IBM Capstone project

Restaurant recommender system is a machine learning model, developed to demonstrate as a capstone project to IBM through coursera. It recommends restaurants based on user's likes and dislikes and his previous interest data

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1. Introduction :

Problem background:

Bangalore is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Karnataka. With a population of over 15 million (as of January 2016), Bangalore is the third largest city in India and 27th largest city in the world.

The diversity of the cuisine available is reflective of the social and economic diversity of Bangalore. Roadside vendors, tea stalls, South Indian, North Indian, Muslim food, Chinese and Western fast food are all very popular in the city. Udupi restaurants, are very popular and serve predominantly vegetarian cuisine. The Chinese food and the Thai food served in most of the restaurants are can be customized to cater to the tastes of the Indian population. Bangalore can also be called a foodie's paradise because of its vast variety of foods and edibles with a touch of Bangalore's uniqueness and tradition.

Problem description:

Suppose I travel and keep changing places very frequently. This is very hectic and plus i get to experience very different types of environment, of which I do not have much knowledge about. In such situation, food can be an important factor for decided how you rate your trips and plus also recommending it to the people. Food can also attract people around to world to try it out if it were to be the best. In such scenarios, we need to find the right place, at reasonable cost, to serve us the best possible way. So there are few questions that must be addressed, such as:

1. How many types of foods are available in the restaurant?
2. Which is the most nearest to me with good rating?
3. How many "similar" restaurants are available nearby me?
4. Do the "similar" restaurants cost more? If so, what specialty do that have?

To address such question, XXYZ Company’s manager decides to allocate this project to me not just to find out solutions to the questions but also build a system that can help in recommending new places based on their rankings compared to the previously visited by me.

Expectations from this recommender system is to get answer for the questions, and in such a way that it uncovers all the perspective of managing recommendations. It is sighted to show:

1. What types of restaurants are present in a particular area?
2. Where are the similar restaurant present based on a preference to particular food?
3. How do different restaurants rank with respect to my preferences?

Target Audience:
Target audiences for this project does not limit to a person who keeps travelling but everyone. People could simply decide to look for a similar restaurant all the time because they are addicted to a specific category of food. People who rarely use restaurants would prefer to have the most rated restaurants nearby them and all this could be easily handled by our recommender system. So target for this project is basically everyone who is exploring different places or similar places.

Success rate:
With restaurants evolving, new food categories emerge, hybrid food starts to be more popular, we need a system that could help us access vast number of food varieties. It is impossible for a person to ask each and every one about their visit to a particular place and also not everyone remembers everything. On the other hand, Computers are good at remembering things, and with Machine learning to its peak, it high time technology will by our personal guidance and help us personally based on our likes and dislikes. So people would care about this project as their personal assistance and success rate could certainly increase with time.

2. Data :

Data requirements:

To find a solution to the questions and build a recommender model, we need data and lots of data. Data can answer question which are unimaginable and non-answerable by humans because humans do not have the tendency to analyze such large dataset and produce analytics to find a solutions.

Let's consider the base scenario:

Suppose I want to find a restaurant, then logically, I need 3 things:
1. Its geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) to find out where exactly it is located.
2. Population of the neighborhood where the restaurant is located.
3. Average income of neighborhood to know how much is the restaurant worth.

Let’s take a closer look at each of these:
1. To access location of a restaurant, it’s Latitude and Longitude is to be known so that we can point at its coordinates and create a map displaying all the restaurants with its labels respectively.
2. Population of a neighborhood is very important factor in determining a restaurant's growth and amount of customers who turn up to eat. Logically, the more the population of a neighborhood, the more people will be interested to walk openly into a restaurant and less the population, less number of people frequently visit a restaurant. Also if more people visit, better the restaurant is rated because it is accessed by different people with different taste. Hence is very important factor.
3. Income of a neighborhood is also very important factor as population was. Income is directly proportional to richness of a neighborhood. If people in a neighborhood earns more than an average income, then it is very much possible that they will spend more however not always true with very less probability. So a restaurant assessment is proportional to income of a neighborhood.

Data collection:

1. Collecting geographical coordinates is not difficult but after googling for more than 2 days, it was not available on open source data websites such as Wikipedia, India gov website, census report websites etc. So I decided to use Google maps API to fetch latitude and longitude but google API has limited number of calls that I could make with my free account. So it would take around 15 - 20 days to fetch location of all the neighborhoods in Bangalore.
Initially I scrapped list of neighbor's using beautifulSoup4 from [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_neighbourhoods_in_Bangalore). The table headings becoming the boroughs and data becoming the neighborhoods. Bangalore has 8 boroughs and 64 neighborhoods. So i manually googled each neighborhood to find its corresponding latitude and longitude. After doing so, I produced the following data frame.

Borough	Neighborhoods	Latitude	Longitude
Central	Cantonment area	12.972442	77.580643
Central	Domlur	12.960992	77.638726
Central	Indiranagar	12.971891	77.641151
Central	Jeevanbheemanagar	12.962900	77.659500
Central	Malleswaram	13.003100	77.564300
Central	Pete area	12.962700	77.575800
Central	Rajajinagar	12.990100	77.552500
Central	Sadashivanagar	13.006800	77.581300
Central	Seshadripuram	12.993500	77.578700
Central	Shivajinagar	12.985700	77.605700

2. Population by neighborhood is again easy to find out given that it’s readily available. But in case of Bangalore, it is again not the case. i was able to find population data for few cities. [Here is the link](https://indikosh.com/dist/655489/bangalore). Rest other neighborhood population is assumed and may be inaccurate but since this is a demonstrating project, the main idea to get the working model. The data frame for Bangalore neighborhood population looks like:

	Borough	Neighborhoods	Population	Normalized_population
0	Central	Cantonment area	866377	0.880810
1	Central	Domlur	743186	0.755567
2	Central	Indiranagar	474289	0.482190
3	Central	Jeevanbheemanagar	527874	0.536668
4	Central	Malleswaram	893629	0.908516

3. Income by neighborhood is again easy to find out given that it's readily available. But in case of Bangalore, it is again not the case. i was able to find Income data for main city. [Here is the link](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_cities_by_GDP_per_capita). Neighborhood Income is assumed and may be inaccurate but since this is a demonstrating project, the main idea to get the working model. The data frame for Bangalore neighborhood population looks like:

	Borough	Neighborhoods	AverageIncome	Normalized_income
0	Central	Cantonment area	18944.099792	0.293051
1	Central	Domlur	56837.022198	0.879225
2	Central	Indiranagar	41991.817435	0.649581
3	Central	Jeevanbheemanagar	6667.447632	0.103140
4	Central	Malleswaram	53270.063892	0.824047

4. Foursquare API:

Use of foursquare is focused to fetch nearest venue locations so that we can use them to form a cluster. Foursquare API leverages the power of finding nearest venues in a radius (in my case: 500mts) and also corresponding coordinates, venue location and names. After calling, the following data frame is created:

	Neighborhood	Borough	Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
0	Cantonment area	Central	12.972442	77.580643	Hotel Fishland	12.975569	77.578592	Seafood Restaurant
1	Cantonment area	Central	12.972442	77.580643	Sapna Book House	12.976355	77.578461	Bookstore
2	Cantonment area	Central	12.972442	77.580643	Vasudev Adigas	12.973707	77.579257	Indian Restaurant
3	Cantonment area	Central	12.972442	77.580643	Adigas Hotel	12.973554	77.579161	Restaurant
4	Cantonment area	Central	12.972442	77.580643	Kamat Yatrinivas	12.975985	77.578125	Indian Restaurant

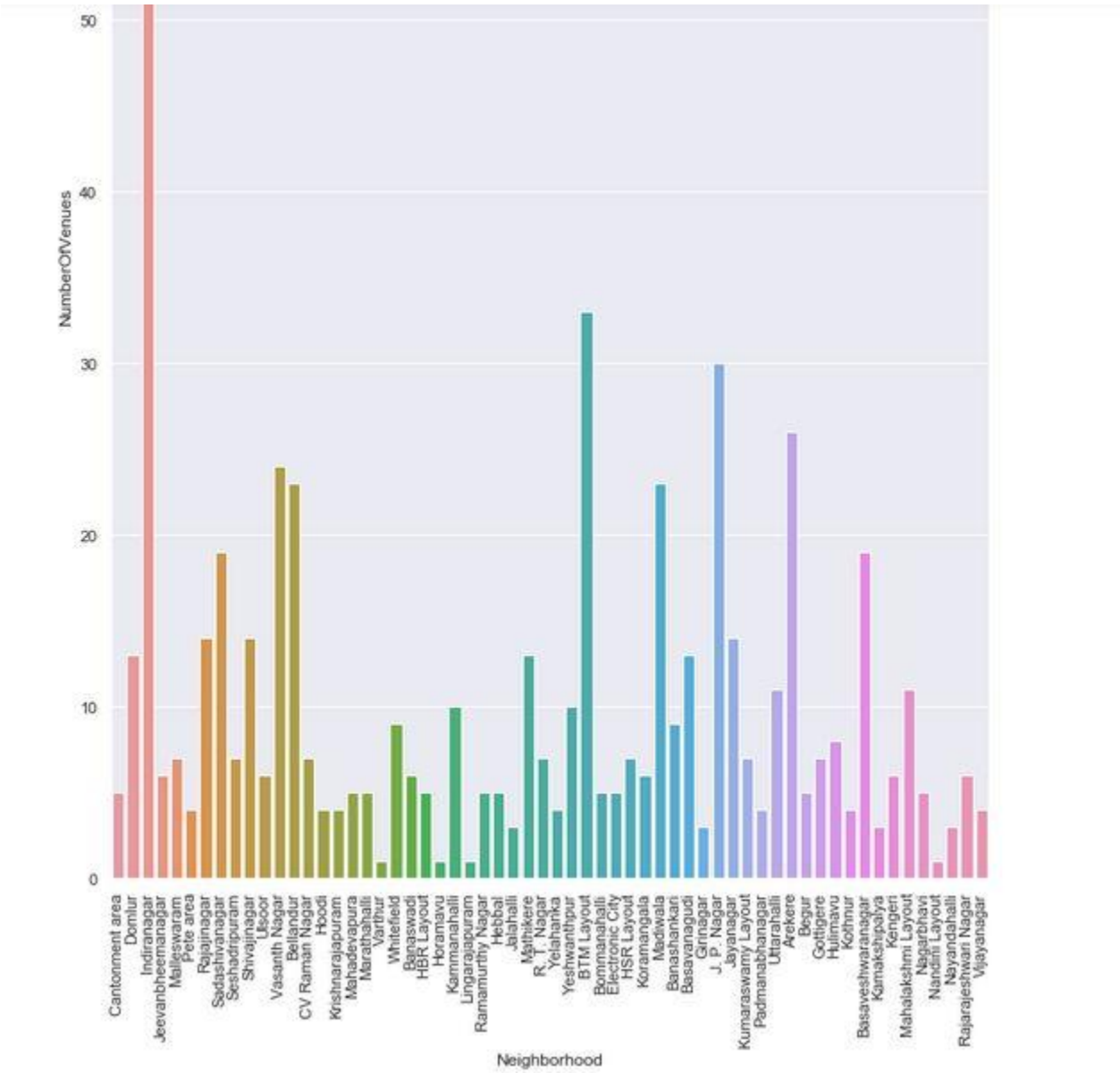
3. Methodology :

Exploratory analysis:

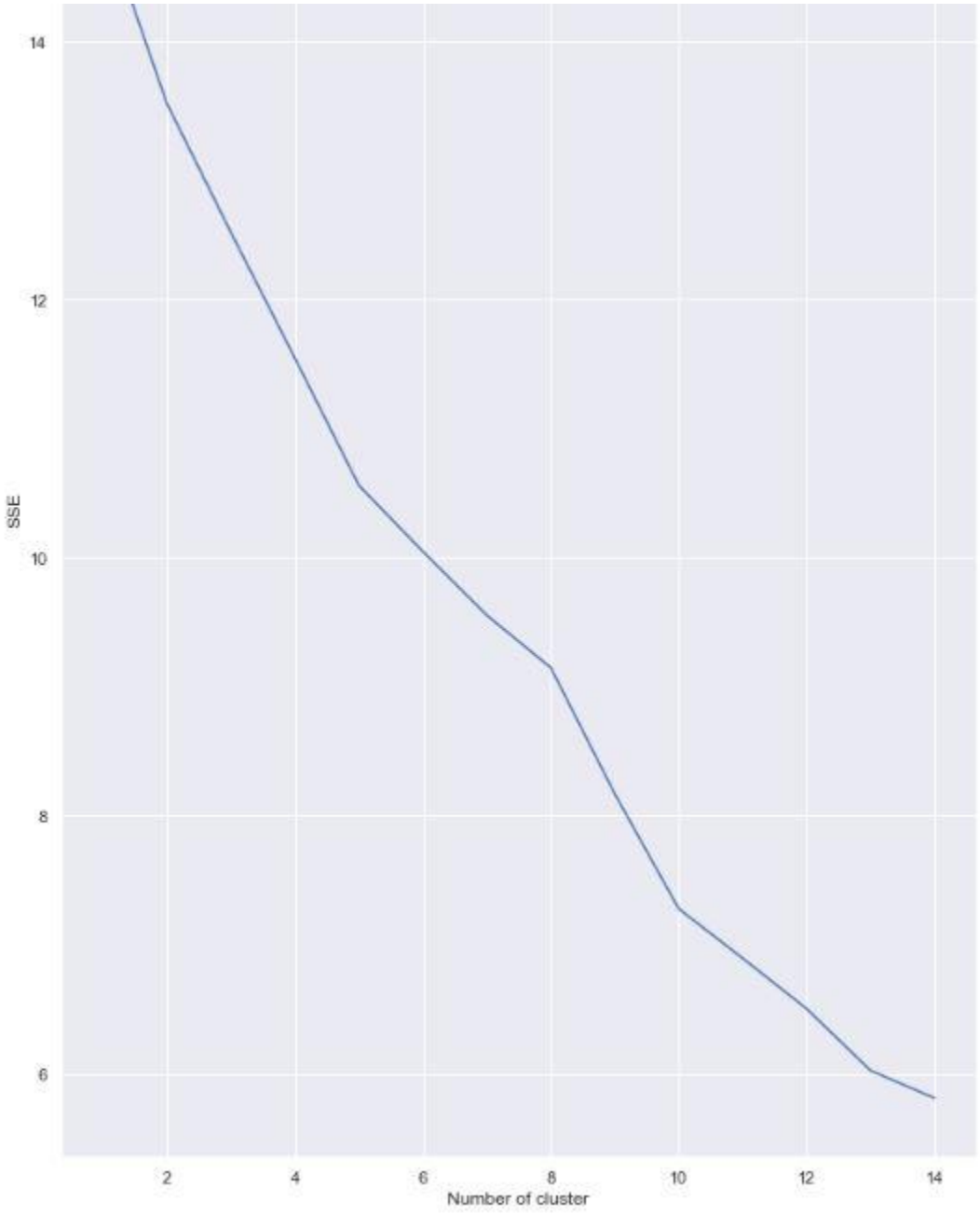
Scrapping the data from different sources and then combining it to form a single-ton dataset is a difficult task. To do so, we need to explore the current state of dataset and then list up all the features needed to be fetched.

Exploring the dataset is important because it gives you initial insights and may help you to get partial idea of the answers that you are looking to find out from the data.

While exploring the dataset, I found out that Inderanagar has most number of venues while Varthur has the least.



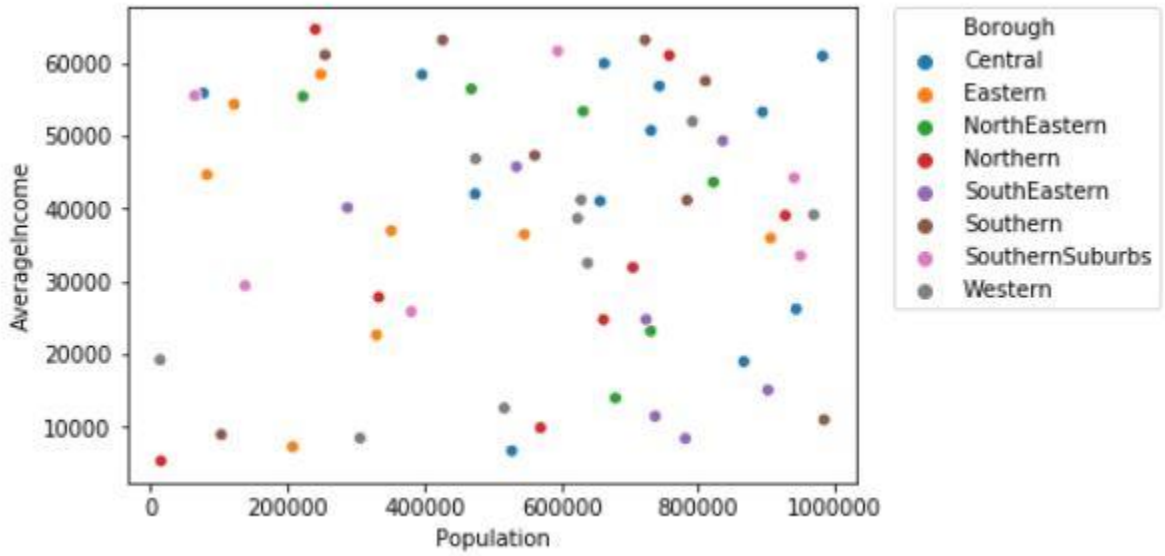
Also while producing graph for number of cluster, I produced a graph to explore all the values for n_clusters and then finding the best by exploring the elbow graph.



Inferential analysis:

Most important factors while building the recommender system were population and income. They are the most import factor because they have a nonlinear relationship according to our dataset.

It needed to make some inferential analysis to understand this nonlinear relationship. As the amount of population increases, it does not necessarily mean that average income of a neighborhood will also increase. It is true to most of the case but also many cases differ to follow this trend. Similarly, a neighborhood with less number of people may not necessarily have less average income. It is possible to have less number of people and more income and vice versa. This can be inferred from the following graph:



4. Result :

The result of the recommender system is that it produces a list of top restaurants and the most common venue item that the user can enjoy. During the runtime of the model, a simulation was done by taking ‘Whitefield’ as the neighborhood and then processed through our model so that it could recommend neighborhoods with similar characters as that of ‘Whitefield’.

The following image shows the result:

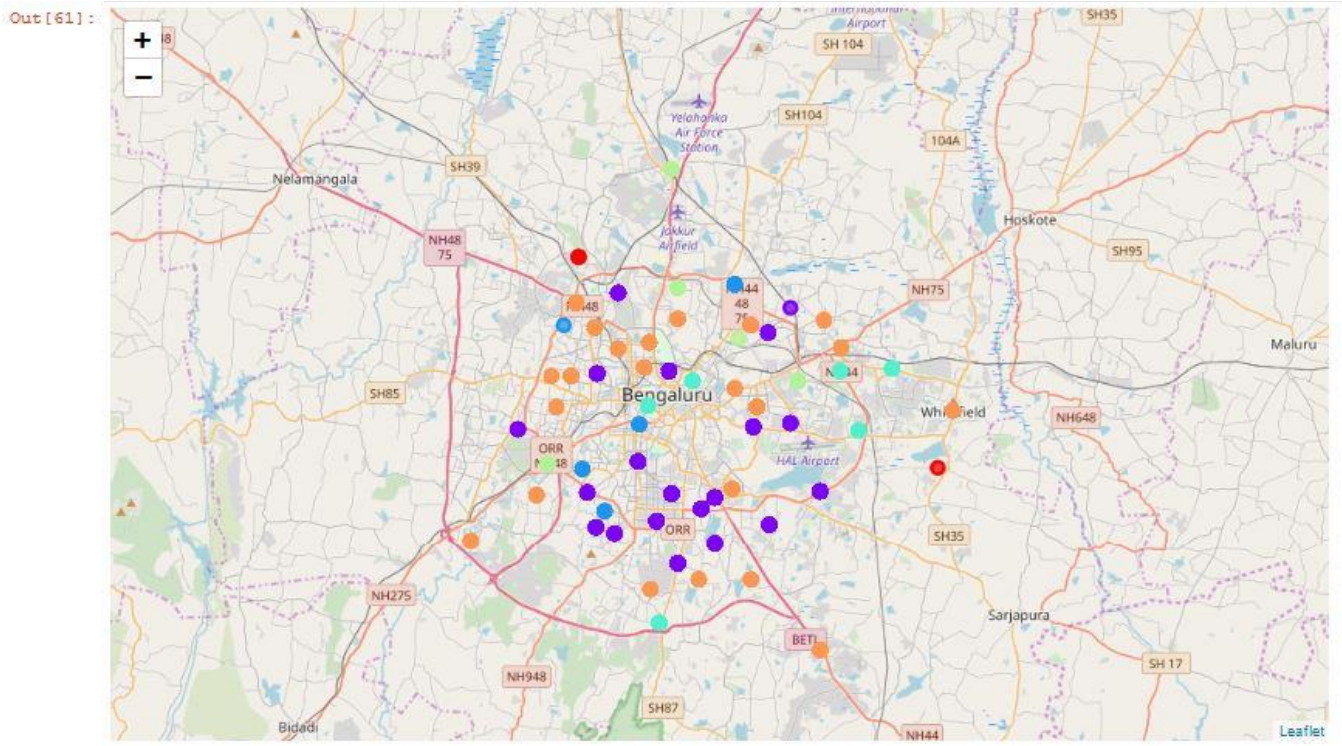
Out[211]:

	Neighborhoods	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	Ranking
0	Basaveshwaranagar	Venue Category_Ice Cream Shop	Venue Category_Indian Restaurant	Venue Category_Fast Food Restaurant	[0.6426377807870477]
1	Begur	Venue Category_Indian Restaurant	Venue Category_Indian Sweet Shop	Venue Category_Food Court	[0.7361321887351776]
2	Electronic City	Venue Category_Outlet Store	Venue Category_Furniture / Home Store	Venue Category_Bus Stop	[0.5423513638809381]

5. Discussion :

Since there was a nonlinear relationship between income and population, it can be concluded that we must always perform inferential approach to find relationship among different set of features. Also during clustering, similar neighborhoods must be dumped into the right cluster.

The following graph shows the clusters:



Another observation that we can make is that choosing number of clustering could produce very diverse results. Some may be over fitted or some may be under fitted. Hence analysis of number of clusters must be done. Ref elbow_graph in the Methodology section.

6. Conclusion :

The recommender system is a system that considers factors such as population, income and makes use of Foursquare API to determine nearby venues. It is a powerful data driven model whose efficiency may decrease with more data but accuracy will increase. It will help users to finish their hunger by providing the best recommendation to fulfil all their needs.