

f1_analysis

August 7, 2025

```
[1]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

base_path = '../data/f1Data/'

drivers = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'drivers.csv')
results = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'results.csv')
races = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'races.csv')
constructors = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'constructors.csv')
lap_times = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'lap_times.csv')
pit_stops = pd.read_csv(base_path + 'pit_stops.csv')

drivers.head()
```

```
[1]:
```

	driverId	driverRef	number	code	forename	surname	dob	\
0	1	hamilton	44	HAM	Lewis	Hamilton	1985-01-07	
1	2	heidfeld	\N	HEI	Nick	Heidfeld	1977-05-10	
2	3	rosberg	6	ROS	Nico	Rosberg	1985-06-27	
3	4	alonso	14	ALO	Fernando	Alonso	1981-07-29	
4	5	kovalainen	\N	KOV	Heikki	Kovalainen	1981-10-19	

	nationality	url
0	British	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Hamilton
1	German	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Heidfeld
2	German	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nico_Rosberg
3	Spanish	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_Alonso
4	Finnish	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heikki_Kovalainen

```
[2]: drivers.isnull().sum()
```

```
[2]: driverId      0
driverRef      0
number        0
code          0
```

```

forename      0
surname       0
dob           0
nationality   0
url           0
dtype: int64

```

```

[3]: results.head()

results.isnull().sum()

```

```

[3]: resultId      0
     raceId        0
     driverId      0
     constructorId  0
     number        0
     grid          0
     position      0
     positionText   0
     positionOrder  0
     points        0
     laps          0
     time          0
     milliseconds  0
     fastestLap     0
     rank          0
     fastestLapTime 0
     fastestLapSpeed 0
     statusId      0
     dtype: int64

```

```

[4]: merged = results.merge(races, on='raceId', suffixes=('', '_race'))

merged = merged.merge(drivers, on='driverId', suffixes=('', '_driver'))

merged = merged.merge(constructors, on='constructorId', suffixes=('', '_team'))

merged[['raceId', 'year', 'name', 'surname', 'grid', 'positionOrder',
↪ 'constructorRef']].head()

```

```

[4]:   raceId  year      name  surname  grid  positionOrder  \
0      18  2008  Australian Grand Prix  Hamilton      1         1
1      19  2008   Malaysian Grand Prix  Hamilton      9         5
2      20  2008    Bahrain Grand Prix  Hamilton      3        13
3      21  2008   Spanish Grand Prix  Hamilton      5         3
4      22  2008   Turkish Grand Prix  Hamilton      3         2

```

```

    constructorRef
0      mclaren
1      mclaren
2      mclaren
3      mclaren
4      mclaren

```

```

[5]: merged['podium_finish'] = merged['positionOrder'].apply(lambda x: 1 if x <= 3
    ↪ else 0)

merged['podium_finish'].value_counts()

```

```

[5]: podium_finish
0      23362
1       3397
Name: count, dtype: int64

```

```

[6]: ml_data = merged[['grid', 'positionOrder', 'podium_finish']].copy()

ml_data = ml_data.dropna()

X = ml_data[['grid']]
y = ml_data['podium_finish']

X.head(), y.head()

```

```

[6]: (   grid
0      1
1      9
2      3
3      5
4      3,
0      1
1      0
2      0
3      1
4      1
Name: podium_finish, dtype: int64)

```

```

[7]: # I selected these features because they are likely to influence race outcomes:
# grid: starting position is known to affect race results
# driverId: accounts for the skill/experience of the driver
# constructorId: reflects the team's overall performance and resources
# year and round: shows historical trends and seasonal changes (like new
    ↪ regulations, team upgrades)
features = merged[['grid', 'driverId', 'constructorId', 'year', 'round']]

```

```
# Dropping missing values to ensure that the dataset is clean before training
↳ the model.
# I matched the target index with features to keep alignment.
features = features.dropna()
target = merged['podium_finish'].loc[features.index]
```

```
[8]: from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(features, target,
↳ test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

