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Two-Sigma Kaggle Competition - Final

Introduction:

RentHop, a portfolio company of Two-Sigma Ventures, helps home-searchers more easily find quality rental-listings by using data to evaluate each individual listing. We will use both real estate data sets provided by Kaggle, train.json and test.json, which represent the training set of data and testing set of data respectively, to ultimately predict how many inquiries a listing will receive based on its features and other factors. Using the data fields provided in each listing from the training set, we can estimate how desirable each home is to a consumer by formulating an algorithm.

The desirability is measured by the target variable called interest level, and is broken into three categories: low, medium, and high interest. It is our goal to take each listing from the test data set, and correctly predict the probability that it will fall under each respective interest level.

Analysis and Methods:

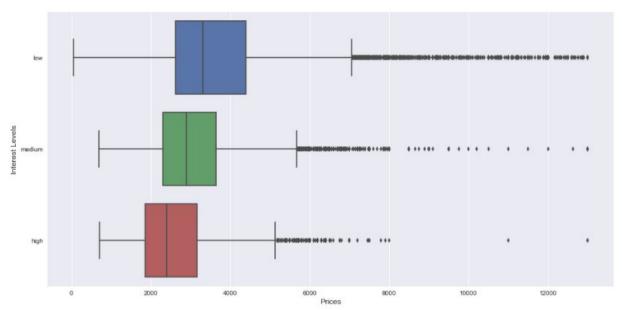
How did we subset our data and why?

Given data about apartment and housing listings throughout the New York City area, we created an algorithm to predict the interest level probabilities of the listing. To create hypothetical interest level values, we use a subset of the data which we deemed most influential (includes the price, features, listing ID, photos and number of bedrooms). This subset of data from the training set also has the given interest levels for the listing, so we partition this subset of factors each by their listing's respective interest level. This way, sample distributions for obtaining p-values for each category can be used.

The origin of this stems from deciding which factors most influence the interest level of a rental. In order to determine this, numerous visualization techniques were performed on the various factors from the training data set. This includes in-depth box plots, kernel density estimation plots, histograms, and joint distribution plots. Ultimately, checking for the most significant differences in distributions against the three interest levels leads to the best chances of predicting correctly. This is sensible, as comparing scores against distributions is only meaningful when the distributions themselves vary and carry information.

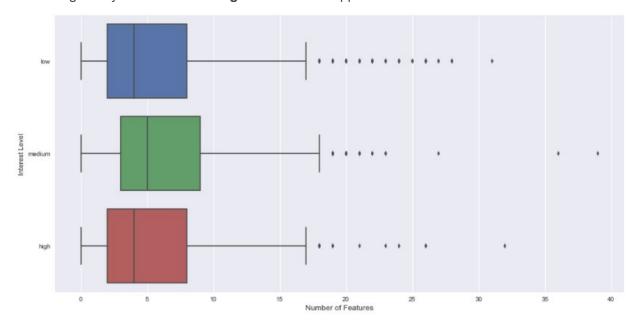
Given the nature of human emotion and investment in rentals and house-buying, we decided to first analyze the factors in order of intuition of what we as analysts feel is most heavily weighted in the decision, the price of a listing. Therefore, that is the first factor that we analyzed, since logically it will carry a significant impact on how popular a home is.

Figure 2.0.3 from the Appendix, also shown below, reaffirms that intuition.



Clearly, the amount of homes in the 'low' interest category that have a price greater than 8000 highly exceeds that of the other two categories. As well, the quartiles of each distribution are quite different from one another, and therefore will be informative in our later calculations.

Next, the number of features of an apartment listing was predicted to have a significant impact on interest level as well, so we began to analyze that using box plots. In order to do this, we ran through each listing in the test set prior to probability prediction and calculated the length of the amount of features and saved that value. Creating a distribution of number of features and partitioning into three categories yielded this from **Figure 2.0.5** from Appendix:



While although not immediately useful, we realize that this helps distinguish the medium interest level from the other two in terms of quantiles and averages. Therefore, we still incorporate this information into the prediction.

A couple other factors seem to have a strong influence on interest level as well, among which are the number of bedrooms and photos, so we decided to incorporate those as well. Again, for the purposes of our algorithm, since the key influencers seem to boil down to the price, number of features, photos, and bedrooms, these will be the main factors used in our analysis. The large training set was broken into a subset of these factors, each with a unique listing ID, for p-values to be generated for each score for each listing.

