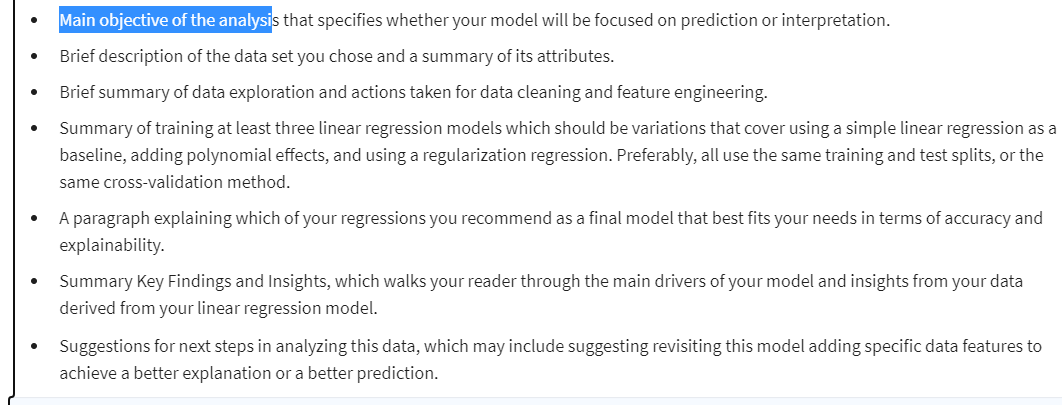
COURSERA IBM MACHINE LEARNING –REGRESSION – COURSE PROJECT

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1. Main objective of the analysis

A main objective of this analysis is to predict selling price of the car given some attributes (criterias). This work will focus mostly on predictive aspect of modelling though I will also check which coefficients are relatively the largest. This will give additional information to the analysis – it will reveal the most influential attributes.

1. Brief description of the data set

Dataset used in analysis presents used vehicles data set. In general the datasets consists of 8128 records and presents variables such as:

* Car’s name
* Year produced
* Selling price (target variable – in India Rupias)
* Km’s driven
* Fuel type
* Seller type
* Transmission
* Owner (First/Second etc)

There are 3 numeric variables and 5 categorical variables. This dataset is available under public access rights on Kaggle.com - <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/nehalbirla/vehicle-dataset-from-cardekho>.

In the below tables I present a short summary of main statistics for each of the analysed variables.

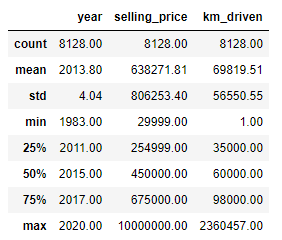


Figure 1. Main statistics for numerical variables

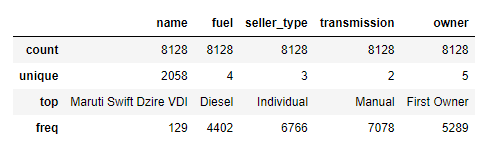


Figure 2. Main statistics for categorical variables

As presented in Figure 1 there is a wide range of years when the analysed cars were produced (the oldest one is from 1973 and the newest from 2020). Selling price has an enormous standard deviation which might point to the existence of outliers. In later analysis we might take a look at this observations.

As presented in Figure 2 all categorical variables seem to be filled in. Some of the car names seem to appear in the data set repeatedly. This might indicate existence of duplicated records.

1. Brief summary of data exploration and actions taken for data cleaning and feature engineering

The plan of data exploration will contain the following steps:

* Searching for duplicates
* Variable transformations
* Examining missing data and potential data imputation process (as present in the Figure 1 there is one variable (price) which seems to be missing many records of the data
* Examining outliers (as per Figure 1 the variable ‘price’ seems to contain outliers as there is a huge difference between mean and median. Additionally standard deviation for this variable is relatively big)
* Feature engineering combined with testing the assumptions for Linear Reegression

First step was to look for duplicates. It turns out there are a lot of duplicated entries in our dataset. The approach to these records is a bit tricky. Hypothetically there might be a case when identical cars (with the very same parameter) were sold for the same selling price. Nonetheless in this research I presume these are duplicates as the records were gathered in web scrapping process from websites with car offers. This mean that on the different (or even on the same) website there might be duplicated car offerings. Going forward all duplicated records were removed – we are left with 6925 records.

