Impacts of COVID-19 and "shelter-in-place" order on the Lyft biking user behavior

by Duy Pham

Preliminary Wrangling

This data set includes information about individual rides made in the Lyft bike-sharing system covering the greater San Francisco Bay area. The link to the dataset can be found https://s3.amazonaws.com/baywheels-data/index.html)

Noting that the aim of the project is to find out the impact of COVID-19 in the dataset. However, the format of the dataset in April and May 2020 are different from different dataset. Thus, the scope of the project will dive into the dataset in March 2020 only, where the dataset formats are similar.

The changing of the dataset format can be observed in the exploration task below

Load in your dataset and describe its properties through the questions below. Try and motivate your exploration goals through this section.

```
In [2]:

df_10 = pd.read_csv ('201910-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_11= pd.read_csv ('201911-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_12 = pd.read_csv ('201912-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_1 = pd.read_csv ('202001-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_2 = pd.read_csv ('202002-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_3 = pd.read_csv ('202003-baywheels-tripdata.csv')

df_4 = pd.read_csv ('202004-baywheels-tripdata.csv')
```

D:\Anaconda\lib\site-packages\IPython\core\interactiveshell.py:3063: DtypeWarning: Columns (14) have mixed types. Specify dtype option on import or set low_me mory=False.

interactivity=interactivity, compiler=compiler, result=result)

D:\Anaconda\lib\site-packages\IPython\core\interactiveshell.py:3063: DtypeWarning: Columns (13) have mixed types. Specify dtype option on import or set low_me mory=False.

interactivity=interactivity, compiler=compiler, result=result)

In [3]:	1 df_11.head(1)						
Out[3]:	16				-44 -4-4: :-1	-44 -4-41	
	duration_sec		start_time	end_time	start_station_id	start_station_name	
	0	707	2019-11-30 23:54:47.2970	2019-12-01 00:06:34.3780	30.0	San Francisco Caltrain (Townsend St at 4th St	d 37.776
	4						>
In [4]:	1	df_1.head	(1)				
Out[4]:		duration_sec	start_time	end_time	start_station_id	start_station_name	e start_station_latitu
	0	83118	2020-01-31 15:23:47.7330	2020-02-01 14:29:06.2630	400.0	Buchanan St a North Point S	3 / 807
	◀ 📗						>
In [5]:	1	df_2.head	(1)				
Out[5]:		duration_sec	start_time	end_time	start_station_id	start_station_name	e start_station_latitu
	0	62083	2020-02-29 18:32:30.5750	2020-03-01 11:47:14.0850	176.0	MacArthur BART Station	3/ X/
	0	62083			176.0		3/ X/
In [6]:	0	62083 df_3.head	18:32:30.5750		176.0		37.828
<pre>In [6]: Out[6]:</pre>	1		18:32:30.5750			Station	37.828
l	1	df_3.head	18:32:30.5750	11:47:14.0850 end_time 2020-04-01		Station	start_station_latitu
l	1	df_3.head	18:32:30.5750 (1) start_time 2020-03-31	11:47:14.0850 end_time 2020-04-01	start_station_id	Station start_station_name Cruise Terminal a	start_station_latitu
l	1 0	df_3.head duration_sec 35187 #Starting	18:32:30.5750 (1) start_time 2020-03-31 20:42:10.0790 from April,	end_time 2020-04-01 06:28:37.8440	start_station_id	start_station_name Cruise Terminal a Pier 27	start_station_latitutt t 37.8046
Out[6]:	1 0	df_3.headdduration_sec 35187 #Starting df_4.headd	18:32:30.5750 (1) start_time 2020-03-31 20:42:10.0790 from April, (1)	end_time 2020-04-01 06:28:37.8440 the dataset	start_station_id 462.0	start_station_name Cruise Terminal a Pier 27	start_station_latitutt t 37.8046
Out[6]:	1 0 1 2	df_3.headdduration_sec 35187 #Starting df_4.headd	18:32:30.5750 (1) start_time 2020-03-31 20:42:10.0790 from April, (1) de_id rideable	end_time 2020-04-01 06:28:37.8440 the dataset _type started_ 2020-0	start_station_id 462.0 t format chang at ended_at st 4- 2020-04- 04 04	start_station_name Cruise Terminal a Pier 27	e start_station_latitu t 37.8046

