

# *Evolutionary Music*

Al Biles  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
[www.it.rit.edu/~jab](http://www.it.rit.edu/~jab)

## *Overview*

- Define music and musical tasks
- Survey of EC musical systems
- In-depth example: GenJam
- Key issues for EC in musical domains

## *Music*

- What is music?
  - Lots of opinions, styles, genres, religions...
  - Music vs. noise
    - "I may not know music, but I know what I like"
    - Usually means, "I like what I know..."
- Two defining characteristics:
  - Music is aural (heard)
  - Music is temporal (happens in real time)
- Music is ***temporally organized sound***

## *Aspects of Music*

- Pitch (not necessarily tonality)
  - Melody: Horizontal (temporal) arrangements
  - Harmony: Vertical (simultaneous) arrangements
- Rhythm (timing, not necessarily a pulse)
  - Temporal sequences, relationships of events
  - Repetition, meter, tempo
- Timbre (any sounds are fair game)
  - Traditional instrument sounds, ambient sounds
  - Computer-generated sounds (anything possible)
- Form (maybe emergent, even random)
  - Structure, organization, conception
  - Hierarchy (multiple levels)

### ***Musical Tasks***

- Composition: Create score (abstraction)
- Performance: Realize score in sound
- Synthesis: Generate sounds electronically
- Listening: Derive abstraction from sounds
- Improvisation: Everything simultaneously

### ***EC in Music***

- Dates back to 1991
  - Horner and Goldberg: Thematic bridging
  - Gibson and Byrne: NEUROGEN
- Activity increasing rapidly
  - Reviewed over 120 articles for this tutorial
  - EC music class projects appearing on the www

### ***Generative Systems***

- Certainly evolutionary, certainly relevant
  - Cellular Automata (music apps since 1980's)
  - Swarms (emergent behavior, colonies)
  - Artificial Life
  - Sonification of data, DNA (Genetic music)
  - Fractals, chaotic systems (music since 1970's)
- Not my primary focus, due to time

### ***Survey of EC Applied to Music***

- Organized around musical tasks
  - Task analysis of the musical domain
  - Choose subtasks where EC used
- Some representative examples
  - See my Web site for references and links
  - [www.it.rit.edu/~jab](http://www.it.rit.edu/~jab)
- Goals
  - Recruit some new blood
  - Motivate discussion of fundamental EC issues

### ***EC in Composition***

- First application area (1991)
- Largest application area
- Agenda
  - Describe subtasks of composition
  - Cite some examples
  - Summarize themes and variations

### ***Composition Subtasks***

- Generate melodies (motives)
  - Generate melodic line (sequence of pitches)
  - Generate rhythm (sequence of durations)
- Develop (extend, enhance) melodies
  - Generate variations
  - Combine motives to create longer lines
  - Generate counter melodies


### ***Composition Subtasks***

- Harmonization
  - Generate harmony parts (hymns, chorales)
  - Generate harmonic foundation (chord changes)
- Arranging
  - Rhythm section accompaniment
  - Counterpoint
- Structure
  - Generate or adhere to form
  - Generate sections, higher level units

### ***A Few Examples***

- Horner and Goldberg (1991)
  - Thematic bridging (melody morphing)
  - Bred sequence of operations to transform one motive into another
  - Fitness - hit target, if so check bridge length
- NEUROGEN (Gibson and Byrne, 1991)
  - Rhythm - GA with NN fitness function
  - Add pitch - GA, 2 NN (interval, structure)
  - Harmony - Simple rule base

### ***variations (Bruce Jacob, 1995)***

- Three components, all GAs
  - Composer - builds phrases from user-supplied motives
  - Ear - Judges the composer's output (fitness)
  - Arranger - Orders phrases into composition, fitness by user
- Starts at motive level (above notes)
- Co-evolution of Composers and Ears
- Sample: Hegemon-Fibre, 1st movement 

### ***GP-Music (Johanson & Poli, 97)***

- GP melody generator (short, monophonic)
  - Terminals - pitches or rest
  - Functions - musical development
- No real rhythm (all notes same length)
- Fitness
  - Interactive (1-100 rating, pair-wise comparison)
  - Neural nets trained on ratings from interactive runs (1-100 version worked less badly)
- Even toy domains are tricky

