

Recognition of isolated words using Zernike and MFCC features for audio visual speech recognition

Prashant Borde · Amarsinh Varpe · Ramesh Manza · Pravin Yannawar

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Abstract Automatic speech recognition by machine is an attractive research topic in signal processing domain and has attracted many researchers to contribute in this area. In recent year, there have been many advances in automatic speech reading system with the inclusion of audio and visual speech features to recognize words under noisy conditions. The objective of audio-visual speech recognition system is to improve recognition accuracy. In this paper we computed visual features using *Zernike moments* and audio feature using *mel frequency cepstral coefficients* on *visual vocabulary of independent standard words* dataset which contains collection of isolated set of city names of ten speakers. The visual features were normalized and dimension of features set was reduced by principal component analysis (PCA) in order to recognize the isolated word utterance on PCA space. The performance of recognition of isolated words based on visual only and audio only features results in 63.88 and 100 % respectively.

Keywords Lip tracking · Zernike moment · Principal component analysis (PCA) · Mel frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCC)

1 Introduction

In the recent year, there are many automatic speech reading system proposed that combine audio as well as visual speech features. In computer speech recognition visual component of speech is used for support of acoustic speech recognition. Design of an audio-visual speech recognizer is based on human lip-reading expert experiences. Hearing impaired people achieve recognition rate of 60–80 % in dependence on lip-reading conditions. Most important conditions for good lip-reading are quality of visual speech of a speaker (proper articulation) and angle of view. Sometimes people, who are well understood from acoustic component may be not well lip-read but for hearing-impaired or even deaf people visual speech component is important source of information. Lip-reading (visual speech recognition) is used by people without disabilities, too. It helps better understanding in case when the acoustic speech is less intelligible. Task of automatic speech recognition by a computer, when both acoustic and visual component of speech is used has attracted many researcher to contribute in automatic *Audio-Visual Speech Recognition* domain. This is challenging because of the visual articulations vary with speaker to speaker and can contain very less information as compared to acoustic signal therefore identification of robust features is still center of attraction of many researchers. The visual speech component is used by hearing-impaired people (for lip-reading), but is also used unconsciously by all people in common communication, especially in noisy environment [Železný et al. \(2006\)](#).

An Automatic speech recognition (ASR) for well define applications like dictations and medium vocabulary transaction processing tasks are in relatively controlled environments have been designed. It is observed by the researchers that, the ASR performance was far from human performance in variety of tasks and conditions, indeed ASR to date is very

P. Borde (✉) · A. Varpe · P. Yannawar
Vision and Intelligent System Lab, Department of Computer Science and IT, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, MS, India
e-mail: borde.prashantkumar@gmail.com

R. Manza
Biomedical Image Processing Lab, Department of Computer Science and IT, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, MS, India

sensitive to variations in the environmental channel (non-stationary noise sources such as speech babbling, reverberation in closed spaces such as car, multi-speaker environments) and style of speech (such as whispered etc) Deller et al. (1993). Lip-reading is an auditory, imagery system as a source of speech and image information. It provides the redundancy with the acoustic speech signal but is less variable than acoustic signals; the acoustic signal depends on lip, teeth, and tongue position to the extent that significant phonetic information was obtainable using lip movement recognition alone (Petjan et al. 1987; Finn 1986). The intimate relation between the audio and imagery sensor domains in human recognition can be demonstrated with McGurk Effect (Macdonald and MacGurk 1978; MacGurk and Macdonald 1976); where the perceiver “hears” something other than what was said acoustically due to the influence of conflicting visual stimulus. The current speech recognition technology may perform adequately in the absence of acoustic noise for moderate size vocabularies; but even in the presence of moderate noise it fails except for very small vocabularies (Paul et al. 1987; Malkin 1986; Meisel 1987; Moody et al. 1987).

Humans have difficulty distinguishing between some consonants when acoustic signal is degraded. However, to date all automatic speech reading studies have been limited to very small vocabulary tasks and in most of cases to very small number of speakers. In addition the numbers of diverse algorithms have been suggested in the literature for automatic speech reading and are very difficult to compare, as they are hardly ever tested on any common audio visual databases. Furthermore, most of such databases are very small duration thus placing doubts about generalization of reported results to large population and tasks. There is no specific answer to this but researchers are concentrating more on speaker independent audio-visual large vocabulary continuous speech recognition systems Neti et al. (2000).

