

ArYma Labs

Decoding the past, Encoding the future

A – Z of MMM Workshop

Introduction to Marketing Mix Modeling (MMM)

The Concept of the Marketing Mix¹

NEIL H. BORDEN
Harvard Business School

Marketing is still an art, and the marketing manager, as head chef, must creatively marshal all his marketing activities to advance the short and long term interests of his firm.

I HAVE always found it interesting to observe how an apt or colorful term may catch on, gain wide usage, and help to further understanding of a concept that has already been expressed in less appealing and communicative terms. Such has been true of the phrase "marketing mix," which I began to use in my teaching and writing some 15 years ago. In a relatively short time it has come to have wide usage. This note tells of the evolution of the marketing mix concept.

The phrase was suggested to me by a paragraph in a research bulletin on the management of marketing costs, written by my associate, Professor James Culliton (1948). In this study of manufacturers' marketing costs he described the business executive as a

"decider," an "artist"—a "mixer of ingredients," who sometimes follows a recipe prepared by others, sometimes prepares his own recipe as he goes along, sometimes adapts a recipe to the ingredients immediately available, and sometimes experiments with or invents ingredients no one else has tried.

I liked his idea of calling a marketing executive a "mixer of ingredients," one who is constantly engaged in fashioning creatively a mix of marketing procedures and policies in his efforts to produce a profitable enterprise.

For many years previous to Culliton's cost study the wide variations in the procedures and policies employed by managements of manufacturing firms in their marketing programs and the correspondingly wide variation in the costs of these marketing functions, which Culliton aptly ascribed to the



NEIL H. BORDEN is professor emeritus of marketing and advertising at the Harvard Business School. He began teaching at Harvard as an assistant professor in 1922, became an associate professor in 1928, and since 1938 has been a full professor. He has won many awards, and received this year a special Advertising Gold Medal Award for Education. He is a past president of the American Marketing Association. He belongs to Phi Beta Kappa and the American Economic Association, and he is a public trustee of the Marketing Science Institute. He has published widely, and one of his books, *The Marketing Mix*, is a classic.

“

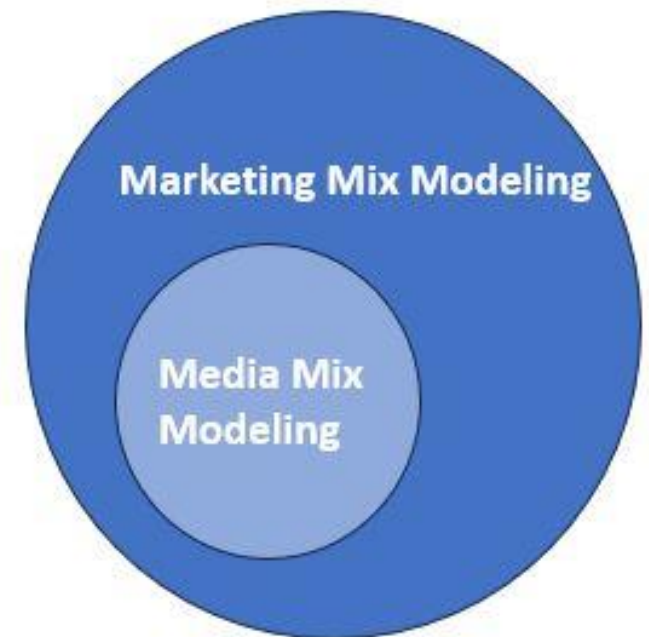
In all the above illustrative situations it should be recognized that advertising is not an operating method to be considered as something apart, as something whose profit value is to be judged alone.

An able management does not ask, "Shall we use or not use advertising, without consideration of the product and of other management procedures to be employed.

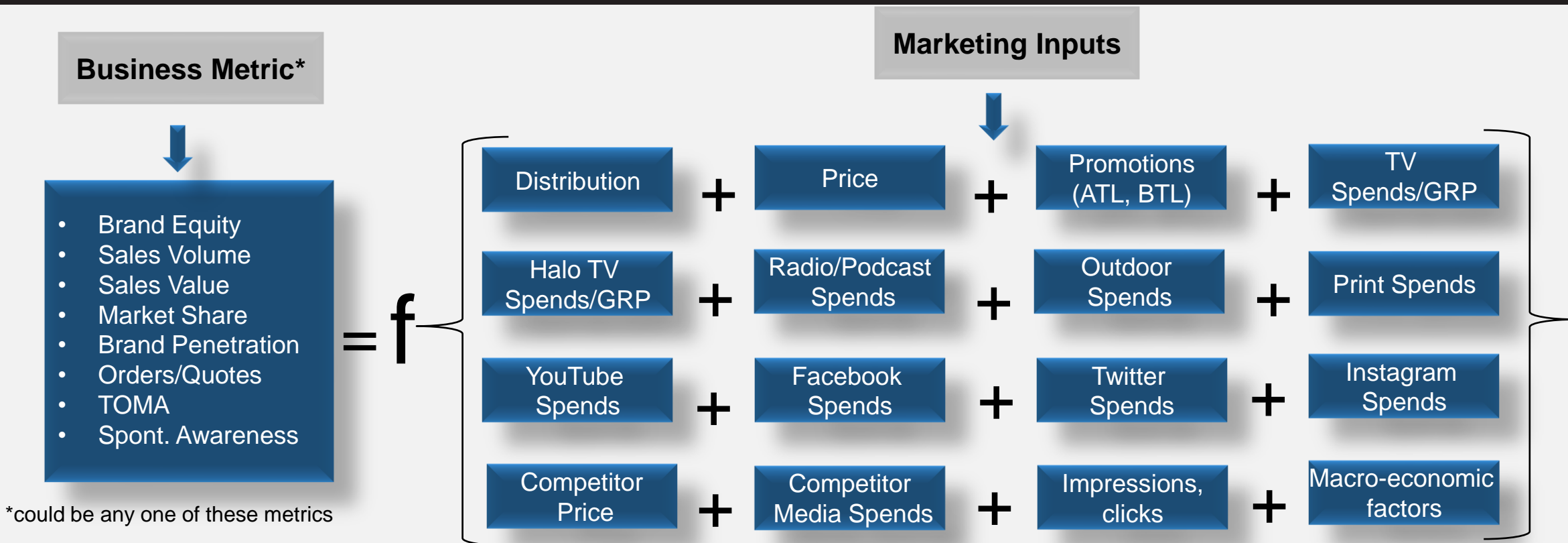
Rather the question is always one of finding a management formula giving advertising its due place in the combination of manufacturing methods, product form, pricing, promotion and selling methods, and distribution methods.

As previously pointed out different formulae, i.e., different combinations of methods, may be profitably employed by competing

” - Neil H Borden



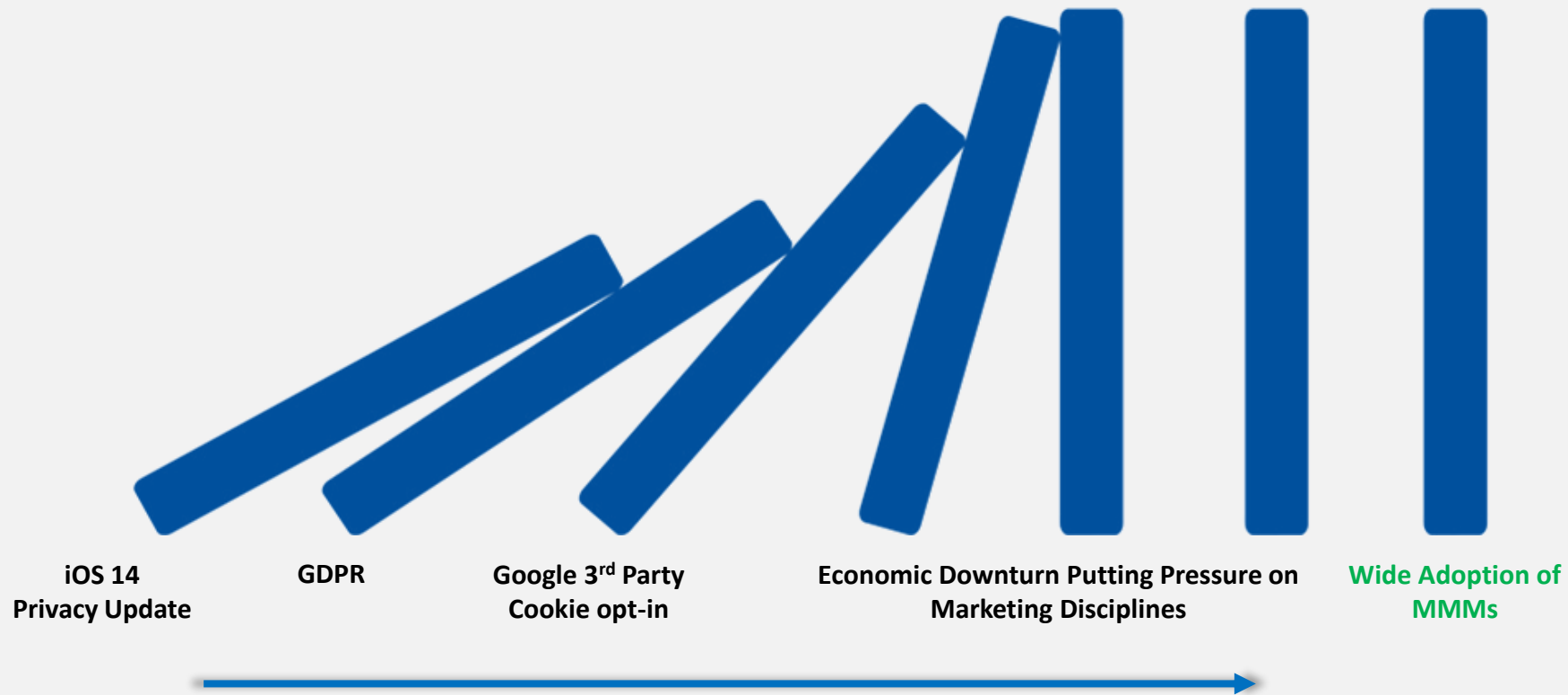
What is MMM? Why is it such a powerful tool?



“Market Mix Modeling (MMM) is a technique which helps in quantifying the impact of several marketing inputs on sales or Market Share. The purpose of using MMM is to understand how much each marketing input contributes to sales, and how much to spend on each marketing input.” – Aryma Labs

Why MMM is gaining prominence (again)

[<<Index](#)



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Statistics needed for MMM

What is correlation?



Image by Hansueli Krapf, licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

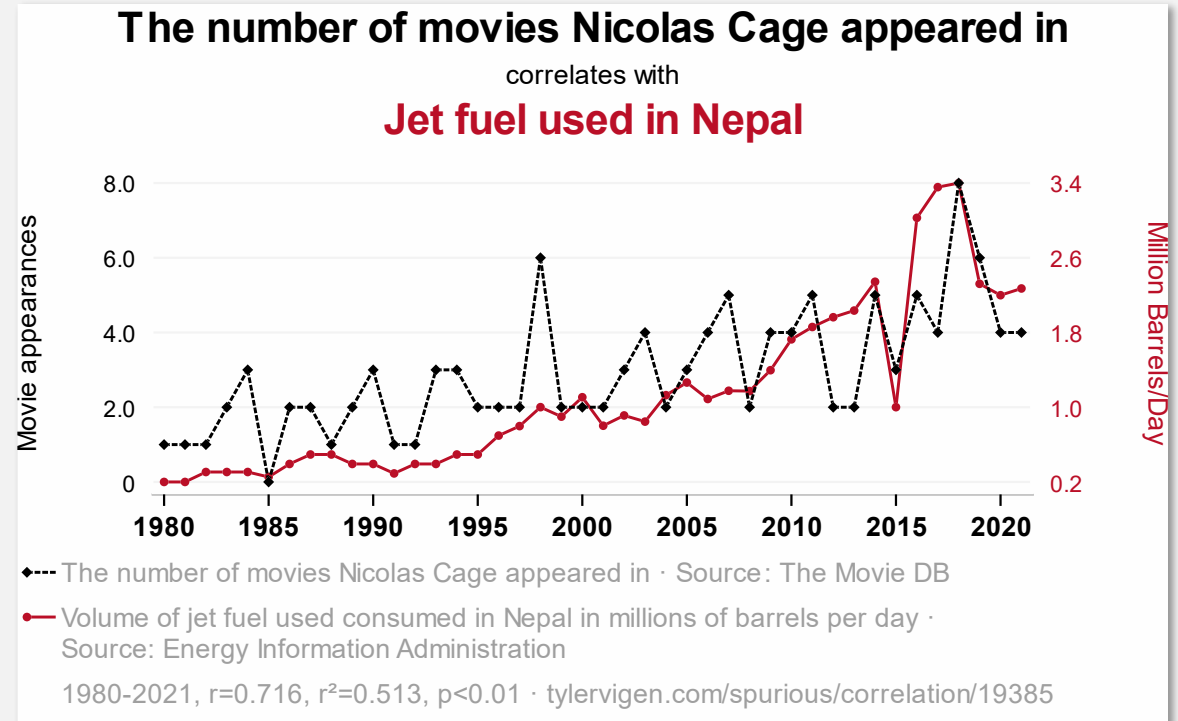


Image by Tyler Vigen

What is correlation?

- A statistical measure that expresses the extent to which two variables are linearly related.
- It is derived from Covariance .

$$\text{Cov}(X,Y)=\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^N(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}).$$

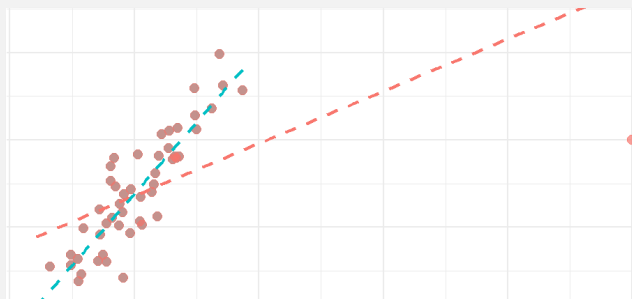
- The formula for the Pearson Product–Moment Correlation Coefficient is

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

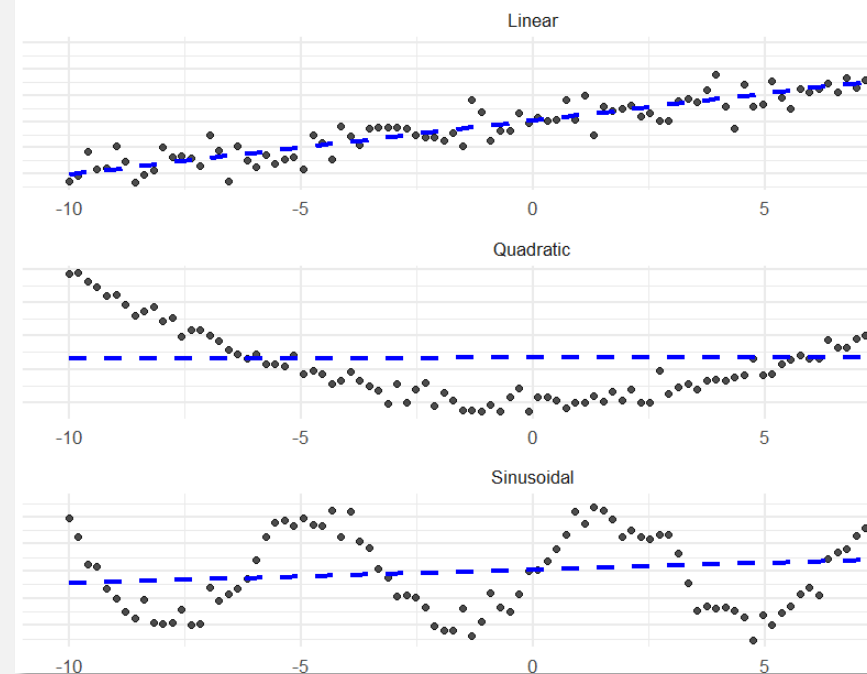
Where x_i and y_i are data points, \bar{x} and \bar{y} are mean of the variables and n is the number of data points.

Why Correlation is Not a Good Metric Alone

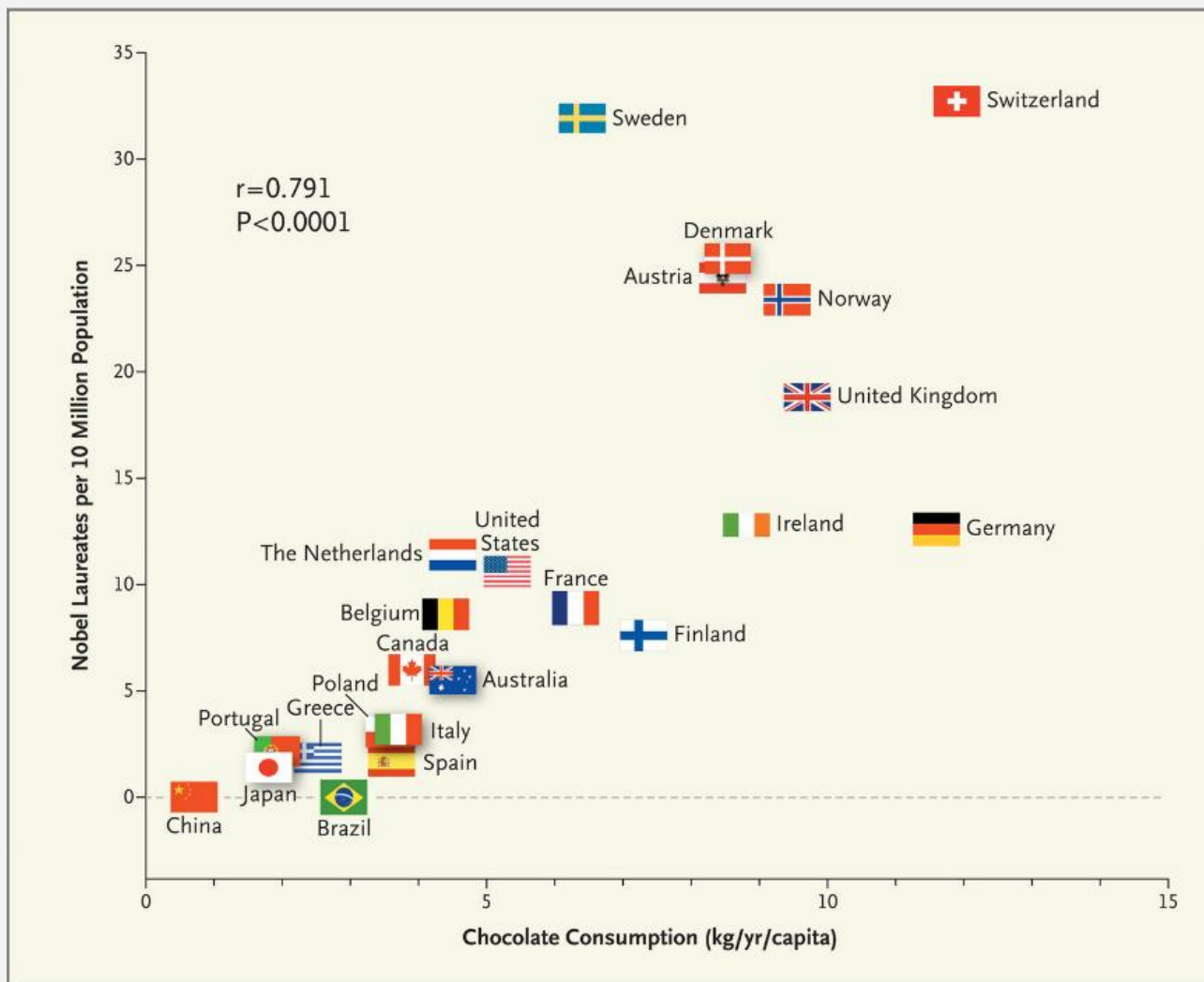
- Does not imply causation!
- Sensitive to outliers (Pearson).
- Fails with non-linear relationships (Pearson).



Illustrating Pearson Correlation and Nonlinear Relationships
Linear Correlation: 0.94 | Quadratic Correlation: 0.02 | Sinusoidal Correlation: 0.2



Correlation does not imply causation



- Correlation measures the relationship between two variables, but it doesn't tell us if one variable causes the other to change.



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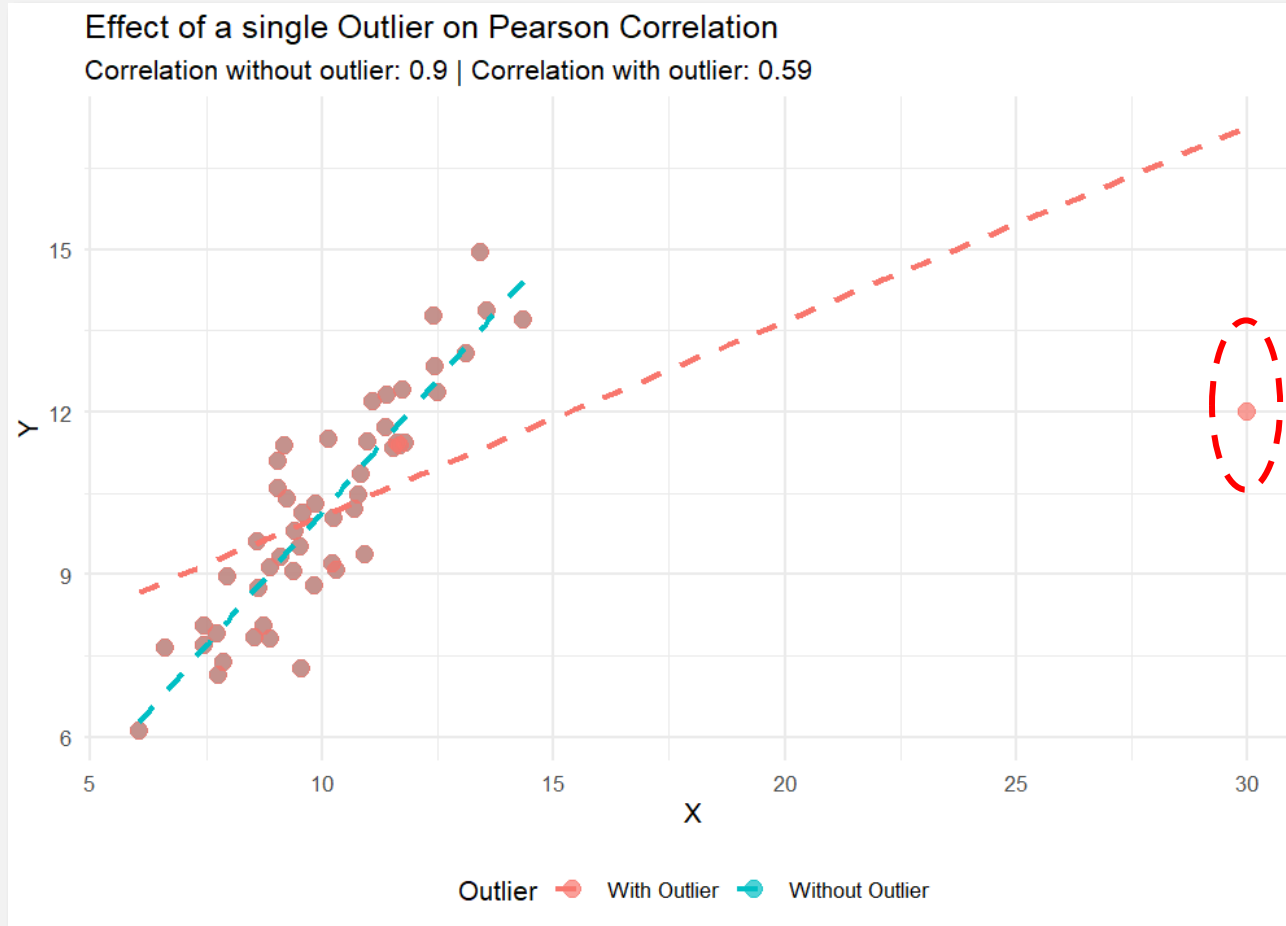


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Correlation does not imply causation



Sensitive to outliers (Pearson)

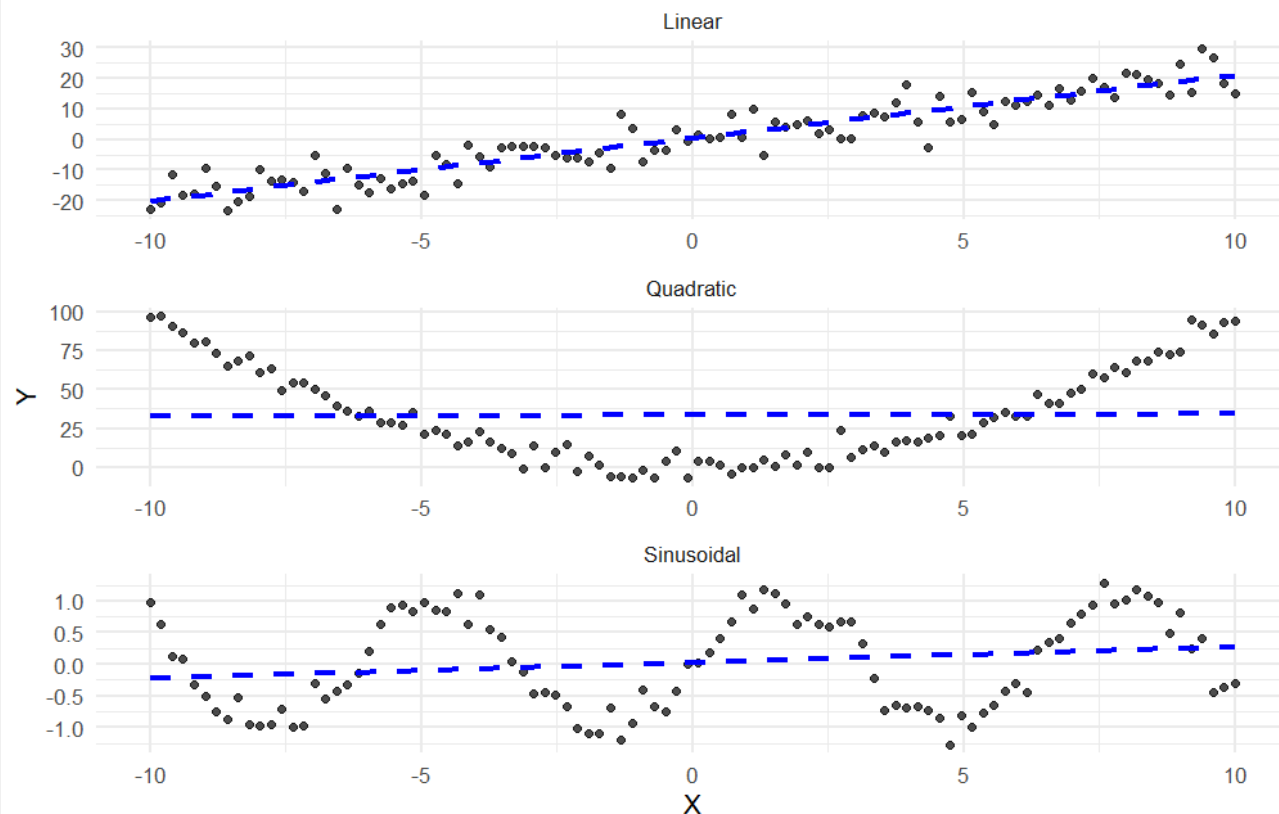


- Correlation is very sensitive to outliers in the data.
- Even a single point can have a large impact on the Pearson correlation coefficient.

