

Lesson 6 of 8

## **Feature Selection**

# What are features, anyway?

In machine learning, features represent the transformation of raw input data to data that is formatted for compatibility with algorithms.



Lesson 6 of 8

## **Feature Selection**

# What are features, anyway?

In machine learning, features represent the transformation of raw input data to data that is formatted for compatibility with algorithms.

### Making a Hypothesis

Part of cleaning up the data involves hypothesizing about the features **you think you'll need** and preparing them to be put through your model.

...If you are a baby crawling on the living room floor, you may want to think about where you want to go.

## Assessing the Data

Assessing data means you need to decide what features you think would work well with your model, and it also means you need to determine if you should remove any values that may be missing so the data isn't skewed or biased.

...If you are a baby crawling on the living room floor, you may want to know if there are things in your path. You likely don't need to recall what you had for lunch so you can put that data point to the side.

#### **Selecting Features**

data isn't skewed or biased.

...If you are a baby crawling on the living room floor, you may want to know if there are things in your path. You likely don't need to recall what you had for lunch so you can put that data point to the side.

### **Selecting Features**

...You are a baby crawling on the living room floor and you decide to head to your playpen. You'll need your blanket and your bottle, so you grab those.

Your bottle reminds you that you are hungry, so knowing that you just had mushy peas for lunch might actually be a critical data point that influences what you do next.



Lesson 7 of 8

# Feature Engineering

Feature engineering is the process of creating new features from existing ones. Like feature selection, the process of feature engineering is highly iterative.

...With time and practice babies get quite good at merging similar features into fewer columns in their minds.

1 First, they analyze what stands out and what's easy to find.

Then, they create new features. There are a lot of ways to do this, and one is by sorting:

"Thing on my plate = I can eat", "thing with hard edges = I could get hurt", "furry thing in the house = I can touch".

The information trail you follow depends on what you're paying attention to, and what you pay attention to biases the patterns you construct.

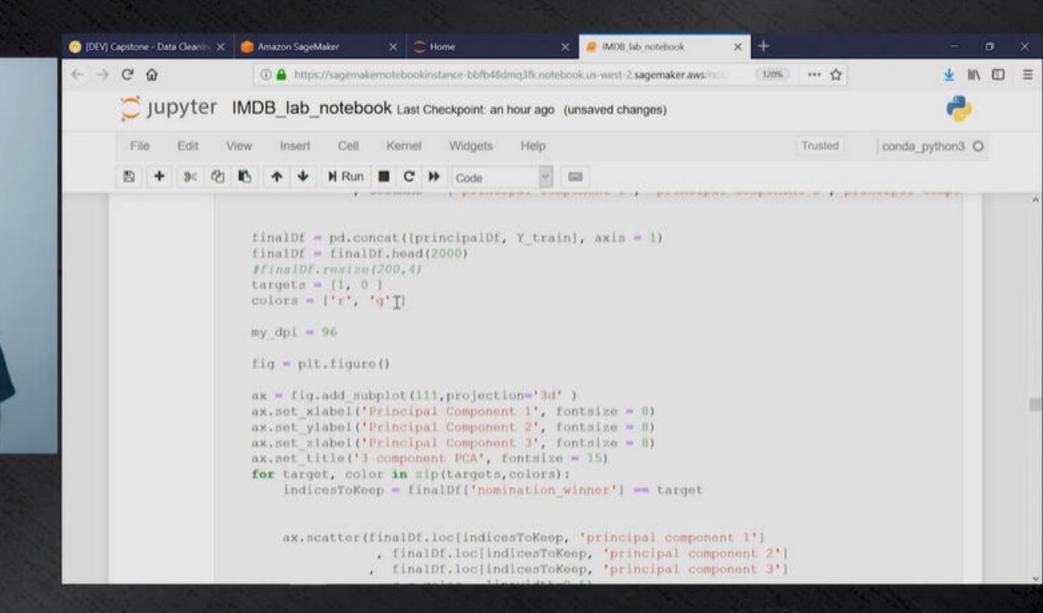
However, if all you're thinking about is petting furry animals and you try to pet the stray cat you see on the street, you may execute a plan that ruins your afternoon.

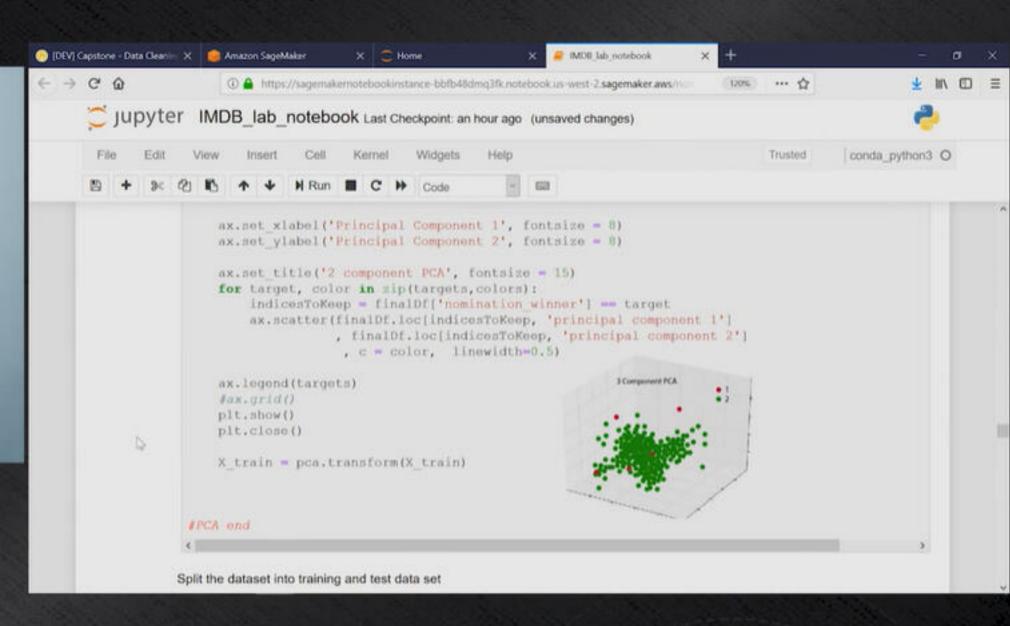
So while you engineer the features that matter to your husiness problem, remember to keep it simple.

The information trail you follow depends on what you're paying attention to, and what you pay attention to biases the patterns you construct.

However, if all you're thinking about is petting furry animals and you try to pet the stray cat you see on the street, you may execute a plan that ruins your afternoon.

So while you engineer the features that matter to your business problem, remember to keep it simple and be cognizant of your <u>attentional demands</u>.





