Beat Analytics : Spotify Data Analysis and Song Popularity Prediction

Data Preparation & Analysis (CSP-571)

Project Group Members:

Student Name	A# Number
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Introduction

Our project, "Beat Analytics: Spotify Data Analysis and Song Popularity Prediction," dives deep into Spotify's extensive datasets to analyze musical trends, uncover patterns, and identify what drives song popularity. By harnessing the power of two significant datasets—the "Top Spotify Songs from 2010-2019 by Year" and the "Ultimate Spotify Tracks Database"—our team employs a range of data science methodologies including machine learning, data visualization, and exploratory data analysis.

Using the R programming language, we use its comprehensive and the required libraries for statistical analysis and data manipulation, we develop predictive models that can estimate song popularity based on various musical features such as tempo, energy, and danceability.

The objective of our project is to pinpoint the crucial features that impact a song's popularity on Spotify, to forecast future song popularity, and to detect emerging trends in popular music over the past decade. Through detailed data preparation, feature engineering, and model development & evaluation, we wish to provide valuable insights to musicians, record labels, and industry stakeholders.

Our efforts are directed towards guiding decision-making and uncovering the formula behind that contribute to successful music hits. Ultimately, the project seeks to enhance the application of data science in the music industry, providing a blueprint for how quantitative analysis can influence creative industries.

Problem Statement

The predictability of song popularity is a persistent challenge in our modern digital music landscape due to its rapid evolution and complexity. Even with the abundance of data available, it is still difficult to pinpoint the precise elements that lead to a song's success because they are frequently hidden behind flimsy metrics. The important task of methodically identifying, evaluating, and forecasting these variables is addressed by this research. Our objective is to create a predictive framework that can identify the traits of hit songs and forecast future releases, giving music industry participants a competitive advantage when creating hit songs.

The project seeks to answer the following questions:

What are the key features that influence the popularity of a song on Spotify?

How can we predict the future popularity of a song based on its features?

What trends and patterns can be observed in the top songs from 2010 to 2019?

Project Plan & Detail

Resources

Name	Initials	
Kasargod Kailash Chandra Shenoy	KKCS	
Aditya Nayak	AN	
Akshat Behera	AB	
Veerendra Gopichand Karuturi	VGK	

Project Plan & Detail

WBS	Activity	Dependency	Beginning Date	Conclusion Date	Assigned Resources	Progress
1	DPA Project		11th Feb	21st Apr		Done
1.1	Project Group & Topic (PGT)		11 th Feb	18 th Feb		Done
1.1.1	Literature Survey		11 th Feb	12 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.1.2	Idea Generation & Finalization	1.1.1	12 th Feb	13 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.1.3	PGT Document	1.1.2	13 th Feb	16 th Feb		Done
1.1.3.1	Initial Report	1.1.2	13 th Feb	14 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.1.3.2	PGT Report Evaluation Session	1.1.3.1	15 th Feb	15 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.1.3.3	PGT Report Revision	1.1.3.2	16 th Feb	17 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.1.4	Submission on Blackboard	1.1.3.3	18 th Feb	18 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.2	Data	1.1.4	16 th Feb	1 st Mar		Done
1.2.1	Data Gathering and Research	1.1.4	16 th Feb	19 th Feb		Done
1.2.1.1	Assembling all Relevant Datasets	1.1.4	16 th Feb	17 th Feb	AB	Done
1.2.1.2	Review Meetings of Dataset	1.2.1.1	17 th Feb	18 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB,VGK	Done
1.2.1.3	Documentation of Datasets	1.2.1.2	18th Feb	19 th Feb	AN	Done
1.2.2	Analysis of Datasets	1.2.1.3	20 th Feb	24 th Feb		Done
1.2.2.1	Style of Datasets	1.2.1.3	20 th Feb	21st Feb	VGK	Done
1.2.2.2	Processing of Dataset	1.2.2.1	22 nd Feb	22 nd Feb	VGK	Done

