Mimic Human Speech in Bahasa Indonesia Using  
Speech Recognition and Speech Synthesis

Valens Prabagita Ivan Susilo

Department of Computer Science

President University

Cikarang, Bekasi, 17550, Indonesia

prabagita12@gmail.com

Abstract

Everyday people use speech recognition and speech synthesis unconsciously. The technologies help them with their activities. With each technology can produce any kinds software related to speech. Combine both of technologies can produce many more. One of the combinations is mimic human speech. This research will discuss about Speech Recognition that use Convolutional Neural Network to as machine learning model and Speech Synthesis that use Concatenative Synthesis with syllables as speech unit. The purpose of this research is to develop application to collect, train, and mimic speech in Bahasa Indonesia. User can participate record their speech. The collected speech will be train to be used in the application to recognize the speech. After the collected speech is trained, User can mimic their speech by identify or recognize the speech and generate or synthesis the speech. The application to collect and mimic speech develops as website and command prompt application.

1 Introduction

“Ok Google, play some music”. “Siri, what should I eat for lunch?”. Everyday people use their artificial assistance to boost their activities. People very like to use it because they just asked to their device and then in seconds, the wish is granted. It seems like, people are talking to the computer. The truth is, speech recognition takes big role with the help of machine learning. Google Assistance, Apple Siri, Microsoft Cortana, Amazon Alexa, and others have thousands of speech data to be analysed with the machine learning and they easily add data by collecting people speech from the assistance with permission.

If speech recognition is the process to get data by analysed speech, the opposite of speech recognition is speech synthesis, the process to produce artificial speech. Therefore, speech recognition is known as speech-to-text and speech synthesis is known as text-to-speech. “Hey Cortana, read my email” command make artificial assistance generate speech from the email text. With each technology can produce any kinds software related to speech. Combine both of technologies can produce many more. One of the combinations is mimic human speech. The most known usage of mimic human speech is creating a digital speech that will be used as the artificial assistance’s speech vocal. Making the artificial assistance more private or personal to the user.

This research aims to develop application which can be used to collect speech data, train machine learning model with collected data and mimic speech in Bahasa Indonesia. The application to collect and mimic speech develops as website application. The application can recognize the speech and generate speech from text.

2 Limitation

The limitations of this application are as following:

* There are 9 selected syllables to be used in the application, a, i, na, ma, mu, di, ri, and ku. The syllables are used as speech unit.
* Recorded speech in 1 second, with sample rate 16000 and mono sound.

3 Method

The approach used to achieve this research objectives are using techniques from speech synthesis concatenative synthesis, speech recognition Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCC), and machine learning Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).

3.1 Concatenative Synthesis

Concatenative synthesis connecting pre-recorded natural utterances is probably the easiest way to produce intelligible and natural sounding synthetic speech. One of the most important aspects in concatenative synthesis is to find correct unit length.

The selection is usually a trade-off between longer and shorter units. With longer units, high naturalness, less concatenation points and good control of coarticulation are achieved, but the number of required units and memory is increased. With shorter units, less memory is needed, but the sample collecting and labelling procedures become more difficult and complex [Hande, 2014].

In present systems units used are usually words, syllables, demisyllables, phonemes, diphones, and sometimes even triphones.

3.2 MFCC

MFCC is one of the most commonly used feature extraction method in speech recognition introduced by Davis and Mermelstein in the 1980's [practicalcrypthography.com, 2012].

3.2.1 Framing and Windowing

A step can be done before framing and windowing is to apply a pre-emphasis filter on the signal to amplify the high frequencies. The pre-emphasis filter can be applied to a signal using the first order filter in the following equation where typical values for the filter coefficient () are 0.95 or 0.97 [haythamfayek.com, 2016]:

Framing is done because of an audio signal is constantly changing, so to simplify things, assuming that on short time scales the audio signal doesn't change. Typically, signal is framing

into 20-40ms frames (25ms is standard). Frame stripe typically is 10ms, which allows some overlap to the frames. If the speech file does not divide into an even number of frames, pad it with zeros so that it does.

After slicing the signal into frames, apply a window function such as the Hamming window to each frame can be done. Hamming window has the following form where, , is the window length:

3.2.3 Discrete Fourier Transform and Power Spectrum

Compute each window with Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) or Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) can be followed with compute power spectrum (periodogram). Periodogram use the following equation where, is the frame of signal and is FFT size as a power of two greater than or equal to the number of samples in a single window length:

3.2.4 Mel Filterbank

The periodogram spectral estimate still contains a lot of information not required for speech recognition. Take clumps of periodogram bins and sum them up to get an idea of how much energy exists in various frequency regions. This is performed by mel filterbank.

