# Personal Project Bernardo Freire

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[1]: | !pip freeze > requirements.txt # get | s the libraries of this environment | !brew services run mongodb-community | turns-on mongodb

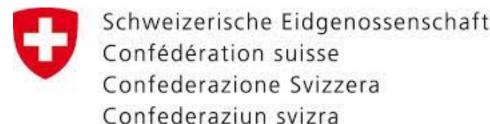
```
[2]: # Requirements & Configuration
   # Built-in imports
   import os, sys, time, requests, json, pprint, re
   # Data imports
   import numpy as np
   import pandas as pd
   import warnings
   warnings.simplefilter(action='ignore', category=FutureWarning)
   # Mongodb import
   import pymongo
   from pymongo import MongoClient
   from bson import Regex
   # Plot imports
   import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
   import seaborn as sns
   from pprint import pprint
   from IPython.display import HTML
   # Setup preferences
   # pd.set_option('max_rows', None)
   # pd.set_option('max_colwidth', None)
   plt.rcParams['figure.figsize'] = (16, 9)
   sns.set_style('whitegrid')
   sns.set_theme()# Table of Contents
```

#### 1 Overview

In the course of this semester the war in Ukraine has changed my perception on fossil-fuels and how we as society are dependent from it. For the transition of all economies from a fossil-fuel-based economy to an renewable-energy based economy, it is my opinion, mobility is one of the most controvesial discussed and important topics. From the technical point of view, electric engines are efficient, and using electricity means that renewable energies can also be used. Electric mobility is for that reason, a key technology for more sustainable mobility and is one way of achieving ambitious energy and climate policy goals. Everything sounds amazing and fun, but, the central question when buying an electric vehicle (at least for me) are:

- Who are the best operators?
- Which city/region is best for electric vehicle users
- Are there any restrictions in terms of pluging devices depending on which city/canton?
- Do I still need special accessories, depending on the charging stations?

This question are answered using two APIs, a MongoDB database and graphs in order to vizualize the data. The used API is based on the page recharge-my-car.ch and is the face of the National Data Infrastructure For Electromobility (DIEMO) and shows where charging points for electric vehicles are and provides specific detailed information, everything available in real time.



## Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

At this point it should be mentioned, that not all operators are registered in this database.

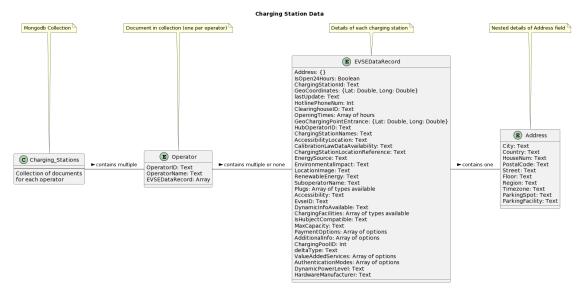
The correct assignment of postal codes and cities has proven to be extremely difficult, since a city can have several postal codes and several municipalities can share one postal code. At the same time, the naming of the city is not consistance as well. To reduce the assignment of cities to a single number, a second API was needed, directly from the Swiss Post. Using this second database, the entries of the DIEMO database were cleaned and enriched.

Last but not least, the MongoDB database is hosted on MongoDB Atlas and available via URL.

## 2 Document Structure: DIEMO API

The documents returned by the SFOE API were converted to JSON format and straight away imported into their respective collection in the SFOE database (ChargingStations collection). The class diagram below represents what a *single document* looks like. However, all collections have the same structure.

The size of all arrays **EVSEDataRecord** is the number of charging stations across Switzerland. The array **EVSEDataRecord** contains further sub-arrays with the relevant information of each charging station. The '{}' indicates a nested substructure where the additional data is found linked below the main document. Other fields have not been presented in a separate entity in the diagramm.



- The collection ChargingStations contains the fields OperatorID, OperatorName and EVSEDataRecord.
- The **EVSEDataRecord** itself contains for each charging station a separate array containing the **Address**.
  - Within Address there are several sub-fields, the most important one is the Address array, which contains the details, such as City, Street, StreetNumber, PostalCode etc., of each charging station.

