



Death Metal is not Dead

Characterizing the world Death Metal scene

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⁶⁶⁶The most hellish hell in the underworld



UNIT OF EXCELLENCE
BEHERIT OF THE
HADES



AGENCIA
ESTATAL DE
INVOCACIÓN

EL FISCIC
BARRUDO



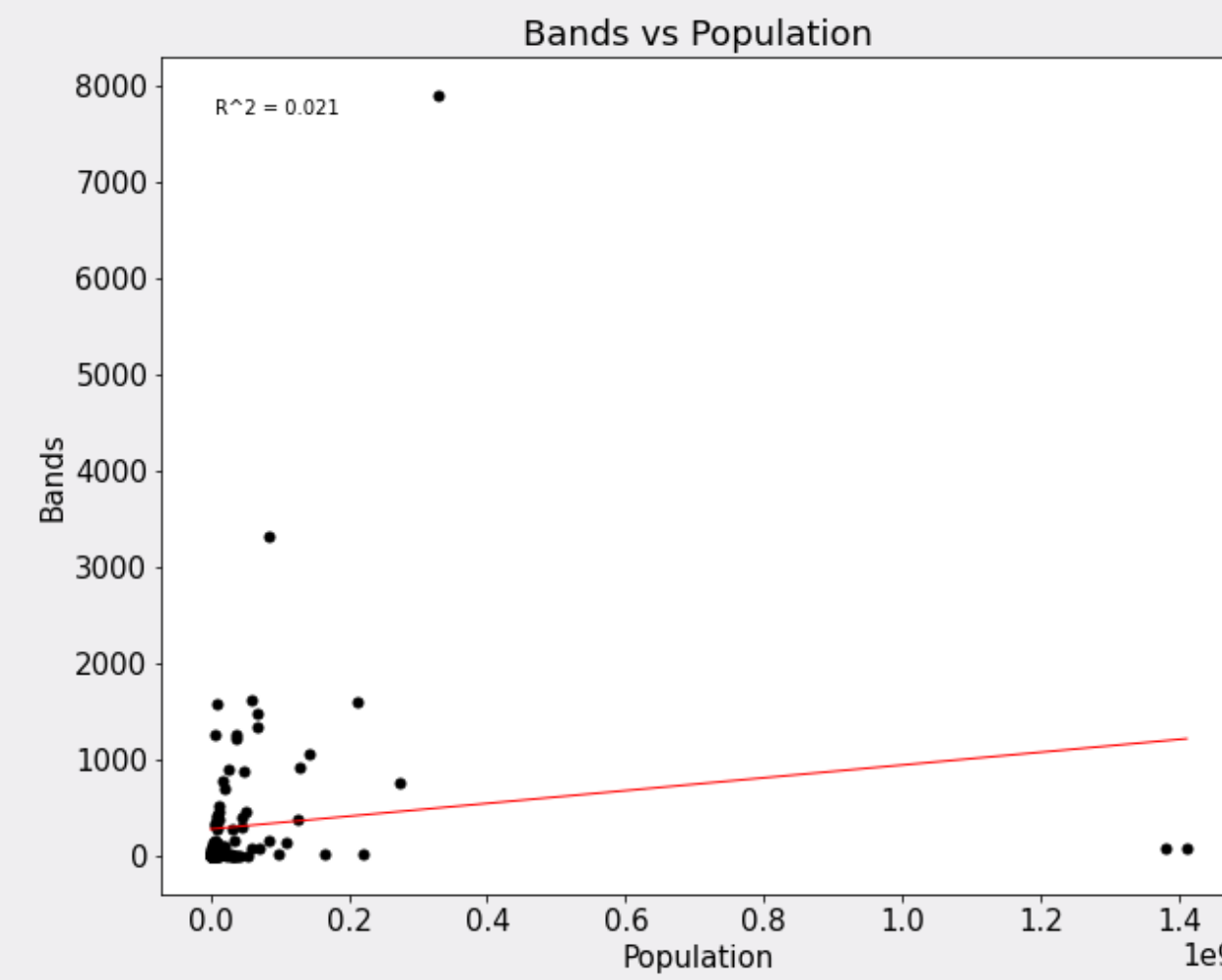
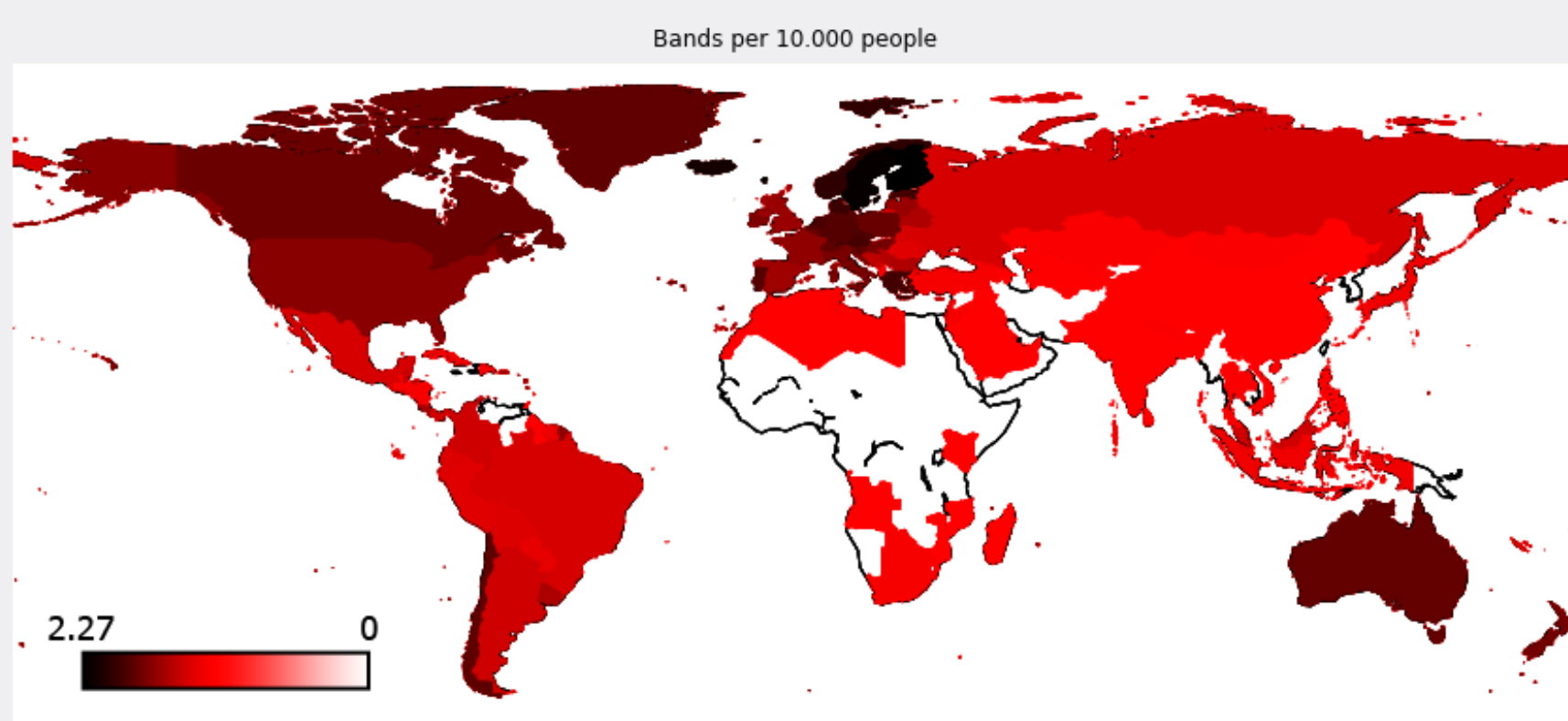
xxx Raise your horns xxx

