Using data approach to identify the best place of living in Cambridge city, UK

1

By Hiep Nguyen

Introduction

Background

I recently received a job offer to move to Cambridge city, UK. After searching for some basic information on Google as such cost of living, schooling, housing, rate of crimes... in each district in Cambridge city and some nearby cities in Cambridgeshire, I am getting lost. Especially when I read a news posted in a recent poll that indicated "Peterborough has retained its unwanted crown as England's worst place to live, topping an online poll for the third year running." https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/local-news/peterborough-named-worst-place-live-19560796. While Peterborough is a cathedral city and unitary authority area in the north of Cambridgeshire. This will affect my selection where to live in Cambridge city or its nearby city/town/village.

Business problem

The main problem is there is no consolidated report based on data that combines all the information and shares insights about which areas are the best places to live in Cambridge city or Cambridgeshire. This should be based on variety and high dense of essential venues, affordable price of housing, lower rate of crimes...

For whoever like me, planning to move into Cambridge city or already in UK but looking to move into Cambridge city, can be beneficial to this insight to decide the best place to live, according to each own specific preference.

Facts

"Cambridgeshire is noted as the site of Flag Fen in Fengate, one of the earliest-known Neolithic permanent settlements in the United Kingdom, compared in importance to Balbridie in Aberdeen, Scotland." Wikipedia. Its in the Eastern part of England. Cambridge city is at the center of Cambridgeshire, homes to the prestigious University of Cambridge, the 2nd oldest English university in the world, dating from 1209. Cambridge city lays on the River Cam, around 55 miles (89km) north of London, heart of the high-technology Silicon Fen for software and bioscience (over 40% of workforce with higher education qualification). From the UK census 2011, its population is approximately 158,000 people. There are 123 wards in Cambridgeshire in which 14 wards are in Cambridge city. Along with focusing on these 14 wards in Cambridge city, the more wards close to Cambridge are considered, the better information is available for end-user like me to understand the pros and cons to choose a suitable place to

Many available website as such <u>UK local area</u>, <u>One Dome</u> which provide quite interesting indicators for reference on the side.



Data

Data which is going to use in this project will include essential venues from Foursquare, price of housing over years, crimes record, traffic accidents, public wifi access... for Cambridge (and possible for other nearby villages if time and data allow). Most of the data is collected from data.cambridgeshireinsight which is an open data portal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Other sources:

UK Postcode data

Cambridgeshire parishes database

UK Census 2011 data

Official Statistics of UK indices for deprivation in 2010 which is published 24 March 2011

Work and Output¶

1. Methodology

- 1.1. Python Libraries
- 1.2. Import Datasets
- 1.3. Datasets Cleaning
- 1.4. Datasets Exploring
- 1.5. Mapping
- 1.6. Collect FourSquare Venues
- 1.7. Data Analyzing
- 1.8. Apply Machine Learning
- 2. Results
- 3. Discussion
- 4. Conclusion

1. Methodology

1.1. Python Libraries

All relevant python libraries for this project which not needed to install are imported in the first coding place. This is beneficial for me to quickly grasp what libraries were used in this project later. Other remaining libraries which needed to install will be kept as comments and to be installed in later section.

This will save time when running the code since the kernel will stop ("Dead kernel") after few hours when I am not active in this environment (later I found that using Skills Network Labs from Coursea is much better, no Monthly compute usage limit as Watson Studio lite-v1 plan).

1.2. Import Datasets

After exploring data and information for many different resources, I upload the most related data into GitHub repository. There will be different dataframes with different information which I will combine them using Python.

#Cambridgeshire_Names_Clean.csv: contains all the Output Area Codes for each wards in Cambridgeshire.

#UK Census 2011 data.

```
#UK Census 2011 data.

uk_census = ["birthcountry","dwelling"."economic","ethnicity","health","population","qualifications","religion","residence","traveltowork"]

url_head = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/TNguyen50/Course10Capstone/Census2011/Census.database_wards_V3_"

url_tail = ".csv"

d_census_list = [] #.create_empty_List_of_dataframes_for_uk_census_data

for census in uk_census:

url_census = url_head + census + url_tail

df_census_list.append(pd.read_csv(url_census))
```

Cambridgeshire crime rate data downloaded Jul-2021, data from 2007 to 2014.

Crime rate is the rate of crime per 1,000 residents in each ward (apart from Burglary in a dwelling which a rate per 1,000 dwellings).

```
[5]: # Cambridgeshire crime rate data downloaded Jul-2021, data from 2007 to 2014.

# Crime rate is the rate of crime per 1,000 residents in each ward (apart from Burglary in a dwelling which a rate per 1,000 dwellings).

url_crime = 'https://raw.githubusercontent.com/TNguyen50/Course10Capstone/master/Rateper1000peopleofcrimeinCambbyfinancialyrSD_0.csy'

df_cambridgeshire_crime_rate = pd.read_csv(url_crime)

df_cambridgeshire_crime_rate.rename(columns={'WardName': 'Ward'}, inplace=True)

df_cambridgeshire_crime_rate.head()
```

Then I keep only crime rate for Cambridge city:

```
# Keep only crime rate for Cambridge city
      df_cambridge_crime_rate = df_cambridgeshire_crime_rate.merge(df_cambridge_ward, how = 'inner', on = 'Ward')
      df_cambridge_crime_rate.drop(columns_= 'Ward_Code', axis = 1, inplace=True)
      df_cambridge_crime_rate.head()
[6]:
                                                                                                                            Burglary Bu
                    Total
                            Total
                                   Total
                                           Total
                                                  Total
                                                          Total
                                                                 Total
                                                                          ASB
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                                   2010
                                           2011
                                                  2012
                                                          2013
            Abbey
                    132.7
                            134.3
                                   162.5
                                           115.3
                                                  112.7
                                                           94.9
                                                                  80.6
                                                                         125.5
                                                                                111.3
                                                                                         78.1
                                                                                                79.8
                                                                                                       71.4
                                                                                                               50.3
                                                                                                                      45.4
                                                                                                                                 15.6
            Arbury
                    110.7
                            115.7
                                    87.5
                                            82.8
                                                    68.1
                                                           59.5
                                                                  62.1
                                                                         113.9
                                                                                102.4
                                                                                         65.0
                                                                                                57.8
                                                                                                       52.1
                                                                                                               40.0
                                                                                                                      32.8
                                                                                                                                 25.8
            Castle
                     66.8
                             62.1
                                    53.2
                                            57.3
                                                   42.5
                                                           33.7
                                                                  36.1
                                                                          25.0
                                                                                 26.2
                                                                                         18.1
                                                                                                17.2
                                                                                                       15.9
                                                                                                               10.5
                                                                                                                      11.9
                                                                                                                                 14.0
            Cherry
                     62.9
                             56.7
                                     50.6
                                            45.7
                                                           40.4
                                                                  29.4
                                                                          66.4
                                                                                 57.6
                                                                                         34.6
                                                                                                42.1
                                                                                                       39.8
                                                                                                               24.4
                                                                                                                      29.0
                                                                                                                                  9.7
      4 Coleridge
                     80.9
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                                    84.2
                                            78.3
                                                   58.4
                                                           53.8
                                                                  54.6
                                                                          744
                                                                                 69.4
                                                                                         55.2
                                                                                                56.5
                                                                                                       46.6
                                                                                                               32.8
                                                                                                                      32.2
                                                                                                                                  7.8
```

And narrow it down to crime rate for latest year 2013-2014:

```
# Keep only crime rate for latest year 2013-2014
     filter_columns = ['Ward'] + [col for col in df_cambridge_crime_rate.columns if col.endswith('2014')]
     df_cambridge_crime_rate_2014 = df_cambridge_crime_rate.loc[:, filter_columns]
     df_cambridge_crime_rate_2014.head()
[7]:
                        Total Crime Rate
                                       ASB Rate 2013-
                                                         Burglary Dwelling Rate
                                                                                 Criminal Damage Rate
                                                                                                          Domestic Abuse Rate
              Ward
                             2013-2014
                                                 2014
                                                                    2013-2014
                                                                                           2013-2014
                                                                                                                  2013-2014
                                                  45.4
                                                                          11.2
                                                                                                                        25.4
             Abbey
             Arbury
                                   62.1
                                                  32.8
                                                                          12.3
                                                                                                  8.3
                                                                                                                        27.0
```

Mean price paid for all house types



I then keep only housing price for Cambridge city:

[76]:	[76]: # Keep only housing price for Cambridge city df_cambridge_house_price = df_cambridgeshire_house_price.merge(df_cambridge_ward, how = 'inner', on = 'Ward') df_cambridge_house_price.head()									and')					
[76]:		Ward	Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017
	0	Abbey	307046	319164	335936	349681	346037	341013	338512	321922	332510	347865	365474	384914	399431
	1	Arbury	311585	338043	348177	369381	381335	391521	417729	409080	411853	417625	388282	419680	441992

1.3. Datasets Cleaning

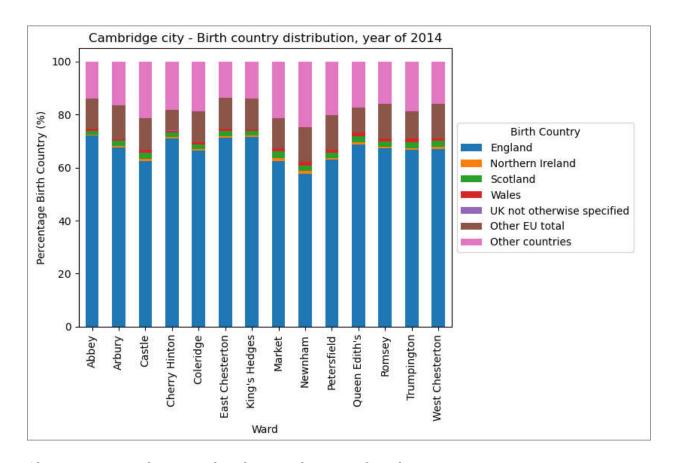
In fact, I have cleaned the data during converting excel file into csv due to some issue about the format of original files. Most of data cleaning work are normally during importing or datasets exploring. And other data cleaning processes for this project will go along with Foursquare venue section.

