

Additive Synthesis Examples

1. Resynthesis of a bell sound.

This instrument was designed by the composer J C Risset. It generates a number of partials of a bell sound, whose frequencies were obtained by analysis. The envelope is basically a decaying exponential curve, and each partial has a different duration for this decay. **Freq** is a reference value (in Hz) for the bell partial frequencies.

Partial Number	Frequency (Hz)	Amplitude (relative to a reference value)	Duration (secs)
1	$0.58 * \text{Freq}$	1	1
2	$0.58 * \text{Freq} + 1$	0.67	0.9
3	$0.91 * \text{Freq}$	10	0.65
4	$0.91 * \text{Freq} + 1.7$	1.8	0.55
5	$1.6 * \text{Freq}$	1.67	0.35
6	$1.2 * \text{Freq}$	2.67	0.325
7	$2 * \text{Freq}$	1.46	0.25
8	$2.7 * \text{Freq}$	1.33	0.2
9	$3 * \text{Freq}$	1.33	0.15
10	$3.75 * \text{Freq}$	1	0.1
11	$4.09 * \text{Freq}$	1.33	0.075

With these values in hand we can try to re-synthesize the sound. We'll need 11 sinewave oscillators and 11 amplitude envelopes. The outputs of the oscillators are mixed together to generate the complex sound.

So, in csound we can define a number of initialisation variables

```
idur = p3 ; total duration
iamp = p4 ; amplitude reference
iffr = p5 ; frequency reference
isine = 1 ; sinewave table number
iend = .0009 ; end amplitude for the exponential decay
```

The first and second oscillator-envelope pairs would look like this:

```
k1 expon 1, idur, iend
a1 oscil k1*iamp, iffr*0.58, isine

k2 expon 1, idur*.9, iend
a2 oscil k2*iamp*.67, iffr*0.58+1, isine
```

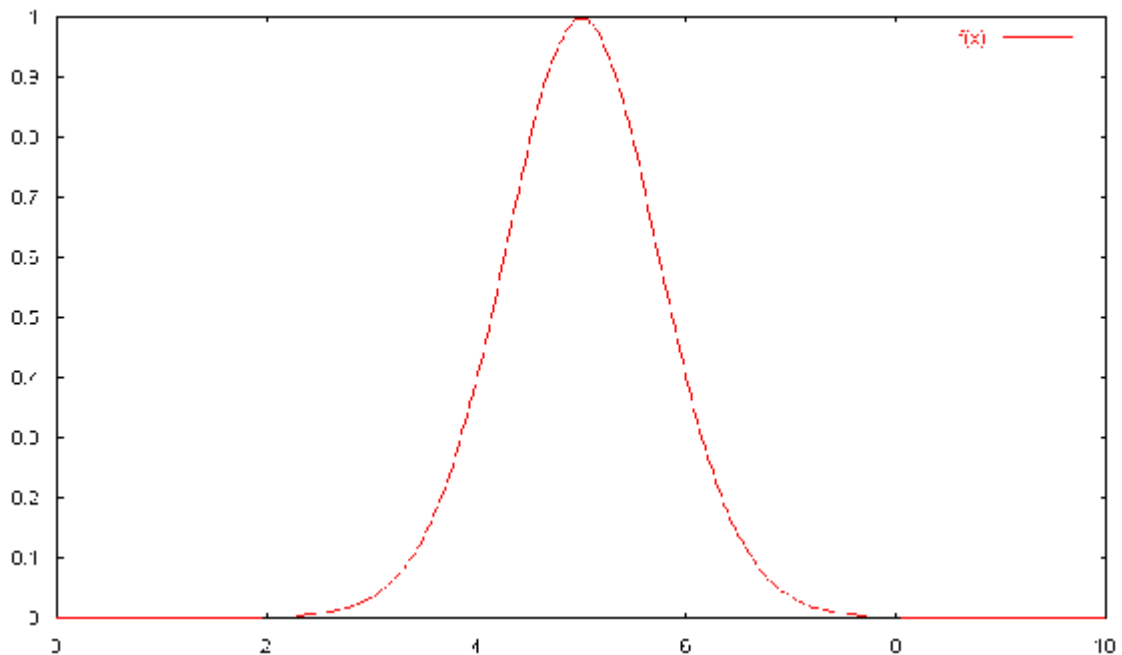
The remaining ones would just follow that format. I choose to generate the envelope with an exponential line generator, but it could be equally done with an oscillator reading a function table.

Exercise:

Complete the instrument above and its score. Run it with different values for the reference frequency, use the value of 2000 for the reference amplitude. Create a second version using **oscil1** to read the decaying envelope shape from a function table.

2. Endless Glissandos

Another additive synthesis design uses 10 oscillators tuned in octaves, whose frequency continuously varies (creating a glissando). By carefully controlling the amplitude of each oscillator, an endless glissando is heard. The shape of the amplitude function is that of a bell (and it's often called the 'bell' function):



This is an example of a psychoacoustic illusion called **Sheppard tones**. Here's the instrument:

```
; Sheppard Tones,  
; J C Risset, from Dodge & Jerse, pp. 95-6  
; Victor Lazzarini, 1998
```

```
sr= 44100  
kr =4410  
ksmps = 10  
nchnls= 1
```

```
instr 1
```

```
ifreq = p5  
iamp = p4
```

```

k1 line 0, 120, ftlen(2) ; generates a ramp from 0 to the table size
k2 line 0, 120, ftlen(3) ; in 120 secs
; used as an index for table lookup

kamp1 tablei k1,2,0,0,1 ;reads table 2, indexed by k1("bell" )
kfreq1 tablei k2,3,0,0,1 ;reads table 3, index by k2 (exponential)
aout1 oscili kamp1*iamp,kfreq1*ifreq,1 ;generates one of the 10 glissandos

kamp2 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.1,1 ; tables read as before plus offset of
kfreq2 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.1,1 ; 1/10 table length
aout2 oscili kamp2*iamp,kfreq2*ifreq,1

kamp3 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.2,1 ; etc plus 2/10 table length offset
kfreq3 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.2,1 ;
aout3 oscili kamp3*iamp,kfreq3*ifreq,1

kamp4 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.3,1
kfreq4 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.3,1
aout4 oscili kamp4*iamp,kfreq4*ifreq,1

kamp5 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.4,1
kfreq5 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.4,1
aout5 oscili kamp5*iamp,kfreq5*ifreq,1

kamp6 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.5,1
kfreq6 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.5,1
aout6 oscili kamp6*iamp,kfreq6*ifreq,1

kamp7 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.6,1
kfreq7 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.6,1
aout7 oscili kamp7*iamp,kfreq7*ifreq,1

kamp8 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.7,1
kfreq8 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.7,1
aout8 oscili kamp8*iamp,kfreq8*ifreq,1

kamp9 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.8,1
kfreq9 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.8,1
aout9 oscili kamp9*iamp,kfreq9*ifreq,1

kamp10 tablei k1,2,0,ftlen(2)*.9,1
kfreq10 tablei k2,3,0,ftlen(3)*.9,1
aout10 oscili kamp10*iamp,kfreq10*ifreq,1

out aout1+aout2+aout3+aout4+aout5+aout6+aout7+aout8+aout9+aout10

endin

```

Here's the score:

```

; sine
f1 0 1024 10 1
; bell function (Gaussian Window)
f2 0 512 20 6 1
; exponential from 1 to 2e-10
f3 0 512 5 1 511 .000976562
; dur amp freq_max
i1 0 20 10000 3900

```

Notes:

1. In order to understand the score, you will have to read up on the **tablei** (and **table**) opcode (please refer to the csound manual for that). Here's a quick word on what it does: it reads a value from a function table according to an **index**. The index determines the position at the table where the value will be extracted. The value is then sent to its output.
2. The function table 2 (the 'bell' function) uses GEN 20 which can generate different types of window shapes, ie. envelopes (please read the csound manual on GEN20)