# Integrated Approach of RFM, Clustering, CLTV & Machine Learning Algorithms for Forecasting: an example with Python coding





C LTV is a customer relationship management (CRM) issue with an enterprise approach to understanding and influencing customer behavior through meaningful communication to improve customer acquisition, customer retention, customer loyalty, and customer profitability. The whole idea is that, business wants to predict the average amount of \$\$ customers will spend on the business over the entire life of relationship.

Although statistical methods can be very powerful, but these methods make several stringent assumptions on the types of data and their distribution, and typically can only handle a limited number of variables. Regressionbased methods are usually based on a fixed-form equation, and assume a single best solution, which means that we can compare only a few alternative solutions manually. Further, when the models are applied to real data, the key assumptions of the methods are often violated. Here, I will show *Machine Learning* (ML) methods by integrating the *CLTV* and customer transaction variables with the *RFM* variables to forecast consumer purchases.

I will use two approaches here —

1st approach- RFM (Recency, Frequency, and Monetary) marketing analysis method is used in order to segmentation of customers and

2nd approach using **Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV)** will train a **ML** algorithm for **prediction**. I will use 3 months of data to calculate **RFM** and use it for predicting next 6 months.

**RFM** is a scoring model attempt to predict customers' behavior in the future and implicitly linked to *CLTV*. One key limitation of *RFM* models is that they are scoring models and do not explicitly provide a \$ number for customer value. A simple equation to derive *CLTV* for a customer

- pt= price paid by a consumer at time t,
- ct = direct cost of servicing the customer at time t,
- i = discount rate or cost of capital for the firm,
- rt = probability of customer repeat buying or being "alive" at time t,
- AC = acquisition cost, and
- T = time horizon for estimating*CLTV*.

# **Data Mining**

Let's load and see the data.



We have all the necessary information that we need:

- Customer ID
- Unit Price
- Quantity
- Invoice Date

With all these features, we can build the equation for Monetary value = Active Customer Count \* Order Count \* Average Revenue per Order

```
df['InvoiceDate'] = pd.to_datetime(df['InvoiceDate']) #convert the
type of Invoice Date Field from string to datetime.

df['InvoiceYearMonth'] = df['InvoiceDate'].map(lambda date:
100*date.year + date.month) #create YearMonth field

df['Monetary'] = df['UnitPrice'] * df['Quantity'] #calculate
Monetary for each row and create a new data frame with YearMonth -
Monetary columns

monetary = df.groupby(['InvoiceYearMonth'])
['Monetary'].sum().reset_index()
```

Before we dive into *RFM* score, we can do some analysis to know more about customer behavior such as Monthly Active Customers/ Monthly Order Count/Average Revenue per Order /New Customer Ratio/ Monthly Customer Retention Rate etc. Interested may visit *here* to know about the such analysis. So, I will start with segmentation.

### **Customer Segmentation**

Let's assume some common segments-

• Low Value- Customers who are less active than others, not very frequent buyer/visitor and generates very low — zero — maybe negative

revenue.

- Mid Value- Customers who are fairly frequent and generates moderate revenue.
- High Value- Customers with High Revenue, Frequency and low Inactivity; business always want to retain these customers.

We shall calculate *RFM* Value and apply unsupervised ML to identify different clusters for each by applyting *K-means* clustering to assign a *recency* score. Number of clusters generally defined by business, we need to *K-means* algorithm. However, *Elbow Method* of *K-means* helps us to know the optimal cluster number.

### Recency

To calculate *recency*, we need to find out most recent purchase date of each customer and see how many days they are inactive for. After having no. of inactive days for each customer, we will apply *K-means* clustering to assign customers a *recency* score.

```
#create a user dataframe to hold CustomerID and new segmentation scores

user = pd.DataFrame(df['CustomerID'].unique())

user.columns = ['CustomerID']

#get the max purchase date for each customer and create a dataframe with it

max_purchase = uk.groupby('CustomerID').InvoiceDate.max().reset_index()

max_purchase.columns = ['CustomerID', 'MaxPurchaseDate']

#we take the observation point as the max invoice date in the dataset

max_purchase['Recency'] = (max_purchase['MaxPurchaseDate'].max() - max_purchase['MaxPurchaseDate']).dt.days

#merge this dataframe to the new user dataframe

user = pd.merge(user, max_purchase['CustomerID', 'Recency']], on='CustomerID')

user.head()
```

```
        CustomerID
        Recency

        0
        17850.0
        301

        1
        13047.0
        31

        2
        13748.0
        95

        3
        15100.0
        329

        4
        15291.0
        25
```

