

# LEARNING FEATURES OF MUSIC FROM SCRATCH

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## ABSTRACT

This paper introduces a new large-scale music dataset, MusicNet, to serve as a source of supervision and evaluation of machine learning methods for music research. MusicNet consists of hundreds of freely-licensed classical music recordings by 10 composers, written for 11 instruments, together with instrument/note annotations resulting in over 1 million temporal labels on 34 hours of chamber music performances under various studio and microphone conditions.

The paper defines a multi-label classification task to predict notes in musical recordings, along with an evaluation protocol, and benchmarks several machine learning architectures for this task: i) learning from spectrogram features; ii) end-to-end learning with a neural net; iii) end-to-end learning with a convolutional neural net. These experiments show that end-to-end models trained for note prediction learn frequency selective filters as a low-level representation of audio.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Music research has benefited recently from the effectiveness of machine learning methods on a wide range of problems from music recommendation (van den Oord et al., 2013; McFee & Lanckriet, 2011) to music generation (Hadjeres & Pachet, 2016); see also the recent demos of the Google Magenta project<sup>1</sup>. As of today, there is no large publicly available labeled dataset for the simple yet challenging task of note prediction for classical music. The MIREX MultiF0 Development Set (Benetos & Dixon, 2011) and the Bach10 dataset (Duan et al., 2011) together contain less than 7 minutes of labeled music. These datasets were designed for method evaluation, not for training supervised learning methods.

This situation stands in contrast to other application domains of machine learning. For instance, in computer vision large labeled datasets such as ImageNet (Russakovsky et al., 2015) are fruitfully used to train end-to-end learning architectures. Learned feature representations have outperformed traditional hand-crafted low-level visual features and lead to tremendous progress for image classification. In (Humphrey et al., 2012), Humphrey, Bello, and LeCun issued a call to action: “Deep architectures often require a large amount of labeled data for supervised training, a luxury music informatics has never really enjoyed. Given the proven success of supervised methods, MIR would likely benefit a good deal from a concentrated effort in the curation of sharable data in a sustainable manner.”

This paper introduces a new large labeled dataset, MusicNet, which is publicly available<sup>2</sup> as a resource for learning feature representations of music. MusicNet is a corpus of aligned labels on freely-licensed classical music recordings, made possible by licensing initiatives of the European Archive, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Musopen, and various individual artists. The dataset consists of 34 hours of human-verified aligned recordings, containing a total of 1,299,329 individual labels on segments of these recordings. Table 1 summarizes statistics of MusicNet.

The focus of this paper’s experiments is to learn low-level features of music from raw audio data. In Sect. 4, we will construct a multi-label classification task to predict notes in musical recordings,

<sup>1</sup><https://magenta.tensorflow.org/>

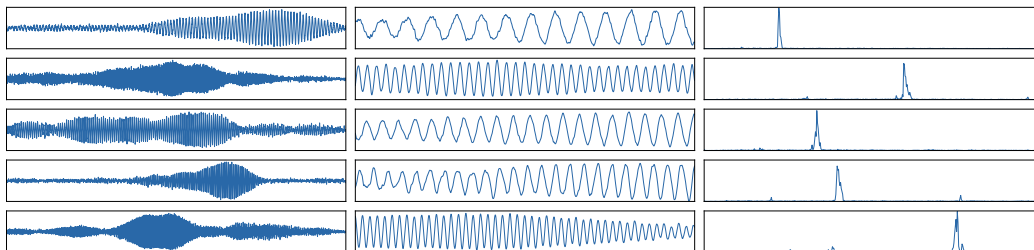
<sup>2</sup><http://homes.cs.washington.edu/~thickstn/musicnet.html>.

# MusicNet

Ensemble				Solo							
Minutes	Labels	Recordings	Error Rate	Composer	Minutes	Labels					
2,048	1,299,329	330	4.0%	Beethoven	1,085	736,072					
Ensemble				Schubert	253	146,648					
				Brahms	192	133,109					
				Mozart	156	99,641					
				Bach	184	62,782					
				Dvorak	56	46,261					
				Cambini	43	24,820					
				Faure	33	22,349					
				Ravel	27	21,243					
				Haydn	15	6,404					
				Instrument	Minutes	Labels					
				Piano	1346	794,532					
				Violin	874	230,484					
				Viola	621	99,407					
				Cello	800	99,132					
				Clarinet	173	24,426					
				Bassoon	102	14,954					
				Horn	132	11,468					
				Oboe	66	8,696					
				Flute	69	8,310					
			Harpsichord	16	4,914						
			String Bass	38	3,006						
	Piano	Violin	Cello	Viola	Clarinet	Bassoon	Horn	Oboe	Flute	Bass	Harpsichord
Notes	83	51	51	51	41	36	41	28	37	43	51

Table 1: Summary statistics of the MusicNet dataset. See Sect. 2 for further discussion of MusicNet and Sect. 3 for a description of the labelling process. Appendix A discusses the methodology for computing error rate of this process.

along with an evaluation protocol. We will consider a variety of machine learning architectures for this task: i) learning from spectrogram features; ii) end-to-end learning with a neural net; iii) end-to-end learning with a convolutional neural net. Each of the proposed end-to-end models learns a set of frequency selective filters as low-level features of musical audio, which are similar in spirit to a spectrogram. The learned low-level features are visualized in Figure 1. The learned features modestly outperform spectrogram features; we will explore possible reasons for this in Sect. 5.



