



# Aligned Side Information Fusion Method for Sequential Recommendation

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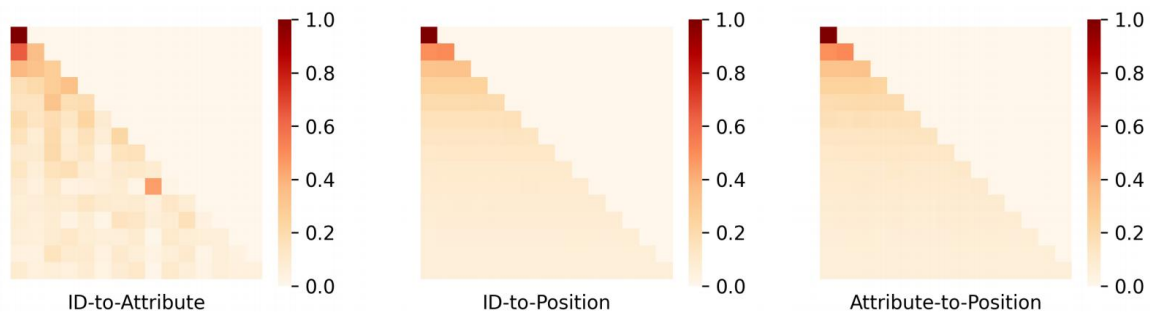
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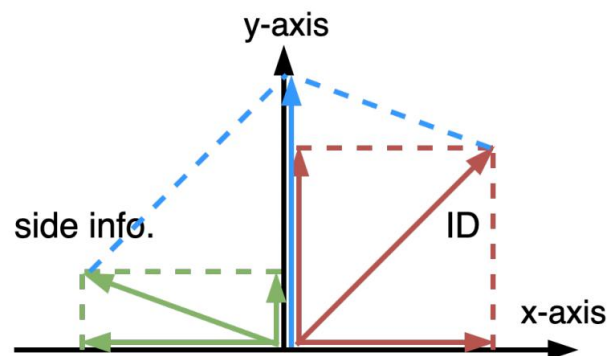
# Introduction



**Figure 1: Visualization of attention scores in SASRec<sub>F</sub> on Yelp dataset.**



(a) Macroscopic perspective



(b) Microscopic perspective

**Figure 2: Visualization of information invasion.**

## Motivation:

Combining Side Information beyond IDs has become an important way to improve the performance in recommender systems.

## Challenges:

1. Difficult to eliminate interference and learn meaningful signals from noisy correlations.
2. Difficult to avoid information invasion.

# Introduction

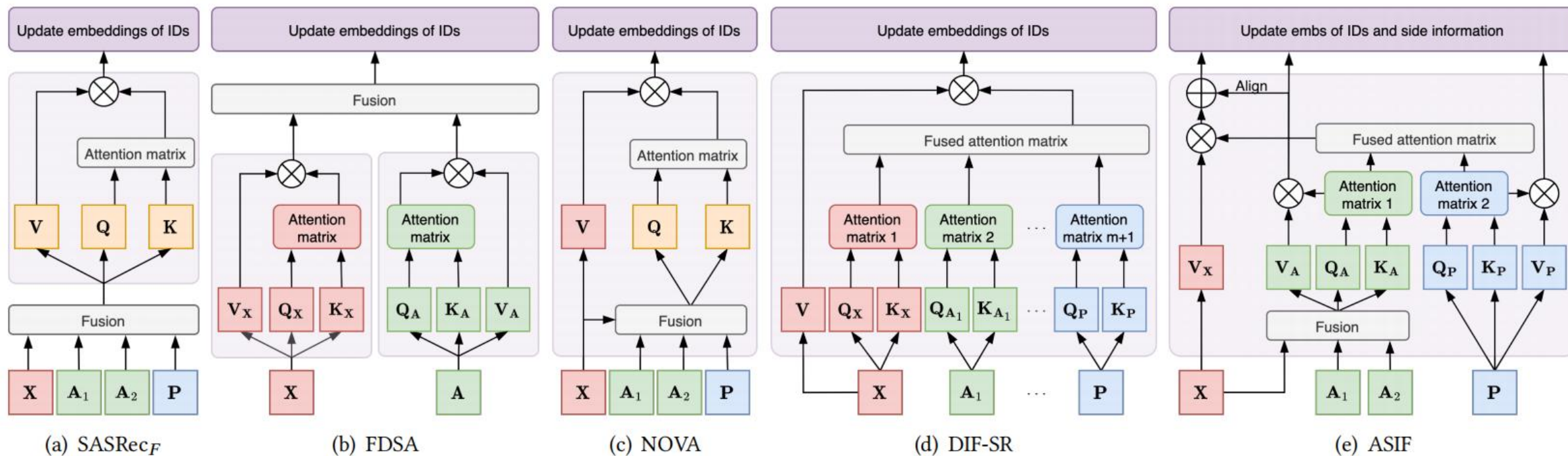


Figure 3: Single layer structure comparison of existing self-attention-based side information fusion approaches: SASRec<sub>F</sub> is early fusion, FDSA is late fusion, while NOVA, DIF-SR and ASIF is hybrid fusion.

# Method

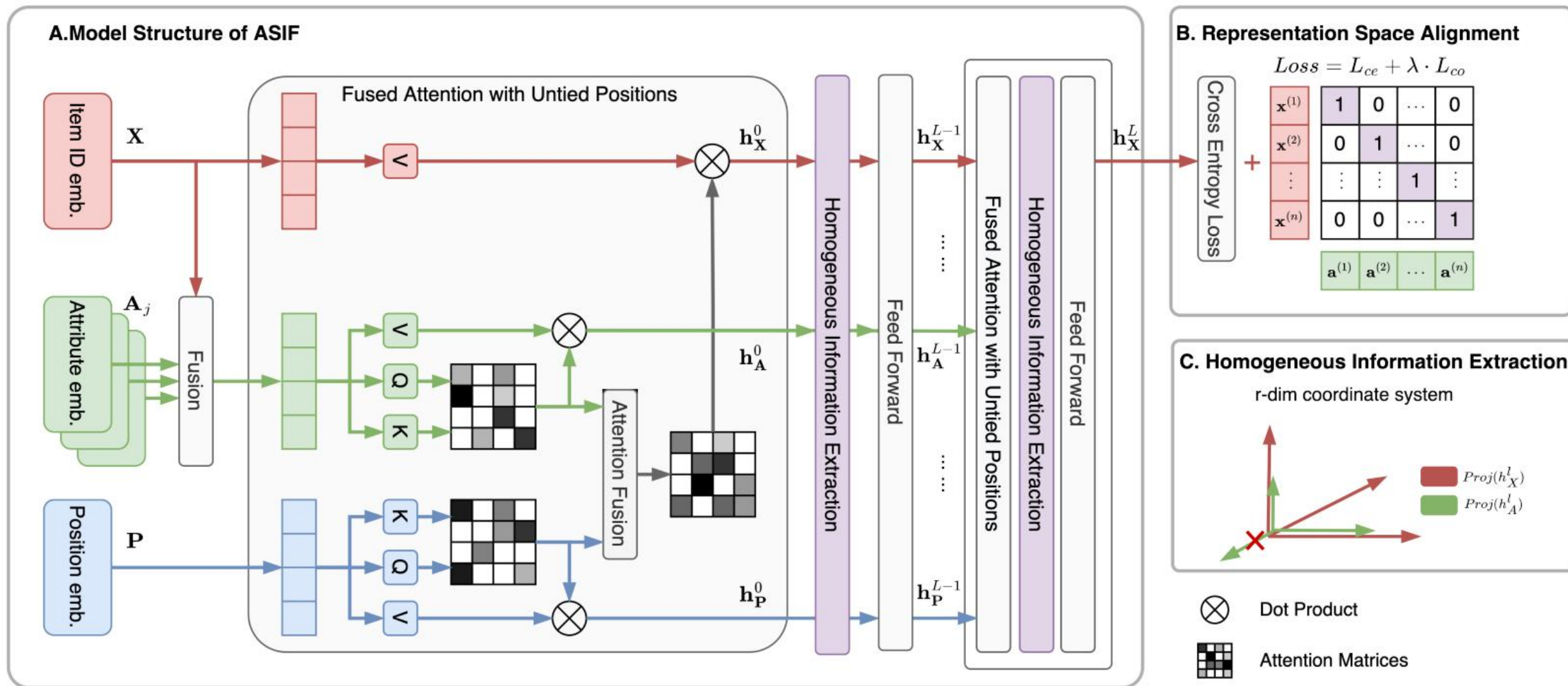
