Data Visualizaton Project Write-Up

2024-04-03

Importing necessary packages

```
suppressMessages({
  library(tidyverse)
  library(ggcorrplot)
  library(dplyr)
  library(corrplot)
  library(ggplot2)
  library(gridExtra)
  library(cluster)
})
```

Introduction

Information about the dataset can be found at: https://github.com/rfordatascience/tidytuesday/blob/master/data/2023/2023-10-17/readme.md

To simplify unnecessarily complexity, we propose excluding these columns. We believe they are not particularly interesting or relevant to how people score the albums. Our focus is on studying the statistics of Taylor Swift's songs based on audio features and how these features influence album scoring by listeners.

Column Name	Data Type	Description
ep album_release artist featuring bonus_track promotional_release single release	logical double character character logical double double	Is it an EP? Album release date Artists Artists featured Is it a bonus track? Date of promotional release Date of single release
track_release	double	Date of track release

The overall dataset is as follows:

- Three columns represent the index
- 11 numerical features
- 6 categorical features
- 2 target numerical variables

According to our proposal, we would like to conduct a series of necessary data mining and visualization tasks to extract meaningful insights from this dataset. Considering the characteristics of the dataset, we believe it is reasonable to perform the following analytics:

- 1. Descriptive Statistics (for both numerical and categorical features)
- 2. Features Distribution by scores
- 3. Time-series Analysis (based on the album release date)
- 4. Correlation Analysis (for the numerical features)
- 5. Regression Analysis

With the hypothesis that audio features (numerical and categorical values) and the scores for each album have an inferential relationship, we will conduct our Regression Analysis using the audio features as input variables and scores as output variables. We will focus on two aspects:

- Since we lack scores for individual songs, it is reasonable to assign each song the score from "taylor_album_songs.csv" based on the score for the entire album in "taylor_albums.csv."
- One might suggest that we can aggregate all song features to represent an album, using that representation as input features to predict the scores. For simplicity, we will use the mean and median as the statistical measures to aggregate all the songs. However, the current size of the dataset that we can retrieve is relatively small (~12 valid records), which theoretically can be challenging to fit a regression model. Hence, we would like to discuss the potential of using such representation without fitting a specific model in our implementation.

Answering the questions

Question 1: How are the audio features distributed?

Approach

To understand the distribution of audio features, our approach is structured into three main steps. 1. **Descriptive Statistics** (Section 1): Initially, we delve into the distribution of the audio features through descriptive statistics to get a broad overview of their general characteristics. 2. **Feature Distribution by Scores** (Section 2): Subsequently, we explore how the distribution of features varies with scores, paying particular attention to the distribution of categorical features with respect to scores. 3. **Time-Series Analysis of Scores** (Section 3): Lastly, we analyze the scores over time to identify any temporal patterns or trends in the data.

Our analysis reveals that Section 2 contains some of the most compelling insights, particularly in relation to how categorical features are distributed across different scores.

Given the presence of multiple categorical features, and our interest in examining how scores are distributed for each category, we find that facet grids are particularly well-suited for this analysis. Facet grids offer a concise and comprehensive graphical representation that encompasses all categories, making it easier to identify patterns and outliers.

Analysis

Please refer to Section 2 for additional details on the code, graphs, and findings.

Discussion

The graph clearly illustrates that songs in a major mode tend to have higher scores than those in a minor mode, indicating a preference for Taylor's compositions in a major key. This finding suggests a pattern in the composition of well-received music, particularly in the context of the artist in question. Furthermore, it is observed that, as Taylor roots in country music, the most commonly used keys are G, C, E, D, and A. This choice of keys may reflect both the genre's traditional sound and her personal style and preferences.

Question 2: How do numerical audio features of each song affect the overall rating?

Approach

To examine the relationship between audio features and song ratings, we employ a correlation matrix (Section 4). This matrix helps in identifying how each audio feature correlates with the ratings, providing insights into which features have the most significant impact on the overall score.

The correlation between two variables is calculated using the Pearson correlation coefficient, which is represented by the formula:

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

Where:

- r is the correlation coefficient,
- n is the number of observations,
- x and y are the variables being analyzed,
- $\sum xy$ is the sum of the product of paired scores,
- $\sum x$ and $\sum y$ are the sums of the scores, and
- $\sum x^2$ and $\sum y^2$ are the sums of the squared scores.

Analysis

Please refer to Section 4 for additional details on the code, graphs, and findings.

Discussion

The analysis of the correlation matrix reveals the following features to be most correlated with the metacritic_score: user_score, loudness, acousticness, energy, duration_ms, and liveness.

Moreover, when focusing on the user_score, the features with the highest correlation include metacritic_score, speechiness, duration_ms, danceability, acousticness, and liveness.

It becomes evident from this analysis that attributes such as danceability, acousticness, and liveness play significant roles in how users rate songs. These features, indicative of the song's rhythm, natural sound, and the presence of a live audience, respectively, are crucial in determining a song's appeal to listeners. This insight underscores the importance of these audio characteristics in the composition and production of music aimed at achieving high user ratings.

