

Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition by Fusing Acoustic and Linguistic Information

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Outline

1. Introduction:

Background, Aims, Novelty, Significance, Applications

2. Research Methodology:

Motivation, Problems, Concept, Strategy, Datasets and Evaluation metric, Previous Work

3. Dimensional SER Using Acoustic Features

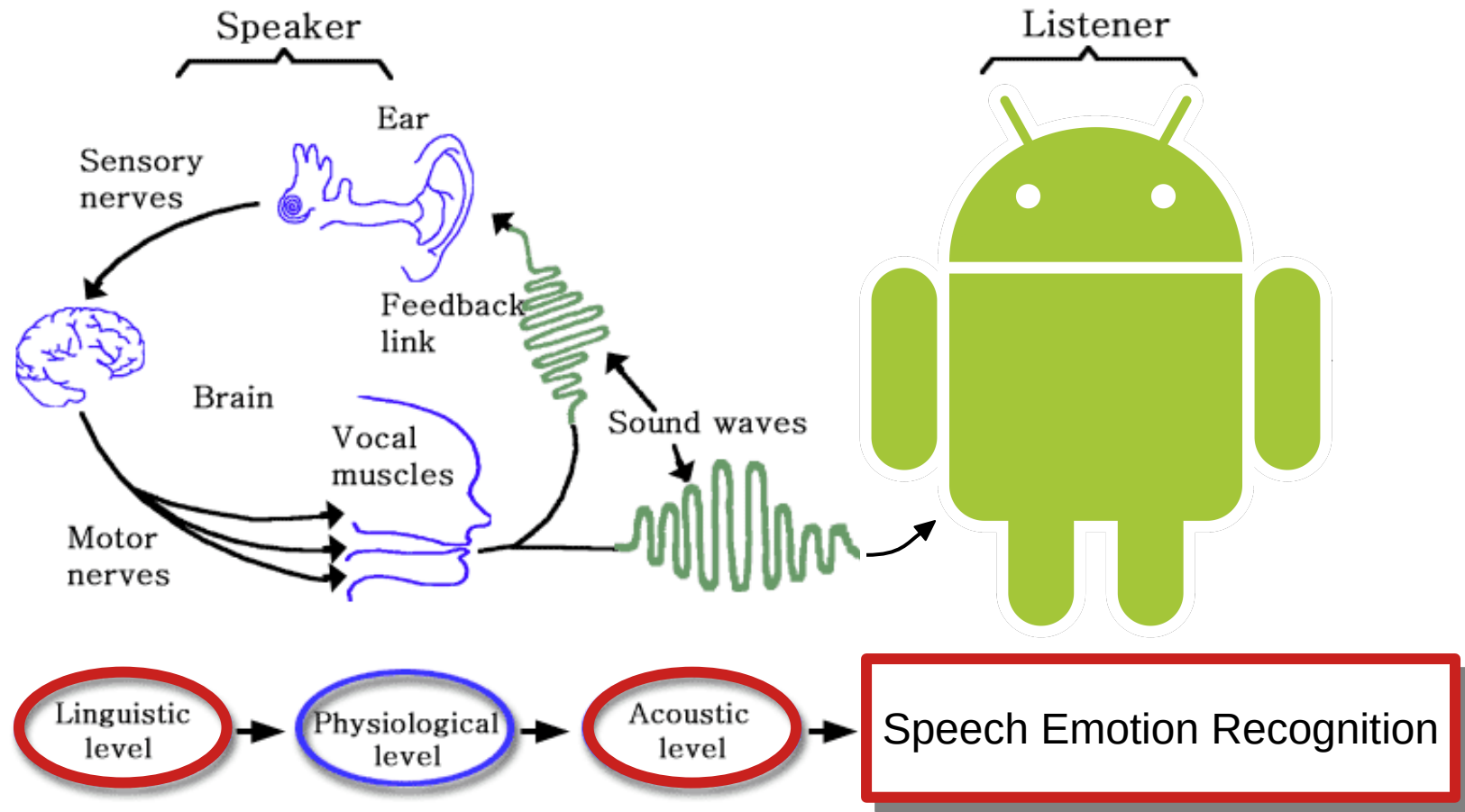
4. Early Fusion of Acoustic and Linguistic Information

5. Late Fusion of Acoustic and Linguistic Information

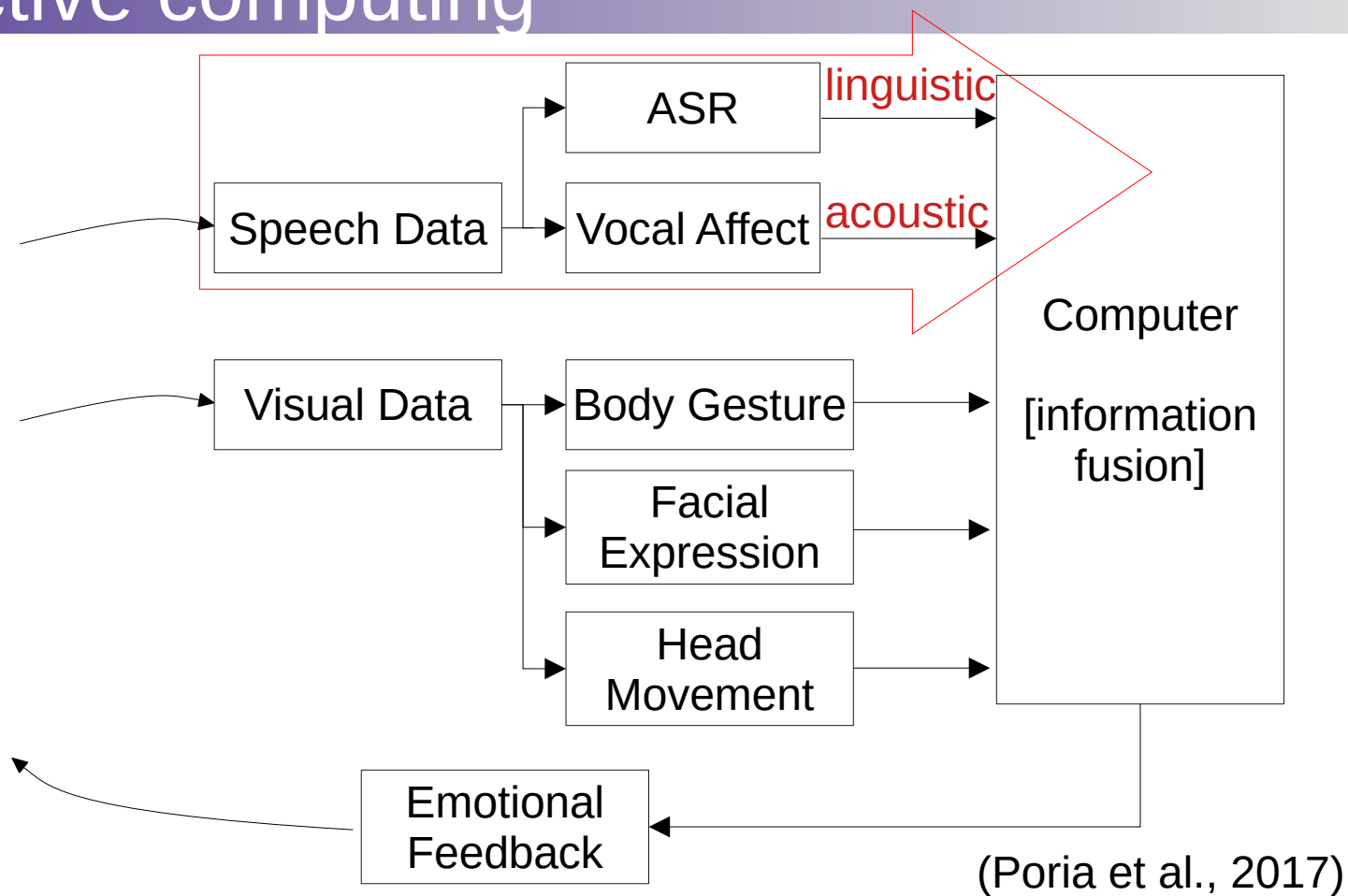
6. Conclusions:

Comparative analysis, Summary, Contributions, Future research

Human-machine communication



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**)

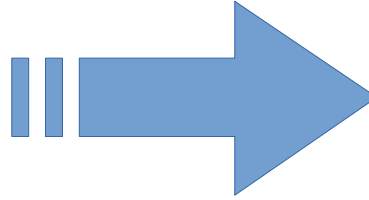
Novelty & significance

- 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
 - Effect of removing 'target sentence' from lexical controlled dataset

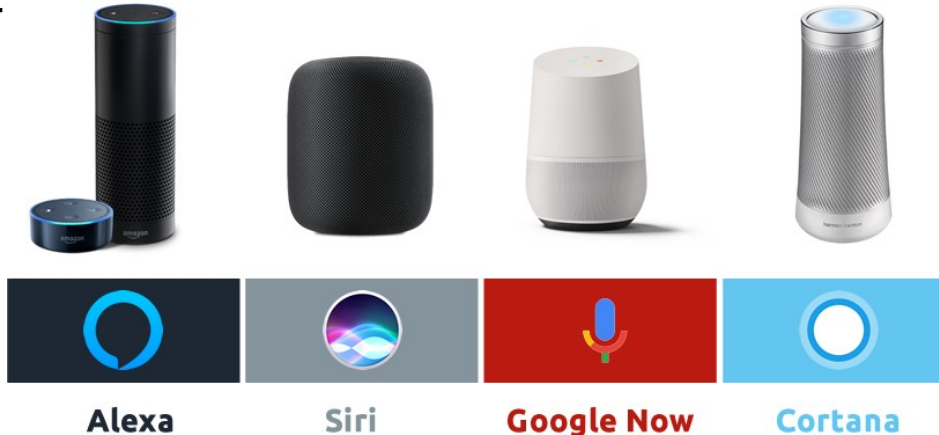
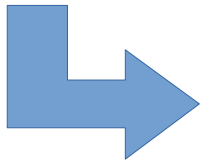
Possible applications

- Call center applications

- Emotion of caller
- Emotion of operator



- Voice assistant



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

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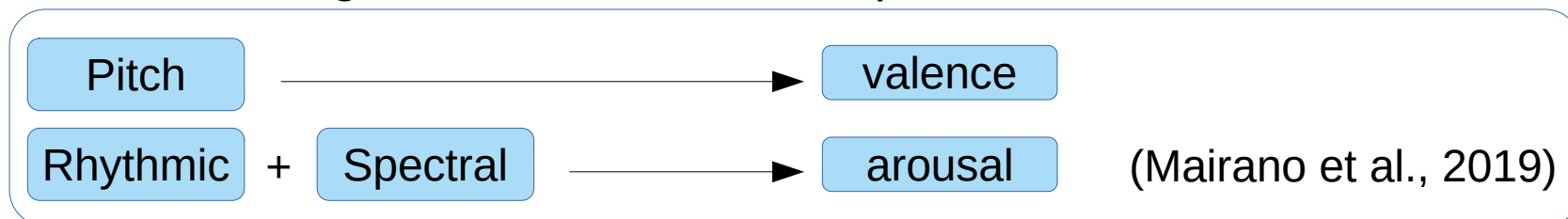
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Motivation

- Why researching SER?

