

TWELP 600 bps Vocoder

Provides high speech quality- much better than MELPe 600 bps.

For Digital HF Radio and other markets.

TWELP Technology Features. The vocoder is based on newest technology of speech coding called "Tri-Wave Excited Linear Prediction" (TWELP) that was developed by experts of DSPINI.

TWELP technology is a new class of vocoders that differs from any other LPC-based vocoders by:

- advance reliable method of pitch estimation
- pitch-synchronous analysis
- advance tri-wave model of excitation
- newest quantization schemes
- pitch-synchronous synthesis

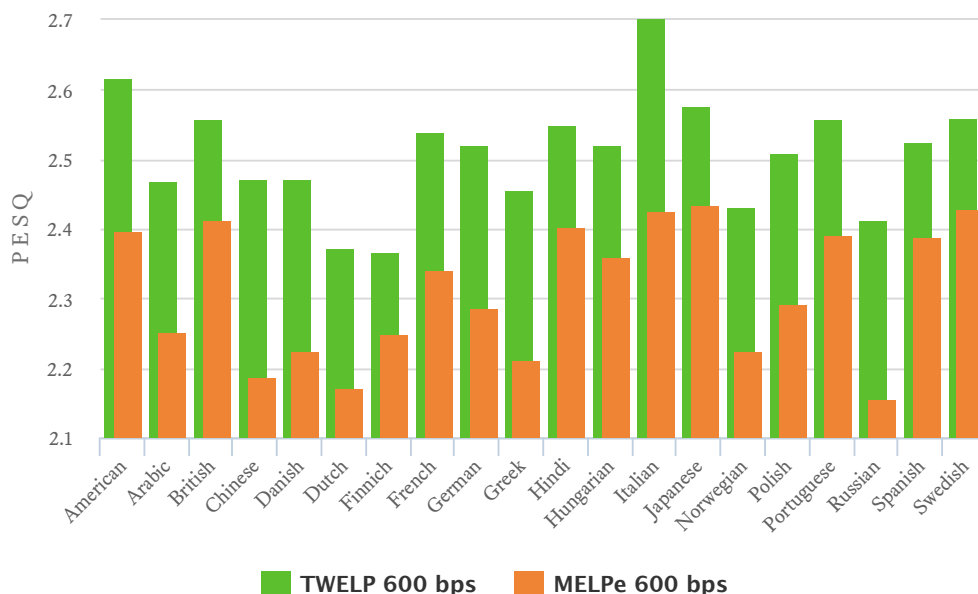
Thanks to these unique features, TWELP technology provides much better speech quality in comparison with any well-known technologies, including AMBE+2, MELPe, ACELP, etc. on the same bit rate in range from 300 bps up to 9600 bps and more. Moreover, in contrast to other LBR vocoders (like MELPe, etc.) TWELP provides much better quality for non-speech signals like sirens, background music, etc.

Superiority In Speech Quality. Here is the comparison with MELPe 600 bps vocoder in noiseless channel. TWELP 600 bps vocoder and MELPe 600 bps vocoder were tested, using ITU-T P.50 speech base for 20 different languages. ITU-T P.862 utility was used for estimation of the speech quality in PESQ terms:

Speech Quality Comparison



TWELP 600 bps vs MELPe 600 bps



A diagram demonstrates superiority TWELP 600 over MELPe 600 in speech quality in clear channel. Exact numbers are shown in the table below.

Language	TWELP 600 bps	MELPe 600 bps
American	2.617	2.397
Arabic	2.470	2.254
British	2.559	2.414
Chinese	2.471	2.189
Danish	2.471	2.227
Dutch	2.374	2.173
Finnish	2.367	2.249
French	2.539	2.34
German	2.521	2.287
Greek	2.457	2.212
Hindi	2.549	2.403
Hungarian	2.520	2.359
Italian	2.705	2.428
Japanese	2.576	2.436
Norwegian	2.433	2.225
Polish	2.511	2.294
Portuguese	2.558	2.393
Russian	2.414	2.156
Spanish	2.525	2.389
Swedish	2.562	2.43
Average	2.50995	2.31275

Superiority of the TWELP 600 is on average 0.2 PESQ

Speech Samples (WAV-files). A few independent experts listened TWELP 600 bps vocoder in comparison with MELPe 600 bps vocoder, using method of preferences. Majority of experts preferred TWELP to MELPe, having noted much more natural human-sounding of voice in the TWELP vocoder.

You can play and listen short samples of the source speech as well as the speech processed by both vocoders for any of 20 languages, using links in the table below.

