For use by the Project lecturer	Approved		Revision required	

Feedback

To be completed by the student

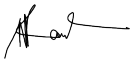
PROJECT PROPOSAL 2022

Project no	AO5	Revision no	2

Title	Surname	Initials	Student no	Study leader (title, initials, surname)
Mr	**Ramedies**	**I**	16023405	Mr A Oloo

Project title

A school intercom system that filters inappropriate phrases and plays emails as announcements in the voice of the sender.

Language editor name	Language editor signature
N. Ramedies	
Student declaration I understand what plagiarism is and that I have to complete my project on my own.	**Study leader declaration** This is a clear and unambiguous description of what is required in this project. Approved for submission (Yes/No)
Student signature 	Study leader signature and date

1. Project description

What is your project about? What does your system have to do? What is the problem to be solved?

The problem addressed in this project, is the lack of physical contact between teachers and students in schools, due to traveling between classrooms after periods or possibly teacher unavailability. Teachers that make announcements and students that hear them, may not able to be in the same physical location. Employing an individual, to collate announcements would not be an efficient solution to this problem. Thus, the problem addressed in this project is to develop a school intercom system that will make announcements on behalf of the teacher, eliminating the need for announcers or any human intervention.

The concept is to have a system that receives a text-based email from a teacher, then announces this email to the students, in the voice of the teacher that sent the email. This may be accomplished by integrating natural language processing techniques, speech synthesis, and digital signal processing into a single intercom system. The system should also account for any inappropriate phrases received from the email and should be able to play the announcement over an integrated speaker, so that multiple students in a classroom are able to hear it.

2. Technical challenges in this project

Describe the technical challenges that are *beyond* those encountered up to the end of third year and in other final year modules.

2.1 Primary *design* challenges

A main design challenge would be accounting for multiple user's voices. Another is hardware allocation of the system resources. The overall system should be designed to work in real time, so all training of artificial intelligence systems, if used, will have to be conducted, prior to final product compilation. The linguistic analysis technique used will have an affect on the processing time of the overall implementation, and each technique has benefits over others. Selection of a specific technique, or development thereof, will be seen as a design challenge.

2.2 Primary *implementation* challenges

A system implementation challenge, is managing waveforms and assigning it to analyzed text, correctly. Testing results of synthesized audio, when compared to natural language audio, might be difficult to achieve, unless extra functional components are developed. It also might be challenging to develop bandpass filters with very narrow passbands, depending on the support that the development platform provides. Another implementation challenge would be within the natural language processing and linguistics analysis algorithms. The English language contains many rules and it might prove challenging to combine multiple rules without making design errors within the algorithms.

