Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

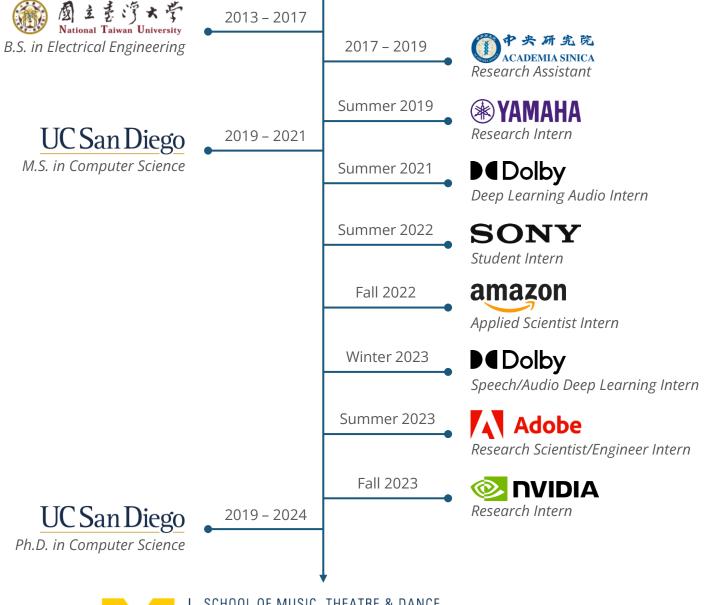
Hao-Wen (Herman) Dong

October 7, 2025



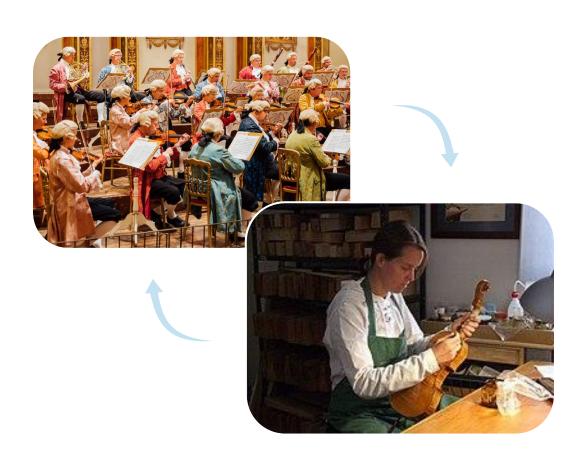
About Me







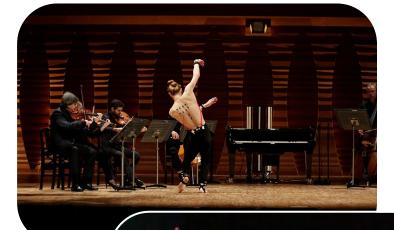
Music & Technology Co-evolves





Music & Al

(Source: Yamaha)



(Source: Sankei Shimbun)

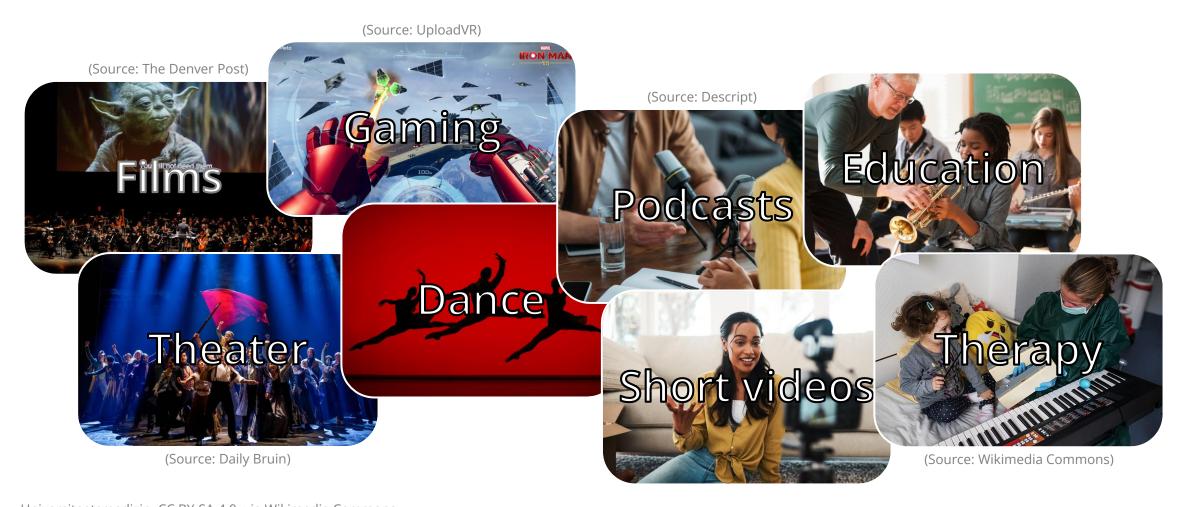


(Source: Robot Gizmos)

yamaha.com/en/news_release/2018/18013101/ sankei.com/article/20240113-CQCOSQHJWFIYPJJKZDCITRTRVI/ roboticgizmos.com/shimon-musical-robot-deep-learning/ nbcdfw.com/entertainment/the-scene/how-verdigris-ensemble-is-using-ai-to-create-a-new-concert-experience/3366031/

(Source: NBC DFW)

Generative Al for Music, Audio & Video Creation



Universitaetsmedizin, <u>CC BY-SA 4.0</u>, via Wikimedia Commons uploadvr.com/iron-man-vr-breaks-free-from-cords-load-screens-on-quest-2/ descript.com/blog/article/what-is-the-best-audio-interface-for-recording-a-podcast denverpost.com/2019/08/02/colorado-symphony-movie-scores-harry-potter-star-wars/ dailybruin.com/2023/08/04/theater-review-the-musical-les-misrables-offers-stellar-displays-and-impassioned-vocals

Art challenges Technology



Augmenting Human Creativity with Al





Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Generative Models for Music Creation

• Multitrack music generation (AAAI 2018, ISMIR 2018, ISMIR 2020, ICASSP 2023, ISMIR 2024), text-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025), video-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025), symbolic music processing tools (ISMIR LBD 2019, ISMIR 2020)

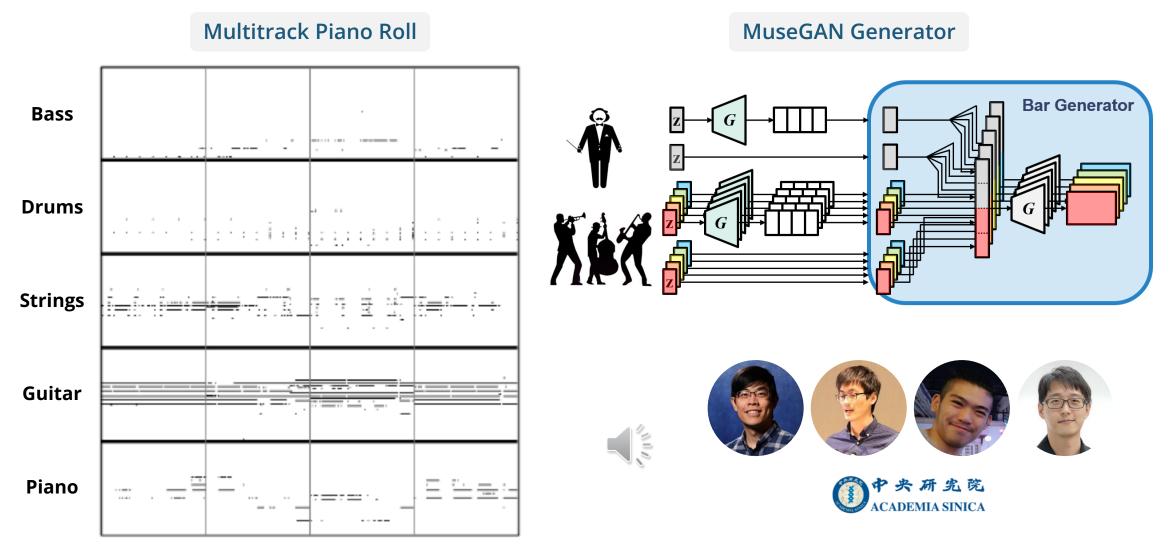
Al-assisted Music Creation Tools

• Expressive violin performance synthesis (ICASSP 2022, ICASSP 2025), music instrumentation (ISMIR 2021), music arrangement (AAAI 2018), music harmonization (INMR 2020), a cappella source separation (ISMIR LBD 2025)

Multimodal Generative Models for Content Creation

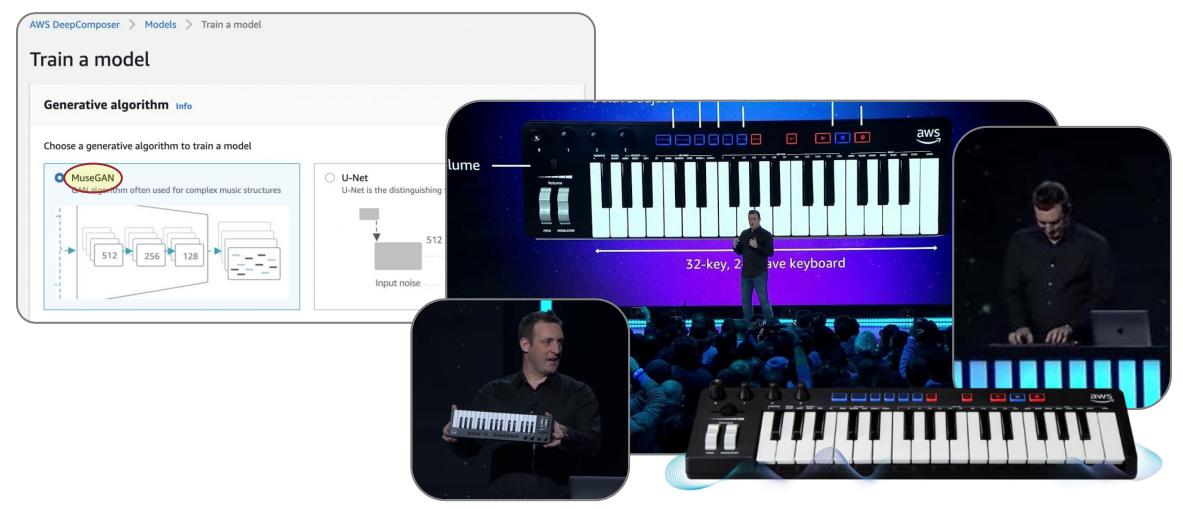
• Long-to-short video editing (ICLR 2025, NeurIPS 2025), text-queried sound separation (ICLR 2023), text-to-audio synthesis (WASPAA 2023)

Generating Multi-instrument Music using GANs (AAAI 2018)



Hao-Wen Dong, Wen-Yi Hsiao, Li-Chia Yang, and Yi-Hsuan Yang, "MuseGAN: Multi-track Sequential Generative Adversarial Networks for Symbolic Music Generation and Accompaniment," AAAI, 2018.

MuseGAN Features in AWS DeepComposer (2020)

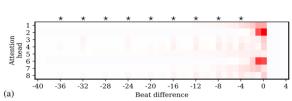


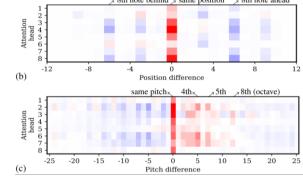
Generating Multitrack Music with Transformers (ICASSP 2023)

Multitrack Music Representation

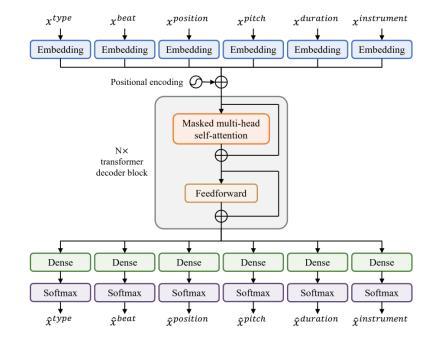
```
Start of song
                       Instrument: accordion
                       Instrument: trombone
                       Instrument: brasses
                       Start of notes
(3, 1, 1, 41, 15, 36)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E2, duration=48, instrument=trombone
(3, 1, 1, 65, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=E4, duration=72, instrument=accordion
(3, 1, 1, 65, 17, 15)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=G4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 1, 1, 68, 4, 39)
(3, 1, 1, 68, 17, 15)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=G4, duration=72, instrument=accordion
(3, 1, 1, 73, 17, 15)
                       Note: beat=1, position=1, pitch=C5, duration=72, instrument=accordion
(3, 1, 13, 68, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=13, pitch=G4, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 1, 13, 73, 4, 39)
                       Note: beat=1, position=13, pitch=C5, duration=12, instrument=brasses
(3, 2, 1, 73, 12, 39)
                       Note: beat=2, position=1, pitch=C5, duration=36, instrument=brasses
(3, 2, 1, 77, 12, 39)
                       Note: beat=2, position=1, pitch=E5, duration=36, instrument=brasses
(4, 0, 0, 0, 0) End of song
```

