# PEACHES AND LEMONS





Predicting whether a vehicle will be 'kicked back' to the auction.

Will Morgan

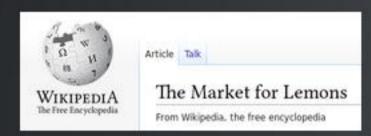
ov 2, 2018

## **MOTIVATION & BACKGROUND**

(In American slang, a lemon is a car that is found to be defective only after it has been bought.)

## The Lemons Problem

In Economics, the Lemons Problem refers to issues that arise regarding the value of a product due to asymmetric information between the buyer and the seller.



This information asymmetry leads a degradation in the quality of products in a given market.

The subject even has laws named after it.



## PROPOSED FLOW

- Overview of the Problem
- Objective
- The Data
- Feature Engineering
- Modeling & Feature Selection
- Tuning and Evaluating the Model
- Conclusion

## Overview of the Problem



From kaggle:

One of the biggest challenges of an auto dealership purchasing a used car at an auto auction is the risk of that the vehicle might have serious issues that prevent it from being sold to customers. The auto community calls these unfortunate purchases "kicks".

Kicked cars often result when there are tampered odometers, mechanical issues the dealer is not able to address, issues with getting the vehicle title from the seller, or some other unforeseen problem. Kick cars can be very costly to dealers after transportation cost, throwaway repair work, and market losses in reselling the vehicle.

Modelers who can figure out which cars have a higher risk of being kick can provide real value to dealerships trying to provide the best inventory selection possible to their customers.

The challenge of this competition is to predict if the car purchased at the Auction is a Kick (bad buy).

## TL;DR:

Vehicles that are returned to an auction are called kicks (lemons), and they can become a huge cost for dealers.



## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Kaggle competition is to predict which cars will be lemons.



In addition to predicting lemons, the data can also be used in an attempt to maximize the expected profit margins of the inventory.





## THE DATA:

The data comes from Carvana, contains a list of vehicles purchased across two auctions (and other sources)

In [32]:

df.shape

Out[32]:

(72983, 34)

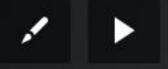
I used the training data and split it to train my model.

The test data does not contain the outcome attribute.

Class Balance:

Number of Lemons: 8976 Number of Peaches: 64007 Occurance Rate: 12.3%

The data is imbalanced.



## THE DATA

## Original Attributes

In [57]:	df.dtypes	
Out[57]:	RefId	int64
	IsBadBuy	int64
	PurchDate	object
	Auction	object
	VehYear	int64
	VehicleAge	int64
	Make	object
	Model	object
	Trim	object
	SubModel	object
	Color	object
	Transmission	object
	WheelTypeID	float64
	WheelType	object
	Veh0do	int64
	Nationality	object
	Size	object
	TopThreeAmericanName	object
	MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice	float64
	MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice	float64
	MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice	float64
	MMRAcquisitonRetailCleanPrice	float64
	MMRCurrentAuctionAveragePrice	float64
	MMRCurrentAuctionCleanPrice	float64
	MMRCurrentRetailAveragePrice	float64
	MMRCurrentRetailCleanPrice	float64
	PRIMEUNIT	object
	AUCGUART	object
	BYRNO	int64
	VNZIP1	int64
	VNST	object
	VehBCost	float64
	IsOnlineSale	int64
	WarrantyCost	int64
	dtype: object	

Attributes Dropped (a prior i)

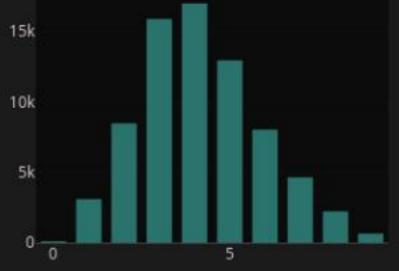
['Refid', 'BYRNO', 'AUCGUART', 'PRIMEUNIT','VNZIP','WheelType', 'VehYear']

#### Continuous Attributes

## Categorical/Binary Attributes

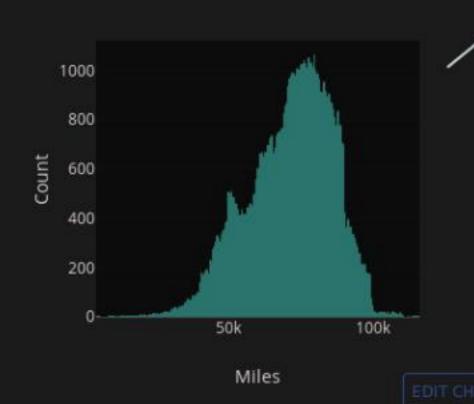


# Distribution of Vehicle Age

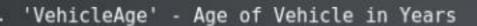


Age in Years

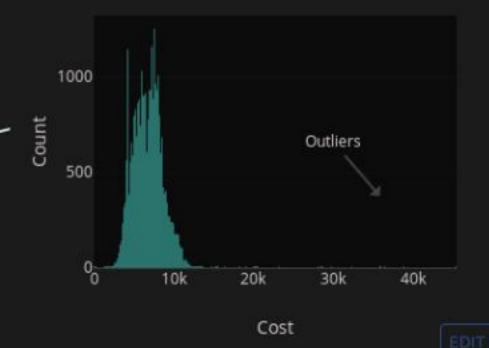
#### Distribution of Milage



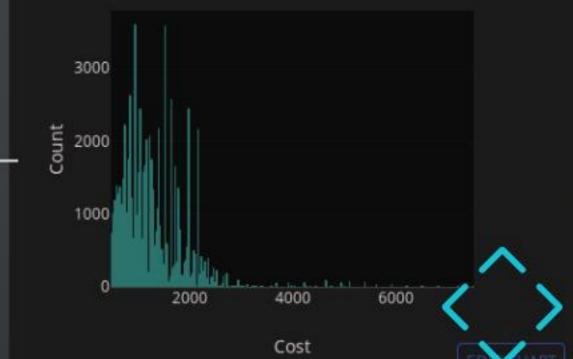
## THE DATA: Continuous Attributes



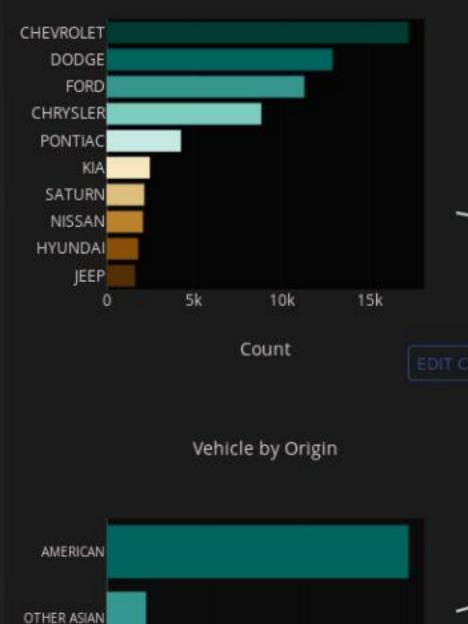
- 'VehOdo' Vehicle Odometer Reading
- 'VehBCost Price paid at the time of acquisition
- 'MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice' Acquisition Average Auction Price
- 'MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice' Acquisition Good Condition Auction Price
- 'MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice' Acquisition Average Retail Price
- 'MMRAcquisitonRetailCleanPrice' Acquisition Good Condition Auction Price
- 'MMRCurrentAuctionAveragePrice' Current Average Auction Price
- 'MMRCurrentAuctionCleanPrice' Current Good Condition Auction Price
- 'MMRCurrentRetailAveragePrice' Current Average Retail Price
- 'MMRCurrentRetailCleanPrice' Current Retail Good Condition Price
- 'WarrantyCost' Cost of the warranty (36k mi, 36 mo)



