NOTES ON

TONAL THEORIES
COMING FROM **REPRESENTATIONS OF ALGEBRAIC GROUPS** OTHER THAN $\mathbf{GL_1(\mathbb{C})}$

— IN PROGESS —

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ABSTRACT. Lots of the structure of tonal harmony emerges from the representation theory of $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$. I here begin the project of composing music using tonal structures that emerge from the representation theory of other, higher-dimensional algebraic groups, such as $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$. This isn't just some theoretical exercise. As these notes should make clear, implementing these tonal structures in code will be very difficult to pull off without the super detailed outline of the general theory that appears below.

CONTENTS

1. NAVIGATING TONALITY THROUGH THE REPRESENTATION THEORY OF $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$.

1.1. **Sources.**

1. [Pon39]
2. [Tao]
3. [Ten14]
4. [Coh12]
5. [Wan21]
6. [GR14]
7. [Tym11]

1.2. **Representation theory of $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$.**

The *general linear group on the 1-dimensional complex vector space* $\mathbb{C}$, denoted $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$, is the group of invertible 1×1-matrices under the operation of matrix multiplication. We have a natural identification with the multiplicative group of nonzero elements in $\mathbb{C}$:

$$\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}^{\times}.$$

This multiplicative Abelian group $\mathbb{C}^{\times}$ has a natural decomposition into the Cartesian product of the additive group $\log(\mathbb{R}^{\times})$ and the circle group $\mathbb{S}^1$:

$$\mathbb{C}^{\times} \cong \log(\mathbb{R}^{\times}) \times \mathbb{S}^1.$$

This decomposition of $\mathbb{C}^{\times}$ corresponds to the unique representation of any nonzero complex number q as a product

$$q = e^{\log(A)+i\omega}, \quad \text{with} \quad \log(A) \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \le \omega < 2\pi.$$

Here A has units of $A_0\, e^{20\text{ dB}}$, where A_0 is some fixed reference amplitude. Thus $\log(A)$ has units of $\log(A_0) + 20$ dB, where $\log(A_0)$ is some fixed reference log-amplitude.[1] This q has real and imaginary parts

$$\mathrm{Re}\, q = A\cos(\omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{Im}\, q = A\sin(\omega), \tag{1.2.0.1}$$

respectively. The functions of ω in Equation (1.2.0.1) are what are sometimes, in music production, called pure oscillators. The latter oscillator is the $\frac{\pi}{4}$-phase shift of the former. In these notes, it will often often be useful to reason using the notation "$e^{\log(A)+i\omega}$," instead of the notation in Equation (1.2.0.1). This is because the notation "$e^{\log(A)+i\omega}$" is more closely related to the theory of representations of algebraic groups, and becomes extremely useful when we move on to algebraic groups other than $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$. I think it is fair to think of $e^{\log(A)+i\omega}$ as being

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[1] It's interesting how I can tell the "what this has to do with music" part of the story by naming units.

an especially simple, highly formalized instance of a *klang*, with properties that make it work well as a primitive building block of complex kangs. One of the main things we will do in these notes is play with ideas about how klangs can move by playing with ways klangs can be built.

A somewhat hidden, made-up premise in these notes is that tonality reflects constraints on performance that makes the parameters of (1) *phase* and (2) *relative amplitude* random variables that sweep out natural cosets. Thus we restrict attention to the quotient group at right in the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \log(\mathbb{R}^{\times}) \xrightarrow{e^{(-)}} \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{S}^1 \longrightarrow 1.$$

[Say something about how one would get back to $\mathbf{Rep}\big(\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})\big)$ through induction/restriction...]

We focus on the category $\mathbf{Rep}(\mathbb{S}^1)$. [Decomposition above gives us a direct connection to music. Moving up along tensor powers (multiple interpretations) couple with octave equivalence in human perception corresponds directly to perfect fifths, major thirds, etc...]

1.3. Connection to Fourier series.

1.3.1. Timbre as some kind of high frequency tonality.

1.3.2. Rhythm as some kind of low frequency tonality.
[...]

1.4. Tonnetze and movement through $\mathbf{Rep}(\mathbb{S}^1)$. [...]

1.5. Modal changes and functors along homomorphisms $\mathbb{S}^1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$. [...]

1.5.1. Approximating functors and 12-TET. A

1.6. Isomorphisms $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{S}^1)^{\wedge} \cong \mathbb{R}^{\wedge} \times \mathbb{Z}$ and $(\mathbb{R} \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_n)^{\wedge} \cong \mathbb{R}^{\wedge} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. [...]

2. Representations of the p-adic groups $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ and $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$.

2.1. Sources.
 1. [Gui18, Chp. 4] — My favorite introductory text on p-adic fields and their extensions.
 2. [CF67, Chp. XV: *J. T. Tate's thesis*, 1950]
 3. [Lan64, §VII]
 4. [GH11a, §1]
 5. [GH11b]

2.2. Adele-ish products. [...]

$$\mathbb{Z}/p_1^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \; \times \; \mathbb{Z}/p_2^{n_2}\mathbb{Z} \; \times \; \cdots \; \times \; \mathbb{Z}/p_k^{n_k}\mathbb{Z}$$

For example

$$\mathbb{Z}/2^d\mathbb{Z} \; \times \; \mathbb{Z}/3^e\mathbb{Z} \; \times \; \mathbb{Z}/5^f\mathbb{Z}, \quad \text{such that} \quad \frac{2^d 3^e 5^f}{P} \; \approx \; \underbrace{40\,000\ \text{Hz}}_{\substack{\text{20 kHz, doubled for} \\ \text{Nyquist–Shannon} \\ \text{sampling theorem}}} .$$

The values $d = 0$, $e = 4$, $f = 4$ achieve this. Moreover, since $2 \in (\mathbb{Z}/3^e\mathbb{Z})^\times$ and $2 \in (\mathbb{Z}/5^f\mathbb{Z})^\times$ for any $e, f \geq 1$, we have a natural octave equivalence in $\mathbb{Z}/3^e\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5^f\mathbb{Z}$, giving us the multiplicative monoid

$$\left(\mathbb{Z}/3^e\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5^f\mathbb{Z}\right)\Big/2^\mathbb{Z}$$

controlling pitch-class movement. Observe that we have a surjective map

$$\mathrm{pr}_{e,f} : (\mathbb{Q}_3 \times \mathbb{Q}_5)/2^\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \left(\mathbb{Z}/3^e\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5^f\mathbb{Z}\right)\Big/2^\mathbb{Z}.$$

We will sometimes argue directly in $(\mathbb{Q}_3 \times \mathbb{Q}_5)/2^\mathbb{Z}$, and then use the projection $\mathrm{pr}_{e,f}$ to derive the appropriate computable approximation.