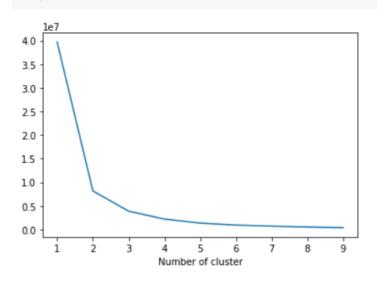
```
from sklearn.cluster import KMeans

sse={}

recency = user[['Recency']]

for k in range(1, 10):
    kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=k, max_iter=1000).fit(recency)
    recency["clusters"] = kmeans.labels_
    sse[k] = kmeans.inertia_

plt.figure()
plt.plot(list(sse.keys()), list(sse.values()))
plt.xlabel("Number of cluster")
plt.show()
```



Here it looks we have 3 clusters. Based on business requirements, we can go with less or more clusters. Let us select 4 for this example:

```
#build 4 clusters for recency and add it to dataframe

kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=4)
kmeans.fit(user[['Recency']])

user['RecencyCluster'] = kmeans.predict(user[['Recency']])

#function for ordering cluster numbers

def order_cluster(cluster_field_name, target_field_name,data,ascending):
    new_cluster_field_name = 'new_' + cluster_field_name
    data_new = data.groupby(cluster_field_name)[target_field_name].mean().reset_index()
    data_new = data_new.sort_values(by=target_field_name,ascending).reset_index(drop=True)
    data_new['index'] = data_new.index
    data_final = pd.merge(data,data_new[[cluster_field_name, 'index']], on=cluster_field_name)
    data_final = data_final.drop([cluster_field_name],axis=1)
    data_final = data_final.rename(columns={"index":cluster_field_name})

return data_final

user = order_cluster('RecencyCluster', 'Recency',user,False)
user.head()
```

	CustomerID	Recency	RecencyCluster
0	17850.0	301	0
1	15100.0	329	0
2	18074.0	373	0
3	16250.0	260	0
4	13747.0	373	0

```
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=4)
kmeans.fit(user[['Recency']])
user['RecencyCluster'] = kmeans.predict(user[['Recency']])

#order the recency cluster
user = order_cluster('RecencyCluster', 'Recency', user, True)

#see details of each cluster
user.groupby('RecencyCluster')['Recency'].describe()
```

		count	mean	sta	mın	25%	50%	75%	max
F	RecencyCluster								
	0	1950.0	17.488205	13.237058	0.0	6.00	16.0	28.0	47.0
	1	952.0	77.567227	22.743569	48.0	59.00	72.0	93.0	130.0

```
2 570.0 184.436842 31.856230 131.0 156.00 184.0 211.0 244.0
3 478.0 304.393305 41.183489 245.0 266.25 300.0 336.0 373.0
```

Likewise, we can do *Frequency* and *Monetary* and finally the Overall Score.

```
#calculate overall score and use mean() to see details
user['OverallScore'] = user['RecencyCluster'] + user['FrequencyCluster'] + user['MonetaryCluster']
user.groupby('OverallScore')['Recency','Frequency','Monetary'].mean()]
                                  Frequency
                     Recency
                                                      Monetary
OverallScore
                   19.223657
       0
                                    64.579878
                                                   1031.923869
       1
                   62.194676 100.247920 1495.978587
                  144.224299
                                  108.899866
                                                   2335.065048
                  284.768482
       3
                                  72.778210 1609.635136
       4
                   83.900000 934.400000 74360.852000
                   76.250000 4516.250000 32955.605000
```

We divide these cluster in High/Mid/Low — 0 to 2- Low / 3 to 4- Value / 5+- High Value customers