Computing mel filterbank is applying triangular filters, typically 20 – 40 (26 or 40 is standard) filters, on a mel-scale to the power spectrum to extract frequency bands. The formula to convert between Hertz () and Mel () using the following equations:

Each filter in the filterbank is triangular having a response of 1 at the center frequency and decrease linearly towards 0 till it reaches the center frequencies of the two adjacent filters where the response is 0. Good values are to start filter from 300Hz for the lower and up to 8000Hz for the upper frequency. The filterbank can be modelled by the following equation:

3.2.5 Logarithm

Once compute the mel filterbank, the next is simply take the logarithm of them. Generally, to double the perceived volume of a sound it needs to put 8 times as much energy into it.

3.2.6 Discrete Cosine Transform

The final step is to compute the Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT). The DCT decorrelates the energies which means diagonal covariance matrices can be used to model the features. But only 12 of the DCT coefficients are kept. This is because the higher DCT

coefficients represent fast changes in the filterbank energies and it turns out that these fast changes actually degrade speech recognition performance, so dropping them will get a small improvement.

3.3 Convolutional Neural Network

Convolutional neural network (CNN or ConvNet) is one of known variants neural network model to recognized image [wikipedia.org, 2018]. The model is designed to recognize an object no matter what surface the object is on. The model doesn’t have to re-learn the idea of child for every possible surface it could appear on [Geitgey, 2016].

3.3.1 Convolution Layer

Convolution layer is the layer to feed the pre-processing image or another output into small neural network. The small neural network treating every image or output equally. It will mark if something interesting appears as the model learning.

3.3.2 Max-pooling Layer

Max-pooling or down sampling is the layer to reducing the output by finding maximum value in the output. The output broke down into equal pool size and stride or slide into entire output. Then, each pool is found the maximum value.

3.3.3 Fully-connected Layer

Fully-connected is the layer to high-level reasoning in the dense neural network to recognize the image.

4 Experimental Result

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed methods in the previous section within the application, experiments are done to ensure the application runs well.

As speech synthesis just concatenative, the evaluation focus on evaluate speech recognition. The dataset during the speech recognition evaluation is 10000 male and female speech data, each 500 on each syllable, on not noisy background and each 500 unknown sound. Corrected result shows from the more than 75% of model accuracy. The table also fill with accuracy with the syllable result along with it. Random or unknown condition is tested with silent condition, o, and mi syllables.

The scenarios have 4 testers. Male user that the records is trained by the application is called Tester 1. Female user that the records is trained by the application is called Tester 2. Male user that the record hasn’t trained by the application called Tester 3. Female user that the record hasn’t trained by the application called Tester 4. Every tester is test in each the following environment:

* Noisy background (Loud music or people chit-chat).
* Semi noisy background (Rain noise or sound from the other rooms).
* Not noisy background.

Table 1: Tester 1 results on noisy background.

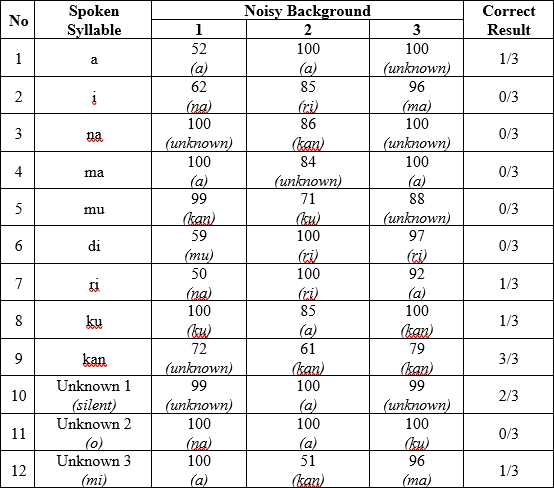


Table 2: Tester 1 results on semi noisy background.

