**A Starry Night**

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Intro to Computational Media

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Project 2

# Statement

I have always been interested in space. This includes the planets, stars, etc. that one associates with space. Whenever I get the chance (especially with the light pollution that surrounds Atlanta), I always try to take a moment and look straight up at the night sky. When the night sky is full of visible stars, I get feelings of tranquility and calmness that can’t be matched by any other natural sight. I always attempt to connect the stars in my mind by creating different shapes and figures and forming my own “constellations.”

This is what inspired me to create this application. I wanted to bring the concept of drawing to the night sky with connecting the stars in one’s own, unique way. One of my first thoughts was that this may be difficult to make in Processing, as it was built for “sketching” and not exactly the idea I was thinking of. I decided to take on the project anyway and test the possibilities and limitations of Processing.

The way my application works is pretty simple. The user simply has to connect the stars through clicking one star and then another star to create a line. I continuesly tested different ways in connecting the stars and I found it difficult to work around the endless loop of the draw() function in Processing. I was still able to get my application working and eventually added small details to the star including spinning of the star and random placement when hitting the reset button. I also decided to include actual constellations that the user can view if they are looking for ideas or just want to view how either the Libra or Little Dipper constellations look.

I let a close friend of mine use the application and asked him to create whatever came to mind through connecting the stars. He quickly went to work on his first creation, as he created a nearly perfect arrow-head by using the pattern the stars were laid out in. What truly interested me was the second creation, as he connected a line of stars with a giant star at the end of the link. He stated that it was a “shooting star flying by,” and I was surprised because I never thought of creating the appearance of an action when using the application. He also found interest in the pre-made constellations, but they had no effect on the images he created from the stars.

At the end of creating this application, I was satisfied with the way it turned out. Of course there are a few additions and changes I would have loved to make, but I found myself stressing out over finding the tools to use and working around the built-in functions of processing. The fact that I was able to bring a strong interest of mine and find success in implementing it is fulfilling, and I wish to do this within my future projects as well.