Tutorial Report: Exploring User Reviews for Socially Driven Financial App

Mattia Sparacino

sparacino@oxy.edu
Occidental College

1 Introduction

1.1 Comprehensive Project Overview

My project aims to develop a user-friendly app that simplifies both saving and investing for individuals. The app automatically directs small amounts of money into a savings account with each purchase, mirroring the concept of saving pocket change. Subsequently, these funds are invested with the intention of not only generating returns but also promoting social and environmental benefits. A key aspect of this endeavor involves carefully considering user feedback to identify essential features and preferences that can enhance users' financial well-being. By aligning with user needs, I aim to establish a strong foundation for app development. Ultimately, the goal is to create an accessible tool that empowers users to achieve their financial objectives, both financially and socially, regardless of their level of investment expertise. Therefore, the goal of this tutorial is to look into what features could make this app user-friendly and safe.

1.2 Detailed Tutorial Objective

Expanding upon insights from the study "What People Like in Mobile Finance Apps – An Analysis of User Reviews," this tutorial presents a comprehensive guide on harnessing user reviews to extract important data. Through this process, I aim to lay the foundation for crafting my mobile app that not only reaches but deeply connects with its intended users, but ensuring sustained engagement, satisfaction and comfort when investing.

1.3 Comprehensive Goals

The objectives of this tutorial are as follows:

- Gather user reviews from a diverse range of finance apps to create a comprehensive dataset.
- Conduct an in-depth analysis to identify predominant themes and emotions among the reviews.
- Accurately pinpoint and prioritize features and aspects correlating with positive feedback from users, guiding the app's development towards a user-centric environment.

2 Methods

2.1 Detailed Data Collection and Preprocessing

A dataset containing user reviews from numerous finance apps is compiled (found by trustpilot), ensuring there is a representation across a large variety of user preferences and experiences. This compilation serves as the foundation for my analysis, showing varied insights into user expectations. (Includes data from Robinhood, Charles Schwab and TD Ameritrade applications.) This data is then compiled into a single csv. file containing all the apps and reviews. Finally, loaded into a python environment.

Listing 1: Python code snippet for data loading import pandas as pd

2.2 Advanced Sentiment Analysis

Each review's negative or positive response is categorized, using advanced natural language processing techniques to show user satisfaction regarding various app features. This approach helps us to see nuances in user feedback and prioritize accordingly.

Listing 2: Python code snippet for sentiment categorization

```
df_extended['sentiment'] = df_extended['
    rating'].apply(lambda x: 'positive' if x
    >= 4 else 'negative')
```

2.3 Comprehensive Feature Extraction through Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis is used to identify and categorize the most frequently mentioned features in user reviews. By categorizing key themes, I can see the attributes users value most in finance apps, guiding me to see the most important features and developments that need to be made.

Listing 3: Python code snippet for thematic analyis

```
# Employing advanced preprocessing and
    tokenization for precise feature
    extraction
vectorizer = CountVectorizer(stop_words='
    english', max_features=100)
X = vectorizer.fit_transform(df_extended['
    review'].values.astype('U')) # 'U' for
    Unicode string type

feature_names = vectorizer.
    get_feature_names_out()
print(feature_names)
```

3 Metrics and Results

The sentiment analysis showed into features closely associated with positive and negative reactions. A comprehensive feature extraction process shows critical areas such as usability, security, and customer support as pivotal user concerns, emphasizing these as important points for enhancement in user satisfaction in finance apps.

An examination of the data shows attributes such as "seamless navigation", "transaction transparency", and personalized user interfaces are highly wanted by users. The people in these surveys values apps that offer an a great user interface, transparent information,

and customization options to individual peoples financial objectives. Additionally, there is a preference for functionalities that support effective financial management, including budgeting tools and spending alerts.

The analysis of user feedback provides a profound understanding of user preferences, guiding app development to ensure heightened user satisfaction and engagement.

4 Reflection

4.1 In-depth Tutorial Insights

This tutorial emphasizes the importance of user feedback in app development. By analyzing user reviews, I gained insights into preferences, helping with the idea of creating an app tailored to user needs. This process involves understanding users and how they think, therefore, I need to use key features that resonate with a lot of people. Additionally, by addressing user concerns, I aim to enhance user satisfaction as it is fairly negative across all the apps reviewed. Through this iterative approach, I strive to create a standout app that delivers meaningful value and creates success for people.

4.2 Direct Application to Project

The insights recieved from this tutorial will directly inform the feature selection and development priorities of my app. By embracing a user-centric design and functionality, I aspire to create an app that not only meets but exceeds user expectations, fostering sustained engagement and loyalty in accordance with my core idea.

4.3 Future Analysis Prospects

Looking ahead, there is a lot of potential to delve even deeper into advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques for more insights into user sentiments. Additionally, tracking evolving trends over time can provide valuable feedback for continuous improvement and innovation in finance app development.