# Black Friday Analysis

### Sanata Sy-Sahande

October 22, 2018

In this document, I first do some exploratory data analysis on the Black Friday dataset. I then run several prediction models to predict the amount purchased by a customer, and classification models to predict the product category of the purchase.

# Exploratory analysis

The dataset includes information on about 5800+ customers, for about 3600+ products.

```
length(unique(bf$Product_ID)) #3k+ products

## [1] 3623

length(unique(bf$User_ID)) #6K customers

## [1] 5891
```

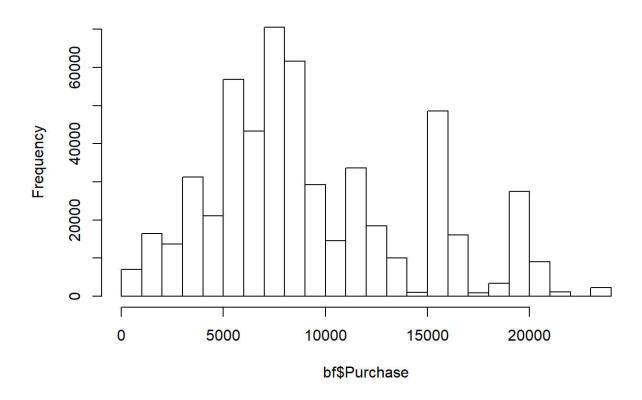
The average purchase is about \$9300, and the variable is normally distributed, with spikes at \$15000 and \$20000.

```
mean(bf$Purchase)

## [1] 9333.86

hist(bf$Purchase)
```

#### Histogram of bf\$Purchase

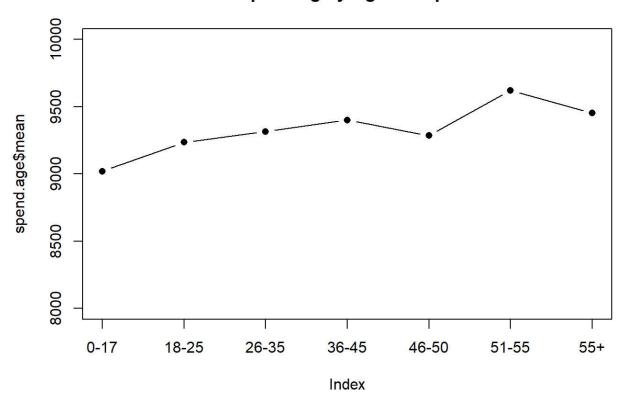


# Purchases as a function of features

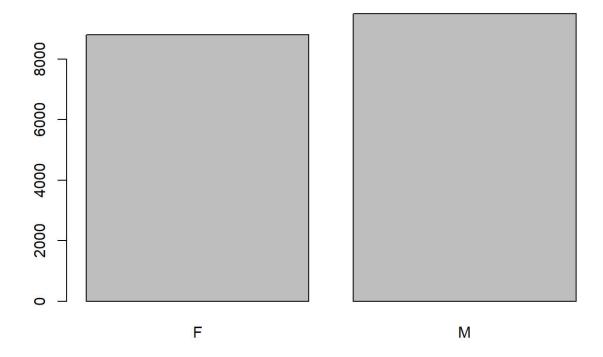
The next series of plots show how purchase amounts vary by the other variables in the dataset.

At first glance age, gender (men), and product category seem to be the best predictors of amount purchased.

