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22075208

Github link: https://github.com/Syahirulkhaliq/Khaliq_22075208/

Introduction to dataset and objective

Dataset consists of 1020 rows of unique customers and 13 attributes which are Customer ID, Gender, Age, City, Membership Type, Total Spend, Items Purchased, FavoriteCategory, Average Rating, Discount Applied, Days Since Last Purchase, Satisfaction Level and Churn. Below are the details of the attributes.

Column	Type	Description
Customer_ID	Numeric	A unique identifier assigned to each customer, ensuring distinction across the dataset
Gender	Categorical	Specifies the gender of the customer, allowing for gender-based analytics
Age	Numeric	Represents the age of the customer, enabling age-group-specific insights.
City	Categorical	Indicates the city of residence for each customer, providing geographic insights
Membership_Type	Categorical	Identifies the type of membership held by the customer, influencing perks and benefits
Total_Spend	Numeric	Records the total monetary expenditure by the customer on the e-commerce platform
Items_Purchased	Numeric	Quantifies the total number of items purchased by the customer
FavoriteCategory	Categorical	Records most-explored category of a user, represents customer biasness towards products
Average_Rating	Numeric	Represents the average rating given by the customer for purchased items, gauging satisfaction
Discount_Applied	Boolean	Indicates whether a discount was applied to the customer's purchase, influencing buying behavior
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	Numeric	Reflects the number of days elapsed since the customer's most recent purchase, aiding in retention analysis
Satisfaction_Level	Categorical	Captures the overall satisfaction level of the customer, providing a subjective measure of their experience
Churn	Numeric	A binary column indicating whether the customer has churned (0 for retained, 1 for churned), indicating customer retention

Based on the dataset, "Churn" variable is the most suitable target variable. This is because it directly relates to customer retention, a key aspect of understanding and predicting customer behaviour. By analysing churn, you can identify patterns and factors that indicate whether a customer is likely to

stop purchasing (churn) or continue being active. Analyzing churn can provide valuable insights into customer loyalty, satisfaction, and overall engagement with the e-commerce platform. It can also help in developing strategies to improve customer retention and targeting interventions to reduce the churn rate. Thus, objective of this study to

- Analyse the customer behaviour dataset and derived meaningful insights from the model analysis
- Assess and compare the performance of models which can emphasize the reliability of the insights develop

In this study, SAS Enterprise Miner will be mainly utilised to extract information for the following objectives with the inclusion of other tools such as Talend Data Prep.

Dataset Import and Preprocessing

Prior from using SAS Enterprise Miner, Talend Data Preparation was utilized to provide comprehensive details on dataset, ensure data consistency of categorical data values such as spelling errors and alphabet casing, as well as checking missing values. There were some data inconsistencies that can be group using “Find and group similar text” function in city column as below:

FIND AND GROUP SIMILAR TEXT		
Replace all similar values with the right one (i.e. cluster on fuzzy matching)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	These values have been found	This value will be kept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Francisco	Replace value: San Francisco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sn Francisco	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> los Angeles	Replace value: Los Angeles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York	Replace value: New York
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new York	

Such approach would be easier to conduct in Talend Data Preparation compared to SAS. In addition, missing values were detected in ‘Age’ and ‘Satisfaction Level’ column as shown below:

‘Age’ Column

Count: 1020	Min: 21
Distinct: 36	Max: 55
Duplicate: 984	Mean: 36.56
Valid: 1006	Variance: 80.8
Empty: 14	Median: 35
Invalid: 0	Lower quantile: 30
	Upper quantile: 43

‘Satisfaction Level’ column

CHART	VALUE	PATTERN	ADVANCED
Count:	1020		
Distinct:	4		Avg length: 8.99
Duplicate:	1016		
Valid:	1018		Min length: 0
	Empty: 2		
Invalid:	0		Max length: 11

Considering the amount of dataset rows to be quite limited, imputation method is preferable in comparison with deleting rows to prevent the loss of data. Such method will be implied in SAS Enterprise Miner. In addition, columns containing 2 unique values like 'Gender' and 'Discount Applied' was duplicated, and the duplicated columns were replace with binary values using 'replace the cells that match' function with below as an example:

