What I will focus on today:

* 20% - Describe: Good summary of the dataset, repository well laid-out and organised. Reasonable commits to the repository.

Create a git repository and make it available online for the lecturer to clone. The repository should contain all your work for this assessment. Within the repository, create a jupyter [6] notebook that uses descriptive statistics and plots to describe the Boston House Prices [1] dataset. This part is worth 20% of your overall mark.

1. Good summary of the dataset

Step 1: I reviewed the Boston Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area - Boston house prices dataset. <https://www.kaggle.com/c/boston-housing>

According to the description this dataset details the *Housing Values in Suburbs of Boston. Data description; The Boston data frame has 506 rows and 14 columns.*

We are provided with a ‘key’ which describes what the information in each column represents;

***crim****per capita crime rate by town.*

***zn****proportion of residential land zoned for lots over 25,000 sq.ft.*

***indus****proportion of non-retail business acres per town.*

***chas****Charles River dummy variable (= 1 if tract bounds river; 0 otherwise).*

***nox****nitrogen oxides concentration (parts per 10 million).*

***rm****average number of rooms per dwelling.*

***age*** *proportion of owner-occupied units built prior to 1940.*

***dis****weighted mean of distances to five Boston employment centres.*

***rad****index of accessibility to radial highways.*

***tax****full-value property-tax rate per $10,000.*

***ptratio****pupil-teacher ratio by town.*

***black****1000(Bk - 0.63)^2 where Bk is the proportion of blacks by town.*

***lstat****lower status of the population (percent).*

***medv****median value of owner-occupied homes in $1000s.*

Source;

* Harrison, D. and Rubinfeld, D.L. (1978) Hedonic prices and the demand for clean air. J. Environ. Economics and Management 5, 81–102.
* Belsley D.A., Kuh, E. and Welsch, R.E. (1980) Regression Diagnostics. Identifying Influential Data and Sources of Collinearity. New York: Wiley.

I was immediately struck by one piece of information mentioned;

***black****1000(Bk - 0.63)^2 where Bk is the proportion of blacks by town.*

This seemed very strange to me, and slightly offensive. I wondered if this would be explained a bit more when I became more familiar with the dataset.

When I click on ‘Data’ I expected to be presented with the dataset, but nothing appeared.

I revisited Moodle to see if Ian had mentioned that we need to create an account to access the dataset.

I noticed one comment from Ian in our Outlook group which is used for news, announcements and discussion. Ian’s comment was made in reply to a question posted by one of my fellow students;

*You'll find the common datasets in many different configurations - part of the assignment is to source the dataset in a form conducive to what you need to do with it.*

This could be important knowledge for me when completing this assignment. It also explains why I couldn’t immediately view the dataset in <https://www.kaggle.com/c/boston-housing>.

I discovered the below website which seemed to explain how to load the dataset in Jupyter Notebook;

<https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/programming/9781789804744/1/ch01lvl1sec11/our-first-analysis-the-boston-housing-dataset>

This website describes the dataset as follows;

*The dataset we'll look at in this section is the so-called Boston housing dataset. It contains US census data concerning houses in various areas around the city of Boston. Each sample corresponds to a unique area and has about a dozen measures. We should think of samples as rows and measures as columns. The data was fist published in 1978 and is quite small, containing only about 500 samples.*

