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Product Affinity Analysis using Machine Learning



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Date: 27-08-2022

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Capstone Project Presentation Year: II

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Introduction

Background:

Aptean is a product-based company that provides mission-critical, industry-specific software owning an exclusive range of high-end products that serve in various domains. Like any other company, traditional methods like publishing about the products on the company website, digital marketing, advertisements, and setting up campaigns are followed to sell products. However, the organization wanted to explore new ways in which sales could be increased to the existing customer base, thereby increasing the revenue for the organization.





Why this study?

Working as a BI analyst, in the Strategy department of my organization, we get requests from several stakeholders to build reports and dashboards so that the executive leadership team can have a birds-eye view on the company statistics. Therefore, rather than the regular dashboarding work, I wanted to include machine learning models to improvise on any existing methodology, that the organization wanted to change. One such area was to improve sales strategies and hence this study.

Literature Review

Paper Title	Author	Year	Source	Summary	Research Gap
A Recommender System for the Upselling of Telecommunications Products	Navin Dookeram, Zahira Hosein and Patrick Hosein	2022		This paper focuses on a binary classification framework for predicting the successful upsell of products and services, using data from a telecommunications provider	Data specific to telecommunications industry and only binary classification was considered for analysis
A SVM Ensemble Learning Method Using Tensor Data: An Application to Cross Selling Recommendation	Zhen-Yu Chen, Zhi-Ping Fan and Minghe Sun	2015		This paper uses a SVM ensemble learning method to propose for classification using tensor data.	Tensor data is used to build the model. SVM is the only methodology focussed on.
Affinity Analysis and Association Rule Mining using Apriori Algorithm in Market Basket Analysis	R. Karthiyayini and Dr. R. Balasubramanian	2016	International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer Science and Software Engineering	The purpose of this analysis is to use Apriori Algorithm in Market Basket Analysis to generate a set of rules that relate two or more products together where lift is above 1.	Apriori algorithm is learnt using the ARules package in R.
Association Rule – Extracting Knowledge Using Market Basket Analysis	Raorane A.A. Kulkarni R.V. and Jitkar B.D.	2012	Research Journal of Recent Sciences	The objective of this paper is to analyze the data exploiting the consumer behavior and employing association rules using Market Basket Analysis to prove its worth over the conventional methodologies.	This study focuses on product placements in supermarkets using Market Basket Analysis.
Market Basket Analysis & Recommendation System Using Association Rules	Shruthi Gurudath	2020	Research gate publication	The goal of this project is to use anonymized data from customers' transactional orders to focus on descriptive analysis of customer purchase patterns, items purchased together, and units purchased frequently from the store to facilitate reordering and maintaining adequate product stock.	Only Market basket analysis is used and author feels that project can be improved by implementing new and advanced mining algorithms for better performance and fast results.
Market Basket Analysis based on Apriori and CART	Liyuan Wang, Jianqin Sun	2019	International Conference on Education Technology, Management and Humanities Science	The paper which uses Apriori algorithm to find out the data of shopping basket from the massive data of consumers reveals the relationship between the purchased goods, and subsequently applies the association rules and CART decision tree algorithm to reveal the characteristics of the customer group and the target customers classification	Mainly focussed on Market basket analysis using Apriori and CART algorithm to find out the association rules.
Using Data Mining to Accelerate Cross-Selling	Hewen Tang, Zengfang Yang, Pingzhen Zhang and Honglin Yan	2008	International Seminar on Business and Information Management	In this paper, we mainly propose a method of data mining in Excel with an add-in of XLMiner to accelerate cross-selling.	Traditional tool MS excel with XLMiner addin has been used in this study.



Problem Statement

Aptean has launched the next growth horizon called, "Operation 10^x" and the main goal of this initiative is to drive 10% organic revenue growth each year and become a \$ 1 billion revenue company by the end of the next 5 years.

