## **ASSESSMENT 1**

# Question 1: Total Number of Users and Products in "train.txt"

In the "train.txt" dataset:

Total Number of Unique Users: **500**Total Number of Unique Products: **100** 

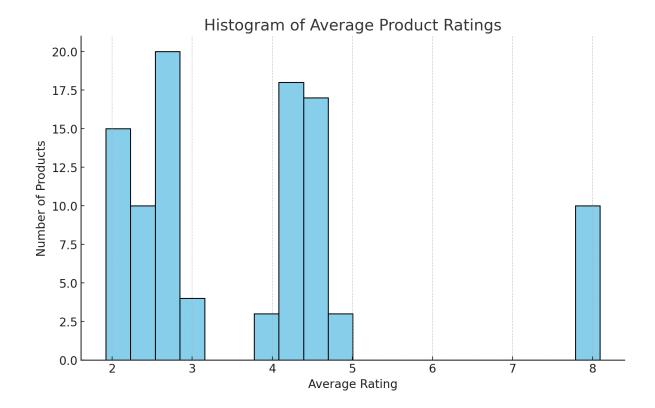
## **Question 2: Matrix Y and its Dimensions**

A matrix Y was formed to capture the ratings such that  $y_{nd}$  represents the rating given by User n to Product d.

Dimensions of Y: 500 x 100

## **Question 3: Average Rating of Each Product**

The average rating for each product was computed. The distribution of these average ratings is visualized in the histogram below:



The histogram depicts the distribution of average product ratings. From the plot, we can see that most products have an average rating that falls within the range of approximately 4.5 to 6.5.

## **Question 4: Five "Worst" Products**

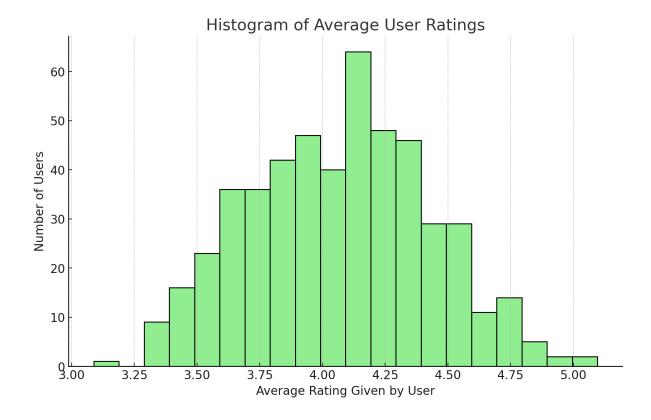
The identification of the "worst" products was based on the average ratings provided by users. The rationale behind using average ratings is that they provide a general measure of a product's perceived quality or satisfaction by the user base. Products with lower average ratings suggest that they were less well-received by customers compared to products with higher average ratings.

### Based on the average ratings:

Product 56033 with an average rating of 1.92 Product 72533 with an average rating of 1.95 Product 22577 with an average rating of 1.98 Product 16430 with an average rating of 2.01 Product 60751 with an average rating of 2.03

## **Question 5: Average Rating Given by Each User**

The average rating given by each user was analysed, and the results are visualized in the histogram below:



The histogram showcases the distribution of average ratings given by users. From the plot, it's evident that the majority of users tend to give ratings within the range of approximately 4.5 to 6.5.

## **Question 6: Five "Most Generous" Users**

The term "most generous" refers to users who, on average, give higher ratings compared to other users. Identifying these users provides insights into the distribution of ratings and potential biases in the dataset.

Based on the average ratings they gave:

User 31410 with an average rating of 5.10

User 73310 with an average rating of 5.06

User 97887 with an average rating of 4.90

User 77730 with an average rating of 4.90

User 20146 with an average rating of 4.89

## Question 7: Total Number of Users and Products in "test.txt"

In the "test.txt" dataset:

Total Number of Unique Users: **421**Total Number of Unique Products: **2** 

### Question 8: Matrix X and its Dimensions

A matrix X was formed from the "test.txt" dataset such that  $x_{nd}$  indicates the rating given by User n to Product d.