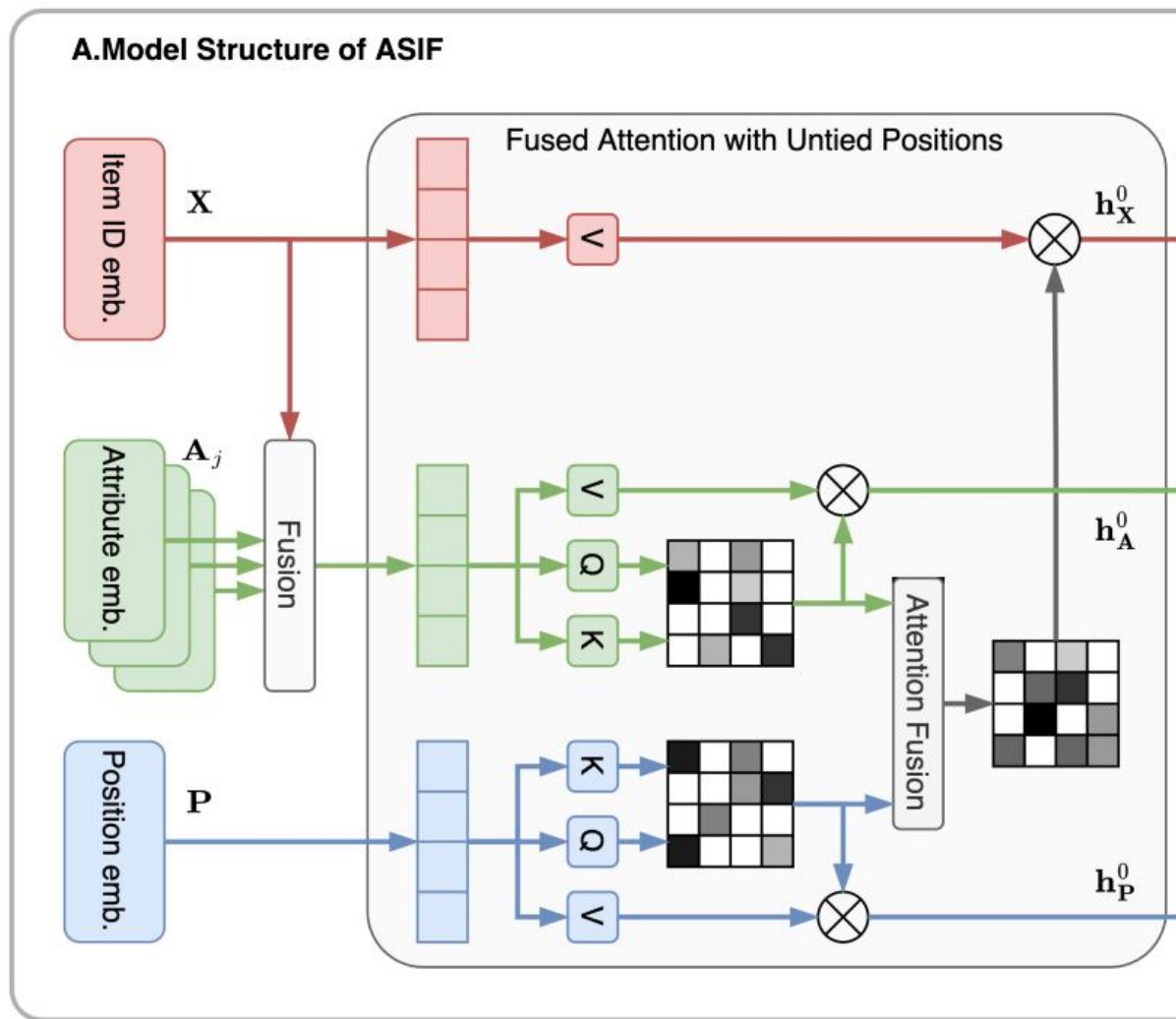


