

UK National Rail Analysis

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Objective

Create a data pipeline to collect data from UK National Rail. Explore the UK National Rail dataset, generate business questions and gain insights into the train system based on data.

Background

- UK National Rail system
- Publically available data
- Creation of, and changes to, train schedule records (scheduled arrivals/departures vs actual)
- Robust, highly used train system

Source: <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/travel-information/maps-of-the-national-rail-network/>



Background



- High speed route
- HST under construction / planned
- Principal routes
- Regional routes
- Local routes
- Limited service
- Under construction

Major cities with multiple stations

All lines shown except in London area within grey line

- Airport interchange
- Rail coach link with Heathrow Airport
- Ferry interchange

Not all stations shown

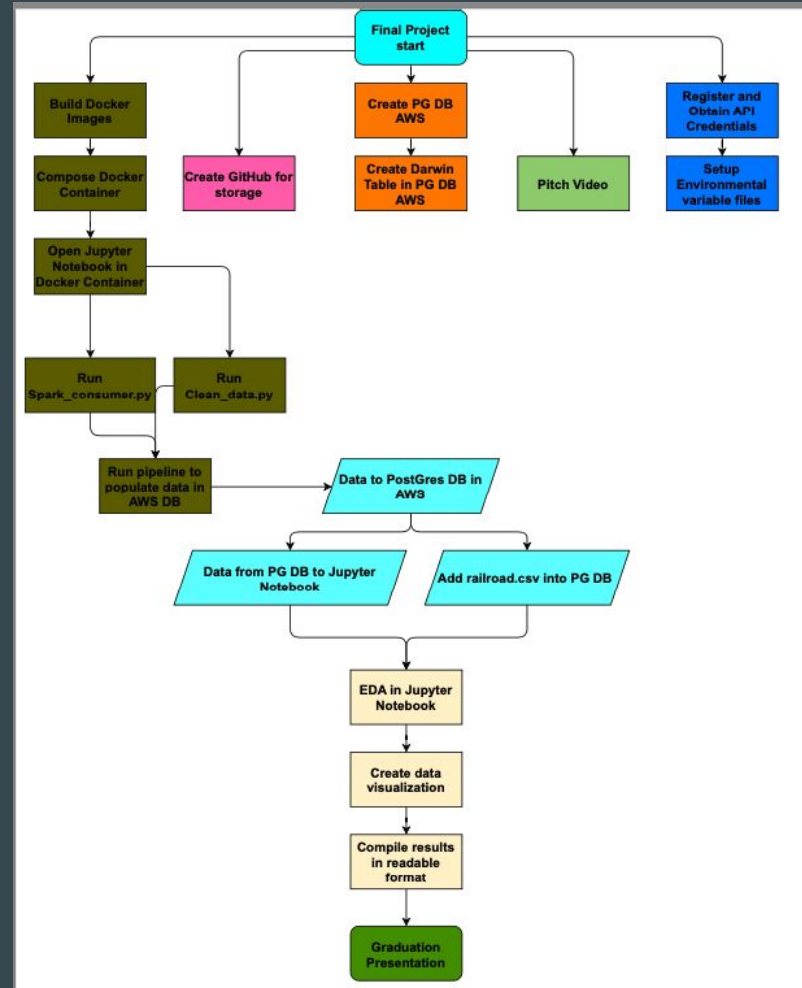
www.projectmapping.co.uk

PROJECT
MAPPING

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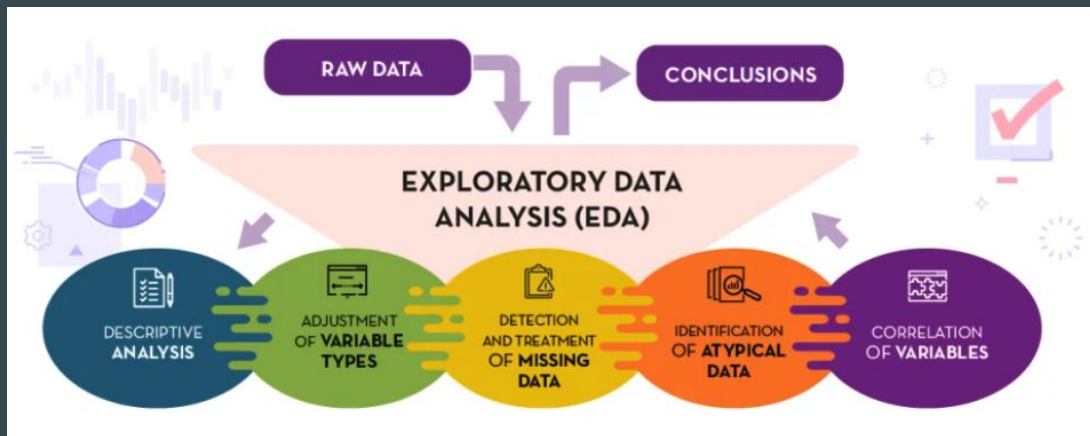
Building the Data Pipeline

- Connected to a website that streams live train movement data
- Saved data to cloud due to large volume
- Completed exploratory data analysis on the data



What is EDA?

- Exploratory data analysis
- Analyzing and exploring a data set to draw meaningful insights
- Completed our EDA in Python, leveraging Pandas library



<https://dev.to/ckawara/exploratory-data-analysis-ultimate-guide-3mea>

EDA cont.

- Cleaning data
- Creating new columns
- Filtering data

Dropping some columns with not enough or relevant data

```
4]: df = df.drop(['working_time_pass', 'train_length', 'Easting', 'Northing', 'GridType', 'StationNameLang',  
                'CreationDateTime', 'ModificationDateTime', 'RevisionNumber', 'Modification',  
                'AtcoCode', 'CrsCode', 'estimated_time', 'source', 'actual_time', 'actual_time_class', 'source_instance',  
