SPEAKER RECOGNITION WITH TWO-STEP MULTI-MODAL DEEP CLEANSING

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ABSTRACT

Neural network-based speaker recognition has achieved significant improvement in recent years. A robust speaker representation learns meaningful knowledge from both hard and easy samples in the training set to achieve good performance. However, noisy samples (i.e., with wrong labels) in the training set induce confusion and cause the network to learn the incorrect representation. In this paper, we propose a two-step audio-visual deep cleansing framework to eliminate the effect of noisy labels in speaker representation learning. This framework contains a coarse-grained cleansing step to search for the complex samples, followed by a fine-grained cleansing step to filter out the noisy labels. Our study starts from an efficient audio-visual speaker recognition system, which achieves a close to perfect equal-error-rate (EER) of 0.01%, 0.07% and 0.13% on the Vox-O, E and H test sets. With the proposed multi-modal cleansing mechanism, four different speaker recognition networks achieve an average improvement of 5.9%. Code has been made available at: https://github.com/TaoRujie/AVCleanse.

Index Terms— speaker recognition, noisy label, audio-visual, deep cleansing

1. INTRODUCTION

Automatic speaker recognition aims to distinguish a legitimate user from imposters based on their voices [1, 2]. Over the last decade, deep learning-based speaker representation, such as x-vector [3], xi-vector [4], and network architectures, such as ResNet [5] and ECAPA-TDNN [6], have achieved remarkable performance by training on the large-scale speech dataset. To further enhance the performance, previous works usually focus on the network structure [7], loss function [8] and back-end score calibration [9]. However, the existence of noisy labels in the training set has not been taken care of.

Large-scale dataset for speaker recognition typically consists of thousands of speakers and over millions of samples, whereby utterances from the same person share the same speaker labels. These datasets are typically collected from the Internet within automatic pipeline [10, 11]. However, it is not surprising to find that utterances assigned with the same label might actually come from different speakers, i.e., the noisy labels problem. From the study of noisy-label learning, training data can be divided into three categories according to the learning difficulty [12, 13]: easy, hard and noisy samples. Note that we use the term noisy samples referring to samples with wrong labels following the terminology in [10]. Due to the memorization effects [14], neural networks tend to fit the easy samples and converge rapidly in the early stage of training. In the later stage of training, the network has to distill correct but difficult knowledge from the complex samples. However, these complex samples contain hard and noisy samples, which deters the learning process.

Prior works dealing with noisy labels in speaker recognition include: training the speaker network and manually setting the threshold to filter out the unusual utterances [15]; dropping out the samples with large training loss as the noisy data in self-supervised learning [16]. However, there are two major problems with the existing approach. In terms of quality, it is challenging for the speaker network to recognize the difficult utterances [17]. In terms of logic, the speaker network has been trained on the entire dataset (including noisy ones) and push them to their class centre. Using the same network to decide the noisy ones is not a good choice.

In this paper, we propose a two-step multi-modal deep cleansing framework to solve the above mentioned problems. Firstly, we do a coarse-grained cleansing based on the speech modality only, which divides the training data into easy and complex samples. Secondly, we train a new speaker recognition network based on easy samples to do a fine-grained cleansing, which divides the complex samples into hard and noisy ones. Since the network does not train on the noisy samples, using it to do the cleansing is more reliable. On the other hand, from the biometric recognition study [18, 19], face image and speech utterance can provide complementary identity information. Motivated by this, we use the face recognition network in the second step to boost the system.
Our contribution can be summarized as follows. Firstly, we propose a robust audio-visual speaker recognition system which can achieve close-to-perfect verification. Secondly, a two-step audio-visual cleansing framework is designed to filter out the noisy data in the training set. Thirdly, four speaker recognition networks are trained on the original and cleansed dataset to show the impact of our method.

2. AUDIO-VISUAL SPEAKER RECOGNITION

In this section, we propose an efficient audio-visual speaker recognition system containing both speaker and face modalities since a reliable identity recognition system is the foundation of noisy sample cleansing.

