The fretplot package

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Contents

1	Intr	oduction	2
2	IAT _E	X macros	3
	2.1	\fptotikz	3
	2.2	\fptemplate	3
	2.3	\fpstemplate	3
	2.4	\fpscale	3
	2.5	Examples	4
	2.6	Tables	6
3	The	fretplot file format	8
	3.1	Syntax	8
	3.2		8
	3.3	Batch processing using operations on parameters	10
	3.4	Example: barre chord diagram	11
	3.5	Example: fretless guitar diagram	12
	3.6	Example: custom instrument diagram	13
4	The	fretplot scale style file format	14
	4.1	-	14
	4.2	Ån example	14

1 Introduction

The *fretplot* LuaT_EX package provides batch generation of scale and chord diagrams for plucked string instruments, such as the guitar.

It is designed for high flexibility, automation, and customization via simple yet powerful custom file formats for describing fretboard diagrams, which allow for easy batch generation of diagrams. To complement the high customizability, the package also comes with sensible yet attractive default settings for the diagrams.

The package also provides some easy-to-use LATEX macros that understand the underlying music theory, allowing one to render, for example, a guitar scale diagram by specifying the musical scale or scale type via built-in macros, or even more directly via degree, pitch class, or interval formulae.

2 LaTeX macros

This package defines the following user-facing macros:

- \fptotikz
- \fptemplate
- \fpstemplate
- \fpscale

2.1 \fptotikz

Syntax: \fptotikz[OUTPUT_TIKZ_FILE] {INPUT_FP_FILE}

Description: compile an input fretplot file to TikZ.

Arguments:

- INPUT_FP_FILE: path to input fretplot file.
- OUTPUT_TIKZ_FILE (optional): path to output file to which generated TikZ will be written. If OUTPUT_TIKZ_FILE is not specified, then the output TikZ code will be included inline at the location of the \fptotikz invocation.

2.2 \fptemplate

Syntax: \fptemplate{OUTPUT_FP_FILE}

Description: generate a template fretplot file.

Arguments: OUTPUT FP FILE: path to output fretplot file.

2.3 \fpstemplate

Syntax: \fpstemplate{OUTPUT_FPS_FILE}

Description: generate a template fretplot scale style file.

Arguments: OUTPUT FPS FILE: path to output fretplot scale style file.

2.4 \fpscale

<u>Description:</u> render diagram of (mode of) scale based on input scale formula (degree, pitch class, or interval) or generate corresponding fretplot file or TikZ code.

<u>Arguments:</u> ARGS: | and/or |\n-delimited list (possibly empty) of named argument assignments of the form key=value (with no surrounding spaces) in any order. Some of the subsequent pages of this section contain 2 tables:

- A complete table of keys for ARGS and their respective default and possible values. If a key does not have a default value, then the corresponding entry in the table is empty.
 - * In the table, a pitch class refers to any element of the set

```
{C, C#, D, Eb, E, F, F#, G, Ab, A, Bb, B}.
```

* In the table, a degree is any element of the set

```
{1, b2, 2, b3, 3, 4, b5, 5, b6, 6, b7, 7}.
```

- * In the table, an *interval* is a positive integer representing the number of semitones in a musical interval.
- A table containing a list of macros that expand to interval formulas for popular scale types.

2.5 Examples

Create directories include and tikz in the same directory as your main document.

```
\documentclass[12pt,letterpaper]{article}
    \usepackage{fretplot}
    \usepackage{float} % for [H] placement specifier in figures
 5
    \begin{document}
 6
    \begin{figure}[H]
8
    \fpscale{parentroot=C#|formulatype=d|formula=1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7}
9
    \caption{C$\sharp$ harmonic minor scale}
10
    \end{figure}
11
12 % Create a fretplot file include/sclinclude.fp
13\, % and a fretplot scale style file include/styles.fps.
14
    % Comment these 2 lines out after the first run if
15
    % you do not want to overwrite them in subsequent runs.
16 \fptemplate{include/sclinclude.fp}
17 \fpstemplate{include/styles.fps}
18
19 % Use fptotikz to test include/sclinclude.fp
20 % generated by \fptemplate.
21 \begin{figure}[H]
22 \fptotikz{include/sclinclude.fp}
    \caption{Test \texttt{include/sclinclude.fp} generated by \texttt{\textbackslash fptemplate}}
23
24
    \end{figure}
25
26 % Also test the TikZ file generation capability of
27 %\fptotikz, although the rest of the code does not
28
    % depend on this. Note that this will merely create
29 % the file tikz/sclinclude.tex containing the
30 % TikZ code, but not include it in the document.
31 \fptotikz[tikz/sclinclude.tex]{include/sclinclude.fp}
32
33
   \begin{figure}[H]
34 \quad \texttt{\fpscale{parentroot=A|formulatype=i|formula=\fpmaj|mode=2|}}
35 tuning=E B G D A E|numfrets=12|styletype=d|
36 labeltype=p|scalestylefile=include/styles.fps|
37 includefpfile=include/sclinclude.fp}
    \caption{2\textsuperscript{nd} mode of A major scale (B Dorian)}
39
    \end{figure}
40
   \end{document}
```

Compile the above code with

lualatex --shell-escape my document.tex

to get the following output:

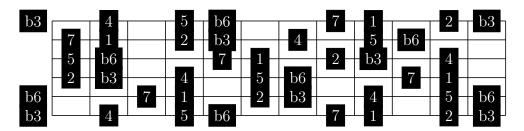


Figure 1: $C\sharp$ harmonic minor scale

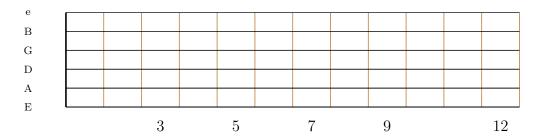


Figure 2: Test include/sclinclude.fp generated by \fptemplate

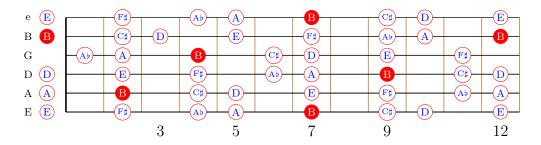


Figure 3: 2nd mode of A major scale (B Dorian)

Play around with the generated files include/sclinclude.fp and include/styles.fps to customize the B Dorian figure. You can also edit the generated TikZ code tikz/sclinclude.tex directly.

