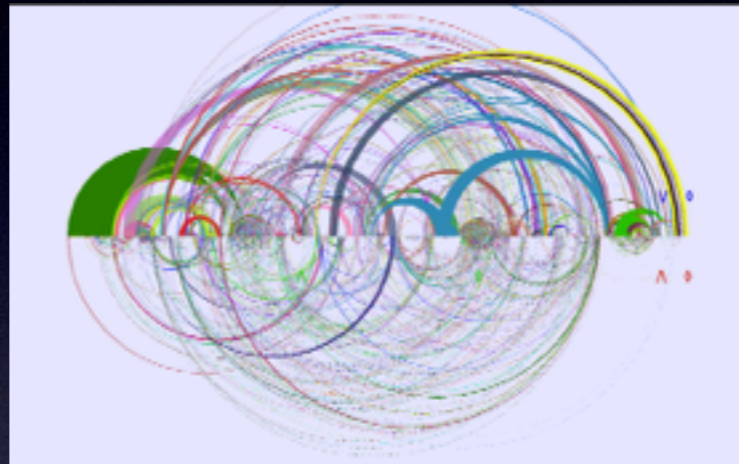


# Improvised Symbolic Interaction

## *A Creative Perspective on Similarity*



G rard Assayag

IRCAM

*Sciences and Technologies of Music and Sound (STMS) Lab*

*Music Representation Team*



# What are MIR / Sim studies useful to (in a creative perspective)

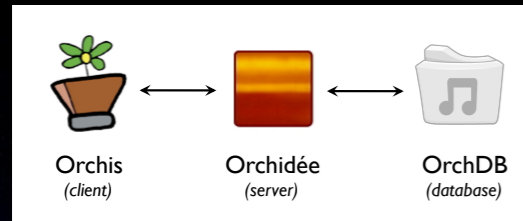
- keywords : find, retrieve, match, identify, align, query / compose, generate, improvise, interact, synthesize, replace, recombine
- in a creative perspective, off-line MIR used for composition, on-line MIR used for direct interaction (Machine Improvisation)
- Going from on line MIR to Machine Audition (artificial listening) to Machine cognition (Machine Musicianship, Rowe 2001)
- Equip autonomous creative agents with Machine Audition and Machine Cognition capabilities
- Escape from the Song (occidental pop song) paradigm : free form, composition, improvisation

# Compositional Example : orchestral texture derived from a single sound spectral analysis

- Example 1 . *Partiels* by Gerard Grisey, 1975
- Historical example considered at the origin of “Spectral Music”
- The source is the low E note on the trombone. The transformation is an exploration of the spectral content of this note by the whole orchestra
- Literal reconstruction or transformations inspired by electro-acoustics operators (distortion, ring-modulation, filtering etc.)
- Highlights the need for Computer Assisted Composition Environments

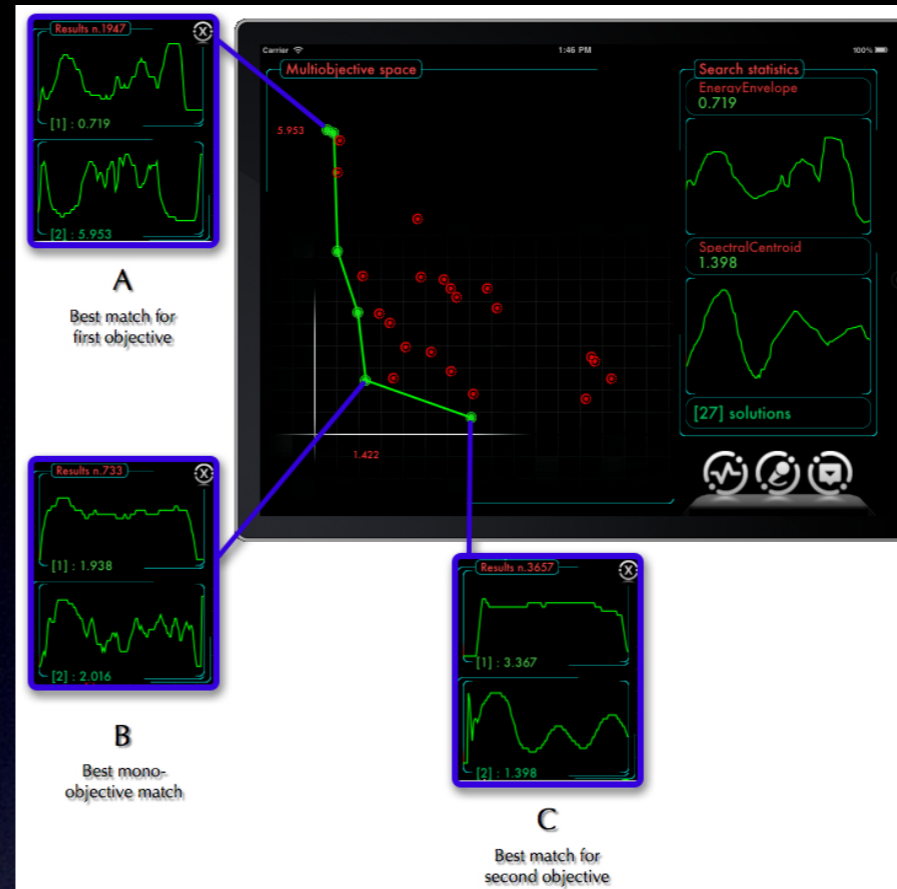
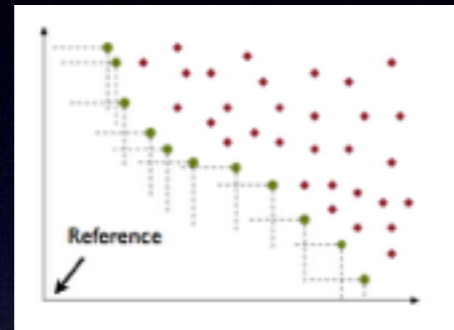
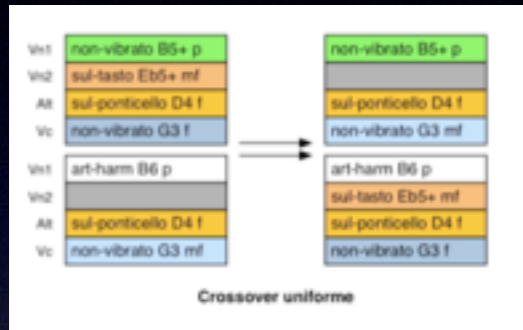
# Orchestration

## Projet ANR *Sample Orchestrator*

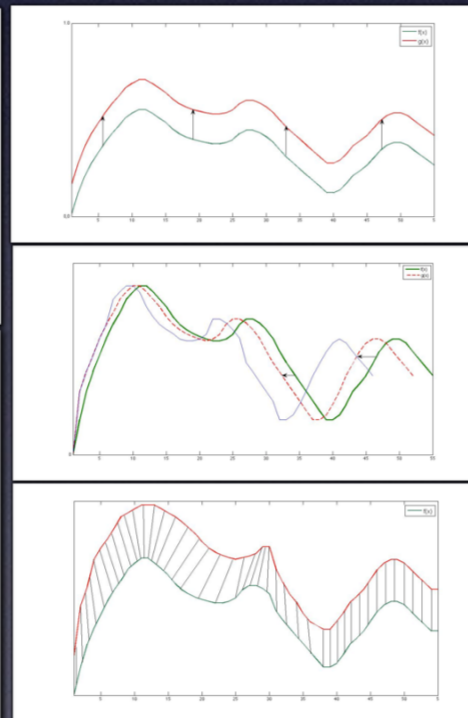
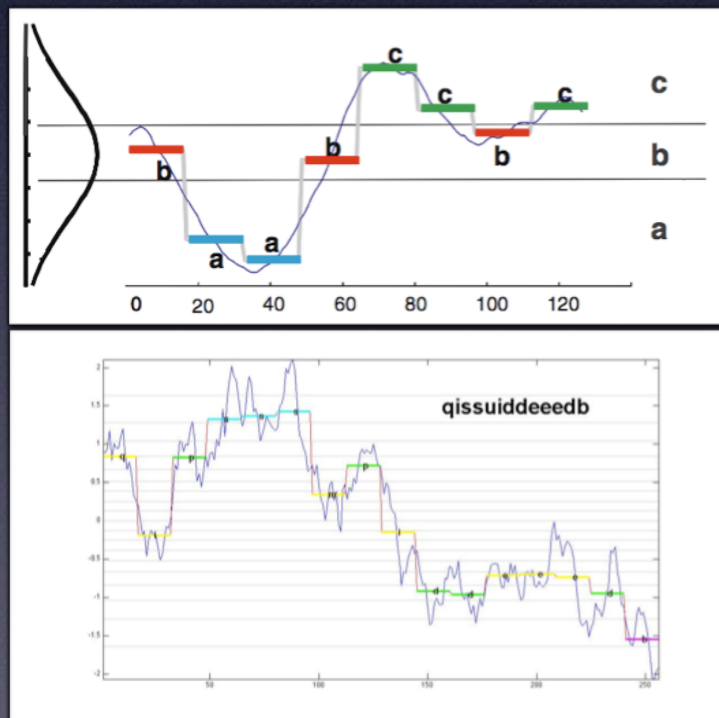


PhD G. Carpentier, Dec. 2008 :  
Computational Approach of  
Musical Orchestration

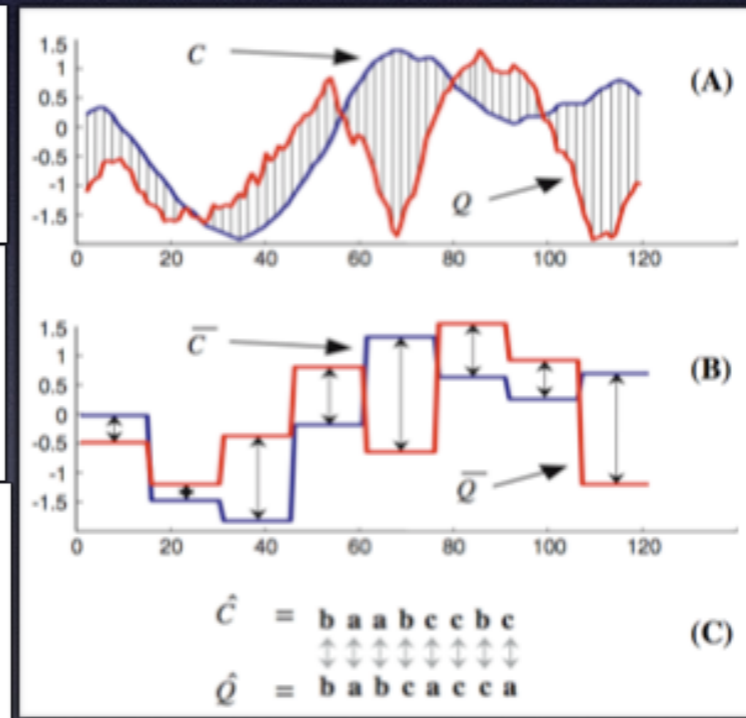
Multi-Objective Optimization



PhD G. Carpentier, Dec. 2008 : Computational Approach  
of Musical Orchestration



PhD P. Esling 2013  
Multi-Objective Time Series Matching



A complex sound target

Ob *vib*  
*p*

Vn *legno-tratto*  
*p*

Vn *ord trem*  
*mf*

Vc *cresc*  
*p* *f*

Vn *legno-tratto*  
*mf*  
*pont*

Vc *p*  
*cresc*

Vn *pp* *ff*  
*legno-batt*

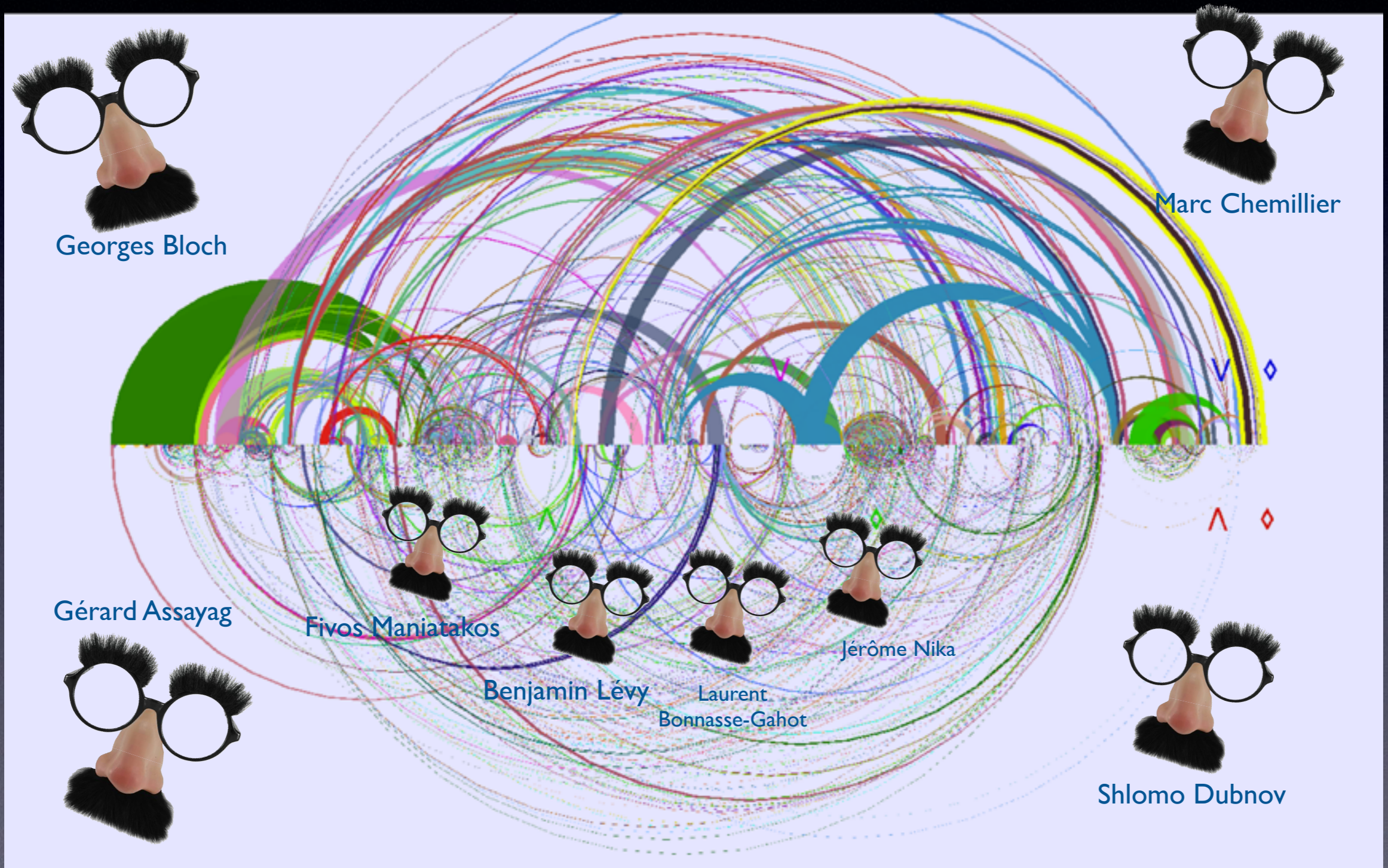
Va *mf*

# Getting it from scratch

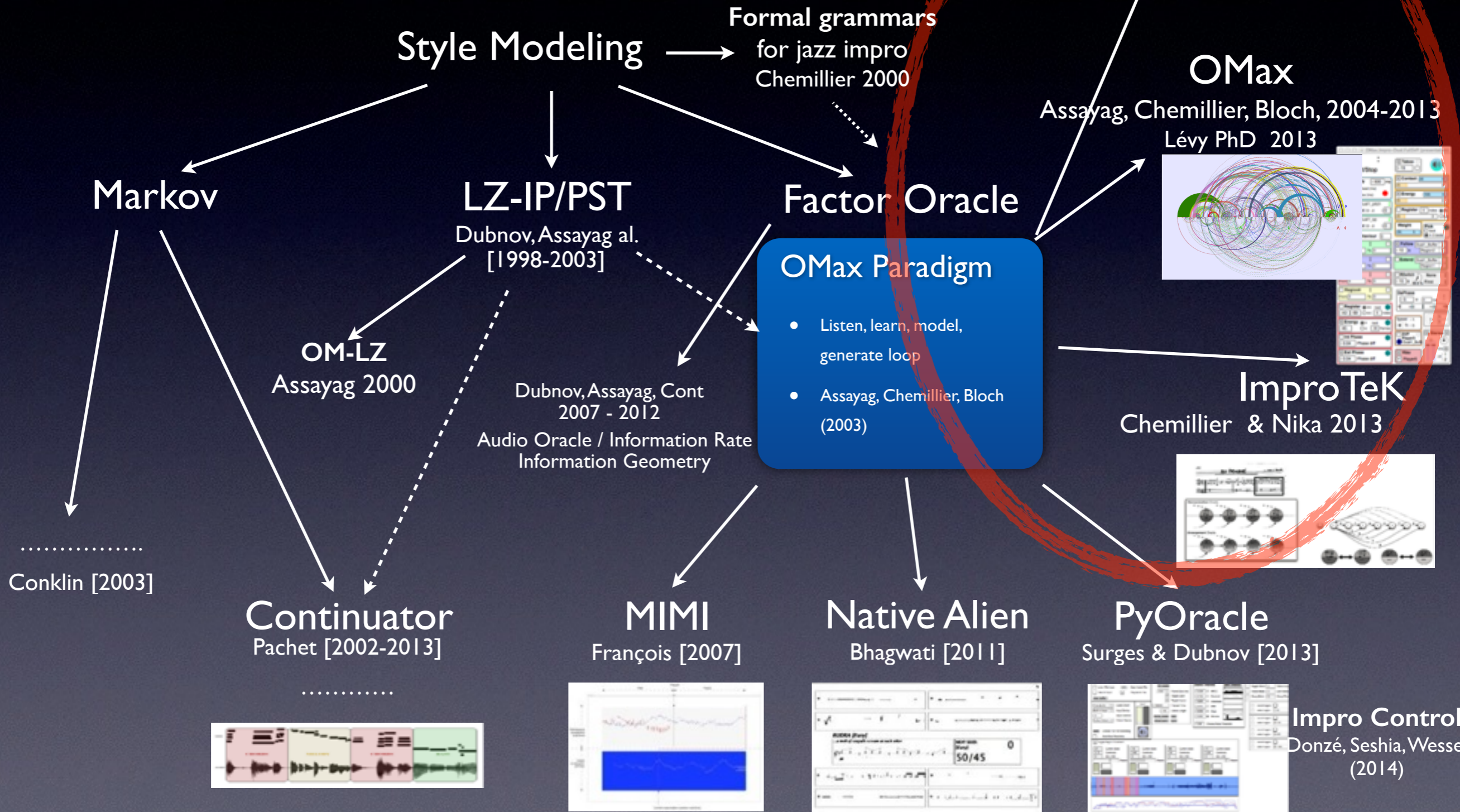
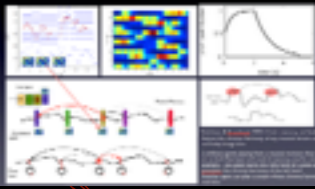


# The OMax Project

featuring the OMax Brothers



# The OMax Paradigm & family



# A Virtual Musician who Learns on the fly

- Before learning one must **listen** : efficient machine listening
  - ▶ perception aware signal segmentation into *musical units* distributed on some *geometry*
  - ▶ cognition aware discovery of an *alphabet structure* on the musical units delivering a *symbolic stream*
- **Learn** incrementally a *stylistic sequence model* into a formal representation directly from the stream of symbols
- **Generate** and **render** new sequences by *navigating* the model
- These 3 processes (**Listen, Learn, Generate**) are real-time and concurrent (*competitive and cooperative*) : a unit played by the musician is recognized and integrated in the model after a few milliseconds (close to human performance)

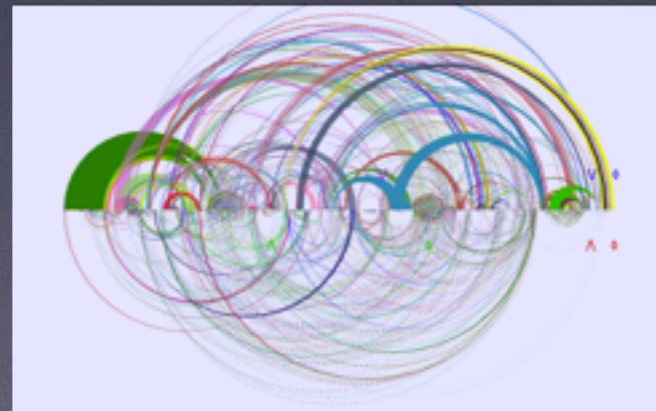
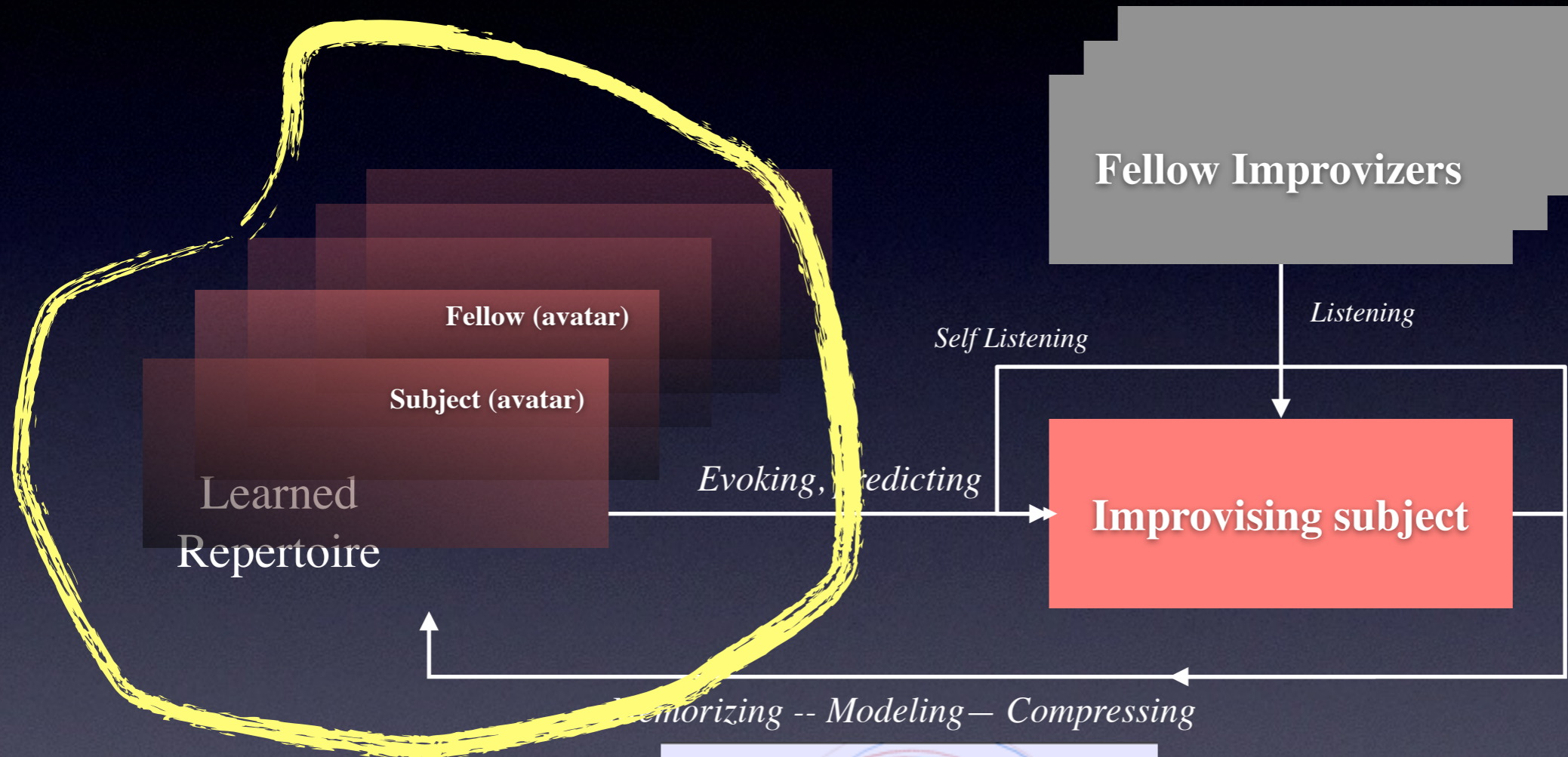


# Modeling Improvised Interaction as *Stylistic Reinjection*

Past (memory)

Present

OMax reifies the virtual past



# Variable Memory (adaptive) Markov Models

## Context-based methods in statistical learning

IPG based on [Lempel,Ziv,78]

Dict = {} ; S : Sequence

While S ≠ ε

S = pu with p = shortest prefix(S) ∉ Dict

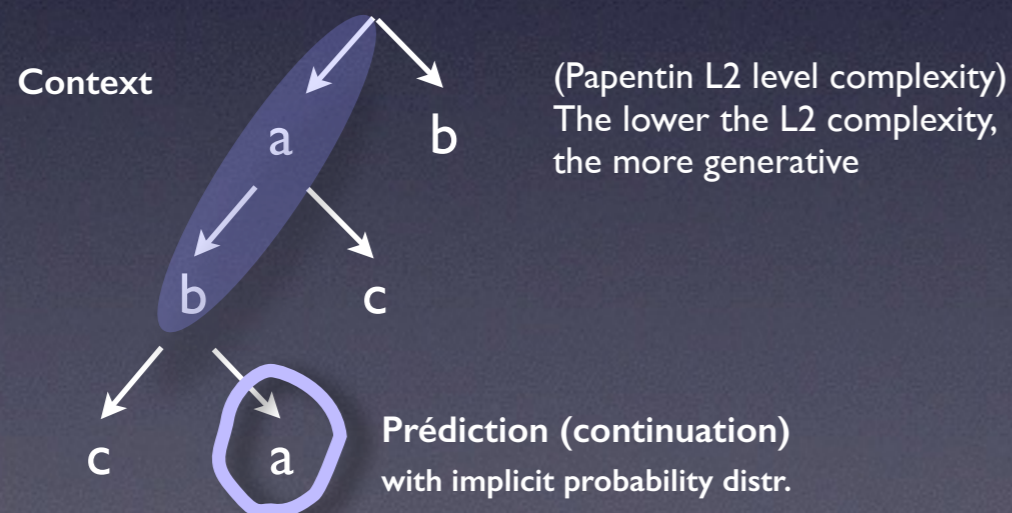
Dict = Dict ∪ {p}

S = u

add shortest prefix not already in dict and move forward

a b a b a c a b a a b c

Dict = {a, b, ab, ac, aba, abc}



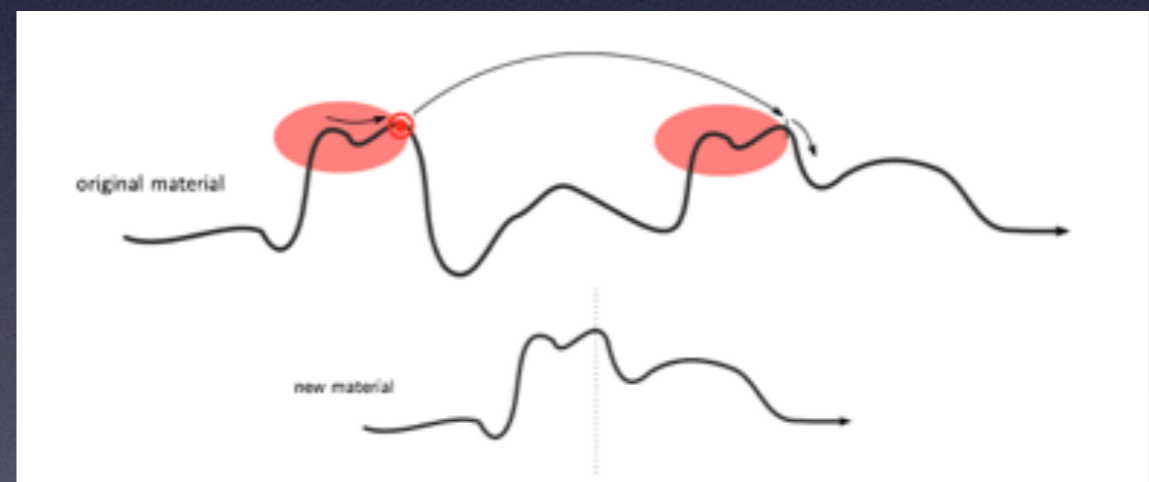
PST : Retain continuation t for abc iff  
 $P(t | abc) > Pmin$   
 $P(t | abc)$  sign. different from  $P(t | bc)$

**Optimal coding:** average code length for contextes converges to entropy of the source

$$\lim_{\infty} c(n) \log_2(c(n)) / n = H$$

n : length, c(n) nb of contextes, log<sub>2</sub>(c(n)) average length of code words

**Universal Predictor :** adaptively combines predictability of Markovian Models with increasing orders, converges to an **optimal coding** without knowing a-priori the statistical model of the source  
**Outperforms any fixed-order Markov predictor.**



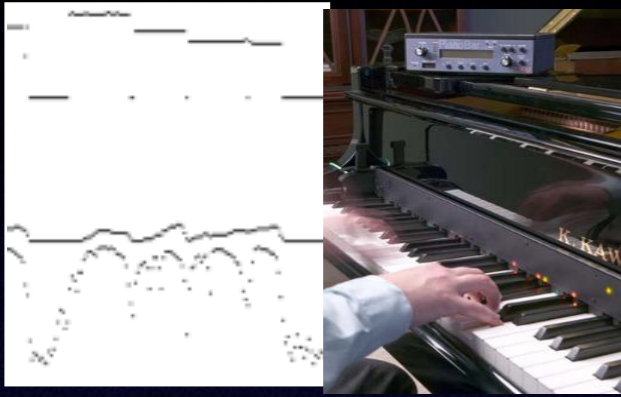
Shape Creation through Context - Prediction  
 equivalent to navigation into compressed representation

Geraint : Similarity related to Prediction

Daniel Muellensiefen : compression distance performs well in evaluating similarity

# Listening Strategies

Monodic signal : pitch follower (Yin~),  
or Midi Helper

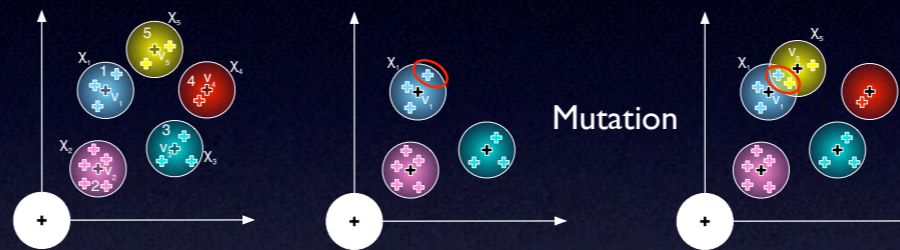


Yin~ quality function Moog pianobar  
Key detection

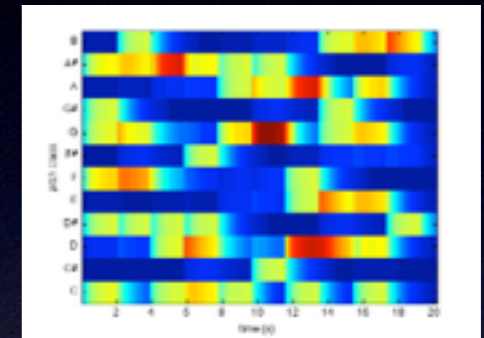
Arbitrary complex signal : audio descriptors

- stream of frame-wise perceptual spectral descriptors (MFCC)
- adaptive quantization of descriptor vectors
- local grouping / averaging -> musical tokens
- adaptive KNN -> symbolic alphabet

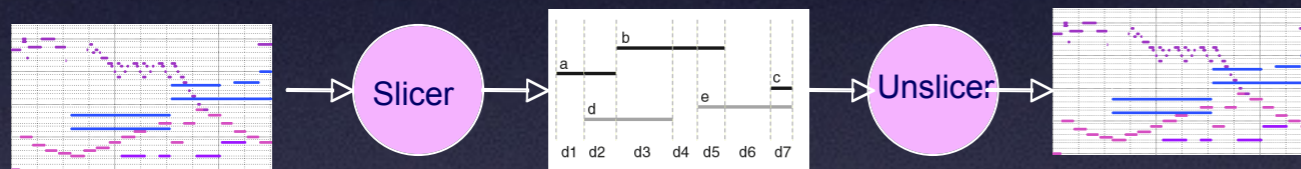
Euclidean Space



Chromagrams

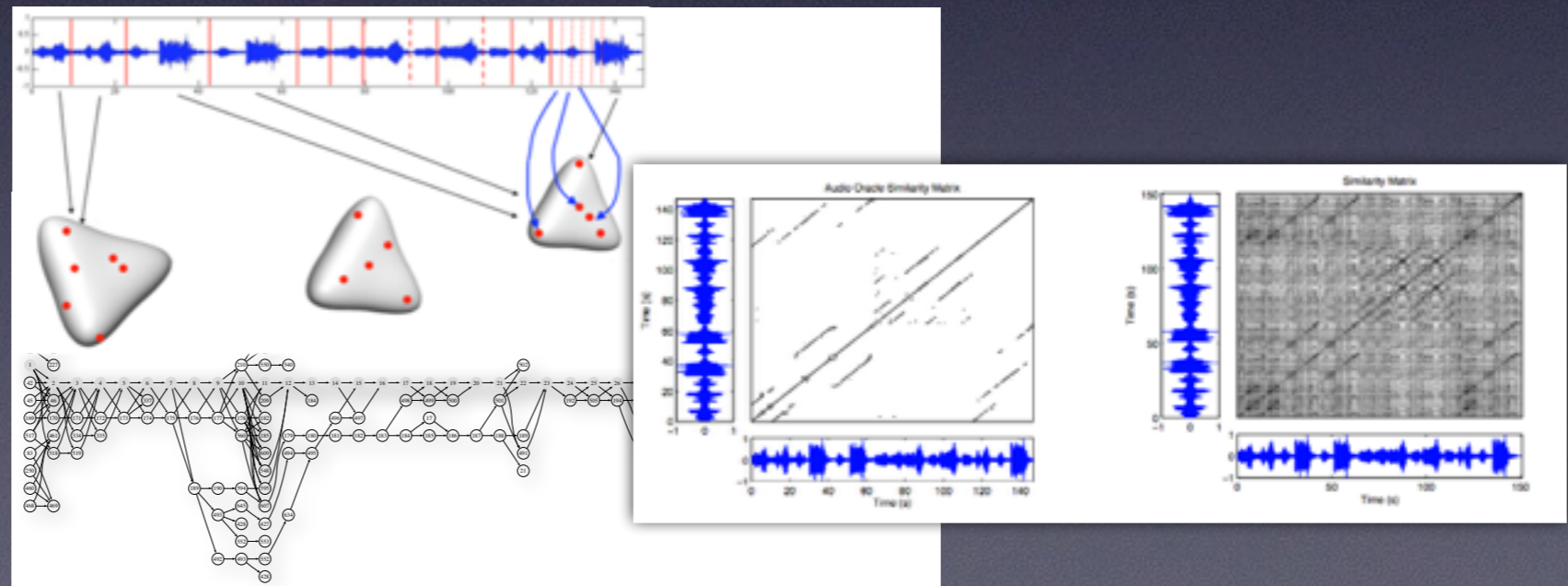


Polyphonic Midi Processing



Information Geometry

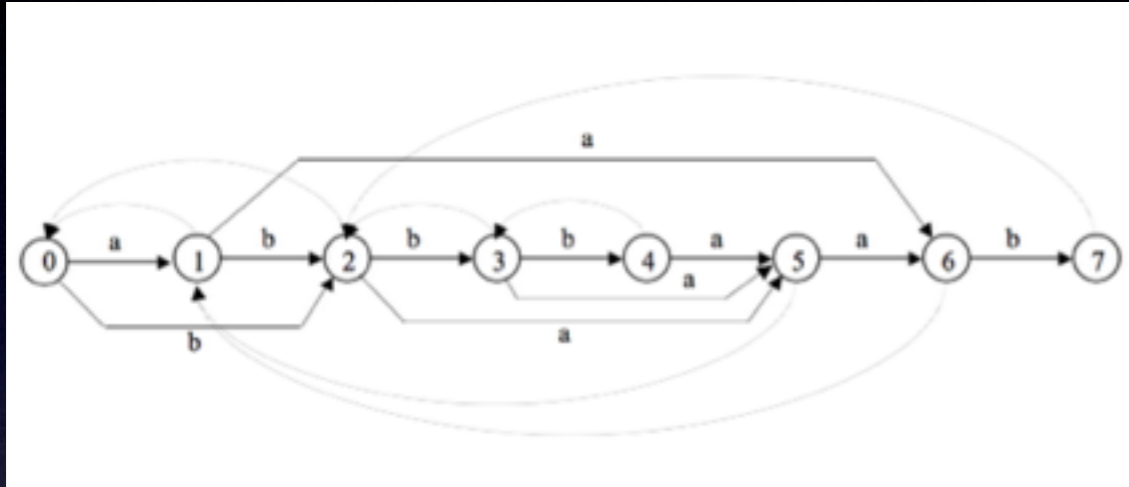
- Machine Listening in an Information geometry Framework : Distributing Sound Frames over Riemannian Manifolds with information metrics over parametric exponential probability spaces
- Points are probability distributions (approximated as frequency domain descriptors)
- Distances are Bregman Divergences : amount to relative entropy between perceptual descriptors
- Bregman Balls cluster points into stable musical units abstracted as symbols in a formal language alphabet



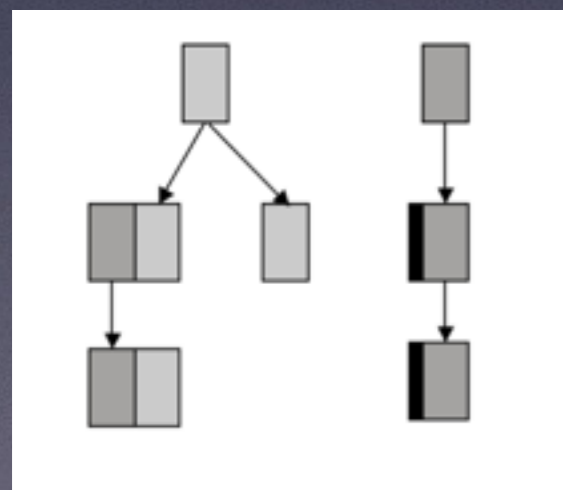
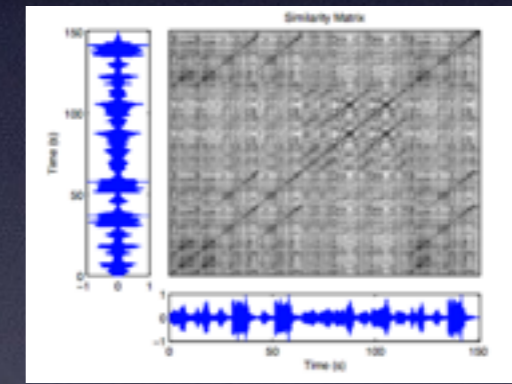
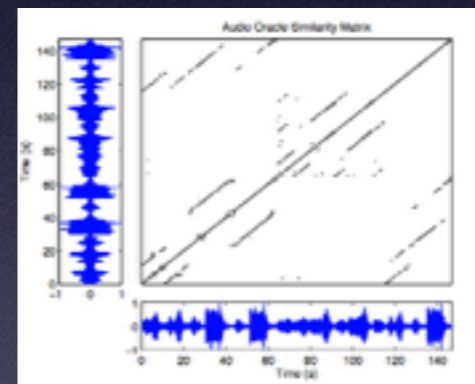
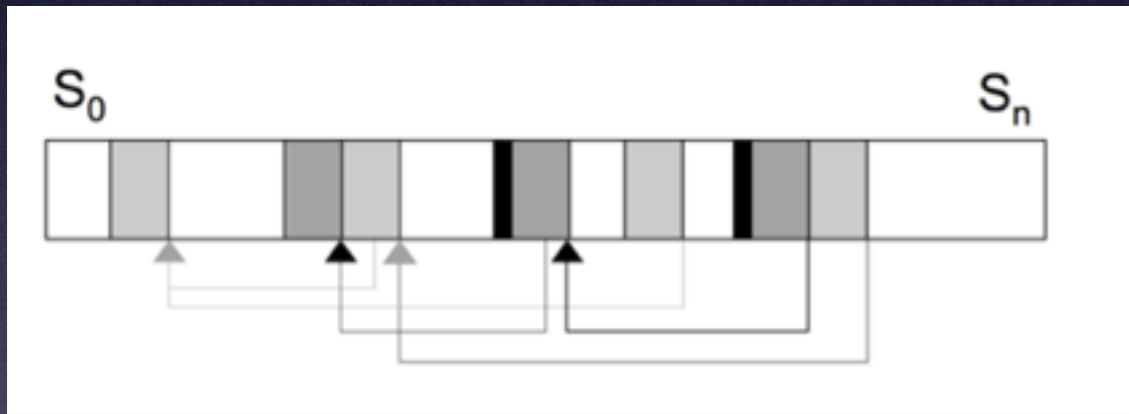
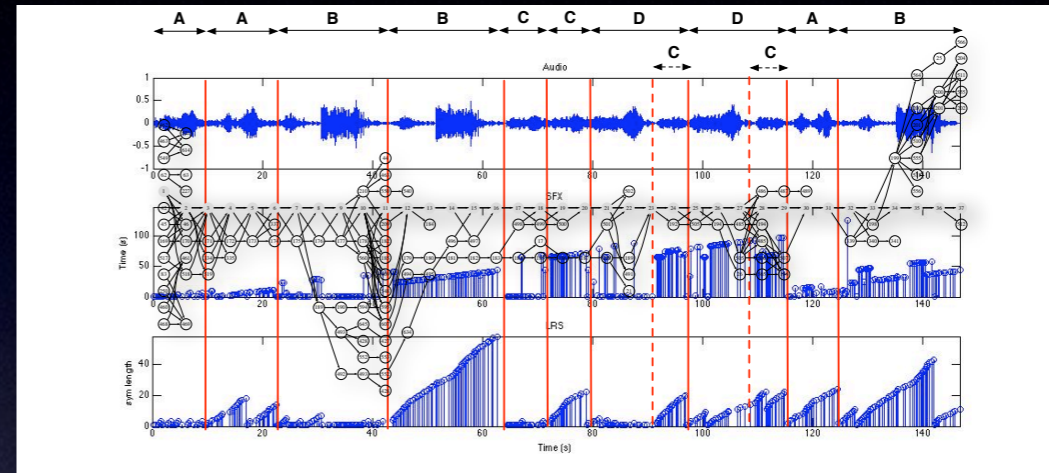
# Listen + Learn : Factor Oracle and Suffix Link Tree

## Signal / Symbolic articulation

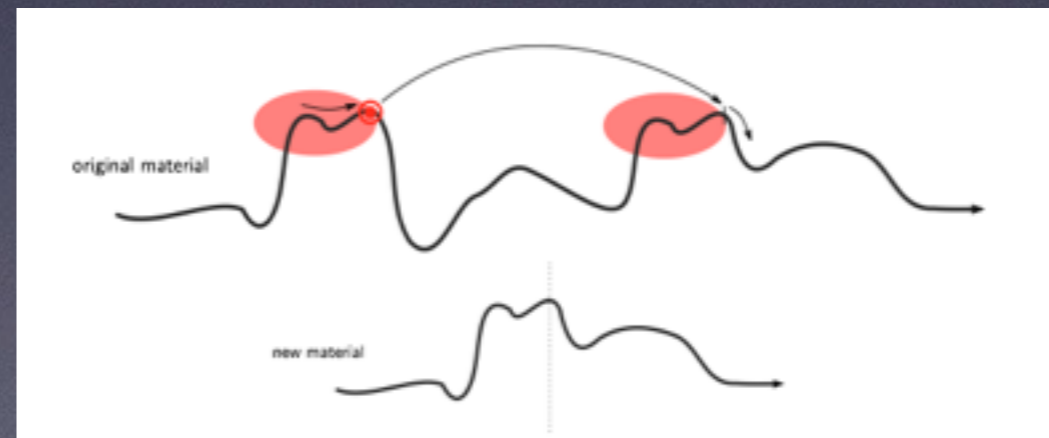
### Factor Oracle + Suffix Link Trees



### A. Cont, S. Dubnov Info-Geo + Similarity on Beethoven's First Piano Sonata played by Gulda in 1958



Suffix Link Trees form a forest of trees fully explaining the algebraic partial order of patterns in learned sequence



# OMax versatility



Rhythm and pulse derive from off-line learning of the multi-track (beat aligned) studio sessions



Rhythm and pulse derive from the syllable and prosodic level analysis of similarities





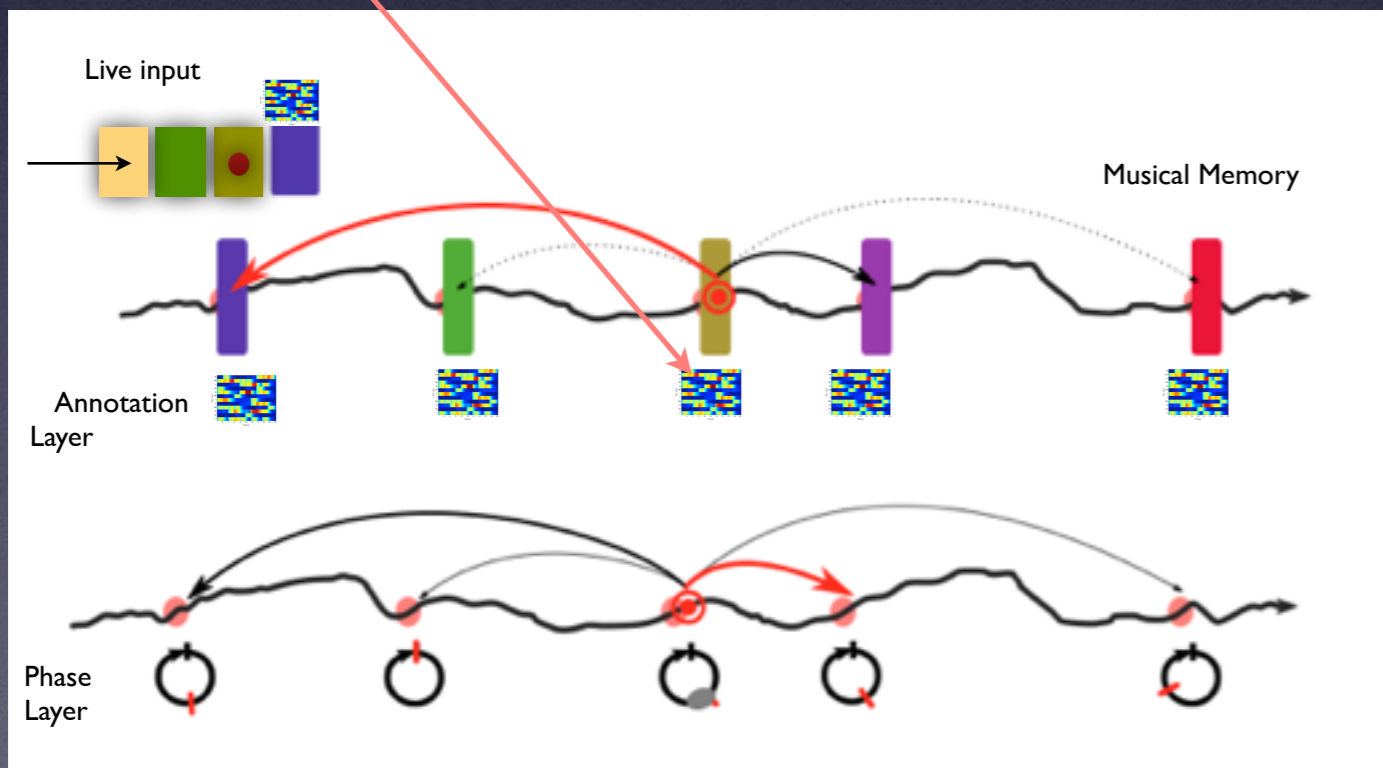
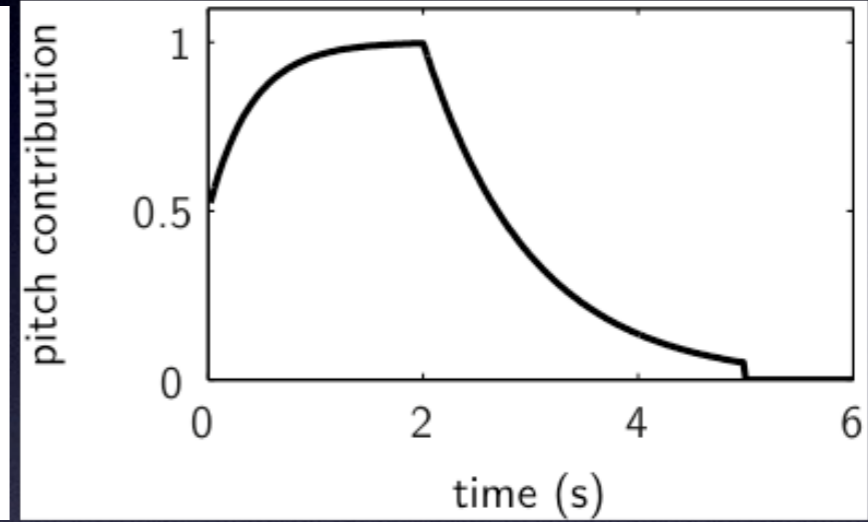
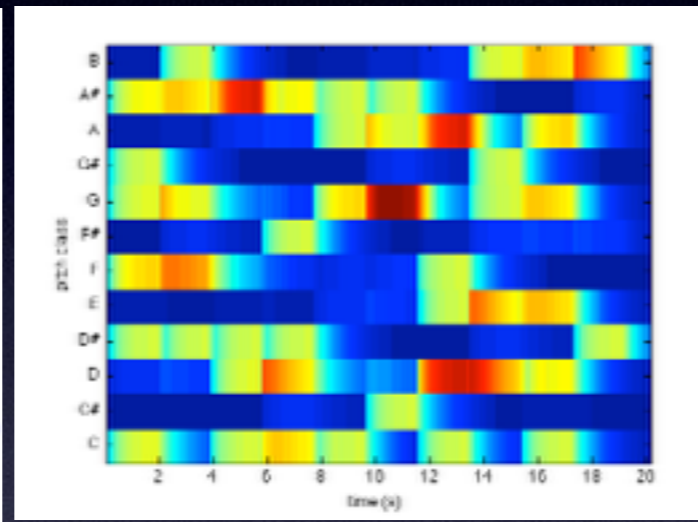
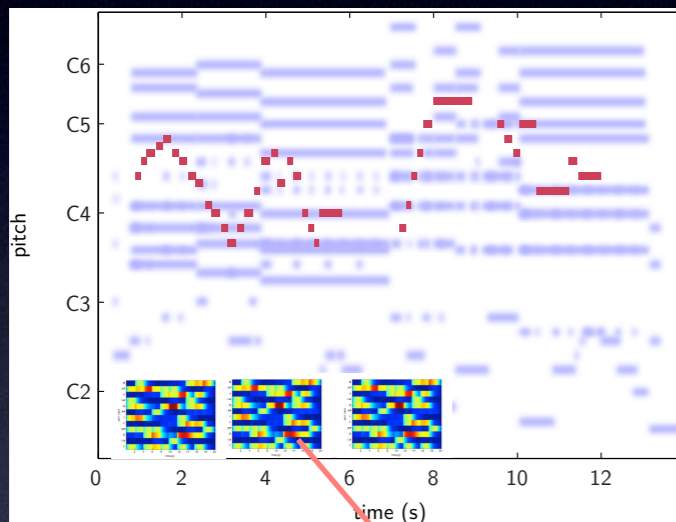
# Going SoMax : listen carefully

(ANR SOR2, Post-doc L. Bonnasse-Gahot)

Listen to several channels (foreground, background, voices etc.), One for the main memory model, the others for automatic annotation

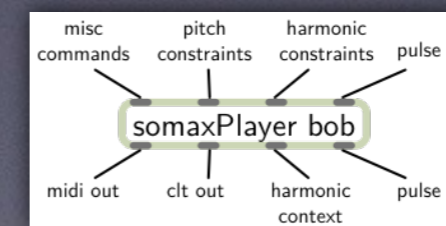
Create e.g. a solo memory model plus loose harmonic / textural annotation, or the other way round, or both.

At generation time, match annotation with features extracted from the input



Toiviainen & Krumhansl, 2003, Echoic memory and leaky integration

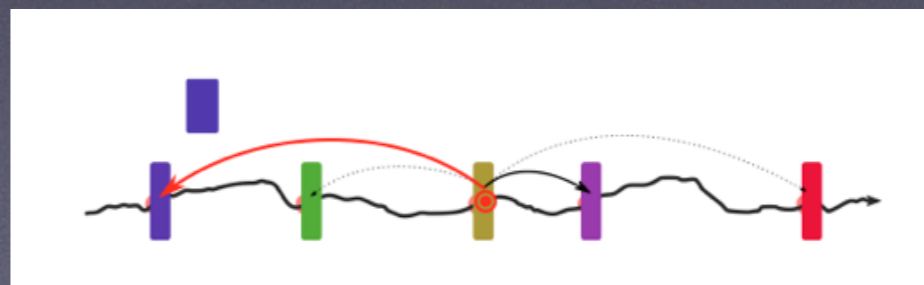
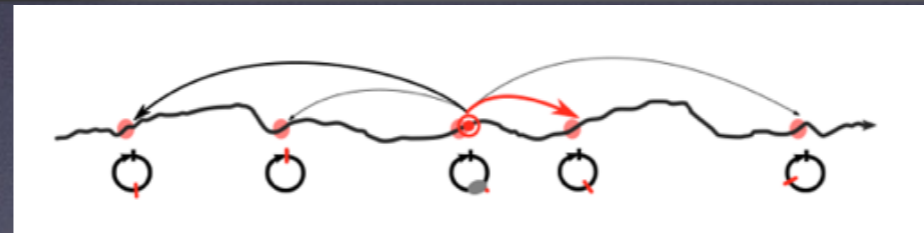
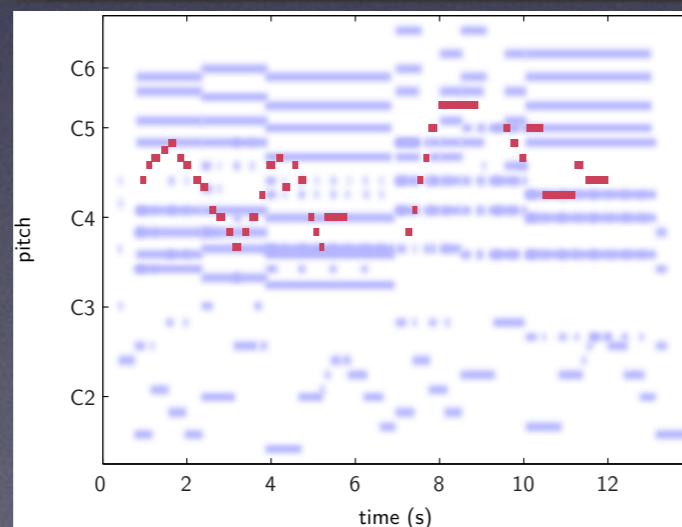
Durational accent; see Parncutt, 1994



# Going SoMax : Autumn in Köln

The screenshot displays three windows from the SoMax software interface:

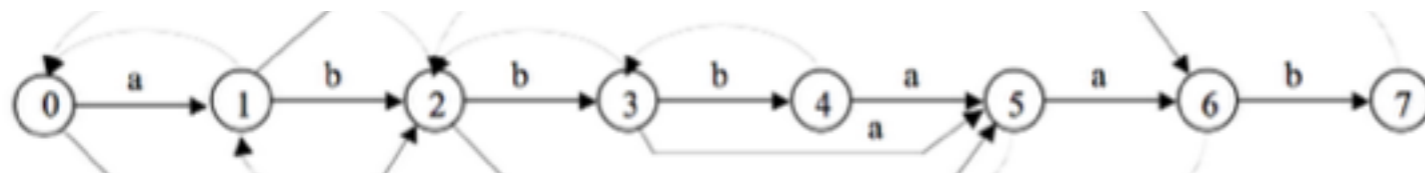
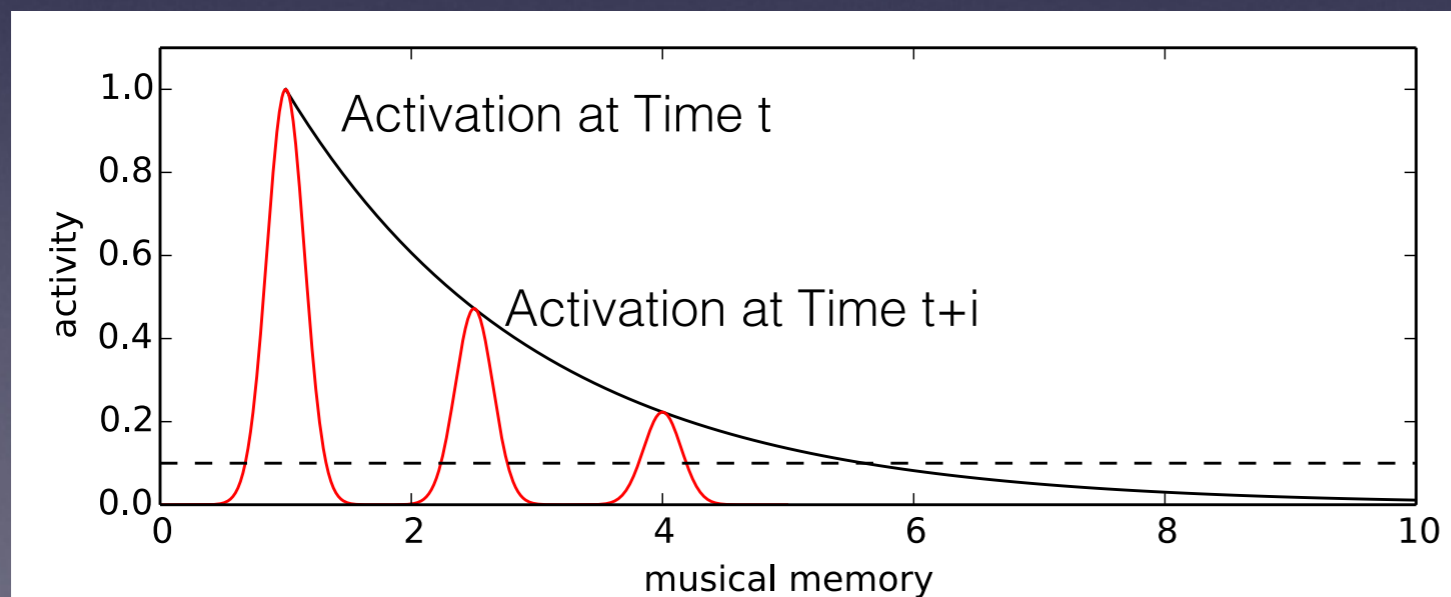
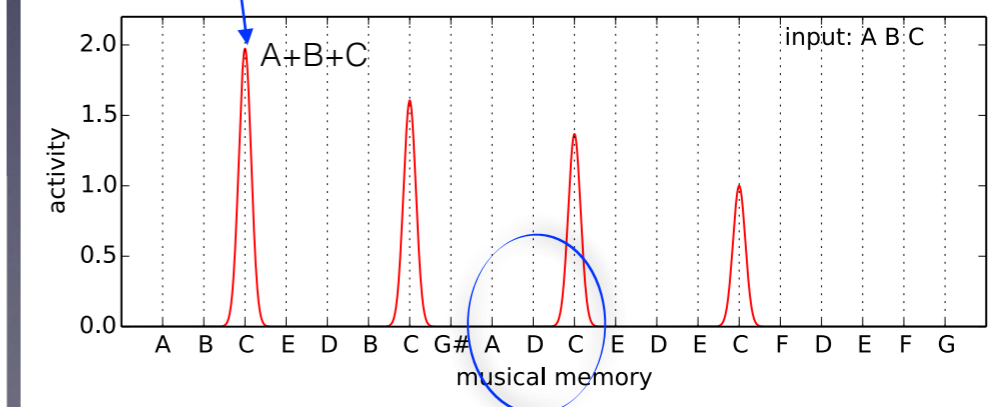
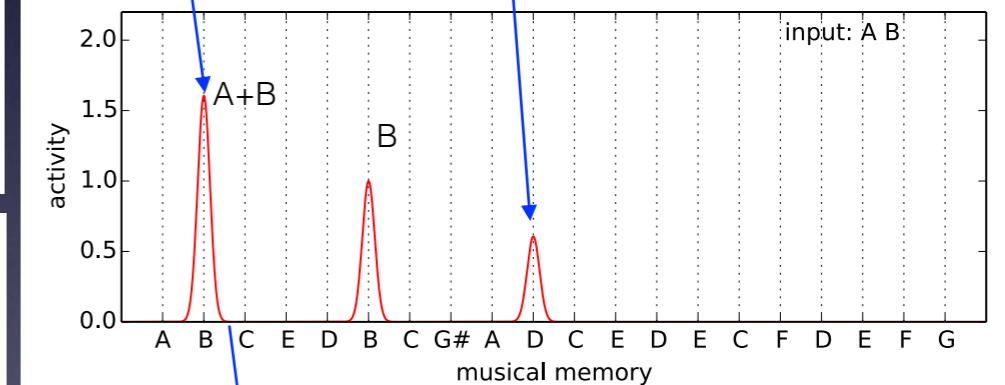
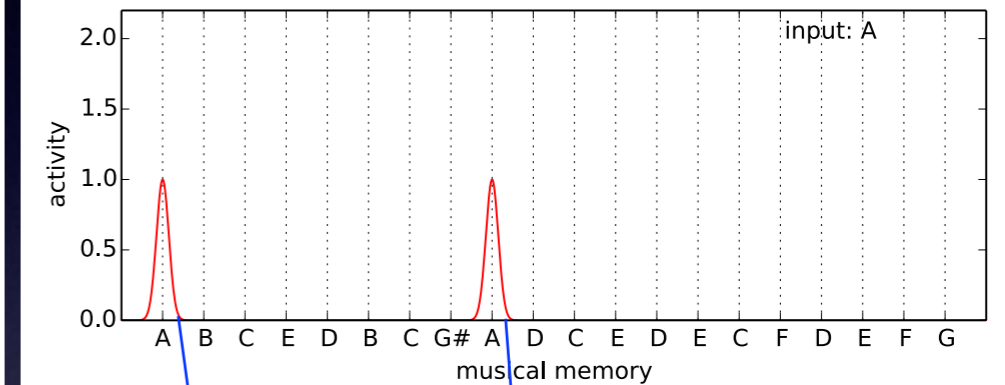
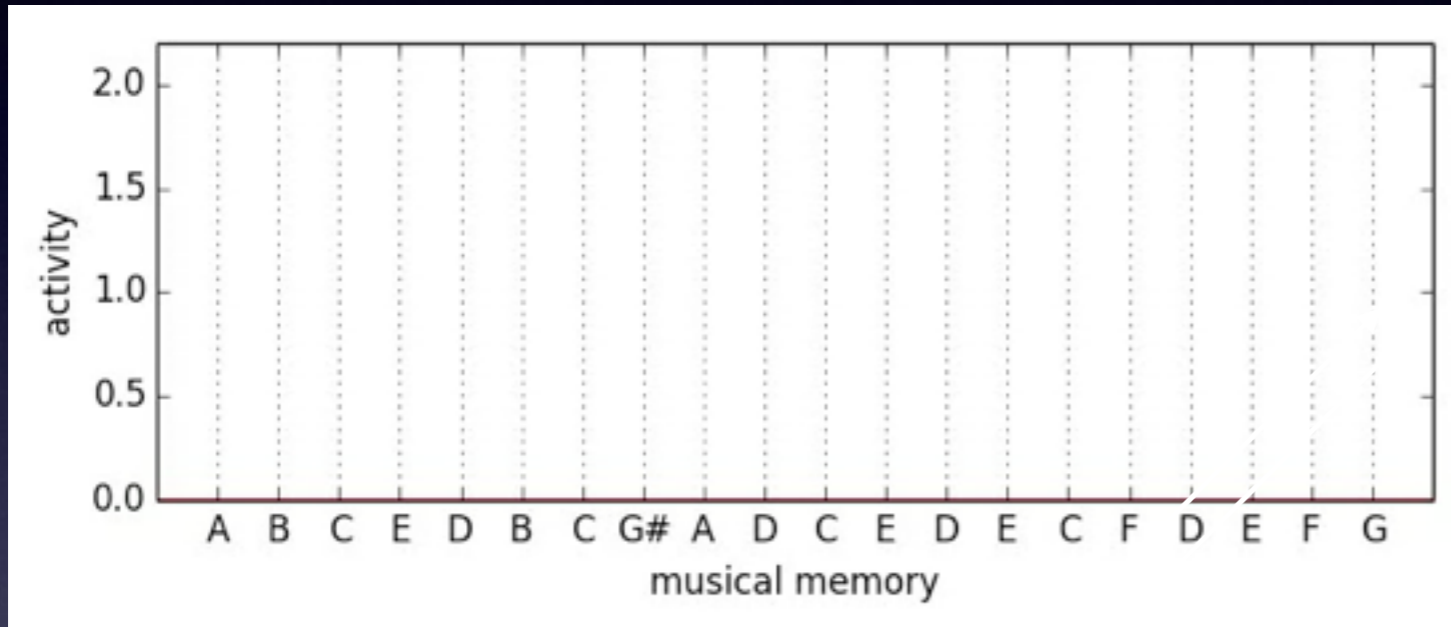
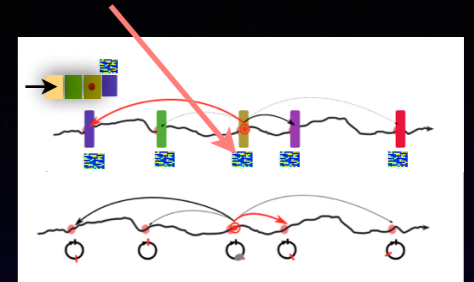
- mp1 (midi player):** Features a "beat-tracker" section with parameters for gamma (5.98), eta p (0.11), and eta phi (0.50). It includes a BPM control set to 120 and a "reset to default" button.
- somaxConductor\_midi\_chorus\_demo (presentation):** A central control panel with a "start" button and various checkboxes for constraints like "use pitch constraint", "use h constraint", "hear midi input", "send bang when new onset detected", "force velocity", and "sync with input". It also includes MIDI output settings and parsing input parameters.
- sp1 (somax player v0.9.9):** A detailed configuration window for the somax player. It shows a piano roll at the top, "current state info" (state # 0 / 4926, original bpm: 70), and extensive parameter controls for matching parameters (inclusion, soprano, bass, harmonic distance threshold), advanced configuration (phase adjustment, length of taboo list, avoid rests), and decision strategy (random vs. max).



# SoMax

## Memory Activation Scheme

Addressing the **cartographical blindness**, the **evidence accumulation**, and the **cognitive persistence** questions



Fuzzy pattern  
escape from the purely markovian sequence logic



## Summing up activation profiles of parallel annotation views including self listening

## Beat/Phase Profile

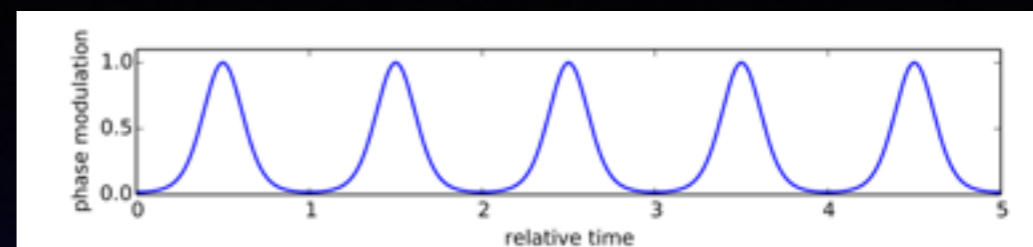
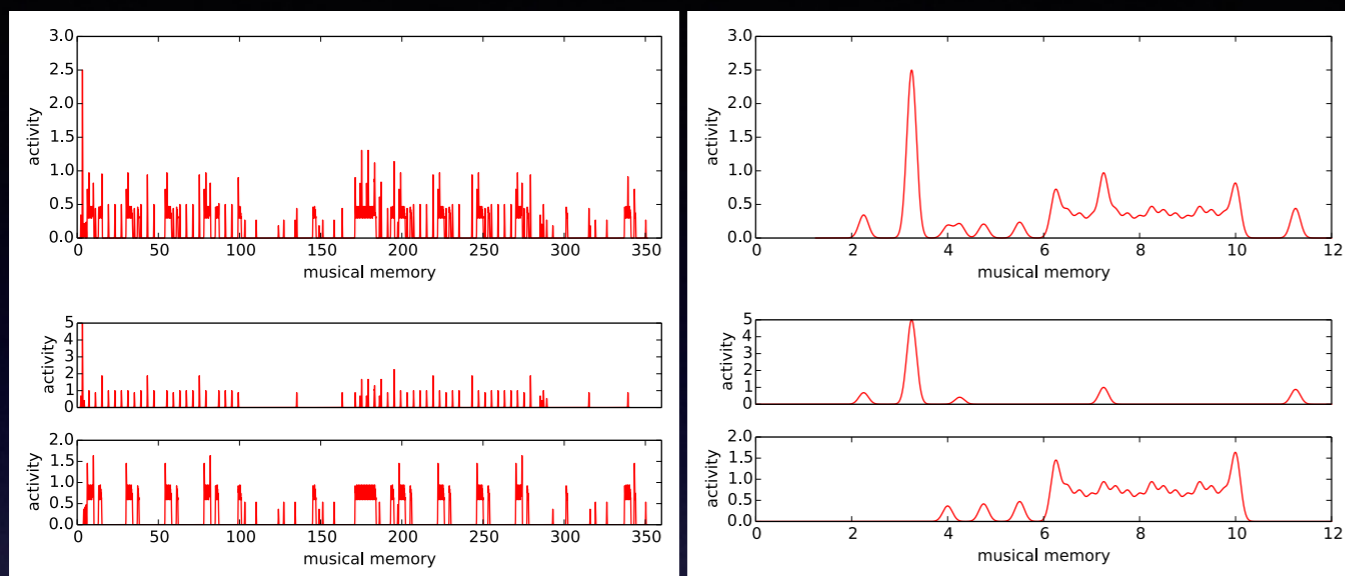
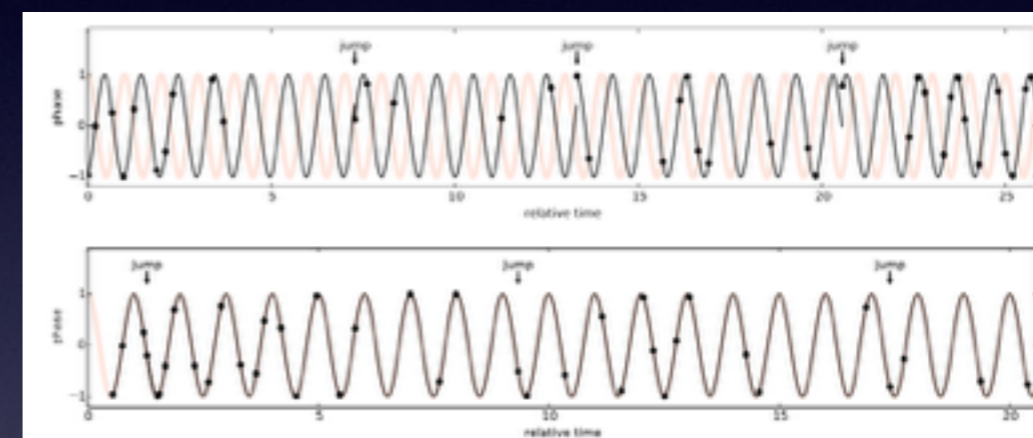
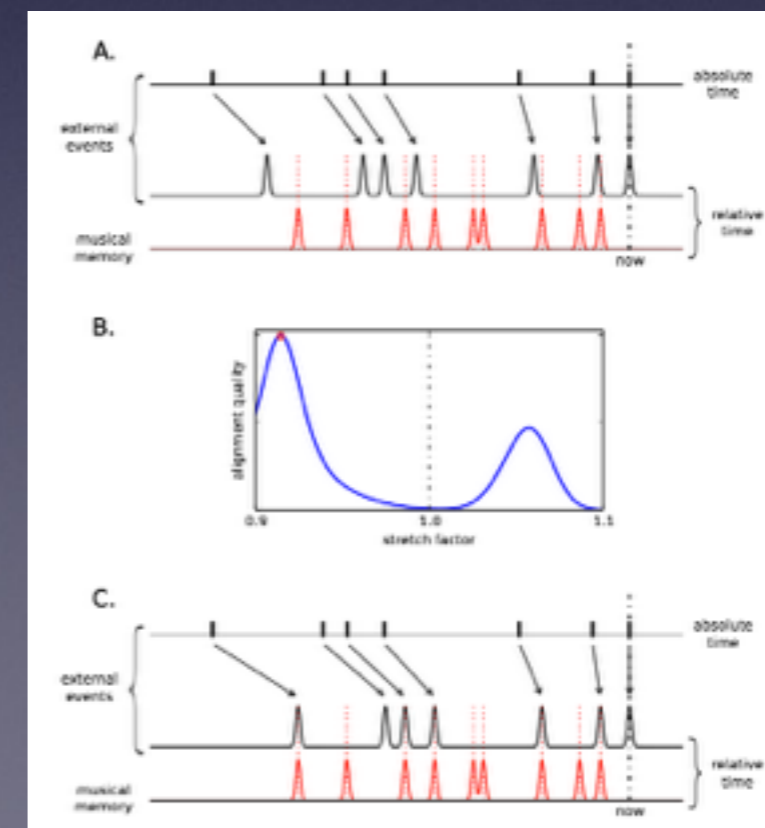
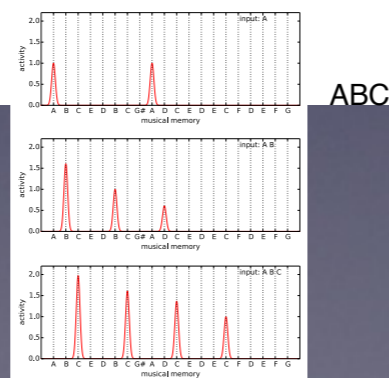
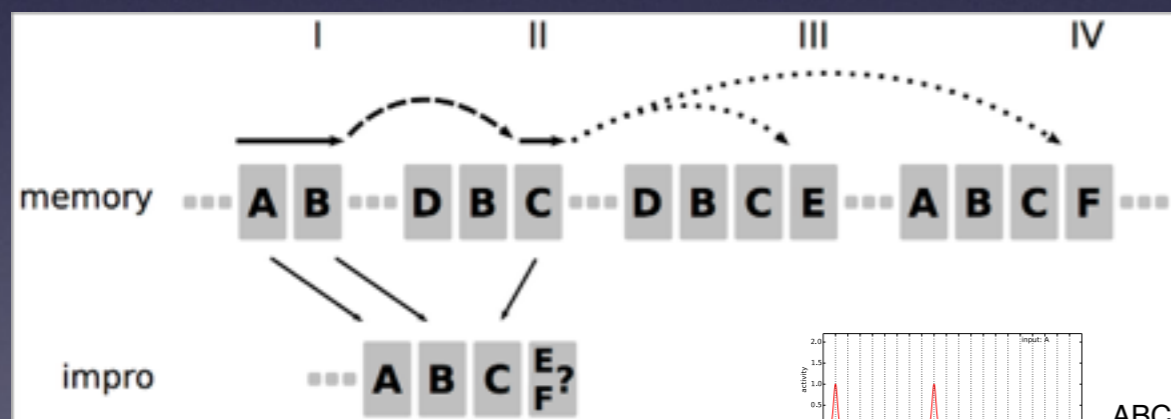


Figure 14: Phase modulation function,  $\exp(\eta[\cos(2\pi(\xi - \xi_{\text{target}})) - 1])$ . In this illustration,  $\xi_{\text{target}} = 0.5$  and  $\eta = 2.0$ .



**Self Listening**: listening to the memory, or to the generation

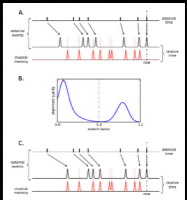
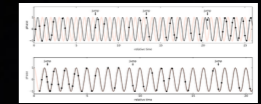
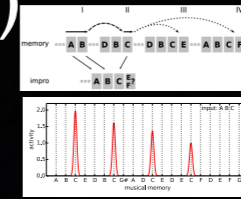


**Flexible Time**

# In the mood of Time Remembered (Rémi Fox + Bill Evans)

I agent trained on Bill Evans music. note/note, flexible time adjustment, melodic listening

Right anticipation at 01:20



# Schoenberg revisited

1 agent A1 trained off-line on corpus of Schoenberg's Drei Klavierstücke, Op. 11. A1 improvises with melodic listening to Rémi's Impro. 2nd agent A2 learns on the fly from Rémi's impro audio stream, with additional harmonic view coming from A1's impro. In second part, (2:36) A1 and A2 improvise together : A2 listens to A1's harmony, A1 listens to A2's melody. Rémi and Laurent get back into the game.

