

# Posthoc Explanations for Audio Models

Cem Subakan

December 5, 2024



UNIVERSITÉ  
**LAVAL**



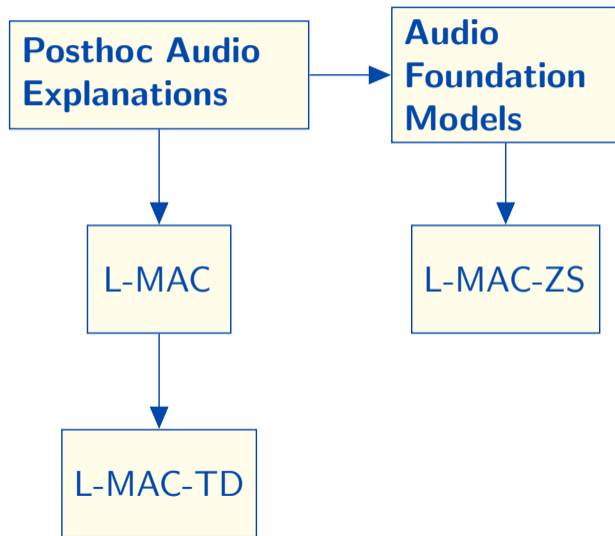
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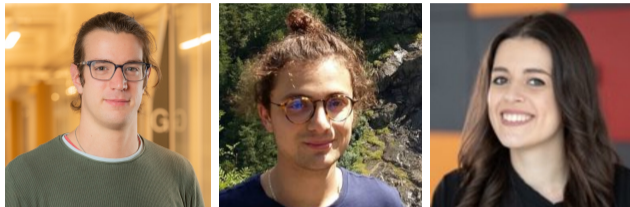
# Plan

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# Collaborators

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Francesco Paissan, Luca Della Libera, Eleonora Mancini, Mirco Ravanelli, Cem Subakan

# Table of Contents

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Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers

LMAC-TD: Producing Time Domain Explanations

LMAC-ZS: Explaining Zero-Shot Models

# Explainable Machine Learning

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- Black-box models



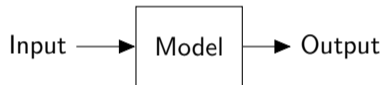
# Explainable Machine Learning

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- Black-box models



- Explainable Models



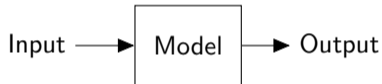
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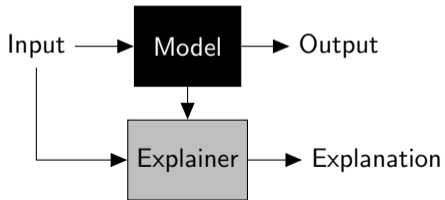
- Black-box models



- Explainable Models



- Posthoc Explanations



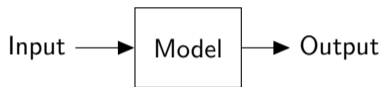
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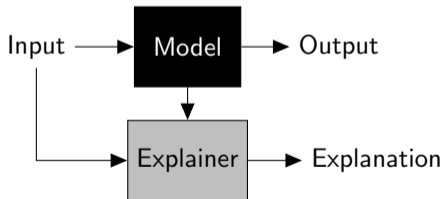
## ■ Black-box models



## ■ Explainable Models



## ■ Posthoc Explanations



**Desiderata:** Faithful, Listenable, Understandable Explanations

Important Tool for Decision Critical Applications (e.g. Healthcare, DeepFake detection)



# Neural Network Explanation

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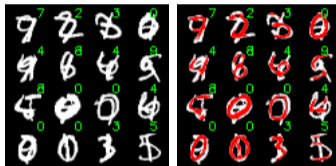
- Why does this particular input lead to that particular output?



# Neural Network Explanation

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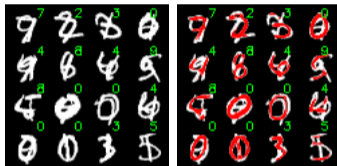
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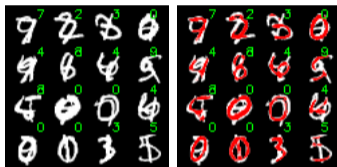


Recording, Classified as DOG

# Neural Network Explanation

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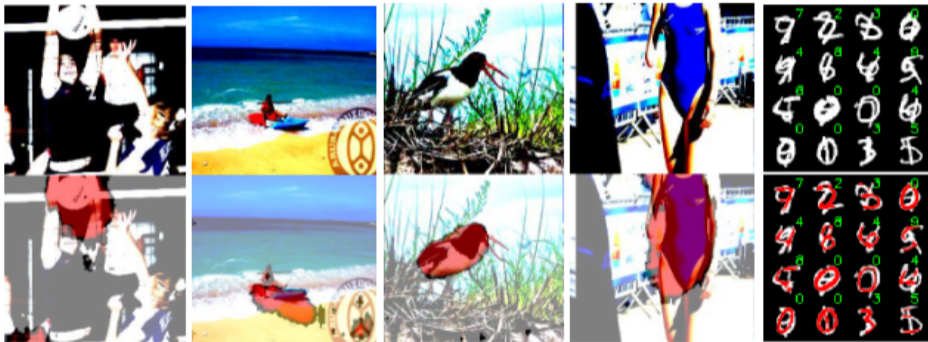
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Recording, Classified as DOG  
**Interpretation**

# Explanations

- Saliency maps are commonly used in computer vision for producing explanations.



# Explanations

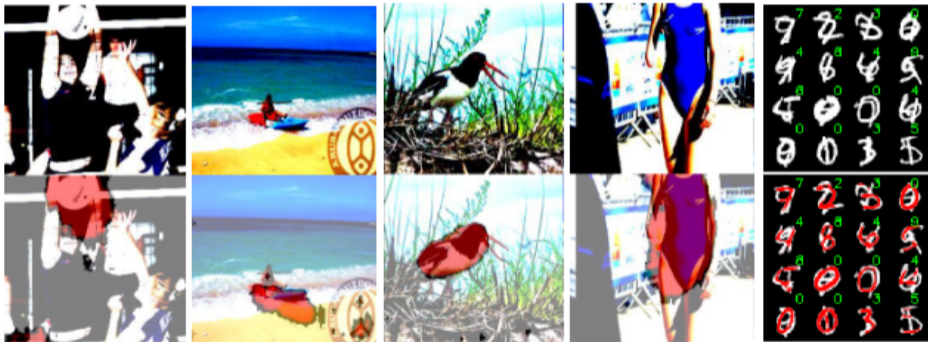
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- The explanations should **faithfully** follow the original model.

