Kickstarter Campaign Success Prediction

January 31, 2019

1 Introduction: Kickstarter Success Prediction Project

In this notebook, I'm going to look at the different features of kickstarter campaigns and how they correspond to the likelihood that a campaign will succeed. The dataset can be found here: https://data.world/rdowns26/kickstarter-campaigns/workspace/data-dictionary

```
In [67]: # @hiden_cell
         #pandas and numpy for data manipulation
         import pandas as pd
         import numpy as np
         #visualization libraries for graphing
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         import seaborn as sns
         sns.set(font_scale = 2)
         %matplotlib inline
         # No warnings about setting value on copy of slice
         pd.options.mode.chained_assignment = None
         # Display up to the total number of columns of this dataframe
         pd.set_option('display.max_columns', 67)
         # Internal ipython tool for setting figure size
         from IPython.core.pylabtools import figsize
         # Splitting data into training and testing
         from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
In [79]: df = pd.read_csv("kickstarter_data_full.csv", index_col=0);
C:\Users\riley\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\IPython\core\interactiveshell.py:2785: DtypeWarning:
  interactivity=interactivity, compiler=compiler, result=result)
In [80]: df.shape
```

Out[80]: (20632, 67)

The dataset starts out with 20,632 observations of 67 features.

In [81]: df.info() <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'> Int64Index: 20632 entries, 0 to 20631 Data columns (total 67 columns): 20632 non-null int64 photo 20632 non-null object name20632 non-null object 20627 non-null object blurb goal 20632 non-null float64 20632 non-null float64 pledged 20632 non-null object state 20632 non-null object slug disable_communication 20632 non-null bool 20632 non-null object country currency 20632 non-null object currency_symbol 20632 non-null object 20632 non-null bool currency_trailing_code deadline 20632 non-null object state_changed_at 20632 non-null object created_at 20632 non-null object launched_at 20632 non-null object staff_pick 20632 non-null bool 20632 non-null int64 backers_count static_usd_rate 20632 non-null float64 usd_pledged 20632 non-null float64 creator 20632 non-null object 20587 non-null object location category 18743 non-null object 20632 non-null object profile spotlight 20632 non-null bool urls 20632 non-null object 20632 non-null object source_url friends 60 non-null object 60 non-null object is_starred 60 non-null object is_backing 60 non-null object permissions 20627 non-null float64 name_len name_len_clean 20627 non-null float64 blurb_len 20627 non-null float64 blurb_len_clean 20627 non-null float64 deadline_weekday 20632 non-null object state_changed_at_weekday 20632 non-null object created_at_weekday 20632 non-null object launched_at_weekday 20632 non-null object

deadline_month

20632 non-null int64

```
20632 non-null int64
deadline_day
deadline_yr
                                20632 non-null int64
deadline hr
                                20632 non-null int64
state_changed_at_month
                                20632 non-null int64
                                20632 non-null int64
state_changed_at_day
                                20632 non-null int64
state_changed_at_yr
state_changed_at_hr
                                20632 non-null int64
created_at_month
                                20632 non-null int64
                                20632 non-null int64
created_at_day
                                20632 non-null int64
created_at_yr
                                20632 non-null int64
created_at_hr
                                20632 non-null int64
launched_at_month
                                20632 non-null int64
launched_at_day
                                20632 non-null int64
launched_at_yr
launched_at_hr
                                20632 non-null int64
create_to_launch
                                20632 non-null object
launch_to_deadline
                                20632 non-null object
launch_to_state_change
                                20632 non-null object
create_to_launch_days
                                20632 non-null int64
launch_to_deadline_days
                                20632 non-null int64
launch_to_state_change_days
                                20632 non-null int64
                                20632 non-null int64
SuccessfulBool
USorGB
                                20632 non-null int64
TOPCOUNTRY
                                20632 non-null int64
                                20632 non-null int64
LaunchedTuesday
                                20632 non-null int64
DeadlineWeekend
dtypes: bool(4), float64(8), int64(26), object(29)
memory usage: 10.2+ MB
```

