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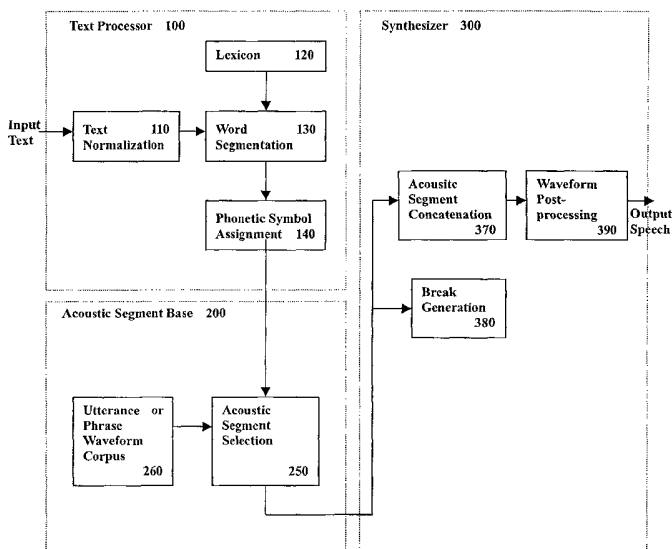
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(54) Title: CONCATENATIVE TEXT-TO-SPEECH CONVERSION



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for text to speech conversion (S300) including partitioning (S303) text into segmented phonetic units and then identifying (S304) a suitable acoustic unit for each of the phonetic units. Each acoustic unit AU being representative of acoustic segments forming a phonetic cluster determined by their acoustic similarity. The method (S300) then performs determining (S305) variances between prosodic parameters of an acoustic unit AU and each of the phonetic units. A step of generating (S306) acoustic parameters from the prosodic parameters of the acoustic unit and associated variances is then performed and thereafter a step of providing (S307) an output speech signal based on the acoustic parameters is effected. The invention may provide improved synthesized speech quality, system performance and reduced memory overheads suitable for portable devices.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2001/051872 A1 (NII TAKAAKI ET AL) 13 December 2001 (2001-12-13) abstract; claims 1-10 paragraphs '0005!', '0007! paragraphs '0030!', '0040!', '0041!	1,2,11, 13,14
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Y		5-10
Y	EP 0 880 127 A (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 25 November 1998 (1998-11-25) abstract; table 1 page 6, line 3 - line 4 claim 4	3,4
Y	EP 1 037 195 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 20 September 2000 (2000-09-20) abstract; claims 1-10	5-10
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
° Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Van Doremalen, J

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	EP 0 805 433 A (MICROSOFT CORP) 5 November 1997 (1997-11-05) abstract; claim 1 -----	1

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