

STATISTICAL DATA MINING ISM6137.901S17

PROJECT REPORT ON

Car Trends in www.carfax.com

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Introduction

The aim of this project is to analyze the trends of car prices in www.carfax.com and to predict the variation of the prices based on their make, model, year of manufacture, mileage run by the car, type of engine, fuel type, exterior color and interior color. The data was obtained by scrapping the web site www.carfax.com. The scrapping was done by using a chrome extension "Web Scraper". The data obtained was then cleaned using R and then various models were created in order to analyze the trend of the price and also to predict the price on the most influencing variable. Many regression models were created on the data and the models were compared on R squared value, AIC, BIC and residual plots of each model. We have considered only sedans belonging to the segment. The data in Carfax related to the below cars were extracted from the website:

- 1. Honda Accord
- 2. Toyota Camry
- 3. Honda Civic
- 4. Hyundai Elantra
- 5. Ford Fusion
- 6. Kia Optima
- 7. Chevrolet Malibu
- 8. Nissan Altima
- 9. Ford Mustang

About www.carfax.com

Carfax, Inc. is a commercial web-based service that supplies vehicle history reports to individuals and businesses on used cars and light trucks for the American and Canadian consumers. CARFAX started with a vision - to be the leading source of vehicle history information for buyers and sellers of used cars. Today, CARFAX has the most comprehensive vehicle history database available in North America. Millions of consumers trust CARFAX to provide them with vehicle history information every year.

CARFAX receives information from more than 100,000 data sources including every U.S.

and Canadian provincial motor vehicle agency plus many auto auctions, fire and police

departments, collision repair facilities, fleet management and rental agencies, and more.

CARFAX Vehicle History Reports™ are available on all used cars and light trucks model

year 1981 or later. Using the unique 17-character vehicle identification number (VIN), a

CARFAX Report is instantly generated from their database of over 17 billion records.

Every CARFAX Report contains information that can impact a consumer's decision about

a used vehicle. Some types of information that a CARFAX Report may include are:

Title information, including salvaged or junked titles

Flood damage history

Total loss accident history

5

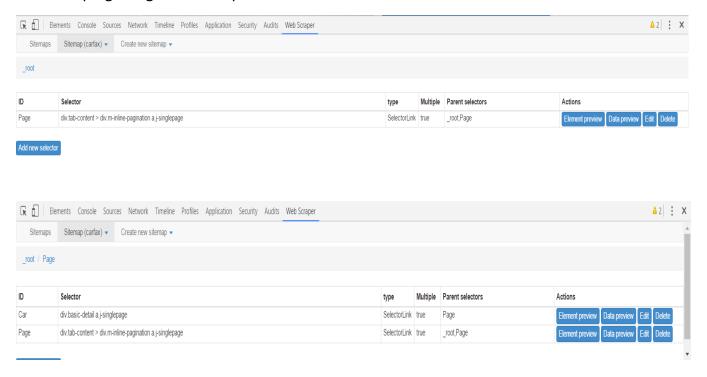
Odometer readings
Lemon history
Number of owners
Accident indicators, such as airbag deployments
State emissions inspection results
Service records
Vehicle use (taxi, rental, lease, etc.)

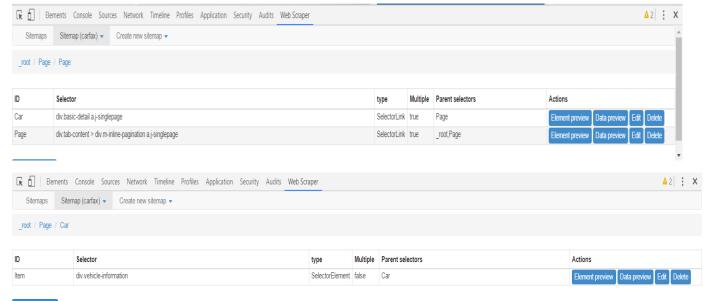
Web Scraping

Web scraping was done with the chrome extension "Web Scraper". The following information were extracted from the website for each car:

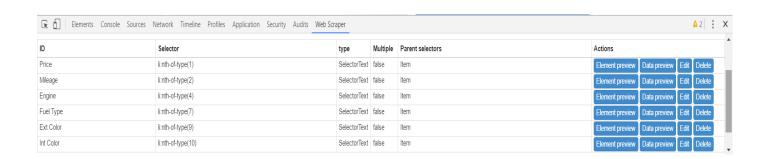
- 1. Make
- 2. Model
- 3. Year
- 4. Mileage
- 5. Price
- 6. Engine
- 7. Transmission
- 8. Fuel type
- 9. MPG
- 10. Exterior color
- 11. Interior color

