

Gender in the Groove: Are Half Our Tunes Topped by Dudes?

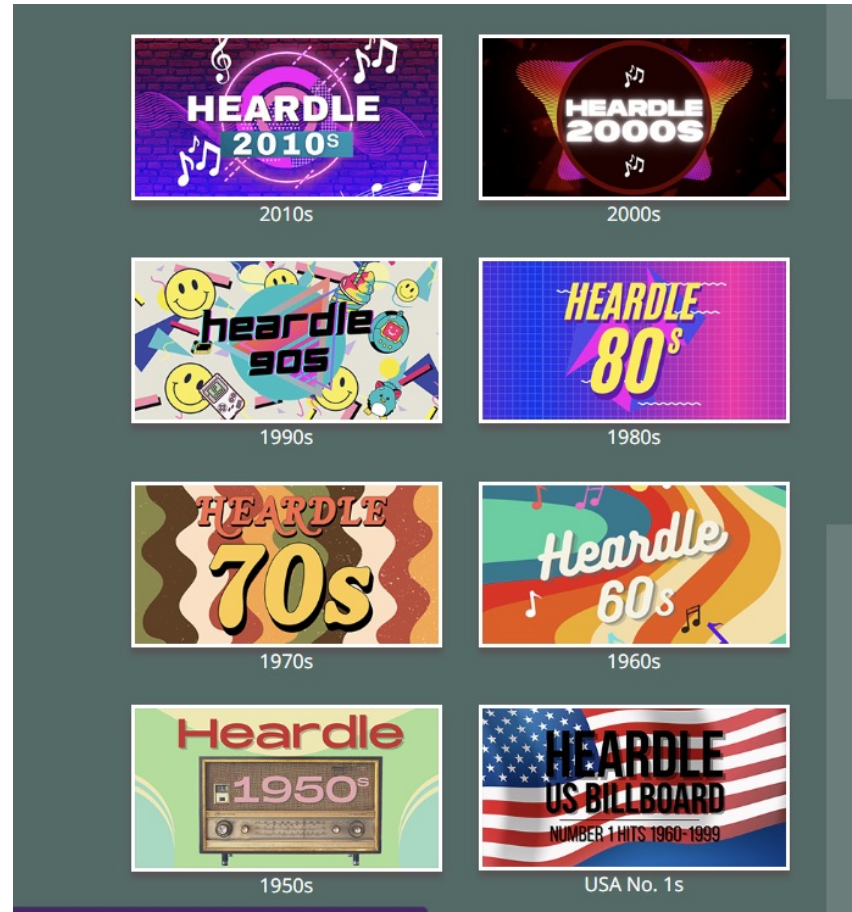
Hannah Gray
and
ChatGPT

Why?

Let's play
guess that
tune ...



<https://heardledecades.com/>



“It’s a male...”

“Well, I’ve narrowed it down to 50%...”



Extensive research...

ChatGPT was unhelpful...

“I don't have access to specific historical data like the UK Top 40 charts from a particular week in 1954. You may be able to find that information in historical records, archives, or through music chart databases that specialize in historical chart data.”

... so I searched internet forums ...

