Signal conditioning refers to change in an input signal to meet the requirements of a system for which the input is being used.This project requires an individual to speak into a microphone and the audio signal is then conditioned according to the needs of the project. The audio signal will include background noise, channel distortion and the valuable speech which is of meaning to the researchers.

The process of removing the unwanted frequencies from the audio signal is called filtering.

The human speech typically has a frequency response of 300 Hz to 3 kHz. This frequency band rejects most part of the noise it also rejects the plosive consonants like “p” and “t” which require a higher frequency to be correctly differentiated. This reason contributes to the selection of a higher frequency band which ranges over 300 Hz to 8 kHz[1]. To implement filtering of the audio signal the following filter algorithms are used : Non-parametric variable step size normalized least mean square (NPVSS-NLMS) algorithm , Generalized sigmoid variable step size normalized least mean square (GSVSS-NLMS) algorithm , Normalized lattice recursive least squares filter (NLRLS) algorithm and the fast affine projection algorithm. The following paragraph will explain how each of the algorithms filter noise from the desired audio signal.

The NPVSS-NLMS algortihm is based on the standard Least Mean Square algorithm which is an adaptive filter. They are used to mimic a required filter by calculating the coefficients of the filter that relate to producing the least mean square of the error signal (difference between the desired and the actual signal). The purpose of it is to approach the optimum filter weights by updating the filter weights in a manner to converge to the optimum filter weight.The first step assumes small weights (zero in most cases) and, at each step, by finding the gradient of the mean square error, the weights are updated. The mean square error acts as a function of filter weights which are quadratic and thus, it has only one extremum, that minimizes the mean-square error, which is the optimal weight.

This method follows the stochastic gradient descent in which the filter is adapted based only on the current time error. The main problem of the algorithm is that it is sensitive to the scaling of its input when choosing a step-size parameter to guarantee stability.The NLMS algorithms solve this problem by normalizing with the power of the input.

The NPVSS-NLMS algorithm the estimates of the near-end echo path response is computed which is used to generate an estimate of echo. The estimate of echo is subtracted from the near-end microphone output to subtract the actual echo. The step-size parameter (μ) of a proposed non-parametric VSS-NLMS algorithm is given by:



where, α(n) is the normalized step size, range is given.

The NPVSS-NLMS-UM algorithm is : 

Where h(n) is impulse response of the system, x(n) is the input signal, e(n) is the error signal and ‘n’ is the order of the impulse response modelled as the filter.

[1] Stevens, K. N. (1998). Acoustic Phonetics. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.