```
[9]: from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

rf = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100, random_state=42)
rf.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

```
[9]: RandomForestClassifier(random_state=42)
```

```
[10]: from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, confusion_matrix,
↳ classification_report

y_pred = rf.predict(X_test)

print("Accuracy:", accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred))
print("\nConfusion Matrix:\n", confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred))
print("\nClassification Report:\n", classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
```

Accuracy: 0.8804185351270553

Confusion Matrix:

```
[[4417  231]
 [ 409  295]]
```

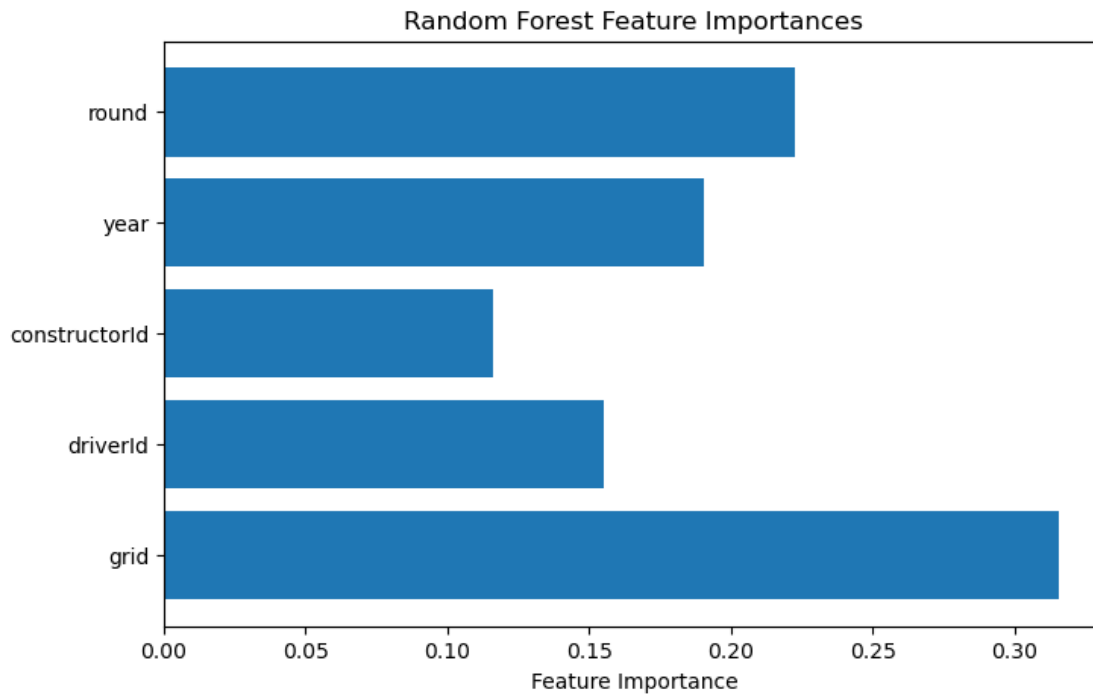
Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.92	0.95	0.93	4648
1	0.56	0.42	0.48	704
accuracy			0.88	5352
macro avg	0.74	0.68	0.71	5352
weighted avg	0.87	0.88	0.87	5352

```
[11]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

importances = rf.feature_importances_
feature_names = features.columns
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
plt.barh(feature_names, importances)
plt.xlabel("Feature Importance")
plt.title("Random Forest Feature Importances")
plt.show()
```



```
[12]: print("Accuracy:", accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred))
print("\nConfusion Matrix:\n", confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred))
print("\nClassification Report:\n", classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
```

Accuracy: 0.8804185351270553

Confusion Matrix:

```
[[4417 231]
 [ 409 295]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.92	0.95	0.93	4648
1	0.56	0.42	0.48	704
accuracy			0.88	5352
macro avg	0.74	0.68	0.71	5352

weighted avg	0.87	0.88	0.87	5352
--------------	------	------	------	------

```
[13]: # Unsupervised Learning clustering of drivers based on performance
```

```
[14]: # i already jhave the merged dataset so i will re-use.
driver_stats = merged.copy()

# Calculating positions gained
driver_stats['positions_gained'] = driver_stats['grid'] - \
    driver_stats['positionOrder']

