

# Digital Synthesis and Live Coding

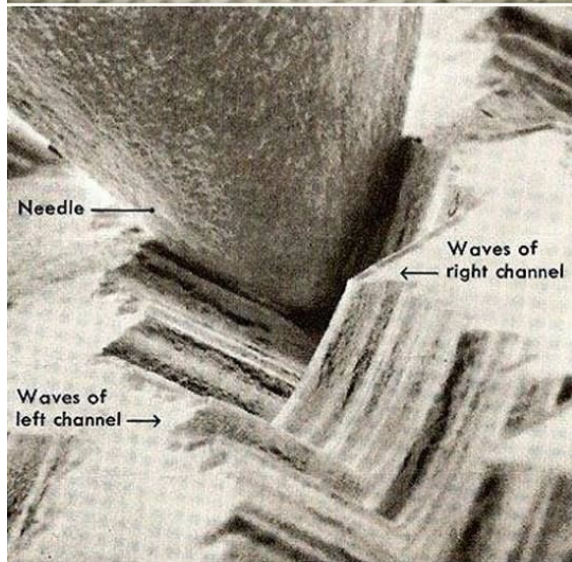
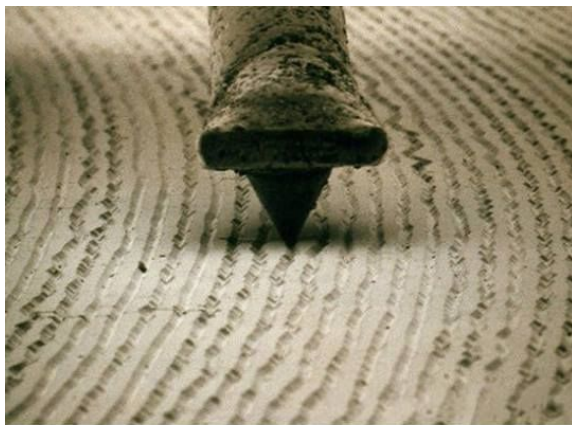
MUS 2830, Interactive Music, Week 4  
Qichao Lan  
March 1, 2022

# **Sound is a vibration**

- How much?
  - Amplitude/loudness
- How fast?
  - Frequency/pitch
- Timbre

Tuning Fork In Water - Ultra Slow Motion Walking Water Effect - 30,000 FPS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYWmo3Tuq4&abchannel=WarpedPerception>



