



# Now Playing

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# Research Goal

- Analyze the top tracks over a period of 20 years to identify various trends, find key indicators that make songs top tracks, and showcase the results.

## Analysis Performed:

- by Popularity
- by Year
- by Mode
- by Key

## Potential Target Audience:

- upcoming artists
- music labels
- music composers

# The Dataset



- Source: Kaggle
- Top 2,000 songs
- 2000 to 2019

**songs\_normalize.csv** (254.99 kB)

Detail Compact Column 10 of 18 columns

**About this file**

There are the most popular songs

# explicit	# year	# popularity	# danceability	# energy	# key	# loudness
Explicit content	Release Year of the track	The higher the value the more popular the song is	A value of 0.0 is least danceable and 1.0 is most danceable	Represents a perceptual measure of intensity and activity	The key the track is in	The overall loudness of the track in decibels
False	2000	77	0.751	0.834	1	-5.444
False	1999	79	0.434	0.897	0	-4.918
False	1999	66	0.529	0.496	7	-9.007
False	2000	78	0.551	0.913	0	-4.063
False	2000	65	0.614	0.928	8	-4.006
True	1999	69	0.706	0.888	2	-6.959
True	2000	86	0.949	0.661	5	-4.244
False	2000	68	0.708	0.772	7	-4.264
False	1999	75	0.713	0.678	5	-3.525

# Metrics Analyzed

- Artists
- Genre
- Duration
- Loudness
- Popularity
- Beats per Minute (BPM)
- Valence
- Key Signature
- Mode





# Data Cleaning

- Used “UTF-8-Sig” encoding to read special characters
- Removed songs outside of date range in Excel
- Removed duplicate values
- Removed songs with unclear genres
- Converted milliseconds to seconds

# Assumptions About Data

- Data is complete and accurate.
- Metrics were calculated using level of scientific rigor. (e.g. valence)



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Topic

Popular Genres

Song Length and  
Popularity

Loudness and  
Popularity

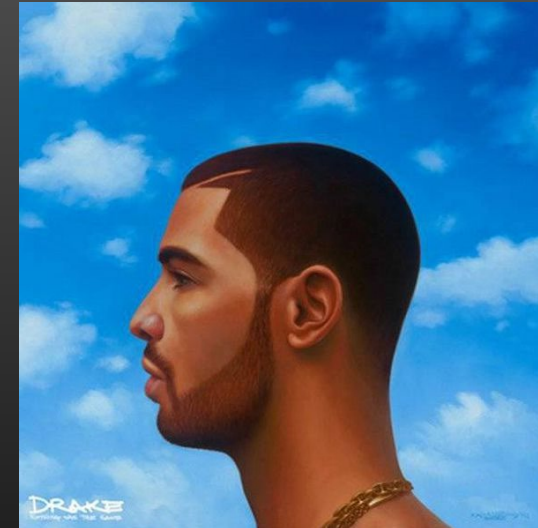
# Analyzing by Popularity



Popular Genre



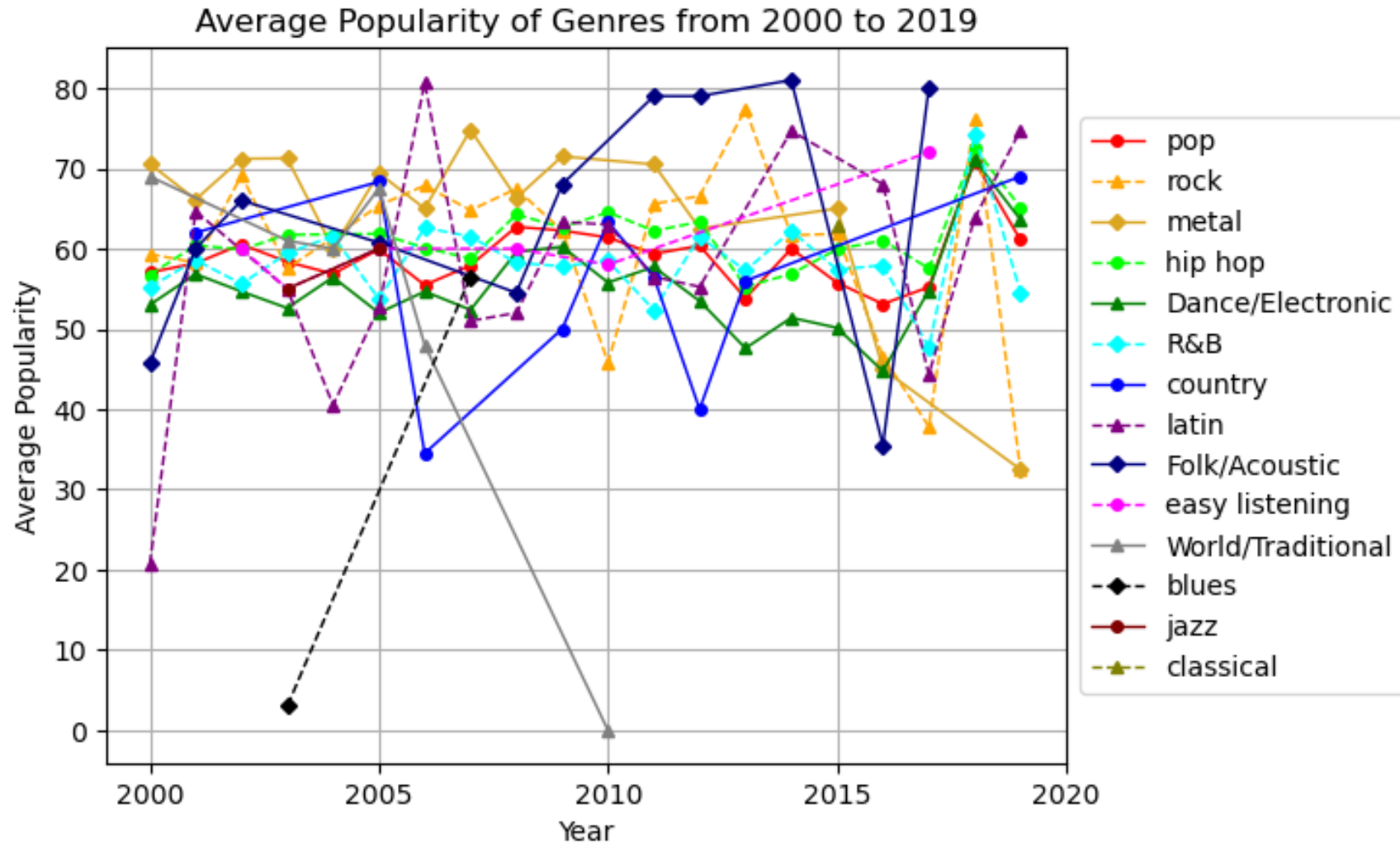
Song Length vs  
Popularity



Loudness vs  
Popularity

# Analyzing By Popularity

## Year vs Popularity Per Genre





# Analyzing By Popularity

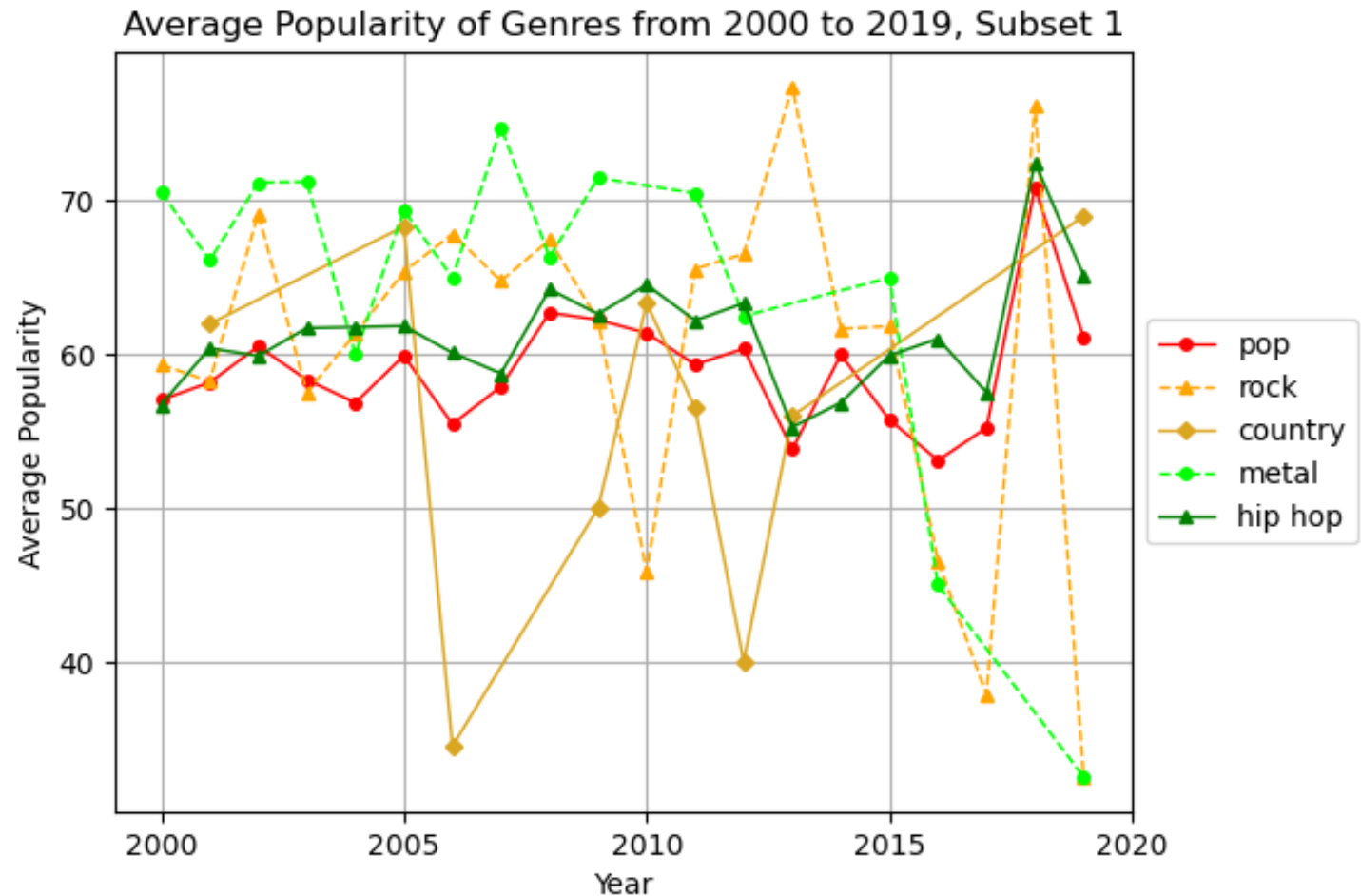
## Pop, Rock, Country, Metal and Hip Hop

**Hypothesis:** Pop is a consistently popular genre in the years of 2000 to 2019.

**Null Hypothesis:** Pop will not remain above 50% popularity from 2000 to 2019.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** Pop will remain above 50% popularity from 2000 to 2019.

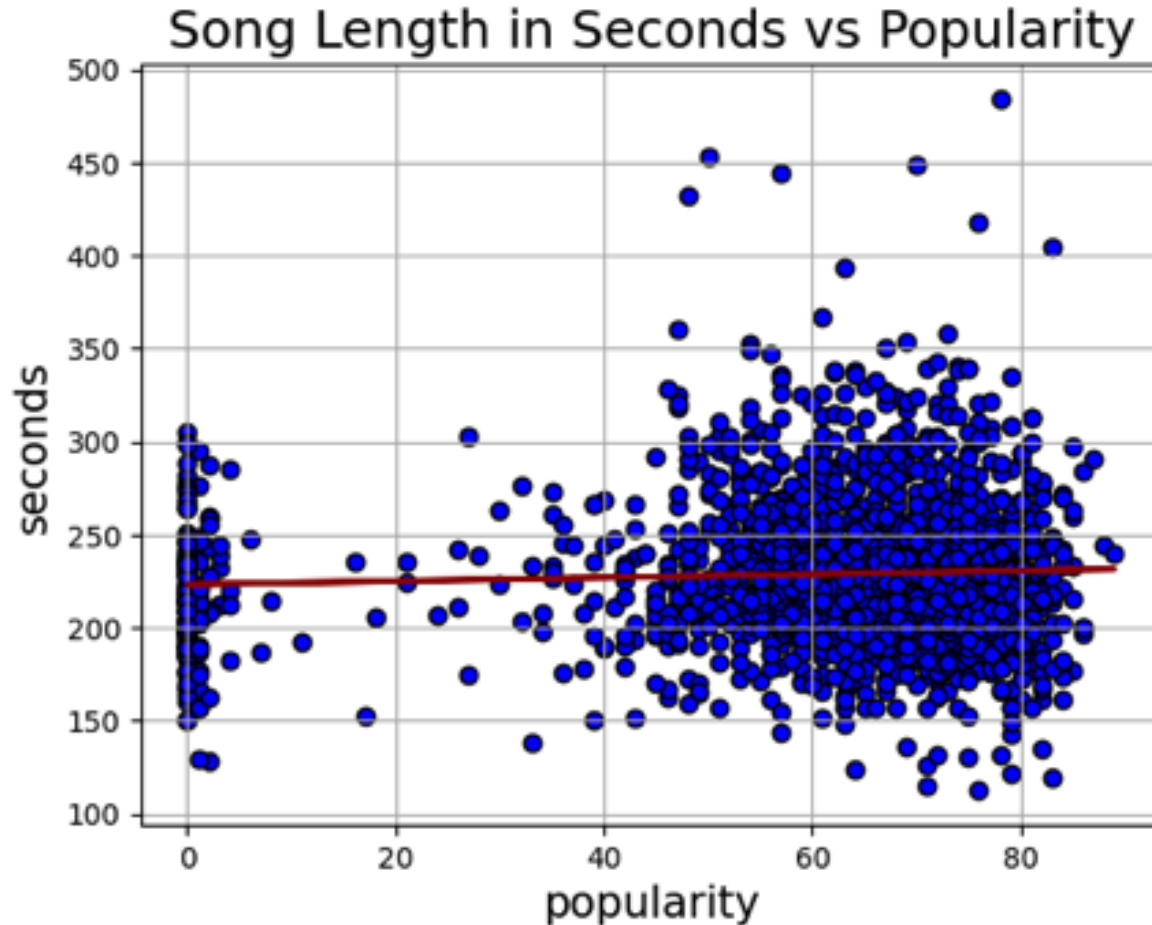
**Conclusion:** As all values for each year are above 50%, the null hypothesis is rejected.



# Analyzing By Popularity

## Song Length vs Popularity

The r-squared is: 0.0026 Line Eq:  $y = 0.09x + 223.19$  Median Song Length: 223.28



**Hypothesis:** If song length can be used as an indicator to determine its popularity.

**Null Hypothesis:** There is no significant correlation between song length and its popularity.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** Song length is an indicator of song popularity.

**Observation:** Accept the Null Hypothesis. There is no significant correlation between the song's length and popularity.

The median song length of 223.28 seconds cannot be used as an indicator of song popularity.

