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Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology IDMT

Music Plagiarism Detection



The music plagiarism detection software developed by Fraunhofer IDMT is a unique tool that allows users to detect both sampling plagiarism and melody plagiarism in music recordings.

Objectives and Functionality

A simple and objective analysis of music, with the aim of detecting similar or identical themes and motives, has been difficult so far, as appropriate devices and methods were missing. The music plagiarism detection software developed by Fraunhofer IDMT now offers a number of tools that support the objective assessment of alleged music plagiarism.

Tools for detecting sampling plagiarism

- New music recordings can be scanned to detect the reuse of individual excerpts ("samples") of older recordings.
- Reoccurring samples can be detected even if they are reused at a different speed and/or pitch, or if they were mixed with additional music tracks.
- For auralization of the analysis results, the detected sample can be removed from the new music. This way, sampling plagiarism can either be proven or disproven intuitively and reliably.

Tools for detecting melody plagiarism

- Two pieces of music can be compared in terms of having a similar or identical melody theme or motif.
- Specialized algorithms automatically determine the degree of similarity between the two sequences under analysis.
- If melody plagiarism has been detected, it can be measured more objectively.

Application Scenarios

The software developed by Fraunhofer IDMT supports e.g. independent reviewers, musicologists, composers, music labels, or publishers in detecting cases of music plagiarism using objective criteria.

Availability

The software comes as a C++ application and with a graphical user interface. It can be easily extended with new assessment criteria and interaction designs.

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