<http://www.umdmusic.com/>

ULTIMATE MUSIC DATABASE

(Almost) Complete Database of Pop Music

Last Update: **October 29, 2023**

Total of: **366 706** artists

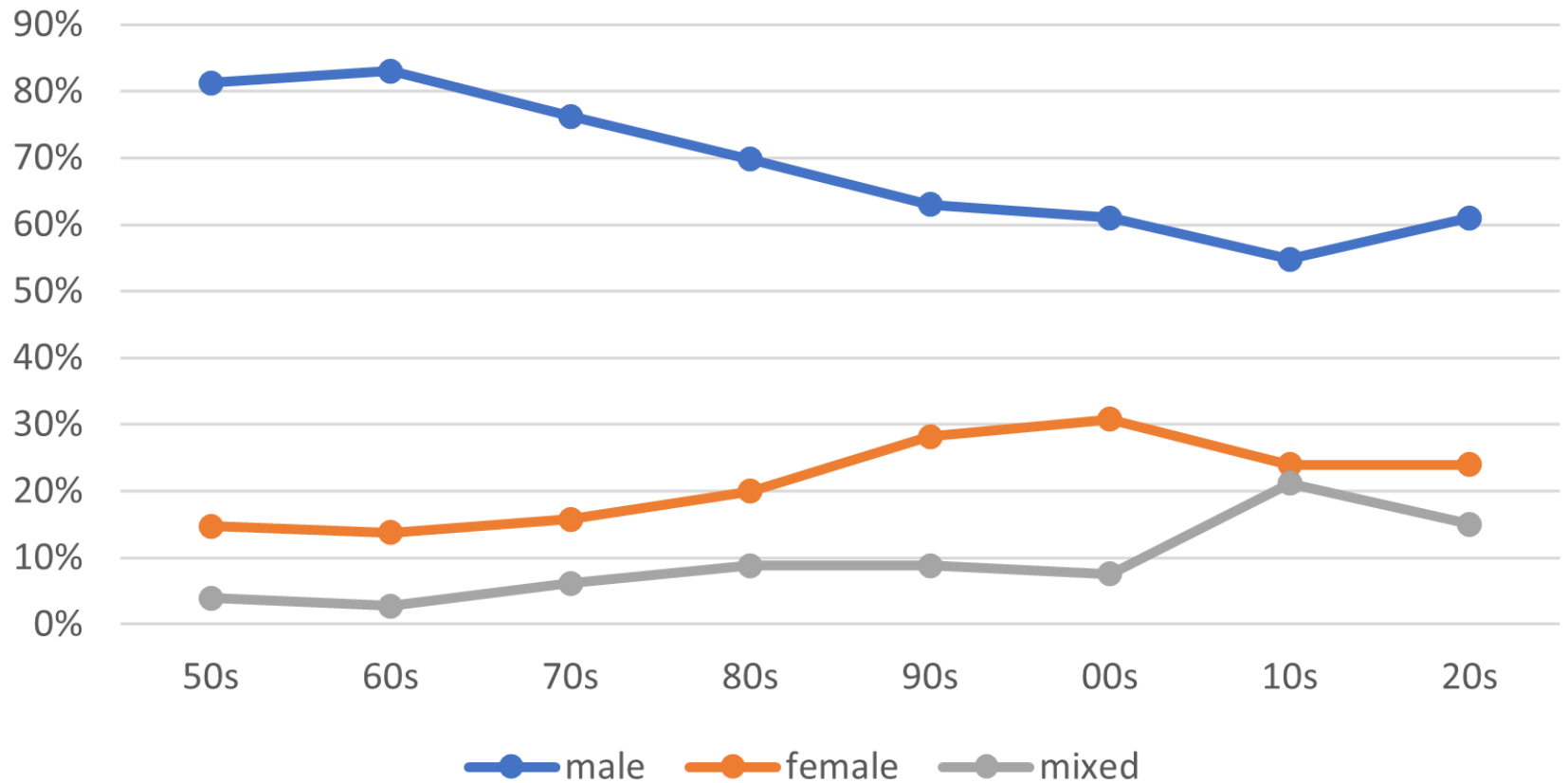
- Random week from each year
- 1952 - 2023
- Top 50 UK singles
- Male/Female/Mixed/No Lyrics