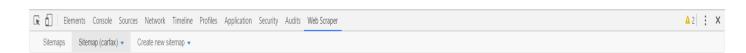
Web Scraping using "Web Scraper" Chrome extension:

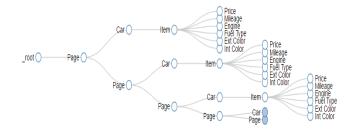




Add new selector







Dataset

Source of Data: www.carfax.com

Number of Variables: 12

Total number of instances: 2108

Variable	Туре	Values	
Make	Categorical	Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, Ford, etc	
Model	Categorical	Accord, Civic, Camry, Mustang, etc	
Year	Categorical		
Price	Numeric		
Mileage	Numeric		
Engine	Categorical	4,6 and 8 cylinder	
Transmission	Categorical	Manual and automatic	
Fuel type	Categorical	Gasoline, hybrid and flexible fuel type	
MPG_CY	Numeric	MPG in cities	
MPG_HWY	Numeric	MPG in highways	
Ext Color	Categorical	Exterior color	
Int Color	Categorical	Interior color	

Raw data:

```
x<- read.csv("car_trends-master/Accord.csv")
head(x[1:6])</pre>
```

```
##
                      Car
                                   Price
                                                 Mileage
                                                                 Engine
## 1 2012 HONDA ACCORD SE Price: $14,995 Mileage: 29,740 Engine: 4 Cyl
## 2 2008 HONDA ACCORD EX Price: $9,500 Mileage: 85,912 Engine: 4 Cyl
## 3 2013 HONDA ACCORD EXL Price: $13,800 Mileage: 88,246 Engine: 4 Cyl
## 4 2005 HONDA ACCORD EX Price: $4,995 Mileage: 146,455 Engine: 4 Cyl
## 5 2013 HONDA ACCORD EXL Price: $16,998 Mileage: 61,903 Engine: 6 Cyl
## 6 2012 HONDA ACCORD EXL Price: $14,987 Mileage: 82,202 Engine: 6 Cyl
                Transmission
                                        FuelType
## 1 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
## 2 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
## 3 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
## 4 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
## 5 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
## 6 Transmission: Automatic Fuel Type: Gasoline
```

```
#x<- read.csv("car_trends-master/Accord.csv")
head(x[7:9])</pre>
```

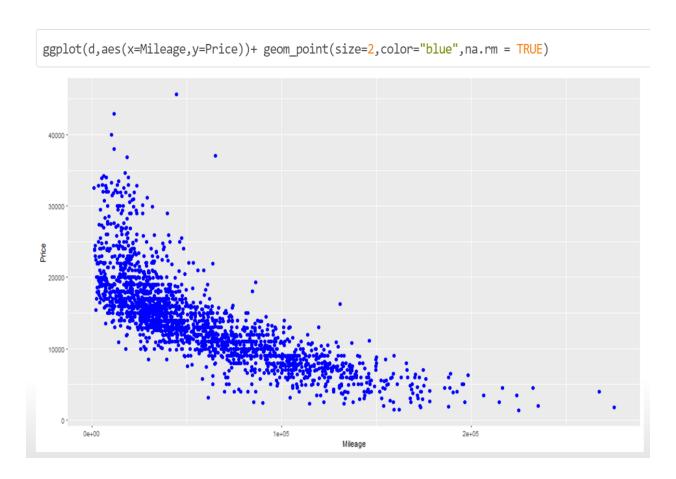
```
MPG
## 1 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                             \n
                                              22/33
## 2 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                             \n
                                              21/31
## 3 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                             \n
                                              26/34
## 4 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                                              21/31
                             \n
## 5 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                            \n
                                              21/31
## 6 MPG City/Hwy:\n
                            \n
                                              19/29
                 ExtColor
                                      IntColor
## 1 Exterior Color: Black Interior Color: Tan
## 2 Exterior Color: Red Interior Color: N/A
## 3 Exterior Color: Silver Interior Color: Black
## 4 Exterior Color: Black Interior Color: Tan
## 5 Exterior Color: Gray Interior Color: Gray
## 6 Exterior Color: Red Interior Color: Black
```

