

# Speech Synthesis as A Statistical Machine Learning Problem

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# Introduction

## Rule-based, *formant synthesis* (~'90s)

- Hand-crafting each phonetic units by rules

## Corpus-based, *concatenative synthesis* ('90s~)

- Concatenate speech units (waveform) from a database
  - Single inventory: diphone synthesis
  - Multiple inventory: unit selection synthesis

## Corpus-based, *statistical parametric synthesis*

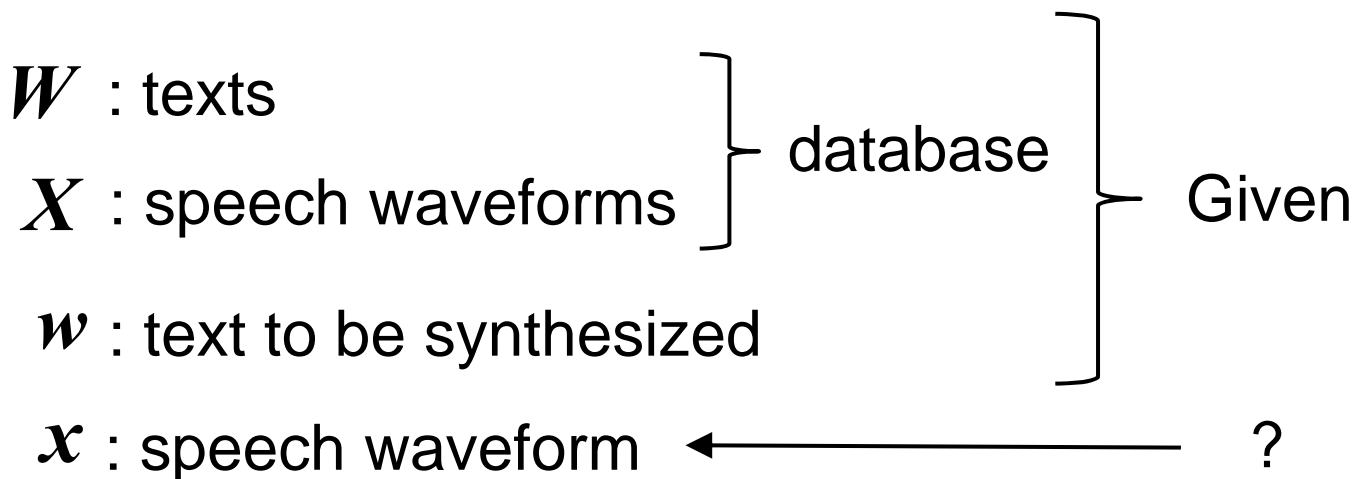
- Source-filter model + statistical acoustic model
  - Hidden Markov model: **HMM-based synthesis**

How we can formulate and understand the whole corpus-based speech synthesis process in a unified statistical framework?

# Problem of speech synthesis

We have a speech database, i.e., a set of texts and corresponding speech waveforms.

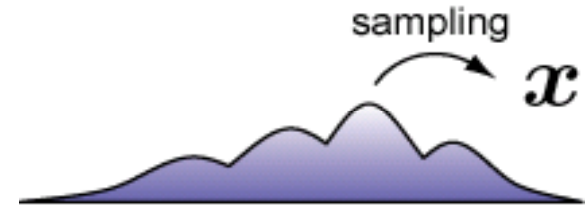
Given a text to be synthesized, what is the speech waveform corresponding to the text?



# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (1/8)

## Bayesian framework for prediction

Draw  $\tilde{x}$  from  $p(x | w, X, W)$



$W, X, w$

$W$  : set of texts

$X$  : speech waveforms

} database

} Given

$w$  : text to be synthesized

$x$  : speech waveform

← unknown

1. Estimate predictive distribution given variables
2. Draw sample from the distribution

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (2/8)

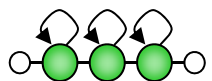
1. Estimating predictive distribution is hard ☹

→ Introduce acoustic model parameters

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})$$

↓ introduce acoustic model  $\lambda$  

$$= \int p(\mathbf{x}, \lambda \mid \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{X}) d\lambda = \int \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \lambda)}_{\text{generation}} \underbrace{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{X})}_{\text{training}} d\lambda$$

$\lambda$  : acoustic model (e.g. HMM )

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (3/8)

2. Using speech waveform directly is difficult ☹

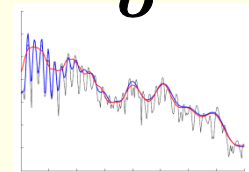
→ Introduce parametric its representation

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})$$

$$= \int \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \lambda)}_{\text{red underline}} \underbrace{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}_{\text{blue underline}} d\lambda$$



$\mathbf{x}$



$\mathbf{o}$

↓ introduce parametric representation of speech  $\mathbf{o}$

$$= \iint \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{o})}_{\text{red underline}} \underbrace{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}_{\text{blue underline}} p(\mathbf{o} \mid \mathbf{w}, \lambda) d\lambda d\mathbf{o}$$

$\mathbf{o}$  : parametric representation of speech waveform  $\mathbf{x}$   
(e.g., cepstrum, LPC, LSP, F0, aperiodicity)

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (4/8)

3. Same texts can have multiple pronunciations, POS, etc. ☹  
→ Introduce labels

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})$$

$$= \iint \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{o})}_{\text{red}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{o} \mid \mathbf{w}, \lambda) p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}_{\text{blue}} d\lambda d\mathbf{o}$$

↓ introduce labels derived from texts,  $\mathbf{l}$  &  $\mathbf{L}$

$$= \iint \sum_{\forall \mathbf{l}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{o}) p(\mathbf{o} \mid \mathbf{l}, \lambda) P(\mathbf{l} \mid \mathbf{w})}_{\text{red}} \underbrace{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}_{\text{blue}} d\lambda d\mathbf{o}$$

$\mathbf{l}$  : labels derived from text  $\mathbf{w}$

(e.g. prons, POS, lexical stress, grammar, pause)

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (5/8)

4. Difficult to perform integral & sum over auxiliary variables ☹  
→ Approximated by joint max

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W}) \\ = \iint \sum_{\forall \mathbf{l}} \underline{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{o})p(\mathbf{o} \mid \mathbf{l}, \lambda)P(\mathbf{l} \mid \mathbf{w})} \underline{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})} d\lambda d\mathbf{o}$$

↓ approximate integral & sum by joint max

$$\approx \underline{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \hat{\mathbf{o}})p(\hat{\mathbf{o}} \mid \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda})P(\hat{\mathbf{l}} \mid \mathbf{w})} \underline{p(\hat{\lambda} \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}$$

where

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{o}}, \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}\} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{l}, \lambda} \underline{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{o})p(\mathbf{o} \mid \mathbf{l}, \lambda)P(\mathbf{l} \mid \mathbf{w})} \underline{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}$$



# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (6/8)

5. Joint maximization is hard ☹

→ Approximated by step-by-step maximizations

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{o}}, \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}\} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{l}, \lambda} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{o})p(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{l}, \lambda)P(\mathbf{l} | \mathbf{w})}_{\text{red line}} \underbrace{p(\lambda | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}_{\text{blue line}}$$

↓ approx joint max by step-by-step max

$$\hat{\lambda} = \arg \max_{\lambda} p(\lambda | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W}) \quad \Leftarrow \text{training}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{l}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{l}} P(\mathbf{l} | \mathbf{w}) \quad \Leftarrow \text{text analysis}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{o}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{o}} p(\mathbf{o} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) \quad \Leftarrow \text{speech parameter generation}$$

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (7/8)

6. Training also requires parametric form of wav & labels ☹  
→ Introduce them & approx by step-by-step maximizations

$$\hat{\lambda} = \arg \max_{\lambda} \underline{p(\lambda \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W})}$$

↓

$$\hat{\mathbf{L}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{L}} P(\mathbf{L} \mid \mathbf{W})$$

⇐ labeling

$$\hat{\mathbf{O}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{O}} p(\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{O})$$

⇐ feature extraction

$$\hat{\lambda} = \arg \max_{\lambda} p(\hat{\mathbf{O}} \mid \hat{\mathbf{L}}, \lambda) p(\lambda)$$

⇐ acoustic model training

$\mathbf{O}$  : parametric representation of speech waveforms  $\mathbf{X}$

$\mathbf{L}$  : labels derived from texts  $\mathbf{W}$

# Statistical formulation of speech synthesis (8/8)

Draw  $\tilde{x}$  from  $p(x \mid w, X, W)$



$$\hat{O} = \arg \max_{O} p(X \mid O)$$

$\Leftarrow$  feature extraction

$$\hat{L} = \arg \max_{L} P(L \mid W)$$

$\Leftarrow$  labeling

$$\hat{\lambda} = \arg \max_{\lambda} p(\hat{O} \mid \hat{L}, \lambda) p(\lambda)$$

$\Leftarrow$  acoustic model training

$$\hat{l} = \arg \max_l P(l \mid w)$$

$\Leftarrow$  text analysis

$$\hat{o} = \arg \max_o p(o \mid \hat{l}, \hat{\lambda})$$

$\Leftarrow$  speech parameter generation

$$\tilde{x} \text{ from } p(x \mid \hat{o})$$

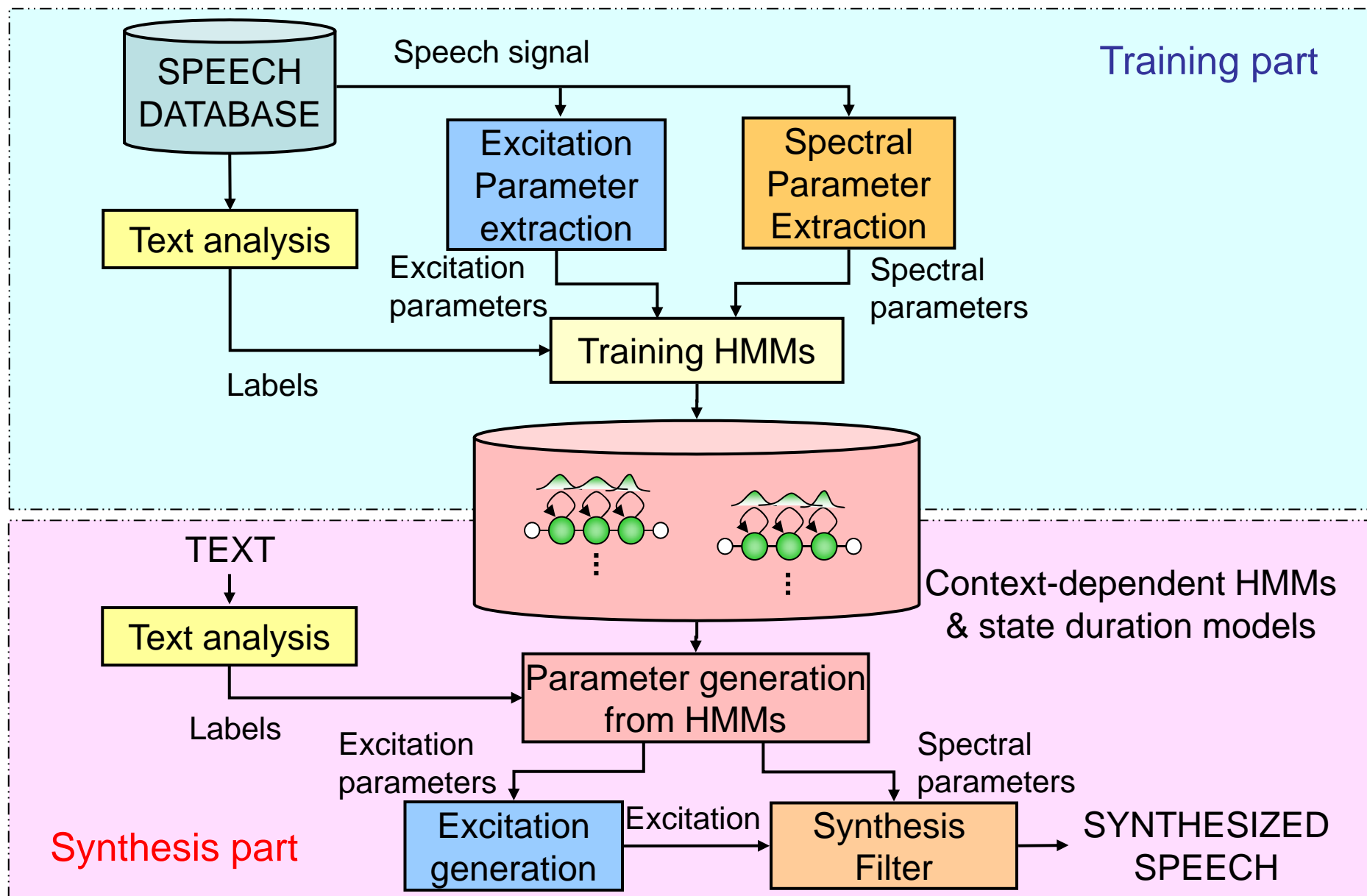
$\Leftarrow$  waveform reconstruction

# Overview of this talk

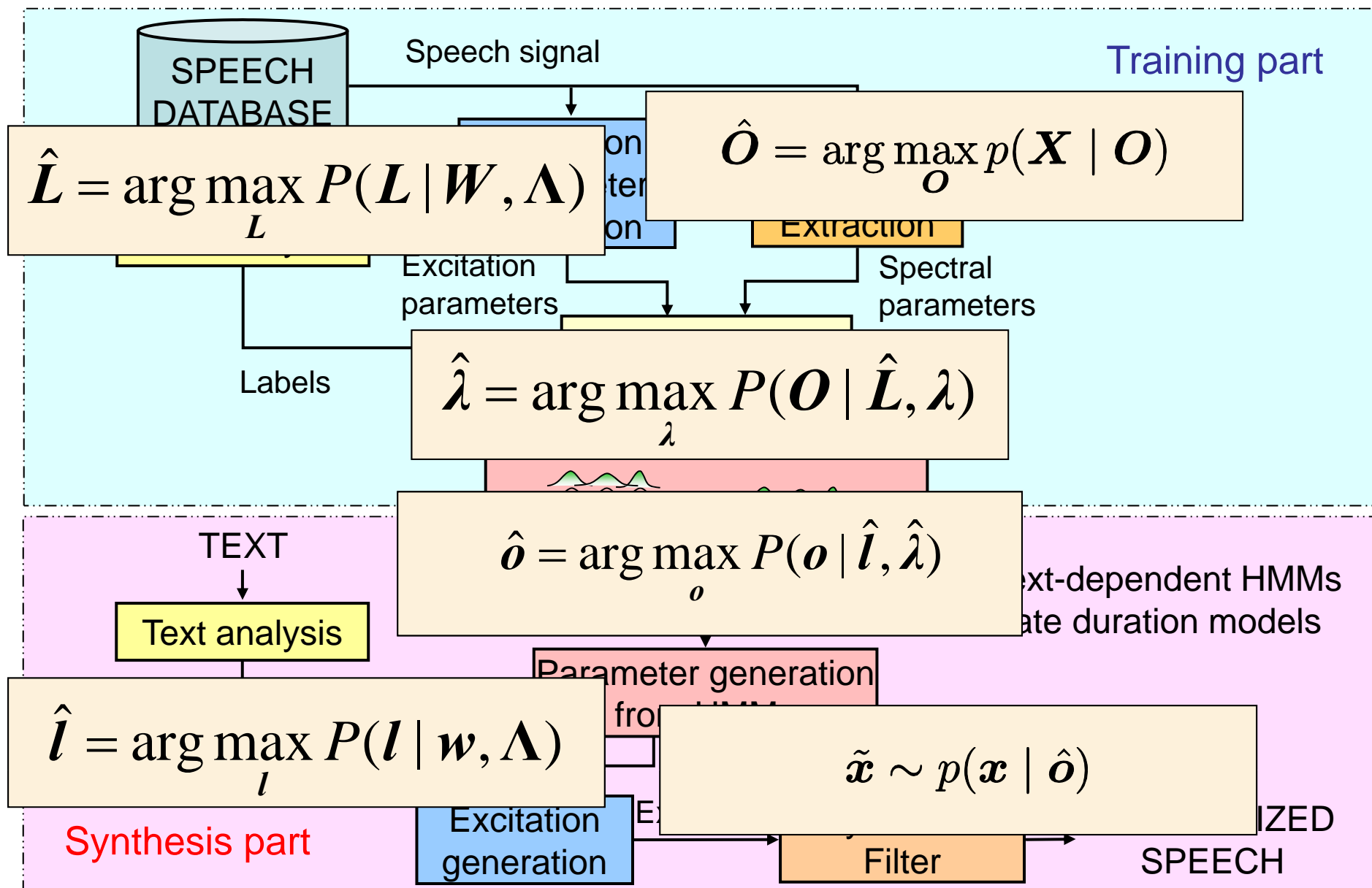
1. Mathematical formulation
2. Implementation of individual components
3. Examples demonstrating its flexibility
4. Discussion and conclusion



