

Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation

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*work with collaborators and in particular K. Schulze-Forster, M. Agarwal, T. Baoueb, X. Bie, C. Wang, C. Doire, L. Kelley, B. Torres, P. Chouteau, R. Badeau



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Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep

music generation

Content

- Context and motivation
- Towards hybrid (or model-based) deep learning
 - Some examples in other domains
 - Hybrid deep learning in audio
- Specific examples in
 - Unsupervised music source separation
 - Symbolic music generation with transformers
 - Music timbre transfer
- Conclusion

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Context and motivation

Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation

• Machine learning: a growing trend towards pure "Data-driven" deep learning approaches

- High performances but some main limitations:
 - *"Knowledge" is learned (only) from data*
 - Complexity: overparametrized models (>> 100 millions parameters)
 - Overconsumption regime
 - Non-interpretable/non-controllable

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Context and motivation

- Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation
- Machine learning: a growing trend towards pure "Data-driven" deep learning approaches
- High performances but some main limitations:
 - *"Knowledge" is learned (only) from data*
 - Complexity: overparametrized models (> 100 millions parameters)
 - Overconsumption regime
 - Non-interpretable/non-controllable
- The main goal of the project : IIIII-AUDIO

Main goal : To build controllable and frugal machine listening models based on expressive generative modelling

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Approach: to build *Hybrid deep learning models*, by integrating our prior knowledge about the nature of the processed data.

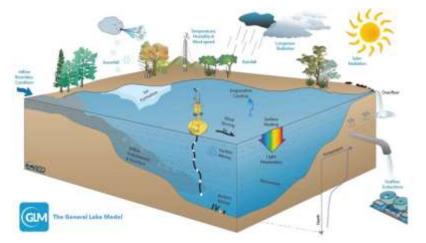


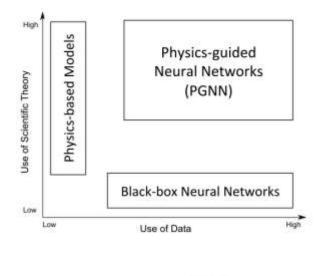


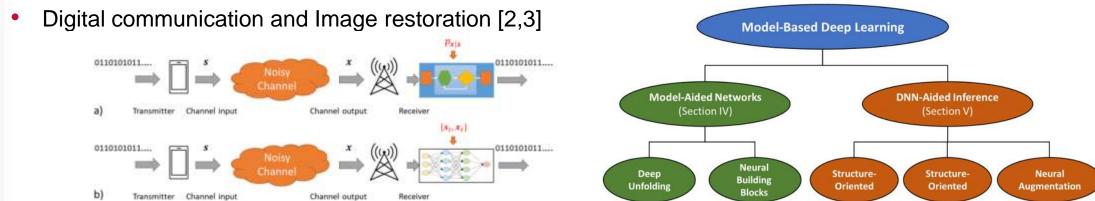
Towards Hybrid (or model-based) deep learning ... some prior works.

• Physics-guided neural networks in remote sensing [1],

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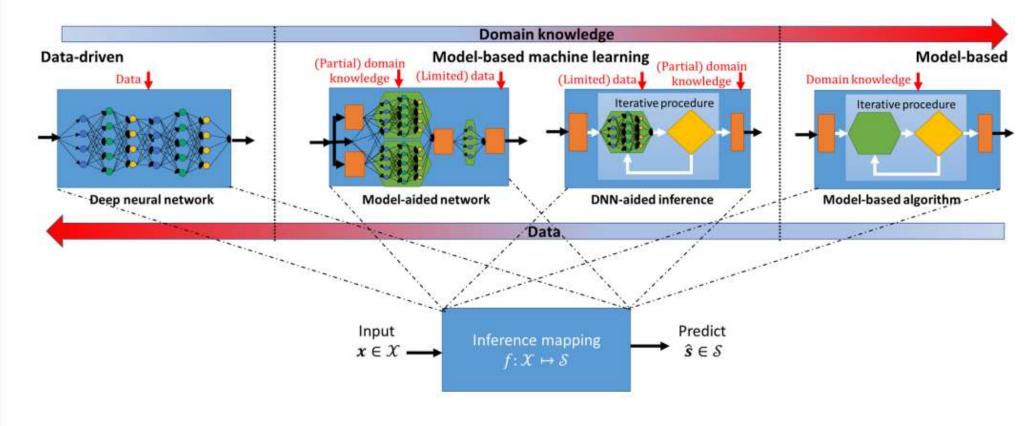


[1] A. Karpatne & al. "Physics-guided Neural Networks (PGNN): An Application in Lake Temperature Modeling," arXiv, 1710.11431, 2017.
 [2] B. Lecouat & al., "Fully Trainable and Interpretable Non-Local Sparse Models for Image Restoration.," 2020. (hal-02414291v2).
 [3] N. Shlezinger, & al., "Model-Based Deep Learning," in *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol. 111, no. 5, pp. 465-499, May 2023,



Towards Hybrid (or model-based) deep learning ... some prior works.

• Illustration of model-based versus data-driven inference (from [3])







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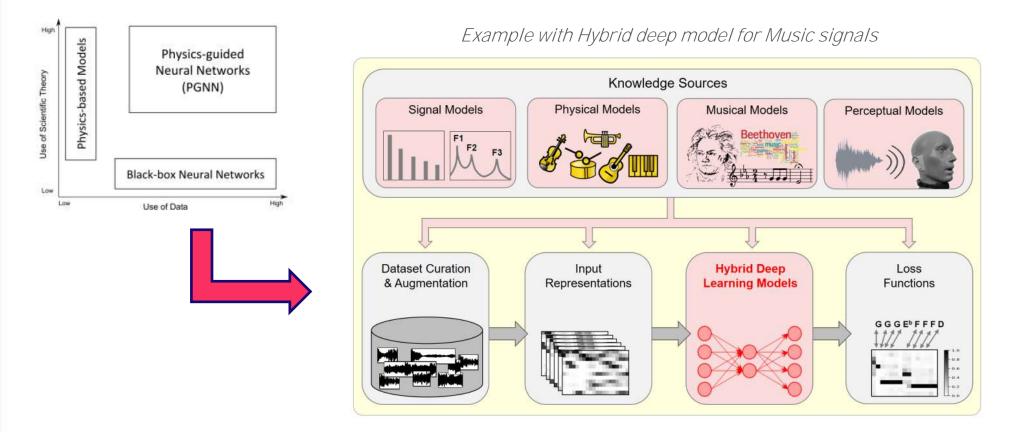


