Exploratory Data Analysing Using Youtube Video Data from Most Popular Gaming Channels

1. Aims, objectives and background

1.1. Introduction

Founded in 2005, Youtube has grown to become the second largest search engine in the world (behind Google) that processes more than 3 billion searches per month. [1]. It is, however, generally a myth how the Youtube algorithm works, what makes a video get views and be recommended over another. In fact, YouTube has one of the largest scale and most sophisticated industrial recommendation systems in existence [2]. For new content creators, it is a challenge to understand why a video gets video and others do not. There are many "myths" around the success of a Youtube video [3], for example if the video has more likes or comments, or if the video is of a certain duration. It is also worth experimenting and looking for "trends" in the topics that Youtube channels are covering in a certain niche.

In this project will explore the statistics of around 10 most successful Gaming Youtube channel.

1.2. Aims and objectives

Within this project, I would like to explore the following:

- Getting to know Youtube API and how to obtain video data.
- Analyzing video data and verify different common "myths" about what makes a video do well on Youtube, for example:
 - Does the number of likes and comments matter for a video to get more views?
 - Does the video duration matter for views and interaction (likes/comments)?
 - Does title length matter for views?
 - How many tags do good performing videos have? What are the common tags among these videos?
 - Across all the creators I take into consideration, how often do they upload new videos? On which days in the week?
- Explore the trending topics using NLP techniques
 - Which popular topics are being covered in the videos (e.g. using wordcloud for video titles)?

1.3. Steps of the project

1. Obtain video meta data via Youtube API for the top 10-15 channels in the gaming niche (this includes several small steps: create a developer key, request data and transform the responses into a usable data format)

- 2. Prepocess data and engineer additional features for analysis
- 3. Exploratory data analysis
- 4. Using clustering model for the video's titles.
- 5. Conclusions

```
1.4. Dataset
!pip install lib
!pip install isodate
!pip install kneed
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://us-
python.pkg.dev/colab-wheels/public/simple/
Collecting lib
  Downloading lib-4.0.0-py3-none-any.whl (4.0 kB)
Installing collected packages: lib
Successfully installed lib-4.0.0
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://us-
python.pkg.dev/colab-wheels/public/simple/
Collecting isodate
  Downloading isodate-0.6.1-py2.py3-none-any.whl (41 kB)
                                    ---- 41.7/41.7 KB 1.5 MB/s eta
0:00:00
ent already satisfied: six in /usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages
(from isodate) (1.15.0)
Installing collected packages: isodate
Successfully installed isodate-0.6.1
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://us-
python.pkg.dev/colab-wheels/public/simple/
Collecting kneed
  Downloading kneed-0.8.2-py3-none-any.whl (10 kB)
Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.14.2 in
/usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages (from kneed) (1.21.6)
Requirement already satisfied: scipy>=1.0.0 in
/usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages (from kneed) (1.7.3)
Installing collected packages: kneed
Successfully installed kneed-0.8.2
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from dateutil import parser
import isodate
# Data visualization libraries
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as ticker
import seaborn as sns
sns.set(style="darkgrid", color codes=True)
```

```
# Google API
from googleapiclient.discovery import build
# NLP libraries
import nltk
from nltk.corpus import stopwords
from nltk.tokenize import word tokenize
nltk.download('stopwords')
nltk.download('punkt')
from wordcloud import WordCloud
[nltk data] Downloading package stopwords to /root/nltk data...
              Unzipping corpora/stopwords.zip.
[nltk data]
[nltk data] Downloading package punkt to /root/nltk data...
[nltk data]
            Unzipping tokenizers/punkt.zip.
from yellowbrick.cluster import KElbowVisualizer
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA
from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
from kneed import KneeLocator
import plotly.graph objects as go
from plotly.subplots import make subplots
```

