# Used Car Price Analysis

October 2, 2024

## 1 Final project

```
[1]: from os.path import basename, exists
     def download(url):
        filename = basename(url)
         if not exists(filename):
             from urllib.request import urlretrieve
             local, _ = urlretrieve(url, filename)
             print("Downloaded " + local)
     download("https://github.com/AllenDowney/ThinkStats2/raw/master/code/
      ⇔thinkstats2.py")
     download("https://github.com/AllenDowney/ThinkStats2/raw/master/code/thinkplot.

y
"
)
[2]: import pandas as pd
     import numpy as np
     import thinkplot
     import thinkstats2
     from scipy import stats
     import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
     from matplotlib.pyplot import hist, xticks, show
     import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
[3]: df = pd.read_csv("/Users/yuhang/Desktop/DSC530/FINAL/USA_cars_datasets.csv")
[4]: df.head()
       Unnamed: 0 price
[4]:
                                                                     mileage \
                               brand
                                        model year
                                                      title_status
                                     cruiser 2008 clean vehicle 274117.0
                    6300
                              toyota
     1
                     2899
                                ford
                                           se 2011 clean vehicle 190552.0
                    5350
                                          mpv 2018 clean vehicle
     2
                               dodge
                                                                     39590.0
     3
                 3 25000
                                ford
                                         door 2014 clean vehicle
                                                                     64146.0
```

```
4
            4 27700 chevrolet
                                    1500 2018 clean vehicle
                                                                  6654.0
   color
                           vin
                                      lot
                                                state country
                                                                    condition
   black
             jtezu11f88k007763
                                159348797
                                           new jersey
                                                                 10 days left
                                                          usa
1 silver
             2fmdk3gc4bbb02217
                                                                  6 days left
                                166951262
                                            tennessee
                                                          บรล
2 silver
             3c4pdcgg5jt346413
                                167655728
                                                                  2 days left
                                              georgia
```

167753855

167763266

1ftfw1et4efc23745

3gcpcrec2jg473991

3

4

blue

red

I'm going to use 'brand', 'year', 'mileage', 'color' and 'state' to make analysis of the price. The variable 'brand' is the car brand, 'mileage' is the miles traveled by vehicle, 'year' is the the vehicle registration year, 'color' is the color of the vehicle, while 'state' is the state in which the car is being available for purchase.

