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Meter as shape

The perception of musical meter is fundamental for rhythm production and perception in much music. Meter is often described as successive points in time. This paper investigates whether experienced meter may not only include points in time, or the duration between the points, but also shapes.

The focus is on music styles in non-isochronous meter and that have an intimate relationship with dance. It is suggested that meter can be understood by investigating performers' periodic body motion. Motion capture recordings of music and dance performances form the empirical basis of this paper.