Figure 4: An overview of ASIF.

## Method



$$C_{XA} = \mathcal{F}(X, A)W_{q,1}W_{k,1}^T \mathcal{F}(X, A)^T \quad (1)$$

$$C_P = PW_{q,2}W_{k,2}^T P^T \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} h_X &= \text{FusedAttention}(X, A_1, \dots, A_m, P) \\ &= \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{C_{XA} + C_P}{\sqrt{d_h}} \right) XW_{v,1}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} h_A &= \text{FusedAttention}(X, A_1, \dots, A_m) \\ &= \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{C_{XA}}{\sqrt{d_h}} \right) \mathcal{F}(X, A)W_{v,2}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$$h_P = \text{FusedAttention}(P) = \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{C_P}{\sqrt{d_h}} \right) PW_{v,3} \quad (5)$$

## Method

### B. Representation Space Alignment

$$Loss = L_{ce} + \lambda \cdot L_{co}$$

Cross Entropy Loss

+

$\mathbf{x}^{(1)}$	1	0	...	0
$\mathbf{x}^{(2)}$	0	1	...	0
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	1	$\vdots$
$\mathbf{x}^{(n)}$	0	0	...	1
	$\mathbf{a}^{(1)}$	$\mathbf{a}^{(2)}$	...	$\mathbf{a}^{(n)}$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{x}^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A} = \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{A}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{a}^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}^{(n)} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

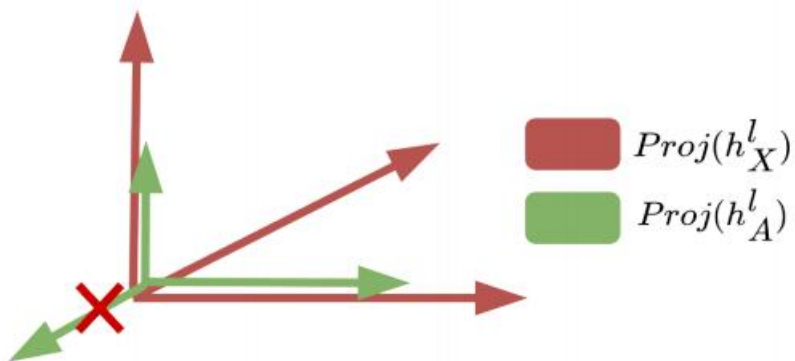
$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^{(1)} / \|\mathbf{x}^{(1)}\| \\ \mathbf{x}^{(2)} / \|\mathbf{x}^{(2)}\| \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{(n)} / \|\mathbf{x}^{(n)}\| \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(1)} / \|\mathbf{a}^{(1)}\| \\ \mathbf{a}^{(2)} / \|\mathbf{a}^{(2)}\| \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}^{(n)} / \|\mathbf{a}^{(n)}\| \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{X}} = \text{Softmax}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\tilde{\mathbf{A}}^T / \tau), \quad \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{A}} = \text{Softmax}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T / \tau) \quad (8)$$

$$L_{co} = -\frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum \left( \mathbf{Y}^i \odot \log \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{X}}^i + \mathbf{Y}^i \odot \log \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{A}}^i \right) \quad (9)$$

### C. Homogeneous Information Extraction

r-dim coordinate system



### Method

$$Proj(\mathbf{h}_X) = \mathbf{h}_X \mathbf{Q}, \quad Proj(\mathbf{h}_A) = \mathbf{h}_A \mathbf{Q}, \quad (10)$$

$$\widetilde{Proj}(\mathbf{h}_A) = \phi (Proj(\mathbf{h}_X) \odot Proj(\mathbf{h}_A)) \odot Proj(\mathbf{h}_A) \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{h}_A^* = \widetilde{Proj}(\mathbf{h}_A) \mathbf{Q}^T \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{h}_X &= \text{FusedAttention}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_m, \mathbf{P}) + \mathbf{h}_A^* \\ &= \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{\mathbf{C}_{XA} + \mathbf{C}_P}{\sqrt{d_h}} \right) \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}_{v,1} + \mathbf{h}_A^*. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{y} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{h}_X^L \cdot \mathbf{V}) \quad (14)$$

$$L_{ce} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y^i \log \hat{y}^i \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= L_{ce} + \lambda \cdot L_{co} \\ &= -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( y^i \log \hat{y}^i + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum \left( \mathbf{Y}^i \odot \log \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_X^i + \mathbf{Y}^i \odot \log \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_A^i \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$



# Experiments

**Table 1: Statistics of datasets.**

Dataset	# Users	# Items	# Actions	# Avg. len
Yelp	30450	20039	316541	10.4
AliEC	34148	18654	290490	8.5
Beauty	22364	12102	198502	8.9
Industrial	33061	19873	290000	8.8