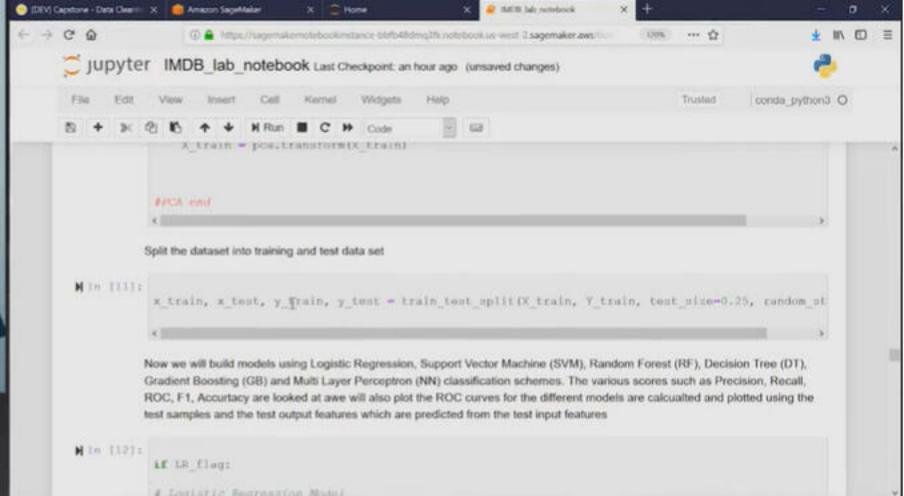


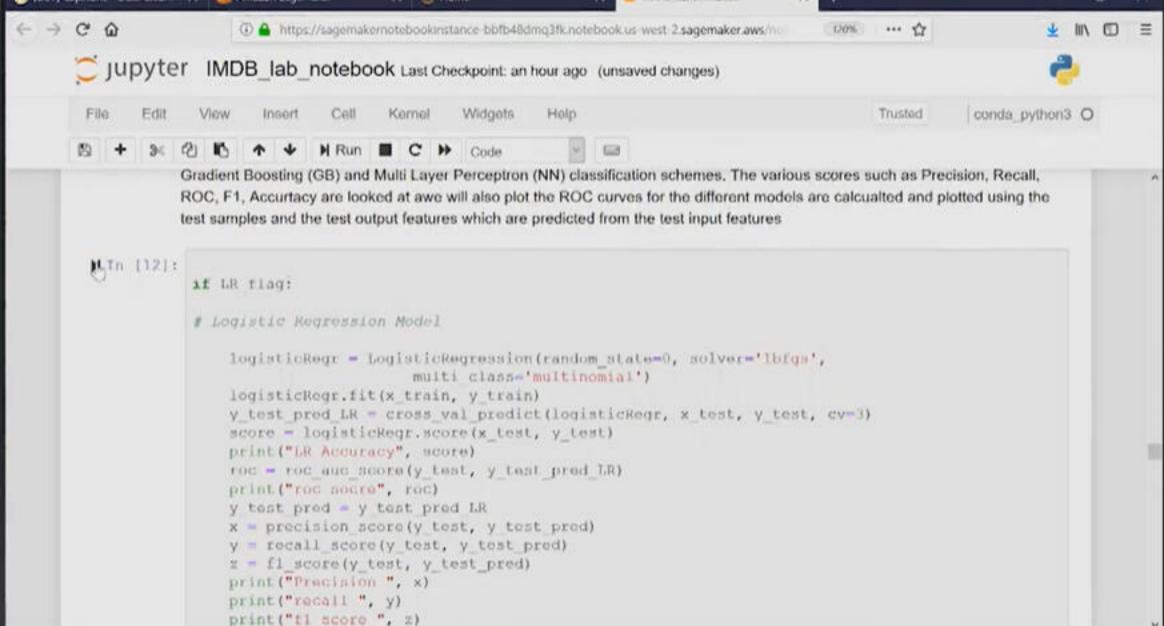
Lesson 8 of 8

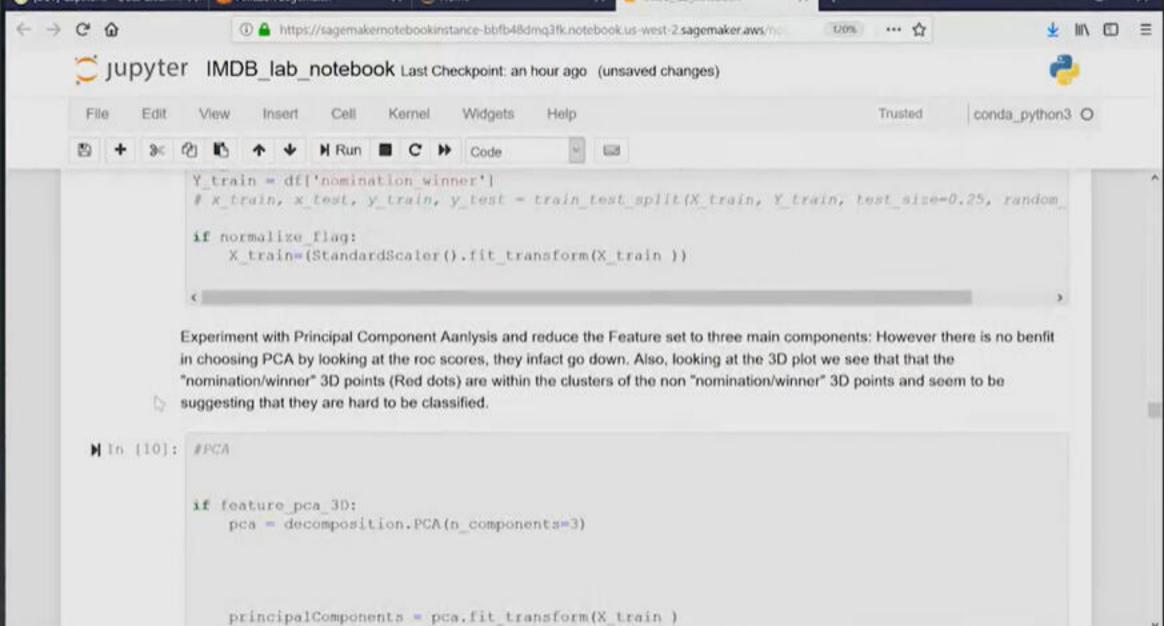
# Algorithm Comparison and Selection

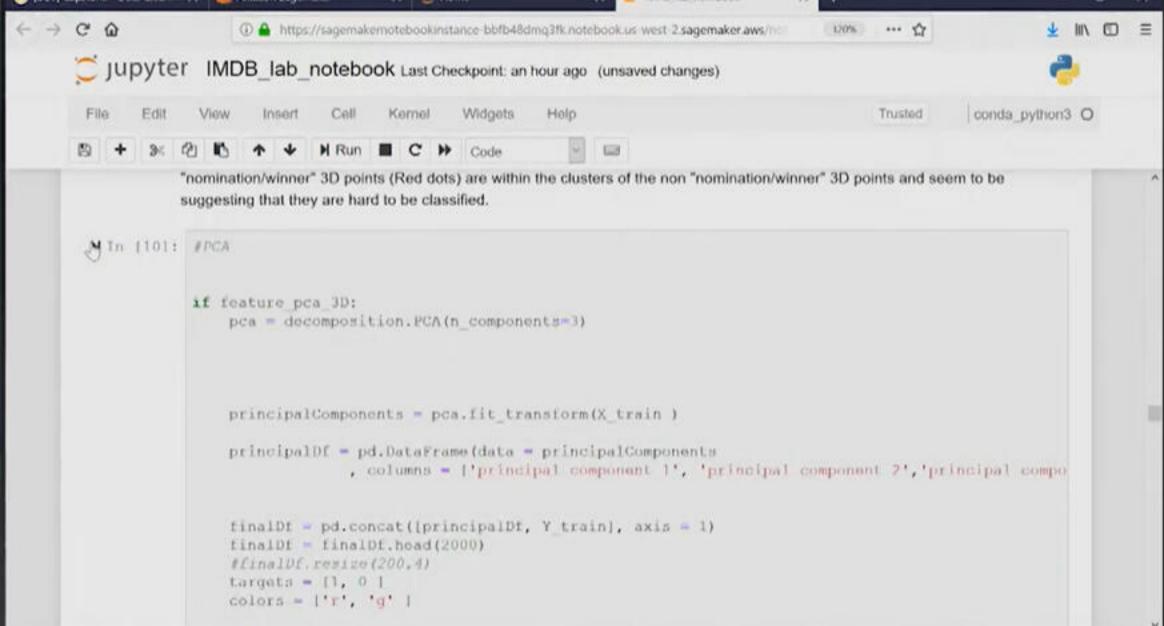
As babies get older and their diversity of attention grows, they are able to optimize. They can determine: things I actually want to eat, things that are actually dangerous, animals I actually want to pet. Knowing what's best only comes with the experience of trying things over and over, comparing them, and then making a decision.

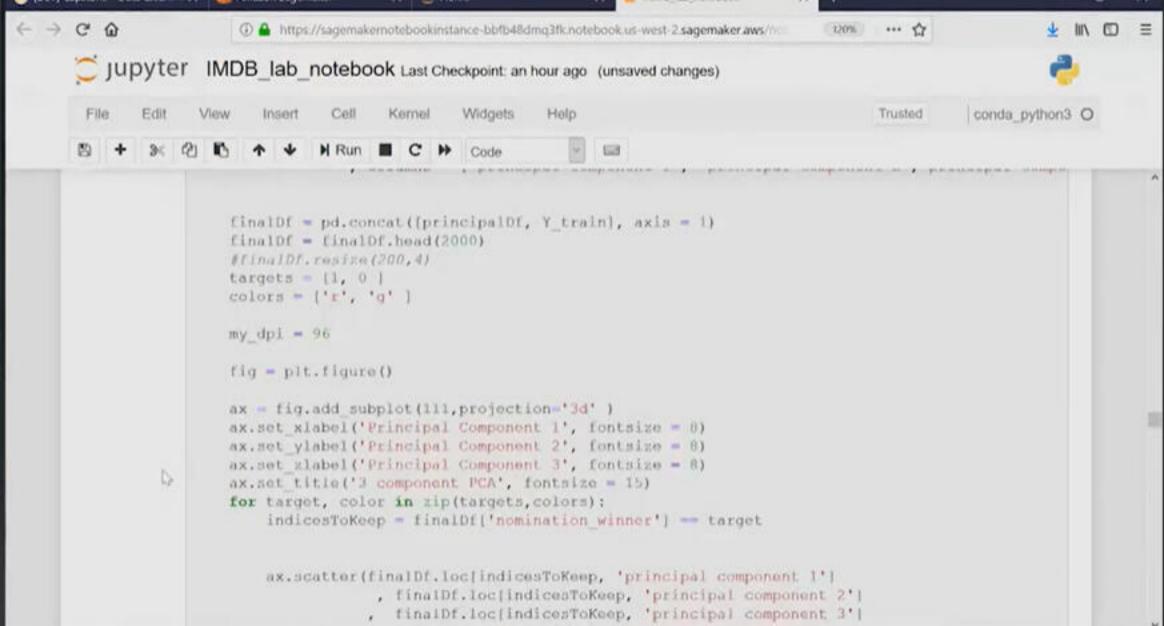
So now that you've cleaned your data, selected your features, and engineered some features, it's time to run a couple of models and then pick the best one for your business challenge.