usa

usa

usa

virginia

florida

22 hours left

22 hours left

First, I need to do some transformation of the variables. Since there are 28 car brands, I'd encode them to numbers.

```
1.0.1 data clean
 [5]: # df["brand"].tolist()
      # encode brand to number
 [6]:
 [7]: brand_num = range(1,1+len(df["brand"].unique()))
      brand_to_num = dict(zip(df["brand"].unique(),brand_num))
      df["brand_to_num"] = df["brand"]
      df['brand_to_num'] = df['brand_to_num'].map(brand_to_num)
 [8]: print(brand_to_num)
     {'toyota': 1, 'ford': 2, 'dodge': 3, 'chevrolet': 4, 'gmc': 5, 'chrysler': 6,
     'kia': 7, 'buick': 8, 'infiniti': 9, 'mercedes-benz': 10, 'jeep': 11, 'bmw': 12,
     'cadillac': 13, 'hyundai': 14, 'mazda': 15, 'honda': 16, 'heartland': 17,
     'jaguar': 18, 'acura': 19, 'harley-davidson': 20, 'audi': 21, 'lincoln': 22,
     'lexus': 23, 'nissan': 24, 'land': 25, 'maserati': 26, 'peterbilt': 27, 'ram':
     28}
 [9]: # encode 'state' by zone
[10]: us_state_to_abbrev = {
          "alabama": "AL", "alaska": "AK", "arizona": "AZ", "arkansas":
       →"AR","california": "CA","colorado": "CO","connecticut": "CT",
          "delaware": "DE", "florida": "FL", "georgia": "GA", "hawaii": "HI", "idaho": ا

¬"ID", "illinois": "IL", "indiana": "IN",

          "iowa": "IA", "kansas": "KS", "kentucky": "KY", "louisiana": "LA", "maine": __
       →"ME", "maryland": "MD", "massachusetts": "MA",
```

```
"michigan": "MI", "minnesota": "MN", "mississippi": "MS", "missouri":⊔
       ⇔"MO", "montana": "MT", "nebraska": "NE", "nevada": "NV",
          "new hampshire": "NH", "new jersey": "NJ", "new mexico": "NM", "new york": ___
       →"NY", "north carolina": "NC", "north dakota": "ND",
          "ohio": "OH", "oklahoma": "OK", "oregon": "OR", "pennsylvania": "PA", "rhode ∪
       →island": "RI", "south carolina": "SC",
          "south dakota": "SD", "tennessee": "TN", "texas": "TX", "utah": "UT", "vermont":
       → "VT", "virginia": "VA", "washington": "WA",
          "west virginia": "WV", "wisconsin": "WI", "wyoming": "WY", "district of
       ⇔Columbia": "DC", "american Samoa": "AS", "guam": "GU",
          "northern Mariana Islands": "MP", "puerto Rico": "PR", "United States Minor
       →Outlying Islands": "UM", "U.S. Virgin Islands": "VI", "ontario": "ON"
[11]: df["state_abbrev"] = df["state"]
      df['state_abbrev'] = df['state_abbrev'].map(us_state_to_abbrev)
[12]: state2timezone = {'ON': 'US/Eastern', 'AK': 'US/Alaska', 'AL': 'US/Central', |
       G'AR': 'US/Central', 'AS': 'US/Samoa', 'AZ': 'US/Mountain', 'CA': 'US/
       →Pacific', 'CO': 'US/Mountain', 'CT': 'US/Eastern', 'DC': 'US/Eastern', 'DE': □
       →'US/Eastern', 'FL': 'US/Eastern', 'GA': 'US/Eastern', 'GU': 'Pacific/Guam', □
       ↔ 'HI': 'US/Hawaii', 'IA': 'US/Central', 'ID': 'US/Mountain', 'IL': 'US/

→Central', 'IN': 'US/Eastern', 'KS': 'US/Central', 'KY': 'US/Eastern', 'LA':
□
       → 'US/Central', 'MA': 'US/Eastern', 'MD': 'US/Eastern', 'ME': 'US/Eastern', I
       ↔ 'MI': 'US/Eastern', 'MN': 'US/Central', 'MO': 'US/Central', 'MP': 'Pacific/
       Guam', 'MS': 'US/Central', 'MT': 'US/Mountain', 'NC': 'US/Eastern', 'ND': □
       _{\mbox{\scriptsize $\hookrightarrow$}} 'US/Central', 'NE': 'US/Central', 'NH': 'US/Eastern', 'NJ': 'US/Eastern', _{\mbox{\scriptsize $\downarrow$}}
       →'NM': 'US/Mountain', 'NV': 'US/Pacific', 'NY': 'US/Eastern', 'OH': 'US/
       ⇔Eastern', 'OK': 'US/Central', 'OR': 'US/Pacific', 'PA': 'US/Eastern', 'PR':⊔
       Gentral', 'TN': 'US/Central', 'TX': 'US/Central', 'UT': 'US/Mountain', 'VA':⊔
       →'US/Eastern', 'VI': 'America/Virgin', 'VT': 'US/Eastern', 'WA': 'US/
       ⇔Pacific', 'WI': 'US/Central', 'WV': 'US/Eastern', 'WY': 'US/Mountain', '':⊔

¬'US/Pacific', '--': 'US/Pacific' }
[13]: df["zone"] = df["state abbrev"]
      df['zone'] = df['zone'].map(state2timezone)
[14]: zone num = range(1,1+len(df["zone"].unique()))
      zone_to_num = dict(zip(df["zone"].unique(),zone_num))
      df["zone_to_num"] = df["zone"]
      df['zone_to_num'] = df['zone_to_num'].map(zone_to_num)
[15]: # sort 'color'
[16]: color_category = {
```