Vinyl

<https://youtu.be/kUlu-XjCgtk?t=50>

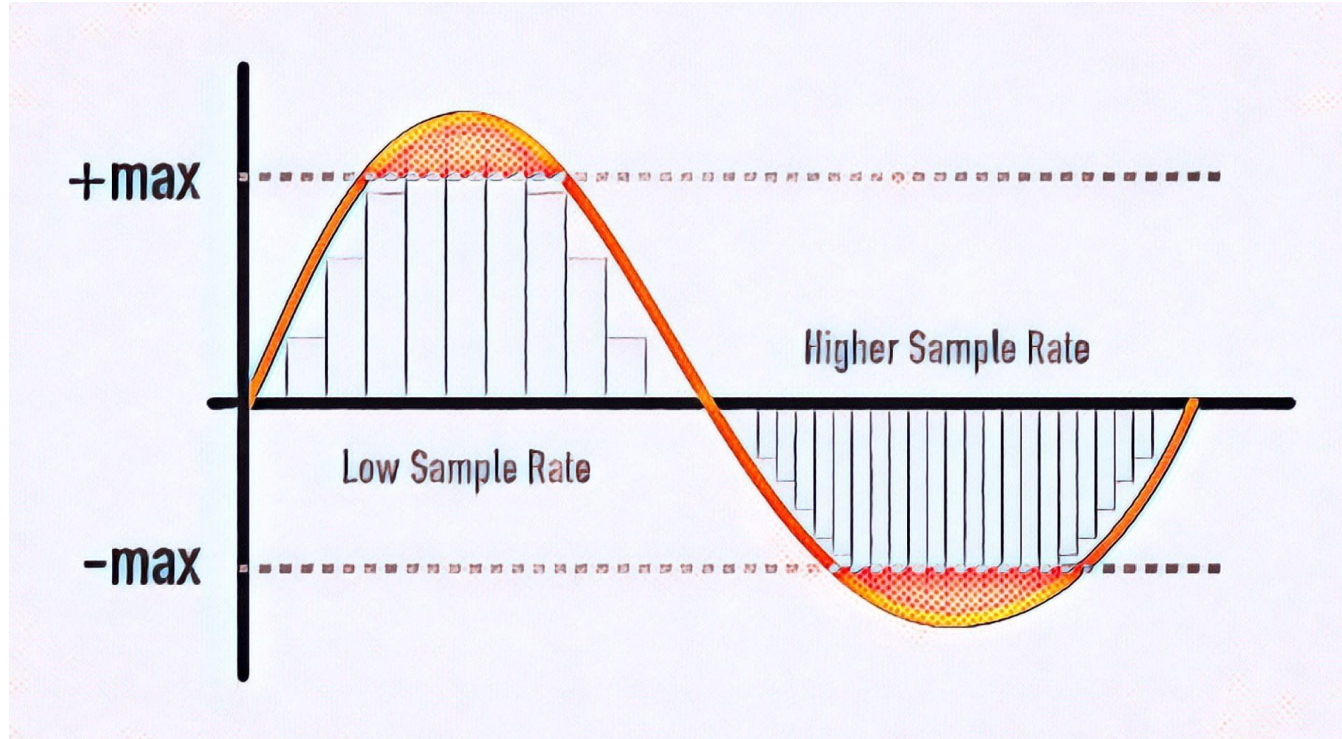
# **Classroom interaction**

- Time
- Space

# Digital Sampling

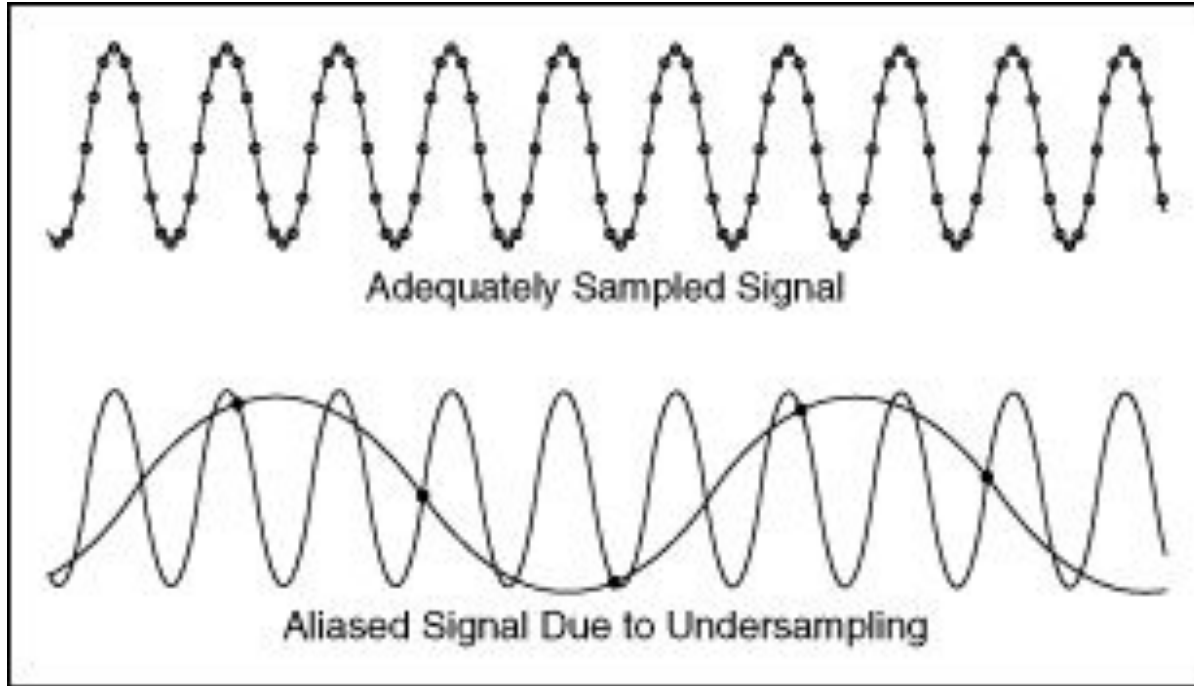
- Sample rate (44.1kHz, 48kHz, 96kHz, 200Hz, 100Hz)
- Bit depth (8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit)
- Real-time v.s. non-real-time