One factor from the data set that we originally thought was influential was the number of bathrooms stated in a listing. However, the vast majority of listings only had occurrences of either 1 or 2 bathrooms, as shown in **Figure 2.0.2** from the Appendix. After removing listings that had no bathroom number indicated and sorting each listing by interest level, the frequency of number of bathrooms was similar for all three levels. Since there was no visible difference in frequency of number of bathrooms between the categories, we chose not to include this factor in our analysis.

What was the framework behind our algorithm?

To calculate the p-values, we first iterate through each column, keep track of each listing's pricing, number of features, number of photos, listing ID and number of bedrooms and store each value in their own lists based on interest level. The listing ID has no influence on the listing's interest, so we ended up omitting this data in our calculations. The other categories that were originally provided in the data set were also not important factors, since their distributions were too similar to hold any meaning.

Initially, the percentile of each score from each column is found using the Python function stats.percentileofscore. Note that this will create three percentile values, one for each interest level. The percentile is of the test column value compared to that of all the values in each interest level. This will display the different percentiles for each score in each interest level. These values are then used to find individual p-values. These p-values are added up, averaged, and normalized so that their sum is 1. These are the final values used to create the low, medium and high probability predictions. A peek at a few of these p-values can be seen in the appendix under Figure B.

However, generation of these probabilities does not necessarily mean they are accurate. Therefore, in order to improve the algorithm and its results, we ran some tests that we deem useful. This includes counting the number of 'perfect' guesses on the training set: for each listing, if the highest probability was indeed the correct interest level, then it counts as a 'perfect' guess. After running on a large enough fraction of the training set, about forty-one percent of the time the result was 'perfect':

Perfect guesses: 413 Total guesses: 1000 Perfect accuracy: 0.413 Logloss: 1.08390205683 Obviously it will never reach one-hundred percent perfection as these are probabilities and not guarantees, so this is quite substantial, especially considering that a blind guess would converge on thirty-three percent.

Lastly, as the Kaggle competition checks for the multi-class logarithmic loss, we also calculate that as well and average around 1.05-1.10. For a step-by-step analysis, we have attached our code report (see Appendix).

Conclusion:

From the analysis and testing against the data, we are confident that our prediction model can determine the interest level of a listing given its information. As always, there may be uncertainties that impact the housing market in the future. However, assuming near future listings and market is similar to these listings, we are optimistic of our algorithm.

Theory:

Box and Whisker Plots:

A box-and-whisker plot, or box plot, is typically used to depict multiple groups of data with quartiles. The lower and upper quartiles indicate where the medians of the lower and upper halves of the data lie in the data set, while the lines extending from the boxes, or whiskers, signify variability. Some key statistical information that can be interpreted from a box plot include: the minimum and maximum of the data set, one standard deviation below and above the average of the data set, and the 2nd and 98th percentiles. All of the data in our box and whisker plots that were outliers are represented as points outside of the box and whisker plots.

From our box plots, it was very easy to identify unusual behavior between all three interest levels thanks to outliers, which are any values that are outside of the interval (Q1 - 1.5*IQR, Q3 + 1.5*IQR), where Q1 and Q3 are the medians of the lower and upper halves of the data set, and IQR = Q3 - Q1. For example, from the three box plots that depict the distributions of the price listings, the low interest level box plot had a large amount of high outliers while the medium and high interest level data had lower medians, smaller IQR ranges and much fewer outliers.

P-Value:

The p-value is typically calculated via the t-statistic, t = (score - xBar)/(s/sqrt(n)) or the z-score, z = (score - Mu)/sigma. Given that the factors typically do not follow a normal distribution, and we do not know their distribution, we will calculate p-values using percentiles derived from the t-statistic. It's however important to note that since the dataset has large n, the t-statistic converges to the z-score. Sort the category of factors, take the index of the score in that subset and divide by the total length, say n/N, and that yields the percentile. Take its distance from 50 and subtract it from 50 and you get the p-value.

