

# How to predict house prices?

## Assignment 2 for Data Analysis 2

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### Introduction

This is the Assignment 2 for **Data Analysis 2** and **Coding** course. The aim of this project is to predict house price based on its area and other variables. House price prediction can help the sellers of a house to determine the selling price of a house and can help the customer to arrange the right time to purchase a house.

### Data collection

Data set was obtained from Kaggle. It contains information from the Ames Assessor's Office used in computing assessed values for individual residential properties sold in Ames, Iowa (IA) from 2006 to 2010. This data was collected by Ames Assessor's Office, one of the cities of Iowa. This data is representative only for this state. Since this is administrative data that was collected by government office, we assume that there was no (or few) mistakes in entering data. Also, we have almost all necessary variables that matters for the house sale price (such as area, quality, rooms, etc).

### Data descriptives

Variables capture the house price and other conditions such as area of a house and garage, number of rooms, availability of fireplace, pool and others. I want to use these variables to predict house price given the certain house condition (area, rooms, fireplaces). The data has 2930 observations. It consists of 82 columns which include 23 nominal, 23 ordinal, 14 discrete, and 20 continuous variables (and 2 additional observation identifiers, Order and Parcel ID). These variables describe the sales price of a house and its condition, such as area, quality, rooms, etc. As an outcome variable, we have chosen **SalePrice** (in US dollars) variable. The main parameter of interest (explanatory variable) is **Above Ground Area** (in square feet) of a house. Full summary statistics and distributions of explanatory variables are given in Appendix.

The histogram below shows the house sale prices. We can see that on average, most of the houses are priced from 100,000 to 200,000 dollars. It's skewed to the right, meaning that only few houses were priced extremely high.

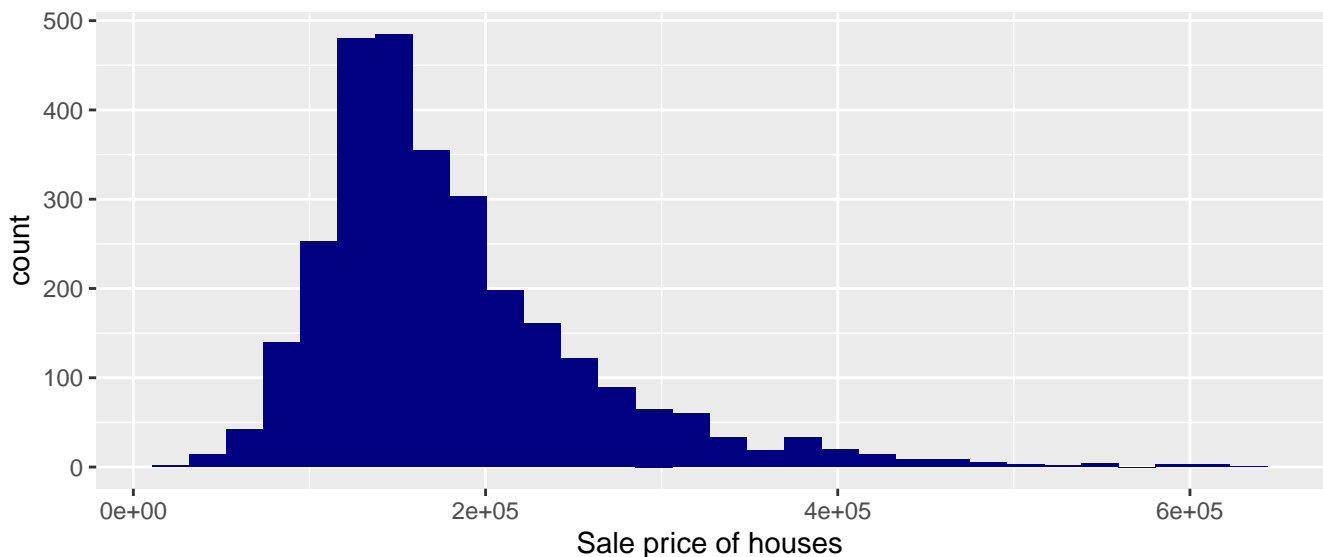


Figure 1: Histogram of house sale prices

## Data Cleaning

### Outliers

When outcome variable SALE PRICE and parameter of interest GR LIV AREA (above ground living area square feet) were plotted, there were 5 observations with extreme values. When inspected, it was clear that two of these outliers have more than 5000 square feet area (which is extremely high) but nevertheless priced relatively appropriately. Also, three of them had Partial Sales that likely don't represent actual market values. Therefore, I removed all houses with more than 4000 square feet from the data set to avoid these five unusual observations (Appendix, Figure 4).

Therefore, re-iterated research question is the following: **Does a house with higher above ground living area (considering it's less than 4000 square feet) have higher price from 2006 - 2010 in Ames (Iowa) ?**

### Data Type for variables

An appropriate format was given to categorical (numeric and ordinal) variables (see Appendix).

### Missing values

Missing values in qualitative variables As it was described in original data description, in some categorical variables, NA didn't mean missing value. Therefore, corresponding name was assigned to the observations with such values (such as "No garage" or "No garage").

I decided to drop columns "Alley", "Misc.Feature", "Fence", "Pool.Qu" and "Fireplace.Qu" because more than 90% (48% of Fireplace.Qu) of their values were missing. Observations with NAs in all the garage related columns, were completed with the value "No garage" in case of nominal attribute. I have not to used Street variable (Type of road access to property) as there are only 12 houses with Gravel and 2913 of them are Paved

## Pattern of association

With the help of scatter-plots and LOESS method, we want to check the pattern of association between  $y$  and each potential  $x$  variables.

First, we see the plot of Sale Price and Above Ground Area since it's our main parameter of interest. The plot below shows that there is a strong linear relationship between these two variables.

