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Speech recognition in Human Machine interaction

- A full interaction requires human input
- Input with speech is often faster and easier than with text or pointers
 - Over the phone
 - With large or unlimited choice, eg, person and place names
 - Free text, eg, dictation messages
 - With hands occupied, eg, while driving
- Sometimes speech input is ineffective
 - In a noisy surrounding, eg, a train station
 - With small menu based selections
 - Large variation in speakers, eg, second language speakers
 - Tasks that are difficult to describe verbally, eg, routing on a map

Many pictures are from [Jurafsky and Martin(2000)]

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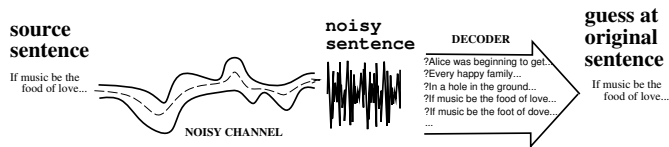
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Automatic Speech Recognition

Speech recognition
and synthesis



ASR is a database retrieval problem

- A speech recogniser is a clever example database
- The problem is: How to retrieve the most likely words from the acoustic signal
- Break down into two problems: Get the most likely
 - word candidates given the sound
 - word sequence given the available word candidates
- Currently both problems are solved stochastically

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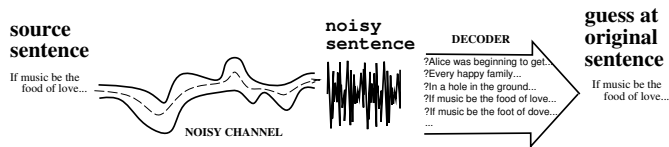
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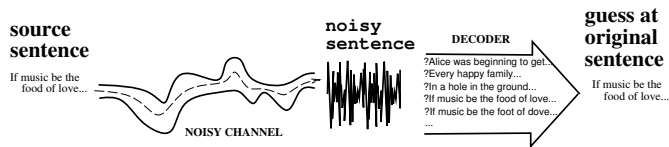
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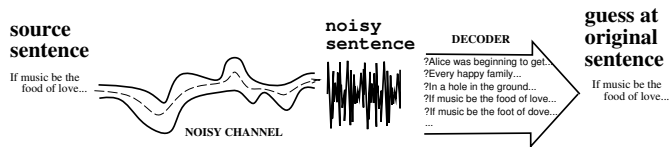


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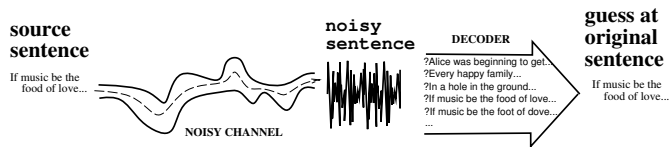
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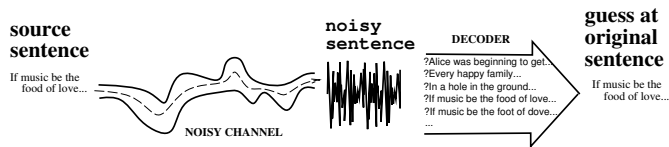
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Speech Input: How to partition the ASR problem

Speech recognition
and synthesis

What is the most likely word sequence given the observed sound:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{argmax}_{\text{Words}} P(\text{Words} | \text{Observation}) = \\ \operatorname{argmax}_{\text{Words}} \frac{P(\text{Observation} | \text{Words}) \cdot P(\text{Words})}{P(\text{Observation})} \end{aligned}$$

Split this into two separate tasks

- $P(\text{Observation})$ is a normalization constant, independent of word recognition (ignore it)
- $P(\text{Observation} | \text{Words})$ is the acoustic *likelihood* of the words
- $P(\text{Words})$ is the *prior* of the word sequence (ie, the language model)

