and *samba*, and also to allow the comparison between the results obtained for both sets, *candombe* tracks were segmented into non-overlapping 30 s excerpts. In each experiment repetition, we use a sample of 93 *candombe* excerpts.

We also used six datasets to train the baseline TCN model: Ballroom [17, 22], Beatles [23], GTZAN [24, 25], and RWC (Classical, Popular, Jazz) [26, 27]. These are commonly used in meter tracking tasks and together correspond to over 38 h of audio data. The Ballroom and GTZAN datasets comprise many diverse music genres (e.g., waltz, tango, rumba, rock, pop, country, etc.). We used the loaders from *mirdata* v0.3.6 [28], except for a custom loader used with Ballroom.

2.2 Working with small size datasets

For our experiments, in all cases, we first separate train and test data (80% and 20% of 93 excerpts respectively) to ensure a fair assessment of the models. Then, we divide the training data into six subsets, spanning {4, 9, 18, 37, 55, 74} 30-second tracks. We want to determine how differently the models adapt to small quantities of data, so we followed a similar approach to that of [14] to define the amount of data to be used for training. We select short 10 s temporal regions at the beginning of the audio excerpts, along with the corresponding beat and downbeat annotations, and discard the remaining audio portion. Then we split each of these regions into two adjacent 5 s parts, the first to be used for training and the second reserved for validation in the TCN model; alternatively, we use the entire 10 s for training the Bayesian model with off-the-shelf parameters. Considering that each snippet only lasts 10 s, these data subsets add up to approximately 40 s, 1.5, 3, 6, 9, and 12 min of annotations, respectively. The rationale behind this strategy is that given a set of recordings of such Latin American music traditions in real-world applications, it would be reasonable to ask a user to annotate just a few seconds to a few minutes of data; of course, the less data needed, the better.

Given that we are using very few data points to train the models, performance is strongly affected by data sampling. To mitigate this, we repeat all of our experiments 10 times with different seeds for the random data split generation, which means that models are trained 10 times with each of the different subset sizes. Note that selecting the best strategies for data sampling is out of the scope of this work, and left to be addressed in the future. Test data are left uncut, i.e., we use the full 30 s, to keep compatibility with common model evaluation practices in meter tracking.

2.3 TCN Model

We use in our experiments the TCN multi-task model presented in [16], in particular the open-source implementation of [8]. In this work, we focus on meter tracking, and ignore the tempo estimation head of the network. First, the TCN estimates the beat and downbeat likelihood. Then, we use two different implementations of a DBN (DBN-BeatTracker and DBNDownBeatTracker from madmom v0.17.dev0 [29]) to infer the final positions of beats and

downbeats respectively. Inferring them separately rather than jointly led to better results.

2.4 Training strategies

2.4.1 Training from scratch (TCN-FS)

For datasets with high similarity in terms of instrumentation, rhythmic patterns, and tempo, we expect that we can train a model from scratch with a few training points that would work well for most of the data.

Following the explanation in Section 2.2, we train one model per data subset, and repeat this 10 times with randomly initialized weights and seeds. We also consider the case in which all annotations are available and include the analysis of model performance when training with the entire 30-second excerpts. In this situation, we split the 74 train excerpts into train and validation (75%/25%). For every strategy, we use a learning rate of 0.005, and reduce it by a factor of 0.2 if validation loss did not improve after 10 epochs. We train for a maximum of 100 epochs, early stopping at 20 epochs.

2.4.2 Fine-tuning (TCN-FT)

We also approach the problem of meter tracking in a culture-specific setting from a "transfer learning" perspective. Following [13, 14, 18], we adapt a meter tracking model that was previously trained for a different musical context. The intuition here is that if the model is first trained on a large dataset, even if it was built around Western music, it can serve as a good starting point for a model that is to be tuned for a specific out-of-training music tradition. This is a realistic approach since most of the available annotated data and trained models are Western-based. For this purpose, we trained a baseline TCN model on the Ballroom, Beatles, GTZAN, and RWC datasets. Due to the nature of its training data, this baseline model has to cope with many different meters, genres and acoustic conditions, which makes it a good starting point. We finetuned it by using the same training procedure described previously with the initial learning rate reduced to 0.001, a fifth of the value used in the FS approach, as in [14].

2.4.3 Data augmentation (TCN-FTA, TCN-FSA)

Data augmentation techniques are useful for artificially increasing the number of training data points, which can be of great benefit in cases of low or insufficient data such as ours. In order to evaluate the impact of data augmentation in our models, we adopted a simple strategy inspired by [14, 16] in the experiments conducted with the TCN model: computing the input STFTs with different frame rates, i.e., varying hop sizes, so as to even out the distribution of tempi in the train set. Instead of randomly sampling from a normal distribution around the annotated tempo, we selected a set of frames rates $\pm 2.5\%$ and $\pm 5\%$ around its value. This allowed us to increase our sample size five-fold while maintaining the same amount of annotation effort. Models obtained with the data augmentation procedure are labeled TCN-FSA and TCN-FTA, for the training strategies described in Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2.

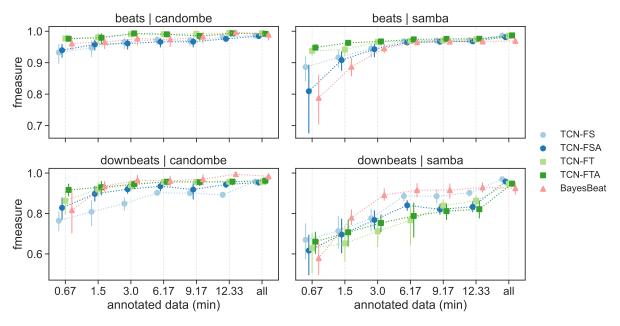


Figure 1: Performance of different model and training configurations. Label "all" indicates fully-annotated dataset.

2.5 Baselines

ability and computational cost of the TCN. It has fewer parameters, thus training is faster. The second type of baselines are three off-the-shelf models—a Signal Processing technique, and two neural networks trained on Western music—; they illustrate the need for tailor-made solutions/adaptations in our context. Details presented below. **BayesBeat.** This is based on the *dynamic bar pointer model* [30], and it simultaneously estimates beats, downbeats, tempo, meter, and rhythmic patterns, by expressing them as hidden variables in a hidden Markov model (HMM). An observation feature based on the spectral flux is computed from the audio signal and an observation model uses Gaussian mixture models (GMM) that are fitted during training to the feature values of each bin in a

one-bar grid, so that rhythmic patterns are learned. Several patterns can be modeled, though one pattern is assumed to

remain constant throughout the audio signal.

We include two types of baselines. Firstly, the BayesBeat

statistical model [17] is used as reference to the adapt-

BayesBeat has a few hyperparameters that the user should choose depending on the music. Those are the number of rhythmic patterns, the type of feature to use (e.g., using only low, or low and high frequencies), and the feature grouping (e.g., how to compute the rhythmic pattern clusters), the tempo range, and whole note subdivisions. In [17], it is reported that using two separate frequency bands (≥ 250 Hz) helps finding the correct metrical level and is beneficial for beat and downbeat tracking. But, considering more frequency bands did not improve the results [17]. According to [31], using one rhythmic pattern per rhythm class is usually enough to achieve a good performance and provides the best results in most cases. Following this, we use one rhythmic pattern and two frequency bands.

Off-the-shelf baselines. We use the joint beat and downbeat tracking model of Böck et al. [4] as per its implementation in *madmom v0.17.dev0* [29]. It consists of an LSTM-

based model trained in ten datasets spanning Western genres, and Carnatic, Cretan and Turkish music excerpts. We also include the beat tracker from Ellis [32], which estimates a global tempo and then uses dynamic programming to find the best set of beats that reflect such tempo. As a final baseline, we include the TCN of Section 2.3 trained with the Western datasets from Section 2.1 (TCN-BL).

2.6 Evaluation metrics

We use as our main metric F-measure [33], along with the continuity-based metrics [34, 35] CMLt ("correct metrical level") which corresponds to the ratio between correct and annotated beats, and AMLt ("allowed metrical level") which accepts phase errors of half a beat period or octave errors in estimation. For the computational cost of the models, we simply report the time they take to train by using in-build timing functions in the code.

3. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

3.1 Performance of models

Figure 1 shows the F-measure results for the TCN models trained for *candombe* and for *samba* with different amounts of data using each of the training strategies, as well as BayesBeat, computed as the bootstrapped results of ten experiments (95% confidence) with different random seeds for each combination of model and data amount.

A first striking observation is that for both beats and downbeats, the performance curve for most models has a small positive slope, which means it is indeed possible to nearly achieve best model performance (which would require training with full dataset) by just training with few samples. This is particularly true for the estimation of beat, for which models rapidly reach F-measure scores above 80% with less than a minute of data in both *candombe* and *samba* for almost all configurations. This is an interesting

	Candombe						Samba					
Model	Beat			Downbeat			Beat			Downbeat		
	CMLt	AMLt	F	CMLt	AMLt	F	CMLt	AMLt	F	CMLt	AMLt	F
BayesBeat_0.67	95.0	95.0	96.1	82.2	92.0	81.7	70.5	74.2	78.8	57.4	72.9	57.9
BayesBeat_12.33	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.4	93.5	96.0	96.7	92.5	94.9	92.9
BayesBeat_all	98.6	98.6	98.9	98.8	98.8	98.4	94.0	96.0	96.9	92.0	95.3	92.5
TCN-FS_0.67	92.6	92.8	93.3	72.5	83.7	76.4	84.7	88.5	88.6	55.9	76.4	67.0
TCN-FS_12.33	98.1	98.2	98.1	85.7	95.8	89.3	94.5	96.0	97.1	78.7	95.7	90.2
TCN-FS_all	98.6	98.9	98.6	96.1	99.1	95.8	97.0	98.8	98.6	94.3	98.8	97.0
TCN-FT_0.67	97.6	97.6	97.7	86.6	94.4	86.3	89.0	94.5	93.8	50.3	83.2	62.8
TCN-FT_12.33	99.6	99.6	99.5	96.3	99.7	95.7	94.6	96.9	97.4	78.1	92.0	86.3
TCN-FT_all	99.5	99.5	99.4	96.4	99.2	95.8	97.2	98.7	98.5	91.1	96.2	94.8
TCN-BL	11.1	18.7	15.9	14.9	31.9	4.1	46.5	65.6	60.0	5.9	52.5	9.6
Ellis [32]	34.8	38.1	38.0	-	-	-	82.3	87.6	87.1	-	-	-
Böck [4]	11.7	14.4	11.5	26.7	40.3	0.5	46.9	76.0	66.4	5.2	66.6	2.0

Table 1: Mean F-measure (F) and continuity scores (CMLt, AMLt) in beat and downbeat tracking tasks across both genres.

result, meaning that not much gain in performance is expected with the increase of annotations for such datasets. An end-user could annotate less that a minute of data and yet obtain decent performances. The same holds for downbeat in *candombe*, but not in *samba*. In the latter, there is a clear gain in adding more data, which has to do with the differences between the two rhythms, as discussed below.

Differences between candombe and samba. Observing the results in Figure 1, we see that the models tend to require more data to achieve better performance on samba than on candombe, and the uncertainty about the performance for samba is larger. Our intuition behind this result is that, as mentioned in Section 1.2, because samba has a bigger combination of timbres and pitches than candombe, the decision of what snippets to annotate (i.e., the sampling) might be more critical for the former than for the latter, e.g., ensuring timbre representation.

Best model configuration. The best performing configurations for beat tracking in both music traditions are the fine-tuned TCN models (FT/FTA). The same is true for downbeat tracking in candombe. Overall, data augmentation produced no significant improvement in performance, which can even worsen in samba (FS/FSA). Interestingly, for the adaptive setting concerned in this work, the Bayes-Beat baseline is very competitive with the TCN. In particular, Figure 1 shows that it clearly outperforms the TCN in downbeat tracking in samba (except at 0.67 min and "all"). Comparison with off-the-shelf benchmarks. Table 1 shows the performance of the TCN and the BayesBeat baseline for different data subsets, namely the smallest and largest subsets, and the full dataset. It also shows the performance of the three off-the-shelf baselines explained in Section 2.5. In alignment with previous works [12, 21], the models trained with Western music (TCN-BL and Böck [4]) perform very poorly in candombe, and reach only about 66% F-measure in samba, both significantly lower than the performance of the same models in Western music genres. The model of Ellis [32] scores considerably better, but is not consistent in both datasets. This shows the necessity of adapting meter tracking models to these music genres, as even the models trained with the smallest subsets of data (0.67 min) outperform the baselines.

3.2 How much time do the models take to train?

Our analysis is motivated by the adaptation of meter tracking models in real-world use cases. For this adaptation to make sense it has to be done quickly. In this regard, we estimate the time each model configuration takes in training, and contrast it with the BayesBeat baseline. Figure 2 shows how the train duration varies with the size of the train set for samba (very similar results were obtained for candombe). The TCN takes about the same time in both samba and candombe, with a minimum of about 100 s for the smallest subset. Among the TCN configurations, the most expensive ones use data augmentation. This makes sense given that more data is used for training. As expected, the BayesBeat trains significantly faster than the TCN, taking on average 1.62 s to train with 0.67 min of data, and being in the order of 50 to 150 times faster than the TCN when data augmentation is not used. This big gap in computing time, together with the results of Figure 1 and Table 1, makes BayesBeat an overall good alternative for adapting meter tracking to these Latin American music. We observed that all configurations take about the same inference time, around 25 s for the full test set.

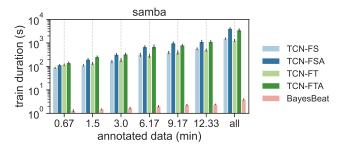


Figure 2: Training time for the different amounts of data.

3.3 When can we train with small data?

Our intuition is that the more variability in the data (in terms of meters, rhythmic patterns and instrumentation), the harder it is for a model to learn with small data. This aligns with our experiments in the adaptability of these methods to *samba* and *candombe*, and also agrees with the musicological insights of Section 1.2. To have a more

quantitative understanding of this, we derived a bar profile for each type of music. First we extract a feature map from each excerpt using the beat/downbeat annotations to time-quantize a locally normalized onset strength function [36] at the tatum scale — this was done with the *carat* [37] toolbox, considering the tatum duration as one quarter of the time-span between successive beats. Then, for each dataset, we summarize these feature maps across time, which results in a distribution of feature values per tatum. To allow an analysis of these profiles in different regions of the spectrum, we compute the onset strength in two frequency bands (20 Hz to 200 Hz; and > 200 Hz). We present these distributions as violin plots in Figure 3 for *candombe*, *samba*, and for the Ballroom dataset.

In Figure 3, we verify that for some tatums strength distributions are concentrated around 1 or 0, indicating a strong characteristic accent or lack thereof at that point of the bar respectively. High variance, in its turn, means "fuzzyness" in the rhythm pattern, which could justify the difficulty in learning that rhythm, specially with small data.

Samba, which has eight tatums per bar (2/4 meter), is known for having a strong metrical accent at beat 2, which we may readily identify in its low-frequency channel at tatum 5. The first beat also has a high median value but is less "deterministic" due to its high variance. In turn, the low-frequency profile of candombe displays a highvariance downbeat, no accent on beat 2, and strong accents on beats 3 and 4, but also a strong contrametric accent at tatum 4. These characteristics could help explain why the off-the-shelf beat tracking models, which expect beats to be accented, perform worst on candombe. Looking back at samba, we see that tatums 2 and 3 show small standard deviations and correspond to "off" tatums; together with beat 2, they make three out of eight tatums that exhibit very small variance in the low channel. In candombe, besides tatum 4, tatums 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 16 also present small variance. This abundance of "anchor" points could justify why adaptation in candombe came with little data.

In Ballroom, we clearly see that beats are distinct for having high strength and low variance in both channels, whereas the rest of the tatums show no clear trend. Its few reference points could pose a challenge for learning models. Furthermore, beat patterns (the combination the four tatums in-between beats, including the beat itself) are also indistinguishable from one another, which could aggravate this matter. To test these observations, we trained a set of models from scratch for Ballroom using the same methodology that for *samba* and *candombe*. Results are depicted in Figure 4. The performance results correlate with the intuition that Ballroom is a more challenging dataset given that it comprises multiple genres, and also that for learning beat and downbeat more data would be needed.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

We adapted a meter tracking model using small quantities of data to work in particular Latin American music traditions, namely *samba* and *candombe*. We showed that, under certain homogeneity conditions, it is indeed possi-

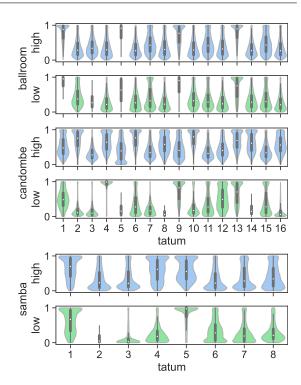


Figure 3: Tatum strength distribution per frequency band for Ballroom (just 4/4 tracks), *candombe*, and *samba*.

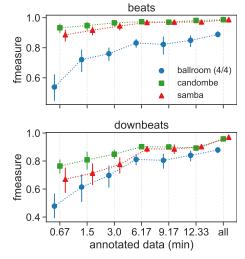


Figure 4: TCN-FS performance in Ballroom.

ble to train such models with a few minutes of annotated data and training cycles, and obtain almost full-dataset performance. This result has promising consequences in real-world applications, as it opens the possibility of adapting such models to other music genres with modest labeling efforts. The most competitive models are TCN-FT/FTA and BayesBeat, the latter being considerably faster. In the future, we will investigate rhythm complexity metrics that could serve to predict the amount of annotated data needed to adapt meter tracking models to particular music genres.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was partially funded by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior - Brasil (CAPES) — Finance Code 001 and by the Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación - Uruguay (ANII).

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CRITIQUING TASK- VERSUS GOAL-ORIENTED APPROACHES: A CASE FOR MAKAM RECOGNITION

Kaustuv Kanti Ganguli^{1,3,†}

Sertan Sentürk^{2,3,†}

Carlos Guedes³

College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Zayed University, UAE
 Independent Researcher, UK
 Music and Sound Cultures Lab, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

Kaustuv.Ganguli@zu.ac.ae, sertan.senturk@gmail.com, carlos.guedes@nyu.edu

ABSTRACT

Computational Musicology and Music Information Retrieval (MIR) address the core musical question under study from a different perspective, often combining topdown vs. bottom-up approaches. However, the evaluation metrics for MIR tend to capture the model accuracy in terms of the goal. 1 For instance, mode recognition is implemented with a goal to evaluate and compare melodic analysis approaches, but it is worth investigating if at all it lends itself as one befitting proxy task.² This is particularly relevant in non-Eurogenetic music repertoires where the grammatical rules are rather prescriptive. We employ methodologies that combine domain knowledge and data-driven optimisations as a possible way for a comprehensive understanding of these relationships. This is tested on Makam, one of the understudied corpora in MIR. We evaluate an array of feature-engineering methods on the largest mode recognition dataset curated for Ottoman-Turkish makam music, composed of 1000 recordings in 50 makams. We also address (ethno)musicology-driven tasks with a view to gathering more profound insights into this music, such as tuning, intonation, and melodic similarity. We aim to propose avenues to extend the study to makam characterisation over the mere goal of recognizing the mode, to better understand the (dis)similarity space and other plausible musically interesting facets.

1. INTRODUCTION

The melodic framework in many music traditions is often governed by the system of modes. A mode can be viewed as falling somewhere between a scale and a tune in terms of its defining grammar, which includes the tonal

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material, tonal hierarchy, and characteristic melodic movements [1–3]. While the function and the understanding of these frameworks are distinct from a culture-specific perspective, in a broader sense, they may be considered as the modes of the studied music culture. Some music traditions that can be considered modal are Indian art (raga) music, the Turkish/Arabic makam/maqam traditions, and the Gregorian church modes. Concerning the relevance of musical mode in non-Eurogenetic music repertoires, there are two contrasting viewpoints on whether to rethink or reject modal structure. While the former advocates for adapting the concept of mode as an underlying framework to systematise musical patterns, the latter tends to nullify the syntactic jargon of using a foreign language grammar (e.g., mode) to interpret literature in another (e.g., makam).

Makam/maqam is the melodic framework that consists of a system of scales defined by successive intervals, habitual melodic phrases, modulation pathways, ornamentation techniques and aesthetic conventions. It is used in Turkish (and Arabic, including the Middle East and Western Indian Ocean) music, providing a complex set of rules for compositions and performance. A typical subset of the repertoire — Ottoman-Turkish makam music (OTMM) is well-established as a classical music tradition. Historically, there are a few hundred makams, whereas in practice, most of the repertoire is composed in one of the top 20 makams [4, 5]. In OTMM, melodies typically revolve around an initial tone and a final tone [6], where the final tone is referred to as being synonymous with tonic. There is no definitive reference frequency to tune the tonic. Recognizing makam is in itself a much more difficult task due to various characteristics such as heterophony and high variability in interpretations by musicians [6]. Moreover, from the pedagogy and practice perspective, recognizing the underlying makam with a unary label may not be interesting enough. A knowledge seeker (e.g., from the perspective of an anthropologist or ethnomusicologist) would rather gain wisdom on the characterisation of a makam and its discriminatory aspects to differentiate it from seemingly similar-sounding neighbouring makams.

In the realm of music information retrieval (MIR), mode recognition as a task has been given considerable importance from the purview of this, lending itself as one befitting proxy to evaluate and compare melodic analy-

 $[\]dagger$ Equal contribution; corresponding authors.

¹ We define goal as optimization of evaluation metrics, e.g., accuracy.

² We define tool as what a model is intended to learn a grandel fee

² We define task as what a model is intended to learn, e.g., modal features such as intervals, note sequence, relative salience, etc.

sis approaches. Such a list is lengthy, ranging from automatic transcription, tuning analysis, music discovery, music similarity and recommendation to computational (ethno)musicology applications [7, 8]. However, in most practical scenarios, mode recognition is not the central theme but just the first step evidencing the robustness of acoustic features and/or statistical models. In such a setup, the recognition accuracy tends to become just another optimisation function. This simply indicates that the ethos of mode recognition does not remain a task anymore but a 'goal'. In this work, we aim to critically address how such an approach can mislead the uninitiated audience by attributing the complexity of the musical characteristics to the shortcomings of computational models.

It is inevitable to have thorough interdisciplinary collaboration to address the specifics in their entirety. However, we will approach the first study in this direction from a corpus-based computational musicology paradigm. This means developing culture-aware music technologies combing data- and knowledge-driven methods. We aim to benchmark the reported state-of-the-art literature, improve baseline features and simulate intuitive models to contest them. Once the potential of our approach in achieving the 'goal' accuracy is established, we break away from supervised (classification) to unsupervised (clustering) learning to appreciate the nuances and facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the same realm, this time as a 'task'. The byproduct of such a work is to provide tools for several musicologically-relevant subtasks such as tuning and intonation analysis, temporal modelling, and so on. While musicological studies latch on qualitative and limited representative examples, empirical methods work at the level of larger corpora and are, therefore, particularly useful for information retrieval-based tasks where scalability and reproducibility are highly regarded, if not mandated. The extracted features facilitate the curation of large audio corpora not only by greatly reducing the time and effort spent on manual annotations but also by providing automatically extracted, reliable and reproducible information. It is to be noted that we are limiting the scope of this work to building on past work pertaining to aggregated feature representation disregarding any time information. Hence, sequence models or sophisticated deep learning models (e.g. [9]) are not included in the current discourse.

However, in such corpus-based studies that too are underrepresented in MIR, the features extracted from the data, ³ source code and the experimental results are not always shared, making it more inaccessible to reproduce or build on the literature. Thus the unavailability of public tools, datasets, and reproducible experimentation are major obstacles to computational music information research, especially if such relevant tasks have not been applied to studied music traditions earlier. The CompMusic project ⁴ contributed towards bridging this gap by creating open corpora and computational tools for several non-Eurogenetic music repertoires. This work builds on the dataset intro-

duced in MORTY (MOde Recognition and Tonic Ydentification toolbox), which is the largest mode recognition dataset curated for OTMM, composed of 1000 recordings in 50 makams [10].

In this work, our contribution is two-fold. Firstly, we adapt a new feature called time-delayed melody surfaces (TDMS) from raga recognition to makam recognition that shows comparable results to that of the current state-ofthe-art [11]. The second contribution is to establish a similarity space of makam melodic features that characterise the root cause of erroneous cases. The structure of the paper is as follows. Section 2 discusses relevant literature on mode recognition at large and a detailed review of makam recognition, more as a goal and not a task. Section 3 describes the methodological details on audio preprocessing, the dataset(s), and feature extraction/modeling. Next, the experimental details regarding the model architecture and evaluation strategies are discussed in Section 4.1. This essentially engulfs the 'goal'-oriented approaches and comparison with the state-of-the-art, followed by the discussion of an alternative paradigm of unsupervised learning. The latter aids in the 'task'-based approach and highlights the gained musicological insights from this study and possible avenues of extending to makam characterisation over merely recognizing the label. Finally, Section 5 summarises the contributions and poses the scope for further developments in the current study.

2. MODE RECOGNITION

There has been extensive interest in mode recognition in the last two decades; a good summary is presented in [12]. Most of this work focuses on culture-specific approaches for music traditions like OTMM [10, 11, 13, 14], Carnatic music [15-17], Hindustani music [18-20], Dastgah music [21-23] and medieval chants [24, 25]. A considerable portion of these studies is based on comparing pitch distributions [13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26], which are shown to be reliable in the respective mode recognition task or, for that matter, goal per se. There also exist recent approaches that are based on characteristic melodic motif mining using network analysis [17,20], aggregating note models using automatic transcription [27-30], or audio-score alignment [31, 32]. All of these methods have been designed specifically to address the studied music culture (with the exceptions of [20] and [10]), and they are not generalisable to other music cultures without considerable effort. Next, we present some of the specific literature on mode recognition that we base our analyses on.

Pitch Distributions (PD) and Pitch Class Distributions (PCD) have been the state-of-art feature for mode recognition tasks for a very long time [10, 12, 13, 19], irrespective of the fact that they completely disregard the temporal aspects of the melody, which are essential to a mode characterisation [33]. Karakurt et al. [10] applied a joint recognition of makam and tonic using PDs and PCDs. In the training phase, the authors used kNN classifiers with either single or multiple distributions per mode. Their best performing model achieved an accuracy of 71.8% on the OTMM

³ Commercial audio recordings are generally difficult to be made public due to copyright issues.

⁴ https://compmusic.upf.edu/