



AES Technical Committee on Spatial Audio



Notes from the meeting of the TC at the 132nd AES Convention, Budapest

Date: 27.04.2012, 10:00-11:00

Meeting Chair: Sascha Spors

Participants:

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Upcoming Trends Report

The upcoming trends report on spatial audio edited by the TC was published in the Jan/Feb 2012 Journal of the AES.

Technical Council Forum

For the TC, a discussion forum is provided on the website of the AES. You can reach the forum via “My Member Portal” when logged in on the AES website or by the direct link <https://secure.aes.org/forum/tc/sa/>.

Activities at the 132nd AES Convention related to the TC

The workshop “Open Questions in Spatial Audio” hosted by Karlheinz Brandenburg discussed various actual aspects of spatial audio and its perception. Panelists were David Griesinger, Frank Melchior and Stefan Werner. The workshop “Spatial Sound Reproduction with Height” hosted by Frank Melchior discussed the actual trends in spatial audio including elevated speakers and sources. Panelists were Jan-Mark Batke, Kimio Hamasaki, Michael Kelly, Stephan Mauer, Norbert Niemczyk, Jan Plogsties and Nicolas Tsingos. The workshop “Active Acoustics Today” was hosted by Wieslaw Woszczyk. Panelists were Leo de Klerk, Doyuen Ko and Karoly Molnar. All workshops were well attended.

Upcoming events

The following upcoming events have been announced by the chairs/participants:

- 133rd AES Convention, San Francisco. Proposal deadline: 2012 May 23.
- 49th International Conference, Audio for Games, Feb. 2013, London. Call for Papers will be published in the next Journal of the AES.
- Digital Audio Effects (DAFx), Sept. 2012, York.
- 5th International Symposium on Ambisonics and Spherical Harmonics, Berlin 2014.

Proposals for Workshops/Tutorials/Special Sessions

- Workshop “Definition of Objects in Spatial Audio” (Frank Melchior)
- Workshop “Sound Design Tools” (Wieslaw Woszczyk)
- Workshop “Reproducible Research in Audio” (Sascha Spors)
- Tutorial “Introduction into Ambisonics Panning” (Franz Zotter)
- Special Session “Psychoacoustics and spatial audio” (Sascha Spors)

The proposals will be submitted to the 133rd Convention and the upcoming European convention.

Specification/Standardization of an Ambisonics file format

Franz Zotter reported ongoing work towards the specification and implementation of a file format for higher-order Ambisonics. The file format evolved from a proposal discussed at the first Ambisonics Symposium in Graz 2009. The specification is published in a paper presented at the 3rd Ambisonics Symposium in Kentucky 2011. Besides the specification of the format, also an open-source library will be provided to read/write files. The question was discussed if the format should be standardized within the AES. Michael Kelly noted that standards typically evolve from requests coming from the industry or other user groups. It was concluded that it should be tried to form a group of supporters if standardization within the AES is envisaged.

Other Topics

- The 5th AES UK Conference: Spatial Audio in Today’s 3D World in association with the 4th International Symposium on Ambisonics and Spherical Harmonics took place in March 2012 at the University of York. Michael Kelly reported that the conference was well attended and provided variety of interesting presentations.
- The slides of the workshops should be provided to the members of the AES. The TC requests the chairs/participants to send their slides to the chairs of the TC who will then upload them to the website of the TC.
- A workshop entitled “API for Spatial Audio Frameworks” was proposed by Fritz Menzer. It was discussed amongst the participants if there is a need for such a workshop. It was concluded that the proposal should be refined.
- The Spatial Audio Glossary is still work in progress. Members of the TC are invited to contribute. Please contact Sascha Spors.