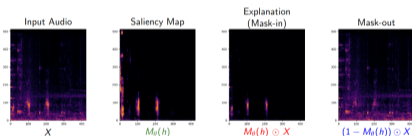
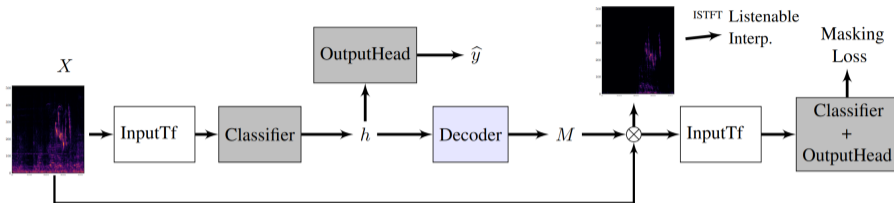
# Explanations

- Saliency maps are commonly used in computer vision for producing explanations.



- The explanations should **faithfully** follow the original model.
- **Faithful** and **understandable** explanations are important for domains where decisions are critical!

# Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers (L-MAC)



$$\min_{\theta} \underbrace{\lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(M_{\theta}(h) \odot X), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-in}} - \underbrace{\lambda_{out} \mathcal{L}_{out}(\log f((1 - M_{\theta}(h)) \odot X), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-out}} + \underbrace{|M_{\theta}(h)|}_{\text{Mask Reg}}$$

Metric	AI (t)	AD (l)	AG (t)	FF (t)	Fid-In (t)	SPS (t)	COMP (l)	
Listenable (STFT→Mel)	Saliency	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.39	5.48
	Smoothgrad	0.00	15.71	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.42	5.32
	IG	0.25	15.45	0.01	0.07	0.13	0.43	5.11
	GradCAM	8.50	10.11	1.47	0.17	0.33	0.34	5.64
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	15.61	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.44	5.12
	Guided Backprop	0.00	15.66	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.39	5.47
	L2I, RT=0.2	1.63	12.78	0.42	0.11	0.15	0.25	5.50
	SHAP	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.43	5.24
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>36.25</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>23.50</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>4.71</b>
	L-MAC, FT, $\lambda_g = 4$ (ours)	32.37	1.98	18.74	0.21	0.41	0.43	5.20
Not Listenable (Mel)	Saliency	0.00	15.81	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.39	4.53
	Smoothgrad	0.00	15.61	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.39	4.54
	IG	0.00	15.55	0.00	0.12	0.08	0.42	4.36
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	Guided GradCAM	0.125	15.40	6.67	0.08	0.07	0.45	4.17
	Guided Backprop	0.125	15.54	0.00	0.10	0.08	0.39	4.53
	SHAP	0.00	15.57	0.00	0.11	0.08	0.41	4.42
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>35.63</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>24.28</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>4.11</b>
	L-MAC (ours) FT, $\lambda_g = 4$	36.13	1.28	21.15	0.23	0.42	0.32	4.71

[F. Paissan, M. Ravanelli, C.Subakan; ICML 2024 (Oral)]

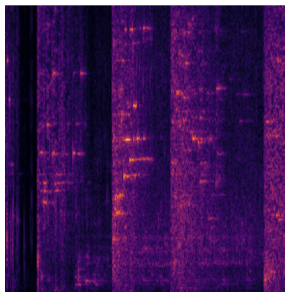


# Contributions

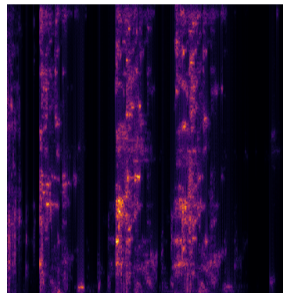
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- We develop an **understandable** and **faithful** (SOTA) posthoc explanation method for audio classifiers.

Input Audio



Explanation

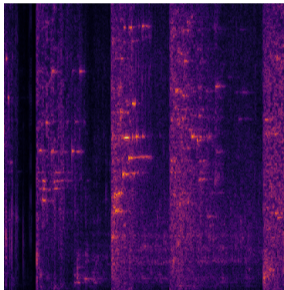


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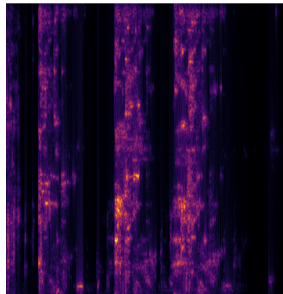
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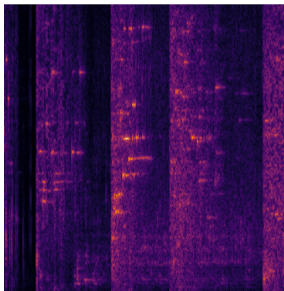
- Our method is agnostic to classifier input domain, and generates **listenable** explanations.

# Contributions

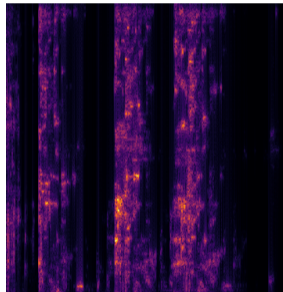
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- We develop an **understandable** and **faithful** (SOTA) posthoc explanation method for audio classifiers.

Input Audio



Explanation



- Our method is agnostic to classifier input domain, and generates **listenable** explanations.
- We propose a fine-tuning strategy that improves understandability/faithfulness trade-off.

# Considerations

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We would like to obtain

# Considerations

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- Faithful,

# Considerations

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We would like to obtain

- Faithful,
- Listenable,

# Considerations

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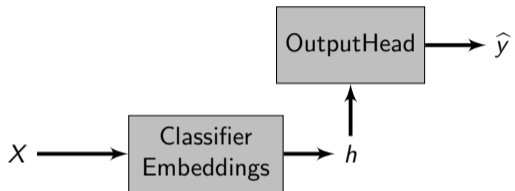
We would like to obtain

- Faithful,
- Listenable,
- Understandable

**Posthoc Explanations for Audio Classifiers**

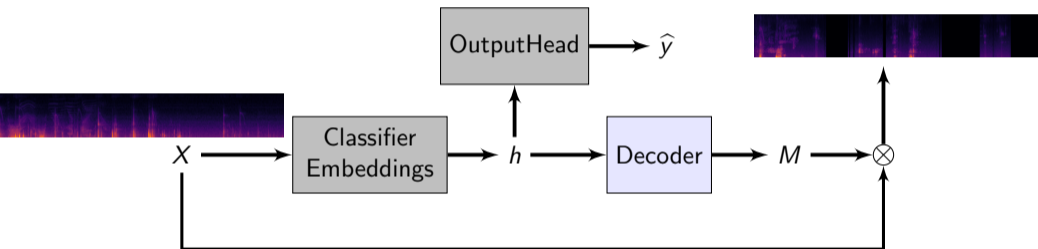
# Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers

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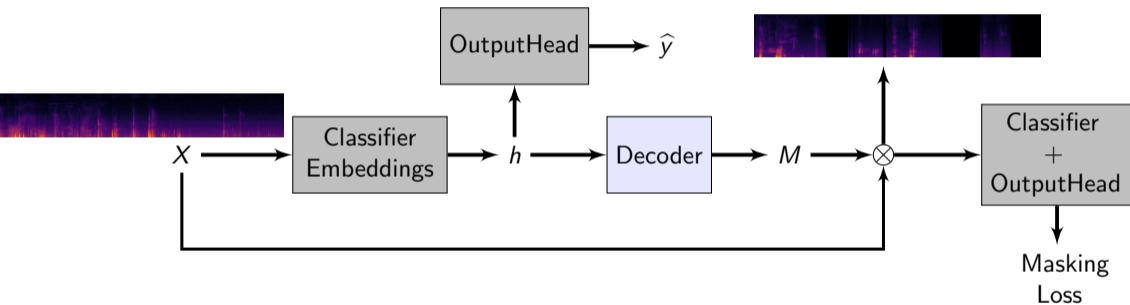




# Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers



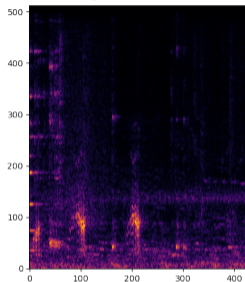
# Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers



# Optimization objective

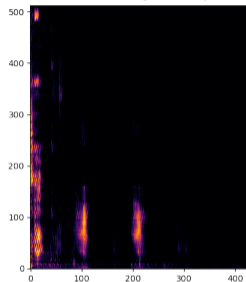
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Input Audio



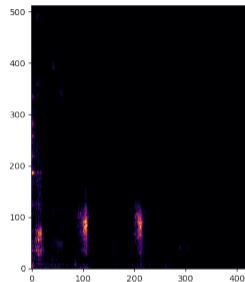
$X$

Saliency Map



$M_{\theta}(h)$

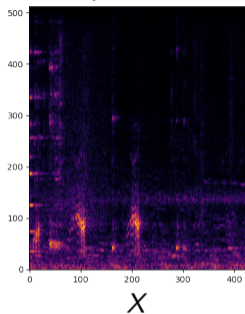
Mask-in



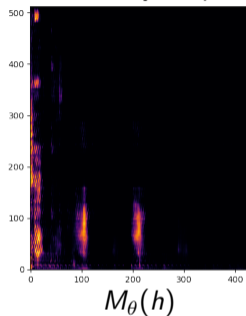
$M_{\theta}(h) \odot X$

# Optimization objective

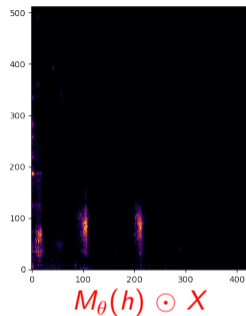
Input Audio



Saliency Map



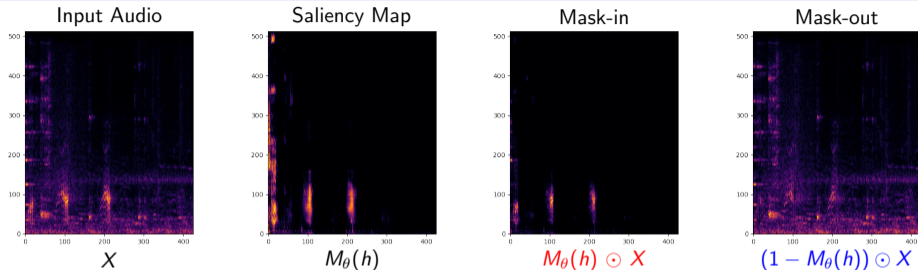
Mask-in



$$\min_{\theta} \overbrace{\lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(M_\theta(h) \odot X), \hat{y})}^{\text{Mask-in}}$$

Maximizes the classifier agreement between the input and the explanation.

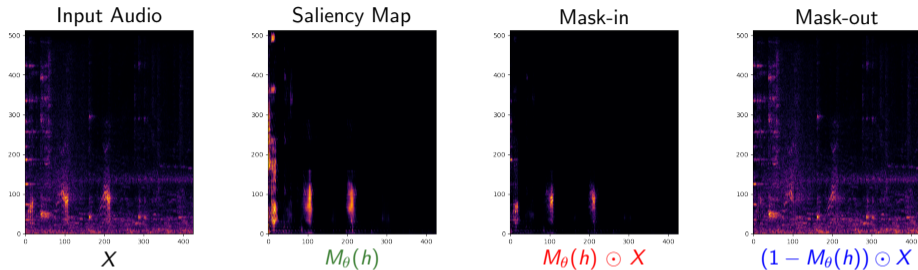
# Optimization objective



$$\min_{\theta} \underbrace{\lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(M_\theta(h) \odot X), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-in}} - \underbrace{\lambda_{out} \mathcal{L}_{out}(\log f((1 - M_\theta(h)) \odot X), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-out}}$$

Minimizes the classifier agreement of what is not in the explanation and the input.

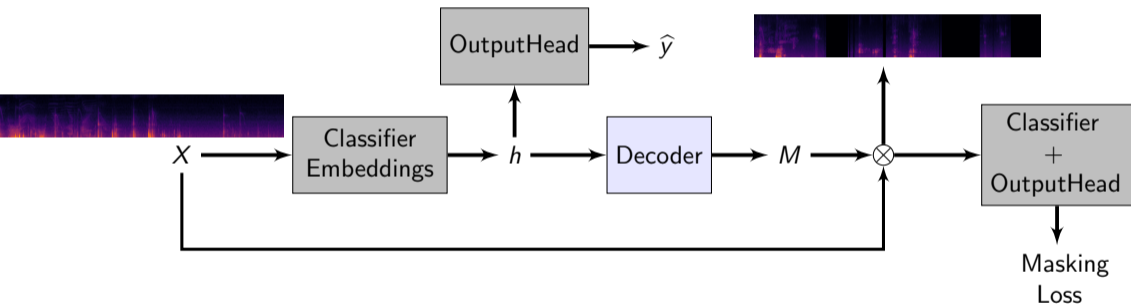
# Optimization objective



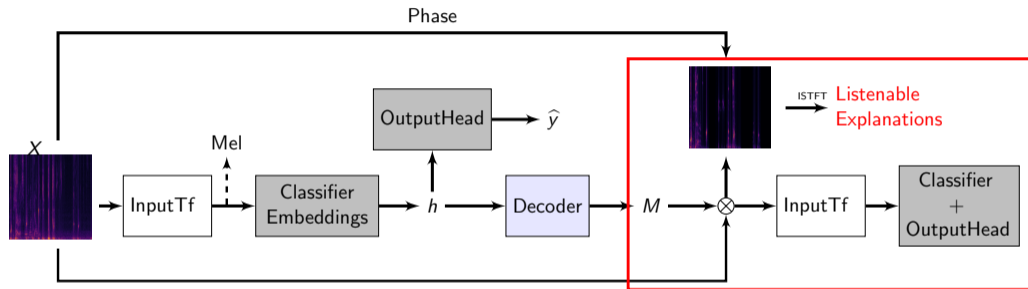
$$\min_{\theta} \underbrace{\lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(\text{Mask-in}), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-in}} - \underbrace{\lambda_{out} \mathcal{L}_{out}(\log f(\text{Mask-out}), \hat{y})}_{\text{Mask-out}} + \underbrace{|M_\theta(h)|}_{\text{Mask Reg}}$$

Avoids trivial solutions.

