

PhD Thesis Defense

Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition by Fusing Acoustic and Linguistic Information

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* this slide is available at https://intip.in/ser2021

Outline

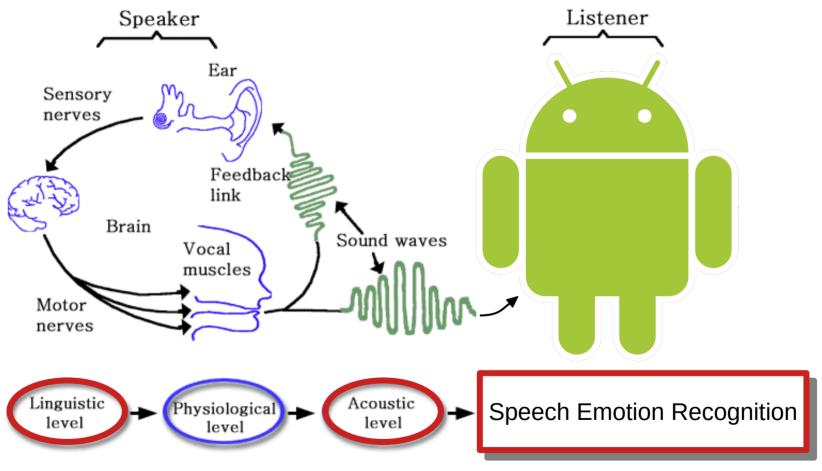
1. Introduction:

Background, Aims, Novelty & Significance, Applications

- 2. Research Methodology:
 - Motivation, Problems, Concept, Strategy, Datasets, Evaluation metric, Previous work
- 3. Dimensional SER Using Acoustic Features
- 4. Early Fusion of Acoustic and Linguistic Information
- 5. Late Fusion of Acoustic and Linguistic Information
- 6. Conclusions:

Comparative analysis, Summary, Contributions, Future research

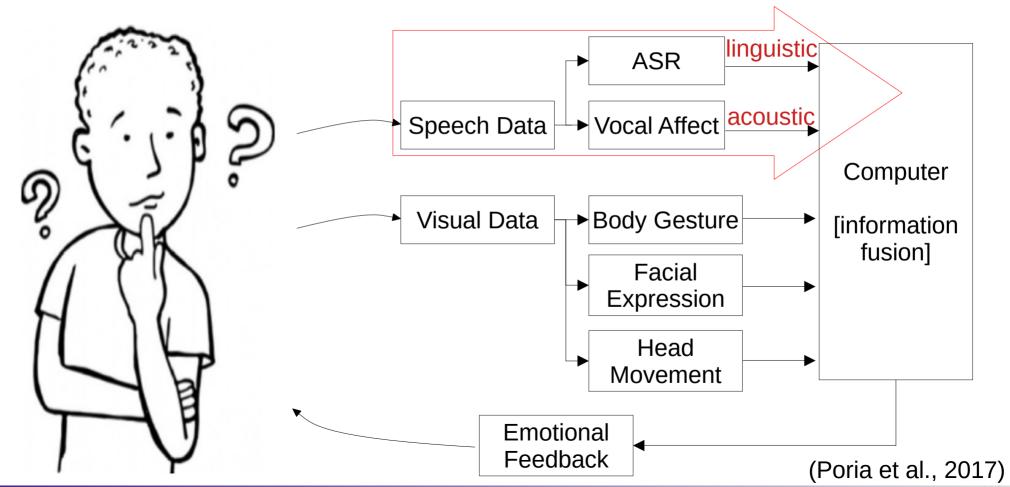
Human-machine communication



In **speech chain**, acoustic and linguistic are connected by physiological function; fusing both information may improve emotion recognition rate by **machine**

Multimodal affective computing

Affective computing: computing that relates to, arises from, or influences emotion (Picard, 1995)



Research aims

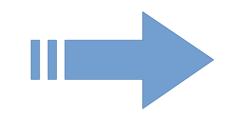
- The goal of this research is to investigate the necessity of fusing acoustic information with linguistic information for dimensional speech emotion recognition (SER)
- To achieve this goal, three sub-goals were addressed:
 - 1) Maximizing the potency of acoustic-only SER
 - 2) Fusing acoustic and linguistic information *at feature level* [FL] (early fusion)
 - 3) Fusing acoustic and linguistic information *at decision level* [DL] (late fusion)

Novelty & significance

- SER from acoustic information only
 - Silent feature calculation based on ratio of silent frames and total frames
 - Acoustic feature aggregation to aggregate chunks to a story (long utterance) [many-to-one problem]
 - Generalization of Mean+Std impact to other feature sets
 - Experimental evaluation of correlation- vs error-based loss functions for dimensional SER
- Early acoustic-linguistic information fusion
 - Multi-task learning based on CCC loss with different number of parameters
 - Contribution of different linguistic information
 - Evaluation of manual transcription and ASR outputs
- Late acoustic-linguistic information fusion
 - Two-stage processing dimensional SER using DNNs and SVM
 - Discussion about speaker-dependent vs. speaker-independent results
 - Effect of removing 'target sentence' from lexical controlled dataset

Possible applications

- Call center application
 - Emotion of caller
 - Emotion of operator







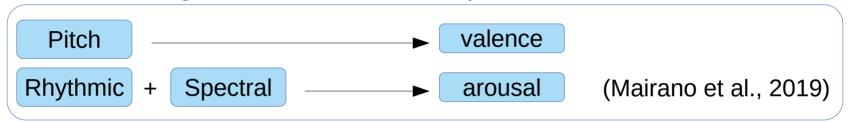
Other speech-based technologies (voice message, voice mail, etc.)

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Motivation

- Why researching SER?
 - In some cases, only speech data could be obtained
 - There is strong correlation between speech and emotion:

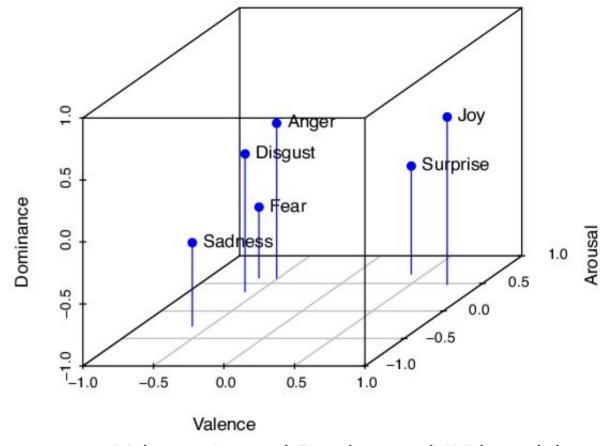


- Why is researching SER difficult?
 - The labels are given by annotators; no exact values (cf. digits)

IEMOCAP ID: Ses01F_ Impro01_	Annotators	V alence	A rousal	D ominance
	Annot. #1	3	2	2
	Annot. #2	2	3	3
F001	Annot. #3	2	3	2