2.6 Tables

KEY	DEFAULT VALUE	VALUE				
parentroot	С	Root of parent scale. This can be any pitch class. This is ignored formulatype=p or if moderoot is specified. Please see the description mode for more details.				
formulatype	d	Type of the formula specified in the key named formula. Possible valuare {d, p, i}. Here d stands for degree, p stands for pitch class, and stands for interval.				
formula	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Formula of parent scale. This should be a list of degrees or pitch classes or intervals delimited by single ordinary space characters (ASCII 32). The type of this formula is indicated by specifying formulatype.				
mode	1	Mode index of scale. This is specified as a positive integer. This mode will be rendered by \fpscale. Examples: if formulatype=p, formula=C D E F G A B, and mode=3, then the 3rd mode of the C major scale (E Phrygian) will be rendered. If formulatype=d, formula=1 2 3 4 5 6 7, mode=2, parentroot=A, and moderoot is not specified, then the 2nd mode of the A major scale (which is B Dorian) will be rendered. In the above scenario, if moderoot=A, then A Dorian will be rendered instead.				
moderoot		Optional root of mode of scale. This can be any pitch class. This is ignored if formulatype=p. Please see the description of mode for more details.				
tuning	EBGDAE	Tuning of strings of the instrument. This is specified as a list of pitch classes delimited by single ordinary space characters (ASCII 32).				
numfrets	12	Number of frets on the fingerboard. If the instrument does not hav frets, then one can style them to be transparent in the render.				
styletype	d	Specify if the styling of notes should be degree-indexed or pitch class-indexed. Possible values are {d, p}. Here d stands for degree and p stands for pitch class. The user can customize the actual styles by specifying the key scalestylefile.				
labeltype	đ	Specify if the labelling of notes should be degree-indexed or pitch class-indexed. Possible values are {d, p}. Here d stands for degree and p stands for pitch class. The user can customize the actual labels by specifying the key scalestylefile.				
outfpfile		Optional path to output fretplot file describing (mode of) scale. If this is specified, then no $\operatorname{Ti}k\mathbf{Z}$ code will be generated by $Vfpscale$ (neither inline nor to $outrikzfile$). One can then make modifications to the output fretplot file and then generate $\operatorname{Ti}k\mathbf{Z}$ code (inline or external file) from the fretplot file using $Vfptotikz$. The keys includefpfile and scalestylefile are used to further customize the rendering. In particular, includefpfile is included at the end of outfpfile. Even if outfpfile is not specified, $Vfpscale$ still internally creates a temporary fretplot file which is then converted to $\operatorname{Ti}k\mathbf{Z}$. This temporary fretplot file also includes includefpfile at its end, which allows one to customize their render via includefpfile without specifying outfpfile. The same fretplot file can serve as the includefpfile for multiple $Vfpscale$ invocations, which allows for batch manipulation of scale plots. Temporary fretplot files created by $Vfpscale$ internally are deleted later automatically.				
outtikzfile		Optional path to output file containing TikZ code describing (mode of) scale. This will be ignored if outfpfile is specified. If outfpfile is not specified and outtikzfile is specified, then \footnote{fpscale} will not generate inline TikZ code. One can then make modifications to the output TikZ code and use \input to use it in their document.				
includefpfile		Optional path to input fretplot file to be included at the end of outfpfile or an equivalent temporary fretplot file created by \fpscale for internal use. If there does not exist a file at the path specified by includefpfile, then a new empty file will be created at that path; one can then edit this new file for use in subsequent compilations. For more details, please see outfpfile.				
scalestylefile		Optional path to input fretplot scale style file. This can be used to customize degree and/or pitch class-based styling and labelling for scale notes. Please see styletype and labeltype for additional details.				
	1					

Table 1: Key-value pairs for $\footnote{\mathsf{Ney-value}}$

MACRO	INTERVAL FORMULA IN SEMITONES	DESCRIPTION
\fpmpent \fpblues	3 2 2 3 2 3 2 1 1 3 2	Minor pentatonic scale Blues scale
\fpmaj \fpjmin \fphmin	2 2 1 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 2 1 3 1	Major scale Jazz minor scale (ascending melodic minor scale) Harmonic minor scale
\fphmaj \fphmaj \fpnmaj \fpnmin \fphunmaj	2 2 1 2 1 3 1 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 3 1 3 1 2 1 2 1 2	Harmonic major scale Double harmonic major scale Neapolitan major scale Neapolitan minor scale Hungarian major scale
\fpbmaj \fpbmin \fpbdom \fpldbeb \fppdbeb	2 2 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 2 2 2	Bebop major scale Bebop minor scale Bebop dominant scale Lydian dominant bebop scale Phrygian dominant bebop scale
\fpchr \fpwt \fptwowt \fpthreewt \fpmon	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 1	Chromatic scale Whole tone scale Two whole tones scale Three whole tones scale Monotonic scale
\fpaug \fptrit \fpwhdim	3 1 3 1 3 1 1 3 2 1 3 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1	Augmented scale Tritone scale Whole half diminished scale
\fpmajsevenarp \fpdomsevenarp \fpminsevenarp \fphdimsevenarp \fpdimsevenarp \fpminmajsevenarp	4 3 4 1 4 3 3 2 3 4 3 2 3 3 3 4 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 1	Major seventh arpeggio Dominant seventh arpeggio Minor seventh arpeggio Half diminished seventh arpeggio Diminished seventh arpeggio Minor major seventh arpeggio

Table 2: Macros for interval formulae of popular scale types $\,$

3 The fretplot file format

A fretplot file, fp file, or .fp file describes the layout and appearance of a fretboard diagram.