Failure with non-linear relationships

Illustrating Pearson Correlation and Nonlinear Relationships

Linear Correlation: 0.94 | Quadratic Correlation: 0.02 | Sinusoidal Correlation: 0.2



- Correlation is only sensitive to monotonic or linear relations in the data.

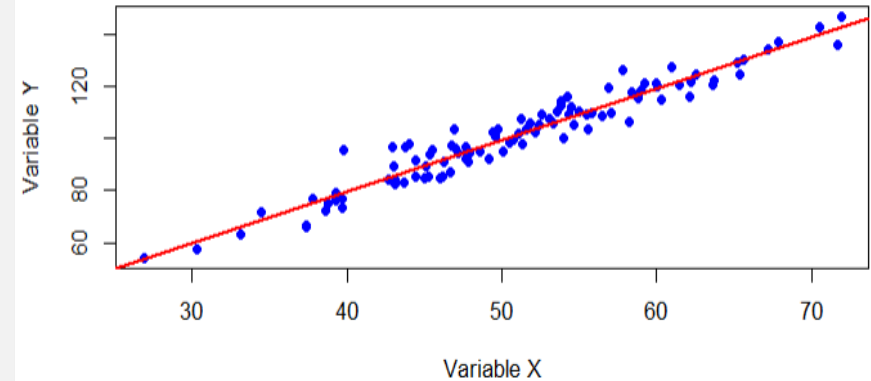
Types of Correlation

- Pearson Product-moment Correlation (r)
- Spearman Rank Correlation (ρ)
- Kendall Tau Correlation (τ)

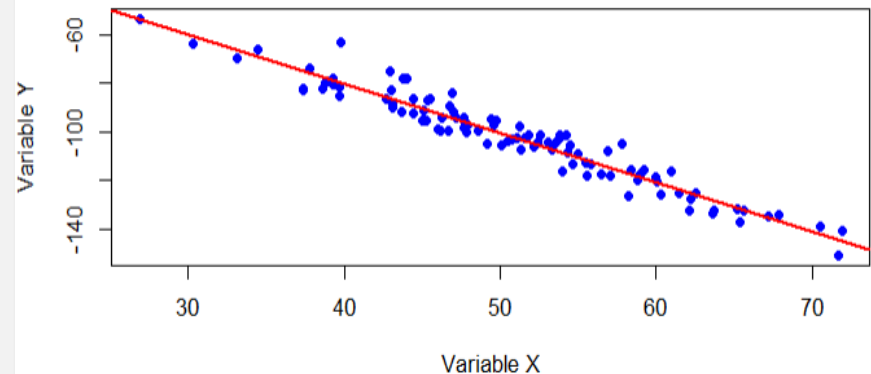
Correlation or Pearson Product-moment Correlation (r)

- Pearson correlation measures the strength and direction of only the linear relationship between two continuous variables.
- It is bounded in the closed interval from -1 to 1.
- Positive correlation has $r > 0$.
- Negative correlation has $r < 0$.
- Zero for independent variables.

Scatter Plot Showing Positive Correlation



Scatter Plot Showing Negative Correlation



Pearson Product-moment Correlation (r)

- The formula for the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient is

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Where x_i and y_i are data points, \bar{x} and \bar{y} are mean of the variables and n is the number of data points.

Spearman Rank Correlation (ρ)

- Spearman's rank correlation measures the strength and direction of the monotonic relationship between two variables.
- This method ranks the data and then calculates the correlation between those ranks.
- It is bounded in the closed interval from -1 to 1.
- Zero for independent variables.
- For the example, -0.1 is the Spearman rank correlation.

X	Y
15	13
47	562
78	2
45	78
96	52

Spearman Rank Correlation (ρ)

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X	Y	Rank of observation in X	Rank of observation in Y
15	13	5	4
47	562	3	1
78	2	2	5
45	78	4	2
96	52	1	3

Spearman Rank Correlation (ρ)

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X	Y	Rank of observation in X	Rank of observation in Y	Difference
15	13	5	4	1
47	562	3	1	2
78	2	2	5	3
45	78	4	2	2
96	52	1	3	2

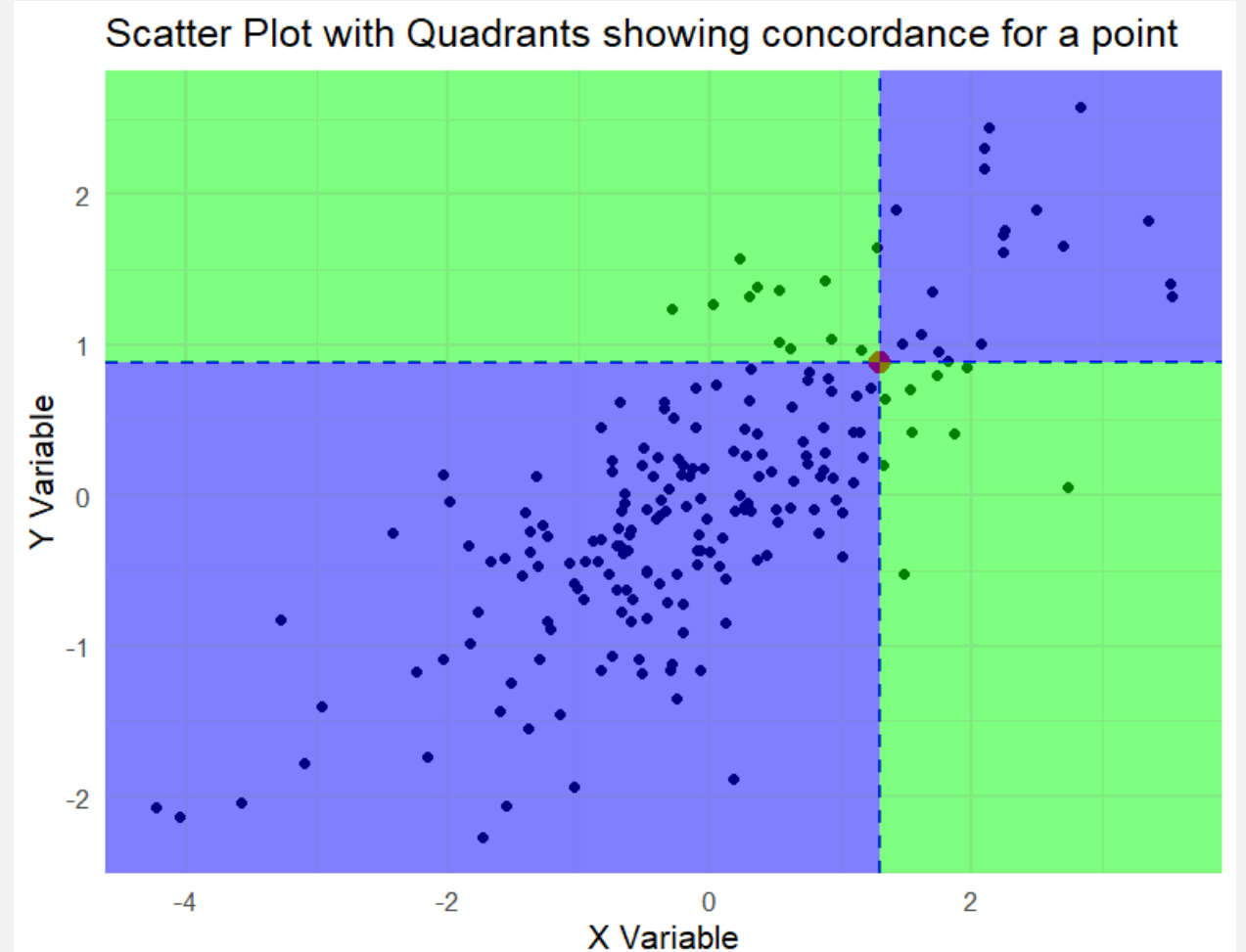
- The formula for Spearman Rank Correlation is:

$$\rho = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

- Where, $d_i = R(x_i) - R(y_i)$ is the difference in the ranks of corresponding values of x and y ,
- n is the number of data points,
- $R(x_i)$ and $R(y_i)$ represent the corresponding ranks of the x and y variables.

Kendall Tau Correlation (τ)

- Kendall Tau correlation measures the strength of agreement between two ranked variables by comparing the number of concordant and discordant pairs in the data.
- It is bounded in the closed interval from -1 to 1.
- It is zero for independent random variables.
- Kendall Tau compares the concordance (both rankings agree) and discordance (rankings disagree) between the two event rankings.



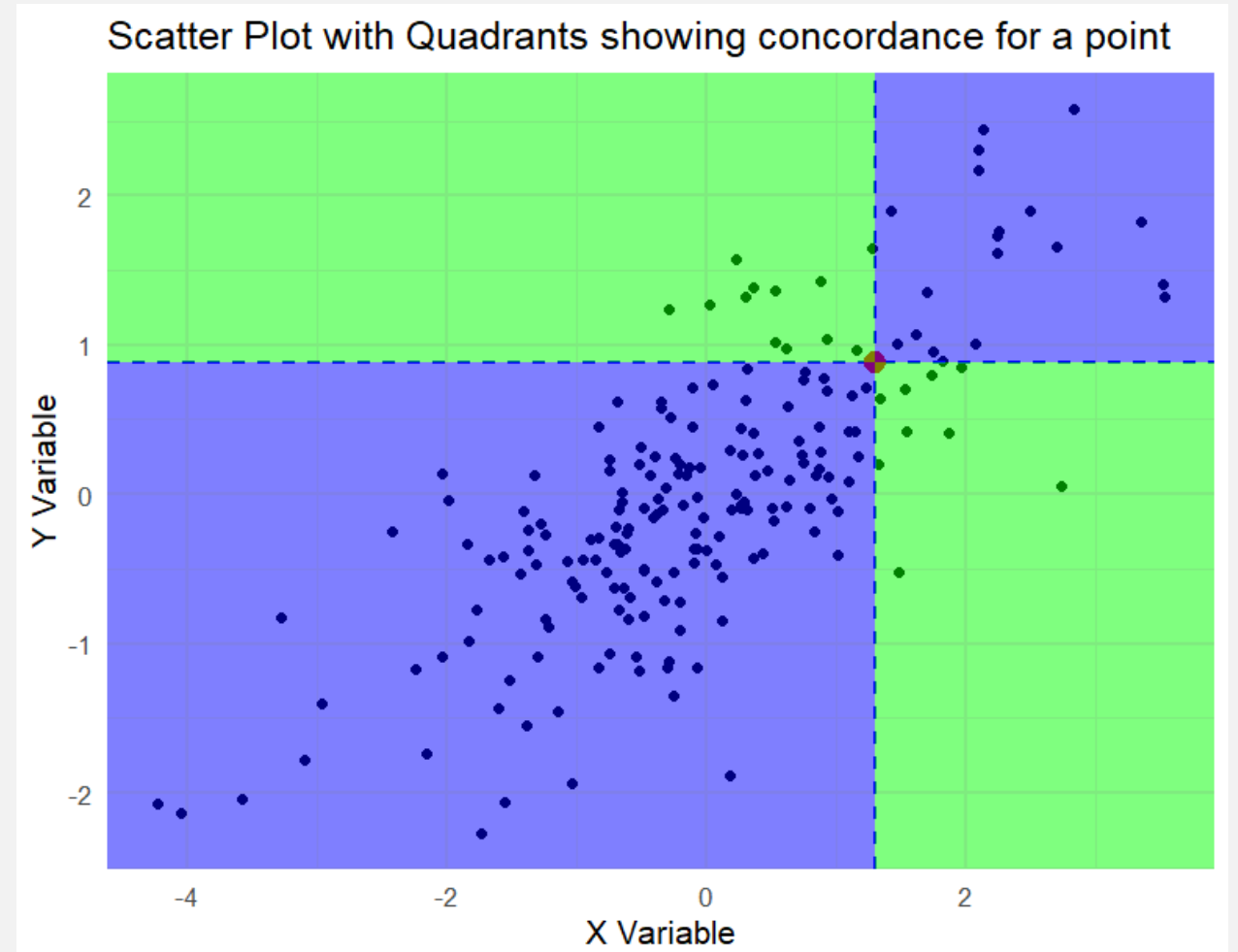
Kendall Tau Correlation (τ)

- If we have two observations (x_i, y_i) and (x_j, y_j) , such that $(x_i - x_j)(y_i - y_j)$ is positive, such a pair is said to be concordant.

$$(x_i - x_j)(y_i - y_j) > 0$$

- If we have two observations (x_i, y_i) and (x_j, y_j) , such that $(x_i - x_j)(y_i - y_j)$ is negative, such a pair is said to be discordant.

$$(x_i - x_j)(y_i - y_j) < 0$$



Kendall's Tau Correlation (τ)

- The formula for Kendall's Tau Correlation Coefficient is

$$\tau = \frac{C - D}{\binom{n}{2}}$$

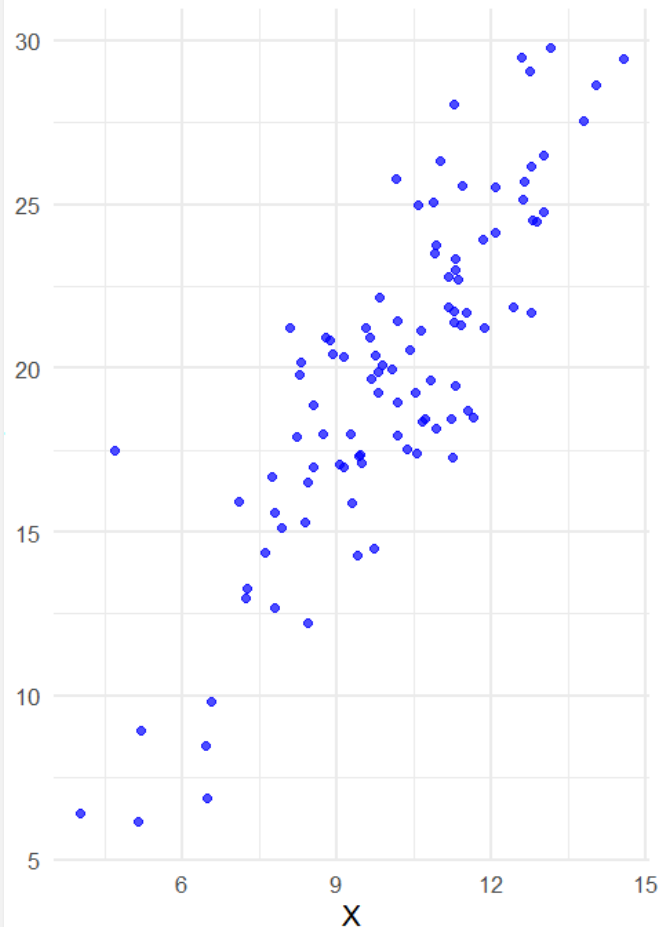
- Where C is the number of Concordant pairs
- D is the number of discordant pairs
- n is the number of data points

Is Correlation = Regression?

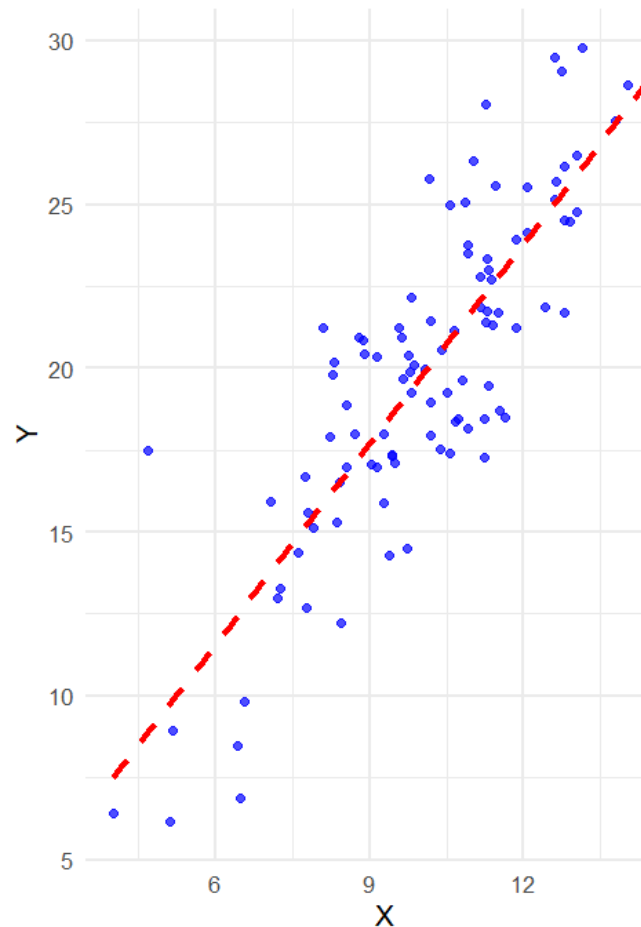


Correlation and Regression: Connections and Similarities

Correlation: Measures Association

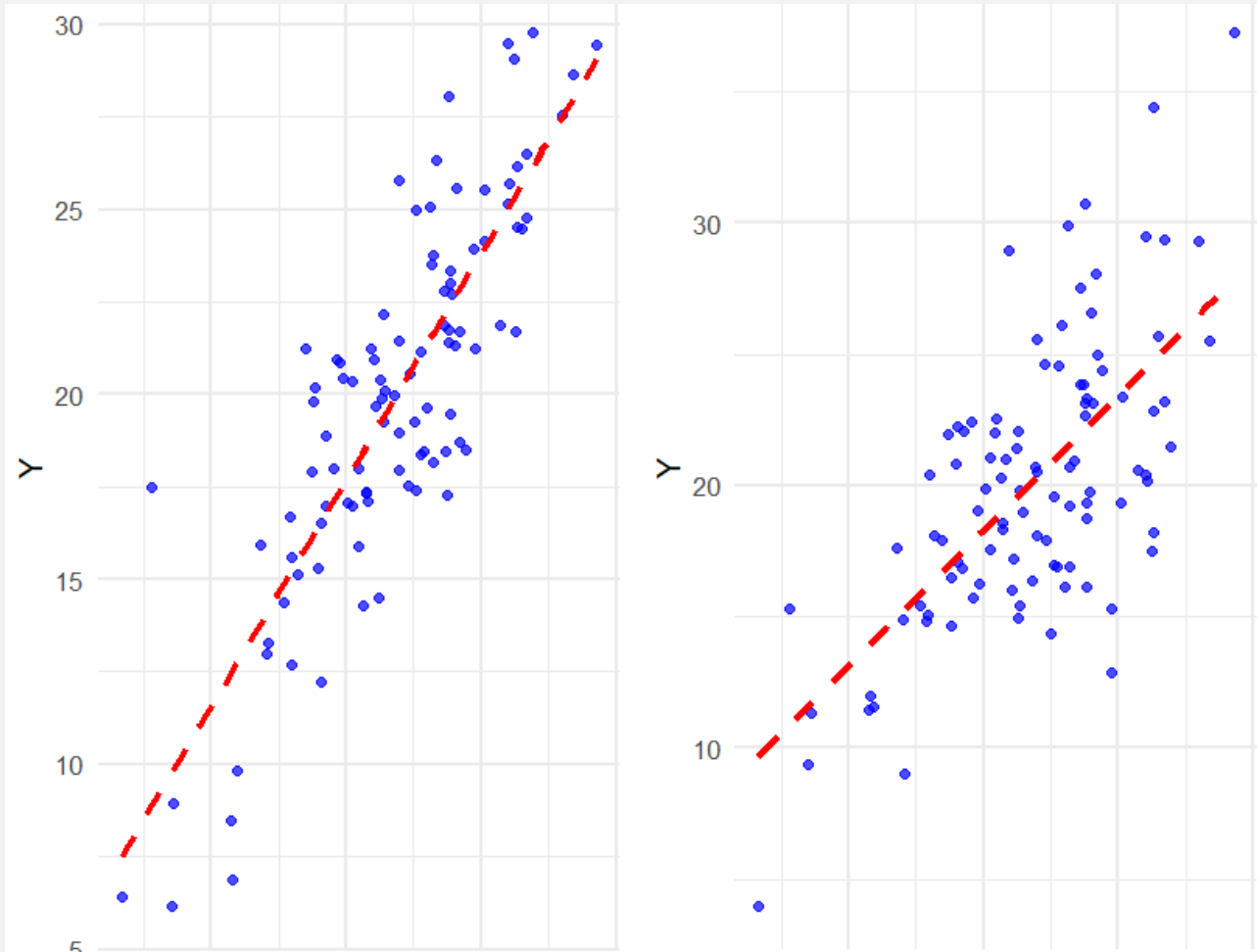


Regression: Predicts Y from X



- For two variables with the same variance, both the correlation coefficient(Pearson) and slope in linear regression are the same.
- In case of two variables, both assess the linear relationship between them.
- The sign of the correlation coefficient and slope in linear regression is the same.
- Both assume constant variance for the variables.

Correlation and Regression: Key Differences



- Correlation is symmetric in the variables, but regression is not.
- Regression describes/predicts the relationship in addition to measuring the strength and direction of the relationship.
- **Correlation coefficient is unitless, while the regression slope has units.**
- **Regression can be used to define the causal effect of one variable on another, while correlation cannot.**

Difference between Multivariate and Multi-variable Regression (MVR)

Multivariate Regression has a multivariate response.

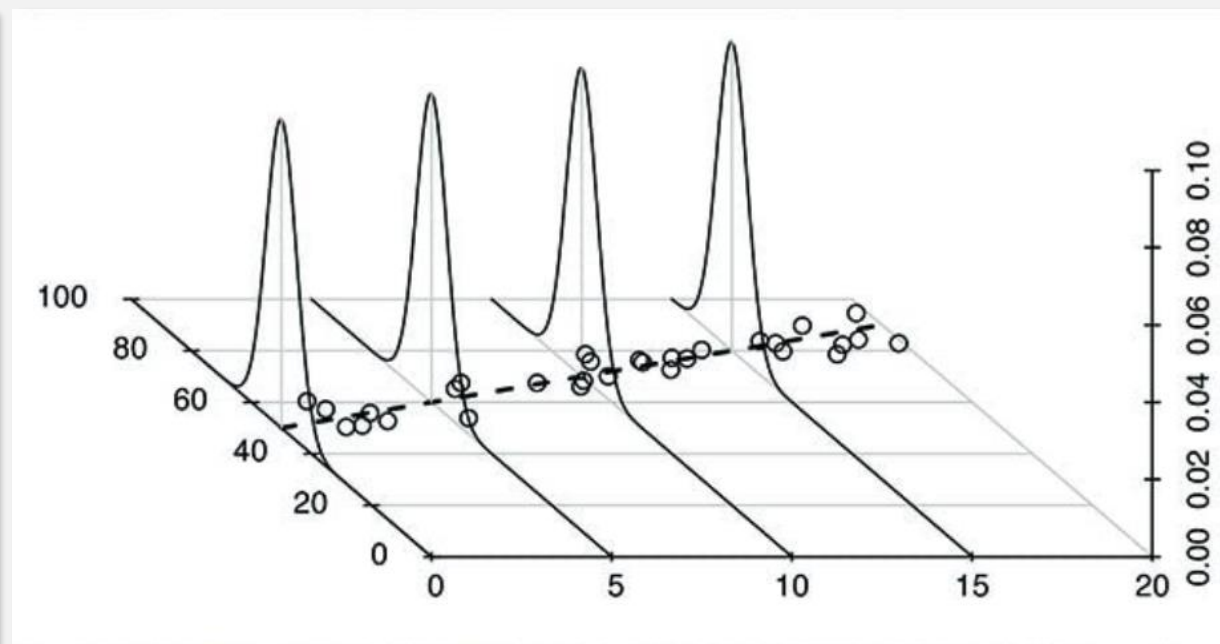
$$\begin{pmatrix} Sales \\ Brand \\ Awareness \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_n x_n \\ \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_1 + \dots + \alpha_n x_n \end{pmatrix} + \vec{\epsilon}$$

Multivariable regression has a univariate response.

$$Sales = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_n x_n + \epsilon$$

Multi Linear Regression is all about conditional expectation

- Fitted values $\hat{y} = X\hat{\beta}$ are explicitly calculated based on the observed covariates X .
- The estimated coefficients $\hat{\beta}$ are derived by optimizing the model fit, making them dependent on the structure and values of X .



Book cover of 'Understanding Regression Analysis' in the Paperback Edition by Andrea Arias and Peter Westfall

Assumptions in Statistics – Why are they required?

When it comes to statistical tests or ML algorithms, we make many assumptions.

For e.g. in Linear regression, we make assumptions like:

"Errors need to be normally distributed"

"Independence of errors"

"Linearity"

"Homoscedasticity"

Why do we make these assumptions ? What purpose do they serve ?

One might be right in thinking that it is for mathematical / statistical convenience.

But the deeper answer is that:

We make assumptions because in a way it means that we have less parameters to estimate.

The more assumptions we make, the lesser parameters needs to be estimated.

Assumptions in Statistics – Some Caveats

- Breaking assumptions is common.
- We can test the degree to which assumptions are violated.
- Violation of assumptions to some degree can be managed, while extreme cases can require newer methods like robust regression.