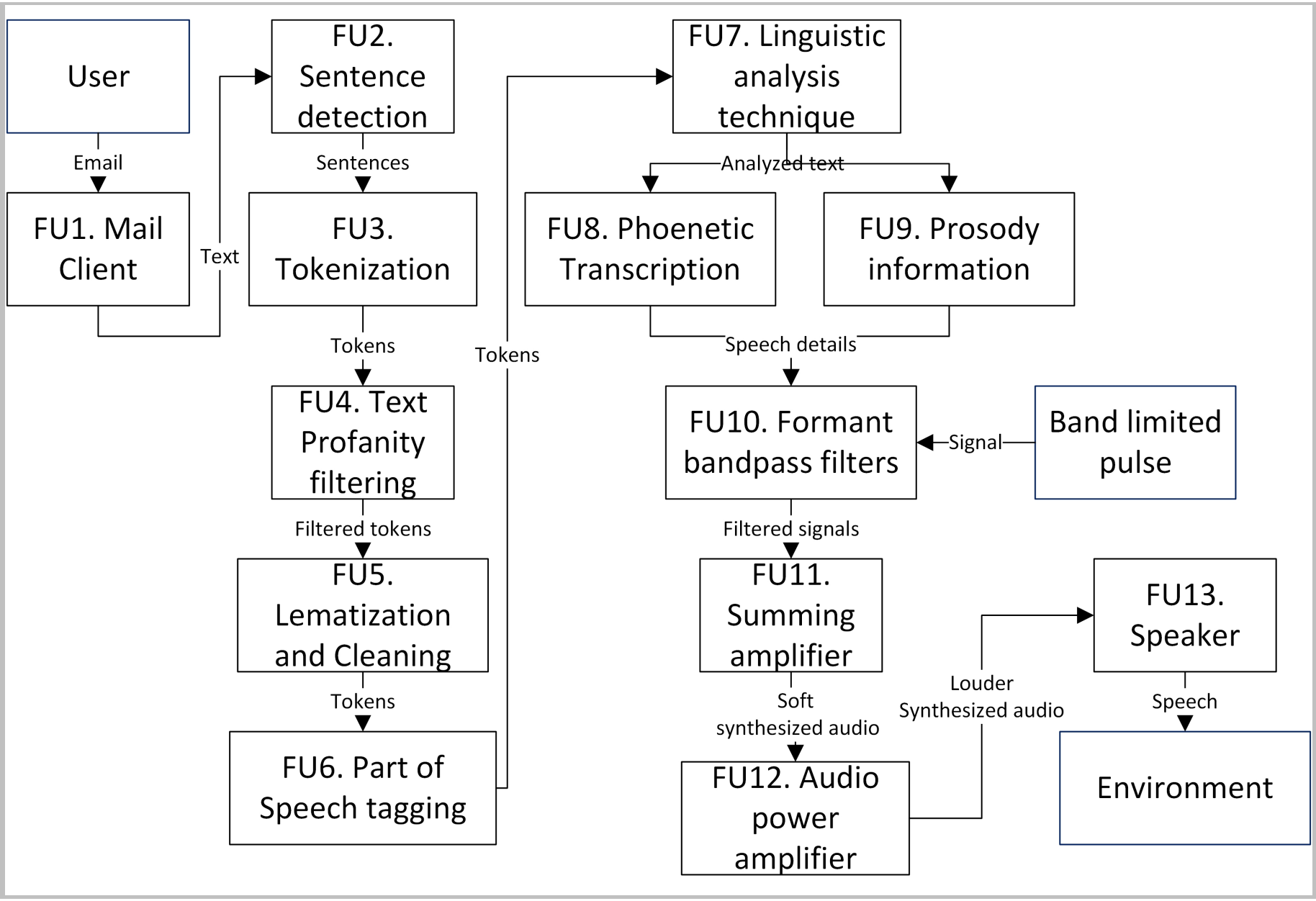
3. Functional analysis

3.1 Functional description

Describe the design in terms of system functions as shown on the functional block diagram in section 3.2. This description should be in *narrative format*.

The user input will be an email text announcement that is sent to the system via the internet. FU1 is a mail client that will receive these emails. The text is extracted from the email whereafter, natural language processing (NLP) and linguistics analysis is performed on the text from FU2 to FU7. The process involves detecting sentences (FU2), and creating tokens from those sentences (FU3). These tokens are run through a profanity filter (FU4) that removes all inappropriate phrases contained within a set of tokens, by checking the tokens against a database of profane words. The output of the profanity filter will be a set of tokens with some marked to be inappropriate, if applicable. The set of marked tokens will then go through a lemmatization and cleaning process, in FU5, where sentences are correctly formatted. Each token is then tagged with its part of speech (FU6), relevant to the whole sentence. A linguistics analysis technique, such as a rule-based technique, is then performed on the output, in FU7, to determine the meaning of the tagged sentences. The analyzed text is sent to FU8, a phonetic transcription function, that will append phonemes to every part of the word, representing what it will sound like. The analyzed text is simultaneously sent to a prosody generator (FU9), which determines the prosody information, i.e. the pitch, loudness, and duration of the words. The information generated from the combination of FU8 and FU9 are then used in FU10 and FU11, that make up a waveform generator or synthesizer. The synthesizer artificially creates a sound signal from the retrieved prosody information using formant synthesis. Formant synthesis combines 5 different frequencies (formants), of a user's voice, utilizing digital bandpass filters (FU10), into a single voice signal, by using a summing amplifier (FU11) . Depending on the strength of the synthesized signal, it may be amplified through an audio power amplifier (FU12). The synthesized speech would then be output as an announcement through FU13, a speaker. The output should be heard in the classroom environment by students.

