

# Computing Sound: Physics-Based Parametric Sound Synthesis

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GameSoundCon, 2014

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## “Computing Sound”



- Physical Modeling Synthesis (WG/WDF/FEM)
- Synthesis from Hybrid Time/Freq. Models (Modal)
- Physically-Inspired/Controlled Sonic Models (PhISM)
- Physically-Inspired Stochastic Event Models (PhISEM)
- Physically-Oriented Library of Interactive Sound Effects (PhOLISE)  
Bill's GaitLab: walking analysis/synthesis
- Examples, Controllers!!!, Demos, Movies
- (some on Voices, Speech, and Singing too)

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# Physical Modeling

(1 slide!)

**strings**

**winds**

reed=spring

**Blown bottle**

**drums & plates**

**voice**

**particles**

**radiation**

# Sound is Made...

PLOrk: Non-Specific Gamelan Taiko Fusion

- Striking, whacking, collisions
- Blowing, wind, flow, turbulence
- Bowing, rubbing, scraping
- Shaking, rattling, crunching

# Sound is Perceived

- Auditory periphery
- Tonotopic mapping
- Rate/place (pitch)
- Spectral view

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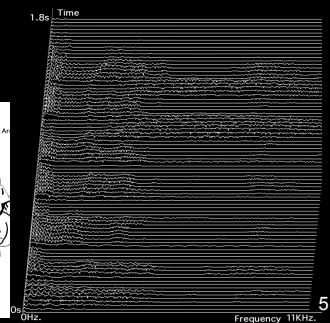
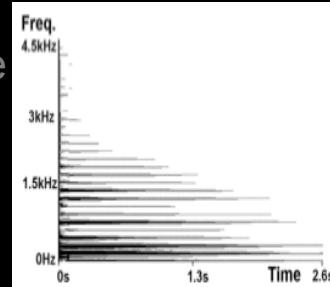
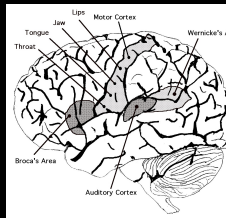
PLOrk: Non-Specific  
Gamelan Taiko Fusion



# Sound is Perceived



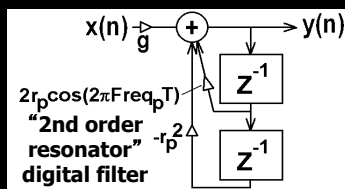
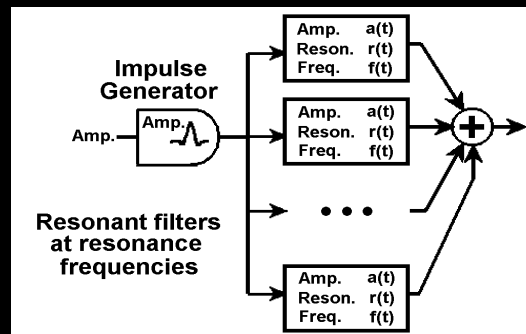
- Auditory periphery
- Tonotopic mapping
- Rate/place (pitch)
- Spectral view



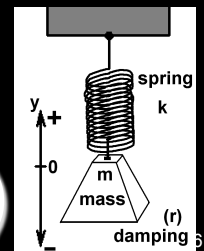
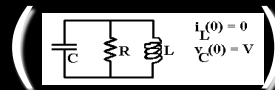
# Modal Synthesis: The Missing Link

(Adrien, Vanden Doel, Cook ...)

- Time/Frequency
- Impulse (or noise, other) generator excites filters
- Filters shape spectrum, model eigenmodes
- Filter parameters can be time-varying



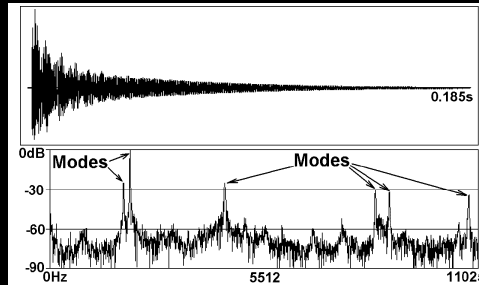
$$\begin{aligned} y[n] &= g * x[n]; \\ y[n] &+= b_1 * y[n-1]; \\ y[n] &+= b_2 * y[n-2]; \\ n &++; \end{aligned}$$



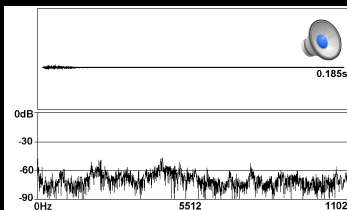
# Modal: “Identity” Analysis and Resynthesis (“parametric sampling”)

Struck coffee mug

Identify modes  
Model with filters  
(or sine oscs)



Remove modes  
to yield  
“residue”

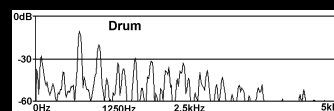
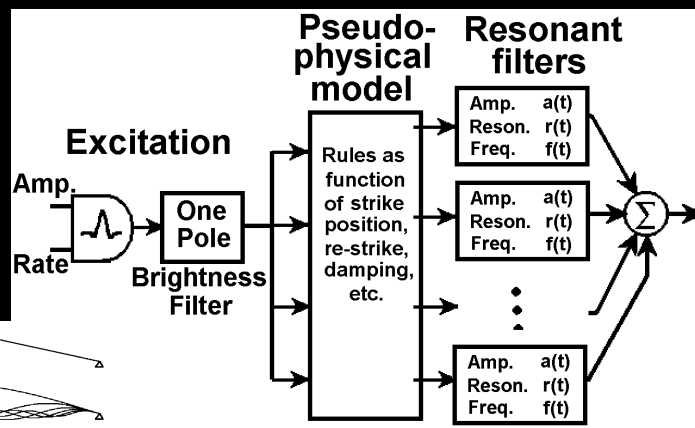
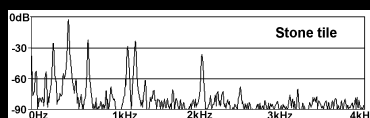
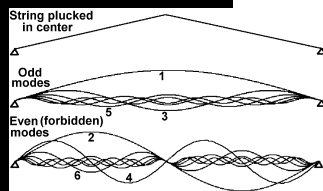


Can re-excite  
modal filters  
for “identity  
resynthesis”  
(or modify!)

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## Parametric Modal Synthesis

- Physics
- Intuition
- Arbitrary!
- Random!

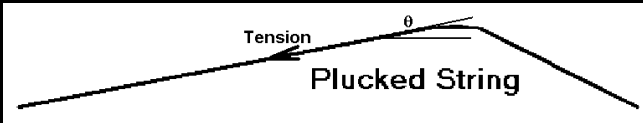


**Metal  
Wood**

**WiiDemo**

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# The Wave Equation



$$df = (T \sin \theta)_{x+dx} - (T \sin \theta)_x \quad (\text{for each } dx \text{ of string})$$

$$f(x+dx) = f(x) + \delta f / \delta x \, dx + \dots \quad (\text{Taylor's series in space})$$

$$\text{assume } \sin \theta = \theta \quad (\text{for small } \theta)$$

$$F = ma = \rho \, dx \, d^2y / dt^2 \quad (\rho = \text{mass/length})$$

Solution:

The wave equation  
( $c^2 = T / \rho$ )

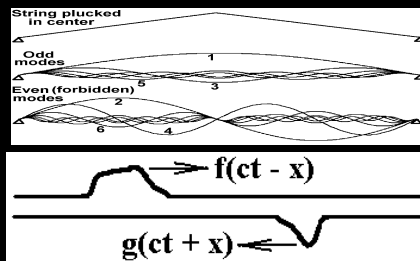
$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2}$$

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## Traveling Wave String Solution(s)

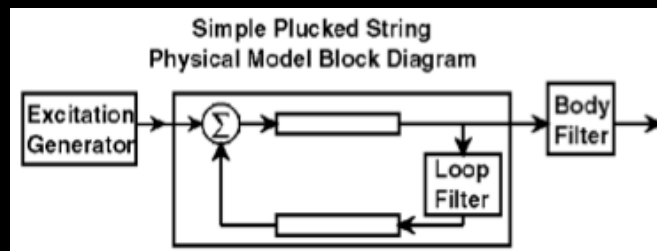
D'Alembert Solution of  
2nd order wave equation  
(left and right going waves)

### Modal Solution



### "Digital Waveguide Filter" Model (Smith)

- Bi-directional delay lines
- Filters for loss, radiation, other

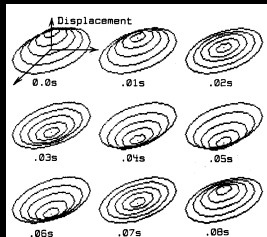


Plucked, Mandolin

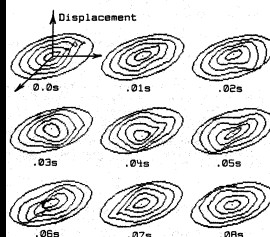
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# Physical/Spatial Mesh/Modal Solutions

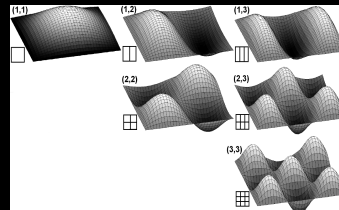
Modes of Plates are inharmonic



Center strike  
round = Bessel function roots



Edge strike



Rectangular Plate Modes  
=  $\sqrt{i,j}$  factors

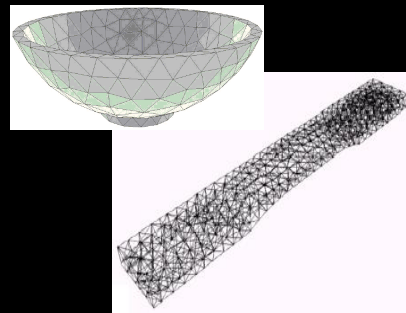
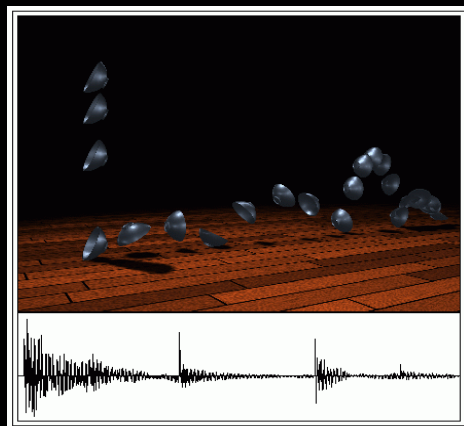
**Modes problematic in higher dimensions  
and also for odd (non-analytical) shapes**  
(impossible analytically except in very simple cases)