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Assumptions of Multi Variable Regression

Assumptions of Multi-variable regression

Linearity

(Linear In terms of coefficients)

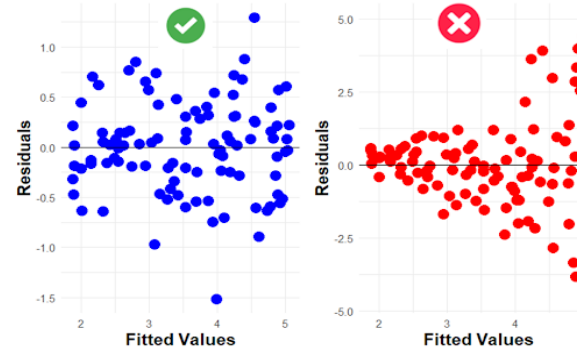
$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \text{error} \quad \checkmark$$

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \sqrt{x} + \text{error} \quad \checkmark$$

$$y = \beta_0 x^{\beta_1} + \text{error} \quad \times$$

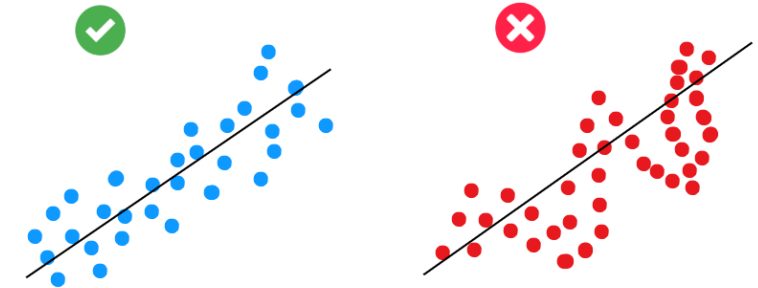
Homoscedasticity

(Equal variance of error terms)



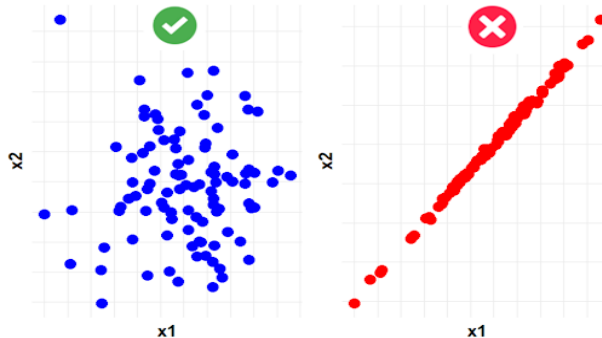
Independence

(Error terms are Independent)



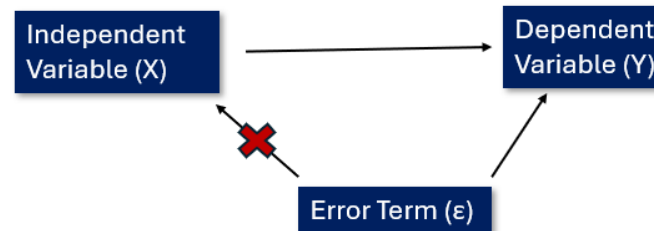
Lack of Multicollinearity

(Predictors are uncorrelated with each other)



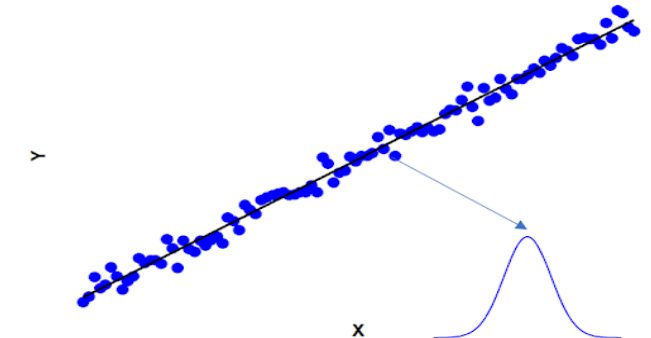
Absence of Endogeneity

(No correlation with Predictors and error)



Normality

(Errors are normal)

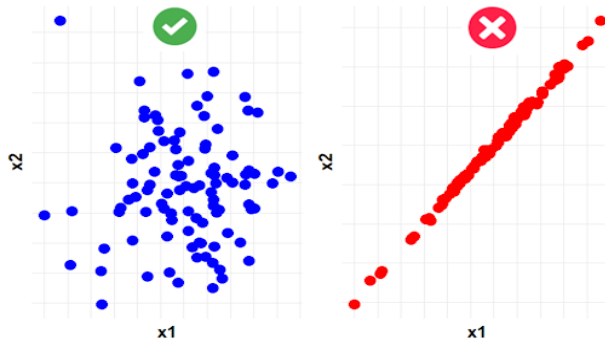


Important assumptions for MMM

- Most important assumptions for MMM are
 - Lack of Multicollinearity,
 - Absence of Endogeneity
 - Homoscedasticity

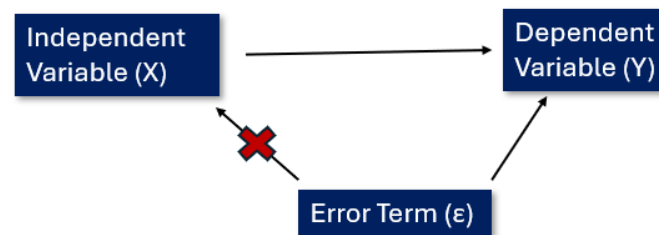
Lack of Multicollinearity

(Predictors are uncorrelated with each other)



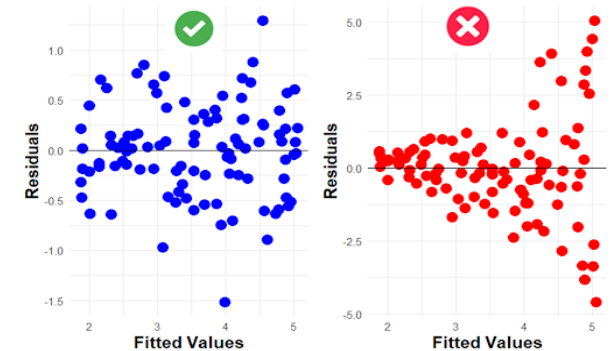
Absence of Endogeneity

(No correlation with Predictors and error)



Homoscedasticity

(Equal variance of error terms)



Important assumptions for MMM – Multicollinearity

What problems it can cause

In the marketing mix modeling space, attribution is everything. Failure to do so is a huge downer.



stat_daddy • 4y ago • Edited 4y ago •
Statistician

For the purposes of statistical tests that are designed to measure differences between quantities, I like to think of "power" as being analogous to the *magnifying power* of a magnifying glass.

Suppose you have two objects positioned so close to another that you can't tell by the naked eye whether they are physically connected or not. You know that the objects are either connected or not, but you need a magnifying glass in order to visualize the space between them (if it exists).

(Suppose we're talking VERY tiny distances here)

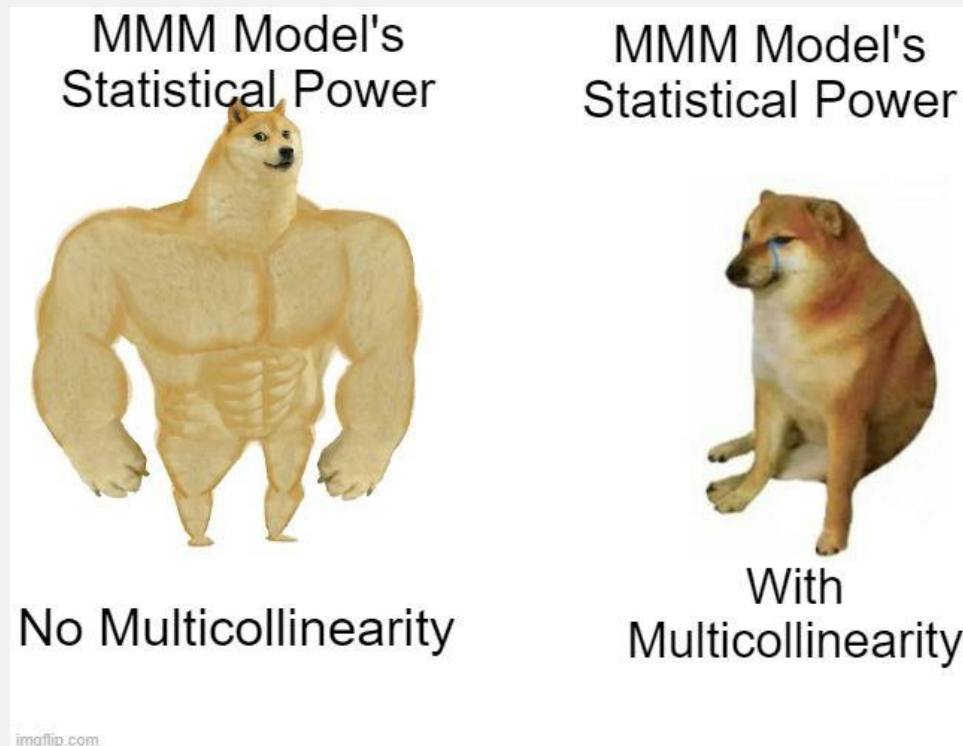
In this analogy, the distance between the objects is analogous to an effect size, and you are attempting to show that the distance is >0 .

If the distance is relatively large, then a weak magnifying glass would be sufficient to show that there is a difference between the two objects. However, if the distance is very small, you might need a very powerful magnifying glass before you could see any difference. Similarly the more "powerful" a statistical test is, the smaller the difference between two quantities it can resolve (for some allowable degree of uncertainty).

However, This can sometimes backfire because a small difference might be meaningful in a statistical sense but not a practical one! As another example, suppose I have an identical twin. He and I are the same height for all practical purposes, but if you used a powerful enough magnifying glass I'm sure you would find that our heights differ by some small amount. (Part of the issue here is that our hypothesis doesn't have any understanding of what a "practical" difference is or even what "practical" means - the difference in our heights is greater than zero, after all)

In the same way, KS tests are prone to concluding that samples differ from normality even when those differences may be of no practical concern. Your advisor is cautioning you that even though your KS tests may indicate a difference from "normal", it doesn't address the question you really need the answer to, which is "is my sample TOO non-normal for my analytical strategy?"

Multicollinearity is a signal redundancy problem rather than a signal deficit problem.



Important assumptions for MMM – Homoscedasticity

What problems it can cause

Residuals offer telltale signs of how consistent your model is. Ideally you would want some kind of stability in your model.

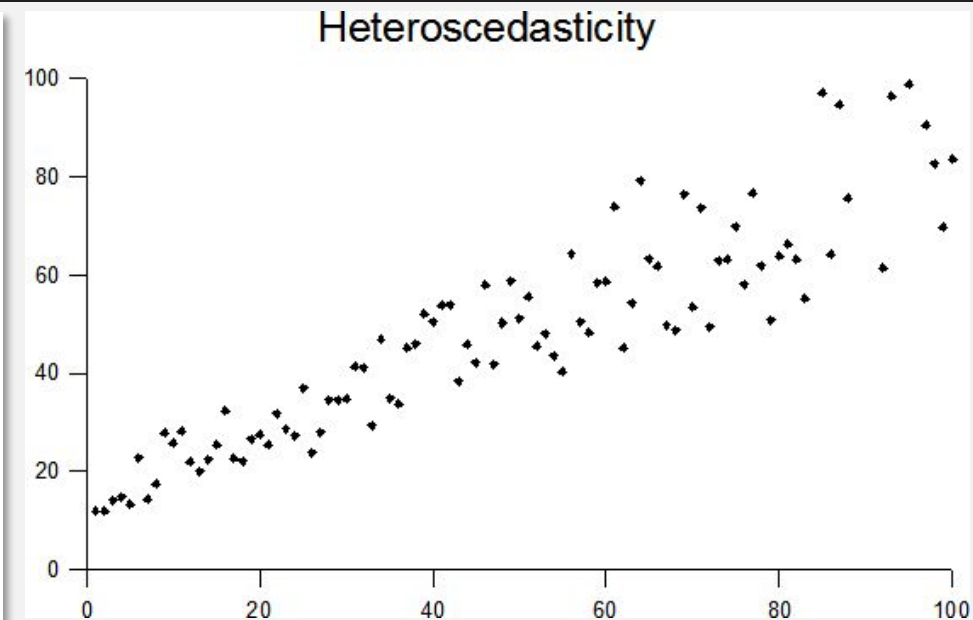
In case of Heteroscedasticity, the residuals by and large have some pattern. Let's take an example of one of the popular pattern.

When you have fan/funnel shape of the residuals, it means the model is getting worse over time since it indicates inflation of error.

How it affects MMM?

The name of the game in MMM is inference. You want your estimates to be precise and unbiased. However, Heteroscedasticity makes your estimates less precise even though it may not bias them.

Heteroscedasticity reduces the trust factor in your MMM. Given that companies make million-dollar decisions to spend on certain marketing variables, it becomes imperative that the MMM model you build is trust worthy and accurate.



Why Heteroscedasticity happens?

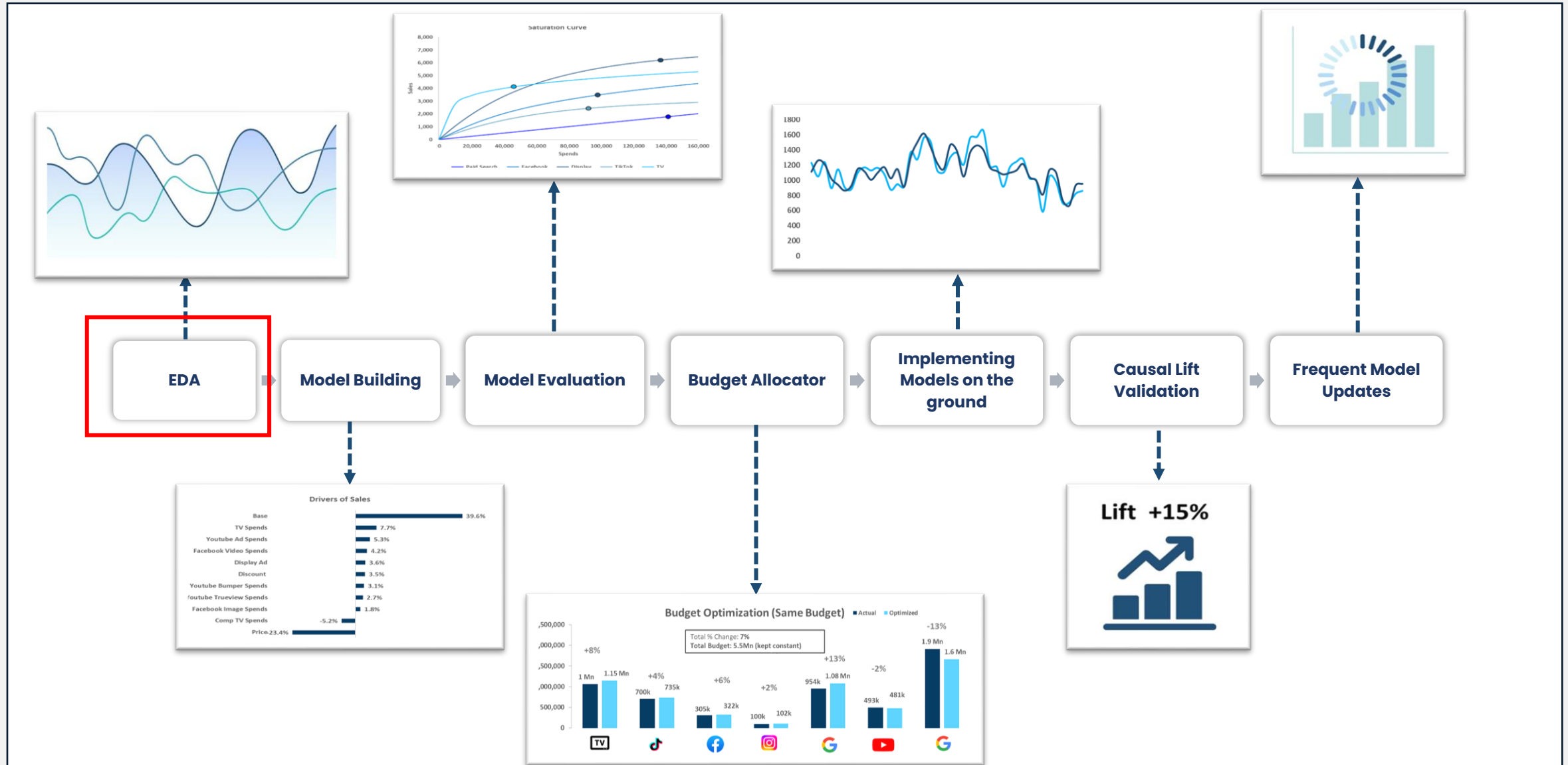
Heteroscedasticity often happens because of outliers or huge disparity in the range of your independent variables. For e.g. a company spends in the range of 10-15k USD every month on YouTube ads. But in few instances, say during BFCM the company decided to really ramp up their spends. Let's say this in the range of 85k-100k. Data like these would lead Heteroscedasticity in the model.

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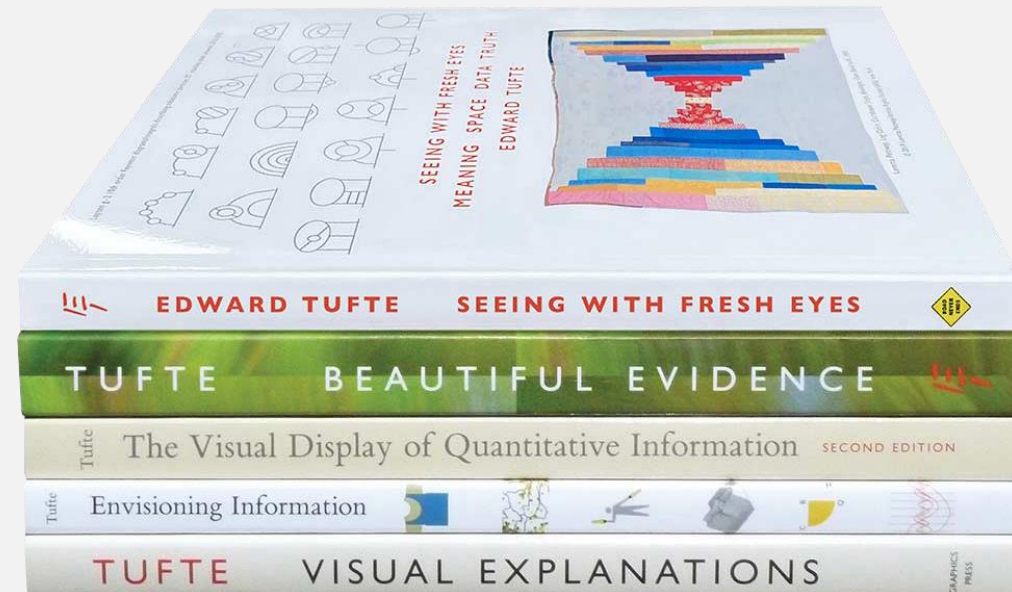
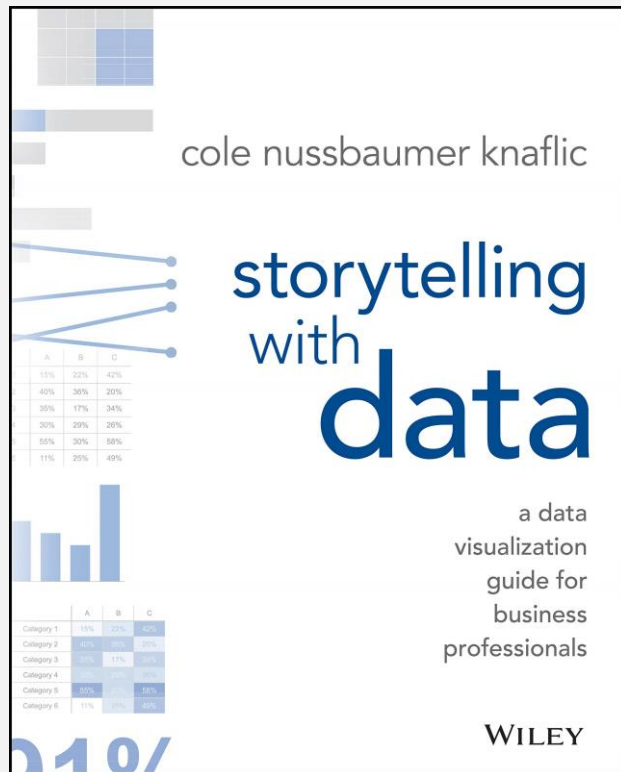
EDA

MMM Process



Data Visualization

Clear and effective data visualization relies on simplicity and minimizing cognitive effort.



Exploratory Data Analysis

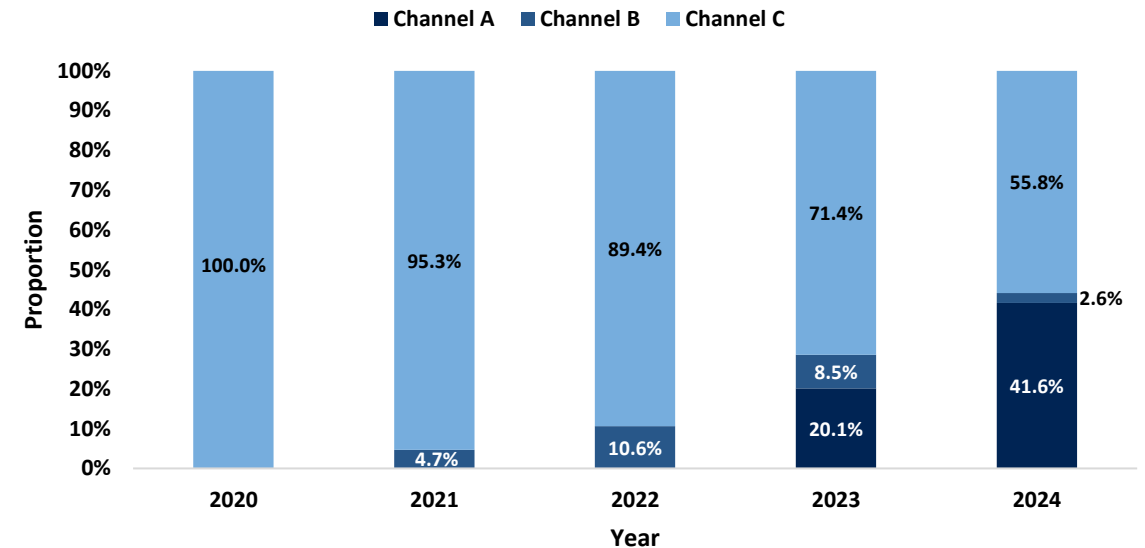
What is EDA?

Exploratory Data Analysis involves summarizing main characteristics, and patterns in data using statistical and visual methods.

Why do we conduct EDA?

- It helps identify trends, outliers, and missing values.
- Provides a foundation for further analysis or modeling.

Yearwise Proportion of Walmart Spends

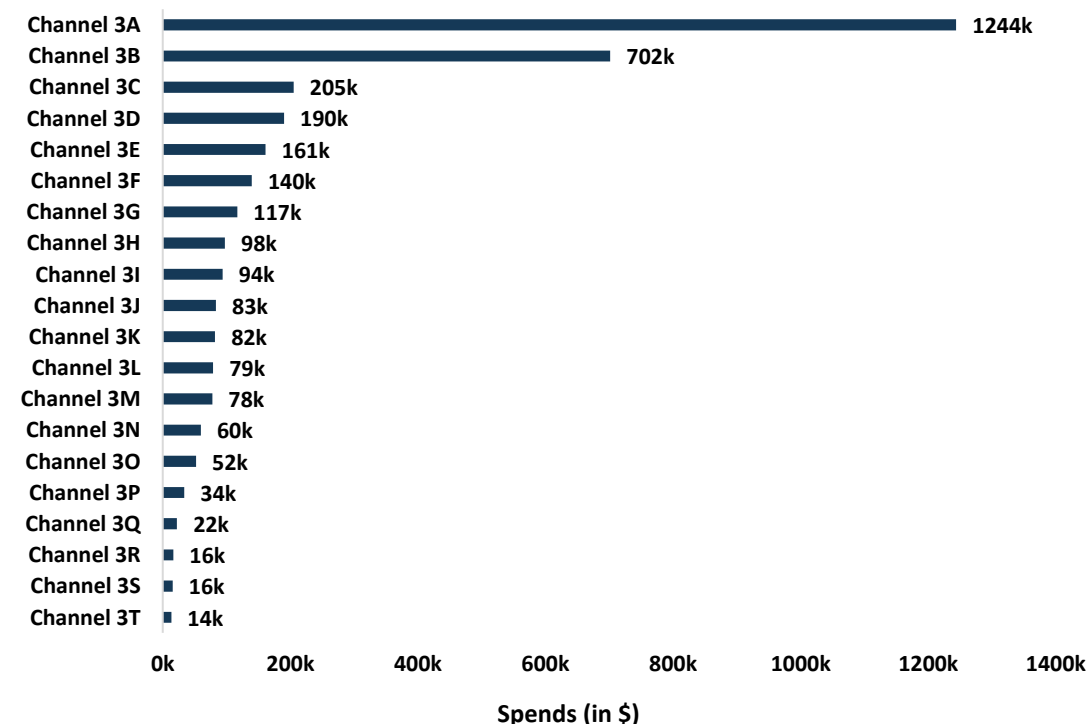


EDA – Common practices

Common EDA practices that should be followed:

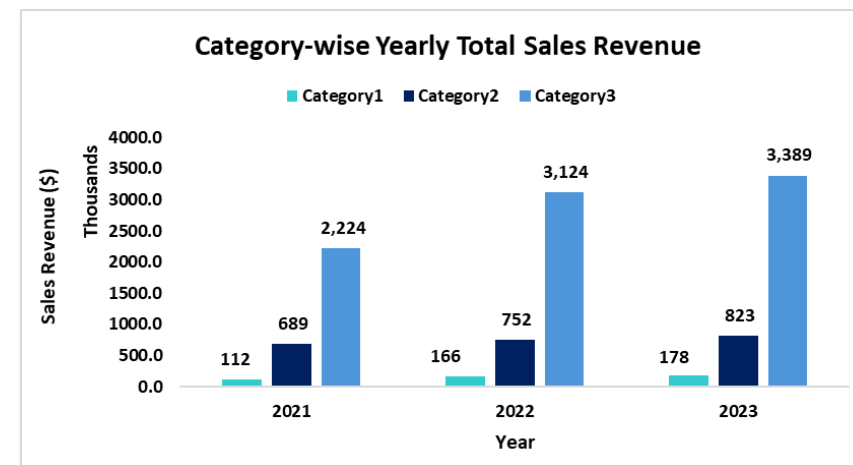
- ✓ Check for duplicates, Handle missing values,
- ✓ Analyze the distribution of individual variables,
- ✓ Identify anomalies that could skew results,
- ✓ Decompose time series into trend, seasonality, and residual components and analyze patterns over time,
- ✓ Use techniques like standardization and normalization to scale and transform the data,
- ✓ Make a summary of the documented findings and record insights.

