Product Data Analysis. Related Products

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Task Formulation

Some categories in the product range are related. For example, phone accessories are useless without the phones themselves. Therefore, for promotions, mailings, and recommendations, it is important to know the existence of this kind dependencies between categories and in categories with themselves (if users access the category repeatedly). What are the dependencies, and between which categories, if we consider only purchases? How does the user behave when browsing products? How are purchases fundamentally different from views, and why?

Find insights, with explanations. Graphics are welcome.

Data Description

We are given a dataset from a online shop's related database. This dataset contains data about users behavior and product catalog:

- product views
- category views
- product purchases
- lists of products and categories

The sample was formed only from sessions of users who looked at product pages at least 3 times, or bought any product. The dataset was created on the basis of historical records for the last 6 months in such a way that all existing dependencies and distributions are preserved, but there is no information in the dataset about the sequence of visiting by a particular person.

The data is anonymized. Session, order and product IDs have been replaced with hashes. A monotonic transformation is applied to the cost of goods in such a way that the ratio between the prices of goods is preserved. Category IDs and their names, as well as product brands, are not modified.

The dataset provides all the necessary categories that are in the catalog, as well as information about purchased and part of non-purchased goods.

products.csv • product_id – product ID • price – product price in kopecks • name - product name (random string) • available – product availability(at the time of dataset formation) • brand – product brand categories.csv • category_id – category ID • name – category name • parent_id – parent_category ID, or NaN, in case of root category • link_url – link to category product-categories.csv • product_id – product ID • category_id – category ID purchases.csv • ordernumber – order ID • externalsessionid – session ID • product_id – product ID • eventdate – order date • timestamp – order timestamp • price – product price in kopecks (from the 'products' table) • totalcents – total price of all products in the order including sales and

discounts in kopecks • quantity – number of products purchased item-views.csv • externalsessionid – session ID • product_id – product ID • duration – view duration, ms • eventdate – view date • timestamp – view timestamp category-views.csv • externalsessionid – session ID • category_id – category ID • duration – view duartion, ms • eventdate – view date • timestamp – view timestamp

Data Importing and Preprocessing

```
In [1]: import pandas as pd
        import numpy as np
In [2]: products = pd.read_csv('data/products.csv', sep = ';')
        categories = pd.read csv('data/categories.csv', sep = ',', index col=[0])
        purchases = pd.read csv('data/purchases.csv', sep = ';')
        product categories = pd.read csv('data/product-categories.csv', sep = ';')
        item views = pd.read csv('data/item-views.csv', sep = ';', index_col=[0])
        category views = pd.read csv('data/category-views.csv', sep = ';')
In [3]: # a table of orders with added product categories info
        order cat = pd.merge(purchases, product categories, on='product id')
        order cat = pd.merge(order cat, categories, on='category id')
        # group by users
        user cat = order cat.groupby(['externalsessionid', 'category id'], as index=False) \
                            .agg(orders count = ('ordernumber', 'count'))
        # table of categories and amount of orders by them
        # 1. group by orders, users and categories
        # 2. group by users and categories, sale count - amount of category orders for each user
        # 3. group by categories
        purch by cat = order cat.groupby(['category id', 'name', 'ordernumber', 'externalsession
                                .agg({'timestamp':'count'}) \
                                .groupby(['category id', 'name', 'externalsessionid'], as index=
                                .agg(sale count=('timestamp', 'count')) \
                                .groupby(['category id', 'name'], as index=False) \
                                .agg(sale count=('sale count', 'sum'), user count sale = ('sale
        # We will do a similar operation for views.
        # In terms of table construction, viewing is like ordering. But the order has an ID and
        # So let's artificially introduce it. View ID = User ID + View day.
        # That is, we consider all views of one user within one day to be a single entity
In [4]: view cat = pd.merge(category views, categories, on='category id')
        view cat['ordernumber'] = view cat['externalsessionid'].map(str) + ' ' + view cat["event
In [5]: view user cat = view cat.groupby(['externalsessionid','category id'], as index=False) \
                                .agg(orders count=('timestamp', 'count'))
        view by cat = view cat.groupby(['category id', 'name', 'externalsessionid', 'ordernumber
                                .groupby(['category_id', 'name', 'externalsessionid'], as index=
                                .agg(view count=('timestamp', 'count')) \
                                .groupby(['category id', 'name'], as index=False) \
                                .agg(view count=('view count', 'sum'), user count view = ('view
In [6]: # General final table, which provides information on the number of orders and views for
        general df = view by cat.merge(purch by cat.iloc[:,[0,2,3]], on='category id', how='oute
```

General Statistics

First of all, let's take a look at the overall picture of views and sales by category.

