Preface

My research on speaker authentication started in 1995 when I was an intern at Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey, USA, while working on my Ph.D. dissertation. Later, I was hired by Bell Labs as a Member of Technical Staff, which gave me the opportunity to continue my research on speaker authentication with my Bell Labs colleagues. In 2002, I established Li Creative Technologies, Inc. (LcT), located in Florham Park, New Jersey. At LcT, I am continuing my research in speaker authentication with my LcT colleagues. Recently, when I looked at my publications during the last fifteen years, I found that my research has covered all the major research topics in speaker authentication: from front-end to back-end; from endpoint detection to decoding; from feature extraction to discriminative training; from speaker recognition to verbal information verification. This has motivated me to put my research results together into a book in order to share my experience with my colleagues in the field.

This book is organized by research topic. Each chapter focuses on a major topic and can be read independently. Each chapter contains advanced algorithms along with real speech examples and evaluation results to validate the usefulness of the selected topics. Special attention has been given to the topics related to improving overall system robustness and performance, such as robust endpoint detection, fast discriminative training theory and algorithms, detection-based decoding, and sequential authentication. I have also given attention to those novel approaches that may lead to new research directions, such as a recently developed auditory transform (AT) to replace the fast Fourier transform (FFT) and auditory-based feature extraction algorithms.

For real applications, a good speaker authentication system must first have an acceptable authentication accuracy and then be robust to background noise, channel distortion, and speaker variability. A number of speaker authentication systems can be designed based on the methods and techniques presented in this book. A particular system can be designed to meet required specifications by selecting an authentication method or combining several authentication and decision methods introduced in the book.

Speaker authentication is a subject that relies on the research efforts of many different fields, including, but not limited to, physics, acoustics, psychology, physiology, hearing, auditory nerve, brain, auditory perception, parametric and nonparametric statistics, signal processing, pattern recognition, acoustic phonetics, linguistics, natural language processing, linear and nonlinear programming, optimization, communications, etc. This book only covers a subset of these topics. Due to my limited time and experience, this book only focuses on the topics in my published research. I encourage people with the above backgrounds to consider contributing their knowledge to speech recognition and speaker authentication research. I also encourage colleagues in the field of speech recognition and speaker authentication to extend their knowledge to the above fields in order to achieve breakthrough research results.

This book does not include those fundamental topics which have been very well introduced in other textbooks. This author assumes the reader has a basic understanding of linear systems, signal processing, statistics, and pattern recognition.

This book can also be used as a reference book for government and company officers and researchers working in information technology, homeland security, law enforcement, and information security, as well as for researchers and developers in the areas of speaker recognition, speech recognition, pattern recognition, and audio and signal processing. It can also be used as a reference or textbook for senior undergraduate and graduate students in electrical engineering, computer science, biomedical engineering, and information management.

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Most topics in this book were prepared based on previously published peer-reviewed journal and conference papers where I served as the first author. I would like to thank all the coauthors of those publications, namely Dr. Donald Tufts, Dr. Peter Swaszek, Dr. S. Parthasarathy, Dr. Aaron Rosenberg, Dr. Biing-Hwang Juang, Dr. Frank Soong, Dr. Chin-Hui Lee, Qiru Zhou, Jinsong Zheng, Dr. Augustine Tsai, and Yan Huang. Also, I would like to

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