Motivation

- Why dimensional SER?
 - Categorization doesn't have an essence due to humans' high variability
 - Categorical emotion is not enough to describe affective state
 - Most previous SER research only focus on categorical emotion

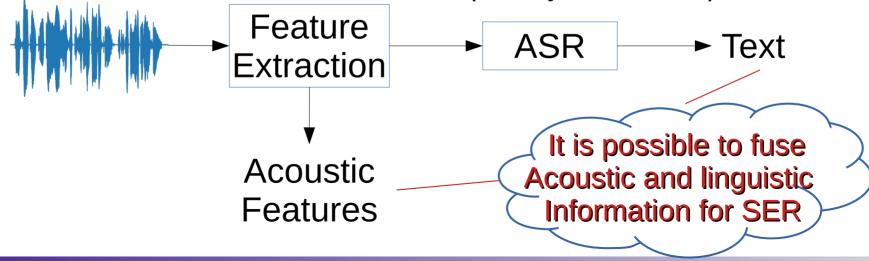


Valence-Arousal-Dominance (VAD) model with Ekman's six basic emotions (Buechel and Hahn, 2016)

Motivation

- Why fusing acoustic with linguistic information?
 - Speech can be transcribed into text using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)
 - Linguistic information can be extracted from transcription
 - Human communicate emotion through speech and language (Kotz et al., 2011)

More data tends to be more effective (Halevy et al., 2009)

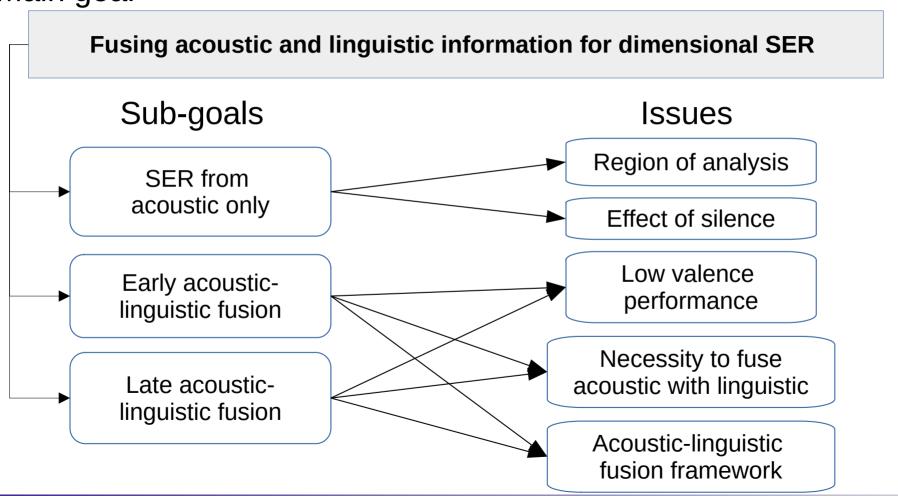


Research issues

- 1. Which region of analysis to extract acoustic features for SER (El-Ayadi, 2011)
- 2. The effect of post processing in SER (El-Ayadi, 2011)
- 3. Low valence prediction performance in dimensional SER (Li, 2019; El-Barougy, 2013)
- 4. The necessity to fuse acoustic information with other modalities (El-Ayadi, 2011)
- 5. The fusion framework for fusing acoustic and linguistic information

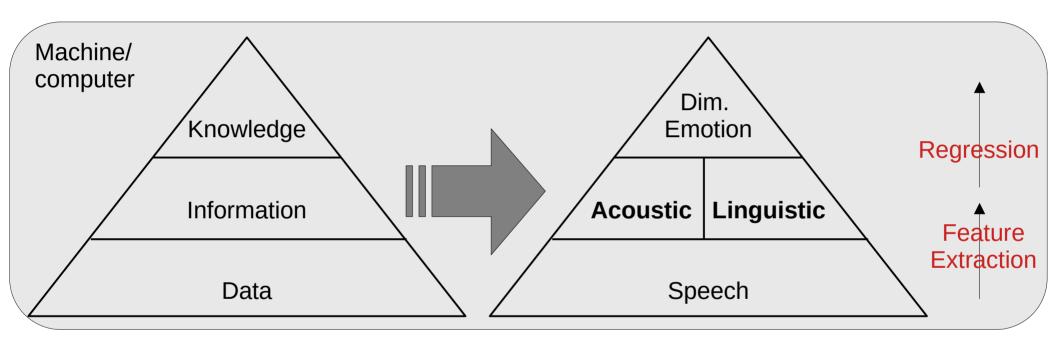
Correlation between aims and issues

Main goal



Concept/Philosophy

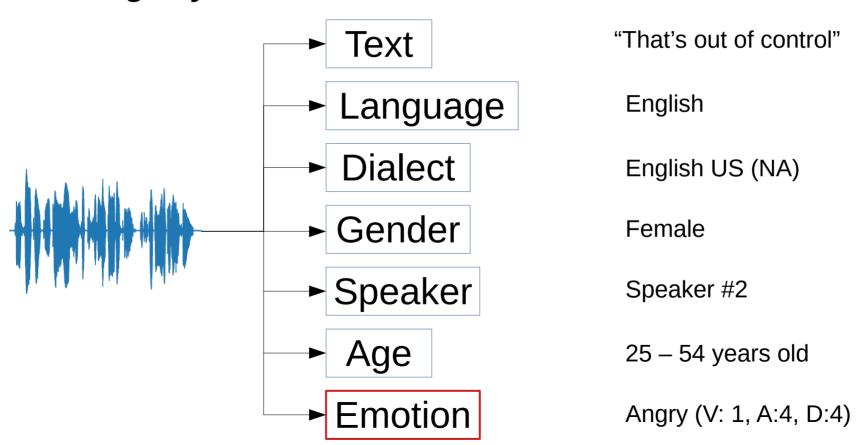
"It is not only *how* things are said, but also *what* things are said"



Information is extracted from **data**; **knowledge** is extracted from **information**

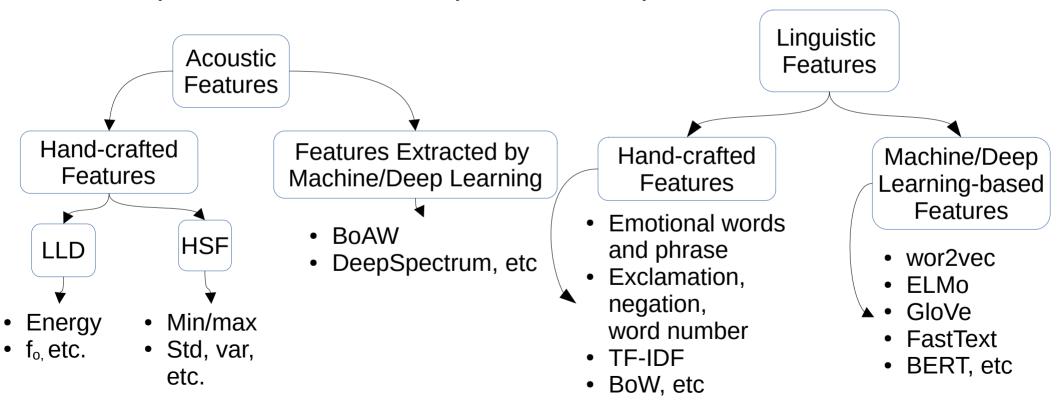
Data: speech

 Speech: the expression of or the ability to express thoughts and feelings by articulate sounds