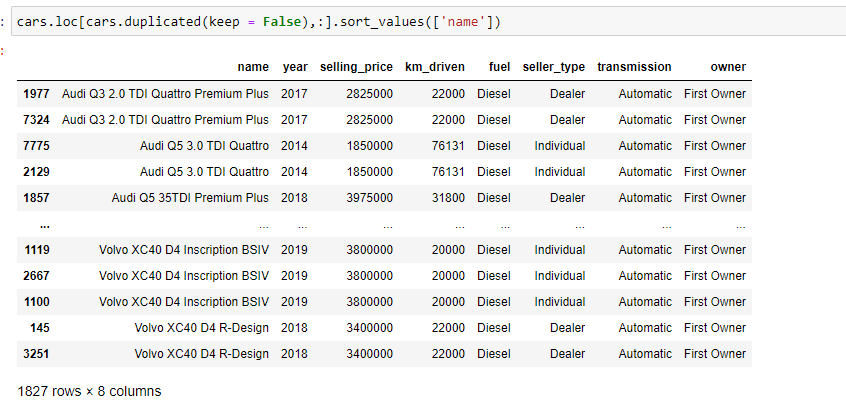


Figure 3. Duplicated entries

Second step was data transformation. In this step I am removing a word ‘*Owner’* from ownervariable. Also I am changing name variable. I will leave just the company name as it might bring additional information whereas the particular car model is too granular level to bring interesting insights. Results of these actions are presented in Figure 4 and 5.

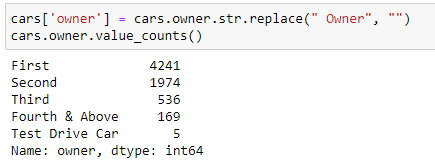


Figure 4. Owner parameter after transformation

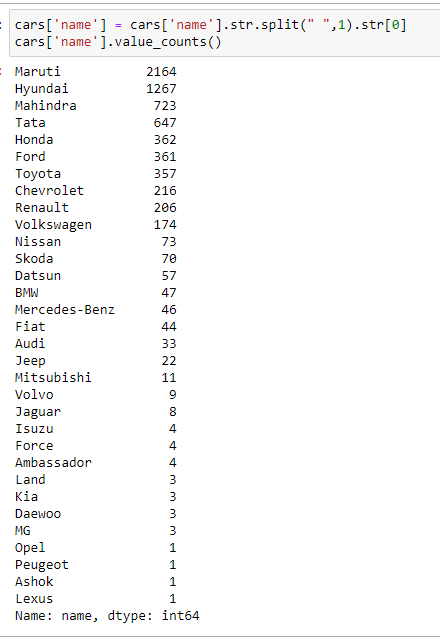


Figure 5. Name parameter after transformation

There is a big scatter of the brands. As it may not make sense to include such a variable in the model I will remove it from analysis – there is a lot of categories which are not significantly represented in the data set which may lead to some problems in later stage of analysis (after implementation of one hot encoding this may create a big number of variables which will not bring any additional information).

Third step was to examine missing data. In figure 3 I present the number of missing records for each of the analysed variables.

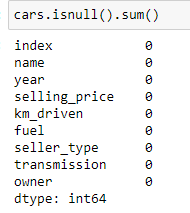


Figure 6. Missing values in variables

None of the variables contain missing entries.

Fourth step is recognizing outliers. To do that boxplots for each of analysed numerical variables were created. Below I present the boxplots generated using python’s seaborn package.

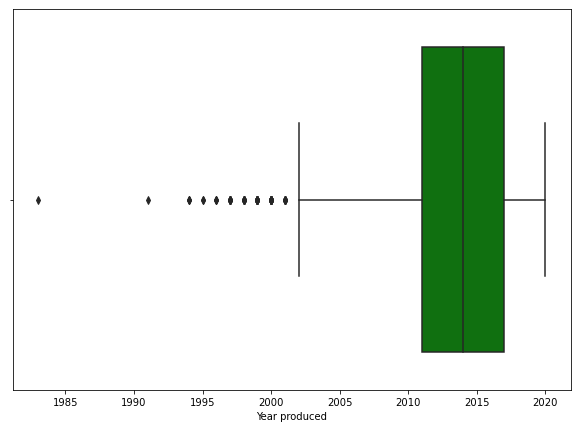


Figure 7. Boxplot for Year produced variable

There are outliers in Year produced variable. Nonetheless these records are outliers only in theoretical manner. It seems normal that there are cars from 1980s’ or 1990s’ which are offered on the auctions. These might be collector’s vehicle which can have a higher price than the other cars which potentially might deteriorate the future models. We can investigate that by comparing the mean selling price of cars produced before and after year 2000. High difference might point out that the oldest examples are indeed collector’s vehicles and we might be pushed to eliminate them from the data set. Mean selling price of cars produced before year 2000 is 6 times smaller than the mean selling price of cars produced after year 2000. This numbers seem to deny my assumption that the oldest cars might be collector’s vehicles. To summarize I will leave all observations in the data set.

