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Cognitive Radio Technology

Bruce Fette

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Cognitive Radio Technology

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Foreword

This introduction takes a visionary look at ideal cognitive radios (CRs) that integrate advanced software-defined radios (SDR) with CR techniques to arrive at radios that learn to help their user using computer vision, high-performance speech understanding, global positioning system (GPS) navigation, sophisticated adaptive networking, adaptive physical layer radio waveforms, and a wide range of machine learning processes.

CRs Know Radio Like TellMe® Knows 800 Numbers

When you dial 1-800-555-1212, a speech synthesis algorithm says "Toll Free Directory Assistance powered by TellMe® Networks (www.tellme.com, Mountain View, CA, 2005). Please say the name of the listing you want." If you mumble it says, "OK, United Airlines. If that is not what you wanted press 9, otherwise wait while I look up the number." Reportedly, some 99 percent of the time TellMe gets it right, replacing the equivalent of thousands of directory assistance operators of yore. TellMe, a speech-understanding system, achieves a high degree of success by its focus on just one task: finding a toll-free telephone number. Narrow task focus is one key to algorithm successes.

The cognitive radio architecture (CRA) is the building block from which to build cognitive wireless networks (CWNs), the wireless mobile offspring of TellMe. CRs and networks are emerging as practical, real-time, highly focused applications of computational intelligence technology. CRs differ from the more general artificial intelligence (AI) based services like intelligent agents, computer speech, and computer vision in degree of focus. Like TellMe, CRs focus on very narrow tasks. For CRs, the task is to adapt radio-enabled information services to the specific needs of a specific user. TellMe, a network service, requires

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Note: Adapted from J. Mitola III, *Aware, Adaptive and Cognitive Radio: The Engineering Foundations of Radio XML*, Wiley, 2006.

substantial network computing resources to serve thousands of users at once. CWNs, on the other hand, may start with a radio in your purse or on your belt, a cell phone on steroids, focused on the narrow task of creating from the myriad available wireless information networks and resources just what is needed by just one user: you. Each CR fanatically serves the needs and protects the personal information of just one owner via the CRA using its audio and visual sensory perception and automated machine learning (AML).

TellMe is here and now, while CRs are emerging in global wireless research centers and industry forums like the SDR Forum and Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF). This book introduces the technologies to bootstrap CR systems, introducing technical challenges and approaches, emphasizing CR as a technology enabler for rapidly emerging commercial CWN services.

CRs See What You See, Discovering Radio Frequency Uses, Needs, and Preferences

Although the common cell phone may have a camera, it lacks vision algorithms, so it does not know what it is seeing. It can send a video clip, but it has no perception of the visual scene in the clip. If it had vision-processing algorithms, it could perceive and understand the visual scene. It could tell whether it were at home, in the car, at work, shopping, or driving up the driveway on the way home. If vision algorithms show it that you are entering your driveway in your car, a CR could learn to open the garage door for you wirelessly. Thus, you would not need to fish for the garage door opener, yet another wireless gadget. In fact, you do not need a garage door opener anymore, once CRs enter the market. To open the car door, you will not need a key fob either. As you approach your car, your personal CR perceives the common scene and, as trained, synthesizes the fob radio frequency (RF) transmission and opens the car door for you.

CRs do not attempt everything. They learn about your radio use patterns because they know a lot about radio, generic users, and legitimate uses of radio. CRs have the a priori knowledge needed to detect opportunities to assist you with your use of the radio spectrum accurately, delivering that assistance with minimum intrusion.

Products realizing the visual perception of this vignette are demonstrated on laptop computers today. Reinforcement learning (RL) and case-based reasoning (CBR) are mature AML technologies with radio network applications now being demonstrated in academic and industrial research settings as technology pathfinders for CR[1] and CWN.[2] Two or three Moore's law cycles or 3 to 5 years from now, these vision and learning algorithms will fit in your cell phone. In the interim, CWNs will begin to offer such services, presenting consumers with new tradeoffs between privacy and ultra-personalized convenience.

CRs Hear What You Hear, Augmenting Your Personal Skills

The cell phone on your waist is deaf. Although your cell phone has a microphone, it lacks embedded speech-understanding technology, so it does not perceive what it hears. It can let you talk to your daughter, but it has no perception of your daughter, nor of the content of your conversation. If it had speech-understanding technology, it could perceive your speech dialog. It could detect that you and your daughter are talking about common subjects like homework or your favorite song. With CR, speech algorithms would detect your daughter saying that your favorite song is now playing on WDUV. As an SDR, not just a cell phone, your CR then could tune to FM 105.5 so that you can hear "The Rose."

