

# TEACHING MIR: EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES RELATED TO MUSIC INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last few years, a number of researchers in the Music Information Retrieval (MIR) community have started to introduce the MIR world to students in the context of undergraduate and graduate degrees. There is then an increasing interest within the community to discuss about the most suitable ways (methodologies, tools and resources) to teach the different MIR techniques. Being MIR a multidisciplinary research field, MIR-related courses belong to a varied set of undergraduate and graduate programs within engineering, musicology, computer science or psychology. The multidisciplinary character of MIR and its strong link with music makes those courses very attractive for students with different backgrounds who may become future researchers in the area.

We present here the results of a community survey and a session about teaching MIR that was carried out in the context of the Demo/Late-break session of the 13th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference in Porto, in October 2012 [1].

## 2. TEACHING MIR: A COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE

We present here the two main conclusions of the session. First, as MIR is a novel and constantly-changing field, it becomes logical that teaching materials should also be in constant evolution. A good way to generate educational material would then be to establish a community driven repository of educational resources. As a first step towards that, we created a site intended to centralize teaching resources related to MIR [2]. This collaborative site is then addressed to teachers and students interested on these technologies from an educational point of view.

Second, and as mentioned before, MIR encompasses different disciplines, so that any educational material has to be adapted by each teacher to different student backgrounds and the particularities of each course. Attendees then agreed that it would be more useful to share small reusable resources than complete course materials: indi-

vidual assignments, musical examples useful to illustrate some MIR concepts, visual material, music-related datasets, scientific and introductory papers related to different techniques, pieces of code, etc.

## 3. COURSES REPOSITORY: LEARN MIR AROUND THE WORLD

We report here the results of a survey intended to create a list of existing MIR-related courses and educational institutions for those students interested in entering the MIR field. The list is constantly update as part of the mentioned *teachingmir* resource <sup>1</sup>.



Figure 1. Geographical location of MIR-related courses.

As for November, 2012, we collected a total of 18 MIR-related courses in different educational institutions in Europe and North-America, as shown in Figure 1. As there are some relevant research groups in Asia, South America and Australia/Oceania, we hope that this list will soon become fully representative of our research field. In the list, there is a higher proportion of graduate courses (72.2%, 13 courses) compared to undergraduate courses (27.7%, 5 courses). Interestingly, undergraduate courses are both framed in musical and scientific/technological programs.

We also observe that many courses provide on-line material (exercises, labs and lectures), showing the willingness of our community to share teaching resources.

Finally, course topics are very varied, representing the richness of our field. Course keywords include a wide

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<sup>1</sup> <https://teachingmir.wikispaces.com/courses>

