IIT Mandi submission wins Judge's award in the Bird Activity Detection (BAD) challenge

In the recently concluded Bird Activity Detection (BAD) challenge (conducted by the Machine Listening Lab of Queen Mary University, London), the submission from the Multimedia Analytics and Systems (MAS) lab at IIT Mandi won the Judge's award.

The BAD challenge asks to automatically determine if a given audio recording has a bird sound in it or not. This is an important task in the acoustic monitoring of habitats. Automated acoustic monitoring, in which all sounds collected from a region are analysed, is an effective method to determine the biodiversity of a region. The collected sounds could include calls of birds and other animals, as well as humans talking, passing vehicles, wind, rain etc.

The BAD challenge was designed to develop efficient algorithms which can distinguish bird sounds from non-bird sounds.

The IIT Mandi submission utilised signal processing techniques to reduce the amount of variation due to different recording environments. Further, it used powerful discriminative classifiers (support vector machines with dynamic kernels) to process the recordings. This resulted in a technique which is computationally efficient, and well suited to this binary classification task.

For more details, please refer to the BAD challenge webpage:
http://machine-listening.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/bird-audio-detection-challenge/