Within extreme music, one of the most extreme genres is **Death Metal** (DM). It is characterized by guttural vocals, distorted guitars and frenetic drum rhythms. The subject matter of their songs covers topics such as anti-Christianity, serial killers, cannibalism, torture, among others. It is a genre that is perceived negatively by the general public due to its aesthetics and lyrics, which is why there are several prejudices against it.

In this work we will describe the geo-social reality of the genre, looking for correlations between the number of bands per country and other indicators such as crime or the number of religious practitioners.

xxx One world, one blast beat xxx

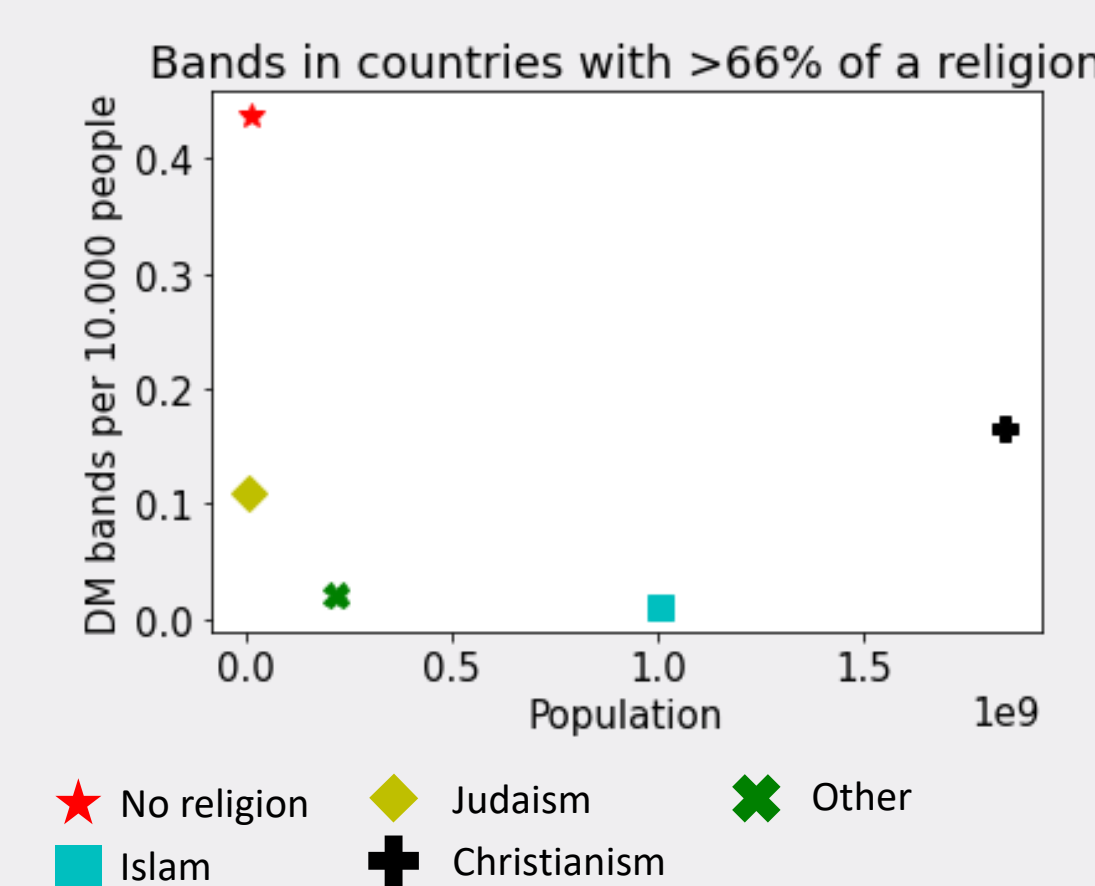
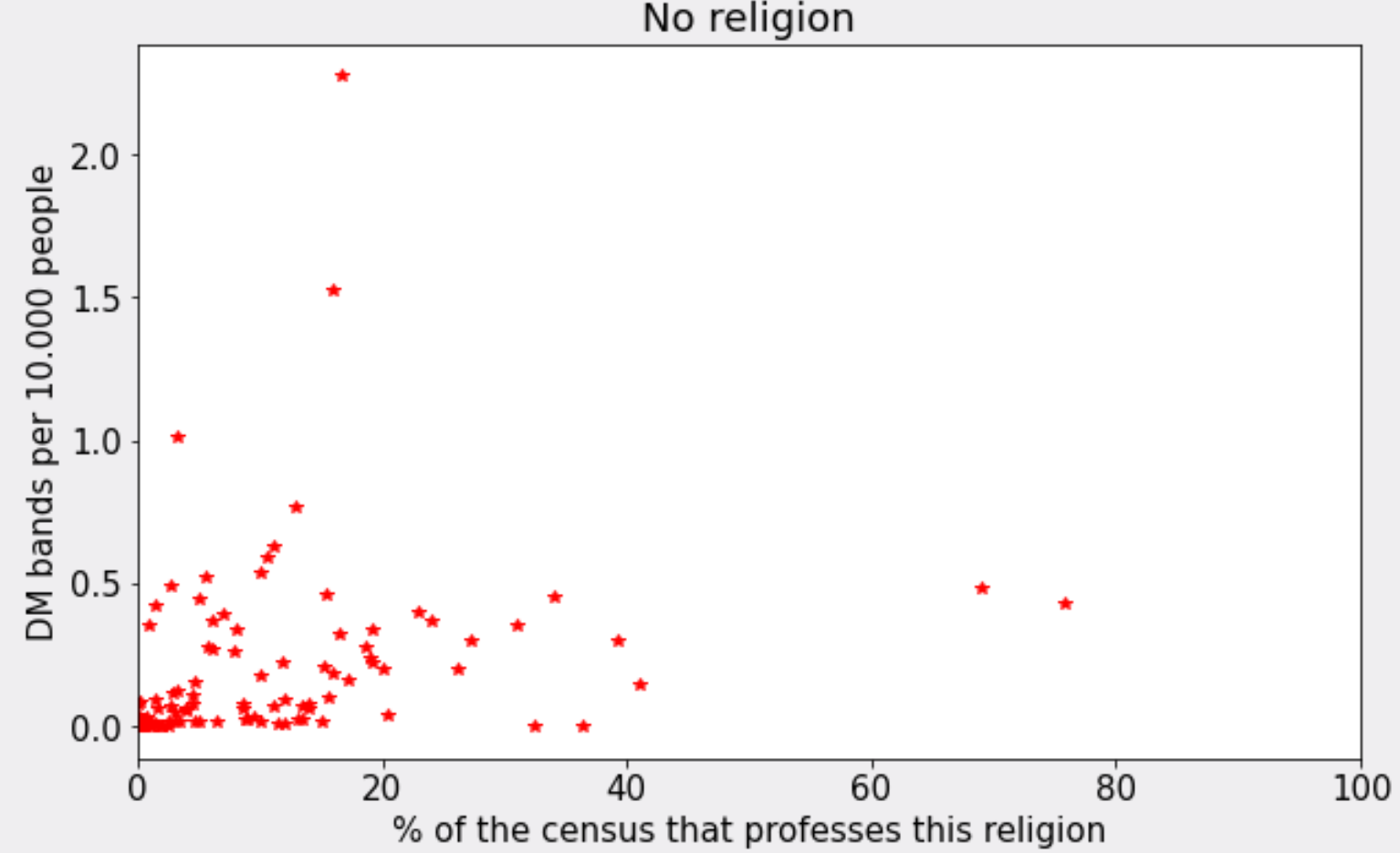
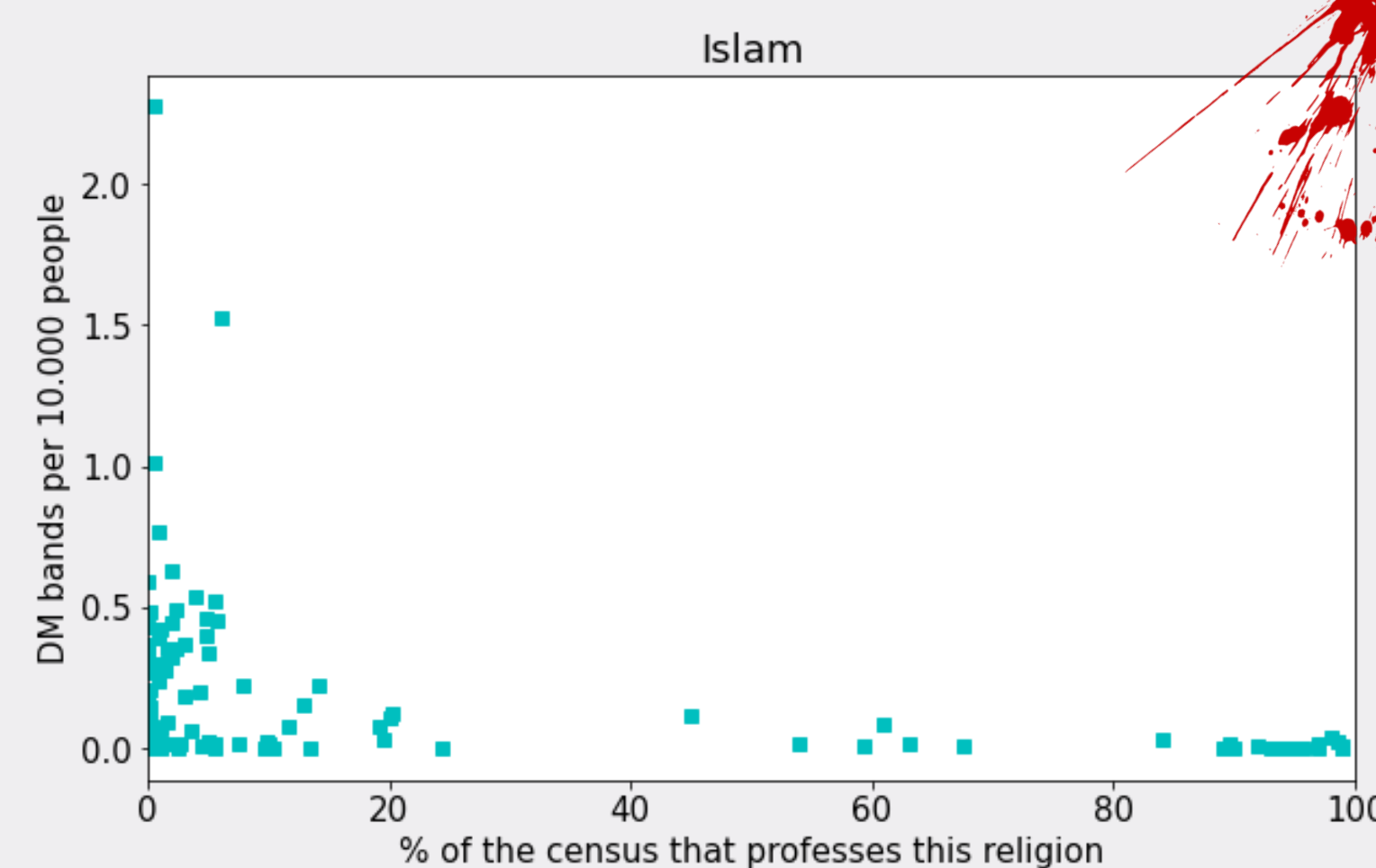
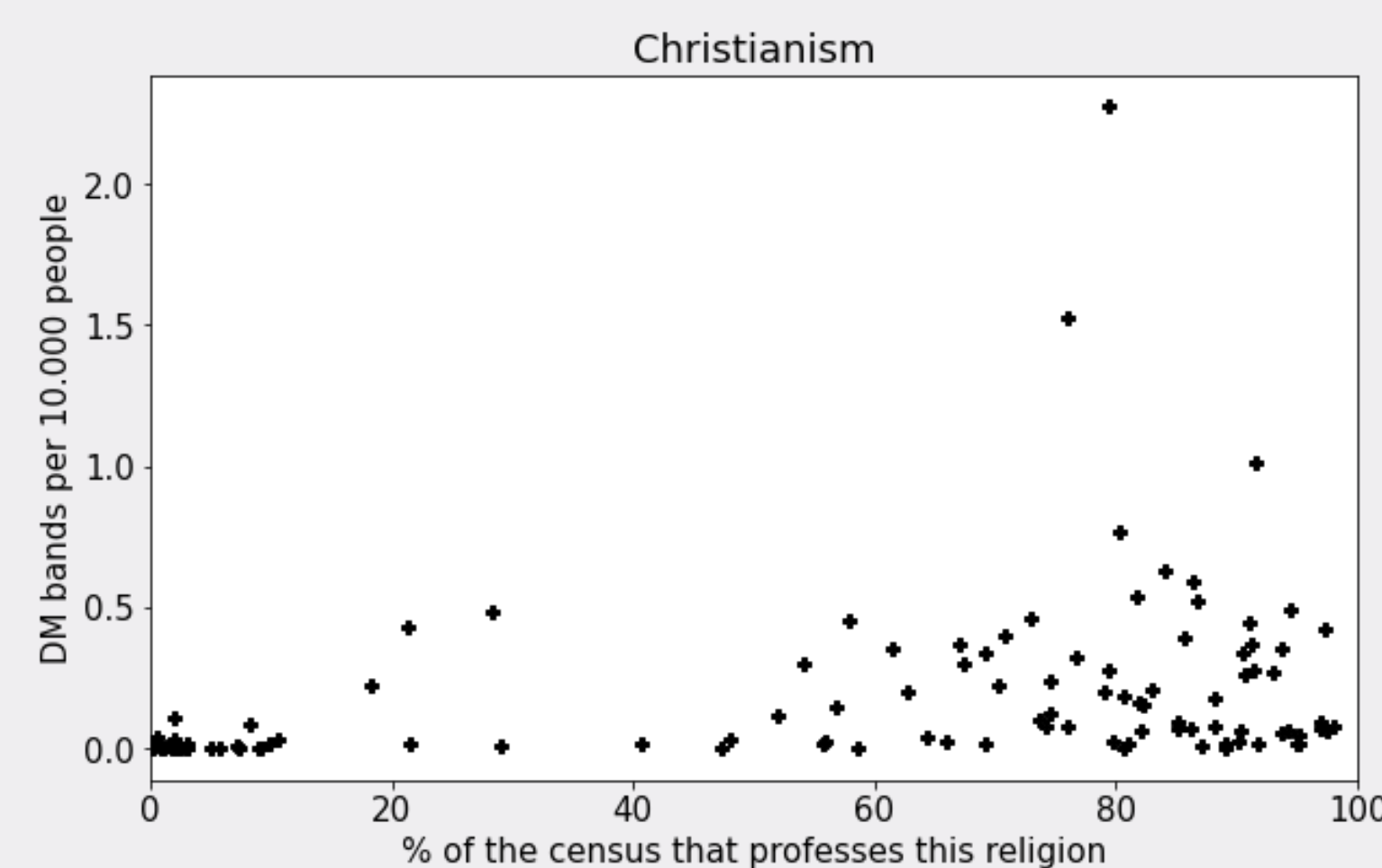
To start with, we calculated the density of DM bands for each country. Sweden takes the maximum value, with 2.27 bands per 10,000 inhabitants. In absolute terms, the USA has the highest number of registered bands: 7,899.



