

Parking in Chicago

Understanding How to Avoid Illegal Parking Tickets in Chicago

Motivation

After receiving a parking violation from the City of Chicago, I was distraught because I felt that the ticket was not fair. It was this situation that sparked a desire for me to learn more about the ticketing habits of Chicago. The initial goal was to figure out the probability of getting a parking ticket based upon where a vehicle was parked. One way to achieve this goal would be to focus on where the tickets are more commonly issued. Although a good starting point, I needed to factor in the plethora of other variables that increase the chances of getting tickets in some areas over others.

Some of the variables that motivated my desire to understand how to avoid getting illegal parking tickets included: officer on duty, weather, events, time of day, and weekday vs. weekend. With these variables in mind, I realized the goal required a more holistic approach towards synthesizing the data. Eventually, I was able to arrive at a conclusion through a naive based outlook.

Methodology

The goal of the project was to build a Folium time series heat map using naive based methodology. This method required the use of data on time of the ticket being issued, the location of the ticket and weekday vs. weekend. Further analysis of this data painted a more cohesive image that captured the relationships between these variables.

Data Set Description

The project used the data set provided by the City of Chicago. The set includes roughly 18,000,000 separate parking tickets issued over an 11-year span. It was necessary to clean some portions of the extensive data sets in order to produce organized and accurate results.

The data synthesized included some of the aforementioned variables of who issued the tickets, location of the ticket, time of ticket, type of ticket, how the ticket was addressed as well as a list of other miscellaneous facts.