# Group by driver and calculate averages
driver_perf = driver_stats.groupby('driverId').agg({
    'grid': 'mean',
    'positionOrder': 'mean',
    'positions_gained': 'mean',
    'raceId': 'count' # number of races
}).rename(columns={'grid': 'avg_grid', 'positionOrder': 'avg_finish', \
    driver_stats['positions_gained']: 'avg_gain', 'raceId': 'num_races'})

# Drop any drivers with very few races (less reliable)
driver_perf = driver_perf[driver_perf['num_races'] >= 10]

driver_perf.head()
```

```
[14]:
```

	avg_grid	avg_finish	avg_gain	num_races
driverId				
1	4.300562	5.019663	-0.719101	356
2	11.336957	10.722826	0.614130	184
3	6.902913	8.252427	-1.349515	206
4	8.579208	8.492574	0.086634	404
5	13.741071	13.285714	0.455357	112

```
[15]: # adding drivename for better overview
```

```
[16]: # Select only the relevant columns from the drivers dataframe
driver_names = drivers[['driverId', 'forename', 'surname']]

# Merge into the driver_perf dataframe
driver_perf = driver_perf.merge(driver_names, on='driverId')

# Optional: create a full name column for easier readability
driver_perf['driver_name'] = driver_perf['forename'] + ' ' + \
    driver_perf['surname']

# Reorder columns so names come first
```

```

cols = ['driverId', 'driver_name', 'avg_grid', 'avg_finish', 'avg_gain', 'num_races']
if 'cluster' in driver_perf.columns:
    cols.append('cluster')
if 'pca1' in driver_perf.columns and 'pca2' in driver_perf.columns:
    cols.extend(['pca1', 'pca2'])

driver_perf = driver_perf[cols]

# View result
driver_perf.head()

```

```

[16]:
   driverId  driver_name  avg_grid  avg_finish  avg_gain  num_races
0         1    Lewis Hamilton    4.300562    5.019663 -0.719101        356
1         2    Nick Heidfeld   11.336957   10.722826  0.614130        184
2         3    Nico Rosberg    6.902913    8.252427 -1.349515        206
3         4  Fernando Alonso    8.579208    8.492574  0.086634        404
4         5  Heikki Kovalainen   13.741071   13.285714  0.455357        112

```

```

[17]: from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

scaler = StandardScaler()
scaled_features = scaler.fit_transform(driver_perf[['avg_grid', 'avg_finish', 'avg_gain']])

```

```

[18]: from sklearn.cluster import KMeans

# Let's try 3 clusters to start with
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=3, random_state=42)
clusters = kmeans.fit_predict(scaled_features)

# Add cluster labels back to dataframe
driver_perf['cluster'] = clusters

# Check distribution
driver_perf['cluster'].value_counts()

```

```

/Users/vivek/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-
packages/sklearn/cluster/_kmeans.py:1412: FutureWarning: The default value of
`n_init` will change from 10 to 'auto' in 1.4. Set the value of `n_init`
explicitly to suppress the warning
    super()._check_params_vs_input(X, default_n_init=10)

```

```

[18]: cluster
2    208
0    149
1     20
Name: count, dtype: int64

```

```

[19]: from sklearn.decomposition import PCA
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Fit PCA to reduce dimensions
pca = PCA(n_components=2)
pca_result = pca.fit_transform(scaled_features)

# Add PCA results to the dataframe with more descriptive names
driver_perf['Performance Dimension 1'] = pca_result[:, 0]
driver_perf['Performance Dimension 2'] = pca_result[:, 1]