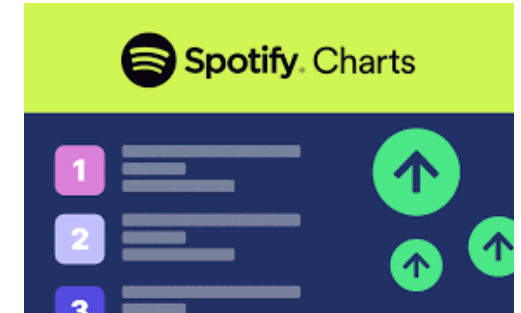
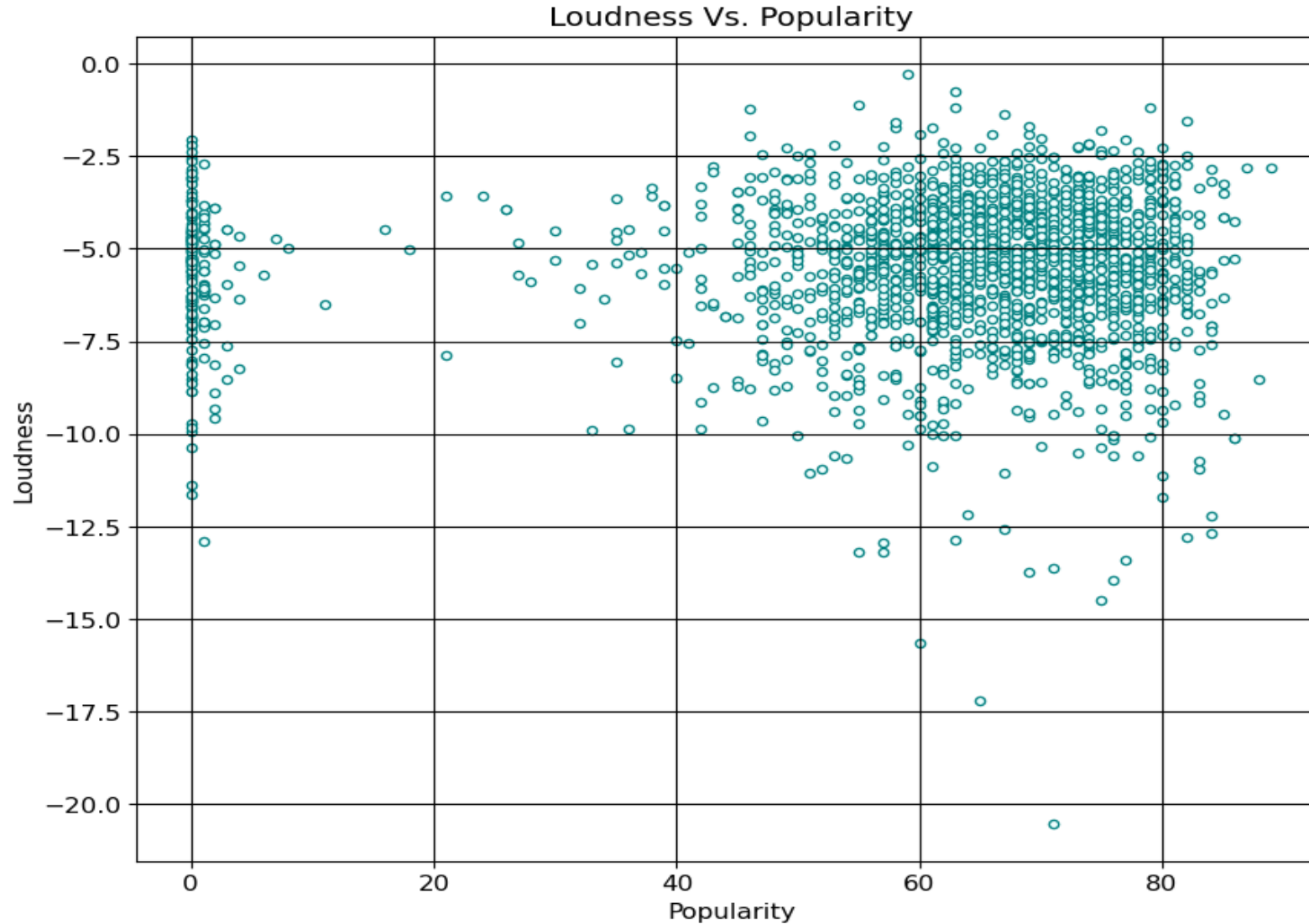
**R- value:** .0026

**Linear Regression:** Positive Correlation

$$y = .09 + 223.19$$

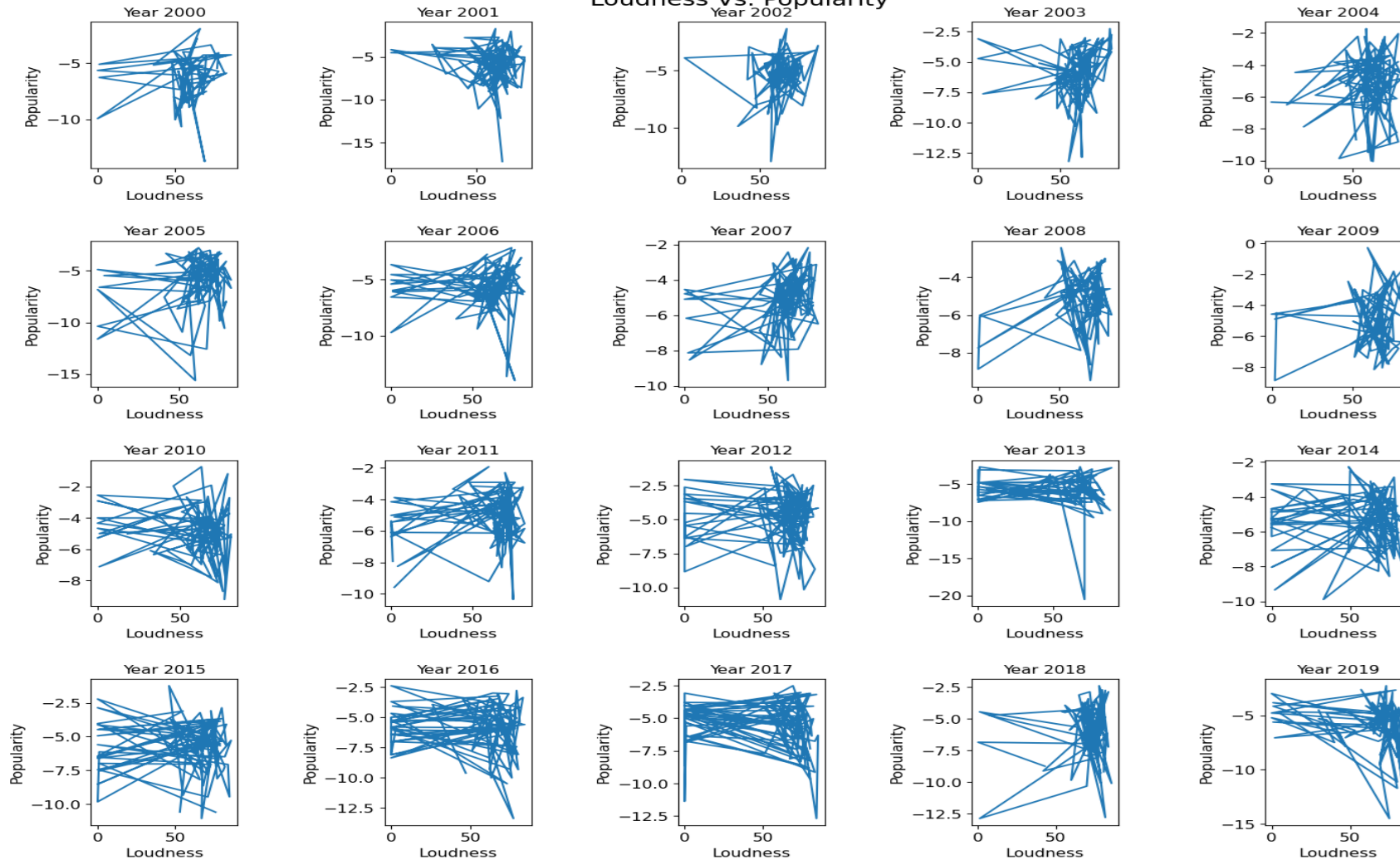
# Analyzing By Popularity

## Loudness vs Popularity



# Analyzing By Popularity Loudness vs Popularity by The Year

Loudness Vs. Popularity



**Hypothesis:** The loudness of a song determines the popularity of the song

**Alternative Hypothesis:** The loudest songs are the most popular.

**Null Hypothesis:** There is no correlation between loudness and popularity.

**Conclusion:** Data supports the Null Hypothesis. There is no significant correlation between the loudness of a song and its popularity. Separating the data by year confirms there is no relationship.