### ***GenDash (Rodney Waschka II)***

- New music composer, not a techie
- GenDash - GA tool he tweaks for each piece (since mid-1990's)
- Sappho's Breath (2001): 1-act opera (arias)
  - Initial population: 26 measures of music
  - Random selection, crossover at note level
  - All children of each generation heard
  - Around five generations per aria
- Highly collaborative, artistic

### ***Harmonization - SATB***

- Soprano Alto Tenor Bass (classic four-part)
  - Voicing individual chords and voice leading
  - Standard rule sets exist => automatic fitness
- Basically a scheduling problem (optimize)
  - Represent chord sequence or voice sequences
  - Fitness usually number of constraints violated
- Mixed success
  - Easy if chords specified (more constrained)
  - Harder if chords evolved too (more creative)

### ***Harmonization Examples***

- Horner and Ayers (1995)
  - Melody and chord symbols -> 4-part harmony
  - Broke problem into 2 parts
    - Enumerate all possible voicings for each chord
    - GA to find best sequence of voicings (voice leading)
- Phon-Amnuaisuk, et al (1999)
  - Evolved chords themselves as well
  - More creative, less tractable
  - Rule-based system worked better
- EC probably not the best approach

### ***Rhythm - Drum Machine***

- Generate single-measure or longer patterns
- 2D grid (standard drum machine interface)
  - Time on X axis
  - Instrument on Y axis
  - MIDI velocity in the cells (0-127)
- Build textures
  - Loop one measure
  - Build longer phrases from multiple patterns

### ***Rhythm Examples***

- Horowitz (1994)
  - Representation - params to generating function
  - One-measure drum textures presented visually
  - Mentor listens, selects favorites to survive/breed
- CONGA (Tokui and Iba, 2000)
  - 4 to 16 measure patterns (user specifies)
  - GA evolves half or one-measure patterns (grid)
  - GP arranges patterns into phrases (hierarchy)
  - Levels evolved separately (mentor switches)
  - Neural net to thin the GA population

### ***SBEAT (Tatsuo Unemi, 2002)***

- Currently in third version
- Representation (individuals are measures)
  - 16 events (fixed time grid) X
  - 3 chromosomes (pitch, rhythm, velocity) X
  - Up to 23 parts (13 solo, 2 chord, 8 rhythm)
- Collaborative system - User can
  - Select individuals to breed
  - Manipulate underlying chord/scale
  - Enter and protect parts
  - Arrange measures into score (piece)



## ***Pitch/Duration Representations***

- Pitch
  - Absolute pitch (scale degree, MIDI note, Hz)
  - Relative interval
    - From previous pitch
    - From beginning of phrase or composition
    - From tonic of key or root of chord
- Durations
  - Beat-oriented (multiples/divisions of beat)
  - Absolute (milliseconds)

## ***Melody Chromosomes***

- Position-based
  - Time windows on fixed temporal grid (beats/fractions)
  - Enforces beat/measure/phrase structure
  - Tilts toward beat-oriented music
- Order-based
  - Pitch/duration pairs (durations can be arbitrary)
  - Measure lines ignored, superimposed, or irrelevant
  - Facilitates non-pulse music
- Tree-based (GP)
  - Terminals usually notes (pitch, maybe duration)
  - Functions usually musical operators
  - Facilitates more complex forms (extend hierarchy)

## ***Melody Fitness***

- Explicit rules and heuristics
  - From music theory or hip pocket
  - Usually combined via weighted average
- Interactive (human mentor, critic, rater)
  - Display individuals; rater selects and rates
  - Perform in musical context (real-time)
- Learn from examples (neural networks)
  - Input either features or melodic fragments
  - Examples come from desired style

## ***Operators - Initialization***

- Random - Start from scratch
  - White noise generator
  - Fractals
  - Markov chains
- Sampled
  - User supplied motive(s) to develop
  - Licks from analyzed corpus

### ***Operators - Selection***

- Traditional fitness-based
  - Encourages convergence
  - Can be problem if diversity critical
- Musically aware
  - Look for individuals to fill a role
- Random - no fitness
  - Works if individuals all musically meritorious
  - Maximum diversity

### ***Crossover and Mutation***

- Is purpose to alter or develop?
  - Alter - more random, less guided
  - Develop - more musically aware
- Crossover point(s)
  - At bit vs. musical boundaries (note, measure)
  - Random vs. musically meaningful
- Mutations
  - Flip bits - likely to be unmusical
  - Musically meaningful - may be too "safe"