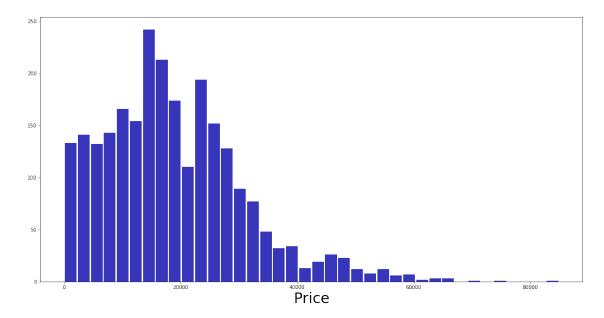
```
'black': 'black', 'silver': 'silver', 'blue': 'blue', 'red': 'red', 'white':
      'brown':'brown', 'no_color':'other', 'gold':'gold', 'charcoal':'black', u
      'green': 'green', 'dark blue': 'blue', 'maroon': 'red', 'phantom black':
      'light blue': 'blue', 'toreador red': 'red', 'bright white clearcoat':
      'black clearcoat': 'black', 'jazz blue pearlcoat': 'blue', 'purple':
      'triple yellow tri-coat':'yellow','competition orange':'orange',
      'magnetic metallic':'other', 'ingot silver metallic':'silver', 'ruby⊔

¬red':'red',
           'royal crimson metallic tinted clearcoat': 'other', 'kona blue metallic':
      ⇔'blue','oxford white':'white',
            'lightning blue':'blue', 'ingot silver':'other', 'white platinum_
      ⇔tri-coat metallic':'white', 'guard':'other',
           'tuxedo black metallic': 'black', 'tan': 'other', 'burgundy': 'other', u
      ⇔'super black':'black',
           'cayenne red': 'red', 'morningsky blue': 'blue', 'pearl white': 'white', u
      ⇔'glacier white':'white'
     }
[17]: df["color_Cate"] = df["color"]
     df['color_Cate'] = df['color_Cate'].map(color_category)
[19]: # Encode 'color' to number
[20]: color num = range(1,1+len(df["color Cate"].unique()))
     color to num = dict(zip(df["color Cate"].unique(),color num))
     df["color_to_num"] = df["color_Cate"]
     df['color_to_num'] = df['color_to_num'].map(color_to_num)
[21]: print(color_to_num)
    {'black': 1, 'silver': 2, 'blue': 3, 'red': 4, 'white': 5, 'gray': 6, 'orange':
    7, 'brown': 8, 'other': 9, 'gold': 10, 'green': 11, 'yellow': 12}
[22]: # df.to_csv("df.csv")
    1.0.2 Plot histogram and descriptive characteristics
[23]: # histogram of 'price'
```

[24]: f = plt.figure()

f.set figwidth(20)

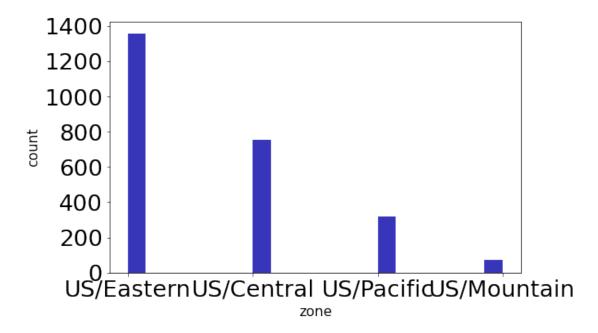
## [24]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Price')



```
[25]: df.price.mean()
[25]: 18767.671468587436
[26]: df.price.var()
[26]: 146799756.489702
[27]: df.price.std()
[27]: 12116.094935650759
[28]: df.mileage.mean()
[28]: 52298.685474189675
[29]: stats.mode(df['price'])
```