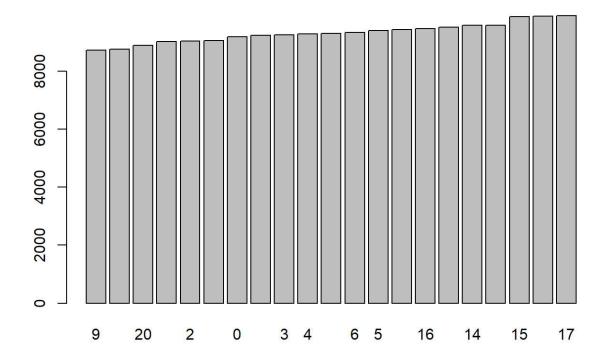
## **Spending by Age Groups**



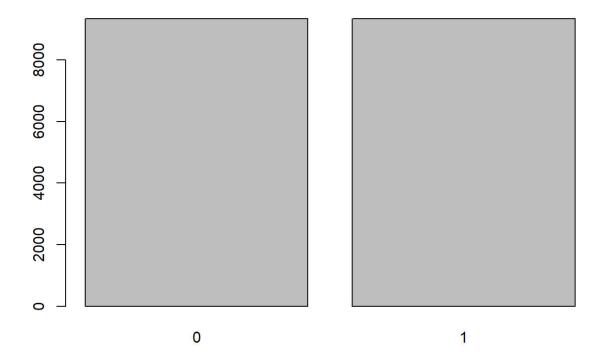
## **Spending by Gender**



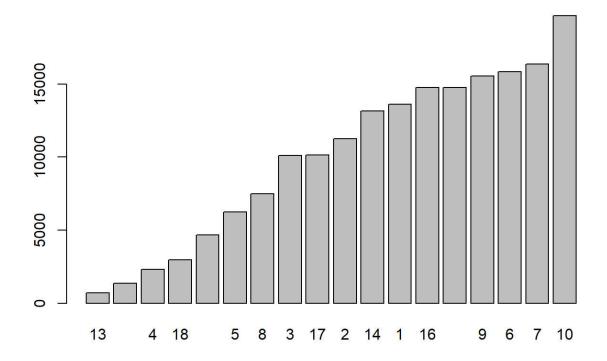
## Spending by Occupation (masked)



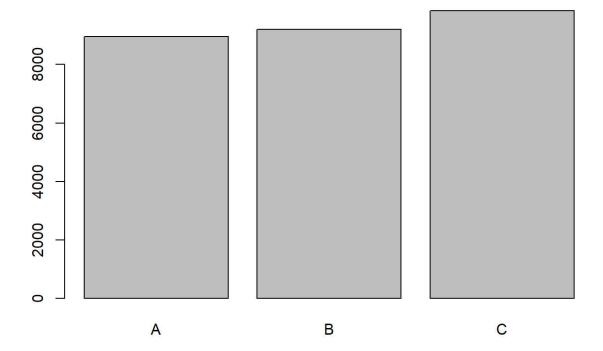
## Spending by Marital Status



## **Spending by Product Category**

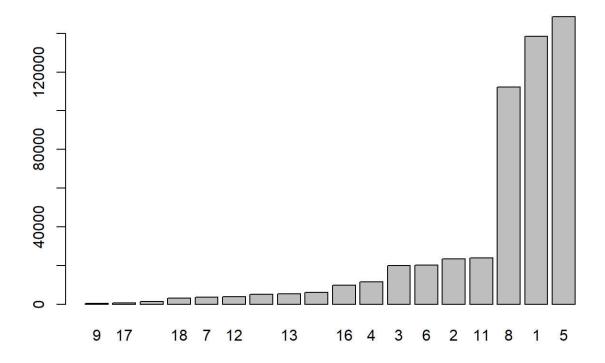


### **Spending by City**



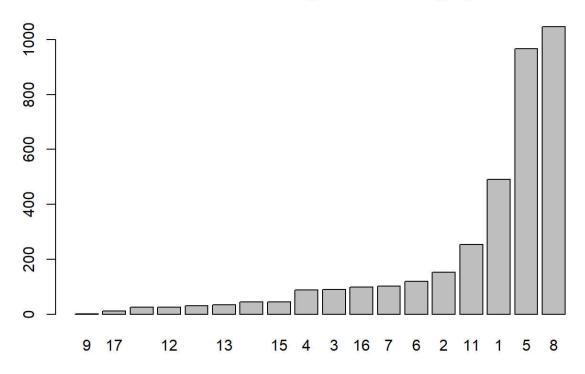
Next, I quickly check which product categories are most popular. Categories 1, 5, and 8 outnumber all other categories. This issue will come up later in the classification models.

### **Total Purchases by Product Category**



I then check whether some categories just have more products, which would explain their popularity. Again, I find categories 1, 5, and 8 have the most products.

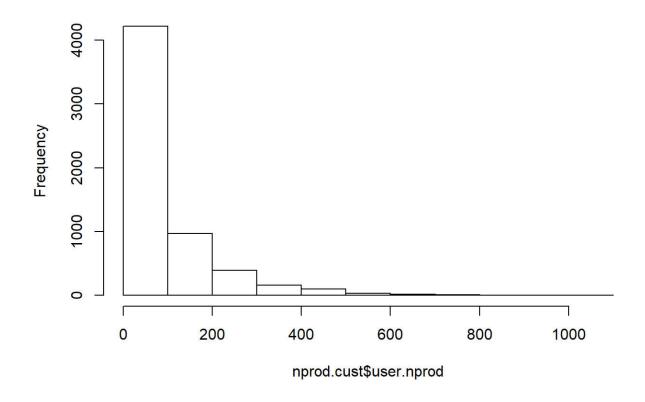
### **Total Products by Product Category**



# Data cleaning

I did some data cleaning to add and edit variables.