Dataset Preprocessing

Firstly, we need to read the two csv files. The first file contain the information about audio features (numerical and categorical) for each song whereas the second file contain the information about the album name, release date and

```
album_song_df = read.csv("taylor_album_songs.csv")
album_df = read.csv("taylor_albums.csv")
```

Dropping unnecessary columns:

We further remove rows with NaN values since we believe it is best to have a clean dataset. We don't think there is a reasonable way to interpolate these missing values, especially since they are subjective (for example, the user scores and Metacritic scores).

```
album_df <- na.omit(album_df)</pre>
```

Assuming that metacritic score and user score are calculated as their definition, which are averaged over the songs and acts as a mean, we can use it to represent the score for each song in the same album. We remove all NaN rows since there is no reasonable way to interpolate these scores based on the other albums. And the number of NaN rows is insignificant.

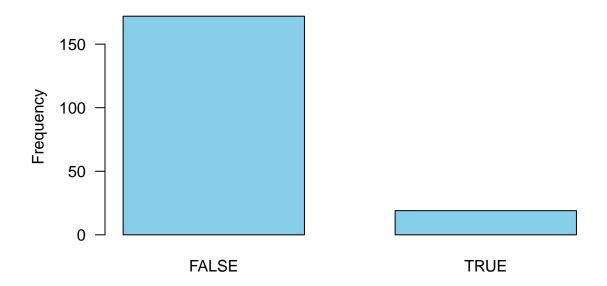
The constructed dataframe is now as follows: - Three columns represent the index - 11 numerical features - 6 categorical features - 2 target numerical variables

1. Descriptive Statistics

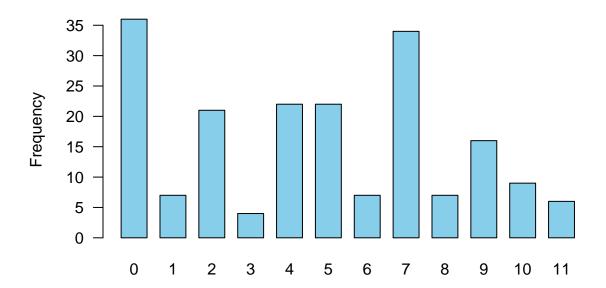
1.1. Categorical input variables

```
categorical_feats_df <- album_song_with_scores_df[categorical_feats]</pre>
categorical_feats_df <- na.omit(categorical_feats_df)</pre>
# Convert categorical variables to factors
categorical_feats_df <- lapply(categorical_feats_df, factor)</pre>
# Get frequency tables for each categorical variable
frequency_tables <- lapply(categorical_feats_df, table)</pre>
# Plot bar charts for each categorical variable
for (i in seq_along(frequency_tables)) {
  # Set up plotting area
  par(mar = c(5, 5, 6, 2)) # Adjust margins for x-axis label
  # Plot bar chart with wider spacing between categories and
  # horizontal x-axis labels
  barplot(frequency_tables[[i]],
          main = paste("Frequency of", names(frequency_tables)[i]),
          ylab = "Frequency",
          col = "skyblue",
          border = "black",
          space = 0.5, # Adjust the spacing between bars
          las = ifelse(names(frequency_tables)[i] == "key_mode", 2, 1))
  # Rotate x-axis labels vertically if it's "key_mode"
}
```

