Research Article

Customer Relationship Management Based on SPRINT Classification Algorithm under Data Mining Technology

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Under the advance of computational intelligence, customer relationship management system based on data mining technology can not only bring more economic benefits to an enterprise but also improve the management and decision-making level of Chinese enterprises. In this paper, the application of data mining technology in customer relationship management (CRM) is analyzed, and four data mining modes are realized: customer classification, cross-marketing, customer acquisition, and customer retention. In the data mining module, SPRINT classification algorithm is used in customer classification. At the same time, FP-growth, an association rule algorithm without candidate set, is applied in cross-marketing, which enhances the practicability of the system. The algorithm of optimal customer retention strategy under digital intelligence technology is adopted in customer retention, which makes up for the shortcomings of traditional CRM system and helps enterprises to better operate and adjust marketing strategies.

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of technology, more and more enterprises find that products tend to be homogeneous in performance, price, appearance, and even advertising. In this environment, the value of customers has become more important, which will also directly affect the value of enterprises. Enterprises in China are facing more and more competition. In the early days, enterprises began to use databases to store customer information and analyze them by computer [1]. To achieve truly scientific customer relationship management, data mining technology is indispensable. The emerging data mining technology in recent years can provide technical support for customer relationship management, better maintain customer relationship, and give full play to the role of customer management system [2].

Customer relationship management system based on data mining technology has been applied to many industries, such as banks, large-scale retail industries, and e-commerce companies [3]. Through the application of data mining technology in customer relationship management system, credit evaluation, customer retention, price setting, financial analysis, and marketing planning can be carried out in these industries, thereby reducing costs and increasing profits for enterprises. Customer relationship management system based on data mining technology can not only bring more economic benefits to an enterprise but also improve the management and decision-making level of Chinese enterprises.

2. Overview of Customer Information Management and Data Mining Technology

2.1. Customer Information Management

2.1.1. Concept and Origin. The idea of customer relationship management (CRM) comes from the marketing theory, management science, behavioral relationship research, and other disciplines of western enterprises. With the arrival of
the industrialized society, the productive forces have been greatly developed. After automation has gradually entered the industrial field, there are more types of products, and the demands of consumers become diversified. In addition, the rapid progress of technology has also broadened consumers’ choices. The technology-oriented or product-oriented seller’s market in the past gradually became a customer-oriented buyer’s market. In order to cope with the new changes, maximize the profits of enterprises, and occupy more markets, the marketing methods of enterprises have also changed. Especially after entering the postindustrial era, knowledge will become the dominant force [4]. With the development of modern information technology, enterprises can survive in the fierce market competition by capturing customers’ needs through technical means combined with traditional theories and providing targeted products and services to meet customers’ real needs [5]. Therefore, the theory and practice of CRM have been greatly developed.

Customer relationship management can be divided into three phrases: customer, relationship, and management.

1. Customers. The customers here do not just refer to “people” who use products or services in a narrow sense. They can be an organization, a person, or a group. Nor is it just the user of the final product or service. Generalized customers can be any organization or individual, as long as it is related to the operation of the enterprise. For example, employees in an enterprise are internal customers of the enterprise, and the department of the next process is the customer of the last process. Externally, customers can also be dealers, trade associations, and so on.

2. Relationship. Relationship refers to the behavior and feeling state between enterprises and customers. Behavior mode is the performance of the degree of relationship in behavior, such as repeated purchase or reduced purchase frequency. Feeling refers to the expression of the degree of relationship in attitude, which can include preference or aversion, spreading good, or bad word of mouth [6]. In customer relationship management, relationship is the link between enterprise customers and the core purpose of the whole customer relationship management.

3. Management. Management is more of a means. Although customer relationship management was put forward only in the 1980s, its customer-centered concept has been widely used in business activities for a long time. With the advent of the computer era, customer relationship management can be realized more easily. Through various modern tools, the resources of enterprises can be conveniently organized. Adjust, organize, or allocate resources according to the state of customer relationship [7].

