

Advanced Audio Processing

Part 1: Acoustics and Sound Localization

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The acquisition system

For the following 2 practicals, we will work with a linear, evenly spaced, array made of $N = 8$ MEMS (MicroElectroMechanical Systems) microphones, see Figure 1. The array is connected with an ethernet cable to an acquisition system that can handle 4 identical arrays. Consequently, 4 pairs of student will work with one acquisition system only.

Each acquisition system is then connected to one computer through USB. This computer emits a Wifi signal (the SSID is written on the top of each box) which you must connect to start the acquisition. In order to use this all system, you must install some Python specific libraries, in addition to the code which is available on Moodle. The installation of these dependencies is explained in the next section.

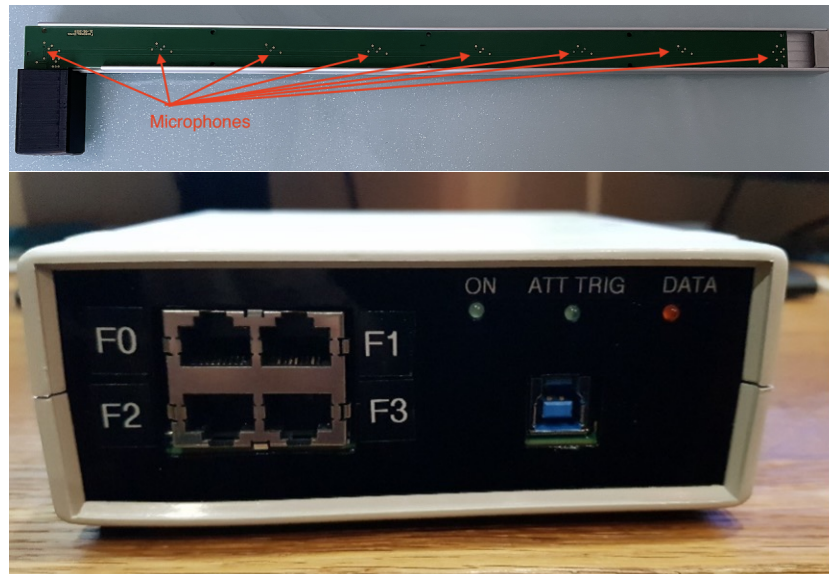


FIGURE 1 – Overview of the audio system : (up) the microphone array (down) the acquisition system.

Preparation and installation of the software

We will consider that you already have a working Python installation on your own computer, which is using the `conda` package manager. One example is the **Anaconda** distribution, which can be installed on most operating systems. You might also consider using `conda-forge` with `miniforge`, which also allows you to install the `conda` package manager with some nice pre-configured features. From <https://github.com/conda-forge/miniforge> you can find the latest installers (search for `Miniforge3`, and select the corresponding operating system you are working with). *Be carefull : multiple installations of different Python managers are generally not advised, and you should stick with your current working installation as long as the required Python packages are available.*

In all the following, we will show how to use the **Anaconda** distribution, with examples coming from Windows 11. The very same procedure can also be used for other operating systems.

Python environment

To begin, we will create a dedicated Python virtual environment where all the required packages and libraries will be installed. The steps are the following :

1. launch **Anaconda Navigator**, and select the "Environments" menu on the left. Then click on the "Channels" button, click on "Add..." ;
2. next, enter the following address in the empty field that appears : <https://conda.anaconda.org/conda-forge/>. Hit Enter, and then click on "Update channels" ;

3. once the new **conda-forge** repository has been added, click then on the "Create" button, at the bottom of the current page. Now you can specify the "Name" of your new environment ("array", for example), and then select the "Python" checkbox (the version number is automatically chosen, there is no need to change it). Click then on "Create".
4. the new environment is now created, with a minimal Python installation. We will now need to install a list of packages and libraries. To that end, click on the name of your newly created environment to activate it. Then click on the small "Play" button near to the environment name, and click on "Open Terminal". A terminal is now launched, in which your current environment is also activated (its name should appear between parentheses);
5. in this terminal, copy and past the following command :

```
conda install matplotlib numpy scipy h5py websockets notebook ipywidgets
ipyfilechooser ipympl paramiko nbclassic
```

You might have to confirm the installation of these packages. Obviously, confirm it.
6. once all required packages are installed, you can close your terminal. Then, come back to **Anaconda Navigator** and select the "Home" menu on the left. From here, on list above select "Installed applications" on "array" (or the name you selected for the environment you created during step 3 above). From this screen, you can now launch **Jupyter Notebook**, which should then launch your web browser.
7. that's it! You are now ready to work with the acquisition system.

