

Looking at Linguistics Signals in Pitchfork Music Reviews

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Objective

- Explore NLP capabilities within music reviews
 - Using Pitchfork's album reviews
- Parsing out distinct topics, parts of speech
 - Positive vs Negative reviews
 - Do genre or reviewer make a difference?
- Building a predictive model for album scores



Preprocessing Data

- 18,000 reviews from 1999-2017
 - 9,000 Rock reviews
 - 432 authors
- Preprocessing
- Choosing a topic model:
 - **TF-IDF / NMF**
 - CV / LDA
 - Corex

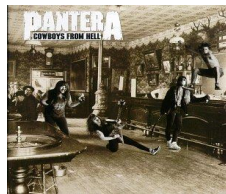


Topic Modelling on All Reviews



Rock Topic

- Guitar, indie, riff, rock



Metal Topic

- Black, death, doom, hardcore, thrash



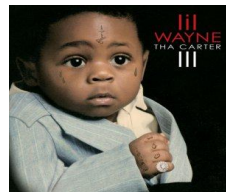
Electronic Topic

- Synth, dj, remix, house



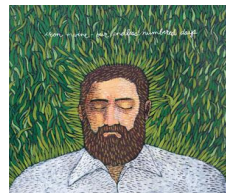
Live/Reissue Topic

- Live, cover, version, compilation



Rap Topic

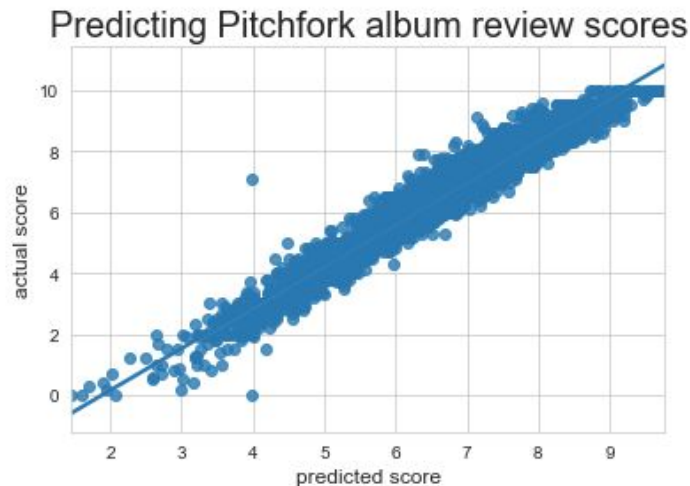
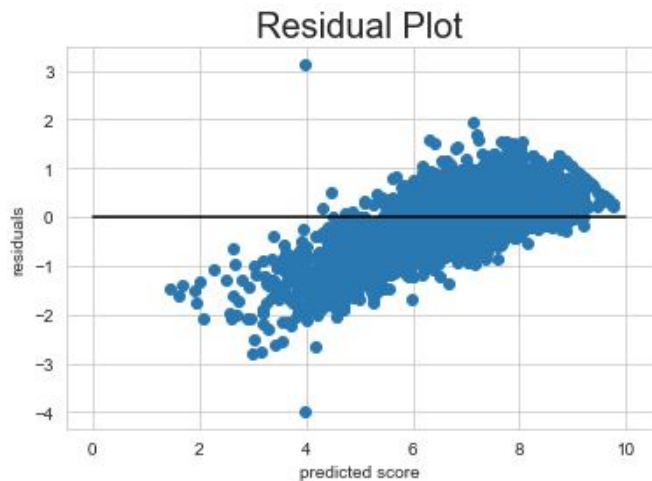
- Beat, wayne, sample, gucci