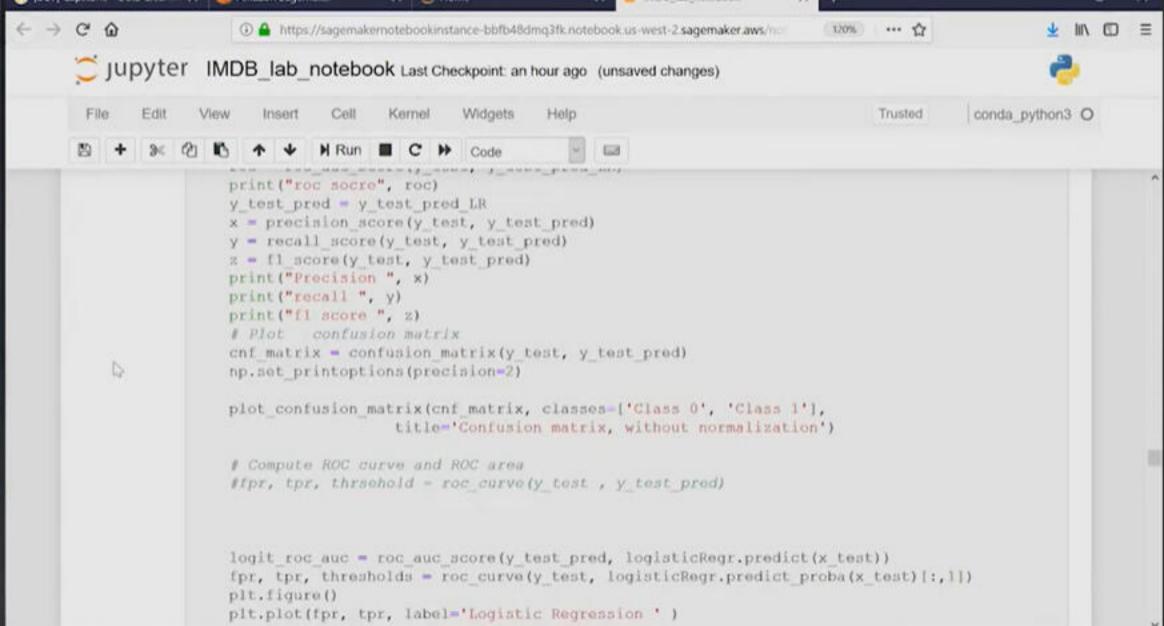


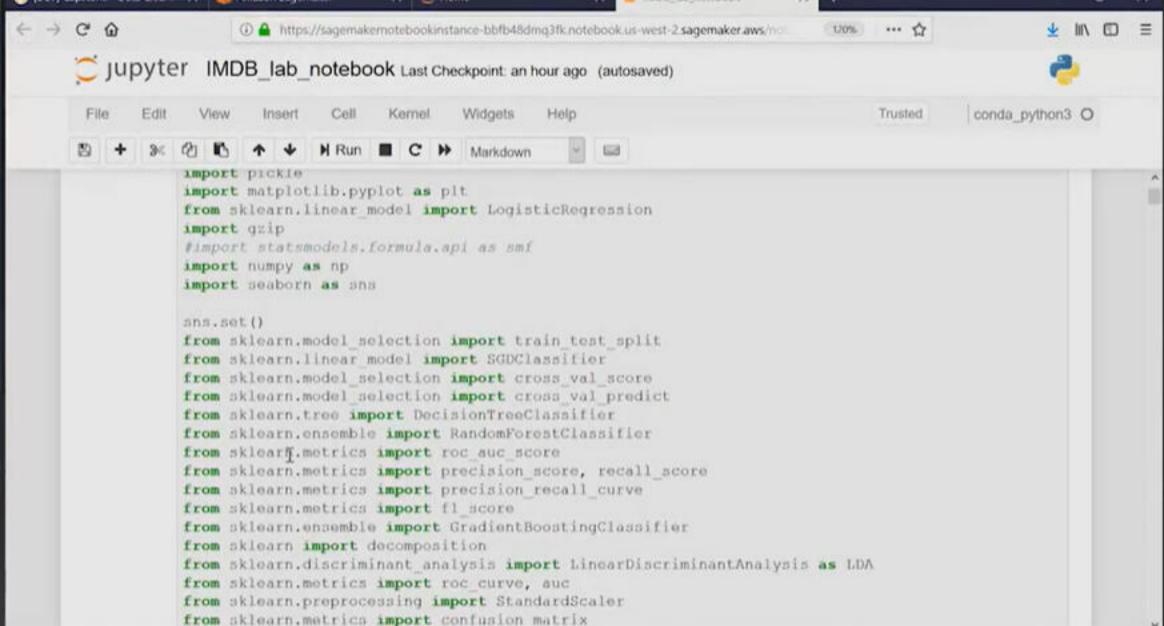


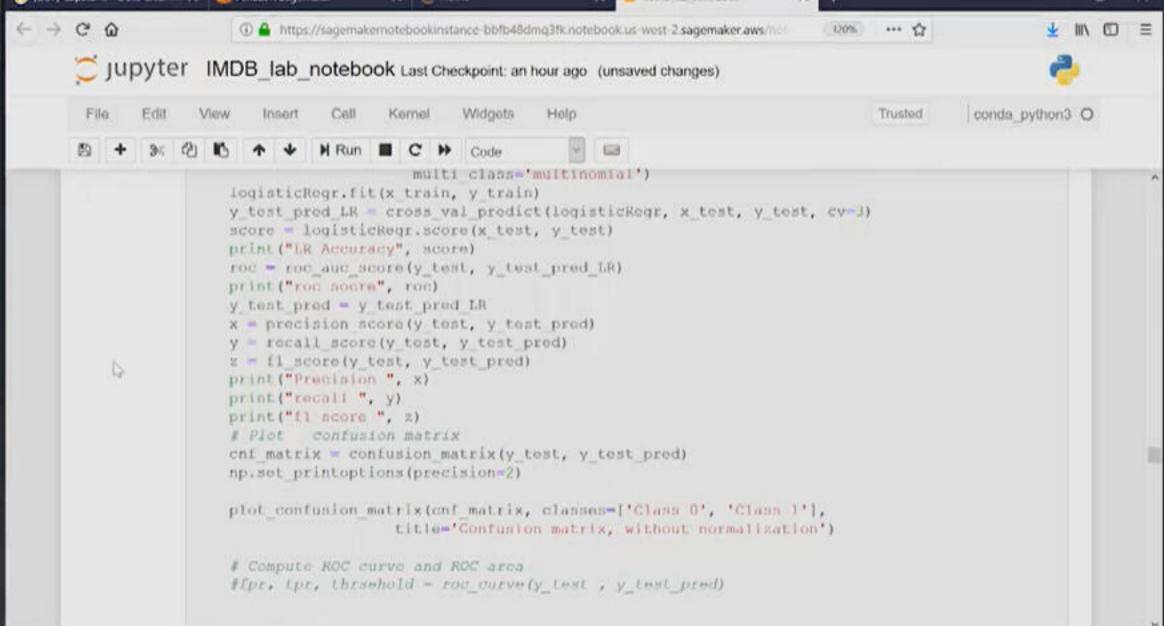


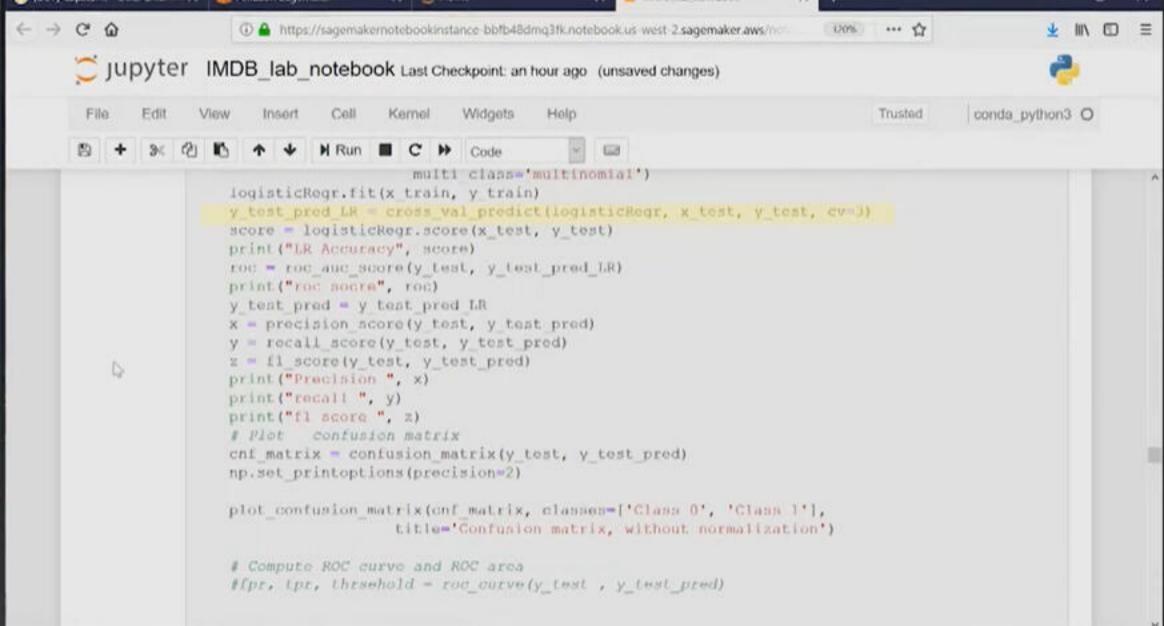


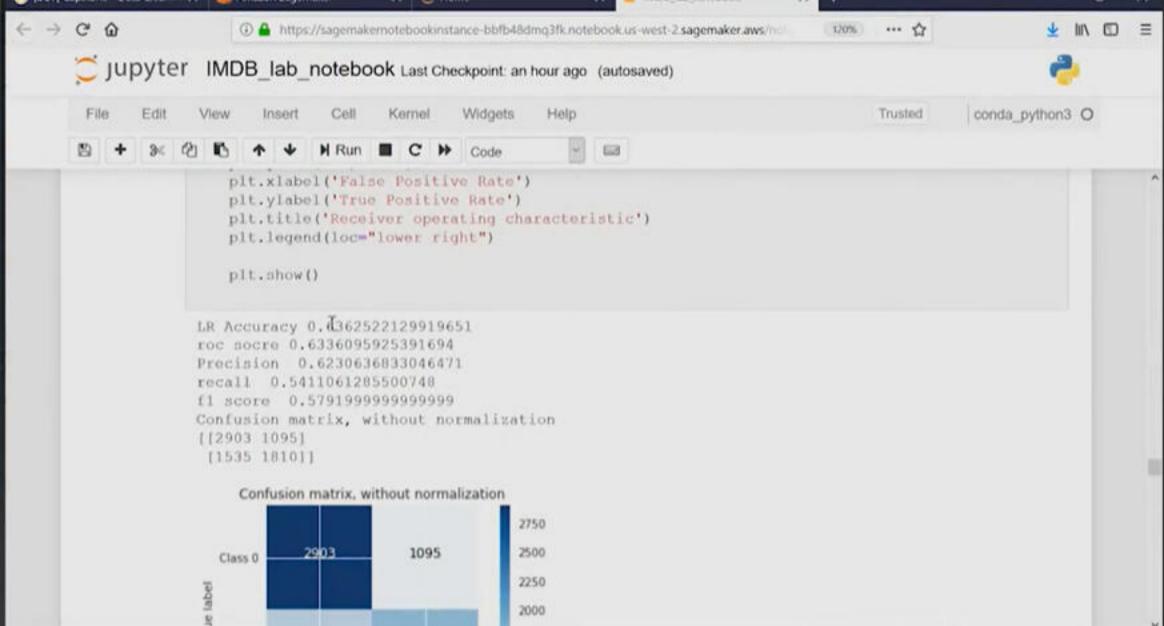


