

The Beatles*

What are their top 5 popular songs?

Hyunje Park, Charlie Zhang

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This paper examines which songs by the 1960s rock band The Beatles have the highest popularity in the United States, based on Spotify's popularity metric. It was discovered that the top 5 songs in popularity were Here Comes the Sun, Let It Be, Blackbird, Yesterday, In My Life.

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*Code and data are available at: <https://github.com/davidpxrk/beatles-top-5-songs>

1 Introduction

The Beatles, one of the most popular English rock bands of the 1960s, dominated the music industry. This paper analyzes which of their songs had the highest popularity ratings, using the Spotify API to gather data on their song performance. The data collection method is detailed in the Data section (Section 2).

The paper is structured as follows: Data (Section 2) introduces the dataset; Results (Section 3) presents key findings; Discussion (Section 4) explores observations and limitations; and Conclusion (Section 5) summarizes the analysis.

2 Data

This report uses the Spotify API to gather information on the popularity of the Beatles' songs. Each song in the Spotify API is represented in a `.json` format containing the variables `name` (name of the song) and `popularity` (a number from 0-100 indicating its popularity).

First, a Spotify Developer Account was created to get access to Spotify's Web API, and the client ID and secret ID were used to call Spotify's API. The R Programming Language (R Core Team 2023), along with the `spotifyr` (Siegel, McDonald, and Amrhein 2024), `dplyr` (Wickham et al. 2024) `knitr` (Xie 2023) packages was used to extract the top 5 songs of the band The Beatles, and make a presentable table.

3 Results

As shown in Figure 1 shows the Beatles' top 5 tracks. It was discovered that the top 5 songs in popularity were Here Comes the Sun, Let It Be, Blackbird, Yesterday, In My Life.”

Song Name	Popularity
Here Comes The Sun - Remastered 2009	82
Let It Be - Remastered 2009	77
Blackbird - Remastered 2009	76
Yesterday - Remastered 2009	76
In My Life - Remastered 2009	76

Figure 1: the Beatles' top 5 popular songs in the United States

4 Discussion

The table Figure 1 showed the top 5 songs in popularity were Here Comes the Sun, Let It Be, Blackbird, Yesterday, In My Life.

However, this is strict based off of Spotify's popularity algorithm, that indicates a song's popularity based on recent play count, overall play count, user engagement and many other variables. This algorithm is kept hidden, hence it may be difficult to accurately reflect the popularity of the songs.

5 Conclusion

In summary, this paper analyzed the Beatles' top 5 popular songs using the Spotify API. It was found that their top 5 songs in popularity were Here Comes the Sun, Let It Be, Blackbird, Yesterday, In My Life, respectively.

References

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