

Board Game Geek Users' Favorite Type of Games

Ratings across categories, time, and other features

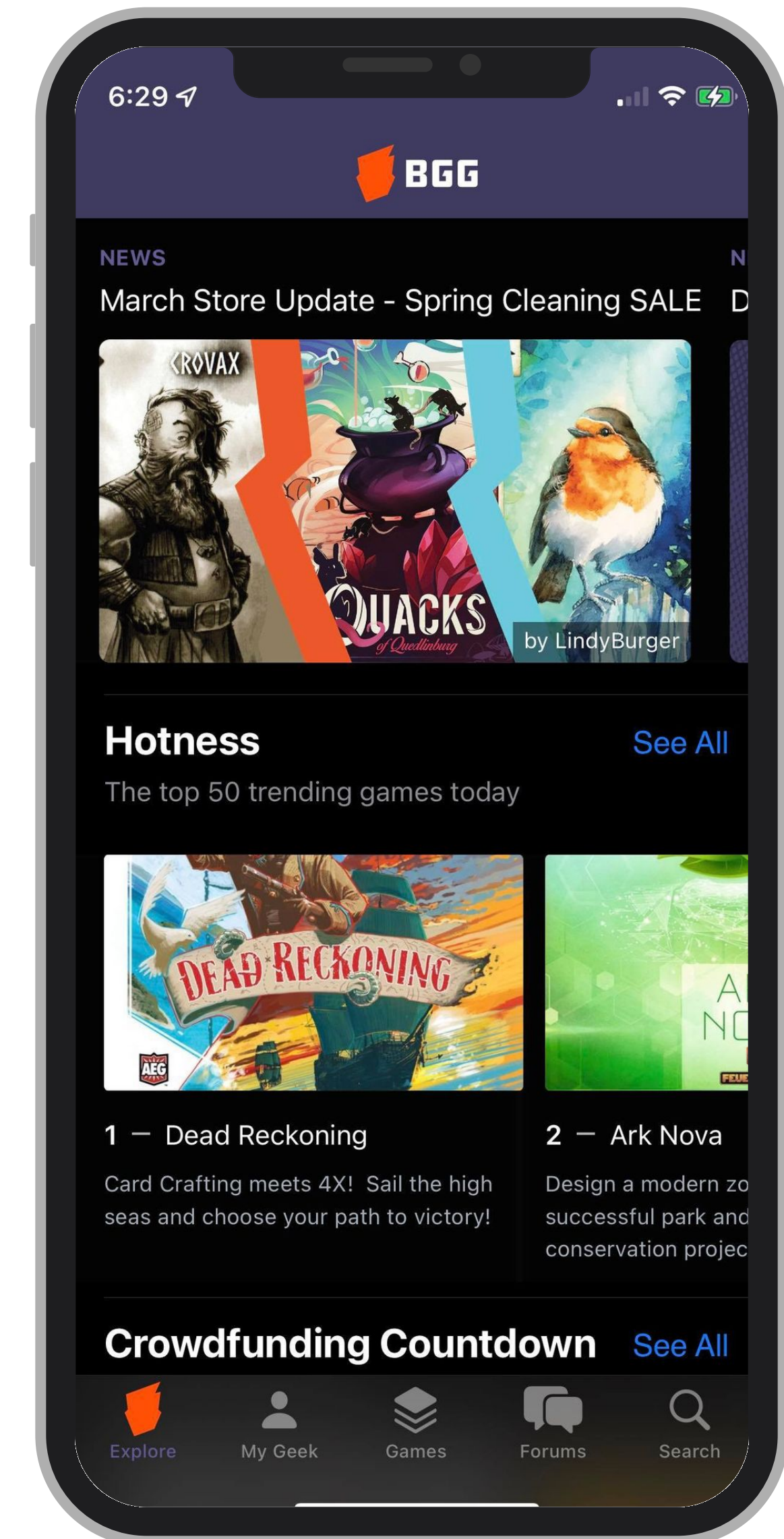
Graham Smith

Springboard Data Science 2022

Background

Boardgames have risen in popularity and now attract a wide audience by featuring themes other than high fantasy. (Think adorable birds of Wingspan!) 🐦


Board game designers and publishers want to understand the trends to guide their next game production, and board game enthusiasts want to know which games to buy.