Information: acoustic and linguistic features

- Acoustic is the main information to perceive emotion in speech, while linguistic is the additional information
- Conceptual information in practice is implemented as features



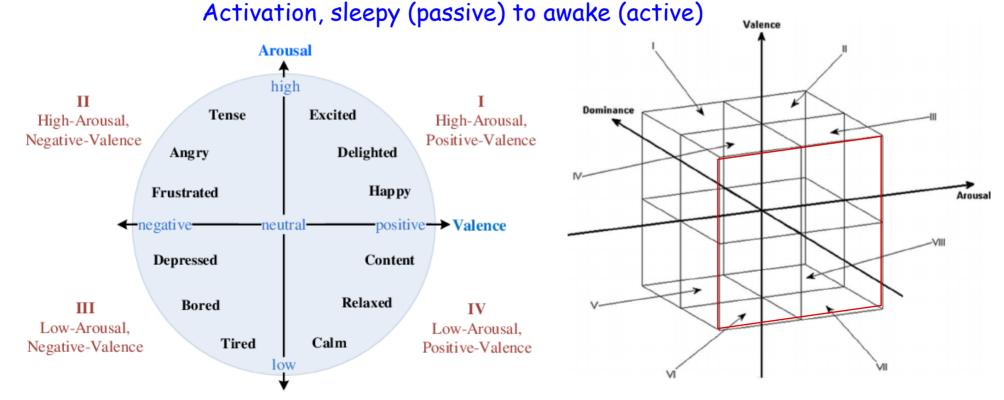
Knowledge: dimensional emotion degrees

• Dimensional emotion: emotion as continuous degree in several attributes/dimensions

• Most common dimensions: Valence, Arousal, and Dominance

Pleasantness, positive to negative

Power control, low to high



2D space (VA)

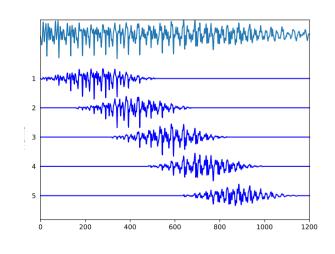
3D space (VAD)

Research strategy

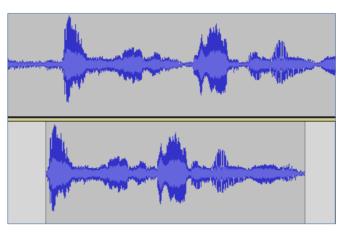
⁽Is acoustic only −enough for SER?

1) Dimensional SER using acoustic features:

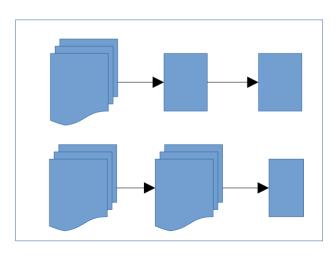
- Which *region of analysis* to extract acoustic features
- Effect of silent pause regions
- Aggregation methods from chunks to an utterance



LLD vs. HSF



Keeping vs. Removing vs. Using silence



Input vs. output aggregation

Research strategy

2) Early acoustic-linguistic fusion (feature level [FL]):

- Effect of different word embeddings
- Early fusion by network concatenation
- Early fusion by feature concatenation
- Using ASR outputs for linguistic input

Concatenation

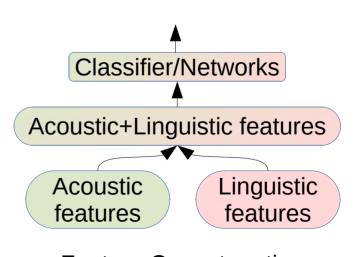
Acoustic networks

Acoustic features

Linguistic networks

Linguistic features

Network Concatenation



Early fusion

is the simplest

fusion method

Research strategy

3) Late acoustic-linguistic fusion (decision level [DL]): Humans process

- Late fusion approach by two-stage processing:
 - DNNs
 - SVM



- Results and discussion:
 - Result of two-stage processing
 - Speaker dependent (SD) vs. speaker independent (LOSO, leave-one-session-out)
 - Effect of removing 'target sentences'

Datasets

IEMOCAP

12 hours long 10039 turns 10 speakers 5 sessions V, A, D [1-5]

MSP-IMPROV

> 9 hours long 8438 turns 12 speakers 6 sessions V, A, D [1-5]

USOMS-e

261 stories 7778 chunks 87 speakers V, A [L, M, H]

Previous research (in Akagi-lab) used small datasets and unsupervised learning which is hard to implement DNN methods and compare the results on these datasets

Evaluation metric

Concordance correlation metric (CCC)

$$CCC = \frac{2\rho\sigma_x\sigma_y}{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 + (\mu_x - \mu_y)^2}$$

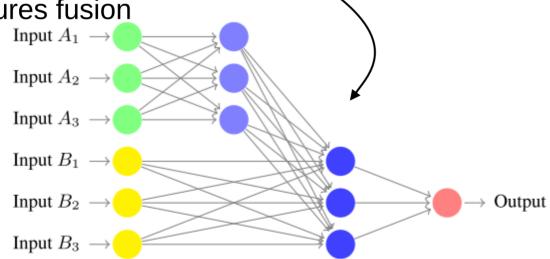
- A step further than (Pearson) correlation coefficient
- Penalizes any deviation from the identity relationship (both scale and location/shift)
- Captures both accuracy and precision
- Mathematically and experimentally superior to error-based loss functions (Pandit and Schuller, 2020; Atmaja and Akagi, 2020)
- Interpretation (Altman, 1991):
 CCC < 0.2 (poor); 0.2 < CCC < 0.8 (moderate); CCC > 0.8 (good)

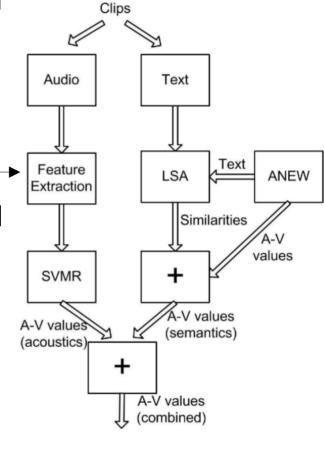
Previous work

 Lee et al. (2002): decision-based fusion using logical "OR" to predict negative/non-negative emotion by using acoustic features and spot keywords

 Karadogan & Larsen (2012): decision-based fusion using weighting function to fuse acoustic and semantic information

