Visualizing Texture Analysis

Name: _____

In this assignment, you will use Auralayer to visualize different instrumental layers in "bad guy" by Billie Eilish.

Analysis

1. Navigate to Auralayer: https://brianedwardjarvis.com/auralayer/auralayer.html
2. Paste YouTube URL for "bad guy": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyDfgMOUjCI
3. Expand the "Media" collapsible and click on the video to initiate playback. You can pause again immediately if you like—you just need to click it to get playback initialized.
4. Create layers (N) and name them (click on layer, click gear, click pencil):
   1. Main vocals
   2. Backup vocals
   3. High synth
   4. Bass
   5. Hi-hat
   6. Snaps
   7. Hand claps
   8. Bass drum
   There are other subtle effects and sounds that you might like to represent somehow. Feel free to experiment and add onto this!
5. Color-code the layers based on their functional layer type (explicit beat layer, functional bass layer, harmonic filler layer, melody layer, novelty layer). Change the color of a layer by clicking on it, clicking the gear, and clicking the paint bucket icon.
6. *Optional: create spacers between layers to further separate them.*
7. Hold shift and click all the layers until they are all selected. Listen to the song and press S whenever you hear a layer enter or exit. This will create a split in all the layers. This is a nice way to get started. *Note: the video starts with a bit of dialogue; you can just delete and ignore this part.*
8. Go through each layer individually and fine-tune the layer analysis.
   1. Create splits with S and merge segments
   2. Delete segments where the layer is not present.
   3. Make a note of the dynamic level of the layer with the "presence" slider.
9. Add a layer to indicate form.
   1. Create splits where you hear section changes.
   2. Enter text in each segment that names the formal section (verse, chorus, etc.). Double-click the segment to add text.
   3. Select all segments and left-align them so it's clear where sections start.
   4. Make the background color white.

Discussion questions

1. What instruments make up each layer?

2. When do layers enter and exit, and how does that relate to the form?

3. Are any layers missing altogether? What is the effect of omitting that layer from the song?

4. How do the rhythmic profiles of the layers differ?

5. How do any of the answers to the questions above relate to genre or cultural context?

Submission

Check with instructor on how to submit the Auralayer analysis.