Hearing Paintings

Understanding abstract art through sonification

CAS AICP Module 3 Exercise

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Hearing Paintings: Sonifying Abstract Art with Neural Networks

Research questions

(1) *How do different AI-based tools translate images to sound help me identify patterns and characteristics within a series of abstract paintings?*

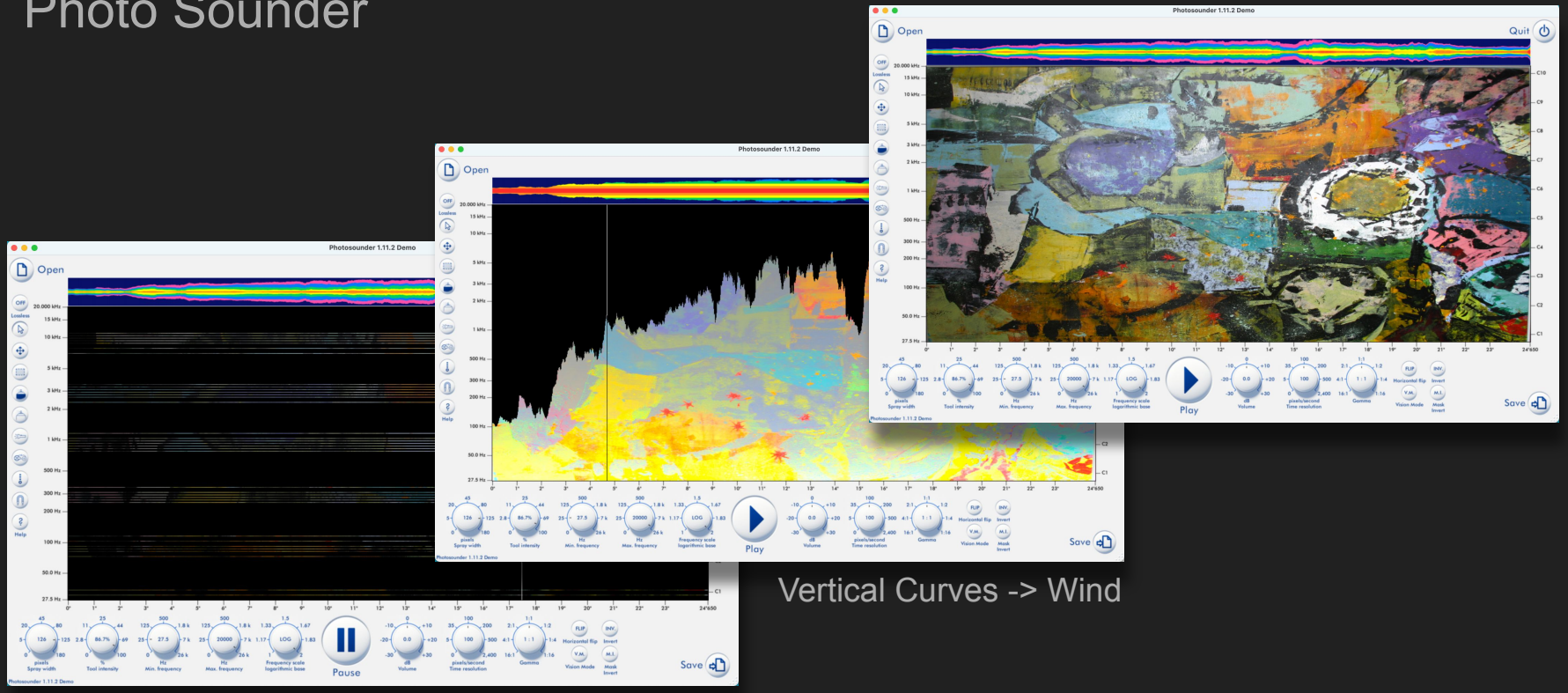
(2) *Can pre-trained neural networks and image-sonification tools be used to extract recurring visual patterns from one painter's work and translate them into distinguishable sonic structures?*

Key milestones

- Create a dataset: ~45 paintings
- extract visual structure using neural networks / deep learning
- design a mapping to sound
- compare at least two approaches.

The paintings
Katharina Bucher

Image Sonification Tools (1):
Photo Sounder



Vertical Curves -> Wind

Group to nearest semitone -> Pipe Organ

Image Sonification Tools (2):
Vosis

Electronic, musical sounds

Image Sonification Tools (3):
MaxMSP

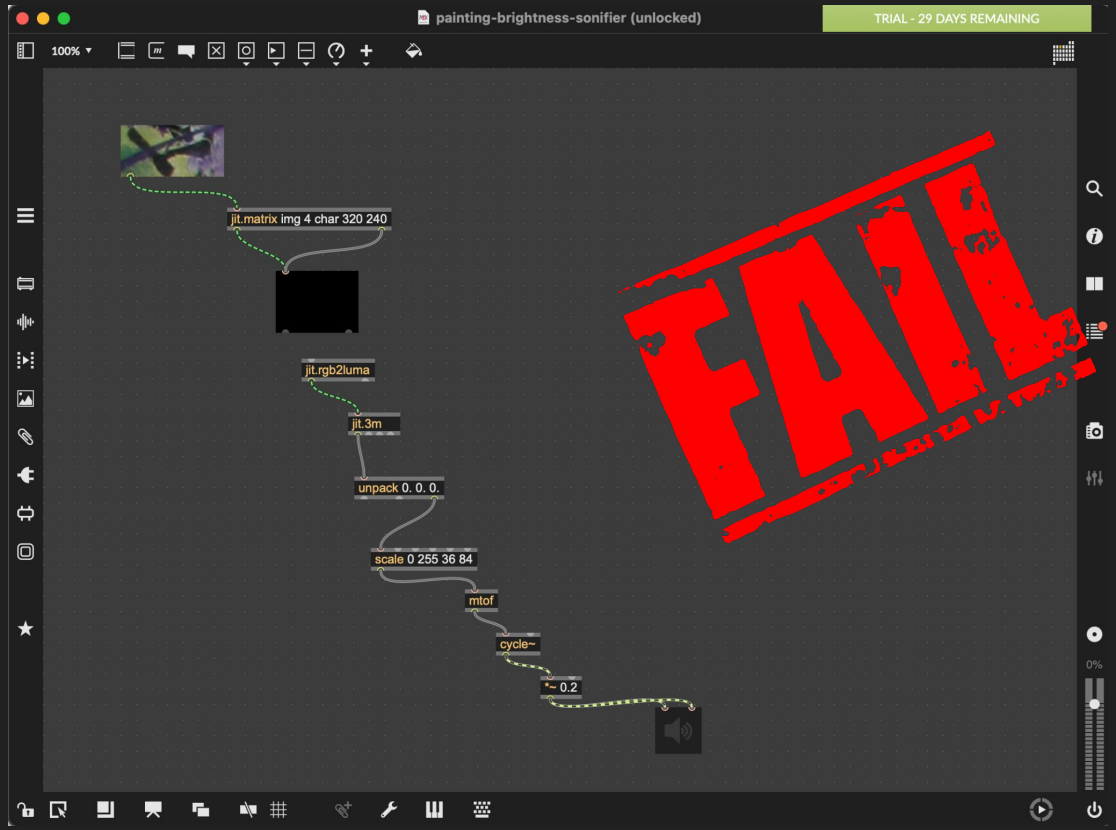


Image Sonification Tools (4):
Working with GPT5 & Python