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Loudness vs Year

BPM vs Year

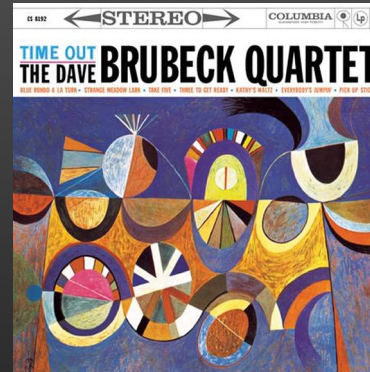
Valence vs Year

Duration vs Year

# Analyzing by Year



Loudness vs  
Year



BPM vs Year



Valence vs  
Year



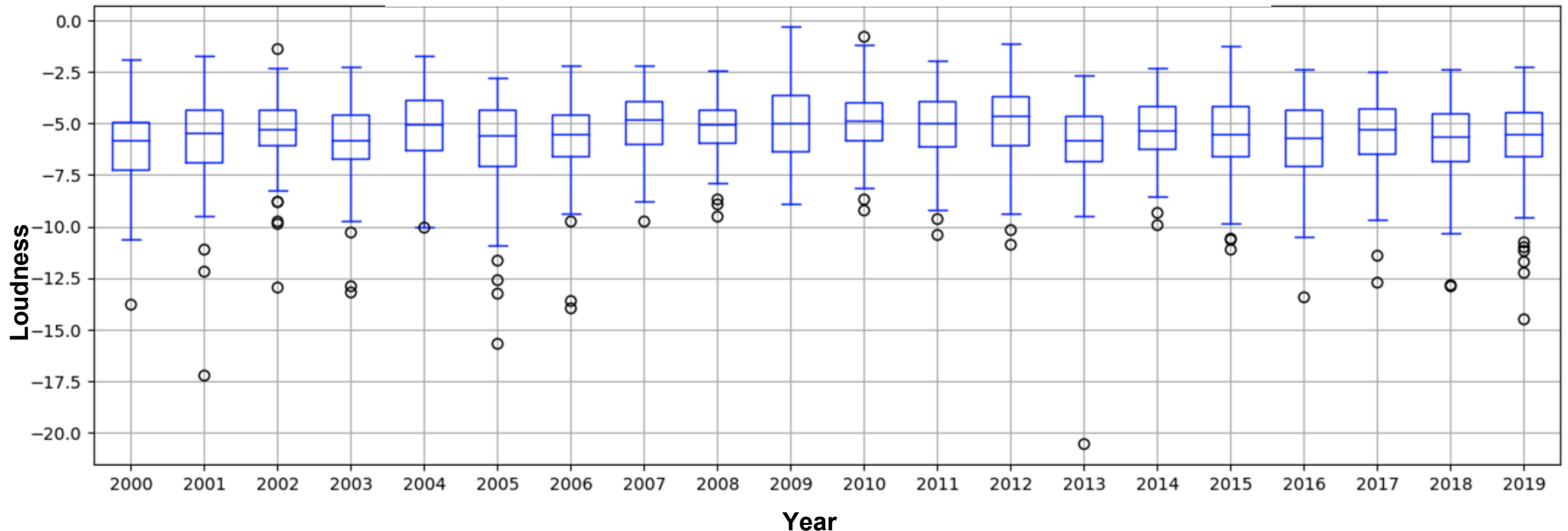
Duration vs  
Year



# Analyzing By Year

## Loudness vs Year

Boxplot Chart for Loudness vs Year



Mean: -5.27    Median: -5.497    P.Stdev: 1.928

**Hypothesis:** If the year a song became popular on Spotify have any influence on the loudness of the song

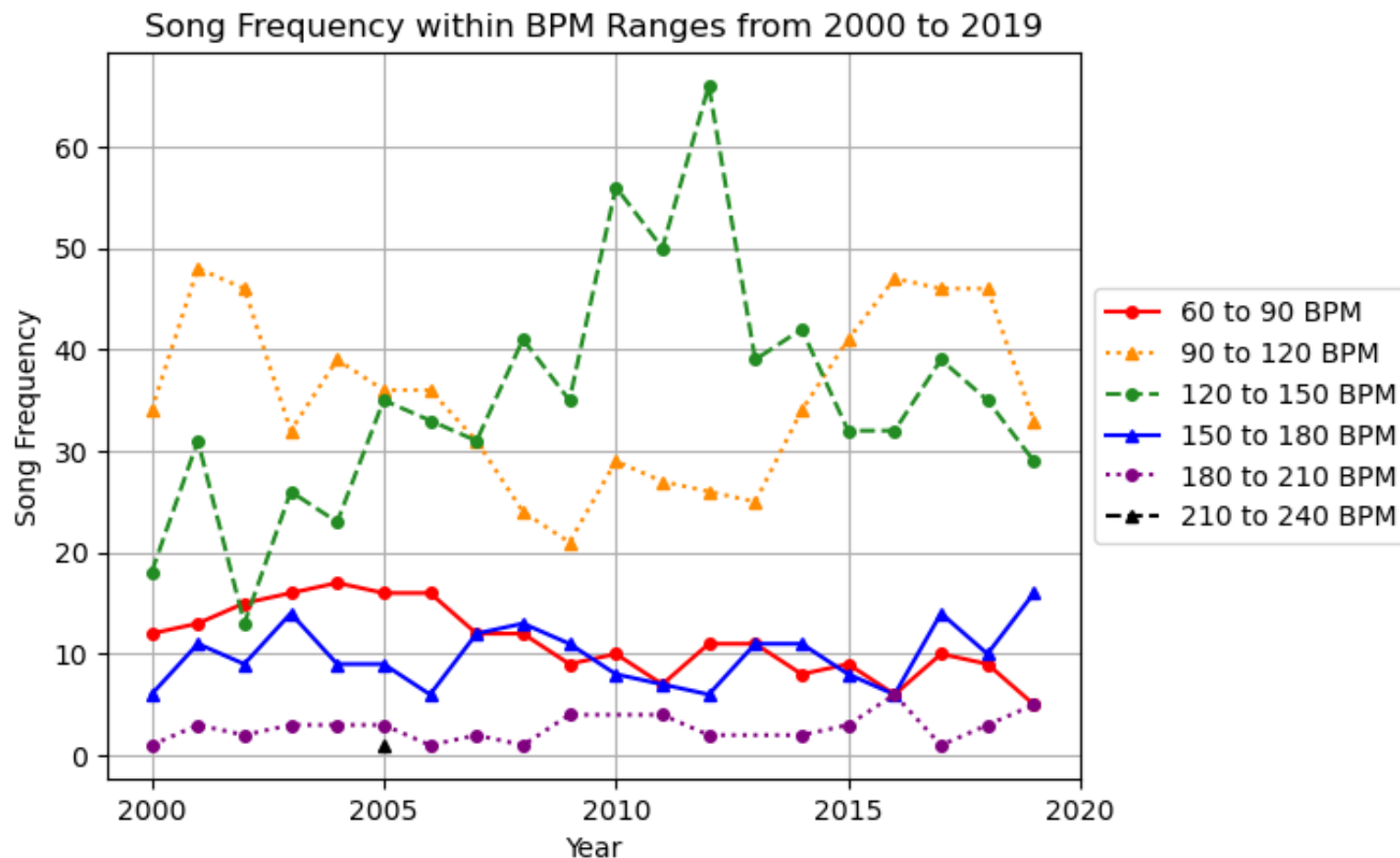
**Null Hypothesis:** The year the song became popular does not influence the loudness of the song.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** The year the song became popular does influence the loudness of the song.

**Observation:** No evidence shows the year the song became popular influences the loudness of the song. The song's loudness stayed consistent with P.Stdev of 1.928 and a Median of -5.497.