For training, the speaker network is used to extract the speaker embedding from the input utterance. This embedding contains the characteristics of the speaker’s voice. Then it follows a speaker classifier to distinguish the utterances from different speakers with an AAM-softmax loss [20]. Similarly, the face network takes one face image as the input and outputs the face embedding. This embedding is trained with a face classifier [21]. For testing, speaker and face embeddings are used together to enhance the verification performance.

Compared with previous works [22, 23], we take two strategies to simplify the system and improve the stability. Firstly, we align all the faces with the detected landmarks during preprocessing [24, 25]. Secondly, we argue that training two modalities separately and directly concatenating two embeddings for testing is an effective and convenient solution. [19, 23]

3. AUDIO-VISUAL DEEP CLEANSING

For audio-visual deep cleansing, we consider a training set with \( N \) video clips. Each video clip consists of synchronized speech utterance and face frames. And, there exists a few video clips with wrong labels, i.e., noisy samples. Our proposed audio-visual two-step deep cleansing framework is shown in Fig 1 to discover these noisy samples.

### 3.1. Step 1: Coarse-grained cleansing

Firstly, we design coarse-grained cleansing to divide the training set into easy and complex samples to narrow down the selection of noisy data. The main concern of this step is successfully dividing all the noisy samples into the complex class. It is noted that this step uses speech modality only since face modality can only assist in deciding the correctness of samples.

Firstly, we train a speaker network with all the utterances in the training set. Then we fix this network’s parameters and extract the speaker embeddings from the entire training set. These embeddings are represented as \( s_1, \cdots, s_N \). The corresponding speaker labels are annotated as \( c_1, \cdots, c_N, c_i \in \{ 1, 2, \cdots, K \} \), where \( K \) is the number of speakers in the training set. Then we compute the average cosine similarity between the speaker embedding of each sample and the other samples from the same speaker. The score \( x_i \) of the embedding \( s_i \) can be represented as:

\[
x_i = \frac{1}{M_k} \sum_{j=1}^{N} 1_{c_i = c_j} \cos(s_i, s_j)
\]

Here \( M_k \) is the number of samples in the \( k \)-th class. \( 1 \) is an indicator function evaluating 1 when \( c_i = c_j \). For the computed scores, we set a threshold \( \tau \). Samples with scores smaller than \( \tau \) are the complex samples; otherwise, they are deemed to be easy samples.

### 3.2. Step 2: Fine-grained cleansing

As mentioned earlier, the network without training on the noisy samples can provide an objective and accurate representation. Motivated by that, we train the network without noisy samples in fine-grained cleansing to filter out noisy samples.

#### 3.2.1. Speaker and face network

Firstly, we train a new speaker network with the easy samples found from the coarse-grained cleansing. Then considering
sufficient annotated face datasets, the pre-trained face recognition network is applied to our multi-modal cleansing proposal. It is noted that training a face network with the images of the found easy samples is also a reasonable solution.

3.2.2. Decision boundary

Then we train a classifier in the two-dimensional score space to separate noisy samples from the hard samples. The binary classifier is trained on a validation set consisting of target trials [10,11], i.e., two video clips from the same speakers, and the imposter trials, i.e., two video clips are from different speakers. We can compute the speaker and face cosine similarity for each trial using our multi-modal system. Then an SVM [26] is learnt on these two-dimensional scores and using the ground-truth labels in the validation. The SVM decision boundary can efficiently distinguish trials into the target and the imposter ones. Target and imposter trials are associated with the clean and noisy samples, respectively.

3.2.3. Deep cleansing

In this stage, we freeze the networks to extract the speaker and face embeddings of all the samples in the training set. Speaker and face embeddings are represented as $s_1, \ldots, s_N$ and $f_1, \ldots, f_N$, respectively. We compute the average cosine similarity between the embedding of each sample and the other samples from the same class. The speaker scores $x_i$ of the embedding $s_i$ is similar to that in (1). The face score $y_i$ of the embedding $f_i$ is computed as:

$$y_i = \frac{1}{M_k} \sum_{j=1}^{N} I_{c_i=c_j} \cos(f_i, f_j)$$

Finally, we apply the learnt SVM to predict the correctness of each training sample using $x_i$ and $y_i$. The samples predicted as the target trials are defined as clean data; otherwise, they are noisy data.

4. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Our training set is the VoxCeleb2 [11], an audio-visual dataset derived from YouTube interviews. It contains 1,971,724 video clips from 5,994 speakers, and each video clip has one synchronized and visible talking face.

For audio-visual speaker recognition, the original VoxCeleb2 is used for training. Here we also report the performance of the face network trained on the large face dataset Glint360K [27] to show the effectiveness of face modality. The speaker network is the ECAPA-TDNN with a large channel size equal to 1,024 (refer to ECAPA-L) [6]. The face network is the ResNet18 (training on VoxCeleb2) and ResNet50 (training on Glint360K) [20, 28]. We select Vox1-O set for validation, Vox1-E and Vox1-H for testing [10].

For audio-visual deep cleansing, the speaker network is an ECAPA-L, and the face network is a ResNet50 network. In coarse-grained cleansing, we set the threshold $\tau$ to divide 92% of training data as the easy samples. Here we only need to ensure that no noisy samples are involved [15]. In fine-grained cleansing, the face network is trained on Glint360K [27]. Only the cleansed samples are used to decide the class centre, so we repeat five rounds to compute each sample’s similarity score and find clean samples.

To show the impact of our audio-visual deep cleansing framework, we train four speaker networks with and without cleansing for comparison, which includes x-vector [3], ResNet34 [5], ECAPA-TDNN [6] with a small channel size equal to 512 (refer to ECAPA-S) and the ECAPA-L. All the experiments are repeated three times. Vox1-O, E and H are used for in-domain evaluation and CnCeleb-VoxSRC22 [29] is used for cross-domain evaluation.

During training, we apply data augmentation to boost performance [30, 31]. During the evaluation, all test sets provide a set number of trials, each containing two samples. For single modality, the cosine similarity between the speaker embedding (from the entire utterance) or the face embedding (from five face frames) of the given trial is calculated. For multi-modal, the combined speaker and face embedding is applied. The performance metric is the equal error rate (EER).

5. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

5.1. Audio-visual speaker recognition

First, we report the performance of our audio-visual speaker recognition system in Tab 1. Both speaker and face networks perform better than existing approaches when trained on the VoxCeleb2 dataset. Here the face recognition network can achieve even 0.03% EER when trained on Glint360K. Noted that we didn’t check if Glint360K and VoxCeleb1 had the overlapped speakers. But it will not affect our cleansing purpose. For multi-modal verification, we obtain 0.16% and 0.01% EER on Vox1-O when the face network is trained on VoxCeleb2 and Glint360K, respectively. So our audio-visual system can accurately define the person’s identity to guarantee the cleansing process.

5.2. Audio-visual deep cleansing

Then we compare the performance of the speaker network trained on the original VoxCeleb2 and the VoxCeleb2 with our deep cleansing. In Tab 2, for in-domain evaluation on VoxCeleb1, our audio-visual deep cleansing can remove the side-effect of the noisy data and boost the speaker recognition system with an average improvement of 5.9%. In Tab 3, for cross-domain evaluation on CnCeleb-VoxSRC22, our approach achieve an average improvement of 3.2%, which proves the network obtains a stronger generality.

1https://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/data/voxceleb/data_workshop_2022/Track3_validation_trials.txt
Table 1: The EER (%) of audio-visual speaker recognition. ‘Vox2’ denotes training on VoxCeleb2 dataset, ‘Glint’ denotes training on Glint360K dataset.

| Modality | System    | Vox1-O | Vox1-E | Vox1-H |
|----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Speech   | Sari et al. [23] | 2.20  | -      | -      |
|          | Qian et al. [18]  | 1.62  | 1.75  | 3.16  |
|          | Chen et al. [32]  | 2.31  | 2.23  | 3.78  |
|          | (1) Ours-Vox2     | 1.02  | 1.23  | 2.36  |
| Face     | Sari et al. [23]  | 3.90  | -      | -      |
|          | Qian et. al. [18] | 3.04  | 2.18  | 4.23  |
|          | Chen et al. [32]  | 2.26  | 1.54  | 2.37  |
|          | (2) Ours-Vox2     | 0.97  | 0.81  | 1.16  |
|          | (3) Ours-Glint    | 0.03  | 0.07  | 0.09  |
| Fusion   | Sari et al. [23]  | 0.90  | -      | -      |
|          | Qian et. al. [18] | 0.71  | 0.48  | 0.85  |
|          | Chen et al. [32]  | 0.59  | 0.43  | 0.74  |
|          | (1) + (2)         | 0.16  | 0.23  | 0.42  |
|          | (1) + (3)         | 0.01  | 0.07  | 0.13  |

Table 2: In-domain evaluation EER(%) of the speaker networks trained on the original and cleansed VoxCeleb2.

| Network | Method       | Vox1-O | Vox1-E | Vox1-H |
|---------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| X-vector| w/o cleanse  | 2.20  | 2.32  | 4.06  |
|         | with cleanse | 2.09  | 2.13  | 3.76  |
|         | Δ            | 5.0%  | 8.2%  | 7.4%  |
| ResNet34| w/o cleanse  | 1.31  | 1.41  | 2.58  |
|         | with cleanse | 1.24  | 1.28  | 2.52  |
|         | Δ            | 5.3%  | 9.2%  | 2.3%  |
| ECAPA-S | w/o cleanse  | 1.24  | 1.34  | 2.49  |
|         | with cleanse | 1.17  | 1.28  | 2.37  |
|         | Δ            | 5.6%  | 4.5%  | 4.8%  |
| ECAPA-L | w/o cleanse  | 1.02  | 1.23  | 2.36  |
|         | with cleanse | 0.93  | 1.18  | 2.22  |
|         | Δ            | 8.8%  | 4.1%  | 5.9%  |

Table 3: Cross-domain evaluation EER(%) of the speaker networks trained on the original and cleansed VoxCeleb2.

| Method | X-vector | ResNet34 | ECAPA-S | ECAPA-L |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| w/o cleanse | 17.00    | 14.90    | 18.15   | 19.86   |
| with cleanse | 16.34    | 14.64    | 17.39   | 19.26   |
| Δ       | 3.9%     | 1.7%     | 4.2%    | 3.0%    |

5.3. Visualization of results

We visualize our results in Fig 2. The left panel (a) represents audio-visual speaker recognition on Vox1-O. Each point denotes a test trial. The X-axis and Y-axis represent the speaker and face similarity score between the two samples in each trial, respectively. Target trials have high audio-visual scores, and imposter trials are the opposite, so the decision boundary is clear and reliable. The right panel (b) represents audio-visual deep cleansing on VoxCeleb2 with the same boundary. Each point represents a training sample. The similarity score is between this point and the cleansed samples from the same speaker. Here most of the noisy samples have a very different representation to the mainstream samples in their class since they have a low audio-visual score. Our method finds 1.9% noisy samples on VoxCeleb2.

Fig. 2: Visualization of (a) audio-visual speaker recognition on Vox1-O; (b) audio-visual deep cleansing on VoxCeleb2.

Fig. 3: Visualization of the clean and noisy samples with the speaker and face similarity score. The left side denotes the speaker id. In Fig 3, each row contains four face images from the samples with the same speaker label, the left three are from the clean samples, and the right one is from the noisy sample. Both speaker and face similarity score has been marked below. Visual modality can assist speech modality in finding noisy samples.

6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a two-step audio-visual deep cleansing framework is proposed to automatically pick up noisy training sounds and strengthen the speaker recognition network. We observe that noisy samples (i.e., with wrong labels) are commonplace in large-scale datasets, and 5.9% of performance improvement could be achieved by removing a considerable percentage of noisy samples from the training set. In future work, we will combine the training and cleansing steps.
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