Similarity of the capital cities in the world

Introduction

There are about 244 countries in the world. The capital city of those countries is all the same as they are the heart of the country. However, each city has its characteristics. The question is can we do clustering for those capital cities? Can we group those capital cities?

If we can group similar cities to each other, a business model which is a success in a certain city might also be success if we implement it in the similar city in the other country Characteristic of the city should be able to be identified by using similarity of the venues located in the center of the city. With this assumption, if we use the data containing the category of venues nearby the center of the city that we can get it from Foursquare location data, we should be able to do clustering for the cities. Also, can we use population data to make data visualization for some information display?



Venues which are located nearby the center of the capital city might reveal the character of the city. After that comparing individual character of many cities and clustering them can be done.

Not only nearby venues information, capital city location, and population, there are also more information related to each country that we can utilize to find our similarity of the cities. Combining all the information we might be able to make interesting visualization to present the finding.

Clustering the capital cities we might see group of country which are similar to each other inside the cluster. Again, any business or technology that is currently doing well in any particular country might also be doing well in other cites which is similar to the based location.

Data section

To solve the problem mentioned in the introduction session, we need to have the data set which includes the data of country name, capital name, population, coordinates of the capital cities. Luckily, there are available data on the internet but not all the required data are available in a single data source. Therefore, we need to pull the data from a couple of data sources and process it to be ready for solving our business problem.

Country name, capital name, and population from wikipedia.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_capitals_by_population

List [edit]

Rank *	Country/Territory +	Capital +	Population \$	Year ≑	% of country's \$
-	★ Hong Kong	Hong Kong	7,482,500 ^[14]	2018	100%
1	China PR	Beijing	21,542,000 ^[1]	2010	1.5%
2	Japan	Tokyo	13,929,286 ^[2]	2017	11.03%
3	Russia	Moscow	12,506,468 ^[3]	2011	8.52%
4	☑ DR Congo	Kinshasa	11,855,000 ^[4]	2012	12.9%
5	Indonesia	Jakarta	10,075,310 ^[5]	2011	3.76%
6	South Korea	Seoul	9,838,892 ^[6]	2015	19.03%
7	Egypt	Cairo	9,500,000	2012	9.54%
8	■•■ Mexico	Mexico City	8,918,653 ^[7]	2015	7.05%
9	Bangladesh	Dhaka	8,906,039 [8]	2011	5.52%
10	United Kingdom England	London	8,908,081 ^[9]	2015	13.19%
11	Peru	Lima	8,852,000 ^[10]	2012	26.74%
12	== Iran	Tehran	8,693,706	2014	10.53%
13	Thailand	Bangkok	8,305,218 ^[11]	2010	11.96%
14	∀ietnam	Hanoi	7,781,631 ^[12]	2014	8.14%

Country name, capital name and its coordinates are available in provided webpage.

https://www.jasom.net/list-of-capital-cities-with-latitude-and-longitude/

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Country, Capital, Latitude, Longitude
Abkhazia, Sukhumi, 43.001525, 41.023415
Afghanistan, Kabul, 34.575503, 69.240073
Aland Islands, Mariehamn, 60.1, 19.933333
Albania, Tirana, 41.327546, 19.818698
Algeria, Algiers, 36.752887, 3.042048
American Samoa, Pago Pago, -14.275632, -170.702036
Andorra, Andorra la Vella, 42.506317, 1.521835
Angola, Luanda, -8.839988, 13.289437
Anguilla, The Valley, 18.214813, -63.057441
Antarctica, South Pole, -90,0
Antigua and Barbuda, St. John's, 17.12741, -61.846772
Argentina, Buenos Aires, -34.603684, -58.381559
Armenia, Yerevan, 40.179186, 44.499103
Aruba, Oranjestad, 12.509204, -70.008631
Australia, Canberra, -35.282, 149.128684
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Also, not only country name, capital city population, its coordinates, there are other data that can be utilized.

Population of the whole countries

The data is quite up to date, we get the population of each country in 2019

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_(United_Nations)#cite_ref-16

	Count	ries and areas ranke	ed by population in 2019			
	Country or area	UN continental region ^[4]	UN statistical region ^[4]	Population (1 July 2018) \$	Population (1 July 2019) \$	Change \$
1	China ^[a]	Asia	Eastern Asia	1,427,647,786	1,433,783,686	+0.43%
2	<u></u> India	Asia	Southern Asia	1,352,642,280	1,366,417,754	+1.02%
3	United States	Americas	Northern America	327,096,265	329,064,917	+0.60%
4	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	267,670,543	270,625,568	+1.10%
5	© Pakistan	Asia	Southern Asia	212,228,286	216,565,318	+2.04%
6	◆ Brazil	Americas	South America	209,469,323	211,049,527	+0.75%
7	■ ■ Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	195,874,683	200,963,599	+2.60%
8	Bangladesh	Asia	Southern Asia	161,376,708	163,046,161	+1.03%
9	Russia	Europe	Eastern Europe	145,734,038	145,872,256	+0.09%
10	■ Mexico	Americas	Central America	126,190,788	127,575,529	+1.10%
11	• Japan	Asia	Eastern Asia	127,202,192	126,860,301	-0.27%
12	=== Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	109,224,414	112,078,730	+2.61%
13	Philippines	Asia	South-eastern Asia	106,651,394	108,116,615	+1.37%
14	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	98,423,598	100,388,073	+2.00%
15	★ Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	95,545,962	96,462,106	+0.96%

GDP per capita of each country is also up to date

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita

	International Monetary Fund (2019) ^[3]			World Bank (2018) ^[4]			United Nations (2017) ^[5]	
Rank ¢	Country/Territory \$	US\$ ¢	Rank ¢	Country/Territory	+ US\$ +	Rank ¢	Country/Territory	US\$ ¢
1	Luxembourg	113,196	1	Luxembourg	114,341	1	Liechtenstein	166,022
2	■ Switzerland	83,716	_	Macau	86,365	2	Monaco	165,421
_	Macau	81,151	2	Switzerland Switz	82,839	3	Luxembourg	106,806
3	Norway	77,975	3	Norway	81,807	_	™ ■ Bermuda	102,192
4	■ Ireland	77,771	4	■ Ireland	77,450	_	Macau	80,893
5	Qatar	69,687	5	! Iceland	73,191	4	Switzerland Switz	80,10
6	Iceland	67,037	6	Qatar	69,027	5	*** Norway	75,295
7	United States	65,111	7	Singapore	64,582	6	## Iceland	73,060
8	Singapore	63,987	8	United States	62,641	7	■ ■ Ireland	69,604
9	Denmark	59,795	9	■ Denmark	60,596	_	EL Cayman Islands	65,472
10	Australia	53,825	10	Australia	57,305	8	■ Qatar	63,506
11	Netherlands	52,367	11	Sweden	54,112	9	United States	60,055
12	Sweden	51,241	12	Netherlands	52,978	10	Australia	57,613
13	Austria	50,022	13	Austria	51,513	11	■ Denmark	57,533
_	★ Hong Kong	49,334	14	+ Finland	49,960	12	Singapore	56,737
14	+ Finland	48,868	_	Hong Kong	48,717	13	Sweden	54,043
15	▲ San Marino	47,279	15	Germany	48,196	14	■ San Marino	50,588

With the accessible data sources, we can process the data and get the answer to the business problem. After all data are processed, we can make data visualization to report the project.

Clustering the cities

First, we begin clustering a similar city by scraping data from the website. Start with the population of each capital city. There are 244 countries in the database.

Number of country and its capital city from the database = 244

	Rank	Country/Territory	Capital	Population	Year	% ofcountry'spopulation	Top 5 rows
0	1	China	Beijing	21542000	2010	1.5%	Ι
1	2	Japan	Tokyo	13929286	2017	11.03%	
2	3	Russia	Moscow	12506468	2011	8.52%	
3	4	DR Congo	Kinshasa	11855000	2012	12.9%	
4	5	Indonesia	Jakarta	10075310	2011	3.76%	

Next, grabbing the capital cities' population data and cleaning the dataset, we start scraping capital cities' coordinates.

