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Proceedings of
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Contents

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Recognizing of Shan Syllables sound base on Convolution Neural Network Model <i>Khin Hninn Phyu, Aye Thida Win</i>	1-7
Prediction of Diabetes Diseases by Building a Machine Learning Model <i>Hnin Ei Ei Cho, Nan Yu Hlaing</i>	8-13
Development of Remote Health Monitoring System <i>Khin Kyu Kyu Win, Su Myat Thaing, Thi Thi Soe, Atar Mon</i>	14-19

Natural Language Processing

Text Independent Speaker Identification System By Perceptual Linear Prediction(PLP) <i>Aye Thida Win , Khin Hninn Phyu</i>	20-27
---	-------

Big Data Analysis

A Review on Big Data Analytics in Agriculture <i>Soe Soe Thet , San San Win</i>	28-31
--	-------

Parallel & Distributed Computing

- Application of Dijkstra's Shortest Algorithm for Road Map Estimation in Sagaing Region 32-38
Thin Thin Swe, San San Maw
- A Study for Kruksal's MST Algorithm Based on Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms Courses 39-45
Aye Aye Naing, Soe Moe Aye
- A Spanning Tree with Minimum Weight of the One City and Six Towns in Mandalay Region 46-50
Mon Yee Aye

Image Processing

- Automatic Detection and Classification of Rice Leaf Diseases Using Image Processing 51-56
Pa Pa Lin
- Analysis of High Performance Computing using Raspberry Pi Cluster on High Computational Problem 57-63
Mar Lar Win, Khin Mar Aye, Myo Hein Zaw
- Identification of Myanmar Rice Seeds by Size and Shape Features 64-70
Zon May Thet, Khin Thu Zar Win, Su Mon Thwin
- Multi-Face Recognition for University Classroom Attendance System Using Face Recognition Technique 71-75
Thida Nyein, Aung Nway Oo
- License Plate Localization and Recognition using OCR based on k-NN 76-80
Thida Win, Hnin Ei Latt, Yin Mon Swe

Human Computer Interaction

- Designing Effective User Interface for Healthcare Applications 81-85
Thet Thet Aye Mon, Ei Ei Mon, Lwin Lwin Nyo

Database Management System & Information Retrieval

Precision and Recall in the Evaluation of Information Retrieval <i>Yi Mar Myint</i>	86-92
A review on the status of e-government implementation challenges in Myanmar <i>Moe Thida Naing , Myint San , Mie Mie Aung</i>	93-99
Academic Education 4.0 in the Era of Industry 4.0 <i>San San Nwel, Kyaut Kyaut Khaing, Ei Chal Mon, Tin Tin Thein</i>	100-105
Smart Card Extraction for Immigration and Population System <i>Kyault Kyault Khaing, San San Newl, Khaing Khaing Soe</i>	106-110
Information System Adoption of Private Hospitals in Mandalay Region <i>Kyi Kyi Thant , Thiha Htun</i>	111-116
Database Security on Student Result System by Using Database Management System <i>Thin Thin Yi , Zin Mar Yin , Phyu Phyu Myint</i>	117-122

Network & Security

A Lan Campus Infrastructure with Spanning Tree Protocol Attack and Mitigation <i>Zin May Aye</i>	123-129
Evaluation of Fiber Optic Link Performance: Calculating power Budget, Loss Budget and Distance Estimation <i>Thazin Nwe , Mar Lar Win , Khin Mar Aye</i>	130-136
Implementation of Knot DNS Server <i>Myint Myint Than</i>	137-143
A Survey of Intrusion Detection System for Software Defined Networking <i>Khaing Khaing Soe, Lai Yi Aung, Mya Mya Htay, Kyault Kyault Khaing, Nay Aung Aung</i>	144-150
Simulation of GSM Based Fire Safety Security Control System <i>Khin Ei Ei Khine , Yin Yin Mon , Nyan Linn</i>	151-157

Data Mining & Machine Learning

Text Classification using Vector Space Model and K-Nearest Neighbor Algorithm <i>Hnin Wut Yee , Khin Sein Hlaing</i>	158-164
Online Shopping System using K-means Clustering for User Recommendation <i>Thwe Thwe Win</i>	165-170
Comparison of Classification Methods on Breast Cancer Data <i>San San Win , Soe Soe Thet</i>	171-175
Customer Churn Analysis in Banking Sector <i>Saw Thazin Khine , Win Win Myo</i>	176-180
Pregnancy Risk Outcomes Prediction using FRAM and Naïve Bayes <i>Kyawt Shin Thu, Khin Ei Ei Chaw</i>	181-187
Comparative Performance Analysis of Educational Data Using Weka and Orange <i>Nwet Yin Tun Thein , Tin Tin Hmwe</i>	188-194
A Review of Data Mining Techniques and Their Applications in Business <i>Tin Tin Hmwe , Nwet Yin Tun Thein , Swe Swe Myint</i>	195-200

Digital Business Management

Changing from Traditional Retail Transaction to Electronic Retail Transaction Utilizing B2C E-Commerce Model <i>Aye Htike San, San San Nwel, Thinn Thinn Nwe</i>	201-205
Design and Implementation of E-Commerce System using Cassandra NoSQL Database <i>Zin Mar Yin , Win Lei Kay Khine , Thin Thin Yi</i>	206-212
Calculate the Profit and Loss of Information System by Using Time Value of Money (TVM) <i>Tue Tue Mar</i>	213-217
Cost Estimation of Ball-Pen Production System <i>Lwin Lwin Nyo, Thet Thet Aye Mon, Phyu Phyu Myint</i>	218-224

Electronics

- Pic Based Room Temperature Control System Using DC Fans For Home Power Reducing 225-231
San San Wai , Kham Kham Saing , Poe Ei Phyu
- Construction of Home Lighting Control System Using Touch Sensor 232-237
Aung San Min , Min Soe Tun , Swe Wunna
- Effect of Dopant Li Concentration on Optical and Electrical Properties of Li/TiO_x Composite Films 238-242
Nwe Nwe Kyi, Nyein Wint Lwin, Than Zaw Oo
- Design and Control of Water Level Indicator 243-248
MyaMya Htay, KhaingKhaingSoe, San San Newl, Lai Yi Aung
- Design and Construction of Digital Fire Alarm System for Multipurpose 249-255
Moe Min Min Aye , San Htar Oo , Aung Ye Htun , Yin Lae Aung
- A Predictable Memory Controller for SDRAM 256-264
yee yee soe

Embedded System

- Microcontroller Based Automatic Monitoring Exit/ Entry Counter For Public Areas 265-271
Kham Kham Saing , San San Wai , Poe Ei Phyu
- Construction of Microcontroller Based Flow Rate Display 272-276
Yoon Mone Phoo , Tin Tin Pyone
- Gas Leakage Detector By Using Arduino UNO & MQ-2 Sensor 277-280
Khin Thandar Myint , Saw Mya Nandar , Moe Thuzar Htwe

Cloud Computing

- The Use of Moodle E-learning Platform: A Study in University of Computer Studies(Pakokku) 281-286
San San Nwel, Lai Yi Aung, Khaing Khaing Soe, Tin Tin Thein
- A Study of Cloud Computing Technology 287-293
Lai Yi Aung, San San Nwel, Khaing Khaing Soe, Mya Mya Htay

Software Engineering and Web Engineering

- Effective Features of Web Search Engines 294-297
Ei Chal Mon
- Object-Oriented Hypermedia Design Methodology in Modern Web Information Systems 298-302
Thae Thae Han, Mar Lar Htun, Mie Mie Aung

Digital Signal Processing

- Analysis of Noise Cancellation using LMS and RLS Algorithms 303-310
Aye Theingi Oo, Theingi Ait, Nay Win Zaw
- Stability of Transfer Function in Discrete-time System Using MATLAB SIMULINK 311-315
Khaing Zin Win, Myint Myint Yi, Zay Oo Maung, Phyu Pyar Wai
- Interconversion Of Various Number Systems In Digital Technology 316-320
Moe Moe Thein, Thae Thae Han, Nyein Nyein Hlaing

