# PEACHES AND LEMONS





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

Will Morgan

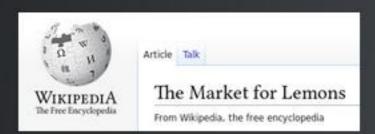
ov 2, 2018

#### **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)

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

df.dtypes	
RefId	int64
	int64
PurchDate	object
Auction	object
VehYear	int64
VehicleAge	int64
Make	object
Model	object
Trim	object
SubModel	object
Color	object
Transmission	object
WheelTypeID	float64
	object
	int64
	object
100 E. N. 1900 C. S. 100 C. N. 100 C. S.	object
	object
	float64
	object
	object
	int64
770-0-1577 UT-1-0	int64
	object
	float64
	int64
	int64
를 보았다. [ - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1 - 1.1	211604
	Auction VehYear VehicleAge Make Model Trim SubModel Color

Attributes Dropped (a prior i)

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

#### Continuous Attributes

#### Categorical/Binary Attributes



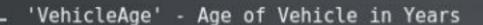
# 15k 10k 5k 5

#### Distribution of Milage

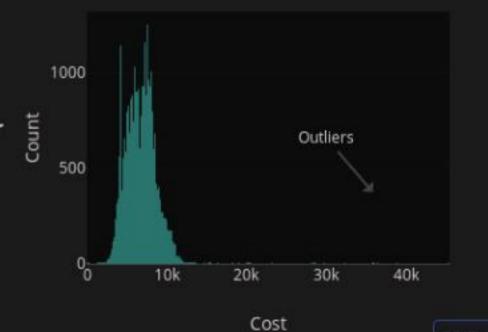
Age in Years



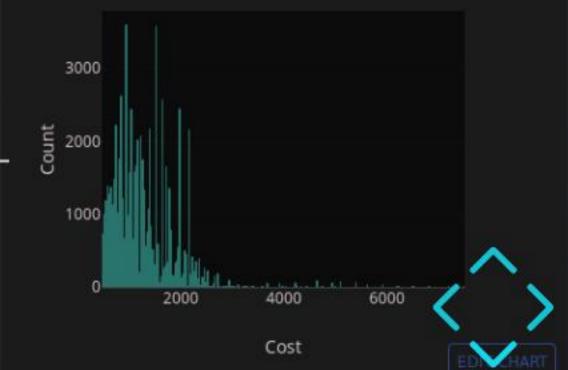
# THE DATA: Continuous Attributes



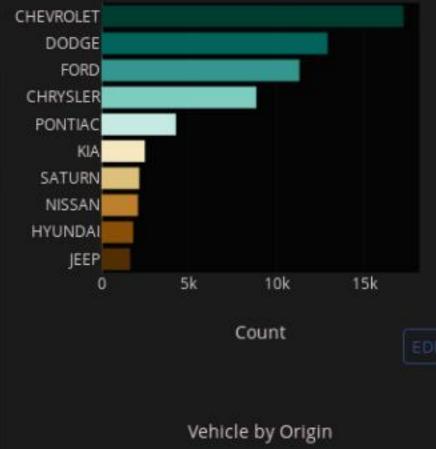
- -'VehOdo' Vehicle Odometer Reading
- 'VehBCost Price paid at the time of acquisition
- 'MMRAcquisitionAuctionAveragePrice' Acquisition Average Auction Price
- 'MMRAcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice' Acquisition Good Condition Auction Price
- 'MMRAcquisitionRetailAveragePrice' Acquisition Average Retail Price
- '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) -

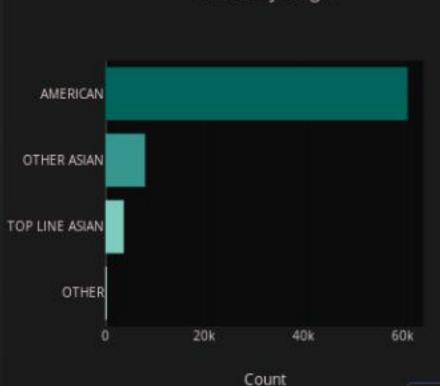


#### Distribution of Warrenty Cost

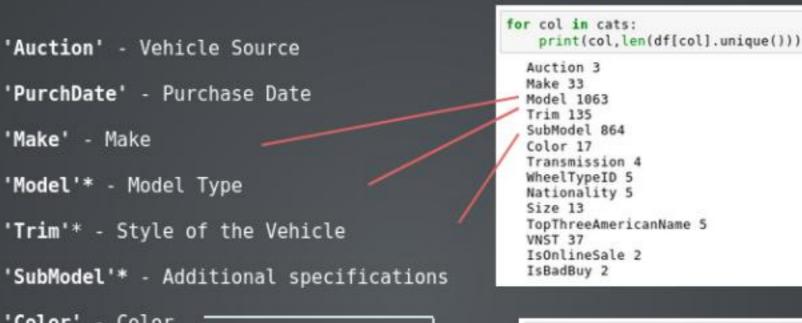








# THEDATA: Categorical Attributes



```
TX
FL.
                 10,447
                          13,596
CA
                                     1764
- AZ
                                     2450
CO
SC.
■ OK
```

**Top 10 Purchase States** 

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

TN

'TopThreeAmericanName' - GM, Ford, Chrysler, other 'VNST' - State where Vehivle was Purchased

IsOnlineSale:

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

Occurance Rate: 2.53%

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

'IsOnlineSale' - The vehicle was purchased online (binary)

'Auction' - Vehicle Source

'PurchDate' - Purchase Date

'Transmission' - Transmission Type

'Nationality' - Manufacturing Nation

'WheelTypeID' - Wheel Type

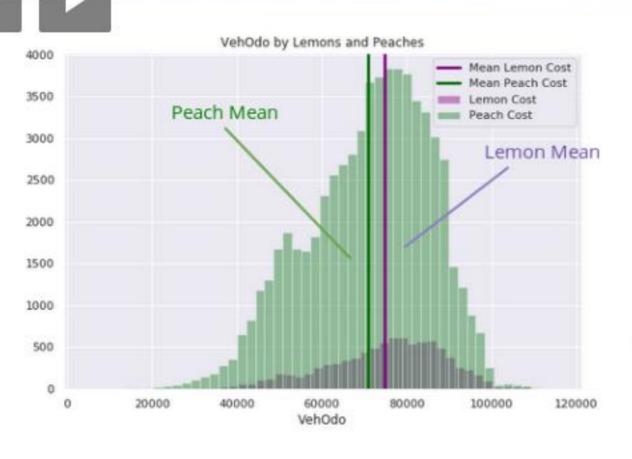
'Model'\* - Model Type

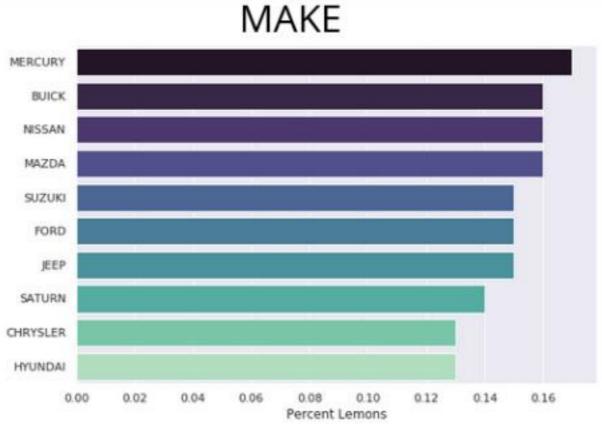
'Make' - Make

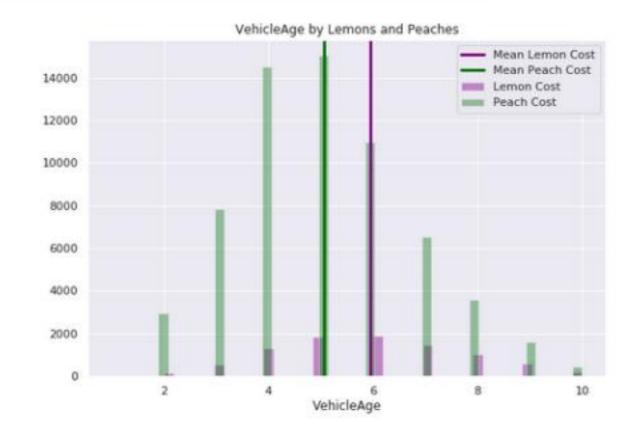
'Color' - Color

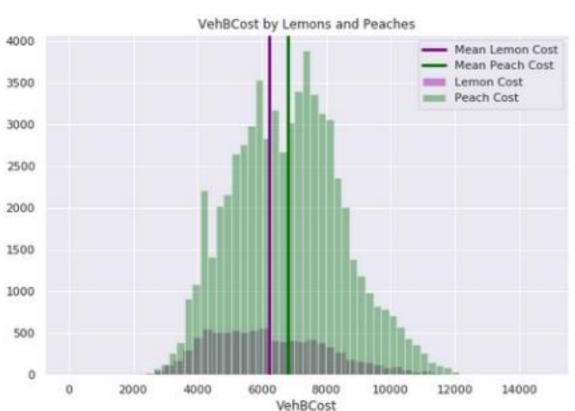
'Size' - Size

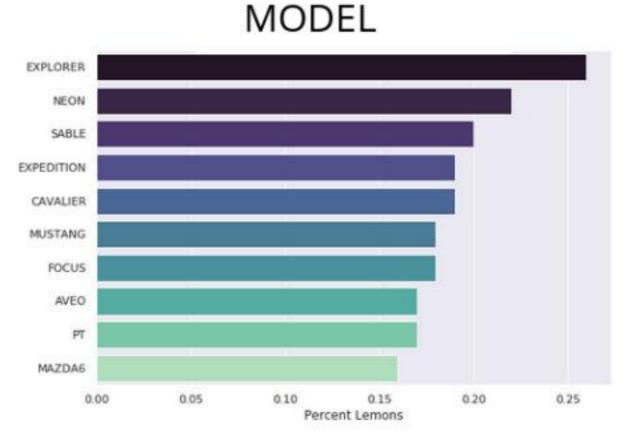
\*Category is Problematic

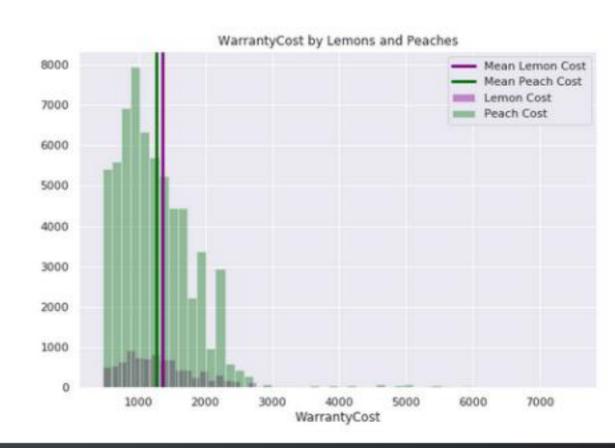












#### Market Rate Attributes

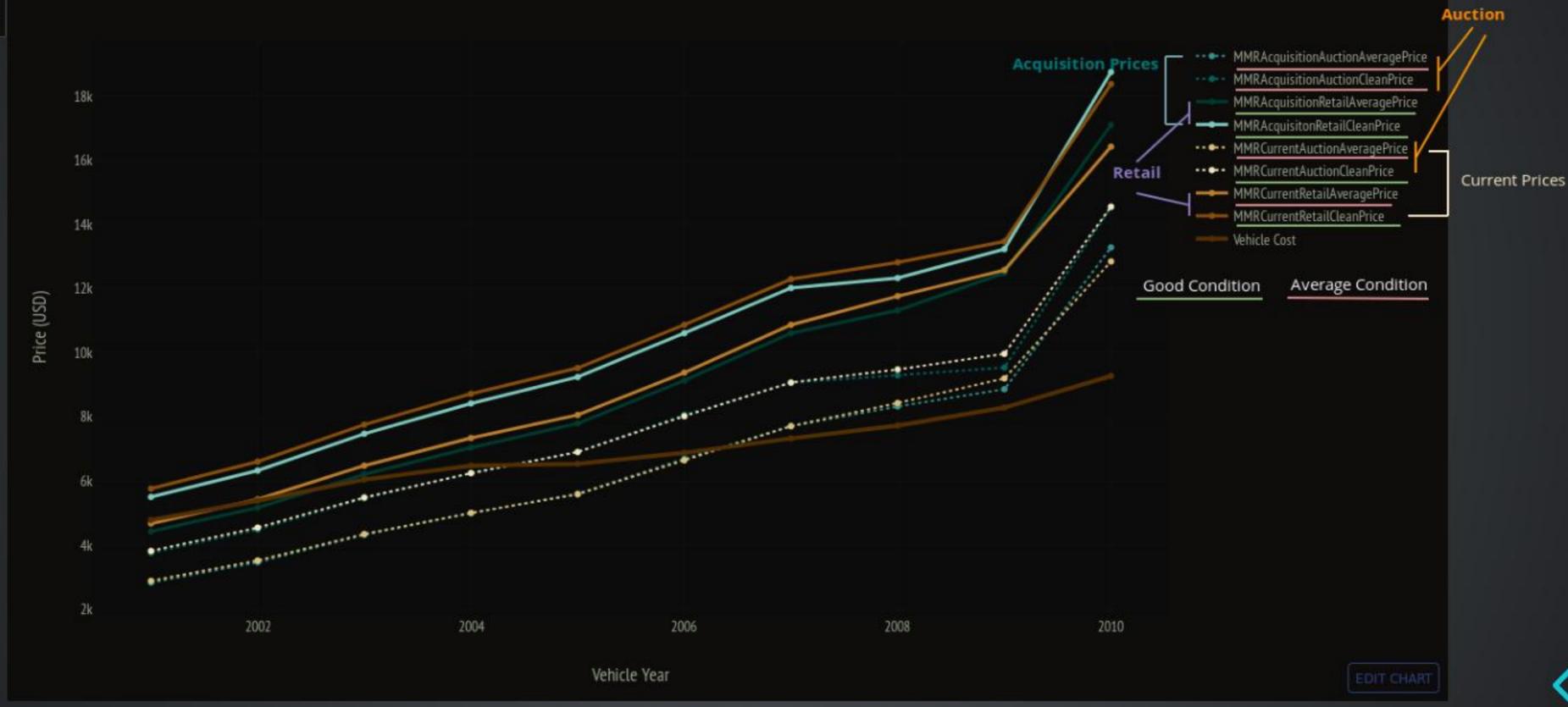
```
'CurrentRetailCleanPrice' - Current Retail Good Condition