Number of country, its capital and its coordinate from the database = 252

	Country	Capital	Latitude	Longitude	Top 5 rows
0	Abkhazia	Sukhumi	43.001525	41.023415	
1	Afghanistan	Kabul	34.575503	69.240073	
2	Aland Islands	Mariehamn	60.1	19.933333	
3	Albania	Tirana	41.327546	19.818698	
4	Algeria	Algiers	36.752887	3.042048	

Since the number of the coordinate data is larger than the population dataset, we merge the data based on the population dataset. After merging the two datasets we found that there are some data errors and missing.

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Top 5 rows
0	China	Beijing	21542000	39.904211	116.407395	100 3 10 %5
1	Japan	Tokyo	13929286	35.709026	139.731992	
2	Russia	Moscow	12506468	55.755826	37.6173	
3	DR Congo	Kinshasa	11855000	NaN	NaN	Some data errors
4	Indonesia	Jakarta	10075310	-6.208763	106.845599	I

Therefore, data cleaning and correction process is needed, and after the cleaning is done we can get the cleaned dataset.

Number of country after data cleaing = 244 Countries Remaining Dataset with missing data/value = 0 Case

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Top 5 rows
0	China	Beijing	21542000	39.904211	116.407395	- op - o - o - o
1	Japan	Tokyo	13929286	35.709026	139.731992	
2	Russia	Moscow	12506468	55.755826	37.6173	
3	DR Congo	Kinshasa	11855000	-4.441931	15.266293	
4	Indonesia	Jakarta	10075310	-6.208763	106.845599	

Finally, we use the foursquare function to get information about venues which are located nearby the center of each capital city in the radius of 1,500 meters (limit 100 places per city) and the model shows that there are over 11,000 venues located nearby the cities with 510 unique venue categories.

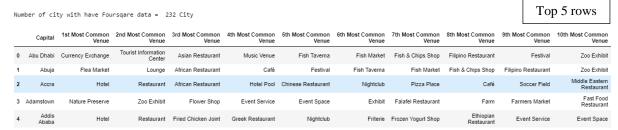
There are 510 uniques categories.

Number of total venues nearby all of the capital cities = 11346 Places

Top 5 rows

	City	City Latitude	City Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
0	Beijing	39.904211	116.407395	Grand Hyatt Beijing (北京东方君悦大酒店)	39.908060	116.408349	Hotel
1	Beijing	39.904211	116.407395	New World Beijing Hotel (北京新世界酒店)	39.897296	116.405923	Hotel
2	Beijing	39.904211	116.407395	WF Central (王府中环)	39.910960	116.404725	Shopping Mall
3	Beijing	39.904211	116.407395	吳裕泰 Wu Yu Tai Tea Shop	39.910257	116.405064	Tea Room
4	Beijing	39.904211	116.407395	Din Tai Fung (鼎泰丰)	39.913630	116.405766	Dumpling Restaurant

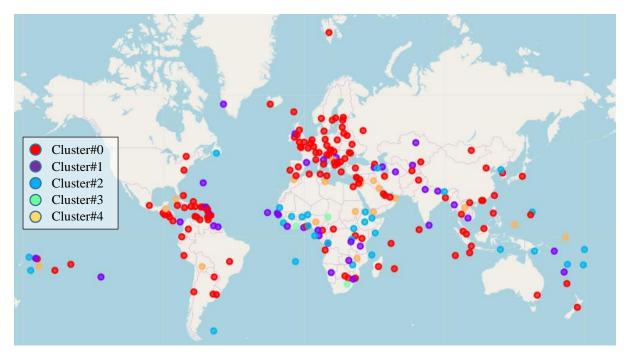
Next step, we create the new dataset and display the top 10 venues for each capital city and at this step, we found that 232 cities out of 244 cities have Foursquare data.



We cluster the cities into 5 clusters by using Kmeans method.

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude
Cluster Labels					
0	142	142	142	142	142
1	38	38	38	38	38
2	31	31	31	31	31
3	4	4	4	4	4
4	19	19	19	19	19

With the clustering, we found that the majority number of the capital cities in the world are clustered into cluster#0.



By examining the cluster#0 we found that most of the big country, developed and developing countries are clustered into cluster#0

								15	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	0
	Country	Capital	Cluster Labels	6	Egypt	Cairo	0	16	Colombia	Bogotá	0
0	China	Beijing	0	7	Mexico	Mexico City	0	18	Chile	Santiago	0
1	Japan	Tokyo	0	8	United Kingdom England	London	0	19	Singapore	Singapore	0
_	oupun	Tonyo		9	Bangladesh	Dhaka	0	20	Turkey	Ankara	0
2	Russia	Moscow	0	10	Peru	Linna		21	Germany	Berlin	0
4	Indonesia	Jakarta	0	10	Peru	Lima	0		ŕ		
_	maomooia	Gununta	·	11	Iran	Tehran	0	23	Algeria	Algiers	0
5	South Korea	Seoul	0	12	Thailand	Bangkok	0	24	Spain	Madrid	0

By looking into the 10 most common venues we can see that the venues located near the center of the cities of this cluster are the most likely tourist attraction, restaurants, and hotels.

Cluster Labels	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
0	Hotel	Coffee Shop	Chinese Restaurant	Peking Duck Restaurant	Clothing Store	Historic Site	Shopping Mall	Beijing Restaurant	Pizza Place	Hotel Bar
0	Ramen Restaurant	Italian Restaurant	Sake Bar	Japanese Restaurant	Bakery	BBQ Joint	French Restaurant	Café	Chinese Restaurant	Dessert Shop
0	Plaza	Hotel	Concert Hall	Coffee Shop	Theater	Boutique	History Museum	Café	Clothing Store	Asian Restaurant
0	Coffee Shop	Indonesian Restaurant	Hotel	Food Truck	Pizza Place	Bakery	Asian Restaurant	Café	Multiplex	Park
0	Hotel	Korean Restaurant	Café	Chinese Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Bookstore	Lounge	Japanese Restaurant	Plaza	Historic Site

Top 5 rows

Next, we scope down and re-do the clustering process for the cities which are clustered in the cluster#0 only. There are 142 cities to be clustered.

Number of city to be clustered = 142 City

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Top 5 rows
0	China	Beijing	21542000	39.904211	116.407395	1
1	Japan	Tokyo	13929286	35.709026	139.731992	
2	Russia	Moscow	12506468	55.755826	37.6173	
4	Indonesia	Jakarta	10075310	-6.208763	106.845599	
5	South Korea	Seoul	9838892	37.566535	126.977969	

With the Foursquare data about nearby venues, even the number of cities reduce from 232 cities to 142 cities (reduce 38 %), the number of nearby venues reduces only by 15% to be 9,623 places.

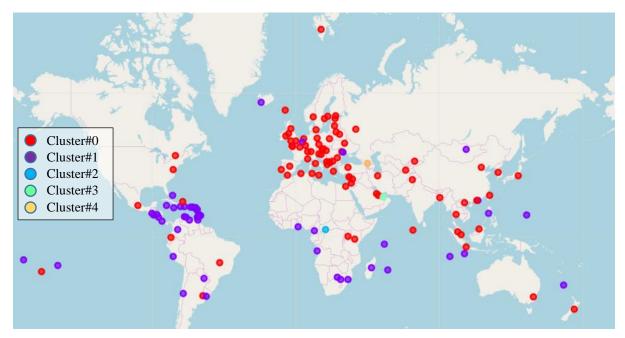


Again, we cluster the cities into 5 clusters by using Kmeans method.

