

Implementation of Text to Speech Conversion

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Abstract- Text-To-Speech (TTS) conversion is a computer-based system that can be able to read any text aloud, whether it was directly introduced in the computer by an operator or scanned and submitted to an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system. While in text to speech, there are many systems which convert normal language text in to speech. The main aims of this paper are to study on Optical Character Recognition with speech synthesis technology and to develop a cost effective user friendly image to speech conversion system using MATLAB. In this work, the OCR system is implemented for the recognition of capital English character A to Z and number 0 to 9. Each character is recognized at once. The recognized character is saved as text in notepad file. In this work a text-to-speech conversion system that can get the text through image and directly input in the computer then speech through that text using MATLAB.

1. INTRODUCTION

Speech synthesis is the artificial production of human speech. A computer system used for this purpose is called a speech synthesizer, and can be implemented in software or hardware [2]. A text-to-speech (TTS) system converts normal language text into speech; other systems render symbolic linguistic representations like phonetic transcriptions into speech.

Text-to-speech (TTS) convention transforms linguistic information stored as data or text into speech. It is widely used in audio reading devices for blind people now a days [6]. In the last few years however, the use of text-to-speech conversion technology has grown far beyond the disabled community to become a major adjunct to the rapidly growing use of digital voice storage for voice mail and voice response systems. Also developments in Speech synthesis technology for various languages have already taken place.

The Speech Application Programming Interface or SAPI is an API developed by Microsoft to allow the use of speech recognition and speech synthesis within Windows applications.

2. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

In this work, there are two main parts:

- Optical Character Recognition System for Paper Text
- Text to Speech Conversion

2.1. Optical character recognition system

In this part, there are three portions as described in the follow:

- Template file Creation
- Creating the Neural Network
- Character Recognition

2.1.1. Template file creation. Letter A to Z and number 0 to 9 images are collected. Each image is changed into 5 x 7 character representation in single vector by using step 1 to 5 as described in the character recognition section. These data are saved as data file for training in neural network.

2.1.2. Creating the neural network. A feedforward neural network is used to set up for pattern recognition with 25 hidden neurons. After creating the network, the weights and biases of the network are also initialized to be ready for training. The goal is assigned between 0.01 and to 0.05. The created Neural Network is trained by using data file and target file. The neural network has to be trained by adjusting weight and bias of network until the performance reaches to goal.

2.1.3. Character recognition. Figure 1 shows the flowchart of OCR system.

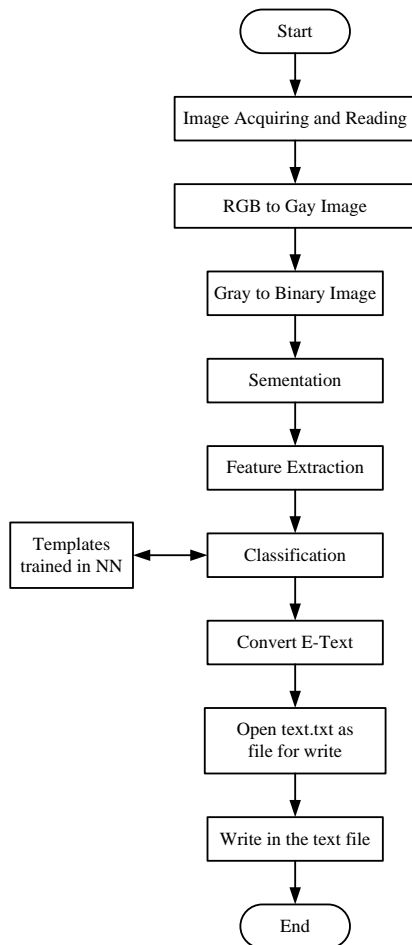


Figure 1. Flowchart of OCR system

The following steps are implemented for character recognition.

- Firstly acquire the character image and the image was read.
- Second step is preprocessing step. In this step firstly the image is converted into gray scale. Then this gray image is converted into black and white image (binary image). Firstly the threshold is counted in gray image then according to that threshold it is converted into black and white image.
- Find the boundary of the character image. Crop the image to the edge.
- Character is extracted and resized in this step. Letters are resized according to templates size.
- The resized binary image is changed into 5 x 7 character representation in single vector.
- Load templates that it can be matched the letters with the templates.
- Open the text.txt as file for write.
- Write in the text file and concatenate the letters.

