

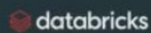


A unified data analytics platform for accelerating innovation across  
data engineering, data science, and analytics

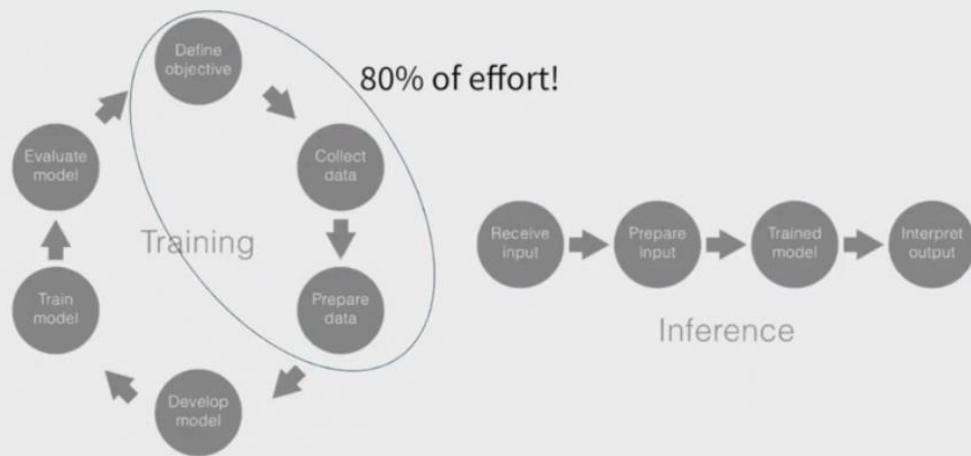
- Global company with over 5,000 customers and 450+ partners
- Original creators of popular big data and machine learning open source projects



Setting up for success



# ML Workflow



## Business Objective(s)

- What do you want to accomplish? Impact decisions?
- What is "success"?
- Business constraints on model?



# Deployment Scenarios

- Batch
- Streaming
- Real-time



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- Real-time

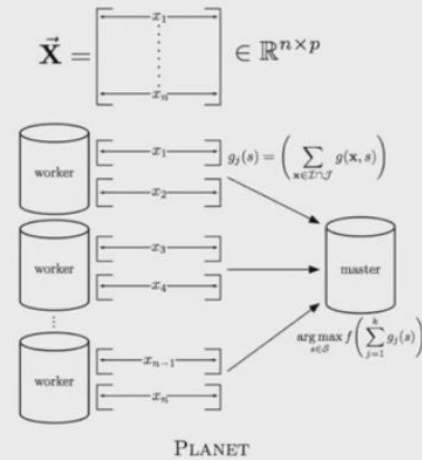
Which library to use: SparkML or sklearn?

If an algorithm is present in both, will I get the same result?



# Not Necessarily!

- Different default parameters
  - RF in Sklearn vs. RF in SparkML
- Some algorithms are implemented differently



## Data Preparation

# Handling Missing Data

What are some techniques to deal with missing data?

- Drop rows/columns
- Impute:



# Handling Missing Data

What are some techniques to deal with missing data?

- Drop rows/columns
- Impute:
  - Numeric
    - Mean, Median, etc.
  - Categorical
    - 'Missing' Category or Mode
  - Other techniques



# Indicator Columns



If you do ANY imputation techniques, you MUST include an additional field specifying that field was imputed

CustomerID	Salary	Salary_Imputed	Salary_Imputed_IND
598769243857	50,000	50,000	0
934529879045	null	70,000	1
456394875354	90,000	90,000	0

## Example: Grants

# Feature Engineering + Model Limitations



## Feature Preparation

- Feature Engineering & modelling process are closely related.
- No "one size fits all" solution.





