

Introduction and Data Acquisition

The first video game was thought to be created by a physicist, William Higinbotham, in 1958. A little over a decade later, video games became much more mainstream and available to individuals. Today, it is projected that over a billion people around the globe play videogames in one form or another.

For the purposes of our analysis, we acquired our dataset, *Video Game Sales*, by Gregory Smith on Kaggleⁱ. We decided to investigate video game sales because we are all avid gamers and interested in how the patterns and trends have developed over time. By following the trends, we will be able to leverage the data to see what games, regions, genre, etc will have the greatest rate of return on investment.

The dataset has 16,599 rows and 11 columns for a total of 182,589 datapoints. We will be looking at <u>all</u> the data points, except for the id, as we are interested in looking at the trends of several different variables, like console type, region, etc., over time.

Few limitations of this dataset are as following: this data splits the global market into regions; therefore, we are unable to investigate sales by countries. Second limitation is that this dataset only collects data from 1980 to 2016, therefore, we are unable to investigate the trends and queries outside the time frame. The third limitation is that majority of the datasets are of big sellers and not on independent subgenre of games.

Business Questions:

After a quick overview of the data, the team came up with several questions that we wanted to understand about the data. The following eight questions were developed to explore the data.

- What console released the most games overall?
- What year had the most games released?
- What genre of game was the highest in sales overall?
- Which region has the most sales?
- Which publisher published the most games?
- What is the trend of global video game sales over the years?
- What are the average sales per game released in a given year?
- Can we create a model that predicts global sales by utilizing only one of the three regions?
- Can we create a model that predicts if we will have high or low sales for a video game?

Data:

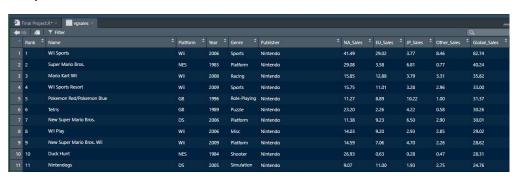
The *Video Game Sales* dataset by Gregory Smith, had several attributes that needed to be understood before we continued with the analysis. The following Data Dictionary table explains the data type and the definition of each of the attributes in the dataset.

Data dictionary

Attribute	Data Type	Definition	
Name	Factor	Name of the game	
Platform	Factor	Name of gaming console	
Year	Factor	Year released	
Genre	Factor	Genre of the game	
Publishers	Factor	Name of game publisher	
NA Sales	Num	North-American copies sold in millions	
EU Sales	Num	European copies sold in millions	
JP Sales	Num	Japanese copies sold in millions	
Other Sales	Num	Other copies sold in millions	
Global Sales	Num	Total copies sold in millions	

Before doing any modifications and analysis on the data, we needed to bring in the data from the csv file and have a R read and create a data frame from it. We started our code with a simple read.csv function. After import, we took some beginning looks at what the data was in its raw format. The following two images are samples of the data set after importing into R and the summary of the data frame and its attributes.

Sample of Uncleaned Data:



Summary of Uncleaned Data:

```
3.28 10.22 ...
2.96 1 0.58 2.9 2.85 2.26 0.47 ...
33 31.4 ...
```

```
Nam
Need for Speed: Most Wanted:
FIFA 14
LEGO Marvel Super Heroes :
Madden NFL 07
Ratatouille :
Angry Birds Star Wars :
                                                                                                                                                                                                     Electronic Arts
                                                                                                                                                                                                     Activision
Namco Bandai Games
Ubisoft
                                                                                                                                                        Role-Playing:1488
                                                                                                                                                                                                     :
Konami Digital Entertainment:
THQ :
(Other) ::
                                                                                                                                                                                   :1310
:1286
:5113
                                                                                                                                   Global
Min.
1st Qu.
Median
                                            Min.
1st Qu.
Median
                       0.0200
0.1467
```

Cleansing and Quality assessment:

As we reviewed the raw data after import we noticed that more recent data has higher frequency of N/As. It was decided that these could be removed easily via na.omit() once it has been converted into the correct format.

Additionally, found the attribute "Rank" redundant because t only ranks based on global sales, which is the last attribute in the data frame. We believed instead of having rank, we can just sort the global sales column for the same effect.

