

IBM Applied Data Science Specialization

Capstone Project

Part I

Introduction / Problem to be Solved

I would like to someday purchase a vacation home in a western U.S. ski resort town with the idea of eventually retiring there. But with so many towns to potentially choose from how does one go about choosing where to buy? Certainly, one could consider various subjective factors, but one needs to seriously consider many data driven objective factors to make a wise and informed choice. If a person were to purchase a home based only on how much he enjoyed skiing a certain mountain that person might find that he had made a major mistake if he later became bored or otherwise dissatisfied with the town due to bad public services or a generally poor variety of stores, restaurants or other things to do when not skiing.

This same problem applies to not only me, but to anyone looking to move either full or part time to a ski town. In fact, a very similar data driven methodology could be applied to anyone considering moving who can choose among various comparable destinations. With the aging of the population more and more people will be ready to make such a move and could benefit from looking at data systematically before making any decisions.

Therefore, my project will be gather data from the Foursquare database as well as data on available skiing and general demographic and economic data on each of several ski towns, I will normalize the data to make it more easily comparable, weight certain variables according to my preferences and derive an objective numerical rating for each town based on the data. This analysis could be expanded to include additional variables and locations then published or used as the basis for an interactive program that would allow users to weight various factors according to their personal preferences to return suggested destinations.