Final Project

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Introduction and Data

With recent features on music apps such as Spotify Wrapped gaining massive popularity, understanding users' music taste for personalized recommendations and music trend analysis have become a critical challenge for streaming companies. To categorize and analyze the countless songs on these platforms, each are dissected into various musical elements ranging from duration and tempo to loudness and danceability. Using a real database of song tracks compiled and released by Spotify for data engineering purposes, we wanted to see whether common trends could be observed between different musical elements. Modes of songs, specifically, were of our interest since they determine the mood of the music — songs in major modes sound more bright and uplifting while those in minor modes are more calm and even sadder. We wanted to explore if musical aspects such as bounciness or tempo would be correlated to the song's mode in some way, with some of our example hypotheses being that minor songs would be slower and/or less danceable but more acoustic than major songs. Hence, we set the following:

Research question: How do different musical elements affect whether a song is in major or minor mode?

This data was collected from the Spotify for Developers website, as the data set was published to be used as part of an open data science challenge. With no null values and well-categorized variables, our data was already cleaned and ready to be used for a complete case analysis. Minor data cleaning processes that we conducted were deleting irrelevant variables such as acoustic vectors and adding a new variable "new_mode" to express major and minor modes numerically as 1 and 0.

Data source: https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/spotify-sequential-skip-prediction-challenge/dataset_files (need to create an account and log in to access the dataset)

Some of our key variables included:

- duration: length of the song in seconds
- release_year: year of song released (1950-2018)
- key: song key starting from C major (0) to B minor (11)

- mode: song mode (major or minor)
- new_mode: song mode numerized (1 = major, 0 = minor)
- tempo: speed of song in beats per minute (bpm)
- time signature: number of quarter notes in each measure

To get a gist of what our data was presenting, we fitted an initial logistic model using all variables as predictors.

```
# A tibble: 50,704 x 31
   track_id      durat~1 relea~2 us_po~3 acous~4 beat_~5 bounc~6 dance~7 dyn_r~8
   <chr>           <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl>
 1 t_a540e552-1~    110.    1950   100.    0.458   0.519   0.505   0.400    7.51
 2 t_67965da0-1~    188.    1950   100.    0.916   0.419   0.546   0.491    9.10
 3 t_0614ecd3-a~    161.    1951    99.6   0.813   0.426   0.508   0.492    8.37
 4 t_070a63a0-7~    175.    1951    99.7   0.397   0.401   0.360   0.552    5.97
 5 t_d6990e17-9~    370.    1951   100.    0.729   0.371   0.335   0.483    5.80
 6 t_fcb90952-0~    178.    1951   100.    0.186   0.549   0.579   0.744    8.67
 7 t_20675f8a-3~    166.    1952   100.    0.519   0.592   0.640   0.741    9.53
 8 t_7577ca53-5~    198.    1952    99.5   0.787   0.472   0.448   0.427    6.91
 9 t_8a461a4e-6~    215.    1954   100.    0.155   0.526   0.566   0.523    8.63
10 t_ae523005-8~    281.    1954    97.4   0.941   0.233   0.209   0.242    4.83
# ... with 50,694 more rows, 22 more variables: energy <dbl>, flatness <dbl>,
#   instrumentalness <dbl>, key <dbl>, liveness <dbl>, loudness <dbl>,
#   mechanism <dbl>, mode <chr>, organism <dbl>, speechiness <dbl>,
#   tempo <dbl>, time_signature <dbl>, valence <dbl>, acoustic_vector_0 <dbl>,
#   acoustic_vector_1 <dbl>, acoustic_vector_2 <dbl>, acoustic_vector_3 <dbl>,
#   acoustic_vector_4 <dbl>, acoustic_vector_5 <dbl>, acoustic_vector_6 <dbl>,
#   acoustic_vector_7 <dbl>, new_mode <dbl>, and abbreviated variable names ...


Call:
glm(formula = new_mode ~ us_popularity_estimate + duration +
    release_year + acousticness + beat_strength + bounciness +
    danceability + dyn_range_mean + energy + flatness + instrumentalness +
    key + liveness + loudness + mechanism + organism + speechiness +
    tempo + time_signature + valence, family = "binomial", data = spotify_mode)

Deviance Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-2.3569  -1.2543   0.7625   0.9493   1.8185

Coefficients:
```

```
                          Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)             32.2683808  2.3096693  13.971  < 2e-16 ***
us_popularity_estimate  -0.0112941  0.0085642  -1.319 0.187249
duration                -0.0008868  0.0001370  -6.472 9.68e-11 ***
release_year            -0.0145826  0.0010562 -13.807  < 2e-16 ***
acousticness             0.4800550  0.1339125   3.585 0.000337 ***
beat_strength            2.3227249  0.3798220   6.115 9.64e-10 ***
bounciness              -4.2116774  0.5087117  -8.279  < 2e-16 ***
danceability             0.2508033  0.1611182   1.557 0.119556
dyn_range_mean           0.1188409  0.0200062   5.940 2.85e-09 ***
energy                  -0.5804580  0.1072094  -5.414 6.15e-08 ***
flatness                 0.7082200  0.3348900   2.115 0.034448 *
instrumentalness        -0.3421403  0.0522757  -6.545 5.95e-11 ***
key                     -0.0930592  0.0026793 -34.733  < 2e-16 ***
liveness                 0.3261005  0.0588139   5.545 2.95e-08 ***
loudness                 0.0223914  0.0043966   5.093 3.53e-07 ***
mechanism               -0.8263282  0.2122943  -3.892 9.93e-05 ***
organism                -0.3927748  0.3168700  -1.240 0.215144
speechiness             -1.0627013  0.0967583 -10.983  < 2e-16 ***
tempo                    0.0027563  0.0004504   6.120 9.37e-10 ***
time_signature          -0.2081995  0.0260103  -8.005 1.20e-15 ***
valence                  0.5394631  0.0506272  10.656  < 2e-16 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

    Null deviance: 66141  on 50703  degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 63327  on 50683  degrees of freedom
AIC: 63369

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 4
```

