

Shopify Data science Challenge

AOV

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Question

Given some sample data, write a program to answer the following: [click here to access the required data set](#)

On Shopify, we have exactly 100 sneaker shops, and each of these shops sells only one model of shoe. We want to do some analysis of the average order value (AOV). When we look at orders data over a 30 day window, we naively calculate an AOV of \$3145.13. Given that we know these shops are selling sneakers, a relatively affordable item, something seems wrong with our analysis.

1. Think about what could be going wrong with our calculation. Think about a better way to evaluate this data.
2. What metric would you report for this data set?
3. What is its value?

Approach

Here are the list of steps I intend to use to evaluate if the AOV is a good measurement or not:

- **Investigating the data set** : Visually understanding the data and look for (filter) outliers.
- **Observe how AOV vary in 30-days**
- **Try other metric:** Customer retention?

Load Libraries and Data

```
head(data)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 7
##   order_id shop_id user_id order_amount total_items payment_method created_at
##   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl> <chr>         <chr>
## 1         1     53     746           224           2 cash      2017-03-13 1~
## 2         2     92     925            90           1 cash      2017-03-03 1~
## 3         3     44     861           144           1 cash      2017-03-14 4~
## 4         4     18     935           156           1 credit_card 2017-03-26 1~
## 5         5     18     883           156           1 credit_card 2017-03-01 4~
## 6         6     58     882           138           1 credit_card 2017-03-14 1~
```

Investigating the data set

-

$$\text{Calculate unit cost} = \frac{\text{Order Amount}}{\text{Total Items}}$$

•

$$AOV = \frac{\text{Summed Order Amount}}{\text{Number of Orders}}$$

```
AOV <- sum(data$order_amount)/ nrow(data)
AOV
```

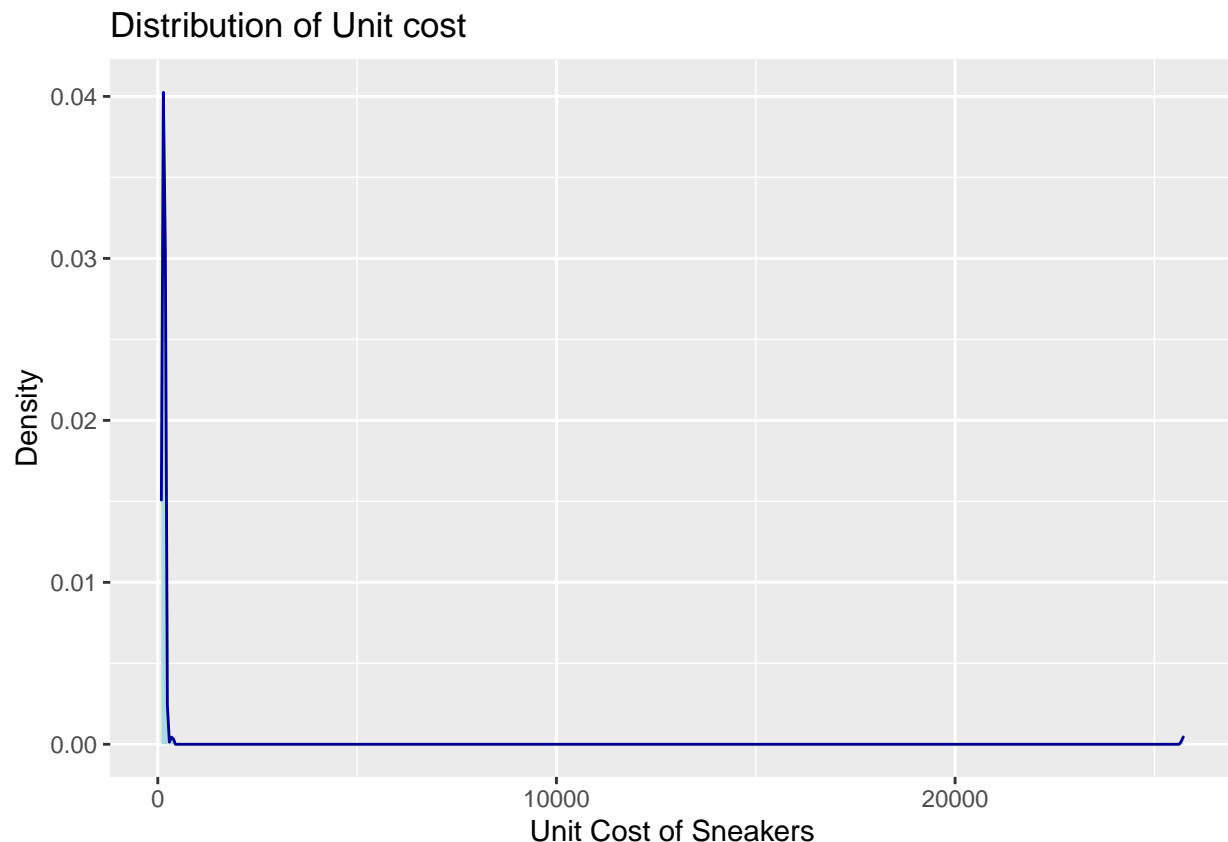
```
## [1] 3145.128
```

```
data$unit_cost <- data$order_amount / data$total_items
```