2. Data creation with Youtube API

I first created a project on Google Developers Console, then requested an authorization credential (API key). Afterwards, I enabled Youtube API for my application, so that I can send API requests to Youtube API services. Then, I went on Youtube and checked the channel ID of each of the channels that I would like to include in my research scope (using their URLs). Then I created the functions for getting the channel statistics via the API.

```
Params:
    youtube: the build object from googleapiclient.discovery
    channels ids: list of channel IDs
    Returns:
    Dataframe containing the channel statistics for all channels in
the provided list: title, subscriber count, view count, video count,
upload playlist
    0.00
    all data = []
    request = voutube.channels().list(
                part='snippet,contentDetails,statistics',
                id=','.join(channel ids))
    response = request.execute()
    for i in range(len(response['items'])):
        data = dict(channelName = response['items'][i]['snippet']
['title'],
                    subscribers = response['items'][i]['statistics']
['subscriberCount'],
                    views = response['items'][i]['statistics']
I'viewCount'l.
                    totalVideos = response['items'][i]['statistics']
['videoCount'],
                    playlistId = response['items'][i]
['contentDetails']['relatedPlaylists']['uploads'])
        all data.append(data)
    return pd.DataFrame(all data)
def get_video_ids(youtube, playlist_id):
    Get list of video IDs of all videos in the given playlist
    Params:
    youtube: the build object from googleapiclient.discovery
    playlist id: playlist ID of the channel
    Returns:
    List of video IDs of all videos in the playlist
    0.00
    request = youtube.playlistItems().list(
                part='contentDetails',
                playlistId = playlist id,
                maxResults = 50)
    response = request.execute()
```

```
video ids = []
    for i in range(len(response['items'])):
        video ids.append(response['items'][i]['contentDetails']
['videoId'])
    next page token = response.get('nextPageToken')
    more pages = True
    while more pages:
        if next_page_token is None:
            more pages = False
        else:
             request = youtube.playlistItems().list(
                         part='contentDetails',
                         playlistId = playlist_id,
                         maxResults = 50,
                         pageToken = next page token)
             response = request.execute()
            for i in range(len(response['items'])):
                 video ids.append(response['items'][i]
['contentDetails']['videoId'])
            next page token = response.get('nextPageToken')
    return video ids
def get video details(youtube, video ids):
    Get video statistics of all videos with given IDs
    Params:
    youtube: the build object from googleapiclient.discovery
    video_ids: list of video IDs
    Returns:
    Dataframe with statistics of videos, i.e.:
        'channelTitle', 'title', 'description', 'tags', 'publishedAt'
'viewCount', 'likeCount', 'favoriteCount', 'commentCount'
        'duration', 'definition', 'caption'
    0.00
    all_video_info = []
    for i in range(0, len(video_ids), 50):
        request = youtube.videos().list(
            part="snippet,contentDetails,statistics",
            id=','.join(video ids[i:i+50])
```

```
response = request.execute()
        for video in response['items']:
            stats_to_keep = {'snippet': ['channelTitle', 'title',
'description', 'tags', 'publishedAt'],
                             'statistics': ['viewCount', 'likeCount',
'favouriteCount', 'commentCount'],
                             'contentDetails': ['duration',
'definition', 'caption']
            video info = {}
            video info['video id'] = video['id']
            for k in stats to keep.keys():
                for v in stats to keep[k]:
                    try:
                        video info[v] = video[k][v]
                    except:
                        video info[v] = None
            all video info.append(video info)
    return pd.DataFrame(all video info)
def get comments in videos(youtube, video ids):
    Get top level comments as text from all videos with given IDs
(only the first 10 comments due to quote limit of Youtube API)
    Params:
    youtube: the build object from googleapiclient.discovery
    video ids: list of video IDs
    Returns:
    Dataframe with video IDs and associated top level comment in text.
    all comments = []
    for video id in video ids:
        try:
            request = youtube.commentThreads().list(
                part="snippet, replies",
                videoId=video id
            response = request.execute()
            comments in video = [comment['snippet']['topLevelComment']
['snippet']['textOriginal'] for comment in response['items'][0:10]]
            comments in video info = {'video id': video id,
```

```
'comments': comments_in_video}
    all_comments.append(comments_in_video_info)

except:
    # When error occurs - most likely because comments are
disabled on a video
    print('Could not get comments for video ' + video_id)

return pd.DataFrame(all comments)
```

Get channel statistics

Using the get_channel_stats function defined below, now we are going to obtain the channel statistics for the 9 channels in scope.

```
channel data = get channel stats(youtube, channel ids)
```

Now I can print out the data and take a look at the channel statistics overview.