Cleaned Data:

```
head(d)
                  Car Price Mileage Engine Transmission FuelType MPG_CY
      Year Make
## 1: 2012 HONDA ACCORD 14995 29740 4 Automatic Gasoline
## 2: 2008 HONDA ACCORD 9500 85912
                                             4 Automatic Gasoline
                                                                           21
## 3: 2013 HONDA ACCORD 13800 88246 4 Automatic Gasoline 26
## 4: 2005 HONDA ACCORD 4995 146455 4 Automatic Gasoline 21
## 5: 2013 HONDA ACCORD 16998 61903 6 Automatic Gasoline 21 ## 6: 2012 HONDA ACCORD 14987 82202 6 Automatic Gasoline 19
## MPG_HWY ExtColor IntColor
## 1:
         33 Black
                             Tan
           31
## 2:
                  Red
                             N/A
         34 Silver
## 3:
                         Black
           31 Black
## 4:
                           Tan
           31 Gray
## 5:
                            Gray
## 6:
           29
               Red
                           Black
```

Relationships between variables

Price vs Mileage



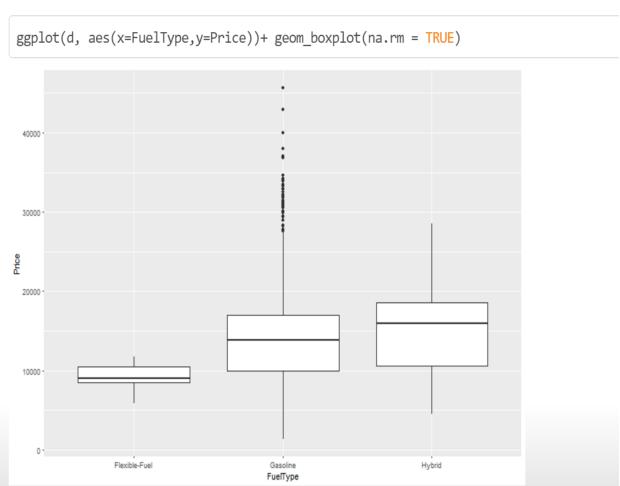
Price and mileage have a negative relationship.

Price vs Engine

- 1. 8 cylinder engines are generally more expensive.
- 2. 4 cylinder and 6 cylinder engines have similar price mostly.

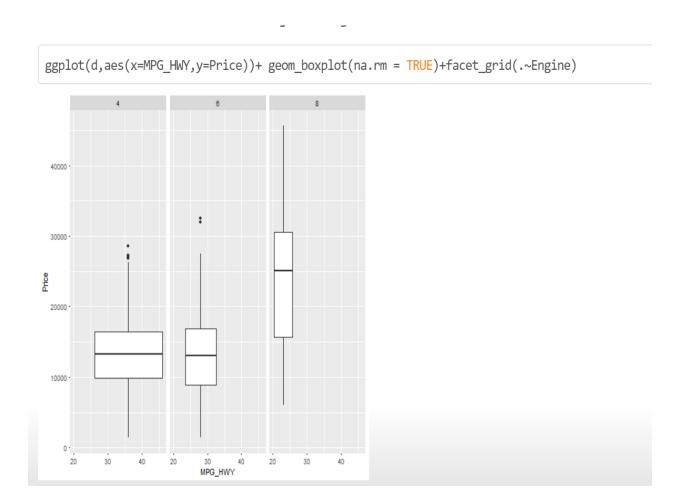
Price vs Fuel-type





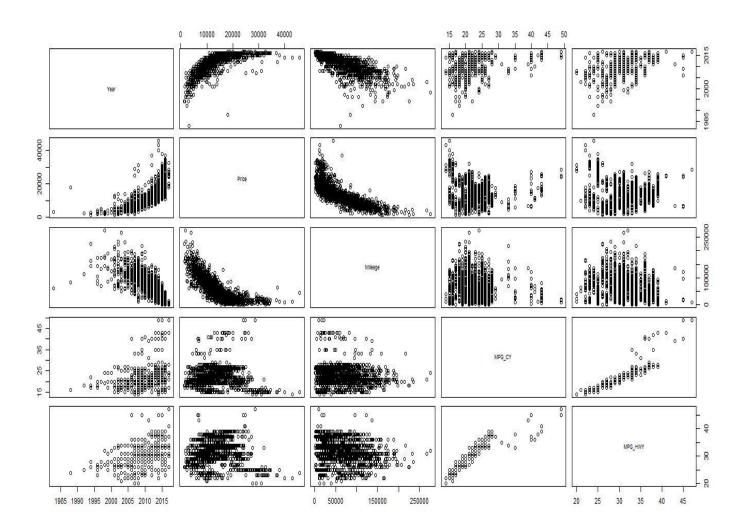
Flexible fuel type cars are generally less expensive than hybrid and gasoline cars.

Price vs MPG_HWY conditioned on Engine



MPG_HWY is lower for 8 cylinder cars but the price is generally higher because they are more powerful.

