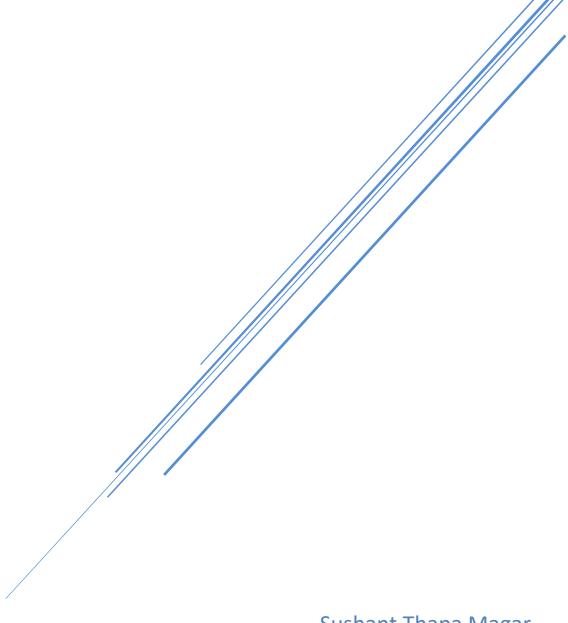
SUPERSTORE SUCCESS: BOOSTING GROWTH WITH STRATEGIC DATA ANALYSIS



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Background:

In the ever-changing retail sector, the Superstore Giant is tackling the challenge of staying ahead in a market characterized by constantly shifting customer preferences, a wide range of product performances, and diverse regional market conditions. The store possesses an extensive collection of data encompassing sales, profit margins, customer transactions, and regional sales outcomes. The central challenge lies in effectively analysing this wealth of information to derive meaningful insights. The objective is to pinpoint the most lucrative products, identify key customer segments, and grasp the nuances of regional market trends. Through the application of descriptive analytics, the store aims to reveal patterns in sales and profit, understand customer buying behaviours, and conduct an in-depth analysis of regional market behaviour. This critical analysis is essential for refining the product mix, crafting targeted marketing strategies to engage customers, and customizing approaches to meet regional market needs. Gaining these insights is vital for improving sales, strengthening customer relations, and shaping regional tactics, ultimately enhancing the store's profitability and competitive stance in the marketplace.

1.2 Problem Statement:

The Superstore Giant needs to analyse its extensive retail data to optimize product offerings, enhance customer engagement, and adapt to regional market trends for improved profitability and competitiveness.

1.3 Aim and objectives:

Boost Superstore Giant's market position through strategic insights. Utilize descriptive analytics for a deep understanding of historical sales and profit trends. Optimize target regions, customer segments, and product portfolios, fostering growth.

- A. Product Portfolio Optimization and Sales Performance:
- **Product Portfolio Evaluation**: Assess individual product performance and profitability; make strategic decisions on optimizing or phasing out specific products.
- **Historical Sales and Profit Analysis**: Perform time-series analysis to identify trends, patterns, and areas needing improvement in sales and profits.
- B. Regional Market Analysis and Strategy Development:
- Regional Sales and Profit Performance Analysis: Evaluate sales and profit performance across different regions to identify high-performing and underperforming markets. Analyze market penetration in different regions and states; identify underperforming concerning areas and those with potential for growth and expansion.

- C. Customer-Centric Analysis and Engagement Strategy:
- **In-Depth Customer Segmentation**: Segment customers based on transactional data to understand distinct behavior patterns, order frequencies, and preferences.
- Tailored Marketing and Engagement Approaches: Develop marketing strategies focused on different customer segments to enhance engagement and satisfaction.

2. TOOLS USED

Tools and Techniques used for Data Analysis:

In our dataset, *pandas*, a versatile Python library, played a pivotal role in simplifying tasks like loading, preprocessing, and analysis based on *NumPy*. Leveraging its capabilities in handling missing values, restructuring data, and conducting group-by operations,

Matplotlib and Seaborn enhance the analytical toolbox, with Seaborn excelling in statistical data visualization and intuitive interfaces, while Matplotlib provides versatile plot styles. Both are crucial in crafting various plots for comprehensive data analysis of our dataset.

Additionally, usage of Microsoft excel has been done for creating tables to fuel clarity and basic statistical theories have been used for data analysis.

Furthermore, find the figure below describes the tools and techniques have been used in this analysis:

Tools	Area Used	Techniques and Visualizations Used
	Data Loading/Exploration	read_csv, df.head(), "df.info(), df.shape, df.columns
	77-00	Handling missing values- isnull(), Handling duplicates-
		df.duplicated(), Dropping Values- dropna(), df.drop, Column
	Data Preprocessing	Renaming
Dandas	Date time Operations	pd.to_datetime(df['Order Date'])
Pandas	KPIs Calculation	Various operations
	Grouping & Sorting	df.groupby, sort_values
		'Unit Discounted Sale Price,' 'Unit Original Sale Price,' 'Unit Profit,'
	Unit Metric Calculations	'Unit Cost Price,' and 'Profit Margin'
	Datetime Indexing	df.set_index
	Time Series Analysis	Resampling for monthly trends- df['Sales'].resample('M').sum()
	Charts	Line chart-plt.plot, Area Chart-plt.fill_between, Bar charts-plt.bar
	Annotations	bar_plot.text
Matplotlib	Customer Segmentation	Grouped Bar Charts
Mathionin	Discount Analysis	Correlation Matrix, Heatmap
	Product Analysis	Clustered Bar Charts, Top Products Identification
	Shipping Analysis	Bar Charts, Box Plots
		Bar Charts, Line Charts, Area Charts, Clustered Bar Charts-
Seaborn	Data Visualization	sns.barplot
	Correlation Analysis	Correlation Matrix, Heatmap, sns.heatmap

Fig. 1

3. WORK CARRIED OUT

3.1 Data collection

The decision to select the Kaggle dataset from the Tableau website stems from its suitability in addressing the business challenges faced by the Superstore . The dataset captures crucial details such as order information, customer demographics, and key financial metrics like sales and profit. While the dataset presents an enticing opportunity for predictive modeling, particularly using regression analysis, it's important to note that, at this juncture, I haven't acquired the requisite skills for such advanced analytics. Therefore, the focus will be on leveraging descriptive analytics techniques to extract meaningful insights and inform strategic decision-making. The dataset's availability on Kaggle, a reputable collaborative platform, ensures accessibility for learning and educational purposes. Additionally, the ethical consideration of crediting the original creators from the Tableau website adds to the dataset's reliability. In essence, the choice of this dataset aligns with the current learning objectives, emphasizing descriptive analytics while acknowledging the potential for future advanced analyses.

3.2 Data pre-processing

This process involves several key stages to ensure that the data is accurate, relevant, and structured for effective analysis.

a) Library and Data Import:

Crucial libraries like NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, and Seaborn are imported for data manipulation and visualization.

b) Initial Data Exploration:

Commands such as df.head(), df.info(), df.shape, and df.columns offer an initial grasp of the dataset's makeup, content, and data types.

c) Data Cleaning:

Managing Missing Data: Using df.isnull().sum(), missing values are identified, and df.dropna(inplace=True) is employed to eliminate rows with missing data, ensuring data completeness.

d) Duplicate Removal: After identifying duplicates (df.duplicated().value_counts()), the 'Row ID' column, which hinders duplicate detection, is dropped, ensuring data uniqueness.

e) Feature Selection:

Domain Knowledge-based Selection: Columns like 'Customer ID,' 'Country,' and 'Postal Code' are removed based on their relevance to the analysis, guided by an understanding of the data's context and specific analytical goals.

f) Data Enrichment:

Introduction of New Metrics: Metrics such as 'Unit Discounted Sale Price,' 'Unit Original Sale Price,' 'Unit Profit,' 'Unit Cost Price,' and 'Profit Margin' are added, providing deeper insights into profitability and sales dynamics.

g) Column Renaming:

Columns are renamed (e.g., 'Segment' to 'Customer Segment') for improved clarity and interpretability.

The included code snippets illustrate the practical implementation of each step, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of both the data and the business context.

3.3 Data Analysis and Inferences

A. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

Before we start analyzing based on the objectives we have set, we need to understand the *Key Performing Indicators (KPI)* relevant to the data set. The inferences provide a starting point for deeper analysis.

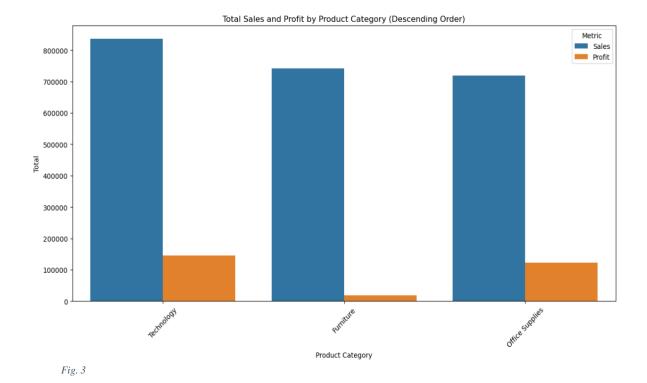
KPIs	Values
Total Sales	2,296,919
Total Quantity Sold	37,871
Total Profit	286,409
Average Profit Margin	12.47%
Total Customers	793.00
Total Orders	5,009
Average Discount Rate	16.00%
Average Quantity Per Order	7.16
Average Sales Per Order	459
Average Profit Per Order	57.18

Fig. 2

- ❖ 12.47% profit margin reflects efficient cost management, emphasizing the potential in high-margin products for growth.
- Customer retention-5,009 orders from 793 customers highlight repeat business. Prioritize customer loyalty through rewards and personalized services.
- ❖ Order Size-Encourage larger orders (7.16 items/order, 458.56 sales/order) through promotions and bundling deals.
- B. Product Portfolio Optimization and Sales Performance:

1.1 Product Portfolio Optimization:

Bar charts excel in optimizing product portfolios by providing visual clarity for comparing sales and profit across product categories and sub-categories. They aid decision-making and trend analysis, simplifying complex data.





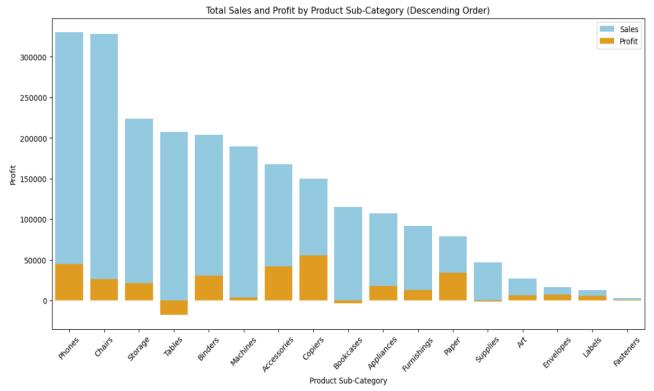
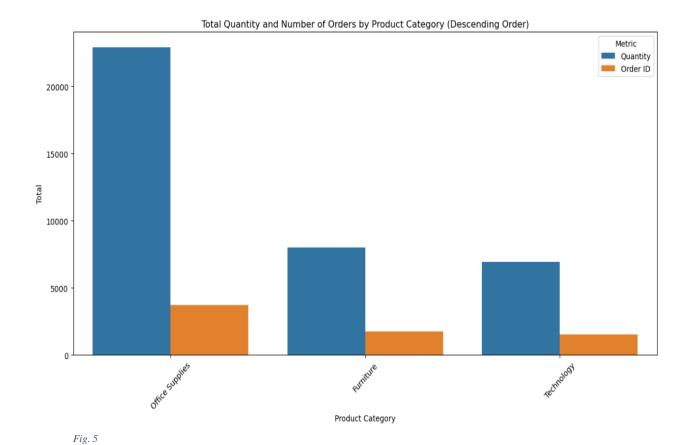
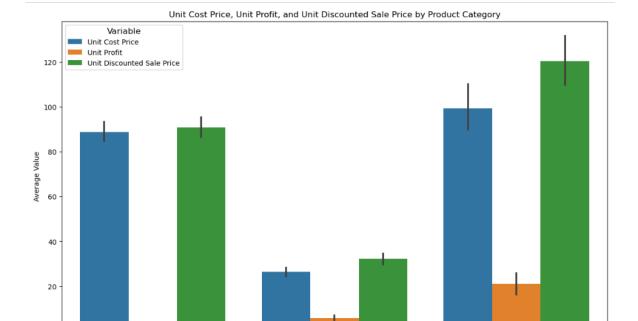