# Experiments

Model	Yelp				AliEC				Beauty			
	H@10	H@20	N@10	N@20	H@10	H@20	N@10	N@20	H@10	H@20	N@10	N@20
Bert4Rec	0.0354	0.0580	0.0189	0.0246	0.0503	0.0756	0.0263	0.0327	0.0542	0.0793	0.0315	0.0378
Caser	0.0357	0.0573	0.0177	0.0231	0.0336	0.0522	0.0171	0.0218	0.0416	0.0672	0.0211	0.0275
GRU4Rec	0.0350	0.0579	0.0175	0.0232	0.0361	0.0567	0.0182	0.0234	0.0510	0.0766	0.0268	0.0333
SASRec	0.0647	0.0936	0.0398	0.0471	0.0903	0.1300	0.0449	0.0549	0.0861	0.1225	0.0424	0.0516
LightSANs	0.0658	0.0970	0.0402	0.0480	0.0942	0.1354	0.0470	0.0574	0.0871	0.1242	0.0441	0.0535
FMLP	0.0657	0.0935	0.0400	0.0470	0.0936	0.1346	0.0463	0.0566	0.0855	0.1190	0.0450	0.0534
GRU4Rec <sub>F</sub>	0.0362	0.0605	0.0182	0.0243	0.0471	0.0743	0.0237	0.0305	0.0532	0.0820	0.0274	0.0347
SASRec <sub>F</sub>	0.0467	0.0749	0.0249	0.0319	0.0719	0.1081	0.0383	0.0474	0.0776	0.1082	0.0447	0.0540
LightSANs <sub>F</sub>	0.0641	0.0925	0.0390	0.0461	0.0944	0.1382	0.0469	0.0579	<u>0.0880</u>	<u>0.1244</u>	0.0448	0.0540
FMLP <sub>F</sub>	0.0629	0.0884	0.0385	0.0448	<u>0.0997</u>	<u>0.1431</u>	<u>0.0495</u>	<u>0.0604</u>	0.0871	0.1220	<u>0.0452</u>	0.0540
CL4SRec	0.0666	0.0965	0.0390	0.0465	0.0922	0.1287	0.0464	0.0556	0.0825	0.1180	0.0437	0.0526
DuoRec	0.0667	0.0962	0.0407	0.0481	0.0863	0.1272	0.0432	0.0535	0.0878	<u>0.1244</u>	0.0451	<u>0.0543</u>
FDSA	0.0668	0.0966	0.0403	0.0478	0.0900	0.1327	0.0456	0.0563	0.0839	0.1209	0.0439	0.0532
NOVA	0.0670	0.0952	0.0407	0.0478	0.0951	0.1382	0.0467	0.0575	0.0866	0.1240	0.0441	0.0535
DIF-SR	<u>0.0673</u>	<u>0.0988</u>	<u>0.0412</u>	<u>0.0491</u>	0.0983	0.1419	0.0482	0.0592	0.0871	0.1234	0.0434	0.0526
<b>ASIF</b>	<b>0.0768</b>	<b>0.1131</b>	<b>0.0452</b>	<b>0.0543</b>	<b>0.1131</b>	<b>0.1631</b>	<b>0.0574</b>	<b>0.0700</b>	<b>0.0922</b>	<b>0.1322</b>	<b>0.0453</b>	<b>0.0554</b>
Impr.	14.12%	14.47%	9.71%	10.59%	13.44%	13.98%	15.96%	15.89%	4.77%	6.27%	0.22%	2.03%

Table 2: Overall Performance (HR and NDCG) on public datasets.



# Experiments

**Table 3: Performance on the industrial dataset.**

Model	Industrial			
	H@10	H@20	N@10	N@20
Bert4Rec	0.0706	0.1187	0.0355	0.0476
Caser	0.0808	0.1315	0.0417	0.0544
GRU4Rec	0.0322	0.0575	0.0190	0.0250
SASRec	0.0942	0.1518	<u>0.0480</u>	0.0625
LightSANs	0.0935	0.1556	0.0466	0.0622
FMLP	0.0939	0.1553	0.0454	0.0608
GRU4Rec <sub>F</sub>	0.0830	0.1364	0.0433	0.0567
SASRec <sub>F</sub>	0.0877	0.1385	0.0463	0.0591
LightSANs <sub>F</sub>	0.0889	0.1457	0.0454	0.0596
FMLP <sub>F</sub>	0.0863	0.1438	0.0420	0.0564
CL4SRec	0.0683	0.1134	0.0342	0.0455
DuoRec	0.0917	0.1475	0.0475	0.0615
FDSA	0.0913	0.1496	0.0479	<u>0.0626</u>
NOVA	0.0933	0.1517	0.0456	0.0602
DIF-SR	<u>0.0951</u>	<u>0.1559</u>	0.0459	0.0612
<b>ASIF</b>	<b>0.0996</b>	<b>0.1653</b>	<b>0.0495</b>	<b>0.0660</b>
Impr.	4.73%	6.03%	3.13%	5.43%