#### 3 Extract & Load

In the ETL phase, data is extracted from the SFOE database using their API. Then, the data is transformed into a JSON format and is then loaded into our MongoDB database.

```
[3]: ##### Fetch data #####
     # URL for data
     url_data = 'https://data.geo.admin.ch/ch.bfe.ladestellen-elektromobilitaet/data/
     →oicp/ch.bfe.ladestellen-elektromobilitaet.json'
     # "Get" data from URL
     response = requests.get(url_data)
     # Convert json to python dictionary
     data = response.json()
     # Store keys of API response for text output
     keys = list(data.keys())
     # URL of the mongodb cluster on the web
     cnx = 'mongodb+srv://dbUser:hallo@cluster0.kiuex.mongodb.net/test'
     # Client connects to local host
     client = MongoClient(cnx)
     # Connect to (new) db
     db = client['PersonalProject']
     # Regional data collection
     collection_name = 'ChargingStations'
     ###### Create a document for each operator ######
     for operator in data['EVSEData']:
         operator_name = operator['OperatorName']
         if not list(db[collection_name].find({"OperatorName": operator_name})):
             db[collection_name].insert_one(operator)
             print(f'{operator_name} inserted')
         else:
             print(f'INFO: {operator_name} already exists')
     docs_in_collection = db[collection_name].count_documents({})
    INFO: EWD Elektrizitätswerk Davos AG already exists
    INFO: Tesla already exists
    INFO: Martin Hertach already exists
    INFO: Chocolat Frey AG already exists
    INFO: PLUG'N ROLL already exists
    INFO: Elektrizitätswerk Herrliberg already exists
    INFO: Backpackers Villa Sonnenhof already exists
    INFO: ebs Energie AG already exists
    INFO: Stadt Dietikon already exists
    INFO: Lidl Schweiz already exists
    INFO: Elektrizitätswerk Obwalden already exists
    INFO: AVIA already exists
```

INFO: IONITY already exists

INFO: mobilecharge already exists
INFO: Swisscharge already exists
INFO: Bgdi\_Admin already exists
INFO: Test Operator already exists
INFO: en mobilecharge already exists

INFO: EWAcharge already exists

INFO: Mobimo emobility already exists

INFO: S-Charge already exists

INFO: IBC already exists

INFO: PARK & CHARGE already exists

INFO: Migrol Fast Charging already exists

INFO: PAC e-moblity already exists

INFO: Move already exists
INFO: AIL already exists

INFO: EVA E-Mobilität already exists

INFO: eCarUp already exists
INFO: evpass already exists
INFO: Fastned already exists
INFO: Eniwa already exists

INFO: PLUG'N ROLL already exists

#### 3.1 Connect to MongoDB and create database

Now, since the data is fetched from the API, we need to connect to the MongoDB database and load the data. Only the data **EVSEData** is of interest will be loaded and which operator will be save as own document within the collection **ChargingStations**.

33 operators have so far registered in DIEMO.

Each of the operators have a different number of charging points, addresses etc. Each operator is stored in a separate document within the collection called **ChargingStations**.

```
[4]: # Pipeline O: Check missing values of operator's name
     pipeline = [
         # Match only operators with invalid name or PLZ
         {'$match': {'$or': [
                 {'OperatorName': {'$exists': False}},
                 {'EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode': {'$exists': False}}
             }
         },
         # Project only the name of the operator and remove the id
         {'$project': {
             '_id': 0,
             'OperatorName': 1
         },
         # Sort by name - Alphabetical order
         {'$sort': {
             'OperatorName': 1
             }
         },
     ]
     # Save to dataframe
     missing_operators = pd.DataFrame(db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline))
     # Pipeline 00: Check missing values post api
     pipeline = [
         {'$match': {
             '$and': [
                 {'postleitzahl': {'$eq': None}},
                 {'gplz': {'$eq': None}}
             }
         }
     ]
     # Save to dataframe
     missing_PLZ = pd.DataFrame(db.PLZ.aggregate(pipeline))
```

The API returned the following operators with empty values:

 ${\tt Bgdi\_Admin}$  ,  ${\tt IBC}$  , Martin Hertach , S-Charge , Test Operator , evpass