Fig. 4



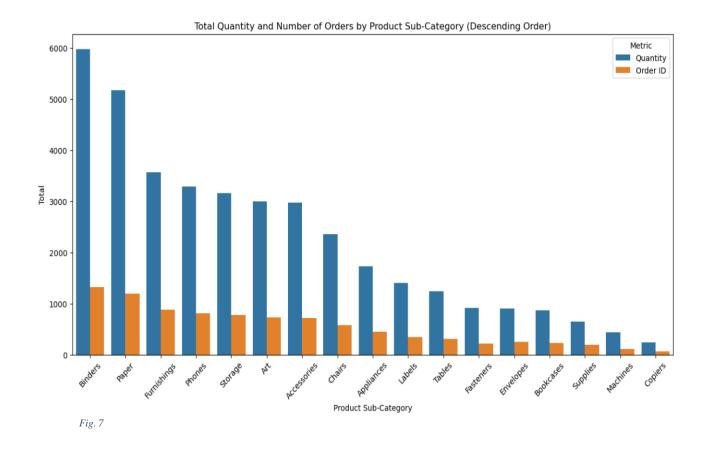


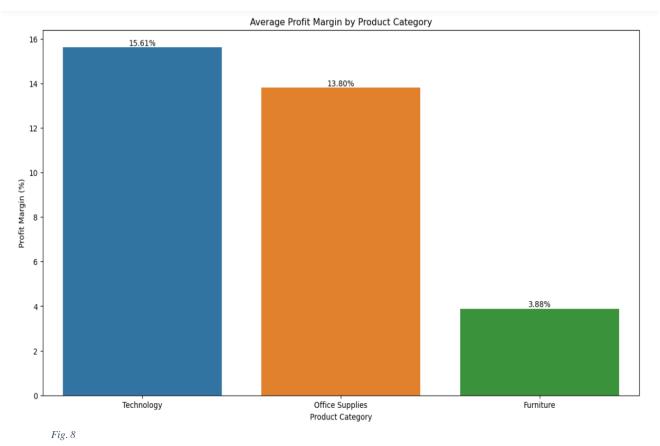
Office Supplies Product Category

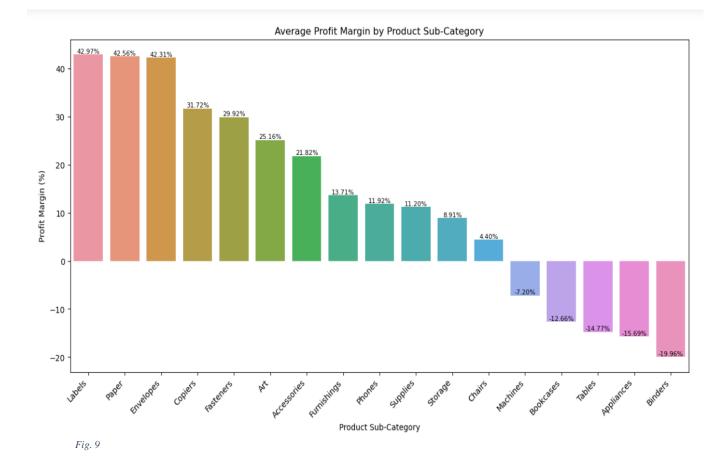
Furniture

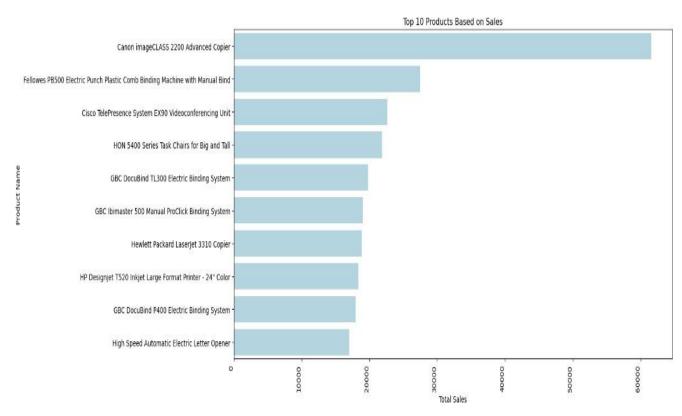
Fig. 6

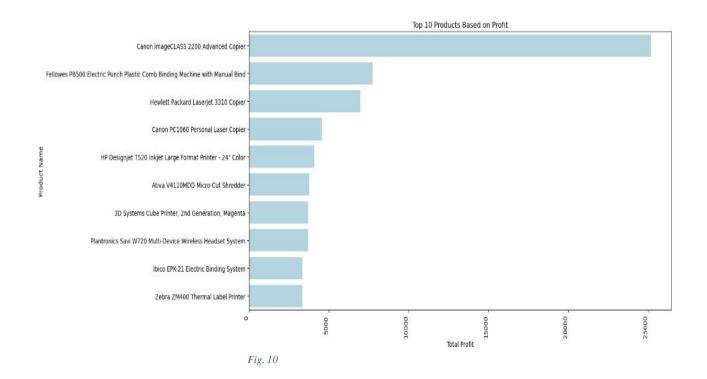
Technology

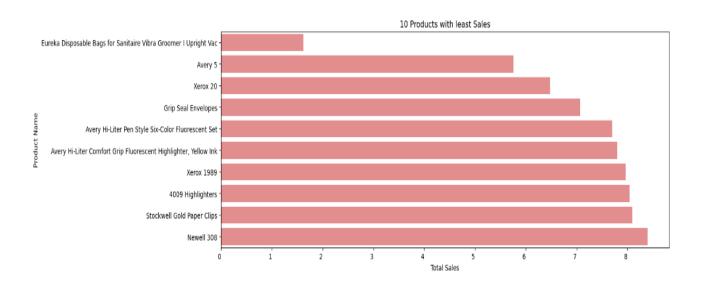


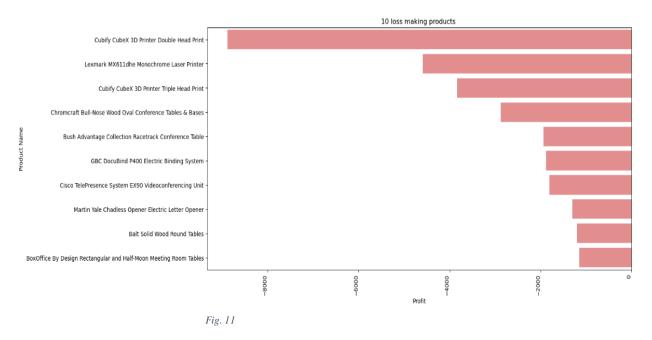








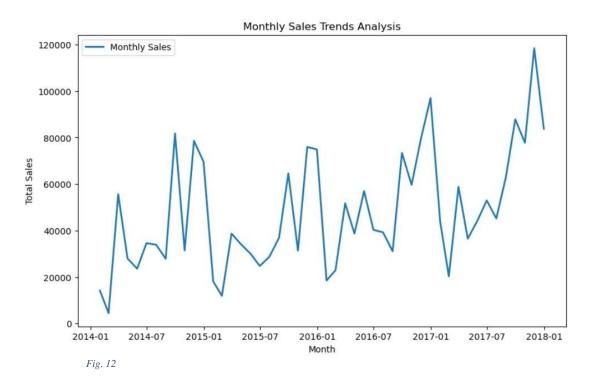




- ❖ Strategic Emphasis on Technology Category: The data strongly suggests that focusing on the "Technology" category can be a key driver for both high sales and profitability.
- Sub-categories like "Copiers" and "Technology" demonstrate both high sales and profit margins, but others like "Machines," "Bookcases," and "Tables" pose profitability challenges.
- Top loss-making items highlights areas for improvement such as targeted marketing or operational adjustments.

1.2 Sales and Profit Analysis:

These visualizations use a *line plot and area chart* to show trends over time, a valuable technique for tracking changes in sales and profits and for identifying patterns or irregularities. The use of histogram reveals distribution patterns, identifies outliers, and assesses data variability effectively.



