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# Machine Listening for Music and Sound Analysis

## Lecture 4 – Music Information Retrieval II

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Dr.-Ing. Jakob Abeßer

Fraunhofer IDMT

Jakob.abesser@idmt.fraunhofer.de

<https://www.machinelisting.de>

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# Overview

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- Pitch Detection
- Instrument Recognition
- Source Separation

# Pitch Detection

## Introduction

- Pitch

- (Subjective) psychoacoustic attribute of sound
- Allows ordering from low to high in a frequency-related scale
  - Pitch  $\neq$  frequency !

- Two subtasks

1) Pitch detection



2) Voicing detection

Melody  
No melody

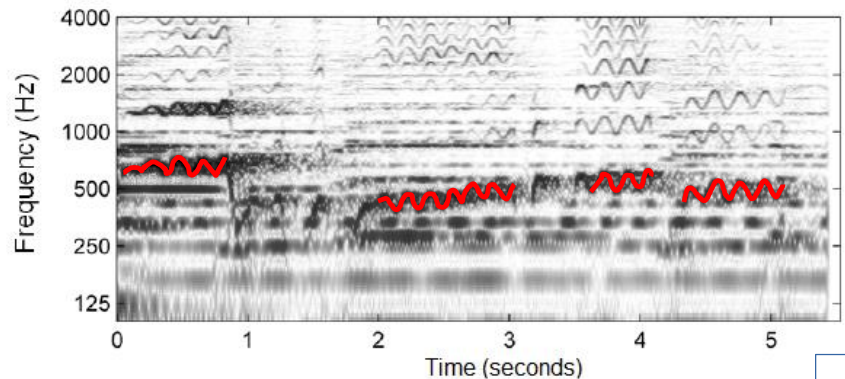


Fig. 1



Own



FMP Notebooks

# Pitch Detection

## Application Scenarios

- Music Instrument Tuning
- Music Education
- Music Transcription
- Bird Recognition



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

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# Pitch Detection

## Tasks

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- Pitch detection of isolated monophonic instruments



- Predominant melody extraction in polyphonic music



- Polyphonic melody extraction

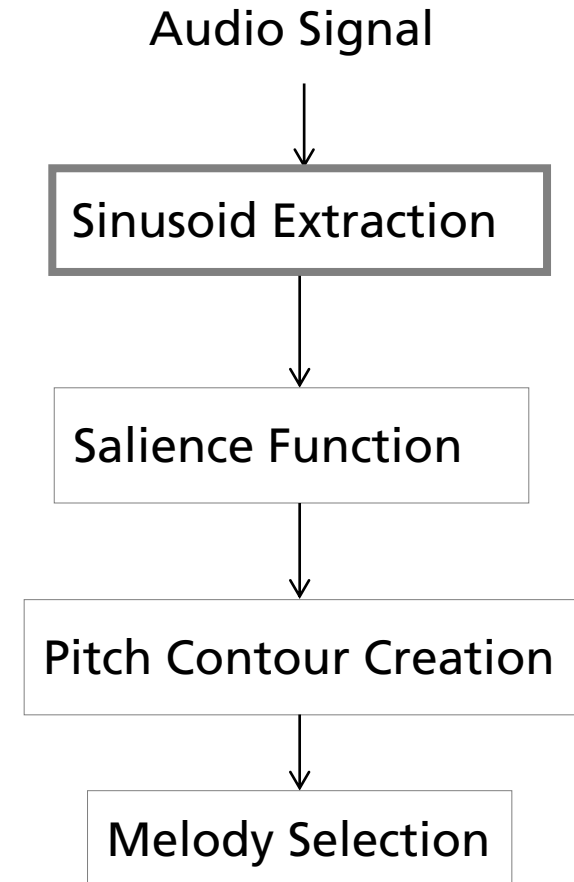


Increasing Difficulty &  
Complexity

# Pitch Detection

## Traditional Methods

- MELODIA [[Salamon & Gomez, 2012](#)]
  - Melody Extraction from polyphonic audio
- Steps
  - Sinusoid Extraction
    - Equal loudness filter
    - STFT
    - Detection of predominant peaks
    - Frequency refinement via instantaneous frequency (IF)



# Pitch Detection

## Traditional Methods

- Saliency Function

- Harmonic summation

- Sum over possible harmonic frequencies

- Frequencies → pitch candidates

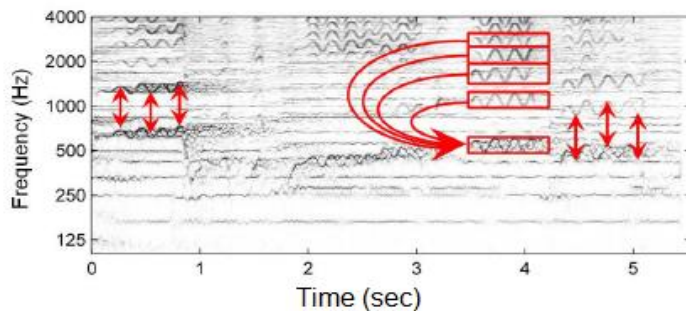
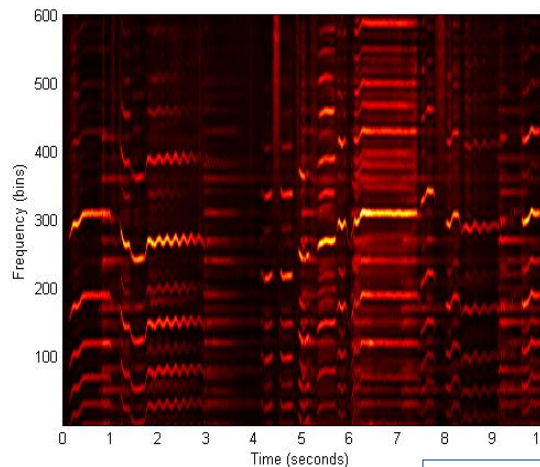


