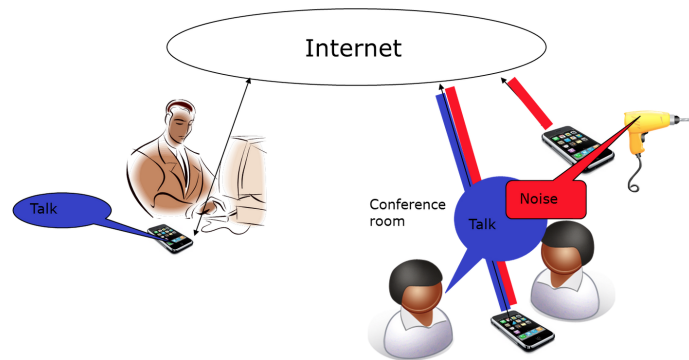


KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HÖGSKOLAN

Project Report

Noise and echo cancellation in a teleconference



Authors:

Animesh DAS

Jonas SEDIN

Mohammad ABDULLA

Thomas GAUDY

Xavier BUSH

Advisor:

Per ZETTERBERG

Spring 2015

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Chapter 1

Background

1.1 Introduction of noisy environments

It is a fact that the scenarios with phone calls involved are increasing every day. This situation implies an increase of the probability of being in a noisy scenario, specially in big cities. As a result of the discomfort that the users suffer in these noisy environments, engineering and science have worked with different approaches to solve this problem.

The diversity of noise nature and its sources lead the engineering to a big challenge: develop high performance solutions in these diverse environments. When facing noise cancellation is very important to take into account the variability that the noise may experience, as previously said. Duration of the noise sequences (from *ms* to long sequences), color of the noise and stationarity are possible classifications of the noise and each classification implies different ways of treating it. Therefore, a lot of systems are using combined techniques to reach the best possible performance, which has been naturally the case of this project.

1.2 Historical Overview

Before presenting the proposed solutions and approaches of the project, it is needed a historical overview to understand how have the group been influenced and which have been the patterns of research.

1.3 Description of the project

The problem proposed by the course *EQ2440* has been a "Noise and echo cancellation of a teleconference". The general scenario is that the first of the two speakers of the teleconference is in a noisy environment and the clear goal is to cancel as much noise as possible in order that the second speaker could receive a cleaner speech and make the conversation more comfortable. As said in ??, there are different approaches to solve this problem, where several of them require the availability of pure noise recordings, in our case recorded with a third phone placed close to the noise source. To have a clearer overview of the scenario the Figure 1.1 shows an approximate scheme easy to understand.

When talking about denoising a teleconference there are two factors to take into account, techniques to cancel the noise and the possibility of their implementation in a real time application. The real time application has been, as expected, a big challenge because

it implies good performance in terms of cancellation with the minimum reachable delay to conserve the naturalness of the conversation.

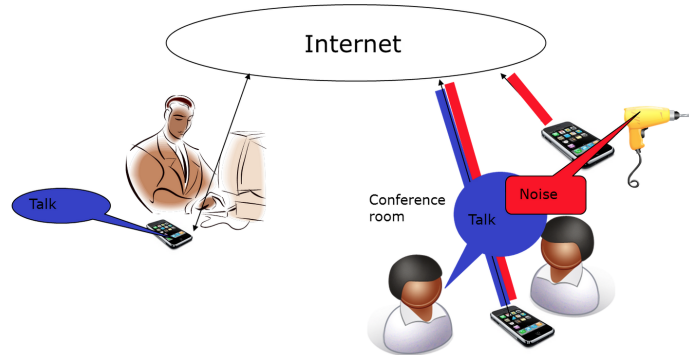


Figure 1.1: Scenario to solve

1.4 Goal

As commented in 1.3, the goal is to cancel the noise contribution in the conversation between the two speakers of the teleconferences. With the purpose to simplify the scenario, it will be assumed that only one of the speakers is surrounded by noise and the main noise source is known as well.

As in every engineering project, the group had to find a compromise between performance in noise cancellation and viability of implementation in real life. As it will be explained in 2, the computational cost is a big constrain and the best performance of certain approaches (3) introduce too much delay because of this reason. As a consequence, not always the best solution will be possible to implement in the real time version of the project.

As a contrast, the personal goals of the project members are to learn form the team-work environment, learn a research methodology, research criteria and certain skills of management that might be used in the performance of a Master Thesis (as an inmimate future) and in a research or business environment.

The new knowledge acquisition is obviously another personal goal of all the team members.

1.5 Organizationn and Human Resources

The organization of the project consists in electrical engineering students at different stages of the studies and within different specializations. In order to make the team as efficient as possible, the project has been divided in four different groups: *Theory Group*, *Android Group*, *Multimedia Group* and *Management Group*, all of them explained in detail in 2.

The distribution of the team members has been as follows.

- Animesh Das
 - Role: Management Group
 - e-mail: animeshu1989@gmail.com (animeshd@kth.se)

- Telephone: +46 737155575
 - Jonas Sedin
 - Role: Theory Group & Android Group
 - e-mail: sedinjo@gmail.com (jonassed@kth.se)
 - Telephone: +46 704252951
 - Mohammad Abdulla
 - Role: Android Group & Multimedia Group
 - e-mail: hamodiilatch@gmail.com (mabdulla@kth.se)
 - Telephone: +46 737393276
 - Thomas Gaudy
 - Role: Android Group
 - e-mail: gaudy.thomas@gmail.com (gaudy@kth.se)
 - Telephone: +46 760936034
 - Xavier Bush
 - Role: Theory Group & Management Group (Project Leader)
 - e-mail: xavier.bush@gmail.com (xbush@kth.se)
 - Telephone: +46 764141834
- The sponsor members as Project Examiner/Supervisor and Project Support are:
- Per Zetterberg
 - Role: Project Examiner
 - e-mail: perz@ee.kth.se
 - Telephone: +46 8 790 77 85
 - Hadi Ghauch
 - Role: Group Assistant
 - e-mail: ghauch@kth.se
 - Martin Ohlsson
 - Role: Android Guru
 - e-mail: martinoh@kth.se
 - Telephone: +46 87907818

Chapter 2

Methodology

This chapter shows the methodology that the group has followed since the project started. On the first hand, it goes without saying that the project group has followed the *Scientific Method* in the implementation of the project. On the second hand, as commented in 1.5, the group has been divided in three groups explained in the following subsections.

2.1 Theory Group

The *Theory Group* has as its main goal to find theory solutions for the noise cancellation problem having in mind potential computational problems.

2.2 Android Group

Its goal is to implement in Android the solutions given by the *Theory Group*. This group will handle as well all the technical aspects of the communication between the mobile-phones.

2.3 Multimedia Group

the purpose of the group is to create the presentations and video to show the results of the project

2.4 Management Group

The *Management Group* has taken care of the drawing up of those tasks that were oriented to plan, follow up and present the work of the project. The main documents are listed below:

- Project Plan: document that contained a brief description of the project, time resources and planning and tasks planning.
- Progress Report: document containing the follow up of the projects in terms of achievements and resources. It is a updated version of the Project Plan
- Project Report: this precise document. It contains the description of all the project in all the areas.

In terms of making easier the transfer of information between groups, the makeup of the groups has followed a cross-specialization criteria. Therefore, there are team members in more than one group, and it has been possible due to the wide scope of skills that the team members have (1.5).

2.5 Cross-Groups Duties

Chapter 3

Theory

Chapter 4

Android

Chapter 5

Conclusions