# Sample rate





# Aliasing

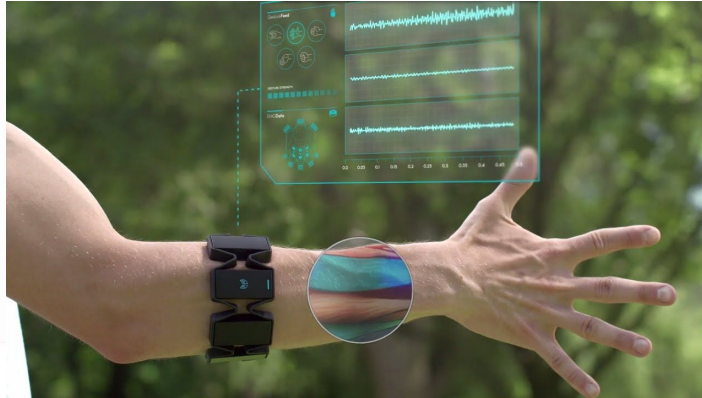


# Sample rate

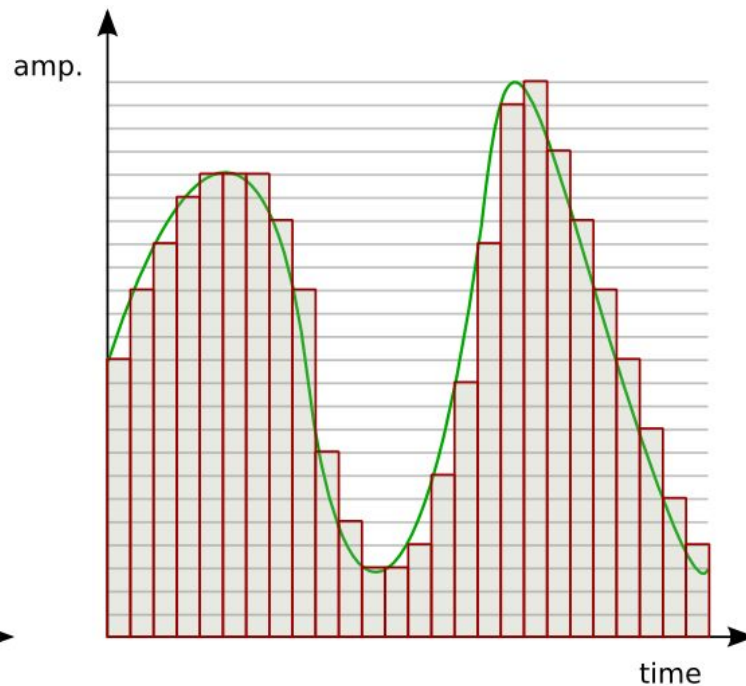
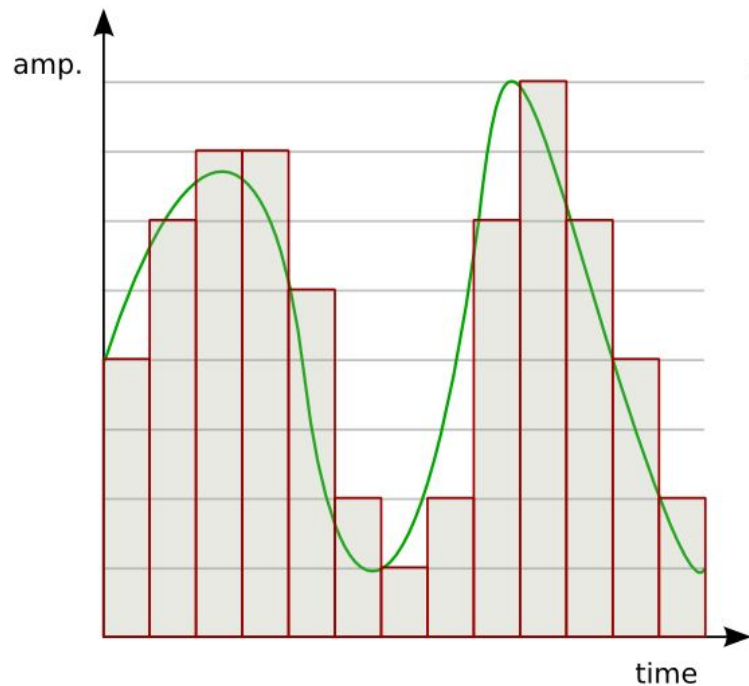
- Audio: 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 96kHz
- ADC: Analog-to-digital converter

[https://youtu.be/dYu55YZJH\\_s?t=127](https://youtu.be/dYu55YZJH_s?t=127)