Mesh2D<sup>11</sup>

## Finite Element Meshes

(SIGGRAPH 01 with O' Brien and Essl)

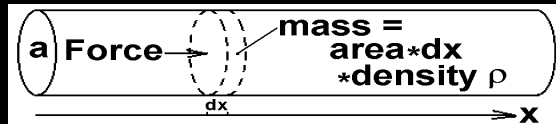
“Synthesizing Sounds from  
Physically-Based Motion”



**MOVIE**

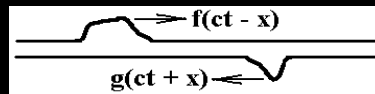
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# Tubes

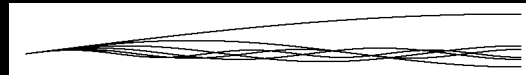


Lansky:  
Still Time

- Open or closed at either end
- Wave equation solution same as strings
- Modes always harmonic because speed of sound is constant with frequency
- Solutions:  
Waveguide



or Modal



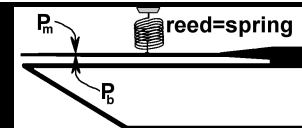
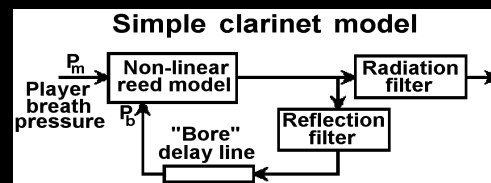
Open + Closed: odd 1/4 wavelengths

Clar/Flute 13

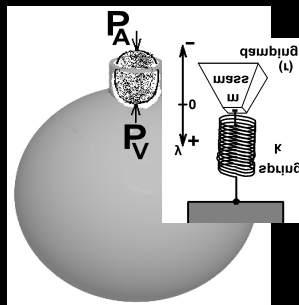
# Tubes and Air Chambers

Wang:  
Zelda

Waveguide tube  
(with non-linear "reed")



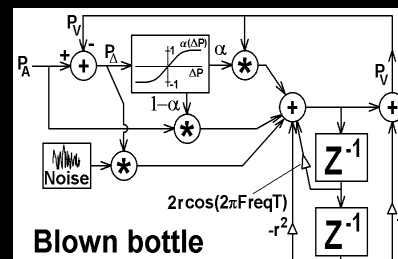
- Bulk Helmholtz Resonator



with non-linear "reed"



Demo  
(SMELT)



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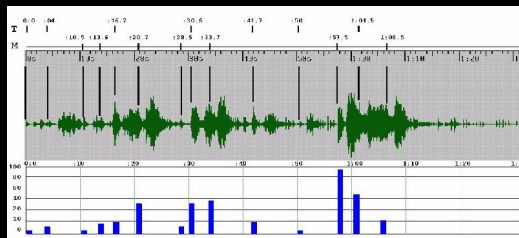
# Data Driven, Physics-based Sound: “Music for Unprepared Piano”

SIGGRAPH 98

(with Bargar, Choi, Betts  
(NCSA))



The “Score”



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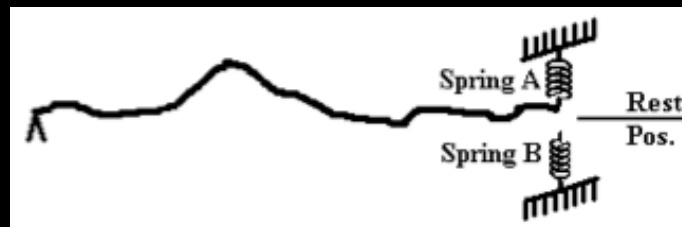
## Physical Models: Non-linearity in Solids

(Scott VanDuyne)

Sitar

Add spring(s) with position dependent constant

(one spring for positive displacement, another for negative)

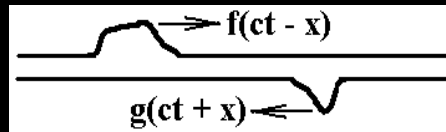


Also for  
Meshes

Acts to spread spectral components

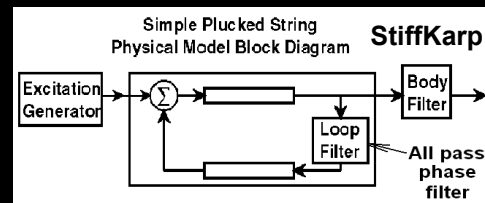
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## D' Alembert (Waveguide) (+ Stiffness)



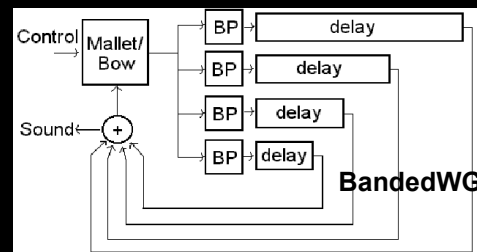
### All-pass waveguide (Smith & Jaffe)

- *Acoustics View: Frequency dependent propagation  $c(f)$*
- *Filter View: Stretch comb filter harmonics*



### Banded waveguides (Essl)

- *Physical Acoustics: Wave train closures*
- *Filter View: Comb filters with one modal resonance each*

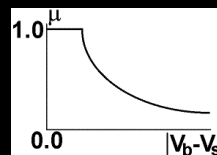
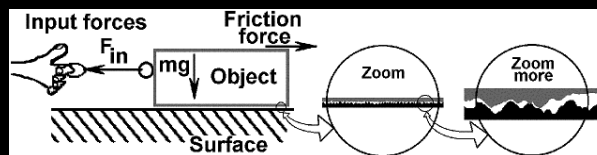


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## Frictional Interactions

### Bow/String Models

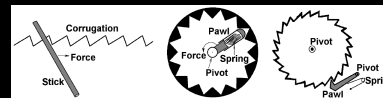
- friction "curve"  $m = f(\Delta v)$
- stick/slip based on  $\Delta v$



**GameTrak  
Demo**

### Haptic Textures

- Minsky: functional surface forces
- Siira and Pai
- Fritz and Barner: Stochastic Haptic Textures
- Hayward and Armstrong: Haptic stick/slip springs

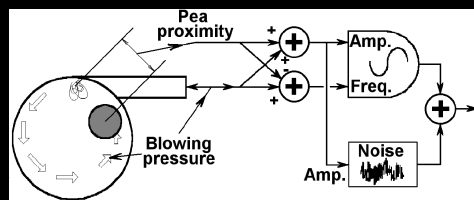
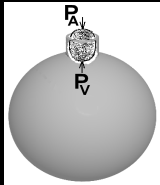
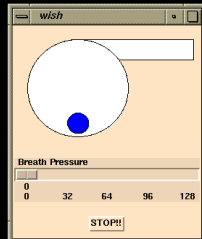


**Structured  
(regular)  
Friction**

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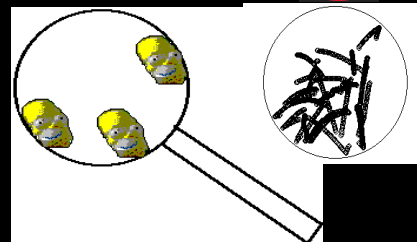
# Physical Models: Particles

Whistle: Single particle influences physical (or other) oscillator



**Whistle Demo (SMELT)**

Homeraca: Many particles trigger parametric synthesis (or launch PCM)



Also good for “flock-like” sounds: applause, rain, birds, etc.

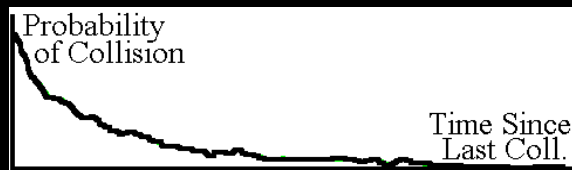
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## Stochastic Event Synthesis: Building a synthesis model

Run model w/  
lots of particles



Collect statistics -> Poisson



System energy decays exponentially.  
Particle collision causes decaying burst of filtered noise



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# PhISEM Algorithm

- Exponentially decaying system energy
- Particle sound energy is exponentially (fast) decaying white noise. Sum of exponentially decaying noises is an exponentially decaying noise.
- Each time step, compute likelihood (based on #of particles) of new sound-producing event  
    If so, add to net particle sound envelope energy
- Filter result with system resonances/modes, with reallocation if needed

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# PhISEM Code Example

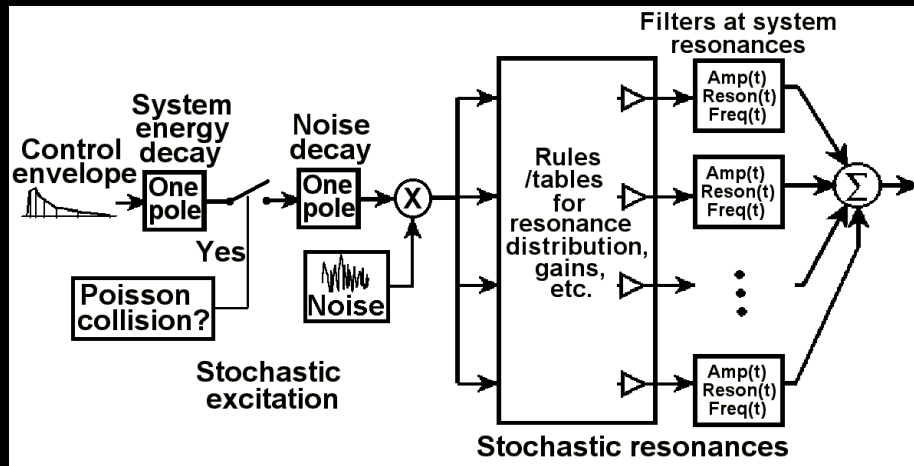
```
#define SOUND_DECAY 0.95  
#define SYSTEM_DECAY 0.999
```

EACH SAMPLE:

```
shakeEnergy *= SYSTEM_DECAY; // Exponential system decay  
if (random(1024) < num_beans) // If collision  
    sndLevel += gain * shakeEnergy; // add energy  
input = sndLevel * noise_tick(); // Actual Sound is Random  
sndLevel *= SOUND_DECAY; // Exponential Sound decay  
input -= output[0]*coeffs[0]; // Do simple  
input -= output[1]*coeffs[1]; // system resonance  
output[1] = output[0]; // filter  
output[0] = input; // calculations
```

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# PhISEM: Stochastic Modal Synthesis



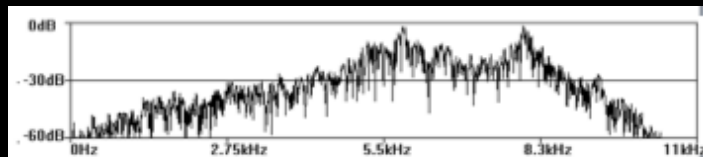
**OSC Shaker Demos**

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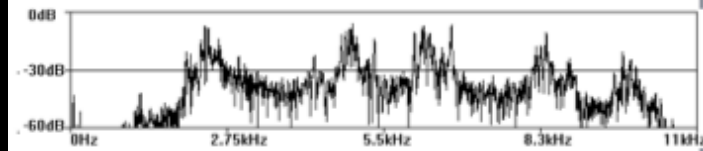
## Stochastic resonances Modal PhISEM examples

- ✓ Allow resonances to vary randomly (or not) on each excitation
- ✓ Each resonance can have own distribution
- ✓ Can reallocate one, two, ..., all each collision

Tambourine



Sleighbells



Bamboo Wind Chimes

Coin(s) in a Cup

Socket Wrench

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## Related techniques

- Wavelets (background sounds) (Miner)
- Independent Components Analysis (Casey)
- Stochastic Multi-Pulse LPC (Zhu & Wyse)
- Sampled Wavelet Trees (Dubnov, Misra)
- My interest: things that we directly excite/control,  
and how to control them
- Interactive Digital Foley:  
Analyze walking sounds for  
higher-level structure/parameters

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## Interactive Digital Foley → PhOLISE: “Real-world” PhISEM

Physically Oriented  
Library of Interactive  
Sound Effects

Interaction sounds,  
including

Walking!



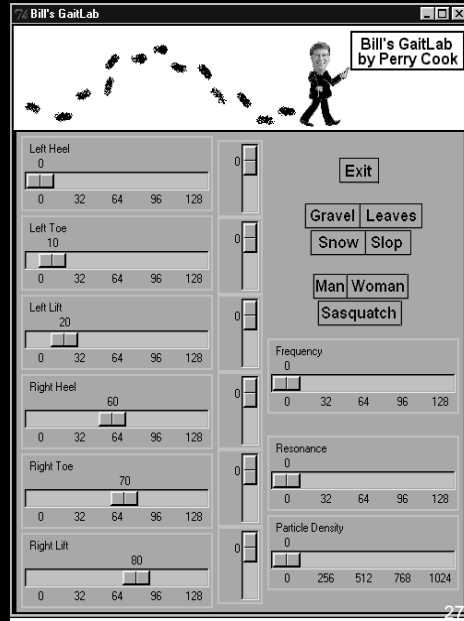
JACK DONOVAN FOLEY

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## Modeling Bill's Gait (AES02)

- Segment sound files
- Extract temporal structure & features
- Do PhISEM analysis
- Resynthesize
- Parametric Synthesis
- ClapLab, Flox, ...  
Analysis(SysID)?

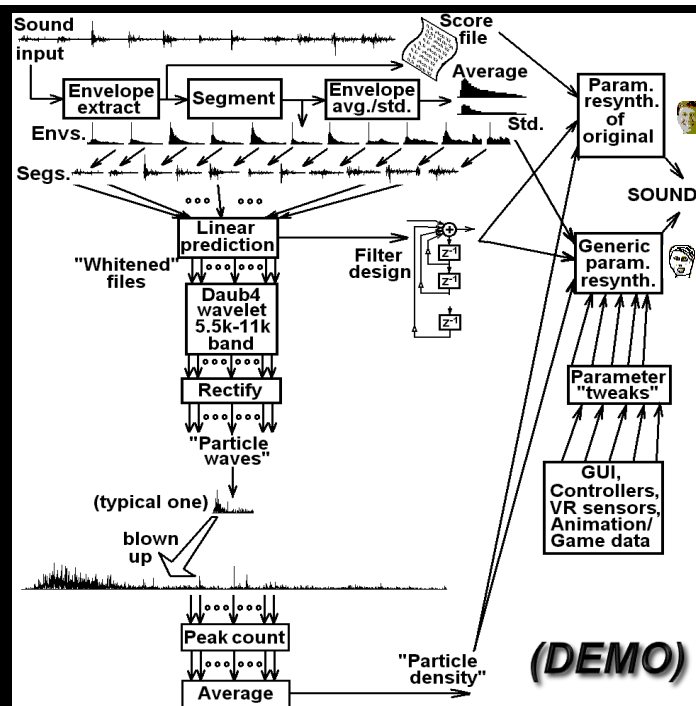


Walking  
analysis

Identify  
Filter(s)+  
Residue

Wavelets

Count  
Peaks



# Data Driven Sound (PhISM): “Seen in Shadow”

SIGGRAPH 2000  
with Grady Klein,  
Adam Finkelstein,  
Petrovic, Fujito

Music:  
Trueman, Mugan

**MOVIE**



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## PhISM Controllers



**Picos**



## PhOLIEMat



**TapShoe**



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# Resources, References, Code

PLOrk:

Take it for Granite

## Synthesis ToolKit in C++ (STK)

- **STK**: a set of classes in C++ for rapid experimentation with sound synthesis. Available for free (source, multi-platform)
  - <http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~prc>
  - <http://www-ccrma.stanford.edu/software/stk>
- Based on “Unit Generators,” the classical computer music/sound building blocks:
- Oscillators, Filters, Delay Lines, etc.
- Build your own algorithms from these
- **Chuck**: On-the-fly Programming Language

## Book on interactive sound synthesis



Many examples, figures, soundfiles, and open-source code!

**OTHERS:** Sounding Object, DAFX, some SIGGRAPH, other

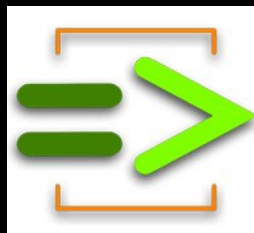
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# More Resources and References

Everybody  
Hack Chuck  
Tonight!!

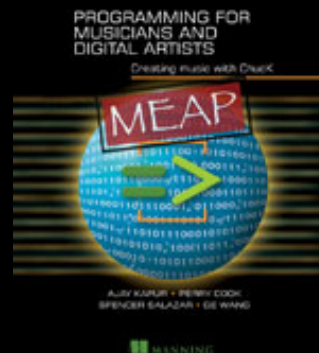
## • **Chuck**: On-the-fly Programming Language

- Open source
- On-the-fly (VM)
- Extensible
- Fun
- Not efficient!!



- Contains STK and lots more (sensors, MIDI, OSC, HID, networking)
- Based on “Unit Generators,” the classical computer music/sound building blocks:
- Oscillators, Filters, Delay Lines, etc.
- Build your own algorithms from these

## Chuck Book!!



Many examples, figures, and open-source code!

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## Upcoming Voice/Tech Book:

[www.vocebella.org](http://www.vocebella.org)

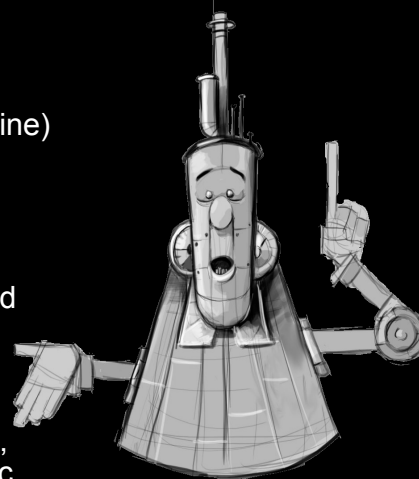
### La Bella Voce et la Macchina

(the beautiful voice and the machine)

A History of Technology  
and the Expressive Voice

Technology: Any human-fashioned  
tool, technique, method, law,  
notation, enhancement, etc.

Expressive Voice: Singing, acting,  
preaching, rapping, praying, etc.



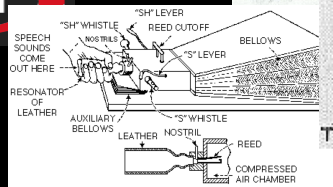
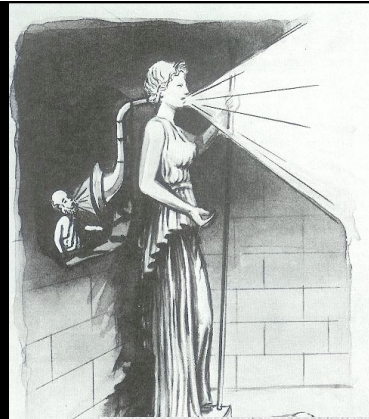
“Steamo”

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## A Note (or 2) on Voices

- Rich history of speaking machines
- And controllers for vocal models (Von Kempelen 1791, Faber 1840, Dudley 1939 ++)
- Concatenative PCM

~~PCM~~



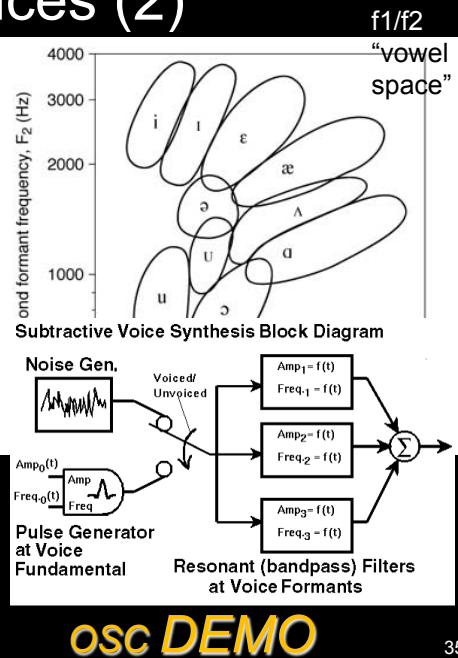
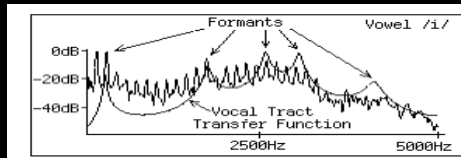
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## A Note (or 2) on Voices (2)

- Rich history of speaking machines
- And controllers for vocal models (Von Kempelen 1791, Faber 1840, Dudley 1939 ++)



- Formant Source/Filter



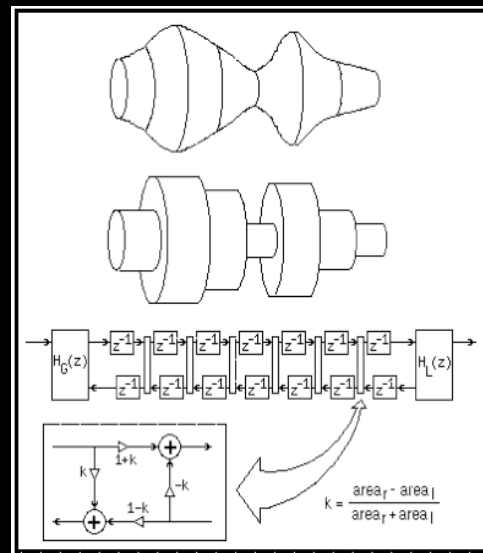
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## A Note (or 2) on Voices (3)

- Rich history of speaking machines
- And controllers for vocal models (Von Kempelen 1791, Faber 1840, Dudley 1939 ++)



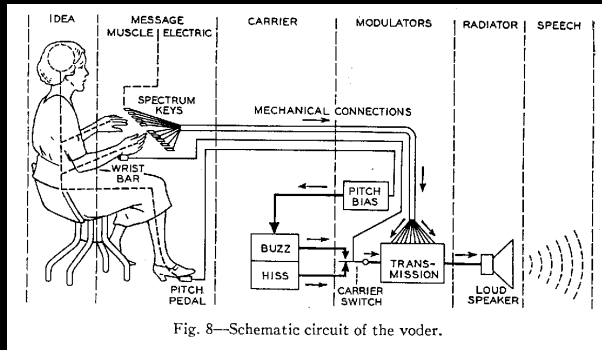
- Formant Source/Filter
- Physical Articulatory (acoustic tube, Kelly/Lochbaum, Mathews 1960, Cook 1989, ++)



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# Controlling electronic voice synth: Dudley's Voder

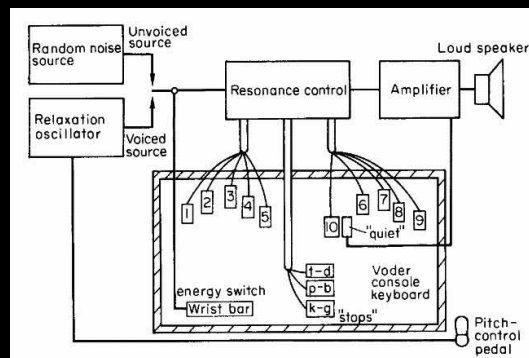
- 1939 World's Fair
- Operators (female) manipulate console



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## Voder: Source/Filter Model

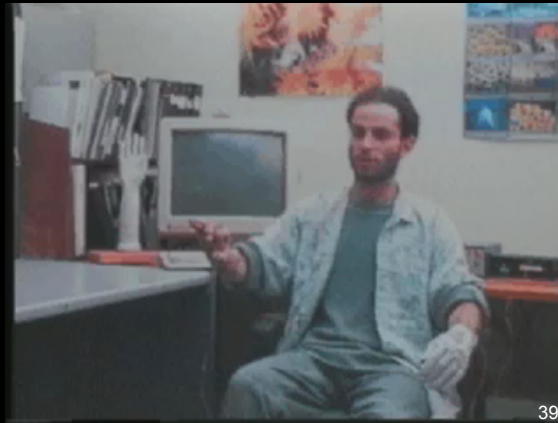
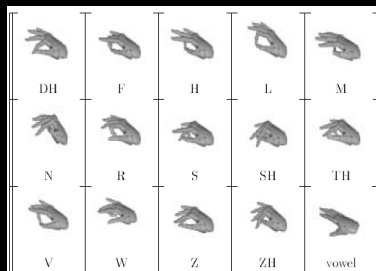
- Noise/Pulse (wrist bar)
- Pitch control (foot pedal)
- Resonances (10 finger sliders)
- Consonant/Stop Presets (thumb buttons)



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## GloveTalk (Fels and Hinton, 1990+)

- Data gloves and 3D position to control speech synthesizer
- Left Hand “Macros” for Consonants
- Pitch height
- Vowel Space



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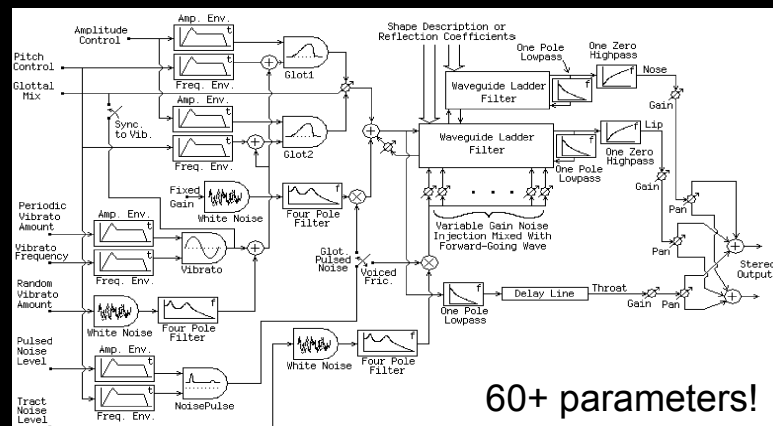
## Articulatory (physical) Voice Synth (SPASM)

- Real time, control is possible
- BUT... many, many parameters
- Not a natural “fit”

Cook (Shiela '89)

Uh....

Huh?



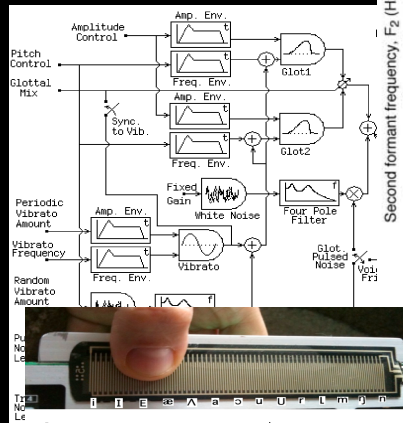
60+ parameters!

## Articulatory (physical) Voice Synth (SPASM)

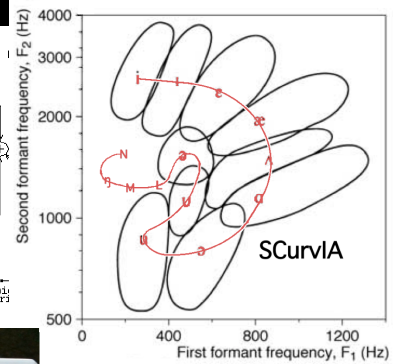
- Real time, control is possible
- BUT... many, many parameters
- Not a natural “fit”

SCurvIA (2011)

1D  
or 2D  
controls



Singing Curve for Interpolation and Articulation



60+ parameters!

## Articulatory (physical) Voice Synth (SPASM)

# SqueezeVox (with Colby Leider 2001)

Maggie

- Voice Control Issues:
- Pitch Lisa
- Breathing
- Articulation
- etc.
- Fix: Accordiae?



Maggie



Colby's  
Bart



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## Physical Models in Performance

Interface: Dan Trueman, Curtis Bahn, Tomie Hahn, Perry Cook, Others

- Tomie Hahn: Streams

- Pikapika (Tomie Hahn)



- Shakers/Bamboo + vocal formant filters



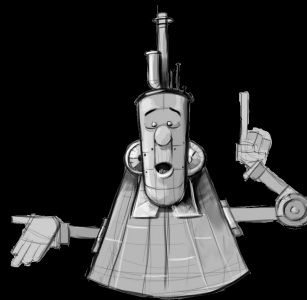
Shakers + "Blotar" (non-linear feedback waveguide flute)

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## (PL)Orkestra(s) of the Future!



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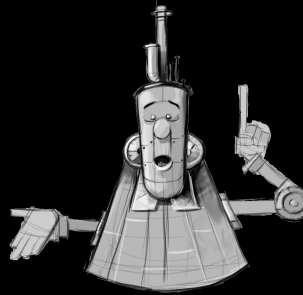


# Whew!!!!

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## ACKs

National Science Foundation  
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Guggenheim Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation  
Ariel Foundation  
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(Princeton Humanities Council)  
Kimberly and Frank H. Moss '71  
Research Innovation Fund  
(Princeton SEAS).



## Props

NIME, PLOrk, TeQWire,  
LAP, Colby Leider, Dan  
Trueman, Ajay Kapur, Ben  
Knapp, Curtis Bahn, Ge  
Wang, Rebecca Fiebrink,  
Princeton Undergrads, CS  
and Music Grad Students.

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## Some others in this space:

- Julius Smith (Stanford/CCRMA): Waveguides++
- Stefan Bilbao (Edinburgh): Wave Digital Filters
- Dinesh Pai (Rutgers), and Kees van den Doel (UBC)
- IRCAM: Rodet, Depalle (McGill), many others
- McGill: Scavone, others
- Sounding Object (SOB, EU consortium):
  - Rocchesso, Avanzini, Bresin, Serafin, Rath, Bernardini, Borin, Fontana, Ottaviani
- Marsailles: Korland-Martinet, Ystad, Guillemain
- Andy Farnell: "Procedural Audio" (PD to Wwise plugins)
- Doug James (Cornell)     James O'Brien (Berkley)
- Valimaki, Karjalainen, others (Helsinki U T)

Conferences: DAFX, ICMC, ASA, WASPAA, NIME, AES, SIGGRAPH, ISMIR

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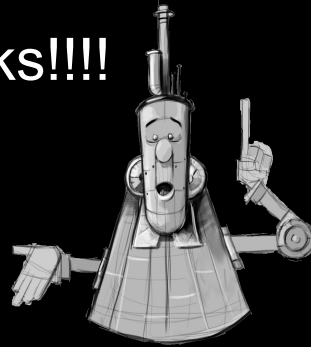
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The End:

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synthesis



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