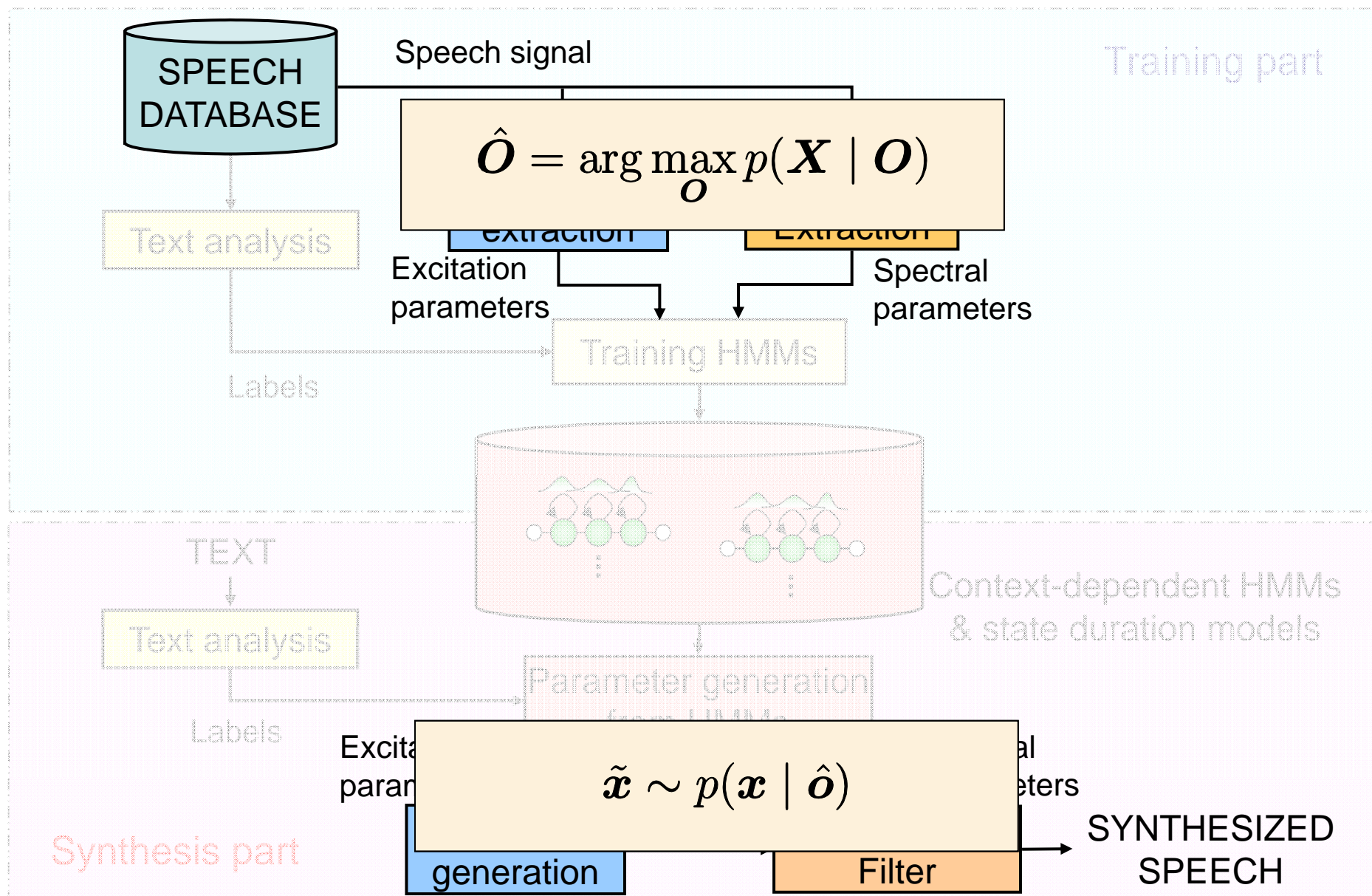
# HMM-based speech synthesis system



# HMM-based speech synthesis system

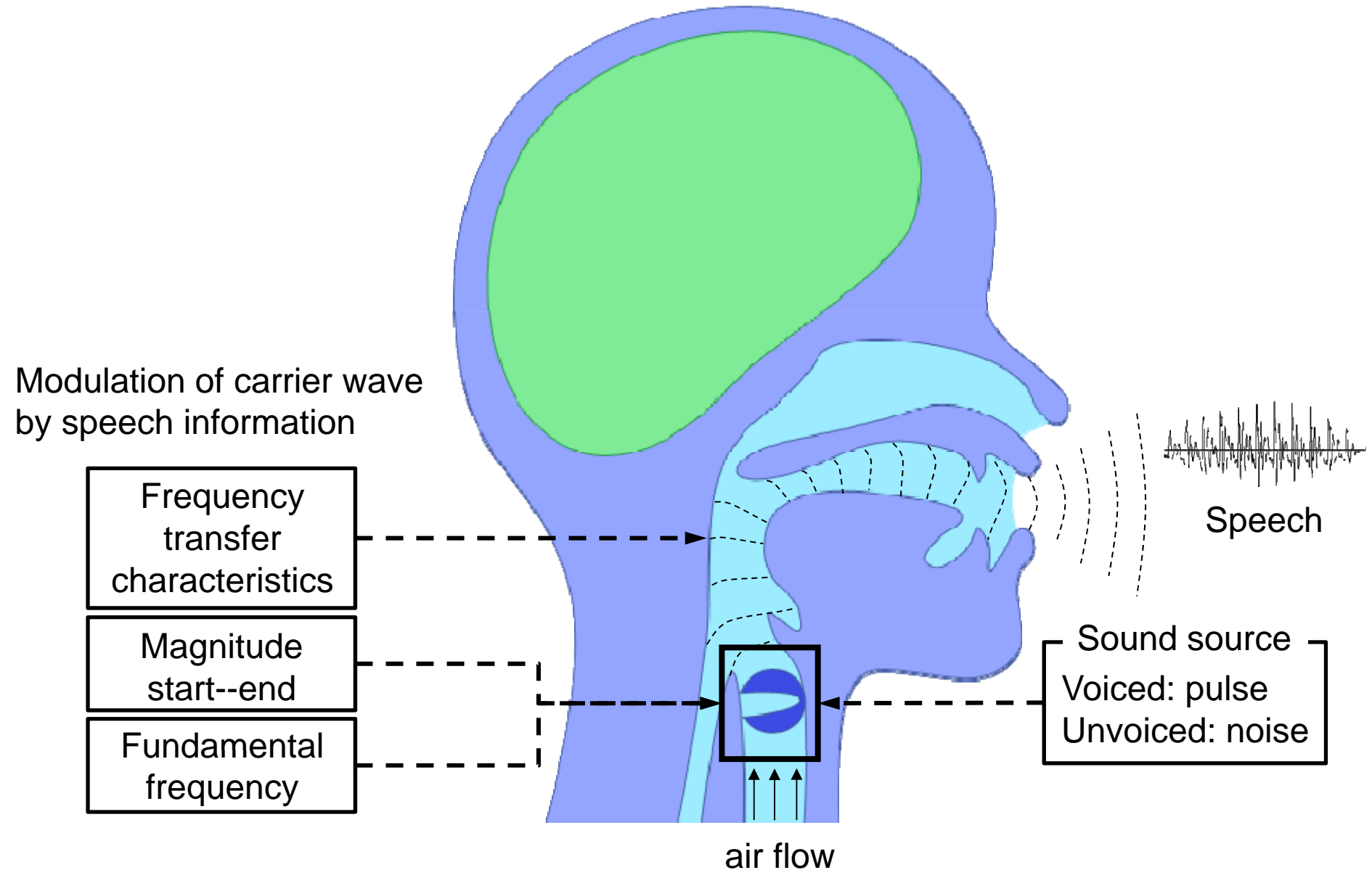


# HMM-based speech synthesis system



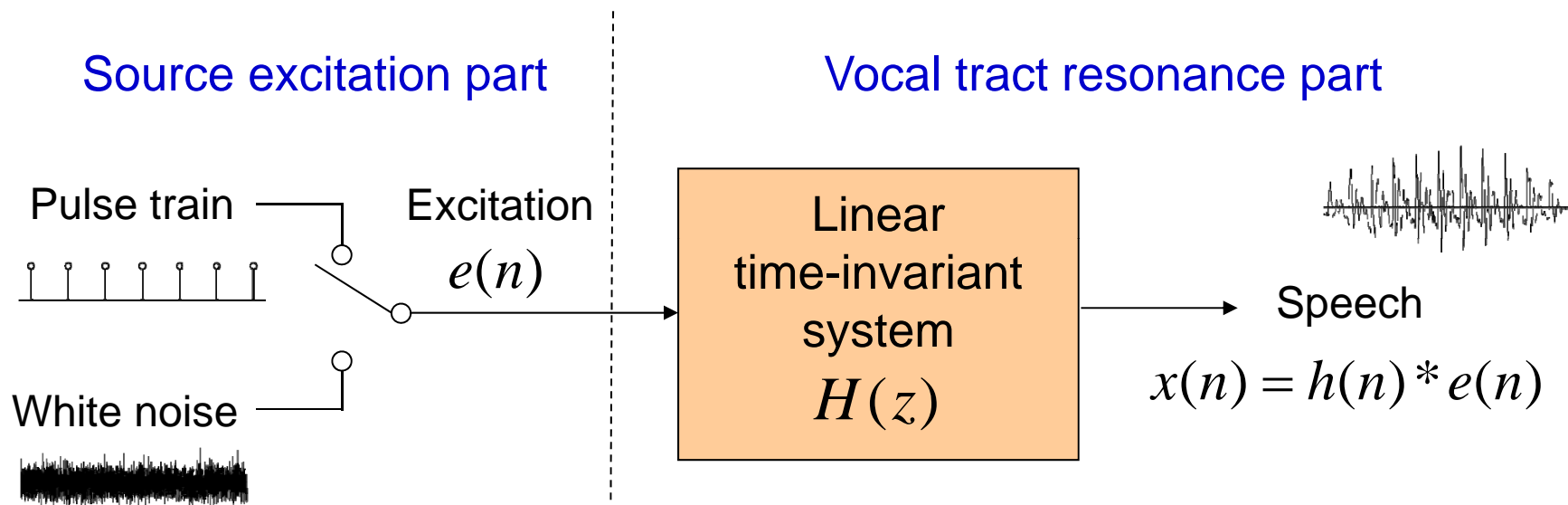


# Human speech production





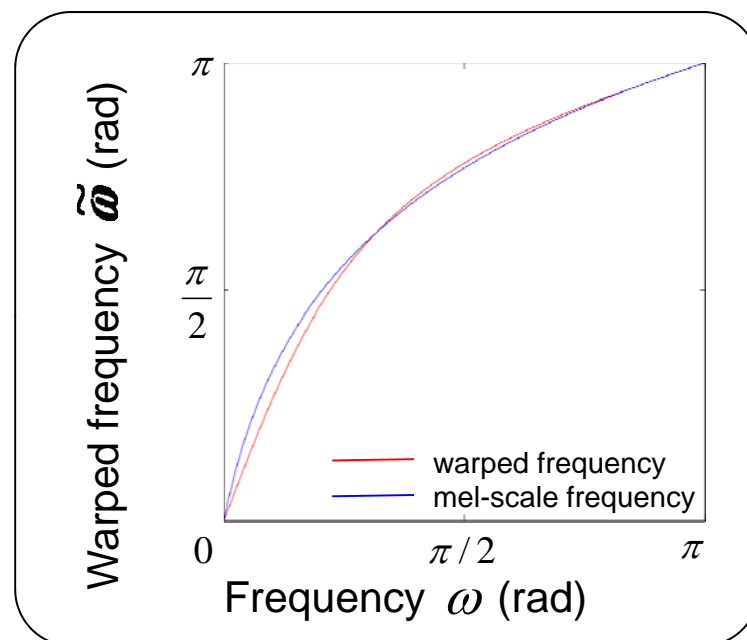
# Source-filter model



# ML estimation of spectral parameter

## Mel-cepstral representation of speech spectra

$$H(z) = \exp \sum_{m=0}^M c(m) \tilde{z}^{-m}$$
$$\tilde{z}^{-1} = \frac{z^{-1} - \alpha}{1 - \alpha z^{-1}} = e^{-j\tilde{\omega}}$$

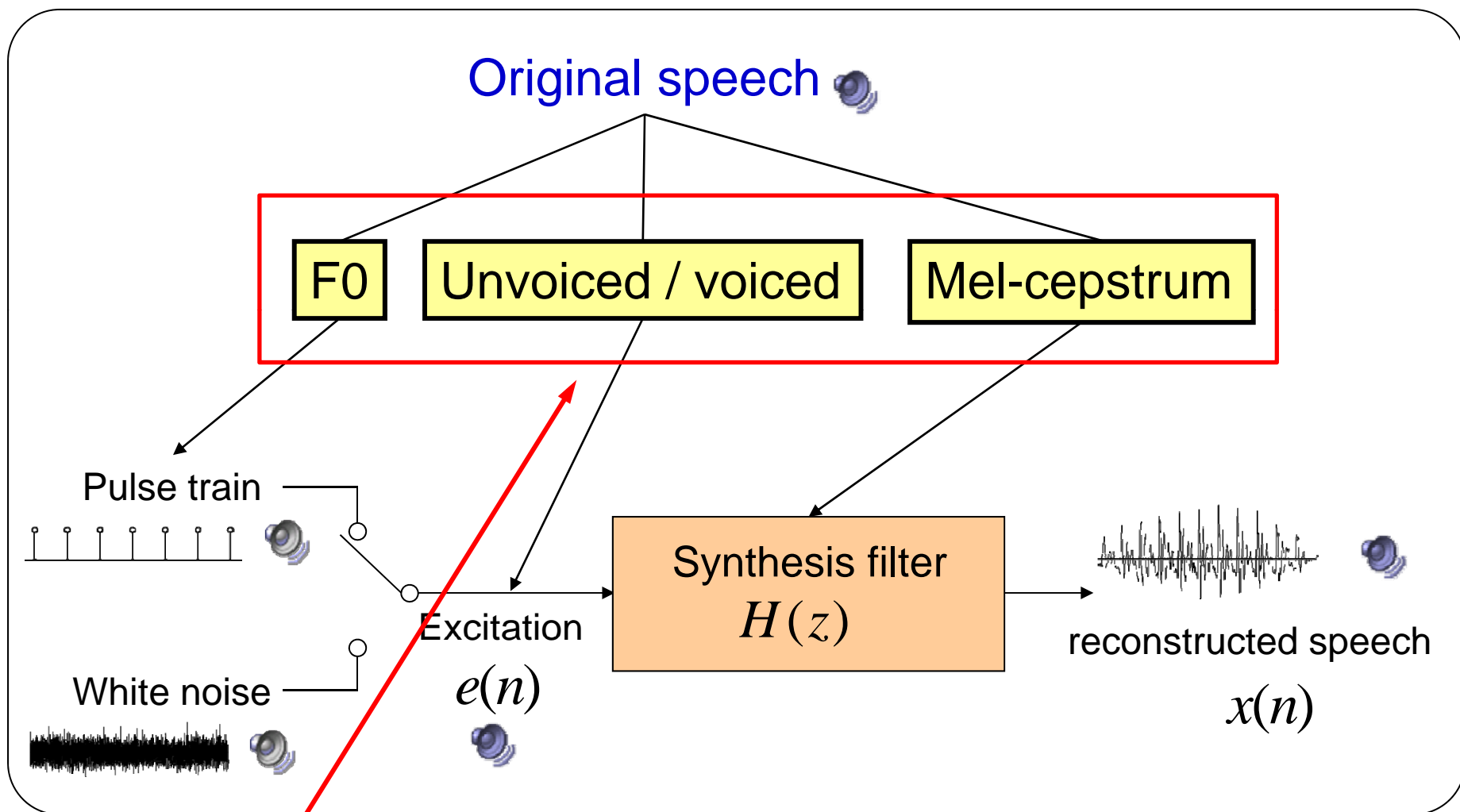


## ML-estimation of mel-cepstrum

$$\mathbf{c} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{c}} p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{c})$$