**A large spreadsheet and
hours later ...**

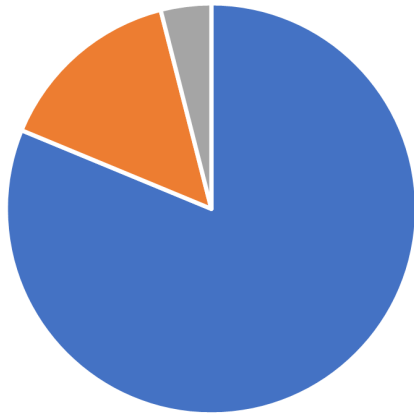
~~“It’s a male...”~~

~~“Well, I’ve narrowed it down to 50%...”~~

Percentage of Hits by Gender of Singer

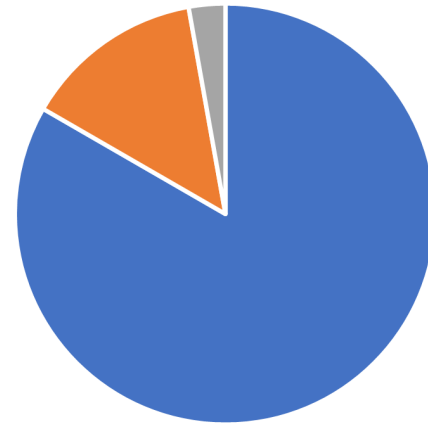


1950s



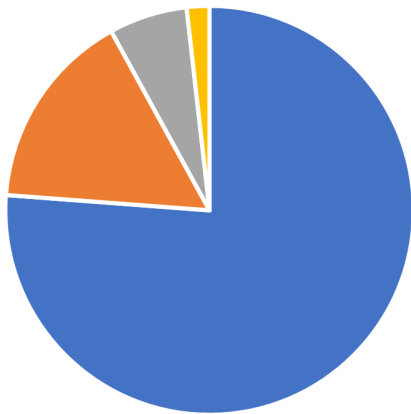
■ male ■ female ■ mixed

1960s



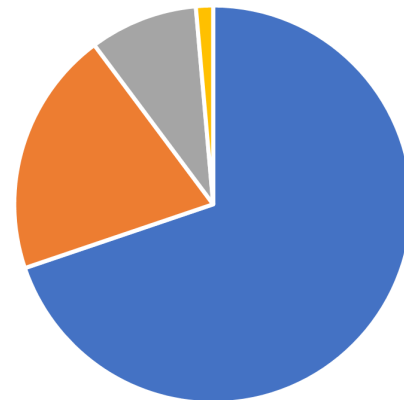
■ male ■ female ■ mixed

1970s



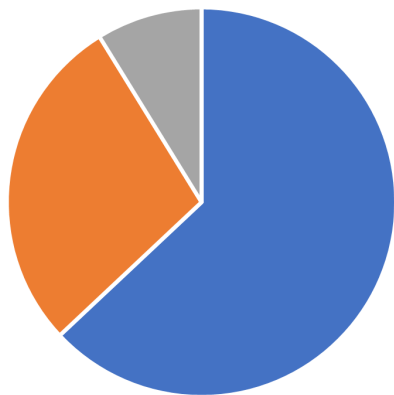
■ male ■ female ■ mixed ■ no vocals

1980s



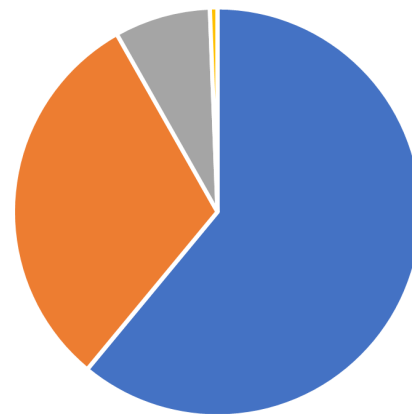
■ male ■ female ■ mixed ■ no vocals

1990s



■ male ■ female ■ mixed

2000s

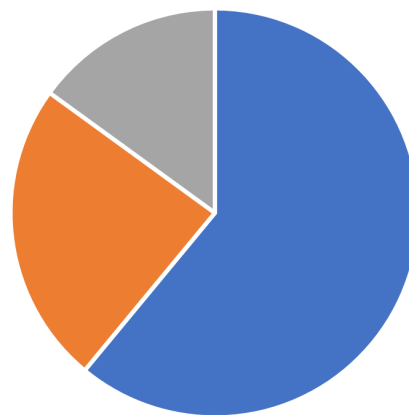


■ male ■ female ■ mixed ■ no vocals

Hooray for Girl Power!