channel_data

channelName	subscribers	views	totalVideos	\
DanTDM	26300000	19005285299	3639	
Markiplier	34400000	19595365073	5410	
Syndicate	9690000	2126364229	3526	
jacksepticeye	29000000	15887438206	5052	
H20Delirious	13300000	4295816083	3331	
W2S	16300000	4745348192	652	
VanossGaming	25800000	15266099400	1678	
Ali-Ā	18200000	5895310216	4026	
PopularMMOs	17200000	14530283729	4685	
	DanTDM Markiplier Syndicate jacksepticeye H20Delirious W2S VanossGaming Ali-A	Markiplier 34400000 Syndicate 9690000 jacksepticeye 29000000 H20Delirious 13300000 W2S 16300000 VanossGaming 25800000 Ali-A 18200000	DanTDM2630000019005285299Markiplier3440000019595365073Syndicate96900002126364229jacksepticeye2900000015887438206H20Delirious133000004295816083W2S163000004745348192VanossGaming2580000015266099400Ali-A182000005895310216	DanTDM26300000190052852993639Markiplier34400000195953650735410Syndicate969000021263642293526jacksepticeye29000000158874382065052H20Delirious1330000042958160833331W2S163000004745348192652VanossGaming25800000152660994001678Ali-A1820000058953102164026

playlistId

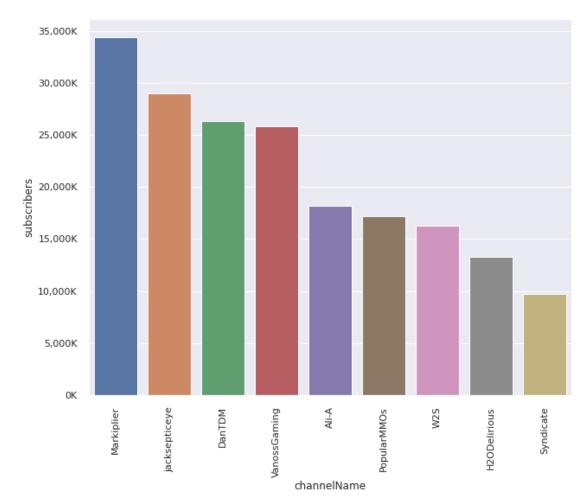
- 0 UUS50z6CHmeoF7vSad0qqXfw
- 1 UU7 YxT-KID8kRbqZo7Mysc0
- 2 UU1ieoHqKW-yYgDhLHIcx28w
- 3 UUYzPXprvl5Y-Sf0q4vX-m6q
- 4 UUClNRixXlagwAd--5MwJKCw
- 5 UUjtLOfx1yt1NlnFIDyAX3Ug
- 6 UUKqH_9mk1waLgBiL2vT5b9g
- 7 UUYVinkwSX7szARULqYpvhLw
- 8 UUpGdL9Sn3Q5YWUH2DVUW1Ug

I noticed the count columns in channel_data is currently in string format, so I will convert them into numeric so that we can visualize and do numeric operations on them.

```
# Convert count columns to numeric columns
numeric_cols = ['subscribers', 'views', 'totalVideos']
channel_data[numeric_cols] =
channel_data[numeric_cols].apply(pd.to_numeric, errors='coerce')
```

Let's take a look at the number of subscribers per channel to have a view of how popular the channels are when compared with one another.

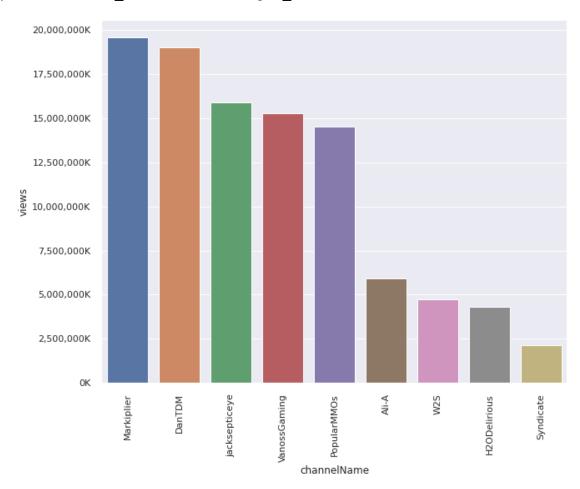
```
sns.set(rc={'figure.figsize':(10,8)})
ax = sns.barplot(x='channelName', y='subscribers',
data=channel_data.sort_values('subscribers', ascending=False))
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(ticker.FuncFormatter(lambda x, pos:
'{:,.0f}'.format(x/1000) + 'K'))
plot = ax.set_xticklabels(ax.get_xticklabels(),rotation = 90)
```



