NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Faculty of Computer Science
Bachelor's Programme 'HSE University and University of London Double Degree
Programme in Data Science and Business Analytics'

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UDC <u>004</u>		
	Research Project Repo	ort (Final)
	_	e pricing of the Yandex Direct bids"
on the topic Determi	riirig iiripactiui iactors iii tiit	e pricing of the Tandex Direct bids
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Abstract:

In this paper I intend to research the main factors that determine the fluctuations of prices of keywords in Yandex Direct. After retrieving the data, I will apply the Mutual Information Score method to data from Yandex Direct Forecaster in order to see which parameters influence the price formation the most. Aside from that, I will extract historical data of advertising campaigns that I am currently running and see whether it can provide meaningful insights on those parameters. After executing the plan stated above, I have concluded that factor 'Shows' causes the greatest impact on bid price formation prior to the auction. On the other hand, the factor 'Clicks' influences the bids the most during the auction. In my work I have mostly referenced publicly available Yandex API documentation and referred to some sources on Machine Learning in order to ensure that I am applying the proper methodology for my tests.

Link to github: https://github.com/artem456borisov/Yandex-Direct-Factors

List of Keywords: Yandex, Yandex Direct, Yandex API, online marketing, advertisement, ML.

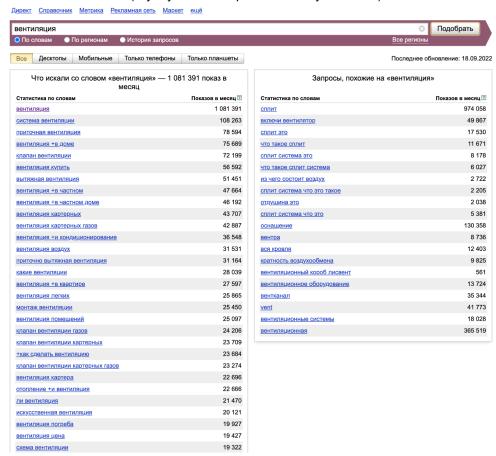
Basic terms and definitions:

Yandex Direct - A platform for locating and managing advertisement campaigns in Yandex browser.

MIS (Mutual Information Score) - a method to determine the extent of dependency between several variables.

Yandex Wordstat: A public service provided by Yandex Direct. It allows advertisers to see the frequency at which a certain phrase is searched in the Yandex browser. Aside from that, it also displays phrases that relate to the key phrase. The following screenshot displays the results for entering the phrase 'вентиляция' into WordStat's search bar (Try it yourself: https://wordstat.yandex.ru/):





Yandex Direct Budget Forecaster: A tool for approximating the monthly advertising budget of a certain group of phrases based on the amount of traffic you want to attract (the percentage of users who will see your advertisement). The following screenshot provides a forecast for this group of keywords, given that you want 62% of users to see your advertisement:

ремонт вентиляции бассейна ремонт вентиляции в кафе ремонт вентиляции в офисе

ремонт вентиляции в помещении

ремонт вентиляции в частном доме

												объём трафика 100 объём трафика 85 объём трафика 62 объём трафика 9 объём трафика 5
×	~	Фразы▲		Прогноз запросов	Объём трафика	Прогноз средней ставки, руб.	Списываемая сумма, руб.		Прогноз СТR,%	Прогноз показов	Прогноз кликов	Прогноз бюджета, руб.
×	Z	ремонт вентиляции в кафе_	изменить уточнить подобрать	10	100 85 62 9	202.80 146.60 109.80 98.40 86.00	19.00 15.00 15.70 1.00 0.90	0000	30.00 33.33 30.00 40.00 40.00	10 9 10 5	3 3 2 2	57.00 45.00 47.10 2.00 1.80
×	2	ремонт вентиляции в офисе	изменить уточнить подобрать	29	100 85 62 9	1 401.30 680.90 596.40 385.40 385.40	96.60 26.80 26.80 3.00 3.00	0000	8.70 9.09 9.09 8.70 8.70	23 22 22 23 23	2 2 2 2 2	193.20 53.60 53.60 6.00 6.00
×	Z	ремонт вентиляции в помещении_	изменить уточнить подобрать	197	100 85 62 9	568.10 231.50 216.10 205.90 120.50	101.60 54.50 46.90 3.10 3.00	0000	7.23 6.10 6.10 4.88 5.00	83 82 82 41 40	6 5 5 2 2	609.60 272.50 234.50 6.20 6.00
×	V	ремонт вентиляции в частном доме_	изменить уточнить подобрать	51	100 85 62 9	588.40 213.50 194.50 253.80 228.00	83.90 63.10 47.80 6.60 4.00	0000	13.46 11.54 11.76 5.00 5.13	52 52 51 40 39	7 6 6 2 2	587.30 378.60 286.80 13.20 8.00

CTR (Click Through Rate) - the number of users that have clicked on the advertisement, placed under a certain keyword, divided by the total number of users who have seen the advertisement.