1.4. Datasets Exploring

In this section, I will review the datasets with different charts to find some insights.

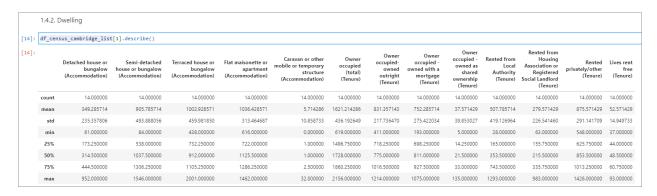
1.4.1. Birth country

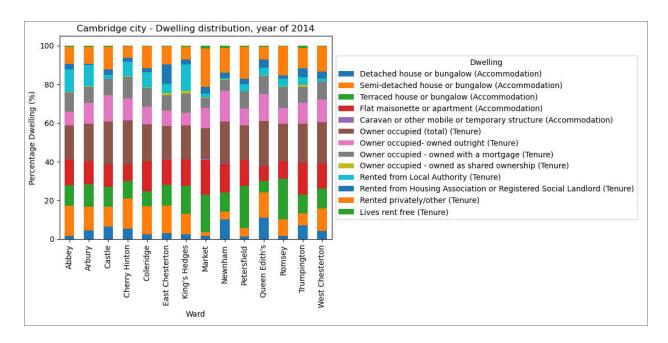
]:[df_cer	nsus_cambridge	_l ist[0].de	scribe()					
]:		Total residents	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK not otherwise specified	Other EU total	Other countries
	count	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000
	mean	8847.642857	5920.000000	63.500000	179.785714	84.571429	1.142857	1021.285714	1577.357143
	std	774.690470	775.013945	19.657647	20.725972	22.193950	1.231456	160.713998	236.948098
	min	7150.000000	4453.000000	41.000000	149.000000	55.000000	0.000000	686.000000	1278.000000
	25%	8407.000000	5465.000000	51.500000	171.000000	66.000000	0.000000	892,500000	1418.750000
	50%	9098.500000	6163.500000	57.500000	177.500000	80.500000	1.000000	1090.500000	1520.500000
	75%	9352.500000	6265.750000	67.000000	189.000000	101.250000	1.750000	1123.500000	1660.750000
	max	9907.000000	7127.000000	102.000000	220.000000	127.000000	4.000000	1214.000000	2103.000000



Observation: Newnham town has the most diversity of residences.

1.4.2. Dwelling

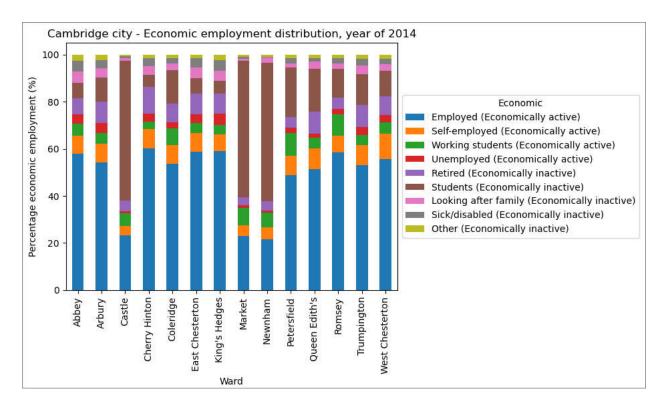




Observation: Market ward has the largest rented privately/other tenure.

