L07 Music Genome Project
IST 110

Part I: What is the Music Genome Project?

1. How is the data being collected?

Individuals, "musicologists" as Pandora calls them, listen to, and categorize music by using a system of attributes that they seem to apply to each song.

2. How is the data being used?

The data is being used to algorithmically generate song recommendations that presumably share like attributes. This theoretically should generate songs that the listener will also enjoy.

Part II: Pick an artist and listen to five songs on Pandora

1. What artist did you pick and what were the songs?

The artist that I picked was Uppermost, and the five songs were the following:

- Flashback - Uppermost
- To Belong (feat. Exist Strategy) – Mr FijiWiji
- Miami Showdown - Digitalism
- Devotion - Uppermost
- A Moment Apart – ODESZA

2. What are the categories/musical styles being used to classify the songs that were played?

The categories/musical styles as listed under Pandora's "features of this song" were as follows:

- Flashback – Uppermost:
  - House roots
    Four-on-the-floor beats
    Electronica influences
    Beats made for dancing
    Highly syncopated ensemble rhythms
- To Belong (feat. Exist Strategy) – Mr FijiWiji:
  - Headnodic beats
    Thin backup vocal performance
    Extensive use of vocal samples
    Subtle buildup/breakdown
    A bumpin' kick sound
- Miami Showdown – Digitalism

- o Electronica roots
  Danceable beats
  Straight drum beats
  Use of modal harmonies
  A tight kick sound
- Devotion – Uppermost
  - o Four-on-the-floor beats
    Beats made for dancing
    Straight drum beats
    A rhythmic intro
    The use of chordal patterning
- A Moment Apart - ODESZA
  - o Electronica roots
    Headnodic beats
    Vocal samples
    Surreal lyrics
    A repetitive chorus

3. What clues do these categories provide about the database structure being used?

I suspect that there are multiple categorizations *of* the attributes Pandora gives songs. There may be tables within a relational database system that are labeled with an overarching theme (genre, beat patterns, individual instruments such as drums). Within these tables I would presume lie the more detailed and specific labels that ultimately end up on the list of attributes for each song. This would help to ensure that there is a good spread of elements for each song if they were to limit the system to only pick one attribute from each table.

4. Do you like the songs?

I do enjoy the songs they recommended; in fact, I recognize all of them from what I've found over the years on Spotify.

5. Would you put these songs together in a playlist?

I would and actually have on Spotify funnily enough, despite never having used Pandora before for music exploration.