DEEP LEARNING FOR MUSICAL FORM: RECOGNITION AND ANALYSIS



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Introduction

- [Classical] **Musical form analysis** is a rigorous task that frequently challenges the expertise of human analysts and signal processing algorithms alike
- While numerous systems have been proposed to perform the tasks of musical segmentation, genre classification, and single-label segment classification in popular music, none have specifically focused on the analytical process used by classical musicians
- As well, current datasets used for related research tasks lack standardized analytical conventions, including form classification, and suffer from erroneous annotations and extensibility due to the data sources used for the music
- We propose a new system to perform the task of automatic musical form analysis using deep learning models, as well as a new standardized dataset



Motivation

Problem Definition

Several attempts to **autonomously analyze and segment musical form** using artificial intelligence algorithms have been made (including novelty methods, community detection algorithms, and neural networks), but **none have proven to be sufficient**

Limitation #1

Current systems focus on **popular music tasks**, such as **Verse-Chorus segmentation/classification** and **genre classification** – although attempts have been made to segment classical music by phrases without classifying

Limitation #2

The only existing datasets of phrase-analyzed classical music (SALAMI) feature numerous errors, **lack standardized analytical conventions** (to allow for genre flexibility), and use live recordings rather than basing timestamps on the score

Limitation #3

No such tool exists for **automatic** (or **computer assisted**) classical form analysis – this time-consuming task must be done entirely by hand, and translating this to an Al-usable format requires a double analysis of **both the sheet music and a reliable audio file** for timestamping



3

Motivation – Potential Applications

1

Music Rehearsal and Pedagogy

Music practice and analysis tools, such as **dividing a piece by themes** for rehearsal, **assignment generation** using peak-picking, or a **grading system** for human-analyzed scores

2

Audio Thumbnails and Fingerprints

Audio thumbnail/fingerprint generation, as applicable for a **streaming service or web store** (iTunes, Facebook Music Sharing, Amazon music)

3

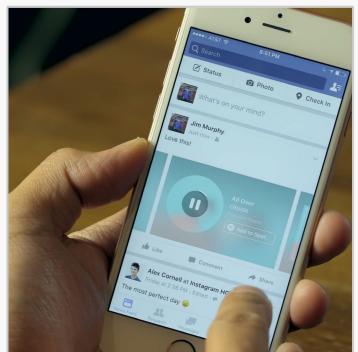
Forensics and Copyright Detection

Forensic Musicology, where the analysis may be used to **compare numerous pieces of music** for similar or exact replications of musical phrases, motives, or other structures



Audio-Video Analysis

Extension to video analysis to apply both **visual and audio cues** to the **media's structure**, whether formal in design (such as a music video, musical, etc.) or not (a movie/TV show)



Facebook's audio sharing feature for Spotify /iTunes¹ (Plays a 30 second song preview)

Motivation – Potential Applications

Generalized Audio Structure Analysis

Performing structural analysis on any given audio or waveform, including spoken audio where patterns of repeated language may be used (i.e., poetry, forensic investigation, lecture, neuro-linguistic programming, Natural Language Processing (NLP) problems)

Optical Music Recognition and Analysis

Optical Music Recognition (OMR) – analyzing a piece using the sheet music, much like a human analyst, or correcting optical sheet music transcriptions using formal structures

Audio and Spoken Language Classification

Audio classification by content, with or without music (e.g., for **sorting a web database**, hearing-impaired **accessibility tools**, **language classification** from audio recordings [NLP])

Lacking Musicology Research

Production of **musical form/analysis-based anthologies**, alongside other fields of musicology that lack significant research and technological advancement



Anthology books are widely used in all fields of music² – though Form Analysis has very few

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1



Provide a new model to **perform full form analysis** (form classification, segmentation, part/phrase labeling), rather than simply peak-picking and segmentation, and **expand upon existing model architecture designs** using recurrent memory cells to better recognize repeated audio patterns



Goal #2

Develop a new, musically accurate dataset by common analytical conventions, including categorical divisions by large musical form, and provide appropriate evaluation metrics and accurate model performance results



Goal #3

Present a more accurate deep learning model to perform both **form-level** and **part/phrase-level analysis** using suitable algorithms for the network architecture and signal processing by extensive and exhaustive research



