# Noise-Robust Speech Recognition Using Spiking Artificial Neurons ID# 2013-4113



### TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL 4-7

#### Seeking

Licensing |

#### Keywords

- speech recognition
- noise robustness
- artificial neurons
- speech Interfaces
- feature learning

#### Researchers

**Dezhe Z Jin** Associate Professor of Physics <u>Online Bio</u>

Philip Baker Schafer Graduate Student Researcher

Originating College

Eberly College of Science

Office of Technology Management Contact Swope, Brad bas101@psu.edu 814-865-6277



## **Technology Summary**

A novel speech-encoding scheme based on spiking responses of artificial neurons responding to brief acoustic features. The spikes are resistant to corruption by noise. The artificial neurons are trained with clean speech, a mixture of male & female speakers. The inventors devised a template-based method for recognizing the spike sequences, enhancing the ability to deal with temporal variability and noise corruption. System was tested on mixed gender speakers corrupted with babble, car, subway and exhibition hall noise (SNRs 20 dB to -5dB). System was compared to state-of-the-art HMM-based system on an isolated digit recognition task using the AURORA-2 data set. System performs similarly to the benchmark in clean and low-noise conditions, but has significant increase in performance at 0dB and -5dB, with mean recognition rates of 76% (60% benchmark) and 48% (25% benchmark), respectively.

## Application & Market Utility

When scaled to large vocabulary speech recognition tasks, the invention's system can be installed on mobile devices, computers, cars, airplanes and submarines to provide a platform for speech-based interfaces in arbitrary noisy acoustic environments. Potential commercial applications include cell phones, automobiles, military, civilian aviation as well as other communication apparatuses used in loud environments such as first responders.

## Next Steps

Future work will evaluate the system's performance on larger data sets and investigate network implementations of the sequence recognition paradigm. Inventors are seeking licensing partners; Matlab code is available upon request.



Invent Penn State is a Commonwealth-wide initiative to spur economic development, job creation, and student career success. Invent Penn State blends entrepreneurship-focused academic programs, business startup training and incubation, funding for commercialization, and university-community collaborations to facilitate the challenging process of turning research discoveries into valuable products and services that can benefit Pennsylvanians and humankind. Learn more at invent.psu.edu.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

