## A User-Guided Generation Framework for Personalized Music Synthesis Using Interactive Evolutionary Computation

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## ABSTRACT

The development of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has demonstrated notable advancements in the domain of music synthesis. However, a perceived lack of creativity in the generated content has drawn significant attention from the public. To address this, this paper introduces a novel approach to personalized music synthesis, incorporating a human-in-the-loop generation. This method leverages the dual strengths of interactive evolutionary computation, known for its capturing user preferences, and generative adversarial network, renowned for its capacity to autonomously produce highquality music. The primary objective of this integration is to augment the credibility and diversity of generative AI in music synthesis, fostering computational artistic creativity in humans. Furthermore, a user-friendly interactive music player has been designed to facilitate users in the music synthesis process. The proposed method exemplifies a paradigm wherein users manipulate latent space through human-machine interaction, underscoring the pivotal role of humans in the synthesis of diverse and creative music.

## CCS CONCEPTS

• **Theory of computation** → *Interactive computation*; • **Humancentered computing** → *Interaction design theory, concepts and paradigms*; • **Applied computing** → *Sound and music computing*; • **Computing methodologies** → *Neural networks.* 

## **KEYWORDS**

Human-AI interaction, Co-creativity, Music synthesis, Interactive evolutionary computation, Generative adversarial network, Human-in-the-loop.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) stands as a transformative technology, which is capable of generating novel content by learning and mining existing data through a series of machine learning algorithms and deep learning models. Presently, it finds widespread application across diverse domains, including education [3], art [11], medicine [12], video [1], and image [32], etc. Notably, in the realm of music, various models such as autoregressive [16, 29, 48], generative adversarial network (GAN) [9, 19, 24], diffusion [2, 5, 13, 23], and other models [8] have become prevalent for music synthesis.

One of the primary challenges currently faced by generative music models is the perceived lack of creativity and personalization, as highlighted by several studies [7, 30]. This challenge is principally rooted in the opaque nature of end-to-end learning in generative AI models, limiting user engagement in the generation process. The black-box nature impedes the model's ability to promptly comprehend user preferences and creative inspirations, ultimately hindering its capacity to produce personalized and innovative music. Moreover, there is currently a lack of methods for human-computer interaction to manipulate the potential space within deep learning and guide variables to the areas of interest for users. To address these issues, there is a critical need to establish an interactive, human-centered, and co-creative generative model that empowers users to contribute to the generation process, resulting in diverse and personalized musical outputs. Fortunately, the expeditious realization of this objective has been made possible through the application of interactive evolutionary computation (IEC). This powerful methodology utilizes interactive technologies to explore users' subjective preferences, guiding evolutionary computation algorithms to optimize the target system.

In response to these challenges, we propose a user-guided generation framework for personalized music synthesis. This method capitalizes on the dual strengths of IEC, known for its proficiency in capturing user preferences, and GAN, celebrated for its autonomous

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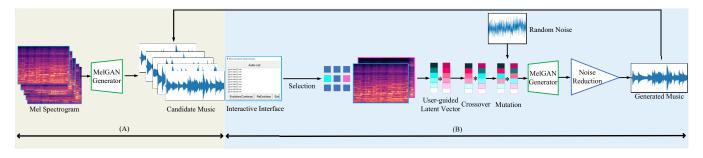


Figure 1: Overview of UIGAN. The framework comprises two primary components: (A) the MelGAN-based pre-trained generation, and (B) the interactive evolutionary manipulation.

generation of high-quality music. The primary objective of this integration is to augment the credibility and diversity of generative AI in music synthesis, thereby igniting computational artistic creativity in humans. Our proposed model underwent comprehensive comparative experiments utilizing a piano dataset, demonstrating its capability to generate diverse and creative solutions from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives. Moreover, a user-friendly interactive music player has been designed to facilitate users in the music synthesis process. This paradigm illustrates a transformative framework wherein users actively manipulate latent space through human-machine interaction, emphasizing the indispensable role of humans in synthesizing diverse and creative music.

The structure of the paper is organized as follows. In this section (Section 1), we provide an overview of the prevailing landscape of generative AI, elucidating the motivation behind our research. Section 2 delves into a comprehensive review of prior research in the realms of music synthesis and IEC. The intricacies of our proposed model and associated details are expounded upon in Section 3. Subsequently, Section 4 outlines the methodology employed in the comparative experiment conducted. Finally, the findings of the study are encapsulated in Section 5, which serves to summarize outcomes and proffer potential avenues for future research.

## 2 RELATED WORKS AND TECHNOLOGIES

## 2.1 Music Synthesis

Music synthesis constitutes a generative task wherein a model produces coherent music samples. This task is categorized into conditional and unconditional synthesis based on its dependence on conditional inputs. Four dominant categories in this field include autoregressive models such as WaveNet [48], SampleRNN [29], and WaveRNN [16]; GAN-based models like WaveGAN [9] and MelGAN [19]; VQ-VAE models exemplified by Jukebox [8]; and diffusion models, including Diffsinger [23].

In particular, GAN-based models [9, 19] leverage concealed latent spaces to map audio feature sequences, enabling the exploration of music's latent features and enhancing its diversity. Additionally, modeling mel-spectrograms not only streamlines the overarching temporal and spectral structure but also constitutes conditional generation representing the user's initial synthesis preferences [19, 24]. Therefore, MelGAN emerges as a suitable candidate for interactive music synthesis. The manipulation of latent space in audio generative models presents a promising area of research. While unsupervised methods like dimensionality reduction [43] and smoothing [51] have been explored, their limitation lies in the inability to precisely focus latent vectors on the user's region of interest. To address this gap, an urgently needed interactive supervised method is discussed in this study, employing a human-machine interaction approach that successfully concentrates latent vectors toward the desired user-centric regions.

#### 2.2 Interactive Evolutionary Computation

IEC has found wide-ranging applications across diverse domains, including jewelry design [50], pattern design [53], dance design [10, 36], fractal modeling [33], color palette design [28], fashion design [41], image generation [4, 52], image retrieval systems [6], texture modeling [26], hearing aid fitting [44], sound composition [49], and more.

However, in contrast to the progress observed in computer vision and art design, advancements in IEC for music waveform synthesis have been comparatively limited. Many efforts in music synthesis and composition rely on musical instrument digital interface (MIDI) synthesizers, necessitating professional music knowledge for manipulating various parameters [25, 47, 49]. Recognizing this gap, it is imperative to develop a music waveform synthesis method that seamlessly integrates IEC's capability to capture user preferences with generative AI's capacity for generating high-quality solutions. This integration is vital for enhancing the diversity of synthesized music, as emphasized in [34].

## 3 THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK: UIGAN FOR PERSONALIZED MUSIC SYNTHESIS USING INTERACTIVE EVOLUTIONARY COMPUTATION

This section introduces the user-interactive generative adversarial network (UIGAN) for music synthesis, building upon the foundation of the existing music waveform synthesis model MelGAN [19]. UIGAN aims to evolve and manipulate the latent vector of MelGAN, capturing users' auditory preferences through human-machine interaction.

The model comprises two primary components, as illustrated in Figure. 1: (A) the MelGAN-based pre-trained generation, and (B) the interactive evolutionary manipulation. In the initial phase, the

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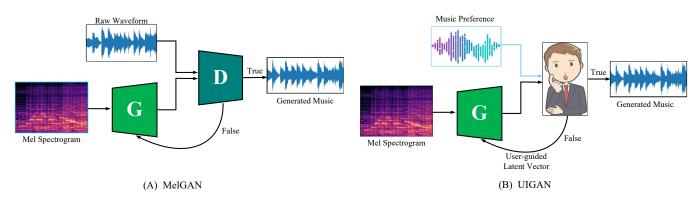


Figure 2: Overall structure of MelGAN and UIGAN. MelGAN is structured with a discriminator (D) and a generator (G). Similar to the discriminator's role in MelGAN, humans assume a crucial role in UIGAN, actively filtering out low-quality music and selecting musical pieces that resonate with their auditory preferences. The integration of human subjective evaluation within UIGAN represents an innovative approach to collaborate between deep learning-based generation models and human input, thereby facilitating the generation of personalized content with human-in-the-loop.

MelGAN vocoder undergoes pre-training to generate audio latent representations. The pre-trained MelGAN model produces candidate music individuals by mapping the mel-spectrograms of the music selected by the user for adaptation.

Users engage with an interactive interface to express their auditory preferences and choose their preferred music. The mel-spectrograms corresponding to the selected music serve as user-guided latent vectors for both subsequent evolutionary manipulations and MelGAN regeneration.