   'AcquisitonRetailCleanPrice' - Acquisition Retail Good Condition
    'CurrentRetailAveragePrice' - Current Average Retail
'AcquisitionRetailAveragePrice' - Acquisition Average Retail
     'CurrentAuctionCleanPrice' - Current Good Condition Auction
 'AcquisitionAuctionCleanPrice' - Acquisition Good Condition Auction
   'CurrentAuctionAveragePrice' - Current Average Auction
```





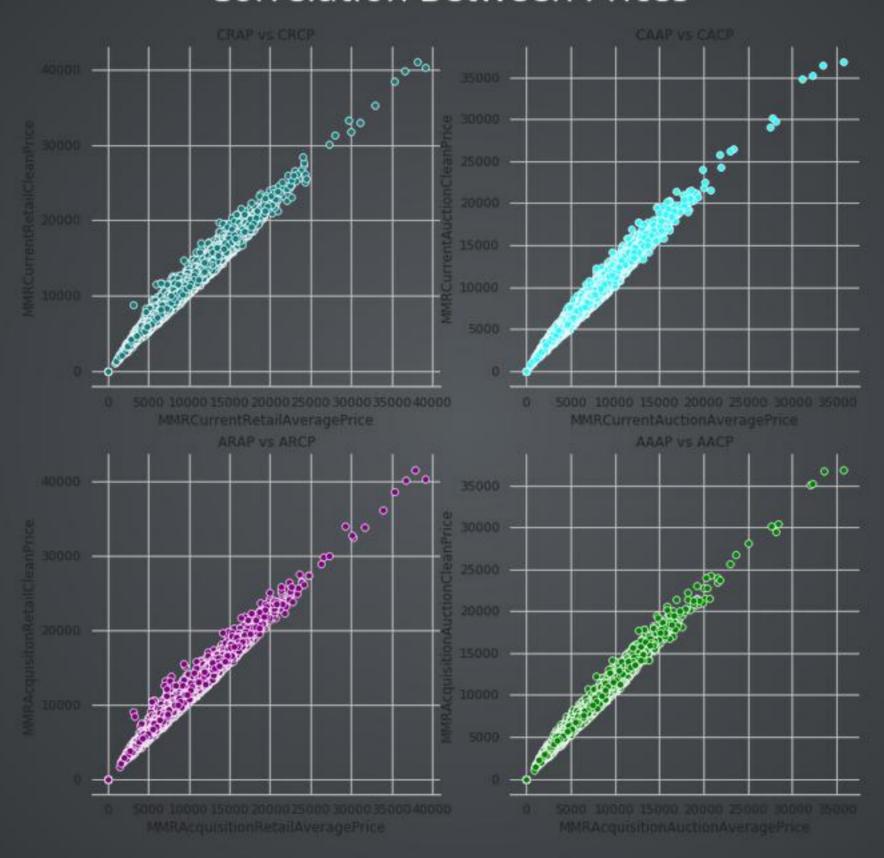
Average Vehicle Valuation by Year and Category

Resume editing





#### Correlation Between Prices







#### **Expected Margin**

#### Market Rate Attributes

CorrectRetailCleanPrice Currect Retail Good Condition AcquisitunActailCleanPrice Acquisition Good Condition

