Homework 3: Predicting Housing Prices

Due Date: Fri 5/14, 11:59 PM

Collaboration Policy: You may talk with others about the homework, but we ask that you **write your solutions individually**. If you do discuss the assignments with others, please **include their names** in the following line.

Collaborators: *list collaborators here (if applicable)*

Score Breakdown

Question	Points			
Question 1	3			
Question 2	2			
Question 3	1			
Question 4	1			
Question 5	2			
Question 6	2			
Question 7a	1			
Question 7b	2			
Question 8a	1			
Question 8b	1			
Question 8c	2			
Question 8d	2			
Total	20			

Introduction

We will go through the iterative process of specifying, fitting, and analyzing the performance of a model.

In the first portion of the assignment, we will guide you through some basic exploratory data analysis (EDA), laying out the thought process that leads to certain modeling decisions. Next, you will add a new feature to the dataset, before specifying and fitting a linear model to a few features of the housing data to predict housing prices. Finally, we will analyze the error of the model and brainstorm ways to improve the model's performance.

After this homework, you should feel comfortable with the following:

- 1. Simple feature engineering
- 2. Using sklearn to build linear models
- 3. Building a data pipeline using pandas

Next homework will continue working with this dataset to address more advanced and subtle issues with modeling.

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
from pandas.api.types import CategoricalDtype

%matplotlib inline
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

# Plot settings
plt.rcParams['figure.figsize'] = (12, 9)
plt.rcParams['font.size'] = 12
```

The Ames Housing Price Dataset

The Ames dataset consists of 2930 records taken from the Ames, Iowa, Assessor's Office describing houses sold in Ames from 2006 to 2010. The data set has 23 nominal, 23 ordinal, 14 discrete, and 20 continuous variables (and 2 additional observation identifiers) --- 82 features in total.

An explanation of each variable can be found in the included codebook.txt file. The information was used in computing assessed values for individual residential properties sold in Ames, lowa from 2006 to 2010. Some noise has been added to the actual sale price, so prices will not match official records.

The data are split into training and test sets with 2000 and 930 observations, respectively.

```
In [111...
    training_data = pd.read_csv("./data/ames_train.csv")
    test_data = pd.read_csv("./data/ames_test.csv")
```

As a good sanity check, we should at least verify that the data shape matches the description.

```
# 2000 observations and 82 features in training data
assert training_data.shape == (2000, 82)
# 930 observations and 81 features in test data
assert test_data.shape == (930, 81)
```

The next order of business is getting a feel for the variables in our data. The Ames dataset contains information that typical homebuyers would want to know.

A more detailed description of each variable is included in codebook.txt . You should take some time to familiarize yourself with the codebook before moving forward.

Part 1: Exploratory Data Analysis

In this section, we will make a series of exploratory visualizations and interpret them.

Note that we will perform EDA on the **training data** so that information from the test data does not influence our modeling decisions.

Sale Price

We begin by examining a raincloud plot (a combination of a KDE, a histogram, a strip plot, and a box plot) of our target variable SalePrice. At the same time, we also take a look at some descriptive statistics of this variable.

```
fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows=2)
sns.distplot(
    training_data['SalePrice'],
    ax=axs[0]
```

