# **Speech Recognition**

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#### **Course Contents**

- Both the theoretical and practical issues for spoken language processing will be considered
- Technology for Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) will be further emphasized
- Topics to be covered
  - Fundamentals and Statistical Modeling Paradigms
    - Spoken Language Structure
    - Hidden Markov Models
    - Speech Signal Analysis and Feature Extraction
    - Acoustic and Language Modeling
    - Search/Decoding Algorithms
  - Systems and Applications
    - Keyword Spotting, Dictation, Speaker Recognition, Spoken Dialogue, Speech-based Information Retrieval, etc.

#### Some Textbooks and References (1/3)

#### References books

- X. Huang, A. Acero, H. Hon. Spoken Language Processing, Prentice Hall, 2001
- L. Rabiner, R. Schafer, Theory and Applications of Digital Speech Processing, Pearson, 2011
- Jacob Benesty (ed.), M. Mohan Sondhi (ed.), Yiteng Huang (ed.),
   Springer Handbook of Speech Processing, Springer, 2007
- M.J.F. Gales and S.J. Young. The Application of Hidden Markov Models in Speech Recognition. Foundations and Trends in Signal Processing, 2008
- C. Manning and H. Schutze. Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing. MIT Press, 1999
- T. F. Quatieri. Discrete-Time Speech Signal Processing Principles and Practice. Prentice Hall, 2002
- J. R. Deller, J. H. L. Hansen, J. G. Proakis. Discrete-Time Processing of Speech Signals. IEEE Press, 2000
- F. Jelinek. Statistical Methods for Speech Recognition. MIT Press, 1999
- L. Rabiner, B.H. Juang. Fundamentals of Speech Recognition. Prentice Hall, 1993
- 王小川教授, 語音訊號處理, 全華圖書 2004

### Some Textbooks and References (2/3)

#### Reference papers

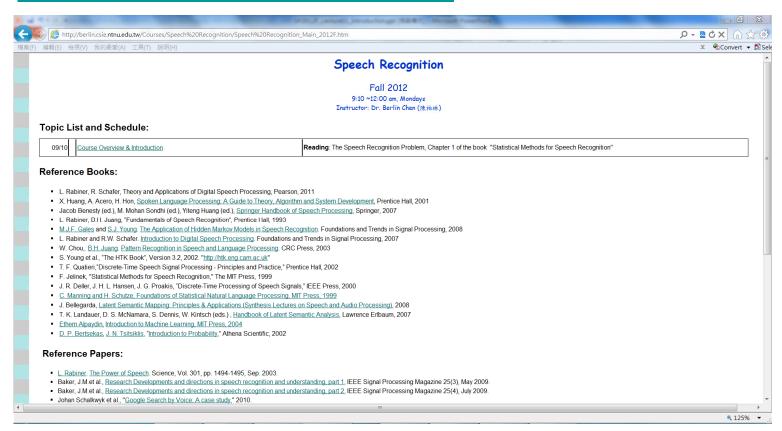
- 1. L. Rabiner, "A Tutorial on Hidden Markov Models and Selected Applications in Speech Recognition," Proceedings of the IEEE, vol. 77, No. 2, February 1989
- 2. A. Dempster, N. Laird, and D. Rubin, "Maximum likelihood from incomplete data via the EM algorithm," J. Royal Star. Soc., Series B, vol. 39, pp. 1-38, 1977
- 3. Jeff A. Bilmes "A Gentle Tutorial of the EM Algorithm and its Application to Parameter Estimation for Gaussian Mixture and Hidden Markov Models," U.C. Berkeley TR-97-021
- 4. J. W. Picone, "Signal modeling techniques in speech recognition," proceedings of the IEEE, September 1993, pp. 1215-1247
- 5. R. Rosenfeld, "Two Decades of Statistical Language Modeling: Where Do We Go from Here?," Proceedings of IEEE, August, 2000
- 6. H. Ney, "Progress in Dynamic Programming Search for LVCSR," Proceedings of the IEEE, August 2000
- 7. H. Hermansky, "Should Recognizers Have Ears?", Speech Communication, 25(1-3), 1998

### Some Textbooks and References (3/3)

- 8. Frederick Jelinek, "<u>The Dawn of Statistical ASR and MT</u>," Computational Linguistics, Vol. 35, No. 4. (1 December 2009), pp. 483-494
- 9. L.S. Lee and B. Chen, "Spoken document understanding and organization," *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*, vol. 22, no. 5, pp. 42-60, Sept. 2005
- 10. M. Gilbert and J. Feng, "Speech and Language Processing over the Web," *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* 25 (3), May 2008
- 11. C. Chelba, T.J. Hazen, and M. Saraclar. Retrieval and Browsing of Spoken Content. *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* 25 (3), May 2008
- 12. S. Young et al., The HTK Book. Version 3.4: http://htk.eng.cam.ac.uk
- 13. J. Schalkwyk et al., "Google Search by Voice: A case study," 2010

#### Website for This Course

 Visit http://berlin.csie.ntnu.edu.tw/ and then click the link "Fall 2012: Speech Recognition"