# Handling Non-Numeric Features

**Option 1:** Create single numerical feature

```
Animals = {'Dog', 'Cat', 'Fish'}  
'Dog' = 1, 'Cat' = 2, 'Fish' = 3
```

**Option 2:** Create a 'dummy' feature for each category

```
'isDog' => [1, 0, 0],  
'isCat' => [0, 1, 0],  
'isFish' => [0, 0, 1]
```

## Sparse Vectors

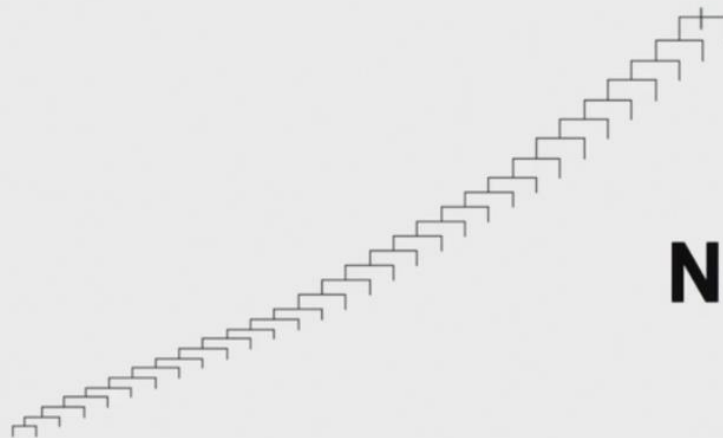


Size of vector, indices of non-zero elements, values

```
DenseVector(0, 0, 0, 7, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0)  
SparseVector(10, [3, 5], [7, 2])
```



# OHE For Decision Tree?



**No!**

OHE good for linear algorithms

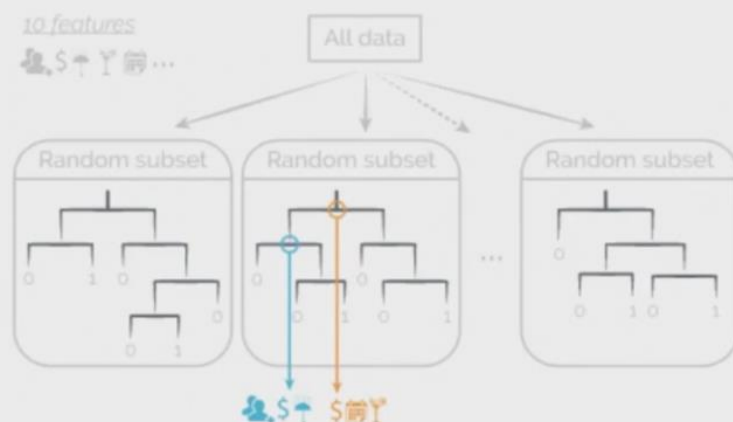
OHE bad for decision trees

Sklearn use ordinalEncoder or labelEncoder

Spark use stringIndexer()

## What about Random Forests?

- Favors features with higher cardinality
- What other alternatives are there?



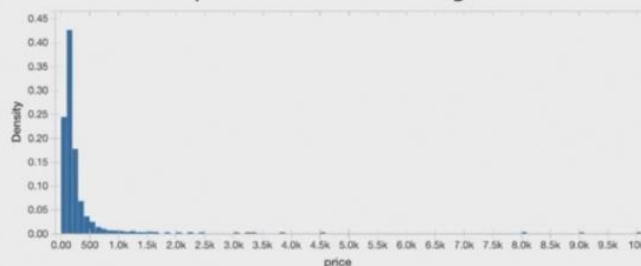
# Linear Regression Assumptions?