Many methods have been proposed by researchers in order to enhance speech recognition system by synchronization of visual information with the speech as improvement on automatic Lip-reading system which incorporates dynamic time warping, and vector quantization method applied on alphabets, digits and recognition was restricted to isolated utterances and was speaker dependent Petjan et al. (1987). Later Christopher (1993) had worked on how recognition performance in automated speech perception can be significantly improved & introduced an extension to existing Multi-State Time Delayed Neural Network architecture for handling both the modalities that is acoustics and visual sensor input Christopher (1993). Similar work have been done by Yuhass et al. (1993) & focused on neural network for vowel recognition and worked on static images Yuhass et al. (1993). Duchnowski (1995) worked on movement invariant automatic Lip-reading and speech recognition Duchnowski (1995). Juergen (1996) used active shape model and hidden markov model for visual

speech recognition Juergen (1996). Sum et al. (2001) proposed a new optimization procedure for extracting the point-based lip contour using active shape model Sum et al. (2001). Capiler (2001) used Active shape model and Kalman filtering in spatiotemporal for noting visual deformations Capiler (2001). Matthews et al. (2002) has proposed method for extraction of visual features of Lip-reading for audio-visual speech recognition Matthews et al. (2002). Hong et al. (2006) used PCA based DCT features extraction method for Lip-reading Hong et al. (2006). Saitoh et al. (2008) has analyzed efficient Lip-reading method for various languages where they focused on limited set of words from English, Japanese, Nepalese, Chinese and Mongolian. The words in English and their translated words in above listed languages were considered for the experiment Saitoh et al. (2008). Li et al. (2008) has proposed A Novel Motion Based Lip Feature Extraction for Lip-reading problems Li et al. (2008).

This paper introduced mechanism of extraction of audio-visual features for visual speech recognition. The content of the paper is organized in five section, Sect. 2 deals with ‘vVISWa’ dataset, Sect. 3 deals with methodology adopted, Sect. 4 deal with experimental results, Sect. 5 is conclusion of work followed acknowledgement and references.

2 ‘vVISWa’ dataset

Many researchers have defined their own dataset and very few are available online freely. Indeed it is very difficult to distribute the data base freely on the web due to the size. The video sequences used for this study was collected in the laboratory in a closed environment. The ‘vVISWa’ (*Visual Vocabulary of Independent Standard Words*) database consists set of independent/isolated standard words from Marathi, Hindi and English script. The dataset of isolated city words like { ‘Aurangabad’, ‘Beed’, ‘Hingoli’, ‘Jalgaon’, ‘Kolhapur’, ‘Latur’, ‘Mumbai’, ‘Osmanabad’, ‘Parbhani’, ‘Pune’, ‘Satara’, ‘Solapur’ } in Marathi were considered for this experiments. Each visual utterance is recorded for 2 s. The database consists of ten individuals speakers, four male and six female and each speaker speaking each word utterance for ten times. Each individual has uttered word in close-open-close constraint without head movement. The database comprised of 1200 utterance (10*10*12) of these independent standard words. The Fig. 1 shows the experimental arrangement of acquisition of utterances from individual speaker.

The visual utterance was recorded at resolution of 720 x 576 in (*.avi) format using high definition digital camera in three angle comprising full frontal using camera ‘C1’, 45° face using camera ‘C2’ and side pose using camera ‘C3’. This study was focused on full frontal profile of utterance. Lighting was controlled and a dark gray background was used. The recognition of visual utterance of word, the data

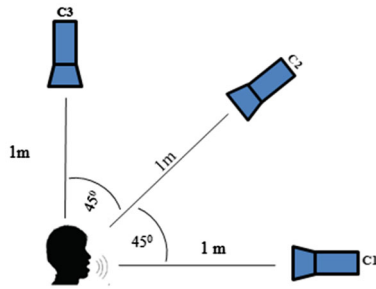


Fig. 1 Acquisition of utterances

set of isolated city words was divided in to 70 % known sample and 30 % unknown sample. The System was trained over 70 % known set and 30 % unknown samples were tested on the known set and success recognition of isolated word based on visual utterance was evaluated.