Fig. 5



Own

Audio Signal

Sinusoid Extraction

Saliency Function

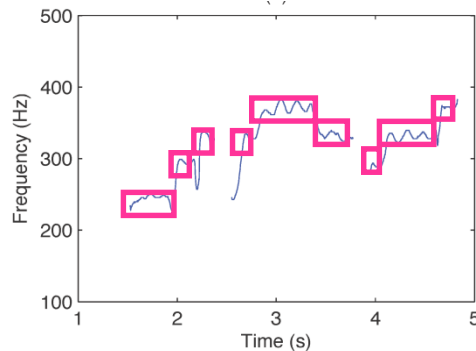
Pitch Contour Creation

Melody Selection

# Pitch Detection

## Traditional Methods

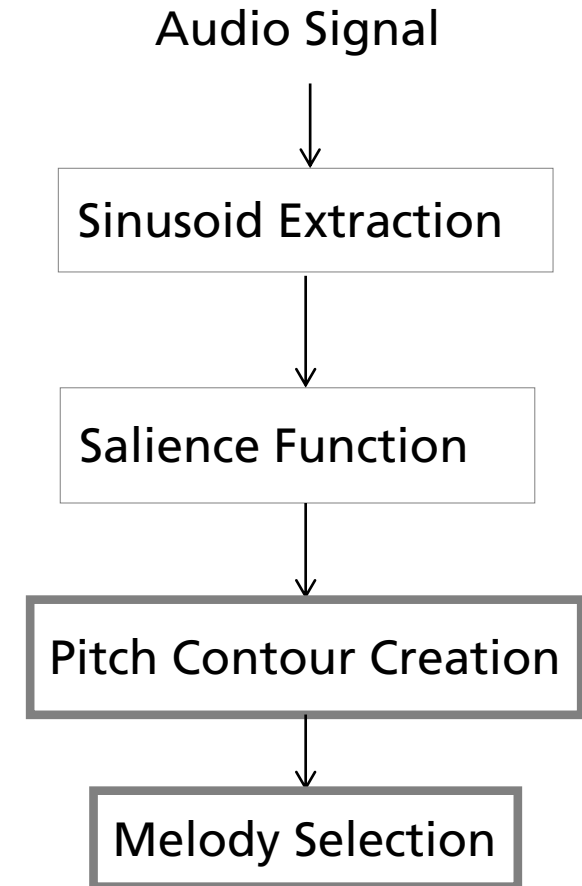
- Pitch contour creation & melody selection
  - Auditory streaming cues → group peaks to continuous paths (pitch contours)
  - Select melody contours using features (e.g. average pitch / salience, vibrato)
  - Note formation (one pitch value)



Own

Pitch contour(s)

Note events





# Pitch Detection

## Traditional Methods (Melodia)

- Melodia plugin available for Sonic Visualiser

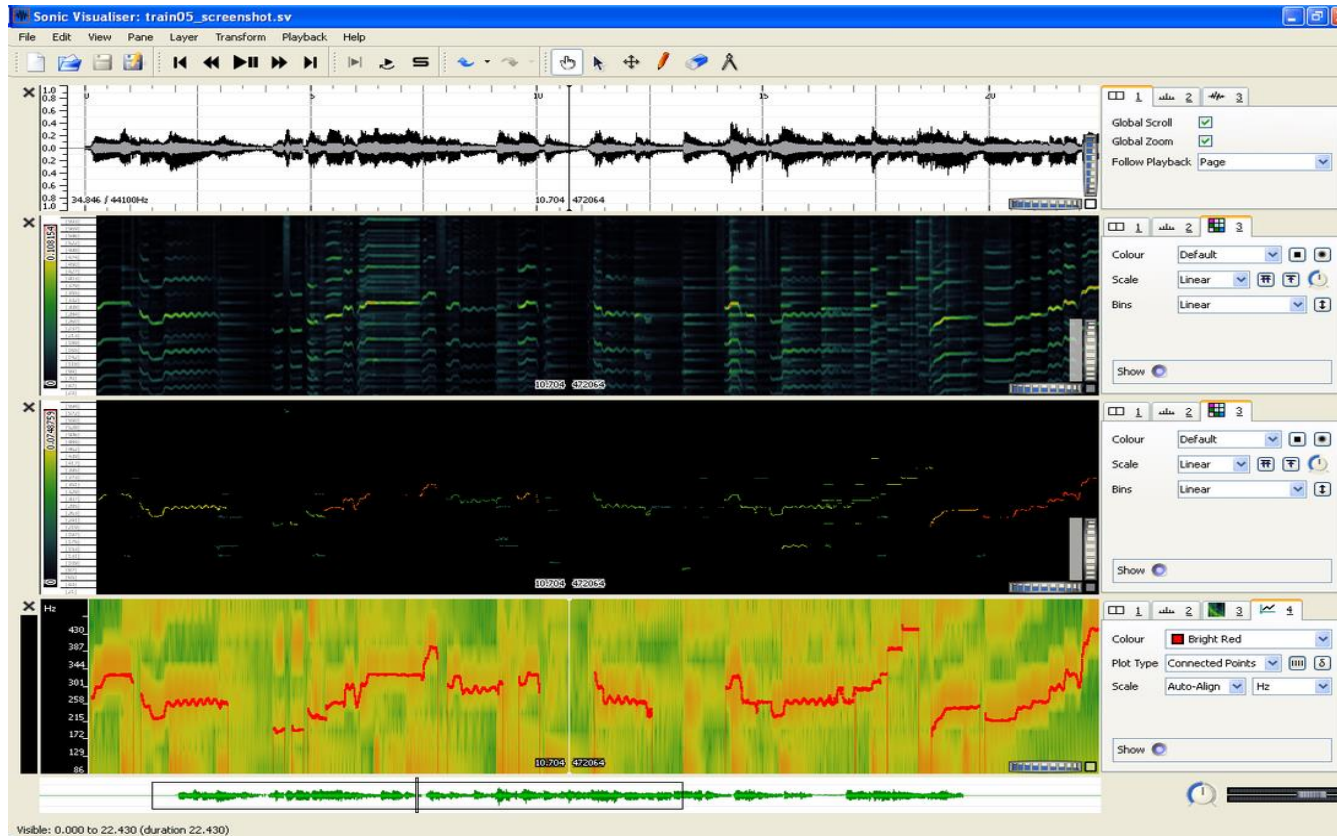


Fig. 6

# Pitch Detection

## Novel Methods

- CREPE (Convolutional Representation for Pitch Estimation) [Kim et al., 2018]
  - Monophonic pitch tracker
  - End-to-end modeling
    - Audio samples → pitch likelihoods
    - 20 cent resolution (5 pitch bins per semitones)