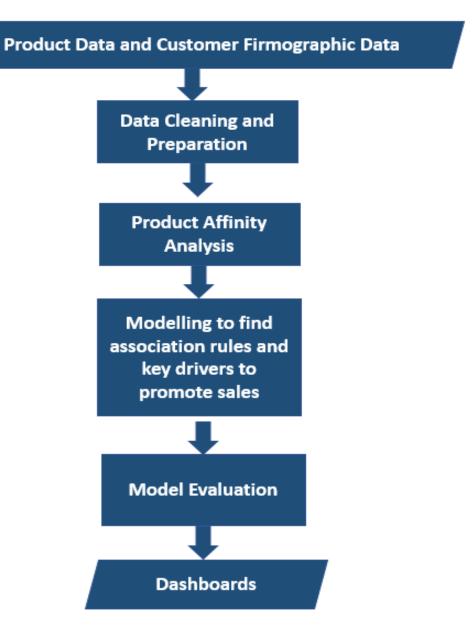
Leverage customer firmographic data and product sales transaction data to build a model to project the likelihood to purchase from our existing customer base and solve the business challenge of achieving and meeting the sales targets of the organization. Increasing sales through product cross-selling and up-selling and identifying the customers to whom products can be sold



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Proposed Solution





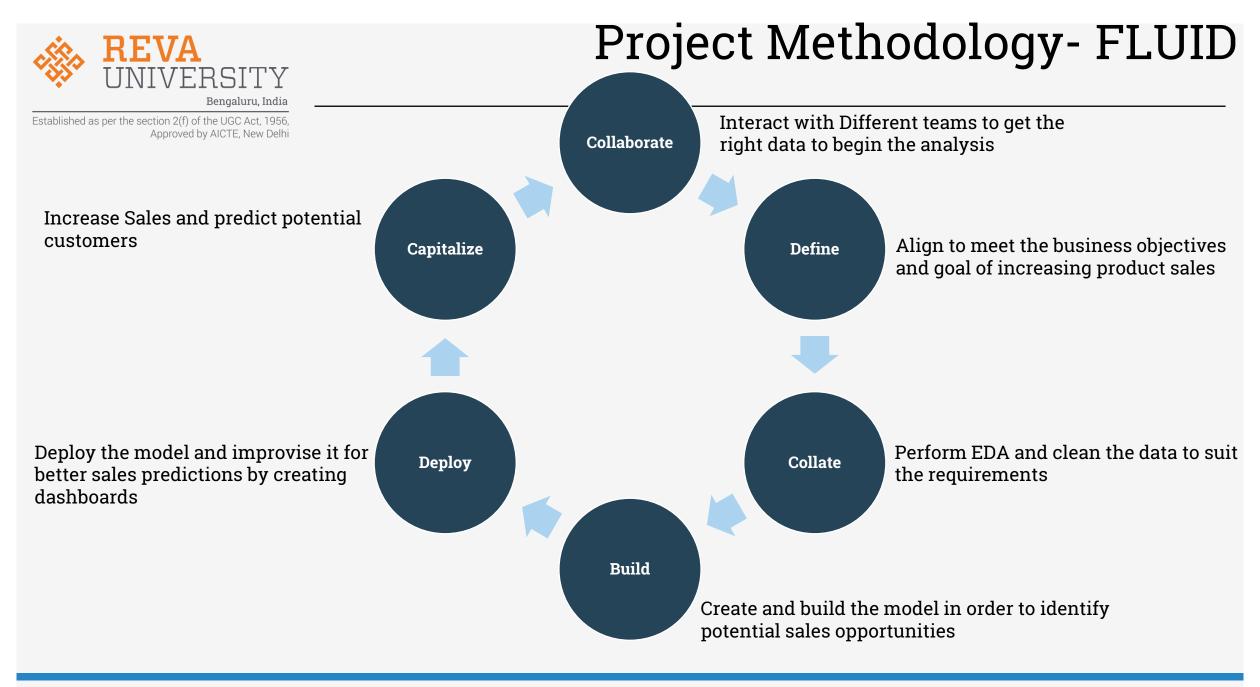
Project Objectives

Three major objectives of this study are,

To understand the purchasing pattern of products from the product sales transaction data.

To study and profile customers based on their purchase behavior.

