

Chapter 7: Conclusion

7.1 Summary of Contributions

Research Question Answered

> "Which acoustic features of speech are most predictive of depression, and how do they differ

For Reading Speech:

For Interview Speech:

Critical finding: Variability measures dominate for spontaneous speech; mean values more

Main Findings

3. Interpretable methods achieve competitive performance with deep learning while providing

Practical Implications

For developers of speech-based mental health tools:

For clinicians:

7.2 Limitations Acknowledged

- Modest sample size (228 recordings)

7.3 Final Remarks

Depression remains a significant public health challenge, with diagnosis relying on subjective

This study demonstrates such markers exist and can be identified with interpretable methods.

Future work should:

The ultimate goal: A future where speech analysis contributes to early, accurate, and

Estimated length: 1-2 pages