

# A real-time algorithm for acoustic monitoring of ingestive behavior of grazing cattle

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## Abstract

Assessment of both grazing behavior and herbage intake are two very difficult tasks that can be concurrently accomplished by means of accurate detection, classification and measurement of grazing events such as chews, bites and chew-bites. It is well known that acoustic monitoring is among the best methods to automatically quantify and classify ingestive and rumination events in grazing animals. However, most existing methods of signal analysis appear to be computationally complex and costly, and are therefore difficult to implement. In this work, we present and test a novel analysis system called Chew-Bite Real-Time Algorithm (CBRTA) that works fully automatically in real-time to detect and classify ingestive events of grazing cattle. The system employs a directional wide-frequency microphone facing inwards on the forehead of animals, and a coupled signal analysis and de-

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cision logic algorithm that measures shape, amplitude, duration and energy of sound signals to iteratively detect and classify ingestive events. Performance and validation of the CBRTA was determined using two databases of grazing signals. Signals were recorded on dairy cows offered either, natural pasture ( $N = 25$ ), or experimental micro-swards in indoor controlled environment ( $N = 50$ ). The CBRTA exhibited a simple linear complexity capable to execute 50 times faster than real-time and without undermining overall recognition rate and accuracy when signals were processed at 4 kHz sampling frequency and 8 bits quantization. Furthermore, CBRTA was capable to detect ingestive events with a 97.4% success rate, while achieving up to 84.0% success for their classification as exclusive chews, bites or composite chew-bites. The methodology proposed with CBRTA has promising application in embedded microcomputer systems that necessarily depend on fast real-time execution to minimize computational load, power source and storage memory. Such a system can readily facilitate the transmission of processed data through wireless network or the storage in an onboard device.

*Keywords:* Acoustic monitoring, cattle grazing behavior, jaw movement classification, real-time execution, signal processing.

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## 1. Introduction

Accurate monitoring of livestock grazing behavior is necessary to ensure that most basic requirements of animal health and welfare are met and consistent with practices that can assure sustainable and efficient use of grazing resources. Hence, different efforts have been put into finding most appropriate techniques to measure and monitor diet and feeding behavior of free-

7 grazing animals (Hodgson et al., 1996; Delagarde et al., 1999). One possible  
8 and reliable way is through the detection of distinct jaw movements associ-  
9 ated with three common basic events: bites, chews and compound chew-bites  
10 (Milone et al., 2012). A grazing bite includes the apprehension and severance  
11 of herbage, while a grazing or rumination chew includes the crushing, grind-  
12 ing and processing of consumed herbage. The chew-bite is a third important  
13 grazing event that results from the overlapping of chewing and biting on a  
14 same jaw movement. Thus, jaw movements can serve as a reliable measure  
15 of distinct grazing and rumination cycles. Furthermore, the quantification of  
16 rumination chews could provide rich information on the ruminal fermenta-  
17 tion of fiber and correlated changes in rumen pH (Sauvant, 2000). Likewise,  
18 herbage intake rate appears to depend on trade-offs between ingestive bites,  
19 chews and chew-bites, and the monitoring of these events could therefore  
20 inform on the ability of grazing herbivores to modulate changes in intake  
21 rate (Laca et al., 2000). While the number and characteristics of grazing and  
22 rumination events vary according to several plant, animal and environmen-  
23 tal factors, they could be monitored as indicators of animal health, welfare  
24 or nutritional status (De Boever et al., 1990). To the best of our knowl-  
25 edge, only few studies have been focused on developing automated systems  
26 to monitoring changes in grazing and rumination.

27 One plausible approach to measure feeding behavior is acoustic monitor-  
28 ing. Alkon and Cohen (1986) and Alkon et al. (1989) used acoustic bioteleme-  
29 try to study the feeding behavior of porcupine. Laca et al. (1992) instru-  
30 mented an inward-facing microphone on the forehead of steers to register  
31 stronger and readily distinguishable sounds of bites, chews and chew-bites.

32 Consequently, acoustic monitoring proved to be a more effective methodology  
33 to discriminate sensitive differences in feeding and rumination than previous  
34 jaw recorders or visual observation methods (Ungar and Rutter, 2006), and  
35 since then it has been increasingly applied as a research tool to study different  
36 aspects of grazing behavior in sheep and cattle (Galli et al., 2006, 2011).

37 Broad application of acoustic monitoring continues to depend on suit-  
38 able algorithms for automatic recognition of sound signals associated with  
39 chewing and biting. Milone et al. (2009) used concepts of automatic speech  
40 recognition and Hidden Markov Models (HMM) to develop an algorithm  
41 for both detection and classification of chewing and biting. The algorithm  
42 successfully detected 89%, 58%, and 56% of chews, bites and compound  
43 chew-bites in grazing sheep, respectively. Galli et al. (2011) further tested  
44 this algorithm to demonstrate the feasibility of using acoustic variables to  
45 estimate herbage dry matter intake in grazing sheep. Subsequently, Milone  
46 et al. (2012) developed a new algorithm that hereafter will be referred as  
47 CBHMM (Chew-Bite Hidden Markov Model) that extended upon previous  
48 HMMs. The CBHMM was developed for both detection and classification of  
49 chews, bites and chew-bites, in grazing cattle; obtaining up to 85% successful  
50 recognition rate.

51 In an independent development Clapham et al. (2011) adapted the use of  
52 SIGNAL software (Engineering Design, Berkeley, CA) for analysis of grazing  
53 sounds in cattle. The software was operated on a careful calibration to detect  
54 bites in the band of 17 kHz to 22 kHz, and on a high-pass filter with cutoff  
55 frequency at 600 Hz to attenuate background noise. The software detected  
56 bites with a 95% confidence, but it seems to demand careful and site-specific

57 calibration before it can be used with different animals, pastures or exper-  
58 imental conditions. The capacity of the recording device and power source  
59 were among other limitations of the proposed system.

60 Navon et al. (2013) implemented an algorithm that used a machine-  
61 learning approach to analyze time-domain features (i.e., shape, intensity,  
62 duration and sequence of events) of ingestive sounds in grazing cattle. The  
63 procedure eliminated the need of calibrations and allowed a detection of in-  
64 gestive events with a 94% correct and 7% false identification. More recently,  
65 Tani et al. (2013) applied pattern recognition techniques to iteratively mea-  
66 sure eating and ruminating events collected by a single-axis accelerometer.  
67 The recognition patterns were defined in frequency domain and used to iden-  
68 tify and classify likely eating and rumination events. Without previous cal-  
69 ibration, recognition results were similar to previous analytical procedures  
70 used by Clapham et al. (2011) and Navon et al. (2013) . However, likely lim-  
71 itations of the methodology were associated with the spectral similarities be-  
72 tween rumination and eating signals, presence of non-stationary background  
73 noise, and high computational cost associated with the analysis of signals  
74 sampled at high frequency.

75 Although several of the previous instrumentation and analytical proce-  
76 dures have shown good performance for detection of signals associated with  
77 eating and/or rumination, few of them offered possibilities to accurately clas-  
78 sify exclusive bites, chews and chew-bites, which is a necessary condition for  
79 reliable measures of grazing behavior and even for estimation of herbage in-  
80 take by means of acoustic methods. Furthermore, most if not all of previous  
81 methodologies deal with high quality and long duration signals (hours or

82 days) that can demand collection, recording, storage, transfer and analysis  
83 of data by means of computationally complex and costly procedures, that can  
84 quickly undermine their application as fast, efficient and timely monitoring  
85 systems.

86 The main objectives of the present work were: 1) to develop a novel  
87 algorithm called CBRTA (Chew-Bite Real-Time Algorithm) that can be ex-  
88 ecuted in real-time for automatic and efficient identification and classification  
89 of chews, bites and chew-bites, 2) to provide an analysis of the computational  
90 complexity of CBRTA, 3) to examine the operational performance of CBRTA  
91 as a function of modifications in algorithm parameters, and, 4) to provide a  
92 validation of CBRTA for both detection and classification of ingestive events  
93 in cattle by using two databases of acoustic monitoring of dairy cows grazing  
94 either outdoor temperate pasture or micro-swards in indoor controlled envi-  
95 ronment. Outdoor grazing environments inevitably introduce some level of  
96 unpredictable and variable background noise that can readily interfere with  
97 the acquisition and analysis of chewing and biting signals. We aimed there-  
98 fore to deal with commonly encountered levels of such noises by combining  
99 passive isolation (directional microphones with isolation material) and basic  
100 signal processing.

## 101 **2. The algorithm**

102 The design goal was the achievement of an algorithm that can combine  
103 high performance for detection and classification of sound events with low  
104 computational cost, which is a necessary condition to allow real-time execu-  
105 tion of the algorithm in portable embedded systems. To achieve this goal,

106 time-domain instead of transformed-domain (frequency, time-frequency) anal-  
 107 ysis was implemented to avoid high computational load of signal analysis.

108 *2.1. General description*

109 Signals associated with an exclusive chew (Figure 1a), composite chew-  
 110 bite (Figure 1b) or exclusive bite (Figure 1c) have readily distinguishable  
 111 properties.