Questions

- How do BGG users' rate new games?
- What are popular themes and mechanics among BGG users?
- What features are most important when rating a game?

Method

- Scrape data using beautifulsoup 
- Clean and process data
- Look for correlations using seaborn
- Use random forest on train and test data

Data Collection

Games published from

1990+

& onward

Top games

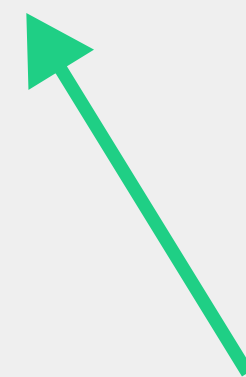
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scraped

Scraped on

Dec '21

& recorded

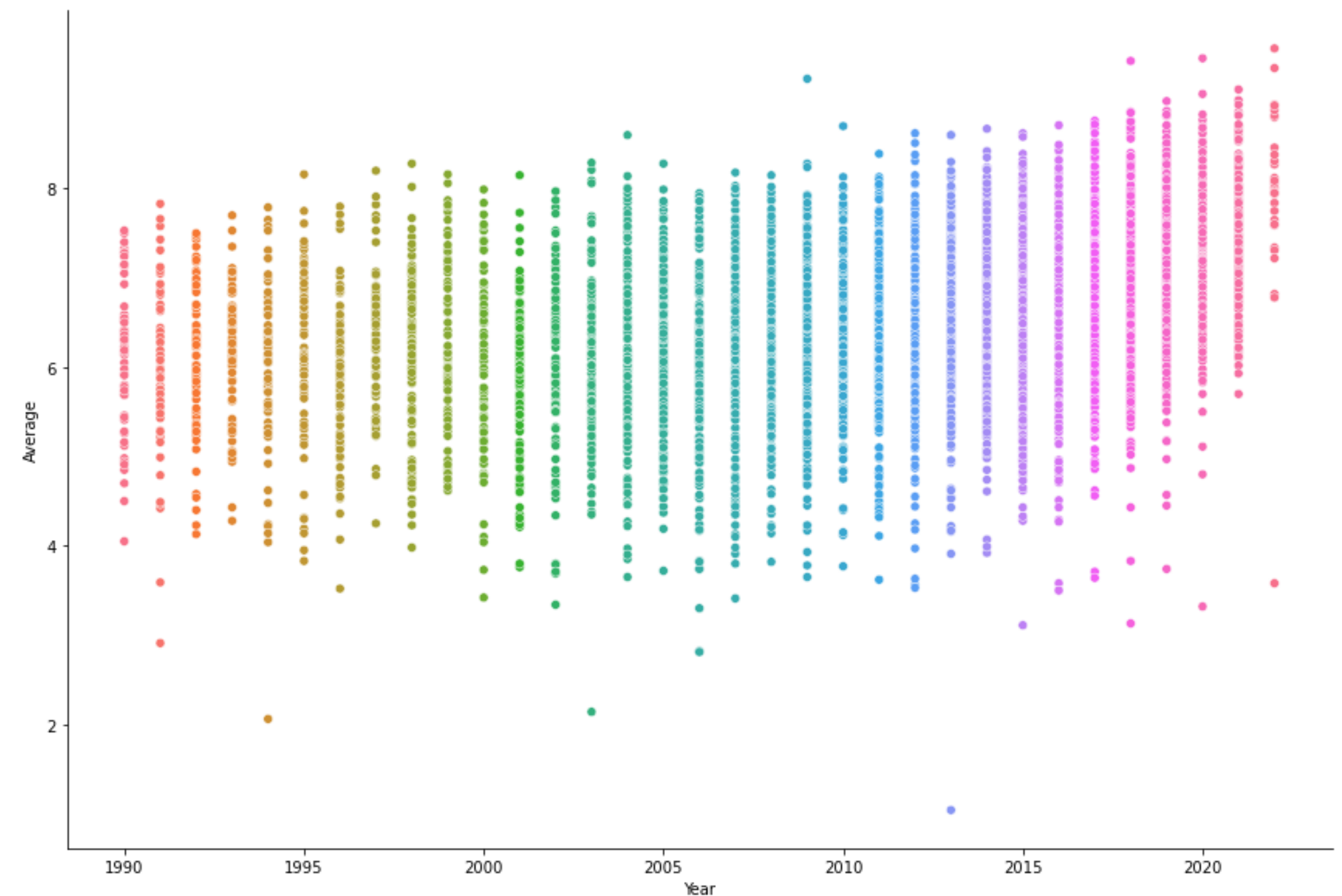


Snakes and ladders is great, but including a game published in the year 200 might be comparing apples to oranges