Next, we will look at the rank considering the total number of views of the channels. The rank is fairly similar to the subscriber count rank. Markiplier, jacksepticeye and DanTDM remain the three most popular channels considering both subscribers and views. Interestingly, some channels have more subscribers but less views and vice versa. For example, PopularMMOs channnel's has equal number of subscribers than Ali-A Barousse channel, but significantly more views in total.

```
ax = sns.barplot(x='channelName', y='views',
data=channel_data.sort_values('views', ascending=False))
ax.yaxis.set major formatter(ticker.FuncFormatter(lambda x, pos:
```

```
'{:,.0f}'.format(x/1000) + 'K'))
plot = ax.set xticklabels(ax.get xticklabels(),rotation = 90)
```



Get video statistics for all the channels

In the next step, we will obtain the video statistics for all the channels. In total, we obtained 31751 videos as seen in below.

```
# Create a dataframe with video statistics and comments from all
channels

video_df = pd.DataFrame()
comments_df = pd.DataFrame()

for c in channel_data['channelName'].unique():
    print("Getting video information from channel: " + c)
    playlist_id = channel_data.loc[channel_data['channelName']== c,
'playlistId'].iloc[0]
    video_ids = get_video_ids(youtube, playlist_id)

# get video data
    video_data = get_video_details(youtube, video_ids)
```

```
# get comment data
    '''comments data = get comments in videos(youtube, video ids)'''
    # append video data together and comment data toghether
    video df = video df.append(video data, ignore index=True)
    '''comments df = comments df.append(comments data,
ignore_index=True)'''
Getting video information from channel: DanTDM
Getting video information from channel: Markiplier
Getting video information from channel: Syndicate
Getting video information from channel: jacksepticeye
Getting video information from channel: H2ODelirious
Getting video information from channel: W2S
Getting video information from channel: VanossGaming
Getting video information from channel: Ali-A
Getting video information from channel: PopularMMOs
len(video df)
31905
# Write video data to CSV file for future references
video df.to csv('video data.csv')
```

Preprocessing & Feature engineering

To be able to make use of the data for analysis, we need to perform a few pre-processing steps. Firstly, we would like reformat some columns, especially the date and time columns such as "pushlishedAt" and "duration". In addition, we also think it is necessary to enrich the data with some new features that might be useful for understanding the videos' characteristics.

Check for empty values

video df.isnull().any()

video_id	False
channelTitle	False
title	False
description	False
tags	True
publishedAt	False
viewCount	True
likeCount	True
favouriteCount	True
commentCount	True
duration	False
definition	False
caption	False
dtype: bool	

There's no strange dates in the publish date column, videos were published between 2012 and 2022.

```
video_df.publishedAt.sort_values().value counts()
2012-11-17T18:18:46Z
                         15
2012-05-06T22:57:12Z
                         8
                         3
2015-09-07T19:00:01Z
                         3
2016-07-03T19:00:01Z
2015-05-15T19:00:01Z
                         3
2014-09-19T02:25:58Z
                         1
2014-09-19T01:59:29Z
                         1
2014-09-19T00:51:08Z
                         1
2014-09-18T21:24:07Z
                         1
2023-02-08T01:37:15Z
                         1
Name: publishedAt, Length: 31665, dtype: int64
```

Next, we need to check if the data type of the columns are correct. I have checked the data types and indeed some count columns such as view count and comment count are currently not in correct data type. In this step, we convert these count columns into integer.

```
cols = ['viewCount', 'likeCount', 'commentCount']
video_df[cols] = video_df[cols].apply(pd.to_numeric, errors='coerce',
axis=1)
```

Enriching data

I want to enrich the data for further analyses, for example:

- create published date column with another column showing the day in the week the video was published, which will be useful for later analysis.
- convert video duration to seconds instead of the current default string format
- calculate number of tags for each video
- calculate comments and likes per 1000 view ratio
- calculate title character length

```
# Create publish day (in the week) column
video_df['publishedAt'] = video_df['publishedAt'].apply(lambda x:
parser.parse(x))
video_df['pushblishDayName'] = video_df['publishedAt'].apply(lambda x:
x.strftime("%A"))
# convert duration to seconds
video_df['durationSecs'] = video_df['duration'].apply(lambda x:
isodate.parse_duration(x))
video_df['durationSecs'] =
video_df['durationSecs'].astype('timedelta64[s]')
```

```
# Add number of tags
video df['tagsCount'] = video df['tags'].apply(lambda x: 0 if x is
None else len(x))
# Comments and likes per 1000 view ratio
video df['likeRatio'] = video df['likeCount']/ video df['viewCount'] *
1000
video df['commentRatio'] = video df['commentCount']/
video_df['viewCount'] * 1000
# Title character length
video df['titleLength'] = video df['title'].apply(lambda x: len(x))
Let's look at the video dataset at this point to see if everything went well. It looks good -
now we will proceed to exploratory analysis part.
video df.head()
      video id channelTitle
                                                          title \
  RtbxwxdHIPw
                 Markiplier
                                   Dead Space: REMAKE - Part 6
                 Markiplier The Glitched Attraction - Part 7
   zaTi7YiDyDw
  c7PC-Qh7Qq4
                 Markiplier
                                   Dead Space: REMAKE - Part 5
3
  7T06GbaDFVI
                 Markiplier
                                             3 SCARY GAMES #98
  9llIHJh0tJU
                 Markiplier
                                   Dead Space: REMAKE - Part 4
                                          description
  Dead Space Remake continues with Chapter 6 and...
  We find the secret tape! What's Vanny doing he...
  Dead Space Remake continues with Chapter 5 and...
  There's 64 Harvest Festivals going on at A Mal...
   Plenty of necromorphs to STOMP in Chapter 4 of...
   [dead space, markiplier, dead space remake, ga...
   [the glitched attraction, five nights at fredd...
1
   [dead space, markiplier, dead space remake, ga...
3
   [markiplier, 3 scary games, indie horror, harv...
   [dead space, markiplier, dead space remake, ga...
                publishedAt
                              viewCount
                                         likeCount favouriteCount
0 2023-02-07 18:45:41+00:00
                               157056.0
                                           13584.0
                                                              None
1 2023-02-06 20:11:36+00:00
                              1230129.0
                                          117222.0
                                                              None
2 2023-02-05 17:33:14+00:00
                               508017.0
                                           28651.0
                                                              None
3 2023-02-04 19:17:31+00:00
                              2153500.0
                                          114763.0
                                                              None
4 2023-02-03 19:42:06+00:00
                               643717.0
                                           31150.0
                                                              None
                  duration definition caption pushblishDayName
   commentCount
durationSecs \
         1446.0
                 PT1H4M46S
                                    hd
                                         false
                                                         Tuesday
3886.0
         6058.0
                  PT15M48S
                                    hd
                                         false
                                                          Monday
```

948.0 2 2534.0	1915	.0 P	Г42М14	S	hd	false	Sunday
3 2689.0	5763	.0 P	Г44М49	S	hd	false	Saturday
2089.0 4 2785.0	2027	.0 P	Г46М25	S	hd	false	Friday
tagsC 0 1 2 3	ount 10 7 10 7 10	likeRa 86.493 95.293 56.393 53.293 48.390	1443 2445 7719 1386	commentRat 9.2069 4.9246 3.7695 2.6761 3.1488	07 87 59 09	titleLengt 2 3 2 1 2	7 2 7 7

Exploratory analysis

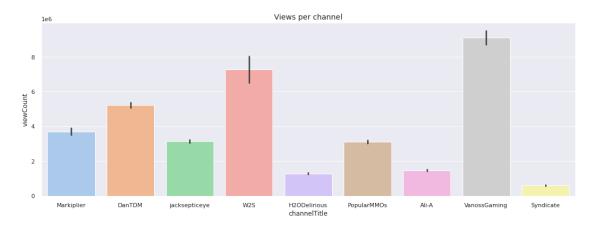
Views distribution per channel

With the video statistics for all channel, now we can see how the views are distributed per channel. Some channels might have a lot of views on one of their videos and the rest do not receive many views. Other channels might have more evenly distribution views per video.

```
plt.rcParams['figure.figsize'] = (18, 6)
sns.barplot(video_df['channelTitle'], video_df['viewCount'], palette =
'pastel')
plt.title('Views per channel', fontsize = 14)
plt.show()
```

