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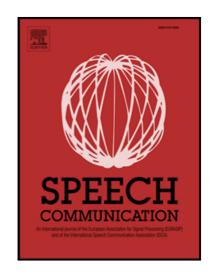
PII: S0167-6393(17)30096-1

DOI: 10.1016/j.specom.2018.02.002

Reference: SPECOM 2533

To appear in: Speech Communication

Received date: 9 March 2017 Revised date: 19 January 2018 Accepted date: 20 February 2018



Please cite this article as: Yan Ji, Licheng Liu, Hongcui Wang, Zhilei Liu, Zhibin Niu, Bruce Denby, UPDATING THE SILENT SPEECH CHALLENGE BENCHMARK WITH DEEP LEARN-ING, Speech Communication (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.specom.2018.02.002

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UPDATING THE SILENT SPEECH CHALLENGE BENCHMARK WITH DEEP LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The term "Silent Speech Interface" was introduced almost a decade ago to describe speech communication systems using only non-acoustic sensors, such as electromyography, ultrasound tongue imaging, or electromagnetic articulography. Although the use of specialized sensors in speech processing is challenging, silent speech research remains an active field that can often profit from new developments in traditional acoustic speech processing – for example recent advances in Deep Learning. After an overview of Silent Speech Interfaces and their special challenges, the article presents new results in which a 2010 benchmark study, called the Silent Speech Challenge, is updated with a Deep Learning strategy, using the same input features and decoding strategy as in the original Challenge article. A Word Error Rate of 6.4% is obtained with the new method, compared to the published benchmark value of 17.4%. Additional results comparing new auto-encoder-based features with the original features at reduced dimensionality, as well as decoding scenarios on two different language models, are also presented. The Silent Speech Challenge archive has furthermore been updated to contain both the original and the new auto-encoder features, in addition to the original raw data.

Index Terms—silent speech interface, multimodal speech recognition, deep learning, language model

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Silent speech interfaces and challenges

A Silent Speech Interface [1], or SSI, is defined as a device enabling speech processing in the absence of an exploitable audio signal – for example, speech recognition obtained exclusively from video images of the mouth, or from electromagnetic articulography sensors (EMA) glued to the tongue. Classic applications targeted by SSIs include:

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