Also, you can download full set of the P.50 samples as zip-files for all languages simultaneously, using the links in the "Downloads" para in a bottom of the page.

Language	Source speech	MELPe 600 bps	TWELP 600 bps
American	▶	▶	▶
Arabic	▶	▶	▶
British	▶	▶	▶
Chinese	▶	▶	▶
Danish	▶	▶	▶
Dutch	▶	▶	▶
Finnich	▶	▶	▶
French	▶	▶	▶
German	▶	▶	▶
Greek	▶	▶	▶
Hindi	▶	▶	▶
Hungarian	▶	▶	▶
Italian	▶	▶	▶
Japanese	▶	▶	▶
Norwegian	▶	▶	▶
Polish	▶	▶	▶
Portuguese	▶	▶	▶
Russian	▶	▶	▶
Spanish	▶	▶	▶
Swedish	▶	▶	▶

Superiority In Quality Of The Non-speech Signals. In contrast to other LBR vocoders (MELPe, AMBE+2, etc.), TWELP vocoders provide high quality of non-speech signals, including police, ambulance, fire sirens, etc. This feature in conjunction with high quality natural human-sounding of voice makes TWELP vocoders well suitable for replacement of analog radio by digital radio and also for other applications where high quality transmitting of non-speech signals is relevant along with high quality transmitting of speech signals.

Source type	Source signal	MELPe 600 bps	TWELP 600 bps
Siren only	▶	▶	▶

With voice ▶▶▶

High Robustness To Acoustic Noise. In contrast to other LBR vocoders, TWELP vocoders are well robust to acoustic noise thanks to robust reliable method of pitch estimation and other features of TWELP technology.

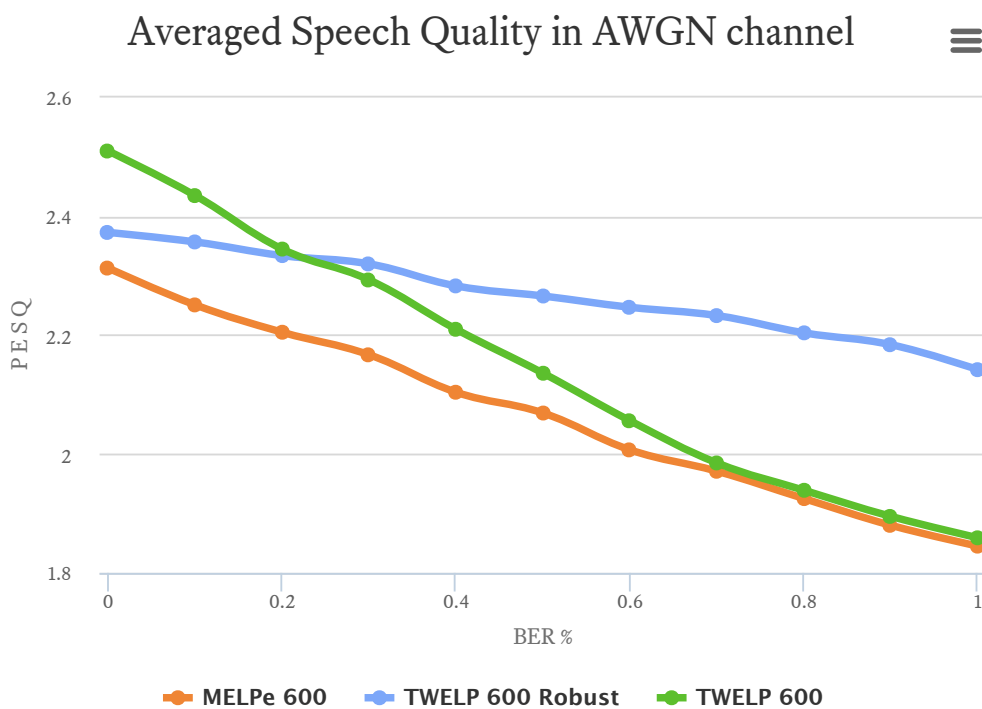
Moreover, vocoder includes in-built Noise Cancellation—Speech Enhancement (NCSE) functionality that improves speech quality in noisy acoustic environment.

NCSE Mode	Source signal	MELPe 600 bps	TWELP 600 bps
Disabled	▶	▶	▶
Enabled	▶	▶	▶

High Robustness To The Channel Errors. The diagram and table below show a dependence of the averaged speech quality for AWGN-noisy channel for different BER in comparison with other vocoders.

We recommend to use the TWELP 600 vocoder in channels, where a majority of connections happen with BER < 0.3%.