Goal #4

Examine the previous work done in the field through **extensive background research** and **contribute to the literature** by obtaining improved results from previous studies in the formal analysis of music using machine learning and peak picking methods



Background

- Classical music form analysis facilitates a combination of classification and segmentation tasks, including form classification, structural segmentation, and multilabel large- and small-segment classification – tasks that lack feasible algorithms, machine learning models, and extensive research
- Classical pieces are broken down hierarchically by their large form (two-part/binary, three-part/ternary, ...), Part divisions (part A, B, A', Development, CODA, ...), and Phrases (a, a', b, c, theme, variation, transition, section, ...) though many additional labels may be employed, including for other substructures
- Form analysis has many applications in the world of music (especially for directors), and a viable analytical system would greatly benefit **performing musicians** and **academic researchers**, both in musicology and signal processing
- One of the greatest difficulties in musical analysis is the lack of complete ground truth – pieces of music are frequently interpreted differently by different analysts, and may be classified or even analyzed differently at the phrase or part levels



Analysis of Bourrée from J.S. Bach's BWV 996 (Rounded Binary form)

Literature Review

System 1 (1998) Melody and harmony generator using

Feed-forward Neural Networks; unable
to learn higher-level musical structures
occurring simultaneously and at multiple
time scales or recognize melodic vs.
harmonic context of notes and intervals

System 2 (2007)

Automatic musical style recognition
through classification of harmonic, melodic,
and rhythmic descriptors using k-NN, SelfOrganizing Maps, and Bayesian
classification; SOMs may be useful for
formal analysis, system designed to
recognize low-level features only

3 (2014, 2015, 2016)

System

Boundary recognition using Convolutional

Neural networks, Mel Spectrogram, and

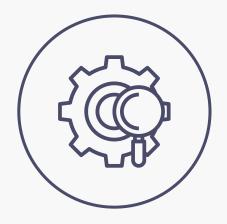
Self-Similarity Lag Matrices to estimate
fixed-depth segmentations based on

SALAMI annotation levels; boundaries
evaluated by time tolerance. Also used to
generate audio thumbnails

System 4 (2020)

Automatic musical structure detection and segmentation using multi-resolution community detection and graph theory to perform boundary detection and structural grouping, yielding a structural hierarchy. Noted that CNNs will continue to lack improvement without recurrent layers

Methodology – Main Contributions



Develop a system of three components: Form Analyzer, Peak-Picking Algorithm, and Phrase Analyzer



Use hybrid Neural-Decision
Tree models to train quickly
and reduce overfitting



Dataset built from 200 manually classified MIDIs, augmented with 5 different sets of permutations to expand dataset to 1,200

Methodology – System Components

Form Analyzer

- Classify classical piece as one of 12 possible forms:
- Arch
- Bar
- Binary
- · Minuet & Trio
- · Ritornello
- Rondo
- Sonata
- Ternary
- · Theme & Variation
- · Through Composed
- · Unary/Strophic
- Unique

Peak-Picking Alg.

- Break down audio file using Onset Detection methods to discover the peak event audio frames
- Return this set of frames as a series of timestamps representing the musical phrases

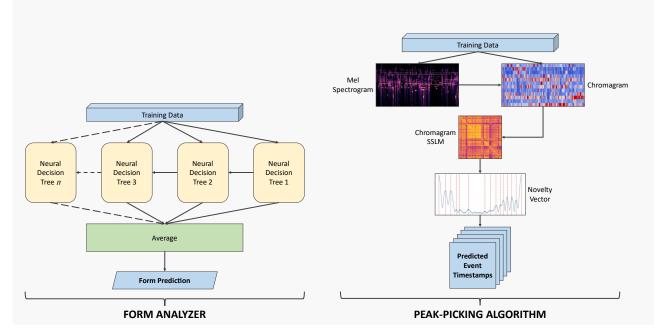
Phrase Analyzer

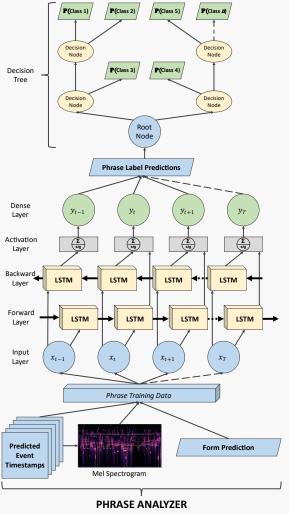
- Using the form classification and phrase timestamps, classify each timestamp sequentially
- Timestamps may include multiple labels (part and phrase) or individual (transition, phrase, etc.)

Prediction System

- Combine the outputs of all 3 major components
- Present final analysis formatted to match the training data (filename, form, and labeled timestamps)

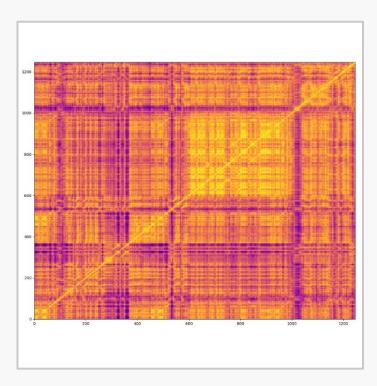
Methodology – System Architecture





Data Extraction and Preparation

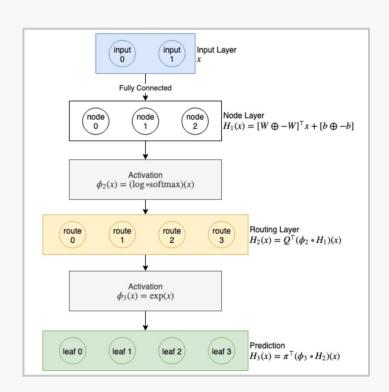
- Using feature selection and elimination methods, we found that the two most important data features for Form Classification were the music duration and the Self-Similarity Matrix (SSM) of the (Mel) Spectrogram
- The dataset was augmented using pitch, time, speed, and starting-point shifting methods to expand the 200-piece dataset to 1200 the data is publicly available on GitHub for extended contribution (https://github.com/danielathome19/Form-NN/tree/master/Data)
- Each piece of music was converted to its Spectrogram SSM, and the mean and variance were used to reduce the 2D array into 1D – a common approach for feature scaling and dimensionality reduction in signal processing
- This set of data (including the duration and numerous unused pre-calculated features) was stored as a data table for ease of extensibility and reduced computation time during training
- The data for the Form Analyzer was scaled using $X = \frac{(X mean(X))}{std(X)}$, and using **Min-Max Scaling** for the Phrase Analyzer $(X = \frac{X min(X)}{max(X) min(X)})$.



Mel Spectrogram SSM

Form Analyzer Architecture – TreeGrad

- A hybrid Deep Neural-Decision Forest architecture (known as TreeGrad)
 was used to fit the dataset as an ensemble network using Stacking
- This model trained extremely quickly and fit to the dataset with high accuracy and low error – hence, overfitting was not an issue compared to non-hybrid models (CNN, DNN, etc.)
- Duration was found to be the most important feature in classifying the form, a hint well-used by human analysts
- Labels were encoded using Integer encoding
- To combat overfitting using the pruning methods employed by decision trees, TreeGrad models each tree in the ensemble as a three-layer neural network to create a Neural Decision Tree
- Each Neural Decision Tree is comprised of a Decision (Input) Layer, Node/Routing (Hidden) Layer which controls the branching of each node in the tree, and a Prediction (Output) Layer

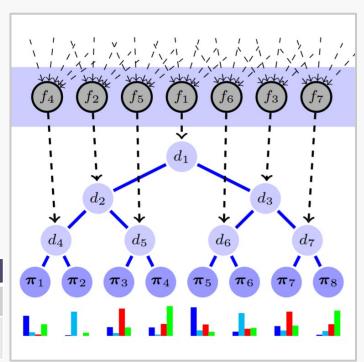


TreeGrad Architecture

Form Analyzer Architecture – TreeGrad

- Each tree in the TreeGrad forest uses probabilistic routing computed by the sigmoid function, replicating the probabilistic output of a Dense Neural Network
- Both the **Input** and **Dense** layers are trainable, allowing the weights of each layer to be bounded by the ℓ_p-norm with $p\geq 1$, conforming the model to the **AdaNet Generalization Bounds** (creating better comparisons between the complexities of models in an ensemble and the overall training loss)
- All trees in the forest are combined into a Stacked ensemble, where
 multiple well-performing models are combined, and the average of their
 output is returned as the final prediction