1.2.2.3	Meeting Review	1.2.2.2	23 rd Feb	23 rd Feb	KKCS, AN, AB,VGK	Done
1.2.2.4	Dataset Documents	1.2.2.3	24th Feb	24th Feb	VGK	Done
1.2.3	Dataset Applications of the Project	1.2.2.4	25 th Feb	29 th Feb		Done
1.2.3.1	Response and Key Predictions	1.2.2.4	25 th Feb	26 th Feb	KCS	Done
1.2.3.2	Pipelines and Processing of Data	1.2.3.1	27 th Feb	27 th Feb	AN	Done
1.2.3.3	Review Meeting	1.2.3.2	28 th Feb	28 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB,VGK	Done
1.2.3.4	Documentation of Dataset	1.2.3.3	29th Feb	29 th Feb	KKCS	Done
1.2.4	Rework	1.2.3.4	1 st Mar	1st Mar	AN	Done
1.3	Analysis Overview	1.2.4	17 th Feb	22 th Feb		Done
1.3.1	Review of Related Literature	1.2.4	17 th Feb	17 th Feb	AN, AB	Done
1.3.2	Gathering Research Materials	1.3.1	17th Feb	17 th Feb	AB	Done
1.3.3	Synthesis of Key Insights	1.3.2	18th Feb	18th Feb	KKCS, VGK	Done
1.3.4	Pinpointing Crucial Variables	1.3.3	19 th Feb	19 th Feb	VGK	Done
1.3.5	Justification for Model Choices	1.3.4	20 th Feb	21st Feb	KKCS, AN	Done
1.3.6	Overall Review	1.3.1 - 1.3.5	21th Feb	22 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4	Project Software - RStudio Setup	1.3.6	13 th Feb	14 th Feb		Done
1.4.1	Install Latest RStudio	1.3.6	13 th Feb	13 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4.1.1	Download RStudio	1.4.1	13 th Feb	13 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4.1.2	Installation Process	1.4.1.2	13 th Feb	13 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done

1.4.1.3	Installation Verification	1.4.1 1.4.1.2	13 th Feb	13 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4.2	Install Necessary Libraries	1.4.1.3	14 th Feb	14 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4.2.1	Identify Required Libraries	1.4.2	14 th Feb	14 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.4.2.2	Verify Installation	1.4.2 - 1.4.2.1	14 th Feb	14 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.5	Project Proposal & Outline (PPO)	1.3.6 - 1.4.2.2	18 th Feb	3 rd Mar		Done
1.5.1	Proposal Documentation	1.3.6	18 th Feb	24 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.5.1.1	Project Description	1.3.6	18 th Feb	19 th Feb	AN	Done
1.5.1.2	Questions	1.5.1.1	20 th Feb	20 th Feb	AB	Done
1.5.1.3	Proposed Methodology	1.5.1.2	21st Feb	21st Feb	KKCS	Done
1.5.1.4	Outlining Metrics	1.5.1.3	22 nd Feb	22 nd Feb	VGK	Done
1.5.2	Outline Documentation	1.5.1.4	25 th Feb	29 th Feb	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.5.2.1	Literature Review - References - Supplemental Resources	1.3.1 - 1.3.2	25 th Feb	25 th Feb	VGK, AB	Done
1.5.2.2	Dataset and Sources - Overview and Feature Description	1.2 - 1.5.2.1	26 th Feb	26 th Feb	АВ	Done
1.5.2.3	Data Processing and Pipeline & Data Stylized Facts	1.5.2.2	27 th Feb	27 th Feb	KKCS, AN	Done
1.5.2.4	Model Selection	1.3.5 - 1.5.2.3	28 th Feb	29 th Feb	KKCS, AB	Done
1.5.2.5	Software and Libraries	1.5.2.4	29 th Feb	29 th Feb	AN, VGK	Done
1.5.3	Refining the PPO	1.5.2.5	1 st Mar	12 th Mar	AB, AN	Done
1.5.4	Final Review	1.5.3	12 th Mar	3 rd Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done