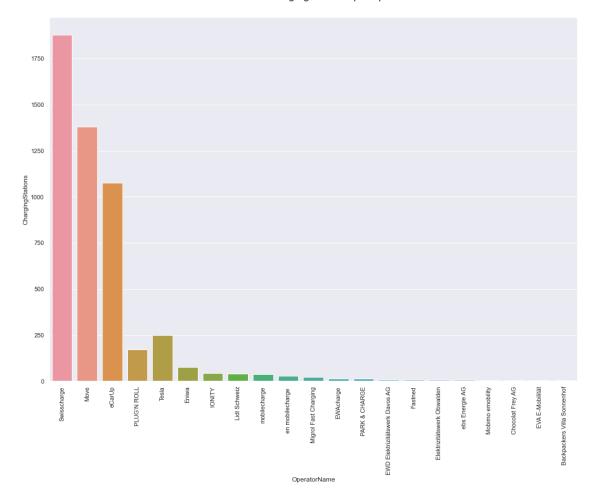
## 4 Transform & Analysis

#### 4.1 Best operators by number of stations

The best operators, in terms of number of charging stations, are as follows:

```
[5]: # Pipeline 1: Get all operators
     # Create a pipeline to aggregate the following: Per Operator, under
     →OperatorName, the number of charging stations given by the length of ⊔
     \hookrightarrow EVSEDataRecord-array.
     pipeline = [
         # Match only operators with more than O charging stations
         {"$match": {"EVSEDataRecord.1": {"$exists": True}} },
         # Project only the name of the operator, remove the _id and create a new_
     → field with the length of the EVSEDataRecord-array.
         {"$project":{"_id":0, "OperatorName":1, "ChargingStations": {"$size":u
     # Sort by the number of charging stations - Descending order
         {"$sort":{"ChargingStations":-1}},
     ]
     # Save query as cursor
     cursor_operators = db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline)
     # Store data in pandas dataframe
     df = pd.DataFrame(cursor_operators)
     # Create a overview plot of the data
     sns.catplot(
         x = 'OperatorName',
         y = 'ChargingStations',
         data = df,
         kind = 'bar',
         height = 10,
         aspect = 1.5,
         ci = None,
     ).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of charging stations per_
     \rightarrowoperator', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
     plt.show()
```

#### Number of charging stations per operator



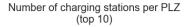
The companies Swisscharge (1878), Move (1379), eCarUp (1077), Plug'n'roll (331) and Tesla (250) have the highest number of charging stations.

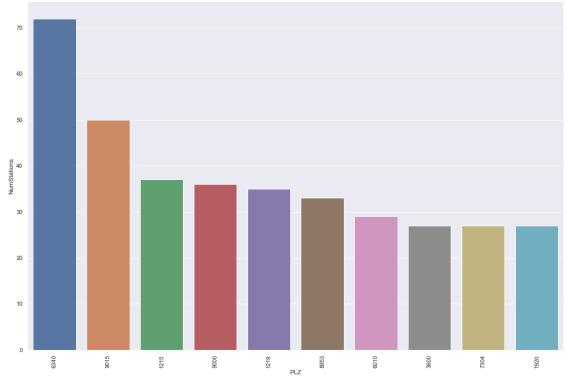
The companies **ebs Energie AG** (6), **Mobimo emobility** (5), **Chocolat Frey AG** (4), **EVA E-Mobilität** (4) and **Backpackers Villa Sonnenhof** (3) have the lowest number of charging stations.