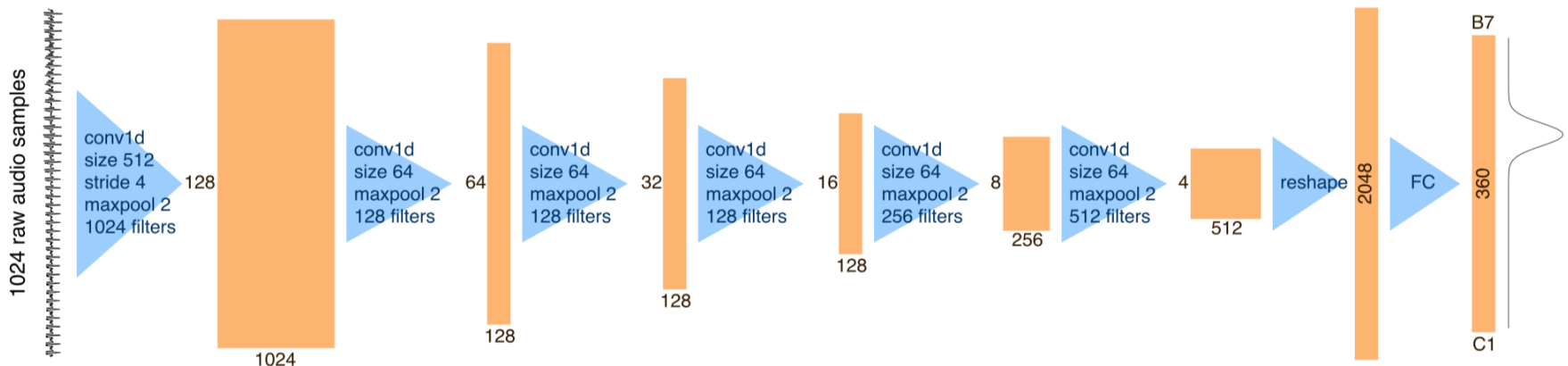


Fig. 7

# Pitch Detection

## Novel Methods

- Auto-encoder structure (U-Net) [Hsieh et al., 2019]
  - Mapping: multiple time-frequency representations (2D)  $\rightarrow$  pitch saliency map (2D)
  - (Bottleneck) embedding encodes pitch voicing (melody activity)

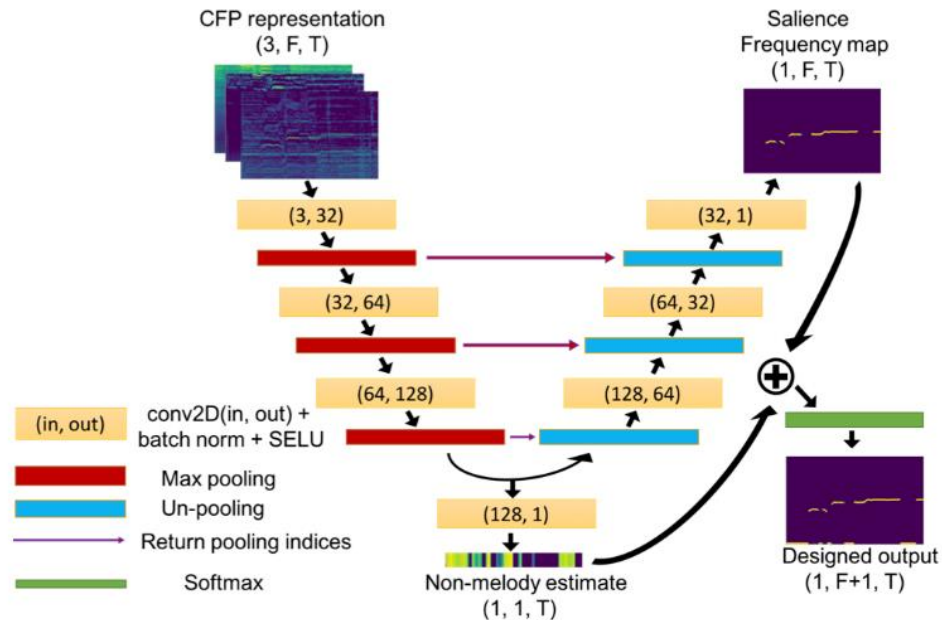


Fig. 8

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# Instrument Recognition

## Introduction

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- Music ensembles include multiple instruments
  - Sound production (string / wind / brass / drum instruments)
  - Instrument construction
- Overlapping sound sources (solo recording vs. orchestra)
  - Unison (same pitch)
  - Harmonic intervals (overtone overlap)
  - Rhythmic interconnection (note attacks overlap)
- Classification on different taxonomy levels
  - Woodwind instruments → saxophone → tenor saxophone

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# Instrument Recognition

## Tasks

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- Sorted by increasing complexity/difficulty
  - Instrument recognition of isolated note recordings
  - Instrument recognition on isolated instrument tracks
  - Predominant instrument recognition in ensemble recordings
  - Polyphonic instrument recognition (classify all instruments)

# Instrument Recognition

## Traditional Methods

- Multiple categories of audio features
  - Frame-level (e.g., spectral flux & flatness)
  - Overtone-level (e.g., modulation rate & frequency)
  - Note-event level (e.g., magnitude ratios of overtones)
- Examples (trumpet / piano)
  - Partial envelopes
  - Observe magnitude decay & modulation

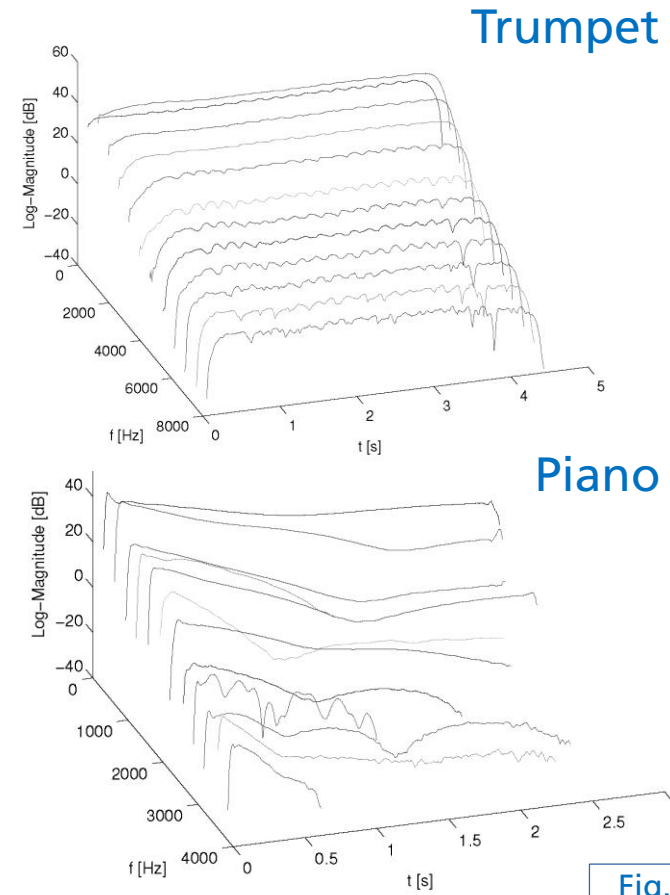


Fig. 9

# Instrument Recognition

## Novel Methods

- Mel spectrogram + CNN model [Han et al., 2017]
  - Mel Spectrogram as input
  - Multiple convolutional layers & pooling operations
  - Final (dense) classification layers