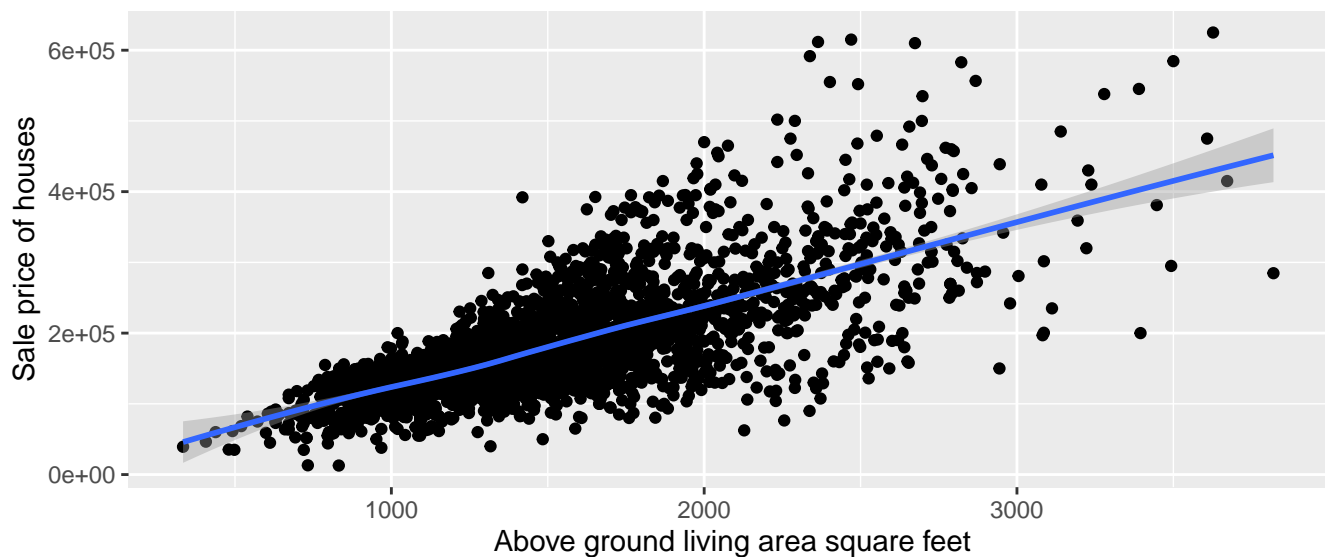


Figure 2: Plot of Above Ground Area of houses

Table 1: Summary Statistics of Variables

| Name                     | n    | Min   | 1st IQR   | Median | 3rd IQR   | Max    | Mean      | Std.     | Skew  |
|--------------------------|------|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Sale Price               | 2925 | 12789 | 129500.00 | 160000 | 213500.00 | 625000 | 180411.57 | 78554.86 | 1.59  |
| Above Ground Living Area | 2925 | 334   | 1126.00   | 1441   | 1740.00   | 3820   | 1493.98   | 486.27   | 0.88  |
| Basement Area            | 2924 | NA    | 792.75    | NA     | 1299.25   | NA     | NA        | NA       | NA    |
| Fireplaces               | 2925 | 0     | 0.00      | 1      | 1.00      | 1      | 0.51      | 0.50     | -0.06 |
| Lot Area                 | 2925 | 1300  | 7438.00   | 9428   | 11515.00  | 215245 | 10103.58  | 7782.00  | 13.19 |
| Garage Area              | 2924 | NA    | 320.00    | NA     | 576.00    | NA     | NA        | NA       | NA    |

## Residual Analysis

For these 5 countries in table 2(see Appendix), the model overestimated life expectancy, as the actual value is smaller than the predicted value; in another word, these countries have short life span than average. The explanation could be extreme weather(temperature too hot or too cold) or worsened social safety conditions.

For these 5 countries in table 3(see Appendix), the model underestimated life expectancy, as the actual value is larger than the predicted value; in another word, these countries have longer life span than average. The explanation could be healthy(Mediterranean and Eastern Asian diet) or complete social security administration.

Also, we check the y and y\_hat plot(see Appendix) to examine the model fit. We can see that most scatters fall aside the line, indicating a good fit of the model.

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#####
# 1) Research question:
#   - IDEA: Want to understand the pattern (possible connection) between,
#   house price and house condition