Distribution of Warrenty Cost







Count

TOP LINE ASIAN

OTHER

# THE DATA: Categorical Attributes

'Auction' - Vehicle Source

'PurchDate' - Purchase Date

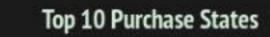
'Trim'\* - Style of the Vehicle

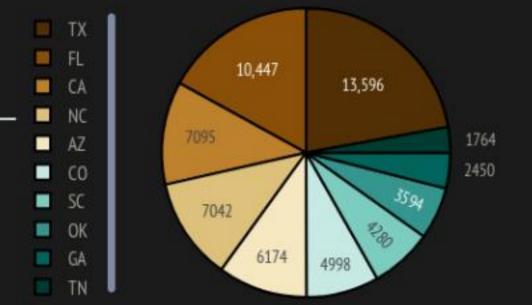
'IsBadBuy' (outcome) - The vehicle is a lemon (binary)

'Model'\* - Model Type

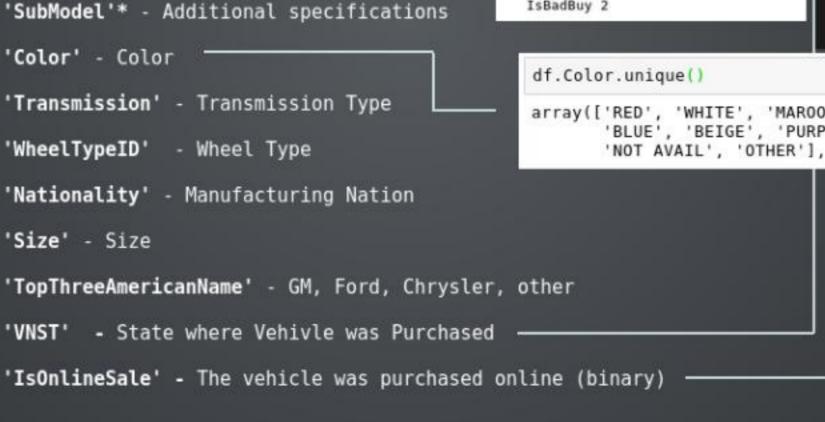
'Make' - Make







df.Color.unique() array(['RED', 'WHITE', 'MAROON', 'SILVER', 'BLACK', 'GOLD', 'GREY', 'BLUE', 'BEIGE', 'PURPLE', 'ORANGE', 'GREEN', 'BROWN', 'YELLOW', 'NOT AVAIL', 'OTHER'], dtype=object)

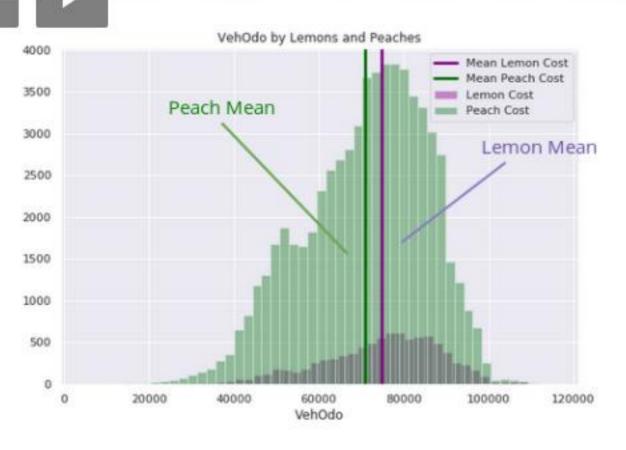


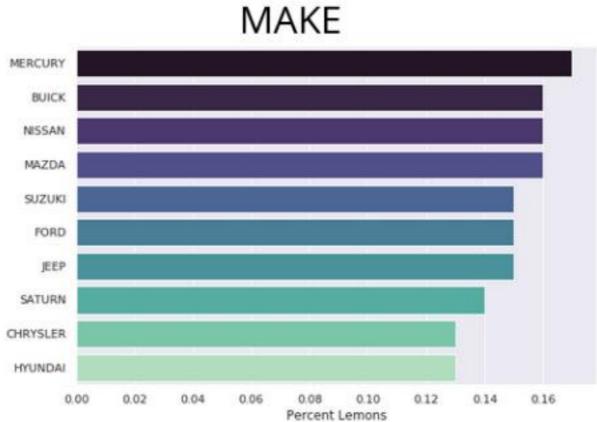
IsOnlineSale:

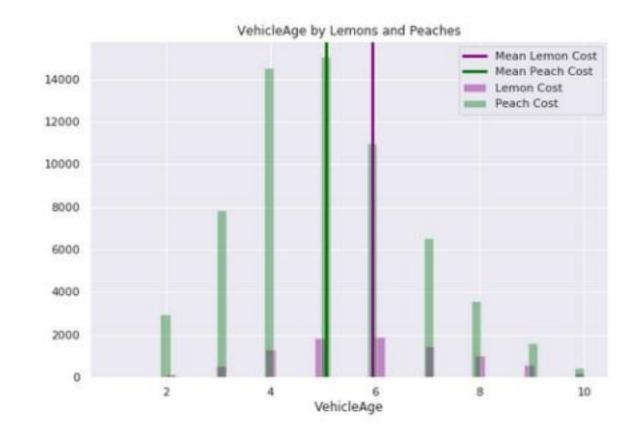
Number of Vehicles Purcahsed Online: 1845 Number of Vehicles Purchased not Online: 71138