3.1 Syntax

- Comment lines start with #. Comment lines and empty lines are ignored.
- Every other line of a fretplot file will have lines of form firstword lots of data, where firstword and lots of data must be separated by a single ordinary space character (ASCII 32), lots of data cannot be empty, and the first character of lots of data cannot be a whitespace character (space, tab, newline, or anything that matches %s in Lua).
- Note notation: <STRINGINDEX, FRETINDEX>
 Example: <6,5>
 - Barre notation: <STARTSTRINGINDEX-ENDSTRINGINDEX, FRETINDEX> Example: <1-6,5>
- Barres never have labels. Frets, strings, and notes by default have no labels, but can be specified as follows:

- Frets: f1FRETINDEX LABEL

Example: f13 3

- Strings: slSTRINGINDEX LABEL Example: sl1 {\Large e}

- Notes: nl<STRINGINDEX,FRETINDEX> LABEL
Example: nl<6,5> {\Large A}

• To include another fretplot file at the current location of a fretplot file, use include FILEPATH.

3.2 Parameters

All available parameters that can be used in a fretplot file are listed in the table on the next page. Operations are case-sensitive and must be written exactly as shown.

TYPE	POSSIBLE VALUES	OPERATIONS	OP DESCRIPTION		PARAMETERS	PARAM DESC	DEFAULT PARAM VALUE
Boolean	True, False	flip PARAMETER	negate Boolean parameter named PARAMETER		onf0	draw notes directly on top of fret 0 (nut of guitar) if True and not if False	False
					sovf	draw strings over frets if True and frets over strings if False	True
		+PARAMETER VALUE	add literal numerical value VALUE to numer- ical parameter named PARAMETER				
		-PARAMETER VALUE	subtract literal nu- merical value VALUE from numerical parameter named PARAMETER		zoom	Factor by which the	1.0
Numerical	Any numerical value	*PARAMETER VALUE	multiply numerical parameter named PARAMETER by literal numerical value VALUE	-		diagram will be scaled	
					rotn	Angle (in degrees) by which the diagram will be rotated	0
		/PARAMETER VALUE	divide numerical parameter named PARAMETER by literal numerical value VALUE			N. 1	
		%PARAMETER VALUE	mod numerical pa- rameter named PARAMETER by literal numerical value VALUE		numfrt	Number of frets	12
		^PARAMETER VALUE	raise numerical parameter named PARAMETER to the power of literal numerical value VALUE		numstr	Number of strings	6
		void PARAMETER	empty the list param-		frets	List of fret indices	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
	List of items delimited by single ordinary space characters (ASCII 32), or the empty list		eter named PARAMETER	end list parameter ned PARAMETER by	strings	List of string indices	1 2 3 4 5 6
List		>PARAMETER VALUE	extend list parameter named PARAMETER by literal list value VALUE				
		<parameter td="" value<=""><td>remove values in literal list value VALUE</td><td></td><td>notes</td><td>List of notes</td><td>empty list</td></parameter>	remove values in literal list value VALUE		notes	List of notes	empty list
			from list parameter named PARAMETER		barres	List of barres	empty list
		F/TikZ es delim- by single (comma) eter named PARAMETER by literal comma- delimited collection of styles VALUE			fx	Fret style	solid,line width=0.6,color=black
				sx	String style	solid,line width=0.6,color=black	
Style	List of PGF/TikZ styles delimited by single , (comma) characters						
					bx	Barre style	fill=black,draw=black
					nx	Note style	shape=rectangle,draw=black,text=white,fill=black

Table 3: Parameters for fretplot files

3.3 Batch processing using operations on parameters

The operations are particularly useful for batch manipulation of diagrams.

For example, say, you are writing a book containing 100 chord diagrams. Each of those diagrams is described using its own fretplot file. Now you want to scale/enlarge each of them to 1.5 times of their respective original sizes, and additionally you want to rotate all of them by 30 degrees.