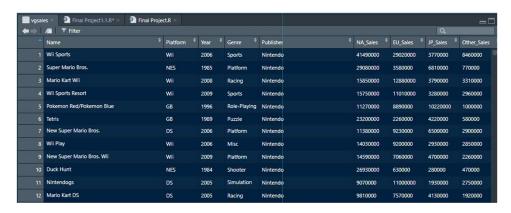
Further cleansing of the data was needed as we discovered that there are various platforms that are very specific but only a few game records. It was decided to lump them with other platforms of similar type. The following table illustrates the new platform name used to replace the one-off platforms.

Platform Renaming

Old Platform	New Platform
2600	Atari
GEN	SNES
SAT	Sega
SCD	Sega
NG	Misc
TG16	PC
3DO	Misc
PCFX	Misc
GG	Misc
WS	Misc

The following figures show the data after the cleansing steps we performed. Each of the cleansing steps were added to the function that imported the data. Additionally, in the same function, we performed a gsub to replace all "N/A" records with NA, so the na.omit() function worked correctly and recognized the value as a true NA.

Sample of cleansed Data:



Summary of cleansed Data:

Results:

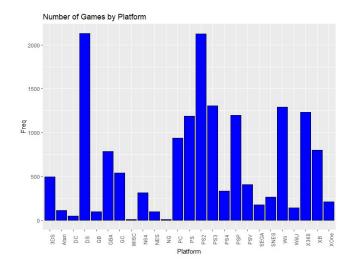
Question 1: What console released the most games overall?

When plotting the Number of games by Platform, the bar graph shows a tie between Nintendo DS and Playstation PS2. The number of different games sold between both Nintendo DS and Playstation were indeed very close when looking at the specific records in the data frame. Nintendo DS sold 2131 different games where PS2 sold 2127.

```
#Gives a list with count of games for each platform
platformcount-data.frame(table(vgsales)Platform())
platformcount-platformcount[rev(order(platformcount$Freq)),]
#Rename Columns
columns
columns
columns
columns
platformcount

#plot the data

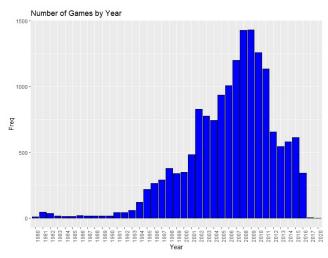
platformplot= ggplot(data=platformcount, aes(x=Platform, y=Freq)) + geom_bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
platformplot= platformplot + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90))
platformplot = platformplot + ggtitle("Number of Games by Platform")
platformplot
#Look at PS2 and DS as values were close
platformcount(which(platformcount$Platform=="PS2"),]
platformcount(which(platformcount$Platform=="DS2"),]
```



Question 2: What year had the most games released?

Similarly to the games by platform bar chart, the games released by year were put into a frequency data frame, ordered by year and plotted. From the review of the bar chart output, 2009 had the most game releases which 2008 coming in as a close second.

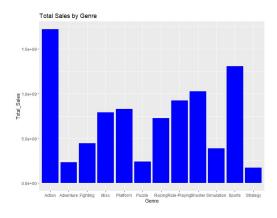




Question 3: What genre of game was the highest in sales overall?

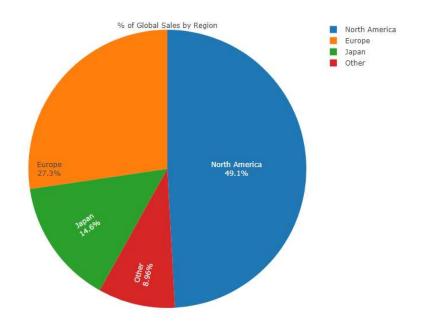
This question looks at total global sales by genre. To accomplish this, it was necessary to create a data frame grouped by genre. In addition to the grouping, the total global sales from the original vgsales data frame needed to be summarized into this new data frame. The graph clearly shows that the genre "Action" is by far the leader in global sales vs all the other genres.

```
#Create scatter plot to show genre with global sales, dot size equal to number of games
genresales=vgsales %>% group_by(Genre) %>%summarise(Total_Sales = sum(Global_Sales))
genresalesplot=ggplot(genresales,aes(x=Genre,y=Total_Sales))+geom_bar(stat="identity",fill="Blue")+ggtitle("Total Sales by Genre")
genresalesplot
```



Question 4: Which region has the most sales?