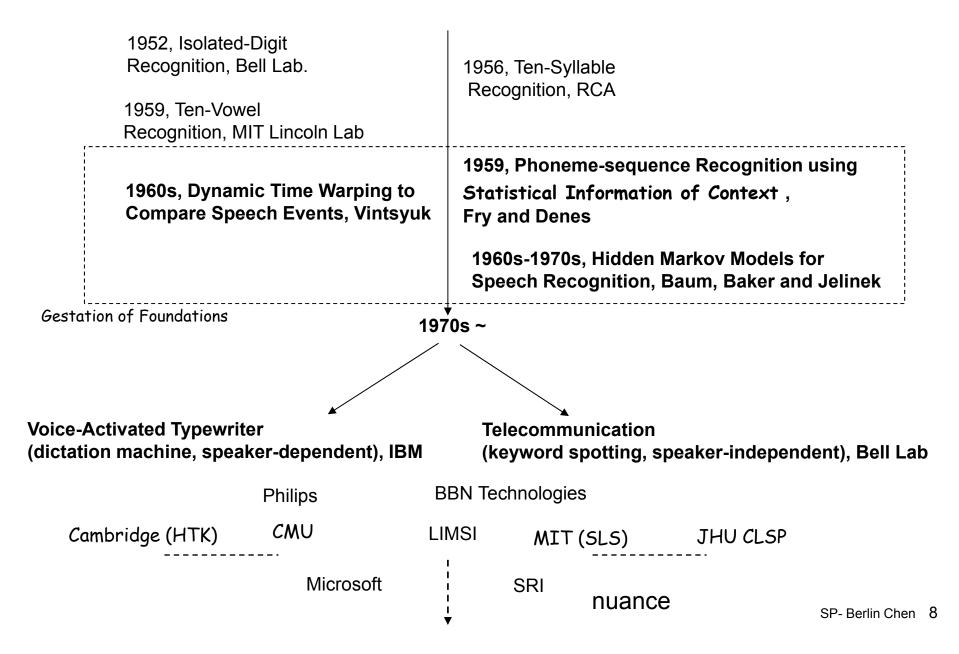


#### Introduction

#### References:

- 1. B. H. Juang and S. Furui, "Automatic Recognition and Understanding of Spoken Language A First Step Toward Natural Human-Machine Communication," *Proceedings of IEEE*, August, 2000
- 2. I. Marsic, A. Medl, and J. Flanagan, "Natural Communication with Informatio Systems," *Proceedings of IEEE*, August, 2000

#### **Historical Review**



#### Areas for Speech Processing

- Production, Perception, and Modeling of Speech (phonetics and phonology)
- Signal Processing for Speech
- Speech Coding
- Speech Synthesis (Text-to-Speech)
- Speech Recognition (Speech-to-Text) and Understanding
- Speaker Recognition
- Language Recognition
- Speech Enhancement

C.f. Jacob Benesty (ed.), M. Mohan Sondhi (ed.), Yiteng Huang (ed.), Springer Handbook of Speech Processing, Springer, 2007

# Progress of Technology (1/6)

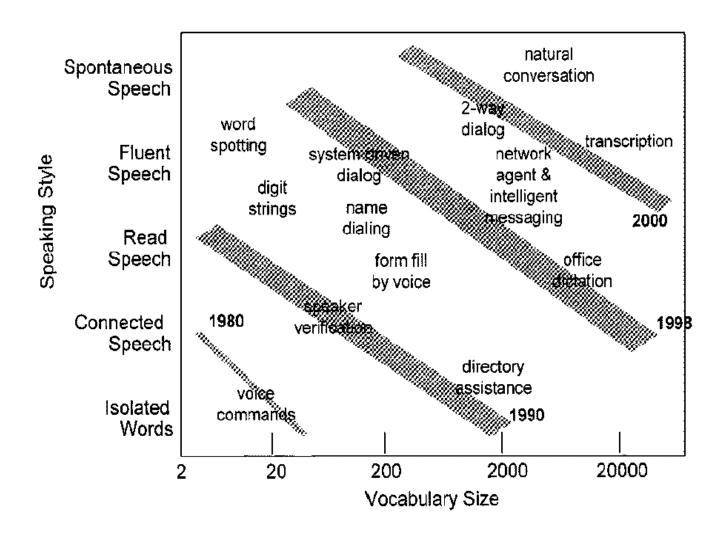
US. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)



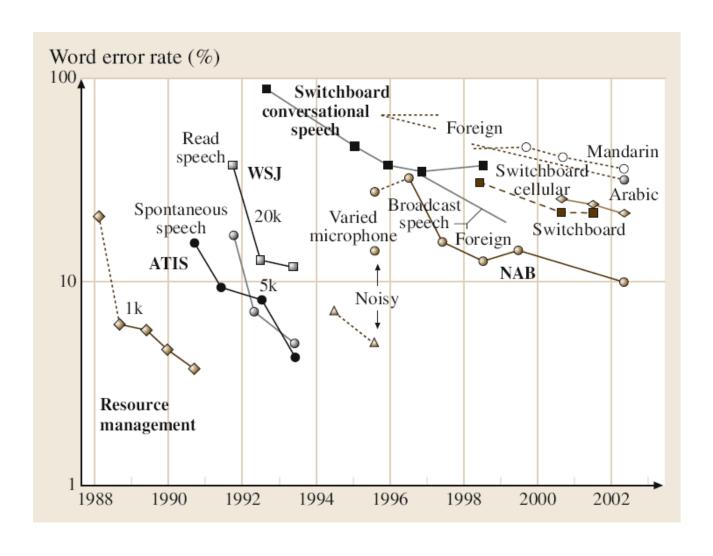
Automatic Content Extraction (1999 - 2008)

# Progress of Technology (2/6)

Generic Application Areas (vocabulary vs. speaking style)



