AUDIO AND VIDEO COMMUNICATION

Fernando Pereira
Relation and Logistics
Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

US essayist & poet (1803 - 1882)
Web Page and Mailing List

http:\\www.img.lx.it.pt\~fp\cav\Welcome_CAV.htm

To subscribe the course mailing list send a message to fp@lx.it.pt

Mailing list address: CAV_MEEC@lx.it.pt
Lectures Schedule

Theoretical Lectures

- 2 lectures of 90 minutes per week – Monday, 9.30am, room EA1, and Wednesday, 9.30am, room VA2

Practical Lectures (in weeks with no lab)

- 1 lecture of 90 min per week – Monday, 11am and 2 pm, room E1, Tuesday, 5pm, room E2

Laboratory Sessions (in weeks with no practical)

- 1 lecture of 90 min per week – Monday, 11am and 2 pm, room LT4, Tuesday, 5pm room LT4

The weeks with practical lectures or lab sessions will be announced in the CAV mailing list.
Studying Material

Studying material made available consists in:

- Book “Comunicações Audiovisuais: Tecnologias, Normas e Aplicações”, IST Press, 2009 (details at the CAV Web Page)
- Slides from theoretical lectures (available at CAV Web Page)
- Additional supporting texts for each topic (available at the CAV Web Page)
- Collection of exercises with the corresponding solutions (available at CAV Web Page)
- Laboratory guides (available at CAV Web Page)
- Exams from previous years with solutions (available at CAV Web Page)
Book … Ma Non Troppo …

- Introduction Chap. 1
- Basic on AV Representation Chap. 5
- Digital Images Sec. 8.3, 10.4
- Videotelephony and Videoconference Sec. 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.6 (brief), 11.3-5 (brief)
- Digital Video Storage Sec. 3.3, Sec. 7.1-7.5, Sec. 9.4, 11.6
- Digital Television Sec. 9.5, 10.1, 10.3, 11.7
- Advanced Multimedia Coding Sec. 9.7 e 11.8 (brief), 9.8

Note: The book authors gave up on any royalties to reduce the price of the book.
Many of the slides have been inspired (or even simply reused) by materials provided by several friends, notably Touradj Ebrahimi (EPFL, Switzerland), Anthony Vetro (MERL, USA), and G. Sullivan (Microsoft, USA).

Also many figures have been taken from the Internet ...

Appropriate references should have been used throughout the slides!
The evaluation method includes three components, notably:

1. **WRITTEN EXAM**
   - After the end of the lecturing period (weight 70\%) – 15th and 29th January, 8h 2015;

2. **OVERVIEW PAPER** (in groups of 2 or 3)
   - About a selected topic, to be finished by 12th December 2014 (weight 30\%);
   - preliminary table of contents by 31st October 2014

3. **LABORATORY PARTICIPATION** (in groups of 2)
   - Just filling a form during the laboratory session.

The final mark is computed as:

\[
Final_{Mark} = \text{round} \left[ (0.7 \times \text{Exam} + 0.3 \times \text{Paper}) \times \text{Lab} \right]
\]

where \text{Lab} is 1 if the student participated in, at least, \(N-1\) out of the \(N\) lab sessions, and 0.95 otherwise.
Evaluation Method: Some Rules ...

★ Written exam
- The minimum mark for the exam is 9.5.

★ Overview paper
- The minimum mark for the divulgation paper is 9.5.
- The overview paper should be written in groups of 2 or 3 students.
- The overview paper mark is individual even if the paper is a group work.
- The evaluation of the overview paper may include a self-assessment component.
- The evaluation of the overview paper may include a presentation and/or discussion, if found necessary.

★ Final mark
- The students with a final mark higher than 17 may have to make an oral exam to confirm the mark; not making this oral exam, if requested, implies getting a mark of 17.
Evaluation Method: Paper Self-Assessment

- By the paper deadline date, each student (not each paper) will provide to a previously identified student representative, his/her ‘estimate’ of the mark for his/her paper. The professor will have NO access to these ‘score estimates’.

- The professor will score the papers in a 0-20 scale.

- The students which estimated mark is **the same** as the professor’s mark will get a bonus of 1 point in the paper mark.

- The students which estimated mark is ± **1 point** regarding the professor’s mark will get a bonus of 0.5 point in the final paper mark.
About the Overview Paper

- The overview paper shall provide the most relevant information about a topic related to multimedia communication. The paper does not have to be original but should provide a good summary of the topic using appropriate references.

- The paper targets to stimulate in the students the contact with bibliographical research and also with the reality including relevant companies and industry.

- The paper will be produced in two versions:
  1. **Paper version** which shall not have more than 8 PAGES using the template made available at the CAV Web Page.
  2. **Web version** with a similar content of the paper version but exploiting HTML capabilities typical of Web content, e.g. including video and audio material, and interactivity.

- **Deadlines**
  1. **31st October 2014** – 2 pages pdf file (by email) with the paper table of contents (the topic should have been selected before)
  2. **12th December 2014** – Paper (printed) and Web (by email) versions
Overview Paper: Example Topics

- Aquisição e visualização de imagem
- Codificação de música
- Codificação de vídeo: a guerra dos formatos
- Descrição e procura de informação visual
- Descrição e procura de música
- Digital Video Disc
- Blu-ray
- Tablets
- YouTube
- Skype
- Protecção de conteúdos multimédia
- Digital Video Broadcasting
- TV 3D
- Videotelefonia e videoconferência
- Sistemas de videovigilância
- Televisão interactiva
- TV digital terrestre
- IPTV
- Vídeo de ultra alta definição
- Vídeo na Internet
- High dynamic range imaging
- Video in the cloud
- Vídeo móvel
- Displays 3D
- Holografia
- …
If you are interested in doing a M.Sc. Thesis in video processing, coding, etc:

★ May select the CAV overview paper topic as preparation for your M.Sc. Thesis

★ Overview paper will be in English and may be longer than 8 pages

★ Weight of the work may be raised up to 50%

★ Selection based on interview
Explaining the Overview Paper …

Today at 11am and 2 pm, E1
Tomorrow at 5pm, E2

Students should request the overview paper topic by sending an email to fp@lx.it.pt with the topic and the names and numbers of the students.
Lab Registration

Monday 11am and 2 pm, LT4

Tuesday, 5pm, LT4

Send email to fp@lx.it.pt with (2 names+numbers)/group.

FIFO processing …
The Course Context
Audio and Video Communication

Transference of image, audio and video information through space, time, or space and time simultaneously.
The Importance of the User ...
We All Communicate …
Sensations, Perceptions and Emotions ...
Communicating Since a Long Time Ago …
And After Telecommunicating …
Video Traffic is Exploding …

- The sum of all forms of IP video will ultimately reach 86% of total IP traffic.
- Only Internet video (excluding file sharing and gaming) will account for 55% of consumer Internet traffic in 2015.
- Every second, 1.2 million minutes of video content will cross the network in 2016.

from Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI), Tech. Rep., 2012
What do the Users Want?

- Information
- Entertainment
- Communication
- Games
- Education
- Shopping
- ...

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
How can Clients be Convinced?

- Satisfaction of personal needs
- Added value, new capabilities
- Interoperability
- Quality and robustness
- Content variety
- (Low) cost of equipment and usage
- Easy usage
- ...

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
Satisfaction: Quality versus Service

The minimum required quality of service/experience depends on the service:

★ Videotelephony
★ Videoconference
★ Television
★ High definition digital television
★ Ultra high definition television
★ 3D TV
What does ‘quality’ mean? What is and what determines ‘good quality’?

YouTube video and audio quality are sometimes quite poor … but improving fast … still, this does not prevent some of this content to be very popular …

Which are the components determining quality?

- Signal fidelity
- User profile and needs
- User involvement
- Context, e.g. train, abroad
- Natural environment, e.g. noisy, dark
- …
Service Paradigms: (Conventional) Broadcasting

- Unidirectional
- Point to multipoint
- Real-time or not
- Low delay but not critical
- High quality
- Generic content
- Centralized content production model
- Several channels and networks
- …
Service Paradigms: Interactive Broadcasting

- Bidirectional but asymmetric
- Point to multipoint and point to point
- Real-time or not
- Critical reaction delay
- High quality
- Generic content
- Centralized content production model
- Several channels and networks
- ...
Service Paradigms: Personal Communications

- Bidirectional and symmetric
- Point to point
- Real-time
- Critical delay
- Low or medium quality
- Specific content
- Several channels and networks
- ...
Service Paradigms: Storage

- Local, no transmission
- High storage capacity
- Very high quality
- Low delay
- Generic content
- Centralized content production model
- Mainly optical storage
- ...

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
Service Paradigms: Games

- Storage (or bidirectional)
- Point to point (or multipoint)
- Real-time
- Critical delay
- High quality/realism
- Synthetic and natural content mix
- Centralized content production model
- Mainly optical storage
- ...

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
The Course

Contents
Course Objectives

★ To understand the main concepts and tools in video and audio representation, especially targeting compression

★ To understand how the concepts and tools build complete solutions to address the needs and requirements of relevant applications

★ To study some relevant compression solutions, both standard and non-standard based

★ To discuss future trends in audio and video compression technology and services
Non scholae, sed vitae discimus

We do not learn for the school, but for life

Seneca
Program: an Evolutive Perspective
Program: a Summary

1. Introduction to Audio and Video Communication
2. Basics on Digital Audio and Video Representation
3. Digital Audio and Video Communication Systems
   3.1 Photographic imaging
   3.2 Videotelephony and videoconference
   3.3 Digital video storage
   3.4 Digital television
   3.5 Advanced multimedia communication systems
   3.6 3D video systems
An Analogue World …
Analogue Communications World ...

