

Learning the control a vocal tract synthesizer by imitating natural speech

Ian Howard (1) & Mark Huckvale (2)

(1) Sobell Department of Motor Neuroscience, Institute of Neurology, UCL.

(2) Department of Phonetics & Linguistics, UCL.

Our work involves imitation learning of simple natural speech utterances based on an articulator vocal tract synthesizer. The goal is to build a system that can learn to reproduce the utterance that it just heard. We attempt to learn the control of a vocal tract synthesizer using models inspired by the organization of the auditory and motor systems. Preliminary results of this work will be given.