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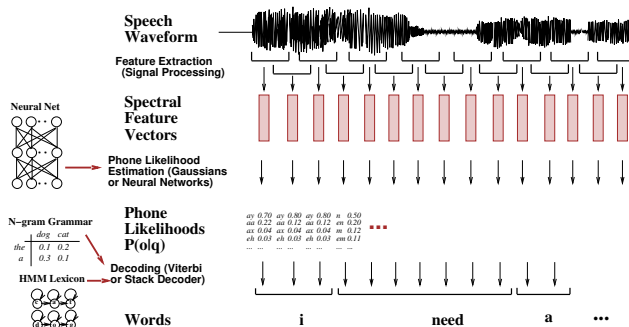
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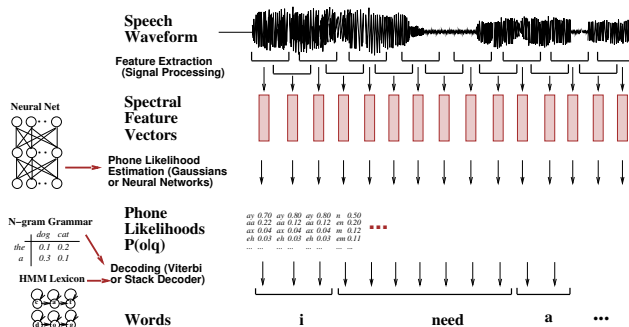
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- Determine word likelyhoods $P(\text{Sound}|\text{Words})$ for each word
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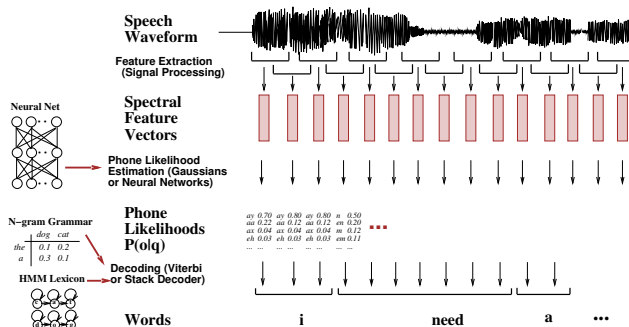
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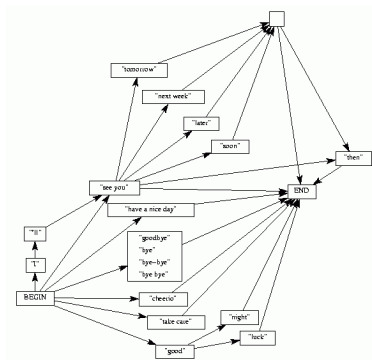
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Farewell Finite State example

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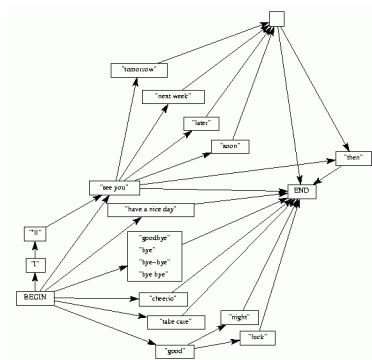
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Estimate $P(\text{Words}) =$

$$P(w_1, \dots, w_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(w_i | w_1 \dots w_{i-1})$$

Approximate $P(\text{Words})$ by modeling

$$P(w_i | w_1 \dots w_{i-1}) \approx$$

- $P(w_i | \text{State}_\alpha)$: Finite State Grammar
- $P(w_i | w_{i-n+1} \dots w_{i-1})$: N-gram
- $\sum_{\alpha} P(w_i | \text{Tree}_\alpha(w_1 \dots w_{i-1})) \cdot P(\text{Tree}_\alpha(w_1 \dots w_{i-1}))$: Context Free Grammar with (lexicalized) tree structures build from $(w_1 \dots w_{i-1})$

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Collect *word*, *word-pair* and *word-triplet* frequencies

[Goodman(2001)]

- Impossible to get frequencies of all possible bi/trigrams
- Construct smoothed probability distributions
- Special "states" for sentence start and "end"
- $P(\text{Words}) \approx P(w_i | w_{i-2}, w_{i-1})$
- Use interpolation or backoff, eg,
 $P(w_i | w_{i-2}, w_{i-1}) \approx \alpha \cdot P(w_i | w_{i-1})$ if the tri-gram
 (w_{i-2}, w_{i-1}, w_i) was not observed

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[Sima'an and Buratto(2003)]