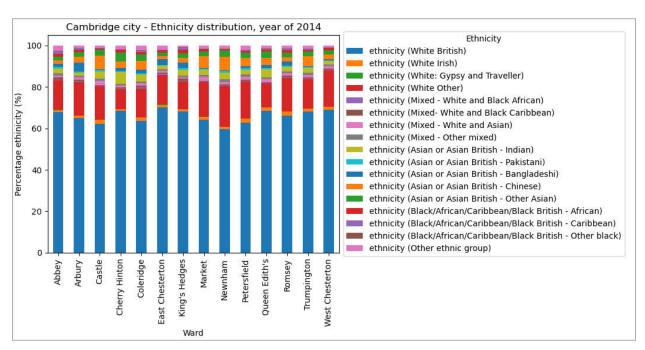
1.4.3. Economic

[16]:	df_census_	cambridge_list[2].describe()								
[16]:		Employed (Economically active)	Self-employed (Economically active)	Working students (Economically active)	Unemployed (Economically active)	Retired (Economically inactive)	Students (Economically inactive)	Looking after family (Economically inactive)	Sick/disabled (Economically inactive)	Other (Economically inactive)	total population aged 16-74
	count	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000
	mean	3382.214286	520.785714	400.214286	188.642857	500.071429	1533.071429	210.642857	174.071429	110.500000	7020.214286
	std	1007.438349	117.056317	150.260890	87.037222	155.955351	1561.606050	83.073283	95.886523	40.099396	649.798688
	min	1439.000000	306.000000	211.000000	58.000000	213.000000	333.000000	62.000000	27.000000	53.000000	6025.000000
	25%	3246.250000	496.000000	290.500000	127.500000	381.250000	554.250000	155.750000	104.250000	98.750000	6711.500000
	50%	3757.000000	553.500000	355.500000	183.500000	550.000000	853.500000	209.000000	172.000000	104.000000	6911.500000
	75%	4032.000000	583.000000	477.250000	252.500000	613.250000	1406.250000	259.000000	228.750000	116.250000	7207.250000
	max	4454.000000	739.000000	686.000000	333.000000	738.000000	5190.000000	357.000000	346.000000	188.000000	8749.000000



Observations: There is huge number of students in Castle, arket and Newnham wards. The highest unemployed percentage is at King's Hedges ward.

1.4.4. Ethnicity

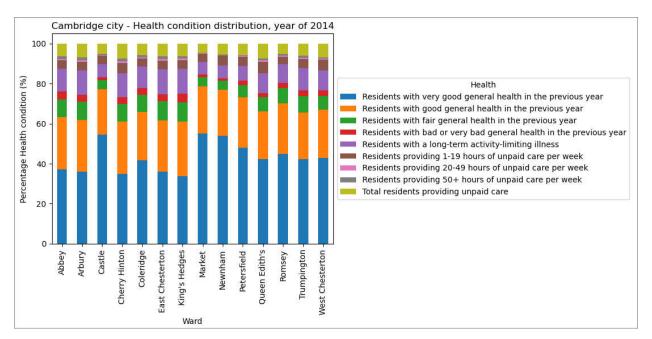


Observations: More other Asian ethnicity population in Cherry Hinton ward, where it may be better for other Asian communities.

1.4.5. Health

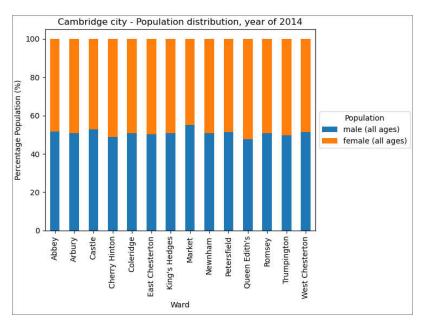
Statistics:

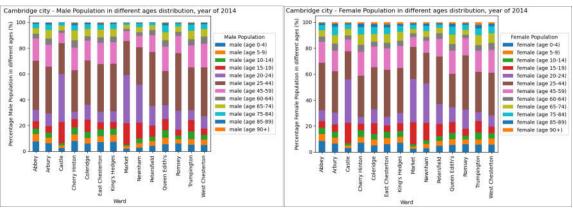
0]: df_cer	<pre>df_census_cambridge_list[4].describe()</pre>									
0]:	Residents with very good general health in the previous year	Residents with good general health in the previous year	Residents with fair general health in the previous year	Residents with bad or very bad general health in the previous year	Residents with a long- term activity-limiting illness	Residents providing 1- 19 hours of unpaid care per week	Residents providing 20- 49 hours of unpaid care per week	Residents providing 50+ hours of unpaid care per week	Total residents providing unpaid care	
count	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	
mean	4838.785714	2828.571429	858.642857	321.642857	1147.428571	510.428571	74.428571	113.500000	698.357143	
std	570.004073	423.256190	280.265700	132.027158	356.110336	91.621894	31.653689	54.430973	151.107505	
min	4125.000000	1993.000000	374.000000	114.000000	530.000000	326.000000	19.000000	39.000000	384.000000	
25%	4451.250000	2612.250000	656.000000	231.500000	852.500000	466.000000	52.750000	62.500000	595.250000	
50%	4840.000000	2906.500000	857.500000	310.000000	1166.500000	506.000000	79.000000	105.500000	724.500000	
75%	5104.750000	3148.750000	1102.500000	421.500000	1464.750000	538.000000	100.000000	164.500000	811.250000	
max	6402.000000	3409.000000	1207.000000	513.000000	1571.000000	709.000000	116.000000	191.000000	907.000000	



Observation: Residences in Market ward have the best health condition.

