Building Agentic Systems Data Analysis Agent

1. Project Overview

This project implements an autonomous, multi-agent AI analytics system designed to analyze Q3 2024 e-commerce sales data and produce a complete, VP-ready business report. The goal of the system is to automatically load, clean, explore, interpret, and visualize sales trends, and then synthesize these findings into a set of actionable Q4 recommendations. The system is developed using CrewAI, which enables multiple agents to collaborate using well-defined roles and tool integrations. The workflow supports end-to-end analysis, from ingesting raw CSV data to generating a polished narrative supported by visual insights.

The system uses a combination of classic data-processing libraries such as pandas, Plotly, SciPy, and an LLM model (Grok 4.1 Fast via OpenRouter). Grok was chosen because it offers fast reasoning, stable output formatting, and consistent performance during multi-stage agent workflows. Since agents rely heavily on tool-use and structured reasoning, the model needed to handle long contexts without drifting or hallucinating, and Grok consistently demonstrated that stability throughout testing. The system blends deterministic tools for data operations with LLM-driven reasoning agents for narrative interpretation, allowing analytical accuracy with strong business communication.

What the System Does

The system answers five key business questions for a VP of Sales:

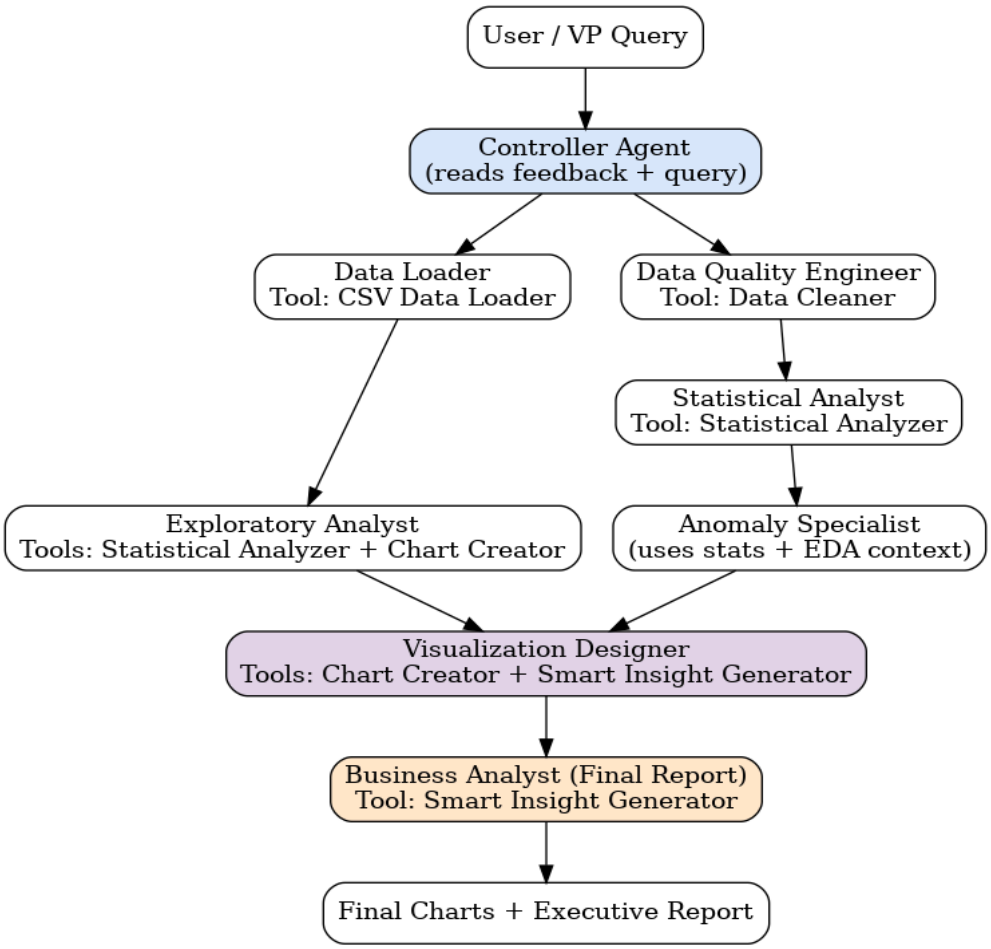
1. Why revenue dropped in September
2. Which categories underperformed
3. Marketing spend vs. revenue relationship
4. Clear anomalies in the dataset
5. Strategic Q4 recommendations