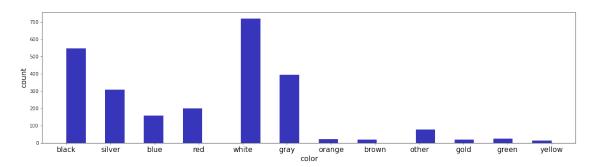
```
[29]: ModeResult(mode=array([0]), count=array([43]))
[30]: # histogram of 'brand'
[31]: f = plt.figure()
      f.set_figwidth(60)
      f.set_figheight(15)
      n, bins, patches = plt.hist(x=df['brand'],bins='auto', color='#0504aa',
                                      alpha=0.8, rwidth=0.6)
      plt.rc('xtick', labelsize=25)
      plt.rc('ytick', labelsize=25)
      plt.xlabel('brand', fontsize=30)
      plt.ylabel('count', fontsize=30)
[31]: Text(0, 0.5, 'count')
           1200
           1000
            800
          9 600
            200
                              chrysler kia buick infinimercedes-benæep bmw cadillac hyundai mazda honda heartland jaguar acumarley-davidsoaudi lincoln
[32]: df.brand_to_num.mean()
[32]: 5.952781112444978
[33]: df.brand_to_num.median()
[33]: 3.0
[34]: stats.mode(df['brand'])
[34]: ModeResult(mode=array(['ford'], dtype=object), count=array([1235]))
[35]: df.brand_to_num.var()
[35]: 55.2547750885782
[36]: df.brand_to_num.std()
[36]: 7.433355573936861
[37]: # histogram of 'zone'
```

#### [38]: Text(0, 0.5, 'count')



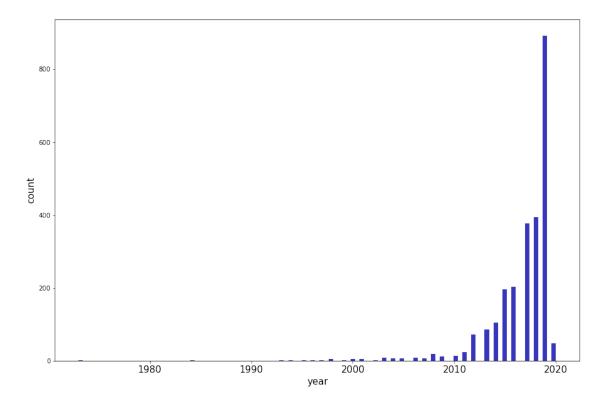
```
plt.ylabel('count', fontsize=15)
```

```
[41]: Text(0, 0.5, 'count')
```



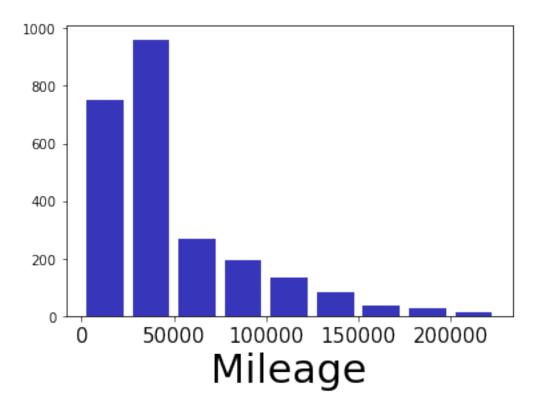
```
[42]: df.color_to_num.mean()
[42]: 4.002801120448179
[43]: df.color_to_num.median()
[43]: 5.0
[44]: stats.mode(df['color'])
[44]: ModeResult(mode=array(['white'], dtype=object), count=array([707]))
[45]: df.color_to_num.var()
[45]: 5.4823780593101255
[46]: df.color_to_num.std()
[46]: 2.3414478553472264
[47]: # histogram of 'year'
[48]: f = plt.figure()
      f.set_figwidth(15)
      f.set_figheight(10)
      n, bins, patches = plt.hist(x=df['year'],bins='auto', color='#0504aa',
                                  alpha=0.8, rwidth=10)
      plt.rc('xtick', labelsize=15)
      plt.rc('ytick', labelsize=10)
      plt.xlabel('year', fontsize=15)
      plt.ylabel('count', fontsize=15)
```

```
[48]: Text(0, 0.5, 'count')
```



```
[49]: df.year.mean()
[49]: 2016.7142857142858
[50]: df.year.median()
[50]: 2018.0
[51]: stats.mode(df['year'])
[51]: ModeResult(mode=array([2019]), count=array([892]))
[52]: df.year.var()
[52]: 11.85188150520371
[53]: df.year.std()
[53]: 3.442656170052959
[54]: # histogram of 'mileage'
```

