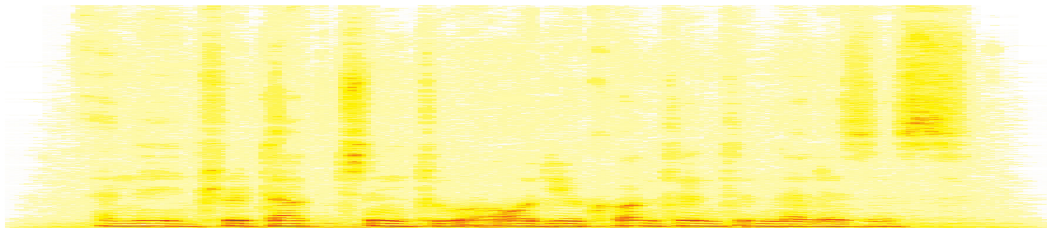


Introduction to Audio Content Analysis

Module 6.1: Onset Detection

alexander lerch



introduction

overview

corresponding textbook section

Chapter 5 — Temporal Analysis: pp. 135–139

- **lecture content**

- detection of the start of musical events
- fundamental methods for generating a novelty function
- fundamental methods for peak picking

- **learning objectives**

- describe the term onset
- implement an automatic onset detection system



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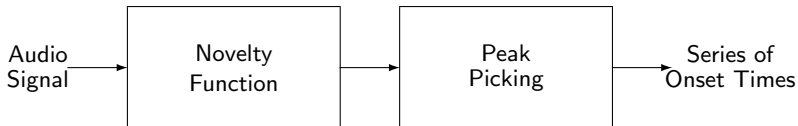
onset detection

problem statement

- **onset**: begin of musical event
- **polyphonic** audio signals:
 - unknown number of voices and events
 - multiple onsets occur at “the same” time
 - onset might be obfuscated by other musical content

onset detection

overview



1 novelty function

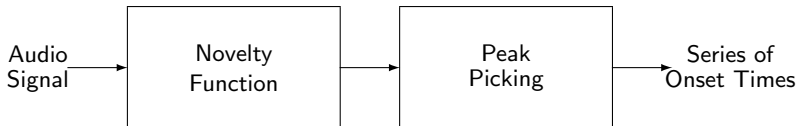
- measure of probability for new events/signal change over time

2 peak picking

- identify the most likely locations for onsets

onset detection

overview



1 novelty function

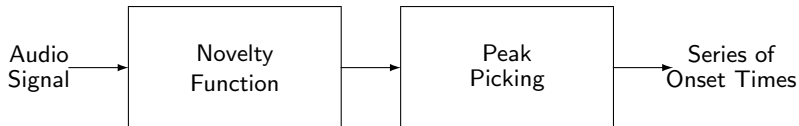
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onset detection

overview



1 novelty function

- measure of probability for new events/signal change over time

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onset detection

novelty function

- **terms**

- detection function
- difference function

- **processing steps**

- 1 extract features
- 2 compute derivative
- 3 smooth result
- 4 apply Half-Wave-Rectification *HWR*

onset detection

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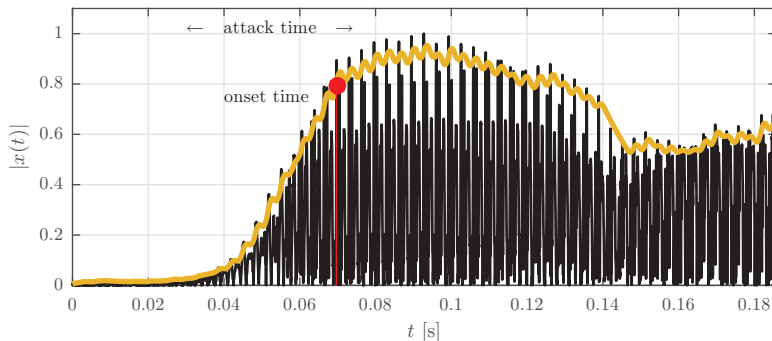
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onset detection

novelty function examples 1/3

1 time domain

- extract time domain envelope
- calculate slope



2 pitch-based: evaluate pitch changes¹

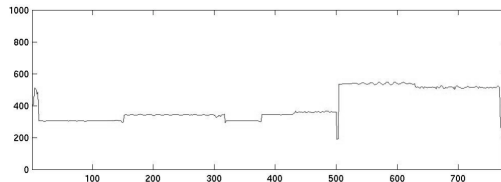
onset detection

novelty function examples 1/3

1 time domain

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2 pitch-based: evaluate pitch changes¹



¹N. Collins, "Using a pitch detector for onset detection," in *ISMIR*, 2005, pp. 100–106.

onset detection

novelty function examples 2/3

3 **STFT-based:** compute block difference● *flux*

$$● d_{\text{hai}}(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{\mathcal{K}/2-1} \log_2 \left(\frac{|X(k,n)|}{|X(k,n-1)|} \right)$$

$$● d_{\text{lar}}(n) = \sum_{k=k(f_{\min})}^{k(f_{\max})} \sqrt{|X(k,n)|} - \sqrt{|X(k,n-1)|}$$

● *cosine distance*● *complex*

onset detection

novelty function examples 2/3

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● *complex*

onset detection

novelty function examples 2/3

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● *complex*

$$d_{\text{dux}}(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{\mathcal{K}/2-1} |X(k,n) - X(k,n-1)|$$