1.5.5	Submission Preparation	1.5.4	12 th Mar	3 rd Mar	KKCS, AN,	Done
				No.	AB, VGK	
1.6	Coding	1.5.5	6 th Mar	9 th Apr		Done
1.6.1	Data Handling	1.5.5	6 th Mar	10 th Mar		Done
1.6.1.1	Scripting	1.5.5	10 th Mar	16 th Mar	KKCS	Done
1.6.1.2	Review Session	1.6.1.1	16 th Mar	17 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.6.1.3	Modifications	1.6.1.2	17 th Mar	19 th Mar	AN	Done
1.6.2	Charting	1.6.1.3	19 th Mar	20 th Mar		Done
1.6.2.1	Scripting	1.6.1.3	15 th Mar	26 th Mar	AB, VGK	Done
1.6.2.2	Review Session	1.6.2.1	22 nd Mar	27th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.6.2.3	Modifications	1.6.2.2	23 rd Mar	24 th Mar	AB	Done
1.6.3	Linear Models	1.6.1.3	25 th Mar	26 th Mar		Done
1.6.3.1	Scripting	1.6.1.3	26 th Mar	27 th Mar	AN, AB	Done
1.6.3.2	Review Session	1.6.3.1	27 th Mar	28 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.6.3.3	Modifications	1.6.3.2	28th Mar	29 th Mar	KKCS	Done
1.6.4	Combine Versions 1.6.1-1.6.3	1.6.2.3 1.6.3.3	29 th Mar	1 st Apr		Done
1.6.4.1	Scripting	1.6.2.3 1.6.3.3	1 st Apr	2 nd Apr	KKCS, VGK	Done
1.6.4.2	Review Session	1.6.4.1	2 nd Apr	4 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.6.4.3	Modifications	1.6.4.3	4 th Mar	9 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.7	Project Plan & Detail	1.1.4 - 1.6	12 th Mar	24 th Mar		Done
1.7.1	Documentation Creation	1.1.4 - 1.6	12 th Mar	14 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.7.2	Documentation Review	1.7.1	14 th Mar	16 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done

1.7.3	Documentation Revision	1.7.2	16 th Mar	20 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.7.4	Submit on Blackboard	1.7.3	20 th Mar	24 th Mar	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8	Project Demo & Report	1.7.4	8 th Apr	17 th Apr		Done
1.8.1	Report Creation	1.6.4.3	8 th Apr	14 th Apr		Done
1.8.1.1	Report Drafting	1.6.4.3	14 th Apr	15 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.1.2	Report Review	1.8.1.1	15 th Apr	16 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.1.3	Report Revision	1.8.1.2	16 th Apr	17 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.2	Presentation Preparation	1.6.4.3	17 th Apr	18 th Apr		Done
1.8.2.1	Presentation Draft	1.6.4.3	18 th Apr	19 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.2.2	Presentation Review	1.8.2.1	19 th Apr	20 th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.2.3	Presentation Revision	1.8.2.2	20st Apr	20th Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.3	Final Adjustments	1.8.2.3	20th Apr	21st Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done
1.8.4	Report and Presentation Submission	1.8.3	21st Apr	21st Apr	KKCS, AN, AB, VGK	Done

Dataset

a) Top Spotify Songs from 2010-2019 by Year

Description: This dataset comprises approximately 600 songs that were among the top songs of the year from 2010 to 2019, as measured by Billboard. It includes 13 features for exploration.

Source: Kaggle/DataCamp Dataset - Top Spotify Songs 10'-19

Data Origin: Extracted from organizeyourmusic.playlistmachinery.com

b) Ultimate Spotify Tracks Database

Description: This dataset provides comprehensive information on Spotify tracks, including various features such as acousticness, danceability, energy, etc., along with the popularity of the songs.

It has 232,725 tracks (i.e. Observations) spread across 26 genres of music. Where each genre approximately has 10,000 songs belonging to a particular genre. along with that 18 columns (i.e., Features) which can be used for exploration and analysis.

Source: Kaggle Dataset – <u>Ultimate Spotify Dataset</u>

Spotify Web API documentation on getting audio features: https://developer.spotify.com/documentation/web-api/reference/get-audio-fe atures

Methodology

1. Data Sources

Top Songs (2010-2019) & Ultimate Tracks Database: Features like genre, danceability, popularity.

2. Data Preprocessing

Clean-Up: Handle missing data, remove duplicates, standardize data formats.

3. Feature Engineering

Aggregations & Transformations: By artist, genre, and year.

4. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

Visuals & Correlations: Analyze feature distributions and relationships.

5. Model Development

Train & Test: Use algorithms like logistic regression, decision trees, NB, and KNN.

6. Model Evaluation

Metrics: R-squared, MAE, RMSE, precision, recall, F1-score, AUC.

7. Insights

Drivers of Popularity: Key findings and recommendations for stakeholders.

Data Processing & Pipeline

Data Loading: Loaded the datasets using R's read.csv() function for "top10s.csv" and read_csv() for "SpotifyFeatures.csv".

Data Cleaning: Checked for missing values (sum(is.na(data))) and duplicate entries (sum(duplicated(data)==TRUE)).

 Adjustments to the data structure, such as removing an unspecified column from "top10s.csv" and converting the 'year' column to a factor to better handle categorical analysis.

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA): Visualization of data distributions and relationships using ggplot2, with plots like histograms, box plots, and density plots to explore various features such as bpm, energy, danceability, and popularity.

 Using the 'ggpairs' to display pairwise relationships and distributions among several musical features.

Feature Manipulation: The modification of song attributes, such as converting year into a categorical factor, which is typical in preparing data for analysis that involves trends

over

time.

Pre-processing for Modeling: Features like 'key', 'mode', and 'time_signature' are converted to numeric or binary formats to prepare for modeling.

The data is split into training and testing sets to evaluate the model's performance accurately.

Data Stylization

Consistency in Categorical Data: The transformation of year to a factor indicates standardization of categorical data for consistency in visual and statistical analysis.

Factor adjustment for plotting to ensure that categorical levels (e.g., artist) are consistent and meaningful when visualized, particularly in functions like geom_bar() and coord_flip().

Visualization Enhancements: Using scale_fill_viridis_d() to maintain a consistent and accessible color palette across different plots.

 Enhancement of plot aesthetics such as titles, axis labels, and legends to improve readability and interpretation.

Consolidation: Aggregation based on artist, genre, or year to facilitate group-wise analysis and comparisons.

Feature Extraction

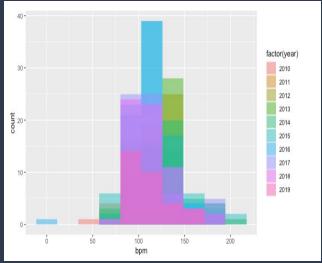
Top10s.csv: It has 600 songs (i.e., Observations), along with 14 columns (i.e., Features) from which 13 can be used for the exploration and analysis.

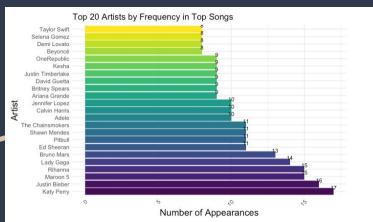
Field Name	Туре	Description
title	String	The title of the song.
artist	String	The artist or performer of the song.
top genre	String	The top genre classification of the song.
year	Integer	The year the song was released.
bpm	Integer	Beats per minute (tempo) of the song.
nrgy	Integer	Energy level of the song, likely subjective.
dnce	Integer	Danceability rating of the song.
dB	Integer	Loudness of the song in decibels.
live	Integer	Likelihood of the song being performed live.
val	Integer	Positivity or mood of the song.
dur	Integer	Duration of the song in seconds.
acous	Integer	Acousticness of the song.
spch	Integer	Presence of spoken words in the song.
pop	Integer	Popularity rating of the song, possibly subjective.

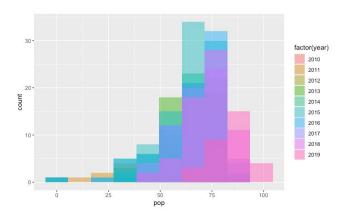
SpotifyFeatures.csv: It has approximately 232,725 tracks (i.e. Observations) spread across 26 genres of music. Where each genre approximately has 10,000 songs belonging to a particular genre. along with that 18 columns (i.e., Features) which can be used for exploration and analysis.

Field Name	Type	Description			
genre	String	The genre of the track.			
artist_name	String	The name of the artist who performed the track.			
track_name	String	The name or title of the track.			
track_id	String	A unique identifier for the track.			
popularity	Integer	The popularity score of the track.			
acousticness	Float	Measure of the acoustic characteristics of the track.			
danceability	Float	measure of how suitable a track is for dancing.			
duration_ms	Integer	The duration track in milliseconds.			
energy	Float	Measure of the energy of the track.			
instrumentalness	Float	measure of the presence of instrumental sounds in the track.			
key	Integer	The key the track is in.			
liveness	Float	Measure of presence of a live audience in the recording.			
loudness	Float	The loudness of track in d (dB).			
mode	Integer	The modality of the track (major or minor).			
speechiness	Float	Measure of the presence of spoken words in the track.			
tempo	Float	The tempo of the track in (BPM).			
time_signature	Integer	The time signature of the track.			
valence	Float	measure of the musical positiveness conveyed by a track.			

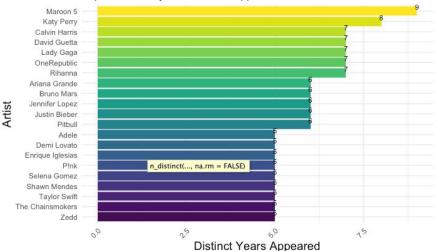
Data Visualization - top10s.csv

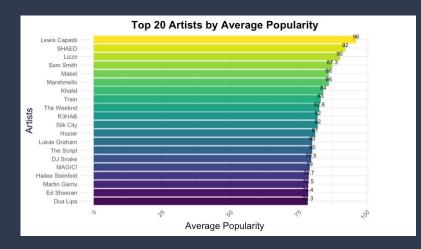


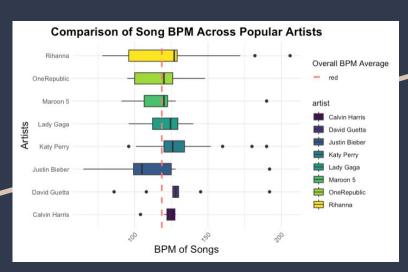


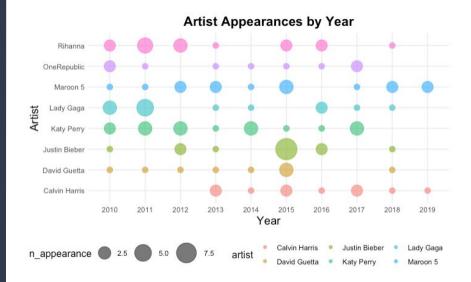


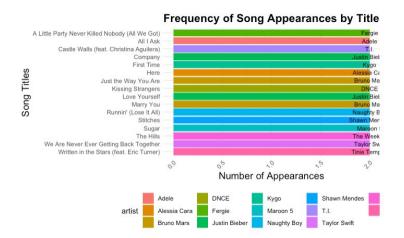


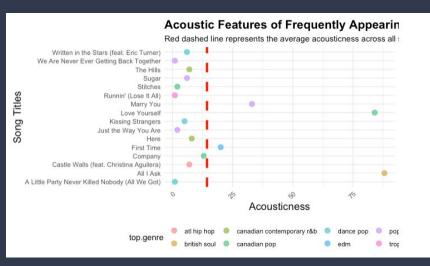


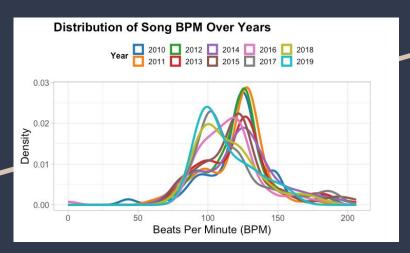




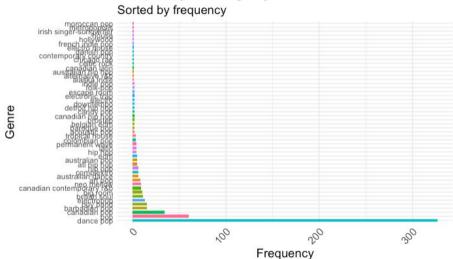




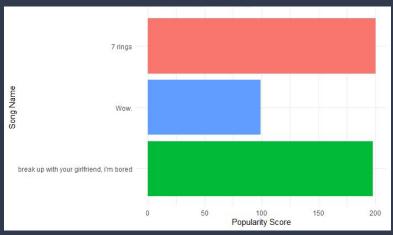


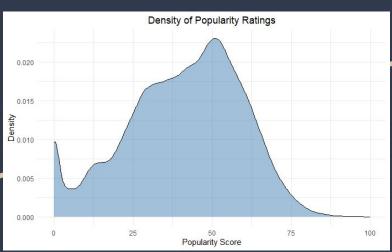


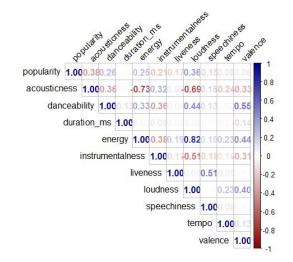


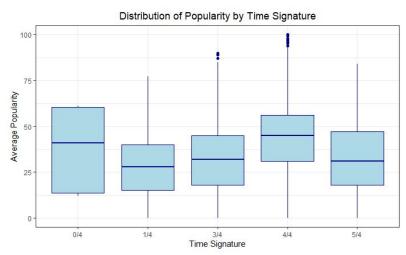


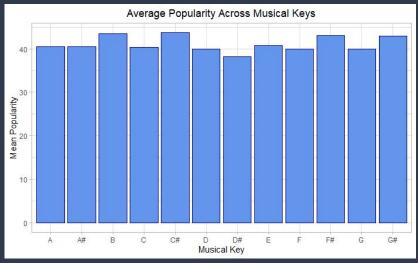
Data Visualization - SpotifyFeatures.csv

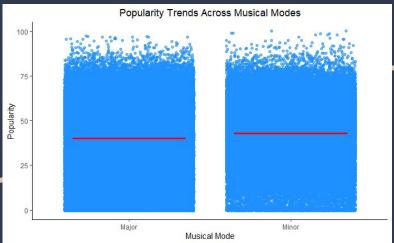


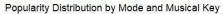


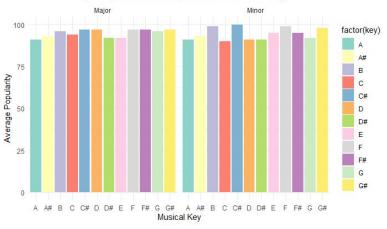




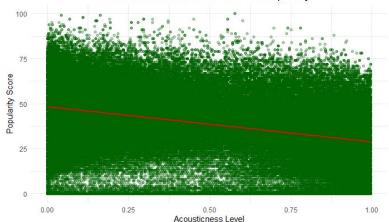


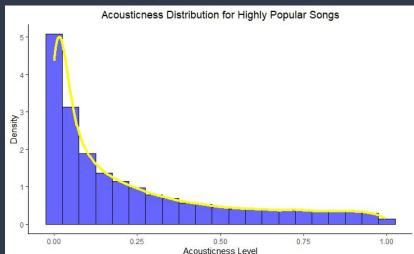


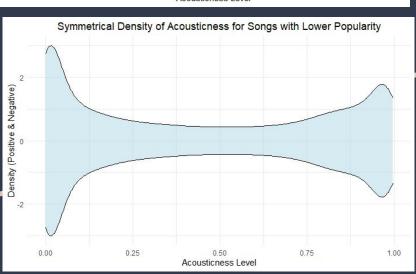


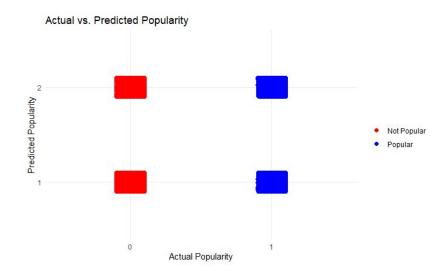


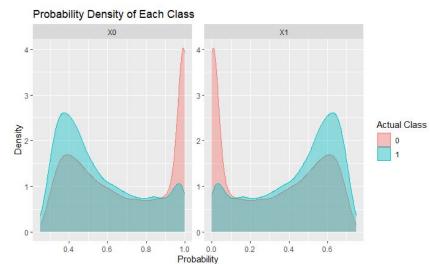












Model Selection

The models were selected in a way that addresses both the continuous nature of the popularity scores and the categorical outcomes of song classification (popular/not popular).

- Logistic Regression: For predicting whether a song is popular or not based on a binarized popularity score.
- Decision Tree: It was selected for its ability to handle nonlinear relationships and their robustness against overfitting.
- Naive Bayes: A simple probabilistic classifier based on applying Bayes' theorem with strong independence assumptions between the features.
- K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN): Its selection was based on its efficacy in capturing complex patterns by considering the proximity of similar data points.

Predictors:

These are the predictors used to input into the models to predict the response variable:

Acousticness	
Danceability	
Energy	
Tempo	
Speechiness	
Key	
Mode	
	_

· Response:

The response variable is what the models aim to predict based on the predictors. In our project, the response variable is:

 <u>Popularity Score</u>: This metric tells how often the song is played and how recent those plays are. It is used to gauge the success and reach of the tracks on Spotify, making it a key outcome variable for our analysis

Evaluation Metrics

In predictive modeling and data analysis, evaluation metrics are crucial for assessing the performance of models. The Metrics Used in Our Project:

- R-squared (R²): For predicting song popularity from features like acousticness, danceability, and energy, It quantifies how well the variations in song popularity.
- Mean Absolute Error (MAE): To assess the accuracy of continuous variables such as song popularity, providing a clear measure of prediction accuracy on a comprehensible scale.
- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): To evaluate regression models where minimizing large errors is critical, ensuring the model's predictive accuracy across various song features.
- Accuracy: To predict whether a song is popular, accuracy measures the overall
 correctness of the model in classifying songs as hits or non-hits.
- Confusion Matrix: For predicting categorical outcomes (popular/not popular), the confusion matrix helps in visualizing the model's performance.
- Area Under the Curve (AUC): It helps in judging how well the model can distinguish between the two classes (popular vs. not popular).
- Precision, Recall, and F1-Score: In music popularity predictions, ensuring a song identified as a potential hit truly has the characteristics of a hit (high precision), or that the model captures as many actual hits as possible (high recall).

Model Validation

Testing Results

Model Type	Accuracy	MAE	RMSE	F1 Score	AUC	
Logistic Regression	78.73%	0.3138	0.3976	88.10%	66.55%	

Model Type	Accuracy	MSE	RMSE	F1 Score
Decision Tree	78.73%	0.1675	0.4092	88.10%

Model Type	Accuracy	MSE	RMSE	F1 Score
Naive Bayes	64.02%	0.2020	0.4494	74.77%

[1] "Naive Bayes Model" Actual Predicted 0 1 0 24808 4908 1 11837 4992

Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score	AUC
77.46%	84.92%	86.79%	85.84%	64.86%

[1] "KNN Model Confusion Matrix"
Actual
Predicted 0 1
0 31804 5649

Performance Criteria

The performance criteria we used for our model evaluation and comparison are as follows:

- Accuracy: High accuracy is crucial for our case where correct overall predictions are paramount, affecting every decision based on the model's output.
- Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE):
 MSE measures the average of the squares of the errors—i.e., the
 average squared difference between estimated values and the
 actual value. RMSE is the square root of MSE.
- Precision: In our scenario, it is critical as high precision ensures that the model's positive predictions are reliable, reducing unnecessary expenses or actions based on incorrect data.
- Recall: It ensures that most positive cases are caught, even if some false positives occur.
- F1 Score: The F1 score becomes a key metric as It helps optimize
 models to find an effective balance between recall and precision,
 which is important for maintaining a stable performance.
- AUC: It provides us a measure of how well the model can discriminate between the classes across different thresholds. Higher AUC indicates a better performing model in terms of its capability to differentiate between the +ve and -ve classes.

Conclusion

Analysis of the top songs from 2010 to 2019 revealed that certain features like danceability, energy, and acousticness consistently correlate with higher popularity scores.

Visual and statistical analyses indicated that trends in music preference might shift over time, reflecting changes in listener demographics and technological advancements in music consumption.

Upon evaluating our models we see that Logistic Regression emerged as the most balanced model, offering a robust combination of accuracy, F1 score, and a reasonable AUC. The Decision Tree model matched Logistic Regression in terms of accuracy and F1 score but was notably inferior in its ability to discriminate between classes. Naive Bayes, while the fastest to implement, lagged behind in accuracy and F1 score. KNN demonstrated commendable precision and recall, making it suitable for project objectives.

Overall, these models were able to predict song popularity with reasonable accuracy giving us a positive result w.r.t our project objectives, highlighting the importance of certain features in influencing a song's success on Spotify.

Future Work / Recommendations

Future work upon this project could involve expanding the dataset to include newer data and additional variables or metrics like social media influence and artist popularity. More could be explored in the direction of more complex models such as neural networks and ensemble methods to improve prediction accuracy.

Source Links:

1. Top Spotify Songs from 2010-2019 by Year

Description: This dataset comprises approximately 600 songs that were among the top songs of the year from 2010 to 2019, as measured by Billboard. It includes 13 features for exploration.

Source:

https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/leonardopena/top-spotify-songs-from-20102019-by-year

Data Origin: Extracted from http://organizeyourmusic.playlistmachinery.com/

2. Ultimate Spotify Tracks Database

Description: This dataset provides comprehensive information on Spotify tracks, including various features such as acousticness, danceability, energy, etc., along with the popularity of the songs.

Source: https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/zaheenhamidani/ultimate-spetify-tracks-db#SpotifyFeatures.csv

Additional Resources:

https://developer.spotify.com/documentation/web-api/reference/get-audio-features

Source Code GitHub Link:

https://github.com/AkshatBehera/CSP571-DPA-Project-BeatAnalytics-Spotify

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THANK YOU

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