Key Insights

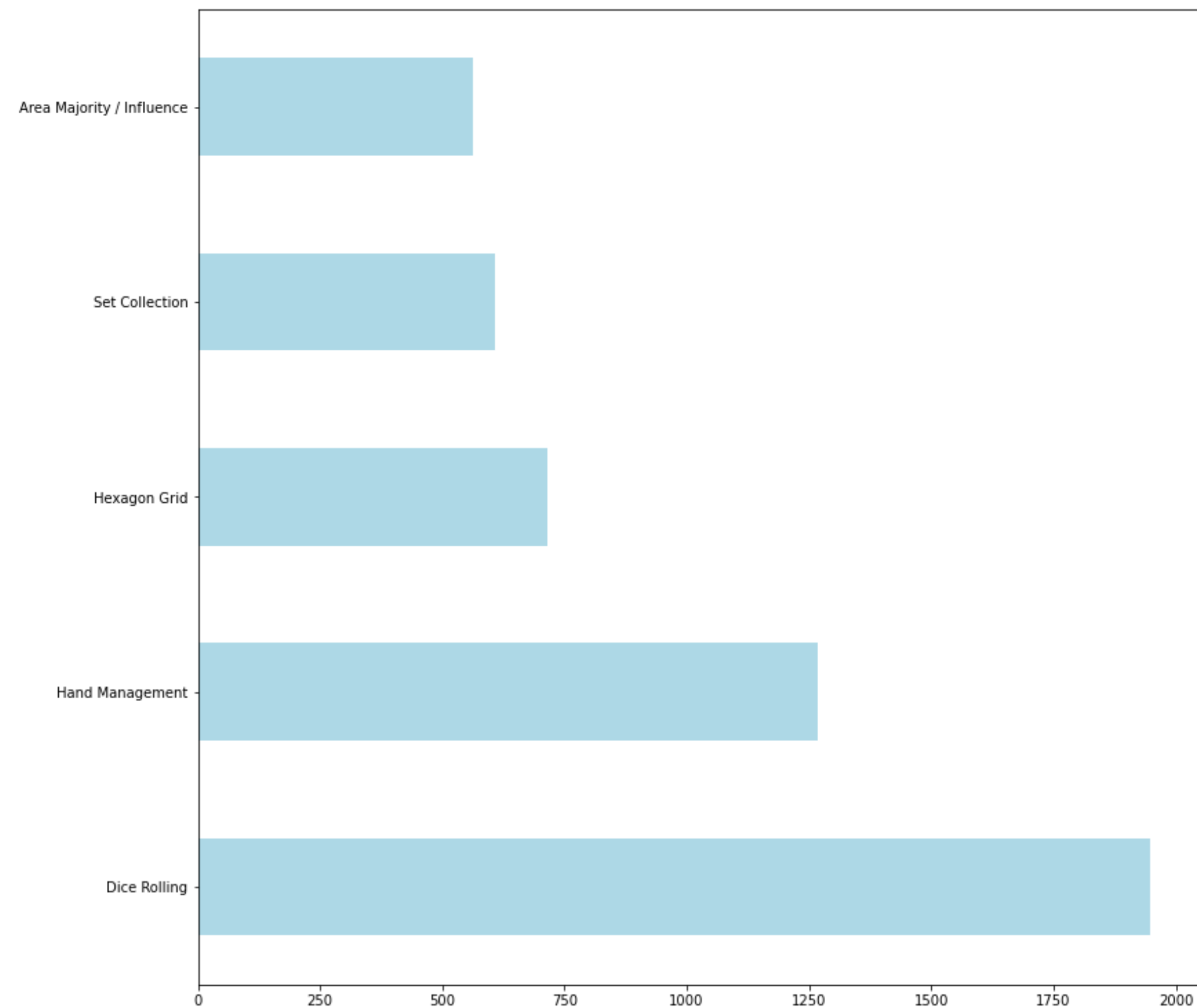
- Boardgames are becoming “better”
- Popular mechanics include dice rolling, cooperation, & action points
- Popular categories include children’s, book-related, wargames, & miniatures
- BGG users’ have a preference for complicated games

Boardgame user ratings by year published

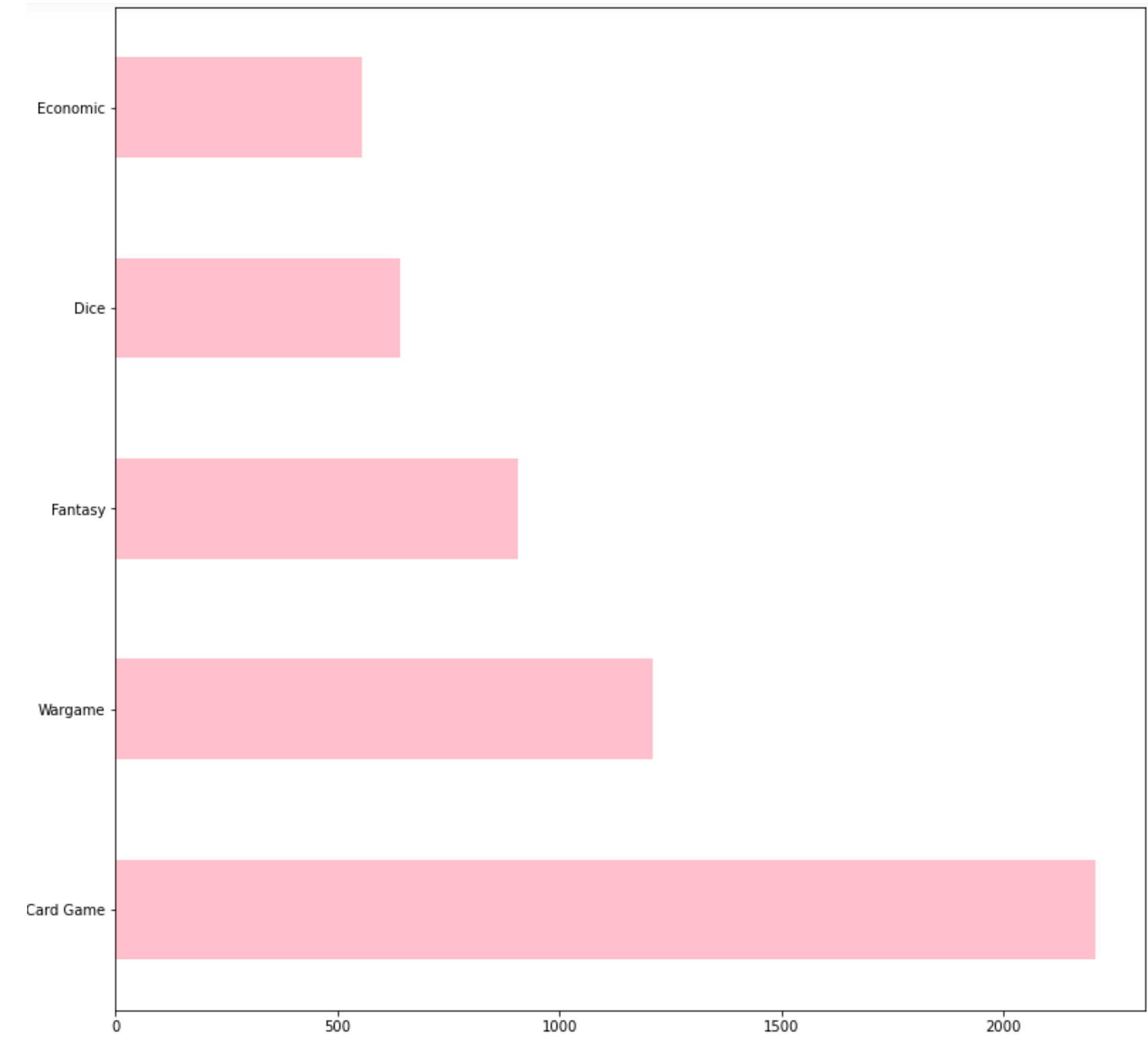


Frequently Occuring Mechanics & Categories

