Immediately after opening the first practice module, I felt completely out of my element. I had never used pandas, NumPy, or matplotlib before, and even basic tasks like installing the libraries felt confusing even though it was already pre-written in the cells. It's my first coding class, and I honestly didn't know what I was getting into. The combination of unfamiliar tools, technical terms, and concepts is already overwhelming.

Working through the exercises, I've started to see how these tools kind of work together. Pandas and NumPy slowly became less intimidating. I will say, I won't be able to immediately recognize their uses, but I can say after using it a bit, I know I'll understand quickly. I began to recognize patterns, understand how data is structured, and even enjoy the process of playing with it. It truly does feel like learning a new language. It's awkward at first, but exciting once I started to understand the grammar.

Sklearn, was a different story. It was introduced briefly, and I didn't get enough examples to really grasp how it worked. I know it's important for machine learning, but I couldn't quite figure out how to use it or what it was doing. That misunderstanding is leaving me feeling stuck. I wanted to understand it better, because it was part of the lab, but i realize that it was really pushed more as a 'cameo' to show you how it can work and we will see more in later modules.

I've also made mental notes that terms like "samples," "features," and "classes" directly relate to rows, columns, and categories in a dataset. That simple connection made everything clearer. Using pandas started to feel comfortable once I saw how similar DataFrames are to tables. I learned that using NumPy, you can perform complex operations on arrays with a single line of code.

Throughout the lab, I utilized tools like Gemini in Google Colab to help explain things to me. I learned through asking it questions and when I got the concept, I would then ask more follow up questions to support my knowledge of it. The more I practiced, the more confident I became in explaining what I was doing and why.

I know I still have a lot to learn (even in this module), especially when it comes to sklearn. I will continue to keep exploring, building, and asking questions to grasp these concepts. I'm hopeful that I'll someday be able to use these libraries to potentially create apps, analyze data, and make games.