Is there anything about music that can be used to identify the person who composed it? Sometimes this “fingerprint” may be easily identified simply by listening to a number of songs composed by the same person, but often it is more difficult to pin down. In order to investigate this matter further, I made use of a binning technique that I call “SingStar® Binning”. The reason that I chose that particular name will be obvious to anybody who has played SingStar®.

The composers that I chose to analyse were Junichi Masuda, Go Ichinose, Hitomi Sato and Shota Kageyama. I chose these composers because I have a lot of their music in MIDI format, which made it very easy to obtain large, accurate samples of their work for analysis.

In order to analyse their music, I had to first convert MIDI files, which contain binary information, into an intermediate format, that would be text-based. I was then able to analyse the text-based files using R.