# Reflection

The project proved to be more complicated than we expected, but at the same time through equity we were able to create results we can feel proud of!

Lacking confidence and ability to truly transform patterns musically, as well as lacking musical patterns to use as a basis for trial and error experimentation, we focused more on preparing infrastructure to allow us to perform the trial and error stage as fast and effective as possible, for when we do get the musical patterns to experiment with.

When said infrastructure was done (rushed due to load, wanted to start with musical experimentation), we felt like visualization might be too much for us.

But when we took a step back from the sonification and instead focused on further consolidating our infrastructure, we decided to give the visualization a shot, and simultaneously developed the visualization while improving our infrastructure as well as developing final UI for the tool.

Much to our distress, the clock was ticking, and we were drawn closer and closer to the exam season, so the pressure to work on the sonification itself again intensified.

Unfortunately, due to heavy semester load both on our side and on Ron’s side, the musical patterns arrived too late for the partial stage 3 of the project, and we ended up **not** incorporating Ron’s melodies into the project.

But, as it turns out, the initial experimentation with probability-based algorithmic pattern generation, turned out to be effective and understandable even for us – despite our lack of musical experience. While the results still require heavy polishing, the musical piece resulted by the combination of the generated pieces together with Ron’s first 4-chord progression, creates an interesting experience.

# Insight

We still have a lot to do, but the sonification is starting to take shape. We’re not sure if we want to work on incorporating Ron’s melodies – and it’d feel unfair towards Ron if we didn’t – but this recent, last-minute discovery regarding our pattern generation, makes us want to explore this process further.

Other than that, we’re still lacking in certain aspects:

1. Our visualization doesn’t yet incorporate year and event infographics into the final result, so it’s still hard to compare the presented data with the composition of the song (though the song does feel coherent in that sense alone) – a big to-do.
2. We want to transform Visualizer into a render pipeline which we could use for exporting to MP4 later, using the java Xuggler library. (forcing pane size to 1280x720 and recording a 720p video remains a last-minute option, but we still want to be able to export it to 1080p)
3. Our infrastructure turned out to be unsuited to Ron’s melodies, as our base assumption was a repeating chord and structure and did not consider a chord progression longer than the length of a bolero sequence. We could adapt, but it’d take time – which we sadly cannot estimate, as we don’t understand enough about the impact of a chord progression on the melody, and we fear it would introduce more clashes than allow for a more interesting compositional piece (due to our lack of experience)
4. There’s some implementation polishing required in the project, as well as polishing the UI which will be reserved for later – lower priority.
5. We ended up not having time to update the presentation, so need to handle that after the exam season finally ends.

Overall, we’re satisfied with our current results, but wish we could’ve had the time to properly meet all requirements on schedule. Sadly, the project was deemed too intensive for us and our semester load, for which we thank you for your understanding 😊