



**HAL**  
open science

## **E-HMM approach for learning and adapting sound models for speaker indexing**

Sylvain Meignier, Jean-François Bonastre, S. Igounet

► **To cite this version:**

Sylvain Meignier, Jean-François Bonastre, S. Igounet. E-HMM approach for learning and adapting sound models for speaker indexing. ISCA, A Speaker Odyssey, The Speaker Recognition Workshop, 2001, Chiana (Crete), Greece. pp.5. hal-01434656

**HAL Id: hal-01434656**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01434656>**

Submitted on 22 Mar 2017

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# E-HMM approach for learning and adapting sound models for speaker indexing

Sylvain Meignier\*, Jean-François Bonastre, Stéphane Igounet

LIA/CERI Université d'Avignon, Agroparc,  
BP 1228, 84911 Avignon Cedex 9, France.

{sylvain.meignier, jean-francois.bonastre}@lia.univ-avignon.fr,  
stephane.igounet@univ-avignon.fr.

## Abstract

This paper presents an iterative process for blind speaker indexing based on a HMM. This process detects and adds speakers one after the other to the evolutive HMM (E-HMM). The use of this HMM approach takes advantage of the different components of AMIRAL automatic speaker recognition system (ASR system: front-end processing, learning, loglikelihood ratio computing) from LIA. The proposed solution reduces the miss detection of short utterances by exploiting all the information (detected speakers) as soon as it is available.

The proposed system was tested on *N-speaker* segmentation task of NIST 2001 evaluation campaign. Experiments were carried out to validate the speakers detection. Moreover, these tests measure the influence of parameters used for speaker models learning.

## 1. Introduction

Seeking within a recording the speech sequences uttered by a given speaker is one of the main tasks of document indexing. Segmentation systems first detect breaks in audio streams and then cluster in homogeneous sound classes the segments according to those breaks.

In automatic speaker recognition, segmentation consist in finding all the speakers, as well as the beginning and the end of their contributions. The speaker segmentation problem is commonly approached by two methods.

The first method (described in [1] and [2]) is composed of two steps. The former locates the signal breaks which are caused by speakers changes. The latter determines and labels the utterances using a clustering algorithm.

The second method (as done in [3] and [1]) uses an automatic speaker recognition (ASR) system. Breaks detections and clustering tasks are carried out simultaneously. The system has to determine speakers present within a given message as well as the utterances of each of them.

No *a priori* information on speakers is used in these two approaches, *i.e.* the speaker models have to be built during the process. Therefore these methods are well adapted to the tasks of blind segmentation.

In this article, we propose a system adapted from the second method for blind segmentation tasks. The conversation is modeled by a Markov Model (like [3]). During the segmentation process, the Markov Model is expanded with each new detection of sound class.

The proposed system was tested on *N-speaker* segmentation task of NIST 2001 evaluation campaign [9] which uses the CALLHOME database. The experiments in this paper are done using a half of this database to select the best fitting parameters for speaker models learning. The other half remains to validate the choice of those parameters.

## 2. Segmentation model

### 2.1. Structure of the segmentation model

The signal to segment consists in a sequence of observation vectors  $O = (o_1, o_2, \dots, o_T)$ .

The changes of sound classes are represented by a hidden Markov model (HMM). In this application the sound classes represent a speaker. Each HMM state characterize a class of sound and their transitions model the changes of classes.

The HMM  $\lambda$  is defined by  $(E, A, B)$  :

- Let  $E = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  be a set of states.
- Let  $A = \{a_{i,j}\}$  be a set of transition probabilities between the states.
- Let  $B$  be the set of  $\{b_i\}$ . Let the state  $i$  be associated with a sound model  $C_i$  of the sound class  $\mathcal{C}_i$ . Each state  $i$  is then associated with a set  $b_i$  of emission probabilities according to  $C_i$ . Let  $o_t$  be an observation from  $O$ ,  $b_i(o_t)$  is the probability calculated from  $C_i$  for  $o_t$ .

The HMM is fully connected.

\*RAVOL project: financial support from Conseil général de la région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and DigiFrance.

Transition probabilities are established according to a set of rules complying with the three following conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \forall i, a_{i,i} = \gamma \\ \forall (i,j), i \neq j, a_{i,j} = \frac{1-\gamma}{N-1} \\ 0 < \gamma < 1 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

## 2.2. Detection of sound classes and segmentation model building

The Segmentation model is generated by an iterative process, which detected and added a new state  $i$  at each stage (i.e.  $i$ ). We refer to evolutive HMM as E-HMM [4].

