# A novel codebook-based excitation model for use in speech synthesis

Tamás Gábor Csapó, Géza Németh

Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary

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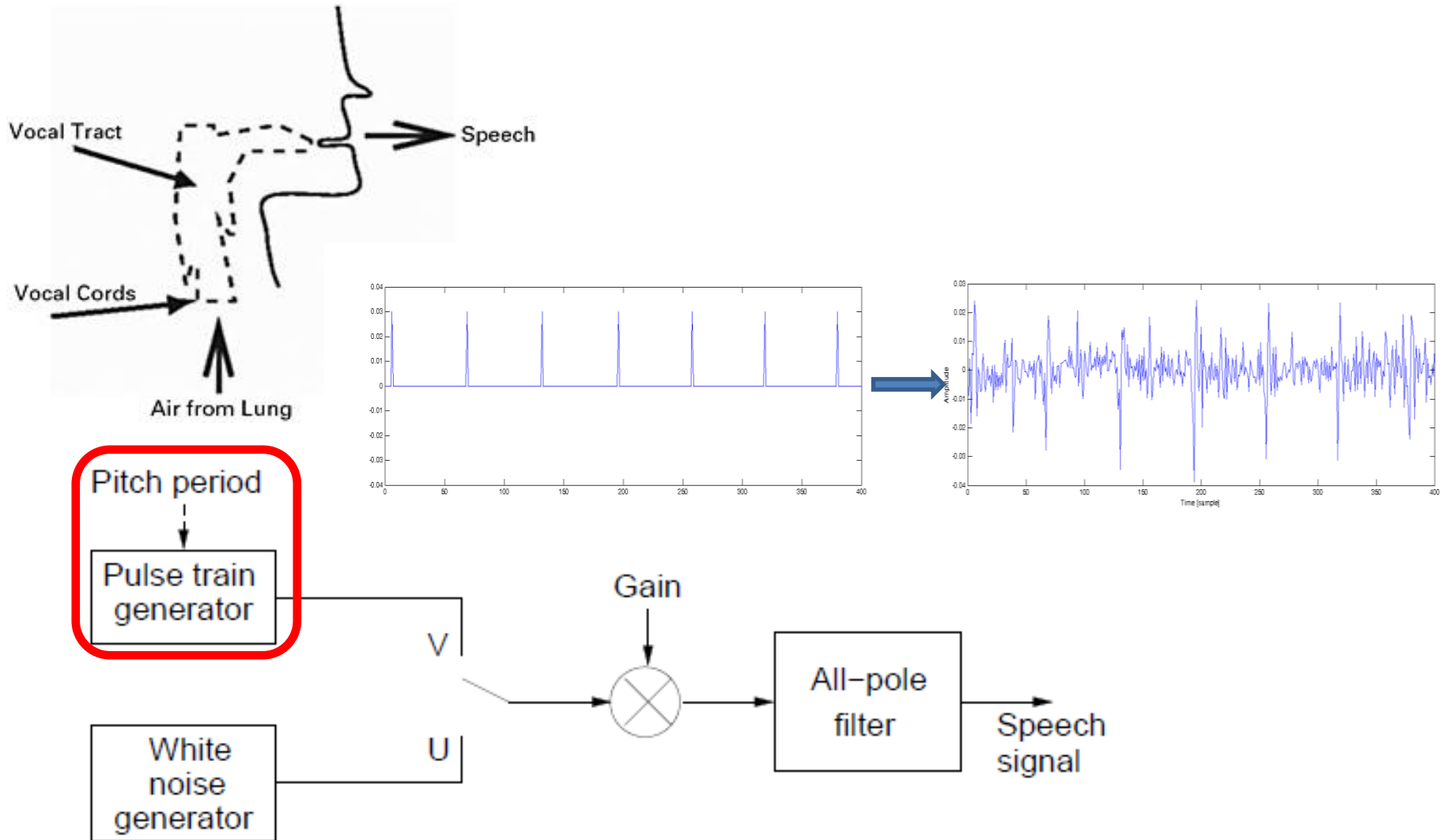- Conclusions and applications

# CogInfoCom and text-to-speech

- Speech, text-to-speech synthesis (TTS)
  - one of the main modalities of human-human communication
  - important in human-computer communication
  - natural inter-cognitive sensor-bridging communication mode
  - applications like talking robot, car speech interface and telesurgery
  - helpful for the vision impaired and blind people to access information

