Week 1: Musical Datasets

**Chosen central theme: Contemporary Popular Music (Focus on Stevie Wonder, but also including other popular genres such as RnB, Hip-Hop etc)**

Descriptive, Notated, Acoustic

The data for many contemporary pop songs has already been curated by multiple sources. However, to be more specific, I have started off by choosing to transcribe Stevie Wonder’s song Pastime Paradise, as an example of contemporary pop song. I am also using him as an example of a contemporary pop artist, for the purpose of less vague.

Firstly, there is an almost infinite supply of descriptive data on Stevie Wonder’s music and about the artist himself, in encyclopaedic fashion. Sources of this can include Wikipedia and Discogs.com. In terms of notated data, this can be found throughout the internet. Although there may not be as much of this as there would be of other, older and more traditional forms of music.

The primary sources of notated data reside on musicnotes.com, ultimate-guitar.com, forums, YouTube videos (and tutorials, although these can also be considered to be acoustic data), and other websites. The aforementioned sources are free to access however, one can also purchase this.

Acoustic data of Stevie Wonder’s music can also be found throughout the internet. At the present, the majority of this can be accessed through streaming platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music, Soundcloud, YouTube and many more. Physical and digital forms of his music may also be bought from a variety of sources, such as Amazon.com, iTunes and Google Play.

Thus, the vast majority of these three data types has already been stored, curated and presented by a variety of sources. However, out of these three, the notated data is the one sector that is lacking the most, probably due to the freshness of the data, and due to the fact that most of it must be bought first, or it is behind a paywall.