# Machine Learning for **Indoor Acoustics**

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QMUL Winter School 09.12.21













# « What is the shape of the room? »





« What is the shape of the room? »

« Is the floor made of tiles or carpet? »



# OUTLINE

1) Intro & Background
2) Virtually-Supervised Learning
3) Examples and Results
4) Conclusions and Outlook



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# OUTLINE

# Intro & Background Virtually-Supervised Learning Examples and Results Conclusions and Outlook



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# **Sound Propagation**

• What is sound?



- What is sound?
  - A Mechanical Vibration





- What is sound?
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  - A Variation of Air Pressure







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  - A 3D Wave







 $\frac{1}{c^2}\frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 p = 0$ 



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- Sound has a speed:  $c \approx 343$  m/sec = 7





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- Sound Interacts:

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distance in meter

source









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#### 1) Introduction





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#### A signal model of reverberation?



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- Room Impulse response (RIR): Captures the linear filtering effect due to the propagation of sound from a point source to a microphone inside a room



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Input:  $\delta$ 



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### **The Room Impulse Response**

• Can be used to « reverberate » any dry sound source signal s(t):

$$x(t) = (h * s)(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(u)s(t-u)du \quad \stackrel{\text{Fourier}}{\longleftarrow} \quad \widetilde{x}(\omega) = \widetilde{h}(\omega)\widetilde{s}(\omega)$$



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www.openair.hosted.york.ac.uk/

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• Generalization to multiple microphones:

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- Source & receivers positions & properties
- Room geometry
- Surface properties





• Surface properties






















#### Difficult (interesting) inverse problems!



#### Why do we care?



## Why do we care?

1) Indoor noise disturbance

Make acoustic diagnosis faster / better [16]





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2) Audio Augmented Reality [6, 17]





## Why do we care?

1) Indoor noise disturbance

Make acoustic diagnosis faster / better [16]

2) Audio Augmented Reality [6, 17]



- 3) « Echo-Aware » Audio Signal Processing [7, 8]
  - Hearing aids
  - Vocal assistant devices







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## b) Real-Data-Driven Approaches [1, 2, 3, 6]



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## c) Virtually-Supervised Learning [4, 5, 9, 16, 17]



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## c) Virtually-Supervised Learning [4, 5, 9, 16, 17]



Forward

Physical Model

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## **RIR Simulation Trade-offs**

Realism vs. Computational complexity	Diversity vs. Training set size

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# **RIR Simulation Trade-offs**



#### **Diversity vs. Training set size**

- Room size? Toilet, Office, Airport Hall
- Room shape? Shoebox, Auditorium, Underground cave







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	✓ Versatile ✓ Versatile ✓ Doesn't capture low- freq effects ✓ Approx. TOAs	•	<ul><li>Random shoebox rooms with:</li><li>length/width in [2m, 10m]</li><li>height in [2m, 6m]</li></ul>
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		•	10k – 100k RIRs



## **RIR Simulation Trade-offs**

What about the surface acoustic properties?



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#### What about the surface acoustic properties?

- Diffusion coefficients:
  - Same random value for all surfaces
  - In [0, 0.3] < 500 Hz, in [0.2, 1] > 500 Hz



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## A « **reflectivity-biased** » acoustic sampling

strategy [16]

```
For each surface type (wall, ceiling, floor) toss
a coin:
    •On heads: frequency-independent absorption
    coefficient in [0, 0.12] for all (hard surfaces)
    •On tails: random absorption profile inside
    realistic ranges (treated surface)
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Diffusion coefficients: Meant to emulate typical surface Same random value for all surfaces diffusivity and room furnishing [X] In [0, 0.3] < 500 Hz, in [0.2, 1] > 500 Hz Absorption coefficients: Typically defined in octave bands (  $b \in \{125, 250, 500, \dots, 4000\}$  Hz ) 6000 A « reflectivity-biased » acoustic sampling Unif. RB strategy [16] 5000 For each surface type (wall, ceiling, floor) toss 4000 a coin: • On heads: frequency-independent absorption 3000 coefficient in [0, 0.12] for all (hard surfaces) 2000 • On tails: random absorption profile inside realistic ranges (treated surface) 1000 0 0.5 1.5 2 1 0



RT60 (s)

2.5

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## Example 1: RIR -> Mean absorption profile of surfaces [16]

$$\bar{\alpha}(b) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{S_{\text{tot}}} \sum_{\text{surface } i} \alpha_i(b) S_i \qquad (b \in \{125, 250, 500, \dots, 4000\} \text{ Hz})$$


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Absorption
coefficient in [0,1]



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Area in m<sup>2</sup>



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$$\sum_i S_i$$

























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#### 2) CNN















#### 2) CNN





- Simulated test results: RoomSim, real absorption profiles, 5 room geometries, 500 RIRs
- Comparing two training sets (Unif., RB) and the two neural networks (MLP, CNN) against Sabine and Eyring's laws (given true S<sub>tot</sub> and V)



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  - Training on uniformly sampled acoustics fails to outperform reverberation theory
    - Training on the reflectivity-biased set significantly outperforms both baselines





### Example 1: RIR -> Mean absorption profile of surfaces [16]

• Encouraging generalizability to real data (900 RIRs, 10 room configurations [12])





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 $ar{lpha}(1000 {
m Hz})$ , RIRs in  ${\cal A}$  vs  ${\cal B}$ 



# **Example 2: Blind echo estimation [4]**

#### A « pic-nic » dataset

- One Source
- Two microphones
- Nearest surface is most reflective
- Random shoe-box rooms





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Room impulse responses look like this:





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### **Example 2: Blind echo estimation [4]**

Simulated 2channel white





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Simulated 2channel white





### **Example 2: Blind echo estimation** [4]

Simulated 2channel white





 $\checkmark$ 

# **Example 2: Blind echo estimation** [4]

Simulated 2channel white



0.32

1.38

GCC-PHAT

GCC-PHAT

sp

sp+n



×

### **Example 3: Blind room parameter estimation [17]**

• Joint estimation of volume, total surface,  $RT_{60}(b)$  and  $\bar{\alpha}(b)$  from multiple, multichannel noisy speech recordings



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• A maximum-likelihood cost-function:  $\mathcal{L}_{\theta}(x, y) = -\log p_{\theta}(y|x) = -\log \mathcal{N}(y; \mu_{\theta}(x), \sigma_{\theta}^2(x))$ 

$$=rac{1}{2}\sum_{d=1}^D\log\sigma_{d, heta}^2(oldsymbol{x})+rac{(y_d-\mu_{d, heta}(oldsymbol{x}))^2}{\sigma_{d, heta}^2(oldsymbol{x})}$$



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$$\stackrel{c}{=} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d=1}^{D} \log \sigma_{d,\theta}^2(\boldsymbol{x}) + \frac{(y_d - \mu_{d,\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}))^2}{\sigma_{d,\theta}^2(\boldsymbol{x})}$$

• Allows aggreting multiple source-receiver recordings via Bayes' theorem:

$$p_{\theta}(y_d | \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} = [\boldsymbol{x}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{x}_J]) = \mathcal{N}(y_d; \bar{\mu}_{d,\theta}(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}), 1/\bar{\gamma}_{d,\theta}^2(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}})) \quad \bar{\mu}_{d,\theta}(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\gamma_{d,\theta}^2(\boldsymbol{x}_j)}{\bar{\gamma}_{d,\theta}^2(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}})} \mu_{d,\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_j), \ \bar{\gamma}_{d,\theta}^2(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_{d,\theta}^2(\boldsymbol{x}_j) - \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_{d,\theta}^2(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) - \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_{d,\theta}^2(\bar{\boldsymbol{x$$



### **Example 3: Blind room parameter estimation** [17]



Mean results on 3 real rooms [12] (30 rec. per room)

Innía
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1) Intro & Background
2) Virtually-Supervised Learning
3) Examples and Results
4) Conclusions and Outlook



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