As demonstrated by the regression model above, there are many predictors that are statistically significant, using the significance level of $\alpha = 0.5$. However, it is critical to improve this baseline model in the following ways:

1) Confirm that there are not instances of multicollinearity (or model overfitting)
2) Ensure that the variables included are meaningfully contributing to the model
3) Optimize the model and determine if tranformations or changes are appropriate

Corrleation of Spotify Data Variables
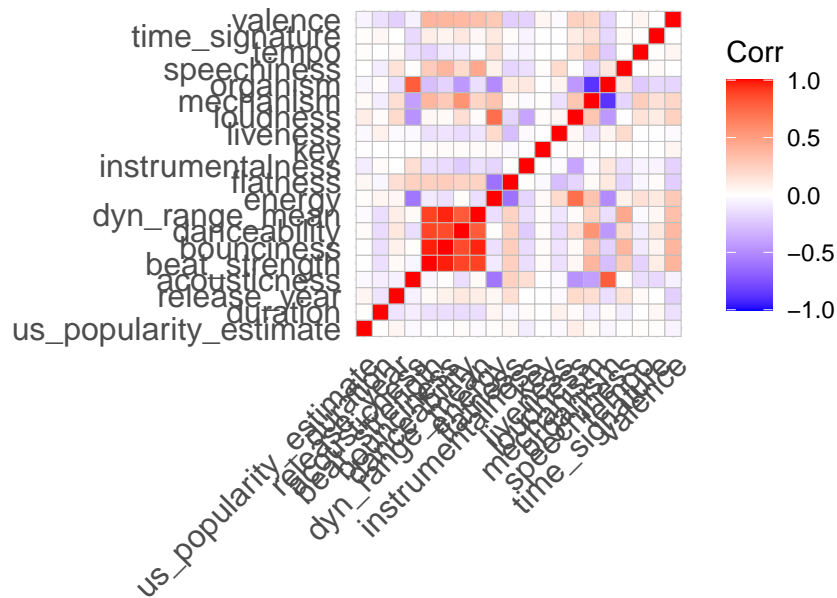
Examining the correlation plot above, it appears there are variables that have a high positive correlation with each other. This causes great concern with multicollinearity as the model may be overfitted. For example,

- beat_strength is highly correlated with

  - dyn_range_mean

  - danceability

  - bounciness

- mechanism is highly correlated with

  - organism

Therefore, to prevent overfitting in our regression model, the following variables should be removed:

1) beat_strength

2) dyn_range_mean

3) bounciness

4) organism

Note: We decided to leave in danceability and mechanism because we felt that these variables are easily understandable from a musical perspective and may be important to the model.

The new regression model and corresponding correlation plot can be shown below:
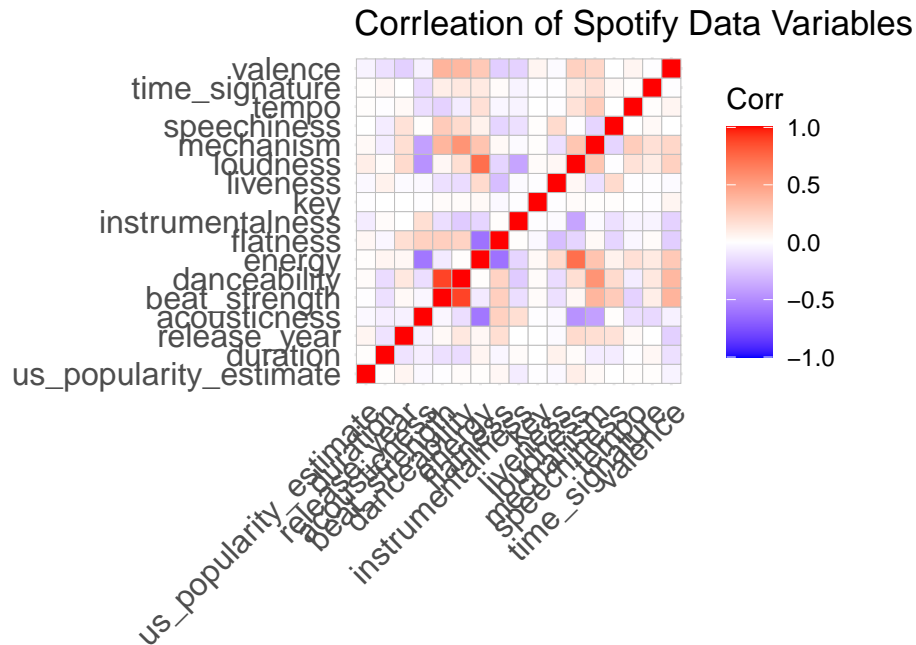
It is important to acknowledge that further correlations exist, but they are not as extreme and prevalent as prior models. Therefore, we feel that it is appropriate to proceed with the revised model.

The new model:

```
Call:
glm(formula = new_mode ~ us_popularity_estimate + duration +
    release_year + acousticness + danceability + energy + flatness +
    instrumentalness + key + liveness + loudness + mechanism +
    speechiness + tempo + time_signature + valence, family = "binomial",
    data = spotify_mode)

Deviance Residuals:
    Min      1Q   Median      3Q      Max
-2.3622  -1.2587   0.7664   0.9510   1.8328

Coefficients:
```

```
                       Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)            34.1621530  2.2527144  15.165  < 2e-16 ***
us_popularity_estimate -0.0108458  0.0085519  -1.268    0.205
duration               -0.0009131  0.0001367  -6.680 2.40e-11 ***
release_year           -0.0151254  0.0010349 -14.615  < 2e-16 ***
acousticness            0.2930254  0.0467428   6.269 3.64e-10 ***
danceability           -0.5424777  0.0965307  -5.620 1.91e-08 ***
energy                 -0.6337573  0.1062486  -5.965 2.45e-09 ***
flatness                0.1427313  0.3270744   0.436    0.663
instrumentalness       -0.3767551  0.0505994  -7.446 9.63e-14 ***
key                    -0.0928741  0.0026767 -34.697  < 2e-16 ***
liveness                0.3344806  0.0585437   5.713 1.11e-08 ***
loudness                0.0237143  0.0043676   5.430 5.65e-08 ***
mechanism              -0.3058568  0.0704087  -4.344 1.40e-05 ***
speechiness            -1.2847824  0.0851015 -15.097  < 2e-16 ***
tempo                   0.0017840  0.0003600   4.955 7.23e-07 ***
time_signature         -0.2086806  0.0258252  -8.080 6.45e-16 ***
valence                 0.4529713  0.0482846   9.381  < 2e-16 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1


(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

    Null deviance: 66141  on 50703  degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 63407  on 50687  degrees of freedom
AIC: 63441

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 4
```