## 2 MUSICNET

**Related Works.** The experiments in this paper suggest that large amounts of data are necessary to recovering useful features from music; see Sect. 4.5 for details. The Lakh dataset, released this summer based on the work of Raffel & Ellis (2015), offers note-level annotations for many 30-second clips of pop music in the Million Song Dataset (McFee et al., 2012). The syncRWC dataset is a subset of the RWC dataset (Goto et al., 2003) consisting of 61 recordings aligned to scores using the protocol described in Ewert et al. (2009). The MAPS dataset (Emiya et al., 2010) is a mixture of acoustic and synthesized data, which expressive models could overfit. The Mazurka project<sup>3</sup> consists of commercial music. Access to the RWC and Mazurka datasets comes at both a cost and inconvenience. Both the MAPS and Mazurka datasets are comprised entirely of piano music.

**The MusicNet Dataset.** MusicNet is a public collection of labels (exemplified in Table 2) for 330 freely-licensed classical music recordings of a variety of instruments arranged in small chamber ensembles under various studio and microphone conditions. The recordings average 6 minutes in length. The shortest recording in the dataset is 55 seconds and the longest is almost 18 minutes. Table 1 summarizes the statistics of MusicNet with breakdowns into various types of labels. Table 2 demonstrates examples of labels from the MusicNet dataset.

Start	End	Instrument	Note	Measure	Beat	Note Value
45.29	45.49	Violin	G5	21	3	Eighth
48.99	50.13	Cello	A#3	24	2	Dotted Half
82.91	83.12	Viola	C5	51	2.5	Eighth

Table 2: MusicNet labels on the Pascal String Quartet’s recording of Beethoven’s Opus 127, String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat major, I - Maestoso - Allegro. Creative commons use of this recording is made possible by the work of the European Archive.

MusicNet labels come from 513 label classes using the most naive definition of a class: distinct instrument/note combinations. The breakdowns reported in Table 1 indicate the number of distinct notes that appear for each instrument in our dataset. For example, while a piano has 88 keys only 83 of them are performed in MusicNet. For many tasks a note’s value will be a part of its label, in which case the number of classes will expand by approximately an order of magnitude after taking the cartesian product of the set of classes with the set of values: quarter-note, eighth-note, triplet, etc. Labels regularly overlap in the time series creating polyphonic multi-labels.

MusicNet is heavily skewed towards Beethoven, thanks to the composer’s popularity among performing ensembles. The dataset is also skewed towards Solo Piano due to an abundance of digital scores available for piano works. For training purposes, researchers may want to augment this dataset to increase coverage of instruments such as Flute and Oboe that are under-represented in MusicNet. Researchers who do not need to distribute their dataset can make use of immense libraries of commercial recordings. These recordings can be labeled using the alignment protocol described in Sect. 3.

## 3 DATASET CONSTRUCTION

MusicNet recordings are freely-licensed classical music collected from the European Archive, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Musopen, and various artists’ collections. The MusicNet labels are retrieved from digital MIDI scores, collected from various archives including the Classical Archives ([classicalarchives.com](http://classicalarchives.com)) Suzuchan’s Classic MIDI ([suzumidi.com](http://suzumidi.com)) and HarfeSoft ([harfesoft.de](http://harfesoft.de)). The methods in this section produce an alignment between a digital score and a corresponding freely-licensed recording. A recording is labeled with events in the score, associated to times in the performance via the alignment. Scores containing 6, 550, 760 additional labels are available on request to researchers who wish to augment MusicNet with commercial recordings.

Music-to-score alignment is a long-standing problem in the music research and signal processing communities (Raphael, 1999). Dynamic time warping (DTW) is a classical approach to this prob-

<sup>3</sup><http://www.mazurka.org.uk/>

lem. An early use of DTW for music alignment is Orio & Schwarz (2001) where a recording is aligned to a crude synthesis of its score, designed to capture some of the structure of an overtone series. The method described in this paper aligns recordings to synthesized performances of scores, using side information from a commercial synthesizer. To the best of our knowledge, commercial synthesis was first used for the purpose of alignment in Turetsky & Ellis (2003).

The majority of previous work on alignment focuses on pop music. This is more challenging than aligning classical music because commercial synthesizers do a poor job reproducing the wide variety of vocal and instrumental timbers that appear in modern pop. Furthermore, pop features inharmonic instruments such as drums for which natural metrics on frequency representations—including  $\ell^2$ —are not meaningful. For classical music to score alignment, a variant of the techniques described in Turetsky & Ellis (2003) works robustly. This method is described below; evaluation of this procedure and its error rate on MusicNet in the appendix.