Graphing population versus number of bands. The case of China and India, countries with a high population (>10⁹) but a low number of bands (<90), is striking. Excluding these two countries, R²=0.37.

xxx Praise the music with gutturals xxx

DM has a strong association with the devil and Satanism, which in turn is associated as a counterpoint to Christianity. Although the other Abrahamic religions also have this figure (e.g. Iblis in Islam). To see whether DM appears as a cultural movement against Christianity or something more general, we used data from the World Religion Project (WRP) to plot the number of bands versus the percentage of a country's census that claims to practice each religion.



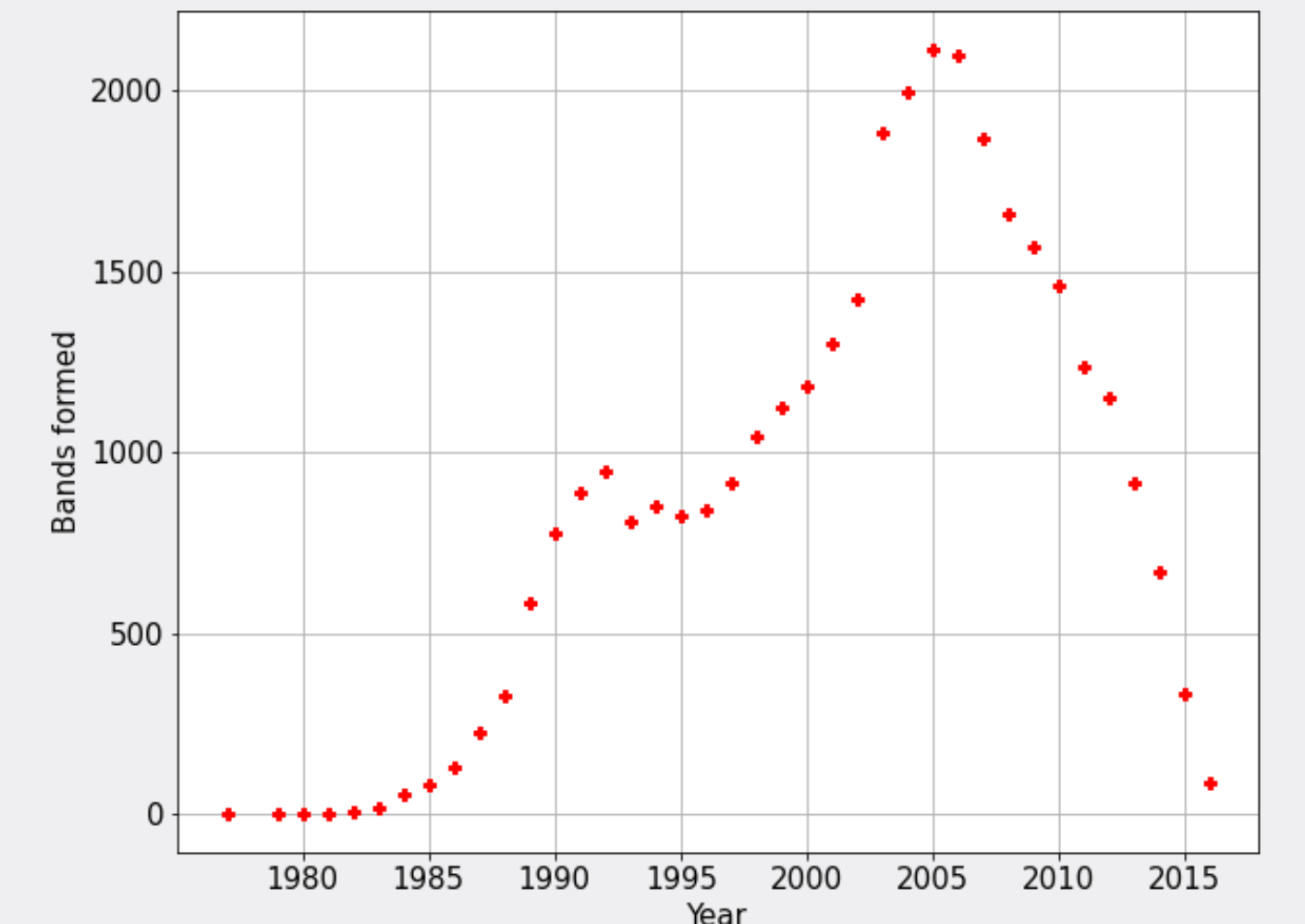
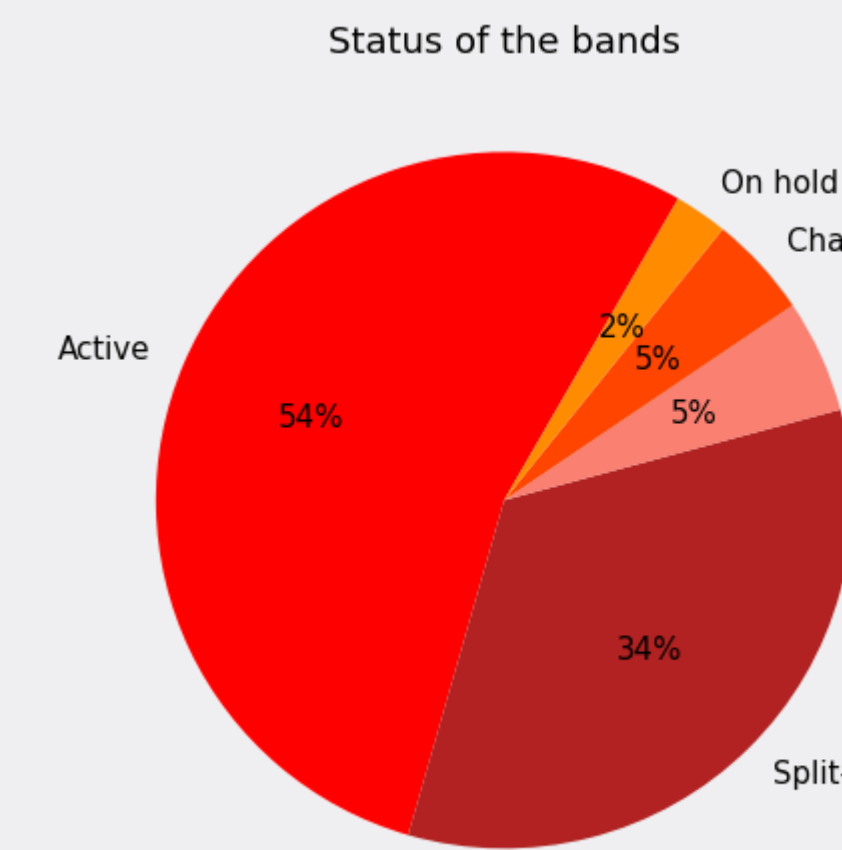
It can be observed that countries with a majority Christian census have a higher number of bands per inhabitant than the other cases, except for those countries with a majority declaring no religion.