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 295854 entries, 0 to 295853
Data columns (total 14 columns):
duration_sec
                           295854 non-null int64
start_time
                           295854 non-null object
end time
                           295854 non-null object
start_station_id
                           146286 non-null float64
                           146866 non-null object
start_station_name
start_station_latitude
                           295854 non-null float64
                           295854 non-null float64
start_station_longitude
end_station_id
                           145934 non-null float64
end station name
                           146511 non-null object
end station latitude
                           295854 non-null float64
end_station_longitude
                           295854 non-null float64
bike id
                           295854 non-null int64
user_type
                           295854 non-null object
rental_access_method
                           185746 non-null object
dtypes: float64(6), int64(2), object(6)
memory usage: 31.6+ MB
```

There are some null values, but it seems like it is not an error.

- For example, there are null values in the start_station_id, start_station_name; but not start_station_latitude and start_station_longtitude. It means that the Lyft bike session is over, but the bike is not returned to the Lyft station. Thus, we have the location of the bike at the beginning and end of the session.
- However, the most important point that we would want to pay attention to is the user_id,
 bike id, location before and after. Thus, the data seems to be clean.

In [9]:

- 1 #Let's concatenate the dataset and observe, using dataset with similar data
- 2 #They are Lyft biking dataset from October 2019 to March 2020
- 3 frames = [df_10, df_11, df_12, df_1, df_2, df_3]
- 4 df = pd.concat(frames)
- 5 df.head()

D:\Anaconda\lib\site-packages\ipykernel_launcher.py:4: FutureWarning: Sorting b ecause non-concatenation axis is not aligned. A future version of pandas will change to not sort by default.

To accept the future behavior, pass 'sort=False'.

To retain the current behavior and silence the warning, pass 'sort=True'.

after removing the cwd from sys.path.

Out[9]:

	bike_id	bike_share_for_all_trip	duration_sec	end_station_id	end_station_latitude	end_station_lo
0	12222	No	62337	385.0	37.850578	-122
1	282	No	72610	30.0	37.776598	-122
2	10940	No	56636	453.0	37.777934	-122
3	12623	No	42250	163.0	37.797320	-122
4	2601	No	40076	237.0	37.775232	-122
4						•

The error is made because the data format of the last column are different, but the rest of the dataset is the same. Thus, this is the final data that I will be using to explore the impact of COVID-19

```
In [10]:
              df.info()
          <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
          Int64Index: 1480500 entries, 0 to 176798
          Data columns (total 15 columns):
          bike_id
                                        1480500 non-null int64
          bike_share_for_all_trip
                                        423981 non-null object
          duration sec
                                        1480500 non-null int64
          end station id
                                        972399 non-null float64
          end_station_latitude
                                        1480500 non-null float64
          end station longitude
                                        1480500 non-null float64
                                        973675 non-null object
          end_station_name
          end_time
                                        1480500 non-null object
                                        646949 non-null object
          rental access method
          start station id
                                        972256 non-null float64
          start_station_latitude
                                        1480500 non-null float64
          start station longitude
                                        1480500 non-null float64
          start_station_name
                                        973494 non-null object
          start_time
                                        1480500 non-null object
                                        1480500 non-null object
          user type
          dtypes: float64(6), int64(2), object(7)
          memory usage: 180.7+ MB
In [11]:
               #Check the number of rows and columns
               df.shape
Out[11]: (1480500, 15)
In [12]:
            1 df.describe()
Out[12]:
                      bike_id
                              duration_sec
                                          end_station_id end_station_latitude end_station_longitude
                                                                                               star
           count
                 1.480500e+06
                              1.480500e+06
                                           972399.000000
                                                               1.480500e+06
                                                                                   1.480500e+06
                                                                                                972
                 2.239660e+05
                              8.077897e+02
                                              160.186824
                                                               3.774980e+01
                                                                                  -1.223459e+02
           mean
                 2.930290e+05
                              1.905540e+03
                                              139.685620
                                                               3.314746e-01
                                                                                   1.013874e+00
                4.000000e+00 6.000000e+01
                                                3.000000
                                                              0.000000e+00
                                                                                  -1.225758e+02
            min
            25%
                 1.002300e+04
                              3.700000e+02
                                               43.000000
                                                               3.776657e+01
                                                                                  -1.224174e+02
                 1.254500e+04
                                                                                  -1.224009e+02
            50%
                              5.910000e+02
                                              112.000000
                                                               3.777779e+01
            75%
                 4.299800e+05
                              9.190000e+02
                                              254.000000
                                                               3.779202e+01
                                                                                  -1.223910e+02
                 9.999600e+05 9.121100e+05
                                              521.000000
                                                               3.989257e+01
                                                                                   0.00000e+00
In [13]:
               df.duplicated().sum()
```

Out[13]: 7512