[3] N. Shlezinger, & al., "Model-Based Deep Learning," in Proceedings of the IEEE, vol. 111, no. 5, pp. 465-499, May 2023,



Towards model-based deep learning approaches

• Coupling model-based and deep learning:





G. Richard, V. Lostanlen, Y.-H. Yang, M. Müller, "Hybrid Deep Learning for Music Information Research", IEEE Signal Processing Magazine - Special Issue on Model-based and Data-Driven Audio Signal Processing, 2025

Hi-Audio, Hybrid and Interpretable Deep neural audio machines, European Research Council "Advanced Grant" (AdG) project - https://hi-audio.imt.fr/



Towards model-based deep learning ... some prior works in audio

- Use of a model-based feature representation
 - Non-Negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) models with CNNs for audio scene classification [1, 2]
 - Exploit the concept of deep unrolling
 - **Deep NMF** : Converting one iteration of NMF (iterative algorithm) into one layer of a DNN [3]

Use DNN as noise estimator

Deep Griffin-Lim: Each iteration of an iterative phase retrieval algorithm is « denoised » by DNN [4]

Many other examples



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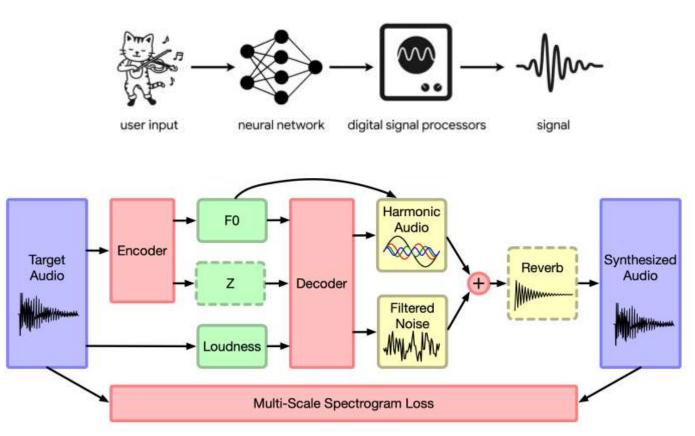


[3] J. L. Roux & al., "Deep NMF for speech separation,," in IEEE Int. Conf. on Acous., Speech and Signal Proc. (ICASSP), 2015
 [4] Y. Masuyama, K. Yatabe, Y. Koizumi, Y. Oikawa and N. Harada, "Deep Griffin–Lim Iteration: Trainable Iterative Phase Reconstruction Using Neural Network," in *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 37-50, Jan. 2021,



Towards model-based deep learning ... some prior works in audio

- Coupling signal processing modules with deep learning for audio synthesis
- The example of DDSP (Engel & al.)







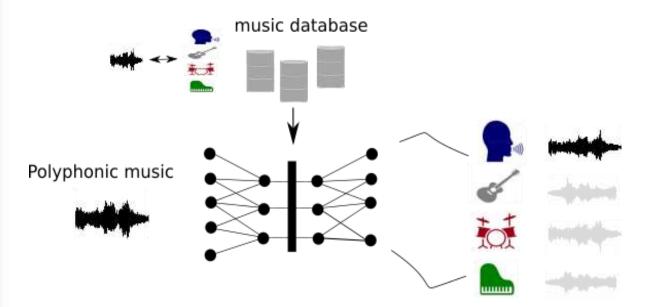
X. Wang & al. "Neural Source-Filter Waveform Models for Statistical Parametric Speech Synthesis," in IEEE/ACM Trans. on ASLP Proc., vol. 28, 2020. J. Engel & al., "DDSP: Differentiable Digital Signal Processing," in Int. Conf. on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2020.



Towards model-based deep learning

... by **integrating our prior knowledge** about the nature of the processed data.

• For example in music source separation



Main limitations:

- Difficulty to obtain « aligned » data
- Knowledge learned (only) from data
- Complexity: overparametrized models
- Overconsumption regime
- Non-interpretable/non-controllable

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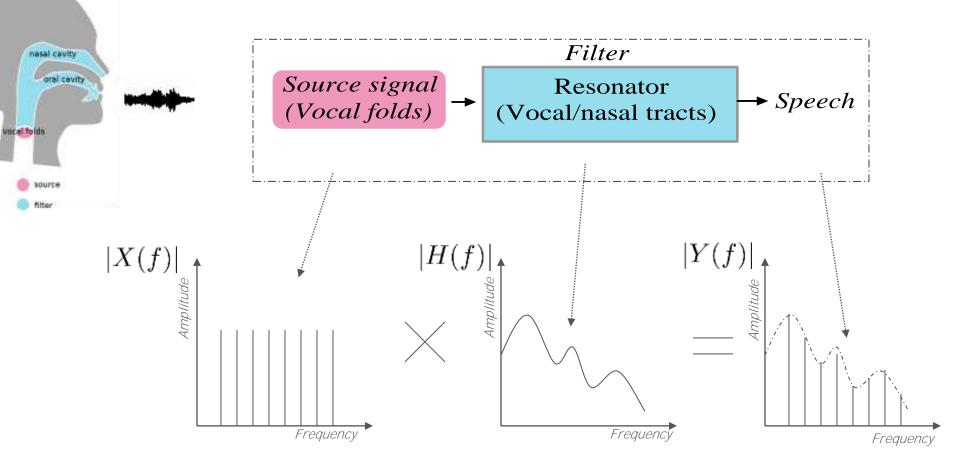


The source filter model

an efficient speech production model

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G. Richard









Fant, G. Acoustic theory of speech production, 1960, The Hague, The Netherlands, Mouton.



G. Richard

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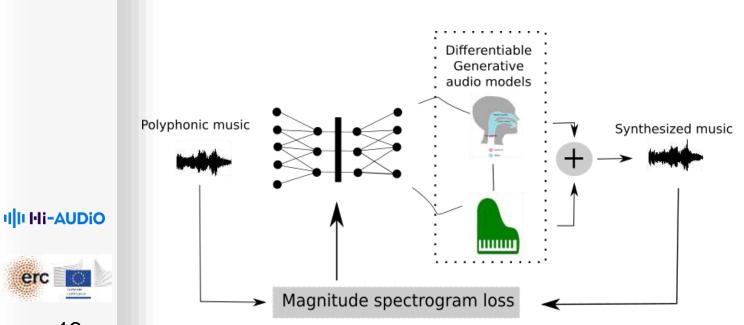
Towards model-based deep learning

... by **integrating our prior knowledge** about the nature of the processed data.

