

Project 2

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April 2023

1 Part I

To encode the signals, we first find the correct frequencies according to the key input by use of what is effectively a dictionary: using the *find* function on a list containing the keys outputs a value between 1 and 12, which is then used as an index for the "low frequency" and "high frequency" lists. We then instantiate *x_axis*, which represents the time points of the continuous sinusoid that the discretized version will record as samples. The sampling rate is defaulted to 8000 in Hertz. Two sinusoids are generated, one by $\sin(2\pi f$

Since we are making the assumption that only one digit is pressed per recording, we can also assume that it will have the most salient amplitude in the frequency domain. We could relax this requirement a little bit since we know that the key-tone will take one of exactly 12 combinations, and thus focus our attention fully on small intervals around those frequencies. This should be seriously be taken in consideration for environments that have high frequencies in domains relatively far from DTMF (for example, environments near roads or manufacturing equipment, which can have dominating low noise, or electrical equipment, which can contribute to the high frequency parts of the spectrum). Here however, we consider a scenario more akin to the 'cocktail party' problem, where the most dominant noise present is in the same part of the spectra as the desired signal. In this case, we definitely need to make the assumption that the noise is less prevalent than the signal. This means we can divide the frequency spectrum into two partitions: the $\leq 1000\text{Hz}$ partition which will be occupied by the 'row' frequencies of DTMF, and the $> 1000\text{Hz}$ part where the 'column' frequencies will live. Within each of these two regions, we can set a "threshold" at 90% of the global maximum of the partition, and store the positions of all amplitudes which exceed this threshold. At this point, the maximum frequencies may not exactly match to the DTMF ones, for a variety of reasons: instead of 1209, they may be 1159, 1212, etc. Instead of finding an exact match, we return the digit which most closely matches (measured as minimum of absolute value 'distance') from the found frequencies. We also found that it helped to square all datapoints in the frequency domain: this narrows the spikes as shown in figure ??.

2 Part III

We first note that Part III is identical to Part II, with the exception that potentially multiple frequencies may be present in the recording. We of course can't apply part II's algorithm directly, as it will only select one (the most salient) frequency. With this in mind and the time-domain samples in sight, it is clear that the challenge has boiled down to chopping down the sample into parts, and apply the same algorithm than DTMFencode. We can't exactly 'find the zeros' since the signal is constantly oscillating between positive and negative. However, we can make an 'envelope' of this signal ?? and find the zeros (or values close to zero) of that function. Because we can safely assume that no digits overlap at the same time, we can cut the signal at these zeros and then pass them pass them individually. We define this envelope function as $E[x] = \frac{\sum_{k=x-d}^{x+d} f[k]}{2d}$, where d is a parameter to be varied to satisfaction. Of course, a small value of d will mean that the envelope function is able to discriminate very short spans between the pressing of two numbers, but also means that it might accidentally cut a single frame in two parts if its frequency is low enough. By squaring the signal to consider only amplitude, we found that $d=1$ seems to work well for the phone recording. This makes sense, because the period of a sinusoidal between 900 and 1200Hz is about 9 times higher than default sampling frequency 8000Hz (and nearly double even at 3000Hz, which is our 'worst-case scenario' in this project), so the chance of finding 3 consecutive samples, all of them near 0, is very small. Of course this will not be the case for frequencies much lower than this.