Minutes of the AES Technical Committee on Coding of Audio Signals

1) The meeting was called to order after the 155th AES Convention, as a virtual meeting over Zoom, at 10:00 EDT, Monday October 30, 2023 by Jan Skoglund, Vice Chair.
After adding one item about the on-site meeting to the agenda it was approved, as shown in Annex 1. The chair welcomed attendees, shown in Annex 2.

2) Review of activities at the AES Fall Convention 2023

- Workshop on neural audio coding
  Jan Skoglund organized a workshop on the emerging area of ML-based audio coding. The event was well-attended, 50+ people, and contained short presentations from Jan, Minje Kim from Indiana University and Lars Villemoes from Dolby. The slides from the presentations were collected and uploaded to the TC web site by Juergen. The presentations sparked a discussion lasting long after the workshop was over.

- On-site meeting
  Juergen Herre had successfully coordinated with the conference organizers to allocate a meeting room at the Javits center, and we invited people attending the conference in person to join for an informal TC meeting. About 15 people joined the meeting - some former TC members, some current TC members, some new members, and some people who were just generally interested in figuring out what the TC is all about. There was a brief introduction on the general mission of the TC followed by a good discussion about the Perceptual Audio Coding tutorial, for example some proposals of potential additions such as binaural rendering of spatial audio.

- Anything else?
  This convention's Heyser Lecture was given by Richard King, Grammy Award winning recording engineer who also teaches at MgGill University in Montreal, Canada. The TC members who saw the lecture agreed it was one of the best Heyser Lectures, very entertaining with nice anecdotes from a long recording career.

3) Review of / proposals for activities at conventions, conferences, workshops, etc
An idea was brought up to do a repeat of the neural audio coding workshop at the upcoming AES EU Convention in Madrid, June 15-17, 2024. Jan will look into whether it will be possible for the other presenters, or potentially other presenters, to attend the convention.

4) Discussion about a potential audio coding conference in 2025
The AES conference policy committee has inquired whether the TC could organize a conference on audio coding, remarking that the last one was held over twenty years ago. The topic was discussed and the consensus was that it would likely be difficult to gather the required ~200 participants on "pure" audio coding and it would need to be wider in scope, for example including immersive audio, XR, AI for coding (e.g., generative audio), and/or communication. The most plausible way to do such a conference is to organize it in collaboration with other AES TCs, such as the TC on ML and AI in Audio or the TC on Perception and Subjective Evaluation. A very important thing is to find volunteers eager to organize the conference.

5) Other business
It was discussed how to attract new members to the TC. Pablo proposed to reach out to fellow students who have published good work in the area, and Jan will also reach out to students attending the on-site meeting.
Juergen reminded us that the TC can recommend awards and has successfully done so in the past.

6) The next meeting will happen in conjunction with the upcoming AES EU Convention in June

7) The TC meeting was adjourned at 10:58 EDT.

Annex 1 - Agenda

1) Approval of agenda & opening remarks
2) Review of activities at AES Fall Convention 2023
    - Workshop on neural audio coding
    - On-site meeting
    - Anything else?
3) Review of / proposals for activities at upcoming conventions, conferences, workshops etc.
4) Discussion about a potential audio coding conference in 2025
5) Other business
6) Next meeting
7) Closing of the meeting

Annex 2 - Attendees

Jürgen Herre
Jan Skoglund
Pablo Delgado
Sascha Dick
Gerald Schuller
Karlheinz Brandenburg
Thomas Sporer
Frederick Nagel
Arijit Biswas
Heiko Purnhagen