Shows - the number of times a certain advertisement was shown in the Yandex browser.

Clicks - the amount of users that have visited the advertised page, after seeing the advertisement.

Introduction:

Relevance of the work:

Advertisement campaign managers often face uncertainty when trying to forecast advertising budgets. Some use Yandex Direct Forecaster, which often significantly overestimates the budget, while others use their experience or intuition. Knowing which parameters affect the budget the most may not erase the ambiguity of forecasting, but it may provide advertisement managers a better budget planning tool.

Object and subject of research:

- 1) Yandex direct budget forecast data, retrieved through Yandex API in the csv format.
- 2) Yandex bids historical data, retrieved from a personal account in csv format.

Research methods:

- 1) Mutual Information Scores
- 2) Correlation coefficients.
- 3) Linear regression.

The purpose and objectives of the work:

The purpose of this research is to determine the parameters that have the most influence over the price formation in Yandex Direct campaigns. My objective is to apply API and ML methods to yield a comprehensive conclusion.

The novelty and reliability of the results obtained:

The research was performed on datasets that were provided by Yandex, which is a large corporation that values its reputation. The datasets I have used for my research are published in my github and can be used to replicate my results.

Practical value:

Reduction of uncertainty when planning budget for new advertisement campaigns.

Theoretical part:

Description of MIS (Mutual Information Scores):

MIS is a measure of the extent to which knowledge of one quantity reduces uncertainty about the other. (https://www.kaggle.com/code/ryanholbrook/mutual-information)

$$MI(i,j) = \sum_{a,b} P(a_i,b_j) \cdot \log \left(\frac{P(a_i,b_j)}{P(a_i) \cdot P(b_j)} \right)$$

Description of Correlation Coefficients:

A number between +1 and -1 calculated so as to represent the linear interdependence of two variables or sets of data.

$$r = rac{\sum \left(x_i - ar{x}
ight)\left(y_i - ar{y}
ight)}{\sqrt{\sum \left(x_i - ar{x}
ight)^2 \sum \left(y_i - ar{y}
ight)^2}}$$

Description of API:

A set of functions and procedures allowing the creation of applications that access the features or data of an operating system, application, or other service.

Description of Linear Regression:

In statistics, linear regression is a linear approach for modeling the relationship between a scalar response and one or more explanatory variables

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

$$\beta_0 = \bar{y} - \beta_1 \bar{x}$$

Review and comparative analysis of sources on the topic of the project:

After reviewing possible research techniques, I came to the conclusion that the most popular technique for determining the scope of how one variable affects the other is MIS (the appropriate reference can be found in the bibliography). I have also been introduced to appropriate ML techniques through the textbook An Introduction to Statistical Learning and decided that a linear regression analysis would be appropriate for the topic of my research.

Description of the experiment:

I. Experimenting with data from Yandex Direct Forecaster:

I have used the following Yandex Direct API methods to retrieve the required data:

CreateNewWordstatReport, GetWordstatReport: API versions of Yandex Direct Wordstat. The
first method is used for creating a report based on a given phrase, while the second method is
used to retrieve the report.

Code implementation:

CreateNewWordstatReport:

```
filepath_minus = Path('Files/Minus_Keywords')
  lines = filepath_minus.read_text()
  main_key = main_key + lines
  body_create_report = { #ask the server to create a report
         'Phrases': [main_key],
      "token": token
  r1 = requests.post(link4, json.dumps(body_create_report, ensure_ascii=False).encode('utf8'))
  r1 = r1.json()
  report_id = r1['data']
  body_get_report = { #ask the server to retrieve the report, based onn id
      "param": report_id,
      "token": token
  time.sleep(10) #server needs time to complete the request
  r1 = requests.post(link4, json.dumps(body_get_report, ensure_ascii=False).encode('utf8'))
  r1 = r1.json()
  with open('Files/Wordstat_report.json', 'w', encoding='utf-8') as f:
      json.dump(r1, f, ensure_ascii=False, indent=4)
```