                'estimated_time_minutes'], axis=1)
```

```
5]: df.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
```

```
RangeIndex: 138795 entries, 0 to 138794
```

```
Data columns (total 16 columns):
```

| # | Column | Non-Null | Count | Dtype |
|----|------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 0 | route_id | 138795 | non-null | object |
| 1 | unique_id | 138795 | non-null | object |
| 2 | service_start_date | 138795 | non-null | object |
| 3 | update_origin | 132982 | non-null | object |
| 4 | train_platform | 138795 | non-null | object |
| 5 | working_time_arrival | 138795 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 6 | working_time_departure | 138795 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 7 | planned_time_arrival | 132829 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 8 | planned_time_departure | 132329 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 9 | actual_arrival_time | 113977 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 10 | actual_departure_time | 125424 | non-null | datetime64[ns] |
| 11 | platform | 133098 | non-null | object |
| 12 | is_delayed_arrival | 138795 | non-null | bool |
| 13 | is_delayed_departure | 138795 | non-null | bool |
| 14 | TiplocCode | 130187 | non-null | object |
| 15 | StationName | 130187 | non-null | object |

```
dtypes: bool(2), datetime64[ns](6), object(8)
```

```
memory usage: 15.1+ MB
```


Business Questions

- How does the rail system appear to be operating based on data? How often are trains delayed?
- What are the relationships between working/planned times and actual times? Does National Rail need to adjust their scheduling?
- Are certain factors correlated to more frequent delays?

Dataset At-a-Glance

-Date range: 12/16/23 - 12/18/23

| <u>Total Trips</u> | <u>Total Stations</u> | <u>Routes</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 132.83K | 2371 | 24.04K |
| <u>Data Feeds</u> | | <u>Average Delay</u> (In Seconds) |
| 7 | | -24.55 |

What is the longest route based on time?