2.2. Data Mining Technology

2.2.1. Process of Data Mining. Data mining technology itself is the core of knowledge discovery. It needs to sort out hidden and valuable knowledge from a large amount of data. In the aspect of marketing decision-making, it is necessary to analyze the data of enterprises, discover the hidden rules, and then further model them. Generally speaking, data mining has four processes [12–14], problem definition, data sorting, selection of the model/algorithm, and analysis results, as shown in Figure 3.

The process of data mining is not one-way, but a cycle. After the results are formed, there may be errors or irrelevant parts in them. Irrelevant parts represent the abnormal data, which can’t be used to the following algorithms, reselect the algorithm/model, or adjust the parameters to exclude irrelevant parts. If that result is found to deviate greatly from the target, it may even need to go back to the first step and reestablish goals. Therefore, data mining is a dynamic and cyclic process. Complete data mining is a process of continuous feedback.

2.2.2. General Algorithms. According to the different objectives of data mining or different data types, there are many algorithms currently used in the field of data mining [15–17]: Bayesian algorithm, decision tree, clustering algorithm,
Figure 1: Organizational structure of CRM.

Figure 2: Relationship between different types of CRM.

Figure 3: Data mining process.
association algorithm, neural network algorithm, regression algorithm, association rule algorithm, and so on:

(1) Bayesian algorithm is an algorithm commonly used for classification prediction, which is based on Bayesian theory and uses statistics to classify samples. The Bayesian network is constructed by statistical data, and samples of unknown categories are classified and predicted according to the Bayesian network. Then, the possibility that samples belong to each classification is predicted and the most probable classification is selected [17]. Compared with other algorithms, Bayesian has the advantages of less computation and higher accuracy. Even the simplest Naive Bayes algorithm can get an excellent result which is especially suitable for the task of sample classification and prediction.

(2) Decision tree is a regression algorithm, which uses recursion to establish a tree-like structure of classification rule. Firstly, the algorithm finds the input attribute that has the greatest influence on the target variable from the sample data and establishes the root node. According to the different values of input attributes, the sample data are divided into different subsets, and then the subsets are gradually divided according to the degree of influence between them and the input attributes until all attributes are included in the tree structure or the splitting is stopped because of insufficient subset samples. Finally, a tree structure is formed. Decision tree can be used to examine the influence of input attributes on target variables. Decision tree is commonly used to classify samples according to attributes. It can also be used to predict unknown classified samples [18]. The advantage of decision tree is that users do not need to have a deep understanding of the attributes of samples, and it can learn by itself and discover rules according to the sample data.

(3) Clustering algorithm is also an algorithm for sample classification. Multidimensional space is established according to various attributes of samples, and classes are sorted according to the geometric distance between samples in the multidimensional space. Unlike other classification algorithms, clustering algorithms do not need to know the classes to be divided beforehand, and the formation of the class is completely generated automatically. The advantage of the clustering algorithm is that it hardly needs any prior knowledge, which is an unsupervised algorithm.

(4) Neural network algorithm is an algorithm that imitates the characteristics of connections in brain neuron and is often used for classification. Generally speaking, the neural network has three levels: input, optional hiding, and output. Each neuron receives one or more inputs and then produces one or more identical outputs according to a simple nonlinear function. The sample is input into the hidden layer from the input layer and finally to the output layer. Neurons at the same level are not connected [19]. The advantages of the neural network are the ability to self-learn; realization of the association function [20]; multichannel parallel computing, which can be used for particularly complex problems.

(5) The commonly used linear regression algorithm is to find the linear function between dependent variable and independent variable according to statistical data. Regression algorithm can find the correlation between independent variables and dependent variables very directly [21], which is often used to forecast marketing, and so on. Time series algorithm is also a kind of regression algorithm, which is to find the relationship between dependent variables, time series, and other possible independent variables, which is often used to predict marketing.

(6) Association rule algorithm is used to find the connection or correlation between different sets in data samples. For example, if the customer has a higher probability of buying commodity B after purchasing commodity A, then there is a certain degree of connection between commodity A and commodity B. Association rules allow users to analyze the behavior of customers, which is beneficial to formulate marketing strategies.

