

MASTER THESIS

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# Similarity Analysis of Jazz Tunes with Vector Space Models

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*“Life is a lot like jazz. It’s best when you improvise.”*

George Gershwin

# *Abstract*

Master of Advanced Studies in Data Science

## **Similarity Analysis of Jazz Tunes with Vector Space Models**

by Doris Zahnd

Learning to play jazz can be overwhelming for a beginner and a frequent question of jazz students is how to learn to improvise, or how to extend the repertoire. For this purpose, this project aims to recommend jazz tunes which are similar in harmonic structure.

The similarity of jazz tunes is evaluated with natural language processing (NLP) methods. Concretely, a chord symbol in the musical context is considered like a word in the text context. The vector space models Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF), Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) and the neural-network-based Doc2Vec are used to train high-dimensional vectors for the tunes in an unsupervised fashion. The chord data are tokenized, normalized, cleaned and simplified ("stemming") in the same way as natural language. The performance is evaluated using a manually labeled reference list. It is shown that augmenting the data by concatenating multiple chord n-grams improves the accuracy for all models.

For many tune sections, all models find appropriate similar tunes, therefore it is valid to transfer the document similarity methods from the natural language context to the musical context. Explorative analysis based on the Doc2Vec DBOW model shows that the model can catch sections that share the same harmonic structure, or shift temporarily to a different tonal center. One major challenge is that the models rather recommend tunes based on similar microstructures than on more global harmonic movements.



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## Chapter 1

# Introduction

### Motivation

Jazz musicians rely on leadsheets, an abbreviated notation to describe the basic melody and the chord structure of a tune. It is then up to the skills of the musicians to create the appropriate accompaniment, bassline and melody improvisation.

The chords are the building blocks for playing a jazz tune, and every jazz musician needs to know them inside out. In jazz, a chord typically consists of four or more notes, resulting in many different chord variations. However, many chord patterns are very common in jazz, or some tunes use an identical chord structure for a part of the tune with a different melody. When a student has mastered a tune, it can be helpful to find a tune with a similar chord structure to improve the learning experience.

### Objectives

The aim of this thesis is to use the chords data of jazz tunes as textual input for vector space models that are commonly used in natural language processing (NLP). The chords data are retrieved from the iRealPro app in musicXML format, and are transformed and pre-processed using different strategies. Three models are evaluated: Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF), Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) and the neural-network-based Doc2Vec.

A web application is created for exploring the tune recommendations. For easy comparison, the tool displays the leadsheet for both the reference tune and the recommended similar tune. It also displays additional information for both tunes such as composers, lyricists, publication year, and links to other databases. The user can provide optional feedback whether the proposed recommendation is helpful or not. This information can either be used to extend the test data or to directly influence the vectors of the model.

### Relating Human and Musical Language

Previous work has shown that the techniques of human language processing can be applied to musical language. Table 1.1 lists the basic connections between the human and musical language contexts that form the assumption for this work.

Table 1.1: Relationship of terms in the textual and the musical context.

Human Language	Musical Context
Word	Chord
Sentence	Chord Progression
Paragraph	Section (e.g. A, B)
Document	Tune



## Chapter 2

# Background

This chapter briefly presents background information about jazz tunes that is considered helpful in understanding the scope of this project. It also introduces vector space models.

### 2.1 Jazz Vocabulary

The repertory of jazz consists of many thousand tunes, and any respected jazz musician is expected to be able to deal with hundreds of these at a moment's notice. This section describes common terms that are frequently used in jazz. ([1], [2]).

#### 2.1.1 The Form

In jazz, the vast majority of tunes in the standard repertory have a simple form, consisting often of 12, 16 or 32 measures, with melodies typically written in 4-bar phrases. This basic form is called a *Chorus* and is repeated multiple times when performing a jazz piece. The simplicity of the form gives the jazz musician the freedom to create variations to the accompaniment or invent a melody on the spot, which is called improvisation.

**Blues** The blues has always had a strong influence on jazz, and a 12-bar chord pattern built from three 4-bar phrases has become standard; however, there is considerable variety in the chord progressions used.

**AABA** The classic form of the American popular songs from the 1920s to 1940s is the AABA form. There are two different eight-bar sections in this form, called *A* and *B*. The *A* section is played twice and typically has first and second endings. The first ending often contains a turnaround, a passage designed to lead back to the beginning. Then the 8 bars of the bridge (*B* section) follow, often providing tonal contrast to the *A* section. Finally, the *A* section is played again to end the chorus. The vast majority of jazz tunes are composed in AABA structure (compare to Figure 4.5).

Popular tunes with AABA structure: *Body and Soul*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Misty*, *Oh, Lady Be Good*, *Perdido*, *'Round Midnight*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*.

**ABAC, AABC, ABCD** Another song form consists of 3 different 8-bar sections *A*, *B*, *C*, and the *A* part is repeated after the *B* part. Often this structure is also described as two 16 bar units, the first unit containing the *A* and *B* section and the second unit the *A* and *C* section. The structure is then often called *AB*. Other common forms include *ABAC* and the 4-part form *ABCD*.

Tunes with these forms: *ABAC*: *All Of Me*, *But Beautiful*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *Tea for Two*. *AABC*: *Again*, *Autumn Leaves*, *My Funny Valentine*, *'S Wonderful*. *ABCD*: *All the Things You Are*, *I've Got You Under my Skin*, *My Gal Sal*.

**Verse** Often, the American popular song chorus is introduced with a lead-in section, the *verse*. Jazz musicians often omit the verse.

**Through-Composed** These songs consist of one big section that runs from beginning to end, although the melody may still be organized as four 8-bar units (yielding an *ABCD* form). This form does not include thematic repetition. Three well-known through-composed songs are *Avalon*, *Stella by Starlight*, and *You Do Something to Me*.

**Ad-hoc** A major proportion of jazz tunes composed later than 1940 does not follow these traditional forms, but instead exhibits an ad hoc approach to form, sometimes consisting of a simple pattern that is repeated over and over.

### 2.1.2 The Harmony

While the form of most jazz tunes is simple, the harmonies can get much involved, and harmonic changes tend to happen in a short space of time.

Beginning in 1910, we can observe that the harmonic structure of the popular songs became more and more sophisticated. By the late 1920s, we find more frequent brief modulations to secondary tonal centers. From the early 1930s on, there is an increasingly creative use of harmony, applied by composers like George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and Richard Rodgers. From the mid-1940s onward, new harmonic approaches were explored and became known as Bebop, Cool Jazz, Modal Jazz or Latin Jazz <sup>1</sup>.

Many jazz tunes borrow the harmonic structure from a popular tune published earlier on. Some tunes are almost identical regarding the harmonic structure over the whole form, while others share only a part. A new tune is created by applying a different melody to the chord changes (see *Contrafacts*, defined in Section 2.1.6 .)

### 2.1.3 Intervals, Chords and Chord Progressions

An *Interval* is the distance between two tones, characterized by the number of semi-tones. Table 2.1 lists the intervals with the shorthand name as used in this document.

Table 2.1: Definition of intervals.

Main Intervals			Intervals higher by one Octave		
Interval Name	Short	Semitones	Interval Name	Short	Semitones
Perfect unison	1	0	Perfect octave	8	12
Minor second	b2	1	Minor ninth	b9	13
Major second	2	2	Major ninth	9	14
Minor third	b3	3	Augmented ninth	#9	15
Major third	3	4	Major tenth	10	16
Perfect fourth	4	5	Perfect eleventh	11	17
Diminished fifth	b5	6	Augmented eleventh	#11	18
Perfect fifth	5	7	Perfect twelfth	12	19
Minor sixth	b6	8	Minor thirteenth	b13	20
Major sixth	6	9	Major thirteenth	13	21
Minor seventh	b7	10			
Major seventh	7	11			

<sup>1</sup>Source: <https://jazzstandards.com/theory/harmony-and-form.htm>

Figure 2.1: Excerpt of a typical leadsheet.

A *Chord* is a set of notes, usually three or more, that are played simultaneously or close to each other. A series of chords is called a *Chord Progression*.

The majority of jazz chords can be grouped into three main categories: major, minor and dominant-7 chords. These chord types can then be combined to build more complex extended chords (see Table 2.2).

#### 2.1.4 The Leadsheets

A leadsheet is the notation of a jazz tune, consisting of the melodic line and the chord symbols of one chorus. Figure 2.1 shows an example. The notation is abbreviated in the following sense:

- A chord is usually not played in strict form from root to top, as the notation suggests. Instead, the root might be somewhere other than the bottom (inversion). The tones of the chord might be spread out or clumped together. It is the accompaniment's job to create a chord movement that is functional, pleasant, and swinging.
- The musician may not play every chord or all tones of a chord. On the other hand, the musician will certainly add more chords, and alter or substitute the chords written on the leadsheet.
- There is no indication on the leadsheet where a chord should fall within the range of an instrument.

#### 2.1.5 Representation of Chords

Chords are described in symbolic notation, which evolved into many different styles. [3] made an attempt to standardize the notation in 1976, but the jazz musician today still has to get used to different notations of the same chord.

In this document, we distinguish between the notation of chords in plain text, and the styled chord representation.

**Chords in Plain Text** For writing chords in plain text, [4] proposes a shorthand definition. Table 2.2 lists a variation based on this proposal, that is more compact and is used in this document and in the source code.

**Styled Chords for Leadsheets** The textual notation for chords symbols is convenient for text but is confusing in a leadsheet because the notation is too cluttered, mainly if

Table 2.2: Shorthand definitions to write common chords using plain text.

Chord Type		Short Notation	Intervals
Triad Chords	Major	M	(3, 5)
	Minor	m	(b3, 5)
	Diminished	dim	(b3, b5)
	Augmented	aug	(3, #5)
Seventh Chords	Major Seventh	M7	(3, 5, 7)
	Minor Seventh	m7	(b3, 5, b7)
	Dominant Seventh	7	(3, 5, b7)
	Diminished Seventh	dim7	(b3, b5, bb7)
	Half Diminished Seventh	m7b5	(b3, b5, b7)
	Minor (Major Seventh)	mM7	(b3, 5, 7)
Sixth Chords	Major Sixth	M6	(3, 5, 6)
	Minor Sixth	m6	(b3, 5, 6)
Extended Chords	Dominant Ninth	9	(3, 5, b7, 9)
	Major Ninth	M9	(3, 5, b7, 9)
	Minor Ninth	m9	(b3, 5, b7, 9)
	Dominant Eleventh	11	(3, 5, b7, 9, 11)
	Major Eleventh	M11	(3, 5, 7, 9, 11)
	Dominant Thirteenth	13	(3, 5, b7, 9, 11, 13)
	Major Thirteenth	M13	(3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13)
Suspended Chords	Suspended 4th	sus4	(4, 5)
Additions	Minor Ninth	(+b9)	Additions can be added to any of the above chords
	Augmented Ninth	(+#9)	
	Augmented Ninth	(+#11)	
	Minor Ninth	(+b13)	
	Augmented Ninth	(+#13)	

there is a chord on every beat in a measure. Therefore, a more compact styling is applied to display chords in a leadsheet. Figure 2.2 shows the chord styles used by the iRealPro app, for the variety of chords based on a C root note.

### 2.1.6 Further Definitions

**Cycle of Fifths** All 12 chromatic scale notes are arranged in a circle, each note a fifth lower than the preceding one. The Cycle of Fifths also represents the harmonic distance between chords: two chords derived from the same key and a fifth apart are closely related. Most chord movement within tunes follows portions of the cycle [2].

**Contrafacts** While the melody and the lyrics are copyright protected, the harmonic structure of a tune is not. This allows composing a tune by creating a new melody over an already existing chord progression and is called a Contrafact [5].

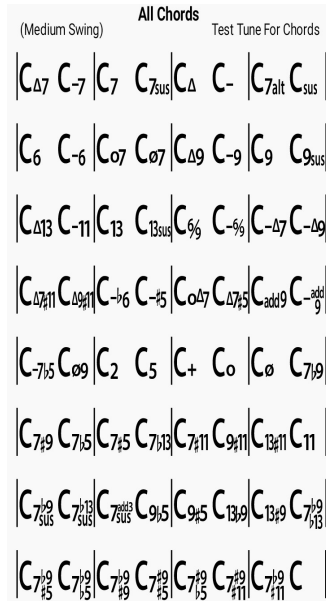


Figure 2.2: Different chord types based on the root note C, displayed with the iRealPro app.

## 2.2 Common NLP Terminology

This section introduces terms commonly used in the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP).

**Corpus** A corpus is a large and structured collection of machine-readable texts.

**N-gram** In NLP tasks, an n-gram is a sequence of n words. A 2-gram (also called bigram) is the sequence of two consecutive words, a 3-gram the sequence of three consecutive words, and consequently, an n-gram is a sequence of n consecutive words. N-grams are usually generated by extracting n words from the corpus, then moving on by one word, and extracting the next n words.

Example: n-grams with n=3 for the sentence "Music is the only medicine without side effects": Music-is-the, is-the-only, the-only-medicine, only-medicine-without, medicine-without-side, without-side-effects.

**Token, Term** An element in the vocabulary of a corpus. It can be a word, a processed word, or an n-gram. Token and term are often used synonymously.

## 2.3 Vector Space Models

Language is unstructured data. To use machine learning algorithms on text, we need a numerical representation to analyze the text. This process is called feature extraction and is an essential first step in natural language processing. A common way to transform the documents into vectors is using a Vector Space Model [6].

The Vector Space Model is an algebraic model in high-dimensional space, where each dimension corresponds to one term in the vocabulary. Vectors in this high-dimensional term space represent documents and queries. Semantically similar documents are represented close to each other [7].

While the vector space model is a basic framework for representing documents and handling similarity queries, it does not define how the terms are actually placed in the space,

i.e., how the term weights or term feature vectors are defined. The vector space model does also not address how the similarity between terms is calculated.

The following sections describe actual implementations of the Vector Space Model to retrieve documents based on a query.

### 2.3.1 Bag-of-Words Models

#### Count Vectorizing

In *Count Vectorizing*, also called *Bag-of-words model* or *Term Frequency (TF) model*, a text document is converted into a vector of counts. Each item of this document vector corresponds to a term in the vocabulary and is filled with the counts of that term. For example, if the term *world* occurs 3 times in the document, then the corresponding index in the vector will be filled with a 3. If the term *world* does not appear in the document, it will be filled with a zero.

#### TF-IDF

TF-IDF stands for *Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency* and is an extension to the Count Vectorizing model. The calculated TF-IDF weight is a statistical measure to evaluate how important a word is to a document in a corpus. Instead of looking at the raw counts of the words in each document, TF-IDF looks at a normalized count where each word count is divided by the number of documents this word appears in.

#### Latent Semantic Analysis

*Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA)* is also known as *Latent Semantic Indexing (LSI)*. It finds groups of documents with the same words by building a matrix with documents in columns and terms in rows. Each value in the matrix corresponds to the frequency with which the given term appears in that document. Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) can then be applied to the matrix  $M$ , resulting in three matrices  $U$ ,  $\Sigma$  and  $V$ , representing the term-topics, topic importances, and the topic-documents (Figure 2.3).

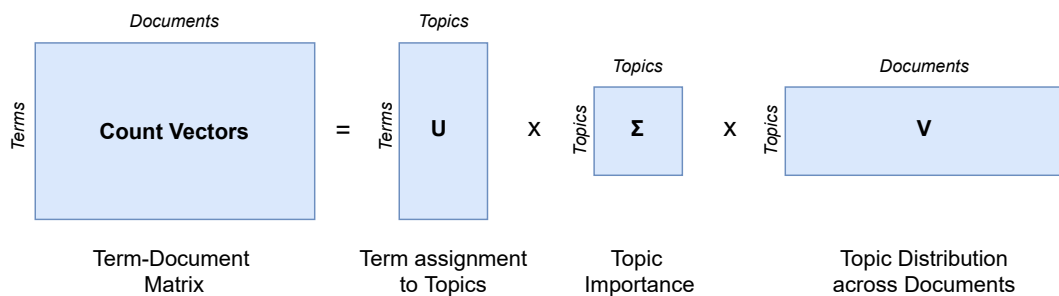


Figure 2.3: Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA)

Using the derived diagonal topic importance matrix, we can identify the most significant topics in our corpus, and remove rows that correspond to less important topic terms. Of the remaining rows (terms) and columns (documents), we can assign topics based on their highest corresponding topic importance weights ([8], [9], [10]).



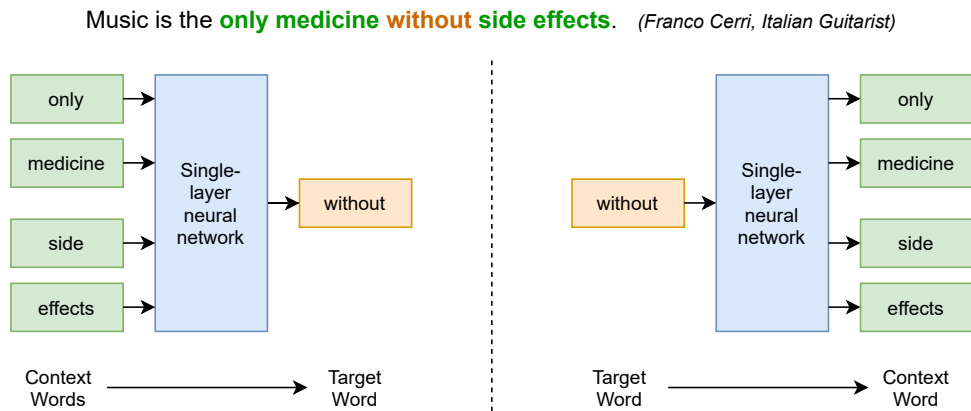


Figure 2.4: Word2Vec Continuous Bag-of-Words (left) versus Skip-gram Model (right)

### 2.3.2 Word Embeddings

A major drawback of bag-of-words models is that they are completely based on the number of common words in two documents when comparing the document similarity. If documents do not share any words, their similarity will be zero.

In contrast, Word Embeddings try to capture the semantics of words by using a neural network. The algorithm tries to find vector representations for the terms in the vocabulary such that similar terms have similar vectors.

#### Word2Vec

Since the publication of the *Word2Vec* model by Tomáš Mikolov at Google [11], Word Embeddings became popular because they dramatically outperformed previous approaches, especially on analogy tasks.

There are two variants of Word2Vec, the *continuous bag-of-words model* (CBoW) and the *skip-gram model* (see Figure 2.4). Refer to the original paper or [12] for an accurate description.

Both variants use a shallow neural network to predict word co-occurrences. The training data is derived from the full text corpus. The major distinction is that the CBoW model tries to predict the center word from context words, while the skip-gram model tries to predict the center word given the context words.

The actual result that we are interested in, namely the vectors for each token in the dictionary (called *word embedding*), is trained in the neural network's single hidden layer. The dimension of the word embedding corresponds to the number of nodes in the hidden layer.

#### Doc2Vec

Doc2Vec uses the same concepts as Word2Vec, but also uses the concept of a document identity, from which the words are taken ([13]). For Doc2Vec, there are two variants too: the *Distributed Memory (DM)* model and the *Distributed Bag-Of-Words (DBOW)* model. Contrary to intuition, the Doc2Vec DM model is analogous to the Word2Vec CBoW model, and the Doc2Vec DBOW is analogous to the word2vec Skip-gram model. [14] finds that DBOW works best for small data sets, while DM is superior for big datasets.

