Exploring the Use of Speech Features and Their Corresponding Distribution Characteristics for Robust Speech Recognition

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Abstract—The performance of current automatic speech recognition (ASR) systems often deteriorates radically when the input speech is corrupted by various kinds of noise sources. Several methods have been proposed to improve ASR robustness over the last few decades. The related literature can be generally classified into two categories according to whether the methods are directly based on the feature domain or consider some specific statistical feature characteristics. In this paper, we present a polynomial regression approach that has the merit of directly characterizing the relationship between speech features and their corresponding distribution characteristics to compensate for noise interference. The proposed approach and a variant were thoroughly investigated and compared with a few existing noise robustness approaches. All experiments were conducted using the Aurora-2 database and task. The results show that our approaches achieve considerable word error rate reductions over the baseline system and are comparable to most of the conventional robustness approaches discussed in this paper.

Index Terms—Clustering, histogram equalization, polynomial regression, robustness, speech recognition.

摘要

- 簡介
- ·群集式為基礎之多項式擬合統計圖法 Cluster-based polynomial-fit histogram(CPHEQ)
- · 多項式擬合統計圖等化法 Polynomial-fit histogram Equalization(PHEQ)
- 實驗

簡介

現今的ASR系統往往因為輸入的語音遭受到 噪音的破壞,而造成效能降低

- 廣泛來說,改善語音強健性的方法可分為 兩大類:
 - (1)直接以特徵域為基礎
 - (2)考慮一些特定的統計特徵特性

簡介

· 提出群集式為基礎之多項式擬合統計圖法 (CPHEQ)方法

• 它使用語音特徵以及其相對應的分布特性來對語音作補償

- · 在CPHEQ的背後主要概念源自於兩大方向:
 - ➤立體聲源為基礎分段線性補償
 Stereo-based piecewise linear compensation for environments(SPLICE)
 - > HEQ

• SPLICE 主要目的是使用GMM來將噪音特徵空間特性化,而每個高斯組件皆表示一個特定的失真條件

• 理論上當高斯組件數量無限增加時, SPLICE可以處理線性或非線性失真

· 為避免此缺點,加入了HEQ的概念

• HEQ是使用非線性轉換函式來補償非線性失真

• 所以在此提出使用CPHEQ,其結合SPLICE和 HEQ雨者的來克服各自的缺點

- · 一開始先利用語音資料來訓練GMM
- GMM 表示法如下:

$$p\left(Y_{t}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p\left(k\right) p\left(Y_{t} \mid k\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p\left(k\right) N\left(Y_{t}; \mu_{k}, \sum_{k}\right)$$

• K:GMM混合數

• Y, :噪音特徵向量

 μ_k, Σ_k :平均向量,對角共變矩陣

· 假設已補償的特徵向量 x,:

$$\tilde{X_{t}} = E\left[X_{t} \mid Y_{t}\right] = E\left[E\left[X_{t} \mid Y_{t}, k\right]\right] = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p\left(k \mid Y_{t}\right) E\left[X_{t} \mid Y_{t}, k\right]$$

p(k | Y_t) 機率

$$p(k \mid Y_t) = \frac{p(Y_t \mid k) p(k)}{\sum_{k'=1}^{K} p(Y_t \mid k') p(k')}$$

• 在特徵域裡,可以合理假設 Y, 的特徵向量 組件 Y, 彼此間都是獨立的

• 由給定的第k個混合模型得到的 ¹/₁重新儲存 值定義如下:

$$\tilde{x}_{t,k} = E[x_t | Y_t, k] \approx E[x_t | y_t, k]$$

• 提出一個源自於HEQ的想法來近似條件期望值:

$$\tilde{x}_{t,k} \approx G_k \left(CDF \left(y_t \right) \right)$$

- • $CDF(y_t)$ 是特徵組件 Y_t 的CDF值
- $\bullet G_k(\bullet)$ 個表示CDF值對應到事先定義的特徵值的反函式

• 一特定維度的特徵向量組件序列

 $Y_1, \dots, Y_t, \dots, Y_L$ 可以經由以下兩步驟計算得到:

step1:根據特徵向量組件將序列依遞增排序

step2: 給定特徵向量組件的CDF值為

$$CDF(y_t) \approx \frac{S_{pos}(y_t) - 0.5}{L}$$

其中 $S_{pos}(y_t)$ 是一個回傳 Y_t 階層之函式

- 使用多項式函式來近似CDF反函式達到效率與 儲存空間的需求
- 在訓練階段, $G_k(CDF(y_t)) = \sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km}(CDF(y_t))^m$ 多項式函式的係數 a_{km} 可以經由MMSE估算得到 MMSE定義如下:

$$E_k^2 = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \left(p\left(k \mid Y_t\right) \times \left(x_t - \sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km} \left(CDF\left(y_t\right) \right)^m \right) \right)^2$$

其中 T:訓練資料中音框總數

Yt, Xt:分別為噪音和乾淨部分的特徵向量組件

• 在測試階段,重新儲存值可以由下列式子獲得: K((M)

獲得:
$$\tilde{x}_{t} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \left(p\left(k \mid Y_{t}\right) \times \left(\sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km} \left(CDF\left(y_{t}\right)\right)^{m}\right) \right)$$

• 為了減少運算時間,使用最大事後機率準則(MAP) $E_k^2 = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \left[\delta(k|Y_t) \times \left[x_t - \sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km} \left(CDF(y_t) \right)^m \right] \right]^2$

$$\tilde{x}_{t} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \left(\delta\left(k \mid Y_{t}\right) \times \left(\sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km} \left(CDF\left(y_{t}\right)\right)^{m}\right) \right)$$

$$\mathcal{S}\left(k\mid Y_{t}\right) = \begin{cases} 1, & if \quad k = \arg\max_{k'} p\left(k'\mid Y_{t}\right) \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

多項式擬合統計圖等化法 (PHEQ)

- 我們提出一個CPHEQ的變形,為多項式統計等化 法polynomial histogram equalization(PHEQ)
- 利用唯一全域轉換來獲得噪音特徵向量組件У_t 的重新儲存值x̄,

$$\tilde{x}_{t} = G_{k}\left(CDF\left(y_{t}\right)\right) = \sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km}\left(CDF\left(y_{t}\right)\right)^{m}$$

$$E_{k}^{2} = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \left(x_{t} - \sum_{m=0}^{M} a_{km} \left(CDF \left(x_{t} \right) \right)^{m} \right)^{2}$$

實驗

• 使用AURORA2語料庫

以連續可變長度英文數字串在靠近麥克風 下錄音

· 人工加入了8種不同的噪音到測試集A和B

• 兩種訓練方案:乾淨訓練和多重環境訓練

實驗

· 一開始我們先計算在不同準則下獲得的多項式在CPHEQ的效能

• 多重環境訓練集

• 在測試集A中噪音型態SNR範圍5~20dB

• GMM數設定32~1024,多項式集階層設3

CPHEQ實驗

Comparison of the Average WER Results (%) of the Hard- and Soft-Decision Approaches Used for Deriving the Polynomial Functions of CPHEQ

	Number of Mixtures							
	32	64	128	256	512	1024		
Hard	19.84	19.49	18.24	17.33	16.36	15.41		
Soft	19.88	19.46	18.23	17.31	16.33	15.40		

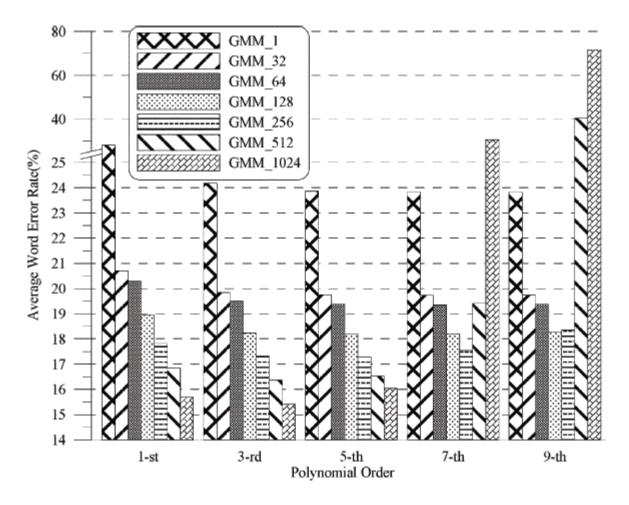


Fig. 1. Average WER results (%) of CPHEQ with respect to different numbers of mixtures and different orders of polynomial functions.

CPHEQ實驗

• 往往在階層太大時候效能會降低

在此研究上,產生這些現象可以解釋的原因就是使用一組有限的訓練資料

• 使用高階多項式函式可能導致精確擬合值間的振盪

PHEQ實驗

AVERAGE WER RESULTS (%) OBTAINED WITH RESPECT TO DIFFERENT POLYNOMIAL ORDERS USED IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE TRANSFORMATION FUNCTIONS OF PHEQ

	Number of Polynomial Orders						
	1-st	3-rd	5-th	7-th	9-th		
PHEQ	23.25	21.80	21.46	21.13	21.16		

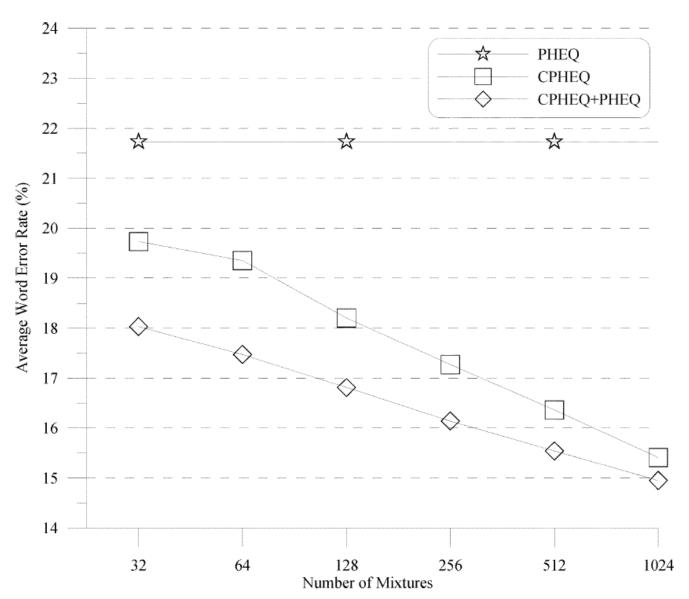
PHEQ實驗

• 數量較小的混合數較不足以來表示噪音特性

• 透過簡單的線性內插結合CPHEQ和PHEQ兩種 方法來解決上之問題

• 初步設定內插權重為0.5且在測試階段是固定的

PHEQ實驗



COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE WER RESULTS (%) OBTAINED BY THE MFCC-BASED BASELINE SYSTEM AND VARIOUS APPROACHES UNDER THE MULTI-CONDITION TRAINING SCENARIO

	Test Set A	Test Set B	Test Set C	Average
MFCC	14.78	16.01	19.33	16.18
AFE	7.03	7.95	8.27	7.65
SPLICE	11.03	11.47	16.86	12.17
PHEQ	9.91	9.41	13.14	10.36
CPHEQ	10.29	9.81	12.04	10.44
CMS+CPHEQ	8.49	9.22	10.80	9.24
AFE+CPHEQ	7.24	8.06	7.87	7.69