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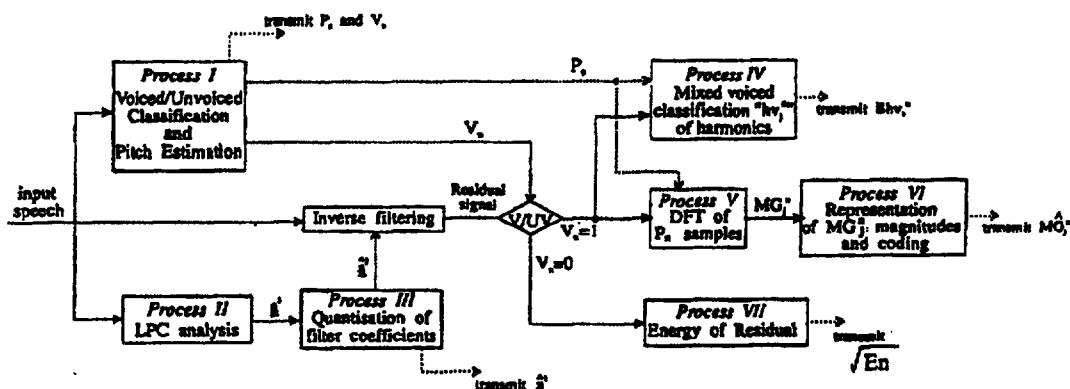
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(54) Title: SPEECH SYNTHESIS SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A speech synthesis system in which a speech signal is divided into a series of frames, and each frame is converted into a coded signal including a voiced/unvoiced classification and a pitch estimate, wherein a low pass filtered speech segment centred about a reference sample is defined in each frame, a correlation value is calculated for each of a series of candidate pitch estimates as the maximum of multiple crosscorrelation values obtained from variable length speech segments centred about the reference sample, the correlation values are used to form a correlation function defining peaks, and the locations of the peaks are determined and used to define a pitch estimate.