

CharIoT - Charity Integration and Opportunity Tool

1 Introduction

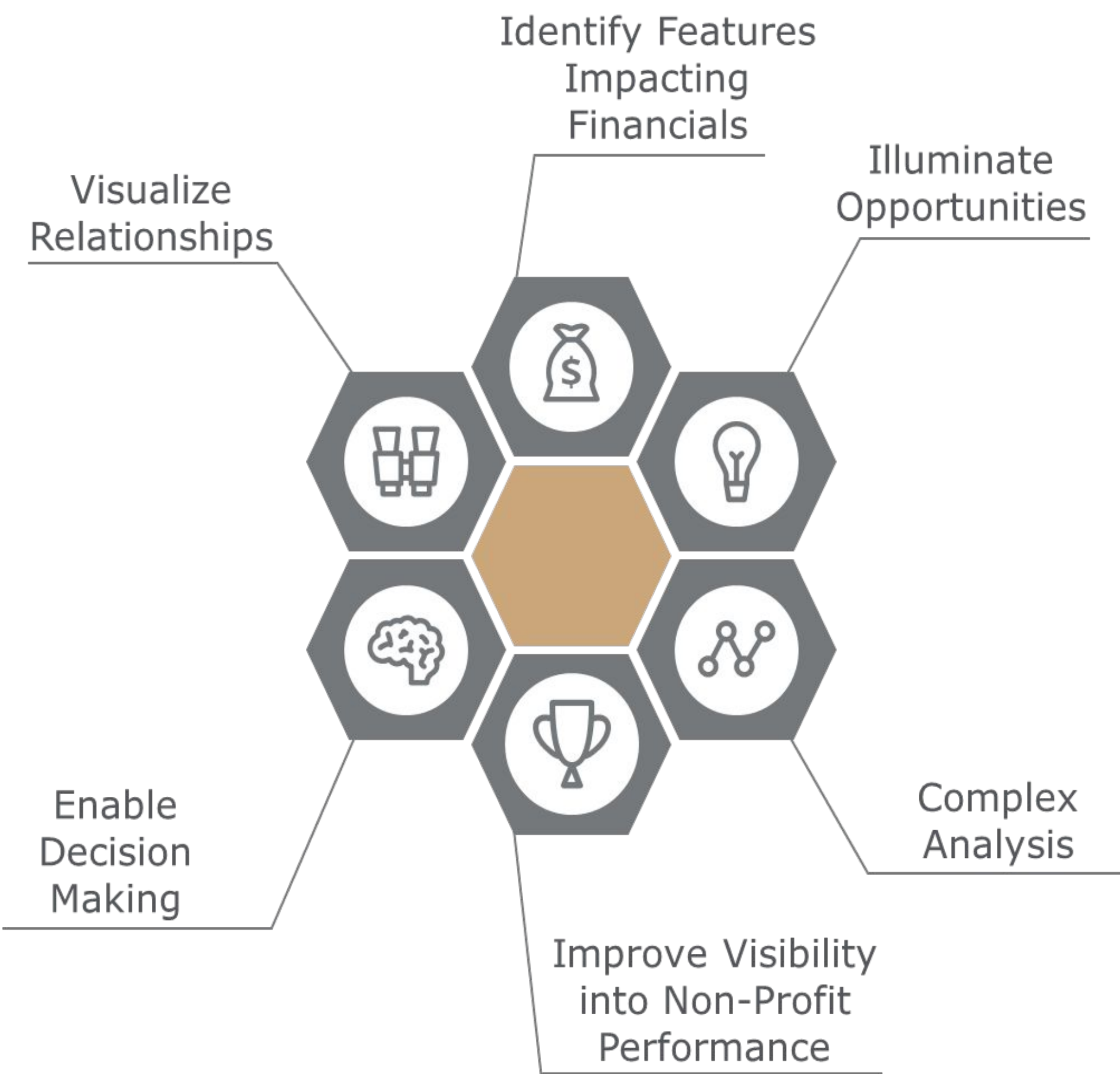
PROBLEM:
No cost-effective tool exists for assessing charitable donation flows in U.S that provides meaningful detail without being overly granular and highly complex.

GOAL:
Develop a model to accomplish the following:

- Visualize charitable relationships and identify opportunities
- Enable complex analysis to aid in decision making
- Identify features impacting financials and thus improve the visibility into non-profit organization performance

WHO CARES?

- Potential donors so they can make more impactful donations
- Government for better allocation of public resources and improvement in charitable donation policy



2 Data

The data used for this project is the IRS 990 Filings dataset used by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to gather financial information on nonprofit organizations. The data has the following characteristics:

- Data for each 990 filing is provided in an XML file and is scraped into a matrix using R About 1.2 GB in size (roughly 225 MB zipped) when all files combined, with about 670,000 rows of grantmaking network links
- Tax years 2011-2016

The visualization is supplemented with ZIP code data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and is enhanced with categorizations from Latent Dirichlet Analysis and predictions from pairwise association mining.

3 Experiments and Results

EXPERIMENTS:
The team set out with ambitious goals for this project and through trial and error were able to create a final product, however, not all of the approaches tried were used in the end product. The experiments are as follows:

- D3.js: focus group participants were impressed by the speed of data retrieval and display.
- Market basket analysis: because the regression and random forest models we tried were ineffective at predicting grant flows between ZIP codes, we instead opted for a pairwise association mining approach that could tell which pairs of ZIP codes commonly receive grants together.
- Latent Dirichlet Analysis (LDA): this approach was used to add descriptive labels to the organization based off of their mission statements, allowing us to successfully group key words.
- Clustering: a Gaussian mixture model was used to group ZIP codes into groups of economic activity. These groups are displayed as each the color of each ZIP code in the graph view.

RESULTS:

- Simple yet powerful geographic visualization
- Textual categorization and socioeconomic clustering for deeper insight
- Predictive modeling compared to actual results for gap identification
- Innovation created via multiple parts; not too simple, not too complex
- Focus groups were an integral part of the iterative process of developing this product

