Analyzing Drum Patterns and Drum Pattern Changes in Twenty-First Century Mainstream Pop

David Geary | Wake Forest University | gearyd@wfu.edu
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Figure 1. Drums in Halsey’s “Without Me” (2018)

Figure 2. Number of Drum Patterns and Drum Pattern Changes Per Song in 2018 Mainstream Pop
Figure 3. Number of Drum Layers in 2018 Mainstream Pop (left); Instrument for One-Layer Patterns (center); Instruments for Two-Layer Patterns (right)

Figure 4. Referential Rhythms

Hi-Hat

X (tacit)
8 (eighth notes)
16 (sixteenth notes)
O (other)

Snare

X (tacit)
B (backbeat)
4 (straight-four)
O (other)

Bass

X (tacit)
S (standard rock)
4 (four-on-the-floor)
O (other)
**Figure 5.** Drums in DJ Khaled’s “No Brainer” Featuring Justin Bieber, Chance the Rapper, and Quavo (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drum Pattern 1</th>
<th>Drum Pattern 2</th>
<th>Drum Pattern 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S – B(^{\text{CLAP/SNARE}}) X (DPR=102)</td>
<td>S – B(^{\text{CLAP/SNARE}}) O (DPR=102)</td>
<td>X – X – X (ATR=102)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drum Patterns:**
- DP1
- DP2
- DP3
- DP4
- DP5

**Form:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V1</th>
<th>PC1</th>
<th>C1</th>
<th>DC1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:46</td>
<td>1:05</td>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>1:33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 6.** Drums in Cardi B, Bad Bunny, J Balvin’s “I Like It” (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drum Pattern 3</th>
<th>Drum Pattern 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verse 1.1</td>
<td>Verse 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X – B(^{\text{CLAP/CONGA}}) X (DPR=68)</td>
<td>S – B(^{\text{CLAP/CONGA}}) X (DPR=68)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drum Patterns:**
- DP1
- DP2
- DP3

**Verse 1.3**

| S – B – 16 (DPR=68) |
Figure 7. Drums in Khalid and Normani’s “Love Lies” (2017)

Drum Pattern 1
X – X – X (ATR=144)

Drum Pattern 2
X – B^SNAP – X (DPR=72)

Drum Pattern 3
X – B^SNAP – 16 (DPR=72)

Drum Pattern 4
S – B^SNAP – 16 (DPR=72)

Form:
Section 1 Section 2 Section 3

I V1 PC1 C1 V2 PC2 C2 B C3 O

0:00 0:15 0:41 1:08 1:34 1:47 2:14 2:40 3:07 3:19

Drum Patterns:
short-range drum buildups:
mid-range drum buildups:
long-range drum buildup:

Bibliography:


