

## On the Potential of AI and Machine Learning for Music Performance Analysis

Gerhard Widmer

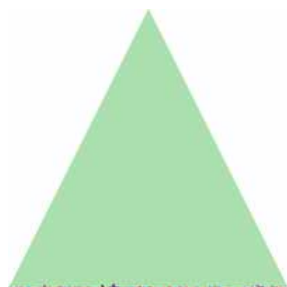


Department of Computational Perception  
Johannes Kepler University Linz

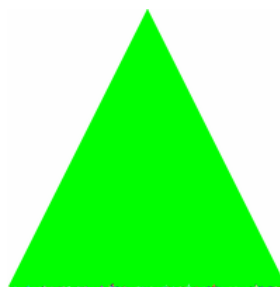


Austrian Research Institute  
for Artificial Intelligence (OFAI), Vienna

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAZURKA TEAM



„Hatto, 1997“



Indjic, 2001



## OVERVIEW

### Machine Learning for the Analysis of Music Performance Data

#### A. Search for common performance principles

1. Discovering note-level rules
2. Phrase-level learning
3. A combined model

#### B. Search for characteristic differences (individual style)

1. Pattern discovery
2. Performer identification
3. Automatic style imitation?

A new data-intensive project

Opportunities for cooperation computer science ↔ musicology



## A RECENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Artificial Intelligence Models  
of Expressive Music Performance  
(1999 – 2005)



**Austrian Research Institute  
for Artificial Intelligence (OF AI), Vienna**

funded by the Austrian National Science Foundation

**FWF** Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



## PROJECT GOALS

- Performing **quantitative studies** of expressive music performance
- based on **large amounts** of 'real-world' performance data
- with **AI / Machine Learning technology**
  - => 'data-intensive' bottom-up approach

### Possible advantages:

- grounding of results in substantial empirical data
- not biased by pre-conceptions, can make surprising discoveries

### Possible problems:

- little control over experimental conditions
- studies (must) generally remain at rather general level



## TWO QUESTIONS

### Systematic similarities, general principles?

What do 'reasonable' performances have in common?  
What is predictable?

### Systematic stylistic differences between artists?

What distinguishes great artists from each other?  
Can this be characterised / quantified?

### RESTRICTIONS:

- classical piano music
- expressive timing, dynamics, (articulation)



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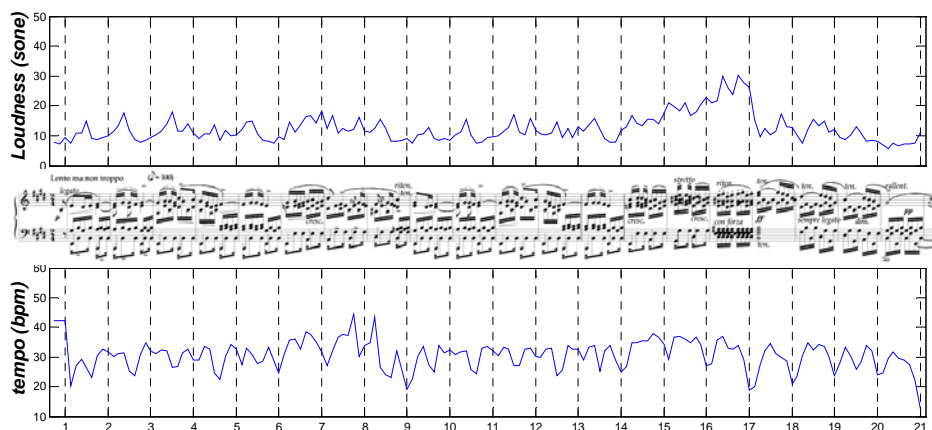
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## GENERAL PRINCIPLES?

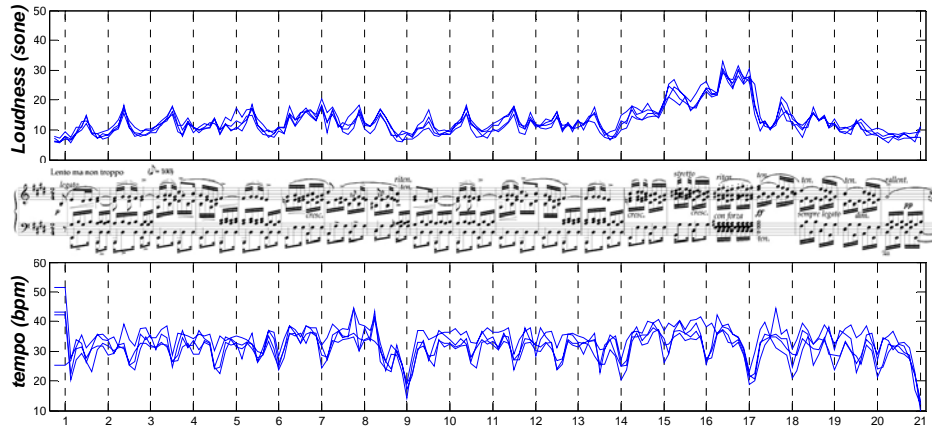
### Chopin: *Etude, op. 10 no. 3, E major*



## GENERAL PRINCIPLES?

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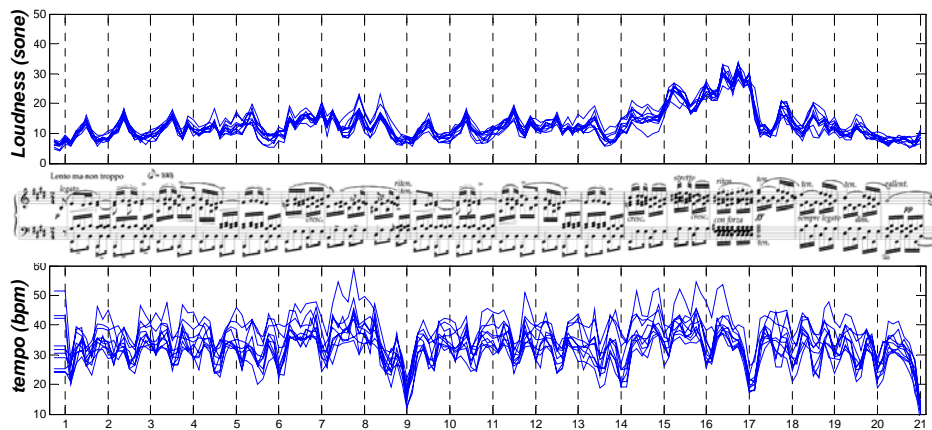
*Pianists 1-4*



## GENERAL PRINCIPLES?

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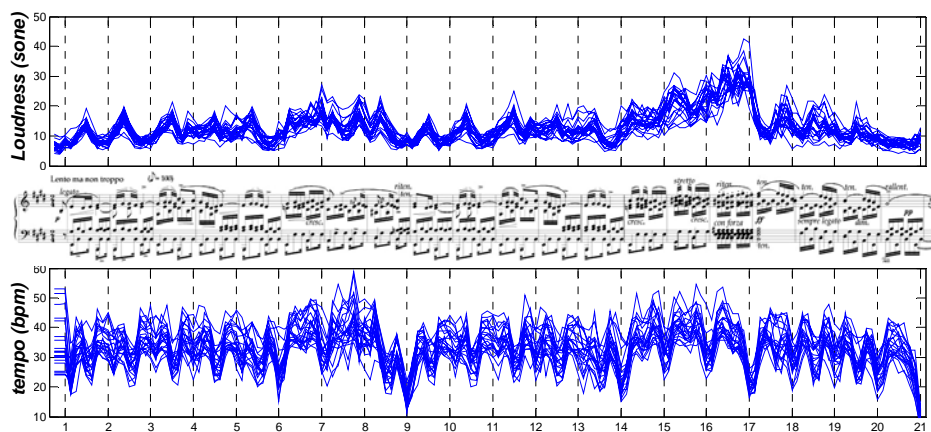
*Pianists 1-10*