### ***EC in Performance***

- Expressive performance of score not trivial
  - Classical: alter note onsets, length, envelopes
  - Jazz: also alter notes (add, delete, change)
- Annotate jazz performance (Grachten)
  - GA to minimize cost of edit-distance operations to transform score to performance
  - Use training sets of "correct" performances

### ***Audience Mediated Performance***

- GenJam Populi (more later)
- Sound Gallery (Woolf and Thompson)
  - Artistic installation piece
  - Speakers in corners of room (four islands)
  - Each driven by evolving hardware distorting a source sound
  - Fitness: location of patrons (closer is better)
  - Migration to keep people moving

### ***Performance (kind of)***

- GA to enhance public speaking voice (Sato)
  - Three “genes” - pitch, volume, speed
  - Fitness - from mentors
  - Not real-time yet...
- HPDJ (Hewlett Packard Disc Jockey)
  - Select tunes, sequence them, do crossfades
  - Fitness: crowd animation level

### ***EC in Synthesis***

- Control synthesis algorithms/techniques
- Goal: Higher level (more musical) interface
  - Huge, chaotic parameter spaces
  - Provide guided search through synthesis space
- Two different subtasks
  - Match a target sound
  - Generate new (hopefully interesting) sounds

### ***Matching a Target Sound***

- Basically an optimization problem
- Fitness - [perceptual] spectral matching
- GA to evolve parameter settings (Horner)
  - Unit generator (UG) parameters (FM, modular)
  - Additive synthesis envelope breakpoints
  - Wavetable, physical modeling parameters
  - *CSound Recipes* (Horner and Ayres, 2002)
- GP to evolve UG topologies (Garcia, 2001)
- Reverb params - match room (Mrozek, 96)

### ***Search for New Sounds***


- Explore a synthesis technique’s sound space
- Fitness - mentor preference
- Goal often collaborative tool for sound designers and composers
- Example - Timbre trees (Takala, 1993)
  - Evolve topology of unit generator patches (GP)
  - Sounds synchronized to animated motion




## ***Granular Synthesis***

- Sound objects made up of 1-100 ms grains
  - Each grain has waveform, pitch, envelope, ...
  - Sound object (cloud) has density, shape, ...
  - *Microsound* (Roads, 2001, MIT Press)
- GA to evolve parameters (Johnson, 99)
  - FOF (formant wave-function) synthesis
  - Evolves parameters for CSound function call


## ***Emergent Granular Synthesis***

- Chaosynth (Miranda, 1995-)
  - CA to control grain parameters
  - As CA self-organizes, sound emerges
- Swarm Granulator (Blackwell, 2003)
  - Swarmer - Swarm is the granular cloud
  - Interpreter - Interprets swarm for granulator
  - Granulator - Sound engine (Max/MSP)
  - Real-time interactive performance 

## ***Synthesizer Control***

- Commercial Synthesizers hard to control
- Muta-Synth (Palle Dahlstedt, 2001) 
  - Customizable S/W controller for Nord synth
  - Extended to real-time interactive performance
- Genophone (Mandelis, 2002)
  - Evolves sounds and gesture mappings
  - Data glove interface
  - Sends SysEx messages to Korg Prophecy

## ***Breed Actual Waveforms***

- Thesis (Cristyn Magnus , SDSU, 2003)
- Representation
  - Waveform (sample array)
  - Genes: segments bounded by zero crossings
- Operators
  - Crossover and mutations at gene level only 
  - Eliminates clicks and pops
- Fitness: Match waveform or amp. envelope
- Piece *is* evolution of initial to target sounds

### ***EC in Listening***

- NEXTPITCH (Francine Federman, 2000)
  - LCS to predict next pitch in melody
  - Nursery tunes and chorales (simple melodies)
- Accidental evolution of a radio (Layzell, 02)
  - Trying to evolve a hardware oscillator
  - Got a radio that received oscillations from a nearby computer

### ***EC Listeners in Composers***

- The EAR in Bruce Jacob's *variations* system
  - IGA to breed set of "data filters" for harmonies
  - Each filter passes an acceptable chord
- Co-evolved critics (Todd and Werner, 99)
  - "Male singers" (32-note song)
  - "Female critics" prefer certain intervals
  - Female selects male with best intervals
  - Best means most surprising