```
In [14]:
           1 df.user_type.value_counts()
                        951451
Out[14]: Subscriber
                        529049
         Customer
         Name: user_type, dtype: int64
In [15]:
           1 | df.rental access method.value counts()
Out[15]: app
                     595649
         clipper
                     51300
         Name: rental_access_method, dtype: int64
In [16]:
           1 #Checking for missing values using isnull()
           2 df.isnull().sum()
Out[16]: bike id
                                           0
         bike_share_for_all_trip
                                     1056519
         duration_sec
                                           0
                                      508101
         end station id
         end_station_latitude
                                           0
         end_station_longitude
                                           0
         end_station_name
                                      506825
         end_time
                                           0
         rental_access_method
                                      833551
         start_station_id
                                      508244
         start station latitude
                                           0
         start_station_longitude
                                           0
         start station name
                                      507006
         start_time
                                           0
         user_type
                                           0
         dtype: int64
In [17]:
           1 | #Recognize that the bike_share_for_all_trip and rental_access_method have a
           2 #or unimportant for research question
           3 | df.drop(['bike_share_for_all_trip', 'rental_access_method'], axis = 1, inpla
```

DATA ASSESSMENT

What is the structure of your dataset?

```
bike_id
duration_sec
end_station_id
end_station_latitude
end_station_longitude
end_station_name
end_time
start_station_id
start_station_latitude
```

start_station_longitude start_station_name start_time user_type

What is/are the main feature(s) of interest in your dataset?

- 1. Was there a sudden stop in the Lyft bike order in March, compared to previous months due to COVID-19? For more specific, the "shelter-in-place" order took effect in March 17. Was there a sudden drop in the later half of March compared to many other days?
- 2. What are the frequent riding behavior of people after the "shelter-in-place order" took effect? Did riding time reduce? Did people bike early in the morning more often? Did people reduce the frequency of riding the bike in midday because they didn't have to go to work at the office (but work from home)
- 3. What are the changes of user_type in March, compared to previous months?

What features in the dataset do you think will help support your investigation into your feature(s) of interest?

- 1. duration_sec
- 2. start time (month and hour)
- 3. user type
- 4. (count of) orders

Make a copy

```
In [18]: 1 df_clean = df.copy()
```

Data cleaning

```
In [19]:
           1 #DEFINE: start_time into datetime
           2
           3 #CODE
           4 # (1) Timestamp to datetime format
           5 | df_clean['start_time'] = pd.to_datetime(df_clean['start_time'], format='%Y-%
           6
           7 #Test
           8 df_clean.info()
         <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
         Int64Index: 1480500 entries, 0 to 176798
         Data columns (total 13 columns):
         bike_id
                                    1480500 non-null int64
         duration_sec
                                    1480500 non-null int64
                                    972399 non-null float64
         end station id
```

end_station_latitude 1480500 non-null float64 end_station_longitude 1480500 non-null float64 end_station_name 973675 non-null object end_time 1480500 non-null object 972256 non-null float64 start station id start station latitude 1480500 non-null float64 1480500 non-null float64 start_station_longitude start_station_name 973494 non-null object 1480500 non-null datetime64[ns] start_time user_type 1480500 non-null object dtypes: datetime64[ns](1), float64(6), int64(2), object(4) memory usage: 158.1+ MB

Out[20]:

ke_id	duration_sec	end_station_id	end_station_latitude	end_station_longitude	end_station_name	
2222	62337	385.0	37.850578	-122.278175	Woolsey St at Sacramento St	09
282	72610	30.0	37.776598	-122.395282	San Francisco Caltrain (Townsend St at 4th St)	09
0940	56636	453.0	37.777934	-122.396973	Brannan St at 4th St	09
2623	42250	163.0	37.797320	-122.265320	Lake Merritt BART Station	07
2601	40076	237.0	37.775232	-122.224498	Fruitvale BART Station	05
4						•

```
In [21]: 1 #Still have some April transaction, need to remove it
2 df_clean.start_month.value_counts()
```

Out[21]: February 424789
January 295854
October 239895
November 185496
March 182632
December 150102
April 1732

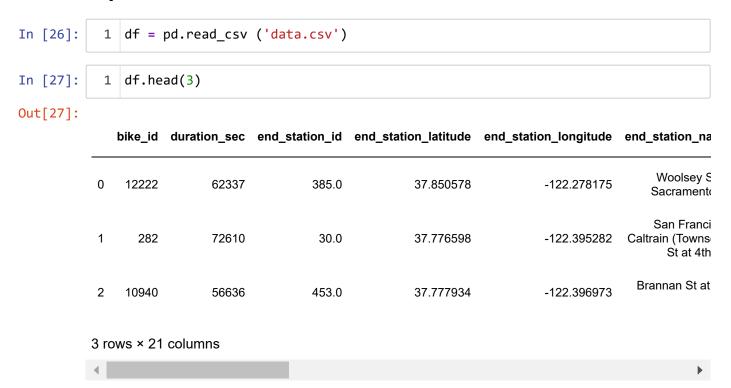
Name: start_month, dtype: int64

```
In [22]:
           1
              ## DEFINE: remove April transactions
           2
           3
              ## CODE
              df_clean = df_clean[df_clean['start_month']!='April']
           4
           5
           6
              ## TEST
              df_clean.start_month.value_counts()
Out[22]: February
                      424789
                      295854
          January
          October
                      239895
                      185496
          November
         March
                      182632
          December
                      150102
          Name: start_month, dtype: int64
In [23]:
              #DEFINE: upper half - lower half of the month
           1
           2
           3
              ##CODE
             df_clean['start_day'] = df_clean.start_day.astype(np.int64)
             df_clean['month_upper'] = df_clean.start_day.apply(lambda x: ' - second' if
             df_clean['half-month'] = df_clean.start_month + df_clean.month_upper
In [24]:
           1 df clean.head()
Out[24]:
             bike_id duration_sec end_station_id end_station_latitude end_station_longitude end_station_na
          0
              12222
                          62337
                                        385.0
                                                      37.850578
                                                                        -122.278175
```

Woolsey S Sacramento San Franci 1 282 72610 30.0 37.776598 -122.395282 Caltrain (Towns St at 4th Brannan St at 2 10940 56636 453.0 37.777934 -122.396973 Lake Merritt BA 42250 3 12623 163.0 37.797320 -122.265320 Sta Fruitvale BA 2601 40076 237.0 37.775232 -122.224498 Sta 5 rows × 21 columns

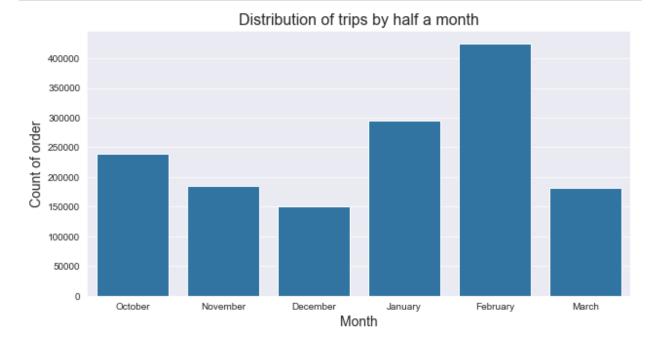
Save the dataset

Open the dataset



Univariate Exploration

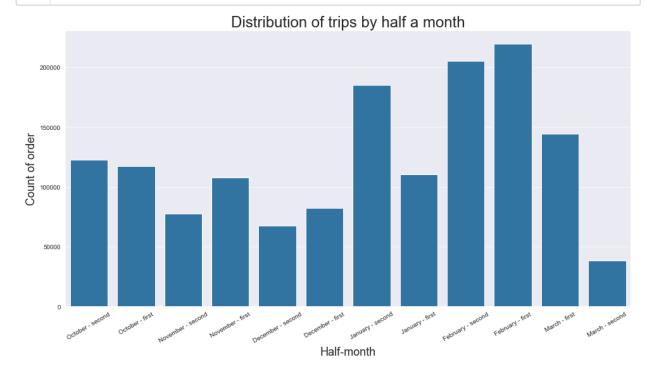
Number of biking order per month



Let's look at this!! The number of bike order in March is significantly lower than January and February, but it was not that different from October, November and December last year. Thus, we might not be able to conclude that the drop in March was due to the COVID-19, but it might also come from the order cycle of the year (just like economic cycle).

The surge in the number of January might come from the LyftUp strategy, announced by Lyft, which can be found here (https://www.lyft.com/blog/posts/lyftup-bikes). There has been an upward trend since then, except for March 2020

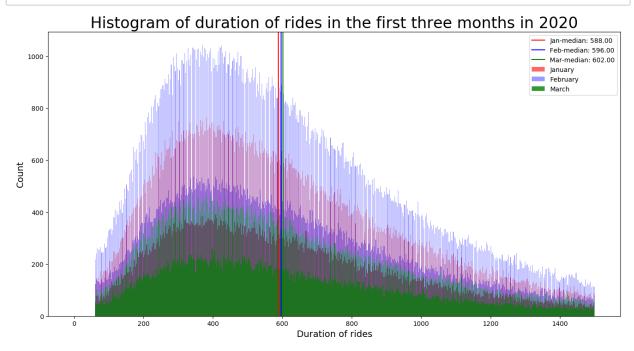
Number of biking order per half a month



From this analysis, it is clear that the COVID-19 actually struck Lyft bike business significantly. The later half of the March witnesses a significant drop in the number of order, compared to any other previous half a month. For more specific, the news of COVID-19 spread around the Bay Area since the beginning of March, which witnesses a number of drop in bike sharing. But the "shelter-in-place" in March 17 order put a great damage into this business.

Histogram of riding duration in the first three months of 2020

