

Analyzing The National's Musical Trajectory from 2001 to 2023*

**A Spotify Data Analysis of Danceability, Energy, Instrumentalness, and Valence
Trends**

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This study analyzes the evolution of musical attributes in The National's discography, focusing on danceability, energy, instrumentalness, and valence across their album releases. Using data from Spotify's API, we analyze how these attributes have fluctuated over the years and visualize their progression through a series of plots. Our findings suggest that energy and instrumentalness exhibit more variability, while danceability and valence have followed relatively smoother trajectories. These insights contribute to the growing field of music analytics by offering a deeper understanding of the artistic and sonic evolution of a famous band within the indie rock genre.

1 Introduction

Write Introduction here

2 Data

The R programming language (R Core Team 2023), dplyr (Wickham et al. 2023), tidyverse (Wickham et al. 2019) were used to download, modify, and analyse data obtained from Spotify (Spotify 2024) using the SpotifyR package (Thompson et al. 2022) regarding music from The National (National 2024). Styler (Müller and Walthert 2023) was used to style the code.

*Code and data are available at: <https://github.com/mushroomcarbon/Spotify>.

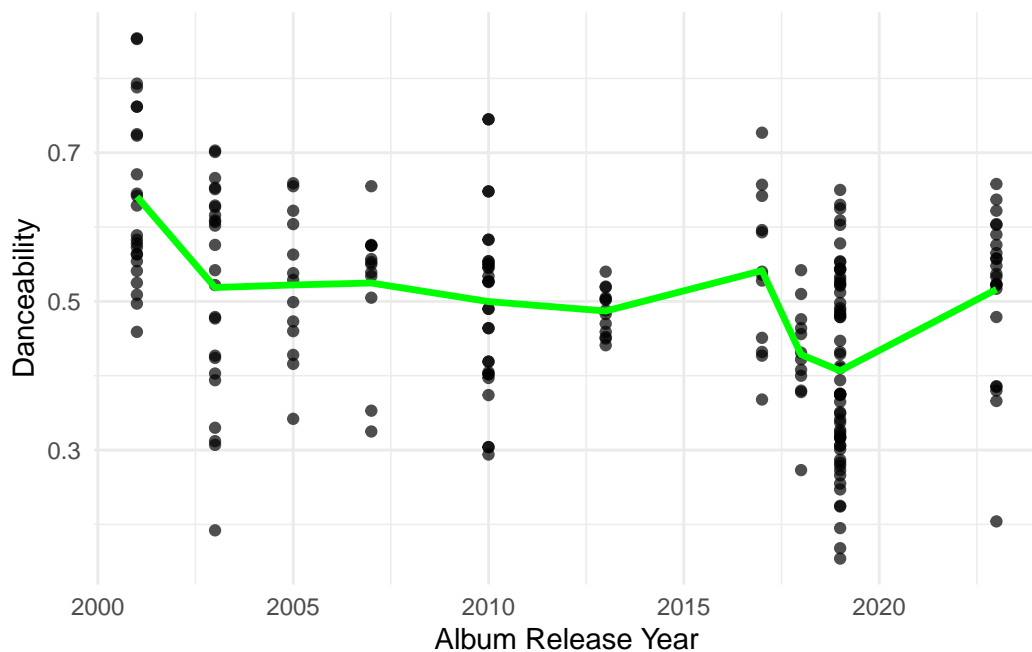


Figure 1: Danceability Over Album Release Years

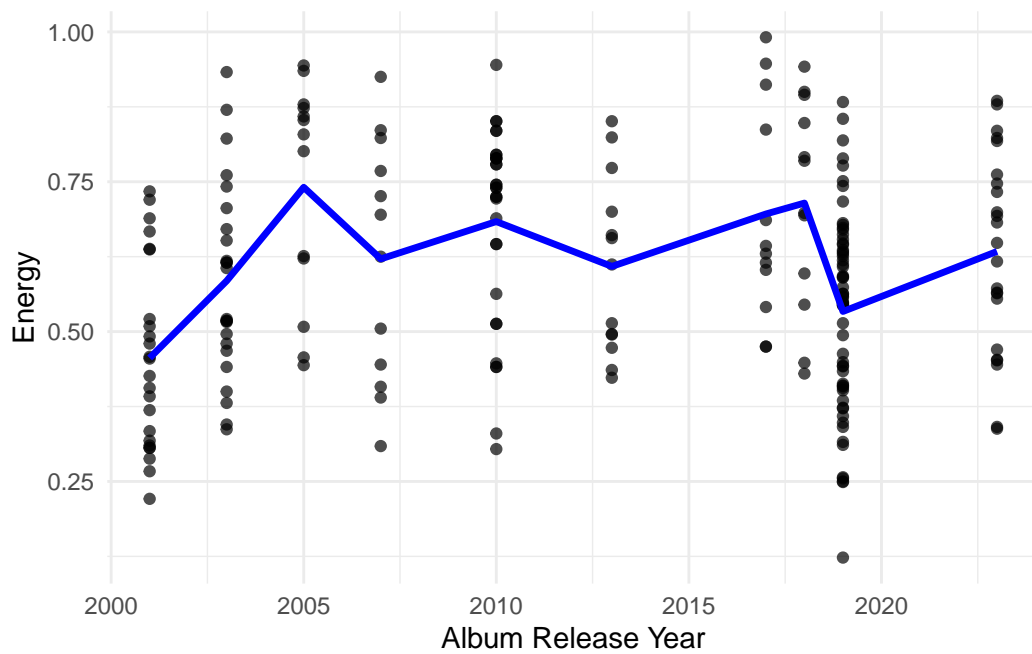


Figure 2: Energy Over Album Release Years

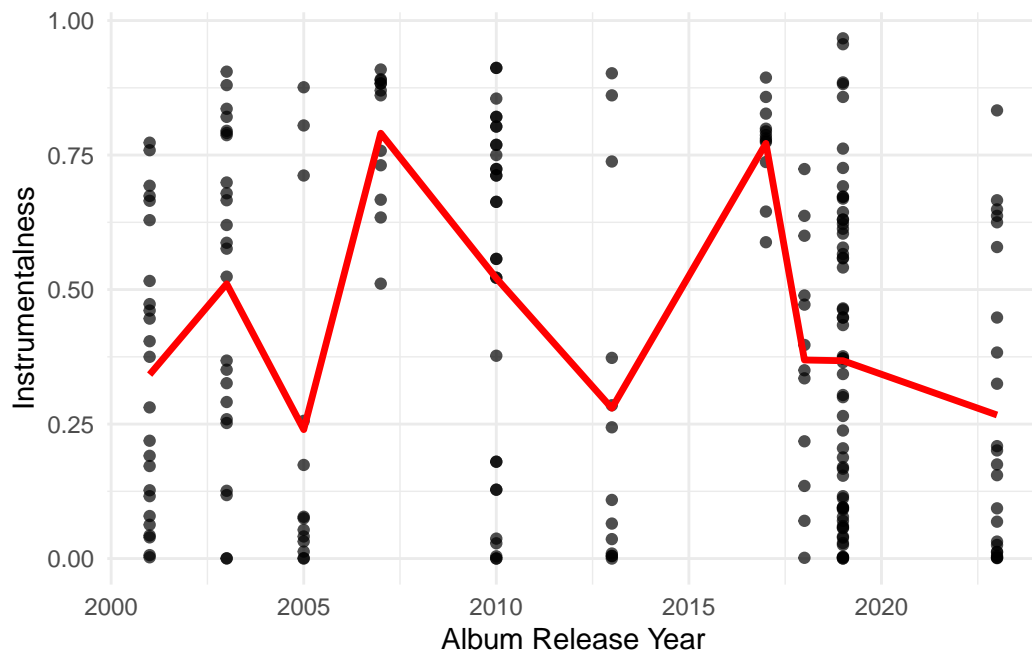


Figure 3: Instrumentalness Over Album Release Years

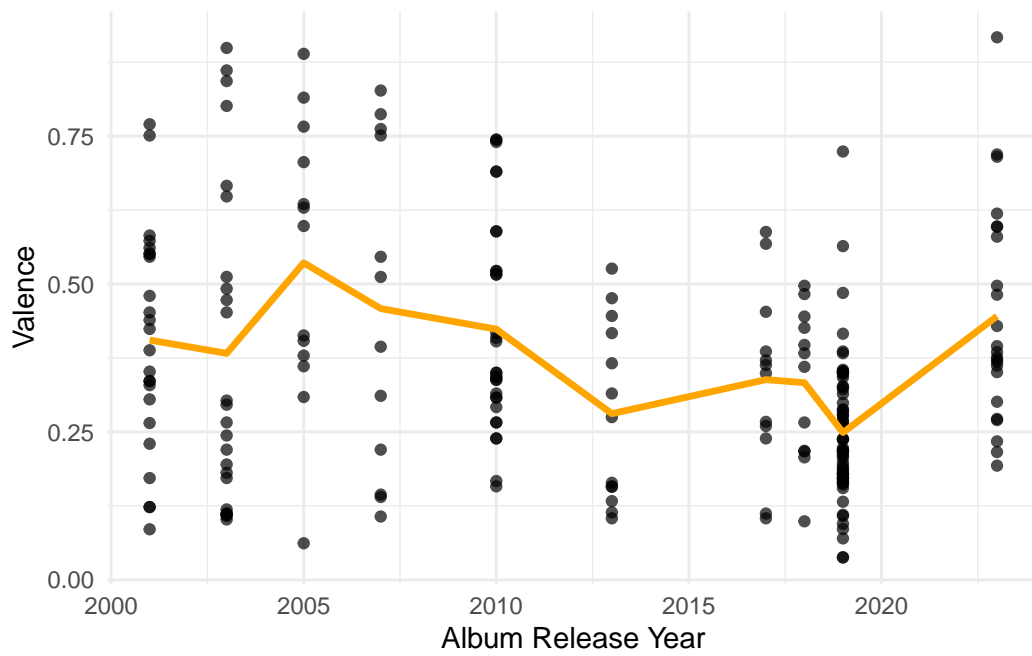


Figure 4: Valence Over Album Release Years

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