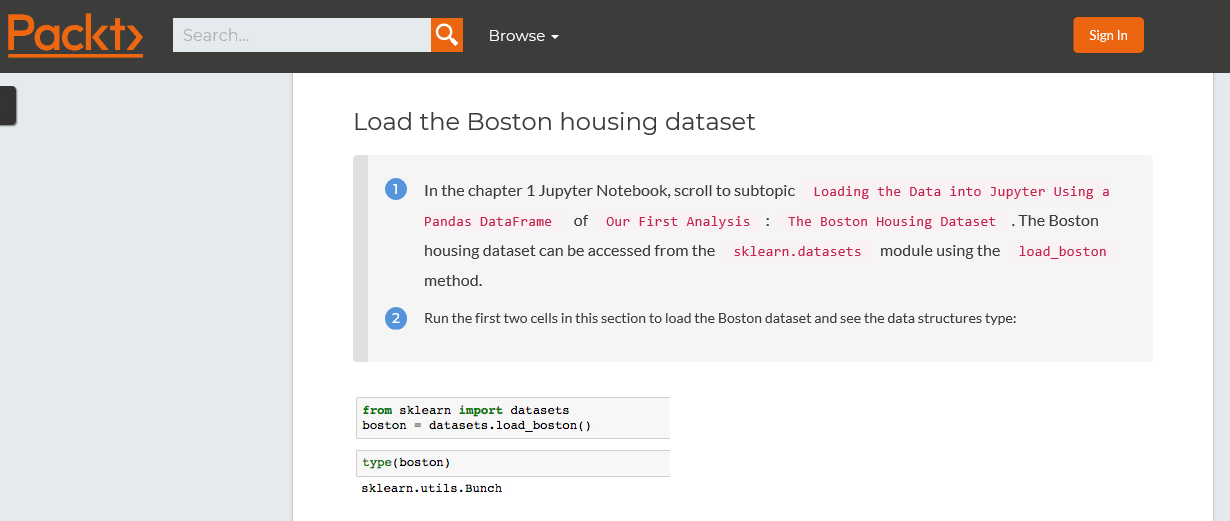
The website describes how to complete the following; “Load the data into Jupyter using a Pandas DataFrame”.

***Loading the Data into Jupyter Using a Pandas DataFrame***

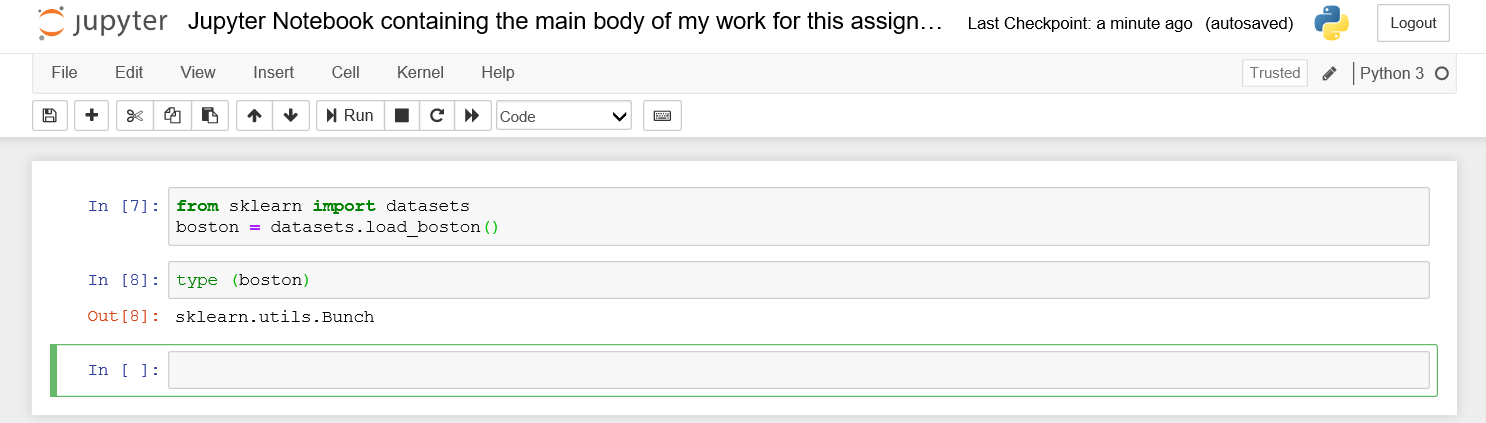
*Oftentimes, data is stored in tables, which means it can be saved as a comma-separated variable (CSV) file. This format, and many others, can be read into Python as a DataFrame object, using the Pandas library. Other common formats include tab-separated variable (TSV), SQL tables, and JSON data structures. Indeed, Pandas has support for all of these. In this example, however, we are not going to load the data this way because the dataset is available directly through scikit-learn. (*<https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/programming/9781789804744/1/ch01lvl1sec11/our-first-analysis-the-boston-housing-dataset>)

It also mentions; “*An important part after loading data for analysis is ensuring that it's clean. For example, we would generally need to deal with missing data and ensure that all columns have the correct datatypes. The dataset we use in this section has already been cleaned, so we will not need to worry about this.”*

