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# Module 3: Evaluating & Interpreting Models

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# Module 3 Objectives:

**At the conclusion of this module, you should be able to:**

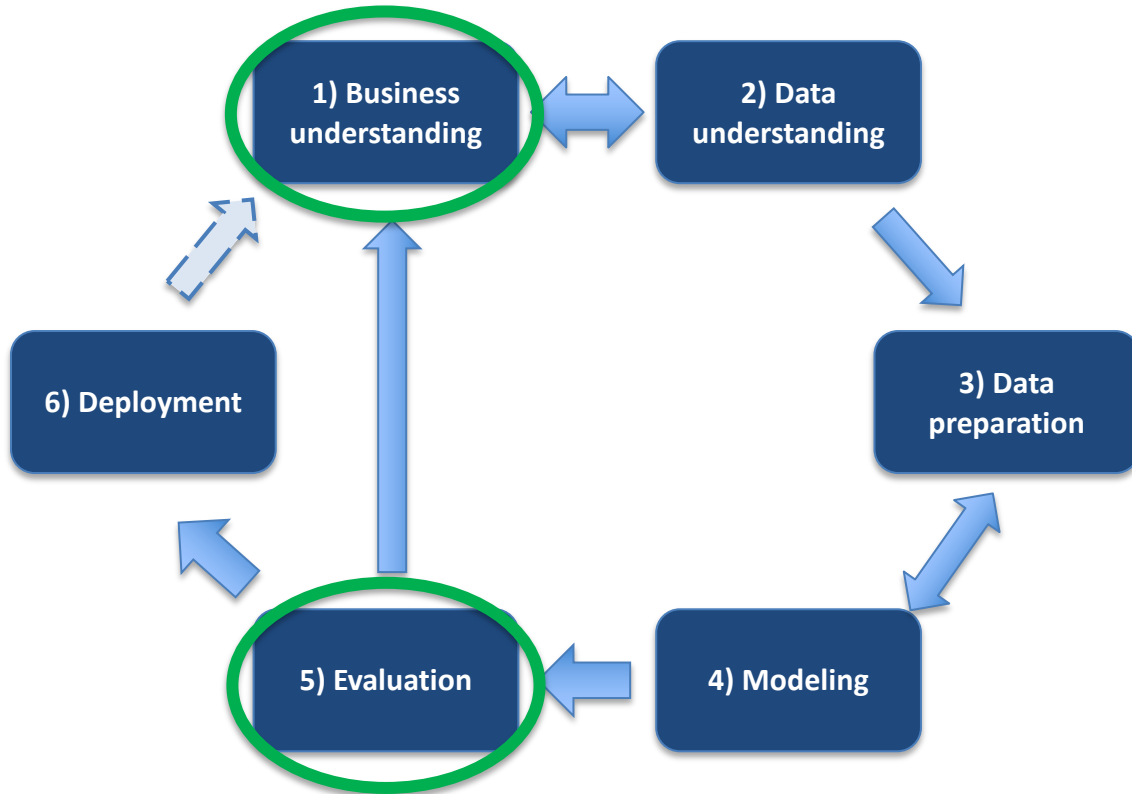
- 1) Differentiate between outcome and output metrics
- 2) Apply metrics to evaluate the performance of regression models
- 3) Apply metrics to evaluate the performance of classification models

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# Outcomes vs. Outputs

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# Evaluating Models



# Outcomes vs. Outputs

## Outcome

- Refers to the desired business impact on your organization or for your customer
- Stated in terms of the expected impact (which is often \$)
- Does NOT contain model performance metrics or other technical metrics

# Outcomes vs. Outputs

## Output

- Refers to the desired output from the model
- Measured in terms of a model performance metric
- Typically not communicated to the customer
- Set this AFTER setting the desired outcome

# Outcomes vs. Outputs

	A tool to predict turbulence for airlines	A power demand forecasting tool for a utility
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low # of safety incidents per year, or lower \$ of safety-related claims</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower cost per MWh of power produced</li><li>• Lower emissions rate per MWh</li></ul>
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classification error metric (binary or 1-5 scale)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regression error metric</li></ul>