## GENERAL PRINCIPLES?

Chopin: *Etude, op. 10 no. 3, E major*

Pianists 1-22



Bösendorfer SE 290



## STUDY 1: LEARNING NOTE-LEVEL PERFORMANCE RULES

### The Data:

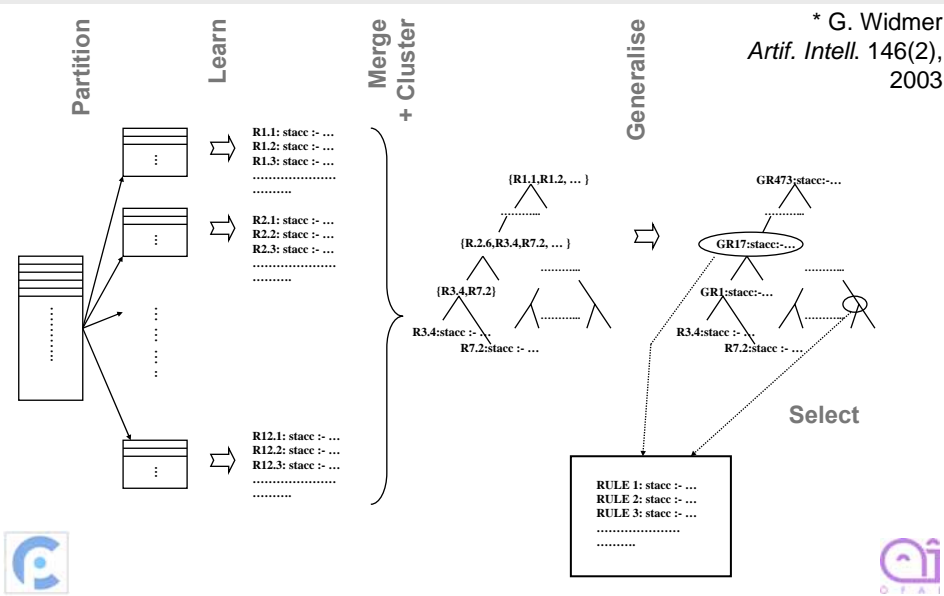
- 13 complete Mozart piano sonatas (> 100,000 notes)
- performed by concert pianist on a Bösendorfer SE290 computer-controlled grand piano
- plus explicit encoding of the musical score
- plus 1-to-1 correspondence between played notes and written notes

### The Target:

- rules predicting the performer's decisions in (local) timing, dynamics, and articulation
  - Timing: *lengthen vs. shorten*
  - Dynamics: *louder vs. softer*
  - Articulation: *staccato vs. legato*

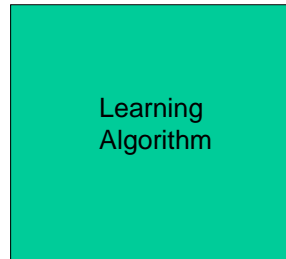


## THE LEARNING ALGORITHM



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Training Examples  
(notes with  
musical context and  
performance  
information)



Predictive  
Rules



Rule	Action	Conditions	pos. coverage (slow+fast)	Precision		
				slow	fast	total
TL1	lengthen IF	abstr.dur.context = equal-longer	2,665 (19.87 %)	.870	.686	.746
TL2	lengthen IF	next.dur.ratio ≤ 0.334	1,788 (13.33 %)	.846	.708	.758
TL2a*	lengthen IF	next.dur.ratio ≤ 0.99 & metr.strength ≤ 2	1,121 (8.36 %)	.820	—	.820
TL3	lengthen IF	dir.next = up & int.next > p4 & metr.strength ≤ 2 & int.prev ≤ maj2	259 (1.93 %)	.714	.636	.662
TS1*	shorten IF	prev.dur.ratio ≤ 0.67 & next.dur.ratio > 1.0	354 (2.66 %)	.669	—	.669
TS2**	shorten IF	tempo = fast & meter = 3/8 & prev.dur.ratio > 2.0 & dur ≤ 0.5 & next.dur.ratio ≤ 0.99	43 (0.32 %)	—	.915	.915
DL1	louder IF	dir.prev = up & int.prev > p4 & metr.strength > 2	747 (6.42 %)	.847	.761	.782
DL2	louder IF	mel.contour = up.down & int.prev > min3 & metr.strength > 2	890 (7.65 %)	.734	.731	.731
DL3**	louder IF	prev.dur.ratio ≤ 0.5 & dir.prev = up & metr.strength > 3	359 (3.09 %)	—	.709	.709
DS1	softer IF	prev.dur.ratio > 5.0	377 (4.00 %)	.764	.675	.710
DS2	softer IF	dir.prev = down & int.prev > maj3 & metr.strength ≤ 1 & dur.prev > 0.33	173 (1.83 %)	.745	.811	.783
DS3	softer IF	dir.prev = down & int.prev > p5 & metr.strength ≤ 1	169 (1.79 %)	.840	.797	.813
AS1	staccato IF	marked.staccato = yes	3,071 (13.88 %)	.916	.938	.934
AS2	staccato IF	int.next = unison	2,929 (13.23 %)	.981	.996	.934
AS3	staccato IF	int.next > p4 & dir.next = up & metr.strength ≤ 2	1,237 (5.59 %)	.656	.796	.756
AS4	staccato IF	next.dur.ratio ≤ 0.4 & dir.prev = down	1,215 (5.49 %)	.571	.809	.717
AL1	legato IF	staccato = no & mel.contour = up.down	687 (7.42 %)	.593	.513	.537

\* G. Widmer,  
*J.New.Mus.Res.* 31(1),  
2002





## DISCOVERED RULES

### RULE TL2:

#### lengthen IF

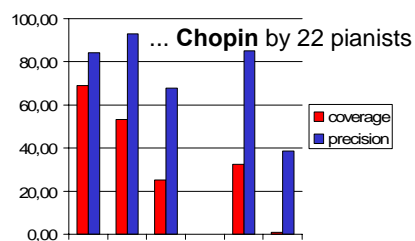
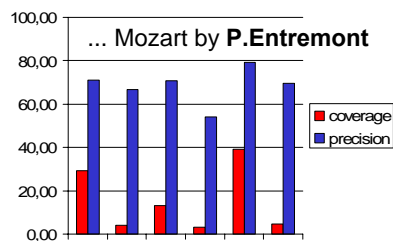
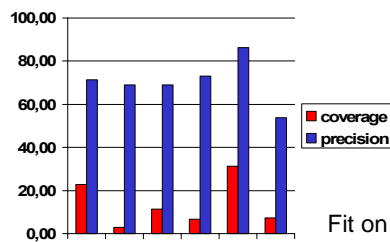
**abstr\_dur\_context = short-short-long &  
metr\_strength  $\leq$  1**

“Given two notes of equal duration followed by a longer note, lengthen the note (i.e., play it more slowly) that precedes the final, longer one, if this note is in a metrically weak position.”

TP = 1,894 (14.12%), FP = 588 (2.86%),  $\pi = .763$



## QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION



► **rules generalise well to other performers and other musical styles!**



## RELATION TO SUNDBERG PERFORMANCE RULES

**RULE TL3: lengthen** IF  $dir\_next = up$  &  
 $int\_next > p4$  &  
 $metr\_strength \leq 2$  &  
 $int\_prev \leq maj2$

“Lengthen a note if it precedes an upward melodic leap larger than a perfect fourth, if it is in a metrically weak position, and if it is preceded by (at most) stepwise motion.”

slow: TP = 95 (2.60%), FP = 38 (0.64%),  $\pi = .714$   
 fast: TP = 164 (1.68%), FP = 94 (0.64%),  $\pi = .636$   
 all: TP = 259 (1.93%), FP = 132 (0.64%),  $\pi = .662$

=> cf. “Leap Tone Duration”  
 and “Leap Articulation” rules  
 (Friberg, 1995)

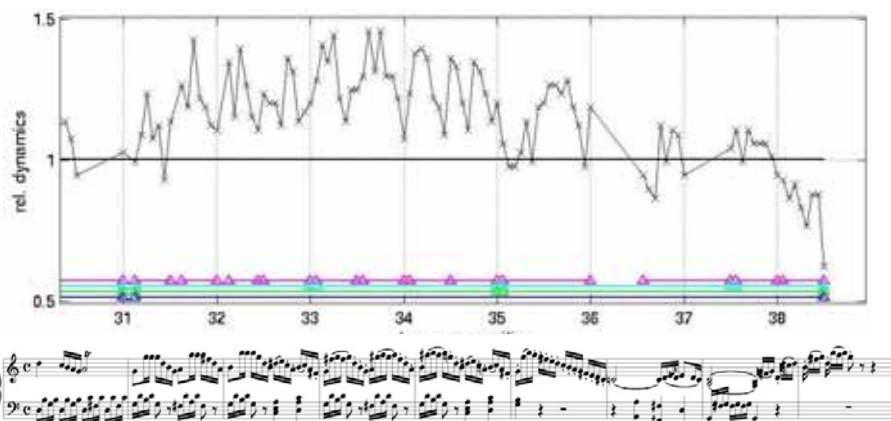
**RULE AS3: staccato** IF  $int\_next > p4$  &  
 $dir\_next = up$  &  
 $metr\_strength \leq 2$

“Insert a micropause after a note if it precedes an upward melodic leap larger than a perfect fourth and is metrically weak.”