# Producing Listenable Explanations



# Producing Listenable Explanations



$$\text{Listenable Explanation} = \text{ISTFT} \left( (M_{\theta}(h) \odot X) e^{jX_{\text{phase}}} \right)$$



# Measuring faithfulness and understandability

---

- **Faithfulness:** Measures importance of explanations for classifier decisions
  - ▶ L2I-Faithfulness

$$FF_n = p_{\hat{c}}(X_n) - p_{\hat{c}}(X_n - (X_n \odot M)),$$

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$$AI = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N [p_{\hat{c}}(X_n \odot M) > p_{\hat{c}}(X_n)] \cdot 100,$$

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$$AG = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{\max(0, p_{\hat{c}}(X_n \odot M) - p_{\hat{c}}(X_n))}{1 - p_{\hat{c}}(X_n)} \cdot 100.$$

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- ▶ Average-Drop

$$AD = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{\max(0, p_{\hat{c}}(X_n) - p_{\hat{c}}(X_n \odot M))}{p_{\hat{c}}(X_n)} \cdot 100.$$

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$$AD = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{\max(0, p_{\hat{c}}(X_n) - p_{\hat{c}}(X_n \odot M))}{p_{\hat{c}}(X_n)} \cdot 100.$$

- ▶ Input Fidelity

$$Fid-In = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N [\arg \max_c p_c(X_n) = \arg \max_{c'} p_{c'}(X_n \odot M)].$$

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# Understandability

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$$\min_{\theta} \lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(M_{\theta}(h) \odot X), \hat{y}) - \lambda_{out} \mathcal{L}_{out}(\log f((1 - M_{\theta}(h)) \odot X), \hat{y}) + \overbrace{|M_{\theta}(h)|}^{\text{Regularizer}}$$

# Understandability

---

$$\min_{\theta} \lambda_{in} \mathcal{L}_{in}(\log f(M_{\theta}(h) \odot X), \hat{y}) - \lambda_{out} \mathcal{L}_{out}(\log f((1 - M_{\theta}(h)) \odot X), \hat{y}) \\ + \lambda_s \underbrace{\|M_{\theta}(h)\|_1}_{L_1} + \lambda_g \underbrace{\|M_{\theta}(h) \odot X - X_{clean}\|}_{Finetuning}$$

- $L_1$ : Avoids trivial solutions (e.g. all 1s).
- *Finetuning*: Improves Understandability.
  - ▶ Used in a second stage, selectively.

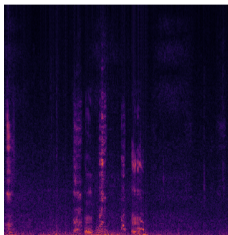


# Understandability

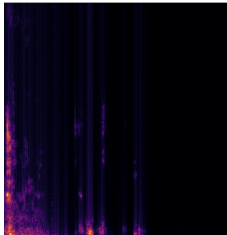
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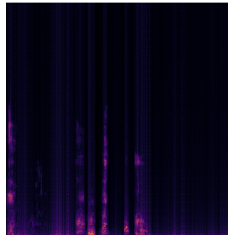
Input Audio



No finetuning



Finetuning



# Experiments

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- We produce explanations for classifiers trained on Sound Event Classification Datasets (**ESC50**, **US8k**).

# Experiments

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- We produce explanations for classifiers trained on Sound Event Classification Datasets (**ESC50**, **US8k**).
- We examine explanations on In-Domain (**ID**) and Out-of-Domain (**OOD**) cases.
  - ▶ ID: Plain datasets with data augmentation
  - ▶ OOD: Mixtures with different contaminating sources

# Quantitative Results - ID

	Metric	AI ( $\uparrow$ )	AD ( $\downarrow$ )	AG ( $\uparrow$ )	FF ( $\uparrow$ )	Fid-In ( $\uparrow$ )	SPS ( $\uparrow$ )	COMP ( $\downarrow$ )
Listenable (STFT $\rightarrow$ Mel)	Saliency	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.39	5.48
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	SHAP	0.00	15.57	0.00	0.11	0.08	0.41	4.42
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	35.63	1.59	<b>24.28</b>	0.22	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.45</b>	4.11
	<b>L-MAC (ours) FT, <math>\lambda_g = 4</math></b>	<b>36.13</b>	<b>1.28</b>	21.15	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.42</b>	0.32	4.71

# Quantitative Results - ID

Metric		AI ( $\uparrow$ )	AD ( $\downarrow$ )	AG ( $\uparrow$ )	FF ( $\uparrow$ )	Fid-In ( $\uparrow$ )	SPS ( $\uparrow$ )	COMP ( $\downarrow$ )
Listenable (STFT $\rightarrow$ Mel)	Saliency	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.39	5.48
	Smoothgrad	0.00	15.71	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.42	5.32
	IG	0.25	15.45	0.01	0.07	0.13	0.43	5.11
	GradCAM	8.50	10.11	1.47	0.17	0.33	0.34	5.64
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	15.61	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.44	5.12
	Guided Backprop	0.00	15.66	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.39	5.47
	L2I, RT=0.2	1.63	12.78	0.42	0.11	0.15	0.25	5.50
	SHAP	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.43	5.24
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>36.25</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>23.50</b>	0.20	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>4.71</b>
	L-MAC, FT, $\lambda_g = 4$ (ours)	32.37	1.98	18.74	<b>0.21</b>	0.41	0.43	5.20
Not Listenable (Mel)	Saliency	0.00	15.81	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.39	4.53
	Smoothgrad	0.00	15.61	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.39	4.54
	IG	0.00	15.55	0.00	0.12	0.08	0.42	4.36
	GradCAM	7.00	10.93	1.04	0.17	0.29	0.34	<b>4.72</b>
	Guided GradCAM	0.125	15.40	6.67	0.08	0.07	<b>0.45</b>	4.17
	Guided Backprop	0.125	15.54	0.00	0.10	0.08	0.39	4.53
	SHAP	0.00	15.57	0.00	0.11	0.08	0.41	4.42
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	35.63	1.59	<b>24.28</b>	0.22	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.45</b>	4.11
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	L2I, RT=0.2	1.63	12.78	0.42	0.11	0.15	0.25	5.50
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- Generating listenable explanations does not decrease the alignment with the classifier.

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	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>36.25</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>23.50</b>	0.20	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>4.71</b>
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	<b>L-MAC (ours) FT, <math>\lambda_g = 4</math></b>	<b>36.13</b>	<b>1.28</b>	21.15	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.42</b>	0.32	4.71

- Finetuning does not harm faithfulness significantly.
- Generating listenable explanations does not decrease the alignment with the classifier.
- We have comparable structural metrics.