In this section, under the number of sales (we will also use the term "number of purchases" as a synonym) of a category, we will understand the following: how many times a product of this category was listed in **distinct** orders. At the same time, we will not take into account the number of goods, since goods of different categories are bought in different quantities (it is unlikely that someone will buy two fridges at once, but 4 tires at once is quite likely).

Let's give an example for clarity:

Order	ltem	Category	Quantity
4242	Regular cat food	Cat food	2
4242	Diet cat food	Cat food	5
4242	Bicycle Stork	Bicycles	1
1812	Regular cat food	Cat food	3
1812	Bicycle Desna	Bicycles	1

The number of purchases in the Cat Food category will be 2, as will the number of purchases in the Bicycle category. It is important to remember this point so that in the future not to confuse the number of purchases with the total number of purchases of the category (it would be: 2 for bicycles and 10 for cat food). This is done because some categories are more often bought together with themselves (for example, self-tapping screws of different lengths), some less often (refrigerators). This, of course, also needs to be taken into account, and such interaction will be discussed below, but in order to assess the overall popularity of categories, it would be more correct to get rid of such "duality".

Since we will also analyze category views, the number of category views will be determined similarly to the number of purchases. But the view does not have a number - there is only the date and duration of the view. Therefore, we will take views made by one user within one day as a viewing unit. Since if a user visited the website several times a day, it would be incorrect to consider this as different views: most likely, he came in search of the same product.

Comparing views and purchases in absolute terms

Let's take a look at the charts that show the top categories by sales and views:

```
In [7]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

In [8]: cat_views_plot = general_df.sort_values(['view_count', 'category_id'], ascending=False).
    cat_orders_plot = general_df.sort_values(['sale_count', 'category_id'], ascending=False)

    f, axs = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10, 6))

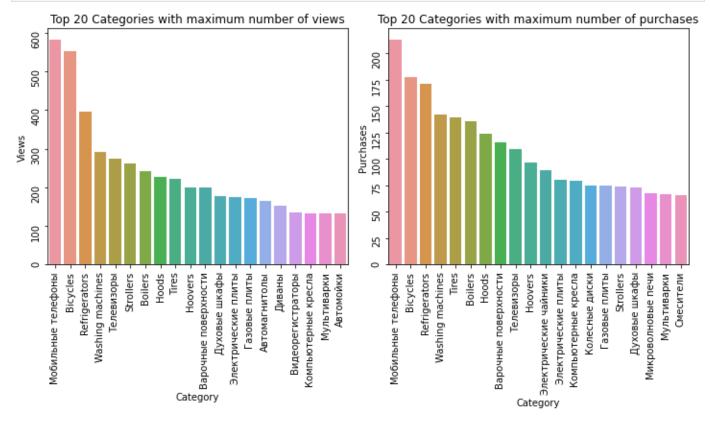
    a = sns.barplot(x='name', y='view_count', data=cat_views_plot, ax=axs[0])
    b = sns.barplot(x='name', y='sale_count', data=cat_orders_plot, ax=axs[1])

    axs[0].tick_params(rotation=90)
    axs[0].tick_params(rotation=90)

    axs[0].set_title('Top 20 Categories with maximum number of views')
    axs[1].set_title('Top 20 Categories with maximum number of purchases')

    axs[0].set(xlabel="Category", ylabel="Views")
    axs[1].set(xlabel="Category", ylabel="Purchases")
```

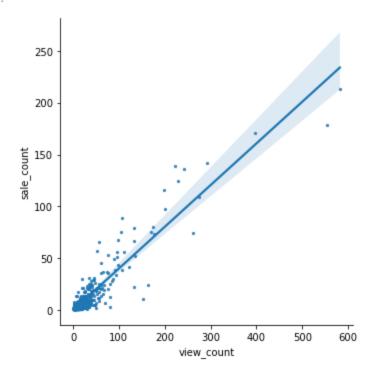
f.tight_layout()
plt.show()



Looking at these figures, we can see that the top 20 for sales and views are very similar in many ways.