# Linear Regression Assumptions?



No? Then predict on the log scale

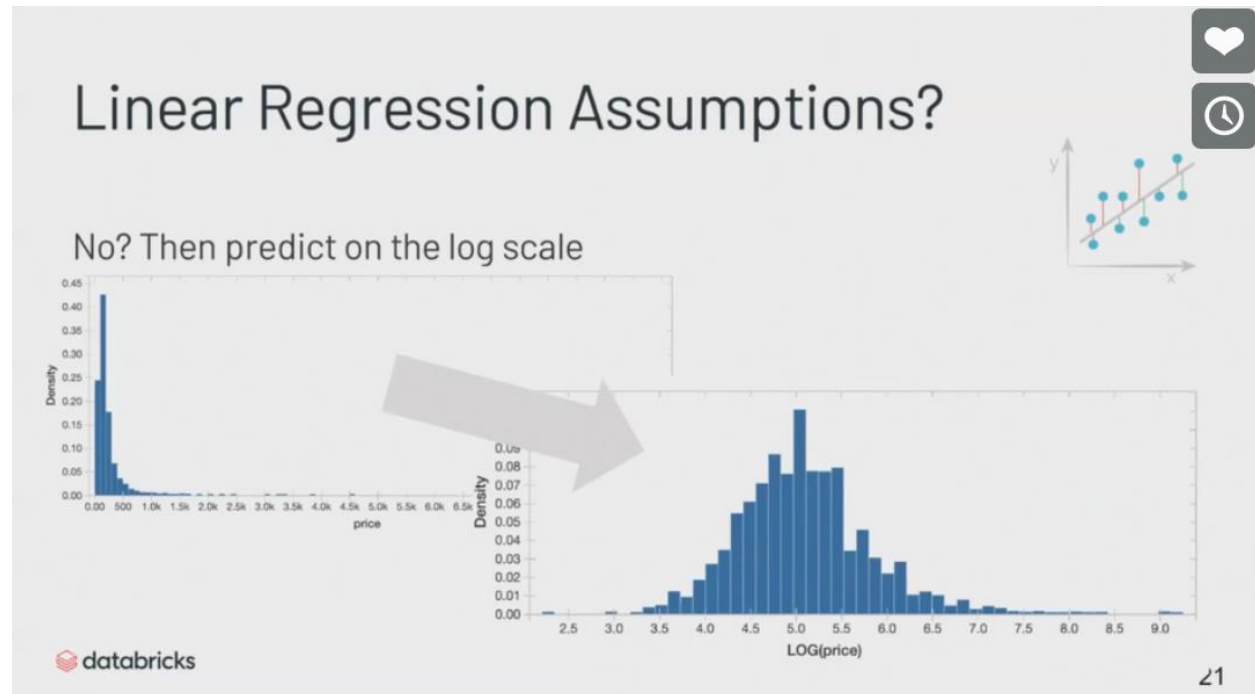


Linear regression assumptions:

Linear relationship between target and feature

Error is normally distributed

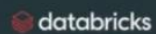
If data is skewed, apply log normal distribution



## Inspect The Model

- Feature importance scores
- Correlated features?
- Label used as one of features?

# Model integrity + Performance



## Reproducibility

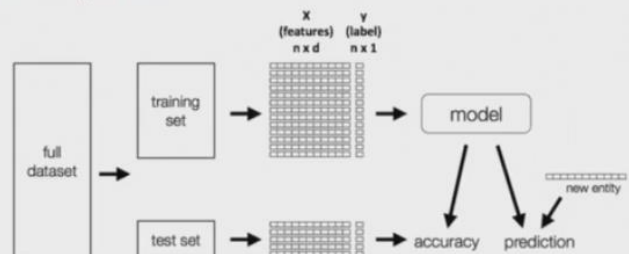
- Can I run this notebook?
- Run cells out of order?
- Modify stateful model?



# Train-test Split



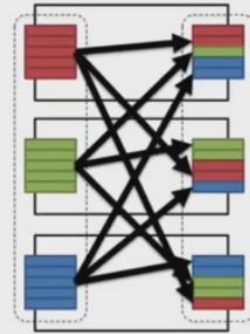
# Train-test Split



- Did you set a seed?
- Did you fix your cluster configuration?

# Spark Configurations

- `spark.sql.shuffle.partitions`
  - Number of partitions to use when shuffling data for joins or aggregations
- `spark.sql.execution.arrow.enabled`
  - Apache Arrow is an in-memory columnar data format that is used in Spark to efficiently transfer data between JVM and Python processes



## Optimizing SparkML Pipeline Performance Demo

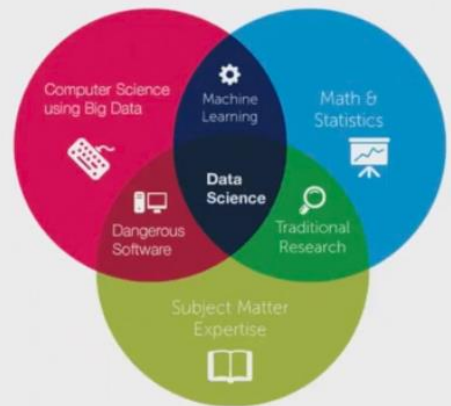


# On my soapbox



## Solutions vs. Algorithms

<i>Solution</i>	<i>Algorithm</i>
Outcome driven	Lose sight of problem
Simple	Most often complex
Explainable	Hard to explain
Flexible	Rigid
Involves multiple parties	Solo driven
Grasp attentions	"Academic"
Sometimes boring	Innovative





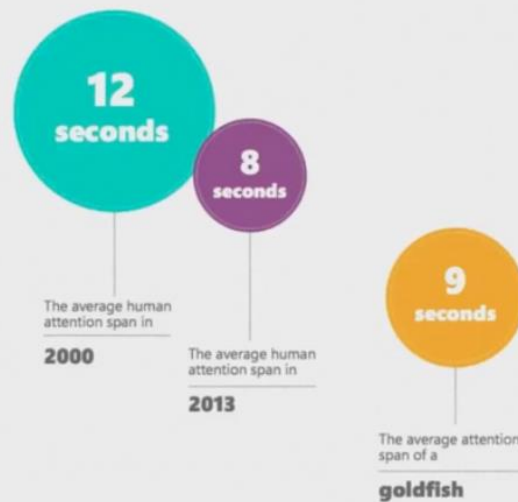
# Illusion of Perfection



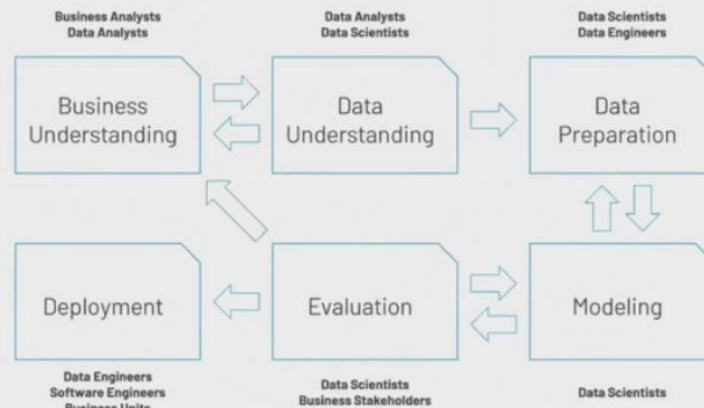
- Best does not exist
- Better always exists
- Double down on 80/20 rule
- Iterate through "solutions"

## Fail Fast

- Minimum Viable Model (MVM)
- Time-to-market
- Results matter
- Adoption matters more
- Visibility



# Data Science is a team sport



## Theory of Everything

- Organizations are unique
- Problems are unique
- Datasets are unique
- DS life cycles are unique
- One-size-fits all solution does not exist (yet)!



# Summary

- Setting up for success
- Data Preparation
- Feature Engineering & Model Assumptions
- My Soapbox
  - Provide solutions
  - 80/20 rule
  - Fail Fast
  - Data Science is a team sport
  - One size fits all does not exist