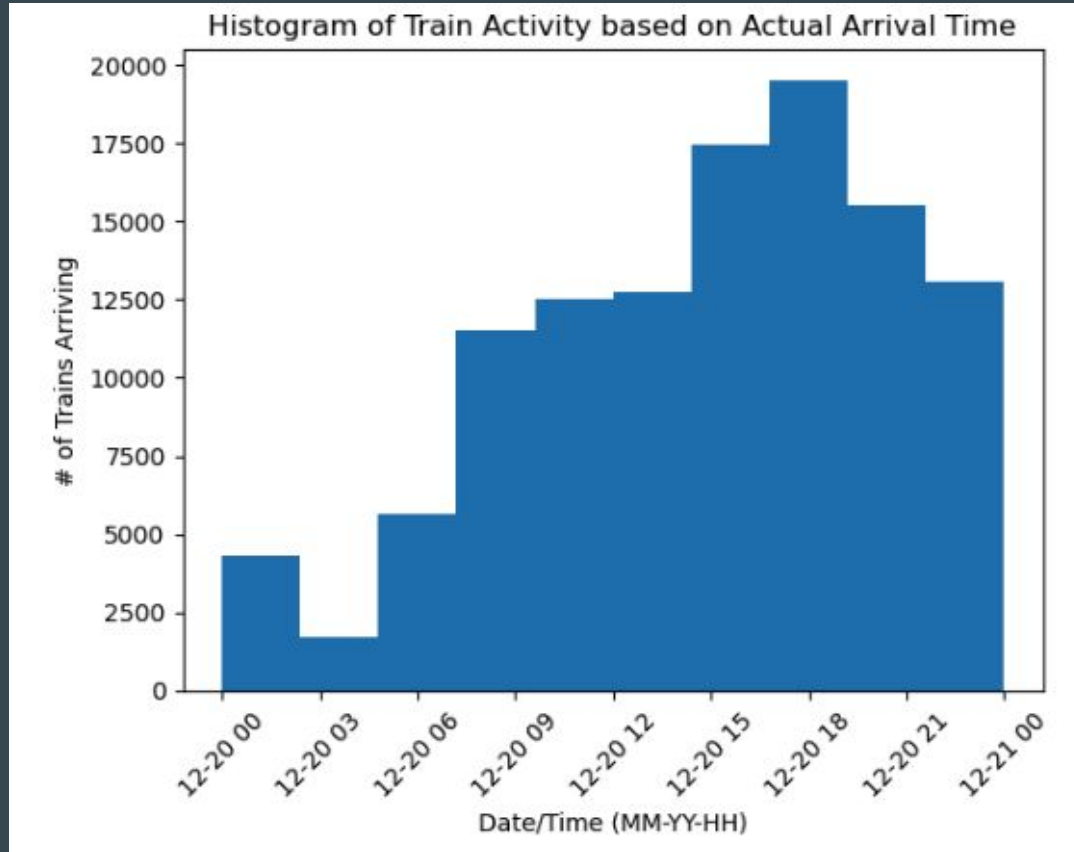


Aberdeen, Scotland →
Penzance, England

```
route_length_total = route_df.agg({'trip_length': 'sum'})  
print(f'{route_length_total.max(axis = 0)}')
```

```
route_id      202312197125157  
trip_length    0 days 23:55:30  
dtype: object
```

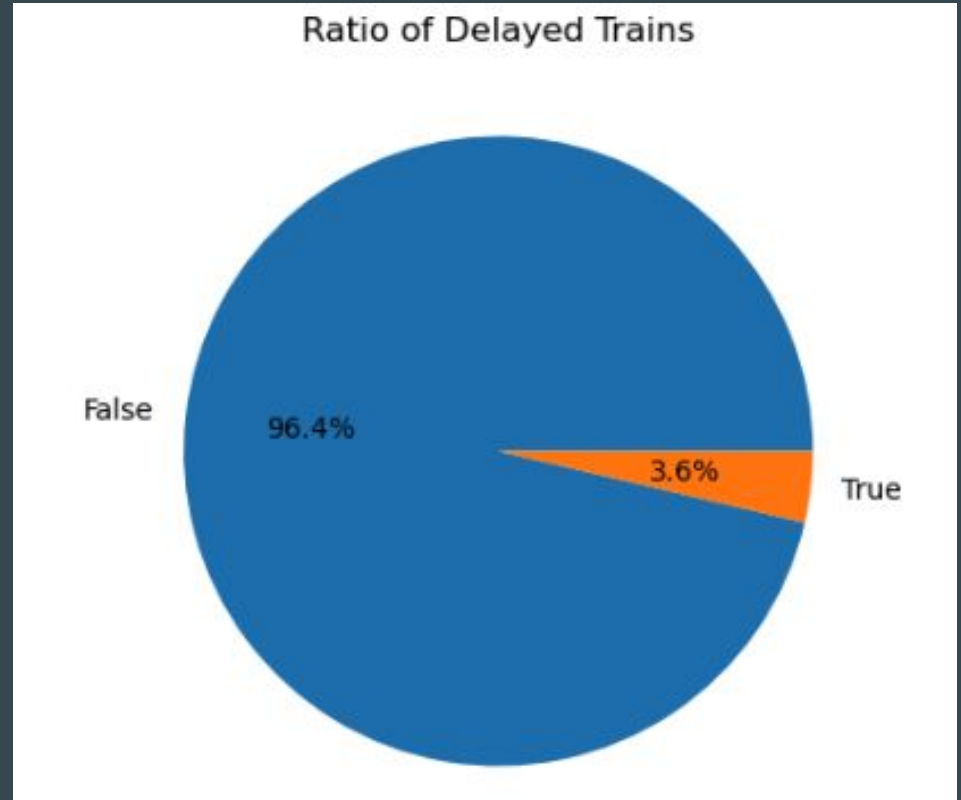
What times are stations busiest?



