Nana A's Intro to Digital Humanities

Final Project

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Introduction

In this final project, I conducted a sentiment analysis on the lyrics of Frank Ocean from his two studio albums, *Channel Orange* and *Blonde*. The aim is to explore how the sentiment in his lyrics may have evolved between the two albums, shedding light on the emotional tone and potential shifts in the artist's style.

The dataset consists of the lyrics from each album, and I will perform sentiment analysis using the Natural Language Toolkit (nltk) library in Python. The programming methodology involves tokenizing the lyrics, applying sentiment analysis using a pre-trained model, and visualizing the results.
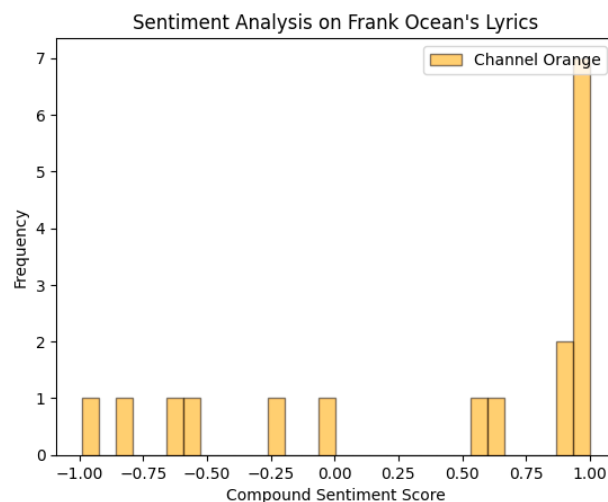
Artifacts

The artifacts for this project will be various histograms, each visualizing the distribution of compound sentiment scores in the lyrics of *Channel Orange* and *Blonde*. These visualizations will provide insights into the emotional tones of the lyrics in each album.
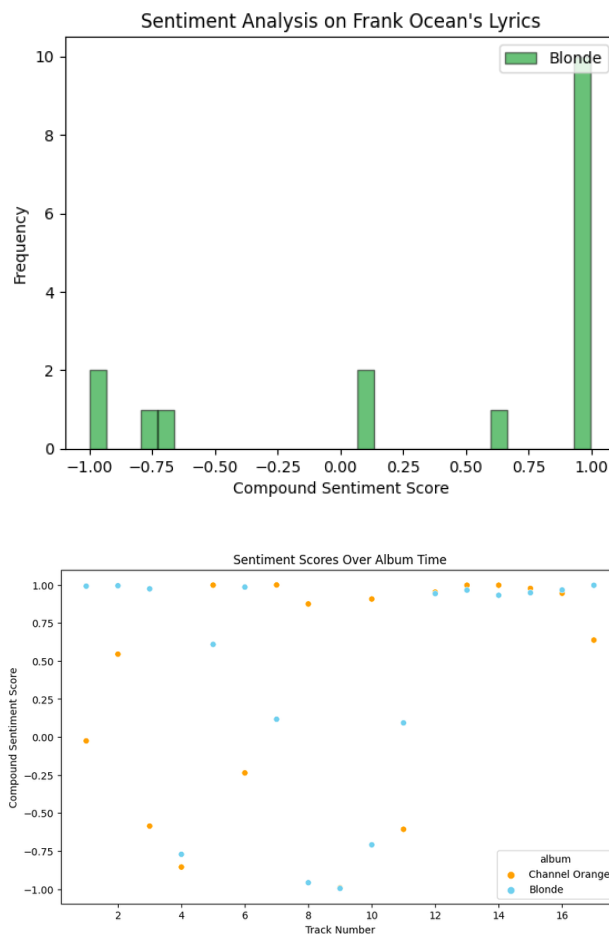
Discussion

The project will address the question, "How does the sentiment in Frank Ocean's lyrics differ between the albums *Channel Orange* and *Blonde*, and what insights can be drawn about the artist's emotional evolution?"

Going into this project, I had a well-versed understanding of the two albums. *Channel Orange*, Frank's first studio album, released in 2012, tracks his mindset after a break-up with a friend with whom shared unrequited feelings towards him. The album is a sort of coming-of-age ploy, meant to sort through his emotions as he finds meaning in various plots from channel-surfing on a T.V. in his childhood home. So it was relatively surprising to see that the compound sentiment analysis for the album trended in a more positive manner.

Throughout the album, there is a sense of building an understanding of where Frank stands as a person and how he can grow from this negative experience. However, many of the topics and scenes in the songs trend in a more negative light, portraying failing relationships with imperfect people. Therefore, I decided to look at the Sentiment Scores over the course of the album and compared it to his second studio album, "Blonde." Released in 2016, the album is critically acclaimed for its innovative approach to R&B and its introspective, poetic lyrics. "Blonde" is emotionally charged, with Frank Ocean baring his soul in a way that resonates with listeners. The album captures a sense of vulnerability and raw emotion, offering an intimate look into the artist's psyche. It was interesting to observe how his perceptions of love and life changed between the two albums. Although "Blonde" also trended positive, the album grows increasingly negative over its runtime.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the sentiment analysis of Frank Ocean's lyrics from *Channel Orange* and *Blonde* has unveiled intriguing insights into the evolution of the artist's emotional expression over time. This project aimed to decipher the nuanced shifts in sentiment, providing a glimpse into Frank Ocean's artistic journey across his two studio albums.

The histograms depicting the distribution of compound sentiment scores offered a visual narrative of the emotional tones within each album. It is noteworthy that despite the positively trending sentiment in *Channel Orange*, the album delves into complex themes of failed relationships and introspection, reflecting the artist's maturity and growth. On the other hand, *Blonde* presented a more dynamic sentiment trajectory, starting with a positive tone and gradually exploring deeper, more introspective, and at times, melancholic emotions.

Delving into the sentiments song by song, it became evident that Frank Ocean's lyrical narrative evolved significantly between the albums. *Channel Orange* portrayed a more immediate and visceral response to personal experiences, while *Blonde* delved into a more introspective and soul-baring exploration of identity, love, and self-discovery. The increasing negativity in sentiment scores throughout *Blonde* suggests a deeper emotional complexity, marking a departure from the relatively positive trajectory observed in *Channel Orange*.

This project not only sheds light on the emotional evolution of Frank Ocean but also emphasizes the power of sentiment analysis in extracting meaningful patterns from artistic expressions. It is a testament to the depth and complexity inherent in Frank Ocean's work, showcasing his ability to convey a range of emotions and experiences through his lyrical craftsmanship. The exploration of sentiment in music opens avenues for a richer understanding of the artist's narrative, providing a bridge between the subjective and the analytical aspects of musical interpretation.

Code

https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1VIGRIcRUo8bFTdpzEKuUqmMZLHQXY7ye#scrollTo=-jPic78n6mSw

Datasets

Blonde: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S6O7W_29Z8NqjHVylqQjWCXcFzTVzek/view?usp=sharing

Channel Orange: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BFpMbzbUzFfjhKE9tLyspWpjbhswarO2/view?usp=sharing