To do this, in each of those 100 fretplot files you can include another common fretplot file, say, common.fp by writing include common.fp at the end of all of those 100 fretplot files, and then in common.fp you can write the following two lines:

```
1 +rotn 30
2 *zoom 1.5
```

This will rotate all those 100 diagrams by 30 degrees and zoom in by a factor of 1.5, without you having to edit each of those 100 files individually.

<u>Please note</u> that lines in a fretplot file are interpreted sequentially, so the location where you write include common.fp in a fretplot file matters due to non-commutativity of certain operations. For instance, if the parameter rotn was 10 and you wanted to multiply it by 2 and subtract 5 from it, the order in which you performed those operations would matter.

The following is an example fretplot file that demonstrates the use of some parameters and some operations on them:

```
1 # Set a Boolean parameters
 2 onfO False
3 # Negate a Boolean parameter
 4 flip onf0
5
 6 # Perform some arithmetic operations on numerical parameters
7
   +rotn 90
8 /rotn 2
9 -rotn 45
10 %numstr 4
11
12 # Setting styles of some frets
13 fx0 solid, line width=1.2, color=black
14 fx1 solid, line width=0.6, color=brown
15 # Setting labels of some frets
16 fl3 3
17 f15 5
18
19 # Setting styles of some strings
20 sx1 solid, line width=0.5, color=black
21 # Setting labels of some strings
22 sl1 {\scriptsize e}
24\, # List of notes to be drawn
25 notes <6,5> <3,6> <4,7> <5,7> <2,5> <1,5>
26 # Style a note
27 nx<6,5> shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.5
28 # Label a note
29 n1<6,5> \{\scriptsize A\}
30 # Change style of the note
31 nx<6,5> shape=rectangle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,fill opacity=0.5,inner sep=1.0
32 # Relabel the note
33 nl<6,5> 1
```

```
34 # Add some notes
35 >notes <1,0> <1,1>
36 # Remove some notes
37 <notes <5,5> <1,5> <2,2>
38 # Add more to existing style of a note
39 &nx<2,5> draw=red,shape=circle
```

3.4 Example: barre chord diagram

Save source below as include/amaj/src.fp:

12

\end{document}

```
1
   zoom 1.2
   rotn -90
 3
 4
    # A major triad barre chord
 6
    barres <1-6,5>
 7
    bx<1-6,5> fill=black, draw=black
8
9
   notes <6,5> <3,6> <4,7> <5,7> <2,5> <1,5>
10
11
   nx<6,5> shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.5
12 nl<6,5> {\scriptsize A}
13
14 nx<5,7> shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner sep=1.7
15
   nl<5,7> {\scriptsize E}
16
17 nx<4,7> shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.5
18 nl<4,7> {\scriptsize A}
19
20 \quad {\tt nx<3,6>} \ {\tt shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner\ sep=0.3}
   n1<3,6> {\scriptsize C$\sharp$}
22
23 nx<2,5> shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner sep=1.7
24 nl<2,5> {\scriptsize E}
25
26 nx<1,5> shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.5
27 nl<1,5> {\scriptsize A}
    Run lualatex --shell-escape amaj.tex after saving source below as
    amaj.tex to get output on the right:
    \documentclass[12pt,letterpaper]{article}
    \usepackage{fretplot}
    \usepackage{float} % for [H] placement specifier in figures
 4
 5
    \begin{document}
    \begin{figure}[H]
 7
 8
   \centering
9
      \fptotikz{include/amaj/src.fp}
10
      \caption{A major triad barre chord}
11 \end{figure}
```

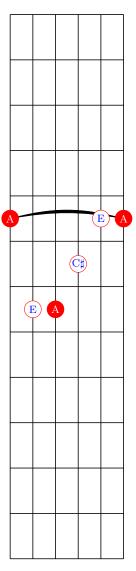


Figure 4: A major triad barre chord

3.5 Example: fretless guitar diagram

Save source below as include/fretless/src.fp:

\caption{Some notes indicated on a fretless guitar}

10

12 13

11 \end{figure}

\end{document}

```
zoom 0.8
    rotn -90
 4
   # Fretless guitar
 5
   frets 0 12
 6
7
    # Uncomment the following line to remove the nut and the bridge
9
10
   # Add some notes
11
   notes <6,5> <3,6>
12
13 nx<6,5> shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.5
14 n1<6,5> \{\scriptsize A\}
                                                                                             (C#)
15
16 \quad {\tt nx < 3,6> \  \, shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner \  \, sep=0.3}
17 nl<3,6> {\scriptsize C$\sharp$}
    Run lualatex --shell-escape fretless.tex after saving source below as
    fretless.tex to get output on the right:
   \documentclass[12pt,letterpaper]{article}
 1
    \usepackage{fretplot}
3
    \usepackage{float} % for [H] placement specifier in figures
 5
    \begin{document}
 6
    \begin{figure}[H]
 8
    \centering
      \fptotikz{include/fretless/src.fp}
```

Figure 5: Some notes indicated on a fret-

less guitar

Example: custom instrument diagram

2 1

Save source below as include/custom.instrument/src.fp:

```
87 \underline{6}54
    rotn -95
 4
   # Set fret and string counts
 5
   numfrt 5
 6
    numstr 8
   # Set frets
9 # Fret 0 is the nut
10 frets 0 1 3 4 5
11
                                                                                 4
12 # Set strings
13 strings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
                                                                                5
14 # Remove a string
15 <strings 3
16
17 # Label frets
                                                                           Figure 6: Instrument with 8 strings and
18 fl1 1
                                                                           5 frets with a fret and a string missing
19 fl4 4
20 f15 5
21
22 # Style the frets
23 fx1 dashed, line width=0.6, color=black
24 fx3 solid, line width=0.6, color=red
25
26 # Label strings
27 sl1 1
28 sl2 2
29 sl4 4
30 sl5 5
31 sl6 6
32 sl7 7
33 sl8 8
34
35\, # Draw the frets over the strings
36 sovf False
38 # Add a note
39 notes <6,0>
40 \quad {\tt nx < 6,0> \ shape=circle, draw=red, text=white, fill=red, inner \ sep=1.5}
41 nl<6,0> {\scriptsize A}
42 # I want this note to be drawn on fret 0 (nut)
43 onfO True
    Run lualatex --shell-escape custom.instrument.tex after saving source
    below as custom.instrument.tex to get output on the right:
    \documentclass[12pt,letterpaper]{article}
    \usepackage{fretplot}
    \usepackage{float} % for [H] placement specifier in figures
    \begin{document}
    \begin{figure}[H]
 7
 8 \centering
9
      \fptotikz{include/custom.instrument/src.fp}
10
      \caption{Instrument with 8 strings and 5 frets with a fret and a string missing}
11 \ensuremath{\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{end}}}\xspace\{\mbox{figure}\}
12
   \end{document}
```

4 The fretplot scale style file format

A fretplot scale style file, fps file, or .fps file customizes the appearance and labels of notes in a scale, based on pitch class or degree.

4.1 Syntax

• A pitch class is any element of the set

• A degree is any element of the set

- Each line assigns a style or label to a pitch class or degree:
 - Label based on pitch class: 1PITCHCLASS LABEL.
 - Label based on degree: 1DEGREE LABEL.
 - PGF/TikZ style based on pitch class: xPITCHCLASS STYLE.
 - PGF/TikZ style based on degree: xDEGREE STYLE.

4.2 An example

```
1  1C {\scriptsize C}
2  1C# {\tiny C$\sharp$}
3  1D {\scriptsize D}
4  1Eb {\tiny E$\flat$}
5
6  xC shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner sep=1.0
7  xC# shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner sep=1.0
8
9  11 {\scriptsize 1}
10  1b2 {\tiny $\flat$2}
11
12  x1 shape=circle,draw=red,text=white,fill=red,inner sep=1.0
13  xb2 shape=circle,draw=red,text=blue,fill=white,inner sep=1.0
```