[55]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Mileage')



```
[56]: df.mileage.mean()
[56]: 52298.685474189675
[57]: df.mileage.median()
[57]: 35365.0
[58]: stats.mode(df['mileage'])
[58]: ModeResult(mode=array([1.]), count=array([11]))
```

```
[59]: df.mileage.var()

[59]: 3564748683.3886337

[60]: df.mileage.std()
```

[60]: 59705.51635643589

From the above illustration of the data variables, the price ranges mostly between \$1 to \$40,000, while the most common value, which is the mode, is around \$14,000. By looking at the distribution, the price is approximately right skewed with tails extends more at right than left. The moderately low amount of used car in luxury brand has caused the outliers, which we can't ignore, so I choose to keep the outliers. While when we look at the visualization of the brand, 'ford', 'dodge', 'chevrolet', and 'nissan' has the most sells, among which 'ford' contributes almost half of the sells. There are some other car brand that has only a few amount of sell as outliers in the visualization. I'd like to keep them as well, since they have less sale, but we can't remove them. By looking at the histogram of year, variable 'year' is left skewed. Most used cars are registered after 2015, there are some from around 2000, and several from 1990s, which we need take them into consoderation. Mileage is right skewed, with most of the used car mileage are below 100000. While for variable color, they are randomly distributed, with white and black has the most in inventory.

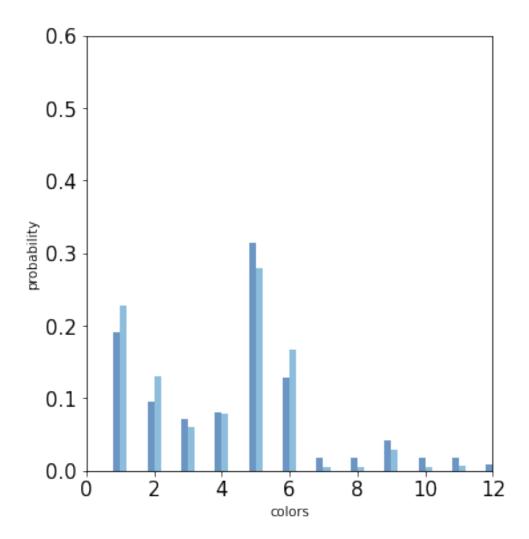
#### 1.0.3 PMFs

```
[61]:    new = df[df.year > 2015]
    old = df[df.year <= 2015]

[62]:    new_pmf_by_color = thinkstats2.Pmf(new['color_to_num'])

[63]:    old_pmf_by_color = thinkstats2.Pmf(old['color_to_num'])

[64]:    thinkplot.PrePlot(2, cols=2)
        thinkplot.Hist(old_pmf_by_color, align='right', width=0.2)
        thinkplot.Hist(new_pmf_by_color, align='left', width=0.2)
        thinkplot.Config(xlabel='colors',ylabel='probability',axis=[0, 12, 0, 0.6])</pre>
```