Knowledge about « how the sound is produced « (e.g. sound production models)

Singing voice as a source / filter model :

- source = vibration of vocal folds
- Filter = resonances of vocal/nasal cavities



nasal cavity

oral cavity

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G. Richard

Exploiting knowledge

for model-based deep music generation

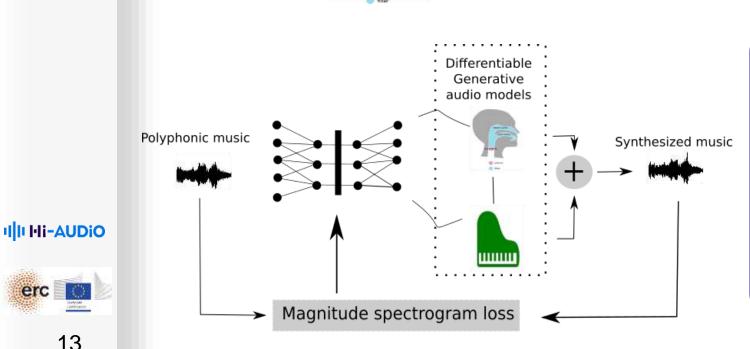
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Singing voice as a source / filter model :

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nasal cavity

oral cavity

A new paradigm

- Model is at the « core » of neural architecture
- Source separation by synthesis (no • interference from other sources)
- Learning only from the polyphonic recording (no need of the true individual tracks)

Novel sound transformation capabilities:

- Timbre/melody of the voice,
- Lyrics, translation
- **Re-harmonization**

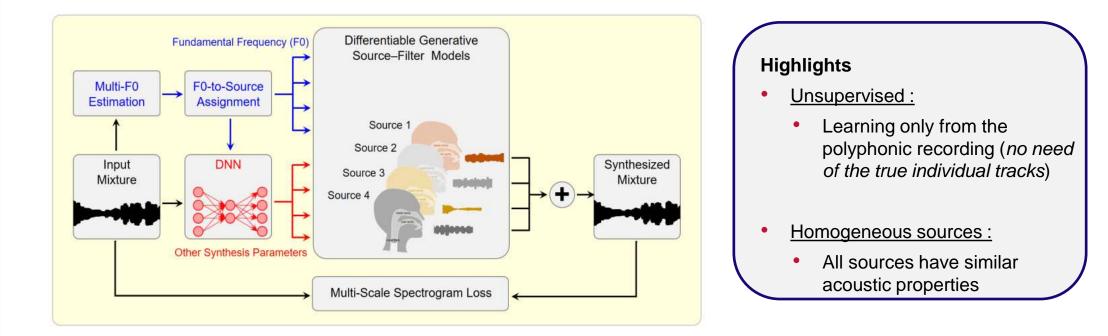
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Towards model-based deep learning

... by integrating our prior knowledge about the nature of the processed data.

• An example for unsupervised singing voice separation



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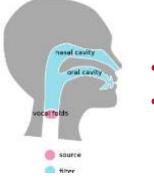


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K Schulze-Forster, G. Richard, L. Kelley, C. Doire, R Badeau Unsupervised Music Source Separation Using Differentiable Parametric Source Models, IEEE Trans. On AASP, 2023 G. Richard, V. Lostanlen, Y.-H. Yang, M. Müller, "Model-based Deep Learning for Music Information Research", IEEE Signal Processing Magazine - Special Issue on Model-based and Data-Driven Audio Signal Processing, 2025 (preprint accessible at: <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2406.11540</u>)

Multi-F0 estimation from 'H. Cuesta, B. McFee, and E. Gómez. Multiple f0 estimation in vocal ensembles using convolutional neural networks. ISMIR, 2020.'

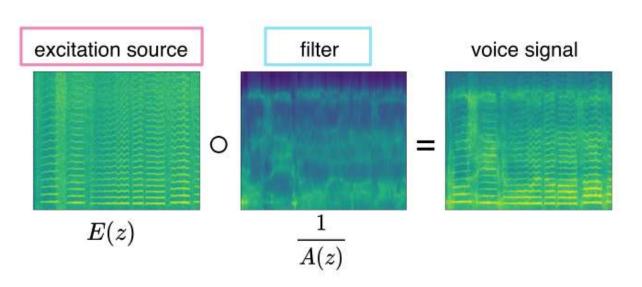


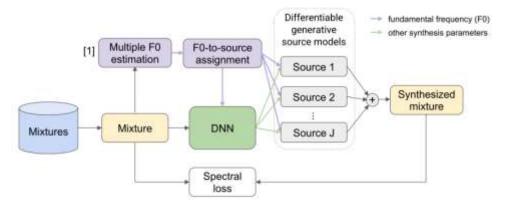


Parametric source models

Singing voice as a source / filter model :