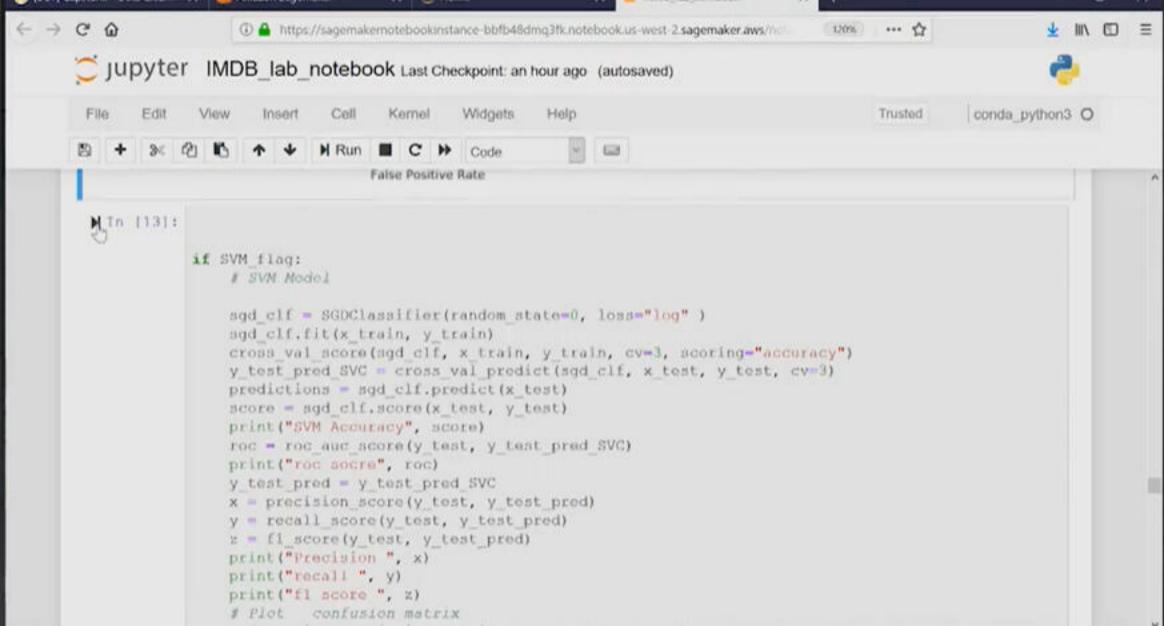


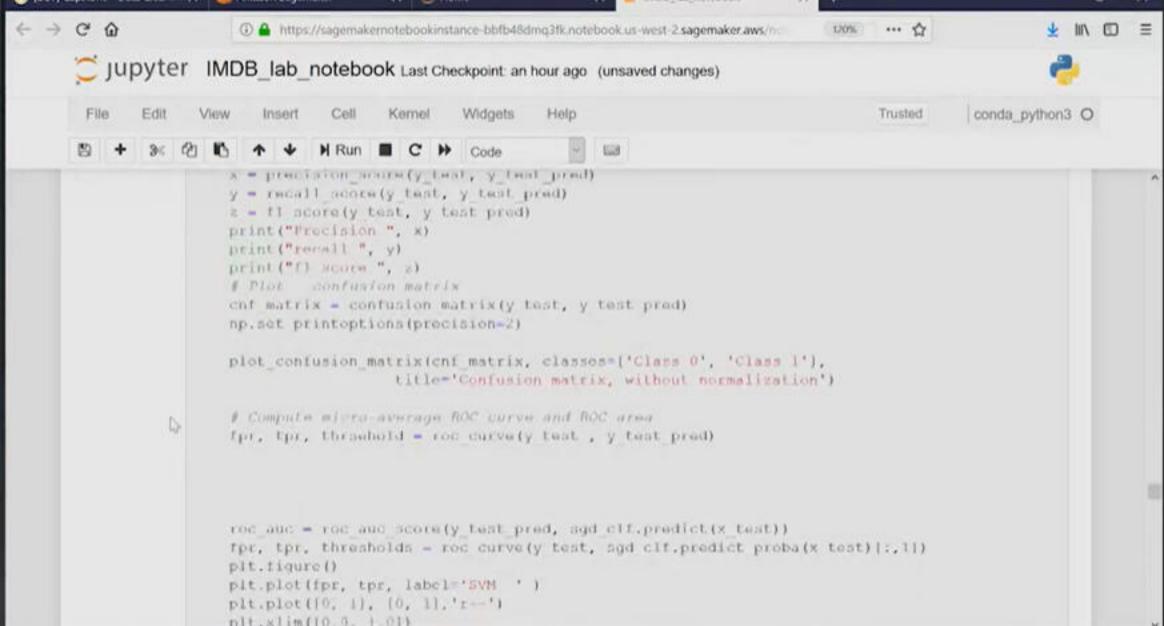


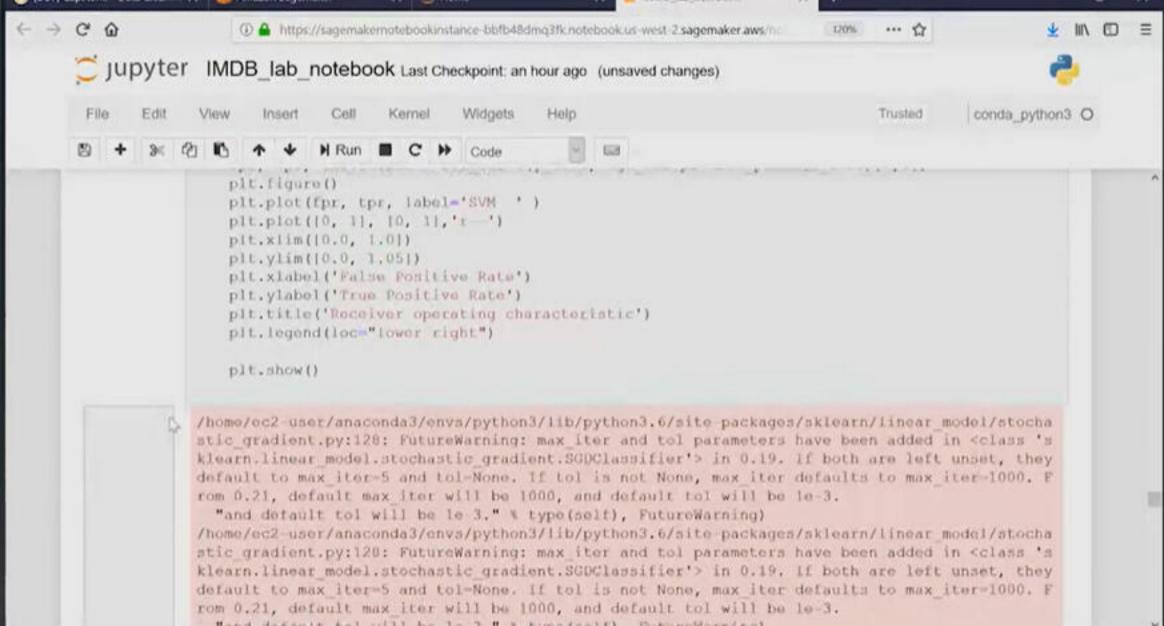


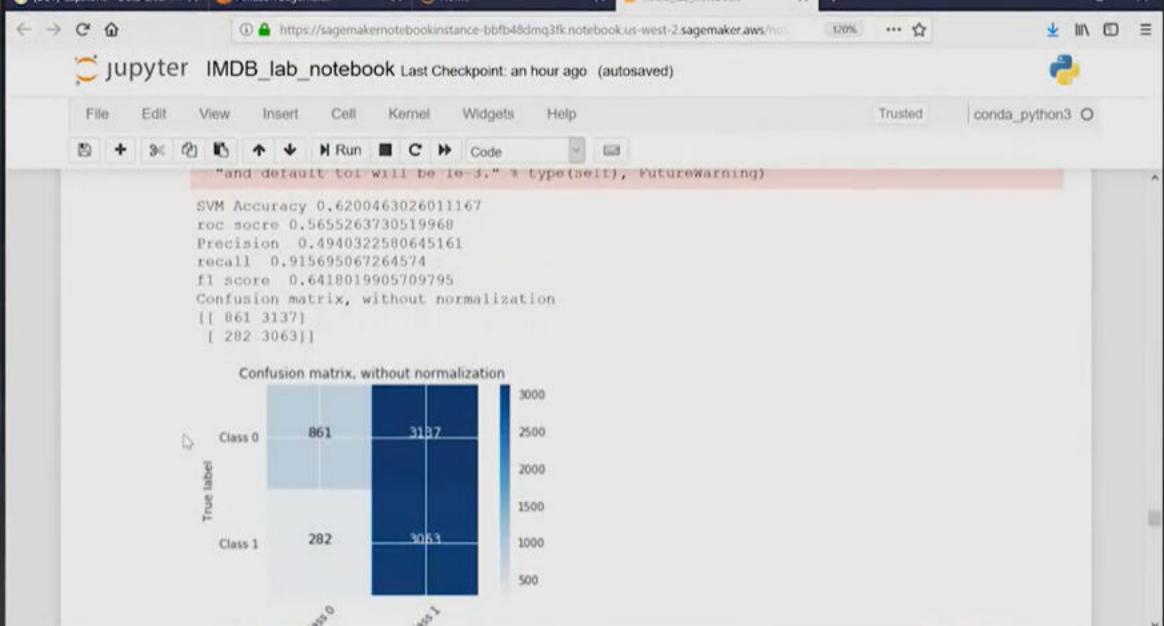


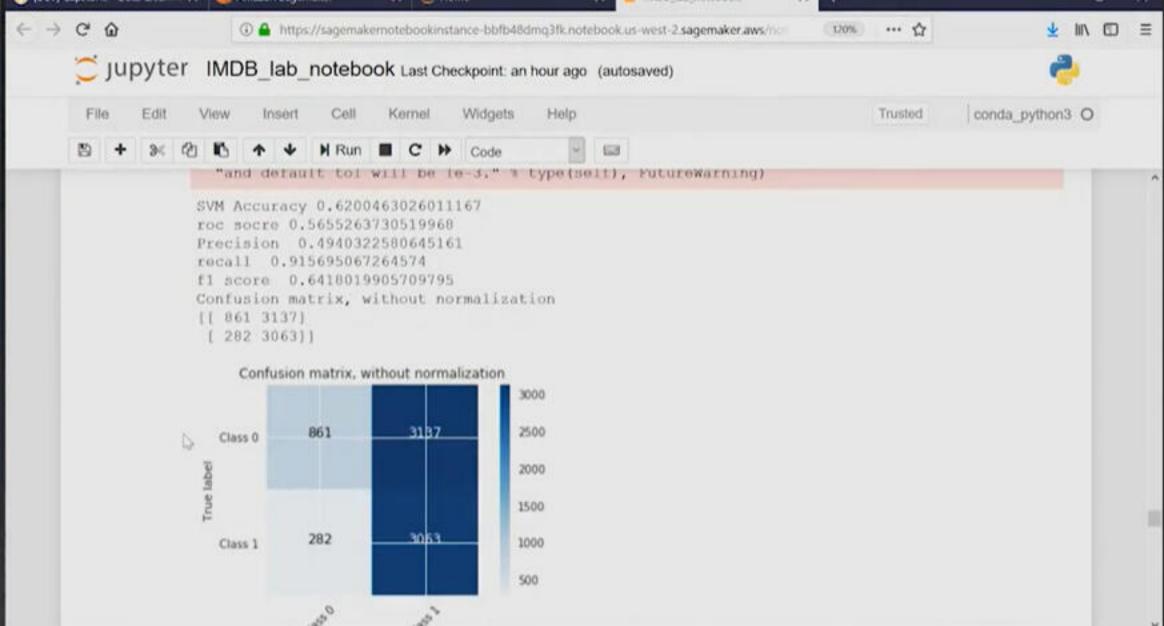


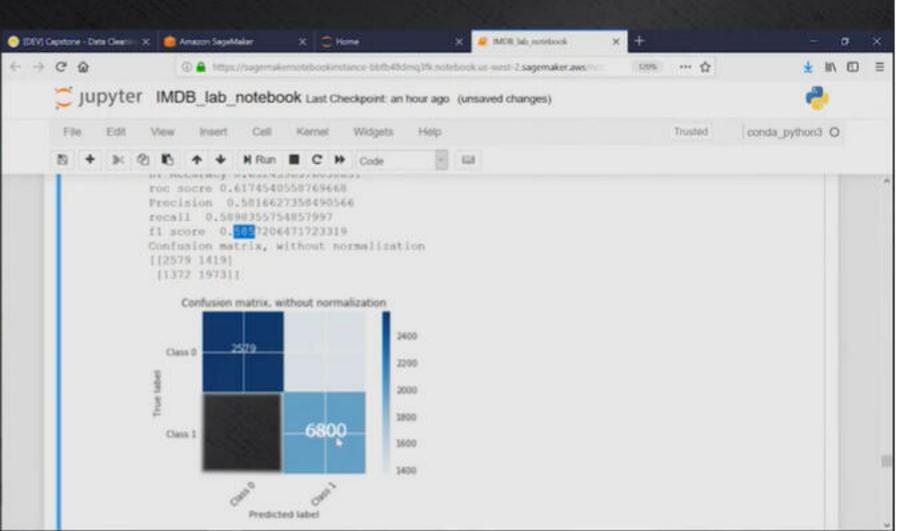


