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General Assembly (Data Science Immersive 11)

Nov19-Jan20

# Capstone Project: E-commerce end-to-end Marketing Strategy

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Customer Segmentation, Recommendation System, Market  
Basket Analysis

# Outline

1. 3 Business Problems
2. Data Analytics/Science
  - 2.1. EDA, Data Cleaning, Feature Engineering
  - 2.2. Modelling & Evaluation
  - 2.3. Conclusion
3. Deployment

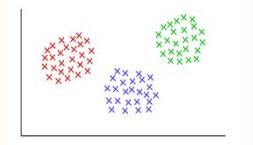
Dataset: UCI Retail Dataset

542k rows: <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/online+retail> (used for this project), or  
1.07m rows: <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Online+Retail+II> . 8 features for both

# 1. Business Problems

P1. Customer segmentation:

How can we segment customers, into different clusters, so as to deliver tailored marketing strategies, so as to minimise promotional costs/retain loyal customers/raise revenue?



P2. Product Recommendation:

How can we also make personalised product recommendations, so as to raise revenue?



P3. Continued customer engagement:

How can we FURTHER engage customers through email/promotion campaigns, so as to raise revenue?



# P1. Customer Segmentation

Approach: RFM, Kmeans, DB-Scan

Evaluation: Elbow method, Silhouette Score

Conclusion: **Kmeans' 5 clusters best (Silhouette score: 0.58)**

Marketing Dashboard deployed online on 'Tableau Public'

RFM:  
Split into eg. 4 quartiles, then rank based on %tile

	Recency (days since last purchase)	R	Freq (no. of transactions)	F	Monetary (total spend)	M	RFM combined
Person A	0	1	10	1	\$10	1	111
Person B	3	2	7	2	\$7	2	222
Person C	7	3	3	3	\$3	3	333
Person D	10	4	0	4	\$0	4	444

# EDA, Data cleaning, Feature Engineering

Original dataset:

InvoiceNo	StockCode	Description	Quantity	InvoiceDate	UnitPrice	CustomerID	Country
141	C536379	D	Discount	-1	2010-01-12 09:41:00	27.50	14527 United Kingdom
154	C536383	35004C SET-OF-3-COLOURED--FLYING-DUCKS	-1	2010-01-12 09:49:00	4.65	15311 United Kingdom	
235	C536391	22556 PLASTERS-IN-TIN-CIRCUS-PARADE	-12	2010-01-12 10:24:00	1.65	17548 United Kingdom	
236	C536391	35004 SET-OF-3-COLOURED--FLYING-DUCKS	-24	2010-01-12 10:24:00	0.29	██████████ United Kingdom	
237	C536391	22556 PLASTERS-IN-TIN-CIRCUS-	-24	2010-01-12 10:24:00	0.29	17548 United Kingdom	

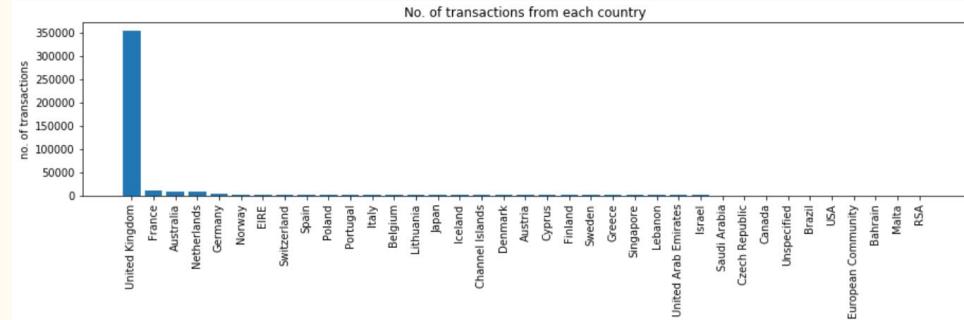
- removed **nulls for CustomerID**, because without ID we can't identify them
- removed duplicated rows
- identical products have variations in StockCode/Description**, hence commonized StockCode, Description for such products
- Some product purchases have a mix of +ve/-ve Quantities, hence summed Customers' purchases for each product, and removed those that are still sum -ve
- created TotalPrice column, via UnitPrice x Summed Quantity
- created Year, Month columns from InvoiceDate
- created R,F,M columns for each customer
- scaled R,F,M values (for Kmeans, DB-Scan)