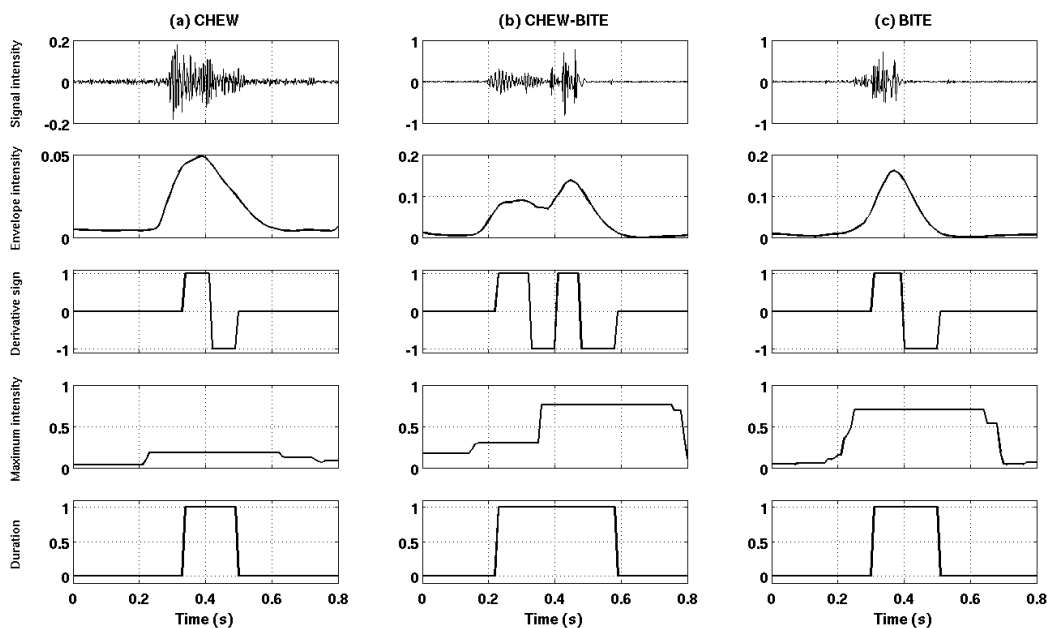


Figure 1: Examples of typical acoustic events produced by jaw movements and their correspondent features: (a) chew, (b) chew-bite and (c) bite. Within each row, top-down: raw acoustic signal, computed envelope, sign of envelope slope, maximum intensity and duration are shown.

112 Therefore, the shape, maximum intensity and duration of sounds were  
 113 isolated to discriminate among the bites, chews and chew-bites. The shape

114 of a jaw movement is characterized by changes in both the intensity and sign  
115 of the envelope slope (Figure 1). The sign (either positive or negative) of  
116 the envelope slope changes one or two times for chews and bites and more  
117 than two times for composite chew-bites. The three jaw movements also  
118 produce sounds with distinguishable maximum intensity that remains low  
119 for chews and high for bites, and changes from low to high for composite  
120 chew-bites. Finally, bites, chews and composite chew-bites, have a defined  
121 duration, which is shorter for chews and bites and longer for composite chew-  
122 bites (Figure 1).

123 Sound properties were then used by the algorithm to complete two suc-  
124 cessive tasks, event detection and event classification, respectively. For the  
125 detection task, the algorithm detects the region of the sound envelope that  
126 shows the occurrence of a possible jaw movement. This detection is carried  
127 out through the identification of characteristic peaks in the sound envelope  
128 using an adaptive threshold. For the classification task the algorithm uses a  
129 simple set of rules to compute and compare the shape, intensity and duration  
130 of a detected event to a given threshold value.

131 For implementation purposes, the completion of the two tasks can be  
132 thought as a set of five successive stages, where the first four stages are used  
133 to complete the event detection task, while the event classification task is  
134 performed during the last stage, as follows.

135 **Stage 1 - Envelope computation:** One basic requirement for the im-  
136 plementation of the algorithm is the envelope computation, which is decom-  
137 posed into three steps: i) signal rectification, ii) signal filtering and iii) signal  
138 subsampling. In the first step the absolute value of signal samples is com-



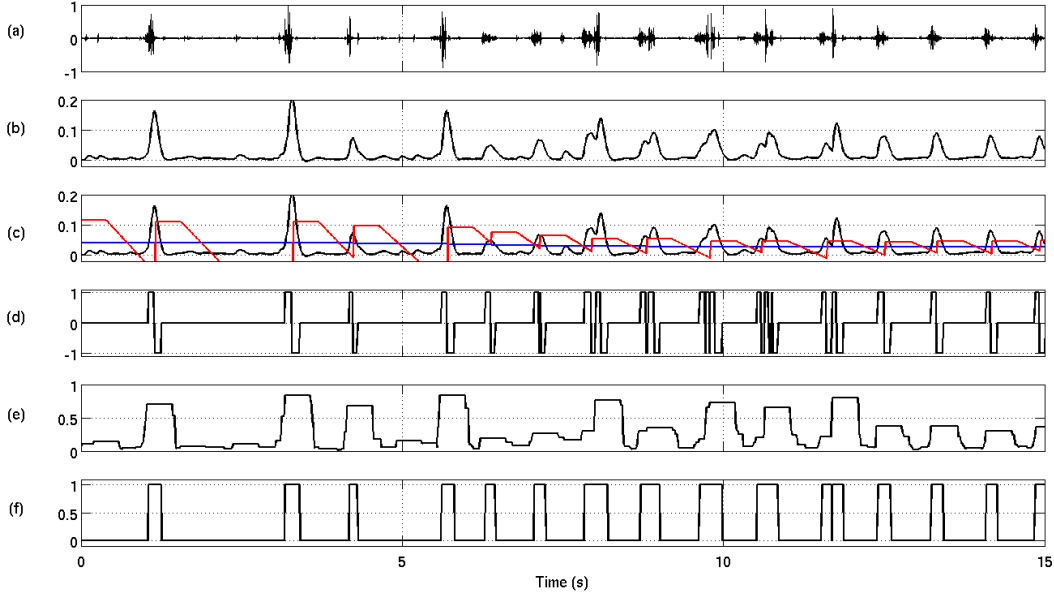


Figure 2: Example of a 15s sound track with correspondent signals generated by the processing algorithm: (a) original raw signal, (b) sound envelope computation, (c) event detection, (d) slope sign, (e) maximum amplitude, and (f) duration of detected events.

139 puted at the original sampling frequency. In the second step, the signal is  
 140 filtered using a second-order low-pass Butterworth filter with a bandwidth  
 141 of 5.5 Hz, producing the sound envelope. In the third step, a subsample of  
 142 the original sound envelope to 100Hz is conducted (Figure 2b). The main  
 143 objective of this task is to reduce the computational requirements (load and  
 144 computation time) in the subsequent tasks, since this process significantly re-  
 145 duces the amount of information to be processed but without compromising  
 146 accuracy in the detection and classification of sounds.

147 **Stage 2 - Division of sound into segments:** Short segments have  
 148 lower computational resource constraints, are easier to handle, and their use

149 can facilitate the treatment of unexpected events that need special attention.  
150 Such events include intense external noises of short duration and background  
151 noises. The size of segments depends on the computational resources that  
152 are available to implement the algorithm. In a common desktop computer  
153 segments can have a typical duration of 30 s or longer. In an embedded  
154 system with low computational capacity segments should have a smaller size.  
155 Ultimately, segment size depends on the amount of memory available for  
156 signal analysis (minimum size of 2 s).

157 **Stage 3 - Event detection:** The presence of peaks in the sound en-  
158 velope reveals possible target events. Each peak is detected as a change in  
159 the derivative of the envelope. However, to be considered a possible event  
160 it must be higher than given thresholds. The peaks are detected through  
161 the comparison of the sound envelope with a time-varying threshold  $T(k)$   
162 (red dashed line in Figure 2c), where  $k$  is a time variable. This threshold  
163 is generated by an algorithm that considers both anatomical and behavioral  
164 characteristics of the animal according to the following two rules: i) a min-  
165 imum period of time between two consecutive jaw movements, and, ii) a  
166 maximum duration of jaw movements within a continuous activity (i.e. ru-  
167 minating or grazing). Then, following Christov (2004) the event detection  
168 algorithm uses this criteria to generate the time-varying threshold  $T(k)$  with  
169 the following features:

- 170 • **Unresponsive period ( $T_U$ ):** period of time after detecting an event  
171 in which the algorithm is no longer searching for a new event. It is  
172 computed for each event as a fraction  $\alpha$  ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ ) of the average  
173 duration of the last five events detected.

174 • **Maximum period** ( $T_M$ ): maximum time that an event can last within  
 175 the same activity. It is computed for each event as  $\beta$  ( $\beta \geq 1$ ) times the  
 176 average duration of the last five events detected.

177 • **Peak expectation threshold** ( $T_P$ ): minimum value expected for the  
 178 next peak intensity (blue dot-dash line in Figure 2c). It is computed  
 179 as a fraction  $\gamma$  ( $0 < \gamma \leq 1$ ) of the moving average of the last five peaks  
 180 detected in the envelope signal

$$T_P(k) = \frac{\gamma}{5} \sum_{i=1}^5 S_P(j-i). \quad (1)$$

181 where  $S_P$  is the peak intensity of an event, and  $j$  is an event counter.