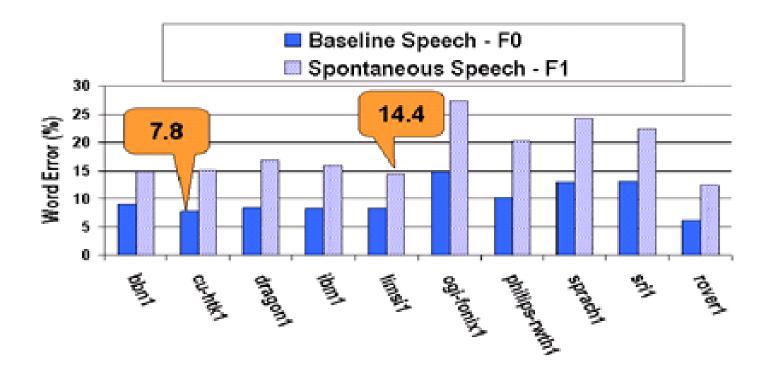
# Progress of Technology (3/6)



L. Rabiner, B.-H. Juang, "Historical Perspective of the Field of ASR/NLU" Chapter 26 in the book " Springer Handbook of Speech Processing"

# Progress of Technology (4/6)

Benchmarks of ASR performance: Broadcast News Speech

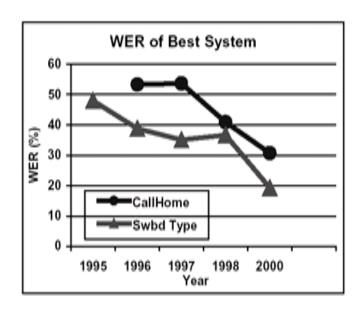


FO: anchor speakers

F1: field reports and interviewees

# Progress of Technology (5/6)

Benchmarks of ASR performance: Conversational Speech



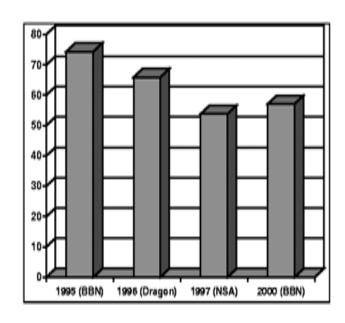


Figure 5 Chinese Character error rates of the best performing evaluation system in NIST Mandarin

Figure 4 History of lowest word error rates (WER) obtained in NIST conversational speech evaluations on conversational speech evaluations 1995-2000 [26]. Switchboad and Call Home type conversations in English [26].

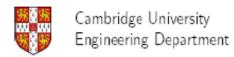
# Progress of Technology (6/6)

- Mandarin Conversational Speech (2003 Evaluation)
  - Acoustic/Training Test Data:
    - training data: 34.9 hours, 379 sides, from LDC CallHome (22.4hrs) and CallFriend (12.5hrs), 451K Words (+7K English word), 628K Characters
    - development data: dev02 1.94 hours from CallFriend

		CER (%)		
		dev02	eval03	
P1	trans for VTLN	55.1	54.7	
P2	trans for MLLR	50.8	51.3	
P3	lat gen (bg)	49.3	50.5	
	tgintcat rescore	48.9	49.8	
P4	lat MLLR	48.6	49.5	
CN	P4	47.9	48.6	

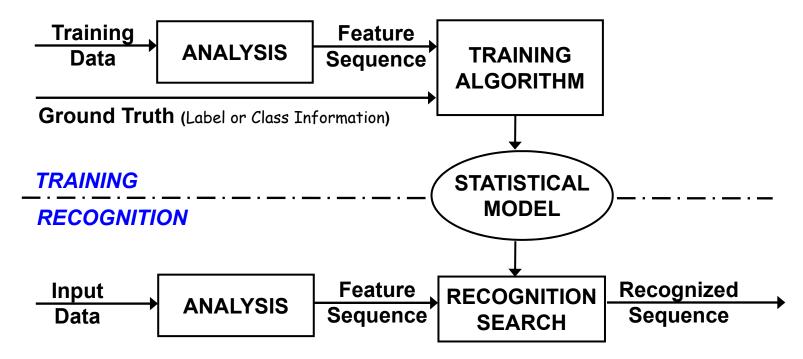
<sup>%</sup>CER on dev02 and eval03 for all stages of 2003 system

#### Adopted from



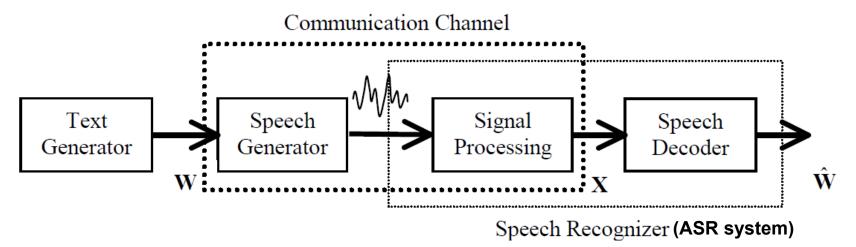
#### Statistical Modeling Paradigm

 Most approaches to speech and language processing generally follow the statistical modeling paradigm



- Data-driven approaches: automatically extract "knowledge" from the data
- It would be better to pair data-driven approaches with rule-based ones