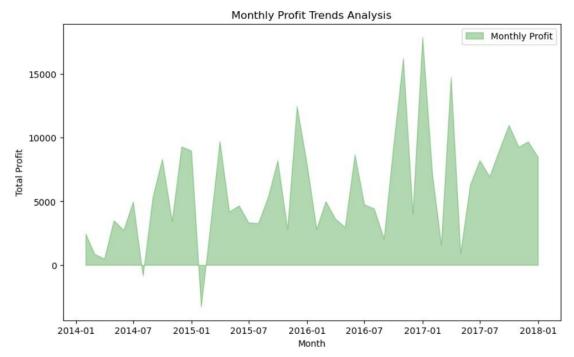
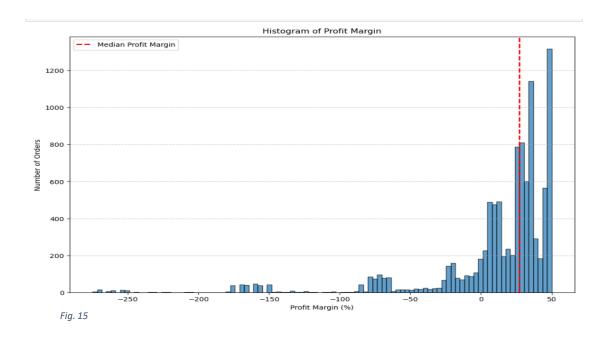


Fig. 13

Particulars	Value	Date
Highest Sales	118,447.82	Nov-17
Lowest Sales	4,519.89	Feb-14
Maximum Profit	17,885.31	Dec-16
Minimum Profit	-3,281.01	Jan-15

Fig. 14







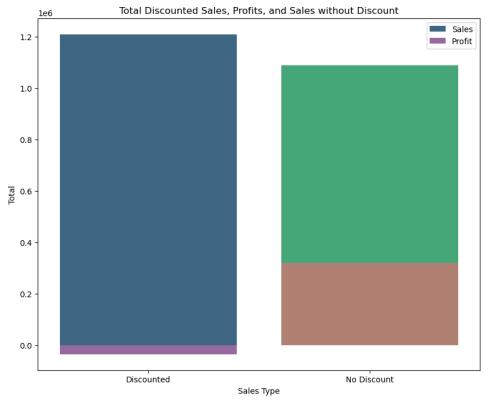
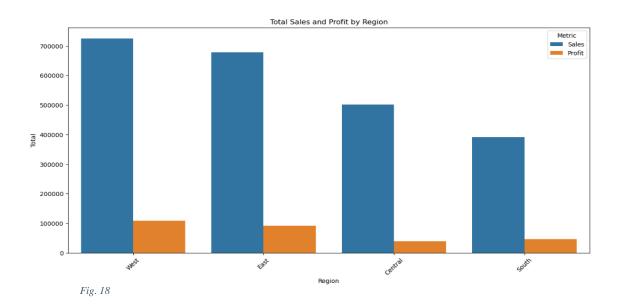


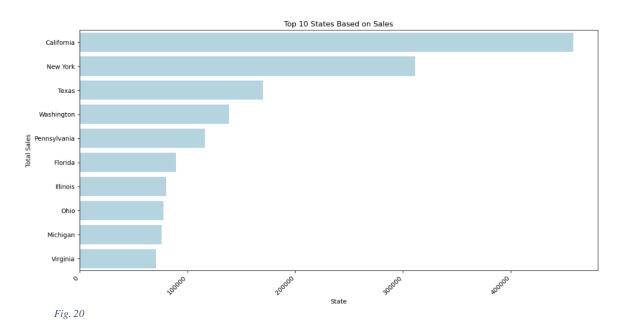
Fig. 17

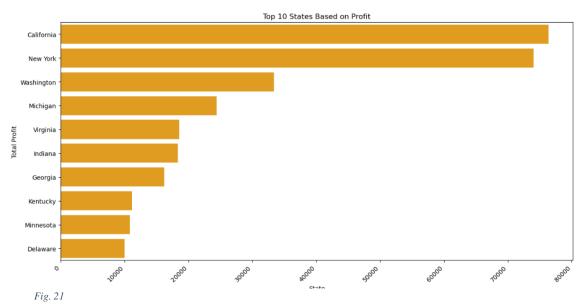
- ❖ Sales-Profit Discrepancy: High sales in November 2017 didn't correspond to the maximum profit month, indicating factors like costs or discounts impacting profitability.
- Seasonal Trends and Growth: The data reveals recurring monthly sales and profit patterns, showing seasonality. Additionally, there's a noticeable long-term trend of increasing sales and profits.
- ❖ The negative correlation between discount and profit, coupled with the stacked bar chart, emphasizes the need for a more strategic approach to discounting. While discounts may boost sales, the data suggests that they often erode profit margins.
- * There is a varied profit margin distribution, emphasizing a *concentration around* 50%. Approximately half of the orders exhibit non-negative profit margins, but a significant portion incurs losses.
- C. Regional Market Analysis and Strategy Development:

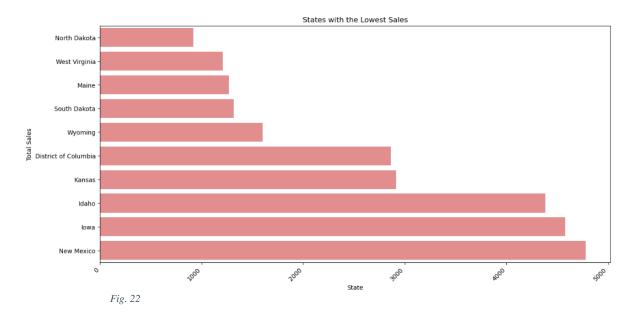


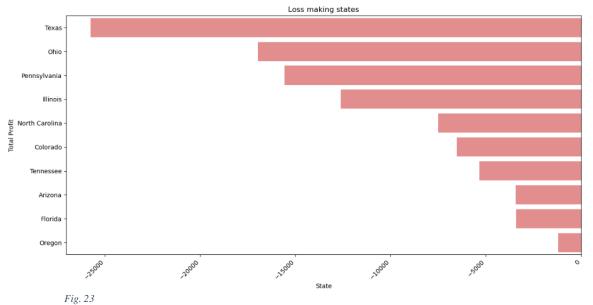
Region	Sales	Profit	Profitability
West	725,457.82	108,418.45	14.94%
East	678,499.87	91,534.84	13.49%
Central	501,239.89	39,706.36	7.92%
South	391,721.91	46,749.43	11.93%