#   - Question: What is the pattern between house area and sales price?
#   - Intention: predict house price
```

## Appendix

### Variables

Variables describe house area, garage area, availability of fireplace, pool and other conditions. To see a full list of explanation of variables, go to Data Documentation

### Data descriptives

### Data Cleaning

clean\_data.R script contains all the steps for data cleaning. Exact number of missing values in certain variables are also given as a comment

### Data Type for variables

An appropriate format was given to categorical (numeric and ordinal) variables. In order to make it easier for further use, categorical variables were converted from character (or numeric) vector into nominal and ordinal variables (using factor and ordered factor) in clean\_data.R script

## Pattern of association

Plot shows bunch of dots near 0. Probably the Sale Price and Lot Area variables are not correlated.

Ln(Sale Price) - Ln(Lot Area). Probably linear spline, with knots at 8 and 10

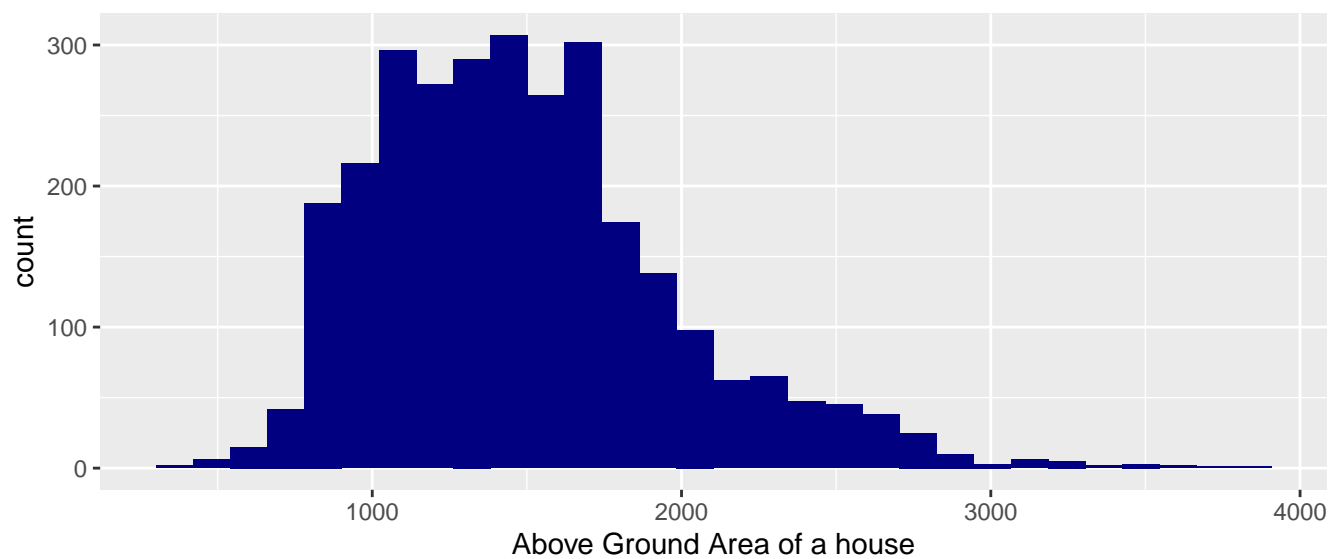


Figure 3: Histogram of Above Ground Area of a house

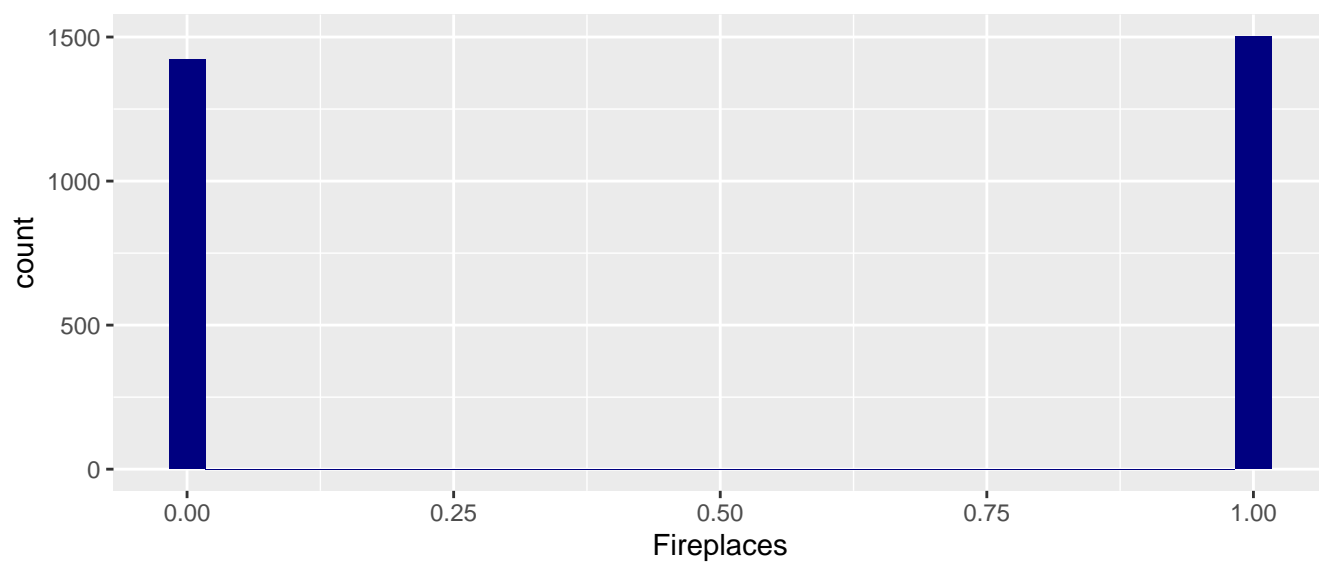


Figure 4: Histogram of houses with and without fireplace

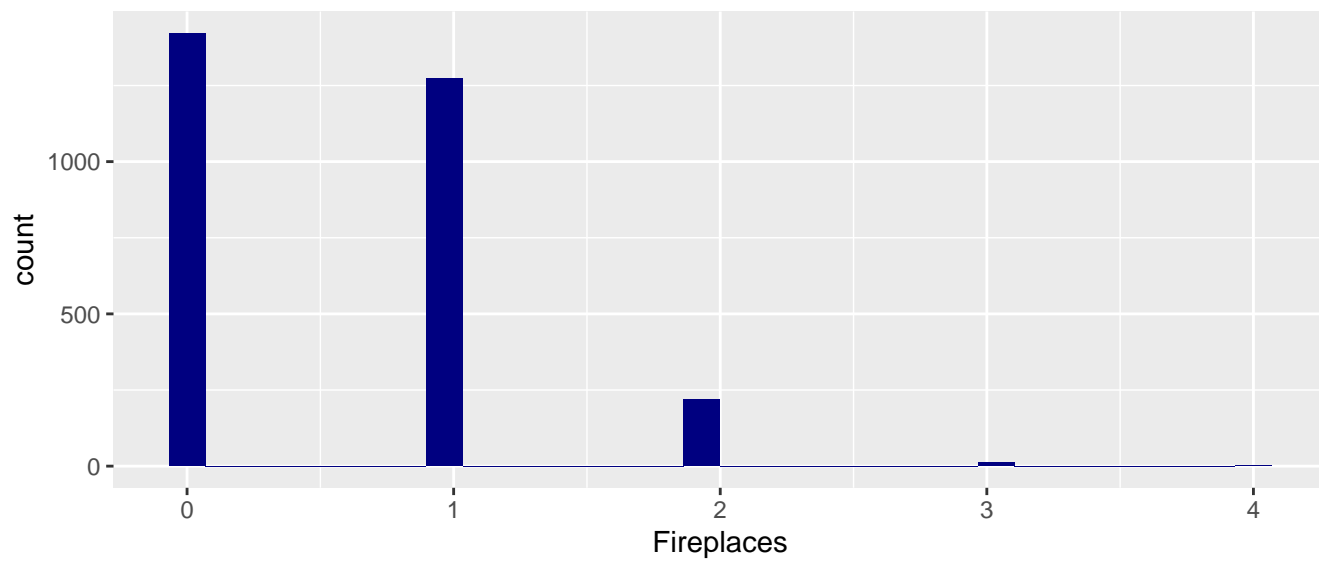


Figure 5: Histogram of houses with 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 fireplaces

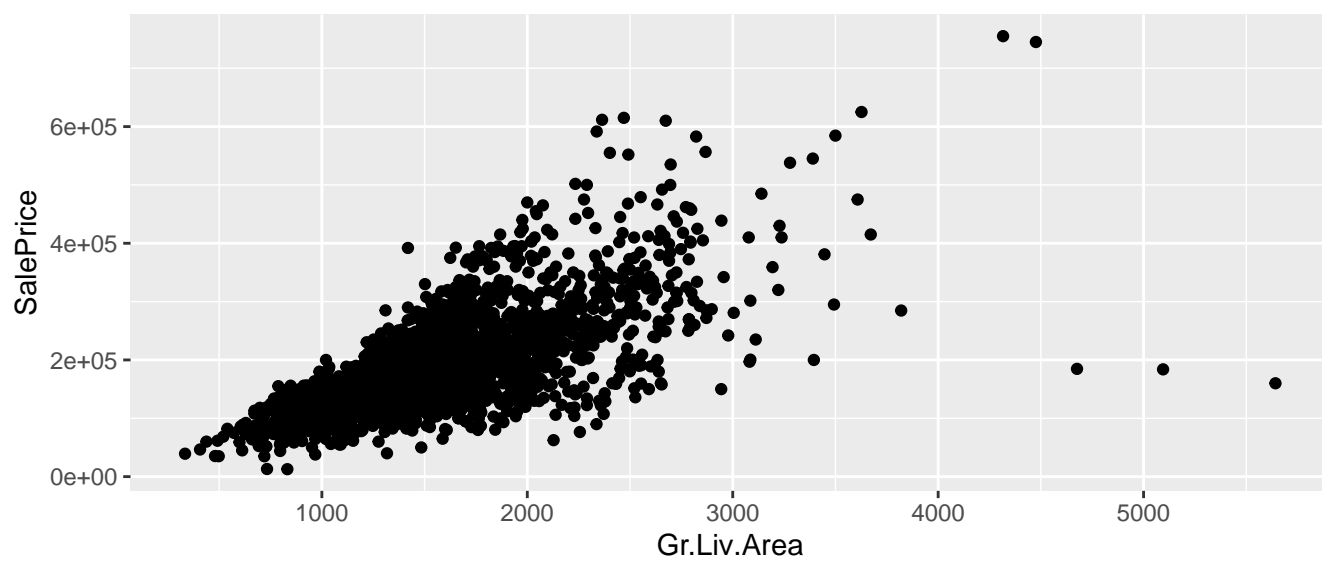


Figure 6: Plot of houses more than 4000 square feet Above Ground Area

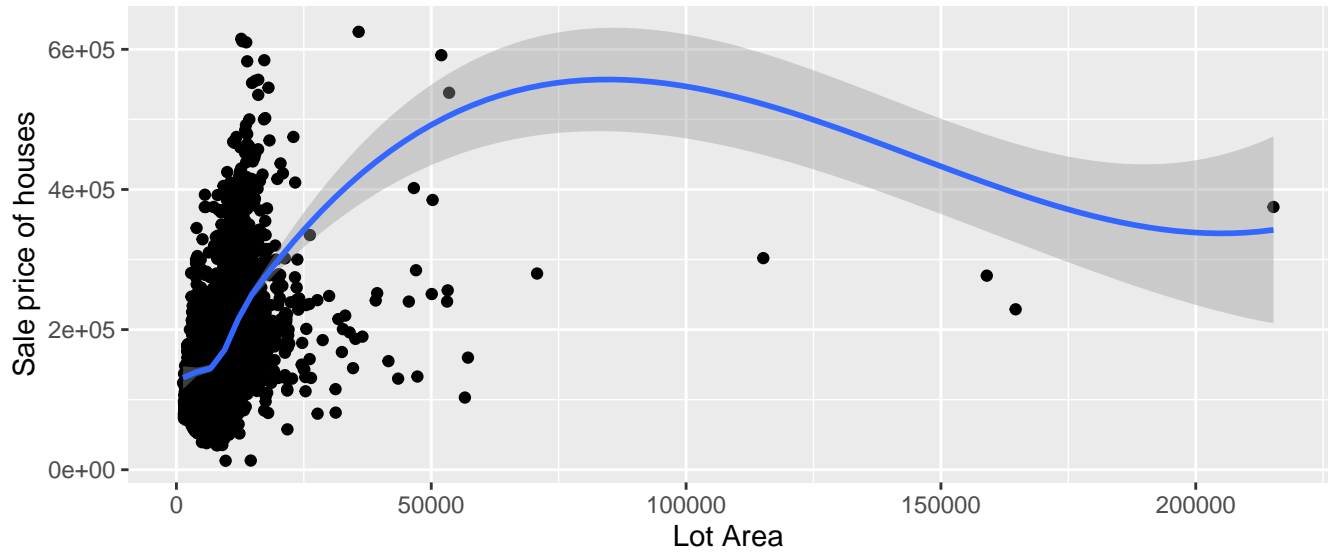


Figure 7: Plot of Sale Price and Lot Area