Theoretical Nuclear Physics

- Structure Calculation of Mass 9 Λ -Hypernuclei 321-326
Sandar Myint Oo
- Proton Single Particle Energy Levels in ^{56}Fe by using Numerov Method 327-331
San San Mon, Tin Tin Nwe , Min Soe Tun
- Two-Neutron Separation Energies of Even-Even Silicon Isotopes in Effective Lagrangian Model 332-337
Thida Aye

Material Science

- Synthesis And Identification of Naa (Plant Hormone) From Coal Tar 338-344
Khin Mooh Theint, Tin Myint Htwe
- Biosynthesis of Colloidal Silver Nanoparticles Using Coriander Leaf Extract 345-349
Myo Myint Aung, Aye Aye San, Mar Mar Swe, Su Thaw Tar Wint
- Influence of Trichoderma Compost Biofertilizer and Chemical Fertilizer on Tomato Plant Cultivation 350-358
Thet Su Min, Ni Ni Aung
- Phytochemical Constituents Antimicrobial Activities, Isolation and Functional Groups Identification of the Pure Unknown Compound from the Stem Bark of Croton oblongifoliusSieber ex Spreng.(That Yin Gyi) 359-364
N Khawn San, Po Po Than Htike, Ni Ni Aung
- Decolorizing Properties of Dyes by Using Biosorbent Chitosan from Prawn Shell 365-372
Ni Ni Pe, San San Win, Lwin Mu Aung

Mathematics

- Stability of Karman Vortex Street and Drag Coefficient for the Various Shapes of Obstacles 373-380
Nwe Swe Aung
- Optimal Order Quantity System By Using Demand Forecasting Techniques 381-386
Lin Lin Let , Nwe Swe Aung , Aye Myat Mon Than
- Application of Markov Chain to Foretell Watches Sales on Specific Periods 387-392
Nila Aung Khaing , Khin Myat Zin
- Solving Two Person Nonzero Sum Games 393-399
Win Thant Sin

Experimental Nuclear Physics

Elemental Analysis of Olax scanden by EDX Method <i>Hmwe Hmwe Kyu</i>	400-405
Water Quality Assessment of Tube Well Water from Selected Area in Loikaw Region, Myanmar <i>Khin Htay Win, Thidar Khaing , Yinn Kay Khaing</i>	406-411

English Language

Effective Approaches to Developing the Writing Skill <i>CHO CHO WIN</i>	412-417
Students' Different Attitudes towards Learning English and Some Collaborative Learning Approaches as a Tool of Enhancing Student's Language Proficiency <i>Khin Hnin Si</i>	418-424
A Study of the Difficulties of Speaking Skills and How to Improve them <i>Htay Htay Won</i>	425-432
Perspectives of Non-Major English Teachers on EFL Students at UCS_PKKU <i>Htet Hlaing Nyein</i>	433-436

Myanmar Language in Literature

တောင်ဂူနီဘုရားကျောက်စာလေ့လာချက် <i>Khin Ma Lay</i>	437-446
ဂီတစာဆို သောင်းတင်ဌေး၏ သီချင်း(၃)ပုဒ်မှ တင်ပြရေးဖွဲ့ပုံ လေ့လာ ချက် <i>Myint Hlaing</i>	447-453
"အာဇာနည်မိခင်" ပြဇာတ်မှ ဇာတ်ဆောင်စရိုက် လေ့လာချက် <i>May Myo Swe, Yi Yi Maw, Su Hlaing Win</i>	454-466

Author Index

Author	Page No.
A	
Aye Thida Win.....	20
Aye Aye Naing.....	39
Aye Htike San.....	200
Aung San Min.....	231
Aye Theingi Oo.....	303
C	
Cho Cho Win.....	412
E	
Ei Chal Mon.....	294
H	
Hnin Ei Ei Cho.....	8
Hnin Wut Yee.....	158
Hmwe Hmwe Kyu.....	400
Htay Htay Won.....	425
Htet Hlaing Nyein.....	433
K	
Khin Hninn Phyu.....	1
Khin Kyu Kyu Win.....	14
Kyault Kyault Khaing.....	106
Kyi Kyi Thant.....	111
Khaing Khaing Soe.....	144
Khin Ei Ei Khine.....	151
Kyawt Shin Thu.....	180
Kham Kham Saing.....	265
Khin Thandar Myint.....	277
Khaing Zin Win.....	311
Khin Mooh Theint.....	338
Khin Htay Win.....	406
Khin Hnin Si.....	418
Khin Ma Lay.....	437