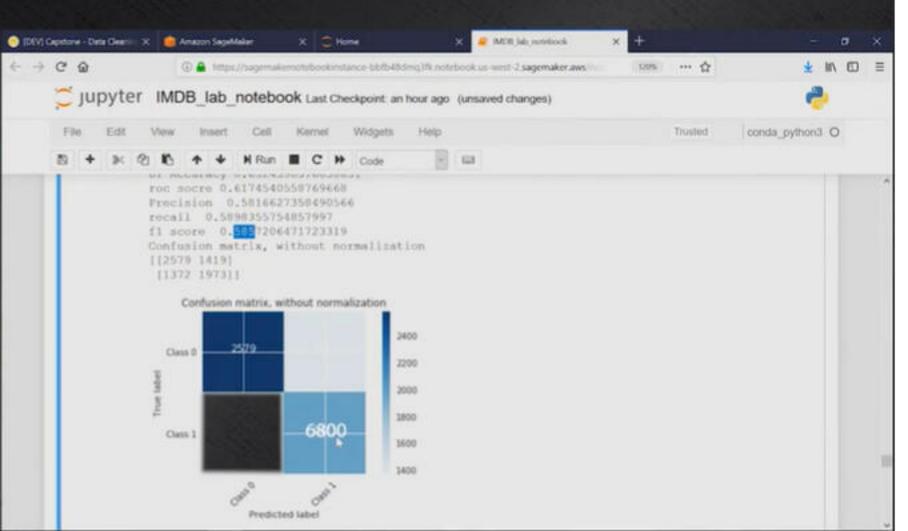


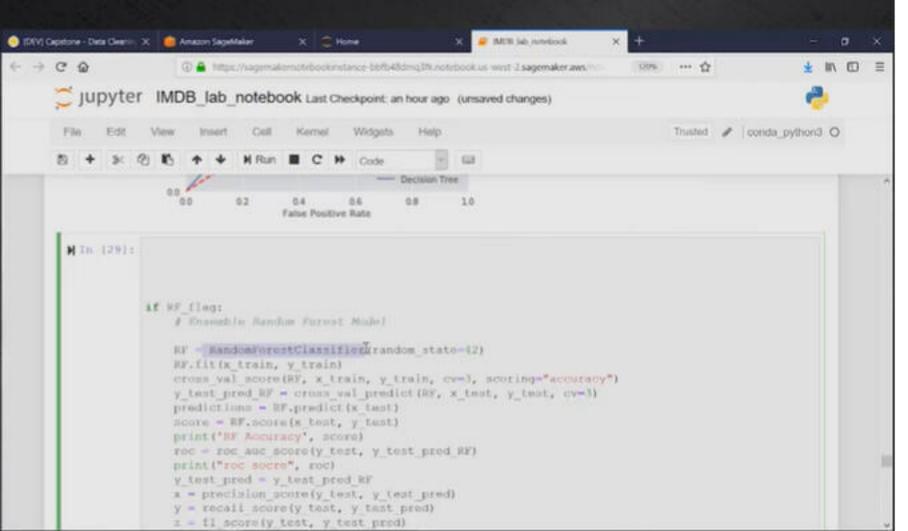


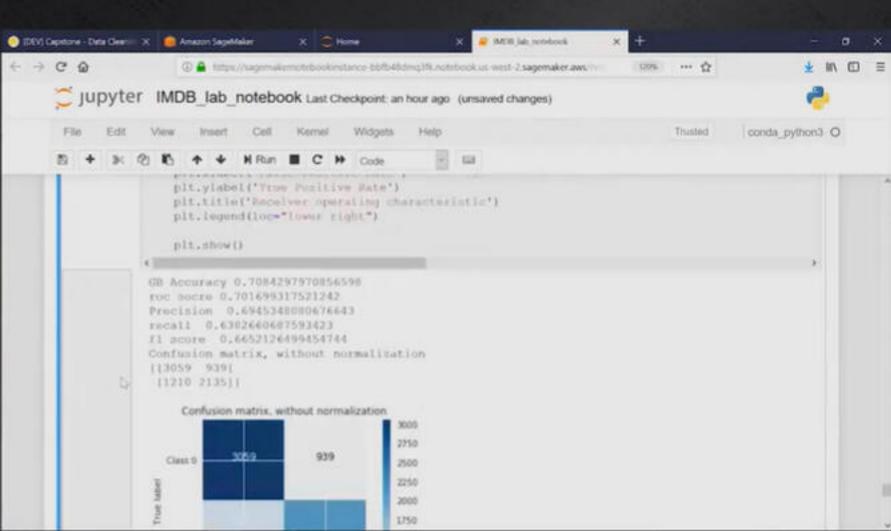


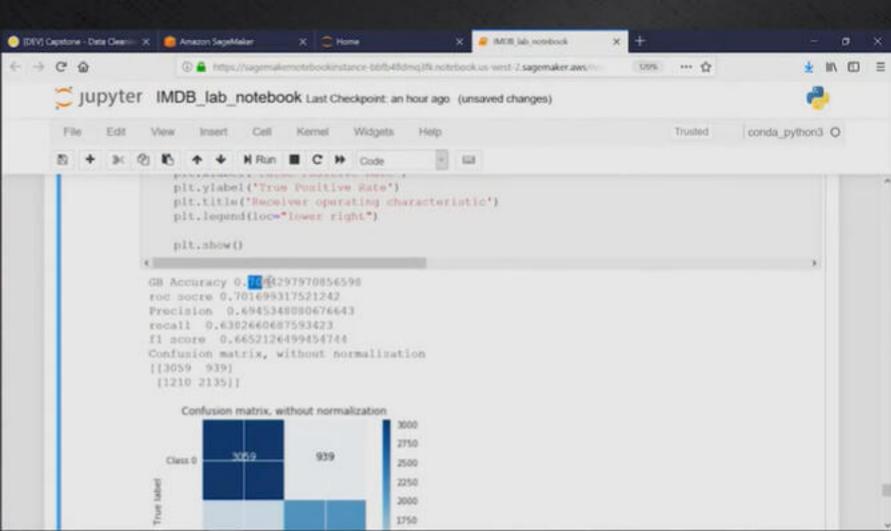


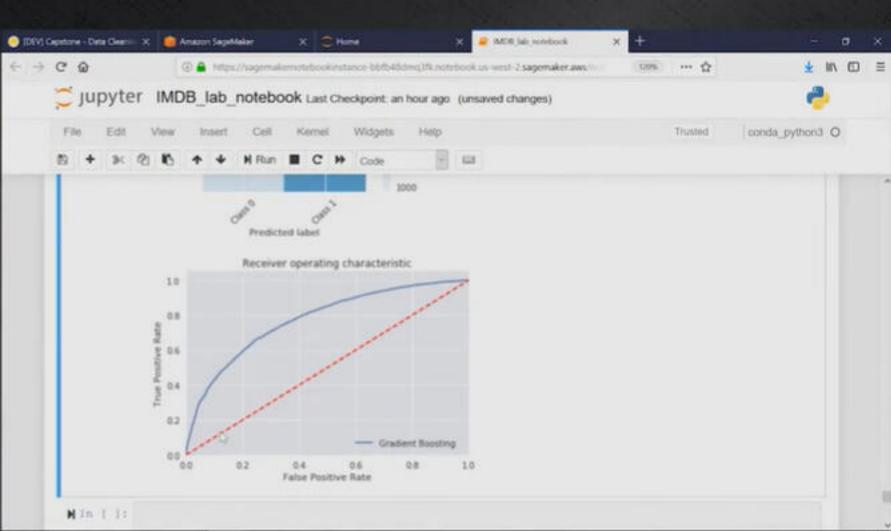