   [...]

2.3. **Characters and Fourier transforms over the additive p-adic group.** We define a map

$$\lambda_1 : \mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{S}^1 \tag{2.3.0.1}$$

as follows. Given $a \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, write

$$a \;=\; \underbrace{a_{-n}\tfrac{1}{p^n} + a_{-n+1}\tfrac{1}{p^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_{-1}\tfrac{1}{p}}_{a_-} + \underbrace{a_0 + a_1 p + a_2 p^2 + \cdots}_{a_+}.$$

Since $p^n a_- \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have $a_- \in \mathbb{Z}\left[\tfrac{1}{p}\right]$, and we can define

$$\lambda_1(a) \;:=\; \text{class of } a_- \text{ in the quotient } \mathbb{Z}\left[\tfrac{1}{p}\right]/\mathbb{Z}.$$

Composing this with the embeddings

$$\mathbb{Z}\left[\tfrac{1}{p}\right]/\mathbb{Z} \lhook\joinrel\longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \lhook\joinrel\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z},$$

and we obtain a map as in Equation (2.3.0.1). One checks that λ_1 is a homomorphism of Abelian groups, that

$$\lambda_1(a + b) \;=\; \lambda_1(a) + \lambda_1(b) \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_1(0) \;=\; 0.$$

   For each element $b \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, we obtain a new homomorphism

$$\lambda_b : \mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$$

defined by

$$\lambda_b(a) \;:=\; \lambda_1(ba).$$

In this way, we obtain a bilinear pairing

$$\lambda_{(-)}(-) : \mathbb{Q}_p \otimes_\mathbb{Z} \mathbb{Q}_p \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}.$$

One can show that this pairing is non-degenerate. In this way, we obtain an isomorphism between $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ and its own Pontryagin dual. This is sometimes written

$$\lambda_{(-)} : \mathbb{Q}_p^+ \xrightarrow{\;\sim\;} \widehat{\mathbb{Q}}_p^+,$$

$$b \longmapsto \lambda_b.$$

   This means that for each $b \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, we obtain a distinct $\mathbb{C}^\times$-valued character

$$\chi_b : \mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$$

defined by

$$\chi_b(a) \;:=\; e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(a)}.$$

These functions $\chi_b(-)$ play the role of "pure oscillators" in the Fourier analysis of complex-valued signals

$$f : \mathbb{Q}_p \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

and the additive topological group $\mathbb{Q}_p$ serves as the spectrum parametrizing the frequencies of these oscillators, with

$$\chi_b(t) = \chi_1(bt).$$

We define the Haar measure da on $\mathbb{Q}_p$ to be the unique translation invariant measure for which

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} da = 1.$$

One important feature of this particular Haar measure is that it satisfies $d(ba) = |b|_p\, da$. Integrating against the characters χ_b with respect to this measure defines our Fourier transform in this setting:

$$\widehat{f}(b) := \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} f(a)\, \chi_b(a)\, da.$$

Writing this out explicitly, we get a formula strikingly similar to the standard Fourier transform between signals on $\mathbb{S}^1$ and signals on $\mathbb{Z} \cong \widehat{\mathbb{S}}^1$:

$$\widehat{f}(b) = \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} f(a)\, e^{i2\pi\lambda_1(ba)}\, da.$$

In the present case, the double-dual introduces a change of sign in the argument:

$$\widehat{\widehat{f}}(a) = f(-a).$$

[...]

2.4. **Computing Fourier transforms over** $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$. This section is dedicated to the explicit computation of the Fourier transforms of several $\mathbb{C}$-valued functions on $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$. Serge Lang's [Lan64, §VII.1, pp. 92-93] provides some fragmentary insight into the problem of computing Fourier transforms over $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ explicitly, but I think my favorite text on this is Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley's [GH11a, §§1.5-6, pp. 12-18].

[Characterization of continuous maps $f : \mathbb{Q}_p \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$...]

Problem 2.4.1. Compute the p-adic Fourier transform of the characteristic function $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}$ of the integers $\mathbb{Z}_p$ inside $\mathbb{Q}_p$. In other words, compute the integral

$$\widehat{\mathbb{1}}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(b) = \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(a)\, e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(a)} da.$$

Solution. We can re-write the integral as

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_1(ba)} da.$$

Fix $b \in \mathbb{Q}_p$ and write

$$b = p^m(b_0 + b_1 p + b_2 p^2 + \cdots),$$

with $b_0 \neq 0$ and with $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $m \geq 0$, then $ba \in \mathbb{Z}_p$, hence $\lambda_1(ab) = 0$, and

$$\widehat{\mathbb{1}}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(b) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} da = 1.$$

Suppose $m < 0$. Define $n := -m$. Since $b_0 + b_1 p + b_2 p^2 + \cdots \in \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$, we can then rewrite the integral as

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_1(p^m a)} da.$$

Write

$$a = a_0 + a_1 p + \cdots + a_{n-1} p^{n-1} + a_n p^n + \cdots,$$

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so that

$$\lambda_1(p^m a) \;=\; \frac{1}{p^n}\big(a_0 + a_1 p + \cdots + a_{n-1}p^{n-1}\big).$$

Thus our integral becomes

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_1(p^{-n}a)} da \;=\; \frac{1}{p^n}\sum_{0\le k<p^n} e^{i2\pi\frac{k}{p^n}} \;=\; 0.$$