Expectation: I assume that the distribution of **unit_cost** is not skewed . My assumption is from the question “the stores sell the same kind of sneakers” .

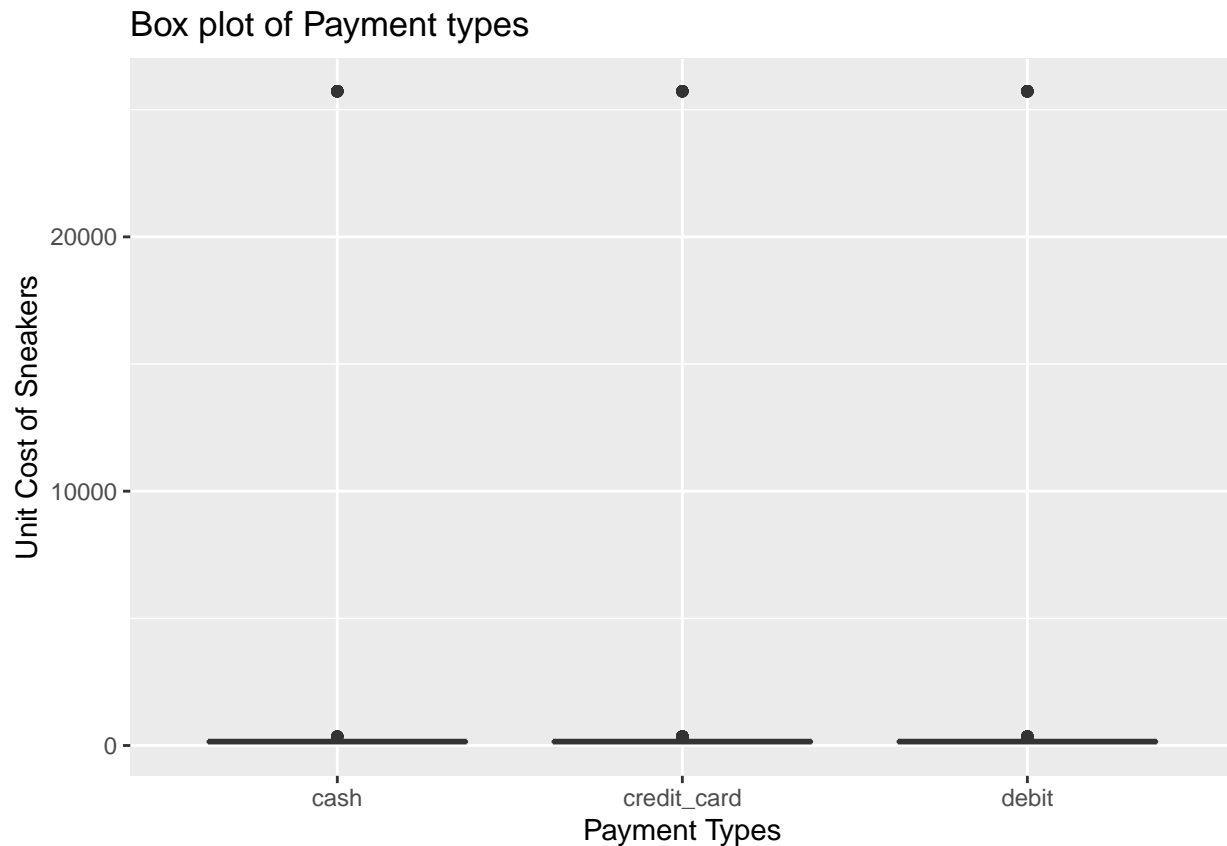
Result: The plot below proves that the shops are not selling the sneakers at the an normally distributed price. The plot is right skewed. This indicates presence of outliers in the data. I will plot a box plot to see these outliers in the different payment method.

```
data |>
  ggplot(aes(x= unit_cost)) +
  geom_density(color="darkblue", fill="lightblue") +
  ggtitle('Distribution of Unit cost ') +
  ylab('Density') +
  xlab('Unit Cost of Sneakers')
```



