# **EXPERIMENT REPORT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Student Name** | **Savinay Singh** |
| **Project Name** | Analysis of top features used to predict the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car |
| **Date** | 27 April 2023 |
| **Deliverables** | Experiment2.ipynb  SMOTE  Cramer’s V  Feature Scaling  Logistic Regression  Seaborn, Matplotlib  Exploratory Data Analysis |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **EXPERIMENT BACKGROUND** | |
| Provide information about the problem/project such as the scope, the overall objective, expectations. Lay down the goal of this experiment and what are the insights, answers you want to gain or level of performance you are expecting to reach. | |
| **1.a. Business Objective** | Explain clearly what is the goal of this project for the business. How will the results be used? What will be the impact of accurate or incorrect results?  The main objective of this project is to find out and analyze the top features that can be used to predict the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car  The outcome can be useful for the car companies to:   * + - 1. Develop and execute retention tactics that specifically target customers who are likely to repurchase the car.       2. Better inventory management as the companies would know what models have a higher chance of being resold.       3. Enhancing customer satisfaction by improving certain aspects of car service.   The accurate prediction will give car companies crucial knowledge to focus on the areas that need improvement. They can stay ahead of the competition and improve their overall business performance. |
| **1.b. Hypothesis** | Present the hypothesis you want to test, the question you want to answer or the insight you are seeking. Explain the reasons why you think it is worthwhile considering it,  The hypothesis suggests that incorporating the more highly correlated features will enhance the model's accuracy to predict the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car and this model can help car companies to execute retention tactics that specifically target customers who are likely to repurchase the car. The companies can focus on the features that can help them increase their customer retention rate. |
| **1.c. Experiment Objective** | Detail what will be the expected outcome of the experiment. If possible, estimate the goal you are expecting. List the possible scenarios resulting from this experiment.  The expected outcome of this experiment is to build a model that can help dealerships and manufacturers better understand the factors that influence customer behavior and decision-making, thereby allowing them to improve their services and offerings accordingly. The objective is to attain an accuracy rate higher than 90%, but since there is an issue with uneven class distribution, the model will be considered reliable if it generates results with satisfactory precision and recall values for both positive and negative categories. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **EXPERIMENT DETAILS** | |
| Elaborate on the approach taken for this experiment. List the different steps/techniques used and explain the rationale for choosing them. | |
| **2.a. Data Preparation** | Describe the steps taken for preparing the data (if any). Explain the rationale why you had to perform these steps. List also the steps you decided to not execute and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any step that may potentially be important for future experiments  Data preparation is done by the following steps:   * + - 1. *Handling the missing data*: It is important in predicting the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car because it can bias the results of the analysis and reduce the accuracy of the model.       2. Filtering out the features that are less correlated based on Chi-square test       3. *Handling the class imbalance*: SMOTE is a technique used here to generate synthetic samples for the minority class by interpolating between neighboring examples. This helps to balance the distribution of classes and improve the performance of the model.   Steps decided not to be executed:   * *One-hot encoding all decile categories, regardless of their cardinality*: This step could potentially lead to the curse of dimensionality because the number of features increases drastically, and the model becomes harder to train and interpret.   The steps that can be taken during data preparation and are expected to improve the outcome in the future are:  *Synthetic data generation*: Creating new data points that are statistically similar to the existing dataset in order to expand the horizon of the project.  *Check for multicollinearity*: The model may experience issues due to multicollinearity, including inaccurate results from hypothesis testing. Thus, it is crucial to examine a regression model's multicollinearity. |
| **2.b. Feature Engineering** | Describe the steps taken for generating features (if any). Explain the rationale why you had to perform these steps. List also the feature you decided to remove and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any feature that may potentially be important for future experiments   * + - 1. Removal of a feature “age\_band” which had more than 85% of missing values.       2. Removal of ID because it is a unique identifier for each customer and is not a relevant feature       3. Filling the null values of Gender column by “third gender/Not stated”.       4. Label encoding of the gender, car model and car segment to convert textual labels into numerical categories.       5. Feature scaling to bring all the features of the dataset to a similar scale or range of values.       6. Chi square test to select features and they are: * age\_of\_vehicle\_years * sched\_serv\_warr * sched\_serv\_paid * total\_services * mth\_since\_last\_serv   + - 1. Number of scheduled services (e.g. regular check-ups) used under warranty is the most important feature for prediction for logistic regression in this case because of its high weightage and low p-value which proves that it is statistically significant too.     No new feature was generated out of the existing features in this experiment. |
| **2.c. Modelling** | Describe the model(s) trained for this experiment and why you choose them. List the hyperparameter tuned and the values tested and also the rationale why you choose them. List also the models you decided to not train and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any model or hyperparameter that may potentially be important for future experiments  This study employs logistic regression as it is anticipated to be effective in predicting binary categorical classes. It is also being easy to implement and have a robust nature that generates results that are readily interpretable. Moreover, logistic regression requires independent variables, and the variables utilized in this study were selected based on their theoretical independence. Also, the Cramer’s V value for each feature on the basis of target variable is less than 0.5.    The hyperparameters of the model are:   1. 'C': 1.0, 2. 'class\_weight': None, 3. 'dual': False, 4. 'fit\_intercept': True, 5. 'intercept\_scaling': 1, 6. 'l1\_ratio': None, 7. 'max\_iter': 100, 8. 'multi\_class': 'auto', 9. 'n\_jobs': None, 10. 'penalty': 'l2', 11. 'random\_state': 0, 12. 'solver': 'lbfgs', 13. 'tol': 0.0001, 14. 'verbose': 0, 15. 'warm\_start': False   Most important hyperparameters of logistic regression for future experminent is the regularization parameter ‘C’. This controls the amount of regularization applied to the model and can help prevent overfitting. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **EXPERIMENT RESULTS** | |