2.3. Data Mining-Based CMR. Data mining technology has been widely used in all aspects of customer relationship management, such as analyzing the factors that affect customer satisfaction, subdividing customer market, predicting customer behavior, predicting marketing trends, and cross-marketing. Data mining has also brought CMR to a new level.

2.3.1. Architecture Mode

(i) Centralized Mode

The earliest centralized system consists of mainframe and many computer terminals.

(ii) C/S Mode

That is, the client-server model consists of two-tier architecture, in which the server is responsible for data processing and users can obtain graphical interfaces. Servers generally use high-configuration personal computers, workstations, or minicomputers and use large database systems, such as Oracle and SQL Server. Clients need to install dedicated software [22].

(iii) B/S Mode

That is, the browser server mode is an improvement of the C/S architecture where the client only needs a single computer with Internet access. B/S mode is divided into two types [23]. One is that customers need to download special controls and then operate all programs through browsers, which are usually
used on intranet [24]. There is also a control that does not need to be downloaded and completely run on the Internet and intranet [25].

Based on the framework above, close study and management of customer relationships and their interactions will help to identify, attract, and retain effective customers in this field. In the next stage of data preparation or preprocessing, data is prepared for further establishment and evaluation through cleaning, attribute selection, data conversion, and other processes. The model built in the CRM framework is an important step to establish an effective model to meet business needs. These models help to predict customer behavior and evaluate and visualize the effectiveness of measurement models to improve their performance which is shown in Figure 4.

2.3.2. Application Status. At present, in the process of marketing goods and services, enterprises cannot continue to treat them equally as before. Because different types of customers have different preferences, they must provide different marketing strategies to improve customers’ satisfaction and loyalty and finally achieve the purpose of profitability by realizing customer value:

(1) Customer classification
(i) Customer segmentation is the basis of targeted marketing strategy. The category of the customer will be expressed by the customer’s own attributes and the customer’s purchasing behavior pattern. After mastering a certain amount of customer data, managers can classify existing customers by analyzing their behavior patterns and attributes [26]. Although the loss of customers has caused losses to enterprises, the loss of customer data is also a very valuable asset for enterprises. Through data mining, customers who are easy to lose can be classified. Different types of plans for customer retention can be introduced for different types of easy-to-drain customers, thereby reducing the customer churn rate of enterprises.

(2) Forecast of marketing amount
By mining the historical data of marketing, the regular behavior of sales can be obtained. For example, by introducing time series, the trend of marketing or whether there is a seasonal change rule can be discovered. Through predictive marketing, managers can better serve customers by adjusting inventory and production capacity, preparing raw materials, and reducing delivery time. Regression analysis can also be used in the management of products’ life cycle. With more accurate help to enterprises to determine where products are located and through product strategies of different life cycles, customer loyalty can be improved.

(3) Customer churn was found

Real customer churn generally does not show clear notice from customers. It is just that customers gradually disappear and do not come back to continue purchasing [27]. However, every purchase of customers will leave its mark of characteristics. Therefore, by analyzing these marks, managers can get the rules of customer churn and find out which customers are going to be lost so that they can modify customer strategies and retain valuable customers as much as possible.

3. Design of the CMR System in Marketing Strategy Based on Data Mining

3.1. Module Design. In this paper, the CMR system in marketing strategy consists of the following three subsystems [28]: business operation system, customer cooperation system, and data analysis system. Among them, the customer operation subsystem and data analysis subsystem are the most important subsystems, including customer information management and information analysis and processing:

(1) Business operation subsystem
Mainly with the help of computer technology, it manages all aspects of marketing, sales, and service. The operating system is also known as an invoicing system which can enable enterprises to adopt better methods to achieve optimal results.

(2) Customer cooperation subsystem
This subsystem includes customer information entry, customer information processing, code management,
customer management, supplier management, department management, employee management, product management, and partner management. It mainly manages the interaction between enterprises and customers, including e-mail, customer service center, call center, and electronic community. Putting these together, it means all channels for enterprises interact with customers.