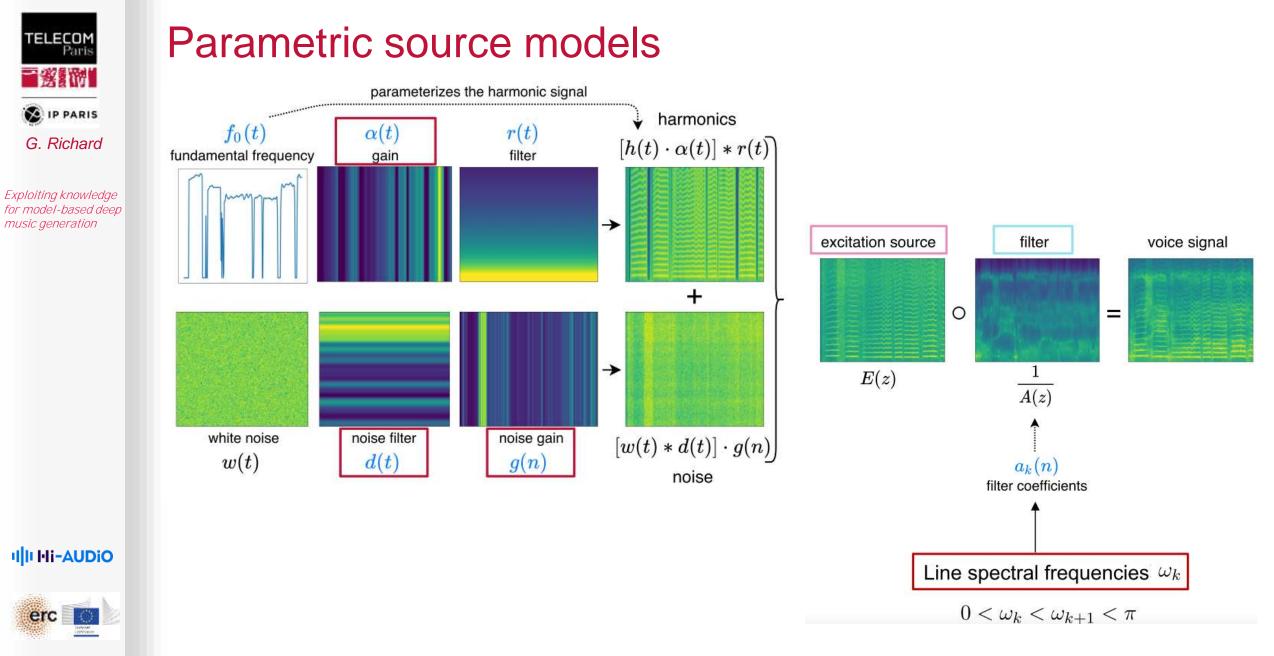
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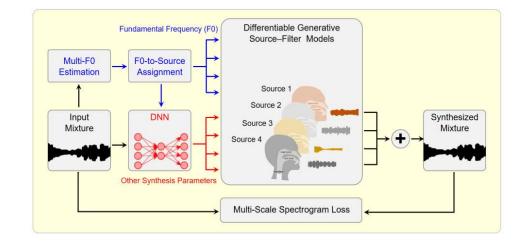


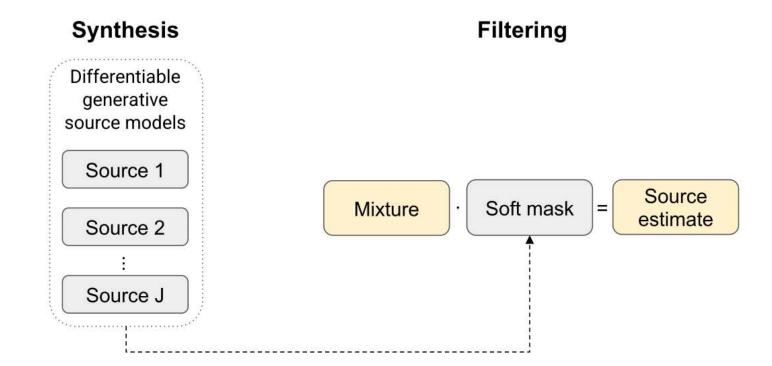


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Synthesis or filtering

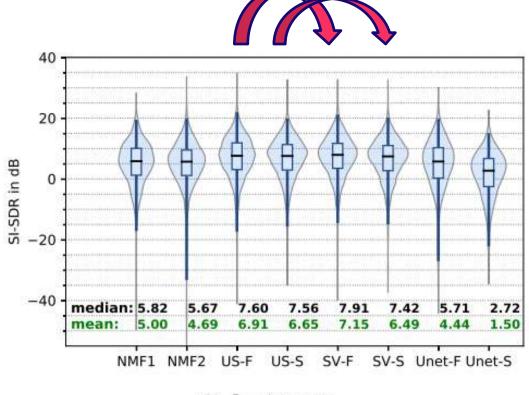






Some results

Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation • Unsupervised (US) \approx supervised (SV)



(b) J = 4 sources

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NMF1: S. Ewert and M. M¨uller, "Using score-informed constraints for NMF- based source separation," in Proc. IEEE Int. Conf. on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing. IEEE, 2012, pp. 129–132.

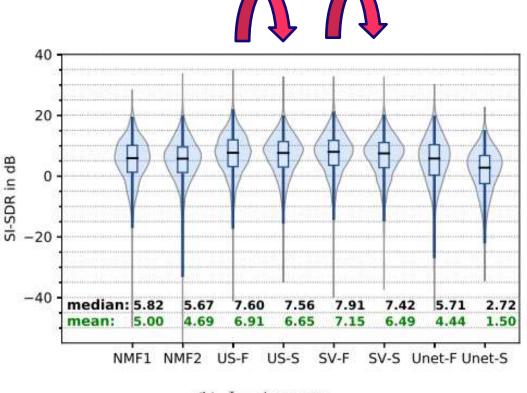
NMF2: J.-L. Durrieu, B. David, and G. Richard, "A musically motivated mid- evel representation for pitch estimation and musical audio source separation," IEEE J. Selected Topics in Signal Processing, vol. 5, no. 6, pp. 1180–1191, 2011.

UNET: D. Petermann, P. Chandna, H. Cuesta, J. Bonada, and E. Gomez, "Deep learning based source separation applied to choir ensembles," In Proc. Int. Soc. Music Inf. Retrieval Conf., 2020, pp. 733–739.



Some results

- Unsupervised (US) ≈ supervised (SV)
- Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation
- Almost no drop of performances when using only 3% of the training data (US-F vs. US-S and SV-F vs. SV-S)



(b) J = 4 sources

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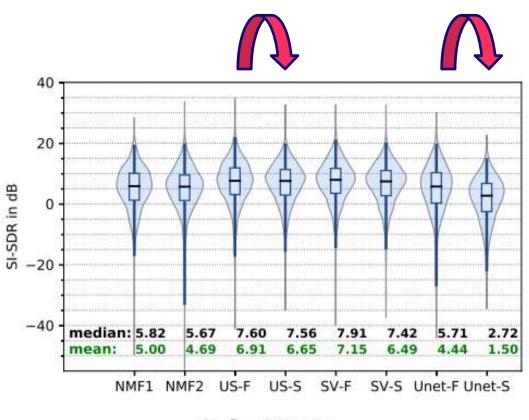
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Exploiting knowledge

for model-based deep music generation Some results

- Unsupervised (US) ≈ supervised (SV)
- Almost no drop of performances when using only 3% of the training data (US-F vs. US-S and SV-F vs. SV-S)
 - ..much larger drop of performances of the supervised baseline model (Unet)