At the process initialization stage  $i = 1$  figure 2, HMM is  $\lambda^1 = (E^1, A^1, B^1)$ .  $E^1 = \{1\}$  is composed of a single state "1", which is associated with a sound model  $C_1^{(1)}$  learned from the whole signal  $O$ . At the end of the initialization process, a first trivial segmentation  $s^1 = (s_1^1, \dots, s_T^1) = (1, \dots, 1)$  is generated. In fact, each observation  $o_i$  is simply labeled with the only sound class  $\mathcal{C}_1$ . This segmentation  $s^1$  is composed of a single segment which will be challenged at the following stages.

Figure 1: Diagram of the segmentation process.

The process (e.g. stage 2 & 3 figure 2) is divided in 4 steps (figure 1) for each stage  $i$  ( $i > 1$ ):

Step 1 A new state  $i$  is added to the set  $E^{i-1}$  ( $E^i = E^{i-1} \cup i$ ). Transition probabilities are adapted to take into account the new number of states. Then, the new HMM  $\lambda^i = (E^i, A^i, B^{i-1})$  is obtained.

Step 2 The sound model  $C_i$  is estimated from a subset of observation<sup>2</sup>  $(o_r, o_{r+1}, \dots, o_{r+t})$ .  $r$  is selected such as :

$$\begin{cases} r = \underset{j \in L}{\text{ArgMax}} \left( \prod_{k=j}^{j+t} b_1(o_k) \right) \\ L = \{j \in \{1, \dots, T\} | s_j^{i-1} = s_{j+1}^{i-1} = \dots = s_{j+t}^{i-1} = 1\} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

then,  $r \in L$  is the rank of the subset  $(o_r, o_{r+1}, \dots, o_{r+t})$  maximizing the probabilities product for the sound class  $\mathcal{C}_1$ .

Moreover, the segmentation  $s^i$  is computed: the subset  $(o_r, o_{r+1}, \dots, o_{r+t})$  is relabeled to the sound class  $\mathcal{C}_i$ .

$$\begin{cases} s_j^i = s_j^{i-1} \forall j \notin \{r, \dots, r+t\} \\ s_r^i = s_{r+1}^i = \dots = s_{r+t}^i = i \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

<sup>1</sup> $C_1$  is the sound model for the not yet detected speakers (i.e. all).

<sup>2</sup>In this work, each subset has a 3 sec. duration (i.e.  $t$  is fixed).

Step 3 In this step, the process iteratively adapts the parameters of HMM  $\lambda^i$  :

- (a) For each  $k$  in  $\{1, \dots, i\}$ , the sound model  $C_k$  is adapted according to data which were affected to it in the segmentation  $s^i$ .
- (b) The set  $B^i$  of emission probabilities are re-computed.
- (c) Viterbi algorithm is applied to obtain a new version of segmentation  $s^i$  according to the HMM.

The Viterbi path  $P(s^i | A^i, B^i, O)$  is computed.

$$P(s^i | A^i, B^i, O) = b_{s_1^i}(o_1) \times \prod_{j=2}^T (a_{s_{j-1}^i, s_j^i} \times b_{s_j^i}(o_j)) \quad (4)$$

If a gain is observed between two loops in 3, the process returns to (a)

Step 4 Lastly, the stop criterion is assessed: if

$$P(s^i | A^i, B^i, O) > P(s^{i-1} | A^i, B^{i-1}, O) \quad (5)$$

then a new stage starts back to step "1".

*Note: the probability of  $s^{i-1}$  is reestimated with the transition  $A^i$  of the model  $\lambda^i$ , because topologies of segmentation models  $\lambda^i$  and  $\lambda^{i-1}$  must be comparable.*

## 3. Automatic Speaker recognition System

The sound models and emission probabilities are calculated by the AMIRAL ASR system developed at LIA [5]. Emission probabilities are computed on fixed-length blocks of 0.3 second. Each emission probability is normalized by the world model.

Acoustic parameterization (16 cepstral coefficients and 16  $\Delta$ -cepstral coefficients) is carried out using the SPRO module developed by the ELISA consortium<sup>3</sup> [10].

The sound classes are modeled by gaussian mixture models (GMM) with 128 components and diagonal covariance matrices [7], adapted from a background model.

The sound model  $C$  is first estimated over a subsequence of 3 seconds (sec. 2.2 - Step 2). Then, the sound model  $C$  is adapted from the segments which are labeled by the sound class  $\mathcal{C}$  (sec. 2.2 - Step 3a).