182 • **Threshold slew-rate** ( $\Delta T$ ): is the decrease of threshold  $T(k)$  once  
 183 after the unresponsive period  $T_U$  expires, and serves therefore to sig-  
 184 nificantly improve the event detection sensitivity. The threshold  $T(k)$   
 185 only changes during the time period between  $T_U$  and  $T_M$ , as follows

$$T(k) = T(k-1) - \Delta T, \quad \forall T_U < k < T_M. \quad (2)$$

186 This stage of the algorithm generates a temporary file with correspondent  
 187 timestamps to indicate the location of all detected peaks. This peak reference  
 188 is then used in subsequent event detection and classification stages to trigger  
 189 the analysis of signal properties.

190 **Stage 4 - Properties computation:** This step computes the shape,  
 191 maximum intensity and duration of the sound to classify likely candidate  
 192 events detected in previous stages. The shape of the event is computed as  
 193 the number of changes ( $NC$ ) in the sign of the envelope slope (Figure 2d).

194 To avoid confusion with noises, the slope is computed only if the magnitude  
195 of the sound envelope is bigger than the background noise ( $NT$ ) detected in  
196 the analyzed segment. The maximum intensity of the envelope sound ( $EA$ )  
197 is computed directly from the absolute value of the signal over a window  
198 of time whose length is half of the duration of a typical chew-bite event  
199 (Figure 2e). The duration of the event ( $ED$ ) is determined from the sound  
200 envelope by measuring the time period when the sound envelope is bigger  
201 than the background noise  $NT$  (Figure 2f).

202 **Stage 5 - Event classification:** Using a specific set of rules, based  
203 on previously computed properties, each event is classified into one of five  
204 categories: chew (C), bite (B), chew-bite (CB), silence (S) or noise (N).  
205 Briefly, the algorithm explores the timestamp,  $NC$ ,  $EA$  and  $ED$  to detect  
206 and classify the events. The algorithm applies a set of rules to find whether  
207 a true event has happened or not and, in a positive case, which kind of event  
208 has been detected. The set of rules employed by the algorithm are established  
209 heuristically from a training data set, under the constraints that the set of  
210 rules should be small. The set of decision rules is detailed in Table 1. Each  
211 rule specifies the conditions that  $NC$ ,  $EA$  and  $ED$  must meet to be classified  
212 as C, B or CB, respectively. For example, if  $NC$  is greater than 2,  $EA$  exceeds  
213  $NT$  and  $ED$  is greater than 0.3 s, then the detected event is classified as CB.

214 Figure 3 shows the flow diagram of the algorithm, integrating all steps  
215 for envelope computation, segmentation, detection and classification of jaw  
216 movements. The envelope signal  $Sp(k)$  is loaded and analyzed by segments  
217 of  $N$  samples. When a segment is fully analyzed, the results are saved before  
218 analyzing the next segment. In the first stage, the algorithm computes the

Table 1: Rules for jaw movement event classification<sup>†</sup>.

Event	Rule
Chew-bite	<b>if</b> $NC > 2$ <b>and</b> $EA > NT$ <b>and</b> $ED > 0.3[s]$ <b>then</b> $L(j)=CB$
Bite	<b>if</b> $NC \leq 2$ <b>and</b> $EA \geq 0.5 T_P$ <b>and</b> $ED < 0.3[s]$ <b>then</b> $L(j)=B$
Chew	<b>if</b> $NC \leq 2$ $EA > NT$ <b>and</b> $EA < 0.5T_P$ <b>and</b> $ED < 0.3[s]$ <b>then</b> $L(j)=C$

<sup>†</sup>  $NC$  is the number of changes in the sign of the slope of sound envelope,  $EA$  is the maximum intensity of the envelope,  $ED$  is the duration of the event,  $NT$  is the background noise threshold and  $T_P$  is the peak expectation threshold.

219 time-varying threshold  $T(k)$ . Then, it checks if a peak has been detected.  
 220 If no peaks have been detected, the algorithm assigns the silence label (S)  
 221 to the event. If a peak has been detected, the algorithm classifies the event  
 222 by applying rules based on the event properties  $NC$ ,  $EA$  and  $ED$ , and by  
 223 assigning the correspondent label C, B, CB or N.

### 224 3. Materials and methods

225 Acoustic monitoring of grazing dairy cattle was used to test the per-  
 226 formance of the algorithm and its software implementation. Signals were  
 227 recorded on a different duration (in some cases several hours) but for analy-  
 228 sis and testing only maximum periods of 5 minutes were considered, given the  
 229 practical difficulty of labeling aurally longer periods. It was also necessary  
 230 to establish performance measures for analysis purposes.

#### 231 3.1. Experimental field conditions for collection of datasets

232 Two databases were obtained under different grazing conditions, and at  
 233 different times and locations. The first database included signals of dairy

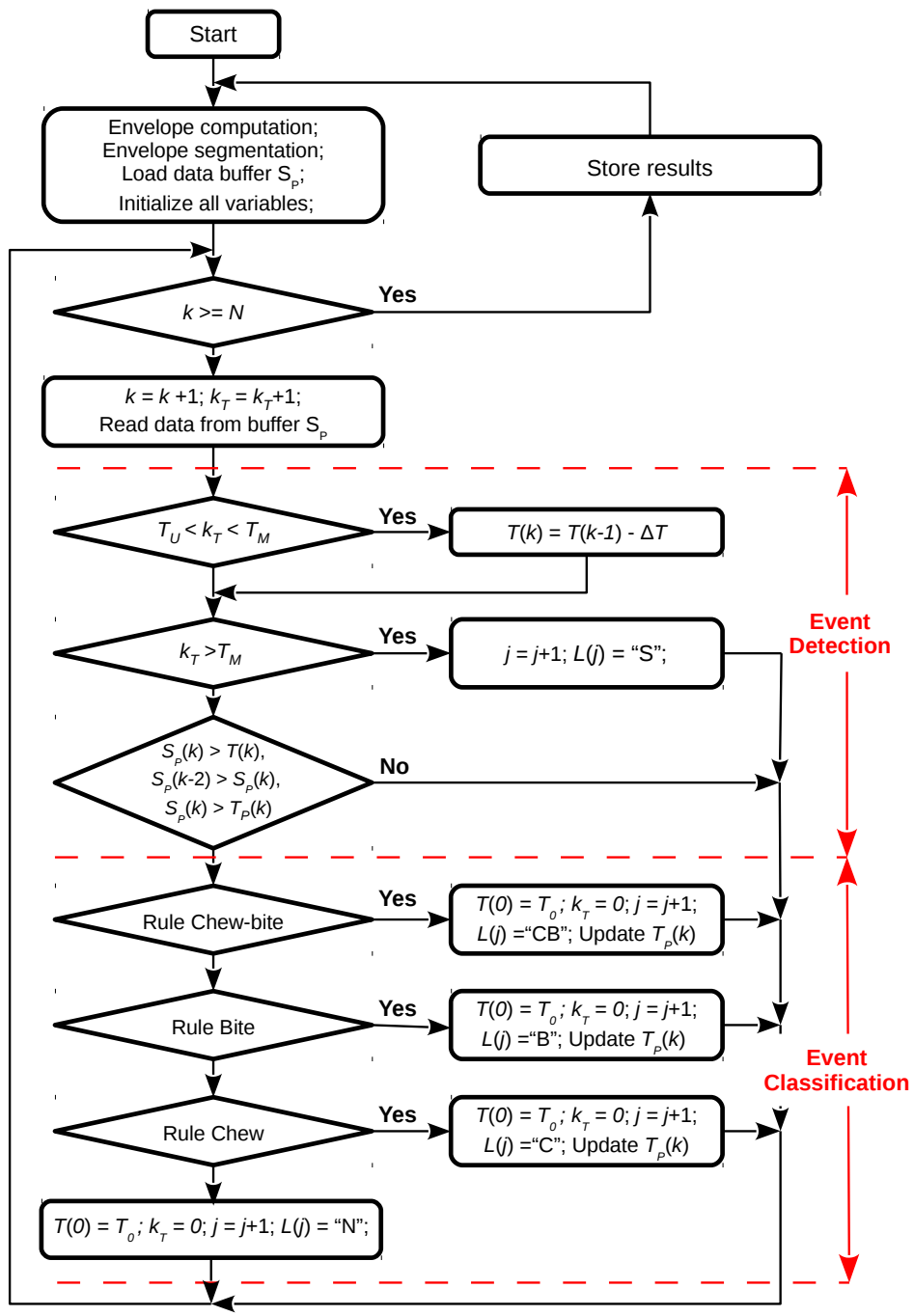


Figure 3: Flow diagram of the algorithm for event detection and classification.

234 cows grazing temperate pasture and was therefore useful to test the algo-  
235 rithm in an outdoor noisy environment. Signals for the second database  
236 were collected with dairy cows grazing micro-swards in an indoor controlled  
237 experiment. This database was used to further analyze the effect of for-  
238 ages (species and height) on the detection and classification capabilities of  
239 the algorithm, and to compare the performance of the algorithm against the  
240 previous CBHMM methodology developed by Milone et al. (2012).