To recommend and suggest products to customers, thereby increasing sales opportunities.

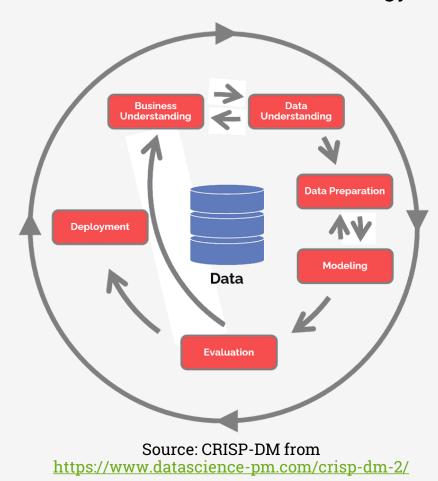


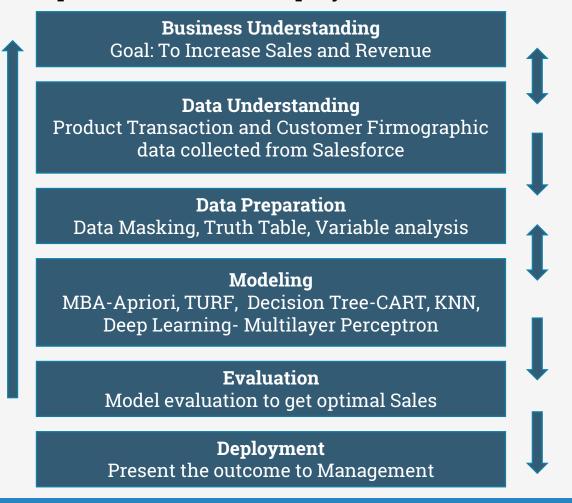


Project Methodology- CRISP-DM

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CRISP-DM Framework: The Cross-Industry Standard Process for Data Mining methodology is used in the implementation of this project.







Collaborate to have Business Understanding

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7 Stages	Sales Team Activities
Buyer Awareness	The opportunity is reviewed, and the sales team will determine if they accept the meeting.
Connect	The sales team confirms the solution fit and plans the priority, consequences, budget range and timeline and the next meeting is scheduled within 2
	weeks.
Educate	Conducts detailed qualifications.
	Identifies buyer roles, potential catalysts, competitors, and purchase process.
	Conducts Overview Demo.
Build	Business and fitness assessments.
	Validates buyer insights with stakeholders.
	Create an action plan.
	Prepare buyer scorecard/ Decision criteria.
	Create a preliminary proposal.
Validate	Proactive project implementation plan discussions.
	Address customer security requirements.
	Create a formal proposal/quote.
Confirm	Facilitate reference introductions.
	Review contract and confirm purchasing process.
	Negotiate/support cost justifications.
Close	Check with finance teams and prepare the closure plan.





In the define phase, after the collaboration with management and relevant teams, the project goals were identified.

To understand the purchasing pattern of products from the product sales transaction data

To study and profile customers based on their purchase behavior

To recommend and suggest products to customers, thereby increasing sales opportunities

Data Understanding

DATA COLLECTION:

• Initial Data Collected from Organization's internal Salesforce system where Sales transactions and Customer firmographics data is stored in real-time.

salesforce

• Both the raw datasets have been merged to form one combined dataset for further scope of analysis. This data is captured and stored in excel format.

DATA DICTIONARY

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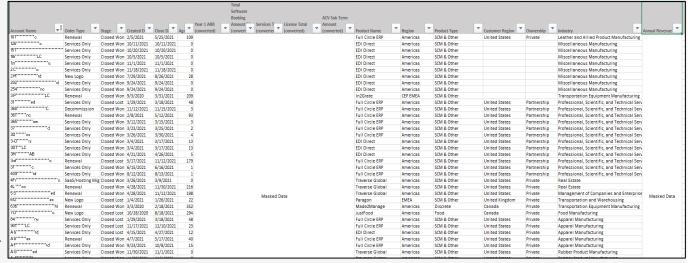
These are the features considered in the dataset.