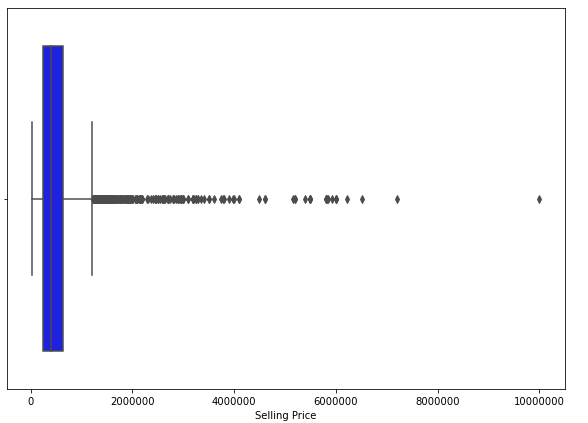


Figure 8. Boxplot for Selling Price variable

There seems to be a lot of outliers. One observation is particularly interesting – one of the cars was sold for 10m INR. This one might be mistakenly entered into the database. This record is a Volvo vehicle produced in year 2017 with 30 000 kilometres driven. This seems like a record which was not entered correctly into the database. Therefore it will be removed.

There were some outliers spotted for kilometres driven variable. Two biggest observations will be removed from the analysis as they might skew the following analysis. The other part seems normal (cars with huge mileage are also being sold on auctions) and I will leave them for further analysis.

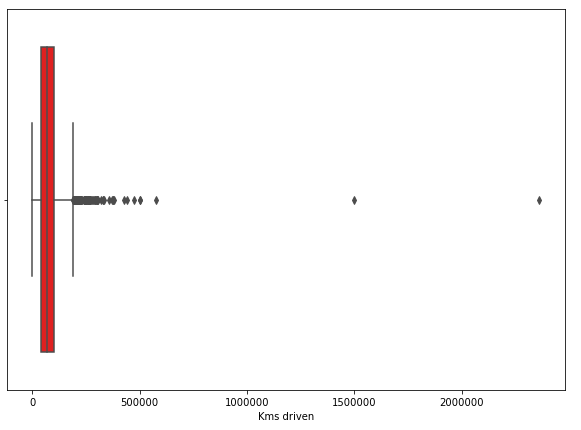


Figure 9. Boxplot for kilometres driven

In fifth step I will test the assumptions for linear regression and (if required) transform the variables so that they will better meet criteria. If the assumption will not be met and transformation will not be possible or it will not help the analysed feature might be dropped from the analysis.

First assumption I will check is the normality – normally it is good to have dependent variable which is normally distributed as it leads to better results. This can be checked through visual analysis of Q-Q plot and histogram or through running Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Below I present the histogram and Q-Q plot for target variable – *selling price*. Based on this graphical presentation we can see that target variable is not normally distributed. Additionally the data seems to be right-skewed.

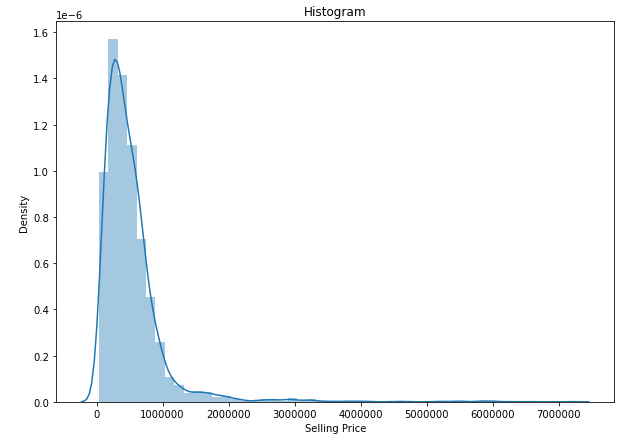


Figure 10. Histogram for selling price variable

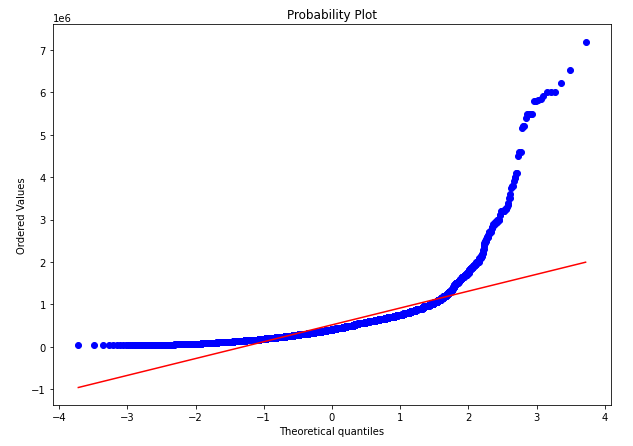


Figure 11. Q-Q Plot for selling price variable

Additionally we can perform normality test. P-value for selling price variable equals 0 which confirms that target variable is not normally distributed. To overcome this issue we can transform our target using one of the most popular methods. First let’s see the results after log-transforming our target. Results of this action can be seen on subsequent figures.

