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Wavelet-based dynamic time warping

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1. Introduction

ABSTRACT

Dynamic Time Warping (DTW), a pattern matching technique traditionally used for restricted vocabulary speech recognition, is based on a temporal alignment of the input signal with the template models. The principal drawback of DTW is its high computational cost as the lengths of the signals increase. This paper shows extended results over our previously published conference paper, which introduces an optimized version of the DTW that is based on the Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT).

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Two approaches have been intensively used for speech recognition [1]: pattern matching and knowledge-based, implemented by means of Dynamic Time Warping (DTW) and Hidden Markov Models (HMM), respectively. In this paper, we focus on the former approach, that identifies a word or phoneme based on a library of template models [2], for a limited dictionary of voiced speech segments. A modification of the regular DTW algorithm, where the intention is to decrease its computational cost by using the Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) [3] to reduce the length of the input signal, and also the length of templates, has been proposed in our previous published conference paper [4]. In this work, we extend our previous results obtained with the proposed DWT-based DTW by presenting three new sets of tests, in addition to the two sets previously presented in [4], showing particular results and confirming the efficacy of the proposed approach.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a basic review on our previously proposed approach. The additional tests and results are described in Section 3, and, lastly, the conclusions are presented in Section 4.

2. Wavelet-based dynamic time warping

Assuming the discrete-time input speech signal, $x[\cdot]$, with length n, and the templates, $y_k[\cdot]$, with lengths m_k , the proposed algorithm, which is detailed in [4], can be summarized in the following steps.

• BEGINNING

• **STEP 1**: Window the input signal and the templates so that they have a length that is a power of 2. It does not matter if the lengths of the signals are equal or not, however, they must be a power of 2.

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Fig. 1. Best Path resulted from the proposed method using j = 1 during the third set of tests.



Fig. 2. Best Path resulted from the proposed method using j = 2 during the third set of tests.

- **STEP 2**: Obtain the *j*th level DWT of the input and templates, using the family of wavelet filters *f*, where *j* and *f* will be specified ahead;
- **STEP 3**: Consider only the sub-band *s* of each one of the transformed signals (input and templates), where *s* will also be specified ahead. The sub-band *s* of the input signal is called *s*-input and sub-band *s* of each one of the *t* templates are, in the same way, called *s*-template-1, *s*-template-2, . . . , *s*-template-*t*;

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