Appendix:

Low Int	erest Re	entals:			
be	edrooms	features	listing_id	photos	price
6	2	6	7092344	6	3800
15	0	4	7225292	4	2795
16	3	6	7226687	5	7200
18	3	5	7126989	7	6000
23	1	1	7131094	4	2435
Medium	Interest	Rentals:			
be	edrooms	features	listing_id	photos	price
4	1	7	7170325	12	2400
9	2	6	7158677	6	3495
10	3	0	7211212	5	3000
38	0	11	7216312	4	2400
78	1	2	7131812	4	2700
High Ir	terest P	Rentals:			
t	edrooms	features	listing_id	photos	price
19	0	5	7114138	5	1945
46	3	11	7172046	7	4450
88	0	3	7167986	3	1495
93	3	1	7111210	9	2200
115	2	0	7126878	6	2795

Figure A - A snapshot of how the subset of the data looks like with respect to the interest levels.

	bedrooms_high	bedrooms_low	bedrooms_me	dium	featur	es_high	feature	es_low	1
4	0.537119	0.543285	0.549	158	0.	718546		76000	
6	0.829773	0.793402	0.843	397	0.	812191	0.8	61466	
9	0.829773	0.793402	0.843	397	0.	812191	0.8	61466	
10	0.336937	0.303465	0.324	161	0.	180906	0.1	39759	
15	0.149779	0.139497	0.143	156	0.	796301	0.7	68186	
	features_medium	listing_id	photos_high	phot	os_low	photos_	medium	1	
4	0.799003	7170325	0.034123	0.	045765	0.	029700		
6	0.918381	7092344	0.837979	0.	808949	0.	871137		
9	0.918381	7158677	0.837979	0.	808949	0.	871137		
10	0.140039	7211212	0.740557	0.	790223	0.	740315		
15	0.713643	7225292	0.451159	0.	536723	0.	432185		
	price_high pri	ce_low price	_medium						
4	0.765434 0.3	274180 0	496215						
6	0.264913 0.5	576435 0	580150						
9	0.475645 0.0	540211 0	773800						
10	0.780933 0.	547996 0	769347						
15	0.775723 0.4	442889 0	.733992						

Figure B - The calculated p-values of each column separated by interest level.

Probabilities:

	listing_id	high	medium	low
4	7170325	0.498385	0.323093	0.178523
6	7092344	0.186362	0.408126	0.405513
9	7158677	0.251710	0.409493	0.338798
10	7211212	0.372178	0.366657	0.261165
15	7225292	0.397276	0.375904	0.226820

Figure C - A view of five interest level values calculated by our algorithm.

Further in-depth analysis in the code report on the next page.

RentalListingVisualizations

April 4, 2017

1 Initializing Dataset

We must initialize the dataset first, loading it in as a pandas object from a JSON object.

```
In [43]: import pandas as pd
         import numpy as np
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         import seaborn as sns
         colors = sns.color_palette()
         trainData = pd.read_json("train.json")
         testData = pd.read_json("test.json")
         trainData.head()
Out [43]:
                bathrooms bedrooms
                                                          building_id \
        10
                      1.5
                                  3 53a5b119ba8f7b61d4e010512e0dfc85
                      1.0
                                  2 c5c8a357cba207596b04d1afd1e4f130
        10000
                                  1 c3ba40552e2120b0acfc3cb5730bb2aa
        100004
                      1.0
                      1.0
                                  1 28d9ad350afeaab8027513a3e52ac8d5
         100007
         100013
                      1.0
                            created \
         10
                2016-06-24 07:54:24
        10000 2016-06-12 12:19:27
        100004 2016-04-17 03:26:41
         100007 2016-04-18 02:22:02
         100013 2016-04-28 01:32:41
                                                       description \
         10
                A Brand New 3 Bedroom 1.5 bath ApartmentEnjoy ...
         10000
        100004 Top Top West Village location, beautiful Pre-w...
         100007 Building Amenities - Garage - Garden - fitness...
         100013 Beautifully renovated 3 bedroom flex 4 bedroom...
                     display_address
```

```
10000
                     Columbus Avenue
         100004
                         W 13 Street
         100007
                    East 49th Street
         100013
                   West 143rd Street
                                                            features interest_level
         10
                                                                  []
                                                                             medium
         10000
                 [Doorman, Elevator, Fitness Center, Cats Allow...
                 [Laundry In Building, Dishwasher, Hardwood Flo...
         100004
                                                                               high
         100007
                                          [Hardwood Floors, No Fee]
         100013
                                                           [Pre-War]
                 latitude
                           listing_id longitude
                                                                          manager_id
         10
                  40.7145
                               7211212
                                         -73.9425
                                                   5ba989232d0489da1b5f2c45f6688adc
         10000
                  40.7947
                               7150865
                                         -73.9667 7533621a882f71e25173b27e3139d83d
         100004
                  40.7388
                               6887163
                                         -74.0018
                                                   d9039c43983f6e564b1482b273bd7b01
         100007
                  40.7539
                              6888711
                                         -73.9677
                                                   1067e078446a7897d2da493d2f741316
         100013
                  40.8241
                               6934781
                                         -73.9493 98e13ad4b495b9613cef886d79a6291f
                                                              photos price \
         10
                 [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7211212_1ed4542e...
                                                                       3000
         10000
                 [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7150865_be3306c5...
                                                                       5465
         100004
                 [https://photos.renthop.com/2/6887163_de85c427...
                                                                       2850
         100007
                 [https://photos.renthop.com/2/6888711_6e660cee...
                                                                       3275
                 [https://photos.renthop.com/2/6934781_1fa4b41a...
         100013
                                                                       3350
                           street_address
                 792 Metropolitan Avenue
         10
         10000
                     808 Columbus Avenue
                         241 W 13 Street.
         100004
         100007
                    333 East 49th Street
                   500 West 143rd Street
         100013
In [44]: testData.head()
Out [44]:
                 bathrooms
                            bedrooms
                                                             building_id
                       1.0
                                       79780be1514f645d7e6be99a3de696c5
         0
                                    1
                       1.0
         1
         100
                       1.0
                                    1
                                       3dbbb69fd52e0d25131aa1cd459c87eb
         1000
                       1.0
                                       783d21d013a7e655bddc4ed0d461cc5e
         100000
                       2.0
                                       6134e7c4dd1a98d9aee36623c9872b49
                              created
         0
                 2016-06-11 05:29:41
                 2016-06-24 06:36:34
         100
                 2016-06-03 04:29:40
         1000
                 2016-06-11 06:17:35
```

