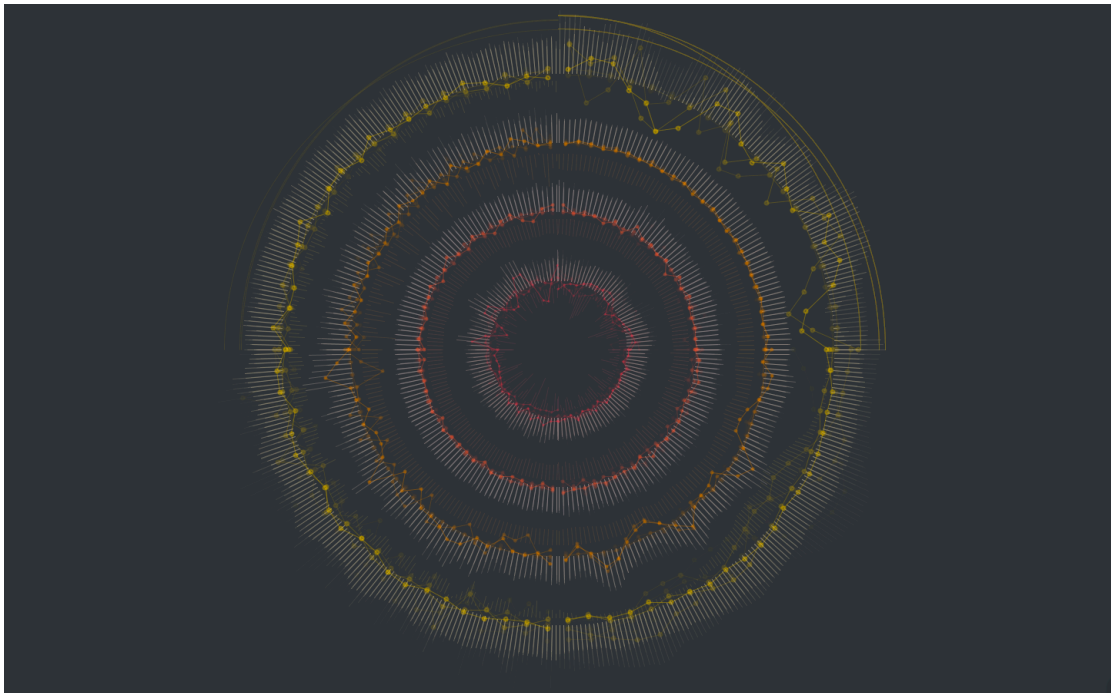# A3 – Aesthetic Visualization

## Eva Kapser & Karina Kurmanbayeva

VISUALIZATION

https://github.com/KarinaKurm/A3_Karina_Eva



ABOUT

This visualization piece was created with the intent to provide an **engaging** and **dynamic** visualization of the music of the past. It focuses on the top 4 summer hits of 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014, while artistically hinting at their similarities and differences. These hints are meant to be **intuitively** understood and felt by seeing the changes in rhythm and structure, rather than stating them in an obvious and ordinary way. The composition should be considered as a piece of **art** of its own, comprised of individual other mediums and art pieces. The combination of **visual art** and **music** has created a very **vibrant** piece that brings music alive in a new way. It **changes the traditional way we experience music** (hearing) to a **fresh perspective** using other senses (sight).
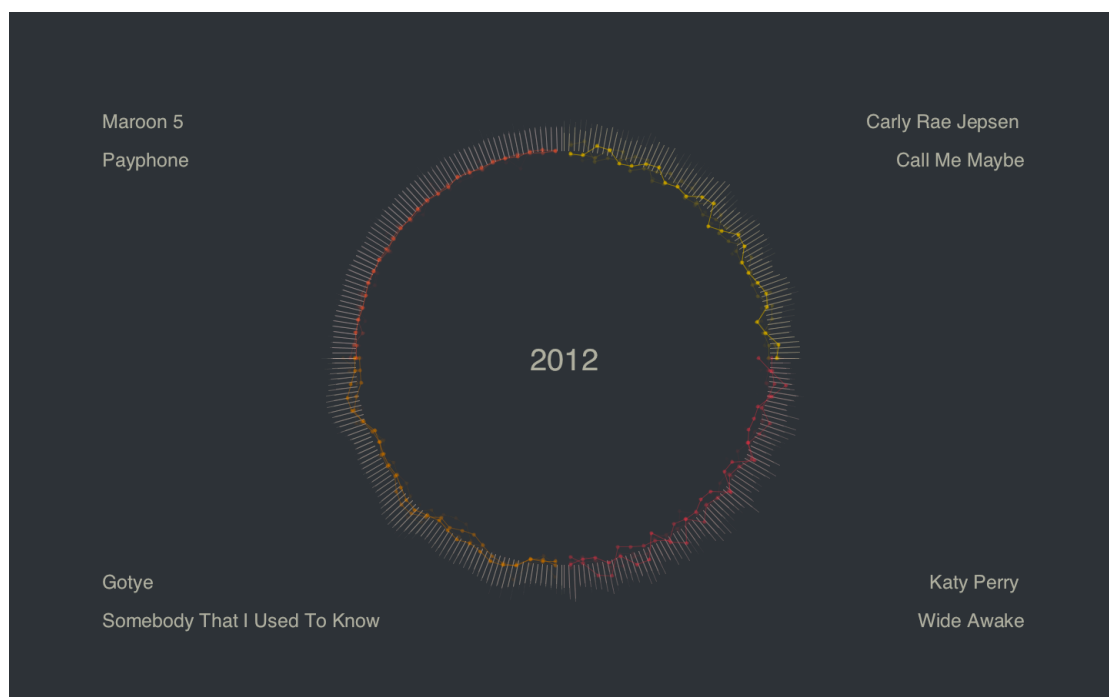
PROCESS