Box Plot : Payment Method Visually, there are outliers in the data. The box of the boxplot are closer to \$0 unit cost.

```
data |>
  ggplot(aes(x= payment_method , y= unit_cost)) +
    geom_boxplot() +
    ggtitle('Box plot of Payment types') +
    xlab('Payment Types') +
    ylab('Unit Cost of Sneakers')
```



Most expensive Shop

The cost of a sneaker at **shop 78** is : **25,725** dollars.

```
data |> filter(unit_cost == max(unit_cost))
```

```
## # A tibble: 46 x 8
##   order_id shop_id user_id order_amount total_items payment_method created_at
##   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>   <chr>      <chr>
## 1     161     78     990     25725         1 credit_card 2017-03-12 ~
## 2     491     78     936     51450         2 debit      2017-03-26 ~
## 3     494     78     983     51450         2 cash      2017-03-16 ~
## 4     512     78     967     51450         2 cash      2017-03-09 ~
## 5     618     78     760     51450         2 cash      2017-03-18 ~
## 6     692     78     878    154350         6 debit      2017-03-27 ~
## 7    1057     78     800     25725         1 debit      2017-03-15 ~
## 8    1194     78     944     25725         1 debit      2017-03-16 ~
## 9    1205     78     970     25725         1 credit_card 2017-03-17 ~
## 10   1260     78     775     77175         3 credit_card 2017-03-27 ~
## # ... with 36 more rows, and 1 more variable: unit_cost <dbl>
```

```
outliers <- boxplot(data$unit_cost, plot = FALSE)$out
paste0("NUmbers of Outliers: ", length(outliers))
```