```
hw3
)
sns.stripplot(
    training_data['SalePrice'],
    jitter=0.4,
    size=3,
    ax=axs[1],
    alpha=0.3
)
sns.boxplot(
    training_data['SalePrice'],
    width=0.3,
    ax=axs[1],
    showfliers=False,
)
# Align axes
spacer = np.max(training data['SalePrice']) * 0.05
xmin = np.min(training data['SalePrice']) - spacer
xmax = np.max(training_data['SalePrice']) + spacer
axs[0].set xlim((xmin, xmax))
axs[1].set xlim((xmin, xmax))
# Remove some axis text
axs[0].xaxis.set visible(False)
axs[0].yaxis.set_visible(False)
axs[1].yaxis.set visible(False)
# Put the two plots together
plt.subplots adjust(hspace=0)
# Adjust boxplot fill to be white
axs[1].artists[0].set facecolor('white')
```

c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn\distributions.py:2557: FutureWarning: `distplot` is a deprecated function and will be removed in a future version. Please adap t your code to use either `displot` (a figure-level function with similar flexibility) o r `histplot` (an axes-level function for histograms).

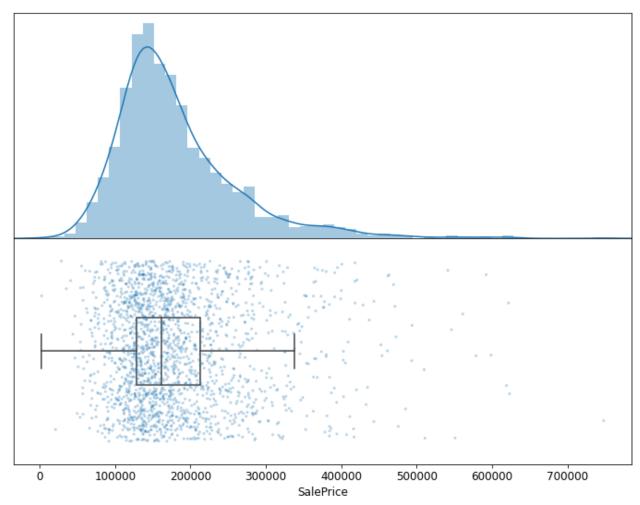
warnings.warn(msg, FutureWarning)

c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn\ decorators.py:43: FutureWarning: Pas s the following variable as a keyword arg: x. From version 0.12, the only valid position al argument will be `data`, and passing other arguments without an explicit keyword will result in an error or misinterpretation.

FutureWarning

c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn_decorators.py:43: FutureWarning: Pas s the following variable as a keyword arg: x. From version 0.12, the only valid position al argument will be `data`, and passing other arguments without an explicit keyword will result in an error or misinterpretation.

FutureWarning



```
In [115...
           training_data['SalePrice'].describe()
                     2000.000000
Out[115...
          count
                   180775.897500
          mean
          std
                    81581.671741
          min
                     2489.000000
          25%
                   128600.000000
          50%
                   162000.000000
          75%
                   213125.000000
                   747800.000000
          Name: SalePrice, dtype: float64
```

Question 1

To check your understanding of the graph and summary statistics above, answer the following True or False questions:

1. The distribution of SalePrice in the training set is left-skew.

- 2. The mean of SalePrice in the training set is greater than the median.
- 3. At least 25% of the houses in the training set sold for more than \$200,000.00.

The provided tests for this question do not confirm that you have answered correctly; only that you have assigned each variable to True or False.

SalePrice vs Gr_Liv_Area

Next, we visualize the association between SalePrice and Gr_Liv_Area . The codebook.txt file tells us that Gr_Liv_Area measures "above grade (ground) living area square feet."

This variable represents the square footage of the house excluding anything underground. Some additional research (into real estate conventions) reveals that this value also excludes the garage space.

```
In [118...
           sns.jointplot(
               x='Gr Liv Area',
               y='SalePrice',
               data=training_data,
               stat func=None,
               kind="reg",
               ratio=4,
               space=0,
               scatter kws={
                    's': 3,
                    'alpha': 0.25
               },
               line kws={
                    'color': 'black'
               }
           );
```

```
hw3
     15
            }
     16);
c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn\ decorators.py in inner f(*args, **kw
args)
     44
                    )
     45
                kwargs.update({k: arg for k, arg in zip(sig.parameters, args)})
                return f(**kwargs)
     47
            return inner f
     48
c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn\axisgrid.py in jointplot(x, y, data,
 kind, color, height, ratio, space, dropna, xlim, ylim, marginal_ticks, joint_kws, margi
nal_kws, hue, palette, hue_order, hue_norm, **kwargs)
   2200
   2201
                joint kws.setdefault("color", color)
-> 2202
                grid.plot_joint(regplot, **joint_kws)
   2203
            elif kind.startswith("resid"):
   2204
**kwargs)
   1732
```

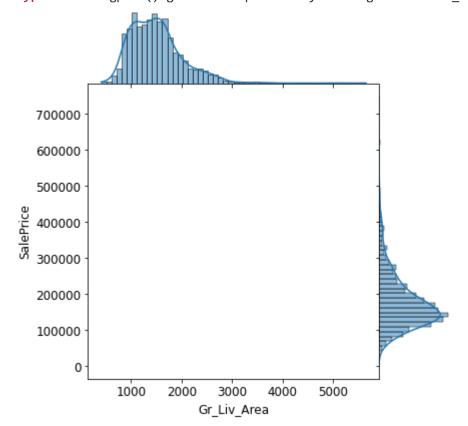
c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn\axisgrid.py in plot joint(self, func,

