

Proposal - 04/11/2018 - Brendan Sanderson & Ruben Abbou - CMSC 23900

- **Dataset:**

We plan to create a visualization of Kanye West's song lyrics by album. We will use a dataset that consists of all of the song lyrics for each of Kanye's songs in each of his albums. The dataset was created by pulling all of the song lyrics from Genius. We have added the dataset to the repository. It is named "Kanye Lyrics.xlsx".

- **Preprocessing:**

We will read in all of the song lyrics from the dataset file. For each song, we will count the occurrences of each word and then we will then total the occurrences of each word from each of the albums and calculate the occurrence frequency. We will do this either using Python or R and create a new data file that consists of the top 50 word occurrences in each album. We will also not include articles or short words such as ["intro", "a", "an", "the", "this", "that", "of", "for", "or", "and", "on", "to", "be", "if", "we", "you", "in", "is", "at", "it", "rt", "mt", "with"].

- **Visualization:**



Sample visualization taken from an Apple keynote

We will make a *word cloud* for each of Kanye's albums in the dataset, by release date. The words shown will be the most occurring words in each album with a size and color that is related to each word's number of occurrences. More common words will be larger and be in a brighter color. In the middle, we will display the album cover image. Also, we will add a final visualization of all the most occurring words in all of the albums. We will display the words in the order that they first occur.

The goal is to study the relation between each album and the words used the most by the author of the lyrics and create a visualization that is pretty and would nice on a poster.

Edit 1:

The main purpose of this project is to understand the theme of Kanye's music through Kanye's life. Kanye is an artist who cares particularly about having albums that tell a story and are meant to be listened to entirely. In addition, he has certain ideas and feelings that he wants to convey in each album that are based on the current state of his life. For instance, the album titled "808s and Heartbreak" was written after his mother died and talks about love and the difficulties of losing someone so close to you. When Kanye wrote "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy", he secluded himself to Oahu, Hawaii after he had a lot of controversy in the public and was in a bad mental state. "Yeezus" has to do with his rise to fame and how people refer to him as a god and he may think that he is one.

Our hope with this project is to uncover these themes and connect these themes directly to the lyrics of the songs. By creating these word clouds, we hope to create a visualization of the theme of each album. For instance in 808s and Heartbreak, he constantly uses words like "love", "heartbreak" and "heartless". In "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy", he says words like "monster" and "fantasy" and "devil". In the case of both of these albums, these words match the themes of the entire albums. The idea is that the word cloud of all of these words combined will be a visualization of the themes and emotion of each album, which is not a subjective perspective, but an actual objective perspective based on the composition of Kanye's actual lyrics.

By putting these word clouds of each album next to each other, we will create an overall visualization of Kanye's mental state throughout his entire life as he releases an album about every three years. As strong Kanye supporters, we believe that this visualization will provide us with strong insight of the wisdom and ideas that Kanye is trying to portray through all of his life.

Edit 2 04/26/2018:

After discussing with Andrew and reading the feedback, we now have a more precise idea of our project.

We will be doing a stream graph. The emotions will be represented by different colors and height depending on their presence in Kanye's lyrics over the years. The x-axis represents Kanye's albums and songs ordered chronologically. As recommended, this visualization will let us display the evolution of emotions and attitudes in Kanye's lyrics towards his career.

During our presentation, we will mention how life events could have influenced these emotions. We may as well display these on the graph, along with the year that each album was released and a small shot of the album cover.