The adaptation scheme for training speaker models is based on the *maximum a posteriori* method (MAP). For each Gaussian  $g$ , Mean  $\mu_g$  of sound model  $C$  is a linear combination between the estimated  $\hat{\mu}_g$  and the corresponding mean  $\mu_g^W$  in background model  $W$ . Mean  $\hat{\mu}_g$

<sup>3</sup>ELISA consortium is composed of European research laboratories which work on a common platform. Members of ELISA for the participation to NIST 2001 is : ENST (France), IRISA (France), LIA (France), RMA (Belgium).

Figure 2: Example of segmentation for a 2 speakers test.

is estimated according to the data of sound class  $\mathcal{C}$  :

$$\begin{cases} \mu_g = \alpha\mu_g^W + (1 - \alpha)\widehat{\mu}_g \\ \alpha > 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Neither the weights, nor covariance matrices are adapted. The sound model  $C$  uses the weights and covariance matrices of the background model.

## 4. Experiments

The proposed approach was experimented on the  $N$ -speakers segmentation task during NIST 2001 evaluation campaign [9]. The results are shown in sec. 4.5. Moreover, development experiments on learning method are reported in sec. 4.4.

### 4.1. Databases

$N$ -speakers evaluation corpus (described in [8] and [9]) is composed of 500 conversational speech tests drawn from CALLHOME corpus. Tests of varying length (< 10 minutes) are taken from 6 languages. The exact number of speakers is not provided (but is less than 10).

The NIST Corpus is divided in two parts of 250 tests named *Dev* and *Eva*.

NIST provided a separate development corpus (named *train\_ch*) composed of 48 conversational speech samples extracted from CALLHOME corpus. The *train\_ch* corpus permitted to learn the background model (*wld\_ch*).

A second separate development data set (*train\_sb*) is composed of 472 trials made of up to 100 speakers from Switchboard 2. *train\_sb* permitted to learn the background model *wld\_sb*.

### 4.2. Experiments

Experiments were carried out to estimate the influence of  $\alpha$  parameter of MAP learning, applied on both *wld\_ch* and *wld\_sb* background models.

Moreover, a reference experiment based on a trivial segmentation (only one segment) named *trivial* is generated.

The results are obtained with parameters:

- The transition probabilities are estimated with  $\gamma = 0.6$  (Eq. 1).
- The MAP parameters (Eq. 6) are:  
 $\alpha \in \{0.0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0\}$

### 4.3. Scoring measures

Two evaluation measures are considered:

- The mean  $m_{diff}$  of differences between the estimated number of speakers  $e_n$  and the real number of speakers  $r_n$  in the test  $n$ .

$$m_{diff} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N e_n - r_n}{N} \quad (7)$$

- NIST speaker segmentation scoring is described in [9]. Scoring is computed on the NIST reference segments with only one speaker speaking. This score corresponds to a segmentation error.

### 4.4. Results

In order to compare the influence of  $\alpha$  parameter, figures 3 and 4 are shown respectively the segmentation scores and the mean  $m_{diff}$  obtained with both background models. The best results are presented in tables 1 and 2 (respectively for *Dev* and *Eva*).

The results on *Eva* corpus is close to the results obtained on *Dev* corpus.

When the weight is close to 1, the result becomes equivalent to the trivial segmentation. The systems mainly attribute the data to only one class, besides the process does not add new speaker models ( $m_{diff}$  is near -1.5).

When the weight is 0, the adaptation learning becomes equivalent to a EM-ML training with one iteration [6], but initialized using the corresponding background model. This weight gives the best result (24.01%) for the *wld\_sb* background model. Although sufficient data is provided to compute background model, the *train\_sb* data is very different from the data of CALLHOME corpus (*Dev* and *Eva*).

The background model *wld\_cl* take advantage of the MAP learning method. The best result (25.5%) is obtained for an  $\alpha = 0.3$ . Few data is used to learn this background model which is not efficient to generalize *Dev* and *Eva* data of CALLHOME corpus.

For both background models, the mean  $m_{diff}$  of differences between the estimated number of speakers and the real number of speakers is quite good (near 0.5 for best results with *wld\_ch* and *wld\_sb*).

Figure 3: NIST  $N$ -speakers segmentation score (%): influence of  $\alpha$  parameter.

Corpus	background model	$\alpha$	score (%)	$m_{diff}$
Dev	<i>wld_sb</i>	0	24.01	0.58
Dev	<i>wld_ch</i>	0.3	25.50	0.71

Table 1: Best results for the background models

Corpus	background model	$\alpha$	score (%)	$m_{diff}$
Eva	<i>wld_sb</i>	0	23.42	0.54
Eva	<i>wld_ch</i>	0.3	25.17	0.44

Table 2: Validation of the results obtain on Dev Corpus

Figure 4: NIST *N-speakers*  $m_{diff}$ : influence of  $\alpha$  parameter on MAP.

