Introduction to **Audio Content Analysis**

module 1.0: introduction to MIR/ACA

alexander lerch

introduction
overview

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corresponding textbook section

chapter 1

- **lecture content**
  - audio content analysis
  - typical applications

- **learning objectives**
  - list goals and applications in ACA
  - understand the general development of the field
  - differentiate various fields related to ACA

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introduction
content in audio signals

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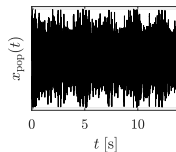Tech | Technology
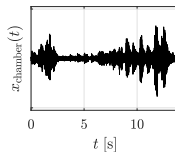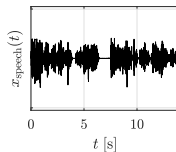College of Design

examples for audio signal content

- **speech**
  - text information
  - speaker
  - recording environment
  - ...
- **music**
  - melody
  - harmony
  - structure
  - instruments
  - mood
  - genre
  - ...

matlab source: plotWaveform.m

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introduction
audio content analysis — goals

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Audio Content Analysis

The field of Audio Content Analysis (ACA) aims at designing and applying algorithms for the **automatic extraction of content information from the raw (digital) audio signal**.

This enables content-driven and content-adaptive services which describe, categorize, sort, retrieve, segment, process, and visualize the signal and its content.

introduction
audio content analysis — research fields

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- **speech** analysis
    - speech recognition
    - speech emotion recognition
    - . . .
- **urban sound** analysis
    - noise pollution monitoring
    - audio surveillance
    - . . .
- **industrial sound** analysis
    - monitoring the state of mechanical devices (engines, etc.)
    - monitoring the health of livestock
    - . . .
- **musical audio** analysis
    - music transcription
    - music classification

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introduction
musical audio vs. other audio

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music . . .

- is a **wide band** signal
  unlike many other audio signals

- comprises both **tonal and noise** components
  like most audio signals

- combines **multiple sound sources**
  unlike speech, like urban sound

- is a **poly-timbral** mixture
  unlike industrial sound

- sources are **harmonically related and synchronous**
  unlike other multi-source signals

- has a highly structured language that is **abstract**
  unlike speech

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audio content analysis — related terms and areas

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- **terminology**

  - *Music Informatics*
    - ▶ overarching term for nearly everything with music and computers

  - *Music Information Retrieval (MIR)*:
    - ▶ analysis and retrieval of music data
    - ▶ includes audio, symbolic, and other data
    - ▶ might also cover other tasks (source separation, generation)

  - *Machine Listening & Computer Audition*
    - ▶ focus on the recognition and understanding of music

  - *Computational Auditory Scene Analysis (CASA)*
    - ▶ focus on human perception & cognition, understanding of the auditory scene

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audio content analysis — research field

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- **interdisciplinary**
  - digital signal processing
  - machine learning / data mining
  - musicology
  - music psychology
  - . . .

- ISMIR **community**
  - annual conferences
  - conference papers & Transactions
  - ISMIR-Community mailing list
  - MIREX: MIR Evaluation eXchange

ISMIR

- **related publication outlets**
  - *conferences*: ISMIR, ICASSP, ICME, SMC, DAFx, ACM MM, . . .
  - *journals*: TISMIR, TASLP, Computer Music, JNMR, JAES, . . .

www.ismir.net

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audio content analysis — history

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- **historic**
  - mechanical devices
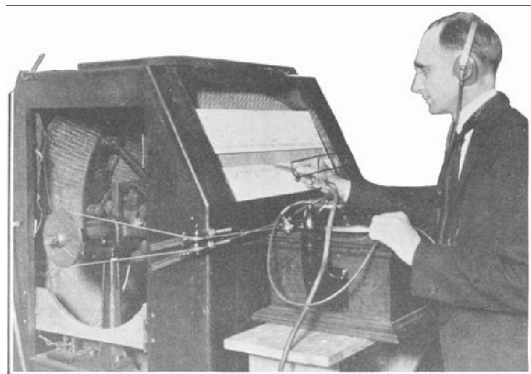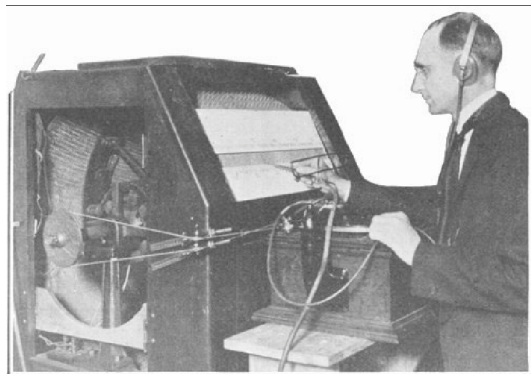
- **expert systems**
  - rule-based approaches

- data-driven **traditional ML systems**
  - feature design plus ML engine

- **deep neural networks**
  - role of expert knowledge diminishes

The tonoscope for analyzing the pitch of the tones on a disk phonograph record

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audio content analysis — history

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  - mechanical devices

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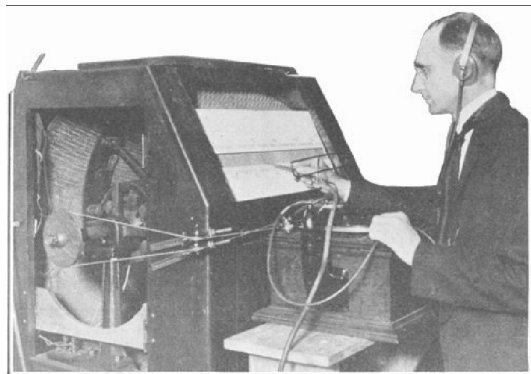
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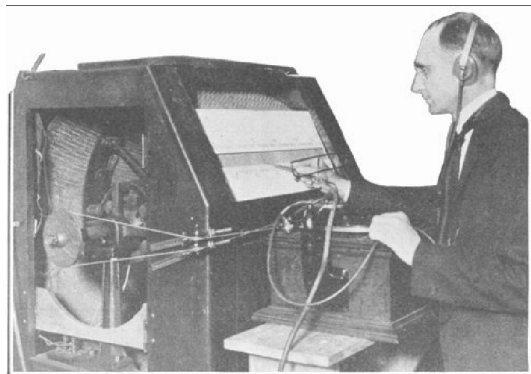 - mechanical devices

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introduction
applications

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- **music browsing and music discovery**
  - search & retrieval, similarity, interfaces (e.g., QBH)

- **music consumption**
  - creative music listening

- **music production**
  - adaptive parametrization, enhancements of creative process

- **music education**
  - musically intelligent software tutoring

- **generative music**
  - interactive soundtracks (games, video)

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(commercial) application examples

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- **recommendation**, playlist generation

   Spotify   last.fm   PANDORA

- **fingerprinting**

   SHAZAM   gracenote.

- **score following**

  ROCK PRODIGY.   smartmusic.

- (multi-) **pitch detection**

  melodyne   zplane

summary
lecture content

- **audio content analysis**
  - aims at extracting data about the (musical) content from the music signal
  - interdisciplinary field

- **related areas**
  - music information retrieval, machine listening, ...

- **applications** cover music . . .
  - discovery, consumption, production, education, generation