

Listening Guide:

The dataset comprises 440 cat meow sounds, recorded in various contexts. It involves 21 cats from two different breeds, Maine Coon and European Shorthair, exposed to three stimuli: brushing by their owners at home, isolation in unfamiliar environments for a short time, and waiting for food in their usual environment. When listening to the sonification, you can hear sounds to decipher what each cat meow means. A brush noise means the cat was being brushed by its owners, munching noises mean they were isolated in an unfamiliar environment, and ice clicking means the cat was waiting for their food in a regular environment. When the cat is female you hear a piano C4 note (higher pitch) and when the cat is male you hear a piano C2 note (lower pitch). The first cat recording has one tick noise, the second cat recording has two ticks, and the third cat recording has three ticks.

Designer Statement:

The goal I had for this project was to make sure the sonification was easy to understand. I wanted it to be something you could easily decipher. I chose the cat data set because although simple, I really like cats and found the data set to be interesting. I made my design choices based on what I was trying to decipher and what sounded soothing to listen to. For females and males, the higher pitch is female and the lower is male. A brushing noise, food-related noise, and ice noise (because the cat was isolated, play on words in a way). After this project, I realized that sonifications can actually be much more interesting than I thought they could be. Additionally, I realized that I'm not the biggest fan of Sonic Pi, however, it did grow on me during this project.