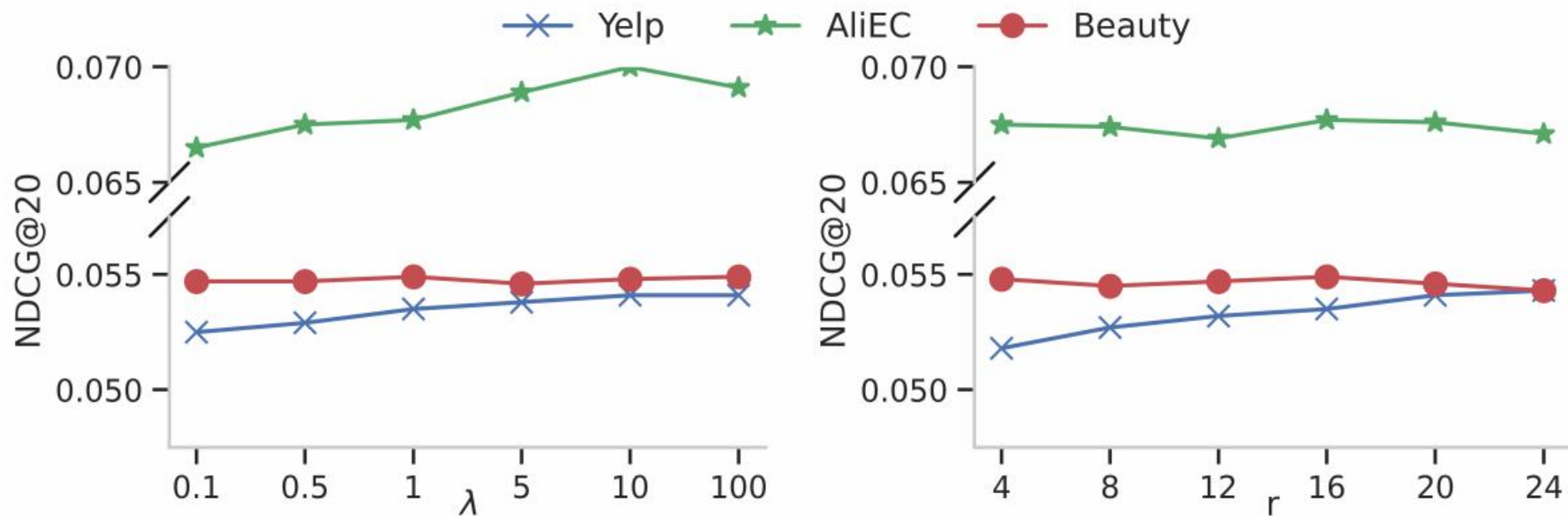


# Experiments

**Table 4: Ablation results (HR@20 and NDCG@20) on three public datasets. Each row removes a single component from the model except the last row.**

Model	Yelp		AliEC		Beauty	
	H@20	N@20	H@20	N@20	H@20	N@20
w/o RSA	0.1075	0.0524	0.1558	0.0668	0.1292	0.0540
w/o HIE	0.0996	0.0493	0.1439	0.0603	0.1255	0.0543
w/o UP	0.1077	0.0522	0.1572	0.0673	0.1298	<u>0.0550</u>
w/o FA	<u>0.1108</u>	<u>0.0534</u>	<u>0.1601</u>	<u>0.0683</u>	<u>0.1317</u>	0.0544
ASIF	<b>0.1131</b>	<b>0.0543</b>	<b>0.1631</b>	<b>0.0700</b>	<b>0.1322</b>	<b>0.0554</b>