Let's show the relationship between the number of purchases and views in the context of categories more clearly:

```
In [9]: sns.lmplot(x='view_count', y='sale_count', data=general_df, scatter_kws={"s": 5})
Out[9]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1db34c9c6a0>
```



It can be seen that there is a fairly clear relationship between views and purchases. This is confirmed by the correlation coefficient, which for these values equals 0.93. Which indicates a significant relationship

between the number of purchases and views.

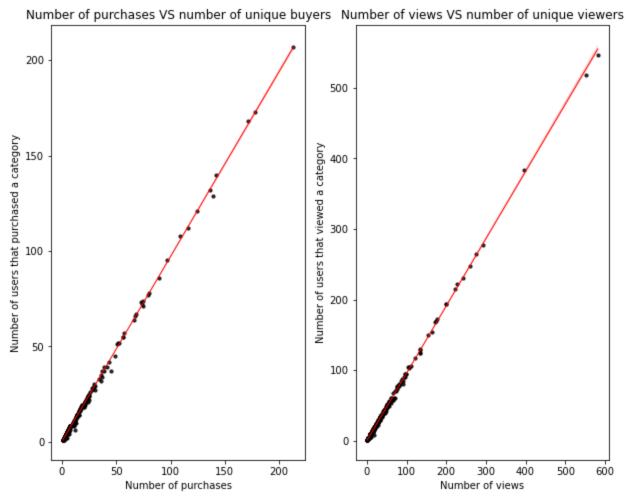
```
In [10]: general_df.view_count.corr(general_df.sale_count)
Out[10]: 0.9310143729205755
```

Comparing views and purchases by unique users

The above data may be distorted. The amount of data is not very large, and therefore the number of purchases of a certain category could be strongly influenced by just a couple of people. For example, a customer who changes mobile phones once a week could greatly inflate the Mobile Phones category.

To check whether there was such a distortion, we will build a graph on which we compare the number of unique users who bought with the number of purchases. We'll make a similar comparison for views as well:

```
In [11]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10, 8))
    sns.regplot(x='sale_count', y='user_count_sale', data=general_df, ax=axes[0], scatter_kws axes[0].set_title('Number of purchases VS number of unique buyers')
    axes[0].set(xlabel="Number of purchases", ylabel="Number of users that purchased a categ
    sns.regplot(x='view_count', y='user_count_view', data=general_df, ax=axes[1], scatter_kw axes[1].set_title('Number of views VS number of unique viewers')
    axes[1].set(xlabel="Number of views", ylabel="Number of users that viewed a category")
    plt.show()
```



These graphs show that the indicators are almost the same, so there is no point in correcting the calculations made in the previous section. It also means that quite a few users make repeat purchases or

views. But more will be said about this later on.

So, we can say that user behavior during browsing and during purchases practically does not differ from each other. But there are significantly more category views than actual purchases, which is to be expected.

Category relationships

We start with the assumption that users buy some products that related to other products, or return to the same product category. This may happen for the following reasons:

- 1. Buying accessories. For example (phone phone case)
- 2. Purchase of related equivalent goods. (a fume hood and a microwave)
- 3. Periodic "restocking" or seasonal purchases (printer cartridges or summer and winter tires)

Information about related products can be useful for promotional mailings, for recommendations to the user, for reminders to "restock", etc.

