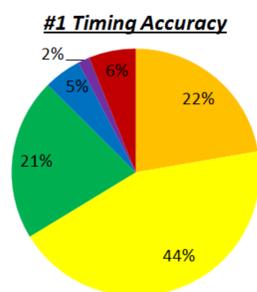
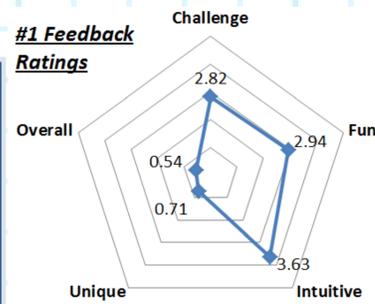
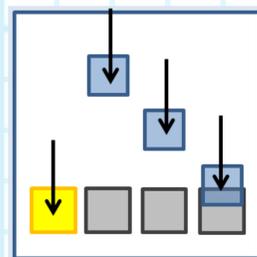


# Designing Rhythm Game Interfaces for Touchscreen Devices

Philip Peng, Faculty Advisor: Stephen H. Lane

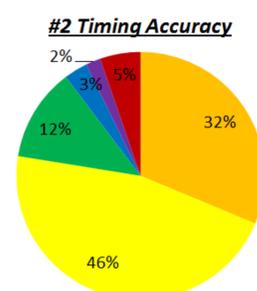
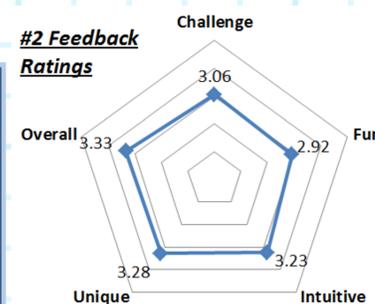
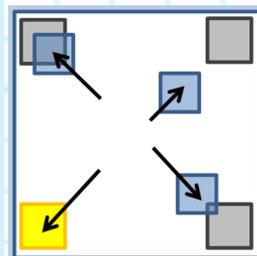
<http://beatsportable.com>

## Design 1: Fall



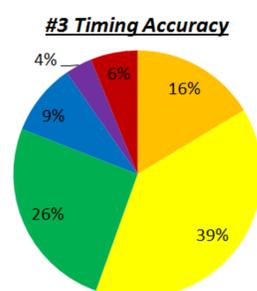
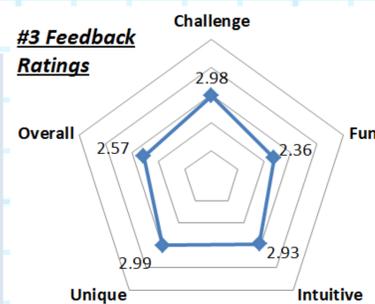
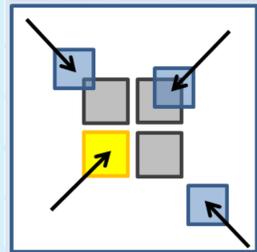
Moving notes fall toward fixed hitboxes from top to bottom  
Rhythm Games: *Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Beatmania IIDX*

## Design 2: Spread



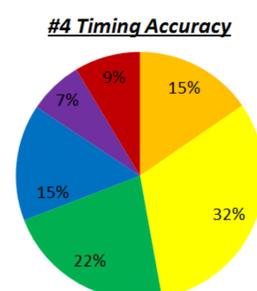
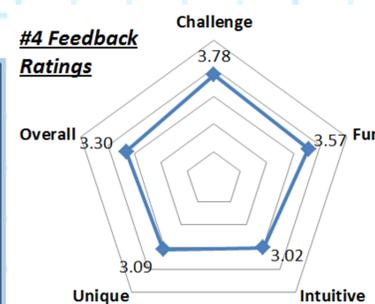
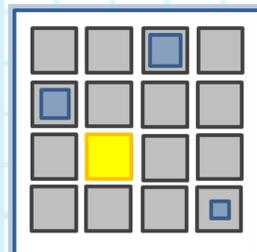
Moving notes slide toward fixed hitboxes from centre to corners  
Rhythm Games: *none*

## Design 3: Focus



Moving notes slide toward fixed hitboxes from corners to centre  
Rhythm Games: *Gitaroo Man Lives!, Hatsune Miku: Project DIVA*

## Design 4: Grid



Expanding notes grow in fixed hitboxes at grid points  
Rhythm Games: *jubeats*

### Abstract:

This project focuses on comparing different user interface designs for rhythm games on touchscreen devices. This is accomplished through the development of prototype rhythm games and analyzing collecting gameplay data.

### Implementation:

"Beats2 Prototypes", a rhythm game designed for Android tablets, was published on Google Play. This poster presents the eight interface designs prototyped in the app and their respective data collection summaries.

### Timing Accuracy:

During gameplay, note hits are assigned timing accuracy values based on the difference between expected and actual note hit times. The distribution of these values reflect on how the user interface affects the *user responsiveness*.

A high percent of "MARVELOUS" and "PERFECT" values means that the interface allows for accurate visual recognition (of note/tapbox elements) and high user reactivity (note tapping action).

### Feedback Ratings:

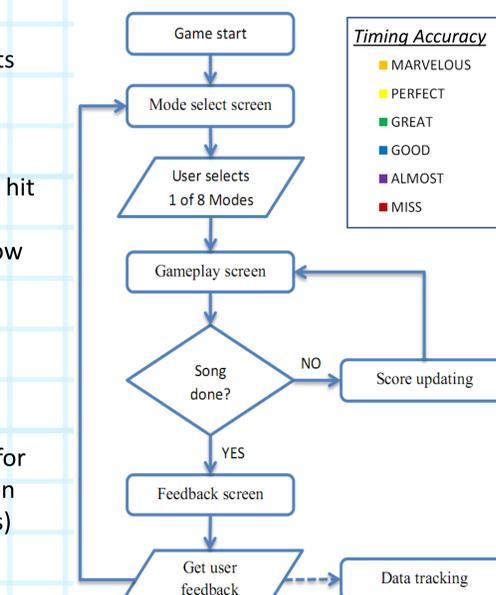
At the end of a song, the user is prompt to give qualitative feedback ratings on a 1-5 star scale. These star ratings reflect on various aspects of the *gameplay experience*.

- **Challenge:** Difficulty of gameplay. More difficult = higher skill ceiling.
- **Intuitive:** Usage learning curve. More intuitive = higher reactivity.
- **Fun:** Game enjoyability. More fun = more returning users.
- **Unique:** Novelty of design. More unique = more first time users.
- **Overall:** General evaluation of gameplay experience.

### Conclusion:

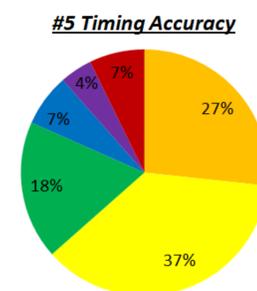
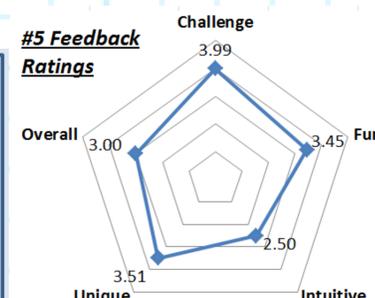
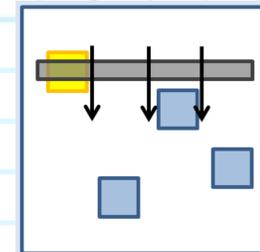
Based on these results, each interface design was ranked relative to each other in terms of user responsiveness and gameplay experience.

Of the eight designs studied, Design #2 is the best candidate for usage in future rhythm game development.



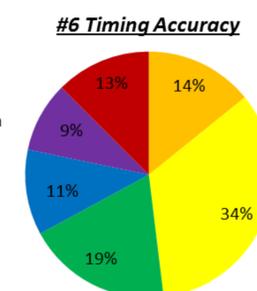
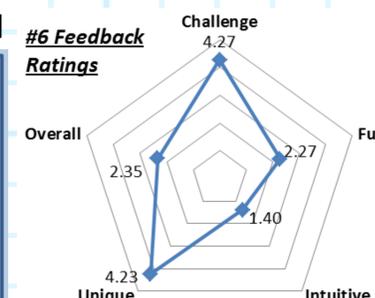
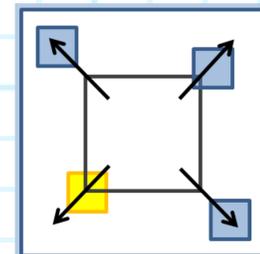
Design	User Responsiveness	Gameplay Experience
#1: Falling Notes	Great	Bad
#2: Spreading Notes	Great	Great
#3: Focusing Notes	Good	Good
#4: Grid	Poor	Great
#5: Sliding Hitbox	Good	Good
#6: Expanding Hitbox	Poor	Poor
#7: Collapsing Hitbox	Bad	Bad
#8: Appearing	Poor	Great

## Design 5: Slide



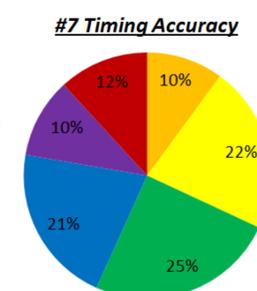
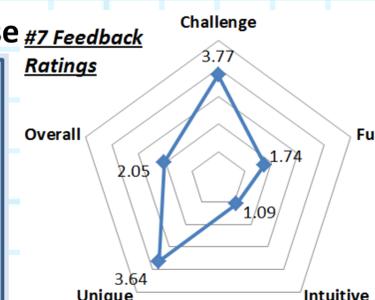
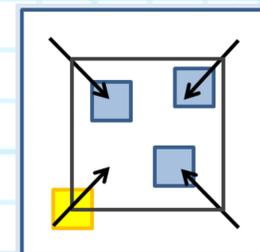
Moving hitbox fall toward fixed notes appearing from top to bottom  
Rhythm Games: *DJMax Technika*

## Design 6: Expand



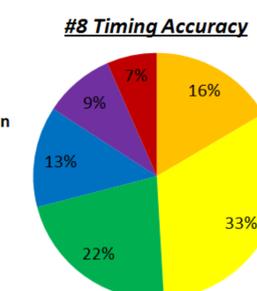
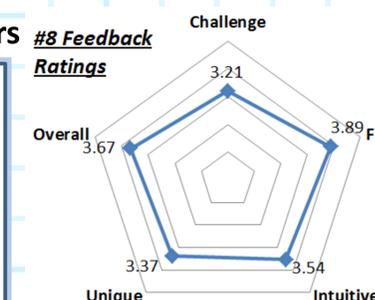
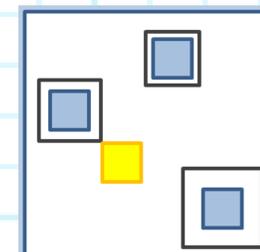
Expanding hitbox grows toward fixed notes from centre to corners  
Rhythm Games: *none*

## Design 7: Collapse



Collapsing hitbox shrink toward fixed notes from corners to centre  
Rhythm Games: *none*

## Design 8: Appears



Collapsing hitboxes shrink around fixed notes appearing at grid points  
Rhythm Games: *Osu! Tatakae! Ouendan!*

