Representation of musical notation in Haskell

Edward Lilley

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

September 9, 2017

Motivation







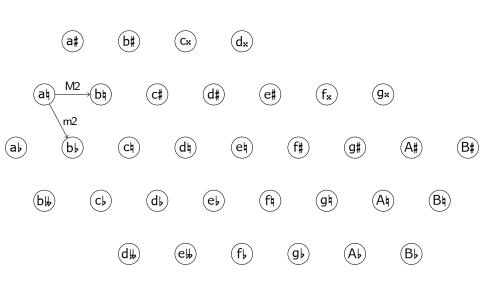
- (Notated) musical pitches are the points on a lattice
- (Notated) musical intervals connect the points, forming a 'free Abelian group' with two generators

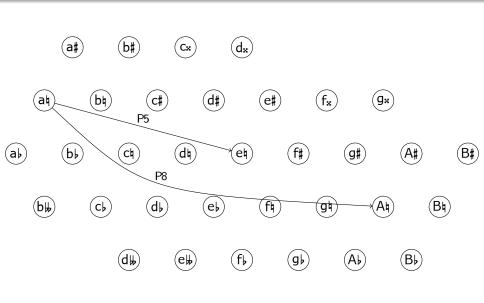
(a#) (b#) (Cx)

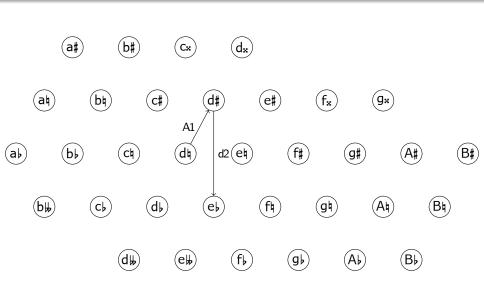
(ah) (bh) (c#) (d#) (e#) (fx) (gx)

 $(\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{x}})$

(d) (e) (f) (g) (A) (B)







- 'Syntonic' temperaments assign two frequency ratios to the two generators
- 'Equal' temperaments project the two dimensions down to one

• Pythagorean

P5
$$\rightarrow$$
 3/2, P8 \rightarrow 2

• 'Quarter-comma meantone'

M3
$$\rightarrow$$
 5/4, P8 \rightarrow 2

Pythagorean

P5
$$\rightarrow$$
 3/2, P8 \rightarrow 2

• 'Quarter-comma meantone'

M3
$$\rightarrow$$
 5/4, P8 \rightarrow 2

• 12-equal temperament

$$d2 \rightarrow 1$$
, $P8 \rightarrow 2$

• 19-equal temperament

$$dd2 \rightarrow 1$$
, $P8 \rightarrow 2$

• 31-equal temperament

$$dddd3 \rightarrow 1$$
, P8 $\rightarrow 2$



Implementation

- Flexibility (via typeclasses) in what counts as a Pitch, Interval or Duration
- A Note is an ordered pair (Pitch, Duration)
- A Phrase is just a linked list, [Note]
- A piece of music consists of a Rose tree of musical phrases
- Internally the preferred lattice basis is (A1, d2)
- Have to invert a 2 * 2 matrix to calculate tuning map