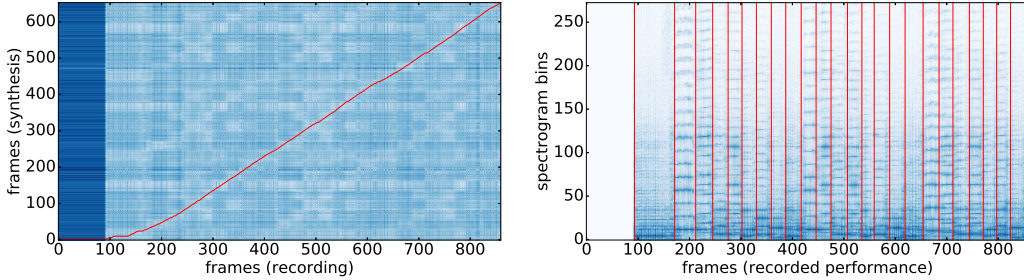


Figure 2: (Left) Heatmap visualization of local alignment costs between the synthesized and recorded spectrograms, with the optimal alignment path in red. The block from  $x = 0$  to  $x = 100$  frames corresponds to silence at the beginning of the recorded performance. The slope of the alignment can be interpreted as an instantaneous tempo ratio between the recorded and synthesized performances. The curvature in the alignment between  $x = 100$  and  $x = 175$  corresponds to an extension of the first notes by the performer. (Right) Annotation of note onsets on the spectrogram of the recorded performance, determined by the alignment shown on the left.

In order to align the performance with a score, we need to define a metric that compares short segments of the score with segments of a performance. Musical scores can be expressed as binary vectors in  $E \times K$  where  $E = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $K$  is a dictionary of notes. Performances reside in  $\mathbb{R}^{T \times p}$ , where  $T \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  is a sequence of time steps and  $p$  is the dimensionality of the spectrogram at time  $T$ . Given some local cost function  $C : (\mathbb{R}^p, K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , a score  $\mathbf{Y} \in E \times K$ , and a performance  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times p}$ , the alignment problem is to

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{t \in \mathbb{Z}^n}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{i=1}^n C(\mathbf{X}_{t_i}, \mathbf{Y}_i) \\ & \text{subject to} && t_0 = 0, \\ & && t_n = m, \\ & && t_i \leq t_j \quad \text{if } i < j. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Dynamic time warping gives an exact solution to the problem in  $\mathcal{O}(mn)$  time and space.

The success of dynamic time warping depends on the metric used to compare the score and the performance. Previous works can be broadly categorized into three groups that define an alignment cost  $C$  between segments of music  $\mathbf{x}$  and score  $\mathbf{y}$  by injecting them into a common normed space via maps  $\Psi$  and  $\Phi$ :

$$C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\Psi(\mathbf{x}) - \Phi(\mathbf{y})\| \tag{2}$$

The most popular approach—and the one adopted by this paper—maps the score into the space of the performance (Orio & Schwarz, 2001; Turetsky & Ellis, 2003; Soulez et al., 2003). An alternative approach maps both the score and performance into some third space, commonly a chromogram space (Hu et al., 2003; Izmirli & Dannenberg, 2010; Joder et al., 2013). Finally, some recent methods consider alignment in score space, taking  $\Phi = \text{Id}$  and learning  $\Psi$  (Garreau et al., 2014; Lajugie et al., 2016).

With reference to the general cost (2), we must specify the maps  $\Psi$ ,  $\Phi$ , and the norm  $\|\cdot\|$ . We compute the cost in the performance feature space  $\mathbb{R}^p$ , hence we take  $\Psi = \text{Id}$ . For our features, we use the log-spectrogram with a window size of 2048 samples. We use a stride of 512 samples between features. Hence adjacent feature frames are computed with 75% overlap. For audio sampled at 44.1kHz, this results in a feature representation with  $44,100/512 \approx 86$  frames per second. A discussion of these parameter choices can be found in the appendix. The map  $\Phi$  is computed by a synthesizer: we used Plogue’s Sforzando sampler together with Garritan’s Personal Orchestra 4 sample library.

For a (pseudo)-metric on  $\mathbb{R}^p$ , we take the  $\ell^2$  norm  $\|\cdot\|_2$  on the low 50 dimensions of  $\mathbb{R}^p$ . Recall that  $\mathbb{R}^p$  represents Fourier components, so we can roughly interpret the  $k$ ’th coordinate of  $\mathbb{R}^p$  as the energy associated with the frequency  $k \times (22,050/1024) \approx k \times 22.5\text{Hz}$ , where 22,050Hz is the Nyquist frequency of a signal sampled at 44.1kHz. The 50 dimension cutoff is chosen empirically: we observe that our alignments are much more accurate using a small number of low-frequency bins rather than the full space  $\mathbb{R}^p$ . Synthesizers do not accurately reproduce the high-frequency features of a musical instrument; by ignoring the high frequencies, we align on a part of the spectrum where the synthesis is most accurate. Our choice of cutoff is aggressive compared to usual settings; for instance, Turetsky & Ellis (2003) propose cutoffs in the 2.5kHz range. The fundamental frequencies of many notes in our dataset are higher than the  $50 \times 22.5\text{Hz} \approx 1\text{kHz}$  cutoff. Nevertheless, we find that all notes align well using only the low-frequency information.