```
1733
                if str(func. module ).startswith("seaborn"):
-> 1734
                    func(x=self.x, y=self.y, **kwargs)
  1735
                else:
                    func(self.x, self.y, **kwargs)
  1736
```

c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn_decorators.py in inner_f(*args, **kw args)

```
44
                kwargs.update({k: arg for k, arg in zip(sig.parameters, args)})
    45
                return f(**kwargs)
---> 46
            return inner f
    47
    48
```

TypeError: regplot() got an unexpected keyword argument 'stat_func'



There's certainly an association, and perhaps it's linear, but the spread is wider at larger values of both variables. Also, there are two particularly suspicious houses above 5000 square feet that look too inexpensive for their size.

Question 2

What are the Parcel Indentification Numbers for the two houses with <code>Gr_Liv_Area</code> greater than 5000 sqft?

The provided tests for this question do not confirm that you have answered correctly; only that you have assigned q2house1 and q2house2 to two integers that are in the range of PID values.

Question 3

The codebook tells us how to manually inspect the houses using an online database called Beacon. These two houses are true outliers in this data set: they aren't the same time of entity as the rest. They were partial sales, priced far below market value. If you would like to inspect the valuations, follow the directions at the bottom of the codebook to access Beacon and look up houses by PID.

For this assignment, we will remove these outliers from the data. Write a function remove_outliers that removes outliers from a data set based off a threshold value of a variable. For example, remove_outliers(training_data, 'Gr_Liv_Area', upper=5000) should return a data frame with only observations that satisfy Gr Liv Area less than or equal to 5000.

The provided tests check that training_data was updated correctly, so that future analyses are not corrupted by a mistake. However, the provided tests do not check that you have implemented remove_outliers correctly so that it works with any data, variable, lower, and upper bound.

```
In [121...
          def remove_outliers(data, variable, lower=-np.inf, upper=np.inf):
              Input:
                data (data frame): the table to be filtered
                variable (string): the column with numerical outliers
                lower (numeric): observations with values lower than this will be removed
                upper (numeric): observations with values higher than this will be removed
              Output:
                a winsorized data frame with outliers removed
              Note: This function should not change mutate the contents of data.
              # BEGIN YOUR CODE
              return data.loc[(data[variable] > lower) & (data[variable] < upper), :]</pre>
              # END YOUR CODE
          training data = remove outliers(training data, 'Gr Liv Area', upper=5000)
In [122...
          ok.grade("q3");
         Running tests
         Test summary
             Passed: 5
             Failed: 0
          [oooooooook] 100.0% passed
```

Part 2: Feature Engineering

In this section we will create a new feature out of existing ones through a simple data transformation.

Bathrooms

Let's create a groundbreaking new feature. Due to recent advances in Universal WC Enumeration Theory, we now know that Total Bathrooms can be calculated as:

 $TotalBathrooms = (BsmtFullBath + FullBath) + \frac{1}{2}(BsmtHalfBath + HalfBath)$

The actual proof is beyond the scope of this class, but we will use the result in our model.

Question 4

Write a function add_total_bathrooms(data) that returns a copy of data with an additional column called TotalBathrooms computed by the formula above.

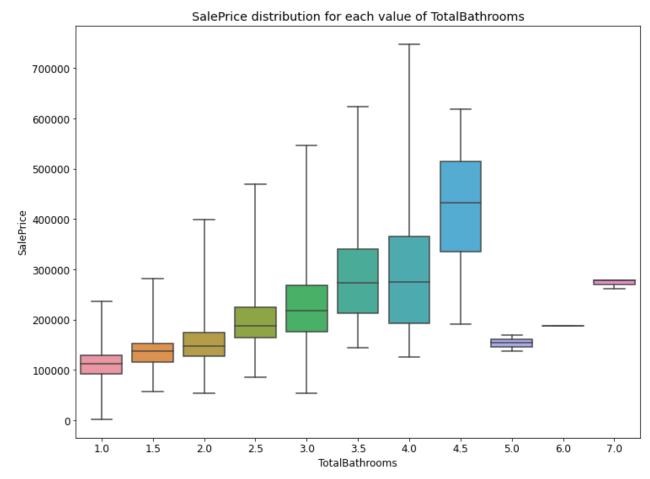
The provided tests check that you answered correctly, so that future analyses are not corrupted by a mistake.

```
In [123...
          def add_total_bathrooms(data):
              Input:
                data (data frame): a data frame containing at least 4 numeric columns
                      Bsmt Full Bath, Full Bath, Bsmt Half Bath, and Half Bath
              with bathrooms = data.copy()
              bath_vars = ['Bsmt_Full_Bath', 'Full_Bath', 'Bsmt_Half_Bath', 'Half_Bath']
              weights = pd.Series([1, 1, 0.5, 0.5], index=bath_vars)
              with_bathrooms = with_bathrooms.fillna({var: 0 for var in bath_vars})
              # BEGIN YOUR CODE
              with bathrooms['TotalBathrooms'] = (with bathrooms['Bsmt Full Bath'] + with bathroo
              # END YOUR CODE
              return with bathrooms
          training_data = add_total_bathrooms(training_data)
In [124...
          ok.grade("q4");
         Running tests
         Test summary
             Passed: 4
             Failed: 0
          [oooooooook] 100.0% passed
```

Question 5

Create a visualization that clearly and succintly shows that TotalBathrooms is associated with SalePrice . Your visualization should avoid overplotting.

Out[125... Text(0.5, 1.0, 'SalePrice distribution for each value of TotalBathrooms')



Part 3: Modeling

We've reached the point where we can specify a model. But first, we will load a fresh copy of the data, just in case our code above produced any undesired side-effects. Run the cell below to store a fresh copy of the data from <code>ames_train.csv</code> in a dataframe named <code>full_data</code>. We will also store the number of rows in <code>full_data</code> in the variable <code>full_data_len</code>.

```
# Load a fresh copy of the data and get its Length
full_data = pd.read_csv("./data/ames_train.csv")
full_data_len = len(full_data)
full_data.head()
```

Out[126		Order	PID	MS_SubClass	MS_Zoning	Lot_Frontage	Lot_Area	Street	Alley	Lot_Shape	Land
	0	1	526301100	20	RL	141.0	31770	Pave	NaN	IR1	
	1	2	526350040	20	RH	80.0	11622	Pave	NaN	Reg	
	2	3	526351010	20	RL	81.0	14267	Pave	NaN	IR1	
	3	4	526353030	20	RL	93.0	11160	Pave	NaN	Reg	
	4	5	527105010	60	RL	74.0	13830	Pave	NaN	IR1	
	5 r	ows × 8	32 columns								
	4										•

Question 6

Now, let's split the data set into a training set and test set. We will use the training set to fit our model's parameters, and we will use the test set to estimate how well our model will perform on unseen data drawn from the same distribution. If we used all the data to fit our model, we would not have a way to estimate model performance on unseen data.

"Don't we already have a test set in ames_test.csv?" you might wonder. The sale prices for ames_test.csv aren't provided, so we're constructing our own test set for which we know the outputs.

In the cell below, split the data in full_data into two DataFrames named train and test. Let train contain 80% of the data, and let test contain the remaining 20% of the data.

To do this, first create two NumPy arrays named train_indices and test_indices . train_indices should contain a random 80% of the indices in full_data , and test_indices should contain the remaining 20% of the indices. Then, use these arrays to index into full_data to create your final train and test DataFrames.

The provided tests check that you not only answered correctly, but ended up with the exact same train/test split as our reference implementation. Later testing is easier this way.

```
# This makes the train-test split in this section reproducible across different runs # of the notebook. You do not need this line to run train_test_split in general np.random.seed(1337) shuffled_indices = np.random.permutation(full_data_len)
```

```
# Set train indices to the first 80% of shuffled indices and and test indices to the re
# BEGIN YOUR CODE
# -----
train_indices = shuffled_indices[:int(len(shuffled_indices)*0.8)]
test indices = shuffled indices[int(len(shuffled indices)*0.8):]
# END YOUR CODE
# Create train and test` by indexing into `full_data` using
# `train indices` and `test indices`
# BEGIN YOUR CODE
# -----
train = full_data.loc[train_indices]
test = full data.loc[test indices]
# -----
# END YOUR CODE
```

```
In [128...
           ok.grade("q6");
```

```
Running tests
Test summary
    Passed: 6
    Failed: 0
[oooooooook] 100.0% passed
```

Reusable Pipeline

Throughout this assignment, you should notice that your data flows through a single processing pipeline several times. From a software engineering perspective, it's best to define functions/methods that can apply the pipeline to any dataset. We will now encapsulate our entire pipeline into a single function process data gm. gm is shorthand for "quided model". We select a handful of features to use from the many that are available.

```
In [151...
          def select columns(data, *columns):
              """Select only columns passed as arguments."""
              return data.loc[:, columns]
          def process data gm(data):
               """Process the data for a guided model."""
              data = remove outliers(data, 'Gr Liv Area', upper=5000)
              # Transform Data, Select Features
              data = add total bathrooms(data)
              data = select columns(data,
                                     'SalePrice',
                                     'Gr_Liv_Area',
                                     'Garage_Area',
                                     'TotalBathrooms',
              # Return predictors and response variables separately
```

```
X = data.drop(['SalePrice'], axis = 1)
y = data.loc[:, 'SalePrice']
return X, y
```

Now, we can use <code>process_data_gm</code> to clean our data, select features, and add our <code>TotalBathrooms</code> feature all in one step! This function also splits our data into <code>X</code> , a matrix of features, and <code>y</code> , a vector of sale prices.

Run the cell below to feed our training and test data through the pipeline, generating X_{train} , y_{train} , X_{test} , and y_{test} .

```
# Pre-process our training and test data in exactly the same way
# Our functions make this very easy!
X_train, y_train = process_data_gm(train)
X_test, y_test = process_data_gm(test)
```

Fitting Our First Model

We are finally going to fit a model! The model we will fit can be written as follows:

$$SalePrice = \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot Gr_Liv_Area + \theta_2 \cdot Garage_Area + \theta_3 \cdot TotalBathrooms$$

In vector notation, the same equation would be written:

$$y = \theta \cdot x$$

where y is the SalePrice, θ is a vector of all fitted weights, and x contains a 1 for the bias followed by each of the feature values.

Note: Notice that all of our variables are continuous, except for TotalBathrooms, which takes on discrete ordered values (0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, ...). In this homework, we'll treat TotalBathrooms as a continuous quantitative variable in our model, but this might not be the best choice. The next homework may revisit the issue.

Question 7a

We will use a sklearn.linear_model.LinearRegression object as our linear model. In the cell below, create a LinearRegression object and name it linear model.

Hint: See the fit_intercept parameter and make sure it is set appropriately. The intercept of our model corresponds to θ_0 in the equation above.

The provided tests check that you answered correctly, so that future analyses are not corrupted by a mistake.

Question 7b

Now, remove the commenting and fill in the ellipses \dots below with X_{train} , y_{train} , X_{test} , or y_{test} .

With the ellipses filled in correctly, the code below should fit our linear model to the training data and generate the predicted sale prices for both the training and test datasets.

The provided tests check that you answered correctly, so that future analyses are not corrupted by a mistake.

```
Running tests

Test summary
Passed: 2
Failed: 0
[ooooooooook] 100.0% passed
```

Question 8a

Is our linear model any good at predicting house prices? Let's measure the quality of our model by calculating the Root-Mean-Square Error (RMSE) between our predicted house prices and the true prices stored in SalePrice.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{houses\ in\ test\ set} (actual\ price\ of\ house-predicted\ price\ of\ house)^2}{\#\ of\ houses\ in\ data\ set}}$$

In the cell below, write a function named rmse that calculates the RMSE of a model.

Hint: Make sure you are taking advantage of vectorized code. This question can be answered without any for statements.

The provided tests check that you answered correctly, so that future analyses are not corrupted by a mistake.

```
In [158... ok.grade("q8a");
```

```
Running tests

Test summary
Passed: 2
Failed: 0
[ooooooooook] 100.0% passed
```

Question 8b

Now use your rmse function to calculate the training error and test error in the cell below.

The provided tests for this question do not confirm that you have answered correctly; only that you have assigned each variable to a non-negative number.

Question 8c

How much does including TotalBathrooms as a predictor reduce the RMSE of the model on the test set? That is, what's the difference between the RSME of a model that only includes Gr_Liv_Area and Garage_Area versus one that includes all three predictors?

The provided tests for this question do not confirm that you have answered correctly; only that you have assigned the answer variable to a non-negative number.

```
In [162...
          # BEGIN YOUR CODE
          # -----
          def process data gm new(data):
              """Process the data for a guided model."""
              data = remove outliers(data, 'Gr Liv Area', upper=5000)
              # Transform Data, Select Features
              data = add_total_bathrooms(data)
              data = select_columns(data,
                                    'SalePrice',
                                    'Gr_Liv_Area',
                                    'Garage_Area',
              # Return predictors and response variables separately
              X = data.drop(['SalePrice'], axis = 1)
              y = data.loc[:, 'SalePrice']
              return X, y
          X train new, y train new = process data gm new(train)
          X_test_new, y_test_new = process_data_gm_new(test)
          linear_model.fit(X_train_new, y_train_new)
          y fitted new = linear model.predict(X train new)
          y predicted new = linear model.predict(X test new)
          training_error_new = rmse(y_train_new,y_fitted_new)
          test_error_new = rmse(y_test_new,y_predicted_new)
          test error no bath = test error new
          # -----
          # END YOUR CODE
          test error difference = test error no bath - test error
          test_error_difference
Out[162... 2477.008463647042
In [163...
          ok.grade("q8c");
         Running tests
         Test summary
             Passed: 2
             Failed: 0
```

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[oooooooook] 100.0% passed

Residual Plots

One way of understanding the performance (and appropriateness) of a model is through a residual plot. Run the cell below to plot the actual sale prices against the residuals of the model for the test data.

```
residuals = y_test - y_predicted
ax = sns.regplot(y_test, residuals)
ax.set_xlabel('Sale Price (Test Data)')
ax.set_ylabel('Residuals (Actual Price - Predicted Price)')
ax.set_title("Residuals vs. Sale Price on Test Data");
```

c:\users\acer\miniconda3\lib\site-packages\seaborn_decorators.py:43: FutureWarning: Pas s the following variables as keyword args: x, y. From version 0.12, the only valid posit ional argument will be `data`, and passing other arguments without an explicit keyword w ill result in an error or misinterpretation.

FutureWarning



Ideally, we would see a horizontal line of points at 0 (perfect prediction!). The next best thing would be a homogenous set of points centered at 0.

But alas, our simple model is probably too simple. The most expensive homes are systematically more expensive than our prediction.

Question 8d

What changes could you make to your linear model to improve its accuracy and lower the test error? Suggest at least two things you could try in the cell below, and carefully explain how each change could potentially improve your model's accuracy.

Answer: `1)Use more features. Our model selects just a few features which may not represent the full idea behind the house price because of underfitting problem, adding more features may help with more accurate results. 2)Using regularization can potentially help with a better way of using features without adding more data to our dataset'

Congratulations! You have completed HW3.

Make sure you have run all cells in your notebook in order before running the cell below, so that all images/graphs appear in the output.,

Please save before submitting!

Please generate pdf as follows and submit it to Gradescope.

File > Print Preview > Print > Save as pdf

In []:	