



中央音乐学院
CENTRAL CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC

SymphonyNet

Symphony Generation with Permutation Invariant Language Model

Jiafeng Liu¹, Yuanliang Dong¹, Zehua Cheng², Xinran Zhang¹, Xiaobing Li¹, Feng Yu¹, Maosong Sun^{1,3}

¹ Central Conservatory of Music ² University of Oxford ³ Tsinghua University

{jiafeng.liu, gunterdong}@mail.ccom.edu.cn

Demo/Code/Dataset



Introduction

Symphony Generation:

Generating multi-track symbolic music with **repeatable** instruments.

Permutation Invariance:

Notes playing simultaneously have **no** priori order.

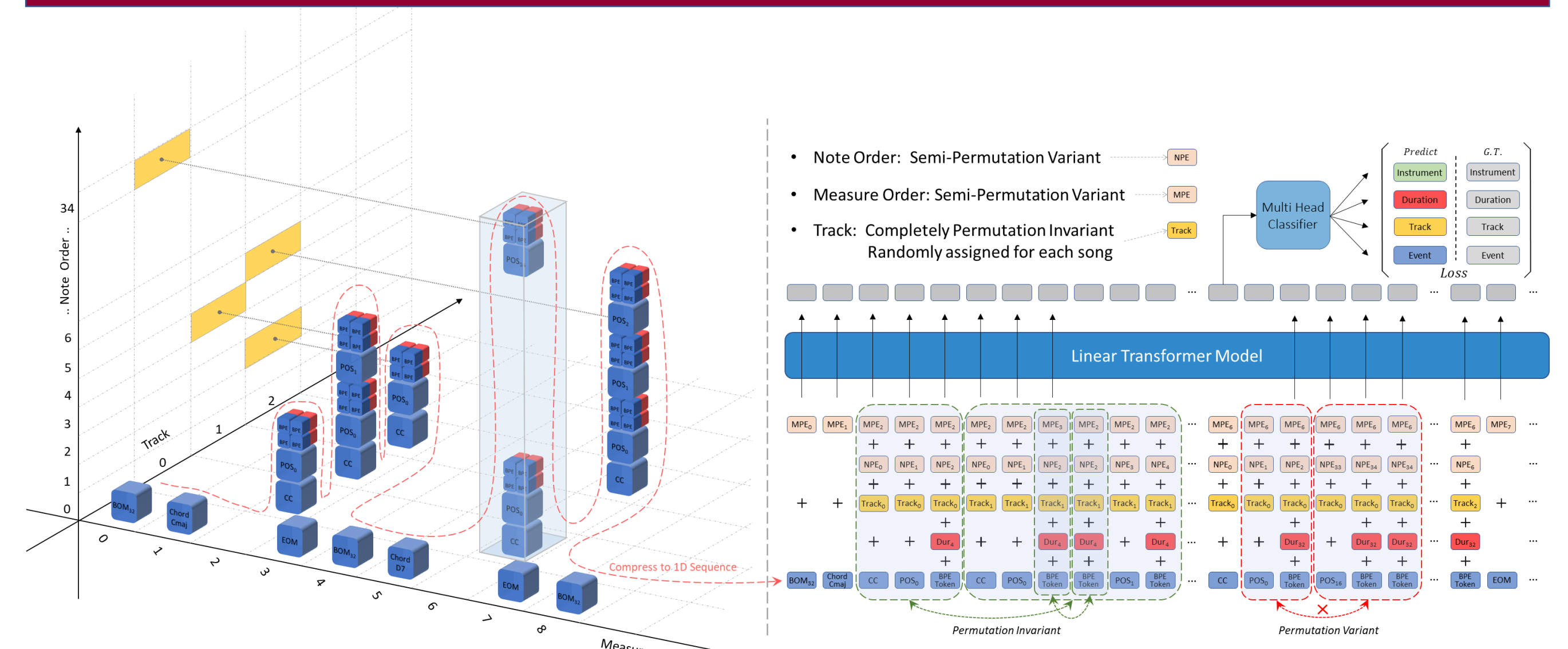
Challenges:

- Flatten a 2-D score into sequential tokens and distinguish **tracks** with the same instrument.
- Build a language model where simultaneous notes could be **swapped**.
- Generate symphony music which becomes an **ultra-long** sequence of tokens after flattening.

Solutions:

- Multi-track Multi-instrument Repeatable (MMR) representation
- 3-D Positional Embedding
- Music BPE and a linear transformer decoder

3-D Positional Embedding

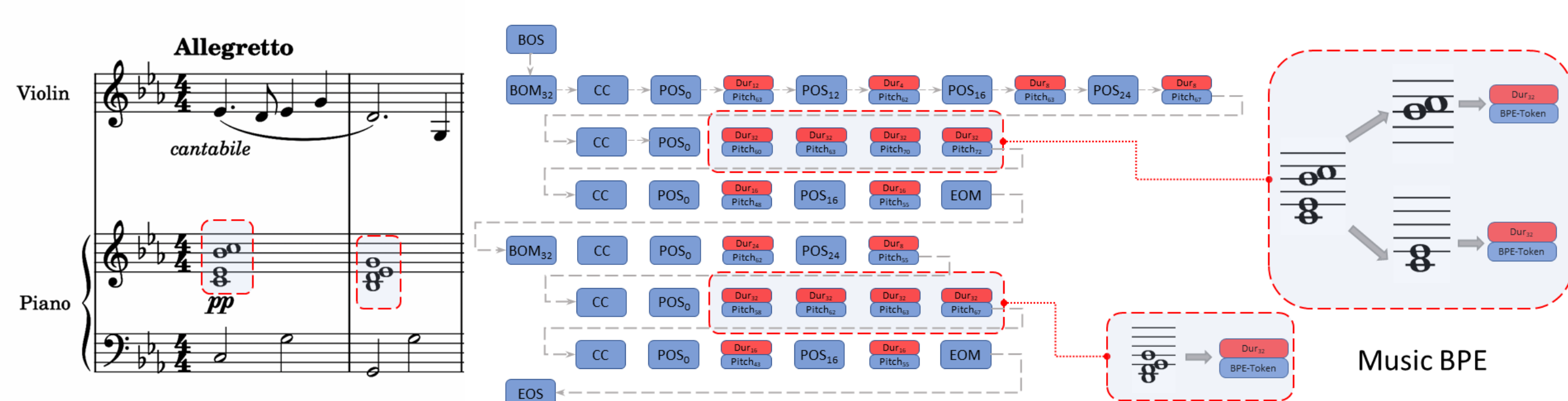


Good News! Self-attention modules in Transformer are designed **permutation invariant**.

Use 3-D Positional Embedding to tell the model:

- **Simultaneous Notes within the same track** have **totally the same** positional embedding.
- **Simultaneous Notes in different tracks** just have different “track **labels**”, learned by **randomly assigned** track numbers.
- **Successive notes within the same track** are located by their unique measure position embedding (MPE) and note position embedding (NPE).

MMR Representation with Music BPE



MMR Representation:

- **Beat-based** time-unit suitable for score notes
- Align different tracks by **Measure**
- Structural and controlling tokens, like:
 - $[BOS]$, $[EOS]$, $[BOM_i]$, $[EOM]$ indicates a score or a measure's beginning or ending
 - $[CC]$ indicates a beginning of another track within the same measure
 - $[POS_i]$, $[Chord_i]$, etc.
- Note attributes: event, duration, track, instrument

Music BPE:

- A trade-off between *Pitch* (“character-level”) and *Chord* (“word-level”): Find “**Subword**” in music.
- Difference: Music BPE is based on **concurrency** of notes rather than **adjacency** of characters in the original BPE algorithm.