Removing Outliers

```
## [1] "NUmbers of Outliers: 97"
```

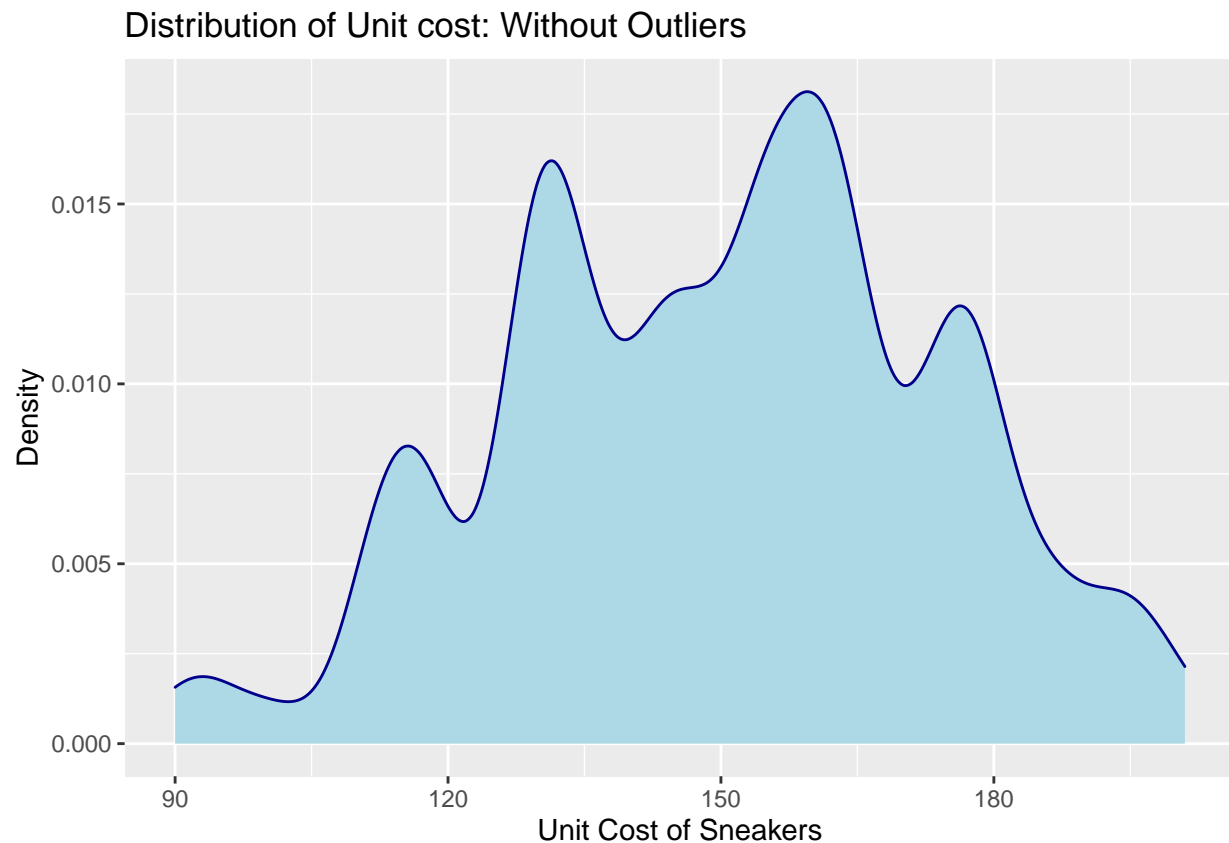
```
data_out <- data[!(data$unit_cost %in% outliers), ]
```

I will reproduce the two plot above to see if removing outliers has an effect on **unit cost**, hence have an effect on **AOV**.

