Info 4602

HW #2

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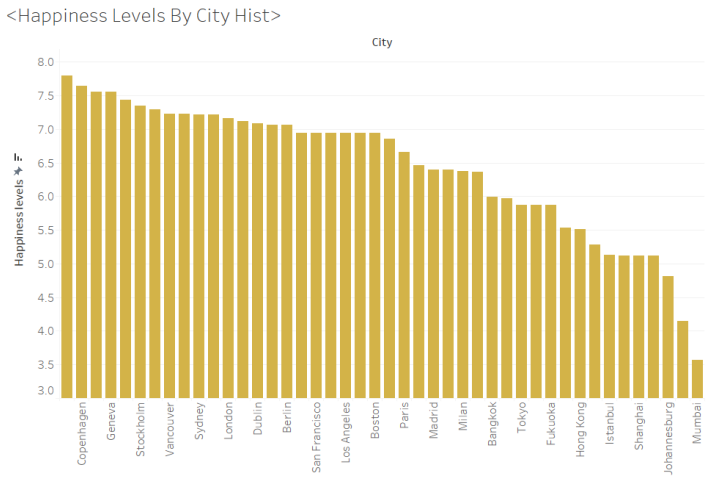
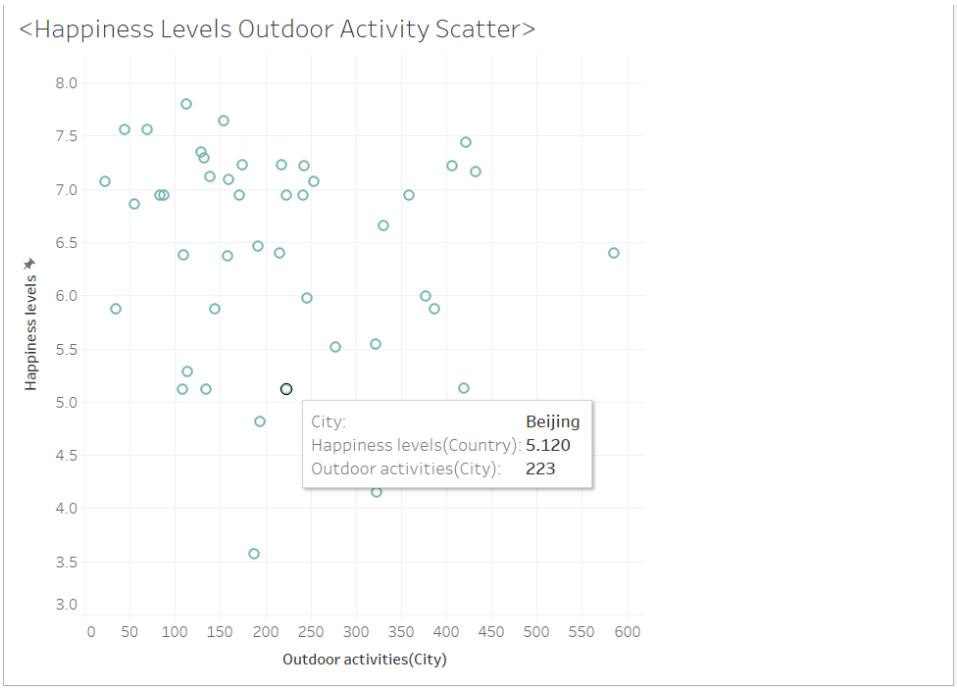
Visualizations (Tableau)

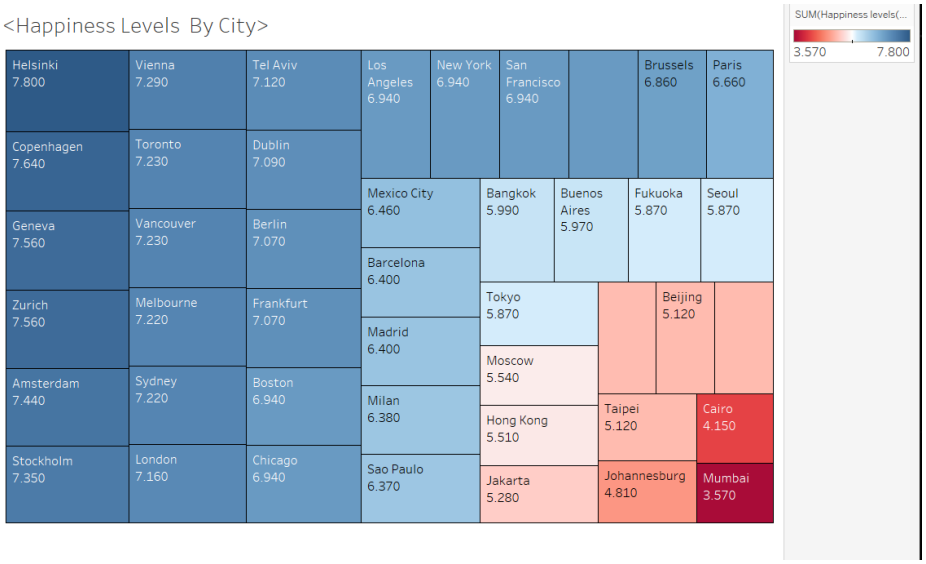
Vis #1:



Vis #2:



Vis #3:



Writeup

In visualization #1, I go use a histogram to visualize the range of happiness levels reported by different cities in the data set. The visualization is slightly misleading because happiness levels were actually averaged across the country of the city and are therefore not necessarily specific to the city itself. The histogram is generally effective at providing the viewer with a range of happiness values that will be used in the other two visualizations. I reduced the y axis to a more specific range (3-8 rather than 0-10) and chose to represent the histogram in yellow as a reflection of the happiness measure. I'm not sure if my decision to order the cities from left to right (descending) by happiness levels was optimal or not, but I think it works given the continuous scale of the y axis measure.

In visualization #2, I use a scatterplot where I plot outdoor activities on the x-axis and happiness levels on the y. Each point on the chart represents one city, the name of which is included in the tooltip. I show an example of this by hovering over "Beijing" in the included screenshot. The overall goal of this vis was to investigate if city happiness levels correlate to avg outdoor activities. This relationship is conveyed to be unclear by the scatterplot. Again, the vis is slightly misleading in that happiness levels are averaged by country where as the outdoor activities correlate to a specific city within that country. I think this vis is interesting to look at and given more data on the specific city, would be extremely valuable to someone considering where to live/move.

Finally, in visualization #3 I use a heatmap type depiction of happiness levels correlated to each city. I was trying to aggregate cities of the same country (and subsequent happiness levels) to one box in order to better summarize the data, but was not able to do so given my limited experience with tableau. I think this vis is unique and effective at illustrating what cities are happiest and least happy. I scaled happiness ratings using both size of the box and color, which I think was an effective choice. In reflection, I learned a lot about tableau and the visualization of continuous data through different mechanisms. In an ideal world my "happiness score" would be by city and not by country, and I think this fact being true may result in all 3 of visualizations being somewhat misleading. However I knowing this will help me better understand data and how to create clear and effective visualizations going forward.