Related products

Related products purchases

First, let's find out which product categories are related to each other. The algorithm for determining related categories for a particular category is quite simple:

- 1) Select orders that contain goods from the analyzed category
- 2) Remove from these orders the goods belonging to the analyzed category. Moreover, if the order contains several products of this category, then we will delete only one: since it is important to understand the relationship of the category with itself. If there's a strong relation within a category, then the user can be actively offered products from the same category. For example, when a user looks for or buys a protective glass for a cell phone, we offer him a case (if both of these products belong to the same category)
- 3) In the resulting table, we summarize the number of purchases for each category (again, without considering the quantity, but note that now the number of purchases is affected by the repetition of a category in the same order).
- 4) Divide the number of purchases in each category by the total amount of purchases. Thus, we get the share of each category in related purchases for the analyzed category. The higher this indicator, the stronger the relationship between categories. For convenience, we can name this indicator as connection between the categories.
- 5) Sort the table in descending order of connection strength. We will get a list of all categories associated with the analyzed category. Depending on the specific task, we can use either the entire resulting table, or only the first few lines. Given the relatively small amount of initial data, it may make sense to limit ourselves to only one first line from the list of related categories.

```
In [12]: # let's create a function 'find_categories'
def find_categories(orderdf, cat_id, cat_name=''):
    # select the orders in which the analyzed category occurred
    ord_n_for_cat = orderdf[orderdf.category_id == cat_id].ordernumber.unique()
    an_cat_ord_count = len(ord_n_for_cat) #amount of orders with this category
    cat for cat = orderdf[orderdf.ordernumber.isin(ord n for cat)].category id
```

```
# how many times the analyzed category was purchased
cat by itself = cat for cat[cat for cat == cat id]
cat sales = len(cat by itself)
# calculate category frequencies
df cat for cat = pd.DataFrame(cat for cat)
df cat for cat = df cat for cat.groupby(df cat for cat.category id, as index=False).
# correct the analyzed category itself by the number of orders in this category.
# all that on top is the "connection" of the category with itself.
df cat for cat.loc[df cat for cat.category id == cat id, 'Freq'] = df cat for cat[df
df cat for cat = df cat for cat[df cat for cat.Freq > 0]
df cat for cat = pd.merge(df cat for cat, categories.iloc[:,[0,2]], on = "category i
# calculate the percentage of sales of "companions".
# category frequency per total number of companion sales
df cat for cat['acc percent'] = df cat for cat.Freq / df cat for cat.Freq.sum()
# just add the initial fields to the table
df cat for cat.assign(an cat id = np.repeat(cat id, len(df cat for cat)),
                  an cat name = np.repeat(cat name, len(df cat for cat)))
# number of sales of the analyzed category
df cat for cat['an cat sales'] = np.repeat(cat sales, len(df cat for cat))
# calculate the ratio of the number of sales of the companion category to the number
res = df cat for cat.sort values('acc percent', ascending=False)
res = res.rename(columns={'Freq': 'Amount of purchases',
                     'category id': 'Related category id',
                     'acc percent': 'Connection strength',
                     'name': 'Related category name'})
res = res.loc[:,['Related category id', 'Related category name', 'Amount of purchase
return res
```

Now let's take a look on examples for some real couples of categories.

Шпатели (category_d = 486):

In [13]:	fir	find_categories(order_cat, 486)					
Out[13]:		Related category id	Related category name	Amount of purchases	Connection strength		
	0	486	Шпатели	6	0.857143		
	1	514	Очки защитные	1	0.142857		

Кронштейны для ТВ (category_id = 7):

In [14]:	find_d	find_categories(order_cat, 7).head(15)				
Out[14]:	Rel	ated category id	Related category name	Amount of purchases	Connection strength	
	0	3	Телевизоры	22	0.338462	

U	3	Гелевизоры	22	0.338462
4	17	Hoovers	4	0.061538
8	26	Refrigerators	3	0.046154
2	7	TV brackets	3	0.046154
16	97	Мыши	2	0.030769

14	82	Ноутбуки	2	0.030769
25	332	Компьютерные кресла	2	0.030769
9	32	Электрические плиты	2	0.030769
7	25	Микроволновые печи	2	0.030769
6	20	Утюги	2	0.030769
5	18	Washing machines	2	0.030769
20	249	Сушилки для белья	1	0.015385
27	1289	Домашние сабвуферы	1	0.015385
26	1279	Столы офисные	1	0.015385
24	328	Стремянки	1	0.015385

Information in the tables seem to be correct. In the case of 'Шпатели', the category is strongly related to itself.

In this case, when user buys 'Шпатели', we can suggest a product in the 'Шпатели' category rather than nothing or a completely unrelated product.

