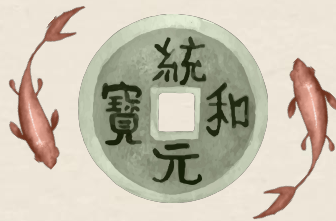




Melody Comparison of Chinese Traditional Music and Chinese Popular Music

Project Proposal

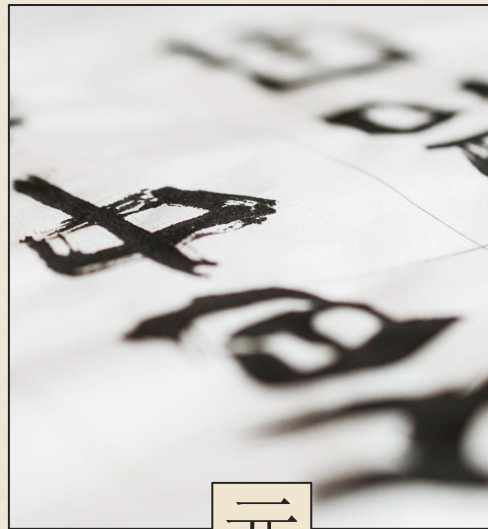
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“Chinese music is awesome.”[NaN]

-Mark Twain

Introduction



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Introduction



Many argue that the commercial popular music in China today is no longer rooted in Chinese traditional music.



Some elements are certainly from outside influences (harmony, drum sets, etc.)



Are melodies of Chinese popular music are rooted from Chinese traditional music?



Introduction



The project will investigate the relationship between Chinese traditional music and Chinese popular music. In particular, the project will compare the melody characteristics between a han folk music dataset and a Chinese pop music dataset.



Introduction



Hypothesis

The distribution of melodic features in Chinese popular music has some similarities to that in Chinese traditional music.

We define the melodic features to be the interval distribution of a song, the note density of a song, and the rhythmic patterns of a song.





Dataset




Chinese Traditional Music



Definition: music of Chinese people except popular music or in the style of other regions

In practice, people consider Chinese music composed by 1840 to be traditional Chinese music.


Chinese music composed later than 1840 but in the same traditional style is also considered as Chinese traditional music.





Chinese Traditional Music

Dataset:


- Han songs in the **Essen Folksong Collection**
 - 1225 songs in Humdrum format
- 



Chinese Popular Music

Established from both Western and Japanese colonial power and nationalist composers.

Independently but interconnected development

- Mainland China (PRC)
 - Taiwan (ROC)
 - Western colonies (Hong Kong and Macau)
 - Overseas Chinese
- 





Chinese Popular Music

Since the reform and open-up(改革开放) of Mainland China, the cultural communication comes back.

We consider Chinese popular music as a whole despite regions.


Definition: songs created by Chinese in the style considered as Chinese popular music by the majority of Chinese music listeners





Chinese Popular Music

Dataset:

- **POP909 dataset**
 - 909 songs created in MIDI format
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Analysis plan

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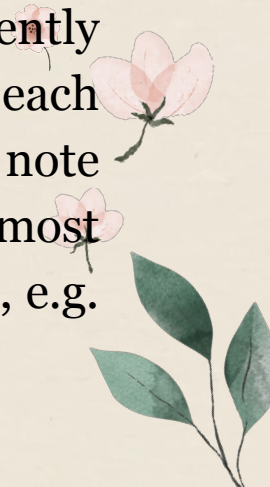



parameter

- Interval
 - Note Density
 - Rhythmic Patterns
- 




operationalization

- We can use the humdrum command to calculate the distribution of intervals, note density, and rhythm patterns in the two datasets to judge whether traditional Chinese music and modern pop music have similarities in melodic characteristics.
 - For example: in these two datasets, we will examine how frequently different intervals(e.g. pure fifth, major third, etc.) occur in each category using a window that slides every four bars; how the note density (sparse or dense) distribute in each songs; what are the most common rhythmic patterns in Chinese popular/traditional music, e.g. quarter notes and triplet.
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computational musicology tool

Music21 or the Humdrum toolkit depending on the information loss of humdrum-to-midi conversion and midi-to-humdrum conversion.

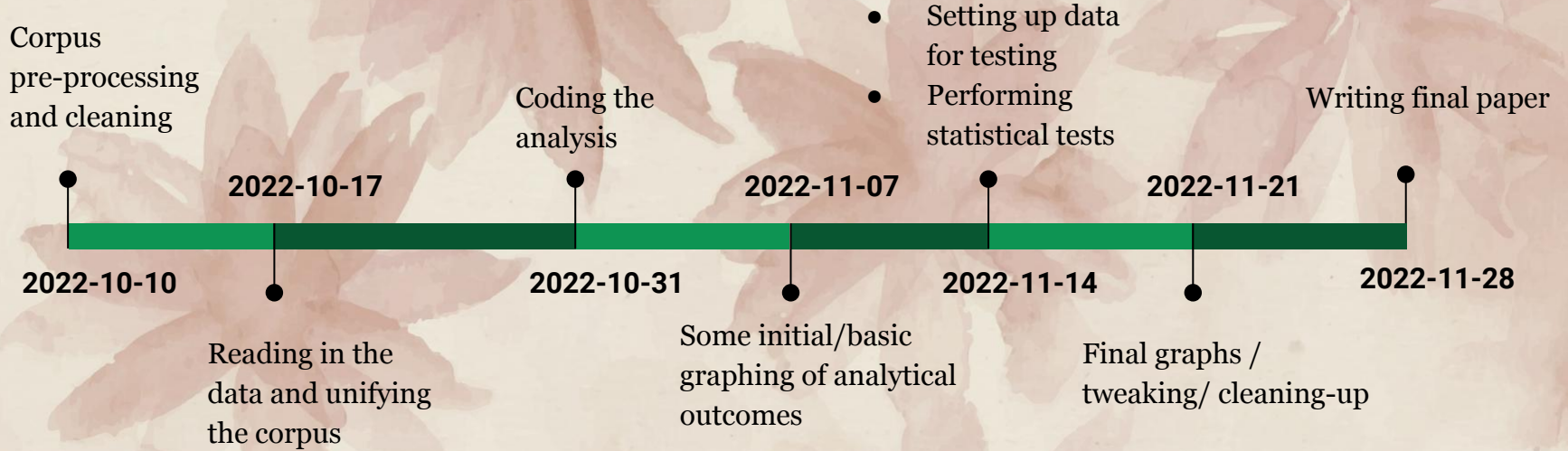


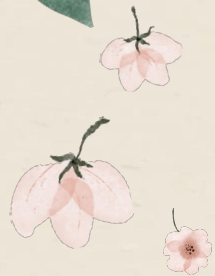


statistical test

- We have things that fall into categories and we wish to examine differences between the categories.
 - Two categories: Chinese popular music and Chinese traditional Han music.
 - Three dimensions, interval, note density, and rhythmic pattern. We plan to analyze the similarity of these three features between Chinese popular music and traditional han music.
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Timeline





Thanks !