The software used for this project was **Processing**, and the sounds were analysed using **Minim** (library). This allowed us to analyse sound and **break it down** into four values that were then visualized (its beat; kick, hat, and snare). Each of the 16 songs used went through the same process of analysis, which in fact takes place almost at the same time as the visualization appears (split seconds apart). Using those values the visualization as you see it was created. Analysis, playback and visualization all happen **simultaneously**.

In order to achieve the most visually satisfying outcome we altered the number of strokes per song as well as their length, making them longer so the four circles would almost seem as one **unified** piece when viewed together.

The visualization we created consists of **16 songs** in total and is split up into four circles, each representing one year, with 4 songs. To add to the visual effects of this piece and **differentiate** between the circles, each one of them was given a different **colour**. The colours have been kept in warm red and oranges to go with the summer theme of the songs.

The final step was to add a **selection** to the visualization. The visualization can be **split up** and viewed in section, to give the viewer a chance to rally look closely at each individual year. Here each **quarter** takes on a different colour to emphasise the fact that they are indeed separate songs. Ideally these selections are triggered by clicking on each section, however due to time restraints we were only able to achieve the **navigation** using number keys **1 to 4** and **~** to return to the main view.



Finally we added one more selection to the individual years. We added **titles** and **artists** to each quadrant and selecting a specific quadrant allows the viewer to **listen** to the selected song while **seeing** its **movements** (one song at a time).

BREAKDOWN

**Outer strokes** – movement is dependent on the **beat** of the individual song

**Inner strokes** – symbolize **kick**

**Lines** – movement is dependent on the **beat** of the individual song

**Squares** – **decorative** elements

**Arches** – symbolize **hat**

**Colours** – in the overall view they represent different **years**, in the yearly view they represent different **songs**

**Speed** –dependent on the **beat** of the individual song


SOURCES

Top 10 summer hits from 1985-2014:
http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/513524/summer-songs-1985-present-top-10-tunes-each-summer-listen?page=0%2C1


SONGS USED

2008

"I Kissed A Girl" - Katy Perry

"Lollipop" - Lil Wayne feat. Static Major

"Take A Bow" - Rihanna

"Bleeding Love" - Leona Lewis

2010

"California Gurls" - Katy Perry feat. Snoop Dogg

"Love the Way You Lie" - Eminem feat. Rihanna

"Airplanes" - B.o.B feat. Hayley Williams

OMG" - Usher feat. will.i.am.

2012

"Call Me Maybe" - Carly Rae Jepsen

"Payphone" - Maroon 5 feat. Wiz Khalifa

"Somebody That I Used To Know" - Gotye feat. Kimbra

"Wide Awake" - Katy Perry

2014

"Fancy" - Iggy Azalea feat. Charli XCX

"Rude" - MAGIC!

"Problem" - Ariana Grande feat. Iggy Azalea

"Stay With Me" - Sam Smith