3.2 Functional block diagram



4. System requirements and specifications

These are the core requirements of the system or product (the mission-critical requirements) in table format IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE. Requirement 1 is the most fundamental requirement.

	Requirement 1: the fundamental functional and performance requirement of your project	**Requirement 2**	**Requirement 3**
1. Core mission requirements of the system or product. Focus on requirements that are core to solving the engineering problem. These will reflect the solution to the problem.	The announcement has to be broadcast in a synthetic voice that sounds similar to the senders voice, in terms of the pitch, loudness, length, and strength.	The system should be able to convert an arbitrary text input to speech information in natural language.	The message that is announced, should be filtered of all explicit inappropriate phrases. The system should consist of a comparative database with which to deal with all profanity.
2. What is the target specification (in *measurable* terms) to be met in order to achieve this requirement?	The fundamental frequencies, amplitude, duration, and amplitude dynamics of the formants in a speakers voice should be band limited. Formant peaks should not differentiate more than 10% of the original voice.	A linguistics analysis module produces word error rates (WER) of 40% or below, after processing text. Processing for short non-complex sentences comprising of around 15-20 words should provide speech information to the synthesizer within 2 seconds.	The accuracy of a large sample set, should be at 100%, to ensure that the profanity filter is operable for explicit profanity.
3. Motivation: *how* or *why* will meeting the specification given in point 2 above *solve the problem*? (Motivate the *specific* target specification selected)	Adults can differentiate a 1-2% change in 4000Hz tones. At lower voice frequencies reaching maximum ranges of 155Hz - 255Hz, people have less sensitive hearing. A 5-10% change in this metric will yield a similar sounding synthetic voice.	Developed STT transcribers of human voices yield WERs between 15 to 40%. It is expected that synthesized speech will lie within this range. Performance measure is a non-deterministic polynomial (NP) problem, so a cubic bound complexity is assumed.	A 100% profanity filtering margin ensures that evident profanity is removed. This relies on the assumption that teachers are responsible in what they announce.
4. How will you demonstrate at the examination that this requirement (point 1 above) and specification (point 2 above) has been met?	Recordings of multiple announcers' voices will be played, in conjunction with the synthesized speech for auditory comparison. Waveforms of the speech will also be displayed and may be compared.	Text data will be fed into the system, wherein a linguistics analysis function will provide a synthesizer with speech information. A STT transcriber will interpret the perceived announcement after synthesis. WER and execution time will be displayed.	Text data sets, containing profanity, will be input into a profanity filter. The filter will identify explicit profanity and the corresponding specification may be observed.
5. Your own design contribution: what are the aspects that *you will design and implement yourself* to meet the requirement in point 2? If none, *remove this requirement.*	A formant text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer, consisting of DSP techniques, will be designed and implemented. A prosody generation function will be implemented.	A linguistics analysis module, will be implemented to generate speech information. Natural language processing functionality will be implemented to reduce possibility of error for the linguistics analysis module.	A text-based profanity filter will be developed and implemented.
6. What are the aspects to be taken off the shelf to meet this requirement? If none, indicate "none"	A microcontroller board, capable of digital signal processing, will be purchased. Software to record user audio will be used. A speaker will be used for audio playback of the processed signal.	A microcontroller board with adequate processor speed. A speech-to-text (STT) software platform to evaluate the system will be used. An audio recorder will be used to store system output. A database of english words will be used.	None.