Technologies Used

- **CrewAI** (agent orchestration)

- **Python**
- **Pandas, Plotly, SciPy**
- **OpenRouter / LLM API**
- **LLM Model Used. Grok 4.1 Fast (via OpenRouter)**
- **Why this model?**
    - Fast reasoning and tool-use
    - Strong handling of long text + structured outputs
    - Efficient and cost-effective for multi-step agent execution

2. System Architecture



The architecture follows a layered pattern consisting of a controller layer, an agent layer, and a tool layer. The Controller Agent sits at the top and acts as the decision-maker. It receives the business query, reads feedback from previous runs, creates a workflow plan, and delegates tasks to specialized agents. The agent layer contains seven agents, each responsible for a specific analytical step. These agents do not overlap in responsibility, ensuring modularity and clean task boundaries. At the lowest level, the tool layer provides deterministic functionality for loading data, cleaning it, computing statistics, and generating visualizations. The architecture is intentionally sequential because the downstream agents rely on outputs from the upstream ones, similar to an analytics pipeline.

3. Architecture Diagram (Description)

The system flows from the Controller Agent to a series of specialized agents. The Controller first analyzes the request and builds an execution plan. This plan is passed to the Data Loader, which identifies and loads the appropriate dataset. From there, the cleaning stage handled by the Data Quality Engineer writes out a cleaned dataset. Next, the Exploratory Analyst evaluates revenue patterns and early shifts. The Statistical Analyst then performs regression, summary statistics, and correlations. The Anomaly Specialist examines unusual patterns with special attention to the September revenue drop. The Visualization Designer produces visual outputs and uses the custom Smart Insight Generator to convert statistical results into executive-level insight summaries. The final Business Analyst then synthesizes all results into the final report. This sequence represents a full analytics lifecycle from ingestion to insight generation.

4. Detailed Agent Roles and Responsibilities

Each agent's responsibilities are kept intentionally narrow to ensure reliability and clarity. The Controller Agent orchestrates the workflow by reading prior run feedback and adjusting the plan to prevent repeated issues. It ensures all agents are given enough context while still working within their boundaries.

The Data Loader is responsible for retrieving the dataset. It uses the CSV Data Loader tool to search the data directory recursively, selects the appropriate Q3 sales dataset, and validates the file format. It returns metadata including row count and column names, ensuring the system begins with accurate information.

The Data Quality Engineer performs all data cleansing operations. Using the Data Cleaner tool, it removes duplicate rows and fills missing numeric values using median imputation. The cleaned dataset is written to disk and returned for further use.

The Exploratory Analyst performs high-level descriptive analysis. It examines revenue patterns across July, August, and September, observes shifts in performance, and identifies early indicators of anomalies. This agent creates a narrative summary derived from statistical and visual patterns.

The Statistical Analyst produces the core quantitative analysis. It computes descriptive statistics for revenue, including the mean and standard deviation, and performs a linear trend analysis using regression. It also examines correlations between revenue and other numeric features such as orders, website traffic, and marketing spend. The resulting JSON is used by other agents.

The Anomaly Specialist evaluates unusual shifts or deviations in the data. It assesses the September drop in comparison to July and August and explains potential reasons based on statistical correlations and EDA observations. This agent ensures that explanations are simple, business-friendly, and grounded in data.