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# Model Output Metrics

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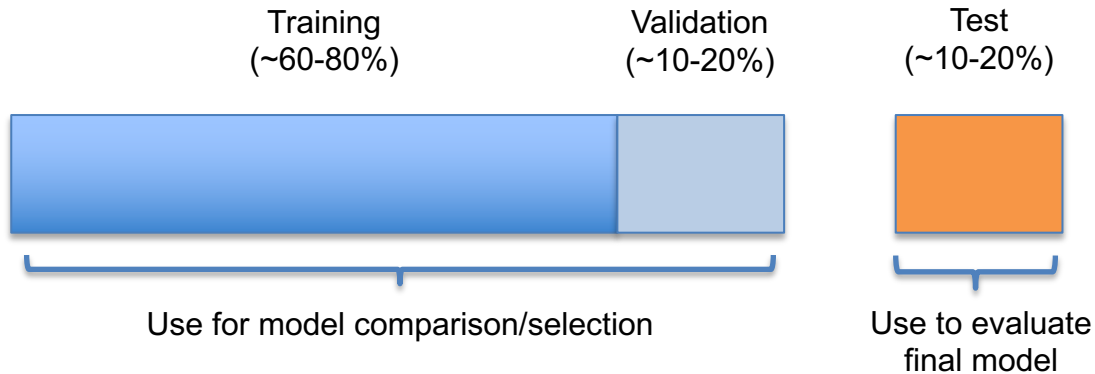
# Uses for Metrics

We use metrics at several points in modeling:

- Model comparison & selection
- Evaluating model to deploy
- Ongoing model performance monitoring

# Evaluating Models

- When comparing models, we calculate metrics using the **validation set** (or cross-validation)
- When evaluating our final model, we use the **test set**



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# Regression Error Metrics

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# MSE, MAE and MAPE

## Mean Squared Error

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

- Most popular regression error metric
- Heavily influenced by outliers - penalizes large errors heavily
- Influenced by scale of data
- Sometimes used as RMSE

# MSE, MAE and MAPE

## Mean Absolute Error

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

- Also influenced by scale
- More robust to outliers
- Can be easier to interpret in context of the problem

# MSE, MAE and MAPE

Mean Absolute % Error

$$MAPE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \frac{|y_i - \hat{y}_i|}{y_i}$$

- Converts error to a percentage
- Popular because it is easily understood
- Skewed by high % errors for low values of y



# Example: MAE vs. MSE/RMSE

Case 1: Small variance in errors

Datapoint #	Error	Error	Error <sup>2</sup>
1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1
3	1	1	1
4	2	2	4
5	2	2	4

Total Error: 7  
MAE: 1.4    MSE: 2.2

Case 2: One large error

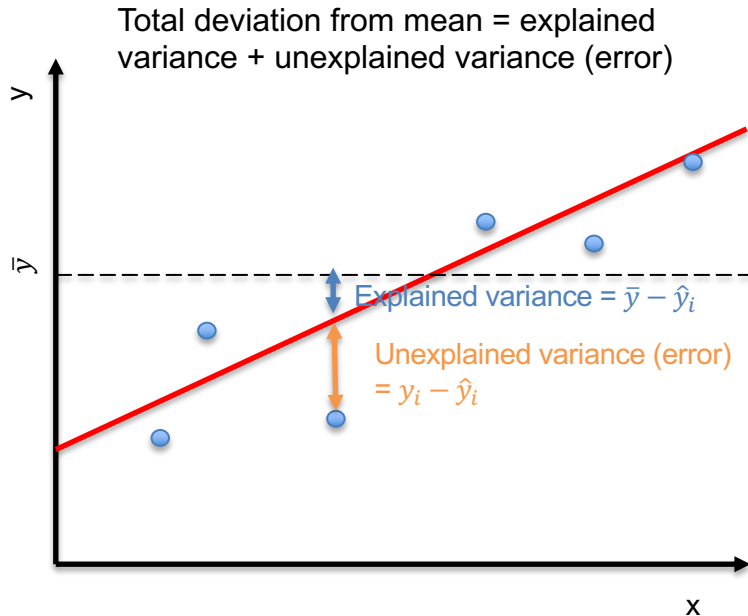
Datapoint #	Error	Error	Error <sup>2</sup>
1	0	0	0
2	0	0	0
3	0	0	0
4	0	0	0
5	7	7	49