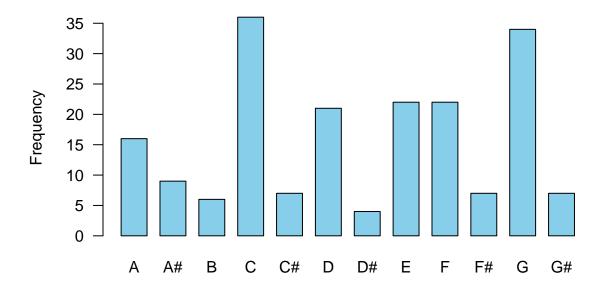
Frequency of explicit



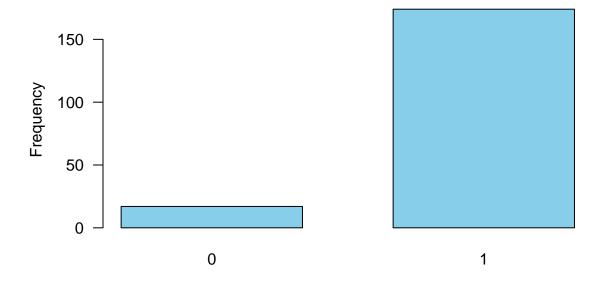
Frequency of key



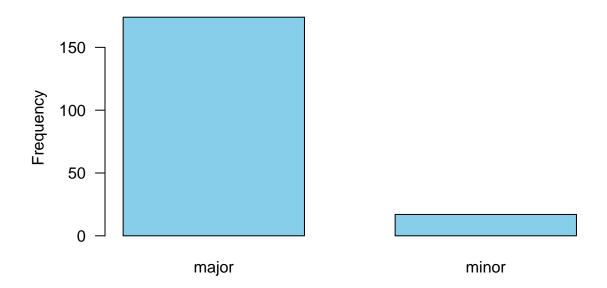
Frequency of key_name



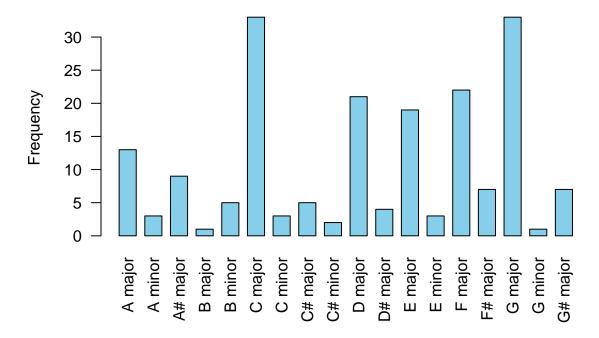
Frequency of mode



Frequency of mode_name



Frequency of key_mode



1.2. Numerical input variables

```
numerical_feats_df <- album_song_with_scores_df[numerical_feats]
numerical_feats_df <- na.omit(numerical_feats_df)
summary(numerical_feats_df)</pre>
```

```
danceability
                                           loudness
##
                         energy
                                                            speechiness
           :0.292
                                               :-15.434
##
    Min.
                             :0.1310
                                                                  :0.02310
                     Min.
                                       Min.
                                                           Min.
    1st Qu.:0.511
                     1st Qu.:0.4465
                                       1st Qu.: -9.326
                                                           1st Qu.:0.03080
##
                                       Median : -6.937
##
    Median :0.594
                     Median : 0.5800
                                                          Median : 0.03960
##
    Mean
           :0.584
                     Mean
                             :0.5745
                                       Mean
                                               : -7.518
                                                          Mean
                                                                  :0.05831
##
    3rd Qu.:0.652
                     3rd Qu.:0.7170
                                       3rd Qu.: -5.606
                                                           3rd Qu.:0.05740
##
    Max.
           :0.897
                     Max.
                             :0.9500
                                       Max.
                                               : -2.098
                                                          Max.
                                                                  :0.51900
##
     acousticness
                        instrumentalness
                                                 liveness
                                                                    valence
##
    Min.
           :0.000191
                        Min.
                                :0.0000000
                                                     :0.03570
                                                                         :0.0382
                                             Min.
                                                                 Min.
    1st Qu.:0.034600
                        1st Qu.:0.0000000
                                              1st Qu.:0.09295
                                                                 1st Qu.:0.2535
##
    Median :0.162000
                        Median :0.000014
                                             Median :0.11500
                                                                 Median :0.4040
##
    Mean
           :0.321225
                        Mean
                                :0.0039358
                                             Mean
                                                     :0.14081
                                                                 Mean
                                                                         :0.4009
##
    3rd Qu.:0.662000
                        3rd Qu.:0.0000399
                                             3rd Qu.:0.15050
                                                                 3rd Qu.:0.5345
##
    Max.
           :0.971000
                        Max.
                                :0.3480000
                                             Max.
                                                     :0.59400
                                                                 Max.
                                                                         :0.9420
##
        tempo
                      time_signature
                                        duration_ms
```

```
## Min. : 68.53 Min. :1.000 Min. :148781

## 1st Qu.: 99.98 1st Qu.:4.000 1st Qu.:209326

## Median :121.96 Median :4.000 Median :232107

## Mean :125.99 Mean :3.979 Mean :237079

## 3rd Qu.:150.03 3rd Qu.:4.000 3rd Qu.:254448

## Max. :208.92 Max. :5.000 Max. :613027
```

1.3. Target variables

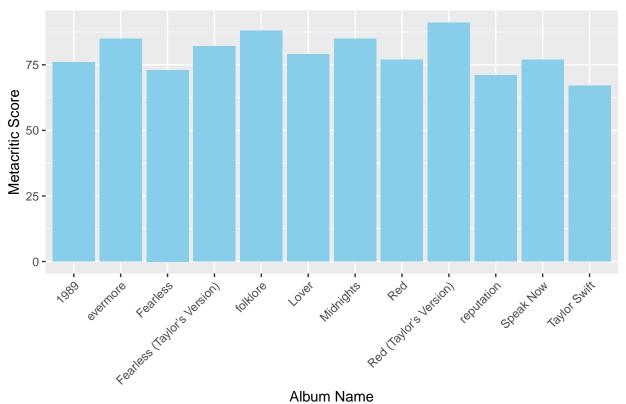
1.3.1. The descriptive STAT for the scores per album

```
target_df <- album_df[c("metacritic_score", "user_score")]
target_df <- na.omit(target_df)
summary(target_df)</pre>
```

```
## metacritic_score user_score
## Min. :67.00 Min. :8.200
## 1st Qu.:75.25 1st Qu.:8.375
## Median :78.00 Median :8.500
## Mean :79.25 Mean :8.583
## 3rd Qu.:85.00 3rd Qu.:8.900
## Max. :91.00 Max. :9.000
```

1.3.2. Scores for each album

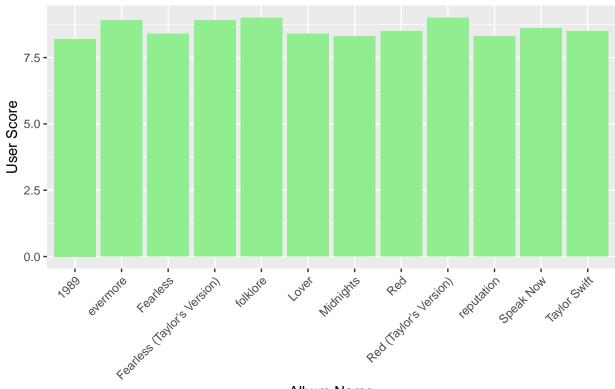
Metacritic Scores of Albums



Album Name

```
# Plot User scores
ggplot(album_df, aes(x = album_name, y = user_score)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", fill = "lightgreen") +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, hjust = 1)) +
  labs(title = "User Scores of Albums",
       x = "Album Name",
       y = "User Score")
```