The Doc2Vec DM model takes the context word as the input and predicts the document ID. In contrast, the DBOW model takes the document ID as the input and predicts randomly

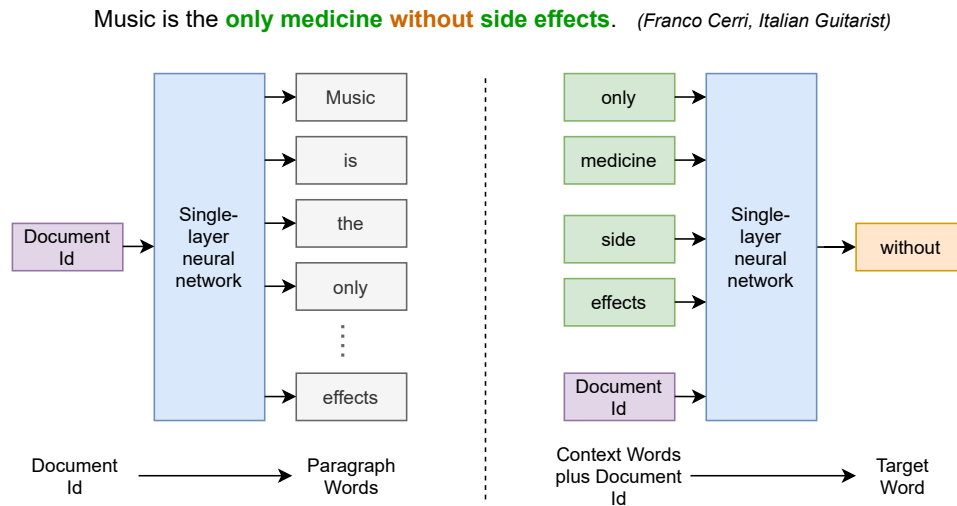


Figure 2.5: Doc2Vec Distributed Bag-of-Words DBOW (left) versus Distributed Memory DM model (right)

sampled words from the document (Figure 2.5). The pure DBOW model as presented by [13] does not train any word vectors like the Word2Vec or the Doc2Vec DM models. Also, it does not consider the order of the words, since there is no sliding window that defines context and target words. However, there is the option to interleave word vector training with document vector training also for the DBOW variant, which [15] observes that it can improve the document vectors.

### 2.3.3 Document Similarity

The methods described in the previous sections transform the documents in vectors. To calculate the document similarity, usually the cosine similarity is used by calculating the cosine of the angle  $\alpha$  between two vectors. This angle will be small if two documents share many features. To compute the cosine of the angle, the scalar product of the two vectors is used, which is normalized by the vector lengths [16].

## 2.4 Relevance Feedback

Relevance Feedback aims to involve the user in the retrieval process to improve the final result. For a particular search query, the user gives feedback on the relevance of documents that are presented to him or her.

The procedure for explicit, binary feedback is as follows:

1. The user issues a query.
2. The system returns an initial set of retrieval results.
3. The user marks some returned documents as relevant or non-relevant.
4. The system computes a better representation of the information need based on the user feedback.
5. The system displays a revised set of retrieval results.

The Rocchio algorithm [17] is a classical algorithm to improve the result of step 4. It can be applied to all vector space models.

## Chapter 3

# Related Work

The application of linguistical techniques to music is not a new topic by any means. It has become even more popular in with the advent of neural networks in text processing. There have been quite a few attempts for modeling musical context with semantic vector space models, many based on the foundations of *Word2Vec* embeddings ([11]). This section gives an overview of applications that apply the tools of text analysis to musical chords.

One obvious application for using machine learning algorithms is to predict the next chord based on a given input chord sequence. [18] proposes to use embeddings similar to *Word2Vec*, resulting in a *Chord2Vec* model that learns chord embeddings from a corpus of chord sequences, placing chords nearby when used in similar contexts. [19] uses *Word2Vec* to propose a next chord for novice composers and provide inspiration for writing a new tune that goes out of the ordinary. [20] uses several public datasets with annotated chords to evaluate different neural network topologies for chord prediction. Finally, [21] is another application of predicting chord sequences based on recurrent neural networks, using embeddings created by *Word2Vec*.

Other applications focus on clustering the chord progressions. [22] performs a similarity analysis of tunes from 18 jazz musicians, based on n-grams of the chords of 218 tunes. They examine different chord simplification strategies and conclude that the bass note of a slash chord is not relevant for their analysis. Depending on the use case, they also conclude that tension notes (e.g., +#11, +b13 etc) can be removed to minimize the vocabulary.

[23] uses annotated polyphonic music from Beethoven Sonatas that are split into short slices as input to train embeddings using *Word2Vec*. Based on visualizations using dimension reduction techniques, they conclude that the model can capture tonal proximity. Similarly, [24] shows tonal relationships between chords by clustering the embeddings derived by *Word2Vec*. They found that Classical and Baroque composers use chords similarly, while Modernists and Renaissance composers seem to have a more distinctive style.

[25] provides a database for finding patterns ("licks") that are commonly played during jazz solo improvisation, based on selected recordings of jazz masters.



## Chapter 4

# Methods

### 4.1 Similarity between Jazz Tunes

How is the similarity between two tunes defined? Given that the technical mastery of playing an instrument is not an obstacle, if I have learned to improvise over one tune, what other tune would be a good next one to start working on?

There is no clear answer to this question. Table 4.1 lists two different goals that a student can have in mind, each resulting in different strategies and consequently in a different definition of similarity:

Table 4.1: Possible intention and strategy how to select the next tune.

Nr	Goal	Possible Strategy
1	Memorize a big repertory of tunes.	Identify sections or parts of sections that share the same basic harmonic movement.
2	Build the skills to improvise over different chord progressions in various keys.	Identify sections that share the chord material, not necessarily following the same basic movement.

Figures 4.1 and 4.2 each provide an example for these two goals.

Honeysuckle Rose				Satin Doll							
B	C <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>6</sub>	F <sub>6</sub>	B	G <sub>-7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>-7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>
	D <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>		A <sub>-7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>-7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>

Figure 4.1: Goal 1: The basic harmonic movement for *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Satin Doll* (B section) is identical, although the chord types are different.

Honeysuckle Rose						Tea For Two								
A	D <sub>-7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>-7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>-7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>-7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>-7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>7</sub>	E <sub>-7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>
	C <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>6</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	F <sub>7</sub>	E <sub>-7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>			C <sub>Δ7</sub>		C <sub>Δ7</sub>	

Figure 4.2: Example for Goal 2: The B sections of *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Tea For Two* share the same blocks, but the basic harmonic structure is different.

Another aspect to consider when recommending the next tune to learn is the difficulty or complexity of the chords vocabulary. The following characteristics can contribute to how difficult a tune is perceived to learn:

- Complexity of the chord vocabulary; e.g., root and dominant chords only, versus altered chords with additions.
- Tonality: a higher number of flats and sharps in the tonality is generally considered more challenging.
- Chord density: how frequently does the chord change; e.g., every two bars only versus every one or two beats.
- Harmonic familiarity: simple harmonic structure with an ear-worm character versus unexpected, hard to remember harmonies.
- Speed: fast tempo can be a technical challenge, versus slow tempo, which can be a challenge for musical expression.
- Technical challenges of playing the instrument (see [26] for Piano sheet music as an example).

#### 4.1.1 Tasks

Based on these assumptions, I suggest to break down the task of recommending a next tune to learn into three sub-tasks:

1. Identify similar basic harmonic structures for parts of two tunes.
2. Identify similar chord pattern blocks for parts of two tunes.
3. Identify a similar chords vocabulary difficulty level for two tunes.

#### 4.1.2 Assumptions for this Project

To limit the scope for this thesis, I take the following assumptions for defining the similarity of tunes:

1. Similar tunes contain the same chord progression patterns.
  - A chord progression pattern typically consists of 2 to 4 chords but can also be longer.
  - By chaining multiple chord progression patterns, similarity can be observed in either part of a section, the whole section, or the whole tune.
2. Similar tunes temporarily shift to the same tonal center for part of that tune.
  - Indirectly, this is a repetition of the above claim because a shift to a different tonal center will result in different chord progression patterns.
3. Many tunes share an almost identical section, while the rest can be very different.
  - The similarity of sections seems to be a good similarity indicator.
  - As a consequence, I am evaluating similarities on a per-section level instead of on a per-tune level, i.e., the models receive paragraphs as input instead of documents.
4. The focus is to recommend tunes described by Goal 2 (Table 4.1).
5. The difficulty level of a tune is not evaluated nor considered.

## 4.2 System Architecture

Figure 4.3 shows the basic framework of the proposed method. The data set consists of the chords sequences and meta information for each tune (Section 4.3.1). The chords data is encoded into a numerical representation, which also allows transposition (Section 4.3.2).

Then, the chords data is pre-processed to make it suitable as input for the model, by simplifying the chord types and generating n-grams (Section 4.5). Three different model methods are trained with different pre-processing strategies (Section 4.6). The performance of the models is evaluated according to Section 4.7. For the model which appears to be best, the trained tune section vectors are reduced to two dimensions and clustered. Next, the tune recommendations and the dimension-reduced visualization are deployed to a web application for further explorative evaluation (Appendix D).

The web application provides the possibility to collect feedback about good and bad tune recommendations. The user feedback can either be used to directly influence the learned vectors of the models (Appendix A), or it can be used to improve the test set for the Contrafacts accuracy metric (Section 4.7.1).

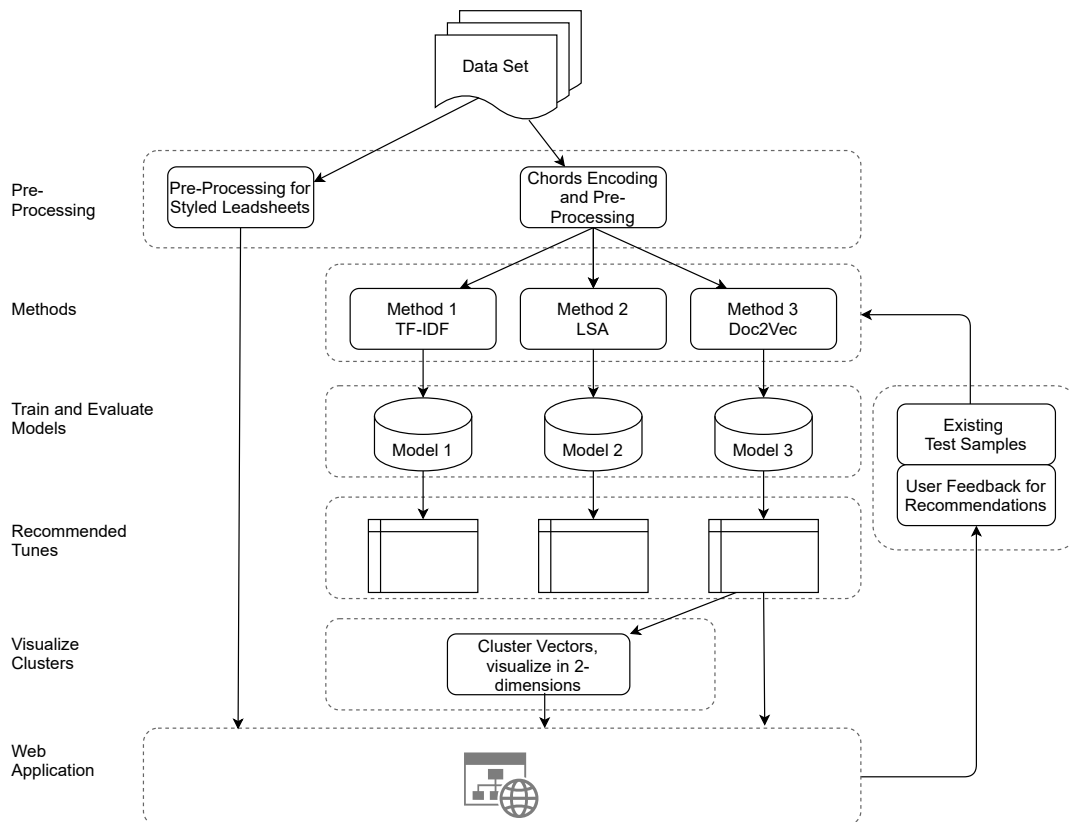


Figure 4.3: Framework of the proposed method.

A more detailed diagram of the data pipelines used for training the model and generating the data for the web application is depicted in Figure D.1 in the Appendix.

## 4.3 Data Collection

### 4.3.1 Data Sources

For the creation of the data set, the following information about jazz tunes are gathered:

- Chord Sequence
- Musical information about the tune: default key, time signature, form (sections)
- Composer, Lyricist
- Publication Date
- Relevant links to databases for further information

This information is obtained from the following sources:

- iRealPro app<sup>1</sup>
- musicbrainz database<sup>2</sup>
- wikidata<sup>3</sup>, wikipedia<sup>4</sup>
- Official Real Books Volumes 1..3 by Hal Leonard<sup>5</sup>

#### Data Source for Chord Sequences and Musical Meta-Information

I obtain the chord sequences for the jazz tunes and their musical information from the popular iRealPro app, exported to musicXML format.

The most popular source for the chords of jazz standards are the Real Books, but they are available only in pdf format and are not machine-readable. There are other music datasets available,<sup>6</sup> but I could not use them for the scope of this project. They either provide only metadata information for tunes but do not have any information about the musical content or the chords. Or, they consist of MIDI data, but deriving the chord symbols from the MIDI notes is not a trivial task. In addition, these datasets are also not specifically targeted for jazz tunes.

#### Data Source for Composer, Lyricist

In the iRealPro raw data, the composer and lyricists are available for some tunes. However, this information is very messy because the name of the same composer is often written in different ways and has typos. Also, there is no differentiation between the composer and the lyricist.

The open-source database *musicbrainz* is a more reliable and consistent source. I used the title and composer information by the iRealPro data to query the musicbrainz database using its API, and obtained the composers and lyricists from there.

The composer and lyricist information found in the musicbrainz database is the first choice to use for the data set. If the tune is not found in the musicbrainz database, but the composer information is available from the iRealPro data, this information is merged to the data set. Finally, a list of manually curated tunes and their composers was also used and merged into the data set.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.irealpro.com/>

<sup>2</sup><https://musicbrainz.org/>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main\\_Page](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.wikipedia.org/>

<sup>5</sup><https://officialrealbook.com/real-books/>

<sup>6</sup><https://fourscoreandmore.org/musoRepo/>



### Data Source for Publication Year

I obtain the publication year for a tune from the *Real Book Volumes 1-3* where available, and with second priority from the iRealPro data.

The copyright claim on the official Real Book lead sheets is the most reliable information for the publication year of a tune because it was edited by a professional publishing company. I created a helper tool to extract the publication year from the Real Book pdf lead sheets in a semi-manual approach: the tool goes through the list of tunes in the data set and opens the corresponding Real Book pdf file if available. It then asks me to type in the publication year that is displayed in the copyright notice. This information is then merged into the data set.

Although the musicbrainz web interface displays the publication year for some tunes, this information is not available for querying using the API. The wikidata interface also contains the publication date for a few tunes, but this information proved completely wrong in many cases and was therefore not used.

### Data Source for Additional Links

The musicbrainz database provides links to these additional databases:

- **allmusic**<sup>7</sup> provides the relevant recordings for a tune.
- **secondhandsongs**<sup>8</sup> provides relevant recordings and also cover versions.
- **wikidata** provides a short description for some tunes.
- **wikipedia** link to a wiki page with background information.

If links are available, they are stored in the data set and displayed in the web application as additional information.

## 4.3.2 Chords Encoding

### Numerical Representation of Chords

The chords from the iRealPro musicXML data are encoded with `<harmony>` xml elements<sup>9</sup>. From this representation, I am generating a numerical representation for each chord (based on the code from [27]), which allows transposing the chords to every musical key, and also allows creating a textual representation of the chord.

The numerical representation of each chord consists of three parts [28]:

- A root note, stored as the number of half-tone steps above the root note of the default key of the tune (the tonic). The root note of the tonic is 0.
- The component, which contains a list of degrees. A degree is a note from the chord, represented by the number of half-tone steps above the root.
- A bass note, used for slash chords to indicate a chord inversion.

I extracted the sequence of chords together with the following information from the musicXML raw data :

**Measure Number** In the musicXML raw data, the measures are numbered without respecting the repetitions. If first and second endings are available, the resulting chord sequence for both endings is therefore simply concatenated, which is wrong. Therefore, I respected the repetitions when parsing the musicXML data, which assigns the chords to their actual measure number.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.allmusic.com/>

<sup>8</sup><https://secondhandsongs.com/>

<sup>9</sup><https://w3c.github.io/musicxml/musicxml-reference/elements/harmony/>

**Time Signature** e.g., 4/4, 3/4, 5/4: this information is not used for the model but is needed to place the chords to the beats for the styled lead sheet display (Section D.3).

**Beat Number** used to place the chord on the beat for the lead sheet display in the web application (Section D.3).

**Key with Mode** e.g., F major, D minor: required to encode the chords to the numerical representation. For the model input data, tunes in a major key are transposed to C major, and tunes in a minor key are transposed to A minor.

**Section Information** is used to partition the chord sequences of a tune into paragraphs, which are fed to the model. The section information in the raw data is very messy and needs much manual cleaning.

**Repetitions** needed to map the chords to their true measurement number correctly.

## 4.4 Data Set Overview

After the cleaning step, there are 1240 tunes from the iRealPro *jazz1350* playlist and 261 tunes from the *dixie and trad* playlist left, resulting in a total of 1501 tunes. The tunes consist of 3411 unique sections (e.g., for an AABA form, the A section is counted only once), and 5168 sections in total.

Figure 4.5 shows the distribution of the 15 most frequent tune forms in the data set. Clearly, most of the tunes are written in an AABA form.

Figure 4.4 shows the top 15 composers that are contributing to the data set.

Although this data set is not a gold reference for jazz standards and many tunes had to be removed in the cleaning step, Figure 4.6 shows the importance of the years between 1925 and 1945.

Figure 4.7 shows that most of the tunes are in major keys, namely in the keys that are considered as easy like C major, F major, Bb major, Eb major and G major. Most of the tunes in minor keys are written in D minor or C minor.

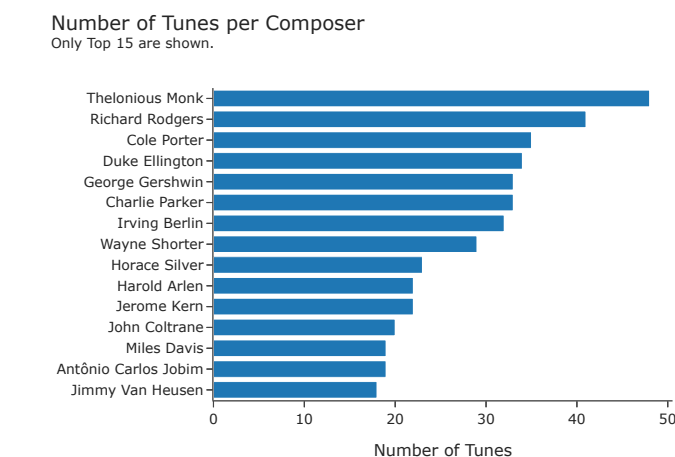


Figure 4.4: Top 15 composers contributing tunes for the data set.