```
In [30]:
              import matplotlib as mpl
           2
              mpl.rcParams.update(mpl.rcParamsDefault)
           3
              plt.figure (figsize = (16,8))
           4
           5
              plt.hist(df[df['start_month']=='January'].duration_sec, color = 'r', alpha =
           6
           7
              plt.axvline (np.median(df[df['start_month']=='January'].duration_sec), color
           8
           9
              plt.hist(df[df['start_month']=='February'].duration_sec, color = 'b', alpha
              plt.axvline (np.median(df[df['start_month']=='February'].duration_sec), colo
          10
          11
              plt.hist(df[df['start_month']=='March'].duration_sec, color = 'g', alpha = 0
          12
          13
              plt.axvline (np.median(df[df['start_month']=='March'].duration_sec), color =
          14
             plt.xlabel('Duration of rides', fontsize=14)
          15
             plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=14)
          16
          17
              plt.legend()
             plt.title("Histogram of duration of rides in the first three months in 2020"
```

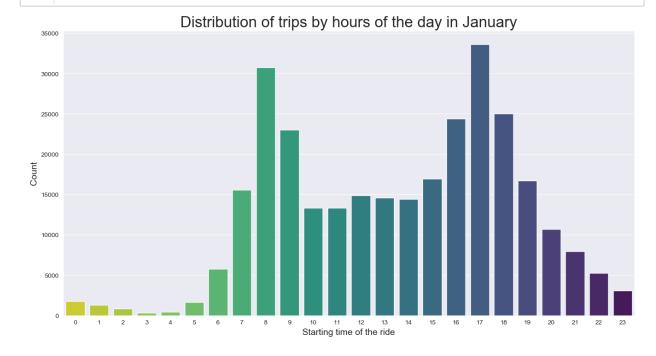


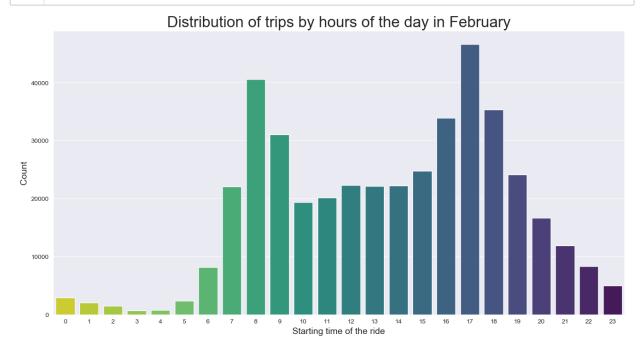
Based on the histogram, it is clear that the median duration of rides does not change. In that case, the revenue generated from each ride is unlikely to reduce. Lyft bike business is likely to be impacted by the reduction in the number of rides only.

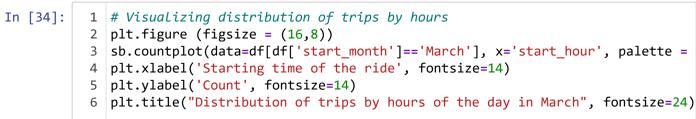
What is the popular starting time of Lyft ride

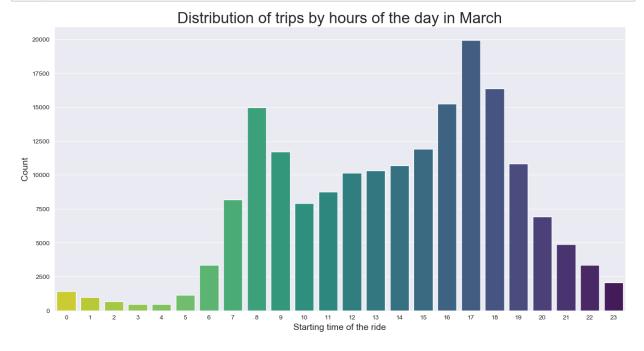
```
In [31]:  # Distribution of trips by hours
  base_color = sb.color_palette('Paired')[1]
  sb.set_style('darkgrid')