5 Replace the cells that match on column
Gender_Binary

Current:

≅ Male

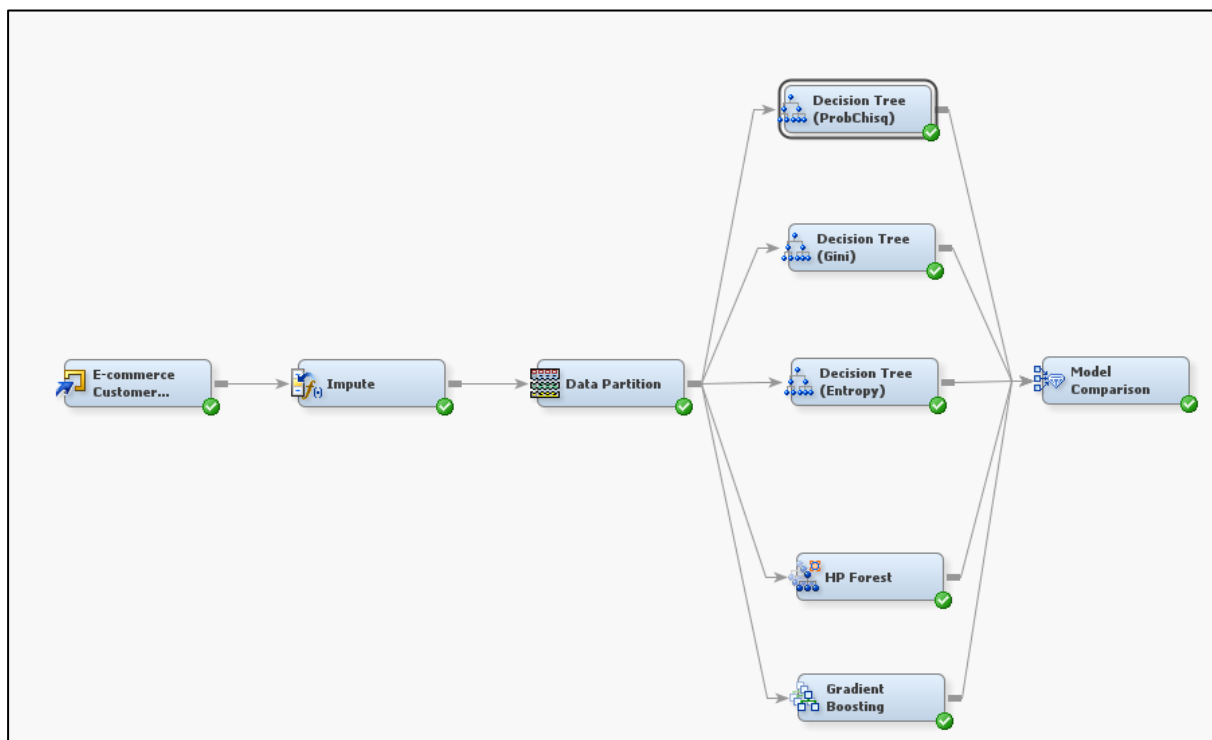
Replacement:

1

For 'Gender' column, 'Male' value represents as 1 while 'Female' value represents as 0. While for 'Discount Applied' column, 'TRUE' value represents as 1 while 'FALSE' value represents as 0. The result of columns are as below:

Gender	Gender_Binary	Discount Applied	Discount_Applie...
	gender	boolean	integer
Female	0	TRUE	1
Male	1	FALSE	0
Female	0	TRUE	1
Male	1	FALSE	0
Male	1	TRUE	1
Female	0	FALSE	0
Female	0	TRUE	1
Male	1	FALSE	0
Male	1	TRUE	1
Female	0	FALSE	0
Male	1	TRUE	1
Male	1	FALSE	0

The dataset was then exported to be imported in SAS for further preprocessing. Below



