

Salient Rhythmic Moments in Improvised Music and Linguistic Interaction

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Abstract:

Conversation can be seen as a performance, and dyadic musical improvisation as a conversation. Both are grounded on conventions and rules, but unfold in unpredictable ways in the dynamic, interactive performance. The continuous processes of mutual adaptation and “negotiation”, occasionally leads to moments of heightened rhythmic and empathic connection that we call “salient rhythmic moments” (SRM).

Previously identified from conversations and non-verbal interaction, they mark mutual agreement and pragmatic pivotal points in the interaction .

We identify SRM’s in dyadic linguistic and musical improvisation, and explore their kinematic properties and possible differences across the two domains. To this end, we combine qualitative observations with quantitative movement analysis. In our joint talk, we will discuss how we bring together qualitative and quantitative analyses to understand the SRMs.

The data presented comes from an experiment where 8 pairs of participants perform 2-minute musical improvisations on shakers, as well as 2-minute story-telling tasks. Video, audio and motion capture recordings were made. Kinematic and entrainment analyses of the movement data were performed, focusing on temporal regions of interest labelled by observation (qualitative) analysis.