xxx 666 xxx

- The typical Death Metal band was formed in the first decade of the 2000s, in a country with a Christian majority. Its name include the words Death, Dead, Dar or Blood and their songs must be about violence and death.
- There is no correlation between the population of a country and the number of bands. Looks like there are more bands in countries with a Christian majority. There seems to be an anti-correlation between the ratio of bands and crime, except in the case of sexual violence. It is hypothesized that in Northern Europe (where there are more bands) there is more social awareness and more reporting of these types of crimes.
- With more than 20,000 active bands...Death Metal, ironically, is not dead.

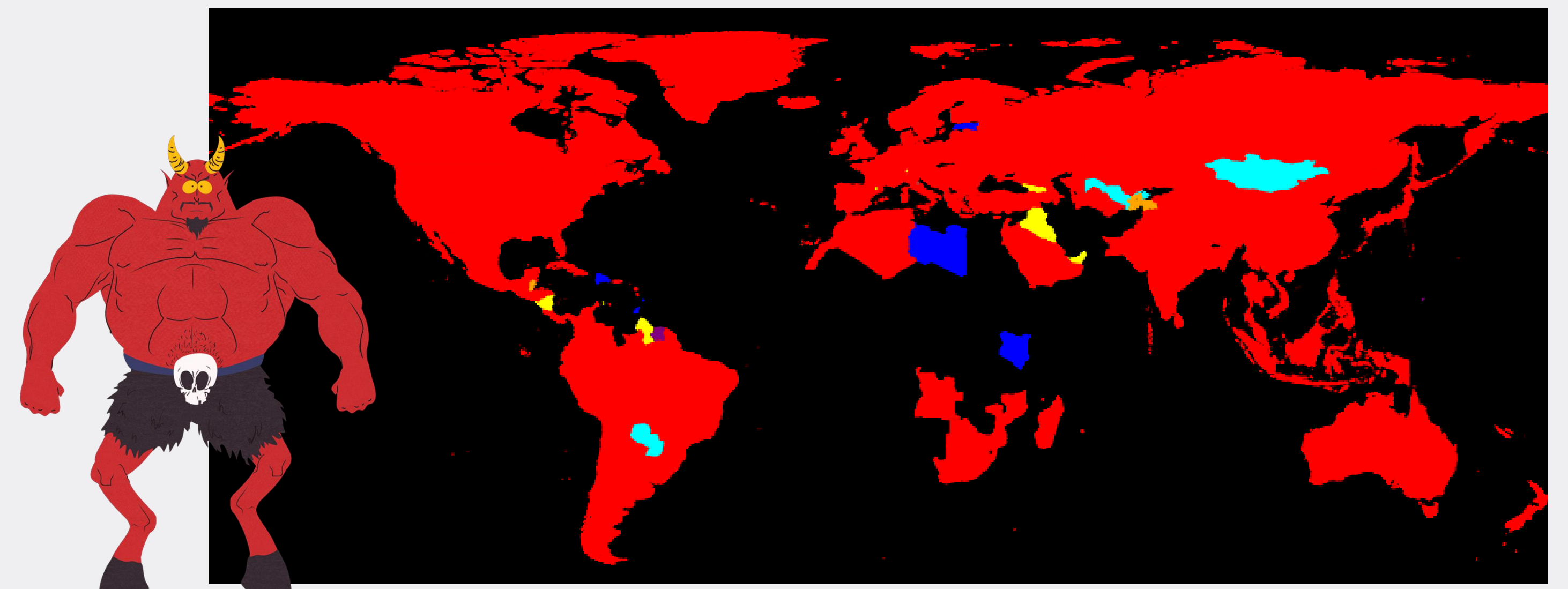
xxx A lot of data, a lot of distortion xxx

The data on DM bands is extracted from Metal Archives, the most comprehensive database on metal music. This data has information about 37,723 bands from 135 countries. For each band we have their name, country of origin, status, year of formation and themes of their lyrics.