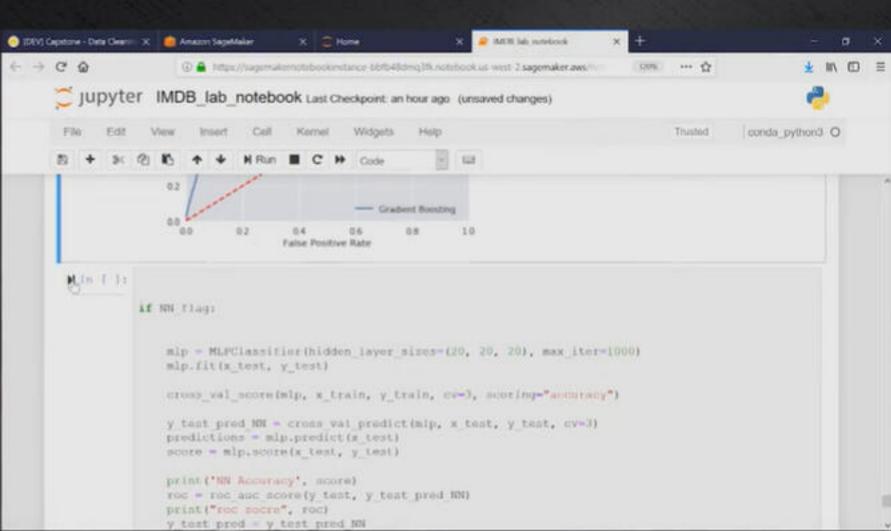


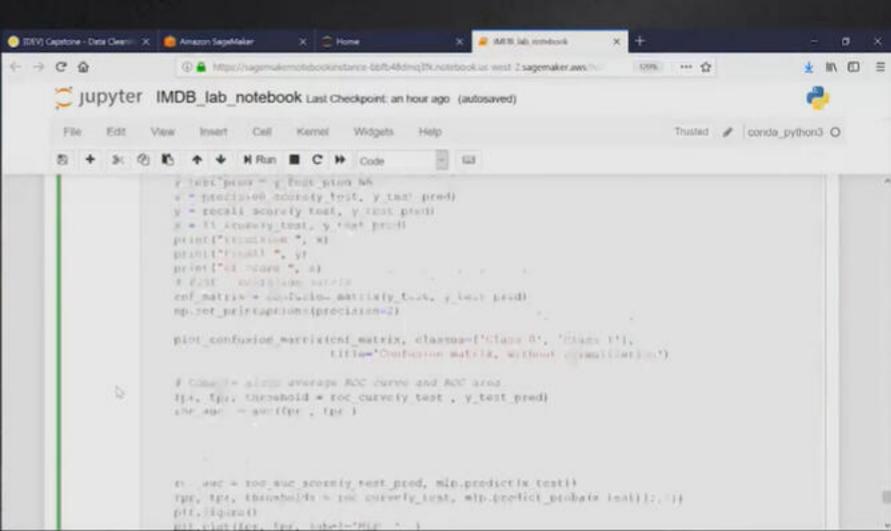


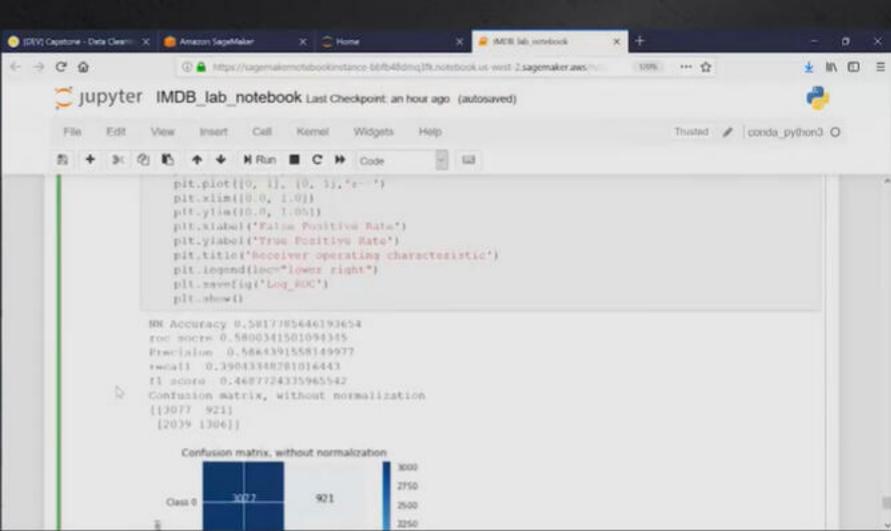


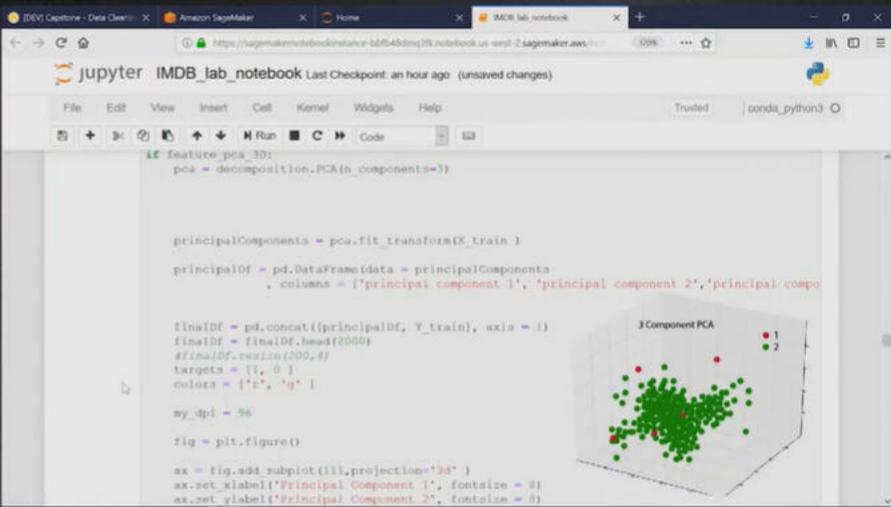


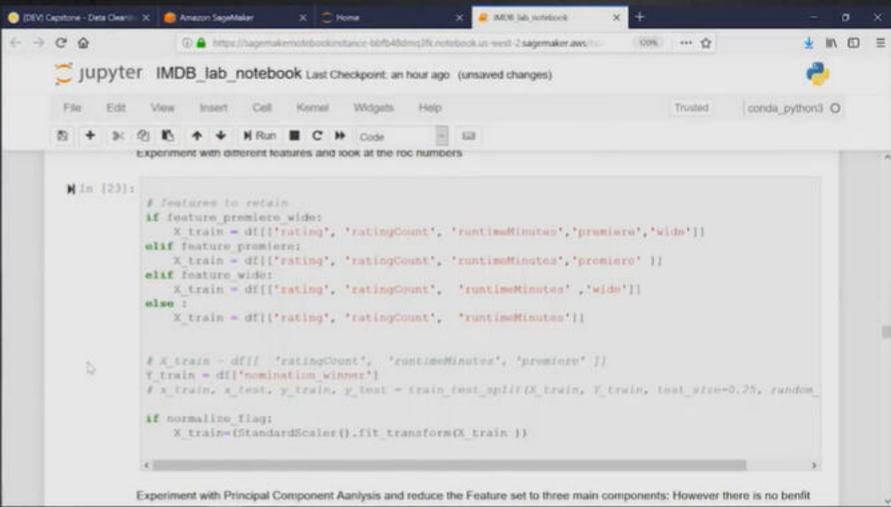


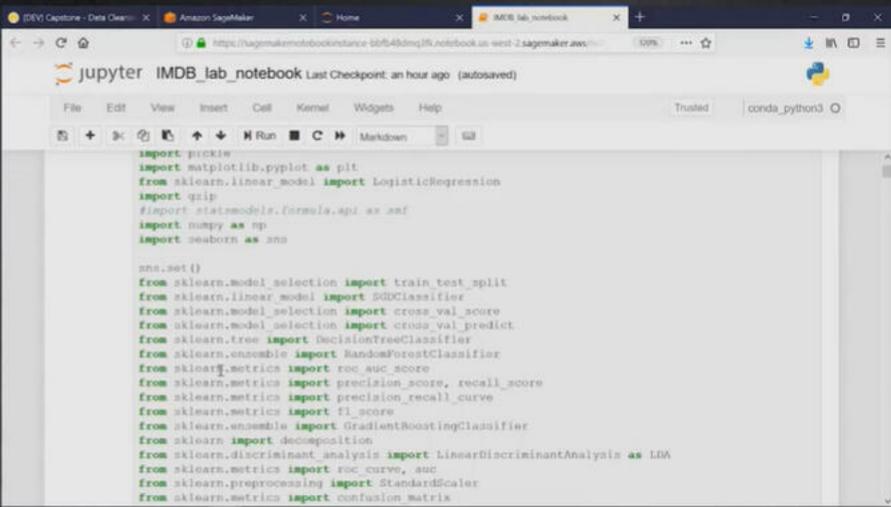