Removing the highly related variables were essential to our analysis as some of the coefficients changed drastically, including changing direction (eg: danceability changed from a positive to negative contribution)! Additionally, the variable flatness is no longer significant in the model (at at 0.05 significance level).

In addition, to removing four variables due to extremely high correlations, we felt it was also important to select variables that have the most impact on the model. For example, some variables may be replicated or not meaningful by nature to the outcome of interest; therefore, removal is essential. In this analysis, we decided to use a LASSO model to select variables that are essential to the model.

```
17 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
                              s0
(Intercept)             .
```

```
us_popularity_estimate  -0.0020481995
duration                -0.0001846274
release_year            -0.0028312618
acousticness             0.0604803121
danceability            -0.1166026624
energy                  -0.1266267602
flatness                 0.0205555809
instrumentalness        -0.0834019110
key                     -0.0204138164
liveness                 0.0689727200
loudness                 0.0046217979
mechanism               -0.0658608237
speechiness             -0.2907086069
tempo                    0.0003668704
time_signature          -0.0406272434
valence                  0.0995043541
```

LASSO kept all of the predictors, demonstrating that the predictor variables are meaningfully contributing to our outcome of interest of whether the song is on a major/minor scale. It is important to note that LASSO does not include an intercept, as the model is centered. Since all variables are retained in the LASSO model

Methodology

In order to ensure our model can be interpreted in a real-world context, it is critical to check all of the assumptions for a logistic model. For logistic regression, the two most important assumptions are independence and linearity. For independence, we are checking to see if each observation in our data is independent from each other (eg: knowing about one observation does not tell us about another). On the other hand, linearity for logistic models ensures that the predictor variables generally follow a linear trend with the odds of the outcome of interest. There should not be any clear patterns or distinct trends within the data.

Independence:

the *observations* are independent from each other (careful - *not* the predictors)

Linearity:
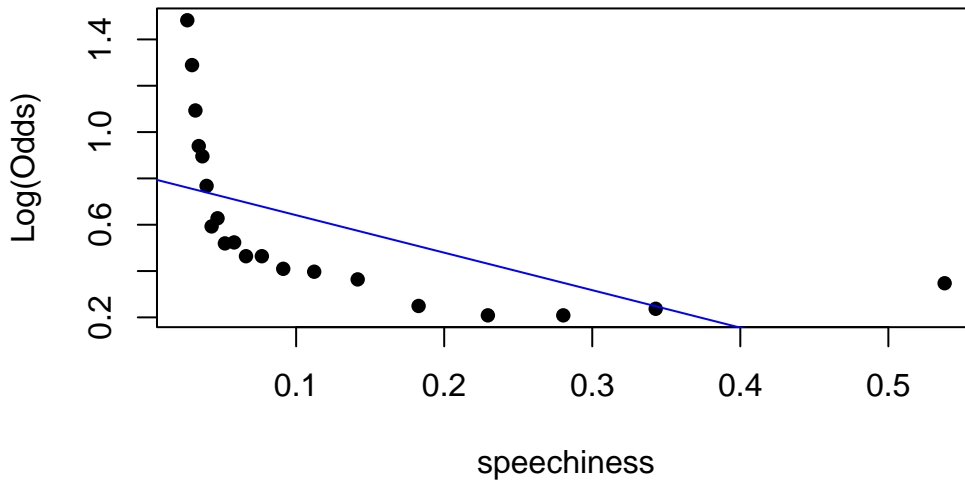
There were fewer data points for some of the predictors because there was only so many different values and enough of them to be able to get the empirical logits. For example, with key there is only 12 unique values, but not all of them had enough values to be calculated, so we did 10 groups. I eliminated the titles to make the plots more clear and because they were repetitive. In summary, we concluded that linearity is met for time signature, tempo, mechanism, loudness, liveness, instrumentalness, key, release year and popularity because there is no major pattern in empirical logits. Linearity was not met for valence, speechiness, organism, flatness, energy, danceability, acousticness and duration because they showed patterns in empirical logits.

These are potential limitations of these variables that do not meet the linearity assumption. However, **since solving for linearity is sort of outside the scope of this course, we decided to leave the variables in the model.** We do understand that there may be some linearity concerns when it comes to the overall view of our model.

```
          0     1
 Major 14992 30110
 Minor  3157  2445
```

Using our logistic regression model as a classifier for any infection by using a threshold of 0.5 predicted probability, we are able to calculate the following values:

Prevalence:

Sensitivity: $29968/(29968 + 2587) = 0.921$

Specificity: $3279/(3279 + 14870) = 0.181$

Positive predicted value: $29968/(29968 + 14870) = 0.669$

Negative predicted value: $3279/(3279 + 2587) = 0.559$

This implies that _____
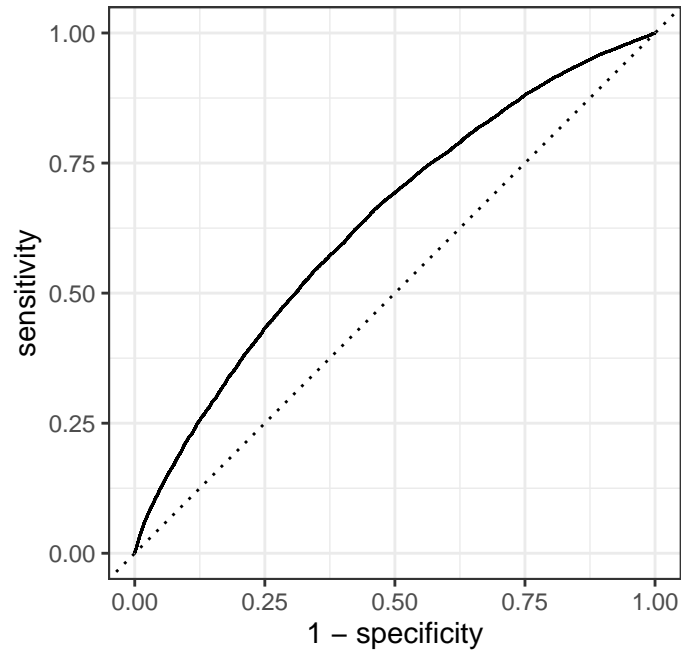

```
# A tibble: 1 x 3
  .metric .estimator .estimate
  <chr>   <chr>          <dbl>
1 roc_auc binary         0.637
```

The value of the area under the curve of the ROC curve is 0.64. Although it is greater than 0.5, which would imply that it would be just as effective to guess the major/minor scale, it is not as high as expected. As discussed below, there may be several reasons that this occurs in our model.

Results

One predictor that is most aligned with our outcome variable (major/minor scale) is key because key has changes in whole numbers while many of the other predictors are within

tenths of differences of each other amongst observations. Holding all other predictors constant, for every one (unit) increase in key, we expect the log-odds of a song being major rather than minor to increase by approximately 0.0931. So, when holding all other predictors constant, we for every one number increase in key (find what this means), the odds of the patient getting any infection is predicted to be multiplied by $e^{0.0931} = 1.0976$. For an example, while holding all other predictors constant, the relative odds of a song being major rather than minor comparing a song with key 10 vs a song with key 2 is $e^{8*0.0931}$ is 2.106.

to be continued

Discussion

In conclusion, this model has benefits and shortfalls. Primarily, it is clear that there are variables that do not meet the linearity assumption and create difficulties for interpretation. For example, the variable speechiness, follows a distinct pattern. However, attempts to transform this variable were not effective because of underlying issues with the variable. One reason this occurs is because instrumental songs cause a cluster of points near 0 (demonstrated on the empirical logit plot).

Additionally, there are challenges with some of the variables in terms of their scaling and units. For example, the variable us_popularity_estimate mostly takes on values from 97-99. Each variable is different, but they generally have unique scaling.

In all, our model does have downfalls, but it does have an interpretive aspect that is desirable. This allows the results to be more "reasonable" in terms of predicting if a song is in a major/minor key. The model, even though there are issues, is not extremely sophisticated or complex for a general audience. Even though the AUC value is not as strong as desirable, it is still an informative model. Generally, it provides insightful and meaningful results while simultaneously maintaining a real-world aspect.