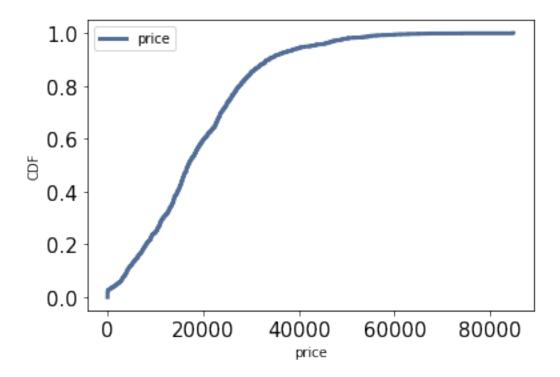


We could compare the distribution of colors in stock by the condition of the car to see which color has more inventory in used car market. I have set the registration year after 2015 new car, and in or before 2015 old car. By plotting the pmfs of old car and new car in different colors, we coul see that no matter old or new, the color "5" has the most inventory in used car market, which is "white" by referring the color number we had encoded.

## 1.0.4 CDFs

```
[65]: price = df['price']

[66]: cdf = thinkstats2.Cdf(price, label = "price")
    thinkplot.Cdf(cdf)
    thinkplot. Show(xlabel = 'price', ylabel = 'CDF')
```



Above is the CDF of the price for used car sale. It looks like nearly 50% of useed car price are under \$20000. The CDF also provides a visual presentation of the shape of the distribution. In this dataset, common values are below \$3000, as from \$30000 - \$40000, there haven't been more values, while there are fewer values over the price of \$40000, so the CDF above this price is flat.

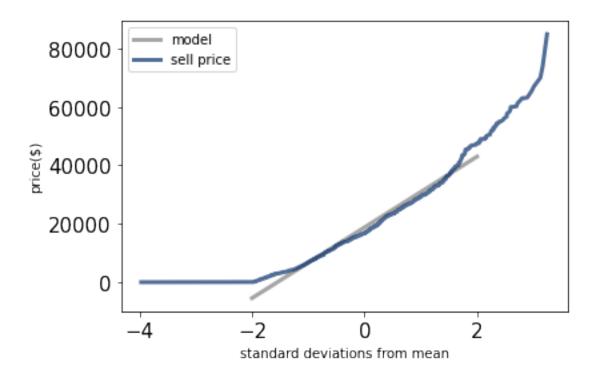
#### 1.0.5 Plot 1 analytical distribution

```
[67]: def EvalNormalCdf(x, mu=0, sigma=1):
    return scipy.stats.norm.cdf(x, loc=mu, scale=sigma)

[68]: def MakeNormalPlot(price):
    mean = price.mean()
    std = price.std()

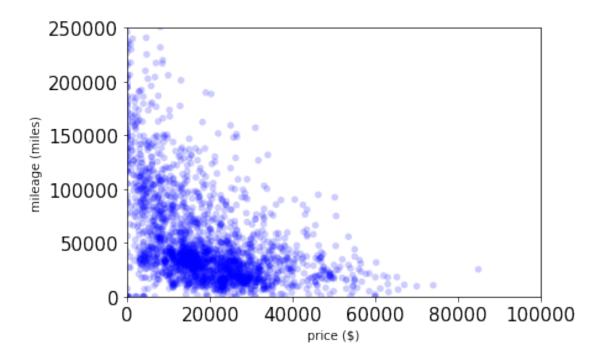
    xs = [-2, 2]
    fxs, fys = thinkstats2.FitLine(xs, inter = mean, slope = std)
    thinkplot.Plot(fxs, fys, color = 'grey', label = 'model')

MakeNormalPlot(price)
    xs, ys = thinkstats2.NormalProbability(price)
    thinkplot.Plot(xs, ys, label = 'sell price')
    #thinkplot.text(-3,70000,"xx")
    thinkplot.Show(xlabel='standard deviations from mean',ylabel='price($)')
```



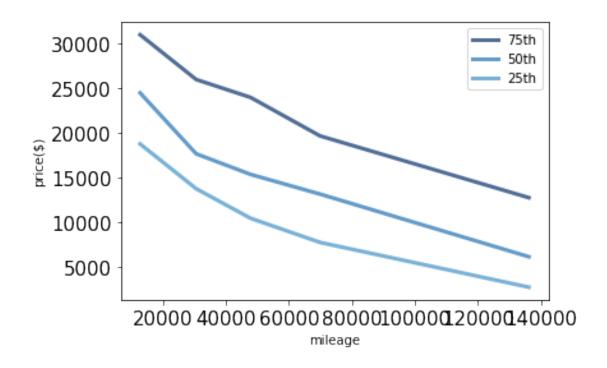
The inverted normal probability distribution curve indicates the distribution of price is right skewed, that's as what we have seen from the histogram of price. The mean, which the standard deviation of 0 is about \$ 19000, meanwhile most of the sell price is under \$40000.