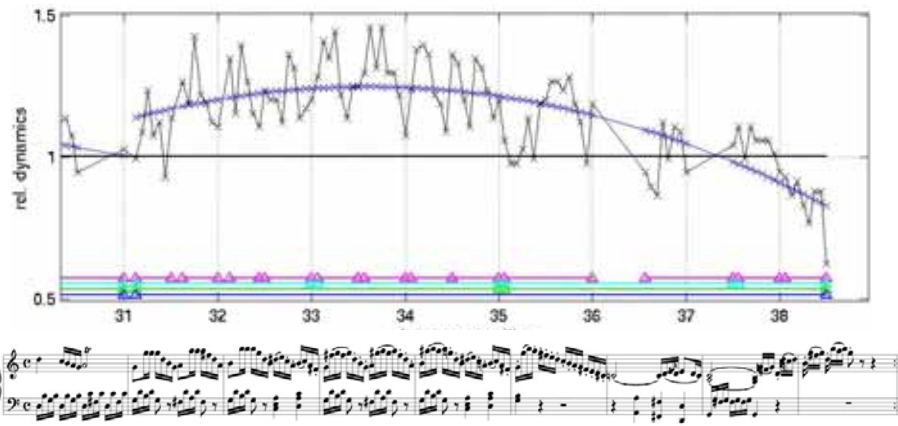
slow: TP = 307 (6.27%), FP = 161 (2.31%),  $\pi = .656$   
 fast: TP = 930 (5.39%), FP = 239 (1.99%),  $\pi = .796$   
 all: TP = 1,237 (5.59%), FP = 400 (2.11%),  $\pi = .756$



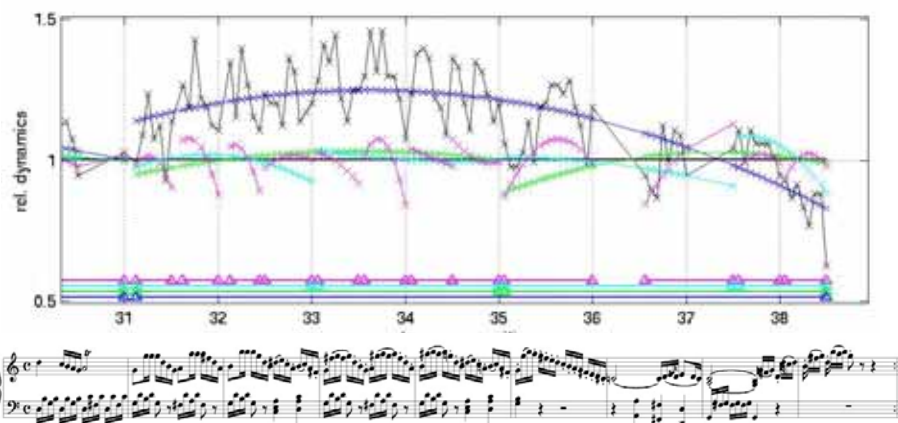
## STUDY 2: LEARNING PHRASE-LEVEL TIMING AND DYNAMICS



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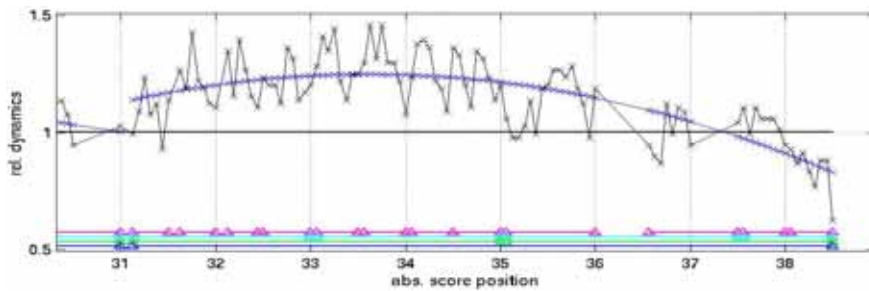
## STUDY 2: LEARNING PHRASE-LEVEL TIMING AND DYNAMICS



## DERIVING TRAINING INSTANCES: MULTI-LEVEL DECOMPOSITION

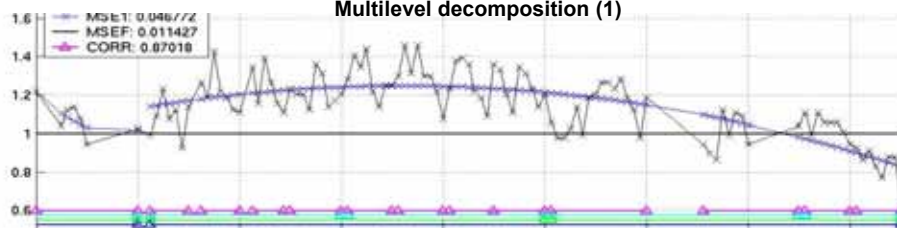
**Model class for phrase-level expressive 'shapes':**  
quadratic functions (2<sup>nd</sup> degree polynomials)

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

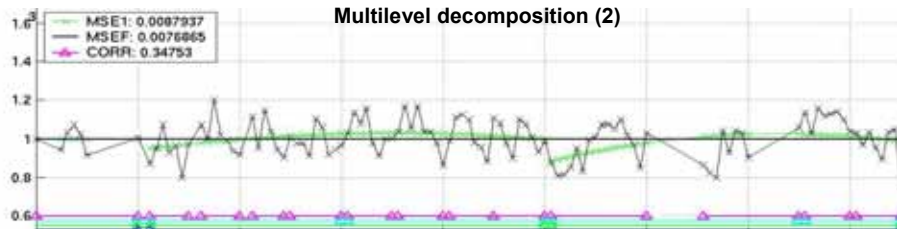


## DERIVING TRAINING INSTANCES: MULTI-LEVEL DECOMPOSITION

Multilevel decomposition (1)



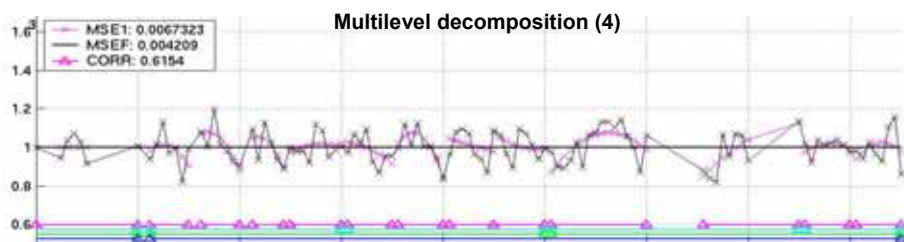
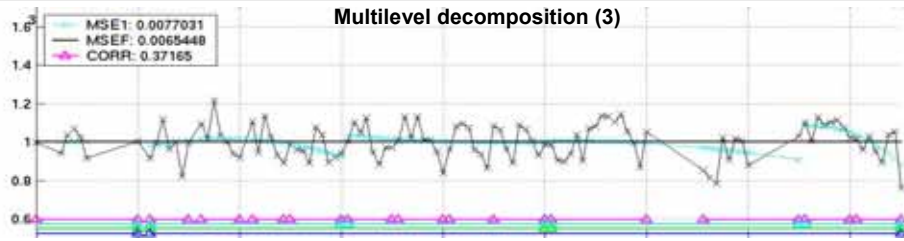
Multilevel decomposition (2)



W.A.Mozart: Piano Sonata K. 279 (C major), 1st mvt., mm.31-38: dynamics



## DERIVING TRAINING INSTANCES: MULTI-LEVEL DECOMPOSITION

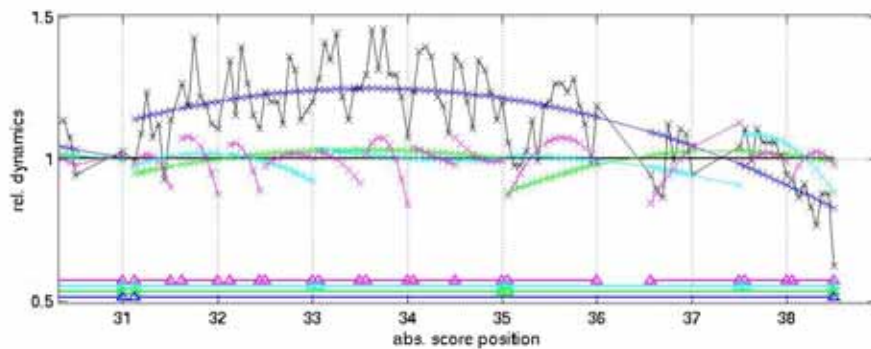


W.A.Mozart: Piano Sonata K. 279 (C major), 1st mvt., mm.31-38: dynamics



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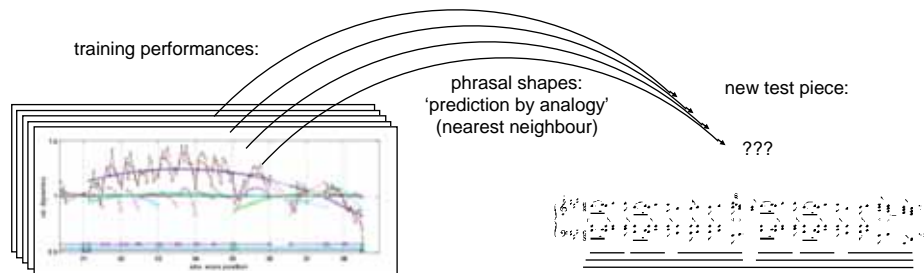
Multilevel decomposition:  
All levels



W.A.Mozart: Piano Sonata K. 279 (C major), 1st mvt., mm.31-38: dynamics



## CASE-BASED LEARNING



## EXPERIMENTS: THE DATA

sonata movement	'melody' notes	phrases at level			
		1	2	3	4
K.279:1:1 fast 4/4	391	50	19	9	5
K.279:1:2 fast 4/4	638	79	36	14	5
K.280:1:1 fast 3/4	406	42	19	12	4
K.280:1:2 fast 3/4	590	65	34	17	6
K.280:2:1 slow 6/8	94	23	12	6	3
K.280:2:2 slow 6/8	154	37	18	8	4
K.280:3:1 fast 3/8	277	28	19	8	4
K.280:3:2 fast 3/8	379	40	29	13	5
K.282:1:1 slow 4/4	165	24	10	5	2
K.282:1:2 slow 4/4	213	29	12	6	3
K.282:1:3 slow 4/4	31	4	2	1	1
K.283:1:1 fast 3/4	379	53	23	10	5
K.283:1:2 fast 4/4	428	59	32	13	6
K.283:3:1 fast 3/8	326	52	30	12	3
K.283:3:2 fast 3/8	558	78	47	19	6
K.332:2 slow 4/4	477	49	23	12	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5506</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>66</b>

Table 1: Sonata movements used in experiments



## EXPERIMENTS: QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

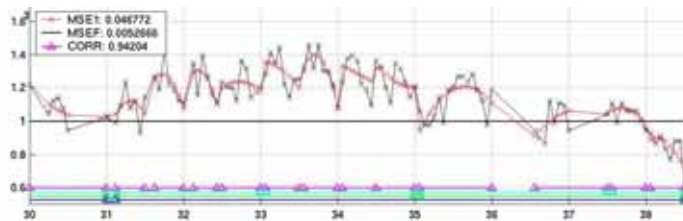
	dynamics					tempo				
	MSE <sub>D</sub>	MSE <sub>L</sub>	MAE <sub>D</sub>	MAE <sub>L</sub>	Corr <sub>L</sub>	MSE <sub>D</sub>	MSE <sub>L</sub>	MAE <sub>D</sub>	MAE <sub>L</sub>	Corr <sub>L</sub>
K.279:1:1	.0383	<b>.0214</b>	.1643	<b>.1100</b>	.6714	.0348	.0375	.1220	.1257	.3061
K.279:1:2	.0318	.0355	.1479	<b>.1384</b>	.5744	.0244	.0291	.1004	.1133	.3041
K.280:1:1	.0313	<b>.0195</b>	.1432	<b>.1052</b>	.6635	.0254	<b>.0188</b>	.1053	<b>.0934</b>	.5611
K.280:1:2	.0281	.0419	.1365	.1482	.4079	.0250	.0290	.1074	.1111	.3398
K.280:2:1	.1558	<b>.0683</b>	.3498	<b>.2064</b>	.7495	.0343	.0373	.1189	<b>.1157</b>	.5888
K.280:2:2	.1424	<b>.0558</b>	.3178	<b>.1879</b>	.7879	.0406	.0508	.1349	.1443	.4659
K.280:3:1	.0334	<b>.0168</b>	.1539	<b>.0979</b>	.7064	.0343	<b>.0260</b>	.1218	<b>.1179</b>	.5136
K.280:3:2	.0226	.0313	.1231	.1267	.4370	.0454	<b>.0443</b>	.1365	.1388	.3361
K.282:1:1	.1076	<b>.0412</b>	.2719	<b>.1568</b>	.7913	.0367	.0376	.1300	<b>.1196</b>	.3267
K.282:1:2	.0865	<b>.0484</b>	.2420	<b>.1680</b>	.7437	.0278	.0474	.1142	.1436	.2072
K.282:1:3	.1230	<b>.0717</b>	.2595	<b>.2172</b>	.6504	.1011	<b>.0463</b>	.2354	<b>.1575</b>	.8075
K.283:1:1	.0283	<b>.0263</b>	.1423	<b>.1067</b>	.7007	.0183	.0202	.0918	.1065	.3033
K.283:1:2	.0371	<b>.0221</b>	.1611	<b>.1072</b>	.7121	.0178	<b>.0171</b>	.0932	.0960	.4391
K.283:3:1	.0404	<b>.0149</b>	.1633	<b>.0928</b>	.8247	.0225	<b>.0183</b>	.1024	<b>.0954</b>	.4997
K.283:3:2	.0424	<b>.0245</b>	.1688	<b>.1156</b>	.6881	.0256	.0308	.1085	.1184	.2574
K.332:2	.0919	.0948	.2554	<b>.2499</b>	.3876	.0286	.0630	.1110	.1767	.2389
<b>WMean</b>	<b>.0486</b>	<b>.0360</b>	<b>.1757</b>	<b>.1370</b>	<b>.6200</b>	<b>.0282</b>	<b>.0326</b>	<b>.1108</b>	<b>.1202</b>	<b>.3600</b>

Table 2: Results (by sonata sections) of cross-validation experiment with DISTALL ( $depth=2, k=1$ ). Measures subscripted with D refer to the 'default' (mechanical, inexpressive) performance, those with L to the performance produced by the learner.

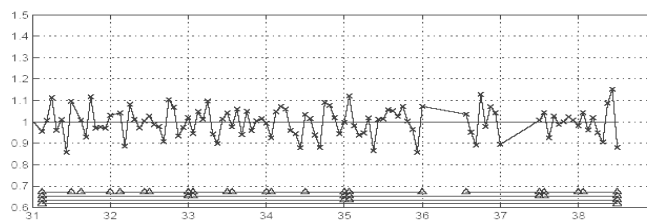


## STUDY 3: A COMBINED MODEL

Approximation of original curve  
by 4 levels of polynomial shapes



=> "Residuals":

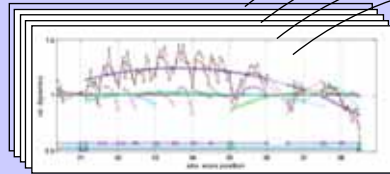


## STUDY 3: A COMBINED MODEL

\* Widmer & Tobudic,  
J. New Mus. Res. 32(3), 2003

training performances:

Phrase level



phrasal shapes:  
'prediction by analogy'



'residuals':



rule learning  
algorithm PLCG

note-level  
rules

Note level



## THE COMBINED MODEL IN ACTION

W.A.Mozart, Piano Sonata K.280, F major, 1<sup>st</sup> Movement

Allegro assai KV 280 (1076)

Second Prize,  
RENCON Contest,  
Tokyo, Sept. 2003





## INSIGHTS (1)

- There *are* predictable aspects of expressive performance
- Machine learning can (help us) discover some of them
- Expressive performance is a multi-level phenomenon and needs multi-level models
- Open question: the boundary of predictability ...