Features	Description					
Account Name	Name of the Customer in masked format					
Order Type	The type of order/transaction					
Stage	The Sales Stage					
Created Date	Date when the order was created					
Close Date	Date when the order was closed					
Age	Time taken to close the order (in days)					
Year 1 ARR						
Total Software Booking Amount PE						
Services Total	Financial Data which is masked					
License Total						
ACV Sub Term Amount						
Product Name	Name of the Product					
Region	Product selling region					
Product Type	Category of the product					
Customer Region	Product buying region					
Ownership	Type of ownership of business					
Industry	The type of Industry buying the product					
Total Revenue	Customers Total annual revenue in masked format					

Collate + Data Preparation

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- 1.Data Selection
- 2 Data Integration
- 3 Data Cleaning
 - 3.1 Missing value handling
 - 3.2 Handling erroneous/misspelled data
 - 3.3 Handling duplicate data
- **4 Data Formatting**
- **5 Feature Engineering**



Customers	Foodware Enterprise	Full Circle ERP	Global Service	Gould Hall	GQ Life Sciences	Impress	In2Grate	Intuitive	irms360	JustFood	Lascom PLM	LINKFRESH 365 Bu	LINKFRESH 365	Logis ERP	Made2Manage	OnContact CRM
101**********************************	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
126*************************C.	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
151***********************************	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
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2 C************c.	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
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254******nc	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
3 P*****LC	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
31 ********ed	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
360******************C.	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
361*****nc	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
365*****om	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
37 *******d.	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
3D ******cs	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
3-D******rs	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
3DT***LC	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
3M *****AB	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
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Descriptive Analytics

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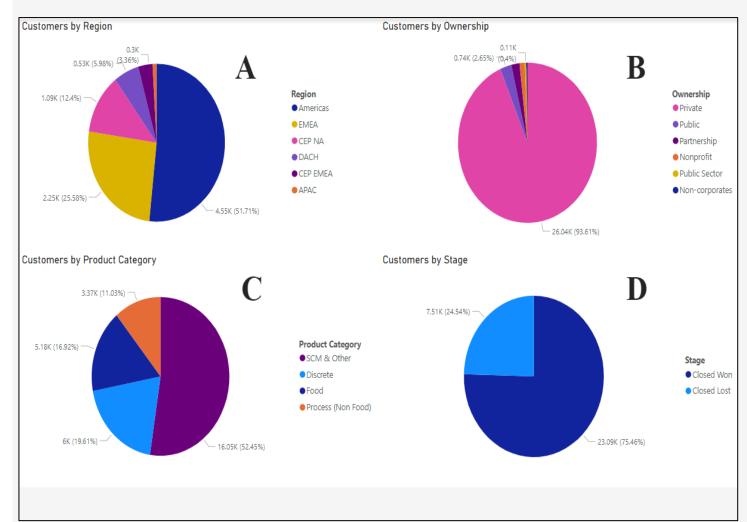


Figure has 4 pie charts, A, B, C, and D. Here, pie chart A shows the customers by region, and it be concluded that close to 52% of customers are from the Americas region. Pie chart B shows the customers by ownership, where about 94% of customers are private owners of the business. Pie chart C depicts that 52% of customers have purchased products from the SCM and Others category. Finally, pie chart D shows that out of all the product transactions, only 75% opportunities or orders were successfully closed.