Observation

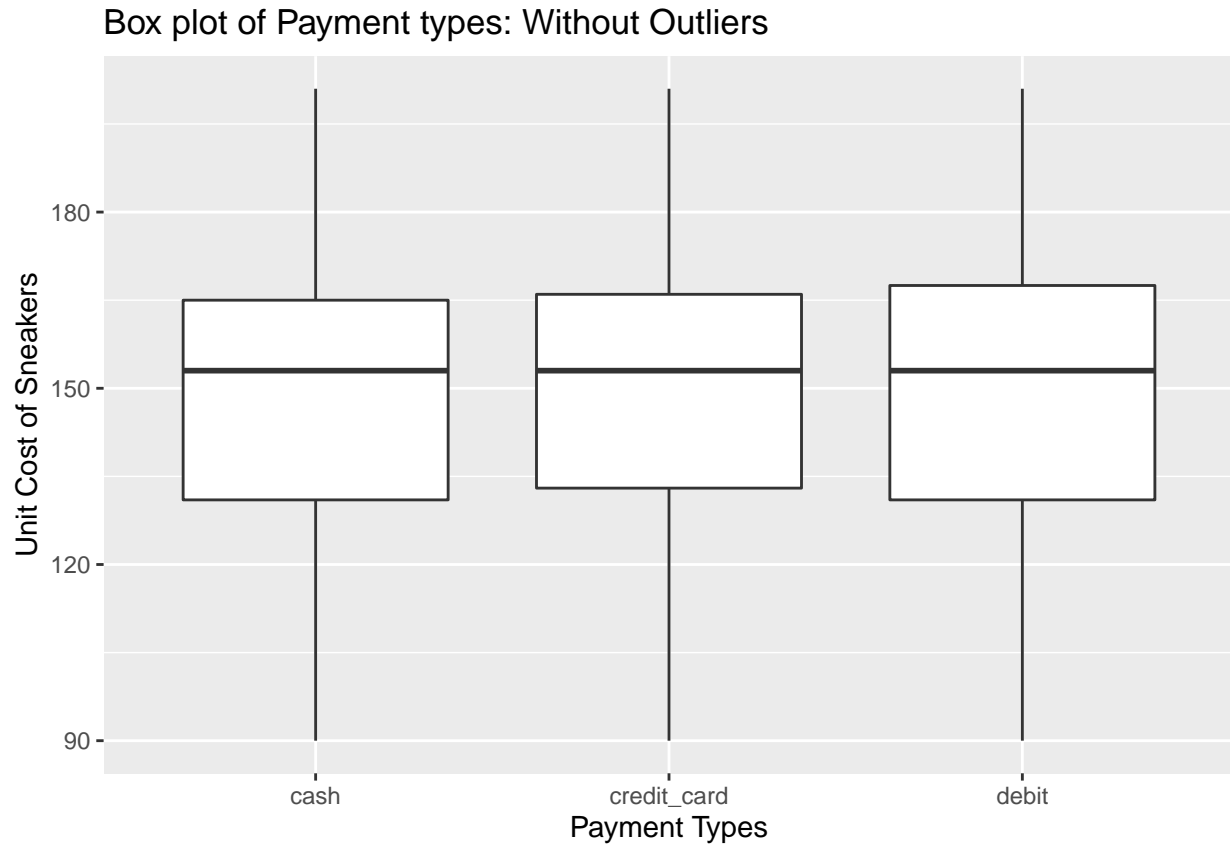
There are peaks in the distributions. This could indicate different groups in the shops. The boxplot looks great.

```
data_out |>
  ggplot(aes(x= unit_cost)) +
  geom_density(color="darkblue", fill="lightblue") +
  ggtitle('Distribution of Unit cost: Without Outliers ') +
  ylab('Density') +
  xlab('Unit Cost of Sneakers')
```



```
data_out |>
  ggplot(aes(x= payment_method , y= unit_cost)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  ggtitle('Box plot of Payment types: Without Outliers') +
```

```
xlab('Payment Types') +
ylab('Unit Cost of Sneakers')
```



Calculate AOV after Outlier removal The AOV drastically reduced from **\$3,145** to **\$300** dollars.

```
AOV_no_outlier <- sum(data_out$order_amount)/ nrow(data_out)
AOV_no_outlier
```

```
## [1] 300.1558
```

How Does the AOV vary in 30-days? In other to understand if AOV is a great metric; I will look at how it varied in the month in two cases:

- **Data with outlier : data**
- **Data without outlier :data_out**

Data with outlier : data The time series for the AOV shows a spike in sales for the Beginning and end of the month. For the rest of the month, the spike is somewhat consistent.

```
data$created_at <-as.Date(data$created_at)

#data$date <- as.Date(mdy_hms(data$created_at))
data$date <- as.Date(data$created_at, "%Y%m%d")

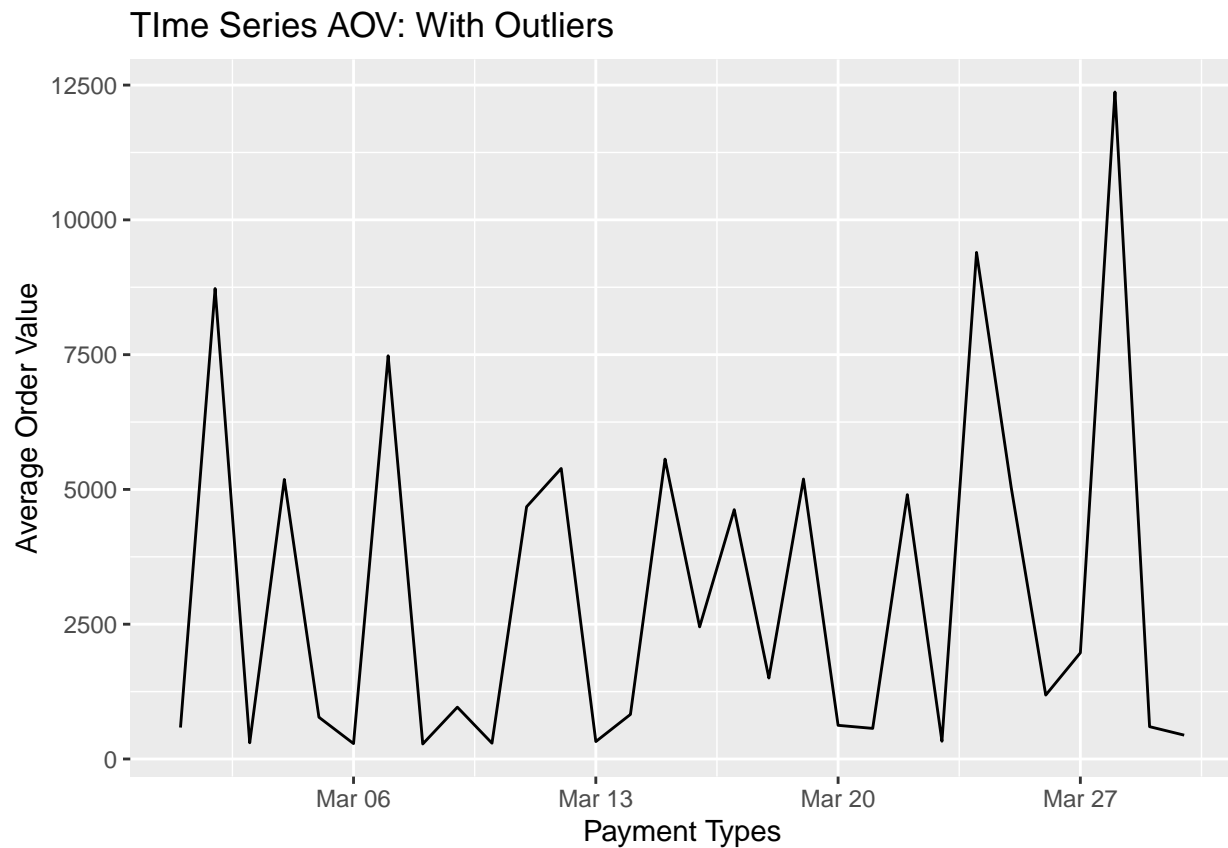
aov_data_mth <- data |>
  group_by(created_at)|>
```

```

summarize( aov = sum(order_amount)/n())

ggplot(aov_data_mth, aes(x= created_at, y= aov)) +
  geom_line() +
  xlab('Time Created') +
  ggtitle('Time Series AOV: With Outliers') +
  xlab('Payment Types') +
  ylab('Average Order Value')