5  plt.figure (figsize = (16,8))
  sb.countplot(data=df[df['start_month']=='January'], x='start_hour', palette
  7  plt.xlabel('Starting time of the ride', fontsize=14)
  8  plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=14)
  9  plt.title("Distribution of trips by hours of the day in January", fontsize=2
```





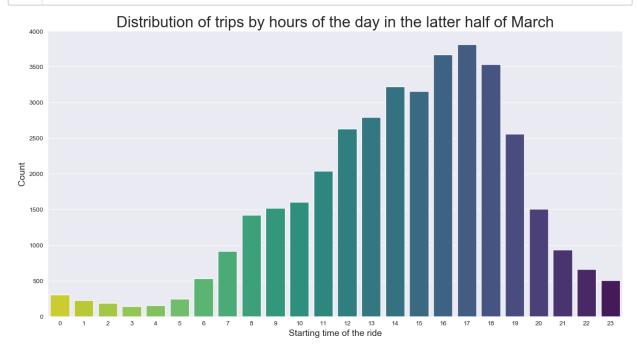




day in terms of bike riding. In January and February, there was only a slight increase in the afternoon bike sharing compared to the morning. However, in March, there was a significantly visible drop in the distribution of people riding bike in the morning. It seems that fewer people going to work led to the drop in the number of riding bike. Let's look at the latter half of March with the data visualization below.

In [35]:

```
# Visualizing distribution of trips by hours
plt.figure (figsize = (16,8))
sb.countplot(data=df[df['half-month']=='March - second'], x='start_hour', pa
plt.xlabel('Starting time of the ride', fontsize=14)
plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=14)
plt.title("Distribution of trips by hours of the day in the latter half of M
```



As expected, at the latter half of March when the "shelter-in-place" took effect, there is a significant drop in the proportion of people riding a bike in the morning. The drop in the morning is highly correlated with the working time. Below are two hypotheses for further user study:

- After the "shelter-in-place" took effect, people do not need to go to work. The assumption is that people often go to work by bike in the past. As they don't have to work in the office, they don't have to take Lyft bike.
- 2. The biking is for physical exercise purposes. When people can work from home, people basically have a more flexible schedule. For that reason, instead of waking up super early and biking in the morning so that they can go to the office on time, they can basically exercise any time of the day. Thus, people decide to exercise equally over the day.

Bivariate Exploration

Relationship of pairs of variables:

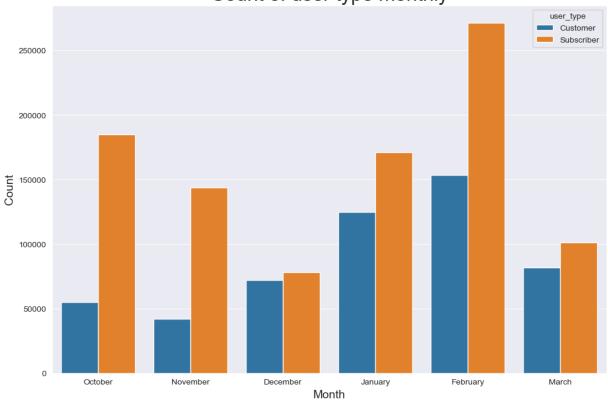
- 1. User type and month
- 2. User type and time of the day

3. User type and day of the week