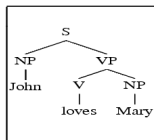


Fig.1. A toy tree-bank

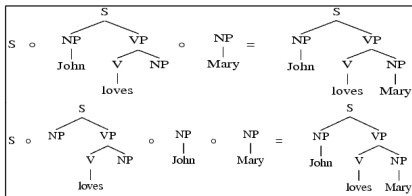


Fig.2. Two different derivations of the same parse

Subtree have occurrence and insertion probabilities

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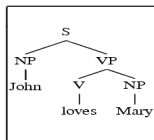


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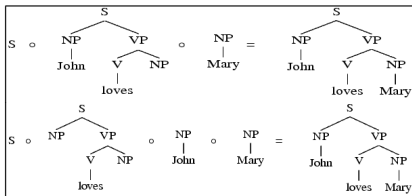


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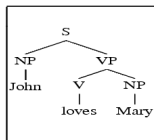


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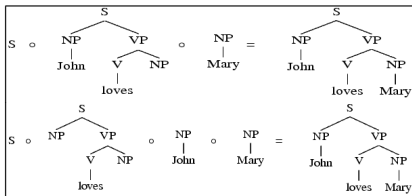


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where

$$H(\mathfrak{G}) = \sum_{w_i} -P(w_i | w_1 \dots w_{i-1}) \cdot \log_2 P(w_i | w_1 \dots w_{i-1})$$

For a tri-gram grammar this corresponds to:

- $P(w_i | w_{i-2}, w_{i-1}) = \frac{P(w_{i-2}, w_{i-1}, w_i)}{P(w_{i-2}, w_{i-1})}$
- Perplexity corresponds to the difficulty of predicting the next word
- A lower perplexity is better for ASR

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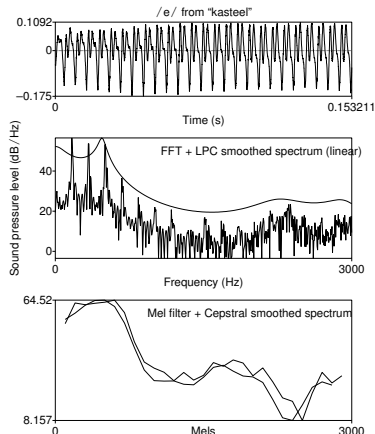
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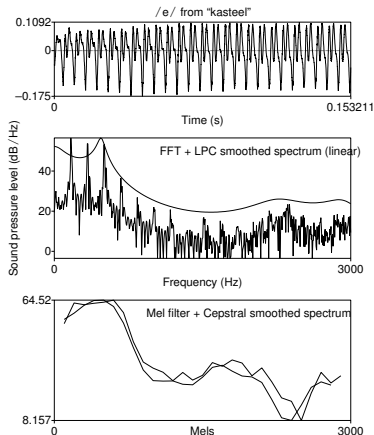
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Spectral analysis: FFT, LPC, PLP, MFCC, filter-banks



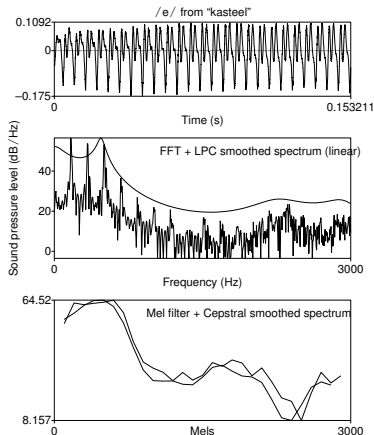
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- FFT: too noisy
- LPC: wrong sensitivity
- Resolution of the ear (Mel Freq, PLP, Filter banks)
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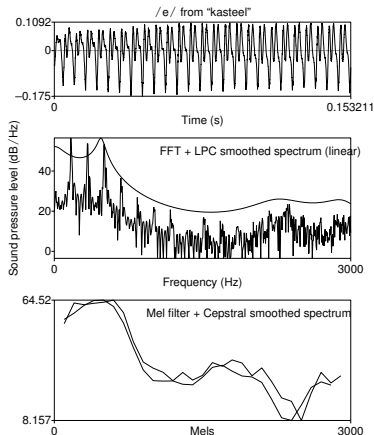
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Spectral analysis: FFT, LPC, PLP, MFCC, filter-banks



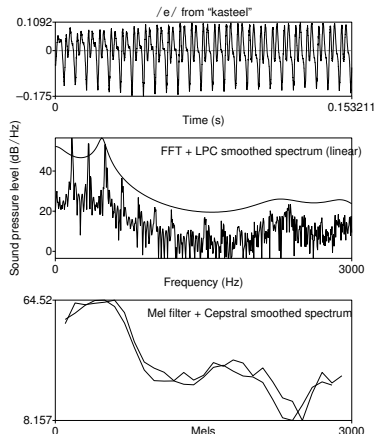
- Need a spectral representation
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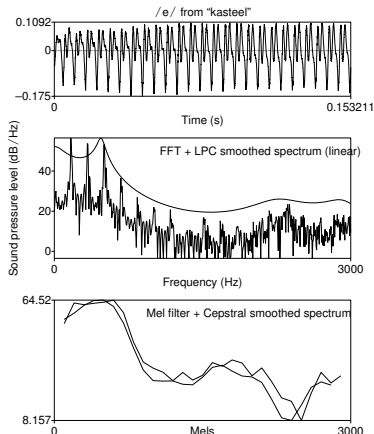
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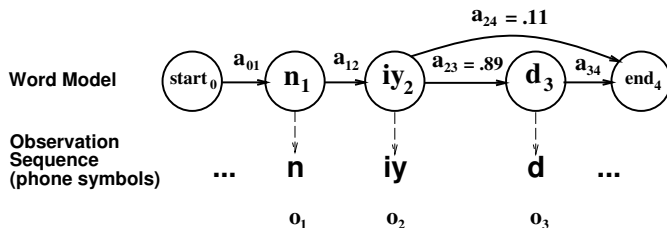
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Hidden Markov Models: Markov chains

Speech recognition
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Word models: simple phone state model for *need*

- Each transition has a probability
- start and end are special states
- Each state *or* each transition has associated sound observations with a distinct probability density function (PDF)

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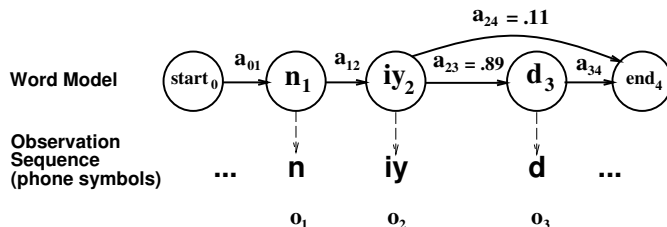
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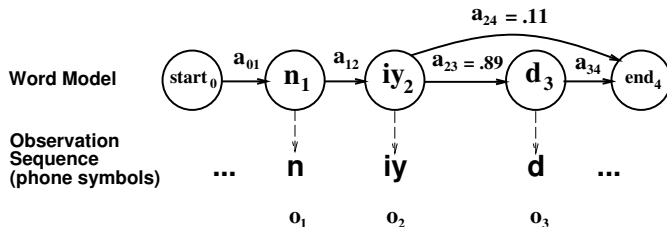
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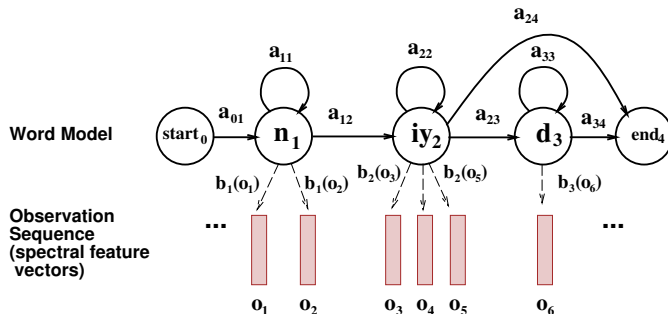


