

Computational Music Analysis

Fabian C. Moss^{1,*}

¹École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

*fabian.moss@epfl.ch

April 18, 2020

Contents

1	General remarks	5
2	What is Computational Music Analysis?	7
3	Representations, Formats, and Programs	9
3.1	Notes	9
3.2	Chords	9
3.3	Scores	9
4	Music Models	11
4.1	Regular Expressions	11
4.2	n -gram Models	11
4.3	Hidden Markov Models	11
4.4	Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars	11
5	Style	13
6	History	15
7	Performance	17

Chapter 1

General remarks

General remark: Create exercises with listening, composing and analyzing tasks.

- Sounds in the external world - Perception, constraints (e.g. audible range)
- discretization - Musical Universals (3-7 note scales) - allows symbolic representation - scales (independent from tuning/temperament): collections of pitches
- members of scale: notes - neighborhood - Schenkerian terms: neighbor notes
- pitch classes - pitch class sets - intervals - counterpoint - consonance / dissonance - interval classes - interval class vectors - special pitch class sets: chords
- Triads - Euler space - tonnetz - seventh chords
- notes in time: durations, rhythm - Schenkerian terms: passing notes - cognitive framework: meter - metrical hierarchies
- visualisations (pitch-time plots) - pianoroll - MIDI - modern Western notation - different keys (not only treble and bass)

Chapter 2

What is Computational Music Analysis?

(Horton, 2001)

Chapter 3

Representations, Formats, and Programs

3.1 Notes

pitches, pitch classes, pitch class sets, GISs,

3.2 Chords

RomanText, Music21, ABC, kern

3.3 Scores

MIDI, MusicXML, MEI

Chapter 4

Music Models

4.1 Regular Expressions

(Chord symbols)

4.2 n -gram Models

(Melody)

4.3 Hidden Markov Models

(Functional Harmony)

4.4 Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars

(Harmony, Form)

Chapter 5

Style

- Zipf's law (style, idiom, intra-opus patterns) (Meyer, 1989) - feature clustering
(k-means, PCA, ...)

Chapter 6

History

- trends (maybe with a non note-based dataset e.g. metadata)

Chapter 7

Performance

- Spotify API to compare different recordings

Bibliography

- Meyer, L. B. (1989). *Style and Music. Theory, History, and Ideology*. University of Chicago Press.
- Horton, T. (2001). The Compositionality of Tonal Structures: A Generative Approach to the Notion of Musical Meaning. *Musicae Scientiae*, 5(2), 131–159. doi:10.1177/102986490100500202