3 Methodology

The typical audio visual speech recognition system accepts the audio and visual input as shown in Fig. 2. The audio input is captured with the help of standard audio mic and visual utterance is captured by using standard camera. The place between camera and individual speaker is kept constant in order to get proper visual utterance. Once the input is acquired, it will be preprocessed for acoustic feature extraction and visual feature extraction separately and further used for recognition and integration of utterance.

Visual features can be grouped into three general categories: shape-based, appearance-based, and combinational approaches. All three types require the localization and tracking of region of interest (ROI). Region of interest for computation of visual feature will be concentrated towards the movement of lips (opening and closing of mouth) over the

time frame which is very complex. In-view of this calculating good and discriminatory visual feature of mouth plays vital role in the recognition.

3.1 Region-of-interest (ROI) detection/localization

The visual information relevant to speech is mostly contained in the motion of visible articulators such as lips, tongue and jaw. In order to extract this information from a sequence of video frames it is advantageous to track the complete motion of the face detection and mouth localization, this helps in visual feature extraction. In order to achieve robust and real-time face detection we used the ‘Viola-Jones’ detector based on ‘AdaBoost’ which is a binary classifier that uses cascades of weak classifiers to boost its performance (Bradski and Kaehler 2008; Bishop 2006). In our study we used detector to detect the face in each frame from the sequence and subsequently mouth portion of the face is detected. This is achieved by finding the median of the coordinates of the ROI object bounding box of frames. Finally a ROI is extracted by resizing the mouth bounding box to 120 × 120 pixels size as shown in Fig. 3.

After isolating ROI Mouth frame, each frame from utterance was pre-processed so as to obtain good discriminating features. The preprocessing include, separation of RGB channel and subtract R channel to gray scale image, filter the resultant image then calculating gray threshold range and converted frame into binary frame to get the actual ROI of containing only the portion covered by lips as shown in Fig. 4 and in similar way the ROI for each frame of utterance is identified as shown Table 1.

3.2 Visual feature extraction

After extracting the ROI from frame, the next step is to extract the appropriate features in each frame. We used

Fig. 2 Organization of AVSR

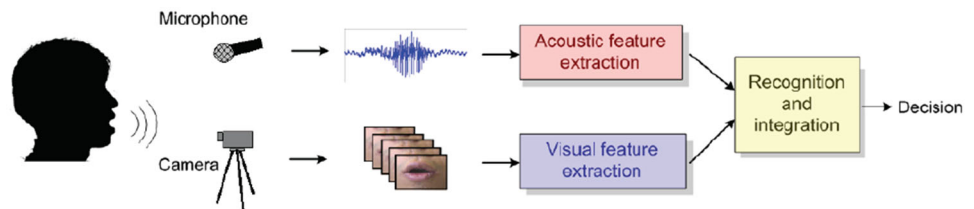


Fig. 3 Mouth Localization using Viola-Jones Algorithm



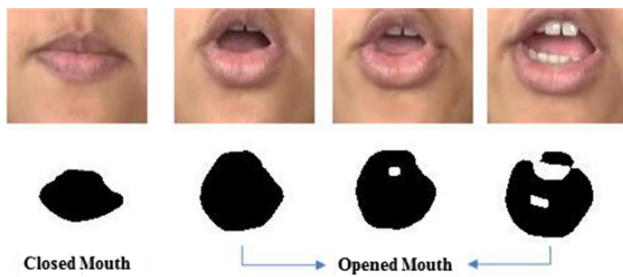


Fig. 4 Isolation of ROI Identification

Zernike movement for features extraction. Zernike moments have mathematical properties which makes them ideal for image feature extraction. These moments are best suited for describing shape and shape classification problem. Zernike moments, a type of moment function, are the mapping of an image onto a set of complex Zernike polynomials which form a complete orthogonal set on the unit disk with $(x^2 + y^2) = 1$.

$$Z_{mn} = \frac{m + 1}{\pi} \int_x \int_y I(x, y)[V_{mn}(x, y)]dx dy \tag{1}$$

where ‘m’ defines the order of Zernike polynomial of degree ‘m’, ‘n’ defines the angular dependency, and $I(x, y)$ be the gray level of a pixel of video frame on which the moment is calculated. The Zernike polynomials $V_{mn}(x, y)$ are expected in polar coordinates using radial polynomial (R_{mn}) as per Eqs. (2) and (3)

$$V_{mn}(r, \theta) = R_{mn}(r)e^{-jn\theta} \tag{2}$$

$$R_{mn}(r) = \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{m-|n|}{2}} (-1)^s \frac{(m-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{m+|n|}{2} - s\right]! \left[\frac{m-|n|}{2} - s\right]!} r^{m-2s} \tag{3}$$

These resultant Zernike moments Z_{mn} are invariant under rotation, scale and translational changes. Zernike Moments

are the pure statistical measure of pixel distribution around center of gravity of shape and allows capturing information just at single boundary point. They can capture some of the global properties missing from the pure boundary-based representations like the overall image orientation (Tripathy 2010; Hwang and Kim 2006). Table 2 shows calculated Zernike moment feature up to 9th order for a sample frame from sequence as these feature were calculated for all the samples of ‘Training set’ and ‘Test set’. The ‘Zernike feature matrix’ for the samples of ‘training set’, are as shown in Table 3a and ‘Test set’ are as shown in 3b.

3.3 Principal component analysis

Zernike features for each frame in visual utterance was computed and results in to 9x1 columns. The visual utterance was captured for two seconds and results in formation of 52 frames therefore the Zernike features for one visual utterance results in to 468x1 for single word. Similarly all visual words of city names from ‘vVISWa’ are passed for visual feature extraction which results in 468x72 size matrix. This feature set was called as ‘Training Set’ and the dimension of this data set is to be reduced and to be interpreted using Principal Component Analysis. PCA was applied on Zernike features to extract the most significant components of feature corresponding to the set of isolated words. PCA converts all of the original variables to be some independent linear set of variables. Those independent linear sets of variables possess the most information in the original data referred as principal components.

Following steps show the how to reduce the size of data and recognition using PCA.

Step 1: Convert the all Zernike features into the column matrix as ‘T’.

Step 2: Calculate the Mean Column Vector ‘m’ for ‘T’.

Table 1 Isolated Mouth from video sequence

No. of Frame	Frame 1	Frame 2	Frame 3	Frame 4	Frame 5	Frame 6	Frame 7	Frame 8	...	Frame 52
Processed Frame									...	

Table 2 Computed Zernike moment of 9th order for ith frame from video sequence

Frame	Order 1	Order 2	Order 3	Order 4	Order 5	Order 6	Order 7	Order 8	Order 9

Table 3 Zernike moment features Set

Known set frame no	Moment 1	Moment 2	Moment 3	Moment 4	Moment 5	Moment 6	Moment 7	Moment 8	Moment 9
a. For training set									
1	113.6623	83.8783	97.2958	22.79026	93.09135	20.30108	17.2095	34.9933	38.6219
2	130.2606	81.1683	107.603	9.117232	82.55588	17.8117	40.1537	7.79399	34.6609
3	123.5299	60.8899	76.2613	6.61097	53.6311	12.62223	86.0334	20.0651	37.212
4	96.47357	52.5382	50.5424	12.6747	43.6893	18.11593	77.4625	31.40335	31.1274
5	133.6902	65.0204	97.7663	2.88031	55.25426	15.06808	60.9075	14.38177	42.9087
6	137.4431	82.1828	105.348	7.687009	82.90935	24.91766	40.698	5.5325	49.5998
7	141.7249	88.4639	98.0411	8.199153	81.44456	29.86014	57.4904	6.10306	58.5721
8	137.8847	81.6338	80.8799	3.86494	69.05018	34.27437	77.0594	15.43476	59.1316
9	132.6377	87.2031	118.214	20.16833	91.06382	21.75958	20.4497	27.6913	41.8429
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Unknown set frame no	Moment 1	Moment 2	Moment 3	Moment 4	Moment 5	Moment 6	Moment 7	Moment 8	Moment 9
b. For test set									
1	121.5122	70.6177	88.3392	0.58559	62.22295	20.91341	55.2083	12.17358	37.7686
2	118.0057	57.4738	75.4854	8.49015	51.32621	14.75032	70.3078	23.14418	39.8614
3	121.3839	69.8241	81.3716	0.65449	65.21946	17.72637	61.4222	10.05763	40.8054
4	136.9246	85.9918	89.025	0.74707	84.20651	31.30934	64.9828	8.079067	55.197
5	169.4281	81.0754	134.969	9.86071	80.96385	19.45107	42.3216	13.4204	64.8695
6	127.3445	78.3759	66.6737	2.870781	79.1795	11.6277	94.4969	4.71345	46.6652
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Step 3: Computing the difference for each vector set $A_i = T_i - m$ where $(i=1, 2 \dots N)$

Step 4: Calculating a covariance matrix $C = A * A'$

Step 5: Calculate the eigenvalues and unit eigenvectors of the covariance Matrix 'C'.

Step 6: Sort the eigenvalues.

Step 7: Solve the mapping eigenvectors and project data on Eigen space for matching.

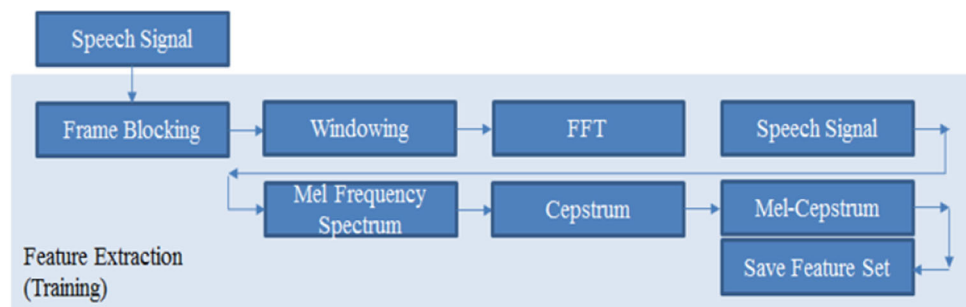
3.4 Acoustic features extraction using MFCC

The acoustic signals of 'vVISWa' dataset corresponding to isolated words of city names have been processed for feature extraction. Recognition of uttered word is based on information in speech signal contained at the time of pronunciation of word. Mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCC) approach is the most popular because it uses spectral base as parameters for recognition. MFCC's are the coefficients, which represent audio based on perception of human auditory systems. The reason behind selection of MFCC for recognition purpose due to its peculiar difference between the operations of FFT/DCT. In the MFCC, the frequency bands are positioned logarithmically (on the Mel scale) which approx-

imates the human auditory system's response more closely than the linearly spaced frequency bands of FFT or DCT (Leon et al. 2009; Gold and Morgan 2000). Fig. 5 shows the block diagram of MFCC features extraction process. After acquisition of input our objective is to remove noise contained in speech signal and it will be removed by using first order high pass filter. This process helps in cleaning acoustic-input. Frame blocking phase converts segmented concatenated voiced speech signals in to frames. The discontinuities contained in the segmented signal is checked at the beginning and end of each frame using hamming window and this was performed by windowing step. Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) brings the each frame of signal from time domain to frequency domain and the result is said to be 'spectrum'.

It is well known that, human ear perception of frequency contents of sounds for speech signal does not follow a linear scale. Therefore, for each tone with an actual frequency f , measured in Hz, a subjective pitch is measured on a scale called the "mel" scale. The mel frequency scale is a linear frequency spacing below 1000 Hz and a logarithmic spacing above 1000Hz. To compute the mels for a given frequency ' f ' in Hz is calculated as,

Fig. 5 Block diagram of MFCC Feature extraction



$$\text{Mel}(f) = S_k = 2595 * \log_{10}\left(1 + \frac{f}{700}\right) \quad (4)$$

Finally, we convert the calculated log *mel* spectrum back to time. The result is called the *mel frequency cepstrum coefficients (MFCC)*. The Cepstral representation of the speech signal spectrum provides a good representation of the local spectral properties of the signal for frame analysis. The *mel* spectrum coefficients are real numbers so we convert them to the time domain using the discrete cosine transform (DCT) and by this conversion contribution of pitch is removed [Tiwari \(2010\)](#).

$$C_n = \sum_{k=1}^k (\log S_k) \left[n \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right) \frac{\pi}{k} \right] \quad (5)$$

where $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$.