For this question, we took a different approach at visualizing the data. Since there were only four regions listed, it was easier to understand this data in a percentage of global sales and view them in a pie chart. From the pie chart, North America has nearly 50% of all video game sales in the world.

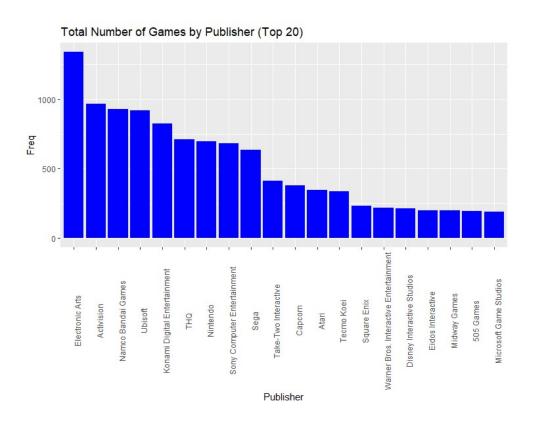


Question 5: Which publisher published the most games?

In review of this question, it was found that there were over 500 different publishers that have contributed to producing the video games in the data set. In the effort for visualization and to ensure an eye-chart wasn't created, the top 20 publishers were used for the analysis.

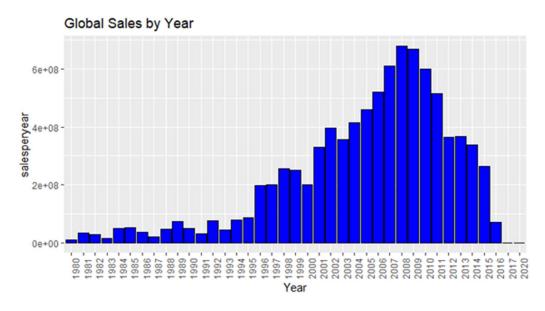
```
#Gives a dataframe with count of games for each publisher
publishercount=data.frame(table(vgsales$Publisher))
publishercount=publishercount[rev(order(publishercount$Freq)),]
#Rename Columns
colnames(publishercount)=c('Publisher','Freq')
publishercount

#Take top 20 publishers
top20pub=publishercount[publishercount$Freq >= publishercount$Freq[order(publishercount$Freq, decreasing=TRUE)][20], ]
top20pubbar=ggplot(top20pub,aes(x=reorder(Publisher,-Freq),y=Freq))+geom_bar(stat="identity",fill="Blue")+ggtitle("Total
top20pubbar=top20pubbar+theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90))+labs(x = "Publisher")
top20pubbar
```



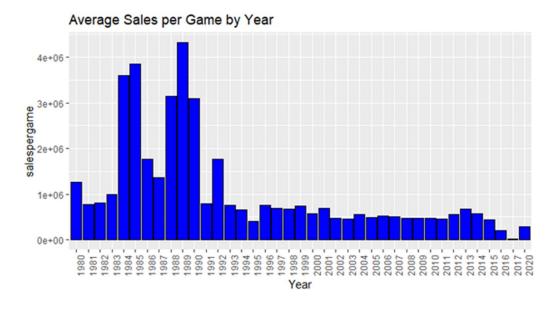
Question 6: What is the trend of global video games sales by year?

We can see a trend of the chart that matches what we have previously seen with the chart for "Number of Games by Year". We saw the most sales in 2008 with 2009 being in a close second.



Question 7: What are the average sales per game released on a given year?

We calculated average sales per year by taking the number of global sales divided by the number of games released for the year. The highest average was seen in 1988. After the mid-90s the averages were very similar.



Question 8: Which one of the major regions' sales is the best predictor of global sales?

Linear Modeling

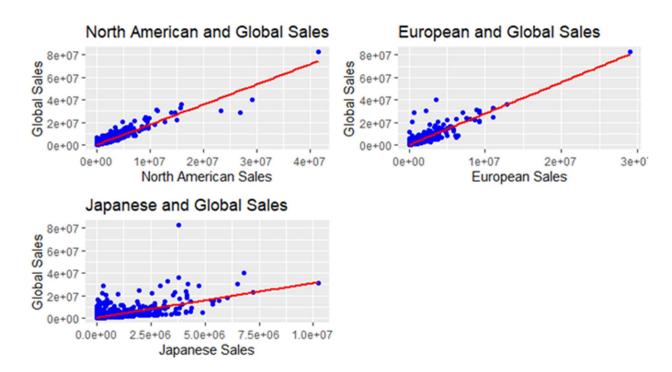
Videogame publishers often incorporate primary research as the main driver of their future sales projections of a new release. As videogames are widely adopted around the world, it is important for publishers to be able to forecast near-accurate global demand; in a perfect world, publishers would be able to conduct research around the world to do so, but this is often not feasible due to the constraints posed by money, time, and resources.

