

Homework 5: Music Genre Identification

DUE: Thursday, Mar. 12, 2015

Music genres are instantly recognizable to us, whether it be jazz, classical, blues, rap, rock, etc. One can always ask how the brain classifies such information and how it makes a decision based upon hearing a new piece of music. The objective of this homework is to attempt to write a code that can classify a given piece of music by sampling a 5 second clip.

As an example, consider Fig. 1. Four classic pieces of music are demonstrated spanning genres of rap, jazz, classic rock and classical. Specifically, a 3-second sample is given of Dr. Dre's *Nuthin' but a 'G' thang* (The Chronic), John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* (A Love Supreme), Led Zeppelin's *Over The Hills and Far Away* (Houses of the Holy), and Mozart's *Kyrie* (Requiem). Each has a different signature, thus begging the question whether a computer could distinguish between genres based upon such a characterization of the music.

- **(test 1) Band Classification:** Consider three different bands of your choosing and of different genres. For instance, one could pick Michael Jackson, Soundgarden, and Beethoven. By taking 5-second clips from a variety of each of their music, i.e. building training sets, see if you can build a statistical testing algorithm capable of accurately identifying "new" 5-second clips of music from the three chosen bands.
- **(test 2) The Case for Seattle:** Repeat the above experiment, but with three bands from within the same genre. This makes the testing and separation much more challenging. For instance, one could focus on the late 90s Seattle grunge bands: Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, and Pearl Jam. What is your accuracy in correctly classifying a 5-second sound clip? Compare this with the first experiment with bands of different genres.
- **(test 3) Genre Classification:** One could also use the above algorithms to simplify broadly classify songs as jazz, rock, classical etc. In this case, the training sets should be various bands within each genre. For instance, classic rock bands could be classified using sounds clips from Zep, AC/DC, Floyd, etc. while classical could be classified using Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, etc. Perhaps you can limit your results to three genres, for instance, rock, jazz, classical.

WARNING and NOTES: You will probably want to SVD the spectrogram of songs versus the songs themselves. Interestingly, this will give you the dominant spectrogram *modes* associated with a given band. Moreover, you may want to re-sample your data (i.e. take every other point) in order to keep the data sizes more manageable. Regardless, you will need lots of processing time.

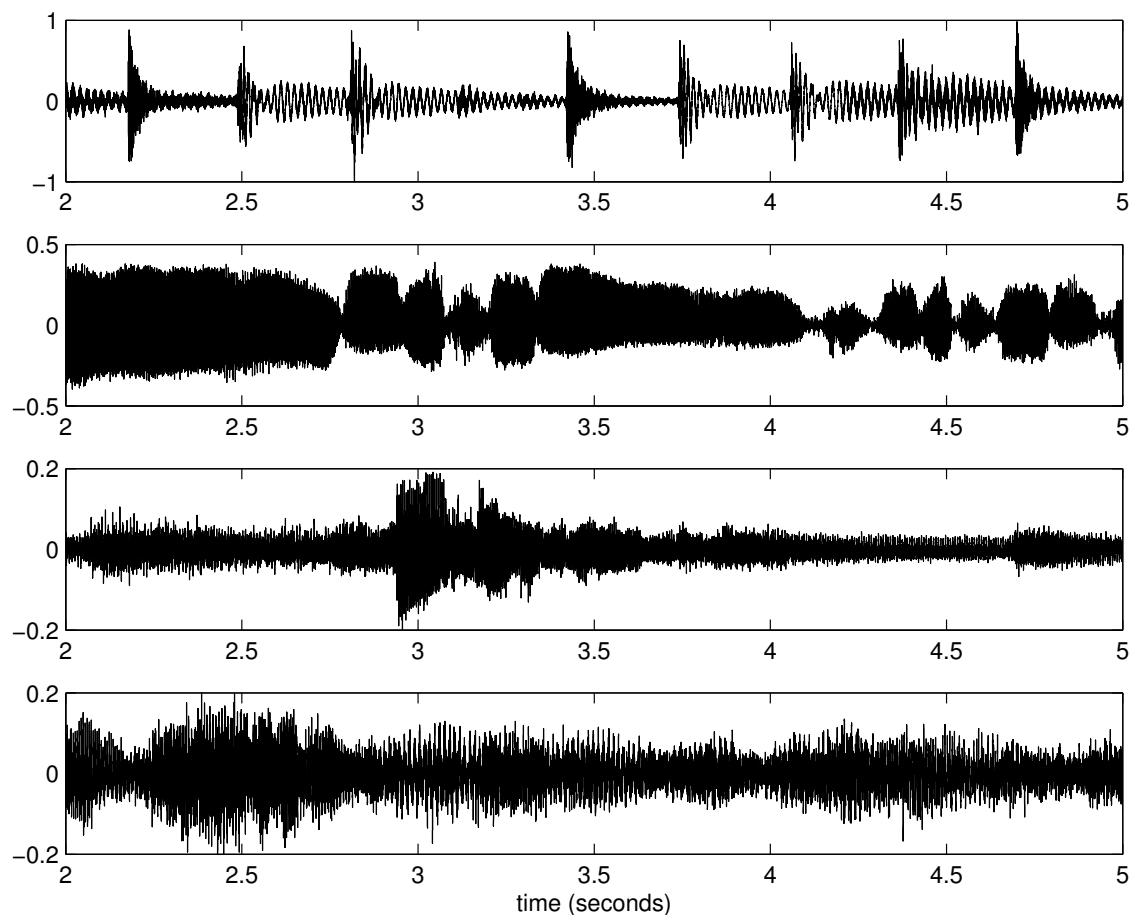


Figure 1: Instantly recognizable, these four pieces of music are (in order of top to bottom): Dr. Dre's *Nuthin' but a 'G' thang* (The Chronic), John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* (A Love Supreme), Led Zeppelin's *Over The Hills and Far Away* (Houses of the Holy), and Mozart's *Kyrie* (Requiem). Illustrated is a 3-second clip from time 2 seconds to 5 seconds of each of these songs.