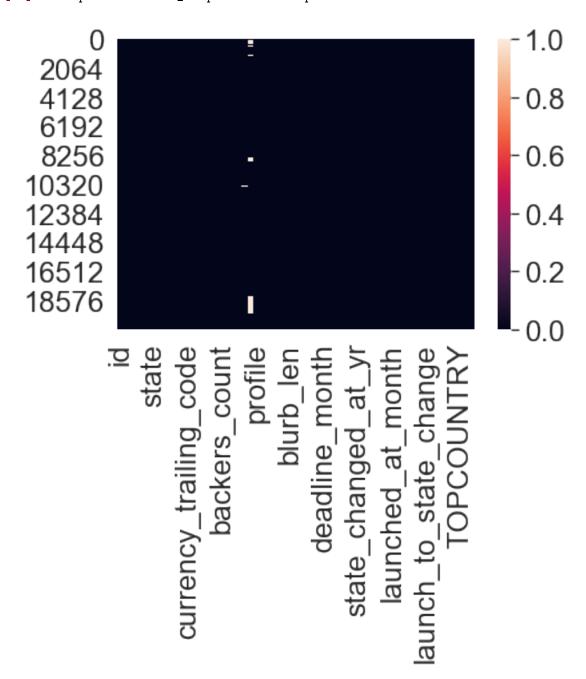
2 Data Cleaning

The majority of the dataset contains integer variables, some floats, and some objects. There is a chunk with only 60 observations (friends, is_starred, is_backing, and permissions). These look weird, so I'm going to look closer.

It looks like there are only 60 rows in which friends is not null, so I went ahead and looked at the other three variables and saw that that was the case. I decided to drop all four of those variables.

In [84]: sns.heatmap(df.isnull()) #looking here we can see that 'is_backing' and 'profile' conto

Out[84]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x25d28735940>



I can see that the only other column with missing values is the profile column. Looking at the first item of this we can learn a bit of what kind of data that involves and whether or not it is valuable.

```
In [85]: df['profile'][0]
```

```
Out[85]: '{"background_image_opacity":0.8, "should_show_feature_image_section":true, "link_text_co
```

It looks like it is mostly metadata and some of the information is captured by other columns like state, blurb, and so on. The dataset is heavily featured in general so I'm going to drop this one too.

```
In [86]: df.drop(labels='profile', axis=1, inplace=True)
```

I was going to look at the state variable but since that includes values like inactive and cancelled, it has too many levels. There's one better in this dataset: SuccessfulBool, 0=failed and 1=succeeded. We will use that for our dependent variable. Let's take a look at the distribution below.

```
In [87]: #there are a lot of unnecessary features, I will give a short explanation comment inlin
         second_col_drop = ['id', #useful as a private key but we aren't joining tables, so it's
                            'photo', #I'm not going to go into image recognition in this project
                            'state', #we already have SuccessfulBool, the cleaned version of sto
                            'slug', #the legal characterization of the name column so it's redun
                            'currency_symbol', #already have currency code (USD)
                            'currency_trailing_code', #honestly, I don't know what this is, but
                            'static_usd_rate', #I think this has to do with instances where the
                            'usd_pledged', #see above
                            'creator', #looked at this and while name could be captured among so
                            'location', #redundant. I already have the country and would like to
                            'urls', #just URLs, not using them
                            'source_url', #similar reason
                            'name_len', #there is a cleaned version
                            'blurb_len', #same as above
                            'create_to_launch', #calculated but an object, there exists an int of
                            'launch_to_deadline', #same as above
                            'launch_to_state_change', #same as above
                            'USorGB', #probably for GDPR, don't need it for my purposes
                            'TOPCOUNTRY', #probably indicates top country, again not part of my
                            'LaunchedTuesday', #probably someone else's analysis, I'll see what
                            'DeadlineWeekend', #same as above
                            'deadline_month', 'deadline_day', 'deadline_yr', 'deadline_hr', #the
                            'state_changed_at_month', 'state_changed_at_day', 'state_changed_at_
                            'created_at_month', 'created_at_day', 'created_at_yr', 'created_at_h
                            'launched_at_month', 'launched_at_day', 'launched_at_yr', 'launched_
```

df.drop(labels=second_col_drop, axis=1, inplace=True)

```
In [88]: df.shape
Out[88]: (20632, 25)
```