## 4.2 Best cities by number of stations

```
[6]: # Pipeline 2: Operators by PLZ
     regx = re.compile(r"^[0-9]*$")
     pipeline = [
         # Unwind the EVSEDataRecord-array
         {"$unwind": "$EVSEDataRecord"},
         # Match only existing PLZ (Numbers only)
         {"$match":{"EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode": regx}},
         # Project only the cities
         {"$project":{
             "_id":0,
             "EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode":1,
             "EVSEDataRecord.Address.City":1
             }},
         # Group by the PostalCode and sum the number of charging stations
         {"$group":{
             "_id": "$EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode",
             "Cities": {"$first": "$EVSEDataRecord.Address.City"},
             "NumStations": {"$sum": 1}
             }},
         # Rename using project
         {"$project":{
             "_id":0,
             "PLZ": "$_id",
             "City": "$Cities",
             "NumStations": "$NumStations",
         # Sort by the number of charging stations, descending
         {"$sort": {"NumStations": -1}},
         # Convert types of PLZ
         {"$addFields":{"PLZ": {"$toInt":"$PLZ"}}},
     ]
     # Save query as pandas dataframe
     PLZ = pd.DataFrame(db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline))
     # Create a overview plot of the data
     sns.catplot(
         x = 'PLZ',
         y = 'NumStations',
         data = PLZ.assign(PLZ= lambda x: x.PLZ.astype(str)).head(10),
         ci = None,
         kind = 'bar', height = 10, aspect = 1.5,
         ).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of charging stations_
      \rightarrowper PLZ\n(top 10)', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
```





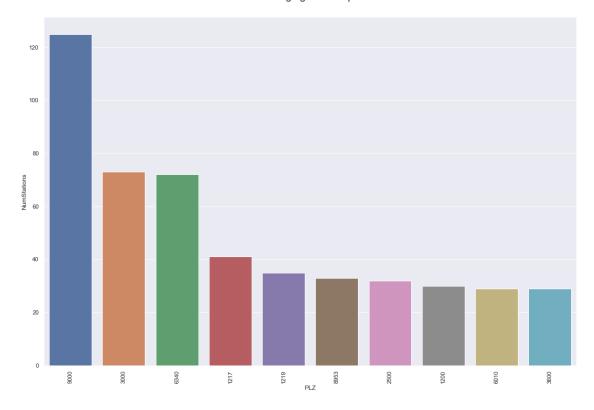


The most attractive cities by postal code (Postleitzahl - PLZ) are shown above. As mentioned in the introduction, the problem with the postal code is that this number does not necessarly correspond to the city. Some cities in Switzerland have more than one postal code. For example, the city **Zurich** has two postal codes: **8050**, **8056** etc.

For that reason a second data set is used, which contains the postal code, city and corresponding cantons - this dataset is provided by <code>Swiss Post</code>. First, the same analysis is repeated, but this time, the postal code is merged and only the <code>GPLZ</code> (Gemeindepostleitzahl - City Postal Code) is than used. Further, due to the manageable distances within the cantons, the summary is provided at cantonal level as well.

```
{"$project":{
        "_id":0,
        "PLZ": "$EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode",
        }
    },
    {"$unwind":"$PLZ"},
    {"$lookup":{
        "from": 'PLZ',
        "localField": 'PLZ',
        "foreignField": 'postleitzahl',
        "as": 'POSTAPI'
    },
    {"$project":{
        "_id":0,
        "PLZ":1,
        "GPLZ":{"$toInt":{"$first":"$POSTAPI.gplz"}},
        }
    },
    {"$match":{
        "GPLZ":{"$ne":None}
        }
    },
    {"$group":{
        " id": "$GPLZ",
        "Count":{"$sum":1},
        }
    },
    {"$sort":{
        "Count":-1
        }
   },
    {"$project":{
        "_id":0,
        "PLZ": "$_id",
        "NumStations": "$Count",
    },
]
# Save query as pandas dataframe
PLZ = pd.DataFrame(db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline))
# Create a overview plot of the data
sns.catplot(
    x = 'PLZ',
```

Number of charging stations per PLZ



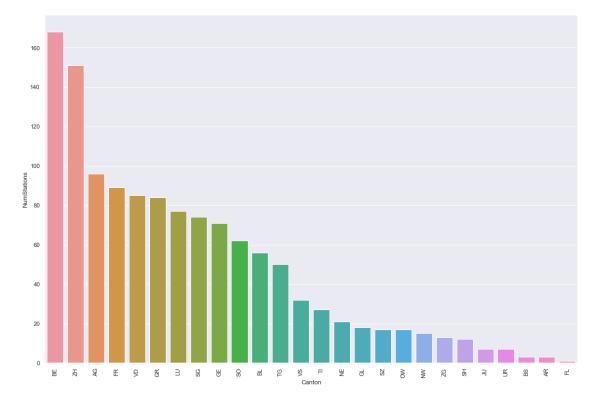
One can see now, that the city of Baar (6340) is "only" in the third position and St. Gallen is on the pole-position followed by the capital Bern.