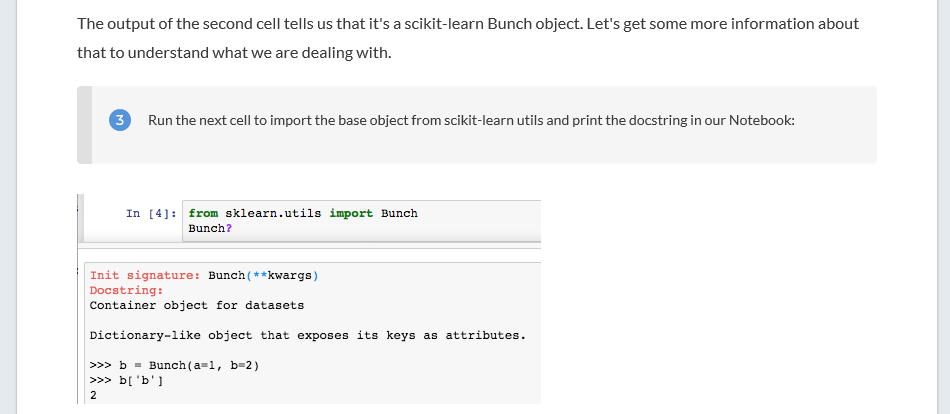
I followed the website’s recommended steps as follows;



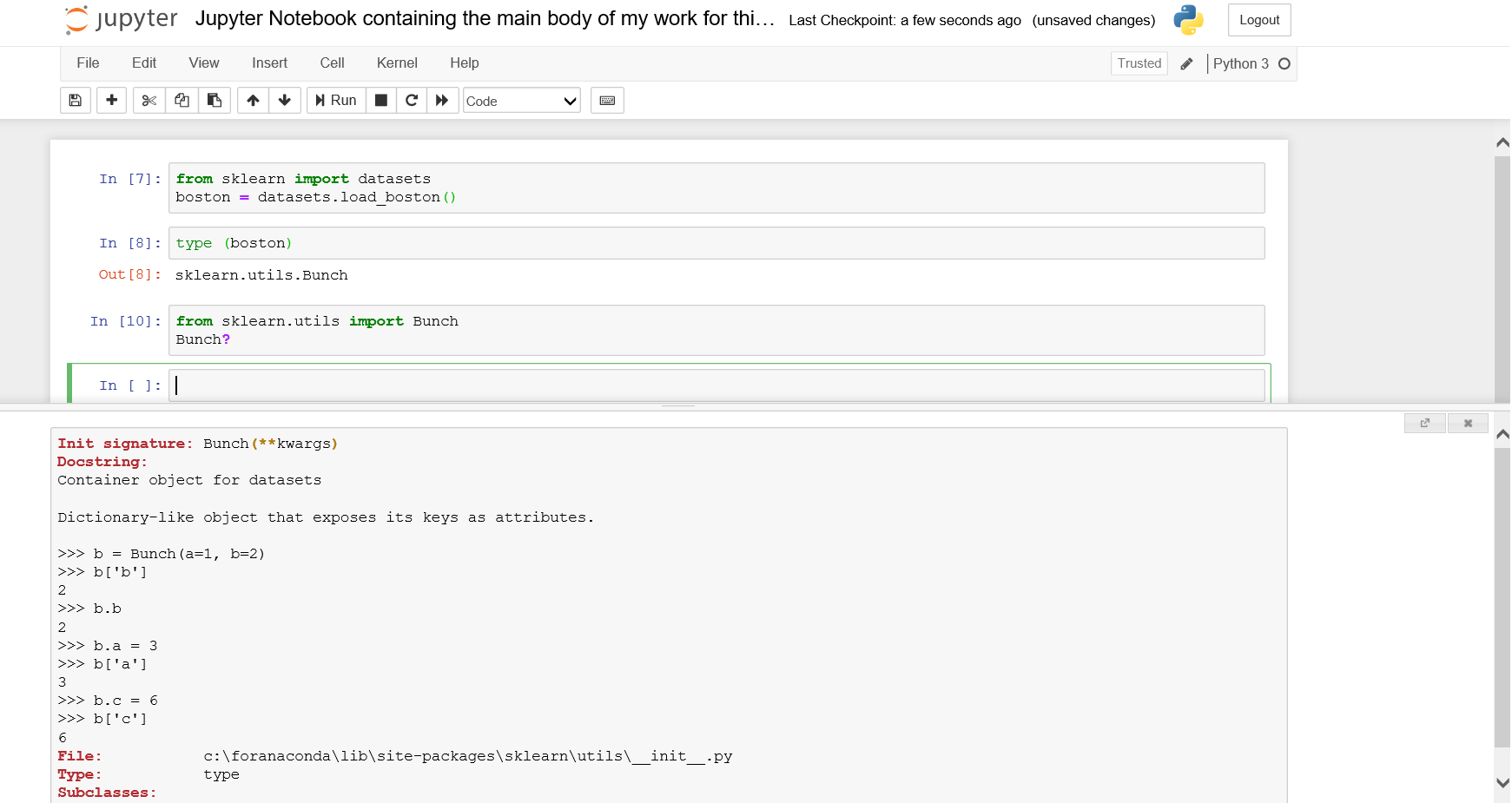
I followed their code as above in my Jupyter notebook and also got the same output;