LEAP  
MOTION



# Bit depth



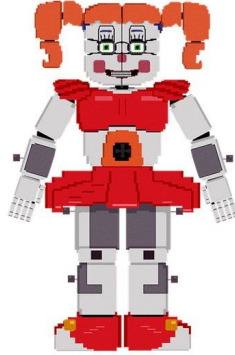
# Bit depth



**64-bit Baby**



**32-bit Baby**



**16-bit Baby**



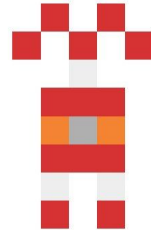
**8-bit Baby**



**4-bit Baby**



**2-bit Baby**



**1-bit Baby**

# Bit depth

8 BIT



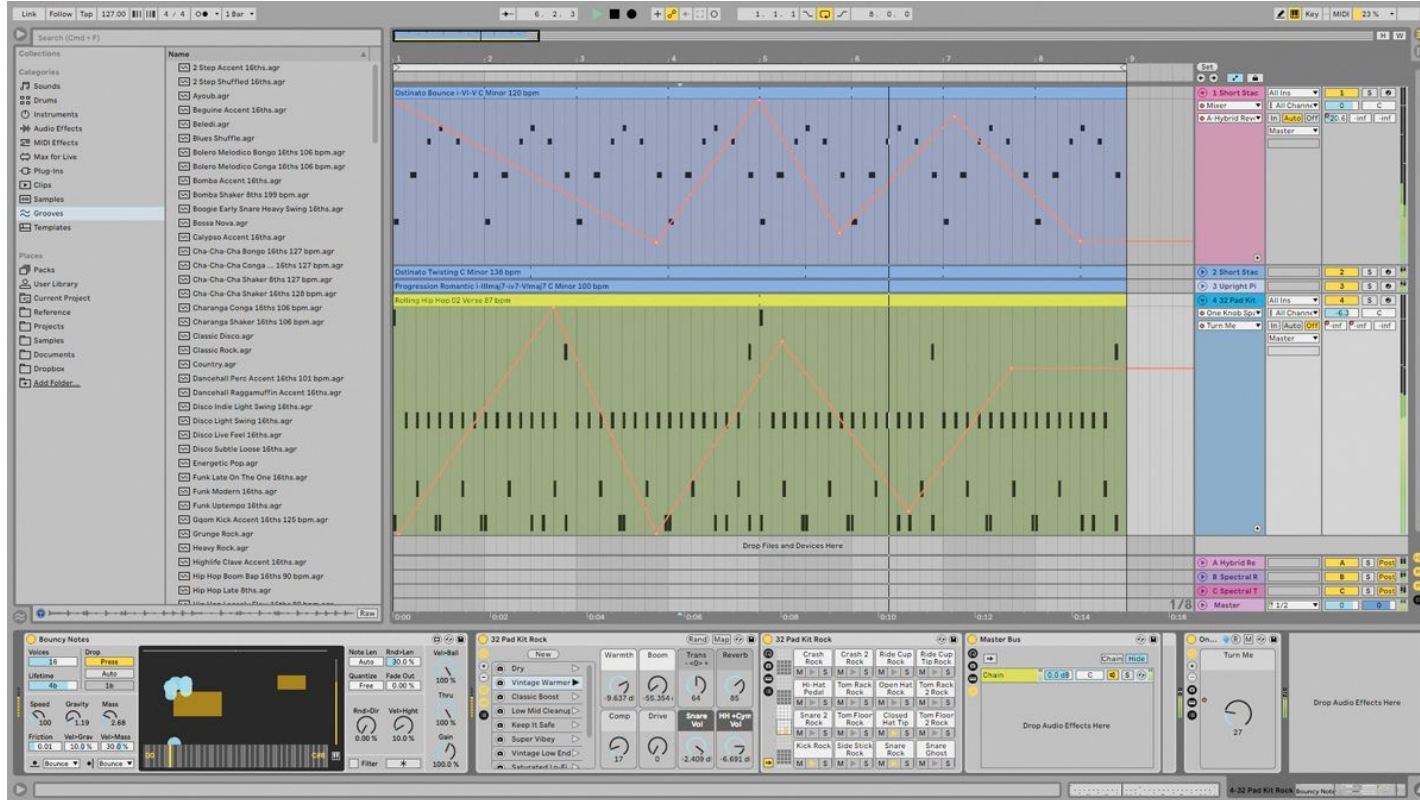
10 BIT



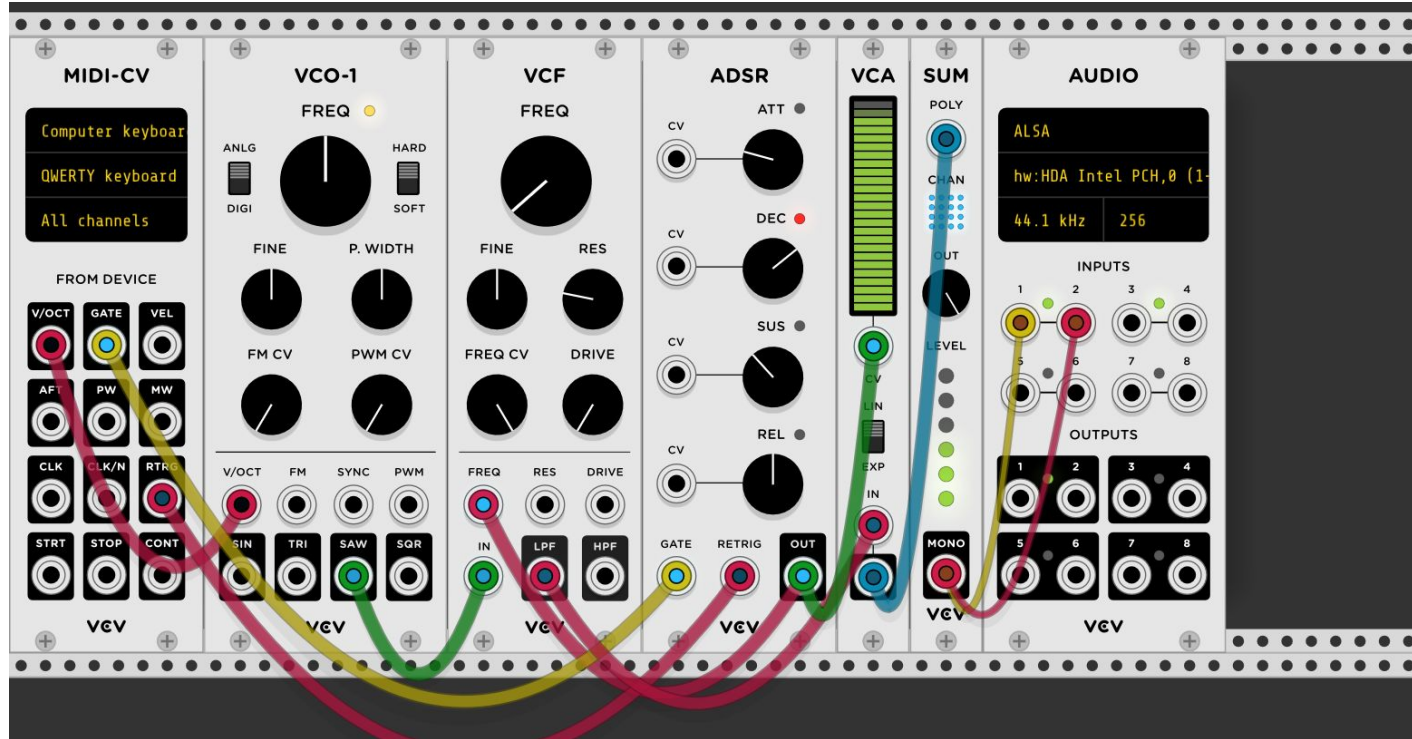
# Digital Music

- Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)
- Plug-ins
- Standalone apps