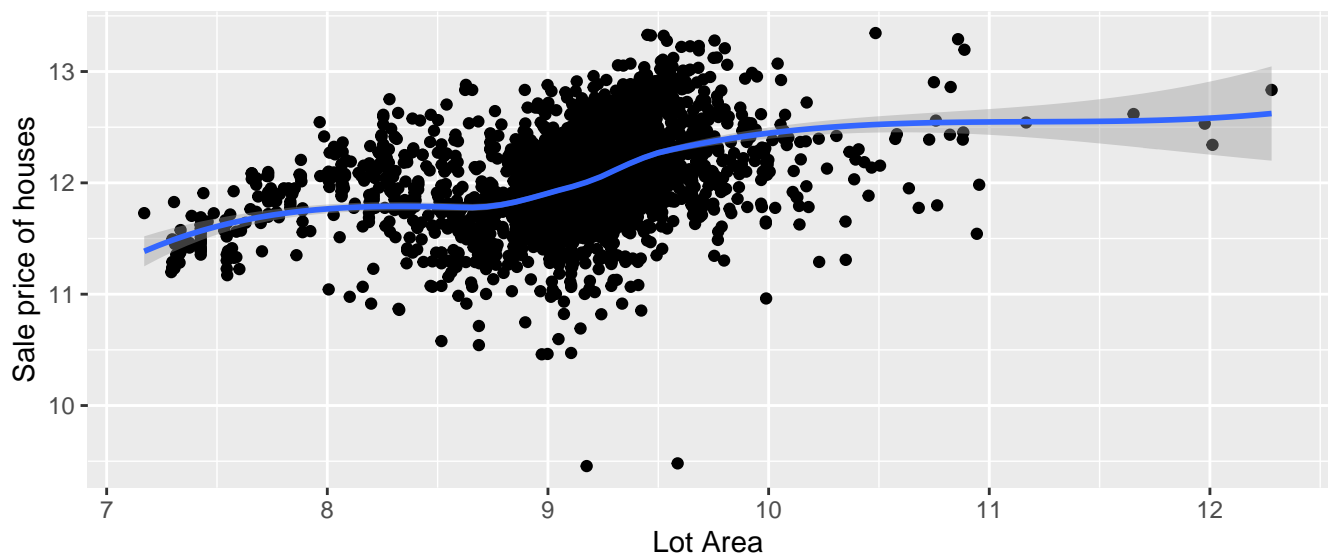


Figure 8: Plot of  $\ln(\text{Sale Price}) - \ln(\text{Lot Area})$ .

The more regular shape house has, the higher the price. But some Irregular houses has same price as Regular houses.

Reg Regular

IR1 Slightly irregular

IR2 Moderately Irregular

IR3 Irregular

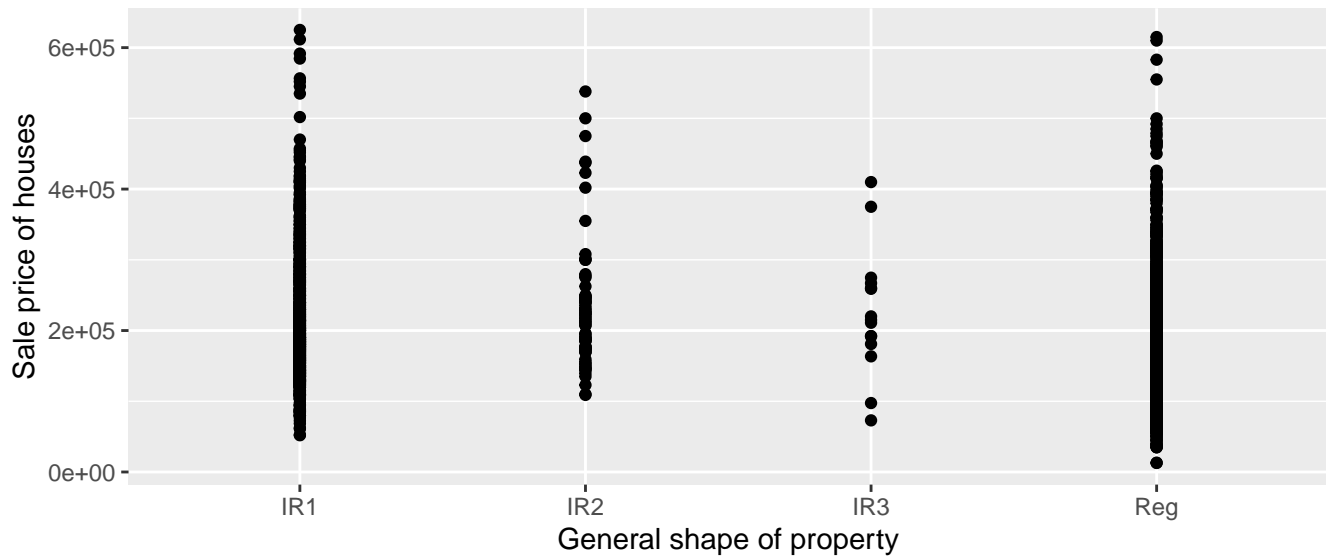


Figure 9: Plot of Sale Price - Lot Shape

Houses with 1 or more fireplaces have higher price

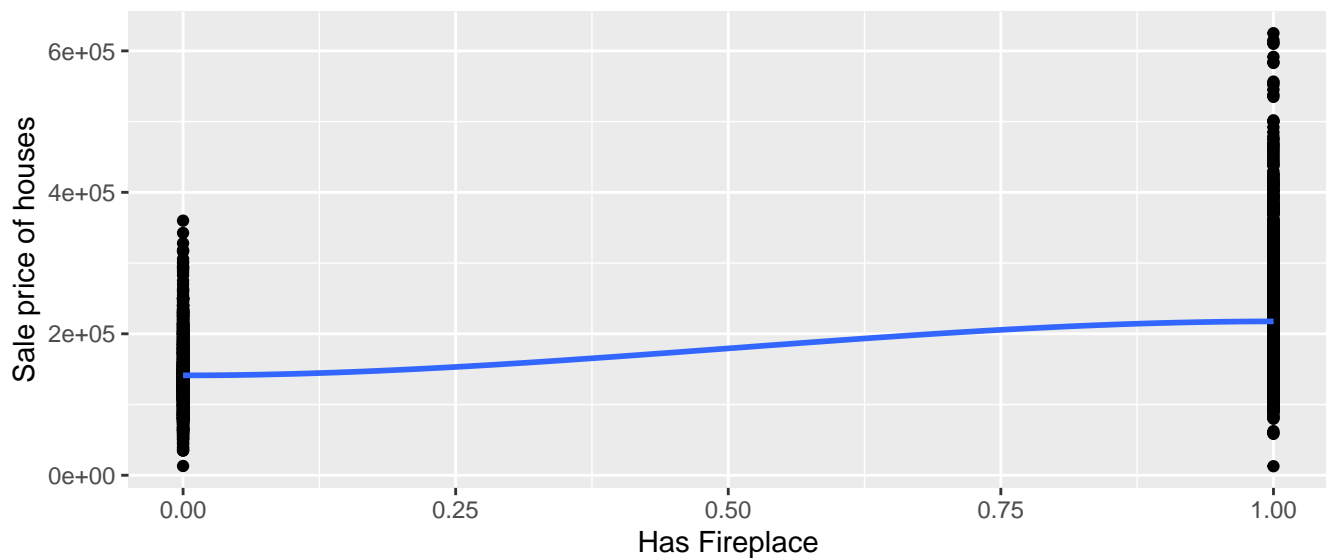


Figure 10: Plot of Sale Price - Fireplace

Almost positive linear, but some outliers at the end causing the line to curve. Seems Garage Area variable is important

There is a linear relationship between Sale Price and Total square feet of basement area

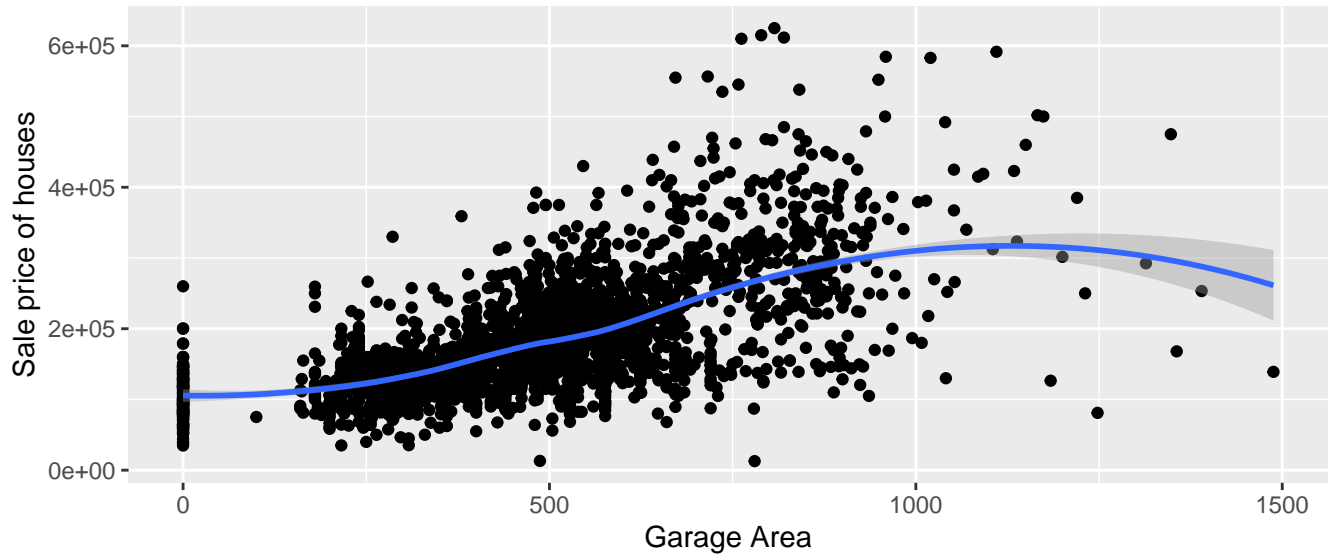


