# 6.115 Final Project Report:

# Theremin Number 29

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## BACKGROUND, INSPIRATION, AND INTRODUCTION

### Why did I chose this project?

I've always loved music, instruments, but most importantly I also love, electromagnetism, conduction, and microcomputers. The obvious choice of project was a theremin. I've played a theremin before and each time if feels like some sort of magic. I wanted to recreate this using PSoC and show the skills I've learned over the semester as an aspiring embedded systems engineer.

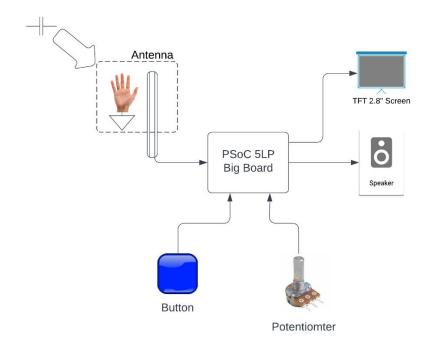
#### What is a theremin and how does it work?

The theremin is a musical instrument that uses a hand to vary the output frequency to achieve different notes. The original circuit uses an oscillator called a colpitts oscillator which is essentially a driven RLC circuit that uses a hand as a capacitor to change the frequency of its oscillation. Treating a hand as one plate of a capacitor and an antenna as the other plate, your body can be treated as essentially ground and change the capacitance value of the oscillator circuit. This frequency must be very high in order to observe a noticable difference in frequency. A typical theremin is around 270kHz in the colpitts circuit with an observable frequency change of around 10kHz. To make this frequency audible, the output of the colpitts circuit undergoes heterodyning with another fixed frequency which brings down the frequency to around 270Hz. This entire process generates a frequency output of varying pitch thus creating a range of notes. Another antenna is usually used to vary the volume which has similar layout as the pitch.

### What is my project?

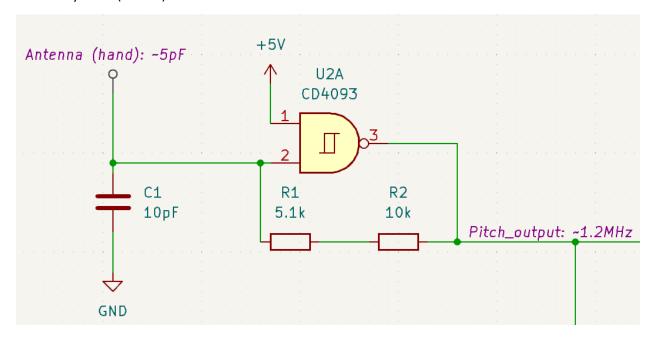
The original theremin schematic is purely analog with no need for integration of a microcomputer/embedded system, so for my project, my goal was to digitize a theremin using a psoc. Instead of sine waves, I work with square waves in order to effectively integrate PSoC into my design. Theremin Number 29 varies a frequency of 1MHz using a square wave oscillator which is then read by the PSoC, scaled down to audible frequencies, and played into a speaker. While the theremin is running there is a TFT screen that displays the frequency of the oscillator circuit, the output frequency, the musical note that is being played accordingly, and the theremin mode. There are two modes on the theremin. The first mode is the default theremin setup, and when a button is pressed, the theremin switches to a fixed frequency output mode in which a sine wave tuning note C5 is played. The purpose of this mode is to give the users ears a break from nasty square wave sounds with a perfectly in tune and smooth note.

### **Project Block Diagram**



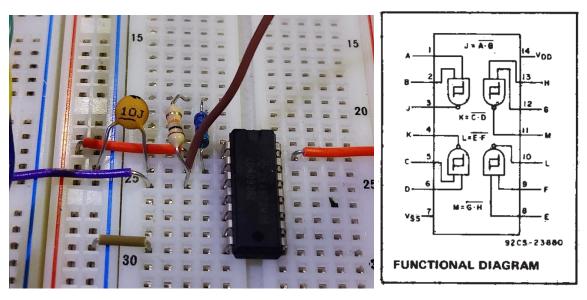
## MODULE 1: DIGITAL IMITATION OF COLPITTS OSCILLATOR

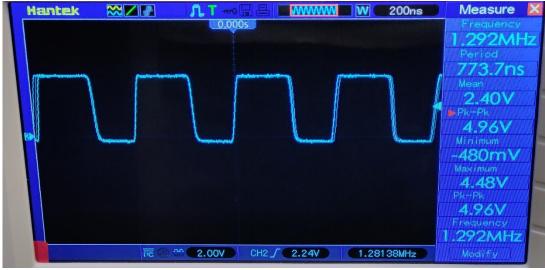
When I started the project, I did some research on how a PSoC can measure frequency. I discovered that there are various ways to measure frequency, but almost all of them prefer that the wave is a square wave. After analyzing different options of creating an oscillator, I decided to use a NAND gate and a very small capacitor to create a high frequency square wave that can be varied using a change in capacitance that's very small (a hand).