low

low

low

10

Metropolitan Avenue

```
100000 2016-04-12 05:24:17
                                               description
0
        Large with awesome terrace--accessible via bed...
1
        Prime Soho - between Bleecker and Houston - Ne...
100
                New York chic has reached a new level ...
1000
        Step into this fantastic new Construction in t...
100000
        ~Take a stroll in Central Park, enjoy the ente...
              display_address
0
               Suffolk Street
1
              Thompson Street
100
         101 East 10th Street
         South Third Street\r
1000
100000
        Midtown West, 8th Ave
                                                  features
                                                             latitude
0
        [Elevator, Laundry in Building, Laundry in Uni...
                                                              40.7185
1
                     [Pre-War, Dogs Allowed, Cats Allowed]
                                                              40.7278
                               [Doorman, Elevator, No Fee]
100
                                                              40.7306
1000
        [Roof Deck, Balcony, Elevator, Laundry in Buil...
                                                              40.7109
        [Common Outdoor Space, Cats Allowed, Dogs Allo...
                                                              40.7650
100000
        listing_id
                    longitude
                                                       manager_id
0
           7142618
                     -73.9865 b1b1852c416d78d7765d746cb1b8921f
1
           7210040
                     -74.0000
                               d0b5648017832b2427eeb9956d966a14
100
           7103890
                     -73.9890 9ca6f3baa475c37a3b3521a394d65467
                               0b9d5db96db8472d7aeb67c67338c4d2
1000
           7143442
                     -73.9571
                     -73.9845 b5eda0eb31b042ce2124fd9e9fcfce2f
100000
           6860601
                                                             price
                                                    photos
0
        [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7142618_1c45a2c8...
                                                              2950
1
        [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7210040_d824cc71...
                                                              2850
100
        [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7103890_85b33077...
                                                              3758
        [https://photos.renthop.com/2/7143442 0879e9e0...
1000
                                                              3300
        [https://photos.renthop.com/2/6860601_c96164d8...
100000
                                                              4900
                   street address
0
                99 Suffolk Street
1
              176 Thompson Street
100
             101 East 10th Street
1000
             South Third Street\r
        251
```

Notice that the training set and the test set have the same factors besides interest_level. That's because interest_level is our target variable, and we'll use it for comparison and analysis in the following below.

260 West 54th Street

100000

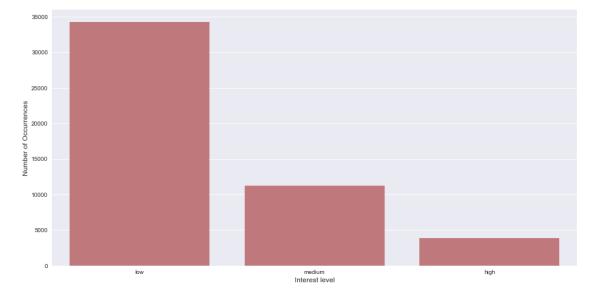
2 Visualizing Data

We want to start taking a look at what variables have most influence over the target variable. So, we want to compare the distributions of the varying factors.