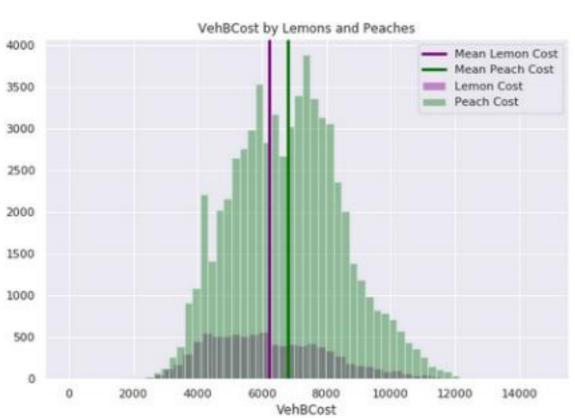
Occurance Rate: 2.53%

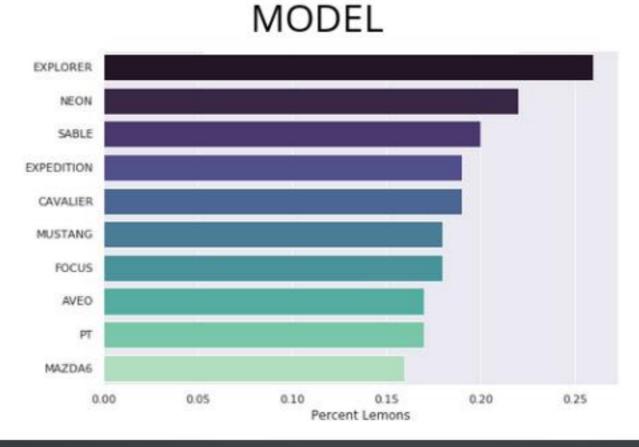
\*Category is Problematic

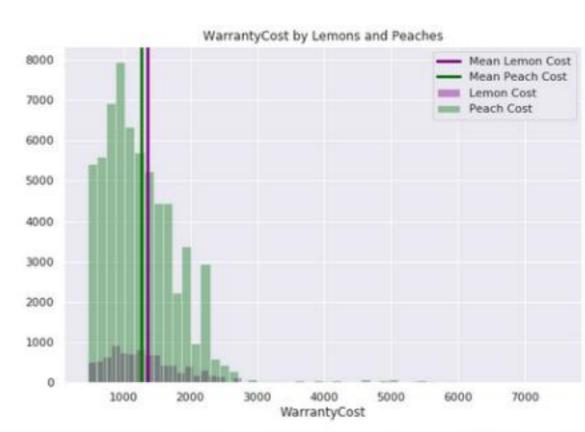












#### Market Rate Attributes

CurrentRetailCleanPrice - Current Retail Good Condition

AcquisitonRetailCleanPrice - Acquisition Good Condition

CurrentRetailAveragePrice - Current Average Retail

AcquisitionRetailAveragePrice - Acquisition Average Retail

CurrentAuctionCleanPrice - Current Good Condition Auction

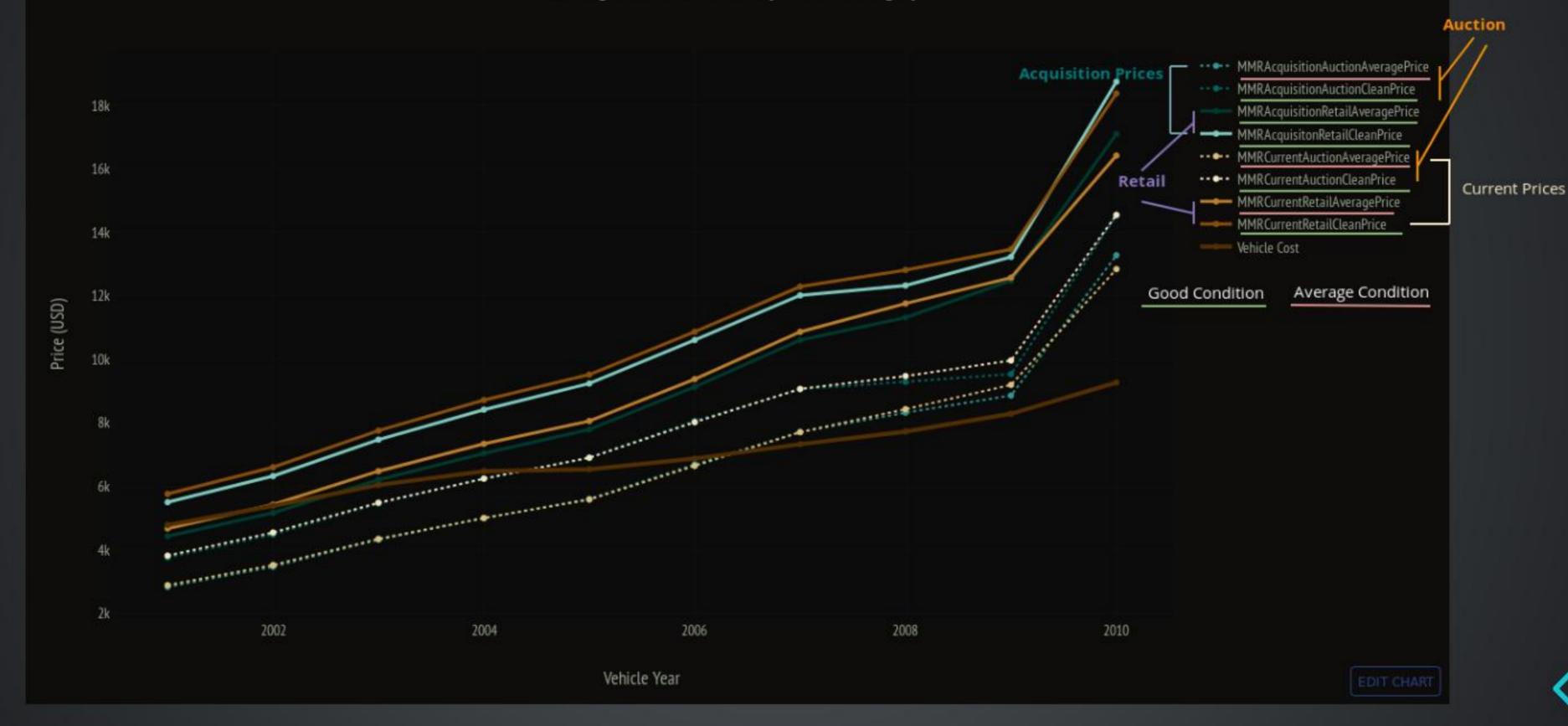
AcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice - Acquisition Good Condition Auction

CurrentAuctionAveragePrice - Current Average Auction Price

AcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice - Acquisition Average Auction

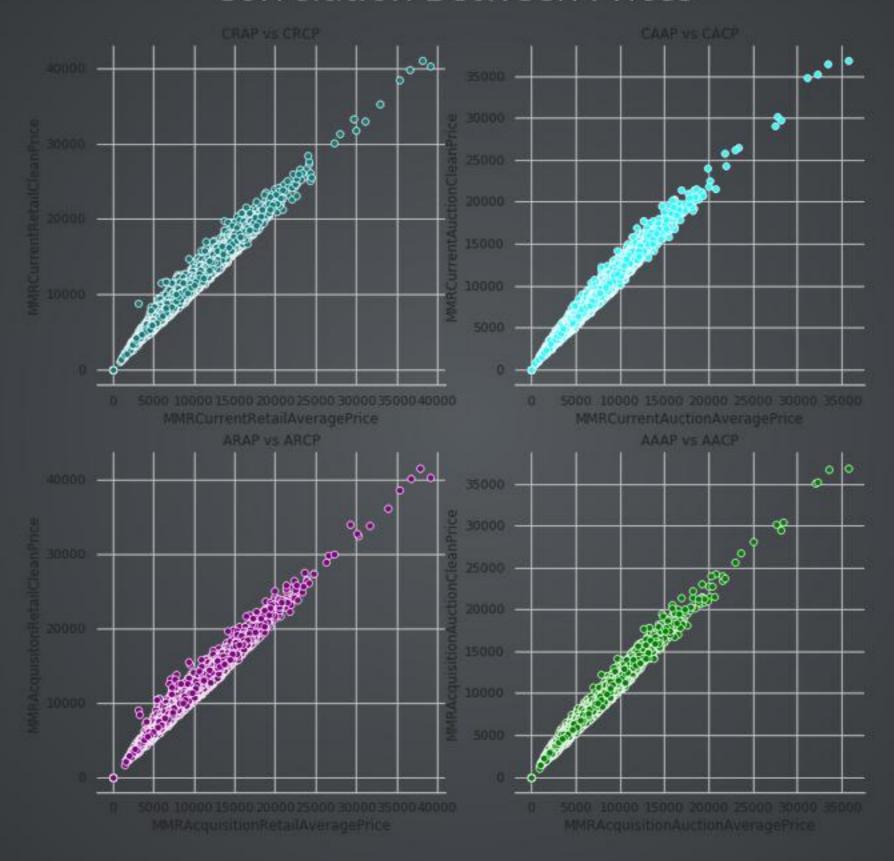


#### Average Vehicle Valuation by Year and Category





## Correlation Between Prices





## **Expected Margin**

#### Market Rate Attributes

CurrentPetaliCleanPrice - Current Retail Good Condition AcquisitumEstailCleanPrice - Acquisition Good Cundition