(If you look at the original data set, you can see that the same user actually bought all the 'Шпатели'. Judging on the basis of the actions of a single user about the presence of a connection may not be entirely correct. However, we have no other data at all.)

Now we can build a table for all categories. Let's display the TOP 5% of the categories that are most related to each other. Since the size of the original dataset is not very large, the table contains many categories with a number of related sales equal to one. For clarity (and also because such related sales are less likely to be "garbage"), we will display in the table only those related categories that have a number of sales greater than 2

Out[16]:

	Analizing category	Related category name	Amount of purchases	Connection strength
242	Фрезы для фрезерных станков	Фрезы для фрезерных станков	9	1.0
279	Очки защитные	Шпатели	7	1.0
196	Настенные часы	Настенные часы	3	1.0
278	Шпатели	Шпатели	6	0.857143
241	Аксессуары для круглошлифовальных машин	Шлифовальные машины	5	0.714286

277	Маски сварочные	Сварочные аппараты	8	0.666667
188	Аксессуары для стиральных машин	Washing machines	4	0.666667
180	Колесные диски	Tires	16	0.64
276	Сифоны	Смесители	6	0.6
167	Сварочные аппараты	Маски сварочные	8	0.571429
186	Чехлы для сотовых телефонов	Чехлы для сотовых телефонов	4	0.571429
307	Эллиптические тренажеры	Эллиптические тренажеры	5	0.555556
334	Компонентная автоакустика	Автомагнитолы	5	0.555556
316	Замки для велосипедов	Bicycles	11	0.55
340	Кровати	Матрасы	7	0.538462
162	Дрели	Дрели	9	0.529412
179	Tires	Колесные диски	16	0.516129
306	Радиаторы отопления	Радиаторы отопления	13	0.5
325	Поливочные шланги	Насосы	4	0.5
331	Щипцы	Щипцы	4	0.444444

All couples look pretty logical. Separately, it is worth highlighting the category "Tires - Wheels". Possessing a fairly powerful connection, this category also has a large number of sales, that is, the connection is as reliable as possible.

Related Product Views

Now we can take a look at a similar table, but for product views.

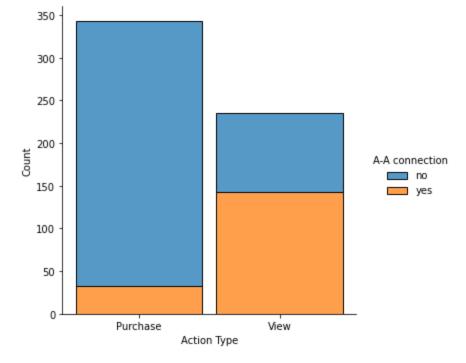
Since there are more views than purchases, we will display not the TOP-5%, but the TOP-1%. And the number of views of both the analyzed and the related category will be limited from below at the level of 12.

Out[18]:		Analizing category	Related category id	Related category name	Amount of purchases	Connection strength
	93	Машинки для стрижки	88	Машинки для стрижки	79	0.711712
	171	Велосипеды для малышей	337	Велосипеды для малышей	60	0.652174
	101	Пылесборники	107	Пылесборники	13	0.65
	72	Швейные машины	57	Швейные машины	82	0.630769
	200	Bicycles	848	Bicycles	395	0.617188

96491 71429
71429
57325
57143
53191
49738
46931
37549
25424
23179
08621
04132
00684
97041
5:5:5:44 44 3:22 0:00 0:00

Most connections here are the "A-A" type, that is, between the same category of goods. This is quite logical: when people want a certain product, they look at several products from the category they need.

In order to confirm this more clearly, let's define the maximum related category for each category for purchased products, and then for viewed products. Our hypothesis is that for viewed products, there will be significantly more cases where the most related category for a category is itself (that is, there will be more cases of "A-A" association than in purchased products).



Indeed, there are more A-A connections in 'views' than in 'purchases'.

Therefore, distinct (non 'A-A') related categories are best defined by 'purchase' data rather than 'views' data.

Accessories

As mentioned above, some products are complements to others. We will conditionally call such goods "accessories". For example, if a user buys a TV-stand, then he certainly has a TV. And offering accessories in addition to the purchased product can be profitable for the business. So, finding Accessories is very important task.