- In some cases, only speech data could be obtained.
- There is strong correlation between speech and emotion:



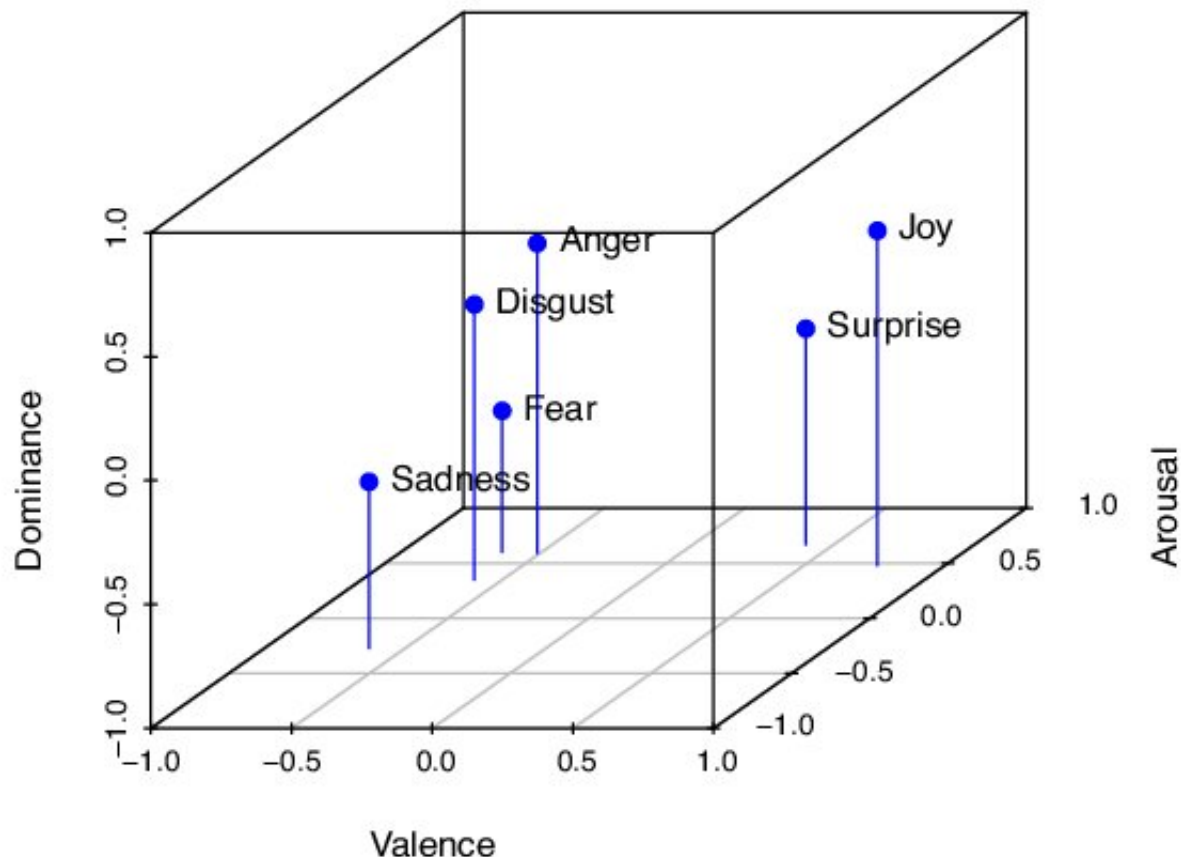
- Why is researching SER difficult?

- The labels are given by annotators; no exact values (cf. digits)

IEMOCAP ID: Ses01F_ Impr01_ F001	Annotators	Valence	Arousal	Dominance
	Annot. #1	3	2	2
	Annot. #2	2	3	3
	Annot. #3	2	3	2

Motivation

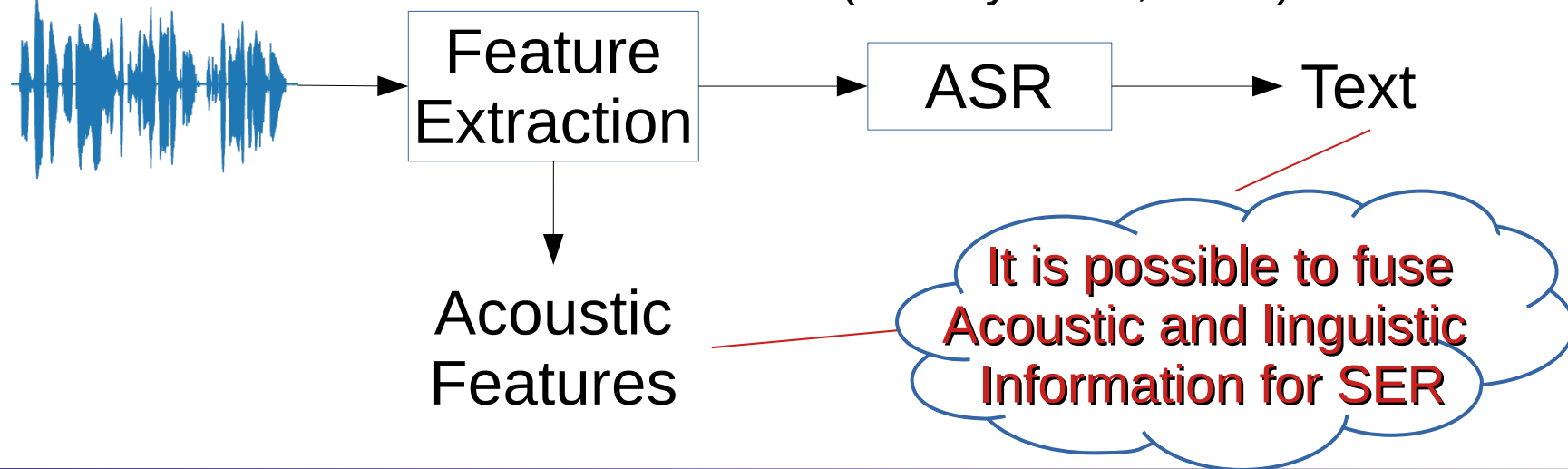
- Why dimensional SER?
 - *Categorization doesn't have an essence due to humans' high variability*
 - Categorical emotion is *not enough* to describe affective state
 - Most previous SER research only focus on categorical emotion



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)

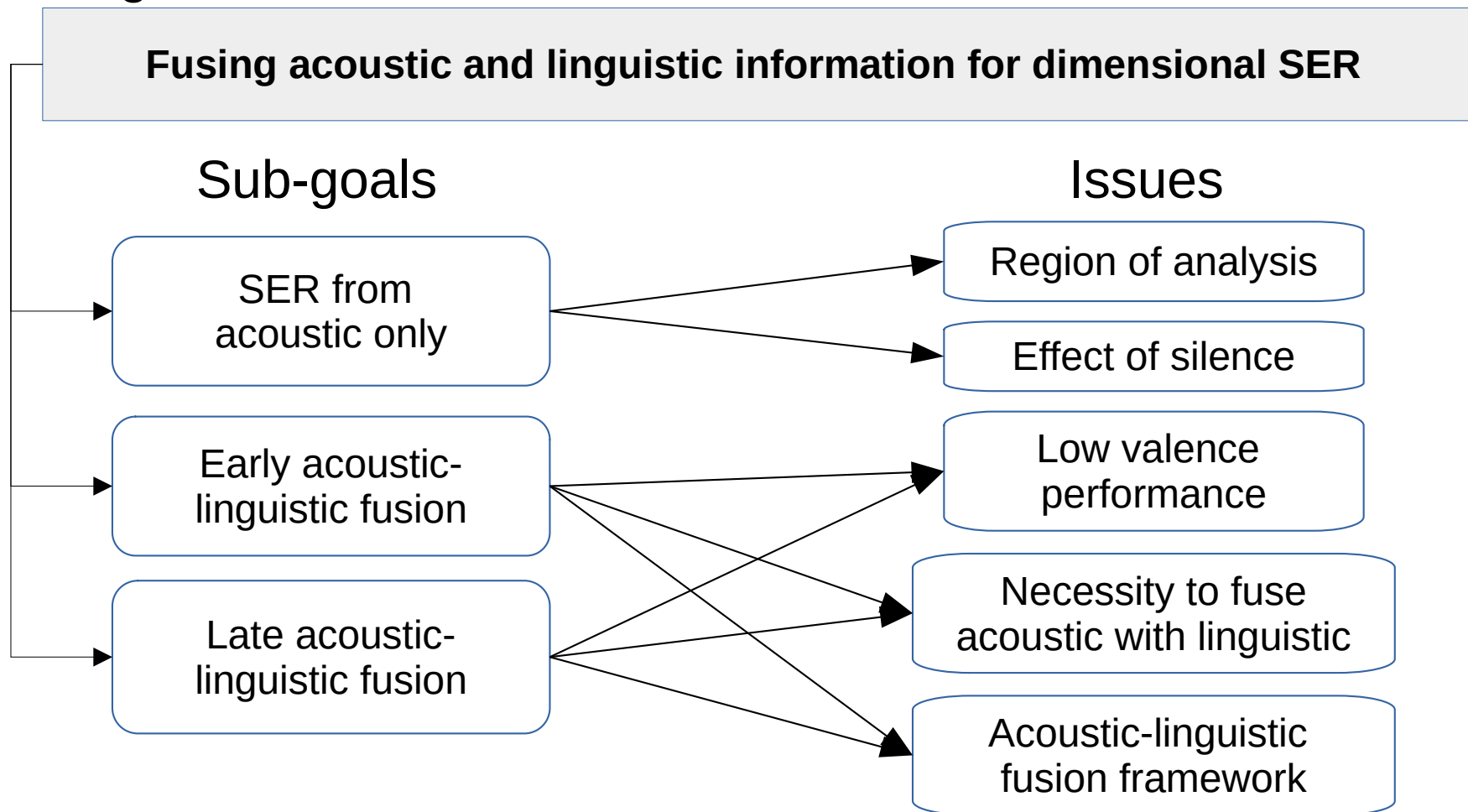


Research issues

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 acoustic information

Correlation between aims and issues

Main goal



Concept/Philosophy

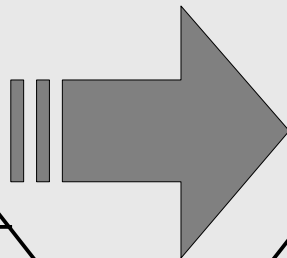
“It is not only **how** things are said, but also **what** things are said”