To solve this problem, we ask the question: can we create a model that can predict global sales by utilizing only one of the three major regions?

First, we created three separate linear models and plots with the predictor variables being sales in the three major regions, North America, Europe, and Japan, and the outcome variable being global sales. Then we assessed the results of each model and plots to assess the fit of the line and see if there are any unusual variability. For ease of view, we have arranged our plots into a single visual.

Our results are as follows:

Region (significance)	Coefficient	R-Squared
North America (***)	1.794	0.8860
Europe (***)	2.780	0.8159
Japan (***)	3.079	0.3775



In conclusion, the best predictor of global sales is North American sales because it had a high degree of significance paired with the highest R squared value of 0.8860; this means that roughly 88.60% of variability in global sales can be explained by North American sales.

Question 9: Can we create a model that predicts if we will have high or low sales for a video game?

SVM

We used SVM to see if we can predict if there will be high sales or low for a video game based off Publisher, Genre, Year, and Platform.

First, we converted the categorical variables into numbers for our model. Global Sales was updated to be a binary where 0 is for low sales and 1 are for high sales. This was calculated by seeing whether Global Sales were higher or lower than the average.

```
for (rows in 1:nrow(dfneural)){
  if (dfneural$Global_Sales[rows] >= avg_sales){
    dfneural$Global_Sales[rows] <- 1
  }
  else dfneural$Global_Sales[rows]<- 0
}</pre>
```

We created two datasets, training and testing. The SVM Model was run using our training dataset. We wanted to see Global Sales based off Genre, Publisher, Platform, and Year. This model was then used to predict high or low sales in our testing dataset.

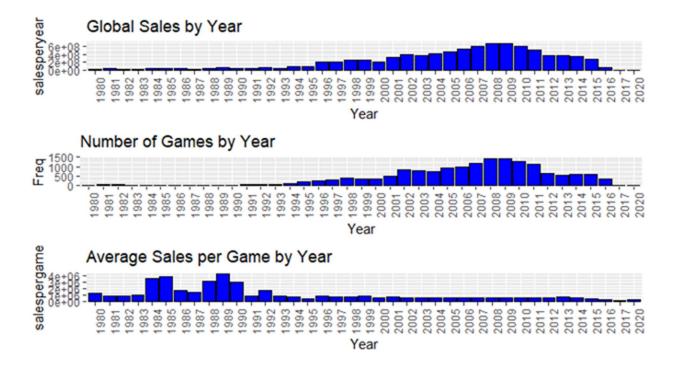
We took the difference between our predicted output and the actual output to see whether the model was accurate. We gave 0.05 as a margin of error in our calculations. We found our model had a **75.47%** chance of being accurate in determining amount of sales.

Interesting Findings

Game releases and sales VS. Sales per game released

If we were to focus our attention to only the frequencies of new releases and global sales over the years, it is fair to conclude that 2008 and 2009 were the golden years for publishers to produce new games as the number of new releases and global sales have peaked; but that would be a mistake.

Since 1990, the average sales per release in dollar amount has steadily declined. This means that individual games are not attracting as many buyers. This may be due to the sheer variety presented by the increasing number of games released per year among other factors.



Wii Sports, not as popular in Japan?

The video game that set the world record for sales is the Nintendo Wii Sports with \$82.7 million. In both North America and Europe, Wii sports is king, and it outsold their respective second place games by \$25.6 million and \$16.1 million. However, in Japan, Wii sports' sales is placed as the 26th most sold game. This is interesting because Wii Sports was the most sold video game in all the regions except for Japan, their country of production.

Conclusions:

Average video game sales have gone down since the late 80s/early 90s, however we have seen an increase in overall video game sales and amount of games released. This may be showing that the market has become oversaturated. Video game sales peaked in 2008- which follows trend of the number of games sold by year as well.