2.0.1 Interest Levels

```
In [45]: interestLevelCounts = trainData['interest_level'].value_counts()

    plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    sns.barplot(interestLevelCounts.index, interestLevelCounts.values, alpha=(
    plt.ylabel('Number of Occurrences', fontsize=12)
    plt.xlabel('Interest level', fontsize=12)
    plt.show()
```



The amount of 'low' interest level houses outnumbers the amount of 'medium' and 'high' occurances. This means the distribution is a bit unbalanced, and we need to be careful when analyzing direct numbers of the factors. We may want to consider using percentages when comparing variables.

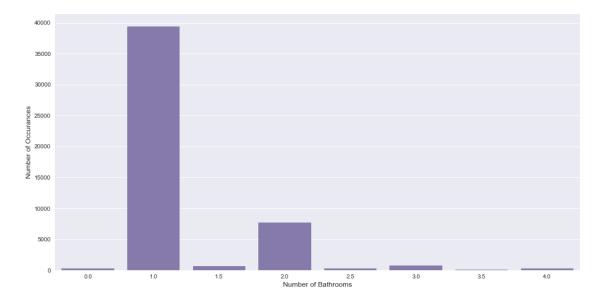
2.0.2 Bathrooms

```
In [46]: # Normalizing the outliers
    outlierBathroomRows = trainData['bathrooms'] > 4
    trainData.loc[outlierBathroomRows, 'bathrooms'] = 4

    bathroomCount = trainData['bathrooms'].value_counts()

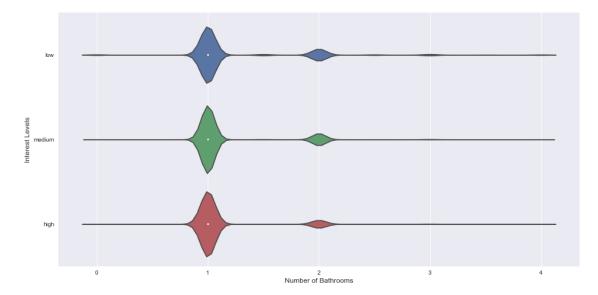
    plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    sns.barplot(bathroomCount.index, bathroomCount.values, color=colors[3])
```

```
plt.ylabel('Number of Occurances', fontsize=12)
plt.xlabel('Number of Bathrooms', fontsize=12)
plt.show()
```



In [47]: #trainData['bathrooms'].ix[trainData['bathrooms'] > 4] = 4

```
plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
sns.violinplot(trainData['bathrooms'], trainData['interest_level'], order=
plt.xlabel('Number of Bathrooms', fontsize=12)
plt.ylabel('Interest Levels', fontsize=12)
plt.show()
```



The number of bathrooms appears to be pretty consistent across interest levels. So bathrooms will not be a very important factor in analysis for the target variable, at least at first glance.

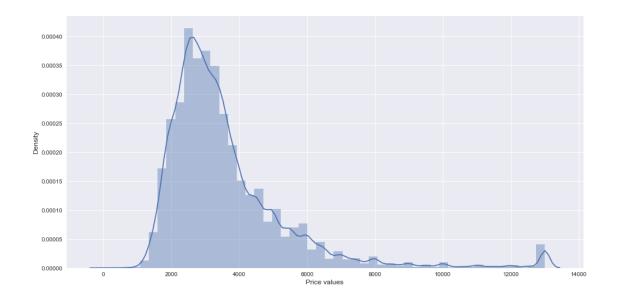
2.0.3 Prices

Initially after graphing the prices there were a couple of outliers throwing off the visualization, so we left that out in favor of a more useful approach.

```
In [48]: # Normalizing the outliers
    percentile_99_Price = np.percentile(trainData['price'], 99)
    outlierPriceRows = trainData['price'] > percentile_99_Price
        trainData.loc[outlierPriceRows, 'price'] = percentile_99_Price

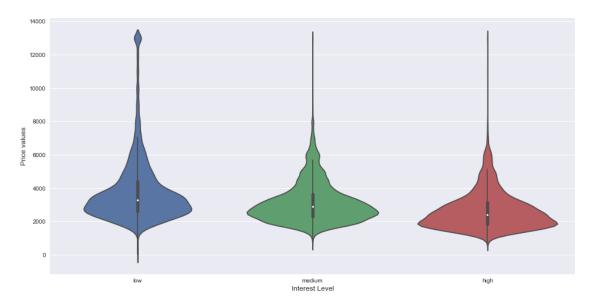
    plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    sns.distplot(trainData['price'])
    plt.xlabel('Price values', fontsize=12)
    plt.ylabel('Density', fontsize=12)
    plt.show()
```