CurrentRetailAveragePrice - Current Average Retail AcquisitionRetailAveragePrice - Acquisition Average Retail

CurrentAuctionCleanPrice - Current Good Condition Auction

Terrent Author Assemble Files - Cherest Assemble Buction Proce

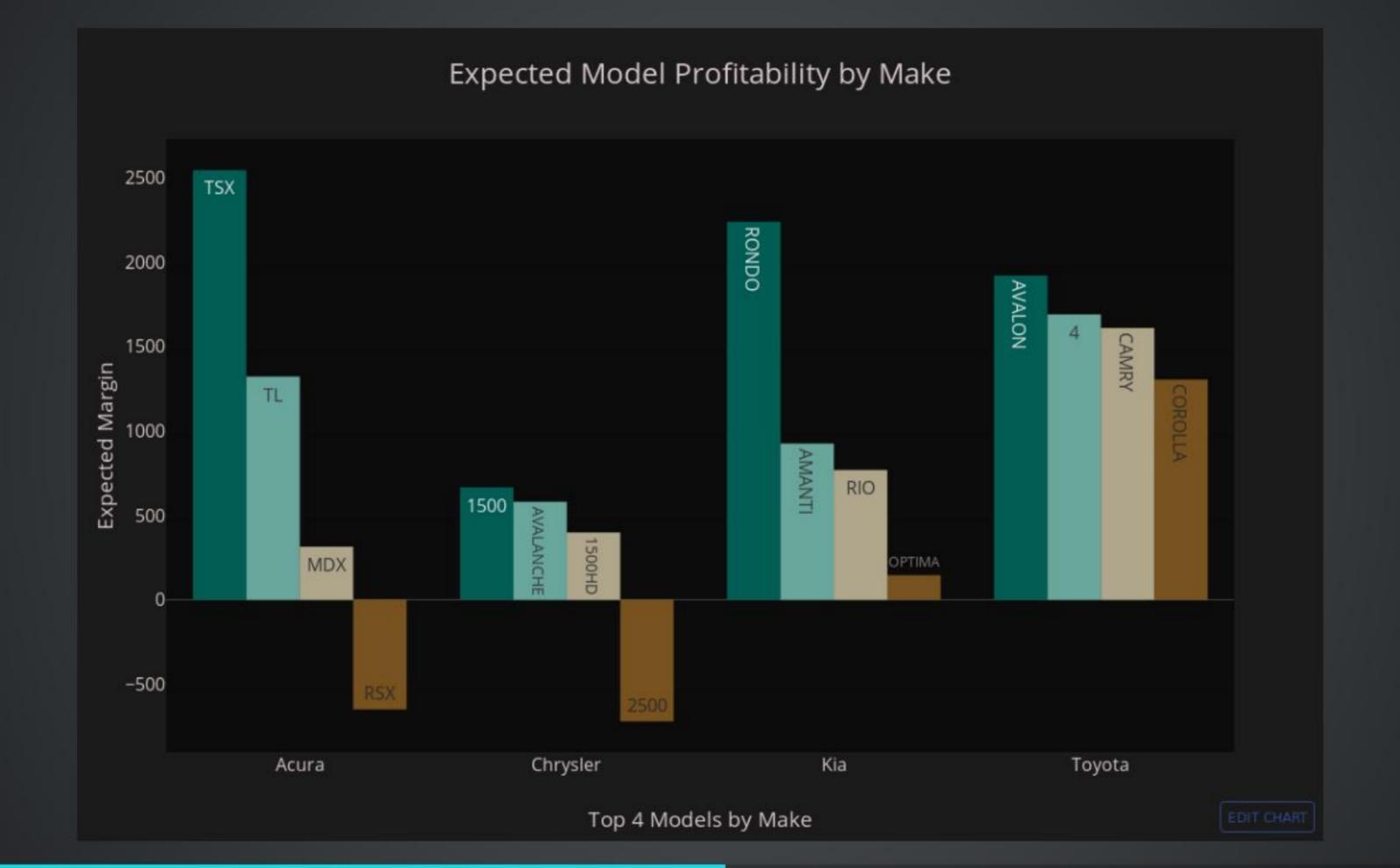
$$\overline{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i}{n}$$



'Average Price'

