School of Computer Science

MSc Defence

Monday May 7, 2018 at 12:30 PM in MacKinnon, Room 306

Curtis Rasmussen

The Usability of Software Synthesizers: An Analysis and First Approach

Chair: Dr. Fangju Wang
Advisor: Dr. Blair Nonnecke
Advisory Committee Member: Dr. Daniel Gillis
Non-Advisory Committee Member: Dr. Rozita Dara

ABSTRACT:

Software synthesizers are playing an increasingly large role in the production of modern day music. However, they remain largely ignored in the literature. This thesis used user evaluations in order to investigate the challenges novice user face when first using software synthesizers. Participants with music experience were recruited to participate in a two-part performance based usability test. Two software synthesizers were compared, with each participant using one of the two. After each part, the participants were asked to complete a survey to later evaluate their experience. An analysis of the data was to start building a taxonomy of software synthesizer controls, as well as identify the strengths and failings of these controls in the beginning stages of use.