# Post-cleaning EDA

```

no. of unique transactions: 21235
no. of unique items: 3620
no. of unique Countries bought from: 37
no. of unique customers: 4326
no. of unique years: 2
no. of unique months: 12

```



Min date: 2010-01-12 08:26:00  
Max date: 2011-12-10 17:19:00

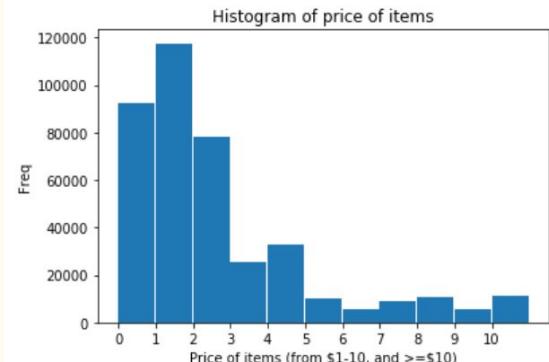
Distribution of years for all transactions:

```

absolute numbers...
2011    371347
2010    25936
Name: Year, dtype: int64

normalised...
2011    0.934717
2010    0.065283
Name: Year, dtype: float64

```



# RFM (baseline model)



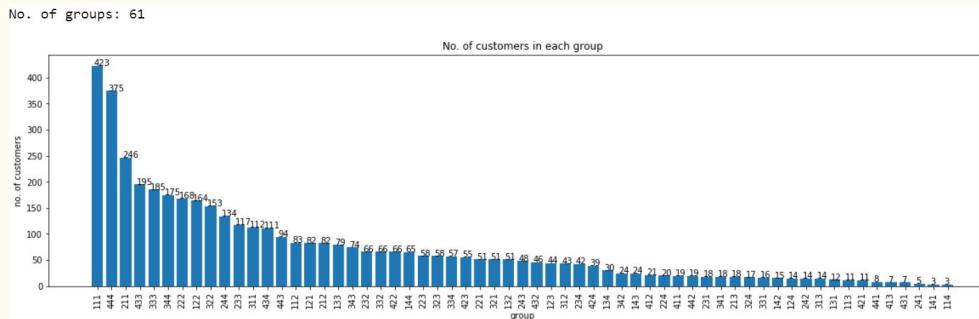
The diagram illustrates the transformation of raw RFM data into a combined score-based segmentation. On the left, a table shows raw RFM data for five customers. An arrow points to the right, where a second table shows the same data with a 'combined' column.

CustomerID	recency	frequency	monetary
12347	41	182	4310.00
12348	77	31	1797.24
12349	20	73	1757.55
12350	312	17	334.40
12352	74	89	1755.55

CustomerID	recency	frequency	monetary	combined
12347	2	1	1	211
12348	3	3	1	331
12349	1	2	1	121
12350	4	4	3	443
12352	3	2	2	322

Downsides:

- very similar spenders at edge of eg. **M tiers 1&2**, may wrongfully be sorted into different groups
- HUUUGE no. of groups (up to  $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$  combinations) to manage for marketing team

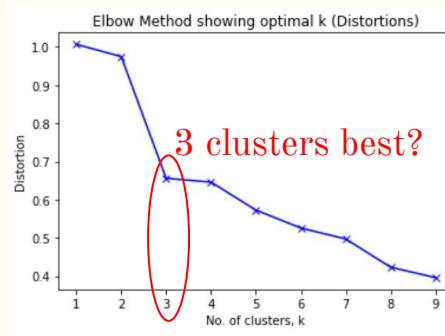


Evaluate other models...

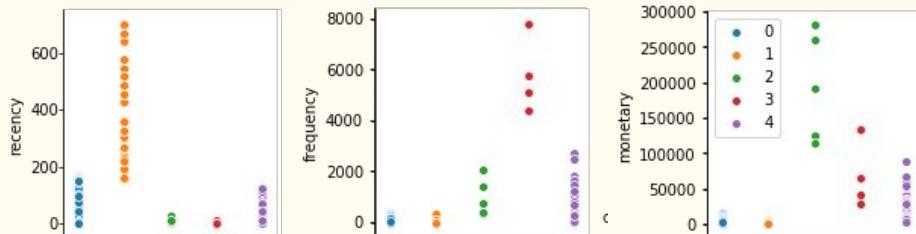
# Kmeans

Gridsearch. Try 1-10 clusters...

Elbow:



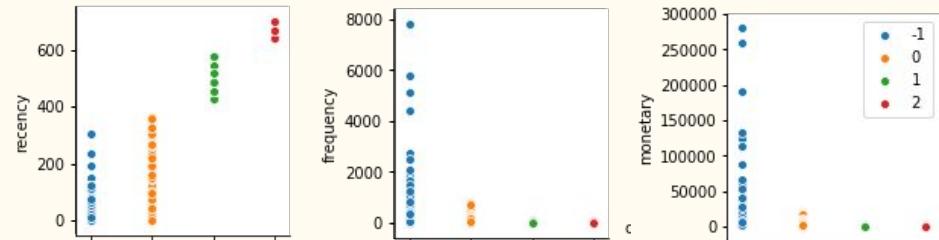
Silhouette score: **5 clusters best?** (best score of 0.58)



# DB-Scan

Gridsearch. Try eps: [0.02, 0.1, 0.4], min\_samples: [2,5,9]

Silhouette score: **3 clusters best?** (best score of 0.62, best params eps=0.4, min\_samples=9)



BUT!!!  
As rule of thumb, 3 clusters is too few! Typically  $\sim 8$ !

SO... Use 5 clusters.

Rank clusters' median RFM into RFM tiers...

# P1. Conclusion & Recommendations

Industry's marketing-strategy recommendations for each cluster:

Best model: Kmeans

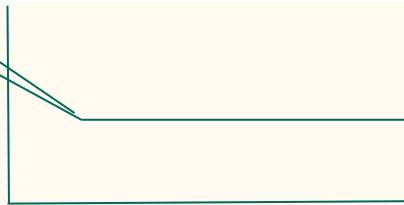
no. of members per cluster:				
cluster	0	1	2	3
recency	40.00	244.00	4.00	3.000
frequency	50.00	19.00	772.00	5456.000
monetary	808.87	304.92	189575.53	52530.255

median of RFM for each cluster:				
cluster	0	1	2	3
recency	40.00	244.00	4.00	3.000
frequency	50.00	19.00	772.00	5456.000
monetary	808.87	304.92	189575.53	52530.255

median of RFM for each cluster (R/F/M binned into 4 quartiles):				
cluster	0	1	2	3
recency	3	4	1	1
frequency	4	4	2	1
monetary	4	4	1	2



A. Core - Your Best Customers (none from kmeans!)

- RFM group: 111
- Who They Are: Highly engaged customers who have bought the most recent, the most often, and generated the most revenue.
- Marketing Strategies: Focus on loyalty programs and new product introductions. These customers have proven to have a higher willingness to pay, so don't use discount pricing to generate incremental sales. Instead, focus on value added offers through product recommendations based on previous purchases.

B. Loyal - Your Most Loyal Customers (kmeans cluster 3!)

- RFM group: X1X
- Who They Are: Customers who buy the most often from your store.
- Marketing Strategies: Loyalty programs are effective for these repeat visitors. Advocacy programs and reviews are also common X1X strategies. Lastly, consider rewarding these customers with Free Shipping or other like benefits.

C. Whales - Your Highest Paying Customers (kmeans cluster 2!)

- RFM group: XX1
- Who They Are: Customers who have generated the most revenue for your store.
- Marketing Strategies: These customers have demonstrated a high willingness to pay. Consider premium offers, subscription tiers, luxury products, or value add cross/up-sells. Don't waste margin on discounts.

D. Promising - Faithful customers (none from kmeans!)

- RFM group: X13, X14
- Who They Are: Customers who return often, but do not spend a lot.
- Marketing Strategies: You've already succeeded in creating loyalty. Focus on increasing monetization through product recommendations based on past purchases and incentives tied to spending thresholds (pegged to your store AOV).