Total Channel 3 spends 2020-24



List of EDA Tasks (1/2)

- Dual axis line charts
- CCF Plots
- Correlation Summary: Overall vs year-wise
- Trend charts for Sales Revenue, Volume and Price
- Category-wise Yearly Comparison charts for Rev, Vol and Price : Clustered column charts
- Channel-wise Yearly Comparison charts for Rev, Vol and Price : Clustered column charts
- Market share comparison chart : Pie Chart
- Trend chart of Inflation rate with sales revenue and volume



- Yearly comparison of total media spends : Stacked column charts
- Yearly comparison of proportion of media spends : Stacked column charts
- Yearly comparison of total and proportion of impressions, views, clicks : Clustered Columns charts
- Comparison of ATL Spends : Clustered column charts

List of EDA Tasks (2/2)

CAGR computation :

$$CAGR = \left(\frac{\text{Avg.of last year}}{\text{Avg.of first year}} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} - 1$$

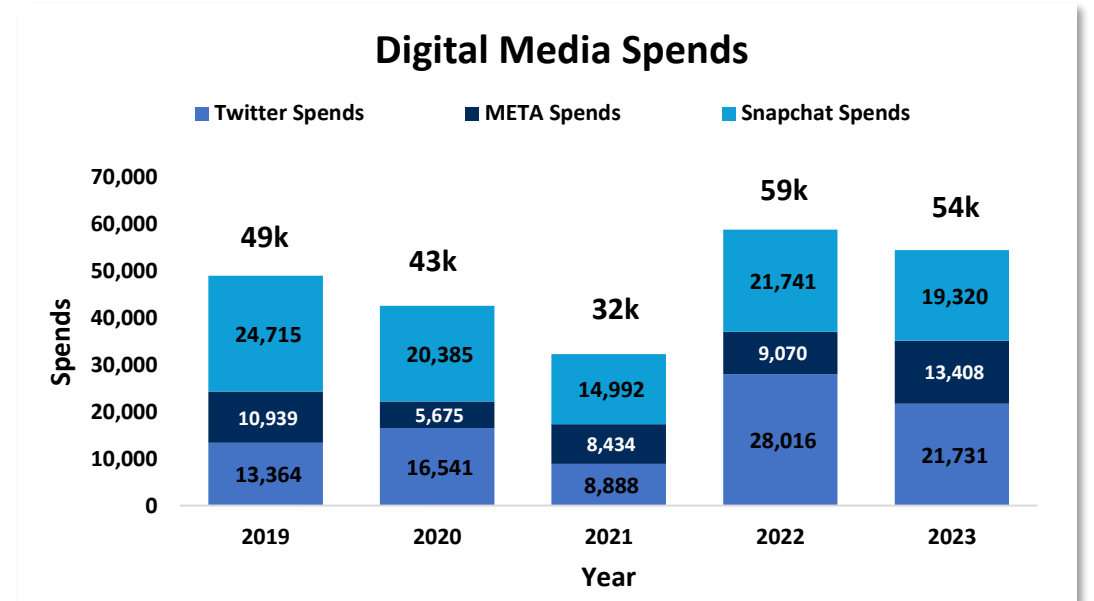
,where n is the number of years available in the data

Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) measures the annual growth rate of a brand. CAGR is computed for variables like Sales revenue, sales volume, price etc.

Metrics Traffic Drivers - Category1 - Year wise				
Metrics	Jan'21-Dec'21	Jan'22-Dec'22	Jan'23-Dec'23	CAGR
Sales Revenue	\$ 112,309	\$ 166,326	\$ 178,305	26%
Sales Volume	38,444	54,279	51,215	15%
Average Price	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.5	9%

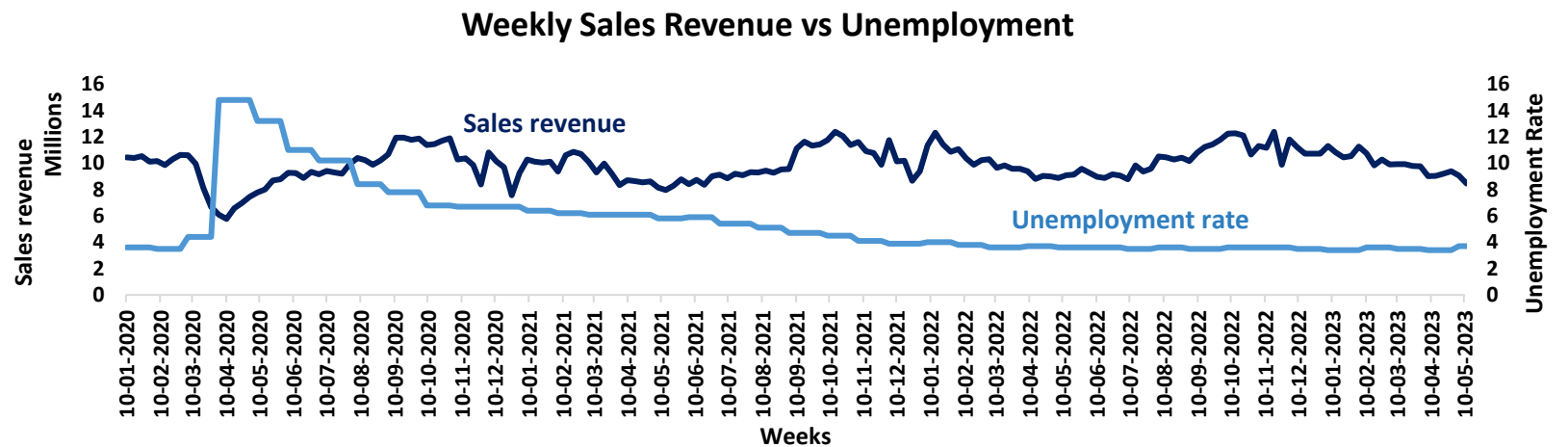
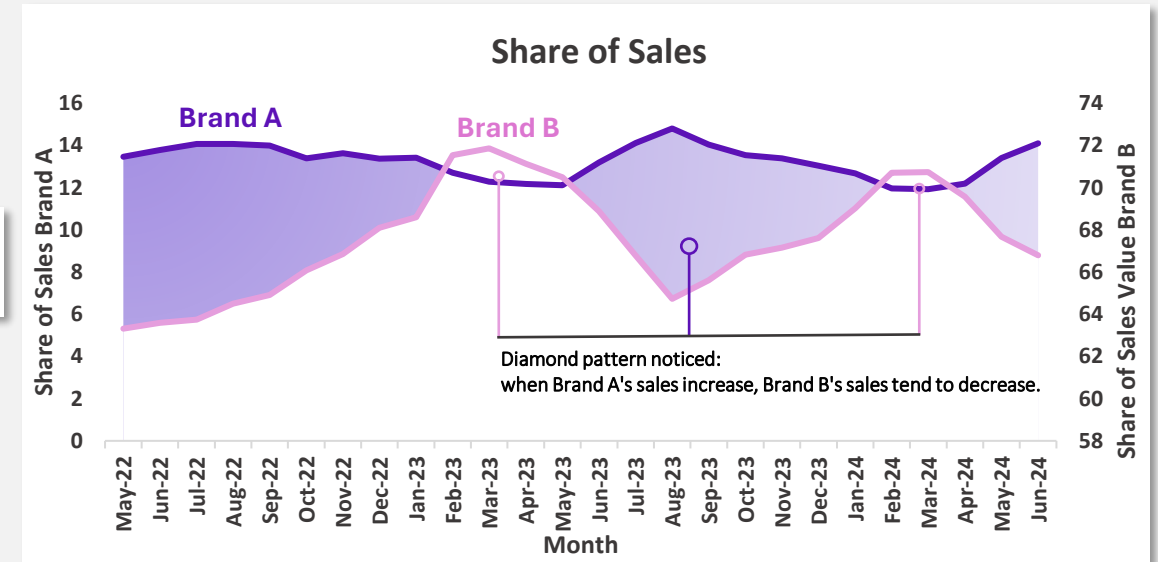
General Visualization Practices

- Use a white background for all charts. Remove gridlines for clarity.
- Include a descriptive chart title and axis titles. Add a legend and data labels where relevant.
- Ensure charts are correctly linked to the underlying data.
- Remove underscores or technical naming conventions (e.g., "variable_names").
- Use the appropriate number formats. Round off values to two decimal places for consistency and readability.
- Maintain consistent fonts and colors for the same variables across all charts. Assign one color per variable and use it uniformly in all visualizations.
- Ensure all charts are labeled clearly with meaningful legends and titles.

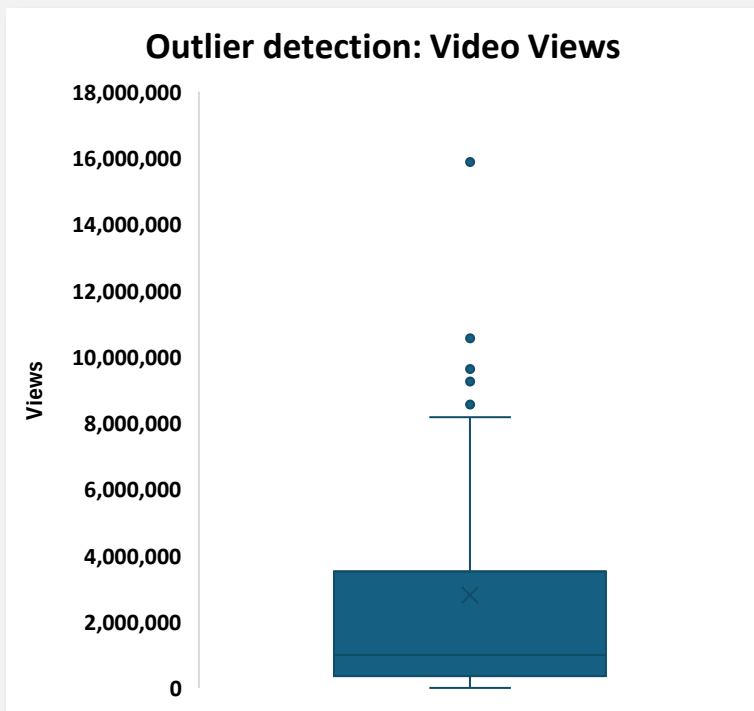


EDA Charts (1/4)

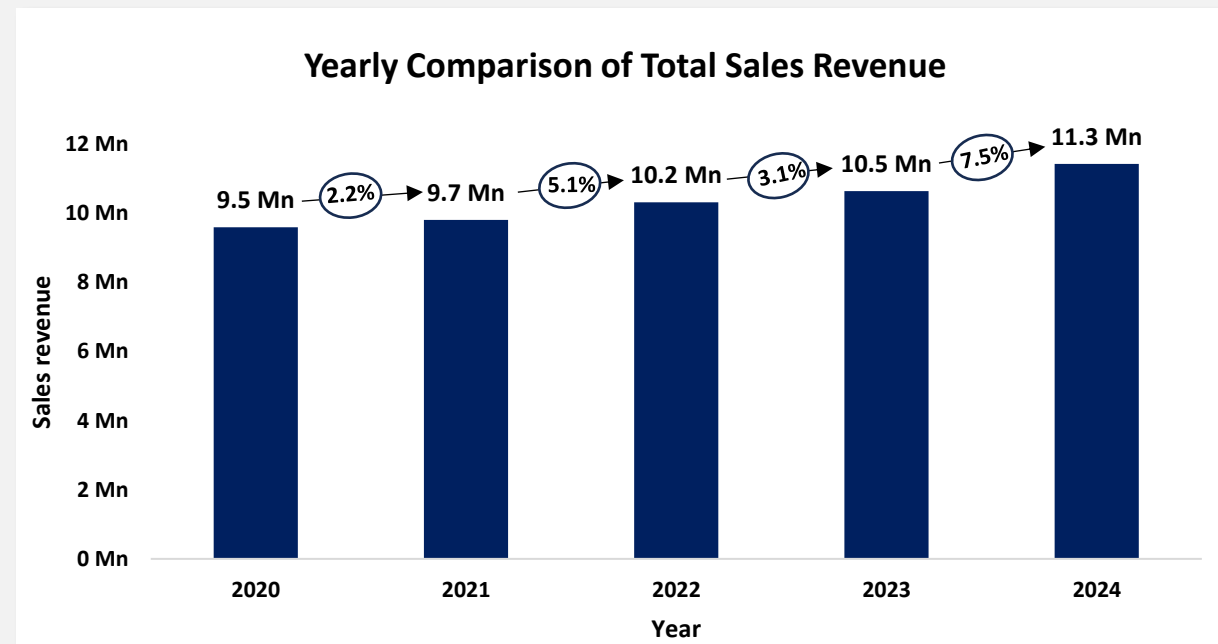
Trend Line Charts: To depict changes over time, for analyzing trends in the KPI (e.g., Revenue/Conversion, price, market share etc.)



EDA Charts (2/4)



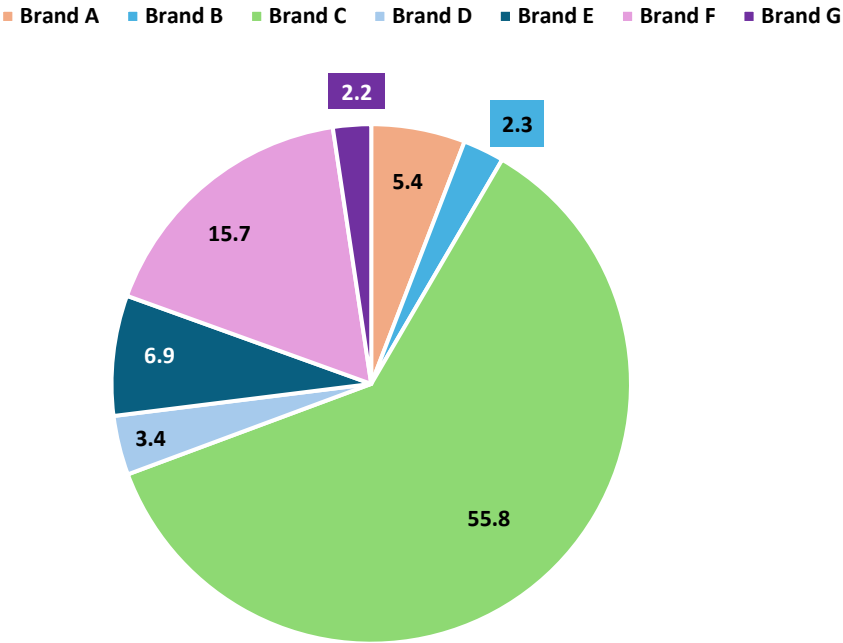
Boxplots: To identify outliers in data columns.



Column Charts: To analyze and compare sales revenue across different years.

EDA Charts (3/4)

Brand Market Share with Competitors



Pie Charts: Use to compare brand market shares against competitors, these charts ensure all categories sum to 100%.

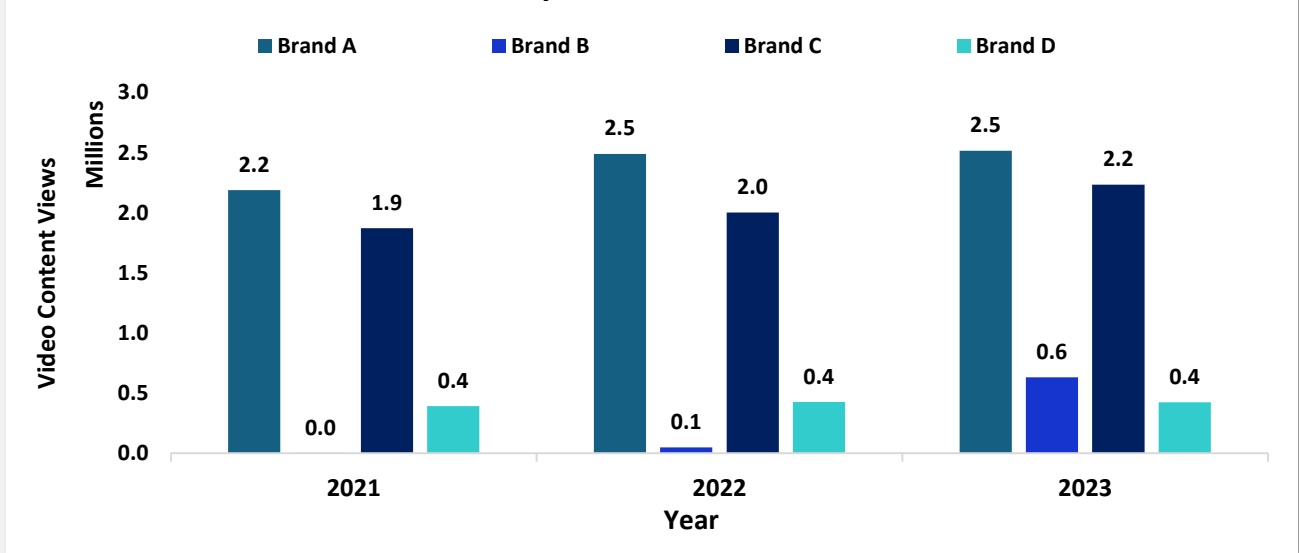
Correlation Summary

	Sales	Marketing Spend	Online Ads	TV Ads	Radio Ads	Email Campaigns	Social Media Engagement	Website Visits	Customer Retention Rate	Discounts
Sales	1									
Marketing Spend	0.094	1								
Online Ads	-0.027	0.004	1							
TV Ads	0.004	0.018	0.018	1						
Radio Ads	-0.001	-0.004	-0.017	-0.017	1					
Email Campaigns	-0.009	0.019	0.025	-0.001	0.001	1				
Social Media Engagement	0.011	0.016	0.029	-0.012	-0.005	-0.027	1			
Website Visits	-0.003	0.026	0.004	0.008	-0.002	0.007	0.002	1		
Customer Retention Rate	0.008	0.030	-0.006	-0.010	0.006	-0.001	0.000	0.013	1	
Discounts	-0.024	-0.020	0.005	0.024	0.017	-0.001	-0.003	0.000	-0.013	1

Correlation heatmaps: A color-coded matrix where each cell shows the correlation coefficient, helping identify strong positive, negative, or neutral relationships between variables.

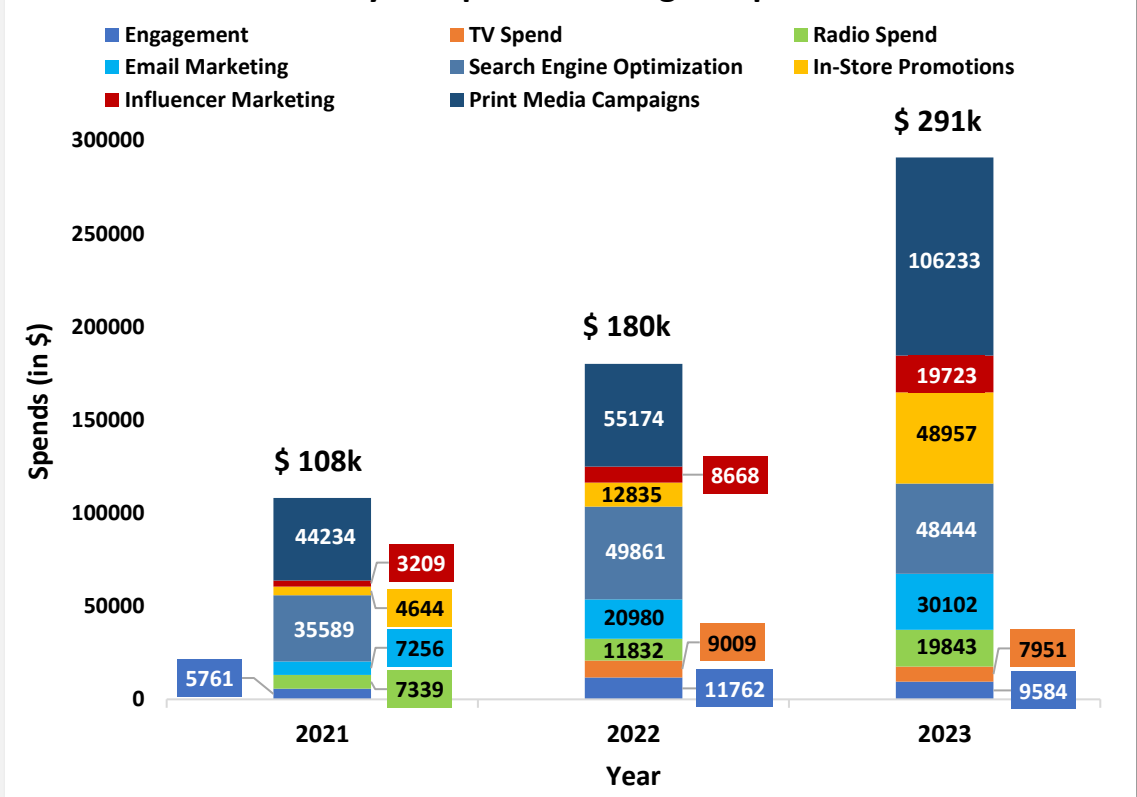
EDA Charts (4/4)

Brand A vs Competitors: Video Content Views



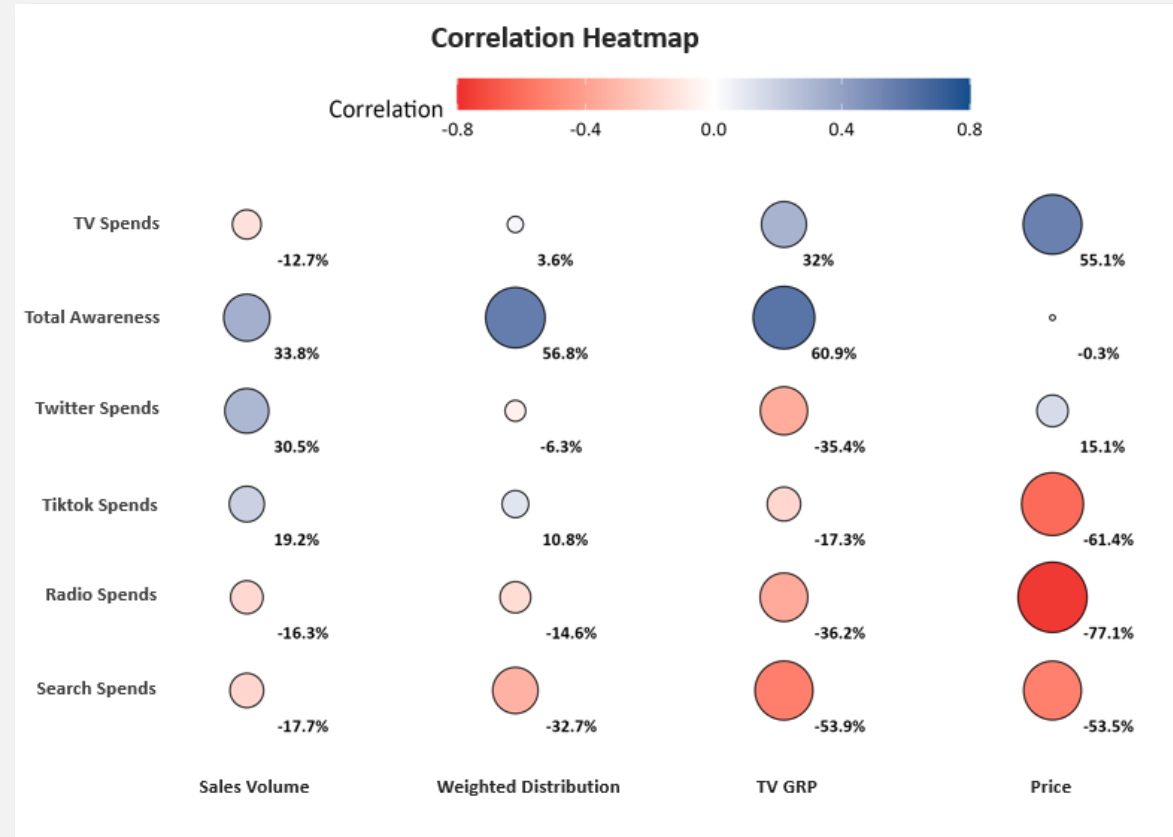
Clustered Column Charts: To compare own brand content views vs competitor video content views.

Yearly Comparison of Digital Spends



Stacked Column Charts: For yearly sum and proportion of media spend variables. (digital and traditional media variables, comparison of impressions)

Correlation Heatmap

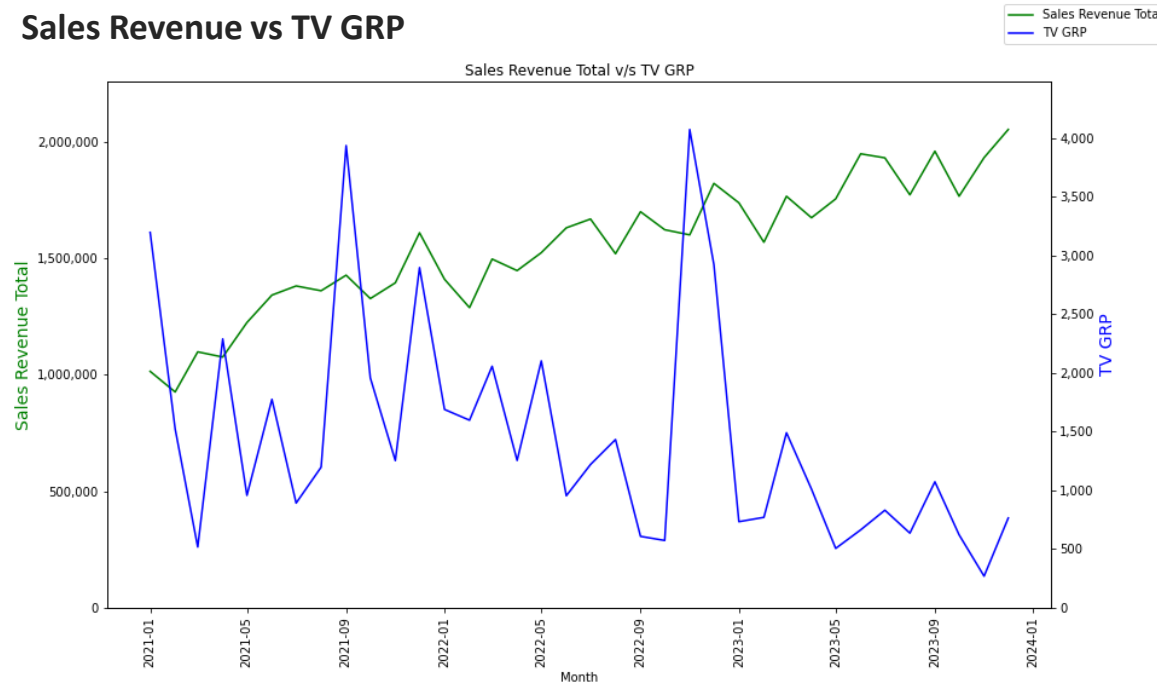


Correlation heatmaps are visual tools used to display the relationships between numerical variables.



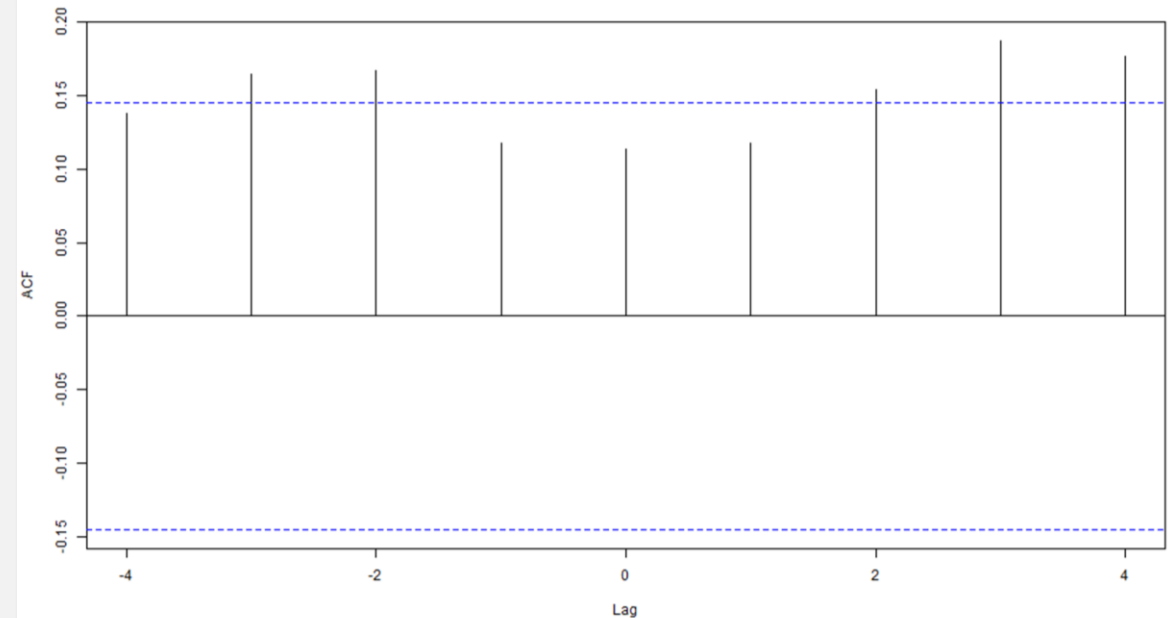
Important charts for Feature Analysis and Model Building

Sales Revenue vs TV GRP



Dual axis line charts: To show the dual-axis comparison between KPI (green line) and independent variable (blue line) over time.