```



Data with outlier : data_out The time series for the AOV for the data without outlier shows a spike in AOV for the middle of the month. This is opposite of the first time series (the one with outliers). In the **end** of the month, there is a decline in AOV and in the beginning of the month, AOV is small.

```

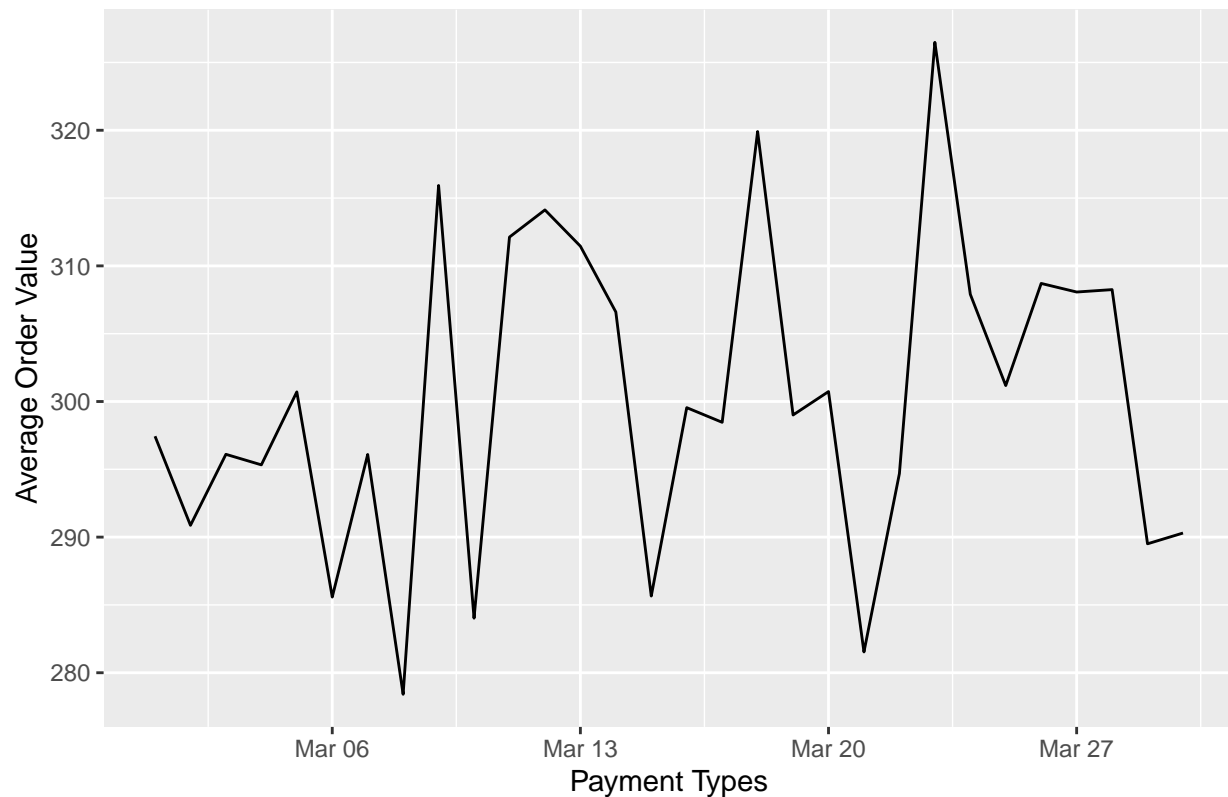
data_out$created_at <- as.Date(data_out$created_at)
data_out$date <- as.Date(data_out$created_at, "%Y%m%d")

aov_data_mth_out <- data_out |>
  group_by(created_at)|>
  summarize( aov = sum(order_amount)/n())

ggplot(aov_data_mth_out, aes(x= created_at, y = aov)) +
  geom_line() +
  xlab('Time Created') +
  ggtitle('Time Series AOV: Without Outliers') +
  xlab('Payment Types') +
  ylab('Average Order Value')

```

Time Series AOV: Without Outliers



Comments

- AOV only shows growth in a specific time period. This isn't a great metric. It's very possible that the outliers in the data are not as a result of data entry error. Some stores might be owned by a celebrity and people would love to buy from them. Hence the high order amount.
- What should matter to the store is if they are able to retain customers. Given the time period of the data set, it would be difficult to calculate customer retention from scratch. I will be using a library called cohort.

General Retention Rate for all the Shops

```
retention_data <- function(data) {  
  cohort_days <- data %>%  
    cohort_table_day(user_id, date)%>%  
    shift_left_pct() %>%  
    pivot_longer(-cohort) %>%  
    mutate(time = as.numeric(str_remove(name, 't')),  
           name = str_replace(name, 't', 'Day'))  
  
  cohort_days[cohort_days == 0] <- NA  
  cohort_days  
}
```

Retention with Outliers

```
data_cohort <- retention_data(data)
data_cohort_out <- retention_data(data_out)
data_cohort
```

```
## # A tibble: 300 x 4
##   cohort name  value  time
##   <int> <chr> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1     1 Day0  100    NA
## 2     1 Day1  45.6    1
## 3     1 Day2  35.7    2
## 4     1 Day3  42.3    3
## 5     1 Day4  34.1    4
## 6     1 Day5  32.4    5
## 7     1 Day6  45.6    6
## 8     1 Day7  33      7
## 9     1 Day8  44.5    8
## 10    1 Day9  39      9
## # ... with 290 more rows
```