In case you use noisy channels, where a majority of connections happen with worse conditions, with BER > 0.3%, we recommend to use our TWELP 600 bps Robust vocoder that provides much better speech quality in noisy channels. You can compare the robustness of the vocoders on the diagramm below.



BER %	MELPe 600	TWELP 600 Robust	TWELP 600
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0.00	2.313	2.373	2.51
0.10	2.251	2.357	2.435
0.20	2.205	2.334	2.345
0.30	2.167	2.32	2.293
0.40	2.104	2.283	2.21
0.50	2.069	2.266	2.136
0.60	2.007	2.247	2.056
0.70	1.971	2.233	1.985
0.80	1.925	2.204	1.939
0.90	1.880	2.184	1.895
1.00	1.845	2.142	1.859

Additional Functionalities. The following additional functionalities are developed by DSPINI and integrated into TWELP vocoders:

- Automatic Gain Control (AGC),
- Noise Cancellation for Speech Enhancement (NCSE)
- Voice Activity Detector (VAD),
- Tone Detection/Generation (Single tones and Dual tones). The tones are transmitted by the vocoder facilities.

Each functionality has unique features, performance and characteristics, providing significant superiority over any well-known implementations on the market.

Technical Characteristics And Resource Requirements:

Technical characteristics

Bit Rate (bps)	Algorithm	Frame size (ms)	Algorithmic delay (including frame size) (ms)	Sampling rate (kHz)	Signal format	Bit stream format
600	TWELP	80	100	8	Linear 16-bit PCM	48

Additional functionalities

Name	Functionality	Technical characteristics	
		Name	Value
AGC	Automatic Gain Control	Control range:	0 ... +20 dB
NCSE	Noise Canceller - Speech Enhancer	SNR increasing	> 6 dB
		Speech quality improvement	> 0.1 PESQ
Tone Detector	Single/Dual tones detection	In accordance with international standards	
Tone Generator	Single/Dual tones generation	Special generator, kept continuity of signal (phase and amplitude of signal of previous frame)	
VAD	Voice Activity Detection	Reliable detection speech in background noise	
CNG	Comfort Noise Generation	Type of noise	"white"
		Level	- 60 dB

Resources for ARM Cortex-M4 platform

Module	MIPS* peak	Memory (KBytes)				
		Program	Data			
			Constants	Channel	Heap	Stack
Voice Encoder	62.4	35	156	4.5	4.8	1.0
NCSE	6.0					
AGC	0.2					
Voice Decoder	13.7					
Voice Encoder + Voice Decoder	76.1					
Total	82.3					

Resources for TI's C64 DSP platform

Module	MIPS* peak	Memory (KBytes)				
		Program	Data			
			Constants	Channel	Heap	Stack
Voice Encoder	22.3	67	156	4.5	4.8	1.0
NCSE	2.6					
AGC	0.1					
Voice Decoder	3.9					
Voice Encoder + Voice Decoder	26.2					
Total	28.9					

Resources (estimated) for TI's C55 DSP platform

Module	MIPS* peak	Memory (KBytes)				
		Program	Data			
			Constants	Channel	Heap	Stack
Voice Encoder	38.0	22	156	4.5	4.8	1.0
NCSE	6.2					
AGC	0.2					
Voice Decoder	10.0					
Voice Encoder + Voice Decoder	48.0					
Total	54.4					

* DSPINI continues optimization of the TWELP algorithm and code in order to minimize computational complexity of the vocoder.

Guarantee And Support. DSPINI guarantees a quality and accordance of all technical characteristics of the product to requirement of current specifications. Testing and other method of quality control are used for guarantee support.

Any Platforms. DSPINI can port this vocoder software into any other DSP, RISC or general- purposes platform inshort time: 1-2 months.

Licensing Terms. To use the vocoder, customer should obtain a license from DSPINI only.

Customization. The vocoder can be customized under any specific requirements- other bit rate, frame size, any other robustness to channel errors, etc. Please contact with us for details.

Prospects. DSPINI is improving and developing continuously a set of new vocoders with range from 300 bps up to 9600 bps, based on TWELP technology.

Related Software. This vocoder may be effectively used in a bundle with other DSPINI's products:

- Linear and acoustic echo cancellers,
- Multichannel noise cancellers (including two-microphone adaptive array),
- Wired or radiomodems for any types of channels and bitrates,
- Other products.

Downloads:

- [Datasheet \(pdf\)](#).
- [ITU-T P.50 source speech samples \(zip\)](#).
- [MELPe 600 bps speech samples \(zip\)](#).
- [TWELP 600 bps speech samples \(zip\)](#).
- PC-evaluation package (zip) — on request
- User's Guide document (pdf) — on request

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