

Project: E-commerce Sales Analytics Dashboard

The UCI Online Retail dataset contains transactional data from a UK-based online gift retailer (Dec 2010–Dec 2011), with 541,909 rows and 8 columns: InvoiceNo, StockCode, Description, Quantity, InvoiceDate, UnitPrice, CustomerID, Country. Download from <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/dataset/352/online+retail> (Excel format, ~25MB); split into 4 logical tables (<30k rows each after cleaning): invoices (~400k rows), customers (~4k unique), products (~4k unique), countries (37). Contains 30% missing CustomerID, negative quantities for returns.

Problem Statement

Analyze UK online retail transactions to identify customer purchasing patterns, product performance, sales trends, and profitability. Compute RFM segmentation, detect seasonal peaks, quantify top products/customers, and handle data issues like missing values/duplicates while validating SQL vs. pandas results.

Dataset Details

Source: UCI ML Repository (Online Retail) – real transactional data, no PII.

- **Format:** Excel (.xlsx) – one sheet, denormalized.
- **Size:** 541,909 transactions; clean to ~400k valid rows.
- **Key Stats:** £8.19M total revenue, 4,332 customers, 4,068 products, 97% UK sales.
- **Columns & Types:**

Column	Type	Description	Sample
InvoiceNo	Varchar	Transaction ID ('C' prefix = cancel)	536365
StockCode	Varchar	Product code	85123A
Description	Varchar	Product name	WHITE HANGING HEART T-LIGHT HOLDER
Quantity	Integer	Items per transaction (± for returns)	6
InvoiceDate	Datetime	Transaction timestamp	12/1/2010 8:26
UnitPrice	Float	£ per unit	2.55
CustomerID	Integer	Unique customer (30% null)	17850
Country	Varchar	Billing country	United Kingdom

Technology/Tools

- Microsoft SQL Server + Python 3.x (pandas, SQLAlchemy/pyodbc).
- Jupyter Notebook (matplotlib/seaborn for viz).
- GitHub for version control.

High-Level Instructions

- 1) **Data Prep (Pandas):** Load Excel → drop null CustomerID → filter Quantity>0 & UnitPrice>0 → remove 'C' invoices → engineer Revenue=Quantity×UnitPrice.
- 2) **SQL Load:** Create 4 tables (invoices, customers, products, countries) with PK/FK → bulk insert via `df.to_sql()`.
- 3) **SQL Analysis:** Write 8+ queries for KPIs below.
- 4) **Pandas Validation:** Replicate SQL results → compare (assert <1% diff).
- 5) **Viz & Report:** Dashboard with 6 charts → business insights.

KPIs & Calculations

RFM (Recency, Frequency, Monetary) – Reference date: 2011-12-10

- **Recency (R):** Days since last purchase = `DATEDIFF(day, MAX(InvoiceDate), '2011-12-10')` → score 1-5 (1=recent).
- **Frequency (F):** Invoice count = `COUNT(DISTINCT InvoiceNo)`.
- **Monetary (M):** Total revenue = `SUM(Quantity * UnitPrice)`.
- **Scoring:** Quintiles (SQL `NTILE(5)` or pandas `qcut`) → Champions (555), At Risk (311), etc.

Expected Results/Evaluation Criteria

- **Data Quality:** Pre: 541k rows → Post: 397k valid (73%) with schema diagram.
- **SQL:** 8 queries using JOINS, CTEs, window functions (LAG for MoM growth).
- **Pandas:** ETL <5min, RFM table (4k rows), correlation matrix.
- **Accuracy:** SQL=pandas results (±0.5%); RFM segments match (e.g., 200 Champions).
- **Insights:** 5 actionable findings like "France RFM 555s = 20% revenue despite 10% customers."
- **Deliverables:** GitHub repo (Jupyter/SQL notebook, ERD, dashboard PNGs, README).
- **Bonus:** Indexes on SQL tables → query time <1s; Streamlit app.

Success: Reproducible analysis matching industry benchmarks (total revenue £8.19M).