Final Project Big Data Concepts: LA Airbnb Analysis

Section 1: Introduction

The data from Los Angeles, California's Airbnb listings served as the foundation for this project. I built this project using the concepts of virtualization, data ingestion and storage, and data pipelines from the big data concepts covered in the course. The Jupyter lab runs the Python code using a Jetstream VM. An input datafile is kept in the NoSQL database from MongoDB Atlas as a collection titled "Listings." Python script is used to access this file and retrieve data from it. The data analysis and data publishing are then carried out using a model of the data pipeline. These can be broadly categorized as follows:

- 1. Setting up a MongoDB cluster using a MongoDB database from MongoDB Atlas.
- 2. Using MongoDB Atlas, I ingested the csv data for LA's Airbnb listings as collections.
- 3. Used previously created Jetstream VM instance to run the Jupyter lab from a docker, just like we did for the assignment.
- 4. Using Python's MongoDB connector, I connected MongoDB to Python to fetch the data.
- 5. Following data cleaning, data pre-processing, and data analysis, data pipelining was put into place.
- 6. Results that were visualized with Python and the MongoDB Chart Builder.

Section 2: Background

As an international student, I'm curious about the United States and its tourist attractions. Los Angeles is the second most populous city in the United States and one of the world's most visited cities. Airbnb, the popular online marketplace for short-term lodging rentals, has grown in popularity in Los Angeles in recent years, offering travellers a variety of affordable lodging options. I haven't yet had the chance to visit Los Angeles. My friends and I are planning a trip to the city this summer, so finding the best Airbnb listings in and around the city would be a fun project for me to work on. This would allow us to collect information that would help us find affordable Airbnb's. Moreover, considering the technical aspect, this project entails analysing data from Los Angeles Airbnb listings, such as the type of accommodation, location, pricing, and availability. In addition, this project provides an opportunity to design the workflow architecture to work with a large dataset stored on the cloud, performing data cleaning and pre-processing, and obtain results using popular data analysis and visualization libraries such as Pandas, Matplotlib, and Seaborn.

I'm curious about the listing's distribution in neighbourhood groups and what are the top-5 neighbourhood places where we could live, price distribution of the listings these groups and

top-5 neighbourhood places, and distribution of room types to stay if we go ahead with the trip plan. Because the results of this project would provide us with information about Airbnb listings, I chose this as my project.

Section 3: Methodology

The process of designing a system that allows data to flow from multiple sources to a target system via a series of interconnected steps is referred to as data pipeline architecture. It entails locating data sources, integrating and processing the data, and finally storing or delivering the data to a destination system or application. For this course project a brief architectural diagram is designed as below, showing its lifecycle.

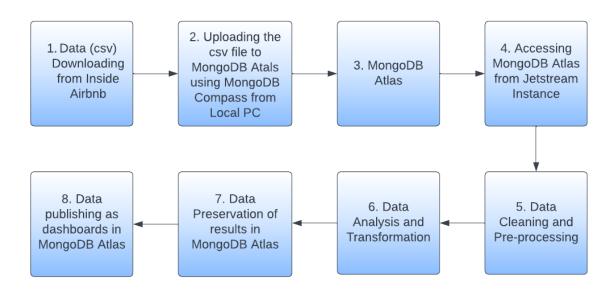


Figure 1: Data pipeline architecture for the Airbnb Analysis in L.A

Data Acquisition:

From Figure 1, all the steps from 1-4 are included in this sub-section. The required data for proceeding with the project has been collected from Inside Airbnb website http://insideairbnb.com/get-the-data and stored it in MongoDB Atlas by following the below steps. I collected the listing.csv from the Los Angeles, U.S.

Step 1: Setting up a MongoDB Cluster

For this project in order store the Airbnb listing data in LA, I used MongoDB, a NoSQL database. I set up a free shared cluster in lowa (us-central1) with three nodes, one primary and two secondaries, and a M0 Sandbox Cluster Tier.

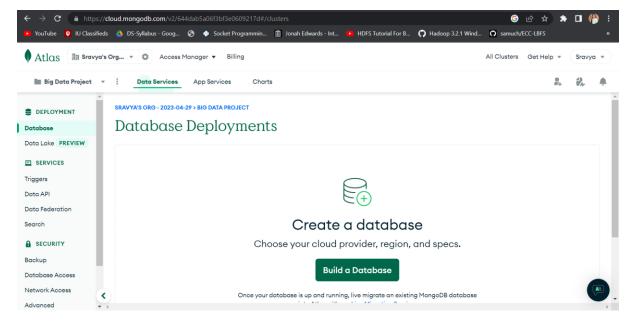


Figure 2: Opening of the MongoDB Atlas account.

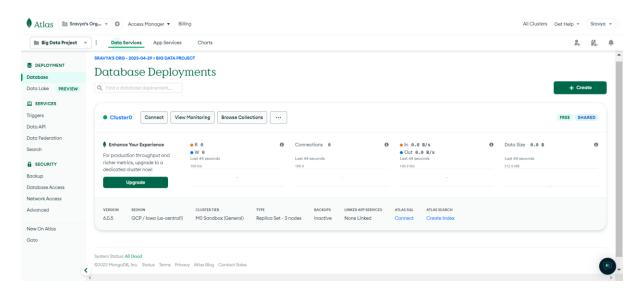


Figure 3: Setting up the Cluster0

Step 2: Importing Data into MongoDB Cluster using MongoDB Compass.