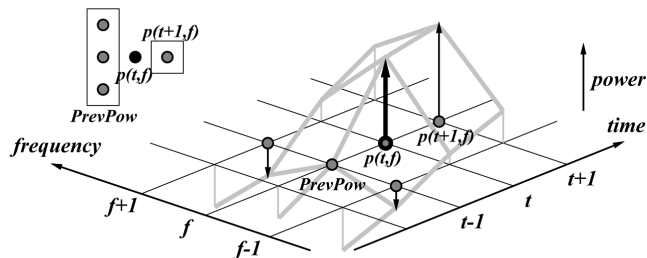
onset detection

novelty function examples 3/3

3 STFT-based cont'd

- Goto-distance²
 - higher power than closest preceding and following bins

-



²M. Goto and Y. Muraoka, "Music Understanding At The Beat Level Real-time Beat Tracking For Audio Signals," in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Computational Auditory Scene Analysis (IJCAI)*, Aug. 1995.

onset detection

novelty function: variants

- **number of frequency bands**

- varies: 1, 3, 6, 21, 960, FFT length, ...
- larger number of bands not necessarily better
→ adjust number of bands adaptively?

- **combination of bands**

- (weight and) add novelty functions per band
- onset detection per band and combine results

onset detection

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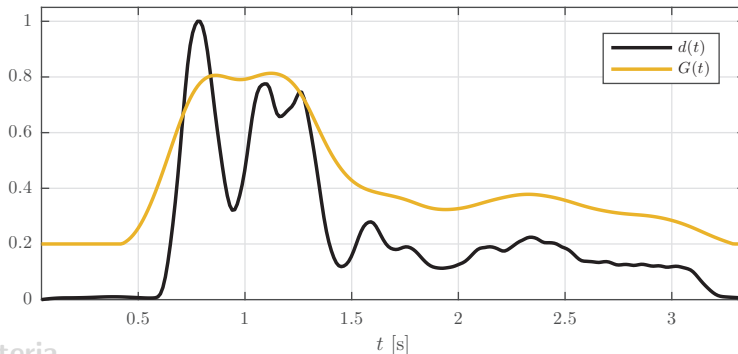
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onset detection

peak picking: introduction

- detect onsets in the smoothed novelty function



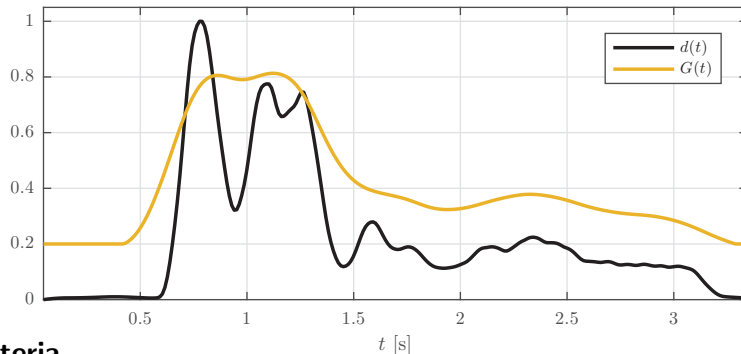
- typical criteria

- local maximum & salient peak
- higher than minimum likelihood
- not too close to maxima with higher likelihood
- other options: high attack slope, distance to prev. min, ...

onset detection

peak picking: introduction

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- local maximum & salient peak
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onset detection

peak picking: thresholding

- options for thresholding
 - **fixed** threshold

$$G_{d,c} = \lambda_1$$

- **smoothed** threshold

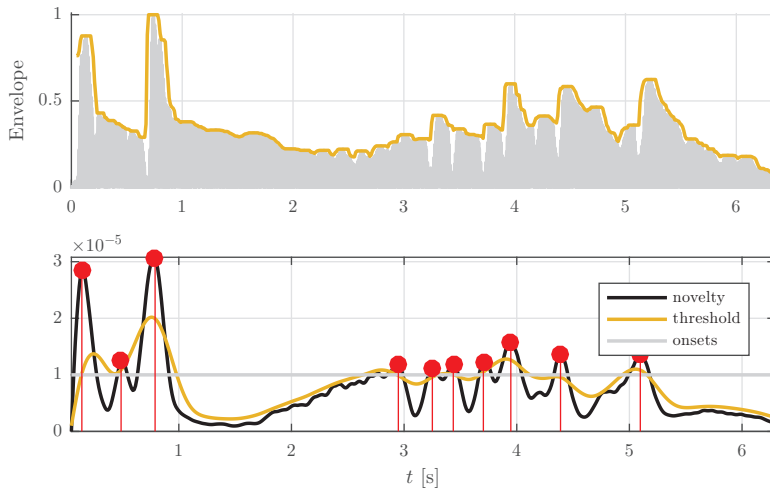
$$G_{d,ma} = \lambda_2 + \sum_{j=0}^{\mathcal{O}-1} b(j) \cdot d(i-j)$$

- **median** threshold

$$G_{d,me} = \lambda_2 + \hat{Q}_d(0.5)$$

onset detection

peak picking: thresholding



summary

lecture content

- **novelty function**

- measure of unexpectedness - likelihood of an event
 - often a measure similar to flux

- **peak picking**

- detecting peaks (onsets) in the novelty function
- usually done by smoothing and adaptive thresholding