Correlation plot of all variables



Regression Models

```
Model 1
> mod1 <- lm(Price~Mileage,d)</pre>
> summary(mod1)
call:
lm(formula = Price ~ Mileage, data = d)
Residuals:
    Min
              1Q Median
                                3Q
                                        Max
-10431.0 -2294.2 -687.5 1461.3 30239.9
Coefficients:
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 2.020e+04 1.401e+02 144.24 <2e-16 ***
          -1.082e-01 1.959e-03 -55.21 <2e-16 ***
Mileage
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 3817 on 2102 degrees of freedom
  (3 observations deleted due to missingness)
Multiple R-squared: 0.5918, Adjusted R-squared: 0.5917
F-statistic: 3048 on 1 and 2102 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

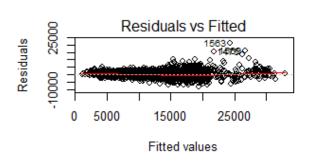
Models 1, 2, 3 Comparison

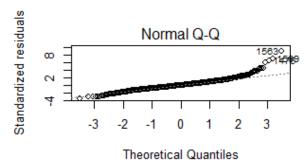
```
> cbind(AIC(mod1,mod2,mod3),BIC(mod1,mod2,mod3))
    df AIC df BIC
mod1 3 40678.79 3 40695.74
mod2 28 40308.17 28 40466.41
mod3 30 40302.47 30 40472.02
> anova(mod1,mod2,mod3)
Analysis of Variance Table
Model 1: Price ~ Mileage
Model 2: Price ~ factor(Year) + Mileage
Model 3: Price ~ factor(Year) + Mileage + FuelType
 Res.Df
               RSS Df Sum of Sq F
1 2102 3.0619e+10
2 2077 2.5071e+10 25 5548167177 18.4526 < 2.2e-16 ***
3 2075 2.4956e+10 2 115311649 4.7939 0.008372 **
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

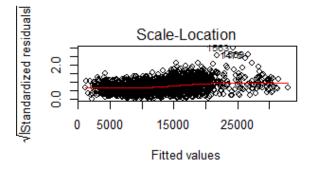
```
Residual standard error: 2414 on 2051 degrees of freedom
(3 observations deleted due to missingness)
Multiple R-squared: 0.8407, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8366
F-statistic: 208.1 on 52 and 2051 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

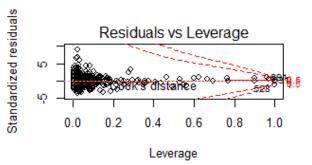
```
call:
lm(formula = Price ~ factor(Year) + Mileage + factor(Engine) +
    factor(FuelType) + factor(Year) * Mileage + factor(Transmission) +
    factor(Extcolor) + factor(Intcolor), data = d)
...

Residual standard error: 2380 on 2025 degrees of freedom
  (3 observations deleted due to missingness)
Multiple R-squared: 0.8471, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8412
F-statistic: 143.8 on 78 and 2025 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16</pre>
```









Model 7

0.0

5000

15000

Fitted values

25000

```
lm(formula = Price ~ factor(Year) + Mileage + factor(Engine) +
    factor(FuelType) + factor(Year) * Mileage + factor(Transmission) +
    factor(Car), data = d)
Residual standard error: 2221 on 2041 degrees of freedom
   (3 observations deleted due to missingness)
Multiple R-squared: 0.8658,
                                              Adjusted R-squared: 0.8617
F-statistic: 212.4 on 62 and 2041 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
                                                         Standardized residuals
                   Residuals vs Fitted
                                                                                 Normal Q-Q
      20000
                                                               9
Residuals
                                                                                                      15630
                                       200
                                                               4
      -10000
                                                               Ņ
          0
               5000
                          15000
                                       25000
                                                                       -3
                                                                             -2
                                                                                       0
                                                                                                  2
                                                                                                       3
                                                                                             1
                        Fitted values
                                                                             Theoretical Quantiles
VStandardized residuals
                                                         Standardized residuals
                      Scale-Location
                                                                          Residuals vs Leverage
     2.0
                                                                               &1008
```

0.2

0.4

Leverage

0.0

0.6

0.8

1.0

Prediction

- smp_size <- floor(0.40*nrow(d))
- set.seed(123)
- train_ind <- sample(seq_len(nrow(d)),size=smp_size)
- train <- d[train_ind,]
- test <- d[-train_ind,]
- pred<- predict.lm(mod9,test,type="response")
- err <- pred-test\$Price
- pred.prob <- err <2000
- table(pred.prob)

Model	Wrongly Predicted	Correctly Predictioed	Accuracy
mod 5	211	1054	83.3202
mod 6	210	1055	83.3992
mod 7	183	1082	85.5336

Hypothesis Testing

1. Carfax claims that the average price of the Ford Mustang cars they sold in the past year is \$19000. KBB, the main competitor of Carfax, believed that this value is lower than the actual average because the average price of the Ford Mustang cars that KBB sold in the previous year was more than \$20000. So, they decided to prove that Carfax is lying by taking a sample. (Significance level: 5%)