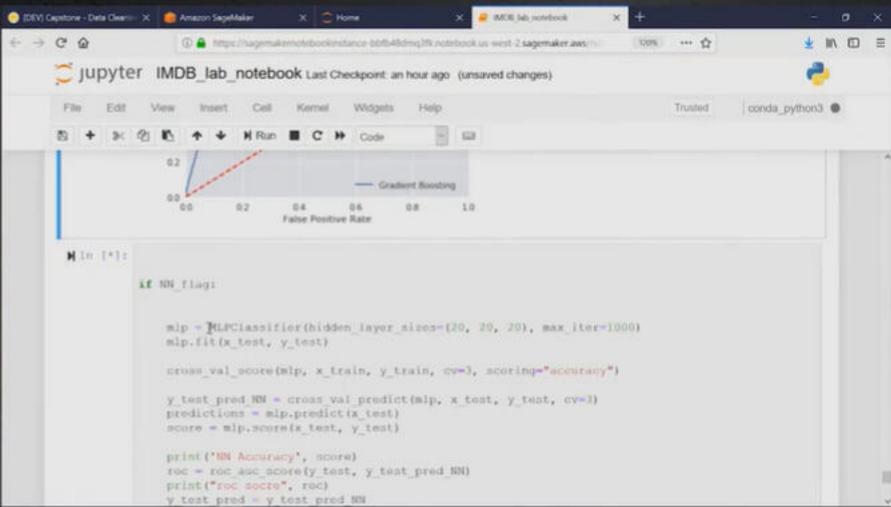














Lesson 1 of 8

### **Defining Your Business Problem**

The first step to applying a machine learning solution is having a clearly defined business problem.

