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AUDIO AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN DIFFERENT AREAS

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Abstract: Audios are the sound signals that are produced by some source and travel to the human or animal's ear. The audios can be used in number of the research areas. Though the text, videos, images can help in numerous applications that audios can solve but the audios have certain advantages as compared to the former. In this paper, research areas related to audios are described. The usage of audios in aircraft industry, healthcare, audio surveillance are explored.

Index Terms - Acoustics, Acoustic Research areas, Environmental Sound classification.

I. INTRODUCTION

Acoustics is the branch of physics which deal with the sounds. Sounds are the signals that are produced by air pressure changes. Various kinds of the sounds can be used for designing concert halls, context classification, gunshot detection and many more.

Audios are preferred as compared to text, videos and other tools. Audios have certain advantages as compared to the other sensors. Audios can be captured from any direction. Microphones used for capturing audios are omnidirectional as compared to video cameras which can only focus on one area. Audios are free from occlusion unlike videos. They are not obstructed by any solid objects. Microphones are easy to install and are computationally less costly as compared to cameras. Microphones are insensitive to orientation changes.

Nowadays, number of researchers are working in the field of acoustics. Acoustics have been used in several fields and have helped in research. Fig. 1 illustrates the research areas in which acoustics have been employed. The remaining paper is structured as follows. Section 2 describes the research areas related to acoustics and the corresponding literature review of the applications. Section 3 concludes the paper.



Fig. 1. Research areas related to acoustics

II. RESEARCH AREAS RELATED TO ACOUSTICS

- **Speech**

Acoustics have been widely used in speech processing, speaker identification and speech recognition. The research in speech processing relates to the processing methods used for speech signals. Speech processing helps in creating digital assistants by using deep learning techniques [1] and in healthcare [2] [3]. Speaker identification is the recognising and identifying the speakers from the speech. Speech recognition is achieved using deep neural networks recently [4]. End to end deep neural network and Hidden Markov Based Neural Network is used. Sequence to sequence models are also employed for speech recognition [5].

- **Music Processing**

The branch of acoustics dealing with music is called musical acoustics [6]. Music processing includes research related to the classification of musical instruments [7] [8] [9], classification of music genres [10][11]. In study [12], generative adversarial neural networks are used for singing voice synthesis.

- **Healthcare**

In healthcare, acoustics have been used in number of tasks such as notifying the hospital staff of various events of patients [13], detecting various diseases [14]. Earlier, stethoscopes were used to hear internal sounds of human body but now acoustic sensors installed in hospitals can do the task and detect various ailments such as lung diseases[15], parkinson[16][17], Alzheimer[18]. Though, video cameras can also work in this regard but they are discouraged as they intrude upon the privacy of patients.

- **Aeroacoustics**

Acoustics has been widely employed in aircraft industry [19] such as detection of landing and taking off the airplanes. Acoustics help in detecting invisible damage to the airplanes [20], identifying low flying planes[21], amateur drone detection [22]. Terrorist activities can also be identified through the sounds produced inside the planes [23]. Aeroacoustics also helps to study musical wind instruments[24].

- **Underwater acoustics**

Acoustics help underwater [25] by prevention of accidents as it can detect some objects which can harm the ship[26]. Acoustics also help to monitor the marine life[27] and marine life conversation[28]. SONAR is an example of acoustics based tool that help in detecting some underwater vessels [29].

- **Acoustic Surveillance**

Acoustics have been widely used in the surveillance [30] [31]. The sounds of dog barking, screaming, gunshot can be detected and certain services or horns can be activated. Smart homes can be designed using acoustics for elderly people staying alone at home [32]. Acoustical surveillance can help in predicting the disease outbreaks early [33]

- **Environmental Sound classification**

The urban sounds can be classified to recognize the environment surrounding the sounds [34] [35]. Certain environmental events can also be classified through sounds [36].

- **Traffic monitoring**

Acoustics are used for monitoring traffic. The traffic conditions using acoustics can be identified as congested and free flowing [37]. Vehicles can also be classified through the sounds produced by them into various categories [38]. Accidents can be detected [39] and emergency services can be called through sounds[40].

III. CONCLUSION

The field of acoustics is currently trending due to the advantages of audios as compared to videos. Tremendous contribution to the various areas has been made by the acoustics from the last two decades. Acoustics will continue to play an increasingly important role in the various fields. This paper is based on the concept of acoustics and research areas of acoustics. We conclude that further research in this area can be done as there are very promising and profitable results obtained in all the research areas discussed. This field and its applications will likely have far-reaching effects on human life in the years to come.

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