CreateNewForecast, GetForecast:

```
def Make_forecast (file_name): #parses the csv file for api call and returns a price forecast
   file = open(file_name)
   headers = ['keywords', 'shows']
   dtypes = {'keywords': 'str', 'shows': 'int'}
   parse_dates = ['keywords', 'shows']
   data = pd.read_csv(file, sep=',', header=None, names=headers, dtype=dtypes, parse_dates=parse_dates)
   data['shows'] = pd.to_numeric(data['shows'])
   data = data.sort_values(by= 'shows') #sort values by shows to get the most meaningful data
   forcast_keys = np.array(data['keywords'], dtype=str)
   forcast_keys = forcast_keys[:100]
   forcast_keys = forcast_keys.tolist()
   body_for_forecast = {
           'Phrases': forcast_keys, # массив со словами
           'GeoID': [213],
       "token": token
   r1 = requests.post(link4_live, json.dumps(body_for_forecast, ensure_ascii=False).encode('utf8'))
   r1 = r1.json()
   forecast_id = r1['data']
   time.sleep(20) # server needs time to complete the request
   body_get_forecasts = {
       "param": forecast_id,
       "token": token
   r1 = requests.post(link4_live, json.dumps(body_get_forecasts, ensure_ascii=False).encode('utf8'))
   r1 = r1.json()
       json.dump(r1, f, ensure_ascii=False, indent=4)
```

I have decided retrieve data for the following phrases (those phrases are in Russian, because Yandex is primarily used by Russians):

```
-колонка
```

-видеокарта

-монитор

-стол

-машина

-телефон

-принтер

-клавиатура

-телевизор

-ноутбук

The reports had the following labels:

- -CTR
- -Clicks
- -Currency
- -FirstPlaceCTR
- -FirstPlaceClicks
- -IsRubric
- -Max
- -Min
- -Phrase
- -PremiumCTR
- -PremiumClicks
- -PremiumMax
- -PremiumMin
- -Shows

CTR,Clicks,Currency,FirstPlaceCTR,FirstPlaceClicks,IsRubric,Max,Min,Phrase,PremiumCTR,PremiumClicks,PremiumMax,PremiumMin,Shows 100.0,2,RUB,100.0,2,No,32.34,32.34,компьютер asus laptop,100.0,2,158.89,31.5,51 0.0,0,RUB,0.0,0,No,0.3,0.3,asus x550l notebook pc,0.0,0,0.3,0.3,58 1.85,2,RUB,2.7,3,No,31.78,26.35,notebook 14s,8.48,14,222.05,85.5,169 3.64,2,RUB,3.51,2,No,28.98,12.54,asus notebook series,4.94,4,98.06,86.19,223 2.33,2,RUB,2.33,2,No,40.83,40.83,asus notebook pc,8.11,9,611.07,73.31,319 1.2,3,RUB,1.18,3,No,35.46,24.73,netbook,6.44,21,210.17,107.21,568

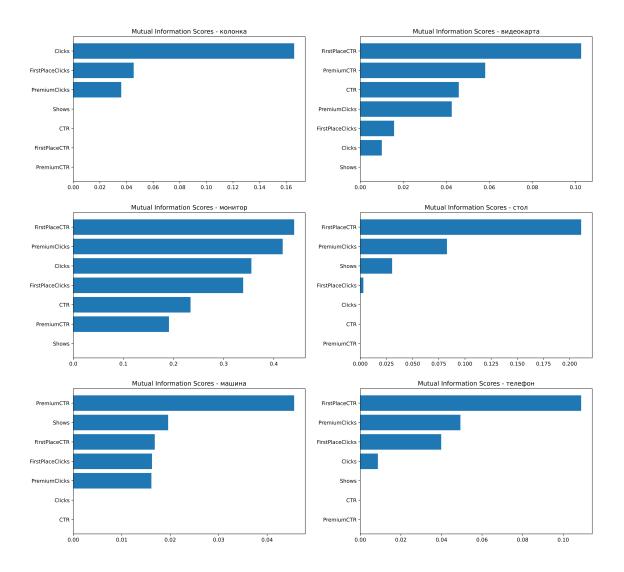
And only the following could be potentially relevant to the price formation:

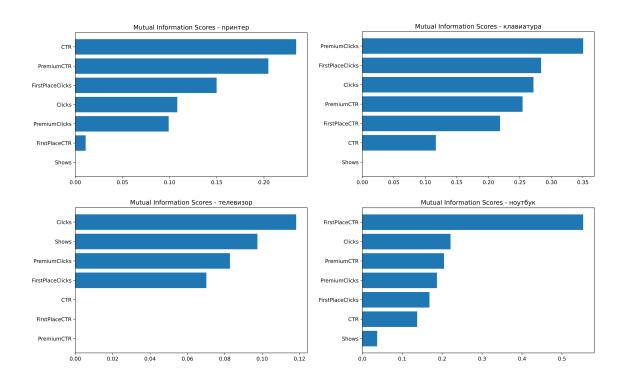
- -CTR
- -Clicks
- -FirstPlaceCTR
- -FirstPlaceClicks
- -PremiumCTR
- -PremiumClicks
- -PremiumMax
- -PremiumMin
- -Shows

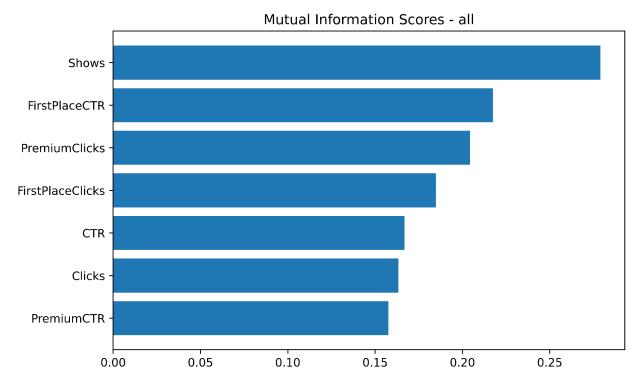
Now it was time to apply the Mutual Information Score method on the retrieved dataset: Code implementation:

```
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.feature_selection import mutual_info_regression
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import seaborn as sns
data = pd.read_csv_(r'Files/Forecast_report.csv')
X = data.copy()
y = X.pop("Max")
X = X[['Shows', 'Clicks', 'CTR', 'FirstPlaceCTR', 'FirstPlaceClicks', 'PremiumCTR', 'PremiumClicks']]
for colname in X.select_dtypes("object"):
    X[colname], _ = X[colname].factorize()
def make_mi_scores(X, y, discrete_features):
    mi_scores = mutual_info_regression(X, y, discrete_features=discrete_features)
    mi_scores = pd.Series(mi_scores, name="MI Scores", index=X.columns)
mi_scores = mi_scores.sort_values(ascending=False)
    return mi_scores
discrete_features = X.dtypes == float
mi_scores = make_mi_scores(X, y, discrete_features)
print(mi_scores[::3])
def plot_mi_scores(scores):
    scores = scores.sort_values(ascending=True)
    width = np.arange(len(scores))
   ticks = list(scores.index)
   plt.barh(width, scores)
   plt.yticks(width, ticks)
    plt.title("Mutual Information Scores - кондей")
    plt.savefig('кондей.png', dpi=1500, bbox_inches="tight")
plt.figure(dpi=100, figsize=(8, 5))
plot_mi_scores(mi_scores)
```

The following results were yielded, where table labeled 'all' represent the MIS for the combination of all datasets':







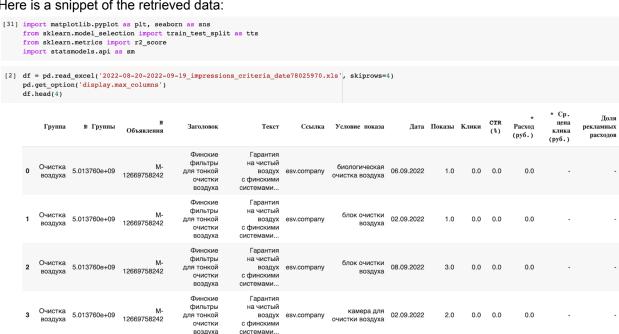
Conclusion of Experiment #1: the parameter 'Shows' turned out to be the most impactful on the combined dataset.

Experimenting with historical data of current campaigns: II.

