Unified Simplified Grapheme Acoustic Modeling for Medieval Latin LVCSR

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SpeechTex logo here.

What is the problem with Latin speech recognition?

- Latin is not a spoken language
- There is no available speech database, and it is resource-heavy to create one
- Many variants/dialects exists, and we can only make guesses about the pronunciation

Text data

Speech data

Test data

Native language of test speakers: CZ, HU, PL, SK

Region of read text: CZ, HU, PL

Perplexity

Baseline Grapheme Model

Languages: Czech (CZ), Hungarian (HU), Polish (PL), Romanian (RO)

- All graphemes are trained
- Only those grapheme models are retained that are part of the Latin alphabet

Table 1: Word Error Rate (WER[%]) results for monolingual grapheme-based acoustic models of Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian (CZ, HU, PL, RO).

	Speaker				
AM Language	CZ	HU	PL	SK	$\sum$
CZ	53.6	73.8	62.9	45.7	59.0
HU	33.7	28.6	47.1	29.1	**34.6**
PL	65.0	67.6	46.4	51.1	57.5
RO	53.6	69.1	44.7	43.8	52.8

Source-target grapheme-to-phoneme (G2P) mapping

Languages: CZ, HU

Table 2: Latin digraph context-insensitive rewrite rules.

	Digraph			
	ae	oe	ph	qu
CZ	e	oe	f	kv
HU	e	ø	f	kv

Table 3: Latin context-sensitive rewrite rules. V: vowel, VP: palatal vowel, ^VP: everything but a palatal vowel, C: consonant, $*$: zero or any, ^: beginning of word, $[\hat{}\,stx]$: not s, t or x.

GR	c	c	ch	ch	gu	gu	ti	ti
PH	ts	k	h	k	gv	gu	tsi	ti
rule	cVP	c^VP	VC*ch	^C*ch	guV	guC	$[\hat{}\,stx]$tiV	tiC

Table 4: WER[%] for Czech-Latin source-target G2P model. Acoustic model training set: 76 hours.

	Latin Test Text			
Speaker	CZ	HU	PL	$\sum$
CZ	43.8	28.2	49.1	40.4
HU	48.7	40.0	58.7	49.1
PL	53.3	18.2	53.2	41.6
SK	30.3	30.0	44.0	34.8
$\sum$	43.9	28.9	50.8	41.2

Table 5: WER[%] for Hungarian-Latin source-target G2P model. Acoustic model training set: 567 hours.

	Latin Test Text			
Speaker	CZ	HU	PL	$\sum$
CZ	19.4	**6.4**	28.0	17.9
HU	25.0	25.4	20.2	23.5
PL	28.9	15.4	41.3	28.5
SK	20.4	**9.1**	22.9	17.5
$\sum$	22.6	12.5	28.1	**21.1**

Unified Simplified Grapheme Model

Table 6: Simplification examples for the unified model.

Language	CZ	HU	PL	RO
Orthographic form	řekl	őz	miś	apă
USG transcription	rekl	oz	mis	apa

Table 7: WER[%] for all the three-language USG models.

	Speaker				
AM Language	CZ	HU	PL	SK	$\sum$
CZ+HU+PL	28.2	28.2	27.7	22.4	26.6
CZ+HU+RO	23.3	21.4	23.9	19.2	**21.9**
CZ+PL+RO	24.6	33.1	25.6	19.8	25.8
HU+PL+RO	24.8	21.5	25.7	20.7	23.2

Table 8: WER[%] for USG model of Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian (CZ+HU+PL+RO).

	Latin Test Text			
Speaker	CZ	HU	PL	$\sum$
CZ	20.4	11.8	30.7	21.0
HU	21.1	14.6	25.7	20.5
PL	23.0	**10.0**	33.0	22.0
SK	14.5	12.7	24.8	17.3
$\sum$	19.9	12.2	29.0	**20.4**

Conclusions

Four-language USG is the best.