Thus, our Fourier transform is

$$\widehat{\mathbb{1}}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(b) \;=\; \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(b).$$

Problem 2.4.2. Compute the p-adic Fourier transform of the characteristic function $\mathbb{1}_{p^m\mathbb{Z}_p}$ of the compact subset $p^m\mathbb{Z}_p \subset \mathbb{Q}_p$, for any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. In other words, compute the integral

$$\widehat{\mathbb{1}}_{p^m\mathbb{Z}_p}(b) \;=\; \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \mathbb{1}_{p^m\mathbb{Z}_p}(a)\, e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(a)} da.$$

Solution. We can re-write the integral as

$$\int_{p^m\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(a)} da \;=\; \frac{1}{p^m}\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(p^m a)} da$$

The analysis is identical to that in Problem 2.4.1, except that now the threshold for b occurs at $\mathrm{val}_p(b) = -m$, and therefore [FIX THE SCALAR...]

$$\widehat{\mathbb{1}}_{p^m\mathbb{Z}_p}(b) \;=\; \tfrac{1}{p^m}\cdot \mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{p^m}\mathbb{Z}_p}(b).$$

Problem 2.4.3. Compute the p-adic Fourier transform of the character $\chi_c(-) = e^{i2\pi\lambda_c(-)}$ for any $c \in \mathbb{Q}_p^\times$. In other words, compute the integral

$$\widehat{\chi}_c(b) \;=\; \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_c(a)} e^{i2\pi\lambda_b(a)} da.$$

This problem is interesting, in part, because we can interpret it as describing "the shape of the spectrum of pure oscillators on $\mathbb{Q}_p$." ...Will we get anything like a Dirac delta at c?

Solution. We can re-write the integral as

$$\int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} e^{i2\pi\lambda_1((c+b)a)} da.$$

We have three cases, depending on which of the following inequalities holds:

$$\mathrm{val}_p(b) \;<\; \mathrm{val}_p(c),$$

$$\mathrm{val}_p(b) \;=\; \mathrm{val}_p(c),$$

$$\text{or}\quad \mathrm{val}_p(b) \;>\; \mathrm{val}_p(c).$$

[...]

$$\widehat{\chi}_c \;=\; \delta_c.$$

[A tutorial with examples...]

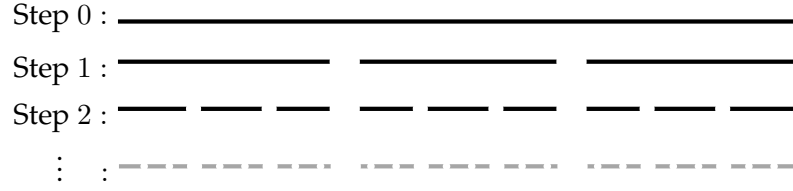2.5. **A class of tonnetze for $\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$.** [...]

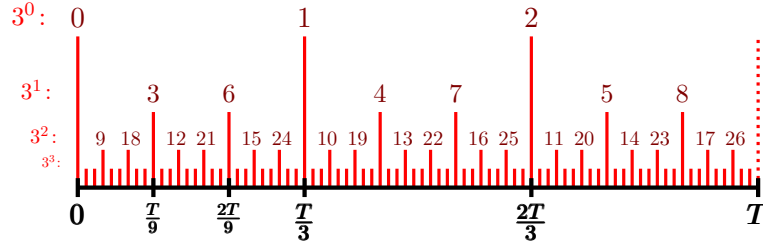**Figure 1. Cantor-like, "alternating fifths" realization of $\mathbb{Q}_3$.** [...]

Figure 2. Proposed "p-adic" signal approximation in the case $p = 3$. [$\frac{T}{p^n}$-sample per second signal approximation... Explain that the specific indexing of the samples indicated in this figure is critical to the harmonic/tonal movement...] [Explain how this can viewed as an actual signal over $\mathbb{Q}_p$ with its correct topology, with a bit of signal inertia...]

2.6. **One approach to p-adic signals.** It is well known that $\mathbb{Q}_2$ is homeomorphic to the standard "middle thirds" Cantor set inside the real interval $[0, 1]$, and that $\mathbb{Q}_p$ is homeomorphic to an "alternating $(2n - 1)^{\text{ths}}$" Cantor-like set inside the real interval $[0, 1]$.

[...]

[Makes Fourier transformation integrals volumetrically correct. Does *not* preserve addition. ...What are the musical consequences of this?...]

Algorithm 1: p-Adic coordinates for non-negative real numbers

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Data: positive prime base $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, non-negative real number $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, positive integer $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$

Result: p-adic number $a \in \mathbb{Q}_p$ assigned to t at real resolution p^{-m}, and non-negative real error $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

1   $r \leftarrow$ **copy of** t ;   // copy of our argument t, to modify over course of algorithm

2   $n \leftarrow 0$;

3   **while** $p^n \leq r$ **do**

4     $\lfloor$ $n \leftarrow n + 1$;   // 2-4 end with $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ such that $p^{n-1} \leq r < p^n$

5   **set** L **to empty list** ;

6   **for** $i \leftarrow n - 1$ **to** $-m$ **by** -1 **do**

7     $a_{-i} = \lfloor \frac{r}{p^i} \rfloor$;

8     $r \leftarrow r - a_{-i} p^i$;

9   **append** a_{-i} **to list** L ;   // 5-9 end with $L = (a_{-n}, \ldots, a_{-1}, a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_m)$

10   $\varepsilon \leftarrow r$;   // 5-10 end with $0 \leq \varepsilon < p^m$ such that $t = \varepsilon + \sum_{a_j \in L} a_j p^{-j}$

11   $a \leftarrow$ **p-adic number** $p^{-m} \cdot \sum_{a_j \in L} a_j p^j$;

12   **return** a, ε

Proposal 2.6.1. Chords as sums of "pure oscillators."
[Problem: The graphs of these oscillators are *really* dense... Not sure there's anything soni-cally interesting there...]