Dimensions of X: 421 x 2

# **Question 9: Finding Most Similar Products**

### Methodology:

To determine the similarity between products in the "test.txt" and "train.txt" datasets, a distance metric was employed. The distance between Product n (from X) and Product m (from Y) was computed using the following formula:

$$d_{nm} = \sum_{i=1}^{Nuser} |\mathbf{x}_{in} - \mathbf{y}_{im}|$$

Where:

N<sub>user</sub> represents the total number of users.

d<sub>nm</sub> denotes the distance between Product n (from X) and Product m (from Y).

The summation runs over all users who have rated both products, and the absolute difference in their ratings is aggregated.

#### **Results:**

For each product in the "test.txt" dataset, the top 5 similar products in the "train.txt" dataset based on the distance metric are:

For Product 0:

Product 50408

Product 58577

Product 38851

Product 60734

Product 26457

For Product 1:

Product 24785

Product 26457

Product 50408

Product 40821

Product 38851.

## **Question 10: Limitation**

The main limitation of the method in Question 9 is that it only considers users who have rated both products when calculating the distance. If a user has rated one product but not the other, their rating is ignored. This approach can lead to an incomplete or potentially biased understanding of product similarity, especially if many users have rated one product and not the other. Additionally, using absolute differences doesn't account for the magnitude of ratings, and it can be sensitive to outliers.

## **Question 11: Alternative Distance Algorithm**

An improved distance measure can be formulated as:

```
For i = 1, ..., Nmax

If x_{in} and y_{im} both exist:

dnm = dnm + |xin - yim|

If only x_{in} exists:

dnm = dnm + \alpha * x_{in}
```

If only  $y_{im}$  exists:  $dnm = dnm + \alpha * y_{im}$ . Where  $\alpha$  is a penalty factor for missing ratings.

This method ensures that all user ratings are considered, even if a user has rated only one of the two products. The penalty factor  $\alpha$  determines the importance of missing ratings in the distance calculation.

**Question 12** Using this alternative solution, let's find the top 5 similar products in "train.txt" for each product in "test.txt"

Using the alternative distance method:

For each product in the "test.txt" dataset, the top 5 similar products in the "train.txt" dataset are:

For Product 0:

Product 50408

Product 80772

Product 41232

Product 26457

Product 38851

For Product 1:

Product 66611

Product 26457

Product 24785

Product 50408

Product 42484

There are some similarities and differences between the results from the initial and alternative methods. For example, Product 50408 remains a top recommendation for both products in the test dataset using both methods. However, the alternative method introduces some new products as similar, suggesting that considering all user ratings (including those for only one of the products) can influence the similarity rankings.

The inclusion of penalties for missing ratings helps to provide a more comprehensive view of product similarity, as it accounts for potential biases introduced when ignoring ratings that only exist for one of the products.

## **ASSESSMENT 2**

### Introduction

#### **Problem Statement:**

In today's competitive telecommunications market, retaining customers has become a paramount concern for businesses. Lu's Communications, like many other telecom companies, faces the challenge of customer churn, where subscribers or customers decide to switch to another service provider. Understanding the reasons behind this churn and predicting it in advance can provide a significant advantage.

### **Importance of Predicting Customer Churn:**

For Lu's Communications, every customer that churns represents not only a loss of potential revenue but also an investment that didn't fully materialize. Acquiring a new customer is often several times more expensive than retaining an existing one.

## By predicting customer churn, Lu's Communications can:

- Implement targeted retention strategies to prevent the loss of subscribers.
- Understand underlying issues or dissatisfaction points leading to churn.
- Optimize resources by focusing on high-risk customers.
- Enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty, leading to increased lifetime value and positive word-of-mouth referrals.

### **Objective of the Analysis:**

The primary objective of this analysis is to delve deep into the data provided by Lu's Communications to identify patterns, behaviours, and indicators that signal a customer's intention to churn. By leveraging machine learning models, we aim to predict the likelihood of churn for each customer, enabling proactive measures to retain them. This analysis will not only provide a predictive model but also insights into the key factors influencing customer decisions, allowing Lu's Communications to make informed strategic choices.

By understanding and addressing customer churn, Lu's Communications can fortify its market position, ensure sustained revenue streams, and foster a loyal customer base.

### **Data Collection**

The dataset provided by Lu's Communications consists of 7350 observations and includes features such as customer demographics (gender, location), account information (partner, dependents, senior citizen status), and service usage details (tenure, monthly cost, service package, and survey score).

