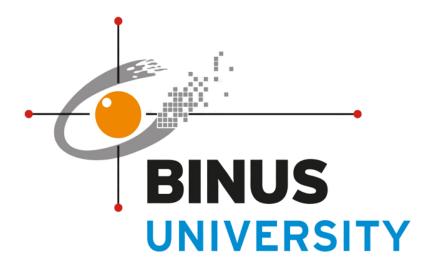
Forecasting the Return on Investment (ROI) for a New House in Melbourne: A Five-year Sales Regression Analysis



BDA & DaViz Group Member:

2540135473 - Dora Kalifa Dharmawan - 30%

2501983105 - Pristian Budi Dharmawan - 40%

2540131310 - Pirelli Rahelya Piri - 30%

I. Business Understanding

A real estate company just got an investment of \$100 million. This investment aims to construct several new home clusters with a target Return on Investment (ROI) of around \$200 thousand for each unit sold. As we know, a property's cost is increasing yearly by around 7.9% per year in Melbourne (propertyupdate.com).

This company has difficulties developing home clusters for certain areas in Melbourne. Their target market is the new family or a family with a medium- to high-class monetary level. They wanted to open these home clusters with a low population density, a good environment, and the nearest to the centre of the city. They took a dataset from 2017 to 2018 to see which region has the highest ROI in Melbourne. However, there are several limitations to building a home cluster, such as the law, construction costs, land availability, etc.

With those criteria, the company assumes that they will be able to overcome their limitations in this project. To increase their ROI, they could build certain facilities in their area, bundle packages, sell furnished or unfurnished houses, etc. Other than that, to make their forecasting of ROI more valid, they wanted to use the dataset that had already been received.

However, they are unclear about the dataset they received. Thus, this company hired a data scientist to process the data and give them the best advice on which region they should construct to have the highest ROI within five years of analysis. The data scientist suggested that to build a forecasting model, he wanted to conduct regression analysis by leveraging several regression models, such as Multiple Linear Regression (MLR), Lasso Regression (LR), and Random Forest Regression (RFR).

II. Data Understanding

The dataset of this project can be accessed through the link below:

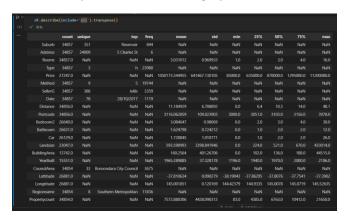
Melbourne Housing Market or Click Here

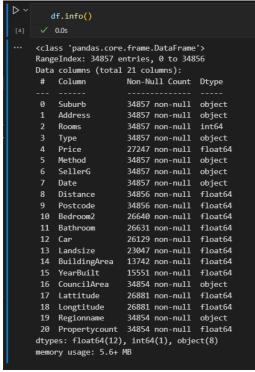
This dataset contains the following attributes:

- SuburbAddressRoomsPrice
 - MethodType
- SellerGDate
- Distance
- Postcode
- Bedroom2

- Bathroom
- Car
- Landsize
- BuildingArea
- YearBuild
- CouncilArea
- Lattitude
- Longitude
- Regionname
- Propertycount

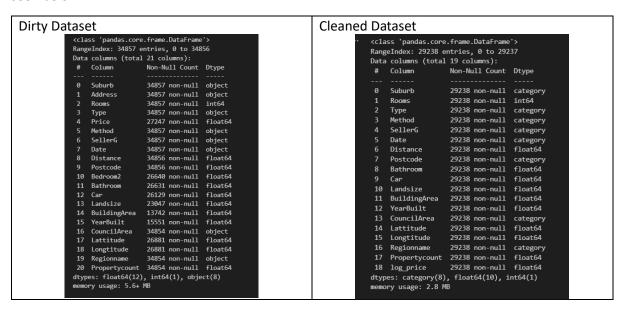
The summary of the dataset using Python .describe and .info is shown below:





III. DATA PREPROCESSING

We decided to choose the "Melbourne_housing_FULL.csv" dataset to be analyzed using Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). In this section, we will preprocess the dataset for MLR using the Ordinary Least Square Method. The difference between the uncleaned dataset and the cleaned dataset can be seen below:



It might be hard to see the differences, thus we made the full documentation of the data preprocessing in our GitHub below:

Full Documentation of the Melbourne Housing Market Regression Analysis

OLS Method

OLS Method is a statistical method for estimating new data or parameters in a linear regression model by minimizing the Sum of Squared Error (SSE). We could explore the determinants of a good regression using the ANOVA framework, which are:

Sum of Squares Total (SST)
 It's the sum of the squared differences between the observed dependent variable and its mean.
 The formula to calculate SST is as follows:

$$SST = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

2. Sum of Squares Regression (SSR)

The sum of the squared differences between each predicted value and its mean. The formula of SSR is:

$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\hat{y} - \bar{y})^2$$

 Sum of Squares Error (SSE)
 While SSE is the sum of the squared differences between the observed dependent variable and the predicted value. The formula of SSE is:

$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y})^2$$

However, since we want to measure the differences between the predicted value and actual value, to measure the performance of MLR using the Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Mean Squared Error (MSE), Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). But, if we want to measure how well the model fits the data, we could calculate it using the R-squared and Adjusted R-squared which are as follows:

R-squared

$$R^2 = \frac{SSR}{SST}$$

Adjusted R-squared

$$Adj. R^2 = 1 - (1 - R^2) * \frac{n-1}{n-v-1}$$

In MLR using the OLS method, we must obey the following assumptions:

1. Linearity

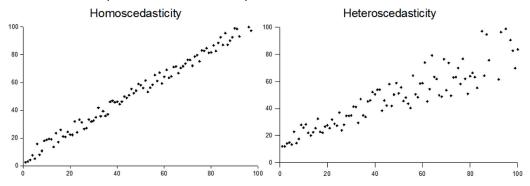
This means that all the independent variable and dependent variable is linear. If this assumption is violated, we could use exponential transformation, log transformation, and non-linear regression.

2. No Endogeneity

It refers to the prohibition of a link between the independent variables and the errors. This issue could lead to variable bias. For example, when we want to predict the house price, the bigger the house, the cheaper it is. This example does not make any sense right?

3. Normality and Homoscedasticity

- a. It is assuming the error of the dataset is normally distributed, however, if it's not we could apply the Central Limit Theorem (CLT).
- b. While homoscedasticity refers to having an equal variance. The illustration of homoscedasticity and heteroscedasticity can be seen as follows:



4. No Autocorrelation

It refers to "The Day-of-The-Week Effect", it's simply about the correlation of error terms with each other over time.

5. No Multicollinearity

Multicollinearity occurs whenever two or more variables have a high correlation. For example,

$$a = 2 + 5 * b$$
 $b = \frac{a - 2}{5}$ $\rho_{ab} = 1$ perfect multicollinearity

Data Cleaning

1. Data Type Cleaning

In this phase, we will clean the data type such as 'object' to 'category', 'date' to 'datetime', and 'Postcode' to 'category'. This phase will result in this dataset as follows:

2. Duplicate Columns

Two columns seem ambiguous; thus, we need to compare their differences as follows:

As it's shown above, we decided to remove the `Bedroom2` feature.

3. Missing Values

Several columns have missing values, such as follows:

- Price
- Bathroom
- Car
- Landsize
- BuildingArea
- YearBuilt
- CouncilArea
- Lattitude
- Longtitude
- Regionname
- Propertycount

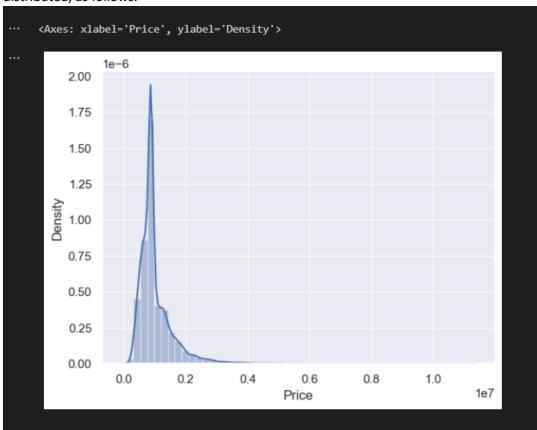
However, we will take the Central Tendency value using the median to fill them out, except for several columns, which are:

- Car
- CouncilArea
- Lattitude
- Longtitude
- Regionname

dataset.isnull().sum() Suburb 0 Address Type Price 7610 Method 0 SellerG Date Distance Postcode 8226 Bathroom Car 8728 Landsize 11810 BuildingArea YearBuilt 19306 CouncilArea Lattitude 7976 Longtitude 7976 Regionname Propertycount dtype: int64

4. Outliers

We will convert the Probability Distribution Function for each feature to be normally distributed, as follows:



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Thus, I need to clean all these numeric values by taking its 1% top quantile to be removed. This phase will help us in Homoscedasticity. In this phase, we will remove any value that is still odd.