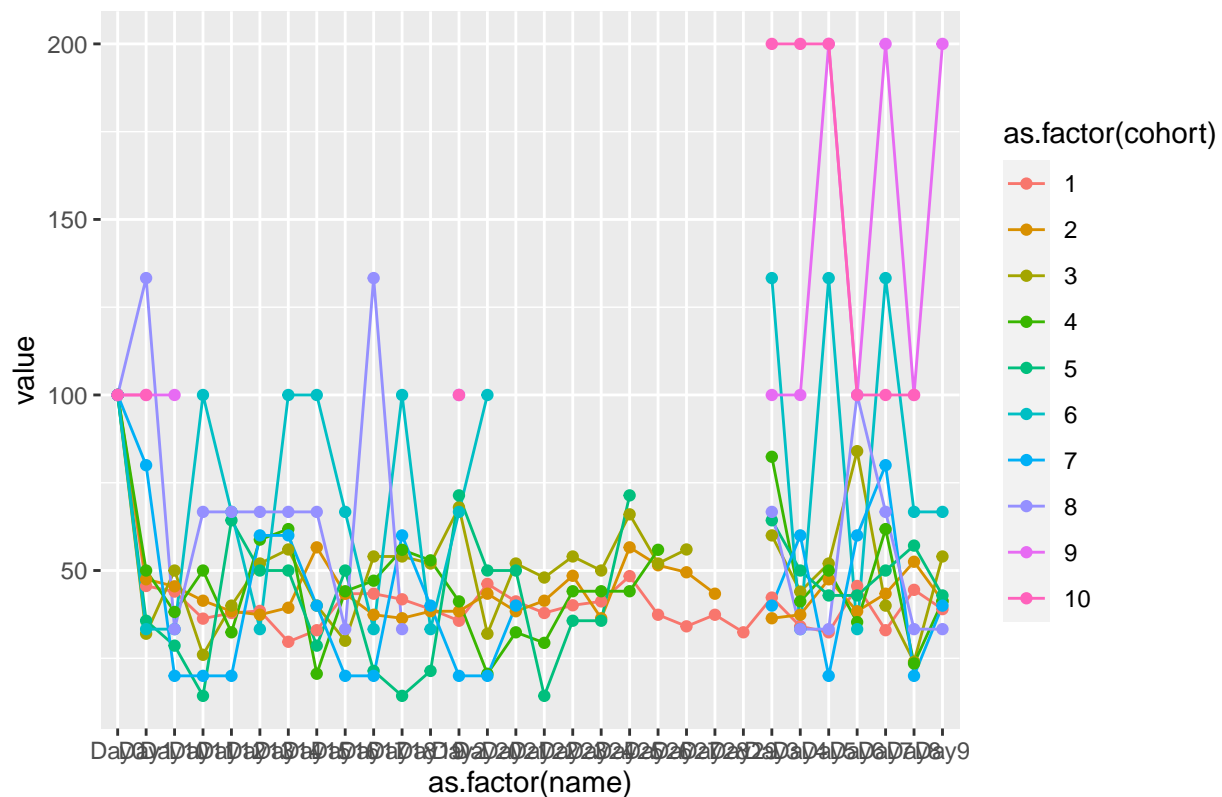
Interpretation of visual isn't clear for the Cohort analysis. I believe if the data spans more months, it will be easier to interpret the cohort analysis visual.

```
ggplot(data_cohort, aes(x = as.factor(name), y = value, color = as.factor(cohort), group = cohort)) + geom_line()
```

```
## Warning: Removed 1 row(s) containing missing values (geom_path).
```

```
## Warning: Removed 78 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```

Cohort Analysis for March



Retention with Outliers

- Conclusively, AOV is a good metric but it is easily affected by outliers.
- Customer retention is also a good metric to use when data has outliers.