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Advanced topics in end-to-end speech recognition Hybrid CTC/Attention Architecture for End-to-End Speech Recognition

Takaaki Hori, Shinji Watanabe, Jonathan Le Roux, John Hershey, MERL interns (Suyoun Kim, Tomoki Hayashi, Shane Settle, Hiroshi Seki) External collaborators (Yu Zhang, William Chan)

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Outline

- End-to-end speech recognition
- Hybrid CTC/attention-based end-to-end speech recognition
 - Multi-task CTC/attention learning (ICASSP'17)
 - Joint CTC/attention decoding (ACL'17)
 - Integration with a deep CNN and an RNN-LM (Interspeech'17)
 - Multi-level language modeling and decoding (ASRU'17)
- Multi-lingual multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition
 - Multi-lingual end-to-end speech recognition (ASRU'17, ICASSP'18)
 - Multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition (ICASSP'18, ACL'18)





End-to-end Speech Recognition

- Train a deep network that directly maps speech signal to the target letter/word sequence
- Greatly simplify the complicated model-building/decoding process
- Easy to build ASR systems for new tasks without expert knowledge
- Potential to outperform conventional ASR by optimizing the entire network with a single objective function





End-to-end ASR (1) Connectionist temporal classification (CTC) [Graves+ 2006, Graves+ 2014, Miao+ 2015]

- Use bidirectional RNNs to predict frame-based labels including blanks
- Find alignments between X and Y using dynamic programming
- Relying on conditional independence assumptions
- Output sequence is not well modeled





End-to-end ASR (2)

Attention-based encoder decoder [Chorowski+ 2014, Chan+ 2015]

- Combine acoustic and language models in a single architecture
 - Encoder: acoustic model
 - Decoder: language model
 - Attention: alignment
- No conditional independence assumption unlike CTC
 - More precise seq-to-seq model

Encoder

 x_1

- Attention mechanism allows too flexible alignments
 - Hard to train the model from scratch





Input/output alignment by temporal attention

- Unlike CTC, attention model does not preserve order of inputs
- Our desired alignment in ASR task is monotonic
- Not regularized alignment makes the model hard to learn from scratch





Example of monotonic alignment

Example of distorted alignment

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Hybrid CTC/attention network [Kim+'17]

Multitask learning: $\mathcal{L}_{MTL} = \lambda \mathcal{L}_{CTC} + (1 - \lambda) \mathcal{L}_{Attention}$ λ : CTC weight



CTC guides attention alignment to be monotonic



More robust input/output alignment of attention

• Alignment of one selected utterance from CHiME4 task



Faster convergence



Joint CTC/attention decoding [Hori+'17]

Use CTC for decoding together with the attention decoder







Joint CTC/attention decoding

 Decoding objective is changed to the CTC/attention probability

$$\begin{split} \hat{Y} &= \arg \max_{Y \in \mathcal{V}^*} \log p_{\mathrm{att}}(Y|X) \\ & \mathcal{V}: \text{vocabulary} \\ \hat{Y} &= \arg \max_{Y \in \mathcal{V}^*} \left\{ \lambda \log p_{\mathrm{ctc}}(Y|X) + (1-\lambda) \log p_{\mathrm{att}}(Y|X) \right\} \\ & \lambda: \mathrm{CTC \ weight} \end{split}$$

CTC helps select better hypotheses in the decoding phase



Label-synchronous beam search for decoding



Attention model score of partial hypothesis *h*

$$\alpha_{\text{att}}(h) = \alpha_{\text{att}}(g) + \log p_{\text{att}}(c|g, X)$$
$$h = g \cdot c \quad (g : \text{previous hypothesis}, \ c : \text{next character})$$

Recognition output

$$\hat{Y} = \arg\max_{Y \in \Phi} \alpha_{\text{att}}(Y)$$

 Φ : set of complete hypotheses





Decoding strategies

- Rescoring approach
 - 1st pass employs the attention decoder using a beam search technique
 - 2nd-pass rescores the N-best hypotheses Φ_N with hybrid CTC/ attention probabilities and select the best hypothesis

$$\hat{Y} = \arg \max_{Y \in \Phi_N} \{\lambda \log p_{\text{ctc}}(Y|X) + (1-\lambda) \log p_{\text{att}}(Y|X)\}$$

- Can not save the hypotheses pruned in the 1st pass
- One-pass approach
 - Use the joint CTC/attention probabilities from the beginning of the search

$$\alpha_{\text{joint}}(h) = \lambda \underline{\alpha_{\text{ctc}}(h)} + (1 - \lambda) \underline{\alpha_{\text{att}}(h)}$$

