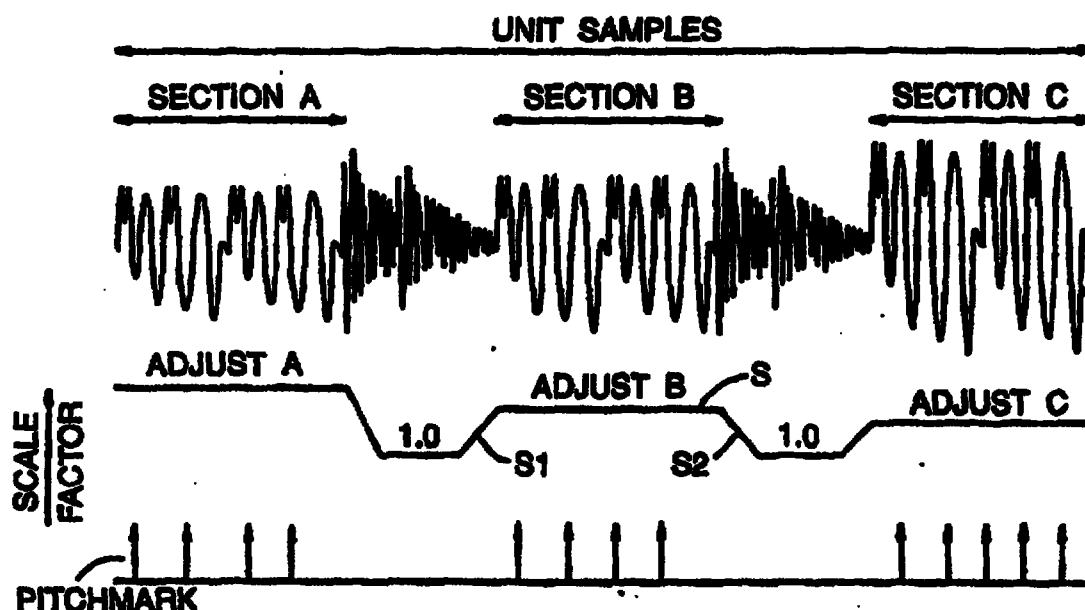


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(54) Title: **SPEECH SYNTHESIS**

(57) Abstract

Portions of recorded speech waveform (e.g. corresponding to phonemes) are combined to synthesise words. In order to provide a smoother delivery, each voiced portion of a waveform portion has its amplitude adjusted to a predetermined reference level. The scaling factor used is varied gradually over a transition region between such portions and between voiced and unvoiced portions.