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# Methods and Results in Musical Enumeration Theory

Harald Friepertinger  
Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Third International Seminar on Mathematical Music Theory and  
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University Zürich, October 24 – October 26, 2002



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- basic facts about classification under group actions,



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- what are discrete structures,
- basic facts about classification under group actions,
- some applications in music theory,
- some results on the enumeration of canons.



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:  
– subsets, unions, products of finite sets,





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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:

- subsets, unions, products of finite sets,
- mappings between finite sets,



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:

- subsets, unions, products of finite sets,
- mappings between finite sets,
- bijections, linear orders on finite sets,



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:

- subsets, unions, products of finite sets,
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- equivalence classes on finite sets,



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:

- subsets, unions, products of finite sets,
- mappings between finite sets,
- bijections, linear orders on finite sets,
- equivalence classes on finite sets,
- vector spaces over finite fields, . . .



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# Discrete Structures

***Discrete structures*** are objects which can be constructed as:

- subsets, unions, products of finite sets,
- mappings between finite sets,
- bijections, linear orders on finite sets,
- equivalence classes on finite sets,
- vector spaces over finite fields, . . .

Examples: graphs, necklaces, designs, codes, matroids, switching functions, molecules in chemistry, spin-configurations in physics, objects of local music theory.

# Classification under Group Actions



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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

step 1: Determine the number of different objects.

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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

step 1: Determine the number of different objects.

step 2: Determine the number of objects with certain properties.



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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

step 1: Determine the number of different objects.

step 2: Determine the number of objects with certain properties.

step 3: Determine a complete list of the elements of a discrete structure.

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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

step 1: Determine the number of different objects.

step 2: Determine the number of objects with certain properties.

step 3: Determine a complete list of the elements of a discrete structure.

step 4: Generate the objects of a discrete structure uniformly at random.

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The process of ***classification*** provides more detailed information about the objects in a discrete structure. We distinguish different steps in the process of classification:

step 1: Determine the number of different objects.

step 2: Determine the number of objects with certain properties.

step 3: Determine a complete list of the elements of a discrete structure.

step 4: Generate the objects of a discrete structure uniformly at random.

Often the elements of a discrete structure are themselves classes of objects which are considered to be equivalent. These classes collect all those elements which are not essentially different. (Relabellings of labelled structures, or otherwise naturally motivated equivalence relations.)



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# Example: Classification of Graphs on 4 vertices

An unlabelled graph is a set of vertices together with a set of edges, where each edge connects exactly two different vertices.



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# Example: Classification of Graphs on 4 vertices

An unlabelled graph is a set of vertices together with a set of edges, where each edge connects exactly two different vertices.

step 1: There are 11 graphs on 4 vertices.



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# Example: Classification of Graphs on 4 vertices

An unlabelled graph is a set of vertices together with a set of edges, where each edge connects exactly two different vertices.

step 1: There are 11 graphs on 4 vertices.

step 2: There exists exactly one graph with 0, 1, 5 or 6 edges; two graphs with 2 or 4 edges; three graphs with 3 edges.

