

Pegase

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Pegase		
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Chapter 1

Pegase

1.1 Pegase

Pegase : mPEG Audio Stream Encoder

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As my native language is french, and not english, this documentation might be unreadable for most of you because of some mistakes. Do forgive me for that.

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DISCLAIMER

NO WARRANTY, IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT, WILL BE DUE BECAUSE OF THE USE OF THIS PROGRAMM. ANY DAMAGES, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, CAUSED BY THE INSTALLATION OR USE OF THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE IMPUTABLE TO THE AUTHOR. YOU, WHEN INSTALLING THIS SOFTWARE, ASSUME THE LIABILITY OF ALL RISKS TIED TO THE INSTALLATION OR USE OF THIS PROGRAM.

=====
Pegase is an MPEG audio encoder, optimized for 680x0/PPC family processors It needs OS 2.0 or above to run. The PPC version requires WarpOS.

Due to the patents that cover mp3 encoding, Pegase will never support Layer 3. However, the layer 2 algorithm gives really good results in a short time, making Pegase usefull for anyone. At least, I hope so.

Presentation

Distribution

Installation

How to use

Future

Problems

Support

History

Thanks

Pegase is EMail-ware.

1.2 Presentation

PRESENTATION

Although it is based upon the original version of Musicin (ISO/MPEG), only the principle on which things work is identical. The whole source code has been rewritten, with the Amiga spirit in mind, in order to provide a fast encoder without sacrificing the quality.

The first motivation comes from a simple finding : Musicin PPC appears to be slow compared to the CPU power, so slow that I was convinced that it was a quick port which misuse this processor.

Then, I wanted to show what a foolish 68060 is able to do, demonstrating that a PPC might be useless when it is not used as it should be. I must admit that the result goes far away than what I expected.

MPEG files produced with Pegase are better than the ones created with the Amiga version of Musicin. But Pegase is a lot faster : Encoding of a stereo AIFF file, 44.1 KHz, 160 kbits/s, requires roughly two times the sound duration (68060/50). A 68040/40 is able to encode the same file at five times the sound duration.

Pegase is able to encode IFF-AIFF, IFF-MAUD and RIFF-WAV files. These files can be mono or stereo. RAW format, and CDDA (CD Audio) are also supported. The samples must be 16 bits wide, and the sample frequency must be close to 32 KHz, 44.1 KHz or 48 KHz.

You can create MPEG files using the Layer I or the Layer II algorithms. Stereo songs can be encoded using the joint-stereo mode.

1.3 Distribution

DISTRIBUTION

No restrictions apply.

1.4 Installation

INSTALLATION

There is no need for an Installer script, and installation by hand is not that difficult. Simply copy Pegase where you want, that's all.

The default language is english (or something similar to :-). When a translation is available for your country, you can also copy the catalog file to your LOCALE: directory, as usual.

1.5 How to use

HOW TO USE

Pegase could be run from Shell as well as from Workbench. In both cases, it examines its icon in order to alter the default settings. Then, CLI parameters are taken into account and override these settings.

You can stop Pegase by pressing "CTRL-C" or "CTRL-D". The former only stops the file being processed. If there are some files waiting in the queue, Pegase starts to encode the next one. The latter, on the other side, stops the whole process. Remaining files are ignored, and partial encoded files are never deleted.

Pegase only supports one psycho-acoustical analyzer, which is referred to as "psycho #2" in Musicin.

Starting from a Shell :

Pegase sticks to the standard rules of Shell commands. Options are given on the command line.

As usual, "Pegase ?" causes the Shell to display the command line pattern. If you answer this pattern with another question mark, then Pegase shows its extended help :

Usage :

FROM
Input sound files or directories to encode.

TO
Output file name, or destination directory.

LAYER
Layer number (1 or 2). Default = 2.

FREQ
Sampling frequency (Hz). Default = 44100.

BITRATE
Total bitrate (kbits/s). Default = 160.

MONO
Mono encoding.

JSTEREO
Joint stereo encoding.

COPYRIGHT
Mark as copyright.

ORIGINAL
Mark as original.

CRC
Add error protection.