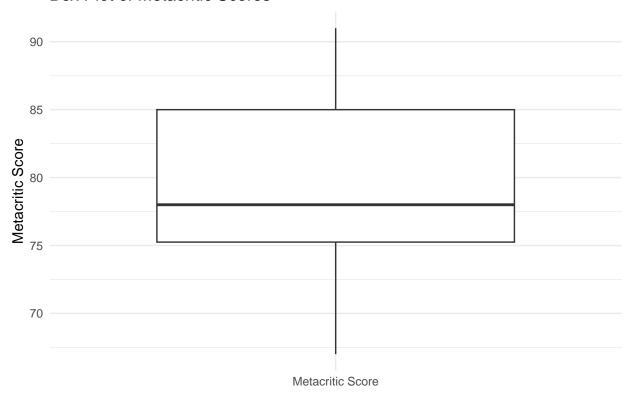
User Scores of Albums



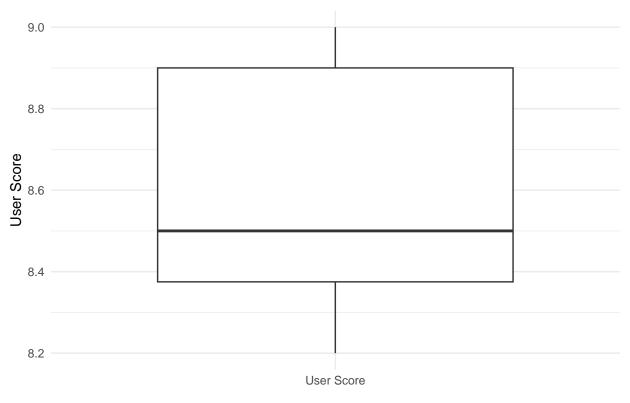
Album Name

It seems that there is a strong correlation between the two scores. The patterns look almost the same, with the user scores exhibiting more consistent distribution.

Box Plot of Metacritic Scores



Box Plot of User Scores



2. Feature distribution by scores

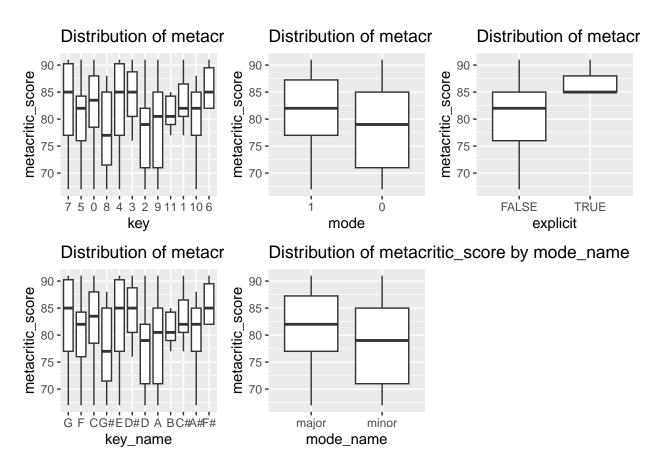
We employ a facet grids to visualize the distribution of the categorical features by scores.

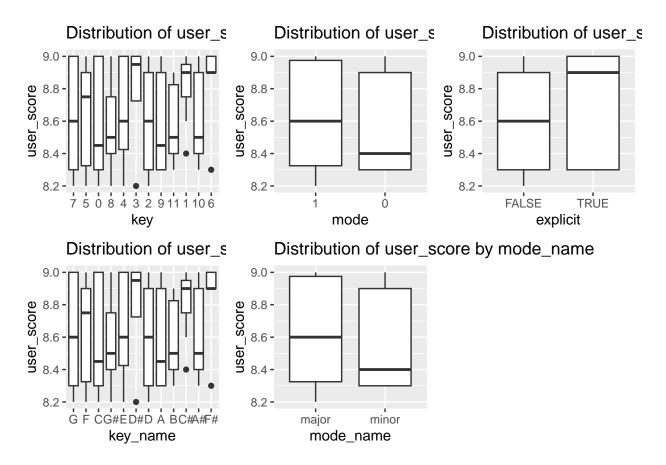
```
# Define the list of categorical columns
categorical_cols <- c("key", "mode", "explicit", "key_name", "mode_name")</pre>
# Create facet grid plots for each score
for (score in c("metacritic_score", "user_score")) {
  # Initialize a list to store individual plots
 plots <- list()</pre>
  # Loop through each categorical column
  for (col in categorical cols) {
    # Convert the column to factor with explicit levels
    album_song_with_scores_df[[col]] <-</pre>
      factor(album_song_with_scores_df[[col]],
            levels = unique(album_song_with_scores_df[[col]]))
    # Create a facet grid plot for the current categorical column
    p <- ggplot(album_song_with_scores_df, aes_string(x = col, y = score)) +</pre>
      geom_boxplot() +
      labs(x = col, y = score) +
      ggtitle(paste("Distribution of", score, "by", col))
```

```
# Add the plot to the list
plots[[col]] <- p
}

# Combine plots into a single facet grid
grid.arrange(grobs = plots, nrow = 2, ncol = 3)
# Adjust nrow and ncol as needed
}</pre>
```

```
## Warning: 'aes_string()' was deprecated in ggplot2 3.0.0.
## i Please use tidy evaluation idioms with 'aes()'.
## i See also 'vignette("ggplot2-in-packages")' for more information.
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
## Call 'lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()' to see where this warning was
## generated.
```





Some findings from the metacritic_score and the user_score graphs:

- Songs with explicit lyrics and a major mode seem to have higher scores than implicit ones.
- Songs in the keys of G, E, and F# have the highest scores.
- The most common keys used in Taylor's songs are G, C, E, D, and A, which reflect her style of using country music.

3. Time-series analysis

Album scores over time

```
album_df <- na.omit(album_df)

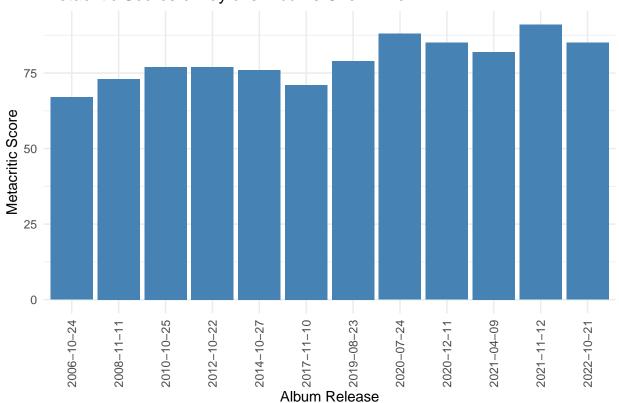
# Convert album_release to Date format
album_df$album_release <- as.Date(album_df$album_release, format = "%Y-%m-%d")

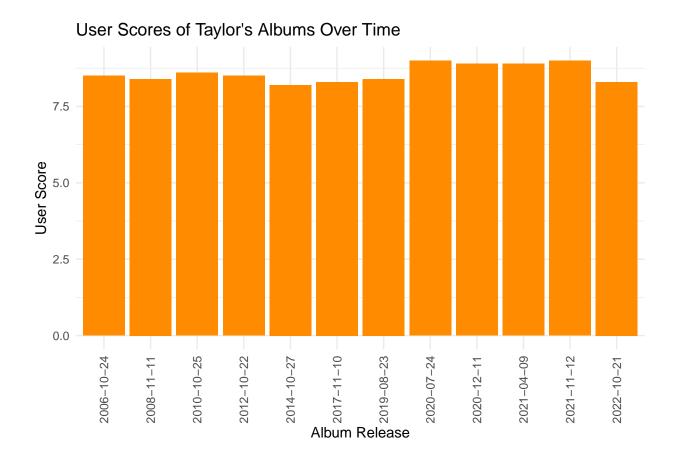
# Convert album_release to character for the x-axis
album_df$album_release_char <- as.character(album_df$album_release)

# Plotting Metacritic scores
ggplot(album_df, aes(x = album_release_char, y = metacritic_score)) +
geom_col(fill = "steelblue") +</pre>
```

```
theme_minimal() +
labs(title = "Metacritic Scores of Taylor's Albums Over Time",
    x = "Album Release",
    y = "Metacritic Score") +
scale_x_discrete(labels = album_df$album_release_char) +
theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90, vjust = 0.5, hjust = 1))
```

Metacritic Scores of Taylor's Albums Over Time



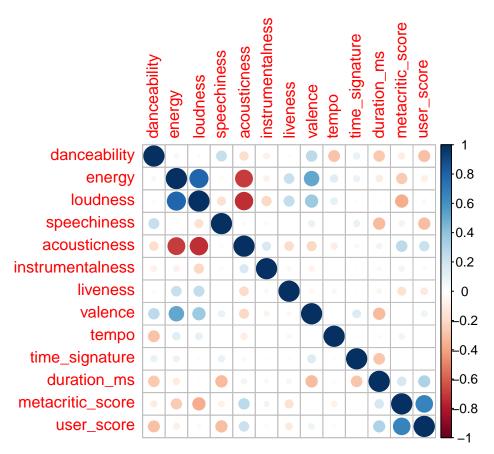


4. Correlation analysis

4.1. Correlation map

```
numerical_feats_and_scores_df <- album_song_with_scores_df[c("danceability",</pre>
                                                                  "energy",
                                                                  "loudness",
                                                                  "speechiness",
                                                                 "acousticness",
                                                                 "instrumentalness",
                                                                 "liveness",
                                                                 "valence",
                                                                 "tempo",
                                                                 "time_signature",
                                                                 "duration_ms",
                                                                 "metacritic_score",
                                                                 "user_score")]
numerical_feats_and_scores_df <- na.omit(numerical_feats_and_scores_df)</pre>
# Compute the correlation matrix
correlation_matrix <- cor(numerical_feats_and_scores_df)</pre>
```

Visualize the correlation matrix using corrplot
corrplot(correlation_matrix, method = "circle")



4.2. Comments

We can see that the most correlated columns w.r.t the target columns are:

Most correlated columns with respect to metacritic_score:

```
cat(most_correlated_metacritic, "\n")
```

user_score loudness acousticness energy duration_ms liveness

```
cat("Most correlated columns with respect to user_score:\n")
## Most correlated columns with respect to user_score:
cat(most_correlated_user, "\n")
```

metacritic_score speechiness duration_ms danceability acousticness liveness

```
# Select most correlated columns with
# respect to "metacritic_score" excluding "user_score"
selected_columns_ms <- setdiff(most_correlated_metacritic,</pre>
                                         "user_score")
selected_columns_ms <- c(selected_columns_ms,</pre>
                                   "metacritic_score")
# Create subset dataframe with selected columns for "metacritic_score"
selected_numerical_feats_and_ms_df <- album_song_with_scores_df[selected_columns_ms]</pre>
# Select most correlated columns with respect to "user_score"
# excluding "metacritic_score"
selected columns user <- setdiff(most correlated user,
                                  "metacritic score")
selected_columns_user <- c(selected_columns_user, "user_score")</pre>
# Create subset dataframe with selected columns for "user score"
selected_numerical_feats_and_user_score_df <-</pre>
  album_song_with_scores_df[selected_columns_user]
```

5. Regression Analysis

5.1. Regression Analysis using numerical values

In this section, we proceed with the columns that have the highest correlation with the scores to use as input features and utilize metacritic_score and user_score as our predicted variables.

We will utilize scatter plots to visualize the data points for each input variable and the target scores.

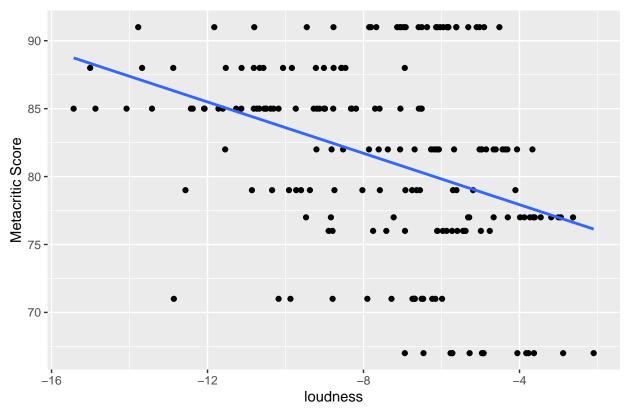
5.1.1. Regression analysis on metacritic_score

```
# Perform linear regression analysis
regression_model <- lm(metacritic_score ~ ., data = selected_numerical_feats_and_ms_df)
# Summarize the regression results
summary(regression_model)

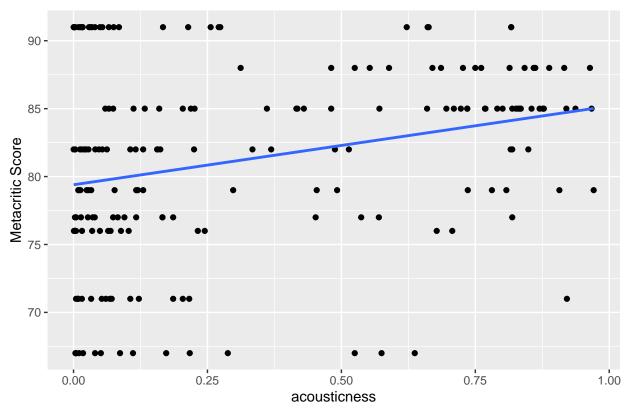
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = metacritic_score ~ ., data = selected_numerical_feats_and_ms_df)</pre>
```

```
##
## Residuals:
                     Median
##
       Min
                 1Q
## -14.2291 -3.9857 0.4283 3.8485 12.7599
## Coefficients:
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 6.204e+01 5.546e+00 11.187 < 2e-16 ***
## loudness
              -1.254e+00 3.197e-01 -3.922 0.000124 ***
## acousticness -1.335e-01 2.214e+00 -0.060 0.952002
## energy
                6.287e+00 4.487e+00
                                      1.401 0.162838
## duration_ms 2.955e-05 1.021e-05
                                       2.893 0.004276 **
               -5.585e+00 6.124e+00 -0.912 0.362943
## liveness
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 6.524 on 185 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.1816, Adjusted R-squared: 0.1595
## F-statistic: 8.213 on 5 and 185 DF, p-value: 5.025e-07
# Create a scatter plot of metacritic_score against each predictor variable
plot_data <- selected_numerical_feats_and_ms_df</pre>
predictor_variables <- setdiff(names(plot_data), "metacritic_score")</pre>
for (var in predictor_variables) {
  # Create scatter plot for each predictor variable
 plot <- ggplot(plot_data, aes_string(x = var, y = "metacritic_score")) +</pre>
   geom_point() +
   geom smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
   labs(title = paste("Scatter Plot of", var, "vs. Metacritic Score"),
        x = var, y = "Metacritic Score")
  # Display each plot individually
  print(plot)
```

