Discovering Linguistic Structures from Speech: Models and Applications

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Problem Overview

• A task that humans can perform naturally



• Goal

- Develop computational models for discovering linguistic structures from speech

- Unsupervised training of speech recognizers
- Take acoustic model as an example



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- Take acoustic model as an example
 - Training requires word transcriptions with a pronunciation lexicon



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- Unsupervised phonetic unit discovery



- Unsupervised training of speech recognizers
- Take acoustic model as an example
 - Training requires word transcriptions with a pronunciation lexicon
- Unsupervised phonetic unit discovery
 - Allows learning an acoustic model directly from speech data



Applications of Higher Level Linguistic Structures

• Sub-word units are useful for representing out-of-vocabulary words

Applications of Higher Level Linguistic Structures

- Sub-word units are useful for representing out-of-vocabulary words
- Unsupervised word discovery
 - Natural language processing on spoken documents without speech recognition



• Connection to the field of Cognitive Science

Outline

Discovering phonetic inventory [Lee and Glass, ACL 2012]

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures [Lee, O'Donnell, and Glass, TACL 2015] Word banana Syllable Phone /b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/ Part I of the talk

Part II of the talk

Part I: Discovering Phonetic Units from Speech

Discovering phonetic inventory [Lee and Glass, ACL 2012]

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures [Lee, O'Donnell, and Glass,TACL 2015 Word banana Syllable Phone /b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/ Part I of the talk

Part II of the talk

Problem Overview

• Find the phone units embedded in the observed speech data

Problem Overview

- Find the phone units embedded in the observed speech data
- Latent variables



- Phone boundaries
- Phone labels
- Phone inventory

Related Work

- Unsupervised acoustic unit discovery and modeling
 - Towards unsupervised training of speaker independent acoustic models [Jansen and Church, INTERSPEECH 2011]
 - Unsupervised hidden Markov modeling of spoken queries for spoken term detection without speech recognition [*Chan et al., INTERSPEECH 2011*]
 - Keyword spotting of arbitrary words using minimal speech resources [Garcia and Gish, ICASSP 2006]
 - Toward ALISP: A proposal for automatic language independent speech processing [Chollet et al., Computational Models of Speech Pattern Processing 1999]
 - A segment model based approach to speech recognition [Lee et al., ICASSP 1988]



• A simple explanation of how a spoken utterance is generated



• A simple explanation of how a spoken utterance is generated











• A simple explanation of how a spoken utterance is generated



/b/ /ax/ /n/

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/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/

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- Phone labels (c)
- HMM parameters (θ)















- Iterate n times
 - n = 20,000 in our experiments



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- A Chinese Restaurant Process (CRP) representation
 - Each table is a phonetic unit
 - Each speech segment is a customer $s_i = [x_t, x_{t+1}, ..., x_{t+Li}]$

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 $C_1 = 1$

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$$p(c_i = k, 1 \le k \le K | \dots) \propto \frac{n_k}{N + \alpha} p(s_i | \theta_k)$$
posterior probability DP prior likelihood

- n_k : number of customers at table k
- N : number of costumers seen so far
- lpha : concentration parameter of DP

- For a new segment (s_i), the posterior probability distribution of c_i :
 - si sits at an occupied table \longrightarrow si is not a new phone

$$p(c_i = k, 1 \le k \le K \mid \dots) \propto \frac{n_k}{N + \alpha} p(s_i \mid \theta_k)$$

- si opens a new table \longrightarrow si is a new phone

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 - si sits at an occupied table \longrightarrow si is not a new phone

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- si opens a new table \rightarrow si is a new phone

$$p(c_i = K + 1 | \cdots) \propto \frac{\alpha}{N + \alpha} \int_{\theta} p(s_i | \theta) d\theta$$

• For a new segment (s_i), the posterior probability distribution of c_i : - s_i sits at an occupied table \longrightarrow s_i is not a new phone

$$p(c_{i} = k, 1 \le k \le K | \dots) \propto \frac{n_{k}}{N + \alpha} p(s_{i} | \theta_{k})$$

$$= \text{ si opens a new table } \longrightarrow \text{ si is a new phone}$$

$$p(c_{i} = K + 1 | \dots) \propto \frac{\alpha}{N + \alpha} \int_{\theta} p(s_{i} | \theta) d\theta$$
Generate a sample for ci

Inference Procedure

- Iterate n times
 - n = 20,000 in our experiments

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Experiments

- Data set
 - TIMIT corpus
 - Multi-speaker, clean read speech, 16kHz sampling rate

