

# 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!**

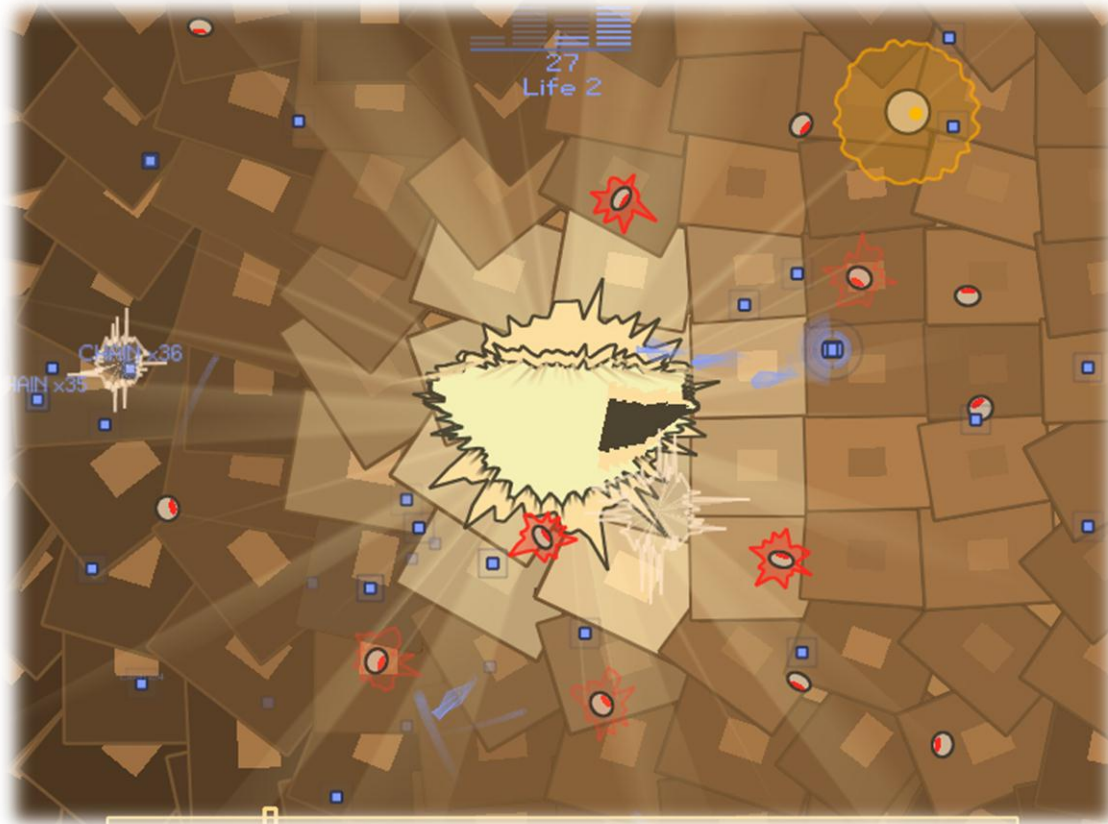
I've invented a device which makes you read this in your head, in my voice!

# 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>

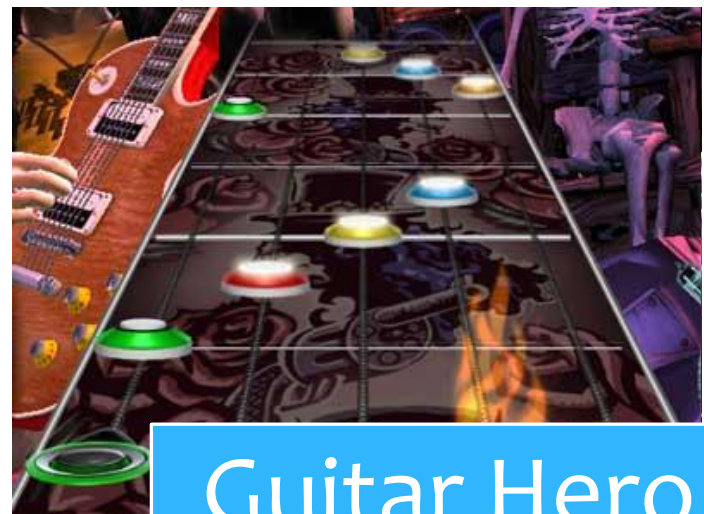


# What makes these different?

- \* 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  
<http://www.1up.com/do/blogEntry?bId=9023900>
- \* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synesthesia>
- \* Blue man group picture  
<http://www.1up.com/do/blogEntry?bId=9023900>
- \* Bit Trip Beat Picture  
<http://www.firehosegames.com/2009/04/bittrip-beat-pong-meets-rock-band/>
- \* Guitar Hero Ref. Picture  
<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/guitar-hero.htm/printable>
- \* AudioSurf Ref. Picture <http://techreport.com/discussions.x/16412>
- \* Futurama Ref. Picture  
<http://img228.imageshack.us/i/poster76222685cs7.jpg/>