# Quantitative Results - OOD (Audio Mixtures)

	Metric	AI ( $\uparrow$ )	AD ( $\downarrow$ )	AG ( $\uparrow$ )	FF ( $\uparrow$ )	Fid-In ( $\uparrow$ )	SPS ( $\uparrow$ )	COMP ( $\downarrow$ )
Listenable (STFT $\rightarrow$ Mel)	Saliency	0.62	31.73	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.76	11.06
	Smoothgrad	0.12	31.84	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.83	10.66
	IG	0.37	31.15	0.03	0.12	0.26	0.87	10.22
	L2I	5.00	25.65	1.00	0.20	0.35	0.52	10.99
	GradCAM	14.12	17.62	7.46	0.25	0.00	0.91	9.66
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	31.74	0.00	0.07	0.11	0.89	10.24
	Guided Backprop	0.63	31.73	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.76	11.06
	SHAP	0.00	31.81	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.84	10.58
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>60.63</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>35.85</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>9.61</b>
L-MAC FT, $\lambda_g = 4$ (ours)	50.75	6.73	26.00	<b>0.39</b>	0.78	0.84	10.51	
Not Listenable (Mel)	Saliency	0.38	31.64	0.01	0.15	0.12	0.77	9.17
	Smoothgrad	0.25	31.66	0.01	0.14	0.11	0.79	9.03
	IG	0.12	31.52	0.01	0.19	0.19	0.84	8.62
	GradCAM	19.88	18.85	4.67	0.34	0.69	0.66	9.49
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	31.68	0	0.14	0.12	0.89	10.24
	Guided Backprop	0.38	31.64	0.01	0.15	0.12	0.77	9.16
	SHAP	0.25	31.60	0.00	0.17	0.15	0.82	8.81
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	60.25	<b>4.84</b>	<b>34.72</b>	<b>0.44</b>	0.80	<b>0.90</b>	<b>8.29</b>
	<b>L-MAC - FT, <math>\lambda_g = 4</math> (ours)</b>	<b>60.75</b>	<b>4.84</b>	29.34	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.83</b>	0.64	9.38



# Quantitative Results - OOD (Audio Mixtures)

	Metric	AI ( $\uparrow$ )	AD ( $\downarrow$ )	AG ( $\uparrow$ )	FF ( $\uparrow$ )	Fid-In ( $\uparrow$ )	SPS ( $\uparrow$ )	COMP ( $\downarrow$ )
Listenable (STFT $\rightarrow$ Mel)	Saliency	0.62	31.73	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.76	11.06
	Smoothgrad	0.12	31.84	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.83	10.66
	IG	0.37	31.15	0.03	0.12	0.26	0.87	10.22
	L2I	5.00	25.65	1.00	0.20	0.35	0.52	10.99
	GradCAM	14.12	17.62	7.46	0.25	0.00	0.91	9.66
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	31.74	0.00	0.07	0.11	0.89	10.24
	Guided Backprop	0.63	31.73	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.76	11.06
	SHAP	0.00	31.81	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.84	10.58
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	<b>60.63</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>35.85</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>9.61</b>
L-MAC FT, $\lambda_g = 4$ (ours)	50.75	6.73	26.00	<b>0.39</b>	0.78	0.84	10.51	
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	IG	0.12	31.52	0.01	0.19	0.19	0.84	8.62
	GradCAM	19.88	18.85	4.67	0.34	0.69	0.66	9.49
	Guided GradCAM	0.00	31.68	0	0.14	0.12	0.89	10.24
	Guided Backprop	0.38	31.64	0.01	0.15	0.12	0.77	9.16
	SHAP	0.25	31.60	0.00	0.17	0.15	0.82	8.81
	<b>L-MAC (ours)</b>	60.25	<b>4.84</b>	<b>34.72</b>	<b>0.44</b>	0.80	<b>0.90</b>	<b>8.29</b>
	<b>L-MAC - FT, <math>\lambda_g = 4</math> (ours)</b>	<b>60.75</b>	<b>4.84</b>	29.34	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.83</b>	0.64	9.38

We observe the same outcome on US8k as well! (See the appendix)

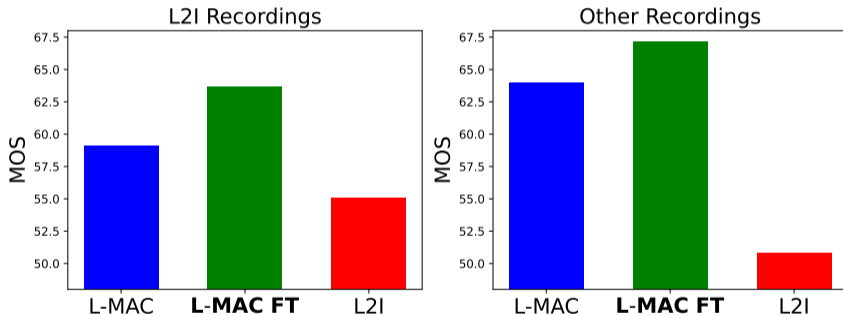
# User Study

---

1. How well does the explanation correspond to the part of the input audio associated with the given class?
2. While evaluating, please pay attention to audio quality also.

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■ Recording 1:

- ▶ L-MAC
- ▶ L2I [NeurIPS'22]

■ OOD (Speech):

- ▶ L-MAC
- ▶ L2I [NeurIPS'22]

# Conclusions

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- We proposed a SOTA **posthoc explanation** method for audio classifiers.
- Our method is agnostic to classifier input representation.
- Our method provides **understandable**, **listenable** and **faithful** explanations both in ID and OOD cases.
- Our code is available in SpeechBrain.



# Table of Contents

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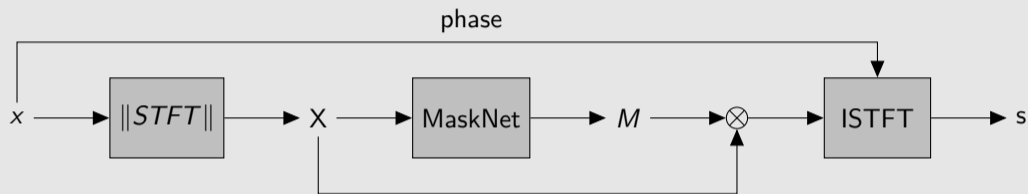
Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers

LMAC-TD: Producing Time Domain Explanations

LMAC-ZS: Explaining Zero-Shot Models

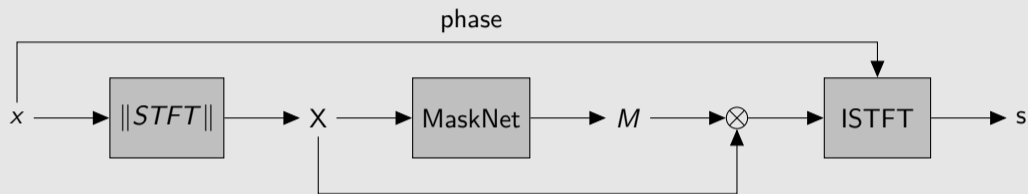
# Masking in Frequency Domain vs Learnt Domain

## Classical Frequency Domain Magnitude Masking

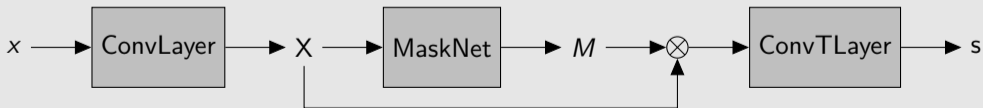


# Masking in Frequency Domain vs Learnt Domain

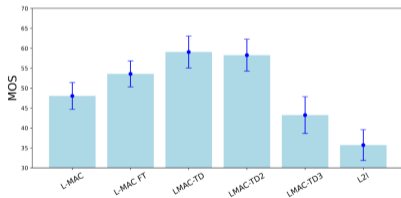
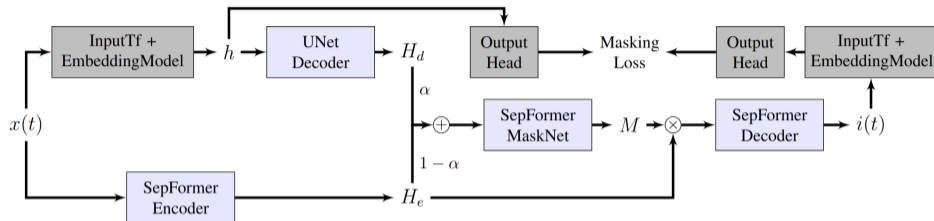
## Classical Frequency Domain Magnitude Masking



## Learnable Domain Masking



# L-MAC in Time Domain



Metric	AI (↑)	AD (↓)	AG (↑)	FF (↑)	Fid-In (↑)	SPS (↑)	COMP (↓)
Saliency	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.39	5.48
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L2l, RT=0.2	1.63	12.78	0.42	0.11	0.15	0.25	5.50
SHAP	0.00	15.79	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.43	5.24
L-MAC	36.25	<b>1.15</b>	23.50	0.20	0.42	0.47	<b>4.71</b>
L-MAC, FT, $\lambda_g = 4$	32.37	1.98	18.74	0.21	0.41	0.43	5.20
<b>LMAC-TD, <math>\alpha = 1.00</math> (ours)</b>	<b>66.00</b>	2.62	22.39	<b>0.42</b>	0.87	<b>0.86</b>	10.50
<b>LMAC-TD, <math>\alpha = 0.75</math> (ours)</b>	<b>69.75</b>	2.10	<b>28.07</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.86</b>	10.53
<b>LMAC-TD, <math>\alpha = 0.00</math> (ours)</b>	46.50	5.55	11.86	<b>0.42</b>	0.86	0.80	10.88

[E. Mancini, F. Paissan, M. Ravanelli, C. Subakan; Submitted to ICASSP 2025]



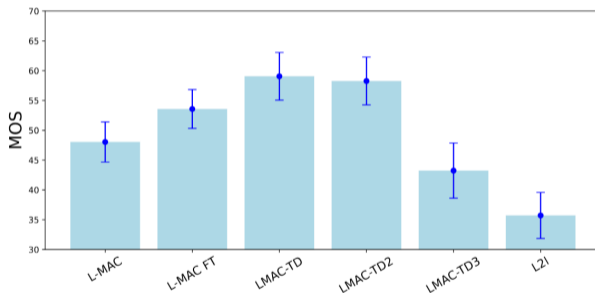
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## ■ Recording 1:

- ▶ LMAC-TD
- ▶ L-MAC
- ▶ L2I [NeurIPS'22]

## ■ Recording 2:

- ▶ LMAC-TD
- ▶ L-MAC
- ▶ L2I [NeurIPS'22]

# Table of Contents

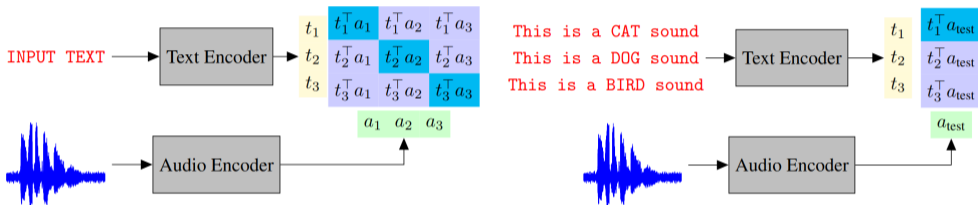
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Listenable Maps for Audio Classifiers

LMAC-TD: Producing Time Domain Explanations

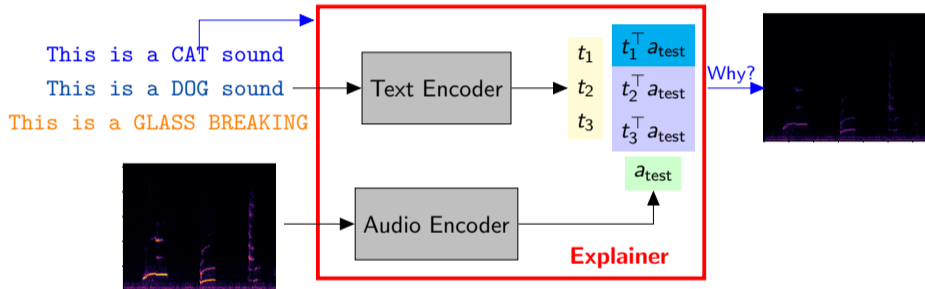
LMAC-ZS: Explaining Zero-Shot Models

# Text-audio foundation models

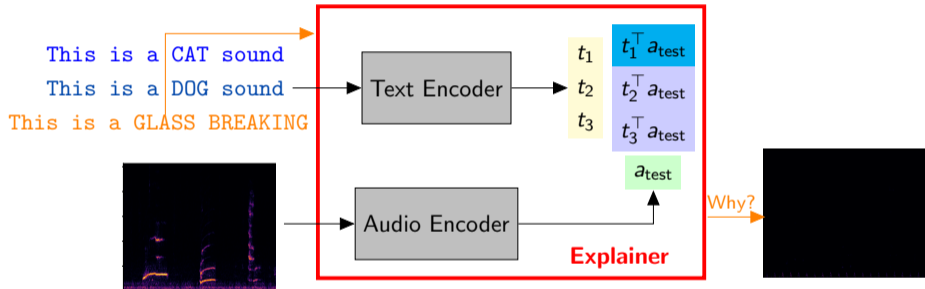


[Elizalde et al., CLAP: Learning Audio Concepts from Natural Language Supervision, ICASSP 2023]