### ***EC in Improvisation***

- Compose and perform concurrently (Jazz)
- Spontaneous, real-time, interactive
- Has to be "right" the first time
- Jazz is an inherently evolutionary domain
  - Jam session environment highly competitive
  - Survival of fittest (cutting sessions)
  - Players "borrow" others' ideas (licks)
  - Can even trace lineage of licks and soloists

### ***Spector and Alpern (1994-5)***

- Toward general case-based artist generator
- Traded bebop fours using GP (not real-time)
  - Terminal set: four-bar phrase from human
  - Function set: 13 melody transforms
  - Evolved programs to transform human four
- Fitness
  - Five features from jazz theory literature
  - Neural net trained on Bird licks
  - Hybrid combination worked best

### ***Papadopoulos and Wiggins (98)***

- Generate blues chorus, not real-time
- Chromosome - 12-bar blues of 1/16th notes
- Initialization - Random
- Crossover - single and two-point, note level
- Mutation - musically meaningful
- Fitness - 8 features in fixed weighted sum
- Goal: Eliminate subjectivity (EC-neat)
- Best sounding result was human-edited

### ***Swarm Music***

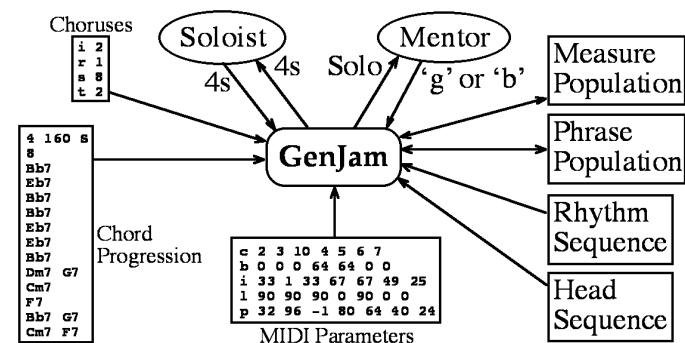
- Tim Blackwell, 2003
- Swarm-based collective improvisation
- Basically Swarm Granulator operating at note level instead of grain level
- Self-organization
- Stigmergy - interact by modifying environs
- "Follow me" from CD *Swarm Music*



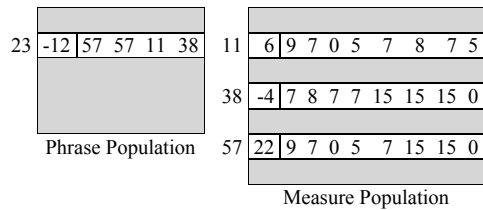
### ***GenJam: An In-Depth Example***

- *GenJam* = **Genetic Jammer** (1994 - present)
- Models a jazz improviser (agent of sorts)
- Real-time interactive performance (MIDI)
- Lets a trumpet player work as a single
- Versions for 4/4, 3/4, 5/4, 7/4, 12/8, 16/8
- About 250 tunes in repertoire
- Swing, bebop, cool, Latin, funk, new age
- Performed for last night's Reception

### ***Interactive GenJam Architecture***



## Representation of a Phrase (GenJam Normal Form)



## Chord Scale Mappings

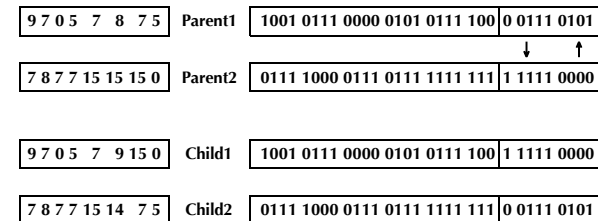
Chord	Scale	Notes
Cmaj7	Major (avoid 4th)	C D E G A B
C7	Mixolydian (avoid 4th)	C D E G A Bb
Cm7	Minor (avoid 6th)	C D Eb F G Bb
Cm7b5	Locrian (avoid 2nd)	C Eb F Gb Ab Bb
Cdim	W/H Diminished	C D Eb F Gb G# A B
C+	Lydian Augmented	C D E F# G# A B
C7+	Whole Tone	C D E F# G# Bb
C7#11	Lydian Dominant	C D E F# G A Bb
C7alt	Altered Scale	C Db D# E Gb G# Bb
C7#9	Mix. #2 (avoid 4th)	C D# E G A Bb
C7b9	Harm Minor V (no 6th)	C Db E F G Bb
CmMaj7	Melodic Minor	C D Eb F G A B
Cm6	Dorian (avoid 7th)	C D Eb F G A
Cm7b9	Melodic Minor II	C Db Eb F G A Bb
Cmaj7#11	Lydian	C D E F# G A B
C7sus	Mixolydian	C D E F G A Bb
Cmaj7sus	Major	C D E F G A B
C7Bl	Blues	C Eb F Gb G Bb