1.4.6. Population

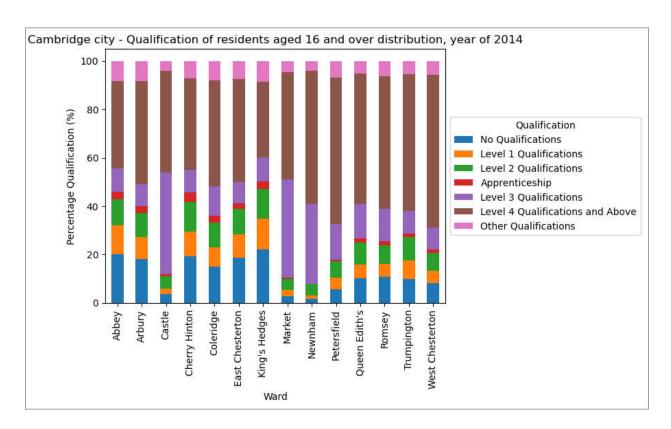




Observation: Depending on the age of each child in the family, it may be beneficial to select the ward that has more similar age population. So that, the child or even adult can have more friends at similar age. Lets say for a child at 10 years old, its better to select Trumpington or Cherry Hinton ward to live.

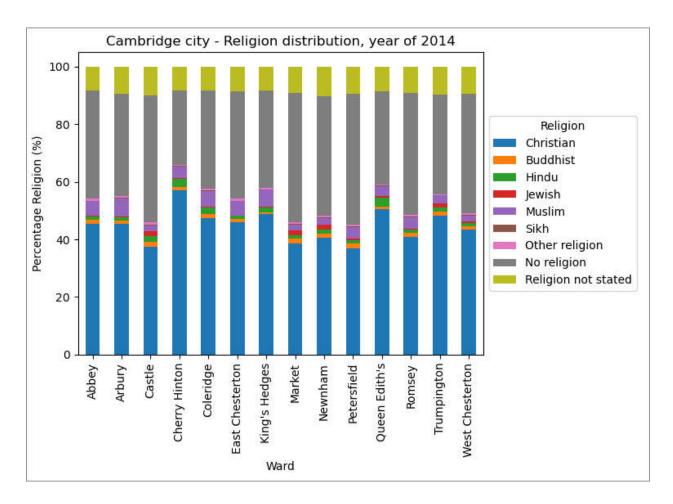
1.4.7. Qualifications

[27]:	df_cer	nsus_cambridge_list[6].describe(()						
[27]:		All Usual Residents Aged 16 and Over	No Qualifications	Level 1 Qualifications	Level 2 Qualifications	Apprenticeship	Level 3 Qualifications	Level 4 Qualifications and Above	Other Qualifications
	count	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000	14.000000
	mean	7571.928571	900.428571	521.000000	654.214286	144.571429	1281.642857	3583.500000	486.571429
	std	622.352048	538.918534	273.659811	200.421164	89.428712	978.740368	699.481869	129.475697
	min	6688.000000	120.000000	104.000000	323.000000	13.000000	614.000000	2362.000000	278.000000
	25%	7176.250000	457.250000	354.250000	506.000000	82.250000	690.250000	3054.500000	382.500000
	50%	7555.500000	811.000000	477.000000	669.500000	142.500000	869.000000	3631.500000	501.000000
	75%	7886.000000	1379.500000	718.750000	817.250000	221.000000	1080.750000	4060.500000	615.750000
	max	9129.000000	1660.000000	956.000000	925.000000	290.000000	3836.000000	4663.000000	663.000000



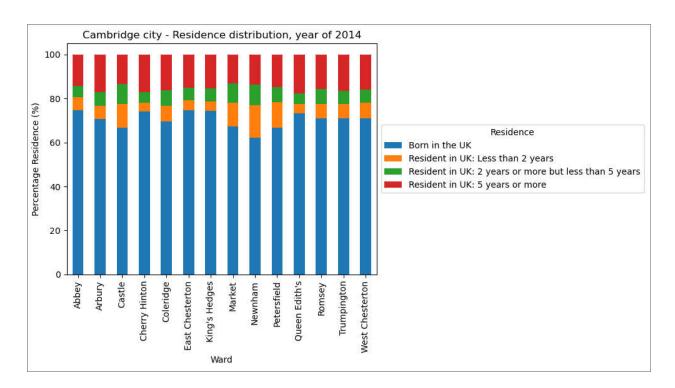
Observation: King's Hedges ward has the highest no qualification residences which may be better to avoid if you are looking for high academic place to live.

