

MPEG-7 Audio: Tools for Semantic Audio Description and Processing

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Overview

- Why semantic description & metadata?
- Why standardization?
- The MPEG-7 Standard
- MPEG-7 Audio
 - Tools
 - Some Applications
- How about semantic audio processing?
- Where do we stand today?
- The future ...



Why Semantic Description & Metadata?

Some Context

- Age of Multimedia: Drowning in data!
Rapid growth of available A/V material on world wide scale □ WWW/Internet !

Challenges



- How to enable efficient search, filtering, management of multimedia content ?
- Today: Text search (e.g. popular search engines, such as Google, Yahoo, Lycos, ...)

Vision



- “Find images / movies / audio just as easily by simple intuitive queries”!
- Intelligent search & navigation

Why Semantic Description & Metadata? (2)

Approach

- Supplement A/V data with Content Description (Metadata = “data about data”)
 - Key to efficient content handling!

Descriptions

- enable search & retrieval / filtering
- enable intelligent navigation
- summarization
- ...

2 Key Areas of Development

- Efficient automatic production and usage of descriptive metadata
- Standardization of metadata formats



Why Standardization?

Imagine there is ...

- metadata available for the existing A/V resources (e.g. on the web)
- a common way of representing semantics
 - which key parameters to use
 - how to represent & “package” them

Then ...

- *any* multimedia application could use & exploit these resources!! (incl. search & recommendation engines, user agents, ...)

Key Aspect

- Interoperability between metadata DBs and applications on a world wide scale
- Standardization!



MPEG-7 or: “This is not about source coding!”

MPEG

“Moving Pictures Expert Group”,
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11

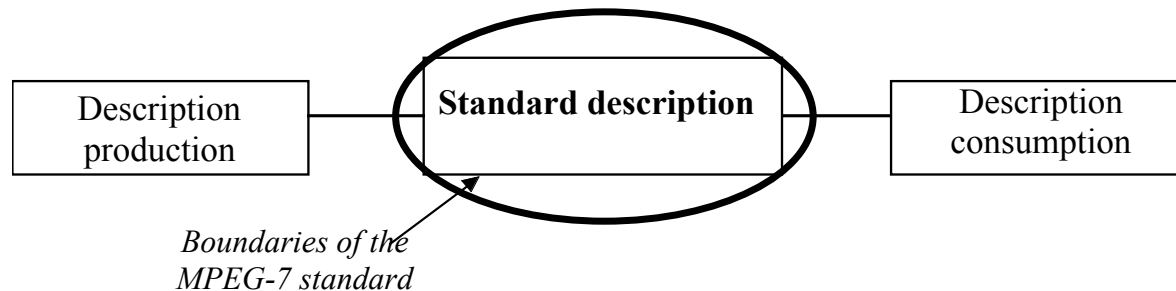
- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| MPEG-1 (1992) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First generic audio coding standard, Layers 1-3, (DAB, Worldspace, DVB, Internet Audio, “MP3”) |
| MPEG-2 (1994) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extending MPEG-1 coders towards lower sampling rates & multi-channel... |
| MPEG-2 AAC (1997) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More powerful mono ... multi-channel coding |
| MPEG-4 (1999+) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New functionalities (scalability, object oriented representation, interactivity ...) |
| MPEG-7 (2001+) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Multimedia Content Description Interface” Metadata standard (<u>not</u> compression!) |



The MPEG-7 Standard

Scope

- Standardization of “description language”:



- Description language based on XML / XML Schema (and binary versions of it)
- Provides elaborated concepts for describing
 - Generic properties of AV data (“metadata”)
 - Visual data (content-derived)
 - Audio data (content-derived)

unique!

MPEG-7 & MPEG-7 Audio

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11 IS 15938
“Multimedia Content Description Interface”:

Part 1

- Systems

Part 2

- Description Definition Language (DDL)