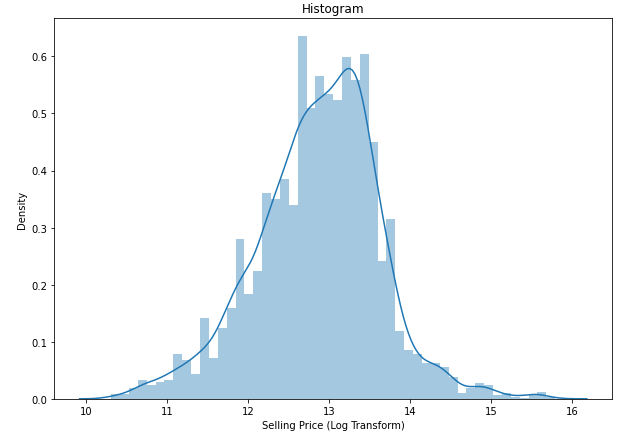


Figure 12. Histogram for selling price variable after performing log transformation

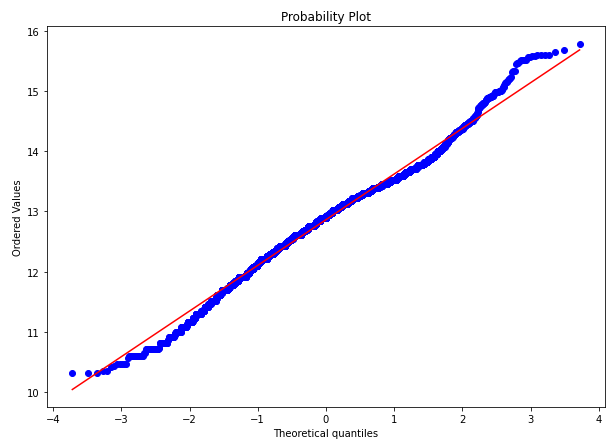


Figure 13. Q-Q Plot for selling price variable after log transformation

This looks a way better. Unfortunately it is still not normally distributed which is confirmed by results of normality test in which P-value equals 4.56368736193202e-24.

Second approach I will investigate is box-cox transformation. Subsequent figures present the results of implementation of box-cox transformation on our target.

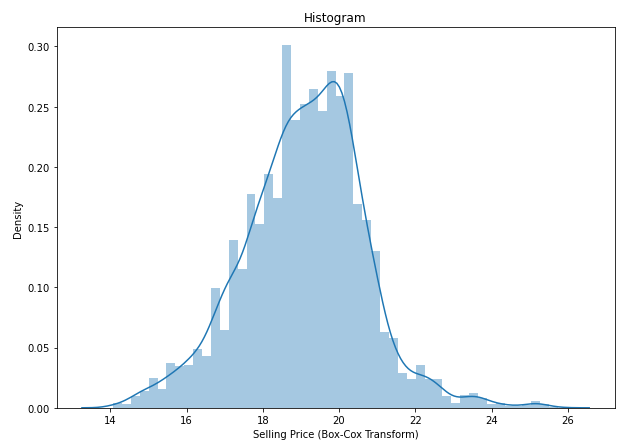


Figure 14. Histogram for selling price variable after performing box-cox transformation

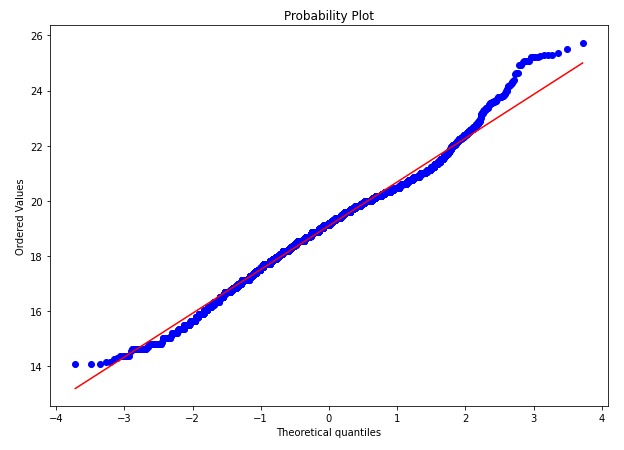


Figure 15. Q-Q Plot for selling price variable after box-cox transformation

Again it looks a bit better but unfortunately it is still not normally distributed which is again confirmed by results of normality test in which P-value equals 6.0955846054342926e-21. Nonetheless this is a way closer to be normally distributed than in previous cases. Therefore going forward I will treat selling price after box-cox transformation as my target variable.