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude	
Cluster Labels						
0	86	86	86	86	86	
1	53	53	53	53	53	
2	1	1	1	1	1	
3	1	1	1	1	1	
4	1	1	1	1	1	

This time, clustering result shows that only cluster#0 and cluster#1 contains most of the cities

The result of the 2nd clustering.



By examining the clusters reveal that most of the developing and the developed countries are clustered into cluster#0.

By looking into the 10 most common venues of both cluster#0 and cluster#1, we can see the difference between the two clusters. It seems like nearby the center of the cities of cluster#1 are more like residential area. There are a lot of parks, restaurants, and public places; on the other hand, for cluster#0, common venues are tourist attractions, restaurants, business areas, and hotels.

10 most common venues of cluster#0 Top 5 rows 5th Most Common Venu Venu Peking Duck Restaurant Beijing Restaurant Hotel Coffee Shop Shopping Mall Clothing Store Historic Site Pizza Place Sake Bar BBQ Joint Dessert Shop Theater Coffee Shop Concert Hall Boutique History Museum Clothing Store Coffee Shop Hotel Food Truck Multiplex Café Pizza Place Fast Food Restaurant Bakery Coffee Shop

	th Most 7th Most 8th Most 9th Most ommon Common Com	
Labels Common Co	Venue Venue Venue Co	10th Most ommon Venue
1 Bar Restaurant Plaza Peruvian Sandwich Place	Bakery Seafood Hotel Bar Hotel	Beer Bar
Tourist Chinese 1 Center Mountain Information Park Restaurant Center	Farm Dim Sum Hotel Bus Stop	Clothing Store
1 Pizza Place BBQ Joint Bakery Sandwich Place Coffee Shop Re	staurant Steakhouse Pub Donut Shop	Candy Store
1 Coffee Shop Pizza Place Bar Martial Arts Dojo Pub	Hostel Café Restaurant Arepa Asi	ian Restaurant
1 Intersection Fried Chicken Plaza Basketball Fast Food Joint Plaza Stadium Restaurant Ro	Falafel Festival Farmers Market Farm staurant	Zoo

For the cluster#2 and #3, it seems like the cities have their own characteristic which is not similar to other cities.

Since this observation aims to find out cities' similarity and seek business opportunity so we decided to look more into the cities in cluster#0 of the 2nd clustering. So before going further, this is where the cities that we are considering, are located.



Before we try to do the clustering process for these cities again, we would like to add more useful information into the clustering model

First, we add the population of each country into the dataset so the clustering model will not only consider the population of the capital cities only but also the whole country population reflecting the bigger similarity model.

The country population data is grabbed from the available database (2019).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_(United_Nations)#cite_ref-16

	Country	Country Population	
0	China	1433783686	Top 5 rows
1	India	1366417754	
2	United States	329064917	
3	Indonesia	270625568	
4	Pakistan	216565318	

We also add the information about GDP per capita into the considering dataset (2019).

	Rank	Country	GDP US\$ per capita	
0	1	Luxembourg	113196	Top 5 rows
1	2	Switzerland	83716	
2	_	Macau	81151	
3	3	Norway	77975	
4	4	Ireland	77771	

The GDP per capita information is also available on the Wikipedia webpage and the information was updated recently so we could get the GDP per capita of each country in 2019.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita

International Monetary Fund (2019)[3]

Rank ♦	Country/Territory \$	US\$ ÷
1	Luxembourg	113,196
2	★ Switzerland	83,716
_	<u>♣</u> Macau	81,151
3	Norway	77,975
4	■ Ireland	77,771
5	Qatar	69,687
6	Iceland	67,037
7	United States	65,111
8	Singapore	63,987
9	Denmark	59,795
10	Australia	53,825

After we merge all the datasets into the single dataset and clean/correct error dataset, we can get the dataset for the final clustering process which contains of 69 countries to be clustered.