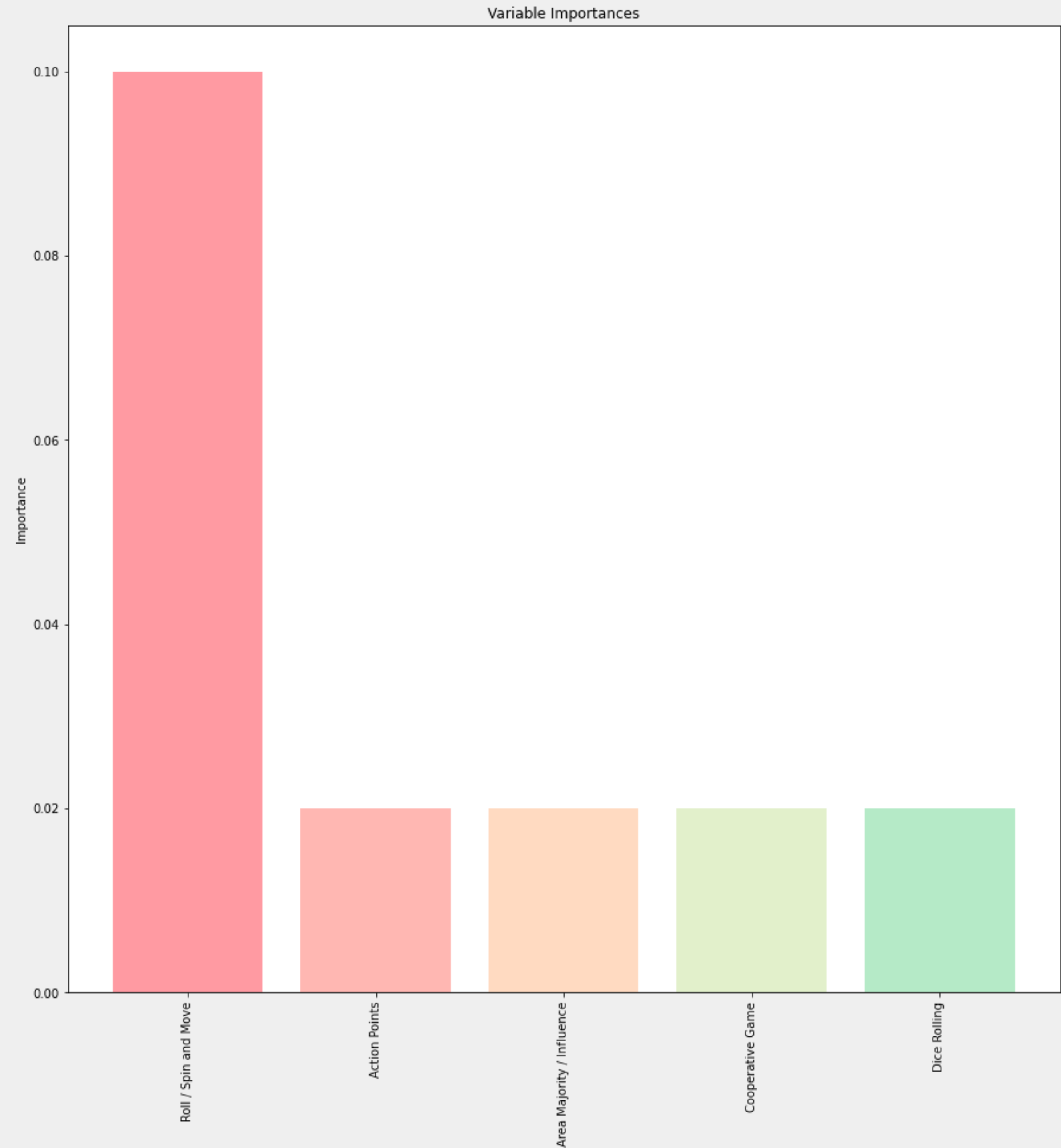
Top 5 Frequent Mechanics



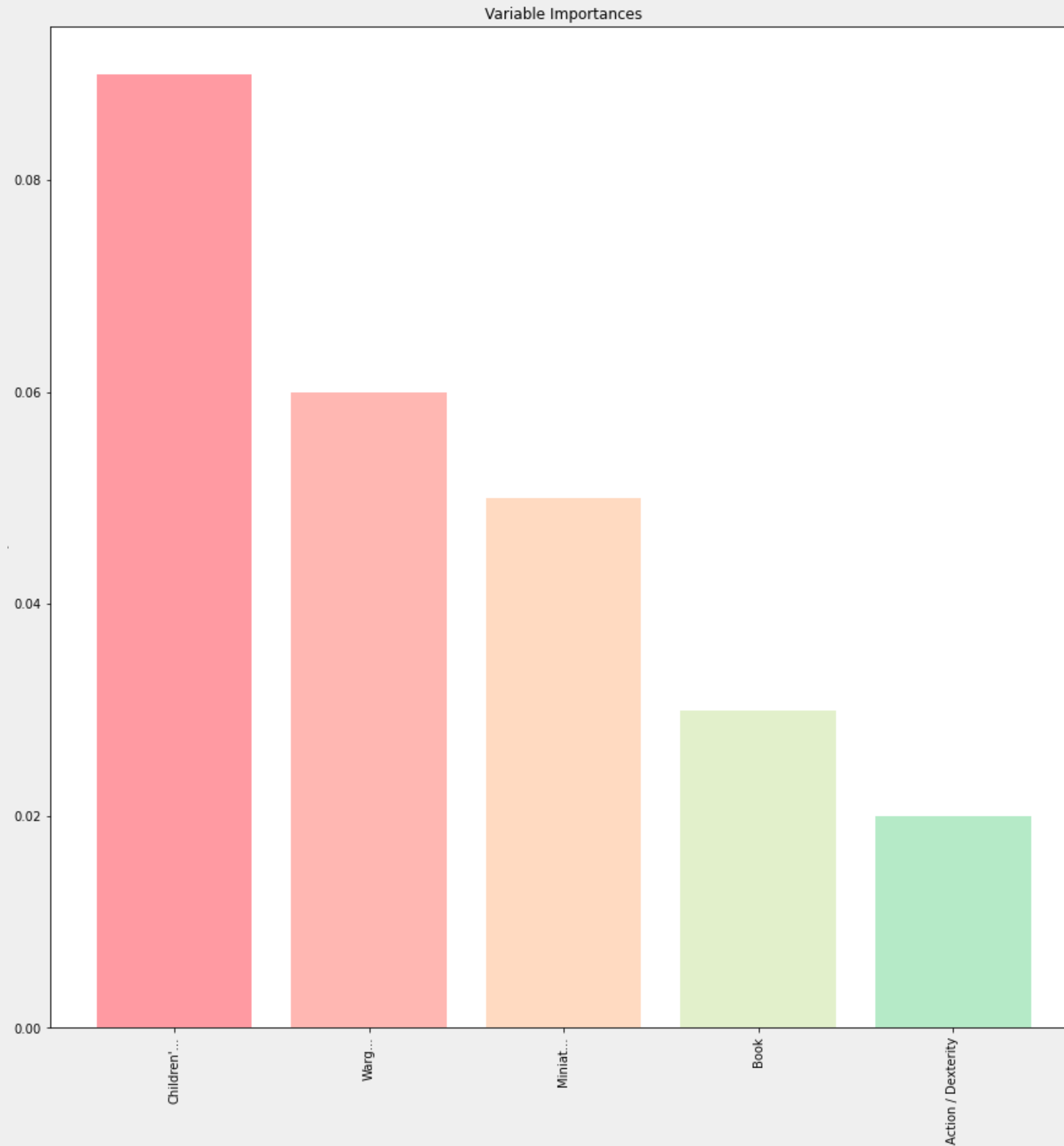
Top 5 Frequent Categories



Top 5 Popular Mechanics



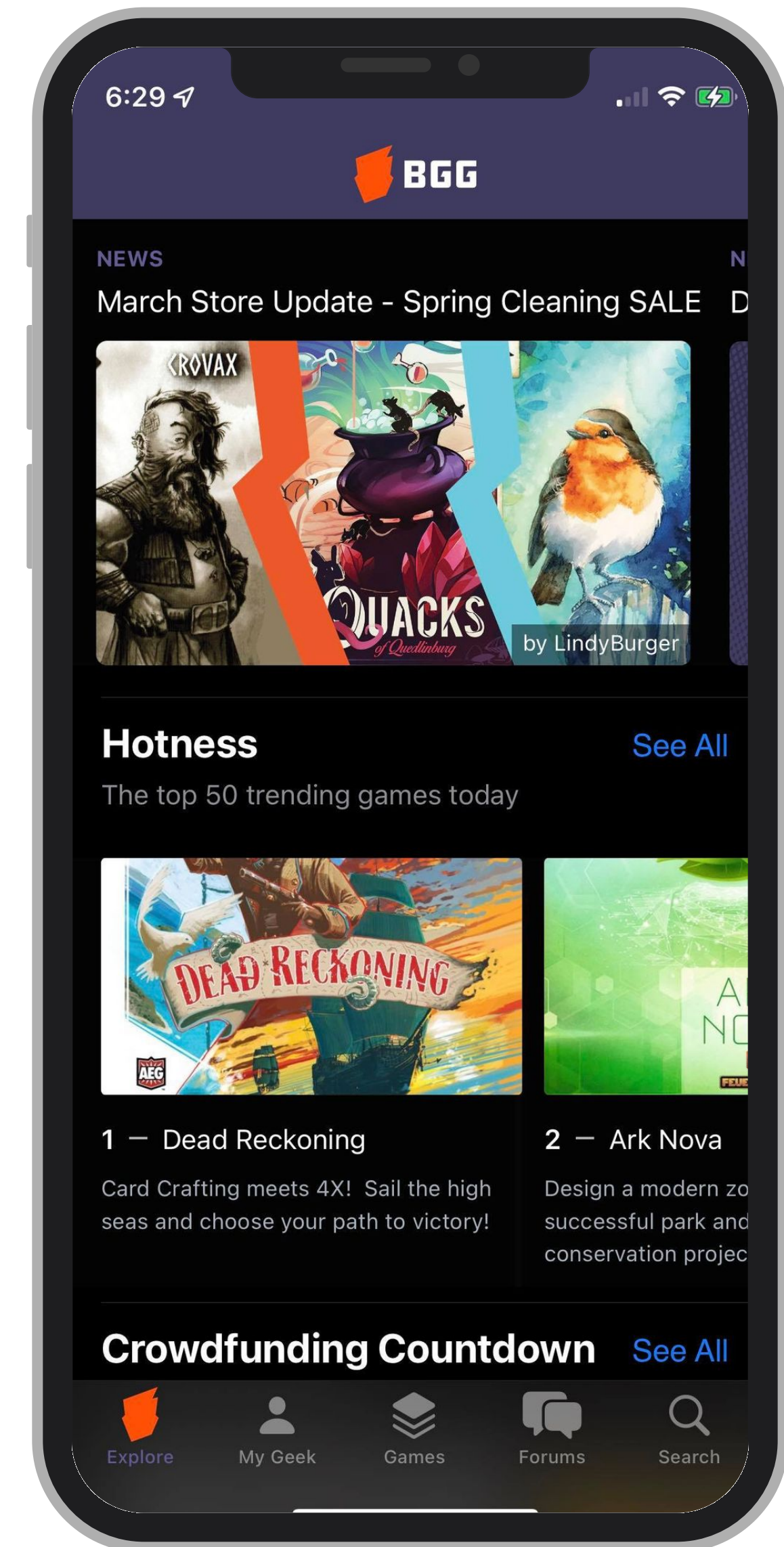
Top 5 Popular Categories



So, what game should I create/buy?

Well, for your game to be popular among board game geeks make sure your game is:

- Complicated
- Involves dice rolling, miniatures... and hexagons 



Thank you



Good luck on your rolls!