

FormulaTour

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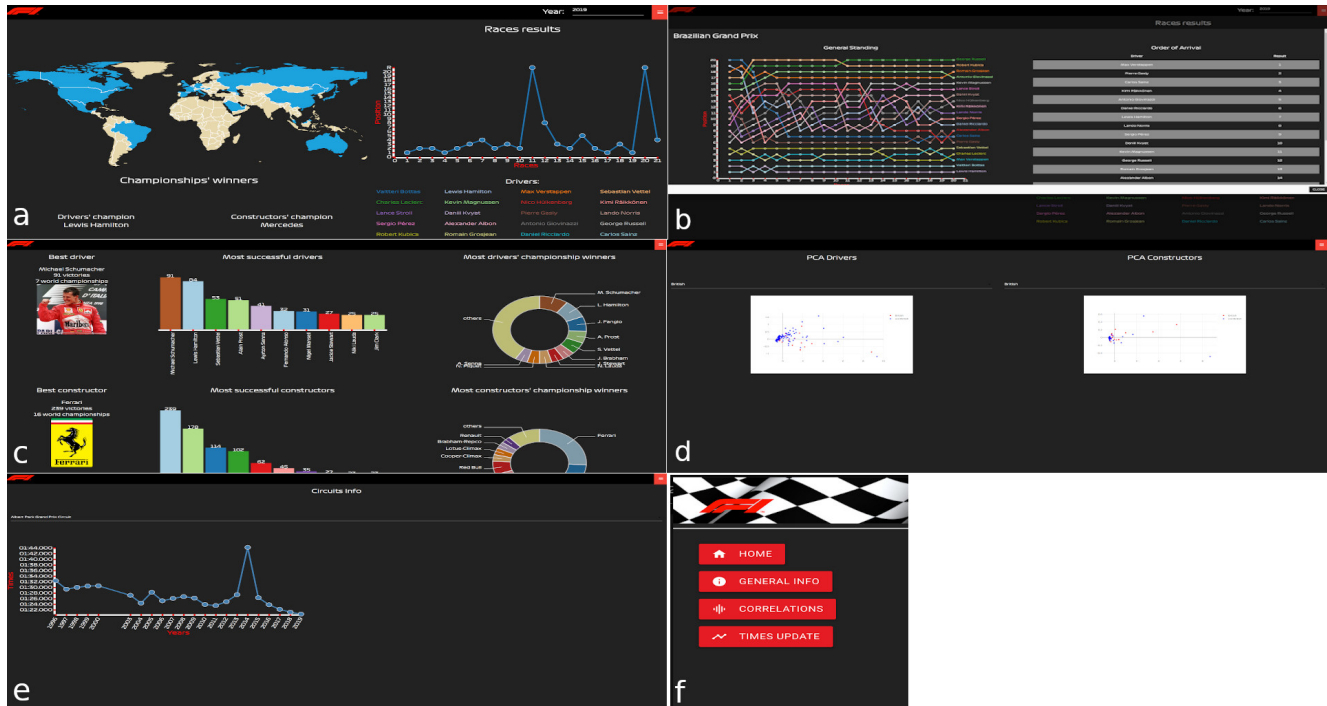


Figure 1: Framework Views: (a) Home view, with world interactive map, winners of the season and interactive drivers trend; (b) Circuit view, with drivers standing and final ranking of the race; (c) General info view, with best driver and constructor, most successful drivers and constructors; (d) Correlations view, with scatter plot showing correlation between driver's or constructor's nationality and wins; (e) Circuit info view, with scatter plot showing time trend in the years for each circuit; (f) Menu

Abstract

The purpose of our application is to provide a framework able to graphically display data about Formula 1 through a user-friendly interface. It's possible to navigate through different views in order to get visual informations about this sport. The application allows you to analyze the history of Formula 1 from the first World Championship (1950) to the last (currently 2019).

1. Introduction

Formula 1 has a very long history, as it has reached the 70th season. During all these years many drivers and constructors took part to the races, which took place in different circuits located in different countries. This means that it is very difficult to navigate this history, since it is characterized by many components, each related to the other. The goal of this project is to provide a way to navigate the history of the Formula 1 by highlighting each component and their relations. Our framework is divided into four main views each of which contains multiple sub-views. An initial view summarizes the races of the selected season by showing the countries and the exact location of the circuit in which they took place. A general view summarizes the most important results achieved by the drivers and the constructors during the Formula 1 history. A correlation view that shows if it exists a correlation between nationalities and number of victories/podiums. The last view is a times update views that summarizes the evolution of the lap times on a selected circuit during the years. So, our project is composed by:

- A visual analytics framework that supports the examination and exploration of Formula 1 history;
- A visual representation of the features selected by the users.

The project is a web application and it is developed using the d3.js [1] library and the python3 language for performing PCA.

2. Related works

There are other frameworks that show the evolution of Formula 1 through its different elements, so races, drivers and constructors. An example is the History of F1 [2] framework, based on the same dataset used for this project. The main difference is that in that project there is not a division of the races with respect to the years and also the user is not able to locate geographically the position of the circuits.

3. Dataset

The dataset used for this project is obtained from the Ergast Developer API [3] in .csv format. It is composed by 13 tables: circuits, constructorResults, constructorStandings, constructors, driverStandings, drivers, lapTimes, pitStops, qualifying, races, results, seasons and status. The tables considered for this project are:

- races: a table that contains informations about each race, as the year and the date in which it was played, the circuitId (which identifies the circuit in which it took place), the name of the Grand Prix (such as Italian Grand Prix) and so on;

- circuits: a table that contains informations about each circuit, such as the name of the circuit, its coordinates, the country and so on;
- drivers: a table that contains informations about each driver, such as his name and surname, his date of birth, his nationality and so on;
- results; a table that, for each race and driver who took part in that race, shows the result of that driver in that race and other infos;
- driverStandings: a table that, for each race and driver who took part in that race, shows the driver's point into the drivers' standing after the conclusion of that race;
- qualifying: a table that, for each race and driver who took part in that race, shows the results that the given driver achieves during the qualifying for that race;
- constructors;
- constructorStandings.

The .csv files are manipulated using both d3.js and python. Some of the queries performed over the dataset needs the interaction of the user, while others are performed without parameters chosen by the users.

4. Design Overview

5. Visualization

The visualization is composed by 4 main views, accessible from a simple side menu. Each of these views provides some processed information about the dataset.

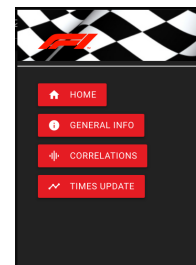


Figure 2: Menu

5.1. Home view

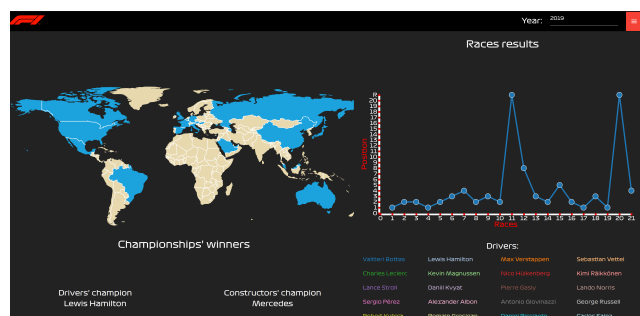


Figure 3: Home view

This is the main view. Here the user is able to select the desired year from the special selector: the available years are from 1950 to 2019, so from the year in which there was the first F1 season till the year in which there was the last one. The home view is divided into four sub-views:

- a map that highlights the countries in which there was at least one Grand Prix during the selected year;
- a scatter plot that shows, for each driver, his final position for each race of the selected season;
- a sub-view that shows the driver and the constructor that have won the two championships at the end of the selected season;
- a sub-view that allows the users to selected a driver: by clicking on the name the scatter plot will be modified showing the results of the selected driver.

