

Music 103 - Sound Analysis, Synthesis, Perception, and Aesthetics  
Prof. Michael Casey - Dartmouth College

Learning outcomes  
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At the end of this course students will be able to:

- \* critically evaluate historical and contemporary sound research
- \* critically evaluate audio and music perception literature
- \* critically evaluate use of sound materials in musical compositions
- \* apply sound manipulation and synthesis techniques to research/composition
- \* synthesize new speculative audio processing techniques in Matlab/C/Python

ASSESSMENT  
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1.	Weekly exercises in sound analysis/synthesis	30%
2.	Weekly discussions on reading/listening assignments	15%
3.	A mid-term paper/presentation to the class	15%
4.	An end-of-term project and presentation	40%

=== 1 === Wednesday 09/21

Introduction to Signal Processing  
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Vector representation of signals operations on vectors  
Elementary signals: definitions, construction  $d[n]$ ,  $u[n]$ ,  $\text{imptrain}[n]$   
Implementation in common digital music and programming environments  
frequency representation of elementary signals  
periodic, quasi-periodic, and inharmonic tones  
sampling theorem, sample rate, nyquist frequency, multirate systems  
Sinusoids, sums of sinusoids  
Vector representation of signals  
phasor, amplitude, radian frequency, phase  
Applications of simple signals  
Beating, difference tones  
Additive synthesis  
FM synthesis  
Waveshaping synthesis  
Impulses, pulse trains, canonical signals  
Complex exponential representation of signals  
Alternate basis functions: wavelets and local support  
A Universe of basis functions: sound atoms  
Noise, band-limited noise, intro to filters: LP, HP, BP  
White noise  
Colored noise  
Gaussian noise  
Perlin noise  
Control:  
Envelopes  
Modulators  
Phasors  
Lookup tables and interpolation  
  
Excercise: Manipulating and synthesizing signals using basic operations, sinusoids, frequencies, amplitudes, decibel scales  
Listening: early computer music, early analogue synthesis, additive synthesis examples, FM syntehsis examples  
Varese-Edgard-and-Le-Corbusier\_Poeme-Electronique\_1958  
Category:  
  
Xenakis: "Analogique A + B" (1958 1959), cut up sine waves  
Music Varese-Edgard Le Corbusier Poeme-Electronique 1958: Oscillators  
John Chowning: Stria: FM  
Risset: Mutations: FM and Waveshaping

=== 2 === Wednesday 09/28

Hearing Science I  
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Helmholtz's classical view  
Application: Bell/Edison early telephony  
Dynamic signals / spectral envelopes  
Risset and Mathews - dynamic spectral envelopes  
Mel / Bark / Constant-Q frequency scales  
Decibel representation of amplitude  
Fletcher-Munsen equal loudness curves  
Limits of hearing: JND, thresholds of hearing / pain

Critical bands, critical band masking, non-simultaneous masking  
Frequency masking  
Temporal masking and the precedence effect  
Forward and Backward masking  
Psychological effects: linear-dimension rescaling, size, distance confusion

Reading: chapters from:

Helmholtz: On the Sensations of Tone as a psychophysical basis for music theory  
H. Fastl and E. Zwicker, Psychoacoustics: facts and models. Springer-Verlag 2007  
B. Moore, Introduction to the Psychology of Hearing, 5th Edition

Listening: auditory demonstrations

Exercise: construct a psychoacoustic demos in Max/MSP (shepherd tones, critical band masking, threshold of hearing, ...)