## TWO QUESTIONS

### **Systematic similarities, general principles?**

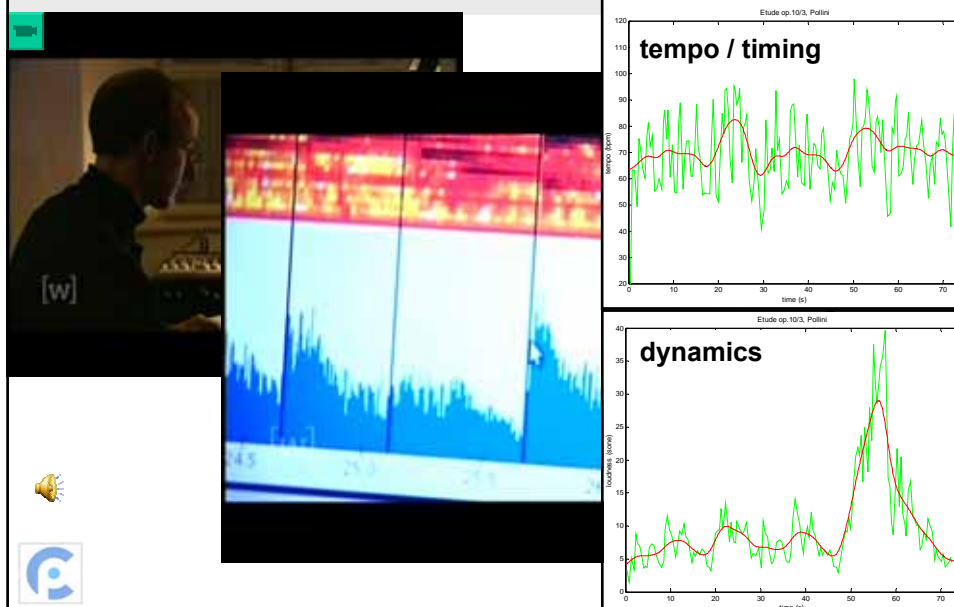
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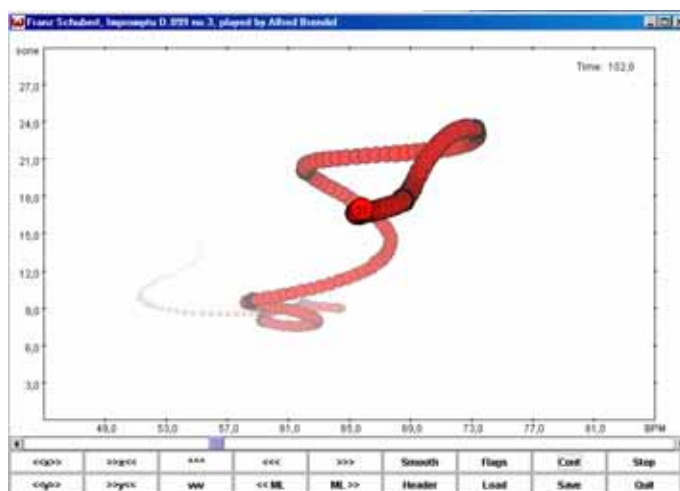


## INTERACTIVE BEAT TRACKING



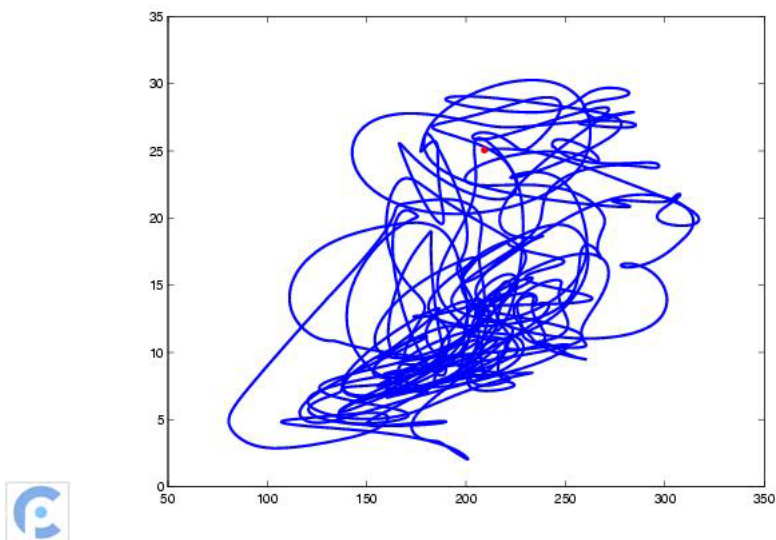
## THE PERFORMANCE WORM

\* Langner & Goebel,  
*Comp.Mus.J.* 27(4),  
 2003

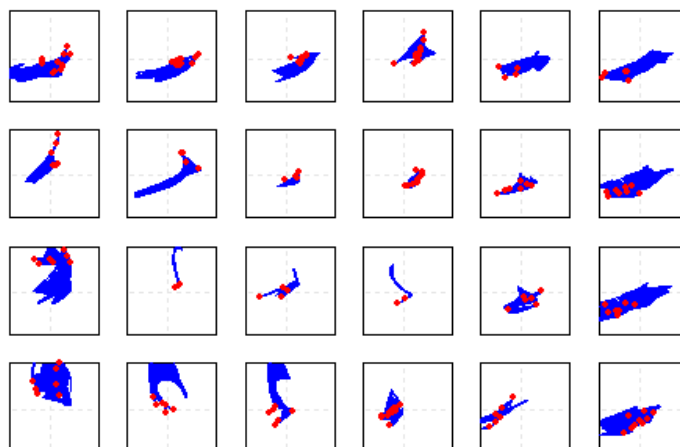


## PERFORMANCE TRAJECTORIES

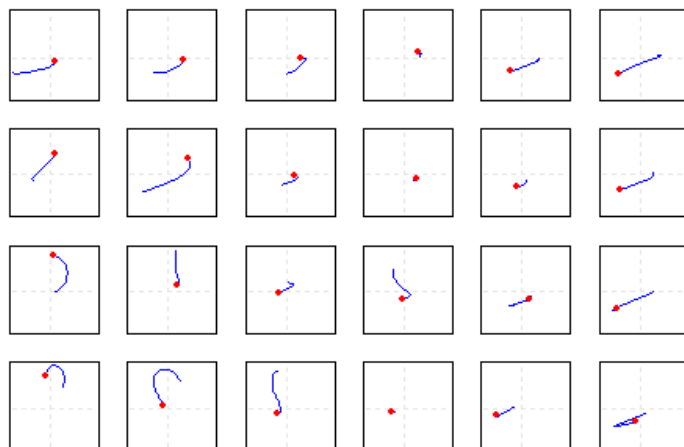
Artur Rubinstein: Frédéric Chopin, Ballade op.27, A<sup>b</sup> major



