

# Introduction to Audio Content Analysis

Module 9.3: Onset Detection

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## corresponding textbook section

### Section 9.3

#### ■ 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
- **goal:** detect the point in time of an onset
- **challenges:**
  - which time stamp of the initial attack time actually marks the onset time?
  - *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

## onset time

### ■ note onset time:

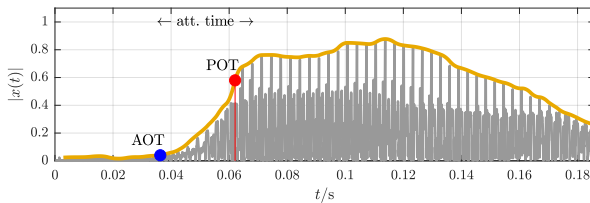
- time the instrument is *triggered*

### ■ acoustic onset time:

- time of first *measurable* instrument output

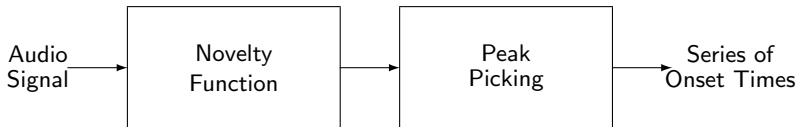
### ■ perceptual onset time:

- time the event is *perceived* by listener



# onset detection

## overview



### 1 novelty function

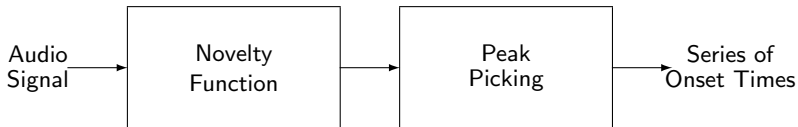
- measure of probability for new events/signal change over time

### 2 peak picking

- identify the most likely locations for onsets

# onset detection

## overview



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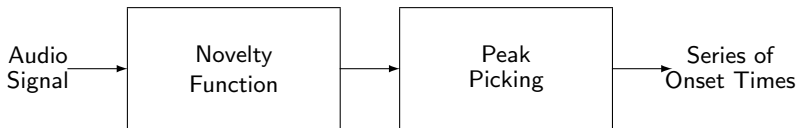
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# onset detection

## 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

## novelty function

### ■ alternative **terms** for *novelty function*

- 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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# onset detection

## novelty function

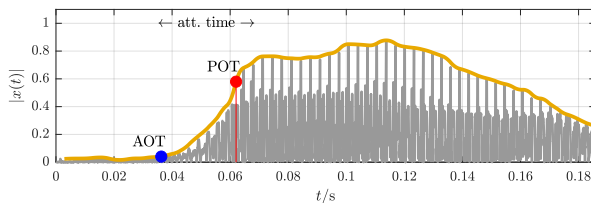
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# onset detection

## novelty function examples 1/3

### 1 time domain example

- *feature*: time domain envelope
- *derivative*: slope of envelope
- *HWR*: only interested in onsets, not offsets



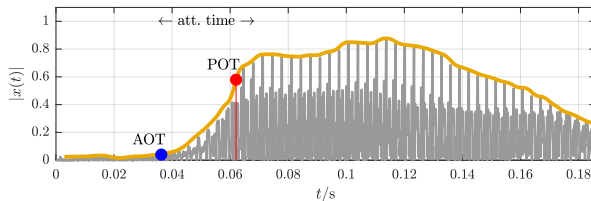
### 2 pitch domain:

- *feature*: pitch contour
- *derivative*: changes in pitch

## novelty function examples 1/3

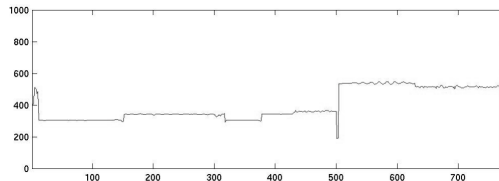
## 1 time domain example

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- *feature*: pitch contour
- *derivative*: changes in pitch



<sup>1</sup> N. 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*

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

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

- *cosine distance*

- *complex*



## onset detection

## novelty function examples 2/3

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

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

• *cosine distance*

$$\triangleright d_{\text{foo}}(n) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{\mathcal{K}/2-1} |X(k,n)| \cdot |X(k,n-1)|}{\sqrt{\left( \sum_{k=0}^{\mathcal{K}/2-1} |X(k,n)|^2 \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\mathcal{K}/2-1} |X(k,n-1)|^2 \right)}}$$

• *complex*

## onset detection

## novelty function examples 2/3

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• *complex*

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

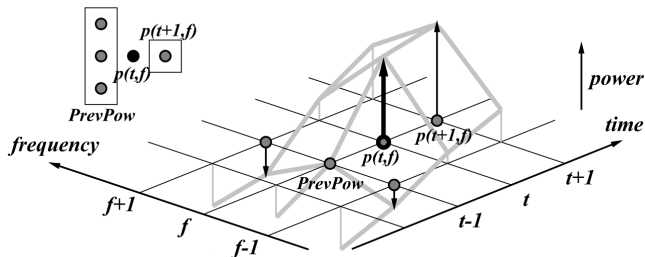
## onset detection

## novelty function examples 3/3

**3** STFT-based cont'd

- Goto-distance<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ higher power than closest preceding and following bins

-



<sup>2</sup>M. 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.

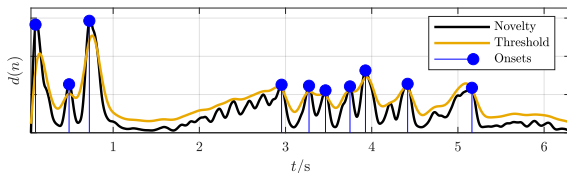
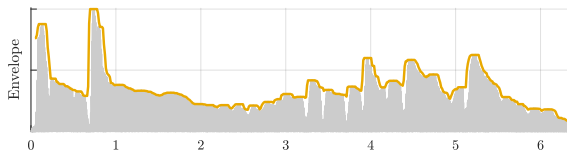
# onset detection

## peak picking: introduction

- detect onsets in the smoothed novelty function

- typical **criteria**

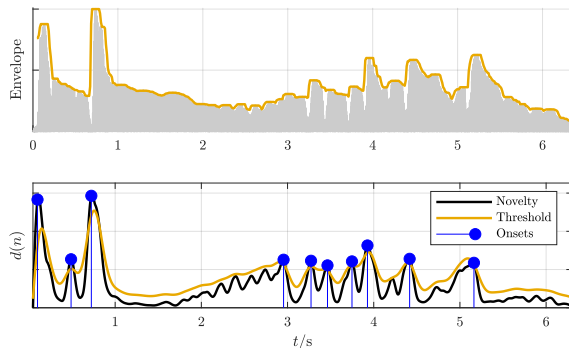
- local maximum & salient peak
- higher than minimum likelihood
- not too close to maxima with higher likelihood
- other options: high attack slope, distance to prev. min, ...



# onset detection

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# onset detection

## peak picking: thresholding

### ■ options for thresholding

- **fixed** threshold

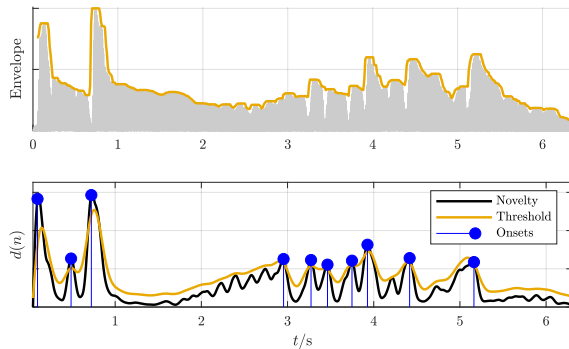
$$G_{d,c} = \lambda_1$$

- **smoothed** threshold

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

- **median** threshold

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



# onset detection evaluation

## ■ goal

- compare a series of ground truth onset time stamps with a series of predicted time stamps

## ■ ground truth annotation problems

- deviations between annotators
- how to annotate quasi-synchronous onsets

## ■ metrics

- measure TP with tolerance range  $\Rightarrow$  TP, FN, FP (TN only implicitly)
- Precision, Recall, F-Measure
- other metrics
  - ▶ mean (absolute) deviation
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# 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