<pre>user['Segment'] = 'Low-Value' user.loc[user['OverallScore'] &gt; 2,'Segment'] = 'Mid-Value'   user.loc[user['OverallScore'] &gt; 4,'Segment'] = 'High-Value' user.head()</pre>										
	CustomerID	Recency	RecencyCluster	Frequency	FrequencyCluster	Revenue	RevenueCluster	OverallScore	Segment	
0	17850.0	301	0	312	1	5288.63	1	2	Low-Value	
1	14688.0	7	3	359	1	5107.38	1	5	High-Value	
2	13767.0	1	3	399	1	16945.71	1	5	High-Value	
3	15513.0	30	3	314	1	14520.08	1	5	High-Value	
4	14849.0	21	3	392	1	7904.28	1	5	High-Value	

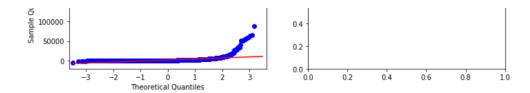
The descriptive statistics of the respective *RFM* is show below—

	Recency	Frequency	Monetary
Count	3950.00	3950.00	3950.00
Mean	90.77	91.61	1713.38
Std	100.23	220.55	6548.60
min	0.00	1.00	-4287.63
25%	16.00	17.00	282.25
50%	49.00	41.00	627.01
75%	142.00	101.00	1521.78
max	373.00	7983.00	256438.49
skewness	1.25	18.65	23.35
kurtosis	0.44	541.73	765.03
Jarque bera	1059.30	48406538.83	96442753.15

We see that even though the average is 90 day recency, median is 49. Negative Monetary value at min indicating return of items. The test statistic values and below distribution & QQ plots confirm that data set do not follow a normal distribution. Therefore, the use of nonparametric framework for making predictions is justified.

```
# Set up the matplotlib figure
    f, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(10, 6))
    sns.despine(left=True)
 5 # Plot a simple histogram with binsize determined automatically
 6 sns.distplot(user.Recency, color="b", ax=axes[0, 0])
7 sns.distplot(user.Frequency, color="b", ax=axes[0, 1 sns.distplot(user.Monetary, color="b",ax=axes[1, 0])
10 plt.tight_layout()
 0.0150 -
                                                                      0.005 -
 0.0125 -
                                                                      0.004
 0.0100 -
                                                                      0.003 -
 0.0075 -
                                                                      0.002 -
 0.0050 -
                                                                      0.001 -
 0.0025
 0.0000
                                                                      0.000
                                      200
                                                                                    1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000
                                  Recency
                                                                                                     Frequency
0.00035 -
                                                                         10 -
0.00030 -
                                                                         0.8 -
0.00025 -
                                                                         0.6 -
0.00020
0.00015 -
                                                                         0.4 -
0.00010 -
                                                                         0.2 -
0.00005
0.00000
                                                                        0.0
                             100000
                                      150000
                                                 200000
                                                           250000
                                                                                                                                      10
                                 Monetary
```

```
1 from statsmodels.graphics.gofplots import qqplot
    # Set up the matplotlib figure
    f, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(10, 6))
 6 # Plot a simple histogram with binsize determined automatically
    qqplot(user.Recency, line= 'r', ax=axes[0, 0], label='Recency')
qqplot(user.Frequency, line= 'r',label='Frequency', ax=axes[0,
qqplot(user.Monetary, line= 'r',label='Monetary',ax=axes[1, 0])
#plt.setp(axes, yticks=[])
12 plt.tight_layout()
      400
                                                                            8000
      300
                                                                            6000
Sample Quantiles
      200
                                                                         Sample Quar
     100
                                                                            4000
                                                                            2000
     -100
     -200
                              Theoretical Quantiles
                                                                                                     Theoretical Quantiles
                                                                             1.0
  250000
  200000
                                                                              0.6
  150000
```



Evidences from the statistical tests imply that data characterized by their nonparametric nature behavior. This justifies the deployment of advanced ML

and deep learning algorithms for predictive modeling exercise. However, I have not exercised deep learning algorithm here.

We can start taking actions with this segmentation. The strategies are simple for all three classes:

- Improve retention of High Value customer
- Improve retention and increase frequency of Mid Value customer
- Increase Frequency of Low Value customer

# **Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV)**

*CLTV* is quite simple here. First we will select a time window anything from 3, 6, 12, or 24 months. We can have compute the *CLTV* for each customer in that specific time window with an equation: *Total Gross Revenue -Total Cost*. This equation based on historical data and gives us the historical value. If we see some customers having very high negative lifetime value historically then probably we are too late to take an action. Let's use ML algorithm to predict.