Fig. 19







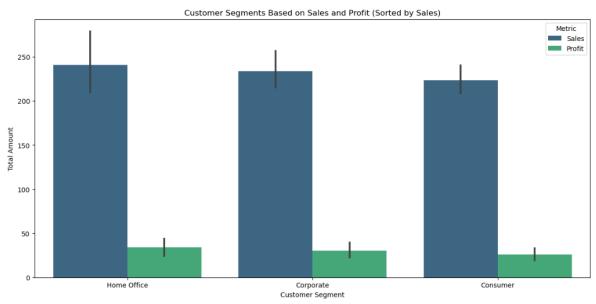


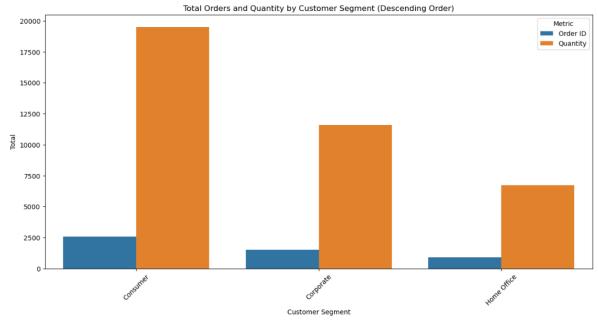
States	Profit	Sales	Profitability
New York	76,381.39	457,687.63	16.69%
California	74,038.55	310,876.27	23.82%
All other states	135,989.14	1,528,355.59	8.90%
Total	286,409.08	2,296,919.49	12.47%

Profit Share of Top 2 States: 52.52% Sales Share of Top 2 States: 33.46%

Fig. 24

- ❖ Concentrated High Performance: California and New York generate *over 50 %of* the total profit and over 30% of total sales with higher profitability ratios.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Other states have significant sales potential, with double sales yet significantly less profitability than the top two states combined.
- ❖ Underperformers: Low sales and loss-making states reveal underperforming regions, guiding improvement efforts or resource reallocation toward more profitable areas.
- D. Customer-Centric Analysis and Engagement Strategy:







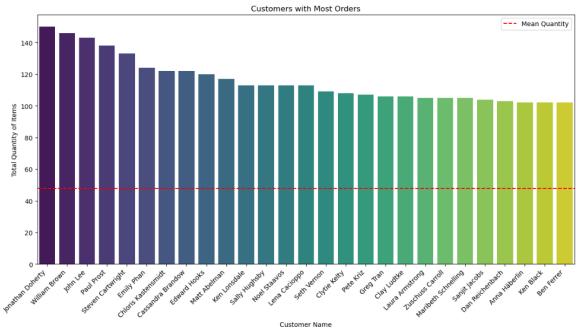


Fig. 27

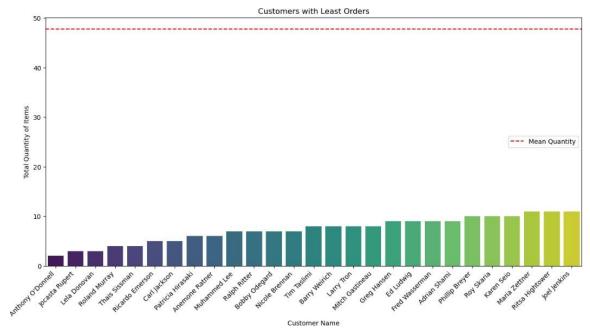


Fig. 28

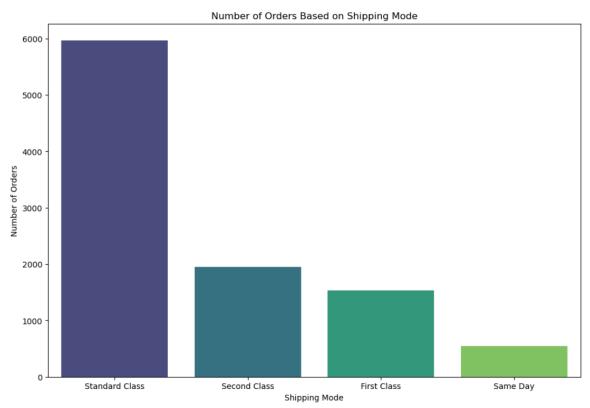


Fig. 29

- ❖ Consumer Dominance: Consumer segment leads in orders and quantities, highlighting a key market dominance leaving room for improvement for other sectors.
- Cost-Effective Shipping: Standard Class shipping prevails, indicating a cost-focused customer preference.
- ❖ **Segment Optimization:** Target mid-tier for engagement; gather top customer feedback for personalized strategies and growth.