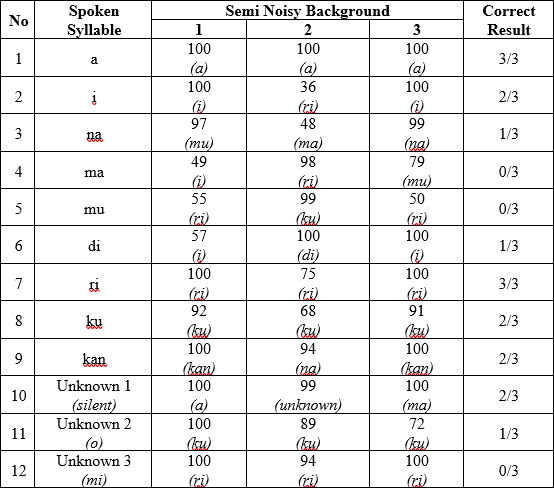


Table 3: Tester 1 results on not noisy background.

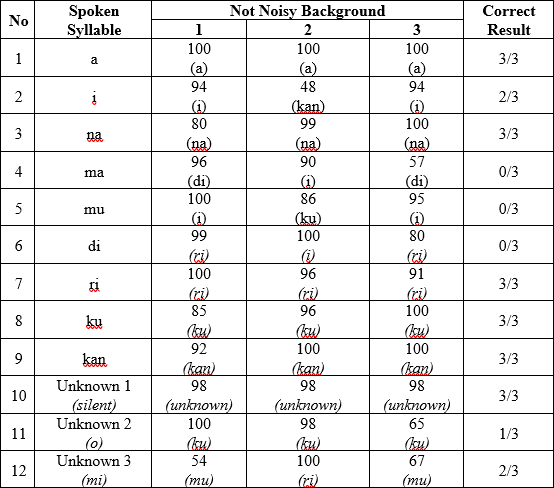


Table 4: Tester 2 results on noisy background.

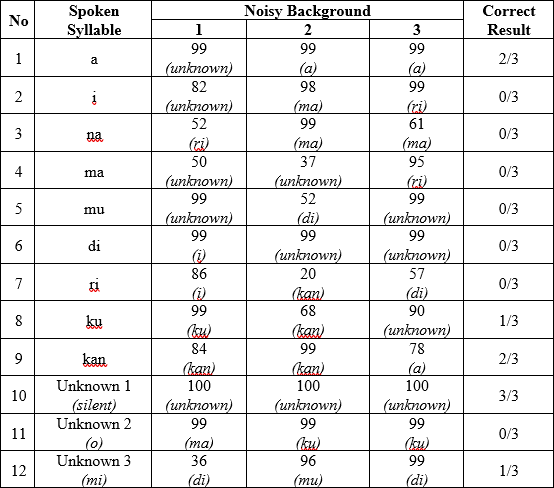
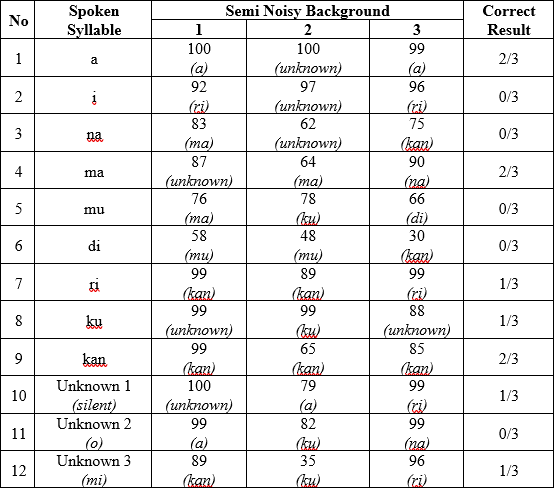


Table 5: Tester 2 results on semi noisy background.

Table 6: Tester 2 results on not noisy background.

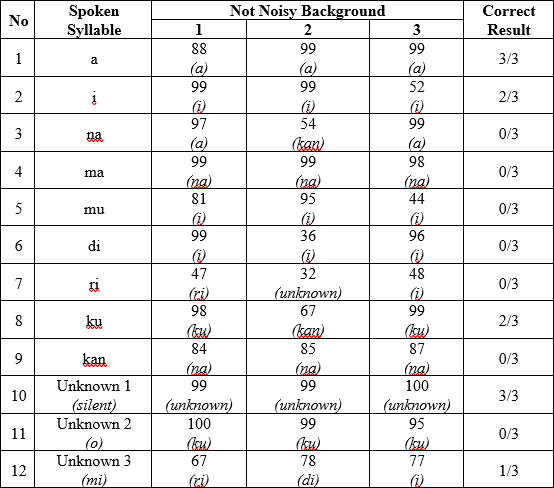


Table 7: Tester 3 results on noisy background.