±1880

±1905

±1920
The World Up Side Down ...

The Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection

This map is a projection that belongs to the family of Cylindrical Equal Area projections. In this case, the "cylinder" is wrapped around the globe and cut through $90^\circ$W to $90^\circ$E. In order to preserve the equal area property the shapes of land masses become progressively distorted towards the poles, but shapes between $45^\circ$N and $45^\circ$S are well preserved.

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
The World is Made of Change...
Bit Jumping ...
Many, Really Many, Bits …

- **Speech** – 2×4000 samples/s with 8 bit/sample – 64000 bit/s = 64 kbit/s

- **Music** – 2×22000 samples/s with 16 bit/sample – 704000 bit/s = 704 kbit/s

- **Video** – (576×720+2×576×360)×25 (20736000) samples/s with 8 bit/sample – 166000000 bit/s = 166 Mbit/s

- **Full HD 1080p** - (1080×1920+2×1080×960)×25 (103680000) samples/s with 8 bit/sample – 829440000 bit/s = 830 Mbit/s
We Need a Miracle!
Digital TV: Only an Example

- ITU-R 601 standard: 25 images/s with \(720 \times 576\) luminance samples and \(360 \times 576\) samples for each chrominance, at 8 bit/sample

\[
\left[(720 \times 576) + 2 \times (360 \times 576)\right] \times 8 \times 25 = 166 \text{ Mbit/s}
\]

- Practical bitrate with H.264/MPEG-4 AVC codec: 2 Mbit/s

=> Required Compression Factor: \(166/2 \approx 80\)

The difference between compressing or not implies the existence or not of many largely used services.
The Compression Miracle ...

Non Compressed Bits

Encoder

Compressed Bits

Decoder

Much less bits !!!

Audio and Video Communication, Fernando Pereira, 2014/2015
The Consequences of the Miracle (1) …
The Consequences of the Miracle (2) ...
The Multimedia Babel Tower …

4 billion (June 2009)
- ~4000 uploads/minute
- 128 years to view all of them (1s per image)
- 2% Internet users visit
- Daily time on site: 4.7 minutes

120 million (July 2009)
- ~20 hours uploaded/minute
- 600 years to see all of them
- 20% Internet users visit
- Daily time on site: 23 minutes

15 billion (April 2009)
- ~22000 uploads/minute
- 480 years to view all of them (1s per image)
- 24% Internet users visit
- Daily time on site: 30 minutes

2007 bandwidth = entire Internet in 2000
March 2008: bandwidth cost US$1M a day
From Hunger to Plenty or Drowning in Data ...
Filtering TV ...
Managing iPods Data ...

Can't Get It Out of My Head
Greatest Hits - Electric Light Orchestra

The Things We Do For Love
Greatest Hits 1972-76 - 10cc

I Wouldn't Want To Be Like You
I Robot - Alan Parsons Project

Rikki Don't Lose That Number
A Decade Of Steely Dan - Steely Dan

Take the Long Way Home
The Very Best of Supertramp - Supertramp

Nights on Broadway
Their Greatest Hits - The Record (Disk 1) - Be...

Your Mama Don't Dance
The Best Of Friends - Loggins & Messina
Data and Metadata Make a Great Couple ...
Digital is Easy: The Piracy Effect
Intellectual property (IP) enjoys legal protection and stems from the exercise of the mind. IP regards patents, trademarks, copyright, design protection and some minor rights.

- A patent for an invention is granted to the applicant, and gives him the right for a limited period to stop others from making, using or selling the invention without permission.

- Copyright is a legal right (usually of the author or composer or publisher of a work) to exclusive publication production, sale, distribution of some work.
A business model is the method of doing business by which a product/service can sustain itself - that is, generate revenue.

Some business models are quite simple. Other models can be more complex such as free television. The broadcaster is part of a complex network of distributors, content creators, advertisers, and listeners or viewers. Who makes money and how much is not always clear at the outset.

- Digital representations and networks give rise to new kinds of business models, since acquiring, transmitting, and storing information (now just bits) became much easier.

- But it is also likely to reinvent ‘old’ models such as auctions. New and interesting variations of old models should be expected in the future.
New Systems and … New Business Models …

iPod may play the following audio formats: MP3, WAV, AAC, **Protected AAC**, AIFF and Apple Lossless.
About Forecasting …

This TV advertisement about flat screens appeared in 1945 in a English newspaper!

Advices about forecasting:

★ You may try to forecast ‘WHAT’ …

★ But never try to forecast ‘WHEN’ …
It is today much easier than before to create and sell multimedia related products and services (mainly software based).

Internet helps the success of small, innovative companies created without much investment.

The competition between companies may stimulate also the operators to more easily embrace more innovative challenges.

Users are increasingly open to new services.

International contact is changing old habits and prejudices …

In summary, multimedia technology is an interesting field for Portuguese young engineers with initiative to launch their own companies!