Proposal 2.6.2. Tones as p-adic transformations of continuous signals.
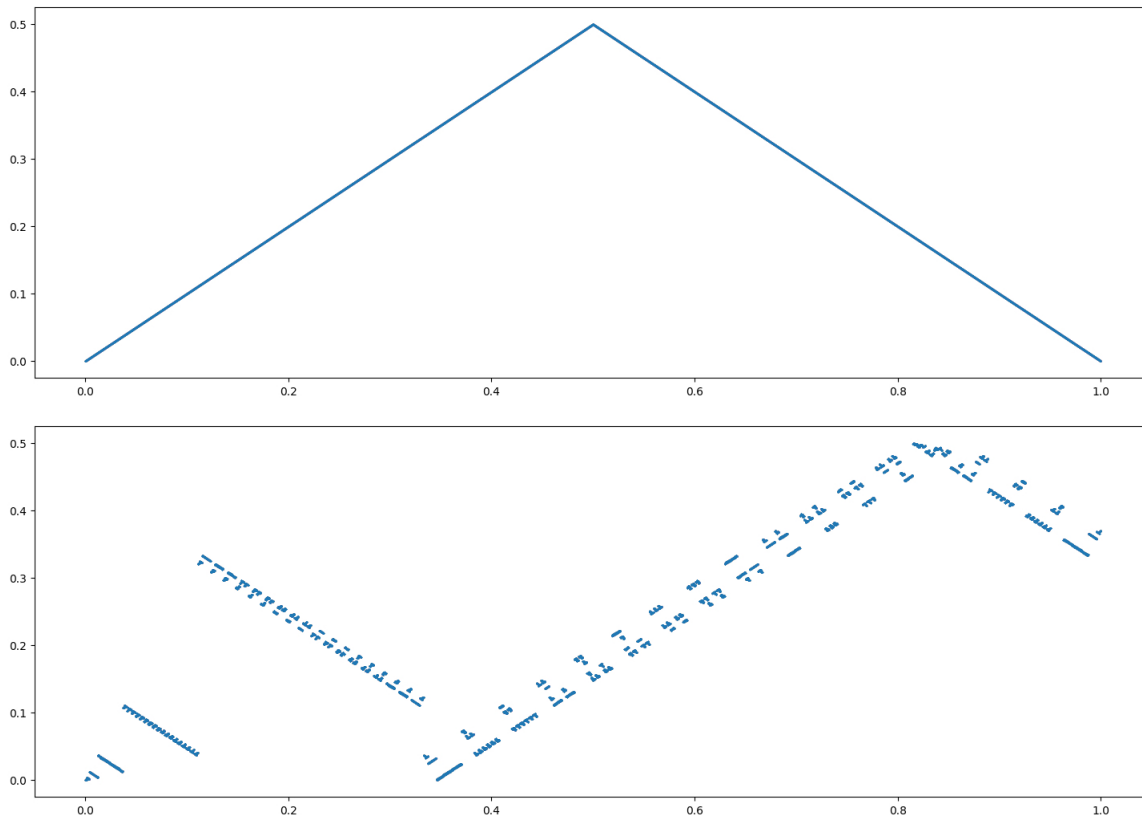
Figure 3. Triangle wave $f(s) = \frac{1}{2} - \left| t(s) - \frac{1}{2} \right|$ under 3-adic frequency transform $f(s) \mapsto f(26s)$. [...] One can see in this image how p-adic multiplication acts by "fractal permutations" tied to the arithmetic structure of the ring $\mathbb{Q}_p$. The 3-adic presentation the factor 26 is $26 = 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 3^2$.

[...]
[Problem: How does it sound?...]

Remark 2.6.3. Proposals 2.6.1 and 2.6.2 are *not* mutually exclusive. [...]

Remark 2.6.4. An approach to p-adic signals that doesn't quite work. Another idea I had for deploying p-adic signals is the following:

  ⋆ **Another idea for realizing p-adic signals.** Use sample audio signals $f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ only on the rationals $\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R}$. Use the canonical embedding $\mathbb{Q} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$ to reinterpret each rational argument of f as a p-adic, and multiply the arguments of signals by $\mathbb{Q}_p^\times$ accordingly.

The problem is that there's a fatal circularity in this idea. [...]

2.7. A gestural notation. [...]

3. HOMOGENEOUS POLYNOMIALS AND CHORDS.

3.1. Sources.

Figure 4. [...] 30-adic $f(s) = \sin\big(2\pi \cdot 30 t(s)\big)$ by 10 and by
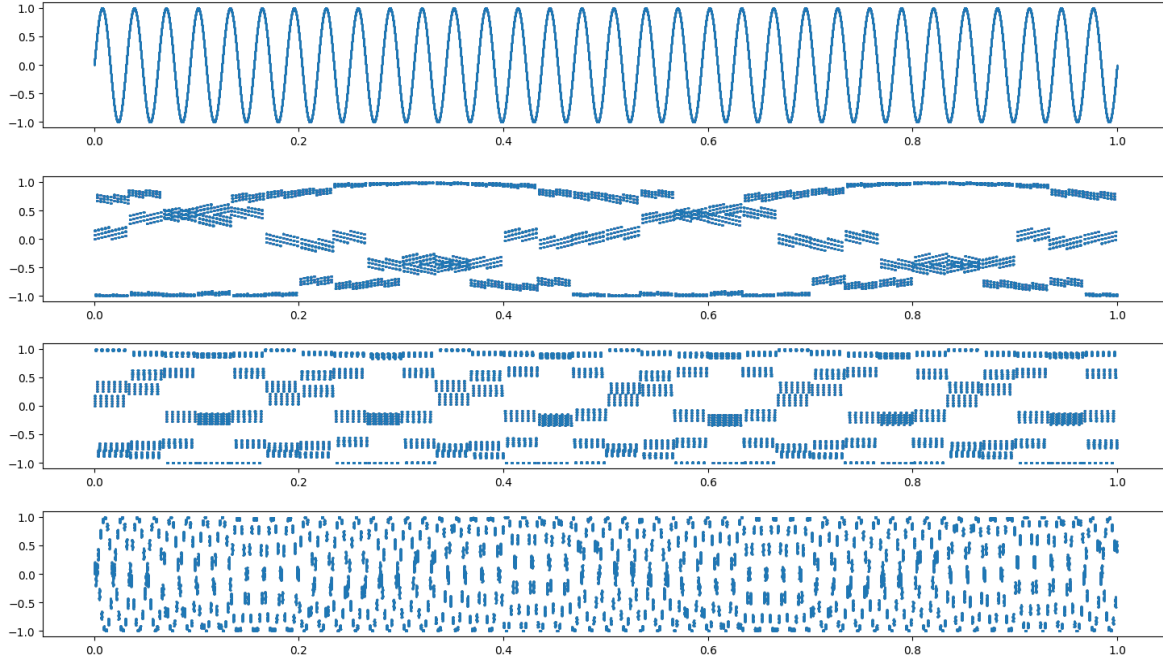
...

