

“Pop”	“Indie”	“Jazz”	“Classical”	“Metal”	“Reggae”	“Electronic”	“Experimental”	“Country”
pop	indie	chillout	piano	metal	reggae	house	instrumental	country
female vocal	rock	lounge	instrumental	death metal	funk	electro	ambient	classic country
dance	alternative	chill	ambient	thrash metal	funky	electronic	experimental	male vocal
electronic	indie rock	downtempo	classic	brutal death metal	dance	dance	electronic	blues
sexy	post punk	smooth jazz	beautiful	grindcore	hip-hop	electric house	psychedelic	folk
love	psychedelic	relax	chillout	heavy metal	party	techno	progressive	love songs
synth pop	new wave	ambient	relax	black metal	sexy	minimal	rock	americana

Table 3. Top 7 tags from 9 latent factors for PMF-Stoc-full with $J = 512$. For each factor, we assign the closest music genre on top. As is evident, each factor corresponds to a particular aspect of a music genre.

can be used to infer the most appropriate tags given the audio alone. The Poisson model is naturally less sensitive to zero values than some alternatives, making it a good match to “noisy” training examples derived from real users’ taggings, where the fact that no user has applied a tag does not necessarily imply that the term is irrelevant. By learning this model using stochastic variational inference, we are able to efficiently exploit much larger training sets than are tractable using batch approaches, making it feasible to learn from an entire set of over 370k tagged examples. Although much of the improvement comes in the earlier iterations, we see continued improvement implying this approach can benefit from much larger, effectively unlimited sources of tagged examples, as might be available on a commercial music service with millions of users.

There are a few areas where our model can be easily developed. For example, stochastic variational inference requires we set the learning rate parameters t_0 and κ , which is application-dependent. By using adaptive learning rates for stochastic variational inference [13], model inference can converge faster and to a better local optimal solution. From a modeling perspective, currently the hyperparameters for weights θ are fixed, indicating that the sparsity level of the weight for each song is assumed to be the same *a priori*. Alternatively we could put *song-dependent* hyper-priors on the hyperparameters of θ to encode the intuition that some of the songs might have denser weights because more tagging information is available. This would offer more flexibility to the current model.

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