

Help file for assignment 4

Semitones: part 1

To transpose a note one semitone up, multiply the frequency by $2^{(1/12)}$:

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(1/12)
```

To transpose a note two semitones up, transpose once and then transpose again.

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(1/12) * 2**(1/12)
```

This can be simplified as follows

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(1/12 + 1/12) which is
```

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(2/12)
```

Therefore, when a transposition by two semitones up is requested, your code should have something equivalent to the following:

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(2/12)
```

Attempt to generalize this. If you get stuck the solution is in the next page.

To transpose down, note that

```
new_freq = freq / 2**(1/12)
```

is the same as

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(-1/12)
```

Using the same logic we used before, transposing two semitones down becomes

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(-1/12) * 2**(-1/12) which is equivalent to
```

```
new_freq = freq * 2**(-2/12)
```

Attempt to generalize this. If you get stuck the solution is in the next page.

Semitones: part 2

The general solution to transpose n semitones is

$$\text{new_freq} = \text{freq} * 2^{(n/12)}$$

Try to figure out why.

This should work for positive and for negative numbers. The positive numbers correspond to transposition up while the negative numbers correspond to transposition down.