- Hopefully work with less pruning errors, but we don't know how to compute $\alpha_{ctc}(h)$



CTC-based hypothesis score

CTC prefix probability [Graves'08]

$$\alpha_{\rm ctc}(h) \triangleq \log \sum_{\nu \in (\mathcal{U} \cup \{{\scriptstyle < eos > }\})^+} p_{\rm ctc}(h \cdot \nu | X)$$

Cumulative probability of all label sequences that prefix is h



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CTC-based hypothesis score

CTC prefix probability [Graves'08]

$$\alpha_{\rm ctc}(h) \triangleq \log \sum_{\nu \in (\mathcal{U} \cup \{{\scriptstyle {{\scriptscriptstyle \mathsf{cos}}}}\})^+} p_{\rm ctc}(h \cdot \nu | X)$$

Cumulative probability of all label sequences that prefix is h

Label-synchronous forward algorithm

Input frames







End detection problem

• Attention decoder fails to detect the end of sequence



Attention-based hypothesis scores



End detection problem

• Attention decoder fails to detect the end of sequence

Attention-based hypothesis scores with a length penalty

$$\alpha'_{\rm att}(h) = \alpha_{\rm att}(h) + \rho |h|$$



Need to carefully tune the length penalty, max/min lengths...



End detection problem

• CTC is a good end-point estimator



CTC and CTC/attention scores

- CTC/attention decoding does not need any length control
- Can terminate decoding earlier by detecting the score peak



Experiments

- Data sets
 - HKUST: Mandarin Chinese conversational telephone speech recognition
 - Training 167 hours, Development 4.8 hours, Evaluation 4.9 hours
 - Input feature: 80 dim. mel-filterbank + pitch feature
 - Output labels: 3653
 - CSJ: Japanese lecture speech transcription task
 - Training 581 hours, Evaluation: task1: 1.9 hours, task2: 2.0 hours, task3: 1.3 hours
 - Input feature: 40 dim. mel-filterbank + delta + delta-delta
 - Output labels: 3315
- Models
 - Encoder 4 layer BLSTM (320 cells)
 - Decoder 1 layer LSTM (320 cells) with location-based attention mechanism



Impact of CTC weight

• CTC weight (λ) vs. Character error rate





Example of recovering insertion errors (HKUST)

id: (20040717_152947_A010409_B010408-A-057045-057837)

Reference

但是如果你想想如果回到了过去你如果带着这个现在的记忆是不是很痛苦啊

Hybrid CTC/attention (w/o joint decoding)

Scores: (#Correctness #Substitution #Deletion #Insertion) 28 2 3 45

但 是 如 果 你 想 想 如 果 回 到 了 过 去 你 如 果 带 着 这 个 现 在 的 节 如 果 你 想 想 如 果 回 到 了 过 去 你 如 果 带 着 这 个 现 在 的 节 如 果 你 想 想 如 果 回 到 了 过 去 你 如 果 带 着 这 个 现 在 的 机 是 不 是 很 ・ ・ ・

w/ Joint decoding

Scores: (#Correctness #Substitution #Deletion #Insertion) 31 1 1 0 HYP: 但是如果你想想如果回到了过去你如果带着这个现在的・机是不是很痛苦啊





Example of recovering deletion errors (CSJ)







Comparison with rescoring approach

• Real-time Factor vs. Character Error Rate

with a single CPU (Intel(R) Xeon(R) processors, E5-2690 v3, 2.6 GHz)





Extended CTC/attention network [Hori+'17]

(1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)





Extended CTC/attention network [Hori+'17]

(1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)

(2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)





- (1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)
- (2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)





- (1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)
- (2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)





- (1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)
- (2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)





(2) RNN-LM integration

Log-probability combination with interpolation weight γ $\log p'_{\rm att}(y_{l}|y_{1},\ldots,y_{l-1},X) = \gamma \log p_{\rm att}(y_{l}|y_{1},\ldots,y_{l-1},X)$ $+ (1 - \gamma) \log p_{lm}(y_l | y_1, \dots, y_{l-1})$ y_1 y_2 eos eos SOS eos SOS \mathcal{Y}_1 y_2 \mathbf{S}_{L-1} \mathbf{q}_1 \mathbf{q}_{L-1} \mathbf{S}_0 S₁ \mathbf{q}_0 \mathbf{r}_0 **RNN-LM (LSTM)** \mathbf{r}_{I} Attention Η Decoder Encoder Suitable for decoding with a pre-trained RNN-LM



(2) RNN-LM integration

Logit-level combination without interpolation weights





- (1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)
- (2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)





(3) Deep CNN – VGG Net [Simonyan+'14]





Effect of extended models in HKUST task





Effect of extended models in CSJ task





Comparison with conventional ASR systems

• Character Error Rate (%) in HKUST task

Models	Dev.	Eval
Our best model	29.1	28.0
DNN/HMM	-	35.9
LSTM/HMM + speed perturb.	-	33.5
CTC with language model (Miao et al. 2016)	-	34.8
TDNN/HMM, lattice-free MMI + speed perturb. (Povey et al., 2016)	-	28.2

• Character Error Rate (%) in CSJ task

Models	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
Our best model	7.9	5.8	6.7
DNN/HMM (Moriya et al., 2015)	9.0	7.2	9.6
CTC-syllable (Kanda et al., 2016)	9.4	7.3	7.5



- (1) Connectionist Temporal Classification (CTC)
- (2) Recurrent Neural Network Language Model (RNN-LM)







Problem of character-based prediction

- End-to-end ASR is usually designed to generate character sequences
 - No explicit word boundaries in some languages
 - Training acoustic-to-word mapping is hard (need huge data)
- General approaches
 - N-gram LM+ WFST approach [Miao+ 2015, Chorowsky+ 2015]
 - Difficult to incorporate RNN-LMs
 - No treatment for out-of-vocabulary (OOV) words
 - Character-based RNN-LM [Hori+ 2017]
 - Can perform open vocabulary ASR
 - Character LMs under-performs word LMs if large text corpus is available

Our approach

Multi-level LMs to incorporate word-based RNN-LMs while keeping open-vocabulary ASR





Basic concept

• Decoding with character-level LM scores

$$\hat{C} = \arg \max_{C \in \mathcal{U}^*} \{\lambda \log p_{\text{ctc}}(C|X) + (1-\lambda) \log p_{\text{att}}(C|X) + \gamma \log p_{\text{lm}}(C)\}$$

• Apply LM scores at both the character and word levels





Character-based probability using word-based RNN-LM

$$p_{\rm lm}(c|g) = \begin{cases} \frac{p_{\rm wlm}(w_g|\psi_g)}{p_{\rm clm}(w_g|\psi_g)} & \text{if } c \in S, w_g \in \mathcal{V} \\ p_{\rm wlm}(< \text{UNK} > |\psi_g) \tilde{\beta} & \text{if } c \in S, w_g \notin \mathcal{V} \\ p_{\rm clm}(c|g) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

 $S: set of word boundary characters {<space>,<eos>,...}$

- \mathcal{V} : vocabulary of word LM
- g: hypothesis
- w_g : last word of g
- ψ_g : history of w_g
- a,<space>,c,a,t,<space>,e,a,t,s eats a,cat
- $\tilde{\beta}$: adjustment term for OOVs

$$p_{\text{wlm}}(w_{\text{oov}}|\psi_g) = p_{\text{wlm}}(\langle \text{UNK} \rangle | \psi_g) p_{\text{clm}}(w_{\text{oov}} | \langle \text{UNK} \rangle, \psi_g)$$
$$p_{\text{clm}}(w_{\text{oov}} | \langle \text{UNK} \rangle, \psi_g) \propto p_{\text{clm}}(w_{\text{oov}} | \psi_g) \longrightarrow \tilde{\beta}$$



Experiments

- Wall Street Journal (WSJ) corpus
 - Training: 80 hours (SI284), Development: 1.1 hours (dev93), Evaluation: 0.7 hours (eval92)
 - Input: 80 dim. mel-filterbank + pitch feature (+d, +dd)
 - Output: 32 distinct labels (26 char + apostrophe, period, ..., <space>, <sos>/<eos>)
- Models
 - Encoder: 6-layer CNN + 4-layer BLSTM (320 cells)
 - Decoder: 1-layer LSTM (320 cells) with location-based attention mechanism
 - RNN-LMs: 1-layer LSTM (1000 cells), trained with WSJ text
 Vocabulary size of word LM: 20,000



Effect of language models



- No error reduction with only word LM even if increasing the beam width
- Character LM helps find better hypotheses for word LM



Comparison with other approaches

Models	dev93	eval92
Attention model + word 3-gram LM [Bahdanau 2016]	-	9.3
CTC + word 3-gram LM [Graves 2014]	-	8.2
CTC + word 3-gram LM [Miao 2015]	-	7.3
Attention model + word 3-gram LM [Chorowski 2016]	9.7	6.7
This work	9.6	5.6

- HMM/DNN + sMBR + word 3-gram LM 6.4 3.6
- HMM/DNN + sMBR + word RNN-LM 5.6 2.6



Toward multi-lingual multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition

- End-to-end direct optimization extends the scope of potential application use cases by training the model for multiple objectives.
- Aim at single system encompassing multi-source separation and understanding
- Investigate the capability of multi-lingual multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition





Multi-lingual end-to-end speech recognition

- Monolithic end-to-end multi-lingual ASR system
 - Build a simple, robust model without expert knowledge.





Multi-lingual end-to-end speech recognition [Watanabe+'17, Seki+'18]

- Learn a single model with multi-language data (10 languages)
- Joint language identification and speech recognition







ASR performance for 10 languages

- Comparison with language dependent systems
- One language per utterance (w/o code switching)





Data generation for multi-lingual code-switching speech

Concatenation of utterances from 10 language corpora

- 1) Select number to concat. (1, 2, or 3)
- 2) Sample language and utterance:
 - P(lang): proportional to corpus duration w/ flooring
 - P(utt): uniform distribution
- 3) Repeat generation to reach the duration of the original corpora





Duration (hours) of training data.

Corpus		Original	Generated
WSJ	English	81.5	87.4
CSJ	Japanese	216.3	149.1
HKUST	Mandarin	170.1	114.9
	German	45.7	64.6
	Spanish	40.3	61.6
Voxforge	French	29.6	57.9
	Italian	15.8	35.7
	Dutch	8.4	23.6
	Portuguese	3.0	9.0
	Russian	12.0	18.5
Total		622.7	622.3

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Recognition of speech with code-switching

• Character Error Rate (%) on the generated evaluation set.





Multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition

Joint separation and recognition with a single end-to-end deep network





End-to-end speech separation & recognition [Shane+18] RECOGNITION LOSS

 Combine Chimera++ separation net and the CTC/Attention recognition net in an end-to-end framework

SEPARATION LOSS

DEEP CLUSTERING

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{MI}}$

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{DC}}$

SS



Use separation loss for pre-training SS and resolving permutation



Joint separation & recognition experiments

Oracle and baseline CER results (%) (w/ char LM)

Training	Test	eval CER (%)
CLN	CLN	6.6
IBM	IBM	9.0
CLN	MIX	79.1

Proposed method, CER results (%) (w/ char LM)

F	ine-tu	ning	CLN-ASR-PT		IBM-ASR-PT	
SS	ASR	Loss	dev CER (%)	eval CER (%)	dev CER (%)	eval CER (%)
NO	NO	-	34.1	32.0	24.2	23.1
NO	YES	ASR	18.9	18.0	18.7	17.9
YES	YES	SS+ASR	16.3	15.4	14.0	13.9
YES	YES	ASR	13.3	13.2	13.6	13.4



Purely end-to-end approach [Seki+, accepted to ACL'18]

- Not use any explicit separation network
- Incorporate implicit separation via speaker-differentiating (SD) encoders followed by a shared recognition encoder
- Transcript-level permutation-free loss

$$\mathcal{L} = \min_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \operatorname{Loss}(Y^s, R^{\pi(s)})$$

S: number of speakersY: network output \mathcal{P} : possible permutationsR: reference

- No need for target speech in training
- Negative KL loss helps separate speaker-differentiating encodings





Purely end-to-end approach [Seki+, accepted to ACL'18]

CER (%) of mixed s	speech for WSJ	(w/ word LM)
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Split	HIGH E. SPK.	LOW E. SPK	. AVG.
NO (BASELINE)	86.4	79.5	83.0
VGG	17.4	15.6	16.5
BLSTM	14.6	13.3	14.0
+ KL loss	14.0	13.3	13.7

Comparison with other methods

Method	WER (%)
DPCL + ASR (ISIK ET AL., 201	6) 30.8
Proposed end-to-end ASR	28.2
Method	CER (%)
END-TO-END DPCL + ASR (CH	AR LM)
(Settle et al., 2018)	13.2
Proposed end-to-end ASR (char	LM) <u>14.0</u>
/ ۲	A bit worse than SS+ASR net but no need for target speech in trainin

Multi-lingual ASR

(Supporting 10 languages: CN, EN, JP, DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, RU, PT)

ID	a04m0051_0.352274410405
	 REF: [DE] bisher sind diese personen rundherum versorgt worden [EN] u. s. exports rose in the month but not nearly as much as imports ASR: [DE] bisher sind diese personen rundherum versorgt worden [EN] u. s. exports rose in the
	month but not nearly as much as imports

ID	csj-eval:s00m0070-0242356-0244956:voxforge-et-fr:mirage59-20120206-njp-fr-sb-570
	REF: [JP] 日本でもニュースになったと思いますが [FR] le conseil supérieur de la magistrature est présidé par le président de la république ASR: [JP] 日本でもニュースになったと思いますが [FR] le conseil supérieur de la magistrature est présidée par le président de la république

REF: [PT] segunda feira [DE] das gilt natürlich auch für bestehende verträge [JP] えー同一人物 よる異なるメッセージを示しております ASR: [PT] segunda feira [DE] das gilt natürlich auch für bestehende verträge [JP] えー同一人物	ID	voxforge-et-pt:insinfo-20120622-orb-209:voxforge-et-de:guenter-20140127-usn-de5-069:csj- eval:a01m0110-0243648-0247512
- よる異なるメッセーシを示しております		REF: [PT] segunda feira [DE] das gilt natürlich auch für bestehende verträge [JP] えー同一人物に よる異なるメッセージを示しております ASR: [PT] segunda feira [DE] das gilt natürlich auch für bestehende verträge [JP] え一同一人物に よる異なるメッセージを示しております

Multi-speaker ASR w/ Purely E2E model

ID	445c040j_446c040f
Out[1]	REF: bids totaling six hundred fifty one million dollars were submitted ASR: bids totaling six hundred fifty one million dollars were submitted
Out[2]	REF: that's more or less what the blue chip economists expect ASR: that's more or less what the blue chip economists expect
ID	446c040j_441c0412
Out[1]	REF: this is especially true in the work of british novelists and even previously in the work of william boyd ASR: this is especially true in the work of british novelists and even previously in the work of william boyd
Out[2]	REF: as signs of a stronger economy emerge he adds long term rates are likely to drift higher ASR: a signs of a stronger economy emerge he adds long term rates are likely to drive higher
ID	440c040v_446c040n
Out[1]	REF: shamrock has interests in television and radio stations energy services real estate and venture capital ASR: chemlawn has interests in television and radio stations energy services real estate and venture capital
Out[2]	REF: as with the rest of the regime however their ideology became contaminated by the germ of corruption ASR: as with the rest of the regime however their ideology became contaminated by the jaim of corruption

Multi-lingual Multi-speaker ASR

ID	ralfherzog_1.41860235081
Out[1]	REF: [DE] eine höhere geschwindigkeit ist möglich ASR: [DE] eine höh*re geschwindigkeit ist möglich
Out[2]	REF: [JP] まずなぜこの内容を選んだかと言うと ASR: [JP] まずなぜこの内容を選んだかと言うと
ID	a02m0012_s00f0066
Out[1]	REF: [EN] grains and soybeans most corn and wheat futures prices were stronger [CN] 也是的 ASR: [EN] grains and soybeans most corn and wheat futures prices were strong <mark>k</mark> [CN] 也是的
Out[2]	REF: [JP] えーここで注目すべき点は例十十一の二重下線部に示すように [JP] アニメですとか ASR: [JP] えーここで注目すべき <mark>い</mark> 点は <mark>零十十一の二十</mark> 下線部に示すように [JP] アニメですと か
ID	a04m0051_0.352274410405

Out[1] REF: [IT] economizzando le provvlste vi era da vivere per lo meno quattro glorni [EN] the warming trend may have melted the snow cover on some crops ASR: [IT] e cono mizzando le provveste vi*era da vivere per lo medo quattro gorni [EN] the warning trend may have mealtit the sno* cover on some crops

 Out[2]
 REF: [JP] でそれぞれの発話数え情報伝達の発話数一分当たりの発話数はえ多くなってますが

 え問題解決だと少し少なくなるでディベートだとおー

 ASR: [JP] でそれですのでの発話スえ情報伝達の発話数一分当たり発話数はえ多くなってます

 がえ問題解決だと少してなくてでディベートだとおー





Conclusions

- Hybrid CTC/attention-based end-to-end speech recognition
 - Multi-task CTC/attention learning
 - Joint CTC/attention decoding
 - Extended network with a deep CNN and an RNN-LM
- Achieved good performance
 - Better than state-of-the-art ASR systems in Chinese and Japanese tasks
 - Multi-level LMs provided 5.6 %WER in WSJ task, which is the best end-to-end ASR performance
- Open source: ESPnet
 - https://github.com/espnet/espnet



Conclusions

- Multi-lingual end-to-end speech recognition
 - Trained a monolithic network with 10 languages with language IDs
 - No performance degradation compared to language dependent models
 - Effective especially for languages with small amount of training data
- Multi-speaker end-to-end speech recognition
 - Joint separation & recognition network
 - Purely end-to-end multi-speaker ASR



Thank you!