The Assignment

Working in pairs, develop a program that causes the Scribbler2 robot to play a song or melody at least thirty seconds long. Within the program, eSpeak should be used to deliver a text announcement that introduces the song (by title and composer, for instance). We encourage creativity, though not inaccuracy, in identifying a song or melody.

I’ll collect the programs in hard copy at the beginning of class on Friday, February 5. Please print them out by then. One way to get a printed copy, with fancy formatting, is to open a terminal window and ask the shell to run the `a2ps` program on your file. By default, the workstations in our classroom will send the output to the printer named `duerer` in Noyce 3810. Print jobs go through PaperCut, so you’ll need your student ID to pick them up.

You can adjust the formatting conventions that `a2ps` uses when printing C programs by using some of the numerous command-line options. The manual page explains them pretty well.

We’re still working on a mechanism for submitting programs electronically without sharing them to the world. Until that’s ready, just include the full pathname of your program in the opening comment, and I’ll pull a copy directly from inside your home directory.

A Digression on Musical Scales

One of the students in the class pointed out that the pitches for the chromatic scale given in Monday’s handout sound a little off-key, partly because they are calculated on the principle of “equal temperament,” forcing the ratios between adjacent notes in that scale to be uniformly equal, and partly because the pitches are all rounded off to the nearest integer to satisfy the preconditions of the `rBeep` function, which requires its second (pitch) argument to be of type `int`.

Before the principle of equal temperament was discovered, every musical instrument was tuned to a particular key, and the pitches of the notes in the scale for that key were chosen to be small integer ratios of its tonic note. (This is called “just temperament.”) For instance, if the “do” at the bottom of the scale had a pitch of 360 hertz, the “sol” would be pitched at 540 hertz, because the ratio of 540 to 360 is the small integer ratio 3/2.

Here’s a “just temperament” scale based on small integer ratios:

```
do  360
re  405
mi  450
fa  480
sol  540
la  600
ti  675
do  720
```
Remember that you can raise any note by an octave by doubling its pitch.

You may find that traditional songs sound slightly better if you use these pitches and others related to them by small integer ratios. (For instance, if you need the note “si,” which is a whole step down from “do,” between “la” and “ti,” 640 hertz might be a good choice.) On the other hand, some combinations of notes at these pitches are “clinkers” that will sound even worse than the equal-temperament versions. Feel free to experiment!