The Visualization Designer generates visualizations using the Chart Creator tool. It produces at least two key visuals: a time-series line chart showing revenue over time and a scatter plot demonstrating the relationship between marketing spend and revenue. This agent also uses the custom Smart Insight Generator tool to convert statistical results into structured business insights.

Finally, the Business Analyst creates the final executive report. It synthesizes all findings from previous agents and answers the five required business questions. It avoids referencing internal tools or system mechanics, keeping the report simple, persuasive, and appropriate for VP-level consumption.

5. Tool Integration and Functionality

The system uses four built-in tools that form the backbone of all deterministic operations. The CSV Data Loader tool searches the data directory for the required dataset, validates its existence, loads it using pandas, and returns important metadata. This prevents hard-coding paths and makes the system flexible to different environments.

The Data Cleaner tool performs all structural transformations required for data readiness. It removes duplicate rows, fills numeric missing values using medians, and writes the cleaned dataset to a new file. This ensures all downstream agents work with clean and consistent data.

The Statistical Analyzer tool performs regression and correlation analysis. It computes slope, R^2, p-value, and trend direction using SciPy and pandas. It additionally generates a correlation matrix between revenue and all other numeric variables. The tool includes strict validation, such

as checking whether the target column (“revenue”) exists, and returns structured error messages if it does not.

The Chart Creator tool generates interactive Plotly HTML visualizations. It supports line, bar, and scatter charts and can add OLS trendlines for scatter plots. These charts are saved into the outputs folder as standalone HTML files.

6. Custom Tool: Smart Insight Generator

The custom Smart Insight Generator tool is responsible for converting raw statistics into human-friendly insights. It takes the statistical JSON as input and generates a structured narrative with findings, recommended actions, confidence scores, and quality ratings. This tool is essential because it bridges the gap between technical analysis and business decision-making. It adds value by producing consistent, structured insights regardless of agent behavior, and includes clear error messages when given invalid inputs, making it robust and predictable for multi-agent workflows.

7. Test Cases and Evaluation

1. Baseline Test Case

- Runs the full agentic workflow on the normal Q3 dataset.
- Verifies end-to-end execution (load → clean → analyze → visualize → report).
- Ensures charts and the final executive report are generated successfully.

2. Missing Dataset Test Case

- Temporarily removes/renames the dataset to simulate a missing file.
- Confirms that the CSV Loader returns a structured error JSON instead of crashing.
- Ensures the pipeline gracefully logs the failure in `metrics.jsonl`.

3. Missing Revenue Column Test Case

- Uses a modified dataset without the `revenue` column.
- Validates that the Statistical Analyzer detects the missing target column.
- Ensures the system handles the issue gracefully and logs the event.

4. Large Dataset Test Case (Optional)

- Uses a larger synthetic dataset to test scalability.
- Measures runtime and verifies that the pipeline completes without memory issues.
- Skips automatically if the large dataset is not present.

8. Error Handling

Error handling is present at every layer of the system. All built-in tools return structured JSON with clear error messages rather than raising exceptions that could terminate execution. The CSV Loader handles missing files, corrupted files, and read errors gracefully. The Data Cleaner validates column existence and ensures numeric fields are processed correctly. The Statistical Analyzer explicitly checks whether the target “revenue” column exists before performing analysis, preventing unexpected crashes. During visualization, if a column is missing or formatting is incorrect, the Chart Creator returns an error instead of failing silently. At the controller level, fallback mechanisms ensure that the system recovers by using default dataset paths. The final reporter avoids surfacing technical errors and instead produces high-level explanations or suggestions when data is incomplete. These layers of error management make the system resilient and predictable.

9. Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Multiple CSV matches or missing files	Fallback to default `RAW_FILE` + detailed error JSON
Missing values and duplicates	Data Cleaner with median imputation
Target column missing	Statistical Analyzer returns error JSON, avoids crash
System needing cross-run learning	Added feedback summary from `metrics.jsonl`
Long text causing agent overrun	Truncation safeguards + maximum iteration handling
Need for reliable business insights	Custom Smart Insight Generator

10. System Performance and Limitations

The system performs well for medium-sized datasets similar to the provided Q3 2024 data. Sequential orchestration ensures that each step receives the necessary context from the previous one. Trend detection, anomaly analysis, and categorization work accurately due to the combination of deterministic tools and LLM-driven reasoning. The charts load quickly and provide helpful visual support. The final report is consistent across runs and adheres closely to business needs.