Average Price - Vehicle Cost = Expected Profit Margin







# FEATURE ENGINEERING

Dealing with the categorical features

pmonth

12

12

12

12

12

pyear

2009

2009

2009

2009

2009

pday

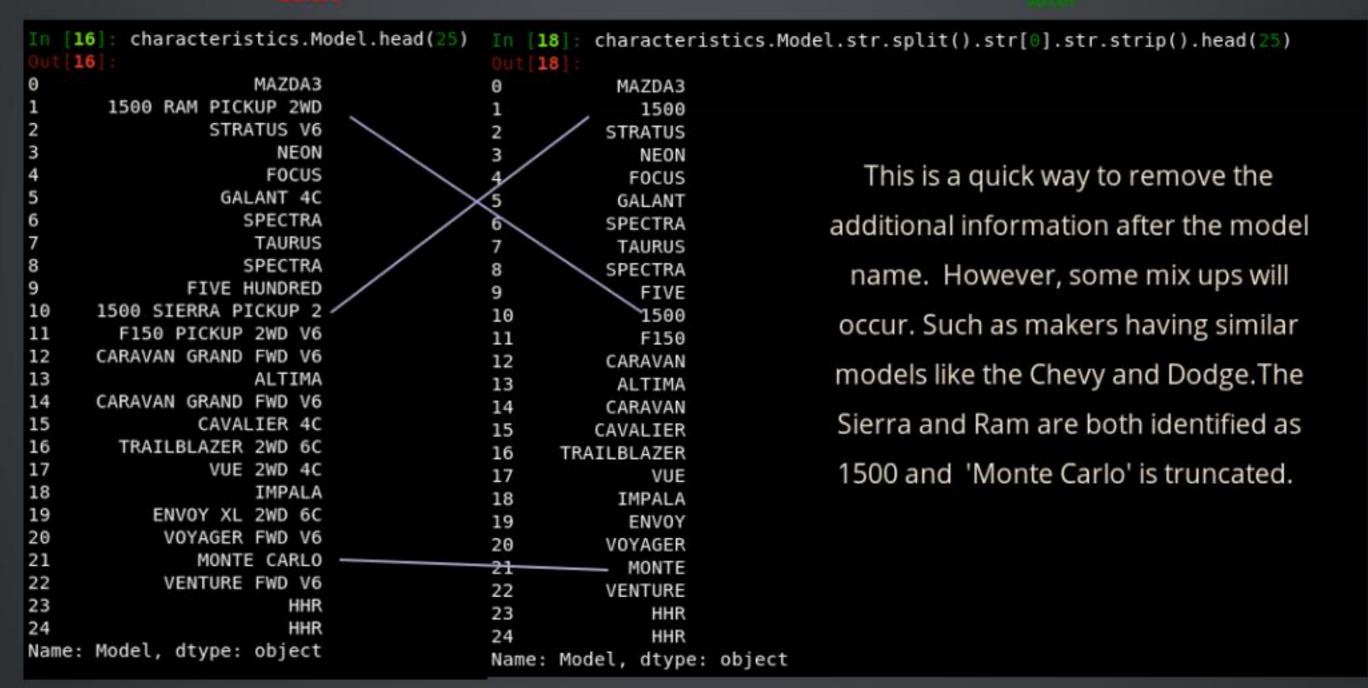
```
In [13]: characteristics = df[['Model','SubModel','Trim']]
                                         characteristics.head(10)
                                                                                                  for col in cats:
                                                    Model
                                                                         SubModel Trim
df.PurchDate = pd.to datetime(df.PurchDate)
                                                                                                     print(col,len(df[col].unique()))
                                                                      4D SEDAN I
                                                   MAZDA3
                                                                                                    Auction 3
                                                                                                    Make 33
                                  1500 RAM PICKUP 2WD
                                                                                       ST
                                                             QUAD CAB 4.7L SLT
                                                                                                    Model 1063
                                                                                                    Trim 135
                                              STRATUS V6
                                                              4D SEDAN SXT FFV
                                                                                      SXT
                                                                                                    SubModel 864
                                                                                                    Color 17
                                                     NEON
                                                                         4D SEDAN
                                                                                      SXT
                                                                                                    Transmission 4
                                                                    2D COUPE ZX3
                                                                                                    WheelTypeID 5
                                                                                      ZX3
                                                    FOCUS
                                                                                                    Nationality 5
                                               GALANT 4C
                                                                     4D SEDAN ES
                                                                                       ES
                                                                                                    Size 13
                                                                                                    TopThreeAmericanName 5
                                                                                                    VNST 37
                                                  SPECTRA
                                                                     4D SEDAN EX
                                                                                       EX
                                                                                                    IsOnlineSale 2
                                                                                                    IsBadBuy 2
                                                   TAURUS
                                                                     4D SEDAN SE
                                                                                       SE
                                                  SPECTRA
                                                                     4D SEDAN EX
                                                                                       EX
                                                                    4D SEDAN SEL
                                                                                      SEL
                                           FIVE HUNDRED
```



# FEATURE ENGINEERING

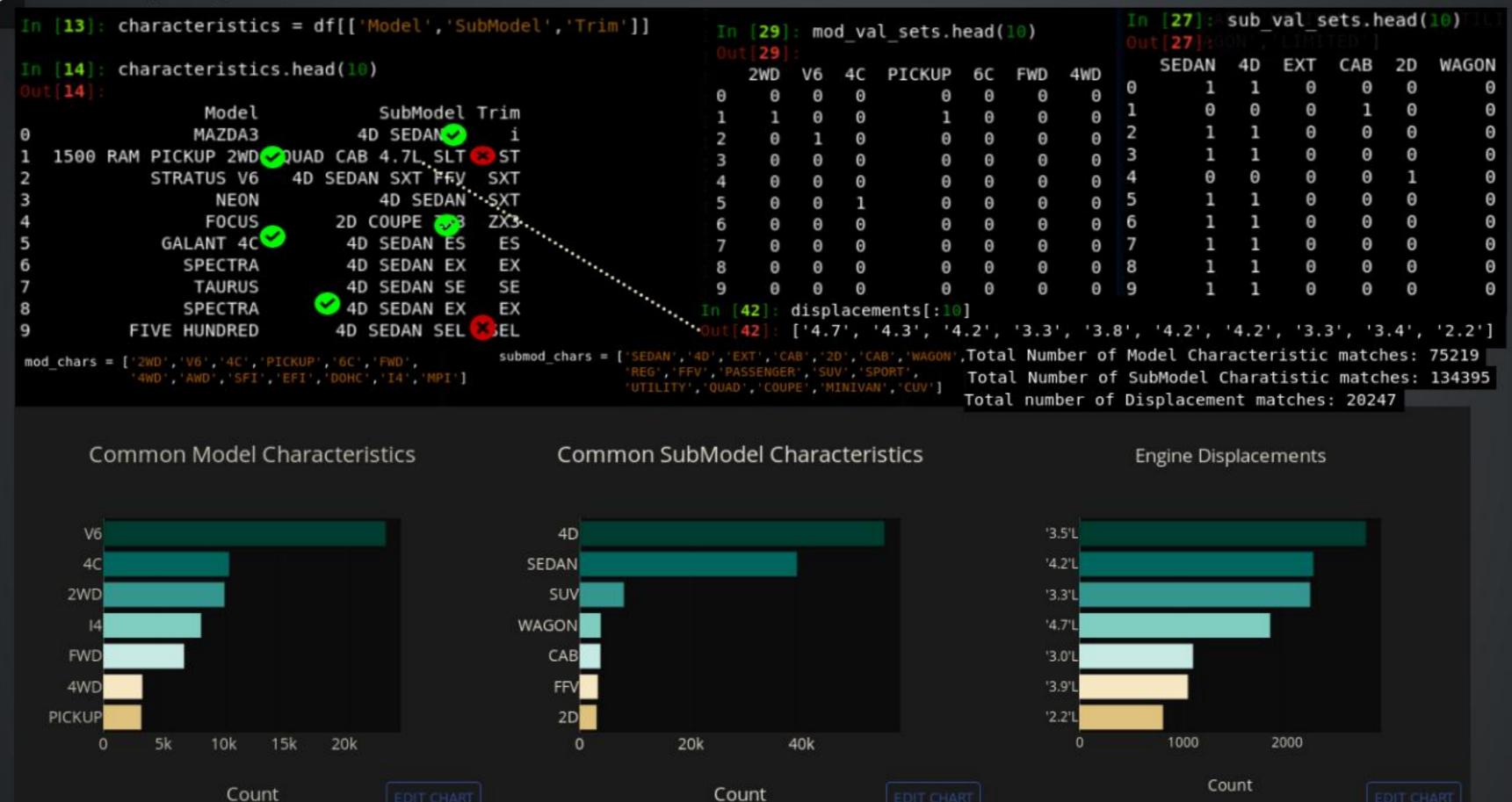
Dealing with the categorical features 'Model'

#### afone:





## 'Model' and 'SubModel'





## FEATURE ENGINEERING

```
plodf= df[['MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice', 'MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice',
   'MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice', 'MMRAcquisitonRetailCleanPrice',
   'MMRCurrentAuctionAveragePrice', 'MMRCurrentAuctionCleanPrice',
   'MMRCurrentRetailAveragePrice', 'MMRCurrentRetailCleanPrice',
   'VehicleAge','VehOdo','WarrantyCost','IsBadBuy']].copy()
plodf.dropna(inplace=True)
```

price pvals.sort values(by='pvalues')

```
OSD 15k 10k 5k 2005 2010

Vehicle Year EDIT CHART
```

```
[62]: list(plodf.columns[:20])
['MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice',
'MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice',
'MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice',
'MMRAcquisitonRetailCleanPrice',
'MMRCurrentAuctionAveragePrice',
'MMRCurrentAuctionCleanPrice',
'MMRCurrentRetailAveragePrice',
'MMRCurrentRetailCleanPrice',
'VehicleAge',
'VehOdo',
'WarrantyCost',
'IsBadBuy',
'crcp cacp',
'arcp aacp',
'crap caap',
'arap aaap',
'caap aaap',
'cacp aacp',
'crap arap',
```