I continued to follow the instructions from the website;

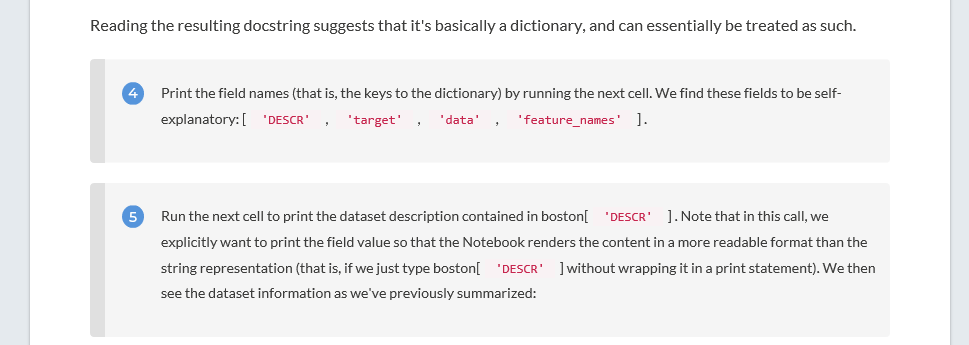


I encounter the same results as displayed on the website in my Jupyter Notebook;

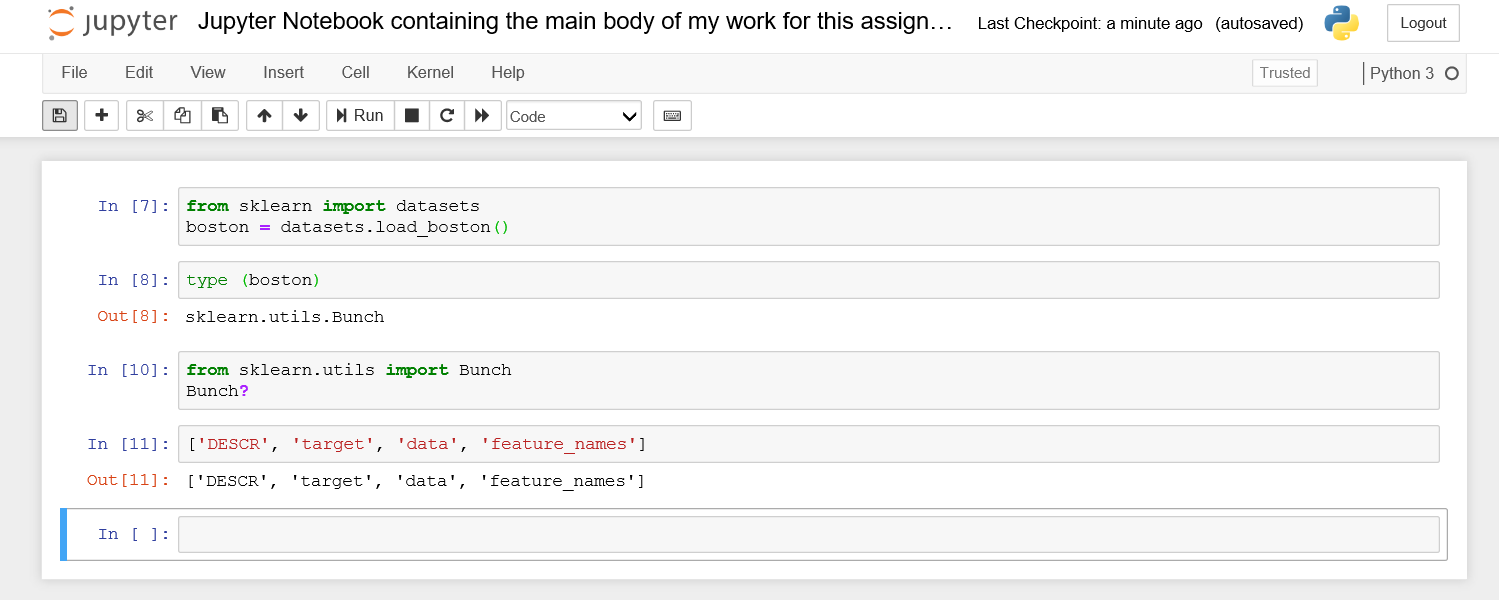


The website explains that ‘Reading the resulting docstring suggests that it's