We reduced dimensionality from 67 to 25! Now we are getting close to thinking about doing exploratory data analysis.

```
In [89]: df['disable_communication'] = df['disable_communication'] * 1 #converts type bool to 0
```

3 Exploratory Data Analysis

Let's start this process by examing in the target feature: success of the campaigns.



Only 29.17% of campaigns were successful across the whole dataset.

So we can see that there were more failed campaigns than successful campaigns. Sadly, this is expected and understandable.

3.1 Outlier data

In [93]: df.describe().transpose()

111 [30].	di.desclibe().transpose()						
Out[93]:		count	m	ean std	min	25%	\
	goal	20632.0	94104.965	285 1.335511e+06	1.0	4000.0	
	pledged	20632.0	21392.675	739 1.204973e+05	0.0	25.0	
	disable_communication	20632.0	0.011	148 1.049952e-01	0.0	0.0	
	staff_pick	20632.0	0.105	903 3.077215e-01	0.0	0.0	
	backers_count	20632.0	183.675	843 1.222013e+03	0.0	2.0	
	spotlight	20632.0	0.291	683 4.545481e-01	0.0	0.0	
	name_len_clean	20627.0	5.292	578 2.418168e+00	1.0	3.0	
	blurb_len_clean	20627.0	13.081	204 3.283547e+00	1.0	11.0	
	${\tt create_to_launch_days}$	20632.0	49.577	598 1.110946e+02	0.0	3.0	
	launch_to_deadline_days	20632.0	34.716	896 1.187314e+01	1.0	30.0	
	launch_to_state_change_days	20632.0	31.169	397 1.427971e+01	0.0	28.0	
	SuccessfulBool	20632.0	0.291	683 4.545481e-01	0.0	0.0	
		50%	75%	max			
	goal	14000.0	50000.00	1.000000e+08			
	pledged	695.0	5954.25	6.225355e+06			
	disable_communication	0.0	0.00	1.000000e+00			
	staff_pick	0.0	0.00	1.000000e+00			
	backers_count	12.0	63.00	00 1.058570e+05			
	spotlight	0.0	1.00	1.00 1.000000e+00			
	name_len_clean	5.0	7.00	1.400000e+01			
	blurb_len_clean	13.0	15.00	3.000000e+01			
	create_to_launch_days	14.0	45.00	1.754000e+03			
	launch_to_deadline_days	30.0	40.00	9.100000e+01			
	launch_to_state_change_days	30.0	35.00	9.100000e+01			
	SuccessfulBool	0.0	1.00	1.000000e+00			

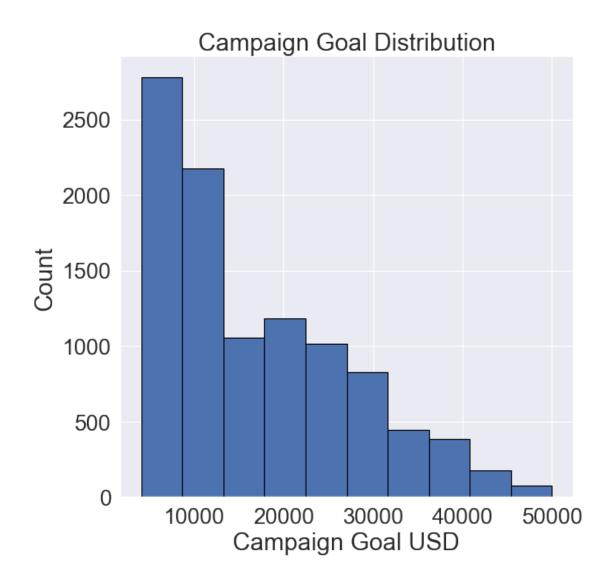
It looks like the goal variable has a huge spread. I'll take a look at the tail of sorted values below.

```
8678 60000000.0
4801 100000000.0
8696 100000000.0
Name: goal, dtype: float64
```

Looking at the goal value, we can see that the last two are 100 million dollars! These are some serious outliers!