When the system first starts, terminal 1 of the NAND gate is high and terminal 2 is low, this outputs high on terminal 3 (the output). This charges the capacitor to a voltage that the terminal 2 eventually reads as high. As both terminals 1 and 2 read as high, output 3 goes low, and the cycle continues creating a square wave by constantly charging and decharging the capacitor. If you vary the capacitor value, you as a result vary the frequency output of the squarewave being generated. Because I've chosen such a small capacitor value (10pF), the output frequency is extremely high at around 1.2MHz. I chose this high frequency because it allows for a larger change in frequency as the antenna capacitance value changes. This creates a more noticable change in frequency when it's scaled down.

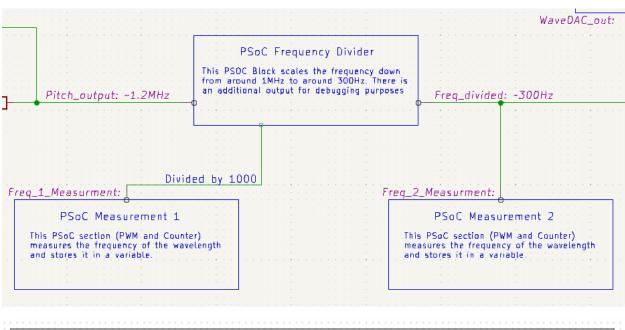
Although I originally wanted to do a complete colpitts circuit then later convert the sine wave into a square wave, this is my most critial module, so I decided to make it as foolproof as possible. In future iterations, I could attempt to use the original colpitts style oscillator since I already have the foundations in place.

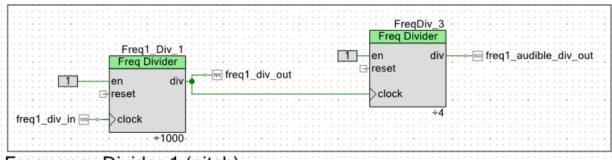




## Module 2: PSoC Frequency Divider

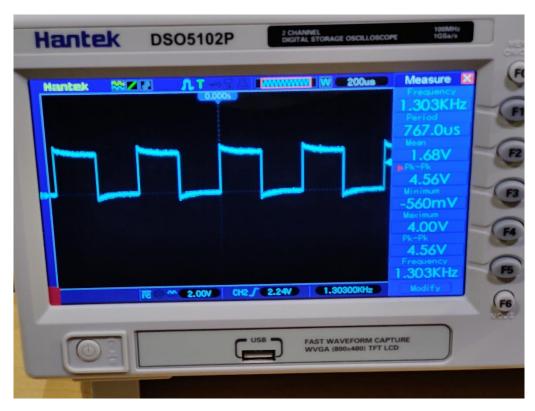
After the varying frequency squarewave is produced by my "digital imitation of a colplitts oscillator", it must undergo frequency division by the PSoC and be measured so it can be out to the speaker and displayed on the TFT screen. The frequency division is done by two separate frequency dividers. The first divider divides the frequency by 1000, and the second divider divides by 4. The purose of this was for debugging so I could do math easier while reading the divided measurement. The frequency reader started becoming more innacurate when the frequency was too high and dividing by 1000 made the reading much better. There is no difference between using the two dividers and instead using one divider at value 4000 (aside from maybe some added signal loss).