I used MongoDB Compass on my local machine to load data into the MongoDB Atlas. Later, I used the authentication to database to connect to the ClusterO present in MongoDB Atlas. Then, within the Airbnb database, I created an input collection called "Listings" to import the listings.csv. It stores the csv files into a list of documents because it is a NoSQL database. The imported file contains approximately 42.5K documents in total.

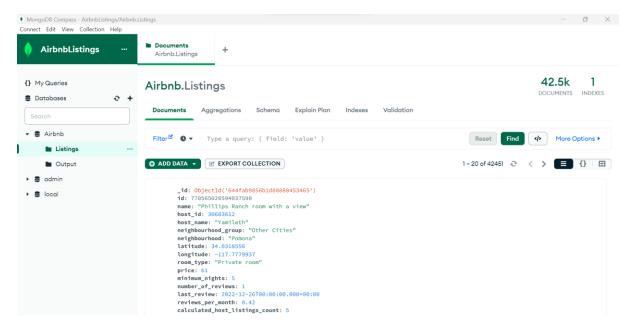


Figure 4: MongoDB Compass UI, to see the imported csv file as list of documents.

Step 3: Network Access

I added all the IP addresses to this Network Access for the cluster configuration. My Local PC's and also the Jetstream's IP Address. The below figure gives the list of IP addresses accessible by Cluster0 in MongoDB Atlas.

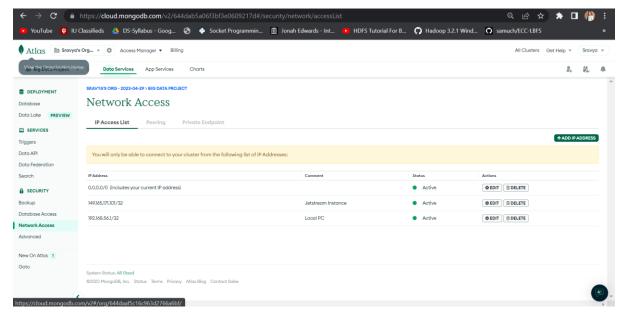


Figure 5: Network Access for the Cluster0

Step 4: Setting up the VM and Docker for Jupyter lab.

To run the Jupyter lab on a docker similar to one of our assignments, I used a Jetstream instance with a small size, two CPU cores, 6 GB of RAM, and 20 GB of root disk under our class directory. I followed the steps in the 'Analysing data with PySpark' assignment, creating a Project folder with a docker-compose.yaml file, and adding the Jupyter notebook image to the path before starting a container. I copied the URL and opened the Web Desktop browser, which launched the Jupyter lab notebook.

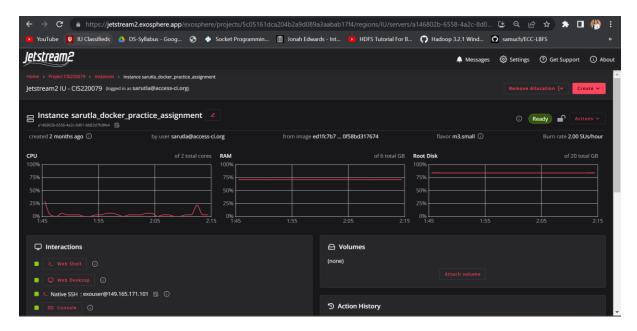


Figure 6: Jetstream Instance Overview

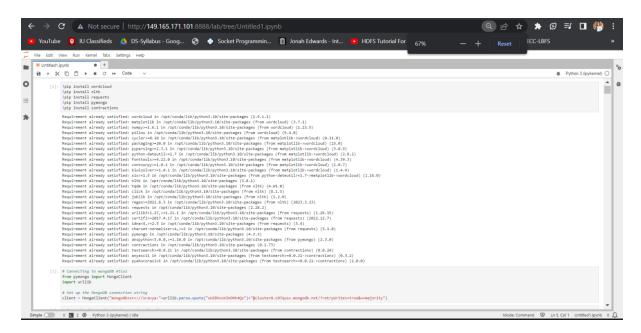


Figure 7: Jupyter Notebook on Web Desktop

Step 5: Using Pymongo to fetch the data into the Jupyter lab running on VM from MongoDB Atlas.

All the necessary packages were imported to perform the EDA in Jupyter notebook and then the with the python package pymongo, a collection has been established to fetch the data from the Cluster0 in MongoDB Atlas's as below.

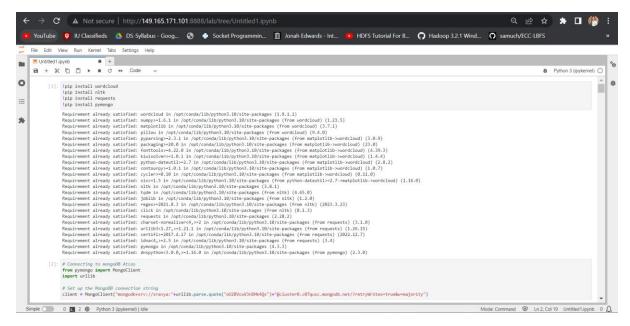


Figure 8: Establishing the pymongo connection through Jupyter lab.