Author	Page No.
L	
Lwin Lwin Nyo.....	217
Lai Yi Aung.....	287
Lin Lin Let.....	381
M	
Mon Yee Aye.....	46
Mar Lar Win.....	57
Moe Thida Naing.....	93
Myint Myint Than.....	137
Mya Mya Htay.....	242
Moe Min Min Aye.....	248
Moe Moe Thein.....	316
Myo Myint Aung.....	345
Myint Hlaing.....	447
May Myo Swe.....	454
N	
Nwet Yin Tun Thein.....	187
Nwe Nwe Kyi.....	237
N Khawn San.....	359
Ni Ni Pe.....	365
Nwe Swe Aung.....	373
Nila Aung Khaing.....	387
P	
Pa Pa Lin.....	51
S	
Soe Soe Thet.....	28
San San Nwel.....	100
San San Win.....	171
Saw Thazin Khine.....	176
San San Wai.....	224
San San Nwel.....	281
Sandar Myint Oo.....	321
San San Mon.....	327

Author	Page No.
T	
Thin Thin Swe.....	32
Thida Nyein.....	71
Thida Win.....	76
Thet Thet Aye Mon.....	81
Thin Thin Yi.....	117
Thazin Nwe.....	130
Thwe Thwe Win.....	165
Tin Tin Hmwe.....	194
Tue Tue Mar.....	212
Thae Thae Han.....	298
Thida Aye.....	332
Thet Su Min.....	350
W	
Win Thant Sin.....	393
Y	
Yi Mar Myint.....	86
Yee Yee Soe.....	256
Yoon Mone Phoo.....	272
Z	
Zon May Thet.....	64
Zin May Aye.....	123
Zin Mar Yin.....	205

Text Independent Speaker Identification System By Perceptual Linear Prediction (PLP)

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Abstract

Speaker recognition is the identification of a speaker from characteristics of voices. Automatic speaker recognition system generally consists of two main phrases; feature extraction and recognition. In speaker recognition, feature extraction phrase is the most imperative phases. The concise and effectiveness of extracted features effects the recognition rate. This paper presents the speaker recognition system based on PLP (Perceptual Linear Predictive) for feature extraction phrase and VQ/GMM (Vector Quantization/Gaussian Mixture Model) techniques for recognition. To evaluate the proposed method, a popular feature extraction method LPC is also evaluated for comparison. The system tested on 8 speakers (both English and Myanmar speech samples and evaluated for both text-dependent and text-independent speaker identification. Comparison of the proposed approach shows that the proposed method got better recognition rate and obtained promising results.

Keywords: PLP, LPC, analysis, feature, extraction, speaker, identification

1. Introduction

Speaker recognition is the identification of a person from characteristics of voices. Speaker recognition technologies have wide application

areas such as the detection of Earthquakes, security, forensics and authentication etc. Speaker recognition is the process of automatically recognizing who is speaking on the basis of individual information included in speech wave. Speaker recognition generally consists of training phase and a testing phase. In training phrase a user enrolls by providing voice samples to the system. The voice characteristics of every speaker are different. The system extracts speaker-specific information from the voice samples and builds the voice model database. In the testing phrase, the system compares the inputted voice sample with the previously enrolled speakers' features model and subsequently, makes a decision.

Speaker recognition could be categorized as speaker verification and speaker identification. Speaker verification is the process of accepting or rejecting the identity claim of a speaker. In speaker verification, the obtained features are only compared with the stored features of the speaker he/she claimed to be. Speaker identification is the process of determining which registered speaker provides a given utterance. In speaker identification, the obtained features are compared with all the speakers' features in voice model database.

Speaker identification system can also be classified into two types.

