



CLAIMS

1. A token-passing speech recognition system for recognising connected speech, the recognition system having a network for modelling expected input speech, said network having a plurality of vocabulary nodes, at least one of the vocabulary nodes having an associated signature, wherein in use partial recognition paths are examined at decision nodes intermediate the beginning and end of the recognition path, each decision node having an associated set of valid accumulated signatures, wherein a token received by a decision node is only propagated if the accumulated signature of that token reflecting the path of said token through the network is one of those in the set of valid accumulated signatures associated with that decision node.
2. A speech recognition system according to Claim 1 further including comparing means for comparing the score and signature of each token, to determine the path through the network with the best match to the input speech signal and those with the next best alternative matches.
3. A speech recognition system according to Claim 2 characterised in that the scores of the tokens are compared at each decision node of the network, only the n top scoring tokens having valid signatures being propagated to the next nodes(s), where n is greater than one.
4. A speech recognition system according to any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 characterised in that the vocabulary nodes are associated with Hidden Markov Models and/or dynamic time warping.
5. A speech recognition system according to any preceding Claim characterised in that at least one of the vocabulary nodes of the network are associated with more than one identical word representation model.