4. Results:

Considering the inferences drawn already, there are critical insights for the superstore fuelling strategic optimization for enhanced profitability and competitiveness. In product portfolio evaluation, high performing categories and products help, emphasizing a successful high-margin, low-volume approach. Recommendations include intensified marketing and inventory allocation efforts for these categories, alongside targeted adjustments for low-sales and loss-making products. The seasonal influences in sales, emphasize the need to understand and capitalize on these trends. The negative correlation between discount and profit suggests a strategic revamp of discounting approaches, aligning with the importance of non-discounted sales in overall profitability. The wide profit margin distribution prompts a focused product mix optimization, prioritizing high-margin products.

Regional market analysis identifies performance variations, with the Northeast and West excelling while the South lags, also two states occupying most of profitability. Tailored strategies for underperforming regions and opportunities in underpenetrated rural markets are recommended. This involves restructuring marketing approaches and expanding distribution networks for growth while intensifying focus in best states. Customer-centric analysis reveals behaviour patterns, allowing tailored engagement strategies. High-order customers offer loyalty program opportunities, and shipping preference insights suggest cost-effective options. Profitability analysis by customer segments recommends upselling for the Corporate segment and differentiated marketing for the Consumer segment. In summary, the results provide a comprehensive roadmap, emphasizing strategic focus on high-margin products, optimized discounting, regional growth strategies, and customer-centric approaches success.

5. Conclusions:

The insights from the Superstore Giant's retail data hold substantial managerial implications for practitioners. For product portfolio managers, the emphasis on the Technology category should guide resource allocation to products with the highest profit margins. By focusing on high-margin, low-volume strategies, the superstore can maximize profitability. Efficient inventory management, especially for high-value items, could reduce holding costs and increase cash flow. The management needs to scrutinize low-sales and loss-making products, using data to inform the discontinuation or optimization of such items.

These insights must be leveraged by marketing department to align promotional strategies with seasonal sales patterns, ensuring campaigns are targeted and efficient. Regional managers should note the disparities in regional performance and allocate marketing efforts

accordingly to improve underperforming markets. This may involve a more localized product mix and marketing strategy, especially in areas like the South region. Customer engagement department should consider segment-specific approaches. The data supports the implementation of loyalty programs and targeted offers to engage both high-volume and infrequent customers, potentially boosting profitability. Shipping options also present a tactical opportunity, suggesting that promoting cost-effective shipping could resonate with a larger customer base.

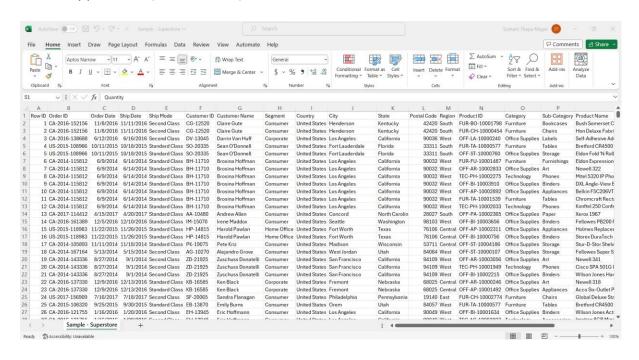
Excluding supply chain and inventory data limits understanding of logistical efficiency and stock management, potentially leading to supply shortfalls or excess. Lack of competitor insights hinders competitive strategy formation. Ignoring e-commerce trends and customer reviews can result in missed online market opportunities and a poor grasp of customer satisfaction and product feedback. Additionally, regional performance analysis might be affected by external factors not considered in the data, such as economic shifts or competitive actions.

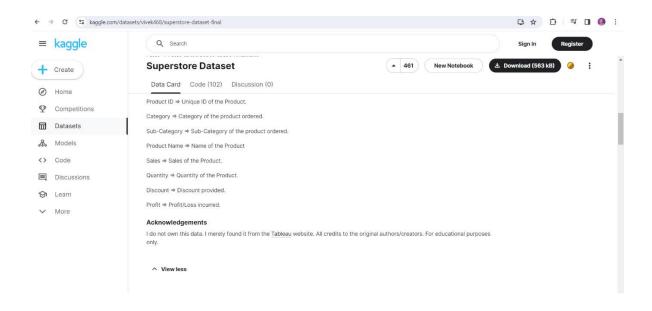
Future research for Superstore Giant should integrate predictive analytics for market trends, delve into supply chain and inventory for logistical efficiency, and include competitor benchmarking for strategic positioning. Emphasizing e-commerce trends, digital strategies, and customer sentiment analysis is vital to understand online behavior and preferences. Incorporating real-time data analytics and exploring diverse pricing strategies will facilitate agile decision-making and a comprehensive understanding of dynamic market conditions.

