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INFO 4310
Professor Rzeszotarski
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     I chose to use my Spotify streaming history data, along with metadata around artists and songs that Spotify provides. When Spotify came out with their 2023 Wrapped, I found the results quite confusing. There were artists and songs that I had not recognized, along with some I swore I had not listened to as much as Spotify was claiming. Through this project, I was able to find that most of these confusing results were songs that I would play while I fell asleep, resulting in them repeating many times throughout the night.

     At first, I did not really have an idea of a story in mind. However, as I explored the data, I found myself asking some key questions about the data, such as, "what songs could I have possibly listened to from this genre?" I created the main chart to better understand how my listening history varied throughout the year, based on artist, song, or genre. I made this chart radial because it is time-series data. Then, I created the more detailed weekly view to allow users to dig further into the data. This chart is also interactive, hover over individual bars causing the styles to change to point out the active bar and causes a tooltip to appear with information about the specific week. I also include summary information to the left of this chart to give users more detail.
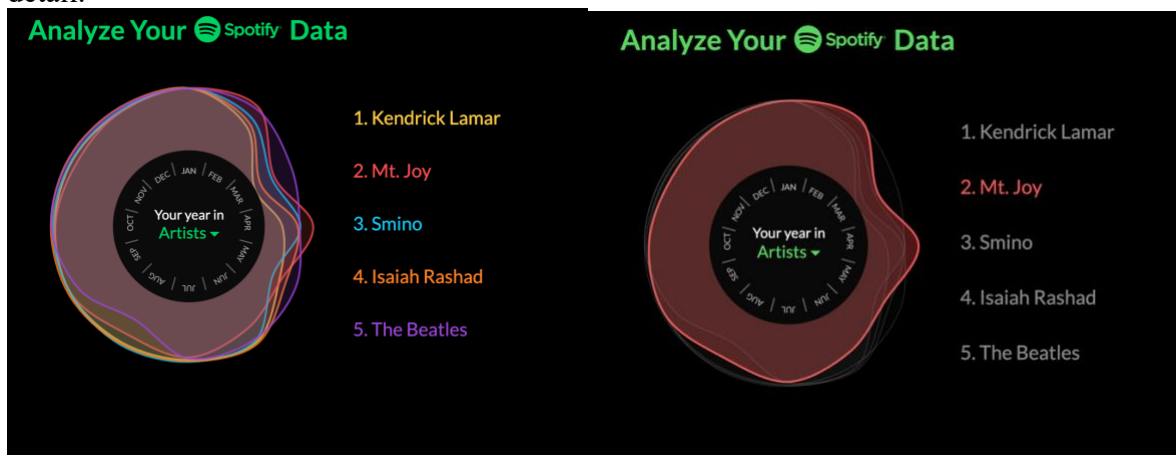
     The final interactive visualization breaks down into two components, the main chart and the summary area. The main chart has a dropdown in the center allowing the user to switch between 3 modes–artists, songs, genres–, each with their own data. The user can hover over the legend items (to the right of the radial chart) which will focus the visualization on the corresponding item, by turning the other items grey and making them slightly less opaque (see right image). Clicking on a legend item brings up the visual below the radial chart (see image below), this visual includes a bar graph designed like common, layman soundwave imagery. This graph shows weekly listening time for the selection.

     I made a lot of tradeoffs in the end. The largest one being sleep. I spent a lot of time figuring out how to get the chart to work on a radial axis. I finished the main visual and felt like the

page was not enough for this assignment, so I added the summary view. With the summary view, there were many features I wanted to add that I left out due to time, such as including more images (i.e., album covers) from Spotify, as these might be more familiar to some users. I worked hard to style the visual so that the colors are harmonious, but pop against the black, the text is reminiscent of Spotify's typography, and the general style matches that of the Spotify application. Many of my interactions focus on showing the user what they are selecting or filtering the data to their selections. After taking a lesson from Camille Lee on color theory, I learned to use opacity, color intensity, and size (i.e., bold vs. regular) to focus users attention. One unfortunate tradeoff I made was spending more time adding interactions rather than making them clear to the user. I fear it may be difficult to understand what one can do off of first glance.

I worked alone on this assignment. I got a bit carried away and spent an embarrassing amount of time on it. However, I hope to return to this project and continue building it soon. I spent the most time on processing the data and refining interactions. Building the charts was faster than these components.

Data citation: https://support.spotify.com/us/article/understanding-my-data/