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speech traffic channels  
(GSM 06.42 version 5.0.1)**

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## Foreword

This European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) has been produced by the Special Mobile Group (SMG) Technical Committee of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

This ETS specifies the Voice Activity Detector (VAD) to be used in the Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) within the digital cellular telecommunications system. This ETS is part of the ETSs series covering the half rate speech traffic channels as described below:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| GSM 06.02        | ETS 300 966: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Half rate speech processing functions".  |
| GSM 06.06        | ETS 300 967: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; ANSI-C code for the GSM half rate speech codec".                               |
| GSM 06.07        | ETS 300 968: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Test sequences for the GSM half rate speech codec".                            |
| GSM 06.20        | ETS 300 969: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Half rate speech transcoding".   |
| GSM 06.21        | ETS 300 970: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Substitution and muting of lost frames for half rate speech traffic channels". |
| GSM 06.22        | ETS 300 971: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Comfort noise aspects for half rate speech traffic channels".                  |
| GSM 06.41        | ETS 300 972: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) for half rate speech traffic channels".       |
| <b>GSM 06.42</b> | <b>ETS 300 973: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Voice Activity Detector (VAD) for half rate speech traffic channels".</b>   |

| Transposition dates   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Date of adoption:   | 4 April 1997     |
| Date of latest announcement of this ETS (doa):  | 31 August 1997   |
| Date of latest publication of new National Standard or endorsement of this ETS (dop/e): | 28 February 1998 |
| Date of withdrawal of any conflicting National Standard (dow):                          | 28 February 1998 |

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## 1 Scope

This European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) specifies the Voice Activity Detector (VAD) to be used in the Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) as described in GSM 06.41 (ETS 300 972) [4]. It also specifies the test methods to be used to verify that a VAD implementation complies with this ETS.

The requirements are mandatory on any VAD to be used either in GSM Mobile Stations (MS)s or Base Station Systems (BSS)s that utilize the half-rate GSM speech traffic channel.

## 2 Normative references

This ETS incorporates by dated and undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this ETS only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

- [1] GSM 01.04 (ETR 350): "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Abbreviations and acronyms".
- [2] GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969): "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Half rate speech transcoding".
- [3] GSM 06.22 (ETS 300 971): "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Comfort noise aspects for half rate speech traffic channels".
- [4] GSM 06.41 (ETS 300 972): "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) for half rate speech traffic channels".
- [5] GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967): "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; ANSI C code for the GSM half rate speech codec".
- [6] GSM 06.07 (ETS 300 968): "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Half rate speech; Test sequences for the GSM half rate speech codec".

## 3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this ETS, the following definitions apply:

**mobile environment:** Any environment in which MSs may be used.

**noise:** The signal component resulting from acoustic environmental noise.

### 3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of this ETS, the following symbols apply:

#### 3.2.1 Variables

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| aav1       | filter predictor values, see subclause 5.2.3   |
| acf        | the ACF vector which is calculated in the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]) |
| adaptcount | secondary hangover counter, see subclause 5.2.6  |
| av0        | averaged ACF vector, see subclause 5.2.2   |
| av1        | a previous value of av0, see subclause 5.2.2   |
| burstcount | speech burst length counter, see subclause 5.2.7                                       |
| den        | denominator of left hand side of equation 8 in annex C, see subclause 5.2.5            |
| difference | difference between consecutive values of dm, see subclause 5.2.4                       |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| dm              | spectral distortion measure, see subclause 5.2.4  |
| hangcount       | primary hangover counter, see subclause 5.2.7   |
| lagcount        | number of subframes in current frame meeting periodicity criterion, see subclause 5.2.9                           |
| lastdm          | previous value of dm, see subclause 5.2.4   |
| lags            | the open loop long term predictor lags for the four speech encoder subframes (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2].)       |
| num             | numerator of left hand side of equation 8 in annex C, see subclause 5.2.5   |
| oldlagcount     | previous value of lagcount, see subclause 5.2.9   |
| prederr         | fourth order short term prediction error, see subclause 5.2.5   |
| ptch            | Boolean flag indicating the presence of a periodic signal component, see subclause 5.2.9                          |
| pvad            | energy in the current filtered signal frame, see subclause 5.2.1  |
| rav1            | autocorrelation vector obtained from av1, see subclause 5.2.3   |
| rc              | the first four unquantized reflection coefficients calculated in the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]) |
| rvad            | autocorrelation vector of the adaptive filter predictor values, see subclause 5.2.6                               |
| smallag         | difference between consecutive lag values, see subclause 5.2.9  |
| stat            | Boolean flag indicating that the frequency spectrum of the input signal is stationary, see subclause 5.2.4        |
| thvad           | adaptive primary VAD threshold, see subclause 5.2.6   |
| tone            | Boolean flag indicating the presence of an information tone, see subclause 5.2.5                                  |
| vadflag         | Boolean VAD decision with hangover included, see subclause 5.2.8  |
| veryoldlagcount | previous value of oldlagcount, see subclause 5.2.9  |
| vvad            | Boolean VAD decision before hangover, see subclause 5.2.7   |