Sales Revenue vs Impressions



CCF Plots: To identify significant lags between KPI and independent variables.



ArYma Labs

Decoding the past, Encoding the future

Understanding the Concept of Adstock

What is Adstock?

How many of you remember an ad that you saw say 5yrs or 10yrs ago?

Do you recall the specifics of the ad?

How many of you remember an ad that you saw couple of months ago?

Did you make a purchase decision in both the above cases?

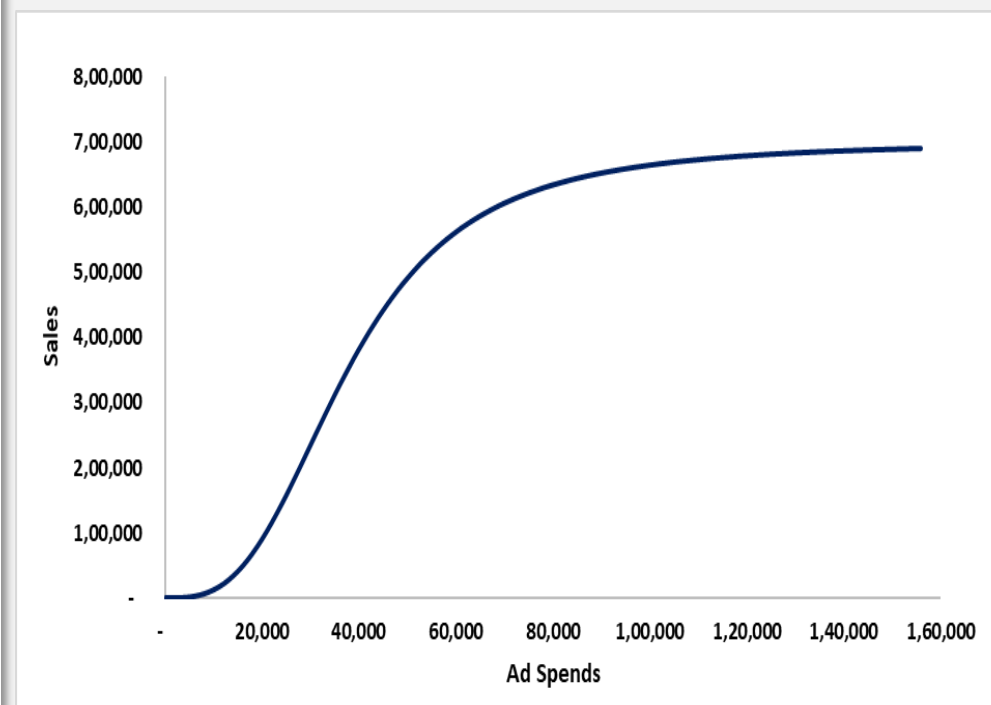
Would you develop a negative feeling towards a brand if they bombarded you with their ads?



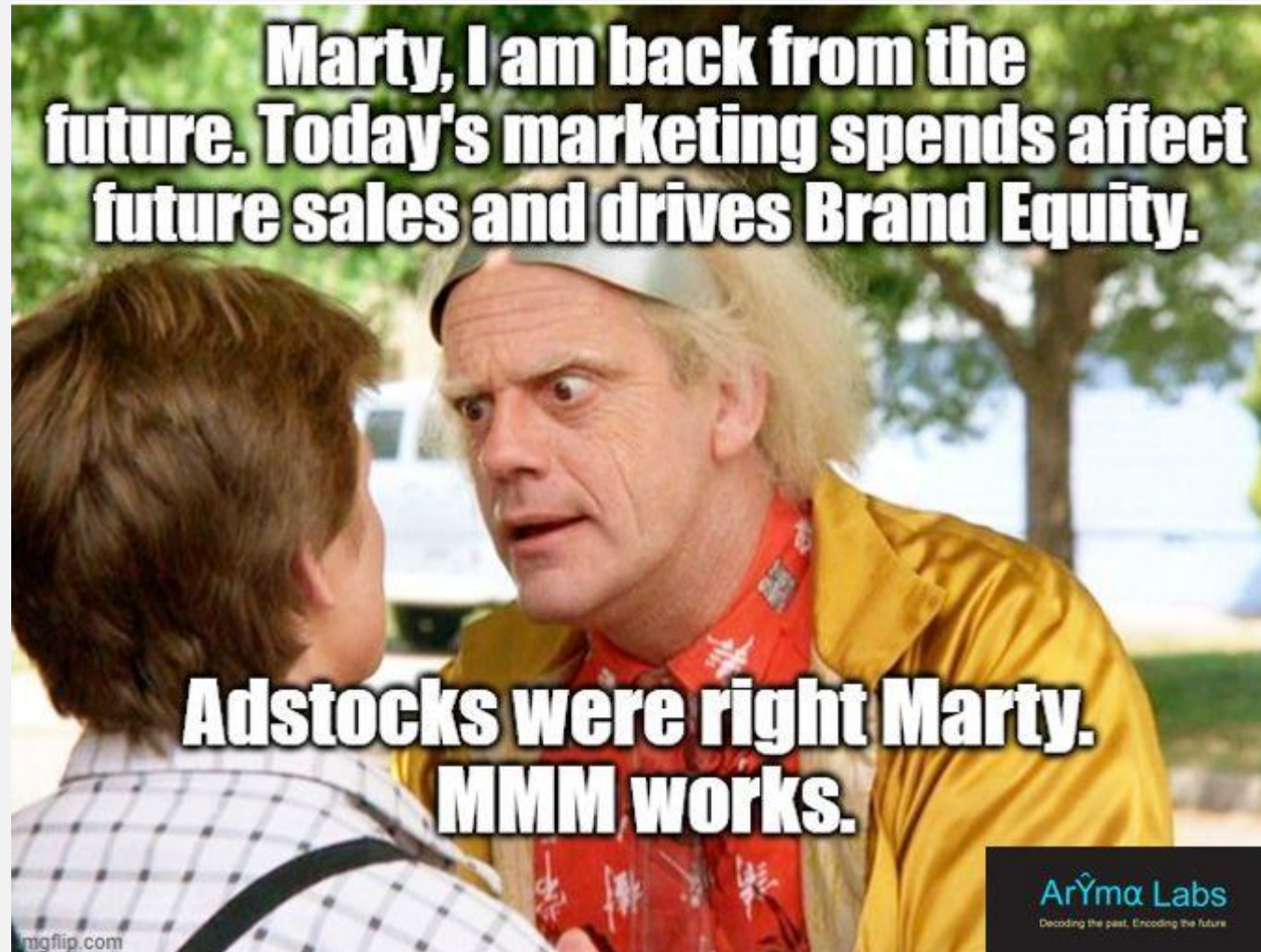
got milk?®

What is Adstock?

- Adstock refers to the cumulative impact of past advertising on current sales.
- Adstock has two components: **Carryover effect** and **Diminishing Returns**.
- Carryover Effect: The impact of past advertising on the present sales. Also called the decay effect as the impact of the past advertisement decays over time.
- Diminishing Returns: the impact of advertisement starts diminishing over time after a certain extent.
- Adstock transformation helps to capture the non-linear relationship of ads with the sales.



What is Adstock?



What is Adstock? - Seminal Work

One way TV advertisements work

Simon Broadbent
Leo Burnett Ltd

Abstract

TV advertising affects consumers' awareness that a brand has been advertised. A model is proposed for the way these two measures are related. It includes both response and decay or forgetting. It separates advertising spend from advertisement content.

The model has been used on a number of brands in different markets and gives reasonable fits. It illuminates their strategies and efficiencies, the results of changing campaigns and advertisements, the effect of other individual brands and of competition generally. It also gives insights into the general effect of advertising over time.

The analyses reported here investigate how certain survey measures of consumers' awareness are related to TV advertising.

These measures come from regular tracking studies or from a panel; they include awareness that the brand has been advertised recently, either spontaneous or prompted, and may require proof of recall. For convenience we call all such measures simply 'awareness'.

The main objectives of such analyses are:

- (1) to separate the effect of advertising *spend* from that of the advertisements' *content*, and so to evaluate the creative work,
- (2) to provide information on the response and decay of advertising's effects, as measured by intrusiveness and memorability, so helping in scheduling decisions.

There is also the objective of learning about 'how advertisements work'. That subject is really concerned with sales effectiveness, but we then come up against the well-known difficulty that advertising is usually a relatively small factor in sales results. It turns out that the mechanisms applicable in this simpler case suggest what may happen in the more complex one. We therefore get insights from this work into more important issues.

It is assumed from now on that advertising's objective is to keep our brand's advertising awareness high, compared with other products in the same group. Advertising has other objectives and may have sales efficiency without creating advertising awareness but this point is not pursued here.



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Understanding Advertising Adstock Transformations

7 Pages • Posted: 16 Aug 2006

Joy V. Joseph

Syneractiv

Date Written: May 15, 2006

Abstract

Advertising effectiveness and Return on Investment (ROI) are typically measured through econometric models that measure the impact of varying levels of advertising Gross Ratings Points (GRPs) on sales or on purchase decision and choice. TV advertising has both dynamic and diminishing returns effects on sales, different models capture these dynamic and nonlinear effects differently. This paper focuses on reviewing the econometric rationale behind the popularized Adstock transformation model that allows the inclusion of lagged and non-linear effects in linear models based on aggregate data.

Keywords: Advertising, Adstock Model, Non-linear transformation, Marketing-Mix

JEL Classification: M37

Suggested Citation:

Joseph, Joy V., Understanding Advertising Adstock Transformations (May 15, 2006). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=924128> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.924128>

- The general formula for Adstock transformation to capture the carryover or decay effect is:

$$Adstock_t = Raw_spend_t + decay_rate_t * Adstock_{t-1}$$

- Mainly there are three types of Adstocks:
 - **Geometric:** Decay rate (theta) is fixed. Theta = 0.5 means 50% of the ads in the previous period is carried over to present period.
 - **Weibull CDF:** The decay rate at time t is determined by the Cumulative Distribution Function of Weibull Distribution with given shape and scale parameters.
 - **Weibull PDF:** The decay rate at time t is determined by the Density Function of Weibull Distribution with given shape and scale parameters. This method also incorporates lagged effect.

Visualizing the Carryover Effect

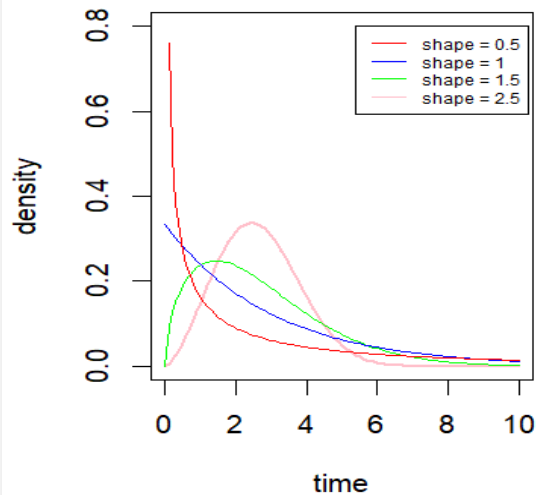
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ridhima-kumar7_visualizing-the-media-carryover-effect-i-activity-7213797490209218560-GEI5?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

```
adstock_geometric <- function(x, theta) {  
  stopifnot(length(theta) == 1)  
  if (length(x) > 1) {  
    x_decayed <- c(x[1], rep(0, length(x) - 1))  
    for (xi in 2:length(x_decayed)) {  
      x_decayed[xi] <- x[xi] + theta * x_decayed[xi - 1]  
    }  
    thetaVecCum <- theta  
    for (t in 2:length(x)) {  
      thetaVecCum[t] <- thetaVecCum[t - 1] * theta  
    } # plot(thetaVecCum)  
  } else {  
    x_decayed <- x  
    thetaVecCum <- theta  
  }  
  inflation_total <- sum(x_decayed) / sum(x)  
  return(list(x = x, x_decayed = x_decayed, thetaVecCum = thetaVecCum, inflation_total = inflation_total))  
}
```

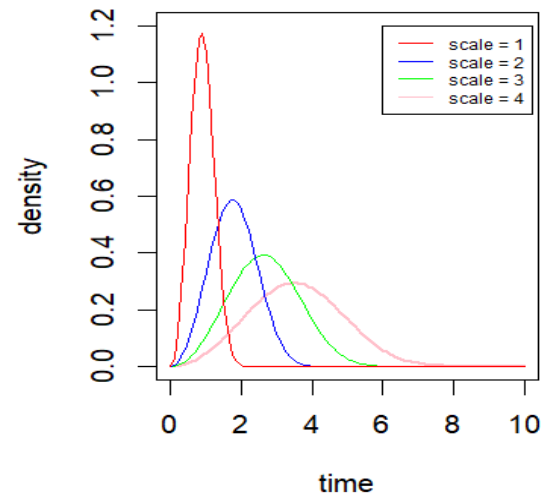
- Here, x is the raw spends and theta is the decay parameter, the decayed series is calculated by:
$$x_{decayed}_t = x_t + \theta * x_{decayed}_{t-1} = \sum_{i=0}^t \theta^i x_{t-i}$$
- The vector 'thetaVecCum' captures the decaying impact of the ad over time. Starting at time 0, the impact is highest with a value of 1, then decreases progressively as time advances, taking values of θ at time 1, θ^2 at time 2, and so on, reflecting the decaying effect over time.
- The recommended ranges for theta are:
 - TV: 0.3 – 0.8
 - OOH/Print/Radio: 0.1 – 0.4
 - Digital: 0 – 0.3

Weibull Distribution

Weibull PDF with scale = 3



Weibull PDF with shape = 3



- Two parameter Weibull distribution has the density function:

$$f(t) = \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha}\right) \left(\frac{t}{\alpha}\right)^{\beta-1} \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{\alpha}\right)^{\beta}\right\}; t \geq 0, \alpha, \beta > 0$$

- The cumulative distribution function of Weibull distribution is:

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{\alpha}\right)^{\beta}\right\}$$

- Where, α is the scale parameter and β is the shape parameter.

```
adstock_weibull <- function(x, shape, scale, windlen = length(x), type = "cdf") {  
  stopifnot(length(shape) == 1)  
  stopifnot(length(scale) == 1)  
  if (length(x) > 1) {  
    check_opts(tolower(type), c("cdf", "pdf"))  
    x_bin <- 1:windlen  
    scaleTrans <- round(quantile(1:windlen, scale), 0)  
    if (shape == 0 | scale == 0) {  
      x_decayed <- x  
      thetaVecCum <- thetaVec <- rep(0, windlen)  
      x_imme <- NULL  
    } else {  
      if ("cdf" %in% tolower(type)) {  
        thetaVec <- c(1, 1 - pweibull(head(x_bin, -1), shape = shape, scale = scaleTrans)) # plot(thetaVec)  
        thetaVecCum <- cumprod(thetaVec) # plot(thetaVecCum)  
      } else if ("pdf" %in% tolower(type)) {  
        thetaVecCum <- .normalize(dweibull(x_bin, shape = shape, scale = scaleTrans)) # plot(thetaVecCum)  
      }  
      x_decayed <- mapply(function(x_val, x_pos) {  
        x.vec <- c(rep(0, x_pos - 1), rep(x_val, windlen - x_pos + 1))  
        thetaVecCumLag <- lag(thetaVecCum, x_pos - 1, default = 0)  
        x.prod <- x.vec * thetaVecCumLag  
        return(x.prod)  
      }, x_val = x, x_pos = seq_along(x))  
      x_imme <- diag(x_decayed)  
      x_decayed <- rowSums(x_decayed)[seq_along(x)]  
    }  
  } else {  
    x_decayed <- x_imme <- x  
    thetaVecCum <- 1  
  }  
}
```

Weibull CDF Adstock

$$Adstock_t = \sum_{j=0}^t \tilde{S}(j) \times Raw_spend_{t-j} ; \tilde{S}(j) = \prod_{i=0}^j S(i)$$

- $S(i) = 1 - F(i)$ and $F(i)$ values are generated by the “pweibull” function. $S(i)$ is called the survival function.
- The recommended shape and scale parameter ranges are:
 - Shape: 0 – 2
 - Scale: 0 – 0.1
- Scale parameter α is transformed to ScaleTrans, which is the α^{th} quantile of time indices, rounded off to nearest integer.
- “thetaVecCum” stores the cumulative product of the survival probabilities ($\tilde{S}(j)$ in the formula) which are our time varying decay rates to compute the adstock series.

```
adstock_weibull <- function(x, shape, scale, windlen = length(x), type = "cdf") {  
  stopifnot(length(shape) == 1)  
  stopifnot(length(scale) == 1)  
  if (length(x) > 1) {  
    check_opts(tolower(type), c("cdf", "pdf"))  
    x_bin <- 1:windlen  
    scaleTrans <- round(quantile(1:windlen, scale), 0)  
    if (shape == 0 | scale == 0) {  
      x_decayed <- x  
      thetaVecCum <- thetaVec <- rep(0, windlen)  
      x_imme <- NULL  
    } else {  
      if ("cdf" %in% tolower(type)) {  
        thetaVec <- c(1, 1 - pweibull(head(x_bin, -1), shape = shape, scale = scaleTrans)) # plot(thetaVec)  
        thetaVecCum <- cumprod(thetaVec) # plot(thetaVecCum)  
      } else if ("pdf" %in% tolower(type)) {  
        thetaVecCum <- .normalize(dweibull(x_bin, shape = shape, scale = scaleTrans)) # plot(thetaVecCum)  
      }  
      x_decayed <- mapply(function(x_val, x_pos) {  
        x.vec <- c(rep(0, x_pos - 1), rep(x_val, windlen - x_pos + 1))  
        thetaVecCumLag <- lag(thetaVecCum, x_pos - 1, default = 0)  
        x.prod <- x.vec * thetaVecCumLag  
        return(x.prod)  
      }, x_val = x, x_pos = seq_along(x))  
      x_imme <- diag(x_decayed)  
      x_decayed <- rowSums(x_decayed)[seq_along(x)]  
    }  
  } else {  
    x_decayed <- x_imme <- x  
    thetaVecCum <- 1  
  }  
}
```

Weibull PDF Adstock

$$Adstock_t = \sum_{j=0}^t \tilde{f}(j+1) \times Raw_spend_{t-j-1}$$

- $\tilde{f}(j)$ is the density function generated using “dweibull” function and normalized as below:

$$\tilde{f}(t) = \frac{f(t) - \min\{f(t)\}}{\max\{f(t)\} - \min\{f(t)\}}$$

- “thetaVecCum” stores these normalized density values which are our time varying decay rates.
- The recommended shape parameter ranges to capture various cases are:
 - 0-10 in general
 - >2 to capture lagged effects
 - 0-1 for no lagged effect
 - 1 for exponential decay
- Scale parameter ranges from 0 to 0.1 and transformed into ScaleTrans as in Weibull CDF adstock.

Summary of Adstock Transformations

Geometric	Weibull CDF	Weibull PDF
One hyperparameter	Two hyperparameters	Two hyperparameters
Fixed decay rate	Flexible decay rate	Flexible decay rate
Does not capture lagging effect	Does not capture lagging effect	Captures lagging effect
Computationally easy	Computationally difficult	Computationally difficult

Diminishing Returns using Power Transformation

Power Transformation

$$saturated_t = (raw_media_t)^n + \theta * saturated_{t-1}$$

- Where, n is the diminishing parameter and θ is the decay parameter.
- The ranges of both n and θ are 0.1 – 0.9.
- Used together with the Geometric adstock.

Diminishing Returns using Hill Transformation

```
saturation_hill <- function(x, alpha, gamma, x_marginal = NULL) {  
  stopifnot(length(alpha) == 1)  
  stopifnot(length(gamma) == 1)  
  inflexion <- c(range(x) %%% c(1 - gamma, gamma)) # linear interpolation by dot product  
  if (is.null(x_marginal)) {  
    x_scurve <- x**alpha / (x**alpha + inflexion**alpha) # plot(x_scurve) summary(x_scurve)  
  } else {  
    x_scurve <- x_marginal**alpha / (x_marginal**alpha + inflexion**alpha)  
  }  
  return(x_scurve)  
}
```

Hill Transformation

$$saturated_t = \frac{(adstocked_t)^\alpha}{(adstocked_t)^\alpha + (inflexion)^\alpha}$$

- α controls the shape of the curve. $\alpha < 1$ gives a C-shaped curve, whereas $\alpha > 1$ gives an S-shaped curve.
- γ controls the inflexion point and the relationship between them is given by:

$$inflexion = (1 - \gamma) * \min(x_{decayed}) + \gamma * \max(x_{decayed})$$

- The recommended ranges for α and γ are:
 - alpha: 0.5 – 3
 - gamma: 0.3 - 1

Hands-on Demo using R Shiny App

ArYma Labs

Decoding the past, Encoding the future

Feature Selection in MMM

- In MMM, identifying and including the features that best predict or explain the dependent variable is key to building an effective model.
- Traditional Feature Selection Approach relies on correlation analysis and domain expertise. Variables are first shortlisted based on their correlation with the KPI, followed by domain experts refining the selection using a correlation threshold and domain knowledge.
- Correlation measures only linear relationships with the KPI, which can lead to the exclusion of important variables that have significant non-linear impacts and contribute valuable information.

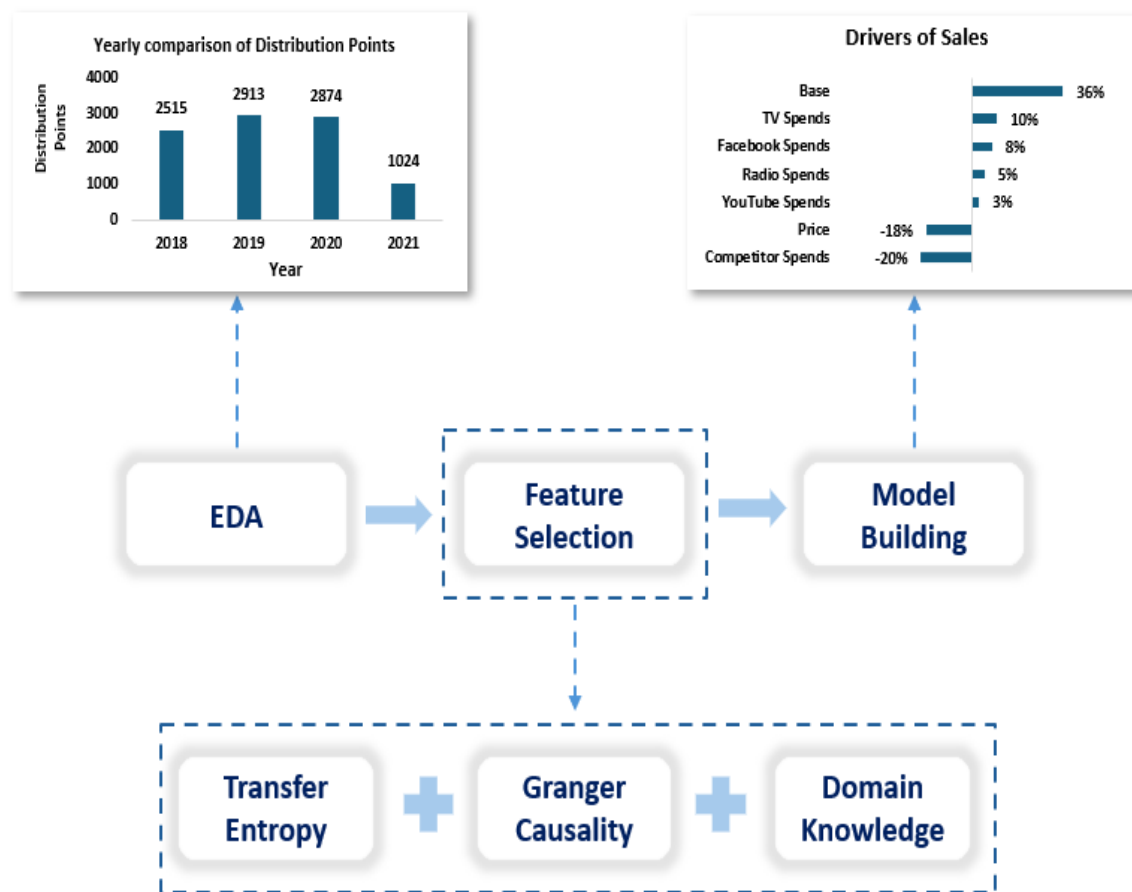
Transfer Entropy (TE):

- Transfer entropy is a non-parametric method to measure the amount of directed (time-asymmetric) transfer of information between two random processes.
- Transfer entropy from a process X to another process Y is the amount of uncertainty reduced in future values of Y by knowing the past values of X given past values of Y .
- Transfer Entropy captures linear as well as non-linear relationships.

Granger Causality (GC):

- Granger causality test is a statistical hypothesis test for determining that whether one time series is useful in forecasting another time series.
- If we have two time series variables X and Y , then X is said to “Granger cause” Y , if predictions of Y based on the past values of X and past values of Y are better than the predictions of Y based only on the past values of Y .
- Therefore, we see if X contains some useful information for the prediction of Y which is not present in the past values of Y .

How Aryma Labs Leverages the Trifecta Approach?



The Trifecta Approach is done using the following steps:

- The variables are divided into media and non-media categories. Media variables undergo adstock transformation using our proprietary techniques, while non-media variables remain untransformed.
- TE and GC values are computed for both transformed and untransformed variables with respect to the KPI.
- Based on the calculated TE and GC results, two separate lists of candidate variables are created. A third list is simultaneously prepared by domain experts based on their insights and knowledge.
- The three lists of variables are put into the trifecta algorithm that we have devised. This algorithm is based on iterative weighting of variables and the weights will help to choose the variables which carries maximum information about the KPI.

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Decoding the past, Encoding the future

Building MMM Models

What are we modelling ?

Is there one true MMM model out there?

"All models are wrong, some are useful" is an aphorism (meaning it is a concise expression of general truth). But the aphorism in this case leads to misinterpretation.

Firstly, it is important to understand what modeling is.
The purpose of modeling is to provide an abstraction of real process.
Basically, a good approximation of reality.

Anybody who mistakes the abstraction for the real, commits the Fallacy of Reification (yup, one more fallacy to add to the list of all fallacies which we data scientists/statisticians commit).