Machine/
computer

Knowledge

Information

Data



Dim.
Emotion

Acoustic

Linguistic

Speech

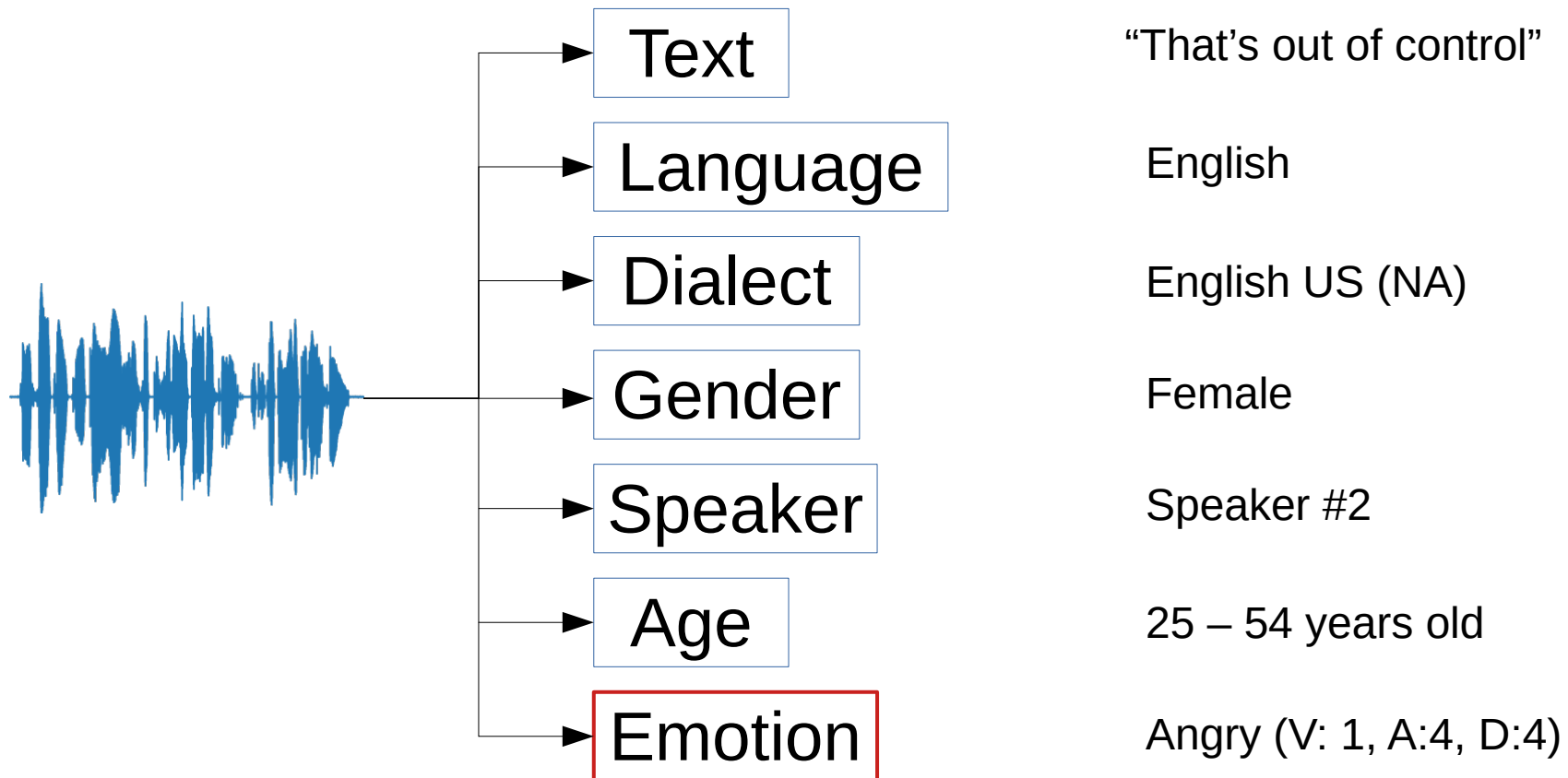
Regression

Feature
Extraction

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

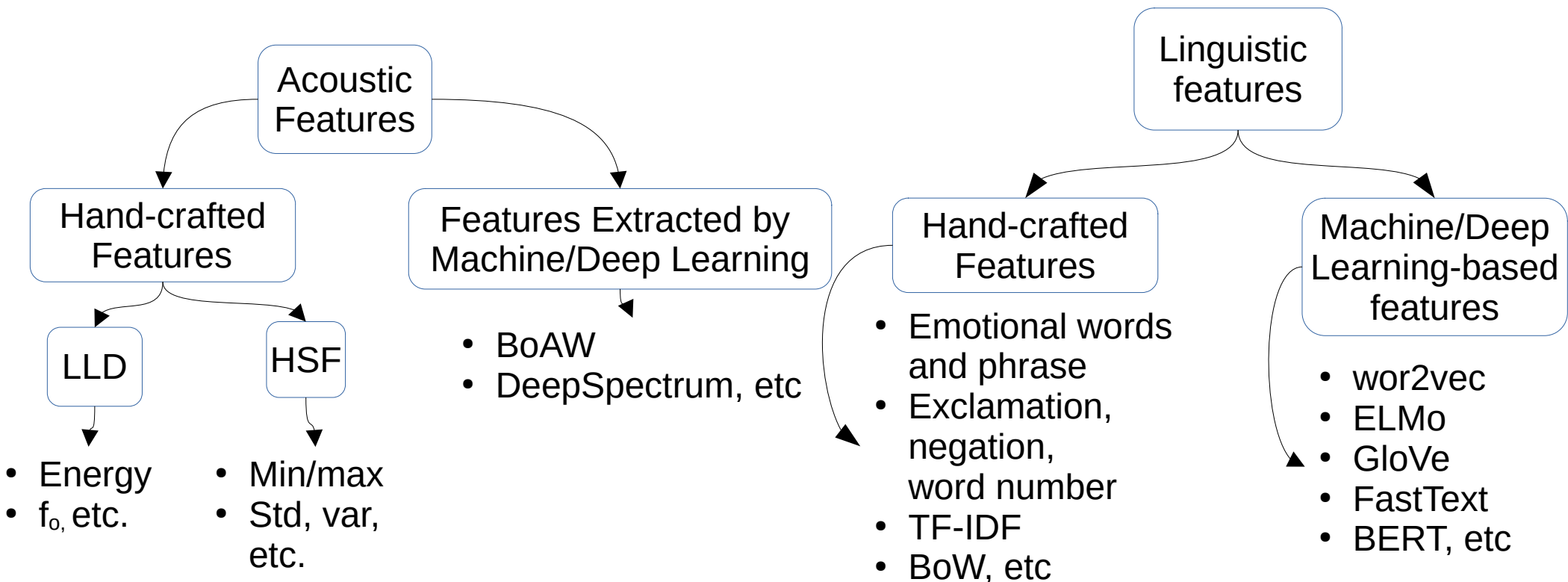
Data: speech

- 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**



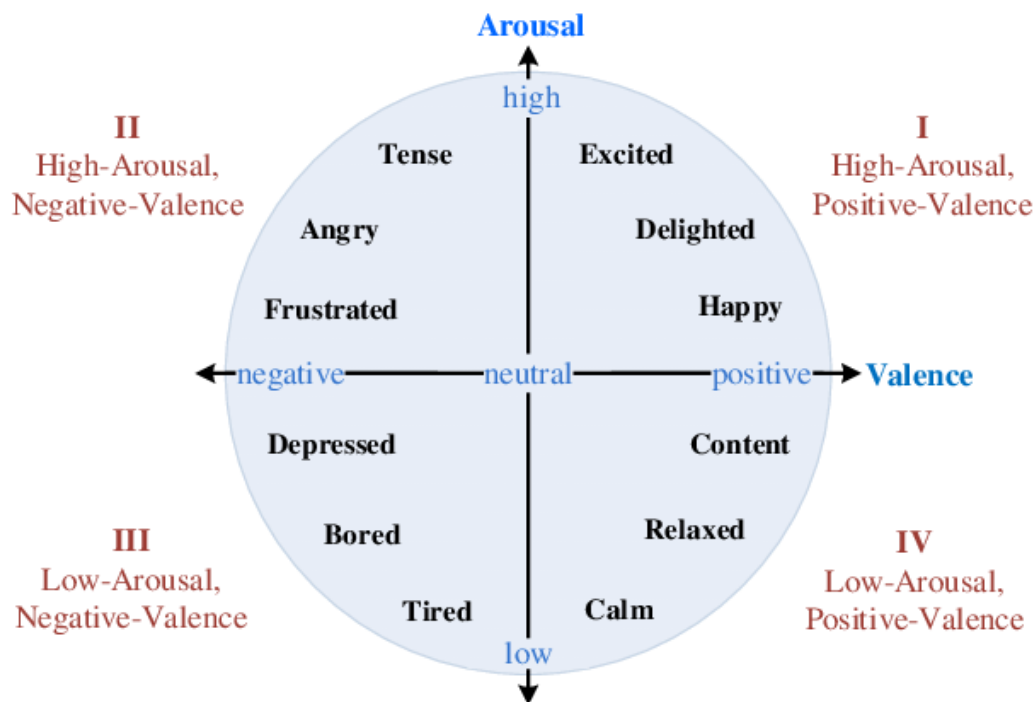
Knowledge: dimensional emotion degrees

- Dimensional emotion: emotion as continuous degree in several attributes/dimensions
- Most common dimensions: **Valence**, **Arousal**, and Dominance

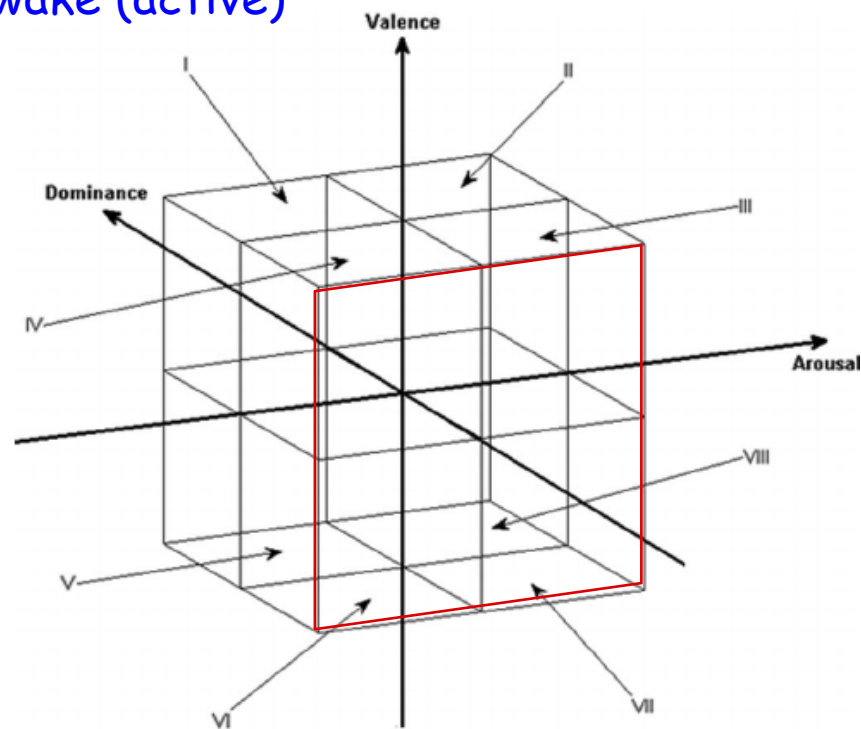
Pleasantness, positive to negative

Activation, sleepy (passive) to awake (active)

Power control, low to high



2D space (VA)



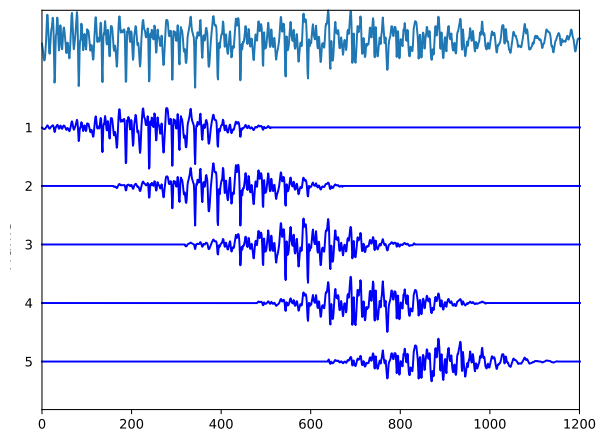
3D space (VAD)

Research strategy

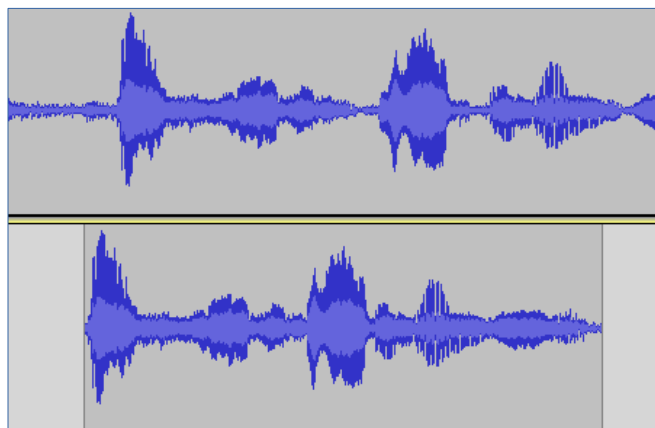
Is acoustic only enough for SER?

1) Dimensional SER using acoustic features:

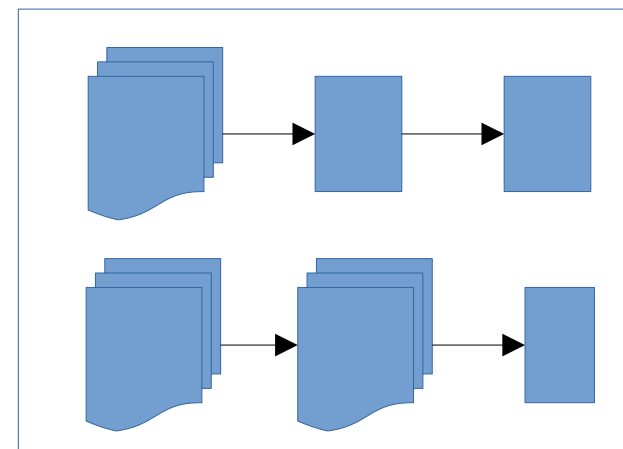
- Which region of analysis to extract acoustic features
- Effect of silent pause regions
- Aggregation methods for chunks to an utterance



LLD vs. HSF



Keeping vs. Removing vs.
Using silence



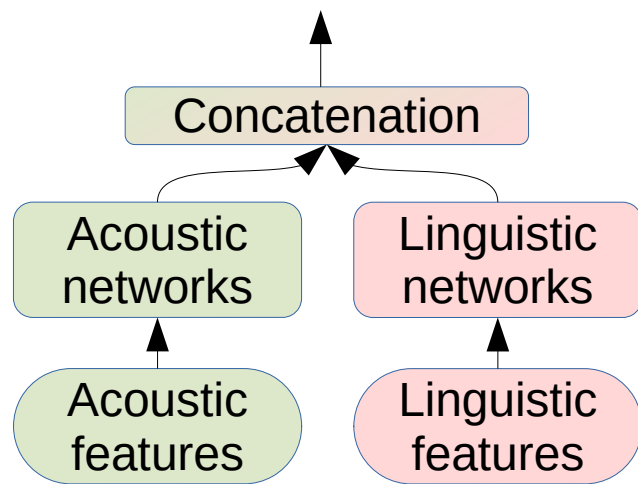
Input vs. output
aggregation

Research strategy

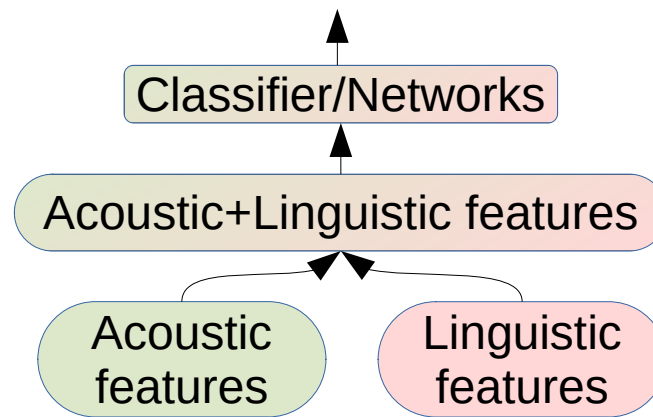
2) Early acoustic-linguistic fusion (feature level [FL]):

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

Early fusion
is the simplest
fusion method



Network Concatenation



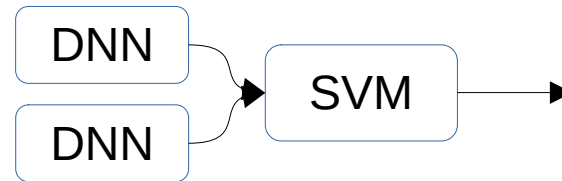
Feature Concatenation

Research strategy

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

– 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'

Humans process linguistic and acoustic at different regions

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

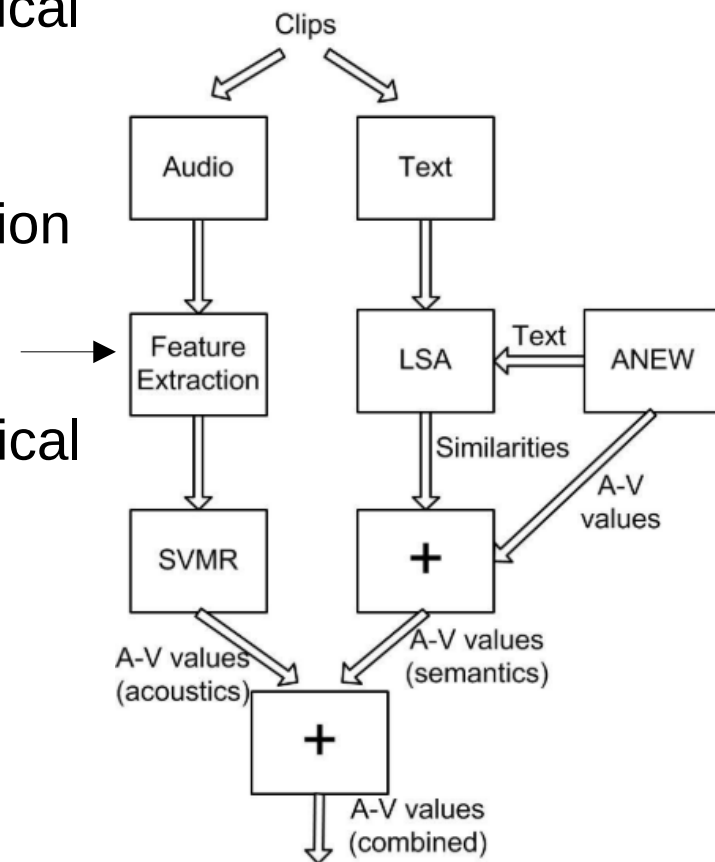
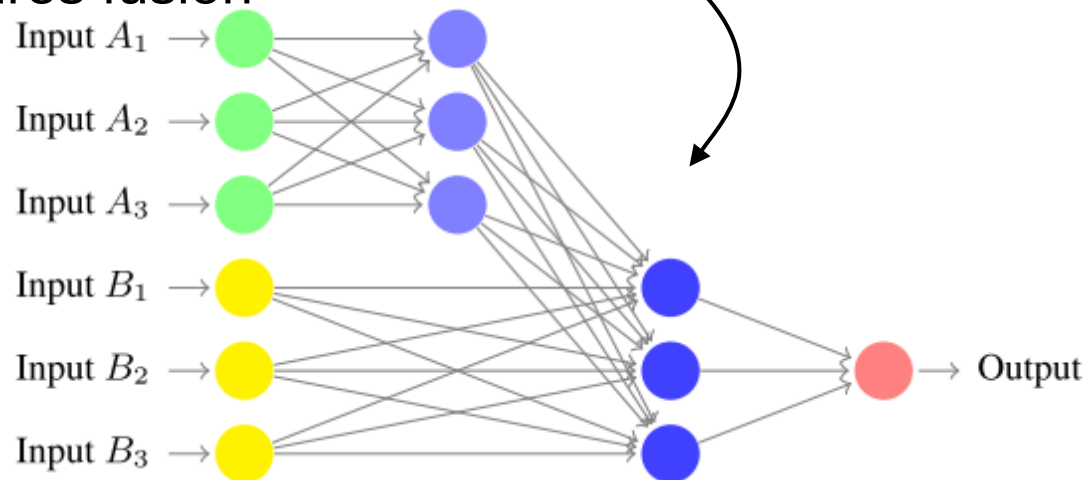
- Concordance correlation metric (CCC)

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

- 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 function using weighting function to fuse acoustic and semantic information
- Tian et al. (2016): hierarchical-based acoustic-lexical features fusion



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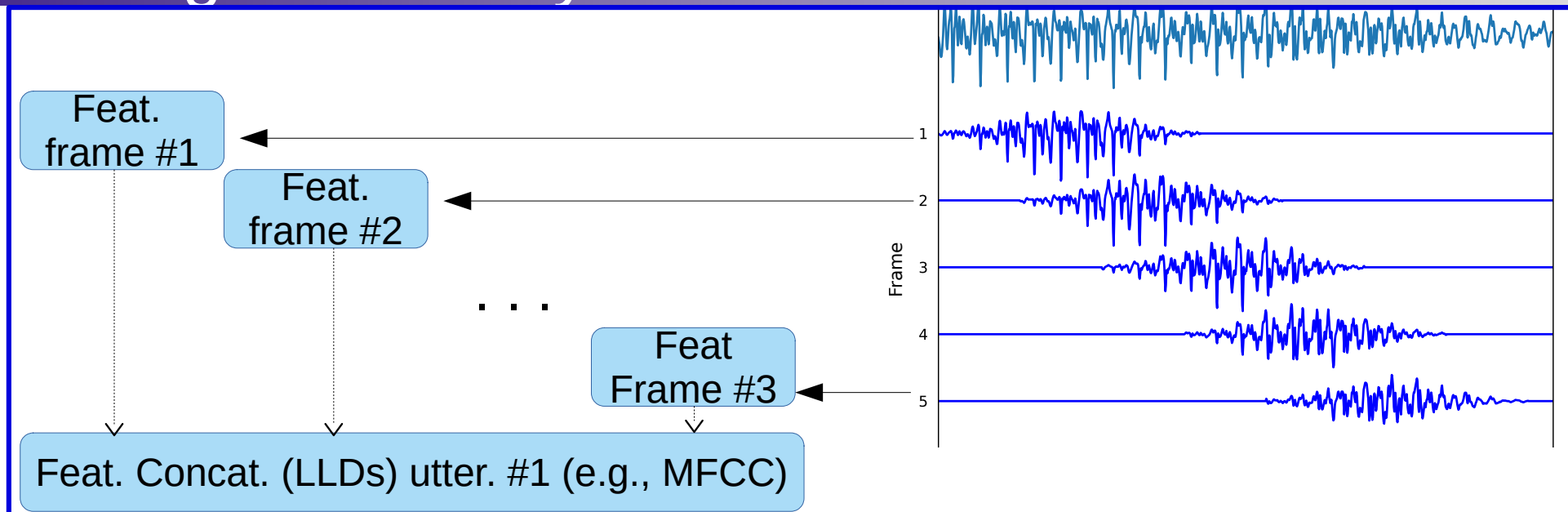
5. Late Fusion of Acoustic and Linguistic Information

6. Conclusions:

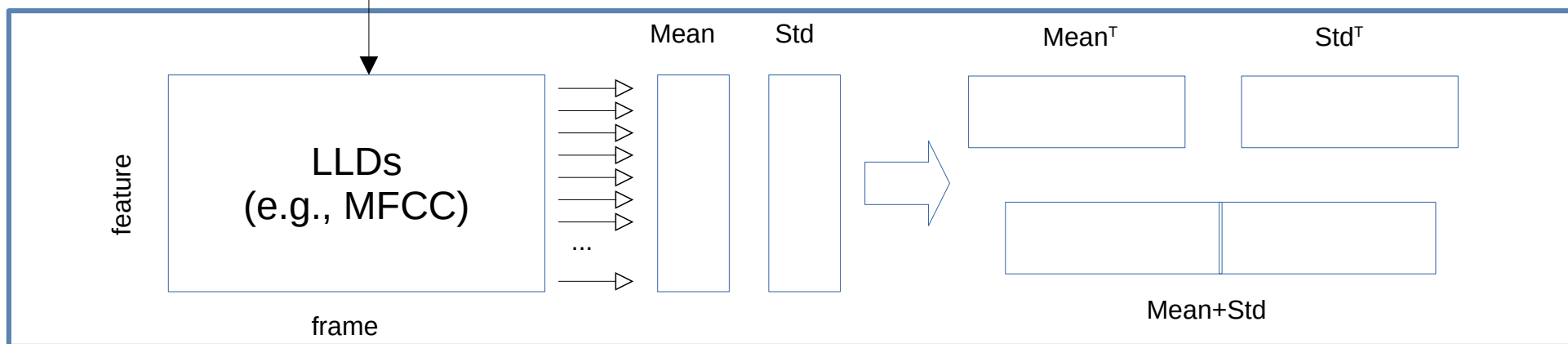
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Which region of analysis to extract features

LLD



HSF



Results: LLD vs. HSF (IEMOCAP data)

LLD

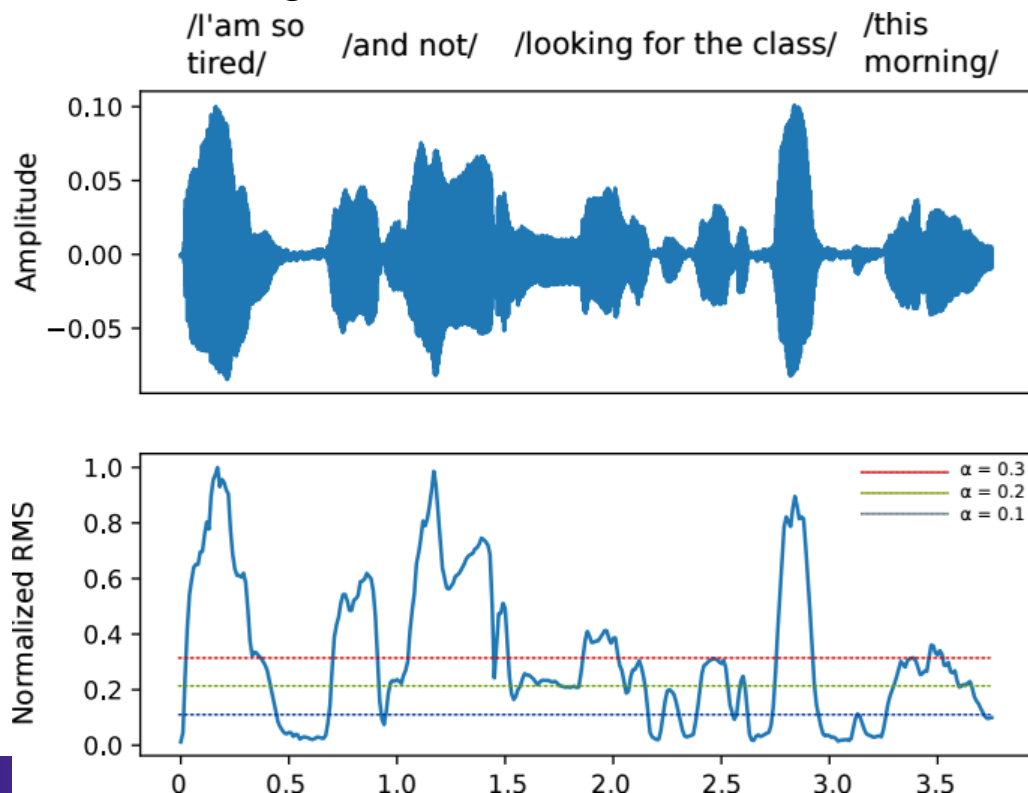
Feature	Dim	V	A	D	Mean
MFCC	(3414, 40)	0.148	0.488	0.419	0.352
Log mel	(3414, 128)	0.103	0.543	0.438	0.362
GeMAPS	(3409, 23)	0.164	0.527	0.454	0.382
pAA	(3412, 34)	0.130	0.513	0.419	0.354
pAA_D	(3412, 68)	0.145	0.526	0.439	0.370

HSF
mean+std

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 treatment 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 silence can be done by using such methods, e.g., 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.

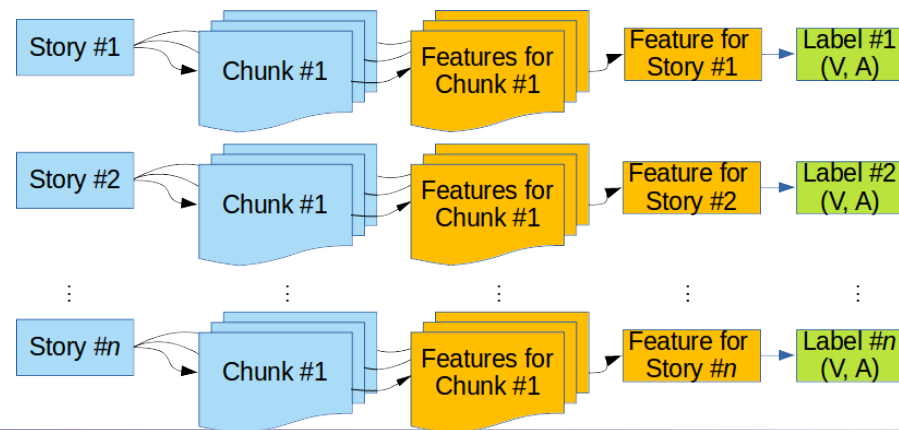
Results: effect of silent pause features

Strategy	V	A	D	Mean
IEMOCAP				
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 from many-to-one  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

Features	Majority Voting [6]		Mean Input Agg.		Max Input 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

Summary of Part III

- Proposed solution for the 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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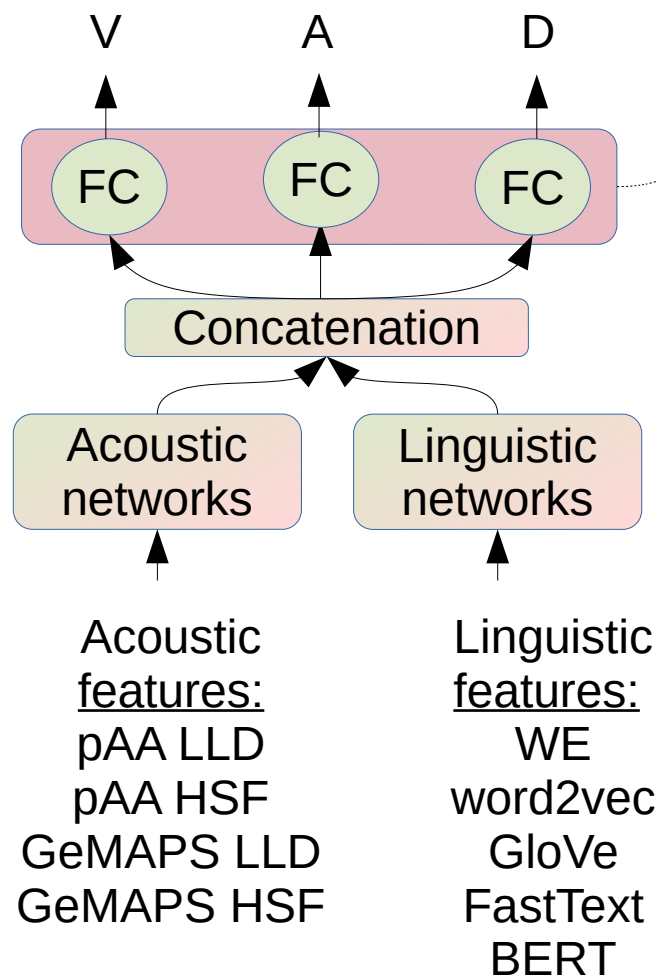
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Network concatenation with MTL



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:

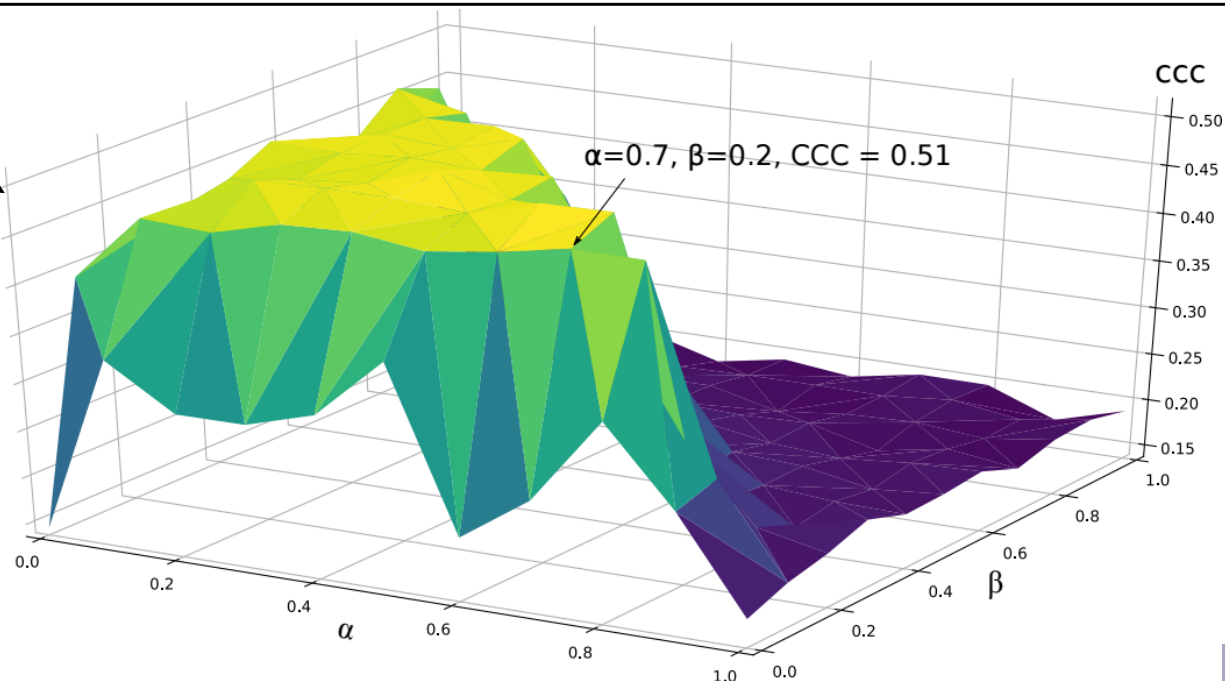
$$CCCL_{tot} = \alpha CCCL_V + \beta CCCL_A + (1 - \alpha - \beta) CCCL_D$$

Total loss function with 3 parameters:

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

Result: networks concatenation with MTL

MTL method	V	A	D	Mean
No parameter	0.409	0.585	0.486	0.493
2 parameters	0.446	0.594	0.485	0.508
3 parameters	0.419	0.589	0.483	0.497

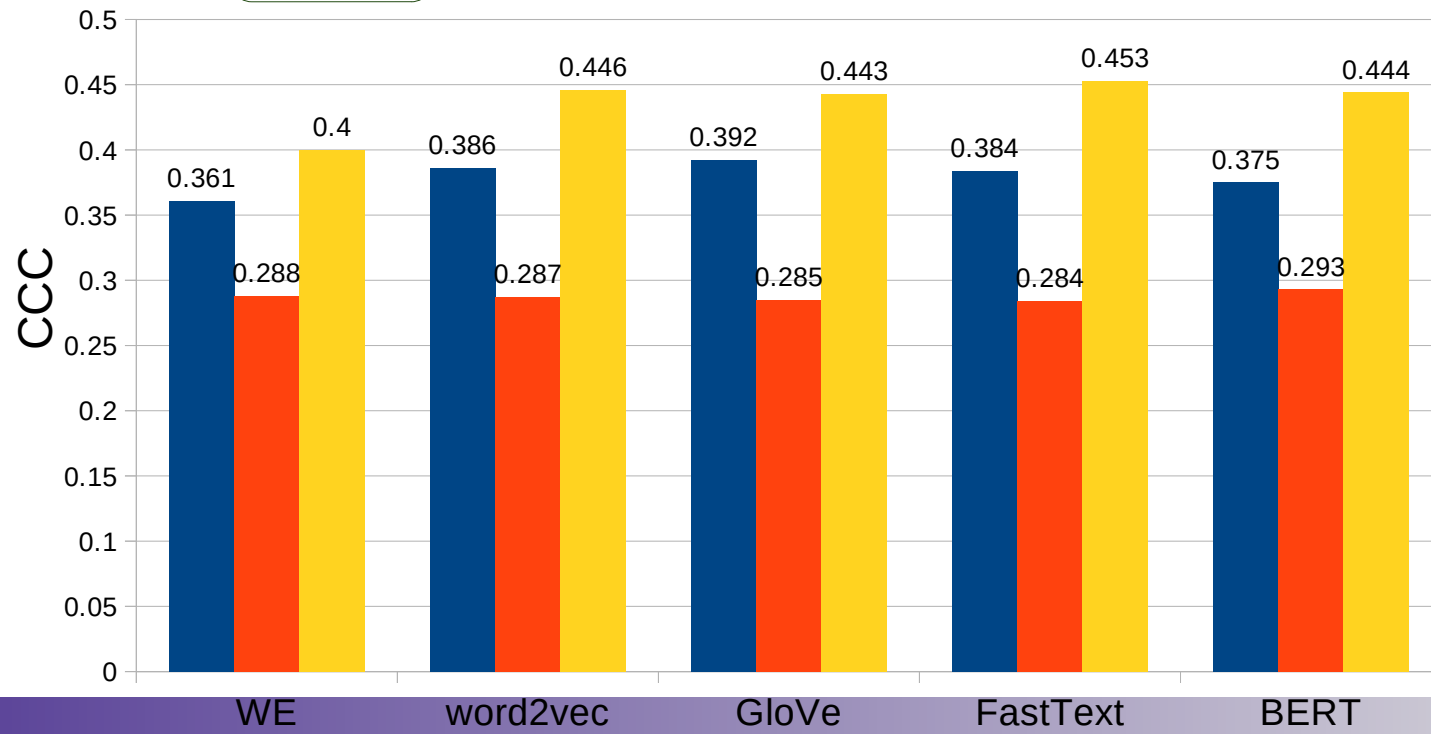
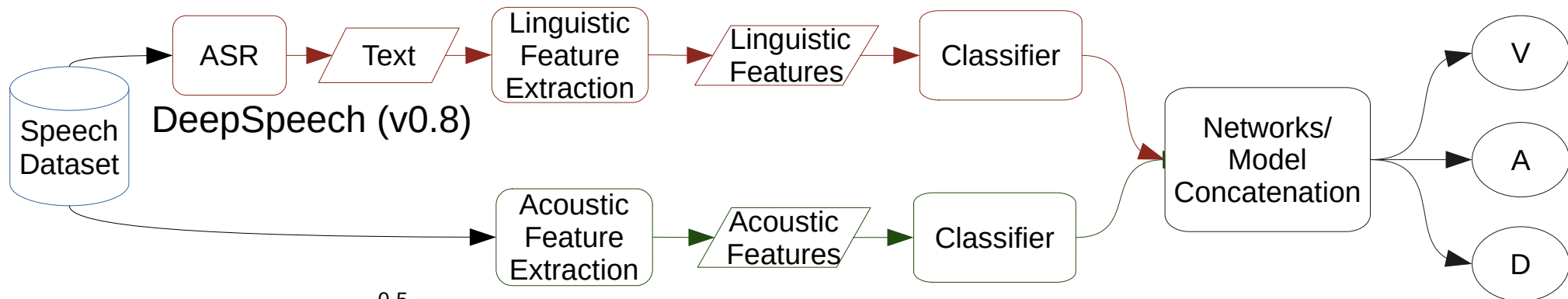


Unimodal parameters:

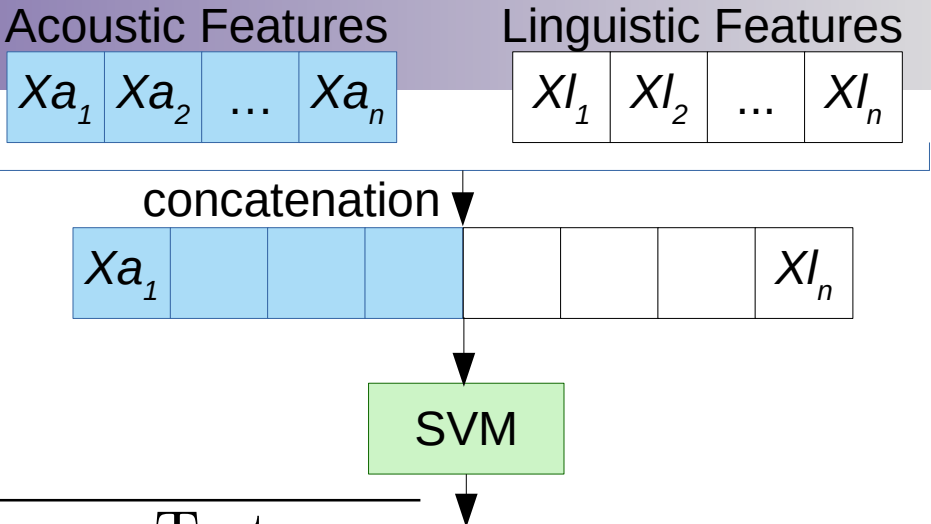
Aco, $\alpha=0.1, \beta=0.5$

Ling, $\alpha=0.7, \beta=0.2$

Dimensional SER from ASR outputs



Feature concatenation



Accuracy (%) from USOMS-e dataset
(INTERSPEECH 2020)

Features		Dev		Test	
Acoustic	Linguistic	V	A	V	A
ResNet50	-	31.6	35.0	40.3	50.4
-	BLAtt	49.2	40.6	49.0	44.0
LibROSA	Gmax	58.2	34.6	40.5	34.8
ResNet50	Gmax	58.2	51.0	40.9	50.4
ResNet50	BLAtt	47.6	52.5	56.3	46.4
BoAW-250	BLAtt	58.2	44.4	49.0	47.4

Summary of Part IV

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

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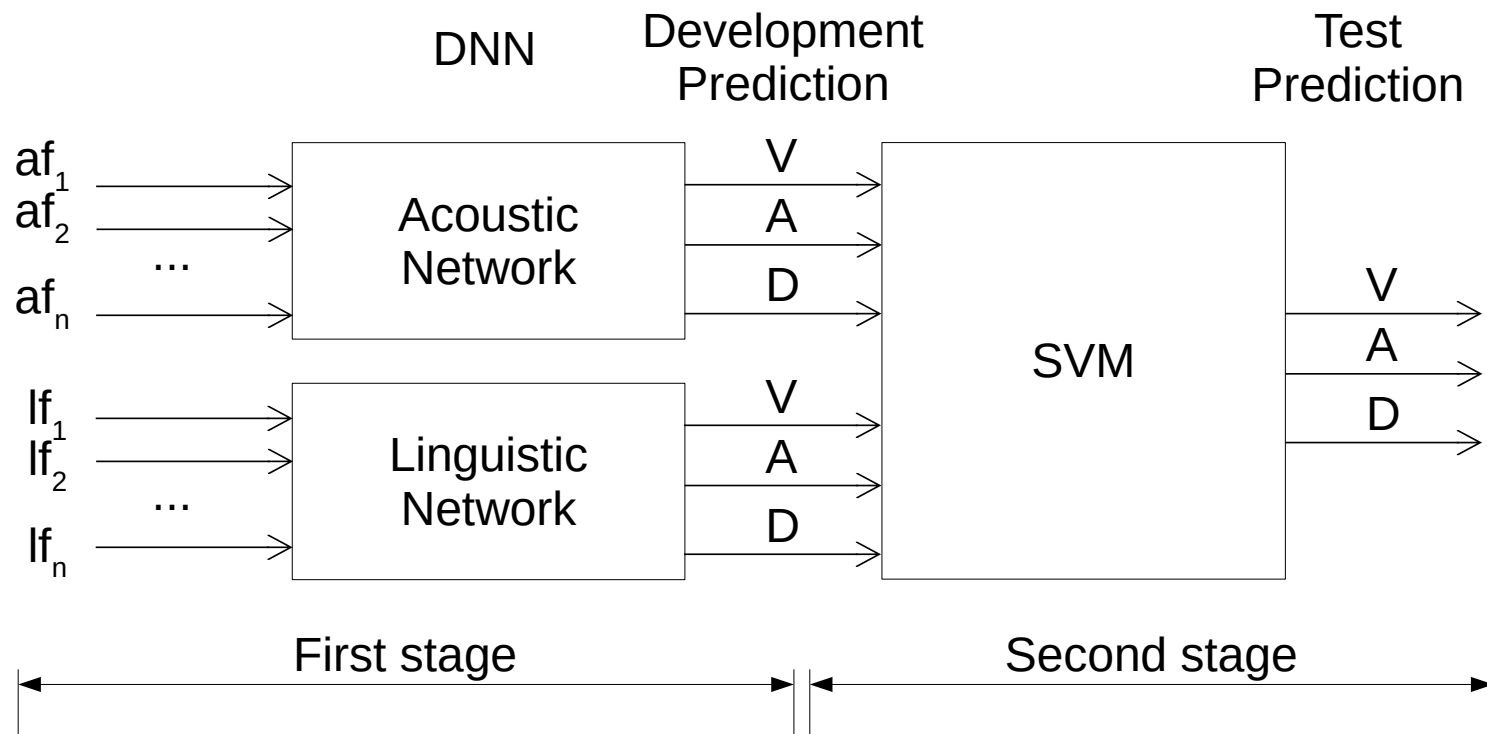
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Two-stage dimensional SER



Input af: GeMAPS LLD, GeMAPS mean+std (HSF1), GeMAPS mean+std+sil (HSF2)
Input lf: WE, word2vec, GloVE

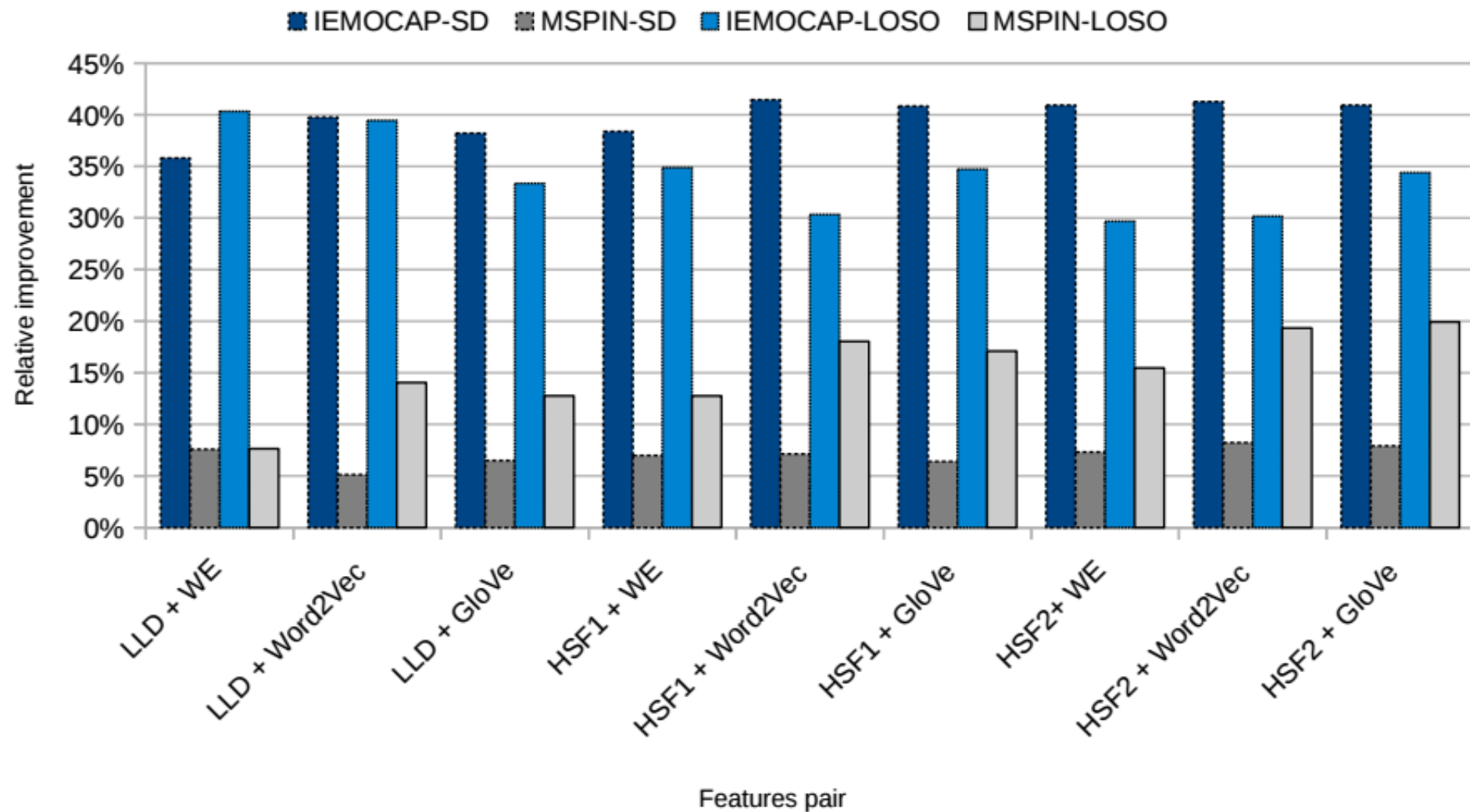
Result: late fusion

CCC scores on different dataset partitions

Dataset	Features (best)	V	A	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* ($p < 0.05$)
 - SD scenario can not 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 target-sentences 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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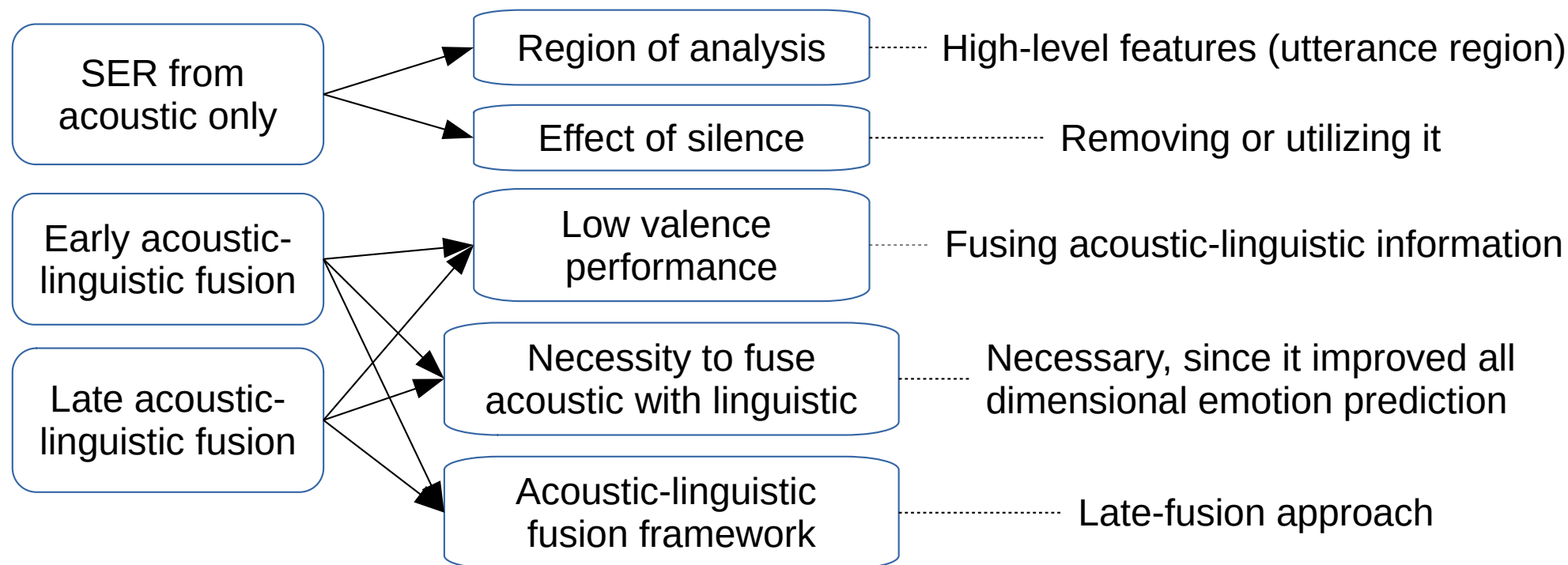
Comparative analysis, Summary, Contributions, Future research