## 3.1 MelGAN Generation

We introduce the generator, discriminator and training objective of the MelGAN vocoder to enhance understanding of our proposed framework.

**3.1.1** Generator. The generator is constructed using a fully convolutional feed-forward network, taking a mel-spectrogram as its input and producing an audio signal as its output. The overall generation network consists of two one-dimensional convolutional layers with a kernel size of 7, four up-sampling layers, and four residual blocks. This architecture employs transposed convolutional layers for up-sampling, followed by residual blocks incorporating dilated convolutions. Each residual layer is comprised of three residual blocks with dilation factors of 1, 3, and 9, respectively. All layers utilize a leaky ReLU activation function and weight normalization [39] to ensure optimal performance. During the training of the generator, feature matching [21] is applied to minimize the *L*1 distance, contributing to the overall enhancement of performance.

**3.1.2** Discriminator. The discriminator in MelGAN adopts a multi-scale architecture, which comprises three discriminators with different frequency ranges and audio scales (denoted as  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ , and  $D_3$ ).  $D_1$  assesses the original music, while  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  operate on downsampled audio at scales 2 and 4, respectively. Additionally, a PatchGAN-like Markov window discriminator [15] is incorporated to construct discriminators at different frequency scales. Each self-discriminator consists of four downsampling layers with a scale of 4 and three one-dimensional convolutional layers using convolution

kernels of 15, 5, and 3. Similar to the generator, each layer of the discriminator is equipped with weight normalization and a leaky ReLU activation function. For specific parameter settings and training details, please refer to the original paper on MelGAN by Kumar et al. [19].

*3.1.3 Training Objective.* Hinge loss function [22] was applied to train the discriminator.

$$\min_{D_k} \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \min \left( 0, 1 - D_k(x) \right) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{s,z} \left[ \min \left( 0, 1 + D_k(G(s, z)) \right) \right],$$
  
$$\forall k = 1, 2, 3 \quad (1)$$

$$\min_{G} \mathbb{E}_{s,z} \left[ \sum_{k=1,2,3} -D_k(G(s,z)) \right]$$
(2)

where  $D_k$  is the  $k^{th}$  discriminator, and x, s, z represent the raw waveform, input mel-spectrogram, and Gaussian noise respectively.

Feature match [21] was used to train the generator for minimizing L1 distance. This distance represents differences between the discriminator feature maps of real and synthetic audio.

$$\mathcal{L}(G, D_k) = \mathbb{E}_{x,s} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{1}{N_i} \left\| D_k^{(i)}(x) - D_k^{(i)}(G(s, z)) \right\|_1 \right]$$
(3)

 $D_k^{(i)}$  represents the feature map output of the  $i^{th}$  layer from the  $k^{th}$  discriminator block, and  $N_i$  is the number of units in each layer. The final objective of MelGAN with  $\lambda = 10$  is:

$$\min_{G} \left( \mathbb{E}_{s,z} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{K} \left( D_k(G(s,z)) - 1 \right)^2 \right] + \lambda \sum_{k=1}^{K} \mathcal{L}\left( G, D_k \right) \right)$$
(4)

Algorithm 1 shows the training process of MelGAN.

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| Music Interactive Deep Evolution   |              | - |    | × |
|--|--------------|---|----|---|
| Audio List<br>generated_0.wav<br>generated 1.wav                         |              |   |    |   |
| generated_2.wav<br>generated_3.wav                                       | Music Player |   |    |   |
| generated 4.wav<br>generated 5.wav                                       | FileName     |   |    |   |
| generated_6.wav<br>generated_7.wav<br>generated_8.wav<br>generated_9.wav |              |   | 50 |   |
| Evolution(Continue) ReEvolution Exit                                     |              |   |    |   |

Figure 3: Interface of the designed interactive music player. The functionalities of the music player are organized into two main categories: interactive evolutionary manipulation and musical playback. Interactive evolutionary manipulation comprises evolution (continue), re-evolution, and exit. This function involves actively shaping and refining the music selection process. On the other hand, the music playback function provides options for playing the previous track, playing, pausing, replaying, and advancing to the next track. This component focuses on the seamless enjoyment and control of the music playback experience.

#### Algorithm 1 Training MelGAN model

**Require:** Training audio dataset X, Number of iterations T, Convergence criteria threshold  $\epsilon$ , Generator network G, Discriminator network D(k), k = 1, 2, 3.

Ensure: Trained generator G and discriminator D.

- 1: Initialize the parameters of MelGAN
- 2: **for** t = 1 to T **do**
- 3: Sample a mini-batch of real audio samples  $\{x_1, x_2, ..., x_N\}$  from *X*.
- 4: Calculate the discriminator loss  $D_k$  using the Hinge loss function in Eq. (1).
- 5: Update the discriminator parameters  $D_k$ .
- 6: Calculate the generator loss using feature matching in Eq. (4).
- 7: Update the generator parameters G.
- 8: **if** MelGAN loss change  $< \epsilon$  or t == T **then**
- 9: break
- 10: end if
- 11: end for

## 3.2 Interactive Evolutionary Manipulation

Interactive evolutionary manipulation within UIGAN involves a sequence of operations executed through IEC. This process guides user-driven latent vectors within the search space toward the user's specific region of interest. These operations include various IEC components and a regeneration component. The former consists of interactive selection, crossover, and mutation. Interactive selection plays a pivotal role in capturing user preferences, while crossover and mutation serve as methods to further integrate and enhance the user-guided latent vectors. After these optimization operations, regeneration is employed to further synthesize music. This process utilizes personalized, user-guided vectors or mel-spectrograms as inputs to a pre-trained MelGAN model. The candidate music undergoes continuous regeneration through interactive evolutionary manipulation operations until it generates a piece of music that resonates with the user's preferences.

3.2.1 Interactive Selection Operation. The interactive selection operation determines evolved parents and generates user-guided latent vectors based on user auditory preferences. Users only need to select their favorite musical pieces through an interactive music player (Figure. 3) to perform this operation. The latent vectors corresponding to the selected pieces through interactive selection can accurately encapsulate the user's auditory preferences. Interactive selection and fitness approximation are currently common methods used in IEC to capture user preferences [49]. Fitness approximation involves predicting or estimating individual fitness values to guide the progress of the evolutionary algorithm [37, 41]. In comparison to fitness approximation, interactive selection exhibits pronounced personalization and targeting [4, 27, 45, 49]. This operation is similar to the mechanism of paired comparison in interactive differential evolution and can effectively reduce user fatigue and obtain user auditory preferences [35, 45].

Moreover, users play a pivotal role in this selection process, undertaking responsibilities such as retaining high-quality music and filtering out music they dislike. They not only successfully guide latent vectors toward their areas of interest but also ensure the quality of vocoder music synthesis. The role of humans in UIGAN resembles that of discriminators in GAN, with tangible effects being more intelligent content generation and the production of personalized content (Figure. 2).

**3.2.2** Crossover Operation. Crossover is a recombination process designed to amalgamate selected parent individuals or musical pieces, thereby generating new individual vectors. This process holds a pivotal role in preserving population diversity and fostering evolution through the amalgamation of bi-parental vectors. The uniform crossover method [42] is utilized in this study, acknowledged for adeptly merging attributes from both parents with a fixed probability.

3.2.3 Mutation Operation. Mutation is an operation that introduces slight random perturbations into latent vectors to enrich their diversity and prevent the population from converging to local optima too early. In the present study, we augment the diverse features in the user-guided vector by introducing random noise aligned with the A User-Guided Generation Framework for Personalized Music Synthesis Using IEC

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Algorithm 2 UIGAN for Personalized Music Synthesis.

