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IMPULSE-RESPONSE AND CAD-MODEL-BASED PHYSICAL MODELING IN FAUST

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CONTEXT

The FAUST programming language [4] has proven to be well suited to implement physical models of music instruments using waveguides and model synthesis [1][2][3]. We developed two tools allowing to easily generate FAUST modal physical models:

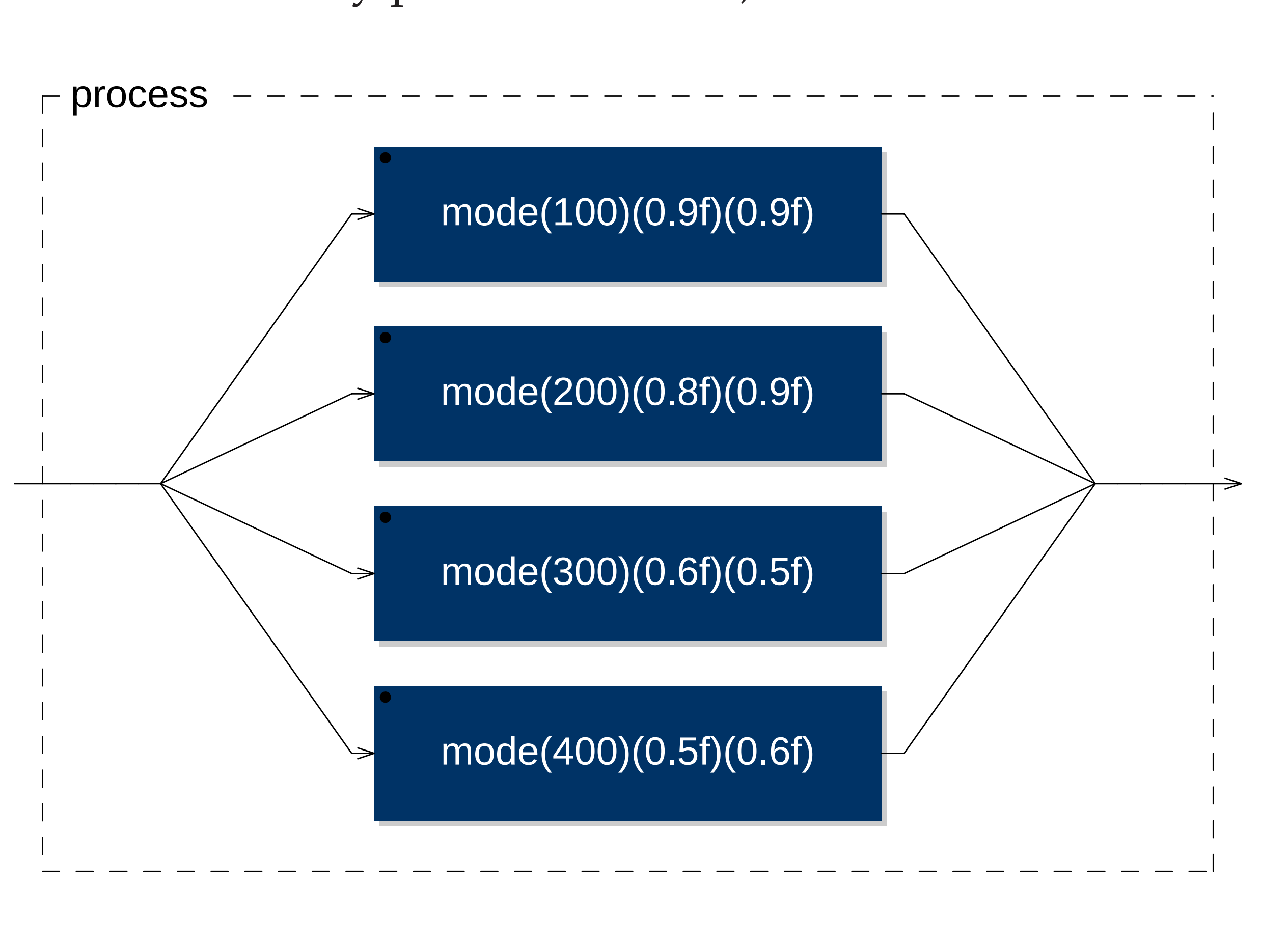
1. `ir2dsp.py` takes the audio file of an impulse response and converts it into a FAUST program implementing the corresponding modal physical model;
2. `mesh2dsp.py` outputs the same type of model from a `.stl` file specifying a 3D object.

FAUST MODAL PHYSICAL MODEL

Linear percussion instruments can be implemented using banks of resonant bandpass filters [2]. Each filter implements one mode of the system and is configured with 3 parameters : the frequency of the mode, its gain and its resonance duration (t_{60}). Its FAUST version, `modeFilter` below, uses a biquad filter (`tf2`) and computes its poles and zeroes for a given frequency and t_{60} .

```
modeFilter(f,t60) = tf2(b0,b1,b2,a1,a2)
with{
  b0 = 1;
  b1 = 0;
  b2 = -1;
  w = 2*PI*f/SR;
  r = pow(0.001,1/float(t60*SR));
  a1 = -2*r*cos(w);
  a2 = r^2;
};
mode(f,t60,gain) = modeFilter(f,t60)*gain;
```

Modal physical models are implemented using multiple parallel (`par` in FAUST) instances of `mode` calls. The FAUST-generated block diagram corresponding to such an implementation is presented below (we used arbitrary parameters here).



Such a model can be excited by a filtered noise impulse.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

We plan to improve `ir2dsp.py` by using a better t_{60} measurement algorithm. For now, the calculation is done by measuring the bandwidth for each peak, while it would be a better approach to extract it from a time-frequency representation of the signal.

Regarding `mesh2dsp.py`, we would like to try other open-source packages than Elmer to carry out FEA.

IR2DSP.PY AND MESH2FAUST

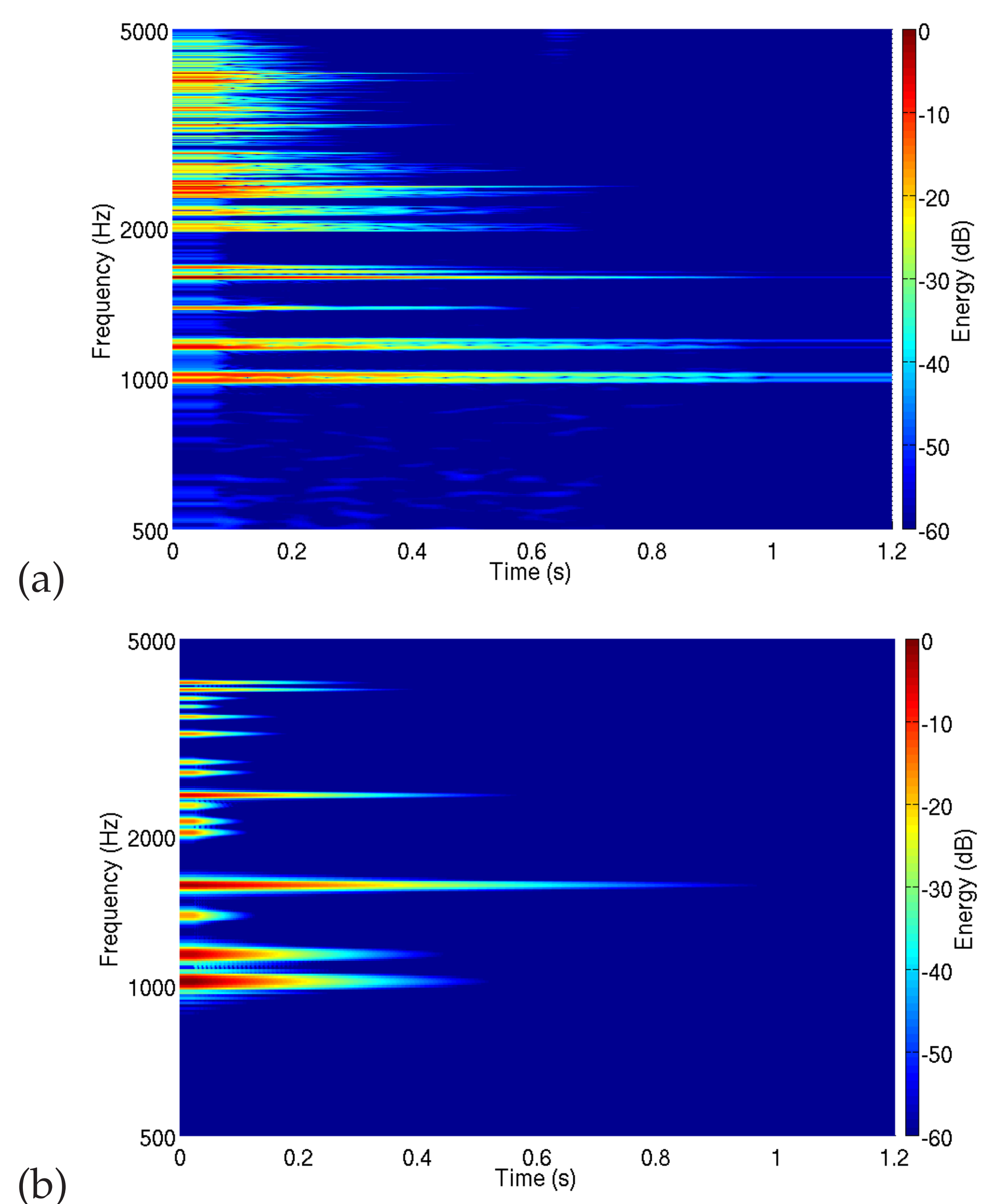
`ir2dsp.py` takes an audio file and extracts modal physical model-based information for each mode: frequency and gain, by carrying out peak detection; t_{60} , by measuring bandwidth at -3 dB. A FAUST file is then generated. With this tool, one can strike any object, record the resulting sound and turn it into a playable digital instrument.

`mesh2dsp.py` gives the same output, using a `.stl` file (describing a 3D object) as input, as follows:

- conversion of the input object to a mesh;
- Finite Element Analysis (FEA) using the Elmer package, with the Young modulus, Poisson coefficient and density of the material as parameters;
- frequency and gain computation from eigenvalues and mass participation for each mode;
- t_{60} values input (these values cannot be computed by this method unfortunately, so they are user-provided parameters).

EVALUATION

Spectrograms of (a) the recording of the IR of a can and (b) its `ir2dsp.py`-generated modal physical model:



The original and synthesized sound representations are relatively close (but see Future Directions).

ARTIFACTS

Source code available at: <https://github.com/rmichon/pmFaust/>

REFERENCES

- [1] R. Michon, J. O. Smith. *Faust-STK: a set of linear and nonlinear physical models for the Faust programming language*. In Proceedings of the DAFx-11 Conference, 2011
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- [4] Y. Orlarey, D. Fober, S. Letz. *Syntactical and Semantical Aspects of Faust*. Soft Computing, 2004

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