3.2. Decomposing complex numbers for better signal analysis.

Fix an element $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Fixing a positive real *period* $P \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ once and for all, we can decompose z into its real and imaginary parts as

$$z \;=\; z(A,\theta) \;=\; \log(A) + i\tfrac{2\pi}{P}\theta, \tag{3.2.0.1}$$

for unique $0 < A < \infty$ and $0 \le \theta < P$. We refer to the positive real number

$$\lambda := \frac{1}{P}$$

as the *frequency* of $z(A,\theta)$. One reason for decomposing z as in Equation (3.2.0.1) is that it gives the exponential of z a form relevant to music. Indeed, from Equation (3.2.0.1) we get

$$e^z \;=\; A\,e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta},$$

with real and imaginary parts

$$\mathrm{Re}(e^z) \;=\; A\cos(2\pi\lambda\theta) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathrm{Im}(e^z) \;=\; A\sin(2\pi\lambda\theta),$$

respectively. If we fix A and let θ change linearly at the rate of 1 unit per second, then both $\mathrm{Re}(e^z)$ and $\mathrm{Im}(e^z)$ describe a "pure" tone playing with amplitude A at λ Hz. Here A is measured in units of $A_0\, e^{20 \text{ dB}}$, where A_0 is some fixed reference amplitude. The tone associated to $\mathrm{Re}(e^z)$ and the tone associated to $\mathrm{Im}(e^z)$ are out of phase by a quarter period $\frac{P}{4}$.

3.3. Independent complex variables.

Suppose now that we choose two complex numbers $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$, independently of one another, with corresponding exponentials

$$e^{z_1} = A_1\, e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta_1} \qquad \text{and} \qquad e^{z_2} = A_2\, e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta_2}. \tag{3.3.0.1}$$

In Equation (3.3.0.1), we assume that we've fixed a single period P, hence a single frequency λ, that z_1 and z_2 share. However, we could just as well choose two different periods, P_1 and

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P_2 say, and thus two different frequencies $\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{P_1}$ and $\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{P_2}$, to get

$$e^{z_1} = A_1 \, e^{i\frac{2\pi}{P_1}\theta_1} = A_1 \, e^{i2\pi\lambda_1\theta_1} \qquad \text{and} \qquad e^{z_2} = A_2 \, e^{i\frac{2\pi}{P_2}\theta_2} = A_2 \, e^{i2\pi\lambda_2\theta_2},$$

where $\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{P_1}$ and $\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{P_2}$.

Given a function $f(x, y)$ of two variables, we can evaluate f at $x = e^{z_1}$ and $y = e^{z_2}$ to obtain the value $f(e^{z_1}, e^{z_2})$. In the special case that $f(x, y)$ is a *Laurent monomial*, i.e., that

$$f(x, y) = x^m y^n,$$

for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have

$$f(e^{z_1}, e^{z_2}) \; = \; A_1 A_2 \, e^{i2\pi(m\lambda_1\theta_1 + n\lambda_2\theta_2)} \; = \; A_1 A_2 \, e^{i2\pi\left(\frac{m}{P_1}\theta_1 + \frac{n}{P_2}\theta_2\right)}.$$

The real and imaginary parts of this are

$$\text{Re } f(e^{z_1}, e^{z_2}) \; = \; A_1 A_2 \cos\left(2\pi\left(\tfrac{m}{P_1}\theta_1 + \tfrac{m}{P_2}\theta_2\right)\right) \tag{3.3.0.2}$$

and

$$\text{Im } f(e^{z_1}, e^{z_2}) \; = \; A_1 A_2 \sin\left(2\pi\left(\tfrac{m}{P_1}\theta_1 + \tfrac{m}{P_2}\theta_2\right)\right). \tag{3.3.0.3}$$

This is a situation ripe for techniques from frequency modulation. For instance, if we let t denote our time variable, in units of seconds, and we define

$$\theta_1(t) \; = \; t \qquad \text{and} \qquad \theta_2(t) \; = \; \sin(\omega t) \quad \text{for some } \omega \in \mathbb{R}_{>0},$$

then the formulas in Equations (3.3.0.2) and (3.3.0.3) become instances of *FM synthesis*. We can also see that the formulas in Equations (3.3.0.2) and (3.3.0.3) give us a broad generalization of FM synthesis, in that we can use any pair of real-valued functions

$$\theta_1(t) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \theta_2(t)$$

of t that we like. In this way, a kind of generalized FM synthesis realizes one version of the notion of "pitch movement in 2 dimensions." See Figure 5.
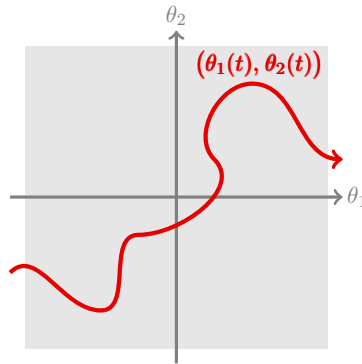
Figure 5. General FM-synthesis from curves in the real plane.

Example 3.3.1. Ring modulation as a special case. Let us briefly remark here that, although it is not usually presented in this way, *ring modulation* in signal processing arises when we evaluate the real and imaginary parts of the monomial xy at $x = e^{z_1}$ and $y = e^{z_2}$. In this way, ring modulation becomes a special case of the above discussion.