# Statistical parametric speech synthesis

- State-of-the art speech synthesis technique
- Parametric
  - Speech signal is encoded to parameters
  - Parameters are decoded to speech
- Sub-problem: speech coding
  - Speech encoding & decoding in an effective way
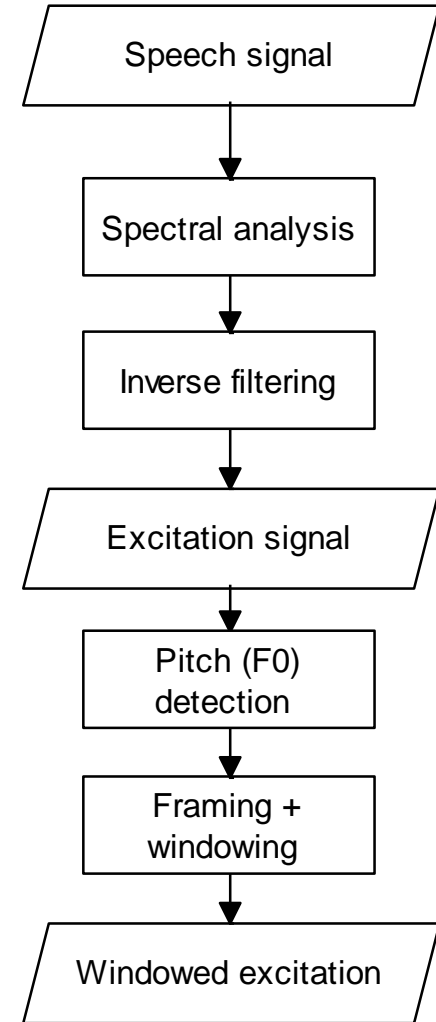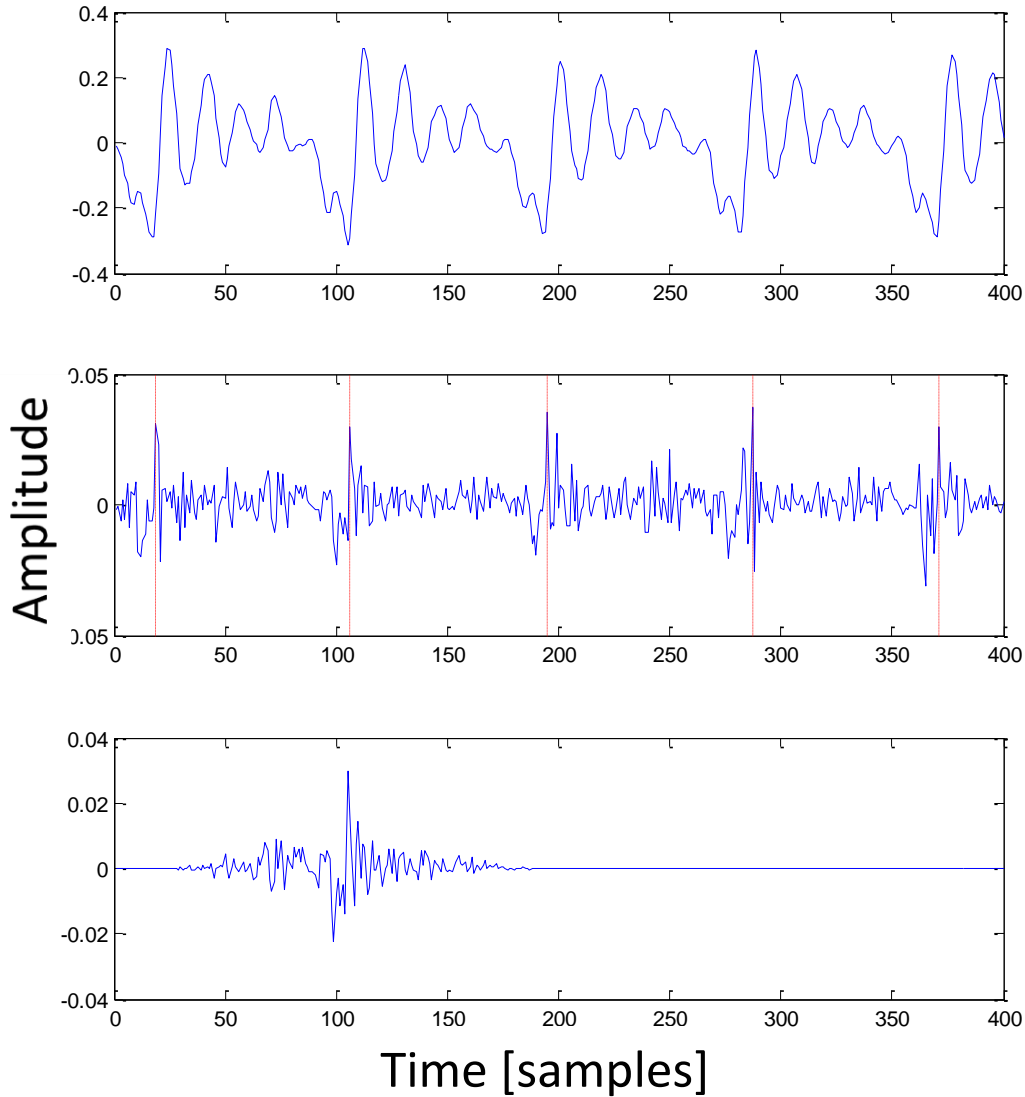  - Speech excitation modeling

# Speech excitation models

# Methods

- Speech coding = encoding + decoding
- Novel excitation model
  - Fit to the machine learning in TTS
  - Codebook of excitation frames
  - Phoneme-dependent excitation
  - Flexible
  - Different voice qualities (modal, breathy, whispered)
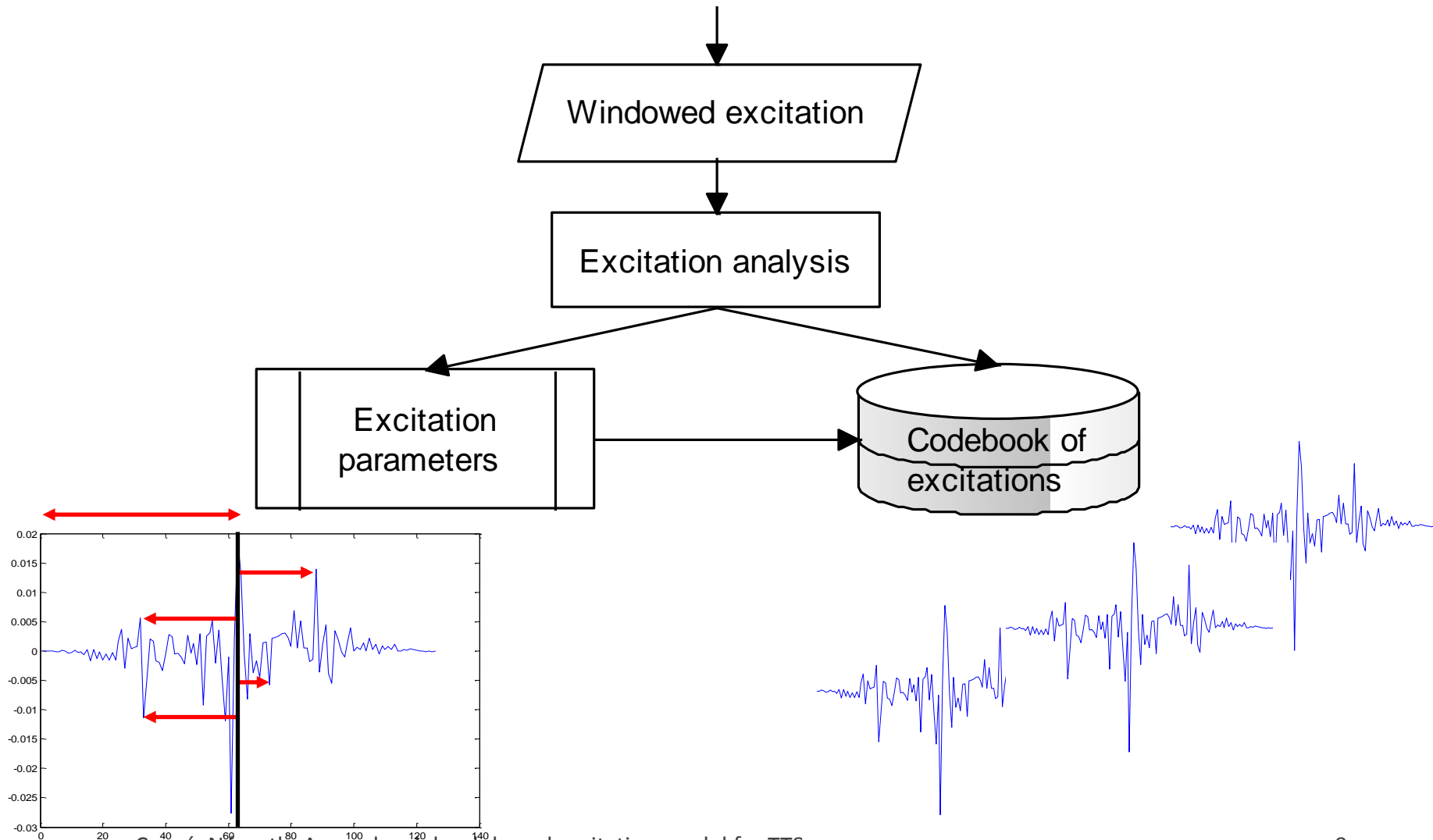
# Speech encoding
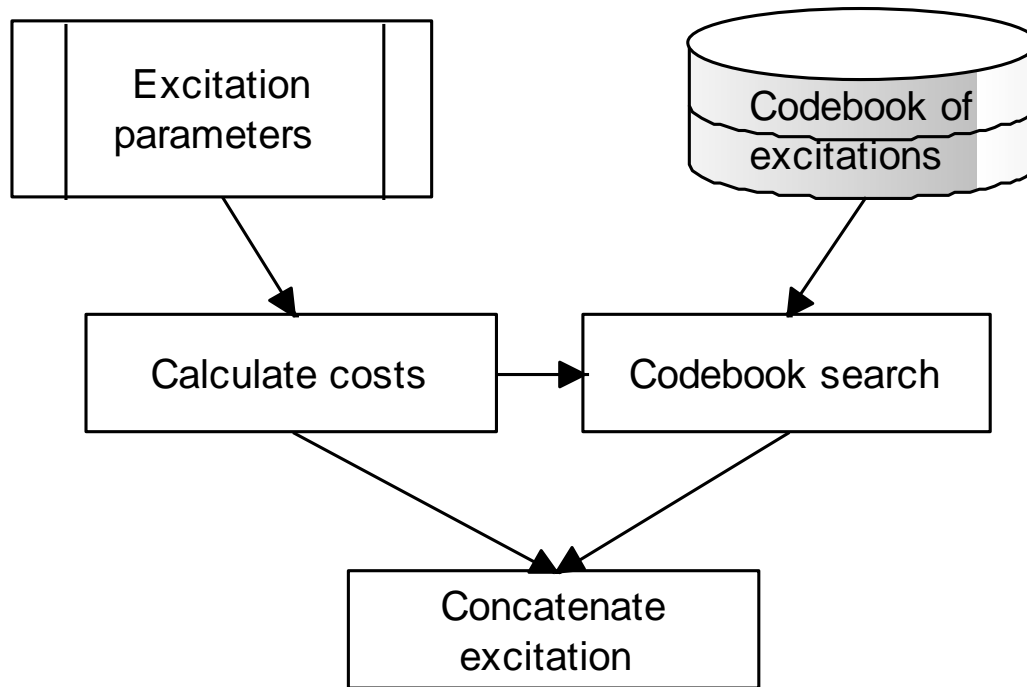
# Pitch tracking

- Pitch (F0) detection
  - Snack ESPS method
  - autocorrelation based

- Glottal Closure Instant detection
  - SEDREAMS method
  - detect moments of high energy in the excitation signal
  - highly reliable and noise robust
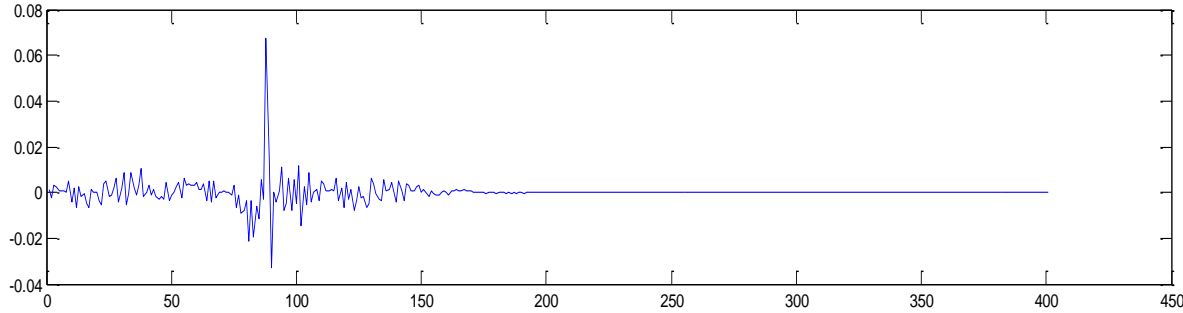
# Codebook of excitations
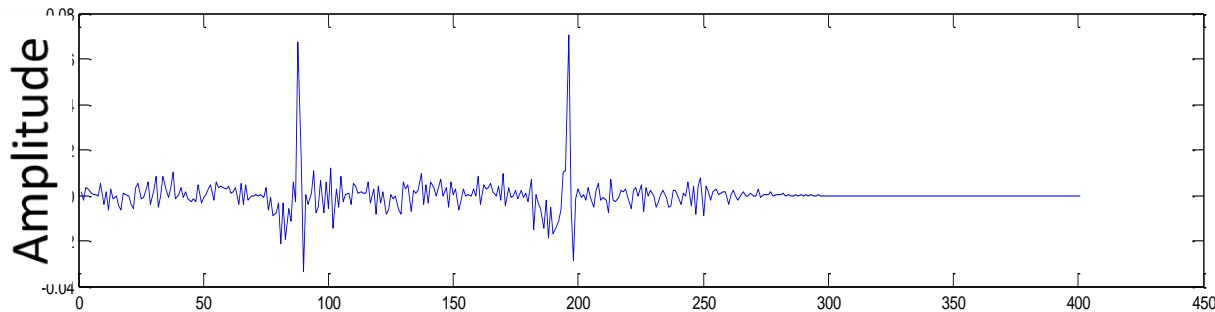
# Speech decoding /1

# Speech decoding /2

- Unit selection from the codebook
  - Well-known technique in TTS
- Target cost
- Concatenation cost
- Weights:　$C_{total'} = w * C_{concatenation}^2 + C_{target}^2$
  - *w: {0.01…100}*
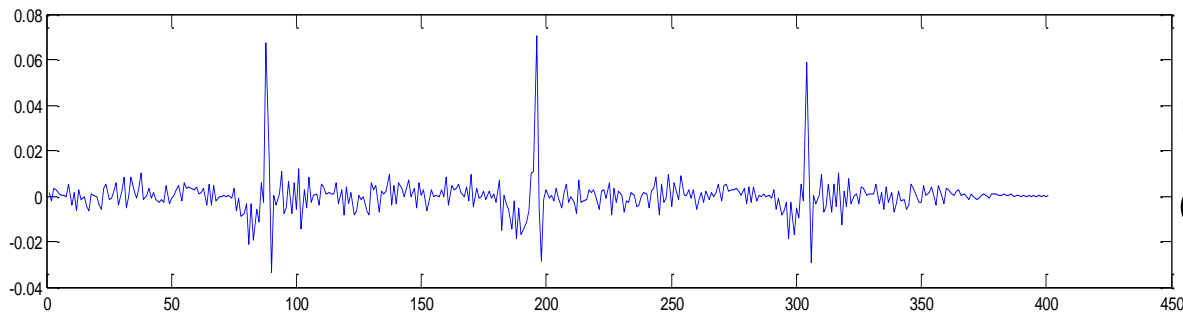  - Find optimal weight, *w ~ 1*

# Concatenation: overlap-and-add



1 frame of windowed excitation
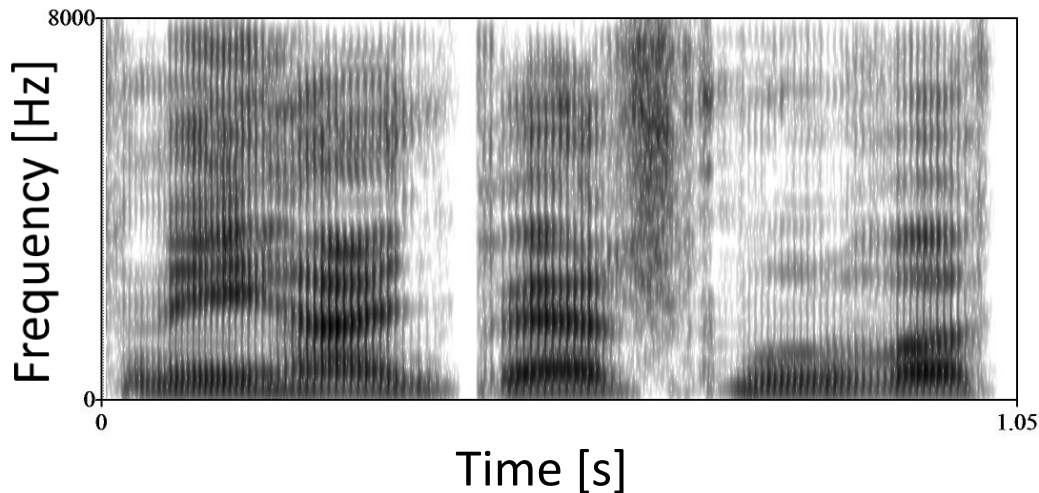
+ add 1 frame of windowed excitation

reconstructed excitation

# Speech decoding /3

- Parameters
  - F0, places of impulses, gain
- Reconstructed excitation
- Spectral filtering
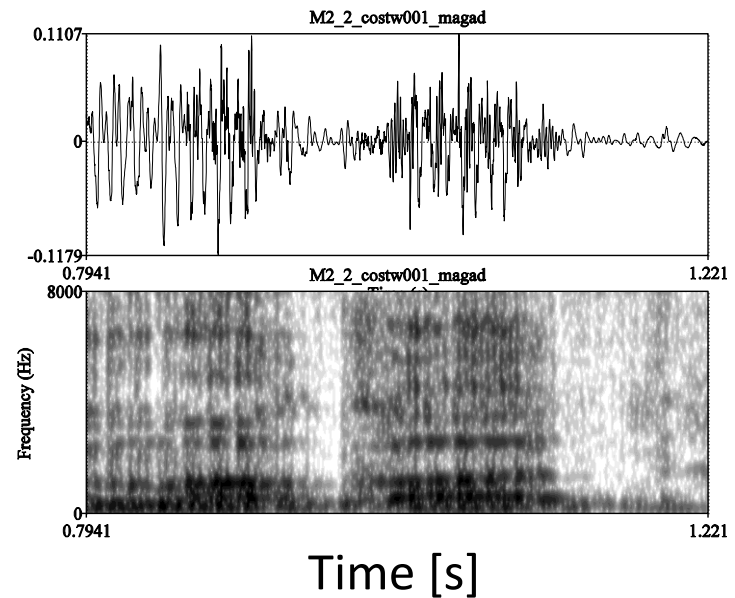  - Mel-Generalized Cepstrum
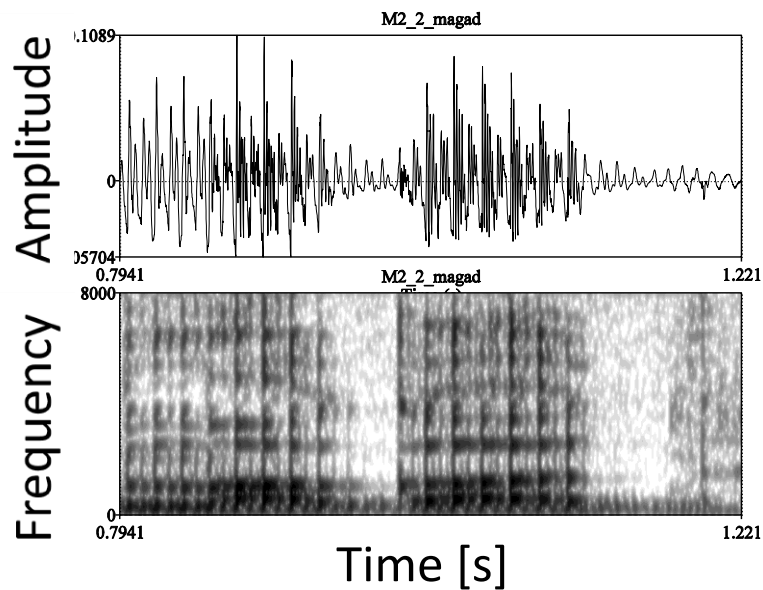- Speech signal

# Results

- Samples:
  - Original speech
  - Coded with simple pulse-noise
  - Coded with novel excitation model

# Discussion

- Informal listening tests
- Male vs. Female speaker
- Creaky voice

# Summary

- Novel excitation model
- Good quality for speech coding
- Modify parameters
- Modify prosody (e.g. intonation, F0)

90 %

110 %

# Applications

- Text-to-speech synthesis
  with the novel excitation model
- TTS in CogInfoCom context
  - Cognitive Infocommunications can gain from better speech-driven human-machine interfaces
  - Natural communication modality between infocommunication systems and users
- Synthesize different voice qualities
  (e.g. breathy, whispered)

# Tamás Gábor Csapó, Géza Németh:
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## csapot@tmit.bme.hu

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