Multi-mode Harmonic Transform Excitation LPC Coding for Speech and Music

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Abstract

A multi-mode harmonic transform coding (MMHTC) for speech and music signals is proposed. Its structure is organized as a linear prediction model with an input of harmonic and transform-based excitation. The proposed coder also utilizes harmonic prediction and an improved quantizer of excitation signal. To efficiently quantize the excitation of music signals, the modulated lapped transform (MLT) is introduced. In other words, the coder combines both the time domain (linear prediction) and the frequency domain technique to achieve the best perceptual quality. The proposed coder showed better speech quality than that of the 8kbps QCELP coder at a bit-rate of 4kbps.

1. Introduction

Recently, there has been increasing interests in coding of speech and audio signals for several applications such as audio/video teleconferencing, wireless multimedia, wideband telephony over packet networks, and Internet applications. These applications usually require the modeling method of mixture signals such as speech and audio[1]-[3]. Compression algorithms designed specifically for speech or audio signals, such as music, have been successfully deployed in applications such as telecommunications, digital broadcasting, and storage. In many instances, however, the algorithms were designed for the particular input signal or application, thus they have not been met quality expectations for the broader class of input signals. Until recently, algorithms[4][5] designed for both speech and other, more diverse, audio signals, have not received considerable attentions. Recent progress in this area, however, has shown that increased quality levels at low bit rates could only be achieved at the expense of higher algorithmic delay, or complexity, or a compromised quality for more diverse signals.

Specially, a harmonic coding scheme showed a good quality at demanding complexity and delay at low rate speech coder, because the coding method uses only the simple extracting structure for excitation signal by adopting a frequency domain method different from algebraic code excited linear prediction (ACELP). For the music signal, however, the harmonic signal analysis for speech model, only based on one fundamental frequency, is difficult to produce satisfactory quality. Although the structure such as peak continuation is added, the complexity is very high.

In this paper, a hybrid scheme is presented which produces satisfactory results for both speech and music signal. The proposed algorithm utilizes time-domain linear prediction (LP) and pitch prediction analysis to determine the reconstructed signal. However, instead of using the computationally demanding analysis-by-synthesis techniques to determine the innovative excitation, the perceptually weighted signal with removed filtering and pitch correlations, better known as the target signal, is transformed and encoded in the frequency domain; it is then decoded and inverse transformed to extract the time-domain innovative excitation. The coding methods for music and speech include fast Fourier transform (FFT) and modulated lapped transform (MLT). The basic scheme of the proposed coder is introduced in section 2 and speech/music discriminator is explained in section 3. In detail, harmonic noise coding and MLT excitation coding is explained in the section 4 and section5. Then, the quantization including the bit allocation is explained in section 6 and section7.

2. Overall Structure of Multimode Harmonic Transform Coding

The encoder and decoder of the proposed coder are presented in Fig.1 and Fig.2. As shown in Fig.1, the encoder consists of three encoding modes for excitation signal: a harmonic excitation mode, a CELP without pitch analysis mode and a transform coded excitation mode. The U/V detector and Speech/Music discriminator is used to determine operating mode. The preprocessing and linear prediction (LP) analysis are common for all of the three modes. The harmonic excitation mode and transform coded method operate on 20ms frames in voiced frame and music frame, respectively. The CELP without pitch analysis mode operates for unvoiced frames with a length of 10 ms sub-frame. The harmonic coding is based on sinusoidal wave model. The main features of harmonic excitation coding include fast Fourier transform (FFT), spectrum pick peaking process, vector quantizer (VQ) of harmonic spectral magnitude parameters for analysis part, linear phase generation, inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT), overlap/add synthesis for synthesis part.

In the proposed speech coder (MMHTC), the harmonic coding defines a spectral magnitude estimation error using basis function which is obtained by DFT of hammering window and finds the magnitudes to minimize the estimation error[7]. A new noise coding called by cepstrum-lpc noise coding separates noise components from mixture signal and extracts the spectral envelope information of unvoiced signal. Also, harmonic synthesis method is implemented by inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) to reduce complexity. While, the CELP coding without the additive bits for pitch period may be a proper method since the contribution of pitch information is not much in unvoiced signal. The transform-coded excitation consists of computing the target signal for the 20ms frame followed by modulated lapped transform (MLT) and adaptive position VQ in frequency domain. The spectral envelope by LPC is utilized to quantize MLT peak coefficients.
The speech signal is represented by a convolution of excitation signal and vocal track impulse response. Specifically, the excitation signal consists of quasi-periodic and aperiodic part, where the quasi-periodic part means glottal pulse train of pitch period and the aperiodic part means noise-like signal due to airflow from lungs or radiation from lips.

