I'm sort of in the opposite boat to you, in the sense that I don't have experience with Pandas . . . In terms of building your own models, I got into machine learning by making my own Perceptron and multi -layered perceptron . . . from there I found out about RNN, LSTM and now I'm starting to feel like I will be able to approach Numerai with at least something

Still not going to make a serious contribution for a while probably.

Hope it helps

Κ