Analyzing Lyrical Data from Historically Popular Songs

by: David Ash, Brian Blakely, and Jackson Conrad even though we won't admit to it later

Goals

- I. Web scrape song data from Billboards
- Analyze lyrical data from the top 100 songs from 1959 2019
- 3. Use natural language processing (NLP) to help with analysis
- Make pretty graphs for stuff
 - D. Design a good presentation for when 2.5/4 of those things fail horrifically

Process

- 0) Modify a web scraper to get the data set
- 1. Wait 6 hours
- 2. Now that you finally have your data set
- 3. Start analysis
- 4. Work for 3 hours processing the data
- 5. Realize your data set has full books instead of lyrics in some cases
- 6. Try to modify your data set to work correctly and not have books in it
- 7. Run a NLP to reprocess the data
- 8. Wait 2.5 hours
- 9. Watch in despair as it throws an error on the last song
- 10. Give up and start a new project
- 11. Wait 2.5 hours
- 12. Get locked outside
- 13. Give up on doing the new project and go back to the old project which works now

Summary: Progress made during the first 10 hours:

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After that

Data is from approximately

The very first data we successfully processed:

bottom 50 of 2000s - 2019



Idk why there are so many single quotes either

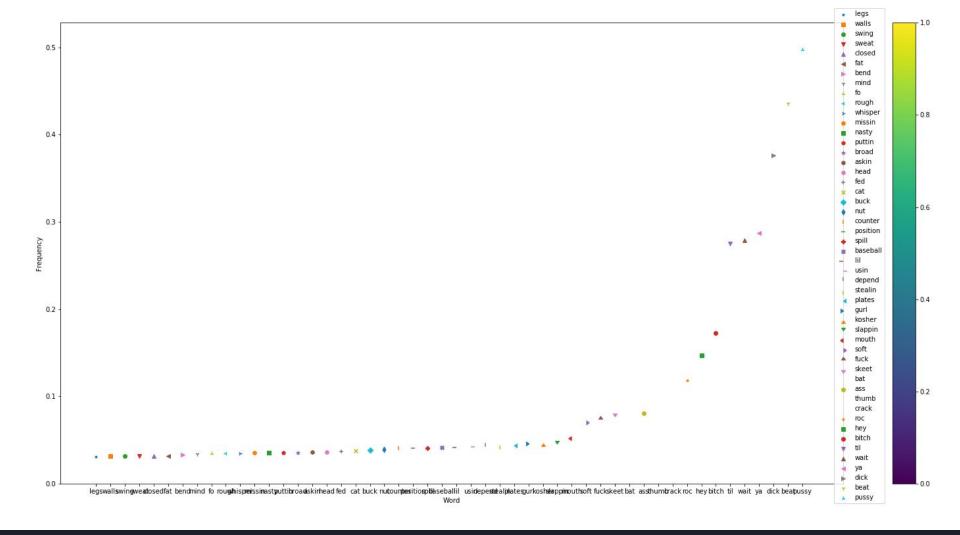
cont.

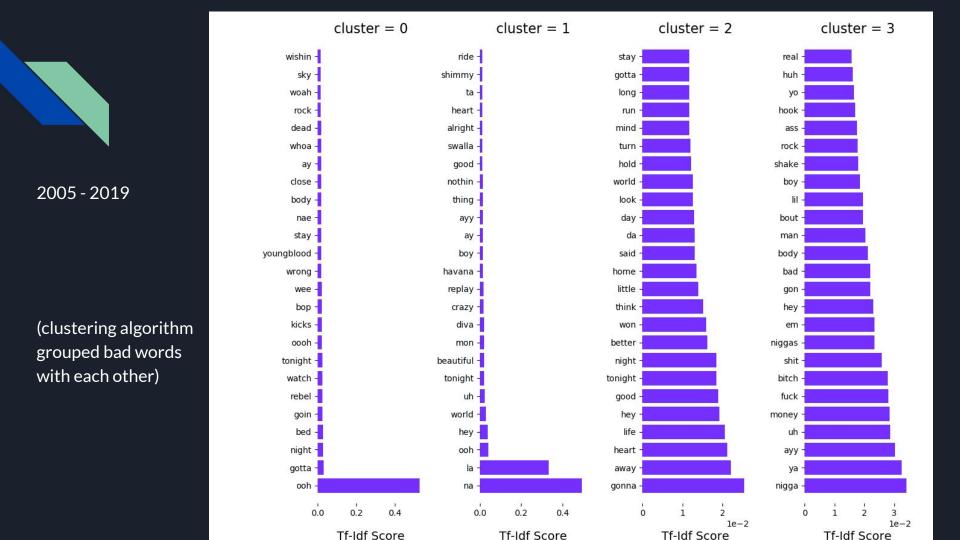
- 14. Realize it only works because the frequency measure gives arbitrary values for our purposes
- 15. Skew the data by only looking at the graphs that look nice
- 16. Make this presentation
- 17. Give the presentation
- 19. ???
- 20. Win 1st place
- 21. Skip class tomorrow because I'm tired and everything hurts

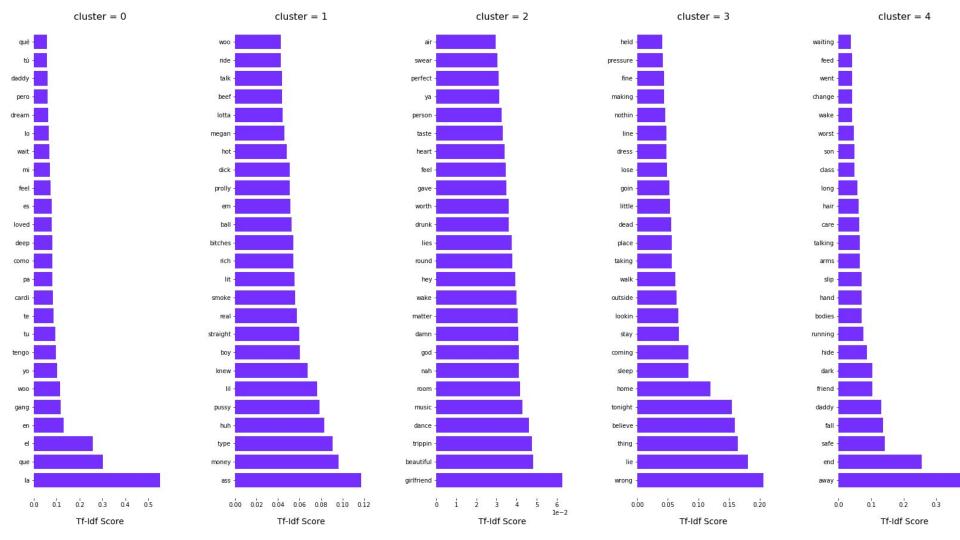
Actual data (not a joke this time) (last time wasn't a joke either fyi)

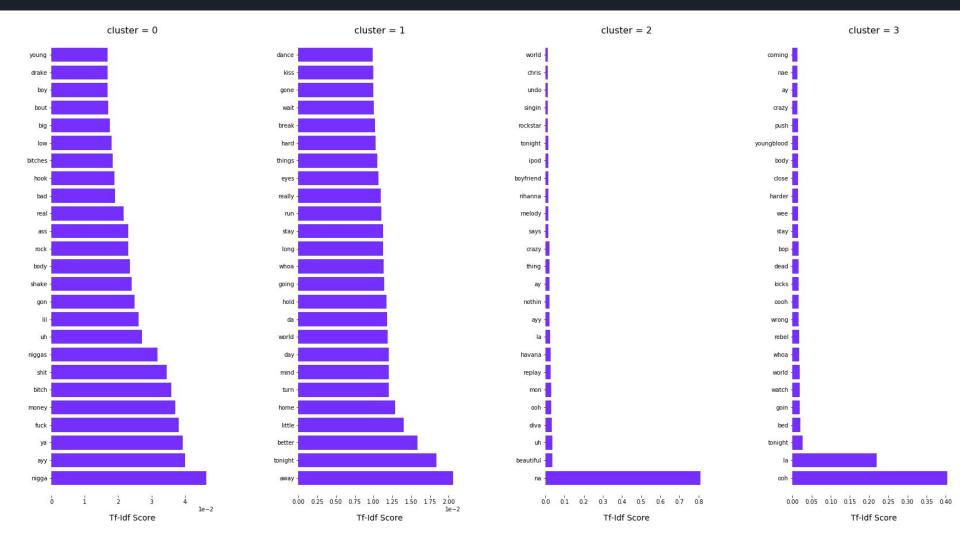
please excuse the profanity

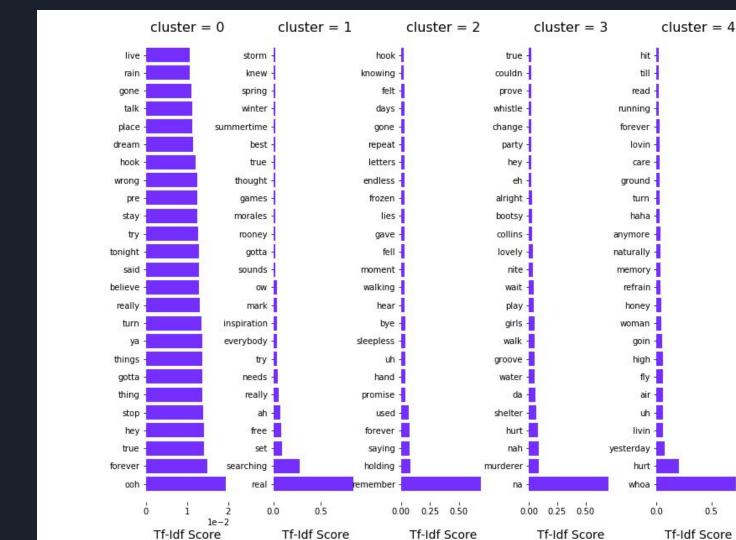
we didn't want to skew the data











Mid 1980s



1990s - 2000s



1980s - 1990s

What you could do with this project

- ★ Collect data about the frequency of...
 - Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, etc.)
 - Different kinds of nouns (People, nationalities, products, etc.)
 - Bad words (I'm not typing them)
- ★ Divide the data by...
 - Time (specific years, decades, etc.)
 - Genre
 - Artist
 - Lyrical content (length, unique words, etc.)
- ★ Create cool graphs with the data collected
 - Stuff we wanted to do but couldn't do in time includes...
 - Collect information on the usage of product and company names over time
 - Display information about use of profanity over the decades
 - Display most popular verb by decade
 - How closely words follow Zipf's Law