(3) Data analysis subsystem
By processing and analyzing all kinds of data, using data mining technology to realize customer relationship management, managers can get meaningful information from it. Data information obtained by different ways, such as customer cooperation system and business operating system, should be sorted and summarized so as to help enterprises understand the classification, satisfaction, demand information, and other pieces of useful information of customers.

4. Realization of the CMR System in the Marketing Strategy Based on Data Mining

4.1. Overall Architecture. The CRM system of shopping malls based on data mining adopts a modular design. Considering the need for modular development and maintenance, the system adopts J2EE architecture and B/S system architecture based on the browser. Its development tool is JBuilderX, the back-end database is Oracle9i, and the application server is implemented by WebLogic8.1.x. The overall architecture is shown in Figure 5.

Data mining-based CRM system in marketing strategy adopts EJB container for data mining. EJB is a stateful session bean, which mainly includes the following six aspects: data selection, customer classification, cross-selling, customer acquisition, customer retention, and result output. The design scheme is as follows:

(1) Data input ()

(i) In the whole database, make a reasonable judgment on the data submitted by the client to find out more complete and consistent data.

(2) Customer segmentation ()

(ii) According to the different attributes of each customer, customers are divided into different categories according to different classification standards.

(3) Cross buying ()

(iii) Through the buying behavior of customers in a certain period of time, the influence of one commodity on other commodities and whether it is suitable for bundling can be analyzed.

(4) Customer obtainer ()

By analyzing the customer’s response to market activities, some attributes of potential customers can be found.

(5) Customer retention ()

Establish a customer classification model with churn rate, analyze the churn of a customer, and determine how to keep the customer according to its attribute characteristics.

(6) Result output ()

Pass the results of data mining back to the client. Include customer information data, marketing campaign data, and customer transaction data. Customer EJB is used as the entity bean to describe the customer information of the system. Session Bean--DataminingEJB EJB is used to wrap entity Bean. CustomerEJB client calls entity beans by interacting with session beans.

The code that defines the remote interface is as follows:

```java
import java.util.*
import javax.ejb.EJBObject.
import java.rmi.RemoteException.
public interface Datamining extends EJBObject.
{
    public Boolean dataInput(String selectString) throws RemoteException.
    public void customerSegmentation(String tablename) throws RemoteException.
    public void crossBuying(String tablename) throws RemoteException.
    public void customerObtainer(String tablename) throws RemoteException.
    public void customerRetention(String tablename) throws RemoteException.
    public String resultOutput(String selectString) throws RemoteException.
}
```