In the future, we may want to explore other data sources and outcomes to understand the media market better. For example we could compare this data from Spotify with songs played on radio stations from the 1950's to current day. Would the popularity of songs on Spotify correspond with songs frequently played on the radio? There are many questions outside of our project scope that could be answered with further research and models.
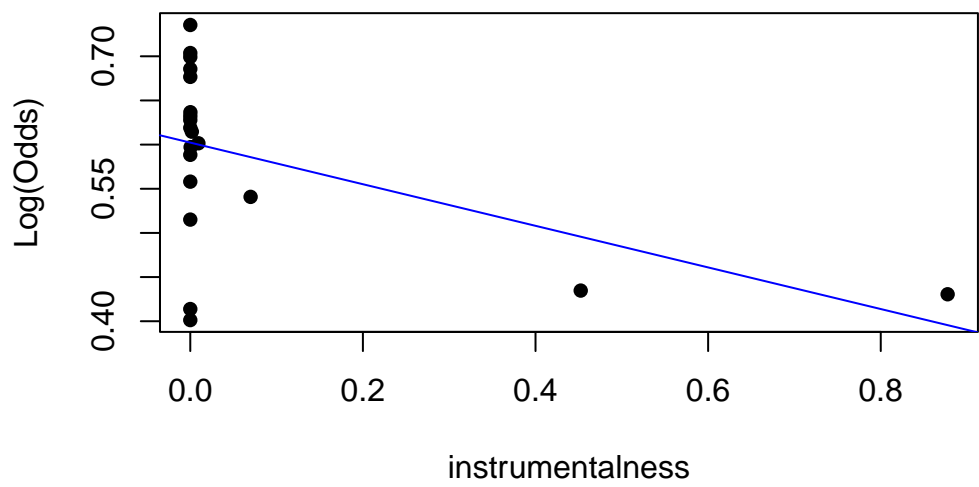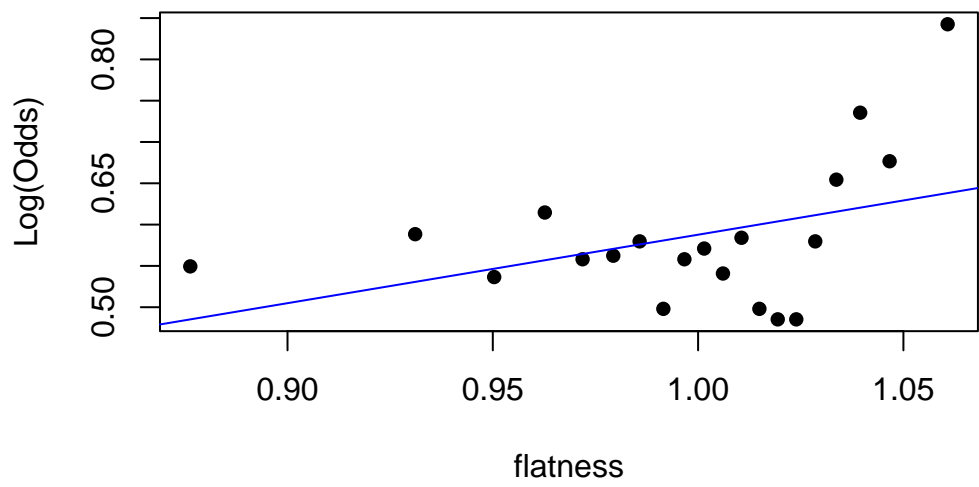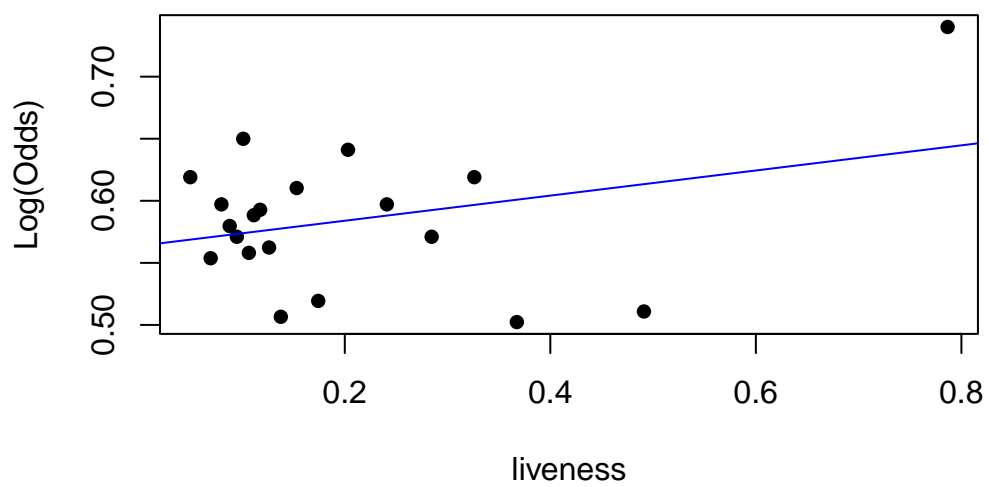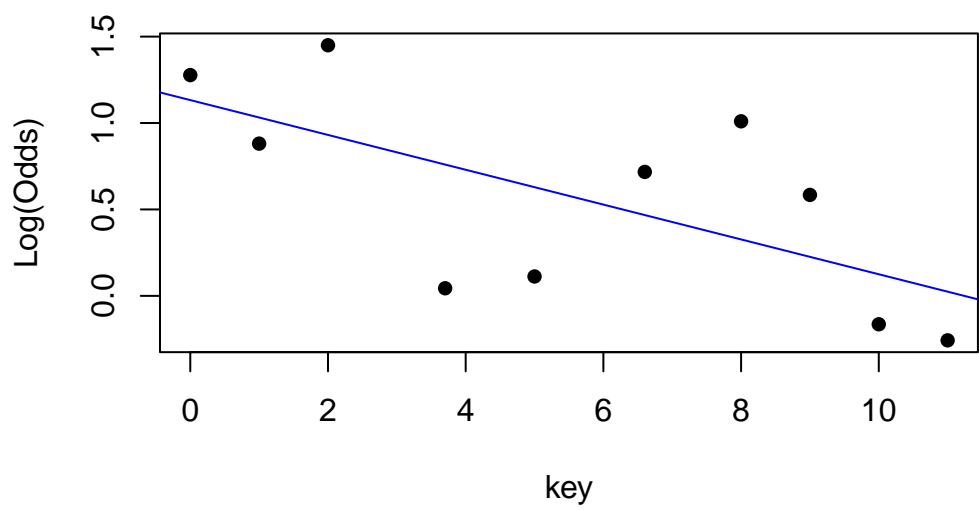
Appendix

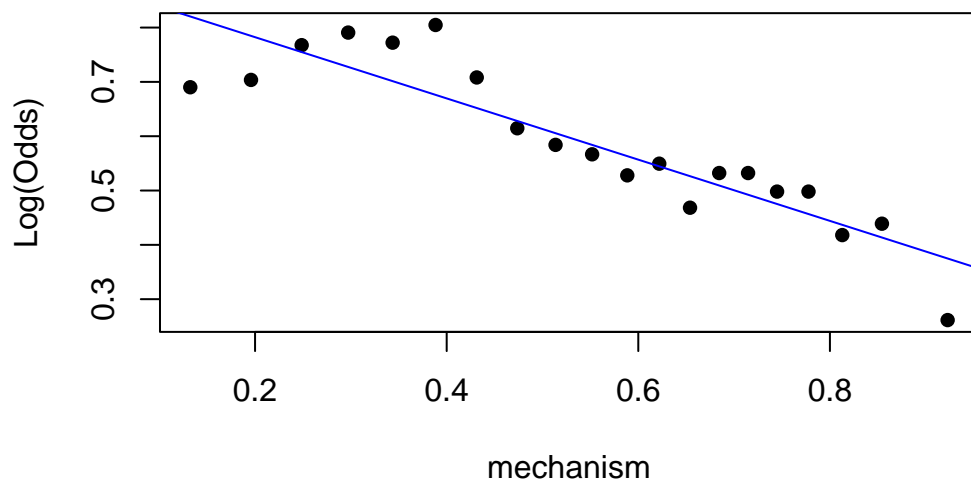Following are the empirical logit plots as referenced in the methodology section above.