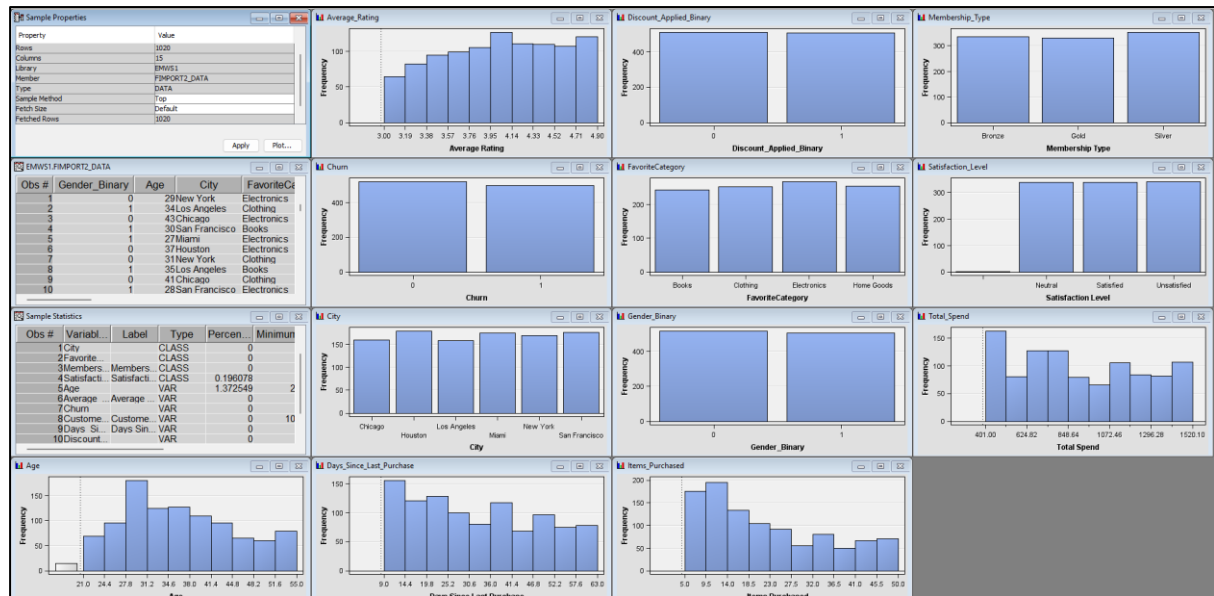
The file was imported via 'File import' node. Considering the dataset consists of only 1020 rows, no sampling was needed as dataset itself will be considered as representation. Details of initial roles were as below:

Name	Role	Level	Report	Order	Drop	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Age	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Average_Rating	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Churn	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
City	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Customer_ID	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Discount_Applied	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Discount_Applied_Binary	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
FavoriteCategory	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Gender	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Gender_Binary	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Items_Purchased	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Membership_Type	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Satisfaction_Level	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Total_Spend	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.

In the 'edit variable' section of file import. Minor changes were conducted in terms of role and level. Churn was selected as the target variable for customer behaviour analysis while Customer_ID role was changed to ID. The role of nominal level columns of Discount_Applied and Gender were set to rejected to prevent redundancy with the modified columns of these 2 columns. In addition, the level of Discount_Applied_Binary, Gender_Binary and Churn were set to Binary due to its binary value. Below are the overall changes made:

Name	Role	Level	Report	Order	Drop	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Age	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Average_Rating	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Churn	Target	Binary	No		No	.	.
City	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Customer_ID	ID	Interval	No		No	.	.
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Discount_Applied	Rejected	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Discount_Applied_Binary	Input	Binary	No		No	.	.
FavoriteCategory	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Gender	Rejected	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Gender_Binary	Input	Binary	No		No	.	.
Items_Purchased	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.
Membership_Type	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Satisfaction_Level	Input	Nominal	No		No	.	.
Total_Spend	Input	Interval	No		No	.	.