Example 3.3.2. Logarithmic representations. Consider the case of a single complex-valued function $z(t) = i2\pi\lambda t$ of the real variable t. How might we transform such a function. One obvious way is to consider all $\mathbb{R}$-*affine transformations* of t, that is, all transformations that can be described by an $\mathbb{R}$-linear polynomial:

$$t \longmapsto a + bt.$$

The group of all such transformations is denoted $\mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R})$. It admits a normal decomposition

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^\times \longrightarrow 1$$

that gives this group a semidirect product decomposition

$$\mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R} \rtimes \mathbb{R}^\times.$$

We can effectively "mod out" the *translation* action by the normal subgroup $\mathbb{R} \lhd \mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R})$ by focus on the action of the non-normal, multiplicative subgroup $\mathbb{R}^\times \subset \mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R})$.

If we work with $e^z = e^{i2\pi\lambda t}$, the translation action $t \mapsto a + t$ by the normal subgroup $\mathbb{R} \rtimes \mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R})$ amounts to phase shifting, as it takes

$$e^{i2\pi\lambda t} \longmapsto e^{i(2\pi\lambda t + \phi)}, \quad \text{where } \phi = 2\pi\lambda a.$$

If we take a musical perspective that ignores the effects of phase shifting, then we can focus on the action of the non-normal multiplicative subgroup $\mathbb{R}^\times \subset \mathrm{Aff}(\mathbb{R})$. It is common to use logarithmic coordinates for this group by writing $b = e^s$. We obtain transformations of the form

$$e^{i2\pi\lambda t} \longmapsto e^{i2\pi\lambda e^s t}.$$

Writing $\lambda = e^{s_0}$, this becomes

$$e^{i2\pi e^{s_0} t} \longmapsto e^{i2\pi e^{s_0 + s} t}.$$

The charged particle dynamics in *Voice Leader — DISPL.* take place in something like the Lie algebra of the multiplicative group $\mathbb{R}^\times$ that acts on the frequency specturm. Ignoring the negative component of this Lie algebra amounts to the assertion that we do not consider backward movement through time in musical contexts.

This leads us to the following questions for the case of 2 independent variables z_1 and z_2.

Question 3.3.3. What is the right "space" to do dynamics in when there are two variables?... (frequency or log-frequency).

There are going to be competing pictures, throughout these notes, for what level "space" should be taken at...

Question 3.3.4. What is the Lie bracket on the tangent space $T_{(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p})}M$ of phase space M at a state $(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$?

Answer. [Poisson algebra structure on the space of functions. The Lie algebra structure on the tangent space itself is known as the symplectic Lie algebra or the Lie algebra of Hamiltonian vector fields...]

Relevance of the question to representations of algebraic groups. [...]

3.4. **Ring modulation versus products in representation theory.** In representation theory, products arise from tensor constructions like tensor powers $V^{\otimes n}$, symmetric powers $\mathrm{Sym}^n V$, and exterior powers $\Lambda^n V$ of representations V. The basic example of an element in one of these representations is the symmetric product xy of two complex variables x and y. If we're thinking in terms of irreducible representations, then it is natural to take

$$x = e^{i2\pi\lambda t} \qquad \text{and} \qquad y = e^{i2\pi\mu t}. \tag{3.4.0.1}$$

In this case, we have
$$xy \;=\; e^{i2\pi(\lambda+\mu)\,t}.$$
Notice that here, products correspond to addition of frequencies.

Ring modulation, on the other hand, corresponds to the product
$$\mathrm{Re}(x)\cdot\mathrm{Re}(y).$$
If we let x and y take the values in Equation 3.4.0.1, then this ring modulation product
$$\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\cdot\sin(2\pi\mu t).$$
[...]
$$e^{i2\pi(\lambda+\mu)\,t} \;=\; \cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda+\mu)t\big) + i\,\sin\!\big(2\pi(\lambda+\mu)t\big) \tag{3.4.0.2}$$
[...]
$$\begin{aligned} e^{i2\pi\lambda t}\cdot e^{i2\pi\mu t} \;=\;& \big(\cos(2\pi\lambda t)+i\,\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\big)\cdot\big(\cos(2\pi\mu t)+i\,\sin(2\pi\mu t)\big) \\ =\;& \big(\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\cos(2\pi\mu t)-\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t)\big) \\ & + i\,\big(\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t)+\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\cos(2\pi\mu t)\big) \end{aligned} \tag{3.4.0.3}$$
Identifying Equations (3.4.0.2) and (3.4.0.3), we have
$$\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\cdot\sin(2\pi\mu t) \;=\; \cos(2\pi\lambda t)\cos(2\pi\mu t)-\cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda+\mu)t\big). \tag{3.4.0.4}$$
[...]
$$e^{i2\pi(\lambda-\mu)\,t} \;=\; \cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda-\mu)t\big) + i\,\sin\!\big(2\pi(\lambda-\mu)t\big) \tag{3.4.0.5}$$
[...]
$$\begin{aligned} e^{i2\pi\lambda t}\cdot e^{-i2\pi\mu t} \;=\;& \big(\sin(2\pi\lambda t)+i\,\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\big)\cdot\big(-\sin(2\pi\mu t)+i\,\cos(2\pi\mu t)\big) \\ =\;& \big(-\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t)-\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\cos(2\pi\mu t)\big) \\ & + i\,\big(\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\cos(2\pi\mu t)-\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t)\big) \end{aligned} \tag{3.4.0.6}$$
Identifying Equations (3.4.0.5) and (3.4.0.6), we have
$$\cos(2\pi\lambda t)\cdot\cos(2\pi\mu t) \;=\; -\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t)-\cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda-\mu)t\big). \tag{3.4.0.7}$$
Putting Equations (3.4.0.4) and (3.4.0.7) together, we arrive at the identity
$$2\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\sin(2\pi\mu t) \;=\; \cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda+\mu)t\big) + \cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda-\mu)t\big),$$
more commonly written
$$\sin(2\pi\lambda t)\cdot\sin(2\pi\mu t) \;=\; \frac{1}{2}\cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda+\mu)t\big) + \frac{1}{2}\cos\!\big(2\pi(\lambda-\mu)t\big) \tag{3.4.0.8}$$

The point of all of this is that we have competing interpretations of signal multiplication coming from the inequality
$$\mathrm{Re}(xy) \;\neq\; \mathrm{Re}(x)\cdot\mathrm{Re}(y)$$
for complex variables x and y.

