Exploring the Role of Temporal Fine Structure and Envelope in Timbral Coding

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***Abstract*—While the neural response to simple, stationary, and periodic auditory signals can be fairly well investigated, responses to auditory stimuli that are more complex, such as speech and music, are less well-characterized. Particularly, music is psychoacoustically complex. It is not well-understood how humans perceive the nuances of music, and how hearing impairment may affect the perception of such nuances. Before we can fully understand perception, we must first investigate how musical attributes like timbre are coded by the auditory periphery. By using a simulated auditory nerve model and comparing neural responses to stimulus envelope (ENV) and temporal fine structure (TFS), it is possible to see how timbral coding might be affected by hearing impairment. In this project, both instrumental timbre and articulation timbre were considered, and variations in coherence spectra of neural responses and Hilbert TFS/ENV were observed across instruments, articulations, and hearing impairment conditions.**

***Index Terms*—auditory, neuroscience, music, modeling, envelope, temporal fine structure, timbre**

I. Introduction

The field of auditory neuroscience has made leaps and bounds in understanding how we percieve and code sounds that reach the cochlea. However, despite much study of perception of speech intelligibility and discrimination, the perception and coding of *music* still is quite understudied and remains an enigma.

A. Timbre

B. Methods of Analysis for Investigating TFS and ENV Neural Responses

Much progress has been made on developing methods and analyses by which we can study how features of a particular sound stimulus reach the auditory nerve, and how they may be processed by higher order systems within the brain and brainstem. Particularly, the envelope (ENV) and temporal fine structure (TFS) of a given stimulus have been established as having relevance in its perception [1]. However, *perception* is different from *coding*, and further signal processing methods were needed to characterize how TFS and ENV features are encoded by the auditory nerve. [2].

II. Ease of Use

A. Maintaining the Integrity of the Specifications

The IEEEtran class file is used to format your paper and style the text. All margins, column widths, line spaces, and text fonts are prescribed; please do not alter them. You may note peculiarities. For example, the head margin measures proportionately more than is customary. This measurement and others are deliberate, using specifications that anticipate your paper as one part of the entire proceedings, and not as an independent document. Please do not revise any of the current designations.

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Before you begin to format your paper, first write and save the content as a separate text file. Complete all content and organizational editing before formatting. Please note sections III-A–III-E below for more information on proofreading, spelling and grammar.

Keep your text and graphic files separate until after the text has been formatted and styled. Do not number text heads—LaTeX will do that for you.

A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

Define abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in the text, even after they have been defined in the abstract. Abbreviations such as IEEE, SI, MKS, CGS, ac, dc, and rms do not have to be defined. Do not use abbreviations in the title or heads unless they are unavoidable.

B. Units

- Use either SI (MKS) or CGS as primary units. (SI units are encouraged.) English units may be used as secondary units (in parentheses). An exception would be the use of English units as identifiers in trade, such as “3.5-inch disk drive”.
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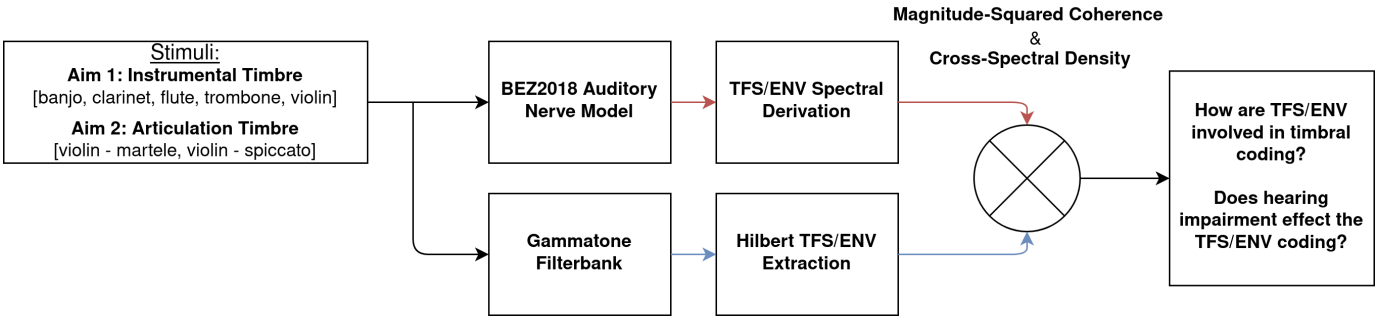

Fig. 1. Methods Flow Chart. Stimuli were passed through the BEZ2018 auditory nerve model and gammatone filterbank. The output of the nerve model (red) was analyzed by extracting the envelope component of the resulting apPSTH, $s(t)$ or fine structure component $\phi(t)$. The cross-spectral density or magnitude-squared coherence between these signals and the Hilbert envelope or temporal fine structure, respectively was computed to attempt to investigate the relevance of these features.

Spell out units when they appear in text: ". . . a few henries", not ". . . a few H".

- Use a zero before decimal points: "0.25", not ".25". Use "cm^3", not "cc".)

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Number equations consecutively. To make your equations more compact, you may use the solidus (/), the exp function, or appropriate exponents. Italicize Roman symbols for quantities and variables, but not Greek symbols. Use a long dash rather than a hyphen for a minus sign. Punctuate equations with commas or periods when they are part of a sentence, as in:

$$a + b = \gamma \tag{1}$$

Be sure that the symbols in your equation have been defined before or immediately following the equation. Use "(1)", not "Eq. (1)" or "equation (1)", except at the beginning of a sentence: "Equation (1) is . . ."

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Please use "soft" (e.g., `\eqref{Eq}`) cross references instead of "hard" references (e.g., `(1)`). That will make it possible to combine sections, add equations, or change the order of figures or citations without having to go through the file line by line.

Please don't use the `{eqnarray}` equation environment. Use `{align}` or `{IEEEeqnarray}` instead. The `{eqnarray}` environment leaves unsightly spaces around relation symbols.

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- The word "data" is plural, not singular.
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- There is no period after the “et” in the Latin abbreviation “et al.”.
- The abbreviation “i.e.” means “that is”, and the abbreviation “e.g.” means “for example”.

An excellent style manual for science writers is [**?**].

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a) Positioning Figures and Tables: Place figures and tables at the top and bottom of columns. Avoid placing them in the middle of columns. Large figures and tables may span across both columns. Figure captions should be below the figures; table heads should appear above the tables. Insert figures and tables after they are cited in the text. Use the abbreviation “Fig. **??**”, even at the beginning of a sentence.

TABLE I
TABLE TYPE STYLES

Table Head	**Table Column Head**		
	Table column subhead	***Subhead***	***Subhead***
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[a] Sample of a Table footnote.

Figure Labels: Use 8 point Times New Roman for Figure labels. Use words rather than symbols or abbreviations when writing Figure axis labels to avoid confusing the reader. As an example, write the quantity “Magnetization”, or “Magnetization, M”, not just “M”. If including units in the label, present them within parentheses. Do not label axes only with units. In the example, write “Magnetization (A/m)” or “Magnetization {A[m(1)]}”, not just “A/m”. Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write “Temperature (K)”, not “Temperature/K”.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The preferred spelling of the word “acknowledgment” in America is without an “e” after the “g”. Avoid the stilted expression “one of us (R. B. G.) thanks . . .”. Instead, try “R. B. G. thanks. . .”. Put sponsor acknowledgments in the unnumbered footnote on the first page.

REFERENCES

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For papers published in translation journals, please give the English citation first, followed by the original foreign-language citation [**?**].

REFERENCES

[1] Z. M. Smith, B. Delgutte, and A. J. Oxenham, “Chimaeric sounds reveal dichotomies in auditory perception,” *Nature*, vol. 416, pp. 87–90, Mar. 2002.

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