### 1.0.6 Create two scatter plots comparing two variables



```
[72]: # correlation and causation
[73]: df = df.dropna(subset = ['mileage', 'price'])
    bins = np.arange(0, 100000, 20000)
    indices = np.digitize(df.mileage, bins)
    groups = df.groupby(indices)
[74]: mileage = [group.mileage.mean() for i, group in groups]
    cdfs = [thinkstats2.Cdf(group.price) for i, group in groups]
[75]: for percent in [75, 50, 25]:
        price = [cdf.Percentile(percent) for cdf in cdfs]
        label = '%dth' % percent
        thinkplot.Plot(mileage, price, label = label)

thinkplot.Show(xlabel='mileage',ylabel='price($)')
```



By looking at the scatter plot, we could simply see the correlation is roughly linear, as mileage goes up, price drops down. Also, by binning mileage, I plotted the percentile of price. The results shows that the relationship between mileage and price is linear for more than 99% of the data.

```
[76]:
     # covariance, pearson's correlation and spearman's correlation
[77]: def Cov(xs, ys, meanx=None, meany=None):
          xs = np.asarray(xs)
          ys = np.asarray(ys)
          if meanx is None:
              meanx = np.mean(xs)
          if meany is None:
              meany = np.mean(ys)
          cov = np.dot(xs-meanx, ys-meany) / len(xs)
          return cov
[78]: def Corr(xs, ys):
          xs = np.asarray(xs)
          ys = np.asarray(ys)
          meanx, varx = thinkstats2.MeanVar(xs)
          meany, vary = thinkstats2.MeanVar(ys)
```

```
corr = Cov(xs, ys, meanx, meany) / np.sqrt(varx * vary)
          return corr
[79]: def SpearmanCorr(xs, ys):
          xranks = pd.Series(xs).rank()
          yranks = pd.Series(ys).rank()
          return Corr(xranks, yranks)
[80]: Cov(price, mileage)
[80]: -220254387.08729172
[81]: Corr(price, mileage)
[81]: -0.9533324072984439
[82]: SpearmanCorr(price, mileage)
[82]: -1.0
     1.0.7 Hypothesis test
[83]: # print(df['zone'].unique())
[84]: east = df.loc[df['zone'] == 'US/Eastern']
[85]: west = df.loc[df['zone'] == 'US/Pacific']
[86]: mountain = df.loc[df['zone'] == 'US/Mountain']
[87]: central = df.loc[df['zone'] == 'US/Central']
[88]: class DiffMeansPermute(thinkstats2.HypothesisTest):
          def TestStatistic(self, data):
              group1, group2 = data
              test_stat = abs(group1.mean() - group2.mean())
              return test stat
          def MakeModel(self):
              group1, group2 = self.data
              self.n, self.m = len(group1), len(group2)
              self.pool = np.hstack((group1, group2))
          def RunModel(self):
              np.random.shuffle(self.pool)
              data = self.pool[:self.n], self.pool[self.n:]
              return data
```

```
[89]: data2 = mountain.price, central.price
[90]: ht2 = DiffMeansPermute(data2)
[91]: pvalue2 = ht2.PValue()
      pvalue2
[91]: 0.001
[92]: ht2.PlotCdf()
      thinkplot.Show(xlabel='test statistic', ylabel='CDF',xticks =_
       \leftarrow [0,1500,3000,4500,6000])
              1.0
              8.0
              0.6
           CDF
              0.4
              0.2
              0.0
```

As we all know used car price might differ in different zones due to salary and cost of living. My hypothesis is the sell price in mountain zone and central zone has not much difference. The p value between price in mountain zone and central zone is 0.001. The CDF intersects the observed difference at 0.999, which is the complement of the p-value, 0.001. We expect to see an apparent differences as big as the observed effect of 5500 about 99.9% of the time.