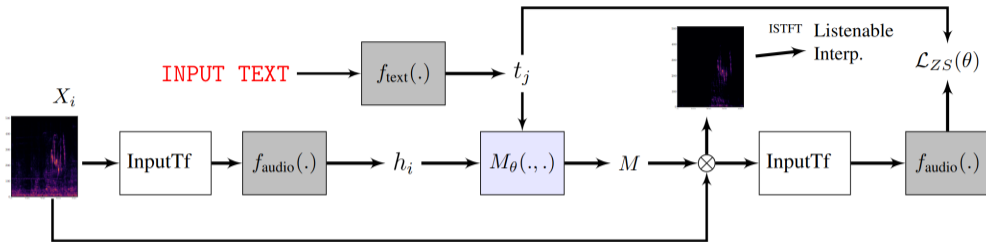
# Listenable Maps for Zero-Shot Audio Classifiers



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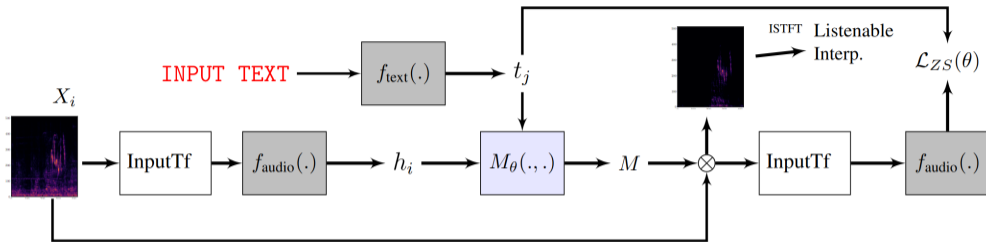
# LMAC-ZS: Listenable Maps for Zero-Shot Audio Classifiers



- LMAC-ZS estimates **listenable** and **faithful** explanations for zero-shot audio classifiers.

[F. Paissan, L.D. Libera, M. Ravanelli, C. Subakan, NeurIPS 2024]

# LMAC-ZS: Listenable Maps for Zero-Shot Audio Classifiers

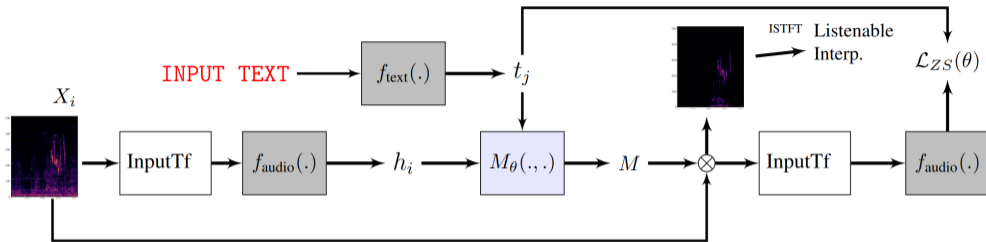


- LMAC-ZS estimates **listenable** and **faithful** explanations for zero-shot audio classifiers.
  - ▶ **Challenge:** No classifier for faithfulness signal!

[F. Paissan, L.D. Libera, M. Ravanelli, C. Subakan, NeurIPS 2024]



# LMAC-ZS: Listenable Maps for Zero-Shot Audio Classifiers



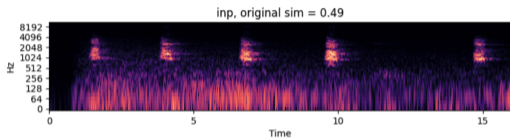
- LMAC-ZS estimates **listenable** and **faithful** explanations for zero-shot audio classifiers.
  - ▶ **Challenge:** No classifier for faithfulness signal!
- But we can measure cross-modal similarities:

$$\mathcal{L}_{ZS}(\theta) = \underbrace{\sum_{i,j} \left| C_{i,j} - t_i^\top f_{\text{audio}} \left( M_\theta(t_i, h_j) \odot X_{\text{audio},j} \right) \right|}_{\text{Similarity Matching}} + \underbrace{\lambda_1 \left\| M_\theta(t_i, h_j) \right\|_1}_{\text{Mask Regularization}} + \underbrace{\lambda_2 \sum_i D(X_{\text{audio},i})}_{\text{Prompt Diversity}}.$$

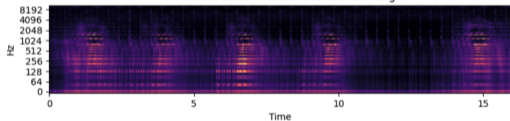
[F. Paissan, L.D. Libera, M. Ravanelli, C. Subakan, NeurIPS 2024]

# Qualitative Results

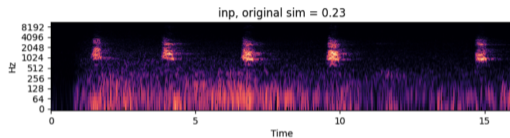
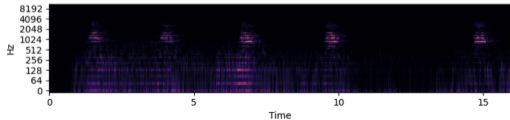
$$D(X_{\text{audio},i}) = \sum_{j:j \neq i} \left\| t_i^\top t_j - f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_i, h_i) \right)^\top f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_j, h_j) \right) \right\|.$$



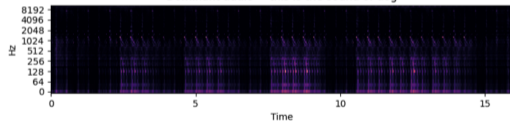
Predicted class = dog  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog



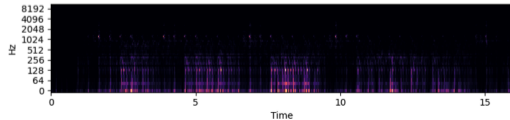
m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.56



Predicted class = train  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog

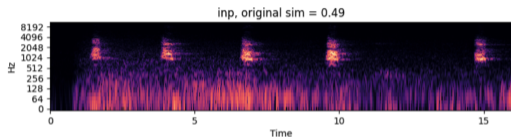


m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.30

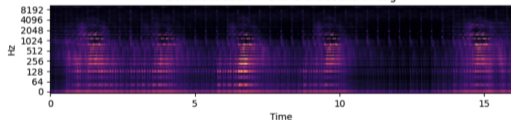


# Qualitative Results

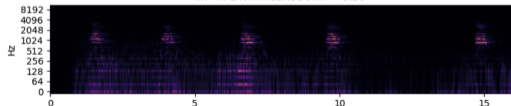
$$D(X_{\text{audio},i}) = \sum_{j:j \neq i} \left\| t_i^\top t_j - f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_i, h_i) \right)^\top f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_j, h_i) \right) \right\|.$$



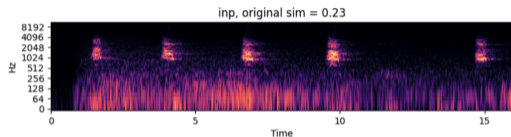
Predicted class = dog  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog



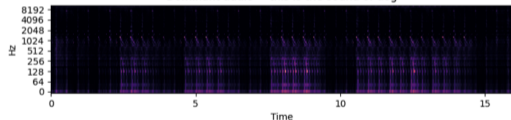
m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.56



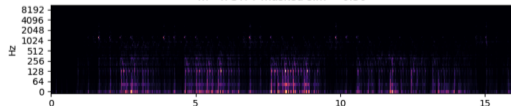
“Explain dog barking”



Predicted class = train  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog

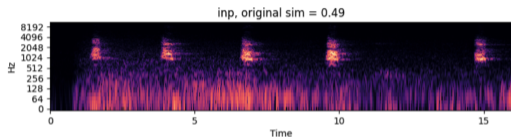


m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.30

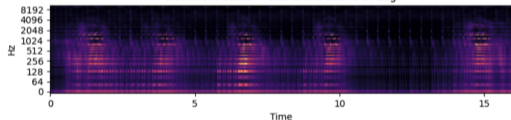


# Qualitative Results

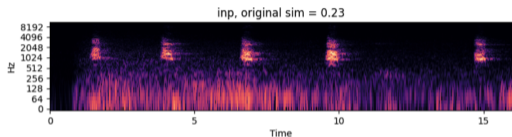
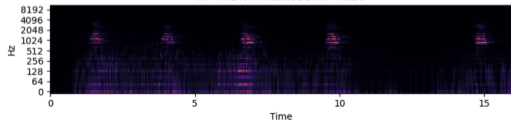
$$D(X_{\text{audio},i}) = \sum_{j:j \neq i} \left\| t_i^\top t_j - f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_i, h_i) \right)^\top f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_j, h_i) \right) \right\|.$$



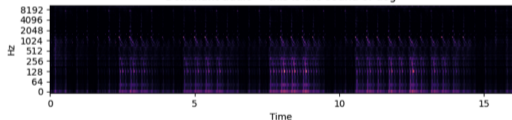
Predicted class = dog  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog



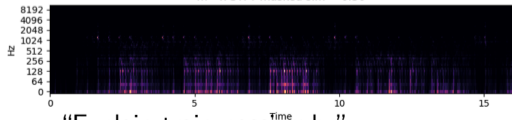
m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.56



Predicted class = train  
Dominant audio = this is the sound of dog



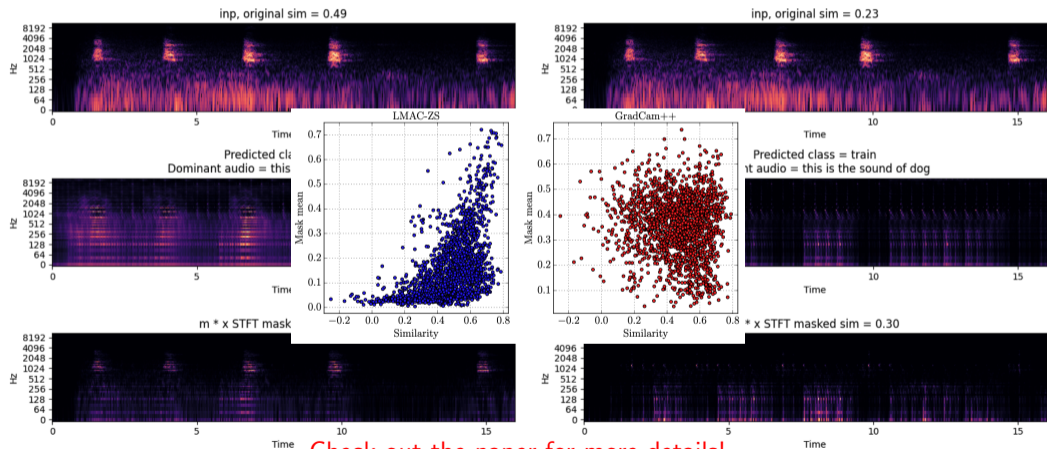
m \* x STFT masked sim = 0.30



“Explain train passing by”

# Qualitative Results

$$D(X_{\text{audio},i}) = \sum_{j:j \neq i} \left\| t_i^\top t_j - f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_i, h_i) \right)^\top f_{\text{audio}} \left( X_{\text{audio},i} \odot M_\theta(t_j, h_i) \right) \right\|.$$



Check out the paper for more details!

# Quantitative Results

Metric	AI (↑)	AD (↓)	AG (↑)	FF (↑)	Fid-In (↑)	SPS (↑)	COMP (↓)	MM
<i>ZS classification on ESC50, Mel-Masking, 80.7% accuracy</i>								
Gradcam	2.90	45.85	1.01	0.28	0.19	0.71	9.52	0.15
GradCam++	8.45	35.07	3.19	0.50	0.39	0.41	10.32	0.35
SmoothGrad	0.50	52.76	0.12	0.024	0.036	0.301	10.52	0.039
IG	0.25	53.47	0.054	0.064	0.022	0.57	10.09	0.037
<b>LMAC-ZS</b>	<b>23.45</b>	<b>17.12</b>	<b>10.31</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>9.12</b>	0.17
<i>ZS classification on ESC50, STFT-Masking, 78.9% accuracy</i>								
GradCam	20.30	23.75	7.77	0.78	0.58	0.72	<b>11.54</b>	0.14
GradCam++	32.50	8.97	7.95	0.79	0.84	0.41	12.41	0.35
SmoothGrad	6.95	32.75	2.85	0.78	0.47	0.53	11.98	0.0001
IG	16.10	21.51	6.05	<b>0.79</b>	0.65	<b>0.74</b>	11.58	0.0095
<b>LMAC-ZS</b>	<b>43.35</b>	<b>4.29</b>	<b>10.57</b>	0.78	<b>0.90</b>	0.65	11.86	0.1

# Conclusions

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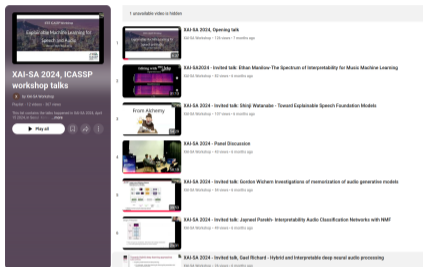
- First decoder-based explainability technique for zero-shot classifiers.
- Extensive faithfulness evaluation shows that LMAC-ZS aligns with CLAP predictions.
- The generated explanations are:
  - ▶ **Listenable**
  - ▶ **Faithful**
  - ▶ **Sensitive** to prompts.

Check out the code and audio samples



# XAI-SA, ICASSP 2024 Workshop

## ■ ICASSP 2024 Workshop, Explainable AI for Speech and Audio





- We are general chairing MLSP 2025!

IEEE International Workshop on  
Machine Learning for Signal Processing (MLSP) 2025  
August 31-September 3, Istanbul/Turkey

Signal Processing in the age of  
Large Language Models



IEEE MLSP 2025

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- [2025.ieeemlsp.org](https://2025.ieeemlsp.org)

# Thanks for listening!

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