Understandably, the pledged amount is more reasonable because this represents real money that people decided to give. Simmer down there, project managers!

I will use the definition of extreme outlier, which is that the value is outside the bounds of the first and third quartile, or the interquartile range. Let's define that here and then plot the goal with just interquartile range included.



3.1.1 More outliers

A box and whisker plot is a good way to look at different variables and their spread and see if there are any more outliers to deal with using the previously used methods. First lets re-examine the spread of the variables using .describe().transpose() to see which ones have high spread (for example a min of 0 and a max of 2,344,000 with a standard deviation of 67,000!).

In [99]: df_goal_iqr.describe().transpose()

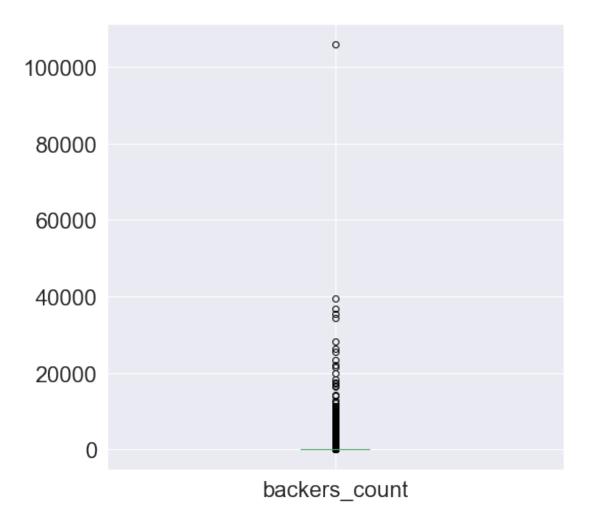
Out[99]:		count	mean	std	min	\
	goal	10107.0	16841.510237	10887.732017	4059.0	
	pledged	10107.0	14891.312073	67578.044235	0.0	
	${\tt disable_communication}$	10107.0	0.011477	0.106520	0.0	
	staff_pick	10107.0	0.109330	0.312068	0.0	
	backers_count	10107.0	173.063125	907.532746	0.0	

spotlight	10107.0	0.2	66053	0.441914	0.0
name_len_clean	10105.0	5.366452		2.431118	1.0
blurb_len_clean	10105.0	13.073726		3.285475	1.0
create_to_launch_days	10107.0	53.305036		113.766666	0.0
launch_to_deadline_days	10107.0	34.896309		11.219802	1.0
launch_to_state_change_days	10107.0	31.493915		13.800788	0.0
SuccessfulBool	10107.0	0.266053		0.441914	0.0
	25%	50%	75%	max	
goal	8000.0	15000.0	25000.0	49999.00	
pledged	28.0	840.0	8489.0	2344134.67	
disable_communication	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.00	
staff_pick	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.00	
backers_count	2.0	13.0	82.0	36781.00	
spotlight	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.00	
name_len_clean	3.0	6.0	7.0	14.00	
blurb_len_clean	11.0	13.0	15.0	30.00	
create_to_launch_days	4.0	16.0	50.0	1692.00	
launch_to_deadline_days	30.0	30.0	40.0	91.00	
launch_to_state_change_days	29.0	30.0	35.0	91.00	
SuccessfulBool	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.00	

I can see I definitely want to do something to tame backers_count, and create_to_launch_days, and pledged due to the high spread. Let's confirm with a box and whisker for each.