With your CR, you no longer need a transistor radio. Your CR eliminates from your pocket, purse or backpack yet another RF gadget. In fact, you may not need iPOD®, Game Boy® and similar products as high-end CRs enter the market (or iPODs or Game Boys with CR may become the single pocket pal instead: you never know how market demand will shape products toward the "killer app," do you?). Your CR could learn your radio listening and information use patterns, accessing songs, downloading games, snipping broadcast news, sports, and stock quotes as you like as the CR re-programs its internal SDR to better serve your needs and preferences. Combining vision and speech perception, as you approach your car your CR perceives this common scene and, as you had the morning before, tunes your car radio to WTOP for your favorite "Traffic and weather together on the eights."

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[1] Mitola's reference for CR pathfinders.

[2] *Semantic Web*: Researchers formulate CRs as sufficiently speech-capable to answer questions about <Self/> and the <Self/> use of <Radio/> in support of its <Owner/>. When an ordinary concept like "owner" has been translated into a comprehensive ontological structure of Computational primitives, for example, via Semantic Web technology, the concept becomes a computational primitive for autonomous reasoning and information exchange. Radio XML, an emerging CR derivative of the eXtensible Markup Language, XML, offers to standardize such radio-scene perception primitives. They are highlighted in this brief treatment by <Angle-brackets/>. All CR have a <Self/>, a <Name/>, and an <Owner/>. The <Self/> has capabilities like <GSM/> and <SDR/>, a self-referential computing architecture, which is guaranteed to crash unless its computing ability is limited to real-time response tasks; this is appropriate for CR but may be too limiting for general-purpose computing.

For AML, CRs need to save speech, RF, and visual cues, all of which may be recalled by the user, expanding the user's ability to remember details of conversations and snapshots of scenes, augmenting the skills of the <owner/>.[3] Because of the brittleness of speech and vision technologies, CRs try to "remember everything" like a continuously running camcorder. Since CRs detect content, such as speakers' names, and keywords like "radio" and "song," they can retrieve some content asked for by the user, expanding the user's memory in a sense. CRs thus could enhance the personal skills of their users, such as memory for detail.

CRs Learn to Differentiate Speakers to Reduce Confusion

To further limit combinatorial explosion in speech, CR may form speaker models, statistical summaries of the speech patterns of speakers, particularly of the <Owner/>. Speaker modeling is particularly reliable when the <Owner/> uses the CR as a cell phone to place a phone call. Contemporary speaker recognition algorithms differentiate male from female speakers with high accuracy. With a few different speakers to be recognized (i.e., fewer than 10 in a family) and with reliable side information like the speaker's telephone number, today's state-of-the-art algorithms recognize individual speakers with better than 95 percent accuracy.

Over time, each CR learns the speech patterns of its <Owner/> in order to learn from the <Owner/> and not be confused by other speakers. CR thus leverages experience incrementally to achieve increasingly sophisticated dialog. Today, a 3 GHz laptop supports this level of speech understanding and dialog synthesis in real time, making it likely to be available in a cell phone in 3 to 5 years.

The CR must both know a lot about radio and learn a lot about you, the <Owner/>, recording and analyzing personal information and thus placing a premium on trustworthy privacy technologies. Increased autonomous customization of wireless service include secondary use of broadcast spectrum. Therefore, the CRA incorporates speech recognition to enable learning without requiring overwhelming amounts of training, allowing it to become sufficiently helpful without being a nuisance.

More Flexible Secondary Use of Radio Spectrum

In 2004, the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Report and Order that radio spectrum allocated to TV, but unused in a particular broadcast

[3] Ibid.

market, such as a rural area, could be used by CR as secondary users under Part 15 rules for low-power devices—for example, to create ad hoc networks. SDR Forum member companies have demonstrated CR products with these elementary spectrum perception and use capabilities. Wireless products—both military and commercial—are realizing that the FCC vignettes already exist.

Complete visual and speech perception capabilities are not many years distant. Productization is underway. Thus, many chapters of Bruce's outstanding book emphasize CR spectrum agility, suggesting pathways toward enhanced perception technologies, with new long-term growth paths for the wireless industry. This book's contributors hope that it will help you understand and create new opportunities for CR technologies.

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