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|  | Manual for tc2 envt: text-to-multimodal speech synthesis using Tacotron2  Author: Gérard BAILLY  Contributors: |

The tc2 model maps input symbols (text characters or phones) to one or several sequences of parameters via a text encoder, autoregressive attention maps - that perform text-to-sequence alignement by activating input embeddings according to previously predicted parameters via a prenet – and decoders that perform parameter and end-of-sequence (EoS) prediction.

Speaker and style embeddings can be trained and added to all embeddings at the ouput of the text encoder.

A phonetic predictor can also be added that predicts phones from the ouput of the text encoder

# Specification of data and model parameters

Most of the data specifaction, model parameters and default training and test material are set in a .yaml file. Some keys strongly depend on the number of decoders nd:

* Keys ”dir\_data”, ”ext\_data”, ”dim\_data” , ”fe\_data”, ”use\_postnet” , ”n\_frames\_per\_step”, “decoder\_rnn\_dim”, “prenet\_dim”, “gate\_threshold”, “p\_prenet\_dropout”, “p\_postnet\_dropout”, “p\_attention\_dropout”, “p\_decoder\_dropout”, “p\_teacher\_forcing”, “attention\_rnn\_dim”, “attention\_dim”, “attention\_location\_n\_filters”, “attention\_location\_kernel\_size”, “postnet\_embedding\_dim”, “postnet\_kernel\_size” , ”postnet\_n\_convolutions” , ”factor\_gate” are list of dimension nd. Note that the use of postnets is optional and that tc2 offers the possibility for decoders to predict n\_frames\_per\_step > 1

# Data

## Input data

Licit input symbols (letters, punctuations, phones, markers, etc) for the language (declared in the key ”language” in the .yaml) are listed in def\_symbols.py:

* valid\_symbols lists the language-specific input phones. Note that input phones should be prefixed by “@” (e.g “Je suis @b@j@e~”) in the input text or surronded by braces “{“ “}” (e.g “Je suis {b j e~}”)
* \_specific\_characters lists language-specific letters (e.g. accented characters…). Note that we use “§” to indicate beginning and end of paragraphs

## Output data

Parameter sequences are described in the .yaml by keys ”dir\_data”, ”ext\_data”, ”dim\_data” , ”fe\_data”. Sequences should be stored in a simple custom binary files as float32 frames dir\_data/\*.ext\_data in the following format:

* A header of 4 int32 integers specifying: (1) the number of frames; (2) the number of parameters per frame (should be equal to ”dim\_data”); (3) the numerator n and (4) the denominator d for calculating the frame rate n/d that should be equal to ”fe\_data” (enable exact rational rate when lag is expressed in number of samples, e.g. 22050/256 = 86,132812… for WAVEGLOW or HifiGAN mel-spectrograms).
* Followed by frames of length ”dim\_data”, one after the other

We recommend to name files with the following format: <author>\_<book>\_<speaker>\_<style>\_<volume>\_<chaper>.”ext\_data”

with <speaker> and <style> resp. included in the “speakers” and “styles” key lists in the .yaml, so that to automatically bias the ouputs of the text encoder with the appropriate speaker and style embeddings if keys “nb\_speakers”>0 and “nb\_styles”>0 respectively.

Aligned phonetic transcripts can be also given to train a phonetic decoder with a list of a language-specific output phones listed in def\_symbols.py as out\_symbols (that equals valid\_symbols plus diphones or silences if necessary.

## Alignments

Training and test text/sequences are provided by .csv files that may contain different descriptions of utterances as fields separated by the “|” delimiter:

* <file\_name>|<start\_ms>|<end\_ms>|<input text>(|<aligned ouput phones>)
* LEX|<input text>|<aligned ouput phones>

The first description is the standard one. <input text> may mix orthographic and phonetic input. <aligned ouput phones> is optional. The second description is used to use aligned lexicons, quite interesting to unsual or contemporary spellings rarely encountered in conversation or free-of-rights audiobooks.

We recommend to include 0.13s of silence (“lgs\_sil\_sides” key in the .yaml[[1]](#footnote-2)) before and after all utterances, so that to ease tc2 in “explaining” start and end punctuations such as quotes, parenthesis, etc. When utterances have no start punctuations such as quotes or “§”, we use the last punctuation of the previous utterance if in a paragraph or use “,” as a default. Same for the end punctuation.

# Training

Model training is performed by do\_train.py .(the .csv file to be proccessed is specified in .yaml by the key “nm\_csv\_test”) Optional parameters are listed below:

* -o <dir\_name> : directory to save checkpoints after each iteration of the training files
* -c <file \_name> : loading pre-trained model. Note that tc2 adds text, speaker, style and output phone embeddings if the pre-trained model has less embeddings than the model to be trained
* --model\_name <file \_name> : prefix of checkpoints
* --hparams <string>: comma separated “name=value” pairs to overide the .yaml values
* --freeze <string>: freeze units by regular expression
* --silent: run silently
* --config <file \_name>: .yaml configuration file
* --id\_new\_speaker <int>: id of the embeddings of the speaker to copy from for a new speaker
* --stateful: use end state of encoder lstm as initail state of the next utterance for chaining utterances

# Testing

Batch testing is performed by do\_syn.py (the .csv file to be proccessed is specified in .yaml by the key “nm\_csv\_train”) and interactive tts by do\_tts.py. Optional parameters are listed below:

* --output\_directory: directory to save generated files
* --config: .yaml configuration file
* --no\_auto\_numbering: no adding of “\_{:04d}” at the end of filenames
* -p or –prediction: prediction instead of synthesis
* --play\_wav: play sound
* --draw: draw attention maps
* --overwrite: overwrite existing files if any
* -g or –ground\_truth: generate ground-truth audio and parameter files for all utterances (with extensions “\_org” at the end of filenames)
* --parameter\_files: generate parameter files with proprietary format
* -t or –tacotron: name of the Tacotron model
* --save\_embeddings: Save output embeddings of text-encoder and text, speaker and style embeddings in .mat file
* -v or -vocoder: filename of the vocoder (only “hifigan” and “waveglow” in the filename for now)
* --speaker: speaker name if multiple speakers (overide speaker name in the original filename of the original sequence if any)
* --style: style name if multiple styles (overide style name in the original filename of the original sequence if any)
* -r or –sampling\_rate: sampling rate of the generated audio (default: 22050)
* --hparams <string>: comma separated “name=value” pairs to overide the .yaml values
* --phonetic\_only: output only phonetic predictions if phonetizer is on
* --silent: run silently
* --stateful: use end state of encoder lstm as initial state of the next utterance for chaining utterances (if the model has been trained accordingly)

Please note that do\_syn.py breaks text (in the input .csv file) at “§” characters: It will add a “short\_pause” (default: 0.15s) silence at these positions or a “long\_pause” (default: 0.45s) if the character is doubled i.e. “§§”, indicating a paragraph break. If stateful option is set, the initial state of the next utterance is reset to zero). This silence is picked up in the audiofile with ambiant silence named “sil\_<speaker\_name>\_<sampling\_rate>.wav” if it exists otherwise set to zeros.

# Other ressources

The module load\_csv.py loads csv files

The script do\_process\_files.py computes mel spectrograms from 22050Hz audiofiles and store then in custom binary files (see format in §B.II).

1. Note that the “lgs\_sil\_add” key in the .yaml (by default .1s) is used to have robust end-of-sequence (EoS) prediction: these frames of ground-truth silence are added at the end of each utterance with corresponding gate targets set to “True”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)