Word models: simple phone state model for *need*

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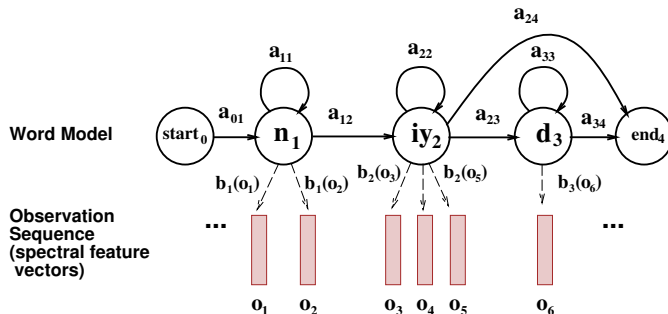
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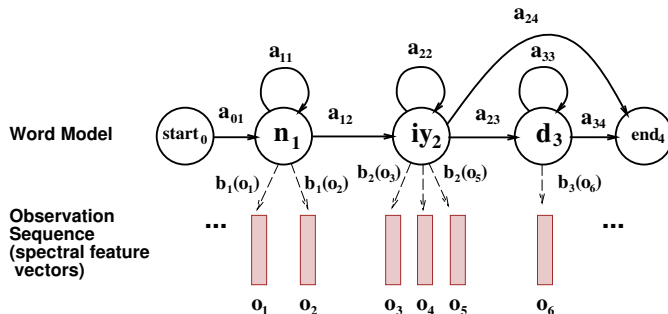
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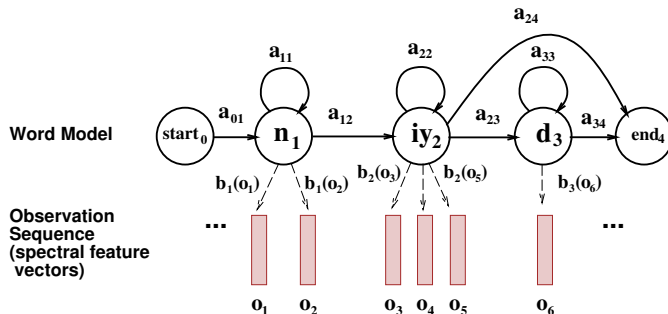
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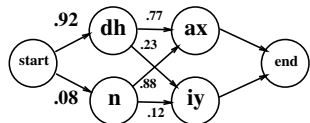
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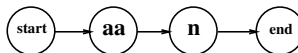
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Hidden Markov Models: Pronunciation networks

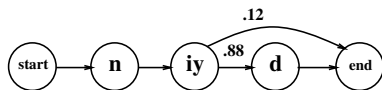
Speech recognition
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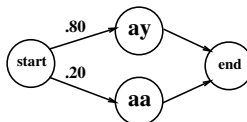
Word model for "the"



Word model for "on"



Word model for "need"



Word model for "I"

Construct phone state models for each word in the dictionary

- The possible pronunciations for each word have to be encoded in the dictionary
- The transition probabilities are "trained" from the frequency of occurrence of the pronunciation in the speech corpus

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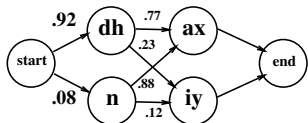
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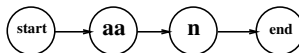
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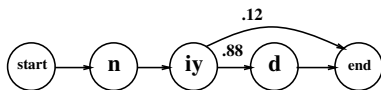
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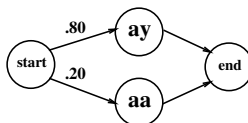
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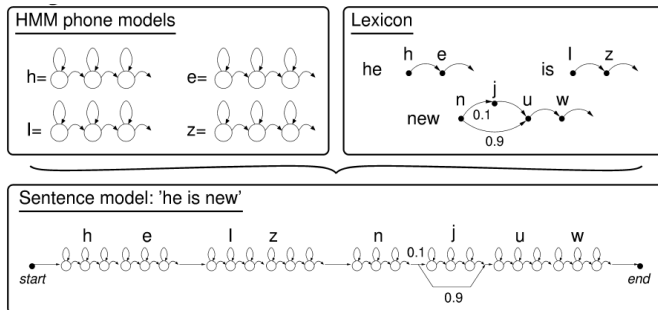
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Phone models are concatenated into utterance networks