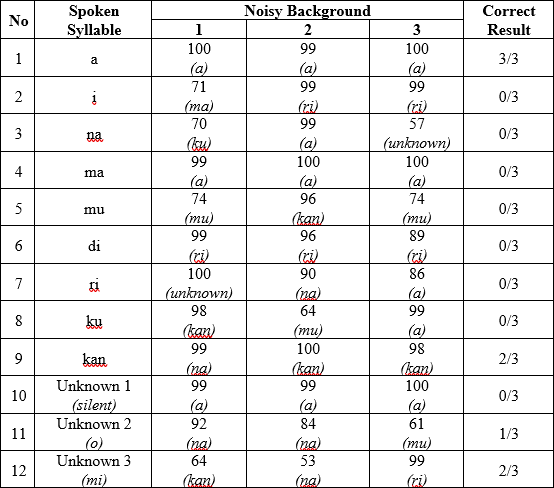


Table 8: Tester 3 results on semi noisy background.

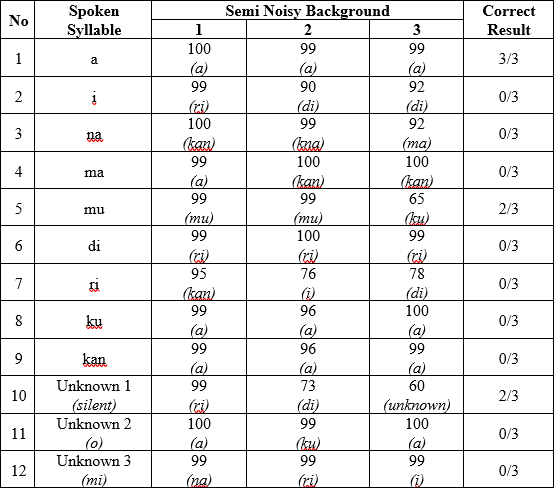


Table 9: Tester 3 results on not noisy background.

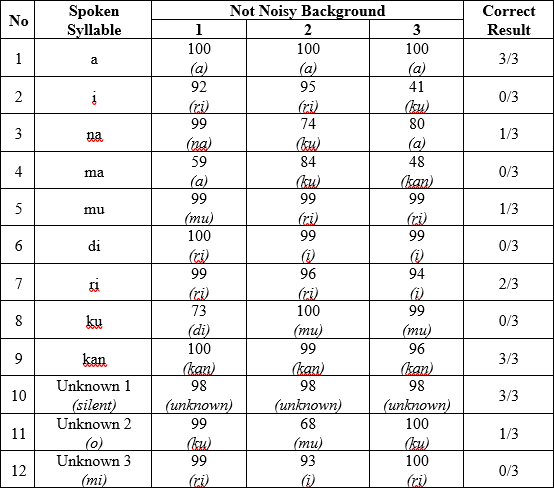


Table 10: Tester 4 results on noisy background.

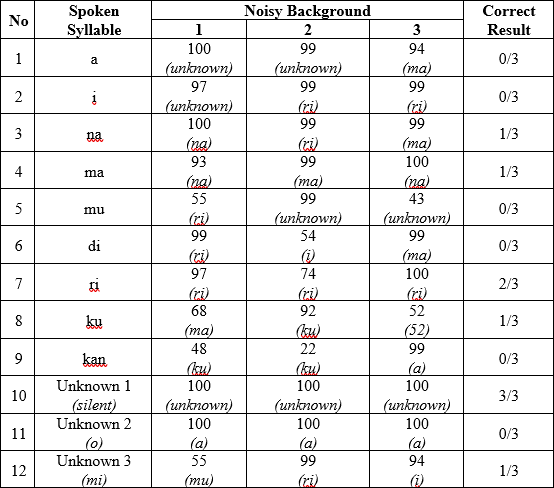
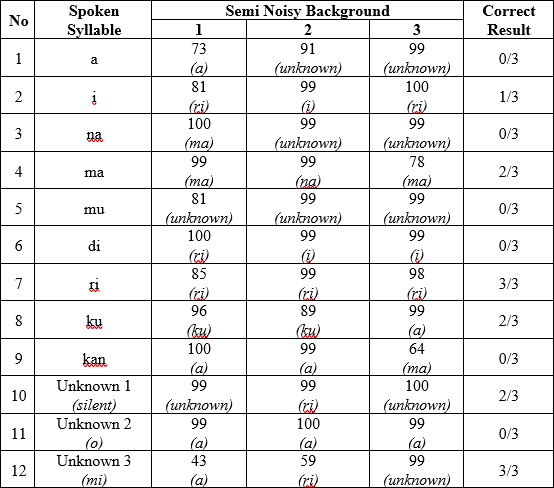
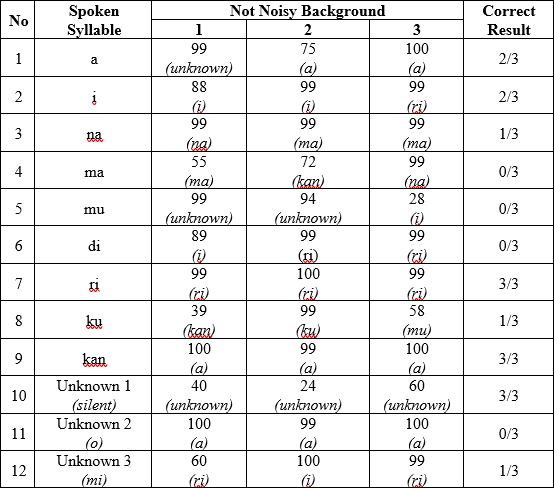