In an exact sense, a map is also wrong because it does not provide 1:1 mapping of the real world.

So, George Box's phrase should be construed the same way as a map is considered wrong because it does not represent the real world.



What are we modelling ?

Is there one true MMM model out there?

In MMM we deal with historical data, meaning the sales (or any KPI) has already been realized. Now the million-dollar (literally) question is what led to this sales? What combination of factors led to the sales.

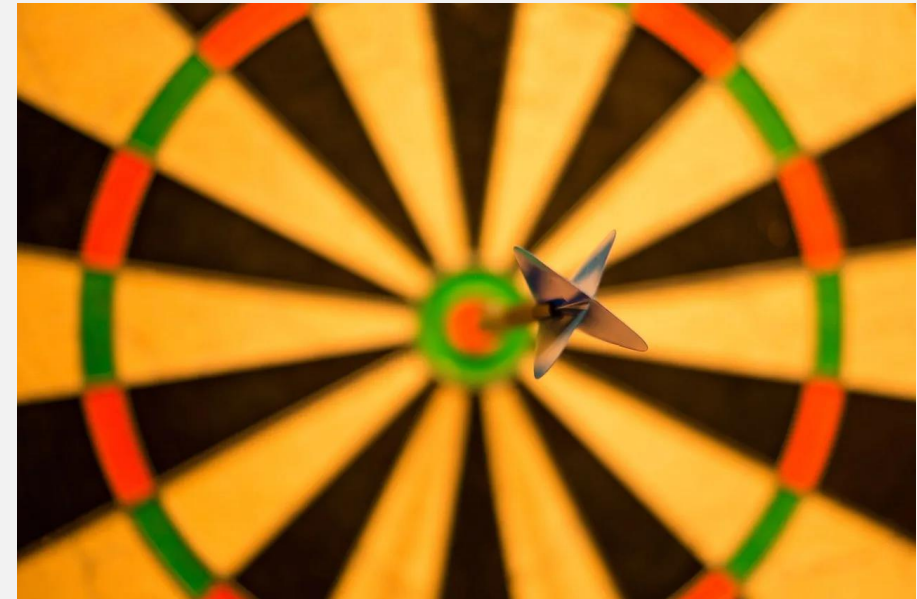
Now because this is all in the past, there is only one set of combination which could have resulted in the sales. The job of a MMM vendor is to find out this combination of factors that led to the observed sales. So technically it is honing on the truth.

There are no multiple ways through which sales could have been gotten. This part is the scenario planning and budget planning exercise where once we have a ground truth understanding of what moved the needle of sales, we then try to see how we can tweak the combinations of marketing inputs to yield a better sales number.

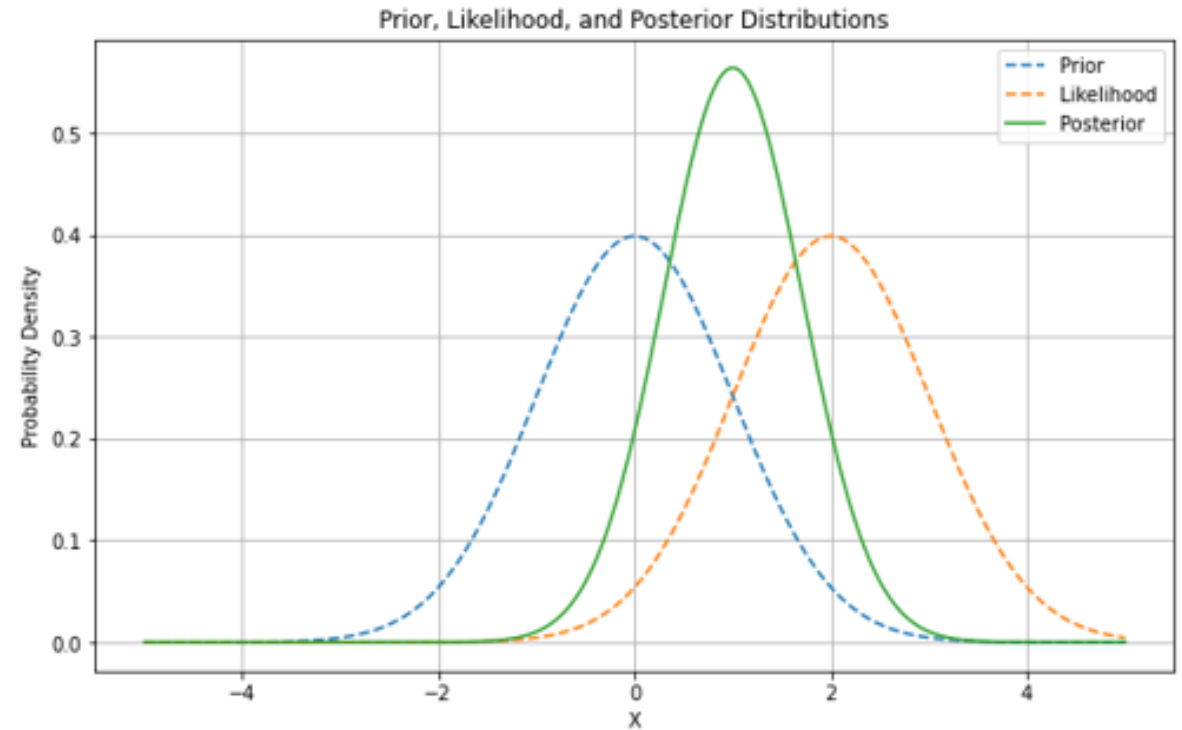
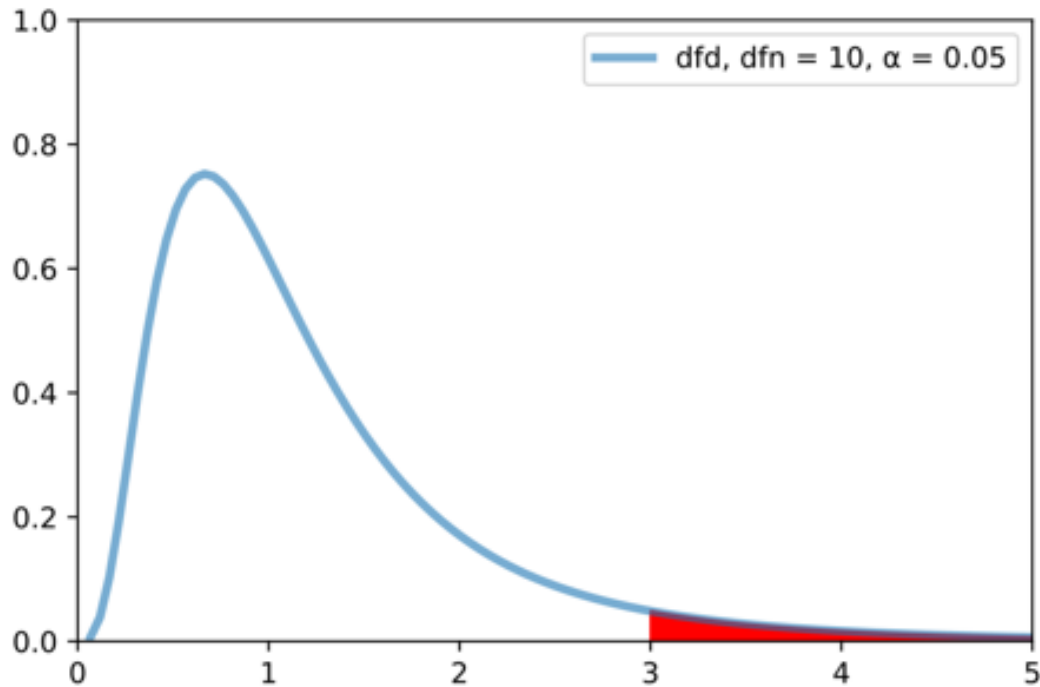
In the latter, many different models are possible.

To summarize:

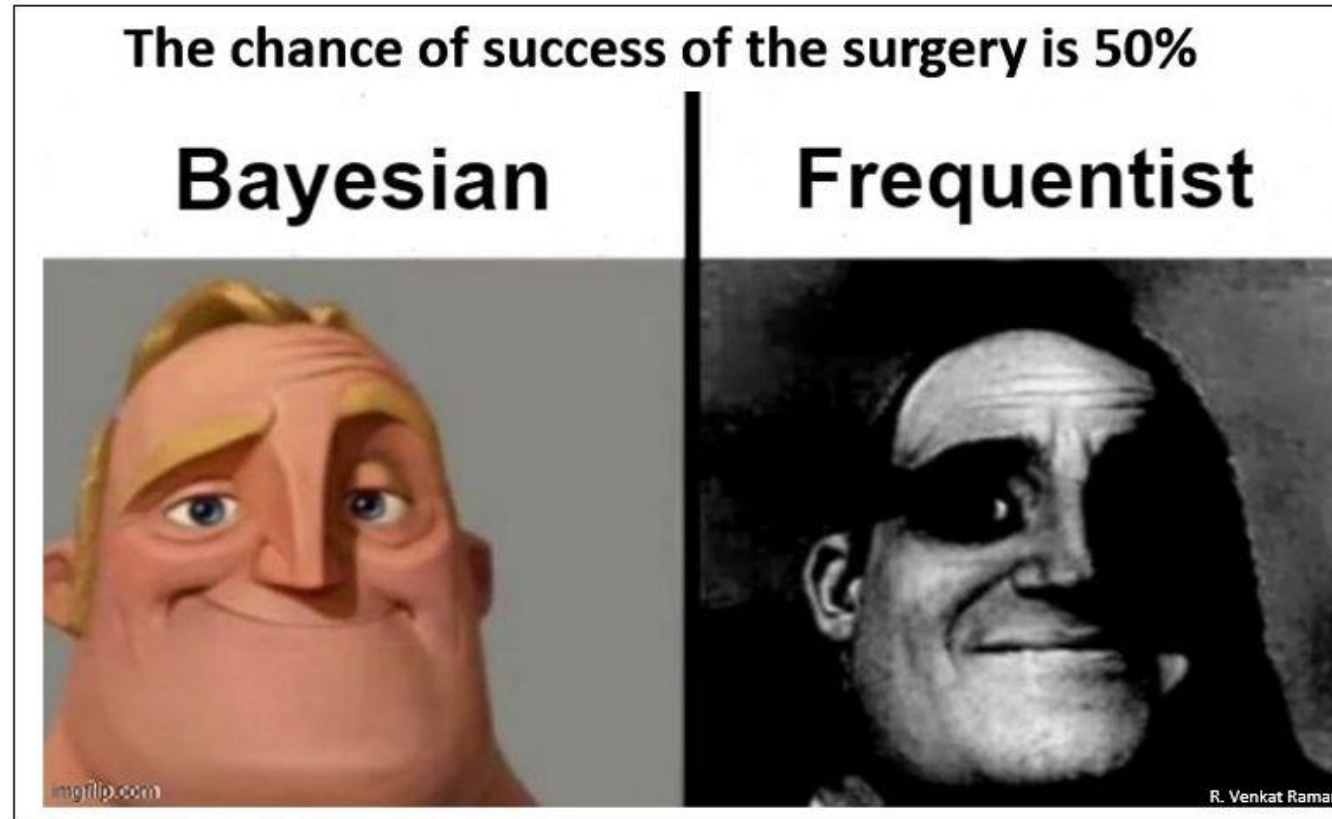
- There is one true MMM model. Vendors should help clients find that model. We at Aryma Labs always do.
- In scenario planning / Budget optimization, there could be multiple models.



Types of MMM models – Frequentist vs Bayesian



Types of MMM models – Frequentist vs Bayesian



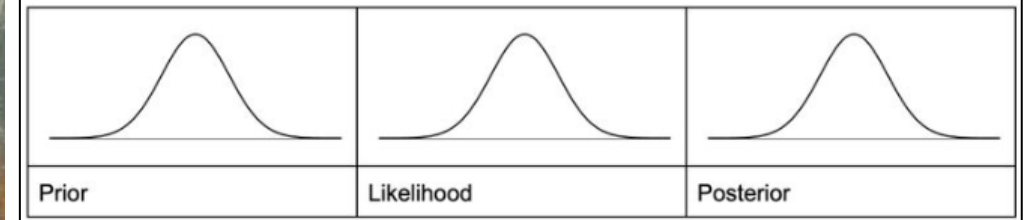
The Bayesian World - Everything is a probability distribution

But we humans are not good at encoding information through probability distributions



A/B testing vendor: "We use Bayesian statistics in our tool"

The "Bayesian statistics" in question:



Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?

Performance under moderate multicollinearity



Frequentist MMM

"I don't know" is the only answer you will get. And pls let's not talk about my burgeoning posterior distribution.



Bayesian MMM

Posterior Distribution



Increasing
Multicollinearity

Venkat Raman

Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?

Scope for Model Manipulation

Level : Evil



Bayesian MMM

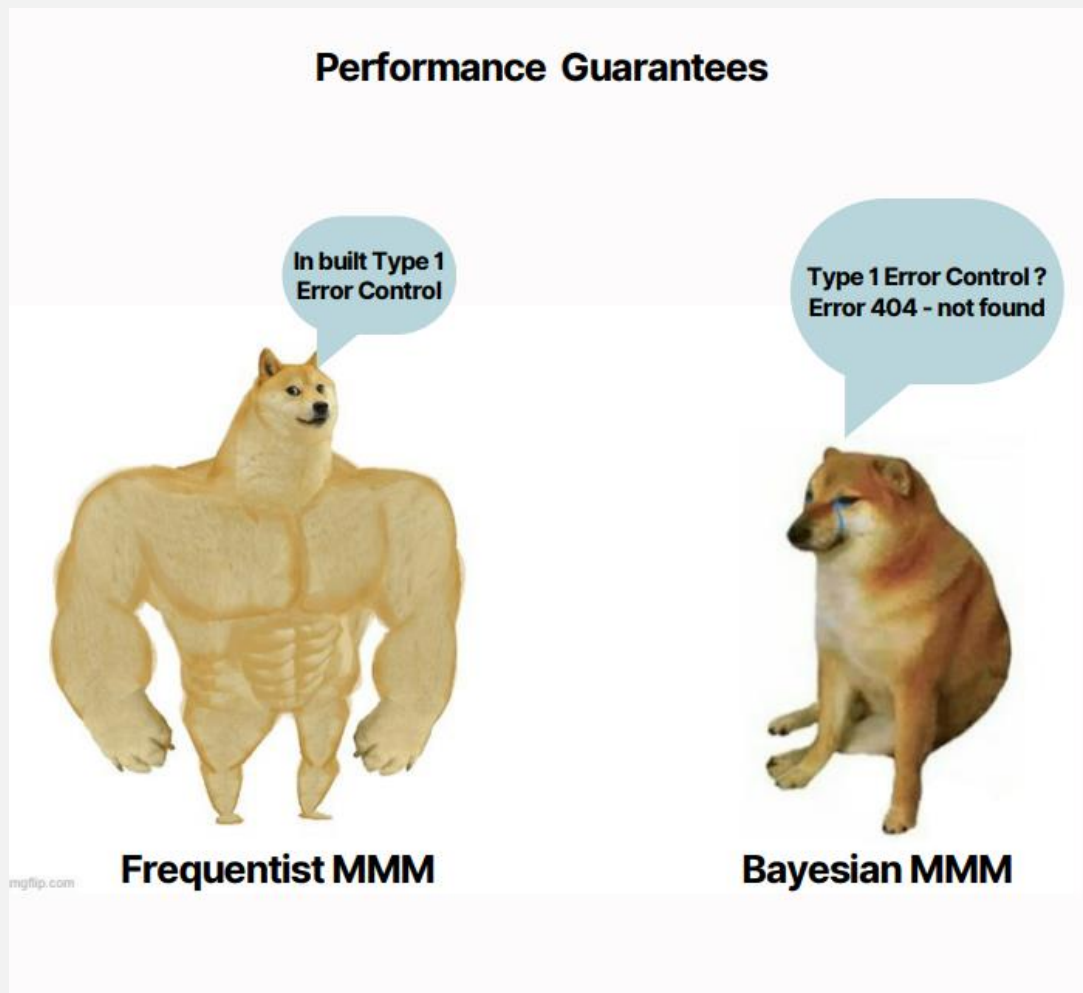
Level : Low



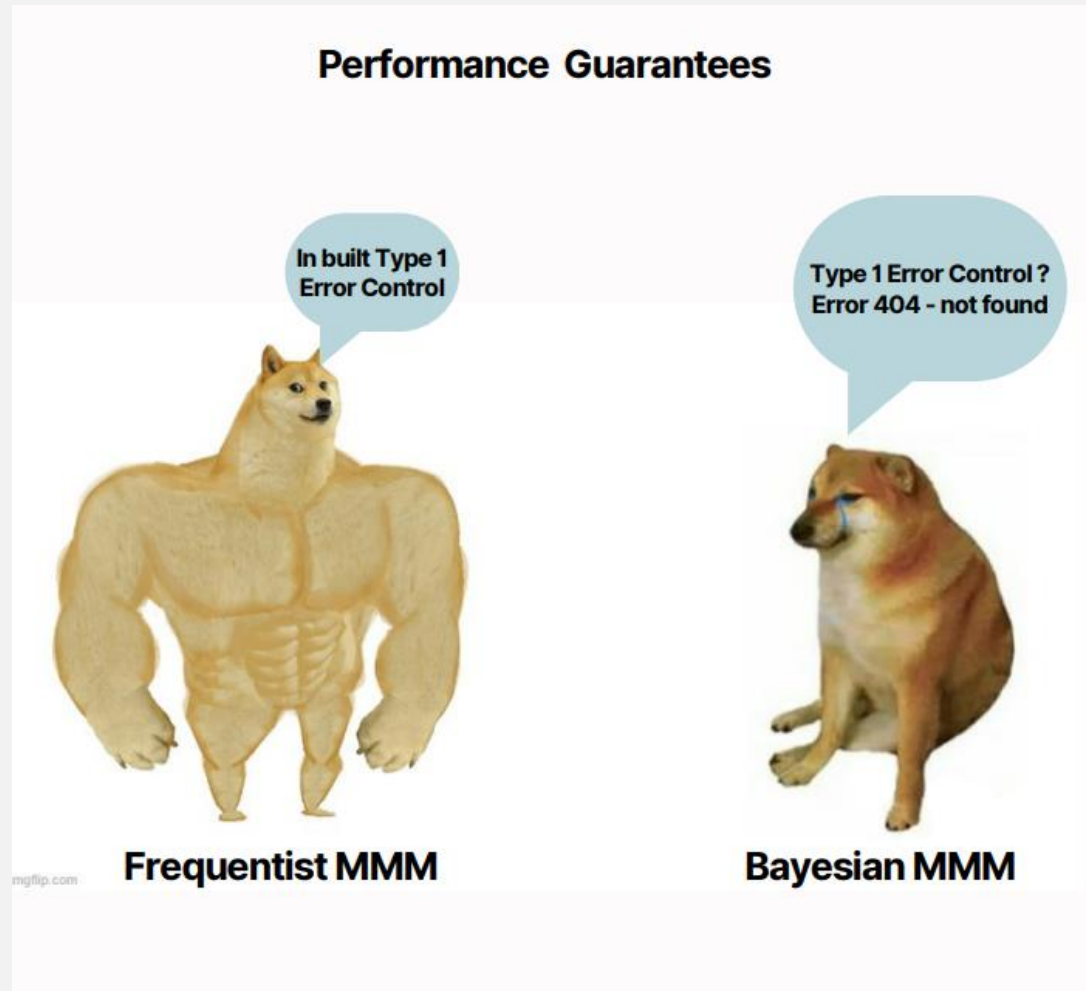
Frequentist MMM



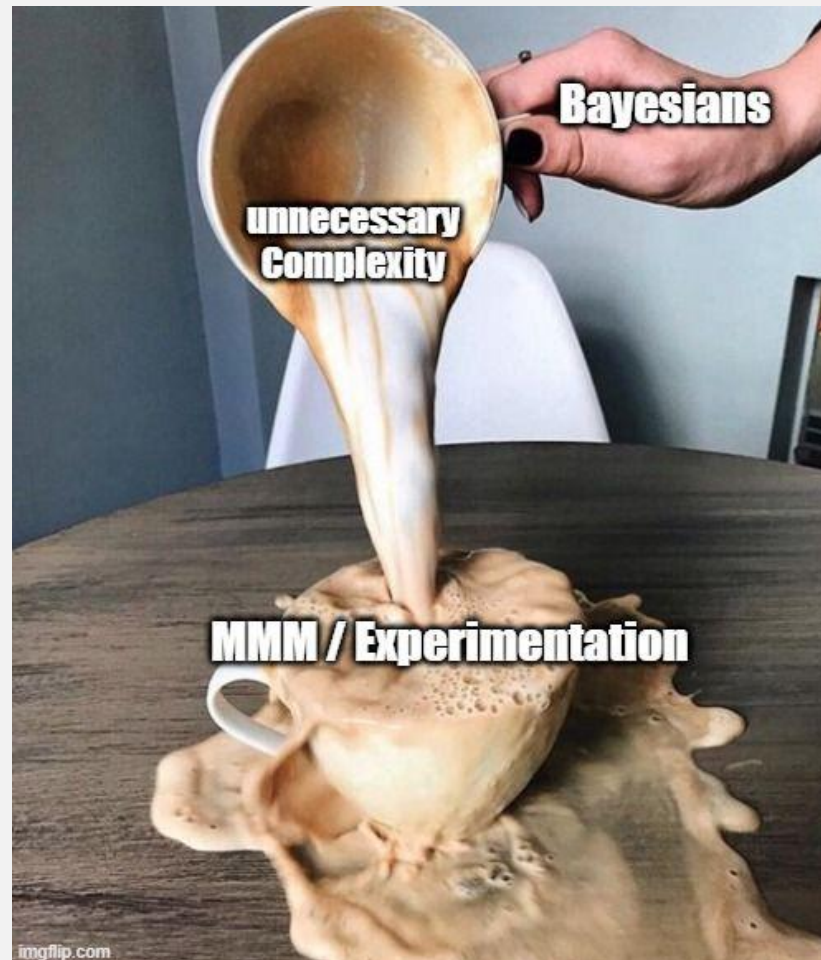
Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?



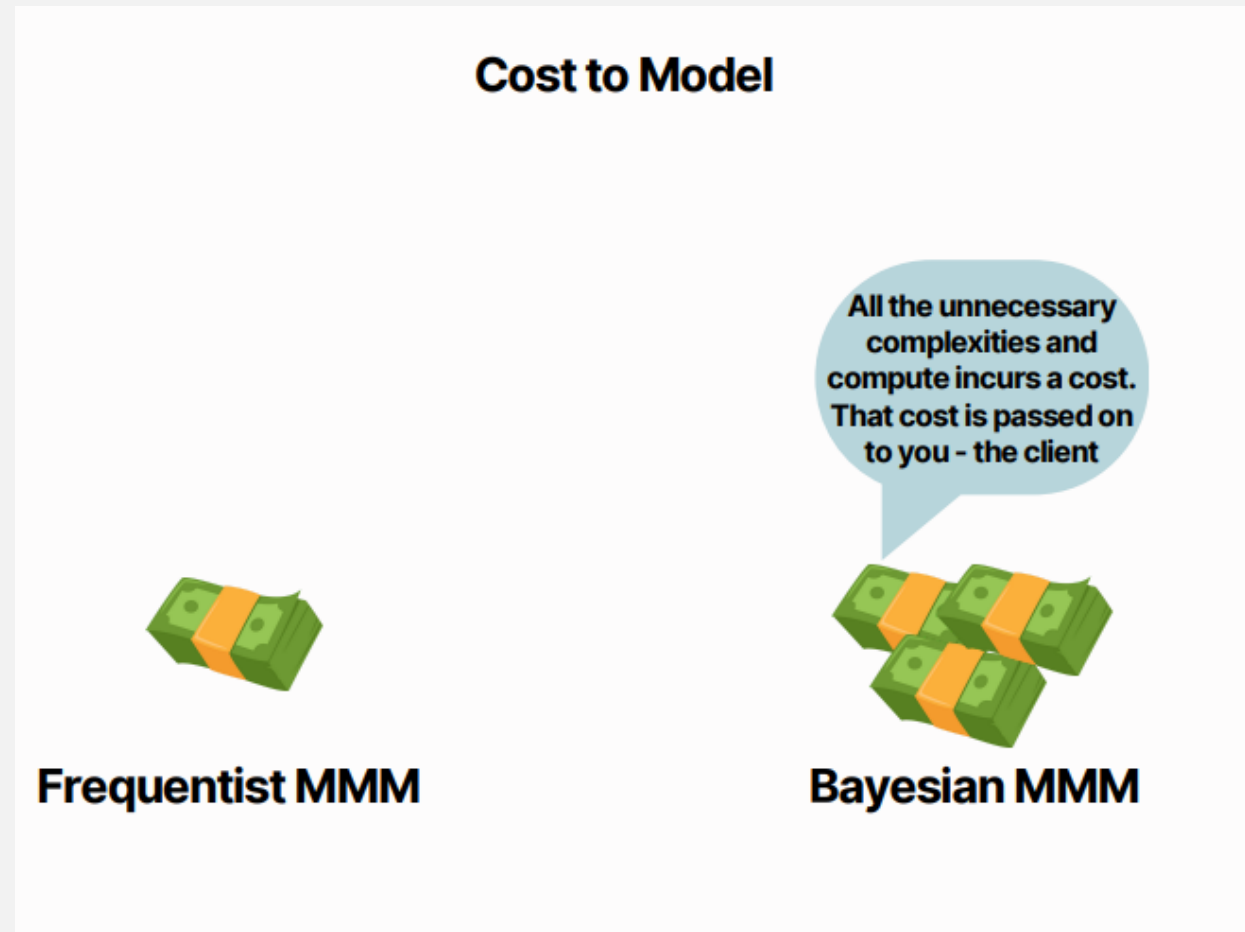
Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?



Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?



Why Frequentist MMM triumphs over Bayesian MMM?



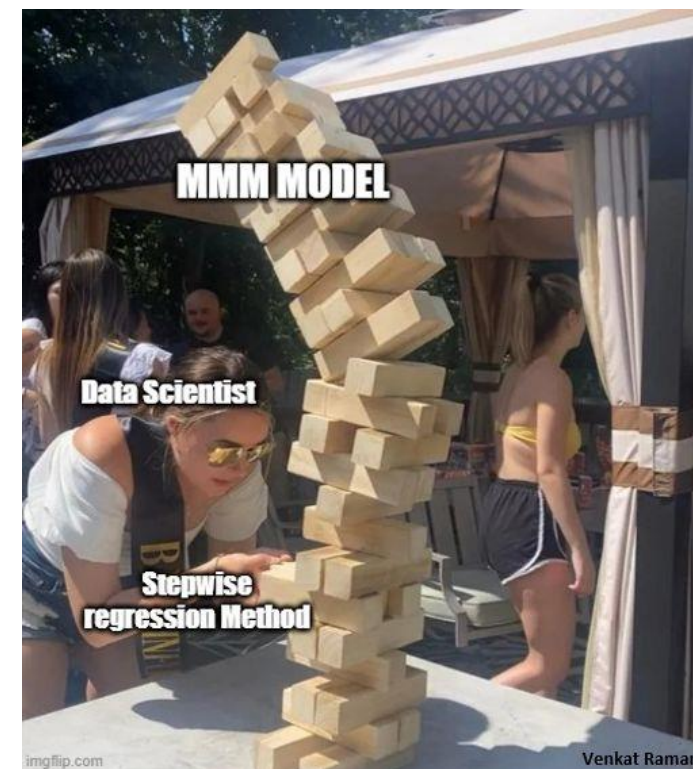
Why Step-wise Regression is bad?