The code for calling the entity Bean in the session Bean is as follows:

```java
public Collection getAllData()
{
    Vector vectUserInfos = new Vector();
}
Try {
    Context ctx = new InitialContext();
    Object obj = ctx.lookup("CustomerHome");
    CustomerHome customerHome = (CustomerHome).PortableR.
    emotcObject.narrow(obj,CustomerHome.class).
    Collection collection = customerHome.findAll();
    Return collection;
} catch (Exception e) {
    e.printStackTrace();
}
(i) { 
(ii) Preprocess data set S, establish list C based on attributes in A, create root node R, and create junction 
(iii) Point queue Q.  
(iv) While (queue Q is not empty) 
(v) { 
(vi) Fetch node N from queue Q 
(vii) If (records in node N’s attribute list are of the same category or few) 
(viii) then 
(ix) { 
(x) Mark node N as a leaf node.  
(xi) The continue  
(xii) } 
(xiii) Each split point K in for N 
(xiv) { 
(xv) Create a class histogram  
(xvi) The Gini index of the split point K is calculated to select the best K’.  
(xvii) } 
(xviii) } 
According to K’, node N is divided into two children, and N1 and N2 are put into the queue.  
Divide the list where K’ is located, create a hash table according to the RIds of the list, and divide other attribute lists. 
} 
MDL algorithm is used to prune decision tree.  
} 
According to the theory of marketing, the purchasing power of customers is very important [29], which has a great influence on 
the formulation of marketing strategies by enterprises, so the target variable is customer purchasing power. Customer 
purchasing power is divided into three types: high purchasing power, average purchasing power, and low purchasing power. 
Customers are defined according to their age, gender, occupation, family status, and other attributes. A customer information 
table is arranged in order according to customer information, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Basic information of customers.**

| Id   | Age | Gender | Income  | Family status | Professional category | Purchasing power |
|------|-----|--------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ID902310 | 18  | F      | 21378.2 | General       | 1                     | Low              |
| ID902311 | 26  | M      | 12892.3 | Good          | 3                     | High             |
| ID902312 | 20  | F      | 5656.2  | General       | 1                     | Low              |
| ID902313 | 24  | F      | 7998.2  | Good          | 3                     | High             |
| ID902314 | 16  | M      | 56569.6 | Poor          | 2                     | High             |

**Table 2: Customer transaction records.**

| Transaction number | Time  | Product |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| 00000001           | 20-6-18 | F118,A003,C151,D027,G055,I328,M045,P147 |
| 00000002           | 20-6-18 | F118,A150,B013,F051,F027,G055,H028,L025 |
| 00000003           | 20-6-18 | A003,B003,F028,M102,G023 |
| 00000004           | 20-6-18 | A003,B203,C151,F118,L122,M045,O057 |
| 00000005           | 20-6-18 | B023,F118,H025,J015,O057 |
| 00000006           | 20-6-18 | A003,B203,C151,F118,L122,M045,O057 |
| 00000007           | 20-6-18 | F118,A150,B013,F051,F027,G055,H028,L025 |
| ...                |       |         |
| 000000500          | 20-6-18 | F033,0018,B021,F006,L012,F145,E245 |
(i) Input:
(ii) A minimum support alpha, a transaction database DB
(iii) Output: FPtree
(iv) Procedure FPtree (DB, alpha)
(v) {
(vi) Create FPtree T and mark it as "NULL".
(vii) For the DB
(viii) {
(ix) For each I I ∈ Ti
(x) { If I ∈ S
(xi) Then joins the set S’
(xii) The else delete
(xiii) }
(xiv) }
(xv) Rank the frequencies in S’according to the order in S - item for the [p |p].
(xvi) Insert_tree ([p |p], T)
(xvii) }
(xviii) }
(xix) Procedure Insert_tree ([p |p], T)
(xx) { child N of For T
{ If N.itemname = P.itemname
Then N.count++; flag = true; Break;
}
If(!Flag)
Then
{ Create a new child of TNN ount = 1
Make n.node_link point to a node with the same item_name field.
}
If P is not empty
Then Insert_tree (P, N)
}

Algorithm 2: FPtree based on database.

Input:
FPtree built above, a minimum support alpha
Output: Frequency set
Procedure FP-growth (FPtree, alpha)
| if FPtree has only one path P then
| then
| The frequency set produced by the combination of nodes β in P β∪α
Specify the frequency set support as the minimum support of the node in β.
| }
The else
| for FPTree header table each entry c is processed from back to front
| generate a frequency set β = C ∪α
The support of the frequency set is that of entry C
The conditional pattern library and conditional tree FPTree2 of β were established
If FPTree2 is not empty
Then FP-growth FPTree2, beta,
}|}
5. Conclusion

Data mining technology has been applied in customer relationship management system, which can make enterprises better understand customers and make better business strategies, thus improving the quality of marketing decisions. In this paper, the technology of data mining with CRM in marketing strategy is combined, and data processing methods are provided. In addition, customer classification, cross-selling, customer acquisition, and customer retention are realized in the data mining module. The SPRINT classification algorithm is used in customer classification, which improves the accuracy of customer classification, thus making the relevant decisions of companies more credible. At the same time, FP-growth, an association rule algorithm without candidate set, is applied in cross-selling, which makes the system more practical. The algorithm of the optimal customer retention strategy is adopted in customer retention so as to help the companies to make decisions, thus better retaining customers and making the store get the maximum profit.

Data Availability

The dataset can be accessed upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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