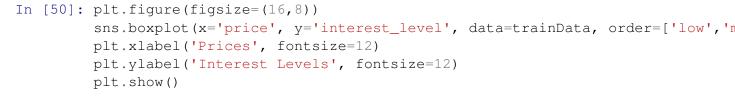
/Users/JustinonTG/anaconda/lib/python3.6/site-packages/statsmodels/nonparametric/kg $y = X[:m/2+1] + np.r_[0,X[m/2+1:],0]*1j$

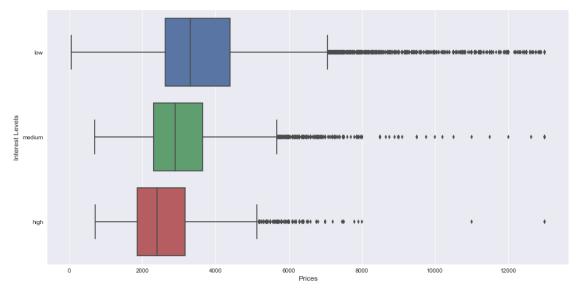


That overall distribution looks quite nice, with a skew right. It should be interesting to visualize the prices against the interest levels.

```
plt.xlabel('Interest Level', fontsize=12)
plt.ylabel('Price values', fontsize=12)
plt.show()
```

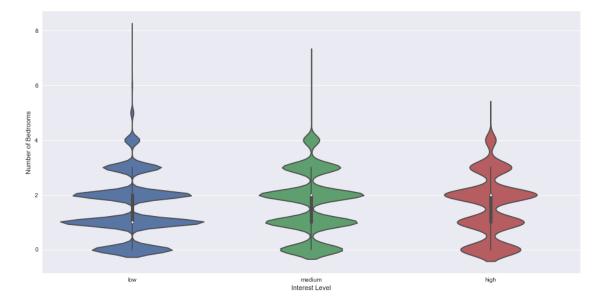






It's easy to notice here that the 'low' interest level flats also are the ones that have the most density in the higher price values. Also, the 'high' interest level flats have a lower average price. This is logical, and helps in our prediction. The price variable therefore should have some more weight than the other factors in predicting the influence level.

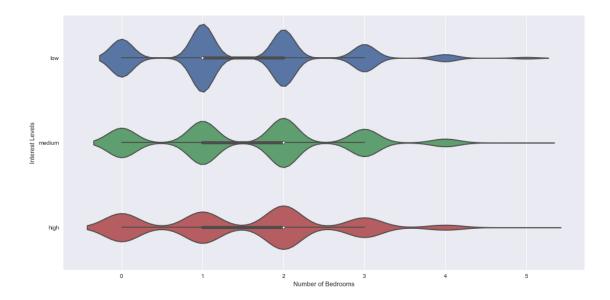
2.0.4 Bedrooms



In [62]: # Normalizing the outliers

```
percentile_995_Bedrooms = np.percentile(trainData['bedrooms'], 99.5)
percentile_005_Bedrooms = np.percentile(trainData['bedrooms'], .5)
outlierHighBedRows = trainData['bedrooms'] > percentile_995_Bedrooms
outlierLowBedRows = trainData['bedrooms'] < percentile_005_Bedrooms
trainData.loc[outlierHighBedRows, 'bedrooms'] = percentile_995_Bedrooms
trainData.loc[outlierLowBedRows, 'bedrooms'] = percentile_005_Bedrooms

plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
sns.violinplot(x='bedrooms', y='interest_level', data=trainData, order=["Interest_level", data=trainData, order=["Interes
```

