0.7112</b>	12.8944	1.3283	9.8635	1.1541	14.8497	2.1413	11.4143	<b>1.9861</b>	14.2716	3.6718	11.7010
P5-S (3-3)	0.5902	<b>60.8892</b>	<u>17.7514</u>	<u>18.0010</u>	<u>2.4094</u>	<b>62.0077</b>	<u>21.4176</u>	<u>25.1863</u>	1.0794	<u>59.4588</u>	<u>18.9272</u>	<u>19.8567</u>
P5-B (3-3)	<u>0.6213</u>	<u>58.7260</u>	<b>18.5533</b>	<b>18.4670</b>	<b>2.6606</b>	<u>61.7001</u>	<b>22.3824</b>	<b>25.9821</b>	1.5248	<b>60.0415</b>	<b>19.9905</b>	<b>20.8306</b>
PETER+	2.4627	24.1181	5.1937	18.4105	3.2606	25.5541	5.9668	19.7168	4.7919	28.3083	9.4520	22.7017
P5-S (3-9)	<b>7.2129</b>	<b>67.4004</b>	<b>36.1417</b>	<b>30.8359</b>	5.8239	<b>68.6839</b>	<b>37.1359</b>	31.4482	<b>8.5465</b>	<b>69.7741</b>	<u>40.0564</u>	<b>34.0364</b>
P5-B (3-9)	3.5598	64.7683	34.0162	26.3184	<u>6.5846</u>	68.3067	<u>37.0722</u>	<u>31.7545</u>	7.7315	69.2266	39.7407	33.3348
P5-S (3-12)	<u>5.8446</u>	<u>66.5976</u>	<u>35.5160</u>	<u>29.2766</u>	5.3233	<u>68.3174</u>	36.8730	30.7071	<u>8.2840</u>	<u>69.7158</u>	<b>40.1340</b>	<u>33.9770</u>
P5-B (3-12)	4.6977	65.4562	34.9379	27.7223	<b>6.9169</b>	68.2195	36.9858	<b>32.1314</b>	7.2597	68.8920	39.5056	32.8794

# RQ1: Performance of P5 (Cont'd)

Review-base Preference  
Prediction:

Review Summarization:

Methods	Sports		Beauty		Toys	
	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE
T0 (4-2)	0.6728	0.3140	0.6925	0.3324	0.8282	0.4201
T0 (4-4)	<u>0.6503</u>	0.2984	0.7066	0.3663	0.8148	0.4230
P5-S (4-2)	0.7293	0.3529	<b>0.6233</b>	<b>0.3051</b>	<b>0.6464</b>	<b>0.3125</b>
P5-B (4-2)	<b>0.6487</b>	<b>0.2847</b>	0.6449	0.3168	0.6785	0.3342
P5-S (4-4)	0.7565	0.3395	<u>0.6262</u>	0.3113	<u>0.6577</u>	<u>0.3174</u>
P5-B (4-4)	0.6563	<u>0.2921</u>	0.6515	<u>0.3106</u>	0.6730	0.3342

Methods	Sports				Beauty				Toys			
	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL
T0 (4-1)	<b>8.0881</b>	43.4226	13.9629	19.4267	6.1775	41.4487	13.2033	18.2904	<u>7.1445</u>	<u>44.8651</u>	15.1572	18.9544
GPT-2 (4-1)	2.6586	43.6313	15.2021	5.2144	2.2032	41.0148	13.5772	4.2457	2.0760	43.0985	14.4126	4.4048
P5-S (4-1)	7.1781	<u>44.6943</u>	<u>20.0491</u>	<u>26.5941</u>	<b>7.5644</b>	<b>44.0703</b>	<b>18.3076</b>	<b>26.4375</b>	<b>7.3916</b>	<b>46.0153</b>	<b>19.3441</b>	<b>27.1528</b>
P5-B (4-1)	<u>7.5727</u>	<b>47.7859</b>	<b>21.6872</b>	<b>28.1312</b>	<u>7.0708</u>	<u>44.0486</u>	<u>18.1725</u>	<u>26.2031</u>	6.0264	43.7403	<u>17.3446</u>	<u>25.0362</u>

Direct Recommendation:

Methods	Sports					Beauty					Toys				
	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10
BPR-MF	0.0314	0.1404	0.0848	0.2563	0.1220	0.0311	0.1426	0.0857	0.2573	0.1224	0.0233	0.1066	0.0641	0.2003	0.0940
BPR-MLP	0.0351	0.1520	0.0927	0.2671	0.1296	0.0317	0.1392	0.0848	0.2542	0.1215	0.0252	0.1142	0.0688	0.2077	0.0988
SimpleX	0.0331	<b>0.2362</b>	<b>0.1505</b>	<u>0.3290</u>	<u>0.1800</u>	0.0325	<u>0.2247</u>	<u>0.1441</u>	0.3090	<u>0.1711</u>	0.0268	<b>0.1958</b>	<b>0.1244</b>	<b>0.2662</b>	<b>0.1469</b>
P5-S (5-1)	0.0638	0.2096	0.1375	0.3143	0.1711	0.0600	0.2021	0.1316	<u>0.3121</u>	0.1670	0.0405	<u>0.1538</u>	<u>0.0969</u>	<u>0.2405</u>	<u>0.1248</u>
P5-B (5-1)	0.0245	0.0816	0.0529	0.1384	0.0711	0.0224	0.0904	0.0559	0.1593	0.0780	0.0187	0.0827	0.0500	0.1543	0.0729
P5-S (5-4)	<u>0.0701</u>	<u>0.2241</u>	<u>0.1483</u>	<b>0.3313</b>	<b>0.1827</b>	<b>0.0862</b>	<b>0.2448</b>	<b>0.1673</b>	<b>0.3441</b>	<b>0.1993</b>	0.0413	0.1411	0.0916	0.2227	0.1178
P5-B (5-4)	0.0299	0.1026	0.0665	0.1708	0.0883	0.0506	0.1557	0.1033	0.2350	0.1287	0.0435	0.1316	0.0882	0.2000	0.1102
P5-S (5-5)	0.0574	0.1503	0.1050	0.2207	0.1276	0.0601	0.1611	0.1117	0.2370	0.1360	<u>0.0440</u>	0.1282	0.0865	0.2011	0.1098
P5-B (5-5)	0.0641	0.1794	0.1229	0.2598	0.1488	0.0588	0.1573	0.1089	0.2325	0.1330	0.0386	0.1122	0.0756	0.1807	0.0975
P5-S (5-8)	0.0567	0.1514	0.1049	0.2196	0.1269	0.0571	0.1566	0.1078	0.2317	0.1318	<b>0.0451</b>	0.1322	0.0889	0.2023	0.1114
P5-B (5-8)	<b>0.0726</b>	0.1955	0.1355	0.2802	0.1627	<u>0.0608</u>	0.1564	0.1096	0.2300	0.1332	0.0389	0.1147	0.0767	0.1863	0.0997

Concluion: P5 **achieves promising performances** on the five task families when taking **seen prompt** templates as model inputs

# RQ2: Zero-shot Generalization of P5

## Part 1: Transfer to Unseen Personalized Prompts

**Concluion:** Multitask prompted pretraining empowers P5 **enough robustness** to understand **unseen prompts** with wording variations

### Sequential Recommendation:

Methods	Sports				Beauty				Toys			
	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10
Caser	0.0116	0.0072	0.0194	0.0097	0.0205	0.0131	0.0347	0.0176	0.0166	0.0107	0.0270	0.0141
HGN	0.0189	0.0120	0.0313	0.0159	0.0325	0.0206	0.0512	0.0266	0.0321	0.0221	0.0497	0.0277
GRU4Rec	0.0129	0.0086	0.0204	0.0110	0.0164	0.0099	0.0283	0.0137	0.0097	0.0059	0.0176	0.0084
BERT4Rec	0.0115	0.0075	0.0191	0.0099	0.0203	0.0124	0.0347	0.0170	0.0116	0.0071	0.0203	0.0099
FDSA	0.0182	0.0122	0.0288	0.0156	0.0267	0.0163	0.0407	0.0208	0.0228	0.0140	0.0381	0.0189
SASRec	0.0233	0.0154	0.0350	0.0192	0.0387	0.0249	0.0605	0.0318	0.0463	0.0306	0.0675	0.0374
S <sup>3</sup> -Rec	0.0251	0.0161	0.0385	0.0204	0.0387	0.0244	0.0647	0.0327	0.0443	0.0294	0.0700	0.0376
P5-S (2-3)	0.0272	0.0169	0.0361	0.0198	0.0503	0.0370	0.0659	0.0421	<b>0.0648</b>	<b>0.0567</b>	<b>0.0709</b>	<b>0.0587</b>
P5-B (2-3)	0.0364	0.0296	0.0431	0.0318	<b>0.0508</b>	<b>0.0379</b>	<b>0.0664</b>	<b>0.0429</b>	0.0608	0.0507	0.0688	0.0534
P5-S (2-13)	0.0258	0.0159	0.0346	0.0188	0.0490	0.0358	0.0646	0.0409	<u>0.0647</u>	<u>0.0566</u>	<u>0.0705</u>	<u>0.0585</u>
P5-B (2-13)	<b>0.0387</b>	<b>0.0312</b>	<b>0.0460</b>	<b>0.0336</b>	0.0493	0.0367	0.0645	0.0416	0.0587	0.0486	0.0675	0.0536

### Explanation Generation:

Methods	Sports				Beauty				Toys			
	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL	BLUE4	ROUGE1	ROUGE2	ROUGEL
Attn2Seq	0.5305	12.2800	1.2107	9.1312	0.7889	12.6590	1.6820	9.7481	1.6238	13.2245	2.9942	10.7398
NRT	0.4793	11.0723	1.1304	7.6674	0.8295	12.7815	1.8543	9.9477	<u>1.9084</u>	13.5231	3.6708	11.1867
PETER	<b>0.7112</b>	12.8944	1.3283	9.8635	1.1541	14.8497	2.1413	11.4143	<b>1.9861</b>	14.2716	3.6718	11.7010
P5-S (3-3)	0.5902	<b>60.8892</b>	17.7514	18.0010	<u>2.4094</u>	<b>62.0077</b>	<u>21.4176</u>	<u>25.1863</u>	1.0794	<u>59.4588</u>	<u>18.9272</u>	<u>19.8567</u>
P5-B (3-3)	<u>0.6213</u>	<u>58.7260</u>	<b>18.5533</b>	<b>18.4670</b>	<b>2.6606</b>	<u>61.7001</u>	<b>22.3824</b>	<b>25.9821</b>	1.5248	<b>60.0415</b>	<b>19.9905</b>	<b>20.8306</b>
PETER+	2.4627	24.1181	5.1937	18.4105	3.2606	25.5541	5.9668	19.7168	4.7919	28.3083	9.4520	22.7017
P5-S (3-9)	<b>7.2129</b>	<b>67.4004</b>	<b>36.1417</b>	<b>30.8359</b>	5.8239	<b>68.6839</b>	<b>37.1359</b>	31.4482	<b>8.5465</b>	<b>69.7741</b>	<u>40.0564</u>	<b>34.0364</b>
P5-B (3-9)	3.5598	64.7683	34.0162	26.3184	6.5846	68.3067	<u>37.0722</u>	31.7545	7.7315	69.2266	39.7407	33.3348
P5-S (3-12)	<u>5.8446</u>	<u>66.5976</u>	<u>35.5160</u>	<u>29.2766</u>	5.3233	68.3174	36.8730	30.7071	<u>8.2840</u>	<u>69.7158</u>	<b>40.1340</b>	<u>33.9770</u>
P5-B (3-12)	4.6977	65.4562	34.9379	27.7223	<b>6.9169</b>	68.2195	36.9858	<b>32.1314</b>	7.2597	68.8920	39.5056	32.8794

### Direct Recommendation:

Methods	Sports					Beauty					Toys				
	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10	HR@1	HR@5	NDCG@5	HR@10	NDCG@10
BPR-MF	0.0314	0.1404	0.0848	0.2563	0.1220	0.0311	0.1426	0.0857	0.2573	0.1224	0.0233	0.1066	0.0641	0.2003	0.0940
BPR-MLP	0.0351	0.1520	0.0927	0.2671	0.1296	0.0317	0.1392	0.0848	0.2542	0.1215	0.0252	0.1142	0.0688	0.2077	0.0988
SimpleX	0.0331	<b>0.2362</b>	<b>0.1505</b>	<u>0.3290</u>	0.1800	0.0325	<u>0.2247</u>	<u>0.1441</u>	0.3090	<u>0.1711</u>	0.0268	<b>0.1958</b>	<b>0.1244</b>	<b>0.2662</b>	<b>0.1469</b>
P5-S (5-1)	0.0638	0.2096	0.1375	0.3143	0.1711	0.0600	0.2021	0.1316	<u>0.3121</u>	0.1670	0.0405	<u>0.1538</u>	<u>0.0969</u>	<u>0.2405</u>	<u>0.1248</u>
P5-B (5-1)	0.0245	0.0816	0.0529	0.1384	0.0711	0.0224	0.0904	0.0559	0.1593	0.0780	0.0187	0.0827	0.0500	0.1543	0.0729
P5-S (5-4)	<u>0.0701</u>	<u>0.2241</u>	<u>0.1483</u>	<b>0.3313</b>	<b>0.1827</b>	<b>0.0862</b>	<b>0.2448</b>	<b>0.1673</b>	<b>0.3441</b>	<b>0.1993</b>	0.0413	0.1411	0.0916	0.2227	0.1178
P5-B (5-4)	0.0299	0.1026	0.0665	0.1708	0.0883	0.0506	0.1557	0.1033	0.2350	0.1287	0.0435	0.1316	0.0882	0.2000	0.1102
P5-S (5-5)	0.0574	0.1503	0.1050	0.2207	0.1276	0.0601	0.1611	0.1117	0.2370	0.1360	<u>0.0440</u>	0.1282	0.0865	0.2011	0.1098
P5-B (5-5)	0.0641	0.1794	0.1229	0.2598	0.1488	0.0588	0.1573	0.1089	0.2325	0.1330	0.0386	0.1122	0.0756	0.1807	0.0975
P5-S (5-8)	0.0567	0.1514	0.1049	0.2196	0.1269	0.0571	0.1566	0.1078	0.2317	0.1318	<b>0.0451</b>	0.1322	0.0889	0.2023	0.1114
P5-B (5-8)	<b>0.0726</b>	0.1955	0.1355	0.2802	0.1627	<u>0.0608</u>	0.1564	0.1096	0.2300	0.1332	0.0389	0.1147	0.0767	0.1863	0.0997

# RQ2: Zero-shot Generalization of P5 (Cont'd)

## Part 2: Transfer to Items in New Domain

Example Zero-shot Prompts:

### Prompt ID: Z-1

Input template: Given the facts about the new product, do you think user `{{user_id}}` will like or dislike it? title: `{{item_title}}` brand: `{{brand}}` price: `{{price}}`

Target template: `{{answer_choices[label]}}` (like/dislike) – like (4,5) / dislike (1,2,3)

### Prompt ID: Z-6

Input template: Based on the word `{{feature_word}}`, help user\_{{user\_id}} write a `{{star_rating}}`-star explanation for this new product: title: `{{item_title}}` price: `{{price}}` brand: `{{brand}}`

Target template: `{{explanation}}`

# RQ2: Zero-shot Generalization of P5 (Cont'd)

## Part 2: Transfer to Items in New Domain

Table 8. Statistics on domain transfer evaluation sets.

Dataset	Sports	Beauty	Toys
#Users	290	439	487
#Items	381	586	886
#Reviews	478	1,237	1,183

Table 9. Performance on zero-shot domain transfer.

