## **Capstone Project --**

# Exploring similarities and dissimilarities between two cities, Taipei and Tainan, in Taiwan

#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

Taiwan is one of the popular immigration countries for Hong Kong residents, given its resemblance in dining, culture and climates. Yet, there are a number of cities in Taiwan that have some similarities and dissimilarities in their neighborhoods, such that people will have to consider before they apply for an immigration, especially with the whole family.

#### 1.2 Interest

For the sake of interest of an immigration agency, we will conduct an analysis to explore similarities and dissimilarities in city neighborhoods in Taiwan. As a result of the study, the agency would be able to provide more valuable immigration advice and recommendations to their clients.

#### 1.3 Problem

We will explore district neighborhoods in two major cities, Taipei and Tainan, in Taiwan. For Taipei, as we consider in this study, it will include districts in both Taipei city and New Taipei city, as New Taipei is more like a region surrounding Taipei.

Using segmentation and clustering, we will compare the district neighborhoods of Taipei and Tainan, in order to determine the similarities and dissimilarities of these two cities.

#### 2. Data

### 2.1 City Districts in Taiwan

This wiki page provides a list of cities and districts in Taiwan.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_townships/cities\_and\_districts\_in\_Taiwan

We will parse data from html file and load data into a data frame for analysis. We will focus on data of '*Type District*' only in the table.

#### 2.2 Coordinates Data

Theoretically, we can get latitude and longitude data for each district using geocoder in Python.

Alternatively, we can look up map coordinates from this website.

https://www.gps-coordinates.net/

#### 2.3 Venues Data

Foursquare API will be used to obtain the most common venues in each district in Taipei and Tainan.

## 2.4 Sample Formatted Districts Data for Taipei and Tainan

Sample data for Taipei:

	City	District	Area	Population	Latitude	Longitude
0	New Taipei City	Banqiao District	556,276	23.14	25.009670	121.459099
1	New Taipei City	Sanchong District	386,206	16.32	25.061486	121.488102
2	New Taipei City	Zhonghe District	412,856	20.14	24.999397	121.498980
3	New Taipei City	Yonghe District	220,602	5.71	25.009235	121.520070
4	New Taipei City	Xinzhuang District	419,962	19.74	25.035772	121.450248
5	New Taipei City	Xindian District	303,288	120.23	24.928408	121.539007
6	New Taipei City	Shulin District	183,982	33.13	24.990706	121.420533
7	New Taipei City	Yingge District	86,780	21.12	24.959945	121.353771
8	New Taipei City	Sanxia District	116,338	191.45	24.934339	121.368905
9	New Taipei City	Tamsui District	177,988	70.66	25.183559	121.459954

# Sample data for Tainan:

	City	District	Area	Population	Latitude	Longitude
0	Tainan City	Xinying District	77,072	38.54	23.308698	120.316957
1	Tainan City	Yanshuei District	25,266	52.25	23.319828	120.266398
2	Tainan City	Baihe District	27,744	126.40	23.351473	120.413745
3	Tainan City	Liuying District	21,103	61.29	23.279601	120.311157
4	Tainan City	Houbi District	23,055	72.22	23.366721	120.362726
5	Tainan City	Dongshan District	20,501	124.92	23.326668	120.404059
6	Tainan City	Madou District	43,987	53.97	23.181724	120.248206
7	Tainan City	Xiaying District	23,700	33.53	23.235413	120.264484
8	Tainan City	Lioujia District	21,917	67.55	23.232901	120.352221
9	Tainan City	Guantian District	21,343	70.80	23.191997	120.316493

# 3. Methodology

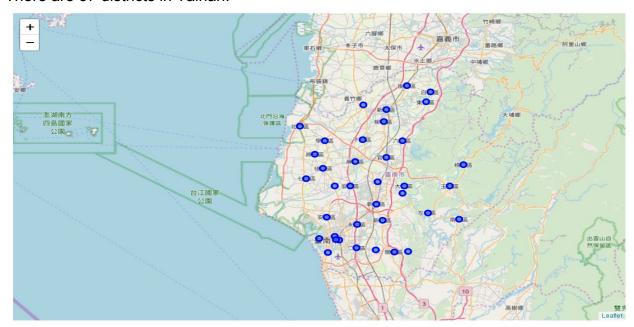
## 3.1 Examine the District Dataset

Once we have retrieved the coordinates for districts in Taipei and Tainan, we can visualize the districts of these two cities in a map using the **Folium** library.

There are 40 districts in Taipei:



There are 37 districts in Tainan:



From the maps above, the districts can be identified correctly and properly in the two city maps respectively. So it looks good on the district dataset.

#### 3.2 Examine the Venue Dataset returned from Foursquare API

Next, we use Foursquare /venues/explore API to get the most common venues for each district in Taipei and Tainan. In our case, we try to look up top 100 venues within a radius of 800 meters.



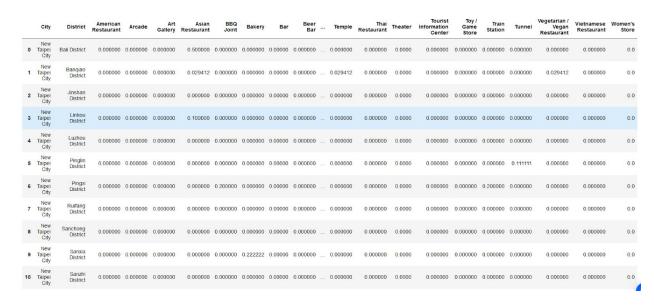
For Taipei, we get 506 venues, of which they can be classified into 122 unique categories.



For Tainan, we get 228 venues, of which they can be classified into 77 unique categories.

In order to analyze each district, we group venues based on categories. To do that, we first create one-hot encoding with "venue category" using all venues in a city, and then, for every district, take the mean of the frequency of occurrence of each category.

#### Category grouping for districts in Taipei:



#### Category grouping for districts in Tainan:



Finally, we have refined a data frame with the top 5 most common venues for each district in Taipei and Tainan respectively.

Top 5 most common venues for Taipei districts:

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
0	New Taipei City	Bali District	Convenience Store	Asian Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Truck	Discount Store
1	New Taipei City	Banqiao District	Café	Hotel	Hotpot Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop
2	New Taipei City	Jinshan District	Hotel	Farm	Snack Place	Food Court	Dim Sum Restaurant
3	New Taipei City	Linkou District	Pharmacy	Breakfast Spot	Café	Asian Restaurant	Noodle House
4	New Taipei City	Luzhou District	Pizza Place	Concert Hall	Noodle House	Night Market	Women's Store
5	New Taipei City	Pinglin District	Tea Room	Convenience Store	Chinese Restaurant	Taiwanese Restaurant	Museum
6	New Taipei City	Pingxi District	Bus Station	Platform	Train Station	Café	BBQ Joint
7	New Taipei City	Ruifang District	Taiwanese Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Stand	Dim Sum Restaurant	Diner
8	New Taipei City	Sanchong District	Convenience Store	Restaurant	Café	Taiwanese Restaurant	Women's Store
9	New Taipei City	Sanxia District	Dessert Shop	Bakery	Snack Place	Market	Café
10	New Taipei City	Sanzhi District	Chinese Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Stand	Diner	Discount Store

Top 5 most common venues for Tainan districts:

nue 3rd Most Common Venue 4th Most Common Venue 5th Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	1st Most Common Venue	District	City	
rant Department Store Dessert Shop Dim Sum Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Convenience Store	Anding District	Tainan City	0
rant Tea Room Soup Place Deli / Bodega	Seafood Restaurant	Concert Hall	Annan District	Tainan City	1
ore Food Truck Dessert Shop Taiwanese Restaurant	Convenience Store	Soup Place	Anping District	Tainan City	2
hop Restaurant Bus Station Water Park	Flower Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Baihe District	Tainan City	3
ure Tourist Information Center History Museum Farmers Market	Outdoor Sculpture	Grocery Store	Beimen District	Tainan City	4
rant Convenience Store Department Store Dessert Shop	Seafood Restaurant	Water Park	Cigu District	Tainan City	5
ore Water Park Convenience Store Department Store	Electronics Store	Public Art	Danei District	Tainan City	6
uck Tea Room Taiwanese Restaurant Water Park	Food Truck	Asian Restaurant	Dongshan District	Tainan City	7
oom Taiwanese Restaurant Chinese Restaurant Café	Tea Room	Noodle House	East District	Tainan City	8
rant Chinese Restaurant Bus Station Water Park	Taiwanese Restaurant	Asian Restaurant	Guanmiao District	Tainan City	9
rket Train Station Dessert Shop Farmers Market	Night Market	Park	Guantian District	Tainan City	10
ight Mar	N	Park	Guantian District	Tainan City	10

## 3.3 Running K-Means Clustering Algorithm

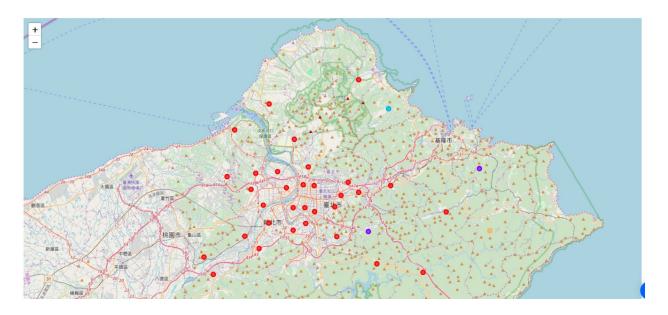
Afterall, using the above datasets, we will segment the districts using k-means clustering and analyze the clusters formed in Taipei and Tainan.

In our case, we have an unlabelled dataset, so running k-means clustering is an appropriate approach to solve the problem. By taking k=5, we will segment the districts into 5 clusters in each city, and find out any pattern or characteristic in these clusters, thereby trying to identify any similarities or dissimilarities between these two cities.

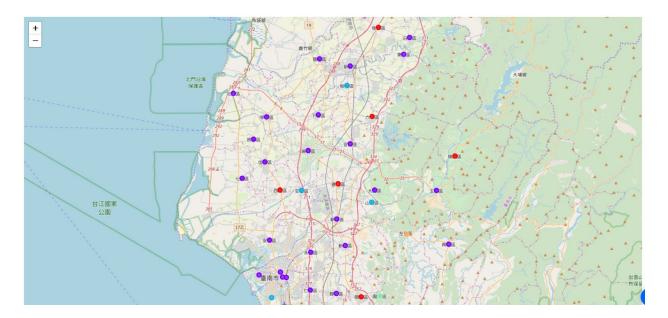
## 4. Results

First, using the **Folium** library, we can visualize the clusters formed in a map for Taipei and Tainan.

District clustering in Taipei:



## District clustering in Tainan:



## Next, we list the districts under each cluster in Taipei and Tainan.

## Taipei Cluster #1, the major cluster -

5th Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	1st Most Common Venue	District	City	
Ice Cream Shop	Fast Food Restaurant	Hotpot Restaurant	Hotel	Café	Banqiao District	New Taipei City	0
Women's Store	Taiwanese Restaurant	Café	Restaurant	Convenience Store	Sanchong District	New Taipei City	1
Furniture / Home Store	Sporting Goods Shop	Café	Coffee Shop	Hotel	Zhonghe District	New Taipei City	2
Coffee Shop	Steakhouse	Farmers Market	Museum	Convenience Store	Yonghe District	New Taipei City	3
Food & Drink Shop	Night Market	Gym / Fitness Center	Coffee Shop	Hotpot Restaurant	Xinzhuang District	New Taipei City	4
Fast Food Restauran	Bus Stop	Coffee Shop	Italian Restaurant	Food Truck	Shulin District	New Taipei City	5
Food Truck	Women's Store	Food	Convenience Store	Art Gallery	Yingge District	New Taipei City	6
Café	Market	Snack Place	Bakery	Dessert Shop	Sanxia District	New Taipei City	7
Farmers Marke	Women's Store	Golf Course	Asian Restaurant	Indie Theater	Tamsui District	New Taipei City	8
Chinese Restauran	Japanese Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Convenience Store	Korean Restaurant	Xizhi District	New Taipei City	9
Metro Station	Bus Station	Motorcycle Shop	Chinese Restaurant	Convenience Store	Tucheng District	New Taipei City	11
Women's Store	Night Market	Noodle House	Concert Hall	Pizza Place	Luzhou District	New Taipei City	12
Dine	Food Stand	Women's Store	Breakfast Spot	Gourmet Shop	Wugu District	New Taipei City	13
Chinese Restauran	Market	Ramen Restaurant	Convenience Store	Food Truck	Taishan District	New Taipei City	14
Noodle House	Asian Restaurant	Café	Breakfast Spot	Pharmacy	Linkou District	New Taipei City	15
Discount Store	Food Truck	Women's Store	Bus Stop	Bike Rental / Bike Share	Shiding District	New Taipei City	17
Museum	Taiwanese Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Convenience Store	Tea Room	Pinglin District	New Taipei City	18
Discount Store	Food Truck	Women's Store	Asian Restaurant	Convenience Store	Bali District	New Taipei City	20
BBQ Join	Café	Train Station	Platform	Bus Station	Pingxi District	New Taipei City	21
Dim Sum Restauran	Food Court	Snack Place	Farm	Hotel	Jinshan District	New Taipei City	23
Chinese Restauran	Shabu-Shabu Restaurant	Taiwanese Restaurant	Japanese Restaurant	Seafood Restaurant	Songshan District	Taipei City	25
Coffee Shop	BBQ Joint	Lounge	Electronics Store	Department Store	Xinyi District	Taipei City	26
Deli / Bodega	Park	Tea Room	Convenience Store	Café	Daan District	Taipei City	27
Fish Marke	BBQ Joint	Massage Studio	Seafood Restaurant	Hotel	Zhongshan District	Taipei City	28
Theater	Bakery	Monument / Landmark	Noodle House	Café	Zhongzheng District	Taipei City	29
Convenience Store	Supermarket	Café	Dessert Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Datong District	Taipei City	30
Bakery	Coffee Shop	Dessert Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Wanhua District	Taipei City	31
Ice Cream Shop	Café	Convenience Store	Japanese Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Wenshan District	Taipei City	32
BBQ Join	Toy / Game Store	Train Station	Bubble Tea Shop	Shopping Mall	Nangang District	Taipei City	33
Gym	Coffee Shop	Asian Restaurant	Convenience Store	Grocery Store	Neihu District	Taipei City	34
Noodle House	Shoe Store	Chinese Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop	Café	Shilin District	Taipei City	35
Park	Japanese Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Dessert Shop	Tea Room	Beitou District	Taipei City	36

## Taipei Cluster #2 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
10	New Taipei City	Ruifang District	Taiwanese Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Stand	Dim Sum Restaurant	Diner
16	New Taipei City	Shenkeng District	Taiwanese Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Stand	Dim Sum Restaurant	Diner

## Taipei Cluster #3 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
24	New Taipei City	Wanli District	Electronics Store	Women's Store	Dessert Shop	Diner	Discount Store

## Taipei Cluster #4 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
19	New Taipei City	Sanzhi District	Chinese Restaurant	Women's Store	Food Stand	Diner	Discount Store

## Taipei Cluster #5 -

50	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
22	New Taipei City	Shuangxi District	Women's Store	Dessert Shop	Diner	Discount Store	Donut Shop

## Tainan Cluster #1 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
4	Tainan City	Houbi District	Train Station	Bakery	Chinese Restaurant	Deli / Bodega	Fruit & Vegetable Store
8	Tainan City	Lioujia District	Snack Place	Flea Market	Chinese Restaurant	Optical Shop	Food Truck
13	Tainan City	Sigang District	Historic Site	Chinese Restaurant	Night Market	Convenience Store	Art Museum
18	Tainan City	Shanhua District	Chinese Restaurant	Night Market	Thai Restaurant	Farmers Market	Department Store
23	Tainan City	Nansi District	Asian Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Campground	Water Park	Fast Food Restaurant
28	Tainan City	Guanmiao District	Asian Restaurant	Taiwanese Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Bus Station	Water Park

#### Tainan Cluster #2, the major cluster -

5th Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	1st Most Common Venue	District	City	
Food	Taiwanese Restaurant	Dessert Shop	Food Truck	Park	Xinying District	Tainan City	0
Lake	Dessert Shop	Night Market	Indie Movie Theater	Noodle House	Yanshuei District	Tainan City	1
Water Par	Bus Station	Restaurant	Flower Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Baihe District	Tainan City	2
Water Par	Taiwanese Restaurant	Tea Room	Food Truck	Asian Restaurant	Dongshan District	Tainan City	5
Farmers Marke	Movie Theater	Ice Cream Shop	Multiplex	Grocery Store	Madou District	Tainan City	6
Convenience Store	Restaurant	Pharmacy	Food Stand	Fruit & Vegetable Store	Xiaying District	Tainan City	7
Farmers Marke	Dessert Shop	Train Station	Night Market	Park	Guantian District	Tainan City	9
Department Store	Convenience Store	Water Park	Electronics Store	Public Art	Danei District	Tainan City	10
Water Par	Bus Station	Steakhouse	Asian Restaurant	Park	Jiali District	Tainan City	11
Baker	Asian Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop	Dessert Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Syuejia District	Tainan City	12
Dessert Shop	Department Store	Convenience Store	Seafood Restaurant	Water Park	Cigu District	Tainan City	14
Flea Marke	Water Park	Asian Restaurant	Art Gallery	Ice Cream Shop	Jiangjun District	Tainan City	15
Farmers Marke	History Museum	Tourist Information Center	Outdoor Sculpture	Grocery Store	Beimen District	Tainan City	16
Water Par	Road	Food Truck	Asian Restaurant	Bus Station	Xinhua District	Tainan City	17
Indian Restauran	Dim Sum Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Snack Place	Taiwanese Restaurant	Sinshih District	Tainan City	19
Bus Station	Farmers Market	Ice Cream Shop	Dessert Shop	Convenience Store	Yujing District	Tainan City	22
Fast Food Restauran	Water Park	Food Stand	Asian Restaurant	Trail	Nanhua District	Tainan City	24
Water Par	Breakfast Spot	Pet Store	American Restaurant	Bus Station	Rende District	Tainan City	26
Dessert Shop	Flea Market	Fast Food Restaurant	Ice Cream Shop	Bubble Tea Shop	Gueiren District	Tainan City	27
Water Par	Intersection	Taiwanese Restaurant	Fast Food Restaurant	Dim Sum Restaurant	Yongkang District	Tainan City	30
Cafe	Chinese Restaurant	Taiwanese Restaurant	Tea Room	Noodle House	East District	Tainan City	31
Taiwanese Restauran	Dessert Shop	Historic Site	Café	Convenience Store	North District	Tainan City	33
Deli / Bodega	Soup Place	Tea Room	Seafood Restaurant	Concert Hall	Annan District	Tainan City	34
Taiwanese Restauran	Dessert Shop	Food Truck	Convenience Store	Soup Place	Anping District	Tainan City	35
Tea Roon	Chinese Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Taiwanese Restaurant	Café	West Central District	Tainan City	36

#### Tainan Cluster #3 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
3	Tainan City	Liuying District	Convenience Store	History Museum	Gourmet Shop	Art Gallery	Art Museum
20	Tainan City	Anding District	Convenience Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Department Store	Dessert Shop	Dim Sum Restaurant
21	Tainan City	Shanshang District	Convenience Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Department Store	Dessert Shop	Dim Sum Restaurant
32	Tainan City	South District	Convenience Store	Noodle House	Garden	Farmers Market	Department Store

#### Tainan Cluster #4 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
29	Tainan City	Longci District	Dog Run	Water Park	Fast Food Restaurant	Department Store	Dessert Shop

#### Tainan Cluster #5 -

	City	District	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue
25	Tainan City	Zuojhen District	History Museum	Water Park	Flea Market	Dessert Shop	Dim Sum Restaurant

At first glance of the results in map, we can see that both cities have a major cluster, in which more than 65% of the districts are resided in it. Obviously, that cluster would be the city center with mostly commercial and residential venues, like restaurants and cafes, shopping malls, stores and hotels etc. The other clusters in each city would probably be the suburban communities, in which it is less populated with fewer shops and restaurants in that area.

#### 5. Discussion

By taking a closer look of the venue info under each cluster, we can make 2 more observations between Taipei and Tainan.

When comparing the biggest cluster formed, the size of it (cluster #1, 86% districts resides in it) in Taipei is larger than that (cluster #2, 68%) in Tainan. This makes sense because Taipei is the capital of Taiwan. Definitely Taipei will have a larger city center than Tainan, and is a more densely populated urban area than Tainan.

By examining the clusters in Tainan, we also find that Tainan is a city with more historical spots for tourism and sightseeing. We can see historic site and art museum in cluster #1, historic site, outdoor sculpture and tourist information center in cluster #2, history museum and art gallery in cluster #3 and #5. This observation aligns with our understanding that Tainan is the cultural heart of Taiwan, of which it is rich in history and local traditions. It is because Tainan is the old capital of Taiwan.

Although we can get favorable information for our problem, it is not accurate enough. During the data processing, we find that for some districts in Taipei and Tainan, we don't have much location data from Foursquare.

In Taipei, 13 districts out of 37 (i.e. 35%) have less than 5 venue data.

		Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
City	District						
New Taipei City	Bali District	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Banqiao District	34	34	34	34	34	34
	Jinshan District	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Linkou District	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Luzhou District	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Pinglin District	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Pingxi District	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Ruifang District	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Sanchong District	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Sanxia District	9	9	9	9	9	9

In Tainan, 24 districts out of 37 (i.e. 64%) have less than 5 venue data.

		Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
City	District						
Tainan City	Anding District	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Annan District	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Anping District	9	9	9	9	9	9
	<b>Baihe District</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Beimen District	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Cigu District	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Danei District	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Dongshan District	5	5	5	5	5	5
	East District	19	19	19	19	19	19
	Guanmiao District	4	4	4	4	4	4

So when examining clusters in our result, we only focus on the 5 most common venues, instead of 10 as in our lab assignment. To improve accuracy in further studies, in addition to Foursquare's data, we need to source more venue data for analysis.

#### 6. Conclusion

The study can provide supportive information for Immigration Agency to make a high level comparison between the two cities in Taiwan. From that, they are able to come up with evidence to identify similarities and dissimilarities between Taipei and Tainan. Both cities have a well-established city center, which is also similar to Hong Kong urban's living style. However, if people would like to slow down the fast pace in city's life and experience a more cultural and leisure neighborhood in Taiwan, Tainan would be a good choice for immigration, because it is less densely populated and has more historical and rural attractions to explore with.

#### 7. References

#### Notebook:

https://jp-tok.dataplatform.cloud.ibm.com/analytics/notebooks/v2/ceb871eb-6dbf-43d7-88f0-a1bc541b1321/view?access\_token=1efbf131fc223da10d201e898991273558dbcb724fd2b0ca39c8092dbaf56467