#### 4.3 Best cantons by number of stations

As previously mentioned, the distribution of charging stations is also of interest. Therefore, the analysis is repeated and this time presented on cantonal level as follows.

```
[8]: # Pipeline 4: Operators by Canton
     pipeline = [
         {"$lookup":{
             'from':'ChargingStations',
             'localField': 'postleitzahl',
             'foreignField': 'EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode',
             'as':'ChargingStations'
             }
         },
         {"$match":{"ChargingStations.0":{'$exists':True}}},
         {"$project":{
             "_id":0,
             "Canton": "$kanton",
             "ChargingStations": {"$size": "$ChargingStations.EVSEDataRecord"}
             }
         },
         {"$group":{
             " id": "$Canton",
             "NumStations": {"$sum": 1}
         },
         {"$sort": {"NumStations": -1}},
         {"$project":{"Canton":"$_id", "NumStations":1, "_id":0}},
     ]
     gplz = pd.DataFrame(db.PLZ.aggregate(pipeline))
     # Create a overview plot of the data
     sns.catplot(
         x='Canton',
         y='NumStations',
         data=gplz,
         kind='bar',
         height=10,
         aspect=1.5,
     ).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of charging stations per_
      \rightarrowCanton', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
     plt.show()
```

#### Number of charging stations per Canton



The best canton in Switzerland is Bern, followed by Zurich and Aargau, just to mention a few. Basel-Stadt, Appenzell-Ausserrhoden and Jura come in last among the cantons.

## 4.4 Best cities by number of plug types

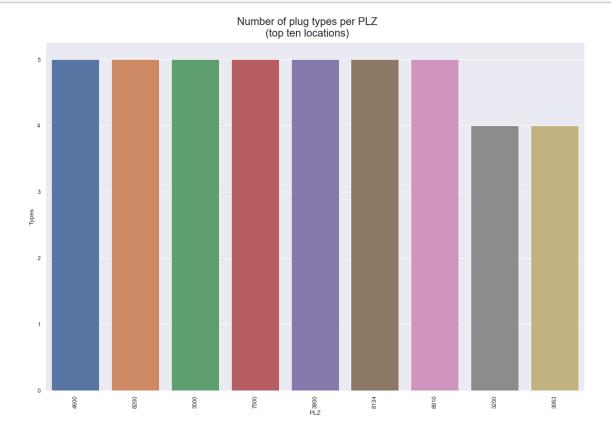
Imagine you are driving around Switzerland and suddenly you need to charge your car. Where do you go if you have to assume that you will not be able to plug in your car.

You drive to where the most plug-in types are available, right?

```
[9]: pipeline = [
         {
             '$match': {
                  'EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode': {
                      '$ne': None
             }
         }, {
             '$unwind': {
                  'path': '$EVSEDataRecord'
             }
         }, {
             '$project': {
                  '_id': 0,
                  'OperatorName': 1,
                  'PLZ': '$EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode',
                  'Plugs': '$EVSEDataRecord.Plugs',
                  'ChargingFacilities': '$EVSEDataRecord.ChargingFacilities'
             }
         }, {
             '$unwind': {
                  'path': '$Plugs'
         }, {
             '$group': {
                  '_id': '$Plugs',
                  'PLZs': {
                      '$push': '$PLZ'
             }
         }, {
             '$unwind': {
                  'path': '$PLZs'
         }, {
             '$lookup': {
                  'from': 'PLZ',
                  'localField': 'PLZs',
                  'foreignField': 'postleitzahl',
                  'as': 'POSTAPI'
             }
```

```
}, {
        '$project': {
             '_id': 0,
             'PlugType': '$_id',
            'Canton': {
                 '$first': '$POSTAPI.kanton'
            },
            'PLZ': {
                '$toString': {
                     '$first': '$POSTAPI.gplz'
                }
            }
        }
    }, {
        '$group': {
             '_id': '$PLZ',
            'Plugs': {
                 '$addToSet': '$PlugType'
            }
        }
    }, {
        '$project': {
            '_id': 0,
            'PLZ': '$_id',
            'Types': {
                 '$size': '$Plugs'
        }
    }, {
        '$sort': {
            'Types': -1
    }
]
plugs = pd.DataFrame(db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline))
# Create a overview plot of the data
sns.catplot(
    x='PLZ',
    y='Types',
    data=plugs.head(10),
    kind='bar',
    height=10,
    aspect=1.5,
).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of plug types per⊔
 \rightarrowPLZ\n(top ten locations)', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
```