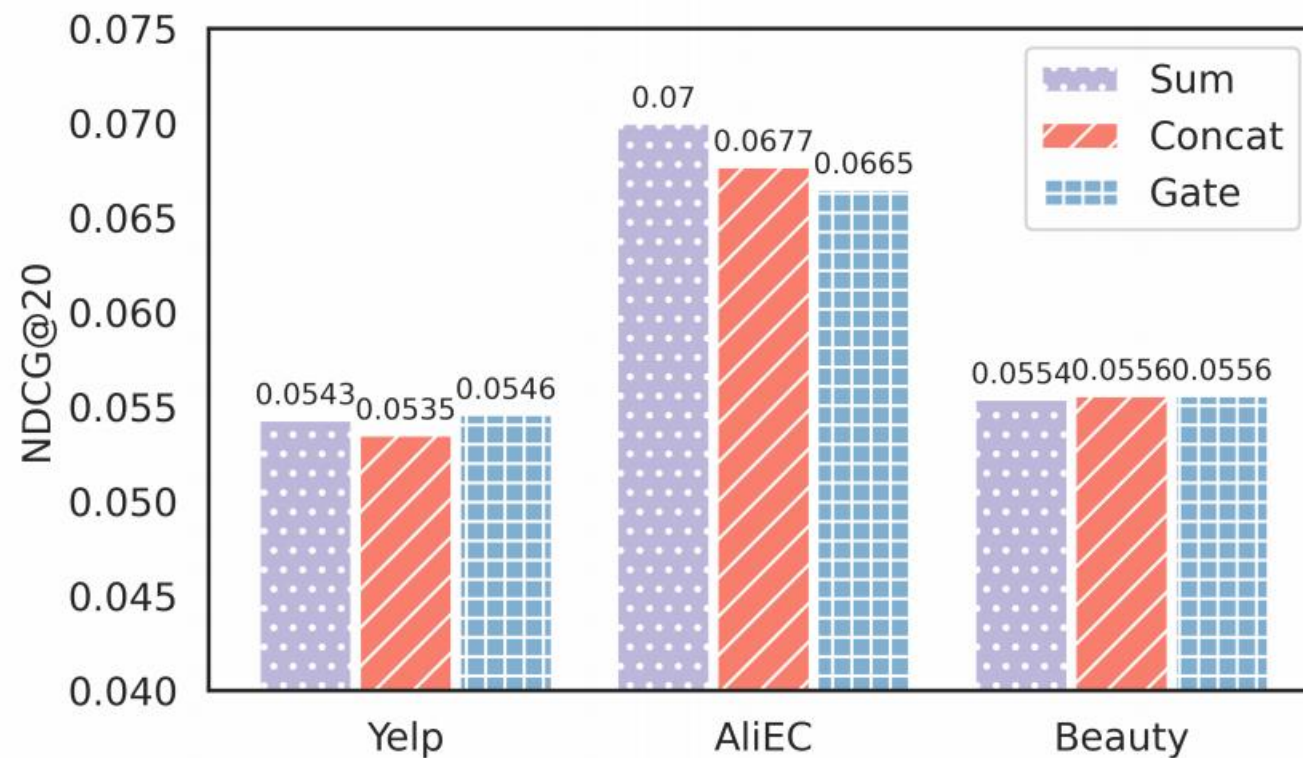
# Experiments



**Figure 6: Influence of balance parameter  $\lambda$  and number of orthogonal bases  $r$ .**



# Experiments



**Figure 7: Impact of fusion func  $\mathcal{F}$ .**

# Experiments

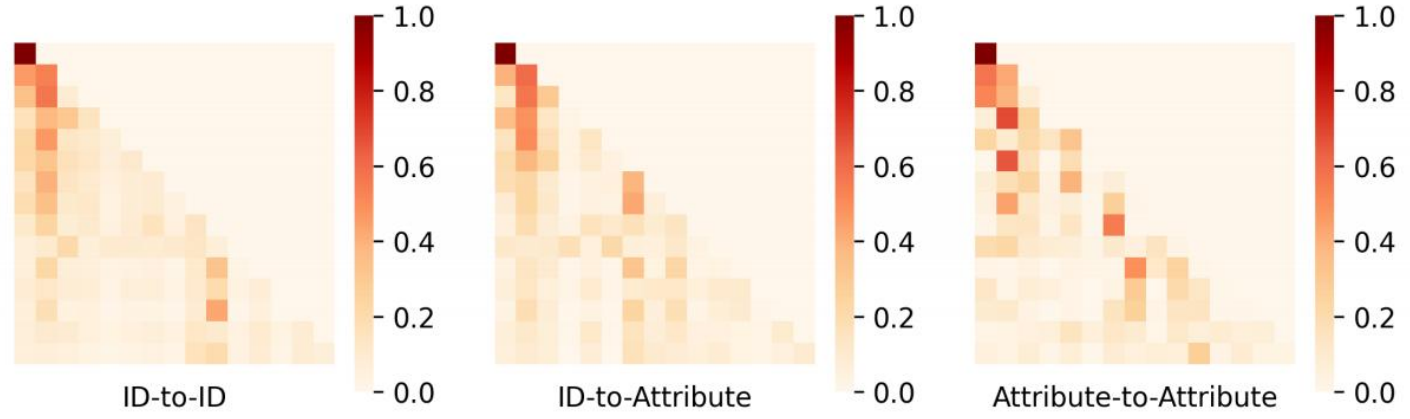


Figure 8: Visualization of attention correlations in ASIF.