Question 3.4.1. A purely Galois version of the identity in Equation (3.4.0.8)? We can re-interpret the factor $e^{-i2\pi\mu t}$ in Equation (3.4.0.6) as the Galois conjugate
$$e^{-i2\pi\mu t} = \sigma\big(e^{i2\pi\mu t}\big),$$
where σ denotes the unique non-trivial automorphism in $\mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$. In this way, the identity in Equation (3.4.0.8) can be written in the non-trigonometric form
$$\mathrm{Re}(x)\mathrm{Re}(y) \;=\; \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{Re}(xy) + \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{Re}\big(x\cdot\sigma(y)\big). \tag{3.4.1.1}$$

We can think of the $\mathbb{R}$-linear map $\mathrm{Re} : \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as a projection operation with respect to the $\mathbb{R}$-linear basis $\{1, i\}$ in $\mathbb{C}$, where i is a root of the irreducible quadratic polynomial $x^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{R}[x]$. If we let ω be the root of some other irreducible quadratic polynomial $x^2 + ax + b \in \mathbb{R}[x]$, we get a new $\mathbb{R}$-linear basis $\{1, \omega\}$ for $\mathbb{C}$, and thus a *new* projection

$$\mathrm{pr}_\omega : \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Is it the case that this new projection satisfies the naive analogue of Equation (3.4.1.1), namely

$$\mathrm{pr}_\omega(x)\mathrm{pr}_\omega(y) \;=\; \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{pr}_\omega(xy) + \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{pr}_\omega\big(x \cdot \sigma(y)\big)?$$

My first guess is that this can't be correct, and that it requires some modification coming from the polynomial $x^2 + ax + b$.

A further generalization might be some formula for any "norm-type" product

$$\prod_{j,g \in \mathrm{enum}\big(\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)\big)} g(x_j).$$

My initial guess would be something of the form

$$\prod_{j,g \in \mathrm{enum}\big(\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)\big)} g(x_j) \;=\; \frac{1}{\#\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)} \sum_{g \in \mathrm{Gal}(E/F)} (?)$$

Probably the right place to look for the answer is some general "norm-to-trace" formula in class field theory.

3.5. Homogenous linear combinations of independent complex variables.

If x and y are independent complex variables, then a $\mathbb{C}$-linear combination of monomials in x and y, say

$$a_1 x^{m_1} y^{n_1} + a_2 x^{m_2} y^{n_2} + \cdots + a_\ell x^{m_\ell} y^{n_\ell}, \quad a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_\ell \in \mathbb{C} \qquad (3.5.0.1)$$

is *homogeneous of degree* d if $m_i + n_i = d$ for all $1 \leq i \leq \ell$, in other words, if all monomials $x^m y^n$ in the linear combination have the same *total degree* $m + n$, equal to d. When the linear combination in Equation (3.5.0.1) is homogeneous of degree d, we refer to it as a *homogeneous polynomial of degree* d in the variables x and y over $\mathbb{C}$.

Notice that, from a musical perspective, a homogeneous linear combination in Equation (3.5.0.1) combines two distinct ideas in a way that isn't possible with a single variable. It packages multiple instances of ring modulation into a single chord-like structure. Indeed,

The general homogeneous polynomial of degree d in x and y can be written

$$f(x,y) \;=\; a_0 x^d + a_1 x^{d-1} y + a_2 x^{d-2} y^2 + \cdots + a_{d-1} xy^{d-1} + a_d y^d,$$

with coefficients $a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_d \in \mathbb{C}$. We can write this more succinctly as

$$f(x,y) \;=\; \sum_{n=0}^{d} a_n x^{d-n} y^n.$$

Evaluating this polynomial at $x = e^{z_1}$ and $y = e^{z_2}$, we obtain

$$f(e^{z_1}, e^{z_2}) \;=\; \sum_{n=0}^{d} a_n A_1^{d-n} A_2^n e^{i2\pi\left(\frac{d-n}{P_1}\theta_1 + \frac{n}{P_2}\theta_2\right)}. \qquad (3.5.0.2)$$

To get a slightly clearer picture of this, let us assume that $a_i = 1$ for all $0 \leq i \leq d$ [change i to different letter...] and that $A_1 = A_2 = 1$. Then the right-hand side of Equation (3.5.0.2)

becomes

$$\sum_{n=0}^{d} e^{i2\pi\left(\frac{d-n}{P_1}\theta_1 + \frac{n}{P_2}\theta_2\right)}. \tag{3.5.0.3}$$

We play with this expression a bit more in Example 3.5.1 below.

Example 3.5.1. [...]
  Special case: $\theta_1 = \theta_2$ and $P_1 = P_2$. [...] Equation (3.5.0.3) becomes

$$(d+1)e^{i2\pi\frac{d}{P}\theta} \;=\; (d+1)e^{i2\pi d\lambda\theta}$$

  Special case: $\theta_1 = 0$. [...] Equation (3.5.0.3) becomes

$$\sum_{n=0}^{d} e^{i2\pi\frac{n}{P}\theta} \;=\; 1 + e^{i2\pi\frac{1}{P}\theta} + e^{i2\pi\frac{2}{P}\theta} + \cdots + e^{i2\pi\frac{d}{P}\theta},$$

or in terms of frequency,

$$f(1, e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta}) \;=\; 1 + e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta} + e^{i2\pi 2\lambda\theta} + \cdots + e^{i2\pi d\lambda\theta}.$$

Ignoring the constant term "1," this is just an equi-voiced[2] overtone chord with root at λ Hz, and including overtones 1 through d.
  If we let $A_1 = 1$ and $A_2 = \varepsilon$, where $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, then this becomes

$$f(1, \varepsilon e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta}) \;=\; 1 + \varepsilon e^{i2\pi\lambda\theta} + \varepsilon^2 e^{i2\pi 2\lambda\theta} + \cdots + \varepsilon^d e^{i2\pi d\lambda\theta}.$$

This is the same overtone chord, but with voicing that falls of like a geometric series as we move up the overtone scale.