CurrentRetailAveragePrice - Current Average Retail

CurrentAuctionCleanFrice - Current Good Condition Auction

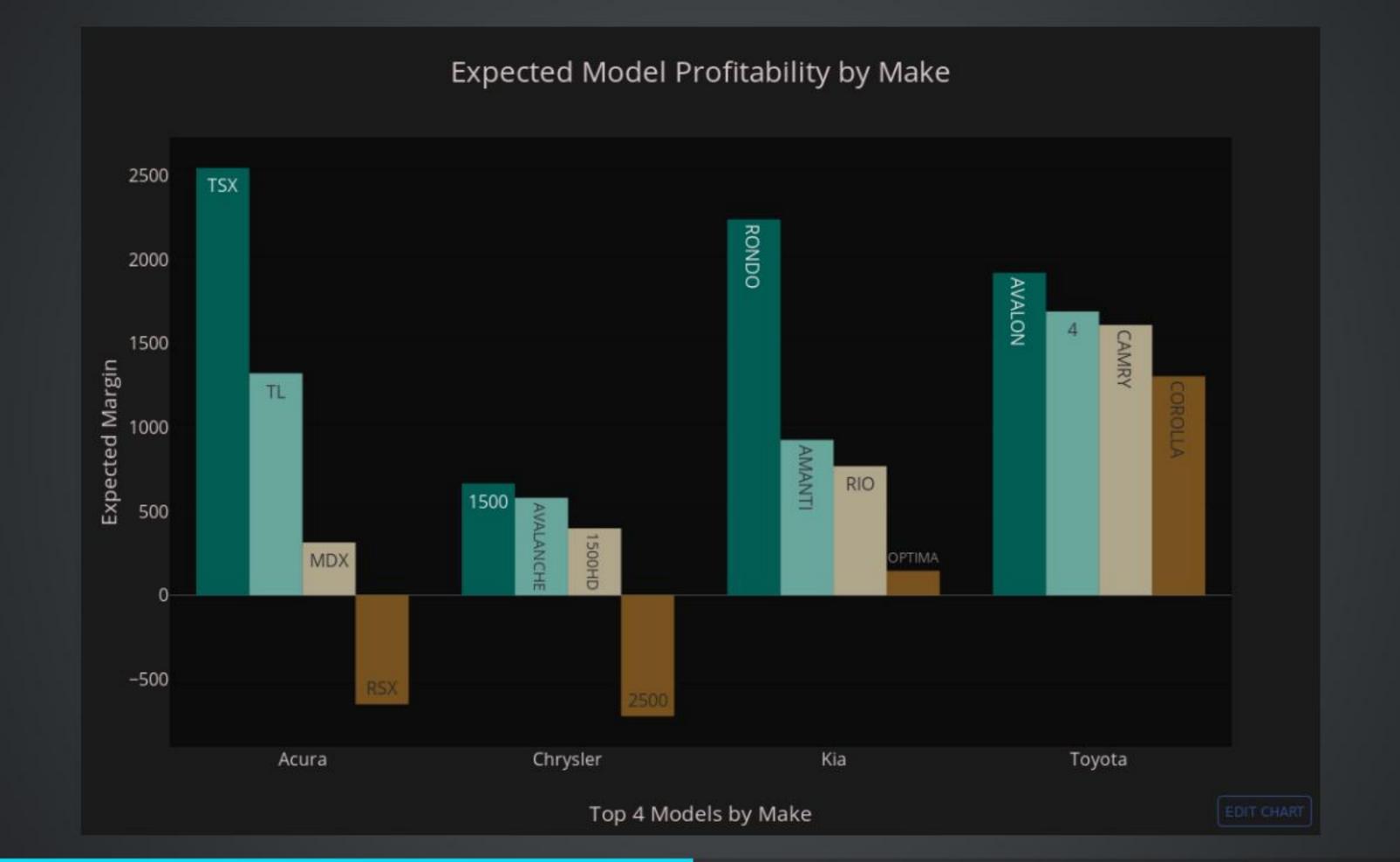
CurrentAuctionAveragePrice - Current Average Auction Price

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

'Average Price'

Average Price - Vehicle Cost = Expected Profit Margin







# FEATURE ENGINEERING

Dealing with the categorical features

pyear pmonth pday

2009

2009

2009

2009

2009

12

12

12

12

12

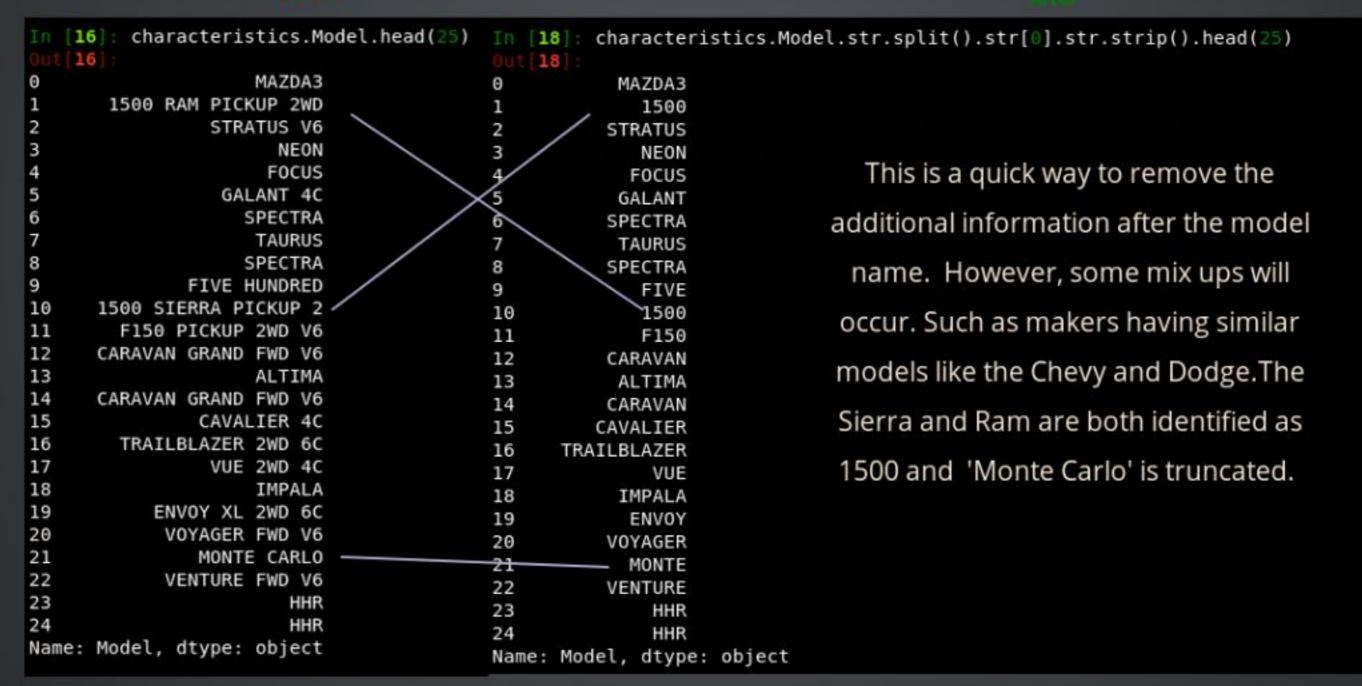
```
In [13]: characteristics = df[['Model','SubModel','Trim']]
                                         characteristics.head(10)
                                   14
                                                                                                  for col in cats:
                                                    Model
                                                                         SubModel Trim
df.PurchDate = pd.to datetime(df.PurchDate)
                                                                                                     print(col,len(df[col].unique()))
                                                   MAZDA3
                                                                      4D SEDAN I
                                                                                                    Auction 3
                                                                                                    Make 33
                                   1500 RAM PICKUP 2WD
                                                             QUAD CAB 4.7L SLT
                                                                                       ST
                                                                                                    Model 1063
                                                                                                    Trim 135
                                              STRATUS V6
                                                              4D SEDAN SXT FFV
                                                                                      SXT
                                                                                                    SubModel 864
                                                                                                    Color 17
                                                     NEON
                                                                         4D SEDAN
                                                                                      SXT
                                                                                                    Transmission 4
                                                                                                    WheelTypeID 5
                                                    FOCUS
                                                                    2D COUPE ZX3
                                                                                      ZX3
                                                                                                    Nationality 5
                                                                                                    Size 13
                                               GALANT 4C
                                                                     4D SEDAN ES
                                                                                       ES
                                                                                                    TopThreeAmericanName 5
                                                  SPECTRA
                                                                     4D SEDAN EX
                                                                                                    VNST 37
                                                                                       EX
                                                                                                    IsOnlineSale 2
                                                   TAURUS
                                                                     4D SEDAN SE
                                                                                       SE
                                                                                                    IsBadBuy 2
                                                  SPECTRA
                                                                     4D SEDAN EX
                                                                                       EX
                                                                    4D SEDAN SEL
                                           FIVE HUNDRED
                                                                                     SEL
```