■ male ■ female ■ mixed

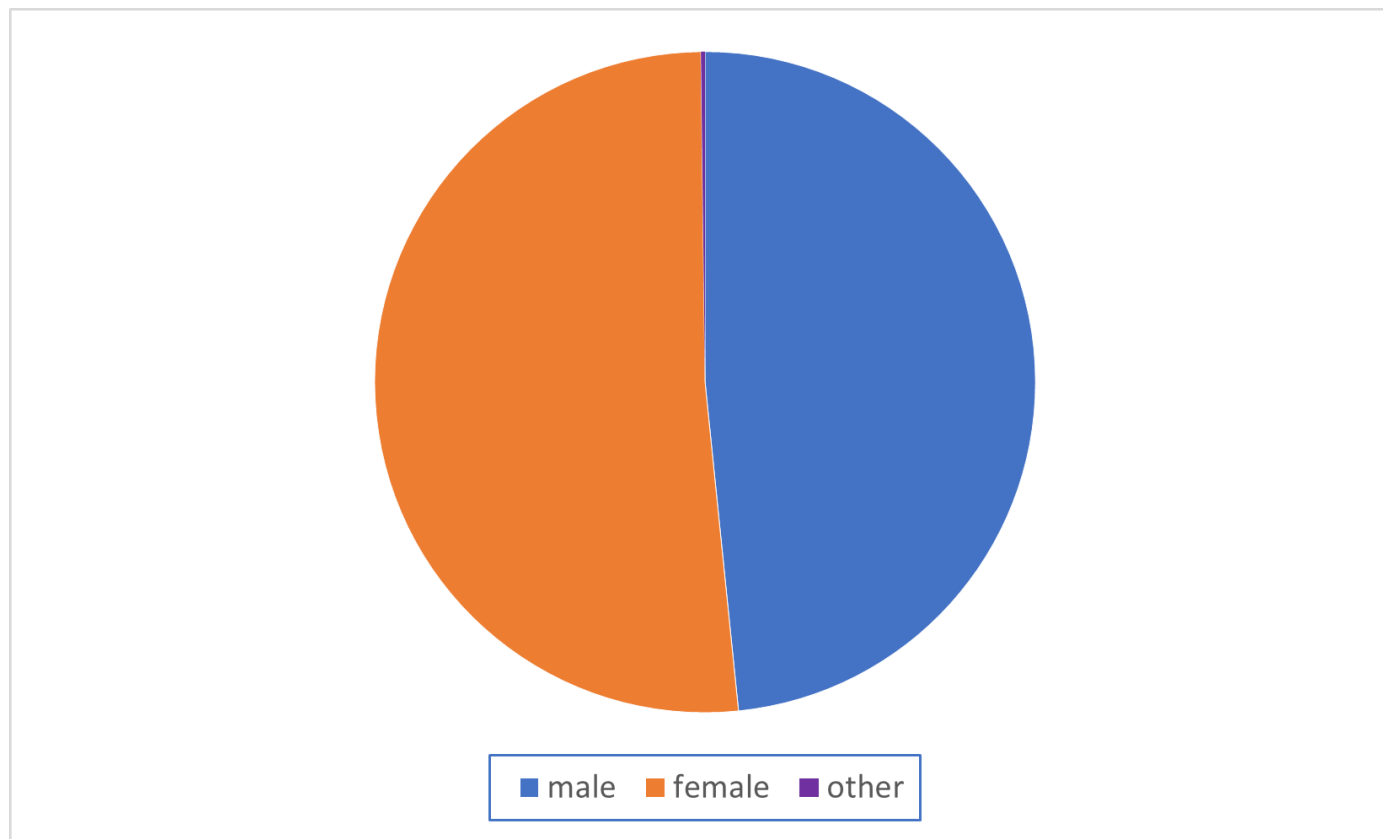


■ male ■ female ■ mixed

Problems

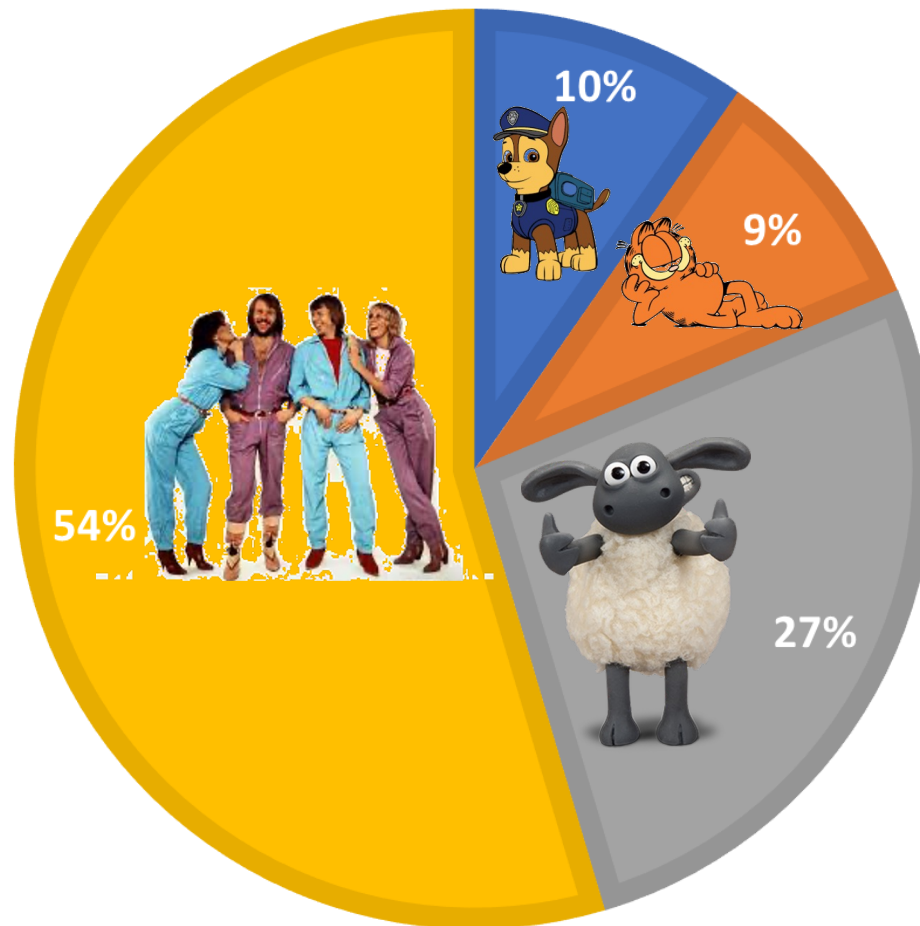


What should the charts look like?



What should the charts look like?

■ dogs ■ cats ■ sheep ■ humans



The Future?

“It’s a computer ...”



Conclusion

- Male voices still dominate the charts
- Heardle is a great way to pass car journeys.
- Never write a mathsjam talk just to prove a point.
- My Spotify list and google searches are going to be messed up for weeks.