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 - Correlation between induced phone units and English phones
 - Results learned from 3696 utterances

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- Data set
 - TIMIT corpus
 - Multi-speaker, clean read speech, 16kHz sampling rate
- Qualitative assessment
 - Correlation between induced phone units and English phones
 - Results learned from 3696 utterances
- Quantitative assessments
 - Phone segmentation
 - (Query-by-example spoken term detection)

- 123 phone units discovered from 3696 TIMIT utterances
 - A fine correlation between discovered phones and English phones

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Phone Segmentation

• TIMIT training portion

| | Recall | Precision | F-score |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Dusan et al. (unsupervised) | 75.2 | 66.8 | 70.8 |
| Qiao et al. (semi-supervised) | 77.5 | 76.3 | 76.9 |
| Our model (unsupervised) | 76.2 | 76.4 | 76.3 |

Part I: Discovering Phonetic Units from Speech

Discovering phonetic inventory [Lee and Glass, ACL 2012]

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Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures [Lee, O'donnell, and Glass,TACL 2015 Word banana Syllable Phone /b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/ DP mixture models with HMMs

- Discovered phonetic units are highly correlated with standard phones
- Achieves phone segmentation performance similar to the semisupervised baseline

Part II of the talk

Part II: Discovering Hierarchical Linguistic Structures

Discovering phonetic inventory [Lee and Glass, ACL 2012]

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

| Discovering hierarchical | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| [Lee, O'Donnell, and Glass, TACL 2015] | | |
| Word | banana | |
| Syllable | | |
| Phone /b/ /ax/ | /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/ | |
| | | |

DP mixture models with HMMs

- Discovered phonetic units are highly correlated with standard phones
- Achieves phone segmentation performance similar to the semisupervised baseline

Part II of the talk

Problem Overview

• Discover hierarchical linguistic structures from speech

- Phone-like, syllable-like and word-like units

Words:andMIT'sopenuniversityand| \wedge \wedge \wedge |||Syllables:[ae n d] [eh m] [ay] [t iy z] [ow p] [ax n] [y uw] [n ax] [v er] [s ax] [dx iy] [ae n d] \wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge Phones:ae n d eh m ay t iy z ow p ax n y uw n ax v er s ax dx iy ae n dInput:|||

Related Work

• Spoken term discovery

- Unsupervised patter discovery in speech [Park and Glass, IEEE Trans., 2008]
- Unsupervised speech processing with applications to query-by-example spoken term detection [*Zhang, Ph.D.Thesis 2013*]
- Towards spoken term discovery at scale with zero resources [Jansen et al., INTERSPEECH 2010]
- Word segmentation on phone transcripts of spoken utterances
 - A Bayesian framework for word segmentation: Exploring the effects of context [Goldwater et al., Cognition 2009]
 - Bayesian unsupervised word segmentation with nested Pitman-Yor language modeling [*Mochihashi et al., ACL 2009*]
 - Using adaptor grammars to identify synergies in the unsupervised acquisition of linguistic structure [Johnson, ACL-HLT 2008]

Spoken Term Discovery

• Discover speech segments that correspond to words

[Park and Glass, IEEE Trans., 2008] [Zhang, Ph.D. Thesis 2013] [Jansen et al., INTERSPEECH 2010]

Spoken Term Discovery

• Discover speech segments that correspond to words

university

[Park and Glass, IEEE Trans., 2008] [Zhang, Ph.D. Thesis 2013] [Jansen et al., INTERSPEECH 2010]

• Model words as sequences of phones

[Goldwater et al., ACL 2006] [Brent and Cartwrite, Cognition 1996] [Mochihashi et al., ACL 2009]

- Model words as sequences of phones
- Modeling more levels of structures improves word segmentation
 - Word \rightarrow Syllables Syllable \rightarrow Phones

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- Model words as sequences of phones
- Modeling more levels of structures improves word segmentation
 - Word \rightarrow Syllables Syllable \rightarrow Phones
- Adaptor grammars is an effective tool for learning rich structures

Model Overview

- Integrate adaptor grammars and the phone discovery model
 - To discover rich linguistic structures from speech
- Three components in the model

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Phone discovery model

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Adaptor grammars

A nonparametric Bayesian extension of probabilistic context-free grammars (PCFGs)

Noisy-channel model

Phone discovery model
PCFG Example

An example PCFG for generating phone sequences

| Ρ | C | -(| G | |
|---|---|----|---|--|
| | | | | |



Sen



Sen | Word

















0.1 Phn \rightarrow /p/

. . .









Adaptor Grammars

• A PCFG +





Adaptor Grammars

• A PCFG + cached subtrees for adapted nonterminals



Adaptor Grammars

• A PCFG + cached subtrees for adapted nonterminals



• Assume a current parse





• Cache subtrees for adapted nonterminals



• Cache subtrees for adapted nonterminals



• Generate a new parse



• Expand regular nonterminals using PCFG rules



• Expand regular nonterminals using PCFG rules



- Expand adapted nonterminals
 - Reuse a cached subtree



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- Expand adapted nonterminals
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• Expand adapted nonterminals



• Cache subtrees for adapted nonterminals



For Our Problem

- The phone inventory is unknown
 - Terminal symbols should be discovered phonetic unit ids



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Phone discovery model

First part of the talk

Recall

- A standard phone may map to multiple discovered units
- Various phone sequences for a word type



Recall

- A standard phone may map to multiple discovered units
- Various phone sequences for a word type



Recall

- A standard phone may map to multiple discovered units
- Various phone sequences for a word type
- These variations must be collapsed for lexicon learning



Collapse the variations by using a noisy-channel model

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Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Regularize the phonetic variations

Phone discovery model

Noisy-channel Model

• Assume the phonetic variations are outcomes of a noisy-channel


- Assume the phonetic variations are outcomes of a noisy-channel
- Formulate the noisy-channel model as a set of edit operations
 - Substitution, deletion, insertion, and exact-match



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- exact-match $49 \rightarrow 49$ substitution $58 \rightarrow 26$
- exact-match $32 \rightarrow 32$

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Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate a parse from adaptor grammars

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate a parse from adaptor grammars



• Generate phonetic variations



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate phonetic variations



• Generate phonetic variations



• Generate phonetic variations



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate phonetic variations



v bottom-layer phone units

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate speech data



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

• Generate speech data



• Generate speech data



• Generate speech data



x observed speech data

b phone segmentation

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

d

 \mathcal{U}

 \mathcal{V}

 ${\mathcal X}$

b

• Only speech data are observed



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model







Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

d

• Given v and b sample d and u

Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model







Inference and (b) and (u) resample (v)Given (d Sen Word d <u>Syl</u> <u>Syl</u> Phn Phn Adaptor grammars 3 16 58 49 \mathcal{U} Noisy-channel model Phone discovery model \mathcal{X}





Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model





Experimental Setup

• MIT Lecture Corpus

- The six lectures evaluated in [Park and Glass, IEEE Trans. 2008]
- Each lecture contains \sim I hour of speech data by a single speaker
- Each lecture contains a set of subject-specific keywords
- Qualitative assessment
 - Sentence and word parses
 - Analysis on the discovered hierarchical linguistic structures
- Quantitative assessment
 - Coverage of subject-specific keywords
 - (Word and phone segmentation)

Parse of a Full Sentence

37 12 67 88 158 1 2 19 20 41 47 13 103 48 91 4 67 25 8 99 29 44 22 103 4 37 12 67

Parse of a Full Sentence



Parse of a Full Sentence



MIT's only occurs 3 times in the lecture

open and university almost always appear together in the lecture
• Two instances of "collaboration"

• Two instances of "collaboration"



- Two instances of "collaboration"
 - Noisy-channel model regularizes the bottom-layer phone units



- Two instances of "collaboration"
 - Noisy-channel model regularizes the bottom-layer phone units
 - Highly reusable sub-word structures



Structure Reuse

• Examples of reusing [6 7 30]

 [50 | 37]
 [28 | 6]
 [18 3 | 43]
 [6 7 30]

 kcl k
 el ae
 bcl ax r
 ey sh en



Subject-specific Keywords

- Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency (TFIDF) scores
 - The top 20 words for each lecture [Park and Glass, IEEE Trans. 2008]
- Keyword examples
 - From the seminar about the book "The world is flat" by Thomas Friedman

| ١. | flat | 6. | flattener | II. airline | 16. | huge |
|----|---------------|-----|-----------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2. | globalization | 7. | dollar | 2. thousand | 17. | create |
| 3. | collaboration | 8. | China | 3. outsourcing | <mark>8</mark> . (| convergence |
| 4. | India | 9. | southwest | 4. really | 19. | connect |
| 5. | era | 10. | argue | 5. platform | 20. | chapter |





📕 Park & Glass, 2008 🛛 📕 Full model











• Two models for discovering linguistic structures from speech

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Discovering phonetic inventory

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

- DP mixture models with HMMs
- Discovered phonetic units are highly correlated with standard phones

• Two models for discovering linguistic structures from speech

Discovering phonetic inventory

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures Word banana Syllable Phone /b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

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/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

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 Integrate adaptor grammars with the phone discovery model

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Discovering phonetic inventory

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Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures

- DP mixture models with HMMs
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- Integrate adaptor grammars with the phone discovery model
 - Noisy-channel model is critical for learning lexical units

• Two models for discovering linguistic structures from speech

Discovering phonetic inventory

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

Discovering hierarchical linguistic structures

- DP mixture models with HMMs
- Discovered phonetic units are highly correlated with standard phones

- Integrate adaptor grammars with the phone discovery model
 - Noisy-channel model is critical for learning lexical units
 - Synergies between word and phone learning

Models and Applications

Discovering phonetic inventory

[Lee and Glass, ACL 2012]

/b/ /ax/ /n/ /ae/ /n/ /ax/

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Models and Applications

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Models and Applications



Future Work

- Learning from more sensory data
 - Speech and visual streams

The doggie is sleeping





Future Work

- Building spoken language systems based on discovered vocabulary
 - For low-resource languages or languages without a writing system



Thank you. (<u>kite.com</u>)

Discovered Phone Units -- 300 utterances

- 43 phone units discovered from 300 TIMIT utterances
 - Phone units are correlated with English broad phone classes



Dirichlet Process (DP)

• Let's start with Dirichlet distribution

- Dirichlet distribution is a distribution over the K-dim probability simplex



Dirichlet Process (DP)

• Let's start with Dirichlet distribution

- Dirichlet distribution is a distribution over the K-dim probability simplex
- Assume we have 3 HMMs in the mixture



Inference for HMM Parameters (θ)

- HMM is used to model each phone
 - Three states with only left-to-right and self transitions
 - Always start from the first state
 - A diagonal GMM is used for the emission distributions



Inference for HMM Parameters (θ)

- HMM is used to model each phone
 - Three states with only left-to-right and self transitions
 - Always start from the first state
 - A diagonal GMM is used for the emission distributions
- Latent variables
 - Transition probabilities (a)
 - Mixture weights (**w**)
 - Means (µ)
 - Variances (σ^2)



Priors and Posteriors for HMM

- Priors
 - Dirichlet distributions for transition probabilities (a) and mixture weights (w)
 - Normal-gamma distributions for Gaussian parameters ($\mu,\sigma^{2})$

Priors and Posteriors for HMM

- Priors
 - Dirichlet distributions for transition probabilities (a) and mixture weights (w)
 - Normal-gamma distributions for Gaussian parameters (μ, σ^2)
- Posteriors
 - Gather relevant counts from customer segments



Priors and Posteriors for HMM

• Priors

- Dirichlet distributions for transition probabilities (a) and mixture weights (w)
- Normal-gamma distributions for Gaussian parameters (μ , σ^2)

Posteriors

- Gather relevant counts from customer segments
- Update prior distributions
- Sample new values for the latent variables



Dirichlet Process (DP)

- Conceptually
 - Dirichlet process can be viewed as an infinite case of Dirichlet distribution



- Unknown # of HMMs
 - Assume there are infinite number of HMMs first
 - Infer the finite number of HMM are needed to explain the finite data
 - By integrating $\,\beta$ during inference, DP provides a nice math format to find the #

PCFG Review

- A PCFG is a quintuple $(N, T, S, R, \{\pi^q\}_{q \in N})$
- N: a finite set of <u>nonterminal</u> symbols
- T: a finite set of <u>terminal</u> symbols - $N \cap T = \emptyset$
- S:start symbol
 - $-S \in N$
- *R* : production rules
 - $-R = \{N \to (N \cup T)^*\}$
- π^q : rule probabilities

 $-q \in N$





Acoustic Landmarks

- Naively, every frame can be a phone boundary
 - In fact, some frames are more likely to be boundaries and some are less likely
 - Compute landmarks [Glass et al. 2003] and only do inference on landmarks
 - A language-independent method



- Disadvantage
 - Put an upper bound on recall rate
- Advantage
 - Reduce inference load