#### 4.5. NIST 2001 results

Two systems were presented to NIST 2001 *N-speaker* segmentation. They use *wld\_sb* background model to adapt speaker models with an  $\alpha$  parameter equal to 0. The difference between the system is the value of  $\gamma$  parameter used to compute HMM transition probabilities. In the first system *LIA10*,  $\gamma$  is equal to 0.6, In the second one,  $\gamma = 0.5$ .

Note:  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  parameter was estimated before NIST 2001 on *train\_ch* corpus according to the evaluation rules.

Tables 3 and 4 show the results of *LIA10* and *LIA20* as well as the results of the *trivial* segmentation.

Tables 3 show the scores computed by the number of speakers present. Systems are well adapted for tests where a lot of speakers speak. The number of speaker are detected correctly. However the scores (22% and 24%) is close to the score of the *trivial* system (26%) for 2 speakers tests.

*LIA10* and *LIA20* scores is almost equal for the different speaker languages. The chosen learning method is well adapted when speaker language is unknown.

### 5. Summary

In this article, the segmentation system uses an evolutive HMM to model the conversation and to determine automatically the sound classes present in messages. The approach is based on an iterative algorithm which detects and adds the sound models one by one. At each stage, a segmentation is proposed, according to available knowledge. This segmentation is called into question at the following iteration until the optimal segmentation is reached.

Within sight of the results, the system behaves satisfactorily. Experiments showed that MAP training is well adapted for the selected task of segmentation. As for the

weight between the background and the estimated sound model, it has a influence on the segmentation error.

Further work will focus on this two points, by adapting the background model data of CALLHOME to the SWITCHBOARD background model and by introducing an explicit duration model into the HMM to improve the speaker detection.

### 6. References

- [1] P. Delacourt, D. Kryze, C.J. Wellekens. Use of second order statistic for speaker-based segmentation, *EUROSPEECH*, 1999.
- [2] H. Gish, H-H Siu, R. Rohlicek. Segregation of speakers for speech recognition and speaker identification, *ICASSP*, pages 873-876, 1991.
- [3] L. Wilcox, D. Kimber, and F. Chen, Audio indexing using speaker identification, *SPIE*, pages 149-157, July, 1994.
- [1] K. Sönmez, L. Heck, M. Weintraub, Speaker tracking and detection with multiple speakers, *EUROSPEECH*, 1999.
- [4] S. Meignier, J.-F. Bonastre, C. Fredouille, T. Merlin, Evolutive HMM for Multi-Speaker Tracking System, *ICASSP*, june 2000.
- [5] C. Fredouille, J.-F. Bonastre, T. Merlin, AMIRAL: a block-segmental multi-recognizer approach for Automatic Speaker Recognition, *Digital Signal Processing*, Vol.10, Num.1-3, pp.172-197 Jan.-Apr. 2000.
- [6] D. Dempster, N. Laird, D. Rubin, Maximum likelihood from incomplete data via EM algorithm, *J. Roy. Stat. Soc.*, Vol. 39, pp 1-38, 1977.
- [7] D. A. Reynolds, Speaker identification and verification using gaussian mixture speaker models, *Speech Communication*, pp 91-108, Aug. 1995.
- [8] The 2000 NIST Speaker Recognition Evaluation Plan, <http://www.nist.gov/speech/tests/spk/2000/doc/spk-2000-plan-v1.0.htm>.
- [9] The NIST Year 2001 Speaker Recognition Evaluation Plan, <http://www.nist.gov/speech/tests/spk/2001/doc/2001-spkrevalplan-v53.pdf>.
- [10] Elisa Consortium, Overview of the ELISA consortium research activities, *Odyssey*, 2001. 91-108, Aug. 1995.

System	<i>Dev+Eva</i> Files	2-spkr	3-spkr	4-spkr	5-spkr	6-spkr	7-spkr
	500	303	136	43	10	6	2
<i>trivial</i>	38	26	39	49	50	56	61
<i>LIA10</i>	24	22	25	23	30	35	37
<i>LIA20</i>	24	24	24	22	29	38	34

Table 3: NIST 2001 % scores for *N-speaker* segmentation task by speakers number in each test

System	arabic	english	german	japanese	mandarin	spanish
	95	56	67	68	118	96
<i>trivial</i>	40	24	30	33	42	42
<i>LIA10</i>	24	23	19	26	25	26
<i>LIA20</i>	22	26	24	26	24	25

Table 4: NIST 2001 % scores for *N-speaker* segmentation task by different languages