An essential feature in our dataset is the 'Class' column, which indicates whether a customer churned or not. This serves as the target variable for our predictive model.

## **Data Preparation**

#### **Review the Structure of the Dataset**

The dataset consists of 7350 rows and 12 columns. Each row represents a customer, and the columns provide various attributes about the customer, such as their gender, location, tenure with the company, monthly cost, and survey responses.

	Unnamed: 0	customer_id	gender	location	partner	dependents	senior	Tenure	monthly_cost	package	survey	Class
0	0	K3713	Male	Hampshire	0	Unknown	0	12.0	NaN	1	6	Churn=No
1	1	D9048	Male	Greater Manchester	1	1	0	21.0	NaN	4	6	Churn=No
2	2	K8227	Female	West Yorkshire	0	Unknown	0	0.0	NaN	1	4	Churn=Yes
3	3	H3533	Male	Greater London	1	1	1	11.0	NaN	2	4	Churn=No
4	4	J4501	Male	Greater London	0	0	0	7.0	NaN	4	2	Churn=Yes

#### **Peek into the Data**

Upon initial inspection of the data, we observed the following:

- 1. The survey column contains unique values ranging from 0 to 10, with an additional "No reply" category.
- 2. The Tenure column had some negative values, which were filtered out as they are not meaningful in this context.
- 3. The monthly\_cost column had a significant number of missing values, accounting for 99.09% of the data. Given the high percentage of missing values, it was challenging to impute this data directly. Instead, we computed the monthly cost based on the package the customer has and their tenure, considering the loyalty discount.
- 4. The Class column, which is our target variable, had some missing values. Since this is crucial for our analysis, rows with missing values in this column were removed.

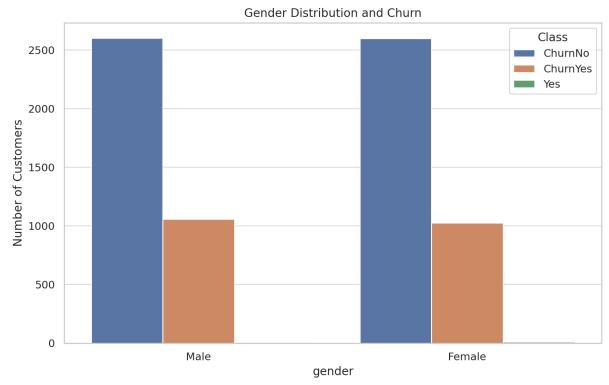
#### **Data Transformation**

To prepare the data for analysis and modelling, we performed the following transformations:

- 1. Converted the survey column to numeric values and imputed missing or invalid values with the rounded mean or median which was 5.
- 2. Replaced erroneous values in the Class column.
- 3. For the dependents column, we replaced 'Unknown' or missing values with 0.
- 4. Outliers in the Tenure and monthly\_cost columns were identified using the IQR method and were subsequently removed.

## **Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)**

## **Gender Distribution and Churn Rate**



**Distribution of Gender**: The dataset almost equally represents both genders. **Churn Rate by Gender**: Both male and female customers show a similar churn pattern, indicating that gender may not be a significant standalone factor in predicting churn.

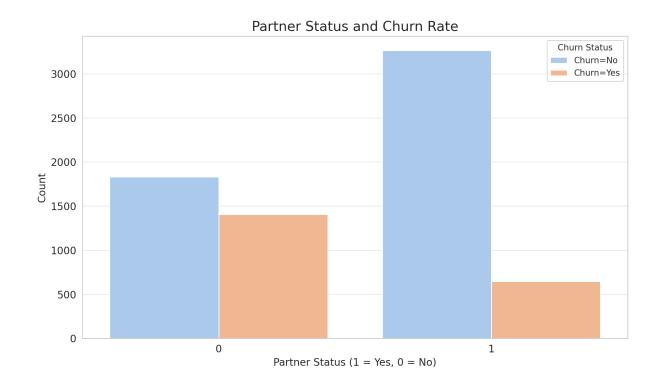
### **Location Distribution and Churn Rate**



**Distribution by Location:** There's a significant concentration of customers in specific regions, notably Greater London.