Descriptive Analytics

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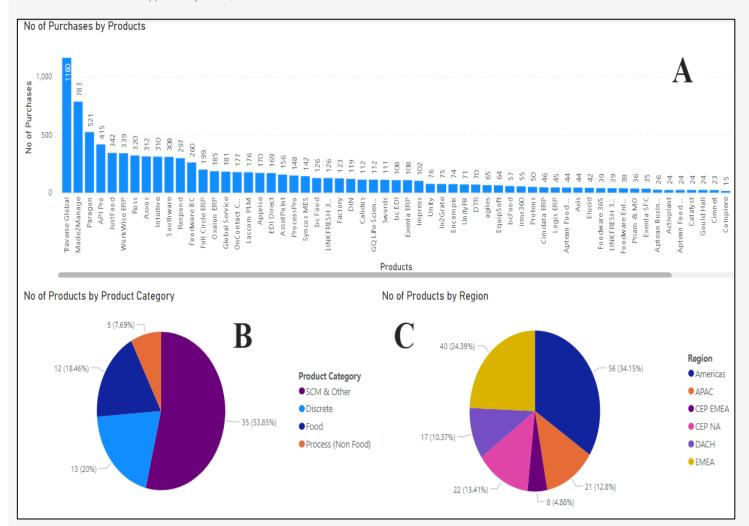
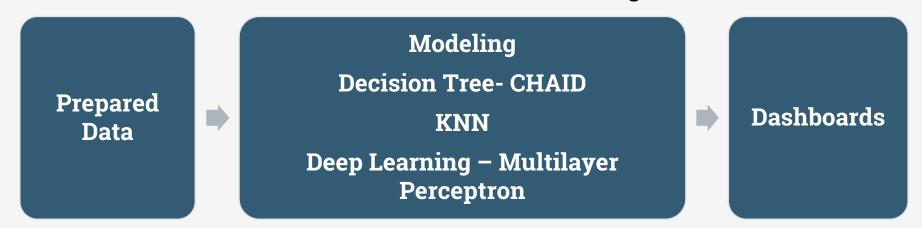


Figure 7.3 has visuals A, B and C. Bar chart A shows the top selling products in the descending order. Traverse Global, Made2Manage and Paragon are the top 3 selling products. Pie chart B shows that 35 products fall under the product category SCM and other. This could be reason why the most transactions have happened for the same category. Pie chart C shows the number of products by region and there are 56 products sold in the Americas region, thereby making Americas the major selling site across the globe

Build + Modeling

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Overview of the dataflow into Machine Learning Model



TURF Analysis

"Best TURF Results"

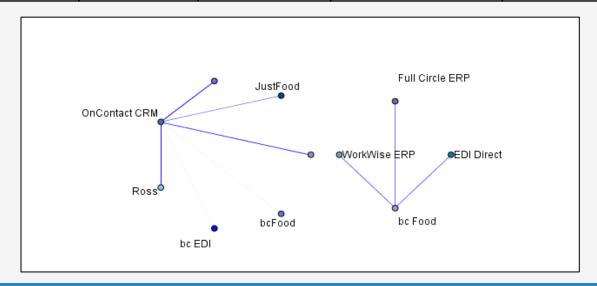
S	tatistics				
	Size of		"% of		"% of
Features	group	"Reach"	Cases"	"Frequency"	Responses"
ADDED: TraverseGlobal	1	1160	13.2	1160	16.1
ADDED: Made2Manage KEPT: TraverseGlobal	2	1941	22.1	1943	27.0
ADDED: Paragon KEPT: Made2Manage, TraverseGlobal	3	2462	28.0	2464	34.3
ADDED: APIPro KEPT: Made2Manage, Paragon, TraverseGlobal	4	2877	32.7	2879	40.0
ADDED: JustFood KEPT: APIPro, Made2Manage, Paragon, TraverseGlobal	5	3216	36.5	3221	44.8
ADDED: WorkWiseERP KEPT: APIPro, JustFood, Made2Manage, Paragon, TraverseGlobal	6	3549	40.3	3560	49.5



Market Basket analysis - Apriori

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Consequent	Antecedent	Instances	Support %	Confidence %	Rule Support %	Lift	Deployability
EDI Direct	Full Circle ERP	81	13.61	98.77	13.45	7.17	0.17
Foodware BC	Foodware 365	35	5.88	94.29	5.55	8.01	0.34
Oxaion ERP	Syncos MES	28	4.71	92.86	4.37	17.82	0.34
OnContact CRM	WorkWise ERP	81	13.61	92.59	12.61	5.35	1.01
bc Food	bc EDI	45	7.56	62.22	4.71	6.38	2.86