```
H<sub>a</sub>: Average Price > $19000

H<sub>0</sub>: Average Price <= $19000

> M <- mean(mus$Price); M;
[1] 19381.24

> n <- length(mus$Price); n;
[1] 352

> s <- sd(mus$Price); s;
[1] 7927.969

> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 422.5621

> Z <- (M - 19000)/se; Z;
[1] 0.9022073

> P <- pnorm(Z); P;
[1] 0.8165266</pre>
```

Since, P > Significance level, we don't have enough evidence to reject H_0 . Hence, we cannot conclude that the average price is greater than \$18000.

2. Carfax claims that the Ford Mustang cars they sell has an average MPG of 28 in highways. KBB wants to prove that this claim is false (Significance level = 0.05).

```
H<sub>a</sub>: Average MPG < 28
H<sub>0</sub>: Average MPG >= 28

> M <- mean(mus$MPG_HWY); M;
[1] 26.52841
> n <- length(mus$MPG_HWY); n;
[1] 352
> s <- sd(mus$MPG_HWY); s;
[1] 2.915581
> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 0.155401
> Z <- (M - 28)/se; Z;
[1] -9.469635
> P <- pnorm(Z); P;
[1] 1.404113e-21</pre>
```

Since, P < Significance level, we have enough evidence to reject H_0 . Hence, we can conclude that the average MPG in highways is less than 28.

Confidence Interval

1. Constructing a 95% **confidence interval** for the average price of Ford Mustang. Based on this confidence interval, what is the **minimum price** that a buyer can expect (with 95% confidence)?

```
> M <- mean(mus$Price); M;
[1] 19381.24
> n <- length(mus$Price); n;
[1] 352
> s <- sd(mus$Price); s;
[1] 7927.969
> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 422.5621
> moe <- qnorm(0.975) * se; moe;
[1] 828.2066
> ci <- M + c(-moe, moe); ci;
[1] 18553.03 20209.45</pre>
```

Minimum price that a buyer can expect is \$18553

2. Constructing a 95% **confidence interval** for the average mileage of Ford Mustang. Based on this confidence interval, what is the **minimum mileage** that a buyer can expect (with 95% confidence)?

```
> M <- mean(mus$Mileage); M;
[1] 43469.36
> n <- length(mus$Mileage); n;
[1] 352
> s <- sd(mus$Mileage); s;
[1] 33745.19
> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 1798.625
> moe <- qnorm(0.975) * se; moe;
[1] 3525.24
> ci <- M + c(-moe, moe); ci;
[1] 39944.12 46994.60</pre>
```

Minimum mileage that a buyer can expect is around 40000 miles.

3. In an annual sales report that Carfax published, they showed that the average price of the Nissan Altima cars they sold is greater than that of Toyota Camry. Let's see whether this is correct by analyzing the sample we collected.

Nissan Altima:

```
> M <- mean(alt$Price); M;
[1] 13528.43
> n <- length(alt$Price); n;
[1] 366
> s <- sd(alt$Price); s;
[1] 4621.014
> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 241.5443
> moe <- qnorm(0.975) * se; moe;
[1] 473.4181
> ci <- M + c(-moe, moe); ci;
[1] 13055.01 14001.85</pre>
```

95% confidence interval: [13055 14002]

Toyota Camry:

```
> M <- mean(cam$Price); M;
[1] 12268.13
> n <- length(cam$Price); n;
[1] 332
> s <- sd(cam$Price); s;
[1] 4726.381
> se <- s/sqrt(n); se;
[1] 259.3939
> moe <- qnorm(0.975) * se; moe;
[1] 508.4026
> ci <- M + c(-moe, moe); ci;
[1] 11759.73 12776.53</pre>
```

95% confidence interval: [11760 12777]

The confidence intervals of the average prices of Altima and Camry does not overlap. There, we can conclude that the average price of Altima is greater than that of Camry, with a **95% confidence**.

Conclusion:

Major factors that influence the price of a car are:

- Year: A car that is built recently have a higher price compared to other cars. 2014 built cars have a higher price over others.
- Mileage: A car that ran more fetch a lower price.
- The engine model has a major take in influencing the price.
- Exterior color influences a buyer while purchasing a car.