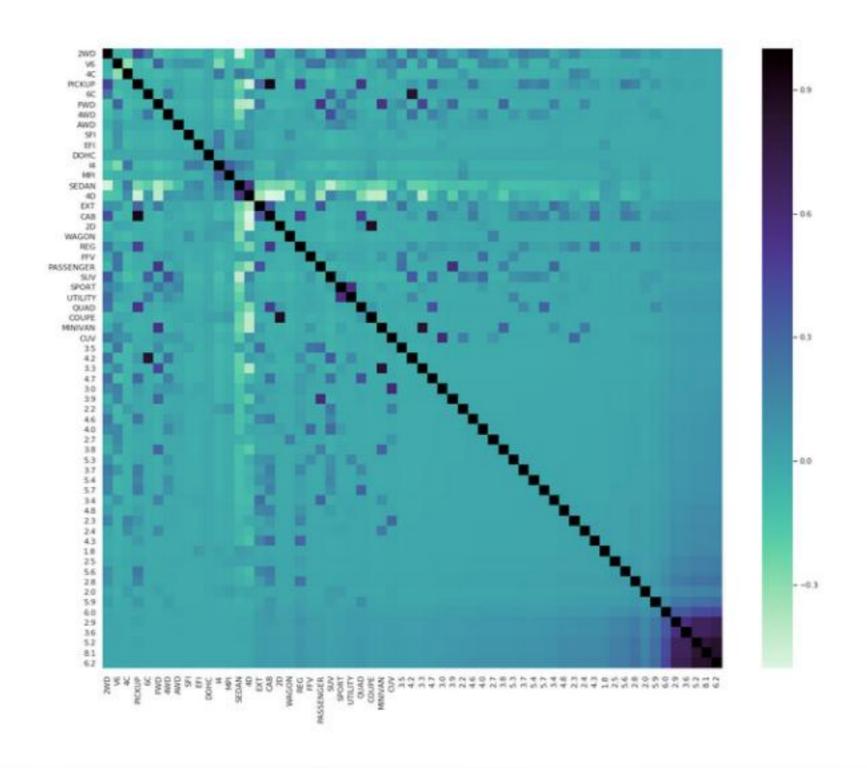
'crcp arcp']

```
In [63]: plodf.shape
Out[63]: (67275, 46)
```

```
70
                               price
                                            pvalues
                                       0.000000e+00
                          VehicleAge
11
                                       0.000000e+00
                            IsBadBuy
       MMRCurrentAuctionAveragePrice 3.613714e-177
   MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice 8.336208e-177
          MMRCurrentAuctionCleanPrice 2.236708e-157
      MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice 9.032533e-155
        MMRCurrentRetailAveragePrice 2.946974e-146
          MMRCurrentRetailCleanPrice 5.401022e-134
    MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice 2.777969e-114
                              Veh0do 1.225459e-111
       MMRAcquisitonRetailCleanPrice 5.123667e-104
10
                        WarrantyCost
                                       9.440349e-41
39
                                       3.615944e-19
                 crap caap arap aaap
24
                                       1.769231e-17
                           crcp caap
38
                 crcp cacp arcp aacp
                                       1.293532e-16
                 crcp caap arcp aaap
                                       1.706332e-16
44
                                       1.706332e-16
                 crcp aacp arcp cacp
41
                                       2.844209e-16
                 crap cacp arap aacp
```

Very low p-values on t-tests for prices between lemons and non lemons



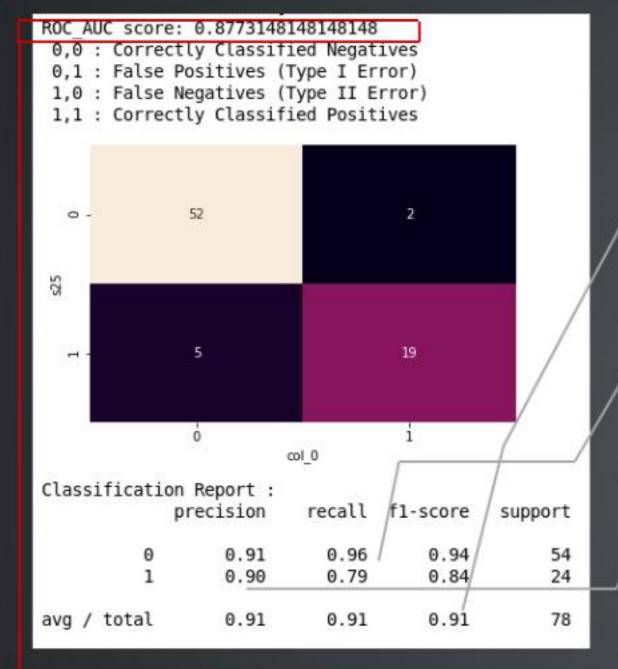


	level_0	level_1	0
199	PICKUP	CAB	0.911014
979	CAB	PICKUP	0.911014
1063	2D	COUPE	0.874932
1603	COUPE	2D	0.874932
3598	8.1	6.2	0.843254
3718	6.2	8.1	0.843254
3659	5.2	6.2	0.843254
3719	6.2	5.2	0.843254
274	6C	4.2	0.828402
1834	4.2	6C	0.828402
1678	MINIVAN	3.3	0.826839
1918	3.3	MINIVAN	0.826839
3597	8.1	5.2	0.799973
3657	5.2	8.1	0.799973

I dropped a few of the newly created features based on their correlation after reviewing how frequently each feature appeared in the data. e.g. 'CAB' has 3,916 occurrences while 'PICKUP' has 3,280.



## Metrics for Evaluating the Model



A = .87 - .5 = .37

$$B = .5 - A = .13$$

$$G = .37/.5 \sim .74$$

What percent of your predictions were correct?

You answer: the "accuracy" was (52+19) out of 78 = 91%

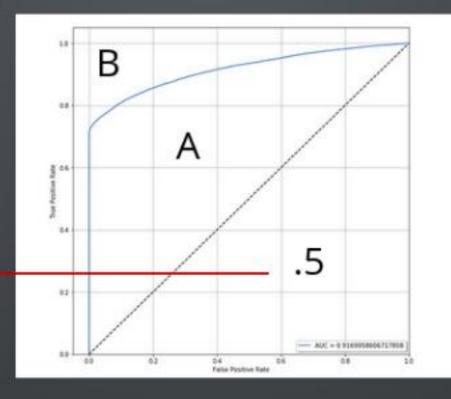
What percent of the positive cases did you catch?

You answer: the "recall" was 19 out of 24 = 79%

What percent of positive predictions were correct?