241 The first database was obtained from an experiment performed at the  
242 W.K. Kellogg Biological Station dairy facility of Michigan State University,  
243 Hickory Corners, USA, during August of 2014. Protocols for animal handling  
244 and care were reviewed, approved and conducted according to the Institu-  
245 tional Animal Care and Use Committee of Michigan State University. In this  
246 experiment the daily foraging behavior of five multiparous lactating Holstein  
247 cows grazing perennial ryegrass/white clover and orchardgrass/white clover  
248 dominated pastures were monitored for six days, according to 5 x 5 Latin-  
249 square design to control for recording device and cow. This design therefore  
250 produced a total of 25 sound tracks of 24h duration. Cows were managed  
251 on a robotic milking system with voluntary grazing of pasture using same  
252 management protocols described in Watt et al. (2015). These signals were  
253 recorded using a SONY ICDPX312 recorder mounted on a cow halter and  
254 a directional microphone pressed onto the forehead of the cow. All record-  
255 ings were made at 44.1 kHz sampling rate and 16-bit resolution, providing a  
256 nominal 22 kHz recording bandwidth and 96 dB dynamic range, and stored  
257 in the WAV (Waveform Audio) file format. Hereafter, these recordings will  
258 be referred as the Michigan Database (MDb).

259 The second database was the same as used by Milone et al. (2012) for  
260 development and testing of the algorithm CBHMM. Briefly, the fieldwork to  
261 obtain this database was performed at the Campo Experimental J.F. Villar-  
262 ino, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Zavalla,  
263 Argentina during February 2004. Project protocols were previously evaluated  
264 and approved by the Committee on Ethical Use of Animals for Research of  
265 the Universidad Nacional de Rosario. Sound signals from dairy cows grazing  
266 either pure alfalfa or pure fescue micro-swards at two heights (tall,  $24.5 \pm 3.8$   
267 cm, or short,  $11.6 \pm 1.9$  cm) were recorded individually in grazing sessions  
268 conducted over a 5-day period. Forage species were selected because they dif-  
269 fer in sward structure and neutral detergent fiber content (alfalfa,  $360 \pm 11$   
270 g/kg and fescue,  $631 \pm 6$  g/kg), which are factors that have direct influence  
271 on chewing sounds (Duizer, 2001). Two 4–6 year-old lactating Holstein cows  
272 weighing  $608 \pm 24.9$  kg, previously tamed and trained, were used. A wire-  
273 less microphone (Nady 151 VR, Nady Systems, Oakland, CA, USA) was  
274 randomly assigned to animals each day. The microphone was placed facing  
275 inwards on the forehead and was protected by rubber foam (Milone et al.,  
276 2009). The distance between the wireless microphone and the receiver was  
277 2–3 m. Micro-swards were hand-constructed using plants in pots that were  
278 firmly attached to a baseboard placed inside a barn. Behavior was recorded  
279 with an analog video camcorder (Sony CCD-TR517), and then coded in MPG  
280 format at 25 frames per second. The sound from the wireless microphone was  
281 recorded on the tape soundtrack (16 bits, 44.1 kHz). A total of 50 grazing  
282 sessions were recorded: 15 from tall alfalfa, 11 from short alfalfa, 12 from  
283 tall fescue and 12 from short fescue. On average, for each pasture/height the



284 signals contained approximately 13 min of recording and around 800 events  
285 (13% bites, 64% chews and 23% chew-bites). Hereafter, these recordings will  
286 be referred as the Rosario Database (RDb).

287 All signals were labeled aurally by experts in animal behavior to identify  
288 and classify individual events (C, B, CB, S, N) during grazing. The labeling  
289 process was done by one expert, and the result was checked by another  
290 expert. In most of the cases experts largely agreed with the labeling of  
291 signals, but when there was disagreement, both experts worked together  
292 to provide a final decision. This labeling was used as control reference for  
293 comparison and testing of the performance of the algorithm. In the case  
294 of signals belonging to MDdb, two periods of 5 minutes were extracted and  
295 labeled from each 24h sound track. The signals were randomly selected  
296 within a grazing period, because during this activity the three types of events  
297 considered can be found. Each period contained approximately 350 events  
298 (25% bites, 48% chews and 27% chew-bites). One of the periods was used to  
299 analyze the effect of parameters while the other one was used for evaluation  
300 purposes. A similar data partition was made for signals belonging to RDb.  
301 For each grazing session, 50% of signals were used to analyze the effect of  
302 parameters, while the remaining 50% was used for evaluation purposes.

### 303 *3.2. Performance measures*

304 Valid comparisons between events recognized and classified by the algo-  
305 rithm and their corresponding reference of aurally labeled events depends  
306 on the correct synchronization of both event sequences. To solve this prob-  
307 lem, the HTK<sup>1</sup> performance analysis tool HResults was used, which is based  
308 on a dynamic programming-based string alignment procedure (Young et al.,

309 1997).

310 The outputs of this tool were: i) the number of deleted events ( $D$ ), which  
311 are false negatives, ii) the number of substituted events ( $S$ ), which are mis-  
312 classified events, iii) the number of inserted events ( $I$ ), which are false pos-  
313 itives, and iv) the total number of events ( $T$ ) in the reference transcription  
314 provided by the experts. An example of these definitions is shown in Table 2:  
315 the first bite of the recognized sequence is a substitution (S) because the real  
316 event is a chew; the second chewbite is an insertion (I) because there is no  
317 event in the real sequence; and the second chew in the reference sequence  
318 has not been recognized so it is a deletion (D).

Table 2: Example of sequence alignment for performance measurement.

Reference seq.:	chewbite	chew	<u>chew</u>	bite	chew		bite	bite
Recognized seq.:	chewbite	<u>bite</u>		bite	chew	<u>chewbite</u>	bite	bite

319 Keeping these definitions in mind, the percentage of detected events is  
320 computed as follows<sup>2</sup>

$$\delta\% = \frac{T - D}{T} 100\%, \quad (3)$$

321

322 the percentage number of events correctly recognized is given by

$$C\% = \frac{T - D - S}{T} 100\%, \quad (4)$$

323

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<sup>2</sup><http://htk.eng.cam.ac.uk/>

324 and the accuracy is computed by

$$A\% = \frac{T - D - S - I}{T} 100\%. \quad (5)$$

325 Performance of CBRTA for recognition of C, B, CB, S or N was assessed  
326 using exploratory analysis of sensitivity. This analysis computed the cor-  
327 respondent recognition rate  $C\%$ , accuracy  $A\%$  and computational time as  
328 a function of changes in the following key parameters: i) the sampling fre-  
329 quency, ii) quantization level, iii) cut-off frequency of the detector filter, and  
330 iv) subsampling frequency. The effectiveness of CBRTA for detection of in-  
331 gestive events (C, B, CB) was determined considering false negatives in the  
332 computation, but no substitutions<sup>3</sup>. The effectiveness of CBRTA for clas-  
333 sification of ingestive events (C, B, CB) was determined in two ways. For  
334 the MDb database, a cross-way validation was conducted in order to demon-  
335 strate robustness. For this comparison, the CBRTA was fitted with the best  
336 set of parameters for the MDb and RDb database, respectively. By best set  
337 of parameters we means a set of parameters that provides the highest recog-  
338 nition rate with the highest accuracy. Then, the classification by CBRTA  
339 fitted with the best set of parameters for MDb database [CBRTA (MDb)]  
340 was compared to the correspondent classification of CBRTA fitted with the  
341 best set parameters for the RDb database [CBRTA (RDb)]. For the RDb  
342 database, the CBRTA was compared to the CBHMM algorithm of Milone  
343 et al. (2012). This comparison was decided for two reasons. The CBHMM

---

<sup>2</sup>While this computation does not include insertions (false positives), these were quan-  
tified in the present analysis.

344 is the only other available method that makes a distinct classification of C,  
345 B and CB, and, the CBRTA and CBHMM are both originally fitted to the  
346 same RDb database, thus offering a direct unbiased comparison of methods.  
347 On the other hand, the application of the CBHMM method on a different  
348 database could be wrong, because the models would need to be adapted to  
349 the new recording conditions. Also, it is important to note that to train and  
350 evaluate the CBHMM, a hold-out cross-validation method was used (Duda  
351 et al., 2001), while in the present CBRTA parameterization is done using a  
352 subset of RDb data not further used for testing purposes. The CBRTA was  
353 implemented using MATLAB R2010b for evaluation purposes.

354 Thereafter, the analysis included the testing of i) algorithm complexity,  
355 ii) computational performance, and iii) validation of CBRTA for both the  
356 automatic detection and classification of ingestive events in grazing dairy  
357 cattle. The computational complexity was modeled for each computational  
358 task as the function of the number of samples  $n$  to be processed each sec-  
359 ond. For more exhaustive analysis, the computational cost of CBRTA was  
360 compared to the CBHMM algorithm proposed by Milone et al. (2012).

## 361 4. Results

### 362 4.1. Complexity analysis

363 The computational cost for each step of the CBRTA algorithm evalu-  
364 ated as function of the number of samples  $n$  to be processed each second

---

<sup>3</sup>This is because there are no substitutions in a detection problem, since we are only interested in whether an event has occurred or not, regardless of its type. Instead, the classification stage of events should consider substitutions.

365 is shown in Table 3. This analysis considered a filtering task applied as  
 366 second order infinite impulse response (IIR) filter. The total number of op-  
 367 erations per second  $f_{CBRTA}(n)$  required to execute the CBRTA algorithm  
 368 was  $f_{CBRTA}(n) = 13n + 3700$ . As shown in Table 3, only the first three tasks  
 369 (i.e., rectification, filtering and subsampling) will depend on the sampling  
 370 frequency of the input signal. After subsampling (Stage 1), the signal pro-  
 371 cessed by the remaining tasks has a constant sample rate (100 samples/s).  
 372 Therefore, the remaining tasks will be independent of the audio sample rate.  
 373 For example, the computation of the envelope slope requires the subtraction  
 374 of two consecutive samples for computation of its sign, which involves two  
 375 operations per sample. Similarly, the classification of events involves five  
 376 comparisons to check whether the predefined classification conditions are  
 377 met or not. A more detailed description of the complexity analysis for the  
 378 CBRTA algorithm is provided in Appendix A. This analysis shows a linear  
 379 computational complexity for CBRTA. A comparative analysis of complexity  
 380 on the CBHMM algorithm developed by Milone et al. (2012) is summarized  
 381 in Appendix B. This analysis shows a superlinear complexity for CBHMM.

#### 382 4.2. Effect of parameters on system performance

383 Figure 4 shows the effect of sampling frequency on the performance of  
 384 the algorithm (recognition rate and accuracy) and the corresponding com-  
 385 putational time for the MDb database. The recognition rate and accuracy  
 386 remained high (around 80%) over wide range of frequencies (from 2 kHz to  
 387 11 kHz) and declined for frequencies that were outside of this range. This  
 388 phenomenon can be explained by the fact that for sampling frequencies be-  
 389 low 2 kHz the signal/noise ratio is degraded because important components

Table 3: Number of operations per second of the CBRTA algorithm for detection and classification of jaw movement events.

Stage	Task	Operations/s
1	Signal rectification	$2n$
1	Signal filtering	$9n$
1	Signal subsampling	$2n$
2	Samples buffering	100
3	Threshold generation	900
3	Event detection	100
4	Envelope slope computation	200
4	Maximum signal	100
4	Event duration computation	200
5	Silence rule	100
5	Chew-bite rule	500
5	Bite rule	500
5	Chew rule	500
5	Noise rule	500

390 of the signal are filtered out. In a similar way, once the sampling frequency  
 391 goes beyond 11 kHz, the amount of noise processed by the algorithm in-  
 392 creases, further reducing and degrading the overall signal/noise relationship.  
 393 However, in the range of frequencies from 2 kHz to 11 kHz, the information  
 394 and noise processed by the algorithm remains unchanged, keeping the overall  
 395 signal/noise relationship constant.

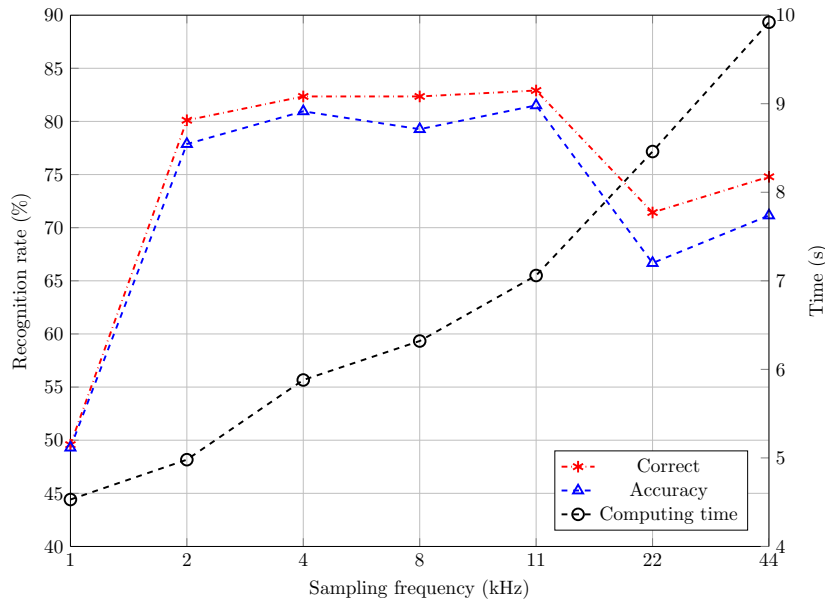


Figure 4: Algorithm recognition rate and accuracy and corresponding computational time as a function of sampling frequency for frames of 5-minute duration ( $N=25$ ).

396 The linear dependency of the computational time with sampling fre-  
 397 quency is shown in Figure 4. At a sampling frequency of 4 kHz the algorithm  
 398 had reasonably good compromise between performance (recognition rate and  
 399 accuracy) and computational time. In this sense, the algorithm proved to  
 400 be capable of processing signals 50 times faster than real-time or 300 s (5  
 401 minutes) of sound signal in 6 s (Figure 4). This means that in a practical

402 application the algorithm is capable to analyze 50 minutes of acoustic data  
 403 per minute in a standard desktop computer.

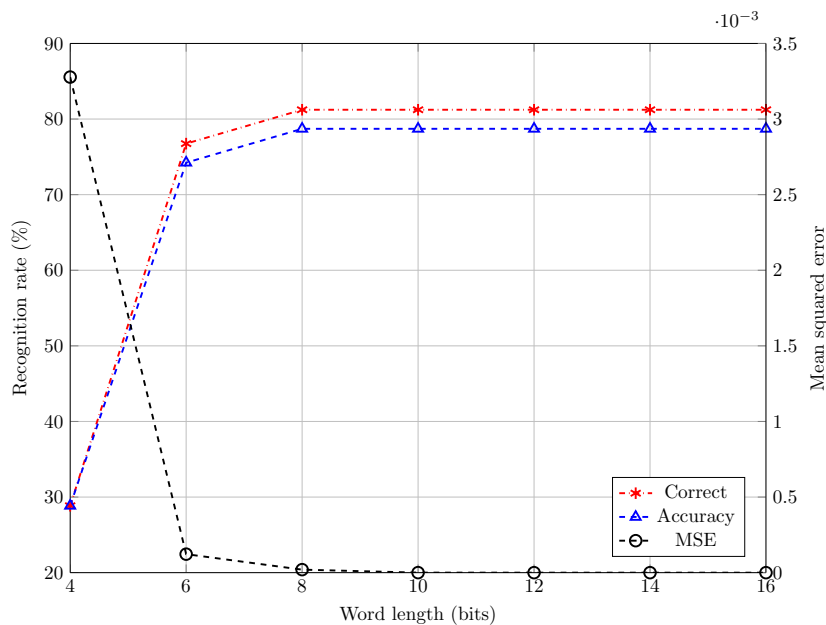


Figure 5: Algorithm recognition rate and accuracy, and corresponding computational error as a function of quantization level (computed as world length) for frames of 5-minute duration ( $N=25$ ).

404 Figure 5 shows the effect of quantization level (or word length represen-  
 405 tation) on the performance of the algorithm (recognition rate and accuracy)  
 406 for the MDb database. The recognition rate and accuracy remained high  
 407 (around 80%) for a quantization level of 8 bits or more. This phenomenon  
 408 can be explained by the fact that the quantization error, measured in terms  
 409 of the mean square error (MSE) between the signal represented by data of  
 410 a given word length (resolution) and the signal represented by data of the  
 411 longest word (16 bits), is almost zero for ingestive sound data codified with



412 8 bits or more.

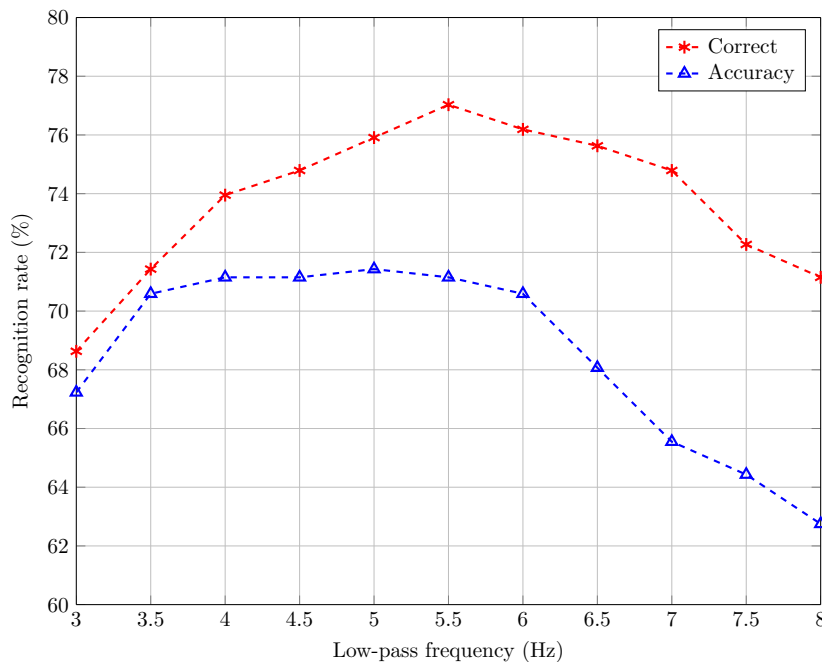


Figure 6: Algorithm recognition rate and accuracy as a function of cut-off frequency in envelope detector filter for frames of 5-minute duration ( $N=25$ ).

413 Figure 6 shows the effect of the cut-off frequency of the envelope detector  
414 filter on the recognition rate and accuracy for the MDb database. Both,  
415 recognition rate and accuracy improved as the cut-off frequency of the fil-  
416 ter increased from 3 Hz to 5 Hz. A correct recognition rate over 75% and  
417 accuracy over 70% was observed in the frequency range between 5 Hz and  
418 6 Hz. Beyond 6 Hz, both recognition and accuracy declined. These phe-  
419 nomena can be explained by the fact that enlarging the bandwidth of the  
420 filter at low frequencies increases the amount of information processed by  
421 the algorithm, thereby augmenting the overall signal/noise relationship and

422 the performance of the algorithm. However, once the cut-off frequency goes  
 423 beyond the 6 Hz, the information remains constant, the amount of noise pro-  
 424 cessed by the algorithm increases, and the overall signal/noise relationship  
 425 and performance of the algorithm decreases.