System requirements and specifications page 2

	Requirement 4	Requirement 5	Requirement 6
1. Core mission requirements of the system or product. Focus on requirements that are core to solving the engineering problem. These will reflect the solution to the problem.	A mail system should receive emails from a user.		
2. What is the target specification (in *measurable* terms) to be met in order to achieve this requirement?	The text data that is sent by the user in the email, should be correctly reflected by the receiving end of the system, with no changes made to the input.		
3. Motivation: *how* or *why* will meeting the specification given in point 2 above *solve the problem*? (Motivate the *specific* target specification selected)	To ensure that the mail system receives emails correctly, it must prohibit the receiving end from making any changes to the user's input.		
4. How will you demonstrate at the examination that this requirement (point 1 above) and specification (point 2 above) has been met?	A display screen should indicate notification upon receiving the email. The output of the text should be displayed and confirmed by the user.		
5. Your own design contribution: what are the aspects that *you will design and implement yourself* to meet the requirement in point 2? If none, *remove this requirement.*	Implementation of an email text display feature.		
6. What are the aspects to be taken off the shelf to meet this requirement? If none, indicate "none"	A Wifi module, capable of Internet connection, and an LCD screen, for debugging and display purposes, will be purchased. An email library will be used for the implementation of the mail client.		

System requirements and specifications page 3

	Requirement 7	**Requirement 8**	**Requirement 9**
1. <u>Core mission requirements of the system or product.</u> Focus on requirements that are core to solving the engineering problem. These will reflect the solution to the problem.			
2. What is the <u>target specification</u> (in *measurable* terms) to be met in order to achieve this requirement?			
3. <u>Motivation</u>: *how* or *why* will meeting the specification given in point 2 above *solve the problem*? (Motivate the *specific* target specification selected)			
4. How will you <u>demonstrate</u> at the examination that this requirement (point 1 above) and specification (point 2 above) has been met?			
5. <u>Your own design contribution:</u> what are the aspects that *you will design and implement yourself* to meet the requirement in point 2? If none, *remove this requirement.*			
6. What are the aspects <u>to be</u> taken off the shelf to meet this requirement? If none, indicate "none"			

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	Requirement 10	Requirement 11	Requirement 12
1. Core mission requirements of the system or product. Focus on requirements that are core to solving the engineering problem. These will reflect the solution to the problem.			
2. What is the target specification (in *measurable* terms) to be met in order to achieve this requirement?			
3. Motivation: *how* or *why* will meeting the specification given in point 2 above *solve the problem*? (Motivate the *specific* target specification selected)			
4. How will you demonstrate at the examination that this requirement (point 1 above) and specification (point 2 above) has been met?			
5. Your own design contribution: what are the aspects that *you will design and implement yourself* to meet the requirement in point 2? If none, *remove this requirement.*			
6. What are the aspects to be taken off the shelf to meet this requirement? If none, indicate "none"			

5. Field conditions

These are the REAL WORLD CONDITIONS under which your project has to work and has to be demonstrated.

	Field condition 1	**Field condition 2**	**Field condition 3**
Field condition requirement. In which field conditions does the system have to operate? Indicate the one, two or three most important field conditions.	The intercom system has to be audible enough for a noisy indoor room environment. It should be operable from any location with internet access.		
Field condition specification. What is the specification (in measurable terms) for this field condition?	A standard noisy environment for a classroom of students ranges between 65-70 dB.		

6. Student tasks

6.1 Design and implementation tasks

List your primary design and implementation tasks in bullet list format (5-10 bullets). These are *not* product requirements, but *your* tasks.

- The intercom system must be designed and implemented.
- An appropriate linguistics analysis technique has to be selected.
- Audio data from multiple people will have to be collected.
- Large sentence text data sets, with profanity, have to be collected and sorted.
- A physical cover for the system will have to be designed and built.
- The system should be integrated onto a PCB board.
- Simulated versions of the functions should be developed for debugging and demonstration purposes.

6.2 New knowledge to be acquired

Describe what the theoretical foundation to the project is, and which new knowledge you will acquire (*beyond* that covered in any other undergraduate modules).

- The student will be required to master theoretical background knowledge on Natural Language Processing and Speech Synthesis.
- The student will be required to acquire knowledge on Linguistics Analysis techniques.
- The student will need to learn how to work with audio data sets.
- The student will be required to learn about rulings of speech in the English language.
- The student will have to learn how various aspects of digital signals affect the auditory output of speech.