We know that there're lots of A-A connections, especially in 'views' data. In such cases, related product is not an accessory. Therefore, we will use the following approach:

- take only 'purchases' data
- define the accessory as a product:
 - which is in the most related category (connection strength > 0.1),
 - but not in the same category
 - and in category with an average price 2 times less than target product category price

```
right on='name y', how='left') \
                          .rename(columns={'mean price': 'Analized category mean price'})
         # adding related category mean price
In [25]:
         acc = pd.merge(acc,
                        cat price[['name y', 'mean price']],
                        left on='Related category name',
                        right_on='name_y', how='left') \
                          .rename(columns={'mean price': 'Related category mean price'})
In [26]: # find the related categories with mean price 2 times less than analyzed category mean p
         acc = acc[2*acc['Related category mean price'] <= acc['Analized category mean price']]</pre>
         acc.iloc[:,[0, 5, 1, 7, 3]]
                                  Analized category
                                                                         Related category
                                                                                         Connection
```

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		Analizing category	Analized category mean price	Related category name	Related category mean price	Connection strength
	0	Телевизоры	3153.159533	TV brackets	476.449405	0.267442
	5	Refrigerators	3768.229350	Электрические плиты	1460.469108	0.126437
	22	Духовые шкафы	2952.926186	Hoods	1315.617902	0.229167
	25	Встраиваемые посудомоечные машины	3355.354839	Hoods	1315.617902	0.16129
	28	Мобильные телефоны	1252.740933	Чехлы для сотовых телефонов	337.500000	0.113636
	30	Ноутбуки	3888.567347	Мыши	375.462916	0.180328
	31	Компьютеры	3672.271795	Мыши	375.462916	0.125
	34	Компьютеры	3672.271795	Компьютерная акустика	640.215247	0.1
	46	Жесткие диски	1484.388571	Оперативная память	722.270115	0.142857
	51	Перфораторы	1085.967568	Ленты для шлифовальных машин	305.391304	0.142857
52	52	Шлифовальные машины	719.337029	Аксессуары для круглошлифовальных машин	340.559105	0.238095
	54	Сварочные аппараты	1641.497872	Маски сварочные	487.061538	0.571429
	55	Стабилизаторы напряжения	1053.102804	Вентиляторы	407.317073	0.333333
	69	Видеокарты	1505.863014	Блоки питания	661.145299	0.190476
1	01	Процессоры	2953.866667	Материнские платы	985.296804	0.195122
1	03	Процессоры	2953.866667	Оперативная память	722.270115	0.146341
1	04	Процессоры	2953.866667	Корпуса	681.684211	0.121951
1	12	Душевые кабины	2474.905109	Boilers	1150.493028	0.3
1	15	Ванны	1709.757062	Экраны для ванн	499.279070	0.131579
1	62	Bicycles	1250.458738	Замки для велосипедов	269.750000	0.22
1	63	Bicycles	1250.458738	Велофонари	199.500000	0.1
1	72	Насосы	1305.814417	Поливочные шланги	377.606557	0.4
1	80	Столы офисные	3058.869565	Компьютерные кресла	1318.956522	0.272727

181	Столы офисные	3058.869565	Стеллажи для офиса	756.222222	0.181818
183	Столы офисные	3058.869565	Офисные стулья	517.951220	0.136364

All pairs in the table look logically related!

Conclusions

Users browse products more than they make purchases. At the same time, when browsing, they view products of the same category more often than when buying. This can be explained by the fact that when choosing a product, the user also views its analogues. When shopping, this behavior is not observed, most of the goods purchased in one order belong to different categories.

It was possible to create algorithms for determining the following dependencies:

- Related products
- Accessories to main products (a subset of related products)

The practical importance of the results obtained may be as follows:

- When user is browsing, offer him/her to view products from the same category. If there are "accessories" for the product category, then also offer them.
- After purchasing the product (with recommendations / advertising on the site or in mailing lists):
 - if the product is not an "accessory", then we can offer the user products from related categories;
 - if the product is an "accessory" for a main product, then we should offer, first of all, products from the related categories of the main product. That is, other 'accessories' for the main product.