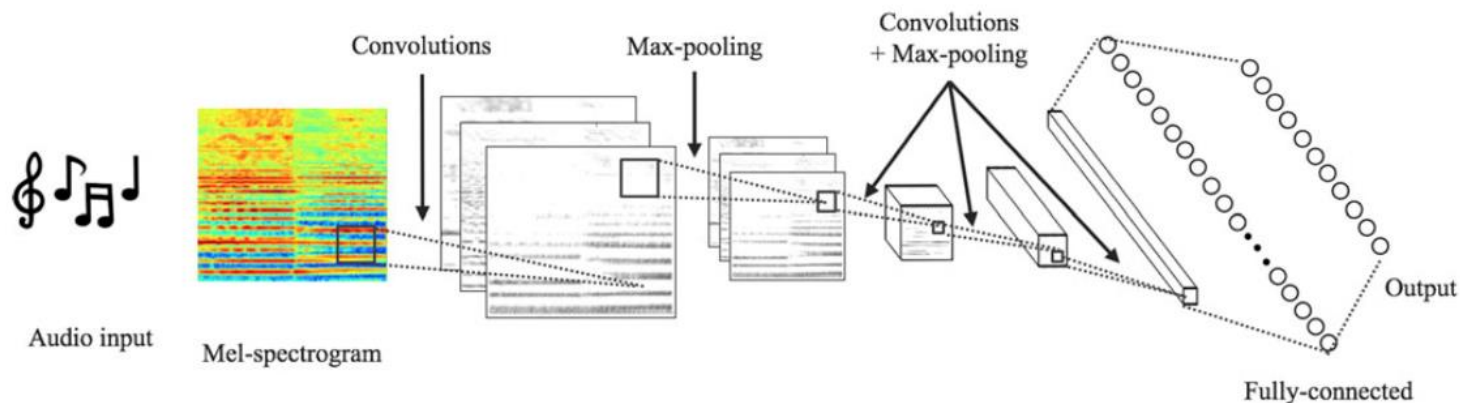


Fig. 10

# Instrument Recognition

## Novel Methods

- Separability of instrument classes in the feature space
  - Improves for deeper layers
- Example
  - 2D visualization of multi-dimensional feature space

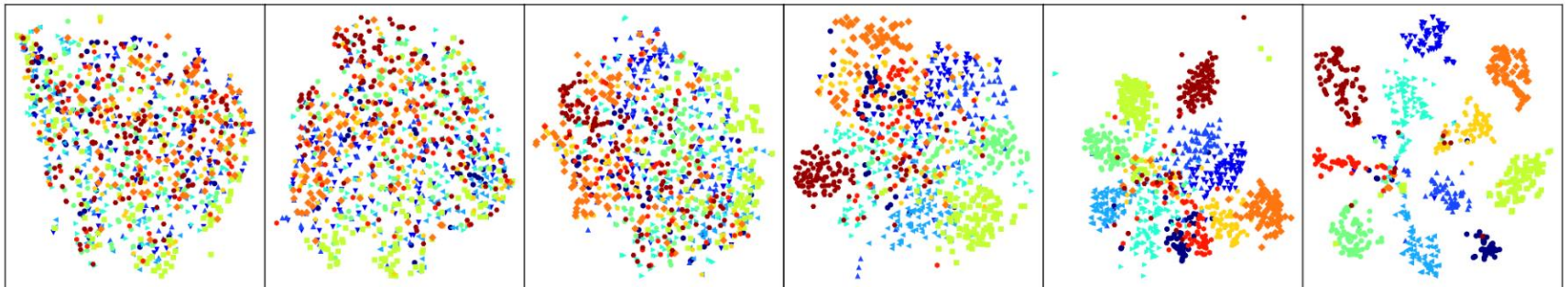


Fig. 11

Deeper layers



# Instrument Recognition

## Novel Methods

- Pitch-Informed Frame-level Instrument Recognition [Hung & Yang, 2018]
  - Combine two input branches
    - Spectral input features (CQT)
    - Pitch-activity (piano-roll)

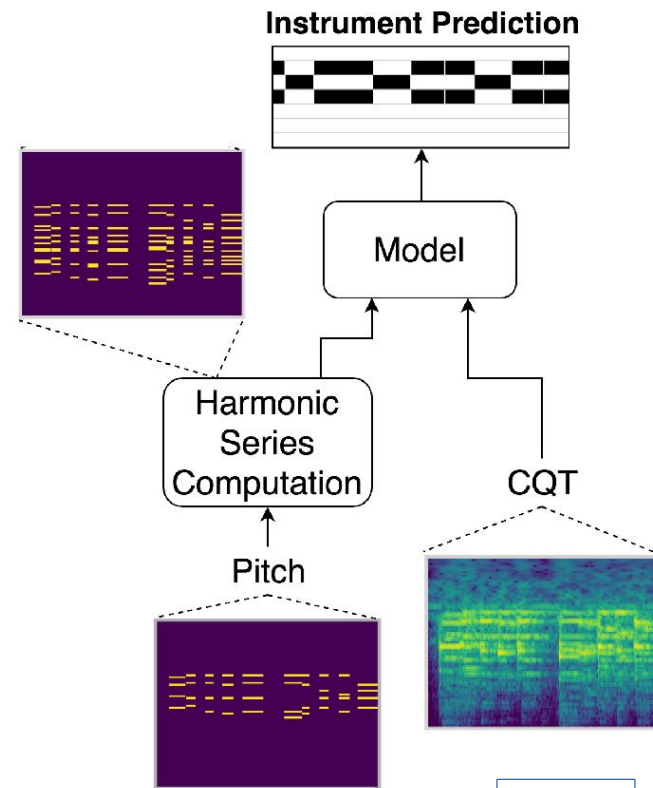


Fig. 12

# Source Separation

## Introduction

- Music recordings
  - Mixtures of different musical instruments (sources) playing simultaneously
- Sound Separation
  - Reverse engineering the audio mixing process
  - Output: 1 stem per instrument