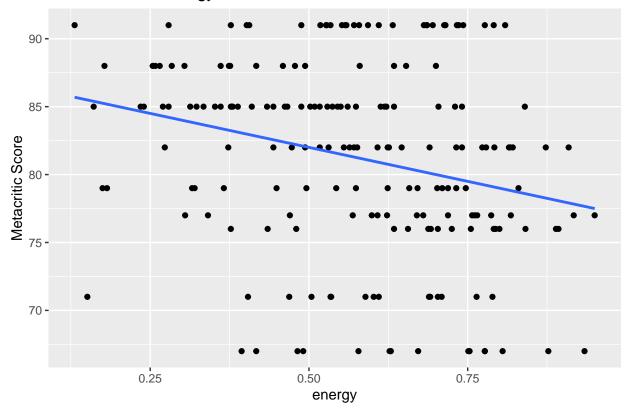
Scatter Plot of loudness vs. Metacritic Score



Scatter Plot of acousticness vs. Metacritic Score

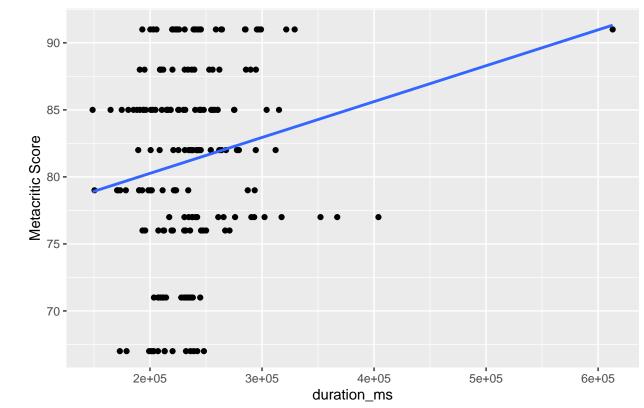


Scatter Plot of energy vs. Metacritic Score

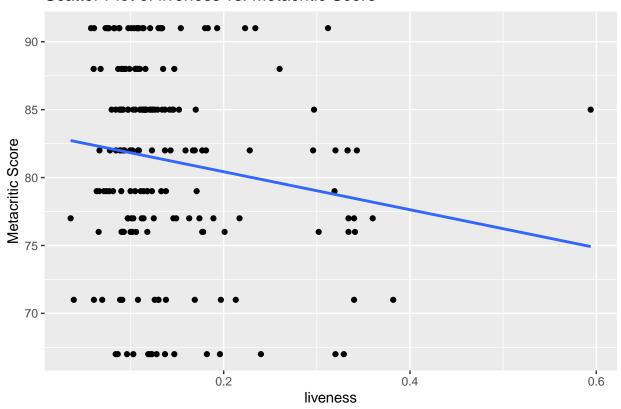


'geom_smooth()' using formula = 'y ~ x'

Scatter Plot of duration_ms vs. Metacritic Score



Scatter Plot of liveness vs. Metacritic Score



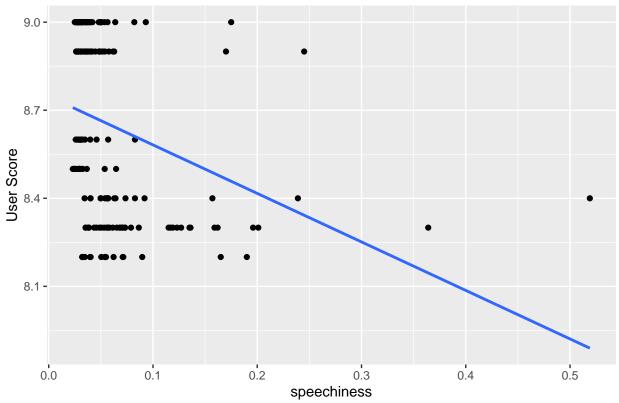
5.1.2. Regression analysis on user_score

```
# Perform linear regression analysis
regression_model <- lm(user_score ~ ., data =</pre>
                         selected_numerical_feats_and_user_score_df)
# Summarize the regression results
summary(regression_model)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = user_score ~ ., data = selected_numerical_feats_and_user_score_df)
##
## Residuals:
##
                  1Q
                      Median
  -0.60627 -0.21217 -0.01964 0.23345 0.54260
##
##
## Coefficients:
##
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                8.711e+00 1.804e-01 48.292 < 2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
## speechiness -1.113e+00 3.723e-01 -2.989 0.00318 **
## duration_ms
                 1.121e-06 4.519e-07
                                       2.480 0.01402 *
## danceability -4.575e-01 1.836e-01 -2.492 0.01359 *
## acousticness 1.428e-01 6.224e-02
                                       2.294 0.02292 *
```