Spectrum, Fourier Transform, Short-time Fourier Transform

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Heterodyne analysis

Filterbanks as multi-dimensional systems

    Sinusoidal filterbanks

    Classic vocoder

Gauss & Cooley & Tukey & IBM

The Fourier Transform: Discrete Fourier Series->Discrete Fourier

Transform->Fast Fourier Transform

Short-Time Fourier Transform

    Windowing, FFT size, hop size

    Phase vocoder and ISTFT re-synthesis

    Problem of phase reconstruction / synthesis

    Deconvolution of source/filter components to pitch shift

    FFT-1 synthesis algorithm

    Speculative spectral algorithms

Magnitude-only Inverse Fourier Transform resynthesis (ISTFTM)

Convolution using the FFT

    Block convolution as a time-varying filterbank

Critical sampling and polyphase filterbanks

Wavelet filterbanks: pros/cons howto

Time-frequency distributions: spectral and temporal marginals

Implementation in common digital music and programming environments

Exercise: Sound design using filterbanks, modified resynthesis and

time-compression/expansion

Aural exercises: transients and the phase vocoder, identifying vocoders

/ parameters in music

Listening: phase vocoder works, classic vocoder works, granular / spectralism

Exercise: block convolution / phase vocoder / phase vocoder / spectral transformations

=== 3 === 10/10

Hearing II: timbre perception and modeling

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Plomp - Perception of vowels - F1/F2 space

John Gray - Multidimensional Scaling of Musical Timbre

De Chevigne - Multi-F0 estimation

McKinney - Spectral Roughness, testing Helmholtz' beating hypothesis

Plomp and Levelt, consonance, dissonance and spectral roughness

Krumhansl - relations between timbre / pitch

Perception of speech: missing phonemes, mcgurk, sinusoidal speech

Perception of Noise / environmental sounds

Cariani - Neural Coding of pitch / timbre

Patel - speech / music perception

Timbre Modeling and control:

    Forward models, Inverse models, Kalman filters

    Regression, Genetic algorithms

    David Wessel's Timbre as a Musical Control Space

Sinusoidal analysis, spectral modeling synthesis (SMS)

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Deterministic and non-deterministic signals

Common distributions and their spectral properties

Sums of sinusoids and noise signals

    noise suppression and removal

sinusoidal modeling: MQ analysis

spectral modeling synthesis: sinusoids plus noise

noise modeling

noise bandwidth and noise shaping

plosives, sibilants and fricatives in speech

noise in pitched and non-pitched timbres

Cepstrum and Quefrency Analysis

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The Cepstrum, Quefrency, Probability, and Stochastic Signals  
The complex and real cepstrum  
Timbral uses of the Cepstrum  
Quefrency Analysis, Cepstrum Lifting and Saphe cracking  
Analysis of timbre using the cepstrum  
Comparing cepstrum and LPC as source-filter models  
Homomorphic deconvolution  
Echo cancellation  
Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients  
Timbral similarity

Implementation in common digital music and programming environments  
Exercise: Sound-design using noise bands, bandwidth and time-varying bands  
Reading: William Serteis: Timbre, Tone, Pitch and Scale

Composers' use of timbre in late 20th century

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Iannis Xenakis  
Pierre Boulez  
Jean-Claude Risset  
Philippe de Manoury  
Gerard Grisey  
James Tenney  
Gyorgy Ligeti  
Helmut Lachenmann  
Louis Andriessen  
Giacinto Scelsi

=== 4 === Wednesday 10/19

Hearing III: auditory scene analysis, sound textures

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Auditory scene analysis and auditory streaming  
Matrix decomposition methods  
PCA, SVD  
ICA, NMF, PLCA  
Machine learning decomposition methods  
The E-M algorithm and its variants, EM for PLCA  
Probability and statistics - Bayes' theorem, distribution theory  
Information theory, higher-order statistics, optimization  
Convolutional mixtures  
Shift-invariant PLCA

Exercise: using LDS and PLCA  
Implementation in common digital music and programming environments  
Exercise: sound-design using texture analysis, sound unmixing and re-synthesis

Reading:  
Auditory Scene Analysis - Albert Bregman, Steven Pinker, Steve McAdams  
Shihab Shamma: Auditory neuroscience  
Ellis/Brown/McAdams/Cooke/Smaragdis/Casey - Computational Auditory Scene Analysis  
Auditory scene analysis demonstrations

=== 5 === Monday-Friday 10/24-28

GROUP TRIP

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I S M I R 2 0 1 1 - Miami, FL  
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=== 6 === Wednesday 11/2

Linear Systems, Convolution, Filters  
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Systems, Linearity and Time-Invariant properties  
black-box representation of systems  
signal->system->signal  
Matrix representation of LTI systems  
Convolution operator  
FIR Systems: systems of delays  
Fundamental Properties of LTI systems  
IIR Systems: systems of delays with feedback  
Cascaded systems: I am sitting in a recursive system  
Z-transform and filter design  
Filter Implementations  
Linear Constant-Coefficient Difference Equations  
Form I and Form II digital filter lattices (Csound's filter2 unit generator)

Source-filter models  
interpolation methods  
Band-limited resampling

Applications:  
  wavetable synthesis and band-limited interpolation  
  filters  
  subtractive synthesis  
  linear predictive coding (LPC)

Implementation in common digital music and programming environments  
Exercise: virtual analogue synthesis, filtering, distortion, instrument  
modeling and spatial audio  
Aural exercises: filters, phase distortions, acoustic properties (linear  
/ non-linear), room acoustics

Virtual acoustics: environment, room acoustics and binaural audio  
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Basics of room acoustics  
Simulation of room acoustics  
Ray-tracing model of room acoustics  
Manfred Schroeder: allpass filter model of room acoustics  
Jean-Mark Jot's models  
Perceptual models: subjective parameterization  
Binaural audio: head-related transfer functions  
Transaural audio: cross-talk cancellation  
Exercise: in room acoustics / 3D audio  
Karplus strong algorithm  
Instrument acoustics  
Digital waveguide models: Julius Smith, Perry Cook, Charles Sullivan  
Waveguide models: piano, guitar, clarinet, voice (similar to LPC)  
The physical model paradox: acoustic tube + reed + no performer

Introduction to real-time analysis / synthesis in C (Unix/Max/PD/VST)  
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tables, buffers, circular buffers  
complex number representation in C/Java  
indexing, interpolating, end-point protection  
filters: Type-I, Type-II lattice implementation  
fft usage, fft implementation (butterflies, bit-reverse indexing)  
block convolution algorithms  
control pathways: OSC, MIDI  
frameworks:  
  Standalone UNIX  
  Max/MSP  
  PD  
  VST

=== 7 === 11/09

Sound Texture Modeling  
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Dynamical state and stochastic models  
Textons - acousticons  
Texture vs Noise, Mixture vs Texture  
Texture analysis / synthesis  
  Wavelets and grains  
Linear Dynamical Systems  
  Characterization of dynamical systems: differential entropy and embedding theory  
  Hidden Markov models, Kalman Filters, Switching state LDS, Markov Random Fields  
Control of dynamical systems (for texture synthesis)

Microsound, granularity and wavelets  
Gabor vs Fourier  
Granular synthesis: Rhodes, Truax, Xenakis, glitch  
Curtis Rhodes - Microsound  
Barry Truax - Acoustic Communication

=== 8 === 11/16

Hearing IV: everyday/musical listening, ecological acoustics  
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Ecological acoustics  
Everyday listening  
The Schaefferian modes of listening and the timbral solfege  
Aesthetics and poetics sound manipulation / synthesis  
The sound object - Pierre Schaeffer  
  Four modes of listening / reduced listening

Timbral sol-fege  
Arguments against reduced listening

Spectromorphology - Denis Smalley  
Identity and structure - (detectable differences, contexts, structures)  
Smalley - spectromorphology  
- refining / redefining timbre  
Audiovision - Aesthetics of sound and vision

Reading:

Warren and Vebrugge - perception of breaking and bouncing events  
J. J. Gibson, Ecological Approach to Perception  
W. Gaver - Everyday listening (what in the world do we hear)  
Schaeffer - Traites / solfege  
Michel Chion - Audiovision  
Denis Smalley - Spectromorphology

=== 9 === 11/23

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THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS  
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=== 10 === 11/30

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Student project presentations (15 mins + 5 mins questions)  
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