Feature extraction and classification are the heart of OCR. The character image is mapped to a higher level by

extracting special characteristics and patterns of the image in the feature extraction phase.

The classifier is then trained with the extracted features for classification task. The classification stage identifies each input character image by considering the detected features. As Classifiers, Template Matching and Neural Networks are used.

2.2. Text to speech conversion

The character image is converted into text and then text into speech. The algorithm is followed.

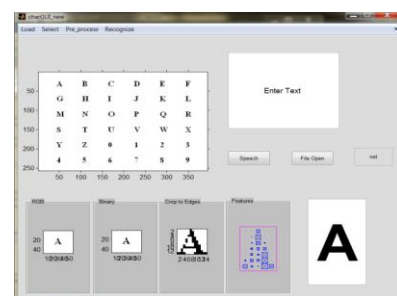
- Firstly check the condition that if Win 32 SAPI is available in the computer or not. If it is not available then error will be generated and Win 32 SAPI library should be loaded in the computer.
- Gets the voice object from Win 32 SAPI.
- Compares the input string with Win 32 SAPI string.
- Extracts voice by firstly select the voice which are available in library.
- Choose the pace of voice.
- Initializes the wave player for convert the text into speech.
- Finally get the speech for given image.

Text to speech conversion for the e-text input that directly typed in computer is also executed by the above steps.

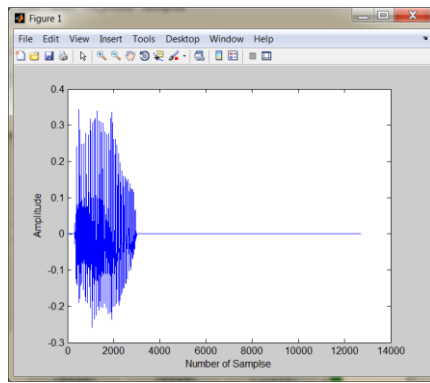
3. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this work, the OCR system is implemented for the recognition of capital English character A to Z and number 0 to 9. Each character is recognized at one time. The recognized character is saved as text with notepad file. There are two portions in program; in the first portion it gives the text output according to input image, then it convert that text into the speech. In the second portion, the e-text is directly input in computer, then it is converted into speech.

Firstly the input image of time new romance, font size 12, bold type characters is taken and then it is converted into text. As shown in Figure 2, character "A" is cropped from the image and features are extracted. After that it is converted to text, saved in notepad file and speech simultaneously. Similarly, the test results for character "T" is also illustrated in Figure 3. The recognized character can be displayed in the command widow and can be save in notepad file as shown in Figure 4.

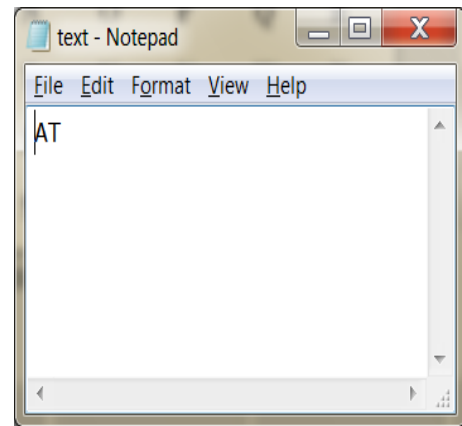


(a)



(b)

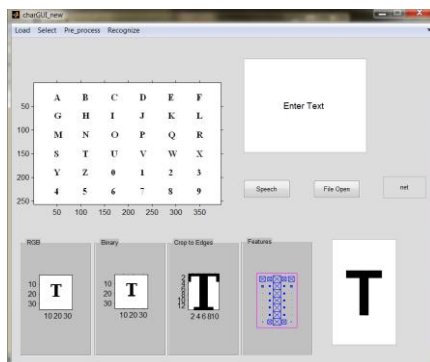
Figure 2. (a) Character "A" converted into text (b) "A" sound wave



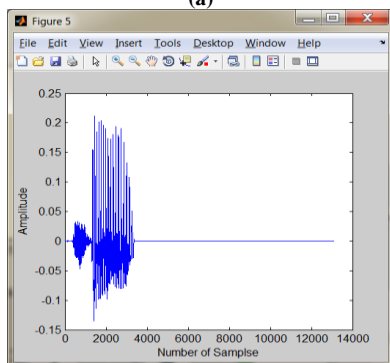
(b)

Figure 4. (a) Output text in command window (b) Saved text in notepad (character "A" and "T")

The mathematical numbers are also successfully converted into text and then speech which is shown in Figure 5.

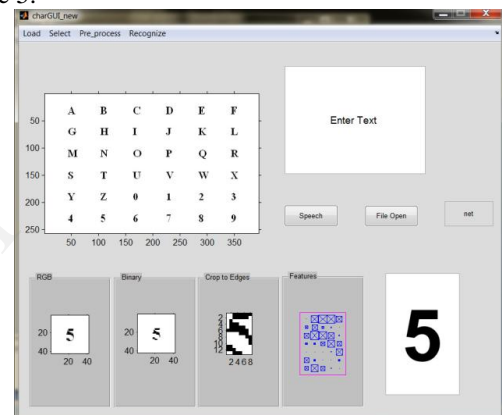


(a)

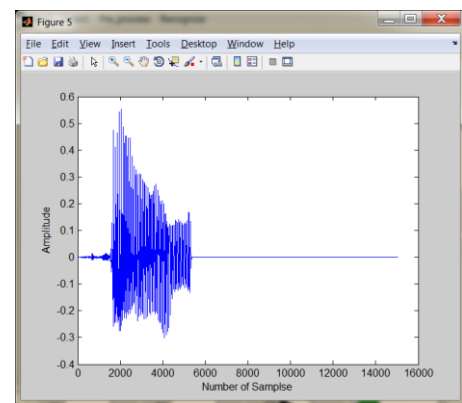


(b)

Figure 3. (a) Character "T" converted into text (b) "T" sound wave

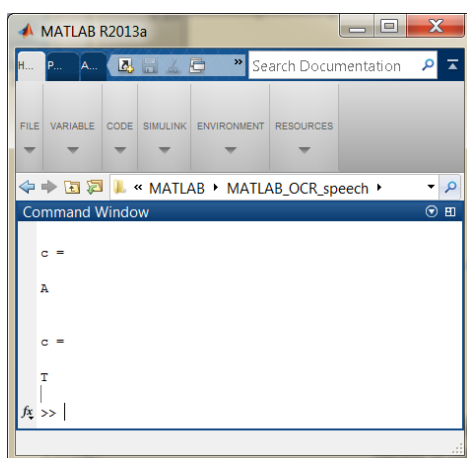


(a)



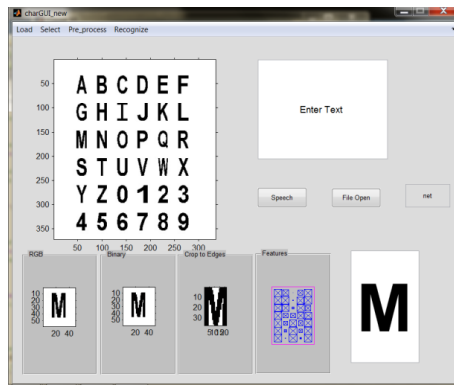
(b)

Figure 5. (a) Number "5" converted into text (b) Number "5" sound wave

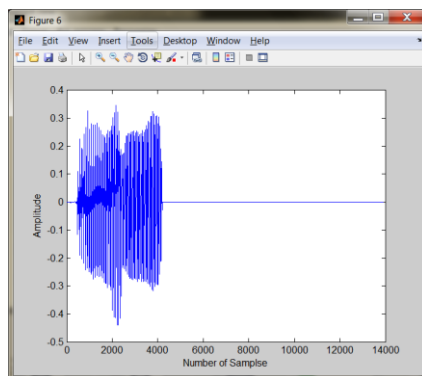


(a)

Another type of font character is taken and again it is converted into text and then speech successfully as shown in Figure 6 and 7.

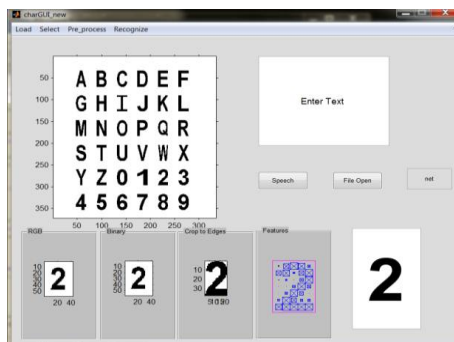


(a)

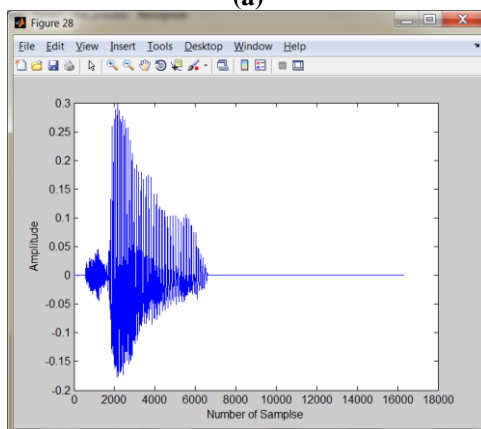


(b)

Figure 6. (a) Character “M” converted into text (b) Character “M” sound wave



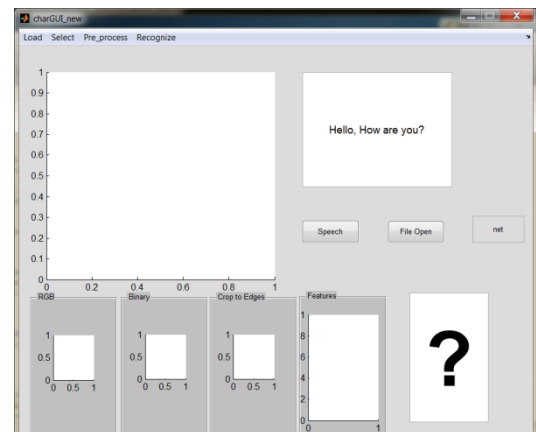
(a)



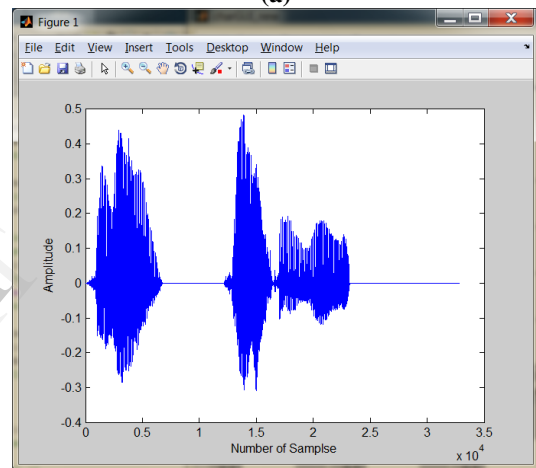
(b)

Figure 7. (a) Number “2” converted into text (b) Number “2” sound wave

As illustrated in Figure 8, the e-text that directly input in computer by typing from keyboard, then it is also converted into speech successfully.



(a)



(b)

Figure 8. (a) E-text Input (b) Sound Wave “Hello, How are you?”

4. CONCLUSION

In this work, image into text and then that text into speech is converted by MATLAB. E-text into speech is also converted successfully. By this approach text from a word document, Web page or e-Book can be read and can generate synthesized speech through a computer's speakers. For image to text conversion, firstly image is converted into gray image. Gray image is converted into binary image by thresholding and then it is converted into text by MATLAB. Microsoft Win 32 SAPI library has been used to build speech enabled applications, which retrieve the voice and audio output information available for computer. In this work, one character can be converted into text at once. As a further extension, OCR system can be developed for converting words or sentences image into text.

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