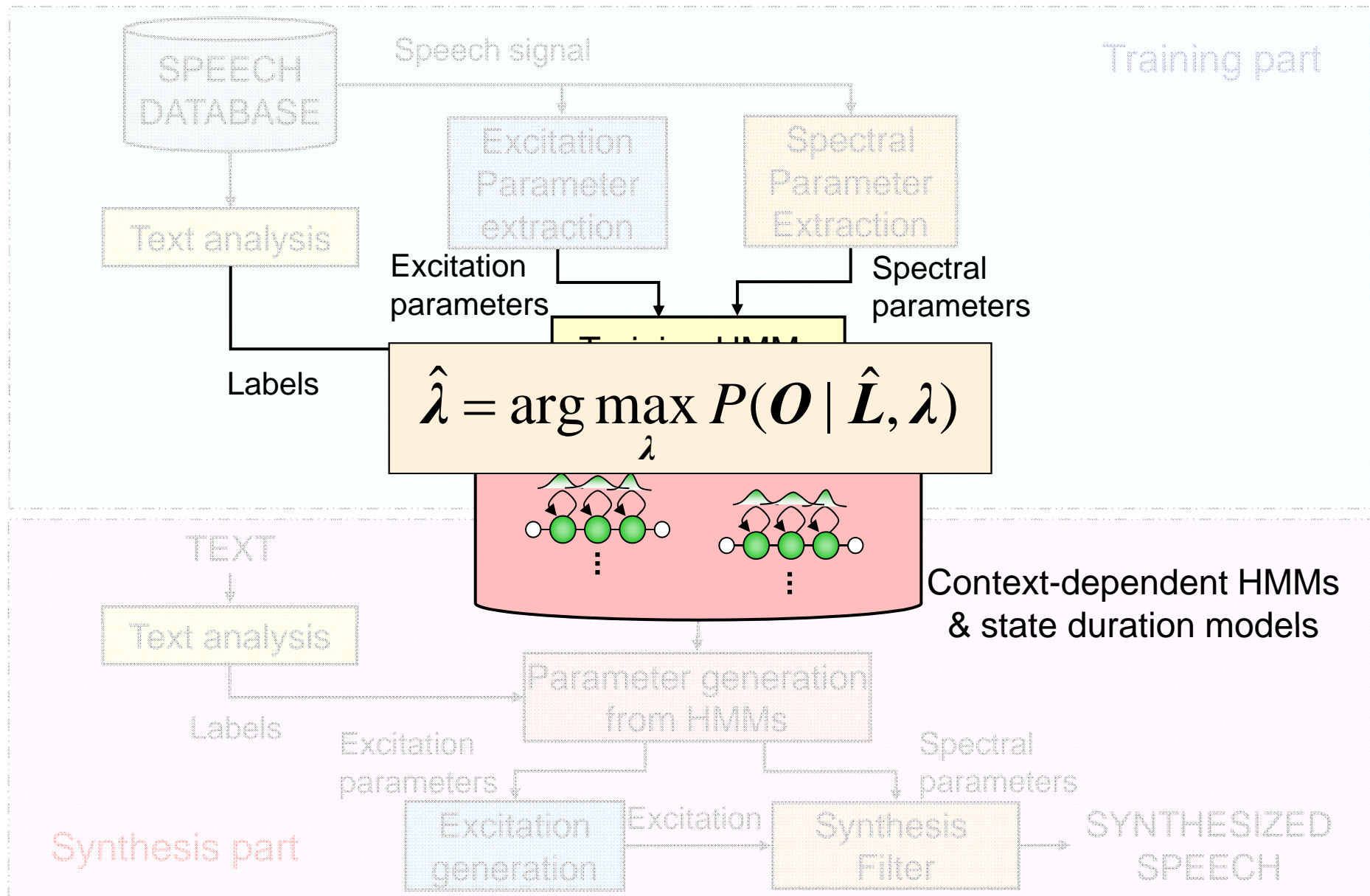
$\mathbf{x}$  : speech waveform (Gaussian process)  
 $\mathbf{c}$  : mel-cepstrum

# Waveform reconstruction

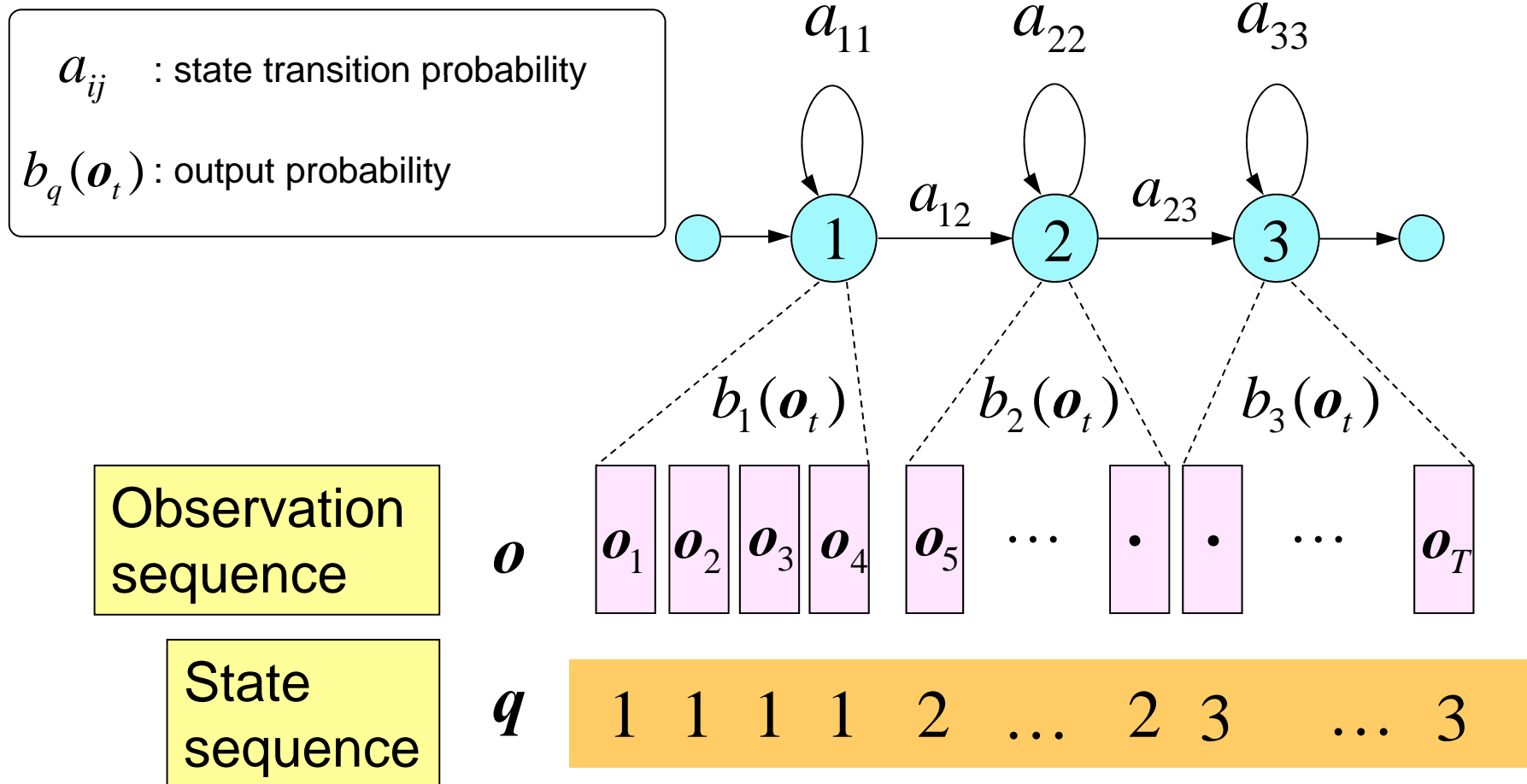


These speech parameters should be modeled by HMM

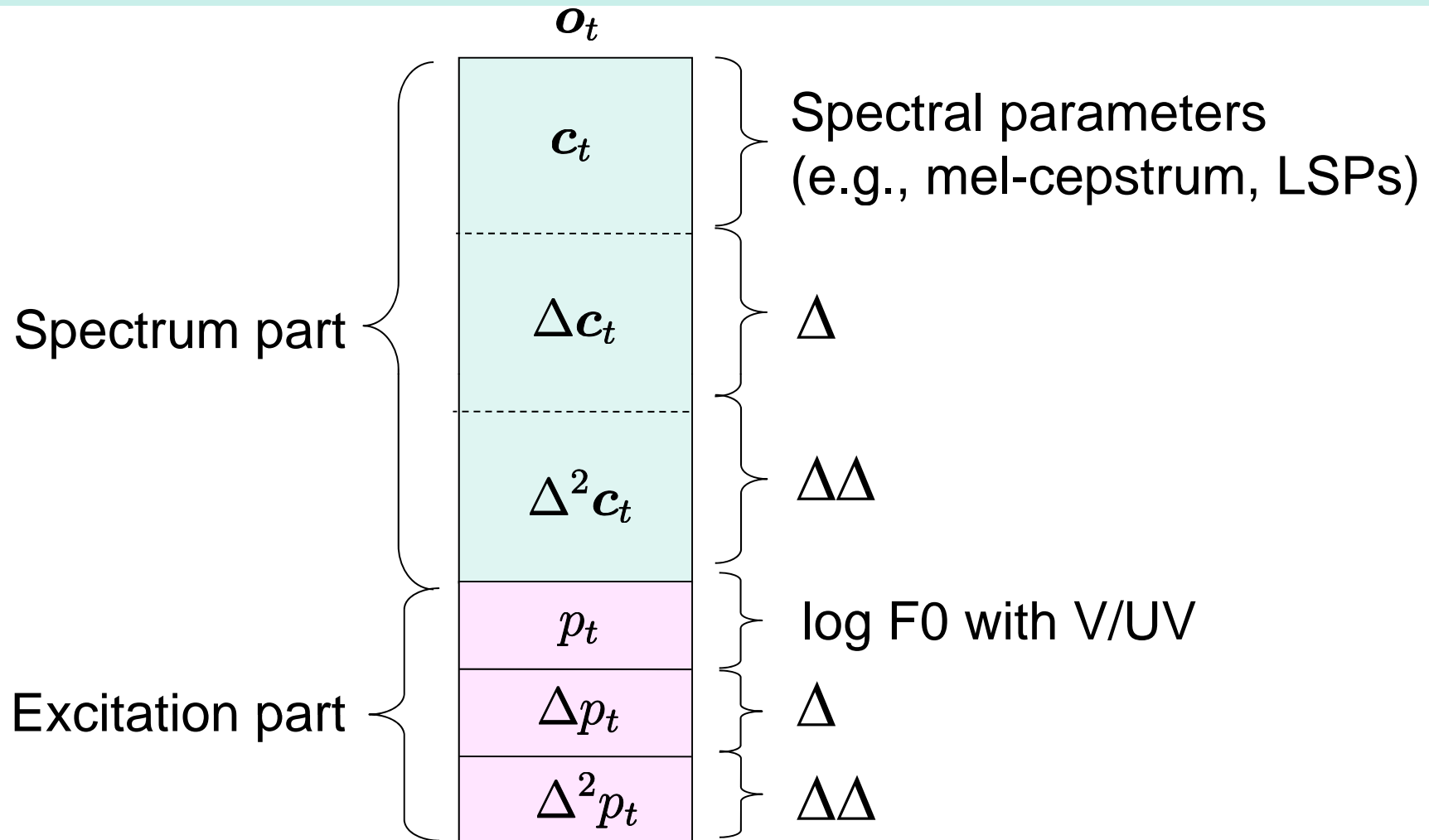
# HMM-based speech synthesis system



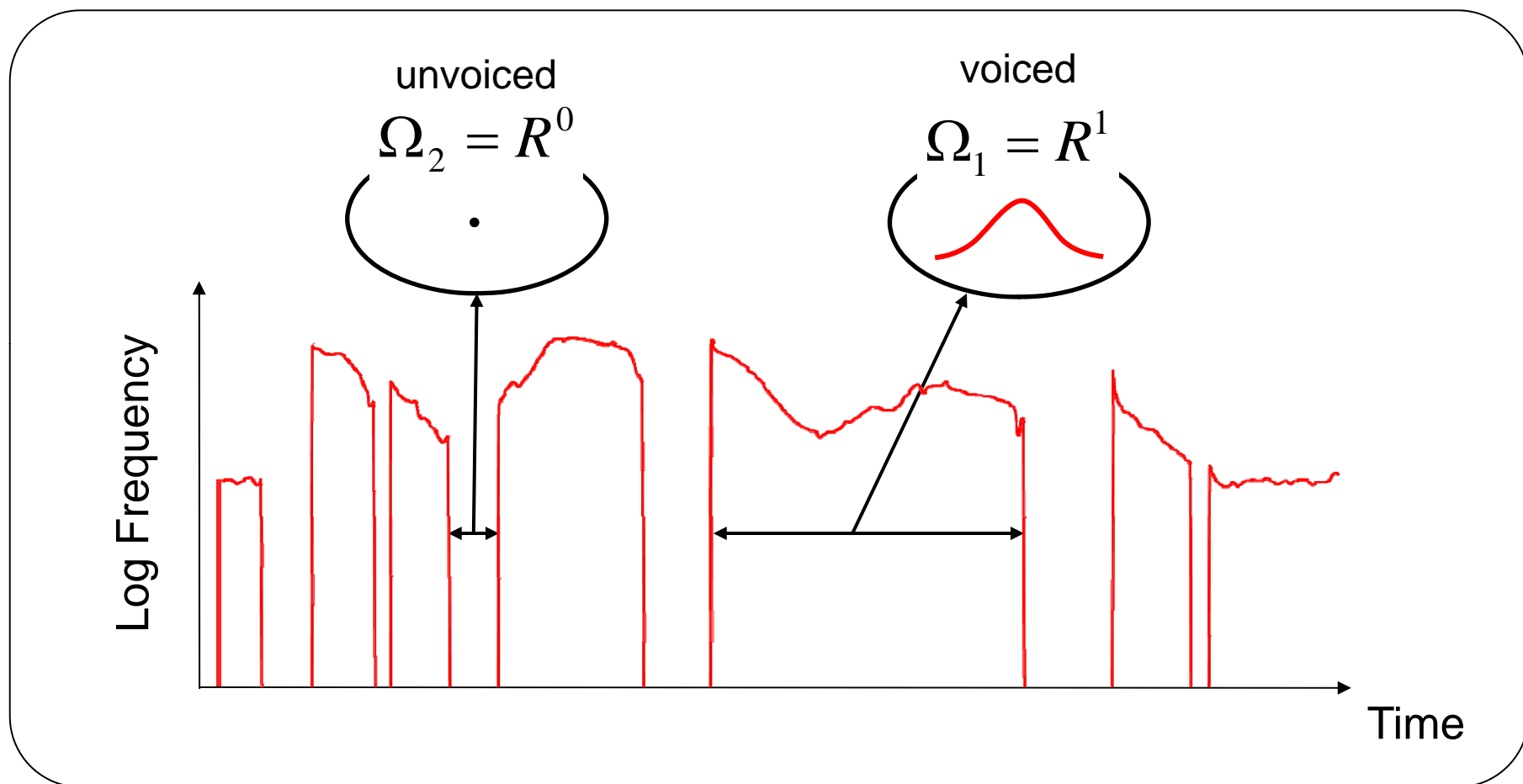
# Hidden Markov model (HMM)