## Histogram of nprod.cust\$user.nprod



```
summary(nprod.cust$user.nprod)
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 5.00 25.00 53.00 91.25 114.00 1025.00
```

```
purch.cust <- bf %>% group_by(User_ID) %>%
              summarise(totspend = sum(Purchase))
#add to dataset
bf <- left_join(bf, nprod.cust, by="User ID")</pre>
bf <- left_join(bf, purch.cust, by="User_ID")</pre>
#Data cleaning: drop variables to simplify classifictaion
bf <- bf %>% select(-c(Product_Category_2,Product_Category_3))
#Data cleaning: edit variables
bf <- bf %>% mutate(Age = recode(Age, "0-17"=0,
                                        "18-25"=1,
                                        "26-35"=2,
                                        "36-45"=3,
                                        "46-50"=4,
                                        "51-55"=5,
                                        "55+"=6))
bf <- bf %>% mutate(Stay_In_Current_City_Years =
                       recode(Stay In Current City Years,
                                "0"=0, "1"=1, "2"=2, "3"=3, "4+"=4))
#Data cleaning: convert to factors
bf$Gender <- as.factor(bf$Gender)</pre>
bf$Occupation <- as.factor(bf$Occupation)</pre>
bf$City_Category <- as.factor(bf$City_Category )</pre>
bf$Product_Category_1 <- as.factor(bf$Product_Category_1)</pre>
#Data prep: make training and validation
set.seed(1)
train = sample(1:nrow(bf), nrow(bf)/2)
```

# Regression: Predict Purchase Amount

I run several models to predict Purchase based on customer features. I first calculate the baseline RMSE with a simple OLS regression.

```
## [1] 4957.321
```

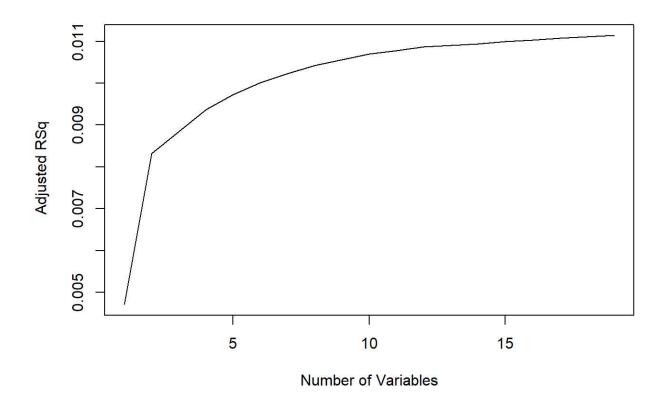
RMSE is equal to 4957.3210844. This means that an OLS model is expected to predict the target purchase amount by a margin of \$4957.3210844, equivalent to about half a standard deviation.

#### **Feature Selection**

To improve on the OLS model, I do some feature engineering to select the best variables to keep. This is especially useful since the dataset includes two categorical variables with many levels: occupation (21 levels) and product category (18 levels). Together they add almost 40 features to the model.

I first determine the optimal number of variables to include in the model. I compare full subset selection, forward, and backward selection. I use adjusted R-squared as my evaluation metric.

Below are the results of the forward selection approach, whichindicates about 10 variables before the improvement in adjusted R-squared from adding additional variables becomes neglible. (Similar results for full and backward selection ommitted.)



```
which.max(reg.summary$adjr2)
```

```
## [1] 19
```