According to our SVM model- 75% of the time we can accurately predict if a video game will be a high seller by knowing the Genre, Publisher, Year, and Platform of the game. With our Linear Model we can determine what the overall sales of the games are based off the region sales.

Through all the analyses performed, we can assume that the data taken from Gregory Smith did not accurately reflect the correct numbers of video games and sales in the later years. Starting 2016 there was a decline in the data collected- which may be causing our findings to be slightly skewed.

Appendix:

```
##########
# Course: IST 687
# Assignment: Final Project
# Name: Mike Coomber, Rohini Shrivastava, Rodney Hur
# Date: 8/26/20
# Notes: Rev 1.1
########
#Libraries
EnsurePackage=function(x)
  x=as.character(x)
  if (!require(x, character.only=TRUE))
    install.packages(pkgs=x,repos="http://cran.r-project.org")
    require(x, character.only = TRUE)
  }
}
EnsurePackage("ggplot2")
EnsurePackage("dplyr")
EnsurePackage("plotly")
EnsurePackage("kernlab")
EnsurePackage ("Metrics")
EnsurePackage ("e1071")
EnsurePackage("gridExtra")
#Create Numberize function
Numberize = function(inputVector)
  #Remove Commas
  inputVector = gsub(',',','',inputVector)
  #Remove spaces
  inputVector = gsub(' ','',inputVector)
  return(as.numeric(inputVector))
}
inputfile="C:/Users/frogg/OneDrive/SU Files/Intro to Data Science/Final
Project/Final Project/vgsales.csv"
#read in the data set and
readdata = function(fileloc)
  tempfile=read.csv(fileloc)
  #convert all N/As to NA for removal
  tempfile$Name=as.factor(gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$Name))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Year=as.factor(gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$Year))
  tempfile$Genre=as.factor(gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$Genre))
  tempfile $ Publisher = as.factor (gsub ("N/A", NA, tempfile $ Publisher))
  tempfile$NA Sales=gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$NA Sales)
  tempfile$EU Sales=gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$EU Sales)
```

```
tempfile$JP Sales=gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$JP Sales)
  tempfile $0ther Sales=gsub ("N/A", NA, tempfile $0ther Sales)
  tempfile$Global Sales=gsub("N/A", NA, tempfile$Global Sales)
  #set sales to numeric using numberize and make value in millions
  tempfile$NA Sales=Numberize(tempfile$NA Sales)*1000000
  tempfile$EU Sales=Numberize(tempfile$EU Sales)*1000000
  tempfile$JP Sales=Numberize(tempfile$JP Sales)*1000000
  tempfile $0ther Sales=Numberize (tempfile $0ther Sales) *1000000
  tempfile$Global Sales=Numberize(tempfile$Global Sales)*1000000
  #update platform names to match
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("2600","Atari",tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("GEN", "SNES", tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("SAT", "SEGA", tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("SCD", "SEGA", tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("3DO", "MISC", tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile $Platform = as.factor (gsub ("PCFX", "MISC", tempfile $Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("GG","MISC",tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("WS","MISC",tempfile$Platform))
  tempfile$Platform=as.factor(gsub("TG16", "PC", tempfile$Platform))
  #Omit NA rows
  tempfile=na.omit(tempfile)
  #Remove Rank column
  tempfile=tempfile[,2:11]
  return(tempfile)
#store output into dataframe
vgsales = readdata(inputfile)
#dataframe
str(vqsales)
summary(vgsales)
#Gives a dataframe with count of games for each platform
platformcount=data.frame(table(vgsales$Platform))
platformcount=platformcount[rev(order(platformcount$Freq)),]
#Rename Columns
colnames (platformcount) = c ('Platform', 'Freq')
platformcount
#plot the data
platformplot= ggplot(data=platformcount, aes(x=Platform, y=Freq)) +
geom bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
platformplot = platformplot + theme(axis.text.x = element text(angle = 90))
platformplot = platformplot + ggtitle("Number of Games by Platform")
platformplot
#Look at PS2 and DS as values were close
platformcount[which(platformcount$Platform=="PS2"),]
```