# Analyzing By Year

## BPM vs Year



Dance/Electronic music was popular in the 2010s. (e.g. Turn Down for What by Lil Jon)

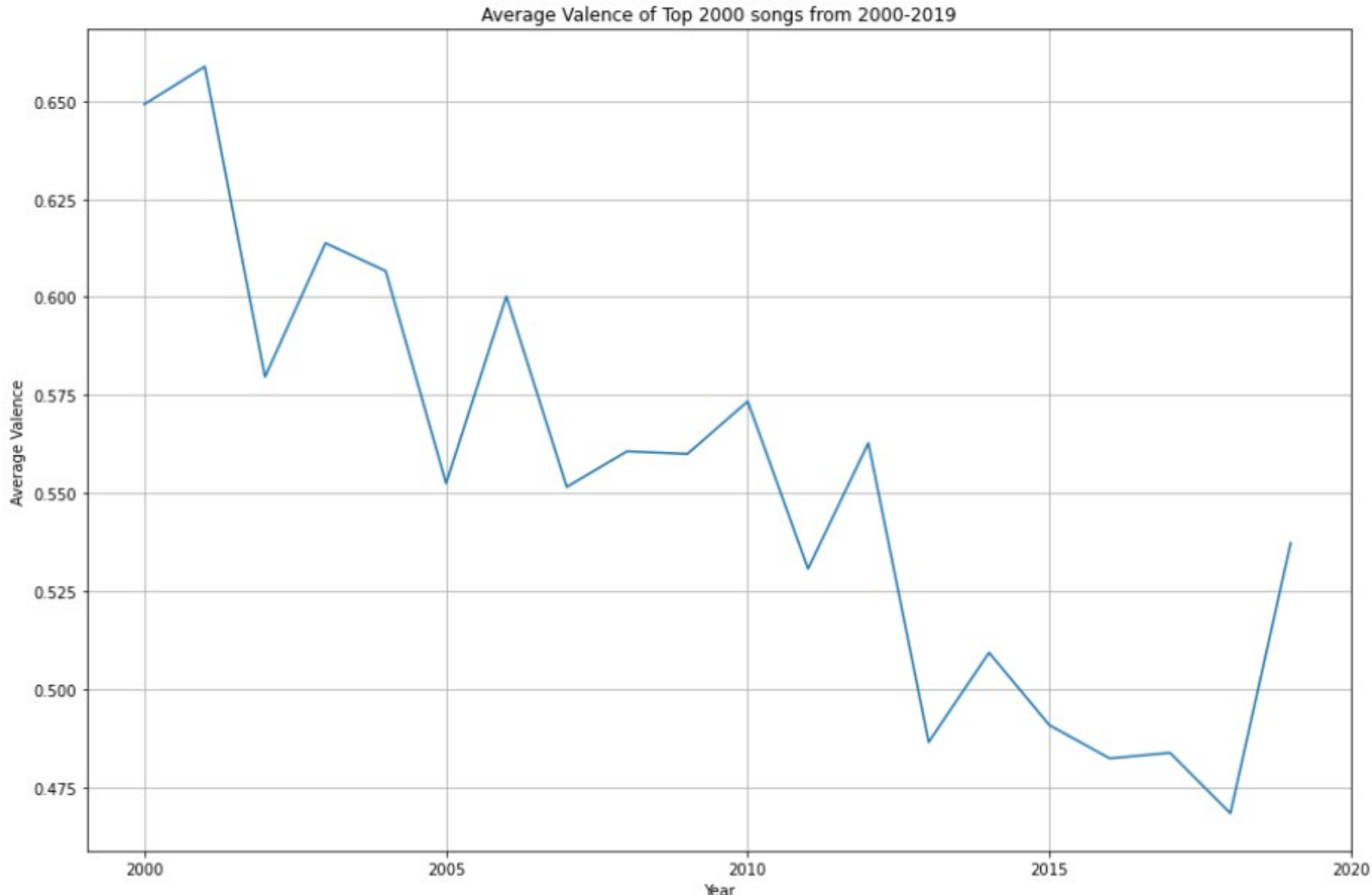
Assumption is that the typical BPM for Dance/Electronic music average around 125 BPM.

**Null Hypothesis:** Songs with 120-150 BPM should not occur more than 20 times every year in 2000-2019.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** Songs with 120-150 BPM should occur more than 20 times every year in 2000-2019.

# Analyzing By Year

## Valence vs Year



**Null Hypothesis:** Average valence of top songs stayed consistent between the years 2000 - 2019.

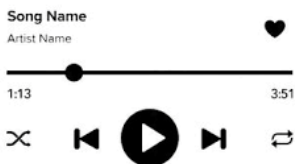
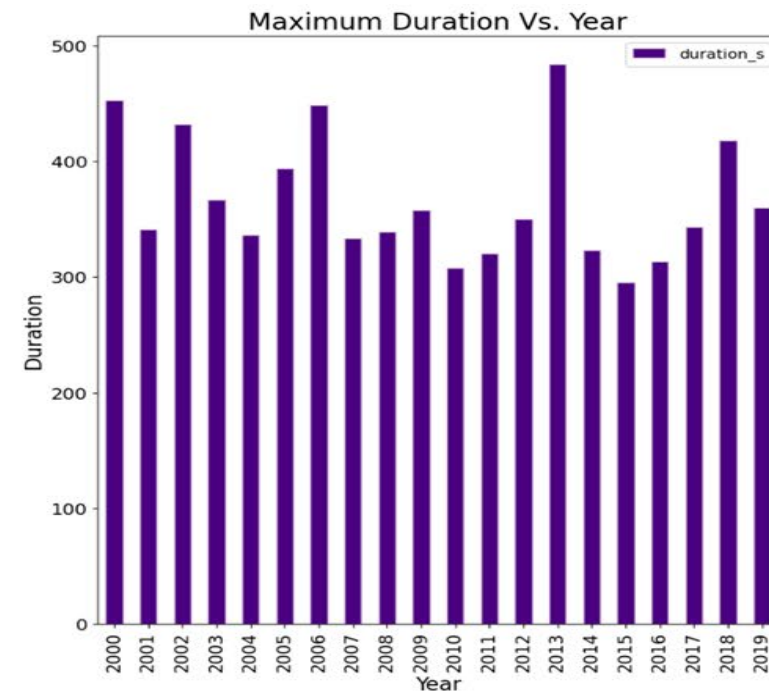
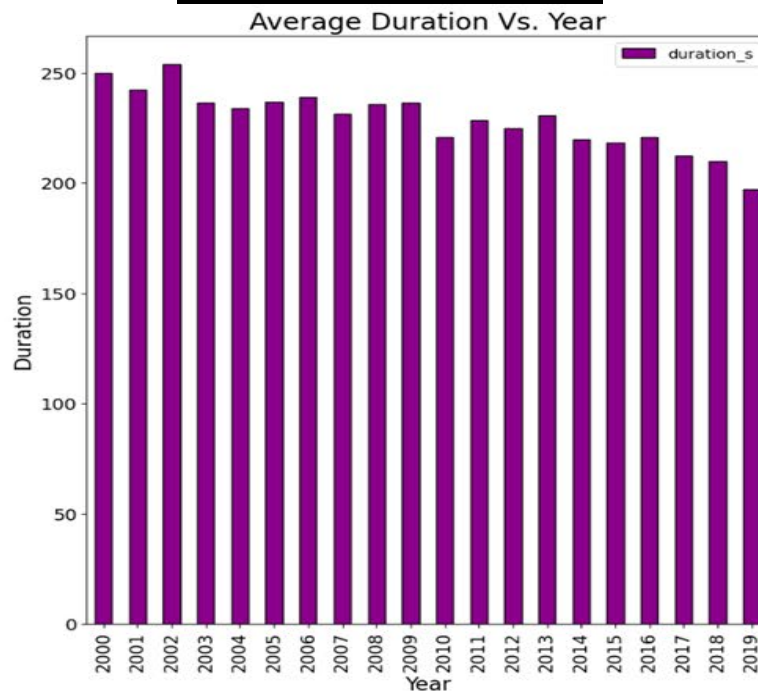
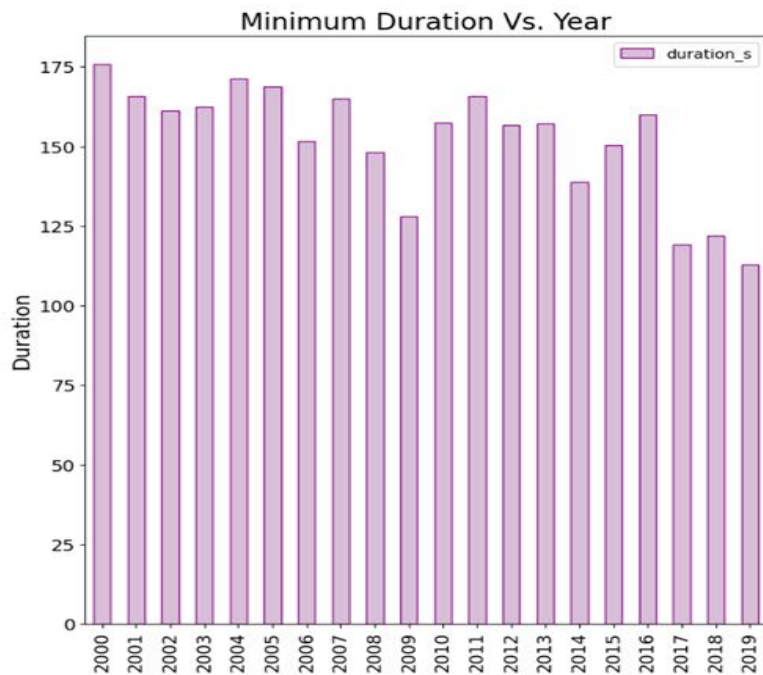
**Alternative Hypothesis:** The average valence of top songs changed between the years 2000 - 2019.

