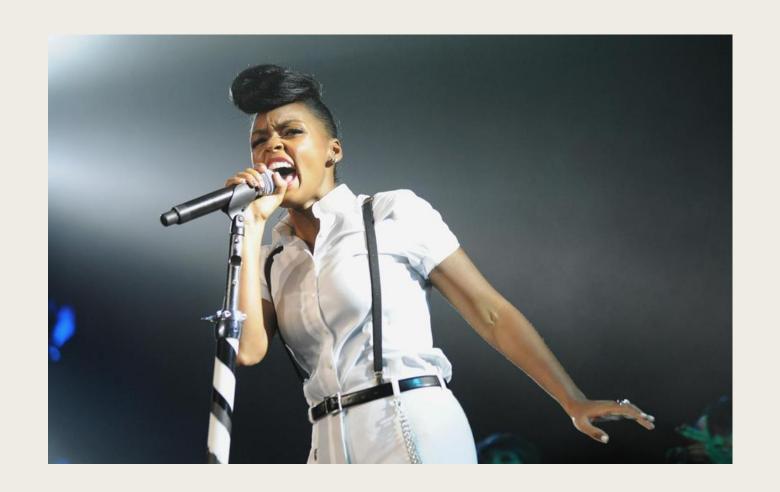
RAP GENIUS

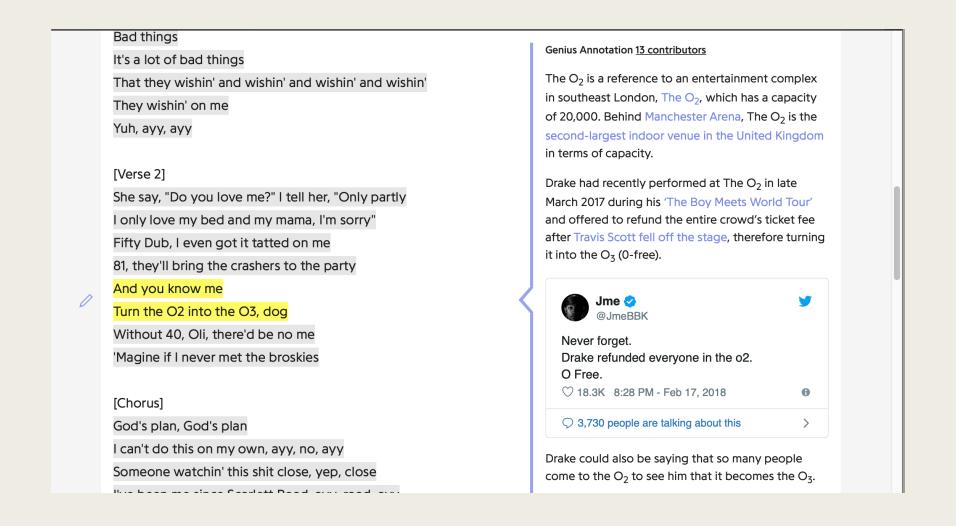
A quantitative approach to easing mixtape nerves

Introduction

- Janelle, friend from college (not actually, I wish)
- 1 session in recording studio in 2 weeks
- Loves fashion, couture
- Doesn't like fancy cars
- Strong religious faith
- Doesn't curse all that much
- Anxious to record a track that will succeed

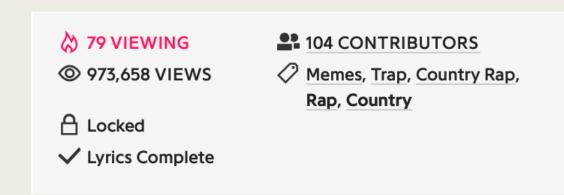


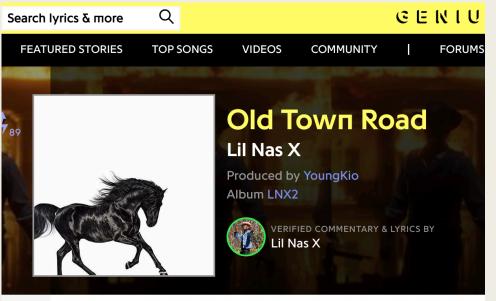
Genius.com: where lyrics live



Features & Target

- Target: # of views
- # of contributors
- Verified contributions
- Subgenres
- Frequency of certain words in the lyrics