}

```
platformcount[which(platformcount$Platform=="DS"),]
#Gives a dataframe with count of games for each genre
genrecount=data.frame(table(vgsales$Genre))
genrecount=genrecount[rev(order(genrecount$Freg)),]
#Rename Columns
colnames (genrecount) = c ('Genre', 'Freq')
genrecount
#plot the data
genrerplot= ggplot(data=genrecount, aes(x=Genre, y=Freq)) +
geom bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
genrerplot= genrerplot + theme(axis.text.x = element text(angle = 90))
genrerplot = genrerplot + ggtitle ("Number of Games by Genre")
genrerplot
#Gives a dataframe with count of games for each year
yearcount=data.frame(table(vgsales$Year))
yearcount=Year[rev(order(yearcount$Freq)),]
#Rename Columns
colnames(yearcount)=c('Year', 'Freq')
vearcount
#plot the data
yearplot= ggplot(data=yearcount, aes(x=Year, y=Freq)) +
geom bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
yearplot = yearplot + theme (axis.text.x = element text(angle = 90))
yearplot = yearplot + ggtitle("Number of Games by Year")
yearplot
#Create scatter plot to show genre with global sales, dot size equal to
number of games
genresales=vgsales %>% group by(Genre) %>%summarise(Total Sales =
sum(Global Sales))
genresalesplot=ggplot(genresales, aes(x=Genre, y=Total Sales))+geom bar(stat="i
dentity", fill="Blue") + ggtitle ("Total Sales by Genre")
genresalesplot
#Create a dataframe with regional sales grouped together
NAsales=summarise(vgsales, sum(NA Sales))
NAsales=NAsales[1,1]
EUsales=summarise(vgsales, sum(EU Sales))
EUsales=EUsales[1,1]
JPsales=summarise(vgsales, sum(JP Sales))
JPsales=JPsales[1,1]
OtherSales=summarise(vgsales, sum(Other Sales))
OtherSales=OtherSales[1,1]
Regions=c("North America", "Europe", "Japan", "Other")
Sales=c (NAsales, EUsales, JPsales, OtherSales)
fig = plot ly(type='pie', labels=Regions, values=Sales,
              textinfo='label+percent',
              insidetextorientation='radial', title="% of Global Sales by
Region")
```

```
#Gives a dataframe with count of games for each publisher
publishercount=data.frame(table(vgsales$Publisher))
publishercount=publishercount[rev(order(publishercount$Freq)),]
#Rename Columns
colnames(publishercount)=c('Publisher','Freq')
publishercount
#Take top 20 publishers
top20pub=publishercount[publishercount$Freq >=
publishercount$Freq[order(publishercount$Freq, decreasing=TRUE)][20] , ]
top20pubbar=ggplot(top20pub, aes(x=reorder(Publisher, -
Freq),y=Freq))+geom bar(stat="identity",fill="Blue")+ggtitle("Total Number of
Games by Publisher (Top 20)")
top20pubbar=top20pubbar+theme(axis.text.x = element text(angle = 90))+labs(x)
= "Publisher")
top20pubbar
#Q6: What is the trend of global video game sale by year?
#Create a vector
salesperyear<-tapply(vgsales$Global Sales ,as.factor(vgsales$Year), sum)</pre>
#Create new df
salesperyeardf<-data.frame(yearcount, salesperyear)</pre>
#Plot the data
salesperyearplot=ggplot(data=salesperyeardf, aes(x=Year, y=salesperyear)) +
geom bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
salesperyearplot=salesperyearplot + theme(axis.text.x = element text(angle =
salesperyearplot=salesperyearplot + ggtitle("Global Sales by Year")
salesperyearplot
#Q6: What is the average sales per game released in a given year?
#Create a new variable
salesperyeardf$salespergame=(salesperyeardf$salesperyear/salesperyeardf$Freq)
#Plot the data
salespergameplot=ggplot(data=salesperyeardf, aes(x=Year, y=salespergame)) +
geom bar(stat="identity",color="black",fill="Blue")
salespergameplot=salespergameplot + theme(axis.text.x = element text(angle =
salespergameplot=salespergameplot + ggtitle("Average Sales per Game by Year")
salespergameplot
#Linear Modeling
#Which major regional sales is the best predictor of global sales?
