**Introduction**

This dataset is provided by the TMDb. There are 10866 rows, corresponding to unique movies, and 21 columns with variables about the movies such as genre, runtime, title, and revenue. This dataset has gathered data about movies from the 1960's to 2015. After scrolling through the dataset for a few minutes a few prominent questions came to mind:

1. Does a movie's budget effect its success?
   1. This question is useful to know because it will give production companies a good idea on their investment return when funding movie projects.
2. Does the season in which a movie was released effect a movie's success?
   1. This is a useful relationship to be aware of when planning when to release a movie.
3. Have movie lengths decreased over time?
   1. I hypothesize that over time, movies have gotten much longer in length. Many movies I have seen from the mid 1900's were less than 90 minutes, while nowadays, it is not uncommon for movies last over 2 hours. I wanted to analyze this to see what the relationship between time and runtime was.
4. Which directors make the highest grossing films?
   1. This is also valuable for production companies to know when hiring directors.

The variables used in this analysis are listed below:

- budget

- revenue

- release\_date

- runtime

- release\_year

- voter\_average

- vote\_count

For this analysis a movie's success is going to be defined in two different ways, the first is by the movie's revenue and the second, the movie's vote average or rating. I want to analyze both these variables because I'm curious if there will be consistency between them. For example, if a movie's budget effects a movie's revenue, does the budget effect a movie's rating in the same way?

**Initial Cleaning**

After importing this dataset, I printed the head of the dataframe and decided to remove some columns I knew I would not be using.

I then checked for any null values. Only 10 null values popped up originally, so I dropped those rows. To double check, I used .describe() to analyze the dataset. I noticed the budget, revenue, and runtime columns all had minimums of zero, meaning missing values. I used the .shape function to see how many rows had zero values for each column.

While the runtime column only has 31 missing values, both the budget and revenue column had a significant amount of missing data. Since over half the rows in these columns had missing data, filling these with the mean could drastically skew the data. Because of this, removed all rows with missing data. Even though this cut my dataset by over half, I decided having a smaller, more accurate dataset would be better than a heavily skewed one.

To do this, I replaced all 0 values with null values so I could drop them using .dropna(). I got this solution from a Stack Overflow thread (linked below). I then I checked for and dropped any duplicates.

**Creating a ‘Seasons’ Columns**

The first step that needed to be done to answer my second research regarding the relationship between a movie's release season and its success was making the release date column into a datetime dtype.

After doing a lot of research and reading many stackoverflow threads (linked below), I was able to create an 'if...else' statement that extracted the season from the ‘release\_date’ column in the dataset. First, I transformed the month and day into strings so I could append them onto one another. I had to add a floating zero onto the day variable so dates like July 7th would read 707 rather than 77 (stackoverflow linked below). Then, I created a variable that consisted of the appended month and day and transformed it back into an integer so I could perform Boolean statements on it. From there I created an 'if...else' statement than filtered each date in its respective season. I then assigned this function to a new column called 'release\_season'.

**Analysis**

For my first analysis, I made two scatterplots to see if there was a relation between a movie's budget and its success. The first scatterplot bases the success level off the movie’s rating while the second scatterplot bases success off the movie’s revenue. I wanted to explore both measures of success to see if they showed similar results.

For my second analysis, I used a bar graph to see if there was any relationship between a movie's release season and its success. Again, I created two bar graphs, one defining success as the movie’s rating and the other as the movie’s revenue. Since seasons are a categorical variable, a bar chart better suits this analysis in comparison to a line chart or scatter plot.

In my third analysis I used a line plot to visualize how movie runtimes have changed over time. I used a line plot because this plot type is best suited for showing changes over time. Since each year in the dataframe has multiple runtime entries, the first time I tried to plot this, it was unreadable. So, I created a variable that grouped the runtimes by year and then took the mean to create a more coherent visualization.

Finally, for my last analysis, I performed a similar grouping method. From this method, I was able to group each director and find the average movie revenue for the movies they directed. Since there were thousands of directors, I also sorted by the revenue column in descending order and used only the first 10 inputs. This gave me the top ten directors/director teams with the highest grossing films. I used a bar chart for this visualization because the director column is categorical.

**Conclusions**

In my first plot, it doesn’t seem like there is any correlation between movie budget and success as even high budget movies were rated similarly to low budget movies. Looking at the second scatterplot, however, there does seem to be a loose correlation between movie budget and revenue, where the higher the budget, the higher the revenue. Neither of these scatter plots show a significant correlation between the variables, so more analysis would be required before coming to any conclusions.

In regard to my second question using the release season and movie success variable, I got surprising results. I went into this analysis expecting summer releases to be the most successful category; however, as seen below, this is not the case. When using revenue as the success variable, it is clear that movies released in the Fall seem to be much more successful than any other season. Again, when you compare these results to the bar chart where success is defined as movie ratings, the release season seems to have no effect.

My hypothesis about movie runtimes increasing overtime was proven wrong. It seems movie times have actually significantly decreased from the 1960's onward. This shows the importance of research and visualization. If I had not performed this analysis, I would have made a blatantly incorrect assumption about runtime trends over time.

My final plot shows the visualization for my fourth question – a chart of directors with - on average - the highest grossing movies. Interestingly enough, many of the directors in this top ten list directed animated movies like Pixar and DreamWorks movies. This could be valuable for production companies to know because it shows there is a lot of money and return on investment in animated movies.

**Limitations**

For the first two analyses, we must be careful when coming to conclusions because it seems to greatly depend on how a movie’s success is defined. Movie ratings are not affected by the budget or release season of the movie. If I were to just use this variable to measure success, I would see there was absolutely no relationship. However, it is clear – particularly when looking at release season – that a movie’s success could be influenced by these two variables. Ideally more analyses and testing should be done before anything is concluded about a movie's budget and release season influencing a movie's success.

For this project, I used the budget and revenue columns rather than the adjusted budget and revenue columns, which adjusts for inflation. This is also important to keep in mind because inflation could potentially have an effect on these variables and provide different results.

For the third question in my project, I grouped the movie runtime’s by year and then took the average for each year. I also performed a similar function for my final question. It’s important to note anytime you use an average, to be wary of the results because there could be outliers affecting the mean that could skew the final results.

For my final analysis, I debated separating out the directors for each value that had multiple directors in the column; however, I decided to keep the column as is. From the viewpoint of a production company, it would be helpful to know what conditions a director is most successful under. Perhaps there is a director who doesn’t make high grossing movies alone, but when paired with someone else is very successful. This information could be valuable, and for that reason, I left the director teams in my analysis. While I chose to leave this in for this project, it could also influence the result of the analysis, so it's important to note that more analyses should be run on these directors to ensure this data is accurate.

**Sources**

* Creating Season Column: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/16139306/determine-season-given-timestamp-in-python-using-datetime/53694615
* Adding Floating Zero for Season Function: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/733454/best-way-to-format-integer-as-string-with-leading-zeros
* Dropping Rows with Zeros: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/22649693/drop-rows-with-all-zeros-in-pandas-data-frame>