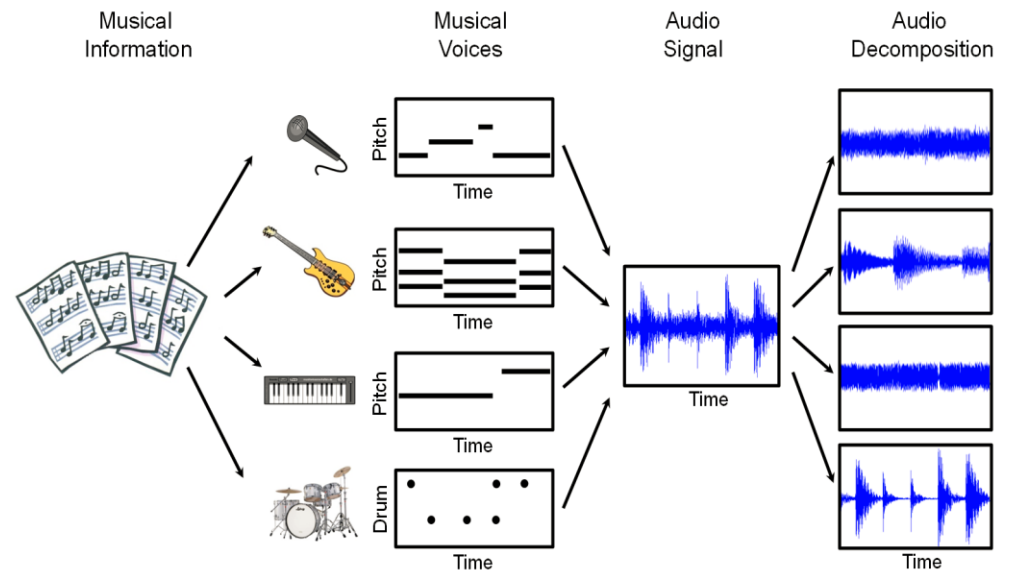


Fig. 18

# Source Separation

## Introduction

- Audio mix is influenced by
  - Instrument characteristics (timbre, note decay, ...)
  - Musical performance (timing, dynamics, playing techniques, ...)
  - Recording chain (microphones, room acoustics)
  - Post-processing (effects, mastering, DAW mix)

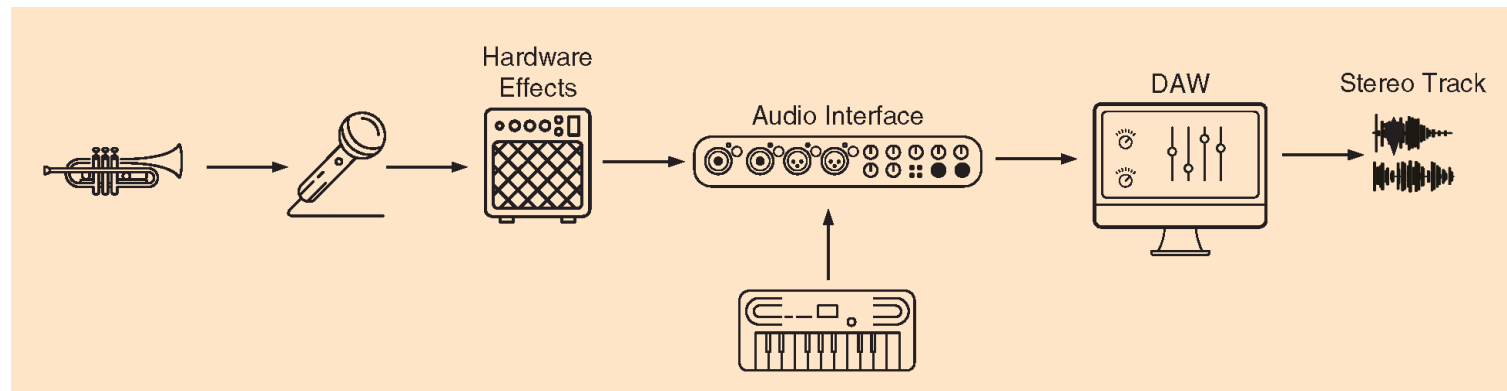


Fig. 13

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# Source Separation

## Application Scenarios

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- Audio remixing
- Audio upmixing
  - Mono → stereo
  - Stereo → 5.1
- Music Analysis
  - Transcription, beat tracking, harmony analysis etc.
- Music Education
  - Solo / Backing track generation

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# Source Separation

## Tasks

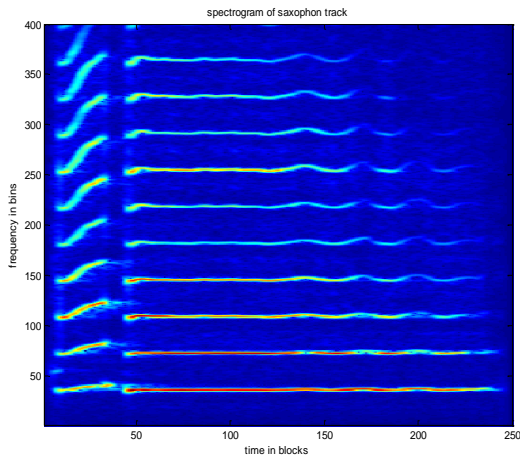
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- Harmonic/percussive separation
    - $H \rightarrow$  stable harmonic components (fundamental frequency, overtones)
    - $P \rightarrow$  transient components (drum sounds, note attacks)
  - Solo/accompaniment separation
    - $S \rightarrow$  predominant melody instrument
    - $A \rightarrow$  accompanying instruments
  - Singing voice separation
    - $S \rightarrow$  singing voice (male / female)
    - $A \rightarrow$  band
  - Separation of all sources
-

# Source Separation

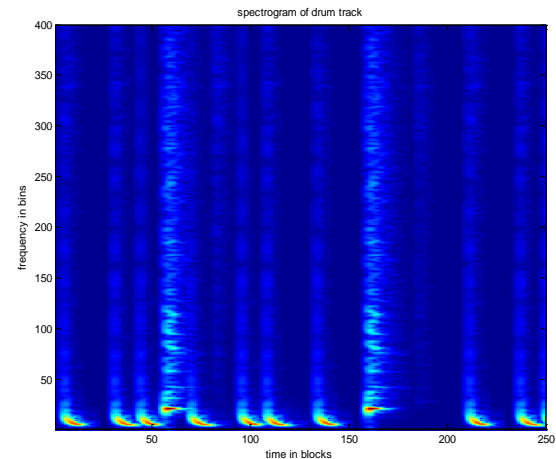
## Traditional Approaches

- Harmonic/percussive (H/P) separation
  - Different spectral characteristics of harmonic and percussive signals



