2018-00632 - Computational Video Editing for Stage Performances

Contract type : Public service fixed-term contract
Level of qualifications required : Graduate degree or equivalent
Fonction : PhD Position

About the research centre or Inria department

Grenoble Rhône-Alpes Research Center groups together a few less than 800 people in 35 research teams and 9 research support departments.
Staff is localized on 5 campuses in Grenoble and Lyon, in close collaboration with labs, research and higher education institutions in Grenoble and Lyon, but also with the economic players in these areas.
Present in the fields of software, high-performance computing, Internet of things, image and data, but also simulation in oceanography and biology, it participates at the best level of international scientific achievements and collaborations in both Europe and the rest of the world.

Context

Context : This PhD thesis is proposed as part of an ongoing collaboration between computer scientists and performing arts researchers at Univ. Grenoble Alpes and INRIA to use video in teaching and researching the performing arts. In a previous project, the IMAGINE team at LJK and INRIA developed methods for automatic generation of cinematic rushes from ultra high definition video recordings of stage performances [1].

Here, we would like to propose techniques for making documentary movies from the generated rushes, based on an analysis of the script of the performance and a formalization of the rules of film editing. Ideally, the proposed techniques should be completely non-invasive (not requiring sensors on actors or on stage) and intuitive enough to be used by performing arts students, professors and researchers, without any expertise in video production.

References:

Assignment

Description: The goal of the PhD thesis will be to propose novel interaction techniques to students, professors and researchers in the performing arts for making movies from stage performances recorded on stage. On the one hand, we will propose novel algorithms for editing cinematographic rushes together into movie clips automatically, based on computational models of film editing « idioms » and machine analysis of the actors speech and motion. On the other hand, we will propose novel user interfaces for easily choosing between available idioms as in [2] and creating new idioms for the specific purpose of teaching and researching mise en scene and acting techniques.

During his/her thesis, the PhD student will create an extensive database of stage performance recordings, as part of a collaboration with the performing arts department at Univ. Grenoble Alpes and associated theatre companies. The raw recordings and the generated movies will be used as supporting material for teaching mise-en-scène and acting techniques, and for researching multiple aspects of expressive human motion, verbal and non-verbal communication, and dramaturgic techniques, as part of the new crossdisciplinary research project « Performance Lab ».

References:

Main activities

Research, design and implement algorithms for video editing using recordings of theatre
performances annotated with (incomplete) actors identities and poses. This will include implementing state-of-the-art speech recognition and speaker diarization methods for recognizing speaking actions and adapting them to the case of live performances.

Design and implement graphical user interfaces for interacting with the above algorithms.

Create and annotate datasets of rushes and edited movies suitable for training and testing the above methods.

Evaluate results both on an objective and a subjective basis.

Skills
Languages: Candidate must be fluent in French and English.

Open-minded: Candidate must have an interest in performing arts (theatre, dance and music) and be willing to work in a highly inter-disciplinary group of researchers in computer science, arts and humanities.

Benefits package
- Subsidised catering service
- Partially-reimbursed public transport
- Social security
- Paid leave
- Flexible working hours
- Sports facilities