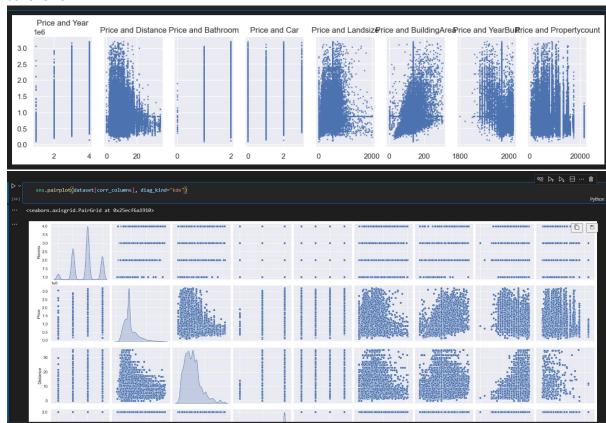
5. Data Reduction

In this section, we will just remove the `Address` column to make this analysis more comprehensive.

OLS Assumptions Cleaning

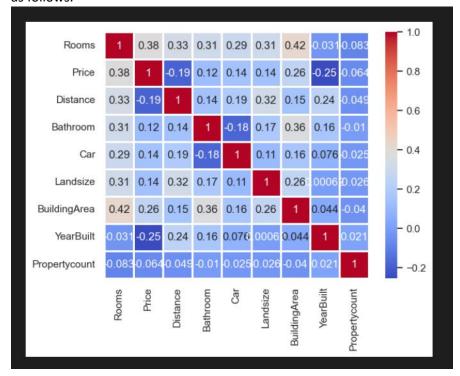
1. Linearity

To check the linearity of `Price` with another variables, we could plot them using a scatter plot as follows:

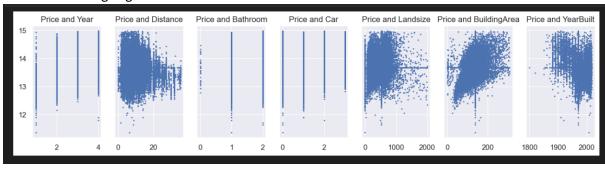


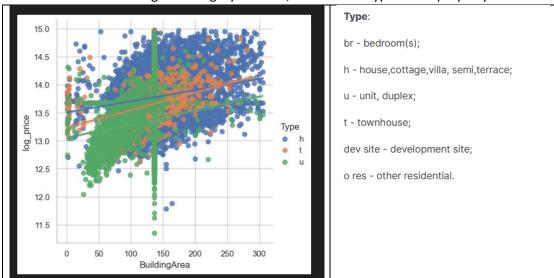
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Other than that, we could find the correlation between each variable using the heatmap plot, as follows:



Based on the plot above, we can determine that this data is not linear, thus we will try to transform it using Log Transformation and below is the result:





Now we want to see using the category variable, which is the type of the property:

2. No Endogeneity

Based on the plot above, we could also determine that 'Price' and 'Distance' are endogenous. However, we will just include this feature since it has a big correlation with the price of the property.

- 3. Normality and Homoscedasticity
 - We couldn't do much with non-linear data to obey this assumption, thus we will just let it be.
- 4. No Autocorrelation

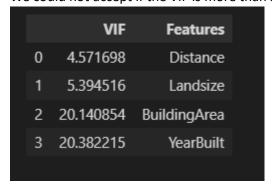
This data is not a time series or panel data, which means that this data has already obeyed this assumption.

5. No Multicollinearity

This dataset also has multicollinearity, for example, we know that 'Rooms' and 'Bathroom' are correlated and there is no way that 'Bathroom' value exceeds the value of 'Rooms'. However, we could check this issue by finding the Variance Inflation Factors from the continuous variable, such as follows:

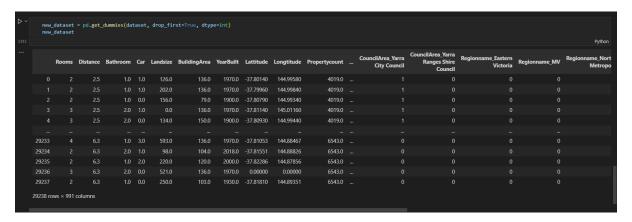
- Distance
- Landsize
- BuildingArea
- YearBuilt

We could not accept if the VIF is more than 5, but we will still include them in our analysis.



