Minutes of the AES Technical Committee on Coding of Audio Signals

16th Meeting called to order at the 118th AES Convention, Barcelona, at 9:00, Sun 29 May 2005, by J. Herre, co-chair.

The standard agenda was approved, as mailed out previously (see annex).

The ongoing activities of the committee and other coding-related events were reviewed:
- There are 3 sessions (2 lectures and 1 poster) on Audio Coding at the convention.
- These were complemented by a 2 hours tutorial on audio coding.
- Unfortunately, a proposal for an invited papers session on 'Spatial Audio Coding' has not been implemented by the 118th AES Convention committee.

The TC activities for upcoming events were discussed next:

1) 119th AES Convention
The chair noted that, based on a preliminary list of events planned for the upcoming 119th (New York) AES convention, which had been delivered at the 117th (San Francisco) Convention, some workshops were accepted by the 119th Convention committee. Specifically, for the proposed coding workshop on "High Quality Audio Communications", Gerald Schuller who coordinates this event received a note of acceptance. While this is a positive outcome, concern was raised about the TC loosing the ability of proposing upcoming activities on a timely basis if one year ahead planning is becoming common.

For the workshop on "High Quality Audio Communications", the general scope was discussed, based on a preliminary abstract proposed by Gerald. The two key aspects are "High quality" (higher than what can be used with usual telecommunication-type speech coders) and "Low Delay" resulting from the communications aspect. Additional input for the implementation of this workshop should be posted to Gerald Schuller, CC to the TC reflector.

Since the set of workshops for the 119th convention appears to be largely determined at this point in time, it was decided to not spend additional discussion on this topic.

2) 120th Convention
A workshop on MPEG Spatial Audio Coding was proposed. This aims at reporting on the status of the MPEG standardization activities and the technical status of the technology. Juergen Herre will act as a point of contact for coordinating this activity.

Christof Faller proposed "Audio / signal processing for telecommunication" as another potentially interesting topic, including e.g. topics such as echo cancellation. It was felt that this topic may be better addressed by other TCs, such as "Audio for Telecommunications", "Network Audio" or "Signal Processing", possibly as a joint activity. Christof to report back to the TC in case something materializes.

Anibal Ferreira touched upon the idea of error robustness for audio coders as another potential topic. It was noted that aspects of error resilience and error robustness had been discussed within the context of the MPEG-4 version 2 standardization activities (and associated workshop) which, however, was a few years ago. The idea may be pursued further if there is a more concrete timely context in which it plays a significant role.

Another topic that was perceived as potentially interesting for further activities is the convergence between speech coding and high quality audio coding technology, as it happens in the context of AMR-WB+ and the different generations of wideband coding (G.722.x).

Any other business (AOB): Thomas Sporer drew the attention to an upcoming summer academy on "professional audio" event, to happen in Switzerland on August 11 to 14, 2005.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the upcoming AES 118th Convention in New York in October 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Annex I: Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda
2) Opening Remarks of Chairman
3) Review of recent activities for current convention / conference
   - Richard C. Heyser Memorial Lecture Series
   - Other activities
4) Review of / proposals for activities at upcoming conventions, conferences, workshops etc.
   - 119th AES convention New York
   - 120th AES convention Paris
5) Any Other Business
6) Next Meeting
7) Closing of the Meeting

Annex II: Attendees:

Name	Company
Karlheinz Brandenburg	Fraunhofer IDMT
Tilman Liebchen	TUB
Naboru Harada	NTT
Nikolaus Meine	University of Hannover
Craig Jin	University of Sydney
Waldo Nogueira	University of Hannover
Joeroen Breebaart	Philips Research
Oliver Niemeyer	University of Hannover
Steven van de Par	Philips Research
Anibal Ferreira	University Porto
Thomas Sporer	Fraunhofer IDMT
Mark Sandler	Queen Mary University of London
Enrique Alexandre	University Aloala
Christof Faller	Agere Systems
Markus Erne	Scopein Research
Kevin Short	GrooveMobile/Chaoticom
Michael Kelly	Creative/Sensaura
Louis Fielder	Dolby Labs
Deepen Sinha	ATC Labs
Juergen Herre	Fraunhofer IIS