/usr/local/lib/python3.8/dist-packages/seaborn/_decorators.py:36: FutureWarning: Pass the following variables as keyword args: x, y. From version 0.12, the only valid positional argument will be `data`, and passing other arguments without an explicit keyword will result in an error or misinterpretation.

warnings.warn(

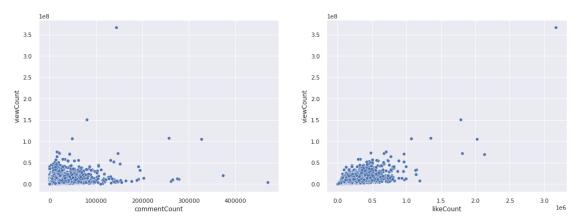


Does the number of likes and comments matter for a video to get more views?

Firstly, I would like to check if comments and likes do correlate with how many views a video would get. In the plots below, it can be observed that the number of views and number of comments/ likes strongly correlated with each other. The number of likes seems to suggest stronger correlation than the number of comments. However, this is expected as the more people watching a video, the more likely this video will get comments and likes. To correct for this factor, we will plot these relationships again using the comments per 1000 view and likes per 1000 view ratios.

```
fig, ax =plt.subplots(1,2)
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "commentCount", y = "viewCount",
ax=ax[0])
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "likeCount", y = "viewCount",
ax=ax[1])
```

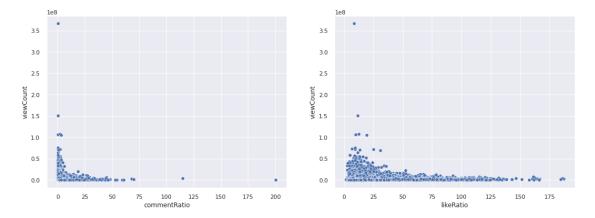
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f7e0db48670>



Now we will take a look at the correlation if we look at the comment ratio and like ratio instead of the absolute number.

```
fig, ax =plt.subplots(1,2)
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "commentRatio", y = "viewCount",
ax=ax[0])
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df[video_df.likeRatio<10000], x =
"likeRatio", y = "viewCount", ax=ax[1])</pre>
```

<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f7e07561d30>

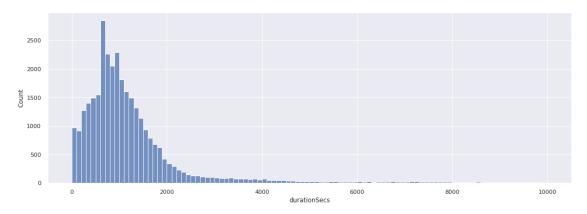


Does the video duration matter for views and interaction (likes/comments)?

As can be seen in the histogram below, most videos are between 300 to 1200 seconds, which is about 5 to 20 minutes. Here I have to limit the duration to 10,000 because of some really long videos (potentially streaming videos).

```
sns.histplot(data=video_df[video_df['durationSecs'] < 10000], x="durationSecs", bins=50,binwidth=100)
```

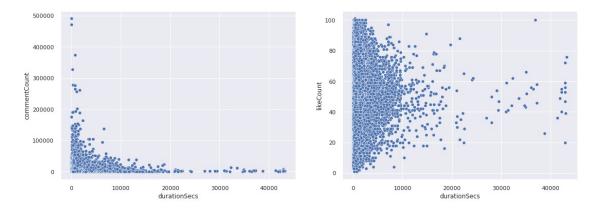
<matplotlib.axes. subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fcc9a4973d0>



Now we plot the duration against comment count and like count. It can be seen that actually shorter videos tend to get more likes and comments than very long videos.

```
fig, ax =plt.subplots(1,2)
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "durationSecs", y =
"commentCount", ax=ax[0])
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "durationSecs", y = "likeCount",
ax=ax[1])
```

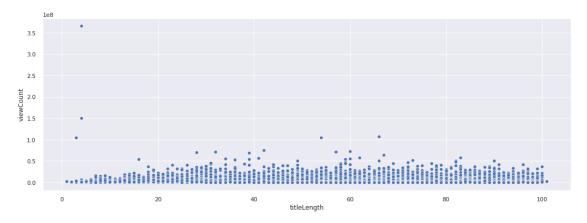
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fcc9ad87250>



Does title length matter for views?

