TELECOM CHURN CASE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

- In the telecom industry, customers are able to choose from multiple service providers and actively switch from one operator to another.
- In this highly competitive market, the telecommunications industry experiences an average of 15-25% annual churn rate.
- Given the fact that it costs 5-10 times more to acquire a new customer than to retain an existing one, **customer retention** has now become even more important than customer acquisition.
- For many incumbent operators, *retaining high profitable customers is the number one business goal*.
- To reduce customer churn, telecom companies need to **predict which customers are at high risk of churn.**

DEFINITIONS OF CHURN

There are various ways to define churn, such as:

Revenue-based churn: Customers who have not utilized any revenue-generating facilities such as mobile internet, outgoing calls, SMS etc. over a given period of time. One could also use aggregate metrics such as ‘customers who have generated less than INR 4 per month in total/average/median revenue.

The main shortcoming of this definition is that there are customers who only receive calls/SMSs from their wage-earning counterparts, i.e. they don’t generate revenue but use the services. For example, many users in rural areas only receive calls from their wage-earning siblings in urban areas.

Usage-based churn: Customers who have not done any usage, either incoming or outgoing - in terms of calls, internet etc. over a period of time.

A potential shortcoming of this definition is that when the customer has stopped using the services for a while, it may be too late to take any corrective actions to retain them. For e.g., if you define churn based on a ‘two-months zero usage’ period, predicting churn could be useless since by that time the customer would have already switched to another operator.

In this project, you will use the **usage-based definition** to define churn.

High-value churn

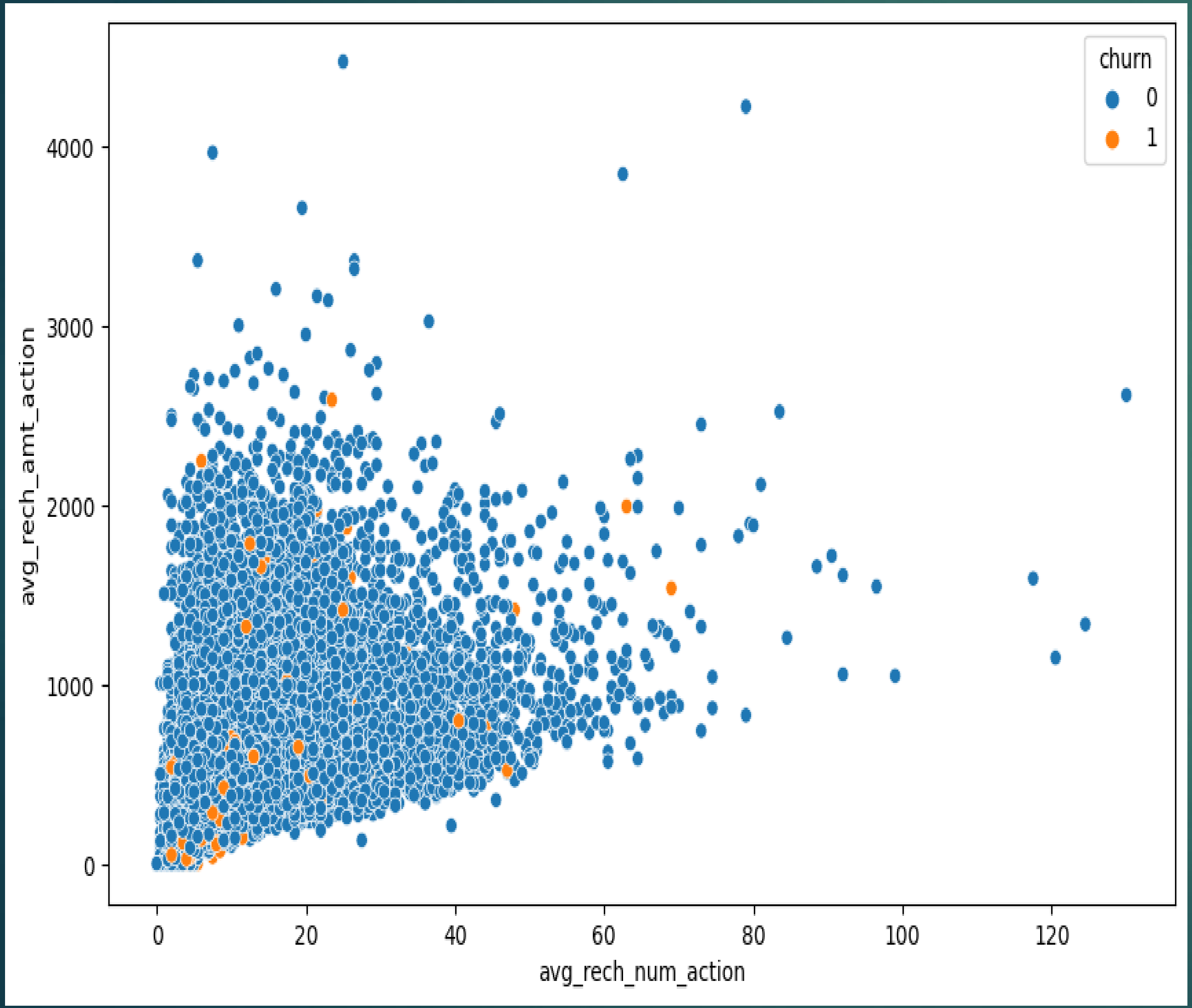
In the Indian and Southeast Asian markets, approximately 80% of revenue comes from the top 20% of customers (called high-value customers). Thus, if we can reduce the churn of high-value customers, we will be able to reduce significant revenue leakage.

