The Statistics of Cinema

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I. Abstract

Despite cinema's entertaining purposes, the creation and production of a film produces many numbers and statistics, such as the length of the film, the budget, expenses, revenue and income. The best films are critically and financially acclaimed, meaning they perform well financially and accrue awards. Four of the most notable awards given in the film industry include the Academy Awards (Oscars), Golden Globes, Director's Guild Awards, and the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures. All of these were included in the study.

Fifty unique films had won awards between 1990 and 2010 and were thus included as a part of this study. Repeated films were not counted and data was collected on the following categories: rating, genre, length, domestic revenue, and budget. The tests conducted analyzed relationships among the variables and a comparison of data within each category.

Four tests were used to debunk or reinforce theories about trends applying to award winning cinema and study any underlying patterns discovered by inspecting germane factors. The studies conducted in this paper led to the conclusions that length and domestic revenue (USD) are not linearly correlated and that as motion pictures get longer, the budgets will increase. Also, dramas and thrillers are not significantly more favored to win the awards. R-rated movies on the other hand are significantly more likely to win an industry award than non R-rated movies. However, some of these trends can be partially accounted for using non-mathematical reasoning and logic.