

## Approximating Omega

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-michael winter (1a; 2010)

## Approximating Omega

Note (to be used as an accompanying document for performances providing resources related to this piece):

In a 1975 paper entitled "A theory of program size complexity formally identical to information theory," Gregory Chaitin formally defines Omega, which is the probability that a computer program with bits generated by tosses of a fair coin halts on a universal self-delimiting Turing machine. Omega is maximally complex and incomputable because no algorithm can determine whether an arbitrary computer program halts. The undecidability of what is now known as the "halting problem" was originally shown by Alan Turing in his 1936 paper, "On computable numbers, with an application to the Entscheidungsproblem," as a corollary to a computer theoretical proof of Kurt Godel's incompleteness theorem first presented in Godel's 1931 article, "On formally undecidable propositions of Principia Mathematica and related systems I."

While Omega is incomputable, Chaitin has written a computer program that approximates Omega with increasing accuracy over longer and longer amounts of time. The program is written in a version of LISP that Chaitin extended and altered from the original LISP protocol first created by James McCarthy 1958 with a published explanation in his 1960 paper, "Recursive functions of symbolic expressions and their computation by machine."

The first [optional] section of this piece consists of an accompanied speaker reading an explanation of Chaitin's dialect of LISP. The text is adapted from Chaitin's 1994 book, "The Limits of Mathematics." Chaitin has further extended his 1994 LISP in his 2001 book, "Exploring Randomness." The decision to use Chaitin's older version of LISP and make changes to the text of "The Limits of Mathematics" are for artistic purposes with permission from the author.

The second section realizes symbol-by-symbol the program that approximates Omega. Distinct (primarily short) sounds represent each symbol and the entrances and exits of various continuous sounds demarcate the expressions in the program. Thus, the nesting of subroutines within the program completely determines the form of the music.

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### Performance Instructions:

#### Dynamics and Setting:

All individual instruments should sound at a uniform dynamic; each sound heard clearly without being loud. Sound sources should be distributed throughout the performance space. Realizations should be primarily concerned with the phenomenon of sound itself.

#### Instrumentation:

Part 0 comprises a battery of 26 different sounds indicated by number. 0 and 1 indicate pitched sounds (pitch class – D; any fixed octave) from a percussion instrument with long natural decay. 0 indicates to let ring. 1 indicates a punctuated tone (quickly stopped). Sounds 0 and 1 occur most frequently. When possible, distribute these occurrences to a set of a particular instrument (such as 17 chimes of the same pitch located throughout the performance space) such that: when several 0s occur in succession, each sound comes from a different source; when a 0 is followed shortly by a 1, the same source produces both sounds (that is, the tone initially allowed to ring is stopped by the punctuated tone that follows). Each remaining sound-number in Part 0 indicates a distinct, non-pitched sound that is short and/or has a short natural decay. Distribute the sources of these sounds throughout the performance space to the extent possible. Each part from 1 through 17 must be distinguished uniquely by timbre and/or pitch. One performer may play several parts with double-stops, multiple instruments, polyphonic synthesized or recorded sounds, etc.. Assign each part played by a pitched instrument a distinct pitch derived from one of the first seventeen primes of the harmonic series of D. Note names with cent deviations (one hundredth of a tempered semitone) are provided above the charts in Section 2. Performers may sound a part's respective pitch-class in any octave and may change octaves for each new tone.

#### Section 1 (optional):

The text is read in a paced speaking voice with silences of varying lengths between each paragraph (delimited by double line breaks). Varying subsets of the ensemble accompany each paragraph starting and ending precisely with the speaker. Per paragraph, the accompanying sound should seem as a single gestalt. Sounds should generally be continuous however percussion instruments may choose to sound a series of punctuated attacks repeated quickly at individual tempi. Individual instruments may enter and exit freely so long as an overall continuity remains. Symbols bound by brackets are not spoken. Instead, a tone corresponding to the sound-number of Part 0 (given in the left column) sounds. Precede and succeed this tone with silence. The paragraph is interpreted to start on the following line. A word in quotes coincides with the sounding of a tone corresponding to the sound-number of Part 0 (also given in the left column). Underlined words are neither spoken nor accompanied. Performers of Part 0 must play when indicated by brackets or quotes in the text but may also contribute to the more continuous accompanying sound of each paragraph.