(b) J = 4 sources

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A short audio demo and some take aways

- A short demo at
- https://schufo.github.io/umss/
 - Or local link
- Some take aways
 - Only a small amount of data needed
 - Filtering the mixture better than synthesis
 - Differentiable stable all-pole filter
 - Parameterization of the mixture is provided
 - Extension possible to a fully end-to-end approach [1]



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Symbolic music generation with transformers



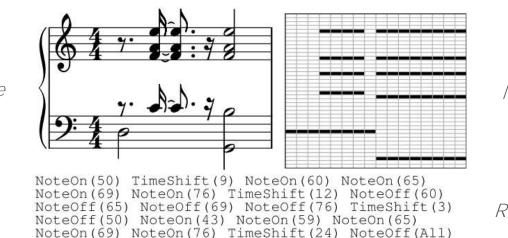
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for model-based deep music generation

Symbolic music generation with transformers

- Symbolic music
 - Input: Tokens (text) of pianoroll

Music score



MIDI representation (or piano roll)

Representation as sequence of tokens

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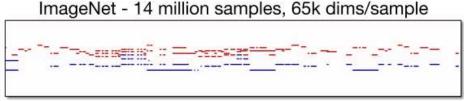




Symbolic music generation with transformers

- Data-driven Symbolic Music Generation is hard!
 - Inconsistency in melody and rhythm, absence of multi-scale structures found in real music [1]
 - Practical limitations: limited dataset sizes (compared to, e.g., language, vision) feeds into limited model sizes





LakhMIDI - 600k samples, 65k dims/sample

• Possible solution to do more with less: hybrid deep models



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✓ Add knowledge about musical structure to data-driven models



Symbolic music generation with transformers

- Already many possibilities to exploit musical structure ...
 - Long line of research to include structure in music generation systems [1]
 - > Particularly for Transformers:
 - > Tokens for musical structures [2-4]
 - Positional Encoding using musical structure [5,6]
- ... But can we improve how Transformers represent and use structural information?

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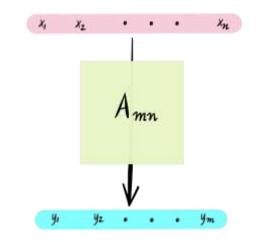


Bhandari & Colton, "Motifs, Phrases, and Beyond: The Modelling of Structure in Symbolic Music Generation", EvoMUSART, 2024.
 Ren, et al., "PopMAG: Pop music accompaniment generation", ACM MM, 2020.
 Huang & Yang, "Pop Music Transformer: Beat-based modelling and generation of expressive pop piano compositions", ACM MM, 2020.
 Hsiao, et al., "Compound word transformer: Learning to compose full-song music over dynamic directed hypergraphs", AAAI, 2021.
 Liu, et al., "Symphony Generation with permutation invariant language model", arXiV, 2022.
 Guo, Kang & Herremans, "A domain-knowledge-inspired music embedding space and a novel attention mechanism for symbolic music modeling", AAAI, 2022.

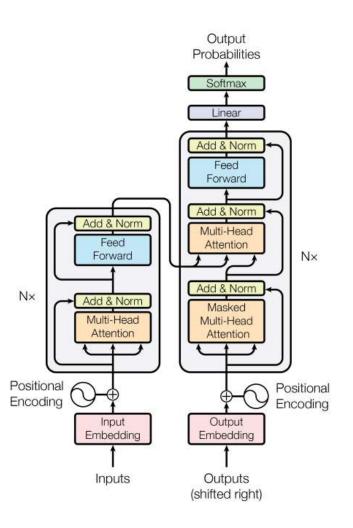


Symbolic Music Generation

- For example with transformers :
 - Attention: Invariance to temporal order of inputs



Role of the PE: to provide the information about which element of the input sequence comes in which order.



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Towards exploiting « musical structured informed » Position Encoding (PE)

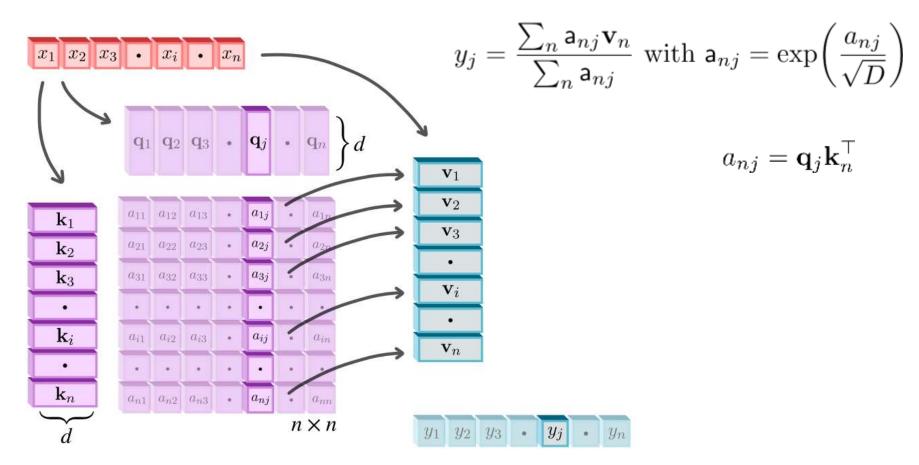
M. Agarwal, C. Wang, G. Richard. Structure-informed Positional Encoding for Music Generation. IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Apr 2024, Seoul, South Korea.



Symbolic Music Generation

Attention

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M. Agarwal, C. Wang, G. Richard. Structure-informed Positional Encoding for Music Generation. *IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, Apr 2024, Seoul, South Korea.



Symbolic Music Generation

Classic Positional Encoding

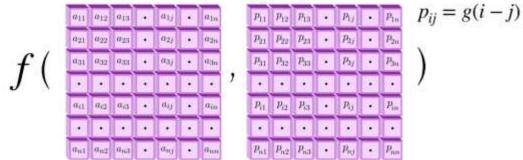
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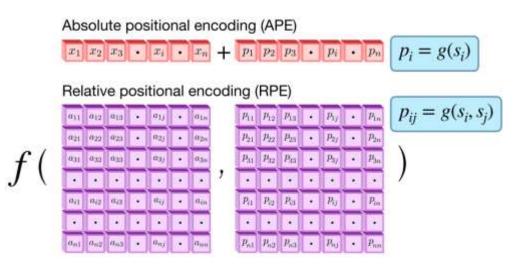
Structure Positional Encoding

Absolute positional encoding (APE)

 $x_1 x_2 x_3 \cdot x_i \cdot x_n + p_1 p_2 p_3 \cdot p_i \cdot p_n \quad p_i = g(i)$

Relative positional encoding (RPE)





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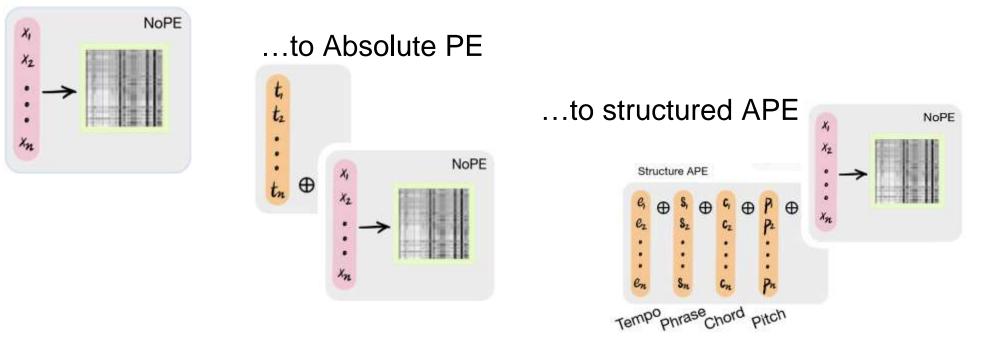
M. Agarwal, C. Wang, G. Richard. Structure-informed Positional Encoding for Music Generation. *IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, Apr 2024, Seoul, South Korea.



Symbolic Music Generation

« musical structure-informed » Position Encoding (PE)

From No Positional Encoding



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Results show that better music generation can be achieved by using knowledge about musical structure in data-driven Transformers through Positional Encoding





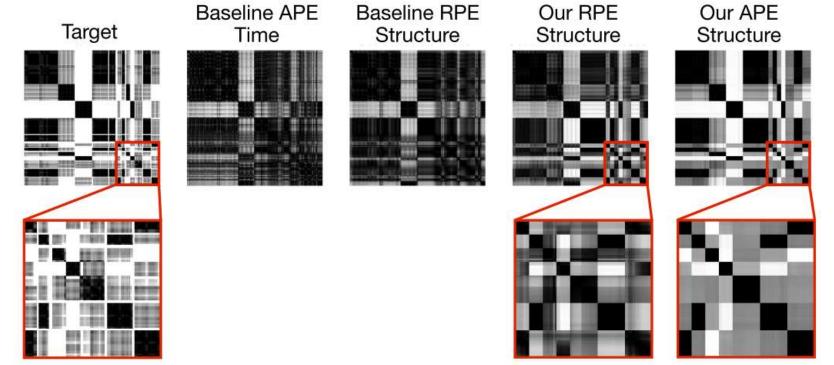
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Accompaniment generation from melody tracks

- Our structure-informed positional encoding captures large-scale and small-scale structures :
 - Self-similarity matrices of chroma profiles (chroma is a feature representation capturing chords information)







Extension for linear complexity structure-informed PE

• Exploiting a kernelized form of attention [1,2]

 $\mathbf{a}_{mn} = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{q}_m, \mathbf{k}_n) = \mathbb{E}\left[\phi(\mathbf{q}_m)\phi(\mathbf{k}_n)^{\top}\right]$

• With multiple instantiations, ϕ captures, on average, the relationship between ${f q}_m$ and ${f k}_n$

leads to linear-complexity Transformers.

- Applicable for Absolute Position Encoding
- Stochastic Position Encoding [3] => Applicable to Relative PE with linear complexity
 - Key ideas:
 - Express the Attention matrix with position kernels $\mathbf{A} = \exp\left(\left[\sum_{d=1}^{D} q_{md} \mathcal{P}_d(m, n) k_{nd}\right] / \sqrt{D}\right)$
 - Express the position kernel as a covariance matrix $(\forall \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}) (\forall m, n) \mathcal{P}_d(m, n) = \mathbb{E} \left[\overline{Q}_d(m) \overline{K}_d(n) \right]$



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Extension to structure-informed stochastic Position Encoding [4]

Y.-H. H. Tsai & al. Transformer Dissection: An Unified Understanding for Transformer's Attention via the Lens of Kernel," EMNLP, 2019
 K. M. Choromanski, & al. Rethinking Attention with Performers," ICML,2021
 A. Liutkus & al. Relative Positional Encoding for Transformers with Linear Complexity," ICML, 2021
 M. Agarwal & al, F-StrIPE: Fast Structure-Informed Positional Encoding for Symbolic Music Generation, ICASSP 2025.

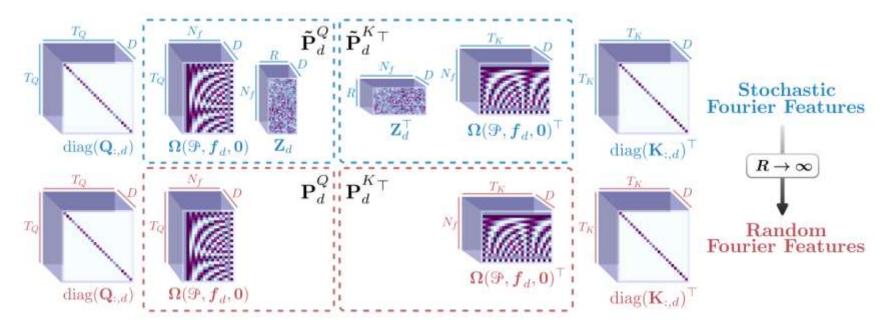


Extension for linear complexity structure-informed PE

F-StrIPE: Structure informed stochastic Position Encoding [4]

The positional matrix \mathbf{P}_d captures the relationship between pairs (m, n) of timesteps from the positional index sequences $\mathcal{P}_Q = \{1, ..., m, ..., T_Q\}$ and $\mathcal{P}_K = \{1, ..., n, ..., T_K\}.$