Part 3

- Visual

Part 4

- Audio

Part 5

- Multimedia Description Schemes

Part 6

- Reference Software

Part 7

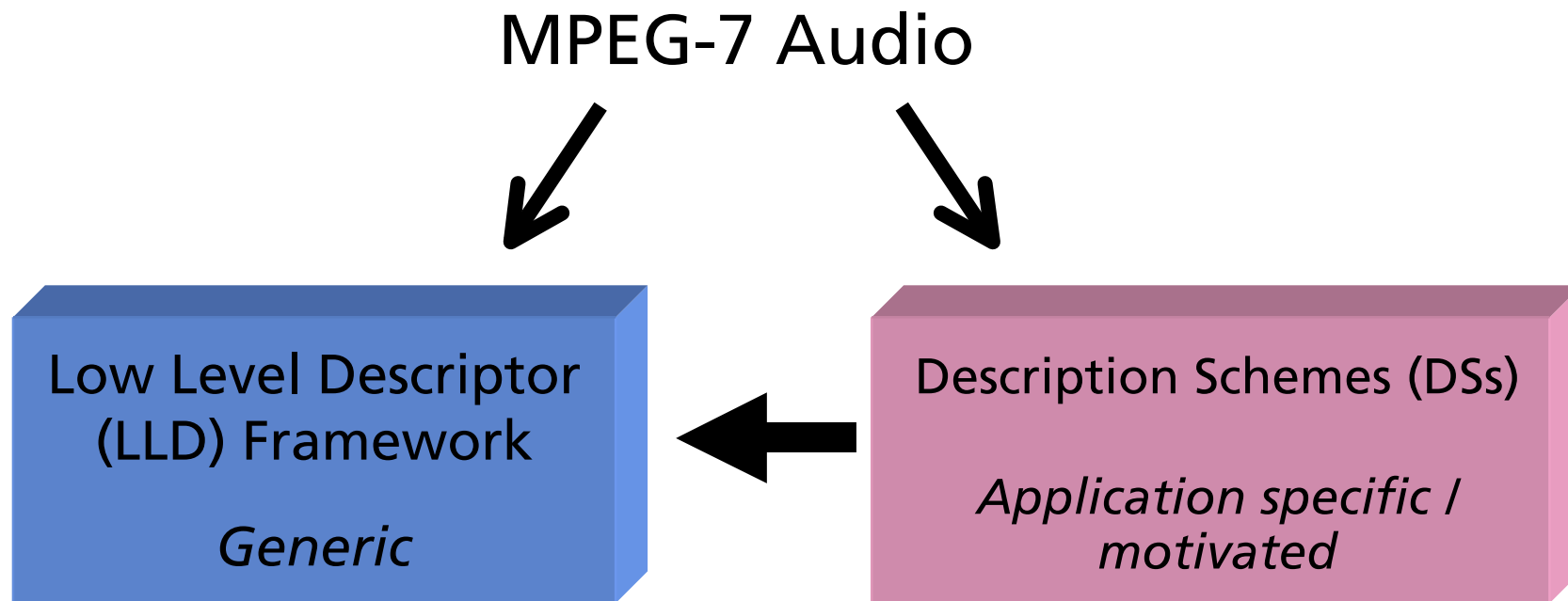
- Conformance Testing

Part 8

- Extraction & Use of MPEG-7 Descriptions



MPEG-7 Audio: Basic Architecture



Low Level Descriptor Framework (1)

- Collection of 17 Descriptors
- Usefulness shown in Core Experiments (CEs) for specific applications

Generality

- Generic signal characteristics
 - applicable to a wide range of signals
 - useful for many purposes
- Toolbox: Future applications can make use of them in flexible ways (form DS according to their specific needs)
- Provides basic layer of interoperability



Low Level Descriptor Framework (2)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Basic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instantaneous waveform, power, silence |
| Basic Spectral | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power spectrum, spectral centroid, spectral spread, spectral flatness ... |
| Signal Parameters | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamental frequency, harmonicity |
| Spectral Basis Representations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used primarily for sound recognition, projections into low-dimensional space |
| Timbral Temporal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Log attack time, temporal centroid of a monophonic sound |
| Timbral Spectral | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Features specific to the harmonic portions of signals (harmonic spectral centroid, spectral deviation, spectral spread, ...) etc. |



MPEG-7 Audio Version 2 Additions (2003)

Additions

- Audio signal quality description:
 - Background Noise, channel cross-correlation, relative delay, balance, DC offset, bandwidth, transmission technology
 - Errors in recordings (clicks, clipping, drop outs, ...)
- Musical tempo [bpm]

Extensions

- Description of stereo / multi-channel signals
- Extensions for spoken content description



Some MPEG-7 Audio Applications

- Spoken Content Search
- General Sound Recognition & Indexing
- Audio Archiving and Restoration
- Instrument Timbre Search
- Melody Search / Query by Humming
- Robust Audio Identification / Fingerprinting



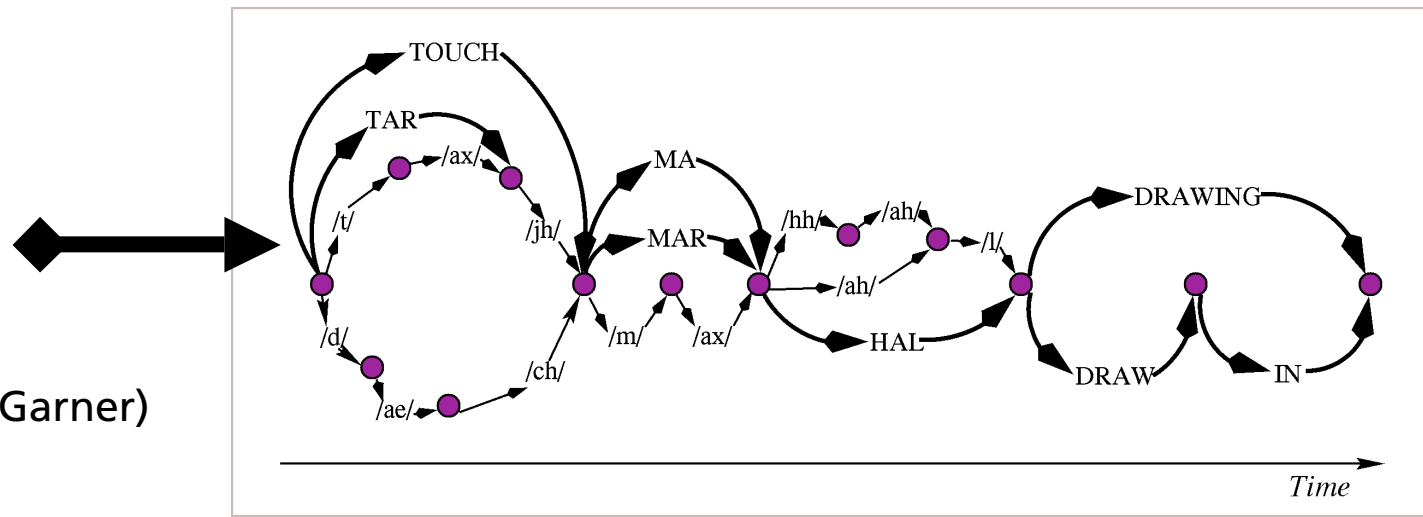
Application: Spoken Content Search

Context

- Speech is most important means of communication for humans
- Today's automatic speech recognizers represent speech internally as *word & phone lattices*

“Taj Mahal Drawing”

(example by Phil Garner)



Application: Spoken Content Description (2)

Approach

- Store lattices as descriptive data (rather than plain text)
- Use for querying/matching
 - Allows handling of ambiguities (“recognize speech” vs. “wreck a nice beach”)
 - Allows even retrieval of words unknown at annotation time

Applications

- Spoken document retrieval
- Annotation & retrieval using speech (e.g.: personal photo database with spoken comments a la “the kids at the beach”)



Application: General Sound Recognition/Indexing

Context

- How can various sounds be recognized, even within complex sound mixtures ?
- How to address sound similarity problem?

Approach

- Independent Component Analysis of spectral components (ICA), HMM

Applications

- A/V indexing & search by audio (index/find scenes with animals, gun fights, laughter, explosions, ...)
- Determine scene content/context from audio portion:
Gun shot / explosion action Scene



Application: Archiving and Restoration

Context

- Preservation of cultural heritage (audio)
- Archivists always like to keep *raw* digitized recording for later processing & restoration

Approach

- Audio quality description encodes:
 - General audio quality
 - Technical recording parameters
 - Location & type of defects

Applications

- Search for archived audio material
- Restoration of audio material (may use latest restoration technology)



Application: Instrument Timbre Search

Context

- Human perception of sound includes timbre (besides pitch, loudness, duration)

Approach

- Use perceptually relevant features to describe monophonic isolated instrument sounds □ enables *comparison of sounds*
- Considers sustained harmonic & percussive instrument sounds

Applications

- Navigation through / search in instrument sound databases (“Giga-samplers”)
- Content-based editing



Application: Melody Search

Context



- How to search for melodies?
 - Needs to be both efficient and tolerant to pitch & timing imprecisions

Approach

- Melody description encodes:
 - Pitch
 - Timing/rhythmic information
 - Other optional information (key ...)

Applications

- “Query by Humming / Playing / Singing”
- Search for themes in music catalogs
- Musicology

Application: Audio Identification/Fingerprinting

Context

- How to automatically recognize/identify a recording?