### 3.2.2 Constants

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| adp        | number of frames of hangover for secondary VAD, see subclause 5.2.6            |
| burstconst | minimum length of speech burst to which hangover is added, see subclause 5.2.8 |
| dec        | determines rate of decrease in adaptive threshold, see subclause 5.2.6         |
| fac        | determines steady state adaptive threshold, see subclause 5.2.6                |
| frames     | number of frames over which av0 and av1 are calculated, see subclause 5.2.2    |
| freqth     | threshold for pole frequency decision, see subclause 5.2.5                     |
| hangconst  | number of frames of hangover for primary VAD, see subclause 5.2.8              |
| inc        | determines rate of increase in adaptive threshold, see subclause 5.2.6         |
| lthresh    | lag difference threshold for periodicity decision, see subclause 5.2.9         |
| margin     | determines upper limit for adaptive threshold, see subclause 5.2.6             |
| nthresh    | frame count threshold for periodicity decision, see subclause 5.2.9            |
| plev       | lower limit for adaptive threshold, see subclause 5.2.6                        |
| predth     | threshold for short term prediction error, see subclause 5.2.5                 |
| pth        | energy threshold, see subclause 5.2.6  |
| thresh     | decision threshold for evaluation of stat flag, subclause 5.2.4                |

### 3.2.3 Functions

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| +   | addition            |
| -   | subtraction         |
| *   | multiplication      |
| /   | division            |
| x   | absolute value of x |
| AND | Boolean AND         |
| OR  | Boolean OR          |



b  
MULT(x(i))                      the product of the series x(i) for i=a to b  
i=a

b  
SUM(x(i))                      the sum of the series x(i) for i=a to b  
i=a

### 3.3        Abbreviations

For the purposes of this ETS, the following abbreviations apply:

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| ACF   | Autocorrelation Function                      |
| AFLAT | Autocorrelation Fixed point Lattice Technique |
| ANSI  | American National Standards Institute         |
| DTX   | Discontinuous Transmission                    |
| LTP   | Long Term Predictor                           |
| TX    | Transmission                                  |
| VAD   | Voice Activity Detector                       |

For abbreviations not given in this subclause see GSM 01.04 (ETR 350) [1].

## 4        General

The function of the VAD is to indicate whether each 20 ms frame produced by the speech encoder contains speech or not. The output is a Boolean flag (vadflag) which is used by the Transmit (TX) DTX handler defined in GSM 06.41 (ETS 300 972) [4].

This ETS is organized as follows:

Clause 5 describes the principles of operation of the VAD. Clause 6 provides an overview of the computational description of the VAD. The computational details necessary for the fixed point implementation of the VAD algorithm are given in the form of an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C program contained in GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967) [5].

The verification of the VAD is based on the use of digital test sequences which are described in GSM 06.07 (ETS 300 968) [6].

The performance of the VAD algorithm is characterized by the amount of audible speech clipping it introduces and the percentage activity it indicates. The characteristics for the VAD defined in this ETS have been established by extensive testing under a wide range of operating conditions. The results are summarized in annex A.

## 5        Functional description

The purpose of this clause is to give the reader an understanding of the principles of operation of the VAD, whereas GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967) [5] contains the fixed point computational description of the VAD. In the case of discrepancy between the two descriptions, the description in GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967) [5] will prevail.

### 5.1        Overview and principles of operation

The function of the VAD is to distinguish between noise with speech present and noise without speech present. This is achieved by comparing the energy of a filtered version of the input signal with a threshold. The presence of speech is indicated whenever the threshold is exceeded.

The detection of speech in mobile environments is difficult due to the low speech/noise ratios which are encountered, particularly in moving vehicles. To increase the probability of detecting speech, the input signal is adaptively filtered (see subclause 5.2.1) to reduce its noise content before the voice activity decision is made (see subclause 5.2.7).