3000

test statistic

6000

4500

1500

#### 1.0.8 Regression analysis

```
[93]: formula = 'price ~ year + mileage + color_to_num'
results = smf.ols(formula, data=df).fit()
print(results.summary())
```

#### OLS Regression Results

| =============     |                  |                     | ========= |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Dep. Variable:    | price            | R-squared:          | 0.211     |
| Model:            | OLS              | Adj. R-squared:     | 0.210     |
| Method:           | Least Squares    | F-statistic:        | 222.5     |
| Date:             | Sat, 18 Nov 2023 | Prob (F-statistic): | 6.54e-128 |
| Time:             | 17:20:37         | Log-Likelihood:     | -26746.   |
| No. Observations: | 2499             | AIC:                | 5.350e+04 |
| Df Residuals:     | 2495             | BIC:                | 5.352e+04 |
| Df Model:         | 3                |                     |           |

Df Model: 3
Covariance Type: nonrobust

| ========                              |  |                                       |  |                                  |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                       | coef   | std err                               | t  | P> t                             | [0.025                                    | 0.975]                                     |
| Intercept year mileage color_to_num   | -1.968e+06<br>986.0941<br>-0.0479<br>94.8817 | 1.58e+05<br>78.103<br>0.004<br>92.721 | -12.479<br>12.625<br>-10.662<br>1.023        | 0.000<br>0.000<br>0.000<br>0.306 | -2.28e+06<br>832.940<br>-0.057<br>-86.937 | -1.66e+06<br>1139.248<br>-0.039<br>276.701 |
| Omnibus: Prob(Omnibus Skew: Kurtosis: | ):   | 526.342<br>0.000<br>1.210<br>5.220    | Durbin-V<br>Jarque-I<br>Prob(JB)<br>Cond. No | Bera (JB):                       |   | 1.698<br>1122.745<br>1.58e-244<br>5.81e+07 |

#### Notes:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 5.81e+07. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

For the regression analysis, I did the price with mileage, year, color and zone. The results above showed year and mileage are statistically significant of price, while color and zone are not as significant as year and mileage.

#### 1.0.9 Conclusion

Here, US Cars'data was scraped from AUCTION EXPORT.com.

This dataset included Information about 28 brands of clean and used vehicles for sale in US. 12 features were assembled for each car in the dataset, several of them are very good candidate as explanatory variables to be used in the car price predictions. I recode some categorical attributes into numbers to faciliate a multi-variable regression analysis. Among them, the geographic variable

state were regrouped into 4 zones.

The overall average price is ~\$18767 with a overall normal distribution (maybe a little bit right skewed), meanwhile, mileage, year of manufacturing, color as well as brand are the common factors to consider when car price need to evaluated.

In my explorator data analysis process, I did find out that used car price is very much related with the year and mileage of the car with negative correlation. Besides that, used car price has correlation with the state of the car's availability, which is car prices in east and pacific zone, the price is higher than that in central and mountain zone. I'm also interested in how car brand affected car price and how they're related.

The dataset is quite straightforward, the variables selected are all pretty relevant. I did the analysis using price, mileage, year, brand, color and state, which are considered to have some relations with used car prices. The assumptions I had made through my analysis seem reasonable.

On the other hand, although the data are all valid real market data entries, there is still opportunity for us to get a more comprehensive analysis. 1. the sample size is not very large, in this case, if there is a underline in group difference, it's may be difficult to detect with this sample size. 2. a few more explantory variables will be helpful for a more reliable regression, in current model, apparently year and milege will always get the highest weight which of course makes good practical sense, while in order to fundamentally reduce the MSE, more explantory variable will be the most helpful.

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