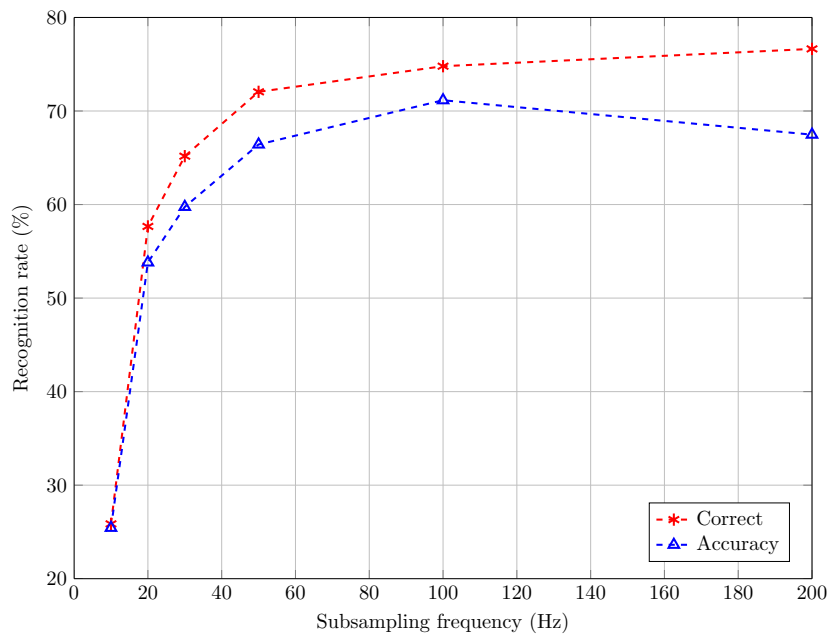


Figure 7: Algorithm recognition rate and accuracy as a function of subsampling frequency for frames of 5-minute duration.

426 Figure 7 shows the effect of the subsampling frequency on the algorithm  
 427 recognition rate and accuracy. Both, recognition rate and accuracy were in-  
 428 crementally improved with increases in subsampling frequency up to 100 Hz.  
 429 Beyond this subsampling frequency, the recognition rate remained steady  
 430 while the accuracy showed a gradual decay. Increasing the subsampling fre-  
 431 quency the amount information processed by the algorithm increases, im-  
 432 proving the overall signal/noise relationship. However, once the subsampling

433 frequency goes beyond the 100 Hz, the useful information remains constant  
434 and the overall signal/noise relationship does not suffer further change.

435 The algorithm performance analysis for the RDb database rendered a  
436 slightly different trend (data not shown). Best recognition rate and accu-  
437 racy was observed at sampling frequencies between 2 kHz and 4 kHz. With  
438 respect to the filter cut-off frequency, the best results were observed at 3.5  
439 Hz, where highest recognition with high accuracy was detected. Moreover,  
440 similar recognition performance was obtained at cut-off frequencies of 4 Hz  
441 and 5 Hz, but with lowering accuracy. Regarding the subsampling frequency,  
442 the best performance was observed at 100 Hz, similarly to MDb database.  
443 Also a sampling frequency of 2 kHz rendered lower overall computational  
444 cost. The differences between the parameters of the algorithm obtained for  
445 each database are primarily due to differences between the characteristics  
446 (frequency response and steady state gain, among others) of microphones  
447 used to record the databases.

448

#### 449 *4.3. Event detection and classification*

450 As can be seen in Figure 3, when ingestive sounds are processed, two  
451 different task can be performed: i) detect the existence of an ingestive event  
452 within the record without identifying its type, and ii) classify the ingestive  
453 event by identifying the type of event detected. Clearly, the detection task is  
454 simpler and more accurate than the classification task, since it requires fewer  
455 information.

456 For the algorithms considered in this paper the overall detection of in-  
457 gestive events was 97.4%, because of the existence 2.6% of deletions (false

458 negatives). Also it was observed 1.4% of insertions (false positives). Regard-  
459 ing event classification, the CBRTA algorithm clearly distinguished among  
460 types of jaw movements in both MDb and RDb databases. In Table 4 the  
461 classification of ingestive events for the MDb is presented. The CBRTA al-  
462 gorithm shows an average recognition rate of 84.0% of the total events for  
463 CBRTA (MDb) and an average recognition rate of 79% of the total events  
464 for CBRTA (RDb). Therefore, the results for event classification were lower  
465 than event detection rate by an average of 15%. For both CBRTA (MDb)  
466 and CBRTA (RDb) sets of parameters the algorithm achieved good event  
467 classification rates, demonstrating ability for scalability and generalization.  
468 Also, Table 4 summarizes the recognition rates for each different event deter-  
469 mined for the MDb database. In this table it can be observed the high ability  
470 of the algorithm to correctly identify the chew and bite events, regardless of  
471 the set of parameters used. However, some degree of confusion between bites  
472 and chew-bites was detected for the classification of chew-bites, which may  
473 be due to the close similarity of sound properties between both events. We  
474 believe that this confusion is less critical at a practical level since B and CB  
475 are both ingestive events.

476 Table 5 summarizes the recognition rates for different events for the RDb  
477 database. The classification results of CBRTA for this database showed an  
478 average correct classification rate of 77% of events across all pasture types,  
479 while the CBHMM method reached an average of 79% over all pastures. The  
480 best results were seen for tall pastures reaching 79% and 78% for alfalfa and  
481 fescue respectively, while for short fescue a 77% was obtained. An additional  
482 deterioration of 5% in the recognition rate can be appreciated for short alfalfa.

Table 4: Percentage of correct and false classification of bites, chews and chew-bites of dairy cows detected by a novel Chew-Bite Real-Time Algorithm (CBRTA) trained and parameterized with a same (MDb) or different (RDb) database<sup>†</sup>. Bold numbers indicate the best results.

Event	Bite		Chew		Chew-bite		Average	
	CBRTA (MDb)	CBRTA (RDb)	CBRTA (MDb)	CBRTA (RDb)	CBRTA (MDb)	CBRTA (RDb)	CBRTA (MDb)	CBRTA (RDb)
Bite	<b>95</b>	94	2	3	3	3		
Chew	8	8	87	<b>91</b>	5	1	<b>84</b>	79
Chew-bite	22	44	8	6	<b>70</b>	50		

<sup>†</sup> Testing database included acoustic records of 5 dairy cows grazing temperate pasture (N=25).

## 483 5. Discussion

484 Most of previous studies of acoustic monitoring in grazing ruminants were  
 485 focused on the detection of ingestive or rumination events and not in their  
 486 classification. To the best of our knowledge, the only algorithm that previ-  
 487 ously focused in both the automatic detection and classification of acoustic  
 488 grazing events is the CBHMM method developed by Milone et al. (2012). In  
 489 addition, none of the previous studies made an analysis of the computational  
 490 complexity of the proposed methodologies. The computational complexity of  
 491 the algorithm can impose severe limitations for implementation in a system  
 492 running in real-time, and this issue becomes relevant when high quality and  
 493 long duration (several hours) audio need to be processed. For real-time op-  
 494 eration, the algorithm must be able to process a given signal segment before  
 495 another segment becomes available. To accomplish this objective, the algo-  
 496 rithm must complete at least  $f(n)$  fix-point operations per second. For the

Table 5: Percentage of correct and false classification of bites, chews and chew-bites of dairy cows grazing contrasting micro-swards, detected by a former Chew-Bite Hidden Markov Model (CBHMM) or a novel Chew-Bite Real-Time Algorithm (CBRTA)<sup>†</sup>. Bold numbers indicate the best results.

		Bite		Chew		Chew-bite		Average	
		CBHMM	CBRTA	CBHMM	CBRTA	CBHMM	CBRTA	CBHMM	CBRTA
Tall alfalfa	C	<b>79</b>	67	11	18	9	15		
	B	3	2	88	<b>90</b>	9	8	<b>84</b>	79
	CB	2	5	3	11	<b>94</b>	84		
Short alfalfa	C	<b>76</b>	62	16	30	8	8		
	B	5	0	90	<b>94</b>	5	6	65	<b>74</b>
	CB	23	5	15	29	61	<b>66</b>		
Tall fescue	C	<b>83</b>	74	0	21	17	5		
	B	1	1	93	<b>95</b>	7	4	<b>85</b>	78
	CB	1	10	4	33	<b>94</b>	57		
Short fescue	C	<b>90</b>	79	9	14	1	7		
	B	0	1	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	1	0	<b>84</b>	77
	CB	2	25	7	32	<b>91</b>	43		

<sup>†</sup> Testing database included acoustic records of 2 dairy cows grazing a factorial set of micro-swards hand-constructed with plants in pots of 2 species (Alfalfa or Fescue) and 2 heights (short or tall), collected in 5-minute recording sessions (N = 50).