- (1) Text-dependent system: The recognition of the speaker's identity is based on his or her speaking one or more specific phrases or word. Text-dependent that is when the same text is spoken on both training and test phases.
- (2) Text-independent system: Speaker models capture characteristics of somebody's speech which show up irrespective of what one is saying. Text-independent that is there is no restriction of voice sample and it could be differ in training and test phases. The general phrase of speaker identification system is shown in Figure 1.

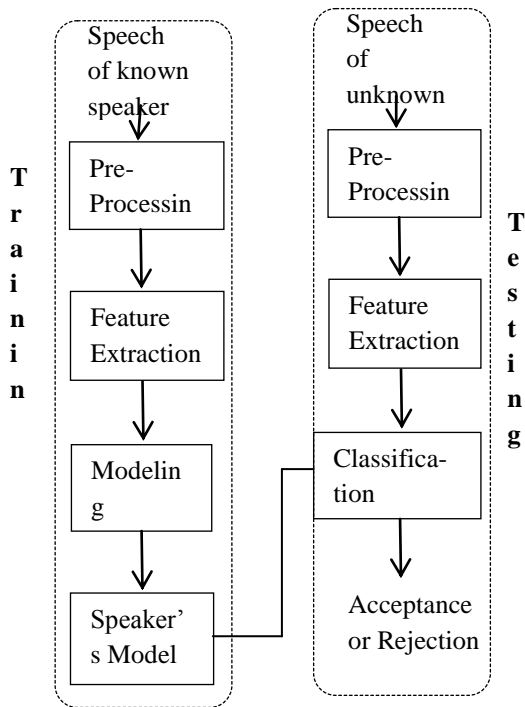


Figure 1. Speaker identification Phases

- (1) Training or Enrolment phase
 (2) Testing or Identification phase

In the training phase, each registered speaker has to provide samples of their speech so that the system can build or train a reference model for that speaker.

During the testing phase, the input speech is matched with stored reference model(s) and recognition decision is made.

This paper presents speaker recognition both in text-dependent and text-independent. The main focus of this paper is to analyze the better feature extraction method for English and Myanmar speech sample. And compare the proposed approach with conventional common used feature extraction method LPC. The PLP(Perceptual Linear Predictive) method is used to extract the voice characteristic features in the first phrase. And then hybrid VQ/GMM (Vector Quantization/Gaussian Mixture Model) method is used to identify the speakers based on their speech samples into respective classes and recognition. The experimental result shows that the accuracy is better and the execution time of the system is less by using PLP rather than other feature extraction methods. The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 briefly describes the feature extraction method used in our system. Section 3 explains the feature matching, Section 4 presents the decision making, Section 5 presents the experimental results and finally section 6 presents the conclusion.

2. Feature extraction

The objective of automatic speaker recognition is to identify the speaker by extracting features, characterizing and recognizing the information contained in the speech signal. Feature extraction is the process of extracting information from speech in a compact form to model the speaker. The purpose of this scheme is to convert the speech waveform into a set of features or rather feature vectors for further analysis. Different techniques are used for feature extraction such as Linear Predictive Coding (LPC), LPCC, MFCC, PLP. LPC is device used generally in audio signal processing and speech in

compressed representing the spectral envelope of speech in compressed form by using the information of a linear predictive model. Feature extraction in speech recognition is the way towards holding valuable data of the signal while disposing of repetitive and undesirable information. The main point of feature extraction is obtaining the set of features with low rate of change in order to keep the computational feasible. In the proposed system, Perceptual Linear Prediction (PLP) is used to extract features from the input speech while the training phase. To compare the effectiveness of the method, we evaluate the LPC method that is commonly used and powerful speech analysis technique.

