## The Battle of Neighborhoods: New York vs Toronto

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### Introduction and Problem

As an international centre of finance, culture, arts and business and the most populous city of their respective countries, both New York and Toronto are recognized as one of the most cosmopolitan and multicultural cities in the world. Therefore, they have attracted tons of tourists and migrants every year. Despite their similarities, their differences have also been discussed. Which city would you consider as a migrant? Where city is a better choice to open a restaurant of your own cuisine? With the above questions in mind, I will conduct a comparison study of New York (Manhattan) and Toronto city using the techniques I learnt in the IBM data science course on Coursera. This report can also help travellers who are interested in visiting these two cities.

## Data acquisition and pre-processing

Information of neighbourhoods of New York and Toronto were directly obtained from <a href="https://geo.nyu.edu/catalog/nyu">https://geo.nyu.edu/catalog/nyu</a> 2451 34572 and <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_postal\_codes\_of\_Canada:\_M">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_postal\_codes\_of\_Canada:\_M</a>.

Then, data of venues of interests of these neighbourhood areas were scraped from Foursquare location data. The venue data not only contains information such as location (i.e. latitude, longitude) but also the category of the venue, which will provide the most important information on differentiating neighbourhoods.

Firstly, neighbourhood data of New York city was loaded to a table with information such as Borough name, Neighbourhood name and its location (Latitude and Longitude). For the sake of simplicity, I selected suburbs in Manhattan for further investigation. Next, for each neighbourhood in

Manhattan, I scraped data of up to 100 venues within a disk centred at its given coordinate with radius=500 from Foursquare. The data collected also tells which category every venue belongs to. Then I grouped all venue entries by their neighbourhoods to have aggregated information of each neighbourhood.

Secondly, neighbourhood data of City of Toronto were processed in a similar way except that I removed cells with missing 'Borough', merged neighbourhoods with same postcode and named neighbourhood as their boroughs if their names are missing. In the end, venues with missing category were removed.

Lastly, the two data frames of two cities were merged into one data frame for machine learning which will be discussed later.

## Methodology

After data pre-processing, I have a data frame containing all neighbourhoods of interest and their numbers of different types of venues each of neighbourhood has. After standardising, this data frame is ready for machine learning. Same as the previous practices and assignment, k-means clustering was chosen to partition all the neighbourhoods into different clusters. K-means clustering was selected because of its simplicity and effectiveness to convert standardised numbers of venues into Euclidean distance for neighbourhood clustering. However, in my first attempt 90% of neighbourhoods from the two cities were classified into one single cluster. This partially explains the similarity between the two cities. However, in order to better understand their differences and features of each city, I increased the number of clusters from 5 to 10 to better differentiate the two cities.

# Exploratory data analysis

After increasing the number of clusters, I performed an exploratory analysis in which the ten most common venues of every neighbourhood was given.

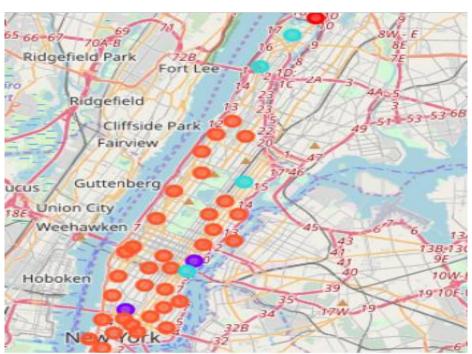
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37 East Toron	lo	The Beache	43.676357	-79.293031	6.0	Pub	Trail	Other Great Outdoors	Health Food Store	Electronics Stor	e Dog Run	Doner Restaurant	Donut Shop	Drugstore	Dry Cleaner
41 East Toron	o T	The Danforth West, Riverdal	43.679557	-79.352188	1.0	Greek Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Italian Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop	Bookstor	e Restaurant	Furniture / Home Store	Brewery	Bakery	Liquor Store
42 East Toron	to The	Beaches West,India Bazaa	r 43.668999	-79.315572	1.0	Pizza Place	Park	Fish & Chips Shop	Italian Restaurant	Brewer	Movie Theater	Steakhouse	Burger Joint	Burrito Place	Sushi Restaurant
43 East Toron		Studio Distric	t 43.659526	-79.340923	0.0	Café	Coffee Shop	American Restaurant	Gastropub	Baker	Italian Restaurant	Brewery	Bank	Bar	Latin American Restaurant
44 Centr Taron		Lawrence Parl	k 43.728020	-79.388790	8.0	Photography Studio	Park	Swim School	Bus Line	Women's Stor	e Doner Restaurant	Donut Shop	Drugstore	Dry Cleaner	Dumpling Restaurant
45 Centr Toron		Davisville Norti	43.712751	-79.390197	5.0	Park	Hotel	Breakfast Spot	Food & Drink Shop	Sandwich Plac	e Asian Restaurant	Gym	Clothing Store	Women's Store	Eastern European Restaurant
46 Centr Taron		North Toronto Wes	t 43.715383	-79.405678	40 5	porting Goods Shop	Coffee Shop	Clothing Store	Spa	Mexican Restauran	t Burger Joint	Furniture / Home Store	Café	Chinese Restaurant	Salon / Barbershop
47 Centr Taron		Davisville	43.704324	-79.388790	1.0	Dessert Shop	Sandwich Place	Café	Gym	Italian Restauran	t Sushi Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place	Diner	Fried Chicken Joint
48 Centr Taron		Moore Park,Summerhill Eas	t 43.689574	-79.383160	3.0	Park	Tennis Court	Playground	Trail	Women's Stor	Eastern European Restaurant	Dog Run	Doner Restaurant	Donut Shop	Drugstore
an Centr	al Deer Park, Fo	rrest Hill SE,Rathnelly,Sout Hill	43.686412	-79.400049	0.0	Pub	Coffee Shop	Sports Bar	Fried Chicken Joint	Restauran	t Sushi Restaurant	Bagel Shop	American Restaurant	Liquor Store	Supermarket
49 Centr Toron	io	ni,													
Borough	Neighborhood	l Latitude Longitud		abels 1st M							Most Common Venue 7th M				
Borough  O Manhattan	Neighborhood Marble Hil	Latitude Longitud	0	abels 1st M	Coffee Shop	Sandwich Plac	e Yog	a Studio	Gym	Big Box Store	Steakhouse	Supplement Shop	Shopping Mall	Donut Shop	Seafood Restaurant
Borough	Neighborhood Marble Hil	l Latitude Longitud	0	abels 1st M			e Yog	a Studio	Gym	Big Box Store					
Borough  Ulanhatan  Ulanhatan	Neighborhood Marble Hil Chinatoun	Latitude Longitud	9	abels 1st M	Coffee Shop	Sandwich Plac Cocktail Bi	e Yog ar American Re	a Studio staurant	Gym Spa H	Big Box Store	Steakhouse	Supplement Shop	Shopping Mall	Donut Shop	Seafood Restaurant
Borough  Ulanhatan  Ulanhatan	Neighborhood Marble Hil Chinatoun Washington Heights	Latitude Longitud   40.876551 -73.91060   40.715618 -73.99421	9	0.0 9.0	Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant	Sandwich Plac Cocktail Bi	e Yog ar American Re ry Groce	a Studio staurant	Gym Spa H	Big Box Store Hotpot Restaurant	Steakhouse Verhamese Restaurant Spanish Restaurant	Supplement Shop Bakery	Shopping Mall Salon / Barbershop	Donut Shop Optical Shop	Seafood Restaurant Furniture / Home Store
Borough  O Manhattan  1 Manhattan  2 Manhattan	Neighborhood Marble Hil Chinatoun Washington Heights Inwood	I Latitude Longitud I 40.876551 -73.91066 I 40.715618 -73.99427 I 40.851903 -73.99690	0 9 0	0.0 9.0 4.0	Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant Café	Sandwich Plac Cocktail Ba Bake	ve Yog ar American Ra ny Groce	a Studio staurant ery Store Chinesi Bakery	Gym Spa H Restaurant M Restaurant	Big Box Store Hotpot Restaurant \u2014 abile Phone Shop	Steakhouse Vietnamese Restaurant Spanish Restaurant Lounge	Supplement Shop Bakery Plzza Place	Shopping Mall Salon / Barbershop Coffee Shop	Donut Shop Optical Shop Park	Seafood Restaurant Furniture / Home Store New American Restaurant
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Borough  O Manhatan  I Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan	Neighborhood Marble Hil Chinatoun Washington Heights Inwood Hamilton Heights Manhattanville	Laftude Longhude 1 40,07656 -73,9106 40,75610 -73,9427 40,65100 -73,9361 40,65164 -73,9221 40,65164 -73,9480	0 9 0 0 8	0.0 9.0 4.0 4.0	Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant Café Café Pizza Place	Sandwich Plac Cooktail Bi Bake Mexican Restaura Cal	re Yog ar American Re rry Groce nt ti libilan Re	a Studio staurant Eakery Bolega Bodega	Gym Spa H Restaurant M Restaurant M Restaurant Nestaurant	Big Box Store Hotpot Restaurant  bile Phone Shop  Pizza Place exican Restaurant	Steakhouse Verlamese Restaurant Spanish Restaurant Lounge Yoga Studio (	Supplement Shop Balkery Pizza Place American Restaurant 'airbbean Restaurant	Shopping Mall Salon / Barbershop Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant Bakery	Donut Shop Optical Shop Park Pharmacy Indian Restaurant	Seafood Restaurant Furniture / Home Store New American Restaurant Deli / Bodega School
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Borough  O Manhatan  I Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan  Manhatan	Neighborhood Marble Hil Chinatoun Washington Heights Inwood Hamilton Heights Manhattanville Central Harlem East Harlem	1 Laftude Longitud 1 40,076551 -73,91066 40,716518 -73,9427 40,05190 -73,9460 40,05184 -73,9450 40,05184 -73,9450 40,05184 -73,9450 40,05187 -73,9450 40,051976 -73,9450	0 9 0 0 0 8 8 5 5	0.0 9.0 4.0 4.0 9.0 9.0 9.0	Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant Calie Pizza Place Coffee Shop Chinese Restaurant	Sandrich Patr Cochel B Bale Verican Restaura Car Verican Restaura Cosmedios Sho	ve Yog ear American Re rry Groos not Delia p Seafood Re rry Thai Re	a Sudo staurant eny Store Chinese Bakery Bodega estaurant Sector	Gym Spa F Restaurant M Restaurant M Restaurant  Coffee Shop Me Bar F	Big Box Store Hotpot Restaurant V  Pizza Place Pizza Place Park Park French Restaurant	Steakhouse  fetnamese Restaurant  Spanish Restaurant  Lounge  Yoga Studio (  Del / Bodega  American Restaurant	Supplement Stop Ballery Pizze Place American Restaurent Supermarket African Restaurent	Stopping Mail Salon (Barberstop Coffee Stop Chinese Restaurant Ballery BBO Joint Café	Donat Shop Optical Shop Park Pharmacy Indian Restaurant Climbing Gym Fried Chicken Joint	Seafood Restaurant Furniture / Home Store New American Restaurant Deli / Bodega School Baltery Cocital Bar

In the first table above, we can see the 10 selected neighborhoods in Toronto have a more diverse set of clusters than Manhantan. Furthermore, one can tell that Torontonians like indoor and outdoor activities more than New Yorkers as per the second table. In addition, in Manhantan restaurant is the most popular venue in most neighborhoods. An interesting oberservation is that coffee shops and cafes are popular in both cities.

The above exploratory data analysis confirms the existences of similarities and dissimilarities between New York and Toronto. In the next section I will show and discuss the K-means clustering results.

## Results

I aggregated venue data frames of the two cities and performed K-means clustering, then plotted the clustering of all the neighbourhoods on separate maps as per below. The first figure shows the clusters of Manhattan and the second figure shows the results of City of Toronto. Each represents a cluster in both figures.





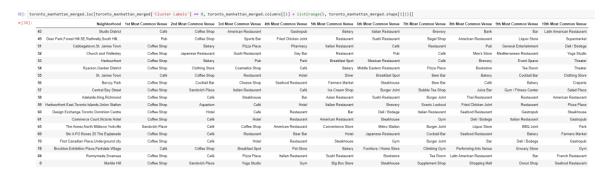
One can notice that the orange cluster (cluster 9) is the the most dominant cluster in Manhattan and it is also an important cluster in Toronto. Different from Manhattan, Toronto is more diverse and has more significant clusters than Manhattan. Other than the aforementioned orange cluster (cluster 9), the red (cluster 0), green and purple clusters are also an important part of the Toronto community with the red cluster being the largest cluster in terms of neighborhood quantity. Now let's the features of these clusters.

### Cluster 9:

	Neighborhood	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
66	Harbord, University of Toronto	Café	Japanese Restaurant	Bookstore	Restaurant	Italian Restaurant	Bakery	Bar	Noodle House	Chinese Restaurant	Nightclub
67	Chinatown, Grange Park, Kensington Market	Café	Vietnamese Restaurant	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Chinese Restaurant	Dumpling Restaurant	Bar	Bakery	Mexican Restaurant	Grocery Store
68	CN Tower, Bathurst Quay, Island airport, Harbourf	Airport Service	Airport Terminal	Airport Lounge	Rental Car Location	Airport Gate	Harbor / Marina	Coffee Shop	Boat or Ferry	Sculpture Garden	Airport Food Cour
77	Little Portugal, Trinity	Bar	Asian Restaurant	Restaurant	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant	Vietnamese Restaurant	New American Restaurant	Café	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place	Men's Store
83	Parkdale,Roncesvalles	Gift Shop	Bookstore	Italian Restaurant	Dog Run	Bar	Eastern European Restaurant	Dessert Shop	Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Movie Theate
87	Business Reply Mail Processing Centre 969 Eastern	Light Rail Station	Farmers Market	Recording Studio	Auto Workshop	Skate Park	Park	Smoke Shop	Gym / Fitness Center	Burrito Place	Restauran
1	Chinatown	Chinese Restaurant	Cocktail Bar	American Restaurant	Spa	Hotpot Restaurant	Vietnamese Restaurant	Bakery	Salon / Barbershop	Optical Shop	Furniture / Home Store
4	Hamilton Heights	Pizza Place	Café	Deli / Bodega	Coffee Shop	Mexican Restaurant	Yoga Studio	Caribbean Restaurant	Bakery	Indian Restaurant	Schoo
5	Manhattanville	Coffee Shop	Mexican Restaurant	Italian Restaurant	Seafood Restaurant	Park	Dell / Bodega	Supermarket	BBQ Joint	Climbing Gym	Baken
6	Central Harlem	Chinese Restaurant	Cosmetics Shop	Seafood Restaurant	Bar	French Restaurant	American Restaurant	African Restaurant	Café	Fried Chicken Joint	Cocktail Ba
8	Upper East Side	Italian Restaurant	Exhibit	Coffee Shop	Bakery	Art Gallery	Gym / Fitness Center	Juice Bar	Hotel	French Restaurant	Sushi Restauran
9	Yorkville	Italian Restaurant	Bar	Gym	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place	Dell / Bodega	Bakery	Japanese Restaurant	Diner	Pari
10	Lenox Hill	Coffee Shop	Italian Restaurant	Pizza Place	Cocktail Bar	Sushi Restaurant	Café	Gym / Fitness Center	Gym	Sporting Goods Shop	Burger Join
11	Roosevelt Island	Sandwich Place	Park	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place	Gym	Scenic Lookout	Dog Run	Liquor Store	Outdoors & Recreation	Deli / Bodeg
12	Upper West Side	Italian Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Bar	Wine Bar	Mediterranean Restaurant	Café	Bakery	Middle Eastern Restaurant	Dessert Shop	Thai Restauran
13	Lincoln Square	Plaza	Theater	Café	Concert Hall	Italian Restaurant	Performing Arts Venue	Gym / Fitness Center	French Restaurant	Park	Indie Movie Theate
14	Clinton	Theater	Italian Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Gym / Fitness Center	American Restaurant	Gym	Wine Shop	Hotel	Spa	Sandwich Place
15	Midtown	Hotel	Clothing Store	Food Truck	Coffee Shop	Theater	Sporting Goods Shop	Japanese Restaurant	Spa	Bakery	Bookston
16	Murray Hill	Coffee Shop	Hotel	Sandwich Place	American Restaurant	Japanese Restaurant	Gym / Fitness Center	Bar	Italian Restaurant	Gym	Jewish Restauran
17	Chelsea	Coffee Shop	Bakery	Italian Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop	Nightclub	American Restaurant	Theater	Seafood Restaurant	Hotel	Tapas Restauran
19	East Village	Bar	Wine Bar	Ice Cream Shop	Mexican Restaurant	Cocktail Bar	Pizza Place	Chinese Restaurant	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Ramen Restauran
20	Lower East Side	Park	Pizza Place	Café	Cocktail Bar	Art Gallery	Ramen Restaurant	Bakery	Chinese Restaurant	Japanese Restaurant	Coffee Shop
21	Tribeca	American Restaurant	Park	Italian Restaurant	Spa	Café	Wine Shop	Wine Bar	Coffee Shop	Greek Restaurant	Scenic Lookou
22	Little Italy	Bakery	Italian Restaurant	Café	Mediterranean Restaurant	Bubble Tea Shop	Clothing Store	Cocktail Bar	Sandwich Place	Salon / Barbershop	Women's Store

Restaurants are the most common and popular venues of neighbourhoods in cluster 9. New Yorkers and Torontonians all like food.

#### Cluster 0:



Being the largest cluster in the City of Toronto, cluster 0 has coffee shop and café as the most important venue followed by Bakery and Sandwich Place.

## Other important clusters (1,3,4) in Toronto:



As expected, there are other crucial clusters that contribute to the multiculture of Toronto. For example, in cluster 1 there are many Greek and Italian restaurants while Mexico and Asian restaurants are also common in cluster 4. Another interesting oberservation is that cluster 3 has lots of places for indoor and outdoor activities.

#### Discussions and Recommendations

Toronto and New York have lots of things in common but are also quite different in some ways. For someone who is looking to start a business or considering travelling to either of the cities, it

will ultimately come down to what you want to do or what you like. If you want to open a restaurant or want to try a variety of cuisines then New York could be a better choice for you. If your business plan is to open a coffe shop or you want to have a relaxing morning sitting in a coffee shop reading your favourite then Toronto would be the right choice for you. If you love work-out then Toronto is also a nice choice. In summary, it is a life-style choice.

#### Conclusion:

In this report, I presented a comparison study of Manhattan and City of Toronto using data collected from NYU Spatial Data Repository, Wikipedia and Foursquare location data. K-means clustering was used to divide neighbourhoods of the two cities into different groups. Analysis of the similarities and dissimilarities of the two cities were conducted. In the end, business plan and travelling recommendations were given.