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HMM Speech Recognition using DFT and Auditory Spectrograms (Part 2)

DFT と聴覚スペクトログラムを用いた HMM 音声認識 (PART 2)

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1. Introduction

In our previous report (Patterson and Hirahara, 1989, ATR Technical Report TR-A-0063), we showed some results for HMM /b,d,g/ phoneme recognition using DFT and SAS, auditory spectrograms. As it was a very preliminary report, many tests remained:

1. recognition tests with added independent pink noise.

2. recognition tests with different S/N ratios.

3. recognition tests with a larger phoneme set.

4. recognition tests training HMM on both clean and noisy tokens.

5. recognition tests with different reference vector sizes.

6. optimization of the auditory model parameters.

In this report, we will focus on the first three problems. The 4th and 5th are the problems concerning the HMM phoneme recognition system itself. As they are topics which are interesting from a practical viewpoint, we will leave them for the speech recognition people. The 6th is a fundamental problem. However, all experiments should be repeated when the auditory model is returned. Therefore, we decided not to do it at the moment.

2. Method

Experiment methods and procedures are the same as those described in the previous report.

Speech samples are CV-syllables, including /b/, /d/ or /g/, extracted from Japanese words which were uttered in isolation by a male speaker. Each category of /b/, /d/ and /g/ includes 180 to 260 tokens for training and test sets, respectively. Input vectors for HMM are reduced 16 by 15 spectra based on DFT and SAS. Kmeans clustering was used to make a codebook, and an HMM with four states and six transitions was used. The recognition task is to classify input tokens into /b/, /d/ or /g/ regardless of the following vowel.

3. Results for independent pink noise

In the frozen noise condition, only one pink noise data set, which was previously sampled and stored on the disk, was added to each token. On the other hand, in the random noise (independent noise) condition, a pink noise generator (B&K 1049) output was sampled (12kHz, 16bit) just prior to the analysis for each token. The level of the pink noise was fixed so that the overall S/N ratio was approximately 0dB. In the HMM recognition system, the reference vector size was 16 channels by 7 frames.

The results for the DFT system under frozen and random noise conditions are shown in Figures 1(a) and 1(b), respectively. The results for the SAS system under frozen and random noise conditions are shown in Figures 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. In each figures, the abscissa represents the codebook size and the ordinate represents the total performance, the percent correct identification of the individual categories for a particular combination of training and test conditions. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments, respectively.

First, when the DFT system is trained on clean speech and tested on noisy speech, there is no significant difference in the closed experiment noise condition performance curves. In the open experiments, on the other hand, the performance improvement compared to the code book size increase in the random noise condition is smaller than that in the frozen noise condition. Second, when the DFT system is trained and tested on noisy speech, the performance saturates around 80% for the large code book in the open experiment under the random noise condition. Third, when the DFT system is trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech, performance in the frozen noise condition is 5 to 10% better than in the random noise condition for the small code book. However, the difference for the largest code book (= 85) is not significant.

The noise condition affects the performance in the SAS system, as well as in the DFT system. One exception is that the performance in the random noise condition is a few percent better than that in the frozen noise condition for the small codebook, when the SAS system is trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech.

For open experiments, when the system is tested on noisy speech and the codebook is large (=85), the performance of the two front ends in the random noise condition is worse than that in the frozen noise condition. The performance drops about 9% when the system is trained on clean speech (84.7% --> 75.3% [DFT], 81.6% --> 73.1% [SAS]) and about 7% when the system is trained on noisy speech (87.4% --> 79.9% [DFT], 84.1% --> 78.1% [SAS]). It should be noted that such performances under random noise conditions when the S/N = 0dB is nearly equal to that under frozen noise conditions when the S/N = -6dB. Namely, adding independent pink noise to each token (random noise condition) is equivalent to decreasing the frozen noise condition S/N ratio -6dB.

The advantage of the SAS system compared with the DFT system for noisy speech is observed where the codebook size is small (5 or 10). This is the same result observed in the frozen noise condition when the S/N = -6dB. When the codebook is small, the HMM learns noisy speech features better in the SAS system than in the DFT system.

4. Result for several S/N ratio conditions

Recognition experiments were repeated in the frozen noise condition with three overall S/N ratios, +6dB, 0dB and -6dB. The S/N ratio is infinite when clean speech is used. In the HMM recognition system, the reference vector size was 16 channels by 7 frames.

