Progress Report for CS448B Final Project

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Project Plan

For this project we have begun to divide up the work by client and server side features. So far, Zach has taken the task of scraping Billboard to store top artists, writing scripts to request and store data from SongKick API to ensure we have data locally, and managing the database. He has used Python for web scraping, Mongo for the DB, and DigitalOcean for hosting the server. Zach has also taken a project manager role to ensure efficiency and crack the whip when Santi gets spacey.

Santi has began to build the web architecture using AngularJS and has setup the structure for the d3 visualization including displaying a map, placing nodes on the map for event data, tracing paths from events and adding event listeners to nodes to enable user interaction. Santi has also built decade filters as our first exploratory feature.

Going forward, we will be dividing up the work by working in parallel on two key visualization tasks. Santi is taking the lead on the heatmap timeline of concert locations by decade. Zach is taking the lead on supporting artist timeline visualization. We hope to have an MVP by this Wednesday and evaluate from there. Scheduling is time-dependent due to some family travel/graduation plans.

Literature Review

Summary

Most of the existing work that we found on the topic of mapping musical tours was severely lacking in information and aesthetic design. This seems like a largely unexplored topic -- likely because aggregate music tour information is hard to find. Songkick's data so far seems promising and appears to be granular enough to allow us to accomplish the the types of visualizations we have described previously.

We have not found any statistics or reports visualizing the touring relationships that artists have had over time. This would be a completely new visualization.

Specific Examples

(continued on next page)

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Specific Examples

(1) Vizzuality

http://vizzuality.github.io/rollingstonesmap/#/8

This graphic by Vizzuality only shows a constellation like patterns of single tours for every year by the Rolling Stones. The visualization is largely uninteresting and ineffective because it doesn't show any overall trends. Furthermore, the data is very limited because of poor interactivity -- hovering over the nodes only provides the city name -- no additional information about the show is provided.

(2) Setlist.fm

http://www.setlist.fm/stats/concert-map/bruce-springsteen-2bd6dcce.html

This graphic allows the user to zoom into different levels of resolution to see a colored choropleth for just Bruce Springsteen's shows. However, it can't zoom in beyond the state level so getting any fine grained information is impossible for each year. Furthermore, it again provides no temporal or aggregate resolution to better understand how these trends have changed over time.

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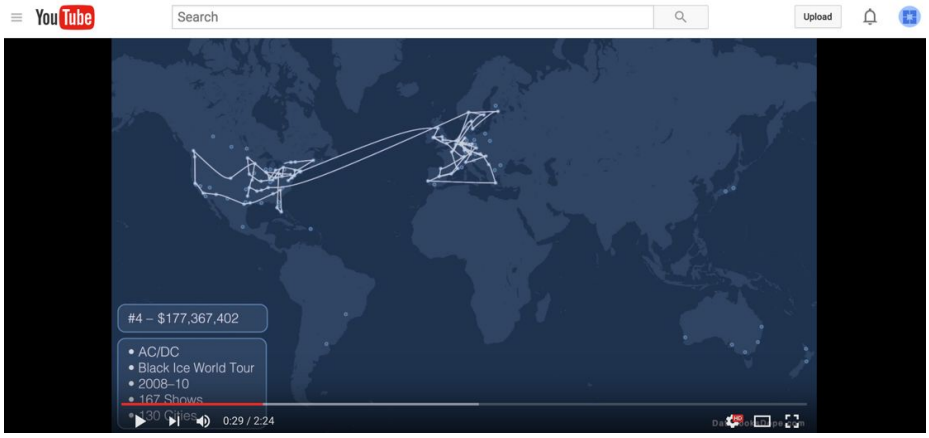
(3) Max Einstein Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m3yd7M5Vxg

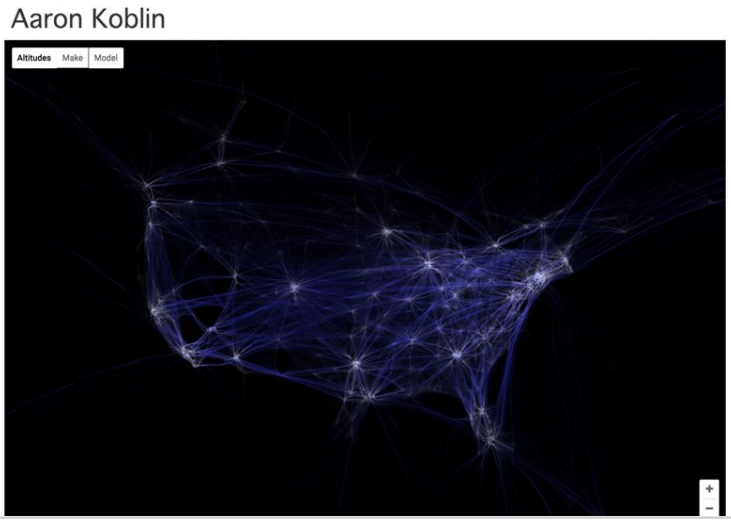
Same types of problems as (1) and (3). No interactivity. Tries to display the temporal aspect of multiple famous tours, however the animation spends way too much time animating the tour sequences itself. This information is largely uninteresting for viewers.



(4) Aaron Koblin Flight Patterns

http://www.aaronkoblin.com/work/flightpatterns/

This visualization shows a more interesting way of representing important nodes for many different “tours”. Although he is visualizing flight paths, we thought that this aesthetic style would be a potential template for future design choices. Although this isn’t necessarily the most informative visualization, it does communicate the level of specificity and importance that certain nodes take on in the aggregate.



(5) Music Map

http://www.music-map.com/u2.html

So far, we have not found any online visualization that maps artists and their supporting acts over time. We this this would be fascinating information for fans to have. The closest information we were able to find are “Related Artists” graphs.