**Conclusion:** Our data supports the rejection of the null hypothesis. The trendline suggests that the average valence over the last 20 years has been steadily decreasing.



# Analyzing By Year

## Duration vs Year



**Hypothesis:** The year determines the duration of the song.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** The song duration will decrease over time.

**Null Hypothesis:** There is no correlation between the year and the duration of songs.

**Conclusion:** The data confirms that the hypothesis is correct however it is not a strong correlation. Over time the duration of songs have decreased with 2019 having the lowest duration minimum and lowest average duration.



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Key/Mode vs  
Popularity

Mode vs Year

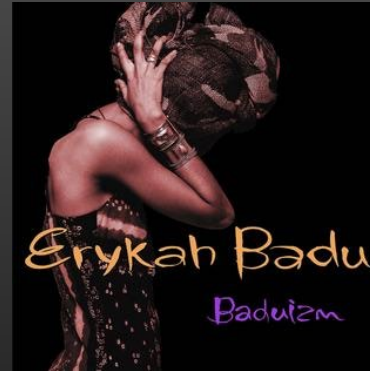
Key vs Artist

Key vs Year

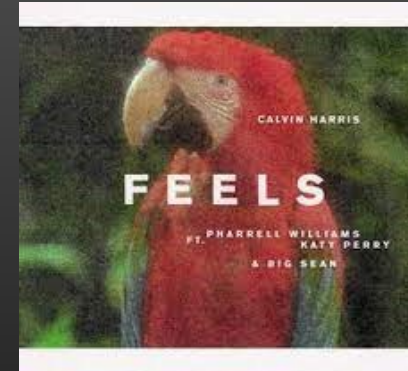
# Analyzing by Key/Mode



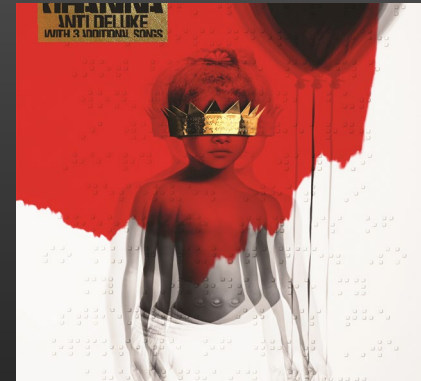
Key/Mode vs  
Popularity



Mode vs Year



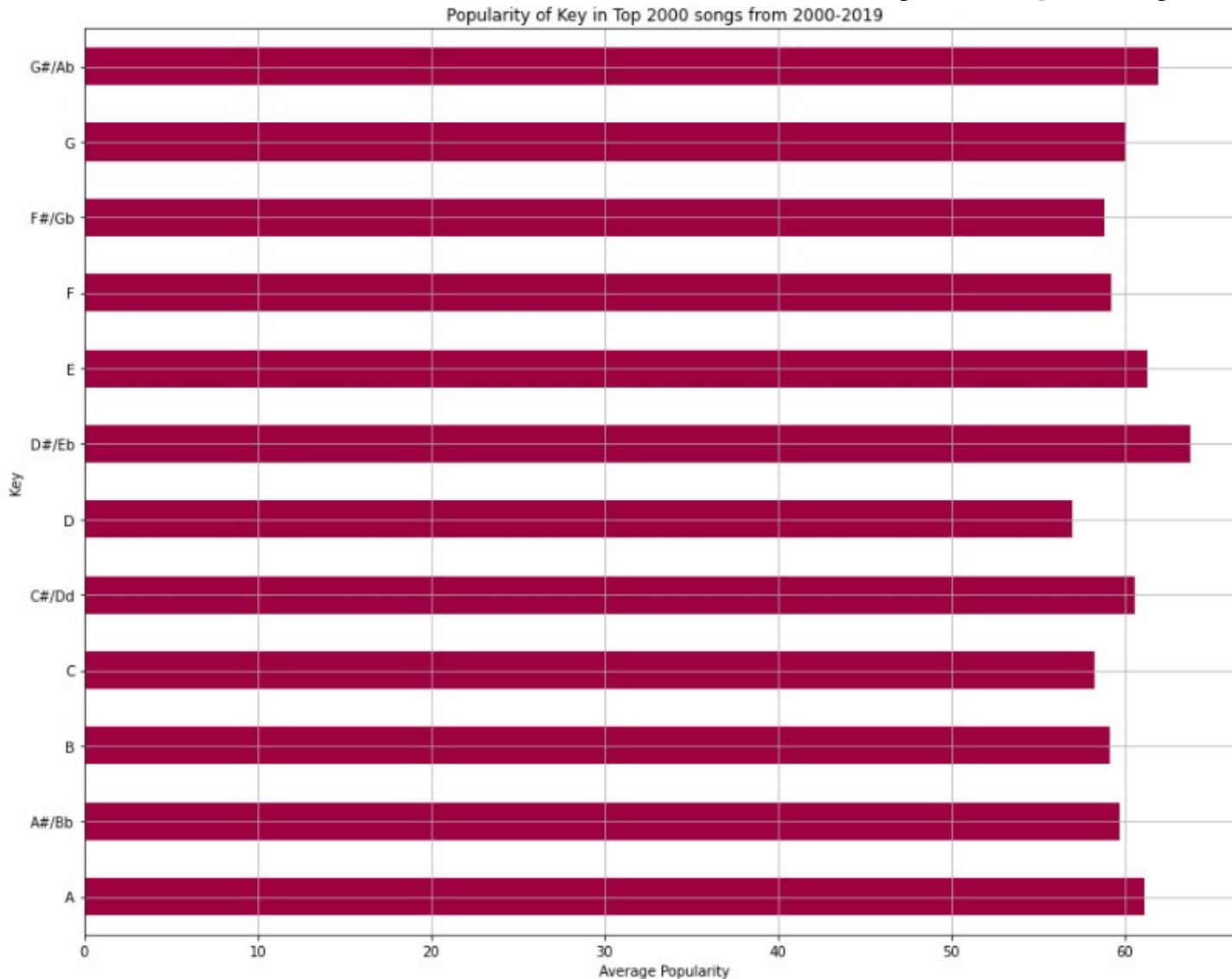
Key vs Artist



Key vs Year

# Analyzing By Key

## Key vs Popularity



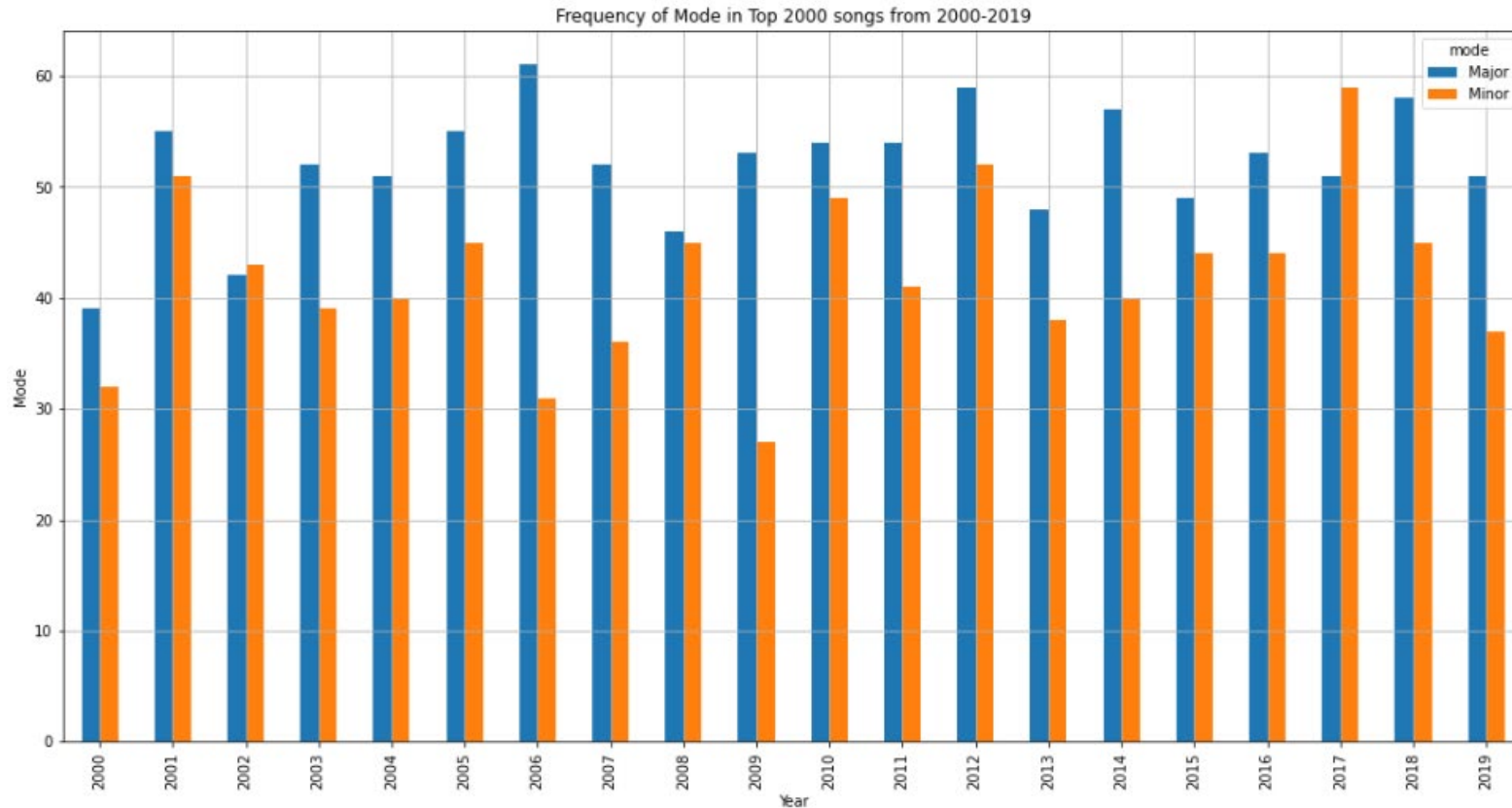
**Null Hypothesis:** There is no significant difference in the distribution of average popularity across musical key.

**Alternative Hypothesis:** There is a significant difference in the distribution of average popularity across musical key.

**Conclusion:** We cannot reject the null hypothesis; P-Value = 0.956465621

# Analyzing by Mode

## Mode vs Year



**Null Hypothesis:** Top 2000 songs between 2000 and 2019 have an even number of records in both the major and minor modalities.

**Alternative Hypothesis:**

Top 2000 songs between 2000 and 2019 do not have an even number of records in both the major and minor modalities.

**Conclusion:** The data provides evidence to reject our null hypothesis. There appear to be consistently more top songs in the “Major” modality from 2000 to 2019.

# Analyzing By Key: Key vs. Year

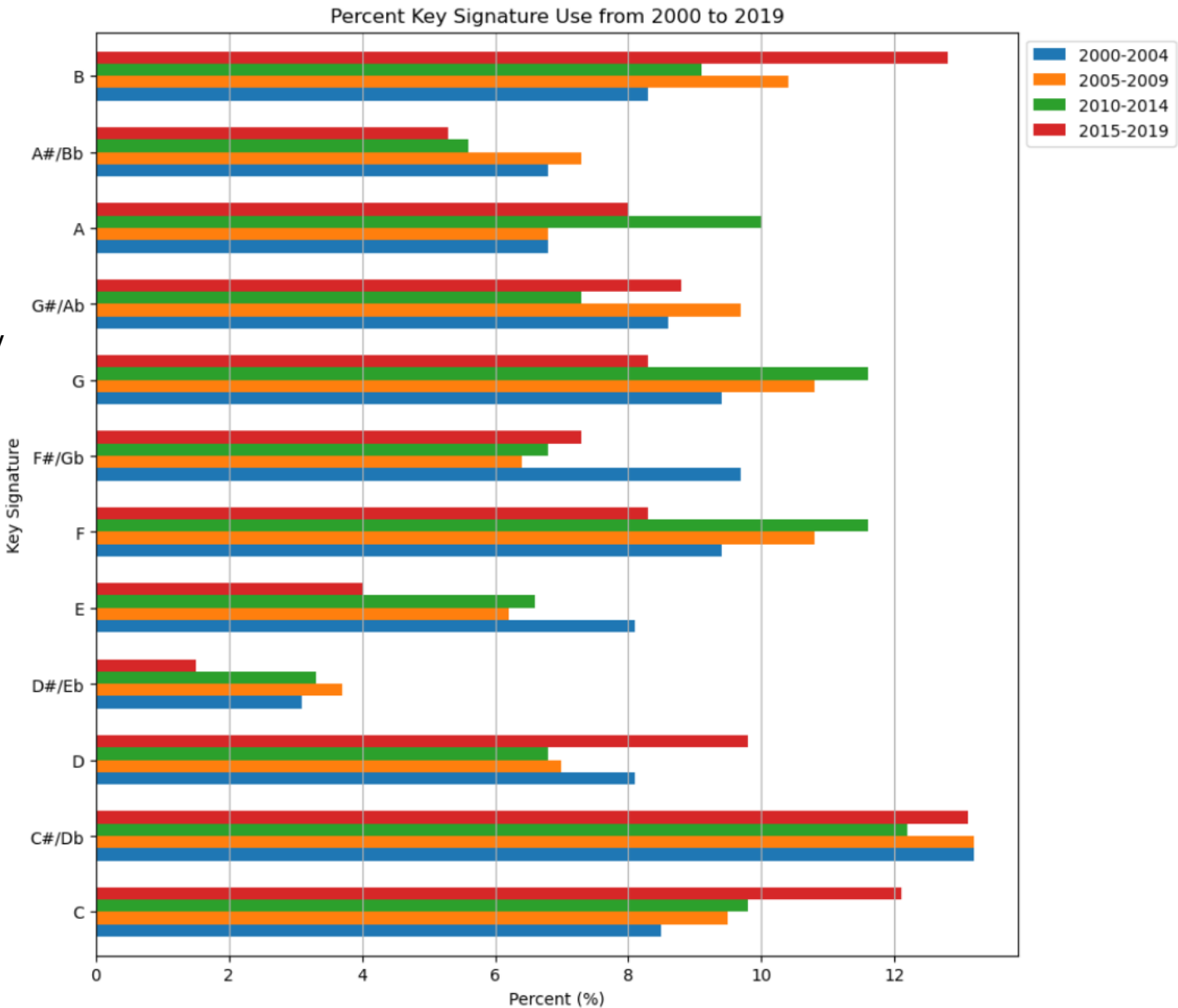
Hypothesis: Key signature usage in the top spotify tracks remains consistent throughout the past 20 years.

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between year and key signature, therefore key signature usage is not dependent or influenced by year.

Alternative Hypothesis: Key signature usage varies significantly by year.