# Structure of state output (observation) vector

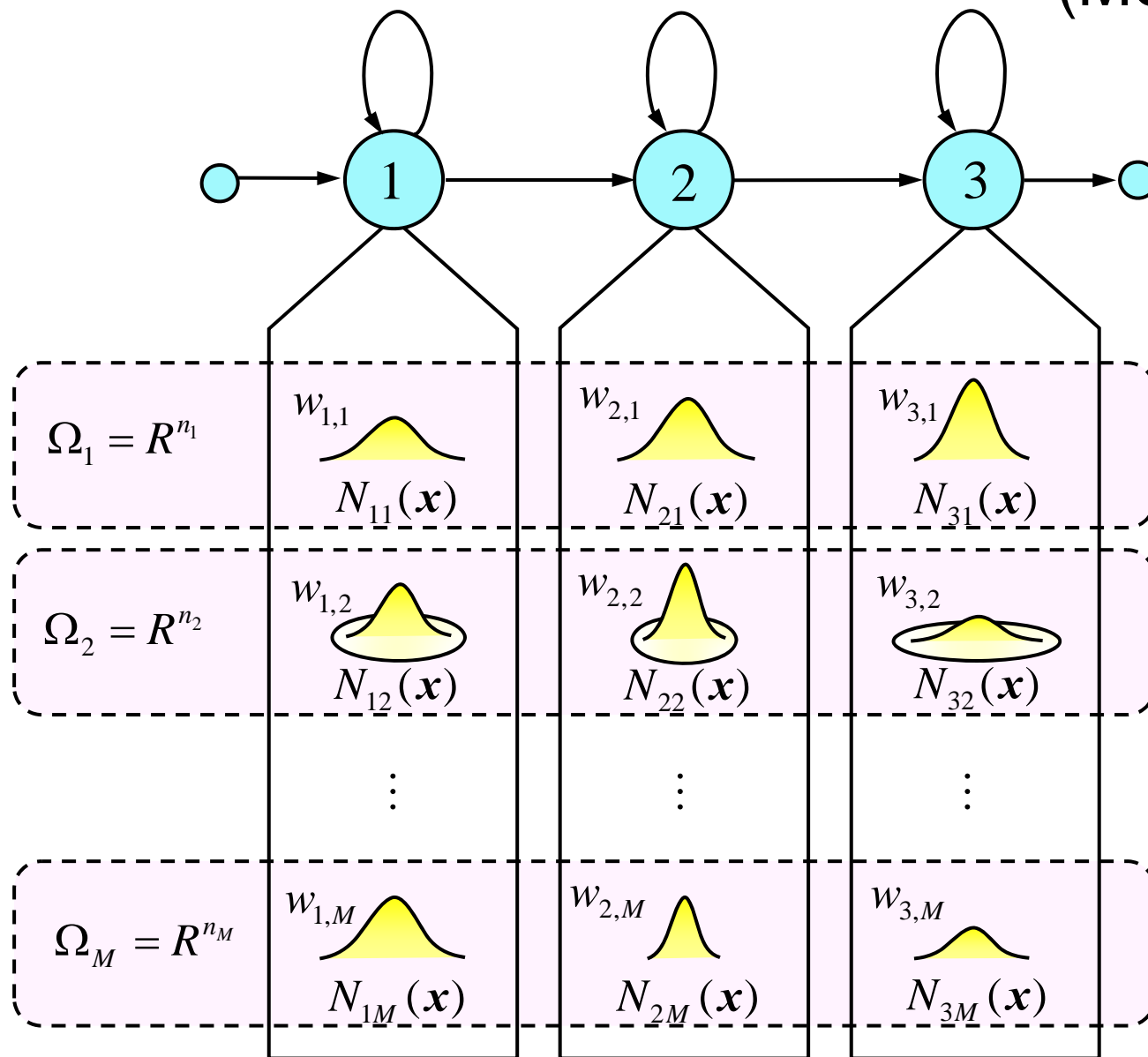


# Observation of F0



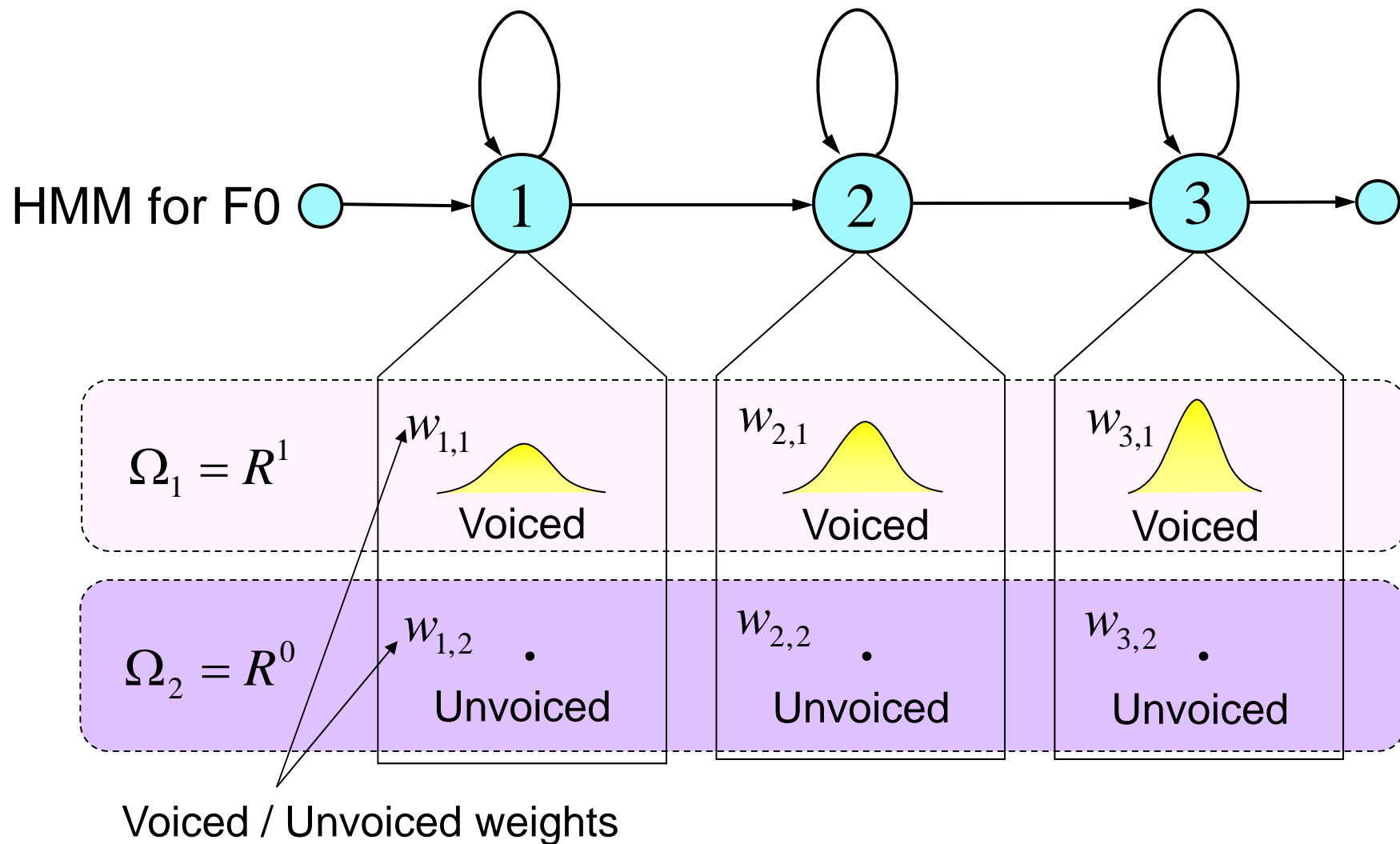
Unable to model by continuous or discrete distributions  
⇒ Multi-space distribution HMM (MSD-HMM)

# Multi-space probability distribution HMM (MSD-HMM)

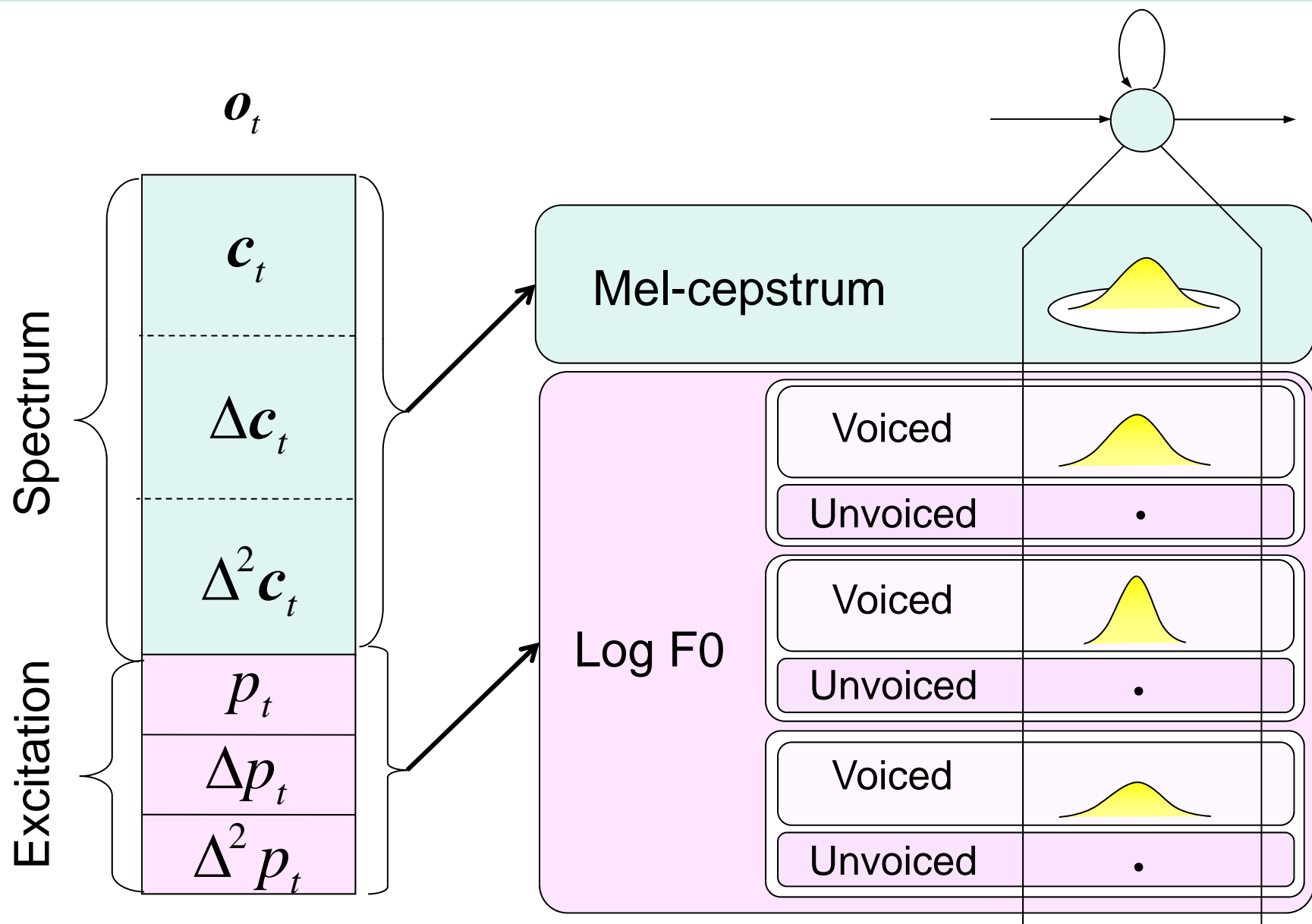




# MSD-HMM for F0 modeling



# Structure of state-output distributions



# Contextual factors

## Phoneme

- {preceding, succeeding} two phonemes
- **current** phoneme

## Syllable

- # of phonemes in {preceding, current, succeeding} syllable
- {accent, stress} of {preceding, current, succeeding} syllable
- Position of current syllable in current word
- # of {preceding, succeeding} {accented, stressed} syllable in current phrase
- # of syllables {from previous, to next} {accented, stressed} syllable
- Vowel within current syllable

## Word

- Part of speech of {preceding, current, succeeding} word
- # of syllables in {preceding, current, succeeding} word
- Position of current word in current phrase
- # of {preceding, succeeding} content words in current phrase
- # of words {from previous, to next} content word

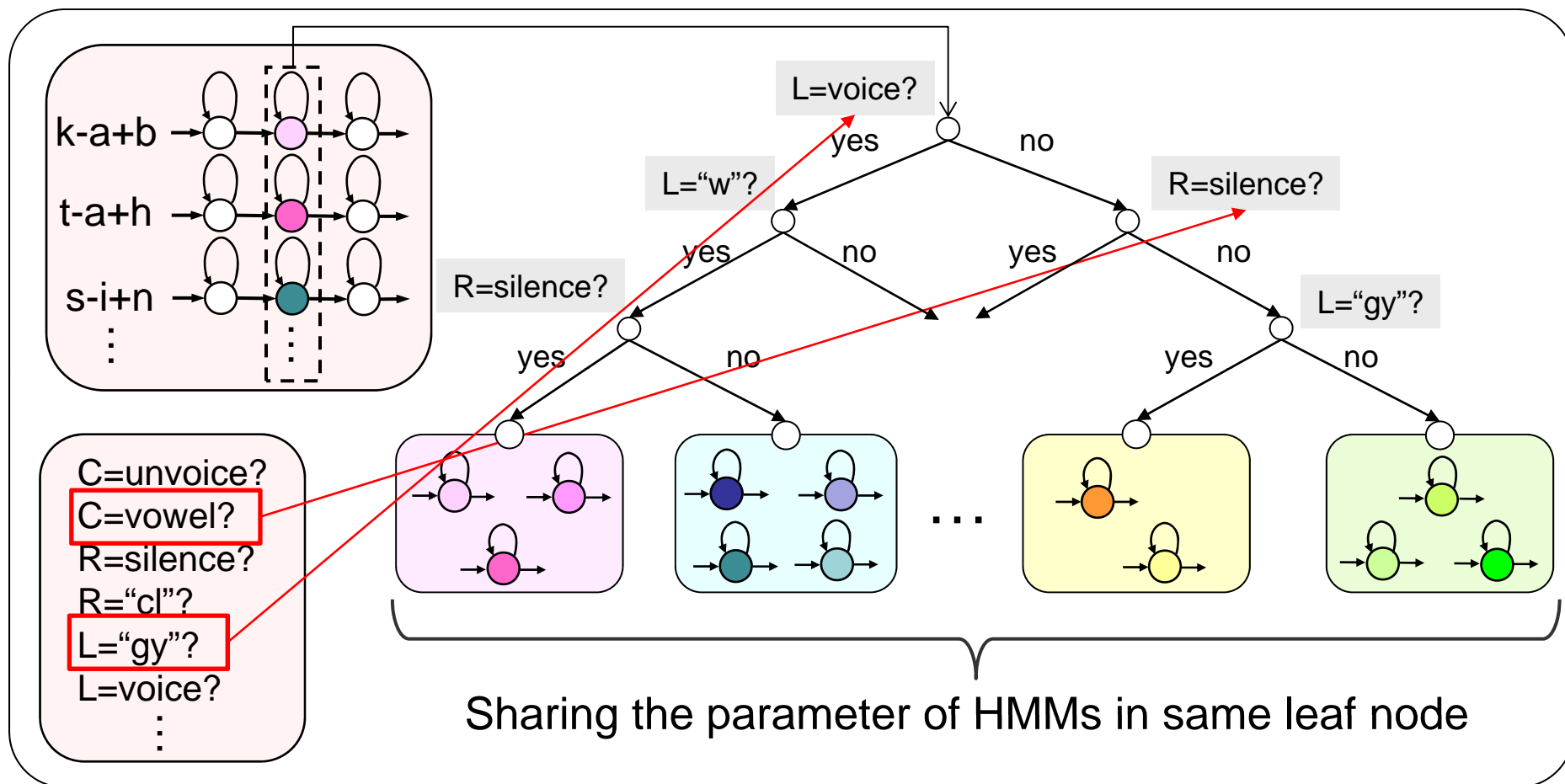
## Phrase

- # of syllables in {preceding, current, succeeding} phrase

.....