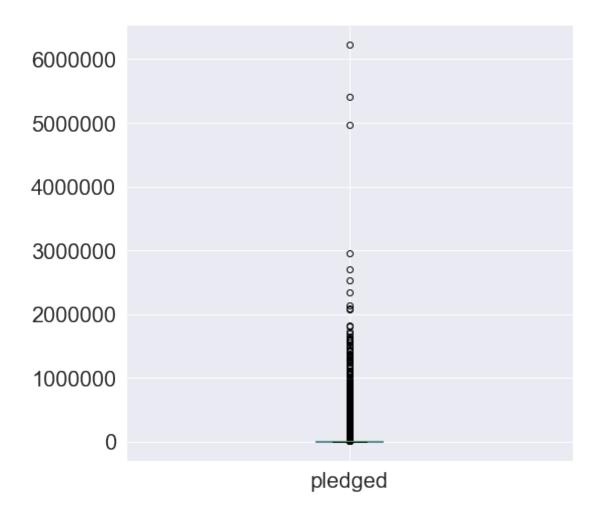
```
In [101]: df.boxplot(['backers_count'])
```

Out[101]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x25d27ba05f8>



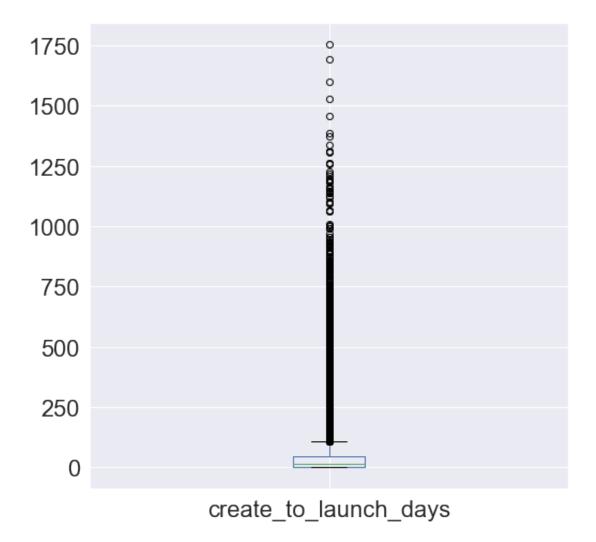
In [102]: df.boxplot(['pledged'])

Out[102]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x25d28017400>



In [103]: df.boxplot(['create_to_launch_days'])

Out[103]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x25d28734828>



Yeah, let's definitely trim all three of those and create a new IQR dataframe with these truncated values.

```
iqr = third_quartile - first_quartile

df_iqr_trimmed = df[(df['pledged'] > first_quartile) & (df['pledged'] < third_quartile

#------

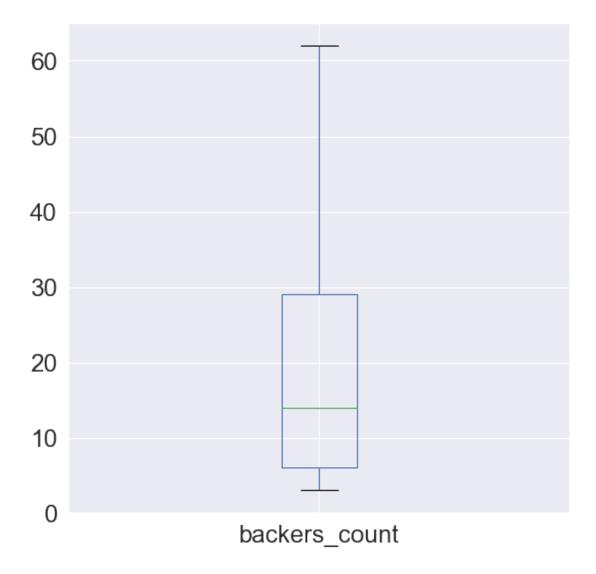
first_quartile = df['backers_count'].describe()['25%']
    third_quartile = df['backers_count'].describe()['75%']

iqr = third_quartile - first_quartile

df_iqr_trimmed = df[(df['backers_count'] > first_quartile) & (df['backers_count']
```

This reduction resulted in a dataframe where there are 9308 instances, with only the IQR for the variables in question remaining.

```
In [106]: df_iqr_trimmed.boxplot(['backers_count']) #for example, this looks a bit more reasonal
Out[106]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x25d277d0ac8>
```