2.1. Linear Predictive Coefficient (LPC)

Linear Predictive Coding (LPC): LPC is the good analysis technique for extracting features, determining the basic parameter and computational model of speech. In LPC, speech samples can be approximated as a linear combination of past speech samples. The number of samples is referred to as the order of LPC. LPC has the capability for compression, synthesis, identification of the speech signal. The LPC calculates a power spectrum of the signal. It is used for formant analysis. LPC is one of the most powerful speech analysis techniques and it has gained popularity as a formant estimation technique. While we pass the speech signal from speech analysis filter to remove the redundancy in signal, residual error is generated as an output. It can be quantized by smaller number of bits compare to original signal. So now, instead of transferring entire signal we can transfer this residual error and speech parameters to generate the original signal. A parametric model is computed based on least mean squared error theory, this technique being known as linear prediction (LP). By this method, the speech

signal is approximated as a linear combination of its p previous samples. In this technique, the obtained LPC coefficients describe the formants. The frequencies at which the resonant peaks occur are called the formant frequencies. Thus, with this method, the locations of the formants in a speech signal are estimated by computing the linear predictive coefficients over a sliding window and finding the peaks in the spectrum of the resulting LP filter. We have excluded n th coefficient and used next ten LPC Coefficients as shown in Figure [2].

2.2. Perceptual Linear Prediction (PLP)

PLP provides a representation corresponding to a smoothed short-term spectrum that has been compressed and equalized much as done in human hearing. It can be assumed similar to mel-cepstrum based features. In PLP technique, several well-known properties of hearing are simulated by practical engineering approximations, and the resulting auditory like spectrum of speech is approximated by an autoregressive all-pole model. PLP provides reduced resolution at high frequencies that indicates auditory filter bank based methods, yet provides the orthogonal outputs that typify cepstral analysis. PLP uses linear predictions for spectral smoothing; hence the name is perceptual linear prediction. The different steps of PLP analysis are as follows.

1. Power spectral estimate for the windowed speech signal is computed. This is done by windowing the analysis region with Hamming window, calculating the FFT and computing its squared magnitude.
2. The power spectrum within overlapping critical band filter responses is integrated. For PLP, trapezoidal shaped filters are applied at 1-bark intervals, where the bark axis [12] is derived from the frequency axis by using a warping function from Schroeder, given in

Equation 1. The Bark scale is linear at low frequencies and logarithmic at high frequencies.

$$\Omega(\omega) = 6 \ln \left\{ \frac{\omega}{1200\pi} + \left[\left(\frac{\omega}{1200\pi} \right)^2 + 1 \right]^{0.5} \right\} \quad (1)$$

Where ω is angular frequency in radians/seconds. This effectively compresses the higher frequencies into a narrow band. The critical band masking, symmetric frequency domain convolution on the Bark warped-frequency scale then allows low frequencies to mask the high frequencies while at the same time smoothing the spectrum an effect consistent with the psycho-acoustic results.

3. The spectrum is pre-emphasized to approximate the unequal sensitivity of human hearing at different frequencies. This step is implemented as an explicit weighting of the elements of critical band spectrum.

4. Spectral amplitude is compressed. The effect of this step is to reduce amplitude variations for the spectral resonances.

5. An inverse DFT is performed. As a result of this step autocorrelation coefficients are obtained, but these coefficients are from a compressed spectrum. Since the power spectrum values are real and even, only the cosine components of inverse DFT are to be calculated.

6. Spectral smoothing is performed. This step is done by solving the autoregressive equations constructed from the autocorrelations of the previous step.

7. The autoregressive coefficients are converted to cepstral variables as shown in Figure 2 [14].

3. Feature matching

Feature matching involves identification of the unknown speaker by comparing the extracted features from his/her voice input with the ones from a set of known speakers. The feature matching techniques used in speaker identification includes DTW, HMM, GMM, VQ and so on. The proposed system uses hybrid VQ/GMM model because execution time is less in VQ/GMM than baseline GMM. Moreover, the

speed of operation is significantly increased because the number of features is reduced which consequently decrease the complexity of identification system as shown in Figure 3.

8.

