



# Getting Better With Age?

An analysis of Nintendo Switch  
game Metacritic reviews

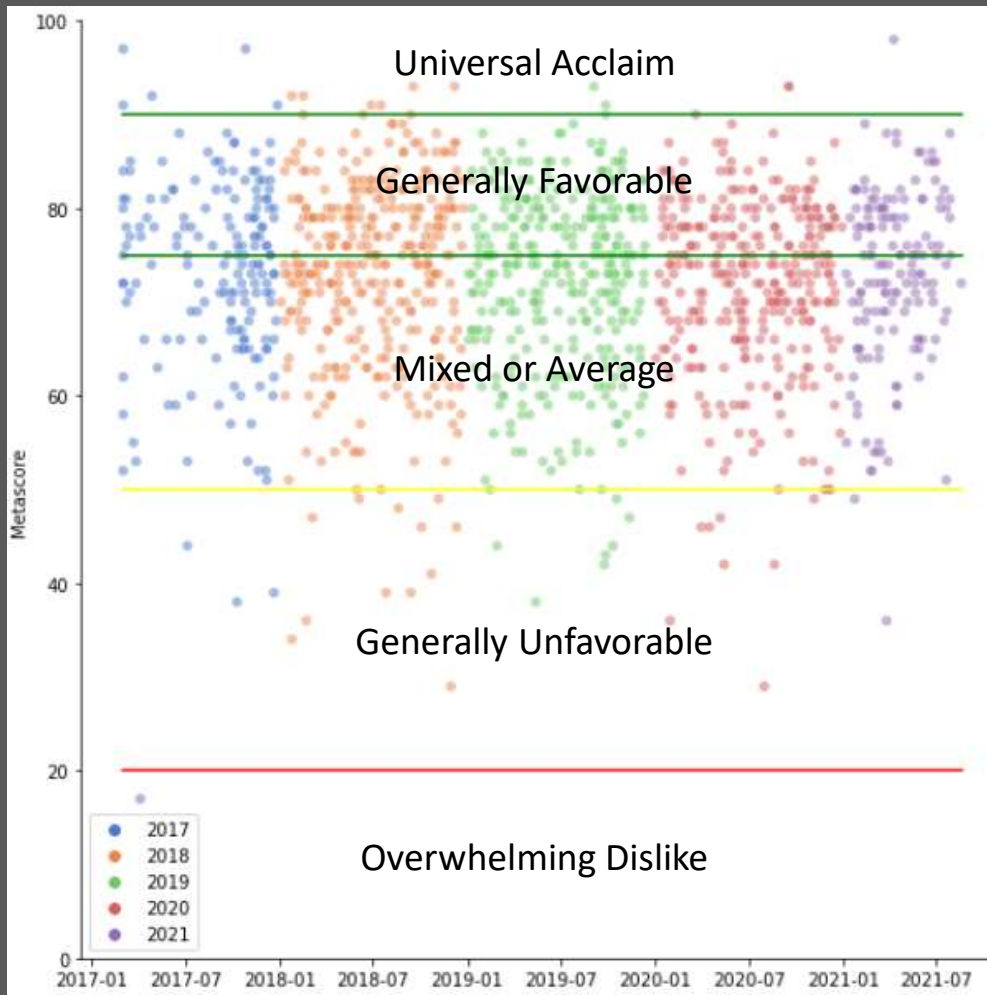
# Should late cycle games review better?

- As consoles age, developers learn to do more with the hardware allowing more impressive games to be created.
- The Nintendo Switch was released in 2017 and has nearly 1350 games released to date.
- Metacritic aggregates critics reviews into a single score and is a generally accepted evaluation of overall performance.

General Meaning of Score	Games
Universal Acclaim	90 - 100
Generally Favorable Reviews	75 - 89
Mixed or Average Reviews	50 - 74
Generally Unfavorable Reviews	20 - 49
Overwhelming Dislike	0 - 19

(<https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>)