All these steps have to be followed carefully only once. The next time you want to work on this system, you only have to select the appropriate environment in the "Environments" menu, and then to launch **Jupyter Notebook** from the same environment in the "Home" menu.

Configuration and tests

Download now the files available on Moodle. First, unzip the file **TP.zip** to a location of your choice on your disk. *This location will be the root for your developments.* Next, download the notebook **Test.ipynb** and place it at this root location. Open the notebook in Jupyter Notebooks, and execute the first cell containing all the import directives :

Code Listing 1 – Import of the required libraries

```
%matplotlib widget
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
from client import array
import time
```

If this first cell is correctly executed, without errors about missing libraries or dependencies, then you should be ready to go!

When working with the acquisition system

First, you must connect to the Wifi network emitted by the acquisition system. Its SSID is indicated on it, and your teacher will give you the corresponding password. Next, execute the cell with the following code :

Code Listing 2 – Initialization of the acquisition interface

```
antenne=array( 'server ')
```

This code then displays the GUI shown in Figure 2 in which some parameters from the acquisition system are reported. In particular, you must specify the IP address of the acquisition system; the default value should be ok. You must also specify which array you are using (the array is connected to one of the 4 ports named F0, F1, F2 or F3). Then, click on the "Confirm" button. From now on, you can :

```
antenne=array('server') # When performing real-time acquisition
```

Adresse IP: 10.3.141.1	Port: 9002	N° d'anten... F0
Start ACQ	Stop ACQ	Start Recording
		Stop recording
		Confirm
		SOS
Fs:	Blocksize:	Status:

FIGURE 2 – Graphical interface for configuring the acquisition system.

- start the acquisition (**Start ACQ** button)
- start the recording of an audio file in the **.h5** file format (**Start Recording** button)
- related stop buttons are also available to stop acquisition or recording.

When working on recorded files

You simply have to use the following code :

Code Listing 3 – Initialization of the acquisition interface

```
antenne=array('play')
```

This code then displays the GUI shown in Figure 3, in which some parameters loaded from the selected file are reported. Your first have to click on the **Select** button to open a window

```
antenne=array('play') # When playing recorded files
```

Select	No selection
Fs:	Blocksize: 2048
	Status:
Play file	

FIGURE 3 – Graphical interface for playing recorded data.

allowing you to browse to the **.h5** audio file you want to play. Then, you can click on **Play file**.

How to read data

The variable **antenne** you created to access the GUI can be used to manipulate and access data any time. For that purpose, you can use :

- **antenne.blocksize** : to get the buffer length used during the acquisition ;
- **antenne.mems_nb** : to get the value of N , the number of microphones used in the array ;
- **antenne.d** : to get the microphone interspace value d ;
- **antenne.fs** : to get the sampling frequency value ;
- **m = antenne.read()** : to capture the current audio buffer in **m** ; **m** is of size **Blocksize** \times N .

How to emit sounds

You will need in the two following practicals to emit specific sounds, like pure sinus tone at a specific frequency. The easiest way to do that is actually to install some free application able to generate such signals on your phone. A lot of them exist on the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android). Select one of them (any free version of an app should be sufficient) and install it.

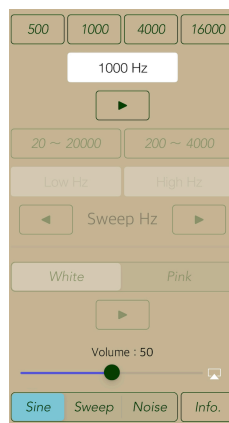


FIGURE 4 – Example : the “Audio Tone Generator Lite” iOS app.