Once connection is established, I have accessed the database – Airbnb and its input collection called "Listings" into the python dictionary, later on converted that into a pandas data frame for doing Analysis.

```
[3]: # Get a handle to the database and collection
db = client["Airbob"]
collection2 = db["Analysis_6a"]
collection3 = db["Analysis_6b"]

# Example query to check the connection with the client mongoon.
result1 = collection1.find_one(("id": 770565020594037590))
print(result1)

('_id': ObjectId('644fab9856b1d80808453465'), 'id': 770565020594037590, 'name': 'Phillips Ranch room with a view', 'host_id': 30603612, 'host_name': 'Yamileth', 'neighbourhood group': 'Ot
rhood': 'Pomona', 'latitude': 34.0318556, 'longitude': -117.7779937, 'room_type': 'Private room', 'price': 61, 'minimum_nights': 5, 'number_of_reviews': 1, 'last_review': datetime.datetim
'reviews_per_month': 0.42, 'calculated_host_listings_count': 5, 'availability_365': 27, 'number_of_reviews_ltm': 1)

[4] # Storning the collection data locally using the python dictionary.
x = collection1.find({})
listings_dict=[]
neighbourhoods_dict=[]

for i in x:
    del i[_id']
listings_dict.append(i)

[5]: import pandas as pd
# Create a pandas DataFrame(listings_dict
listings_df = pd.DataFrame(listings_dict)
```

Figure 9: Python code for fetching the data into a pandas data frame.

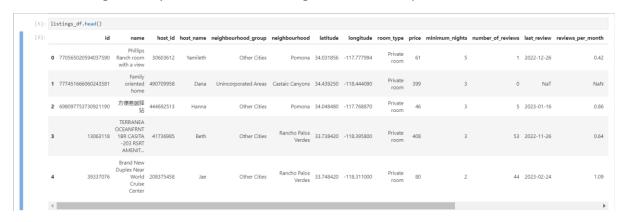


Figure 10: Listings df content

Data Cleaning:

From the obtained listings_df, the data has been cleaned. Null values, Duplicates have been dropped. Also, the price outliers have been removed as below. This is the part of step 5 in the Figure 1.

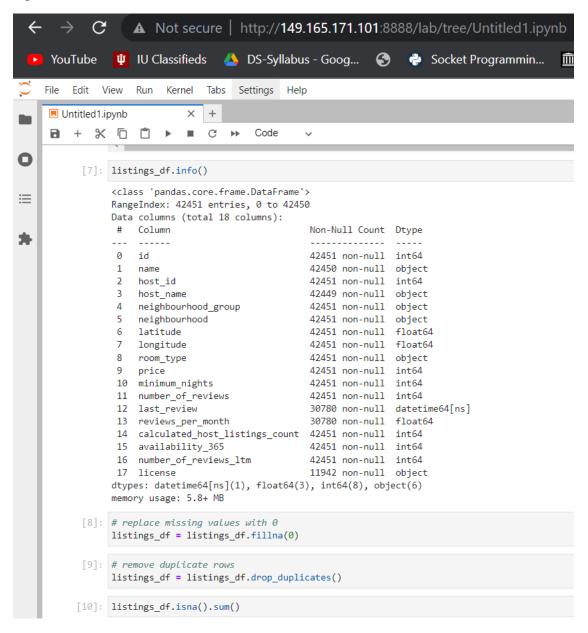


Figure 11: Data Cleaning

Data Pre-processing:

From the original dataset, I have removed unnecessary columns host_name, last_review, reviews_per_month and license columns from original dataset. host_name is removed as it causes issues with the user's privacy. I removed the other columns as I was not using them in my analysis purpose. This is the part of step 5 in the Figure 1

```
A Not secure http://149.165.171.101:8888/lab/tree/Untitled1.ipynb
     YouTube
                 🔱 IU Classifieds 🛮 👃 DS-Syllabus - Goog... 🕞 📌 Socket Programmin...
                                                                                               iii Jonah Edwards - Int...
    File Edit View Run Kernel Tabs Settings Help
     Untitled1.ipynb
                             × +
     Eliminating Outliers based on the price
0
          [11]: # find the IQR for the 'price' column
                Q1 = listings_df['price'].quantile(0.25)
≣
                Q3 = listings_df['price'].quantile(0.75)
               IQR = Q3 - Q1
                # remove outliers from the 'price' column
               listings_df = listings_df[(listings_df['price'] >= Q1 - 1.5*IQR) & (listings_df['price'] <= Q3 + 1.5*IQR)]
          [12]: listings_df.info()
                <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
                Int64Index: 38348 entries, 0 to 42450
                Data columns (total 18 columns):
                # Column
                                                   Non-Null Count Dtype
                0 id
                                                   38348 non-null int64
                    name
                                                   38348 non-null object
                                                   38348 non-null int64
                    host_id
                                                   38348 non-null object
                    host name
                    neighbourhood_group
                                                   38348 non-null object
                    neighbourhood
                                                  38348 non-null object
                 6
                    latitude
                                                   38348 non-null float64
                    longitude
                                                  38348 non-null float64
                 8 room_type
                                                  38348 non-null object
                                                 38348 non-null int64
38348 non-null int64
                 9 price
                 10 minimum_nights
                                                 38348 non-null int64
38348 non-null object
                 11 number_of_reviews
                12 last review
                                                   38348 non-null float64
                 13 reviews_per_month
                14 calculated_host_listings_count 38348 non-null int64
                15 availability_365
                                                  38348 non-null int64
                                                  38348 non-null int64
                16 number_of_reviews_ltm
                 17 license
                                                   38348 non-null object
                dtypes: float64(3), int64(8), object(7)
                memory usage: 5.6+ MB
```

Figure 12: Data Pre-processing

It is seen that, after the data cleaning and the data pre-processing the number of entries in the data frame is now 38K. Hence, this step removed the unwanted data for giving the beneficial results in our further analysis.

Section 4: Results

This section focuses on the steps 6, 7 and 8 from the Figure 1.

Data Analysis:

Analysis 1: Which neighbourhood groups and neighbourhoods have the highest Airbnb Listings available in LS?

Figure 13: Python Code for Analysis 1.

From the listings data frame, unique neighbourhood groups have been identified. As shown in above figure, we have city of Los Angeles has the highest listings, followed by other cities and Unincorporated areas. Its bar plot is as given below. Python's seaborn and matplotlib has been used for visualisations.

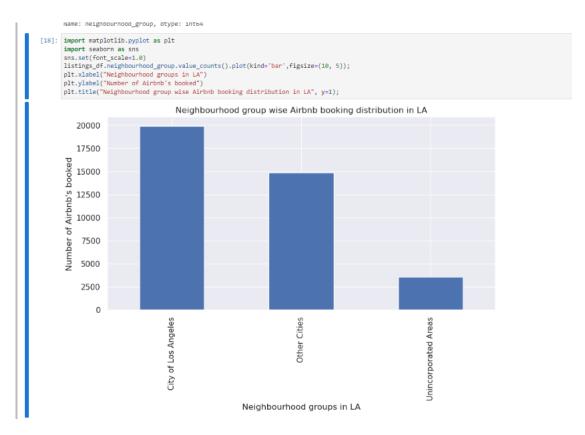


Figure 14: Neighbourhood group wise Listings distribution.

Similarly, distribution for neighbourhood is also plotted as shown below. Here I am concentrating on top-5 neighbourhoods for the listings available.

```
[19]: print(len(listings_df.neighbourhood.unique()))

265

[20]: Resultlb_df = listings_df.neighbourhood.value_counts()
Resultlb_df = listings_df.neighbourhood.value_counts().head(5).index.tolist()
listings_topS = listings_df['neighbourhood'].value_counts().head(5).index.tolist()
listings_topS = listings_df['ineighbourhood'].isin(top_neighborhoods)]
```

Figure 15: Python Code for Analysis 1

It is seen that the places Sherman Oaks, Hollywood, Long Beach, Venice and Santa Monica are the top 5 places where there are more Airbnb's listings are distributed more comparatively, because of its famous and most populated areas.

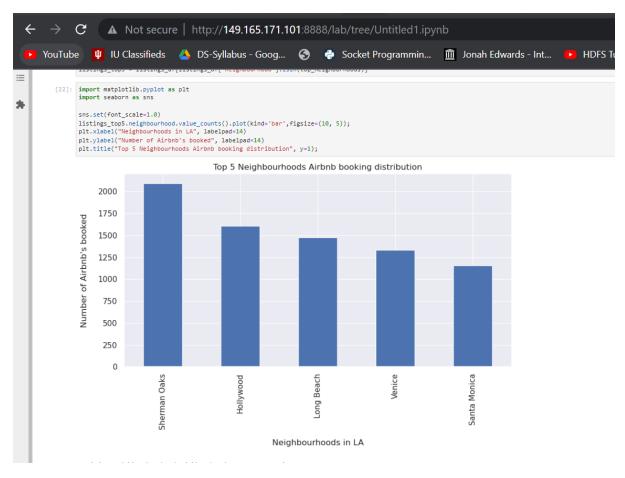


Figure 16: Top 5 Neighbourhoods Listings distribution

Analysis 2: What is the average price distribution as per the neighbourhood groups and top 5 neighbourhoods?

When neighbourhood_group is grouped by the mean of prices, it is seen that, Average cost is highest for the Other Cities, followed by City of Los Angeles and then Unincorporated areas. The result is interesting as Other Cites are having higher average price when compared to the City of Los Angeles.

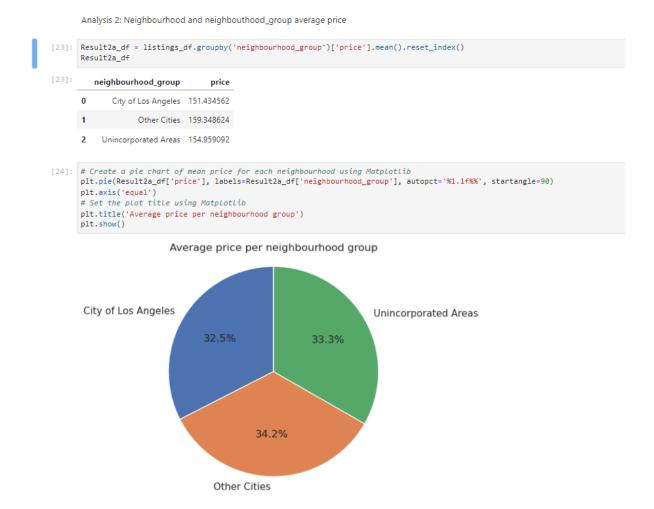


Figure 17: Average price distribution based on neighbourhood group.

Similarly, the average pricing for the top-5 neighbourhoods is analysed as below.

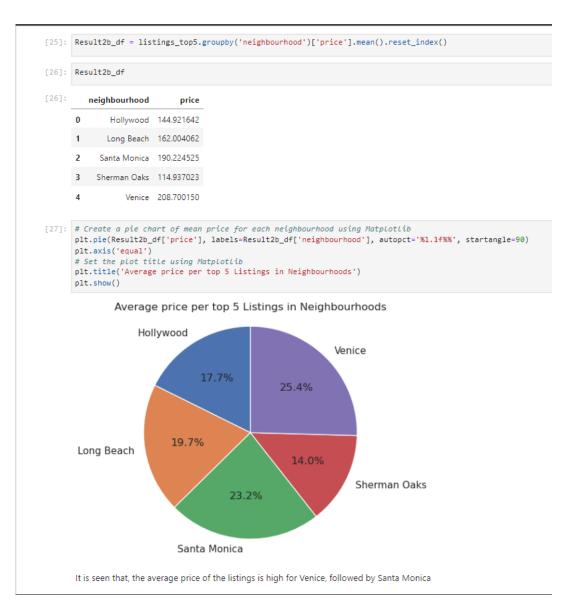


Figure 18: Average price distribution based on top-5 neighbourhoods.

It is seen that, the average price is maximum for the Venice, followed by Santa Monica. Even though the greatest number of listings is present in Sherman Oaks, Venice has the higher average price for the Airbnb Listings.

Analysis 3: What is the Distribution of Room Types with the Listings in L.A

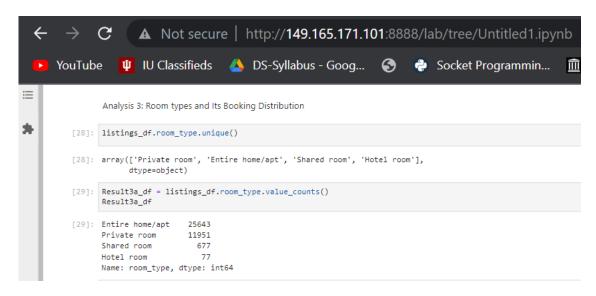


Figure 19: Python code for Analysis 3

More Airbnb Listings are of home/apt type, followed by the Private room, Shared rooms and Hotel room. As more people do visit this place with family/friends, they tend to book home/apt more when compared to others types. Its bar plot can be plotted as below.



Figure 20: Distribution of room type booking in Listings.

Also, when grouped against the neighbourhood groups, the below plot is obtained. In all the 3 groups, we see that mostly Airbnb listings has Entire home/apt types of rooms available. In Unincorporated areas, it is seen that, there are no shared room available, which would be an interesting finding.



Figure 21: Distribution of room type booking in neighbourhood groups.

Similarly, the distribution for top-5 neighbourhood in the listings is also plot and the results are as below. Sherman Oaks has highest number of Private rooms than the other types. But for the other top-5 places, we have the regular Entire home/apt as the top one.

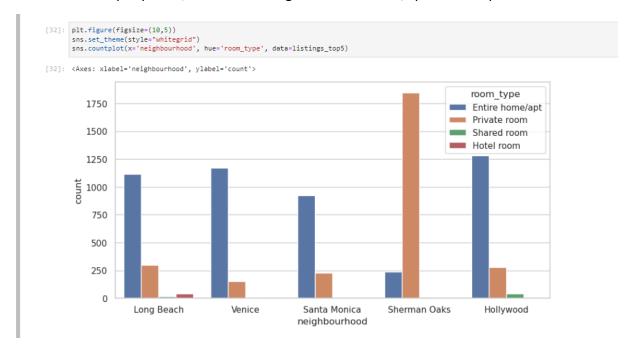


Figure 22: Distribution of room type booking in top-5 neighbourhoods.

Analysis 4: Who are the Top Listings hosts?

In order to protect the privacy of the users, the distribution has been plotted against the host_id instead as below. The top most host_id has 1001 bookings registered.

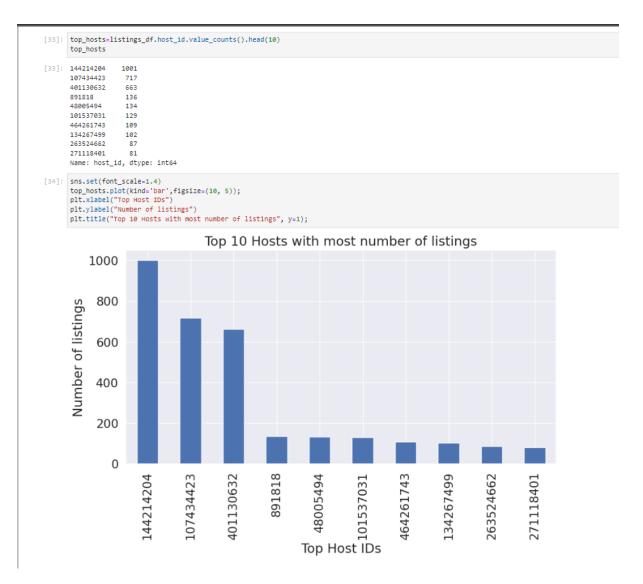


Figure 23: Top Host IDs distribution.

Analysis 5: Neighbourhood group vs availability of rooms in 365 days.

For this analysis, I have used the box plot distribution to get the acquired results. A box plot is a graphical representation of a continuous variable's distribution. It displays a five-number summary of a dataset, including the minimum value, first quartile (Q1), median (Q2), third quartile (Q3), and maximum value. Seaborn is a Python data visualization library that offers a high-level interface for producing informative and visually appealing statistical graphics.

Reference: https://practicaldatascience.co.uk/data-science/how-to-visualise-data-using-boxplots-in-seaborn

The boxplot A boxplot, or box-and-whisker plot, is used to visualise quantitative data. It splits data into quartiles, in which the box holds the first to third quartiles, and the midline represents the median. The whiskers show the maximum and minimum values. Outlier Upper whisker Upper quartile (Q3) Median Lower quartile (Q1) Lower whisker

Figure 24: Understanding Box Plot.



Figure 25: Box plot distribution for Neighbourhood groups and availability 365

It is seen that, out of the 3 neighbourhood groups available, the City of Los Angeles has more availability across all the 365 days when compared to the other groups. Also, this could be the reason why it has more listings too.

Similarly, the box has been plotted against the top-5 neighbourhood whose results are as below.

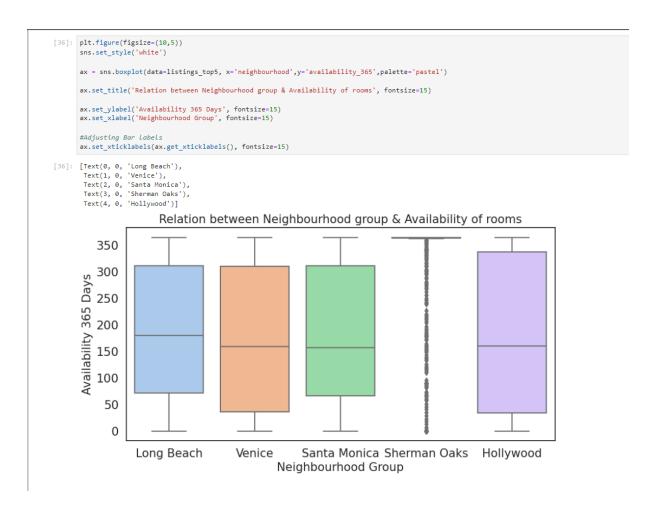


Figure 26: Box plot distribution for top-5 Neighbourhoods and availability 365

This is an interesting observation that can made, where there is no box present for Sherman Oaks, as its available on all of the days throughout a year.

Analysis 6: What is the average price of property according to the location and also room type.

In this, I have classified the average price listing for the neighbourhood groups and top 5 neighbourhood places with the room type as below. Unlike above results, I have used the Collections in MongoDB to store the output tables accordingly for performing the visualizations in MongoDB Atlas. These visualisations have been stored in the form of dashboards in MongoDB Atlas for future referencing purposes.

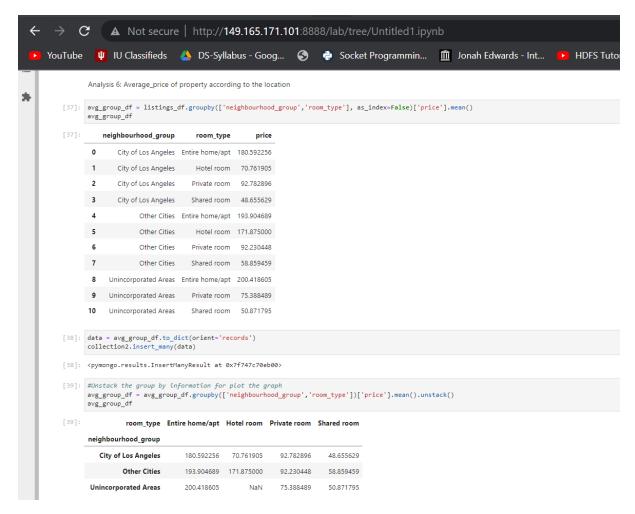


Figure 27: Python code for distribution of neighbourhood groups with the room types.

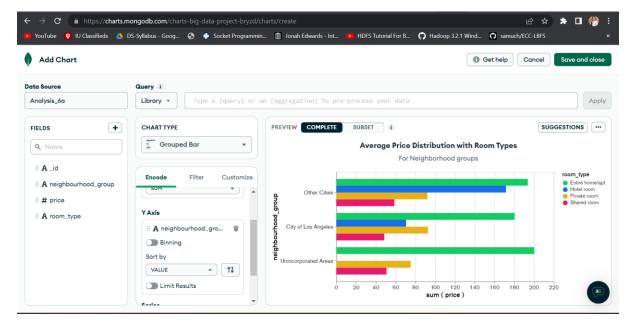


Figure 28: Visualization in MongoDB Atlas (Neighbourhood groups).

Similarly, for the top-5 neighbourhoods the grouping is done.

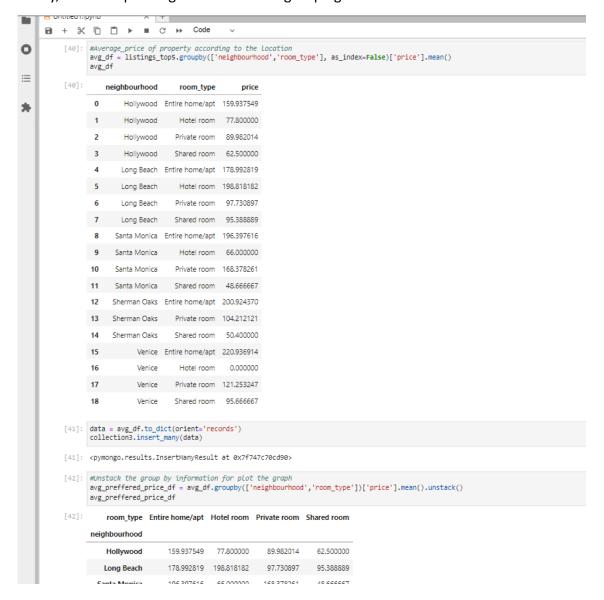


Figure 29: Python code for distribution of top-5 neighbourhoods with the room types.

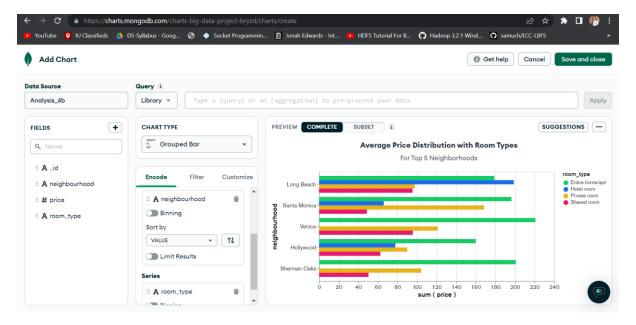


Figure 30: Visualization in MongoDB Atlas (Top-5 Neighbourhoods).

These visualizations are saved as dashboards and have been made public and anyone can view them, without having to run the code.

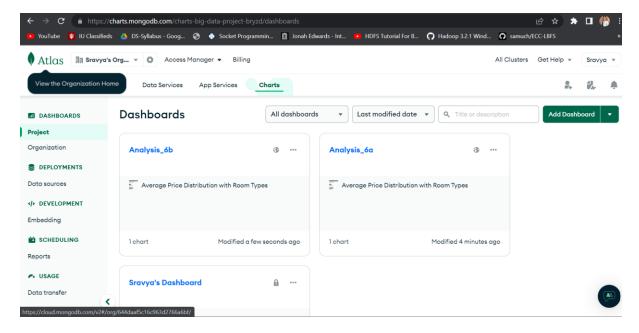


Figure 31: Published Dashboards in MongoDB Atlas.

Analysis 7: Most Frequent words used in the Airbnb Listings names.

In this, I analysed the most 100 frequent named listed in Airbnb listings to get to the top words. For this necessary action nltk python package is used for cleaning to remove stop words, short words (<= 3), non-alphanumeric characters.

```
Anaysis 7: Most frquently used words in Airbnb Listings
[43]: import nltk
      import requests
      from nltk.corpus import stopwords
      nltk.download('stopwords')
      from nltk.tokenize import word_tokenize
      stop = set(stopwords.words("english"))
      [nltk_data] Downloading package stopwords to /home/jovyan/nltk_data...
      [nltk_data] Package stopwords is already up-to-date!
      #Getting name strings from 'name' column and splitting them into separate words
      listing_names = [word.lower() for name in listings_df.name for word in str(name).split()]
      #Creating a dictionary to store word counts
      counting_names = {}
      #Counting the occurrence of each word and storing it in the dictionary
      for word in listing_names:
          if word in counting_names:
             counting_names[word] += 1
             counting_names[word] = 1
```

Figure 32: Python code for Cleaning.

Figure 33: Python code for fetching top 100 words.

Now the visualization of the word cloud is performed using the word cloud python package.

```
[52]: # NordCloud import NordCloud wordcloud import NordCloud = NordCloud(width=500, height=500, random_state=52, background_color='black', max_font_size=110).generate(str(top_100))

plt.figure(figsize=(10,7))
plt.inshow(wordcloud, interpolation="blinear")
plt.show()

pool 'long shared' conty beverly beautiful dtla' city plt.show()

pool 'long shared' conty beverly beautiful dtla' city plt.show()

bathking so stay lvale heart lovely beautiful dtla' city park clean retreat downtown ocean best modern park clean retreat park lovely one prime apartment between the state of t
```

Figure 34: Word Cloud Visualization

Section 5: Discussion

I designed a pipeline architecture to implement this project and followed the steps as mentioned in Figure 1. I fetched the data from the MongoDB Atlas into the pandas data frame, as explained in detail above. There were approximately 42.5K entries at first, but after performing data cleaning and pre-processing steps, the entries were reduced to 38K. During this stage, I removed the unwanted columns from the original dataset, such as host_name, last_review, reviews_per_month, and license. By grouping with the price column, I removed the outliers in the data. The analysis and results have been completed as a result of this. Each of the outcomes would provide the necessary information about the Airbnb Listings. The following is a summary of its observations.

- 1. There are three distinct neighbourhood groups in Los Angeles: City of Los Angeles, Other Cities, and Unincorporated Areas, with the top five neighbourhoods in L.A. being Sherman Oaks, Hollywood, Long Beach, Venice, and Santa Monica. According to the listing distribution, the City of Los Angeles group has the most listings, and the Sherman Oaks neighbourhood has the most listings.
- 2. The average price distribution among the neighbourhood groups is higher for Other Cities followed by Unincorporated Areas and City of Los Angeles. Whereas the average price distribution among the top-5 neighbourhoods is higher for Venice, followed by Santa Monica, Long Beach, Hollywood and Sherman Oaks. It is clear from (1) that if there are more listings, the average price is lower, owing to the conclusion that, number of listings is inversely proportional to the average price.

- 3. There are more listings available for the room types home/apt, followed by private room, shared room, which has 25643 listings, and hotel room, which has 77 listings. When these are paired with neighbourhood groups, it is discovered that home/apt is the most available in all groups, followed by private rooms. Unincorporated Areas has no shared type rooms, which is an interesting result. In addition, no hotel rooms are available in any of the neighbourhood groups. Among the top-5 neighbourhood places Sherman Oaks has the most Private rooms compared to the other types. However, the regular Entire home/apt is the top of the other top-5 places.
- 4. Hosts with the most listings have been highlighted. For privacy and ethical reasons, the host names column was removed and replaced with host ids to identify hosts. The most extensive listing has over 1001 entries.
- 5. When compared to the other groups, the City of Los Angeles has more availability across all 365 days out of the three neighbourhood groups available. For top-5 neighbourhood places as there is no box present for Sherman Oaks, which is available on all days of the year.
- 6. All the 3 neighbourhood groups have the highest average price for Entire home/apt room types. For the top-5 neighbourhood places, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Sherman Oaks, Venice has the highest average price for Entire home/apt room types costing around 159.9\$, 196.39\$, 200.92\$ and 220.93\$ respectively. While Long Beach has the highest average price for hotel rooms which is 198.89\$. These results were also published in the MongoDB Atlas Dashboards.
- 7. After data cleaning and stop word removals, the most frequent words available in name of the listings are 'private', 'bedroom', 'room', 'home', 'beach'.

Challenges Faced:

As a person who is using the MongoDB Atlas for the first time, I found this as an opportunity to learn a new skill. At first while ingesting the csv data into the Atlas using compass, I encountered difficulties in connecting to the ClusterO. I had to refer video tutorials for resolving the problems. Later on, accessing this using the VM's instance was again a troublesome. Proper research on the network accessing helped to get through this.

Also, I was planning to do entire analysis in the PySpark environment, but due the dependencies on jar files for the pyspark-mongodb connector, I could not able to use it. It needed additional jar files to execute using PySpark. I tired figuring out adding them for 2 days, unfortunately due to version mis match errors, I had to drop the idea of going ahead with it.

Section 6: Conclusion

This project, Airbnb analysis in L.S, US hence gives us the conclusions regarding the Airbnb Listings in L.A region. L.A being the second most populous city in the United States and one of the world's most visited cities, planning a holiday or vacation to this place includes most of the expenses. Now with the detailed analysis from the project, we now know the neighbourhood groups, top-5 neighbourhoods around L.A, the average price distribution

accordingly to the neighbourhood groups and top-5 neighbourhoods, the room types distribution and average pricing for the neighbourhood groups and top-5 neighbourhoods. We also know the top 10 hosts as per the listings. Based on this information, one could actually plan for the vacation by managing the expenses and also availabilities of the Listings accordingly.

Additional Work: I would like to implement the same using the PySpark environment once the error related to the jar files is resolved. As PySpark is a distributed environment, when the data is huge, this would increase the processing of the analysis much faster. Also, I would like to publish all the results into the MongoDB. Due to the time constraint, I could not able to publish the results into the dashboards for all them.

Links in support of the work:

1. https://github.iu.edu/sarutla/Big Data Course Project

Section 7: Reference

- 1. http://insideairbnb.com/get-the-data
- 2. https://www.mongodb.com/docs/
- 3. https://practicaldatascience.co.uk/data-science/how-to-visualise-data-using-boxplots-in-seaborn
- 4. https://www.datacamp.com/tutorial/wordcloud-python
- 5. https://pymongo.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
- 6. https://jakevdp.github.io/PythonDataScienceHandbook/04.14-visualization-with-seaborn.html
- 7. https://www.mongodb.com/languages/python
- 8. https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2021/10/end-to-end-predictive-analysis-on-airbnb-listings-data/