Own

- Time-continuous (horizontal)
- Localized in frequency

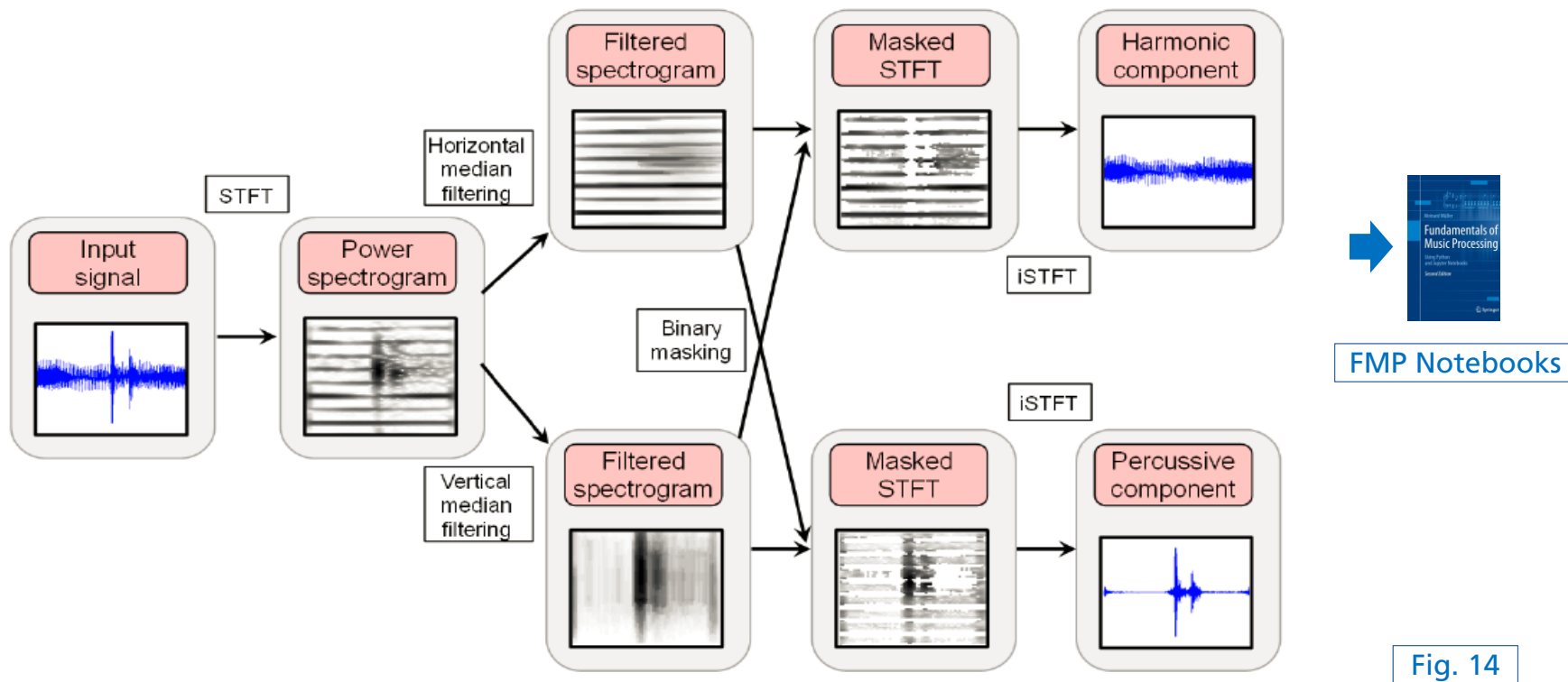


Own

- Wide-band (vertical)
- Localized in time

# Source Separation

## Traditional Approaches



# Source Separation

## Traditional Approaches

- Phase-based H/P separation
  - Harmonic sources → phase change values are predictable
  - Percussive sources → unpredictable phase (noise-like characteristics)
  - Instantaneous Frequency Distribution (IFD)
    - How does phase change over time?

$$\Phi(k, n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\phi(k, n)}{dn}$$

Instantaneous Frequency

Unwrapped phase

$k$  – frequency bin  
 $n$  – time frame



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# Source Separation

## Traditional Approaches

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- Phase-based H/P separation

- Harmonic mask → phase change within range / predictable?

$$H(k, n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta_{k_{Low}} < \Phi(k, n) < \Delta_{k_{High}} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Percussive mask

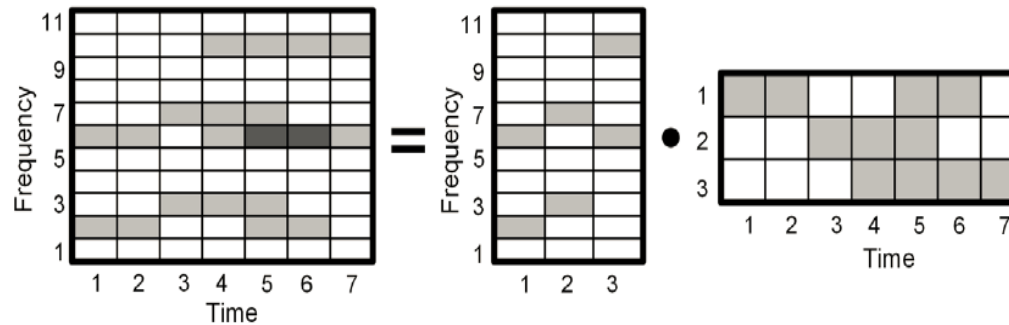
$$P(k, n) = 1 - H(k, n)$$

# Source Separation

## Traditional Approaches

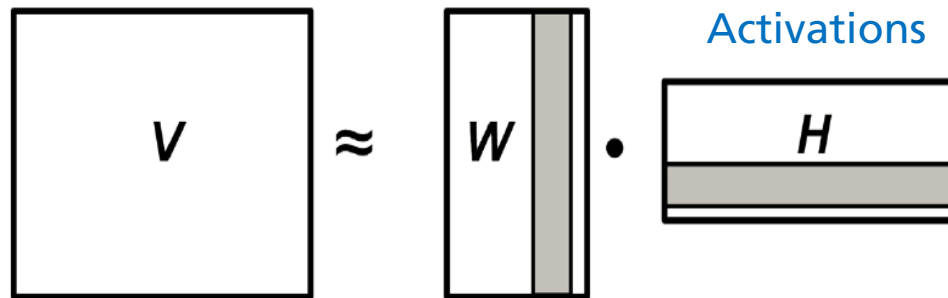
### ■ Non-Negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)

■ Factorize spectrogram  $V$  into set of components:  $V \approx WH$



Templates

Activations



vn

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# Source Separation

## Traditional Approaches

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- Non-Negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)

- Algorithm:  $V \approx WH$

- Randomly initialize  $W$  &  $H$

- Use update rules to alternately update  $W$  &  $H$

- Minimize cost function

- Cost function examples

- Euclidean distance

$$\|A - B\|^2 = \sum_{ij} (A_{ij} - B_{ij})^2$$

- Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$D(A||B) = \sum_{ij} \left( A_{ij} \log \frac{A_{ij}}{B_{ij}} - A_{ij} + B_{ij} \right)$$

