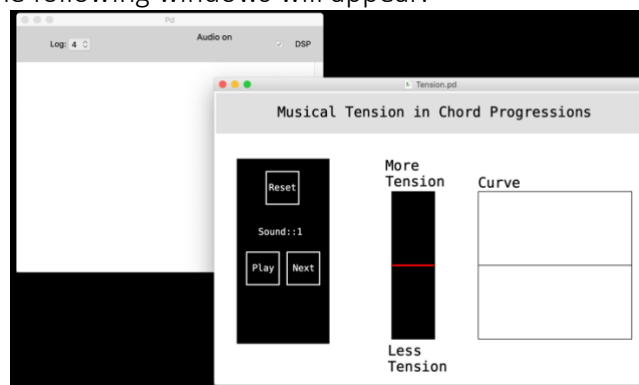


Listening Test: Musical Tension in Chord Progressions

Most listeners are able to perceive musical tension subjectively, yet musical tension is difficult to be measured objectively. Increasing musical tension is commonly linked to a feeling of building stress and impending climax, while decreasing tension is linked to a feeling of relaxation or resolution. Here, these temporal changes in musical tension are called tension profile. Naturally, increasing musical tension may be followed by decreasing tension, for example, resulting in more complex tension profiles. In this experiment, you will listen to 12 chord progressions, and you will have to draw the tension profile that you think fits best with the chords that you are listening to.

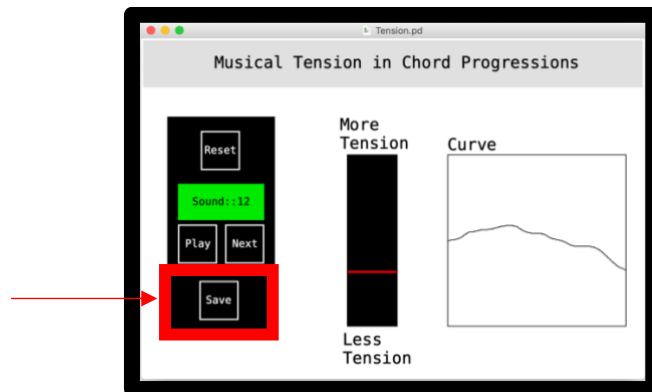
Please follow the following instructions to run the experiment:

- 1) Download the experiment to your machine from the following links depending on your operating system:
 - a. [Mac](#)
 - b. [Windows](#)
- 2) **WINDOWS:** Please, go to pd-0.51-0/bin and execute pd.exe. Select File->Open and open **Tension.pd**
- 3) **MAC:** Double click the file **Tension.pd** to run the experiment.
- 4) In any case, the following windows will appear:



- 5) Plug in a pair of good quality headphones to your computer.
- 6) To start your experiment, you should hit **Play**.
- 7) Move your mouse to the middle interface slider. During the playback of a short chord sequence, **click and drag the mouse on the slider** according to the level of perceived tension. At the end of the chord sequence, the drawn tension curve will be plotted on the right of the interface.
- 8) If you want to repeat the sound example, you can click **Play** again, after the chord sequence is finished.

- 9) Click **Next** and **Play** again to move to the next chord sequence. You will play **Sound::2**.
- 10) **Reset** button will serve to re-boot the whole experiment and erase all the curves drawn.
- 11) Please repeat the previous step until completing **Sound::12**
- 12) Once you have completed the experiment, an extra **Save** button will show. As shown in the next figure. Click **Save** to store the results of the experiment on your computer.



- 13) Please send us the saved file to the following email address: maria90@usal.es

Thanks for your participation!