There is no clear relationship between title length and views as seen the scatterplot below, but most-viewed videos tend to have average title length of 30-70 characters.

```
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "titleLength", y = "viewCount")
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fcca7341c70>
```



Wordcloud for words in title

As I'm interested to see what the creators are making videos about and which terms most frequently appear in their video titles, I will create a wordcloud for the most common words. We first need to remove the stopwords such as "you", "I", "the", etc. which do not contribute a lot to the meaning of the title.

```
def plot_cloud(wordcloud,title='none'):
    plt.figure(figsize=(10, 8))
    plt.imshow(wordcloud)
    if (title != 'none'):
        plt.title(title)
    plt.axis("off");

stop_words = set(stopwords.words('english'))
video_df['title_no_stopwords'] = video_df['title'].apply(lambda x:
[item for item in str(x).split() if item not in stop words])
```

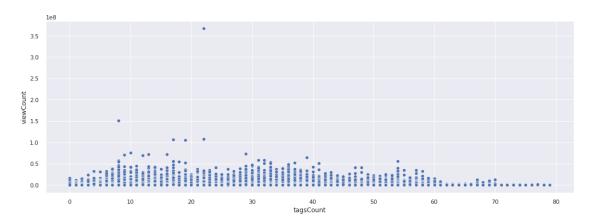


It can be seen that most common words are Minecraft, Game, Cakk, Funny, Zombie...

Number of tags vs views

Most-viewed videos seems to have 0-35 tags.

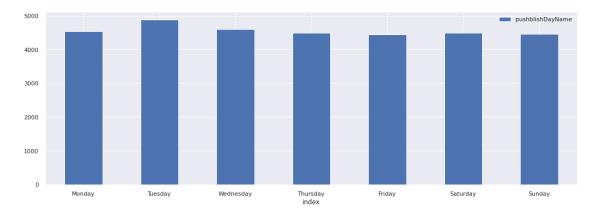
```
sns.scatterplot(data = video_df, x = "tagsCount", y = "viewCount")
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7f65cc733c10>
```



Which day in the week are most videos uploaded?

Tuesday seems to be the highest publised day, but overall videos are uploaded equally for everyday.

```
day_df = pd.DataFrame(video_df['pushblishDayName'].value_counts())
weekdays = [ 'Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday', 'Friday',
'Saturday', 'Sunday']
day_df = day_df.reindex(weekdays)
ax = day_df.reset_index().plot.bar(x='index', y='pushblishDayName',
rot=0)
```



Conclusions

In this project, we have explored the video data of the 10 most popular gaming channels and we obtain insight:

- Higher views seems to be higher comments and likes though it is not guarantee.
 Likes seem to be a better indicator for interaction than comments and the number of likes seem to follow the "social proof".
- Most videos have between 0 and 35 tags.

- Most-viewed videos tend to have average title length of 30-70 characters. Too short or too long titles seem to harm viewership.
- · Videos are usually uploaded equally everyday.
- After clustering, we find out there are several trends of gaming videos. Minecraft and fortnite seems to be the most popular games and have many extendsion: 'mod', 'gmod', 'showcase', 'battle'. Shooting games channel like 'Syndicate', 'Ali-A' archieve a really stable views. Moreover, people seems to like watching role-playing game videos or horror games like 'freedy'. Sometimes, videos go with series (part 1, part 2).

Project limitation:

The findings should also be taken with a grain of salt for a number of reasons:

- Even with over 30000 videos, the clustering part seems to be unstable and vague.
- We did not utilize the comments parts, which may lead us to a better insight.
- There are many other factors that haven't been taken into the analysis, including the marketing strategy of the creators and many random effects that would affect how successful a video is.