

#### Chapter 17. Speech Recognition and Understanding Systems The Quest for Artificial Intelligence, Nilsson, N. J., 2009.

#### **Lecture Notes on Artificial Intelligence**

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## **Overview of Chapter 17**

- Speech processing is divided between speech recognition and speech understanding
- The speech understanding study group
  - Work at BBN
  - Work at CMU
  - Supported by DARPA research progrm
- Subsequent work in speech recognition

## **17.1 Speech Processing**

## **Speech Precessing**

#### Speech recognition

 Process of converting an acoustic stream of speech input into a text representation of its component.

#### Speech understanding

Understanding what is spoken.



A speech waveform

Symbol	Example Sound	Symbol	Example Sound
Consonants		Vowels	
[q]	pat	[iv]	lilv
[t]	tom	[ih]	miss
[k]	cat	[ev]	lazv
[b]	boy	[eh]	mess
[d]	dip	[ae]	after
[g]	garment	[aa]	р <b>о</b> р
[m]	mat	[ao]	orchestra
[n]	nut	[uh]	wood
[ng]	si <b>ng</b>	[ow]	lotus
[f]	five	[uw]	t <b>u</b> lip
[v]	do <b>v</b> e	[uh]	butter
[th]	thistle	[er]	bird
[dh]	fea <b>th</b> er	[av]	item
[s]	sat	[aw]	flower
[z]	haze	[ov]	t <b>oi</b> l
[sh]	sma <b>sh</b>	[y uw]	few
[zh]	ambro <b>s</b> ia	[ax]	r <b>u</b> ffian
[ch]	chic	[ix]	lip
[jh]	pa <b>ge</b>	[axr]	leather
[1]	lick	[ux]	dude
[w]	ki <b>w</b> i		
[r]	parse		
[y]	yew		
[h]	horse		
[q]	uh-oh (glottal sto	p)	
[dx]	bu <b>tt</b> er		
[nx]	wi <b>nt</b> er		
[el]	thistle		

Consonants and vowels in the ARPAbet phonetic alphabet

## 17.2 The Speech Understanding Study Group

### The Speech Understanding Study Group

- Feasibility study on a system that can recognize speech
  - Larry Roberts in DARPA and Cordell Green in U.S. Army in early 1970
- Meeting on speech processing
  - Carnegie Mellon University at the end of March 1970
  - Form a 'study group' to make recommendations concerning the launching of DARPA supported project in speech understanding.
- First meeting of the study group
  - BBN on May 26 and 27, 1970
- Final meeting of the study group
  - SDC on July 26-28, 1970

## 17.3 The DARPA Speech Understanding Research Program

## 17.3.1 Work at BBN

#### SPEECHLIS

 Answer spoken questions about the moon rocks database

#### HWIM

- Travel budget manager's automated assistant
- Respond to spoken questions

- Dragon 👔
  - Designed to understand sentences about chess moves by James K.
    Baker
  - First examples of the use of Hidden Markov Models in Al.
- 🛛 HARPY 📝
  - Bruce T. Lowerre designed and implemented the system
  - Understand spoken sentences and answer questions about, and to retrieve documents from, a database containing abstracts of AI papers
- HEARSAY-II '
  - Understand spoken sentences and answer questions about, and to retrieve documents from, a database containing abstracts of AI papers
  - Blackboard architecture

#### 17.3.3 Summary and Impact of the SUR Program

- More thorough search of potential solutions
- More thorough built-in knowledge of transition phenomena between adjacent words
- More thorough testing, tuning, and debugging

# 17.4 Subsequent Work in Speech Recognition

### **Subsequent Work in Speech Recognition**

- HMM approach in DRAGON was ultimately adopted by all the leading speech recognition companies
- DARPA began funding speech recognition work again as part of its Strategic Computing program in 1984
- Dragon introduced Dragon NaturallySpeaking, a speech recognition program for personal computers

## Appendix



#### Dragon

- Designed to understand sentences about chess moves by James K. Baker
- First examples of the use of Hidden Markov Models in AI.





#### HARPY

- Bruce T. Lowerre designed and implemented the system
- Understand spoken sentences and answer questions about, and to retrieve documents from, a database containing abstracts of AI papers



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#### HEARSAY-II

- Understand spoken sentences and answer questions about, and to retrieve documents from, a database containing abstracts of AI papers
- Blackboard architecture