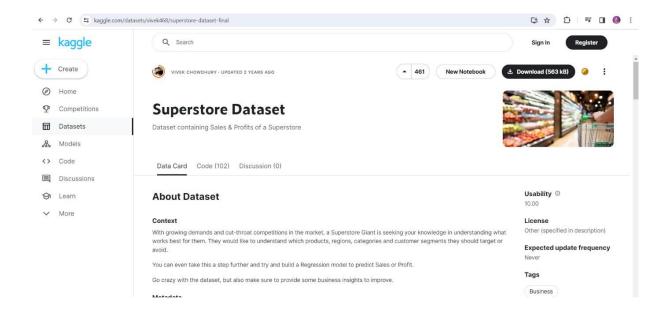
6. REFERENCES:

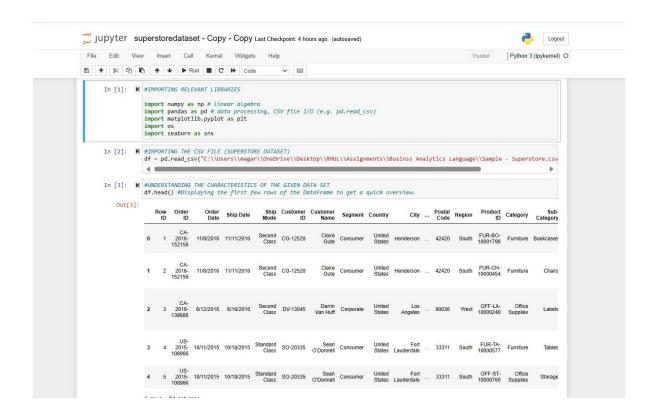
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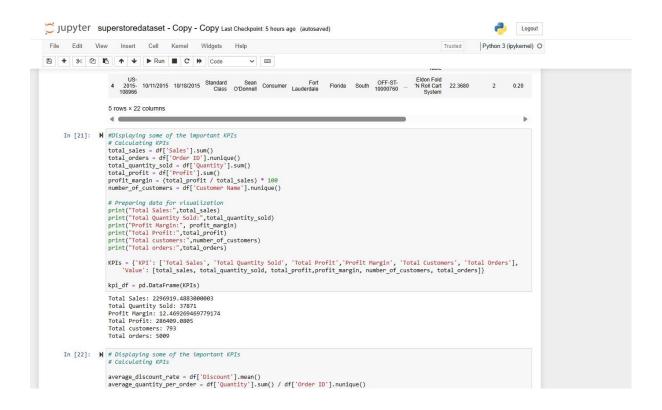
7. Appendices (Data & Code)

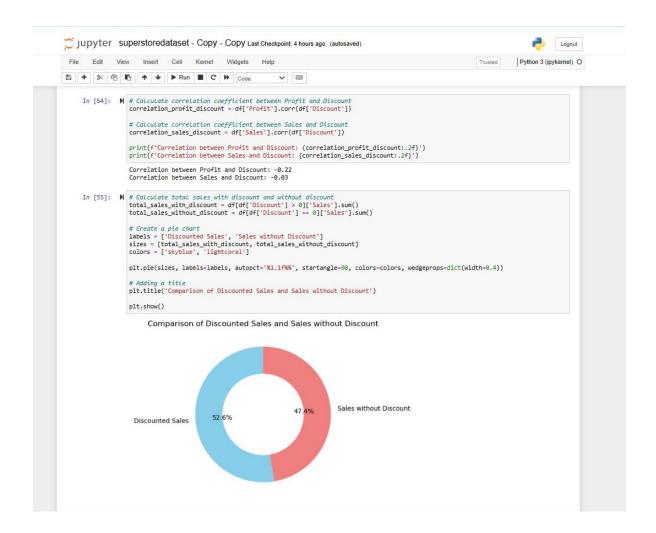


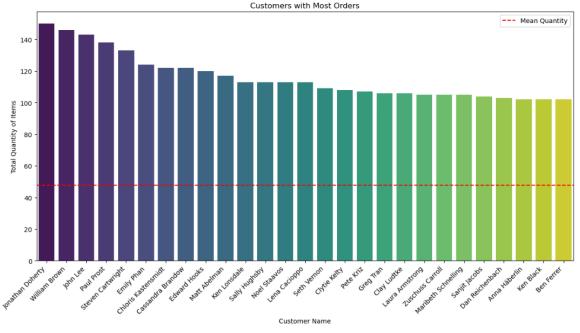


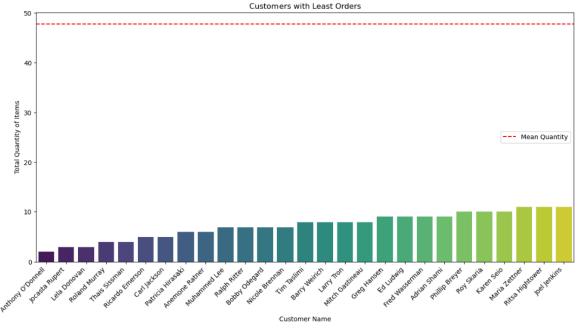




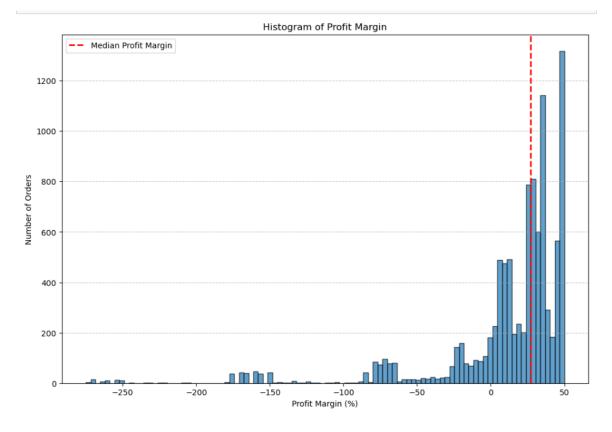








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