Total Error: 7  
MAE: 1.4    MSE: 9.8

- MSE/RMSE penalizes severe errors much more than MAE
- This is sometimes desirable, as being off by a lot one time can be much worse than being off by a little every time

# Coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ )

R-squared is used to communicate how much of the variability in your target variable (y) is explained by your model



Total squared deviation from mean (SST) = Sum of squares regression (SSR) + Total squared error (SSE)

$$\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2 = \sum_i (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2 + \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

$$R^2 = \frac{SSR}{SST} = 1 - \frac{SSE}{SST}$$

$R^2$  is generally between 0 and 1

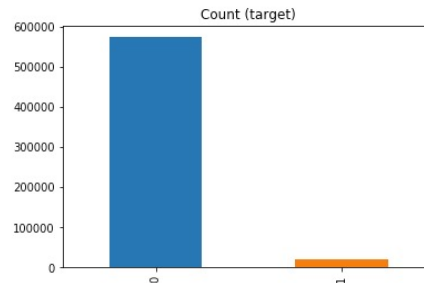
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# Classification Error Metrics: Confusion Matrix

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# Accuracy

- Accuracy is the most popular and easiest to understand error metric
- However, accuracy can be deceiving when there is a class imbalance
- Consider this situation:
  - I am building a model to predict whether patients will have heart disease
  - I use data from medical study with thousands of patients and several features, along with a label of whether they were diagnosed with heart disease (“1”) or not (“0”)
  - Using this dataset, I create a classifier with 99.4% accuracy!
- What’s the problem?
  - My dataset had very high class imbalance
  - My model just predicted “0” for every patient
  - And it was right 99.4% of the time!



# A Better Method - The Confusion Matrix

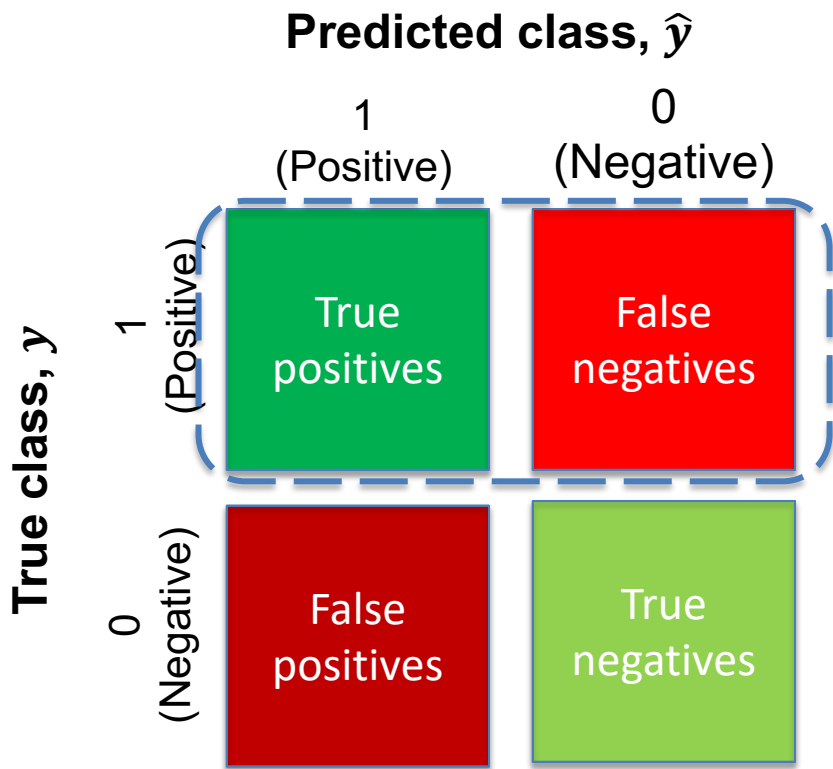
		Predicted class, $\hat{y}$	
		1 (Positive)	0 (Negative)
True class, $y$	1 (Positive)		
	0 (Negative)		