#Create separate df for lm
lmdf<-vqsales</pre>
#What is the relationship between North American sales and Global Sales?
naglobal<-lm(Global Sales ~ NA Sales, data=lmdf)</pre>
```

```
summary(naglobal)
##Formula: Global Sales = 1.794*NA Sales + 6.439e+04
##Multiple R-Squared: 0.8860
#Plot and add line to naglobal
naglobalplot<-ggplot(lmdf,aes(NA Sales,
Global Sales))+geom point(color="blue")
naglobalplot<-naglobalplot + geom smooth(method="lm",col="red")</pre>
naglobalplot<-naglobalplot + ggtitle("North American and Global Sales")</pre>
naglobalplot <- naglobalplot + xlab ("North American Sales") + ylab ("Global
Sales")
naglobalplot
#What is the relationship between European sales and Global Sales?
euglobal<-lm(Global Sales ~ EU Sales, data=lmdf)</pre>
summary(euglobal)
##Formula: Global Sales = 2.780*EU Sales + 6.439e+04
##Multiple R-Squared: 0.8159
#Plot and add line to euglobal
euglobalplot<-ggplot(lmdf,aes(EU Sales,
Global Sales))+geom point(color="blue")
euglobalplot<-euglobalplot + geom smooth(method="lm",col="red")</pre>
euglobalplot <- euglobalplot + ggtitle ("European and Global Sales")
euglobalplot<-euglobalplot + xlab("European Sales") + ylab("Global Sales")</pre>
euglobalplot
#What is the relationship between Japanese sales and Global Sales?
jpglobal<-lm(Global Sales ~ JP Sales, data=lmdf)</pre>
summary(jpglobal)
##Formula: Global Sales = 3.0790*JP Sales + 6.439e+04
##Multiple R-Squared: 0.3755
#Plot and add line to jpglobal
jpglobalplot<-ggplot(lmdf,aes(JP Sales,</pre>
Global Sales))+geom point(color="blue")
jpglobalplot<-jpglobalplot + geom smooth(method="lm",col="red")</pre>
jpglobalplot <- jpglobalplot + ggtitle ("Japanese and Global Sales")
jpglobalplot<-jpglobalplot + xlab("Japanese Sales") + ylab("Global Sales")</pre>
ipglobalplot
#Put all in one frame
grid.arrange(naglobalplot, euglobalplot, jpglobalplot, ncol=2)
#Interesting Findings
#Game releases, sales vs. sales per game
#Interesting Fivndings
grid.arrange(salesperyearplot, yearplot, salespergameplot)
#create neural network
#split data into train and test sets
```

```
neural <- vgsales
avg sales <- mean(neural$Global Sales)</pre>
#Convert all categorical variables into numeric values for both test and
train
dm neural<- data.matrix(neural)</pre>
dm neural <- subset (dm neural, select = -c(Name, NA Sales, EU Sales,
JP Sales, Other Sales, Global Sales))
dfneural<- as.data.frame(dm neural)</pre>
dfneural$Global Sales <- neural$Global</pre>
#we want to see if the data will have high or low sales
#if global sales is less than the average it will have low sales
#if it's higher, it will have high sales
for (rows in 1:nrow(dfneural)){
  if (dfneural$Global_Sales[rows] >= avg_sales){
    dfneural$Global Sales[rows] <- 1</pre>
  }
  else dfneural$Global Sales[rows]<- 0</pre>
#create our training and test samples
randIn <- sample(1:dim(dfneural)[1])</pre>
cut1 3 <- floor(2*dim(dfneural)[1]/3)</pre>
trainData<- dfneural[randIn[1:cut1 3],]</pre>
testData <- dfneural[randIn[(cut1 3+1):dim(dfneural)[1]],]</pre>
#run the SVM Model and predict the values
MultLin <- svm(Global Sales~Genre+Platform+Year+Publisher, data=trainData)
predict test <- predict(MultLin, testData)</pre>
testData$Accuracy <- predict test
#update our testData set with the predictions to see how far off we are
for (rows in 1:nrow(testData)){
  if (abs(as.double(testData$Accuracy[rows]) -
as.double(testData$Global Sales[rows])) <= 0.05){
    testData$Predicted[rows] <- 1
  else testData$Predicted[rows]<- 0</pre>
#Calculate how often we are correct with this model
avg pred = mean(testData$Predicted)
avg pred
```

Data acquired from Kaggle - https://www.kaggle.com/gregorut/videogamesales