

Examples: Student's projects

Introduction

Example 1: A basic
Frisian TTS

Example 2: Digit
recognition in two
languages

Building a basic ASR
system

ASR evaluation

Conclusion

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Speech technology for “disadvantaged” languages

- Language barriers limit access to digital resources
- Speech technology needed for access to services, eg, phone services
- Language often part of national, cultural, and political identity
- Lack of Language and Speech technology will put communities at a disadvantage
- Many speech technology projects for “minority” languages started by single “students” of the language

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Basic speech technology projects

- Demonstration TTS or ASR systems *can* be build by a single person
- All tools available on the internet for free
- Basic systems for a new language take around 3-6 person months
- Systems and work are modular
- Systems should be constructed iteratively
- Start with an existing system, and change it gradually
- If digital resources are available, use them!

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Master's thesis

- No speech technology available for Frisian
- Language community is organized scientifically
- There is “political” demand for Frisian Language Technology
- Student is a native speaker
- 4 Month thesis project
- Dutch diphones (no time to create Frisian set)
- Aim: “bootstrap” the development of a TTS system

[Dijkstra et al.(2005)Dijkstra, Pols, and van Son]

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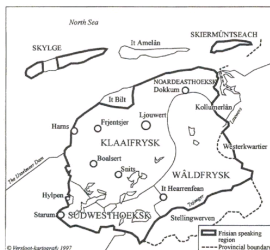
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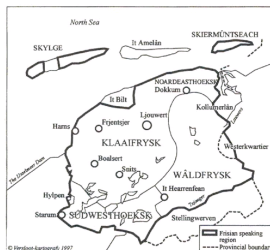


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West Germanic language (Indo-European)

- Main dialects: Klaaifrysk, Wâldfrysk, and Sûd-Westhoecksk
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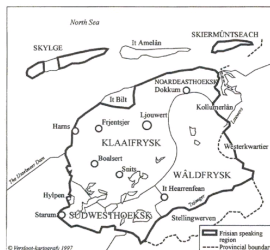


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Total population of *Friesland* $> 634,000$ [Gorter and Jonkman(1995)]

- 55% native speakers (350,000)
- 74% understands Frisian (470,000)
- 65% reads Frisian (410,000)
- 17% writes in Frisian (110,000)

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Start with an existing system, and change it gradually

- *Frisian* is close to *Dutch* in many respects
- *Nextens* and those that build it were available
- Contacts with the *Fryske Akademy* could supply language help
- A digital pronunciation lexicon could be “borrowed”
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- *Fryske Akademy*
- MBROLA [MBROLA(2005)]
- Nextens [Nextens(2003)]
- Festival [Black and Lenzo(2003b)]
- Pre-publication of "Frysk Hânwurdbboek" (Concise dictionary)
- Worldbet [Hieronymus(1994)]
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Example 1: A basic Frisian TTS: Nextens

The architecture of NeXTeNS (Festival):

- **Token Module:** Tokenization
- **POS Module:** Part-Of-Speech tagging
- **Syntactic Module:** Syntax parsing (*disabled*)
- **Phrasing Module:** Phrase break prediction
- **Intonation Module:** Sentence accents
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Building a Frisian TTS

- **Construct Frisian Worldbet phonetic alphabet**
[Hieronymus(1994)]
- Convert pronunciation lexicon to Worldbet
- Phrasing, Tune, Pause: Use Dutch (small adaptations)
- Tokenization: Enter Frisian numbers and abbreviations
- POS: Translated Dutch *Function* wordlist
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- POS: Translated Dutch *Function* wordlist
- POS: Use only *Content/Function* word difference
- Intonation: Accent every other *Content* word

Building a Frisian TTS

- Construct Frisian Worldbet phonetic alphabet
[Hieronymus(1994)]
- Convert pronunciation lexicon to Worldbet
- Phrasing, Tune, Pause: Use Dutch (small adaptations)
- Tokenization: Enter Frisian numbers and abbreviations
- POS: Translated Dutch *Function* wordlist
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Building a Frisian TTS: Word module

- Pronunciation lexicon
- Letter-to-Sound rules, eg,
(VOWEL [- g] VOICEDC = - G)
- Syllable stress rules, ie, strong/weak syllables
- Map complex sounds, eg, nasalized vowels and triphthongs

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Building a Frisian TTS: Other modules

- **Postlexical: Adapted Dutch rules**
- Postlexical: Map Frisian wordbet to Dutch SAMPA symbols
- Duration: Shorten schwa, change duration long vowels
- Fundamental frequency: Adapt Dutch ToDI module
- Waveform synthesis: Map each "Frisian" phone to the "nearest" Dutch MBROLA phone

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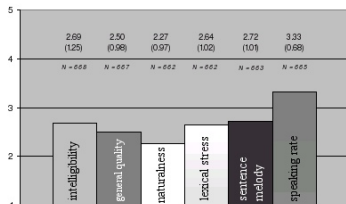
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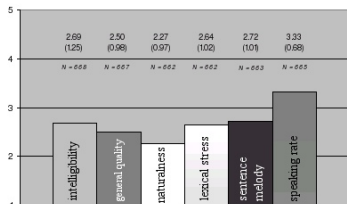
Example 1: A basic Frisian TTS: Evaluation



Mean judgments for 20 test sentences

- End evaluation over WWW with 32 native subjects
- 10 short (< 13 words) 10 long (\geq 13 words)
- Example of **short** and **long** sentence
- 6 qualities on a 5 point scale (higher is better/more rapid)

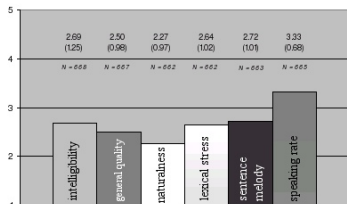
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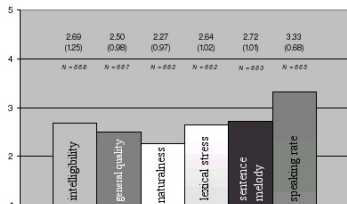
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Example 1: A basic Frisian TTS

	short $N \approx 331$	long $N \approx 331$	total $N \approx 662$
intelligibility	2.57 (1.25)	2.80 (1.24)	2.69 (1.25)
quality	2.51 (0.99)	2.50 (0.97)	2.50 (0.98)
naturalness	2.31 (0.97)	2.22 (0.97)	2.27 (0.97)
lexical stress	2.67 (1.05)	2.58 (0.99)	2.64 (1.02)
sentence melody	2.79 (0.99)	2.64 (1.02)	2.72 (1.01)
speaking rate	3.30 (0.65)	3.35 (0.71)	3.33 (0.68)

Mean judgments (standard deviation)

- Mean ratings **below 3** (mid-point)
- Naturalness rated lowest
- Sentence length did not change ratings
- Ratings were above 1!
- Note: This was done using a Dutch diphone set

Judgments on a 5 point scale, higher is better. For speaking rate higher is more rapid

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Example 2: Digit recognition in two languages

Kinyarwanda: Official language of Rwanda

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- 1 Building the task grammar
- 2 Constructing a dictionary for the models
- 3 Recording the data.
- 4 Creating transcription files for training data
- 5 Encoding the data (feature processing)
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- 7 Evaluating the recognizers against the test data
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```
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```

```
$digit=RIMWE | KABIRI | GATATU | KANE | GATANU | GATANDATU |  
KARINDWI | UMUNANI | ICYENDA | ZERO;  
(SENT-START [ $digit ] SENT-END)
```

```
# Dutch
```

```
$digit = EEN | TWEE | DRIE | VIER | VIJF | ZES | ZEVEN | ACHT |  
NEGEN | NUL;  
$name = [ ROB ] (VAN SON) | [ FRANS ] ADRIAANS | [ TOM ] LENTZ |  
[ MARIJN | MARINUS ] KOOLEN | [ ORK ] (DE ROOIJ) | [ MARKUS ]  
HEUKELOM | [ DAAN ] VREESWIJK;  
( SENT-START ( DRAAI <$digit> | BEL $name) SENT-END )
```

Task Grammars

- Define digits and names
- Define grammar on vocabular
- Square brackets enclose optional items

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Training

- **Transcribe and (feature) encode utterances**
- Feed as much speech as possible to the HTK training
- Kinyarwanda uses 3 male and 3 female speakers, 150 sentences
- Words were hand-labeled
- Dutch uses 1000 labeled sentences from the IFAcorpus (4 male, 4 female speakers)
- Dutch recorded 150 task sentences from 4 male speakers (total 600)
- Recorded utterances were transcribed automatically
- Put all files in correct format and fire up HTK training

[HTK(2002)]

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Subject	Words correct	Substitution errors	Percentage
Subject 1	9	1	90%
Subject 2	8	2	80%
Subject 3	8	2	80%
Subject 4	8	2	80%

Live data recognition results

- 4 New subjects
- Read out all 10 numbers
- HTK self-test results (*not* live):
- Sentence Recognition Rate: 92.00% (N=50)
- Word Recognition Rate: 94.87% (N=156)

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TRAINED ON	TESTED ON
IFA + Domain	Domain, training speakers
IFA + Domain	Domain, 'unknown' speaker
IFA + Domain	New sentences, training speakers
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- Two corpora: IFA corpus and Domain corpus
- Testing using randomly selected sentences
- Test set not used during training

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Markus	99.78	72.60
Ork	99.43	89.13
Frans	99.78	81.63

LEFT OUT PERCENTAGE	WORD RECOGNITION (%)	SENTENCE RECOGNITION (%)
12	99.41	92.86
25	99.80	90.57
50	99.84	89.35

Top: Testing on a new speaker, Bottom: Testing on new sentences

New speakers are worse than new sentences

- More speakers needed for independence
- Sentence recognition drops sharply
- New speaker *and* new sentences
Recognition: Word - 99.57%, Sent - 84.35%

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Simple TTS and ASR can be done in a few months

- Free tools are available
- People like it when their language is used
- Recording speech is the most laborious step
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