Comparative analysis

Dataset	Authors	Modalities	V	A	D
IEMOCAP SI	This study (Aco)	Ac	0.298	0.641	0.460
IEMOCAP SI	This study (FL)	Ac+Li	0.446	0.594	0.508
IEMOCAP SI	This study (DL)	Ac+Li	0.553	0.579	0.550
IEMOCAP SD	Zhao et al. (2018)	Ac+Age+G	0.715	0.392	0.539
IEMOCAP SD	Zhao et al. (2019)	Ac+Age+G	0.590	0.689	0.591
IEMOCAP+Podcast	Abdelwahab	Ac	0.140	0.305	0.181
Podcast+IEMOCAP	Partasarathy	Ac	0.235	0.623	0.441
MSP-Podcast SI	Sridhar et al.	Ac	0.291	0.711	0.690
SEMAINE	Yang	Ac	0.506	0.680	-
RECOLA	Bakshi et al.	Ac	0.314	0.660	-
SEWA (DE)	Schmitt et al.	Ac	0.489	0.499	-
SEWA (DE+HU)	Atmaja & Akagi	Ac+Vi	0.656	0.680	-
SEWA (DE+HU)	Chen et al.	Ac+Vi+Li	0.755	0.672	-

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 dominantly 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 COCOSA, pp. 166-171. IEEE, 2020. [best student paper]
- 7) B.T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "On The Differences Between Song and Speech Emotion Recognition: Effect of Feature Sets, Feature Types, and Classifiers", TENCON 2020, Osaka, Japan, 2020.
- 8) B.T. Atmaja, Y. Hamada and M. Akagi, "Predicting Valence and Arousal by Aggregating Acoustic Features for Acoustic-Linguistic Information Fusion" TENCON 2020, Osaka, Japan, 2020.
- 9) B.T. Atmaja and M. Akagi, "Deep Multilayer Perceptrons for Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition," in 2020 APSIPA ASC, Auckland, New Zealand, 2020.
- 10) B.T. Atmaja, M. Akagi, "Evaluation of Error and Correlation-based Loss Functions For Multitask Learning Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition," International Conference on Acoustic and Vibration, Bali, Indonesia, 2020. [best student paper & presentation]

• Domestic conferences (4):

- 1) R. Elbarougy, B.T. Atmaja, M. Akagi, "Continuous Tracking of Emotional State from Speech Based on Emotion Unit," ASJ Autumn 2018.
- 2) B.T. Atmaja, A.N.F. Fandy, D. Arifianto, M. Akagi, "Speech recognition on Indonesian language by using time delay neural network," ASJ Spring 2019.
- 3) B.T. Atmaja, R. Elbarougy, M. Akagi, "RNN-based dimensional speech emotion recognition," ASJ Autumn 2019.
- 4) B.T. Atmaja, M. Akagi, "Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition from Acoustic and Text Features Using Multitask Learning," ASJ Spring 2020.

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- B.T. Atmaja, M. Akagi. “Evaluation of Error and Correlation-based Loss Functions For Multitask Learning Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition,” International Conference on Acoustic and Vibration, Bali, Indonesia, 2020.
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- R. Elbarougy, “A Study on Constructing an Automatic Speech Emotion Recognition System based on a Three-Layer Model for Human Perception,” 2013.
- X. Li, “A Three-Layer Model Based Estimation of Emotions in Multilingual Speech,” Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, 2019.
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APPENDIX

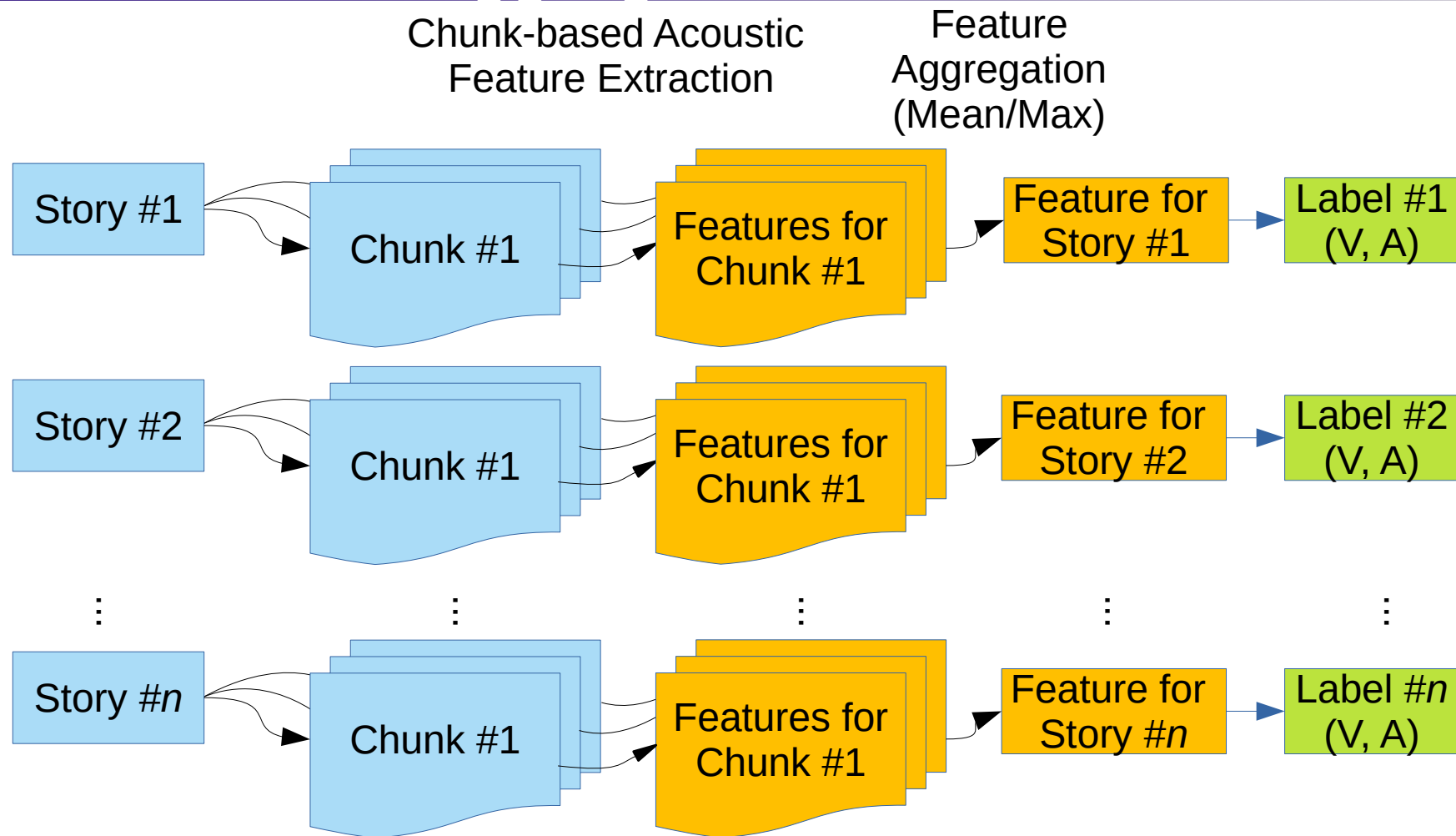
List of abbreviation

- 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

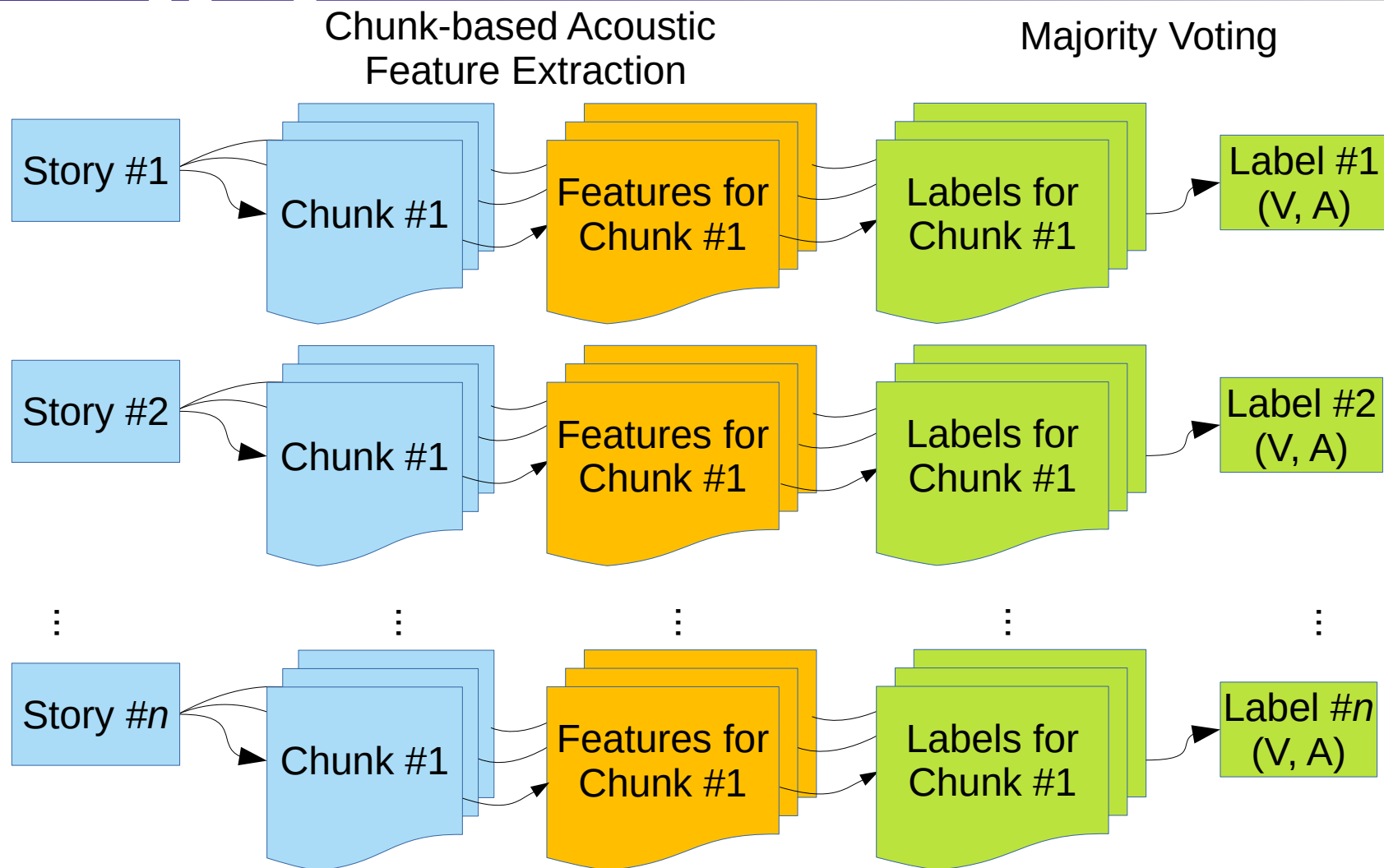
List of abbreviation (Cont'd)

- 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
- lf: linguistic feature
- WE: word embedding
- Std: standard deviation

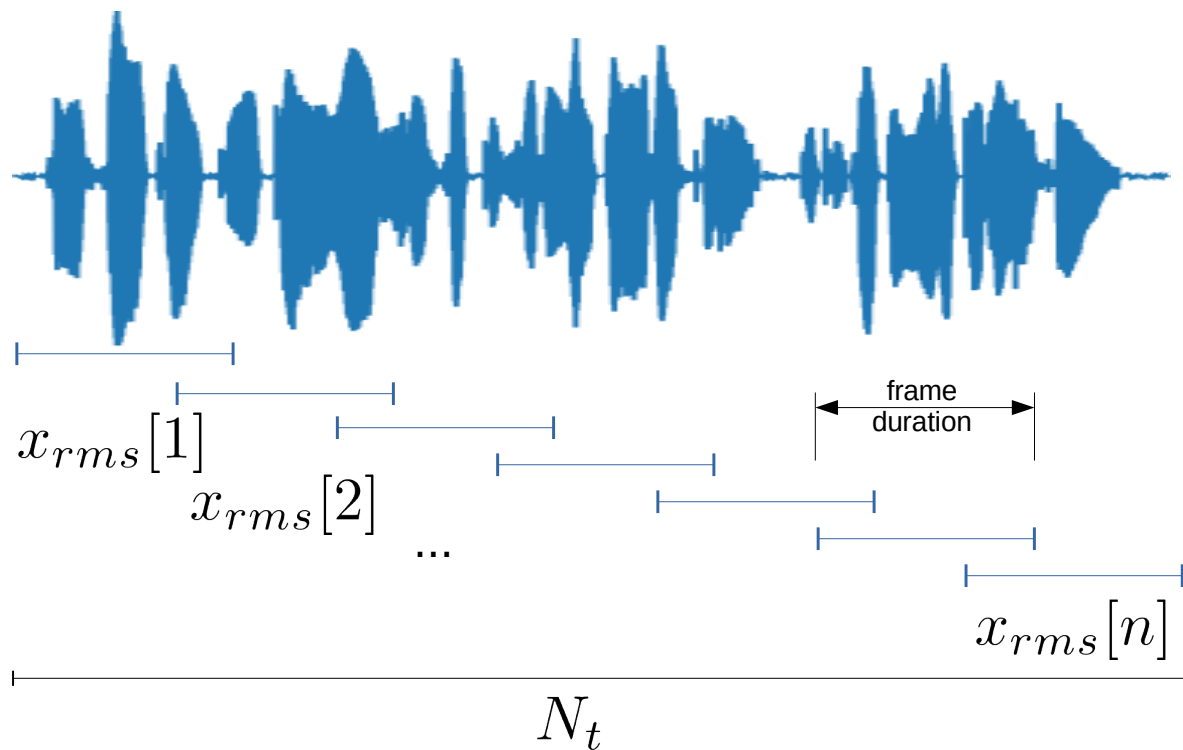
Acoustic feature aggregation



Output aggregation



Calculating silent pause features (sf)