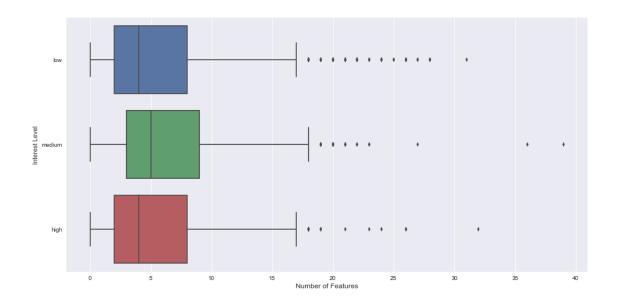


2.0.5 Features

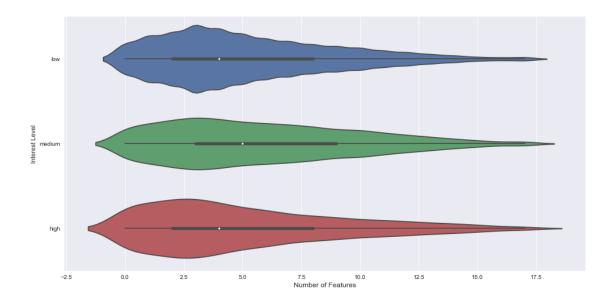
Here we are going to display the various numbers of features and how they're distributed according to the interest level. This will be achieved by counting the number of features provided for each listing and displaying the counts.

```
In [53]: trainData['num_features'] = trainData['features'].apply(len)

    plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    listOrder = ['low', 'medium', 'high']
    sns.boxplot(x='num_features', y='interest_level', data=trainData, order=1:    plt.xlabel('Number of Features', fontsize=12)
    plt.ylabel('Interest Level')
    plt.show()
```



Normalizing the outliers yields us the following:



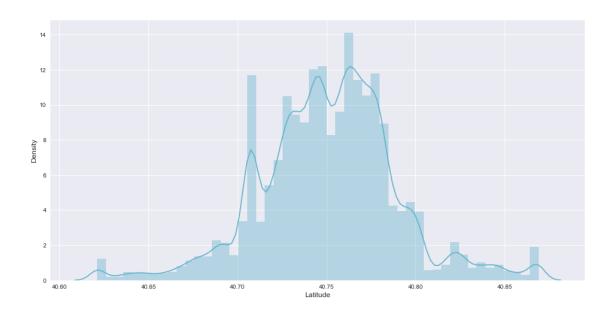
2.1 Geolocation

2.1.1 Latitude

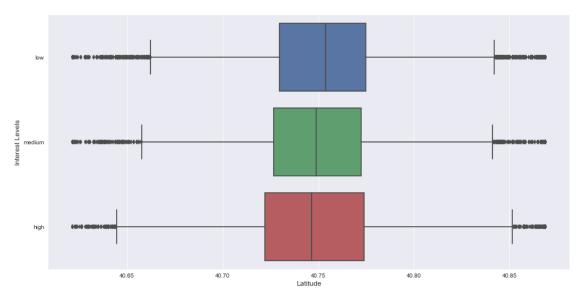
```
In [55]: # Normalizing the outliers
    percentile_995_Latitude = np.percentile(trainData['latitude'], 99.5)
    percentile_005_Latitude = np.percentile(trainData['latitude'], .5)
    outlierUpperLatRows = trainData['latitude'] > percentile_995_Latitude
    outlierLowerLatRows = trainData['latitude'] < percentile_005_Latitude
    trainData.loc[outlierUpperLatRows, 'latitude'] = percentile_995_Latitude
    trainData.loc[outlierLowerLatRows, 'latitude'] = percentile_005_Latitude

plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    sns.distplot(trainData['latitude'], color=colors[5])
    plt.xlabel("Latitude", fontsize=12)
    plt.ylabel("Density", fontsize=12)
    plt.show()</pre>
```

/Users/JustinonTG/anaconda/lib/python3.6/site-packages/statsmodels/nonparametric/kg $y = X[:m/2+1] + np.r_[0,X[m/2+1:],0]*1j$



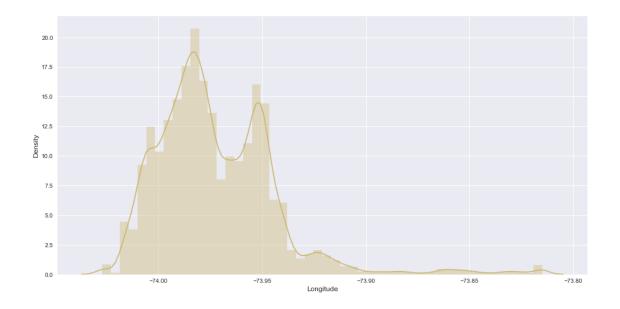
Interestingly, the latitude appears to follow a Gaussian distribution. Further bootstrap testing and Q-Q plotting should be conducted here to compare to the normal.