The frequency spectrum and level of the noise may vary within a given environment as well as between different environments. It is therefore necessary to adapt the input filter coefficients and energy threshold at regular intervals as described in subclause 5.2.6.

5.2 Algorithm description

The block diagram of the VAD algorithm is shown in figure 1. The individual blocks are described in the following subclauses. The global variables shown in the block diagram are described in table 1.

Table 1: Description of variables in figure 1

| Var               | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| acf               | The ACF vector which is calculated in the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]).                            |
| av0               | Averaged ACF vector.   |
| av1               | A previous value of av0.   |
| lags              | The open loop long term predictor lags for the four speech encoder subframes (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]).        |
| ptch              | Boolean flag indicating the presence of a periodic signal component.   |
| p <sub>vad</sub>  | Energy in the current filtered signal frame.   |
| r <sub>av1</sub>  | Autocorrelation vector obtained from av1.  |
| rc                | The first four unquantized reflection coefficients calculated in the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]). |
| r <sub>vad</sub>  | Autocorrelation vector of the adaptive filter predictor values.  |
| stat              | Boolean flag indicating that the frequency spectrum of the input signal is stationary.                             |
| th <sub>vad</sub> | Adaptive primary VAD threshold.  |
| tone              | Boolean flag indicating the presence of an information tone.   |
| v <sub>vad</sub>  | Boolean VAD decision with hangover included.   |
| v <sub>vad</sub>  | Boolean VAD decision before hangover.  |

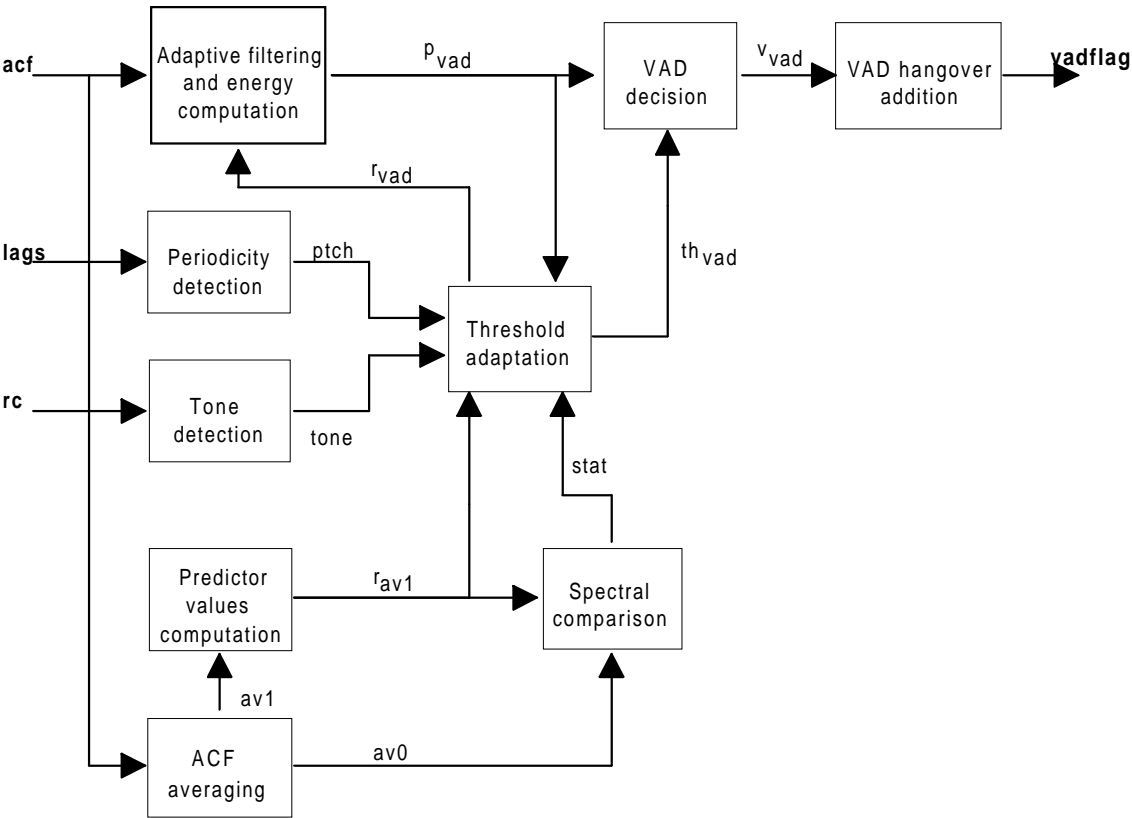


Figure 1: Functional block diagram of the VAD

### 5.2.1 Adaptive filtering and energy computation

The energy in the current filtered signal frame (pvad) is computed as follows:

$$pvad = rvad[0]*acf[0] + 2*\sum_{i=1}^8 (rvad[i]*acf[i])$$

This corresponds to performing an 8th order block filtering on the filtered input samples to the speech encoder. This is explained in annex B.