Table 11: Tester 4 results on semi noisy background.

Table 12: Tester 4 results on not noisy background.



Although noisy and semi background on every tester not show a good result, it still can predict about 2 or 3 correct spoken syllables with high accuracy. Not noisy background isn’t guaranteed all spoken syllables are correct even on tester 1 and 2. But, the result is better than noisy and semi background. This is because all the training data is recorded on not noisy background. Also, noise removal or reduction is not applied when extraction process is done before training begin.

Tester 1 and 2 at most moment have good result than tester 3 and 4. But, at some moment tester 3 and 4 have better result than tester 1 and 2. The most good result on tester 1 and 2 is due to the training data is all contain tester 1 and 2. When tester 3 and tester 4 have better result it can be cause by the background condition or the microphone ability to record the speech.

Syllable ma, mu, di, unknown o, and unknown mi have bad result on most time compare to others. The unknown o and mi are caused by the unknown training data is random and mostly background noise instead of focusing o and mi. The machine learning model can’t predict syllable ma, mu, and di well. Most times they have low accuracy but correct prediction or they predict the relative syllable, in example ri or i is the result on di. This can be improved by adding more the training data as the training data is still relatively small. An optimum machine learning model can also improve the result on them and also other syllables as well.

The following are random text to test generating the speech:

* diriku
* aku makan ikan
* di mana mamamu
* halo namaku ivan

‘diriku’, ‘aku makan ikan’, and ‘di mana mamamu’ can be generated. But, ‘halo namaku ivan’ cannot. It happens because ‘h’ is not found in the database as the text analysed from the beginning. The application alert user on the browser that ‘h’ is not found and listed registered syllables. Actually ‘h’ itself is not listed on available syllables. As the text contains syllable that not listed on available syllables or even contains available syllables but not identified yet will alert user. Any syllable that not found in the database will stop the generating process.

The following is the result from ‘diriku’, ‘aku makan ikan’, and ‘di mana mamamu’ in sequence:

Figure 1: Waveform of ‘diriku’.

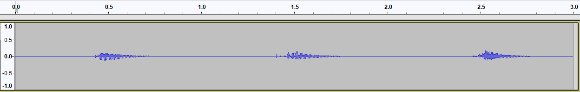


Figure 2: Waveform of 'aku makan ikan'.

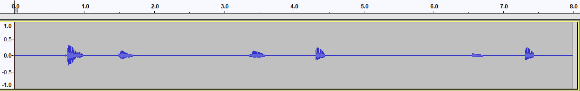
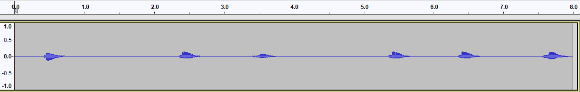


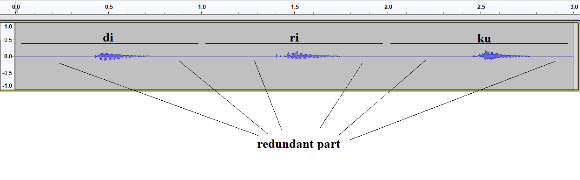
Figure 3: Waveform of 'di mana mamamu'.



