

Structure and Analysis: BASIC FORMAL TERMS

I. Cadence:

- Defined as a point of rest in music
- Can be established in many musical dimensions
(rhythmic, melodic, harmonic)

However, in common-practice music, convention has arisen that most cadences occur as harmonic phenomena
(**Two-chord formulas** that give closure in melody and bass)

Types of cadence:

1. PAC

- a. V-I motion: root position for both chords (bass = sol-do)
- b. stepwise resolution to tonic in melody (re-do or ti-do)

2. IAC

Created by dominant-tonic feel, but weakened from PAC by one or more of the following factors

- a. Bass of one or both chords is in inversion (e.g., V⁶-I)
- b. Melody does not resolve to tonic (e.g., fa-mi, fa-me)
- c. Melody resolves to tonic, but not by step (fa-do)

3. Half Cadence: any chord ---> V. But forward momentum must be halted!

Special case: Phrygian cadence = motion to V with le-sol in the bass
(examples: iv⁶-V and bVI-V)

4. Plagal Cadence: Though commonly described as IV-I motion in major or minor, the term may apply equally to any cadence created by **fa-do** motion in the bass. (allows for ii⁶-I or even ii⁶/5-i (The “Hollywood” cadence).

5. Deceptive “Cadence”: Cadence from V-vi (or V-VI in minor). True examples of this cadence – such as that shown below – are rare. Most often, a harmonic motion from V-vi occurs within a phrase, and a more authentic cadence follows.

Schubert: Sonata in A (1st movt.)



II. PHRASES

1. Phrase: A unit of music, typically four bars in length, which expresses a single idea.

Must conclude with a cadence (though it need not be a strong one)

- often amounts to quite a bit longer than the amount of music singable in 1 breath
- often signaled by slur marks

2. Phrase Segment: A unit of music typically smaller than a phrase, often featuring a complete, short idea but lacking a cadence.

- often expresses a single harmony (more are possible, such as in a motion from I-ii or I-iii-IV)
- phrase segments usually combine to produce phrases or sentences
- a **caesura** – a pause or breath – is extremely common between segments

Disposition of phrases:

1. Can follow each other in straightforward fashion, with zero or minimal overlap. This creates subtle gaps (even silences) between phrases.

Haydn, Sonata in D

Allegro con brio

f

meno f

2. Those silences can be filled in with material. Often the melodic line performs a run that gets it back to the correct height. Any such filler material is called a **link**

Mozart, Piano Sonata in Bb, K. 333 (movt3)

Allegretto grazioso

p

f

**Do you see where the subphrases are in the previous two examples? Where is a caesura?

3. The cadence of one phrase may *coincide* with the start of the next phrase. The gap is squeezed out. Such an arrangement of phrases is called **elision**.

Allegro con brio.

The musical score is written for piano in 2/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegro con brio.' and the first measure is marked with a piano 'p' dynamic. The first phrase ends with a cadence on a half note G4, which is marked with a '1' and a '5' below it. The second system continues the melody in the treble and accompaniment in the bass, with a forte 'f' dynamic. The second phrase ends with a cadence on a half note G4, which is marked with a '1' and a '5' below it. The third system continues the melody in the treble and accompaniment in the bass, with a forte 'f' dynamic. The third phrase ends with a cadence on a half note G4, which is marked with a '1' and a '5' below it. The score illustrates elision by showing how the cadence of one phrase coincides with the start of the next phrase, squeezing out the gap between them.

PHRASE SEGMENTS AND PHRASES IN COMBINATION

I. Period: Composed of **two phrases** in binary relation: they must feel like they go together, with the second saying something more completely than the first.

The two cadences work together – the second is always stronger than the first.

Beethoven, Symphony 9 (IV, m. 241)



Haydn, Piano Sonata 37 in D (I)

Allegro con brio

f

meno f

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.3 (Finale)

This musical score excerpt is for the finale of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. It features a piano part with two staves and woodwind parts (Oboe, Horn, Bassoon) on a single staff. The piano part includes a 'Solo.' marking and a first ending '(1)'. The woodwind parts enter with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The piano part has various fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and articulation marks like 'sf' (sforzando) and 'pizz.' (pizzicato).

Beethoven: Symphony #6 (III)

This musical score excerpt is for the third movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6. It shows woodwind parts (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Cor) and string parts. The woodwind parts have various dynamics like 'sf' (sforzando), 'p' (piano), and 'cresc.' (crescendo). The string parts have a 'dolce.' (dolce) marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

Mozart, Piano Sonata in F, K. 332 (I)



Method for Diagramming/Analyzing Phrases, Phrase Segments, and Periods.

-Phrases indicated by slurs, with a cadence mark at the end:

-Phrase segments indicated by smaller slurs, with no cadence mark!

-If you wish, you can indicate length of phrases/phrase segments with numbers over each slur

PERIODS are indicated by a square brackets. For now, they will only be applied on top on pairs of phrases. The period will be labeled according to its melodic content.

Melodic terms: Parallel vs. Contrasting

pretty much the same melody twice (**a, a'**) different melody (a, b)

Usually, if a conscious attempt is made to *start* the second phrase with the same melody as the first, that's good enough to be a parallel period.

Harmonic terms:

Interrupted	I	V	then	I	I	
Continuous	I	x	then	V	I	
Modulatory	I	V	then	I	I	in new key!
Sectional (rare)	I	I	then	I	I	

See Laitz, pp. 303-304, for a list of all types of period structures!

II. SENTENCES: An alternate “expository” structure.

Proportional: 1 : 1 : 2 (2 : 2 : 4, or 4 : 4 : 8 , etc.)

FORWARD ENERGY : statement, restatement*, culmination

Sentence structure can be indicated over any stretch of music (of any size) by indicating
“S = ___ + ___ + ___ (1+1+2, 2+2+4, 4+4+8, etc!)



Aural Examples:

Beethoven – Symphony 5

PHISH – “Golgi Apparatus”

Starting to put it all together. . .

What structures can you identify in this excerpt by Beethoven?

Piano Concerto #2, op. 19 (III)

The image displays a musical score for the third movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 19. The score is written for piano (p) and strings. The piano part is in the upper system, and the string parts (Violins I, Violins II, and Violas) are in the lower systems. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 3/8. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, f, tutti). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The string parts are marked with 'V.I.' and 'VI.II.' for Violins I and Violins II respectively. The piano part features a prominent melodic line in the right hand, while the left hand provides harmonic support. The string parts enter with a rhythmic pattern, and the piano part joins them. The score is a page from a larger manuscript, showing the beginning of the movement.

Form Diagram:

Aural Analysis of form:

Small scale form by ear. . .

1. Mozart Piano Sonata in Bb, K. 333 (III)
2. Mozart Symphony 40 (III)
3. Beethoven String Quartet 4 in c minor (IV)

GLOSSARY:

Tonality: The local tonic of a section of music.

Tempo: Speed of the music

Mode: The prevailing mode (major or minor) of a section of music. In cases of harmonic mixture, the tonic will remain the same, but the mode will switch with noticeable effect.

Meter: The organization of music into recurring patterns of strong and weak beat.
Note: it is possible for the meter to change without a change of meter sign.

Rhythm: The surface patterns of duration in music (typically described loosely as “dotted rhythms,” “steady quarters,” “running sixteenths,” “flowing eighths,” “syncopated,” “hemiola,” etc.

Dynamics: The volume level of the music

Attack Density: Refers to the number of notes sounded per bar. Usually, if different speeds are occurring in different voices, the attack density is determined by the fastest voice.

Timbre: Sound quality or color of the music. A factor of instrumentation/ orchestration.

Register: Relative height or depth of pitches sounded in a section.

Tessitura: range in which most notes of a voice or instrument fall. The tessitura of the oboe is higher than that of the cello.

Texture (tex): Term used to describe the *number* and *disposition* of voices.

Textures are thick when many voices sound.

Textures are thin when few sound.

3 useful texture terms:

1. Chordal (or homorhythmic): all voices sound simultaneously
2. Contrapuntal (or polyphonic): voices display a great deal of independence.
Note: this term is used to describe very imitative pieces, such as canons or fugues.
3. Melody and Accompaniment: A divided texture with one voice sounding against others

Motive (mot): A small musical shape – typically constituting 2-7 notes – that has a distinctive pattern of pitches, rhythms, or both.

Theme: A longer melodic shape identified as a recurring “tune” of a work. Multiple themes may appear in succession. Themes can be designated numerically:

Theme1 Theme2 Theme3 etc.

or descriptively:

“Jagged” “Arpeggiate” “March” “Cascade”

The Four Formal Functions in Music.

Tight-/loose-knit?

Stable/unstable harmony?

Exposition:

Transition:

Development:

Conclusion: