

# Temporal semantics for a live coding language

Sam Aaron, Dominic Orchard, Alan Blackwell

@samaaron @dorchard

**Fibonacci Crisis**



FARM 2014, 6th September 2014, Gothenburg



<http://overtone.github.io>

```

meta-ex.kit.mixer)
meta-ex.secs.lighter)))

;; Inspired by an example in an early chapter of the
;; defsubst grumble speed 6 freq-mul 1 out-bus 0 amp 1
;; out and mix map f (* (sin-osc (* % freq-mul 100))
;; (max 0 (+ (lf-noise1:kr (lag speed 60))
;; (line:kr 1 -1 30 :action FREE))))))

out out-bus (* amp (pan2 snd (sin-osc:kr 50))) )))

defsubst grumble speed 6 freq-mul 1 out-bus 0 amp 1
out and mix map f (* (square (* % freq-mul 100))
inax 0 (+ (lf-noise1:kr (lag speed 60))
(line:kr 1 -1 30 :action FREE))))))

out out-bus (* amp (pan2 (lft snd (mouse-x 200 2000)) (sin-osc:kr 50))))))

defsubst grumble-g group))

def m mixer :stf
def 0
volume 0.25

grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 2 :out-bus ob :amp 2)
grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 1.8 :out-bus ob :amp 2)
grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 1.5 :out-bus ob :amp 2)

m grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 1 :out-bus ob :amp 1)
grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 0.5 :out-bus ob :amp 1))

grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 1 :out-bus ob :amp 3)
grumble (head grumble-g) :freq-mul 0.5 :out-bus ob :amp 2))
ctf grumble-g :speed 1997)
--> grumble.ctf 34 /)
Arquitado/loading: meta-ex.g
kit-master (Clojure G++ and
nble 315>
```

```
(ns meta-ex.shader
  (:use [overtone.live])
  (:require [shadertone.tone :as t]))

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/fireball.glsl")

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/sine_dance.glsl")
(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/electron.glsl")

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/spectrograph.glsl"
  ;; this puts the FFT data in iChannel0 and a texture of the
  ;; previous frame in iChannel1
  :textures [:overtone-audio :previous-frame])

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/menger-san.glsl"
  ;; this puts the FFT data in iChannel0 and a texture of the
  ;; previous frame in iChannel1
  )

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/zoomwave.glsl"
  :textures [:overtone-audio :previous-frame])

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/wave.glsl" :textures [:overtone-audio])

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/simpletex.glsl"
  :textures [:overtone-audio "resources/textures/granite.png"
    "resources/textures/towel.png"])

(t/stop)

(demo 5 (* (sin-osc:kr 0.3) (saw [200 101])) )

(t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/simplecube.glsl" :textures ["resources/textures/buddha_*.jpg"])

(defsynth vvv
  [[
    (let [a (+ 300 (* 50 (sin-osc:kr (/ 1 3))))
          b (+ 300 (* 100 (sin-osc:kr (/ 1 5))))
          _ (tap "a" 60 (a2k a))
          _ (tap "b" 60 (a2k b))]
      (out 0 (pan2 (+ (sin-osc a)
                      (sin-osc b))))))

  (def v (vvv))

  (t/start-fullscreen "resources/shaders/vvv.glsl"
    :user-data { "iA" (atom {:synth v :tap "a"})
                 "iB" (atom {:synth v :tap "b"}) })

  (kill v)
  (stop)
```

```

(ns meta-ex.grumbles
  (:use [overtone.live]
        [meta-ex.kit.mixer]
        [meta-ex.sets.ignite]))

;; Inspired by an example in an early chapter of the SuperCollider book

(defsynth grumble [speed 6 freq-mul 1 out-bus 0 amp 1]
  (let [snd (mix (map f (= (sin-osc (* % freq-mul 100))
                               (max 0 (+ (lf-noise1:kr (lag speed 60))
                                             (line:kr 1 -1 30 :action FREE))))
                [1 (/ 2 3) (/ 3 2) 2]))]
    (out out-bus (* amp (pan2 snd (sin-osc:kr 50))) {}))

(defsynth grumble [speed 6 freq-mul 1 out-bus 0 amp 1]
  (let [snd (mix (map f (= (square (* % freq-mul 100))
                               (max 0 (+ (lf-noise1:kr (lag speed 60))
                                             (line:kr 1 -1 30 :action FREE))))
                [1 (/ 2 3) (/ 3 2) 2]))]
    (out out-bus (* amp (pan2 (lpf snd (mouse-x 200 2000)) (sin-osc:kr 50))
                    )))

~ n

(defonce grumble-g (group))

(def ob (nkmx :s1))
(def ob 0)
(volume 0.55)

(grumble :head grumble-g :freq-mul 2 :out-bus ob :amp 2)
(grumble :head grumble-g :freq-mul 1.8 :out-bus ob :amp 2)
(grumble :head grumble-g :freq-mul 1.5 :out-bus ob :amp 2)

~ n/

(do (grumble [:head grumble-g] :freq-mul 1 :out-bus ob :amp 1)
    (grumble [:head grumble-g] :freq-mul 0.5 :out-bus ob :amp 1))

(do (grumble [:head grumble-g] :freq-mul 1 :out-bus ob :amp 3)
    (grumble [:head grumble-g] :freq-mul 0.5 :out-bus ob :amp 2))
(ctl grumble-g :speed 1997)

(defn sin-ctl
  (ctl-id arg-map
    (reduce (lambda [res [k v]]
              (let [idx (synth-arg-index meta-mix k)]
                (merge res (map (lambda [[k v]]
                                   [(keyword (str (name k) "-" idx) v)]
                                   v))))
            {}
            arg-map))

(sin-ctl nkmx-sctl :s1
  (:amp (:freq-mul 0
             :mul 1
             :add 0.5)))

(ctl nkmx-sctl :s1
  (:freq-mul-7 0
    :mul-7 1
    :add-7 0.5))

(ctl nkmx-sctl :s1
  (:freq-mul-13 1/8
    :mul-13 1
    :add-13 0.5))

::(status)

```

```

1  [|||||] 18.1% Tasks: 248 total, 0 running
2  [|||] 1.3% Load average: 1.72 1.61 1.59
3  [|||] 6.5% Uptime: 17:27:12
4  [|||] 1.3%
5  [|||] 8.4%
6  [|||] 1.3%
7  [||||] 9.6%
8  [|||] 0.8%
Mem[|||||||||||||||||]14939/16384MB
Swp[|] 7/1024MB

```

PID	USER	PRI	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	CPU%	MEM%	TIME+	Command
4425	Sam	31	0	2407M	166B	0	C	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	htop
1	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(launched)
11	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(UserEventAgent)
12	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(kexstd)
13	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(taskgated)
14	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(notified)
15	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(securityd)
16	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(diskarbitrationd)
17	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(configd)
18	root	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	(powerd)

F1Help F2Setup F3Search F4Invert F5Free F6SortBy F7Nice -F8Nice +F9Kill F10Quit

```
# meta-ex
```

—> Connection established

GW/2020

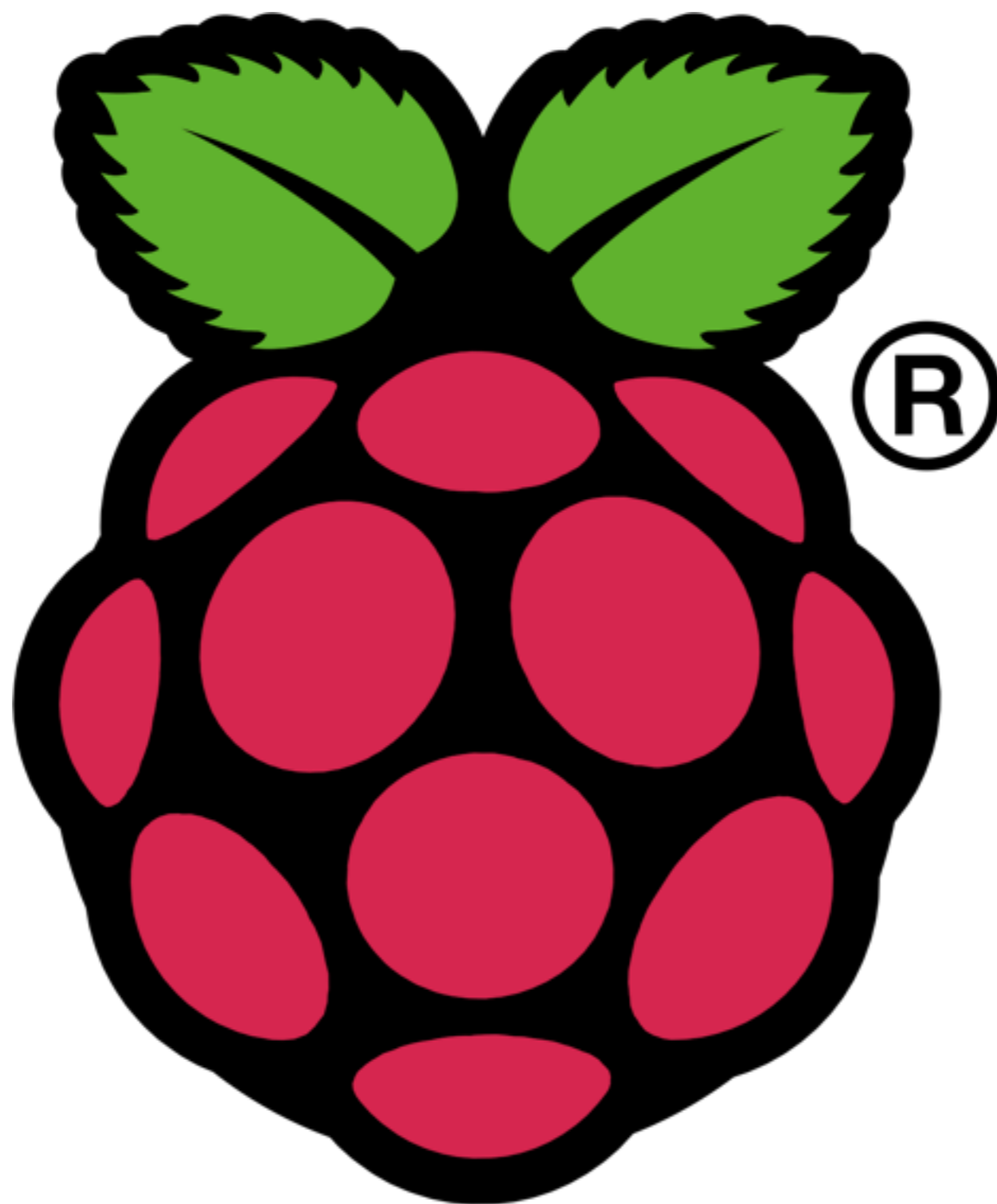
Collaborative Programmable Music. v0.10-dev

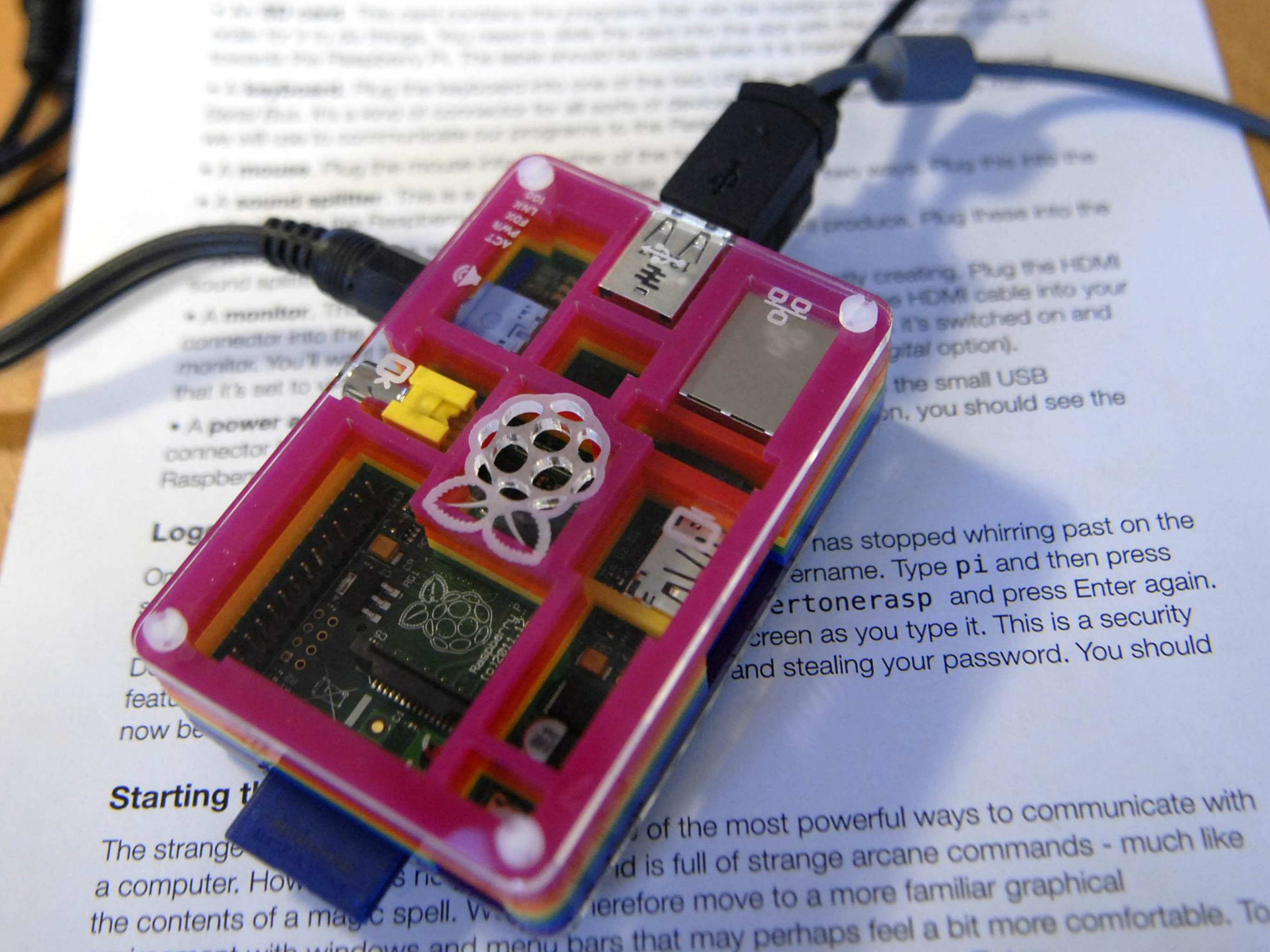
Hello Sam. Do you feel it? I do. Creativity is rushing through your veins today!

```

nil
user⇒ Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/fireball.glsl
Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/menger-san.glsl
Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/sine_dance.glsl
Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/fireball.glsl
Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/spectrograph.glsl
setting up :previous-frame texture
Loading shader from file: resources/shaders/electron.glsl
(use 'o(use 'overtone.live)2014-09-04 16:26:18.488 java[4344:00b] Unknown modifier
with keycode: 0

```



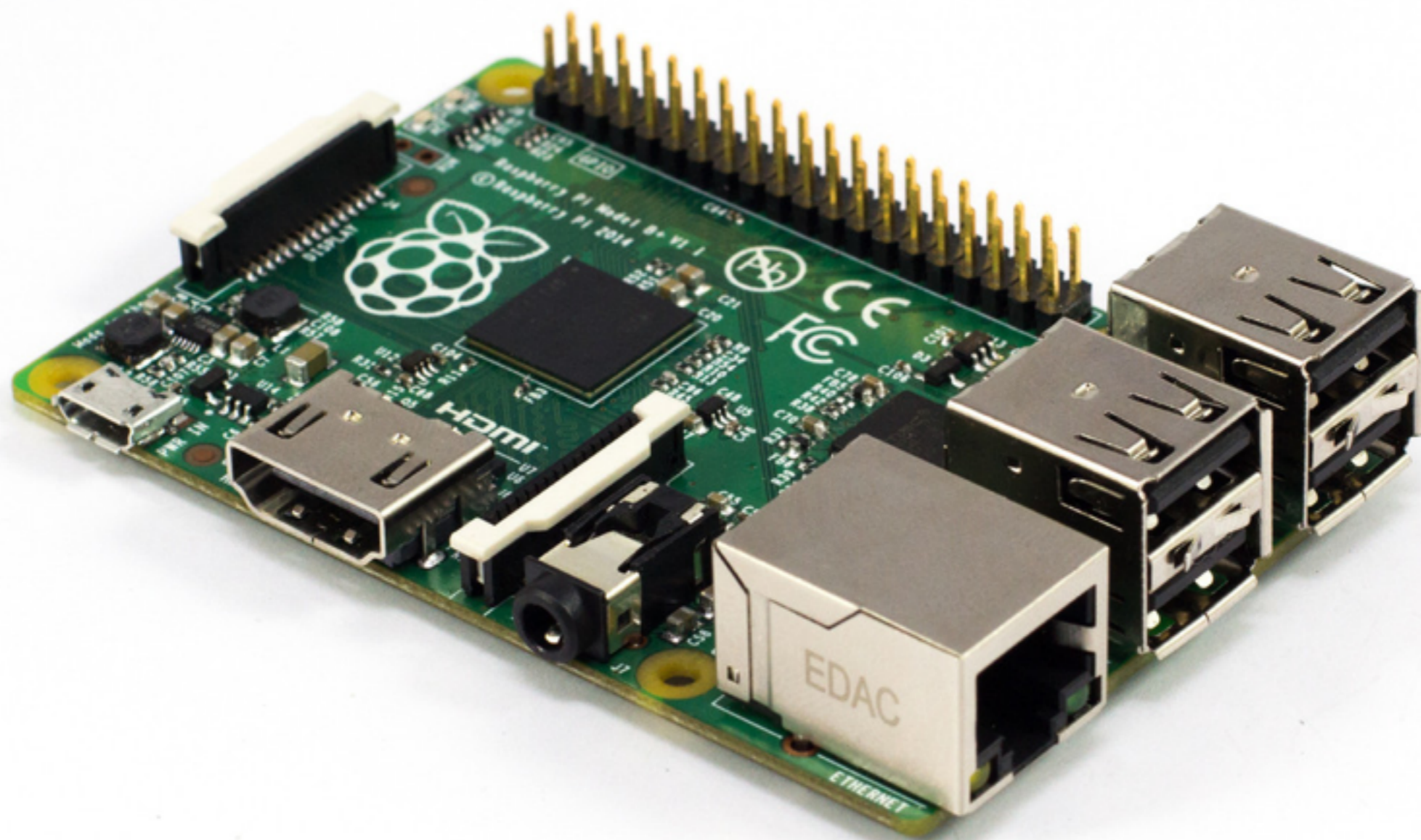


...two ways. Plug this into the...  
...products. Plug these into the...  
...creating. Plug the HDMI...  
...the HDMI cable into your...  
...it's switched on and...  
...digital option).  
...the small USB...  
...on, you should see the

...has stopped whirring past on the...  
...ername. Type `pi` and then press...  
...ertonerasp and press Enter again.  
...screen as you type it. This is a security...  
...and stealing your password. You should

## Starting the Raspberry Pi

The strange... of the most powerful ways to communicate with...  
a computer. How... is full of strange arcane commands - much like...  
the contents of a magic spell. We... therefore move to a more familiar graphical...  
...with windows and menu bars that may perhaps feel a bit more comfortable. To





Sonic Pi



The following instructions are for searching for:

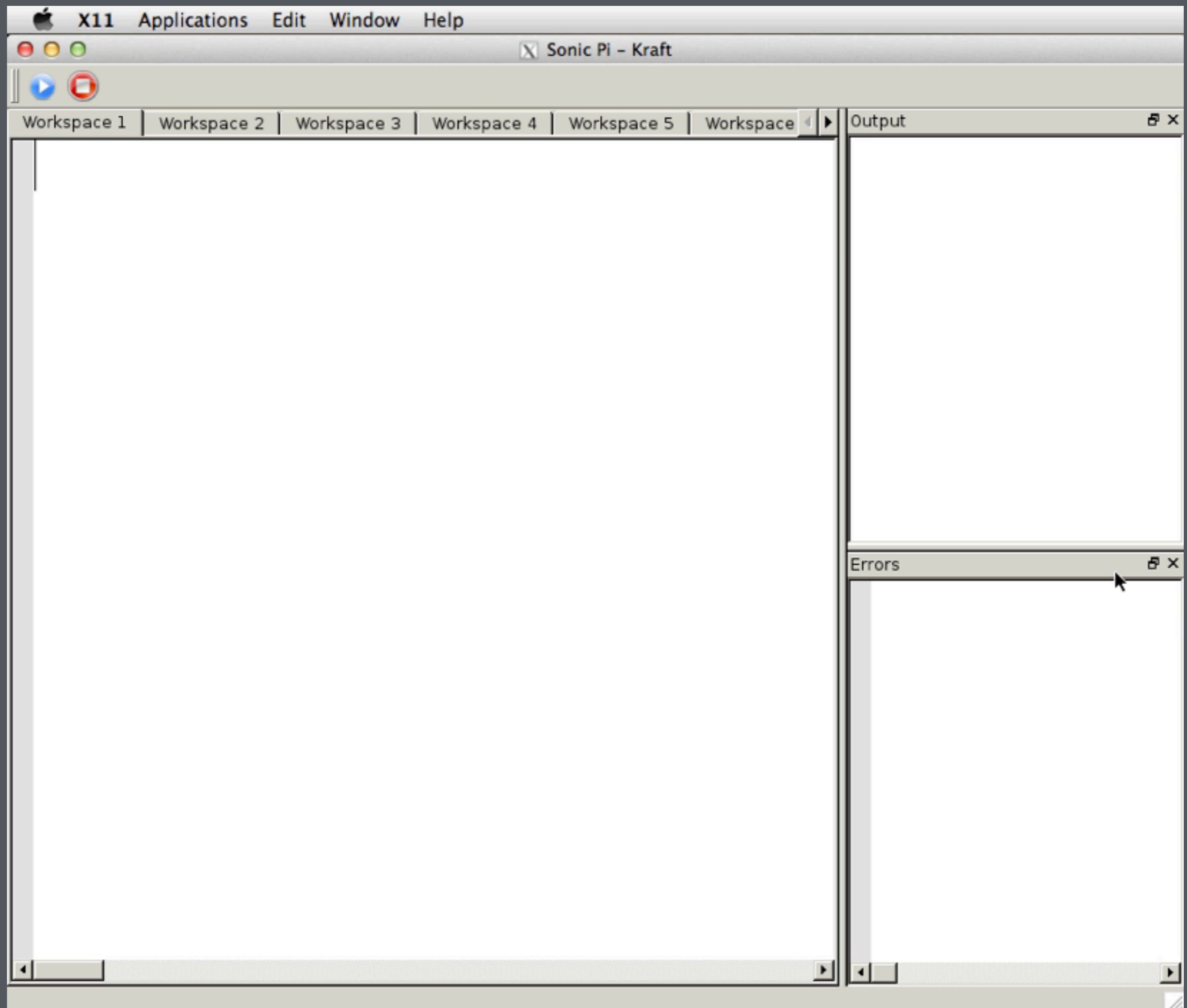
- 1. How to use the components of a program to together.
- 2. Understand how computers deal with instructions and computer code.
- 3. Be able to write a simple computer program.

Objectives:

- 1. Play to all the equipment to get your program to go and running on your desk, use the guide.
- 2. Using your knowledge, test and your program.
- 3. Try to be able to write the logic and program code to play.
- 4. Try to write a program.
- 5. Use the program development tool, check on the code using, go to programming, and select.

What kind of error:

- 1. If the error is: Syntax error.
- 2. If the error is: Logic error.













DON VALLEY BOWL  
10th & 11th JUNE 2011  
ARCTIC MONKEYS  
MILES KANE  
THE VACCINES  
ANNA CALVI  
MABEL LOVE  
DEAD SONS

## Defining Pi workshop proves big success

THE Raspberry Pi and a group of lucky artists were the stars of the show at Cambridge Junction on Saturday.

A quirky programme called Defining Pi saw five chosen artists getting to unleash their creative sides by making music with the device.

The workshop, entitled How To Make Music On Raspberry Pi, was held as part of the programme, which is a collaboration between Wysing Arts Centre and the Crucible Network at Cambridge University.

Cambridge Junction hosted the event as part of the Festival of Ideas and Junction University – an initiative offering short artist-led courses, workshops and experiences for the public exploring the intersection of art and life.

Dr Sam Aaron, the technical developer of sonic pi, led the workshop and the artists who participated were Richard Healy, Kate Owens, Rob Smith, Chooc Ly Tan and Dan Tombs.

All five artists are embarking on learning new skills in computer programming in order to help them make new work with the Raspberry Pi.



**LET'S HEAR IT:** The workshop on how to make music using a Raspberry Pi. Top, Dr Sam Aaron, research associate with Cambridge University, addresses the audience; above right, Sonny Osman, 13, and his mum Janine Woods

## Did firework cause blaze in copse?

A STRAY firework could have caused an area of trees to go up in flames.

One fire crew from Sutton was called to the blaze in Nelsons Lane, Haddenham, at around 7.05pm on Saturday.

They arrived to find an area of trees approximately 20 square metres well alight and a second crew from Cottenham was called for back-up.

Hose reels were used to extinguish the flames and the fire was finally brought under control at 8.15pm.

Crews were due to re-inspect the site yesterday morning to determine the cause of the blaze.

## Trailer on A10 overturns

A TRACTOR driver had a lucky escape after the trailer he was towing overturned on the A10.

The incident happened at the Grange Lane roundabout in Littleport at around 9.30am on Saturday.

Emergency services attended but nobody was injured. The road was not closed as a result of the incident, although motorists did face minor delays.

Pictures: Warren Gunn



# CODE LIKE A ROCKSTAR



LEARN TO CODE AND MAKE  
MUSIC WITH ((( Sonic  $\pi$  )))  
VISIT [RASPBERRYPI.ORG](https://raspberrypi.org) TO FIND OUT MORE!

BE PART OF THE  
UK'S FIRST EVER  
LIVE CODING  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL!

# SONIC PI

## LIVE & CODING

MUSIC  
TECHNOLOGY  
ART

AT CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION  
MON 28 JUL - FRI 01 AUG  
[JUNCTION.CO.UK](http://JUNCTION.CO.UK)





```
Run ▶ Stop ■ Save ♥ Rec ● Size — Size + Align ⇄ ↻
```

```
1 control archie_ixi, rate: 3  
2 control archie_reverb, room: 0.5  
3 control archie_distort, distort: 0.3  
4 control archie_level, amp: 3  
5  
6 control harvey_ixi, rate: 3  
7 control harvey_distort, distort: 0.00000000000000000001  
8 control harvey_level, amp: 1  
9  
10  
11  
12 in_thread(name: :drum_first){loop{drum_first}}  
13 in_thread(name: :drum_cymbals){loop{drum_cymbals}}  
14 in_thread(name: :drum_snares){loop{drum_snares}}
```

Worksp... Worksp... Worksp... Worksp... Worksp... Worksp... Worksp...

Output  
Start  
Skip  
Skip  
Skip  
[Run 58,  
contr  
contr  
contr  
contr  
contr  
contr  
Stop



# Sonic Pi v2.0

## COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS



### Are you the next Daft Punk?

Make sure there's more than a screwdriver in your sonic toolbox.

Sonic Pi is a way to get creative with music and computing. We're hunting down the UK's best young musical coding talent from outer space: is it you? Create a 2-minute or 200-line piece of music on the theme **Space Wonders** with Sonic Pi v2.0 on a Raspberry Pi, and you could be in with a chance of winning one of hundreds of Raspberry Pi kits for yourself and your school, along with workshops with musical artists Juneau Projects, and with live coder-musician Sam Aaron!

Check out [raspberrypi.org/competitions/sonic-pi](https://raspberrypi.org/competitions/sonic-pi) to find out how to enter.



$\pi)))$   
Sonic Pi

to find out how to enter:  
check out [raspberrypi.org/competitions/sonic-pi](https://raspberrypi.org/competitions/sonic-pi)

coder-musician Sam Aaron,  
musical artists Juneau Projects, and with live  
kits for yourself and your school, along with workshops with  
musical artists Juneau Projects, and with live coder-musician Sam Aaron!



Sonic Pi  
 $\pi)))$

Statement  
Duration

Real  
Time

$\Delta_a$

play :C

$\Delta_a$

$\Delta_b$

play :E

$\Delta_a + \Delta_b$

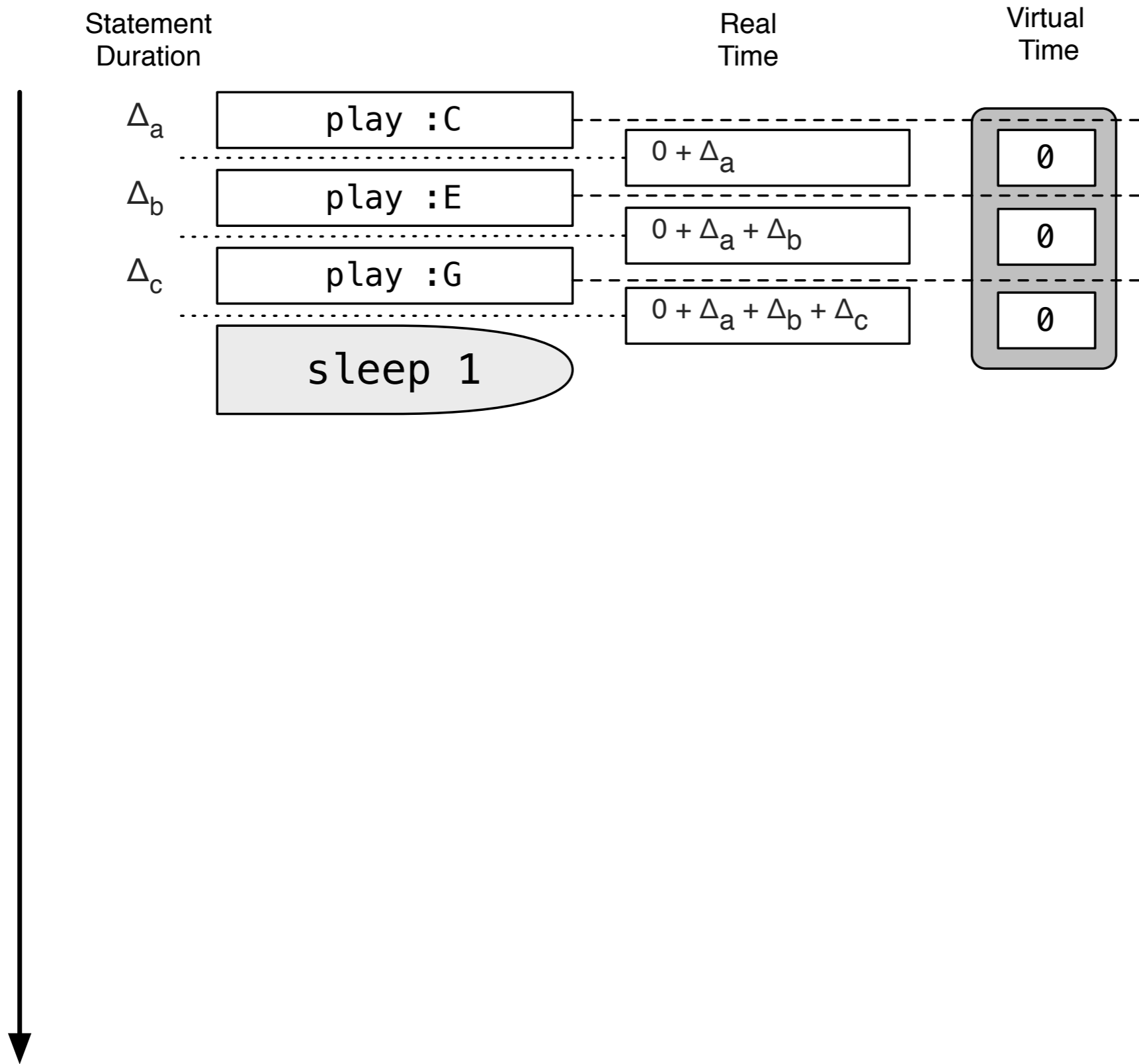
$\Delta_c$

play :G

$\Delta_a + \Delta_b + \Delta_c$

sleep 1





# A formal semantics for sleep

- Abstract interpretation “time system”
- Denotational semantics (via monads)
- Prove “time safety” = prove semantics sound wrt. time system

Paper has the full details

# Simplified Sonic Pi v2.0 syntax

$$P ::= P; S \mid \emptyset$$

$$S ::= E \mid v = E$$

$$E ::= \text{sleep } \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mid A^i \mid v$$

# Time system

$[—]_v$  : virtual time

$$[\emptyset]_v = 0$$

$$[P; v = E]_v = [P]_v + [E]_v$$

$$[\text{sleep } t]_v = t$$

$$[A^i]_v = 0$$

$[—]_t$  : actual time

$$[\emptyset]_t \approx 0$$

$$[P; \text{sleep } t]_t \approx ([P]_v + t) \max [P]_t$$

$$[P; v = A^i]_t \approx [P]_t + [A^i]_t$$

e.g.  $P; \text{sleep } 2$  where  $[P]_t = 1, [P]_v = 0$

$$\therefore [P; \text{sleep } 2]_t = (0 + 2) \max 1 = 2$$

$$[P; \text{sleep } 2]_v = 2$$

# Time system

$[—]_v$  : virtual time

$$[\emptyset]_v = 0$$

$$[P; v = E]_v = [P]_v + [E]_v$$

$$[\text{sleep } t]_v = t$$

$$[A^i]_v = 0$$

$[—]_t$  : actual time

$$[\emptyset]_t \approx 0$$

$$[P; \text{sleep } t]_t \approx ([P]_v + t) \max [P]_t$$

$$[P; v = A^i]_t \approx [P]_t + [A^i]_t$$

e.g.  $P; \text{sleep } 1$  where  $[P]_t = 2, [P]_v = 0$

$$\therefore [P; \text{sleep } 1]_t = (0 + 1) \max 2 = 2$$

$$[P; \text{sleep } 1]_v = 1$$

# *Time system*

$[—]_v$  : virtual time

$$[\emptyset]_v = 0$$

$$[P; v = E]_v = [P]_v + [E]_v$$

$$[\text{sleep } t]_v = t$$

$$[A^i]_v = 0$$

$[—]_t$  : actual time

$$[\emptyset]_t \approx 0$$

$$[P; \text{sleep } t]_t \approx ([P]_v + t) \max [P]_t$$

$$[P; v = A^i]_t \approx [P]_t + [A^i]_t$$

**Lemma 1.** *For any program  $P$  then  $[P]_t \geq [P]_v$ .*

# Denotational semantics



# Denotational semantics

- State for *virtual time*
- Read only *actual time* (updated from OS)

`Temporal a = (start time, current time) →`  
`(old vtime → (a, new vtime))`

$\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\text{top}} : \text{Temporal } ()$

- Paper describes core semantics with Haskell

`Temporal a = (Time, Time) →`  
`(VTime → IO (a, VTime))`

# *Time safety*

soundness of the denotational semantics

- wrt. virtual time

**Lemma 2.**  $[runTime \llbracket P \rrbracket]_v = \llbracket P \rrbracket_v$

- wrt. actual time (modulo constant sequential overhead)

**Lemma 3.**  $[runTime \llbracket P \rrbracket]_t \approx \llbracket P \rrbracket_t$

# Temporal monad for you?

- Reusable for other purposes
- Code online (<http://github.com/dorchard/temporal-monad>)
- Generalisations to applicative functor & monoid
- Over-run warnings (hard & soft)