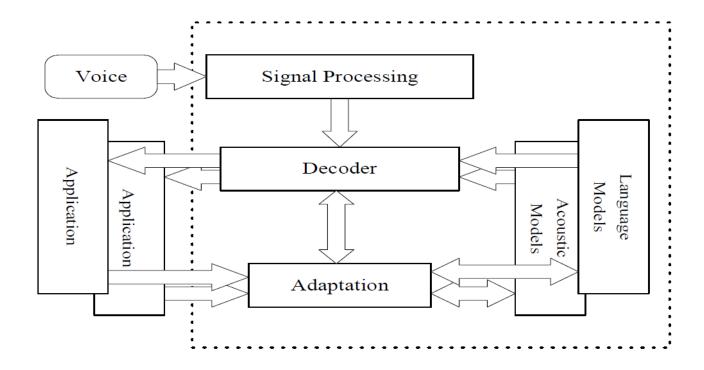
#### A Source-Channel Model for ASR



- Communication channel consists of speaker's vocal apparatus to produce speech the waveform and the signal processing component of the speech recognizer
- The speech decoder aims to decode the acoustic signal  $\mathbf{X}$  into a word sequence  $\hat{\mathbf{W}}$  (Hopefully, $\hat{\mathbf{W}} \approx \mathbf{W}$ .)

Uncertainties to be contended with: unknown words, grammatical variation, noise interference, acoustic variation, to name a few

#### Basic Architecture of ASR System



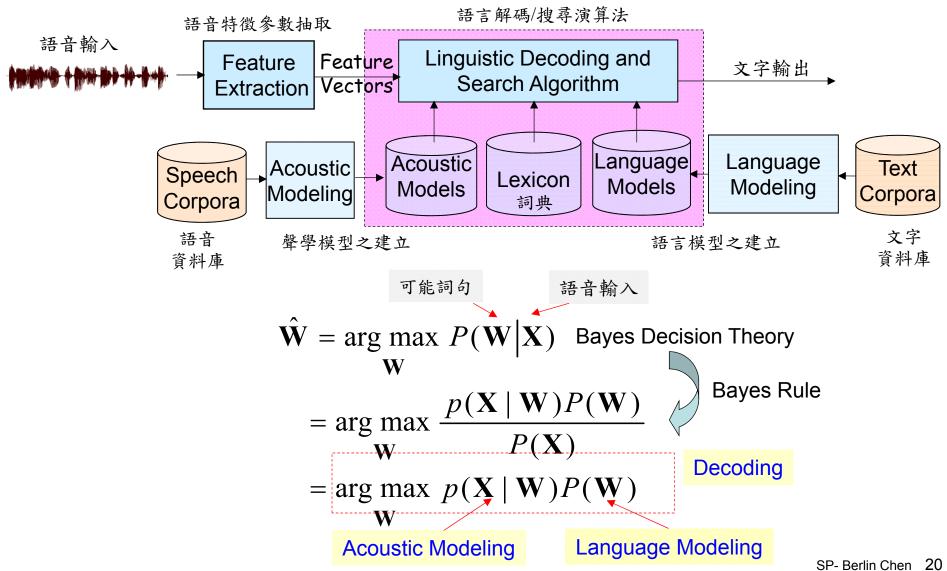
- Signal processing: extract salient features for the decoder
- Decoder: use both acoustic and language models to generate the "best" word sequence in response to the input voice
- Adaptation: modify either acoustic or language models so that improved performance can be obtained

#### **ASR: Applications**

• E.g., Transcription of Broadcast News Speech

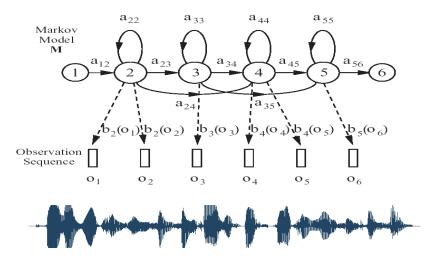


### ASR: A Bit of Terminology



### **ASR: Acoustic Modeling**

- Construct a set of statistical models representing various sounds (or phonetic units) of the language
  - Approaches based on Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) dominate the area of speech recognition
  - HMMs are based on rigorous mathematical theory built on several decades of mathematical results developed in other fields
  - HMMs are constructed by the process of training on a large corpus of real speech data



#### **ASR: Language Modeling**

 Constrain the acoustic analysis, guide the search through multiple candidate word strings, and quantify the acceptability of the final word string output from a speech recognizer

$$W = w_1 w_2 \dots w_L \implies P(W) = ?$$

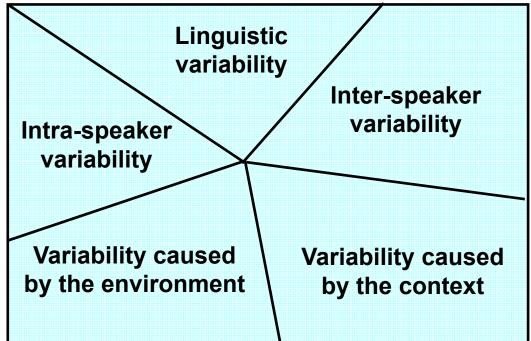
 The n-gram language model that follows a statistical modeling paradigm is the most prominently-used in ASR

$$P(w_1w_2....w_L) = P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_1w_2)\cdots P(w_L|w_1w_2...w_{L-1})$$

$$P(w_1w_2....w_L) = P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_2)\cdots P(w_L|w_{L-1})$$