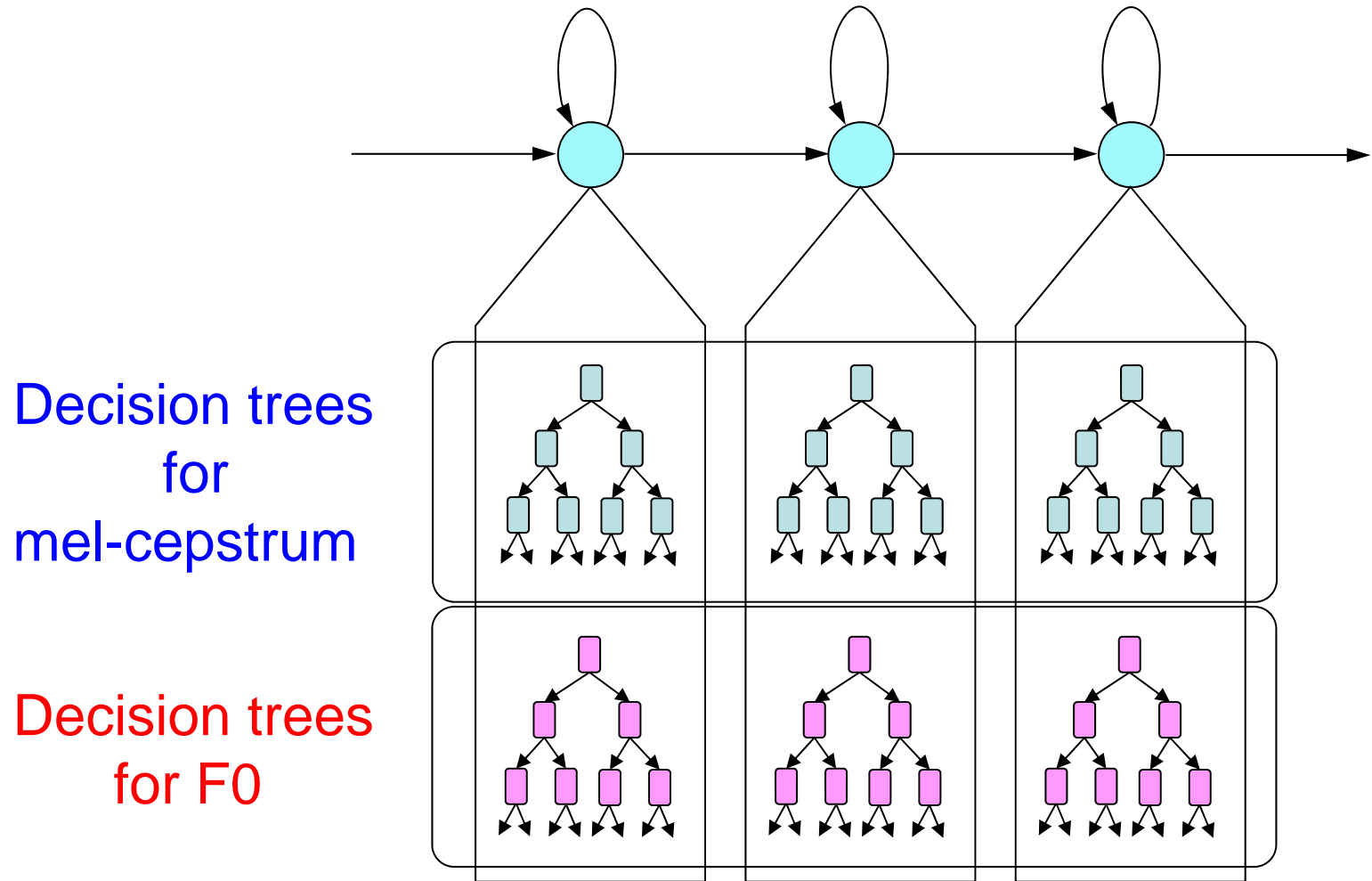
**Huge # of combinations ⇒ Difficult to have all possible models**

# Decision tree-based state clustering [Odell; '95]



# Stream-dependent tree-based clustering (1)

Spectrum & excitation have different context dependency  $\rightarrow$  Build decision trees separately



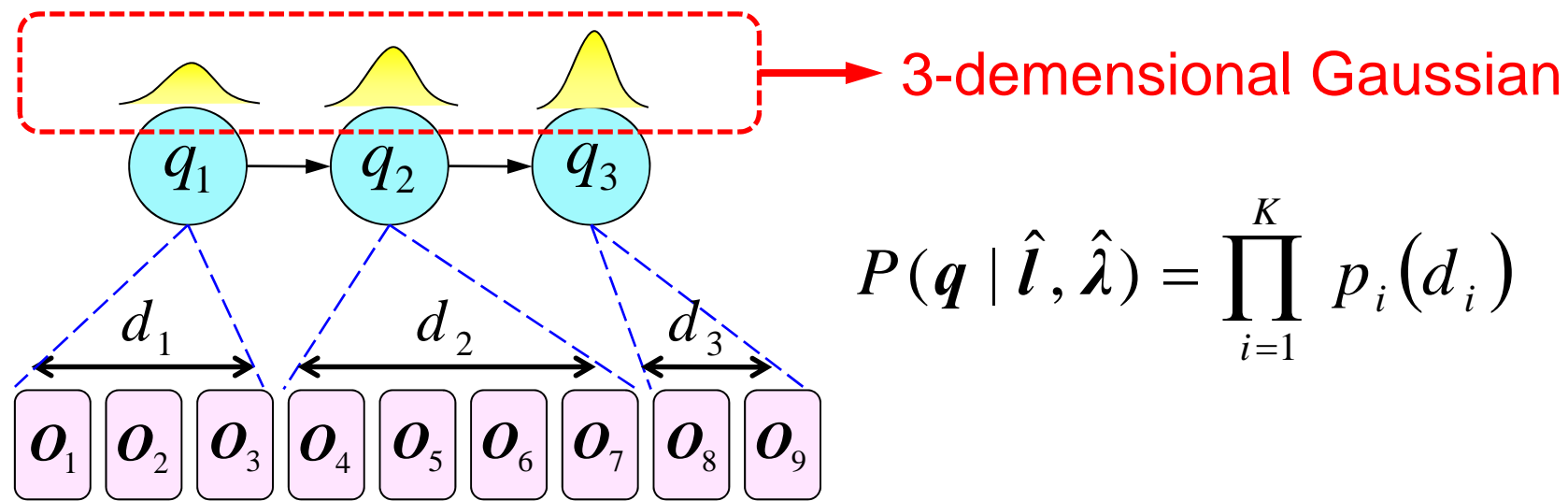
# State duration modeling

## HMM (Hidden Markov Model)

- State duration prob. depends only on transition prob.
- State duration probability exponentially decreases

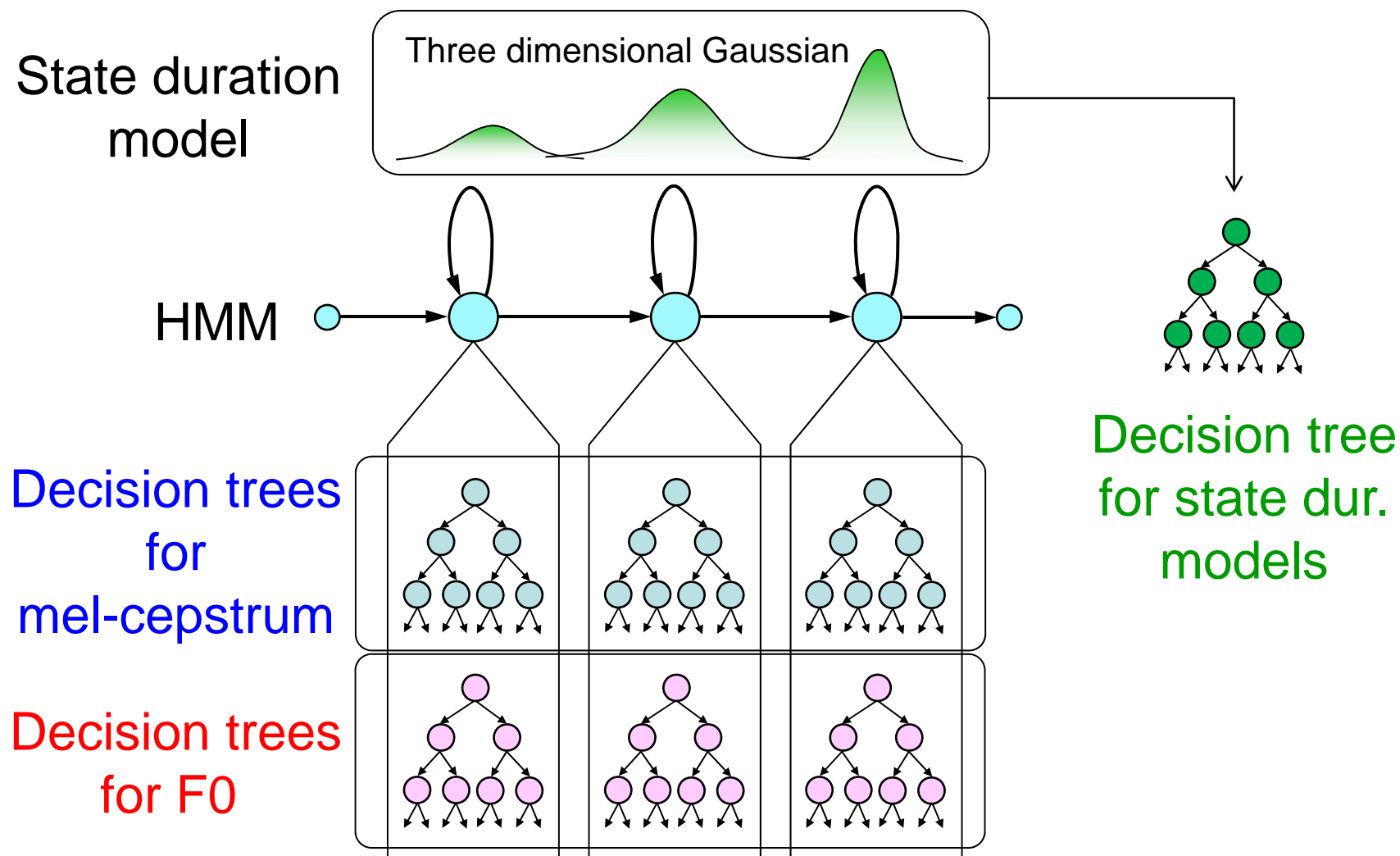
## HSMM (Hidden Semi Markov Model)

- HMM + **explicit duration model**  $\Rightarrow$  HSMM

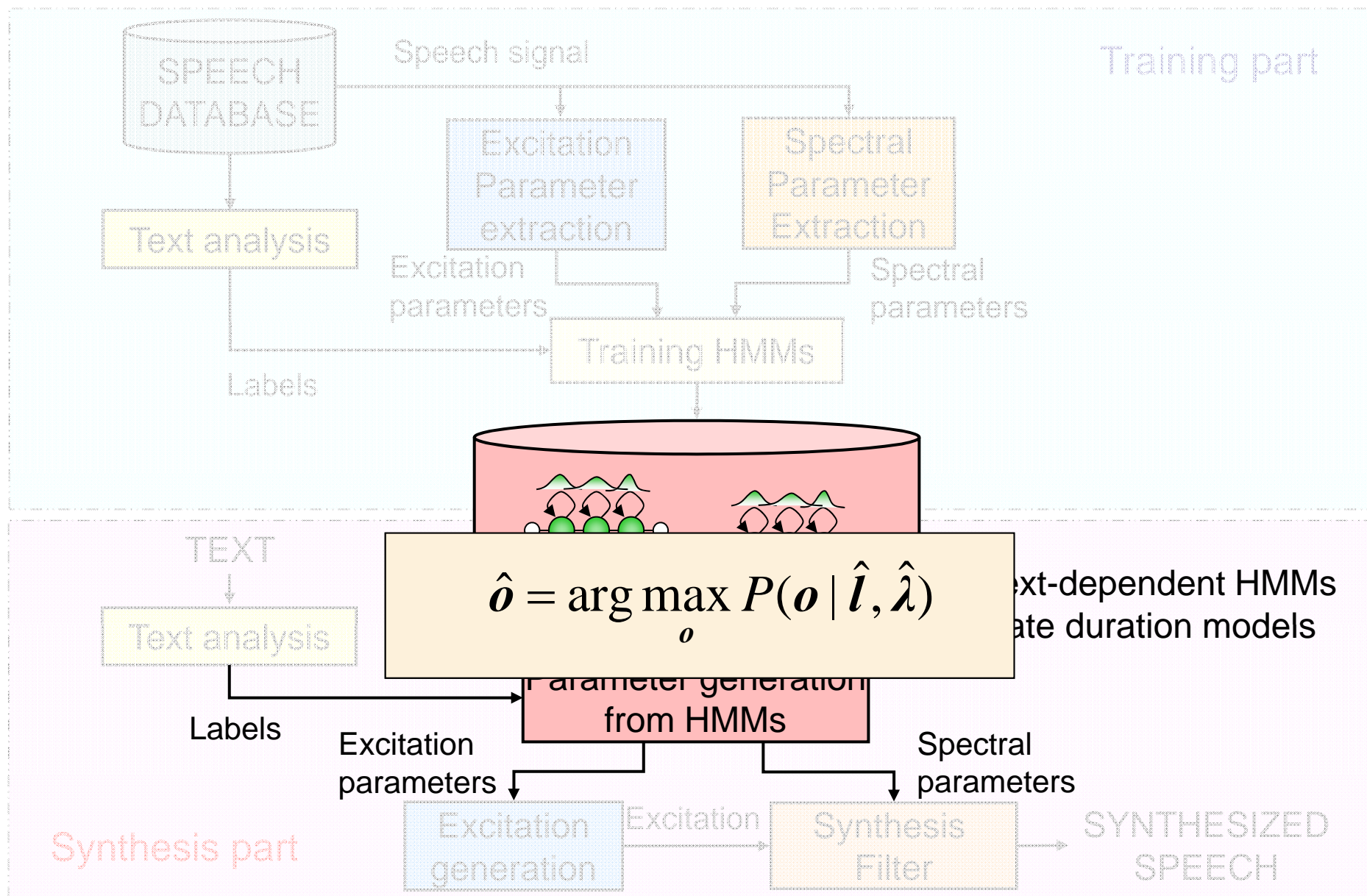


$$P(\mathbf{q} \mid \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}) = \prod_{i=1}^K p_i(d_i)$$