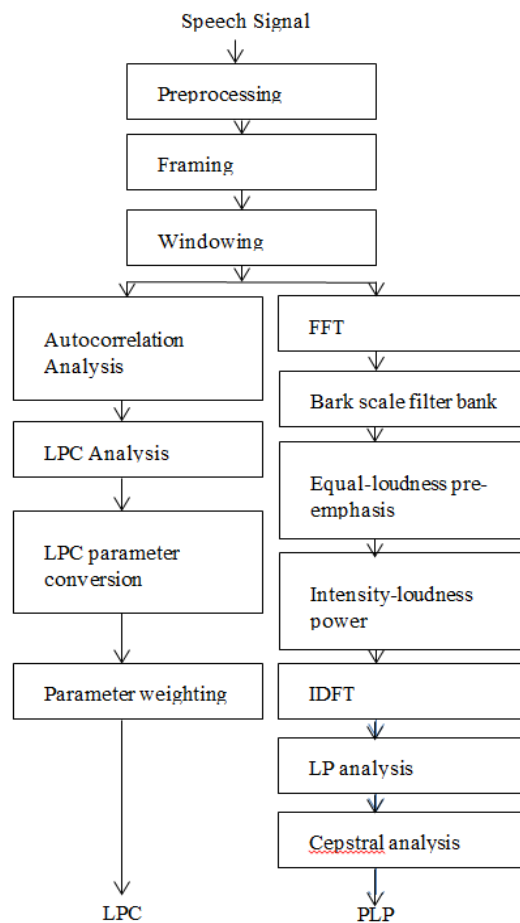


Figure 2. Block Diagram of PLP and LPC

1. Vector Quantization

Vector Quantization (VQ) is a classical technique for compressing signal processing capabilities. It can model probability density by distributing prototype vectors. It was used to compress data [1]. It works by dividing a large set of points (vectors) into groups for having the same number of points closest to them. The

central point represents each group as in the k-means and other pooling algorithms.

The d-dimensional vectors are mapped in the vector space R_k into a finite set of vectors $Q=\{q_i: i=1,2,\dots, n\}$ by vector quantizer. VQ works well for lossy data compression. The main elements in the mapping are code word and code book. The each vector q_i associated with quantizer is called a code word or a code vector and the set of all the code words are called a codebook. The region that belongs to nearest neighbour q_i is Voronoi region [1].

2. Gaussian Mixture Model

A Gaussian mixing model is a probabilistic model that assumes that all data points are produced from a mixture of a finite number of Gaussian distributions with unknown parameters. Blending models are the generalization of k-means clusters to incorporate information about the covariance structure of the data as well as the centers of latent Gaussians. The importance aspect of the any accent modelling is to collect and find the weight of the mean vector of each accent and mixture from the training speed utterance. The parameters of Gaussian Mixture Model are estimated with the help of maximum likelihood Gaussian Mixture Model [1]. The probability density function of arbitrary shape is approximated [1].

4. Decision making

There are two decisions for speaker identification: acceptance or rejection. If the input speech in the testing phase is same with the speech in the speaker database while training, the system accepts and identifies the speaker. Otherwise, the speaker will be rejected. A voice match will produce logic 1 while a mismatch, logic 0.

5. Experimental Results

To evaluate the performance of the proposed method, we collect a large number of speech signals, total 250 English and Myanmar speech

from 8 different speakers. Each speaker speaks 15 short speeches in different emotions.

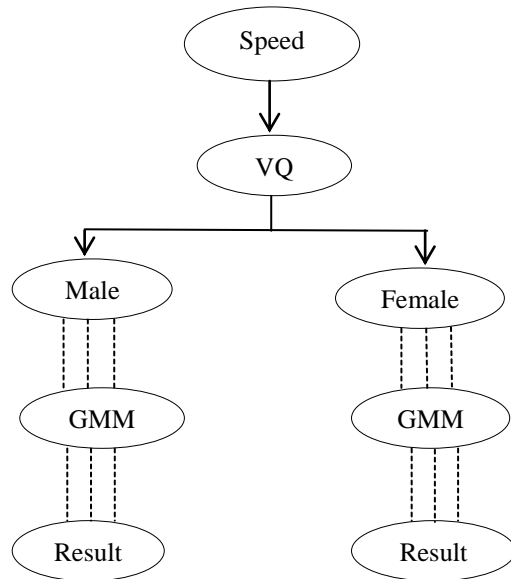


Figure 3. Classification Process using VQ and GMM

All speech samples are recorded using a microphone in normal environment (not too noisy) at 20 KHz sampling frequencies and are stored in wav format files. A set of 180 utterances are used for training the recognition model and the 70 utterances are used for testing. The performance of identification system are given in terms of Correct Identification Rate (CIR) which is :

$$CIR = \frac{\text{no. of tested correctly recognized}}{\text{total no. of trials}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