Figure 11: Plot of Sale Price - Garage Area

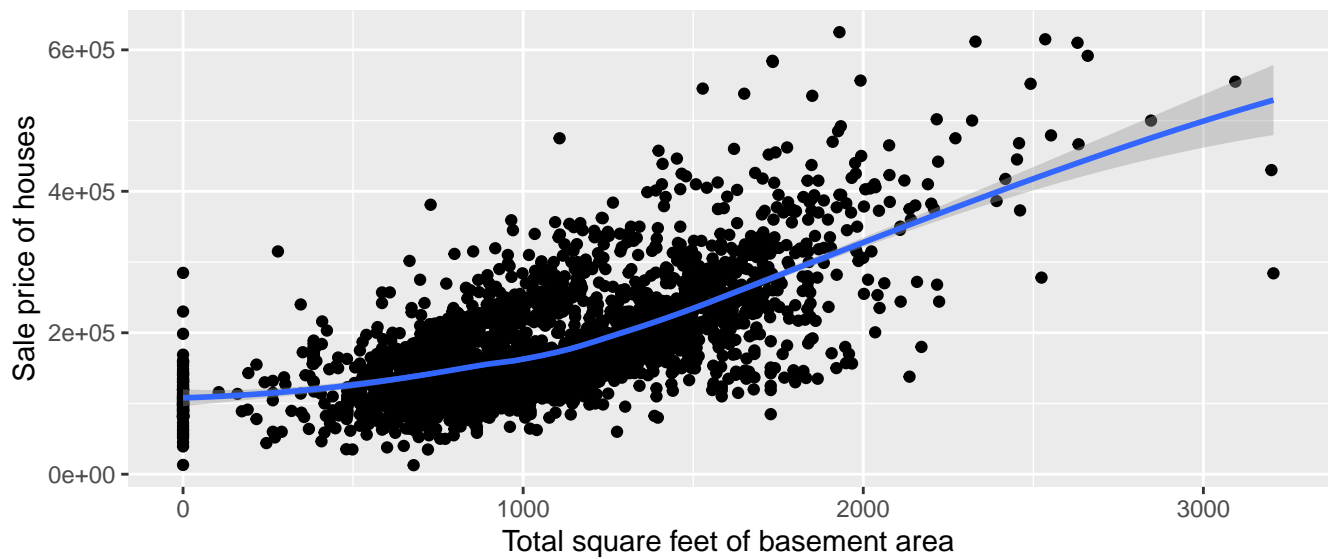
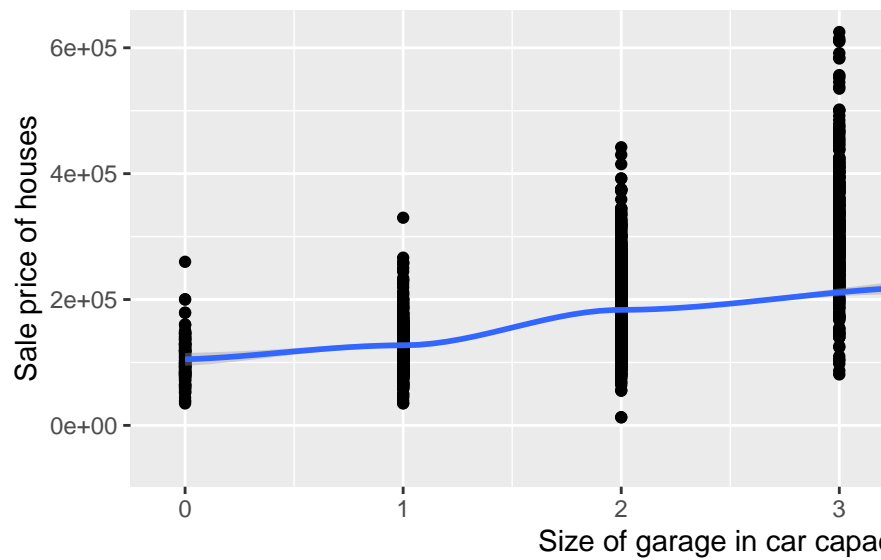


Figure 12: Plot of Sale Price - Basement area





On average, houses with more garage cars have higher price

Near Flat/Level and Hillside houses have higher prices.

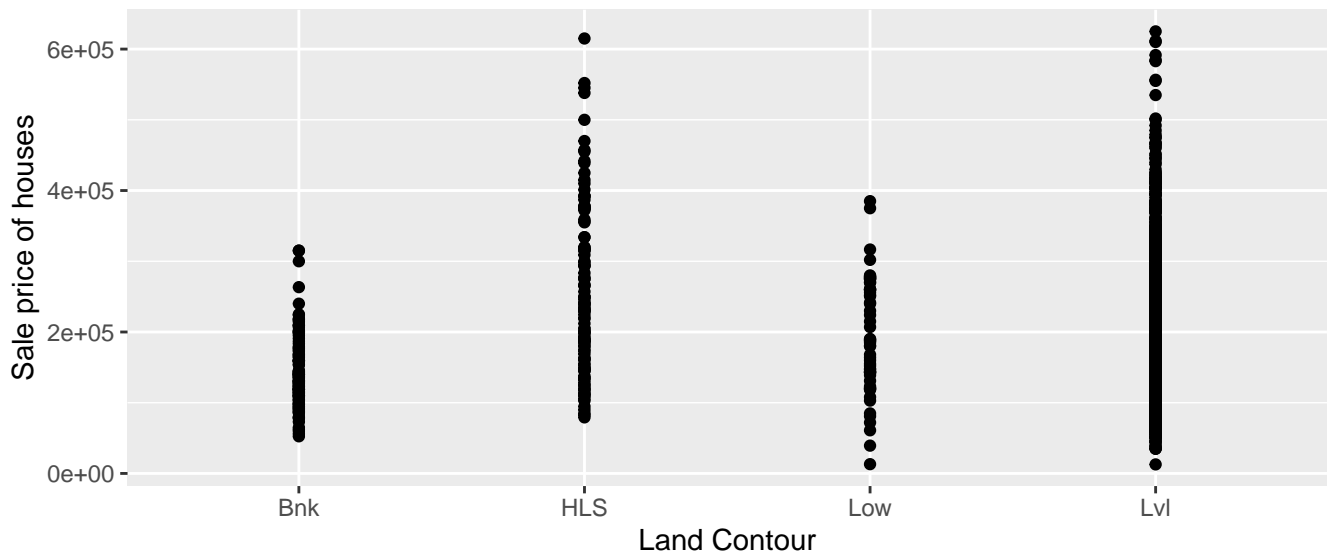


Figure 13: Plot of Sale Price - Land.Contour

There are 2922 houses with All Public *Utilities*. Since we don't have much observations with different utilities, it was decided not to check the pattern of association and not to include this variable in the model.

Cul-de-sac and Inside lot has higher prices

Houses with *Gentle slope* and *Moderate Slope* have higher prices

Houses from Northridge, Northridge Heights, and Stone Brook neighborhoods have relatively high prices

Houses with Normal and "Adjacent to positive off-site feature" conditions have relatively high prices

Most of the houses are Single-family Detached. Single-family Detached and Townhouse End Unit houses have relatively high prices

Most of the houses are One story and Two story. One story and Two story houses have relatively high prices

Higher rating - higher sale price. But some houses has quality 6 but has same price as quality 2

Most of the houses have Average (5) condition. Average conditioned houses have relatively high prices

The newer the house (the later is the year built) - the higher the price. But some houses that are built before 1900 were priced relatively high. There is an upward trend

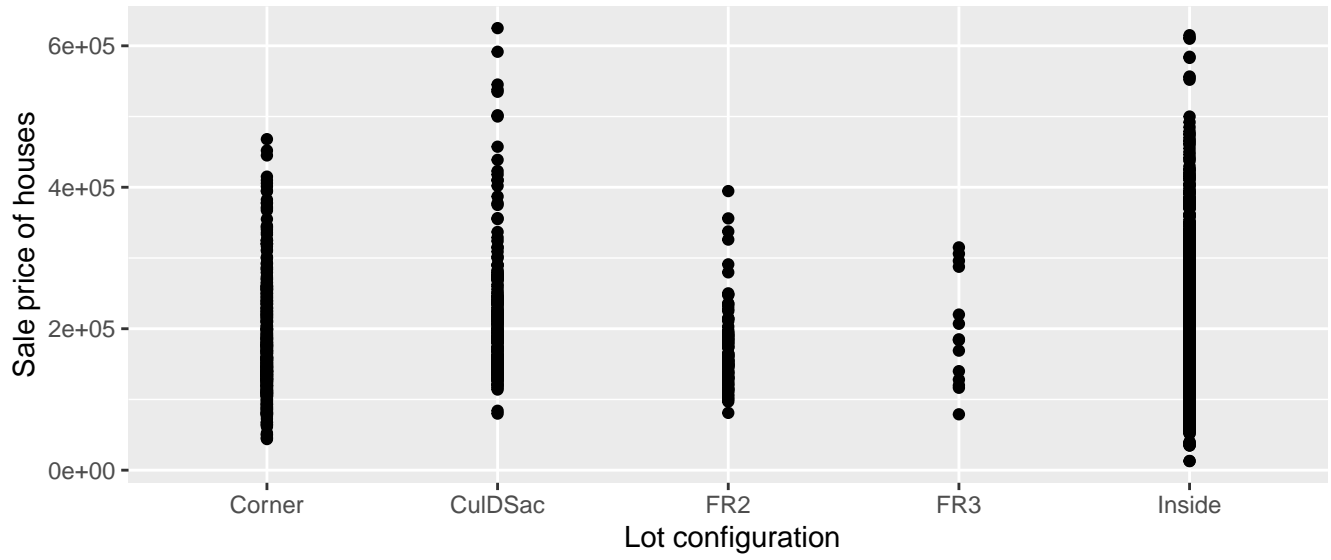