A quick exploration on attributes was conducted via choosing every related attributes in 'edit variable' section and clicking 'explore'. Below are some visualizations of the exploration:



Based on the graphs, there is opportunity to perform log transformation for skewed distribution, particularly 'Age' and 'Items_Purchased' attribute. Log transformation smoothens the data for better distribution. In handling the missing values, imputation method was selected by using the impute node as in SAS workflow diagram. In the edit variable section, the 'Use' column were changed to 'Yes' for 'Age' and 'Satisfaction_Level'. Considering the missing value type is missing completely at random (MCAR) as well as having low count (only 14 for 'Age' and 2 for 'Satisfaction_Level'), the method of imputation was set to Mean and Count respectively. Below are the changes made:

Name	Use	Method	Use Tree	Role	Level
Age	Yes	Mean	Default	Input	Interval
Average_Ratin	Default	Default	Default	Input	Interval
Churn	Default	Default	Default	Target	Binary
City	Default	Default	Default	Input	Nominal
Days_Since_La	Default	Default	Default	Input	Interval
Discount_Appli	Default	Default	Default	Rejected	Nominal
Discount_Appli	Default	Default	Default	Input	Binary
FavoriteCatego	Default	Default	Default	Input	Nominal
Gender	Default	Default	Default	Rejected	Nominal
Gender_Binary	Default	Default	Default	Input	Binary
Items_Purchas	Default	Default	Default	Input	Interval
Membership_T	Default	Default	Default	Input	Nominal
Satisfaction_Le	Yes	Count	Default	Input	Nominal
Total_Spend	Default	Default	Default	Input	Interval

Below is the output after running impute node:

Variable Name	Impute Method	Imputed Variable	Impute Value	Role	Measurement Level
Age	MEAN	IMP Age	36.557654076	INPUT	INTERVAL
Satisfaction Level	COUNT	IMP Satisfaction Level	Unsatisfied	INPUT	NOMINAL

After that, 'Transform Variable' node was connected to normalize data via performing log transformation. This can be done on edit variable section of Transform variable node such as below:

Name	Method	Number of Bins	Role	Level
Average_Rating	Default	4	Input	Interval
Churn	Default	4	Target	Binary
City	Default	4	Input	Nominal
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	Default	4	Input	Interval
Discount_Applied	Default	4	Rejected	Nominal
Discount_Applied	Default	4	Input	Binary
FavoriteCategory	Default	4	Input	Nominal
Gender	Default	4	Rejected	Nominal
Gender_Binary	Default	4	Input	Binary
IMP_Age	Log	4	Input	Interval
IMP_Satisfaction	Default	4	Input	Nominal
Items_Purchased	Log	4	Input	Interval
Membership_Type	Default	4	Input	Nominal
Total_Spend	Default	4	Input	Interval

The result of transformation is indicated as below:

Source	Method	Variable Name	Formula	Number of Levels	Non Missing	Missing	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Input	Original	IMP_Age			1020	0	21	55	36.55765
Input	Original	Items_Purchased			1020	0	5	50	22.13235
Output	Computed	LOG IMP_Age	log(IMP_Age + 1)		1020	0	3.091042	4.025352	3.59762
Output	Computed	LOG Items_Purch...	log(Items_Purcha...		1020	0	1.791759	3.931826	2.981045

Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Label
8.926818	0.369486	-0.76872	Imputed Age
12.85662	0.632452	-0.84749	Items Purchased
0.23866	-0.03827	-0.79974	Transformed: Imp...
0.57596	-0.01225	-1.18212	Transformed: Item...

The reduction in standard deviation and skewness of indicates a better distribution of the transformed attributes. The higher negative value of Kurtosis for transformed 'Item_Purchased' attributes indicates fewer outliers and less extreme values in dataset.