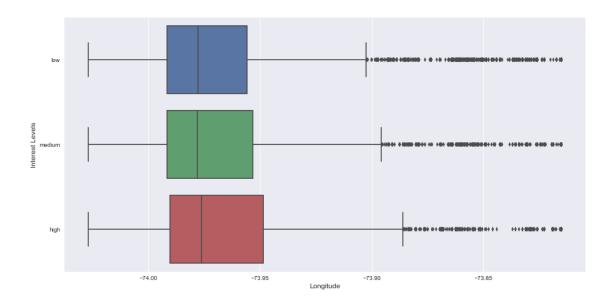


2.1.2 Longitude

```
In [57]: # Normalizing the outliers
    percentile_9975_Longitude = np.percentile(trainData['longitude'], 99.75)
    percentile_0025_Longitude = np.percentile(trainData['longitude'], .25)
    outlierUpperLongRows = trainData['longitude'] > percentile_9975_Longitude
    outlierLowerLongRows = trainData['longitude'] < percentile_0025_Longitude
    trainData.loc[outlierUpperLongRows, 'longitude'] = percentile_9975_Longitude
    trainData.loc[outlierLowerLongRows, 'longitude'] = percentile_0025_Longitude
    plt.figure(figsize=(16,8))
    sns.distplot(trainData['longitude'], color=colors[4])
    plt.xlabel("Longitude", fontsize=12)
    plt.ylabel("Density", fontsize=12)
    plt.show()</pre>
```

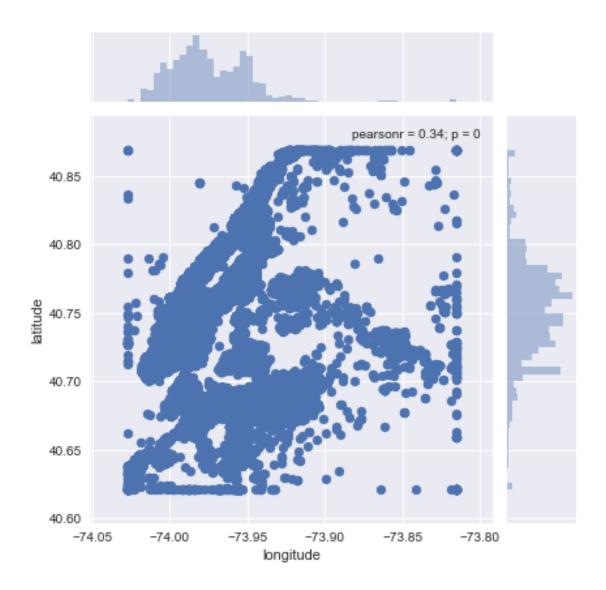
/Users/JustinonTG/anaconda/lib/python3.6/site-packages/statsmodels/nonparametric/kg $y = X[:m/2+1] + np.r_[0,X[m/2+1:],0]*1j$





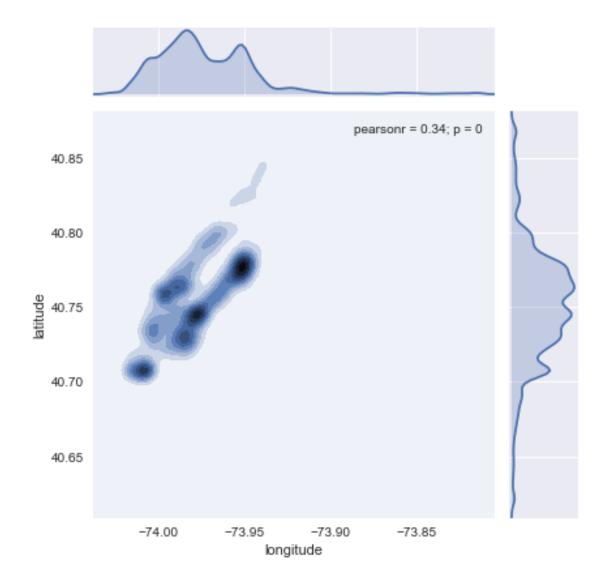
2.1.3 Mapping

First we'll plot the latitude and longitude together to graph the map of the city with which we're dealing.



Now to check for the actual densities within the region, we'll use the kernel density estimation joint plot.

<matplotlib.figure.Figure at 0x131521630>



In []: