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Moreno Andreatta Equipe Représentations Musicales IRCAM/CNRS/UPMC

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"It is well known that there exists an isomorphic relation between pitch and rhythm, which several authors have pointed out from time to time."

(G. Toussaint, *The geometry of musical rhythm. What makes a "Good" Rhythm Good?* CRC Press, 2013, p. xiii)



"This non-isomorphism stems from the fact that there are no temporal analogs to octave and enharmonic equivalence and that there are no tonal analogs to various limits on our temporal perception and acuity."

J. London (2002), "Some Non-Isomorphisms between Pitch and Time", JMT, 46(1/2), 127-151



S



• *int* = interval fonction

The arrow marked i symbolizes a characteristic directed measurement, distance, or **motion** from s to t. We intuit such situations in many musical spaces, and we are used to calling i "the interval from s to t" when the symbolic points are pitches or pitch classes. The general intuition at hand is then made formal by a mathematical model which I call a Generalized Interval System.

David Lewin (1987), Generalized Musical Intervals and Transformations, YUP



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The pitch-rhythm cognitive isomorphic correspondence



J. Pressing, "Cognitive isomorphisms between pitch and rhythm in world musics: West Africa, the Balkans and Western tonality", *Studies in Music*, 17, p. 38-61



The geometry of African-Cuban rhythms



The geometry of African-Cuban rhythms







Odditive property of orally-trasmitted practices



→ Is maximally eveness a cognitive property?





"These modes [of Limited Transpositions] realize in the vertical direction (transposition) what non-retrogradable rhythms realize in the horizontal direction (retrogradation). In fact, these modes cannot be transposed beyond a certain number of transpositions without falling again into the same notes, enharmonically speaking; likewise, these rhythms cannot be read in a retrograde sense without one's finding again exactly the same order of values as in the right sense. These modes cannot be transposed because they are —without polytonality—in the modal atmosphere of several keys at once and contain in themselves small transpositions; these rhythms cannot be retrograded because they contain in themselves small retrogradations. These modes are divisible into symmetrical groups; these rhythms, also, with this difference: the symmetry of the rhythmic groups is a retrograde symmetry. Finally, the last note of each group of these modes is always *common* with the first of the following group; and the groups of these rhythms frame a central value *common* to each group. The analogy is now complete".

- O. Messiaen, Technique de mon langage musical, Alphonce Leduc, 1944
- O. Messiaen, Traité de rythme, de couleurs et d'ornithologie, Alphonce Leduc, 1949-1992

A 'Fibonacci' prime-number-based non-invertible rhythm



Quatuour pour la fin du temps (1941)



Visions de l'Amen (1943)

Non-invertible rhythms and tiling rhythmic canons





The three non-invertible rhythms divide the durations in 5+5+7 durations, whereas the terms of the three harmonic ostinatos always contain six sonorities for the superior voice, and three sonorities for the two other voices. Consider also that the durations are very unequal. As a result, the different sonorities mix together or contrast to each other in very different ways, never at the same moment nor at the same place. ... It is an organized chaos"

O. Messiaen: Traité de Rythme, de Couleur et d'Ornithologie, tome 2, Alphonse Leduc, 1992.

Tiling the time line with translates of one tile





OpenMusic, a Visual Programming Language for computer-aided composition

www.repmus.ircam.fr/openmusic/home

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OpenMusic

Dedicated to the memory of Gérard Grisey (French composer, 1946-1998)

Design and developpement : G. Assayag, A. Agon and J. Bresson with help from C. Rueda, O. Delerue. Use Midishare (Grame) Musical expertise by : M. Andreatta, J. Baboni, J. Fineberg, K. Haddad, C. Malherbe, M. Malt, T. Murail, O. Sandred, M. Stroppa, H. Tutschku. Artwork : A. Mohsen.



→

C. Agon, G. Assayag, J. Bresson, The OM Composer's Book (2 volumes), 2006-2007

Formalizing the tiling process as a direct sum of subsets



$$A_{1} = \{0, 2, 5, 7\}$$

$$T_{4} \downarrow$$

$$A_{2} = \{4, 6, 9, 11\}$$

$$T_{4} \downarrow$$

$$A_{3} = \{8, 10, 1, 3\}$$

$$Z_{12} = A_{1} \cup A_{2} \cup A_{3}$$

 $\mathbf{Z}_{12} = \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B}$

Formalizing the tiling process as a chord multiplication



$$IS_{A} = (2 \ 3 \ 2 \ 5)$$

$$\cdot \downarrow$$

$$B = \{0, 4, 8\}$$

$$A \cdot B = ((2 \ 3 \ 2 \ 5) \cdot \{0\}) \cup$$

$$((2 \ 3 \ 2 \ 5) \cdot \{4\}) \cup$$

$$((2 \ 3 \ 2 \ 5) \cdot \{8\}) = Z_{12}$$





Sieve theorey as a general theory of periodicity

In MUSIC, the question of symmetries (spatial identities) or of periodicities (identities in time) plays a fundamental role at all levels, from the sample, in sound synthesis by computer, to the architectures of a piece.¹ It is thus necessary to formulate a theory permitting the construction of symmetries which are as complex as one might want, and inversely, to retrieve from a given series of events or objects in space or time the symmetries that constitute the series. We shall call these series "sieves."