basically a dictionary, and can essentially be treated as such.’ (<https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/programming/9781789804744/1/ch01lvl1sec11/our-first-analysis-the-boston-housing-dataset>)

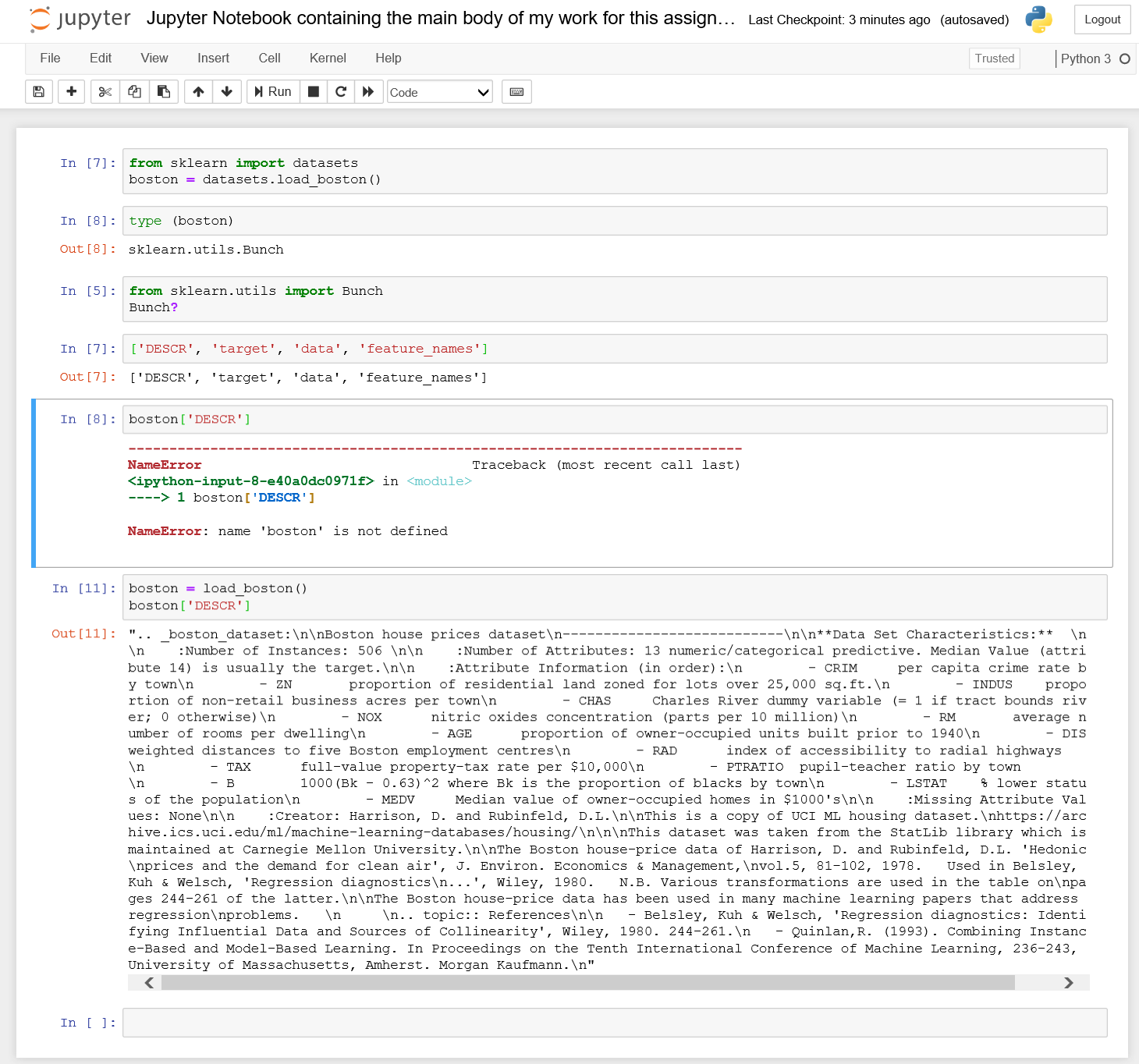
The website guides me on to the next steps;



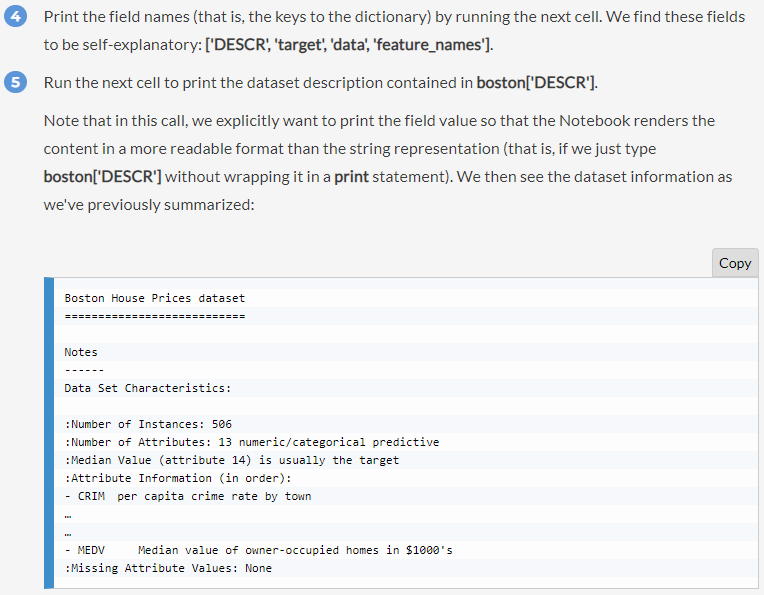
I stopped at this point as I became confused;



I picked up at this point again the following day and had to play around with some different code before I managed to achieve the below;



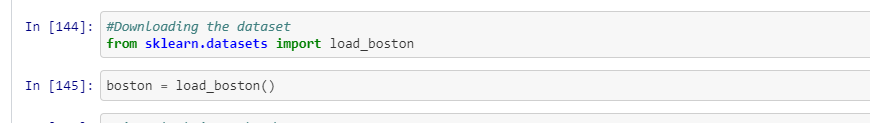
I managed to load the dataset into my Jupyter notebook. This resembles the outcome of Step 5 as described on <https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/big_data_and_business_intelligence/9781789958171/1/ch01lvl1sec04/our-first-analysis-the-boston-housing-dataset>;



We can see that the Boston House Prices dataset in my Jupyter notebook is not as nicely laid out as described on the website. I need to re-examine my code to see how I can achieve the more structured look as shown on the website.

I have managed to load the dataset into my Jupyter notebook – now I need to figure out how to ‘use descriptive statistics and plots to describe the Boston House Prices dataset’. I should watch Ian’s videos for instruction on how to complete this.

From M:



**My Jupyter Notebook should use descriptive statistics and plots to describe the Boston House Prices dataset.**

[~~https://www.ritchieng.com/machine-learning-project-boston-home-prices/~~](https://www.ritchieng.com/machine-learning-project-boston-home-prices/)