PRIORITY
Change Pegase's priority.

VERBOSE
Verbose output.

MOTOROLA
Motorola byte order/PIPE switch.

INTEL
Motorola byte order/PIPE switch.

DELETE
Delete source file after completion.

Don't bother about the stack size. Pegase will be happy with a standard 4 kb stack.

Starting from Workbench :

The default settings, as said above, can be changed using the icon's tool types :

TO
Output file name, or destination directory.

PATTERN
File requester's pattern.

LAYER
Layer number.

FREQ
Sampling frequency.

BITRATE
Total bitrate.

MONO
Mono encoding.

JSTEREO
Joint stereo encoding.

COPYRIGHT
Mark as copyright.

ORIGINAL
Mark as original.

PRIORITY
Change Pegase's priority.

CRC
Add error protection.

DELETE
Delete source file after completion.

There's also some tool types that allow you to set the default settings of the file requester :

FR_SOURCE
Default directory.

FR_XPOS
Default X position.

FR_YPOS
Default Y position.

FR_WIDTH
Default width.

FR_HEIGHT
Default height.

The console settings can be changed with an environment variable named "PEGASE_WBCONSOLE". Use the "SetEnv" command to create it, and don't forget to copy it to "ENVARC:" to make it permanent when you are done.

1.6 File Requester

File requester

If you start Pegase from the Workbench by clicking on its icon, or when you don't provide source files on the command line, Pegase pops up a file requester. You can select multiple files at once, but they must reside in the same directory.

1.7 FROM

FROM : Source(s).

Specify one or more file and/or directory names. When no source is specified, Pegase open a file requester where you can pick up several files at once (multi-selection).

When one entry, at least, is a directory, Pegase analyzes all files inside this directory, and selects the ones that can be assumed to be audio files. This automatic selection is helpful, but it is too simple to be very accurate. For instance, any unknown file might be assumed to be a RAW audio file. Don't expect anything useful if you encode such a file ! ;-)

Pegase only handles these file formats :

- AIFF : Mono/stereo, 16 bits, uncompressed.
- MAUD : Mono/stereo, 16 bits, uncompressed.
- WAV : Mono/stereo, 16 bits, uncompressed.
- CDDA : Always stereo, 16 bits, 44.1 KHz. The byte order (Intel/Motorola) is determined automatically by some magic.
- RAW : Mono, 16 bits (might be the default format for any unknown file type). Motorola byte order is expected for the samples.

The sampling frequency used by the coder comes from the audio file header's if it is available there (AIFF, MAUD and WAV). CDDA files always use 44.1 KHz sampling rate (starting from Pegase 1.85, you can select the sampling rate with the 'FREQ' keyword).

Note that only 16 bits sample files are supported. Sample frequency must be close to those allowed by the encoder algorithm (32 KHz, 44.1 KHz or 48 KHz, +/- 4%).

NB : The byte order determination is based upon a statistical method so it can give wrong results in some case.
See also

MOTOROLA/INTEL

1.8 TO

TO : Destination.

This define the output file name, or the directory where to save output files. When no destination is given, output files are saved along with the input files. If a filename extension already exists, it's replaced by an ".mp?" like extension.

You are not allowed to define an explicit output file name when there are multiple sources. Otherwise, Pegase will go back to its default setting and save output files in the source's directory.

When the destination is a directory, Pegase saves all output files there, after having replaced any existing extension with ".mp?". This extension depends on the layer number (".mp1" for layer 1, or ".mp2" for layer 2).

The original filename extension is not replaced if it starts with a decimal digit.

NOTE :

By now, Pegase doesn't check if it can write the output file before starting the encoding. Also, an already existing destination file is overwritten, without any warning.

1.9 LAYER

LAYER : Layer number.

By now, Pegase only supports layer level 1 and 2. Layer 2 gives the best results, and, despite what you might think, it is faster than layer 1.

The default setting is layer 2. Layer 3 is not supported.

1.10 FREQ

FREQ : Sample frequency.

Pegase use the sample frequency specified in the input file header's (AIFF, MAUD or WAV), or select 44.1 KHz in case of a CDDA file encoding.