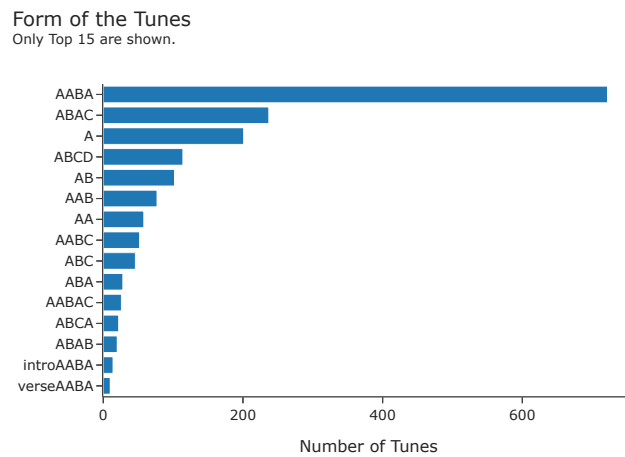


Figure 4.5: Top 15 tune form in the data set, the majority of the tunes is in AABA form.

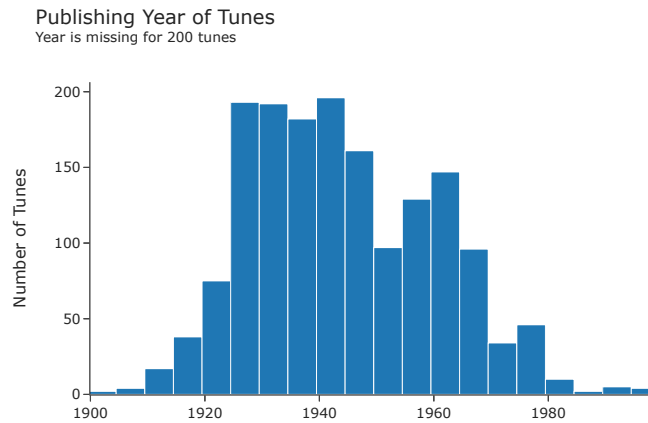


Figure 4.6: The period between 1925 and 1945 clearly dominates the publication year of the tune in the dataset.

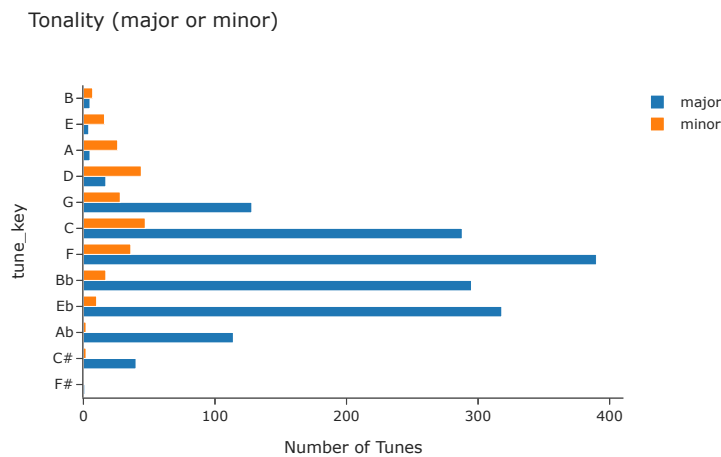


Figure 4.7: Distribution of the default keys of the tunes.

## 4.5 Corpus Pre-Processing

In every machine learning task, cleaning or preprocessing the data is as important as model building if not more. For unstructured data like text, this process becomes even more important.

Corpus pre-processing for text analytics models usually involves the following steps:

**Tokenization** Text tokenization is the process of splitting up the text into chunks (the so-called tokens).

**Normalization** Text normalization is a text pre-processing step that includes cleaning text, case conversion, correcting spellings, removing stop words and other unnecessary terms, stemming, and lemmatization.

**Cleaning** Cleaning describes the process of stripping away unnecessary parts of the text to get better results in downstream tasks due to less ambiguity, which could not be resolved by the computer otherwise.

**Stemming** Stemming is the process of removing a part of a word, or reducing a word to its stem or root to reduce the size of the vocabulary.

**Lemmatization** Lemmatization is another approach to derive roots from words next to stemming. Lemmatization uses unlike stemming a mostly human curated dictionary to look up words and replace it with the correct root or also called lemmas.

**Filtering** Infrequent Words Depending on the task that has to be fulfilled, cutting off words that do not often appear in the corpus might be beneficial because they blow up the vocabulary without providing much predictive power.

These steps are further described in the next sections.

### 4.5.1 Assumptions for Chords Pre-Processing

Section 4.1.2 lists different properties that contribute to the similarity of two jazz tunes. It is possible that different models are needed to capture the variety of these properties. But without appropriate preprocessing of the input data, a model certainly cannot perform well.

These are the assumptions made to decide how to pre-process the input data:

- To make chords comparable across tunes:
  - Transpose all tunes to C major and A minor respectively.
  - Use a fixed set of 12 root notes, without enharmonic spelling: [A, Bb, B, C, C#, D, Eb, E, F, F#, G, Ab]
  - Simplify the chords vocabulary (Section 4.5.2).
  - Ignore slash chords if the bass note belongs to the chord.
- To find similar Chord Progression patterns:
  - Use chord n-grams, concretely a concatenation of unigrams and different n-grams (Section 4.5.3).
- It is easier to find similar sections than similar tunes.
  - Split the tunes into their sections and use them as input documents for the model.
  - Two tunes are considered similar if at least one section was found to be similar within the first  $k$  matches.
- If a section is repeated multiple times in a tune (e.g., section  $A$  in an  $AABA$  form), then only the first occurrence of the section is considered.

Table 4.2 applies these assumptions to the general corpus pre-processing steps and compares the differences of using natural language versus chords.

Table 4.2: Comparison of pre-processing steps for natural language and chords.

	Natural Language Vocabulary	Chords Vocabulary
Normalize Lan- guage	Translate text to same language.	Transpose all major tunes to C major, transpose all minor tunes to A minor.
Tokenization	Split up text in documents, paragraphs, sentences, words.	Split up text in tunes, sections, chords.
Cleaning	Removal of stop words; case conversion; removal of punctuation marks.	Remove tunes with missing or wrong information. Fix tunes or remove them. If multiple sections with same label, keep only the first occurrence.
Stemming, Lemmatization	Remove word suffix. Use lookup-tables to replace a word with the correct root.	Reduce chords to simpler variants.
Generate n-grams	Use n-grams of words or characters.	Use chord n-grams.
Filter infrequent Tokens	Remove rare words or n-grams.	Remove rare or chord n-grams.

## 4.5.2 Pre-Processing Steps

### Chord Transposition

It is intuitive to transpose all tunes to the same key for comparison. This enables the functional role of different roots or pitches to stay consistent across tunes, for example if transitioning to a different tonal center [23]. I transpose all major tunes to C major, and all minor tunes to A minor.

### Cleaning Tunes

The cleaning process of tunes was done manually, so it might be incomplete or biased. I deleted tunes from the data set for the following reasons:

- A tune is duplicated by the *jazz1350* and the *trad* playlists, using the exact same chord sequences.
- The form is not correctly represented in the musicXML data, namely many tunes make use of a coda for the ending, but the coda information is missing in musicXML; therefore the coda chords are lumped together with the previous section which is wrong.
- Few tunes have multiple repetitions, which are not handled correctly.
- Tunes having very simple harmonic structure, e.g., many spirituals which mostly make use of the I, IV and V chords only.

## Cleaning Tune Sections

The section labels of the iRealPro musicXML raw data have many issues. Many tunes are not labeled at all, or labeled wrong. Some tunes are labeled with AB sections, each comprising of 16 bars, while the form actually corresponds to ABCD or ABAC.

Often, the Verse or Intro is tagged with a text in iRealPro instead of a section label. Text tags are not included in the musicXML file.

Also, there is a bug in the musicXML export such that labels are sometimes visible in the iRealPro app, but not contained in the musicXML file.

I cleaned and labeled sections according to my best knowledge, but since it was manual work, some tunes still may have incorrectly labeled sections.

## Chord Simplification ("Stemming")

I simplify the chords into a *chordsBasic* and a *chordsSimplified* vocabulary to reduce the size of the vocabulary and make chords comparable across tunes.

The *chordsBasic* vocabulary reduces the chord types to major, minor, dominant, diminished, augmented and suspended chords (Table 4.3). All extended chords (9, 11, 13) and additions (+b9, +#11 etc.) are removed. All major chord types are reduced to major triads, because harmonically spoken, a chord written as CM7 has the same function as a C6 or a C triad.

The *chordsSimplified* vocabulary distinguishes between the different 4-tone major and minor chords, but still removes all extended chords and additions.

Table 4.3: The vocabularies for *chordsBasic* and *chordsSimplified* are two different variants of chord simplification.

Chord	chordBasic	chordSimplified
M7, 6	reduce to triad	keep
m6, m7	reduce to m	keep
m7b5, dim	keep	keep
dim7	reduce to dim	keep
M9, M11, M13	reduce to triad	reduce to M7
9, 11, 13	reduce to 7	reduce to 7
mM7	reduce to m	keep
mM9	reduce to m	reduce to mM7
sus, sus7	keep	keep
sus9, sus11, sus13	sus7	sus7
aug, aug7	keep	keep
maug	reduce to m	keep
Maug	reduce to aug	keep
7alt	reduce to aug7	keep
dimM7	reduce to dim	keep
(+b9), (+#9), (+#11), (+b13)	remove	remove
(+b5)	keep	keep
(+b6)	keep	keep

## Simplification of the Bass Note ("Slash Chords")

A Slash Chord is a chord which has the bass note written explicitly to the chord symbol using a slash, e.g. C7/G means that a C7 chords should be played in second inversion, with the G

in the root. Since the proportion of slash chords in the corpus is small and is not expected to have a big impact on the similarity between tunes, the bass note is not considered to simplify the vocabulary [22].

### 4.5.3 Data Augmentation with Concatenated n-grams

Analogous to n-grams for natural language, chord n-grams are tokens consisting of n consecutive chords. The chords of the tune sections are augmented by generating chord n-grams with n in {1...4}. All resulting n-grams are concatenated and represent the input data for training the model. As an example, the chords of a tune section with the n-gram configuration n=[1,2,3] consist of the chord uni-grams, concatenated by the chord bi-grams, concatenated by the chord tri-grams. An n-gram configuration of n=[1] consists of the chord uni-grams only.

Here is an example of n-grams with n in 1,2,3,4 for a chord sequence:

C <sub>6</sub>	B <sup>b</sup> <sub>7</sub>	E <sup>b</sup> <sub>7</sub>	A <sup>b</sup> <sub>Δ7</sub>	D <sub>ø7</sub>	G <sub>7b9</sub>
----------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	------------------

n Resulting n-grams, *chordsBasic* vocabulary

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | C, Bbm, Eb7, Ab, Dm7b5, G7                       |
| 2 | C-Bb, Bb-Eb, Eb7-Ab, Ab-Dm7b5, Dm7b5-G7          |
| 3 | C-Bbm-Eb7, Bbm-Eb7-Ab, Eb7-Ab-Dm7b5, Ab-Dm7b5-G7 |
| 4 | C-Bbm-Eb7-Ab, Bm-Eb7-Ab-Dm7b5, Eb7-Ab-Dm7b5-G7   |

4.4 gives an overview about the resulting number of tokens and the average length of a tune section. With concatenated n-grams=[1,2,3,4], the average length of a section is increased by factor 3.3 compared to unigrams, while the size of the corpus is increased by a factor 3.5.

Table 4.4: Number of tokens for different n-gram augmentation, for chords-Basic vocabulary.

n-gram	Total Tokens	Number of Tune Sections	Avg Length of Sections
[1]	43832	3411	12.9
[1, 2]	84253	3411	24.7
[1, 2, 3]	121263	3411	35.6
[1, 2, 3, 4]	154862	3411	45.4

### Chords and the Zipf Distribution

Natural language follows the Zipf law, which means that a few words occur very often while other words are rare. [29] provides evidence based on the notes contained in MIDI files, that the Zipf distribution of the linguistic context can be applied to the musical context. The Zipf plot shows the number of occurrences n of a token (absolute frequency) versus the token's frequency rank, with the most frequent token being in rank 0. A perfect Zipf distribution follows a straight sinking line.

Figure 4.8 shows the Zipf plots for different concatenations of n-grams for the *chordsBasic* vocabulary. For the unigrams, the curve is not straight and therefore the Zipf distribution does not fit well. The line gets straighter by concatenating more n-grams.

Figure 4.9 shows the Zipf plots for the *chordsSimplified* and the unprocessed *chordsFull* vocabulary. The uni-grams of the *chordsFull* vocabulary naturally follow the Zipf law better than the uni-grams of the *chordsBasic* because of the bigger vocabulary size.

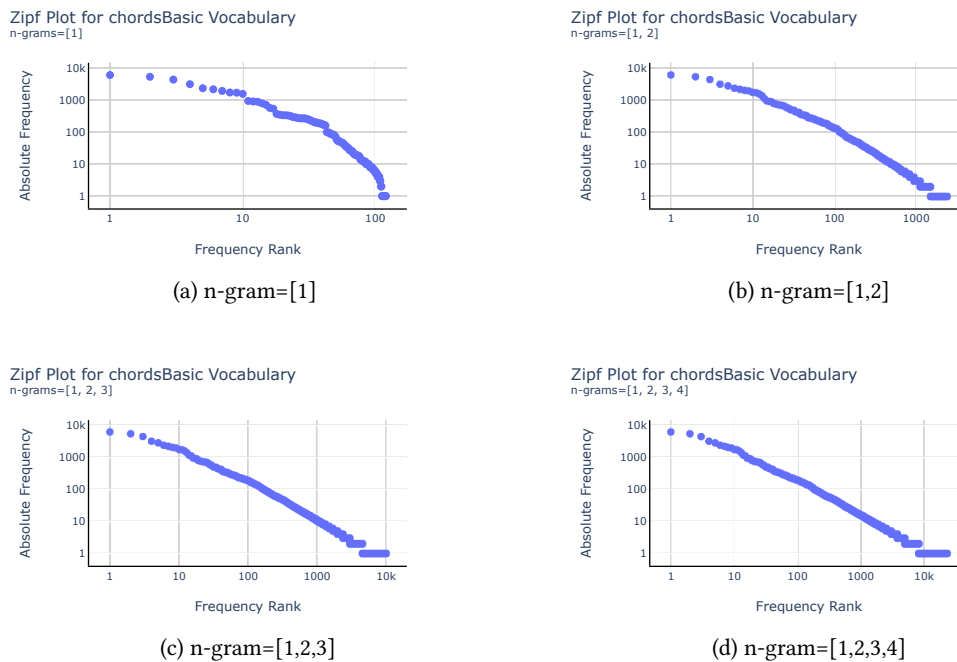


Figure 4.8: Zipf Plots for *chordBasic* vocabulary, for different n-grams.

### Chord Type Distribution

Figure 4.10 shows the chord type distribution for the vocabularies *chordsBasic*, *chordsSimplified* and the unprocessed *chordsFull*. The root note is removed, which gives an overview of the remaining chord types in the vocabularies and also their occurrence. The \* in the figure denotes any root note. A \* by itself means a major triad.

Figure 4.11 shows the most frequent 50 chord n-grams for the concatenated list of n-grams=[1,2,3,4], for the three vocabularies. For the *chordsBasic* vocabulary with the strong reduction of major and minor chords to triads, the C, G7, Dm and Am chords (I, V, ii, vi) are the 4 most frequent tokens in the corpus. The popular ii-V chord progression Dm-G7 is on rank 5. For the *chordsSimplified* vocabulary, the tonic chord no longer is on rank 0 because it is split into CM7, C6 and C chords.



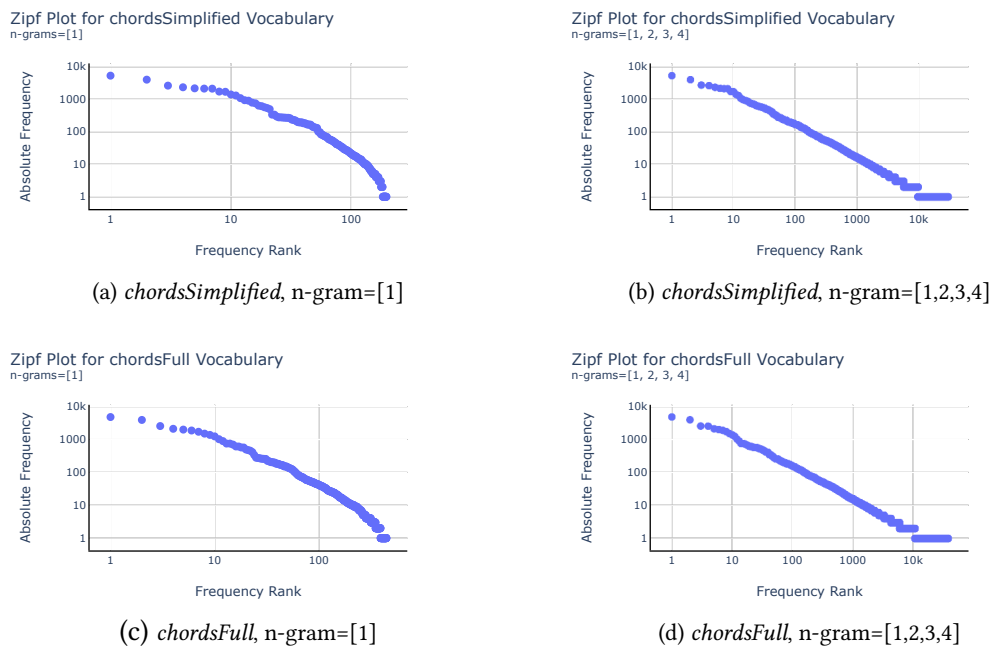


Figure 4.9: Zipf Plots for *chordSimplified* and *chordFull*, for uni-grams and concatenated n-grams=[1,2,3,4].

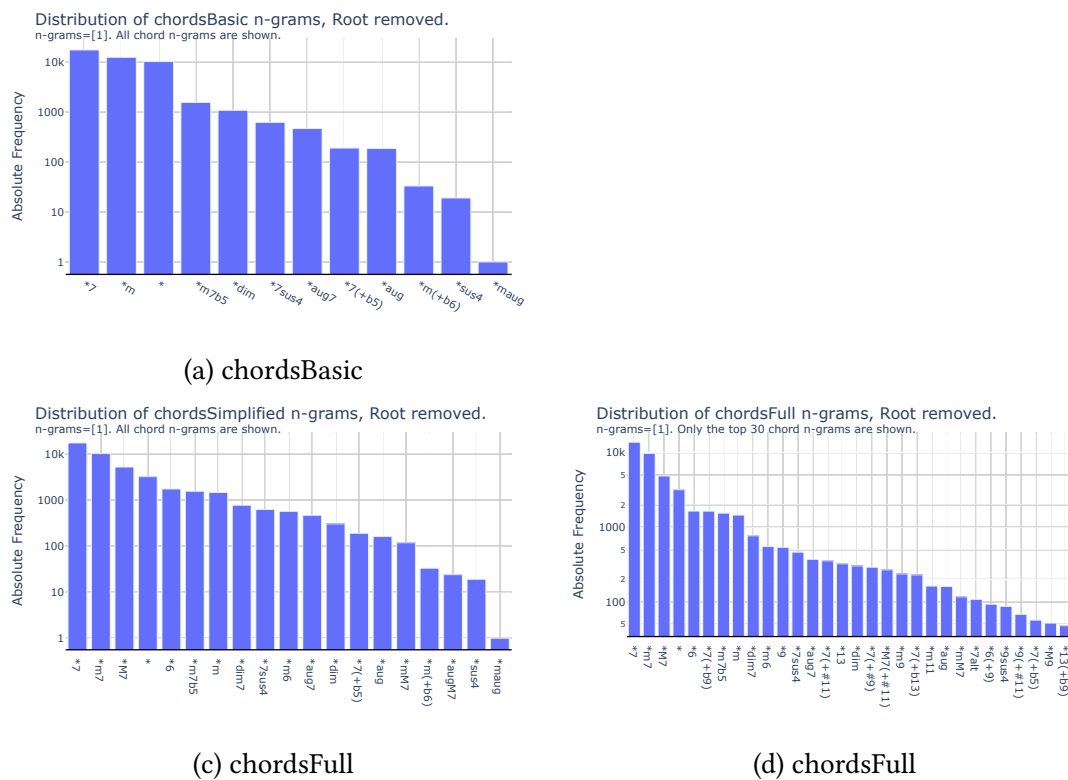
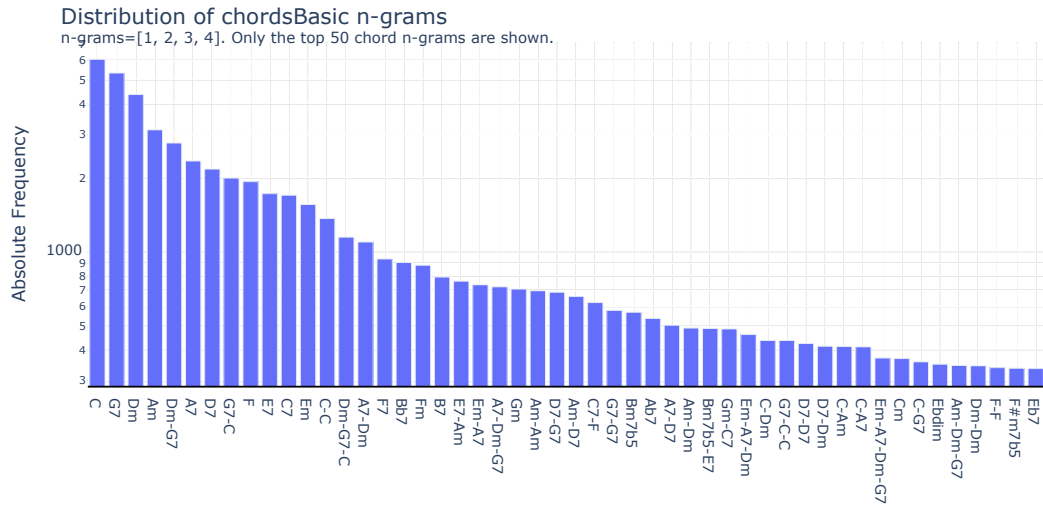
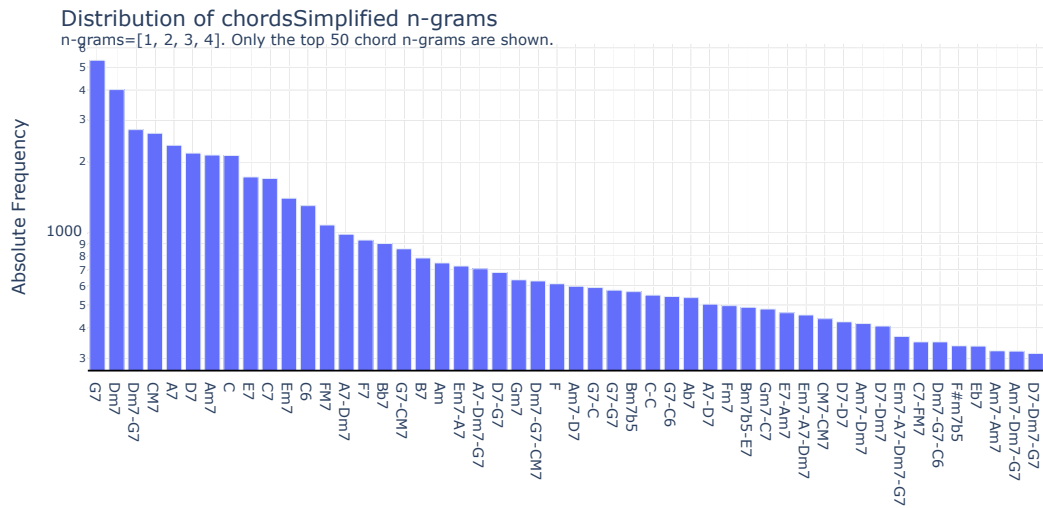


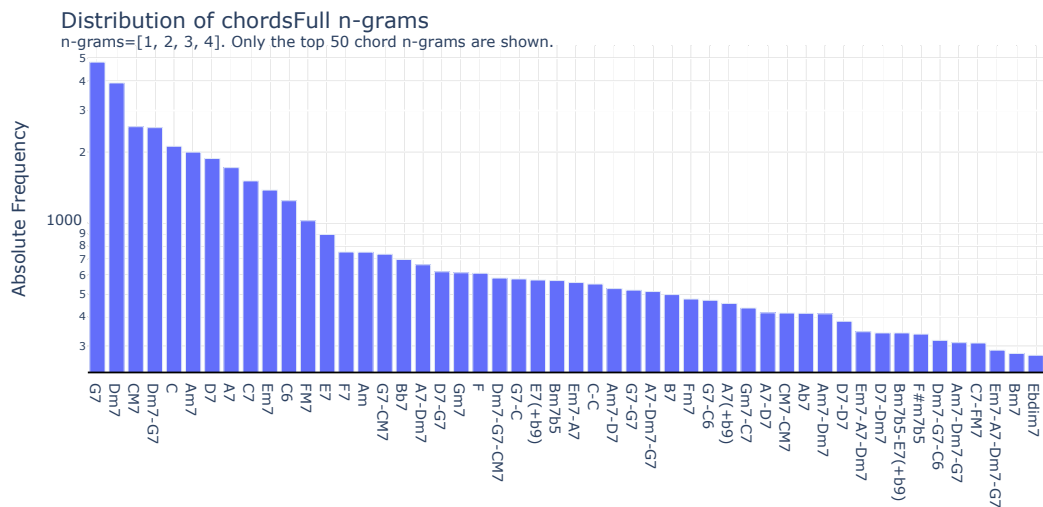
Figure 4.10: Distribution of the chord types for uni-grams, with the root note removed.



(a) chordsBasic



(b) chordsSimplified



(c) chordsSimplified

Figure 4.11: Distribution of the chord types for concatenated ngrams=[1,2,3,4] including the root.

## 4.6 Experiments

This section describes the background of the experiments and lists the methods and their hyperparameters. All models are trained using the gensim<sup>10</sup> library.

### 4.6.1 Split into Train and Test Set

The data is split into a training and a test set for all experiments. The test set consists of the list of tunes that is manually defined for the Contrafacts accuracy metric (Section 4.7.1).

This approach is questionable; in [14], the authors explain that because the model is trained completely unsupervised, i.e., not given any supervised or annotated information, there is no need to hold out the test data, as it is unlabeled.

### 4.6.2 Evaluation of Pre-processing Method and Models

Training the 4 models with different pre-processed data results in 32 experiments executed in total.

The TF-IDF and LSA models yield deterministic results and are therefore only executed once. For the Doc2Vec experiments, 5 runs are executed and the results are averaged. The results of the experiments are being tracked using the Weights & Biases<sup>11</sup> service.

#### Model Methods

The following four methods are used to train a model, each model with varied hyperparameters according to Section 4.6.3:

- TF-IDF
- LSA
- Doc2Vec DBOW (with interleaved training of word vectors)
- Doc2Vec DM

As a general assumption, I would expect that document embeddings outperform bag-of-words models for finding similar chord progression patterns, while bag-of-word models outperform document embedding methods for finding tunes with similar chords vocabulary.

#### Pre-processing Strategies

For each model, the input data is provided using different pre-processing strategies, resulting in 8 experiments per model:

- Vocabulary: chordsBasic, chordsSimplified
- n-grams: [1], [1,2], [1,2,3], [1,2,3,4]

### 4.6.3 Model Hyperparameters

This section describes the evaluated hyperparameters of the three model methods.

**TF-IDF** <sup>12</sup> No hyperparameters tuned.

**LSA** <sup>13</sup> One hyperparameter:

- Number of latent topics.

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<sup>10</sup><https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/>

<sup>11</sup><https://wandb.ai/>

<sup>12</sup><https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/models/tfidfmodel.html>

<sup>13</sup><https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/models/lsmmodel.html>

**Doc2Vec**<sup>14</sup> Most relevant hyperparameters for Doc2Vec:

- *dm*: DM or DBOW, defines the training variant of Doc2Vec.
- *vector\_size*: dimensionality of the feature vectors.
- *sample*: threshold for configuring how much of the higher-frequency tokens to randomly subsample.
- *window*: size of the window around the center token to consider as context tokens. *window* = 2 uses 2 tokens on both sides of the center token.
- *negative*: if > 0, uses negative sampling specifies how many negative samples should be randomly drawn from outside the window.
- *dbow\_words*: if 1, then the word vectors are also trained in addition to the document vectors. Only relevant for DBOW.
- *hs*: if hierarchical softmax should be used.
- *min\_count*: ignore all tokens with a total frequency lower than this threshold.

## 4.7 Performance Evaluation

Since the task of recommending similar tunes is an unsupervised learning problem, we do not have any ground-truth data to assess the performance of the trained model. The trained chord n-gram vectors and the trained tune vectors are in n-dimensional vector space and are not directly interpretable.

One option that does not rely on supplementary test information is to cluster the result of the model and evaluate if the clusters are compact and well-separated ([30]). However, it is not clear if the evaluation based on cluster information only is appropriate for the use case of recommending tunes.

Generally, unsupervised learning cannot be evaluated without any additional label information. Therefore, I am defining the following metrics for the performance evaluation.

### 4.7.1 Metric 1: Proportion of correctly recommended Contrafact Tunes

I manually created a list of test tunes to compare the different approaches with each other, and to help assess the quality of an embedding (see Appendix B). The test list contains tuples with a reference tune and an expected similar tune, called the list of contrafact tunes. For a reference tune, if the trained model reports the expected similar tune within the top-N recommendations, it is considered as a success. The accuracy is reported as the proportion of successes with respect to the number of test tunes.

This metric is evaluated for all experiments (TF-IDF, LSA, Doc2Vec).

### 4.7.2 Metric 2: Self-Similarity

For the self-similarity test<sup>15</sup>, the model is first trained using the training data. Then the same training data is used to infer the document vectors again, which are compared to the trained vectors to determine the similarity. For perfect self-similarity, the model will return the inferred training documents in the first rank.

This test is superfluous for the TF-IDF and LSA models, because they are deterministic and will always return first ranks. In contrast, the embedding methods like Doc2Vec are based on iterative algorithms that make use of drawing randomized samples from the corpus, therefore the resulting vectors will differ with repeated inferences.

This metric is only evaluated for the Doc2Vec model.

<sup>14</sup><https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/models/doc2vec.html>

<sup>15</sup>[https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/auto\\_examples/tutorials/run\\_Doc2Vec\\_lee.html#assessing-the-model](https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/auto_examples/tutorials/run_Doc2Vec_lee.html#assessing-the-model)

### 4.7.3 Metric 3: Chord Analogies

The original word2vec paper [11] describes that the model is able to solve word analogies like  $(a, b)$  is similar to  $(c, d)$ , with  $a, b, c$  being given and  $d$  being solved by the model. They provide the example that the pair of  $(woman, queen)$  is similar to  $(man, king)$ . The same principle can also be applied to musical chords ([31]).

To test the chord analogies, I am generating a total of 1064 test samples for all 12 keys (code is based on [21]), for the following common chord progressions<sup>16</sup>:

- minor to dominant, e.g. (Dm D7)  $\rightarrow$  (Cm C7)
- major to minor, e.g. (A Am)  $\rightarrow$  (F Fm)
- dominant to minor, e.g. (C7 Cm)  $\rightarrow$  (G7 Gm)
- dominant to minor, half step down, e.g. (A7 Abm)  $\rightarrow$  (F7 Em)
- minor to dominant, half step down, e.g. (Fm E7)  $\rightarrow$  (F#m F7)
- subdominant to tonic, V-I, e.g. (A7 D)  $\rightarrow$  (C7 F)
- ii to dominant, ii-V, e.g. (Gm C7)  $\rightarrow$  (Fm Bb7)
- dominant sequences, V/V-V, e.g. (E7 A7)  $\rightarrow$  (C7 F7)

For the performance evaluation, it is important to consider that the models are trained on chord input data which is transposed to C major and A minor respectively, so the model is given input only for a small part of these analogy pairs.

It is not clear however, if the performance evaluation using chord analogies is a good indicator to decide which model performs best, but it certainly gives insight about what chords the model considers being close to each other.

This metric is only evaluated for the Doc2Vec model and only for the *chordsbasic* vocabulary.

### 4.7.4 Manual Evaluation of the Result

Finally, it is definitely instructive to manually explore the similarity results. The web application eases the task by comparing the lead sheets of selected tunes. See screenshots of the web application in Appendix D.2.

**Assess the List of recommended Tunes** The web application displays the recommendations of the most promising model and thus makes it accessible for a broader audience to give feedback. The user selects a reference tune and a corresponding section of the tune, and the web application displays a list of recommended similar sections of other tunes, along with both lead sheets. The user is given the possibility to provide feedback using a ‘like’ or ‘dislike’ button. This feedback is being stored in a database and can extend the existing contrafact test set and therefore contribute to further improving the model performance.

**Visual Inspection of the Tunes in Vector Space** To evaluate if there are clusters of similar tune sections found, the trained vector weights are visualized in 2-dimensional space using dimensionality reduction techniques like T-SNE or UMAP. Subsequently, the 2-dimensional representation is clustered. The web application displays the scatter plot with the clusters and the user can explore the leadsheets that belong to a same cluster.

<sup>16</sup><https://www.learnjazzstandards.com/blog/learning-jazz/jazz-theory/3-important-jazz-chord-progressions-need-master/>



## Chapter 5

# Results

### 5.1 Contrafacts Similarity Results

Table 5.1 summarizes the achieved accuracy for the Contrafacts test for the three different vector space models. The trained models for these summary results use the hyperparameter settings according to Section 5.4.

For a reference tune, if the model lists the similar tune according to the list of Contrafacts in the first  $n=30$  recommendations, the test is counted as success.

If using chord uni-grams only, the Doc2Vec and TF-IDF models achieve a similar accuracy of around 75%, while the accuracy of the LSA model is almost 10% higher. However, when concatenating multiple  $n$ -grams, all models achieve an accuracy of 85..87%, with the exception of Doc2Vec DM.

Table 5.1: Summary of Similarity Results based on the Contrafacts Test, for different model types. The top 30 recommendations are considered.

n-gram	Doc2Vec DBOW		Doc2Vec DM		LSA		TF-IDF	
	mean	std	mean	std	mean	std	mean	std
chordsBasic								
[1,2,3,4]	87.13%	0.60%	81.37%	3.46%	84.55%	0.00%	81.82%	0.00%
[1,2,3]	84.24%	1.05%	83.63%	1.97%	84.55%	0.00%	85.45%	0.00%
[1,2]	84.55%	0.69%	80.53%	2.44%	86.10%	0.00%	82.73%	0.00%
[1,4]	85.09%	0.73%			82.73%	0.00%	81.82%	0.00%
[1]	75.64%	1.06%	76.45%	0.97%	83.64%	0.00%	73.64%	0.00%
chordsSimplified								
[1,2,3,4]	73.98%	0.78%	67.82%	0.73%	70.91%	0.00%	70.91%	0.00%
[1,2,3]	70.45%	2.73%	70.36%	0.45%	73.64%	0.00%	70.00%	0.00%
[1,2]	74.36%	0.68%	67.27%	0.00%	74.66%	0.00%	70.00%	0.00%
[1,4]	73.45%	0.68%			70.00%	0.00%	69.09%	0.00%
[1]	68.36%	1.34%	64.73%	0.89%	69.09%	0.00%	58.18%	0.00%

Figure 5.1 shows the histogram for the number of common recommendations of two trained models, for two different experiments. The distribution is slightly left-skewed with the peak between 12 and 15 common tunes.

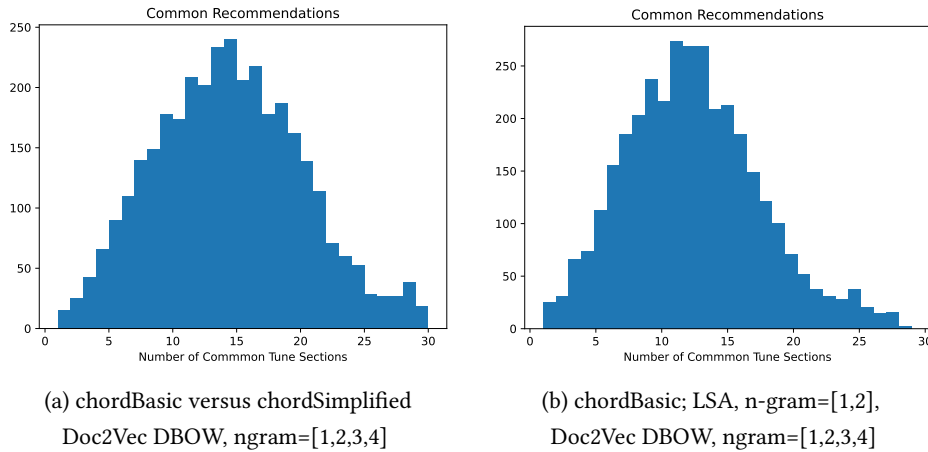


Figure 5.1: Histogram with number common recommendations, for two different experiments.

## 5.2 Chord Analogies for Doc2Vec

Table 5.2 shows the results for the Chord Analogy test for Doc2Vec DBOW and DM. This test is done only for the *chordsBasic* vocabulary. The *Correct Analogy* column lists the accuracy for analogies where the model delivered the correct answer in first rank. The *Correct Analogy in Top 5 Match* column lists the accuracy for giving the correct answer within the first 5 ranks.

Table 5.2: Chord Analogies for Doc2Vec DBOW and DM in comparison.

	n-gram	Correct Analogy		Correct Analogy in Top 5	
		mean	std	mean	std
DBOW					
	[1,2,3,4]	9.97%	0.77%	20.98%	0.93%
	[1,2,3]	8.93%	0.48%	21.23%	1.08%
	[1,2]	8.55%	0.52%	20.22%	1.13%
	[1,4]	7.99%	0.40%	16.63%	1.11%
	[1]	7.23%	0.39%	15.81%	0.84%
DM					
	[1,2,3,4]	4.38%	0.52%	13.18%	1.12%
	[1,2,3]	3.87%	0.79%	9.85%	2.87%
	[1,2]	4.36%	0.75%	8.54%	0.67%
	[1]	4.36%	0.15%	11.52%	0.25%

Table 5.3 lists the detailed results of the tested chord progression types, for the Doc2Vec DBOW model, one test run only.



Table 5.3: Results for the Doc2Vec DBOW model for guessing the chord analogies. The model achieves the highest accuracy for the ii-V chord progressions.

Chord Progression	Perfect Match	Top 5 Match
minor-to-dominant	0.76%	18.18%
major-to-minor	7.58%	14.39%
dominant-to-minor	5.30%	20.45%
dominant-to-minor-half-step-down	4.55%	7.58%
minor-to-dominant-half-step-down	0.76%	6.82%
subdominant to tonic, V-I	23.48%	36.36%
ii to dominant, ii-V	36.36%	43.94%
dominant sequences, V/V-V	3.79%	22.73%
Overall	10.3%	21.3%

### 5.3 Self-Similarity for Doc2Vec

The self-similarity of the inferred tune sections using the Doc2Vec model is consistent and is not clearly impacted by different hyperparameter tunings. Therefore, this value is more important as a crosscheck than as a useful metric to determine the model quality. Table 5.4 lists the results for self-similarity.

Table 5.4: Doc2Vec Self-Similarity for tune sections in the training set.

n-grams	Sections Self-similar in Rank 0		Sections Self-similar in Rank 1	
	Mean	Std	Mean	Std
DBOW				
[1,2,3,4]	95.90%	0.16%	98.02%	0.06%
[1,2,3]	96.03%	0.21%	98.03%	0.12%
[1,2]	95.50%	0.03%	97.80%	0.03%
DM				
[1,2,3,4]	96.07%	0.04%	98.08%	0.02%
[1,2,3]	96.03%	0.06%	98.12%	0.08%
[1,2]	95.62%	0.10%	97.74%	0.05%
[1]	91.90%	0.15%	95.68%	0.15%

### 5.4 Best Hyperparameters

The best hyperparameters were evaluated based on the contrafacts test metric.

#### LSA

[32] describes the use of a coherence score to derive an optimum number of topics. This calculation is conveniently available in the *gensim* library.<sup>1</sup> However, the optimum number of topics as reported by the coherence model is around 30, but in the Contrafacts test, a higher number of topics performed clearly better. The number of topics is set to the somewhat arbitrary number of 100 topics.

<sup>1</sup><https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/models/coherencemodel.html>

## Doc2Vec

Table 5.5 lists the values that contribute to a highest accuracy in the Contrafact test metric for the Doc2Vec hyperparameters. Each run was repeated at least 5 times to incorporate the variability of the probabilistic nature of the Doc2Vec model. Detailed results are listed in Appendix C.

Table 5.5: Doc2Vec hyperparameter values resulting in highest Contrafacts test accuracy.

Parameter	Tested Values	n=[1,2,3,4]	n=[1] n=[1,2] n=[1,2,3]	Comment
<i>vector_size</i>	{100, 300}	300	300	not a big influence, but 300 performs slightly better than 100 mainly for the <i>chordsSimplified</i> vocabulary.
<i>sample</i>	{0.1, 0.01, 0.001}	0.001	0.01	0.1 is worse for all.
<i>window</i>	{2, 3, 4}	3	3	Has only an effect if <i>dbow_words</i> = 1.
<i>negative</i>	{10, 12, 14}	12	12	No big effect.
<i>dbow_words</i>	{0, 1}	1	1	Chord Analogy test can only be done when word vectors are stored with <i>dbow_words</i> = 1. Slightly improves the result.
<i>hs</i>	{0, 1}	1	1	Hierarchical softmax improves the result for all experiments.
<i>min_count</i>	{10, 20, 30, 40}	30	20	
<i>epochs</i>	{30, 50, 100, 200}	50 for DBOW, 200 for DM		Longer training needed for DM.

## Chapter 6

# Discussion and Outlook

## 6.1 Discussion of Results

### 6.1.1 Contrafact Test Results

The TF-IDF, LSA and the pure Doc2Vec DBOW variant do not consider the input order of the chords. They all perform worst with the chords as uni-grams, and clearly benefit from concatenating multiple chord n-grams. In fact, concatenating n-grams has a higher effect on the contrafacts test than any hyperparameter tuning.

The contrafact test was useful to start, but then proved to be not accurate enough. The models achieve a similar contrafacts test accuracy, therefore it is not possible to determine if a Doc2Vec model delivers better recommendations than the LSA or TF-IDF model. The list of contrafacts needs more cleaning and test cases.

### 6.1.2 Doc2Vec DM versus DBOW

The pure Doc2Vec DBOW variant ( $dm=0$ ,  $dbow\_words=0$ ) is fast to train (ca. 30s). With the same amount of training, Doc2Vec DM performs much worse and requires at least 4 times more training epochs to achieve a similar accuracy for the contrafacts test. In [14], the authors found that DBOW performs significantly better than DM for small data sets.

Doc2Vec DBOW with concurrent skip-gram training ( $dm=0$ ,  $dbow\_words=1$ ) interleaves the training of word vectors with the training of document vectors. This mode works as a sort of corpus-expansion trick: every sliding window of target to context word prediction acts like training a mini-document, and the neural network is fed with many more individual training examples (by the factor of the *window* parameter), which also multiplies the training time. It is not clear if increasing the number of training epochs by the number of the factor of the *window-size* would have the same effect<sup>1</sup>.

Doc2Vec DM naturally considers the input order of the chords. However, as Section 6.1.3 describes, the word vectors as learned by the interleaved DBOW method make more sense from a musical context than the word vectors learned by the DM model. Again, we could conclude that DBOW is better suited for small data sets.

Therefore, the Doc2Vec interleaved DBOW model wins over the Doc2Vec DM model for this use case.

### 6.1.3 Learned Weights for the Chords Vocabulary

This section inspects the vectors learned by the Doc2Vec and LSA model for each token. The high-dimensional vectors are reduced to 2 dimensions and visualized.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://groups.google.com/g/gensim/c/4-pd0iA\\_xW4](https://groups.google.com/g/gensim/c/4-pd0iA_xW4)

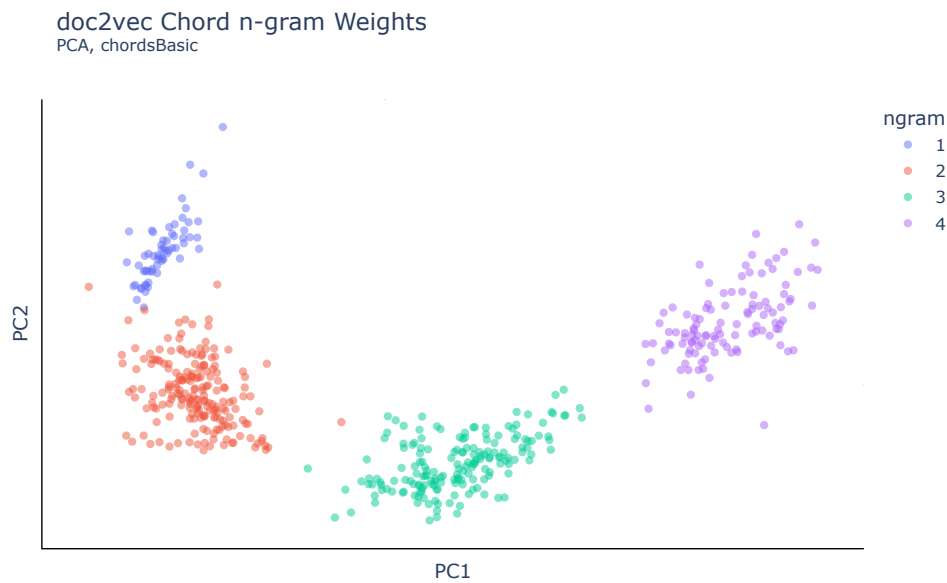


Figure 6.1: Doc2Vec weights for the chord n-gram vocabulary, visualized in 2-dimensional space using PCA. The n-grams with  $n=[1,2,3,4]$  are clearly separated. Total variance explained by the two principal components: 11.0%

### Visualization of Doc2Vec DBOW Chord Vectors

Figure 6.1 visualizes the 300-dimensional chord vectors learned by Doc2Vec in two dimensions by applying PCA. In this example, the input data consisted of chord n-grams with  $n=[1,2,3,4]$  for each tune section. Each data point in Figure 6.1 corresponds to an n-gram (token) in the vocabulary. The n-grams are clearly separated, the uni-grams being at the top left, followed by the bi-grams, the tri-grams in the middle, and the 4-grams on the right side.

The rationale for the separation is that the input data is constructed by concatenating the different n-grams. The Doc2Vec model is trained in DBOW mode with interleaved word training, which considers the context tokens around the center token.

Figure 6.2 shows a zoomed-in version of Figure 6.1 for the n-grams with  $n=1$  and  $n=2$ . For better clarity, the figure shows only n-grams that contain major chords. Interestingly, the bi-grams that consist of two identical chords are located closest to the uni-grams.

Figure 6.3 shows the 2-dimensional representation of the chord unigrams alone. The C, Dm and F chords (I, ii, IV in the context of C major) are grouped close together in the top left corner. The dominant chords A7, D7 and G7, which naturally lead to C, are also located close to C. Interestingly, F# and B, which are considered as harmonically far away from C, are also placed far away in this representation.

The major chords Bb, Eb, Ab and C# (Db) are harmonically close and form another group in this representation. Also the major chords E and A are harmonically close, and are located at the bottom of the diagram, while G and D are in the middle.

A speculative interpretation of the first principal component (x-axis) for major chords could be the likelihood that a tune in C major modulates to another major tonal center.

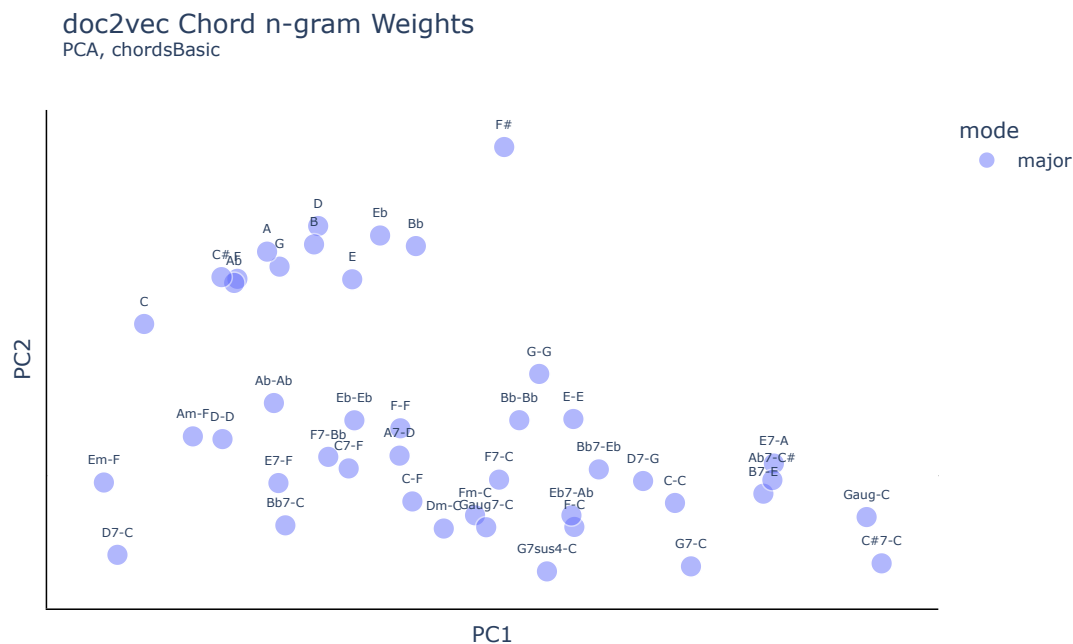


Figure 6.2: Focus on ngrams with  $n=1$  and  $n=2$  and n-grams which contain root chords only. Bi-grams that contain two identical chords are located closest to the uni-grams.

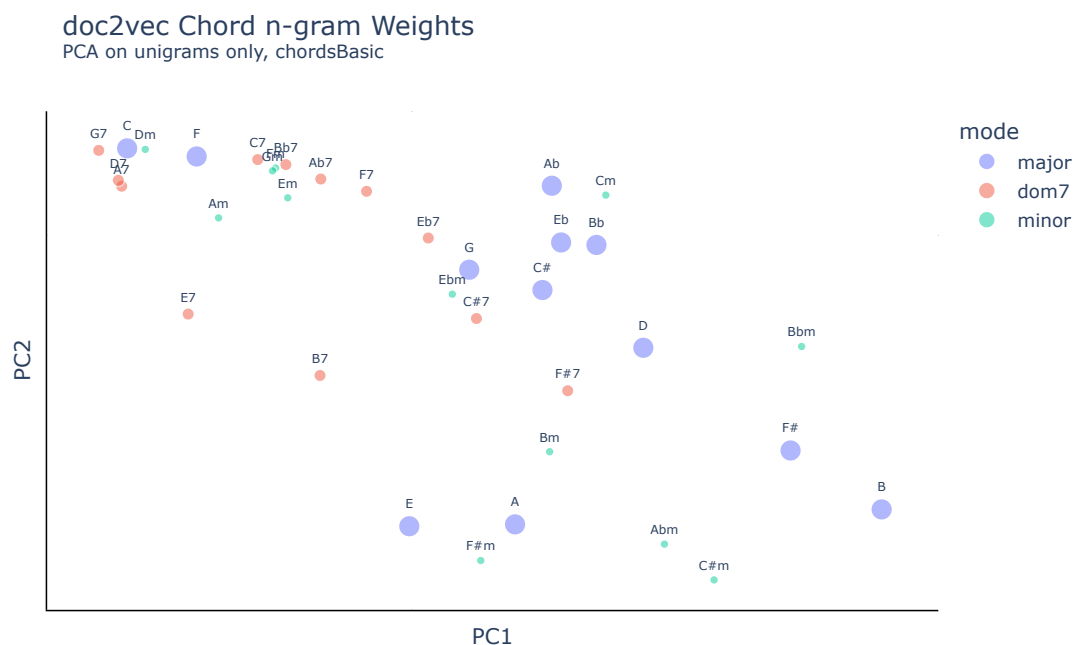


Figure 6.3: Representation of learned doc2vec weights for unigrams containing a root major, minor or dominant chord. The model is trained with all tunes transposed to C major and A minor, therefore this representation has to be analyzed from the C major or A minor point of view. Total variance explained: 14.3%.

### Visualization of Doc2Vec DM Chord Vectors

Figure 6.4 shows the dimension-reduced scatter plot for the trained chord vectors for the Doc2Vec DM model. This figure is generated analogue to Figure 6.1 for DBOW, but the trained chord vectors for Doc2Vec DM do not form any clusters for different  $n$ -grams. The interpretation of the projected chord unigrams (Figure 6.3) is rather difficult.

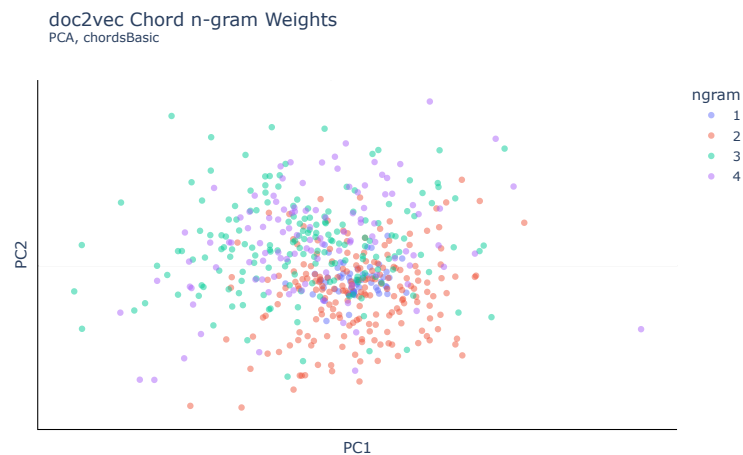


Figure 6.4: Doc2Vec DM weights for chordBasic vocabulary, dimension-reduced with PCA. The  $n$ -grams with different sizes of  $n$  are inseparable. Total variance explained: 8.19%.

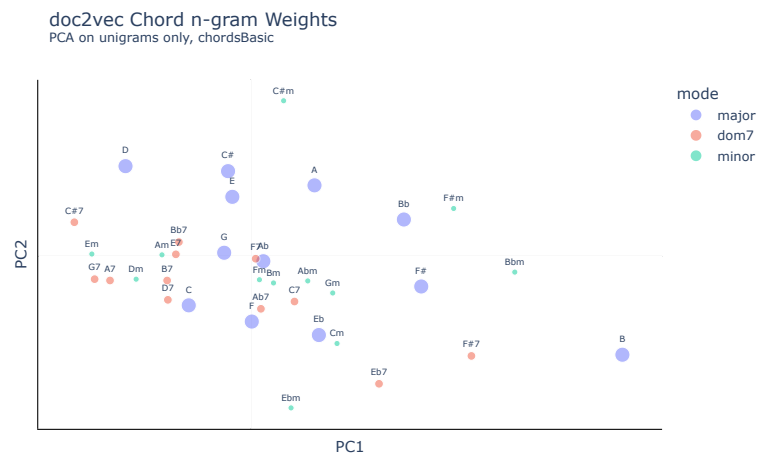


Figure 6.5: Doc2Vec DM weights for the uni-grams only, chordBasic vocabulary, dimension-reduced with PCA. Total variance explained: 12.17%.

### Visualization of LSA Chord Vectors

Figure 6.6 shows the dimension-reduced scatter plot of the LSA chord vectors for concatenated input data with  $n$ -gram=[1,2,3,4]. The resulting points are lumped together. Also, the first two principal components can explain only 2% of the variance, while the PCA applied to Doc2Vec DBOW could explain 11%.

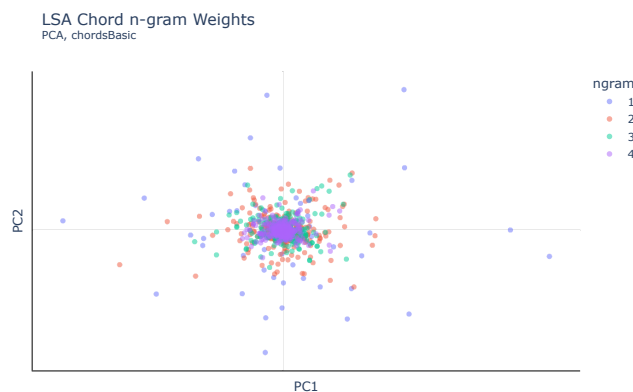


Figure 6.6: LSA weights for the chord n-gram vocabulary, visualized in 2-dimensional space using PCA. The n-grams with  $n=[1,2,3]$  are lumped together. Total variance explained: 2.01%.

### 6.1.4 Doc2Vec Chord Analogies

The Doc2Vec DBOW model is able to answer twice the number of chord analogies correctly, compared to the Doc2Vec DM model. Concretely, the DM model is able to answer only 3.5% of the ii-V chord progression analogies, while the DBOW model answers 36% correctly.

For the DBOW model, the ii-V and the V-I chord progressions achieve the highest prediction accuracy, due to the fact that they are frequently used in jazz.

It is important to consider that the chord analogy test contains chord progression analogies in all 12 keys, but the model is trained only on tunes in C major and A minor respectively. Considering this fact, for Doc2Vec DBOW, the overall accuracy of 10.3% is higher than  $100/12=8.3\%$  and therefore actually quite good.

### 6.1.5 Explorative Evaluation of Similarity Results

While Section 6.1.3 discussed the learned chord vectors, this section is focusing on the learned document vectors (for tune sections). We would like to learn if there are sections which are used in a lot of different tunes, and therefore forming clusters.

To explore this, the high-dimensional vectors are reduced to two dimensions using UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection) [33]. Subsequently, the UMAP result is clustered using HDBSCAN<sup>2</sup> [34]. HDBSCAN is a density-based clustering technique that has the ability to refuse to cluster some points and classify them as noise.

Figure 6.7 shows the result of the clustered tune sections. Points that are located close to each other are supposed to be similar. UMAP has the advantage that it conserves the data's global structure fairly well, which means that clusters on the left side of the plot are supposed to be very different from clusters on the right side. In fact, visual exploration suggests that sections which use many C major chords are located on the left side, while sections with many A minor chords are located on the right side.

To conclude whether the clusters are meaningful, the chords of a few clusters (labelled A to M) are listed in Table 6.1.

For example, we can find the bridge of *I Got Rhythm* in cluster A, the bridge of *Honeysuckle Rose* in cluster B, and the *Blues* pattern in cluster C.

Sections that shortly modulate the tonal center a minor third up from C to Eb, are found in cluster G. Sections that modulate a major third up to E are grouped in cluster I. Other clusters modulate to Bb (red cluster close to H) or to F (green cluster close to I).

<sup>2</sup><https://hdbscan.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>

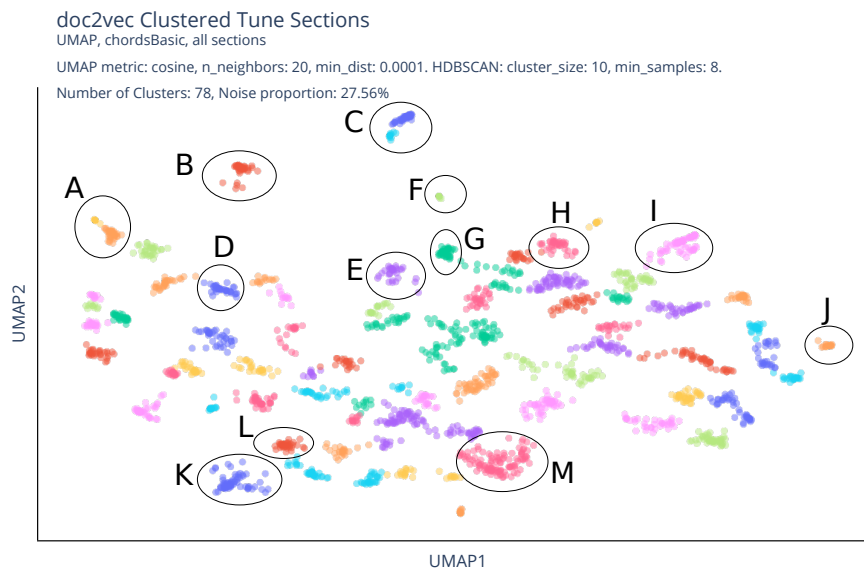


Figure 6.7: Clustered tune sections, based on the *chordsBasic* vocabulary, in the 2-dimensional UMAP space. Each point in the plot represents a tune section. Points that could not be assigned to a cluster are omitted. Different colors represent different clusters, but have no meaning otherwise.

Other clusters reveal the limitations of the current approach. Cluster K contains sections with a C#dim chord, which is used as a passing chord between C and Dm7. Similarly, cluster L contains sections with Ebdim chords. For the global harmonic structure, these diminished chords are not relevant.

Figure 6.8 shows the same UMAP space as Figure 6.7, but unfiltered and unclustered. Tune sections belonging to a tune in a major key are visualized as orange dots, tune sections belonging to a tune in a minor key are shown in green. We can see that the minor tunes are assembled on the left side. The few green points that are located at the very right side belong to tunes which are written in a minor key, but modulate to a major key in the B section, e.g., *No Moon At All*, *Close Your Eyes*, *Caravan*.

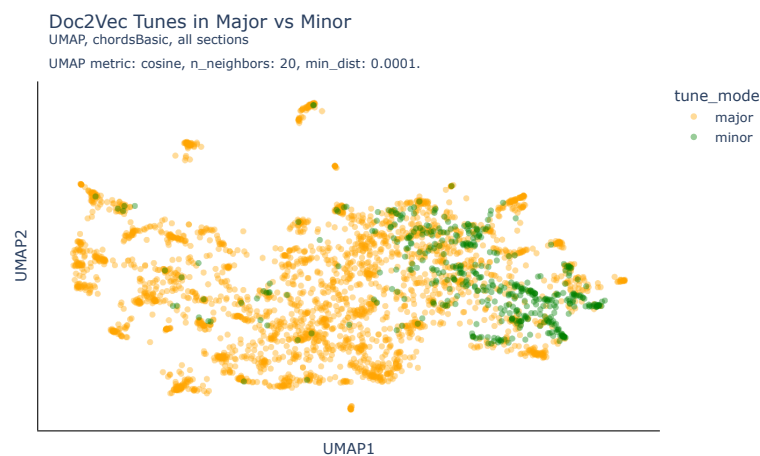


Figure 6.8: Visualization of tunes in minor and major, in the 2-dimensional UMAP space. Each point in the plot represents a tune section, the color represents the overall mode of the tune.



Table 6.1: Clusters according to Figure 6.7, with typical chord exponents and a few examples of tune sections.

Cluster	Typical Chords	Tune Section Examples
A	E7, A7, D7, G7	I Got Rhythm, B Anthropology, B Robbin's Nest, B
B	C7, F, D7, G7	Honeysuckle Rose, B Pennies From Heaven, B When You're Smiling, B
C	Blues Pattern	Blue Monk Blues In the Closet
C	C7, F7, D7, G7 C7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, G7	Flying Home, B Fine And Dandy, B
D	F, C, D7, G7	Lady Be Good, B Sentimental Journey, B Memories, B
E	Gm, C7, F, Fm, Bb7	Crazy Rhythm, B My Shining Hour, C,
E	F, Fm, Bb7, Eb	Bluesette, B Star Eyes, B
F	C7, Bb7	On Broadway, A Killer Joe, A
G	Fm7, Bb7, Eb	Flamingo, B I'll Remember April, C A Kiss To Build A Dream On, B
H	Bbm7, Eb7, Ab	Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans, B The More I See You, B
I	F#m7, B7, E	Tea For Two, B A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square, B Prelude To A Kiss, B Moonlight In Vermont, B Polkadots And Moonbeams, B
J	E7, Am7, D7	All Of Me, B Shoe Shine Boy, B My Gal Sal, B
K	C C#dim, Dm7, G7	Makin' Whopee, A You Make Me Feel So Young, A Stormy Weather, A
L	C, Ebdim, Dm7, G7	Pennies From Heaven, A Fine And Dandy, A (Hello Dolly, A)
M	Am7, Dm7, G7, C	People, A Polkadots And Moonbeams, A Jeepers Creepers, A Flamingo, A

## 6.2 Conclusions

In this project, I used vector space models to find similar sections of jazz tunes, and showed that NLP methods can be applied to the textual chord symbol vocabulary. The bag-of-word models TF-IDF and LSA perform well out-of-the-box for the contrafacts accuracy. The contrafacts accuracy for the Doc2Vec DBOW model is slightly higher than for TF-IDF and LSA, but needs hyperparameter tuning.

Trained on chord unigrams only, all models performed worse than if they were trained on concatenated chord n-grams. One reason for this could be that the models expect the data to follow the Zipf distribution for natural language, but the chord unigrams of the highly simplified *chordsBasic* vocabulary does not fit this distribution well. Another reason is that the number of training samples is increased by adding chord n-grams. As another advantage, the n-grams introduce the dependency to close chord neighbors, which is otherwise missing when using uni-grams and bag-of-word models.

It is instructive to visually explore the high-dimensional tune vectors by reducing them to two dimensions, and subsequently apply clustering. Applied to the Doc2Vec DBOW model, this shows that the model can catch sections with similar harmonic structure, and also a temporary shift to a different tonal center. For example, there are distinct clusters for tunes that share the harmonic structure of the B section of *I Got Rhythm*, or *Honeysuckle Rose*, or *Tea for Two*. Other clusters contain sections which shortly modulate to a different key, like from C to Bb, Eb or F.

The simplification of the chords vocabulary is a good approach for comparing tunes. A challenge remains to identify the basic harmonic structure of tunes, because the model cannot distinguish between main chords and passing chords. For example, though a ii-V chord progression in the input data might not be relevant for the global similarity of a tune, the model recognizes those chord progressions best because they are most frequently used. Chords used as passing chords have too much influence on the similarity, mainly if they are used rather infrequently. Both situations result in recommendations that focus more on the chords' microstructure than on the global harmonic structure.

It is quite impressive how many of the chord analogies the Doc2Vec DBOW model is able to solve, given the fact that the model was only trained by tunes in one key (C major and its parallel minor key A minor). However, it is not clear to what extent a high accuracy in the chord analogies test contributes to good recommender results.

The manual inspection of results remains an important step in the evaluation. For this, the created web application is a most valuable tool to explore the leadsheets of clusters and try to understand why the model considers a group of sections as similar.

## 6.3 Limitations

**Insufficient Metrics** The list of contrafacts that I used to test the accuracy of the model is biased towards tunes that are well known for similarity. The metric was good to start, but then it was not accurate enough to discriminate which model delivers the best tune recommendations according to the goals described in Section 4.1.

**Section-based Approach** Using the tune sections as the input for the models simplifies finding similar sections, but also creates a strong dependency on correct section labeling. Comparing sections with different lengths (e.g. 8 bars versus 16 bars) typically results in asymmetric similarity results.

**"Over-jazzed" Lead Sheets** For the harmonic structure of jazz tunes, there is no single source that defines the "correct" chords. Based on a leadsheet, a jazz musician will

enhance or substitute the chords and play more chords than indicated. Therefore, a tune is actually characterized by basic chords, but will certainly be enhanced with more passing chords during a performance. For the iRealPro chords data, the chords for some tunes are kept rather simple, while other tunes are augmented with additional chords or reharmonized. With the current approach, the model does not perform well to find similarities between an augmented and a simple tune, even though the harmonic structure is the same.

**Messy Input Data** The musicXML format of iRealPro omits necessary information, for example the Coda sign. This makes it impossible to reconstruct the correct form. Also, the section label is visible in the iRealPro app for certain conditions but is not contained in the exported musicXML file. Another limitation in the musicXML data is the missing tempo information. Overall, instead of exporting the chords from iRealPro to musicXML format, it might have been beneficial to use the custom iRealPro URL format<sup>3</sup> that is used for sharing playlists.

**Productization** The web application is deployed only as a prototype to a development environment and is missing a productive web server environment (WSGI server<sup>4</sup>). The data pipelines are not automated, and new data can only be added by rerunning the pipelines and re-building the model. The graphical user interface serves as an exploration application for the developer.

## 6.4 Future Work

Future work could improve the application by considering these aspects:

**Improve Performance Evaluation** Extend the list of contrafacts for the test set, e.g., by adding tunes where positive user feedback is received. Split up the list in subtests, to identify which parts perform well with different models (e.g., tunes with same B section, part of a section, modulation to same tonal center, etc.). This step is essential before it can be decided which model performs best.

**More Training Data** Generate training data to learn basic harmonic movements. Use tunes with the chord sequences in their most basic harmonic form. Train the Doc2Vec model with the tunes transposed to all keys. Consider the duration of a chord to emphasize main chords.

**Tune versus Section Similarity** Train a Doc2Vec model with both a tune-id and a section-id to find similar tunes and similar sections using the same model.

**Difficulty of Tunes** Include the chords complexity into the similarity analysis (Section 4.1).

**Relevance Feedback** Evaluate the effect of applying the Rocchio method for user feedback. Evaluate the effect of Pseudo Relevance Feedback (which replaces a tune vector with the mean of its top-n most similar vectors).

**Network Graphs** Analyze basic harmonic movements using network graph models ([35], [36]).

**User Interface** Develop an application with a user-centric interface.

**Leadsheets** Display the root tone of chords with proper enharmonic spelling.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.irealpro.com/ireal-pro-file-format/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.fullstackpython.com/wsgi-servers.html>



## Appendix A

# Relevance Feedback, Prove of Concept

Relevance feedback can be used to improve the recommendation quality based on user feedback. The user is asked to rate a result as relevant or non-relevant. Relevance feedback can go through one or more iterations. Naturally, relevance feedback only works if the users are willing to give feedback.

### Rocchio Method

A typical approach for applying user feedback is the Rocchio method, and can be used for all vector space models. If the user provides feedback for a tune  $Q$  being similar as the tune  $A$ , then the vector  $\vec{q}$  is rotated towards  $\vec{a}$ . Before applying Rocchio, the vectors have to be normalized to unit length.

Formally, the new vector  $\vec{q}'$  is obtained as follows (quoted from [16]):

$$\vec{q}' := \alpha \frac{\vec{q}}{\|\vec{q}\|} + \frac{\beta}{|D^{rel}|} \sum_{d_j \in D^{rel}} \frac{\vec{d}_j}{\|\vec{d}_j\|} - \frac{\gamma}{|D^{non}|} \sum_{d_k \in D^{non}} \frac{\vec{d}_k}{\|\vec{d}_k\|}$$

where  $D^{rel}$  and  $D^{non}$  are the sets of known (i.e., those judged by the user) relevant and irrelevant documents, respectively.  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  allow a tuning of the influence of the different components (original query, known relevant documents, known irrelevant documents). Typically,  $\beta$  is chosen to be greater than  $\gamma$ , and  $\gamma$  is often chosen to be 0 (i.e., relevant documents have a greater influence on the new vector than irrelevant documents).

### Example: Applying Rocchio to a Tune Recommendation

This section describes the effect of the Rocchio method applied to a positive user feedback for a tune recommendation. Concretely, we assume that a user gave positive feedback for the tune *If I Had You, B* being similar to *These Foolish Things, B*. The 15 most relevant and irrelevant recommendations for *These Foolish Things, B* are visualized in two dimensions using PCA, before and after applying the Rocchio method. Negative user feedback is not considered, i.e.,  $\gamma = 0$ .

Figure A.1 shows the initial query and subsequent two steps after applying the Rocchio method. The initial query, marked by a big purple dot, consequently moves towards the green square. Note that more tunes pop up close to the green square after the first application of user feedback. Table A.1 lists the most relevant results for the initial query and after applying the Rocchio method. For this configuration, *If I Had You, B* jumps directly to the first rank of recommended tunes after applying Rocchio once. Tunes that are close, like *Come Back To Me*, are also influenced and move up higher in rank.

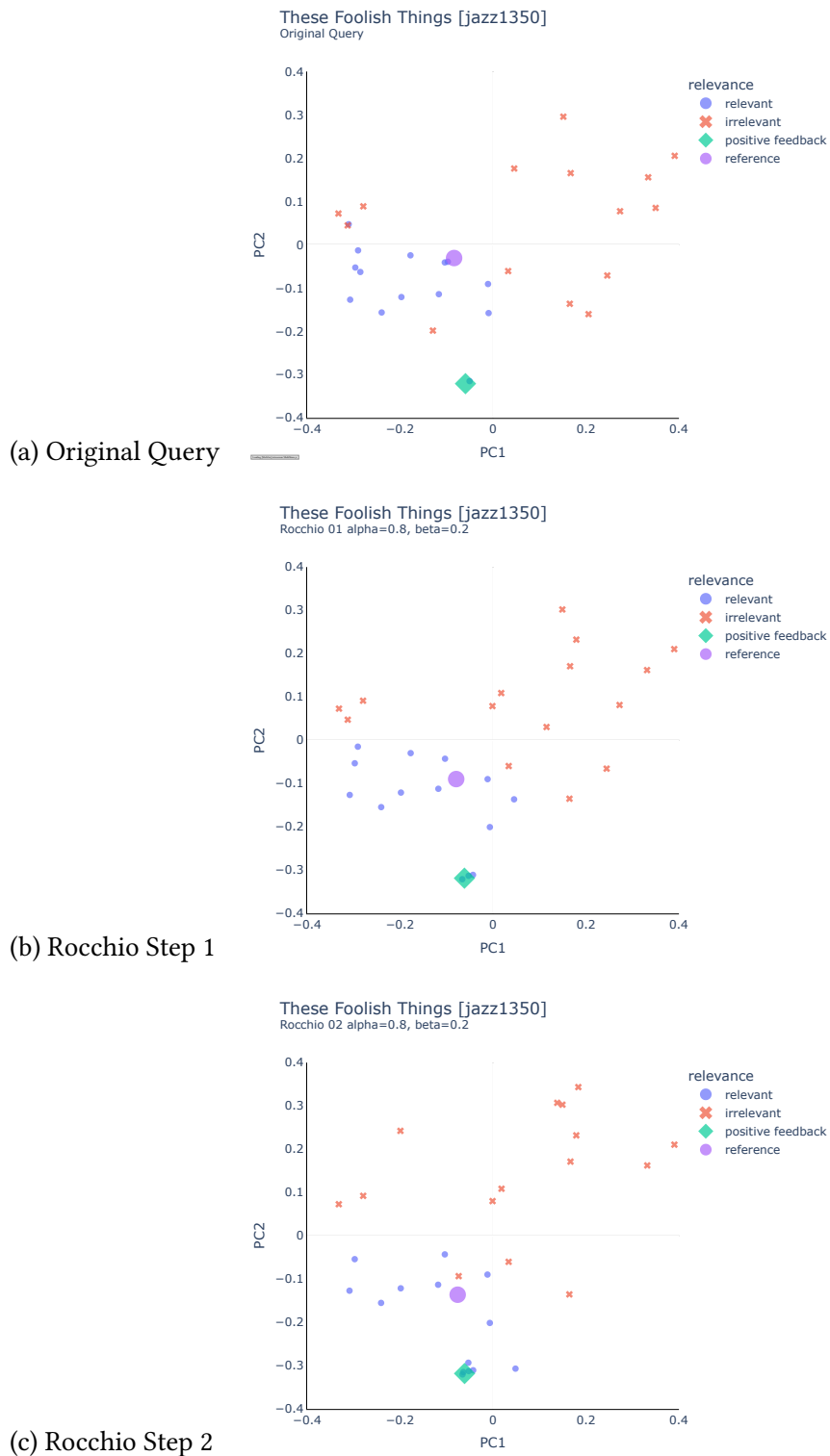


Figure A.1: (a) shows the original recommendation with the 15 most relevant and irrelevant recommendations for the tune marked by a big dot. (b) applies the Rocchio formula for the positive feedback that was received for the tune marked with a big square. (c) applies the same step again.

Table A.1: The 15 most relevant results for the tune "These Foolish Things", Section B, with positive user feedback applied for the tune "If I Had You", Section B. The score is based on the cosine similarity.

Rank	Original Recommendation		Rocchio Step 1		Rocchio Step 2	
	Title	Score	Title	Score	Title	Score
0	Imagination	0.575	<b>If I Had You</b>	0.650	<b>If I Had You</b>	0.772
1	They Can't Take That Away From Me	0.573	Come Back To Me	0.649	Come Back To Me	0.768
2	Rosetta	0.572	They Can't Take That Away From Me	0.626	Too Young To Go Steady	0.723
3	Isn't It A Pity	0.570	Imagination	0.623	Am I Blue	0.711
4	More Than You Know	0.537	Rosetta	0.621	They Can't Take That Away From Me	0.655
5	Walkin' My Baby Back Home	0.533	Isn't It A Pity	0.612	Imagination	0.647
6	Eiderdown	0.498	Too Young To Go Steady	0.611	Rosetta	0.646
7	Come Back To Me	0.495	Am I Blue	0.605	Isn't It A Pity	0.631
8	<b>If I Had You</b>	0.493	Walkin' My Baby Back Home	0.575	All God's Chillun Got Rhythm	0.602
9	Soultrane	0.490	More Than You Know	0.567	Walkin' My Baby Back Home	0.595
10	Embraceable You	0.488	All God's Chillun Got Rhythm	0.551	I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm	0.591
11	I've Told Eve'ry Little Star	0.486	Soultrane	0.550	Folks Who Live On The Hill, The	0.590
12	I May Be Wrong (But I Think You're...)	0.484	Folks Who Live On The Hill, The	0.545	Haunted Heart	0.587
13	Wouldn't It Be Loverly	0.478	I've Told Eve'ry Little Star	0.533	Soultrane	0.587
14	All God's Chillun Got Rhythm	0.476	Let's Get Lost	0.532	Let's Call The Whole Thing Off	0.586





## Appendix B

# List of Contrafacts

The following table lists the tunes that are being used as the reference test standard for the Contrafacts metric (see Section 4.7.1). The list of reference tunes forms the test set and is excluded from the training set. In square brackets the iRealPro playlist source is indicated.

Tunes in this list can either be virtually identical for the whole tune, for a whole section or for the major part of a section.

A part of this list is taken from Wikipedia.<sup>1</sup>

Reference Tune	Expected Similar Tune
26-2 [jazz1350]	Confirmation [jazz1350]
52nd Street Theme [jazz1350]	Honeysuckle Rose [jazz1350]
A Blossom Fell [jazz1350]	Among My Souvenirs [jazz1350]
A Night In Tunisia [jazz1350]	Alone Together [jazz1350]
A Night In Tunisia [jazz1350]	Segment [jazz1350]
A Weaver Of Dreams [jazz1350]	There Will Never Be Another You [jazz1350]
Ablution [jazz1350]	All The Things You Are [jazz1350]
All I Do Is Dream Of You [trad]	L-O-V-E [jazz1350]
Anthropology [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
As Long As I Live [trad]	Charleston, The [jazz1350]
As Long As I Live [trad]	I'm Glad There Is You [jazz1350]
Baubles, Bangles and Beads [jazz1350]	Bossa Antigua [jazz1350]
Bei Mir Bist Du Schon (Root Hog Or Die) [trad]	Egyptian Fantasy [trad]
Bei Mir Bist Du Schon (Root Hog Or Die) [trad]	Puttin' On The Ritz [jazz1350]
Bill Bailey [jazz1350]	Bourbon Street Parade [jazz1350]
Billy Boy [jazz1350]	Elora [jazz1350]
Broadway [jazz1350]	Undecided [jazz1350]
C.T.A. [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Cheek To Cheek [jazz1350]	Violets For Your Furs [jazz1350]
Come Back To Me [jazz1350]	Am I Blue [jazz1350]
Come Back To Me [jazz1350]	I Wish I Knew [jazz1350]
Coquette [trad]	Pretend You're Happy When You're Blue [trad]
Cottontail [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Countdown [jazz1350]	Tune Up [jazz1350]
Dearly Beloved [jazz1350]	We See [jazz1350]
Dewey Square [jazz1350]	Oh, Lady Be Good [jazz1350]
Dexterity [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Donna Lee [jazz1350]	Indiana (Back Home Again In) [jazz1350]
Don't Be That Way [jazz1350]	Long Ago And Far Away [jazz1350]
Evidence [jazz1350]	Just You, Just Me [jazz1350]
Exactly Like You [jazz1350]	Jersey Bounce [jazz1350]
Exactly Like You [jazz1350]	True (You Don't Love Me ) [trad]
Fine And Dandy [jazz1350]	I Can't Give You Anything But Love [jazz1350]
Fine And Dandy [jazz1350]	Let's Call The Whole Thing Off [jazz1350]
Five Foot Two [trad]	Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone [trad]
Flintstones [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Flying Home [jazz1350]	Down For Double [jazz1350]

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_jazz\\_contrafacts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_jazz_contrafacts)

Reference Tune (cont.)	Expected Similar Tune (cont.)
Four On Six [jazz1350]	Summertime [jazz1350]
Freight Train [jazz1350]	Blues For Alice [jazz1350]
Glory Of Love, The [jazz1350]	I've Got My Fingers Crossed [trad]
Good Bait [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Hackensack [jazz1350]	Oh, Lady Be Good [jazz1350]
Hot House [jazz1350]	What Is This Thing Called Love [jazz1350]
I Like The Likes Of You [jazz1350]	Mountain Greenery [jazz1350]
I Want To Be Happy [jazz1350]	A Beautiful Friendship [jazz1350]
If I Had You [jazz1350]	Too Young To Go Steady [jazz1350]
I'll Close My Eyes [jazz1350]	Bluesette [jazz1350]
I'll Close My Eyes [jazz1350]	There Will Never Be Another You [jazz1350]
Impressions [jazz1350]	So What [jazz1350]
In A Mellow Tone (In A Mellotone) [jazz1350]	Rose Room [jazz1350]
In Walked Bud [jazz1350]	Blue Skies [jazz1350]
Jeannie's Song [jazz1350]	Shiny Stockings [jazz1350]
Killer Joe [jazz1350]	Straight Life [jazz1350]
Ko Ko [jazz1350]	Cherokee [jazz1350]
Lennie's Pennies [jazz1350]	Pennies From Heaven [jazz1350]
Let's Fall In Love [jazz1350]	At Last [jazz1350]
Let's Fall In Love [jazz1350]	Heart And Soul [jazz1350]
Little Rootie Tootie [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Little Willie Leaps [jazz1350]	All God's Chillun Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Lullaby Of Birdland [jazz1350]	Love Me Or Leave Me [jazz1350]
Misty [jazz1350]	I May Be Wrong [jazz1350]
Misty [jazz1350]	Portrait Of Jennie [jazz1350]
Misty [jazz1350]	September In The Rain [jazz1350]
Moose The Mooche [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Moten Swing [jazz1350]	Once In A While (Ballad) [trad]
My Heart Stood Still [jazz1350]	All Too Soon [jazz1350]
My Little Suede Shoes [jazz1350]	Jeebers Creepers [jazz1350]
My One And Only Love [jazz1350]	Am I Blue [jazz1350]
My One And Only Love [jazz1350]	Folks Who Live On The Hill, The [jazz1350]
My Secret Love [jazz1350]	Samba De Orfeu [jazz1350]
Nancy (With The Laughing Face) [jazz1350]	Body And Soul [jazz1350]
Oh! Lady Be Good [trad]	Sentimental Journey [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	Eclypso [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	I'm Confessin' That I Love You [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	Mountain Greenery [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	September In The Rain [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	There's No You [jazz1350]
On The Sunny Side Of The Street [jazz1350]	You Stepped Out Of A Dream [jazz1350]
Ornithology [jazz1350]	How High The Moon [jazz1350]
Quasimodo (Theme) [jazz1350]	Embraceable You [jazz1350]
Room 608 [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Satellite [jazz1350]	How High The Moon [jazz1350]
Satin Doll [jazz1350]	Undecided [jazz1350]
Scrapple From The Apple [jazz1350]	Honeysuckle Rose [jazz1350]
Scrapple From The Apple [jazz1350]	I Got Rhythm [jazz1350]
Softly, As In A Morning Sunrise [jazz1350]	Segment [jazz1350]
Softly, As In A Morning Sunrise [jazz1350]	Strode Rode [jazz1350]
Subconscious Lee [jazz1350]	What Is This Thing Called Love [jazz1350]
Sweet Georgia Brown [jazz1350]	Bright Mississippi [jazz1350]
Sweet Georgia Brown [jazz1350]	Dig [jazz1350]
Sweet Sue, Just You [jazz1350]	Bye Bye Blackbird [jazz1350]
Sweet Sue, Just You [jazz1350]	Honeysuckle Rose [jazz1350]
Take The A Train [jazz1350]	Girl From Ipanema, The [jazz1350]
Tangerine [jazz1350]	Tea For Two [jazz1350]
Teach Me Tonight [jazz1350]	I May Be Wrong [jazz1350]

Reference Tune (cont.)	Expected Similar Tune (cont.)
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Blue Moon [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Embraceable You [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Isn't It A Pity [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	More Than You Know [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Rosetta [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Soultrane [jazz1350]
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]	Why Do I Love You [jazz1350]
This Year's Kisses [jazz1350]	My Monday Date [trad]
Tour De Force [jazz1350]	Jeepers Creepers [jazz1350]
Wait Till You See Her [jazz1350]	A Certain Smile [jazz1350]
Woody'n You [jazz1350]	Stella By Starlight [jazz1350]
Yardbird Suite [jazz1350]	Rosetta [jazz1350]
You Can Depend On Me [jazz1350]	I Can't Give You Anything But Love [jazz1350]
You Can Depend On Me [jazz1350]	Move [jazz1350]
You Can Depend On Me [jazz1350]	Wow [jazz1350]



## Appendix C

# Doc2Vec Hyperparameter Tuning

This section lists detailed results for different hyperparameters.

### C.1 Results based on the Contrafacts Metric

The results below are derived by varying one hyperparameter for different input data while holding the other hyperparameters constant.

#### DM versus DBOW: $dm$

Both models are trained with 50 epochs. Although the Doc2Vec DM model needs more training for higher contrafacts accuracy, the results with 50 epochs are listed here anyway for comparison.

			ChordsBasic		ChordsSimplified	
			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3
dm=0	Contrafacts	mean	0.876	0.847	0.742	0.691
		std	0.007	0.01	0.011	0.006
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.0966	0.0848		
		std	0.0037	0.0053		
dm=1	Contrafacts	mean	0.767	0.76	0.653	0.609
		std	0.017	0.018	0.015	0.008
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.0528	0.0504		
		std	0.0056	0.0029		

#### Vector Size: $vector\_size$

			ChordsBasic		ChordsSimplified	
			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3
size=100	Contrafacts	mean	0.869	0.840	0.736	0.687
		std	0.007	0.011	0.006	0.015
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.099	0.091		
		std	0.006	0.002		
size=300	Contrafacts	mean	0.873	0.836	0.745	0.727
		std	0.005	0.000	0.007	0.018
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.100	0.094		
		std	0.009	0.002		

**Sample Size:** *sample*

size	ChordsBasic				ChordsSimplified				
	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2	n=1	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2		
0.001	Contrafacts	mean	0.866	0.83	0.832	0.741	0.742	0.713	0.755
		std	0.006	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.021	0.014
	Analogy	mean	0.096	0.086	0.08	0.053			
		std	0.008	0.006	0.008	0.007			
0.01	Contrafacts	mean	0.872	0.856	0.838	0.762		0.752	0.766
		std	0.006	0.008	0.012	0.011		0.013	0.01
	Analogy	mean	0.084	0.089	0.073	0.063			
		std	0.011	0.01	0.012	0.011			

**Window Size:** *window*

			ChordsBasic		ChordsSimplified	
			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3
2	Contrafacts	mean	0.866	0.836		0.743
		std	0.004	0.018		0.019
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.080	0.082		
		std	0.008	0.005		
3	Contrafacts	mean	0.870	0.842	0.742	0.722
		std	0.007	0.016	0.011	0.032
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.097	0.089		
		std	0.005	0.006		

**Negative Samples:** *negative*

			ChordsBasic		ChordsSimplified	
			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3
10	Contrafacts	mean	0.867		0.843	0.740
		std	0.006		0.015	0.014
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.097		0.092	
		std	0.007		0.005	
12	Contrafacts	mean	0.870	0.742	0.842	0.722
		std	0.007	0.011	0.016	0.032
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.097		0.089	
		std	0.005		0.006	
14	Contrafacts		0.870		0.838	0.744
			0.011		0.015	0.004
	Chord Analogy		0.098		0.097	
			0.006		0.008	

**Hierarchical Softmax:** *hs*

			ChordsBasic		ChordsSimplified	
			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3
hs=0	Contrafacts	mean	0.862	0.84	0.756	0.769
		std	0.007	0.007	0.004	0.012
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.072	0.072		
		std	0.004	0.009		
hs=1	Contrafacts	mean	0.876	0.847	0.742	0.691
		std	0.007	0.01	0.011	0.006
	Chord Analogy	mean	0.097	0.085		
		std	0.004	0.005		

**Minimum Count:** *min\_count*

			ChordsBasic				ChordsSimplified		
size			n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2	n=1	n=1,2,3,4	n=1,2,3	n=1,2
10	Contrafacts	mean	0.842	0.831	0.843	0.749		0.745	0.769
		std	0.004	0.011	0.018	0.015		0.006	0.011
	Analogy	mean	0.101	0.095	0.074	0.058			
		std	0.004	0.008	0.008	0.009			
20	Contrafacts	mean	0.855	0.848	0.836	0.754		0.744	0.767
		std	0.009	0.015	0.011	0.016		0.011	0.008
	Analogy	mean	0.090	0.097	0.085	0.063			
		std	0.006	0.009	0.007	0.012			
30	Contrafacts	mean	0.870	0.842	0.807	0.742	0.742	0.722	0.755
		std	0.007	0.016	0.009	0.032	0.011	0.032	0.009
	Analogy	mean	0.097	0.089	0.086	0.072			
		std	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.013			
40	Contrafacts	mean	0.847						
		std	0.004						
	Analogy	mean	0.092						
		std	0.004						
50	Contrafacts	mean	0.831						
		std	0.007						
	Analogy	mean	0.106						
		std	0.006						

**C.2 Chord Analogies Results****Perfect Match Results**

The following list of chord analogy pairs are correctly recognized by one trained Doc2Vec DBOW model, provided here as an example. The list  $[a, b, c, d]$  has to be interpreted as " $a$  is to  $b$  like  $c$  to  $d$ ", while  $a, b$  and  $c$  are provided as input, and the model answers with  $d$  being the best match.

The following list includes only chord analogy pairs where the model provided the correct answer  $d$  in rank 0 (best match).

minor-to-dominant:  
 ['Fm', 'F7', 'Ebm', 'Eb7']

major-to-minor:  
 ['A', 'Am', 'D', 'Dm']  
 ['A', 'Am', 'E', 'Em']  
 ['B', 'Bm', 'D', 'Dm']  
 ['C', 'Cm', 'Bb', 'Bbm']  
 ['C#', 'C#m', 'Ab', 'Abm']  
 ['Eb', 'Ebm', 'D', 'Dm']  
 ['E', 'Em', 'D', 'Dm']  
 ['F', 'Fm', 'Eb', 'Ebm']  
 ['F#', 'F#m', 'Eb', 'Ebm']  
 ['Ab', 'Abm', 'F#', 'F#m']

dominant-to-minor:  
 ['Bb7', 'Bbm', 'Ab7', 'Abm']  
 ['C7', 'Cm', 'D7', 'Dm']  
 ['C#7', 'C#m', 'Eb7', 'Ebm']  
 ['Eb7', 'Ebm', 'D7', 'Dm']  
 ['F#7', 'F#m', 'Ab7', 'Abm']  
 ['F#7', 'F#m', 'D7', 'Dm']  
 ['Ab7', 'Abm', 'F#7', 'F#m']

dominant-to-minor-half-step-down:  
 ['A7', 'Abm', 'G7', 'F#m']  
 ['C7', 'Bm', 'Bb7', 'Am']  
 ['D7', 'C#m', 'G7', 'F#m']  
 ['Eb7', 'Dm', 'F7', 'Em']  
 ['F7', 'Em', 'Eb7', 'Dm']  
 ['G7', 'F#m', 'A7', 'Abm']

minor-to-dominant-half-step-down:  
 ['Bbm', 'A7', 'Abm', 'G7']

V-I:  
 ['A7', 'D', 'Bb7', 'Eb']  
 ['A7', 'D', 'B7', 'E']  
 ['A7', 'D', 'D7', 'G']  
 ['A7', 'D', 'E7', 'A']  
 ['A7', 'D', 'F#7', 'B']  
 ['Bb7', 'Eb', 'D7', 'G']  
 ['Bb7', 'Eb', 'E7', 'A']  
 ['Bb7', 'Eb', 'F#7', 'B']  
 ['B7', 'E', 'Eb7', 'Ab']  
 ['B7', 'E', 'Ab7', 'C#']  
 ['C7', 'F', 'G7', 'C']  
 ['C#7', 'F#', 'F#7', 'B']  
 ['C#7', 'F#', 'G7', 'C']  
 ['C#7', 'F#', 'C7', 'F']  
 ['D7', 'G', 'Eb7', 'Ab']  
 ['D7', 'G', 'Bb7', 'Eb']  
 ['Eb7', 'Ab', 'Ab7', 'C#']  
 ['E7', 'A', 'F#7', 'B']  
 ['E7', 'A', 'G7', 'C']  
 ['E7', 'A', 'Bb7', 'Eb']  
 ['F7', 'Bb', 'F#7', 'B']  
 ['F7', 'Bb', 'G7', 'C']  
 ['F7', 'Bb', 'Bb7', 'Eb']  
 ['F7', 'Bb', 'Eb7', 'Ab']  
 ['F7', 'Bb', 'E7', 'A']  
 ['F#7', 'B', 'G7', 'C']  
 ['F#7', 'B', 'Bb7', 'Eb']  
 ['F#7', 'B', 'C7', 'F']

ii-V:  
 ['Am', 'D7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Am', 'D7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['Am', 'D7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Bbm', 'Eb7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Bbm', 'Eb7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Bm', 'E7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Bm', 'E7', 'F#m', 'B7']  
 ['Cm', 'F7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Cm', 'F7', 'F#m', 'B7']  
 ['Cm', 'F7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Cm', 'F7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['C#m', 'F#7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['C#m', 'F#7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['C#m', 'F#7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['Dm', 'G7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['Dm', 'G7', 'Em', 'A7']  
 ['Dm', 'G7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Dm', 'G7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'F#m', 'B7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'Abm', 'C#7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'C#m', 'F#7']  
 ['Ebm', 'Ab7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Em', 'A7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['Em', 'A7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['Em', 'A7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Em', 'A7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['Fm', 'Bb7', 'Gm', 'C7']  
 ['Fm', 'Bb7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['Fm', 'Bb7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['Fm', 'Bb7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Fm', 'Bb7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['F#m', 'B7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['F#m', 'B7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['F#m', 'B7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['F#m', 'B7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['F#m', 'B7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['Gm', 'C7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['Gm', 'C7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['Gm', 'C7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Gm', 'C7', 'Ebm', 'Ab7']  
 ['Abm', 'C#7', 'Bbm', 'Eb7']  
 ['Abm', 'C#7', 'Bm', 'E7']  
 ['Abm', 'C#7', 'Cm', 'F7']  
 ['Abm', 'C#7', 'Dm', 'G7']  
 ['Abm', 'C#7', 'Gm', 'C7']

V/V-V:  
 ['A7', 'D7', 'B7', 'E7']  
 ['A7', 'D7', 'D7', 'G7']  
 ['Bb7', 'Eb7', 'D7', 'G7']  
 ['E7', 'A7', 'D7', 'G7']  
 ['F#7', 'B7', 'D7', 'G7']



## Appendix D

# Web Application

### D.1 Development and Deployment

#### D.1.1 Data Pipelines

Figure D.1 shows the steps involved to generate the data for the web application. Each box represents a python source code file. Chords data is exported to a mySQL database and consumed by the web application. Also, the user feedback is stored in a mySQL database. The recommender data and the clustered UMAP scatter plot data are consumed as csv files by the Web Application.

