Fine-tuning Flemish Dutch Self-Supervised Speech Models for Low-Resource Germanic ASR

Assignee Research

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Abstract

Recent research in speech processing exhibits a growing interest in unsupervised and self-supervised representation learning from unlabelled data to alleviate the need for large amounts of annotated data. We investigate several popular pre-training methods and apply them to Flemish Dutch. We compare off-the-shelf English pre-trained models to models trained on an increasing amount of Flemish data. We find that the most important factors for positive transfer to downstream speech recognition tasks include a substantial amount of data and a matching pre-training domain. Ideally, we also finetune

1 Introduction

This paper examines: Comparison of Self-Supervised Speech Pre-Training Methods on Flemish Dutch. Research question: What is the impact of fine-tuning a Flemish Dutch self-supervised speech model on a low-resource Germanic language with a distinct phonetic inventory compared to direct transfer from English pre-trained models, as evaluated on the CommonVoice ASR benchmark?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 11 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 7.9/10.

3 Results

11 papers retrieved. 14 claims extracted; 11 independently verified. Quality review score: 7.9/10.

4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
APC uses a Filterbank feature encoder, a GRU aggregator, and has an objective to reconstruct future frames with an outpu	✓	0.18
Mockingjay uses a Filterbank feature encoder, a Bidirectional Transformer aggregator, and has an objective to reconstruc	✓	0.20
CPC uses a CNN feature encoder, an LSTM aggregator, and has an objective to identify future features with an output dime	✓	0.22
wav2vec uses a CNN feature encoder, a CNN aggregator, and has an objective to identify future features with an output di	✓	0.21
wav2vec 2.0 uses a CNN feature encoder, a Transformer aggregator, and has an objective to identify quantised future feat	✓	0.25
The wav2vec 2.0 encoder computes latent speech representations from the raw waveform with 7 temporal convolution blocks.	✓	0.16
A certain proportion of the latent features is masked before feeding to the aggregator in wav2vec 2.0.	✓	0.20
The aggregator in wav2vec 2.0 is a Transformer network.	×	0.11
A quantisation module in wav2vec 2.0 maps the latent feature vectors to discretised versions.	✓	0.19
The final training objective of wav2vec 2.0 is to distinguish the true quantised representation for a masked time step,	✓	0.23
The base architecture of wav2vec 2.0 contains 12 Transformer blocks in the aggregator.	×	0.11
The large architecture of wav2vec 2.0 contains 24 Transformer blocks in the aggregator.	×	0.12
The contextual features at the output of the aggregator in wav2vec 2.0 are extracted for downstream tasks.	✓	0.17
The wav2vec 2.0 model can be fine-tuned on a labelled set by adding an extra linear layer on top of the context network	✓	0.16

References

- http://arxiv.org/abs/1909.03564v2
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2506.00981v2
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2109.14357v1