**Project report for the course Multisensory Interactive Systems Academic Year: 20XX-20XX**

**Turning music interaction into a multisensory game-like experience**

**Authors’ name and last name,**

**unitn e-mail, and matricula**

**Reference possibili**

1. **Lord of the chords**: These guys created a card game for musicians. They proved that turning classical approaches to familiarize with technical concepts into a game experience is interesting for musicians.  
   <https://medium.com/@jonathanng/i-hated-music-theory-how-i-ended-up-creating-a-music-theory-card-game-musicians-love-ee857ea3c16d>  
   -  
   <https://www.lordofthechords.com/>
2. **Dato duo:** “It’s instrument for making electronic music together”  
   Two sides play together: One is a sequencer and the other a synthesizer.
3. **Position of Slowly adapting mechanoreceptors in hands**<https://www.researchgate.net/figure/3-Mechanoreceptors-in-glabrous-skin-vary-in-the-size-and-structure-of-their-receptive_fig2_265246764>  
   <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265246764_Coding_of_Sensory_Information>
4. **Teenage Engineering**   
   <https://teenage.engineering/products/synthesizers>

**Abstract**

Briefly summarize your project report.

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

What is your solution?

Why is your solution a good one, and why would users want to use it?

What are the key aspects of your solution that will distinguish it from other work that is out there?

What are the main evaluation findings?

1. **Introduction**

What is your project about?

What are you trying to achieve with your project?

What is the context of your project?

What are the motivations for your project?

What are your hypotheses?

Why this area is interesting (e.g., potential applications, open scientific questions)?

What (if any) of the theoretical perspectives on multisensory perception / interactive systems (introduced in class) does your approach build on, question, test?

This project describes the ideas, development and first evaluation of an interactive musical device.

The aim of this project is to understand whether the playful interaction between two people and a particularly devised musical device can help introducing non musician players to basic musical concepts like tempo (or sound effects) TODO: remove the parenthesis.

When speaking of getting into music playing, having to own an instrument hasn’t been a blocking factor since mass production allowed to have a simple guitar or flute in almost every house, but the learning curve on many of these instruments can be as rewarding as steep. This often leads to difficulties when first starting to play an instrument and the player, especially young ones, can lose interest in the activity.

Our project proposes a game-like music experience that is designed to be played by two people. The designed device allows to generate music through its audio interface and matching visual effects on a screen through its video interface.

The audio interface features a simple step sequencer along with several controls that allow to modify as many features of the produced sound. The video interface is composed of a game controller and a program that mixes information coming from said controller and the audio interface, generating visual effects that can be shown on a screen or a projector.

The video controller features an analog joystick, an accelerometer and a vibrating motor to provide haptic stimuli to the user.

Our hypothesis is that non-musician users, through the video interface, will benefit from having to listen actively to music, interact through the controls and receiving haptic stimuli and that the experience recorded can help having a playful and serene interaction with the more complex audio interface.

The area that explores playful music interaction is interesting because it includes a class of possible devices, software programs or instruments that can be educational for non-musicians but also recreational. (todo: expand)

The projects itself is based on the concept of embodied interfaces, interactive sonic experience design and haptic perception (specifically SA-RA mechanoreceptors)

1. **Related work**

What have others done that is similar or related to your project?

What similar interactive systems are there?

What are related approaches? Are they inadequate? i.e., is your proposal an advance over state-of-the art?

Include citations for related work (you can build upon the bibliography cited at the end of each lesson, and complement it). You can cite the scientific literature and/or URLs. The citations and URLs should appear in a list of references at the end of the report.

One of the works that inspired part of this project is the Dato Duo music synthesizer by Dato Musical Instruments which is a very accessible “synth-for-two” designed with simplicity in mind and meant to be played by two people. It features a synthesizer side that contains controls that shape the sound produced and a sequencer side which controls act on the rhythm and the melody produced. (TODO: reference)

The proposed device is inspired to the successful two-people approach but diverges on the sensory modalities used, trading off the simplicity of a sound-only experience with a device that provide audio, video and haptic interaction in order to convey more information.

A similar natural graphic approach, even if on a more reasonable scale for a music synthesizer, is used by Teenage Engineering in their OP-1 and Pocket Operator lineup. (TODO: reference)

On the software side there are many games and programs trying to teach music basics to young children but also a good example of how a game-like approach can be effective with music students that need to familiarize with more structured music theory concepts: this refers to “The lord of chords”, a successful card game based on chords that was highly praised by music students and teachers. (TODO: reference)

All this products and projects are partially similar to the proposed device, some in the modalities and some in the motivations, but it seems to us that that our approach has not been used yet and it is worth exploring.

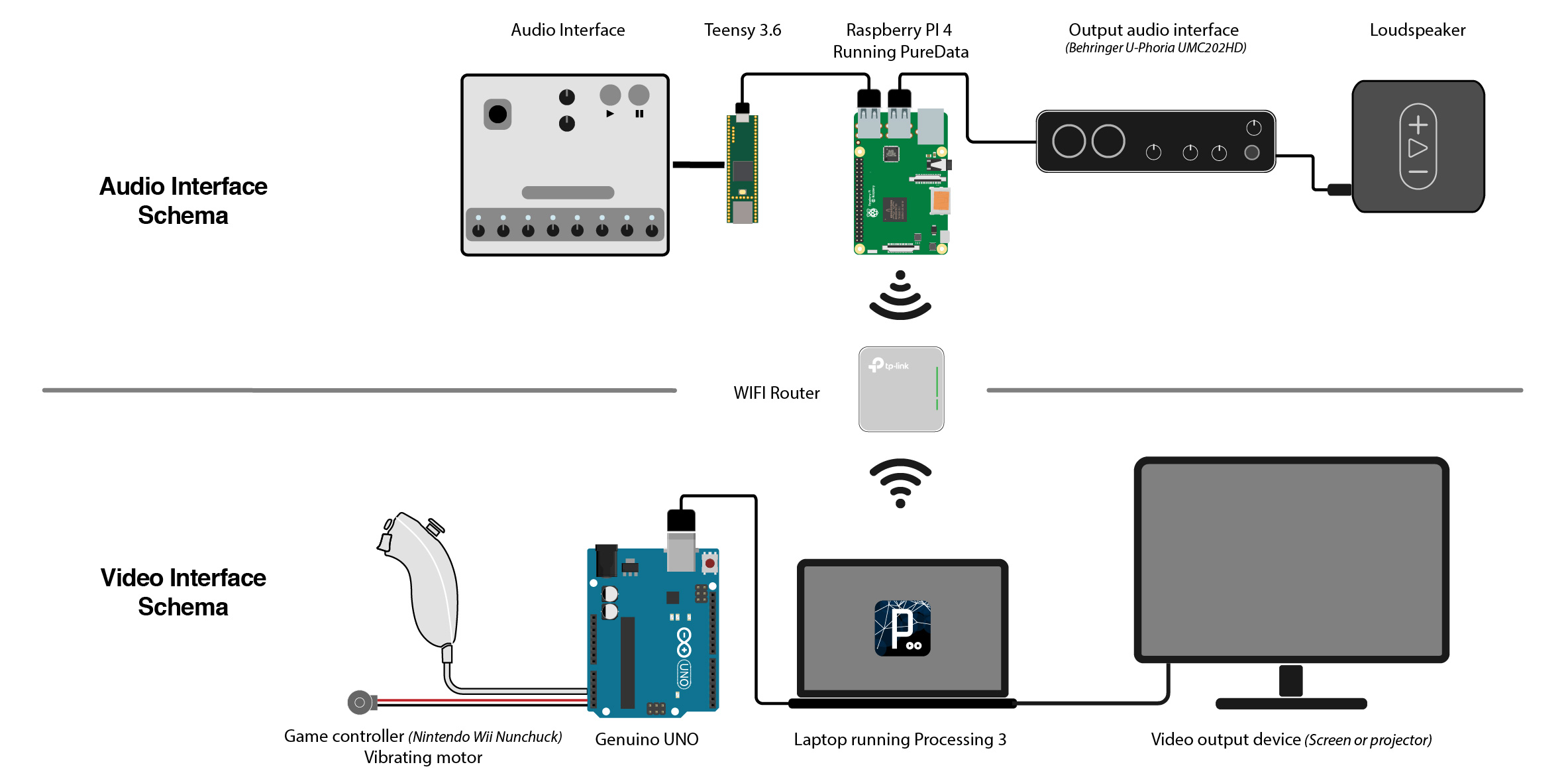
1. **Architecture design**

Present the detailed design of your system.

What key assumptions are you making about your system, its users, and/or the environment in which it will be used?

What justification do you have for those assumptions being reasonable?

What are the components of the architecture, how do they fit together and talk to one another? What tools are you using?



The physical device is divided in an audio section and a video section.

**Audio Synthesizer**

The Audio Interface is composed by a control interface with:

* 8 potentiometers for each note of the sequence played.
* 8 LEDs, one for each note potentiometer, indicating the current step of the sequence.
* 1 analog joystick controlling:
  + the amount of detune between two superimposed waveshapes and the amount of delay feedback applied on the horizontal axis.
  + The shape of the sound waveform (morphing from a soft triangle wave to a square wave) on the vertical axis.
* 1 potentiometer controlling the cutoff frequency of a lowpass filter.
* 1 potentiometer controlling the tempo of the sequence.
* 1 Ribbon sensor controlling the note sustain through an envelope generator.
* 2 Buttons for Play and Pause.

Sensors and LEDs are connected to a Teensy 3.6 Board that manages sensor reading and sends/receives messages to/from a Single Board Computer (Raspberry PI 3) through serial communication.

The Raspberry PI runs a Miller Puckette’ Pure Data patch that functions as an audio synthesizer, a receiver/sender of sensor information from/to the connected Teensy board and a sender of special OSC(Open Sound Control protocol) messages to the Video synthesizer, through a local Wi-Fi Network.

TODO: non mi piace per niente scritto così con le barre e con la parola sender usata troppe volte: CAMBIARE

The output device is a generic audio interface connected with a loudspeaker.

The Wi-Fi LAN is created using a Tp-Link wireless router and exploits the 5Ghz frequency band where possible.

**Video Synthesizer**

The video synthesizer uses a Nintendo Wii Nunchuk Controller that features a three-axis accelerometer for motion-sensing and tilting from STMicroelectronic and an analog joystick.

The controller used does not contain a rumble motor so an external one is added. The controller communicates with a Genuino/Arduino UNO board through the I2C serial bus. (TODO: mettere il 2 di I2C ad apice in latex)

The Arduino board reads sensor values, sends them to a laptop through the serial port and reads incoming messages that communicates whether the rumble motor should be turned on or off (TODO: se mettiamo PWM cambiamo qui).

The laptop connected to the Arduino Board runs a Processing Script that reads serial messages from the Arduino, OSC messages from the Audio synth and uses both to control visual effects that are generated on the screen. The laptop can also be connected to a bigger monitor or projector in order to produce a more immersive experience

**TODO: Add “**What key assumptions are you making about your system, its users, and/or the environment in which it will be used?”

* A successive prototype iteration will feature more resistant physical interfaces and a dedicated controller for the video interface,
* Silent environment is better
* Users: Users of all ages

**TODO: Add “**What justification do you have for those assumptions being reasonable?**”**

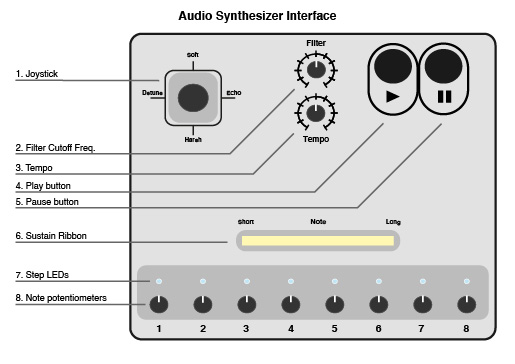
**3.1 Usage model**

Describe how a user is going to use your system. Think about this as like a user manual. Describe the system from a user’s perspective. For example, the user does not need to know the components of your system and how it works internally, but the user does need to know what sensors to use to do various things. As part of the model, you should describe your user interface design.

The system is meant to be used by two people: one playing with the Audio interface and one with the Video interface.

**Audio interface**

Note that in-depth knowledge of the mapping between sensors and actions performed is not mandatory in order to enjoy the system, however knowing more can help exploring special sound features or effects.

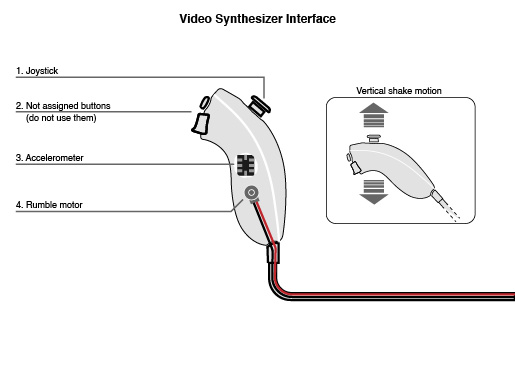


The audio components, as indexed in figure (TODO: add reference) are:

1. Analog Joystick: It can be moved along the vertical and/or horizontal direction and it controls different sound features, namely:
   1. Waveshape - vertical direction: The middle position indicates a 50% balance between 2 oscillators producing a Triangle wave and a Square wave.  
      Moving the stick towards the top position increases gradually the triangle wave (soft) contribution, while moving it toward the bottom increases the contribution of the square wave (harsh)
   2. Detune - Horizontal-Left direction: Moving the stick to the left increases gradually the frequency gap between the main oscillator and a second one (detuned oscillator). This is done at the same time for the two waveshapes (so 2 main oscillators, 2 detuned oscillators).
   3. Delay Feedback - Moving the stick to the right increases the amount of delay feedback added to the sound.
2. Filter Cut-off Frequency knob: It controls the cut-off frequency of a lowpass filter.
3. Tempo knob: It controls the speed of the note sequence.
4. Play button: When pressed, the note sequence starts playing.
5. Pause button: When pressed, the note sequence stops playing.
6. Sustain ribbon/soft-pot: This is used by sliding a finger over the sensitive area (white). Sliding the finger to the left shortens the note sustain while sliding it to the right increases the sustain. (TODO: fix repetition of sustain in a nice way)
7. Step LEDs: The LED turned on indicates the current note playing.
8. Note potentiometers: The 8 potentiometers control the 8 notes of the sequence played. They go from low pitched notes (far left) to high pitched notes (far right) quantized on a diatonic scale, so that it’s harder to produce dissonant or tunes.

All the controls modify the produced sound and some of them modify also some effects or features of the visuals generated by the video interface.

**Video Interface**



The video interface is composed by the sole game controller and a monitor/projector.

The controller features:

1. Analog Joystick: It controls visual effects
2. 2 Buttons: The buttons are part of the controller used but they are not used for this application. Pressing either one or the other button has no effect.
3. Accelerometer: It measure the movements of the game controller. Shaking the controller vertically at the rhythm of the beat will improve the amount and quality of visual effects, colours, etc…
4. Rumble Motor: This motor vibrates at the rhythm of the beat.

Different combinations of the actions of the user can produce an increase o decrease of the variety, colourfulness and speed of the visuals.

1. **Implementation**

Which parts of your system are implemented?

How were they implemented?

What tools did you use for doing the implementation?

Which libraries did you use?

What parts of your design were interesting from an implementation perspective?

What kind of optimizations did you do?

You can add references to the code snippets listed in the Appendix.

1. **Evaluation**

What are your hypotheses?

What kind of testing have you done to validate your system?

Describe the experimental procedure: what participants were supposed to do?

What are your independent, dependent, and control variables?

Was a within-subjects, between-subjects, or mixed experimental design?

What are your results and are they statistically significant?

With the experiment you should measure:

1. The users’ performance to a task (behavioural response): you need to test various conditions according to your hypothesis
2. The users’ impressions/sensations in interacting with the system (subjective response): e.g., via a questionnaire given at the end of the experiment and/or between various experimental conditions

Consider reporting the results of the pilot study (e.g., if they helped you tuning your system and/or your experimental procedure)

The hypothesis tested is that users can benefit from having to listen actively to music, interact through the controls and receiving haptic stimuli (when using the video interface) and that the experience recorded can help having a playful and serene interaction with the more complex audio interface. An additional sub-hypothesis is that the impact of this improvement is greater for non-musician participants.

The game-like experience designed is an independent of the evaluation.

The participant selection is controlled by the researchers, thereby the mix of musicians and non-musician users can be defined as an independent variable, while the subjective intuitiveness and overall enjoyment of the experience are dependent variables.

Testing was designed to be organized in sessions with 2 users per session who were both musicians in some cases, both non musicians or one and one in others.

The experiment was conducted with **N** participants, **M** males and **O** females, between **I** and **K** years of age (mean= **MM**, sd = **SD**). TODO: add values after evaluation

In the case of one musician user and one non musician, the non-musician one starts by interacting with the audio interface while the other with the video interface. After 5 minutes they swap interface and proceed by playing for 5 minutes more. Then, the two users swap places once more, so that both play at the interface that they started with, in order to record potential improvements in the interaction.

1. **Discussion and conclusions**

Discuss the results emerged from the evaluation sessions you performed. Discuss the:

* Limitations: Describe any limitations with your design and implementation of the system.
* Lessons learned: What did you learn? How would you do things differently if you did the project again?
* Future Works: How would you improve the project if you had more time? What would be the further developments?

What can be concluded from the evaluation sessions?

**Group members contributions**

Describe the contributions made by each team member to the project. Be specific.

**References**

Provide a list of references cited with complete bibliographic information including URLs where available.

**Code appendix**

Provide a listing of the code for the project. The best way to do this would be to include a few relevant sample snippets as an appendix to the report which you might reference as part of your discussion on the implementation. Then, provide a complete listing of the code as a compressed zip archive which is uploaded to course website as part of your report.

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NOTE: Together with the report, you need to deliver also your code. You can send a link to an online repository or send a link to a google drive folder (you must provide me with access to such online material).