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melac — calculate melodic accent values for successive pitches

SYNOPSIS

melac [*inputfile.sem ...*] [> *outputfile.tac*]

DESCRIPTION

The **melac** command accepts as input Humdrum `**semits` data and outputs a series of values representing the degree of melodic accent associated with each note. Melodic accent values vary between 0 (no accent) and 1 (maximum accent). Input is limited to only a single `**semits` data spine.

The **melac** command implements a model of melodic accent developed by Joseph Thomassen (see REFERENCES). Thomassen's model is sensitive to pitch contour only — distinguishing just three types of melodic motion: ascending, descending, and unison. The model calculates tonal accent values according to a moving 3-pitch window.

It is recommended that output files produced using the **melac** command should be given names with the distinguishing '.mac' extension.

OPTIONS

The **melac** command provides only a help option:

-h displays a help screen summarizing the command syntax

Options are specified in the command line.

EXAMPLES

The following example illustrates the output of the **melac** command. The `**semits` spine is the input, and the `**melac` spine is the corresponding output. (A `**kern` equivalent to `**semits` has been added to increase the readability.)

```
**kern    **semits    **melac
16ee      16          1
16cc      12          0.5
16b       11          0.355
16cc      12          0.2407
```

```
16g     7       0.1207
16cc    12      0.2407  --
16b     11      0.1207
16cc    12      0.0957
16ff    17      0.5561
16cc    12      0.085
16b     11      0.355
16cc    12      0.2407
16a     9       0.1207
16cc    12      0.2407
16b     11      0.1207
16cc    12      0.29
*-      *-      *-
```

PORTABILITY

DOS 2.0 and up, with the MKS Toolkit. OS/2 with the MKS Toolkit. UNIX systems supporting the *Korn* shell or *Bourne* shell command interpreters, and revised *awk* (1985).

LIMITS

This command is currently able to handle only a single (monophonic) input stream.

REFERENCES

Joseph Thomassen, "Melodic accent: Experiments and a tentative model," *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, Vol. 71, No. 6 (1982) pp.1598-1605; see also, Erratum, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, Vol. 73, No. 1 (1983) p.373.