12

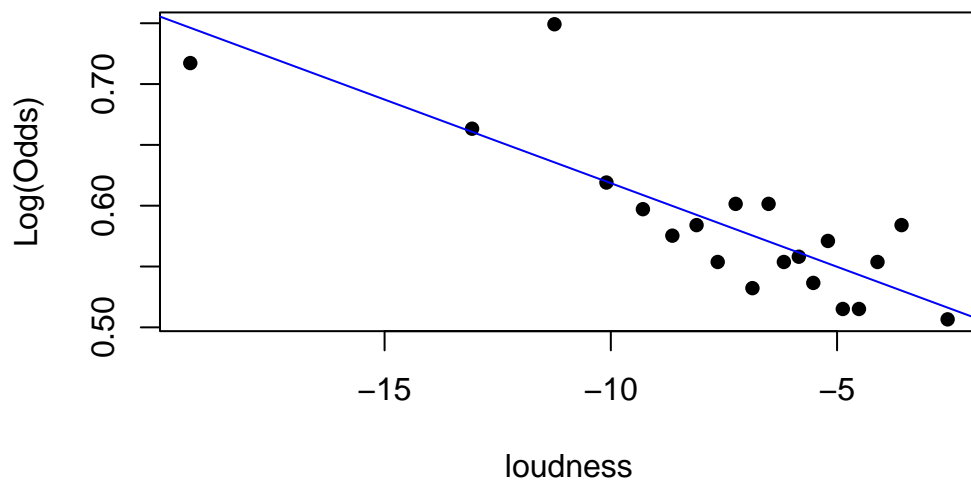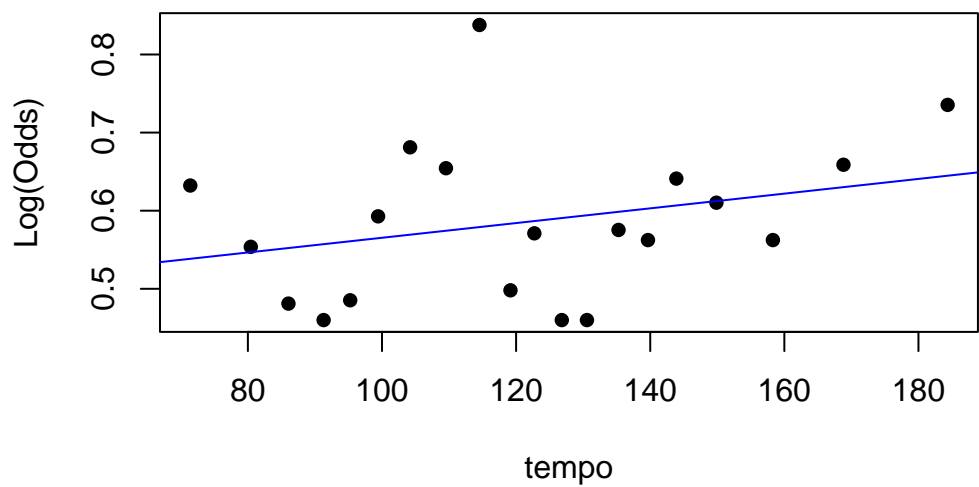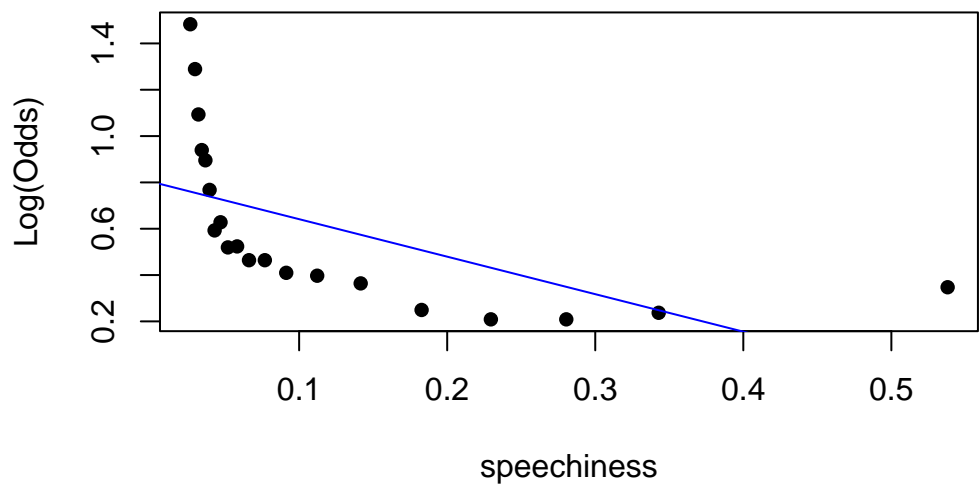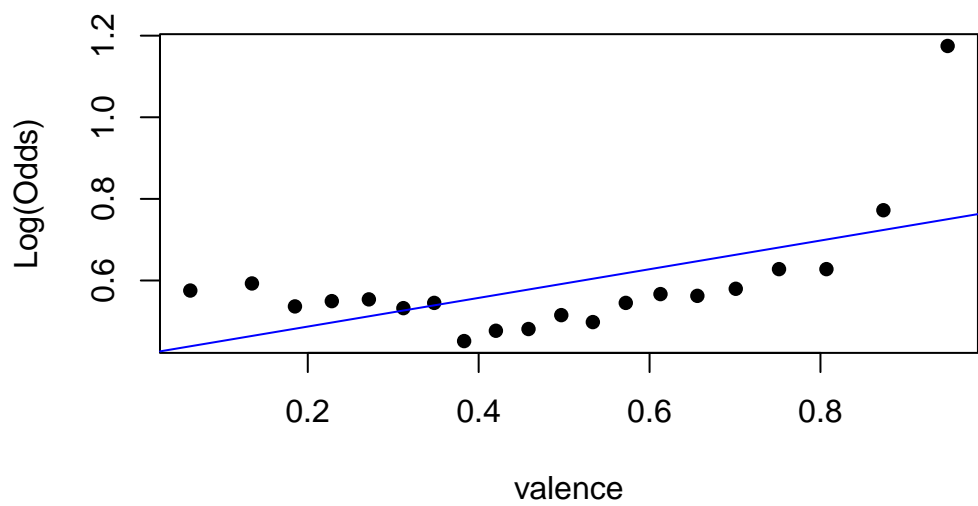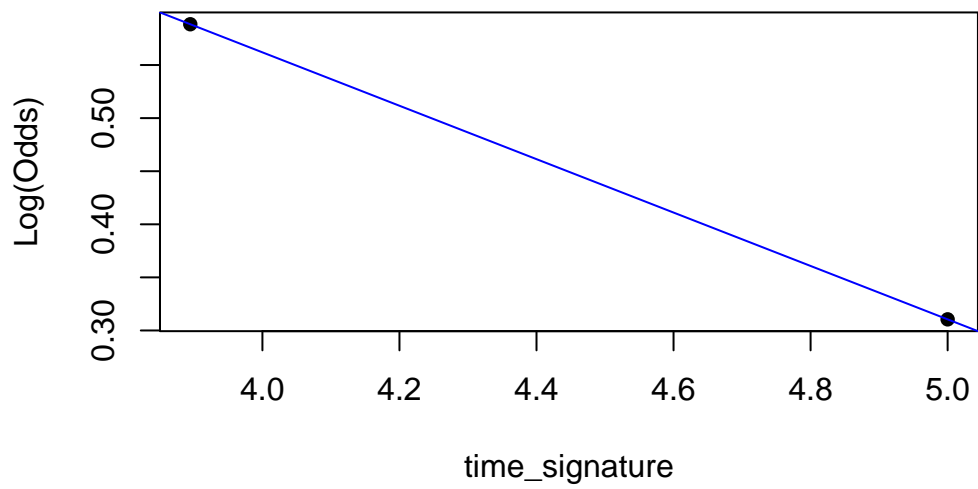14