Then, you only need to define this frequency for RAW format audio files. The sampling rate can also be defined when encoding CDDA files. This makes no sense when encoding real CD Audio tracks, but this is usefull if you use a frontend that pass sample datas to Pegase through a PIPE.

In all cases, the sample frequency must be close to 32 KHz, 44.1 KHz or 48 KHz (+/- 4%).

1.11 BITRATE

BITRATE : Output bit rate (kbits/s).

This value determines the size (and quality) of the MPEG file. Several values are allowed, for each layer.

The default bitrate (160 kbits/s) gives near-CD quality in most cases (44.1 KHz sampling rate). 48 KHz samples require a higher bitrate.

You don't need to learn each of these values as the encoder selects one that is lowest when the specified value is not allowed. Thus, giving 200 as bitrate causes Pegase to select 192 kbits/s.

Known bitrates are (layer 1/layer 2) :

32, 64, 96, 128, 160, 192, 224, 256, 288, 320, 352, 384, 416 and 448.
32, 48, 56, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 160, 192, 224, 256, 320 and 384.

Having the sample frequency and the number of channels, you can compute the MPEG file size. In example, for a 35 Mb CDDA file, using 160 kbits/s output bitrate, we have :

Source :

$$44100 \times 16 \times 2 = 1411200 \text{ bits/s}$$
 (freq) (bits per sample) (channel)

$$1411200 / 160000 = 8.82 \text{ (ratio)}$$
 (bitrate)

$$35 \times 1024^2 / 8.82 = 3.97 \text{ Mb} = \text{Output file size.}$$

The bitrate has no noticeable effect on the encoding speed. Slower bitrates give a slightly extra speed, but that's all.

1.12 MONO

MONO : RAW file format.

As RAW files are assumed to be mono files, this option does nothing for now.

1.13 JSTEREO

JSTEREO : Use Joint-Stereo mode.

Input file(s) must be stereo. This option gives some liberty to the encoder, which can progressively mix samples to mono on a subband basis. Thus, the coder gets more bits to encode the samples, which improve the quality when you use a (too) low bitrate.

This mix is done dynamically, for each frame, whenever it is necessary. The number of mixed subbands varied also from frame to frame, and some frames can be encoded in full stereo mode. Then, your decoder/player can forget to tell you that there are some j-stereo frames in the MPEG file.

1.14 COPYRIGHT

COPYRIGHT : Mark as copyright.

This is an information telling that the audio stream is copyrighted.

1.15 ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL : Mark as original.

This is an information telling that the audio stream is original.

1.16 CRC

CRC : Add error protection.

Compute a checksum of each MPEG headers.

1.17 PRIORITY

PRIORITY : Change Pegase's priority.

Priority values must be in the range [-128; 5].

1.18 VERBOSE

VERBOSE : Verbose output.

Display global settings.

1.19 PATTERN

PATTERN : File requester pattern.

Define the pattern used to display files in the file requester.

Default setting : ~(#?.info)

1.20 CDDA byte order and PIPEs

MOTOROLA : Motorola byte order.

This switch forces ALL input files to be handled as 16-bit stereo files, in which samples are recorded in Big Endian mode (Motorola).

INTEL : Intel byte order.

This switch forces ALL input files to be handled as 16-bit stereo files, in which samples are recorded in Little Endian mode (Intel).

PIPE support :

If you use one of the switches mentioned above, Pegase bypasses its automatic file type recognition in order to allow you to encode files from a PIPE. The 'FREQ' keyword may be used to select the sampling rate.

1.21 DELETE

DELETE : Delete source file after completion.

This switch tells Pegase to delete the source file after it has been successfully encoded.

1.22 Problems

PROBLEMS

- Output files overwrite silently existing files.
- Pegase doesn't check if it can write to the destination file or directory. Thus, encoding something from a CD requires that you define explicitly a destination ("TO" option or Tooltype).
- Pegase doesn't check if there is enough room on the destination medium to store the MPEG file. Anyway, this detection would prevent the usage of the RAM disk as a destination medium.
- RAW files are assumed to use the MOTOROLA byte order.