#### Section 2:

Part 0 is notated as a list of pairs. The first number is a time-unit within which a sound indicated by the second number occurs. Two charts provide options for the remaining 17 parts (organized by columns). The column contains a list of time-unit pairs for the start and end times of each tone. The tones must enter and exist precisely with the sound in Part 0 occurring in the same time-unit. The ensemble may uniformly scale the time-units by any amount. Note that in Option 1, the higher the part number, the shorter the general durations of tones. Option 2 sacrifices this for parts that are more uniformly active. More traditionally notated scores are also provided for both options. An appendix gives the list of time pairs without part assignment. The ensemble may explore distributing the tones in other ways but it will always take at least 17 parts.

## Section 1:

### Part 0:

### Speaker with Accompaniment

Omega is formally defined as the probability that a computer program with bits generated by tosses of a fair coin halts on a universal self-delimiting computer. Since no algorithm can determine whether an arbitrary computer program halts, Omega is maximally complex and incomputable. However, there exists a computation that approximates Omega with increasing accuracy over longer and longer amounts of time. We outline this method in an altered and extended version of the computer programming language, LISP.

LISP more closely resembles fundamental subjects such as set theory and logic than a traditional programming language. The LISP formalism consists of several primitive functions and a set of rules for defining more complex functions from the initially given primitives. LISP functions are technically known as partial recursive functions. Data and function definitions in LISP consist of S-expressions. S stands for symbolic.

S-expressions are lists consisting of start and end delimiters binding zero or more elements, which may be atoms or sublists. Formally, the class of S-expressions is the union of the class of atoms and the class of lists.

The fundamental semantic concept of LISP is that of the value of an S-expression in a given environment. An environment consists of an associated list in which variables (atoms) and their values (S-expressions) alternate. If a variable appears several times, only its first value is significant. If a variable does not appear in the environment, then it is a literal constant in that it itself is its value.

LISP reserves the following symbols given with a name, the number of arguments (if applicable) and an explanation. All but the first four represent primitive functions.

- 0 Symbol: [(  
Name: Start-Delimiter  
Explanation: Denotes the start of an S-expression.
- 1 Symbol: [)]  
Name: End-Delimiter  
Explanation: Denotes the end of an S-expression.
- 2 Symbol: [1]  
Name: True  
Explanation: Denotes the value true.

- 3 Symbol: [0]  
Name: False  
Explanation: Denotes the value false.
- 4 Symbol: ['']  
Name: Quote or Literally  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The result of applying this function is the unevaluated argument expression.
- 5 Symbol: [.]  
Name: Atom  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The result of applying this function to an argument is true or false depending on whether or not the argument is an atom.
- 6 Symbol: [=]  
Name: Equal  
Arguments: 2  
Explanation: The result of applying this function is true or false depending on whether or not the two arguments are the same S-expression.
- 7 Symbol: [+]  
Name: Head or First  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The result of applying this function to an atom is the atom itself. The result of applying this function to a non-empty list is the first element of the list.
- 8 Symbol: [-]  
Name: Tail or Rest  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The result of applying this function to an atom is the atom itself. The result of applying this function to a non-empty list is the remaining elements after deletion of the first element. Thus, the tail of an  $(n + 1)$ -element list is an  $n$ -element list.
- 9 Symbol: [\*]  
Name: Join  
Arguments: 2  
Explanation: If the second argument is not a list, then the result of applying this function is the first argument. If the second argument is an  $n$ -element list, then the result of applying this function is the  $(n + 1)$ -element list whose head is the first argument and whose tail is the second argument.

- 10 | Symbol: [,]  
Name: Display  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The result of applying this function is its argument and is used to display intermediate results. In other words, this is an identity function. It is the only primitive function with a side-effect, which is to display the argument.
- 11 | Symbol: [/]  
Name: If-then-else  
Arguments: 3  
Explanation: If the first argument is not false, then the result is the second argument. If the first argument is false, then the result is the third argument. The argument that is not selected is not evaluated.
- 12 | Symbol: [!]  
Name: Evaluate  
Arguments: 1  
Explanation: The expression that is the value of the argument is evaluated in an empty environment. This is the only primitive function that is a partial rather than a total function.
- 13 | Symbol: [?]  
Name: Try or Depth-Limited Evaluation  
Arguments: 2  
Explanation: The expression that is the value of the second argument is evaluated in an empty environment. The number of elements of the first argument gives a time limit (that is, a maximum number of computations equal to the length of the list or zero if the first argument is not a list). The time limit actually limits the depth of the evaluation. If the evaluation completes within the time limit, the value returned is a list whose sole element is the value of the expression that is the value of the second argument. If the evaluation is not completed within the time limit, the value returned is the atom for "Try."
- 14 | Symbol: [&]  
Name: Define Function or Lambda  
Arguments: 2  
Explanation: Treated essentially as a primitive function, this atom is used to create a defined function where the first argument is a list of variables and the second argument is the body of the function definition. Note that all other (non-reserved) symbols may be used as variables in a defined function.

We extend LISP to define a self-delimiting universal computer. The computer's program appears on its tape as a binary representation of a LISP expression. Note that the program must be self-delimiting because the S-expression must have balanced delimiters.

13 We redefine "Try" by adding an argument to be able to initially place information on the computer's tape. The three arguments are as follows. The first argument, the depth-limit, is altered from the original LISP definition: if it is a non-null atom, then there is no depth limit; if it is the empty list, there is zero depth limit (that is, no function calls or re-evaluations); if it is an n-element list, there is a depth limit of n. The second argument is as before: the expression to be evaluated as long as the depth limit is not exceeded. The new third argument is a list of bits to be used as the computer's program tape.

13 The value returned by "Try" is also changed. If the computation terminates normally, the first element of the returned value is a list with only one element, which is the result of the computation. If the evaluation of the second argument aborts, the first element of the  
12 returned value is the atom for "Evaluate" after an attempt to read a non-existent bit from the  
13 tape or the atom for "Try" when the number of computations exceeds the depth limit. The rest  
10 of the returned value is a stack of all the arguments to the primitive function "Display" encountered during the evaluation of the second argument.

We reserve two more symbols for primitives that could be programmed but are built-in to help conveniently define and efficiently run a self-delimiting universal computer.

15 Symbol: [^]  
Name: Append  
Arguments: 2  
Explanation: The result of this function is the concatenation of its two arguments into a single list.

16 Symbol: [%]  
Name: Read-Expression  
Explanation: Read an entire LISP expression from the computer's tape. This function is the only way that information on the computer's tape can be accessed. It must be implemented in a self-delimiting fashion because no algorithm can search for the end of the tape and then use the length of the tape as data in the computation. If an algorithm attempts to read a bit that is not on the tape, the algorithm aborts. That is, this function explodes if the tape is exhausted, killing the computation.

In conclusion, permissiveness in our LISP is achieved because functions with extra arguments are evaluated but ignored and empty lists are supplied for missing arguments. There are no erroneous expressions; only expressions that never return a value because the interpreter goes into an infinite loop.

