Data Science Across Disciplines: Principles, Practice and Critique (IM939)

15 CATs - Final Project Analysis and Critique - 1500 words

Feedback for 5637058

Mark: 70%

Grade: A

Feedback on your submission

This data-informed essay has used the World Happiness Report (WHR) dataset to compare the influence of economic (particularly GDP per capita) and non-economic (specifically social support) factors on happiness scores across several world nations. The essay has some clear strengths. Firstly, the writing is good – well-structured and clear, with opportunities for refinement in terms of critique and analysis (more on this below). Secondly, the essay has a good structure, making relevant and distinct arguments in the different sections – the Reflections section is especially good as it doesn't simply repeat earlier points but presents specific directions for extending the work. The report has made good use of visualisations and provided code in the appendix.

The critique and analysis aspect of the essay can be improved by engaging more deeply with the linear regression analysis conducted and its implications. E.g., the work suggests that GDP per capita has a more influential effect on happiness compared to social support while rightly acknowledging the marginal difference. However, there is a missed opportunity discussing potential collinearity, e.g., the correlation matrix suggests a high correlation between these two predictors suggesting the effects observed could have overlaps. This relates to a further area of improvement – engaging more deeply with the metadata and describing it in the essay, e.g., what does social support mean, is it purely non-economical or does it have economical dimensions? Same for life ladder used as a proxy for happiness, what does it actually mean?