E. Rookies - Your Newest Customers (none from kmeans!)

- RFM group: 14X
- Who They Are: First time buyers on your site.
- Marketing Strategies: Most customers never graduate to loyal. Having clear strategies in place for first time buyers such as triggered welcome emails will pay dividends.

F. Slipping - Once Loyal, Now Almost Gone (none from kmeans!)

- RFM group: 44(1/2)
- Who They Are: Great past customers who haven't bought in awhile.
- Marketing Strategies: Customers leave for a variety of reasons. Depending on your situation price deals, new product launches, or other retention strategies.

G. Lost - Not worth keeping (kmeans cluster 0,1!)

- RFM group: (3/4)44
- Who They Are: Lost customers who spent little, infrequently
- Marketing Strategies: Don't waste huge marketing efforts on them

H. Others - (kmeans cluster 4!)

- RFM group: others
- Who They Are: others
- Marketing Strategies: No particular strategy. Maintain status quo

# P2. Product Recommendation

Approach: Collaborative Filtering (data only has purchased qty: ‘implicit feedback’)

Evaluation: Mean Precision@k (& less importantly Mean Recall@k, Mean AUC)

Conclusion: **Best model achieved mp@k=88%** (& mr@k=51%, mAUC=100%)

Mock E-commerce website with recommendation engine deployed on  
‘<http://uci-retail-recommender.herokuapp.com/>’

Used fashion company Lyst’s LightFM library, for implicit feedback for recommendation engines.

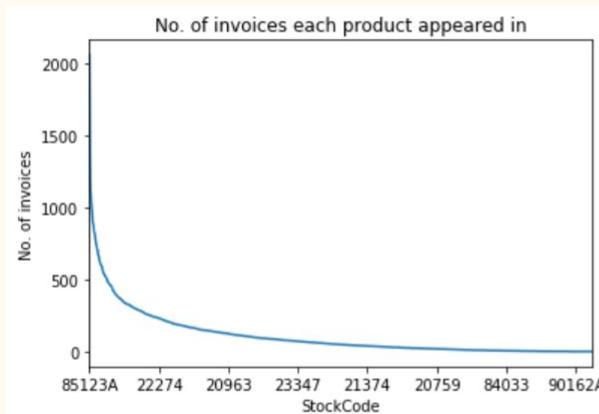
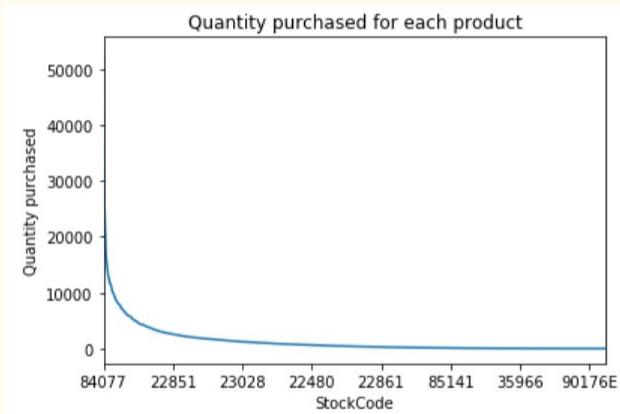
- matrix factorisation
- inbuilt mp@k, mr@k, mauc scoring functions
- inbuilt prediction/recommendation functions
- outperforms both collaborative and content-based models in cold-start or sparse interaction data scenarios



# EDA, Feature Engineering

- already cleaned prior
- aggregated each customer's purchases of the same item, together, then binarized purchases into 1 (bought that product) and 0 (didn't buy it)
- converted to sparse matrix (required by lightfm)
- noticed long tail effect (only a few products have interactions with customers)

Many products  
not purchased in  
large amounts...



...nor frequently

# BPR (baseline model)

-BPR model: it optimises AUC score

-Baseline because: AUC measures the quality of the overall ranking (though without regard for top-k rankings). That by and large, most recommendations are relevant.

	mp@k	mr@k	mauc
BPR (baseline)	<b>0.37</b>	0.06	0.84

BUT!!!

**-p@k is more important**, because customers won't scroll to page 99 to find your recommendations. Need to **prioritize relevant items at top of 1st page**, to best ensure their purchase. Hence, use...

-WARP, k-OS WARP models: they optimise mp@k by prioritizing top-k recommended items

# P2. Model evaluation & Conclusion

- set k=10. Meaning, ‘Serve top 10 recommendations’

- Baseline BPR vs the rest.

- default hyperparameters
- 10 epochs

- Gridsearch. Hyperparameter tuning of WARP, k-OS WARP

- models: [WARP, k-OS WARP]

- no. of latent features: [100,150,200]

- learning schedules: [adagrad, adadelta]

- 50 epochs

	mp@k	mr@k	mauc
BPR (baseline)	<b>0.37</b>	0.06	0.84
WARP	<b>0.34</b>	0.06	0.89
k-OS WARP	<b>0.27</b>	0.05	0.85

Best model is...

WARP, 200, adadelta	<b>0.88</b>	0.51	0.100
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# Test our recommendation engine!

Eg. Customer 5

Previously bought:

userid: 5		
bought_prod with desc:		
	StockCode	Description
0	22890	NOVELTY-BISCUITS-CAKE-STAND-3-TIER
1	37446	MINI-CAKE-STAND-WITH-HANGING-CAKES
2	37449	CERAMIC-CAKE-STAND-&HANGING-CAKES
3	37450	CERAMIC-CAKE-BOWL-&HANGING-CAKES

‘Closeness’ scores of recommended products...

scores for top recommended products (higher is better):  
[1.5638829469680786, 1.5414295196533203, 1.5290290117263794, 1.4790804386138916, 1.4465149641036987, 1.4418790340423584,  
1.4328478574752888, 1.3941409587860107, 1.3775039911270142, 1.3757057189941406]

top recommended products:		
	StockCode	Description
0	37450	CERAMIC-CAKE-BOWL-&HANGING-CAKES
1	22890	NOVELTY-BISCUITS-CAKE-STAND-3-TIER
2	37446	MINI-CAKE-STAND-WITH-HANGING-CAKES
3	37449	CERAMIC-CAKE-STAND-&HANGING-CAKES
4	22055	MINI-CAKE-STAND--HANGING-STRAWBERRY
5	22649	STRAWBERRY-FAIRY-CAKE-TEAPOT
6	21232	STRAWBERRY-CERAMIC-TRINKET-POT
7	37448	CERAMIC-CAKE-DESIGN-SPOTTED-MUG
8	22063	CERAMIC-BOWL-WITH-STRAWBERRY-DESIGN
9	37447	CERAMIC-CAKE-DESIGN-SPOTTED-PLATE

Recommended products:

Max possible p@k of 40% obtained!  
(repeat & take mean of everyone's p@k)

Other recommendations also highly cake-related! Looks sensible!

Finally, scrape images using product Descriptions, & deploy on Heroku

# Compare with baseline model...

Eg. Customer 5

Previously bought:

userid: 5		
bought_prod with desc:		
	StockCode	Description
0	22898	NOVELTY-BISCUITS-CAKE-STAND-3-TIER
1	37446	MINI-CAKE-STAND-WITH-HANGING-CAKES
2	37449	CERAMIC-CAKE-STAND-&-HANGING-CAKES
3	37450	CERAMIC-CAKE-BOWL-&-HANGING-CAKES

‘Closeness’ scores of recommended products...

scores for top recommended products (higher is better):  
[1.2551584243774414, 1.2278729677200317, 1.179606556892395, 1.1503195762634277, 1.1157306432724, 1.099589467048645, 1.0934269428253174, 1.090859055519104, 1.088451862335205, 1.0861166715621948]

top recommended products:

	StockCode	Description
0	22998	TRAVEL-CARD-WALLET-KEEP-CALM
1	22115	METAL-SIGN-EMPIRE-TEA
2	22996	TRAVEL-CARD-WALLET-VINTAGE-TICKET
3	21175	GIN-AND-TONIC-DIET-METAL-SIGN
4	M	Manual
5	82580	BATHROOM-METAL-SIGN
6	21165	BEWARE-OF-THE-CAT-METAL-SIGN
7	21034	REX-CASH&CARRY-JUMBO-SHOPPER
8	82551	LAUNDRY-15C-METAL-SIGN
9	21172	PARTY-METAL-SIGN

Recommended products:

Absolutely no hits! Nor seemingly sensible recommendations!