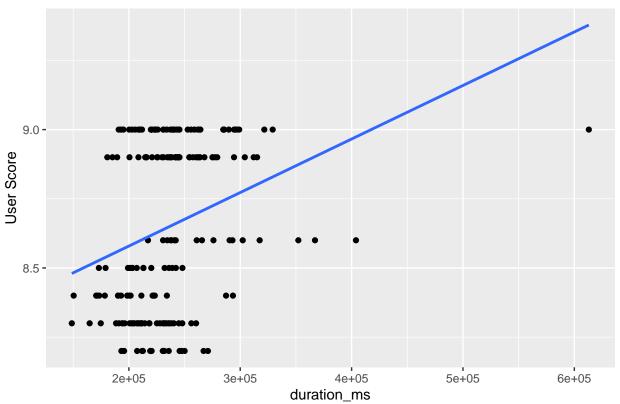
```
## liveness
                -2.845e-01 2.527e-01 -1.126 0.26168
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 0.273 on 185 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.2109, Adjusted R-squared: 0.1896
## F-statistic: 9.89 on 5 and 185 DF, p-value: 2.14e-08
# Create a scatter plot of metacritic_score against each predictor variable
plot_data <- selected_numerical_feats_and_user_score_df</pre>
predictor_variables <- setdiff(names(plot_data), "user_score")</pre>
for (var in predictor_variables) {
  # Create scatter plot for each predictor variable
  plot <- ggplot(plot_data, aes_string(x = var, y = "user_score")) +</pre>
    geom_point() +
    geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
    labs(title = paste("Scatter Plot of", var, "vs. User Score"),
         x = var, y = "User Score")
  # Display each plot individually
  print(plot)
}
```

'geom_smooth()' using formula = 'y ~ x'

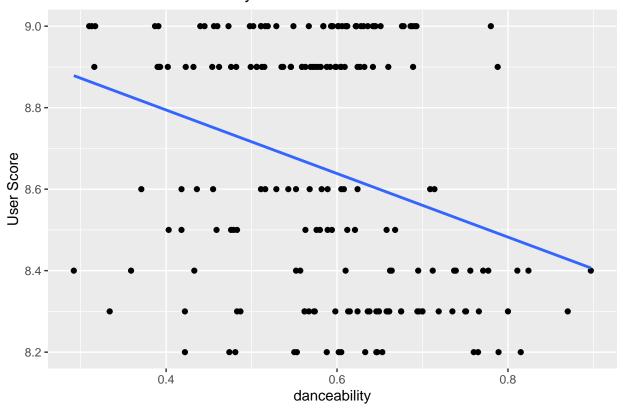
Scatter Plot of speechiness vs. User Score



Scatter Plot of duration_ms vs. User Score

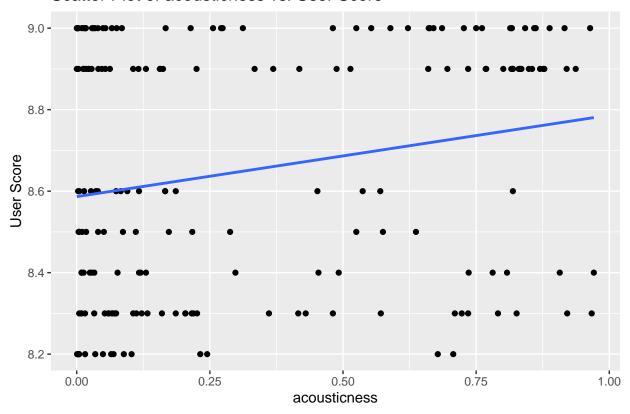


Scatter Plot of danceability vs. User Score



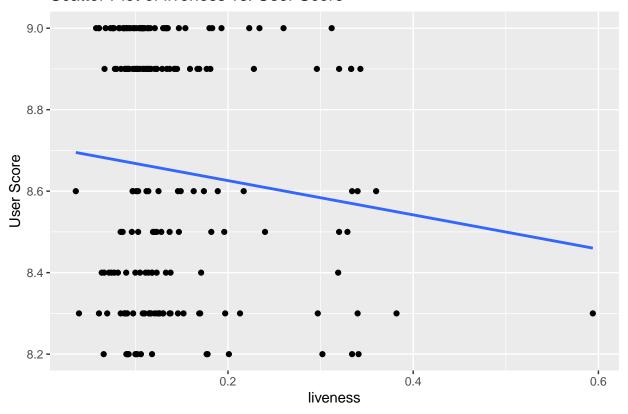
'geom_smooth()' using formula = 'y ~ x'

Scatter Plot of acousticness vs. User Score



'geom_smooth()' using formula = 'y ~ x'

Scatter Plot of liveness vs. User Score

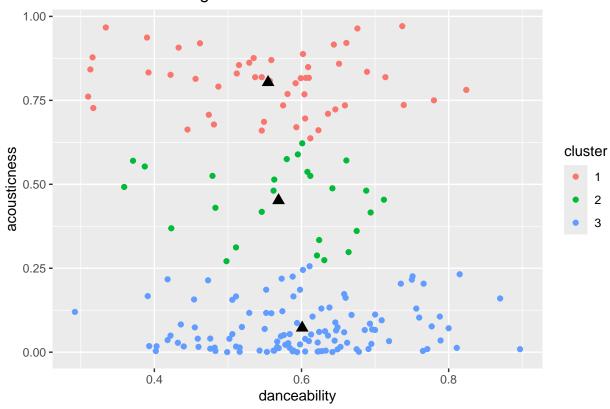


5.1.3 Comments

- The standard error is lower than that of the model predicting the metacritic score.
- There appears to be no linear relationship between the input features and user scores. It is evident that a more complex fitting method should be employed instead of a simple linear regression model.
- Acousticness and danceability can serve as decisive features in certain edge cases. When the acousticness exceeds 0.5, there is a high probability of assigning high user scores. Danceability associated with high user scores typically falls between 0.4 and 0.7.

6. Clustering

K-means Clustering Result



```
# Print cluster centers
print(kmeans_result$centers)
```