How often are trains delayed?

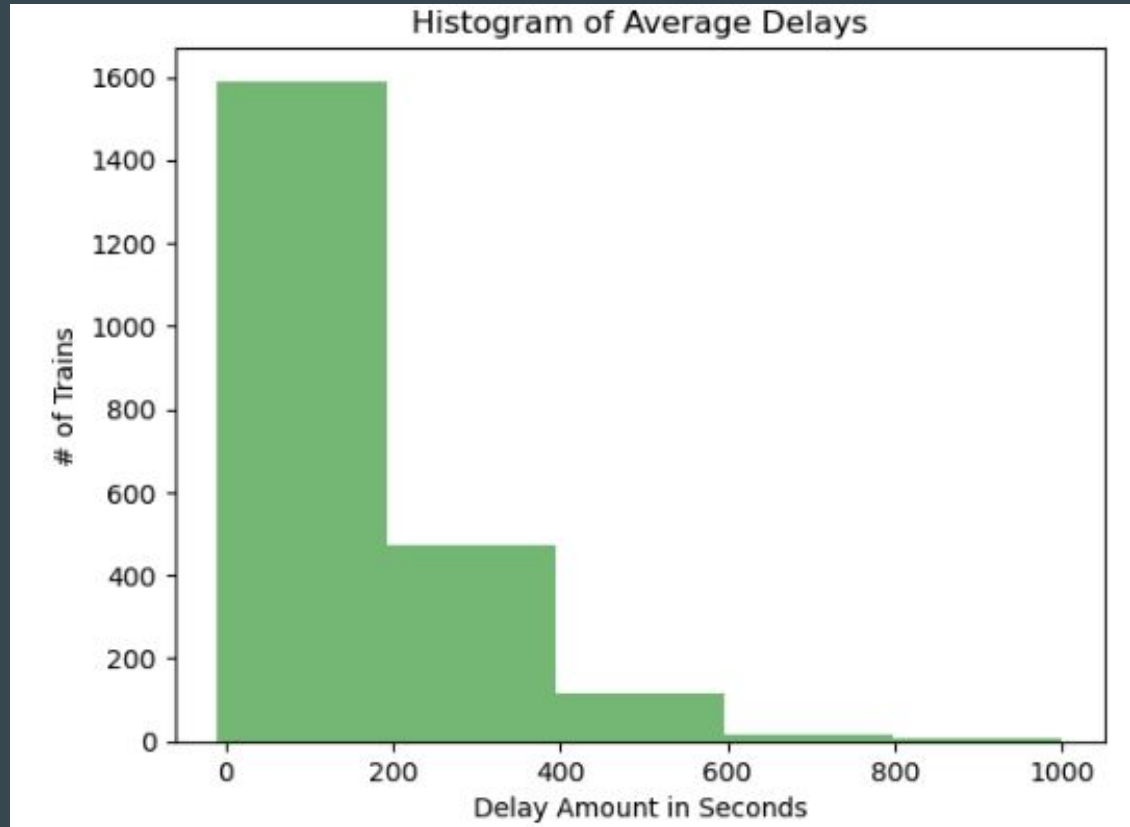
-**False:** (not delayed) 96.4% of the time

-**True:** (delayed) 3.6% of the time



How long are most delays across all data?

-Majority of delays
between 0-6 minutes



What key factors influence delayed arrival time?

-trip length found to be a key factor



What are busiest stations? Is delay amount affected by volume?

The top 10 stations with the most frequent stops are:

station_name

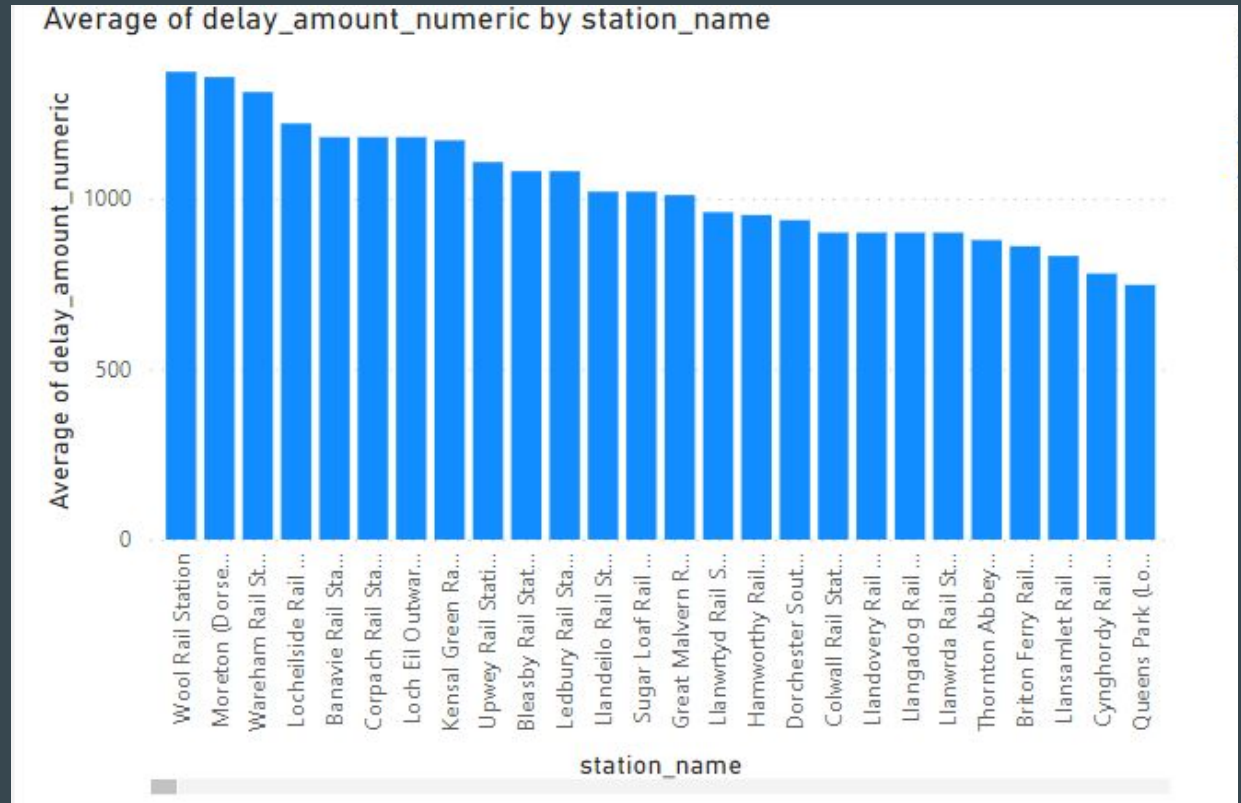
| | |
|---|------|
| Clapham Junction Rail Station | 1118 |
| London Bridge Rail Station | 975 |
| East Croydon Rail Station | 790 |
| Gatwick Airport Rail Station | 634 |
| Vauxhall Rail Station | 482 |
| Stratford (London) Rail Station | 481 |
| London St Pancras International LL Rail Station | 463 |
| London Blackfriars Rail Station | 445 |
| Haywards Heath Rail Station | 443 |
| Farringdon (London) Rail Station | 424 |

What are busiest stations? Is delay amount affected by volume?

-Average delay amount =
in seconds

-Highest average delay
amount:

Wool Rail Station
1,371.43 seconds
(23 minutes)



Correlation matrix of time relationships

-*Strong negative correlation:* trip length vs delay amount

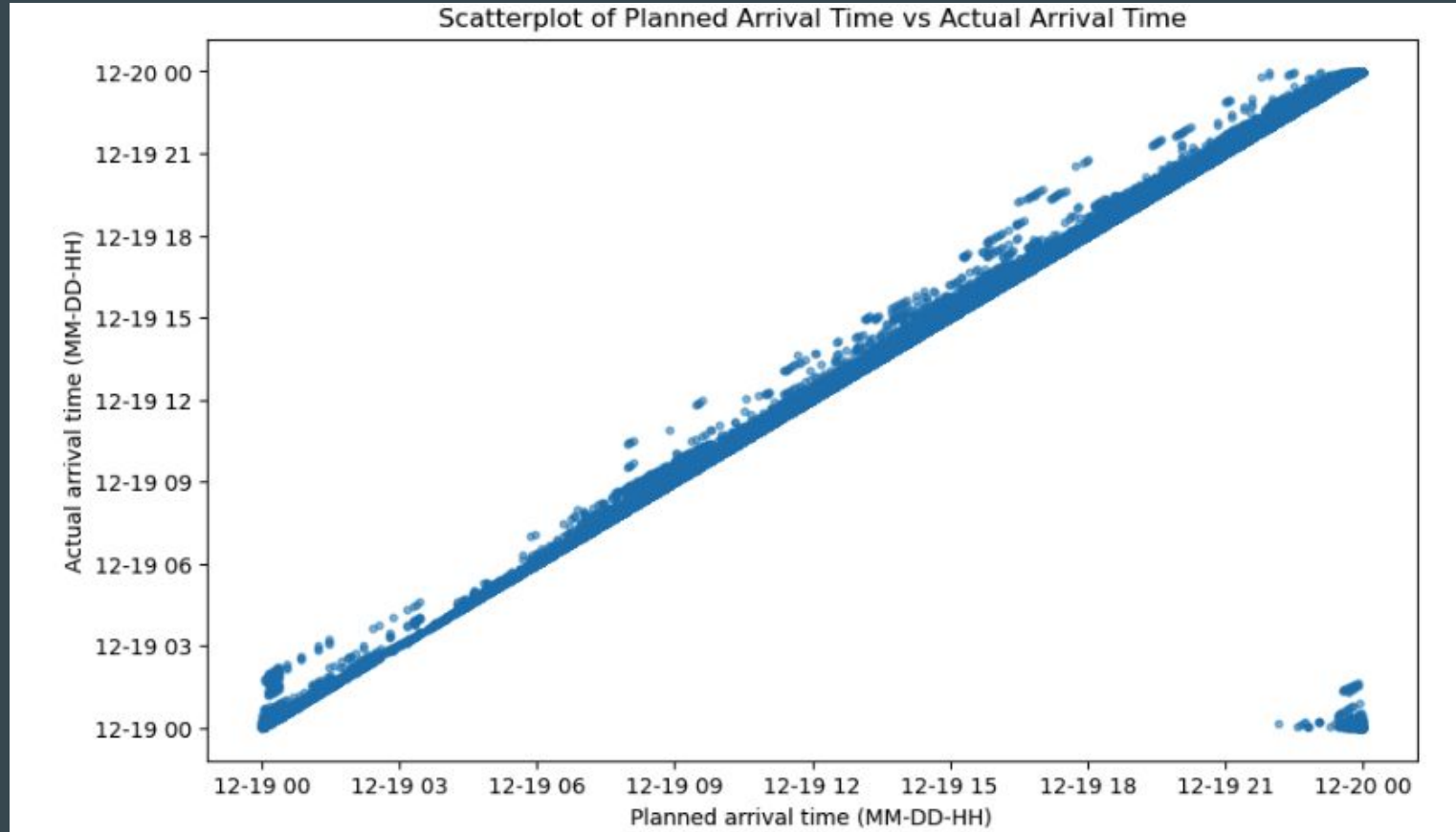
-*Strong positive correlation:* planned/working arrival vs actual arrival