# Ableton Live 11



# VCV Rack





# Music programming

- Text-based
- Graphic

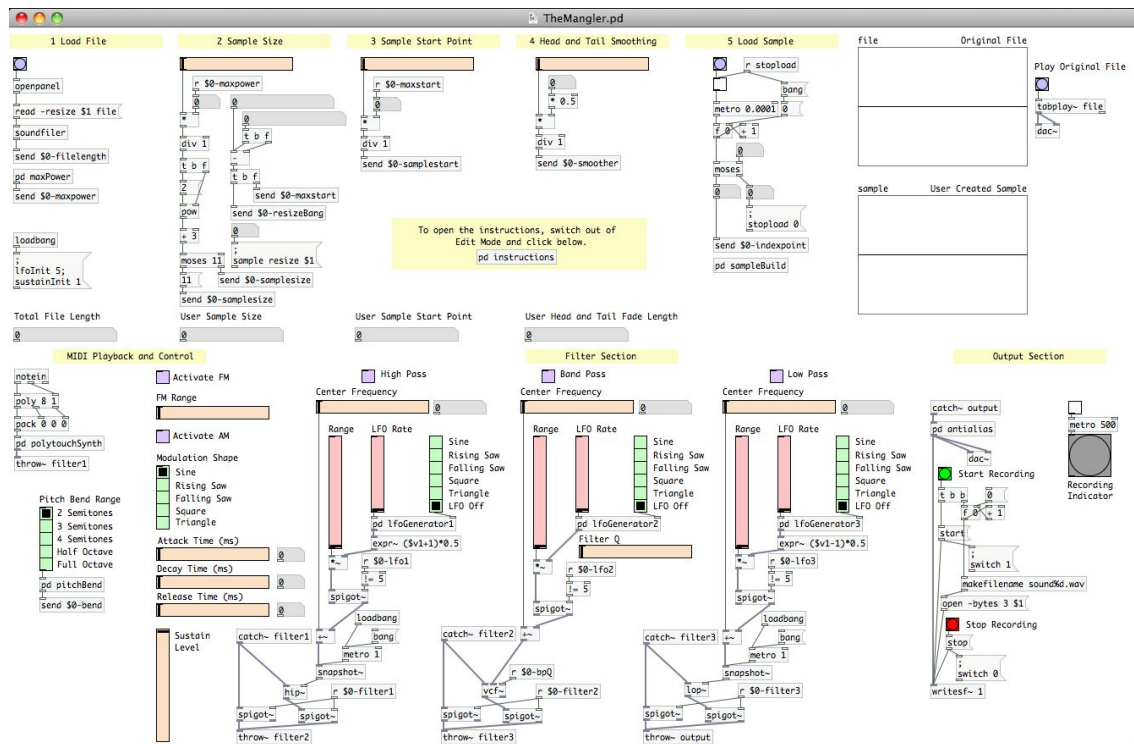
# SuperCollider

The screenshot displays the SuperCollider development environment. On the left, a code editor window titled 'tests.scd' contains the following code:

```
1 Server.default = s = Server("belaServer", NetAddr("192.168.7.2", 57110));
2 s.initTree;
3 s.startAliveThread;
4 { ([index| var freq = 220; SinOsc.ar(freq * (index+1), 0, 0.05/(index+1)) ]120).sum }.play
5
6
7 SynthDef(\bela, { |freq = 4, pan = 0|
8   var signal, arrayPartials, arrayAmplitudes, numberOfSins = 100;
9   arrayPartials = { |index| index = index+1; index+(index-1) }numberOfSins;
10  arrayAmplitudes = { |index| index = index+1; 1/((index+1).sqrt) }numberOfSins;
11  arrayPartials.postIn;
12  signal = Klang.ar( [ arrayPartials, arrayAmplitudes, [pi, pi, pi], freq];
13  signal = Pan2.ar(Resonz.ar(signal, 1000*((freq/(8*4))+1), 0.01)*1, pan);
14  Out.ar(0, signal*0.2);
15  }.add;
16 }
17
18 (
19 fork{
20   l = Synth(\bela, [\freq, 4]);
21   m = Synth(\bela, [\freq, 8]);
22   n = Synth(\bela, [\freq, 2]);
23   o = Synth(\bela, [\freq, 16]);
24   p = Synth(\bela, [\freq, 1]);
25   1.wait;
26   // n = fork{ inf.do{ l.set(\freq, 20/*[2,3,4,6,8].choose * 4*/, \pan, 1.0.rrand(-1.0)); (4, 2, 1, 0.5, 0.25)/
27   16).choose.wait };
28 }
29
30 (
31 l.free;
32 m.free;
33 n.free;
34 o.free;
35 p.free;
36 q.stop
37 )
38
39
40
41 SynthDef("funsound", { Out.ar(0, 0.5 * Pan2.ar(SinOsc.ar(LFNoise1.kr(2).expRange(100, 1000)),
42   LFNoise1.kr(2))) }.add;
```

On the right, a 'Help browser' window is open, displaying the 'SuperCollider Help' page. The page includes a 'Help' section with a 'Documentation home' link, a 'NOTE: News in SuperCollider version 3.7', a 'Search and browse' section with links to 'Search' and 'Browse', and a 'Getting started' section. At the bottom of the IDE, a status bar shows 'Interpreter: Active' and 'Server: 0.00% 0.00% 0u 0s 0g 0d 0.0dB'.

# Pure Data



# **What are their advantages and disadvantages?**

- Text-based
- Graphic

# Live coding

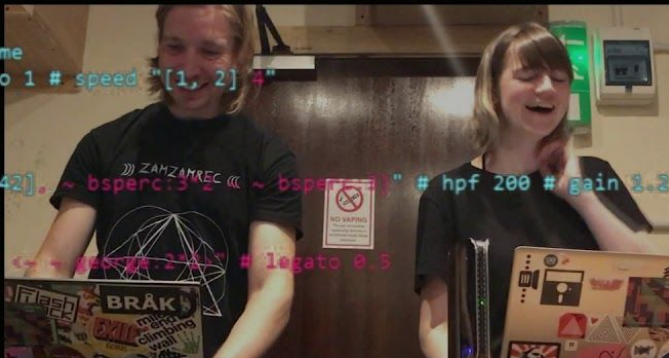
- Interaction unit: bar
- SuperCollider-related
  - TidalCycles
  - Sonic Pi
- Browser-based
  - Gibber
  - Glicol
- Visuals
  - Hydra

<https://github.com/toplap/awesome-livecoding#languages>

# TidalCycles

```
1 |
2 | lucyick
3 | d1 $ jux (iter 2.(0.125 <~)) $ sound "cpu2" # hpf "[46 400]/2" # up "<0 2 0 -3>/2" # gain 0.9 # rele
4 |
5 | d6 $ sound "bd8 hh3 [bd8 <~ bd8>] hh3" # gain 1.1 # "<0 0 0 1>
6 |
7 | d8 $ every' 4 3 (hurry 1.5) $ sound "bass8*2"
8 |
9 |
10 |
11 | -- hats & snnnnn
12 | d3 $ hurry ("<0.5 1 2 4>") $ sound "{hh3(6,8), cpu2:2(5,8)}" # pan (slow 4 $ sine)
13 |
14 | setcps 1.1
15 |
16 | -- some chords
17 | d2 $ degradeBy 0.9 $ sometimes (rev) $ palindrome
18 | $ striate "<24 48>" $ sound "chord14/3" # legato 1 # speed "[1, 2] 4"
19 | # loop 4 # release 0.4
20 |
21 |
22 | d4 $ jux (# speed 1.1) $ sound "{[<bb:23 ~> bb:42]. ~ bspcr:3 ~ ~ bspcr:4}" # hpf 200 # gain 3.3
23 |
24 | -- george
25 | d5 $ sometimes (# speed "-1") $ sound "george:2 <~ + george:2*1" # legato 0.5
26 |
27 |
```

Graham



# Sonic Pi

The screenshot displays the Sonic Pi application interface, which is divided into several sections:

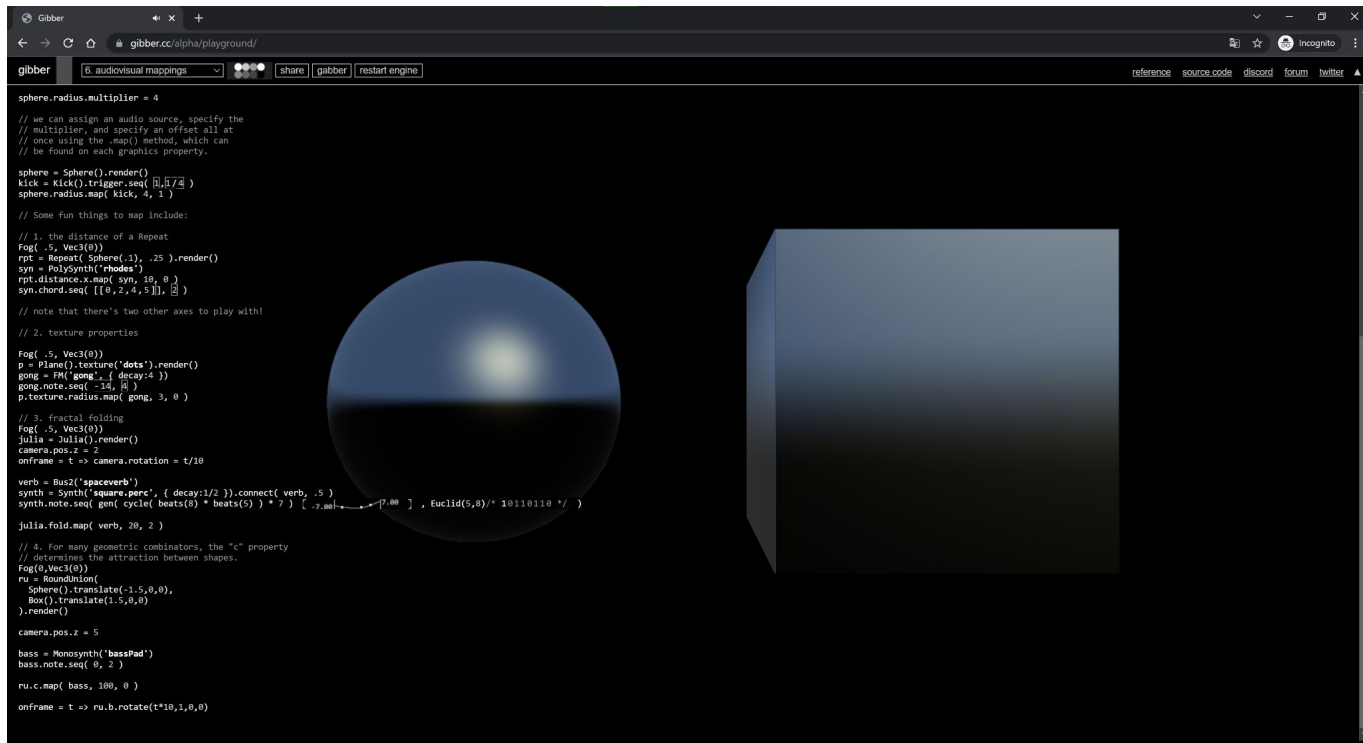
- Top Bar:** Contains buttons for Run, Stop, Save, Rec, Size, Align, Info, Help, and Prefs.
- Code Editor:** Shows a live code snippet for a techno-style track. The code includes a `with_fx :lpx techno` block, a `live_loop :extra_beat` block, and a `live_loop :solo` block. The code is as follows:

```
69 with_fx :lpx techno, mix: 0.1, phase: 8, cutoff_min: 90, cutoff_max: 120, res: 0.9, amp: 1 do
70   with_fx :lpf, mix: 0 do
71     funk
72   end
73 end
74 end
75 end
76
77 live_loop :extra_beat do
78   sync :main
79
80   32.times do
81     tick
82
83     with_fx :level, amp: 0.3 do
84       sample :bd_fat, amp: 2 if spread(1, 16).look
85       sample :bd_fat, amp: 1.5 if spread(1, 32).rotate(4).look
86       synth :cnoise, release: 0.6, cutoff: 130, env_curve: 7, amp: 1 if spread(1, 16).rotate(8).look
87       synth :cnoise, release: 0.1, cutoff: 130, env_curve: 7, amp: 0.25 if spread(1, 2).look
88       sleep 0.125
89     end
90   end
91 end
92
93 live_loop :solo do
94   sync :main
95
96   phases = [
```
- Buffers:** A row of buttons labeled Buffer 0 through Buffer 9, with Buffer 1 currently selected.
- Effects Panel:** A sidebar on the left lists various effects: Distortion, Echo, Flanger, Gverb, HPF, lxi Techno, Krush, Level, and LPF. The LPF effect is currently selected and highlighted in pink.
- Low Pass Filter (LPF) Details:** A panel on the right provides information about the selected LPF effect. It shows the current settings: `amp: 1`, `pre_amp: 1`, and `cutoff: 130`. Below this, it displays the code snippet for the LPF effect: 

```
with_fx :lpf do
  play 50
end
```

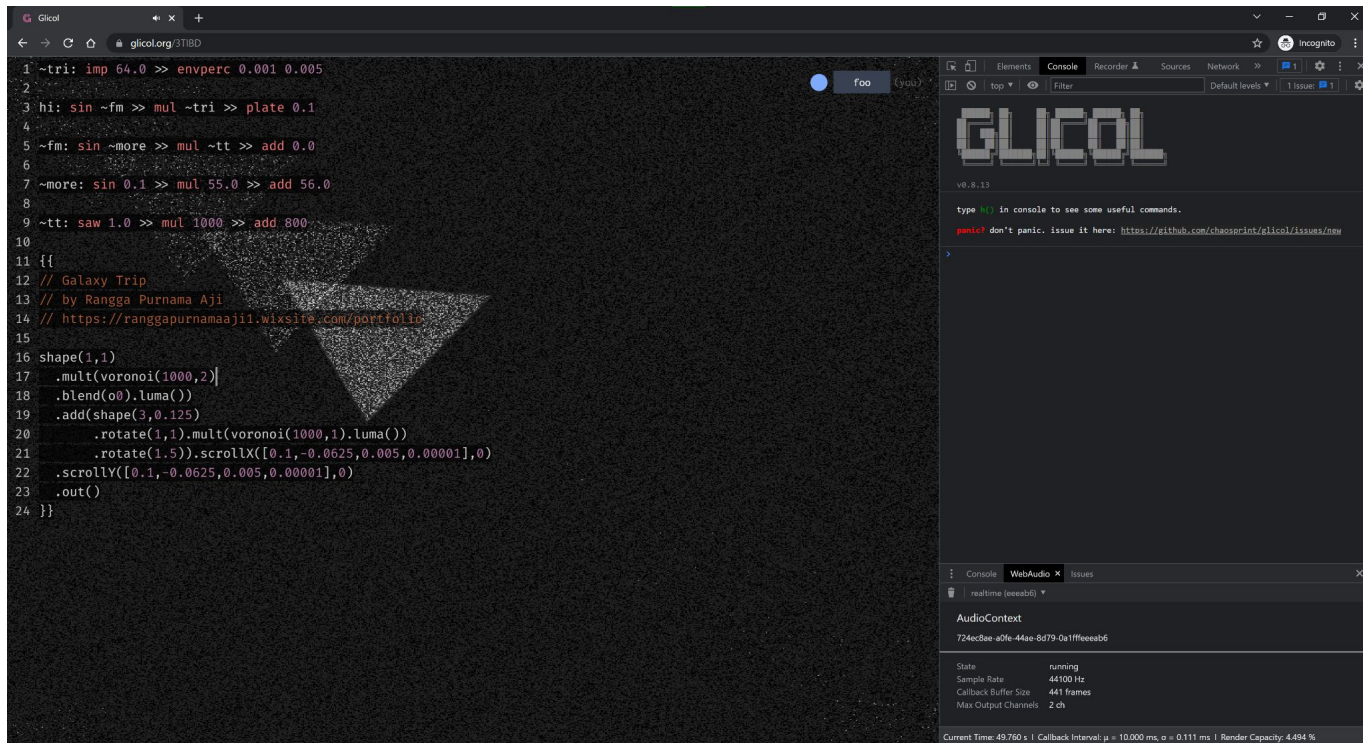
. A description explains that the LPF dampens the parts of the signal that are higher than the cutoff point, typically the crunchy fuzzy harmonic overtones, and keeps the lower parts (typically the bass/mid of the sound). It also mentions that the LPF was introduced in v2.0.
- Bottom Bar:** Contains buttons for Tutorial, Examples, Synths, FX (selected), Samples, and Lang.

# Gibber





# Glicol x Hydra



# **Advantages for digital tools?**

- Portability
- Accessibility
- Algorithm
- Collaboration