Approach

- Store unique MPEG-7 signature / fingerprint of original items in DB (robust, compact)
- Identification of unknown audio material by *matching* its signature with the DB signatures

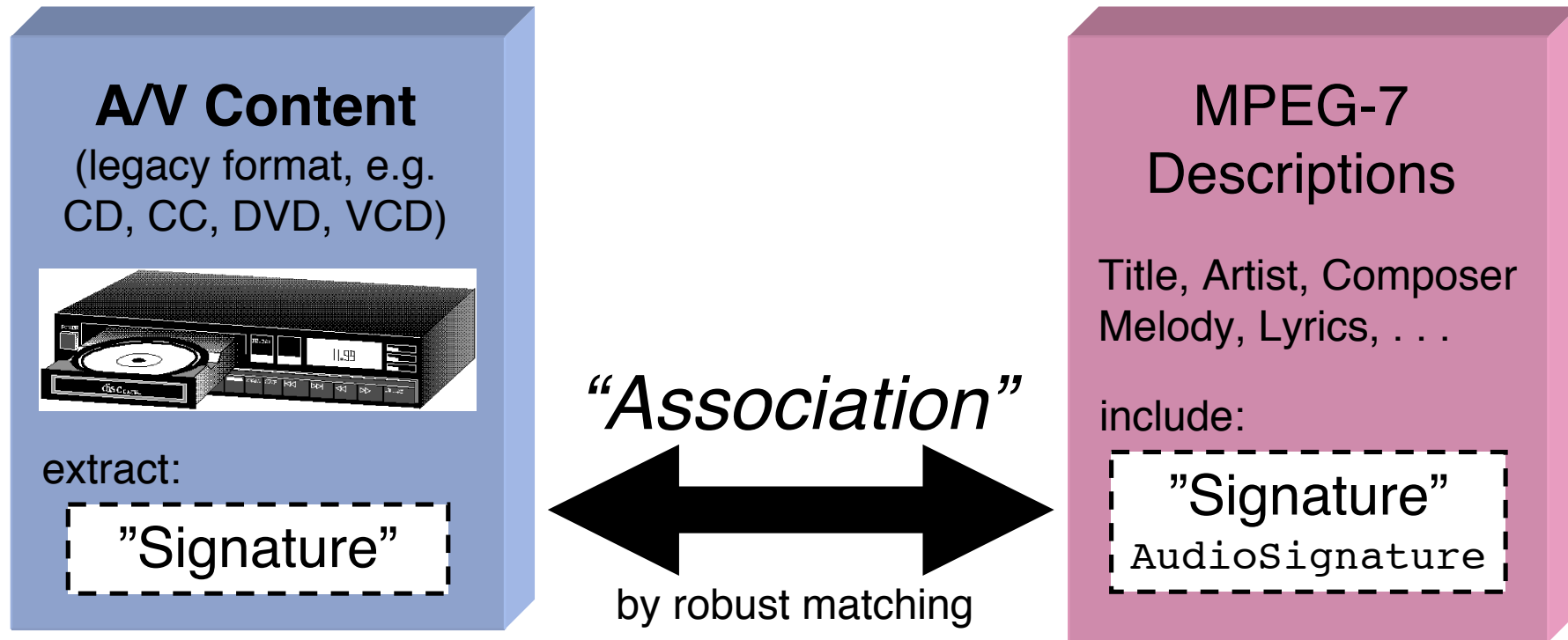
Audio Identification/Fingerprinting (2)

Applications

- Music recognition on handheld devices (PDA, cell phone), ...
- Content search on the Internet
- Broadcast monitoring
- How to find metadata for a given piece of legacy content (CD, CC, VCR Tape, ... no metadata attached!)?



Linking MPEG-7 To the Legacy AV World



Demonstration

- Automatic identification of sound on notebook computer (signature extraction & matching engine)
- Small database:
 - 1000 songs
 - mostly rock/ pop genre
- Robust against acoustic transmission chain (MP3 □ D/A conversion □ loudspeaker □ background noise □ microphone □ A/D conversion)



How About Semantic Audio Processing?

- Initial focus on search & retrieval
- Applications to intelligent signal processing increasingly visible!

Examples

- Restoration of archived audio signals
- Intelligent manipulation of sound
 - unmixing
 - replacement
 - ...
- Monday afternoon tutorial (Casey & Lindsay)



Where Do We Stand Today?

MPEG-7 Audio

- First international standard providing content-derived audio metadata □ unique!
 - Generic descriptor toolbox
 - Support for a number of attractive applications
- Large potential for more, still unconceived applications

Commercial status

- First MPEG-7 applications are seen, but: Long way until widespread adoption in the marketplace
- Note: Usual time constant for adoption of new technology (MP3 took ca. 10 years)!



The Future

- Metadata will make its way into the marketplace!
- We will see many exciting “intelligent” applications of such technology
- Further completion of MPEG-7 Audio toolset needed
 - e.g. rhythmic patterns, mood / genre / style
- Open for MPEG-7 Audio Version 3
 - Please come and join!

Unique chance for shaping the future of Multimedia!