16

17
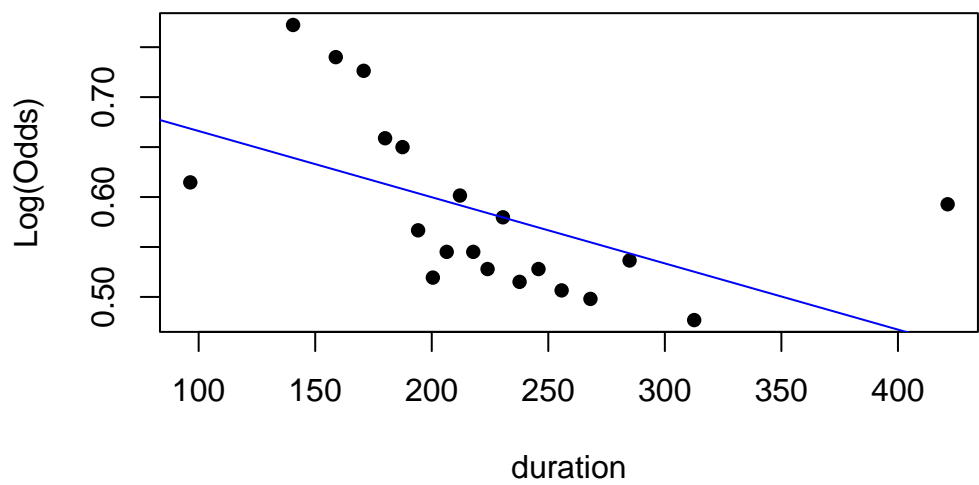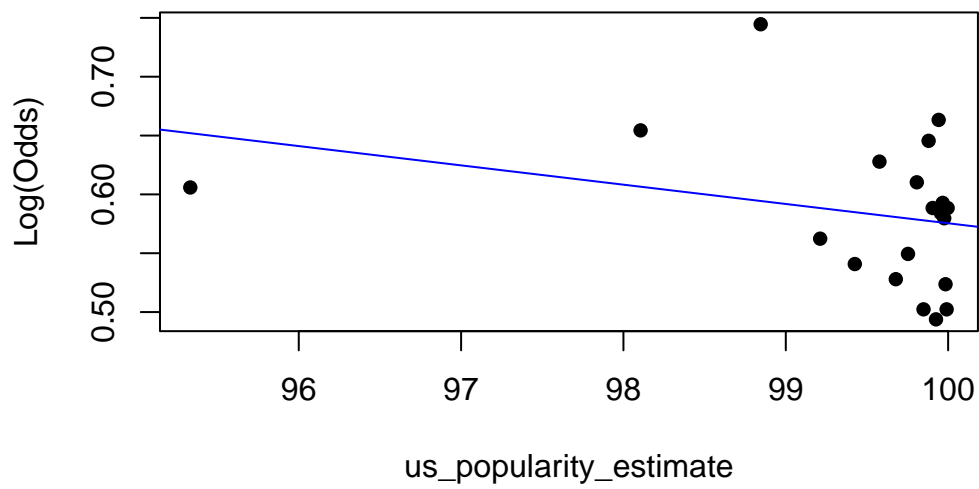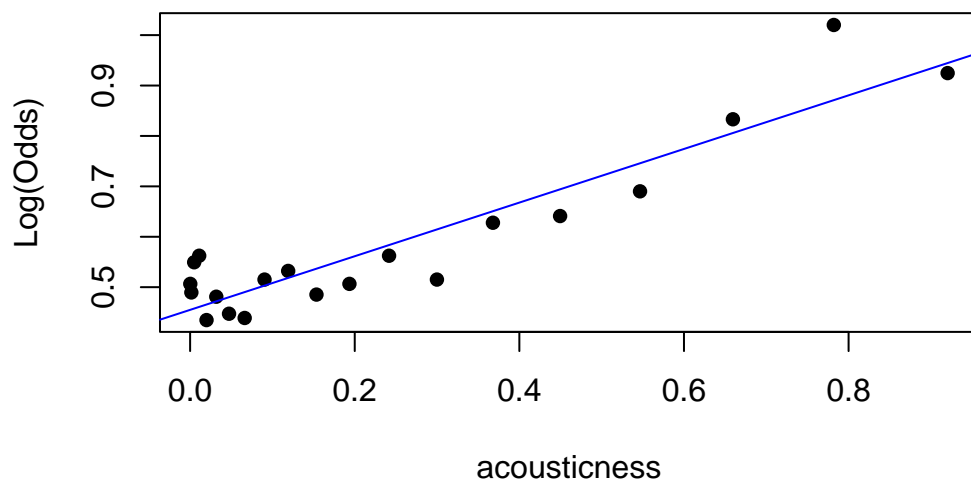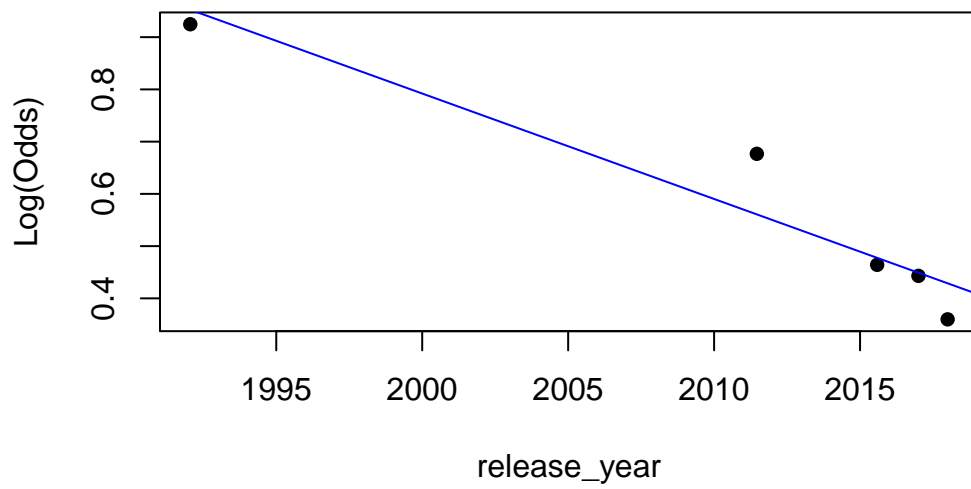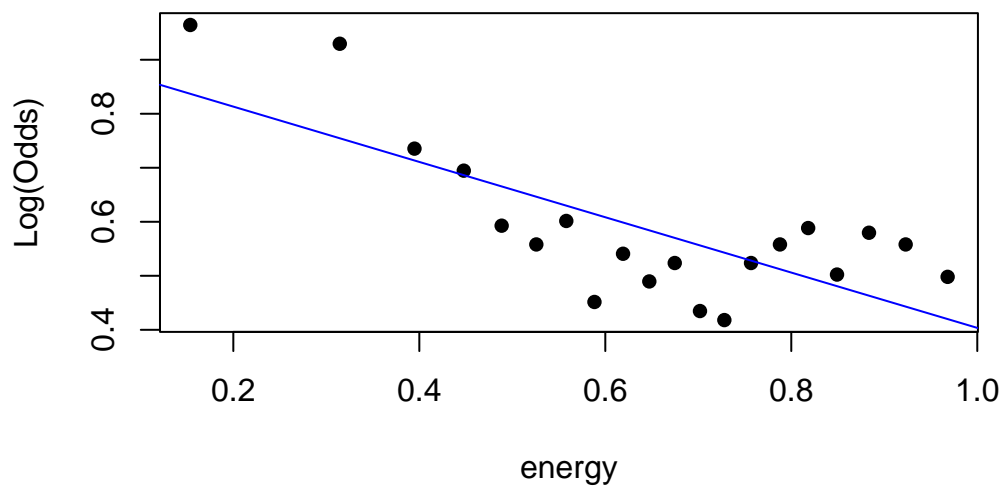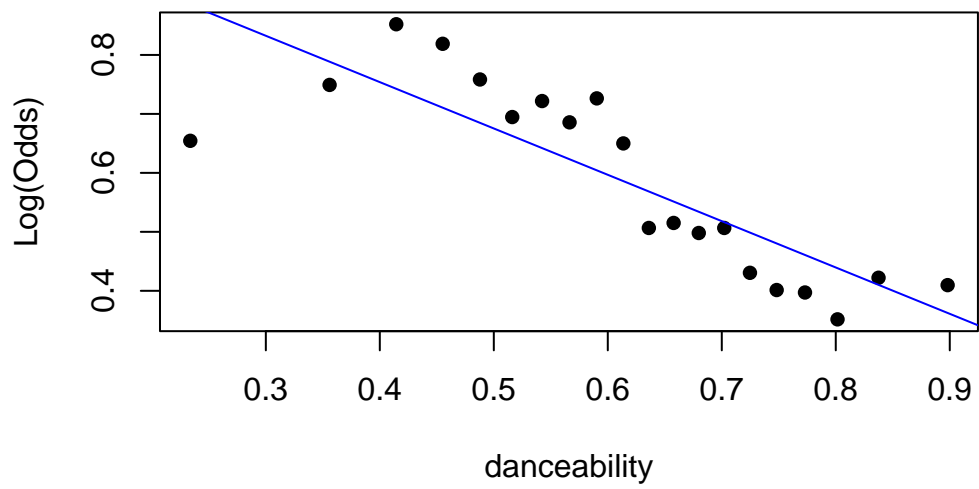
Citations:

Spotify data:

https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/spotify-sequential-skip-prediction-challenge/dataset_files (need to create an account and log in to access the dataset)

Referenced for completing the correlation matrix:

http://www.sthda.com/english/wiki/ggcorrplot-visualization-of-a-correlation-matrix-using-ggplot2#:~:text=The%20easiest%20way%20to%20visualize,ggcorr()%20in%20ggally%20package