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Analysis of Swiss products based on Amazon reviews data

Are Swiss products better than the average product?

**Introduction**

The goal of this project is use data analysis tools on a large dataset of Amazon reviews and examine if Swiss products are better than the average product on Amazon. It is important to note several assumptions and biases that are present in our data. Amazon does not reveal the country of Origin for products, so this limits us to using the brand name. While for some Swiss brands like the Watch companies we can be fairly certain that the products was made in Switzerland, for others like Logitech that is rarely the case. So when we say Swiss product we mean a product by a Swiss brand. Another bias we need to be aware of is that Amazon is not an official Swiss Watch retailer, but is what is called an “Gary Market”. Watches sold on Amazon are real but in general don’t have a manufactures warranty. This may lead to very unfavourable reviews that are not indicative of the Product, so we will try some techniques to deal with this.

**Exploratory analysis**

The exploratory analysis of the Swiss products is where we got our first surprise. The distribution of reviews does not follow a normal distribution. The histogram shows in fact a very large bias towards 5 star reviews. More than 50% of reviews are 5 star reviews, a fact which is consistent in all samples. This could indicate that either consumers are very satisfied with Amazon Products, or it could be some Bias in the data due to Human psychology, or possibly paid fake reviews. The good thing is that the trend is present in all data samples that we made so it should no interfere with our tests.

Other interesting trends worth mentioning is that despite the popular notion that links Switzerland with watches the most popular brands in therms of reviews are: Logitech, Garmin and Victorinox, and the first watch brand Tissot is in 6th Place. In terms of products the most popular brand is Victorinox.

**Comparison of Reviews**

In the first comparison we directly compare the set of Swiss reviews with 4 other sets: a random control set, French set, German set and US set. All datasets we generated using the same spark script and Using the Wikipedia listings for the respective country brand. The random control set was generated using the spark Bernoulli sampling.

We use the Mann–Whitney U test instead of the more frequently used t-test since we can not say with certainty that the samples adhere to a normal distribution. Furthermore the Mann–Whitney U test for large samples asymptotically approaches the t-test if the distribution is normal so it’s a better choice in our case.

We can not find a statistically significant difference between the Swiss products and the control, but we can reject the null hypothesis in the other tests. For German and US products it implies that there is a significant chance that a Swiss product chosen at random will have a higher rating than a German or US product chosen at random. For French and Swiss products the reverse is true.

**Comparison after grouping by product**

On of the possible problems with our previous tests is that some very popular products with lot’s of great reviews can skew the results so it is very difficult to generalise results while using individual results. That is why we aggregated the reviews by product.

After aggregation we now have a sample of some continuous distributions so we can use the KS test to check if the distributions are different. In all cases we discovered that the distributions are different. After that we preformed the Mann–Whitney U test and this time we could not find any statistical differences between the Swiss, German and US products, the only test that showed a statistically significant result was between Swiss and French products, the result being that a Swiss product chosen at random will have a smaller rating than a French product chosen at random.

**Comparison after grouping by product using weight**

The idea behind this experiment is to try to eliminate some effects of fake reviews, or reviews that do not address the product, so we use the helpfulness as a weight when we do the average of each product.

Afterwards we again perform our tests and this time we find two significant results, both German and French appear better than Swiss, while there is no difference between US and Swiss Products