Data Partition process

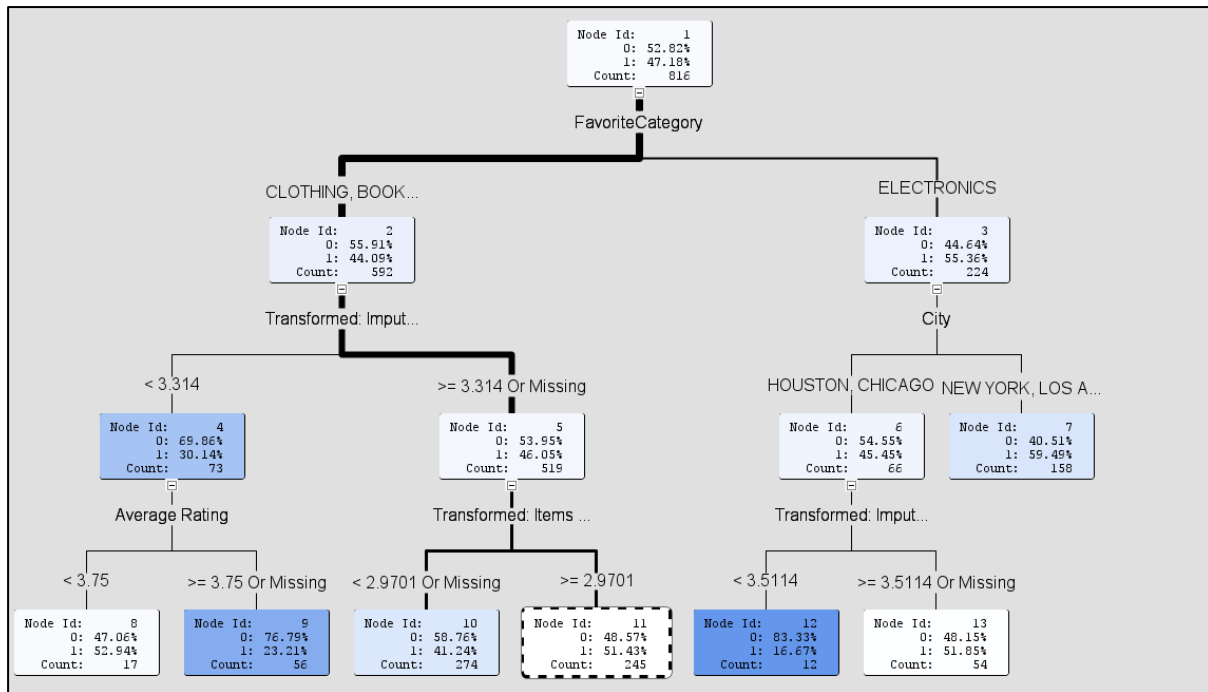
Dataset must undergo partition into Training, validation and test set. Data partition node was dragged and connected to impute node from previous data preprocessing. In this case, dataset was only divide into training (80%) and test set (20%) due to limited dataset amount. Partitioning method was set to simple random method as every data points have equal chance to be selected, subsequently reducing biasness. Below are details of data partition process:

Train	
Variables	...
Output Type	Data
Partitioning Method	Simple Random
Random Seed	12345
Data Set Allocations	
Training	80.0
Validation	0.0
Test	20.0
Report	
Interval Targets	Yes
Class Targets	Yes

Data Modelling and Analysis

Decision Tree Model

Since the target variable is binary, Gini is used as target criterion as it is effective in binary classification as it is fast to be computed. The maximum depth was limited to 3 to provide main overview of the important details of customer behaviour. Below are the decision tree details:



From the decision tree formed, this indicates that favorite category affects the most outcome of Churn. While electronics from category are mainly impacted by cities bought, other category mainly being impacted by age. While age is either impacted by average rating if log age <3.314, or number of items purchased if it is more than or equal to 3.314. From the cities that impacted electronics, Houston and Chicago city is dependent on age as well.

There a few strategies that can be developed from this model:

1. Target customers in specific cities like Houston and Chicago with electronics, as city location appears to be a significant factor for this category
2. For other categories, age seems to be the most significant factor. Marketing and product recommendations can be age-specific to cater to different preferences.
3. Lower age groups can focus on higher rating products as it is heavily influenced from it. For higher age groups, items purchased seems to be a significant factor. Strategies like bundle offers can be introduced for higher volume purchasing
4. Since electronics are more influenced based on cities, company can adjust stock inventory to these locations

Bagging using High Performance Random Forest (HP Random Forest)