The results for the DFT system when the S/N = -6dB and +6dB are shown in Figures 3(a) and 3(b), respectively. The results for the SAS system when the S/N = -6dB and +6dB are shown in figures 4(a) and 4(b), respectively. The results for the DFT and SAS system when the S/N = 0dB are shown in Figures 1(a) and 2(a) in section 3. Figures 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c) are reproduced from Figures 1(a), 2(a), 3(a)(b) and 4(a)(b) to show the performance curves versus S/N ratio in open experiments. Figure 5(a) shows the performance vs. S/N ratio when the system was trained on clean speech and tested on noisy speech. Figure 5(b) shows the result when the system was trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech. Figure 5(c) shows the result when the system was trained and tested on noisy speech. In these figures, the abscissa represents the overall S/N ratio and the ordinate represents the total performance of open experiment. Squares with a dashed line and circles with a solid line indicate the performance of the DFT system and the SAS system, respectively.

As seen in Figure 5(a), when the system is trained on clean speech, performance improves as the S/N ratio increases. It is also clear that the SAS system gives better performance than the DFT system only when the codebook size is less than 20. Figure 5(b) and (c) show that a system trained on noisy speech gives better performance than the one trained on clean speech. It is amazing that the performance dropped only 5% when system was trained on noisy speech (S/N = -6dB) and tested on clean speech with codebook size = 85, while it dropped 20% when trained on clean speech and tested on clean speech.

5. Result for a larger phoneme set

In this section, the performance of the DFT system and the SAS system is compared with a larger phoneme set rather than the small /b,d,g/ phoneme set.

Speech data used in the experiments are CV-syllables extracted from a large database of 5,240 common Japanese words, which were uttered in isolation by a native male Japanese speaker (MAU). All CV-syllables including /b/, /d/, /g/, /p/, /t/, /k/, /m/, /n/, /N/, /s/, /sh/, /h/, /z/, /ch/, /r/, /w/ and /y/ were extracted using manually selected acoustic-phonetic labels provided with the database. Table 1 shows the number of tokens for each category in a training set and in a test set.

Token	Training set	Test set				
. b	218	227				
d	202	179				
g	260	252				
р	32	15				
t	425	440				
k	1152	1164				
m	471	481				
n	260	265				
Ν	503	488				
S	475	538				
s h	186	177				
h	214	207				
Z	115	115				
ch	79	71				
t s	212	177				
r	754	722				
w	71	81				
У	159	174				
TOTAL	6940	6937				

Table 1

Number of tokens

Only one frozen noise condition (PN-12) was used in the experiment. The S/N ratio was about 6 dB for the /b/, /d/ and /g/ tokens. The S/N ratio of other tokens were not measured precisely. By looking at wave forms of several tokens, it can be seen that the S/N ratio for the voiceless stops, in particular /p/, is lower than 6dB.

In the HMM system, 20 codebooks are chosen for each category. Since the number of tokens included in each category is different, the ratio of the codebook size to the number of tokens ratio varies considerably among the categories. It is about 1 for /p/ and 1/500 for /k/.

The reference vector size was fixed at 16 channels by 7 frames.

The total performance of the DFT and the SAS system for each training and testing condition are compared in Figure 6. The confusion matrices for all DFT results and SAS results are shown in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively.

From these Figure and Tables, it is hard to find any SAS system advantage. SAS system performance is 5 to 20% poorer than that of the DFT system. In particular, performance differences are large when HMM systems are trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech. These results conflict with the results for the /b, d, g/ task, in which SAS gives better performance than DFT when 20 codebooks are prepared for each category.

6. Conclusion

- (1) Differences between the DFT and SAS systems were small under random noise conditions as well as frozen noise conditions.
- (2) Under the random noise condition, both DFT and SAS system performance improvement compared to the codebook size increase are small when the HMM is trained on noisy tokens.
- (3) The SAS system's advantage was not observed even under lower S/N ratio conditions. When the codebook size was 85 per category, the DFT system gave better performances under any S/N ratio and any training/testing conditions. However, when the codebook size was 5 per category, the SAS system always outperformed the DFT system.
- (4) The difference between the DFT and SAS systems become clear in an eighteen-phoneme set experiment. The DFT system gave 5 to 20% better performance than the SAS system under any training/testing conditions.

These conclusions suggest that the 16X15 DFT representation is more suitable for the HMM pattern classifier than 16X15 SAS representation. We find this result to be very odd. We expected the SAS system outperform the DFT system, because the SAS spectrum seemed to grasp phoneme cues, such as formant structure, better than DFT.