xxx Not everything is violence... but almost xxx

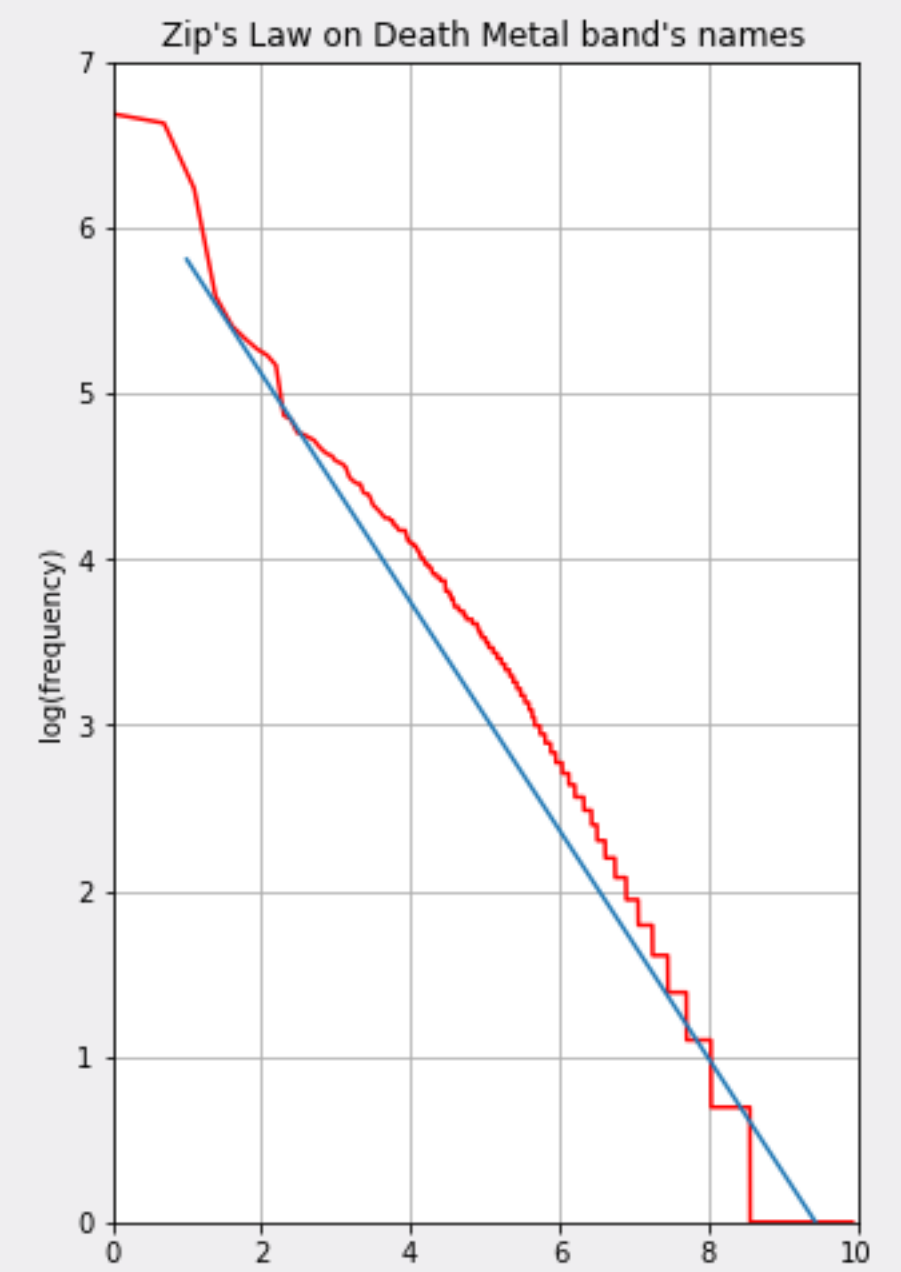
For each band the data provides the subject matter of their lyrics (e.g. gore, existentialism, sci-fi...). There are a total of 33 themes that we grouped into 6 categories: **violence** (death, torture, gore...), **religion** (satanism, cosmos, demon...), **mind** (existentialism, hate, philosophy...), **politics** (Middle East conflict, tyranny), **history and fiction** (old tales, Cthulhu Mythos...) and **other** (instrumental or without defined theme).



71.9% of the countries have a majority of bands with lyrics about violence. Of these, 88.7% of the bands have songs that talk about death. Globally, the second most common theme is mind (9%), followed by religion and instrumental (7%).

xxx Death dark death dead xxx

In the dataset there are 33,035 different band names, so 4,688 (12%) of them have a non-original name. Analyzing the frequency with which the words in the band names appear, it can be seen that they follow a Zipf distribution.



Word-cloud with the 150 most common words in band names.

xxx We look badass but... are we bad? xxx

In addition to Satanism, DM is associated with violence and crime. To see if there is an obvious correlation, we used the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's* data to plot the ratio of different crimes alongside the ratio of music bands per capita for each of the countries in the dataset.