Second assumption that will be checked is homoscedasticity (i.e. if the residuals fluctuate randomly around the line). I will check that assumption for a pair of variables including the target and others continuous variables (In my case only Kilometres driven). It is a crucial assumption and can be checked using residual plot which is presented in figure 16.

In figure 16 error variance across the true line seems to be dispersed uniformly. There are some values which are pulling out from the rest in the middle which might be worrying. Nonetheless I decided to leave this variable in for further analysis.

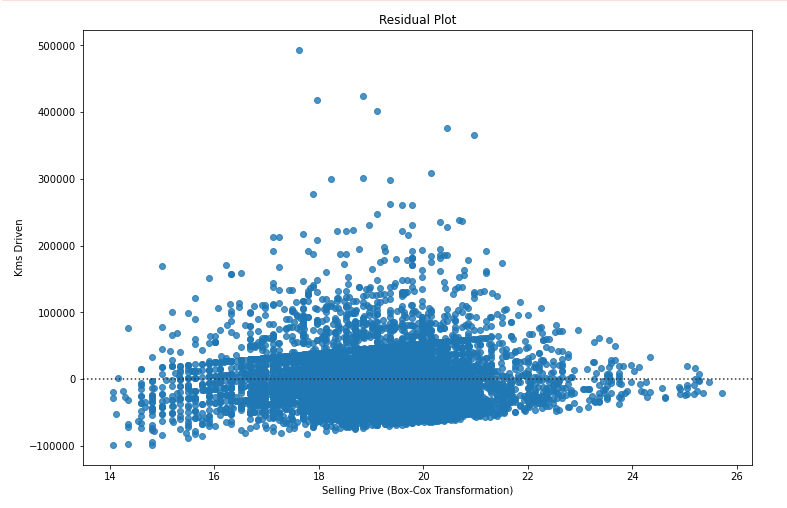


Figure 1616. Residual Plot for selling price (Box-Cox transformation) and Kilometres driven

The third assumption that will be checked is linearity assumption that can be evaluated using scatter plots. Those will be created for pairs of variables including the target and two numerical variables: kilometres driven and year. Result of this analysis can be found on Figure 17. Analysis of the graph leads to conclusion that there seems to be linear relationship between variables year and selling price and there is no linear relationship between variables kilometres driven and selling price. Therefore kilometres driven will not be taken into consideration when feeding the data into the linear regression model.

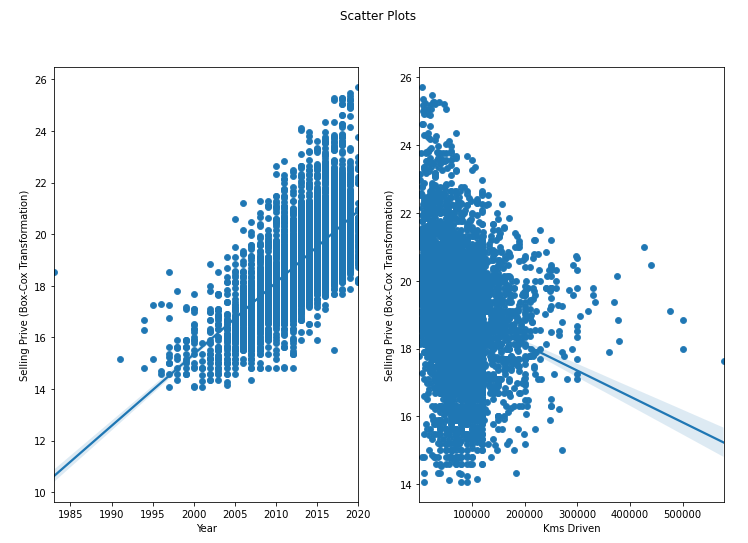


Figure 17. Linearity between Selling Price (Box-Cox transformation) and Year and Kilometres Driven variables

1. Summary of training linear regression models
2. Recommendation for a final model
3. Summary Key Findings and Insights
4. Suggestions for next steps in analyzing this data