I. Xenakis, "Sieves", Perspectives of New Music 28(1), 1992, p. 58-78



Sieve theorey as a general theory of periodicity

In a similar fashion, a periodic rhythm, for example (3,2,2) = |J|. |J|| can be notated as $L = 7_0 \cup 7_3 \cup 7_5$. In both of these examples the sign \cup is a logical union (and/or) of the points defined by the moduli and their shifts.

I. Xenakis, "Sieves", Perspectives of New Music 28(1), 1992, p. 58-78



The extension of sieve theory within algorithmic composition



- A. Riotte & M. Mesnage, *Formalismes et modèles musicaux*, collection "Musique/Sciences", Ircam Delatour France, 2006
- M. Andreatta, « Musique algorithmique », in N. Donin et L. Feneyrou (dir.), *Théorie de la composition musicale au* XX^e siècle, Symétrie, 2013

→ Towards a new approach to non-isochronous meter?

FORMALISMES ET MODÈLES MUSICRUX. 1 Internet des automatics MUSICRUX. 1 Internet des automatics MUSICRU	
FORMALISMES ET MODÈLES MUSICAUX.2 Version de la constante en esta de la constante ente ente ente ente ente ente ente	the attraction of informers la and be attraction with 12 formule want to mention furce -2 mant to mention furce -2 That a tractic attraction of the The attraction there attraction The attraction there attraction
- Landaran Andreadaran	composition musicale au xx* siècle
- ton the	Volume 1 Nicelas Davis et Levent Forsyna Frint a house all of the frint a house all of the office Seattle in a for for fort obs is leve brad oris Bre fact obs is leve themes built therefore a per themes built therefore is the former built the for

Generalized sieve theory: Partitions-gouffres (1986) by A. Riotte



Three algebraic perspectives on the pitch/rhythm relation



Three algebraic perspectives on the pitch/rhythm relation



Three algebraic perspectives on the pitch/rhythm relation



Lewin on Husserl's bidimensional model of time perception

The article [Lewin 1981] builds a numerical model that counts, at each "now"-time t, the number of time-spans I recall from the pertinent recent past that have (had) duration d. In this way I construct a function W(d,t) that gives me an "unfolding durational-interval vector" as the "now"-cursor t advances. The concept underlying my construction engages a Husserlian two-dimensional model of perceptual time, a model that allows both for Husserl's "primal impressions," impressions that follow the now-cursor t, and also for Husserl's "retentions," projections of remembered past times (and past durations) into my present consciousness. [...] I have found the idea of an "unfolding rhythmic interval vector" highly suggestive in connection with a great variety of other rhythmic formalisms (Lewin, 1986)





- David Lewin (1981), "Some Investigations into Foreground Rhythmic and Metric Patterning," *Music Theory: Special Topics*, ed. Richmond Browne (New York: Academic Press), 101–136.
- David Lewin (1986), « Music Theory, Phenomenology, and Modes of Perception », *Music Perception*, 3, 327-382.
- David Lewin (1987), Generalized Musical Intervals and Transformations, YUP

Generalized Musical Intervals and — Transformations

Grasping the unfolding durational content of a rhythmic pattern



Unfolding Rhythmic Interval Vector W(d,t) = number of time duration d has been heard within the rhythmic series up to time t

The form of rhythm as a journey to the mountain...



Transformational progressions *versus* transformational networks



"[...] the sequence of events moves within a clearly defined world of possible relationships, and because - in so moving - it makes the abstract space of such a world accessible to our sensibilities. That is to say that the story projects what one would traditionally call *form*". "Rather than asserting a network that follows pentachord relations one at a time, according to the chronology of the piece, I shall assert instead a network that displays all the pentachord forms used and all their **potentially functional interrelationships**, in a very compactly organized little **spatial configuration**".





Towards a pitch/rhythm-based *formal* transformational analysis?



"The idea of **Form** is not adequately conceived as something 'spatial,' something that can be dissociated from the ways in which our impressions build and change during the passage of time for a listener or a performer. The matter can be studied effectively in connection with intensions and perceptions of specifically *rhythmic* form, where the passage of time is built into the formal medium itself. [...] It is not necessary to use **t-moments** as our temporal objects. We could use **time-spans**, for example [...]". "We could also extend the "t-and-*d* table" by adding **more dimensions**, in which we may track such things as pitch intervals heard up to time *t*. [...]"

David Lewin (2003), "The Form of Rhythm, the Rhythm of Form", in *The Philosophical Horizon od Composition in the Twentieth Century* (edited by G. Borio), Il Mulino

Thank you for your attention!