# Confusion Matrix – Binary Classification

		Predicted class, $\hat{y}$	
		1 (Positive)	0 (Negative)
True class, $y$	1 (Positive)	True positives	False negatives
	0 (Negative)	False positives	True negatives

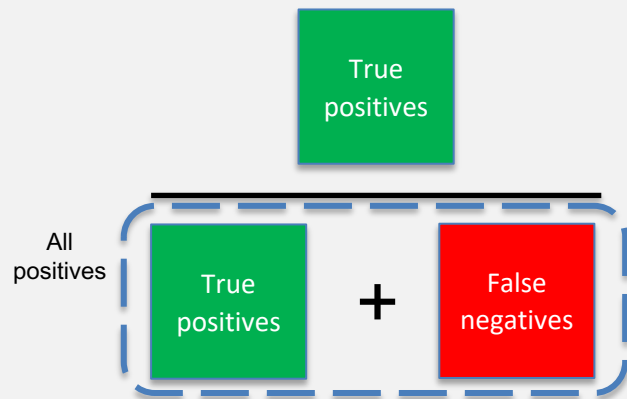


# Confusion Matrix – Binary Classification

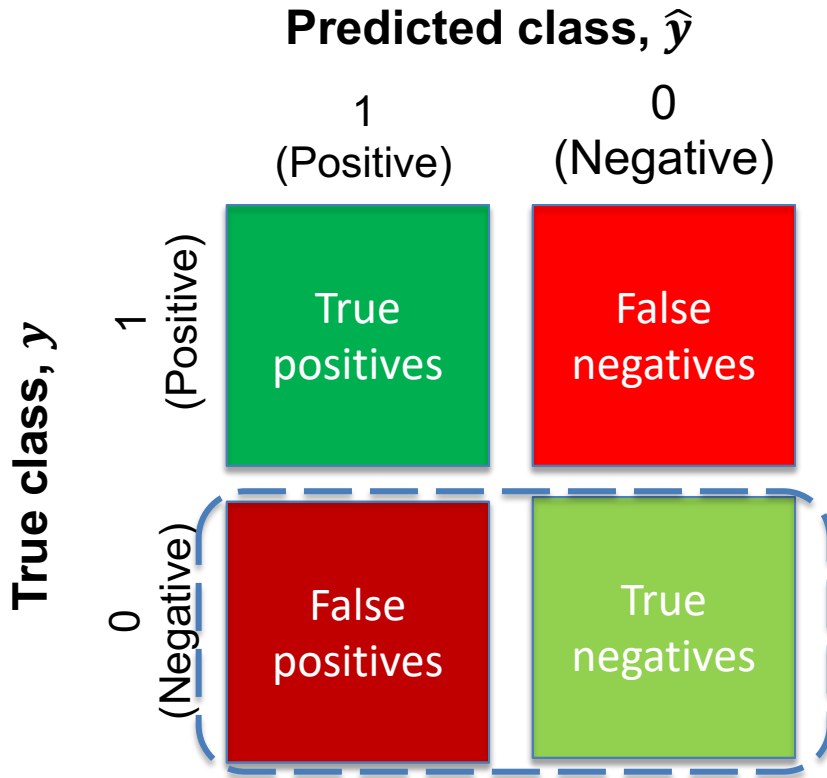


**True Positive Rate (TPR)**  
**Recall**  
**Sensitivity**

How many of all positives did the model correctly classify as positives?