Number of city to be cosidered in the final clustering = 69 Cities

Top 5 rows

	Country	City	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Country Population	GDP US\$ per capita
0	China	Beijing	21542000	39.904211	116.407395	1433783686	10098
1	Japan	Tokyo	13929286	35.709026	139.731992	126860301	40846
2	Russia	Moscow	12506468	55.755826	37.6173	145872256	11162
3	Indonesia	Jakarta	10075310	-6.208763	106.845599	270625568	4163
5	Egypt	Cairo	9500000	30.04442	31.235712	100388073	3046

For the final clustering step, we use all the information that we have which include nearby venues of each capital city, the population of each capital city, the population of each country, and GDP per capita of each country.

Importantly, before process the Kmeans method, we need to normalize the dataset first, due to a large number of population and GDP

Scaled number of population and GDP

	Capital	Population	Country Population	GDP US\$ per capita	
0	Beijing	1.000000	1.000000	0.082970	Top 5 rows
1	Tokyo	0.646505	0.088204	0.356466	
2	Moscow	0.580437	0.101468	0.092434	
3	Jakarta	0.467546	0.188504	0.030180	
5	Cairo	0.440832	0.069735	0.020244	

Finally, we get the final scaled dataset and we do the Kmeans method to cluster the cities into 5 clusters.

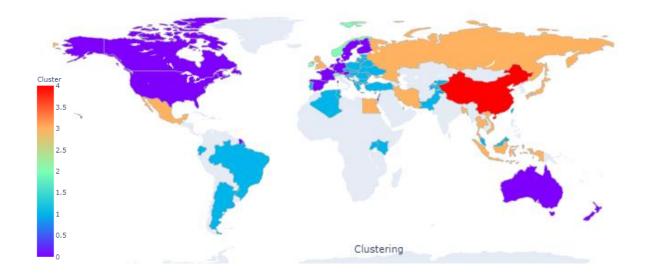
This is the result of the final clustering.

	Country	Capital	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Country Population	GDP US\$ per capita
luster Labels							
0	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
1	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
3	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

And this is how the result looks like in the world map.

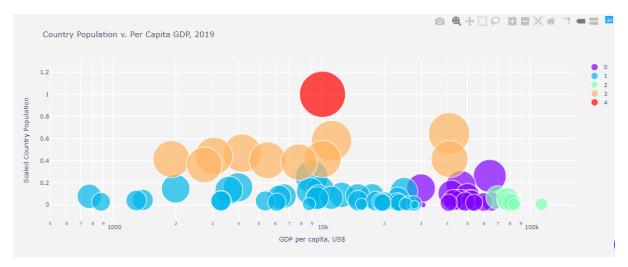


If we scale up the location of the considering city to its country, we can visualize the clustering result as below.



Conclusion

To examine the result of the clustering, we plot the result in a bubble chart with related attributes like the country population, the population of the capital cities, GDP per capita, and cluster labels.



Cluster#0: High GDP per capita with fewer number of country population while their capital city has the number of population in the range of low to medium.

• Singapore, Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Sweden, Canada, Israel, Netherlands, United States, Finland, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Malta

Cluster#1: Majority of the result, low to medium GDP per capita with less number of country population and their capital city also has the number of population in the range of low to medium.

 Turkey, Algeria, Kenya, Argentina, Ukraine, Taiwan, Brazil, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Belarus, Uganda, Lebanon, Ecuador, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Croatia, Moldova, Tunisia, Albania, Latvia, Greece, Tajikistan, Portugal, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Montenegro, Bahrain, Maldives, Brunei

Cluster#2: Highest GDP per capita with quite less number of country population and their capital city also has a small population.

Qatar, Ireland, Norway, Macao, Switzerland, Luxembourg

Cluster#3: Medium to high GDP per capita with a high number of country population and their capital city also have a high number of population.

 Japan, Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Iran, Thailand, Vietnam

Cluster#4: This cluster contains only one country which is China. This city has its own characteristic, medium GDP per capita with a very high number of country populations and a very high population for the capital city which is Beijing.

• China