| Algorithm 2 Ororaty for reisonalized Music Synthesis.               |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>Require:</b> Rate of crossover, cro_rate; Rate of mutation, mut_ | rate; |
| Number of music selected by the user, user_sel_count; Nu            | mber  |
| of candidate music, cand_count; Trained MelGAN model                | ,     |
| <i>MelGAN</i> ; Max number of generation, max_gen.                  |       |
| Ensure: Synthesized music of a user, result;                        |       |
| 1: for $i = 1$ to cand_count do                                     |       |
| 2: $cand_music = Load_music(i);$                                    |       |
| 3: end for  |       |
| 4: exit_flag = false;   |       |
| 5: init cand music = cand music;                                    |       |
| 6: init_cand_mels = $Audio_Mel(cand_music)$ ;                       |       |
| 7: for $q=1$ to max_gen do  |       |
| 8: selected_label, exit_flag, reset_flag =                          |       |
| Inter_Player(cand_music, user_sel_count);                           |       |
| 9: <b>if</b> $q = \max_{gen+1}$ or exit_flag <b>then</b> ;          |       |
| 10: result = selected_music;  |       |
| 11: break;  |       |
| 12: end if  |       |
| 13: <b>if</b> reset_flag <b>then</b>                                |       |
| 14: cand_music = init_cand_music;                                   |       |
| 15: continue;   |       |
| 16: <b>end if</b>   |       |
| 17: mel_music = <i>Audio_Mel</i> (cand_music);                      |       |
| <pre>18: selected_mels = mel_music(selected_label);</pre>           |       |
| 19: crossed_mels = <i>Crossover</i> (selected_mels, cro_rate);      |       |
| 20: mutated_mels = <i>Mutation</i> (crossed_mels, mut_rate);        |       |
| 21: rand_num = cand_num - <i>Count</i> (selected_mels,              |       |
| crossed_mels, mutated_mels);  |       |
| 22: rand_mels = <i>Rand_Select</i> (init_cand_mels, rand_num)       | ;     |
| 23: cand_mels = <i>List</i> (mutated_mels, crossed_mels,            |       |
| selected_mels, random_mels);  |       |
| 24: generated_music = <i>MelGAN</i> (cand_mels);                    |       |
| 25: denoising_music = <i>DeNoise</i> (generated_music);             |       |
| 26 and music - denoising music:                                     |       |

- 26: cand\_music = denoising\_music;
- 27: **end for**

distribution of the dataset. This approach establishes the foundation for the subsequent regeneration of the MelGAN model in the next step.

**3.2.4** Regeneration. After a series of diverse optimization operations, the user-guided vectors are reused as input for the pre-trained MelGAN model, thereby facilitating the further regeneration of new candidate music. The user-guided vectors represent the user's preferences, and the music generated from these vectors will achieve the subjective aesthetic goal.

3.2.5 Noise Reduction. Noise reduction constitutes the final phase of UIGAN. Given that random noise is introduced during the mutation stage in the user-guided latent vector, this study employs the spectral gating noise reduction method [38] to mitigate noise interference, thereby enhancing both sound quality and the overall user experience.

## 3.3 Pseudo Code

Algorithm 2 provides a detailed explanation of the pseudo-code and the key steps involved in UIGAN for the personalized music synthesis process. Initially, the *Load\_music* function is responsible for importing the music that the user wants to adapt. The *Audio\_Mel* function is utilized to convert music waveforms into mel-spectrograms. Next, the *Inter\_Player* function plays a crucial role in obtaining user preferences for the candidate music through an interactive music player. This step involves variables like selected\_label, exit\_flag, and reset\_flag to represent the selected music, exit flag, and reset flag, respectively.

Subsequently, the *Crossover* and *Mutation* functions are dedicated to performing the necessary crossover and mutation operations on the mel-spectrograms of the selected music, ensuring diversity in the user-guided latent vectors. Furthermore, the *Count* function tallies the number of user-guided latent vectors, and the remaining candidate vector is randomly selected using the *Rand\_Select* function. The *List* function is employed to generate a list of latent vectors after music synthesis. The *MelGAN* function is responsible for generating candidate music from the latent vectors. Finally, the *DeNoise* function refines and denoises the synthesized music, ensuring the sound quality of the music for this generation.

## 4 EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This section aims to validate the performance of our proposed model in music synthesis from quantitative and qualitative perspectives, including diversity and creativity analysis, along with subjective analysis. Additionally, the primary objective of this section is to illustrate the pivotal role of humans in synthesizing diverse and creative music. Subsequently, we will provide details on the dataset employed in this experiment, outline implementation specifics, and present the results of the analysis and discussion.