The left part of pitch period in the quefrency domain (cepstrum) is a component due to vocal track response that have smooth spectral envelope. While, the right quefrency part of the pitch period is an excitation component[8].

Specially, the values around peak at pitch period are classified into harmonic components because harmonics are consists of multiple times of fundamental frequency. To determine noise region, the cepstrum around the peak at pitch period is lifted and is converted into log magnitude spectrum. Then, the noise component region is defined into negative part of the log magnitude spectrum[7].

To extract spectral envelope information of noise components, we applied LPC analysis to time samples given by inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) of the spectrum in the noise component region. It is a similar process to estimate spectral envelope of formants for original speech signal. The LPC parameters for noise components are transmitted to decoder.

The LPC coefficients of all-pole model are converted into line spectrum pairs (LSP) parameters and quantized by full search vector quantizer with four dimensions. The synthesis processing of the decoder is simply implemented as linear prediction (LP) filtering with an input of white Gaussian noise without the phase matching between each frame. The order of all-pole model is 6, and 4, 2 bits for LSP parameters and gain parameter are assigned, respectively. Fig.3 represents the block diagram of harmonic plus noise coding and Fig.4 show the spectrum enhancement by harmonic plus noise coding, where are used unquantized parameters.

4.2. Synthesis of Harmonic Components

To guarantee continuity in consecutive frames, the harmonic parameters must be interpolated using previous parameter values.
The simple linear interpolation is utilized for magnitude parameters. The phase parameters are synthesized by considering the wrapping and simultaneous matching to fundamental frequency continuation and initial phase between frames. First, we assume that the temporal fundamental frequency varies linearly. The synthesized speech is represented by:

\[ s'(n) = \sum_{l=0}^{N} A'(l) \cos(\Delta \Phi'(n)/l \Phi'(l)) \quad n = 1, \ldots, N \]  

where,

\[ A'(l) = \alpha(n) A'(l) + (1 - \alpha(n)) A'(l-1) \]  

\[ \Delta \Phi'(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{l} (\alpha(n) w_{k}^2 + (1 - \alpha(n)) w_{k-1}^2) \]  

where, \( \alpha(n) = n/N \) is the linear increasing function, \( s'(n) \) is reconstructed signal, \( A(l) \) is the spectral magnitudes, \( \Delta \Phi(0) \) is the temporal phase term, \( \Phi'(n) \) is the initial phase term, \( k \) is the current frame number and \( l \) is the number of harmonic sequence, \( N \) is the frame size. Here, the initial phase \( \Phi(0) \) is given by

\[ \Phi(l) = \frac{N}{2} (w_{l}^{-1} + w_{l}^{-2}) + \Phi(l-1) \]

to satisfy \( s'(0) = 0 \), it guarantees continuity between the previous frame and the current frame. This synthesis method requires high computational complexity. The fast method can be derived by defining the basic waveform \( w(m,k) \). The definition is given by

\[ w(m,r) = \sum_{l=0}^{B} A'(l) \cos(\frac{2\pi}{B} l + \Phi'(l)) \quad l < L, \text{then} A'(l) = 0 \]

Then, the synthesized speech is represented by

\[ s'(n) = \alpha(n) \sum_{k=1}^{N} B \Delta \Phi'(n)/k + (1 - \alpha(n)) \frac{B}{2\pi} \Delta \Phi'(n)/k - 1 \]

where \( B \) is the DFT block size. If \( B \) is the square number of 2, then the basic waveform \( w(m,k) \) can be given by

\[ w(m,r) = \text{Re} \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{B} A'(l) \cos(\Phi'(l) + jk\Phi'(l)) e^{-j2\pi m} \right] \]

The complexity of harmonic synthesis process is reduced significantly by (9).