| Analyse in detail the results achieved from this experiment from a technical and business perspective. Not only report performance metrics results but also any interpretation on model features, incorrect results, risks identified. | |
| **3.a. Technical Performance** | Score of the relevant performance metric(s). Provide analysis on the main underperforming cases/observations and potential root causes.  The top correlated features not just turned out to be statistically significant but were used to predict the retention rate with 78% accuracy. The experiment also demonstrates that paying a lower amount for scheduled service increases the probability of a person buying the car again and is proved to be most significant factor.    The precision value is less for the positive class and it suggests that a significant number of instances predicted to be positive for this class are actually false positives. |
| **3.b. Business Impact** | Interpret the results of the experiments related to the business objective set earlier. Estimate the impacts of the incorrect results for the business (some results may have more impact compared to others)  The fact that the precision for the positive class (i.e. the probability of a customer rebuying a car) is low suggests that a significant number of instances predicted to be positive for this class are actually false positives.  If the model is fine-tuned to improve its ability to handle situations where precision is low, it could be used to help dealerships and manufacturers better understand how the different features of the automobile can impact the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car. The experiment also demonstrates that paying a lower amount for scheduled service increases the probability of a person buying the car again and is proved to be most significant factor. |
| **3.c. Encountered Issues** | List all the issues you faced during the experiments (solved and unsolved). Present solutions or workarounds for overcoming them. Highlight also the issues that may have to be dealt with in future experiments.  Although there is no mention of any sensitive information such as vehicle identification number (VIN) or Personal Identifiable Information (PII) in the dataset, there could still be some data privacy threats such as:   * + - 1. Repurchase data can be utilised for targeted marketing initiatives, which some customers may find intrusive or unwanted. Customers' privacy may have been violated if their information was utilised for marketing without their explicit permission.   **Data Quality Issues**   * + - 1. Small Dataset: The dataset might not be representative of the entire population, so there is a higher chance of bias in the model.       2. Imbalanced dataset: Imbalanced dataset may be biased towards the majority class (i.e. Customer not buying the car again), resulting in poor performance on the minority class (Customer buying the car again).       3. High missing values: Some features such as age\_band had really high volume of missing values and had to be removed as they can potentially lead to bias while training the model.     **Modelling Issues**   1. Risk of overfitting: Due to the small size of the training data there was a huge risk of model overfitting. 2. Features not showing a high correlation: The features selected in the study were not showing a high correlation with the target outcome. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **FUTURE EXPERIMENT** | |
| Reflect on the experiment and highlight the key information/insights you gained from it that are valuable for the overall project objectives from a technical and business perspective. | |
| **4.a. Key Learning** | Reflect on the outcome of the experiment and list the new insights you gained from it. Provide rationale for pursuing more experimentation with the current approach or call out if you think it is a dead end.  However, due to low precision of the positive class mainly due to imbalanced dataset and lack of positive class sample available in the training data the model is not feasible.  If the experiment was successful with high f1 score for both positive and negative classes, the model would be able to accurately predict the likelihood of an existing customer buying a new car based on their highly correlated features. This could be useful for marketing campaigns, customer retention strategies, and inventory management in the automotive industry. To achieve improved scores, it is necessary to consider additional features and compare alternative modeling techniques. |
| **4.b. Suggestions / Recommendations** | Given the results achieved and the overall objective of the project, list the potential next steps and experiments. For each of them assess the expected uplift or gains and rank them accordingly. If the experiment achieved the required outcome for the business, recommend the steps to deploy this solution into production.  The first consideration would be to improve the accuracy of the model as an accurate result can provide a business with insights into which service record features are most predictive of the likelihood of buying a new car, which could inform future marketing and service strategies. Then, the next step would be to improve the precision for the positive class which is currently resulting in a high frequency of false positives.  There are many ethical issues also involved while applying any machine learning model to a complex task such as:   * + - 1. Bias in the training set       2. Transparency and Explainability of the model       3. Privacy and Security concerns       4. Accountability and responsibility   So, the potential next steps will also involve taking these into consideration.  If the experiment achieves the required outcome, then deploying the final model and making it available for use in production can be done using the following potential steps:  Exporting the model in a pickle file.  Preparation of the data pipeline. CI/CD (Continuous Integration and Continuous Deployment) pipeline is better suited as it focuses on building, testing, and deploying software quickly and reliably. The pipeline also reduces the possibility of bugs and errors entering the production environment.  Deploying the model on a cloud-based platform or a web server. Then, planning the architecture of the containerization and orchestration of the application.  Testing if the model is performing correctly in the production environment.  Monitoring the results of the model over time. This also involves creating a dashboard to keep track of the model's performance and detect any issues.  Improving the model by re-training it over a period of time on the new and updated data. |