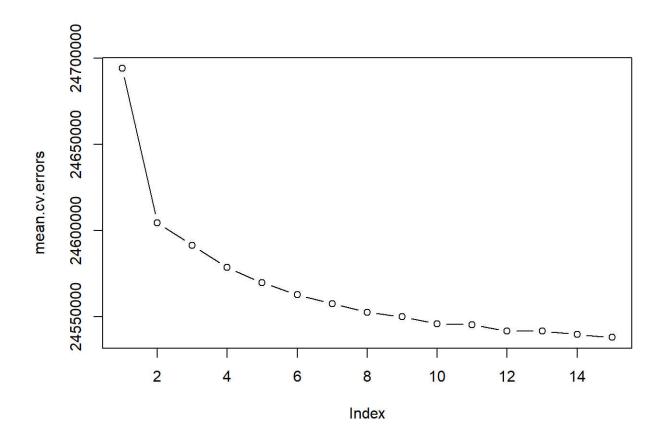
```
fwd.coefs <- coef(regfit.fwd, 10)
fwd.coefs</pre>
```

```
##
      (Intercept)
                          GenderM
                                     Occupation7
                                                    Occupation12
                                                                   Occupation14
        8402.4806
##
                         631.8746
                                        198.5486
                                                        524.4904
                                                                        339.5393
##
     Occupation15
                    Occupation17
                                    Occupation19
                                                    Occupation20 City_CategoryB
                                       -505.8988
                                                       -247.4482
##
         587.0321
                         506.2131
                                                                       230.3504
## City_CategoryC
##
         850.1810
```

```
#First, create a vector that allocates each observation to one of k = 10 folds
k=10
set.seed(1)
folds=sample(1:k,nrow(bf),replace =TRUE)
cv.errors = matrix(NA, k, 15, dimnames=list(NULL, paste(1:15) )) #matrix to store resu
lts
#make predict function
predict.regsubsets = function(object, newdata ,id ,...){
  form = as.formula(object$call[[2]])
  mat = model.matrix(form, newdata)
  coefi = coef(object, id=id)
 xvars =names (coefi )
  mat[,xvars ]%*% coefi
}
#In the jth fold, the elements of folds that equal j
#are in the test set, and the remainder are in the training set
for(j in 1:k){
  best.fit = regsubsets(Purchase ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +
                            City Category +
                           Stay_In_Current_City_Years +
                           Marital Status,
                          data=bf[folds !=j,],
                          nvmax = 15)
  for(i in 1:15) {
    pred=predict.regsubsets(best.fit, bf[folds==j,], id=i) #make predictions for each
model size
    #compute the test errors on the appropriate subset
    #store them in cv.errors
    cv.errors[j,i]=mean( (bf$Purchase[folds==j]-pred)^2)
  #returns a kx15 matrix in cv.errors
}
mean.cv.errors = apply(cv.errors ,2, mean) #calculate errors for the j-variable model
mean.cv.errors
```

```
## 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
## 24694029 24604631 24591561 24578726 24569726 24562970 24557629 24552690
## 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
## 24550119 24545840 2454583 24541803 24541852 24539767 24538128
```

```
par(mfrow =c(1,1))
plot(mean.cv.errors ,type='b')
```



As an alternative, I used cross-validation to determine the optimal number of variables in the model. I did this by performing best subset selection for up to 15 variables, within each of k=10 training sets. The results seem to confirm that 10-15 is the ideal range of variables. I select 12, and obtain the best 12 coefficients from the best subset method on the full sample.

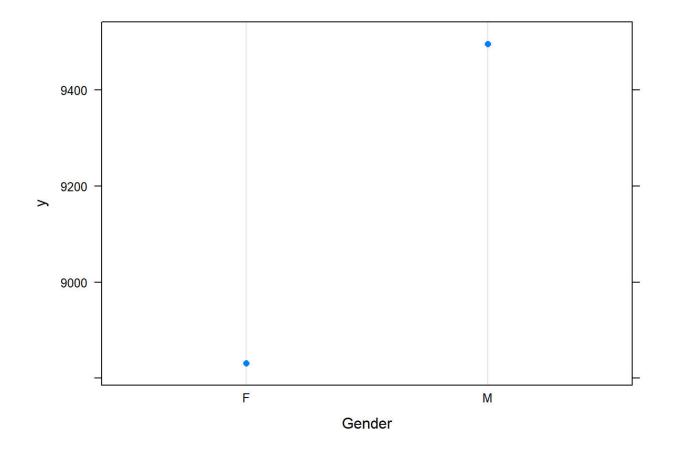
```
##
      (Intercept)
                          GenderM
                                     Occupation1
                                                     Occupation7
                                                                    Occupation10
##
        8442.5744
                         623.7108
                                        -175.2640
                                                        162.5461
                                                                       -324.1805
     Occupation12
                     Occupation14
                                                    Occupation17
                                                                    Occupation19
##
                                    Occupation15
##
         488.8330
                         303.1415
                                         550.9439
                                                        470.3583
                                                                       -542.4365
##
     Occupation20 City_CategoryB City_CategoryC
        -283.1242
##
                         230.6716
                                         857.8575
```

```
## [1] 4958.018
```