Silent pause feature is calculated by

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

where

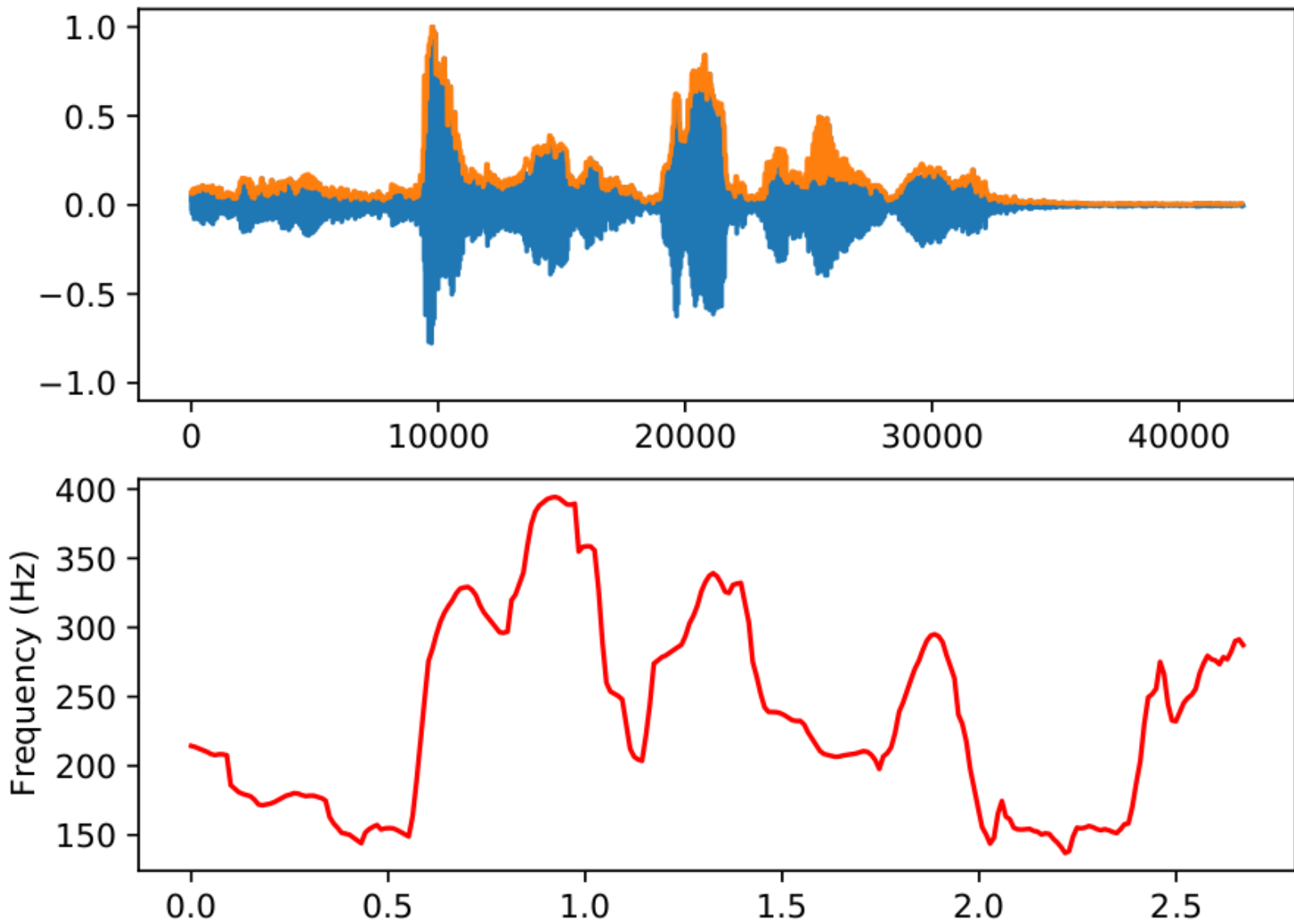
Ns: Number of silence frames

Nt: Total frames

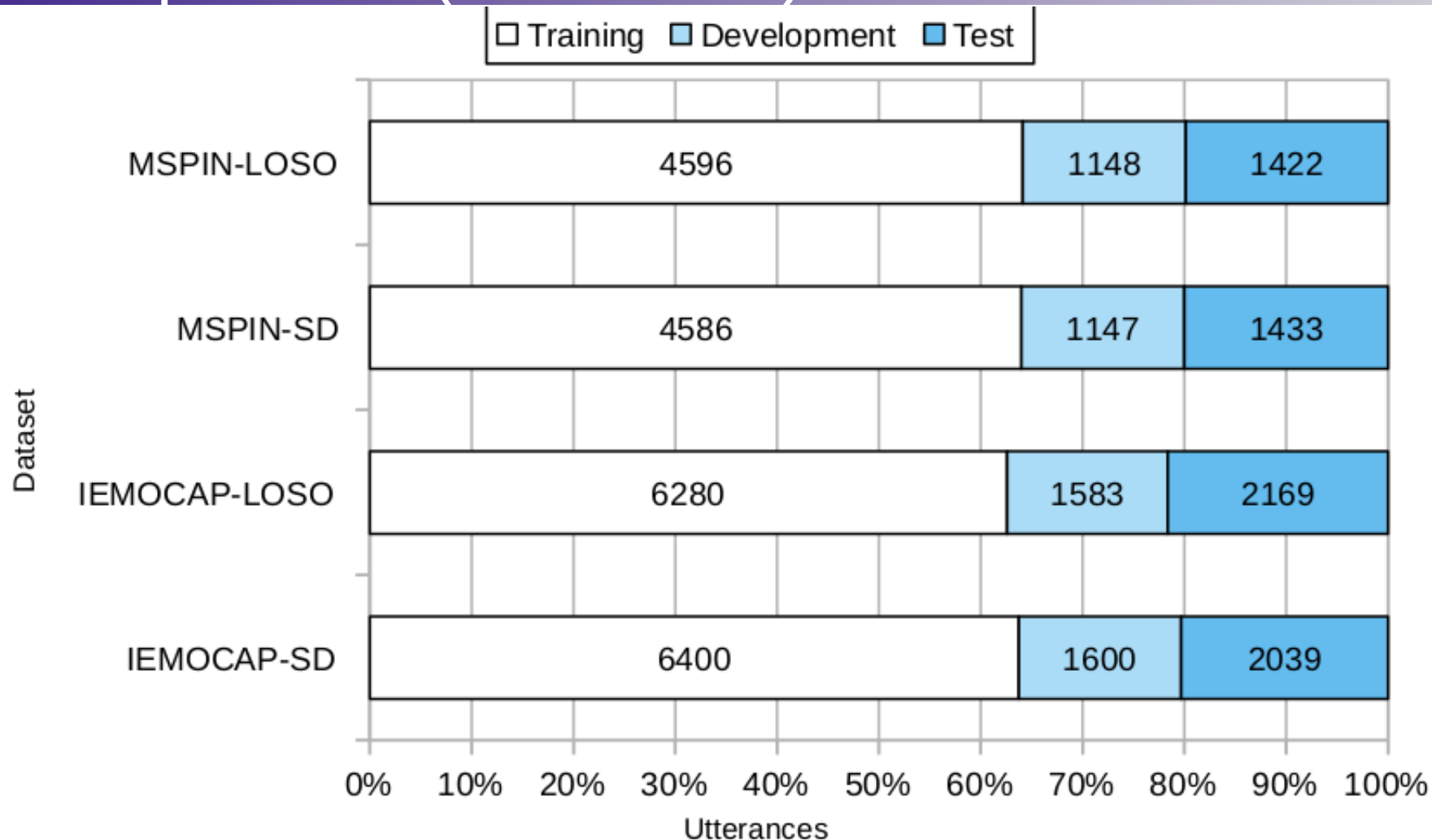
A frame is categorized as silence if the RMS is below threshold (th)

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

ENV and F0 contour

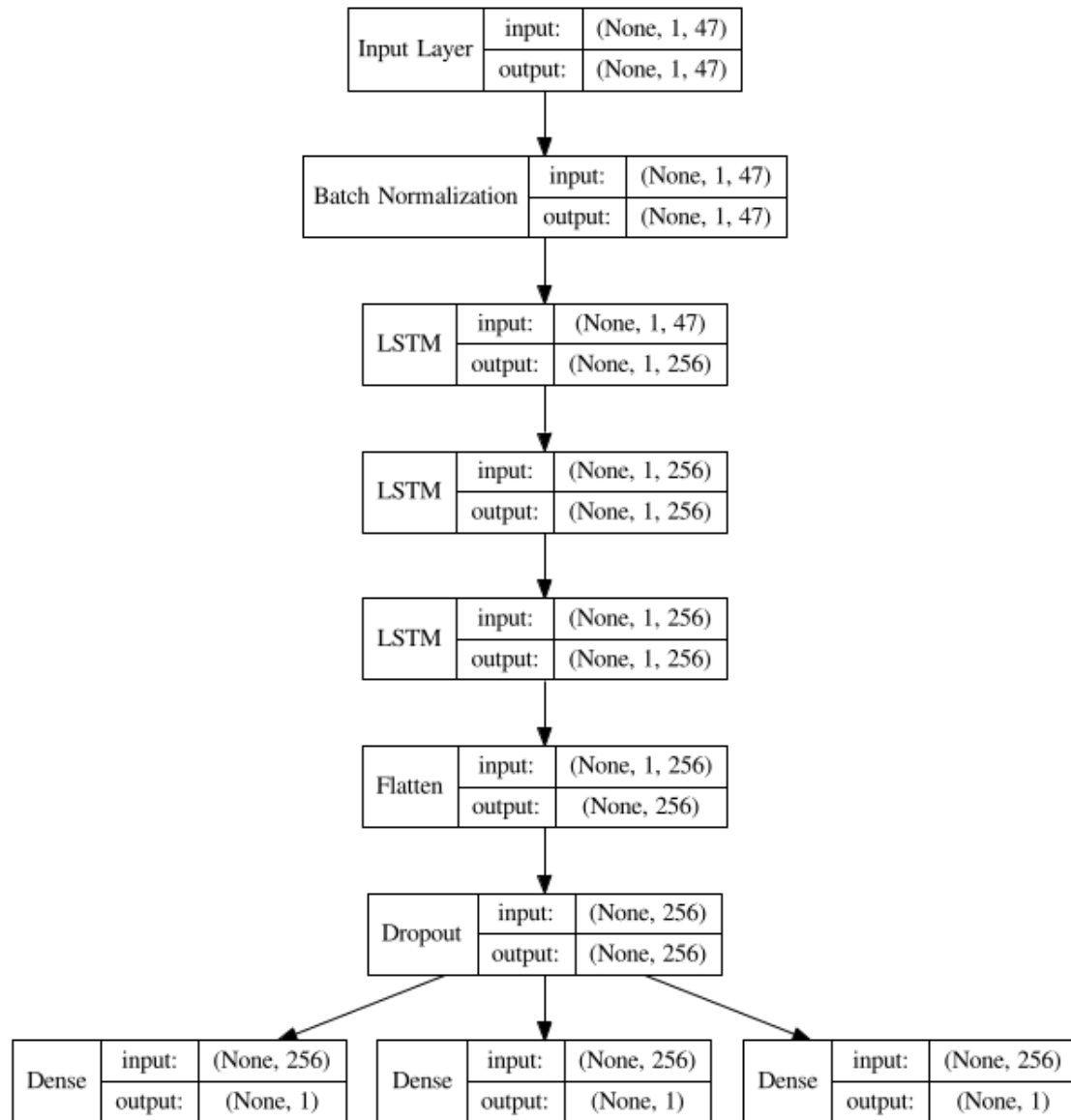


Dataset partition (late fusion)



DNN model (Acoustic)

* used in two-stage processing



DNN model (Linguistic)

* used in two-stage processing