In this project, you will define high-value customers based on a certain metric (mentioned later below) and predict churn only on high-value customers.

UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS OBJECTIVE

- The dataset contains customer-level information for a span of four consecutive months - June, July, August and September. The months are encoded as 6, 7, 8 and 9, respectively.
- The **business objective** is to predict the churn in the last (i.e., the ninth) month using the data (features) from the first three months. To do this task well, understanding the typical customer behavior during churn will be helpful.

ANALYSIS



- We can see from the pattern that the recharge number and the recharge amount are mostly proportional. More the number of recharge, more the amount of the recharge.

MODEL BUILDING AND THEIR PERFORMANCE

MODEL WITH PCA

Logistic regression with PCA

- **Model summary**
- Train set
  - Accuracy = 0.86
  - Sensitivity = 0.89
  - Specificity = 0.83
- Test set
  - Accuracy = 0.83
  - Sensitivity = 0.81
  - Specificity = 0.83

Support Vector Machine(SVM) with PCA

- **Model summary**
- Train set
  - Accuracy = 0.89
  - Sensitivity = 0.92
  - Specificity = 0.85
- Test set
  - Accuracy = 0.85
  - Sensitivity = 0.81
  - Specificity = 0.85

Decision tree with PCA

- **Model summary**
- Train set
  - Accuracy = 0.90
  - Sensitivity = 0.91
  - Specificity = 0.88
- Test set
  - Accuracy = 0.86
  - Sensitivity = 0.70
  - Specificity = 0.87

Random forest with PCA

- **Model summary**
- Train set
  - Accuracy = 0.84
  - Sensitivity = 0.88
  - Specificity = 0.80
- Test set
  - Accuracy = 0.80
  - Sensitivity = 0.75
  - Specificity = 0.80

MODEL WITHOUT PCA

Logistic regression with No PCA-

- **Model summary**
- Train set
  - Accuracy = 0.84
  - Sensitivity = 0.81
  - Specificity = 0.83
- Test set
  - Accuracy = 0.78
  - Sensitivity = 0.82
  - Specificity = 0.78

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ***Recommendations***
- Target the customers, whose minutes of usage of the incoming local calls and outgoing ISD calls are less in the action phase (mostly in the month of August).
- Target the customers, whose outgoing others charge in July and incoming others in August are less.
- Also, the customers having value-based cost in the action phase increased are more likely to churn than the other customers. Hence, these customers may be a good target to provide offer.
- Customers, who's monthly 3G recharge in August is more, are likely to be churned.
- Customers having decreasing STD incoming minutes of usage for operators T to fixed lines of T for the month of August are more likely to churn.
- Customers decreasing monthly 2g usage for August are most probable to churn.
- Customers having decreasing incoming minutes of usage for operators T to fixed lines of T for August are more likely to churn.
- roam_og_mou_8 variables have positive coefficients (0.7135). That means for the customers, whose roaming outgoing minutes of usage is increasing are more likely to churn.
- <u>Example:</u>

If the local incoming minutes of usage (loc_ic_mou_8) is lesser in the month of August than any other month, then there is a higher chance that the customer is likely to churn.