Dummy Variables

In this phase, we will take all of the data with a category data type to be encoded using One-Hot Encoding. This encoding will help us in our regression analysis further.



Additional (Neural Network)

While in Neural Network, we will just take the cleaned dataset (before OLS Assumption Cleaning) convert the 'Postcode' into an object data type and encode the category dataset using One-Hot Encoding.

NOTE

However, all these datasets are not yet standardized. Thus, we will standardize this dataset using sklearn. Standard Scaler() which scales the data using Z-score.

IV. Model Implementation

We have already documented this implementation using both models, which can be accessed from the link below:

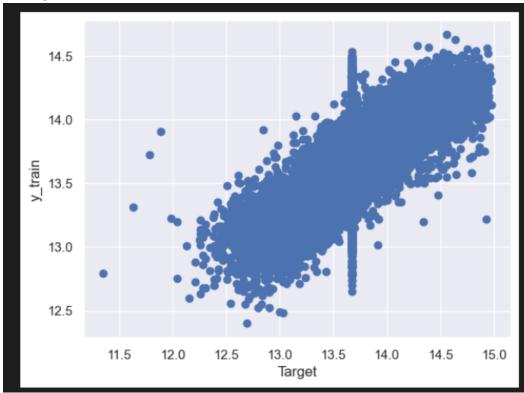
Full Documentation of the Melbourne Housing Market Regression Analysis

Multiple Linear Regression

Train Test Split
 We will split the data into 80:20, 80% training data and 20% testing data.

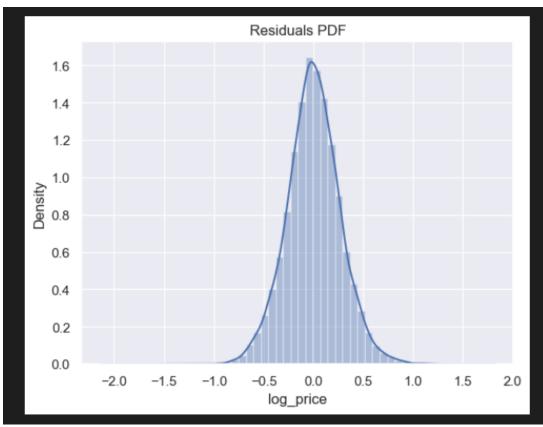
2. Regression

After training the data, we could fit the data into the LinearRegression model and plot the training data as follows:

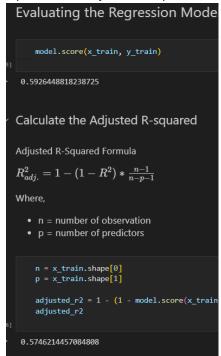


3. Evaluate

After that, we need to plot the Residual Plot to validate our OLS, it helps us to check whether the residuals in our analysis are normally distributed and whether or not they exhibit heteroscedasticity.

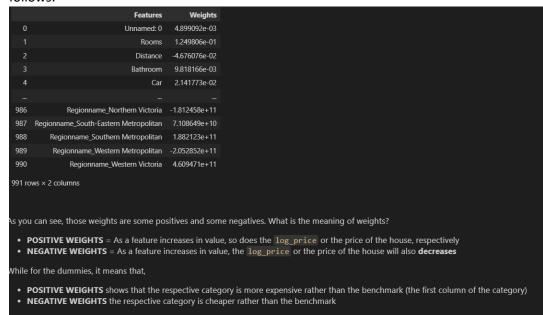


After plotting the residual, we could evaluate whether the data fits the line or not using R-squared and Adjusted R-squared, thus:

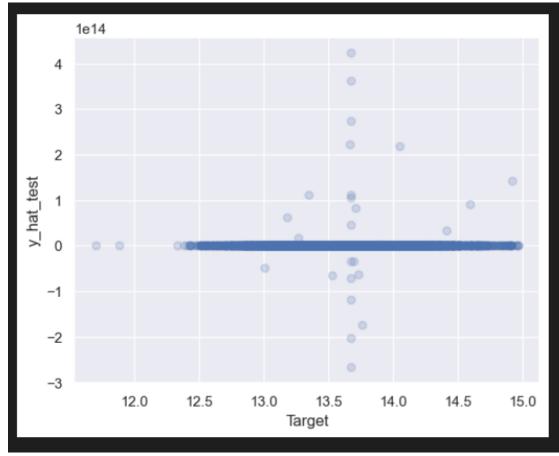


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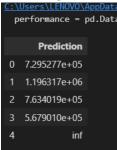
Now, we want to find the weight and the coefficient of this analysis, and we have obtained as follows:



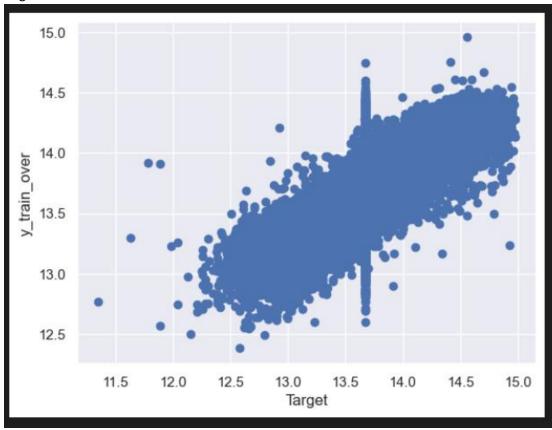
4. Testing the data



As shown in the figure above, we could say that this data is not linear, and the model is overfitting the data. However, let's see the prediction result:

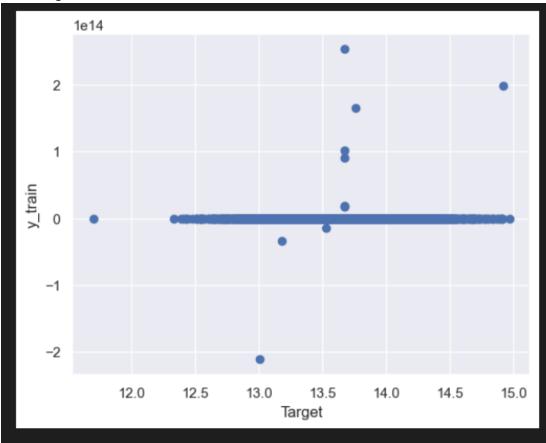


- 5. Re-train Test Split
 Let's increase the data splitting into 90:10, 90% training data and 10% testing data.
- 6. Regression



As you can see, there are no significant changes in this model.

7. Re-Testing



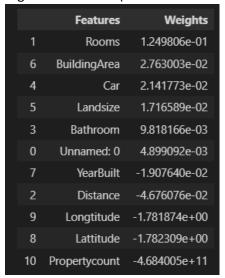
However, we must acknowledge that this data is not linear and has been proven in this plot.

8. Evaluate

The performance of the model:

	Prediction	Target	Residuals	Difference%
count	5.848000e+03	5.848000e+03	5.848000e+03	5848.000000
mean	inf	9.384155e+05	-inf	inf
std	NaN	4.200663e+05	NaN	NaN
min	0.000000e+00	1.210000e+05	-inf	0.002362
25%	6.668717e+05	6.655000e+05	-1.183172e+05	7.905874
50%	8.554393e+05	8.700000e+05	6.590857e+03	16.996526
75%	1.099974e+06	1.100000e+06	1.671605e+05	28.778502
max	inf	3.175000e+06	1.937952e+06	inf

Highest coefficient (Most influential feature)



9. Summary



As you can see on the aside, the RMSE of this regression model is too high and indicates this model is not suitable for this data.

Neural Network

1. Train Test Split

We will split the data into an 80:20 portion, 80% training dataset and 20% training dataset.