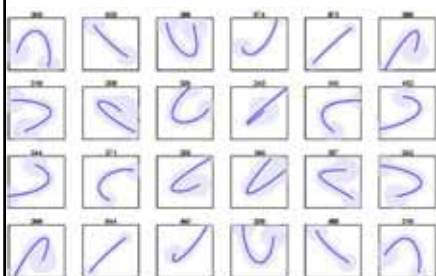
## PERFORMANCE ALPHABETS



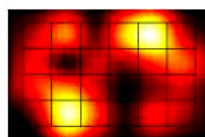
## PERFORMANCE ALPHABETS



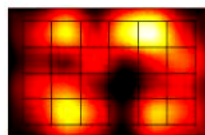
## SOME SIMPLE STATISTICS



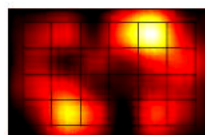
Daniel Barenboim



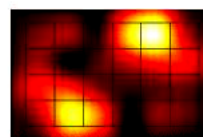
András Schiff



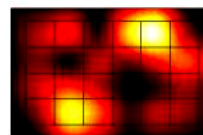
Roland Batik



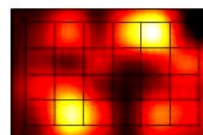
Maria João Pires



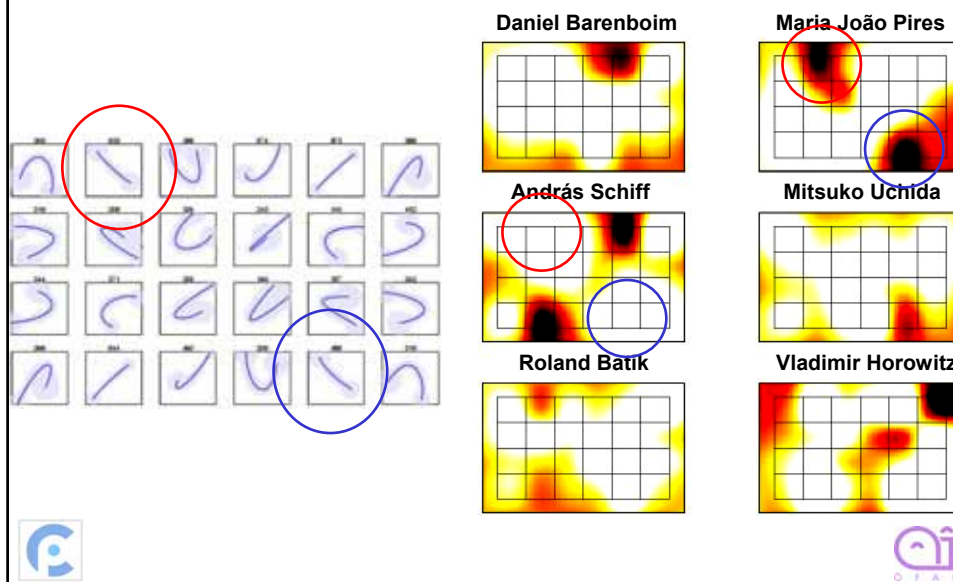
Mitsuko Uchida



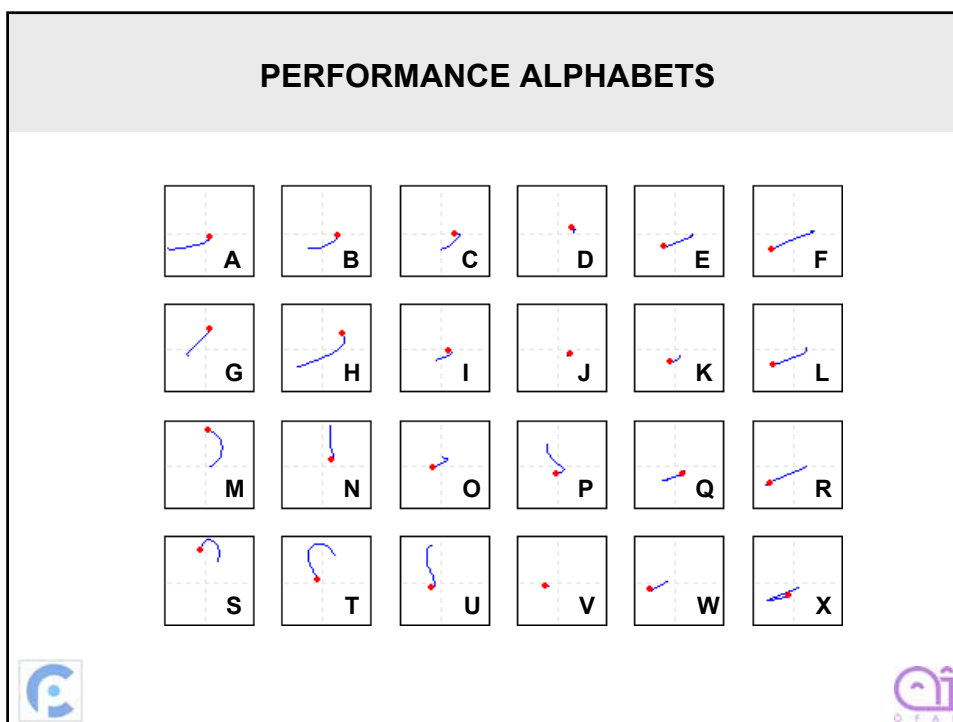
Vladimir Horowitz



## SOME SIMPLE STATISTICS



## PERFORMANCE ALPHABETS



## PERFORMANCE STRINGS

### F. Chopin, Ballade no. 3 op.47, A<sup>b</sup> major – Artur Rubinstein (1957)

RPWWNEDHCGRPPVIQHIEDGGXPUSQHECCQVLXSWVMNILHLGYTMQMBYTLGGCQGFNIQVCKJIQYTP  
WLBXTKVIIAEAFWQQMHRJIMHKWVKVSGXJKUJDRNLQSBXTCQYDQWBFHCYTBFSBXOAFVXOCKYKTQJ  
KAFWUGPVEJKVHLGRPVEDFRPUECWJKUEKWKVKCKVJKQHEKPULQMMWSLHLQHIIEECMMRILRP  
USMEDHCLRPWJINCEDLGXSVSQVHEKWNREDPUQVEDPVLHCXOFWNBCLBCNGGRPUMRSNMMHIIR  
ILRPUMMMMMHIMMMLNMHIWNMRNQYTVHLHCMQVNMIPUHECINQRNQYTMHECMQVRNIPVNMEDPV  
EDGRNQWSMRNLMJKVIPWSGQQRSHECMGQNVJJCINHIMQWSQWLSLQVJECCEPUMIHIHLRNQWNQVP  
VINLRJCYTBFSGFVEDQQXTLYTGXTGYTBXTAXBXJXOFWJKWSBPUEDNQXOKWJXCJLRHKWOKUJK  
UUEKVIQNECECFPUMWWWNLECMMLLKVRQWJLGISVJNGFMMHDLMHIRNQVNQWSQRJISLXTLXGOFJIB  
FQGXTCGWWQHKVHLRJIHKKVHCMMMQUVHKVHIIHKRNQRNQXSPVDLMLNMMMPVIHCTGRSGXTQH  
ICIQVMMLMQUVILRQIMLMHLMHIMNHEIKVQNPUSQEDIEKUJIPULMHIXEDUWPUQMMNEDSHINPUECRJI  
LBFPPUHIRHPVIMHSWJIHCFWJDHCFWQVRXJGQNIQVMRNISQVIISJCHIQCGLGCSISNQWLSLXCECHKU  
VDPVFWVJKUGXJKVRIRVCXJIWORIGHDPUROEDGMIMQMHCIIMLPUVHIMHILHKWOQVNMQRMMHCR  
QVRNMRPVILEDDQQRIMRNQHDLMQMMHMRSPUHIHQHISQVJLJCCCUSQWVRSQHIMEKUQRSXJL  
BCQHKVMQVQWNRSHIXSHKHICLLHKVQUVSVMIQXSRIMQVGFNQHIGXSQWJKVNCXOGXTLHIGXOG  
RJKWOKUJKWOCRSVLQNMXORHEIMPVEKUJKVIQWOCKVLPWOGROQHIMMLXOCPJDFJDCGGXSGRN  
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DQPHDSQHIIINQVMIHIXOCECWPUXOBXWOFJOFUWOCRLRQHEPUDOGQHKVLRJDQVMQHINQHINCKU  
HKJDPURIHIPVRNRNMSSHEDFWVXNRHINIHB AUWQQRNRNMHJPUIRJIECVBEKUJKUVNGQHDEKUEKU  
XOGMHINQVJKUGLREDGFJDPUPUIRJIXJBAYTAXTBYTAF



## DISCOVERING CHARACTERISTIC SUBSTRINGS

### Objective:

find subsequences  $\langle e_p, \dots, e_j \rangle$  in a set of sequences  $\{S_1, \dots, S_n\}$  of events that

- are frequent overall
- discriminate between different sequences/artists

### Method:

- level-wise search for frequent item sets (Agrawal & Srikant, 1995; Mannila et al., 1995)
- combined with an information-theoretic heuristic for discrimination:

$$E(X_i) = \sum_j -n_{ij}/N_i \times \log_2 n_{ij}/N_i$$

Widmer et al., *AI Magazine* 24(3), 2003



## DISCOVERING CHARACTERISTIC SUBSTRINGS

F. Chopin, Ballade no. 3 op.47, A<sup>b</sup> major – Artur Rubinstein (1957)

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WLBXTKVIIIEAFWQQMHRJIMHKVWVKVSGXJKUJDRNLQSBXTCQYDQWBFHCYTBFSBXOAFVXCOCKYQTQJ  
KAFWUGPVJEKJKVHLGRPVEDFRPUECWJKUEKWKVKCKVJKQHEKQULQMMWLSHLQHIHEECMMRILRP  
USMEDHCLRPWUJINCEDLGXSVSQVHEKWNREDPUQVEDPVLHCXOFWNBCLBCNGGRPUMRSNMMHIIR  
ILRPUMMMMMHIMMMLMNMHIWNMRNQYTVHLHCMQVNMIPUHECINQRNQYTMHECMQVRNIPVNMEDPV  
EDGRNQWMSRNLJKVIPWVGQQRSHCEMGMQVQJCNHIMQWSQWLSLQVJECCEPUMIHIHLRNQWNVQP  
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UUEKVIQNECECFPUMWWNLECMMLLKVRQWJLGISVJNGFMMHDLMHIRNQVNQWSQRJQSLXTLQXOFJIB  
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ICIQVMMLMQUVILRQIMLMHLMHIMNHEIKVQNPUSQEDIEKUJIPULMHIXEDUWPUQMMNEDSHINPUECRJI  
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VDPVFWJKUGXJKVRIRVCXJIWORIGHDPUROEDGMIMQMMHCIIIMLPUVHIMHILHKWOQVNMQRMMHCR  
QVRNMRPVILEDDQQRIMRNQHDLMQMMHMRSPUHXSQHCHISQVJLJCCCPUSQWVRSQHIMEKUQRSXJL  
BCQHVKVMQVQWNRSHIXSHKHICLLHKKVQVSVVMJIQXSRIMQVGFNQHIGXSQWJKVNCXOGXTLHIGXOG  
RJKWOKUJKWOCRSVLQNMXORHEIMPVEKUJKVIQWOCKVLPWOGROQHIMMLXOCPJDFJDCGGXSGRN  
HEIGHQVMQVHKVLDHDPURNMNRSHCMQVQVEIEKUQHIVMHEPUQVILQHIRILMWSNHEIPUVIIVISH  
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## DISCOVERING CHARACTERISTIC SUBSTRINGS