# Stream-dependent tree-based clustering (2)

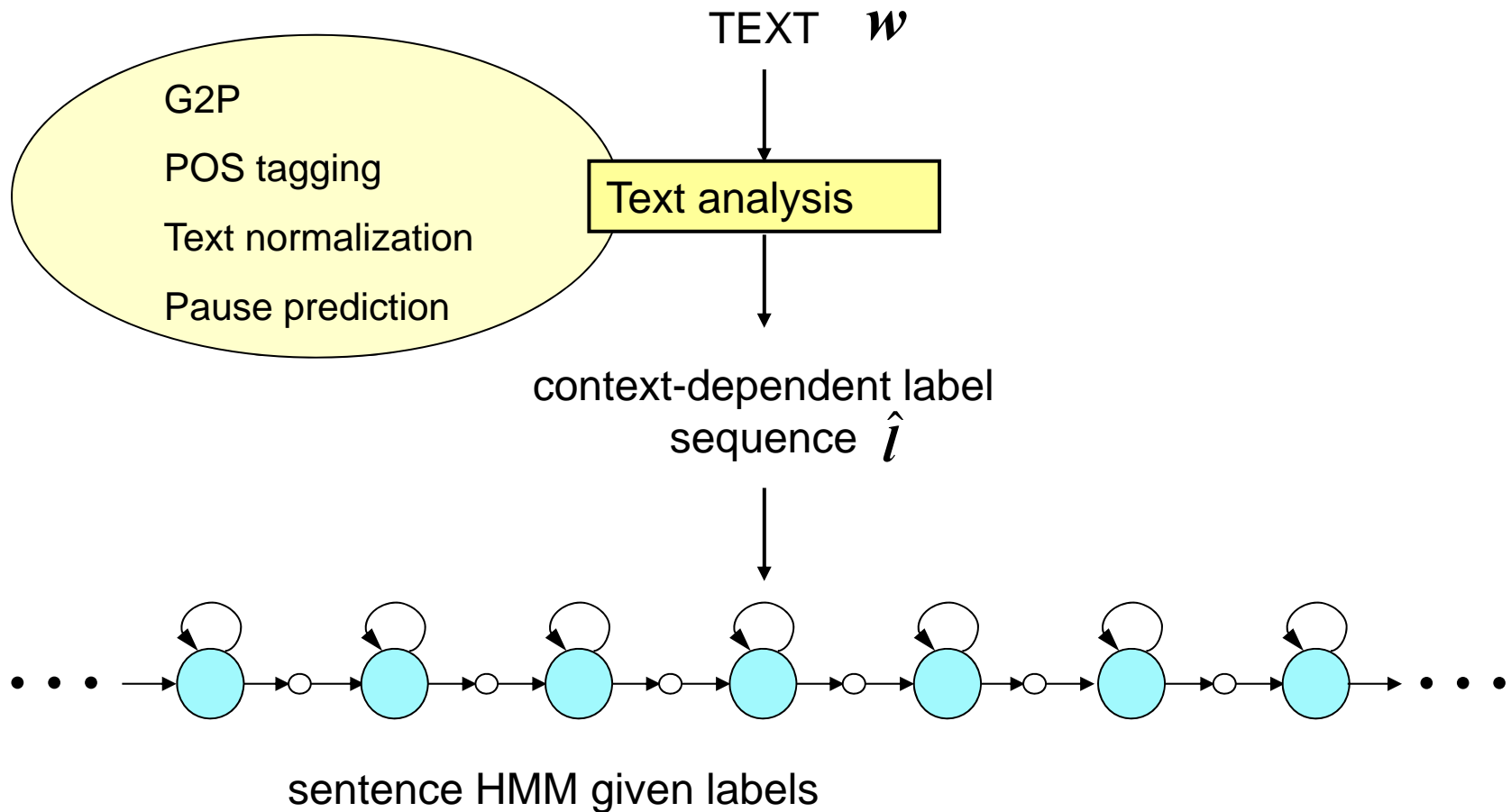


# HMM-based speech synthesis system





# Composition of sentence HMM for given text



**This sentence HMM gives**  $p(o | \hat{l}, \hat{\lambda})$

# Speech parameter generation algorithm [Tokuda; '00]

For given sentence HMM, determine a speech parameter vector sequence  $\mathbf{o} = [\mathbf{o}_1^\top, \mathbf{o}_2^\top, \dots, \mathbf{o}_T^\top]^\top$  which maximizes

$$\begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{o} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) &= \sum_q P(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{q}, \hat{\lambda}) P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) \\ &\approx \max_q P(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{q}, \hat{\lambda}) P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) \end{aligned}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = \arg \max_q P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{o}} = \arg \max_o P(\mathbf{o} | \hat{\mathbf{q}}, \hat{\lambda})$$

# Determination of state sequence

$$P(\mathbf{q} \mid \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}) = \prod_{i=1}^K p_i(d_i)$$

$p_i(\cdot)$  : state-duration distribution of  $i$ -th state

$d_i$  : state duration of  $i$ -th state

$K$  : # of states in a sentence HMM for  $\hat{\mathbf{l}}$

**Gaussian**

$$p_i(d_i) = N(d_i \mid m_i, \sigma_i^2) \Rightarrow \hat{d}_i = m_i$$

# Speech parameter generation algorithm

For given HMM  $\lambda$ , determine a speech parameter vector  
Sequence  $\mathbf{o} = [\mathbf{o}_1^\top, \mathbf{o}_2^\top, \dots, \mathbf{o}_T^\top]^\top$  which maximizes

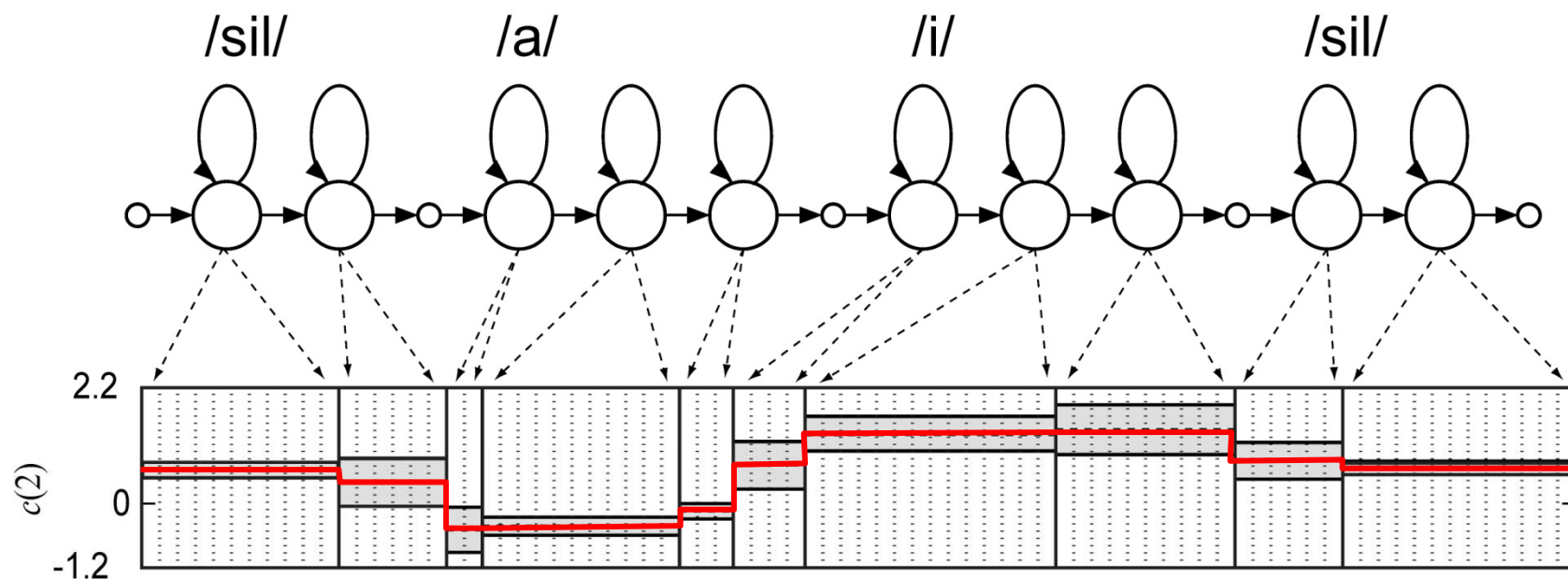
$$\begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{o} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) &= \sum_q P(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{q}, \hat{\lambda}) P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) \\ &\approx \max_q P(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{q}, \hat{\lambda}) P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda}) \end{aligned}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = \arg \max_q P(\mathbf{q} | \hat{\mathbf{l}}, \hat{\lambda})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{o}} = \arg \max_o P(\mathbf{o} | \hat{\mathbf{q}}, \hat{\lambda})$$

# Without dynamic feature

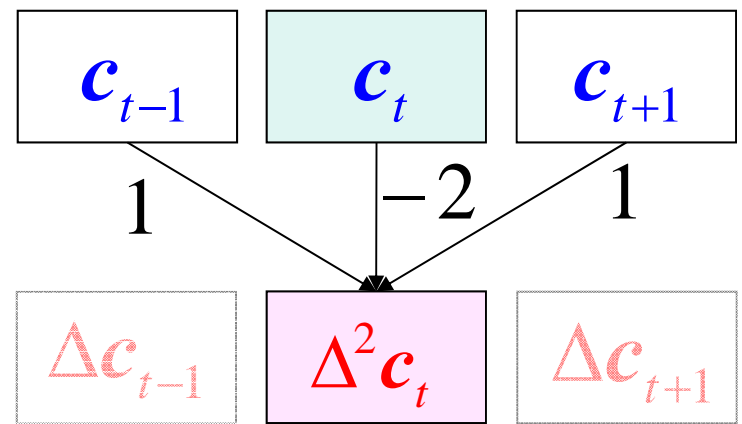
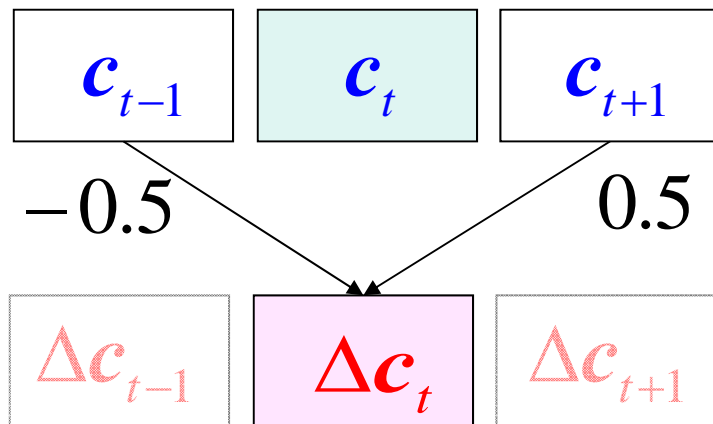


becomes a sequence of mean vectors  
⇒ discontinuous outputs between states

# Dynamic features

$$\Delta \mathbf{c}_t = \frac{\partial \mathbf{c}_t}{\partial t} \approx 0.5(\mathbf{c}_{t+1} - \mathbf{c}_{t-1})$$

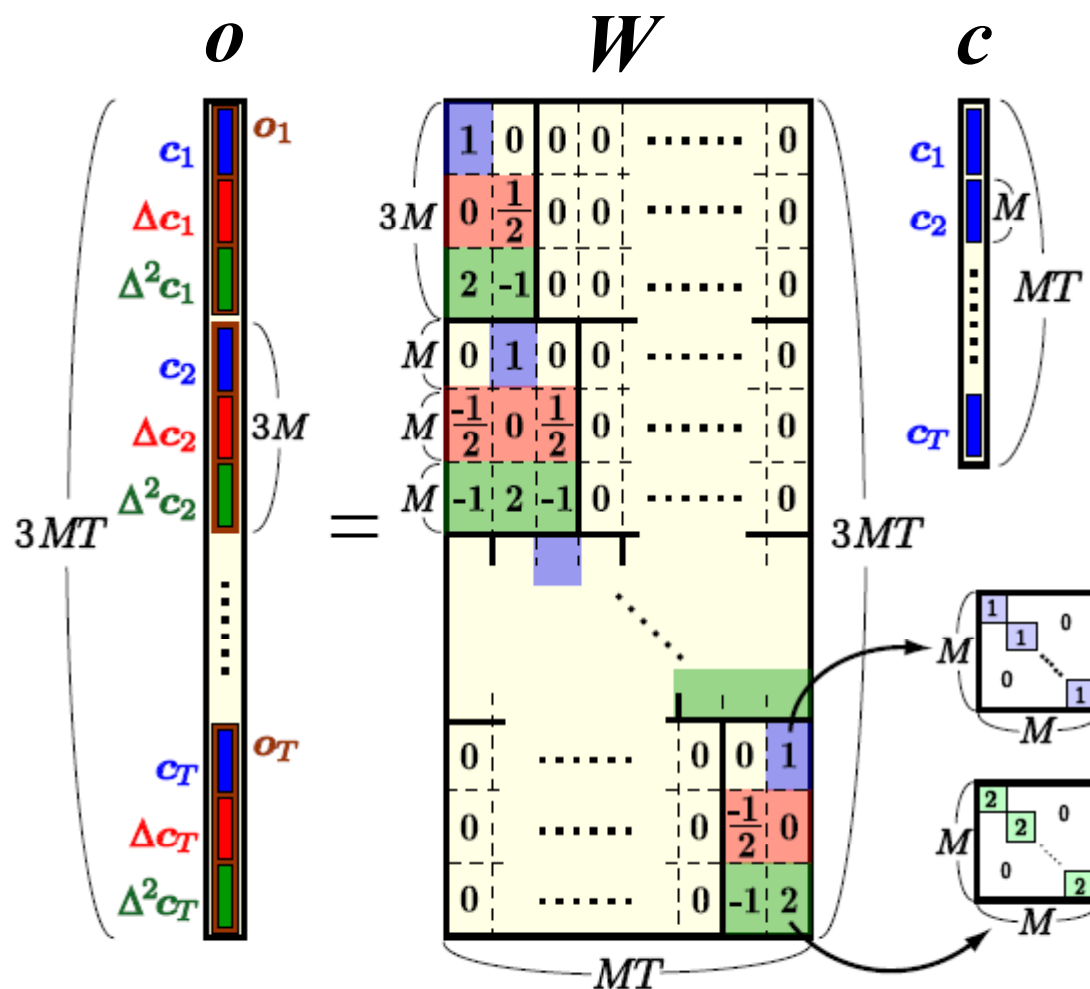
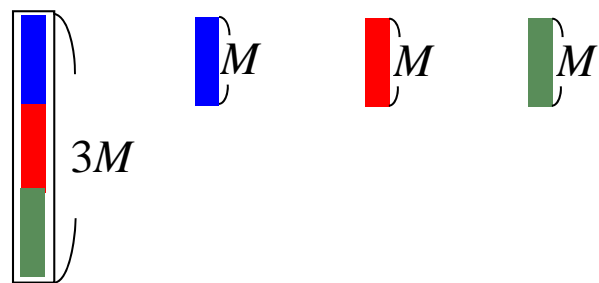
$$\Delta^2 \mathbf{c}_t = \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{c}_t}{\partial t^2} \approx \mathbf{c}_{t+1} - 2\mathbf{c}_t + \mathbf{c}_{t-1}$$



# Integration of dynamic features

## Relationship between speech parameter vectors & static feature vectors

$$\mathbf{o}_t = [\mathbf{c}_t^\top, \Delta \mathbf{c}_t^\top, \Delta^2 \mathbf{c}_t^\top]^\top$$



# Solution for the problem (1/2)

By setting

$$\frac{\partial \log P(\overbrace{W\mathbf{c}}^{\mathbf{0}} \mid \hat{\mathbf{q}}, \lambda)}{\partial \mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{0},$$

we obtain

$$W^T \Sigma_{\hat{\mathbf{q}}}^{-1} W \mathbf{c} = W^T \Sigma_{\hat{\mathbf{q}}}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\hat{\mathbf{q}}},$$

where

$$\mathbf{c} = [\mathbf{c}_1^T, \mathbf{c}_2^T, \dots, \mathbf{c}_T^T]^T$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\hat{\mathbf{q}}} = [\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\hat{q}_1}^T, \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\hat{q}_2}^T, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\hat{q}_T}^T]^T$$