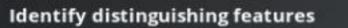
# FEATURE ENGINEERING

Dealing with the categorical features 'Model'

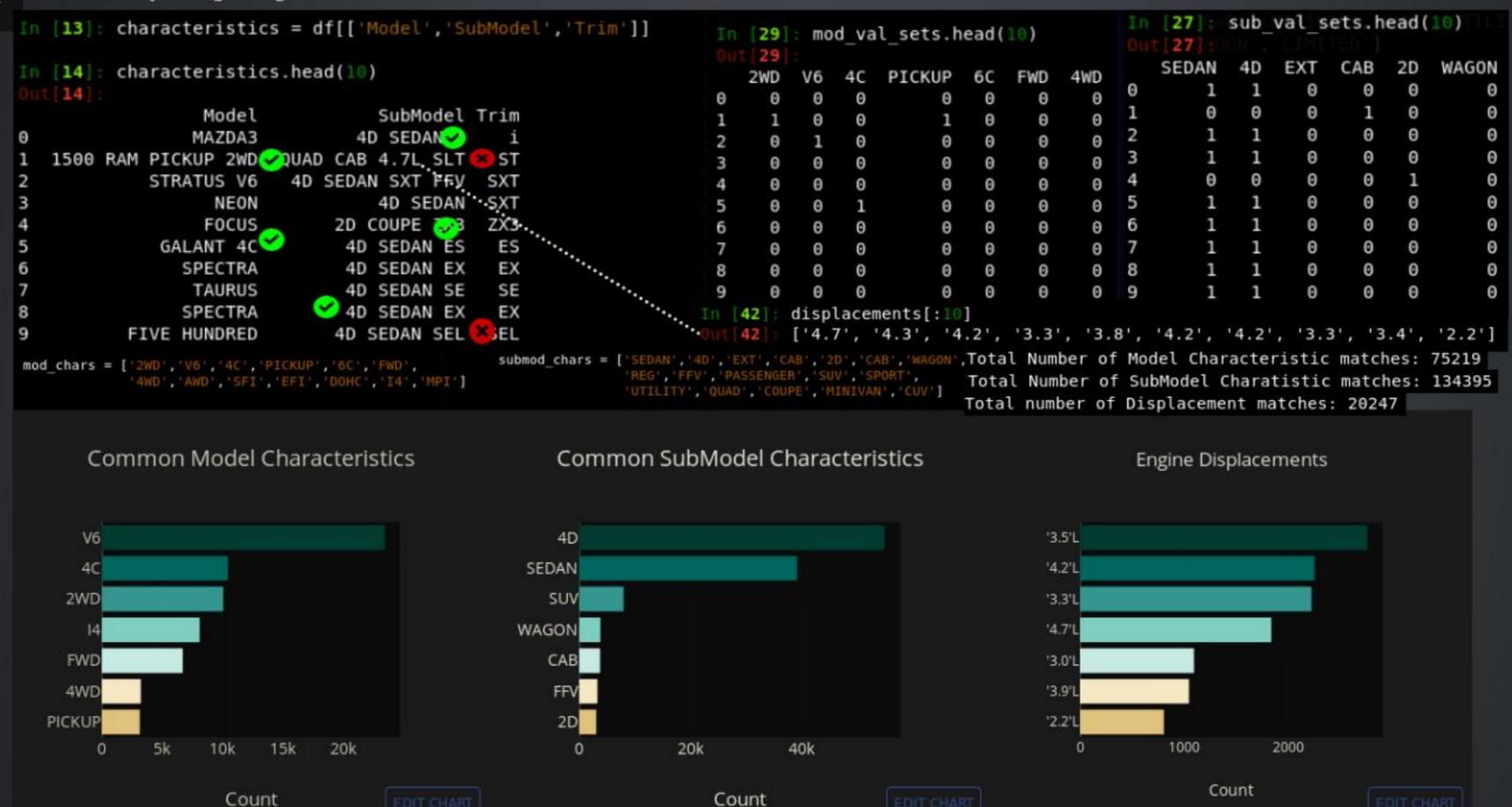
#### lefoni







#### 'Model' and 'SubModel'





# FEATURE ENGINEERING

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

```
OS 20k
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',
```