The CIR accuracy is calculated by dividing number of correct recognition to total no. of trials by speaker. Correct recognition means the number of times the speaker is identified by system. The total number of trials for each speaker can be taken anything but for more accuracy we have taken it 15. Example: speaker 1, the total number of trials is 15. If the

total number of correct recognition is 12, then the CIR will be 80%.

We build the voice feature model using the PLP and LPC and then hybrid VQ/GMM methods is used to identify the speaker. We use the 30ms Hamming window advanced by 10ms for each frame.

Table1. CIR result for text independent

Speakers	Text independent	
	PLP_CIR(%)	LPC_CIR(%)
P1	80	66.11
P2	87	73.65
P3	73	59.28
P4	93	81.98
P5	87	73.24
P6	80	66.69
P7	73	59.18
P8	87	73.24
P9	80	66.69
P10	73	60.21

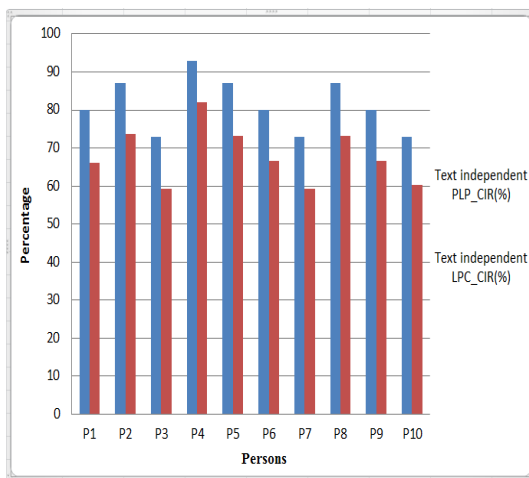


Figure 4. Shows the CIR(%) result of each speaker.

Table 2. CIR result for text dependent

Speakers	Text dependent	
	PLP_CIR(%)	LPC_CIR(%)
P1	89	77
P2	95	83
P3	71	59
P4	85	73
P5	82	70
P6	94	80
P7	67	55
P8	83	71
P9	77	65
P10	84	72

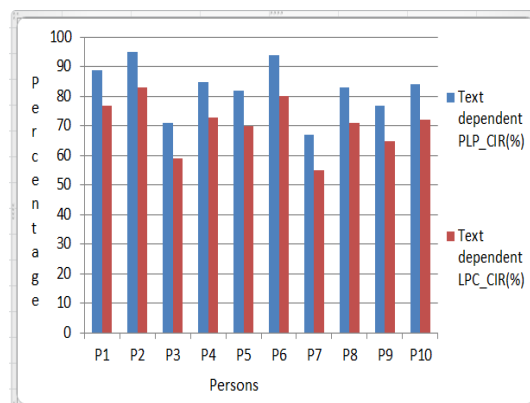


Figure 5. Shows the CIR(%) result of each speaker.

Table 1 and table 2 shows result for text independent and text dependent speaker recognition respectively. The graph for text independent speaker recognition is shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the graph for text dependent recognition. By examining the recognition results, PLP method got better accuracy than LPC method. Especially, PLC offered high accuracy in processing Myanmar speech where LPC cannot. By considering the processing time factor, it is noticed that the LPC

method was found to be time consuming when compared with PLP.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have investigated the use of the PLP method for feature extraction and VC/GMM method for speaker recognition using a text-independent and text-dependent system. We found that the use of the PLP would definitely better the performance of a speaker recognition system both for English and Myanmar speech. Formulation of the automatic speech recognition system is a challenging due to various effecting factors of human's speech like emotions, diseases, noises, session variably, etc. We plan to extend the proposed system to handle speeches in noisy environment and also in various emotions.

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