497 range of sampling rates considered in the CBRTA application (from 4 KHz  
498 to 44 Khz), it is easy to find a low cost commercial microprocessor capable to  
499 perform more than the required number of operations. For example, given  
500 a 44 Khz sample rate it is possible to complete the execution of CBRTA  
501 with a Tiva C microcontroller (Tiva™ C Series LaunchPad Evaluation Kit,  
502 Texas Instruments Inc., Dallas, TX ) using a 10 MHz clock. The processing  
503 speed could be increased further (augmenting the clock frequency), but at  
504 the expense of increasing energy consumption, which is an essential issue in  
505 portable embedded systems.

506 In the present study we carried out a detailed analysis of computational  
507 complexity, performance of the CBRTA algorithm and the CBHMM algo-  
508 rithm to then have a comparative reference of computational complexities.  
509 This analysis showed a linear computational complexity for CBRTA algo-  
510 rithm ( $O(n)$ ), while for the CBHMM method was found a greater superlin-  
511 ear complexity ( $O(n \log(n))$ ). In addition to showing a lower complexity,  
512 the CBRTA algorithm had proven capability of processing grazing signals 50  
513 times faster than real-time. Others authors such as Clapham et al. (2011)  
514 have reached up to 10 times faster than real-time but for algorithms cal-  
515 ibrated for detection of bites alone, excluding therefore two other critical  
516 jaw events in grazing animals, exclusive chews and compound chew-bites.  
517 Thus, fast processing by CBRTA is a promising result to develop embedded  
518 microcomputer applications that depend on real-time analysis.

519 Indeed, a major drawback to process signals real-time on embedded sys-  
520 tems is the computational load of the algorithm, since this can determine  
521 the requirements of hardware to implement the system. In signal processing,

522 the computational load principally depends on two parameters: i) the sam-  
523 pling frequency and ii) the quantization level of the signal. The sampling  
524 frequency defines the information flow processed by the system per unit of  
525 time (Figure 4) and it plays a key role on the computational load of the algo-  
526 rithm (Table 3). The quantization level of the signal defines accuracy of the  
527 signal representation and, therefore the word length required by the system  
528 to process the information (Figure 5). In this way, quantization defines one  
529 aspect of the complexity of the system implementation. Our results showed  
530 that CBRTA is capable of achieving reasonable compromise between low  
531 computational time and high recognition rate and accuracy with a sampling  
532 frequency between 2 kHz and 4 kHz and a quantization of 8 bits. With this  
533 likely set of parameters both detection and classification of events rendered  
534 results that were similar to previous methodologies but at significantly lower  
535 computational cost and running time.

536 The overall performance of CBRTA on event detection was 97.4% across  
537 the two databases, which is in the same order of detection rate for algorithms  
538 published in the specialized literature. In this sense, Clapham et al. (2011)  
539 reported a successful detection of bites of 95%, while Navon et al. (2013) re-  
540 ported detection rates for jaw movements of 94% in a low noise environment.  
541 Milone et al. (2012) developed an algorithm extending from HMM models to  
542 detect and classify ingestive sounds of cattle (i.e. C, B and CB), reaching a  
543 successful detection rate of 94%. In a similar way, Tani et al. (2013) detected  
544 ingestive and ruminating chewing with approximately a 98% detection suc-  
545 cess. These quantitative results (except the results of algorithm developed  
546 by Milone et al. (2012) that used the same RDb database) are not directly



547 comparable to the present study because the studies vary in number and type  
548 of events analyzed, duration of records, type and height of pastures, record-  
549 ing procedures and devices, and validation methods. Furthermore, the data  
550 employed in those studies are not available for numerical experimentation.  
551 On the other hand, the remarkable capacity for event detection by CBRTA  
552 implies that further classification of ingestive events may not compromise the  
553 ability of an algorithm to efficiently detect ingestive events. Regarding the  
554 event classification stage, to assess the robustness of CBRTA, we decided to  
555 evaluate the performance of CBRTA for two sets of parameters, applied on  
556 the first database (MDb). The recognition rate averaged 84% when CBRTA  
557 was used with the best set of parameters for a partition (not further used  
558 for testing purposes) within the same database, and a performance rate of  
559 79% when it was used with the best set of parameters for a partition (not  
560 further used for testing purposes) of a different database. This result shows  
561 that the algorithm seems to be robust to databases with large differences.  
562 For the second database (RDb), the proposed algorithm achieved a recog-  
563 nition rate of 77% on average, while the CBHMM method averaged 79.5%  
564 over all pastures. The best results achieved by CBHMM method is due  
565 to the use of a more complex modeling technique (hidden Markov models),  
566 which allows to capture more accurately the dynamics of the sounds and  
567 extract more information. However, this small performance improvement is  
568 achieved at expenses of a higher computational cost, as it can be appreciated  
569 in Appendixes A and B. Overall, the best results were seen for tall pastures  
570 reaching 79% and 78% for alfalfa and fescue respectively, while for short fes-  
571 cue a 77% was obtained. An additional deterioration of 5% in the recognition

572 rate was detected for short alfalfa, which is consistent with previous findings  
573 by Milone et al. (2012). A plausible explanation for this is that short alfalfa  
574 plants have higher proportion of stems over leaves than tall alfalfa and fescue,  
575 and cows can produce bite sounds with lower amplitude, increasing confusion  
576 between events. Consequently, sound recordings for short forages, particu-  
577 larly alfalfa, may have a lower signal-to-noise ratio that can introduce errors  
578 in the classification of events. In the same way as for the first database good  
579 results for the classification of chews were obtained, which is a good sign for  
580 identification of rumination activities. Moreover, some degree of confusion  
581 between bites and chew-bites was also observed. That could be ameliorated  
582 by incorporating new sound features like a measure of symmetry of the event  
583 or information about the sequence of events.

584 Finally, as shown in the flowchart of the algorithm (Figure 3), any de-  
585 tected event that is not classified as chew-bite, bite or chew, is treated as  
586 noise event. However, potential insertions (false positive event) can occur  
587 when a given noise event is indeed misclassified as false chew, bite or chew-  
588 bite. To assess the odds for misclassified insertions, all likely insertions (false  
589 positive events due to noise) performed by CBRTA were further examined  
590 with the HTK performance tool. This analysis showed a low number of inser-  
591 tions, which has two plausible explanations. First, acoustic monitoring was  
592 conducted with directional microphones (sensing only in one direction) fac-  
593 ing inward onto the forehead of cows and covered by a rubber foam (Milone  
594 et al., 2009). Furthermore, this instrumentation was made to minimize envi-  
595 ronmental noise (i.e. wind) to avoid the use of stronger high-pass filters, that  
596 otherwise will remove important information of sound signals. Second, the

597 use of a low-pass filter with cutoff frequency of 5.5 Hz (or 3.5 Hz depending  
598 of database) for computing envelope was preferred over other filtering op-  
599 tions. Noise is generally characterized as a non-stationary signal with high  
600 energy at high frequencies, and it would be expected that any noise energy  
601 that matches the frequency band of interest will have minimal influence or  
602 interference on both, detection and classification tasks.

## 603 **6. Conclusions**

604 It has been demonstrated the importance of acoustic monitoring for both  
605 detection and classification of ingestive events in grazing ruminants. Al-  
606 though this technique is very appropriate, it presents difficulties to automat-  
607 ically analyze large volume of high-quality audio signals by means of fast  
608 methods. These difficulties are usually related to computation load, power  
609 supply, data transfer and storage capacity. In this regard, the proposal was  
610 to develop an alternative algorithm that can get high accuracy for detection  
611 and classification, but with minimal computational cost.

612 The novel CBRTA algorithm was capable to combine very low computa-  
613 tional cost with high accuracy for detection (up to 97.4%) and classification  
614 (up to 84.0%) of chews, bites and chew-bites in grazing dairy cattle. Fur-  
615 thermore, the linear computational complexity of CBRTA combined with  
616 the use of low sampling frequency and quantization level further minimized  
617 computational costs, which is a remarkable achievement in acoustics because  
618 it can lend to the application of very fast real-time execution for timely and  
619 accurate monitoring devices of grazing behavior. To the best of our knowl-  
620 edge, there are no other acoustic platforms that can be used for real-time

621 analysis of sound signals in low cost embedded systems mounted on individ-  
622 ual animals. The testing of CBRTA shows that with a sampling frequency of  
623 4 kHz, good overall performance rate can be obtained at low computational  
624 cost. This suggests that the main energy for classification of ingestive events  
625 would be below to 2 kHz in a target signal, consistent with previous results  
626 obtained by Milone et al. (2012).

627 Given the demonstrated applicability of acoustic signals to assess herbage  
628 intake (Laca et al., 2000; Galli et al., 2011), future research steps must be  
629 focused on the automation of herbage intake measurements, as well as, on  
630 the application of acoustic monitoring as novel precision grazing manage-  
631 ment tool. Future equipment development must also focus on both integral  
632 applications that allow temporary storage or easy transfer of processed re-  
633 sults via wireless network, and on intelligent power supply systems, that can  
634 assure long-time operation of acoustic devices and embedded microproces-  
635 sors in field applications. The CBRTA algorithm has promising capability to  
636 facilitate these requirements.