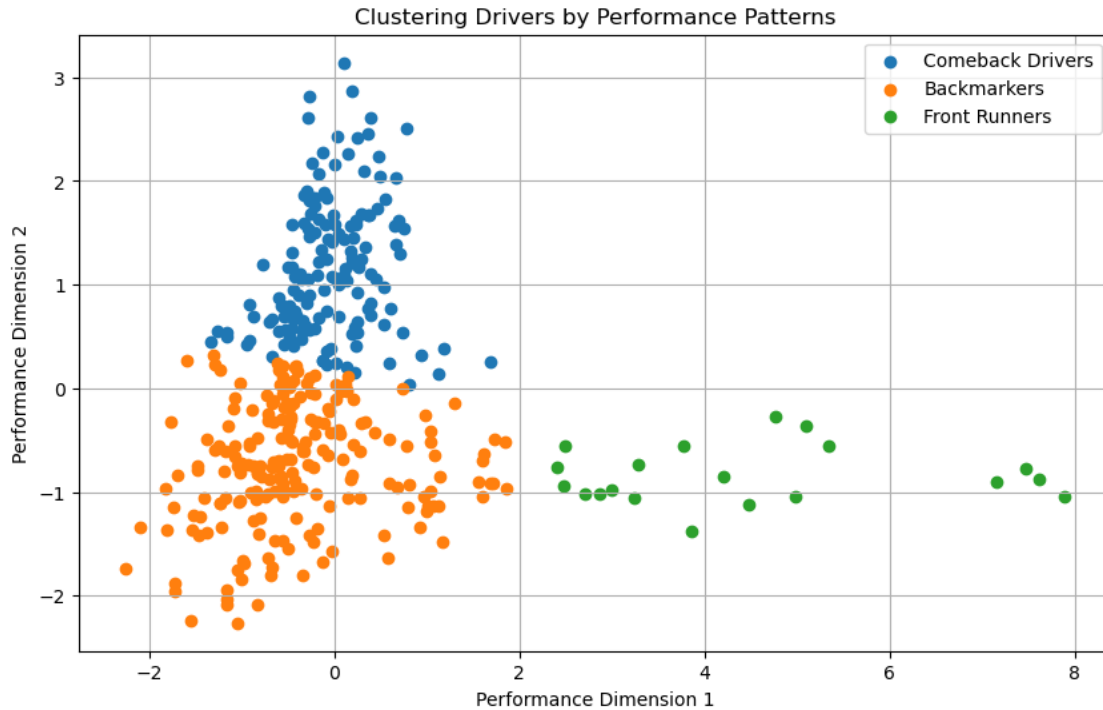
# Map cluster numbers to meaningful labels
cluster_labels = {
    0: 'Comeback Drivers',
    1: 'Front Runners',
    2: 'Backmarkers'
}
driver_perf['driver_type'] = driver_perf['cluster'].map(cluster_labels)
# Cluster meanings:
# 0 → Comeback Drivers: strong gainers
# 1 → Front Runners: top performers
# 2 → Backmarkers: lower grid and finish

# Plot the clusters with clearer labels
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))

for label in driver_perf['driver_type'].unique():
    subset = driver_perf[driver_perf['driver_type'] == label]
    plt.scatter(
        subset['Performance Dimension 1'],
        subset['Performance Dimension 2'],
        label=label
    )

plt.title('Clustering Drivers by Performance Patterns')
plt.xlabel('Performance Dimension 1')
plt.ylabel('Performance Dimension 2')
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()

```

```
[20]: import joblib

# Save the trained model
joblib.dump(rf, '../part2_rag_llama/model.pkl')
```

```
[20]: ['../part2_rag_llama/model.pkl']
```

```
[21]: ## Reflection

# Working on this project helped me better understand how supervised and
↳unsupervised machine learning can be applied to real-world data. Even though
↳the goal was to predict whether a driver would finish on the podium - and
↳the actual outcomes were already known - it was still valuable to simulate
↳predictions and see how the model performed.

# Through data cleaning and feature selection, I saw how much impact the input
↳data has on results. For example, `grid position` turned out to be one of
↳the most important predictors, which makes sense intuitively.

# For the supervised model, I used Random Forest because it performed well with
↳minimal tuning. I also used KMeans and PCA to cluster drivers and explore
↳performance patterns without labels, which helped identify types of drivers
↳like "Comeback Drivers".
```

One challenge was handling many IDs (drivers, teams, races) and turning them
→ into meaningful features, which I solved through merging and careful mapping.

Overall, I gained confidence in training models, cleaning data, and deploying
→ a working prototype - even if it's just for historical simulation. If I had
→ more time, I'd experiment with more features (like weather or lap data),
→ tune hyperparameters more deeply, and try comparing models.

[]: