AES Technical Committee on Multichannel and Binaural Audio Technology

Notes from the meeting held in Munich at the 126th Convention
May 7-10, 2009

Chair: Ville Pulkki
Co-Chair: JJ Johnston

Resignation and Replacement of Chair/Co-Chair – The current chair of the committee Sean Olive resigned from the position.
Attendee Introductions and Interests – Attendees had an opportunity to introduce themselves and express their interest in the Spatial Audio TC, and identify what the main issues and immerging trends are in this area. There was representation from the academic institutions, gaming console and software manufacturers, Film TV/Production, and from smaller-scale audio industry.

Proposals for Upcoming Workshops/Tutorials – AES127
Some possibilities were discussed, but nothing definite was settled after all. Please contact JJ Johnston on this topic, if an idea of workshop/tutorial idea emerges.
– AES128
Ville Pulkki was planning already for AES126 a workshop with title "Time-Frequency processing of Spatial Audio". That did not happen, mainly because some practical misconceptions. The same topic is targeted for AES128 in London, with key talkers Christof Faller, Jean-Marc Jot, and Ville Pulkki.

Proposals for Upcoming AES Conferences

Kimio Hamasaki described the international conference proposal with title "Spatial Audio" shown to AES Conference Policy Committee in AES126. The conference was accepted in Conference Policy Committee, and is foreseen to take place in Tokyo in August 2010.

Ville Pulkki described the pre-proposal for international conference on "Applications of Time-Frequency Processing in Audio". The conference is targeted to cover different audio applications of time-frequency processing, including

spatial audio, audio analysis and effecting, and coding of audio. If the conference is finally approved, it will happen in Helsinki, Finland, year 2012.

Ambisonics Symposium

Franz Zotter made a note on Ambisonics Symposium happening in Graz, Austria, June 25-27 2009. The subject matter is on different issues in higher-order Ambisonics. There will be some effort to standardize an Ambisonics-specific file format.

Discussion on possible AES standard on capture/reproduction metadata

The TC discussed on possibility to make a proposal for AES standardization on metadata format, which could store various technical and artistic details of a multi- or single-channel recording. The metadata would describe the recording setup for later use in mixing or processing. The information would be stored in the level of details that the user sees appropriate. The metadata would be able to store the knowledge on recording room, microphones, microphone techniques, amplifiers, all parameters and settings in the recording gear, and the information of the recording rooms. The idea would be, that in mixing phase the audio engineer would receive much more knowledge of each microphone channel than he earlier did. The users for this format would be audio engineers in practical recording, education, and in science. It was also discussed if the metadata should cover also reproduction site, as if the audio channels could also be loudspeaker signals. Pulkki will lead the development of first draft of the proposal with some TC members.

Meeting Attendees: 15 members or visitors attended the meeting.

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Ville Pulkki