## GenJam's Genetic Algorithm

- Fairly standard GA process for both populations
  - Random *initialization*
  - Tournament *selection* - 4 individuals in a family
  - 2 fittest family members become parents
  - Single-point *crossover* creates 2 kids
  - Musically meaningful *mutation* until kids are unique
  - 2 kids *replace* 2 least fit family members
- Replace 50% of each population in breed mode
- Replace worst 4 measures, 3 phrases in tweak

## Example Measure Crossover

Random, bit-level crossover point



## Musically Meaningful Mutations on Measures

Standard melodic development techniques

C7

9 7 0 5 7 FF0 0 FF7 5 0 7 9 F F 0 9 7 0 5 7

Original Measure      Reverse      Rotate Right (3)

6 8FA 8 0 0F 5 7 07 9FF 0 9 7 07 5FF 0 CA 0 8AFF 0

Invert (15 - value)    Sort Up      Sort Down    Transpose (up 3)

## Musically Meaningful Mutations on Phrases

Operate at measure-pointer level, not bit level

Mutation Operator	Mutated Phrase	Explanation
None	57 57 11 38	Original Phrase
Rotate Right Random	57 11 38 57	3 positions in this case
Reverse	38 11 57 57	Play measures in reverse order
True Retrograde	38 11 57 57	Play measures backward too
Sequence Phrase	57 57 <u>38</u> 38	Repeat a measure
Genetic Repair	57 57 11 <u>23</u>	Replace worst measure
Super Phrase	55 13 21 34	Winners of fitness tournaments
Lick Thinner	<u>31</u> 57 11 38	Replace most common measure
Orphan Phrase	43 37 53 19	Losers of frequency tournaments

## Intelligent Genetic Operators

- GA's usually have dumb operators, smart fitness
  - Rely on fitness to guide search
  - Leads to fitness bottleneck in IGAs, especially temporal
- GenJam currently uses smart operators
  - Intelligent mutation - Already seen
  - Intelligent initialization - Fractals & Markov chains
  - Intelligent crossover - Preserve horizontal intervals
- Good parents tend to have good children
- Reduces volume through the fitness bottleneck

## GenJam Generations Demo

- Old GenJam version - improvise 4 choruses
- Tune is Tadd Dameron's *Lady Bird*
- 16-bar form, straight up rhythm
- Each chorus uses a more mature generation
  - 1st - Generation 0, white noise generator
  - 2nd - Gen 1
  - 3rd - Gen 2
  - 4th - Gen 3

## ***Real-Time Interaction***

- When GenJam trades fours with human
  - Listen to human's four (Roland GI-10)
  - Map human phrase to GJNF chromosomes
  - Mutate the phrase and 4 measures
  - Play mutated result as its response
- Use mutation as melodic development
- Results in true conversation
- Highly robust and formidable opponent

## ***Fault Tolerant Pitch Tracking***

- Pitch tracker makes lots of mistakes
  - Wrong pitch
  - Extra note-on events
  - Extra note-off events
- Not a problem
  - Map to GJNF, which is highly robust
  - Errors not mistakes, they're "development"
  - Will mutate anyway before playing

## ***Anatomy of a Four***

I played quote from Prince Albert



GenJam "heard" this from pitch tracker



GenJam mutated and played this back



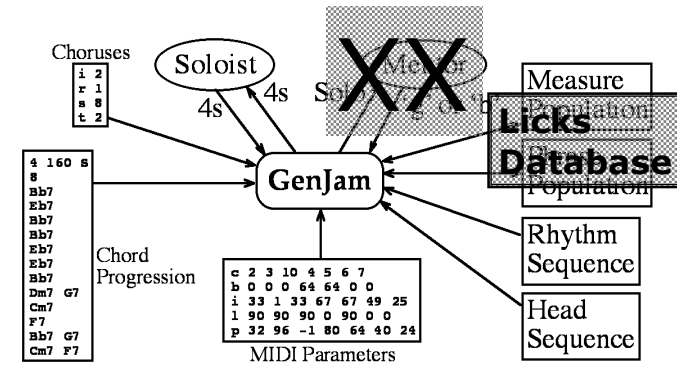
## ***Collective Improvisation***

- GenJam and human solo simultaneously
- GenJam listens to human while it's soloing
- Maps to GJNF
- Plays what human did earlier (delay line)
  - Delay of 1 bar, or n events, 4 bars (smart echo)
  - No mutation - Replay as close as possible
- Human can trade 1's, play harmony, counterpoint
- Challenge for the human!

## Making GenJam Autonomous

- GenJam more fun when interactive
  - Fitness not necessary or even possible
  - Good human four -> good GenJam four
  - Initialization is very smart
- GenJam's full-chorus solos not as good
  - Ideas competent but seldom compelling
  - Initialization not smart enough
  - Move to an autonomous GenJam

## Autonomous GJ Architecture



## Initialize from Stored Licks

- Licks Databases (several styles)
  - 4-bar licks come from *1001 Jazz Licks*
  - Map to GJNF by hand
- Initialization algorithm
  - Select 16 4-bar licks from database
  - Seed measure pop with those 64 measures
  - First 16 phrases are the 16 original licks
  - Remaining 32 phrases are smart crossovers

## Evolve Soloist Interactively

- As human solos, map measures to GJNF
- If a human measure is "good enough"
  - Select measure that best matches end points
  - Do intelligent crossover with new measure
  - Pick child that best matches endpoints
  - Replace the parent measure with that child
- Evolves soloist toward human's solo

### ***What happened to Fitness?***

- Fitness considered necessary for a GA
- View EC as generate-and-test strategy
  - Generate: Initialize, recombine, mutate
  - Test: Fitness
- Usually generators dumb, fitness smart
- GenJam's generators are smart
  - Intelligence distributed over generators
  - Nothing left for fitness to do, so eliminate it!
- If generators are good, no need to test

### ***GenJam in Lake Wobegon***

Where the old licks are strong,  
the new licks sound good,  
and all the children are above average!

### ***Is GenJam Still an [I]GA?***

- If a GA falls in the forest, and there's nobody there to provide fitness, is it still Evolutionary Computation?

### ***No, it's not!***

- No more Mentor (there goes the "I" part)
- No longer any explicit fitness at all
- No generational search
- No real search at all
- It's just a fancy melodic transducer!



### ***Yes, it is!***

- Employs the evolutionary paradigm
- Uses chromosome (string) representations
- Does genotype -> phenotype mapping
- Uses selection, recombination, mutation
- Generates offspring
- Fitness in deciding whether to breed human and soloist measures, which measures
- I got invited to GECCO...

### ***Big Picture Issues***

- What to consider in applying EC to music
- How does music domain bend EC
- Advice to those making music with EC
- Summarize with sweeping generalities

### ***Traditional vs. Musical Domains***

- Solve a problem vs. Generate content
- Best vs. Better (maybe just different)
- No such thing as “the best” piece
- Fitness absolute vs. relative
- Fitness objective vs. subjective
- Individuals compete vs. Connect
- Convergence vs. Diversity

### ***Optimization vs. Exploration***

- Noticed by many (Todd and Werner, 1999)
- Lewis and Clark analogy
  - Searched for (non-existent) northwest passage
  - Ended up exploring the west (more valuable)
- Usually want to explore a musical space, not optimize it

### ***What are you trying to do?***

- Study EC vs. make good music
- Scientist/engineer vs. Artist
- Neat vs. Scruffy dimension from AI in 80's
  - Neats - Model human intelligence
    - Focus on EC purity (don't cheat)
    - Goal: Show EC can do what people do (be creative)
  - Scruffies - Solve real problems
    - Use EC as one of many tools (hybrid systems)
    - Goal: Make good music

### ***Fitness Issues***

- Easy in a few (optimization) domains
- Harder in creative domains
- Hard to code "that sounds good"
- Just because you can compute it doesn't mean it's useful as fitness
- Subjective isn't bad
- If can't code it, use human fitness function