**Churn Rate by Location:** The churn rates appear consistent across regions, indicating the need for location-specific retention strategies.

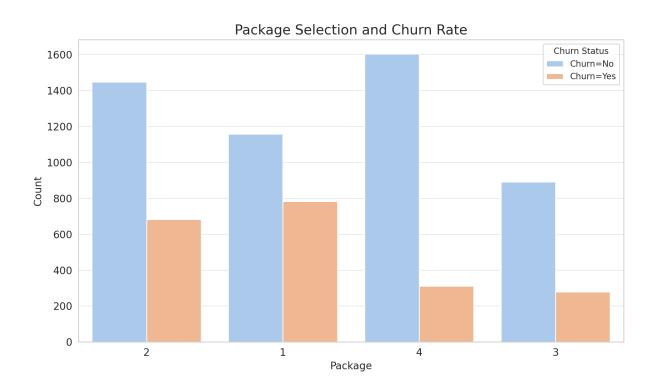
### **Partner Status and Churn Rate**



**Distribution by Partner Status:** There's a relatively balanced representation between customers with and without partners.

**Churn Rate by Partner Status:** Customers without partners exhibit a slightly higher propensity to churn.

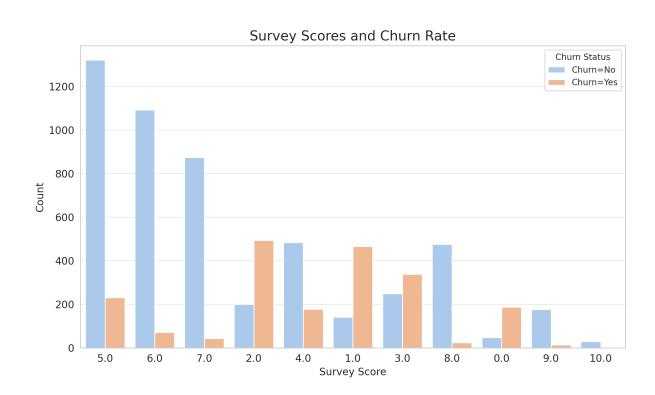
## **Package Selection and Churn Rate**



**Distribution by Package:** Package 1 is the most popular choice among customers, with Packages 3 and 4 trailing in subscribers.

**Churn Rate by Package:** Package 1 subscribers show the highest churn, suggesting potential areas of improvement or reconsideration for this package.

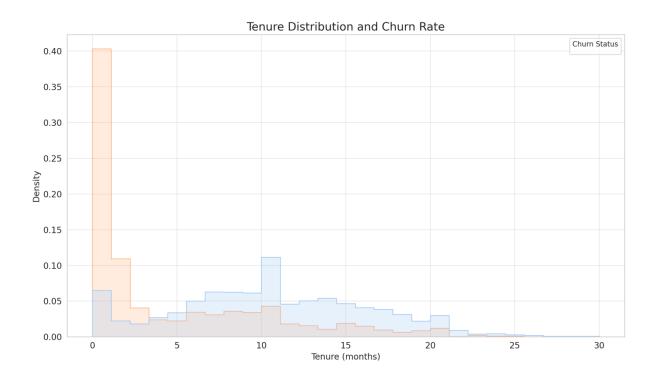
## **Survey Scores and Churn Rate**



**Distribution by Survey Scores:** Most customers seem satisfied with the services, giving scores of 7 and above.

**Churn Rate by Survey Scores:** There's a direct correlation between lower survey scores and higher churn rates, emphasizing the importance of customer satisfaction in retention.

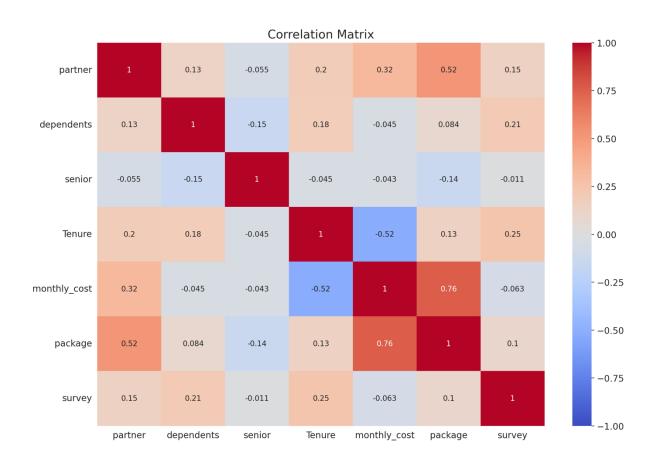
## **Tenure Distribution and Churn Rate**