Table 1: Experimental parameters.

| Parameter size                          | Value               |
|---|---------------------|
| Crossover method [4]                    | 'Uniform crossover' |
| Crossover rate [4, 42]                  | 50%                 |
| Number of music selected by the user    | 2                   |
| Number of candidate music [4, 52]       | 10                  |
| Max number of generation                | 20                  |
| Duration of time for synthesizing music | 4 seconds           |
| [16][19]                                |                     |

## 4.1 Experimental Setting

4.1.1 Dataset. This experiment utilized the MAESTRO piano dataset  $[14]^1$ , employing the WAV data format.

4.1.2 Implementations Details. The baseline methods employed in this experiment include WaveNet [48]<sup>2</sup>, WaveGAN [16]<sup>3</sup>, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://magenta.tensorflow.org/datasets/maestro

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/ibab/tensorflow-wavenet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://github.com/mostafaelaraby/wavegan-pytorch/tree/master

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Table 2: Diversity and creativity analysis: We utilize the FAD, precision, recall, density, and coverage metrics to quantify the diversity and creativity of generated music, showcasing the role of human creativity in enhancing music diversity and creativity. P&R&D&C represents the averages of precision, recall, density, and coverage. Where  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  represent positive and negative trends, respectively. Bold values represent the best performance for each metric.

| Dataset | Method       | $FAD\downarrow$ | Precision ↑ | Recall ↑ | Density ↑ | Coverage ↑ | P&R&D&C↑ |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|         | WaveNet [48] | 33.51           | 0.53        | 0.49     | 0.41      | 0.11       | 0.39     |
|         | WaveGAN [16] | 24.58           | 0.72        | 0.78     | 0.48      | 0.17       | 0.54     |
| Mastro  | MelGAN [19]  | 24.92           | 0.79        | 0.62     | 0.54      | 0.15       | 0.53     |
|         | UIGAN        | 22.14           | 0.77        | 0.71     | 0.53      | 0.21       | 0.56     |

MelGAN [19]<sup>4</sup>. These techniques are well-acknowledged for their proficiency in synthesizing audio waveforms. For detailed parameter information and code references related to the baseline methods, please refer to the respective published papers. It is noteworthy that the MelGAN implementation used in UIGAN is consistent with the original paper.

Ten participants were invited to participate in the music synthesis and subjective evaluation analysis of related synthesized music. The experimental setting and user-friendly interactive interface (Figure. 3) facilitated participation without the need for professional music knowledge. Additionally, participants were given the flexibility to take short breaks during the experiment.

The parameters utilized in the present experiment are outlined in Table 1. The adoption of uniform crossover with a crossover rate of 50% is attributed to its excellent performance in image synthesis [4, 42]. Considering both user fatigue and the equal probability of each music's mel-spectrogram being synthesized into the user-guided latent vector, we set the number of user choices to 2. The mutation rate is set to 0.01, resembling the process of setting the learning rate in deep learning. A high mutation rate introduces excessive noise content, posing challenges for UIGAN convergence. The number of synthesized musical pieces selected by the user in the audio list is ten, including two pieces synthesized by crossed vectors, two by mutated vectors and selected mel-spectrograms, and the remaining four are randomly selected from the initial candidate set. The maximum generation parameter is set to 20. Additionally, we have introduced an optimization-stopping mechanism to ensure the experiment's completion while avoiding unnecessary iterations and user fatigue [49]. Finally, the duration of the synthesized music is set to four seconds [16, 19].

# 4.2 Diversity and Creativity Analysis and Discussion

**4.2.1** Evaluation Metrics. Fréchet audio distance (FAD) [17], precision [20], recall [20], density [31], and coverage [31] are applied to evaluate the diversity and creativity of synthetic music on the MAESTRO dataset. These metrics are widely used to assess the creativity and diversity of image and audio generation models in recent years [16, 18–20, 31].

4.2.2 Experimental Results. Table 2 presents the diversity and creativity results of the generated music. We observe that UIGAN surpasses the baseline methods in terms of FAD, coverage, and P&R&D&C. Specifically, the proposed method achieves optimal

values of 22.14, 0.21, and 0.56 in these three aspects, respectively. Moreover, UIGAN demonstrates comparable performance in various other metrics, including precision, recall, and density, with only a slight deviation from the highest values of these metrics. For example, MelGAN exhibits only a slight improvement of 0.02 in precision and 0.01 in density compared to UIGAN.

In contrast to the previous MelGAN model, the introduction of human interaction contributes to exploring various musical elements and combinations, thereby enhancing musical diversity. The excellent performance of UIGAN can be attributed to two factors. Firstly, the model combines the proficiency of MelGAN in scene restoration with the advantages of WaveGAN in enhancing diversity. Secondly, the model introduces the potential for greater diversity through interactive evolutionary manipulation while preserving the underlying musical scene depicted by the mel-spectrogram of music.

## 4.3 Subjective Analysis and Discussion

**4.3.1** Evaluation Metrics. Subjective evaluation analysis is an essential component in assessing human-machine works, playing a crucial role for researchers in comprehending users' authentic experiences with the works and systems. The 5-point mean opinion score (MOS) was employed to gauge users' genuine perceptions of their synthesized music [16, 18, 19, 48]. Ten participants rated the four pieces of music based on their auditory preferences, with a score of 1 indicating the worst and 5 denoting the best. It is noteworthy that three of the musical pieces were pre-generated through various baseline methods, whereas one piece of music was generated through the UIGAN user interface.

The Wilcoxon signed-rank test is a non-parametric hypothesis test designed for data that does not adhere to a normal distribution, utilized to assess significant differences between matched samples. This testing approach has been effectively employed in text-to-speech synthesis [46] and speech synthesis [40]. In this study, the Wilcoxon signed-rank test with a p-value of 0.05 [46] is utilized to evaluate the significant differences between UIGAN and other music synthesis methods in 5-point MOS.

4.3.2 Experiemntal Results. Table 3 presents the 5-point MOS results from participants evaluating the synthesized music. We can observe that UIGAN achieved the highest MOS of 3.9 with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.7, while WaveNet had a minimum value of 1.7 with an SD of 0.64. It indicates that the proposed method can effectively meet users' requirements for music synthesis. At the same time, the p-values from Wilcoxon signed-rank test for both

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>https://github.com/descriptinc/melgan-neurips

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Table 3: Subjective evaluation analysis: The 5-point mean opinion score with standard deviation (±SD), provides insight into participants' genuine experiences. Additionally, the p-value of Wilcoxon signed-rank serves as an indicator of significant differences between synthetic music methods. We can observer that there is a significant difference comparing our proposed UIGAN with other three competitive generation models.

| Dataset | Method       | MOS            | p-value |  |
|---------|--------------|----------------|---------|--|
|         | UIGAN        | $3.9 \pm 0.70$ | _       |  |
|         | WaveNet [48] | $1.7 \pm 0.64$ | 0.006   |  |
| Mastro  | WaveGAN [16] | $2.3 \pm 1.10$ | 0.017   |  |
|         | MelGAN [19]  | $3.3 \pm 0.64$ | 0.014   |  |

UIGAN and the other methods are all below 0.05, suggesting a notable distinction in MOS between UIGAN and these methods.

During the initial stages of interactive evolutionary manipulation, users' initial uncertainty or vague understanding of music may lead to cognitive disparities and uncertainties, posing a challenge in crafting works that authentically connect with users. Nevertheless, as user preferences progressively crystallize during continuous interaction, the vocoder can adeptly produce audio compositions that harmonize with user inclinations by acquiring latent vectors tailored to those preferences.

## 5 CONCLUSION

This paper introduces UIGAN, a user-guided generation framework for personalized music synthesis, which presents one of the originalites in this work. UIGAN leverages IEC's proficiency in capturing user preferences and GAN's capacity for autonomously generating high-quality music to enhance the credibility and diversity of generative AI in music synthesis, fostering computational artistic creativity. Validation of the proposed method's advantages in music synthesis includes diversity and creativity analysis, along with subjective evaluation. Furthermore, it confirms the pivotal role of humans in synthesizing diverse and creative music, establishing a co-creative paradigm for generative AI and human-machine interaction. The model empowers humans to guide and manipulate the potential space within deep learning models.

This study reveals insights into stimulating computational artistic creativity among humans and addresses potential issues in current generative AI practices. Future research directions include investigating UIGAN's performance in synthesizing diverse music with more datasets, encouraging comprehensive comparative experiments, analysing human auditory perception, enhancing search performance of IEC optimization algorithm and addressing the challenges posed by the complexities of music. Despite rapid advancements in other AI domains, such as computer vision and natural language processing, progress in music synthesis has been comparatively slower. Researchers need to tackle challenges related to musical knowledge and intricate temporal relationships among musical elements, such as notes, chords, and melodies, etc. Persistent concerns about user fatigue in IEC and human-machine interaction necessitate exploration of ways to minimize fatigue during interactions in the future. These considerations provide valuable insights and ideas for future endeavors in music synthesis and human-machine interaction.

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