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Unseen Unit Generation for Unit Selection-based Concatenative Speech Synthesis

Majid Namnabat, M. Mehdi Homayounpour

Laboratory for Intelligent Sound and Speech Processing Systems

Computer Engineering and Information Technology Department,

Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnics), Tehran, IRAN

Abstract

The unit selection speech synthesis method is accounted of concatenative speech synthesis methods that it produces more natural quality speech than other approaches. So developing and improvement of this approach attracts great attraction to produce more natural output speech. Synthesis unit is one of important factors that have great effect on output quality of synthesizer systems. Using phones as synthesis unit can cause more natural output, however the discontinuity at the boundaries of concatenated phonemes can be potentially increased in output speech. In this paper, we proposed using unseen unit generation idea to eliminate discontinuities at phoneme boundaries when phone instances are used as synthesis units. In proposed method, existence discontinuities at phoneme boundaries in output speech are firstly found and then if it possible, one of adjacent phonemes of these boundaries are replaced by a suitable unseen unit. To synthesizing every unseen unit, left half phone of one existence instance of corpus are merged by right half phone of other existence instance. Perceptual Evaluations show quality output improvement due to decreasing discontinuities at boundaries.

Keywords

Concatenative Speech Synthesis, Unit Selection, Concatenation Cost, Target Cost, Synthesis Unit, Unseen Unit Generation, Persian Language.

CHATR

[6]

[8] AT&T

IBM

HMM

[7]

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(j) (D_j^t)

u_i t_i P j W_t^j

[9]

$$C^t = \sum_{j=1}^P w_j^t D_j^t(t_i, u_i) \quad ()$$

(D^c)

u_{i-1} W_j^c q u_i j

[10]

$$C^c = \sum_{j=1}^q w_j^c D_j^c(u_{i-1}, u_i) \quad ()$$

[10]

[1,2,3,4]

ATR

[5]

v-Talk

$$L - C + R = L - C + NN(R) \otimes NN(L) - C + R \quad ()$$

$$\begin{matrix} R & L \\ NN & C \end{matrix}$$

$$\otimes$$

TD-PSOLA

$$NN(L) - C + R$$

$$L - C + NN(R)$$

$$()$$

$$[12]$$

$$[13]$$

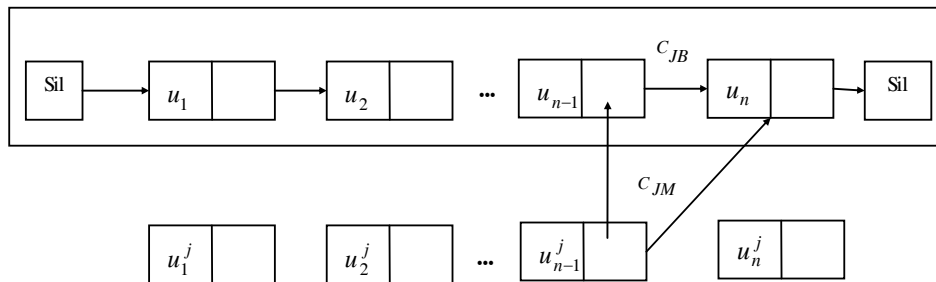
$$[8,14,15]$$

$$u_1^j, u_2^j, \dots, u_3^j, u_n^j$$

$$u_1 u_2 \dots u_{n-1} u_n \quad [11]$$

$$u_1^j \quad u_2 \quad [12]$$

BestPath



:()

u_{n-1}^j

$u_n \quad u_{n-1}$

u_{n-1}

(C_{JH})

%

(C_{JM})

(C_{JB})

$C_{JB} > C_{JH} + C_{JM}$

%

()

%

MFCC

/h/ /u/

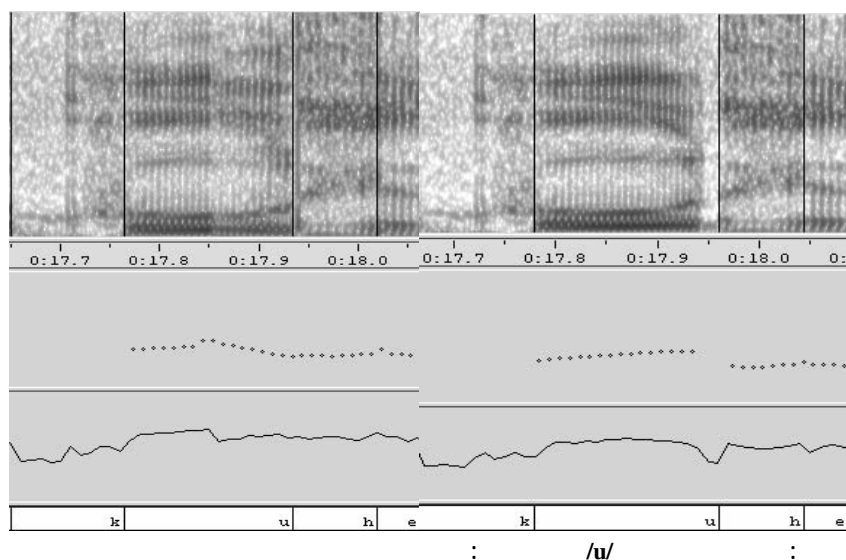
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MOS

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¹ Resynthesis