# TITLE OF THE PROJECT

House Prices: Advanced Regression Techniques

# **Table of Content**

Part1: project proposal.	7
Background survey	
Proposed approach	
11	•••••
:Part3: Functional and non-functional requirements	
Functional	
requirements	12
Non-functional	12
requirements	13
Part4: project Activity Diagram (Process Model)	13
Activity Diagram	
, .	
Dort 5: Project Use Cose Diogram Modelling	
Part 5: Project Use Case Diagram Modelling.	
Student use	
	1.5
case	13
Teacher Use-case.	
16	
Use case diagram for all users	
17	
Use case scenario	
Part 6: Project Sequence Diagrams	
Part 7 :Project class	0
digram	J
Part 8: Project Initial Interfaces	
21	
Part 10 : Project Architecture Diagram	• • • • • • •
***************************************	
Reference	· • • •
28	

# List of tables:

Table1: Background survey
List of figures
Figure 1: Interface of <u>darisni</u> app9
Figure 2: Login for student of <u>darisni</u> app.
Figiure 3: Select level academy <u>darisni</u> app9
Figure 4: Interface of <u>moalemy</u> app
app
Figure 7. Activity model
Figure 10:General use case model
Figure 11: Sequence diagram for student
Figure 12: Sequence diagram for teacher
Figure 13: Myteacher class diagram
Figure 14: Myteacher Initial Interfaces
Figure (a): App interface
Figure (b): Login
Figure (c) Create account
Figure (d) Teacher profile
Figure (e) Student profile
Figure (f) Appointment booking

Figure (g) Article interface	24
Figure (h) Article explanations	
Figure (i) Research results	
25 Figure (j) Comments students	
	25
Figure (k) Evaluation teacher	26
Figure 15: Myteacher architecture	
design27	

## 1. Introduction and Background Information

We choose to work on the Colab notebooks environment.

The project provides us with two inputs as two datasets. One is called 'train\_data' which will be used to train model; The other is called 'test\_data' which will be used as the dataset to test our model and to make the prediction. In this project First we applied Simple linear regression with multiple variables, then we try to improve the result and we did more analysis to the dataset And applied regression tequieqes see the effect on the result or not.

we will try to predict the house prices for 1459 houses in the test dataset. We vertical stacking of GBoost, LightGBM, and Lasso.

### **Data Exploration**

Data Exploration is the key to getting insights from data. Practitioners say a good data exploration strategy can solve even complicated problems in a few hours. A good data exploration strategy comprises the following:

- 1. Univariate Analysis It is used to visualize one variable in one plot. Examples: histogram, density plot, etc.
- 2. Bivariate Analysis It is used to visualize two variables (x and y axis) in one plot. Examples: bar chart, line chart, area chart, etc.
- 3. Multivariate Analysis As the name suggests, it is used to visualize more than two variables at once. Examples: stacked bar chart, dodged bar chart, etc.
- 4. Cross Tables -They are used to compare the behavior of two categorical variables.

#### 2. Problem Statement

Predict the sale price of houses in Ames, Iowa, given 79 explanatory variables describing (almost) every aspect of residential homes in Ames, Iowa, to predict the final price of each home.

#### 3. Used Dataset.

The data set used in this project describes the sale of individual residential property in Ames, Iowa from 2006 to 2010. The data set contains 2930 observations and a large number of explanatory variables (23 nominal, 23 ordinal, 14 discrete, and 20 continuous) involved in assessing home values.