2. Neural Network Architecture

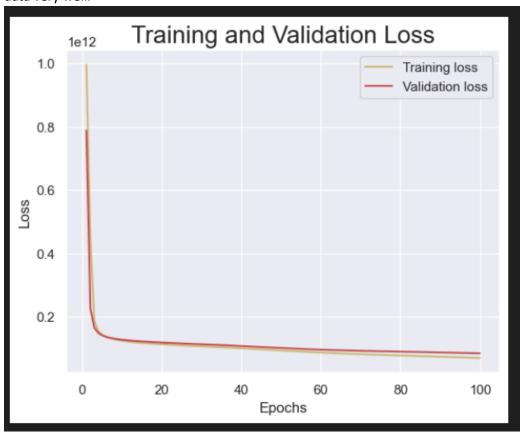
```
model = Sequential()
> <
        model.add(Dense(128, input_dim = 998, activation='relu'))
        model.add(Dense(64, activation='relu'))
        # Output Layer
        model.add(Dense(1, activation='linear'))
> <
        model.compile(loss='mean_squared_error', optimizer='adam', metrics=['mae'])
        model.summary()
    Model: "sequential"
                                  Output Shape
      Layer (type)
                                                             Param #
      dense (Dense)
                                  (None, 128)
                                                             127872
      dense_1 (Dense)
                                  (None, 64)
                                                             8256
      dense_2 (Dense)
                                  (None, 1)
                                                             65
     Total params: 136,193
     Trainable params: 136,193
     Non-trainable params: 0
```

In Neural Network architecture, we use 128 and 64 neurons as our hidden layer to train this data and use Adam optimizer to compile the dataset.

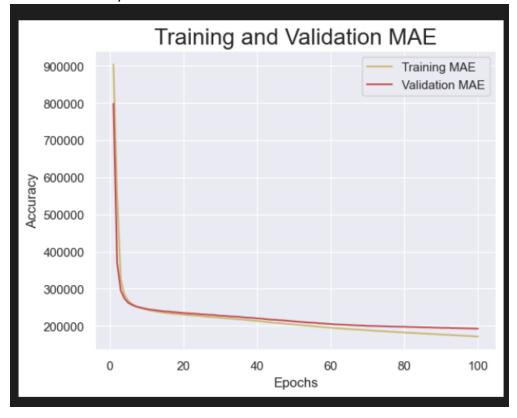
To fit the dataset into the model, we use 100 epochs to train the data resulting as follows:

```
Epoch 99/100
731/731 [------] - 1s 2ms/step - loss: 69772435456.0000 - mae: 171761.0312 - val_loss: 84391182336.0000 - val_mae: 192662.1719
Epoch 100/100
731/731 [-------] - 1s 2ms/step - loss: 69345558528.0000 - mae: 171229.7969 - val_loss: 84018888704.0000 - val_mae: 192391.4219
Output is truncated. View as a scrollable element or open in a text editor. Adjust cell output settings...
```

3. Training Loss, Validation Loss, and Accuracy Rate
The loss of the data is decreased significantly so fast, which means that the model fits the data very well.



While the accuracy of the data is:



As it is shown in the plot above, we could say that the model is quite overfit on 80 to 100 epochs. However, we know that the model accuracy is increased, which is shown by the decreasing MAE score.

4. Prediction

```
======== ] - 0s 30ms/step
Predicted Values: [[ 330009.78 ]
 [1047199.3 ]
 [ 860664.56 ]
 [ 489561.97 ]
     7318.636]]
Actual Values: 12547
                          985000.0
963
         1425000.0
28609
          920000.0
1412
          502000.0
15961
          870000.0
Name: Price, dtype: float64
```

As it's shown above, although the prediction is not accurately 100%, it's better than MLR.

5. Evaluation

```
183/183 [------] - 0s 1

MSE : 84018888704.0

MAE : 192391.421875

RMSE : 289860.11920234904

R-Squared

from sklearn.metrics import r2_score

y_true = np.array(y_test)
 y_pred = np.array(model.predict(x_test))

183/183 [-----] - 0s 8

r2_score(y_true, y_pred)

0.5237713739630026
```

The RMSE score is decreased significantly from the MLR, this means that the model fits the data very well. This result can be improved by tuning the hyperparameters.

Other than that, the R-squared score seems lower than the MLR, but it's not a big problem, since we want to find the performance of the model, not how well the data fits the line of regression.

V. Business Implementation

Based on our analysis, we must acknowledge that in real life no data is linear each other. Thus, we need a non-linear approach to leverage the machine learning model to its best performance.

In this analysis, we could help real-estate companies, banks, and other financial institutions to predict the house price accurately. This means that whenever a company want to open a new home cluster, they can predict what kind of house has the biggest Return on Investment (ROI). This means that they could determine what kind of feature or aspects in their home cluster to improve its price over time. For example, it's shown that the highest coefficients in this analysis are the rooms, cars, land size, etc. By leveraging these coefficients, the company could maximize its profitability and lower its production cost.