### 5.2.2 ACF averaging

Spectral characteristics of the input signal have to be obtained using blocks that are larger than one 20 ms frame. This is done by averaging the ACF (autocorrelation function) vectors for several consecutive frames. The averaging is given by the following equations:

$$av0\{n\}[i] = \sum_{j=0}^{frames-1} (acf\{n-j\}[i]) \quad ; \quad i = 0..8$$

$$av1\{n\}[i] = av0\{n-frames\}[i] \quad ; \quad i = 0..8$$

where (n) represents the current frame, (n-1) represents the previous frame etc. The values of the constants and initial variable values are given in table 2.

**Table 2: Constants and variables for ACF averaging**

| Constant | Value | Variable                     | Initial value |
|----------|-------|------------------------------|---------------|
| frames   | 4     | previous ACF's,<br>av0 & av1 | All set to 0  |

### 5.2.3 Predictor values computation

The filter predictor values aav1 are obtained from the autocorrelation values av1 according to the equation:

$$a = R^{-1}p$$

where:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] & av1[3] & av1[4] & av1[5] & av1[6] & av1[7] \\ av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] & av1[3] & av1[4] & av1[5] & av1[6] \\ av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] & av1[3] & av1[4] & av1[5] \\ av1[3] & av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] & av1[3] & av1[4] \\ av1[4] & av1[3] & av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] & av1[3] \\ av1[5] & av1[4] & av1[3] & av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] & av1[2] \\ av1[6] & av1[5] & av1[4] & av1[3] & av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] & av1[1] \\ av1[7] & av1[6] & av1[5] & av1[4] & av1[3] & av1[2] & av1[1] & av1[0] \end{bmatrix}$$

and:

$$p = \begin{bmatrix} av1[1] \\ av1[2] \\ av1[3] \\ av1[4] \\ av1[5] \\ av1[6] \\ av1[7] \\ av1[8] \end{bmatrix} \quad a = \begin{bmatrix} aav1[1] \\ aav1[2] \\ aav1[3] \\ aav1[4] \\ aav1[5] \\ aav1[6] \\ aav1[7] \\ aav1[8] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$aav1[0] = -1$$

av1 is used in preference to av0 as the latter may contain speech. The autocorrelated predictor values rav1 are then obtained:

$$\text{rav1}[i] = \sum_{k=0}^{8-i} (\text{aav1}[k] * \text{aav1}[k+i]) \quad ; i = 0..8$$

#### 5.2.4 Spectral comparison

The spectra represented by the autocorrelated predictor values rav1 and the averaged autocorrelation values av0 are compared using the distortion measure (dm), defined below. This measure is used to produce a Boolean value stat every 20 ms, as shown in the following equations:

$$\text{dm} = (\text{rav1}[0] * \text{av0}[0] + 2 * \sum_{i=1}^8 (\text{rav1}[i] * \text{av0}[i])) / \text{av0}[0]$$

$$\text{difference} = | \text{dm} - \text{lastdm} |$$

$$\text{lastdm} = \text{dm}$$

$$\text{stat} = (\text{difference} < \text{thresh})$$

The values of the constants and initial variable values are given in table 3.

**Table 3: Constants and variables for spectral comparison**

| Constant | Value | Variable | Initial value |
|----------|-------|----------|---------------|
| thresh   | 0,068 | lastdm   | 0             |

#### 5.2.5 Information tone detection

Information tones and noise can be classified by inspecting the short term prediction gain, information tones resulting in a higher prediction gain than noise. Tones can therefore be detected by comparing the prediction gain to a fixed threshold. By limiting the prediction gain calculation to a fourth order analysis, information signals consisting of one or two tones can be detected whilst minimizing the prediction gain for noise.

The prediction gain decision is implemented by comparing the normalized short term prediction error with the short term prediction error threshold (predth). This measure is used to produce a Boolean value, tone, every 20 ms. The signal is classified as a tone if the prediction error is less than predth. This is equivalent to a prediction gain threshold of 13.5 dB.

Vehicle noise can contain strong resonances at low frequencies, resulting in a high prediction gain. A further test is therefore made to determine the pole frequency of a second order analysis of the signal frame. The signal is classified as noise if the frequency of the pole is less than 385 Hz.

The algorithm for evaluating the Boolean tone flag is as follows:

```
tone = false
den = a[1]*a[1]
num = 4*a[2] - a[1]*a[1]

if (num <= 0)
    return

if ((a[1] < 0) AND (num/den < freqth))
    return

prederr = MULT (1 - rc[i]*rc[i])
           i=1

if (prederr < predth)
    tone = true

return
```

rc[1..4] are the first four unquantized reflection coefficients obtained from the speech encoder short term predictor. The coefficients a[0..2] are transversal filter coefficients calculated from rc[1..2]. The pole frequency calculation is described in annex C.

The values of the constants are given in table 4.

**Table 4: Constants for information tone detection**

| Constant | Value  |
|----------|--------|
| freqth   | 0,0973 |
| predth   | 0,0447 |

### 5.2.6 Threshold adaptation

A check is made every 20 ms to determine whether the adaptive primary VAD threshold, (thvad) should be changed. This adaptation is carried out according to the flow chart in figure 2. The values of the constants and initial variable values are given in table 5.

Adaptation of thvad takes place in two different situations:

In the first case, the decision threshold (thvad) is set to the lower limit for the adaptive threshold (plev) if the input signal frame energy (acf[0]) is less than the energy threshold (pth). The autocorrelation vector of the adaptive filter predictor values (rvad) remains unchanged.

In the second case, thvad and rvad are adapted if there is a low probability that speech or information tones are present. This occurs when the following conditions are met:

- a) The frequency spectrum of the input signal is stationary (subclause 5.2.4).
- b) The signal does not contain a periodic component (subclause 5.2.9).
- c) Information tones are not present (subclause 5.2.5).

The autocorrelation vector of the adaptive filter predictor values (rvad) is updated with the rav1 values. The step size by which thvad is adapted is not constant but a proportion of the current value and its rate of increase or decrease is determined by constants inc and dec respectively.

The adaptation begins by experimentally multiplying thvad by a factor of  $(1-1/\text{dec})$ . If thvad is now higher than or equal to pvad times, the steady state adaptive threshold constant (fac), then thvad needed to be decreased and it is left at this new lower level. If, on the other hand, thvad is less than pvad times fac, then it either needs to be increased or kept constant. In this case, it is multiplied by a factor of  $(1+1/\text{inc})$  or set to pvad times fac whichever yields the lower value. thvad is never allowed to be greater than pvad+upper adaptive threshold limit (margin).

**Table 5: Constants and variables threshold adaptation**

| Constant | Value  | Variable   | Initial value |
|----------|--------|------------|---------------|
| pth      | 210000 | margin     | 112000000     |
| plev     | 560000 | adaptcount | 0             |
| fac      | 2,55   | thvad      | 1400000       |
| adp      | 8      | rvad[0]    | 6             |
| inc      | 16     | rvad[1] to | All 0         |
| dec      | 32     | rvad[8]    |               |