Directions	Z-1 & Z-4	Z-2 & Z-3	Z-5 & Z-7		Z-6	
	Accuracy	MAE	BLUE4	ROUGE1	BLUE4	ROUGE1
<i>Toys -&gt; Beauty</i>	0.7922	0.8244	1.8869	61.1919	5.4609	66.4931
<i>Toys -&gt; Sports</i>	0.8682	0.6644	0.7405	60.9575	2.2601	62.0353
<i>Beauty -&gt; Toys</i>	0.8073	0.7792	0.0929	41.3061	11.8046	64.8701
<i>Beauty -&gt; Sports</i>	0.8676	0.6838	0.0346	39.7191	6.6409	66.9222
<i>Sports -&gt; Toys</i>	0.8230	0.7443	0.0687	42.9310	13.3408	69.7910
<i>Sports -&gt; Beauty</i>	0.8057	0.8102	0.0790	41.0659	13.1690	66.7687

**Conclusion:** P5 still **maintains sufficient performances for most tasks** such as rating prediction, like/dislike prediction, as well as explanation generation with feature word

# RQ2: Zero-shot Generalization of P5 (Cont'd)

<u>Toys -&gt; Beauty</u>		
Case 1	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word color , help user_4549 write a 5-star explanation for this new product : \n title : Bain De Terre Serum Anti-Frizz Recovery Complex 1.7 oz. \n price : 3.86 \n brand : Bain de Terre	<b>Target Output:</b> I have color treated fine hair but lots of it <b>P5's Output:</b> The colors are bright
Case 2	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word shampoo , help user_1491 write a 1-star explanation for this new product : \n title : CLEAR SCALP & HAIR BEAUTY Volumizing Root Boost Nourishing Shampoo, 12.9 Fluid Ounce \n price : 1.66 \n brand : Clear	<b>Target Output:</b> I tried the shampoo and it hardly foams up <b>P5's Output:</b> Not worth the price
<u>Beauty -&gt; Sports</u>		
Case 3	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word tool , help user_3877 write a 5-star explanation for this new product : \n title : SOG Specialty Knives & Tools TF6-CP Trident Knife with Straight Edge Assisted Folding 3.75-Inch Steel Tanto Shape Blade and GRN Handle, Satin Finish \n price : 57.6 \n brand : SOG Specialty Knives	<b>Target Output:</b> this is an excellent tool <b>P5's Output:</b> This is a great tool tool
Case 4	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word saw , help user_326 write a 2-star explanation for this new product : \n title : Rome's #1705 Square Pie Iron with Steel and Wood Handles \n price : 20.26 \n brand : Rome Industries	<b>Target Output:</b> After looking closely we saw 2 of the rivots that are supposed to hold it on were missing <b>P5's Output:</b> I saw no visible improvement
<u>Sports -&gt; Toys</u>		
Case 5	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word game , help user_29782 write a 3-star explanation for this new product : \n title : Deal Breaker Coaster Card Game \n price : 13.95 \n brand : Zobmondo!!	<b>Target Output:</b> I think this game could prove interesting if played while drinking <b>P5's Output:</b> I'm a big fan of this game and it is a great game
Case 6	<b>Input:</b> Based on the word cars , help user_2121 write a 5-star explanation for this new product : \n title : Ridemakerz Marvel Universe Spiderman and Venom Xtreme Customz Swap Set \n price : 14.89 \n brand : RIDEMAKERZ	<b>Target Output:</b> These are great looking little plastic cars <b>P5's Output:</b> I have several cars and this one is the best

Fig. 4. Example cases of zero-shot domain transfer on Z-6 task. We demonstrate three transfer directions: *Toys to Beauty*, *Beauty to Sports*, and *Sports to Toys*.

**Conclusion:** P5 is able to catch different users' rating preferences and hint feature words, then integrate them with the knowledge learned from previous domain to **generate plausible explanations**

# Conclusions

- **P5**: unifies different recommendation tasks into **a shared language modeling and natural language generation framework**
- **List of personalized prompts**: covers five recommendation task families -> **all raw data are transferred to the same format**
- **P5 beats or achieves similar performances** with several **task-specific representative approaches**
- **P5 shows the generalization ability** on performing **zeroshot transfer to new items, new domains, and new personalized prompts**
- In the future, **P5** can be further **extended to more diverse modalities and personalized tasks**



*Thanks for listening!*