Blurred lines/Mar 23, 2017

Talk for Boulder

Six analytical approaches to musical similarity

Three musical types

* Melodic similarity (missing cognitive tuning)
* Harmonic similarity (very common in popular music)
* Rhythmic similarity (essential in rap; EC recognition)

Three social and/or affective types

* + - Similarity of style (BL: intentional vs unintentional)
    - Affective similarity (used in music-recommendation services)
    - Social agreement: preserves only primitives (meter and mode)

Images:

Harmonic comparison

Rhythmic comparison

Melodic comparison (Themefinder)

**Stylistic similarity**

Affective similarity (subjective!)

Social proximity

Discussion:

all views are at some level arbitrary

as music continues to evolve, the “best” approach must ne flexible