# Source Separation

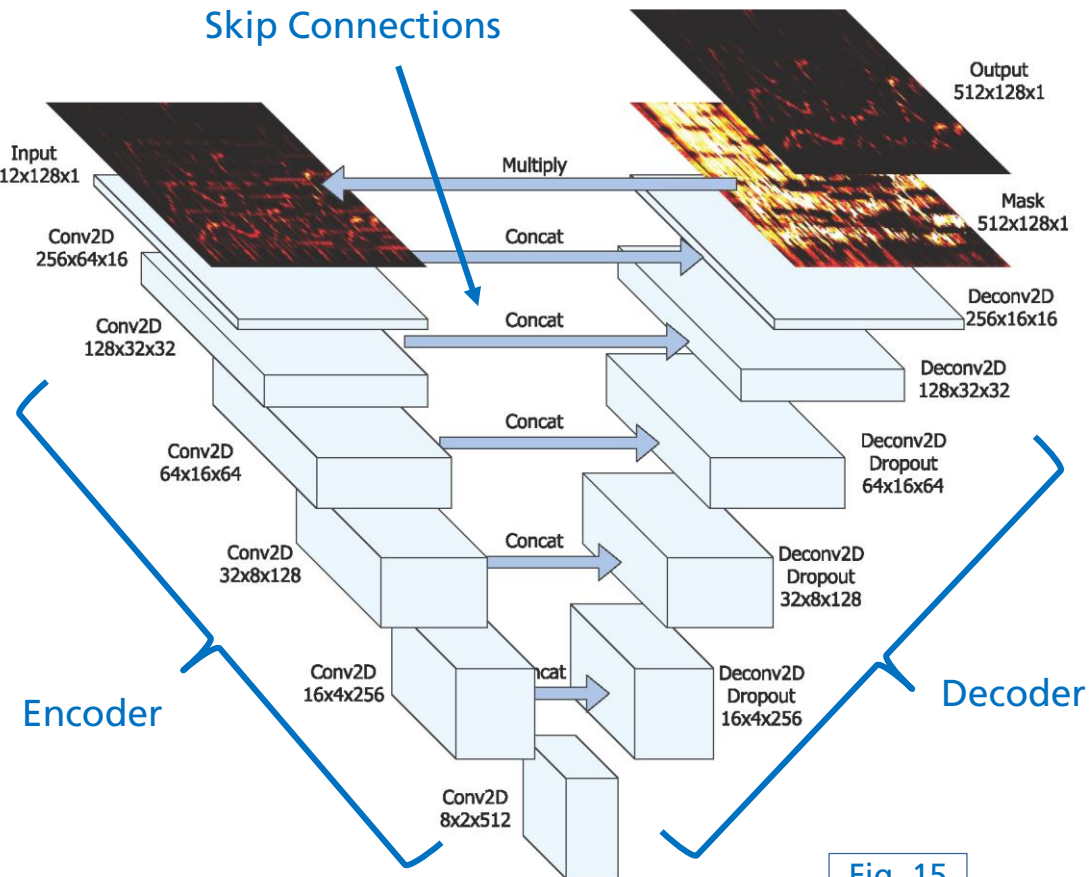
## Novel Approaches

- U-Net based [Jansson et al., 2017]

- Input → magnitude spectrogram (mix)
- Output → 2 soft masks (voice / others)

- Issue

- Only magnitude of STFT is modeled
- Still phase from the mixture is used



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# Source Separation

## Novel Approaches

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- Spleeter [[Hennequin et al., 2020](#)]
  - Open-source version for MIR research
  - 3 pre-trained models
    - 2 stems (vocals and accompaniments)
    - 4 stems (vocals, drums, bass, and other)
    - 5 stems (vocals, drums, bass, piano and other)



[Spleeter Demo](#)

# Source Separation

## Novel Approaches

### ■ Conv-TasNet [Luo & Mesgarani, 2019]

- Time-domain speech separation network (end-to-end)
- Encoder → optimized representation for speaker separation
- Separation → masks (weighting functions)
- Decoder → invert to waveforms
- Temporal convolutional networks (TCN)
  - Stack of 1-D dilated convolutional blocks
  - Large receptive field → model long-term dependencies