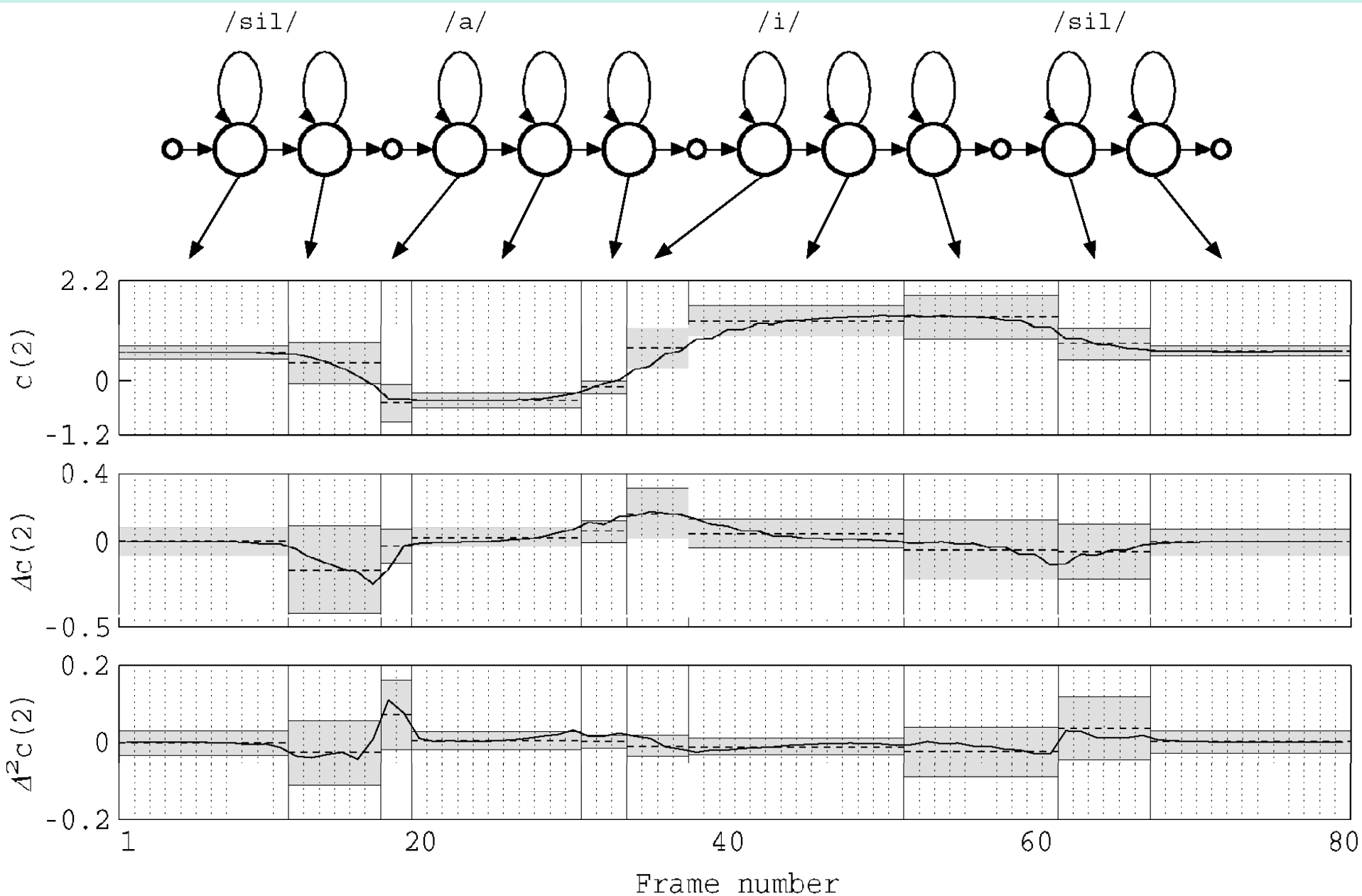
$$\Sigma_{\hat{\mathbf{q}}} = [\Sigma_{\hat{q}_1}^T, \Sigma_{\hat{q}_2}^T, \dots, \Sigma_{\hat{q}_T}^T]^T$$



## Solution for the problem (2/2)

[illegible]

# Generated speech parameter trajectory



# Trajectory HMM

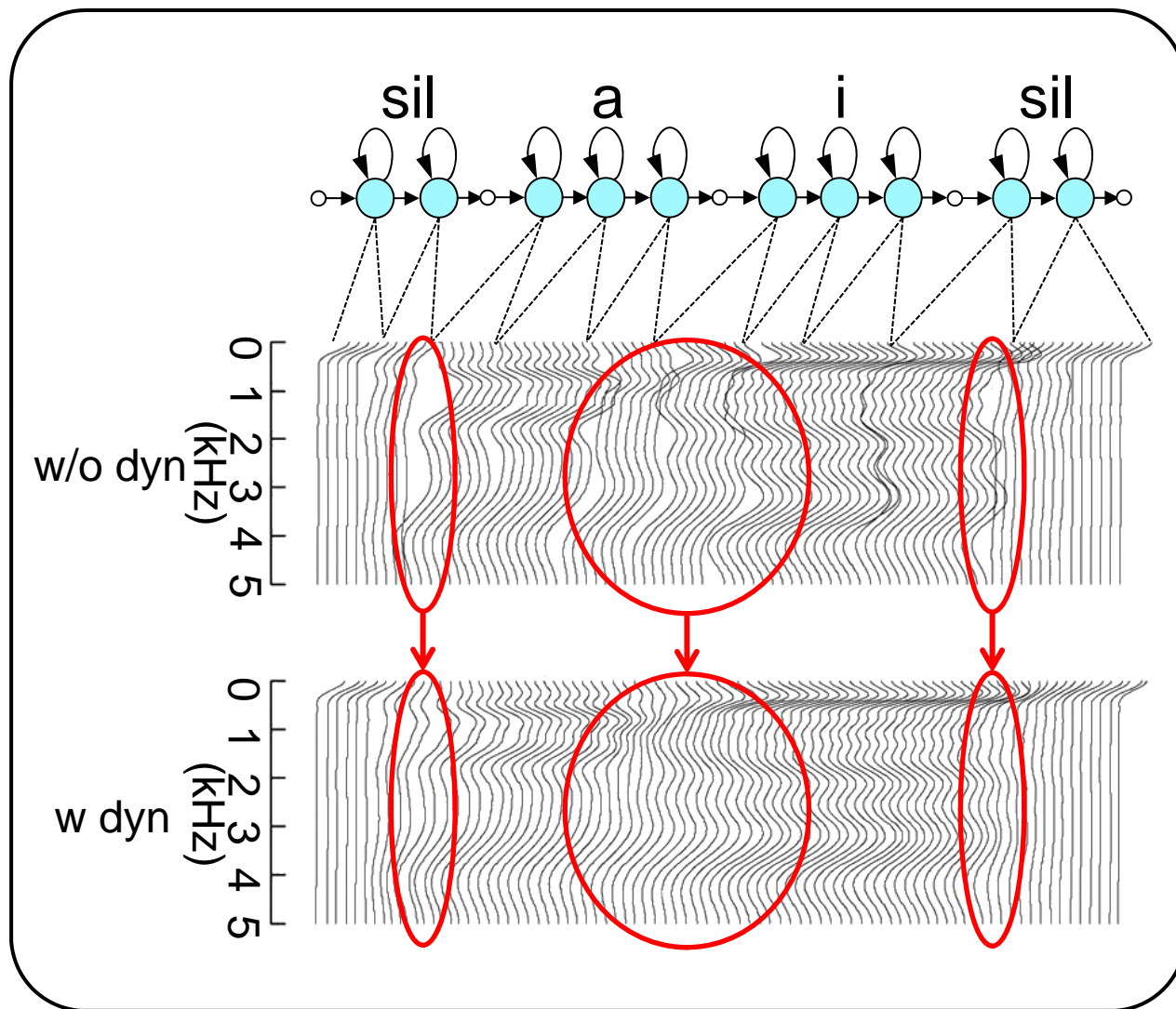
$P(\boldsymbol{o} | \boldsymbol{l}, \lambda) = P(W\boldsymbol{c} | \boldsymbol{l}, \lambda)$  is not a proper distribution of  $\boldsymbol{c}$

	Conventional HMM	Trajectory HMM
Training	$\arg \max_{\lambda} P(\boldsymbol{O}   \hat{\boldsymbol{L}}, \lambda)$	$\arg \max_{\lambda} P(\boldsymbol{C}   \hat{\boldsymbol{L}}, \lambda)$
Synthesis	$\arg \max_{\boldsymbol{o}} P(\boldsymbol{o}   \hat{\boldsymbol{l}}, \hat{\lambda})  _{\boldsymbol{o}=W\boldsymbol{c}}$ $= \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{c}} P(\boldsymbol{c}   \hat{\boldsymbol{l}}, \hat{\lambda})$	$\arg \max_{\hat{\lambda}} P(\boldsymbol{c}   \hat{\boldsymbol{l}}, \hat{\lambda})$

Solve inconsistency between training & synthesis

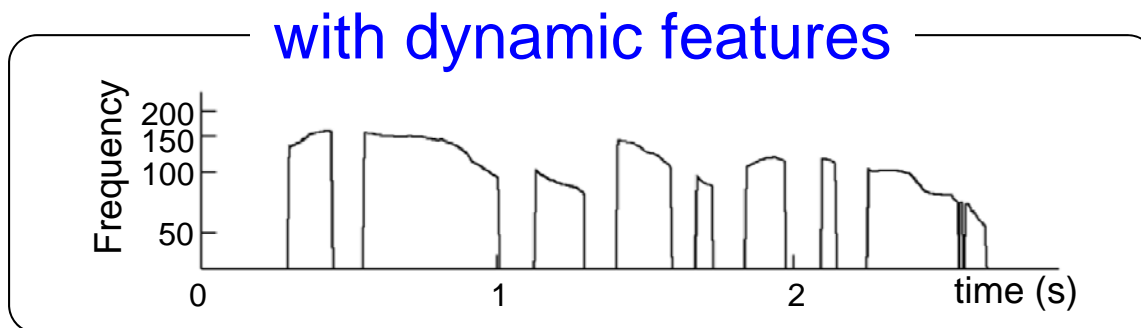
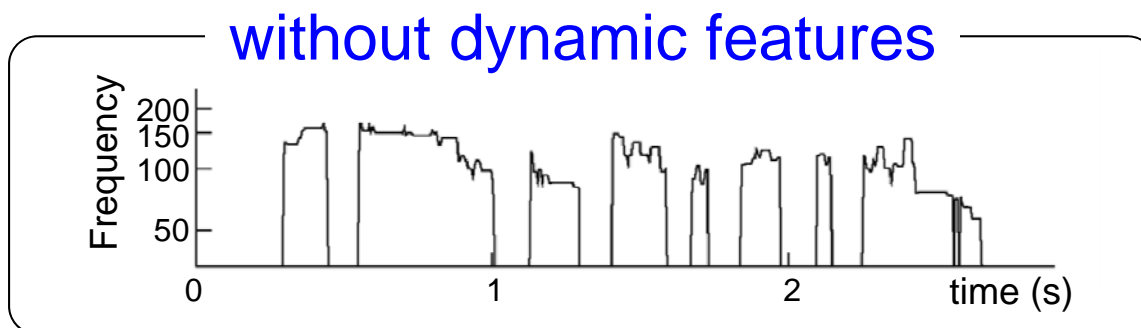
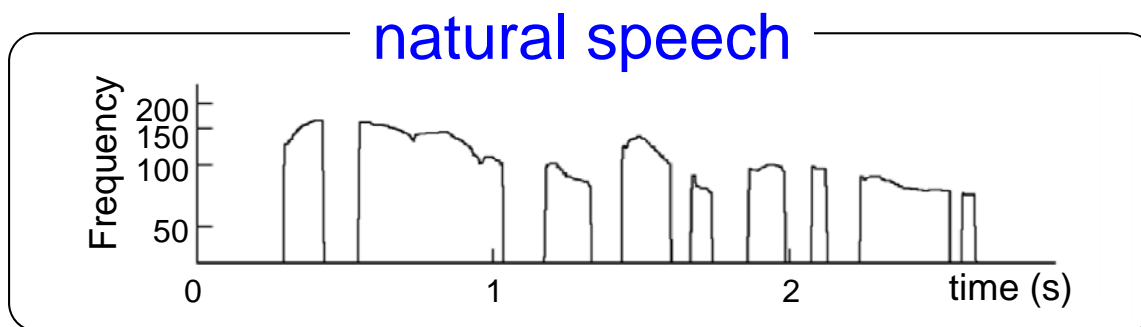
⇒ improving the model accuracy

# Generated spectra







Spectra changing smoothly between phonemes

# Generated F0



# Effect of dynamic features





		Mel-cepstrum	
		static+ $\Delta + \Delta^2$	static
log F0	static+ $\Delta + \Delta^2$	 Smooth!	
	static		

# Overview of this talk

1. Mathematical formulation
2. Implementation of individual components
3. Examples demonstrating its flexibility
4. Discussion and conclusion



# Emotional speech synthesis

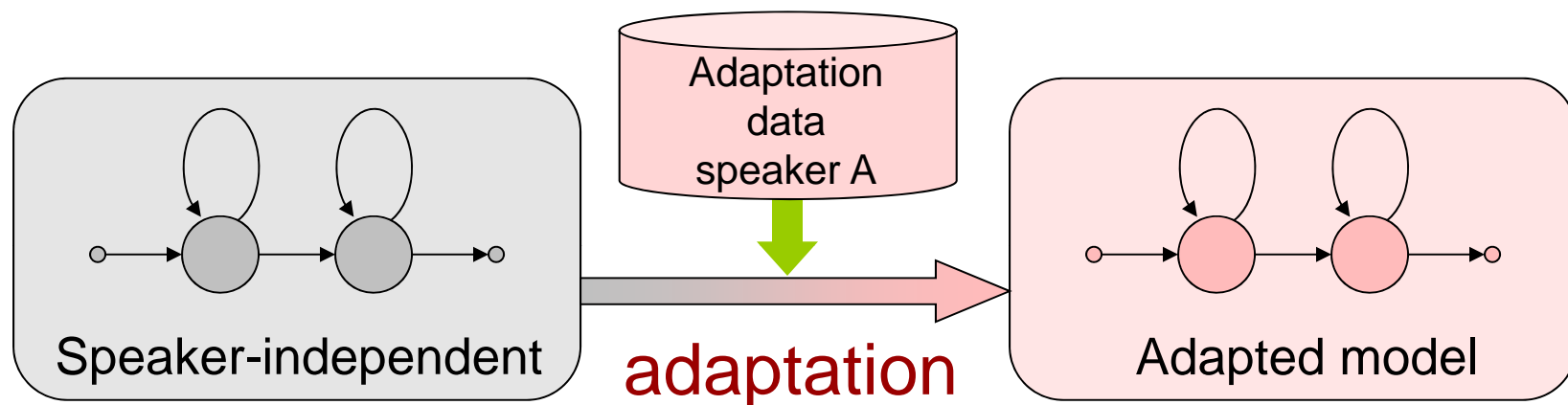
text	neutral	angry
「授業中に携帯いじってんじゃねえよ！ 電源切っとけ！」 “Don’t touch your cell phone during a class! Turn off it!”		
「ミーティングには毎週参加しなさい！」 “You must attend the weekly meeting!”		

trained with 200 utterances



# Speaker adaptation (mimicking voices)

## MLLR-based adaptation



w/o adaptation (initial model)



Adapted with 4 utterances



Adapted with 50 utterances

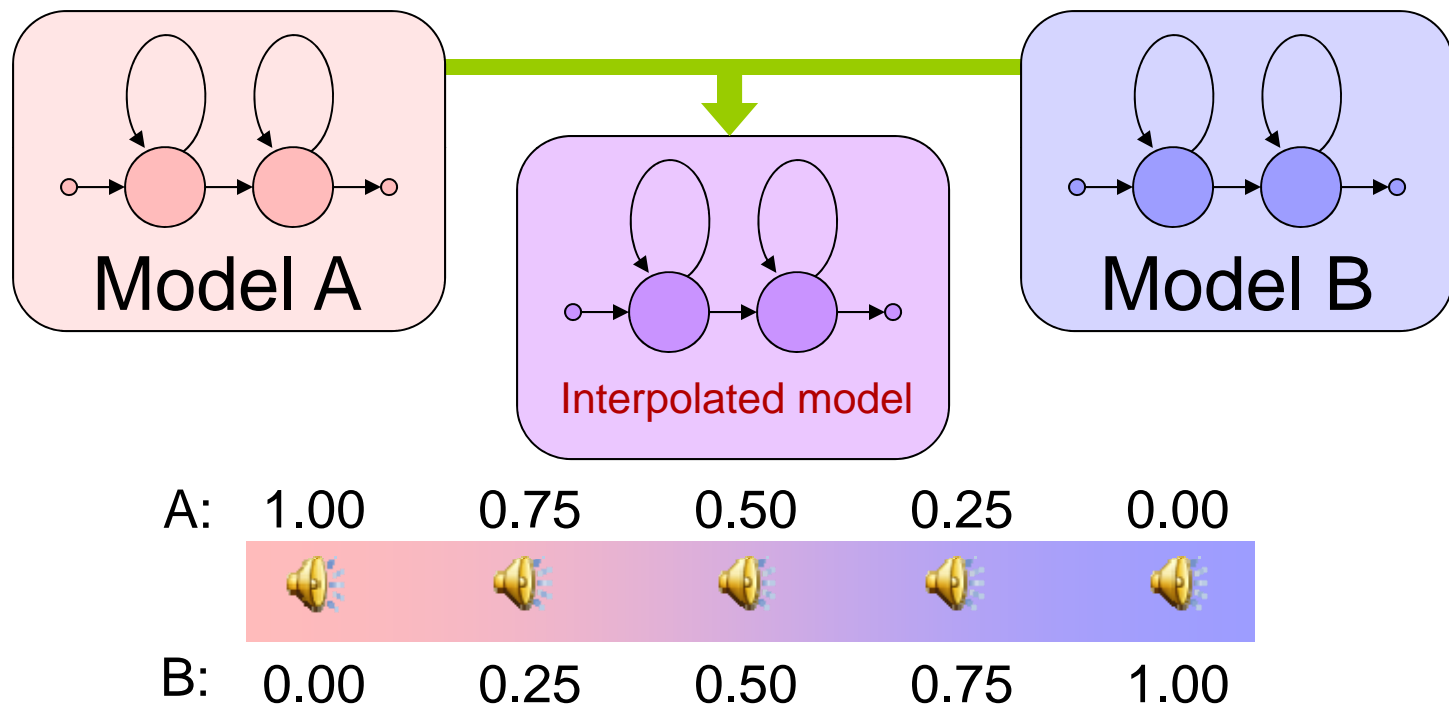


Speaker A's speaker-dependent system



# Speaker interpolation (mixing voices)

Linear combination of two speaker-dependent models



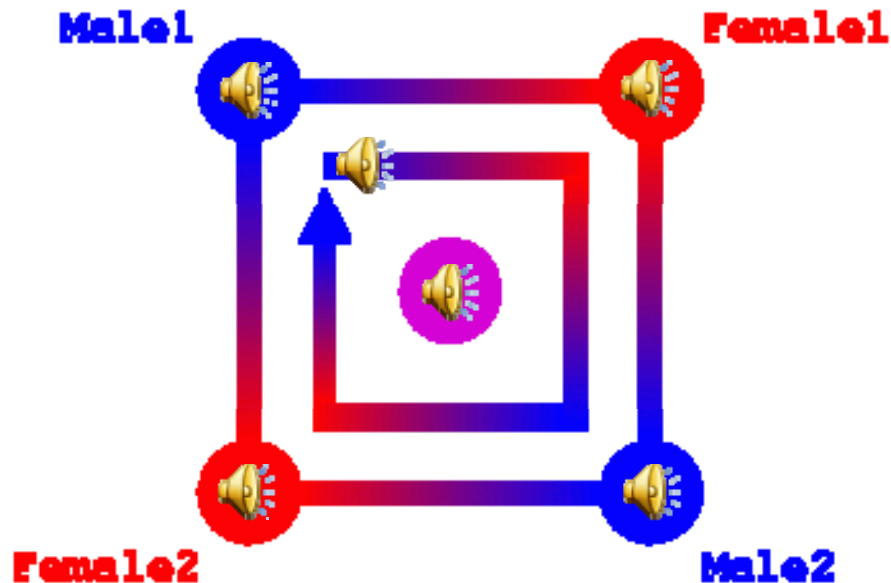
# Voice morphing

Two voices:

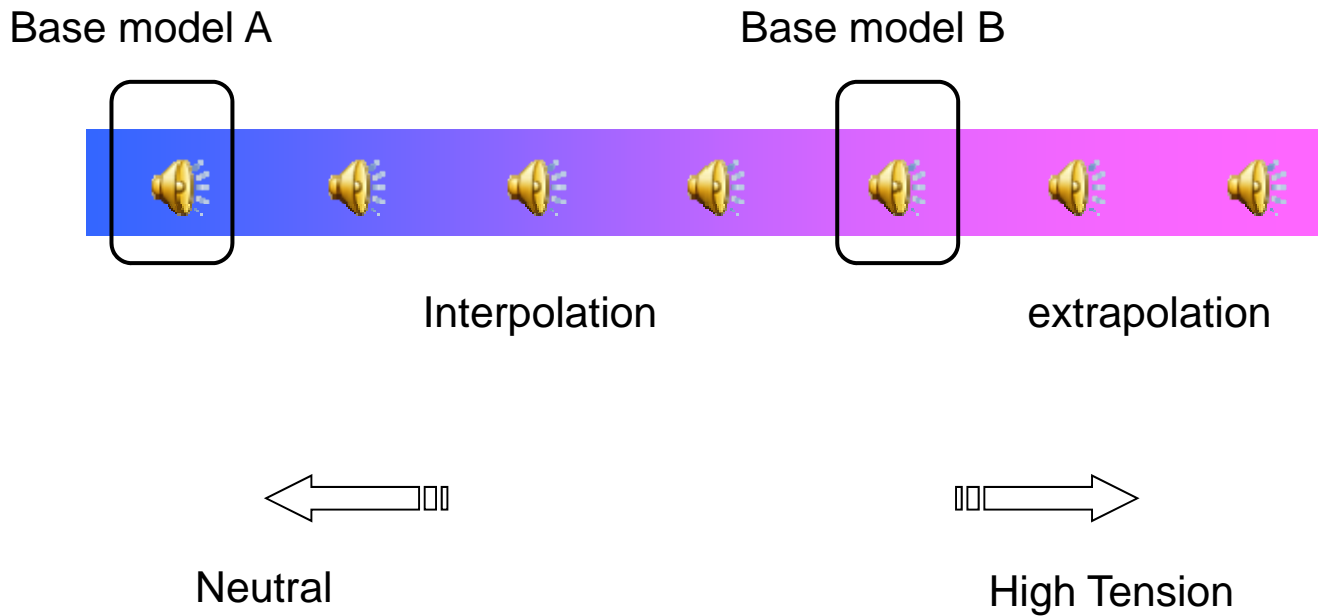
 A  $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$  B

A  $\Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow \Leftarrow$  B 

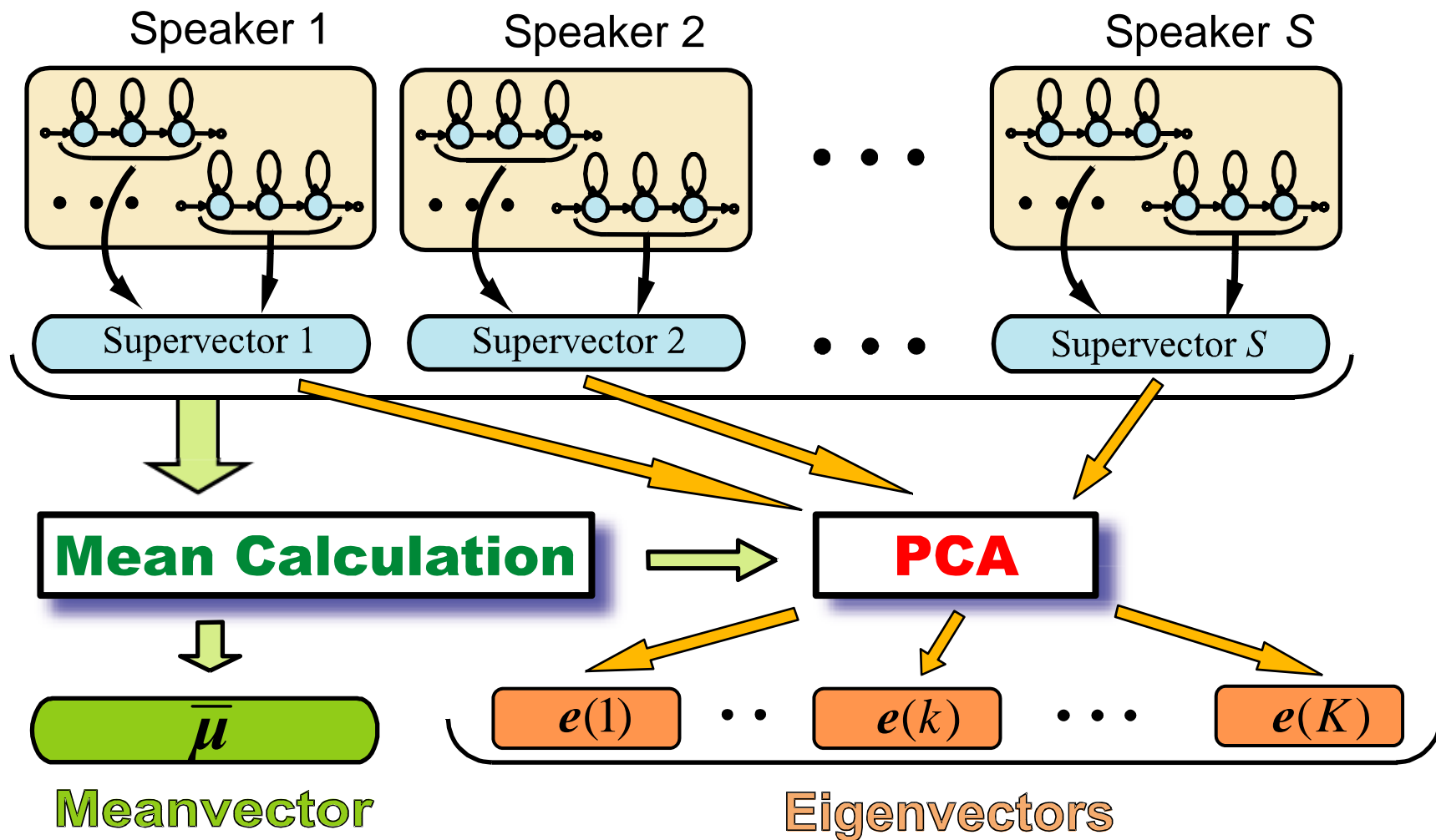
Four voices:



# Interpolation of speaking styles



# Eigenvoice (producing voices) [Shichiri; '02]

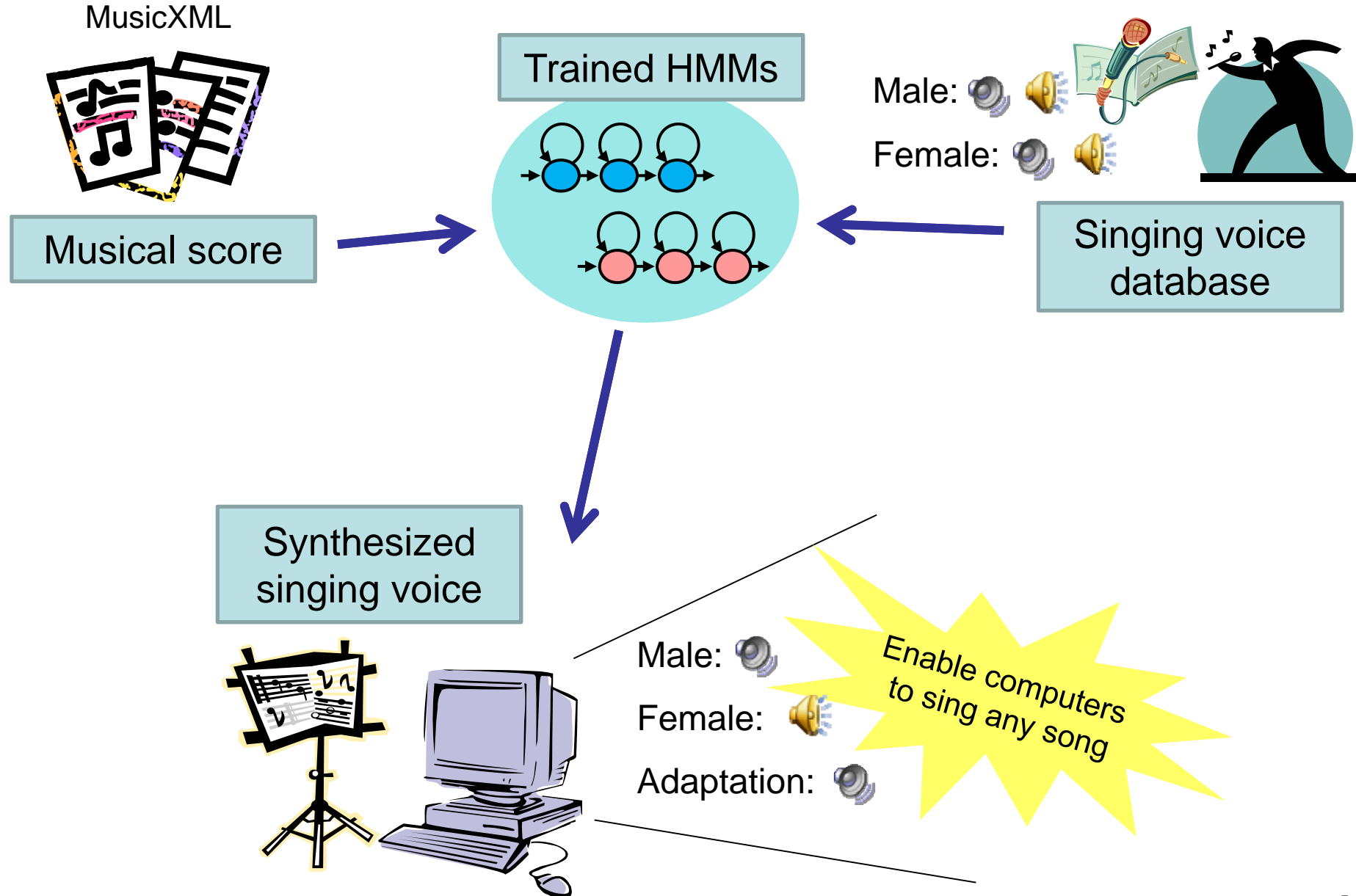


[Click here](#) for a demo

# Multilingual speech synthesis

- Japanese  
- American English     
- Chinese (Mandarin) (by ATR) 
- Brazilian Portuguese (by Nitech, and UFRJ) 
- European Portuguese (by Nitech, Univ of Porto, and UFRJ) 
- Slovenian  
(by Bostjan Vesnicher, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) 
- Swedish (by Anders Lundgren, KTH, Sweden)  
- German (by University of Bonn, and Nitech) 
- Korean (by Sang-Jin Kim, ETRI, Korea)  
- Finish (by TKK, Finland)  
- Baby English (by Univ of Edinburgh, UK) 
- Polish, Slovak, Arabic, Farsi, Croatian, Polyglot, etc.

# Singing voice synthesis [Oura; '10] (1/2)



# Overview of this talk

1. Mathematical formulation
2. Implementation of individual components
3. Examples demonstrating its flexibility
4. Discussion and conclusion





# Inclusion of all components

## Problem of statistical parametric speech synthesis

Draw  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  from  $P(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{w}, X, W)$

$$= \sum_{l, L} \iint \underbrace{P(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{c})}_{\text{Waveform generation}} \underbrace{P(\mathbf{c} | l, \lambda)}_{\text{Parameter generation}} \underbrace{P(l | \mathbf{w}, \Lambda)}_{\text{Text processing}}$$

Waveform generation    Parameter generation    Text processing

$$\times \underbrace{P(\lambda | \mathbf{C}, L)}_{\text{Posterior of model parameter}}$$

Posterior of model parameter

$$\times \underbrace{P(L | W, \Lambda)}_{\text{Text processing}} \underbrace{P(\mathbf{C} | X)}_{\text{Speech analysis}} \underbrace{P(\Lambda)}_{\text{Prior}} d\lambda d\Lambda d\mathbf{c} d\mathbf{C}$$

Text processing

Speech analysis

Prior

# Relaxing approximations

## Marginalizing model parameters

- ➔ Variational Bayesian acoustic modeling for speech synthesis [Nankaku;'03]

## Marginalizing labels

- ➔ Joint front-end / back-end model training [Oura;'08]

## Inclusion of waveform generation part

- ➔ Waveform-level statistical model [Maia;'10]

## Statistical approach to speech synthesis

- Whole speech synthesis process is described in a statistical framework
- It gives a unified view and reveals what is correct and what is wrong
- Importance of the database

## Future work

- Still we have many problems should be solved:
  - Speech waveform modeling
  - Combination with text processing part, etc.

# Final message

Is speech synthesis a messy problem?

No!

Let us join speech synthesis research!

Thanks!

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