F-StrIPE: exploiting structure-aware positional indices $p_i = \mathbf{s}(i)$ instead of classic time indices $p_i = i$



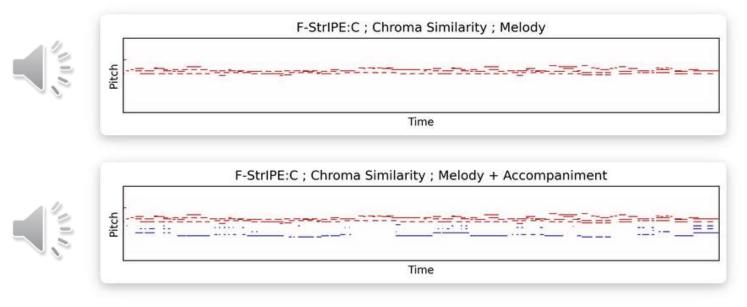
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F-StrIPE: Structure informed stochastic Position Encoding [4]

- Demo page at : *<u>bit.ly/faststructurepe</u>*
- Best example for « Chroma similarity » metric (training 16 bars of melody generation 16 bars of accompaniement)



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Musical Timbre transfer



Timbre transfer : a specific application of style transfer to music

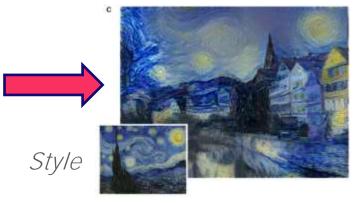
Image style transfer

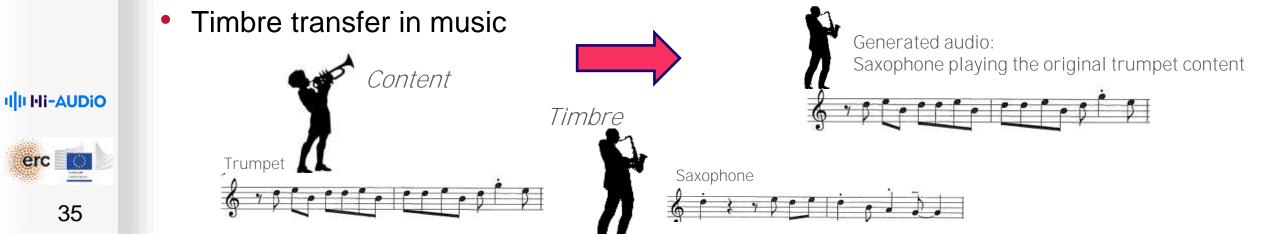
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Generated image







WavTransfer: A Flexible End-to-end Multi-instrument Timbre Transfer with Diffusion

• Timbre Transfer:

- Essential for distinguishing sounds with the same pitch and loudness
- Modifies the tonal quality while preserving pitch and structure
- Common models : Need for separate models for each pair of instrument for timbre transfer

WaveTransfer[1]:

- Works for audio mixtures and individual instruments
- Generates audio waveforms directly
- Operates at multiple sampling frequencies 16 kHz and 44.1 kHz



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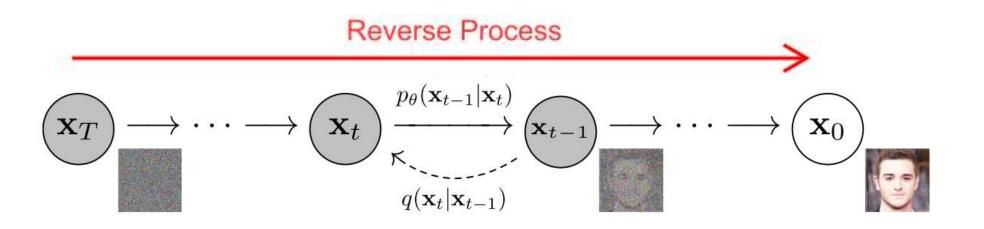


B. Richard

Exploiting knowledge for model-based deep music generation Background

Denoising diffusion probabilistic models (DDPMs)

 Characterising a data distribution by gradually introducing noise into samples for T steps and then learning the process of reversing it



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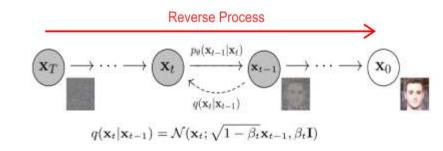
$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$$





Background

Denoising diffusion probabilistic models (DDPMs)



- $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$: an initial sample, $\{m{eta}_t\}_{t=1}^T$: a noise schedule
- Let $\alpha_t = 1 \beta_t$ and $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{u=1}^t \alpha_u$. \mathbf{x}_t can be sampled at any arbitrary time step t:

Forward Process:
$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$
 (1)

• The training loss is given by:

$$\mathscr{L}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbb{E} \left[\| \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left(\mathbf{x}_{t}, t \right) - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \|_{2}^{2} \right],$$
(2)

• During inference, we can iteratively sample the data from $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ to \mathbf{x}_0 via:

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}}(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \varepsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)), \sigma_t^2 I),$$
(3)

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where σ_t is a time dependent constant.

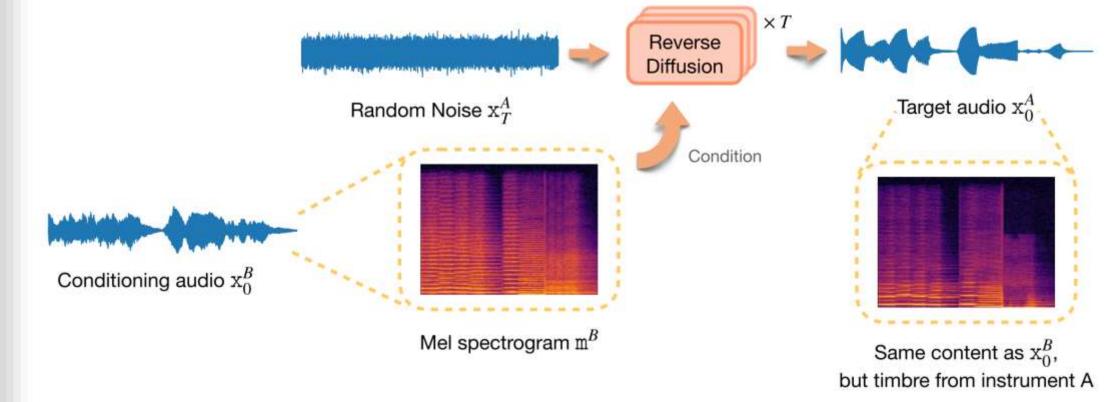


Exploiting knowledge

for model-based deep music generation

Timbre transfer : principle of WaveTransfer [1]