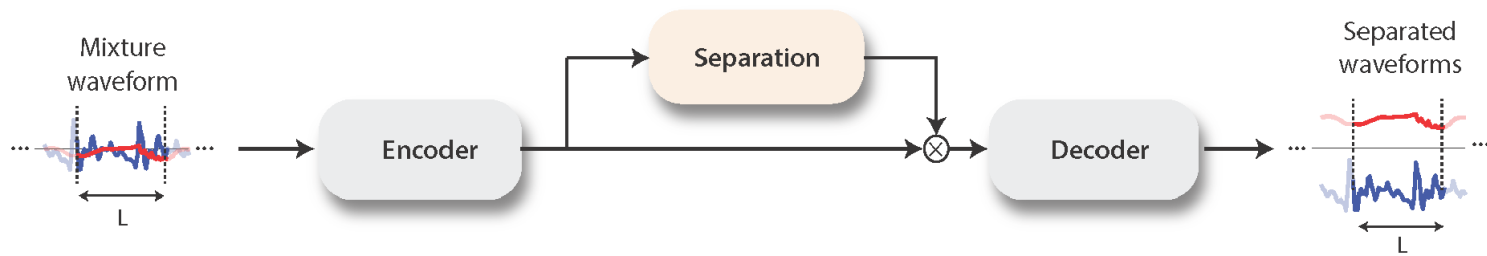


Fig. 16

# Source Separation

## Novel Approaches

### ■ Conv-TasNet [Luo & Mesgarani, 2019]

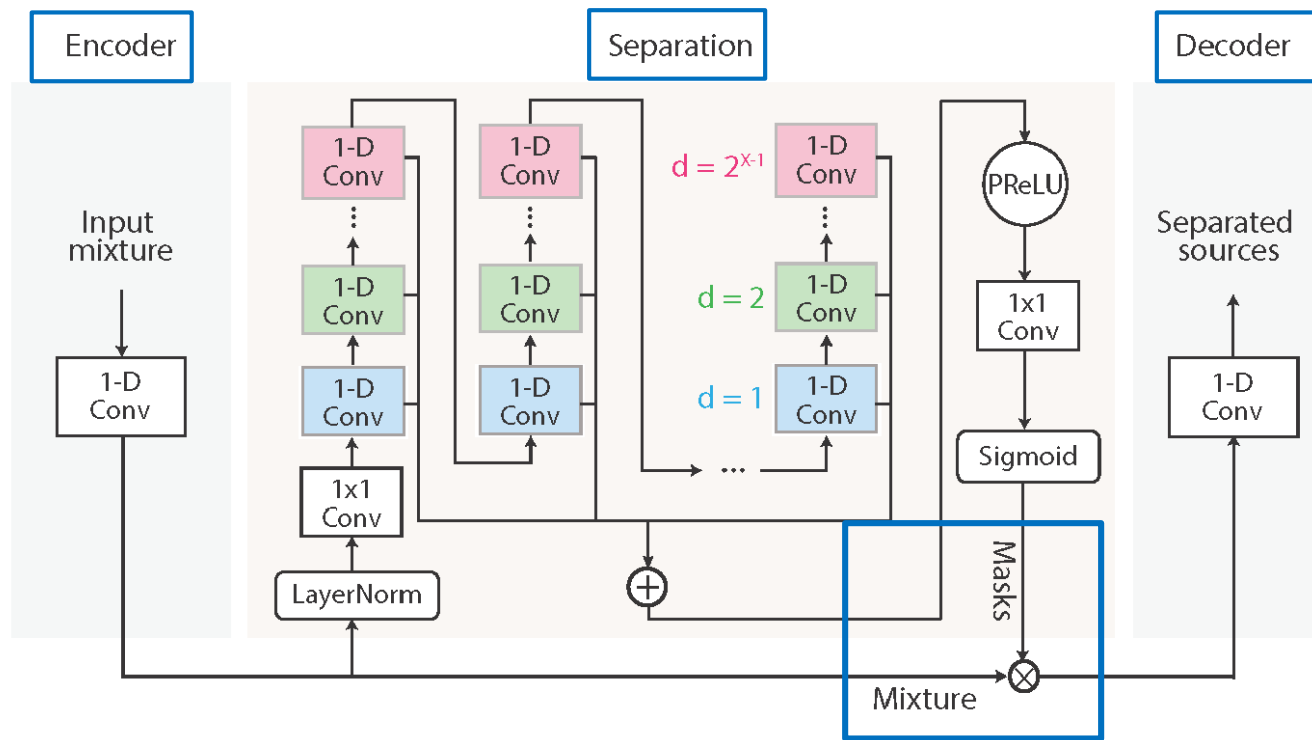


Fig. 17

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# Summary

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- Case Studies
  - Pitch Detection
  - Instrument Recognition
  - Source Separation



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# References

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Cano, E., Fitzgerald, D., Liutkus, A., Plumbley, M. D., & Stoter, F. R. (2019). Musical Source Separation: An Introduction. *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*, 36(1), 31–40.

Grasis, M., Abeßer, J., Dittmar, C., & Lukashevich, H. (2014). A Multiple-Expert Framework for Instrument Recognition. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* 8905, 619–634.

Han, Y., Kim, J., & Lee, K. (2017). Deep Convolutional Neural Networks for Predominant Instrument Recognition in Polyphonic Music. *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Audio Speech and Language Processing*, 25(1), 208–221.

Hennequin, R., Khlif, A., Voituret, F., & Moussallam, M. (2020). Spleeter: a fast and efficient music source separation tool with pre-trained models. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 5(50), 2154.

Hsieh, T. H., Su, L., & Yang, Y. H. (2019). A Streamlined Encoder/Decoder Architecture for Melody Extraction. *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, 156–160. Brighton, UK.

Hung, Y.-N., & Yang, Y.-H. (2018). Frame-Level Instrument Recognition by Timbre and Pitch. *Proceedings of the International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference (ISMIR)*, 135–142. Paris, France.

Jansson, A., Humphrey, E., Montecchio, N., Bittner, R., Kumar, A., & Weyde, T. (2017). Singing Voice Separation with Deep U-Net Convolutional Networks. *Proceedings of the International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference (ISMIR)*, 745–751. Suzhou, China.

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- Luo, Y., & Mesgarani, N. (2019). Conv-TasNet: Surpassing Ideal Time-Frequency Magnitude Masking for Speech Separation. *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing*, 27(8), 1256–1266.
- Müller, M. (2021). *Fundamentals of Music Processing - Using Python and Jupyter Notebooks* (2nd ed.). Springer.
- Salamon, J., & Gomez, E. (2012). Melody extraction from polyphonic music signals using pitch contour characteristics. *IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing*, 20(6), 1759–1770.

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# Images

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Fig. 1: [Müller, 2021], p. 449, Fig. 8.15(b)

Fig. 2: <http://www.guitaradventures.com/wp-content/uploads/Tuning-your-guitar.jpg>

Fig. 3: <https://cdn2.whatoplay.com/screenshots/2631slide-4.jpg>

Fig. 4: [https://cdn.androidcommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/500x\\_angrybirdsdarwin.jpg](https://cdn.androidcommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/500x_angrybirdsdarwin.jpg)

Fig. 5: [Müller, 2021], p. 449, Fig. 8.15(a)

Fig. 6: Sonic Visualiser: <http://www.sonicvisualiser.org/> , Melodia plugin: <http://mtg.upf.edu/technologies/melodia>

Fig. 7: [Kim et al., 2018], p. 2, Fig. 1

Fig. 8: [Hsieh et al., 2019], p. 2, Fig. 2

Fig. 9: [Grasis et al., 2014], p. 6, Fig. 3

Fig. 10: [Han et al., 2017], p. 3, Fig. 1

Fig. 11: [Han et al., 2017], p. 9, Fig. 6

Fig. 12: [Hung & Yang, 2018], p. 4, Fig. 1

Fig. 13: [Cano et al., 2019], p. 3, Fig. 3

Fig. 14: [Müller, 2021], p. 425, Fig. 8.3

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# Images

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[Fig. 15](#): [Jansson, 2017], p. 3, Fig. 1

[Fig. 16](#): [Luo & Mesgarani, 2019], p. 3, Fig. 1(A)

[Fig. 17](#): [Luo & Mesgarani, 2019], p. 3, Fig. 1(B)

[Fig. 18](#): [Müller, 2021], p. 422, Fig. 8.1

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# Sounds

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**AUD-1:** Aislinn – Capclear (2013), [https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Aislinn/Aislinn/10\\_-\\_Aislinn\\_-\\_Capclear](https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Aislinn/Aislinn/10_-_Aislinn_-_Capclear)

**AUD-2:** Aislinn – Fourteen Days (2013), [https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Aislinn/Aislinn/11\\_-\\_Aislinn\\_-\\_Fourteen\\_days](https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Aislinn/Aislinn/11_-_Aislinn_-_Fourteen_days)

**AUD-3:** Anonymous Choir – Amicus Meus (2009),  
[https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Anonymous\\_Chair/Toms\\_Luis\\_de\\_Victorias\\_Amicus\\_Meus/Amicus\\_Meus](https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Anonymous_Chair/Toms_Luis_de_Victorias_Amicus_Meus/Amicus_Meus)

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# Thank you!

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■ Any questions?

Dr.-Ing. Jakob Abeßer

Fraunhofer IDMT

Jakob.abesser@idmt.fraunhofer.de

<https://www.machinelistinging.de>