The map is interactive, indeed the user can click on one of the highlighted countries: at this point there will be a zoom on the selected country and a red circle showing the position of the circuit in which the race was played. By clicking on the red circle the following view will be shown to the user:

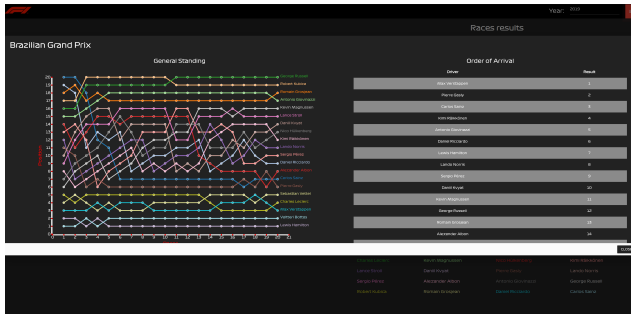


Figure 4: Race infos

On the left there is a scatter plot that shows the evolution of the drivers' standing till the selected GP, on the right there is a table showing the order of arrival of the selected race.

5.2. General info view

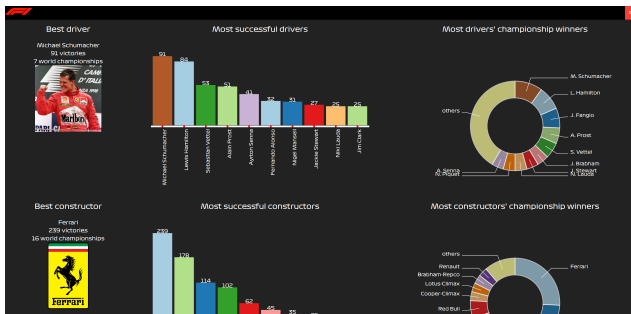


Figure 5: General info view

5.3. Correlations view

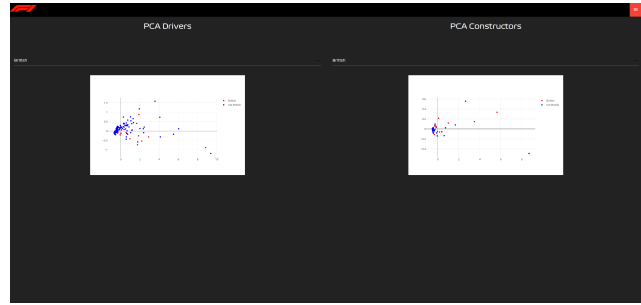


Figure 6: Correlations view

5.4. Times update view

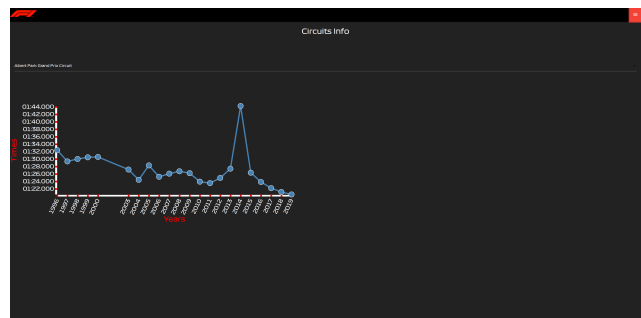


Figure 7: Times update view

6. Analytics

7. Future Works

As the dataset provides a lot of data, you can add more views to the application. We have in mind to add an interface that allows you to compare the statistics of the various drivers (e.g. number of wins, number of podiums, number of poles, etc.).

8. Conclusion

The project is useful to be able to retrace the history of Formula 1 easily, through intuitive graphics and a "sports" interface. The application could be used for different purposes, for example by analyzing the times over the years it is possible to guess how the technology or the skill of the pilots has progressed.

References

- [1] Data-Driven Documents: <https://d3js.org/>
- [2] The history of Formula 1: <https://f1.bitmetric.nl/formula.html>
- [3] Ergast Developer API: <http://ergast.com/mrd/>
- [4] Plotly JavaScript Open Source Graphing Library: <https://plot.ly/javascript/>