Variable Name	Number of Splitting Rules	Train: Gini Reduction	Train: Margin Reduction	OOB: Gini Reduction	OOB: Margin Reduction	Label
Gender_Binary	39	0.003368	0.006736	0.00028	0.00368	0.00368
FavoriteCategory	26	0.003200	0.006401	-0.00194	0.00128	0.00128
Discount_Applied_Binary	21	0.001620	0.003240	-0.00196	-0.00015	-0.00015
LOG_IMP_Age	9	0.000768	0.001535	-0.00058	0.00010	0.00010
Total_Spend	4	0.000366	0.000732	-0.00057	-0.00021	-0.00021
IMP_Satisfaction_Level	3	0.000286	0.000569	-0.00051	-0.00020	-0.00020
Average_Rating	2	0.000175	0.000350	-0.00012	0.00004	0.00004
City	2	0.000293	0.000586	-0.00045	-0.00014	-0.00014
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	2	0.000219	0.000438	-0.00062	-0.00042	-0.00042
LOG_Items_Purchased	1	0.000102	0.000204	-0.00017	-0.00007	-0.00007
Membership_Type	0	0.000000	0.000000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

The variable importance indicated that Gender_Binary, FavoriteCategory, Discount_Applied_Binary and Age are the top 4 attributes of the importance. These provides details of insights for strategic business such as:

1. Strong influence of gender bias indicates necessity of creating gender-based marketing campaigns
2. Promoting products that are categorical based on the customers/users' favourite. These can increase engagement of users and prevent churning
3. Analyse effectiveness of discounts and considering personal ones as well

Boosting using Gradient Boosting Decision Trees

Gradient boosting tree is a great approach as it corrects the error of previous tree decision under a number of iterations until it reaches its minimum loss function. Different iterations were implied and tested to find its minimal globalization, which is around 189 iterations. Thus, it is used in case study. The variable indicator based on result running is as below:

Variable Name	Label	Number of Splitting Rules	Importance
Total_Spend	Total Spend	133	1
Days_Since_Last_Purchase	Days Since Last Purchase	81	0.794456
LOG_Items_Purchased	Transformed: Items Purchased	78	0.787077
City		57	0.726875
LOG_IMP_Age	Transformed: Imputed Age	61	0.709447
Average_Rating	Average Rating	49	0.619683
FavoriteCategory		36	0.542394
Gender_Binary		10	0.313592
Membership_Type	Membership Type	11	0.30132
IMP_Satisfaction_Level	Imputed: Satisfaction Level	12	0.286875
Discount_Applied_Binary		7	0.225016

As indicated, the top 5 main factors influencing such result would be 'total spend', 'Day Since Last Purchase', 'Items Purchased', 'City' and 'Age'. Thus, such strategies that can be implied in business strategy would be:

1. Target customers who have spent more but have not purchased recently with personalized offers or reminders
2. Develop loyalty programs to reward repeat purchases, thereby reducing the likelihood of churn.
3. Develop strategies to local tastes and purchasing habits, possibly reflecting regional differences and different age

Models' comparison based on performance metrics

The model comparison node was utilized to compare the performance of tree models utilized

Classification table

Classification table involves 4 labels, which are True Positive, True Negative, False Positive, False Negative. These are the descriptions of these 4 labels in terms of churn analysis:

- True Positive (TP): Indicates the customers who were predicted to churn and did churn. It helps to understand the effectiveness of retention strategies targeted at at-risk customers.
- True Negative (TN): Represents customers who were predicted to stay and did stay. It shows the accuracy of the model in identifying loyal customers.
- False Positive (FP): Customers who were predicted to churn but did not churn. This could lead to unnecessary spending on retention efforts or incentives for customers who were not at risk.
- False Negative (FN): Customers who were not identified as at-risk but churned. This is a missed opportunity for intervention to retain the customer.

FN is the most important label in this aspect as it describes the failure of capturing potential customers that will churn. While other labels are important as well, FN is the main focus on this evaluation.

Event Classification Table								
Model Selection based on Train: Misclassification Rate (_MISC_)								
Model Node	Model Description	Data Role	Target	Target Label	False Negative	True Negative	False Positive	True Positive
HPDMForest	HP Forest	TRAIN	Churn		254	343	88	131
Boost	Gradient Boosting	TRAIN	Churn		122	350	81	263
Tree2	Decision Tree (Gini)	TRAIN	Churn		128	214	217	257

Based on training dataset classification table, HP Forest model is the least suitable model in predicting churn risk as it generates FN more than 2 times the amount of both Gradient Boosting and Decision Tree respectively. In addition, Gradient boosting is the most suitable model in prediction of churn risk with the lowest FN of 122 followed by Decision Tree with 128.

Evaluation Metrics

This will involve comparison based on few metrics based on model in both trained and test data.

Trained data

Data Role=Train			
Statistics	Boost	HPDMForest	Tree2
Train: Bin-Based Two-Way Kolmogorov-Smirnov Probability Cutoff	0.47	0.49	0.46
Train: Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic	0.51	0.17	0.16
Train: Average Squared Error	0.18	0.24	0.24
Train: Roc Index	0.84	0.61	0.61
Train: Cumulative Percent Captured Response	19.74	13.94	12.67
Train: Percent Captured Response	9.87	6.58	6.34
Selection Criterion: Train: Misclassification Rate	0.25	0.42	0.42
Train: Total Degrees of Freedom	816.00	.	816.00
Train: Frequency of Classified Cases	.	816.00	.
Train: Divisor for ASE	1632.00	1632.00	1632.00
Train: Gain	96.44	38.71	26.10
Train: Gini Coefficient	0.67	0.21	0.21
Train: Bin-Based Two-Way Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic	0.51	0.17	0.16
Train: Kolmogorov-Smirnov Probability Cutoff	0.46	0.49	0.41
Train: Cumulative Lift	1.96	1.39	1.26
Train: Lift	1.96	1.31	1.26
Train: Maximum Absolute Error	0.80	0.61	0.83
Train: Misclassification Rate	0.25	0.42	0.42
Train: Sum of Frequencies	816.00	816.00	816.00
Train: Root Average Squared Error	0.43	0.49	0.49
Train: Cumulative Percent Response	92.68	65.45	59.49
Train: Percent Response	92.68	61.79	59.49
Train: Sum of Squared Errors	297.59	397.54	390.08
Train: Sum of Case Weights Times Freq	1632.00	.	.
Train: Number of Wrong Classifications	.	342.00	.

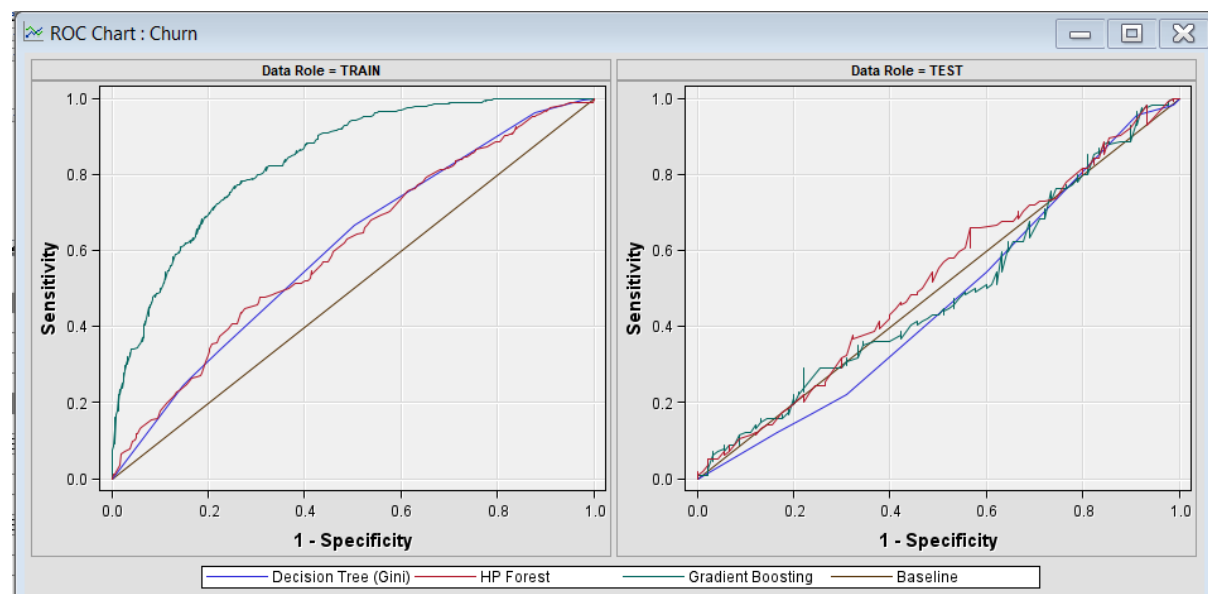
Overall, Gradient Boosting decision tree is significantly the better model compared to decision tree and HP random forest as it has a relatively lower misclassification rate, sum of squared error, as well as higher gini coefficient in comparison to HP Random Forest and Decision Tree model. This indicates that gradient boosting likely better to handle noise in data, overfitting issues, and provide better prediction accuracy.