# Mean Metascore has remained constant



- Most games over full lifecycle have been mixed/average or better

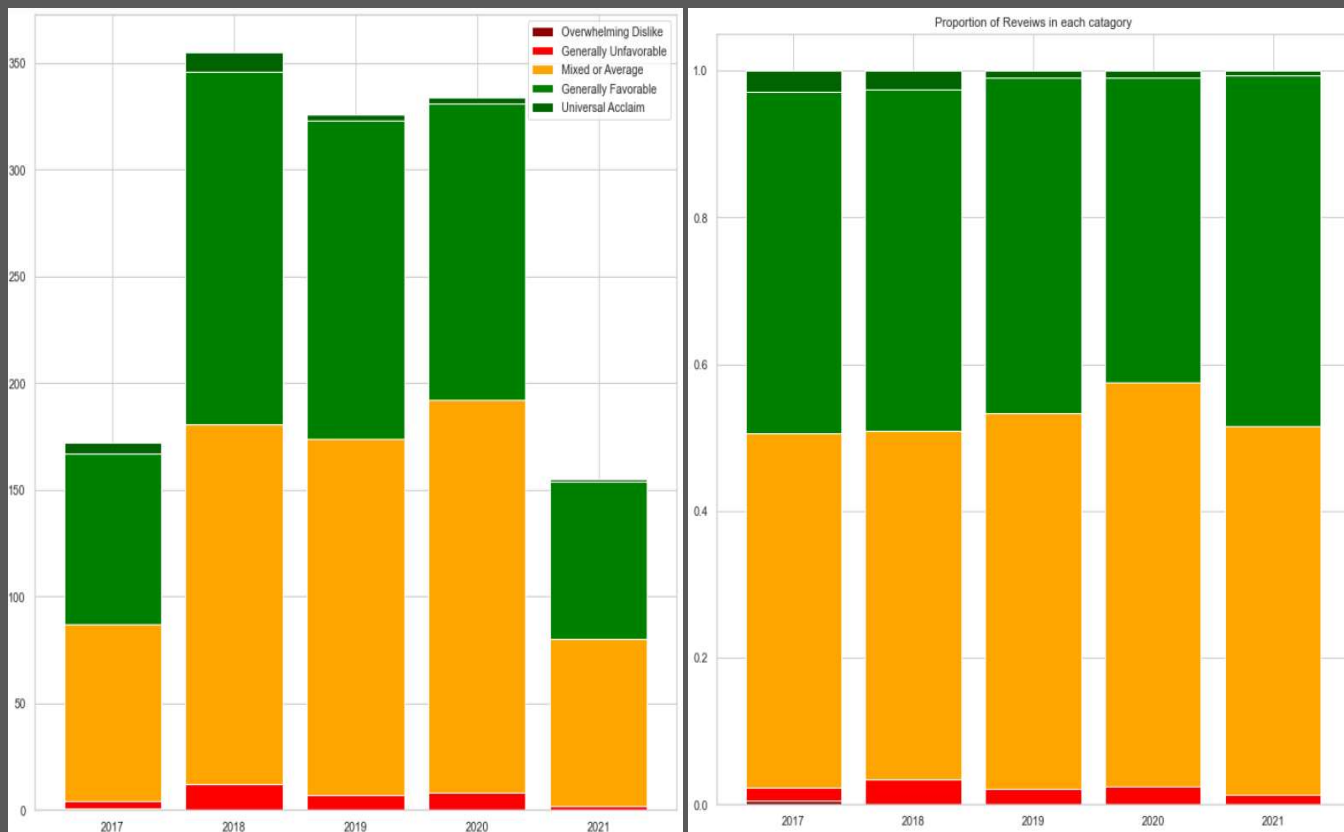
ReleaseYear	Metascore							
	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
2017	172.0	72.80	11.06	17.0	66.75	74.0	80.00	97.0
2018	355.0	72.95	10.61	29.0	67.00	74.0	80.00	93.0
2019	326.0	72.20	9.85	38.0	66.00	74.0	79.75	93.0
2020	334.0	71.66	9.55	29.0	66.25	73.0	78.00	93.0
2021	155.0	72.75	9.43	36.0	68.00	74.0	80.00	98.0

General Meaning of Score	Games
Universal Acclaim	90 - 100
Generally Favorable Reviews	75 - 89
Mixed or Average Reviews	50 - 74
Generally Unfavorable Reviews	20 - 49
Overwhelming Dislike	0 - 19

(<https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>)

# Proportion of games with favorable reviews has been decreasing

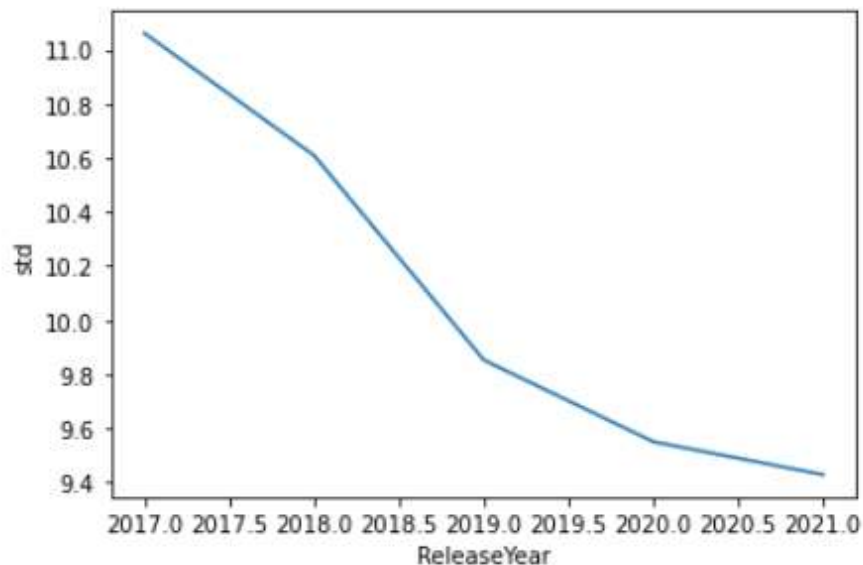
- Unfavorable reviews peaked in 2018, Universal Acclaim was greatest in 2017 and 2018



General Meaning of Score	Games
Universal Acclaim	90 - 100
Generally Favorable Reviews	75 - 89
Mixed or Average Reviews	50 - 74
Generally Unfavorable Reviews	20 - 49
Overwhelming Dislike	0 - 19

(<https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>)

# Consistency in review has increased



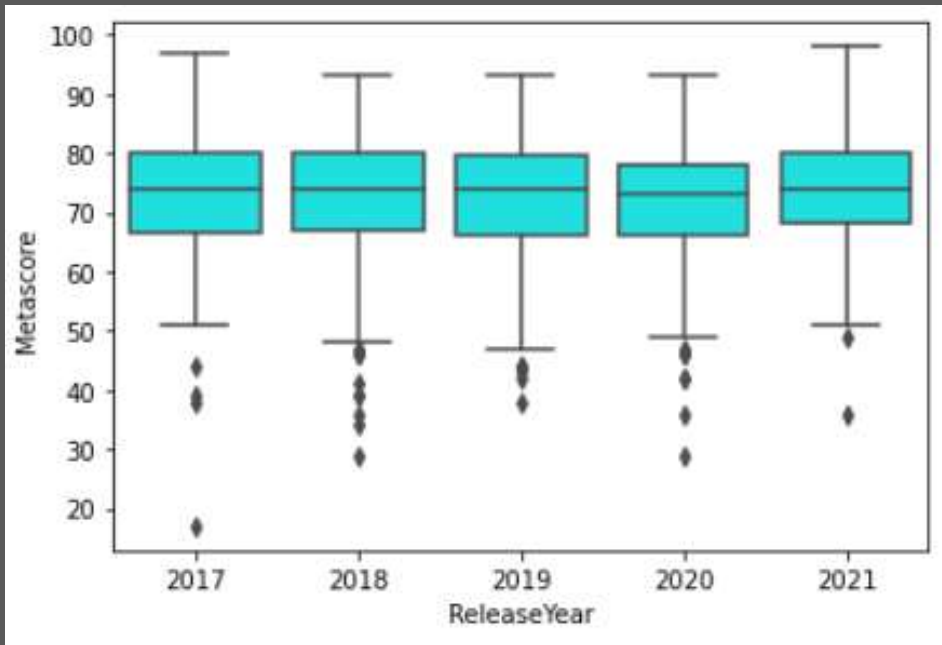
- Through this console's lifecycle there is a downward trend the standard deviation of reviews
- This consistency is that a result of there being fewer outstanding or terrible games later in life

	Universal Acclaim	Generally Favorable	Mixed or Average	Generally Unfavorable	Overwhelming Dislike
ReleaseYear					
2017	5	80	83	3	1
2018	9	165	169	12	0
2019	3	149	167	7	0
2020	3	139	184	8	0
2021	1	74	78	2	0

General Meaning of Score	Games
Universal Acclaim	90 - 100
Generally Favorable Reviews	75 - 89
Mixed or Average Reviews	50 - 74
Generally Unfavorable Reviews	20 - 49
Overwhelming Dislike	0 - 19

(<https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>)

# Switch game reviews have not improved



- Based on Metacritic reviews there is no evidence that game developers are getting better late lifecycle.
- The vast majority of Metascores for Nintendo Switch games are greater than 50

	Universal Acclaim	Generally Favorable	Mixed or Average	Generally Unfavorable	Overwhelming Dislike
ReleaseYear					
2017	5	80	83	3	1
2018	9	165	169	12	0
2019	3	149	167	7	0
2020	3	139	184	8	0
2021	1	74	78	2	0

General Meaning of Score	Games
Universal Acclaim	90 - 100
Generally Favorable Reviews	75 - 89
Mixed or Average Reviews	50 - 74
Generally Unfavorable Reviews	20 - 49
Overwhelming Dislike	0 - 19

(<https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>)

# References:

- <https://www.metacritic.com/about-metascores>, accessed 8/5/2021
- <https://www.metacritic.com/browse/games/score/metascore/all/switch/filtered?view=condensed>, accessed 8/4/2021
- Analysis link = <https://github.com/K-Wolfe-hub/Springboard2/blob/37dcfed21ba320f749ddcb6a9cba661b470fb421/SwitchMetacritic100.ipynb>