You answer: the "precision" was 19 out of 21 = 90%

**ROC & AUC** 



Area under the curve (AUC) .5 + A

Gini Index

$$\frac{A}{A+B} = 2*A$$



## - 20000 - 16000 - 12000 - 8000 - 4000

precision

micro avg

macro avg

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.51

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.55

weighted avg

weigh

0.91

0.17

0.88

0.54

0.83

Classification Report: KNN k=4

0.97

0.06

0.88

0.51

0.88

recall f1-score support

0.94

0.09

0.88

0.51

0.85

## KNN Classifier PRELIMINARY MODEL

SVC

#### Classification Report: SVC (rbf) recall f1-score precision support 0.93 0.92 0.91 7235 0.13 0.11 0.12 765 0.85 0.85 0.85 8000 micro avg macro avg 0.52 0.52 0.52 8000

0.85

0.84

0.83

weighted avg

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.52

6713

6000

4500

3000

1500

8000

## Logistic Regression (lasso)

	Classification Report: LRC (l1)								- 20000
		precision	recall	fl-score	support	0 -	23378	927	- 16000
	0	0.91 0.27	0.96 0.13	0.94 0.18	24305 2605			e.	- 12000
cro	ava	0.88	0.88	0.88	26910		2250	247	- 8000
cro i	avg	0.59 0.85	0.55	0.56 0.86	26910 26910	н-	2258	347	- 4000
							9	1	

24305

2605

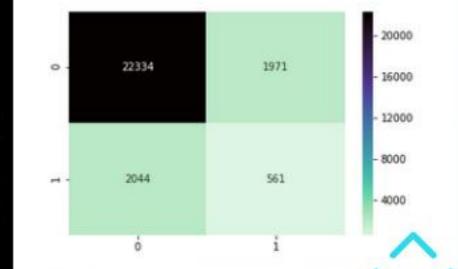
26910

26910

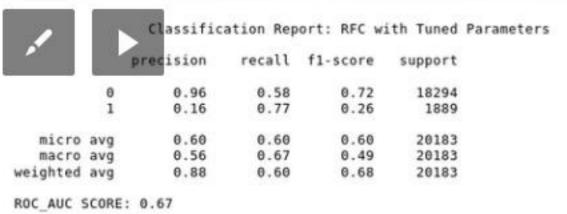
26910

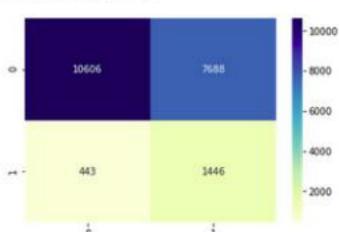
#### Classification Report: Random Forest recall f1-score precision support 0.92 0.91 0.91 24305 0.22 0.23 0.22 2605 micro avg 0.85 0.85 0.85 26910 0.57 0.57 0.57 26910 macro avq 0.85 0.85 0.85 weighted avg 26910





#### Random Forest





sig\_feats = feature\_sigs[feature\_sigs[0]>0][1]
len(sig\_feats)

245

	Feature	Significance
0	VehicleAge	0.0442
1	TopThreeAmericanName_GM	0.0428
2	Auction_MANHEIM	0.0361
3	pyear	0.0352
4	WheelTypeID	0.0352
5	TopThreeAmericanName_CHRYSLER	0.0349
6	Make_CHEVROLET	0.0334
7	V6	0.0278
8	SEDAN	0.0264
9	Size_MEDIUM	0.0241

## FEATURE SELECTION & SMOTE

new\_model = pd.get\_dummies(model\_df)
new\_model = new\_model[sig\_feats]

Keep significant features from Random

Forest Classifier.

Use SMOTE to mitigate the class imbalance in the outcome variable

**Oversampling and Undersampling** 

#### **Lemons Before**

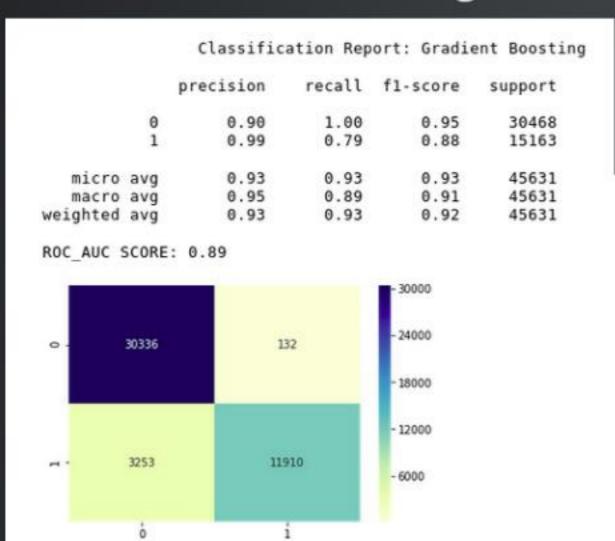
print(model df.IsBadBuy.describe()) 67275.000000 count 0.095637 mean 0.294095 std min 0.000000 25% 0.000000 50% 0.000000 75% 0.000000 1.000000 max Name: IsBadBuy, dtype: float64

#### **Lemons After**

print(resampled\_y.describe()) 103429.000000 count 0.411761 mean std 0.492155 min 0.000000 25% 0.000000 50% 0.000000 75% 1.000000 1.000000 max dtype: float64



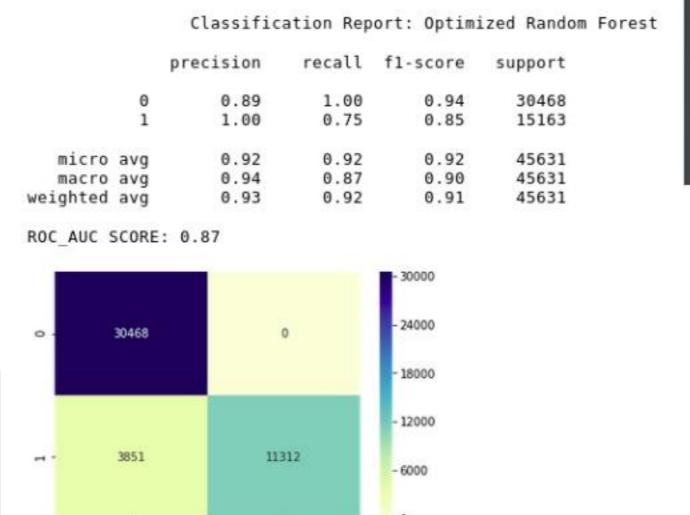
## #1. Gradient Bootsting



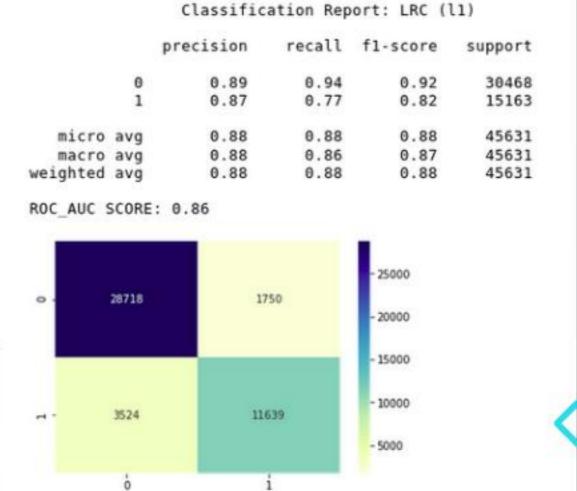
After eliminating some features and performing SMOTE on the data, the results improved dramatically.