#### Difficulties: Speech Variability

#### **Pronunciation Variation**

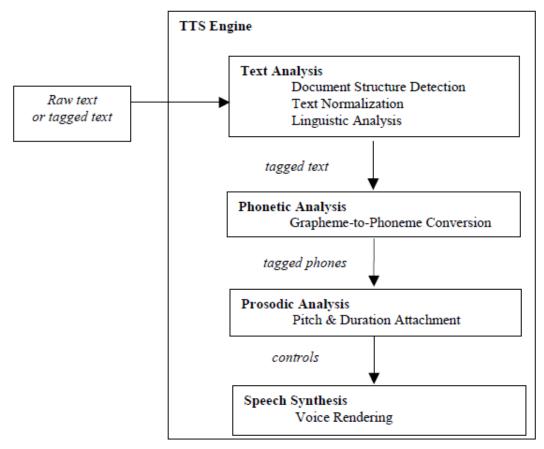


**Speaker-independency Speaker-adaptation Speaker-dependency** 

**Context-Dependent Acoustic Modeling** 

### Text to Speech (TTS)

TTS can be viewed as ASR in reverse



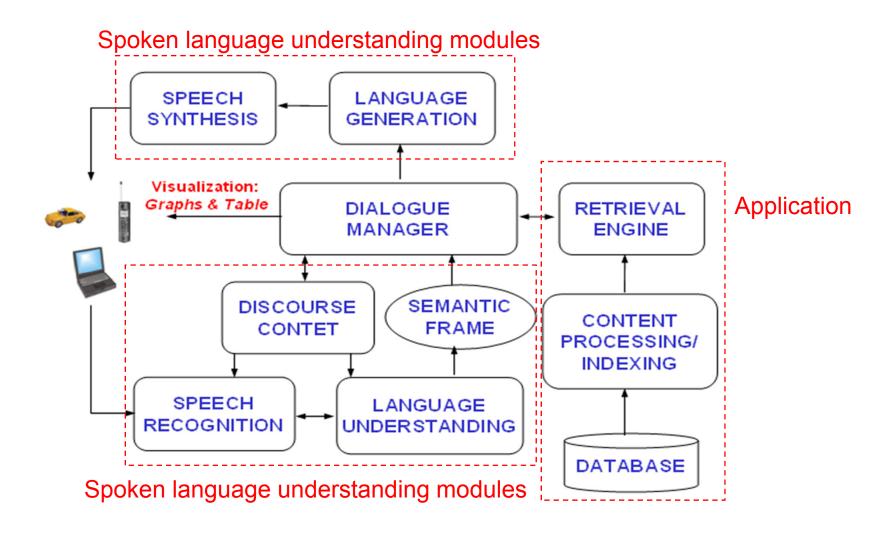
 We are now able to general high-quality TTS systems, although the quality is inferior to human speech for general-purpose applications

### Spoken Dialogue: CMU's Systems

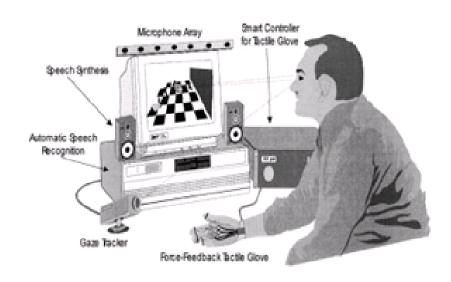
- Spoken language is attractive because it is the most natural, convenient and inexpensive means of exchanging information for humans
- In mobilizing situations, using keystrokes and mouse clicks could be impractical for rapid information access through small handheld devices like PDAs, cellular phones, etc.



#### Spoken Dialogue: Basic System Architecture



# Spoken Dialogue: Multimodality of Input and Output



Experimental client workstation incorporating sight, sound, and touch modalities for human/machine communication. The eye tracker provides a gaze-controlled cursor for indicating objects in the display. The tactile force-feedback glove allows displayed objects to be grasped, "felt," and moved. Hands-free speech recognition and synthesis provides natural conversational interaction [7].

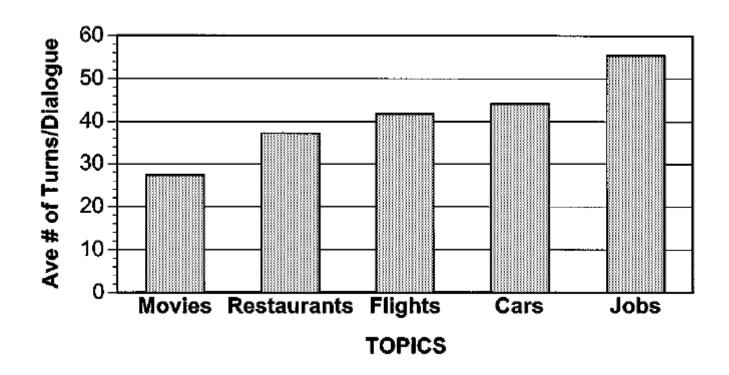
# Spoken Dialogue: Some Deployed Systems

#### **Complexity Analysis**

Domain	Language	Vocabulary	Average	
		Size	Words/Utt	Utts/Dialogue
CSELT Train Timetable Info	Italian	760	1.6	6.6
SpeechWorks Air Travel Reservation	English	1000	1.9	10.6
Philips Train Timetable Info	German	1850	2.7	7.0
CMU Movie Information	English	757	3.5	9.2
CMU Air Travel Reservation	English	2851	3.6	12.0
LIMSI Train Timetable Info	French	1800	4.4	14.6
MIT Weather Information	English	1963	5.2	5.6
MIT Air Travel Reservation	English	1100	5.3	14.1
AT&T Operator Assistance	English	4000	7.0	3.0
Air Travel Reservations (human)	English	?	8.0	27.5

# Spoken Dialogue: Some Statistics

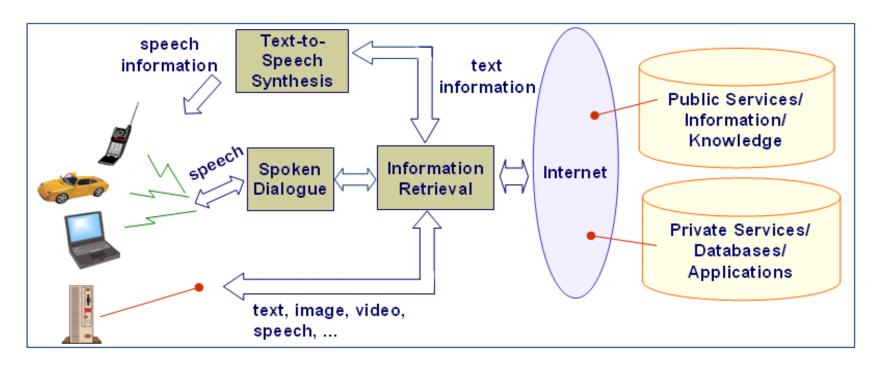
Topics vs. Dialogue Terms



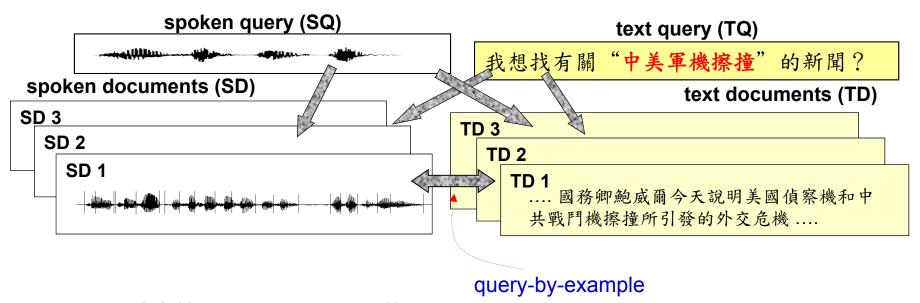
# Speech-based Information Retrieval (1/5)

#### Task:

- Automatically indexing a collection of spoken documents with speech recognition techniques
- Retrieving relevant documents in response to a text/speech query



# Speech-based Information Retrieval (2/5)



- SQ/SD is the most difficult
- TQ/SD is studied most of the time

#### Query-by-example

- Attempt to retrieve relevant documents when users provide some specific query exemplars describing their information needs
- Useful for news monitoring and tracking

### Speech-based Information Retrieval (3/5)

輸入聲音問句:"請幫我查總統府升旗典禮"↓



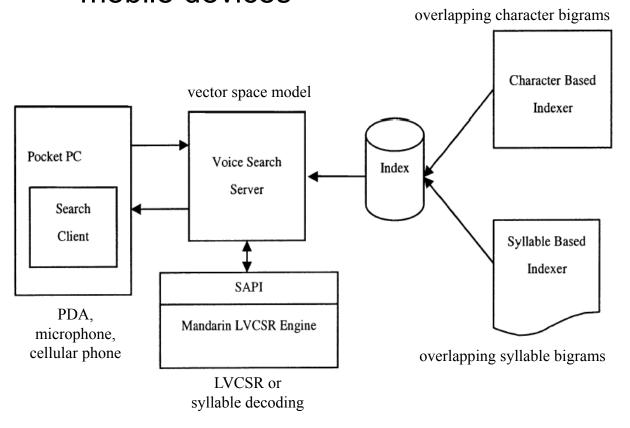
中文語音資訊檢索雛形展示系統。↓

C.f. B. Chen, H.M. Wang, Lin-shan Lee, "Discriminating capabilities of syllable-based features and approaches of utilizing them for voice retrieval of speech information in Mandarin Chinese", IEEE Transactions on Speech and Audio Processing, Vol. 10, No. 5, pp. 303-314, July 2002.

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# Speech-based Information Retrieval (4/5)

 Spoken queries retrieving text news documents via mobile devices

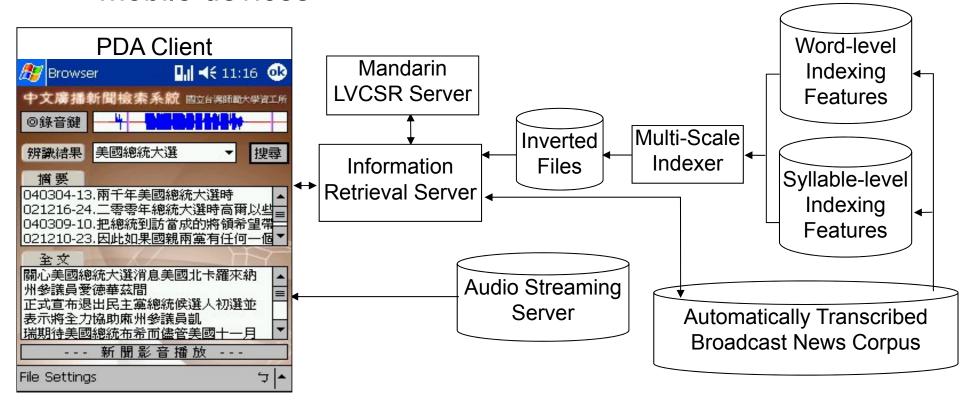




C.f. Chang, E., Seide, F., Meng, H., Chen, Z., Shi, Y., And Li, Y. C. 2002. A system for spoken query information retrieval on mobile devices. IEEE Trans. on Speech and Audio Processing 10, 8 (2002), 531-541.

### Speech-based Information Retrieval (5/5)

 Spoken queries retrieving text news documents via mobile devices

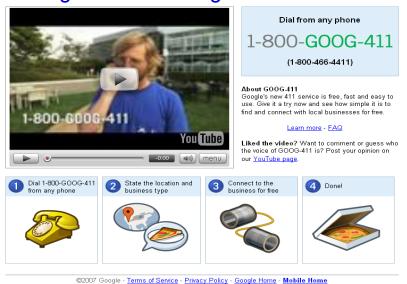


C.f. B. Chen, Y..T. Chen, C.H. Chang, H.B. Chen, "Speech Retrieval of Mandarin Broadcast News via Mobile Devices," Interspeech2005

### Spoken Dialogue: Google Voice Search

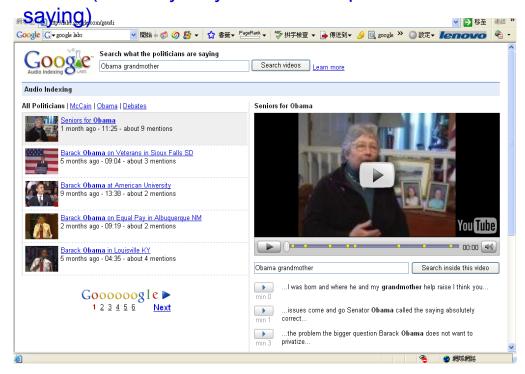


#### Google-411: Finding and connecting to local business



#### Google Audio Indexing:

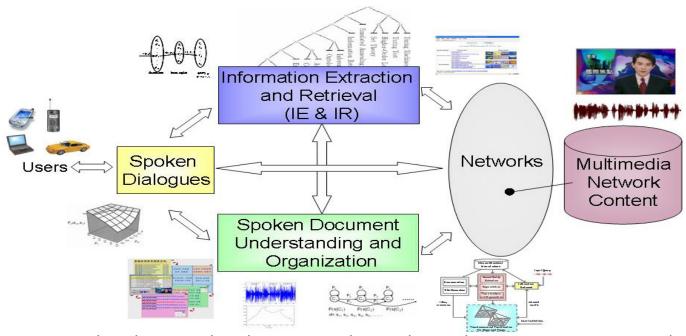
Searching what people are saying inside YouTube videos (currently only for what the politicians are



# Spoken Document Organization and Understanding (1/2)

#### Problems

- The content of multimedia documents very often described by the associated speech information
- Unlike text documents with paragraphs/titles easy to look through at a glance, multimedia/spoken documents are unstructured and difficult to retrieve/browse



C.f. L.S. Lee and B. Chen, "Spoken document understanding and organization," IEEE Signal Processing

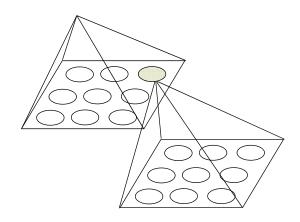
Magazine, vol. 22, no. 5, pp. 42-60, Sept. 2005

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# Spoken Document Organization and Understanding (2/2)

 For example, spoken documents can be clustered by the latent topics and organized in a two-dimensional tree structure, or a two-layer map





Two-dimensional
Tree Structure
for Organized Topics

#### Speech-to-Speech Translation

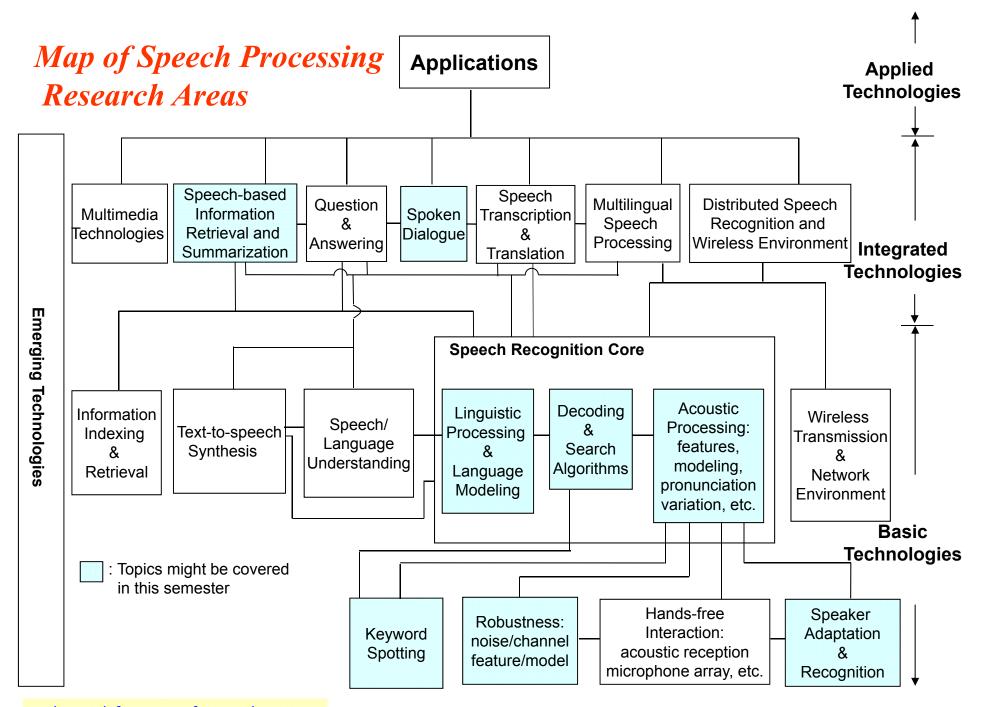
- Multilingual interactive speech translation
  - Aim at the achievement of a communication system for precise recognition and translation of spoken utterances for several conversational topics and environments by using human language knowledge synthetically (adopted form ATR-SLT)





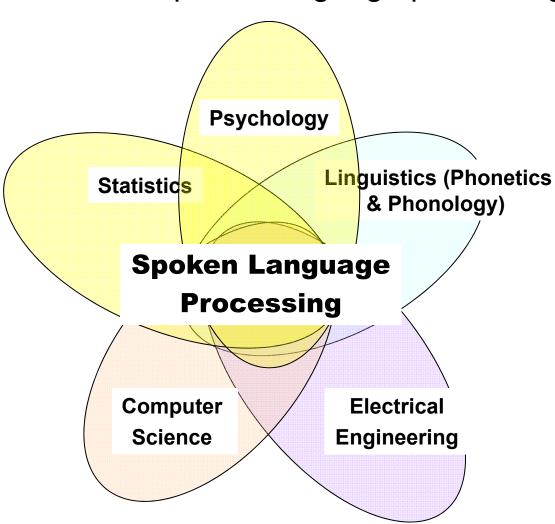


IBM Mastor Project



#### Different Academic Disciplines

The foundations of spoken language processing lies in

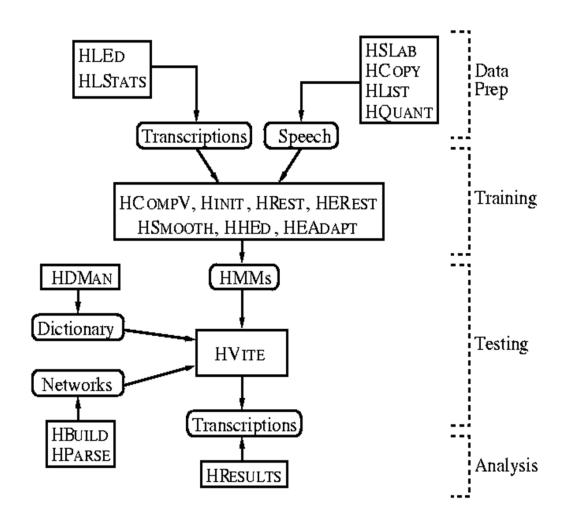


# Speech Processing Toolkit (1/2)

- HTK (Hidden Markov Model ToolKit)
  - A toolkit for building Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)
  - The HMM can be used to model any time series and the core of HTK is similarly general-purpose
  - In particular, for the acoustic feature extraction, HMMbased acoustic model training and HMM network decoding

### Speech Processing Toolkit (2/2)

HTK (Hidden Markov Model ToolKit)



#### Journals & Conferences

#### Journals

- IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing
- Computer Speech & Language
- Speech Communication
- Proceedings of the IEEE
- IEEE Signal Processing Magazine
- ACM Transactions on Speech and Language Processing
- ACM Transactions on Asian Language Information Processing

- ...

#### Conferences

- IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, Signal processing (ICASSP)
- Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (Interspeech)
- IEEE Workshop on Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding (ASRU)
- IEEE Workshop on Spoken Language Technology (SLT)
- International Symposium on Chinese Spoken Language Processing (ISCSLP)
- ROCLING Conference on Computational Linguistics and Speech Processing

**–** ...

# Speech Industry (1/3)

- **Telecommunication**
- **Information Appliance**
- Interactive Voice Response
- Voice Portal
- Multimedia Database
- Education









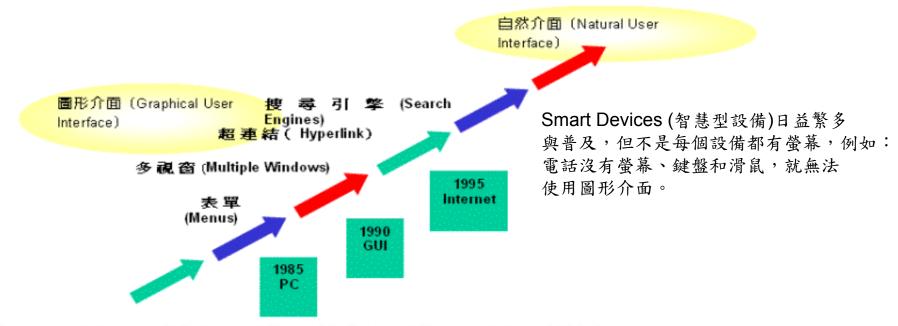
#### **Tentative Schedule**

Topics to be Covered			
Overview & Introduction			
Hidden Markov Models			
Spoken Language Structure			
Acoustic Modeling & HTK Toolkit			
Statistical Language Modeling & SRI LM Toolkit			
Speech Signal Representations			
Digit Recognition, Word Recognition and Keyword Spotting			
Large Vocabulary Continuous Speech Recognition (LVCSR)			
Speech Enhancement and Environment Robustness			
Model Training and Adaptation Techniques			
Utterance Verification and Confidence Measures			

# Speech Industry (2/3)

Microsoft: Smart Device/Natural UI

使用介面的發展



Source: 微軟自然互動服務產品部門 (NISD)副總裁李開複博士講稿, 2003/04

.NET 的最初構想,以符合人類需求的自然介面,其包括 -

- 語音合成
- 語音辨識技術
- 結合XML為基礎的網路服務

# Speech Industry (3/3)

Microsoft: Smart Device/Natural UI