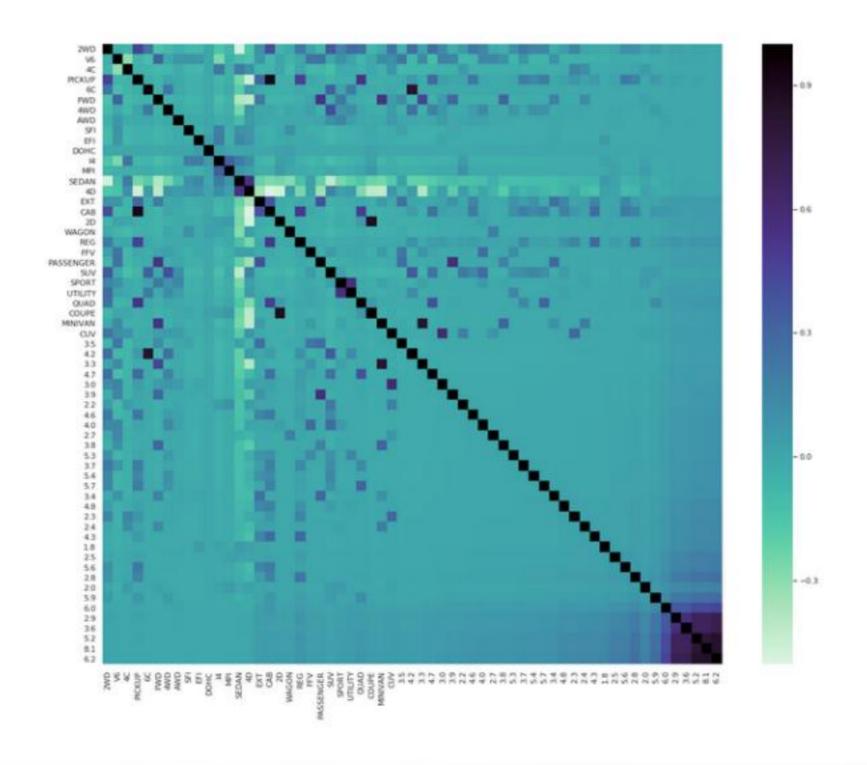
'crcp arcp']

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

```
price pvals.sort values(by='pvalues')
   70
                                            pvalues
                               price
                                       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
                                       1.293532e-16
                 crcp cacp arcp aacp
                                       1.706332e-16
                 crcp caap arcp aaap
44
                                       1.706332e-16
                 crcp aacp arcp cacp
41
                 crap cacp arap aacp
                                       2.844209e-16
```

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



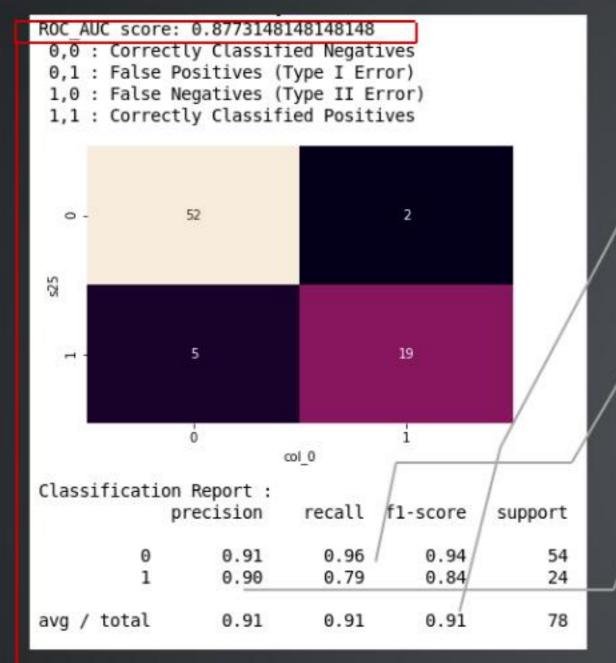


	level_0	level_1	0
199	PICKUP	CAB	0.911014
979	CAB	PICKUP	0.911014
1063	2D	COUPE	0.874932
1603	COUPE	2D	0.874932
3598	8.1	6.2	0.843254
3718	6.2	8.1	0.843254
3659	5.2	6.2	0.843254
3719	6.2	5.2	0.843254
274	6C	4.2	0.828402
1834	4.2	6C	0.828402
1678	MINIVAN	3.3	0.826839
1918	3.3	MINIVAN	0.826839
3597	8.1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



$$A = .87 - .5 = .37$$

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

What percent of your predictions were correct?

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

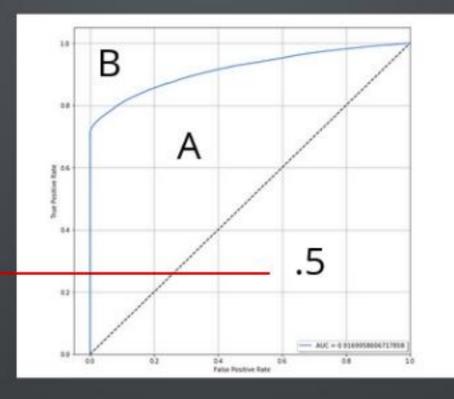
What percent of the positive cases did you catch?

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 721 23566 16000 12000 - 8000 124 2499 + 4000

precision

micro avg

macro avg

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.51

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.55

weighted avg

0.91

0.17

0.88

0.54

0.83

# KNN Classifier PRELIMINARY MODEL

SVC

```
mod_val_sets.shape,sub_val_sets.shape,disp_keys.shape,cont_df.shape
       ((67275, 13), (67275, 16), (67275, 31), (67275, 3))
         model df = pd.concat([df,add feats],axis=1)
         model df.drop(['SubModel'],1,inplace=True)
   45
         model df.Model = model df.Model.str.split().str[0].str.strip()
         model df = pd.get dummies(model df)
         model df.shape ____
In [47]
         (67275, 534)
```

#### 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

0.83

6713

6000

4500

3000

1500

8000

ROC AUC SCORE: 0.52

weighted avg

#### Logistic Regression (lasso)

Classification	Report:	LRC	(11)