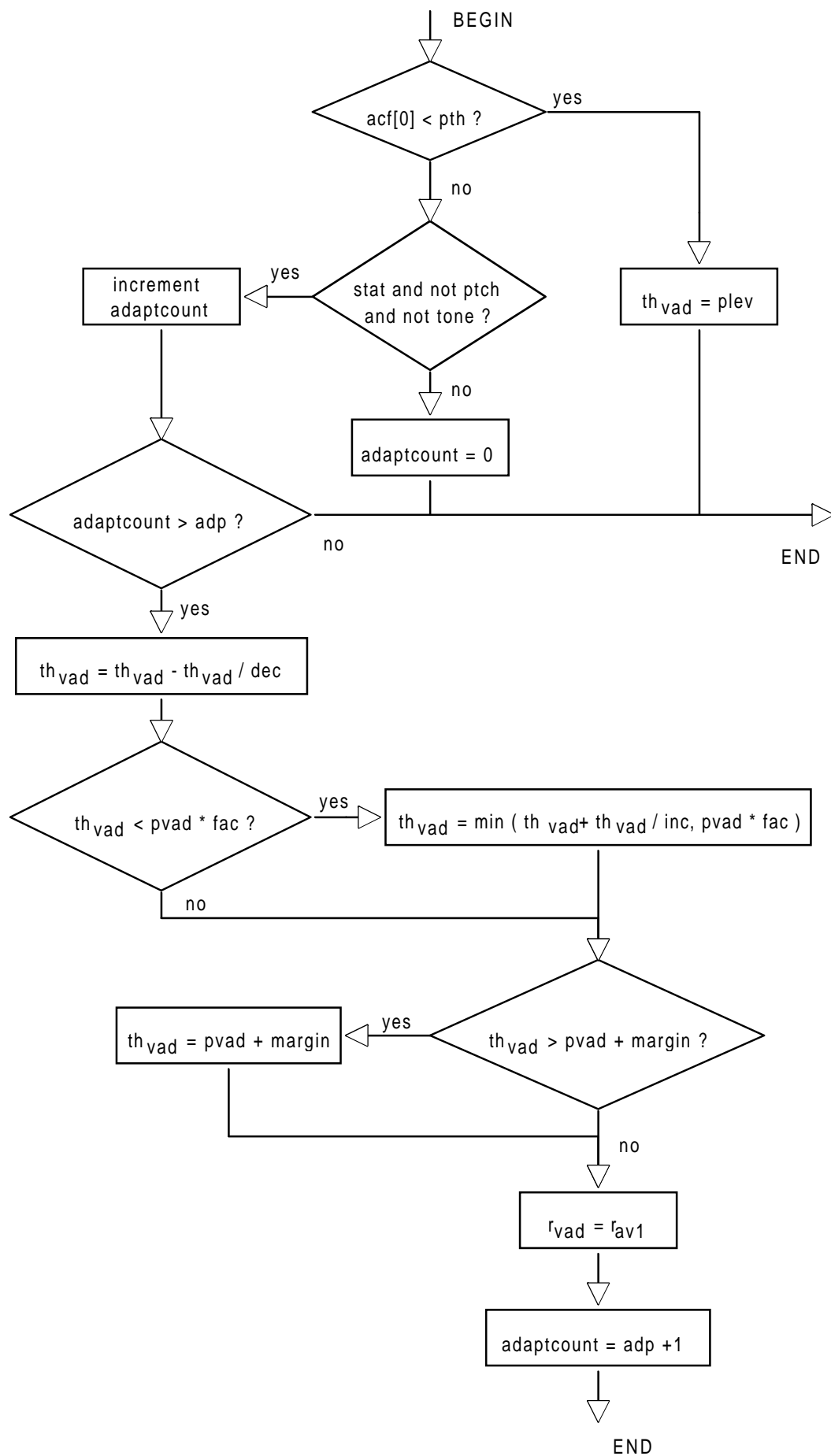


Figure 2: Flow diagram for threshold adaptation

### 5.2.7 VAD decision

Prior to hangover the Boolean VAD decision is defined as:

```
vvad = (pvad > thvad)
```

### 5.2.8 VAD hangover addition

VAD hangover is only added to bursts of speech greater than or equal to burstcount blocks. The Boolean variable vadflag indicates the decision of the VAD with hangover included. The values of the constants and initial variable values are given in table 6. The hangover algorithm is as follows:

```
if (vvad)
    increment(burstcount)
else
    burstcount = 0

if (burstcount >= burstconst)
{
    hangcount = hangconst
    burstcount = burstconst
}

vadflag = (vvad OR (hangcount >= 0))

if (hangcount >= 0)
    decrement(hangcount)
```

**Table 6: Constants and variables for VAD hangover addition**

| Constant   | Value | Variable   | Initial value |
|------------|-------|------------|---------------|
| burstconst | 3     | burstcount | 0             |
| hangconst  | 5     | hangcount  | -1            |

### 5.2.9 Periodicity detection

tvad and rvad are updated when the frequency spectrum of the input signal is stationary. However, vowel sounds also have a stationary frequency spectrum. The Boolean variable ptch indicates the presence of a periodic signal component and prevents adaptation of thvad and rvad. ptch is updated every 20 ms and is true when periodicity (a vowel sound) is detected. The periodicity detector identifies the vowel sounds by comparing consecutive Long Term Predictor (LTP) lag values lags[1..4] which are obtained every sub frame from the speech codec defined in GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]. Cases in which one lag value is a factor of the other are catered for. However, consecutive lags with a ratio which is either non-integer or greater than 3 are not classified as periodic.

```
lagcount = 0

for ( j=1; j<=4; j++ )
{
    smallag=maximum(lags[j],lags[j-1])
    for ( i=1; i<=3; i++ )
        if (smallag >= minimum(lags[i], lags[i-1]))
            smallag = smallag - minimum(lags[i], lags[i-1])
    if (minimum(smallag,minimum(lags[j],lags[j-1])-smallag)<lthresh)
        increment(lagcount)
}

veryoldlagcount = oldlagcount

oldlagcount = lagcount

ptch = (oldlagcount + veryoldlagcount >= nthresh)
```