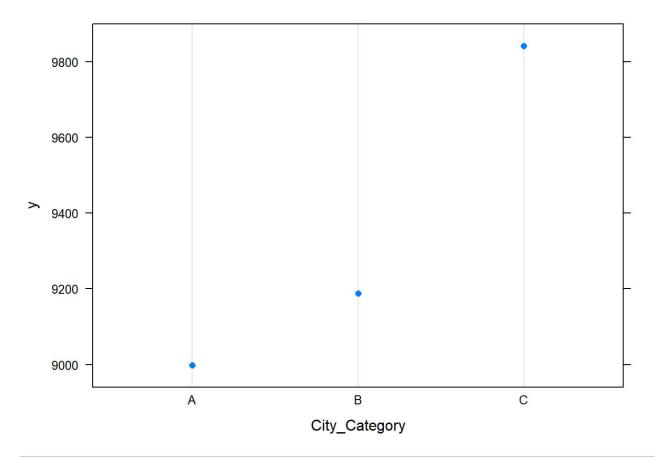
Selecting the best subset did not lead to a noticeable improvement in RMSE, which is now at 4958.0177481. This suggests that a linear model may not be the best model for the data. I turn to regression trees instead.

# Regression Trees

In this section, I compare the performance of random forest with boosting to try to reduce the RMSE.



plot(boost.bf, i="City\_Category")



```
#predict purchase on test set
yhat.boost=predict(boost.bf, newdata=bf[-train, ], n.trees=500)
mse <- mean((yhat.boost - bf$Purchase[-train])^2)
sqrt(mse) #RMSE = 4932</pre>
```

```
## [1] 4933.75
```

Again, the boosted trees reduced the RMSE, but not by much. My guess is that individual characteristics of consumers do not do as great a job of explaining the purchase amount as the products themselves. This is confirmed by comparing the R-squared of the original OLS model, and one including the product categories on the right hand side.

```
## [1] 0.01160177
```

```
## [1] 0.6318441
```

As suspected, including product categories increases the training R-squared from 0.01 to 0.63. But this is not particularly informative because it simply indicates that customers who by products from more expensive categories spend more money. It seems then that the appropriate model would be to predict which categories of goods customers will buy—a classification problem.

However, before continuing, I make a case for why the prediction models were still informative. Despite their low explanatory power, we now have a better idea of what types of customers tend to spend more: male customers, and those in a set of key occupations (masked). I would expect to see these same features be relevant for the classification models.

## Classification

To build my classification model, I first order the product categories by price by calculating the average price of a product in each category. The target variable is now an ordered, multi-class response.

#### Attempt 1: Ordered logit

The setup lends itself well to a multinomial ordered logistic regression, where we estimate the odds that the customer will purchase a good in a category of increasing price. This first attempt has a response variable with 18 levels (one for each category), and as such I do not expect it to perform well.

```
## Call:
## polr(formula = prod_cat_by_price ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +
       City_Category + Stay_In_Current_City_Years + Marital_Status,
##
       data = bf[train, ], Hess = TRUE)
##
## Coefficients:
##
                                    Value Std. Error t value
## GenderM
                               0.2586652
                                            0.008202 31.5363
## Age
                               -0.0105249
                                            0.003108 -3.3868
## Occupation1
                               -0.0184715
                                            0.015188 -1.2162
## Occupation2
                               -0.0569635
                                            0.018269 -3.1181
## Occupation3
                               -0.0614250
                                            0.021346 -2.8775
## Occupation4
                               0.0018141
                                            0.013882 0.1307
## Occupation5
                               0.0187171
                                            0.025219 0.7422
## Occupation6
                               -0.0155034
                                            0.020307 -0.7635
## Occupation7
                               0.0427129
                                            0.014371 2.9721
## Occupation8
                               0.1934373
                                            0.064032 3.0210
## Occupation9
                               -0.1496883
                                            0.033938 -4.4106
## Occupation10
                                            0.025508 -5.5574
                               -0.1417566
## Occupation11
                               -0.0482814
                                            0.025516 -1.8922
## Occupation12
                               0.1040111
                                            0.017429 5.9679
## Occupation13
                               -0.0617400
                                            0.031657 -1.9503
## Occupation14
                               0.0563024
                                            0.018142 3.1034
## Occupation15
                               0.1071404
                                            0.025032 4.2802
## Occupation16
                               -0.0122300
                                            0.018846 -0.6489
## Occupation17
                               0.1311331
                                            0.016129 8.1304
                                            0.033405 -4.8632
## Occupation18
                               -0.1624555
## Occupation19
                               -0.1247913
                                            0.029668 -4.2062
## Occupation20
                               -0.0617477
                                            0.016878 -3.6584
## City_CategoryB
                               0.0249113
                                            0.008500 2.9308
## City_CategoryC
                               0.1229365
                                            0.009213 13.3437
## Stay_In_Current_City_Years 0.0007376
                                            0.002665 0.2767
## Marital_Status
                                0.0023316
                                            0.007374 0.3162
##
## Intercepts:
##
         Value
                   Std. Error t value
                              -179.9650
## 01 | 02
           -4.3842
                      0.0244
## 02 | 03
           -3.8294
                      0.0209 -183.2579
## 03 | 04
           -2.9967
                              -168.2651
                      0.0178
## 04 | 05
           -2.8533
                      0.0175
                              -163.4055
## 05 | 06
           -2.1119
                      0.0162
                             -130.1625
## 06 | 07
           -0.3348
                      0.0153
                               -21.8258
## 07 | 08
            0.5215
                      0.0154
                                 33.9471
## 08 09
            0.6765
                      0.0154
                                 43.9646
## 09|10
            0.6811
                      0.0154
                                 44.2614
## 10|11
            0.8708
                      0.0154
                                 56.4474
## 11|12
            0.8834
                      0.0154
                                 57.2536
## 12 | 13
            2.6231
                      0.0165
                                159.0411
```

```
table <- coef(summary(m))

#validate ologit on test data
preds.p <- predict(m, newdat=bf[-train, ], type = "probs")
preds.class <- apply(preds.p, 1, which.max)
accuracy = mean(preds.class==bf$prod_cat_by_price[-train])
accuracy</pre>
```

```
## [1] 0.1076644
```