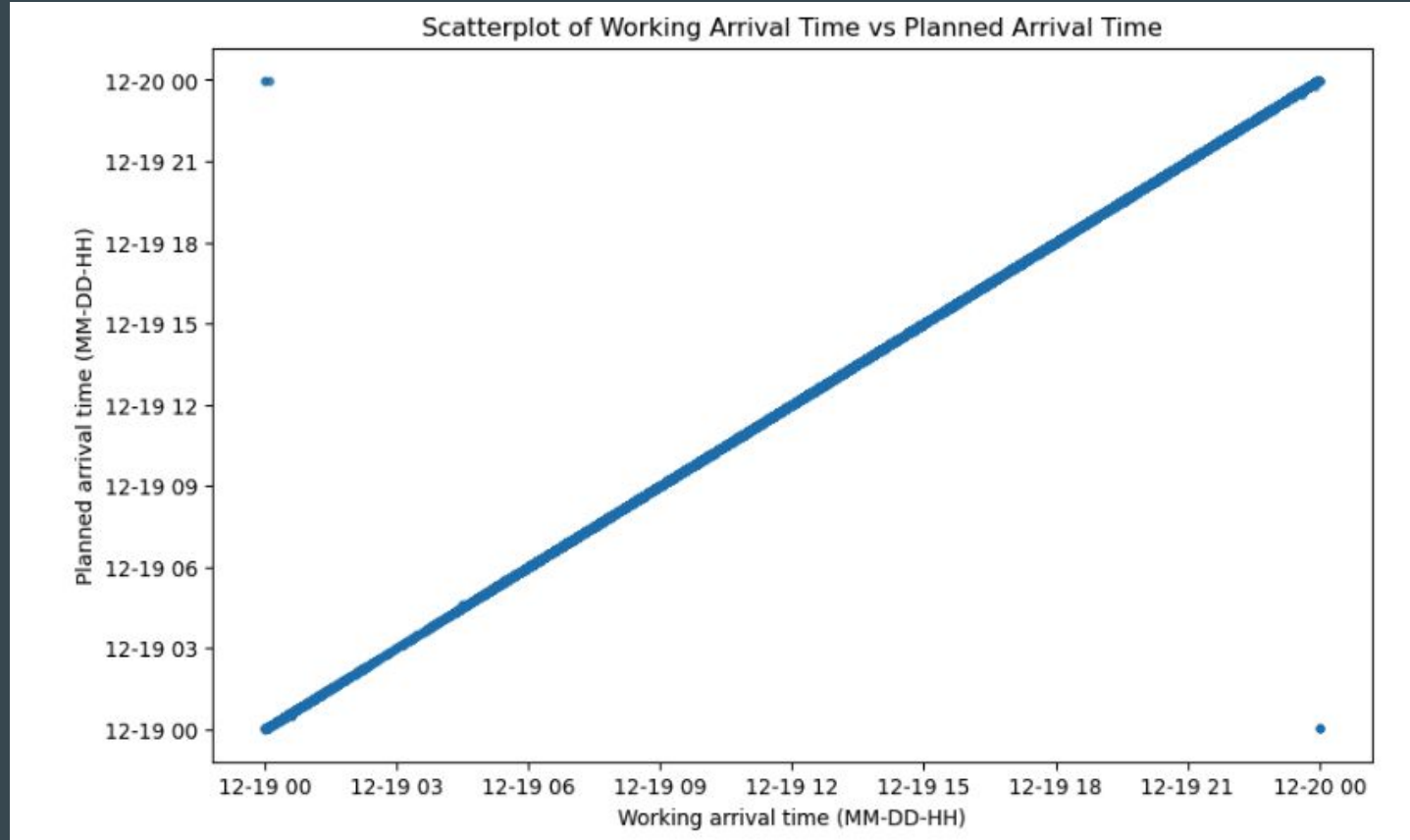
What is the relationship between working arrival time and actual arrival time?