```
In [36]:
               df.head(2)
Out[36]:
              bike_id duration_sec end_station_id end_station_latitude end_station_longitude end_station_na
                                                                                          Woolsey S
               12222
                           62337
           0
                                         385.0
                                                        37.850578
                                                                          -122.278175
                                                                                         Sacramento
                                                                                          San Franci
                 282
                                          30.0
                                                        37.776598
           1
                           72610
                                                                          -122.395282
                                                                                      Caltrain (Towns
                                                                                            St at 4th
          2 rows × 21 columns
In [37]:
            1 df.columns
Out[37]: Index(['bike_id', 'duration_sec', 'end_station_id', 'end_station_latitude',
                  'end_station_longitude', 'end_station_name', 'end_time',
                  'start_station_id', 'start_station_latitude', 'start_station_longitude',
                  'start_station_name', 'start_time', 'user_type', 'duration_min',
                  'start_month_number', 'start_day', 'start_hour', 'start_day_of_week',
                  'start_month', 'month_upper', 'half-month'],
                 dtype='object')
```

Monthly usage by user types

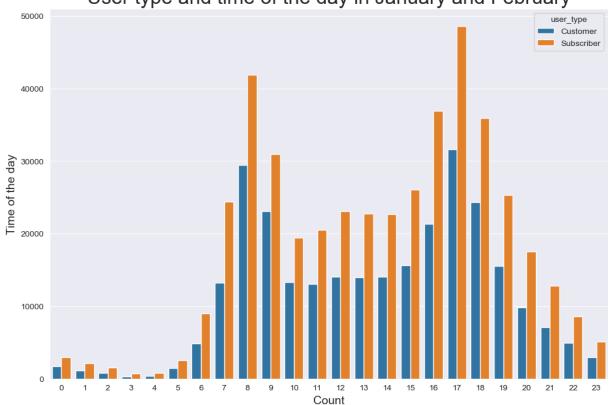




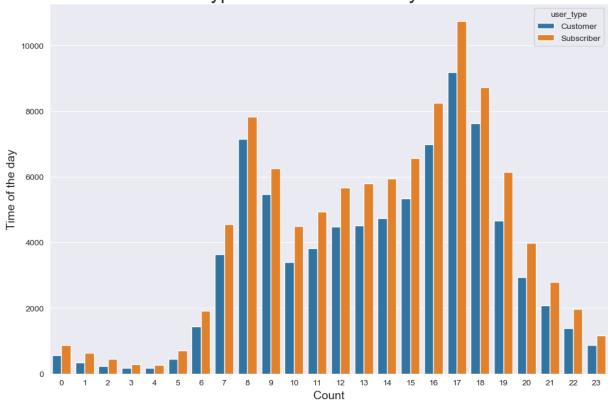
From the chart above, I can observe that the number of "subscriber" should be more than the number of "customer" throughout all year. However, there is a significant drop in the surplus of "subscribers" compared to the "customer" segment in December and March. By having a quick Google about Lyft scandal, I can easily find out the sexual harassment scandal (sexual-assault-lawsuit-passengers-sue-lyft-claiming-they-were-sexually-assaulted-by-drivers-today-2019-12-04/) of Lyft in early December, which I believe create a significant drop in the number of users. However, the drop in March implies that people are less likely to use Lyft regularly, which make it less attractive for subscribers. With this evidence, I have a stronger belief on my first hypothesis stated above, such that people use Lyft bike to go to work in the morning before COVID-19 happened.

Time of the day and user types





User type and time of the day in March

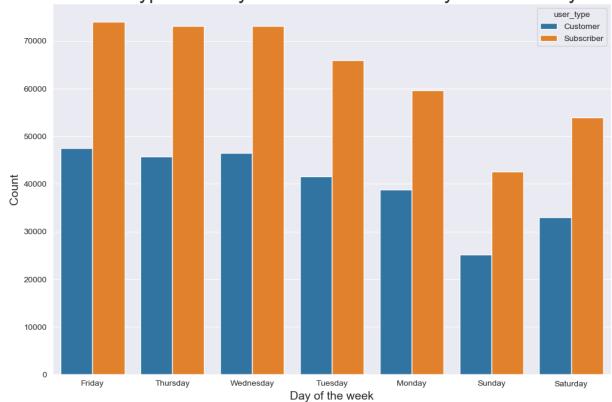


It seems that both type of customers reduce the frequency of using Lyft ride sharing in March uniformly throughout the day.

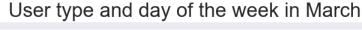
User type and day of the week

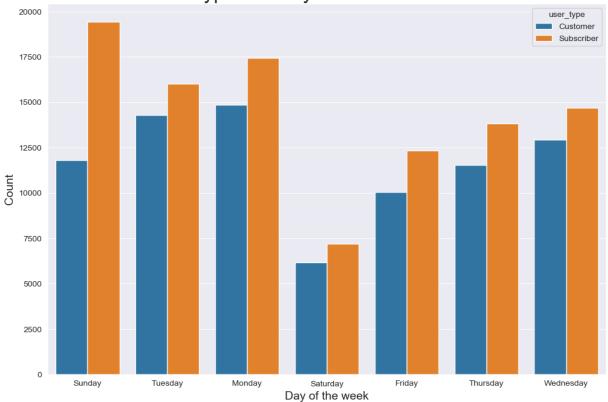
```
In [46]: 1 #In January and February
plt.figure (figsize = (12,8))
sb.countplot(data=df[(df['start_month']=='January')|(df['start_month']=='Feb
plt.xlabel('Day of the week', fontsize=14)
plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=14)
plt.title("User type and day of the week in January and February", fontsize=
```

User type and day of the week in January and February