Text features

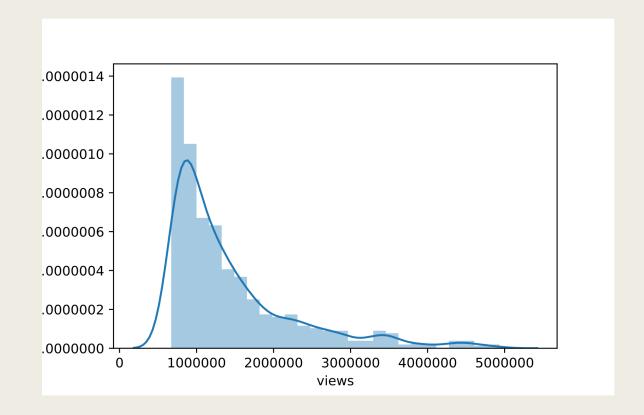
In each case, score = # matches / # of words in song

- "clothes" = gucci, fendi, prada, louis vuitton, dior, etc.
- "curse" ~ FCC's 68 banned words
- "cars" = lambo, bugatti, porsche, ferrari, etc.
- "religion" = god, lord, jesus, devil, faith, etc.

What does the data look like?

Top 1,000 rap songs

- 28 songs > 5M
- 24 non-English
- 79 scored a 0 on "curse" metric
- 342 register a 0 on "religion"



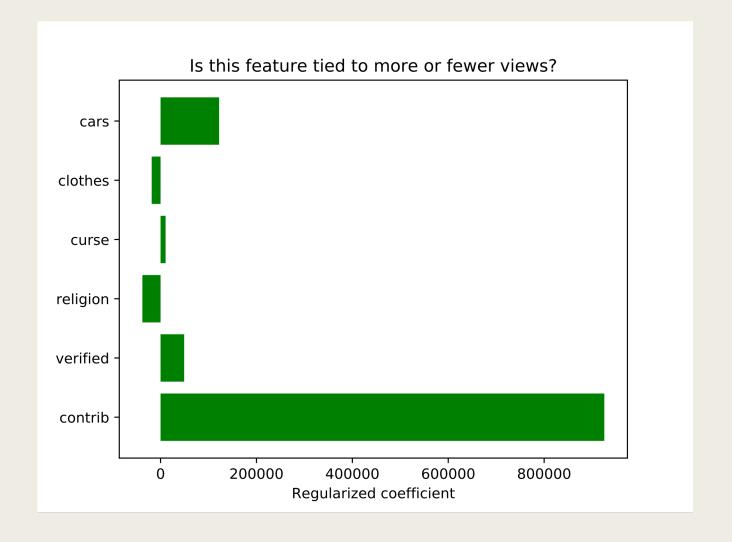
Top scoring songs by my text metrics

- "Clothes":
 - Versace (Migos), Gucci Gang (Lil Pump), Gucci Gucci (Kreayshawn)
- "Cars":
 - Bugatti (Ace Hood), Yamborghini High (A\$AP Mob)
- "Curse":
 - STFU (Pink Guy), Rack City (Tyga)
- "Religion":
 - Ultralight Beam (Kanye West), Bank Account (21 Savage)

Results

Coefficients:

- Cars = 19k
- Clothes = 33k
- Curse = 11k
- Religion = -3k
- Verified = 88k
- Contrib = 420k



Conclusions

Was Kanye West right?

"They say you can rap about anything except for Jesus That means guns, sex, lies, videotape But if I talk about God my record won't get played, huh?"

- --Kanye West, "Jesus Walks" (2004)
- BUT: "religion" p-value = 0.70.
- In contrast, "clothes" p-value = 0.05.

Advice to Janelle

- Don't be afraid to rap about haute couture!
- Fine to not curse—not that strong of an effect
 - "curse" p-value = 0.88
- Get friends to contribute to your lyrics page
 - "contrib" p-value = 0.000
- Religious content might help her stand out
- Explain the lyrics yourself, but especially when you get famous
 - "verified" p-value = 0.004!
- Request pop/trap backing track

Future Work

- More sophisticated "religion" metric
- Fraction of lyrics made up of repeating sections
- Demographic data about Genius.com users
- Reading level
- Beats per minute or better yet, words per minute
- Frequency at which names of other artists appear in lyrics
- Expand the dataset beyond the top 1000 rap songs
- Scrape release date and introduce that to analysis

Thanks for listening!

- Let me know if you have any questions.
- And wish Janelle luck in her recording session!

Appendix