However, the system is not fully dynamic. The controller's adaptation is limited to adjusting instructions rather than rearranging tasks. The system also relies on linear regression, which may oversimplify complex non-linear patterns. It handles only CSV files and expects consistent schema formatting. Memory is limited to short-term processing within each run, although the

feedback loop allows basic cross-run learning. The system is not optimized for extremely large datasets, which could slow down cleaning and visualization.

11. Setup and Usage Instructions

Setup and Usage Instructions

1. Prerequisites

1. Install **Python 3.10 or 3.11**.
2. Install **git**.
3. Make sure you have an OpenRouter API key from OpenRouter.

2. Clone the repository

1. Open a terminal or PowerShell.

Clone your GitHub repository.

```
git clone https://github.com/tanv99/Building-Agentic-Systems-Sales-Analysis-Agent.git
```

2.

Move into the project folder.

```
cd agentic-q3-sales-analyst
```

3. Create and activate a virtual environment

1. Create a virtual environment.

```
python -m venv venv
```

2. Activate it.

On Windows.

```
venv\Scripts\activate
```

On macOS or Linux.

```
source venv/bin/activate
```

You should now see `(venv)` at the start of your terminal prompt.

4. Install dependencies

1. Make sure `requirements.txt` is in the project root when you push to GitHub.

Install all packages.

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

2. This will install CrewAI, pandas, Plotly, SciPy, dotenv and the other libraries your project uses.

5. Set up the environment variables

1. In the project root, create a file named `.env`.

Open `.env` and add your OpenRouter key.

```
OPENROUTER_API_KEY=sk-or-xxxxxxx
```

Make sure `.env` is **not** committed to GitHub. Add it to `.gitignore`.

6. Prepare the dataset

Make sure there is a `data` directory in the project root. If it does not exist, create it.

```
mkdir data
```

1. Place your Q3 e commerce CSV file in the `data` folder, and name it.

```
ecommerce_q3_2024.csv
```

2. Final path should look like.

```
agentic-q3-sales-analyst/data/ecommerce_q3_2024.csv
```

If you already generate this file via `generate_data.py`, document that briefly in your README.

7. Run the main analysis workflow

1. With the virtual environment active and `.env` configured, run.

```
python main.py
```

The system will run all agents sequentially.

2. When it finishes you will see something like.

```
Total runtime in seconds
Path to the saved report
```

3. Outputs are written to.

```
Final executive report. outputs/reports/report_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.txt
Visualizations. outputs/visualizations/*.html
Evaluation metrics log. outputs/eval/metrics.jsonl
```

4. You can open the `.html` files in a browser to see the charts.

8. Run the evaluation test suite

To run the test cases and collect metrics.

1. Make sure you are still in the project root and the virtual environment is active.

Run.

```
python evaluation.py
```

2. This will.
    - Execute the baseline run.
    - Simulate missing dataset.
    - Simulate missing revenue column.
    - Optionally test a large dataset if present.
    - Append metrics to `outputs/eval/metrics.jsonl`.
    - Print a summary of success rates and average runtimes.

These evaluation runs are used by the controller via the feedback function to inform future plans.

12. Key Takeaways

This project demonstrates how agentic systems can automate complex analytical tasks by blending deterministic data-processing tools with LLM-driven reasoning. The amount of modularity built into the system makes individual components easy to improve or replace. The custom tool significantly enhances the interpretability of results, and the evaluation suite ensures reliability across runs. The system behaves similarly to a real analytics team, with each agent acting as a specialist contributing to a final business recommendation package.