

**ACOUSTICS2008/1772**  
**Acoustic characteristics of solid vocal tracts modeled from ATR  
MRI database of Japanese vowel production**

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"ATR MRI database of Japanese vowel production" provides volumetric magnetic resonance images and speech data of the five Japanese vowels produced by a male native Japanese speaker. In this study, the database was used to evaluate acoustic characteristics of vocal tracts for five Japanese vowels; we measured frequency responses of realistic vocal tract solid models formed by a stereo-lithographic technique. The model's glottis was sealed with a plastic plane with a 1.2-mm hole. A time-stretched pulse signal generated from a horn driver unit was introduced into the solid model at the lip end. The response signals of the models were recorded at the model's glottis from the hole by a probe microphone. This method permits accurate measurement of acoustic characteristics of the vocal tract including the laryngeal cavity, which generates the laryngeal cavity resonance during closed-glottis periods of phonation [H. Takemoto et al., JASA, 120, 2228-2238 (2006), T. Kitamura et al., JASA, 120, 2239-2249 (2006)]. The results provide a benchmark for evaluating numerical analysis methods, such as transmission line models, finite element methods, and finite difference-time domain-methods, which have been used to study vocal tract acoustics. [Work supported by SCOPE (071705001) of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.]

Number of words in abstract: 199

Keywords: Magnetic resonance imaging, five Japanese vowels, vocal tract, vocal tract solid model, acoustic characteristics

Technical area: Speech Communication (SC)

Session: SC04 - Acoustics of speech production: Aeroacoustics and phonation

PACS #1: 43.70.Bk Models and theories of speech production

PACS #2:

PACS #3:

Presentation: Poster presentation preferred

Special facility: No special equipment

Best student paper competition: no

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