1.4.8. Religion



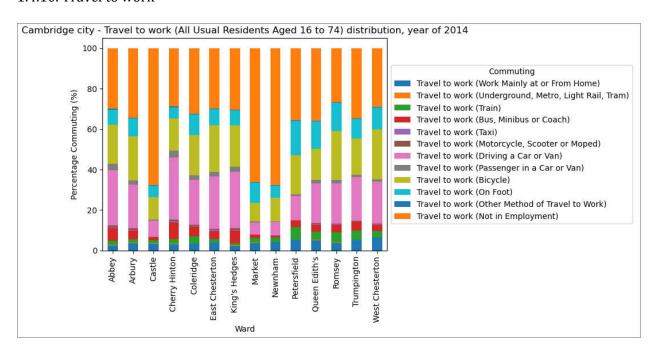
Observation: Cherry Hinton ward has the highest percentage of Christian residences.

1.4.9. Residence



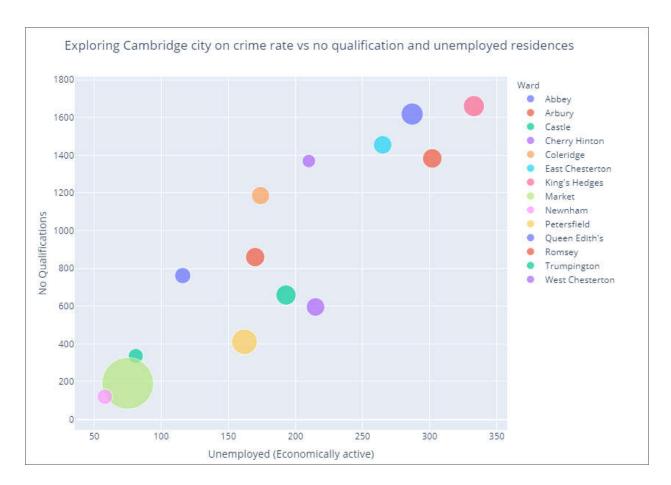
Observation: Newnham ward has the highest number of residences that stays less than 2 years.

1.4.10. Travel to work



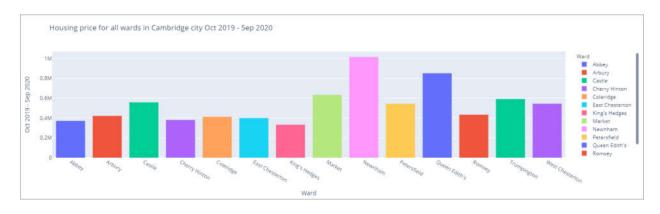
Observation: In Castle, Market and Newnham ward, large percentages are traveling to work but not in employment. Travel to work by bicycle is quite common in most of wards.

1.4.11 Crime rate

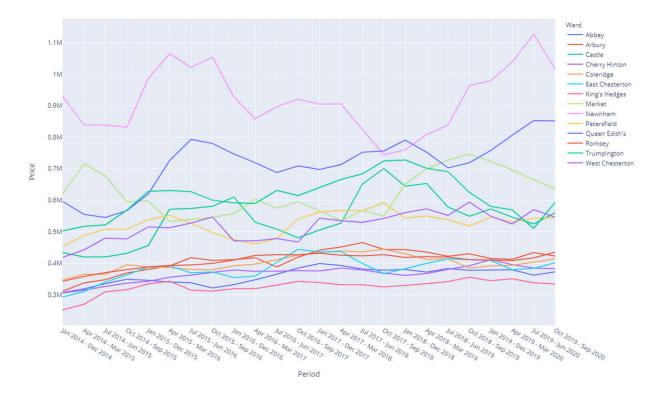


Observation: Its quite clear that the higher no qualification number will lead to higher unemployed residences, however the total crime rate is not following this trend.

1.4.12 Housing price



Housing price for all wards in Cambridge city from 2014 to 2020

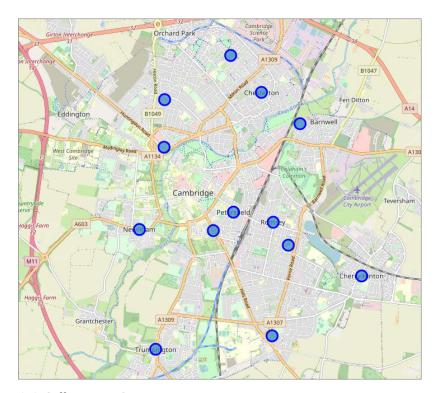


Observation: Newnham ward is the most expensive place to buy houses.

1.5. Mapping

In this section, I will use geopy to collect all coordinates (Latitude and Longitude) of each wards and show them in the map. Map will be plotted with folium library.

