



Cactus
for James Orsher

Pluck a different spine on a cactus (or several cacti) at intervals of time that decrease by a *very small* amount. When all spines have been plucked without repetition, you may stop or cycle through all the spines again until the interval of time is so short that you cannot successively pluck spines any faster.

The sequence of durations can be expressed as any subset of:

$$\{ni, ni - i, ni - 2i, \dots, i\}$$

or after the first pluck the successive points in time to pluck the spines can be expressed by the series:

$$\sum_{s=0}^{s=n} ni - si$$

for both, n such that *number of spines* $\leq n \leq \infty$ and i , which is the decrement of time between plucks, is *very small*.

Essentially, the piece is a very slow accelerando that can be infinite.

- The cactus may be amplified.
- If the cactus is amplified, reverb may be added.
- The piece may be played backwards, such that it is a decelerando.
- Any number of realizations may be played simultaneously.
- The piece may be attempted with other instruments.
- Preferably long.
- Preferably soft.

Mike Winter (April 2007)