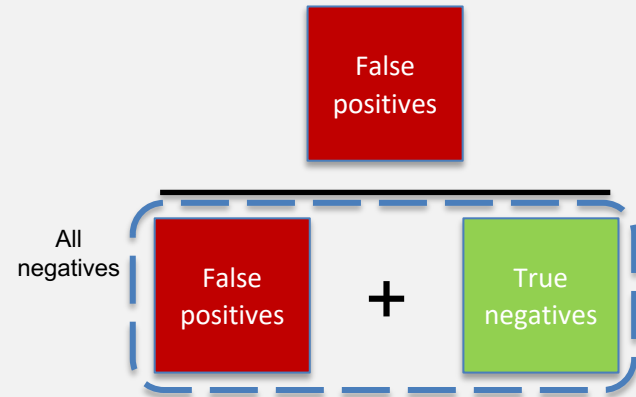


# Confusion Matrix – Binary Classification

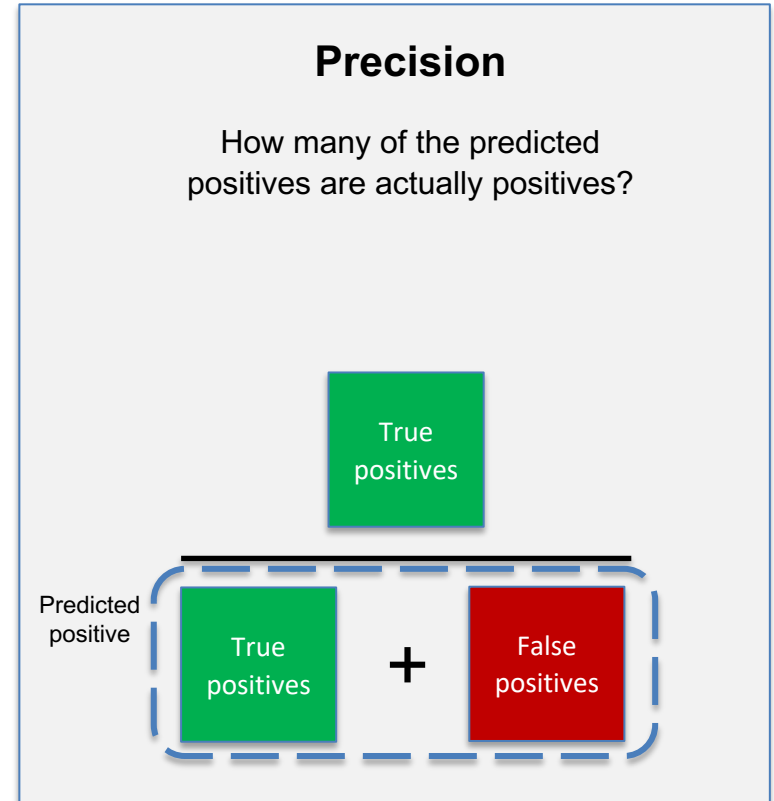
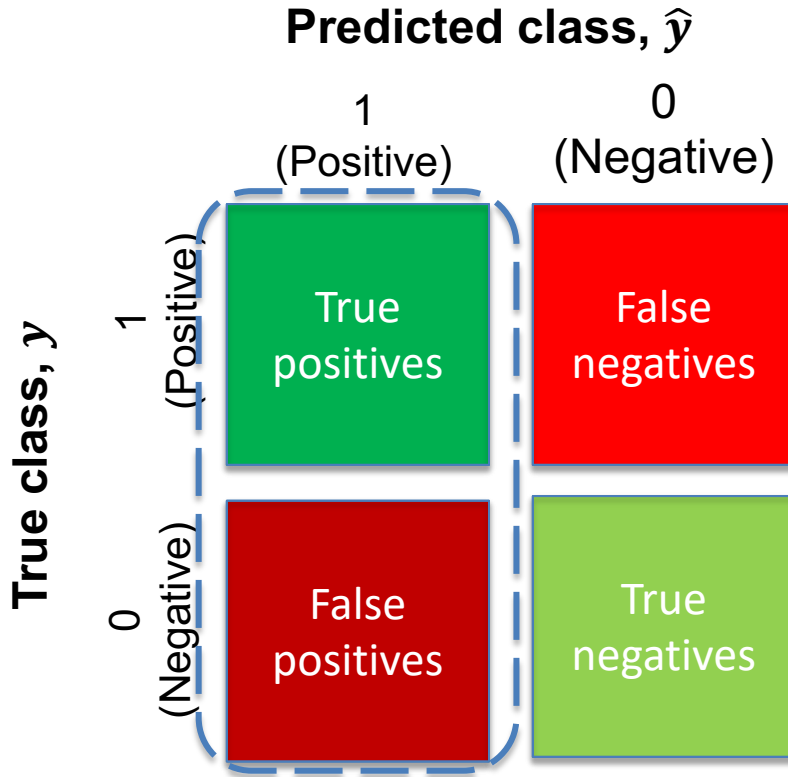


