

Synesthetic Games and Entertainment

By Michael Weber

What is Synesthesia?

- * Greek σύν (syn), "together," and αἴσθησις (aisthēsis), "sensation"
- * Synesthesia actually refers to a neurologically-based disorder where one stimulation of a sensation leads to an involuntary experience of a second sensation.



GOOD NEWS EVERYONE!

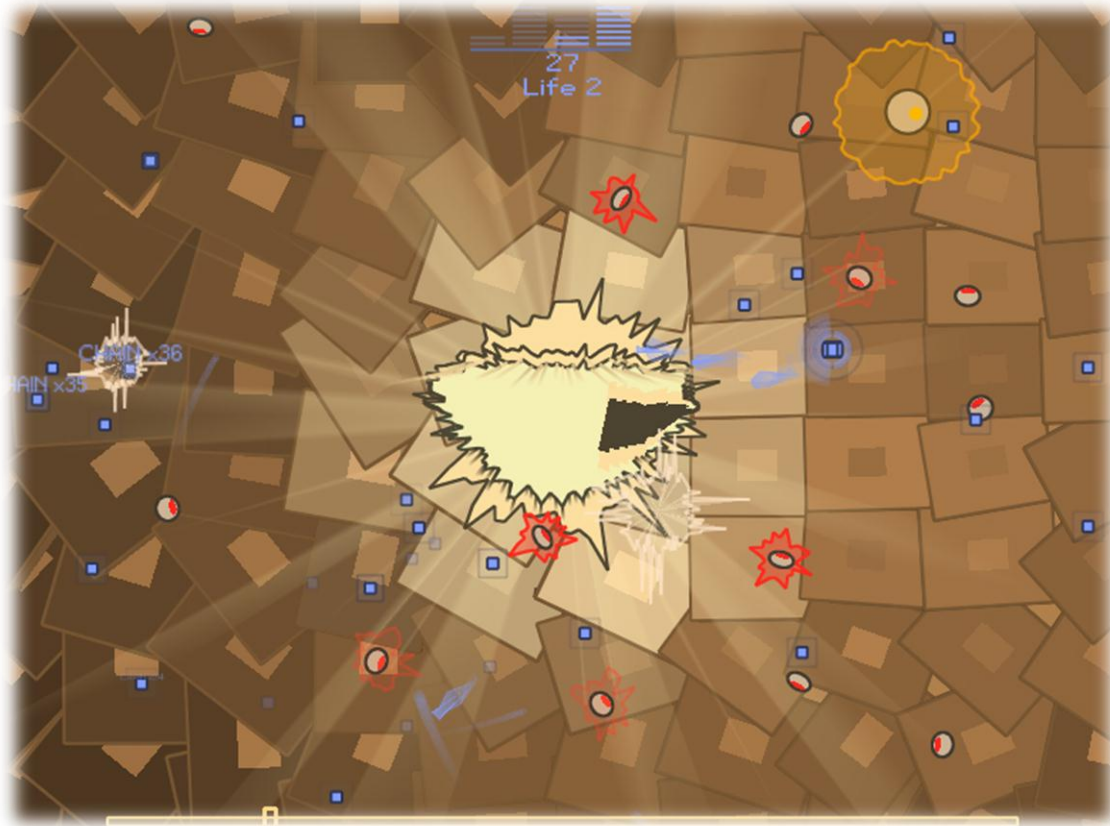
I've invented a device which makes you read this in your head, in my voice!

What does that have to do with Games?

- * Although many people believe games will give children seizures, a synesthetic game is not trying to force an involuntary sensation, but rather explore a new way of blending movement, sound, and visual effects.
- * Many games considered synesthetic usually have rewards for actions based on visuals and music.

Everyday Shooter

- * A multidirectional shooter released on Playstation Network.
- * Similar in game to that of geometry wars.
- * Enemies destroyed create musical notes.
- * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmpADoFDF0s>



Bit Trip Beat

- * A pong style game.
- * Each object reflected creates a musical note.
- * Available on WiiWare.
- * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6cjZF7m6fU>



What makes these different?

- * Based on the case studies, the games are not simulations like that of Guitar Hero and Rock Band.
- * The games have the player interact with the game and view music in a different manner than what they are used to.



AudioSurf



Guitar Hero

Food for thought, or music.



- * Most games developed for synesthetic gameplay involve flashy lights and musical rewards.
- * The entertainment can be viewed in the same sense.
- * A synesthetic musical perform will play upon visuals and audio stimulation.

Sorry no performance

- * As much as I like musical theater, this presentation will remain on video and computer games.
- * Other synesthetic games include:
 - * Rez(PS2, DC)
 - * AudioSurf(PC)
 - * Flower(PS3)
 - * Auditorium(iPhone, PC)

Question comments or concerns?

References

- * Synesthetic blog by Jeff Schenning
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- * AudioSurf Ref. Picture <http://techreport.com/discussions.x/16412>
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