As of today, MPEG-A 3.4 (along with mpeg-a.library) refuses to handle any file encoded using Layer 1. Despite that, these files are perfectly MPEG-compliant, and an older version of MPEG-A (v3.3, Aminet Set 6d) handle them just fine.

1.23 Future

FUTURE

"pegase.library" is on its way. It would combine an enhanced encoder and a decoder in the same library, but I don't promise anything.

I don't have any particular motivation to achieve this project, mainly because I just do it for the fun. Believe it or not, I never use any MPEG audio related tools and this may explain a lot of things...

1.24 Support

SUPPORT

Support is available by sending an EMail to :

kakace@pacwan.fr

Please, don't forget to prepend the subject with "[PEGASE]". This will help me to set up a trigger for these mails.

Pegase homepage is still up and running :

<http://perso.pacwan.fr/kakace/pegase/>

1.25 History

HISTORY

V1.8, Pegase 1.80 (31.8.2000) :

- Final release.

V1.8b, Pegase 1.81 (3.9.2000) :

- The original filename extension is no longer replaced by ".mp?" if it begins with a decimal digit. Thus, an audio CD track named "track.2" will not overwrite "track.mp2" silently, created by a previous track named "track.1", as this was the case before.

V1.8d, Pegase 1.83 (9.9.2000) :

- The output quality has been improved.

V1.8e, Pegase 1.84 (11.9.2000) :

- Bitstreams produced from 32/48 KHz sampled datas were wrong.

V1.8f, Pegase 1.85 (13.9.2000) :

- The psycho-acoustic analyzer has been polished.
- The modified threshold table used for 32 KHz sampled datas was erroneously computed for 38 KHz sampled datas.
- The 'FREQ' keyword may be used to select the sampling rate when encoding CDDA files (or samples sent through a PIPE).

V1.8g, Pegase 1.86 (23.9.2000) :

- Layer 1 SNR and Quantization tables have been fixed (long standing bug).
- The absolute threshold tables have been changed again.
- Little speedup due to a lower attenuation limit in the spreading function.
- Little modification on the scale factors select information patterns (Layer 2) in order to better match the subband levels in some cases.

1.26 Thanks

THANKS

I don't forget those who encouraged me, or tested this "thing" :

Thierry Sillis
Johann Girard-Cheron
Eric Giguère
"Rafo"
Georges Goncalves (aka "spectrum analyzer" :))
The CdBS Software group.
"Crisot"

I also thank the translators for the catalog files, and all those who sent me an e-mail.

Finally, many thanks to Thierry "Pumpkin" Schmitt who drew this beautiful icon for me, and to Patrick Beerhorst for his help on Pegase homepage.

1.27 MP3 Royalties

This is an abstract of the licensing terms found on :
<http://www.iis.fhg.de/amm/legal/index.html>

2.2. MPEG LAYER-3 SOFTWARE ENCODERS

While most of the distribution of MPEG Layer-3 software decoders is free of charge, for all MPEG Layer-3 encoders a license is needed and royalties have to be paid. ~

2.2.1. Software Encoders not developed by Fraunhofer IIS ~

If you have developed your own software encoder or acquired a software encoder from another developer than Fraunhofer IIS to run MPEG Layer-3, you have to get a "patent-only" license from THOMSON multimedia; the following royalties apply :

1 -	1,000 encoders	US\$ 25.00 per unit
1,001 -	2,000 encoders	~ US\$ 20.00 per unit
2,001 -	3,000 encoders	~ US\$ 15.00 per unit
3,001 -	10,000 encoders	~ US\$ 10.00 per unit
10,001 -	100,000 encoders	~ US\$ 5.00 per unit

> 100,000 encoders ~ US\$ 2.50 per unit

US\$ 15,000 annual minimum, payable upon signature and each following year in January, fully creditable against annual sales. ~

The royalty does not include any on-going support from Fraunhofer IIS. This agreement does NOT cover the right to sell MPEG Layer-3 encoded data (e.g. in "pay-audio" and "broadcast" systems). These rights are covered by the licenses described under 2.4. and 2.5.