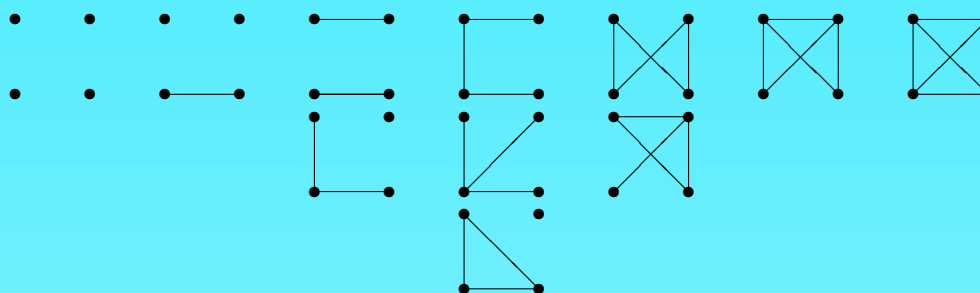
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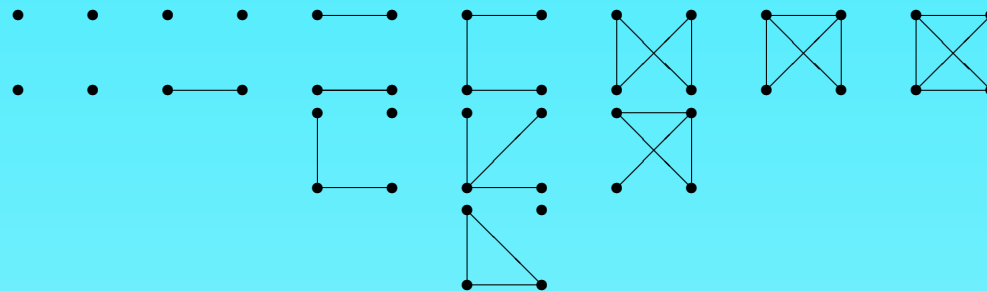
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The standard tool for the classification of discrete structures are group actions.





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# Group Actions

A multiplicative group  $G$  with neutral element 1 acts on a set  $X$  if there exists a mapping

$$*: G \times X \rightarrow X \quad * (g, x) \mapsto g * x$$

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A group action will be indicated as  ${}_G X$ .

If  $G$  and  $X$  are finite sets, then we speak of a **finite group action**.



# Orbits under Group Actions

A group action  $G X$  defines the following equivalence relation on  $X$ .  
 $x_1 \sim x_2$  if and only if there is some  $g \in G$  such that  $x_2 = gx_1$ .

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# Orbits under Group Actions



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A group action  $G X$  defines the following equivalence relation on  $X$ .  $x_1 \sim x_2$  if and only if there is some  $g \in G$  such that  $x_2 = gx_1$ . The equivalence classes  $G(x)$  with respect to  $\sim$  are the **orbits** of  $G$  on  $X$ . Hence, the orbit of  $x$  under the action of  $G$  is

$$G(x) = \{gx \mid g \in G\}.$$



# Orbits under Group Actions



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The set of orbits of  $G$  on  $X$  is indicated as

$$G \backslash X := \{G(x) \mid x \in X\}.$$

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**Theorem.** *The equivalence classes of any equivalence relation can be represented as orbits under a suitable group action.*

# Stabilizers and Fixed Points

Let  $G X$  be a group action. For each  $x \in X$  the **stabilizer**  $G_x$  of  $x$  is the set of all group elements which do not change  $x$ , in other words

$$G_x := \{g \in G \mid gx = x\}.$$

It is a subgroup of  $G$ .

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**Lagrange Theorem.** *If  ${}_G X$  is a finite group action then the size of the orbit of  $x \in X$  equals*

$$|G(x)| = \frac{|G|}{|G_x|}.$$



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# Stabilizers and Fixed Points

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Finally, the **set of all fixed points** of  $g \in G$  is denoted by

$$X_g := \{x \in X \mid gx = x\}.$$

# Enumeration under Group Actions



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Let  $G X$  be finite group action. The main tool for determining the number of different orbits is the

**Cauchy Frobenius Lemma.**

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Let  $G X$  be finite group action. The main tool for determining the number of different orbits is the

**Cauchy Frobenius Lemma.** *The number of orbits under a finite group action  $G X$  is the average number of fixed points.*

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**Proof.**

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# Symmetry types of mappings



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The most important applications of classification under group actions can be described as mappings between two sets. Group actions on the domain  $X$  or range  $Y$  induce group actions on  $Y^X$ .

# Symmetry types of mappings



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— Then  $G$  acts on  $Y^X$  by

$$G \times Y^X \rightarrow Y^X, \quad (g, f) \mapsto f \circ \bar{g}^{-1}.$$

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# Symmetry types of mappings



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— Then  $G$  acts on  $Y^X$  by

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— Then  $H$  acts on  $Y^X$  by

$$H \times Y^X \rightarrow Y^X, \quad (h, f) \mapsto \bar{h} \circ f.$$

— Then the direct product  $H \times G$  acts on  $Y^X$  by

$$(H \times G) \times Y^X \rightarrow Y^X, \quad ((h, g), f) \mapsto \bar{h} \circ f \circ \bar{g}^{-1}.$$



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# The $n$ -scale $Z_n$

In our model of an  $n$ -**scale** in each octave there are exactly  $n$  tones, which are equally distributed over each octave.



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In our model of an  $n$ -**scale** in each octave there are exactly  $n$  tones, which are equally distributed over each octave. Often it is not important which octave a special tone belongs to, for that reason we collect all tones which are any number of octaves apart, into one ***pitch-class***, ending up in exactly  $n$  pitch-classes in an  $n$ -scale.



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They can be described as orbits under the natural action of the subgroup  $n\mathbb{Z} := \{nz \mid z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  on the group  $\mathbb{Z}$ .



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For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$  the orbit  $n\mathbb{Z}(i)$  is of the form  $i + n\mathbb{Z} = \{i + nz \mid z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Consequently all tones with labels in this set are collected to one class, a pitch-class. These are just the tones which differ from the tone  $i$  any number of octaves.



# The $n$ -scale $Z_n$

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The set of all orbits  $n\mathbb{Z} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  will be indicated as  $Z_n$ . It consists of exactly  $n$  objects. With the naturally motivated addition and multiplication,  $(Z_n, +, \cdot)$  is a commutative ring with 1, the **residue class ring modulo  $n$** .



# Symmetry operators on $Z_n$

The operator *transposing by one pitch-class* is the bijection on  $Z_n$

$$T: Z_n \rightarrow Z_n, \quad i \mapsto T(i) := i + 1.$$

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- $\langle T, I \rangle$  consists of all possibilities to combine powers of  $T$  with the inversion operator  $I$ . It is a **dihedral group**  $D_n$  of order  $2n$  for  $n \geq 3$ .



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- $\text{Aff}_1(Z_n) := \{ \pi_{a,b} \mid a \in Z_n^*, b \in Z_n \}$  is the group of all **affine mappings** from  $Z_n$  to  $Z_n$ , with  $\pi_{a,b}(i) := ai + b$ .



# Intervals, Chords and Rhythms

Any  $k$ -subset of  $Z_n$  is called a  $k$ -**chord** in  $Z_n$ . Especially 2-chords are called **intervals**.

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# Intervals, Chords and Rhythms

Any  $k$ -subset of  $Z_n$  is called a  $k$ -**chord** in  $Z_n$ . Especially 2-chords are called **intervals**. (Analogously, these subsets describe  $k$ -**rhythms** in an  $n$ -bar.)

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# Intervals, Chords and Rhythms



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|                 |  |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------|--|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| $G \setminus k$ |  | 1 | 2 | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| $C_{12}$        |  | 1 | 6 | 19 | 43 | 66 | 80 | 66 | 43 | 19 | 6  | 1  | 1  |



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# Intervals, Chords and Rhythms

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| $C_{12}$        | 1 | 6 | 19 | 43 | 66 | 80 | 66 | 43 | 19 | 6  | 1  | 1  |
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| $\text{Aff}_1(Z_{12})$ | 1 | 5 | 9  | 21 | 25 | 34 | 25 | 21 | 9  | 5  | 1  | 1  |

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Extensions:

— Enumeration of self-complementary  $n/2$ -chords.

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Extensions:

- Enumeration of self-complementary  $n/2$ -chords.
- Determination of the interval structure of non-equivalent chords.





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# Motives

When speaking about motives we first have to find all possible combinations of beats in an  $m$ -bar  $Z_m$  and pitch-classes in an  $n$ -scale  $Z_n$ . The set of all these combinations is the product  $Z_m \times Z_n$ .



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Then for  $1 \leq k \leq mn$  each  $k$ -subset  $S$  of  $Z_m \times Z_n$  is a  **$k$ -motive**.

When  $(i, j) \in Z_m \times Z_n$  belongs to the motive  $S$  it means that a tone of pitch-class  $j$  occurs at the beat  $i$  in the motive  $S$ .



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In the case  $m = n$ , Mazzola motivated that  $\text{Aff}_2(Z_n)$  is a musically motivated group.

For  $n = m = 12$  the numbers of  $k$ -motives for small values of  $k$  are the coefficients of  $z^k$  in

$$1 + z + 5z^2 + 26z^3 + 216z^4 + 2024z^5 + 27806z^6 + 417209z^7 + 6345735z^8 + 90590713z^9 + 1190322956z^{10} + \dots$$



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# Tone-rows

For  $n \geq 3$  a **tone-row** in  $Z_n$  is a bijective mapping  $f: Z_n \rightarrow Z_n$  where  $f(i)$  is the tone which occurs in  $i$ -th position in the tone-row.



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Usually two tone-rows  $f_1, f_2$  are considered to be similar if  $f_1$  can be constructed by transposing, inversion and retrograde inversion  $R$  of  $f_2$ . Thus the similarity classes of tone-rows are the  $D_n \times \langle R \rangle$  orbits on the set of all bijections on  $Z_n$ .

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For  $n \geq 3$  the number of similarity classes of tone-rows in  $Z_n$  is

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} \left( (n-1)! + (n-1)!! \right) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\ \frac{1}{4} \left( (n-1)! + (n-2)!! \left( \frac{n}{2} + 1 \right) \right) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

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Especially there are 9985920 classes of tone-rows in 12-tone music.



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# Mosaics

A **partition**  $\pi$  of  $Z_n$  is a collection of subsets of  $Z_n$ , such that the empty set is not an element of  $\pi$  and such that for each  $i \in Z_n$  there is exactly one  $P \in \pi$  with  $i \in P$ .

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$$G \times \Pi_n \rightarrow \Pi_n, \quad (g, \pi) \mapsto g\pi := \{gP \mid P \in \pi\},$$

where  $gP := \{gi \mid i \in P\}$ .

# Mosaics



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where  $gP := \{gi \mid i \in P\}$ . The  $G$ -orbits on  $\Pi_n$  are called  **$G$ -mosaics**.

# Mosaics



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A **partition**  $\pi$  of  $Z_n$  is a collection of subsets of  $Z_n$ , such that the empty set is not an element of  $\pi$  and such that for each  $i \in Z_n$  there is exactly one  $P \in \pi$  with  $i \in P$ . Let  $\Pi_n$  denote the set of all partitions of  $Z_n$ . A permutation group  $G$  of  $Z_n$  induces the following group action of  $G$  on  $\Pi_n$ :

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where  $gP := \{gi \mid i \in P\}$ . The  $G$ -orbits on  $\Pi_n$  are called  **$G$ -mosaics**. Number of  $G$ -mosaics consisting of  $k$  blocks.

| $G \setminus k$        | 1 | 2   | 3    | 4     | 5      | 6      | 7     | 8     | 9    | 10  | 11 | 12 |
|------------------------|---|-----|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|----|----|
| $C_{12}$               | 1 | 179 | 7254 | 51075 | 115100 | 110462 | 52376 | 13299 | 1873 | 147 | 6  | 1  |
| $D_{12}$               | 1 | 121 | 3838 | 26148 | 58400  | 56079  | 26696 | 6907  | 1014 | 96  | 6  | 1  |
| $\text{Aff}_1(Z_{12})$ | 1 | 87  | 2155 | 13730 | 30121  | 28867  | 13835 | 3667  | 571  | 63  | 5  | 1  |

In conclusion there are 351773  $C_{12}$ -mosaics, 179307  $D_{12}$ -mosaics and 93103  $\text{Aff}_1(Z_{12})$ -mosaics in twelve tone music.



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# Canons

A **canon** is a subset  $K \subseteq Z_n$  together with a covering of  $K$  by pairwise different subsets  $V_i \neq \emptyset$  for  $1 \leq i \leq t$ , the voices, where  $t \geq 1$  is the number of voices of  $K$ , in other words



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$$K = \bigcup_{i=1}^t V_i,$$

# Canons

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$$K = \bigcup_{i=1}^t V_i,$$

such that for all  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, t\}$

1. the set  $V_i$  can be obtained from  $V_j$  by a translation of  $Z_n$ ,
2. there is only the identity translation which maps  $V_i$  to  $V_i$ ,
3. the set of differences in  $K$  generates  $Z_n$ , i.e.

$$\langle K - K \rangle := \langle k - l \mid k, l \in K \rangle = Z_n.$$

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Two canons  $K = \{V_1, \dots, V_t\}$  and  $L = \{W_1, \dots, W_s\}$  are called **isomorphic** if  $s = t$  and if there exists a translation  $T$  of  $Z_n$  and a permutation  $\pi$  in the symmetric group  $S_t$  such that  $T(V_i) = W_{\pi(i)}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq t$ . Then obviously  $T(K) = L$ .



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A canon can be described as a pair  $(L, A)$ , where  $L$  is the *inner* and  $A$  the *outer rhythm* of the canon.



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A canon can be described as a pair  $(L, A)$ , where  $L$  is the *inner* and  $A$  the *outer rhythm* of the canon. In other words, the rhythm of one voice is described by  $L$  and the distribution of the different voices is described by  $A$ , i.e. the onsets of the different voices are  $a + L$  for  $a \in A$ .

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**Theorem.** *The number of isomorphism classes of canons in  $Z_n$  is*

$$K_n := \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \lambda(n/d) \alpha(n/d),$$

where  $\mu$  is the Moebius function,  $\lambda(1) = 1$ ,

$$\lambda(r) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{s|r} \mu(s) 2^{r/s} \text{ for } r > 1,$$

$$\alpha(r) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{s|r} \varphi(s) 2^{r/s} - 1 \text{ for } r \geq 1,$$

where  $\varphi$  is the Euler totient function.



# Rhythmic Tiling Canons

A canon is a *rhythmic tiling canon* if

- the voices  $V_i$  cover entirely the cyclic group  $Z_n$ ,
- the voices  $V_i$  are pairwise disjoint.

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Classification of rhythmic tiling canons by computing complete lists of representatives. ( $T_n$  or  $K_n$  are the numbers of rhythmic tiling canons or canons respectively.)

| $n$ | $T_n$ | $K_n$ |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 2   | 1     | 1     |
| 3   | 1     | 5     |
| 4   | 2     | 13    |
| 5   | 1     | 41    |
| 6   | 3     | 110   |
| 7   | 1     | 341   |
| 8   | 6     | 1035  |
| 9   | 4     | 3298  |

# Rhythmic Tiling Canons



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| $n$ | $T_n$ | $K_n$ | $n$ | $T_n$ | $K_n$    |
|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|----------|
| 2   | 1     | 1     | 10  | 6     | 10550    |
| 3   | 1     | 5     | 11  | 1     | 34781    |
| 4   | 2     | 13    | 12  | 23    | 117455   |
| 5   | 1     | 41    | 13  | 1     | 397529   |
| 6   | 3     | 110   | 14  | 13    | 1.370798 |
| 7   | 1     | 341   | 15  | 25    | 4.780715 |
| 8   | 6     | 1035  | 16  | 49    | 16788150 |
| 9   | 4     | 3298  | 17  | 1     | 59451809 |

# Regular Complementary Canons of Maximal Category



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A rhythmic tiling canon described by  $(L, A)$  is a ***regular complementary canon of maximal category*** (RCMC-canon) if both  $L$  and  $A$  are aperiodic.



# Regular Complementary Canons of Maximal Category



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Dan T. Vuza showed that these canons occur only for certain values of  $n$ , actually only for **non-Hajós-groups**  $Z_n$ . The smallest  $n$  for which  $Z_n$  is not a Hajós-group is  $n = 72$ .

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$Z_n$  is not a Hajós group if and only if  $n$  can be expressed in the form  $p_1 p_2 n_1 n_2 n_3$  with  $p_1, p_2$  primes,  $n_i \geq 2$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , and  $\gcd(n_1 p_1, n_2 p_2) = 1$ .



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# Vuza's Algorithm

If  $Z_n$  is not a Hajós group, Vuza presents an algorithm for constructing two aperiodic subsets  $L$  and  $A$  of  $Z_n$ , such that  $|L| = n_1n_2$ ,  $|A| = p_1p_2n_3$ , and  $L + A = Z_n$ .



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Hence,  $L$  or  $A$  can serve as the inner rhythm and the other set as the outer rhythm of such a canon.



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Hence,  $L$  or  $A$  can serve as the inner rhythm and the other set as the outer rhythm of such a canon.

Moreover, it is important to mention that there is some freedom for constructing these two sets, and each of these two sets can be constructed independently from the other one.



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# Vuza's Algorithm

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Hence,  $L$  or  $A$  can serve as the inner rhythm and the other set as the outer rhythm of such a canon.

Moreover, it is important to mention that there is some freedom for constructing these two sets, and each of these two sets can be constructed independently from the other one.

He also proves that when  $L$  and  $A$  describe an RCMC-canon, then also  $(kL, A)$ ,  $(kL, kA)$  have this property for all  $k \in Z_n^*$ .



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# Enumeration of Vuza Canons

A ***Vuza canon*** is a regular complementary canon of maximal category which can be constructed by his algorithm.

# Enumeration of Vuza Canons



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A ***Vuza canon*** is a regular complementary canon of maximal category which can be constructed by his algorithm.

Enumeration of non-equivalent Vuza canons by construction:

| $p_1$ | $p_2$ | $n_1$ | $n_2$ | $n_3$ | $\#L$ | $\#A$ | $\#$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |



# Enumeration of Vuza Canons



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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 6     | 36    | 216  |

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| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 6     | 36    | 216  |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 2     | 34    | 120   | 4080 |

# Enumeration of Vuza Canons



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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 6     | 36    | 216  |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 2     | 34    | 120   | 4080 |
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2808  | 8424 |

# Enumeration of Vuza Canons



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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 6     | 36    | 216  |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 2     | 34    | 120   | 4080 |
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2808  | 8424 |
| 2     | 5     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 9     | 6     | 54   |

# Enumeration of Vuza Canons



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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 6     | 18   |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 6     | 36    | 216  |
| 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 2     | 34    | 120   | 4080 |
| 2     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2808  | 8424 |
| 2     | 5     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 9     | 6     | 54   |
| 2     | 5     | 2     | 5     | 2     | 125   | 20    | 2500 |



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# Do there exist RCMC-canons which are not Vuza canons?



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# Do there exist RCMC-canons which are not Vuza canons?

The answer is:



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# Do there exist RCMC-canons which are not Vuza canons?

The answer is: **YES!**





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# Do there exist RCMC-canons which are not Vuza canons?

The answer is: **YES!**

Construction: Let  $(L, A)$  be an RCMC-canon. Construct  $L'$  by replacing in  $L$  each occurrence of 1 by 11 and 0 by 00. And construct  $A'$  by replacing each 1 in  $A$  by 01 and 0 in  $A$  by 00. In musical terms we divide each onset into 2 onsets. This way we construct from the RCMC-canon  $(L, A)$  of length  $n$  an RCMC-canon  $(L', A')$  of length  $2n$ .



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The answer is: **YES!**

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Among the 216 RCMC-canons of length  $2 \cdot 72 = 144$  with  $|L| = 12$  we did not find a canon which was constructed in this way from the 18 canons of length 72.













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