MMM is all about attribution.

1. It yields R-squared values that are badly biased to be high.
2. The F and chi-squared tests quoted next to each variable on the printout do not have the claimed distribution.
3. The method yields confidence intervals for effects and predicted values that are falsely narrow; see Altman and Andersen (1989).
4. It yields p-values that do not have the proper meaning, and the proper correction for them is a difficult problem.
5. It gives biased regression coefficients that need shrinkage (the coefficients for remaining variables are too large; see Tibshirani [1996]).
6. It has severe problems in the presence of collinearity.
7. It is based on methods (e.g., F tests for nested models) that were intended to be used to test prespecified hypotheses.
8. Increasing the sample size does not help very much; see Derksen and Keselman (1992).

Finally this one is my favourite

9. It allows us to not think about the problem.



Unpacking a Linear Regression output table

```
Call:
lm(formula = mpg ~ cyl + disp + am, data = data)

Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-5.0863 -1.7831 -0.4842  1.5987  6.6358

Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  32.91686    2.77914   11.844 2.03e-12 ***
cyl          -1.61822    0.69937   -2.314  0.0282  *
disp         -0.01559    0.01065   -1.463  0.1545
am           1.92873    1.33973    1.440  0.1611
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 3 on 28 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared:  0.7761,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.7522
F-statistic: 32.36 on 3 and 28 DF,  p-value: 3.06e-09
```

Unpacking a Linear Regression output table – F test

```
Call:
lm(formula = mpg ~ cyl + disp + am, data = data)

Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-5.0863 -1.7831 -0.4842  1.5987  6.6358

Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  32.91686    2.77914   11.844 2.03e-12 ***
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```



The Right way to build MMM Models

Hands-on Session

Bayesian Interlude

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{P(B \mid A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(B | A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

$$P(A | B) \propto P(B | A)P(A)$$

Required Data

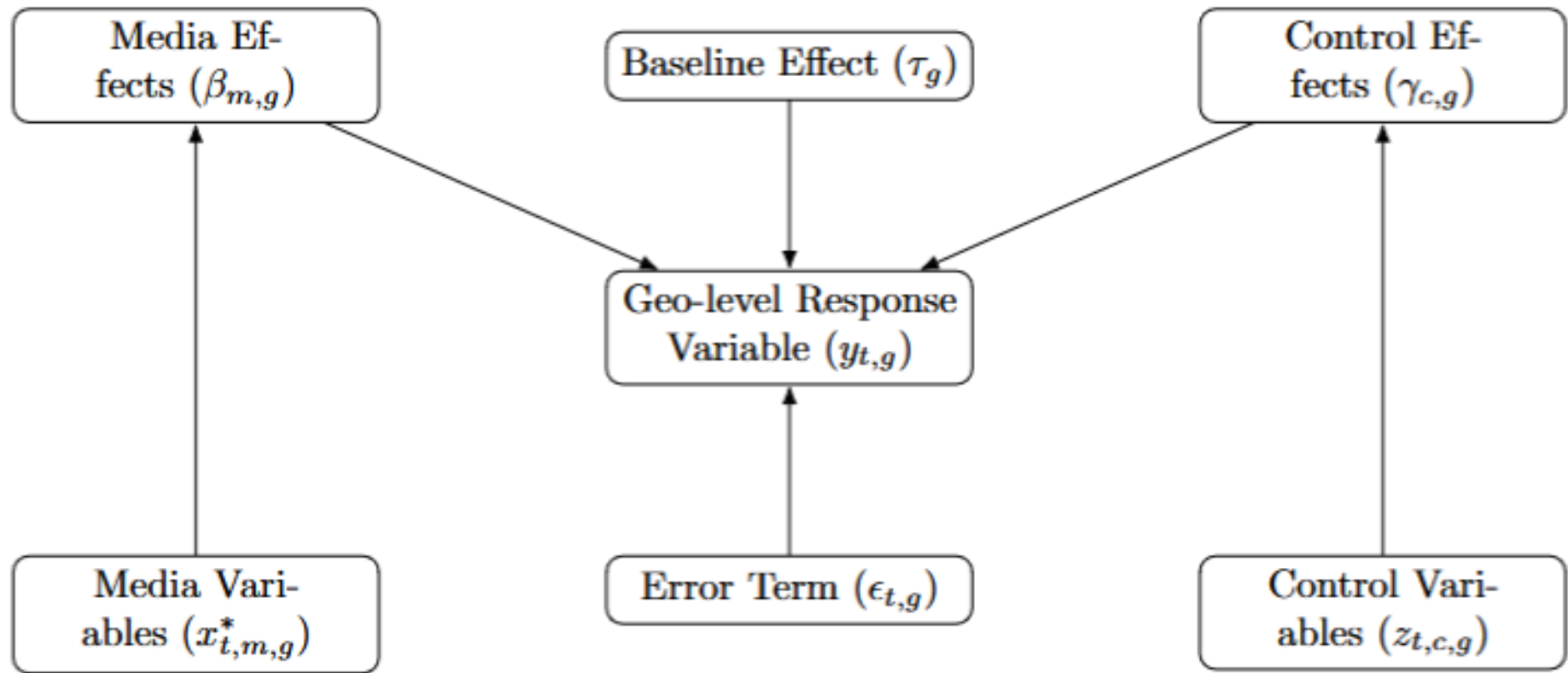
Probability of Purchase

Probability of Clicking on the email given the customer purchased

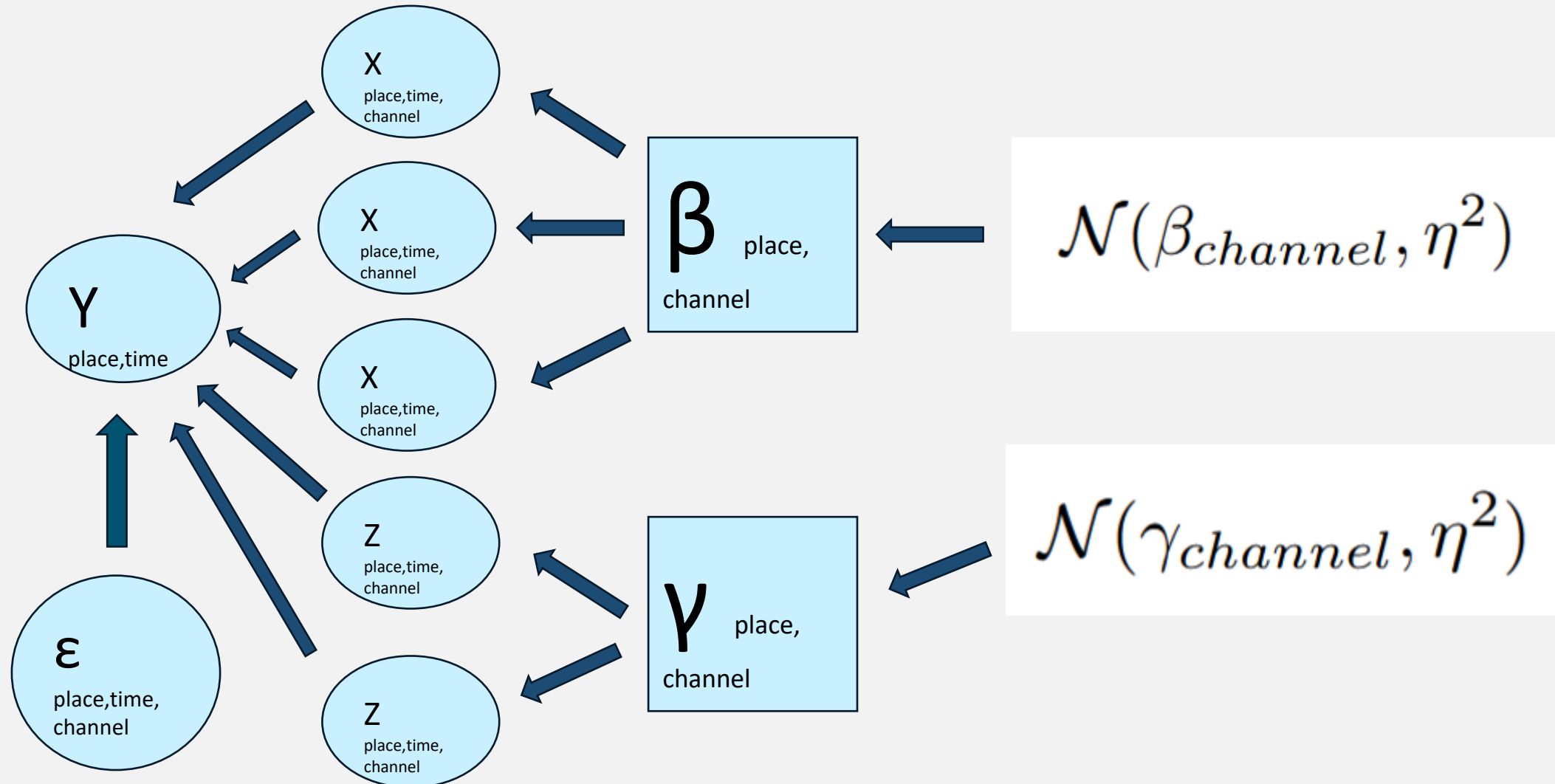
Probability that a customer clicks on the email

$$P(\text{Purchase}|\text{Click}) = \frac{P(\text{Click}|\text{Purchase}) \times P(\text{Purchase})}{P(\text{Click})}$$

Marketing Mix Modelling example from Meridian



Marketing Mix Modelling example from Meridian



Contribution Charts in MMM

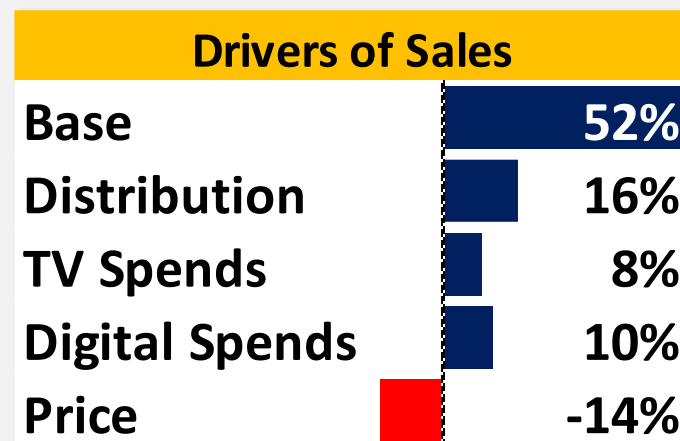


What are Contribution Charts?

Contribution Chart is a visual way of representing what marketing inputs drive the KPI (for example, sales) and how much is the impact of each marketing input. It always helps to ease the cognitive burden off by representing market reality in a visual way.

Types of contribution charts:

1. Absolute contributions summing up to 100
2. Non absolute contributions summing up to 100



Absolute contributions summing up to 100

Drivers of Sales

Base + Distribution	53%
Digital Spends	10%
TV Spends	7%
Consumer Promotions	3%
BTL Promotions	3%
OOH Campaigns	2%
Print	2%
Price	-20%

- Hands-on excel computation from the MMM model.

To interpret the contribution chart, we assume that 100 units of the product have been sold.

- Out of the 100 units sold, **53 units** would be sold even if the marketer doesn't invest in any form of advertisement. Basically, these 53 units are sold because of the **brand's equity** in the market and the awareness it had created in the customer's mind in the past. Similarly, **7 units are sold due to TV advertisements and 3 units are sold due to Consumer promotions and BTL promotions each.**
- Here, **negative sign of the price indicates that 20 units of sales was lost, due to increase in price.** This is a notional concept which depicts that 20 additional units of sales could have been gained, had there been no increment in price.
- Notice that, when we sum up the contributions in the chart with the negative sign on price, the sum is 60 not 100. **If we ignore the negative sign on the price, the contributions would sum up to 100. Hence, it is termed as absolute contributions summing up to 100.**
- In addition to price, competitor activities are also represented with a negative sign on contribution for the same reason.

Non Absolute contributions summing up to 100

Drivers of Sales

Base + Distribution	118%
TV Spends	17%
Consumer Promotions	7%
BTL Promotions	7%
OOH Campaigns	5%
Print	4%
Digital Spends	4%
Price	-62%

The previous absolute contributions summing up to 100 method, is a little confusing for some people or clients. So, there is another method called the **non-absolute contributions summing up to 100** which can be used to interpret the results.

- In the contribution chart on the left, we can see that **the total contributions sum up to 100% keeping the negative sign intact.**
- So, what we can say from this chart is that the **162 units of the brand were sold** (sum of all positive contributions). **Out of the 162 units sold, sale of 118 units comes from Base and distribution. 17 units sold are driven by TV advertisement and so on. And 62 units of sales have been lost, due to price increment.** Hence, the **total sales** would be **100 units**.

- Hands-on excel computation from the MMM model.

What are Calibration and Validation?

A key pursuit in improving MMM models is calibration, which ensures that a model's predictions closely align with real-world data. Calibration adjusts the model's parameters to enhance its accuracy, while validation—a distinct process—evaluates how well the model generalizes to new, unseen data. While validation assesses a model's robustness and predictive accuracy, calibration focuses on ensuring that the model's outputs reflect the true underlying dynamics of marketing spend.

Key Features:

Calibration is fast, Validation is slow;

Calibration is supposed to be a quick process to get to a good model. Generally, Goodness of fit measures like R squared values, P value, Standard Error, Cross validation and within sample MAPE/MAE/RMSE inform you how well you have fit the model.

All these measures are available at a quick cadence as and when the model is fit.

Therefore, one of the hallmark of calibration is also quick iterations.

Calibration does not require sacrifice, Validation requires sacrifice

The problem with validating MMM models through test/control mechanism is that it calls for sacrifice.

One should be willing to forgo any positive incrementality in the control market during the period of the experiment as the MMM suggestions are not implemented.

It is for this reason we internally call control market the 'sacrificial lamb'. For the greater good of proving out MMM's efficacy causally, this sacrifice is required.

What are the Key Metrics to pay attention to?

Calibration

In-sample R Squared value

P-value

Standard Error

Cross validation

Within sample MAPE/MAE/RMSE

Validation

Incrementality testing

Geo-lift testing

Causal experiments

Out of sample MAPE/MAE/RMSE

Deep dive into Aryma Labs' Calibration Methods

Akaike information criterion (AIC)

$$AIC = 2k - 2\ln(L)$$

k is the number of parameters

L is the likelihood

The underlying principle behind usage of AIC is the 'Information Theory'.

Coming back to AIC, In the above equation we have the likelihood. We try to maximize the likelihood.

It turns out that, maximizing the likelihood is equivalent of minimizing the KL Divergence.

What is KL Divergence?

From an information theory point of view, KL divergence tells us how much information we lost due to our approximating of a probability distribution with respect to the true probability distribution.

Why we choose models with lowest AIC

When comparing models, we choose the models with lowest AIC because in turn it means that the KL divergence also would be minimum. Low AIC score means little information loss.

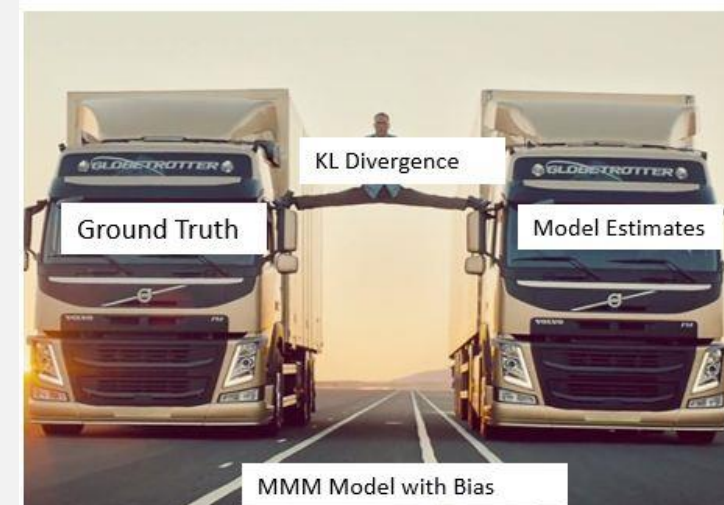
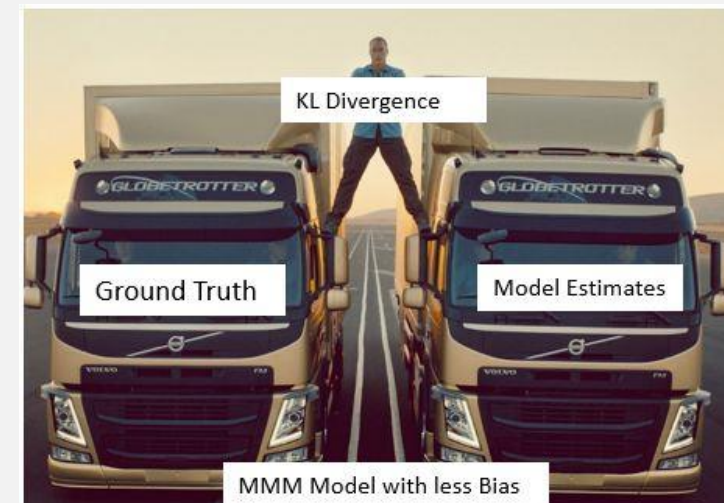
Now you know how KL divergence and AIC are related and why we choose models with low AIC score.

Deep dive into Aryma Labs' Calibration Methods

KL Divergence to gauge bias in Model

Another interesting way we leverage KL Divergence is to gauge bias in the model. For a problem like MMM, bias in model is always unwanted.

The model could have bias for variety of reasons - misspecification of model, treatment of multicollinearity through regularization etc.



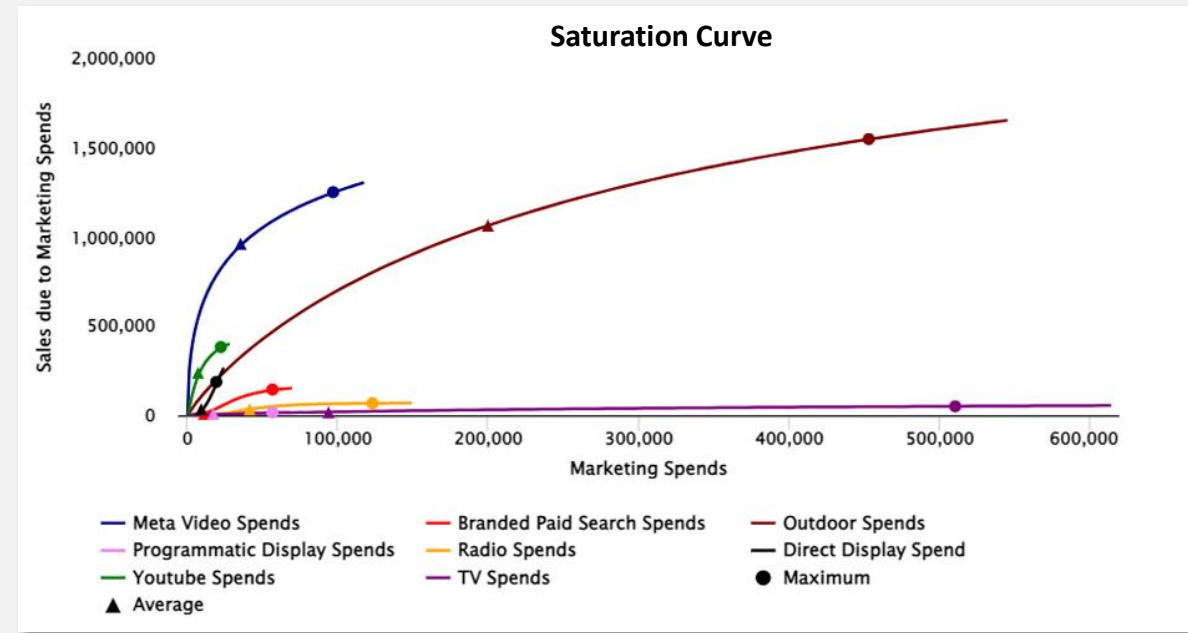
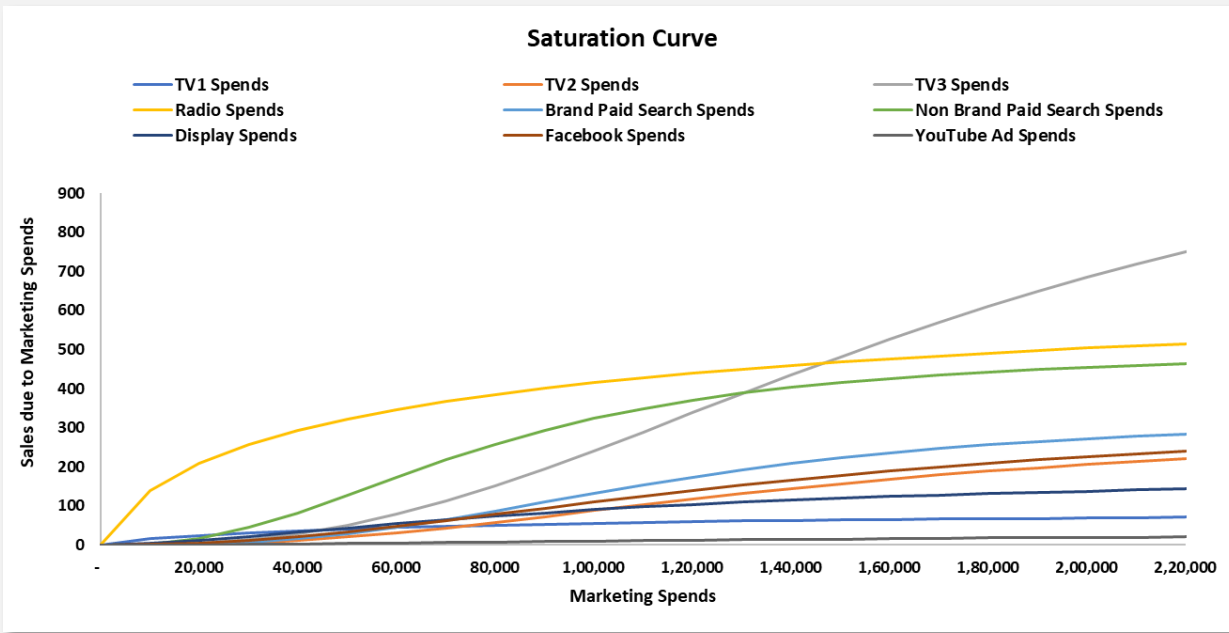
Saturation Curves in MMM



What are Saturation Curves?

- Saturation curves derived from the MMM model are invaluable for informed media planning and buying decisions. It is an important artefact of the MMM model.
- Saturation curves are an essential technique in MMM which helps the marketers to visualize the impact of a certain media investment on the KPI (Key Performance Indicator) and take business decisions.
- By analyzing the saturation curves, marketers can determine the optimal level of spend that maximizes return on investment (ROI) before reaching diminishing returns.
- For example, if a brand increases its marketing budget the sales increases but after a certain amount of spend the rate of increase in sales starts to slow down i.e., investing more money beyond that point would not yield incremental sales for the brand. The saturation curve models this phenomenon by showing how the incremental sales growth decreases as advertising spend increases.

Curtailed Saturation Curves vs Full Drawn Saturation Curves



- **Curtailed saturation curves** are **more accurate** than full drawn saturation curves as they do not give misleading information to the marketer.
- For example, if Branded Paid Search as depicted in the right chart historically only had around \$57k spends, it doesn't make sense to extend this curve which would give an unrealistic impression where Branded Paid Search spends could be \$600k!!
- Hence, we at Aryma Labs prioritize accuracy over aesthetics to give our clients the most informed decisions.

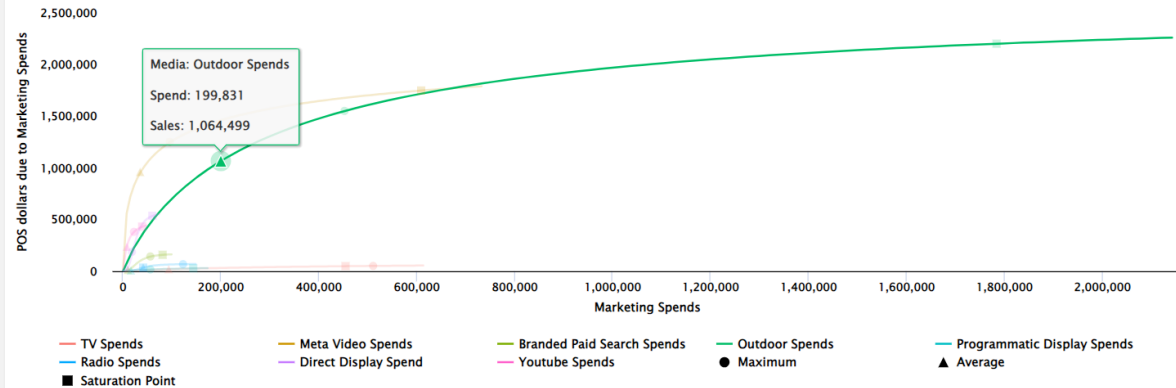
How Saturation Curves are created?

Saturation curves are derived from the MMM model. After the MMM model is built and finalized, the saturation curves are created for all the media variables in the model in the following way:

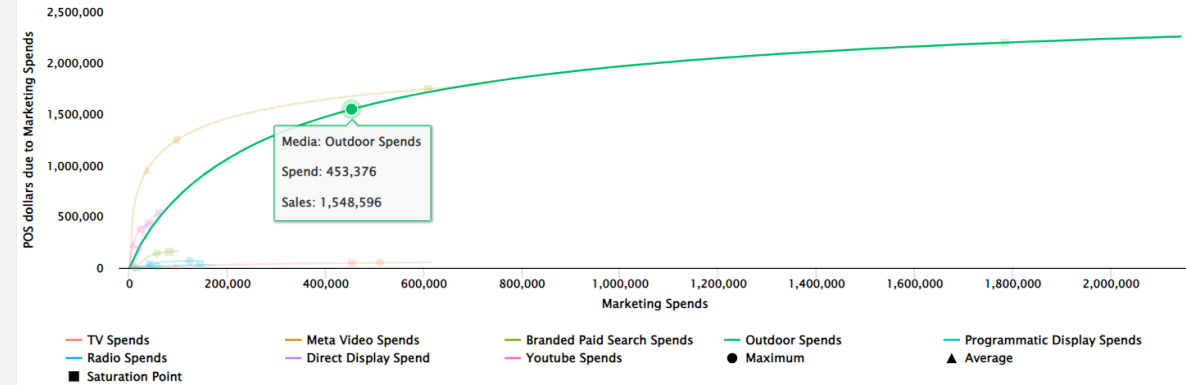
1. Obtain the regression coefficient (β), adstock (θ) and hill (α, γ) or power transformation (n) parameters from the model.
 2. Find the maximum spend of all media channels from the data and simulate spends from **0 to 1.2 times of the maximum spends** for each media. (In general, 100 points are simulated).
 3. Calculate the corresponding response values for the simulated spends using the hyperparameters and **plot the response against the simulated spends**. The saturation curves for all the media channels are plotted together and are curtailed to compare among each other.
 4. Highlight the **average spend, maximum spend and the saturation point** on the saturation curve of each media.
- ❑ **Aryma Labs** have come up with an algorithm that recommends a **business relevant saturation point** which is more practical and aligned with business realities. The business relevant saturation point is more grounded approach that helps optimize the marketing budget by setting achievable and realistic targets rather than relying solely on theoretical calculations.

Example of Saturation Curve:

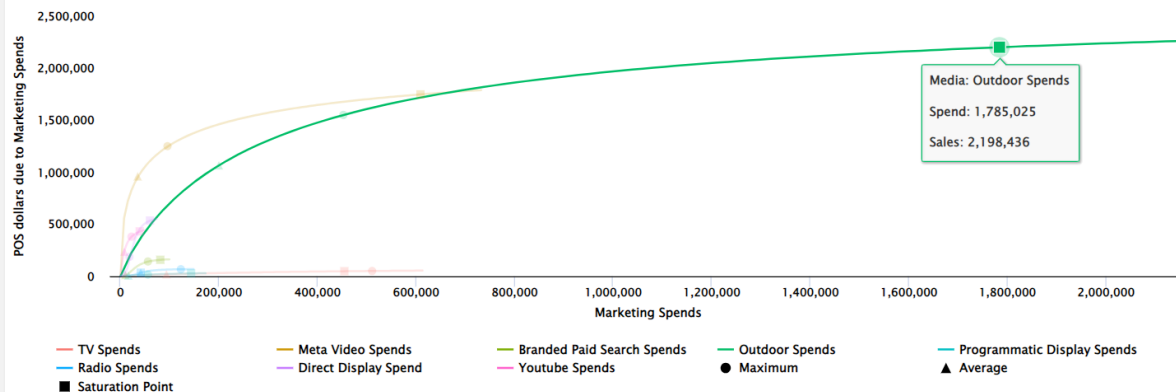
Saturation Curve highlighting Saturation Points



Saturation Curve highlighting Saturation Points



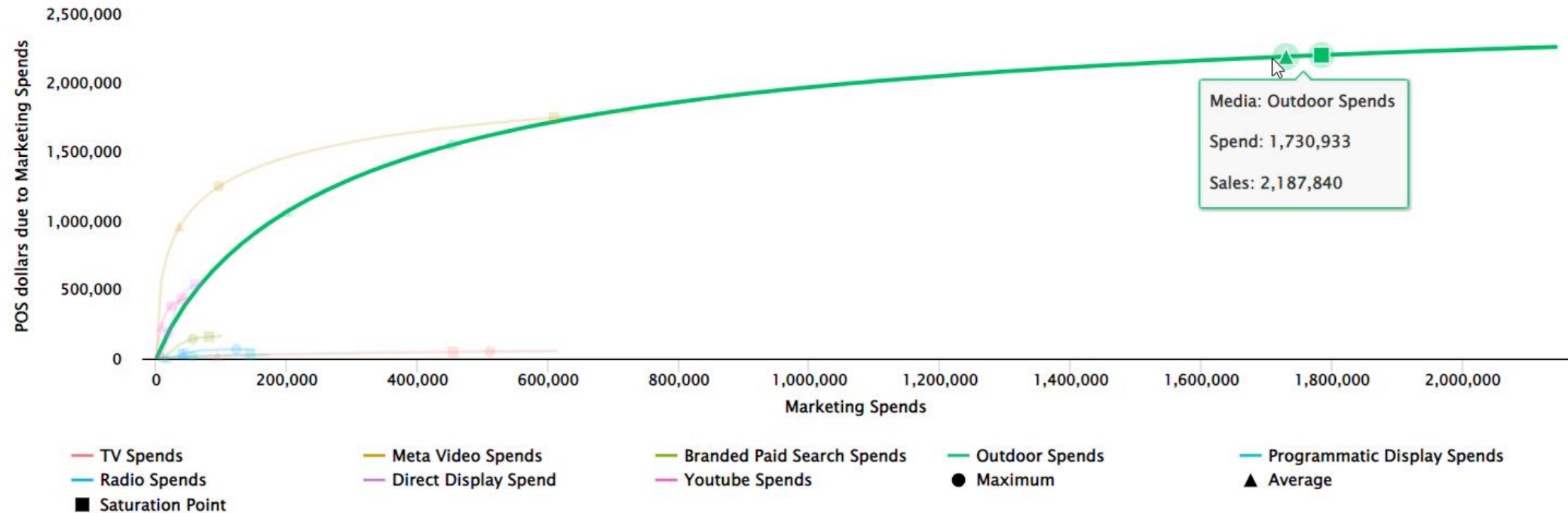
Saturation Curve highlighting Saturation Points



- The saturation curve of Outdoor is represented in the above chart.
- The average spends (represented by a triangle), maximum spends (represented by a circle) and business relevant saturation point (represented by a square) are highlighted on the curve.
- **For example, the average Outdoor Spend is \$199,831, the maximum spend is \$453,376 and the recommended business relevant saturation point is \$1,785,025.**

Interactive Saturation Curves:

Saturation Curve highlighting Saturation Points



Elasticity in MMM

What is Elasticity?

Elasticity is a measure of the degree to which one variable would be impacted as a result of change in the other variable.

In MMM, if you have sales as a dependent variable, elasticity would be defined as the degree to which sales would be impacted as a result of change in marketing or media variables.

Basically, it indicates how responsive sales or any Marketing KPI is towards the various marketing inputs.

Usually, elasticity is calculated at 1% or 5%.

Elasticity at 1% means: How much percent change in sales is caused by 1 % change in a marketing / media input.



Price	% Change	Sales	% Change in Sales	Elasticity
25		13.3		
26.25	5%	13.9	5%	1
27.5625	5%	14.6	5%	1
28.94063	5%	15.3	5%	1
30.38766	5%	16.1	5%	1
31.90704	5%	16.9	5%	1
33.50239	5%	17.8	5%	1
35.17751	5%	18.6	5%	1
36.93639	5%	19.6	5%	1

How to compute Elasticity?

The formula for Elasticity is:

$$\frac{\Delta (\text{Sales})/\text{Sales}}{\Delta (\text{Price})/\text{Price}}$$

Numerator = Delta(Sales)/Sales

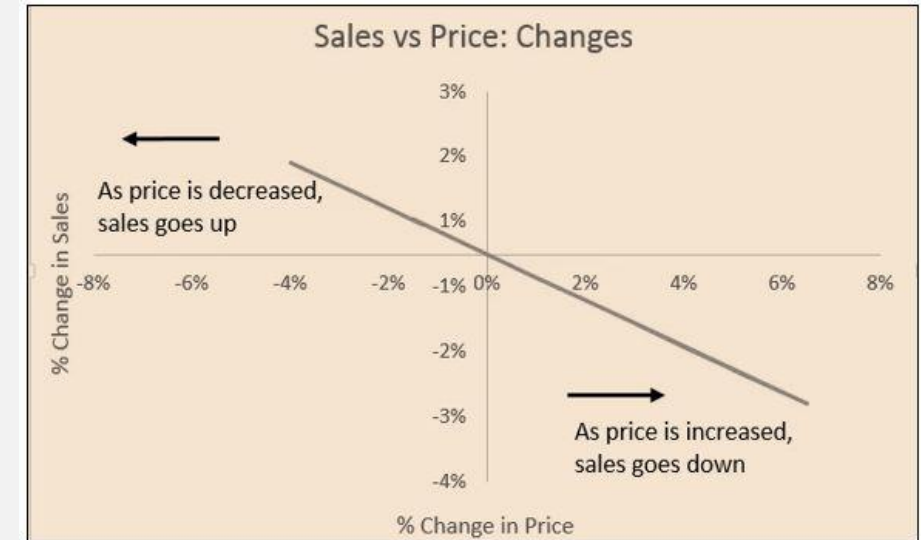
where Delta(Sales) = Sales at time (t + 1)- Sales at time (t)

Sales = Sales at time (t)

Denominator = Delta(Price)/Price

where Delta(Price) = Price at time (t + 1)- Price at time (t)

Price = Price at time (t)



Price	% Change	Sales	% Change in Sales	Elasticity
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36.93639	5%	19.6	5%	1

How to compute Elasticity?

Elasticity can be computed and interpreted at various levels in an MMM:

Elasticity is computed for different marketing inputs using the simulated time series data starting with the minimum value of that input and going up to the maximum value which the vintage has seen.

- For linear variables, this elasticity is 1 as illustrated in the table.
- For non-linear marketing inputs like TV ads, Digital and other media, the elasticity is not 1, as sales figures are computed taking into consideration the adstock component of these marketing inputs.

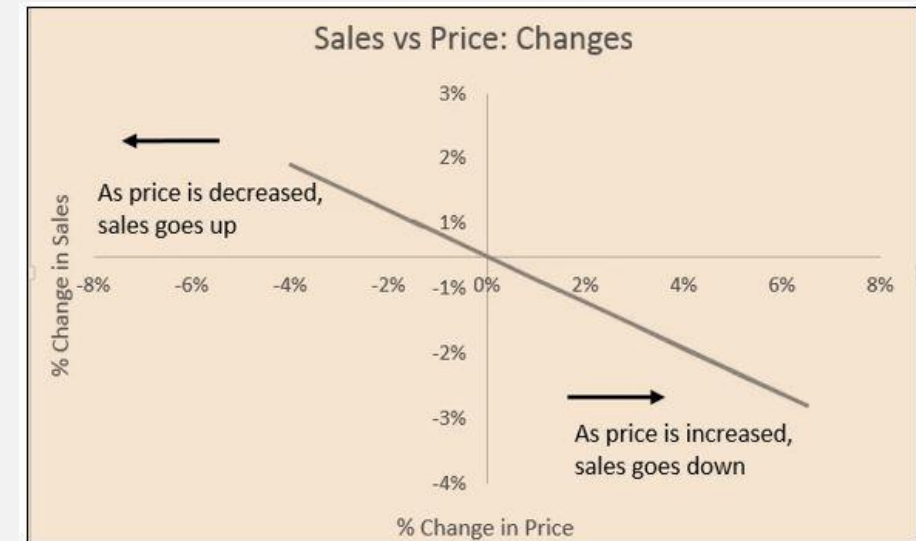


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36.93639	5%	19.6	5%	1

Why Elasticity Matters and when to use it?

Elasticity is use to make apples to apples comparison. Sometimes, the scale and unit of marketing / media input varies. For e.g. you may have only impressions data and not spends on some of the media variables.

However, you want to know which of the media variables is moving the needle of your KPI more. Elasticity helps in understanding the sensitivity of each marketing/media inputs.



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Elasticity in Real Life Application

How we used Elasticity to help a CPG client determine the optimum price.

The CPG client wanted to understand the 'sweet spot' where they could increase the price and yet not lose sales.

Through the Elasticity analysis, we were able to arrive at the optimum price of the product which would yield maximum revenue and also the price at which they would start seeing decline in sales.

Overall, the impact of price changes on the sales of the brand was understood. This helped the CPG brand arrive at a nominal price increase.



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Budget Optimization in MMM

What is Budget Optimization

Marketers want to know two things

What could have been done differently in the past



What can be done differently in the future



What is Budget Optimization

For any business, Budget optimization is one of the key decisions to be taken for planning purposes.

MMM assists marketers in optimizing future spends and maximizing effectiveness.

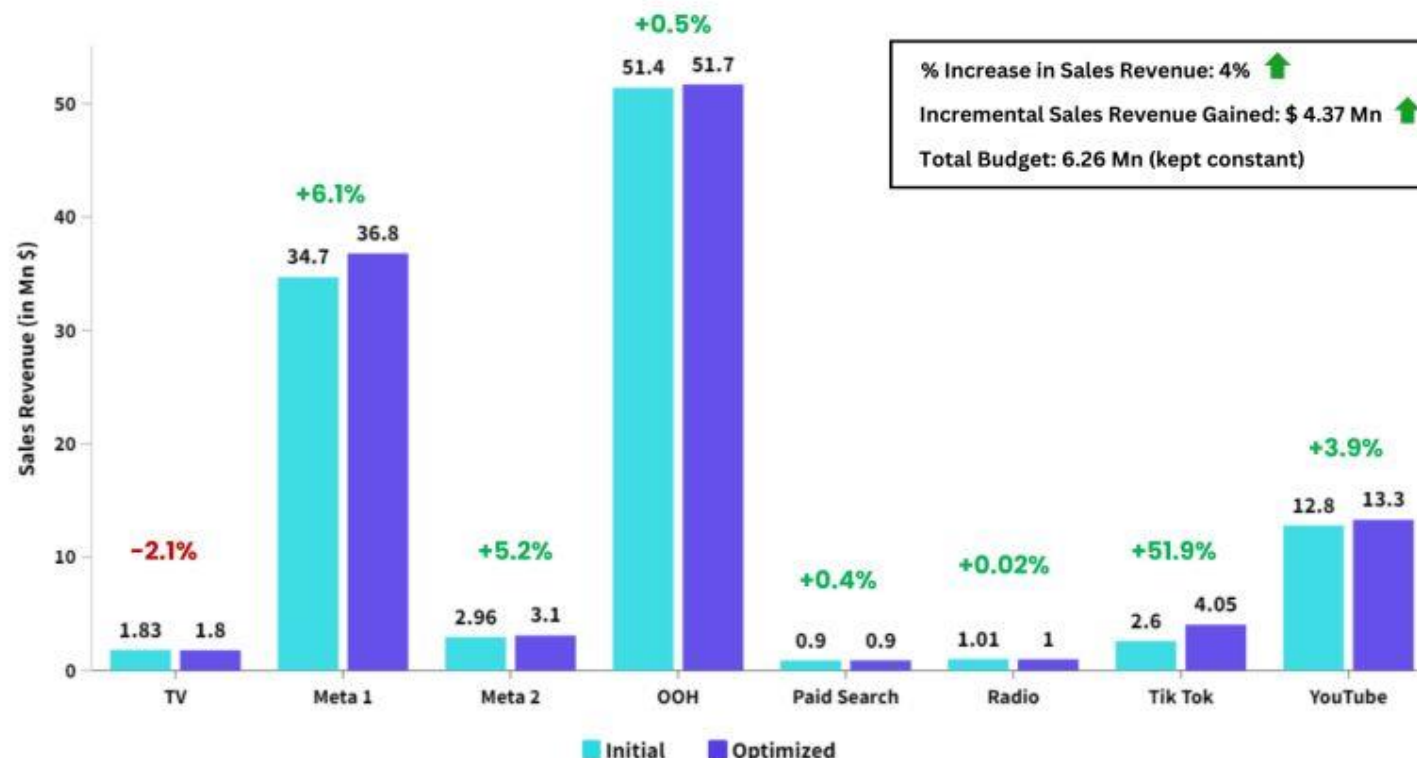
Using MMM approach, it is established that which mediums are working better than the other ones.

Then, budget allocation is done, by shifting money from low ROI mediums to high ROI mediums thus maximizing sales while keeping the budget constant.

Typical Scenario's include:

- Same budget optimization
- Increased budget optimization
- Specific target budget optimization

Initial vs Optimized Sales Revenue



The Same Budget Optimization Scenario

A litmus test for the brands

The same budget optimization basically tells a brand how much money they left on the table.

The 5% rule

Generally, our internal threshold has been 5%.

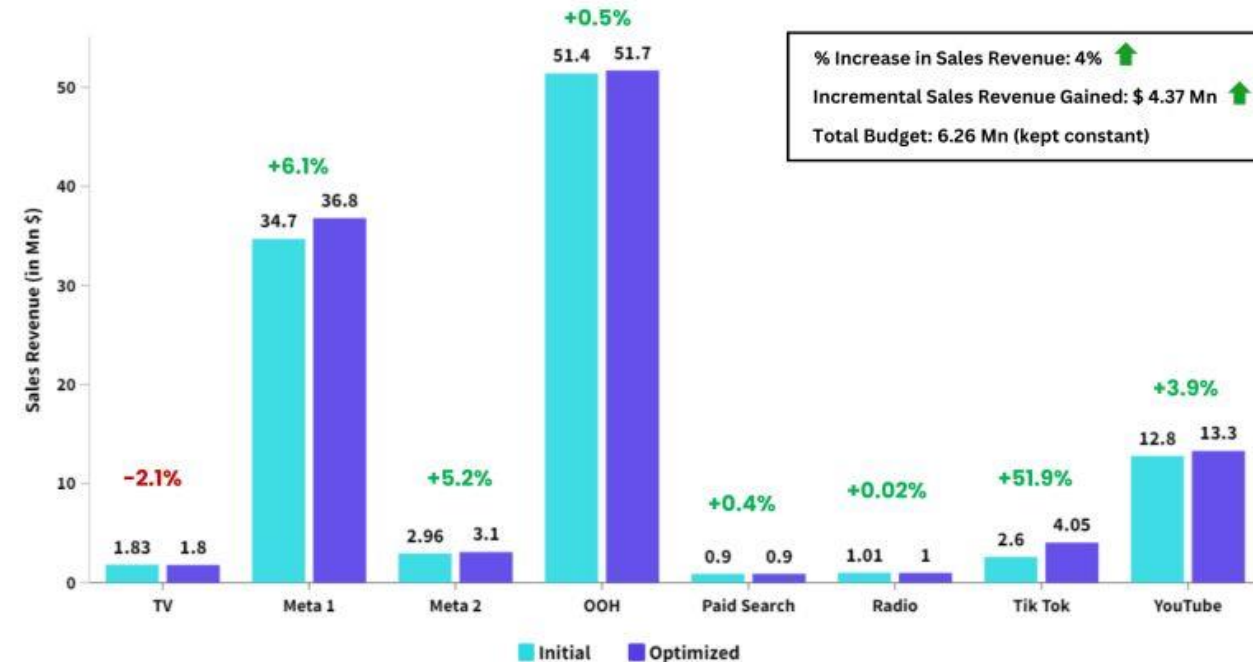
If we are able to eek out only 5% or less in incremental sales from the same budget optimization exercise, then we say that the brand was doing a good job.

But if we are able to eke out more than 5% in incremental sales from the same budget optimization, then the brand has a lot to do in terms of improving their marketing effectiveness and media planning.

This particular brand (referenced in image) is doing a good job. Through our same budget analysis, we were able to eke out only 4% in incremental sales.

However, had this brand hired us a year earlier, we would have been able to net them \$4 million in incremental sales without any increase in their current budget !!

Initial vs Optimized Sales Revenue



How is Budget Optimization Done?

Typically, Budget optimization is done through two ways:

- MS Excel (for basic purposes)
- Programmatically through Optimization software's and libraries like NLOPT



Budget Optimization Tips

Always compare your budget optimization with saturation curves.

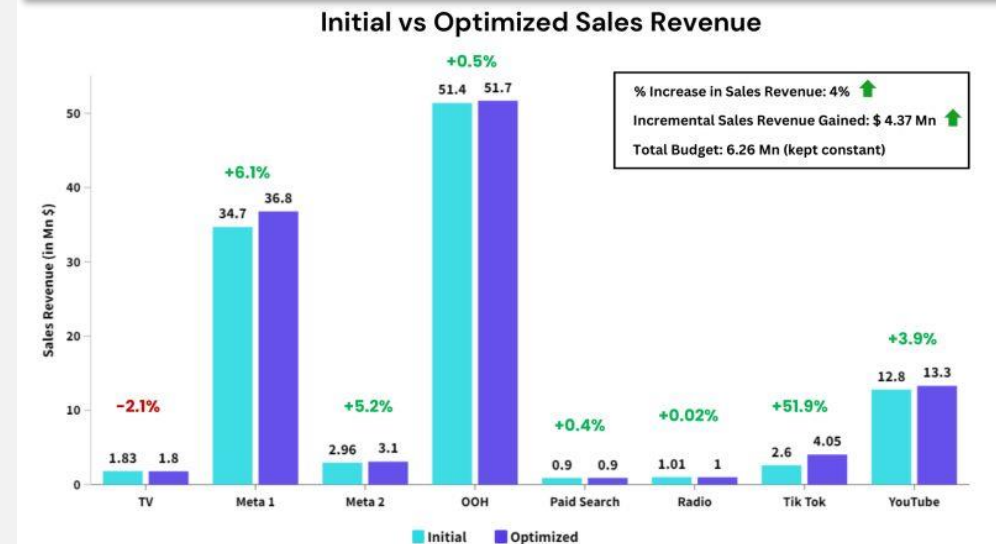
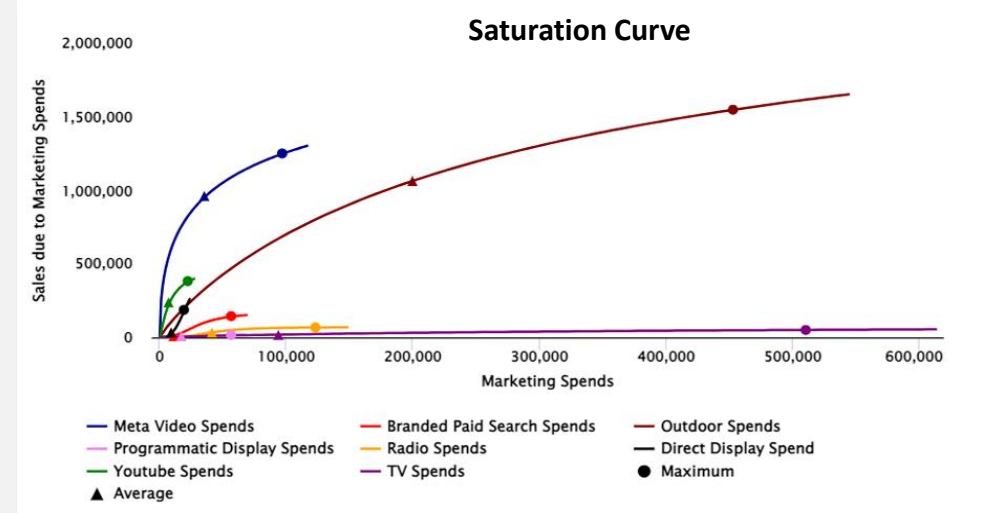
In an unconstrained scenario, budget optimization tends to allocate spends from low ROI to high ROI mediums. This mimics the saturation curve behavior where the low ROI mediums have a curve that diminishes faster as compared to high ROI mediums.

Hence drawing a parallel between the behavior of optimization and saturation curve will tell your if your optimization is in the right direction or not.

Check the ceiling and floor of the constraints.

Be it excel solver, any open source budget optimizer or your own in-house optimizer, there exists an option to levy constraints. For e.g. up to 20% minimum spends can be taken out from a particular medium. This is known as the floor value.

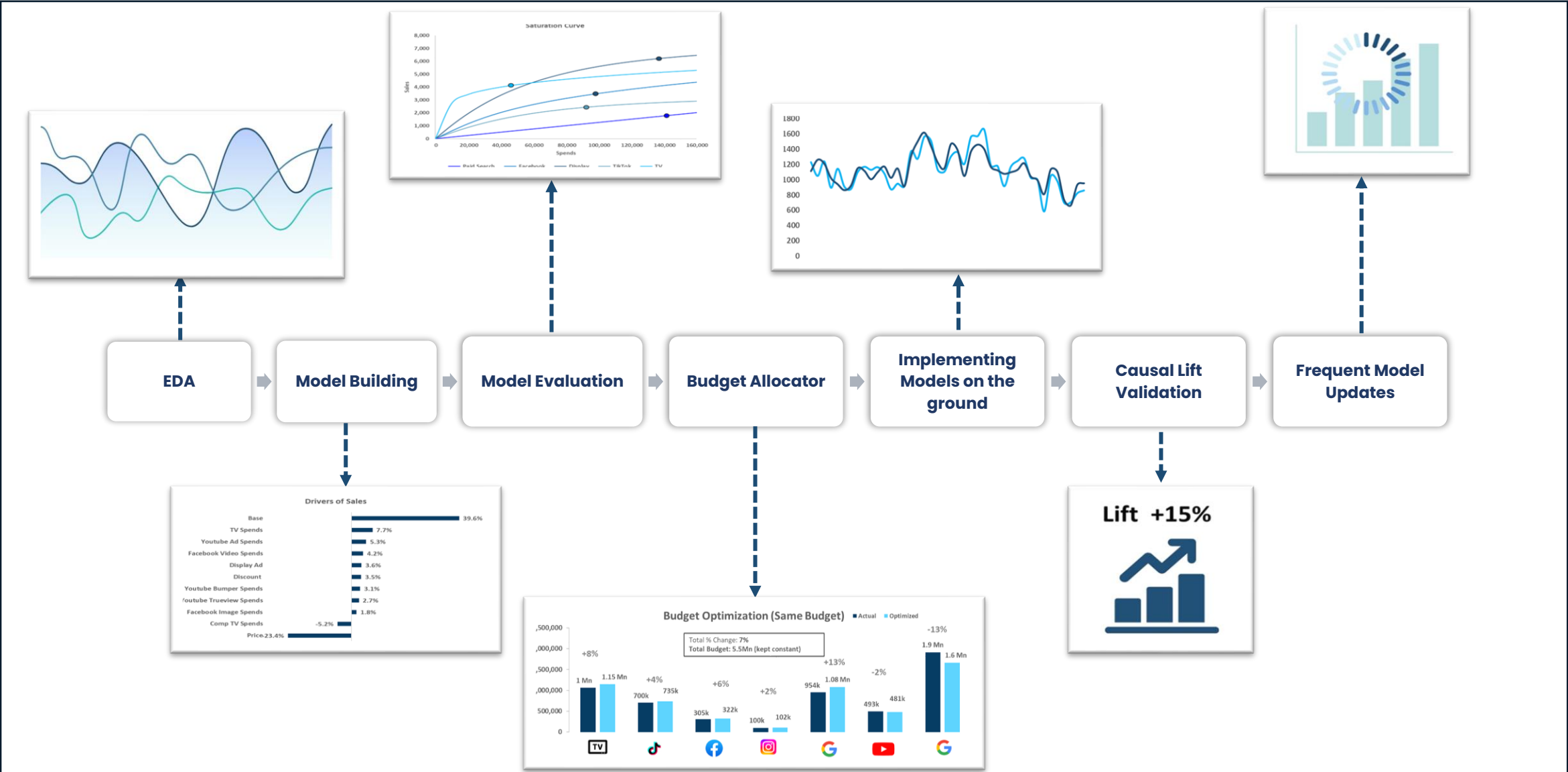
An accurate optimizer will not always take away 20% spends from that medium but rather it could take out something like 12% or 15%. If your optimizer by default always takes out the exact floor or ceiling value, then the optimizer is not really accurate.



Hands On Session

Bringing it all together

Making the Final MMM Report



Bringing it all together

Making the Final MMM Report

Live Demo