One possible reason is that the SAS systems we used were not optimized. Another possible reason is that the SAS representations are reasonable for our spectrum reading knowledge but are NOT reasonable for HMM to classify input tokens. This may be because, the SAS representations were formed either by emphasizing certain components or eliminating certain components based on psychophysical and physiological knowledge. This elimination might lose some important information for HMM. On the other hand, the DFT system does not emphasize any component and preserves all power spectrum information.

Further, it is clear that HMM is not a model of the way human beings classify patterns.

It is a hypothesis that a well designed auditory front end overcomes the traditional DFT and/or LPC based frontend. However, this report failed to prove this hypothesis.

What went wrong?

- (a) Was it because the SAS is not a well-designed auditory model? The recognition tests should be repeated with a well-tuned SAS front end and other auditory front ends.
- (b) Was it because the affinity between the SAS frontend and HMM is weak?It is difficult to say at present. The recognition tests should be repeated with other pattern classifiers, such as DTW, LVQ, NN

and/or feature based pattern classifiers.

(c) Is that because the hypothesis is wrong? I still believe the hypothesis is true.



DFT with Random Noise (S/N=0dB)

Figure 1(b) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the DFT system under random noise conditions. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments.



SAS with Frozen Noise (S/N = 0dB)

Figure 2(a) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the SAS system under frozen noise condition. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments.



SAS with Random Noise (S/N=0dB)

Figure 2(b) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the SAS system under random noise conditions. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition 'experiments.



DFT with Frozen Noise (S/N = -6dB)

Figure 3(a) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the DFT system under frozen noise conditions where the S/N=-6dB. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments.



DFT with Frozen Noise (S/N = +6dB)

Figure 3(b) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the DFT system under frozen noise conditions where the S/N=+6dB. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments.



SAS with Frozen Noise (S/N = +6dB)

Figure 4(b) The /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition results for the SAS system under frozen noise conditions where S/N=+6dB. Outlined and solid symbols indicate results for the open and closed recognition experiments.



Trained on clean speech Tested on noisy speech

Figure 5(a) performance curves for the /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition versus S/N ratio in open experiments. HMM was trained on clean speech and tested on noisy speech.



Figure 5(b) performance curves for the /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition versus S/N ratio in open experiments. HMM was trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech.

Performance in %

Trained on noisy speech Tested on clean speech



Trained and tested on noisy speech

Figure 5(c) performance curves for the /b, d, g/ phoneme recognition versus S/N ratio in open experiments. HMM was trained and tested on noisy speech.



Results for 18 phonemes

Figure 6 Performances for a larger phoneme set.



Table 2(a)Confusion matrix of DFTresult. The HMMsystem is trained and tested on clean speech.

1	I\0	ъ	d	g	P	t	k	m	n	N	S	sh	h	z	ch	ts	r	W	Y	
i	ъ	179	1	96		1	7	1									5			82.1
ĺ	d	20	17	53			3												1	86.6
i	g	22	19	17	11		9	19	5	2							7		5	65.8
j	p	1			16	11	2										2			50.0
i	t				7	401	1	2									4		1	94.4
1	k	16		11	20	177	7 8	61			3	2	19		21	4	15	1	2	74.7
i	m	7		20			2	34!	5 69	13	5			1			10	3	1	73.2
	n	з		3			2	37	207	3							5			79.6
١İ	N			16				11	5	463							7		1	92.0
İ	S.										447	7		1		27				94.1
İ	sh											18	5		1					99.5
j	h	2		1			5	3				3	190) 1		1	8			88.8
j	z						1							114	4					99.1
İ	ch						1					7			71					89.9
İ	ts										61				2	149)			70.3
İ	r	29	5	11	7	7	15	8	11	10							642	2	7	85.1
İ	w	1		1	1												1 (67		94.4
ĺ	У			2													2		155	97.5
١İ																				83.6
	I/0	ъ	d	g	р	t	k	m	n	N	S	sh	h	z	ch	ts	r	W	Y	
ľ	ъ	194	1 16	55	1	2	7		2											85.5
	d	8	159	93		1	3		1					1			3			88.8
	g	20	13	16	5	1	9	20	7	2							7		8	65.5
	р	1			4	5	3										1		1	26.7
	t				6	421	. 7										5		1	95.7
	k	14		9	38	174	8.	50			4	5	17		25	5	19		4	73.0
	m	5	1	16			2	340	5 86	16	,						3	4	2	71.9
	n		1	4				46	205	; 3							6			77.4
	N			14				10	5	446	,						11	1	1	91.4
	s										502	7	1	3	1	26				94.2
1	sh							,				17.	4		3					98.3
	h	4		1			4	6				5	18:	2			5			87.9
	z								2				1	11:	1		1			96.5
	ch											9			62					87.3
	ts										61				2	114	4			64.4
	r	20	10	26	3	11	15	10	11	5		1	1				597	2	10	82.7
1	w	2		3			1	1									7	66	1	81.5
1	Y		2	7			1	1	1				•				3		159	91.4
																				82.5

Table 2(b)Confusion matrix of DFTresult. The HMMsystem is trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech.

s sh I\0 ь đ g t k m n 1 N h z ch ts I У 1 3 127 20 26 58.3 1 34 з ъ 1 1 9 83.2 1 13 168 9 1 1 đ 59.2 1 16 19 6 24 13 1 1 1 9 154 1 g 5 1 10 3 7 3 21 323 51 3 31.3 5 3 3 P t 11 12 76.0 1 34 15 97 70 823 2 74 2 9 2 6 71.4 6 4 4 3 1 Ķ 5 199 89 46 102 4 3 42.3 23 m 5 53 150 9 1 28 1 1 3 57.7 8 1 n 40 13 440 . 87.5 N 3 288 2 21 152 60.6 11 1 s 1 177 7 95.2 1 sh 1 1 196 2 3 91.6 h 11 2 3 86 13 74.8 8 1 2 Closed z 2 71 4 89.9 2 ch 9 177 83.5 21 ts 5 33 16 9 25 2 44 6 575 4 76.3 21 14 r 64 90.1 4 2 w 6 2 5 1 7 1 4 120 75.5 2 10 Y 1 71.7 d t k N sh h z ch ts r w Y I\0 ь m n s g P 125 27 22 3 35 2 2 3 3 1 3 1 55.1 ъ đ 16 145 9 4 1 4 81.0 1 20 17 5 18 9 3 6 2 61.9 4 11 156 g 2 6 1 3 1 1 1 40.0 P t 12 10 2 26 314 71 2 2 1 71.4 3 17 1 10 68.2 k 22 25 101 5 77 794 3 6 6 84 1 9 10 227 85 33 5 48 135 21 1 2 47.2 31 88 4 1 m 4 1 1 50.9 n 10 32 9 8 2 88.9 open N 3 32 434 311 5 15 2 181 57.8 24 s 3 162 11 91.5 sh 1 1 189 2 91.3 1 з h 1 1 9 z 7 4 7 4 77 16 67.0 5 62 3 87.3 ch 1 8 85.3 151 ts 14 1 540 2 40 18 11 20 2 44 12 74.8 1 2 12 10 6 1 r 6 1 2 68 84.0 w 2 17 1 1 5 2 1 9 2 21 2 124 71.3 Y 69.6

Table 2(c)Confusion matrix of DFTresult. The HMMsystem is trained on clean speech and tested on noisy speech.

Table 2(d)Confusion matrix of DFTresult. The HMMsystem is trained and tested on noisy speech.

I\0 Ъ s sh h z ch ts d t k m n И w 197 7 3 200 1 90.4 1 1 4 ъ 1 1 1 2 đ 1 99.0 3 g 11 3 218 8 4 8 1 4 83.8 31 1 96.9 3 6 392 13 3 1 92.2 t 1 5 1 4 16 26 49 897 13 7 30 14 20 11 26 k 24 6 9 77.9 ́ З 358 44 11 m 35 1 3 4 12 76.0 11 228 11 3 1 3 2 87.7 n 1 1 20 4 460 1 4 1 91.5 N 6 3 420 50 2 s 88.4 173 13 sh 93.0 Closed 7 199 2 1 1 2 2 93.0 h 2 112 1 z 97.4 6 73 \mathbf{ch} 92.4 2 201 ts 94 8 3 6 12 9 8 1 11 17 15 7 6 1 624 26 r 4 4 82.8 70 w 1 98.6 2 156 98.1 Y 1 86.5 ssh hzchts r I/0 b d g 191 12 2 k N р t m n W у 2 6 5 3 2 4 84.1 ь 2 з 2 d 4 166 2 92.7 3 173 8 20 1 2 14 8 15 1 1 6 68.7 g 5 2 3 1 1 1 33.3 P t 5 2 4 395 16 12 4 1 89.8 k 30 2 24 38 50 840 9 14 13 27 20 4 23 17 12 1 40 72.2 1 7 2 2 5 32 4 311 75 19 1 1 12 14 64.7 ш 2 4 1 22 185 20 5 19 2 1 69.8 n N 3 23 2 1 9 11 422 3 6 1 1 5 86.5 8 5 1 2 466 12 1 51 86.6 1 2 145 4 24 open sh 1 81.9 1 2 1 1 8 1 1 11 175 h з 1 1 1 84.5 1 10 3 1 5 1 84 5 z 5 \mathbf{ch} 20 51 71.8 26 2 148 1 83.6 ts 5 10 4 8 19 21 22 1 3 4 16 2 573 25 г 3 6 79.4 1 2 3 2 4 4 1 7 64 79.0 w 1 1 5 y 2 5 153 87.9 78.8