As suspected, the model only predicts the true product category at a rate of 0.1076644.

#### Attempt 2: Reduce number of categories

In this second attempt, I reduce the number of categories by breaking up the product price range into quintiles.

```
## Call:
## polr(formula = prod_price_range ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +
       City_Category + Stay_In_Current_City_Years + Marital_Status,
       data = bf[train, ], Hess = TRUE)
##
##
## Coefficients:
##
                                  Value Std. Error t value
## GenderM
                              2.518e-01
                                          0.008466 29.74839
## Age
                             -7.174e-03
                                          0.003184 -2.25285
## Occupation1
                             -3.458e-02
                                          0.015584 -2.21878
## Occupation2
                             -6.735e-02
                                          0.018789 -3.58439
## Occupation3
                             -7.762e-02
                                          0.021977 -3.53181
## Occupation4
                             -1.360e-03 0.014251 -0.09541
## Occupation5
                              2.604e-02
                                          0.025787 1.00972
## Occupation6
                             -2.037e-02
                                          0.020842 -0.97753
## Occupation7
                              2.466e-02
                                          0.014695 1.67840
## Occupation8
                              1.985e-01
                                          0.065776 3.01796
## Occupation9
                             -1.526e-01
                                          0.035399 -4.31187
## Occupation10
                             -5.452e-02
                                          0.026295 -2.07333
## Occupation11
                                          0.026220 -2.80178
                             -7.346e-02
## Occupation12
                              9.358e-02
                                          0.017854 5.24154
## Occupation13
                             -8.536e-02
                                          0.032353 -2.63824
## Occupation14
                              2.411e-02
                                          0.018605 1.29601
## Occupation15
                              9.683e-02
                                          0.025685 3.76982
## Occupation16
                             -2.629e-02
                                          0.019290 -1.36266
## Occupation17
                              1.284e-01
                                          0.016496 7.78370
## Occupation18
                             -1.401e-01
                                          0.033886 -4.13396
## Occupation19
                             -1.266e-01
                                          0.030386 -4.16713
                             -6.702e-02
## Occupation20
                                          0.017369 -3.85870
## City_CategoryB
                              3.507e-02
                                          0.008731 4.01635
## City_CategoryC
                              1.251e-01
                                          0.009453 13.22920
## Stay_In_Current_City_Years -7.306e-05
                                          0.002732 -0.02674
## Marital_Status
                              3.468e-03
                                          0.007565 0.45835
##
## Intercepts:
##
      Value
                Std. Error t value
## 1 2
        -4.3815
                   0.0246 -178.1132
## 2|3
       -0.3328
                   0.0158
                            -21.1151
## 3 4
         0.5235
                   0.0158
                             33.1697
## 4|5
         2.6225
                   0.0169
                            155.3861
##
## Residual Deviance: 705664.13
## AIC: 705724.13
```

```
table <- coef(summary(m))

#validate ologit on test data
preds.class <- predict(m, newdat=bf[-train, ])

#confusion matrix
table(preds.class, bf$prod_price_range[-train])</pre>
```

```
##
                                           5
## preds.class
                         2
                               3
##
##
             2 1526 52302 32228 42842 11712
##
             3
                   0
                         0
                               0
                                     0
             4 1226 43229 23784 49071 10869
##
##
                         0
                               0
```

```
#accuracy
accuracy = mean(preds.class==bf$prod_price_range[-train])
accuracy
```

```
## [1] 0.3771471
```