Question 3.5.2. [Voicing and orchestration questions...]

Remark 3.5.3. [Model movement of several (θ_1, θ_2)-pairs on particle dynamics in 2-dimensional space. This provides an FM version of the particle dynamics experiment from *Voice Leader — DISPL....*]

  [...]

3.6. **A gestural notation.** [...]

4. REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SPECIAL LINEAR GROUP $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$.

4.1. **Sources.**

  1. [FH91]
  2. [Pro07]
  3. [Kna86]
  4. [Kna02]

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[2] We say that a chord is *equi-voiced* if the notes of a chord are equally loud. I don't know if this is standard terminology.

4.2. **The Cartan-Weyl basis.** The 3-dimensional Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{Mat}_{2\times 2}(\mathbb{C}) \right\}$$

admits a standard basis, sometimes called the *Cartan-Weyl basis*, given by

$$E := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad H := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad F := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The 1-parameter subgroups gotten by exponentiation of these basis vectors have general element

$$e^{zE} = I + zE + \frac{z^2}{2}E^{2\nearrow 0} + \frac{z^3}{3!}E^{3\nearrow 0} + \cdots = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$e^{zF} = I + zF + \frac{z^2}{2}F^{2\nearrow 0} + \frac{z^3}{3!}F^{3\nearrow 0} + \cdots = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ z & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$e^{zH} = I + zH + \frac{z^2}{2}H^2 + \frac{z^3}{3!}H^3 + \cdots$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + z + \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^3}{3!} + \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - z + \frac{z^2}{2} - \frac{z^3}{3!} + \cdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^z & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-z} \end{pmatrix},$$

respectively. One recurring theme in these notes is the question "should we work in the space where our variable is z, or in the space where are variable is $q = e^z$. Note, though, that this distinction gets confused in $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$, since the complex parameter z acts by multiplication directly in the 1-parameter subgroups

$$\{e^{zE} : z \in \mathbb{C}\} \text{ and } \{e^{zF} : z \in \mathbb{C}\} \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}),$$

but acts through multiplication by in the 1-parameter subgroup

$$\{e^{zH} : z \in \mathbb{C}\} \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}).$$

Every element $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ admits a factorization

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = e^{uE}e^{vH}e^{wF} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & w \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} e^v & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-v} \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ u & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

for some $u, v, w \in \mathbb{C}$ [Not true. A certain conjugation is needed to get matrices $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$... What is the correct statement here. Some kind of decomposition theorem for the Lie group?...Bruhat decomposition?...]. To compute u, v, w, observe that the matrix product on the right is equal to

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^v + uwe^{-v} & we^{-v} \\ ue^{-v} & e^{-v} \end{pmatrix},$$

hence

$$d = e^{-v}, \quad w = b/d, \quad u = c/d$$

[...confusing myself... need to come back to this...] The thing that's confusing me is how $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ appears. Maybe the 1-parameter subgroups at the identity $I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ doesn't reach any of the cell

$$S := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & 0 \end{pmatrix} : b \in \mathbb{C}^\times \right\} \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}). \tag{4.2.0.1}$$

What is the product of two elements of this cell like?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{c} \\ c & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} bc & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{bc} \end{pmatrix} \in \{e^{zH} : z \in \mathbb{C}\}.$$

In other words, the square of the stratum defined in Equation (4.2.0.1) is the 1-parameter subgroup generated by the exponentiation of the basis field $H \in \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$.

[Factorizations coming from other permutations of these 3 factors...]
[...]

4.3. **Action of $\mathbf{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ on $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$.** We let $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ act on $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ through its inverse action on the argument (x, y) of each function $f(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$. Thus the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ acts on each $f(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ via the action of its inverse $\begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$

4.4. **Irreducible representations of $\mathbf{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ in $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$.** [...]

4.5. **The irreducible 2-dimensional representation of $\mathbf{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$.** [...]

4.6. **The irreducible 3-dimensional representation of $\mathbf{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$.** [...]

4.7. **"Harmonic movement" for $\mathbf{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$.**

Question 4.7.1. What sort of movement through the category $\mathbf{Rep}(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}))$ is the "correct" generalization of the movement through $\mathbf{Rep}(\mathbb{S}^1)$ that corresponds to $\mathbb{Z}$-multiplicative movement through the terms of a Fourier series?

Temporary answers. There are many reasonable candidates:

Answer 4.7.1.1. Inductive/restrictive functorial movement along homomorphisms $G \longrightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ and/or $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow G$;
Answer 4.7.1.2. Movement along functors $\mathrm{Hom}(V_n, -)$;
Answer 4.7.1.3. Movement along functors $T^n = (-)^{\otimes n}$;
Answer 4.7.1.4. Movement along functors Sym^n;
Answer 4.7.1.5. Movement along functors Λ^n.

[Explain issue of plethysm/fusion rules...]

[...]

4.8. **Plethysm.** [...]

4.9. **A gestural notation.** [...]

5. HAMILTONIAN OPTICS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SYMPLECTIC GROUP $\mathrm{SP}_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$

5.1. **Sources.**

1. [GS84]

[...]

6. HOMOGENEOUS SPACES

6.1. **Sources.**

1. [Ser03]
2. [Tim11]
3. [Sch10]

$$\mathscr{L}(\alpha, s) \ := \ \mathbb{E}[G|\alpha, s] \cdot \log\left(\tfrac{1}{\mathscr{Z}(\alpha,s)}\right)$$

$$= \ \left(\sum_{\beta \geq \alpha} R_\beta\right) \cdot \log\left(\tfrac{1}{\mathscr{Z}(\alpha,s)}\right)$$

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