3.1.2 Correlations

Next up let's look at the correlations between each variable against SuccessfulBool, which remember, is a binary value where 0=failed and 1=succeeded.

```
      staff_pick
      0.109232

      pledged
      0.133948

      backers_count
      0.404936

      spotlight
      1.000000

      SuccessfulBool
      1.000000

      Name:
      SuccessfulBool, dtype:
      float64
```

Looking at the correlations above we can see that nothing is too strongly correlated except spotlight, backers_count, pledged, and staff_pick. But really the only significant ones are backers_count and spotlight. It's crazy that spotlight has a correlation of 1. I'm going to look at that one real quick.

```
In [108]: len(df_iqr_trimmed[df_iqr_trimmed['spotlight'] == 1])
Out[108]: 2200
In [110]: len(df_iqr_trimmed[df_iqr_trimmed['SuccessfulBool'] == 1])
Out[110]: 2200
```

As we can see, there are exactly 2200 that are in the spotlight and were successful. And taken together with the spotlight variable's correlation to SuccessfulBool, we can conclude that all spotlighted campaigns were successful, at least in this dataset, taking into account the fact that it is reduced to IQR values only.

I'm going to pool together these strongly correlated features for feature selection later to see if restricting the model's training on just these features will improve, detract from, or keep performance neutral.

Because of the original format of the variables, we need to take the log and sqrt transformations of them and check correlation with those as well to account for non-linear relationships.

```
# Make sure to use axis = 1 to perform a column bind
          features = pd.concat([numeric_subset, categorical_subset], axis = 1)
          # Drop buildings without an energy star score
          features = features.dropna(subset = ['SuccessfulBool'])
          # Find correlations with the score
          correlations = features.corr()['SuccessfulBool'].dropna().sort_values()
          correlations.head()
C:\Users\riley\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\ipykernel_launcher.py:11: RuntimeWarning: divide by z
  # This is added back by InteractiveShellApp.init_path()
C:\Users\riley\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\ipykernel_launcher.py:11: RuntimeWarning: invalid val
  # This is added back by InteractiveShellApp.init_path()
Out[112]: log_goal
                                         -0.554957
          sqrt_goal
                                         -0.272015
          log_launch_to_deadline_days -0.219717
          sqrt_launch_to_deadline_days -0.205036
          launch_to_deadline_days
                                        -0.184938
          Name: SuccessfulBool, dtype: float64
   So we saw in the previous step that goal got a boost in correlation what you take its log, so I will
add log_goal into the reduced_x_features dataframe. We also saw log_pledged show a significant
boost as well, so that will be included.
In [115]: reduced_x_features['log_goal'] = features['log_goal']
          reduced_x_features['log_pledged'] = features['log_pledged']
          reduced_x_features.drop('pledged', axis=1, inplace=True)
        KeyError
                                                   Traceback (most recent call last)
        <ipython-input-115-c9c84d862de4> in <module>()
          1 reduced_x_features['log_goal'] = features['log_goal']
          2 reduced_x_features['log_pledged'] = features['log_pledged']
    ----> 3 reduced_x_features.drop('pledged', axis=1, inplace=True)
        ~\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\pandas\core\frame.py in drop(self, labels, axis, index, co
       3695
                                                        index=index, columns=columns,
       3696
                                                        level=level, inplace=inplace,
```

One hot encode

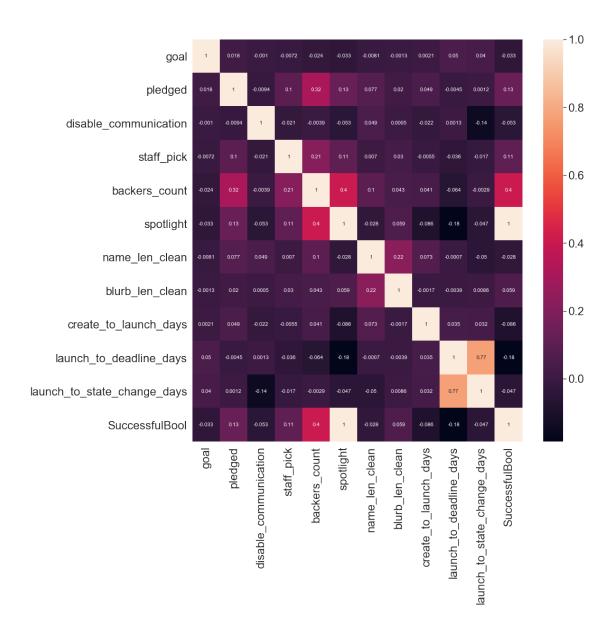
categorical_subset = pd.get_dummies(categorical_subset)

Join the two dataframes using concat

```
-> 3697
                                                    errors=errors)
  3698
  3699
            @rewrite_axis_style_signature('mapper', [('copy', True),
   ~\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\pandas\core\generic.py in drop(self, labels, axis, index,
                for axis, labels in axes.items():
  3109
                    if labels is not None:
  3110
-> 3111
                        obj = obj._drop_axis(labels, axis, level=level, errors=errors)
  3112
  3113
                if inplace:
   ~\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\pandas\core\generic.py in _drop_axis(self, labels, axis, l
                        new_axis = axis.drop(labels, level=level, errors=errors)
  3141
  3142
                    else:
-> 3143
                        new_axis = axis.drop(labels, errors=errors)
                    result = self.reindex(**{axis_name: new_axis})
  3144
  3145
    ~\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\pandas\core\indexes\base.py in drop(self, labels, errors)
                    if errors != 'ignore':
   4402
   4403
                        raise KeyError(
-> 4404
                            '{} not found in axis'.format(labels[mask]))
  4405
                    indexer = indexer[~mask]
   4406
                return self.delete(indexer)
   KeyError: "['pledged'] not found in axis"
```

4 Feature Engineering and Selection

I selected variables based on their correlations with the target variable, either positive or negative. This is feature selection, or rather deselection, because there were many that I was ignoring and not selecting. Feature engineering is the process of creating new features from existing ones in a sense, so when I transformed goal and pledged to log_goal and log_pledged, I found that these had a stronger correlation than their original forms, so these new features were added to reduced_x_features.



5 Modeling

```
In [117]: from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

# Split into 70% training and 30% testing set
X, X_test, y, y_test = train_test_split(reduced_x_features, reduced_y, test_size = 0.2

print(X.shape)
print(X_test.shape)
print(y_shape)
print(y_test.shape)
```

```
(7446, 7)
(1862, 7)
(7446,)
(1862,)

In [118]: # Imputing missing values and scaling values
from sklearn.preprocessing import MinMaxScaler

# Machine Learning Models
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression, LogisticRegressionCV
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier, GradientBoostingClassifier
from sklearn.svm import SVC
from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier

# Hyperparameter tuning
from sklearn.model_selection import RandomizedSearchCV, GridSearchCV
```