Approximating Omega:

Section 2:

```
((('(&(V)((('(&(A)((('(&(R)((('(&(W)(W('O))))('(&(n)(*0(*.(R(Vn())n))))))('(&(xy)/(.(x)/(.(y)())(*0(Rx(-y))))(^R(-x)(y))(*(+x)()))))))('(&(xyz)/(.(x)/(.(y)/(z('1))())(A('0))yz))/(.(y)(Ax('0))z)(*=(+x)(=+y)z))(A(-x)(-y)/(+x)/(+y)lz)/(+y)z0))))))('(&(xy)/(.(x)/(.(+?n('(!(%)))y)))(('1))(A(V(-x)(*0y))(V(-x)(*ly))0))))))
```

Above is the program approximating Omega given in its ascii representation. Note that the symbol O represents a list of 1s with a length that determines how many bits of the binary expansion of Omega are approximated.

Part 0 (time-unit, sound):

0,	0	26,	4	52,	3	78,	22	104,	1	130,	1	156,	23	182,	0	208,	6	234,	0	260,	0	286,	12	312,	1
1,	0	27,	0	53,	0	79,	23	105,	1	131,	1	157,	1	183,	11	209,	0	235,	7	261,	4	287,	0	313,	0
2,	4	28,	14	54,	9	80,	1	106,	1	132,	1	158,	0	184,	0	210,	7	236,	23	262,	0	288,	16	314,	9
3,	0	29,	0	55,	5	81,	0	107,	1	133,	1	159,	11	185,	5	211,	23	237,	1	263,	14	289,	1	315,	3
4,	14	30,	20	56,	0	82,	11	108,	0	134,	1	160,	24	186,	23	212,	1	238,	2	264,	0	290,	1	316,	23
5,	0	31,	1	57,	19	83,	0	109,	15	135,	1	161,	0	187,	1	213,	24	239,	24	265,	22	291,	1	317,	1
6,	17	32,	0	58,	0	84,	5	110,	0	136,	1	162,	4	188,	0	214,	1	240,	1	266,	23	292,	23	318,	1
7,	1	33,	20	59,	17	85,	22	111,	19	137,	0	163,	0	189,	18	215,	1	241,	0	267,	1	293,	1	319,	0
8,	0	34,	0	60,	25	86,	1	112,	0	138,	4	164,	2	190,	22	216,	0	242,	11	268,	0	294,	1	320,	17
9,	0	35,	4	61,	0	87,	0	113,	8	139,	0	165,	1	191,	0	217,	18	243,	0	269,	11	295,	1	321,	0
10,	4	36,	0	62,	1	88,	11	114,	22	140,	14	166,	1	192,	4	218,	0	244,	7	270,	0	296,	0	322,	8
11,	0	37,	21	63,	1	89,	0	115,	1	141,	0	167,	0	193,	0	219,	8	245,	23	271,	5	297,	1	323,	22
12,	14	38,	1	64,	25	90,	5	116,	0	142,	22	168,	1	194,	3	220,	22	246,	1	272,	22	298,	0	324,	1
13,	0	39,	1	65,	1	91,	23	117,	8	143,	23	169,	1	195,	1	221,	1	247,	24	273,	1	299,	4	325,	0
14,	18	40,	1	66,	1	92,	1	118,	23	144,	24	170,	0	196,	1	222,	0	248,	3	274,	0	300,	0	326,	9
15,	1	41,	1	67,	1	93,	0	119,	1	145,	1	171,	18	197,	24	223,	8	249,	1	275,	11	301,	2	327,	2
16,	0	42,	1	68,	1	94,	1	120,	1	146,	0	172,	0	198,	1	224,	23	250,	1	276,	0	302,	1	328,	23
17,	0	43,	0	69,	1	95,	0	121,	0	147,	11	173,	4	199,	0	225,	1	251,	1	277,	5	303,	1	329,	1
18,	4	44,	4	70,	1	96,	9	122,	9	148,	0	174,	0	200,	9	226,	0	252,	1	278,	0	304,	1	330,	1
19,	0	45,	0	71,	1	97,	3	123,	0	149,	5	175,	3	201,	0	227,	11	253,	1	279,	7	305,	0	331,	3
20,	14	46,	14	72,	1	98,	0	124,	7	150,	22	176,	1	202,	6	228,	0	254,	1	280,	0	306,	18	332,	1
21,	0	47,	0	73,	0	99,	19	125,	22	151,	1	177,	1	203,	0	229,	7	255,	1	281,	13	307,	0	333,	1
22,	19	48,	25	74,	4	100,	22	126,	1	152,	0	178,	23	204,	7	230,	22	256,	1	282,	25	308,	17	334,	1
23,	1	49,	1	75,	0	101,	0	127,	0	153,	11	179,	24	205,	22	231,	1	257,	1	283,	0	309,	0	335,	1
24,	0	50,	0	76,	14	102,	8	128,	1	154,	0	180,	1	206,	1	232,	0	258,	1	284,	4	310,	8	336,	1
25,	0	51,	9	77,	0	103,	23	129,	1	155,	5	181,	1	207,	0	233,	11	259,	1	285,	0	311,	22		



Assign each part played by a pitched instrument a distinct pitch class from the following:  
 (D+0, A+2, F#-14, C-31, G#-49, A#+41, D#+5, F-2, G#+28, C+30, C#+45, F-49, F#+29, G+12, A-34, B-26, C#-41)

Option 1 (start time-unit, end-time unit):

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5	Part 6	Part 7	Part 8	Part 9	Part 10	Part 11	Part 12	Part 13	Part 14	Part 15	Part 16	Part 17
0,336	1,259 260,335	3,258 262,334	5,7 8,257 264,267 268,333	9,136 137,256 270,273 274,304 305,332	11,135 139,255 276,295 296,297 298,303 307,318 319,330	13,15 16,134 141,145 146,254 278,294 300,302 309,312 313,317 321,324 325,329	17,72 73,133 148,151 152,181 158,169 182,253 184,187 188,198 199,252 283,291	19,71 75,132 154,157 158,169 170,180 161,166 184,187 172,177 191,196 201,215 216,251 285,290	21,23 24,70 77,80 81,131 87,107 161,166 167,168 174,176 191,196 201,215 207,214 218,221	25,42 43,69 83,86 87,107 89,92 108,130 163,165 174,176 193,195 203,206 207,214 218,221	27,41 45,68 89,92 93,94 98,105 95,106 110,120 121,129 209,212 228,231 232,240 241,249	29,31 32,40 47,49 50,67 98,105 98,105 112,115 116,119 123,126 127,128 234,237 243,246	34,39 53,66 101,104	36,38 56,65	58,63	61,62

Option 2 (start time-unit, end-time unit):

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5	Part 6	Part 7	Part 8	Part 9	Part 10	Part 11	Part 12	Part 13	Part 14	Part 15	Part 16	Part 17
0,336	1,259 305,332	3,258 300,302	5,7 34,39 50,67 83,86 108,130 154,157 184,187 216,251 278,294	8,257 298,303	9,136 172,177 203,206 228,231 262,334	11,135 170,180 207,214 234,237 264,267 307,318	13,15 36,38 47,49 61,62 73,133 163,165 188,198 226,250 276,295	167,168 193,195 218,221 152,181 146,254 270,273 309,312	17,72 98,105 121,129 152,181 146,254 209,212 232,240 268,333	19,71 95,106 123,126 110,120 146,254 285,290 319,330	21,23 43,69 89,92 110,120 137,256 141,145 174,176 201,215 241,249 274,304	24,70 93,94 112,115 137,256 161,166 191,196 222,225 260,335	25,42 58,63 75,132 161,166 101,104 116,119 139,255 287,289	27,41 56,65 77,80 101,104 116,119 139,255 287,289	29,31 45,68 87,107 127,128 148,151 182,253 283,291	32,40 53,66 81,131 158,169 199,252 280,293 325,329

Appendix

Sustained Tones (start time-unit, end-time unit):

((0,336),(1,259),(3,258),(5,7),(8,257),(9,136),(11,135),(13,15),(16,134),(17,72),(19,71),(21,23),  
 (24,70),(25,42),(27,41),(29,31),(32,40),(34,39),(36,38),(43,69),(45,68),(47,49),(50,67),(53,66),  
 (56,65),(58,63),(61,62),(73,133),(75,132),(77,80),(81,131),(83,86),(87,107),(89,92),(93,94),(95,106),  
 (98,105),(101,104),(108,130),(110,120),(112,115),(116,119),(121,129),(123,126),(127,128),(137,256),  
 (139,255),(141,145),(146,254),(148,151),(152,181),(154,157),(158,169),(161,166),(163,165),(167,168),  
 (170,180),(172,177),(174,176),(182,253),(184,187),(188,198),(191,196),(193,195),(199,252),(201,215),  
 (203,206),(207,214),(209,212),(216,251),(218,221),(222,225),(226,250),(228,231),(232,240),(234,237),  
 (241,249),(243,246),(260,335),(262,334),(264,267),(268,333),(270,273),(274,304),(276,295),(278,294),  
 (280,293),(283,291),(285,290),(287,289),(296,297),(298,303),(300,302),(305,332),(307,318),(309,312),  
 (313,317),(319,330),(321,324),(325,329));

Approximating Omega  
Section 2; Option 1

Assign each part from 1 through 17 played by a pitched instrument a distinct pitch class from the following (each tone may be played in any octave):  
(D+0, A+2, F#-14, C-31, G#-49, A#+41, D#+5, F-2, G#+28, C+30, C#+45, F-49, F#+29, G+12, A-34, B-26, C#-41)

10

20

30

The musical score consists of 18 parts, labeled Part 0 through Part 17. Part 0 is a sequence of notes with pitch class numbers above them: 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 17, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 18, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 19, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 20, 1, 0, 20, 0, 4, 0, 21, 1, 1. Parts 1 through 17 are staves with notes and time-unit markers above them. The time-unit markers are numbers indicating the start and end of each note. The notes are connected by curved lines, indicating they are played simultaneously or in quick succession. The time-unit markers for each part are: Part 1: 0; Part 2: 1; Part 3: 3; Part 4: 5, 7, 8; Part 5: 9; Part 6: 11; Part 7: 13, 15, 16; Part 8: 17; Part 9: 19; Part 10: 21, 23, 24; Part 11: 25; Part 12: 27; Part 13: 29, 31, 32; Part 14: 34, 39; Part 15: 36, 38; Part 16: (empty); Part 17: (empty).

\*Part 0: The number above each note indicates which sound to play. The sound may occur at any point in the time unit (or measure).  
\*Parts 1 through 17: The numbers above the starts and ends of each note indicate the time-unit (or measure) of entry or exit. These should coincide precisely with the sound occurring in part 1, which may occur at any point in the time-unit. Note that measure numbers start from index 0.

40 50 60 70

Part 0 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 25 1 0 9 3 0 9 5 0 19 0 17 25 0 1 1 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8 72 73

Part 9 71 75

Part 10 70 77

Part 11 42 43 69

Part 12 41 45 68

Part 13 40 47 49 50 67

Part 14 53 66

Part 15 56 65

Part 16 58 63

Part 17 61 62

80 90 100 110

Part 0 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 1 0 9 3 0 19 22 0 8 23 1 1 1 1 0 15 0 19 0 8 22 1 0 8 23 1

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10 80 81

Part 11 83 86 87 107 108

Part 12 89 92 93 94 95 106 110

Part 13 98 105 112 115 116 119

Part 14 101 104

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

120 130 140 150

Part 0 1 0 9 0 7 22 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23 24 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 11

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5 136 137

Part 6 135 139

Part 7 134 141 145 146

Part 8 133 148 151 152

Part 9 132 154 157 158

Part 10 131

Part 11 130

Part 12 120 121 129

Part 13 123 126 127 128

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

160 170 180 190

Part 0 24 0 4 0 2 1 1 0 1 1 0 18 0 4 0 3 1 1 23 24 1 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 18 22 0 4 0 3 1 1 24 1 0

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8 181 182

Part 9 169 170 180 184 187 188 198 199

Part 10 161 166 167 168 172 177 191 196

Part 11 163 165 174 176 193 195

Part 12

Part 13

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

200

210

220

230

Part 0 9 0 6 0 7 22 1 0 6 0 7 23 1 24 1 1 0 18 0 8 22 1 0 8 23 1 0 11 0 7 22 1 0 11 0 7 23 1 2 24

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10 201 215 216

Part 11 203 206 207 214 218 221 222 225 226

Part 12 209 212 228 231 232

Part 13 234 237

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

240 250 260 270

Part 0 1 0 11 0 7 23 1 24 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 0 7

Part 1

Part 2 259 260

Part 3 258 262

Part 4 257 264 267 268

Part 5 256 270 273 274

Part 6 255 276

Part 7 254 278

Part 8 253

Part 9 252

Part 10 251

Part 11 250

Part 12 240 241 249

Part 13 243 246

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17



280

290

300

310

Part 0  
0 13 25 0 4 0 12 0 16 1 1 1 23 1 1 1 0 1 0 4 0 2 1 1 1 0 18 0 17 0 8 22 1 0 9 3 23 1 1 0

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10

Part 11

Part 12

Part 13

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

320 330

Part 0 17 0 8 22 1 0 9 2 23 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1

Part 1 336

Part 2 335

Part 3 334

Part 4 333

Part 5 332

Part 6 330

Part 7 321 324 325 329

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10

Part 11

Part 12

Part 13

Part 14

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17

Approximating Omega  
Section 2; Option 2

\*Assign each part from 1 through 17 played by a pitched instrument a distinct pitch-class from the following (each tone may be played in any octave):  
(D+0, A+2, F#-14, C-31, G#-49, A#+41, D#+5, F-2, G#+28, C+30, C#+45, F-49, F#+29, G+12, A-34, B-26, C#-41)

[10] [20] [30]

The musical score consists of 18 parts, labeled Part 0 through Part 17. Part 0 is a sequence of notes with pitch-class numbers above them: 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 17, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 18, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 19, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 0, 20, 1, 0, 20, 0, 4, 0, 21, 1, 1. Parts 1 through 17 are rhythmic patterns where the numbers above the notes indicate the time-unit (or measure) of entry or exit. The notes in parts 1-17 are connected by arcs, indicating their duration. The time-unit numbers for parts 1-17 are: Part 1 (0), Part 2 (1), Part 3 (3), Part 4 (5, 7, 34, 39), Part 5 (8), Part 6 (9), Part 7 (11), Part 8 (13, 15, 36, 38), Part 9 (16), Part 10 (17), Part 11 (19), Part 12 (21, 23), Part 13 (24), Part 14 (25), Part 15 (27), Part 16 (29, 31), Part 17 (32).

\*Part 0: The number above each note indicates which sound to play. The sound may occur at any point in the time unit (or measure).  
\*Parts 1 through 17: The numbers above the starts and ends of each note indicate the time-unit (or measure) of entry or exit. These should coincide precisely with the sound occurring in part 1, which may occur at any point in the time-unit. Note that measure numbers start from index 0.

40 50 60 70

Part 0 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 25 1 0 9 3 0 9 5 0 19 0 17 25 0 1 1 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 50 67

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8 47 49 61 62 73

Part 9

Part 10 72

Part 11 71

Part 12 43 69

Part 13 70

Part 14 42 58 63 75

Part 15 41 56 65 77

Part 16 45 68

Part 17 40 53 66

Detailed description: This image shows a musical score for 18 parts, labeled Part 0 through Part 17. At the top, there are four boxed numbers: 40, 50, 60, and 70. Below these, a single line of numbers is provided: 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 25 1 0 9 3 0 9 5 0 19 0 17 25 0 1 1 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23. The score consists of 18 staves. Part 0 is a single line of notes with stems pointing up, corresponding to the numbers above. Parts 1 through 3 are similar but have stems pointing down. Parts 4 through 17 are mostly empty staves with stems pointing down, except for specific notes that are marked with measure numbers: Part 4 (50, 67), Part 8 (47, 49, 61, 62, 73), Part 10 (72), Part 11 (71), Part 12 (43, 69), Part 13 (70), Part 14 (42, 58, 63, 75), Part 15 (41, 56, 65, 77), Part 16 (45, 68), and Part 17 (40, 53, 66). The notes are connected by curved lines (arcs) across the staves.

80 90 100 110

Part 0 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 1 0 9 3 0 19 22 0 8 23 1 1 1 1 0 15 0 19 0 8 22 1 0 8 23 1

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 83 86 108

Part 5

Part 6

Part 7

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10 98 105

Part 11 95 106

Part 12 89 92 110

Part 13 93 94 112 115

Part 14

Part 15 80 101 104 116 119

Part 16 87 107

Part 17 81

120 130 140 150

Part 0 1 0 9 0 7 22 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23 24 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 11

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 130 154 157

Part 5

Part 6 136

Part 7 135

Part 8 133

Part 9 134

Part 10 121 129 152

Part 11 123 126 146

Part 12 120 141 145

Part 13 137

Part 14 132

Part 15 139

Part 16 127 128 148 151

Part 17 131 158

160 170 180 190

Part 0 24 0 4 0 2 1 1 0 1 1 0 18 0 4 0 3 1 1 23 24 1 1 0 11 0 5 23 1 0 18 22 0 4 0 3 1 1 24 1 0

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 184 187

Part 5

Part 6 172 177

Part 7 170 180

Part 8 163 165 188 198

Part 9 167 168 193 195

Part 10 181

Part 11

Part 12 174 176

Part 13

Part 14 161 166 191 196

Part 15

Part 16 182

Part 17 169 199

200 210 220 230

Part 0 9 0 6 0 7 22 1 0 6 0 7 23 1 24 1 1 0 18 0 8 22 1 0 8 23 1 0 11 0 7 22 1 0 11 0 7 23 1 2 24

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 216

Part 5

Part 6 203 206 228 231

Part 7 207 214 234 237

Part 8 226

Part 9 218 221

Part 10 209 212 232

Part 11

Part 12 201 215

Part 13

Part 14 222 225

Part 15

Part 16

Part 17



240 250 260 270

Part 0 1 0 11 0 7 23 1 24 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 4 0 14 0 22 23 1 0 11 0 5 22 1 0 11 0 5 0 7

Part 1

Part 2 259

Part 3 258

Part 4 251 278

Part 5 257

Part 6 262

Part 7 264 267

Part 8 250 276

Part 9 243 246 270 273

Part 10 240 268

Part 11 254

Part 12 241 249 274

Part 13 256

Part 14 260

Part 15 255

Part 16 253

Part 17 252

280 290 300 310

Part 0 0 13 25 0 4 0 12 0 16 1 1 1 23 1 1 1 0 1 0 4 0 2 1 1 1 0 18 0 17 0 8 22 1 0 9 3 23 1 1 0

Part 1

Part 2 305

Part 3 300 302

Part 4 294

Part 5 298 303

Part 6

Part 7 307 318

Part 8 295

Part 9 309 312

Part 10

Part 11 285 290 319

Part 12 304

Part 13 296 297

Part 14

Part 15 287 289 313 317

Part 16 283 291

Part 17 280 293

320 330

Part 0 17 0 8 22 1 0 9 2 23 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1

Part 1 336

Part 2 332

Part 3

Part 4

Part 5

Part 6 334

Part 7

Part 8

Part 9

Part 10 333

Part 11 330

Part 12

Part 13

Part 14 335

Part 15

Part 16 321 324

Part 17 325 329