

Demonstration: Using MusicXML 2.0 to Create Symbolic Music Data Sets

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Abstract

Research in music information retrieval using symbolic music data has been hampered by the difficulty of creating or acquiring high quality data sets. MIDI is still used for much work in the area despite its poor coverage of symbolic musical semantics. Richer symbolic formats such as MuseData and Humdrum have limited ability to represent important repertoires such as jazz and contemporary popular music.

The MusicXML 2.0 format is the most comprehensive, widely supported symbolic music format available. First presented in version 0.1 form at the initial ISMIR symposium in 2000, MusicXML has become the de facto standard computer format for common Western music notation. As of July 2008 it is supported by nearly 100 music applications, including all the leading music editing and music scanning programs. Music information retrieval programs such as MelodicMatch also support the format.

This demonstration shows how to use MusicXML 2.0 to create symbolic music data sets by converting files from popular programs and widely-available sources into a standard comprehensive format. Translation from Finale, Sibelius and PDF files will be demonstrated using the Dolet® for Finale plug-in, the Dolet for Sibelius plug-in, and the PDFtoMusic Pro program, respectively.