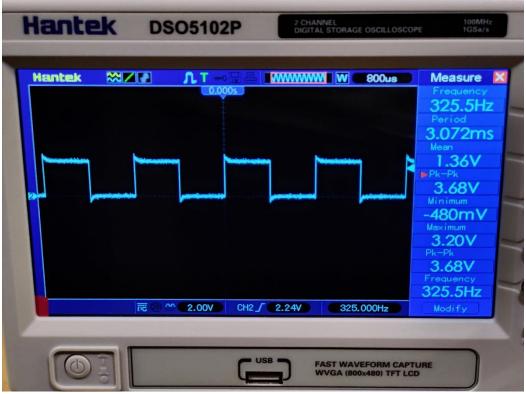




Frequency Divider 1 (pitch)

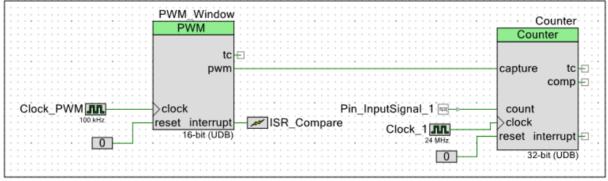
My original intention was to have the PSoC measure the frequency of the signal, then output a separate, unconnected output frequency, but I had some issues with the implementation of frequency measurement (explained later in the report) so I decided to connect them electrically to guarantee a finished product even if not completely ideal.



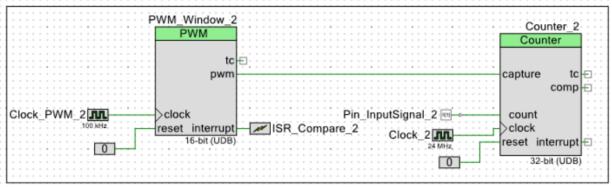


## MODULE 3 AND 4: PSoC Frequency Measurements

The frequency of the theremin is measured at two locations: after the squarewave generation, and after the frequency division to an audible frequency. These two frequencies are stored in variables in code to later be displayed on the TFT and LCD screen.



Frequency Measurement 1 (Colpitts Imitation)



Frequency Measurement 2 (Divided Frequency)

There are many ways to measure frequency using PSoC. I experiemented with many of them and they are described below:

## Methods of Frequency Measurement (testing experimentally)

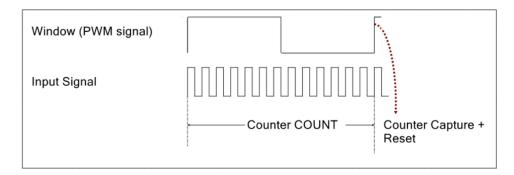
	T			
Method 1: PWM and Counter Blocks	This method is the most reliable and what I chose to use in my project for a few reasons. First of all, it relies on the hardware of the PSoC and doesn't use much code. This allows me to not take up so much CPU processing time and keep things as fast as possible.			
Method 2: Signal to ISR, with additional ISR run by a fixed clock	This method uses an edge detector with the block input as the input frequency. The pulses that the edge detector produces are fed into an ISR that increments a counter every time its triggered. A separate ISR run by a slower clock then resets the counter and stores the counter value every time its triggered.			
Method 3: Signal directly to interrupt	This method is the most unreliable (trust me) and uses almost no PSoC hardware. The signal is fed directly from the input pin which triggers an interrupt when high. The interrupt implements the programmatic counter to increase and takes up a decently large amount of time in the CPU. There is also a second interrupt at a slower clock frequency triggering the counter to reset and store the value. This method is the same as method 2 but without the edge detector. It has many problems, one of them being the interrupt often gets triggered many times instead of once per one signal pulse.			

### What's the purpose of the PWM block?

The implementation of the PWM block I took from a Cypress tutorial on frequency reading for the PSoC 5LP and it creates the slower frequency wavelength which triggers the counter to reset and capture its current value. This is better than using a clock and interrupt because it's simpler, faster, and more compact programmatically.

### How exactly does the PWM and Counter system calculate frequency?

The basic concept for frequency reading is the same for all three methods of frequency reading shown above.



If you know how how many pulses of your input signal were received in a certain amount of time you can use the formula  $Frequency = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{\frac{\Delta t}{num\_pulses}} = \frac{num\_pulses}{\Delta t}$ , where T is the period of input signal

pulses, num\_pulses is the number of pulses in the time  $\Delta t$ , and  $\Delta t$  is the amount of time. The longer your  $\Delta t$  is, the more pulses you will have in your time frame and will make your frequency reading more accurate.

When implementing my frequency reading, my original intention was to use this frequency measurement to map to a range of lower frequency notes, but my frequency reading was very inconsistent, so I decided to use them simply as measurements of the predivided and divided frequencies. To make the frequency measurements cleaner, I implement a running average of the frequency measurements. This helps stabalize the reading at the cost of making changes to the frequency reading slightly slower.

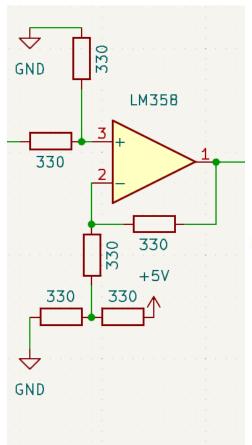
```
292
293 uint approxRollingAverage (uint avg, uint new sample) {
294
         //avg = new sample;
295
         avg -= avg / 15;
296
         avg += new sample / 15;
297
         return avg;
298 | | }
299
300 uint approxRollingAverage2 (uint avg, uint new_sample) {
         //avg = new sample;
301
302
         avg -= avg / 15;
303
        avg += new sample / 15;
304
         return avg;
305 | □ }
306
```

There are several ways to calculate the rolling average. This method is an approximation of the most common method called the "exponentially weighted moving average." The "15"s in the code indicate the weight of the function and make the new sample affect the average value either more or less.

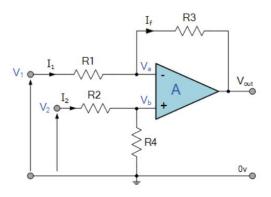
The final measurement of the frequencies are tuned and slightly adjusted with error offsets that are caused by running interrupts at such high speeds.

# MODULE 4.5: OP-AMP OFFSET TO CENTER WAVELENGTH

After the frequency division, there is an op-amp differential amplifier circuit that offsets the frequency by 2.5V to center it around 0V.



**Differential Amplifier** 

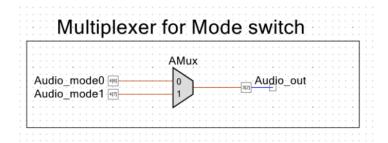


$$V_{\text{OUT}} = \frac{R_3}{R_1} \left( V_2 - V_1 \right)$$

## MODULE 5: SPEAKER (MODE 0 AND 1)

After the audible frequency is produced by dividing the oscillator circuit, it goes through a multiplexer, then through a non-inverting op amp with a range of -12V and 12V to increase the output signal.

### Multiplexer

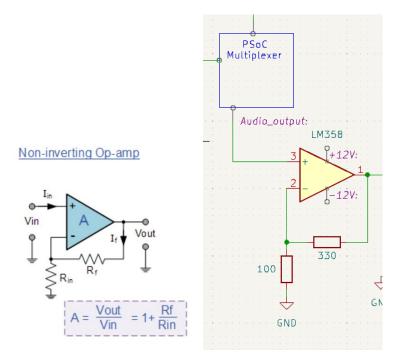


When in mode 0, the theremin runs in default "Theremin mode." This means the multiplexer will be set to channel 0 and allow the theremin audio to go through into the speaker. A variable in code called *theremin\_state* determines the state of the theremin mode. This method was done with the intention of future flexibility so that this could be made into a more complex state machine with several modes.

When in mode 1, the theremin runs in "Set Frequency mode" which plays a steady fixed frequency at the note C (Frequency of 523.2Hz). The multiplexer changes the channel to channel 1.

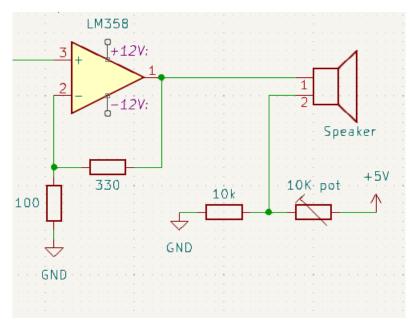
#### **Non-inverting Op-amp**

Regardless of whether the theremin is in mode 0 or 1, the audio\_output goes through a non-inverting op-amp with a scale of 3 to amplify the audio to the speaker. It does this using -12V and 12V that are provided by the R31JP.

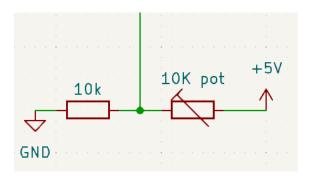


## Speaker

After the audio\_output has been multiplexed and amplified, it goes to the speaker.



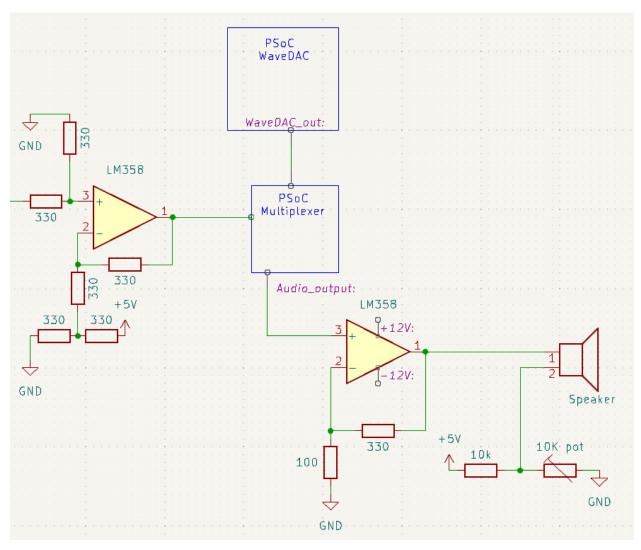
In addition to controlling pitch, I also want to be able to control the volume of my theremin. To do so, I don't connect the speaker to ground, and instead connect it to a voltage divider with a potentometer which allows me to control the voltage going to the speaker.

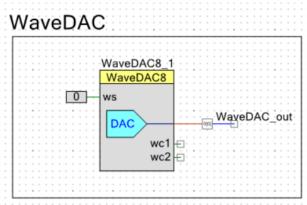


Using this method, I can varying the volume to both the mode 0 output and the mode 1 output using the same potentiometer.

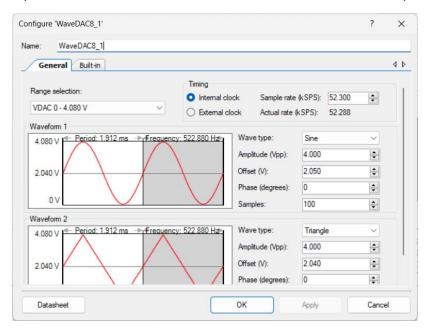
# MODULE 6: MODE 1 WAVEFORM PRODUCTION

As mentioned previously, when in Mode 1, the theremin goes into "Set Frequency Mode" and plays a fixed "C" note. It does this using the WaveDAC block.





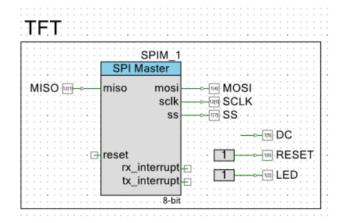
The waveDAC block produces a sinewave between 0-4.080V at 523Hz to make a crisp note of C5.



The original intention of mode 1 was to use buttons to change the set frequency to other perfectly tuned notes, but I couldn't find an easy way to change the frequency of the WaveDAC, so chose to keep it at C instead.

## MODULE 7: OTHER PERIPHERALS (TFT, BUTTONS, AND LCD)

### 2.8" TFT Screen



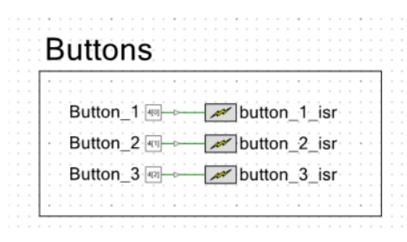
To display various stauses of the theremin, I use a TFT screen to display the frequency of the oscillator, frequency of the ouput to the speaker, the mode of the theremin, and the note being played by the theremin.

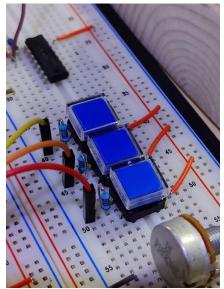
The TFT uses SPI (serial peripheral interface) to interface the screen, so I found some already made libraries that simplify the usage of the screen. Using EmWin for PSoC 5LP, I display these things all on one screen and update the values as the theremin runs. There is also a green line seperating the frequency readings and the note values for aesthetics:).



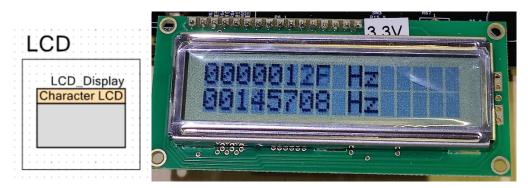
#### **Buttons**

To switch from mode 0 to mode 1, button 1 must be pressed which goes high and triggers an interrupt that sets the mode to 1 and changes the multiplexer channel. When pressed, the mode on the TFT also changes to display "Set Frequency Mode" while freezing all other readings since they are not relevant.





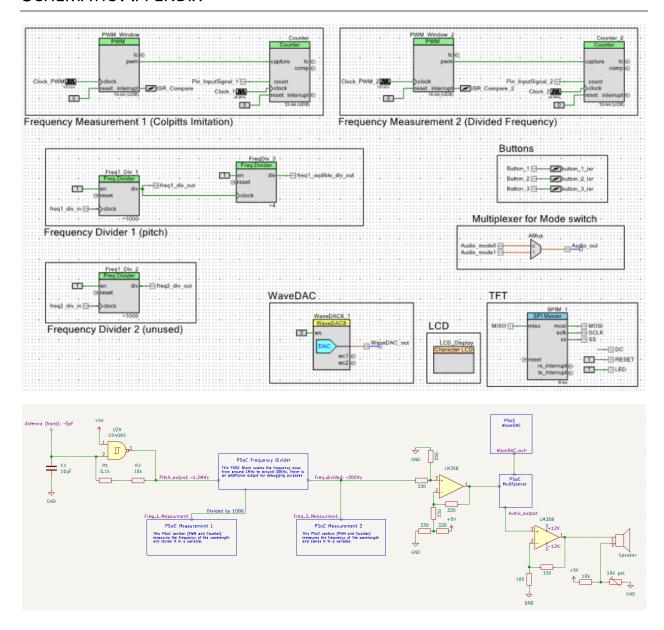
#### **LCD Screen**



The LCD is not an important part of the final presentation since its main purpose was for debugging of the system. I personally found the LCD much easier to use for debugging than settling up a serial through tera term so I opted to use it instead.

While running in regular theremin mode, the LCD displays the frequency readings (raw and unfiltered) in Hex on the LCD screen. I guess if you like, you can look at that for fun.

# SCHEMATIC APPENDIX



Name /	Port		Pin	
\LCD_Display:LCDPort[6:0]\	P2[6:0]	~	2,1,9995	~
Audio_mode0	P4[6]	~	84	~
Audio_mode1	P4[7]	~	85	~
Audio_out	P3[2]	~	46	~
Button_1	P4[0]	~	69	~
Button_2	P4[1]	~	70	~
Button_3	P4[2]	~	80	~
DC DC	P1[5]	~	25	~
freq1_audible_div_out	P0[2]	~	73	~
freq1_div_in	P5[6]	~	33	~
freq1_div_out	P5[4]	~	31	~
freq2_div_in	P5[7]	~	34	~
freq2_div_out	P5[5]	~	32	~
LED	P1[2]	~	22	~
MISO	P12[1]	~	54	~
MOSI	P1[4]	~	24	~
Pin_InputSignal_1	P5[2]	~	18	~
Pin_InputSignal_2	P5[3]	~	19	~
RESET	P1[6]	~	27	~
SCLK	P12[0]	~	53	~
ss	P1[7]	~	28	~
WaveDAC_out	P0[0]	~	71	~

## CODE APPENDIX (MAIN.C ON PSOC BB)

```
* Copyright Miguel Talamantez, 2024
* All Rights Reserved
* 6.115 Final Project: Theremin Project
  Spring 2024 - Professor S. Leeb
//-----
// For debugging purposes
// Current modules integrated:
// -TFT (working)
// -Freq Reading 1 (working)
// -Freq Reading 2 (working)
// -LCD (working)
// -WaveDAC (working)
// -Freq Divider 1 (working)
// -Freq Divider 2 (unused)
// -Buttons (working)
// -Multiplexer (working)
//----
#include project.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include "GUI.h"
#include "tft.h"
void TFT test(void);
void TFT Startup(void);
void TFT Display Freq1(uint);
void TFT Display Freq2(uint);
void TFT Note C(void);
void TFT Draw HLine(void);
void DisplayNoteForFrequency(uint32 t);
void TFT unstable freq(void);
void TFT clean numbers(void);
uint approxRollingAverage(uint, uint);
uint approxRollingAverage2(uint, uint);
   uint32 theremin state = 0;
       //State 0: Theremin Mode
      //State 1: Set Frequency Mode
uint16 set note wavedac = 0;
   // 0 is C(261Hz)
   // 1 is C#(277Hz)
   // 2 is D(293Hz)
   // 3 is D#(311Hz)
   // 4 is E(329Hz)
   // 5 is F(349Hz)
   // 6 is F#(369Hz)
```

```
// 7 is G(391Hz)
    // 8 is G#(415Hz)
    // 9 is A(440Hz)
    // 10 is A#(466Hz)
    // 11 is B(493Hz)
//-----Variable Init-----
extern uint8 compare occured;
extern uint8 compare occured2;
#define PWM FREQ 100 //kHz Clock freq of PWM Window(1 and 2). If PWM clock is
changed, this MUST be updated.
#define NO OF MSEC 1000 //ms
//-----Interrupt Init-----
   CY ISR PROTO(button 1 isr);
   CY ISR (button 1 isr) {
   theremin state = 1;
   AMux Select(1);
   GUI DispStringAt("Set Frequency Output", 40, 180);
   button 1 isr ClearPending();
   CY ISR PROTO(button 2 isr);
   CY_ISR(button_2_isr){
   set note wavedac = set note wavedac + 1;
   button 2 isr ClearPending();
int main()
// Miscl Initializations + Variables
   CyGlobalIntEnable;
                                      // Enable global interrupts
   uint32 input freq = 0;
   uint32 input freq2 = 0;
   uint32 avg freq1 = 0;
   uint32 avg freg2 = 0;
     static uint16 PWM windowPeriod = 0; //period of PWM Window
     static uint32 counter countVal; //stores the count value after capture
     static uint16 PWM windowPeriod2 = 0; //period of PWM Window
     static uint32 counter countVal2; //stores the count value after capture
   uint32 frequency error offset 2 = 25; //Hz
   uint32 freq2 export = 0;
// LCD Initializations
     LCD Display Start();
// AMux Intializations
   AMux Start();
   AMux Select(0);
// TFT Initializations
   SPIM 1 Start();
   TFT Startup();
// WaveDAC Initializations
   WaveDAC8 1 Start();
// Frequency Reading Initializations
   ISR Compare Start();
    ISR Compare 2 Start();
```

```
PWM Window Start();
    PWM Window 2 Start();
   Counter_Start();
Counter_2_Start();
      Clock PWM Start();
    Clock PWM 2 Start();
    PWM windowPeriod = PWM Window ReadPeriod();
      PWM windowPeriod = PWM windowPeriod/PWM FREQ;
    PWM windowPeriod2 = PWM Window 2 ReadPeriod();
      PWM windowPeriod2 = PWM windowPeriod2/PWM FREQ;
// Clear and prepare screen before start
    GUI Clear();
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16); //GUI FontD24x32
    GUI DispStringAt("You're playing a:", 50, 20);
    GUI_DispStringAt("Mode: ", 100, 165);
    GUI_DispStringAt("
                                               ", 40, 180);
    GUI DispStringAt("Theremin Output", 60, 180);
    TFT Draw HLine();
    TFT unstable freq();
    CyDelay(1000);
// Interrupt Initializations
    button_1_isr_StartEx(button_1_isr);
    button 2 isr StartEx(button 2 isr);
    AMux Select(0); //Set multiplexer to channel 0
    theremin_state = 0; //Set theremin to mode 0
    //START LOOP
    for(;;) {
        if (theremin state == 0){
                                                              ", 0, 180);
            GUI DispStringAt("
            GUI DispStringAt("Theremin Output", 60, 180);
            if (compare occured == 1) //If interrupt1 has occured: Read Freq
and display on LCD
                  counter countVal = Counter ReadCapture(); //read the counter
value
                  input freq = ((uint32)(NO OF MSEC *
(uint32)counter countVal) / (uint32)PWM windowPeriod); //calculate the freq
                  input freq = input freq*1000; //scale
                avg freq1 = approxRollingAverage(avg freq1, input freq);
                LCD Display Position(1, 0);
                  LCD Display PrintInt16(HI16(input freq));
                  LCD Display Position(1, 4);
                  LCD Display PrintInt16(LO16(input freq));
                  LCD Display Position (1, 9);
                  LCD Display PrintString("Hz");
                TFT Display Freq1(avg_freq1);
                  compare occured = 0; //Clear interrupt flag
            if (compare occured2 == 1) //If interrupt2 has occured: Read Freq2
and display on LCD
```

```
counter countVal2 = Counter 2 ReadCapture();
                 input_freq2 = ((uint32)(NO OF MSEC *
(uint32)counter_countVal2) / (uint32)PWM windowPeriod2);
                avg freq2 = approxRollingAverage2(avg freq2, input freq2);
                freq2 export = avg freq2 + frequency error offset 2;
                LCD Display Position(0, 0);
                 LCD_Display_PrintInt16(HI16(input freq2));
                 LCD Display Position(0, 4);
                 LCD Display PrintInt16(LO16(input freq2));
                 LCD_Display_Position(0, 9);
                 LCD Display PrintString("Hz");
                TFT Display Freq2(freq2 export);
                DisplayNoteForFrequency(freq2 export); //Display note being
played
                 compare occured2 = 0; //Clear interrupt flag
        if (theremin state == 1) {
           GUI DispStringAt("
                                                     ", 0, 180);
            GUI DispStringAt("Set Frequency Output", 40, 180);
            GUI SetFont(&GUI Font32 ASCII);
            GUI DispStringAt(" ", 110, 50);
            GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
            GUI DispStringAt("Perfect C:)", 70, 50);
       }
   }
}
//----Subroutines-----
void TFT_test()
    GUI Init();
                                           // initilize graphics library
    GUI Clear();
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
    GUI DispStringAt("Hi, my name is Theremin.", 0, 0);
void TFT Startup() {
    GUI Init();
                                           // initilize graphics library
    GUI Clear();
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
    GUI DispStringAt("6.115 Final Project", 50, 50);
    GUI DispStringAt("Miguel Talamantez", 60, 70);
    GUI DispStringAt("March, 2024", 80, 90);
    GUI DispStringAt("Theremin Number 29", 50, 150);
}
void TFT Display Freq1(uint frequency)
    GUI DispStringAt("Frequency 1:", 0, 200);
                                                ", 0, 225);
    GUI DispStringAt("
    char tft inputfreq1[100];
    sprintf(tft inputfreq1, "%d", frequency);
    GUI DispStringAt(tft inputfreq1, 0, 225);
}
```

```
void TFT Display Freq2(uint frequency)
    GUI DispStringAt("Frequency 2:", 0, 250);
                                                  ", 0, 275);
    GUI DispStringAt("
    char tft inputfreq2[100];
    sprintf(tft inputfreq2, "%d", frequency);
    GUI DispStringAt(tft inputfreq2, 0, 275);
void TFT Note C(void) {
    // Draw 'C'
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font32 ASCII); // Set font size
    GUI DispCharAt('C', 110, 50); // Display 'C' at coordinates (70, 90)
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
}
void TFT Draw HLine(void) {
    // Set the line color and thickness
    GUI SetColor(GUI GREEN); // Set line color to green
    GUI SetPenSize(5); // Set line thickness to 5 pixel
    int startY = GUI GetScreenSizeY() / 2; // Start Y-coordinate (halfway)
down the screen)
    int endY = startY; // End Y-coordinate (same as start Y-coordinate)
    int startX = 0; // Start X-coordinate (left edge of the screen)
    int endX = GUI GetScreenSizeX(); // End X-coordinate (right edge of the
screen
    GUI DrawLine(startX, startY, endX, endY);
    GUI SetColor(GUI WHITE); // Set line color to green
void TFT unstable freq(void) {
    //GUI DispStringAt("\"u\" means unstable reading", 20, 120);
    GUI DispStringAt("\"?\" means out of range ",30, 138);
void TFT clean numbers(void) {
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font32 ASCII);
                        -", 110, 50);
    GUI_DispStringAt("
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
    GUI DispStringAt("
                                                  ", 0, 275);
                                                  ", 0, 225);
    GUI DispStringAt("
void DisplayNoteForFrequency(uint32 t frequency) {
    char note;
    if (frequency >= 150 && frequency < 170) {
        note = 'E';
    } else if (frequency >= 170 && frequency < 190) {</pre>
        note = 'F';
    } else if (frequency >= 190 && frequency < 210) {</pre>
        note = 'G';
    } else if (frequency >= 210 && frequency < 230) {</pre>
        note = 'A';
    } else if (frequency >= 230 && frequency < 260) {</pre>
        note = 'B';
```

```
} else if (frequency >= 260 && frequency < 290) {</pre>
         note = 'C';
    } else if (frequency >= 290 && frequency < 310) {</pre>
         note = 'D';
    } else if (frequency >= 310 && frequency < 330) {</pre>
        note = 'E';
    //else if (frequency >= 330) {
        //note = 'u';
    else {
        note = '?';
    GUI_SetFont(&GUI_Font32_ASCII);
GUI_DispStringAt(" ", 110, 50);
GUI_DispCharAt(note, 110, 50);
    GUI SetFont(&GUI Font8x16);
}
uint approxRollingAverage (uint avg, uint new sample) {
    //avg = new sample;
    avg -= avg / 15;
    avg += new sample / 15;
    return avg;
}
uint approxRollingAverage2 (uint avg, uint new sample) {
    //avg = new sample;
    avg -= avg \overline{/} 15;
    avg += new_sample / 15;
    return avg;
}
```