Classification Report: KNN k=4

0.97

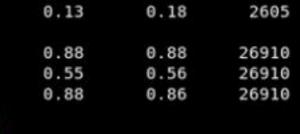
0.06

0.88

0.51

0.88

		precision	recall	fl-score	support
	Θ	0.91	0.96	0.94	24305
	1	0.27	0.13	0.18	2605
micro	avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	26910
macro	avg	0.59	0.55	0.56	26910
weighted	avg	0.85	0.88	0.86	26910



recall f1-score support

0.94

0.09

0.88

0.51

0.85

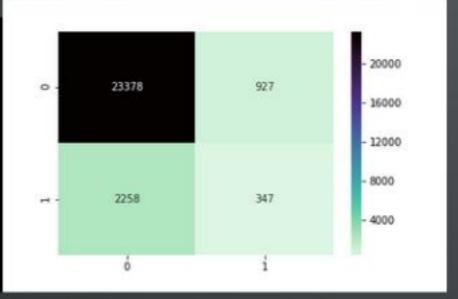
24305

2605

26910

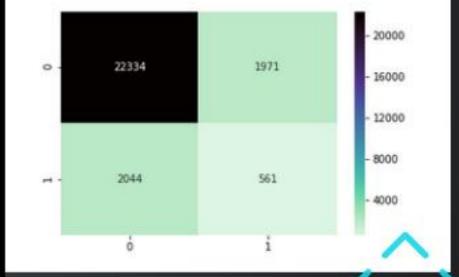
26910

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 avq 0.85 0.85 0.85 26910 0.57 0.57 0.57 26910 macro avq 0.85 0.85 weighted avg 0.85 26910 ROC\_AUC SCORE: 0.57

**Random Forest** 



0.85

0.84

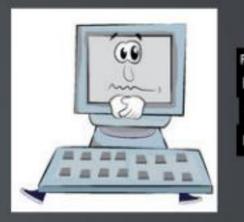


## Yikes!

Why are the scores so low?

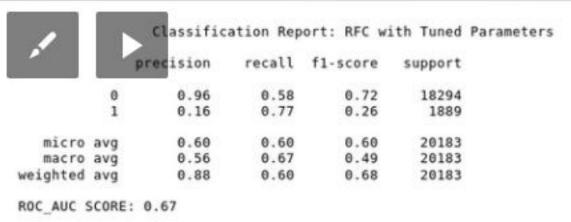
Whats going on?

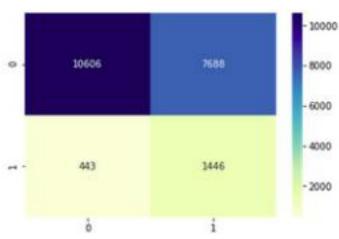
What can we do about this?



ROC\_AUC SCORE: 0.52
ROC\_AUC SCORE: 0.57
ROC\_AUC SCORE: 0.55
ROC\_AUC SCORE: 0.51







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**

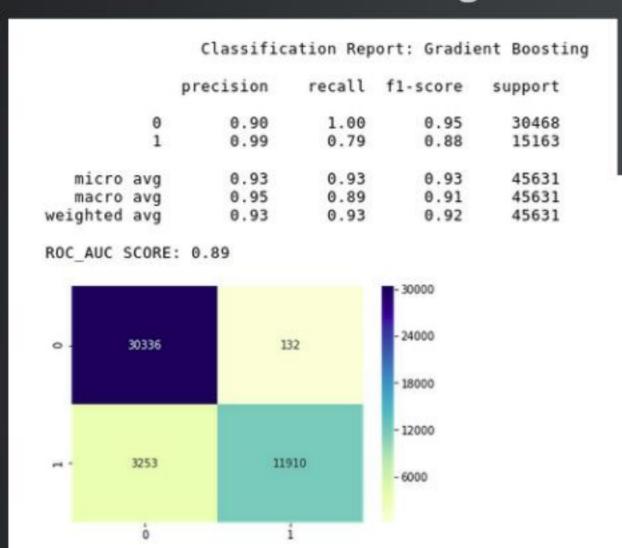
print(model df.IsBadBuy.describe()) 67275.000000 count mean 0.095637 std 0.294095 min 0.000000 25% 0.000000 50% 0.000000 75% 0.000000 1.000000 Name: IsBadBuy, dtype: float64

#### **Lemons After**

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



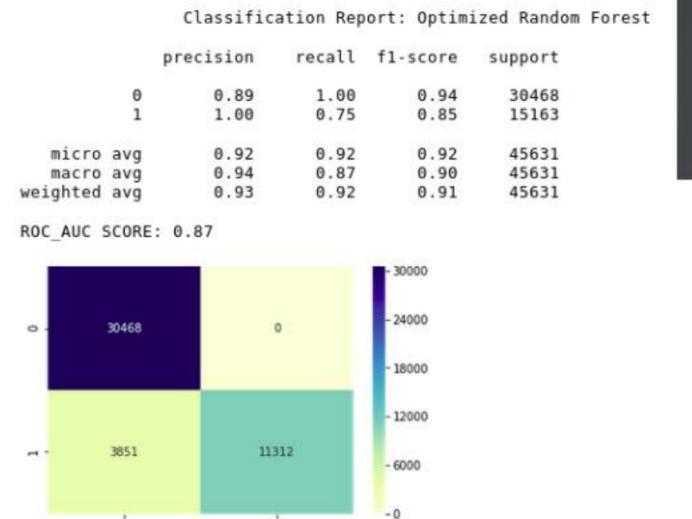
#### #1. Gradient Bootsting



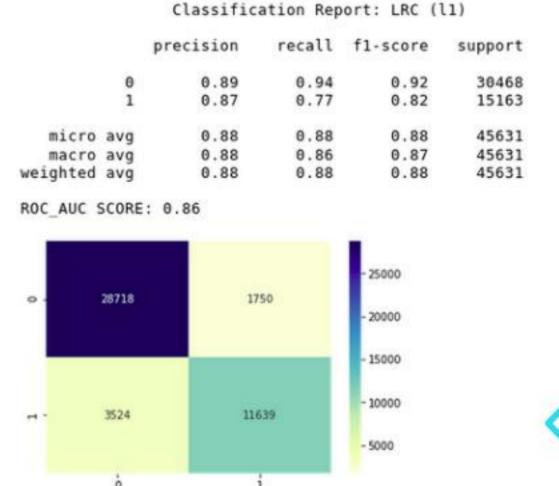
After eliminating some features and performing SMOTE on the data, the results improved dramatically.

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

#### # 2. Random Forest



#### #3. Logistic Regression (lasso)



SMOTE Data Here
Original Data

Train Model Here
Training Set

Top Kaggle Entries

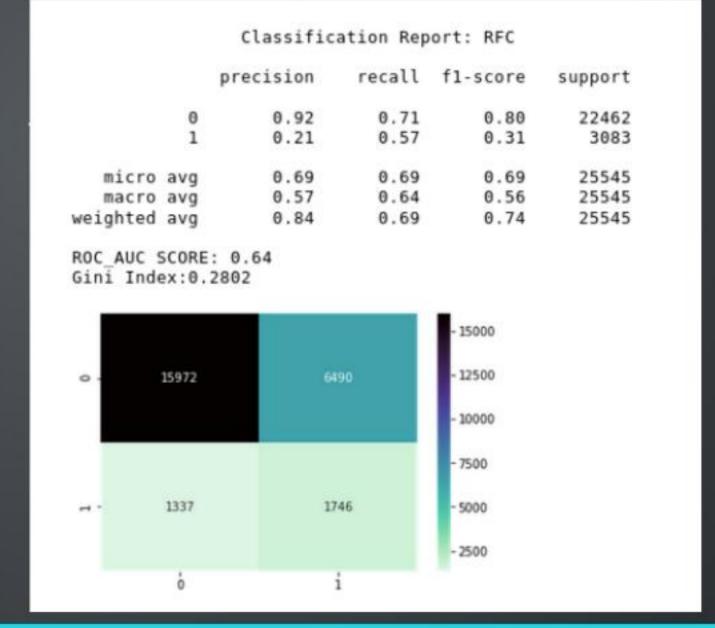
Team Members	Score @	Entries	Last
9 0	0.27038	210	7y
20	0.26929	119	7y
4 9	0.26905	120	7y
	0.26884	57	7y

SMOTE Training Set

SMOTE Testing Set

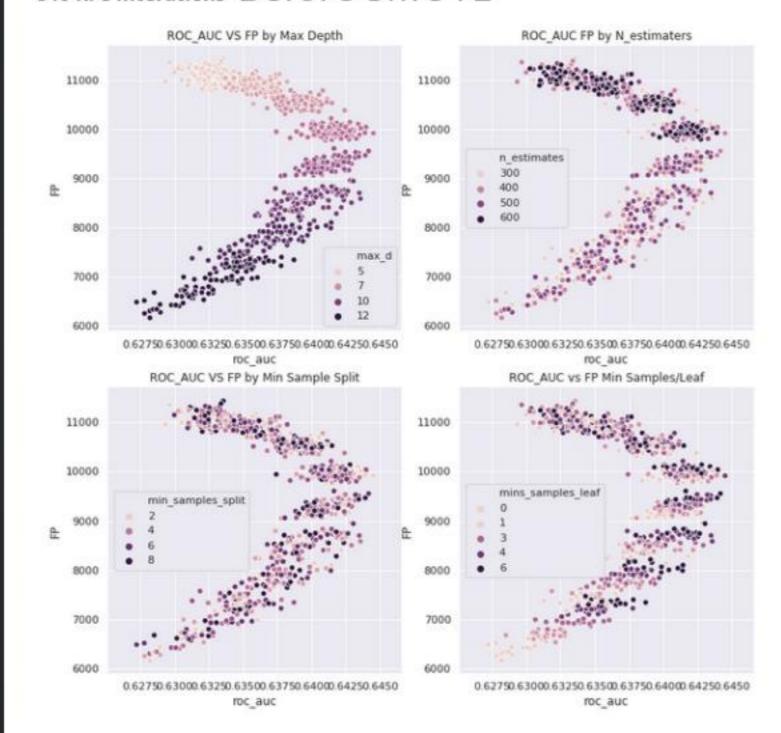
Test Set

#### Classification Report: RFC precision recall f1-score support 0.88 0.99 0.93 32102 0.97 0.74 0.84 15903 0.90 48005 micro avq 0.90 0.90 0.88 48005 macro avg 0.92 0.86 0.91 0.90 48005 weighted avg 0.90 ROC AUC SCORE: 0.86 Gini Index:0.7239 - 30000 - 24000 31680 422 18000 - 12000 4151 - 6000

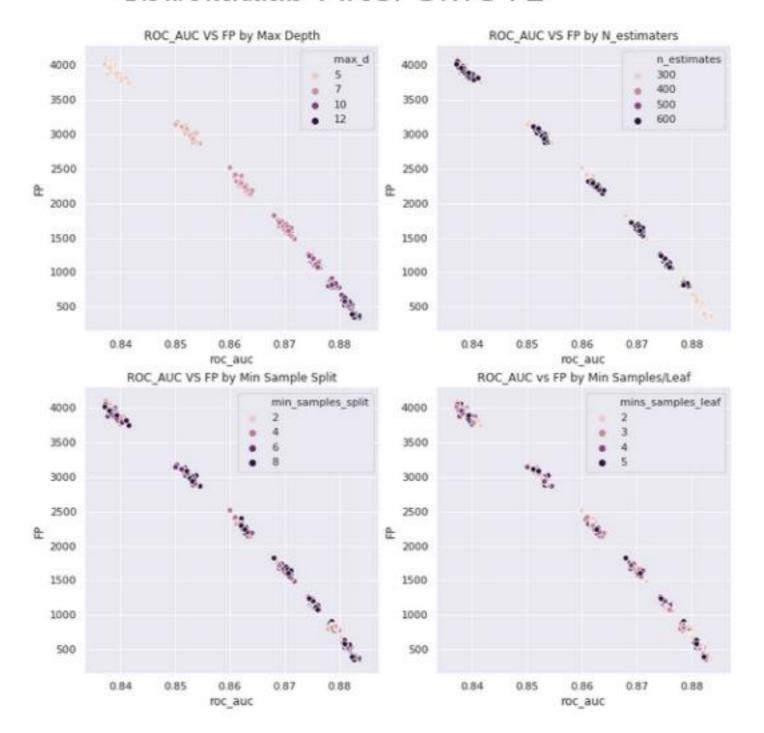


# SMOTE & HYPERPARAMETERS

#### 840 RFC interations Before SMOTE



### ~245 RFC iterations After SMOTE





#### 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.

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

But at what cost?

## **Next Steps**

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

## **Industry Application**

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

Using a chosen inventory goal, the model could used to avoid a fair amount of lemons and minimizing the opportunity cost.

#### 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