0	train.info()			
_	DACCECOIIG			_
C→	Foundation	1460	non-null	object
	BsmtQual	1423	non-null	object
	BsmtCond	1423	non-null	object
	BsmtExposure	1422	non-null	object
	BsmtFinType1	1423	non-null	object
	BsmtFinSF1	1460	non-null	int64
	BsmtFinType2	1422	non-null	object
	BsmtFinSF2	1460	non-null	int64
	BsmtUnfSF	1460	non-null	int64
	TotalBsmtSF	1460	non-null	int64
	Heating	1460	non-null	object

0	EnclosedPorch	1460 non-null int64
Г⇒	3SsnPorch	1460 non-null int64
	ScreenPorch	1460 non-null int64
	PoolArea	1460 non-null int64
	PoolQC	7 non-null object
	Fence	281 non-null object
	MiscFeature	54 non-null object
	MiscVal	1460 non-null int64
	MoSold	1460 non-null int64
	YrSold	1460 non-null int64
	SaleType	1460 non-null object
	SaleCondition	1460 non-null object
	SalePrice	1460 non-null int64
	dtypes: float64(3	3), int64(35), object(43)
	memory usage: 924	1.0+ KB

5.

We import both the "train" and "test" dataset.

\*As we can see, the Training dataset has 1460 observations and 81 columns, while the Test dataset has 1459 observations and 80 columns (since it's missing the target variable).

We use the 'read.csv' syntax in R to read in these two datasets.

After a quick scan of these two datasets, we choose to combine these two datasets together, even if they will be used in different ways, just because we want to

clean the whole data firstly. We delete the column 'Id' both in train and test and delete the column 'SalePrice' in train which is our target variable and does not appear in test dataset. Now there are 78 variables remained in the combined dataset called 'df.combined'.

#### 4. Proposed Solution

The project provides us with two inputs as two datasets. One is called 'train\_data' which will be used to train model; The other is called 'test\_data' which will be used as the dataset to test our model and to make the prediction. We use the 'read.csv' syntax in to read in these two datasets.

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The response variable is converted to its logarithmic form to normalize it. Now there are 78 variables remained in the combined dataset called 'df.combined'.

#### 5. Evaluation metrics

Root-Mean-Square-Error (RMSE) the log price is to reduce the impact of biased higher price, Taking logs means that errors in predicting expensive houses and cheap houses will affect the result equally.

## 6. Project Design

We did more than one experiment in this project First we applied the multiple linear regression then we did another experiments.

- 1) Import dependent libraries
- 2) Read and Exploratory analysis of the data
- 3) Data cleaning (treating missing values, Replace null values with median ,dealing with wrong data types)
- 4) Apply normalization
- 5) Feature Engineering Find out the most correlated columns with SalesPrice and use only those columns in models.
- 6)Transformations of skewed features, create dummy variables for different categorical levels)
- 7) Split train-testing data
- 8) Model Stacking Regression (Linear Regression, Lasso, GBoost, LightGBM
- 9) Neural Networks with Keras.

First step is load the data and read it.

Now Checking the NAN values, because, we want to use the variables that has not missing values. Also there is a thing which needs to be considered. In regression analyses all the variables we will use needs to be numerical.

So in the next line the variables chosen are all numerical.

Here we determined the variables we will use.

```
##variables)
year_built = list(train['YearBuilt'])
overall_condition = list(train['OverallCond'])
liv_area = list(train['GrLivArea'])
lot_area = list(train['LotArea'])
overall_qual = list(train['OverallQual'])
# Y variable
house_price = list(train['SalePrice'])
# X variables of test data
year_built_test = list(test['YearBuilt'])
overall_condition_test = list(test['OverallCond'])
liv_area_test = list(test['GrLivArea'])
lot_area_test = list(test['LotArea'])
overall_qual_test = list(test['OverallQual'])
print("Variables are: year_built, overall_condition liv_area, lot_area, overall_qual")

Variables are: year_built, overall_condition liv_area, lot_area, overall_qual
```

In this part we concatenated the variables in order to create the array. Model has been trained and ready for prediction, and there is the Predicted values.

```
[32] difference_list = []
for i in range(len(y_pred)):
    difference = 0
    difference = df_sample_submission['SalePrice'][i] - y_pred[i]
    difference_list.append(abs(difference))
difference_list.sort(reverse = True)
average_difference = sum(difference_list)/len(difference_list)
print("Average difference between predicted values and results: ", average_difference)

Average_difference_between predicted_values and results: 48530.44937147013
```

Difference between predicted values and sample submission results.

Before we finish the analysis, we need to check the accuracy. We will find the coefficient of determination which will be a values between 0-1. As much as it is close to 1.00, the result can be improved.

```
model.score(array_variables,house_price)
0.6804595198465027
```

Now will start with some exploration of the data, as we start applying another machine learning methods without first gaining some understanding of the nature of the problem and its features.

```
[9] train_data.shape, test_data.shape

((1460, 80), (1459, 79))
```

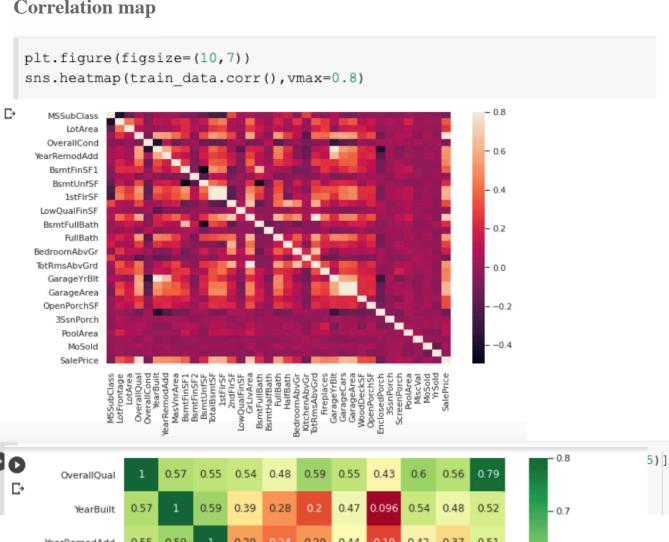
As we can see, the Training dataset has 1460 observations and 81 columns, while the Test dataset has 1459 observations and 80 columns (since it's missing the target variable).

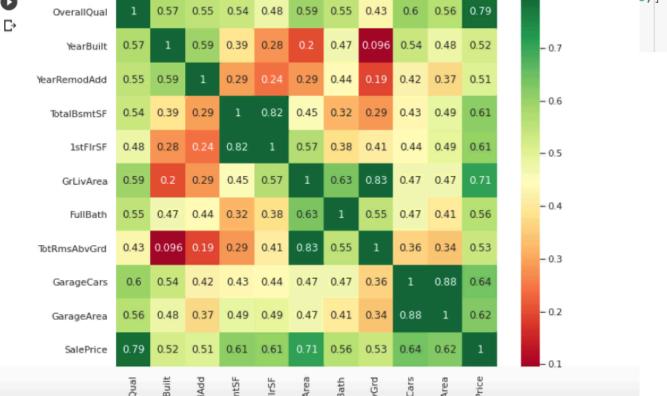
### **Zoomed correlation map**

Dropping the Id column as it not useful.

# **Exploratory data analysis**

## **Correlation map**





From the above, we can see that 'OverallQual' has the highest correlation with 'SalePrice'. There are few other features that have high correlation with 'SalePrice'. Another observation is that there are some variables that are highly correlated with each other, therefore, we might have multicollinearity problem. For example, 'GarageArea' and 'GarageCar'. We will create a pair plot with our new list of variables that avoid having two variables that are highly correlated.

### **Exploring target variable: SalePrice**

SalePrice

```
[25] plt.subplots(figsize=(15, 5))
      plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
      g = sns.distplot(train_data['SalePrice'], fit=norm, label = "Skewness: %.2f"%(train_data['SalePrice'].s
      g = g.legend(loc="top-right")
      plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
      res = stats.probplot(train_data['SalePrice'], plot=plt)
      plt.show()
[43] This will raise an exception in 3.3.
₽
                                                                                       Probability Plot
        1e-6
                                         Skewness : 1.88
      8
                                                             600000
                                                           Ordered Values
      5
                                                             400000
      4
      3
                                                             200000
      2
      1
                   200000
                               400000
                                          600000
                                                    800000
```

As we can see from the graphs, our response (SalePrice) has a large positive skewness is not normal. This might be a problem for linear-based model (does

Theoretical quantiles

not follow the diagonal line). We will transform the variable ,we will appl a log transformation and see if this corrects the normality of the variable.

```
train data["SalePrice"] = np.log(train data["SalePrice"])
 (mu, sigma) = norm.fit(train_data['SalePrice'])
 plt.subplots(figsize=(15, 5))
 plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
 g = sns.distplot(train_data['SalePrice'], fit=norm)
 loc='top-right')
 res = stats.probplot(train_data['SalePrice'], plot=plt)
 plt.show()
                                                                  Probability Plot
               Normal dist. (\mu = -0.09 and \sigma = 0.01 )
                                           Ordered Values
                                             -0.10
                                            -0.12
-0.16
     -0.14
          -0.12
                       -0.08
                            -0.06
                                   -0.04
                                                                Theoretical quantiles
                SalePrice
```

As the graph above we see the log transformation has largely improved the normality of our distribution

```
y_train = np.log1p(train_data['SalePrice'])
```

Apply log transformation.

# Data Cleaning

#### **Outlier**

The two values on the bottom right seems to be outlier. It doesn't follow the crowd. This might be due to the data points reflecting the agricultural area (explaining the low price)

Remove the two points.

```
train = train_data.drop(train_data[(train_data['GrLivArea'] > 4000) & (train_data['SalePrice'] < 300000)].index)
```

### **Dealing with missing values**

The second part of data cleaning process, is dealing with missing values.

First, we get an idea about the variables that have missing values.

Then, with a little help from the 'data\_description.txt' file that containts description for each variable, we will choose how to deal with each one individually, in order to replace the missing values with something reasonable.

The most important par at this stage, is to make sure that whatever way we choose to deal with missing values in the Training dataset, we keep it consistent in the Test dataset. For that reason, we will concatenate the 2 datasets, perform the changes in the joint dataset and then split it again before we start the Model Formulation.

Concatenating the test + train datasets and Dropping the 'SalePrice' column, because it has values only for the train dataset

```
ntrain = train_data.shape[0]
ntest = test_data.shape[0]
y_train = train_data['SalePrice'].values

all_data = pd.concat([train_data,test_data]).reset_index(drop=True)

all_data.drop(['SalePrice'],axis=1,inplace=True)

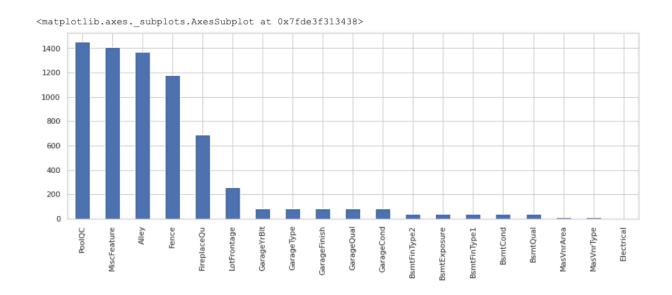
all_data.shape

(2915, 79)
```

	PoolQC	1453	99.52		GarageFinish	81	5.55	
	MiscFeature	1406	96.30		GarageQual	81	5.55	
	Alley	1369	93.77		GarageYrBlt	81	5.55	Getting an
	Fence	1179	80.75		BsmtFinType2	38	2.60	idea about
	FireplaceQu	690	47.26		BsmtExposure	38	2.60	iuca about
	LotFrontage	259	17.74		BsmtQual	37	2.53	
trair perce	GarageType	81	5.55	lues(as ()/trai	BsmtCond	37	2.53	lues(ascending=False)
trair trair	GarageCond	81	5.55	,axis=1				
-								

# **Missing Values**

First we checked which variables have missing values and how many each.



Plotting the count bars to get an idea of the missing values each column has We can observe that the variables 'PoolQC', 'MiscFeature', 'Alley', 'Fence' and 'FireplaceQu' have a huge amount of missing values. Also, there are quite a few

columns that have only 1 or 2 missing values (the ones that have a non-visible bar). In total, there's missing values in 34 columns of our dataframe.

#### Variables to fill with "None"

There are certain variables (mainly categorical variables that concern features of the house), where the existence of a missing value or an NA, indicates that the house does not have that particular feature. We will fill these missing values with "None" Variables to fill with 0

For numeric variables, the meaning of a null value, is that this value is equal to zero (0). That's why we will replace missing values with 0.

## Variables with very low missing values (strings)

For variables that have a very low number of missing values (mostly 1 value missing), we will replace them with the most common value (string) in the whole column, since it will keep the proportions of the values fairly unchanged.

#### Other Variables

For the GarageYrBlt variable, a sensible assumption is that it was built the same year as the house, or that even if the Garage is younger than the house, it would have a large impact on the price of the house.

For the LotFrontage variable, a sensible assumption is that the Lot Frontage of a house is similar to the other houses in the same neighborhood.

That's why we will replace the missing values with the median value of the LotFrontage for the specific neighborhood. We don't use the Average, because it might be influenced by some extreme values. Here, the median is a better option to get realistic values.

The Utilities variable, seems to be quite unhelpful, since all the houses have full utilities (AllPub), instead of 2 houses in the test dataset that have NoSeWa (=Electricity and Gas Only) and 2 missing values. There is no way to make this feature helpful for the predictive model, so we will drop it entirely.

```
[52] # Fixing missing values for GarageYrBlt
    all_data["GarageYrBlt"] = all_data["GarageYrBlt"].fillna(all_data["YearBuilt"])

# Fixing missing values for LotFrontage
    all_data["LotFrontage"] = all_data.groupby("Neighborhood")["LotFrontage"].transform( lambda x: x.fillna(x.median()))

# Dropping the Utilities variable
    all_data = all_data.drop(['Utilities'], axis=1)
```

#### Checking to see if there are any missing values

```
print("# of missing values = " + str(joint.isnull().sum().sum()))
# of missing values = 0
```

After our treatment of missing values has been completed, we do a final check to see if we have any missing values left.

Since, we don't have any missing values, we are good to go to the next step.

### Dealing with wrong data types

Some of the variables have the wrong data type. Specifically, the variables 'MSSubClass', 'YrSold', 'MoSold' and 'OverallCond' are treated as numbers from the dataset, while in reality they are structured in a categorical way (with different levels). That's why we will convert them to strings.

```
[54] # Converting to categorical features
    col = ("YrSold", "MoSold", "OverallCond")
    for i in col:
        all_data[i] = all_data[i].astype(str)

all_data['MSSubClass'] = all_data['MSSubClass'].apply(str)
```

## **Feature Engineering**

C→ Shape : (2915, 80)

Transforming numerical variables that are categorical

Since area related features are very important to determine house prices, we decided to add one more feature, which is the total area of basement, first and second floor areas of each house

```
[203] all_data['TotalSF'] = all_data['TotalBsmtSF'] + all_data['1stFlrSF'] + all_data['2ndFlrSF']
```

## **Treating skewed features**

The dataset contains some extremely skewed features. These may largely affect the model's predictive ability. One solution would be to transform them, using the Box-Cox Transformation.

To do that, we will separate the numeric columns and use the 'boxcox1p()' function on the variables that have an extremely large skewness (>0.75).

And finally Creating dummy variables for different categorical lavels.

```
[58] all_data = pd.get_dummies(all_data)
    print(all_data.shape)
    all data.head()
 (2915, 221)
        1stFlrSF 2ndFlrSF 3SsnPorch Alley BedroomAbvGr BsmtCond BsmtExposure BsmtFinSF1 BsmtFinSF2 BsmtFinType1 Bsm
     0 11.692623 11.686189
                                   0.0
                                                             1.820334
                                                                            1.540963
                                                                                       11.170327
                                                                                                         0.0
                                                                                                                         2
                                                             1.820334
     1 12.792276 0.000000
                                   0.0
                                                                            0.730463
                                                                                       12.062832
                                                                                                         0.0
                                                                                                                        0
     2 11.892039 11.724598
                                   0.0
                                                             1.820334
                                                                            1.194318
                                                                                       10.200343
                                                                                                         0.0
                                                                                                                         2
     3 12.013683 11.354094
                                   0.0
                                                          3 0.730463
                                                                            1.540963
                                                                                        8.274266
                                                                                                         0.0
     4 12.510588 12.271365
                                   0.0
                                                          4 1.820334
                                                                            0.000000
                                                                                       10.971129
    5 rows x 221 columns
```

# Splitting the dataset into train and test

Now the data is ready for next step.

#### **Model Formulation:**

Cross-validation parameters

First, we define a cross-validation function to get the RMSE of each model, using 5-fold cross-validation.

```
[212] n_folds = 5

def rmse_cv(model):
    kf = KFold(n_folds, shuffle=True, random_state=42).get_n_splits(train_data.values)
    rmse = np.sqrt(-cross_val_score(model, train_data.values, y_train, scoring="neg_mean_squared_error", cv = kf))
    return (rmse)
```

#### LASSO model

First is to use a penalized LASSO model, which will select the best variables to use and produce the coefficients used for the predictions

```
[215] lasso = Lasso(alpha =0.0005, random_state=1)
    lasso.fit(train_data.values, y_train)
    lasso_pred = np.exp(lasso.predict(test_data.values))
    score = rmse_cv(lasso)
    print("Lasso score: {:.4f} ({:.4f})\n".format(score.mean(), score.std()))
Lasso score: 0.1238 (0.0174)
```

To avoid being influenced by extreme values, we apply the RobustScaler() function, to make the model more robust to outliers.

```
[217] lasso1 = make_pipeline(RobustScaler(), Lasso(alpha =0.0005, random_state=1))
    lasso1.fit(train_data.values, y_train)
    lasso1_pred = np.exp(lasso1.predict(test_data.values))
    score = rmse_cv(lasso1)
    print("Lasso (Robust Scaled) score: {:.4f} ({:.4f})\n".format(score.mean(), score.std()))
Lasso (Robust Scaled) score: 0.1237 (0.0172)
```

We see that the Lasso Model, gives quite good results.

### **Elastic Net regression**

#### Performing Elastic Net

# Kernel ridge regression

## Performing KRR

```
[221] KRR = KernelRidge(alpha=0.6, kernel='polynomial', degree=2, coef0=2.5)

[222] score = rmse_cv(KRR)
    print("Kernel Ridge score: {:.4f} ({:.4f})\n".format(score.mean(), score.std()))

[3 Kernel Ridge score: 0.1681 (0.0122)
```

We now move to Boosting methods.

## GradientBoostingRegressor

### XGBRegressor

### LGBMRegressor

# **Stacking models – Averaging base models (Simplest)**

Averaging base models score

## **Trining and predicting**

And here the RMSLE score on train data

# Stacking

Another approach we applied Stacked Regression Model. To implement it:

- We will split the training dataset in a 80% training and a 20% validation set
- We will use the training set to fit the XGBRegresso LGBMRegressor models and predict the values for the newly-created validation datasetset, as well as the actual test dataset.
- After that, knowing the actual values of the target variable for the validation dataset, we will train Lasso as a meta-model, in order to create predictions for the actual test dataset, using the predictions from the other models.

#### First we perform a train test split, in order to split the Training dataset in 80%

```
# Making predictions for the actual test dataset

tpred1 = model_xgb.predict(test_data.values)

tpred2 = model_lgb.predict(test_data.values)

# Stacking the prediction outcomes in the 2 data frames

stacked_validation = np.column_stack((predictions1, predictions2))

[237] x_trn, x_val, y_trn, y_val = model_selection.train_test_split(train_data.values, y_train, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)

print('x_trn: ', x_trn.shape, '\nx_val: ', x_val.shape, '\ny_trn: ', y_trn.shape, '\ny_val: ', y_val.shape)

[5. x_trn: (1168, 221)
 x_val: (292, 221)
 y_trn: (1168,)
 y_val: (292,)

final_predictions = np.exp(lasso.predict(stacked_test))
```

training set and a 20% validation set for the stacking algorithm.

- x\_trn = predictor features for estimation dataset
- x val = predictor variable for estimation dataset
- y trn = target variable for the estimation dataset
- y\_val = target variable for the validation dataset

```
[245] S_train, S_test = stacking(models,
                                                           # list of models
                                train_data.values, y_train, test_data.values,
                                                                             # data
                                regression=True,
                                                           # regression task (if you need
                                                           # classification - set to False)
                                                       # mode: oof for train set, predict test
                               mode='oof pred',
                                                           # set in each fold and find mean
                                save dir=None,
                                                           # do not save result and log (to save
                                                           # in current dir - set to '.')
                               metric=mean_absolute_error, # metric: callable
                               n folds=5,
                                                           # number of folds
                                shuffle=True,
                                                           # shuffle the data
                                random_state=0,
                                                           # ensure reproducibility
                                verbose=2)
                                                           # print all info
```

# Output:

```
task:
                 [regression]
                 [mean absolute error]
   metric:
   mode:
                 [oof_pred]
   n_models:
                 [3]
   model 0:
                 [XGBRegressor]
       fold 0: [0.08363998]
       fold 1: [0.07407641]
       fold 2: [0.09621934]
       fold 3: [0.07745524]
       fold 4: [0.07567507]
       MEAN:
                 [0.08141321] + [0.00808208]
                 [0.08141321]
       FULL:
```

Fitting on full train set...

# Model predicted values:

Model score:

# **Models Scores:**

Model	Metric	Data preproseing	Score
Multiple Linear Regression	-	Not scaled	0.680459519846503
averaged_models	mean squared error	scaled	0.0755300703829717
XGBRegressor	mean squared error	scaled	0.0790106774228878
LGBMRegressor	mean squared error	scaled	0.0753505998790645
Stacking models Simplest)	RMSLE	scaled	0.0732373643050716
Stacked Regression Model	mean absolute error (MAE)	scaled	0.90955289248104

```
model 1: [LGBMRegressor]
    fold 0: [0.08687292]
    fold 1: [0.07616563]
    fold 2: [0.09263632]
    fold 3: [0.07854066]
    fold 4: [0.07632750]
             [0.08210861] + [0.00655747]
    MEAN:
    FULL:
             [0.08210861]
    Fitting on full train set...
model 2:
             [Lasso]
                                                  Neural
    fold 0: [0.08526387]
    fold 1: [0.07348467]
                                                  Networks with
    fold 2: [0.09393151]
    fold 3: [0.07479957]
    fold 4: [0.07350193]
                                                  Keras
    MEAN: [0.08019631] + [0.00816482]
FULL: [0.08019631]
                                                  We did another
    Fitting on full train set...
                                                  and final
```

experiment Trying to see if Neural Networks (with Keras) can produce a better result.

```
[246] from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
    reg = LinearRegression()
    models = reg.fit(S_train,y_train)
    y_pred = models.predict(S_test)
    print("Predicted values: ", y_pred)

Predicted values: [11.71256952 11.96592079 12.11781444 ... 12.02009535 11.68417008
    12.33133268]
```