The values of constants and initial values are given in table 7. lags[0] = lags[4] of the previous frame.

ptch is calculated after the VAD decision and when the current LTP lag values lags[1..4] are available. This reduces the delay of the VAD decision.

Table 7: Constants and variables for periodicity detection

| Constant | Value | Variable        | Initial value |
|----------|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| lthresh  | 2     | ptch            | 1             |
| nthresh  | 7     | oldlagcount     | 0             |
|          |       | veryoldlagcount | 0             |
|          |       | lags[0]         | 21            |

## 6 Computational description overview

The computational details necessary for the fixed point implementation of the speech transcoding and DTX functions are given in the form of an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C program contained in GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967) [5]. This clause provides an overview of the modules which describe the computation of the VAD algorithm.

### 6.1 VAD modules

The computational description of the VAD is divided into three ANSI C modules. These modules are:

- vad\_reset
- vad\_algorithm
- periodicity\_update

The vad\_reset module sets the VAD variables to their initial values.

The vad\_algorithm module is divided into nine sub-modules which correspond to the blocks of figure 1 in the high level description of the VAD algorithm. The vad\_algorithm module can be called as soon as the acf[0..8] and rc[1..4] variables are known. This means that the VAD computation can take place after the Autocorrelation Fixed point Lattice Technique (AFLAT) routine in the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]). The vad\_algorithm module also requires the value of the ptch variable calculated in the previous frame.

The ptch variable is calculated by the periodicity\_update module from the lags[1..4] variable. The individual lag values are calculated for each subframe in the LTP routine of the speech encoder (GSM 06.20 (ETS 300 969) [2]). The periodicity\_update module is called after the current 20 ms signal frame has been encoded.

### 6.2 Pseudo-floating point arithmetic

All the arithmetic operations follow the precision and format used in the computational description of the speech codec in GSM 06.06 (ETS 300 967) [5]. To increase the precision within the fixed point implementation, a pseudo-floating point representation of some variables is used. This applies to the following variables (and related constants) of the VAD algorithm:

- **pvad**: Energy of filtered signal;
- **thvad**: Threshold of the VAD decision;
- **acf0**: Energy of the input signal.

For the representation of these variables, two 16-bit integers are needed:

- one for the exponent (e\_pvad, e\_thvad, e\_acf0);
- one for the mantissa (m\_pvad, m\_thvad, m\_acf0).



The value  $e\_pvad$  represents the lowest power of 2 just greater or equal to the actual value of  $pvad$ , and the  $m\_pvad$  value represents an integer which is always greater than or equal to 16 384 (normalized mantissa). It means that the  $pvad$  value is equal to

$$pvad = 2^{e\_pvad} * (m\_pvad / 32768)$$

This scheme provides a large dynamic range for the  $pvad$  value and always keeps a precision of 16 bits. All the comparisons are easy to make by comparing the exponents of two variables, and the VAD algorithm needs only one pseudo floating point addition and multiplication. All the computations related to the pseudo-floating point variables require simple 16 or 32-bit arithmetic operations defined in the detailed description of the speech codec.

Some constants, represented by a floating point format, are needed and symbolic names (in capital letters) for their exponent and mantissa are used; table 8 lists all these constants with the associated symbolic names and their numerical constant values.

**Table 8: List of floating point constants**

| Constant | Exponent      | Mantissa          |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| pth      | E_PTH = 18    | M_PTH = 26 250    |
| margin   | E_MARGIN = 27 | M_MARGIN = 27 343 |
| plev     | E_PLEV = 20   | M_PLEV = 17 500   |

**Annex A (informative): VAD performance**

In the optimization of a VAD, a trade-off has to be made between speech clipping, which reduces the subjective performance of the system, and the mean channel activity factor. The benefit of DTX is increased as the activity factor is reduced. However, in general, a reduction of the activity factor will be associated with a greater risk of audible speech clipping.

