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WELCOME

On behalf of the ICAD 2003 Organizing Committee, it is my honor to welcome you to Boston University for the 9th International Conference on Auditory Display.

This is the first time ICAD has been held in Boston and also marks ICAD's return to the United States after two years of being held in other countries (in Finland in 2001 and in Japan in 2002). It is almost surprising that it has taken nine conferences for ICAD and Boston to meet, for they make a near-perfect match: few places in the world boast as high a density of researchers investigating auditory perception, auditory neurophysiology, audio technology, and audio engineering as the Boston area.

We have assembled what we think is an exciting mix of scientific and social events to make the inaugural Boston ICAD meeting memorable. The one-day workshop on auditory displays in assistive technology brings together academic researchers as well as consultants and practitioners who use auditory displays in real-world applications ranging from museum displays to everyday navigation. The main ICAD conference boasts over 60 technical presentations, selected (after careful peer review by an international panel of experts) from very high-quality submissions. In addition to talks, poster presentations, and what we hope will be a provocative panel discussion ("Science vs. Art in Auditory Displays"), we will visit the MIT Media Lab to see how technophiles use audio in displays. The social events (an informal pizza party, a "Duck Boat Tour" of Boston, the conference banquet, a reception at the Media Lab) are designed to nurture the already-strong camaraderie of the ICAD community and provide informal opportunities for ideas to be exchanged, discussed, and argued with a healthy give and take.

While we are here because of shared intellectual interests, we hope you take time to enjoy Boston during your stay. Walk the Freedom Trail; visit the Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, and Quincy Market. Between the laid-back nightlife of Harvard Square, live music clubs in and around Central Square, sports venues, museums, and other sights in and around Boston, there is something in our friendly city to appeal to everyone.

Generous financial support from the Boston University Hearing Research Center, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and Tucker-Davis Technologies allowed us to offer substantial subsidies to many student and post-doctoral participants and offset other ICAD 2003 meeting costs. Nancy Maguire and Joan Brown assisted mightily with administrative and logistical planning. The members of the ICAD 2003 Organizing Committee, particularly treasurer Barry Blesser, were extraordinarily generous with their time, ensuring the success of ICAD 2003. Many student volunteers will be helping in a variety of ways, down to guiding the ICAD community through the Boston subway system. However, more than anything else, the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants is responsible for the success of any conference. Thank you all for making this conference, and the ICAD community, as strong as it is. Because of you, it has been a pleasure to put together the program you are about to enjoy.

I look forward to seeing you all in Sydney for ICAD 2004!

Barbara Shinn-Cunningham General Chair, ICAD 2003

Table of Contents

Committees and Volunteers	iii
Welcome	v
Table of Contents	vii
Biological Communication Sounds	
Vocal pedagogy and pedagogical voices <i>(invited talk)</i> <i>G. Wakefield</i>	1
Communicating with sound: An ethological perspective <i>(invited talk)</i> <i>T. Fitch</i>	12
Discriminating visible speech tokens using multi-modality C.S. Campbell, S.K. Lodha, M.M. Shafae, and D.W. Massaro	13
Spatial Auditory Perception	
Two-point discrimination in auditory displays V. Best, A. van Schaik, and S. Carlile	17
Identifying where you are in a room: Sensitivity to room acoustics B. Shinn-Cunningham and S. Ram	21
A study on sound source apparent shape and wideness <i>G. Potard, and I. Burnett, I</i>	25
Parameters for auditory display of height and size D. Cabrera and S. Tilley	29
Sound Design and Earcons	
Reality (sound)bites: Audio tricks from the film and TV studio <i>(invited talk)</i> J. Rose	33
Combining speech and earcons to assist menu navigation M.L.M. Vargas and S. Anderson	38
An investigation into the identification of concurrently presented earcons D.K. McGookin and S.A. Brewster	42
Perceptively based design of new car horn sounds G. Lemaitre, P. Susini, S. Winsberg, and S. McAdams	47

Perception in Auditory Display

Increasing effectiveness of train horns without increasing intensity <i>F.A. Russo, M.E. Lantz, G. English, and L.L. Cuddy</i>	51
Auditory displays on the depth of hypertext J.H. Lee, M.H. Jeon, and M.S. Kim	55
Do location and content operate independently? P.M.C. Lemmens, A. de Haan, and G.P. van Galen	59
Focalisation on the temporal context of complex sequences A. Guillaume and C. Drake	63
Where's that sound? Exploring arbitrary user classifications of sounds for audio management E. Brazil and M.Fernström	66
Perception in Spatial Auditory Displays	
Augmented intelligibility in simultaneous multi-talker environments N. Mesgarani, K. Grant, S. Shamma, and R. Duraiswami	71
Perceptual consequences of including reverberation in spatial auditory displays <i>S. Devore and B. Shinn-Cunningham</i>	75
A physics-based approach to the presentation of acoustic depth <i>F. Fontana and D. Rocchesso</i>	79
A spatial auditory display for the prevention of pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions <i>J.G. Neuhoff and J. Preston</i>	83
A three-dimensional virtual simulator for aircraft flyover presentation S.A. Rizzi, B.M. Sullivan, and C.A. Sandridge	87
Design considerations for a background auditory display to aid pilot situation awareness <i>M.L.N. Kazem, J.M. Noyes, and N.J. Lieven</i>	91
Spatial Auditory Display Technology	
Extending SMIL with 3D audio K. Pihkala and T. Lokki	95
An independent declarative 3D audio format on the basis of XML H. Hoffmann, R. Dachselt, and K. Meissner	99
The spatial sound lab at Fraunhofer IMK.VE	103

J. Goßmann and F. Dombois

A 3D real time rendering engine for binaural sound reproduction <i>M. Noisternig, T. Musil, A. Sontacchi, and R. Höldrich</i>	107
Latency measurement of a real-time virtual acoustic environment rendering system J.D. Miller, M.R. Anderson, E.M. Wenzel, and B.U. McClain	111
Extracting significant features from the HRTF V.C. Raykar, R. Duraiswami, L. Davis, and B. Yegnanarayana	115
Measurement of head-related transfer functions based on the empirical transfer function estimate <i>E. Grassi, J. Tulsi, and S. Shamma</i>	119
Display Systems and Technology	
D'groove: A haptic turntable for digital audio control T. Beamish, K. van den Doel, K. MacLean, and S. Fels	123
The IEM cube: A periphonic re-/production-system J.M. Zmölnig, W. Ritsch, and A. Sontacchi	127
Instrument timbre models with noisy partial inclusion C. O'Sullivan and M. Fernström	131
Narrowcasting operations for mobile phone CVE chatspace avatars <i>M. Cohen and M. Kawaguchi</i>	136
Auditory Display Examples	
Auditory icon support for navigation in speech-only interfaces for room-based design metaphors <i>D. Skantze and N. Dahlbäck</i>	140
The use of walking sounds in supporting awareness K. Mäkelä, J. Hakulinen, M. Turunen	144
Evaluating soundscapes as a means of creating a sense of place <i>P. Turner, I. McGregor, S. Turner, and F. Carrol</i>	148
Sonification Approaches	
Drawing by ear: Interpreting sonified line graphs L.M. Brown and S.A. Brewster	152
Sonification of statistical graphs S.C. Peres and D.M. Lane	157
Sonification sandbox: A graphical toolkit for auditory graphs <i>B.N. Walker and J.T. Cothran</i>	161

Algorithmic Composition

Ocean buoy spectral data sonification: Research update <i>B.L. Sturm</i>	164
For those who died M. Quinn, W. Quinn, and B. Hatcher	166
Designing Effect Displays	
Sonification design patterns <i>(invited talk)</i> S. Barrass	170
Design process for auditory interfaces S. Daudé and L. Nigay	176
Audiocentric interface design: A building blocks approach C. Thornton, A. Kolb, F. Gemperle, and T. Hirsch	180
Acqua alta a Venezia: Design of an urban scale auditory warning system F. Avanzini, D. Rocchesso, A. Dal Palù, A. Belussi, and A. Dovier	184
Spatial Auditory Displays	
Optimizing the spatial configuration of a seven-talker speech display <i>D.S. Brungart and B.D. Simpson</i>	188
Using multi-channel spatialization in sonification: A case study with meteorological data <i>E. Childs and V. Pulkki</i>	192
Spatially-modulated auditory alerts D.R. Begault, M.R. Anderson, and B.U. McClain	196
Comparison of auditory, visual, and audio-visual navigation in a 3D space <i>M. Gröhn, T. Lokki, and T. Takala</i>	200
Effect of beacon sounds on navigation performance in a virtual reality environment <i>B.N. Walker and J. Lindsay</i>	204
Sonification	
Broadcasting auditory weather reports: A pilot project <i>T. Hermann, J.M. Drees, and H. Ritter</i>	208
 Educational testing of auditory display regarding seasonal variation of Martian polar ice caps J. Keller, E.E. Prather, W.V. Boynton, H.L. Enos, L.V. Jones, S.M. Pompea, T.F. Slater, and M. Quinn 	212