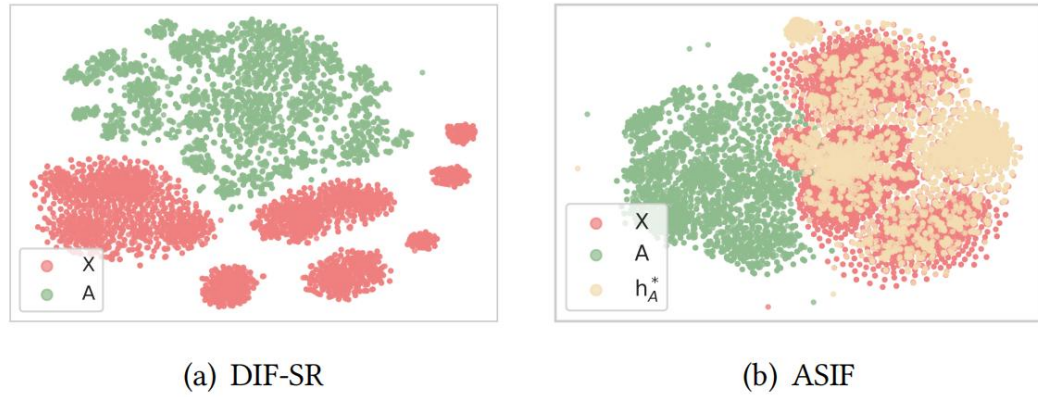


Figure 9: Visualization of clustered embeddings on Yelp.

# Experiments

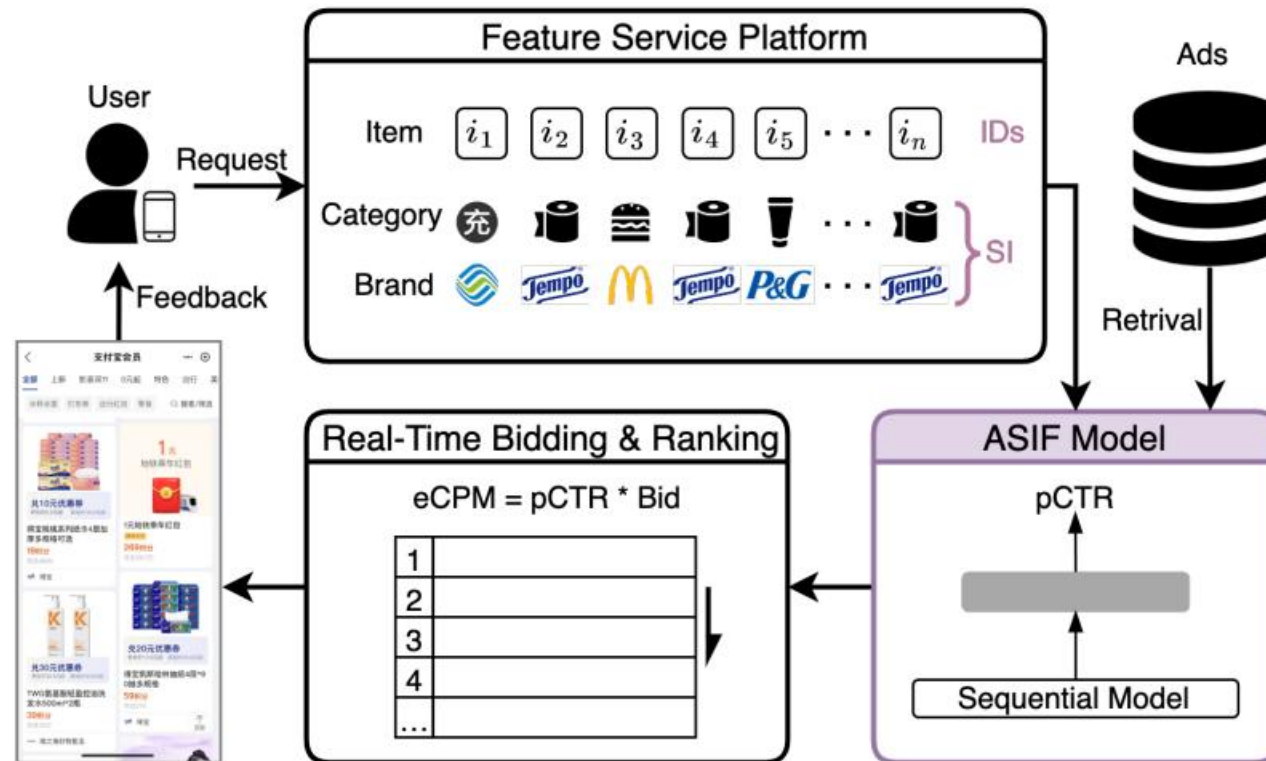


Figure 10: Online deployment of ASIF in Alipay.



**Thanks**