In the optimization process, emphasis has been placed on avoiding unnecessary speech clipping. However, it has been found that a VAD with virtually no audible clipping would result in a high activity and little DTX advantage. The VAD specified in this ETS introduces audible and possibly objectionable clipping in certain cases, mainly for low input levels and low signal to noise ratios.

An indication of the mean channel activity in DTX mode is given in table A.1. The figure quoted is the average calculated over a large number of conversations covering factors such as different talkers, noise characteristics and locations. It should be noted that the actual activity of a particular talker in a specific conversation may vary considerably from the figure given in the table. This is due to both talker behaviour and the level dependency of the VAD (the channel activity has been found to decrease by about 0.5 % per dB of level reduction). However, as mentioned above, a decreased speech input level increases the risk of objectionable clipping.

**Table A.1: Mean channel activity factor in DTX mode**

| Channel activity factor |
|-------------------------|
| 60 %                    |

## Annex B (informative): Simplified block filtering operation

Consider an 8th order transversal filter with filter coefficients  $a[0..8]$ , through which a signal is being passed, the output of the filter being:

$$s'n = - \sum_{i=0}^8 (a[i]*s[n-i]) \quad (1)$$

If we apply block filtering over 20 ms frames, then this equation becomes:

$$s'n = - \sum_{i=0}^{\min(8,n)} (a[i]*s[n-i]) \quad ; \quad n = 0..167 \quad (2)$$

$$; \quad 0 \leq n \leq 167$$

If the energy of the filtered signal is then obtained for every 20 ms frame, the equation for this is:

$$pvad = \sum_{n=0}^{167} \left( - \sum_{i=0}^{\min(8,n)} (a[i]*s[n-i]) \right)^2 \quad ; \quad 0 \leq n-i \leq 159 \quad (3)$$

We know that:

$$acf[i] = \sum_{n=i}^{159} (s[n]*s[n-i]) \quad ; \quad i = 0..8 \quad (4)$$

$$; \quad 0 \leq n-i \leq 159$$

If equation (3) is expanded and  $acf[0..8]$  are substituted for  $s[n]$  then we arrive at the equations:

$$pvad = r[0]*acf[0] + 2*\sum_{i=1}^8 (r[i]*acf[i]) \quad (5)$$

Where:

$$r[i] = \sum_{k=0}^{8-i} (a[k]*a[k+i]) \quad ; \quad i = 0..8 \quad (6)$$

## Annex C (informative): Pole frequency calculation

This annex describes the algorithm used to determine whether the pole frequency for a second order analysis of the signal frame is less than 385 Hz.

The filter coefficients for a second order synthesis filter are calculated from the first two unquantized reflection coefficients  $rc[1..2]$  obtained from the speech encoder. If the filter coefficients  $a[0..2]$  are defined such that the synthesis filter response is given by:

$$H(z) = 1/(a[0] + a[1]z^{-1} + a[2]z^{-2}) \quad (1)$$

Then the positions of the poles in the Z-plane are given by the solutions to the following quadratic:

$$a[0]z^2 + a[1]z + a[2] = 0, \quad a[0] = 1 \quad (2)$$

The positions of the poles,  $z$ , are therefore:

$$z = re \pm j\sqrt{im}, \quad j^2 = -1 \quad (3)$$

where:

$$re = -a[1] / 2 \quad (4)$$

$$im = (4*a[2] - a[1]^2)/4 \quad (5)$$

If  $im$  is negative then the poles lie on the real axis of the Z-plane and the signal is not a tone and the algorithm terminates. If  $re$  is negative then the poles lie in the left hand side of the Z-plane and the frequency is greater than 2 000 Hz and the prediction error test can be performed.

If  $im$  is positive and  $re$  is positive then the poles are complex and lie in the right hand side of the Z-plane and the frequency in Hz is related to  $re$  and  $im$  by the expression:

$$freq = \arctan(\sqrt{im}/re) * 4000/\pi \quad (6)$$

Having ensured that both  $im$  and  $re$  are positive the test for a pole frequency less than 385 Hz can be derived by substituting equations 4 and 5 into equation 6 and re-arranging:

$$(4*a[2] - a[1]^2)/a[1]^2 < \tan^2(\pi*385/4000) \quad (7)$$

or

$$(4*a[2] - a[1]^2)/a[1]^2 < 0.0973 \quad (8)$$

If this test is true then the signal is not a tone and the algorithm terminates, otherwise the prediction error test is performed.

## History

| Document history |   |
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| May 1997         | First Edition   |
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