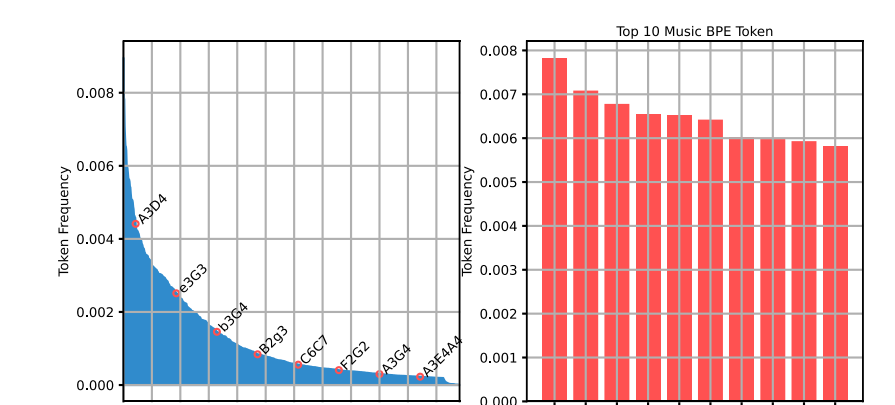
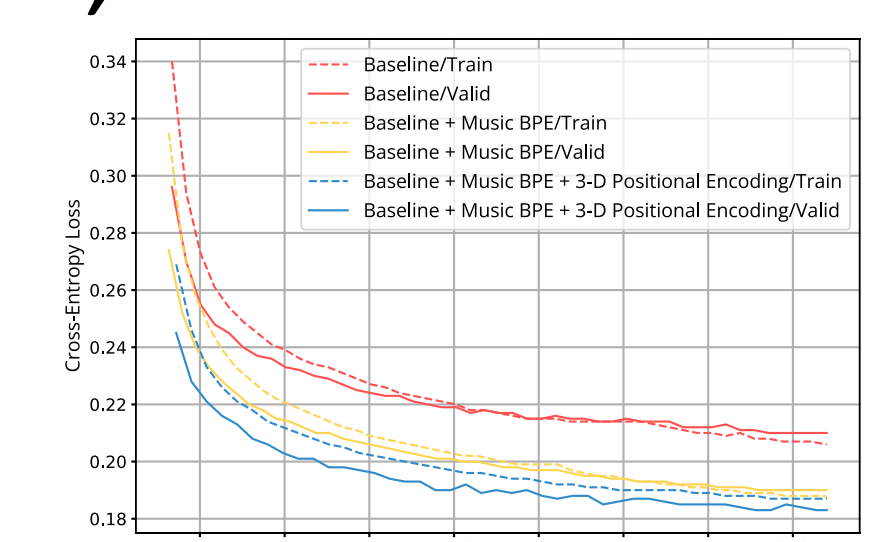
Experiments and Results

Experiments:

- Collected Symphony Dataset
 - 46,359 symphony scores with 279M notes
- Ablation Study (on Symphony Dataset):
- Comparison to MMM^[1] on LMD Dataset^[2]
- Subjective Listening Test
 - 50 participants including 25 musicians
 - Rating in 5 dimensions: Coherence, Diversity, Harmoniousness, Structureness, Orchestration and overall Preference

Results:

- Objective results
- Music BPE “subword” analysis
- Subjective results:
 - Music BPE + 3-D positional embedding improves generation quality.
 - SymphonyNet surpasses MMM in all indicators and could construct coherent, unique, complex, and harmonic symphonies.



Model	C	D	H	S	O	P
Baseline	3.5	3.57	3.07	3.00	3.21	3.29
BPE	3.64	3.64	3.14	3.15	3.43	3.29
3D + BPE	3.71	3.72	3.21	3.07	3.5	3.5
Human	4.43	3.43	4.14	4.36	4.14	4.14

Model	C	D	H	S	O	P
Baseline	3.79	2.79	3.21	3.43	3.36	3.36
BPE	3.86	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.64	3.86
3D + BPE	3.86	3.14	3.43	3.57	3.93	3.64
Human	4.36	3.57	4.36	4.00	4.36	4.36

Model	C	D	H	S	O	P
Baseline	3.52	3.46	3.04	3.07	3.11	3.07
BPE	3.79	3.64	3.25	3.11	3.25	3.29
3D + BPE	3.53	3.93	3.43	3.32	3.43	3.32
Human	4.39	3.89	4.18	4.21	4.11	4.29

(a) Trained on Symphony Dataset

(b) Trained on Lakh MIDI Dataset

[1] J. Ens and P. Pasquier, “Mmm: Exploring conditional multi-track music generation with the transformer,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.06048, 2020.

[2] C. Raffel, “Learning-based methods for comparing sequences, with applications to audio-to-midi alignment and matching,” Ph.D. dissertation, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, 2016.