- We create a sequential model with 3 layers.
- We use the adam optimizer with mse as loss measure and as a metric, too.

```
[247] model
[48] !pip install tensorflow==1.12.0
import tensorflow as tf
print(tf.__version__)

Requirement already satisfied: ten
Requirement already satisfied: ker
Requirement already satisfied: whe
Peguirement already satisfied: ten
[51] import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import keras

[52] train = pd.read_csv('train.csv')
test = pd.read_csv('test.csv')
```

Select the most related feature to train model with and Preprocess data.

```
[60]
    features = ['OverallQual', 'GrLivArea', 'GarageCars', 'TotalBsmtSF', 'FullBath', 'YearBuilt']
    train_targets = train.SalePrice
    train_data = train[features]
    test_data = test[features]

[61] mean = train_data.mean(axis=0)
    std = train_data.std(axis=0)
    train_data = (train_data - mean) / std
    test_data = (test_data - mean) / std
```

### Handling NaN values

```
mean2 = test_data['GarageCars'].mean()
mean3 = test_data['TotalBsmtSF'].mean()

test_data = np.array(test_data)
test_data[1116][2] = mean2
test_data[660][3] = mean3
```

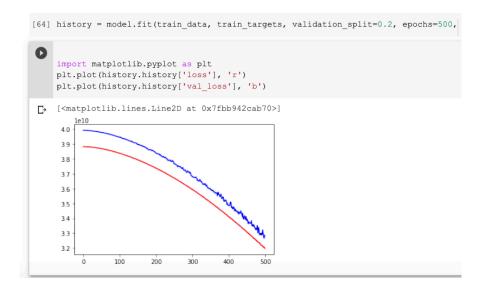
```
from keras import models
    from keras import layers
    from keras.layers.normalization import BatchNormalization
    from keras import optimizers

model = models.Sequential()
    model.add(layers.Dense(32, activation='relu', input_shape=(train_data.shape[1],)))
    model.add(BatchNormalization())
    model.add(layers.Dense(32, activation='relu'))
    model.add(BatchNormalization())
    model.add(layers.Dense(1))

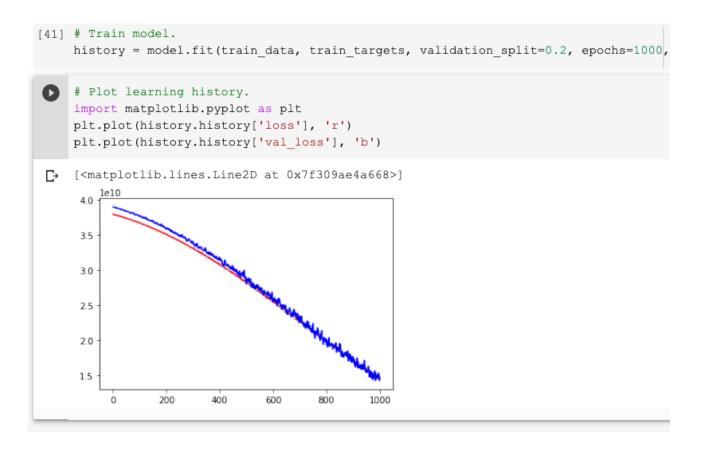
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='mse', metrics=['mae', 'acc'])
```

### Build the model

# First try was with 500 epochs



Second is with 1000 and the model become best at 2000 epochs.



# With 2000 epochs

```
[43] # Train model.
     history = model.fit(train_data, train_targets, validation_split=0.2, epochs=2000, batch_size=32, verbc
   # Plot learning history.
     import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
     plt.plot(history.history['loss'], 'r')
    plt.plot(history.history['val_loss'], 'b')
[<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x7f309ad8f390>]
     1.4
     1.2
     1.0
     0.8
     0.6
     0.4
     0.2
     0.0
              250
                  500
                           1000 1250 1500 1750 2000
```