Homework 2 Discussion

<https://github.com/mjw9838/Homework2>

Looking at the quantile representations of the data, it would seem that the area of Manhattan from Harlem through just south of Inwood, which I will call northern Manhattan, and the area of Manhattan with the West Village, which I will call southern Manhattan, had the most noise complaints. The noise complaints in Southern Manhattan seem self-explanatory. The West Village is a neighborhood with a lot of nightlife and partying, so it would make sense that this area receives a lot of noise complaints from its residents, especially in the late-night hours. As for the area in northern Manhattan, that is a bit less self-explanatory.

When looking at the point map, it is obvious that the most prominent type of noise complaint is “Loud Music/Party”. While every neighborhood had some of the other complaints mentioned in the assignment, every neighborhood had the most complaints coming from “Loud Music/Part”. In northern Manhattan, those complaints most likely aren’t mostly from nightlife like in the West Village. While Harlem has some nightlife, that doesn't explain all of the noise complaints in the other neighborhoods of northern Manhattan. It then got me thinking about socioeconomic status. In America, neighborhoods with a lower median income tend to have much more noise, including noise pollution, especially in cities.

While looking through NYC Opendata, I couldn't find an income map that would fit in with the maps and points already in the assignment, but I could find a broadband access dataset that would. Generally, in America, the lower the percentage of homes that have internet access, the lower the average income of the area is. I saw this as a good way to gauge incomes of the different NTA’s of Manhattan. As it would turn out, the areas of northern Manhattan that had the lowest percentage of home internet access also had the highest amounts of noise complaints, especially in the “Loud Music/Party” category. This would make sense for two reasons. First off, as I mentioned before, lower income neighborhoods in cities tend to have more noise pollution for a lot of reasons, and that's where the second reason comes in. Since there is a lower percentage of homes that have internet access, the people that live in those homes are more likely to spend more time outside, hanging out in public areas instead of in their homes on the computer. For those reasons, there is much more of a chance that there would be more noise complaints in those areas due to noise pollution and social norms.