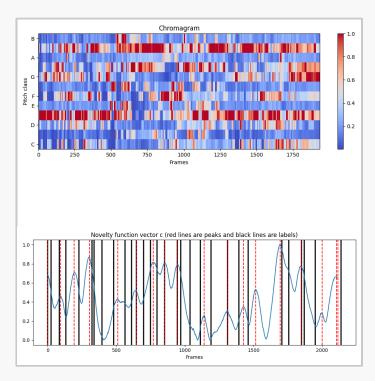
| Form Analyzer Parameters | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| | # Of Leaves (Per Tree) | Max Depth | Learning Rate | # Of Estimators (Trees) | Batch Size | Refit Splits? | | | |
| Value | 31 | -1 (∞) | 0.1 | 100 | 32 | True | | | |



Probabilistic routing and output of a Neural Decision Tree modeled as a CNN [92]

Peak-Picking Algorithm – Onset Detection

- The Peak-Picking (also called "Onset Detection") algorithm uses the Mel Spectrogram and Self-Similarity Lag Matrix (SSLM) Chromagram (a graph of pitch class distribution by time) to detect peaks in the audio
- The Chromagram SSLM is computed using k-Nearest Neighbors to cluster pitches in the Mel Spectrogram
- The computed vector of peaks, represented by audio frames captured by the Short-Time Fourier Transform (STFT), is returned as an array of timestamps
- While the algorithm does not employ machine learning techniques to perform the peak-detection directly, it was found to be comparable to other CNN architectures discovered in the literature review and greatly reduced system design time (given the lack of training necessary to perform the calculations)

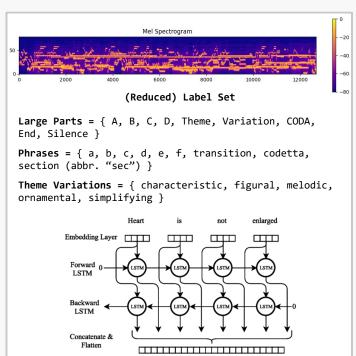


Example Chromagram and Novelty Vector

Phrase Analyzer Architecture – LSTM-Tree

- Data for the Phrase Analyzer is divided into a series of timestamps which are used to slice the audio into segments between these points
- The features selected for the Phrase Analyzer include the Form classification, timestamp, audio slice duration, and the Mel Spectrogram. Hence, prediction requires both an accurate Form prediction and Peak-Picking results. Labels were encoded using One-Hot Encoding
- The model was implemented using a hybrid architecture a Bidirectional LSTM (a form of Recurrent Neural Network) is fit to the data, then the output of the last hidden (Dense) layer is used to fit a Decision Tree to perform the final prediction (referred to as LSTM-Tree)

| Phrase Analyzer Parameters | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--|
| | LSTM Units | LSTM Dropout | Merge Mode | Loss | Activation | Optimizer | Batch Size | Epochs | |
| Value | 4 | 0.2 | Concat | Binary Cross- entropy | Sigmoid | Adam | 1 | 5 | |



Example Mel Spectrogram, Label Set Universe, and Bi-LSTM Architecture

Evaluation – Experimental Results

- For the Form Analyzer, the TreeGrad model simply takes in the SSM and duration of a piece of music and outputs the predicted classification, which is compared against the ground truth label
- For a musicologist, this system alone could be used to discover when and why a composer may choose a particular form over another, for example
- While the Peak-Picking Algorithm was not evaluated using a formal metric, the algorithm was tested against the training data and the output timestamps were often found to be nearly identical or had a low enough difference to be subjectively true (similar to human bias)
- Using the timestamps provided by the Peak-Picking Algorithm and the labels output from the Phrase Analyzer, the piece of music can be score studied (i.e., analyzed within the sheet music) much quicker for rehearsal and research use, for example



A person performing music analysis using the sheet music for the piece³

Evaluation – Form Analyzer

- The full (augmented) dataset was split into 83.1% training and 16.9% testing (or validation)
- The Form Analyzer was evaluated using both validation accuracy (or Jaccard score in this case) as well as Precision/Recall/F1 scores
- The final model solely uses the TreeGrad model to perform the prediction the Mel Spectrogram SSM is calculated on the fly, then passed to the model along with the duration
- The output provided by the prediction is the large form classification expected by the model, which was found to be 83% accurate – a surprisingly good performance given the subjective nature of the form classification

Result #1

The final Form Analyzer model achieved a **maximum accuracy of 83%** -precision and recall were closely correlated to this score. May perform better
as an **ensemble**

Performing predictions on anna-magdalena_book_14

Predicted form: **Unary**

Performing predictions on brahms_opus117_1

Predicted form: Ternary

Performing predictions on faure_nocturne_99_no10

Predicted form: Sonata

Performing predictions on bthvn_pno_concerto_2_19_3

Predicted form: Rondo

Performing predictions on schubert_D935_2

Predicted form: Ternary

Performing predictions on schumann_evening_song

Predicted form: Rondo

Performing predictions on schbrt_strquartet_13-mvt3

Predicted form: MinTrio

Performing predictions on tchaik_nocturne_19_4

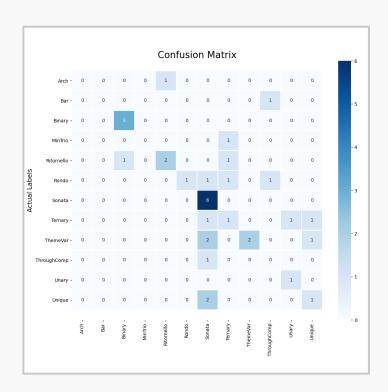
Predicted form: Binary

Sample prediction output from Form Analyzer

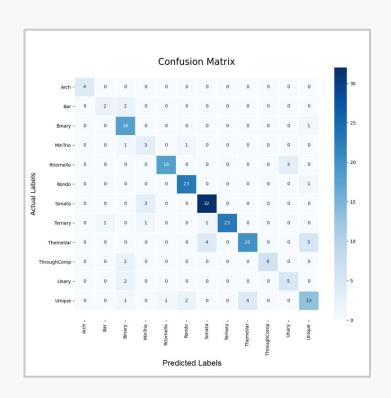
Results – Form Analyzer Compared to Other Methods



Results – Form Analyzer Compared to Other Methods



Best CNN Confusion Matrix (50% Accuracy, 56% Precision, 44% Recall, 41% F1)



TreeGrad Confusion matrix (83% Accuracy, 84% Precision, 82% Recall & F1)

Evaluation – Peak-Picking Algorithm

 The authors of the full algorithm propose further modifications for segment-segment comparisons [80], but these greatly increase the number of matrix computations and add substantial overhead

- Results were found to be identical for almost all pieces of music regardless of the proposed additions — since the timestamps are independent of the classification analysis, a segment-segment comparison is unnecessary for onset detection
- The output of the novelty function was compared to numerous hand-labeled pieces from the dataset, and we found that the difference was negligible

```
Event: 0:00:00
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:00
                                                       Difference: 0.000000
Event: 0:00:13.235374
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:01.150000
                                                       Difference: -12.085374
Event: 0:00:28.560544
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:23,995000
                                                       Difference: -4.565544
Event: 0:00:40.124082
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:29.945000
                                                       Difference: -10.179082
Event: 0:01:00.186122
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:37.545000
                                                       Difference: -22,641122
Event: 0:01:18.715646
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:48.645000
                                                       Difference: -30.070646
Event: 0:01:42.678639
                                                       Difference: -46.183639
                        Ground Truth: 0:00:56.495000
Event: 0:01:54.102857
                                                       Difference: -13,907857
                        Ground Truth: 0:01:40.195000
Event: 0:02:14.443537
                        Ground Truth: 0:01:59.161000
                                                       Difference: -15.282537
Event: 0:02:27.678912
                                                       Difference: -5.667912
                        Ground Truth: 0:02:22.011000
Event: 0:02:44.397279
                        Ground Truth: 0:02:52.811000
                                                       Difference: 8.413721
Event: 0:02:56.100136
                        Ground Truth: 0:03:19.611000
                                                       Difference: 23.510864
Event: 0:03:09.196190
                        Ground Truth: 0:03:32,411000
                                                       Difference: 23.214810
Event: 0:03:22.292245
                        Ground Truth: 0:03:51.761000
                                                       Difference: 29,468755
Event: 0:03:36.642177
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:10.761000
                                                       Difference: 34.118823
Event: 0:03:59.072653
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:24.211000
                                                       Difference: 25.138347
Event: 0:04:15.233741
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:30.761000
                                                       Difference: 15.527259
Event: 0:04:31,255510
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:38.761000
                                                       Difference: 7.505490
Event: 0:04:41.983129
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:47.761000
                                                       Difference: 5.777871
Event: 0:05:01.209252
                                                       Difference: -1.298252
                        Ground Truth: 0:04:59.911000
Event: 0:05:19.878095
                        Ground Truth: 0:05:06.511000
                                                       Difference: -13.367095
Event: 0:05:34,228027
                                                       Difference: -2.467027
                        Ground Truth: 0:05:31.761000
Event: 0:05:48.438639
                        Ground Truth: 0:05:43.861000
                                                       Difference: -4.577639
Event: 0:06:08.918639
                        Ground Truth: 0:06:08.001000
                                                       Difference: -0.917639
Average (absolute) time difference: ±14.828637755102045
```

Demonstration of peak-picking algorithm compared to ground truth annotation

Results – Peak-Picking Algorithm

- Based on our comparisons, it was more feasible (and both faster and accurate) to use the algorithm than to train a CNN to perform the same task
- One issue the algorithm faces is that some pieces of music that
 are exceptionally short in duration only return the onset of the
 start and end of the piece for such examples, the halfway
 point (duration / 2) is added to the novelty vector

Result #2

The Peak-Picking algorithm proved **comparable to other machine learning approaches** (CNN, Self-Organizing Maps), as even pre-labeled data points were nearly identical to those marked by a human analyst



A demonstration of harmonic analysis, part of the intuition behind analyzing musical phrase segmentation⁴

Evaluation – Phrase Analyzer

Associated Challenges

 This model is much more difficult to score programmatically, as numerous factors affect the final system

- The model receives the timestamps from the Peak-Picking algorithm, which is also difficult to compare to a human annotated ground truth due to integrative disagreement
- The labels are often highly subjective, and some labels are implicit (part A continues until timestamp n but is normally only labeled at the first occurrence)

Phrase Analyzer

100%

Accuracy (Hamming Score)

| | Formal | Plan of | Vivaldi's | "Wint | ter," O | p. 8, No | o. 4, Seco | nd Mov | ement |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|-----------|-------|---------|----------|------------|--------|-------|
| Sections | [| | A |] | [| | B _ | |] |
| Measure #'s | 1-2 | 3-5 | 5-7 | 7-8 | 9-10 | 11 | 12-13 | 14-16 | 17-18 |
| Phrases | a | b | ext | | a' | ext. | b′ | ext. | |
| Harmonic Motion | I-V-I | V ⁶ | 5 3 | | =V | $V^7 I$ | IV V | V | I |
| (Phrase Level) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | = | I | V-I | I-V-I | | | | |
| Keys | ЕЬ | | ВЬ | | | ЕЬ | | | |
| Large-Scale | I | | V | | | I | | V | I |
| Harmonic Plan | | | | | | | | | |

A full analysis example, displaying the carryover of the Part labels and the repetition of Phrase labels⁵

Evaluation – Phrase Analyzer

Associated Challenges

 Form analysis, especially onset detection, operates on fuzzy logic rules, so the peak-picking algorithm and phrase analyzer may or may not be considered accurate based on the bias of a human analyst and/or their conventions

 If the data was split into a test set, the results would likely be less truthful of the model's performance due to poor generalizing

The dataset is too small to split well into training and testing proportions –
however, expanding the dataset would require many analysts all trained on
the same methodology analyzing each piece individually before reaching
an agreement for the ground truth labels (two analysts may even label
varying numbers of events)

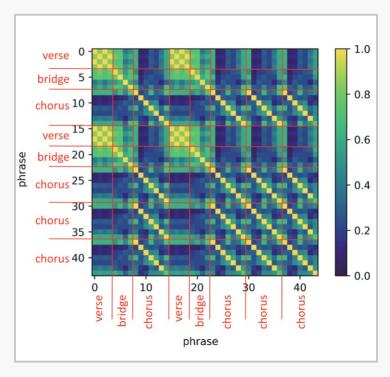
```
brahms opus117 1
         Ternary
                            DonTree TreeGrad
        Guesser: LSTMTree
             0.0 Silence
                            Silence Silence
                   [A, a]
                                [A]
          21,177
                      ΓAΊ
                                [B]
           38.87 [A, sec] [CODA, f]
          57.121 [A, sec] [CODA, f]
          67.013
                      [A]
                           [A, sec]
                      [B]
           96.27
                           [A, sec]
         150.187
                      [b]
                                [A]
                      [a]
         167.741
                           [A, sec]
          186.41 [B, sec]
                                ГВ1
         200.899
                   [B, c]
                                [A]
         210.512
                   [CODA]
                                 [A]
         223.608
                   [CODA]
                           [A, sec]
         237.958
                      [A]
                           [A, sec]
         252.029
                      [A]
                                 [A]
         269.444
                      End
                                Fnd
                                          Fnd
```

Final prediction system output includes Decision

Tree and TreeGrad for comparison

Results – Phrase Analyzer

- While there was currently little room for improving the model outside of manually expanding the dataset (after optimizing the hyperparameters), we found that output of the final model was objectively comparable to our ground-truth analyses
- As such, the model is practical enough to be used as an assisting tool
 for human analyses (such as for expanding the dataset), and was thus
 considered as good as currently possible
- Given the evaluation constraints for the phrase analysis, we found that
 the LSTM-Tree was sufficient to avoid harsh overfitting compared to
 other attempted models (DNN, RNN, TreeGrad), likely the result of the
 boosting from the decision tree



A Self-Similarity Matrix of a popular-form piece of music analyzed using an extended Word2Vec model⁶

Results – Phrase Analyzer

- Other machine learning algorithms such as Random Forest and Extra Trees were attempted, but provided unusable or highly-overfit output due to the Multilabel Classification
- The LSTM-Tree also appears to prioritize the large form labels, and often tends to leave out the phrase label or generalizes it as a "section" without a unique letter

Result #3

In comparison to other models, **LSTM-Tree outperformed** both individual NNs (DNN, CNN), ML algorithms (decision tree, random forest), and TreeGrad

Result #4

Using a **hybrid NN-Decision Tree approach** greatly reduced overfitting and thus increased accuracy for both Form and Phrase analyzers



Discussion

Discussion #1

The LSTM-Tree may benefit from using a **Curriculum Learning** approach, much like that of a traditional Form and Analysis class. An Autoencoder or Seq2Seq model may be useful in creating a more accurate/faster system

Discussion #3

The Peak-Picking algorithm could be used to train a more accurate **music segmentation network**, allowing the entire system to be treated as one large Deep Learning system

Discussion #2

The final Form-NN system is currently accurate enough to be implemented as the backend of a higher-level system such as an assisted grading tool for human-analyzed scores or a musical practice tool

Discussion #4

The current dataset features class imbalance; anthologies of classical music classified by form are lacking, though this system could be used to assist in compiling such a work



Conclusion

Methodology

We have devised a system for the task of automatic musical form recognition and analysis using hybrid Neural Network-Decision Tree models

Intuition

This system completely analyses a piece of classical music, including locating the points of musical events, labeling them by their structural classification, and classifying the piece by its large form structure

Contribution

We presented a new dataset that seeks to correct the errors presented by previous commonly used databases, including pre-computed spectral data (for training) and the form classification for each piece

Extension

The final system is in a usable state for individual use, anthology development, or implementation into a more complex piece of software

Conclusion



In this thesis, we proposed a new system to perform the task of automatic musical form analysis using deep learning models, as well as a new standardized dataset

Future Work



Suggestion #1

While the current system is specific to classical music analysis, it could be extended to allow for the **classification of additional forms** including those found in popular music and more complex hybrid forms

Suggestion #2

Optical Music Recognition is another difficult task lacking substantial research – our methods could be potentially extended to perform visual music analysis and perform the segmentation/classification on the score

Suggestion #3

The system may be extendable for use in **Forensic Musicology**, using the system's output analysis in the comparison of multiple pieces of music for potentially similar or exact replications of musical phrases

- 1. Jacopo de Berardinis, Michalis Vamvakaris, Angelo Cangelosi, and Eduardo Coutinho. 2020. Unveiling the hierarchical structure of music by multi-resolution community detection. *Transactions of the International Society for Music Information Retrieval* 3, 1: 82–97. https://doi.org/10.5334/tismir.41
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QUESTIONS

Thank you!

DEEP LEARNING FOR MUSICAL FORM: RECOGNITION AND ANALYSIS



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