## 4 METHODS

We consider identification of notes in a segment of audio  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$  as a multi-label classification problem, modeled as follows. Assign each audio segment a binary label vector  $\mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^{128}$ . The 128 dimensions correspond to frequency codes for notes, and  $y_n = 1$  if note  $n$  is present at the midpoint of  $\mathbf{x}$ . Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  indicate a feature map. We train a multivariate linear regression to predict  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  given  $f(\mathbf{x})$ , which we optimize for square loss. The vector  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  can be interpreted as a multi-label estimate of notes in  $\mathbf{x}$  by choosing a threshold  $c$  and predicting label  $n$  iff  $\hat{y}_n > c$ . We search for the value  $c$  that maximizes  $F_1$ -score on a sampled subset of MusicNet.

### 4.1 RELATED WORK

Learning on raw audio is studied in both the music and speech communities. Supervised learning on music has been driven by access to labeled datasets. Pop music labeled with chords (Harte, 2010) has led to a long line of work on chord recognition, most recently Korzeniowski & Widmer (2016). Genre labels and other metadata has also attracted work on representation learning, for example Dieleman & Schrauwen (2014). There is also substantial work modeling raw audio representations of speech; a current example is Tokuda & Zen (2016). Recent work from Google DeepMind explores generative models of raw audio, applied to both speech and music (van den Oord et al., 2016).

The music community has worked extensively on a closely related problem to ours: fundamental frequency estimation. This is the analysis of fundamental (in contrast to overtone) frequencies in short audio segments; these frequencies are typically considered as proxies for notes. Because access to large labeled datasets was historically limited, much of this work is unsupervised. A good overview of the literature is Benetos et al. (2013). Variants of non-negative matrix factorization are popular for this task; a recent example is Khlif & Sethu (2015). A different line of work models audio probabilistically, for example Berg-Kirkpatrick et al. (2014). Recent work by Kelz et al. (2016) explores supervised models, trained using the MAPS piano dataset.

### 4.2 MULTI-LAYER PERCEPTRONS

We construct a two-layer network with features  $f_i(\mathbf{x}) = \log(1 + \max(0, \mathbf{w}_i^T \mathbf{x}))$ . We find that compression introduced by a logarithm dramatically improves performance versus a standard ReLU network (see Table 3). Figure 1 illustrates a selection of weights  $w_i$  learned by the bottom layer of this network. The weights learned by the network are modulated sinusoids. This explains the effectiveness of spectrograms as a low-level representation of musical audio. The weights decay at the boundaries, analogous to Gabor filters in vision. This behavior is explained by the labeling methodology: the audio segments used here are approximately 1/3 of a second long, and a segment

is given a note label if that note is on in the center of the segment. Therefore information at the boundaries of the segment is less useful for prediction than information nearer to the center.

#### 4.3 (LOG-)SPECTROGRAMS

Spectrograms are an engineered feature representation for musical audio signals, available in popular software packages such as librosa (McFee et al., 2015). Spectrograms (resp. log-spectrograms) are closely related to a two-layer ReLU network (resp. the log-ReLU network described above). If  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_t)$  denotes a segment of an audio signal of length  $t$  then we can define

$$\text{Spec}_k(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \left| \sum_{s=0}^{t-1} e^{-2\pi i k s/t} x_s \right|^2 = \left( \sum_{s=0}^{t-1} \cos(2\pi k s/t) x_s \right)^2 + \left( \sum_{s=0}^{t-1} \sin(2\pi k s/t) x_s \right)^2.$$

These features are not precisely learnable by a two-layer ReLU network. But recall that  $|x| = \max(0, x) + \max(0, -x)$  and if we take weight vectors  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^T$  with  $u_s = \cos(2\pi k s/t)$  and  $v_s = \sin(2\pi k s/t)$  then the ReLU network can learn

$$f_{k,\cos}(\mathbf{x}) + f_{k,\sin}(\mathbf{x}) \equiv |\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x}| + |\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{x}| = \left| \sum_{s=0}^{t-1} \cos(2\pi k s/t) x_s \right| + \left| \sum_{s=0}^{t-1} \sin(2\pi k s/t) x_s \right|.$$

We call this family of features a ReLUgram and observe that it has a similar form to the spectrogram; we merely replace the  $x \mapsto x^2$  non-linearity of the spectrogram with  $x \mapsto |x|$ . These features achieve similar performance to spectrograms on our classification task (see Table 3).

#### 4.4 WINDOW SIZE

When we parameterize a network, we must choose the width of the set of weights in the bottom layer. This width is called the receptive field in the vision community; in the music community it is called the window size. Traditional frequency analyses, including spectrograms, are highly sensitive to the window size. Windows must be long enough to capture relevant information, but not so long that they lose temporal resolution; this is the classical time-frequency tradeoff. Furthermore, windowed frequency analysis is subject to boundary effects, known as spectral leakage. Classical signal processing attempts to dampen these effects with hand-crafted window functions, which apply a mask that attenuates the signal at the boundaries (Rabiner & Schafer, 2007).

The end-to-end models in this paper learn window functions. If we parameterize our models with a large window size then the model will learn that distant information is irrelevant to local prediction, so the magnitude of the learned weights will attenuate at the boundaries (see Figure 1). We therefore focus our attention on two window sizes: 2048 samples, which captures the local content of the signal, and 16,384 samples, which is sufficient to capture almost all relevant context (again we refer to Figure 1; substantially larger window sizes would be a needless computation burden, because the weights at further distances will approximately vanish).

#### 4.5 REGULARIZATION

The size of MusicNet is essential to achieving the results in Figure 1. In Figure 3 (Left) we optimize a two-layer ReLU network on small subset of MusicNet consisting of 65,000 monophonic data points. While these features do exhibit dominant frequencies, the signal is quite noisy. Comparable noisy frequency selective features were recovered by Dieleman & Schrauwen (2014); see their Figure 3. We can recover clean features on a small dataset using heavy regularization, but this destroys classification performance; regularizing with dropout poses a similar tradeoff. By contrast, Figure 3 (Right) shows weights learned by an unregularized two-layer network trained on the full MusicNet dataset. The models described in this paper do not overfit to MusicNet and optimal performance (reported in Table 3) is achieved without regularization.

#### 4.6 CONVOLUTIONAL NETWORKS

Previously, we estimated  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  by regressing against  $f(\mathbf{x})$ . We now consider a convolutional model that regresses against features of a collection of shifted segments  $\mathbf{x}_\ell$  near to the original segment  $\mathbf{x}$ . The

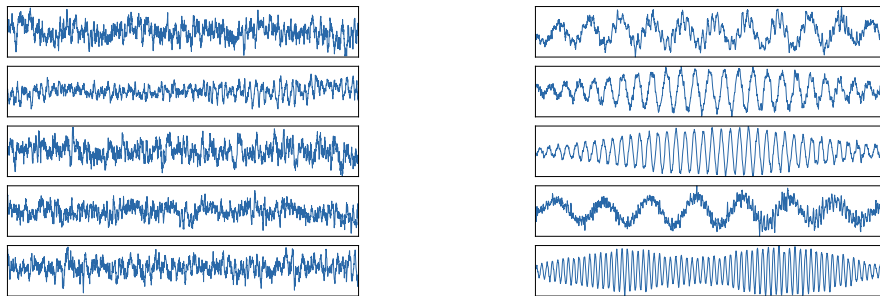


Figure 3: (Left) Features learned by a 2-layer ReLU network trained on small monophonic subset of MusicNet. (Right) Features learned by the same network, trained on the full MusicNet dataset.

learned features of this network are visually comparable to those learned by the fully connected network (Figure 1). The parameters of this network are the receptive field, stride, and pooling regions. The results reported in Table 3 are achieved with 500 hidden units using a receptive field of 2,048 samples with an 8-sample stride across a window of 16,384 samples. These features are grouped into average pools of width 16, with a stride of 8 features between pools. A max-pooling operation yields similar results. The learned features are consistent across different parameterizations. In all cases the learned features are comparable to those of a fully connected network.

## 5 RESULTS

We hold out a test set of 3 recordings for all the results reported in this section:

- Bach’s Prelude in D major for Solo Piano. WTK Book 1, No 5. Performed by Kimiko Ishizaka. MusicNet recording id 2303.
- Mozart’s Serenade in E-flat major. K375, Movement 4 - Menuetto. Performed by the Soni Ventorum Wind Quintet. MusicNet recording id 1819.
- Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat major. Opus 130, Movement 2 - Presto. Released by the European Archive. MusicNet recording id 2382.

Our test set is a representative sampling of MusicNet: it covers most of the instruments in the dataset in small, medium, and large ensembles. The test data points are evenly spaced segments separated by 512 samples, between the 1st and 91st seconds of each recording. For the wider features, there is substantial overlap between adjacent segments. Each segment is labeled with the notes that are on in the middle of the segment.

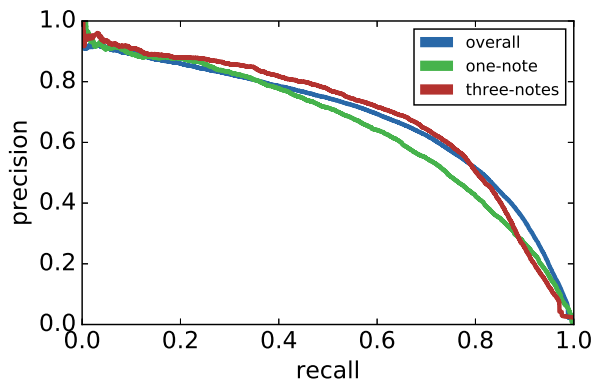


Figure 4: Precision-recall curves for the convolutional network on the test set. Curves are evaluated on subsets of the test set consisting of all data points (blue); points with exactly one label (monophonic; green); and points with exactly three labels (red).

We evaluate our models on three scores: precision, recall, and average precision. The precision score is the count of correct predictions by the model (across all data points) divided by the total number of predictions by the model. The recall score is the count of correct predictions by the model divided by the total number of (ground truth) labels in the test set. Precision and recall are parameterized by the note prediction threshold  $c$  (see Sect. 4). By varying  $c$ , we construct precision-recall curves (see Figure 4). The average precision score is the area under the precision-recall curve.

Representation	Window Size	Precision	Recall	Average Precision
log-spectrograms	1,024	49.0%	40.5%	39.8%
spectrograms	2,048	28.9%	52.5 %	32.9%
log-spectrograms	2,048	61.9%	42.0%	48.8%
log-ReLUgrams	2,048	58.9%	47.9%	49.3%
MLP, 500 nodes	2,048	50.1%	58.0%	52.1%
MLP, 2500 nodes	2,048	53.6%	62.3%	56.2%
AvgPool, 2 stride	2,148	53.4%	62.5%	56.4%
log-spectrograms	8,192	64.2%	28.6%	52.1%
log-spectrograms	16,384	58.4%	18.1%	45.5%
MLP, 500 nodes	16,384	54.4%	64.8%	60.0%
CNN, 64 stride	16,384	60.5%	71.9%	67.8%

Table 3: Benchmark results on MusicNet for models discussed in this paper. The learned representations are optimized for square loss with SGD using the Tensorflow library (Abadi et al.). We report the precision and recall corresponding to the best  $F_1$ -score on validation data.

A spectrogram of length  $n$  is computed from  $2n$  samples, so the linear 1024-point spectrogram model is directly comparable to the MLP runs with 2048 raw samples. Learned features<sup>4</sup> modestly outperform spectrograms for comparable window sizes. The discussion of windowing in Sect. 4.4 partially explains this. Figure 5 suggests a second reason. Recall (Sect. 4.3) that the spectrogram features can be interpreted as the magnitude of the signal’s inner product with sine waves of linearly spaced frequencies. In contrast, our networks learn weights with frequencies distributed similarly to the distribution of notes in our dataset (Figure 5). This gives our network higher resolution in the most critical frequency regions.

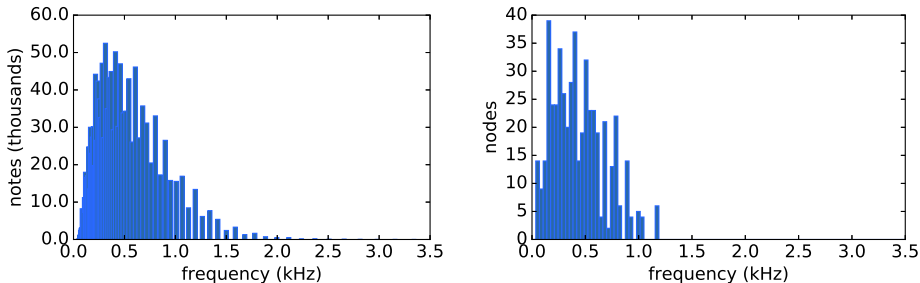


Figure 5: (Left) The frequency distribution of notes in MusicNet. (Right) The frequency distribution of learned nodes in a 500-node, two-layer ReLU network.

In future work, we plan to investigate learned mid-level and high-level features of musical audio. While mid-level features could capture harmonic structure, high-level features could capture the overall structure of a recording. Both mid-level and high-level representations require the low-level features learned in this paper as building blocks to extract short-term and long-term memory temporal structures.

<sup>4</sup>A demonstration using learned MLP features to synthesize a musical performance is available on the dataset webpage: <http://homes.cs.washington.edu/~thickstn/demos.html>



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## A VALIDATING THE MUSICNET LABELS

We validate the aligned MusicNet labels with a listening test. We create an aural representation of an aligned score-performance pair by mixing a short sine wave into the performance with the frequency indicated by the score at the time indicated by the alignment. We can listen to this mix and, if the alignment is correct, the sine tones will exactly overlay the original performance; if the alignment is incorrect, the mix will sound dissonant.

We have listened to sections of each recording in the aligned dataset: the beginning, several random samples of middle, and the end. Mixes with substantially incorrect alignments were rejected from the dataset. Failed alignments are mostly attributable to mismatches between the midi and the recording. The most common reason for rejection is musical repeats. Classical music often contains sections with indications that they be repeated a second time; in classical music performance culture, it is often acceptable to ignore these directions. If the score and performance make different choices regarding repeats, a mismatch arises. When the score omits a repeat that occurs in the performance, the alignment typically warps over the entire repeated section, with correct alignments before and after. When the score includes an extra repeat, the alignment typically compresses it into very short segment, with correct alignments on either side. We rejected alignments exhibiting either of these issues from the dataset.

From the aligned performances that we deemed sufficiently accurate to admit to the dataset, we randomly sampled 30 clips for more careful annotation and analysis. We weighted the sample to cover a wide coverage of recordings with various instruments, ensemble sizes, and durations. For each sampled performance, we randomly selected a 30 second clip. Using software transforms, it is possible to slow a recording down to approximately 1/4 speed. Two of the clips were too richly structured and fast to precisely analyze (slowing the signal down any further introduces artifacts that make the signal difficult to interpret). Even in these two rejected samples, the alignments sound substantially correct.

For the other 28 clips, we carefully analyzed the aligned performance mix and annotated every alignment error. Two of the authors are classically trained musicians: we independently checked for errors and our analyses were nearly identical. Where there was disagreement, we used the more pessimistic author’s analysis. Over our entire set of clips we averaged a 4.0% error rate.

Note that we do not catch every type of error. Mistaken note onsets are more easily identified than mistaken offsets. Typically the release of one note coincides with the onset of a new note, which implicitly verifies the release. However, release times at the ends of phrases may be less accurate; these inaccuracies would not be covered by our error analysis. We were also likely to miss performance mistakes that maintain the meter of the performance, but for professional recordings such mistakes are rare.

For stringed instruments, chords consisting of more than two notes are “rolled”; i.e. they are performed serially from the lowest to the highest note. Our alignment protocol cannot separate notes that are notated simultaneously in the score; a rolled chord is labeled with a single starting time, usually the beginning of the first note in the roll. Therefore, there is some time period at the beginning of a roll where the top notes of the chord are labeled but have not yet occurred in the performance. There are reasonable interpretations of labeling under which these labels would be judged incorrect. On the other hand, if the labels are used to supervise transcription then ours is likely the desired labeling.

We can also qualitatively characterize the types of errors we observed. The most common types of errors are anticipations and delays: a single, or small sequence of labels is aligned to a slightly early or late location in the time series. Another common source of error is missing ornaments and trills: these are short flourishes in a performance are sometimes not annotated in our score data, which results in a missing annotation in the alignment. Finally, there are rare performance errors in the recordings and transcription errors in the score.

## B ALIGNMENT PARAMETER ROBUSTNESS

Our definitions of audio featurization and the alignment cost function were contingent on several parameter choices. These choices were optimized by systematic exploration of the parameter space: we investigated what happens as we vary each parameter and made the choices that gave the best results in our listening tests. The bottom line is that there is no magic in our parameter choices: choosing the parameters carefully yields marginal gains, but alignment performance degrades gracefully as the choices diverge from the optimum.

The quality of alignments improve uniformly with the quality of synthesis. The time-resolution of labels improves uniformly as the stride parameter decreases; minimization of stride is limited by system memory constraints. We find that the precise phase-invariant feature specification has very little effect on alignment quality. We experimented with spectrograms and log-spectrograms using windowed and un-windowed signals. Alignment quality is largely unaffected.

The other parameters are governed by a tradeoff curve; the optimal choice is determined by balancing desirable outcomes. The fourier window size is a classic tradeoff between time and frequency resolution. The  $\ell^2$  norm can be understood as a tradeoff between the extremes of  $\ell^1$  and  $\ell^\infty$ . The  $\ell^1$  norm is too egalitarian: the preponderance of errors due to synthesis quality add up and overwhelm the signal. On the other hand, the  $\ell^\infty$  norm ignores too much of the signal in the spectrogram. The spectrogram cutoff, discussed extensively in Sect. 3, is also a tradeoff between synthesis quality and maximal use of information

## C ADDITIONAL ERROR ANALYSIS

For each model, using the test set described in Sect. 5, we report accuracy and error scores used by the MIR community to evaluate the Multi-F0 systems. Definitions and a discussion of these metrics are presented in Poliner & Ellis (2007).

Representation	Acc	Etot	Esub	Emiss	Efa
512-point log-spectrogram	28.5%	.819	.198	.397	.224
1024-point log-spectrogram	33.4%	.715	.123	.457	.135
1024-point log-ReLUgram	35.9%	.711	.144	.377	.190
4096-point log-spectrogram	24.7%	.788	.085	.628	.074
8192-point log-spectrogram	16.1%	.866	.082	.737	.047
MLP, 500 nodes, 2048 raw samples	36.8%	.790	.206	.214	.370
MLP, 2500 nodes, 2048 samples	40.4%	.740	.177	.200	.363
AvgPool, 5 stride, 2048 samples	40.5%	.744	.176	.200	.369
MLP, 500 nodes, 16384 samples	42.0%	.735	.160	.191	.383
CNN, 64 stride, 16384 samples	48.9%	.634	.117	.164	.352

Table 4: MIREX-style statistics, evaluated using the mir\_eval library (Raffel et al., 2014).

## D PRECISION & RECALL CURVES

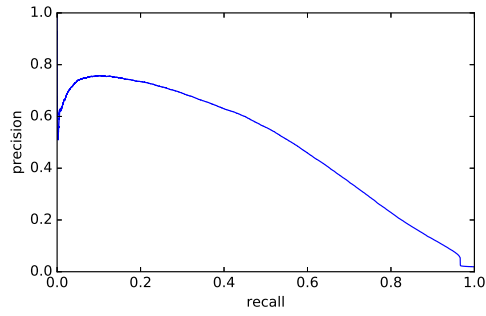


Figure 6: The linear spectrogram model.