## False Positive Rate (FPR)

How many of all negatives did the model incorrectly classify as positives?

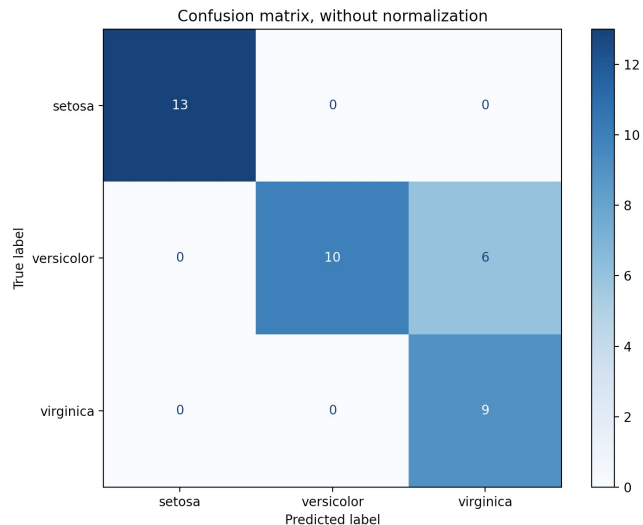


# Confusion Matrix – Binary Classification



# Multiclass Confusion Matrix

The multiclass confusion matrix shows us where the model struggles to differentiate between classes, and we calculate metrics per class



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# Classification Error Metrics: ROC and PR Curves

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# ROC Curves

- A **Receiver Operating Characteristic** (ROC) curve plots the *True Positive Rate (TPR)* and *False Positive Rate (FPR)* for different threshold values
- What is a **threshold**?
  - Most classification models return the probability of the positive class
  - We set a threshold for the positive class:

Classifier decision rule:

$$\hat{y} = \begin{cases} 1, & x > thresh \\ 0, & x \leq thresh \end{cases}$$



# ROC Curves

## To build a ROC curve:

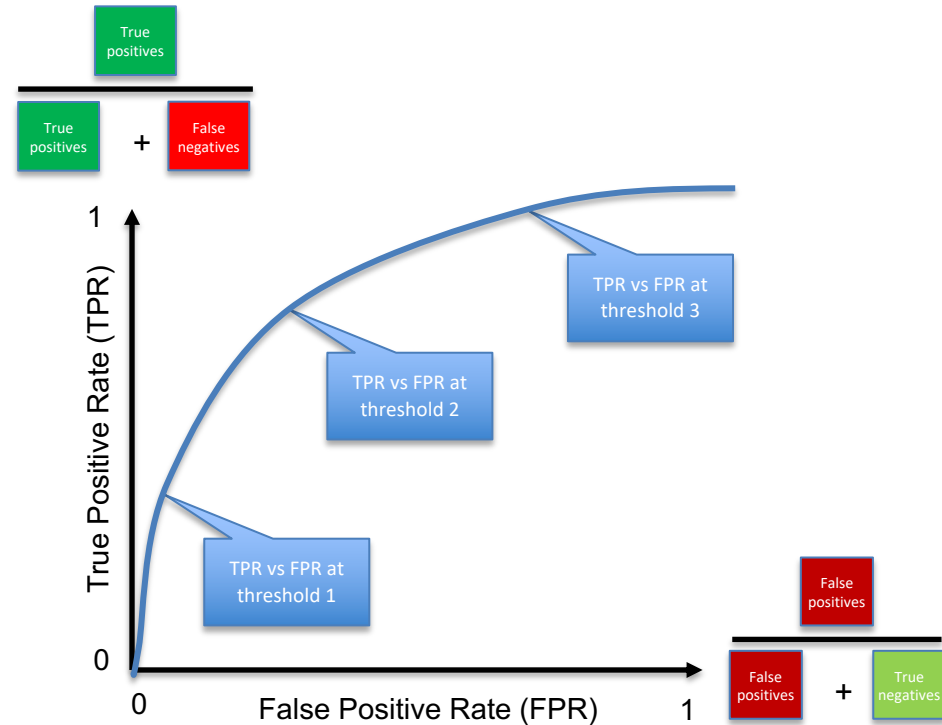
- Run the model and get the output probabilities
- For each value in range(0,1):
  - Set value as threshold value
  - Get predictions by comparing model output probabilities to threshold
  - Calculate the TPR and FPR values
- Plot the values for all thresholds on a graph of TPR vs FPR

	Target	Model Output	Thresh = 0.3	Thresh = 0.5	Thresh = 0.7
1	1	0.85	1	1	1
2	0	0.04	0	0	0
3	1	0.62	1	1	0
4	0	0.37	1	0	0
5	0	0.55	1	1	0
True Positive Rate (TPR)			2/2	2/2	1/2
False Positive Rate (FPR)			2/3	1/3	0/3

# ROC Curves

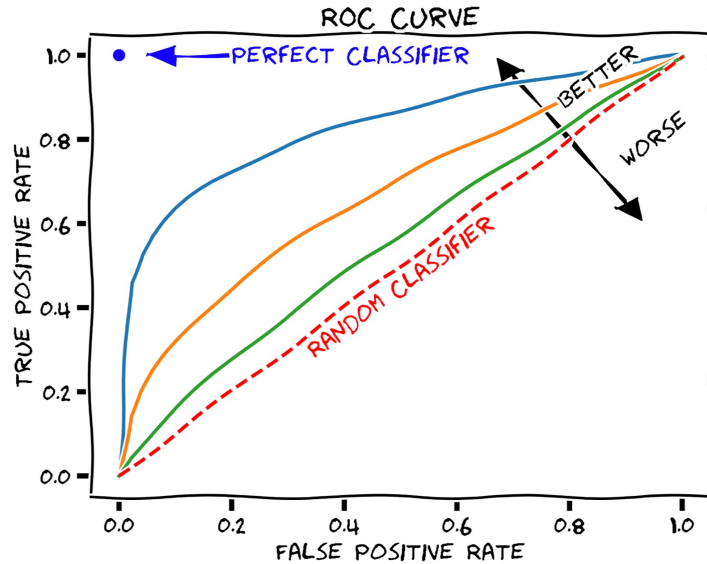
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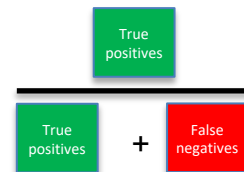
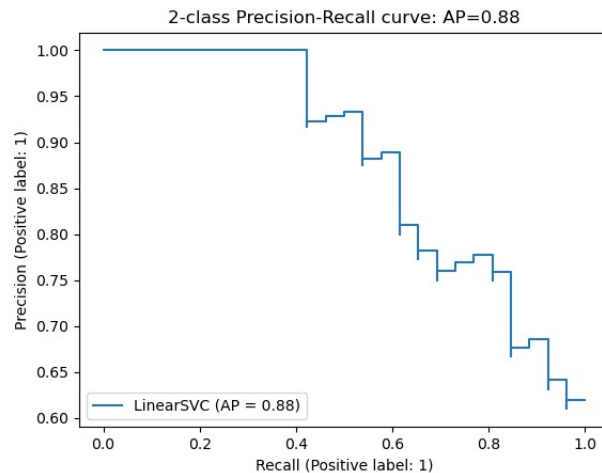
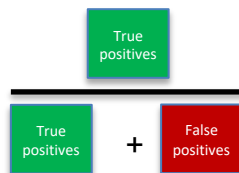
# Area Under ROC (AUROC)