Observations:

- D#/Eb key is used less than all other keys with an average usage percentage of 3.4% for 2000-2014 and a usage percentage of 1.5% for 2015-2019.
- C key has been steadily increasing in usage from 2000 to 2019. Starting at a usage of 8.5% for the year range 2000-2004 and increasing to a usage of 12.1% for 2015-2019.
- The key of A#/Bb is decreasing in usage with a usage of 7.3% for the year range 2005-2009 and decreasing to a usage of 5.3% for 2015-2019.
- The key of F#/Gb has decreased in use from a usage of 9.7% for 2000 to 2004 to a average usage of 6.8% for the remaining 15 years.
- The key of C#/Db has consistently been used key throughout 2000 to 2019 with an average usage of 12.9% for all 20 years.



Conclusion: A Chi-Squared analysis with alpha = 0.05, results in p-value = 0.199.

p-value > alpha, so the null hypothesis holds true and the alternative

chi2 test results:  
p value is 0.19929633122313042  
Null hypothesis holds true



# Analyzing By Key:

## Key vs Artist

Hypothesis: Artists will tend to favor certain keys over others, and will therefore use said key for the majority of their songs.

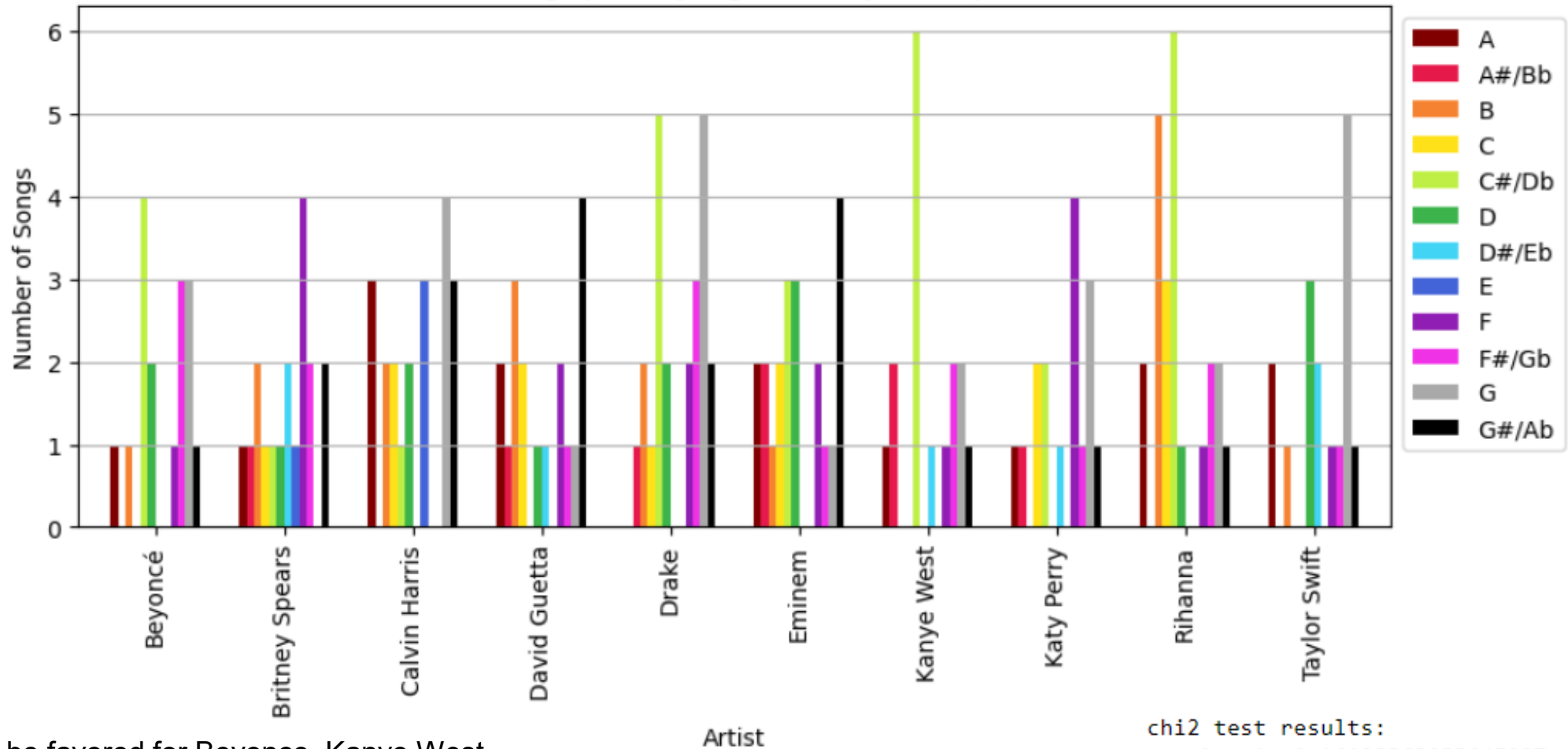
Null Hypothesis: There is no relation between artist and key signature.

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between artist and key signature.

### Observations:

- C#/Db key appears to be favored for Beyonce, Kanye West, and Rihanna.
- G key appears to be favored by Calvin Harris and Taylor Swift.
- Key E is only used by Calvin Harris (in this list of artists).
- Britney Spears has songs in all keys except G.

Number of Songs per Key Signature by the Top 10 Artists



chi2 test results:  
p value is 0.16108563855645297  
Null hypothesis holds true

### Conclusions:

A Chi-Squared analysis with alpha = 0.05, results in p-value = 0.161.

p-value > alpha, so the null hypothesis holds true and the alternative hypothesis is rejected.



# Challenges

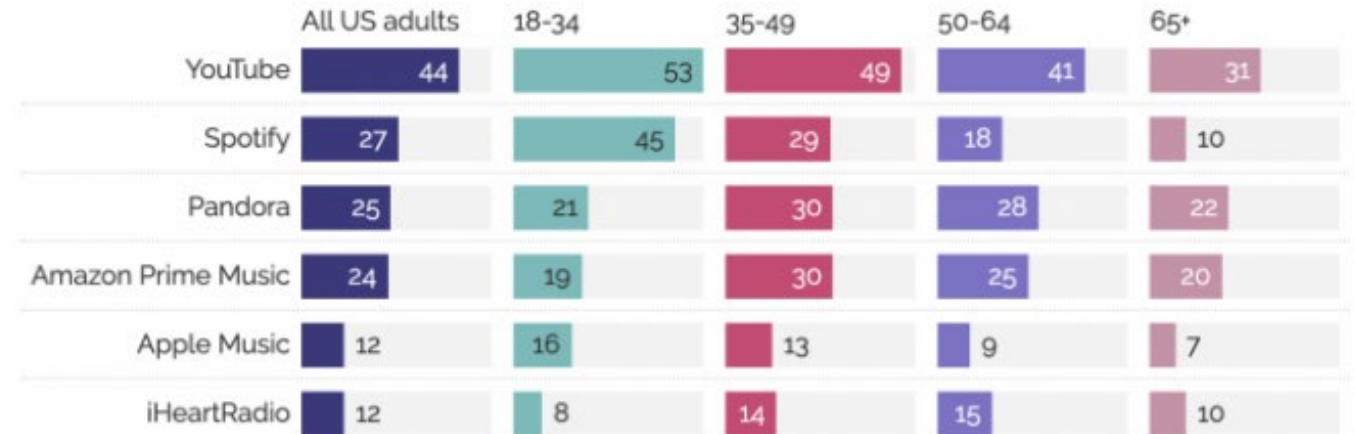
- Simplifying data
- Making graphs readable
- Cleaning data
- Github
- Genre mis-match
- Assumptions about data

## Next Steps

- Comparing data to other streaming services
- Include current data
- Include age demographics

### The most popular music platforms used by Americans

Which, if any, of the following online music services do you currently use either on a free or paid-for subscription? Please select all that apply. (% of US adults)



YouGov

YouGov Profiles, January 2021

# Summary



- Popularity
  - Certain genres were more popular than others.
- Year
  - Analyzing by year resulted in noticeable trends.
- Key/Mode
  - The key of D#/E flat was less commonly used.
  - Popular songs were more commonly in a major key rather than a minor key.



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**Thank you!**