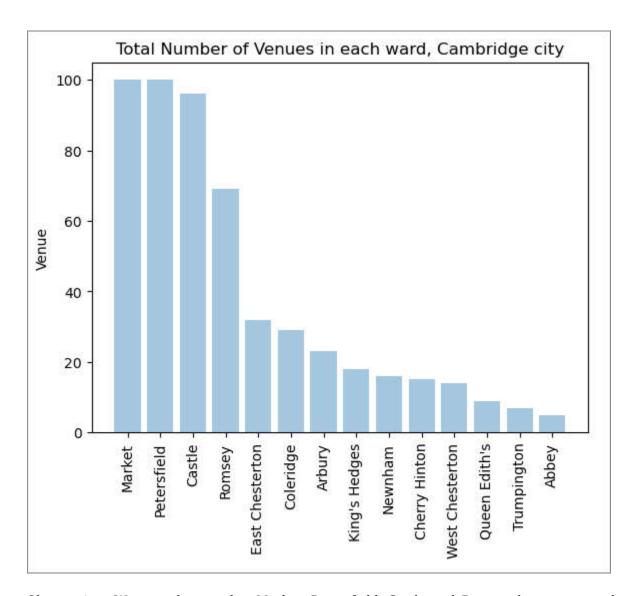
	Ward	Ward Latitude	Ward Longitude	Address
0	Abbey	52.3138	0.0502717	(The Abbey, Over Mereway, Fenlow Farm, Willing
1	Arbury	52.221	0.114808	(Arbury Ward, Chesterton, Cambridge, Cambridge
2	Castle	52.212	0.114699	(Castle Mound, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East
3	Cherry Hinton	52.1878	0.175241	(Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, Eas
4	Coleridge	52.1937	0.152713	(Coleridge Community College, Radegund Road, R
5	East Chesterton	52.2165	0.156338	(E, Beadle Industrial Estate, Barnwell, Cambri
6	King's Hedges	52.2292	0.135074	(King's Hedges Ward, Chesterton, Cambridge, Ca
7	Market	52.1964	0.129776	(HSBC UK, 62, Hills Road, Petersfield, Cambrid
8	Newnham	52.1965	0.107044	(Newnham, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East of E
9	Petersfield	52.1998	0.135933	(Petersfield, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East
10	Queen Edith's	52.1766	0.147808	(Queen Edith's Ward, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
11	Romsey	52.198	0.148062	(Romsey, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East of En
12	Trumpington	52.174	0.112116	(Trumpington, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East
13	West Chesterton	52.2223	0.144592	(Chesterton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, East o



1.6. Collect FourSquare Venues

In this section, I will collect top 100 venues in each Cambridge ward with radius of 1000m using the Foursquare API.

Summary of data mining for venues



Observation: We can observe that Market, Petersfield, Castle and Romsey has most number of venues. Abbey presents the least venue ward. The result reflects only within 1km radius of each selected address which presents for each ward. So we may need to clarify more specific address for further comparison.

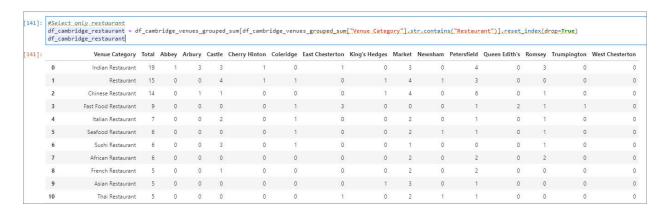
1.7. Data Analyzing

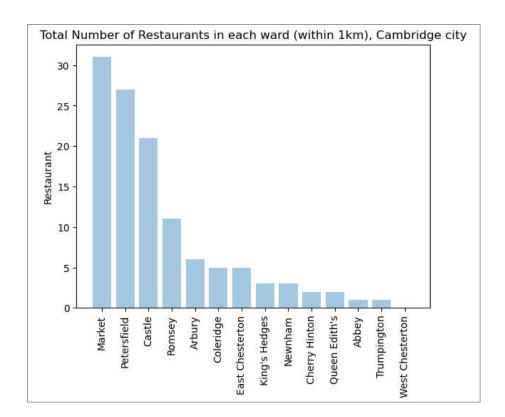
In this section, I will analyze the venue categories using one hot encoding to convert venue categories to numerical formats for each ward.



Observation: Its quite obvious that pub is the most popular venue in Cambridge, more than double the grocery store.

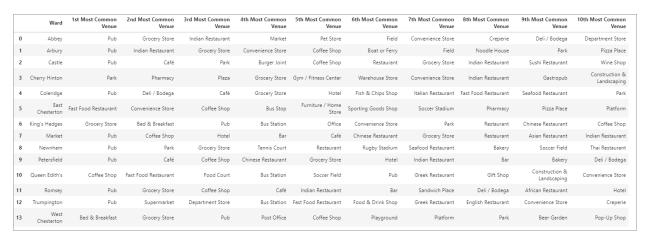
Now, lets look at the number of restaurants in each ward





Observation: Similarly with the trend of total venues, Market ward has the most number of restaurants, which will be quite convenient for anyone who is interested in eating outside regularly.