```
In [45]: 1 #In March
    plt.figure (figsize = (12,8))
    sb.countplot(data=df[(df['start_month']=='March')], x='start_day_of_week', h
        plt.xlabel('Day of the week', fontsize=14)
        plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=14)
        plt.title("User type and day of the week in March", fontsize=24);
```

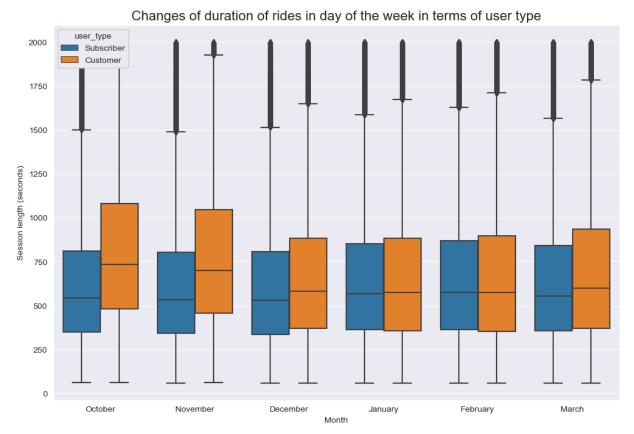




Interestingly, the number of rides in total witnesses a significant change.

1. Before March, weekdays have the highest amount of ride requests. In March, Sunday, Tuesday and Monday have the highest amount of ride requests. For more specifically, there is a much significant drop in the number of subscribers compared to customers. In other words, subscribers do not have to go to the office to work on weekdays, but they still go for exercise on Sunday (or because they feel sad for their subscription fee so they ride on Sunday).

Multivariate Exploration



There is no significant changes in the duration of rides in terms of month and user_type, if considering the COVID-19 as a benchmark

Observe the changes of the median duration of day of the week over time



As the heatmap describes, it seems that people in March has a slightly longer session compared to January and February. Further research needs to be done to understand this finding. One possible reason might come from the fact that "work-from-home" order allows people to have a flexible time, which allows people to ride more than usual. However, when looking up at the boxplot above, I recognize that this assumption is not true, especially when I compare with October, November and December of the previous year.

CONCLUSION

- 1. The COVID-19 definitely impacted the general number of bike rides in terms of session count.
- 2. The COVID-19 and shelter-in-place order have changed the way people use Lyft bike. For example, significantly lower number of people Lyft biking session in the morning, and more people are biking on Sunday (proportionally).
- 3. The COVID-19 and shelter-in-place order do not seem to change the session length.
- 4. The COVID-19 and shelter-in-place order changes the proportion of customer_type. A significantly lower number of subscribers do not use Lyft bike session compared to the traditional customers.