Spoken Term Detection

- Given a spoken query (w), find all spoken documents that contain w
 - 3696 utterances for discovering phone units
 - Compute posterior-grams on the HMM states of the discovered phone units
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x : a single frame of feature vector

 $State_{i,j}$: the j-th state of the i-th HMM

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x: a single frame of feature vector

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$$posterior-gram(x) = \left[\frac{p(State_{i,j} \mid x)}{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{j=1}^{3} p(State_{i,j} \mid x)} \right] \text{ for } 1 \le i \le K \text{ and } 1 \le j \le 3$$

K: the total number of HMMs

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 - Apply dynamic time warping to keyword detection [Zhang et al, 2009]

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P@N: the average precision of top N hits

| P@N | EER |
|-----|-----|
| r@N | |

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| English Monophone (Supervised) | 74 | 11.8 |
| Thai Monophone Model (Supervised) | 56.6 | 14.9 |
| Our model | 63 | 16.9 |

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| English Monophone (Supervised) | 74 | 11.8 |
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| Our model | 63 | 16.9 |
| Zhang 2009 (GMM) (Unsupervised) | 52.5 | 16.4 |
| Zhang 2012 (DBM) (Unsupervised) | 51.1 | 14.7 |

• An unknown set of phone units

- An unknown set of phone units
 - Impose a Dirichlet Process prior to infer the number of phones

- An unknown set of phone units
 - Impose a Dirichlet Process prior to infer the number of phones
- Is Dirichlet process (DP) a proper prior for this task?
 - Does phone frequency inherit power law?

Phone Frequency -- Monophone



Phone Frequency -- Triphone



- An unknown set of phone units
 - Impose a Dirichlet Process prior to infer the number of phones
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- An unknown set of phone units
 - Impose a Dirichlet Process prior to infer the number of phones
- Is Dirichlet process (DP) a proper prior for this task?
 - Does phone frequency inherit power law?
 - DP should be a reasonable prior to start with

Generative Story

• A simple explanation of how a spoken utterance is generated



Language Acquisition Modeling

• Previous work relies on highly pre-processed input data



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I uh k ae t dh ae t d ao g iy

Word
egmentation
Modellook(l uh k)
(ae t)
thatModelat(ae t)
(dh ae t)
doggie

Other tasks such as phonetic unit learning are ignored

- Ground language acquisition modeling in real sensory data
- Ultimately allow machines to acquire a language like humans

- Useful for representing out-of-vocabulary words
- Spoken document summarization



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- Sub-word units are useful for representing out-of-vocabulary words
- Unsupervised word discovery
 - Automatic spoken document summarization without speech recognition



latent word structures

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• Connection to Cognitive Science (CogSci)

- Computational models for learning from speech are of great interests in CogSci

Model Overview

- Integrate adaptor grammars and the phone discovery model
 - To discover rich linguistic structures from speech
- Three components in the model

Adaptor grammars

Discover hierarchical linguistic structures (Words, Syllables etc)

Noisy-channel model

Phonetic discovery model

Model Overview

- Integrate adaptor grammars and the phone discovery model
 - To discover rich linguistic structures from speech
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Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Phonetic discovery model

Discover the phonetic units from acoustic data

Model Overview

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Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Bridges the other two components

Phonetic discovery model

Inference

D

Given (and \mathcal{U} d Sen Word d <u>Syl</u> <u>Syl</u> Phn Phn 16 58 49 3 \mathcal{U} 3 5 16 37 49 V X

Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Phonetic discovery model

Inference



Initialization

d

 \mathcal{U}

 \mathcal{V}

 $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{X}}$

b



Adaptor grammars

Noisy-channel model

Phonetic discovery model

Initialization





Inference on Phone Boundaries (b)

- Boundary variables
 - A priori, every frame can be a phone boundary



Inference on Phone Boundaries (b)

- Boundary variables
 - A priori, every frame can be a phone boundary
 - Boundary variables take binary values



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- Posterior: examine one boundary variable (*b*_t) at a time
 - Fix the current values of other boundary variables
 - Consider both 0 and 1 for b_t and the respective segmentation outcomes



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Prior and Posterior for Phone Boundaries

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Noisy-channel Model

- Assume the phonetic variations are outcomes of a noisy-channel
- Formulate the noisy-channel model as a set of edit operations
 - Substitution, deletion, insertion, and exact-match



exact-match $49 \rightarrow 49$

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- exact-match $49 \rightarrow 49$ substitution $58 \rightarrow 26$
- exact-match $32 \rightarrow 32$

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