

November 8, 2023 - TC-MLAI Meeting Minutes

Chairs in attendance: Brecht De Man, Christian Uhle, Gordon Wichern

Other attendees:

- Flavio Everardo
- Jean-Marc Jot
- Christian Steinmetz
- Shahan Nercessian
- Teri Grossheim
- Nyssim Lefford
- Rafael Kassier
- Emilia Stefanowska
- Brent Harshbarger
- Jan Skoglund
- Thaddeus Paez
- Katia Sochaczewska
- Pablo Delgado

+ Others (sorry if we missed your name)

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Merging with TC on Semantic Audio Analysis - **Christian U.** (5 min.)
- AES 155 Recap (20 min.)
 - We got an AI track (Thanks Brecht)
 - AI Town Hall Recap - **Nyssim**
 - Other comments/reviews from attendees
- Plans for the Upcoming Year (30 min.)
 - Summer 2024 AI in Audio Conference - **Christian S.** (5-10 min.)
 - TC-MLAI Student Division - **Emilia** (5-10 min.)
 - Simulation of listening collaboration with the TC-PSEAS - **Pablo** (5-10 min.)
 - Revisit list of past proposals
 - Any new additions? (5-10 min.)
 - Open Discussion - **All** (Time permitting)

Notes

- **Merging with TC on Semantic Audio Analysis**
 - A proposal is underway to merge TC-SAA with TC-MLAI. After a successful history, including organizing multiple AES workshops, as part of the proposal to

streamline and better organize the AES Technical Council, and to decrease the workload of current TC-SAA chair (and TC-MLAI founding co-chair) Christian Uhle, the TC-SAA will become a sub-committee of TC-MLAI. No objections to this plan were raised during the TC-SAA meeting, and TC-MLAI members were also excited about the proposal.

- **AES 155 Recap**

- Thanks to Brecht's efforts there was a dedicated AI track at the recently completed New York convention. There were about 7 papers and 5 panel discussions explicitly focused on ML/AI, which we consider an early success. Three of the panels were sponsored by TC-MLAI members:
 - *AI For Multitrack Music Mixing* – well attended despite the early time slot on the first day of the convention, with good interaction during the Q&A. Plan to post slides on TC website.
 - *Can AI-based methods revamp audio coding?* – also well attended despite the last time slot on the last day. Interesting Q&A discussion on evaluation with AI models generating audio. This was a joint proposal with the Technical Committee on the Coding of Audio Signals. The plan is to post the slides on that TC page and potentially on the TC-MLAI page as well.
 - *AI Town Hall sponsored by TC-MLAI* – details below
- AI Town Hall Recap
 - The goal of this event was to take the temperature of the AES community related to AI tools in creative production, with the goal of finding ways the TC-MLAI can contribute. The event was well attended and the audience contributed many interactive comments. Additionally, a pre-event survey (approximately 60 responses) and list of pre-event resources was compiled. In general the tone at the event was positive and excited about AI/ML technology in audio. Slides will be posted on the TC website, and a more detailed debrief will be created once the recording of the event is obtained from the AES (minimum 6 weeks after the convention). Big thanks to Nyssim for leading organization of this event.

- **Plans for the Upcoming Year**

- Summer 2024 AI in Audio Conference
 - TC-MLAI members Christian Steinmetz and Jonathan Wyner are planning to co-chair an AI/ML in Audio event sometime in June 2024 (potential conflict with 2024 AES European convention was mentioned) in Boston, MA USA hosted at Berklee College of Music. This event is a sequel of <https://www.aes.org/events/2020/learning/>, the event which led to the formation of TC-MLAI. Current thinking is the event will be two days long and will not have a proceedings. Anyone interested in contributing to this event should contact Christian.
- MLAI Student Division

- Created by Emilia Stefanowska the MLAI Student Division is a Discord space for students and professional mentors to collaborate on audio ML projects. Website has launched: <https://www.aistudentdivision.com/>. First meeting will be soon, all are encouraged to join as a mentor or student participant. Synergies and connections with existing AES organizations such as DEI mentoring and student groups are currently being explored. Many good contacts were suggested to Emilia during the meeting.
 - Potential Collaboration with the Technical Committee on Perceptual and Subjective Evaluation of Audio Signals (TC-PSEAS)
 - Pablo Delgado is interested in organizing a workshop around simulation of listening, computational models of human hearing for automated “subjective” evaluation etc. This could include applications in audio coding and source separation. Could be related to the Perceptual loss function workshop organized by Gerald Schuller at AES 2022 (<https://www.aes.org/technical/documentDownloads.cfm?docID=774>).
 - There was additional discussion on this topic related to the availability of open source datasets, and how objective metrics and high resolution audio topics could be combined with TC-PSEAS to create a TC on quality.
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 - Revisit list of past proposals
 - Everyone is encouraged to add their name to proposals in this list (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RoXDWapDwMRvdI_30TgF4YaE4RFa6sZ4ayvAXIHLC80/edit), and welcome to contact all those interested in a similar topic to organize an event.
 - The role of the TC in sponsoring workshops
 - Anyone planning to organize a workshop is asked to let the TC know of the topic, either by mailing the chairs or the list. This will ensure merging of related proposals, and can help with finding co-organizers.
 - There was some discussion on the impact and requirements of TC sponsorship of convention proposals. This is still recommended, but we’re unsure how much it matters.
- **Action items**
 - All members are encouraged to join the Discord server setup by Rafael. Please reach out to one of the chairs to obtain access if you didn’t catch it in the meeting chat. – **All Members**
 - Create a summary of the AI Town Hall once the recording is available – **Nyssim, Keith, Jonathan, Gordon**
 - Post slides from the AES 155 workshops to the TC webpage – **Gordon, Brecht, Jan**