# But how would this model do if it was given new, imbalanced information?

#### # 2. Random Forest

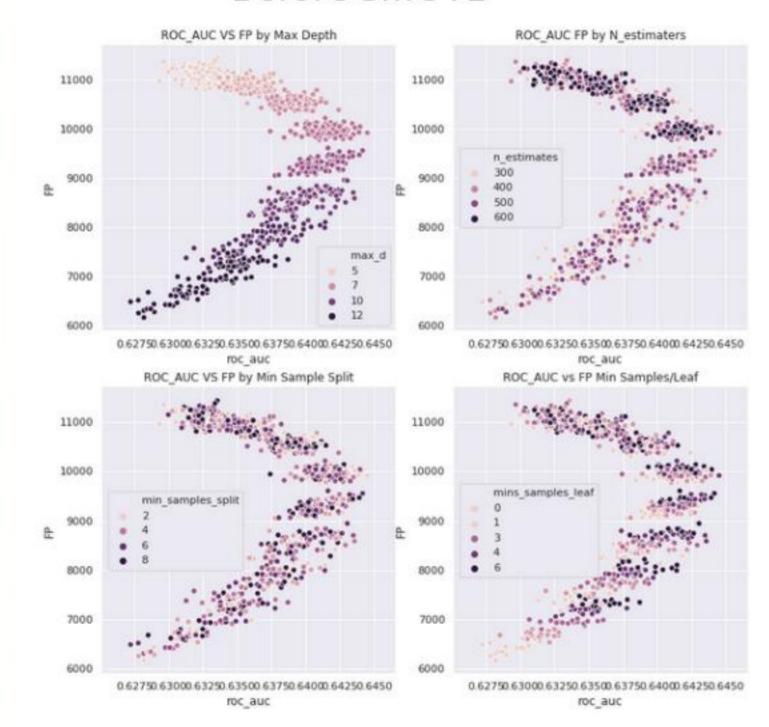


## #3. Logistic Regression (lasso)

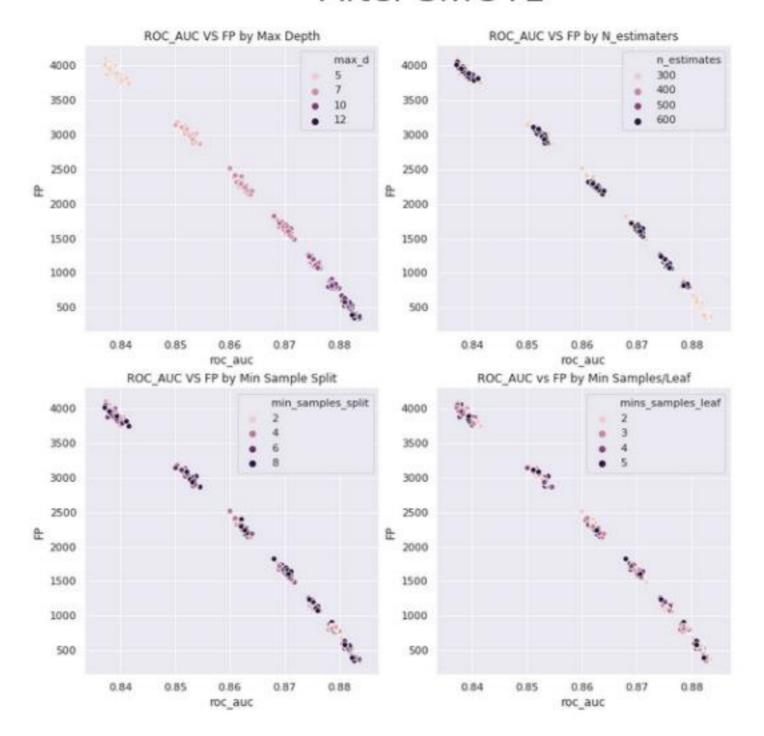


## SMOTE & HYPERPARAMETERS

## Before SMOTE



## After SMOTE





# SMOTE Data Here Train Model Here

Original Data

Training Set

SMOTE Testing Set

Top Kaggle Entries

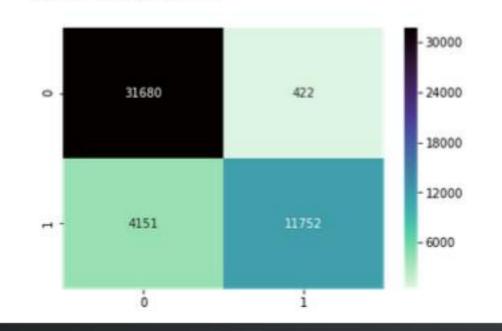
Team Members	Score €	Entries	Last
9 9	0.27038	210	7y
2.	0.26929	119	7y
19	0.26905	120	7y
	0.26884	57	7y

SMOTE Training Set

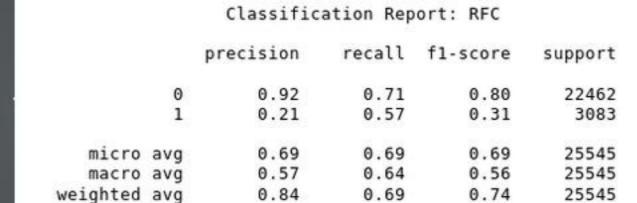
Classification Report: RFC

		precision	recall	fl-score	support
	0	0.88	0.99	0.93	32102
	1	0.97	0.74	0.84	15903
micro	avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	48005
macro	avg	0.92	0.86	0.88	48005
weighted	avg	0.91	0.90	0.90	48005

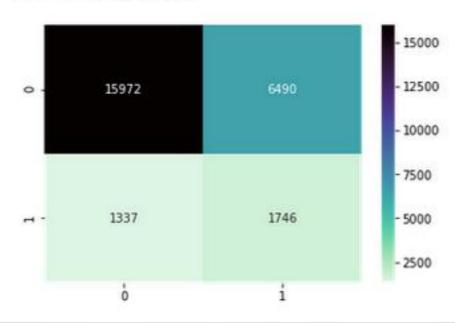
ROC AUC SCORE: 0.86 Gini Index:0.7239



Test Set



ROC AUC SCORE: 0.64 Gini Index:0.2802



## Conclusion

The model performed extremely well after performing SMOTE on the data.

However, the complexity of the model became apparent after an average score of 76% in a 5-CV cross validation. (recall-macro)

The idea of the model being too complex is further supported by the scores from the leader board on Kaggle.

## Next Steps

- 1. Continue to reduce attributes in order to reduce the complexity of the model.
- Increase Gini index by further parameter tuning.
- 3. Subscribe to carfax and use the incident reports to add information to dataset.

## Industry Application

While the gap in information symmetry may never be bridged, this model shows that it is capable of helping car dealers avoid lemons.

Through exploratory analysis it is possible to attempt to maximize the profitability of the inventory.

Sources

Lemons - Definition

The Market for Lemons

The Data

kdnuggets

Lemon laws

This publication is for non-commercial educational purposes.

Code:

https://github.com/ExtraLime/lemons

Host

https://slides.com/will-m/lemons/

Will Morgan Nov 2, 2018

willdox7@live.com