- A common error metric for classification models is the Area Under the ROC (AUROC)



# Precision-Recall Curve

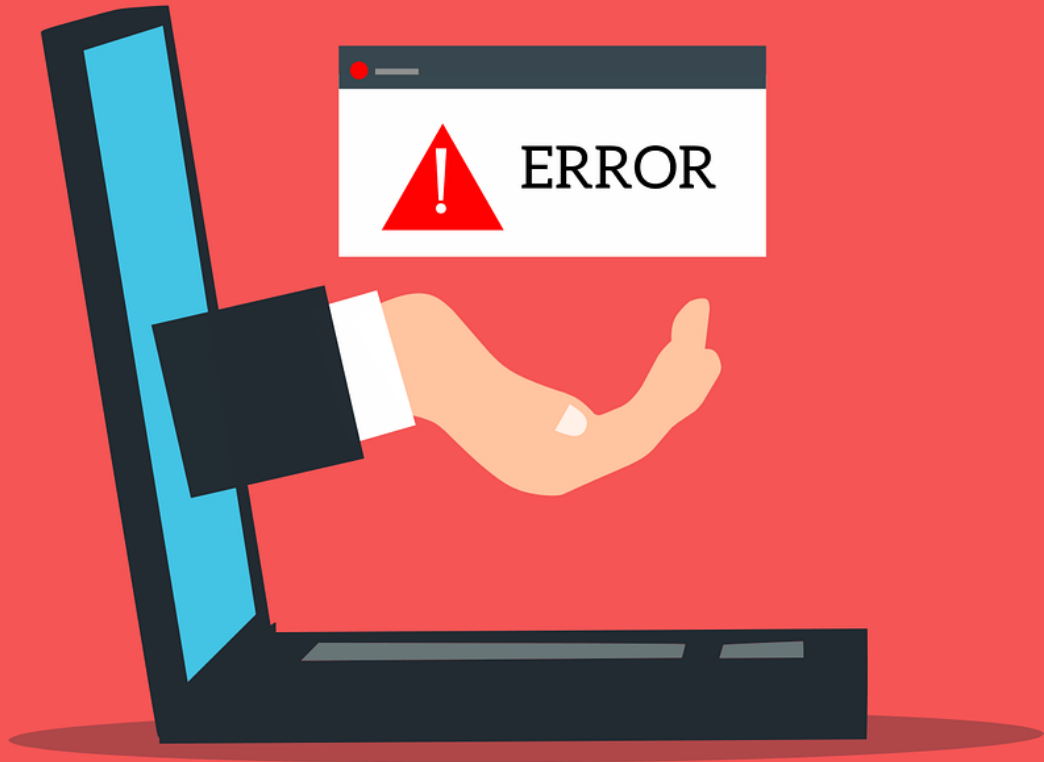
- Another evaluation technique is the precision-recall (PR) curve
- This measures the tradeoff between recall and precision as the model threshold is varied
- PR curves are especially useful if we have high class imbalance (e.g. a lot of 0's and only a few 1's)
  - Unlike ROC curves, they do not factor in True Negatives



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# Troubleshooting Model Performance

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# Sources of error

1. Problem framing & metric selection
2. Data quantity & quality
3. Feature selection
4. Model fit
5. Inherent error

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An aerial photograph of a university campus, likely Duke University, is shown with a dark blue overlay. The image captures various buildings, including a prominent Gothic-style cathedral with a tall spire, and is surrounded by dense green trees. The overall tone is professional and academic.

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# Wrap-Up

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# Wrap-Up: Metric Selection

- Selecting proper outcome and output metrics is key to a successful machine learning project
- Your choice of metric should reflect the nature of your problem and the consequences of being wrong
  - For a regression problem, is it worse to be very wrong a few times, or a little wrong a lot of times?
  - For a classification problem, are false positives or false negatives worse?