I have extracted historical data of the campaigns that I am currently running:

	N° Тип Название	Статус ↑	Стратегия	Места показо	Бюджет, ₽	Расход, ₽	Расход с НДС, ₽	Кон
	Итого				445 950,00 в неделю	0,00	0,00	
*	В Поиск Сервис service.ventmax.ru № 53065902 Перейти к кампании Редастировать Статистика	Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление ставками	На поиске	<u>1500,00</u> в день	0,00	0,00	
*	В Поиск home.ventmax.ru СПБ Новая № 71107915 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление ставками	На поиске	<u>2 000,00</u> в день	0,00	0,00	
*	В Поиск_Новый_Отопление № 77551486 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление ставками	На поиске	800,00 в день	0,00	0,00	
*	■ РСЯ Новый_Отопление № 77689831 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление с	В сетях	<u>300,00</u> в день	0,00	0,00	
*		■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление с	В сетях	<u>300,00</u> в день	0,00	0,00	
*	■ Страница_Поиск_Новый_Отопление № 78004864 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление ставками	На поиске	2 000,00 в день	0,00	0,00	
*	≝ Фильтры П оиск № 78025970 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление ставками	На поиске	3 000,00 в день	0,00	0,00	
*	■ РСЯ Сервис service.ventmax.ru № 78604681 Перейти к кампании Редактировать Статистика	■ Показы начнутся п Приостановлено	Ручное управление с	В сетях	800,00 в день	0,00	0,00	

Here is a snippet of the retrieved data:



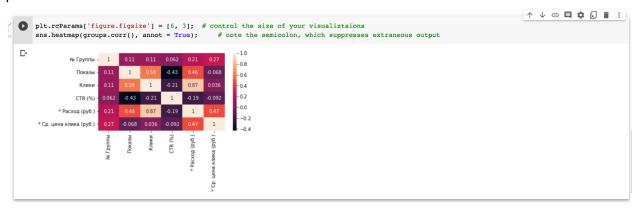
And also did some cleaning by only selecting the groups that had average price per click:

```
[69] groups = df[df['* Cp. цена клика (py6.)'] != '-']
groups['* Cp. цена клика (py6.)'] = pd.to_numeric(groups['* Cp. цена клика (py6.)'])
groups = groups.drop(index=[589, 588])
groups[groups['* Cp. цена клика (py6.)'].isna()]

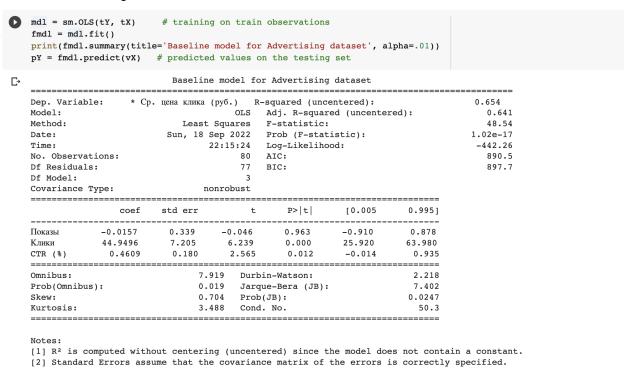
/usr/local/lib/python3.7/dist-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: SettingWithCopyWarning:
A value is trying to be set on a copy of a slice from a DataFrame.
Try using .loc[row_indexer,col_indexer] = value instead

See the caveats in the documentation: https://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/stable/user_guide/indexing.html#returning-a-view-versus-a-copy
```

Then I calculated the correlation coefficients to approximate what parameters would impact the average price the most:



And build a linear regression:



Conclusion: As we see it's quite difficult to predict price formation even on real data, since train R^2 turned out to be relatively low (0.64). However, we can conclude that the parameter 'Clicks' is the most impactful based on the graphs below.



Conclusion:

From the experiments done above we see that it's best to use the parameter 'Shows' to approximate the budget required to get a certain amount of traffic (MIS was >0.25). On the other hand, we also saw that parameter 'Clicks' does have a prominent effect on price charged on the auction (the pure effect of the 'Clicks' parameter, keeping other factors constant, on average was 44.5 rubles increase in average bid pricing, per click). With this knowledge and a solid understanding of ML principles, one could use this research as a foundation for building an automated Yandex Direct bid manager.

Bibliography:

- Yandex Direct API documentation: https://yandex.ru/dev/direct/doc/dg/concepts/overview.html
- Mutual Information Scores: https://www.kaggle.com/code/ryanholbrook/mutual-information
- -An Introduction to Statistical Learning (Gareth James Daniela Witten Trevor Hastie Robert Tibshirani, Second Edition)
- -Source for MIS formula: http://mistic.leloir.org.ar/docs/help.html