As we can see from the confusion matrix, the model only assigns select classes while completely ignoring others. The predict function assigns the highest probability for each observation, which is sensitive to uneven sample probabilities. Even with class reduction, we still have a class imbalance problem since certain classes are extreme minorities:

```
prop.table(table(bf$prod_price_range))
```

```
##
## 1 2 3 4 5
## 0.01011948 0.35542629 0.20858779 0.34184498 0.08402145
```

#### Attempt 3: One-versus-All

Given imbalance, we could use an over- or under-sampling method to adjust the observed proportions of each class. I tried using SMOTE to balance the sample, but it did not improve predictions very much.

Instead, I opted to reduce the number of classes even further to just three: low-price, mid-price, and high-price items, each containing about a third of the data. I then used one-versus-all (calculating the probability of an observation being in class 1, 2, or 3 versus all other classes) to assign each observation to the class with the highest probability.

```
#create new intervals
bf$prod_price_range <- cut(bf$prod_cat_avg_price,</pre>
                            breaks=3, labels = 1:3)
#create indicators
bf$prod_price_range1 <- ifelse(bf$prod_price_range==1, 1, 0)</pre>
bf$prod_price_range2 <- ifelse(bf$prod_price_range==2, 1, 0)</pre>
bf$prod price range3 <- ifelse(bf$prod price range==3, 1, 0)</pre>
#one-versus-all
glm.fit1 <- glm(prod_price_range1 ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +</pre>
                  City_Category + Stay_In_Current_City_Years +
                  Marital Status,
                data = bf[train, ], family=binomial)
glm.fit2 <- glm(prod price range2 ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +
                   City_Category + Stay_In_Current_City_Years +
                  Marital_Status,
                data = bf[train, ], family=binomial)
glm.fit3 <- glm(prod price range3 ~ Gender + Age + Occupation +
                  City_Category + Stay_In_Current_City_Years +
                  Marital_Status,
                data = bf[train, ], family=binomial)
#get predicted probabilities of each class
pred1 <- predict(glm.fit1, bf[-train, ], type="response")</pre>
pred2 <- predict(glm.fit2, bf[-train, ], type="response")</pre>
pred3 <- predict(glm.fit3, bf[-train, ], type="response")</pre>
preds <- cbind(pred1, pred2, pred3)</pre>
#assign the class with the highest probability to each observation
pred.class <- apply(preds, 1, which.max)</pre>
#confusion matrix
table(pred.class, bf$prod_price_range[-train])
##
## pred.class 1
                         2
           1 53891 42941 43434
##
##
           2 3867 4120 2855
            3 40525 31665 45491
```

```
#accuracy rate
accuracy = mean(pred.class==bf$prod_price_range[-train])
accuracy
```

```
## [1] 0.3850678
```

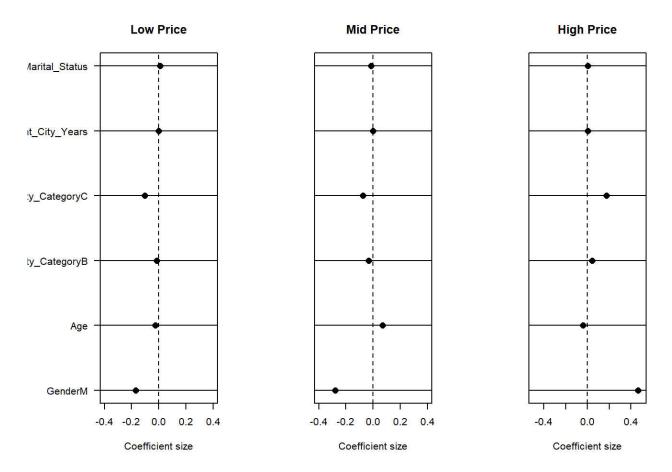
The OVA method performed the best, raising the accuracy rate to 0.3850678. While this is still not ideal, it is certainly a major improvement over the original ologit model.

Despite the significant limitations in accuracy rate, we can still answer our original question using this approach: what kinds of customers are likely to buy lower- versus higher-end products?

I answer this question by looking at the size and direction of the coefficients of each of the three OVA models. These are the original odds ratios of a logit regression. (With more time I would convert the coefficients to marginal effects for more ease of interpretation.)

I first look at the coefficients on gender, age, location, residency, and marital status. Gender and the City C location seem to have the largest association with a customer's chosen price group. Male customers are less likely to buy low- and mid-priced products, and more likely to buy expensive products, as do those in City C. Age, residency in years, and marital status are especially not informative (as we also saw in the prediction model).