- Extending Wavgrad [2] for timbre transfer.
- Timbre transfer objective: generate a target audio x_0^A from a random noise x_T^A and conditioning audio x_0^B





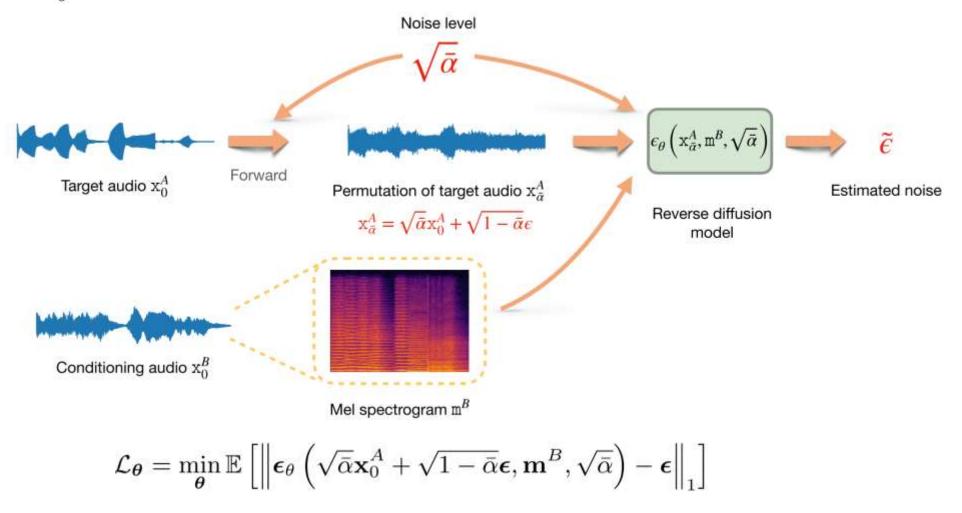
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[1] T. Baoueb, X. Bie, G. Richard, WaveTransfer: A Flexible End-to-end Multi-instrument Timbre Transfer with Diffusion, ICASSP 2025
[2] Nanxin Chen, Yu Zhang, Heiga Zen, Ron J Weiss, Mohammad Norouzi, and William Chan, "Wavegrad: Estimating gradients for waveform generation," in Proc. ICLR, 2021



WaveTransfer: Training process

- Supervised Training: Aligned dataset
- \mathbf{x}_0^A and \mathbf{x}_0^B : same content, \neq instruments







Reverse Step \mathbf{X}_{T-1}^A $\mathbf{x}_T^A \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ Random noise Target audio Noise level $\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_T}$ Input audio $x_T^A \implies \epsilon_{\theta} \left(x_T^A, \mathbf{m}^B, \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}} \right)$ \mathbf{x}_{T-1}^A Conditioning mel m^B Estimated noise $\mathbf{x}_{n-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_n}} \left(\mathbf{x}_n - \frac{1 - \alpha_n}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_n}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} \left(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{m}^B, \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_n} \right) \right) + \sigma_n \boldsymbol{z},$

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WaveTransfer: Inference



Wavetransfer: Timbre transfer demo

https://wavetransfer.github.io/

• Timbre transfer : piano to vibraphone (16 kHz)

Name	Input (ground truth)	Target (ground truth)	Music-STAR	DiffTransfer	WT ¹⁶ global with WG-6	WT ¹⁶ _{global} with BDDM- 20
Pirates of Caribbean		$\langle \rangle^{00}$	$\langle \rangle_{0}^{\circ}$	$\langle \rangle_{000}$	2000 C	$\sum_{i=1}^{n}$

Mixture of Timbre transfer : piano+strings -> vibraphone + clarinet

Name	Input (ground truth)	Target (ground truth)	Music- STAR	DiffTransfer	WT ¹⁶ global with WG-6	WT ¹⁶ _{global} with BDDM- 20	WT ¹⁶ _{mix} with WG-6	WT ¹⁶ _{mix} with BDDM- 20
Beethoven	$\langle \rangle_{000}$			$\langle \rangle_{000}$		$\langle \rangle_{0}^{\circ}$		
							5	ined on the c mixtures



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Exploiting knowledge

for model-based deep music generation

Wavetransfer

- Capabilities of the model
 - Handles timbre transfer for both audio mixtures and individual instruments in one model
 - Eliminates the requirement for separate model training for each timbre transfer
- Current Limitations
 - Relies on an aligned dataset
 - Limited instrument diversity in timbre transfer

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To conclude

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- The potential for hybrid deep learning ...
 - Interpretability, Controllability, Explainability
 - Hybrid model becomes controllable by human-understandable parameters
 - New audio capabilities: perceptually meaningful sound transformation
 - Frugality: gain of several orders of magnitude in the need of data and model complexity
 - Towards a more resource efficient and sustainable AI
 - Applicable to many audio processing problems
 - Exploiting room acoustics for Audio dereverberation [1],
 - Exploiting physical/signal models for music synthesis [2],
 - Exploiting "audio class specific" codebooks for audio compression and separation [3]
 - Exploiting key speech attributes for controlled speech synthesis and transformation [4]



[1] Louis Bahrman, Mathieu Fontaine, Gael Richard. A Hybrid Model for Weakly-Supervised Speech Dereverberation. *IEE ICASSP 2025*, (hal-04931672)
 [2] Lenny Renault, Rémi Mignot, Axel Roebel. Differentiable Piano Model for MIDI-to-Audio Performance Synthesis. Int. Conf. on Digital Audio Effects (DAFx20in22), Sep 2022, Vienna,
 [3] Xiaoyu Bie, Xubo Liu, Gaël Richard. Learning Source Disentanglement in Neural Audio Codec. *IEEE ICASSP 2025*, (hal-04902131)
 [4] Samir Sadok, Simon Leglaive, Laurent Girin, Gaël Richard, Xavier Alameda-Pineda. AnCoGen: Analysis, Control and Generation of Speech with a Masked Autoencoder. *IEEE ICASSP 2025*, (hal-0491286)

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