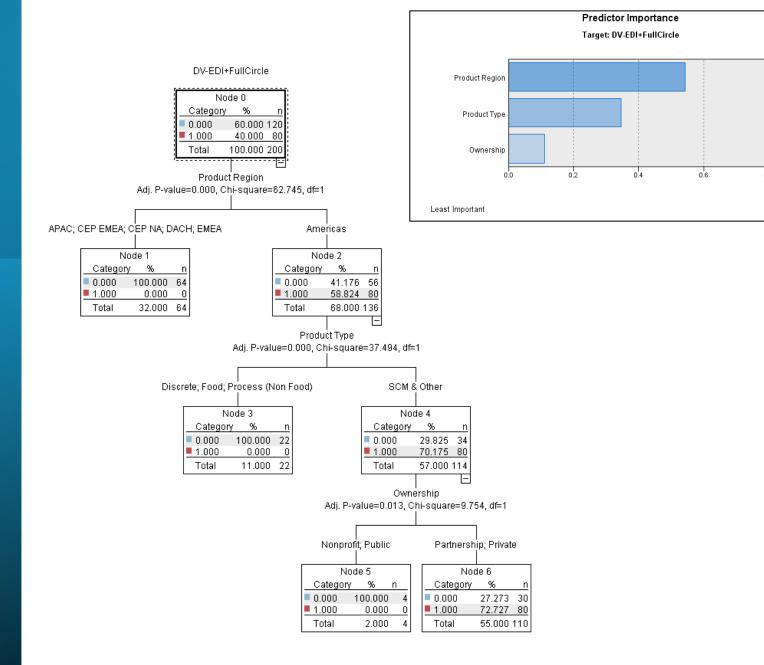
Model Evaluation

The models are evaluated using the confusion matrix and the model performance is calculated using the True Positive (TP), False Positive (FP), True Negative (TN) and False Negative (FN) values.

The Decision tree using CHAID has a higher accuracy score of 92% and Precision value of 94%which is, proving better performance.

Model Performance metrics									
Models	Precision	Recall	F1-score	Accuracy					
Decision Tree	<mark>94%</mark>	84%	89%	<mark>92%</mark>					
KNN	89%	71%	79%	85%					
MLP- Test	77%	100%	87%	89%					
MLP-Train	87%	94%	90%	91%					

Decision Tree CHIAD

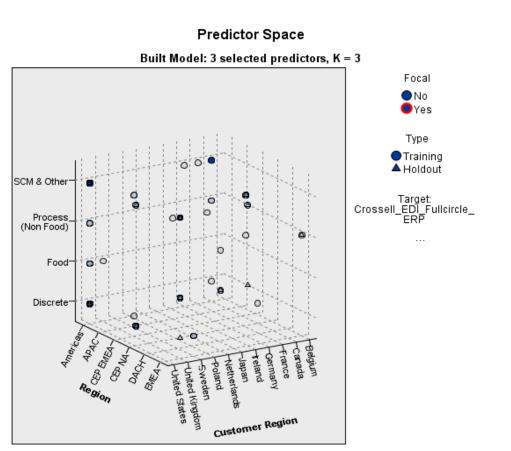


Most Important

KNN

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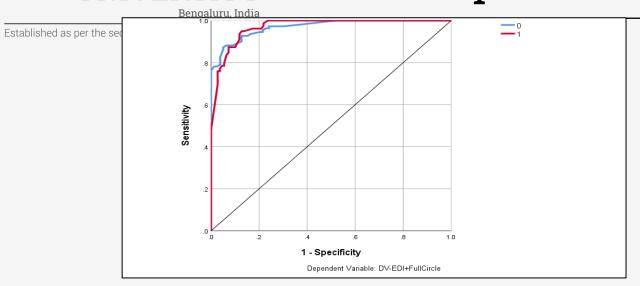


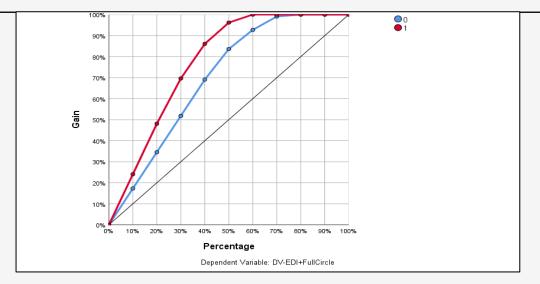
Select points to use as focal records

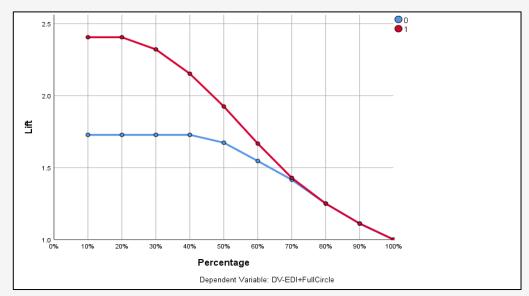
This chart is a lower-dimensional projection of the predictor space, which contains a total of 5 predictors.

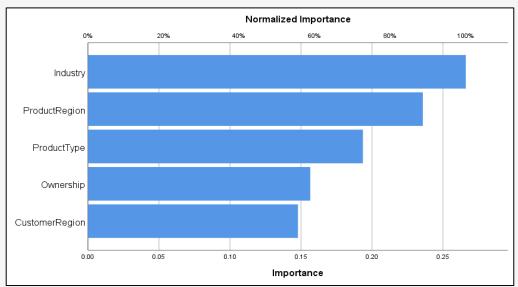


Deep Learning – Multilayer Perceptron











Deploy: Model Deployment Plan

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Pick the best model to predict the sales opportunities

Create a
Dashboard in
Power BI with
the findings
of the model

Present the Dashboard to management and relevant stakeholders

Get feedback and improvise the model Share the results with the Sales team and relevant stakeholders to implement the model.



Results and Insights

From the model evaluation though 3 different machine learning approaches were incorporated. The most efficient of the 3 is the **Decision tree using the CHAID** method, because of its high accuracy and precision value

Product A	Product B	Instances	Product Category
Full Circle ERP	EDI Direct	80	SCM and Other
Foodware 365	Foodware BC	33	Food
Syncos MES	Oxaion ERP	26	SCM and Other
WorkWise ERP	OnContact CRM	75	SCM and Other
bc EDI	bc Food	35	Food
Ross	Factory	14	Process

Key drivers influencing the product sales as shown in the decision tree are –

- **Product Region** Selling region of the product
- **Product Type** To which category of product it belongs
- **Ownership** The type of ownership of the customer company



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Capitalize

In the last phase of the FLUID mechanism, we have the Capitalize phase, where the findings or the outcome of the study need to be used to increase the revenue and sales for the organization



Conclusion and Future Work

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Conclusion:

In this project, different modelling techniques have been tried and evaluated to find out the key drivers responsible for cross-selling certain products. We could profile customers that belong to different categories based on these key drivers and propose that for new customers who belong to any of these categories, such products could be sold, thereby increasing sales opportunities in organization and enabling the organization to reach its new goal of achieving sales targets and increasing customer base and maintain niche enterprise products.

Scope of future study:

- This project does not cover the cost and financial analysis, if the financial data could be used for analysis, we could probably recommend the best possible products for upselling or cross-selling thereby increasing sales.
- A similar analysis can be used to model other combinations of data in which more than 2 products are sold together.



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Annexure

This project report titled "**Product Affinity Analysis using Machine Learning**" was scanned for similarity detection and the outcome is as given below.

Plagiarism score

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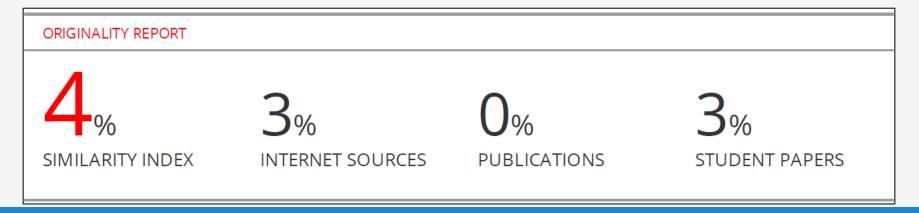
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