# P3. Continued Customer Engagement

Approach: Apriori algorithm. Used for Market Basket Analysis (MBA)

Evaluation: Support, Lift

Conclusion: See generated list of highly associated products. For use in email/marketing campaigns (AND on website too) to bundle product recommendations together



Deployed in email-marketing campaign, & mock e-commerce website.

Different from content-based/collaborative filtering!

# Evaluation metrics for MBA

-Support (range [0,1]): fraction of all transactions that contain both products A and B.

Higher better. Hence more data to draw conclusions about their relationship.

-Lift (range [0,infinite)): greater lift indicate stronger associations between A and B.

$>1$  better. Indicates that it's not just a coincidence, and there is indeed a high association between items A and B. High chance of buying B if the customer has already bought A.

# Product associations generated...



	antecedents	consequents	antecedent support	consequent support	support	confidence	lift
3120	((22086, PAPER-CHAIN-KIT-50-S-CHRISTMAS))	((22910, PAPER-CHAIN-KIT-VINTAGE-CHRISTMAS))	0.141239	0.107721	0.074896	0.530278	4.922712
3121	((22910, PAPER-CHAIN-KIT-VINTAGE-CHRISTMAS))	((22086, PAPER-CHAIN-KIT-50-S-CHRISTMAS))	0.107721	0.141239	0.074896	0.695279	4.922712
4553	((22423, REGENCY-CAKESTAND-3-TIER))	((22699, ROSES-REGENCY-TEACUP-AND-SAUCER))	0.201110	0.097319	0.073047	0.363218	3.732263
4552	((22699, ROSES-REGENCY-TEACUP-AND-SAUCER))	((22423, REGENCY-CAKESTAND-3-TIER))	0.097319	0.201110	0.073047	0.750594	3.732263

Sort support from high to low

Seek lift > 1

Associated products!

# P3. Conclusions & Recommendations

Marketing strategies! When promoting Product A, also cross-sell its associated Product B, to boost overall sales, for:

1. Email marketing
2. General marketing
3. ‘Checkout’ page on e-commerce website

# Email-marketing campaign demo

-Heroku's 'Sendgrid Marketing Campaign' add-on. A/B testing & analytics

Version A



Vary email content/design/header etc

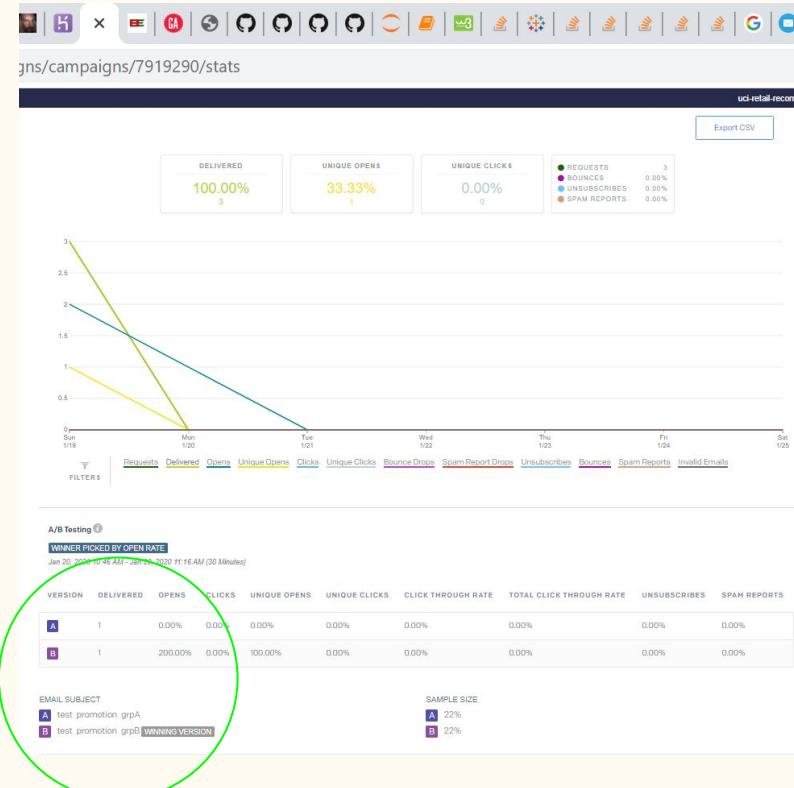
Winner...