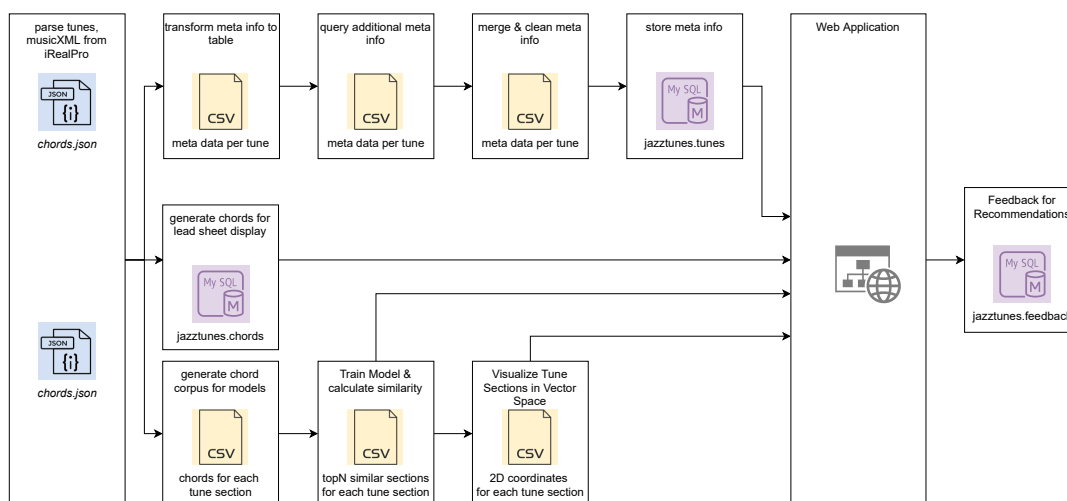


Figure D.1: Data Pipelines for data pre-Processing, model training and visualization, leadsheet display, storage of user feedback.

#### D.1.2 Deployment

The Web Application is created with Plotly Dash. It is deployed to a Microsoft Azure Web Application using a Docker container. For the deployment, the application is first tested on the local computer, then a docker container is created and uploaded to <https://hub.docker.com>, and finally attached to the Web Application on Azure. Care must be taken that the http traffic of the Plotly Dash application is routed to the correct port.

## D.2 Web App Pages

### Recommender Page

On the top of the main page (Figure D.6), the user selects a reference tune and a section of that tune. The tool displays a list of tunes with the corresponding section, that are considered as most similar. The leadsheets for both tunes are displayed, both tunes transposed to C major or A minor respectively. Optionally, the user can select to display the leadsheets in the default key. Below the leadsheets, there are a like and a dislike button to collect user feedback. At the bottom, additional information regarding the tunes is displayed.

### Visualize Clusters

The Visualize Clusters page (Figure D.7) is meant for a deeper investigation of the results provided by the model. The learned vectors for the tune sections are reduced to 2 dimensions using UMAP and visualized in a scatter plot. Each point in the scatter plot corresponds to a unique section of a tune. The result is also clustered and points that could not be assigned to a cluster are not displayed.

The user can hover over the points and the corresponding chords are displayed. Tunes that are recommended on the Recommender page should lie close together also in this scatter plot. As another feature, the user can one or several tune sections with a dropdown box, to highlight them in the scatter plot. As an example, this can be used to find all the tunes that have a similar bridge like 'Honeysuckle Rose'.

### Tunes Explorer

The Tunes Explorer page (Figure D.8) lists all available tunes with some meta information in table format. There is a filter function available. Each row in the table is unique per tune name and composer.

### Info

The Info page (Figure D.9) provides statistical overview for the tunes. It displays the histograms for the number of tunes per composer, the publication year, the tonality and the section structure.

## D.3 Styled Leadsheet Display

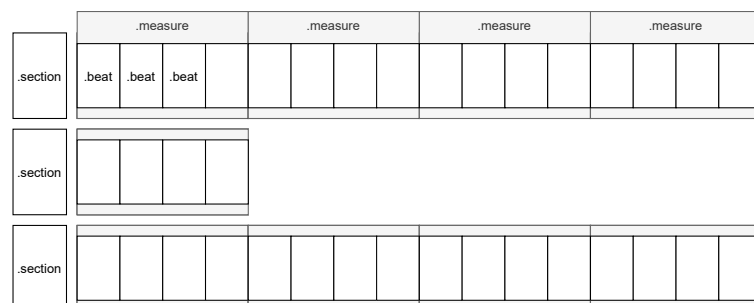


Figure D.2: Flexgrid structure used to display leadsheets.

The chords for the web application leadsheets are styled with CSS. The leadsheet is displayed as a grid of 4 bars, using Flexgrid, an open-source grid-system based on Flexbox. A new section always starts at a new row (see Figure D.4 for an example). The chords are

aligned according to the appropriate beat within the measure. Figure D.2 illustrates the basic leadsheet grid with the CSS properties.

Figure D.3 shows the 5 parts that a chord is split into. The `.root` box is mandatory, all other boxes are optional and depend on the chord type. The `.down` box contains the major, minor, dominant or diminished symbol. Up to two additions are supported, which are displayed below each other in the `.alt-up` and `.alt-down` boxes, like in the last bar of Figure D.4.

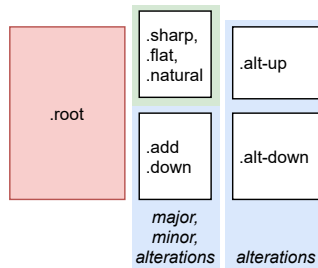


Figure D.3: CSS container names.

The chords data is pre-processed in the data pipeline by identifying and separating the 5 chord type parts (Figure D.3) into columns, together with the information about section, measure number and beat. The data is exported to a MySQL database and consumed by the Plotly Dash web application. The application generates the html code for the styled leadsheet and displays it.

The leadsheet display does not consider correct enharmonic spelling of the root notes.

Gloria's Step

A	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	B <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>Δ7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	G <sub>7#9</sub>
	C <sub>-7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	B <sub>Δ7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	A <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>Δ7</sub> <sup>b</sup>
	G <sub>7#9</sub>	C <sub>-7</sub>			
B	B <sub>-7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>-7</sub>	B <sub>ø7</sub>	
	D <sub>ø7</sub>	A <sub>ø7</sub>	C <sub>ø7</sub>	F <sub>ø7</sub>	
	B <sub>7#9</sub> <sup>b</sup> <sub>#5</sub>	B <sub>7#9</sub> <sup>b</sup> <sub>#5</sub>			

Figure D.4: Example leadsheet where the number of bars per section is not a multiple of 4.

Prism

A	A <sub>-</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>ø7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	E <sub>ø7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	A <sub>7</sub> <sup>b</sup>
	C <sub>-7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	E <sub>-7</sub>	B <sub>13b9</sub>	C	E <sub>7b9</sub>
B	D <sub>-7</sub>	A <sub>-7</sub>	F <sub>ø7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	F <sub>7b9</sub> <sup>#</sup>	B <sub>-Δ7</sub>
	G <sub>Δ9</sub>	D <sub>Δ7</sub>	D <sub>-7</sub>	C <sub>9sus</sub> <sup>#</sup>	C <sub>7susb9</sub> <sup>#</sup>
	C <sub>-7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	F <sub>7b9</sub> <sup>#</sup>			
C	A <sub>-7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	D	A <sub>7b9</sub> <sup>b</sup>	C <sub>9sus</sub> <sup>#</sup>	C <sub>7susb9</sub> <sup>#</sup>
	C <sub>-7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	F <sub>7b9</sub> <sup>#</sup>			
	A <sub>Δ7#5</sub>	F <sub>-</sub> <sup>#</sup>	A <sub>ø7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	D <sub>Δ7</sub>	C <sub>-7</sub> <sup>#</sup>
	F <sub>7b9</sub> <sup>#</sup>				
D	A <sub>ø7</sub> <sup>b</sup>	G <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>7</sub> <sup>#</sup>	E	F <sub>-</sub> <sup>#</sup>
	D <sub>Δ7</sub>	B	B	C	C <sub>-</sub> <sup>#</sup>
	D <sub>Δ7</sub>	B	B	C	D

Figure D.5: Example chord notation with CSS styling applied.

## D.4 Web App Screenshots

# Jazz Journey Explorer

Your helper to climb the path for learning common Jazz Standards and Tunes from the American Songbook.

Recommender
Visualize Clusters
Tunes Explorer
Info

### Which Tune shall I learn next?

Select a reference tune that you already know and get a recommendation what to learn next.

1. Choose a Tune that you already know

x
These Foolish Things [jazz1350]

Choose a Random Tune

For which Section shall we find a Similar Tune?

A  
 B

2. Select One of these Proposed Tunes

Recommended Tunes:

Title	Section	Score	Vocabulary
Isn't It A Pity [jazz1350]	B	0.588	Both
Rosetta [jazz1350]	B	0.584	Both
Imagination [jazz1350]	B	0.582	Both
More Than You Know [jazz1350]	B	0.576	Both
They Can't Take That Away From Me [jazz1350]	B	0.576	Both
I've Told Eve'ry Little Star [jazz1350]	B	0.569	Both
I Hear A Rhapsody [jazz1350]	B	0.549	Both
Walkin' My Baby Back Home [jazz1350]	B	0.523	Both
At Last [jazz1350]	B	0.522	Simplified

3. Compare the Lead Sheets

These Foolish Things

A	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>
	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>
A	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>
	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub> B <sub>7</sub>
B	E <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	B <sub>7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	
	G <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>
A	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>
	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	D <sub>7</sub> G <sub>7</sub>

More Than You Know

A	C <sub>6</sub>	G <sub>7</sub> <sub>95</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>-6</sub>
	D <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub> <sub>9</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub> <sub>9</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub> <sub>95</sub>	
A	C <sub>6</sub>	G <sub>7</sub> <sub>95</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>-6</sub>
	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub> <sub>9</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>		F <sub>Δ7</sub>	B <sub>7</sub> <sub>13</sub>	
B	E <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>Δ7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	B <sub>7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>		A <sub>Δ7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	
	G <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>		G <sub>7</sub>		
A	C <sub>6</sub>	G <sub>7</sub> <sub>95</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>Δ7</sub>	E <sub>Δ7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	F <sub>-6</sub>
	E <sub>7</sub>	A <sub>7</sub> <sub>9</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	A <sub>7</sub>	D <sub>7</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	

Transpose both Tunes to Cmaj/Amin

How do you like this proposal?

👍
👎

### Additional Information

These Foolish Things

original show tune composed by Jack Strachey with Harry Link, lyrics by Eric Maschwitz; from the 1936 musical revue "Spread It Abroad"

- Composers: Harry Link, Jack Strachey
- Lyricist: Eric Maschwitz
- Key: Eb major
- Publishing Year: 1936
- Structure: AABA
- iRealPro Style: Ballad
- iRealPro Playlist: jazz1350
- [Link to MusicBrainz](#)
- [Link to Wikipedia](#)

More Than You Know

original show tune composed by Vincent Youmans, lyrics by Billy Rose and Edward Eliscu; from the 1929 musical "Great Day"

- Composer: Vincent Youmans
- Lyricist: Billy Rose, Edward Eliscu
- Key: C major
- Publishing Year: 1929
- Structure: AABA
- iRealPro Style: Ballad
- iRealPro Playlist: jazz1350
- [Link to MusicBrainz](#)
- [Link to Wikipedia](#)

Figure D.6: Web Application Recommender Page

# Jazz Journey Explorer

Your helper to climb the path for learning common Jazz Standards and Tunes from the American Songbook.

Recommender
Visualize Clusters
Tunes Explorer
Info

---

## Which Tune shall I learn next?

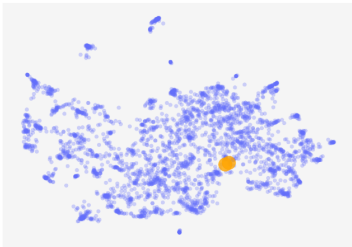
Visualize the Weights learned for the Tune Sections

Each point in the diagram below represents a section of a tune.

Hover over a point in the diagram to display the corresponding chords (does not work on mobile devices).

x These Foolish Things [jazz1350].B
x More Than You Know [jazz1350].B
x v

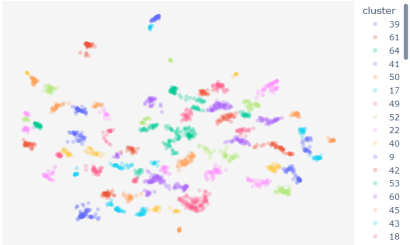
**Visualize the Calculated Model Weights**  
Using UMAP, based on the rootAndDegreesPlus vocabulary.



More Than You Know [jazz1350].B

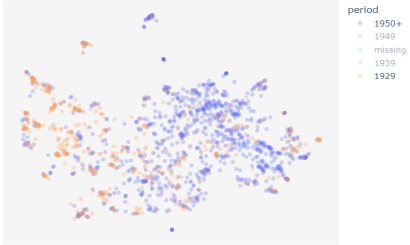
B	E-7	C#7	F#7	B7(b9)	E-7	A#7	D7
	G#7	E-7	A7	D7	D-7	G7	

**Visualize Clusters of Tune Sections**  
Using UMAP, based on the rootAndDegreesPlus vocabulary.  
Clustered with HDBSCAN, tune sections that could not be assigned to a cluster are not shown.



- cluster
- 39
- 61
- 64
- 41
- 50
- 17
- 49
- 52
- 22
- 40
- 9
- 42
- 53
- 60
- 45
- 43
- 18

**Publication Date**  
Using UMAP, based on the rootAndDegreesPlus vocabulary.



- period
- 1950+
- 1949
- missing
- 1939
- 1929

Figure D.7: Web Application *Visualize Clusters* Page

## Jazz Journey Explorer

Your helper to climb the path for learning common Jazz Standards and Tunes from the American Songbook.

[Recommender](#)
[Visualize Clusters](#)
[Tunes Explorer](#)
[Info](#)

---

### Explore the Tunes

Apply Filters

Click to open the filter panel.

title	composer	year	tonality	structure	time_signature	num_bars
All My Tomorrows	Jimmy Van Heusen	1959	G major	AABA	4/4	36
All The Way	Jimmy Van Heusen	1957	Eb major	ABAC	4/4	34
Aren't You Glad You're You	Jimmy Van Heusen	1945	F major	ABCD	4/4	32
But Beautiful	Jimmy Van Heusen	1947	G major	ABAC	4/4	32
Call Me Irresponsible	Jimmy Van Heusen	1962	F major	ABAB	4/4	36
Come Fly With Me	Jimmy Van Heusen	1958	C major	AABC	4/4	56
Darn That Dream	Jimmy Van Heusen	1939	G major	AABA	4/4	32
Here's That Rainy Day	Jimmy Van Heusen	1949	G major	ABAC	4/4	32
High Hopes	Jimmy Van Heusen	1959	F major	introAB	4/4	34
I Thought About You	Jimmy Van Heusen	1939	F major	ABAC	4/4	32
I'll Only Miss Her When I Think Of Her	Jimmy Van Heusen		G major	ABAC	4/4	38
Imagination	Jimmy Van Heusen	1939	Eb major	AABA	4/4	36
It Could Happen To You	Jimmy Van Heusen	1944	Eb major	ABAC	4/4	32
Like Someone In Love	Jimmy Van Heusen	1944	Eb major	ABAC	4/4	32
Moonlight Becomes You	Jimmy Van Heusen	1942	F major	AABA	4/4	34
Nancy (With The Laughing Face)	Jimmy Van Heusen	1944	Eb major	AABA	4/4	32
Second Time Around, The	Jimmy Van Heusen	1960	C major	ABA	4/4	36
Suddenly It's Spring	Jimmy Van Heusen	1943	Bb major	ABA	4/4	32

Figure D.8: Web Application *Tunes Explorer* Page, with filters to display a subset of the tunes. Here, the list is filtered for composer Jimmy van Heusen.

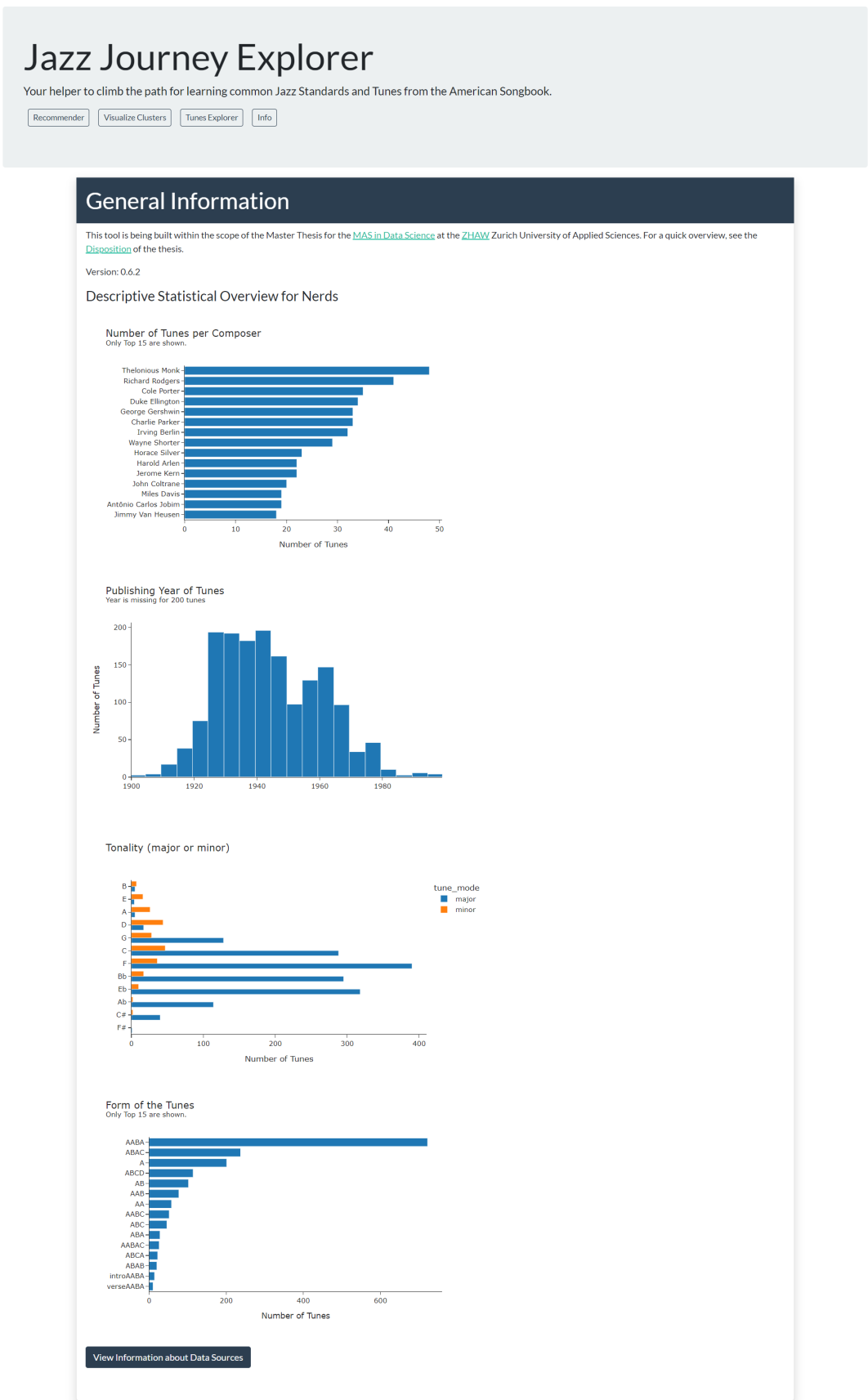


Figure D.9: Web Application *Information* Page, with summary statistics about the dataset.





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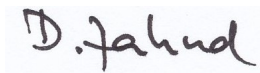
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