Musical Self-attention





Multitrack Music Transformer









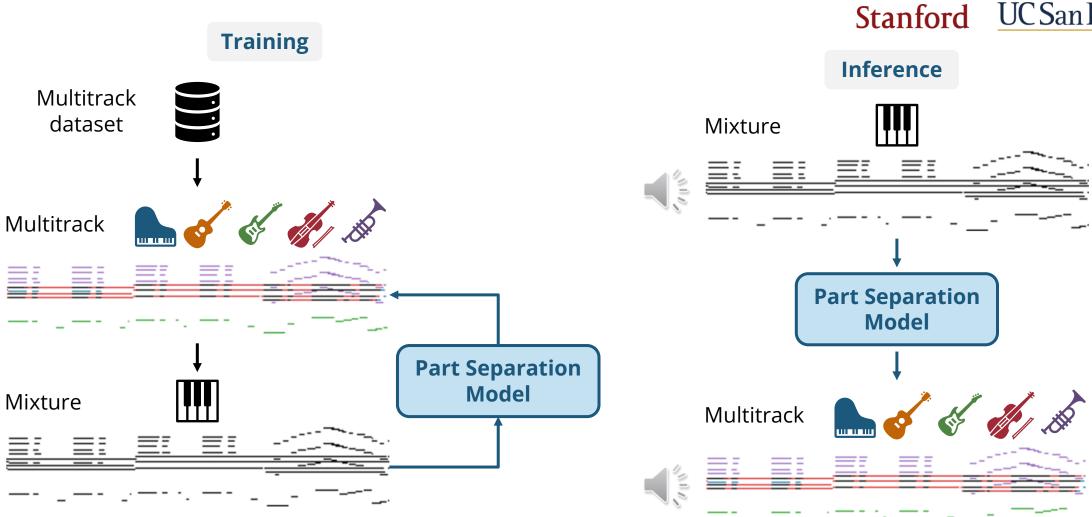




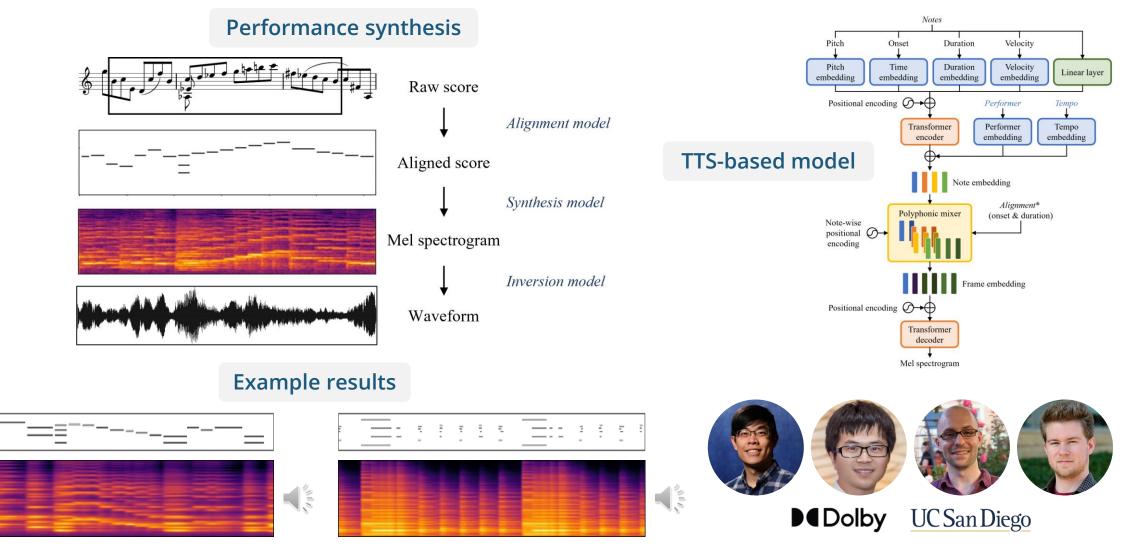
UC San Diego

Automatic Instrumentation (ISMIR 2021)



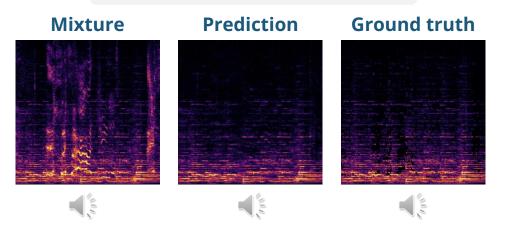


Synthesizing Expressive Violin Performance (ICASSP 2022)



Text-queried Sound Separation (ICLR 2023)

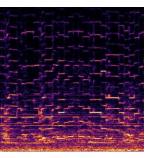
Query: "playing harpsichord"





Query: "playing bagpipe"

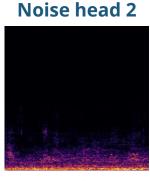
Mixture

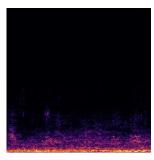


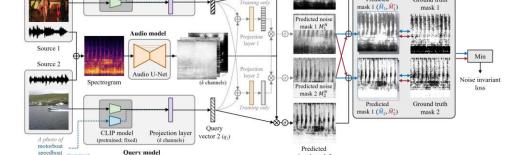
Prediction











Text-queried sound separation model

CLIP model





Text-to-Audio Synthesis (WASPAA 2023)

Learning Sounds from Noisy Videos



Audio-visual correspondence in videos Audio Video frames Pretrained vision-language models (CLIP) a photo of train whistling Text

Desired audio-text correspondence

Training

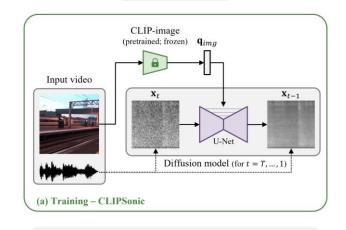


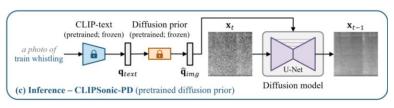
Image-to-sound results





■ Can DiegoUC San Diego

Inference



Text-to-sound results



Ongoing Work: A Cappella Vocal Coach

AcaMate: Al-assisted A Cappella Practice App







Seagull-K from Hsinchu, Taiwan

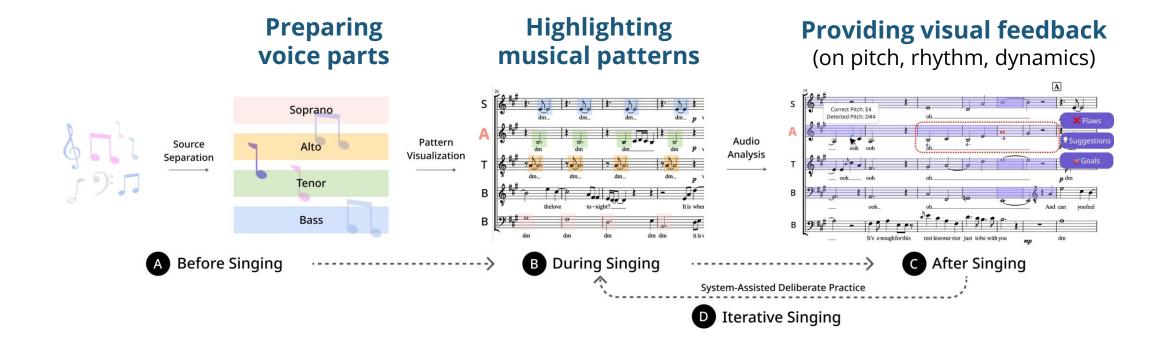


How can we best support a novice a cappella singer in practicing their singing skills?

AcaMate: Al-assisted A Cappella Practice App



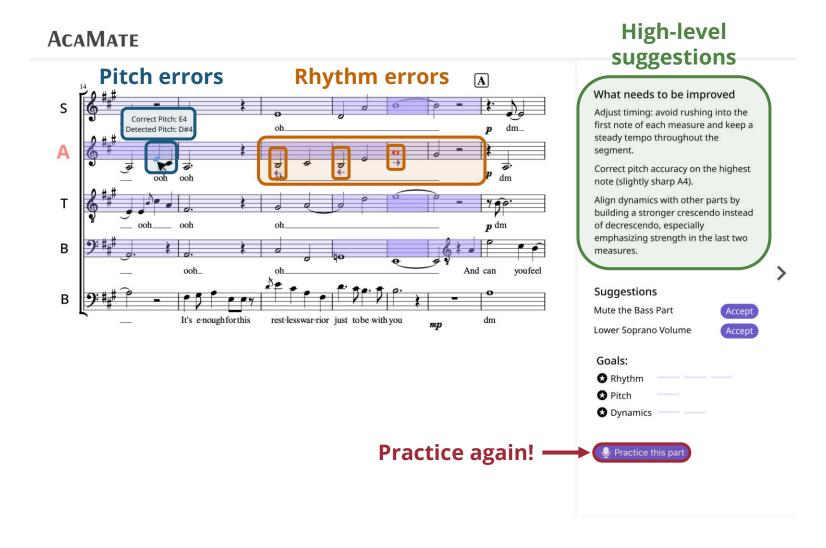




AcaMate: Al-assisted A Cappella Practice App





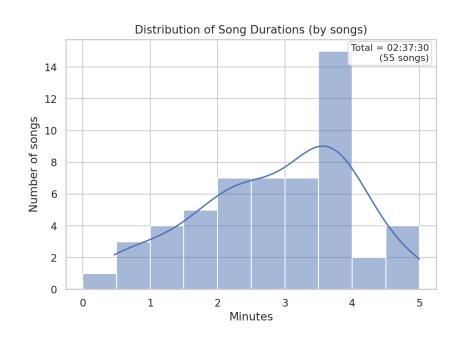


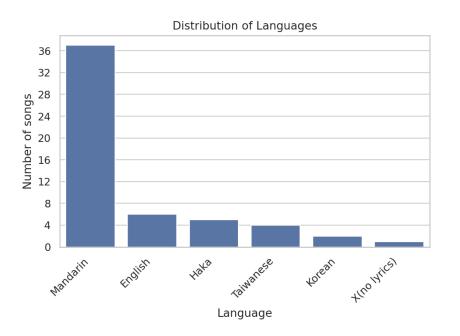
ACappellaSet: Studio Recordings with Stems





- 55 studio-quality a cappella songs with stems performed by 3 groups
- 2.6 hours in total
- Five languages: Mandarin, English, Hakka, Taiwanese, and Korean





Finetuning A Cappella Source Separation Models





Model	VP	Other	All	
Pretrained (official) Pretrained (drum) Fine-tuned (ours)	5.22 3.66 7.62	10.66 9.24 11.63	7.94 6.45 9.62	
+2.4 dB +1 dB				

Vocal percussion

Pretrained

Finetuned

Vocal percussion

Pretrained

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Ground truth

Ground truth

Vocal percussion

SATB

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Ground truth

Ground truth

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Finetuned

Ongoing Work: Al-assisted Film Scoring

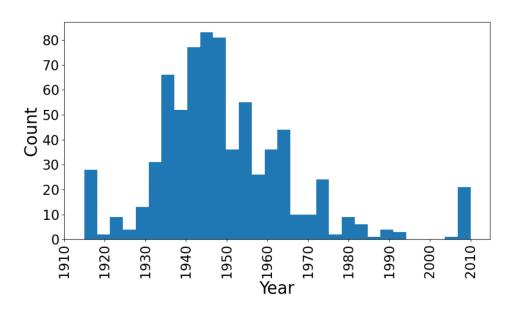
Open Screen Soundtrack Library (OSSL)







- 736 video clips from 299 films in public domain or CC-licensed
- 36.5 hours in total
- Mood annotations as Russell's 4Q (arousal-valence model)



Open Screen Soundtrack Library (OSSL)









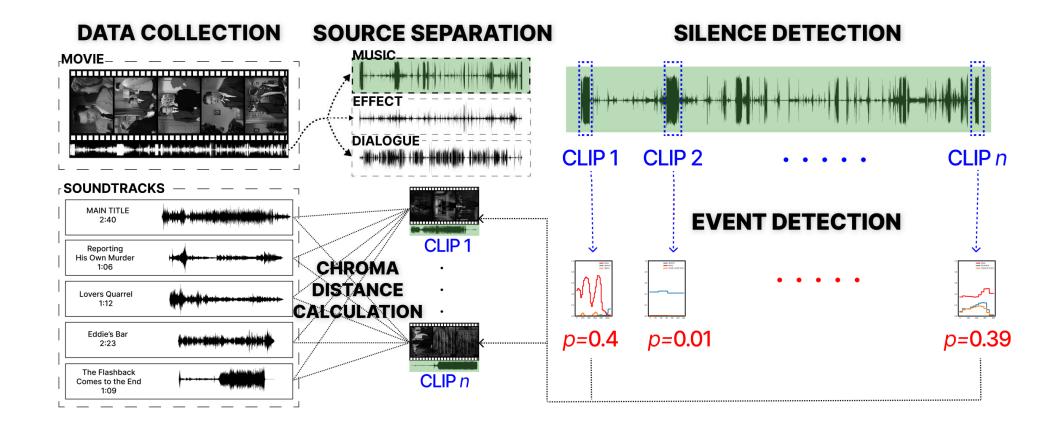
youtu.be/DjBVqhErShM

Matching Soundtracks to Video Clips







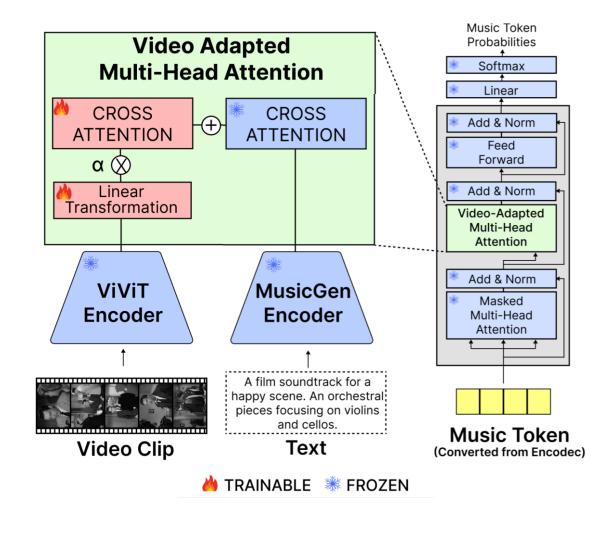


Video-Guided Text-to-Music Generation







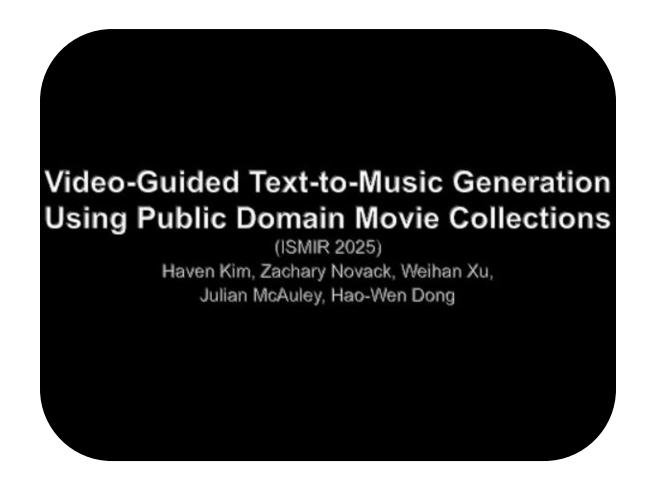


Video-Guided Text-to-Music Generation









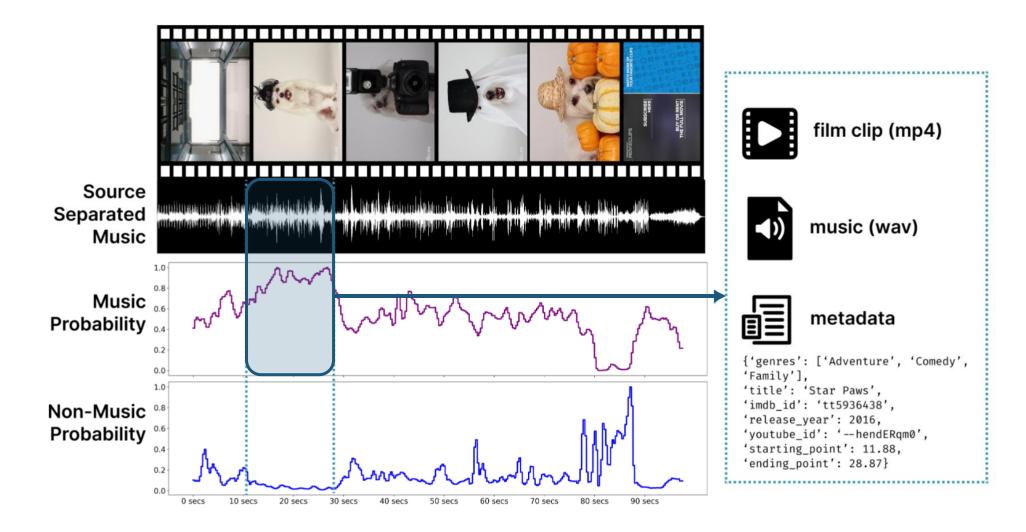
youtu.be/S0BMicbdzmg

Extending OSSL to OSSL v2









Extending OSSL to OSSL v2



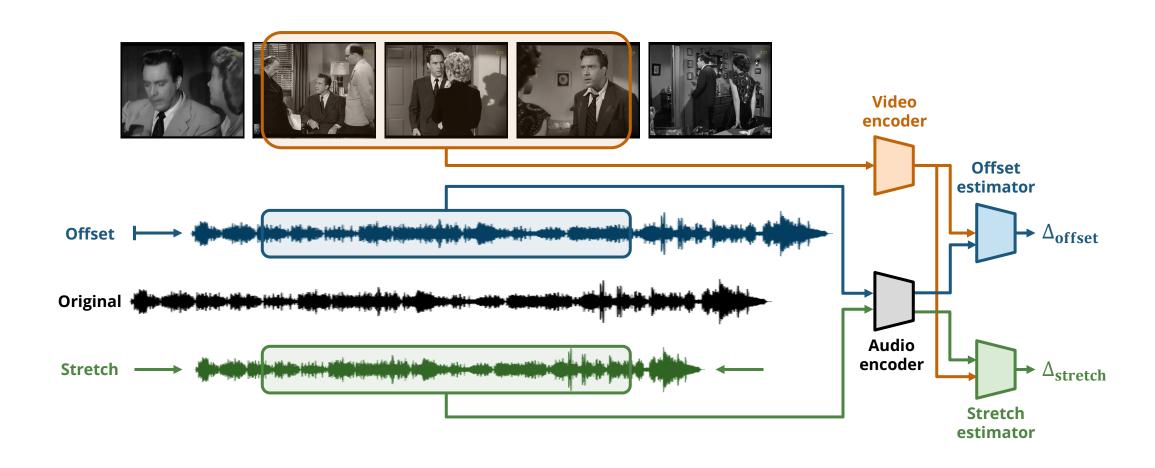




	Public Domain	Commercial [2]	Total
Number of Clips	35,705	40,703	76,408
Number of Unique Films	1,886	2,633	4,519
Average Length (seconds)	28.77	23.65	26.04
Total Length(hours)	285.31	267.39	552.70