4 Experiment and result

The recognition of visual only sample were carried out by Zernike moment and PCA. Similarly MFCC features were extracted for audio only recognition of uttered isolated words. These features were calculated for all sample of training set and stored for recognition purpose. The entire data set of isolated city names (visual only and audio only) were divided into 70–30 ratio that is 70 % (Training samples) and 30 % (Test samples). The recognition of isolated city name was divided in to two phase's first recognition of visual speech and second recognition of audio speech.

4.1 Visual speech recognition

Visual feature using Zernike feature were computed for all visual samples of training and test set. The training and test set were loaded for recognition of words at PCA space. This feature vector of training sample and test sample were checked for similarity using 'Euclidean' distance classifier at PCA projection space. The 'Euclidean' distance provides information between each pair (one vector from test set and other vector from training set) of observations. The distance matrix of training sample and test sample using Zernike moment and PCA was shown in Table 4.

It was seen that out of 36 samples 23 samples were correctly recognized and 13 samples were misclassified. Samples of 'Latur' and 'Solapur' were not recognized whereas samples of {'Mumbai', 'Osmanabad', 'Parbhani' and 'Satara'} were recognized completely. It was seen that for three samples of 'Aurangabad' two samples were correctly recognized and one sample was matched with 'Kolhapur', this result in 66.66% of recognition of word. Similar results were observed for isolated word {'Hingoli', 'Jalna', 'Kolhapur' and 'Pune'}. For isolated word 'Beed' it was seen that out of three samples only one was correctly recognized and two samples were matched with word 'Pune'.

4.2 Audio speech recognition

MFCC features for all audio speech samples from training set and test set were computed. The 'Euclidean' distance classifier was used for measuring the similarity between test samples and training sample. The Table 5. shows confusion matrix for acoustic speech recognition based on MFCC features. It was seen that all samples out of 36 samples were recognized correctly and overall recognition rate measured to be 100%.

Table 6 provides the overall recognition rate for recognition of isolated words from 'vVISWa' data set. This clearly indicates that the Zernike feature with PCA will helpful in recognition of words similar to the accuracy of recognition of words by hearing impaired peoples in dependence of lip-reading conditions. This approach will also be helpful in recognition of dictionary based words on visual only features when the acoustic signal is degraded due to noise.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we described a complete Audio-Visual Speech Recognition system which include face and lip detection, features extraction and recognition. These experiment carried out using our own database, which was designed for evaluation purpose. We used a new technique for visual speech recognition that is Zernike Moment. The Zernike moment features are found to be more reliable and accurate feature

Table 4 Confusion Matrix for Visual Utterance Recognition using PCA based on Zernike Features

Words to Test Utterance	Visual Utterance	Training Sample												Recognition			
		Aurangabad												Recognized	Miss	Accuracy %	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
3	Aurangabad	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	66.66
3	Beed	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	33.33
3	Hingoli	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	66.66
3	Jalgaon	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	66.66
3	Kolhapur	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	66.66
3	Latur	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0
3	Mumbai	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Osmanabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Perbhani	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Pune	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	66.66
3	Satara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	100
3	Solapur	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Total														23	13		
Final result															63.88 %		

Table 5 Confusion Matrix for Acoustic Utterance Recognition using MFCC

Words to Test	Acoustic Utterance	Training Sample												Recognition				
		Aurangabad												Recognized	Missed	Accuracy %		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
3	Aurangabad	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Beed	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Hingoli	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Jalgaon	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Kolhapur	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Latur	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Mumbai	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Osmanabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Perbhani	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Pune	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Satara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	100
3	Solapur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	100
Total														36	0			
Final Result														100%				

Table 6 Performance of Recognition of System

Method	Result %
Visual Speech Recognition (Zernike + PCA)	63.88
Acoustic Speech Recognition (MFCC)	100

for visual speech recognition and PCA used to reduce the dimension of data.

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