The best locations are: Adliswil, Interlaken, Bern, Olten St. Moritz, Schaffhausen and Affoltern am Albis: All those cities would have five different kind of plugs available for your car.

## 4.5 Best cities by Power, Amperage & Voltage

Last but not least, we are now going to analyze the power (and type), amperage and voltage of each location (again, with the city-wide postal code). The power type describes the connection type in terms of AC and DC power supply (e.g. number of phases). The voltage describes the voltage on the supply station, the amperage the maximal amount of amperes and last but not least the power (basically the product of voltage and amperage).

Why is this important? The charging time of electrical cars is exactly from those parameters dependent.

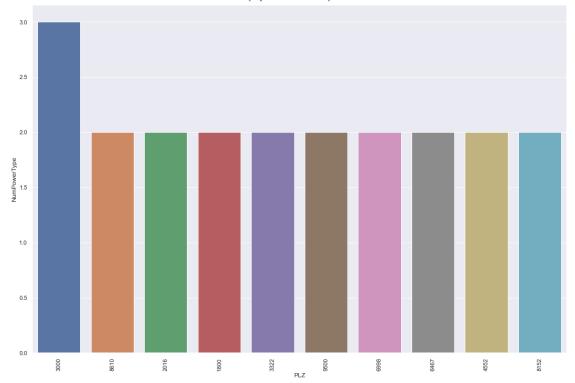
Let now start with the power connection type per city:

```
[10]: pipeline = [
          {
               '$match': {
                   'EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode': {
                       '$ne': None
                   }
              }
          }, {
               '$unwind': {
                   'path': '$EVSEDataRecord'
          }, {
               '$project': {
                   '_id': 0,
                   'OperatorName': 1,
                   'PLZ': '$EVSEDataRecord.Address.PostalCode',
                   'Plugs': '$EVSEDataRecord.Plugs',
                   'ChargingFacilities': '$EVSEDataRecord.ChargingFacilities'
              }
          }, {
               '$unwind': {
                   'path': '$ChargingFacilities'
          }, {
               '$group': {
                   '_id': '$ChargingFacilities',
                   'PLZs': {
                       '$push': '$PLZ'
              }
          }, {
               '$unwind': {
                   'path': '$PLZs'
          }, {
               '$lookup': {
```

```
'from': 'PLZ',
         'localField': 'PLZs',
         'foreignField': 'postleitzahl',
         'as': 'POSTAPI'
    }
}, {
    '$project': {
        '_id': 0,
        'Type': '$_id',
        'Canton': {
             '$first': '$POSTAPI.kanton'
        },
        'PLZ': {
            '$toString': {
                 '$first': '$POSTAPI.gplz'
            }
        }
    }
}, {
    '$group': {
        '_id': '$PLZ',
        'Types_': {
            '$addToSet': '$Type'
    }
}, {
    '$project': {
        '_id': 0,
        'PLZ': '$_id',
        'Types_': 1
    }
}, {
    '$unwind': {
        'path': '$Types_'
    }
}, {
    '$group': {
        '_id': '$PLZ',
         'PowerType': {
            '$addToSet': '$Types_.powertype'
        },
        'Voltage': {
             '$addToSet': '$Types_.voltage'
        },
        'Amperage': {
            '$addToSet': '$Types_.amperage'
        },
```

```
'Power': {
                 '$addToSet': '$Types_.power'
            }
        }
   }, {
        '$project': {
            "_id":0,
            "PLZ":"$_id",
            "PowerType": "$PowerType",
            "Voltage": "$Voltage",
            "Amperage": "$Amperage",
            "Power": "$Power",
            "NumPowerType":{"$size":"$PowerType"},
            "NumVoltage":{"$size":"$Voltage"},
            "NumAmperage":{"$size":"$Amperage"},
            "NumPower":{"$size":"$Power"},
        }
    }
]
power = pd.DataFrame(db.ChargingStations.aggregate(pipeline))
```



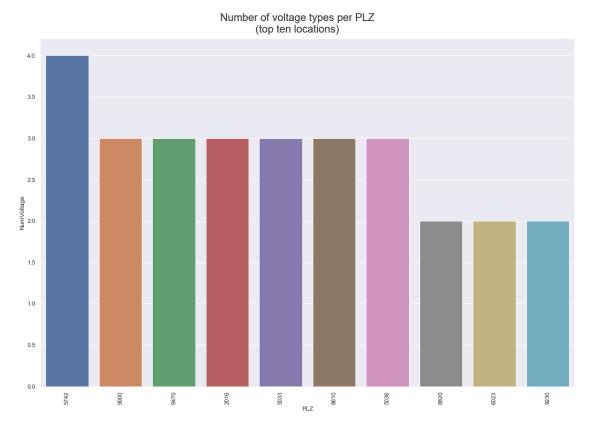


Again, as one of the top-scorers is the city of Bern, with 3 different available types. The following cities have all only two different kind of power connections available. In particular, the city of Bern has the following power types available:

AC 1 PHASE, AC 3 PHASE, DC

Proceeding to the next question, what is the number of available voltage per PLZ? Let's check:

```
[12]: # Create a overview plot of the data
sns.catplot(
    x='PLZ',
    y='NumVoltage',
    data=power.sort_values(by = ['NumVoltage'], ascending=False).head(10),
    kind='bar',
    height=10,
    aspect=1.5,
).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of voltage types peru
    →PLZ\n(top ten locations)', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
plt.show()
```

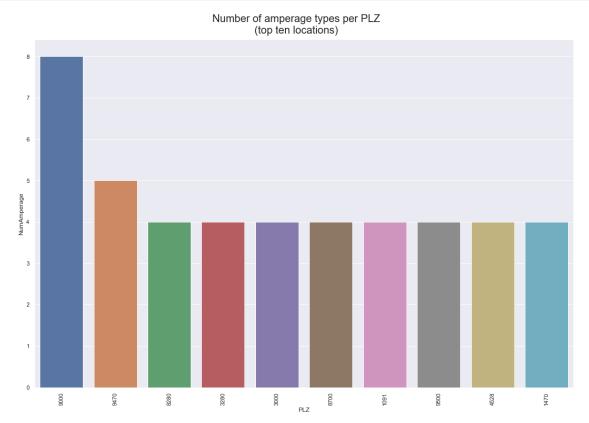


Again, as one of the top-scorers is the city of Bern, but the **best city is this time Kölliken**. The following cities have all only 3 or 2 different kind of connections available. In particular, the city of Kölliken has the following voltage types available:

230, 400, 500, 920 [Volts]

Proceeding to the next question, what is the number of available amperage per PLZ? Let's check:

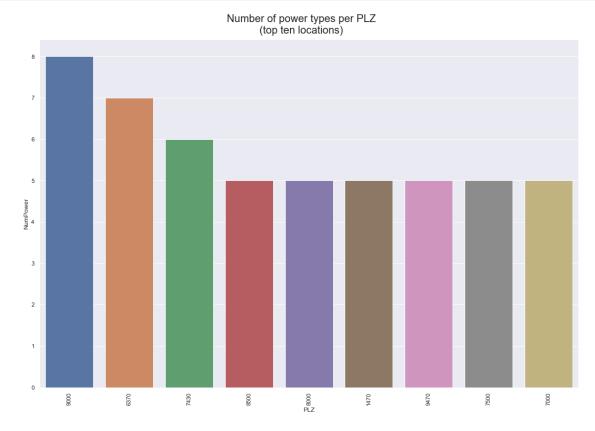
```
[13]: # Create a overview plot of the data
sns.catplot(
    x='PLZ',
    y='NumAmperage',
    data=power.sort_values(by = ['NumAmperage'], ascending=False).head(10),
    kind='bar',
    height=10,
    aspect=1.5,
).set_xticklabels(rotation = 90).fig.suptitle('Number of amperage types peru
    →PLZ\n(top ten locations)', fontsize = 20, y = 1.05)
plt.show()
```



The **best city is this time St. Gallen**. The following cities have all only 5 or 4 different kind of connections available. In particular, the city of St. Gallen has the following amperage types available:

15.0, 16.0, 31.0, 32.0, 60.0, 63.0, 218.0 [Amperes]

Proceeding to the last question, what is the number of available power per PLZ? Let's check:



The best city is this time St. Gallen. The following cities have all only 5 or 4 different kind of connections available. In particular, the city of St. Gallen has the following types available: 11.0, 22.0, 22.0, 22.08, 24.0, 50.0, 50.0, 120.0 [Kilo Watts]

## 5 Conclusion

In regard of the two used APIs, I have learned new insights such as the most relevant operators in the field, the best cities and as cantons for electrical mobility. This report answers the following questions:

• Best operator by number of stations

```
[15]: df.head()
```

 ${\tt ChargingStations}$ [15]: OperatorName Swisscharge 1878 1 Move 1379 2 eCarUp 1077 3 PLUG'N ROLL 331 4 Tesla 250

• Best cities by number of stations

```
[16]: gplz.head()
```

```
[16]:
          NumStations Canton
       0
                    168
                             ΒE
       1
                    151
                             ZH
       2
                     96
                             AG
       3
                     89
                             FR
       4
                     85
                             ۷D
```

• Best cantons number of stations

```
[17]: gplz.head()
```

```
[17]:
          NumStations Canton
       0
                    168
                              ΒE
       1
                    151
                              ZΗ
       2
                     96
                              AG
       3
                     89
                              FR
       4
                     85
                              VD
```

• Best cities by number of plug types

```
[18]: plugs.head()
```

```
[18]:
           PLZ
                 Types
          4600
                     5
      0
          8200
                     5
      1
      2
                     5
          3000
      3 7500
                     5
          3800
                     5
```

• Best cities by Power, Amperage & Voltage

```
power.head()
[34]:
                        PowerType
                                                          Amperage
[34]:
           PLZ
                                            Voltage
      0
          8610
                 [DC, AC_3_PHASE]
                                     [0, 400, 230]
                                                       [60, 0, 32]
      1
          1216
                 [AC 3 PHASE, DC]
                                           [0, 230]
                                                           [0, 63]
      2
          1213
                     [AC_3_PHASE]
                                               [230]
                                                               [32]
      3
          1796
                     [AC_3_PHASE]
                                               [230]
                                                               [32]
                                                      [0, 32, 16]
      4
          8953
                 [DC, AC_3_PHASE]
                                           [0, 230]
                                           NumPowerType
                                                           NumVoltage
                                                                        NumAmperage
                                   Power
      0
            [20.0, 22.0, 50.0, 22.08]
                                                       2
                                                                     3
                                                                                    3
                                                       2
                                                                     2
                                                                                    2
      1
                           [50.0, 22.0]
      2
                             [22, 22.0]
                                                        1
                                                                     1
                                                                                    1
      3
                         [50, 22, 22.0]
                                                        1
                                                                     1
                                                                                    1
      4
                                                        2
                                                                     2
                                                                                    3
          [150, 22, 11.0, 50.0, 22.0]
          NumPower
      0
                  4
                  2
      1
                  2
      2
      3
                  3
      4
                  5
```

## 6 Learnings

In this project, I have learned, in more depth, about MongoDB and its document based schema, querying syntax, importing data and aggregation pipelines. In the beginning I was very unsure how to handle MongoDB and especially the aggregation pipelines, but after this project I even started to enjoy creating pipelines. The application of lookup and unpacking of arrays were a bit difficult to start with, but after practicing it, it already started to feel kind of natural. Furthermore, I also learned, that the benefits of MongoDB are not limited to its schema, but also to its ability to scale horizontally, also known as "scale-out", which is primarily achieved through sharding - something that is not possible with traditional relational database management systems (RDBMS).