### **CLTV** Prediction

So, let's follow the steps-

- Define an appropriate time frame for *CLTV* calculation
- Identify the features we are going to use to predict future and create them
- Calculate *CLTV* for training the ML model
- Build and run the ML model

#### • Check if the model is useful

We already have obtained the *RFM* scores for each customer ID. To implement it correctly, let's split our dataset. I will take 3 months of data, calculate *RFM* and use it for predicting next 6 months.

```
#create 3m and 6m dataframes

m3 = DF_uk[(DF_uk.InvoiceDate < date(2011,6,1)) & (DF_uk.InvoiceDate 
>= date(2011,3,1))].reset_index(drop=True)

m6 = DF_uk[(DF_uk.InvoiceDate >= date(2011,6,1)) & 
(DF_uk.InvoiceDate < date(2011,12,1))].reset_index(drop=True)
```

Now, the similar process of clustering, computing *RFM* and overall scoring of each data frame and finally merging the 3 months and 6 months data frames to see correlations between *CLTV* and the feature set we have.

1 DF_merge = pd.merge(DF_user_OF_user_6m, on='CustomerID', how='left') 2 DF_merge = DF_merge.fillna(0)											
import seaborn as sns 2 from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectKBest 3 from sklearn.feature_selection import chi2 4 corr= DF_merge.corr(methods'pearson') # correlation (pearson) 6 corr.style.background_gradient(cmap='coolwarm').set_precision(2)											
	CustomerID Recency RecencyCluster Frequency FrequencyCluster Revenue RevenueCluster OverallScore Monetary Monetary Cluster m6 Monetary										
CustomerID	1	-0.0032	0.0077	-0.033	-0.0095	-0.007	-0.02	2.4e-06	-0.007	-0.02	0.031
Recency	-0.0032	1	-0.97	-0.24	-0.23	-0.23	-0.19	-0.9	-0.23	-0.19	-0.14
RecencyCluster	0.0077	-0.97	1	0.23	0.22	0.23	0.19	0.93	0.23	0.19	0.14
Frequency	-0.033	-0.24	0.23	1	0.77	0.38	0.38	0.47	0.38	0.38	0.22
FrequencyCluster	-0.0095	-0.23	0.22	0.77	1	0.35	0.34	0.52	0.35	0.34	0.18
Revenue	-0.007	-0.23	0.23	0.38	0.35	1	0.84	0.45	1	0.84	0.82
RevenueCluster	-0.02	-0.19	0.19	0.38	0.34	0.84	1	0.45	0.84	1	0.65
OverallScore	2.4e-06	-0.9	0.93	0.47	0.52	0.45	0.45	1	0.45	0.45	0.29
Monetary	-0.007	-0.23	0.23	0.38	0.35	1	0.84	0.45	1	0.84	0.82
MonetaryCluster	-0.02	-0.19	0.19	0.38	0.34	0.84	1	0.45	0.84	1	0.65
m6_Monetary	0.031	-0.14	0.14	0.22	0.18	0.82	0.65	0.29	0.82	0.65	1

Here, by applying K-means clustering, we can identify the existing *CLTV* groups and build segments on top of it. Considering business part of this analysis, we need to treat customers differently based on their predicted *CLTV*. For this example, we will apply clustering and have 3 segments (number of segments really depends on your business dynamics and goals):

- Low CLTV
- Mid CLTV
- High *CLTV*

We are going to apply K-means clustering to decide segments and observe their characteristics:

```
#remove outliers

DF_merge = DF_merge[DF_merge['m6_Monetary'] < DF_merge['m6_Monetary'].quantile(0.99)]

#creating 3 clusters

kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=3)
```

2 is the best with average 8.2k *CLTV* whereas 0 is the worst with 396. There are few more step before training the ML model:

- Need to do some feature engineering. We should convert categorical columns to numerical columns.
- We will check the correlation of features against our label, CLTV clusters.
- We will split our feature set and label (*CLTV*) as X and y. We use X to predict y.
- Will create Training and Test dataset. Training set will be used for building the ML model.

We will apply our model to Test set to see its real performance.

```
from sklearn.model_selection import KFold, cross_val_score,
train_test_split
#convert categorical columns to numerical
DF_class = pd.get_dummies(DF_cluster)

#calculate and show correlations
corr_matrix = DF_class.corr()
corr_matrix['LTVCluster'].sort_values(ascending=False)

#create X and y, X will be feature set and y is the label - LTV
X = DF_class.drop(['LTVCluster', 'm6_Monetary'],axis=1)
y = DF_class['LTVCluster']

#split training and test sets
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.05, random_state=42)
```

```
#corr_matrix = DF_class.corr()
corr_matrix['LTVCluster'].sort_values(ascending=False)
```

```
LTVCluster
                        1.000000
                      0.845933
m6 Monetary
Monetary
                       0.600491
Revenue
MonetaryCluster
RevenueCluster
OverallScore
FrequencyCluster
0.366366
0.359601
Segment_High-Value 0.352387
RecencyCluster 0.236899
Segment_Mid-Value 0.168473
              -0.028401
CustomerID
                       -0.237249
Recency
Segment Low-Value -0.266008
Name: LTVCluster, dtype: float64
```

We see that 3 months Revenue, Frequency and *RFM* scores will be helpful for our ML models. With the training and test sets we can build our model.

# **Machine Learning Algorithm comparison**

```
11 xgb = xgb.XGBClassifier()
12 logreg2= LogisticRegressionCV()
13 km = KNeighborsClassifier()
14 svcl = SVC()
15 adb = AdaBoostClassifier()
16 dtclf = DecisionTreeClassifier()
17 rfclf = RandomForestClassifier()
18
19 # prepare configuration for cross validation test harness
20 seed = 42
21 # prepare models
22 models = []
23 models.append(('LR', LogisticRegressionCV(solver='lbfgs', max_iter=5000, cv=5, multi_class='auto')))
24 models.append(('XGB', XGBClassifier()))
25 models.append(('KWI, KNeighborsClassifier(5)))
26 models.append(('KWI, KNeighborsClassifier(max_depth=5)))
27 models.append(('RF', RandomForestClassifier(max_depth=5)))
28 models.append(('ADA', AdaBoostClassifier()))
29 models.append('YADA', AdaBoostClassifier()))
30
31 # evaluate each model in turn
32 results = []
31 names = []
34 scoring = 'accuracy'
35 for name, model in models:
    kfold = model_selection.KFold(n_splits=5, random_state=seed)
    cv_results = model_selection.cross_val_score(model,X_train, y_train, cv=kfold, scoring=scoring)
    results.append(cv_results)
    names.append(name)
    meg = "%s: %f (%f)" % (name, cv_results.mean(), cv_results.std())

LR: 0.799916 (0.031641)
XGB: 0.780834 (0.035113)
KNN: 0.790068 (0.015667)
RF: 0.774459 (0.024823)
ADA: 0.779097 (0.033471)
SVC: 0.781399 (0.020855)
```

Predictive model based on ML algorithms are kind of black box models which can be opened by using

# Sensitivity & Specificity analysis.

```
FP = confusion\_matrix.sum(axis=0) - np.diag(confusion\_matrix)
FN = confusion\_matrix.sum(axis=1) - np.diag(confusion\_matrix)
TP = np.diag(confusion\_matrix)
TN = confusion\_matrix.values.sum() — (FP + FN + TP)
TPR = TP/(TP+FN) \# Sensitivity, hit rate, recall, or true positive rate
TNR = TN/(TN+FP) \# Specificity or true negative rate
PPV = TP/(TP+FP) \# Precision or positive predictive value
NPV = TN/(TN+FN) \# Negative predictive value
FPR = FP/(FP+TN) \# Fall out or false positive rate
FNR = FN/(TP+FN) \# False negative rate
FDR = FP/(TP+FP)# False discovery rate
ACC = (TP+TN)/(TP+FP+FN+TN) \# Overall accuracy
```

### **XGB** model

```
2 0.33 0.50 0.40 2

accuracy 0.78 92
macro avg 0.58 0.61 0.59 92
weighted avg 0.77 0.78 0.77 92
```

We have a multi classification model with 3 groups (clusters). Accuracy shows 78% on the test set. Our True positives are on the diagonal axis and are the largest numbers here. The False Negatives are the sum of the other values along the rows. The False Positives are the sum of the other values down the columns. Precision and recall are acceptable for 0. For cluster 0 which is Low *CLTV*, if model identifies customer belongs to cluster 0, 85% chance that it will be correct(precision). The classifier successfully identifies 90% of actual cluster 0 customers (recall). We need to improve the model for other clusters. The classifier barely detect 43% of Mid *CLTV* customers.

Let's experiment changing the depth and OneVsRestClassifier —

```
1 from sklearn.multiclass import OneVsRestClassifier
   from xgboost import XGBClassifier
  3 from sklearn.preprocessing import MultiLabelBinarizer
  5 clf = OneVsRestClassifier(XGBClassifier(n_jobs=-1, max_depth=4, learning_rate=0.1))
  6 clf.fit(X_train, y_train)
OneVsRestClassifier(estimator=XGBClassifier(base_score=0.5, booster='gbtree',
                                       colsample bylevel=1,
                                       colsample_bynode=1,
                                       colsample bytree=1, gamma=0,
                                       learning_rate=0.1, max_delta_step=0,
                                       max_depth=4, min_child_weight=1,
                                       missing=None, n_estimators=100,
                                       n jobs=-1, nthread=None,
                                       objective='binary:logistic',
                                       random_state=0, reg_alpha=0,
                                       reg_lambda=1, scale_pos_weight=1,
                                       seed=None, silent=None, subsample=1,
                                       verbosity=1),
                  n jobs=None)
      1 print('Accuracy of XGB classifier on training set: {:.2f}'
                .format(clf.score(X_train, y_train)))
      3 print('*'*60)
      5 print('Accuracy of XGB classifier on test set: {:.2f}'
                .format(clf.score(X_test[X_train.columns], y_test)))
      7 print('*'*60)
      8 pred = clf.predict(X_test)
      9 print(classification_report(y_test, pred))
    Accuracy of XGB classifier on training set: 0.87
    Accuracy of XGB classifier on test set: 0.80
                    precision recall f1-score support
                 0
                          0.86
                                    0.91
                                                0.89
                                                               69
                 1
                          0.59
                                    0.48
                                                0.53
                                                               21
                                    0.50 0.50
                          0.50
```

accuracy			0.80	92
macro avg	0.65	0.63	0.64	92
weighted avg	0.79	0.80	0.80	92

Some improvement can be seen here. However, there are still rooms for improvement e.g.

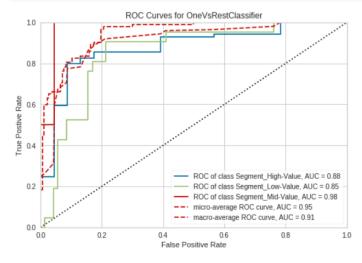
- Adding more features and improve feature engineering
- Try ANN / DNN

#### **ROCAUC**

By default with multi-class ROCAUC visualizations, a curve for each class is plotted, in addition to the micro- and macro-average curves for each class. This enables the user to inspect the tradeoff between sensitivity and specificity on a per-class basis.

```
from yellowbrick.classifier import ROCAUC
visualizer = ROCAUC(clf, classes=["Segment_High-Value", "Segment_Low-Value", "Segment_Mid-Value"])

visualizer.fit(X_train, y_train)  # Fit the training data to the visualizer visualizer.score(X_test, y_test)  # Evaluate the model on the test data
visualizer.poof()
visualizer
```



### **Class Prediction Error**

```
from yellowbrick.classifier import ClassPredictionError

# Instantiate the classification model and visualizer

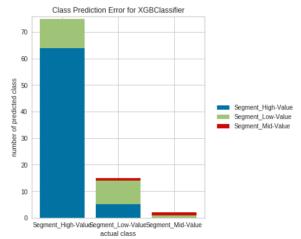
visualizer = ClassPredictionError(

XGBClassifier(random_state=42), classes=["Segment_High-Value", "Segment_Low-Value", "Segment_Mid-Value"])

# Fit the training data to the visualizer

visualizer.fit(X_train, y_train)
```





Understanding prediction errors and determining how to fix them is critical to building effective predictive systems. If you are interested, I will recommend to read this *article* to know more about prediction errors.

# **Summary**

In ML models parameters are tuned/estimated based on the data and the parameters control how the algorithms learn from the data (without making any assumptions about the data, and downstream of the data generation). XGB is a tree based algorithm and hence can be considered nonparametric. The tree depth used here is a parameter of the algorithm, but it is not inherently derived from the data, but rather an input parameter.

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