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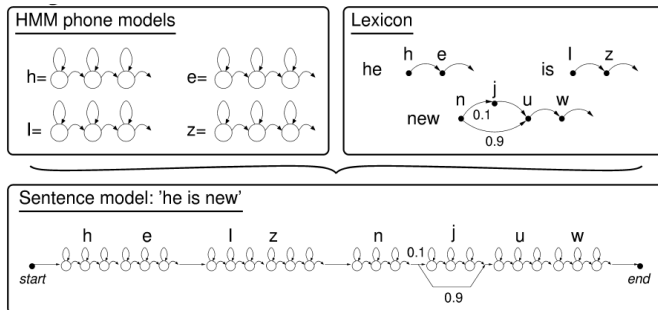
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Hidden Markov Models: Context Sensitive Phone latices [CSLU()]

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Oregon Graduate Institute
of Science and Technology

Context-Dependent Modeling (vocabulary independent)

divide each phoneme into 1, 2, or 3 parts.

example: "yes" /y E s/:

\$sil<y y>\$mid \$front<E <E> E>\$fric \$mid<s s>\$sil

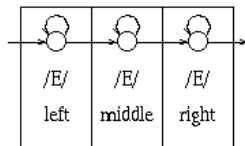
/E/ model

previous phoneme

front
mid
back
sil
nasal
retro
fric
other

8 broad contexts

current phoneme



17 categories per 3-part phoneme

next phoneme

front
mid
back
sil
nasal
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other

8 broad contexts

The National Institute of Standards (NIST) and the DARPA program organize evaluation "contests" for ASR systems

- Tests contain mandatory core components *hubs*
- Tests contain optional specialized components *spokes*
- Tests evolve to include not only Speech-to-Text but also who spoke when, speaker localization etc.
- Includes varying speech material and conditions
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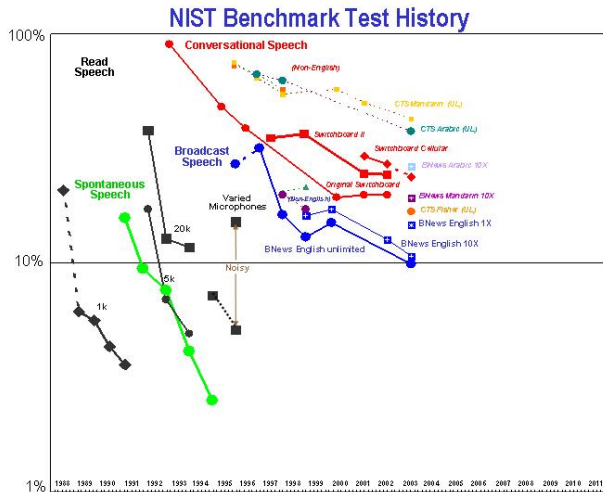
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Evaluation: NIST results [Pallett(2003)]

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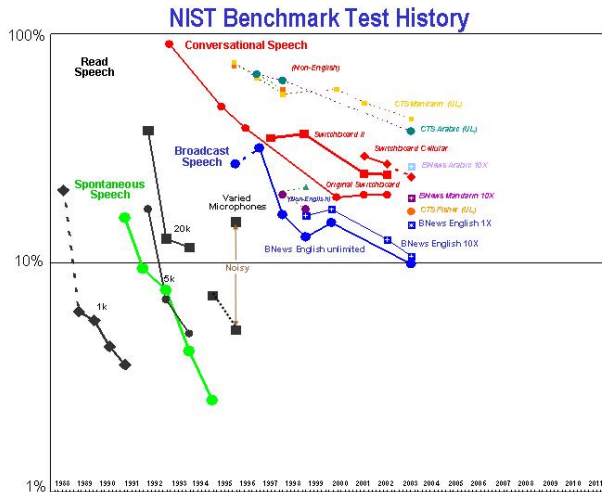
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- WER (vertical) go down over time
- More complex tasks introduced over time

Evaluation: NIST results [Pallett(2003)]

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Use DTW to match speech samples

- Record or collect different realizations (eg, normal/fast) of the same utterances
- Use praat (Formant & LPC -, to MFCC...) to create *Mel Frequency based Cepstral Coefficients*
- Generate a dynamic time warp (To DTW..., match start and end and use *no slope restrictions*)
- Paint it
- Use the same technique to select a spoken number from a sequence of numbers. Note that there can be problems from matching the other numbers

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See chapter 7.1, 7.2, 7.5 [Jurafsky and Martin(2000)]



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