### ***Revisit Fitness Approaches***

- Automatic
  - Rule-based (heuristics)
  - Learned
    - Neural Networks
    - Statistical
- Interactive
  - Explicit feedback from one or more mentors
  - Indirect feedback from an audience
- None

### ***Fitness: Heuristic Features***

- Dozens of features proposed/used (Towsey 01)
  - Pitch - variety, range
  - Tonality - in key, non-scale, dissonant intervals
  - Melodic contour - direction, stability, interval size
  - Rhythmic - note/rest density, variety, syncopation
  - Patterns - repeated pitch, rhythm patterns
  - Statistical adherence to Zipf's law
  - Etc.
- Difference polynomials (often brittle)

### ***Fitness: Rule-Based***

- Knowledge-based (music theory)
- “Theoretically correct” may sound lousy
  - Theory **should** explain **why** something sounds good
  - Theory should **not** decide **whether** something sounds good
- Limit creative options (style enforcement)

### ***Fitness: Neural Nets***

- Example-based (training set important)
- Input layer
  - Musical objects themselves
  - Feature vectors derived from objects
- Seldom seems to work
  - Seldom generalizes
  - Features don't capture the essence
  - Context of objects ignored

### ***Fitness: Interactive***

- Most common method in creative domains
- If it's a judgment, let the human judge
- Central problem: ***Fitness Bottleneck***
  - Mentor must experience all individuals
  - Temporal => can't experience in parallel
  - Must experience in real time
  - Hard to listen that closely, critically
  - Fatigue a big issue
- However, EC can absorb noisy fitness

### ***Mentor's Interface***

- Facilitate mentor's task
- Usability is primary issue (Takaga, this AM)
- Presentation of individuals must be musically valid (in musical context)
- Mentor should be focusing on the music, not the interface

### ***Representation***

- Only represent what you want to hear
- Don't represent music you don't want to hear
- Don't represent all possible sounds unless you want to hear all possible sounds
- Decide on genre and tailor representation to that genre

### ***Initialization***

- White noise generators - often too random
- Pink noise
- Fractal/chaos generators
- Markov process
- User-generated objects
- "Greatest hits" from a corpus
- Random  $\neq$  Creative (most of the time)

### ***Diversity is Essential***

- Convergence can be disastrous
  - "The lick that ate my solo"
  - Can make a good individual sound bad
- Encourage diversity with
  - Operators
  - Co-evolution
  - Speciation, islands
  - No fitness

### ***Don't use EC for everything***

- EC as a solution in search of a problem
- Hybrid systems usually better
- Rules, neural nets, heuristics, procedures, user collaboration are all okay
- Only evolve what you have to

## ***KISS***

- Simple & robust trumps complex & brittle
- Always competent trumps occasionally brilliant
- Start with simple
- Only get complex if you're out of simple

## ***Constraints are good!***

- Stylistic constraints can be positive
- Sticking to a genre isn't an artistic cop-out if you like the genre
- "Freedom" means a bigger search space
- Meeting an audience's expectations isn't bad, especially if you want to get gigs...

## ***Set the bar at the right level***

- Don't set the bar too low
  - I think we've nailed nursery tunes
  - Toy domains are great for class projects, but solutions seldom scale up
- Don't set the bar too high
  - Don't try to solve the "western tonal music" problem
  - Pick a doable task to focus on

## ***Who's your audience?***

- Audience as users
  - Listeners build mental model of performance
  - Model enables expectations in performance
- Adhering to rules meets expectations
- Breaking rules is a surprise
- Must balance to engage listener
- Can engage listener with audience-mediated performance

### ***Listen to the music!***

- Just because it generated notes doesn't mean it was successful
- Listen to it with fresh ears (or have fresh ears listen to it)
- If you heard it on the radio, would you change the channel?

### ***Greatest Hits***

- *Contemporary Music Review*, 22(3), September, 2003
- Bentley and Corne, *Creative Evolutionary Systems*, Morgan Kaufmann, 2001
- Todd and Werner in *Musical Networks*, MIT Press, 1999
- Burton and Vladimirova, *CMJ*, 23(2), Summer, 1999
- Lots of links: [www.it.rit.edu/~jab](http://www.it.rit.edu/~jab)