



Evolution of The Informational Complexity of Contemporary Western Music

Thomas Parmer, Yong-Yeol Ahn

Mahgol Gholampour

Complexity :

Pitch

Loudness

Timber

Rhythm




As fads come and go, is there still a consistent preference towards the optimal amount of complexity in cultural products?

How has the complexity of contemporary cultural products changed over time?

How do we measure complexity?

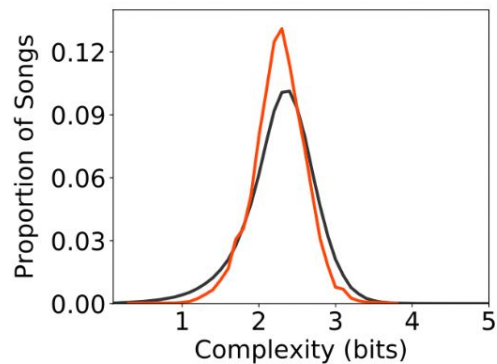


Codewords

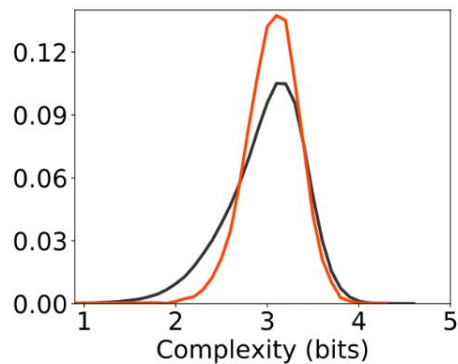

$$\begin{aligned} H(Y|X) &= \sum_{x \in X} p(x) H(Y|X = x) = \\ &= \sum_{x \in X} p(x) \sum_{y \in Y} p(y|x) \log_2 p(y|x) \end{aligned}$$



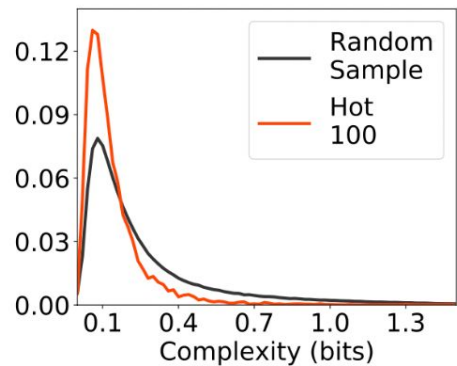
Pitch



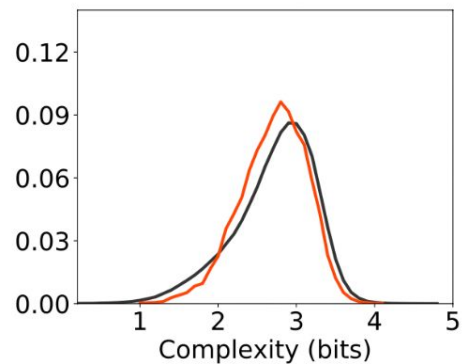
Loudness

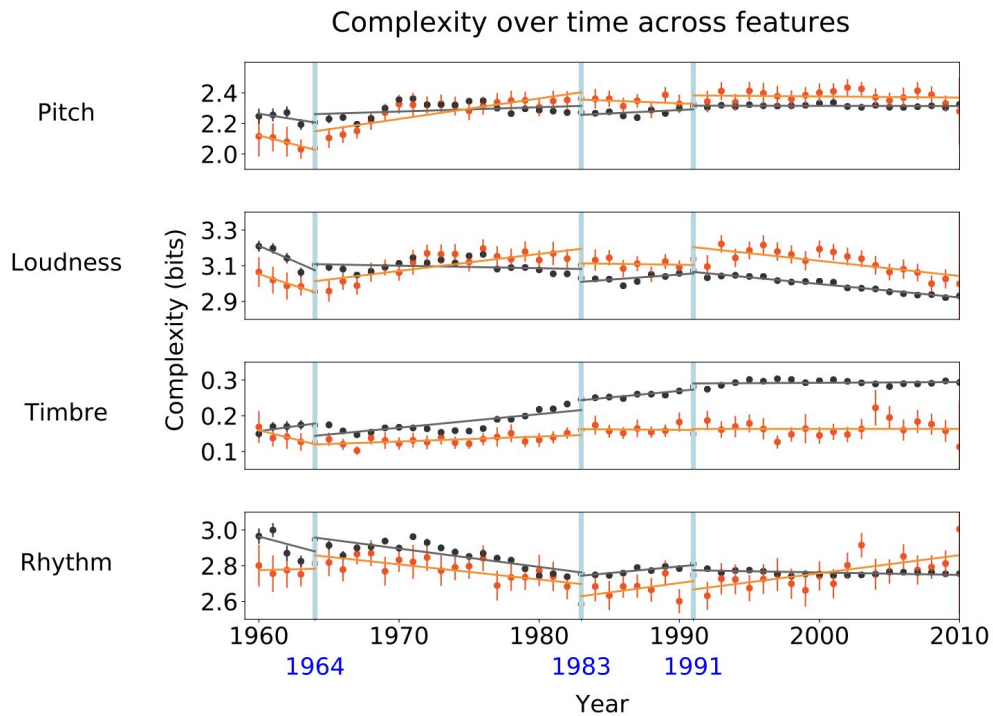


Timbre



Rhythm





• All Songs • Hot 100 — All Songs best fit — Hot 100 best fit



Thanks for paying attention