

MUSIC AS LANGUAGE

PUTTING PROBABILISTIC TEMPORAL GRAPH GRAMMARS TO GOOD USE

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August 23, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

- The aim is not to generate a complete music piece
 - Rather an aid in the compositional process
- Do this in a concise way, which is also expressive enough
 - To that end, we use formal grammars

Grammar-Based Automated Music Composition in Haskell

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Abstract

Few algorithms for automated music composition are able to address the combination of harmonic structure, metrical structure, and repetition in a generalized way. Markov chains and neural nets struggle to address repetition of a musical phrase, and generative grammars generally do not handle temporal aspects of music in a way that retains a coherent metrical structure (nor do they handle repetition). To address these limitations, we present a new class of generative grammars called *Probabilistic Temporal Graph Grammars*, or PTGG's, that handle all of these features in music while allowing an elegant and concise implementation in Haskell. Being probabilistic allows one to express desired outcomes in a probabilistic manner; being temporal allows one to express metrical structure; and being a graph grammar allows one to express repetition of phrases through the sharing of nodes in the graph. A key aspect of our approach that enables handling of harmonic and metrical structure in addition to repetition is the use of rules that are parameterized by duration, and thus are actually *functions*. As part of our implementation, we also make use of a music-theoretic concept called *chord spaces*.

Rather than music analysis, however, we are interested in *automated music composition*. One way to approach this is to use grammars *generatively*—that is, to generate sentences from the start symbol. The problem is, with a conventional grammar (such as a context-free grammar, or CFG) the result is usually nonsensical—for example, “The dog wrote the house,” or in the case of music, something that just doesn’t sound right.

More specifically, conventional grammars intended for automated music composition have the following limitations:

1. They are unable to capture the *sharing* of identical phrases, such as in a song form AABA, where the A sections are intended to be identical (or nearly identical) to one other.
2. They do not take *probabilities* into account. Music analysis has shown that certain productions are more common than others—indeed specific genres of music (say, Bach chorales) have specific distributions of musical characteristics [23].
3. They do not capture *temporal* aspects of music. For example, a production rule stating that a I chord can be replaced with V-I does not capture the fact that the total duration of the

- **Probabilistic:** Rules are assigned prob. weights
- **Temporal:** Rules are time-parametric
- **Graph:** *Let* construct allows sharing/repetition

- Euterpea will be our music development vehicle
- Define some extra things that are not in the library
 1. intervals, chords, scales
 2. transposition on several music elements
 3. random actions in *MonadRandom*

data *Interval*

= *P1* | *Mi2* | *M2* | *Mi3* | *M3* | *P4* | *A4* | *P5*
| *Mi6* | *M6* | *Mi7* | *M7* | *P8* | *Mi9* | ... | *P15*

deriving (*Eq*, *Enum*)

type *ChordType* = [*Interval*] -- \equiv *ScaleType*

type *SemiChord* = [*PitchClass*] -- \equiv *SemiScale*

type *Chord* = [*Pitch*] -- \equiv *Scale*

(\Vdash) :: *PitchClass* \rightarrow *ChordType* \rightarrow *SemiChord*

(\Vdash) = ...

A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE SET OF SCALES/CHORDS

-- Chord types.

maj = [*P1*, *M3*, *P5*]

m7b5 = [*P1*, *Mi3*, *A4*, *Mi7*]

⋮

allChords = [*maj*, ...] :: [*ChordType*]

-- Scale types.

ionian = [*P1*, *M2*, *M3*, *P4*, *P5*, *M6*, *M7*]

major = *ionian*

lydian = *mode 4 ionian*

⋮

allScales = [*ionian*, ...] :: [*ScaleType*]

class *Transposable* *a* **where**

$(\uparrow), (\downarrow) :: a \rightarrow \text{Interval} \rightarrow a$

instance *Transposable* *PitchClass* **where** ...

instance *Transposable* *Chord* **where** ...

equally :: $[a] \rightarrow [(Double, a)]$

equally = *zip* (*repeat* 1.0)

choose :: *MonadRandom* *m* $\Rightarrow [(Double, a)] \rightarrow m\ a$

choose *xs* = **do**

i \leftarrow *getIndex* $\langle \$ \rangle$ *getRandomR* (0, *sum* (*fst* $\langle \$ \rangle$ *xs*))

return (*xs* !! *i*)

chooseBy :: *MonadRandom* *m* $\Rightarrow (a \rightarrow Double) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow m\ a$

chooseBy = *choose* \circ *fmap* ($\lambda a \rightarrow (f\ a, a)$)

PTGG EXTENSIONS

- A grammar consists of an initial symbol and several rewrite rules:

data *Grammar meta a*
= $a \mid [Rule\ meta\ a]$

- A rule replaces an atomic symbol with a grammar term:

data *Rule meta a*
= $(a, Double, Dur \rightarrow Bool) \rightsquigarrow (Dur \rightarrow Term\ meta\ a)$

- Terms are (sequences of) atomic symbols, possibly wrapped with metadata or repeated with *Let*:

data *Term meta a*

= *a : Dur*

| *Term meta a* \otimes *Term meta a*

| *meta* \triangleright *Term meta a*

| *Let* (*Term meta a*) (*Term meta a* \rightarrow *Term meta a*)

- The user has to provide a way to expand metadata:

```
class Expand input a meta b where  
  expand :: input → Term meta a → IO (Term () b)
```

- The user has to provide a way to interpret abstract musical structures:

```
class ToMusic1 c  $\Rightarrow$  Interpret input b c where  
  interpret :: input  $\rightarrow$  Music b  $\rightarrow$  IO (Music c)
```

- All in all, the user makes sure the following constraints are satisfied:

type *Grammarly* input meta a b c =
 (Eq a, Eq meta, ToMusic1 c
 , Expand input a meta b
 , Interpret input b c)

- Given a desired total duration, a well-formed grammar and the required input for expansion and interpretation, rewrite up to fixpoint:

```
runGrammar :: Grammarly input meta a b c
            ⇒ Grammar meta a → Dur → input
            → IO (Music b, Music1)

runGrammar (init |: rs) t0 input = do
  rewritten  ← fixpointM rewrite (init : t0)
  expanded  ← expand input (unlet rewritten)
  let abstract = toMusic expanded
  concrete   ← toMusic1 ⟨$⟩ interpret input abstract
  return (abstract, concrete)
```

HARMONY

Towards a generative syntax of tonal harmony

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(Received 3 November 2010; final version received 16 March 2011)

This paper aims to propose a hierarchical, generative account of diatonic harmonic progressions and suggest a set of phrase-structure grammar rules. It argues that the structure of harmonic progressions exceeds the simplicity of the Markovian transition tables and proposes a set of rules to account for harmonic progressions with respect to key structure, functional and scale degree features as well as modulations. Harmonic structure is argued to be at least one subsystem in which Western tonal music exhibits recursion and hierarchical organization that may provide a link to overarching linguistic generative grammar on a structural and potentially cognitive level.

data *Degree*

= *I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII* -- *terminals*

| *P | TR | DR | SR | T | D | S* -- *non-terminals*

deriving (*Eq, Enum*)

harmony :: *Grammar Interval Degree*

harmony = *P* | :

[-- *Phrase level*

(*P*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow \lambda t \rightarrow \text{fillBars } (t, 4 * \text{wn}) \text{ } TR$

-- *Functional level: Expansion*

, (*TR*, 1, ($> \text{wn}$)) $\rightarrow \lambda t \rightarrow TR : t/2 \otimes DR : t/2$

, (*TR*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow \lambda t \rightarrow DR : t/2 \otimes T : t/2$

, (*DR*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow \lambda t \rightarrow SR : t/2 \otimes D : t/2] \#$

[(*x*, 1, ($> \text{wn}$)) $\rightarrow \lambda t \rightarrow \text{Let } (x : t/2) (\lambda y \rightarrow y \otimes y)$

| $x \leftarrow [TR, SR, DR]] \#$

[(*TR*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow (T :)$

, (*DR*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow (D :)$

, (*SR*, 1, *always*) $\rightarrow (S :)$

-- *Functional level: Modulation*

, ($D, 1, (\geq qn)$) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow P5 \triangleright D : t$

, ($S, 1, (\geq qn)$) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow P4 \triangleright S : t] \#$

-- *Scale-degree level: Secondary dominants*

[($x, 1, (\geq hn)$) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow \text{Let } (x : t/2) (\lambda y \rightarrow (P5 \triangleright y) \otimes y)$

| $x \leftarrow [T, D, S]] \#$

[-- *Scale-degree level: Functional-Scale interface*

($T, 1, (\geq wn)$) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow I : t/2 \otimes IV : t/4 \otimes I : t/4$

, ($T, 1, \text{always}$) $\rightsquigarrow (I :)$

, ($S, 1, \text{always}$) $\rightsquigarrow (IV :)$

, ($D, 1, \text{always}$) $\rightsquigarrow (V :)$

, ($D, 1, \text{always}$) $\rightsquigarrow (VI :)]$

EXPANSION: KEY MODULATION

data *HarmonyConfig* = *HarmonyConfig*

{ *basePc* :: *PitchClass*

, *baseScale* :: *ScaleType*

, *chords* :: [(*Double*, *ChordType*)] }

instance *Expand HarmonyConfig Degree Interval SemiChord where*

expand :: *HarmonyConfig* → *Term Interval Degree*

→ *IO (Term () SemiChord)*

expand cfg (i ▷ e) = *expand (cfg { basePc = basePc cfg ↑ i }) e*

...

expand cfg (degree : t) = (:t) <\$> choose (filterChords cfg degree)

```
instance Interpret HarmonyConfig SemiChord Chord where  
  interpret :: HarmonyConfig → Music SemiChord → IO (Music Chord)  
  interpret cfg = fold1 f  
    where f m (sc, d) = do  
      ch ← chooseBy (chordDistance m) (inversions sc)  
      return (m ⊗ ch)
```


$P: 8 * wn$

$$P: 8 * wn$$



$$TR: 4 * wn \otimes TR: 4 * wn$$

REWRITE EXAMPLE

$$P: 8 * wn$$



$$TR: 4 * wn \otimes TR: 4 * wn$$



$$TR: 2 * wn \otimes DR: 2 * wn \otimes TR: 2 * wn$$

REWRITE EXAMPLE

$$P: 8 * wn$$



$$TR: 4 * wn \otimes TR: 4 * wn$$



$$TR: 2 * wn \otimes DR: 2 * wn \otimes TR: 2 * wn$$

$$\vdots$$


$$I: wn \otimes IV: hn \ I: hn \otimes (P5 \triangleright VI: wn) \otimes V: wn \otimes I: 2 * wn$$

MELODY

A Grammatical Approach to Automatic Improvisation

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Abstract—We describe an approach to the automatic generation of convincing jazz melodies using probabilistic grammars. Uses of this approach include a software tool for assisting a soloist in the creation of a jazz solo over chord progressions. The method also shows promise as a means of automatically improvising complete solos in real-time. Our approach has been implemented and demonstrated in a free software tool.

Keywords— jazz, improvisation, educational software, probabilistic context-free grammar, melody generator.

context-free grammar, as it occurs in computer science and linguistics. Then we show how a grammar can be used to generate plausible rhythmic and melodic sequences for jazz. Playable examples will be presented that show the effectiveness of the approach. Our approach has been implemented and has been tested in the past year as part of a broader educational software tool, which proved beneficial in a jazz improvisation course taught by the first author and has also been used by various third parties.

data M

$= HT \mid CT \mid L \mid AT \mid ST \mid R$ -- *terminals*

$\mid P \mid Q \mid V \mid N$ -- *non-terminals*

deriving Eq

$(\rightarrow) :: (a, Double, Dur \rightarrow Bool) \rightarrow Term \text{ meta } a \rightarrow Rule \text{ meta } a$

$a \rightarrow b = a \rightarrow const b$

melody :: Grammar () M

melody = P |:

[-- *Rhythmic Structure: Expand P to Q*

(P, 1, (\equiv qn)) \rightsquigarrow (Q :)

, (P, 1, (\equiv hn)) \rightsquigarrow (Q :)

, (P, 1, (\equiv hn \cdot)) \rightarrow Q: hn \otimes Q: qn

, (P, 25, ($>$ hn \cdot)) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow$ Q: hn \otimes P: (t - hn)

, (P, 75, ($>$ wn)) $\rightsquigarrow \lambda t \rightarrow$ Q: wn \otimes P: (t - wn)

GRAMMAR FOR MELODIC JAZZ IMPROVISATION

-- *Melodic Structure: Expand Q to V, V to N*

, (Q, 52, ($\equiv wn$)) $\rightarrow Q: hn \otimes V: qn \otimes V: qn$

, (Q, 47, ($\equiv wn$)) $\rightarrow V: qn \otimes Q: hn \otimes V: qn$

, (Q, 1, ($\equiv wn$)) $\rightarrow V: en \otimes N: qn \otimes N: qn \otimes N: qn \otimes V: en$

, (Q, 60, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow Let (V: qn) (\lambda x \rightarrow x \otimes x)$

, (Q, 16, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow HT: qn \otimes N: en$

, (Q, 12, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow V: en \otimes N: qn \otimes V: en$

, (Q, 6, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow N: hn$

, (Q, 6, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow HT: qn^3 \otimes HT: qn^3 \otimes HT: qn^3$

, (Q, 1, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow CT: qn$

, (V, 1, ($\equiv wn$)) $\rightarrow Let (V: qn) (\lambda x \rightarrow x \otimes x \otimes x \otimes x)$

, (V, 72, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow Let (V: en) (\lambda x \rightarrow x \otimes x)$

, (V, 22, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow N: qn$

, (V, 5, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow Let (HT: en^3) (\lambda x \rightarrow x \otimes x \otimes x)$

, (V, 1, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow Let (HT: en^3) (\lambda x \rightarrow x \otimes x \otimes AT: en^3)$

-- *Melodic Structure: Expand N to terminals*

, (N, 1, ($\equiv hn$)) $\rightarrow CT : hn$

, (N, 50, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow CT : qn$

, (N, 50, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow ST : qn$

, (N, 45, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow R : qn$

, (N, 20, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow L : qn$

, (N, 1, ($\equiv qn$)) $\rightarrow AT : qn$

, (N, 40, ($\equiv en$)) $\rightarrow CT : en$

, (N, 40, ($\equiv en$)) $\rightarrow ST : en$

, (N, 20, ($\equiv en$)) $\rightarrow L : en$

, (N, 20, ($\equiv en$)) $\rightarrow R : en$

, (N, 1, ($\equiv en$)) $\rightarrow AT : en]$

INTERPRETATION: FROM ABSTRACT TO ACTUAL NOTES

data *MelodyConfig* = *MelodyConfig*

{ *scales* :: [(*Double*, *ScaleType*)]

, *octaves* :: [(*Double*, *Octave*)] }

instance *Interpret* (*MelodyConfig*, *Music SemiChord*) *M Pitch* **where**

interpret (*cfg*, *chs*) *symbols* = *mapM interpretSymbol* ∘ *synchronize chs*

where

synchronize :: *Music a* → *Music b* → *Music (a, b)*

interpretSymbol :: (*SemiChord*, *M*) → *IO Pitch*

interpretSymbol (*ch*, *s*) = **case** *s* **of**

CT → *choose ch*

AT → *choose* \$ (*ch* ↓ *Mi2*) ⊞ (*ch* ↑ *Mi2*)

ST → *choose* \$ *filter* (*match chord*) (*scales cfg*)

...

RHYTHM

Modelling improvisatory and compositional processes

Abstract

An application of formal languages to the representation of musical processes is introduced. Initial interest was the structure of improvisation in North Indian *tabla* drum music, for which experiments have been conducted in the field as far back as 1983 with an expert system called the Bol Processor, BP1. The computer was used to generate and analyze drumming patterns represented as strings of onomatopoeic syllables, bols, by manipulating formal grammars. Material was then submitted to musicians who assessed its accuracy and increasingly more elaborate and sophisticated rule bases emerged to represent the musical idiom.

Since several methodological pitfalls were encountered in transferring knowledge from musician to machine, a new device, named QAVAIID, was designed with the capability of learning from a sample set of improvised variations supplied by a musician. A new version of Bol Processor, BP2, has been implemented in a MIDI studio environment to serve as a aid to rule-based composition in contemporary music. Extensions of the syntactic model, such as substitutions, metavariables, and remote contexts, are briefly introduced.

Keywords

Formal grammars, pattern languages, knowledge acquisition, cognitive anthropology, ethnomusicology.

data *Syllable*

= -- *terminals*

Tr | *Kt* | *Dhee* | *Tee* | *Dha* | *Ta*

| *Ti* | *Ge* | *Ke* | *Na* | *Ra* | *Noop*

-- *non-terminals*

| *S* | *XI* | *XD* | *XJ* | *XA* | *XB* | *XG* | *XH* | *XC*

| *XE* | *XF* | *TA7* | *TC2* | *TE1* | *TF1* | *TF4* | *TD1*

| *TB2* | *TE4* | *TC1* | *TB3* | *TA8* | *TA3* | *TB1* | *TA1*

deriving *Eq*

$(\rightarrow) :: a \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow \text{Rule meta } a$

$x \rightarrow xs = (x, 1, \text{always}) \rightarrow \text{fold1 } \otimes ((: \text{ en}) \langle \$ \rangle xs)$

GRAMMAR FOR TABLA IMPROVISATION

rhythm :: *Grammar* () *Syllable*

rhythm = *S* |:

[*S* → [*TE1*, *XI*]
 , *XI* → [*TA7*, *XD*], *XD* → [*TA8*]
 , *XI* → [*TF1*, *XJ*] , *XJ* → [*TC2*, *XA*]
 , *XA* → [*TA1*, *XB*], *XB* → [*TB3*, *XD*]
 , *XI* → [*TF1*, *XG*] , *XG* → [*TB2*, *XA*]
 , *S* → [*TA1*, *XH*]
 , *XH* → [*TF4*, *XB*] , *XH* → [*TA3*, *XC*]
 , *XC* → [*TE4*, *XD*] , *XC* → [*TA3*, *XE*]
 , *XE* → [*TA1*, *XD*] , *XE* → [*TC1*, *XD*]
 , *XC* → [*TB1*, *XB*]
 , *S* → [*TB1*, *XF*]
 , *XF* → [*TA1*, *XJ*] , *XF* → [*TD1*, *XG*]

, $TA7 \rightarrow [Kt, Dha, Tr, Kt, Dha, Ge, Na]$
, $TC2 \rightarrow [Tr, Kt]$, $TE1 \rightarrow [Tr]$, $TF1 \rightarrow [Kt]$
, $TF4 \rightarrow [Ti, Dha, Tr, Kt]$
, $TE4 \rightarrow [Ti, Noop, Dha, Ti]$
, $TD1 \rightarrow [Noop]$, $TB2 \rightarrow [Dha, Ti]$, $TC1 \rightarrow [Ge]$
, $TB3 \rightarrow [Dha, Tr, Kt]$
, $TA8 \rightarrow [Dha, Ti, Dha, Ge, Dhee, Na, Ge, Na]$
, $TA3 \rightarrow [Tr, Kt, Dha]$, $TB1 \rightarrow [Ti]$, $TA1 \rightarrow [Dha]$]

instance *ToMusic1 Syllable* **where**

toMusic1 = *toMusic* \circ *pitch* \circ *percussionMap*

where

percussionMap :: *Syllable* \rightarrow *Int*

percussionMap *s* = **case** *s* **of** *Tr* \rightarrow 38

Kt \rightarrow 45

...

GENERATED RESULTS

- Given a total duration and the required configurations, generate a "music piece":

```
generate :: FilePath → Dur  
           → HarmonyConfig → MelodyConfig  
           → IO ()  
generate f t hCfg mCfg = do  
  (absHarm, harm) ← runGrammar harmony t hCfg  
  (–, mel) ← runGrammar melody t (mCfg, absHarm)  
  (–, rhy) ← runGrammar rhythm t ()  
  writeToMidiFile f (harm :=: mel :=: rhy)
```

SONATA IN E MINOR

sonata

= generate "*sonata*" (12 * wn)

HarmonyConfig

{ basePc = E

, baseOct = 4

, baseScale = minor

, chords = equally [mi, maj, dim] }

MelodyConfig

{ scales = equally [ionian, harmonicMinor]

, octaves = [(5, 4), (20, 5), (10, 6)] }

orientalAlgebras

= generate "*oriental*" (12 * wn)

HarmonyConfig

{ *basePc* = A

, *baseOct* = 3

, *baseScale* = *arabian* -- $\equiv [P1, M2, Mi3, P4, A4, Mi6, M7]$

, *chords* = *equally allChords*}

MelodyConfig

{ *scales* = *equally allScales*

, *octaves* = [(20, 4), (15, 5), (5, 6)] }

CONCLUSION

- Jazz harmony (extend with context-sensitive features)
 - *[Steedman, 1984]* A generative grammar for jazz chord sequences
 - *[Steedman, 1996]* The blues and the abstract truth
- Better & more principled interpretation
- Intrinsically-typed grammars
- Non-musical Domains

It's gotta be simple, so people can dig it!

Thelonious Monk

QUESTIONS?