Choose customer segment to send to

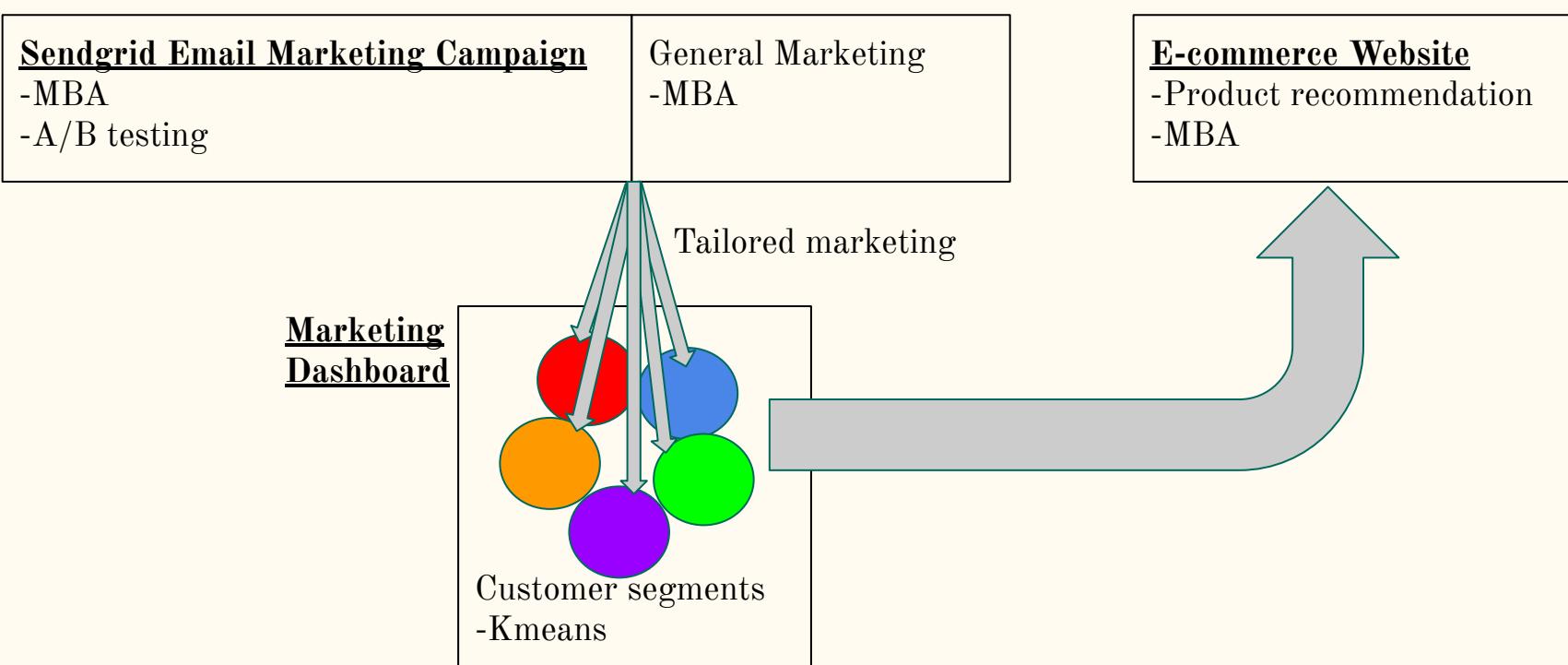
A/B testing: vary winning criteria, campaign duration etc

# View winner of email campaign A/B testing



Version B wins!

# Putting everything together...



# Deployment

-Marketing dashboard (expand to fullscreen for best experience):

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/lim.yu.zheng#/vizhome/UCI-retail-recommender/Marketing-Dashboard/Story1?publish=yes>

-Mock e-commerce website with collaborative-filtering recommendation engine, and Market Basket Analysis recommendations:

<http://uci-retail-recommender.herokuapp.com/>

-Email marketing campaign control page is accessed by my id & pswd, not shareable