Create a new dataframe with top 10 venues for each ward

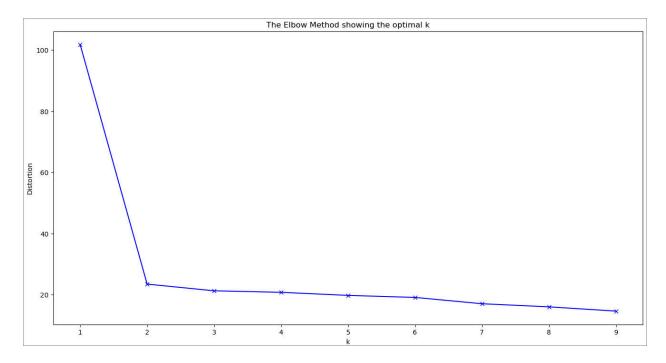


1.8. Apply Machine Learning

I use k-Means, an Unsupervised Machine Learning algorithm to group the data into k number of clusters.

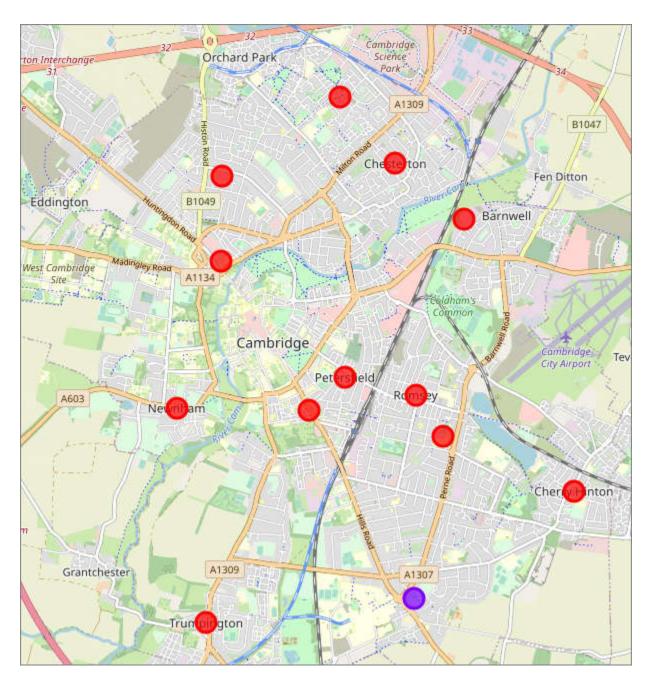
Find optimal number of Clusters (Elbow Method)

For this method, the dataset is fit with the k-means model for a range of values (1-10). The distortions for each value of k is stored and then plotted on a line chart. The point of inflection is a good indication that the model fits best at that point.



KneeLocator is used to compute the point of inflection especially when it is difficult to locate the point of inflection from the curve

Visualize the resulting clusters



Examine Clusters





Observation: For the clustering and ranking for the most common venue, most of the wards are equipped with pub. This is probably a traditional aspect in Cambridge as well as in UK.

2. Results

From all the data collected, below are few of insights I found:

- 1. Newnham town has the most diversity of residences.
- 2. Market ward has the largest rented privately/other tenure.
- 3. There is huge number of students in Castle, arket and Newnham wards. The highest unemployed percentage is at King's Hedges ward.
- 4. More other Asian ethnicity population in Cherry Hinton ward, where it may be better for other Asian communities
- 5. Residences in Market ward have the best health condition.
- 6. Depending on the age of each child in the family, it may be beneficial to select the ward that has more similar age population. So that, the child or even adult can have more friends at similar age. Lets say for a child at 10 years old, its better to select Trumpington or Cherry Hinton ward to live.
- 7. King's Hedges ward has the highest no qualification residences which may be better to avoid if you are looking for high academic place to live.
- 8. Cherry Hinton ward has the highest percentage of Christian residences.
- 9. Newnham ward has the highest number of residences that stays less than 2 years.
- 10. In Castle, Market and Newnham ward, large percentages are traveling to work but not in employment. Travel to work by bicycle is quite common in most of wards.
- 11. Based on the descriptive statistics, the highest crime rate is for Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and the 2nd highest is theft of pedal cycles in 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- 12. Its quite clear that the higher no qualification number will lead to higher unemployed residences, however the total crime rate is not following this trend.
- 13. Newnham ward is the most expensive place to buy houses.
- 14. Pub is the most popular venue in Cambridge, more than double the grocery store.

3. Discussion

The most consuming time for me in this project is to find the data I need and learn different ways to wrangle the data. It is really challenging at some points where there data is not in the required format. This process eventually allows me to practise python and googling faster.

4. Conclusion

Even though, I myself found quite many interesting insights from the data I collected, I still see that many gaps can be improved, which will require more time. Those are:

- More accurate ward coordinates (I did not want to manually input in my table) from <u>data.cambridgeshireinsight</u>, in geojson format. I was not able to extract the geojson data yet from full geojson data of UK (> 500Mb).
- Incorporate more data (wait on the soon release census survey in UK on 2021)
- Explore more with currently available census data