If I use scalers, the values that are non-binary come to be mapped relative to their original values in a range between 0 and 1. Since this is a classification problem, this boosts the correlation between variables against the target variable too much and leads to perfect performance across all machine learning algorithms. Because of this I will not scale.

```
In [119]: from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix
                                                                     # Takes in a model, trains the model, and evaluates the model on the test set
                                                                     def fit_and_evaluate(model):
                                                                                                # Train the model
                                                                                               model.fit(X, y)
                                                                                                # Make predictions and evalute
                                                                                               predictions = model.predict(X_test)
                                                                                                # Return the performance metric
                                                                                                \texttt{return print}(\texttt{classification\_report}(\texttt{y\_test}, \ \texttt{predictions}), \ \texttt{'} \texttt{'} \texttt{n'}, \ \texttt{confusion\_matrix}(\texttt{y\_test}, \ \texttt{prediction\_matrix}(\texttt{y\_test}, \ \texttt{prediction\_matrix}), \ \texttt{'} \texttt{'} \texttt{n'}, \ \texttt{'} \texttt
In [120]: lr = LogisticRegression()
                                                                   fit_and_evaluate(lr)
                                                                                        precision
                                                                                                                                                                                 recall f1-score
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     support
                                                                   0
                                                                                                                           0.93
                                                                                                                                                                                               0.94
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    0.94
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           1411
                                                                     1
                                                                                                                           0.82
                                                                                                                                                                                               0.77
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    0.79
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 451
avg / total
                                                                                                                           0.90
                                                                                                                                                                                               0.90
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    0.90
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          1862
       [[1333
                                                                  78]
```

```
[ 102 349]]
In [121]: svm = SVC(C = 1000, gamma = 0.1)
          fit_and_evaluate(svm)
                          recall f1-score
             precision
                                             support
                  0.87
                            0.97
                                      0.92
                                                 1411
                  0.87
                                      0.68
                            0.56
                                                  451
avg / total
                  0.87
                            0.87
                                      0.86
                                                 1862
 [[1374
          37]
[ 198 253]]
In [122]: random_forest = RandomForestClassifier(random_state=101)
          fit_and_evaluate(random_forest)
             precision
                          recall f1-score
                                             support
          0
                  1.00
                            1.00
                                      1.00
                                                 1411
                  1.00
                            1.00
                                      1.00
                                                  451
avg / total
                 1.00
                            1.00
                                      1.00
                                                 1862
 [[1411
           07
    0 451]]
In [124]: knn = KNeighborsClassifier(n_neighbors=5)
          fit_and_evaluate(knn)
             precision
                          recall f1-score
                                             support
                  0.93
                                      0.94
                            0.94
                                                 1411
                  0.82
                            0.79
                                      0.81
                                                  451
avg / total
                            0.91
                                      0.91
                                                 1862
                  0.91
 [[1332
         79]
 [ 93 358]]
In [176]: gradient_boosted = GradientBoostingClassifier(random_state=60)
```

fit_and_evaluate(gradient_boosted)

```
precision
                            recall f1-score
                                                support
          0
                   1.00
                              1.00
                                         1.00
                                                    1411
          1
                   1.00
                              1.00
                                         1.00
                                                     451
avg / total
                   1.00
                              1.00
                                         1.00
                                                    1862
 [[1411
     0 451]]
```

This one has perfect performance so we will use that to predict a new campaign:

```
In [190]: reduced_x_features
          #log of 14000 is 9.6, which means the goal is 1000 and the pledged is 14000, and it st
          gradient_boosted.predict_proba([[45, 0, 6, 1, 15000, 9.62, 6.91]])
Out [190]: array([[5.44896131e-04, 9.99455104e-01]])
```

A campaign with 45 days until the deadline, that was not staff picked, backed by 6 backers, is in the spotlight, has a goal of 15000 USD, which is a log_goal of 9.62, and a log_pledged of 6.91 (equal to 1000 USD) has a 99.9% chance of succeeding!

6 Interpretation

```
In [185]: importances = gradient_boosted.feature_importances_
          feature_list = list(X.columns)
          feature_results = pd.DataFrame({'feature': feature_list,
                                           'importance': importances})
          feature_results
Out[185]:
                              feature
                                       importance
             launch_to_deadline_days
                                              0.00
                                              0.00
          1
                           staff_pick
          2
                        backers_count
                                              0.00
          3
                            spotlight
                                              0.72
          4
                                              0.00
                                 goal
          5
                             log_goal
                                              0.00
                          log_pledged
                                              0.00
```

According to our gradient boosting classifier algorithm's calculations, the most important feature in determining the outcome of a Kickstarter campaign is whether or not it is in the spotlight. That makes sense!

7 Conclusions

With this dataset, it is possible to predict the success or failure of a kickstarter campaign with just 7 variables describing it, and with the gradient_boosted.predict_proba() method, we can know the probability of either failure or success, given a new input of unseen features. Project by Riley Predum. To see more projects/coding, visit my github!