Folk Topic

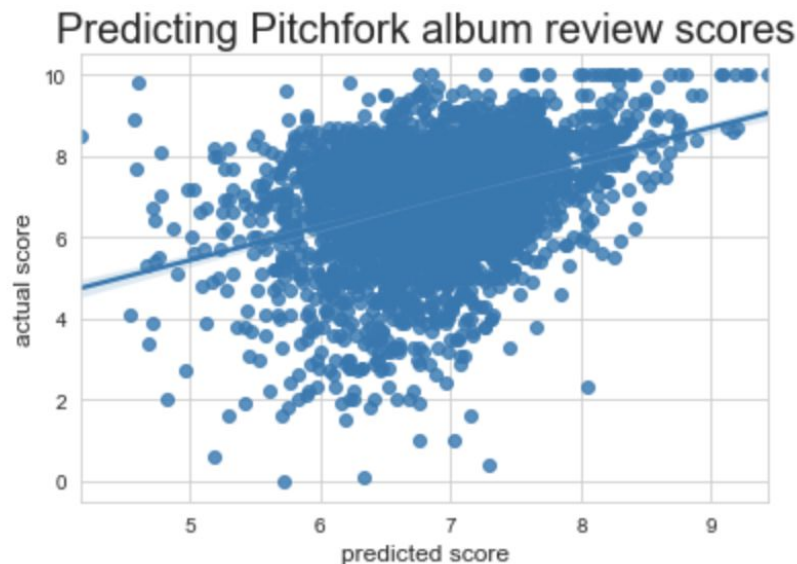
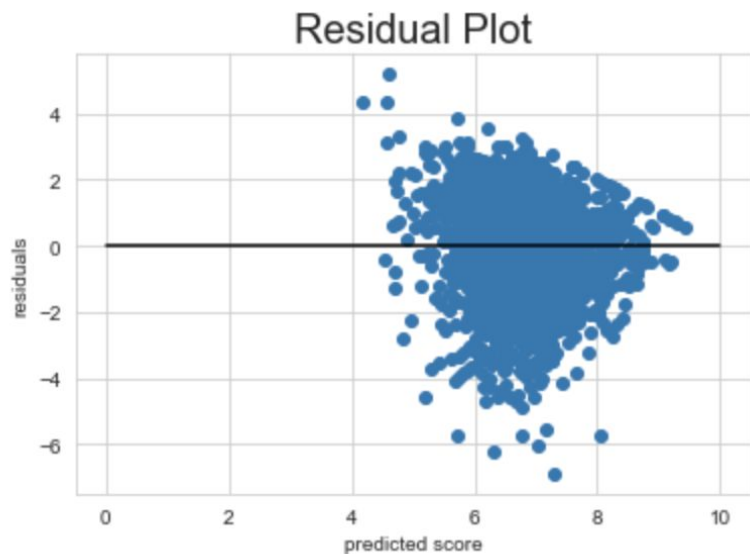
- Vocal, acoustic, instrument, melodic

Predicting Album Review Scores – Val Set




R²: 0.88
RMSE: 0.46

Predicting Album Review Scores – Test Set

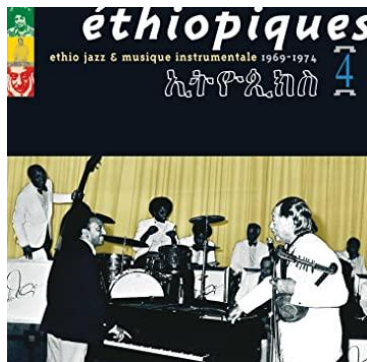


R²: 0.12
RMSE: 1.18

Album Score Predictions

	Jet	Shine On	0.0	3.98
	Weezer	Make Believe	0.4	3.21

Looking at Positive vs Negative Reviews



VS



Comparing Parts of Speech



Best

Good

Original

Better

Beautiful

Melodic

Great

Voice



Least

Bad

Different

Difficult

Few

Debut

Production

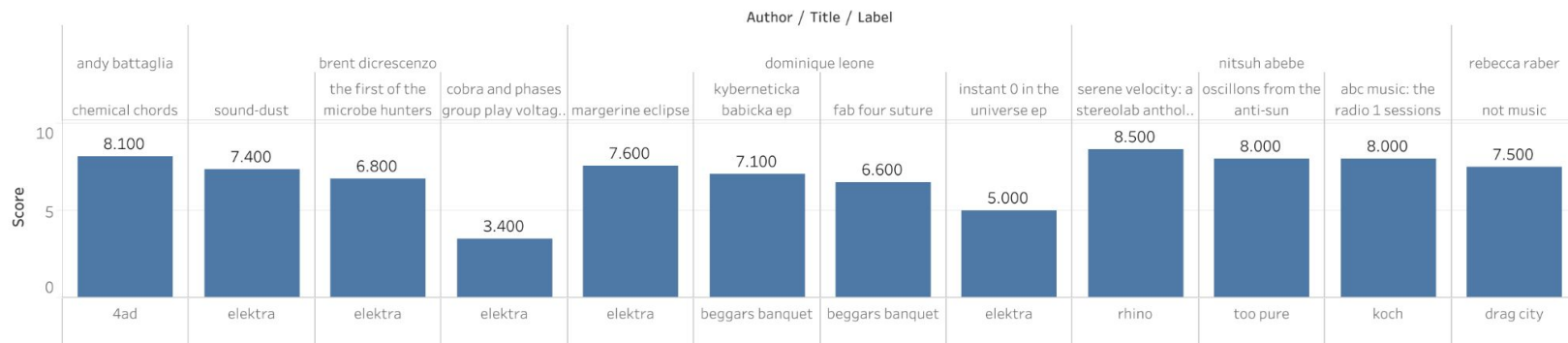
Less

Future Work

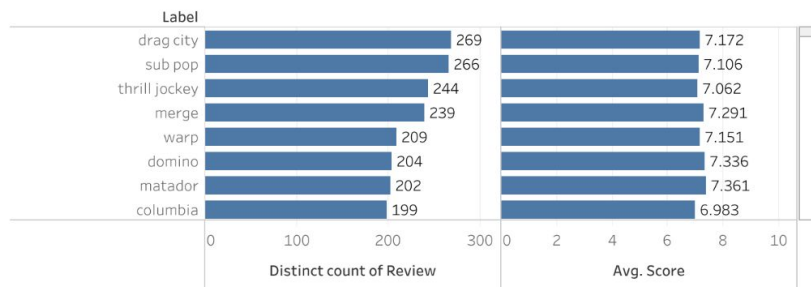
- More preprocessing
 - Removing all genre related words
- Fine tuning regressive model
 - Why is it so overfit?
- Recommendation system

Appendix

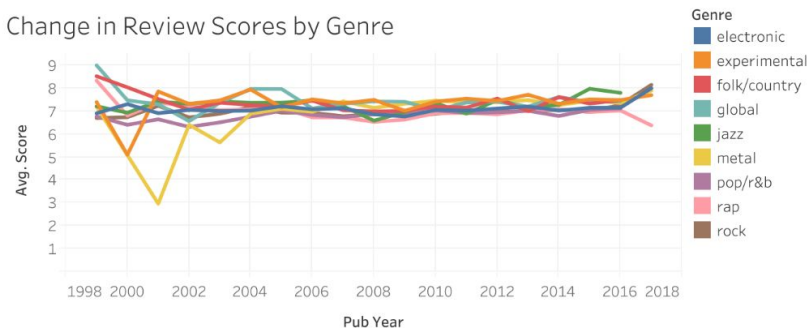
Stereolab Album Reviews



Label Average Score/Count of Reviews



Change in Review Scores by Genre



Appendix 2

Topic 0

get, thing, go, one, good, know, say, time, make, guy, peopl, want, think, realli, even

Topic 1

sound, guitar, track, record, instrument, drum, vocal, minut, drone, nois, piec, work, one, feel, melodi

Topic 2

band, rock, punk, guitar, sound, pop, indi, post, group, debut, song, riff, vocal, choru, new

Topic 3

pollard, gbv, guid, sprout, bob, robert, tobias, voic, record, circu, spaceship, lane, suitcas, song, tobin

Topic 4

live, record, version, disc, releas, band, set, origin, album, cover, perform, song, year, one, fan

Topic 5

remix, danc, pop, synth, disco, track, hous, beat, electro, origin, ep, singl, new, dj, mix

Topic 6

black, metal, rock, blue, white, riff, heavi, doom, death, minut, mountain, cave, sabbath, nois, guitar

Topic 7

love, song, sing, voic, lyric, songwrit, pop, countri, life, folk, singer, young, emot, feel, self

Topic 8

xix, stewart, jami, fabul, larsen, mcelroy, muscl, cover, fag, luv, patrol, shearwat, yoshii, emot, ep

Topic 9

smith, fall, morrissey, elliot, sonni, cure, record, marr, mark, one, patti, year, sunset, danielson, poulou

Rock topic modeling