• Tian et al. (2016): hierarchical-based acoustic-lexical features fusion

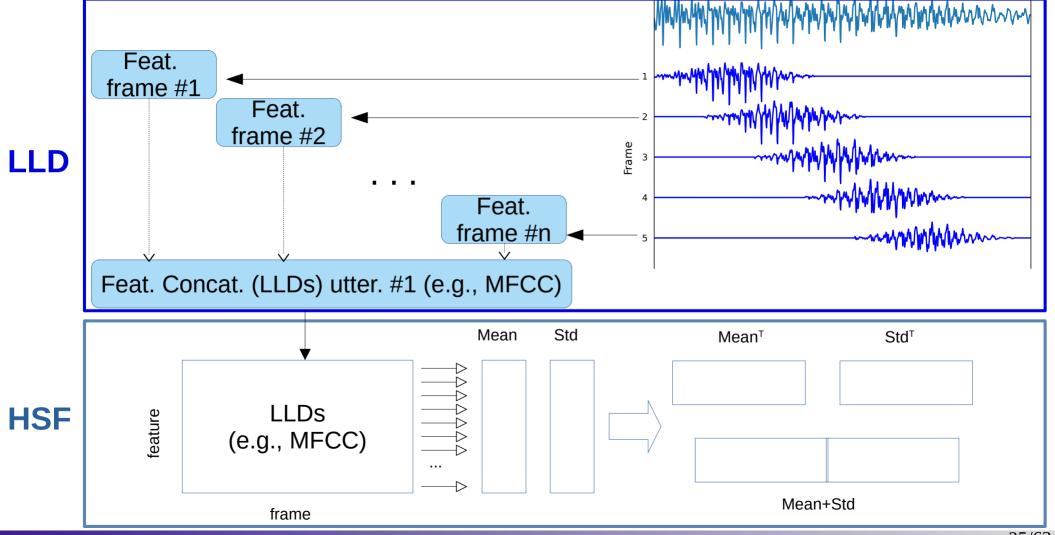




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Which region of analysis to extract features



Results: LLD vs. HSF (IEMOCAP data)

LLC	

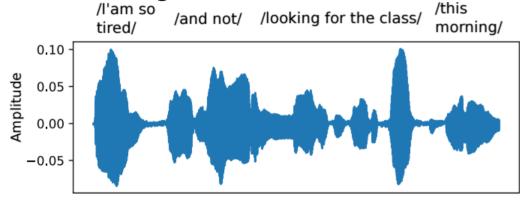
Feature	Dim	V	A	D	Mean
MFCC	(3414, 40)	0.148	0.488	0.419	0.352
Log mel	(3414, 128)	0.103	0.543	0.438	0.362
GeMAPS	(3409, 23)	0.164	0.527	0.454	0.382
pAA	(3412, 34)	0.130	0.513	0.419	0.354
pAA_D	(3412, 68)	0.145	0.526	0.439	0.370

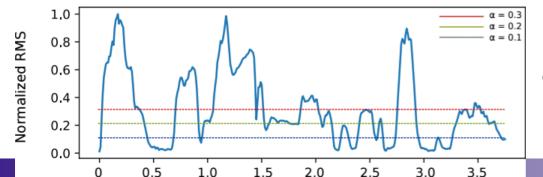


Feature	Dim	V	A	D	Mean
MFCC	80	0.155	0.580	0.456	0.397
Log Mel	256	0.151	0.549	0.455	0.385
GeMAPS	46	0.191	0.523	0.452	0.389
pAA	68	0.145	0.563	0.445	0.384
pAA_D	128	0.173	0.612	0.455	0.413

Effect of silent pause regions

- Three different treatments to evaluate silent pause regions:
 - Removing silence, and extract acoustic feature (AF) from these regions
 - **Keeping silence**, and extract AF from whole regions
 - Utilizing silence, as additional features to AF





Removing & Utilizing silence:

- Removing silence can be done by using voice activity detection with RMS energy.
 - If the RMS energy of particular frames lower than threshold (α) , then these regions are removed.
- In contrast, those regions can be used to calculate silent pause features.

27/63

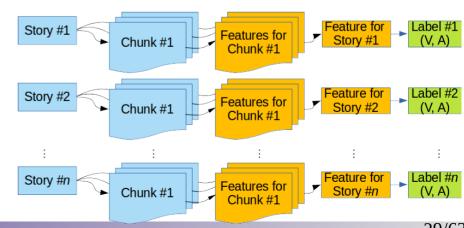
Results: effect of silent pause features

Strategy	V	A	D	Mean	
	IEMOC	CAP			
Removing silence	0.283	0.640	0.454	0.459	
Keeping silence	0.268	0.641	0.458	0.456	
Utilizing silence	0.298	0.641	0.460	0.466	
MSP-IMPROV					
Removing silence	0.259	0.586	0.441	0.429	
Keeping silence	0.217	0.586	0.425	0.409	
Utilizing silence	0.227	0.601	0.443	0.424	

The improvement and correlation between removing, keeping, and utilizing silence is small; further studies (e.g., TFS-ENV) are needed to observe such improvements.

Aggregation methods

- Common methods to aggregate results for many-to-one problem output aggregation, i.e., majority voting
- It is necessary to investigate another aggregation method, aside from aiming at fusing acoustic features with other features (linguistic)
- Human may perceive emotion from chunks to utterance based on information aggregation (not decisions/outputs aggregation)
- Two aggregation methods are evaluated:
 - Acoustic feature (input) aggregation:
 - Mean values
 - Max. values
 - Output aggregation:
 - majority voting



Result: feat. aggregation vs. majority voting

Result: leat	. aggre	egation	vs. ma	ajority v	oting	
Features	Majority	Voting [6]	Mean I	nput Agg.	Max In	put Agg.
	V	A	V	A	V	A
Librosa HSF	-	-	45.1	38.3	42.7	39.7
ComParE	33.3	39.1	43.4	42.7	45.3	37.0
BoAW-125	38.9	42.0	44.6	45.7	44.6	40.1
BoAW-250	33.3	40.5	43.0	40.8	39.6	37.6
BoAW-500	38.9	41.0	42.6	41.0	42.9	37.9
BoAW-1000	38.7	30.5	43.5	41.5	40.2	39.8
BoAW-2000	40.6	39.7	41.9	44.8	43.4	40.1
ResNet50	31.6	35.0	36.5	36.7	37.1	39.0
AuDeep-30	35.4	36.2	38.4	42.1	42.8	35.6
AuDeep-45	36.7	34.9	39.5	40.5	39.3	33.3
AuDeep-60	35.1	41.6	43.4	42.1	40.7	41.4
AuDeep-75	32.7	40.4	41.9	44.4	40.9	43.3
AuDeep-fused	29.2	36.3	43.6	39.5	42.2	39.3
						30

Summary of Part III

 Proposed solutions for several issues in acoustic-based dimensional SER:

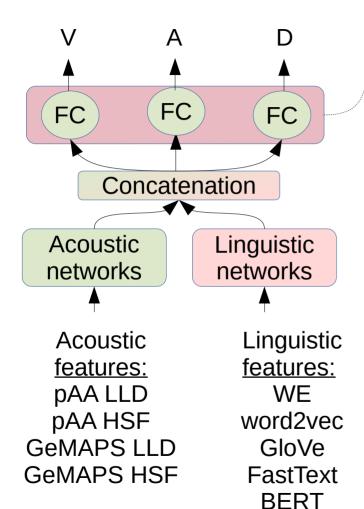
Issue	Proposed method				
Region of analysis	frames		utterance/fixed length		
Silence region	removing silence	keeping silence	utilizing silence		
Aggregation method	input aggregation		output aggregation		

- Acoustic-based dimensional SER still suffers from low performance of valence prediction
- Using acoustic features only for SER is not enough!

