

Storyboard

Margaret Pinson and Naeem Ramzan, Editors

Video Quality Experts Group (VQEG) provides an open forum where video quality experts meet to advance the field of video quality assessment. Over the years, VQEG has developed a systematic approach to validation testing and made ten subjectively rated video quality datasets available freely for research and development purposes.

In late 2013, the VQEG agreed to begin this eLetter. The goal is provide timely updates on recent developments, hot research topics, and society news in the area of video quality, including:

- Technical papers
- Summary / review of other publications
- Best practice anthologies
- Reprints of difficult to obtain articles
- Response articles

VQEG wants the eLetter to be interactive in nature. Readers are encouraged to [respond](#) to articles appearing in a prior VQEG eLetter.

Best Practices for Training Sessions

This eLetter focuses on “best practices” for training sessions during a subjective video quality test. It is the great honour of the editorial team to have five leading research groups, from both academia and industry laboratories, to report their insights on this topic.

“[Practice Sessions for Subjective Speech Quality Tests](#)” by Stephen Voran from the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences in Boulder presents the importance to prepare subjects to participate in subjective speech quality tests. The

importance of fully working test equipment and practice sessions is discussed in detail.

[“On Training the Crowd for Subjective Quality Studies”](#) by Tobias Hossfeld from University of Würzburg presents new possibilities for quality evaluation by conducting subjective studies with the crowd of Internet users. The challenges of conducting training sessions for different methods of crowd sourcing are also elaborated in the article.

[“Viewer Training in Subjective Assessment”](#) by Vittorio Baroncini of Fondazione Ugo Bordoni (FUB) questions the use of identical written instructions for all subjects. The paper advises researchers to monitor subjects and provide feedback to establish an improved understanding of the subjective scale.

[“Training Sessions for Task Recognition”](#) by Lucjan Janowski and Mikołaj Leszczuk from AGH University present lessons learned from different task recognition tests. This paper explores the dramatically different impact of a specialized audience and task on training.

[“To Train or Not To Train?”](#) by Nicolas Staelens, Wendy Van den Broeck, and Filip De Turck from University of Ghent, discusses the differences between the results obtained in controlled labs and real-life environments. The article questions whether or not practice sessions are appropriate, depending upon the purpose of the experiment.

While this VQEG eLetter issue is far from delivering complete coverage on this exciting research area, we hope that these invited letters give the audience a taste of the main activities in this area, and provide them an opportunity to explore and collaborate in the related fields.

Technical Papers and Reprints

In addition to the main topic, this eLetter contains three invited articles on other topics.



Margaret H. Pinson is a researcher at the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS) in Boulder, Colorado. She joined the Video Quality Program in 1989. Mrs. Pinson is a Co-Chair of the Audiovisual HD project, the Independent Lab Group, and the new VQEG eLetter. She is an Associate Rapporteur of Questions 2 and 12 in ITU-T Study Group 9. Mrs. Pinson administers the Consumer Digital Video Library (CDVL, www.cdvl.org).



Dr. Naeem Ramzan, FHEA, SMIEEE, MIET, received M.S in Telecom from Brest, France and PhD in Electronics Engineering from Queen Mary University of London. From 2008 to 2012 he worked as senior researcher on different EU projects. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor in Visual Communication in the University of the West of Scotland. He has been a chair/co-chair of number of special sessions and International workshops. He has served as Guest Editor of a special issue of the Elsevier Journal Signal Processing: Image Communication and IEEE COMSOC E-Letter. He is co-chair of VQEG UltraHD group and editor-in-chief of VQEG E-Letter.

“[On Viewing Distance and Visual Quality Assessment in the Age of Ultra High Definition TV](#)” was contributed by Patrick Le Callet and Marcus Barkowsky of IRCCyN, Polytech Nantes, Université de Nantes, LUNAM Université. This paper reflects upon the viewing distance choices for ultra-high definition television subjective tests.

“[Comparison of Metrics: Discrimination Power of Pearson’s Linear Correlation, RMSE and Outlier Ratio](#)” by Greg W. Cermak is a reprint of a VQEG contribution from 2008. This article is a comparative analysis of the metrics correlation (Pearson’s R), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), and outlier ratio metrics in the context of video quality evaluation.

“[Progress of the Monitoring of Audio Visual Quality by Key Indicators \(MOAVI\) Project](#),” was written by the three MOAVI co-chairs: Mikołaj Leszczuk of AGH University, Silvio Borer of SwissQual, and Emmanuel Wyckens of Orange Labs. This article lists the technical progress made by the MOAVI committee through 2013.

Finally, we would like to thank all the authors for their great contributions.