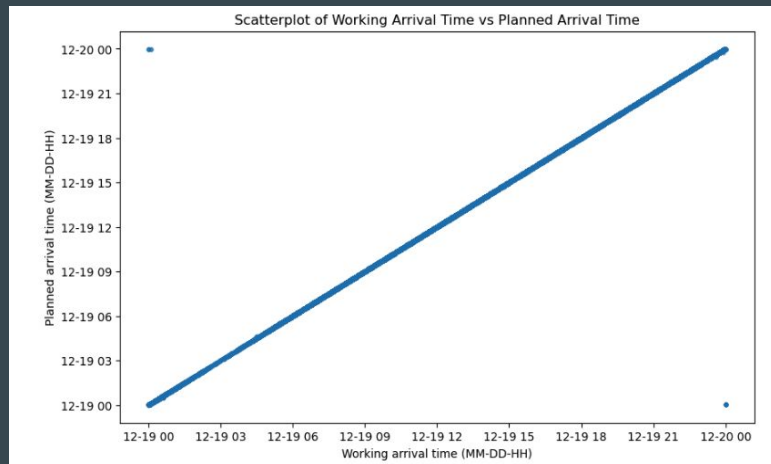
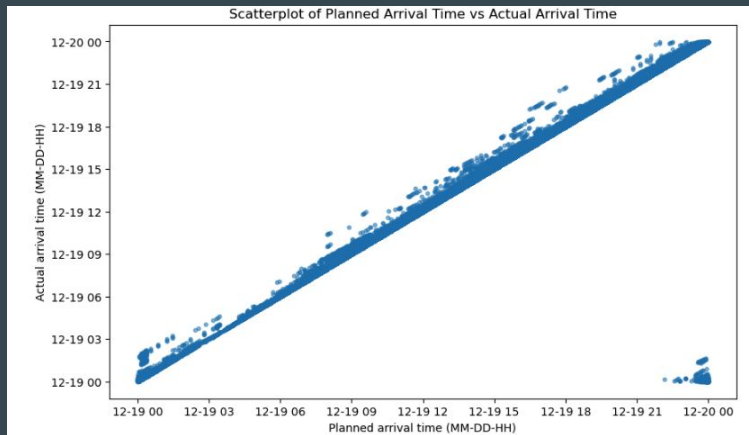
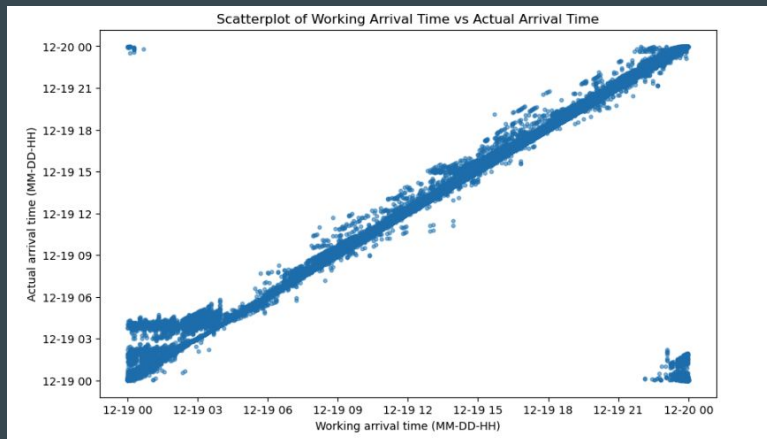
What is the relationship between planned arrival time and actual arrival time?



What is the relationship between working arrival time and planned arrival time?
How often do they differ?



Overview of time relationships



Conclusions



Based on data, UK rail system is operating at fairly timely schedule



Planned vs working times appear to rarely deviate; their current timetables seem to be working well



Certain factors do affect delays, such as overall trip length



Considerations on privatization of rail system

Thank you!

Appendix

Project Github: https://github.com/jsnabes/GC_Final_Project

Office of Rail & Road: <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/passenger-rail-usage/>

UK National Rail maps: <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/travel-information/maps-of-the-national-rail-network/>