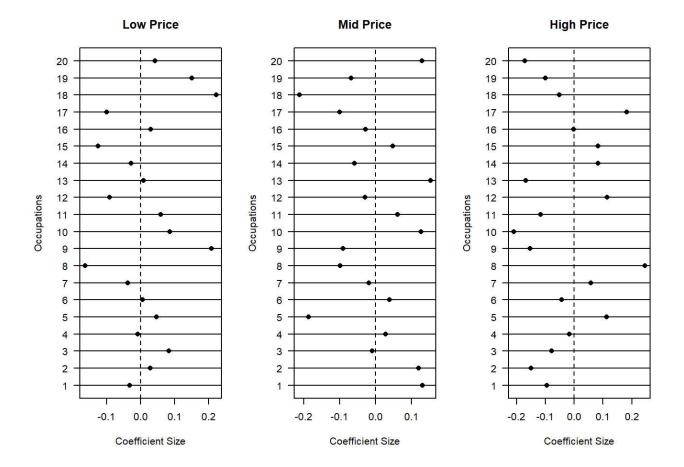
```
#plot coefficients by class
coefs <- cbind(coef(glm.fit1),coef(glm.fit2), coef(glm.fit3) )</pre>
ids <- which(row.names(coefs) %in% c("GenderM", "Age", "City_CategoryB", "City_Categor</pre>
yC", "Stay_In_Current_City_Years", "Marital_Status"))
par(mfrow=c(1, 3), mar=c(5,6,4,2))
plot(coefs[ids, 1], 1:length(ids), pch=16, cex=1.4, xlim=c(-0.4, 0.4),
     xlab = "Coefficient size", ylab="", yaxt="n",
     main="Low Price")
abline(v=0, lty=2)
abline(h=c(1:length(ids)))
axis(side=2, at = 1:length(ids), labels=row.names(coefs)[ids], cex=.7, las=2)
plot(coefs[ids, 2], 1:length(ids), pch=16, cex=1.4, xlim=c(-0.4, 0.4),
     xlab = "Coefficient size", ylab="", yaxt="n",
     main="Mid Price")
abline(v=0, lty=2)
abline(h=c(1:length(ids)))
plot(coefs[ids, 3], 1:length(ids), pch=16, cex=1.4, xlim=c(-0.5, 0.5),
     xlab = "Coefficient size", ylab="", yaxt="n",
     main="High Price")
abline(v=0, lty=2)
abline(h=c(1:length(ids)))
```



Next, I looked at the coefficients of the occupation variable, which contains 20 levels. While this set of panels is a bit harder to read, certain occupations stand out as particularly associated with low-, mid-, and high-price products.

For instance, the store could target Occupations 18, 19, and 9 especially for low-price items, Occupations 20, 13, and 10, for mid-priced items, and Occupations 8 and 17 for high-priced items.

```
#plot occupation
occ.ids <- (1:nrow(coefs))[-c(1, ids)]
par(mfrow=c(1, 3), mar=c(5,4,4,2))
plot(coefs[occ.ids, 1], 1:length(occ.ids), pch=16, yaxt="n",
     ylab="Occupations", xlab="Coefficient Size", main="Low Price")
abline(h=c(1:length(occ.ids)))
abline(v=0, lty=2)
axis(side=2, at = 1:length(occ.ids), labels=1:20, las=2)
plot(coefs[occ.ids, 2], 1:length(occ.ids), pch=16, yaxt="n",
     ylab="Occupations", xlab="Coefficient Size", main="Mid Price")
abline(h=c(1:length(occ.ids)))
abline(v=0, lty=2)
axis(side=2, at = 1:length(occ.ids), labels=1:20, las=2)
plot(coefs[occ.ids, 3], 1:length(occ.ids), pch=16, yaxt="n",
     ylab="Occupations", xlab="Coefficient Size", main="High Price")
abline(h=c(1:length(occ.ids)))
abline(v=0, lty=2)
axis(side=2, at = 1:length(occ.ids), labels=1:20, las=2)
```



# Recap

After some exploratory graphing, this analysis set out to predict Black Friday purchase amounts. Realizing that the problem was better suited for classification, I ran a series of logistic regression models to identify the customer features that would best predict purchases of higher-priced products. I found that male customers and customers in City C were the most reliable predictors of high-priced products. I also identified key occupations to target for low-, mid-, and high-priced products.

The accuracy of the model might be improved with unmasked data, which would allow for a more intuitive grouping of occupations to reduce this 20-level factor variable.