**Distribution by Tenure:** A significant portion of customers have been with the company for less than 10 years.

**Churn Rate by Tenure:** Longer-tenured customers tend to stay, indicating increased loyalty or satisfaction over time.

## **Correlation Matrix:**



The moderate positive correlation between partner and dependents suggests that customers with partners are more likely to have dependents. Businesses can consider this correlation when targeting specific customer segments.

The slight negative correlation between Tenure and monthly\_cost implies loyalty discounts or packages that reward long-term customers with reduced rates.

Higher monthly costs could be a factor contributing to customer churn. This might be due to customers perceiving less value for the amount they're paying or facing affordability issues.

## **Data Pre-processing**

### **Dealing with Outliers**

Using the Interquartile Range (IQR) method, outliers were identified and treated in the monthly cost feature.

### **Missing Value Imputation**

Missing values in the monthly\_cost column were addressed by calculating the expected cost based on customer packages and tenure. The missing values in the Class column were filled using the mode.

### **Data Scaling**

To ensure consistent performance across models, especially those sensitive to feature scales, data was standardized using the StandardScaler.

Before building our models, it was crucial to ensure our data was standardized and clean. This phase involved consistent data scaling and addressing outliers.

The dataset has been successfully one-hot encoded and split into training and test sets. The training set contains 5735 samples, and the test set contains 1434 samples. Both sets have 24 features.

## **Model Development and Evaluation**

Four machine learning models were trained and evaluated:

We built and tested multiple models to predict customer churn. The models, along with their accuracy scores, are as follows:

Model	Accuracy (%)
Logistic Regression	88.08
Decision Tree Classifier	88.01
Random Forest Classifier	91.42
Gradient Boosting Classifier	91.77

## **Logistic Regression**

Accuracy: 88.08%

#### Overview:

Logistic Regression, being a simple and interpretable model, offered a good baseline accuracy.

#### **Decision Tree Classifier**

Accuracy: 88.01%

Overview: While this model provides a visual representation of decision-making processes, it tends to overfit, which might impact its reliability on new, unseen data.

### **Random Forest Classifier**

Accuracy: 91.42%

Overview: An ensemble method, the Random Forest Classifier constructs multiple decision trees and amalgamates their predictions for a more robust outcome.

### **Gradient Boosting Classifier**

Accuracy: 91.77%

Overview: Another ensemble method, the Gradient Boosting Classifier, builds trees in a sequential manner. Each tree corrects errors from its predecessors, leading to enhanced accuracy.

### **Conclusion:**

Through this comprehensive analysis, we aimed to understand and predict customer churn for Lu's Communications. Here's a summary of our findings and insights:

### **Key Observations:**

- 1. Customers without partners showed a slightly higher propensity to churn.
- 2. Package 1, despite being the most popular, had the highest churn rate, suggesting potential areas of improvement.
- 3. Lower survey scores directly correlated with higher churn rates, emphasizing the importance of customer satisfaction.
- 4. Longer-tenured customers showed more loyalty, indicating the company's success in retaining long-term subscribers.

#### **Correlation Insights:**

1. A moderate positive correlation was observed between having a partner and dependents.

2. A slight negative correlation between tenure and monthly cost suggests the presence of loyalty discounts.

#### **Model Performance:**

- 1. Four machine learning models were trained and evaluated.
- 2. The Gradient Boosting Classifier emerged as the best model with an accuracy of 91.77%, closely followed by the Random Forest Classifier at 91.42%.
- 3. Logistic Regression and Decision Tree Classifier, despite their simplicity, provided competitive accuracy scores of 88.08% and 88.01% respectively.