As shown in figure above each text can be distinguish very easy. As the recorded speech is take 1 second, the duration of the generated speech simply is the sums up of syllables in the text. Although the speech is generated well, can be heard and understood, there is

still silent part or redundant part between the syllables except for space. It makes the speech become not fluently enough. This is because there is no processing to analysed and delete the redundant part in concatenative process or right after identifying the speech in the application.

Figure 4: Waveform of 'diriku' show syllables and redundant parts..



5 Discussion

In this section, there are some discussion why the proposed methods are used towards this research. The important points are:

* Concatenative Synthesis for Speech Synthesis
* Syllable for speech unit
* MFCC for Speech Recognition
* CNN for Machine Learning model

As in mimic speech, the speech is taken from recognized speech, concatenative synthesis can be the best approach other than the other approach. Besides it is the easiest way rather than the others, it also quick to develop. Articulatory and Formant synthesis are too complex because in need a lot of parameter to develop the vocal tract or set of rules that can fit to many speakers.

It is hard to find research regarding to exact amount of Bahasa Indonesia demisyllables, phonemes or smaller. Then, syllables is the best options for the speech unit as word need much more memory and less flexibility to generate speech in form of sentence.

MFCC have advantage over Linear Prediction Coefficients (LPC) [Dave & Pipalia, 2014] which is able to mimic human auditory system well. Although Perceptually Based Linear Predictive Analysis (PLP) also able to mimic human auditory system, MFCC is still be used due to its most common feature extraction. The technique is widely spread so that it easier to develop and debug.

Two main reason using CNN. First, the concatenative use speech unit. Each of the speech unit is small part of sentences or word. CNN have been considered an optimum way to small-footprint keyword, speech unit, spotting than other machine learning approach [Sainath & Parada, 2015]. Second, MFCC extraction process can be plot into spectogram. CNN is the most common way to solve or analyzed visual imagenery data, including spectogram.

6 Conclusion

There are several conclusions that can be obtained from this research:

* This application able to collect speech data through website.
* This application able to train machine learning model with collected data through command prompt.
* This application able to mimic speech in Bahasa Indonesia through website.
* This application able to recognize speech from record audio although the prediction and accuracy are not perfect. But, the machine learning able to predict well most of the times.
* This application able to generate speech based on inputted text although the result still has silent or redundant part. But, the generated speech can be heard and understood.

In the future, a further research in the speech recognition is improving machine learning model. When there is no right or wrong in modelling the machine learning model, there is always optimal model to get the best prediction and accuracy. In the speech synthesis by removing some of silence or unused part of the speech and also reducing background will make generated speech more fluently and good to hear. In Bahasa Indonesia, a research in determining Bahasa Indonesia phonemes can be a big improvement since the application use syllables as concatenative synthesis.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr. Tjong Wan Sen as the thesis advisor for his advices and support throughout the development of this thesis. Also thank to others lecturer for their support, knowledge, and experience during the university life.

References

[Hande, 2014] Hande, S. S. (2014). A Review on Speech Synthesis an Artificial Voice Production. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering*, 8.

[practicalcrypthography.com, 2012] practicalcryptography.com. (2012). *Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficient (MFCC) tutorial*. Retrieved from Practical Cryptography: http://practicalcryptography.com/miscellaneous/machine-learning/guide-mel-frequency-cepstral-coefficients-mfccs/

[haythamfayek.com, 2016] haythamfayek.com. (2016, April 21). *Speech Processing for Machine Learning: Filter banks, Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) and What's In-Between*. Retrieved from Speech Processing for Machine Learning: Filter banks, Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) and What's In-Between: https://haythamfayek.com/2016/04/21/speech-processing-for-machine-learning.html

[wikipedia.org, 2018] wikipedia.org. (2018, December 26). *Convolutional neural network*. Retrieved from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convolutional\_neural\_network

[Geitgey, 2016] Geitgey, A. (2016, Juny 14). *Machine Learning is Fun! Part 3: Deep Learning and Convolutional Neural Networks*. Retrieved from Medium: https://medium.com/@ageitgey/machine-learning-is-fun-part-3-deep-learning-and-convolutional-neural-networks-f40359318721

[Sainath & Parada, 2015] Sainath, T. N., & Parada, C. (2015). *Convolutional Neural Networks for Small-footprint Keyword Spotting.* New York, NY, U.S.A: Google, Inc.

[Dave & Pipalia, 2014] Dave, B., & Pipalia, C. D. (2014). SPEECH RECOGNITION: A REVIEW*. International Journal of Advance Engineering and Research*, 7