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## 649 **Appendix A. CBRTA complexity analysis**

650 This appendix evaluates the computational cost of each step of the CBRTA  
651 algorithm, which depends on the number of samples  $n$  to be processed per  
652 second ( $f_{CBRTA}(n)$ ). For this algorithm, the number of samples  $n$  to be pro-  
653 cessed per second depends on the sampling frequency. Hence, the number of  
654 operations required by each stage of the algorithm will depend on the task  
655 being performed:

- 656 1. **Signal rectification:** A simple pre-processing task that guarantee a  
657 positive sign for all samples. This task requires only a comparison and  
658 a multiplication ( $2n$  operations/s).
- 659 2. **Signal filtering:** A second-order low pass filter is applied to the result-  
660 ing signal to obtain the sound envelope. This filter can be implemented  
661 in two different ways: i) A second order infinite impulse response (IIR)  
662 filter that involves five multiplications and four additions ( $9n$  opera-  
663 tions/s) or ii) a finite impulse response (FIR) filter that involves  $P$   
664 multiplications and  $P$  additions ( $2Pn$  operations/s), where  $P$  is the  
665 number of taps employed by the filter. The use of one particular way  
666 of implementing the filter will depend on the main constraint of the im-  
667 plementation, such as computational efficiency for the FIR or numerical  
668 stability for the IIR.

- 669     3. **Signal subsampling:** To reduce the computational requirements (load  
670           and time) in the subsequent tasks, without losing accuracy, the sound  
671           envelope is subsampled from its original sampling frequency of 100 Hz.  
672           This task requires an addition and a comparison ( $2n$  operations/s).
- 673     4. **Samples buffering:** The data stream generated in previous tasks is  
674           divided into short segments. From a computational point of view this  
675           task only involves counting of samples, which requires an addition (100  
676           operations/s).
- 677     5. **Threshold generation:** The time-varying threshold  $T(k)$  is computed  
678           through two steps: the computation of the peak expectation threshold  
679           ( $T_P$ ), which requires five additions and one multiplication (600 oper-  
680           ations/s), and the computation of the threshold  $T(k)$ , which requires  
681           one addition and two comparisons (300 operations/s). Therefore, the  
682           overall computational complexity of this task is 900 operations/s.
- 683     6. **Event detection:** This task only involves the comparison of the thresh-  
684           old  $T(k)$  with the sound envelope, which implies a computational com-  
685           plexity of 100 operations/s.
- 686     7. **Properties computation:** This task computes the properties of the  
687           sound envelope for classification of events. The shape of a given event  
688           is quantified through computation of the number of changes in the  
689           sign of the envelope slope when its magnitude is bigger than the back-  
690           ground noise. It requires one comparison and one subtraction (200  
691           operations/s). The duration of the event is computed from the sound  
692           envelope by counting the number of samples when the envelope is big-  
693           ger than the background noise. It requires one comparison and one

694 addition (200 operations/s). Finally, the maximum amplitude of the  
 695 event is computed directly from the absolute value of sound over a win-  
 696 dow of time whose length is half of the duration of a typical chew-bite  
 697 event. It only requires one comparison (100 operations/s).

698 **8. Event classification:** Using a set of five rules, based on the proper-  
 699 ties computed in the previous stage, the events are classified into chew,  
 700 bite, chew-bite, silence and noise. The evaluation of a rule to clas-  
 701 sify a silence only requires the comparison of the sample counter  $k_T$ ,  
 702 which involve 100 operations/s. To evaluate the remaining rules, the  
 703 algorithm checks the conditions that define each type of event. There-  
 704 fore, the overall computational complexity for each of these rules is 500  
 705 operations/s. Since all rules are evaluated at every event, the overall  
 706 complexity for this task is 2100 operations/s.

707 A linear complexity for CBRTA is given by the total number of opera-  
 708 tions per second that are required to be executed for an IIR low-pass filter  
 709 implementation, as follows:

$$f_{CBRTA}(n) = 13n + 3700. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

## 710 Appendix B. CBHMM complexity analysis

711 The cost of each step of the CBHMM algorithm presented by Milone et al.  
 712 (2012) is evaluated as a function of the number of samples  $n$  to be analyzed  
 713 per second ( $f_{CBHMM}(n)$ ), where  $n$  depends on the sampling frequency. The  
 714 corresponding system was implemented by the authors using the HTK toolkit  
 715 (Young et al., 1997).

716 The signal will be analyzed using overlapped windows. Window duration  
 717  $w_L$  and window step  $w_S$  were defined as 60 ms and 40 ms, respectively.  
 718 Regardless of the sampling frequency of input audio the number of windows  
 719  $n_w$  to be processed per second is

$$n_w = \left\lfloor \frac{s_L - w_L}{w_S} \right\rfloor + 1 = \left\lfloor \frac{1000 \text{ ms} - 60 \text{ ms}}{40 \text{ ms}} \right\rfloor + 1 = 24 \text{ windows} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

720

721 where  $s_L$  is the duration of the segment of signal to analyze. The number of  
 722 samples  $n_S$  to be processed per window depends on the number of samples  
 723 to be analyzed as

$$n_S = \frac{w_L}{s_L} n. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

724 Recognition processes can be separated into two main stages: i) feature  
 725 extraction and ii) classification. During the feature extraction stage, each  
 726 window is analyzed with the same exact processes. The following complexity  
 727 analysis will be done for a single window of  $n_S$  samples:

- 728 1. **Pre-emphasis filter:** a simple pre-processing operation emphasizes  
 729 the signal by applying a first order difference equation, that involves  
 730 an addition and a multiplication ( $2n_S$  operations).
- 731 2. **Windowing:** a Hamming window function is applied to pre-processed  
 732 signal. This operation requires a multiplication for each sample of the  
 733 window ( $n_S$  operations).
- 734 3. **Window energy:** is a numeric value obtained from windowed signal  
 735 that will be part of the feature vector. It requires  $2n_S$  operations.



- 736 4. **Fourier transform:** the windowed signal is transformed using a fast  
 737 Fourier transform, and magnitude is then taken. Complexity of these  
 738 computations are  $n_S \log(n_S)$  and  $n_S$  operations, respectively.
- 739 5. **Filterbank analysis:** is a simple transform based on a bank of tri-  
 740 angular filters designed to give approximately equal resolution on a  
 741 mel-scale. Each Fourier magnitude coefficient is multiplied by the cor-  
 742 responding filter gain and the results are then accumulated. Thus,  
 743 each bin holds a weighted sum representing the spectral magnitude in  
 744 that filterbank channel. Ten filters that spread between 0 and 500 Hz  
 745 were selected by Milone et al. (2012). The complexity is a function  
 746 of the maximum length of the filter  $F_{ML}$ , it is at most  $20F_{ML}$  opera-  
 747 tions. Because it is clear that  $F_{ML} \ll n_S$ , then this operation should  
 748 not be the most computationally expensive. It could be established a  
 749 computational complexity of  $20n_S$  operations as upper bound.
- 750 6. **Logarithm:** is applied to each channel parameter of the filterbank.  
 751 This requires 10 operations (10 operations).
- 752 7. **Deltas:** a feature vector is composed by 22 elements is arranged by  
 753 10 log-filterbank parameters, window energy, deltas of log-filterbank  
 754 parameters, and delta of energy. Deltas computation requires 11 addi-  
 755 tional operations.

756 The total number of operations required to extract features  $f_{fe}(n_S)$  from  
 757 a single window is

$$f_{fe}(n_S) = 21 + 26 n_S + n_S \log(n_S). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

758 This number must be multiplied by  $n_w$  to obtain the complete number of

759 operations in the feature extraction stage for one second of audio. The cost  
760 of classification stage is revised below under the same assumption that one  
761 second of audio must be processed.

762 Given the small number of models in this application (only 3: chew, bite  
763 and chewbite, without taking into account the silence model for simplicity)  
764 it is reasonable to suppose a similar complexity than in an isolated word  
765 recognition task. Also, one second of audio could contain only one event,  
766 due to the typical duration of masticatory events. Thus, to do isolated word  
767 recognition, the following steps must be performed: (i) generate a sequence of  
768 feature vectors corresponding to the audio, (ii) calculate the model likelihoods  
769 for all possible models, and, (iii) select the word whose model likelihood is  
770 highest.

771 Step (i) was already addressed in feature extraction stage. To perform  
772 step (ii) the Viterbi algorithm is used. This algorithm requires on the order  
773 of  $VQ^2T$  computations, where  $V$  is the number of words,  $Q$  is the number of  
774 states in each model, and  $T$  is the length of the feature vectors sequence (Ra-  
775 biner and Juang, 1993). Since  $V = 3$  (chew, bite and chewbite),  $Q = 4$  and  
776  $T = 24.5$  (number of windows per second), the viterbi computations needed  
777 are  $VQ^2T = 1,176$ . Each Viterbi computation requires one multiplication,  
778 one addition, and a likelihood calculation (at least  $M(d + d^2)$  operations  
779 (Duda, Hart, pp. 111), where  $d = 22$  is the number of features, and the  
780 number of mixed gaussians is  $M = 90$ ). Then, the operations needed in step  
781 (ii) are  $VQ^2T(2 + M(d + d^2)) = 53,557,392$ . Operations performed in step  
782 (iii) are just 3 comparisons to obtain the highest likelihood. Therefore, the  
783 number of operations performed in classification stage is determined by step

784 (ii).

785 The algorithm CBHMM shows a superlinear complexity where the total  
786 number of operations per second of signal required to execute this algorithm  
787 is the sum of feature extraction and classification stage costs, as follows:

$$f_{CBHMM}(n) = 24 \left\{ 21 + 26 \frac{w_L}{s_L} n + \frac{w_L}{s_L} n \log \left( \frac{w_L}{s_L} n \right) \right\} + 53,557,392. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

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