Test data

Data Role=Test			
Statistics	Boost	HPDMForest	Tree2
Test: Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic	0.113	0.091	0.092
Test: Average Squared Error	0.275	0.255	0.264
Test: Roc Index	0.489	0.521	0.465
Test: Bin-Based Two-Way Kolmogorov-Smirnov Probability Cutoff	0.264	0.459	0.412
Test: Cumulative Percent Captured Response	11.404	10.965	8.893
Test: Percent Captured Response	4.386	5.263	4.235
Test: Frequency of Classified Cases	.	204.000	.
Test: Divisor for ASE	408.000	408.000	408.000
Test: Gain	10.777	6.516	13.612
Test: Gini Coefficient	-0.022	0.041	-0.070
Test: Bin-Based Two-Way Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic	0.051	0.065	0.036
Test: Kolmogorov-Smirnov Probability Cutoff	0.434	0.454	0.515
Test: Cumulative Lift	1.108	1.065	0.864
Test: Lift	0.895	1.074	0.864
Test: Maximum Absolute Error	0.828	0.604	0.833
Test: Misclassification Rate	0.539	0.534	0.520
Test: Sum of Frequencies	204.000	204.000	204.000
Test: Root Average Squared Error	0.525	0.505	0.514
Test: Cumulative Percent Response	61.905	59.524	48.276
Test: Percent Response	50.000	60.000	48.276
Test: Sum of Squared Errors	112.389	104.119	107.653
Test: Sum of Weights Times Freqs	408.000	.	408.000
Test: Number of Wrong Classifications	.	109.000	.

However, for test dataset, Gradient Boost have a higher misclassification rate, sum of squared errors with lower gini coefficient compared to the other two models. This might indicate the model being overfitting. While Decision Tree has the lowest misclassification rate providing a better prediction accuracy, HP Random Forest produces the highest gini coefficient and lowest sum of squared errors.

ROC Chart



ROC curve provides indication on models predictive ability with higher area under curve (AUC) indicates better ability of predicting. In train dataset, it is depicted that all three models AUC is above the baseline, indicating its reliability on developing a reliable prediction model. However, different

trend was seen in test dataset, with Gradient boosting and Decision Tree model covers below the baseline with only HP random forest barely covering above the baseline. This indicates poor performance of prediction test dataset. This indicates high possibility of outliers and noise as models learned the data too well, and unable to generalize to new and unseen data. Generalizability issues are related a few aspects such as:

1. Limited amount of dataset to capture overall representation of the analysis
2. High complexity of the model, which needs to be reduced
3. Lack of more generalized training methods such as utilization of cross validation technique

Thus, these limitations can be address for further studies

Conclusion

Based on the data preprocessing and modelling, certain insights can be gained from the customer behaviour analysis which includes:

- Localized and Demographic Targeting: Develop marketing strategies for electronics in cities like Houston and Chicago and align product recommendations with age-specific preferences for other categories.
- Personalized Engagement: Implement gender-specific campaigns and promote items based on individual customer's favourite categories to enhance user engagement.
- Incentive Programs: Conduct analysis on the significance of discounts and introduce personalized offers, reminders, and loyalty programs to encourage repeat purchases and higher spend.
- Inventory and Marketing Optimization: Adjust inventory such as electronics in specific cities and use bundle offers for higher age groups to incentivize volume purchases.

Based on the performance evaluation, Gradient boosting decision tree provides the best model on training dataset. However, due to possibility of outliers and noise, as well as limited amount of dataset, the model provided is overfitted. This indicates further study with dataset with better representation, different models of different complexities, as well as different training approach such as cross validation technique. Limitation of this studies include time-constraint of implying pre-processing techniques such as sequence analysis and associate rule mining, as well as multiple sources of dataset to increase generalizability of model developed.