Stay tuned! 🐸

Future Work: Measuring Video-Music Alignment



Ongoing Work: Al-assisted Video Editing

Fast-growing Short Video Platforms















For content creators, help promote their long video contents















For content consumers, help digest information in a more engaging way

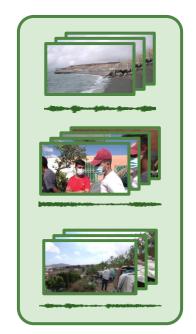
Video Editing



Interview footage (main character)



Background footage



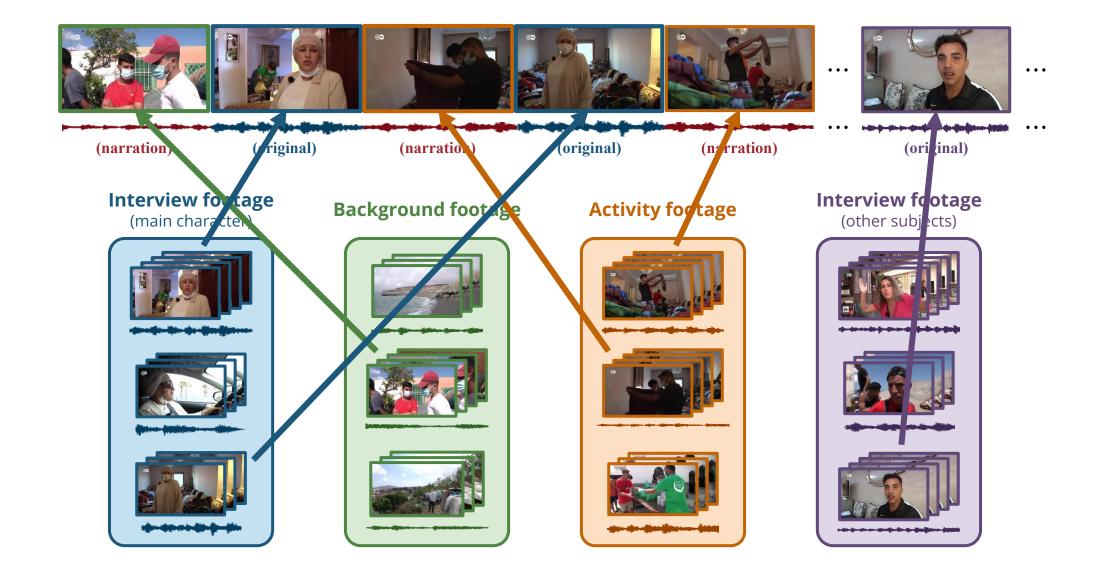
Activity footage



Interview footage (other subjects)



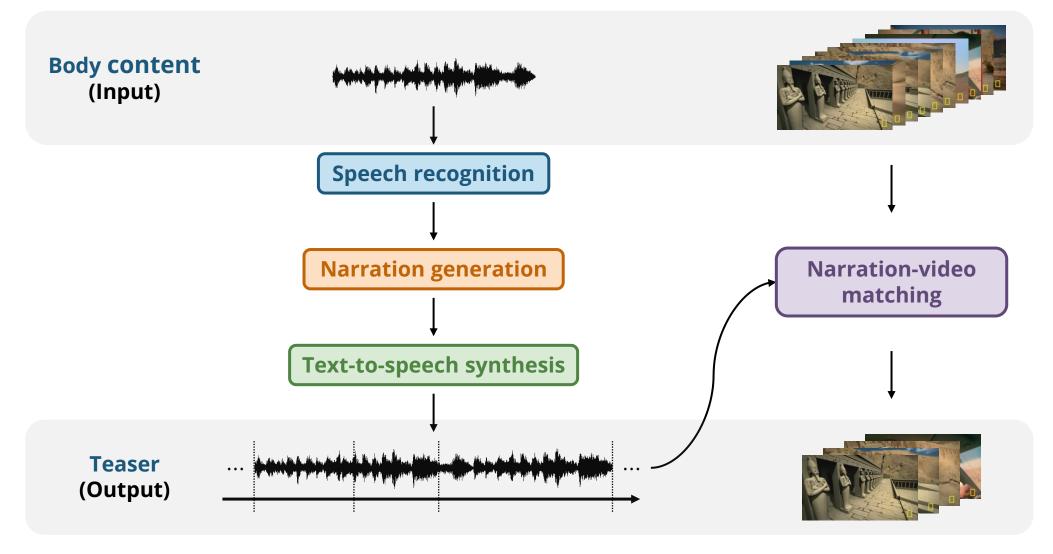
Video Editing



Narration-Centered Long-to-Short Video Editing



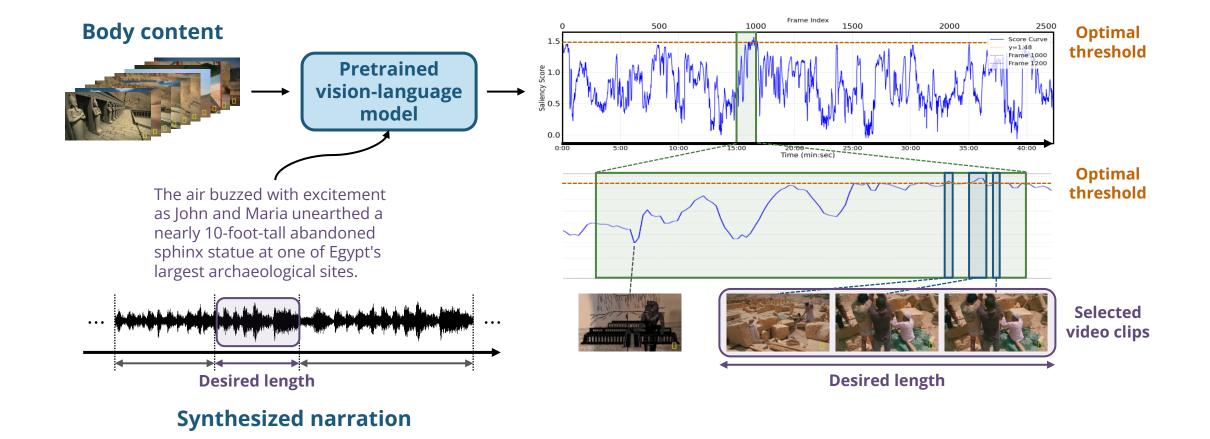




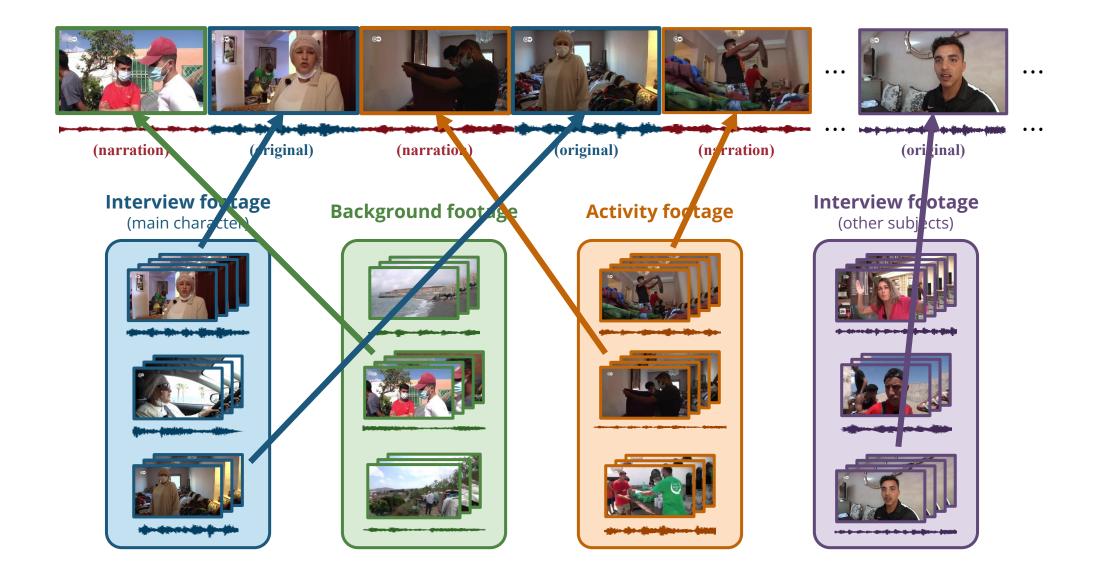
Finding Accompanying Visuals for Narrations





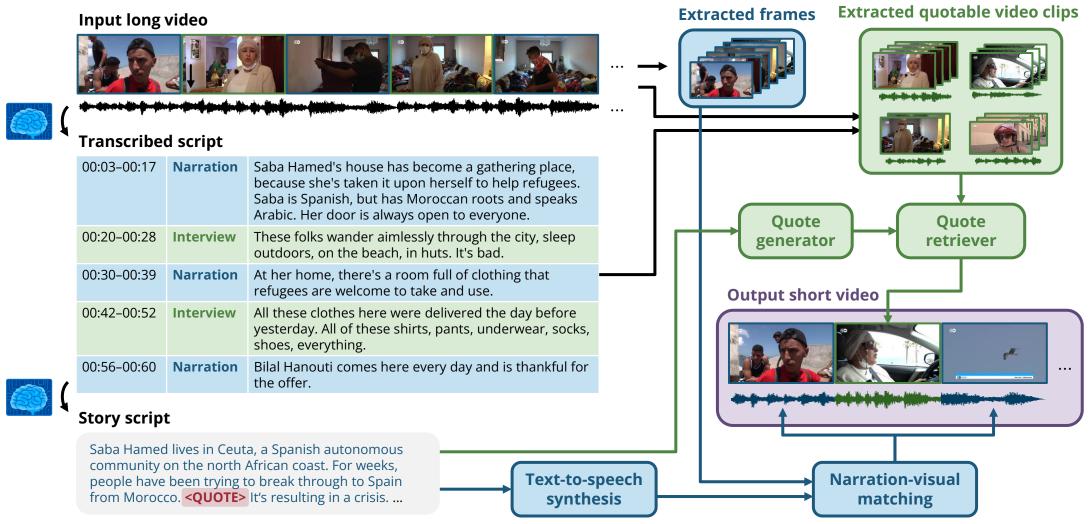


Video Editing



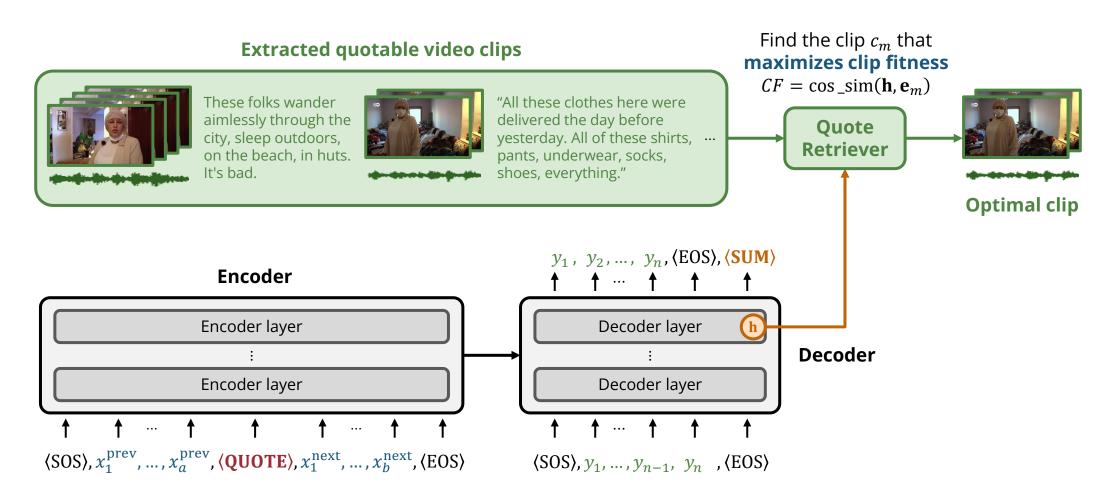
Learning to *Quote* a Video





Retrieving a Video Quote



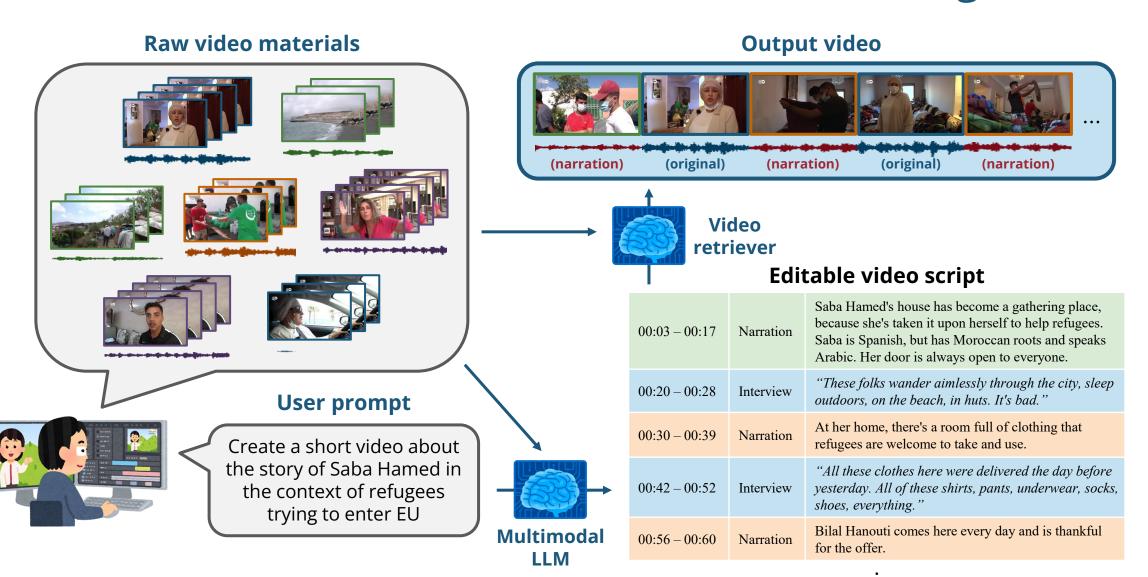


Retrieval-Augmented -> Retrieval-Embedded Generation

Can an LLM learn to quote and embed the quote properly?

- How to quote materials in other modalities?
 - Audio, image, videos, sensor data, etc.
 - We need a retriever to identify candidate quotable materials
 - We need a multimodal LLM that understands multimodal data so that it can incorporate the retrieved materials and embed them properly

Future Work: Multimodal RAG-based Video Editing



Future Work: Integration into Video Editing Software

00:03 - 00:17	Narration	Saba Hamed's house has become a gathering place, because she's taken it upon herself to help refugees. Saba is Spanish, but has Moroccan roots and speaks Arabic. Her door is always open to everyone.	Import Edit Export #B Roll E Effects Libraries ***Source: Edit Mode Javi _ Import Export - Edited ***Source: Edit Mode Javi _ Import Export = Effect Controls **Integration into existing **Integration into existing
00:20 - 00:28	Interview	"These folks wander aimlessly through the city, sleep outdoors, on the beach, in huts. It's bad."	
00:30 - 00:39	Narration	At her home, there's a room full of clothing that refugees are welcome to take and use.	
00:42 - 00:52	Interview	"All these clothes here were delivered the day before yesterday. All of these shirts, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, everything."	
00:56 - 00:60	Narration	Bilal Hanouti comes here every day and is thankful for the offer.	creative workflow
			Import Export II Compared to Subtract La B Adjustment Lay B Adjust ment La B Adjustment Layer B Adjustment

Future Work: Integrating GenAl into Music Production



(Source: Avid)

avid.com/pro-tools/whats-new

Future Work: Integrating GenAl into Music Production

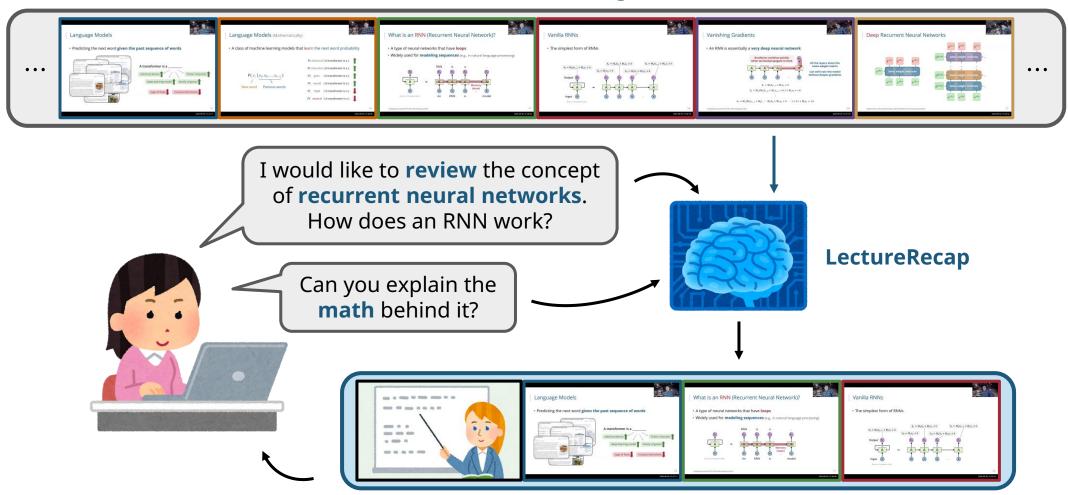


(Source: Avid)

avid.com/pro-tools 43

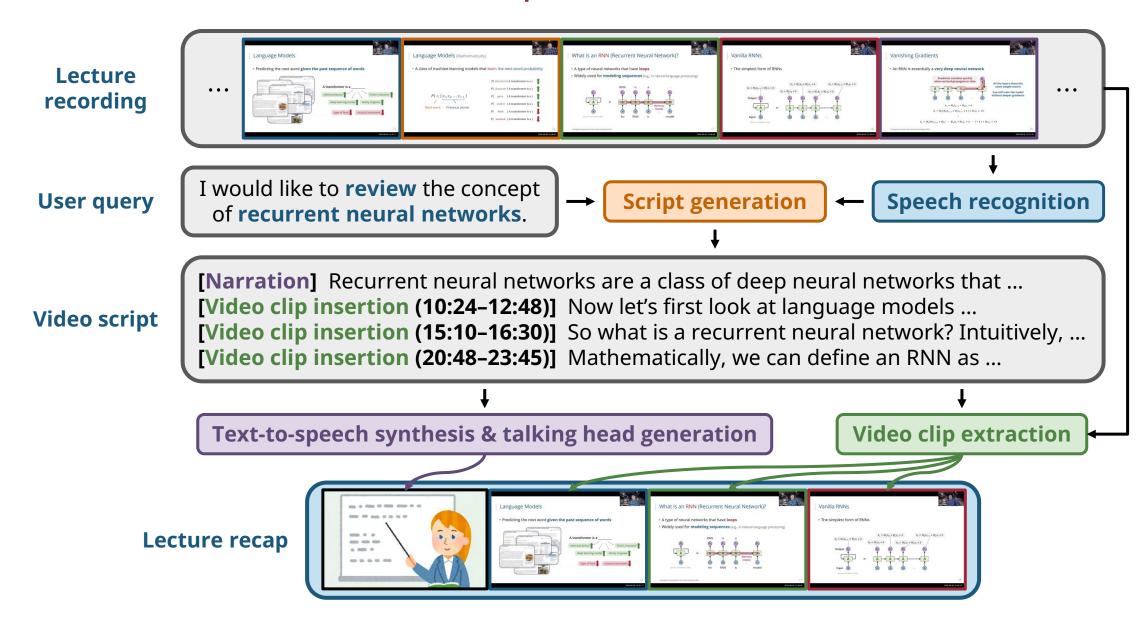
Future Work: LectureRecap

Lecture recording



Lecture recap

Future Work: LectureRecap



Ongoing Work: Playful Music GenAl



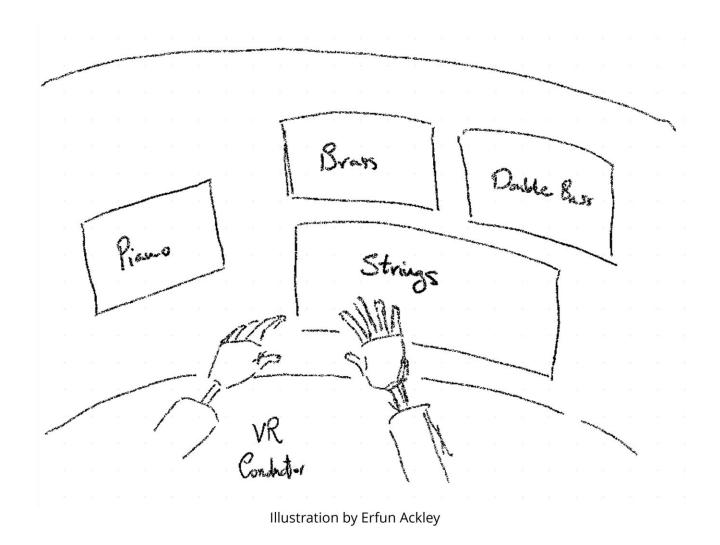
Maestro VR (2024)



youtu.be/OffnSNxidiY

SuperConductor

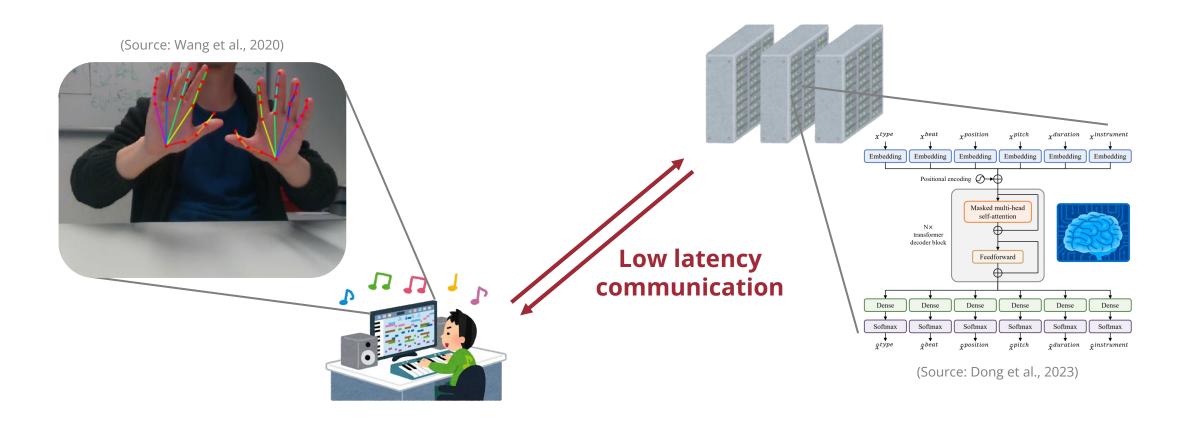




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SuperConductor





Jiayi Wang, Franziska Mueller, Florian Bernard, Suzanne Sorli, Oleksandr Sotnychenko, Neng Qian, Miguel A. Otaduy, Dan Casas, and Christian Theobalt, "RGB2Hands: Real-Time Tracking of 3D Hand Interactions from Monocular RGB Video," SIGGRAPH Asia, 2020.



SUPERCONDUCTOR: EXPLORING PLAYFUL HUMAN-AL MUSIC CO-CREATIVITY

UARTS FACULTY ENGINEERING/ARTS STUDENT TEAMS (FEAST)
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE



Winter-Fall 2026

UARTS FEAST

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Performing Arts Technology (PAT)

Intro

PAT 100: Music in Technology

PAT 200: Intro to Electronic Music

PAT Theory/Studies

PAT 150: Experiential Music Theory

PAT 205: Intermedia Al Music Practice

PAT 305: Video Game Music

PAT 315: Diversity in Music Technology

PAT 316: NOISE

PAT Practice

PAT 202: Computer Music

PAT 204: Creative Coding

PAT 220: Songwriting Workshop

PAT 280: Sound Reinforcement

PAT 412: Digital Music Ensemble

PAT 413: Electronic Chamber Music

Electives

PAT 421: Advanced Psychoacoustics

PAT 422: Technical Ear Training & Critical Listening

PAT 424: Dialog of the Senses

PAT 431/432: Contemporary Practice in Studio Production I/II

PAT 441: Sound for Film and Games

PAT 443: Immersive Media

PAT 451/452: Interactive Media Design I/II

PAT 454: Digital Fabrication for Acoustics

PAT 461: Performance Systems

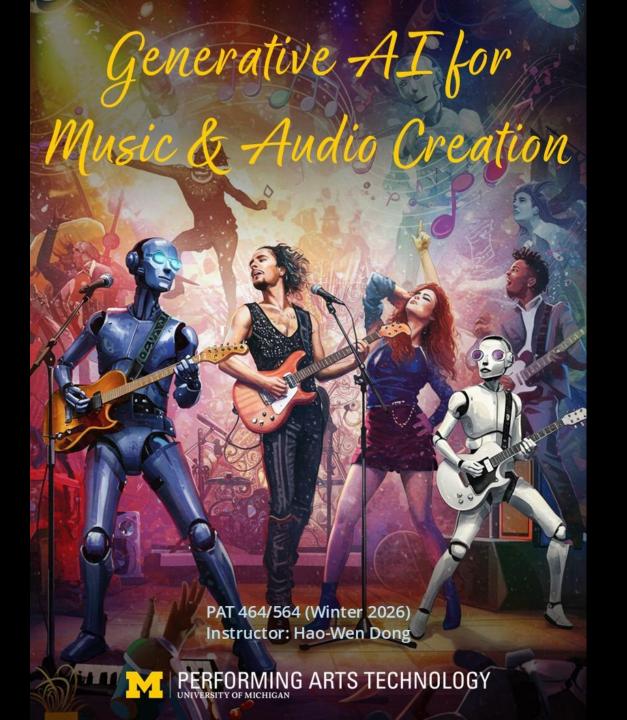
PAT 462: Digital Sound Synthesis

PAT 463: Music & Al

PAT 464: Generative AI for Music & Audio Creation

PAT 472: Business of Music





PAT 464/564 (Winter 2026)

Generative Al for Music and Audio Creation

Learn about all the latest music and audio generation models

Art challenges Technology



Augmenting Human Creativity with Al





Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Generative Models for Music Creation

• Multitrack music generation (AAAI 2018, ISMIR 2018, ISMIR 2020, ICASSP 2023, ISMIR 2024), text-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025), video-to-music generation (ISMIR 2025), symbolic music processing tools (ISMIR LBD 2019, ISMIR 2020)

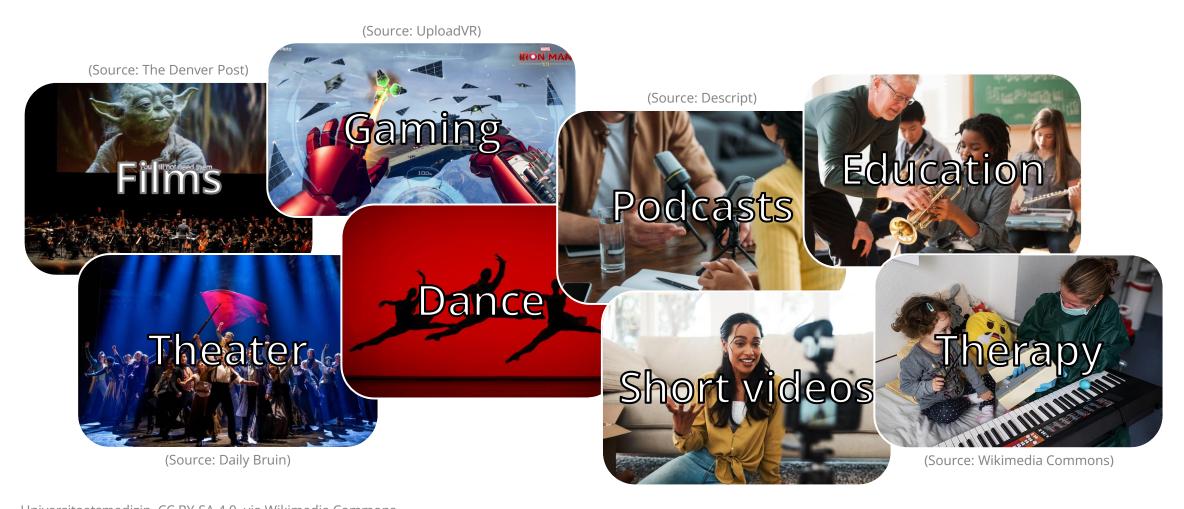
Al-assisted Music Creation Tools

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Multimodal Generative Models for Content Creation

• Long-to-short video editing (ICLR 2025, NeurIPS 2025), text-queried sound separation (ICLR 2023), text-to-audio synthesis (WASPAA 2023)

Generative Al for Music, Audio & Video Creation



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Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Multimodal generative AI for content creation

Human-Al co-creative tools for music, audio and video creation

Human-like machine leaning algorithms for music, movies and arts



Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art.

- Claude Debussy

Human-inspired Machine Learning for Music & Audio

Learning from listening

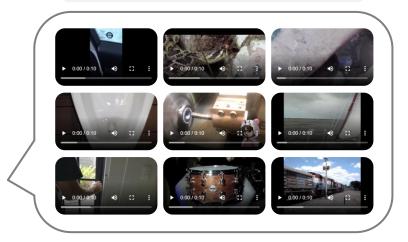


Learning from reading





Learning from watching



Misusable Music Tools (Nao Tokui, 2024)

Throughout history, music and technology have often intertwined, with **new technologies being misused by artists** (turntables, etc).

- Nao Tokui, 2024

Al is more challenging to misuse because it lacks a physical entity and operates as a black box.

- Nao Tokui, 2024



(Source: Flintmi via Wikimedia Commons)

Overfitting vs Distortion

• Will overfitting be a new music expression, the "distortion" for AI music?





Without **deviation from the norm**, progress is not possible.



Augmenting Human Creativity with Al

Nothing would have been possible without all my fantastic collaborators!



hermandong.com / hwdong@umich.edu