Table 3(a)Confusion matrix of SASresult. The HMMsystem is trained and tested on clean speech.

Table 3(b)Confusion matrix of SASresult. The HMMsystem is trained on noisy speech and tested on clean speech.

I/0	ъ	d	g	р	t	k	m	n	N	8	sh	h	z	.ch	ts	r	w	Y			
ь	112	29	12	3	2	42	14	3	3	3			2			10	3		51.4		
đ	7	152	22		4	13		4		5		4	2			8		1	75.2		
g	10	15	128		1	35	32	8	10	5		1	1		1	8		5	49.2		
p	4			15		7	2					1				3			46.9		
t	4	18	4	1	31	7 6	11	4								11	1	3	74.6		
k	30	39	20	5	49	79	7 13	32	2	65	4	17		34	31	33	2	9	69.2		
m	17		30			93	212	2 2:	1 39	9 11	L	16				30	2		45.0		
n	8		11			23	46	88	18	40			1		2	23			33.8		•
N	8	1	27	1		19	45	23	369	92	1					7			73.4		
s						36				340) 3	19	12	2	62	1			71.6	1	I
sh						2					16	01		23					86.0	Clo	sed
h	2	2	1			76	1			17	8	96		6	1	4			44.9	0.1	· • ·
z	1	1				6	1	7	5	19		1	62	1	4	7			53.9		
ch						5				3	6			64	1				81.0		
ts						38				61		3		2	10	в			50.9		
r	13	8	15	4	10	46	19	20	24	18		5	7		6	540	1	18	71.6		
w	3					15	2									4	47		66.2		
Y		1	5		1	26	6	2		1			1		1	31		84	52.8		
																			63.8		
I/0	ь	đ	g	р	t	k	m	n	N	s	sh	h	z	ch	ts	r	w	Y			
ь	95	10	14	2	4	62	16	1	3	1		1			1	11	5	1	41.9		
ď	6	134	4 1		4	17	1	4		4						8			74.9		
g	10	17	121	1	1	43	25	5	12	3		2		1		7		4	48.0		
p	1	1	1	5	3	2						1				1			33.3		
t	3	19	9	3	32:	1 5	51	2		3		2				19	1	2	73.0		
k	18	30	24	5	42	83	9 15	53		64	6	19	1	26	26	30	1	15	72.1		
m	15		43		1	92	212	2 22	2 27	7 11	-	17	1		1	38	1		44.1		
n	14	2	12			26	57	73	16	34			3		1	27			27.5	0 P G	2^{n}
N	8	2	22			24	34	14	377	72						5			77.3	01	
S	1					28		1	•	401	. 2	21	9	4	70	1			74.5		
sh						5					14(0		31	1				79.1		
h	2	1		1		76			1	26	3	80		7	2	7		1	38.6		
z	4	12				1	1	11	4	24		1	43		6	8			37.4		
ch						7				1	7			56					78.9		
ts						29				60	1	2	2		82	1			46.3		
r	10	8	13	7	16	39	22	26	27	27		4	4		3	498		18	69.0		
w	3				1	15	4	2								6	50		61.7		
Y	3	1	12		3	21	5	1		1		2		1	3	28		93	53.4		
																			62.7		

Table 3(c)Confusion matrix of SASresult. The HMMsystem is trained on clean speech and tested on noisy speech.

Table 3(d)Confusion matrix of SASresult. The HMMsystem is trained and tested on noisy speech.