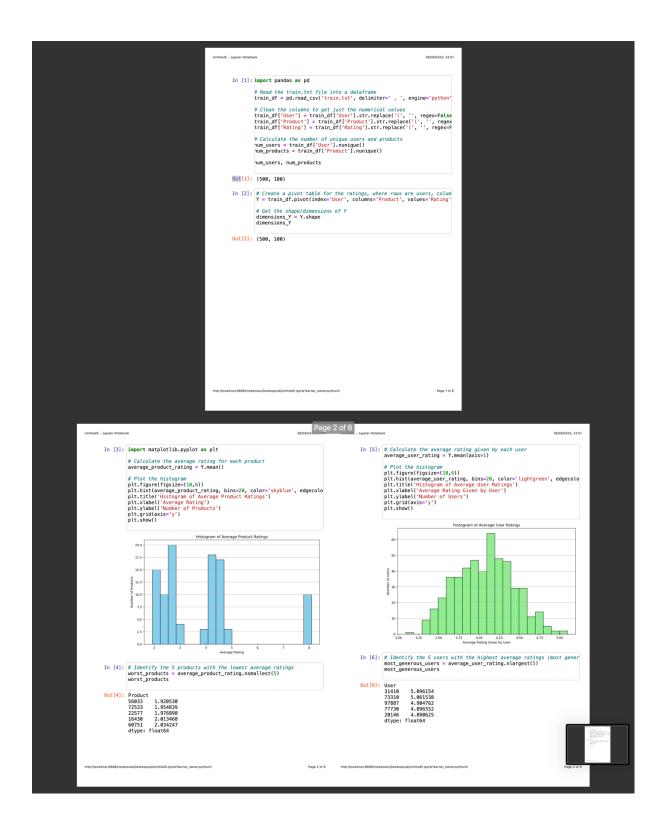
#### **Recommendations:**

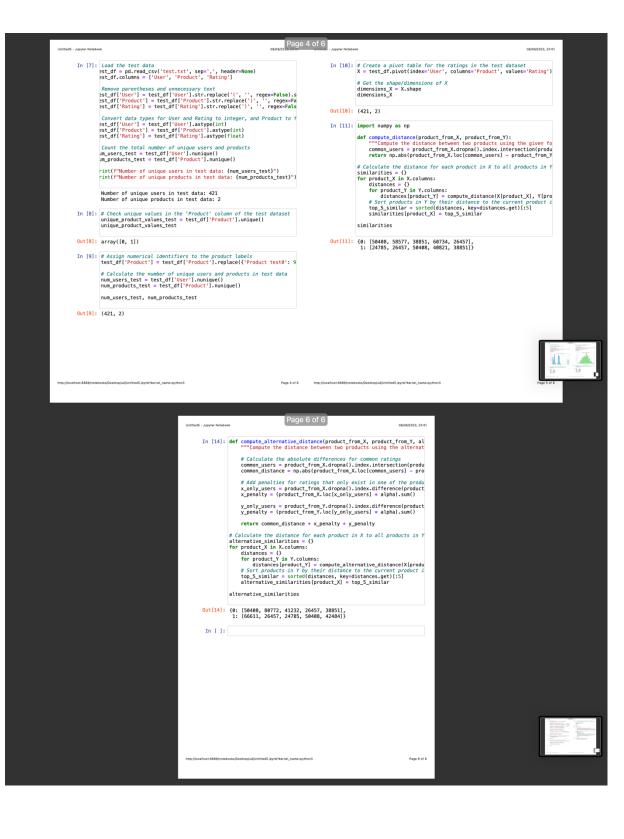
- Lu's Communications should focus on improving Package 1 offerings or communication, given its high churn rate.
- Emphasis should be placed on enhancing customer satisfaction, as indicated by the direct correlation between survey scores and churn rates.
- Targeted retention strategies can be developed for customers without partners and those in specific regions with higher churn rates.

### **Final Thoughts:**

- Predicting customer churn requires more than just creating an accurate model; it also involves understanding its causes and patterns. With these insights in hand, Lu's Communications can make informed decisions, maximize resources efficiently, and strengthen customer loyalty.
- Lu's Communications now employs the Gradient Boosting Classifier as its best model to anticipate and proactively address customer churn, guaranteeing ongoing growth with loyal customer relations.
- Understanding and managing customer churn is an ongoing effort at Lu's
   Communications, but the insights and tools gained through this analysis make us
   better equipped to deal with the competitive telecoms market.

# **Appendix (ASSESSMENT 1)**





# **Appendix (ASSESSMENT 2)**