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Network concatenation with MTL



► Loss function:

$$CCCL = 1 - CCC$$

Total loss function (with no parameter):

$$CCCL_{tot} = CCCL_V + CCCL_A + CCCL_D.$$

Total loss function with 2 parameters:

$$CCCL_{tot} = \alpha \ CCCL_V + \beta \ CCCL_A + (1 - \alpha - \beta) \ CCCL_D$$

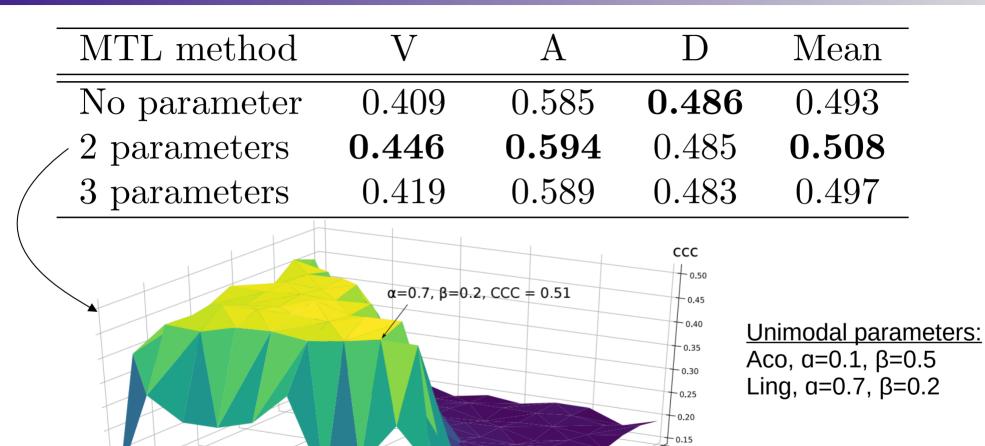
Total loss function with 3 parameters:

$$CCCL_{tot} = \alpha \ CCCL_V + \beta \ CCCL_A + \gamma \ CCCL_D$$

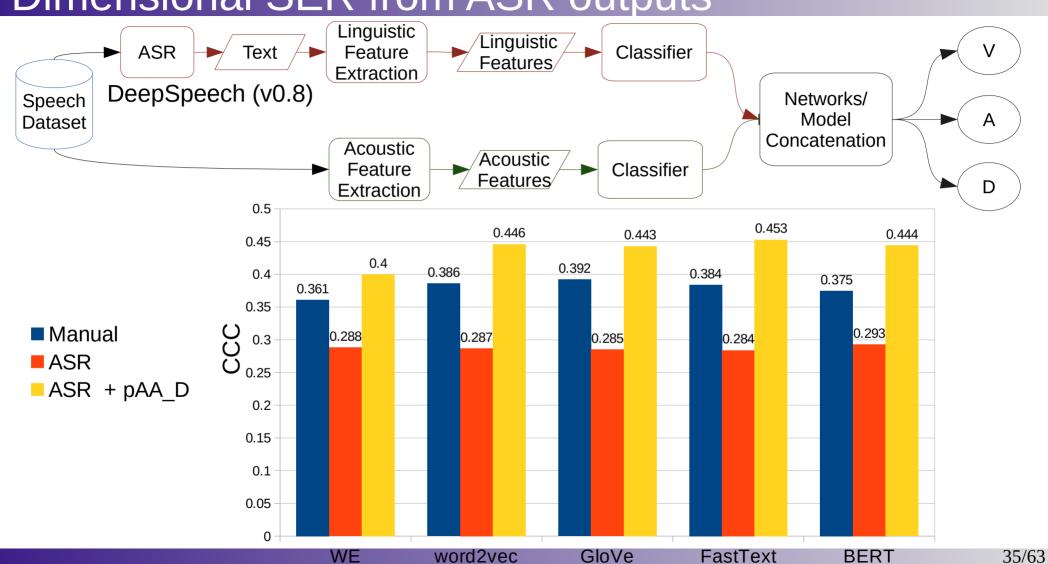
Result: networks concatenation with MTL

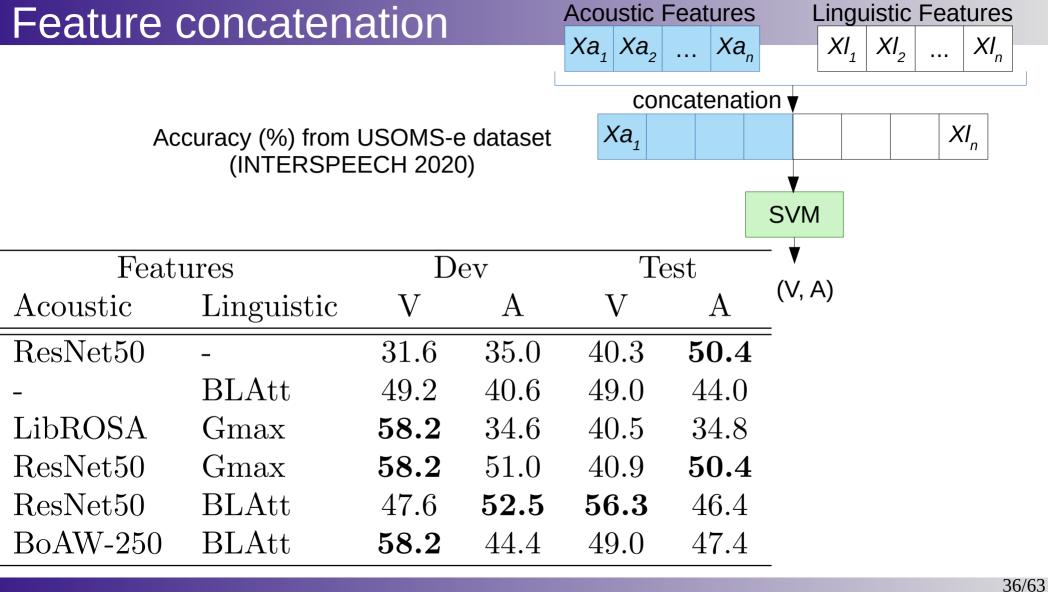
0.2

 α



Dimensional SER from ASR outputs





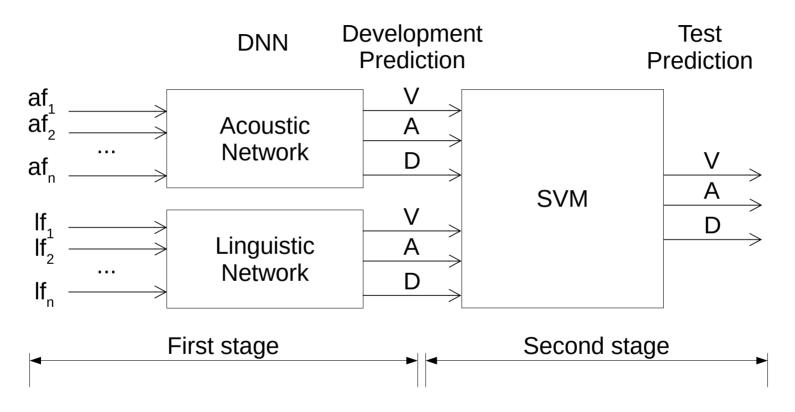
Summary of Part IV

- Fusing acoustic and linguistic information by network
 concatenation improves dimensional SER in several ways:
 - Linguistic information improves dimensional SER predictions particularly on valence prediction
 - Multitask learning (MTL) could predict valence, arousal, and dominance simultaneously; MTL with two parameters models SER better than any other model
 - Dimensional SER from ASR outputs resulting in lower performance than manual transcription; pre-trained linguistic model didn't help much in this case
- Feature concatenation improves unimodal emotion recognition on valence prediction

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Two-stage dimensional SER



Input af: GeMAPS LLD, GeMAPS mean+std (HSF1), GeMAPS mean+std+sil (HSF2)

Input If: WE, word2vec, GloVE

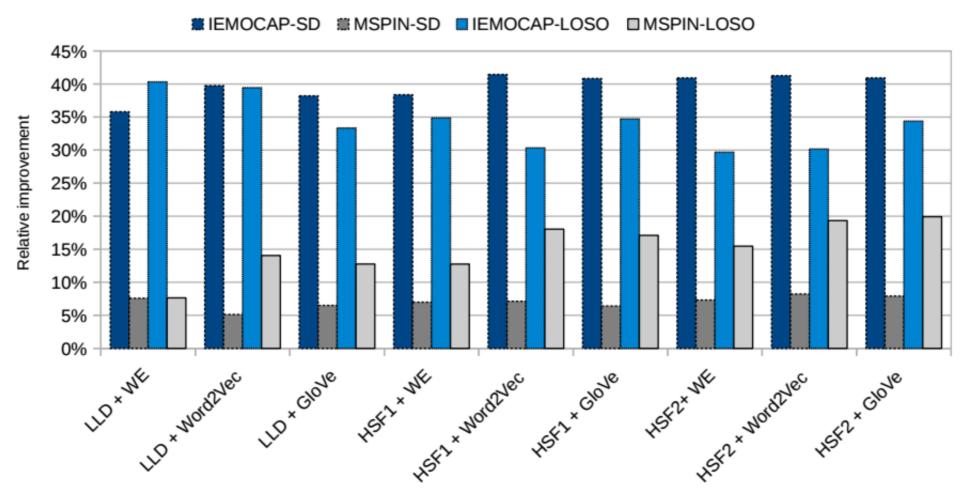
Result: late fusion

CCC scores on different dataset partitions

Dataset	Features (best)	V	А	D	Mean
IEMOCAP-SD	HSF2+word2vec	0.595	0.601	0.499	0.565
IEMOCAP-LOSO	HSF2+GloVe	0.553	0.579	0.465	0.532
MSPIN-SD	HSF2+word2vec	0.486	0.641	0.524	0.550
MSPIN-LOSO	HSF2+GloVe	0.291	0.570	0.405	0.422

MSPIN: Parts of MSP-IMPROV dataset excluding target sentence scenario ('Target - improvised' and 'Target - read')

Result: relative improvement



Some discussions

- Speaker-dependent vs. speaker-independent
 - The results shows that speaker-dependent and speaker-independent emotion recognition in acoustic-linguistic fusion is *statistically* different (p < 0.05)
 - Speaker-dependent scenario cannot be used to predict real case scenario (which is speaker-independent)
- Effect of removing target sentence from MSP-IMPROV
 - Removing target sentence still resulted in low score of CCCs
 - There is possibility that the speakers are still influenced by targetsentences scenario
 - Further studies are needed to investigate the influence of lexical content in dimensional SER in different scenarios (when linguistic information is needed and what the cues are)

Summary of Part V

- Late fusion approach improves the performance of the previous early fusion approach in all dimensional emotions
- As in previous early fusion, linguistic information contributes to valence prediction improvement while acoustic information contributes dominantly to arousal and dominance scores
- Results on speaker-independent is significantly different from speaker-dependent
- Removing lexical-controlled utterances still shows some influence of those utterances; further investigation is needed

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Comparative	analysis
Dataset	Authors

This study (Aco)

This study (FL)

This study (DL)

Zhao et al. (2018)

Zhao et al. (2019)

Abdelwahab

Partasarathy

Sridhar et al.

Yang

Bakshi et al.

Schmitt et al.

Atmaja & Akagi

Chen et al.

IEMOCAP SI

IEMOCAP SI

IEMOCAP SI

IEMOCAP SD

IEMOCAP SD

MSP-Podcast SI

SEWA (DE+HU)

SEWA (DE+HU)

SEMAINE

RECOLA

SEWA (DE)

IEMOCAP+Podcast

Podcast+IEMOCAP

Modalities

Ac

Ac+Li

Ac+Li

Ac+Age+G

Ac+Age+G

Ac

Ac

Ac

Ac

Ac

Ac

Ac+Vi

Ac+Vi+Li

D

0.460

0.508

0.550

0.539

0.591

0.181

0.441

0.690

45/63

Α

0.641

0.594

0.579

0.392

0.689

0.305

0.623

0.711

0.680

0.660

0.499

0.680

0.672

0.298

0.446

0.553

0.715

0.590

0.140

0.235

0.291

0.506

0.314

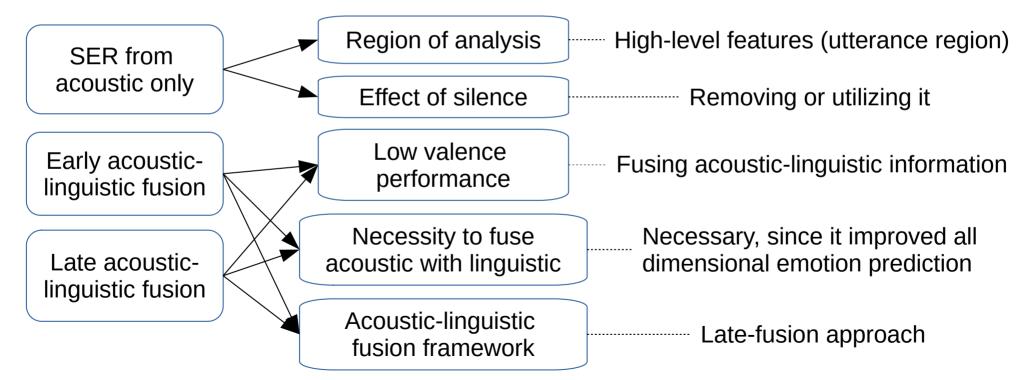
0.489

0.656

0.755

Summary

- This study reveals the necessity of fusing acoustic with linguistic information for dimensional SER; the late fusion method models dimensional SER better than early fusion and unimodal acoustic analysis
- Potential solutions for the issues:



Contributions

Dimensional SER from acoustic features

Statistical features representation (particularly Mean+Std) shows meaningful impact in general acoustic feature set

Silent pause regions is predicted to contribute to dimensional SER; either removing silence or utilizing it as additional features slightly improve the performance

Mapping many-to-one from short terms (chunks) for long term (story) is better modeled by feature aggregation than output aggregation

Remains:

- A method to calculate silent pause features that discriminate significantly among removing, keeping, and utilizing silence (e.g., TFS-ENV method)
- The contribution of fusing LLD and HSF compared to individual region of analysis, the thresh-hold, and its complexity

Contributions (Cont'd)

• Dimensional SER using acoustic-linguistic information fusion

Dimensional SER can be performed simultaneously by early fusion multitask learning based on CCC loss; CCCL with two parameters is the most accurate method to model interrelation among emotion dimension

Late fusion approach is better to model fusion of acoustic and linguistic information, which also is perceptually closer to human multimodal processing than early fusion approach

Linguistic information improves prediction of valence while acoustic information highly influences prediction of arousal and *dominance*

Remains:

- Fine-tuned BERT on acoustic-linguistic dimensional SER
- Fully lexical-controlled dimensional SER

Future research direction

- Accelerating high-level feature extraction for speech emotion recognition
- Bimodal acoustic-linguistic emotion recognition by two spaces resultant
- Fully lexical controlled vs. lexical uncontrolled emotion recognition
- Bottleneck between acoustic and linguistic processing
- Concurrent speech and emotion recognition
- Model generalization

Publications

• Journals (3):

- 1) B. T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Dimensional speech emotion recognition from speech features and word embeddings by using multitask learning," APSIPA Trans. Signal Inf. Process., vol. 9, May 2020.
- 2) R. Elbarougy, B.T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Continuous Audiovisual Emotion Recognition Using Feature Selection and LSTM," Journal of Signal Processing, Vol. 24, No. 6, November 2020.
- 3) B.T. Atmaja, and M. Akagi. "Two-stage dimensional emotion recognition by fusing predictions of acoustic and text networks using SVM," Speech Communication, vol 126, February, 2021, pp 9-21. doi:10.1016/j.specom.2020.11.003.

International conferences (10):

- 1) B.T. Atmaja, K. Shirai, and M. Akagi, "Deep Learning-based Categorical and Dimensional Emotion Recognition for Written and Spoken Text," International Seminar on Science and Technology, Surabaya, 2019.
- 2) B. T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Speech Emotion Recognition Based on Speech Segment Using LSTM with Attention Model," in 2019 IEEE International Conference on Signals and Systems (ICSigSys), 2019, pp. 40--44
- 3) B. T. Atmaja, K. Shirai, and M. Akagi, "Speech Emotion Recognition Using Speech Feature and Word Embedding," in 2019 Asia-Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA ASC), 2019, pp. 519–523.
- 4) B. T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Multitask Learning and Multistage Fusion for Dimensional Audiovisual Emotion Recognition," in ICASSP 2020 2020 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2020, pp. 4482--4486.

Publications (cont'd)

- 5) B. T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "The Effect of Silence Feature in Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition," in 10th International Conference on Speech Prosody 2020, May, pp. 26.
- 6) B.T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Improving Valence Prediction in Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition Using Linguistic Information," in 2020 Oriental COCOSDA, pp. 166-171. IEEE, 2020. [best student paper]
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52/63

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APPENDIX

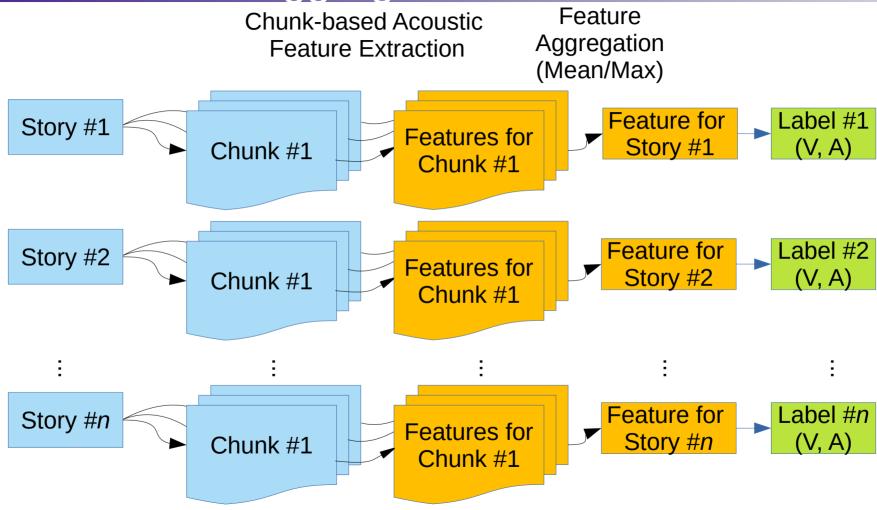
List of abbreviation

- ASR: Automatic Speech Recognition
- SER: Speech Emotion Recognition
- CCC: Concordance correlation coefficient
- DNN: Deep Neural Network
- SVM: Support Vector Machine
- FL: Feature-level fusion, DL: Decision-level fusion
- V: Valence, A: Arousal, D: Dominance
- VAD: Valence-arousal-dominance
- LLD: Low-level descriptor
- HSF: High-level statistical functions

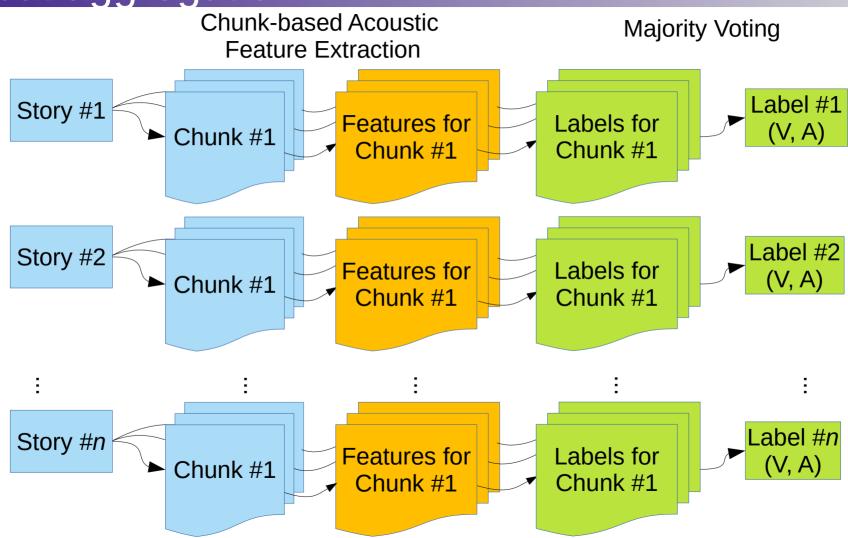
List of abbreviation (Cont'd)

