Working with audio

Electronic Music II

Spring 2013

1. Introducing panning (mono)
	1. To create panning, we will begin with two elements:
		1. a sound source (a sawtooth oscillator at 120 Hz)
		2. a volume control (a float box)



* 1. To avoid creating distortion from turning our source up too high, and to constrain the value to 0 or higher, we adjust the following settings for the float box in the Inspector:
		1. minimum : set to 0.
		2. maximum : set to 1.
		3. Note : remember to add a decimal point after the number (so, 0., 1.). This will make sure that Max handles the object with float values (ie, with decimal places).
	2. Create a *dac~* and a toggle object. Connect the outlet of *\*~* to both inlets of *dac~*.



* 1. We now have a mono source, being controlled in amplitude, and then sent at that amplitude to both stereo channels.
	2. In order to **pan** a mono source, we need to have a second volume control.



* 1. We can now control the amplitude of each channel independently.
	2. To more fully recreate panning in the style of a mixing board, we need to link the value of the two volume controls. We can do this with some basic math objects.



* 1. Some notes about this new setup:
		1. I have introduced the ***–*** object and the *abs* object. *–* performs subtraction, and *abs* returns the absolute value of anything passed to its inlet.
		2. Notice that I have added an argument for *-*, and that it has a decimal following it. This causes the calculation to be done with decimal places. Likewise, for *abs* I have added an argument to enable decimal places.
		3. I have arranged the new objects so that the **right** channel is being adjusted from 0 – 1, and the **left** channel will mirror this adjustment. When the right channel amplitude = 1, the left channel will = 0, in other words the signal will be panned 100% to the right. Setting the amplitude to 0.5 will pan the signal center.
1. Panning (stereo)
	1. If we expand our mono panning setup by adding a second mono source, we get the following:



* 1. In this setup, we hear either right, left, or a mix by some percentage.
	2. To recreate stereo panning, where each channel is treated independently, essentially we need to recreate our mono panning setup for **both** of our sources. However, there is a flaw hidden in this approach (demo).



* 1. If we adjust the panning anywhere away from center on either setup, one of the stereo channels will be receiving a total amplitude greater than 1. This causes distortion.