Auditory Display Examples

Audio games: Fun for all? All for fun? S. Targett and M. Fernström	216
"LISTENIN" to domestic environments from remote locations C. Schmandt and G. Vallejo	220
Household appliances control device for the elderly F.J. Sainz Salces, D. England, and P. Vickers	224
Auditory Display Dimensions	
Sound-discrimination learning and auditory displays (invited talk) B.A. Wright and M.B. Fitzgerald	228
Dynamic auditory cues for event importance level J. Häkkilä and S. Ronkainen	233
A new experimental technique for gathering similarity ratings for sounds <i>E. Brazil, L. Ottaviani, and M. Fernström</i>	238
Sonification of absolute values with single and multiple dimensions <i>A. Sandor and D.M. Lane</i>	243
Auditory Display System Architecture	
Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i>	247
 Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i> NeMoS: Network monitoring with sound <i>D. Malandrino, D. Mea, A. Negro, G. Palmieri, and V. Scarano</i> 	247 251
 Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i> NeMoS: Network monitoring with sound <i>D. Malandrino, D. Mea, A. Negro, G. Palmieri, and V. Scarano</i> Spatial Auditory Synthesis 	247 251
 Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i> NeMoS: Network monitoring with sound <i>D. Malandrino, D. Mea, A. Negro, G. Palmieri, and V. Scarano</i> Spatial Auditory Synthesis Perceptual spatial-audio coding <i>C. Jin, A. van Schaik, V. Best, and S. Carlile</i> 	247 251 255
 Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i> NeMoS: Network monitoring with sound <i>D. Malandrino, D. Mea, A. Negro, G. Palmieri, and V. Scarano</i> Spatial Auditory Synthesis Perceptual spatial-audio coding <i>C. Jin, A. van Schaik, V. Best, and S. Carlile</i> Subjective selection of non-individual head-related transfer functions <i>B.U. Seeber and H. Fastl</i> 	247 251 255 259
 Interactive visualization and sonification for monitoring complex processes <i>T. Hermann, C. Niehus, and H. Ritter</i> NeMoS: Network monitoring with sound <i>D. Malandrino, D. Mea, A. Negro, G. Palmieri, and V. Scarano</i> Spatial Auditory Synthesis Perceptual spatial-audio coding <i>C. Jin, A. van Schaik, V. Best, and S. Carlile</i> Subjective selection of non-individual head-related transfer functions <i>B.U. Seeber and H. Fastl</i> Individualized and generalized earphone correction filters for spatial sound reproduction <i>W.L. Martens</i> 	247 251 255 259 263

Auditory Displays In Assistive Technologies (Papers)

Auditory assistive devices for the blind <i>(invited talk)</i> <i>R.W. Massof</i>	271
Maximum listening speeds for the blind C. Asakawa, H. Takagi, S. Ino, and T. Ifukube	276
3d audio interfaces for the blind C. Frauenberger and M. Noisternig	280
Design guidelines for audio presentation of graphs and tables L.M. Brown, S.A. Brewster, R. Ramloll, M. Burton, and B. Riedel	284
Smith-Kettlewell display tool: A sonification toolkit for Matlab (<i>invited talk</i>) J.A. Miele	288
Perceptive study and recommendation for sonification categories P. Susini, P. Gaudibert, E. Deruty, and L. Dandrel	292
Boardtalker: Initial experiences and open problems in prototyping a talking digital whiteboard to assist visually impaired students <i>D. Berque</i>	296
Basic and applied research relating to auditory displays for visually impaired people <i>(invited talk)</i> J.M. Loomis	300
Soundview: Sensing color images by kinesthetic audio <i>K. van den Doel</i>	303
Auditory Displays In Assistive Technologies (Abstracts)	
A case study in the design of software that uses auditory cues to help low vision students view notes on a blackboard D. Berque, T. Bonebright, S. Kinnett, N. Nichols, and A. Peters	307
Sonification of dynamic choropleth maps: Geo-referenced data exploration for the vision-impaired <i>H. Zhao, C. Plaisant, B. Shneiderman, D.N. Zotkin, and R. Duraiswami</i>	307
Sonification of SQL constructs in multi-modal database interaction <i>T. Stockman</i>	308
WYSIWIH- What you see is what I hear: Giving blind users access to visual collaboration <i>F. Winberg</i>	308
A game for visually impaired children with a 3-d virtual auditory display M. Ohuchi, Y. Iwaya, Y. Suzuki, and T. Munekata	309
Author Index	311