Figure 14: Plot of Sale Price - Land Configuration

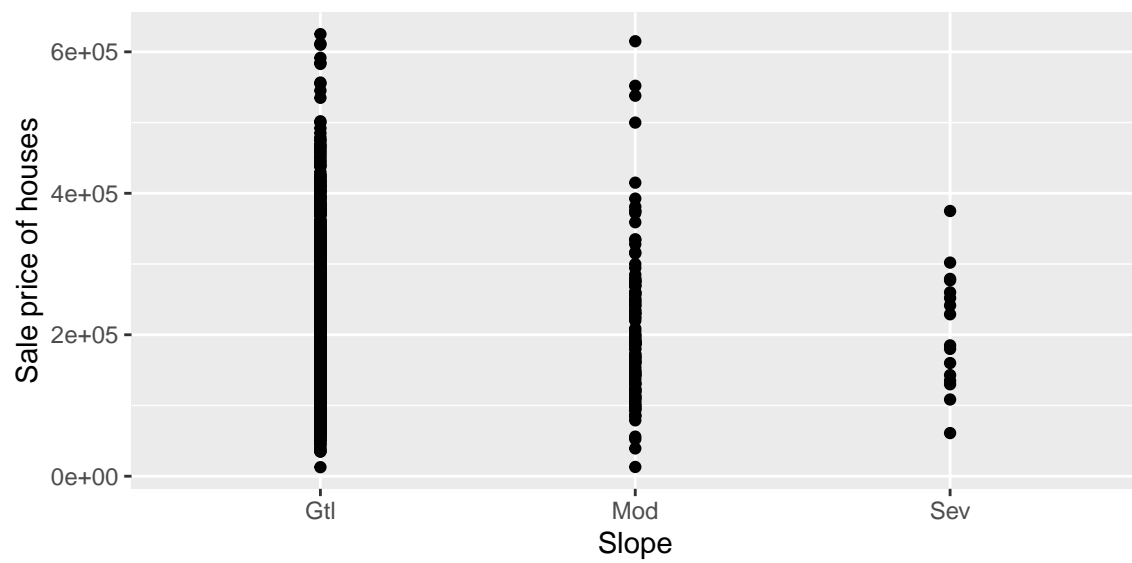


Figure 15: Plot of Sale Price - Land Slope

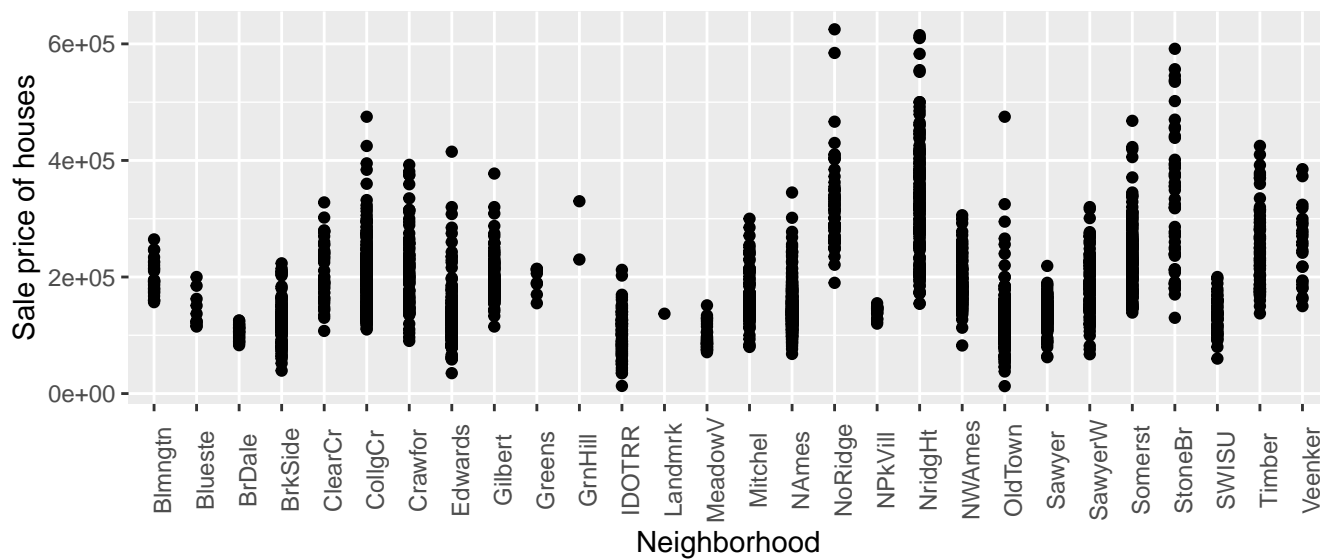


Figure 16: Plot of Sale Price - Neighborhood

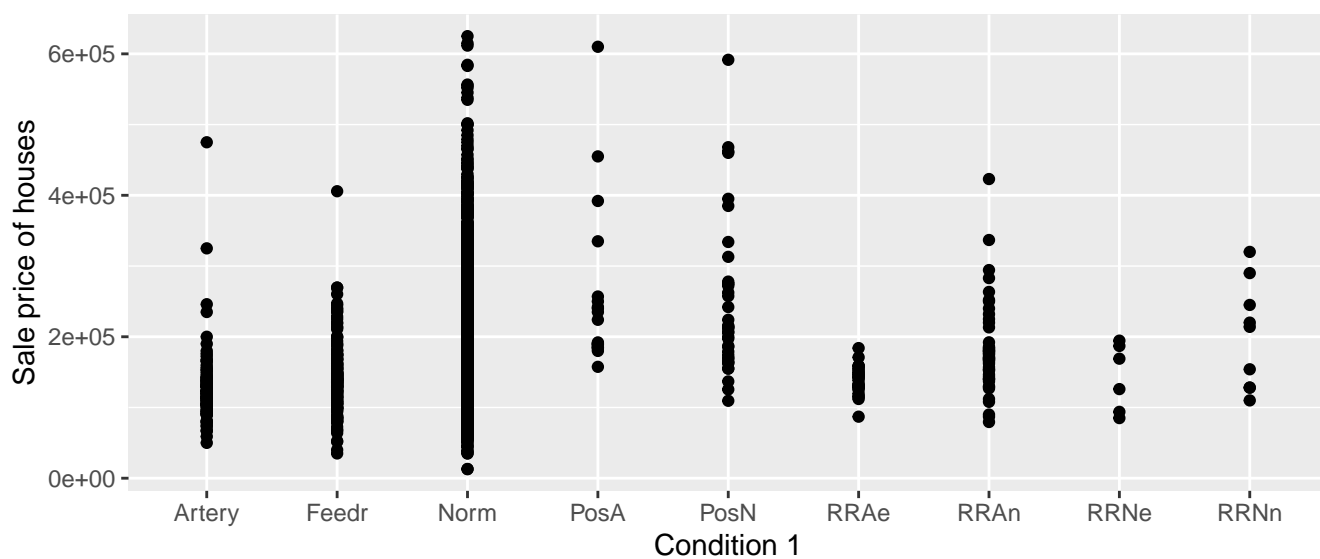


Figure 17: Plot of Sale Price - House Condition

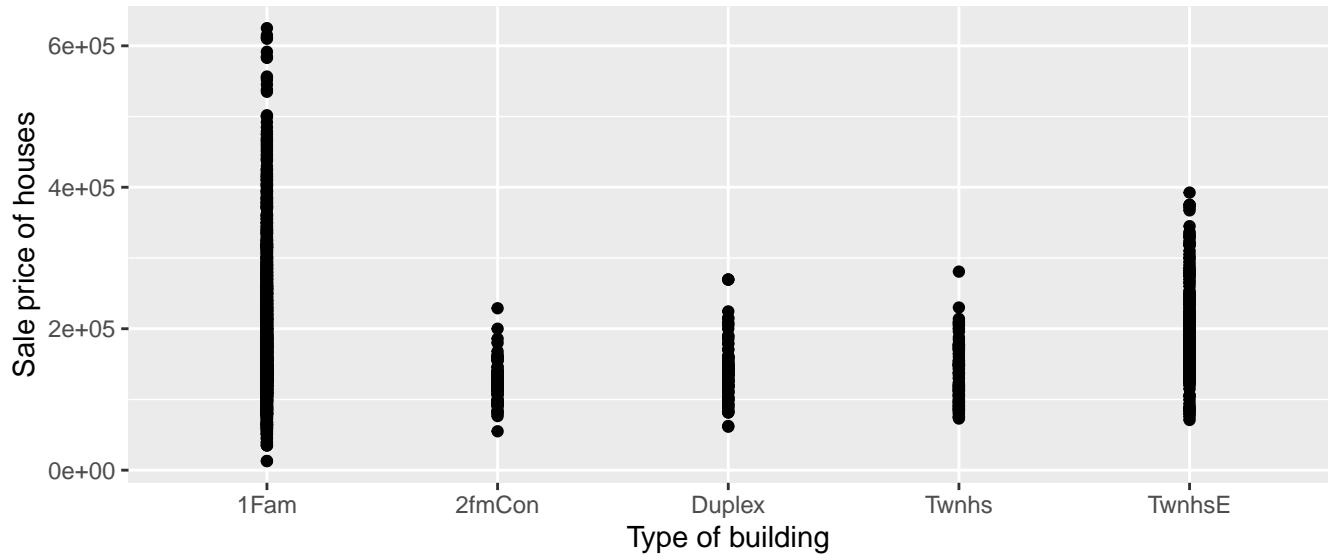


Figure 18: Plot of Sale Price - Type of building

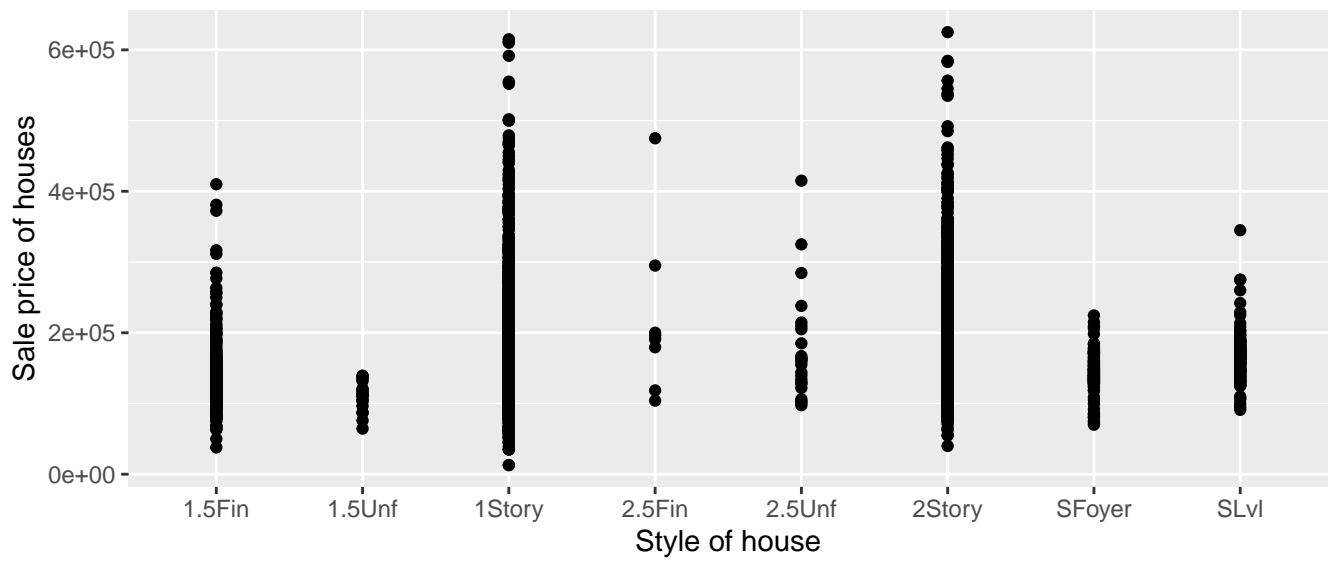


Figure 19: Plot of Sale Price - Style of house

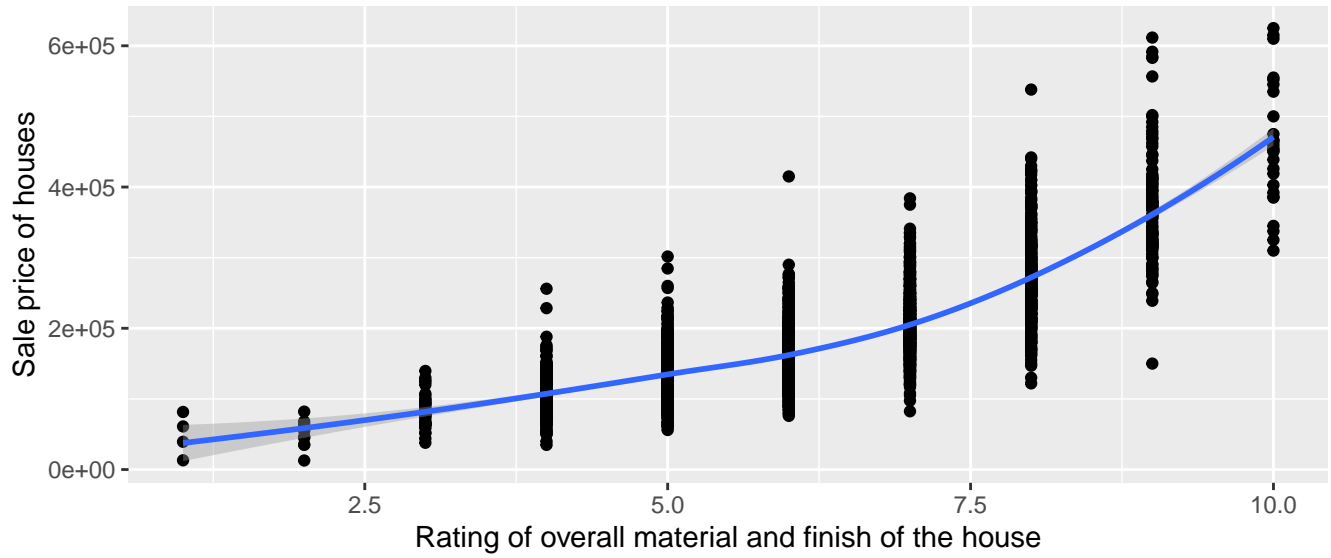


Figure 20: Plot of Sale Price - House rating

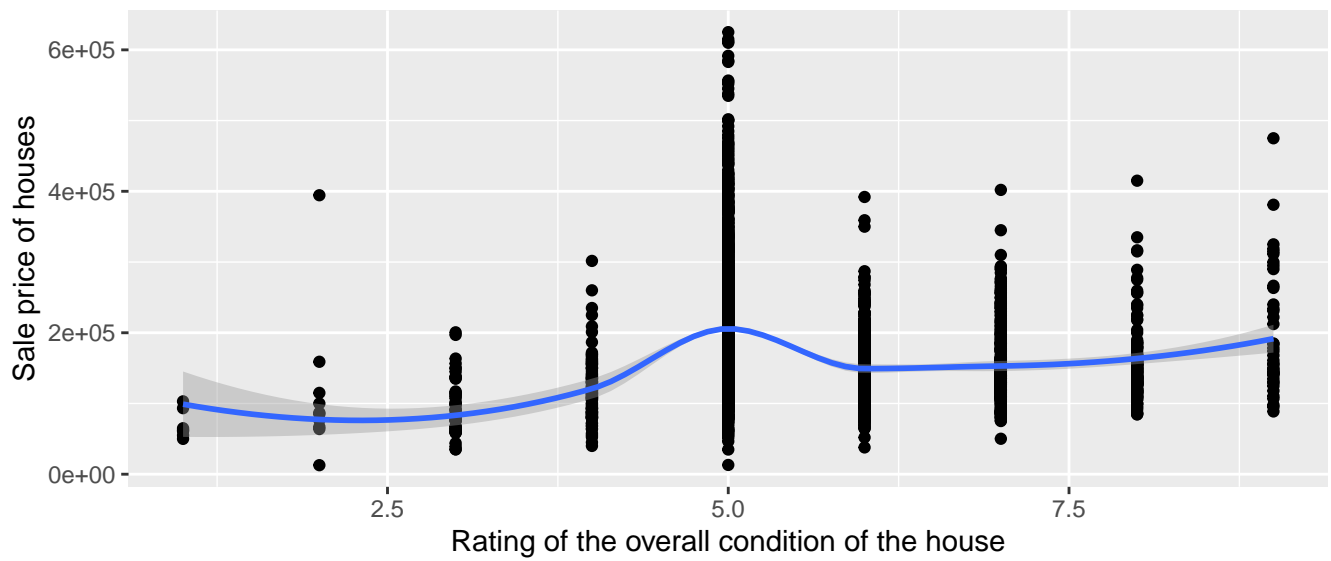


Figure 21: Plot of Sale Price - House condition

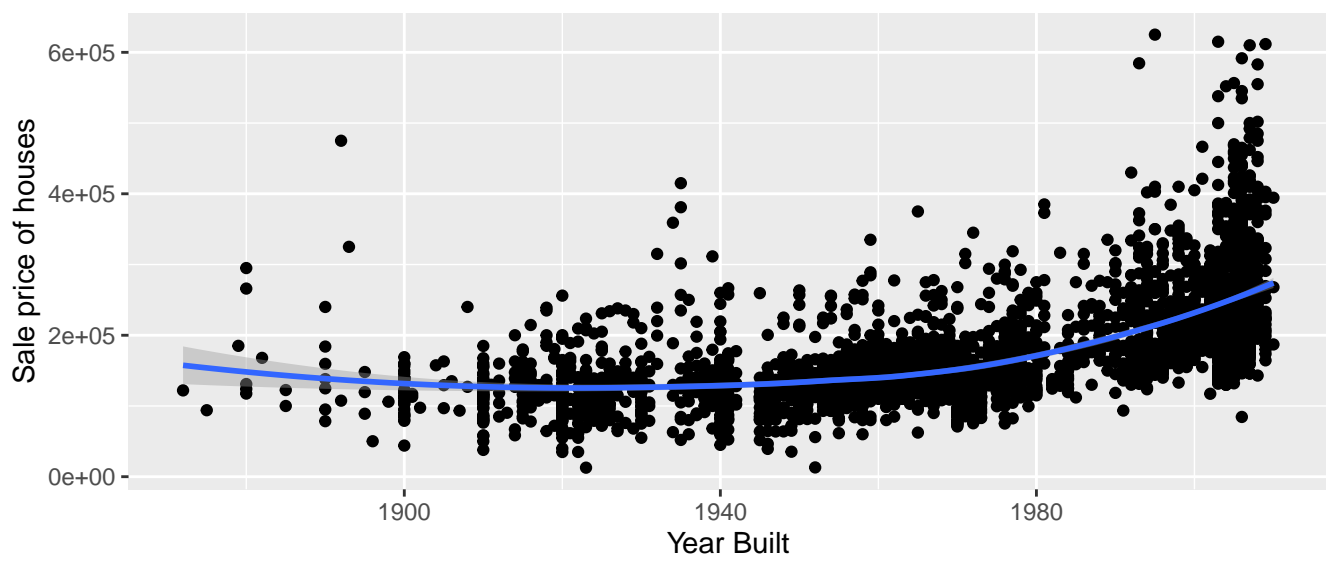


Figure 22: Plot of Sale Price - Year Built