### 4.3. Quantization of Harmonic Parameters

We assume that harmonic magnitudes have a variable dimension ranging from 6 to 60[6][9]. To quantize a variable-dimensional vector, the encoder converts the variable-dimension vector into a fixed-dimension vector using a linear function. Similarly, the decoder uses the inverse linear function to convert the decoded fixed-dimension vector into a variable-dimension vector. This general approach was proposed in [10] and is called non-square transform or non-square transform VQ.

We used the two stages VQ for each magnitude vectors after separating low band and high band; it is considering the perceptual importance for low and high band.

### 5. Transform Coding for Music

The music is synthesized by exciting an all-pole filter with an order of 10; linear prediction (LP) was known the very efficient time-domain analysis method for low frequency. The target signal for the MLT excitation analysis is the residual signal given by inverse LP filtering of input music signal. The transform coding is utilized to efficiently describe the innovative excitation for the target signal. This is accomplished by the direct encoding, in the transform domain, of the target signal from which the innovative excitation can be easily extracted. This approach preserves the principle of error minimization in the weighted-speech domain and circumvents the high complexity of analysis by synthesis approaches.

The encoding process is shown in Fig.5. The peak values of MLT coefficients are extracted by select more high values than both left and right coefficient values. The peak picking process is performed considering spectral envelope effect of LP frequency response. The target coefficient is represented by

\[ P(m) = |H(m)|M(m) \]

where, \( P(m) \) are the target coefficient, \( H(m) \) is the LP frequency response of input music signal, \( M(m) \) is the MLT coefficient of input music signals.

The absolute peak values are substituted from predictive values before a selection process. The differential values are quantized to satisfy a criterion minimizing spectral error with LP frequency response weight, similar to target coefficient of peak peaking process. We allocated 16 bits in the LSP parameters in music mode. The allocated bits number in music mode is small than the bits in speech mode; it is a proper number since the spectral envelope of music varies slowly than one in speech. 62 bits for the excitation parameter is assigned; MLT absolute values (20bits), MLT sign (10bits), MLT position (30 bits).

### 6. Simulation Result

The proposed coder is implemented at 4 kbps with 20 ms frame size and 6ms look-ahead. The bit assignment is shown in Table 1. The informal mean opinion score (MOS) including the proposed 4kbps coder and 8kbps QCELP were performed to evaluate the performance of proposed coder.
The test was conducted with 10 participants listening to 16 sentences spoken by male and female speakers (8 male sentences, 8 female sentences). From the MOS test, we found that the 4kbps proposed coder had better quality than 8kbps QCELP and the enhancement of MOS 0.23 compared to the 4kbps coder without the proposed method. Especially, the proposed coder showed an advantage for female signal. This means that is more efficient for the female speaker with large harmonic interval and many high frequency noise components. The synthesis results for the mixture signal (speech and music) are shown in Fig.6. The test signals include bagpipe, male, opera, female sound. We can observe the spectrum difference due to the transform coding and the harmonic coding in music signal as shown in Fig.6 (b), (c). As shown in Fig.6 (b), the spectral distortion introduced by harmonic coding is caused by an insufficient model for signals not to depend on a fundamental frequency like to the individual line spectrum. Only the spectral lines with large energy in the music signal were represented due to the lack of bits to be assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Voiced</th>
<th>Unvoiced</th>
<th>Music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSP</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V/U/V/M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitch</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectral Magnitudes</td>
<td>5(gain)</td>
<td>36(shape)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise LSP, Gains</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Domain Shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTL magnitudes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTL sign</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTL position</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80/20ms</td>
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<table>
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<th>Classification</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Man</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original speech</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>4.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>8kbps CS-ACELP</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>3.96</td>
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<td>4kbps QCELP</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>3.59</td>
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<td>3.39</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>4kbps Speech coding with the proposed method</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>3.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Conclusion

In this paper, the methods to complement disadvantages of harmonic coding for speech and music signal were proposed. The new cepstrum-LPC method was used to model unvoiced components for the harmonic excitation coding and the MNSTVQ method was used to quantize harmonic magnitudes that have variable dimension. A frequency domain approach based MLT excitation and adaptive peak picking process were used for efficient quantization and encoding of music excitation signal. The coder uses a combination of time domain (linear prediction) techniques to achieve the best reproduction of the original signal in a perceptual sense. The 4 kbps proposed coder showed better speech quality than that of the 8kbps QCELP coder.

8. Acknowledgement

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9. References