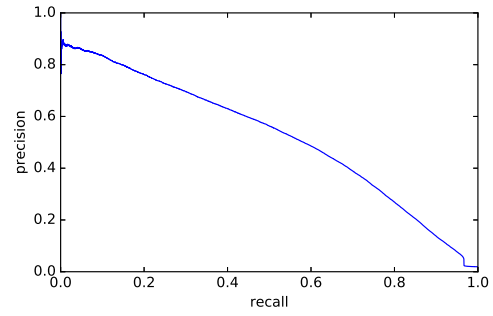


Figure 7: The 500 node, 2048 raw sample MLP.

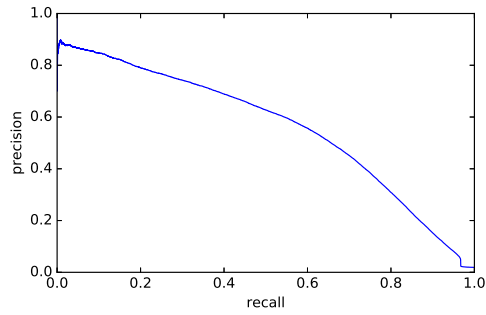


Figure 8: The 2500 node, 2048 raw sample MLP.

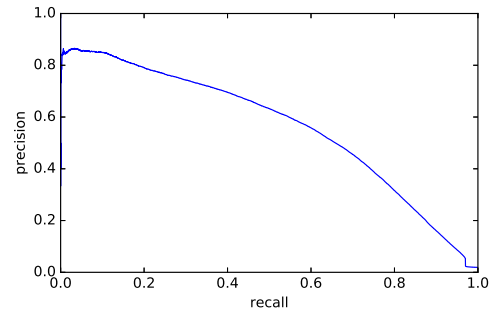


Figure 9: The average pooling model.

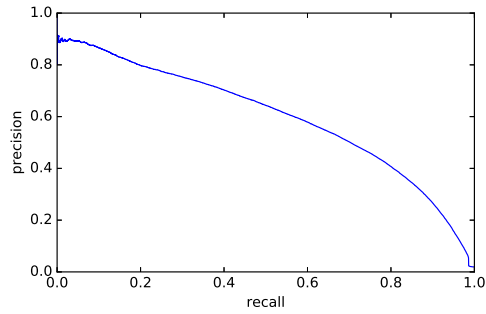


Figure 10: The 500 node, 16384 raw sample MLP.

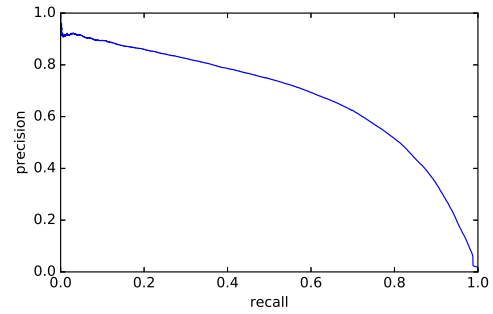


Figure 11: The convolutional model.

## E ADDITIONAL RESULTS

We report additional results on splits of the test set described in Sect. 5.

Model	Features	Precision	Recall	Average Precision
MLP, 500 nodes	2048 raw samples	56.1%	62.7%	59.2%
MLP, 2500 nodes	2048 raw samples	59.1%	67.8%	63.1%
AvgPool, 5 stride	2048 raw samples	59.1%	68.2%	64.5%
MLP, 500 nodes	16384 raw samples	60.2%	65.2%	65.8%
CNN, 64 stride	16384 raw samples	65.9%	75.2%	74.4%

Table 5: The Soni Ventorum recording of Mozart’s Wind Quintet K375 (MusicNet id 1819).

Model	Features	Precision	Recall	Average Precision
MLP, 500 nodes	2048 raw samples	35.4%	40.7%	28.0%
MLP, 2500 nodes	2048 raw samples	38.3%	44.3%	30.9%
AvgPool, 5 stride	2048 raw samples	38.6%	45.2%	31.7%
MLP, 500 nodes	16384 raw samples	43.4%	51.3%	41.0%
CNN, 64 stride	16384 raw samples	51.0%	57.9%	49.3%

Table 6: The European Archive recording of Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 13 (MusicNet id 2382).

Model	Features	Precision	Recall	Average Precision
MLP, 500 nodes	2048 raw samples	55.6%	67.4%	64.1%
MLP, 2500 nodes	2048 raw samples	60.1%	71.3%	68.6%
AvgPool, 5 stride	2048 raw samples	59.6%	70.7%	68.1%
MLP, 500 nodes	16384 raw samples	57.1%	76.3%	68.4%
CNN, 64 stride	16384 raw samples	61.9%	80.1%	73.9%

Table 7: The Kimiko Ishizaka recording of Bach’s Prelude in D major (MusicNet id 2303).