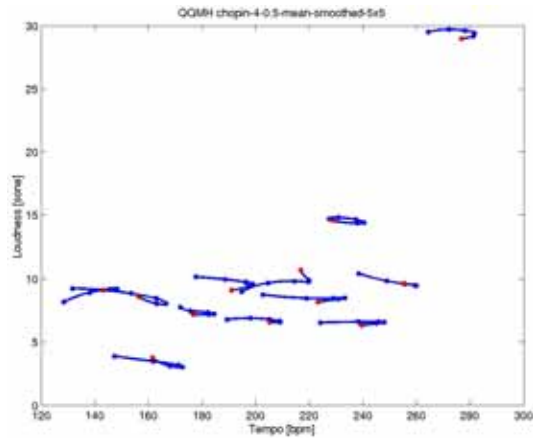
F. Chopin, Ballade no. 3 op.47, A<sup>b</sup> major – Artur Rubinstein (1957)

RPWWNEDHCGRPPVIQHIEDGGXPUSQHECCQVLXSWVMNILHLGYTMQMBYTLGGCQGFNIQVCKJIQYTP  
WLBXTKVIIIEAFWQQMHRJIMHKVWVKVSGXJKUJDRNLQSBXTCQYDQWBFHCYTBFSBXOAFVXCOCKYQTQJ  
KAFWUGPVJEKJKVHLGRPVEDFRPUECWJKUEKWKVKCKVJKQHEKQULQMMWLSHLQHIHEECMMRILRP  
USMEDHCLRPWUJINCEDLGXSVSQVHEKWNREDPUQVEDPVLHCXOFWNBCLBCNGGRPUMRSNMMHIIR  
ILRPUMMMMMHIMMMLMNMHIWNMRNQYTVHLHCMQVNMIPUHECINQRNQYTMHECMQVRNIPVNMEDPV  
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QVRNMRPVILEDDQQRIMRNQHDLMQMMHMRSPUHXSQHCHISQVJLJCCCPUSQWVRSQHIMEKUQRSXJL  
BCQHVKVMQVQWNRSHIXSHKHICLLHKKVQVSVVMJIQXSRIMQVGFNQHIGXSQWJKVNCXOGXTLHIGXOG  
RJKWOKUJKWOCRSVLQNMXORHEIMPVEKUJKVIQWOCKVLPWOGROQHIMMLXOCPJDFJDCGGXSGRN  
HEIGHQVMQVHKVLDHDPURNMNRSHCMQVQVEIEKUQHIVMHEPUQVILQHIRILMWSNHEIPUVIIVISH  
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HKJDPURIHIPVRNRNMSSHEDFVWXNRHINIHBAAUWQQRNRNMHJPUIRJIECVBEKUJKUVNGQHDEKUEKU  
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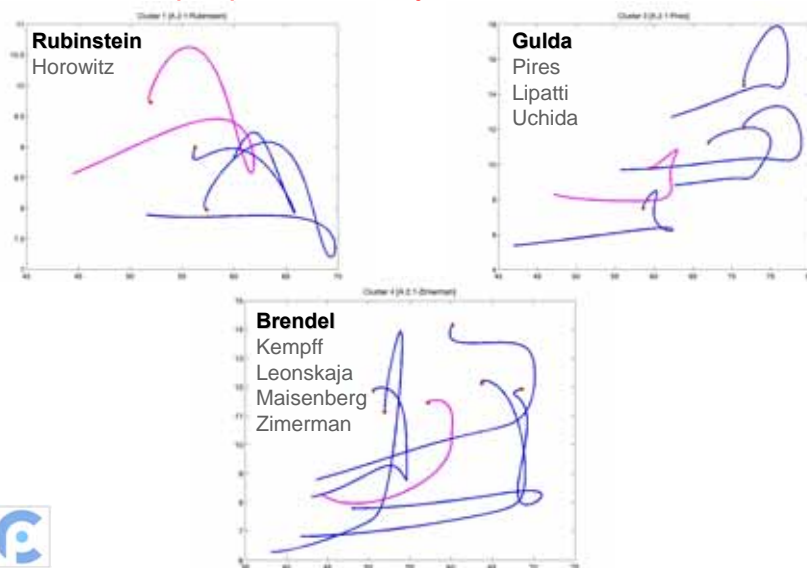
## DISCOVERING CHARACTERISTIC PATTERNS

Arthur Rubinstein plays Chopin ...



## CHARACTERISTIC MUSICAL BEHAVIOURS

Franz Schubert, Impromptu D.899/3, G<sup>b</sup> major





## QUANTIFYING STYLISTIC CONSISTENCY



Structural analysis of piece:

Position number	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	29	32	36	40	48	52	54	58	60	62	68	72	77	85	94	100	104		
Measure number	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	28	30	31	32	35	37	39	43	48	51	53	
Form section	A				B				B				C				D		E		D'					
Subsection	a	b	a	c	d	d	e	f	d	e	f	g	h	g	h	h	i	j	j	k	k	i	j	l		
Duration (positions)	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4	2	4	2	2	6	4	5	8	9	6	4	4	

Position number	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	137	140	145	146	150	152	154	158	160	162	164	166	168
Measure number	55	57	59	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	74	76	77	78	80	81	82	83	84	85
Form section	A				B				C											
Subsection	a	b	a	c	d	d	e	f	j	m	n	j	m	n	n	n	o			
Duration (positions)	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	1	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	4



## QUANTIFYING STYLISTIC CONSISTENCY

Ranking pianists according to how similarly they play similar passages  
(Material: F. Schubert, Impromptu D.899 no.3, G<sup>b</sup> major)

Rank	Recall	Precision	F-measure	St. dev F-m	Pianist
1	<b>0.613</b>	0.725	<b>0.336</b>	0.000	Barenboim
2	0.538	0.765	0.368	0.091	Horowitz
3	0.478	0.717	0.427	0.049	Lipatti
4	0.408	<b>0.803</b>	0.460	0.029	Maisenberg
5	0.440	0.666	0.472	0.023	<b>Leonskaja</b>
6	0.459	0.606	0.478	0.084	Kempff
7	0.361	0.636	0.540	0.042	Uchida
8	0.380	0.539	0.555	0.044	Brendel
9	0.366	0.535	0.567	0.044	Rubinstein
10	0.338	0.505	0.597	0.093	Pires
11	0.308	0.340	<b>0.678</b>	0.050	Zimmerman
12	0.172	0.390	<b>0.761</b>	0.075	Gulda

\* Madsen & Widmer, IJAIT 2006



## STUDY 2: AUTOMATIC PERFORMER IDENTIFICATION



Daniel Barenboim?



Glenn Gould?



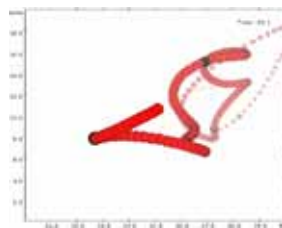
Maria João Pires?



András Schiff?



## STUDY 2: AUTOMATIC PERFORMER IDENTIFICATION



```
CDSRWHGSNMBDSOMEXOQVWOQ  
QHHSRQVPHJFATGFFUVPLDTPNME  
CDOVTOMECDSPFXPOFAVHDTPNF  
EVHHDXTPMARIFFUHHGIEEARWTL  
JEEEARQDNIBDSQIETPPMCDTOMA  
WOFVTNMHHDNRRVPHHQUQIFEUT  
PLXTORQIEBXTORQIECDHFVTOFAR  
BDXPKFURMHDTTPDTPJARRQWL  
FCTPNMEURQIBDJCGRQIEFFEDTT  
OMEIFFAVTTP.....
```



Daniel Barenboim?



Glenn Gould?



Maria João Pires?



András Schiff?



## STUDY 2: AUTOMATIC PERFORMER IDENTIFICATION

Classification of performance strings with string kernels and support vector machines

Pair	Classifier 2	[%]
Gould-Barenboim	21	87.5
Barenboim-Batik	22	91.7
Pires-Barenboim	18	75.0
Pires-Batik	22	91.7
Pires-Gould	23	95.8
Schiff-Barenboim	19	79.2
Schiff-Batik	23	95.8
Schiff-Gould	18	75.0
Schiff-Pires	23	95.8
Uchida-Barenboim	15	62.5
Uchida-Batik	17	70.8
Uchida-Gould	19	79.2
Uchida-Pires	19	79.2
Uchida-Schiff	18	75.0

\*Saunders, Hardoon,  
Shawe-Taylor & Widmer,  
*Proc. ECML'2004*

81.9



## STUDY 3: STYLE IMITATION

\* A. Tobudic & G. Widmer,  
"Learning to Play Like the Great Pianists", *Proc. IJCAI 2005*

		compared with					
learned from		DB	RB	GG	MP	AS	MU
Barenboim	DB	<b>.44</b>	.21	.26	.34	.38	.28
		<b>.44</b>	.27	.26	.32	.31	.31
Batik	RB	.21	<b>.32</b>	.09	.19	.19	.17
		.28	<b>.42</b>	.20	.22	.30	.27
Gould	GG	.25	.09	<b>.36</b>	.19	.21	.22
		.25	.18	<b>.32</b>	.23	.29	.28
Pires	MP	.33	.19	.19	<b>.39</b>	.33	.28
		.31	.23	.27	<b>.38</b>	.28	.34
Schiff	AS	.36	.17	.20	.31	<b>.40</b>	.26
		.32	.29	.28	.25	<b>.41</b>	.32
Uchida	MU	.27	.18	.21	.28	.26	<b>.38</b>
		.34	.30	.32	.36	.37	<b>.50</b>



## INSIGHTS (2)

- Visualisation helps to understand differences in performance
- There are systematic differences between great artists that machines can pick up
- Some characteristic patterns can be discovered, but their statistical (and *musical!*) significance is difficult to establish



## A NEW PROJECT

Computational Performance Style Analysis  
from Audio Recordings  
(2007 – 2010)

funded by the Austrian National Science Foundation

**FWF** Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



## STARTING POINT: A NEW SOURCE OF PERFORMANCE DATA

### Nikita Magaloff

\* 1912 (St. Petersburg)  
† 1992 (Vevey)



Recorded almost complete solo piano works  
by Frederic Chopin on a Bösendorfer  
computer-monitored piano (1989)

Bösendorfer SE 290



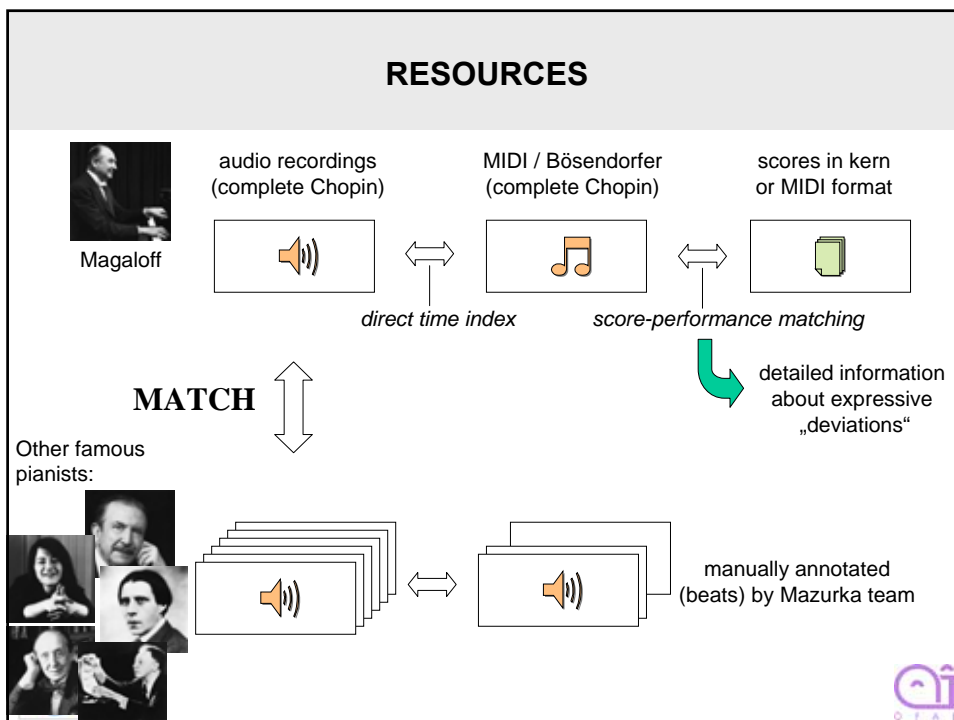
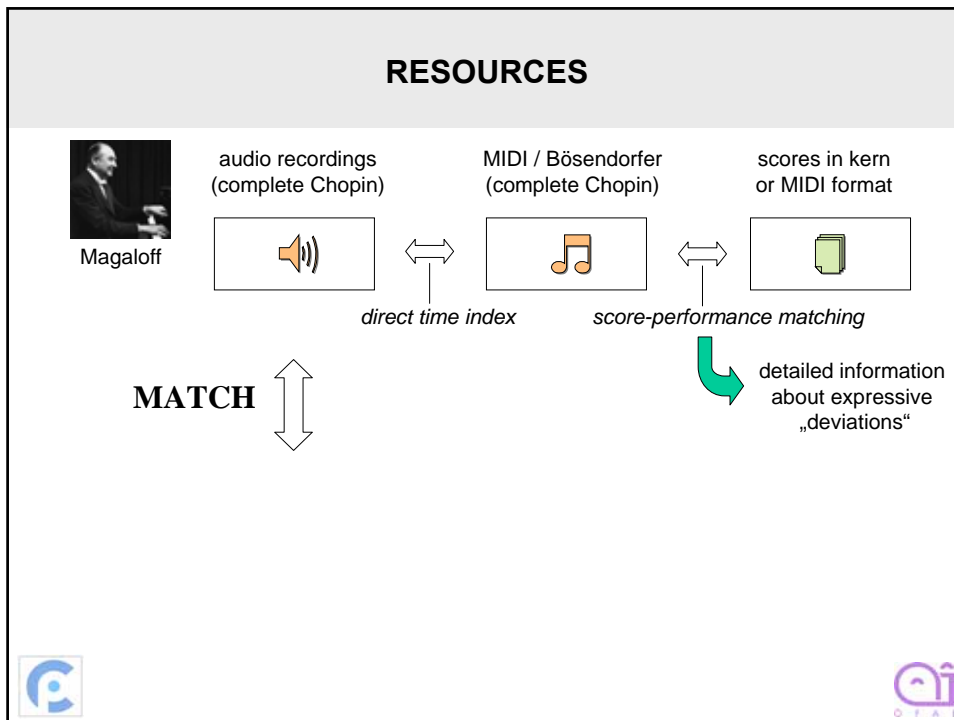
## THE DATA

Nocturnes op. 9, 15, 27, 32, 37, 48, 55, 62  
Mazurkas op. 6, 7, 17, 24, 30, 33, 41, 50, 56, 59, 63  
Polonaises op. 26, 40, 44, 53, 61  
Waltzes op. 34, 42, 64  
Etudes op. 10, 25  
Scherzi op. 31, 39, 54  
Impromptus op. 29, 36, 51  
Ballades op. 38, 47, 51  
Sonatas op. 4, 35, 58  
+ miscellaneous piano works (e.g., Fantaisie F minor, op.49)

---

*9:04:23 hours total playing time*  
*301.679 played notes*  
*1,5 million sustain pedal events*





## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### **Research on music (audio) analysis:**

- more precise extraction of performance details from audio recordings
- better matching and annotation
- quantification of achievable accuracy

### **Research in machine learning:**

- interpretable probabilistic models

### **Music-related research:**

- detailed studies on specific performance aspects (ritardando, pedalling, ornaments, ...)
- intra-performer stylistic consistency
- inter-performer differences



## CONCLUSIONS

**AI / Machine Learning can help in analysing large amounts of empirical data, but you still need to**

- pose the right questions
- provide appropriate data representations
- interpret the results in a musical context

=> need input and help from musicology