- SD: speaker dependent
- LOSO: leave one session out, SI: speaker independent
- WER: word error rate
- pAA: pyAudioAnalysis
- pAA_D: pyAudioanalysis with their deltas
- MTL: multi-task learning
- af: acoustic feature
- If: linguistic feature
- WE: word embedding
- Std: standard deviation

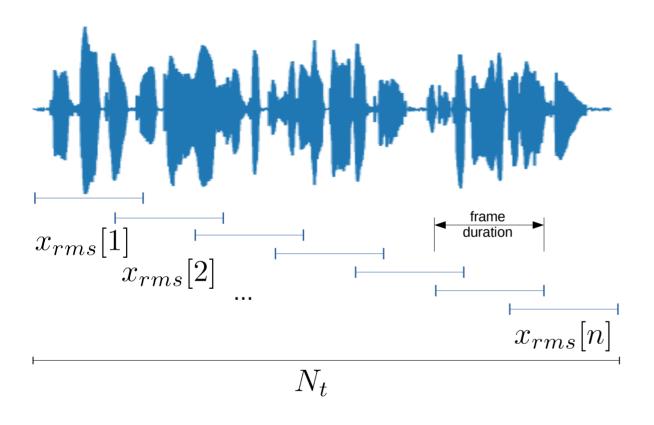
Acoustic feature aggregation



Output aggregation



Calculating silent pause features (sf)



Silent pause feature is calculated by

$$sf = \frac{N_s}{N_t}$$

where

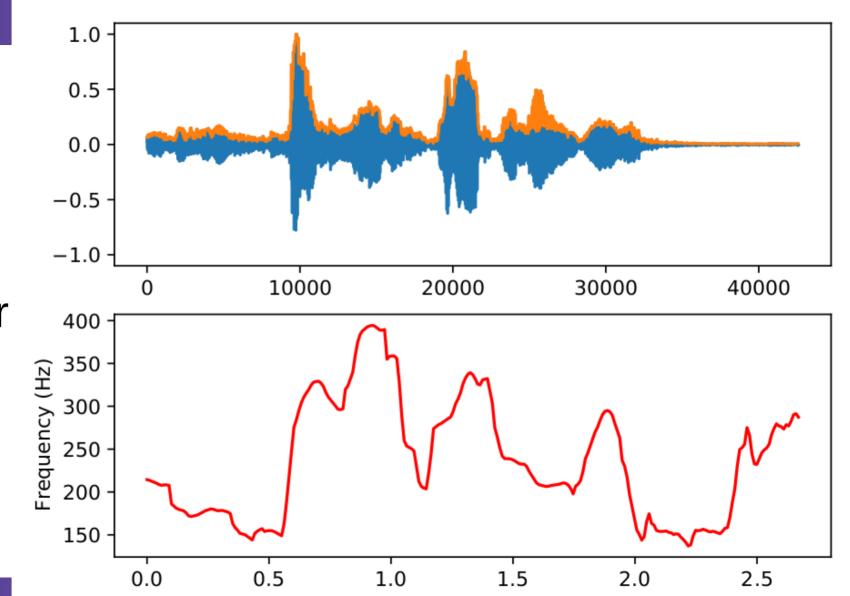
Ns: Number of silence frames

Nt: Total frames

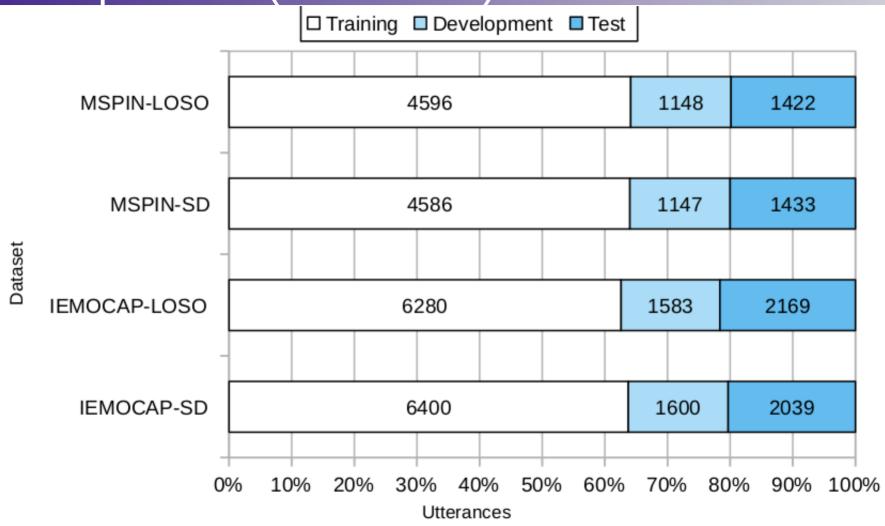
A frame is categorized as silence if the RMS is below threshold (th)

$$th = \alpha \times \tilde{x}_{rms}$$

ENV and F0 contour

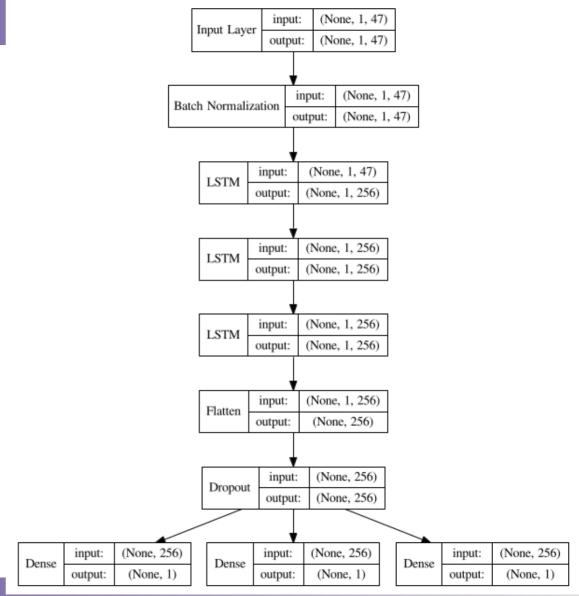


Dataset partition (late fusion)



DNN model (Acoustic)

* used in two-stage processing



DNN model (Linguistic)

* used in two-stage processing