Understanding what you're solving for drives how you solve for it. What data makes sense for one model will likely not make perfect sense for another, because the right tool for the job depends on knowing what the job actually is. For instance, wanting to know how to sell more of your product is not the same as wanting to know how much of your product you need in stock to be prepared for the upcoming holiday.

could help you understand how to rank your customers may include past purchasing data, ad clicks, or traffic data. Contrast this clustering problem with the second example where you want to predict purchases for a specific period of time in the future. Data that could help you with this regression problem may be historical data, data on similar products, or store information.

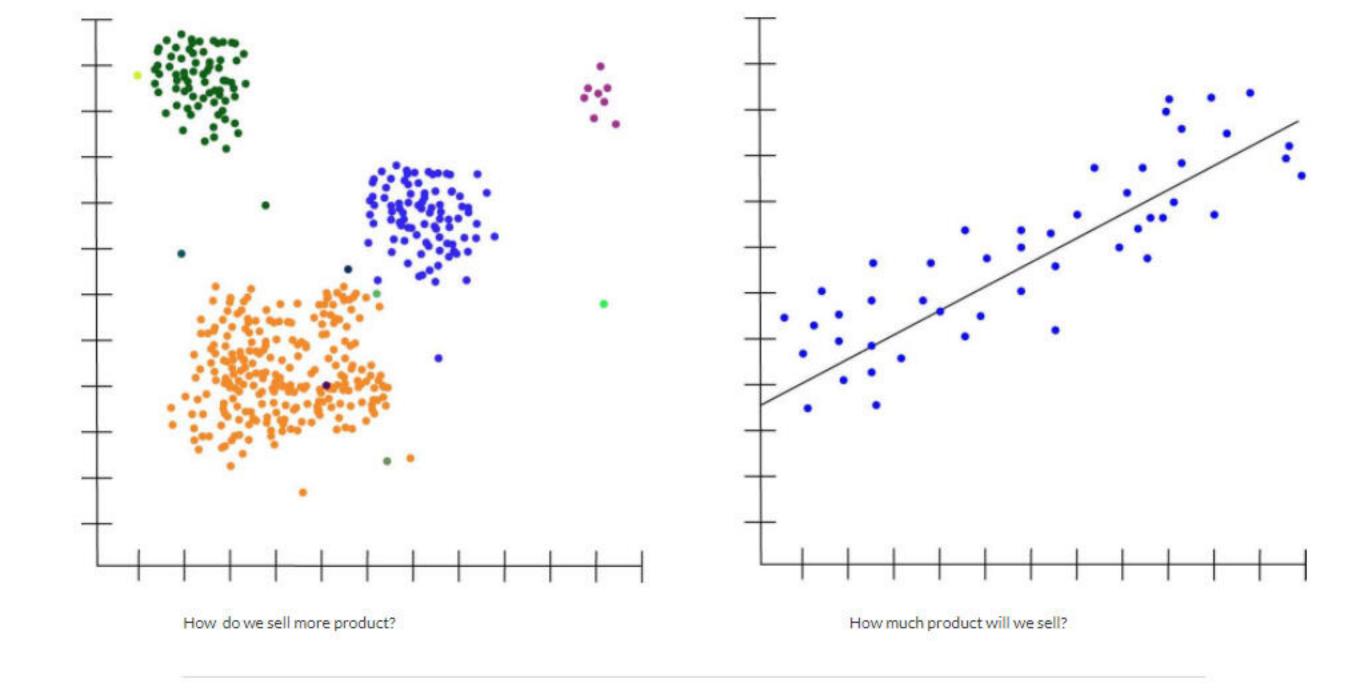
In the first example, you want to market directly to people with the highest likelihood to buy, which

means you need to rank or cluster your customers from lowest to highest buying potential. Data that

could help you understand how to rank your customers may include past purchasing data, ad clicks, or traffic data. Contrast this clustering problem with the second example where you want to predict purchases for a specific period of time in the future. Data that could help you with this regression problem may be historical data, data on similar products, or store information.

In the first example, you want to market directly to people with the highest likelihood to buy, which

means you need to rank or cluster your customers from lowest to highest buying potential. Data that





Lesson 2 of 8

### **Problem Definition**

Amazon Studios is known for their bold and innovative original productions. They produce series and films from top tier and up-and-coming creators for customers in over 200 countries and territories. Let's hear about how a team like theirs could use machine learning to help solve one of their business problems.



Lesson 3 of 8

### Suppose You Work for Amazon Studios



#### YOUR ROLE THE DATA YOUR TASK

Assuming the role of lead data scientist in 2005, you're presented with a challenge: Amazon Studios wants to produce award-winning films and, therefore, focus the budget on projects with the best chance of winning those awards. Using the *actual dataset* from IMDb, an Amazon subsidiary, for movies made between 1990 and 2005, you begin your investigation.



YOUR ROLE

THE DATA

YOUR TASK

The IMDb dataset is a feature-rich, comprehensive listing of all films released during that time period; it includes critical data such as cast and crew, synopsis, and other production data. Much of this data is published on the public IMDb.com site, while other features are embargoed for studio analytics.

# 

YOUR ROLE THE DATA YOUR TASK

Your task is to predict which movies will most likely be nominated for an award during the "upcoming" 2005 awards season by building an awards analysis prediction model. To do that, you can turn your attention to the question of "what data would make sense for my model?"

### **Thinking About Your Data**

The question of "what data makes sense for my model?" is a familiar one to many teams inside Amazon. Responsible for developing the technology behind Alexa, Amazon Go, and Amazon.com's recommendation system, Amazonians are pushing the bounds of machine learning innovation. When it comes to datasets there are several things to consider, many of which are of equal importance. How many data points do you need – thousands? Millions? Is your formatting the same for all dates – 05/22/18 or 22/05/18? Are dollar amounts using the same currency? Do you need labeled data? What do you do with missing data? Is the data possibly biased?

To aggregate the various elements of managing data, consider the following analogy.

do you do with missing data? Is the data possibly biased?

To aggregate the various elements of managing data, consider the following analogy.







It is through this neural engine that features are kept or discarded, deemed useful or not.

It is through this neural engine that features are kept or discarded, deemed useful or not.

This is no small task. Half of a human's visual brain power is responsible for processing less than 5% of our visual world. It's impossible for our optical nerves to take in all the data the world has to offer at once – give it a try! Without moving your eyes, how many data points can you observe? Now try again, but this time move your eyes 5 times turning your head if you need to. This is how we are able to focus our brain power.

Where we look and what we pull from patterns, dictates what we see.

patterns, dictates what we see.

Finding patterns among features is how we make sense of the world but when we are born, we aren't programmed to automatically recognize cars or cities. As babies we take visual information and apply it to non-visual concepts. We learn to find the path in front of us by bumping into things; we learn about emotion by watching faces and integrating facial expressions with spoken words. These patterns are systematically built upon our attentional demands and repeated exposure. The same can be said for machine learning whereby focusing on the data that you believe makes the most sense up front, running tests on that data, adjusting it, running more tests, and adjusting it again, your model will build this same awareness.

## The Notebook, and Cleaning and Visualizing Your Data

Through the eyes of a child the world is a conglomerate of textures, gradients, heights, shadows, contrasts, and depths. A baby might stumble across a copy the Wall Street Journal and discard any attempt to parse the written content covering international finance regulations because that is irrelevant to her world model. However, she will catalog the features of the newspaper as "big", "fun to grab", and "not tasty".

Sifting through all of this data to find patterns and associate meaning takes time, but to find a pattern is to find a solution.

To do this successfully, both as a child and in machine learning, you need to collect as much data as possible and then reduce the amount of fragmented data. You form a hypothesis and say to yourself, "I think I'll need these features" so you gather that data, conduct your experiment, get your results, and adjust your features accordingly – deciding what data helps your model and what is a distractor. And you do this repeatedly. With regard to machine learning, these processes are formally referred to as cleaning and visualizing your data.

To do this successfully, both as a child and in machine learning, you need to collect as much data as possible and then reduce the amount of fragmented data. You form a hypothesis and say to yourself, "I think I'll need these features" so you gather that data, conduct your experiment, get your results, and adjust your features accordingly – deciding what data helps your model and what is a distractor. And you do this repeatedly. With regard to machine learning, these processes are formally referred to as cleaning and visualizing your data.

Let's get started with an introduction to the notebook we'll be using, and then dive right into the processes of cleaning and visualizing the data.

### **Algorithm Comparison and Selection**

As babies get older and their diversity of attention grows, they are able to optimize. They can determine: things I actually want to eat, things that are actually dangerous, animals I actually want to pet. Knowing what's best only comes with the experience of trying things over and over, comparing them, and then making a decision.

So now that you've cleaned your data, selected your features, and engineered some features, it's time to run a couple of models and then pick the best one for your business challenge.