List of Figures

1.1 Table of the phonemic alphabets ........................................ 12
1.2 Malayalam Alphabet ..................................................... 15
2.1 Boxplot ................................................................. 29
2.2 Confidence interval plot ............................................... 33
3.1 The normal, lognormal, weibull and gamma distribution of /a/ 47
3.2 QQ plot for normal distribution of the duration values of /a/ . 48
3.3 QQ plot for lognormal distribution of the duration values of /a/ 48
3.4 QQ plot for Weibull distribution of the duration values of /a/ . 49
3.5 QQ plot for Gamma distribution of the duration values of vowel

/a/ ........................................................................ 49
3.6 Box plot of duration of /a/ and /aa/ ................................. 51
3.7 Confidence Interval of duration of /a/ and /aa/ ................... 51
3.8 Box plot of duration of vowels and diphthongs .................... 53
3.9 Confidence Interval of duration of vowels and diphthongs .... 53
3.10 Box plot of duration of vowels ........................................ 54
3.11 Confidence Interval of duration of vowels ........................ 54
3.12 Plot of mean value of duration of vowels and diphthongs ... 55
3.13 Plot of mean value of duration of consonants .................... 55
3.14 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to its position in words 59
3.15 Confidence Interval of duration of /a/ considering 9 positions (first phoneme selected for comparison) 60
3.16 Confidence Interval of duration of /a/ considering 9 positions (syllable 1 selected for comparison) 60
3.17 Confidence Interval of duration of /a/ considering 9 positions (last syllable selected for comparison) 61
3.18 Confidence Interval of duration of /a/ considering 9 positions (syllable 4 selected for comparison) 61
3.19 Probability density function of duration of /a/ considering 4 positions 62
3.20 Box plot of duration of /a/ considering 4 positions 62
3.21 Confidence Interval of duration of vowels considering 4 positions (first phoneme selected for comparison) 63
3.22 Probability density function of duration of /a/ according to position of the word (begin position) in the sentence. 64
3.23 Probability density function of duration of /a/ according to position of the word (end position) in the sentence 64
3.24 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to number of phonemes in the word 65
3.25 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ according to number of phonemes in the word 66
3.26 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to preceding consonants grouped as per place of articulation 68
3.27 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ preceding consonants grouped as per place of articulation 68
3.28 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to succeeding consonants grouped as per place of articulation

3.29 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ according to succeeding consonants grouped as per place of articulation

3.30 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to preceding consonants grouped as per place of articulation

3.31 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ according to preceding consonants grouped as per place of articulation

3.32 Box plot of duration of /a/ according to succeeding consonants grouped as per manner of articulation

3.33 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ according to succeeding consonants grouped as per manner of articulation

3.34 Box plot of duration of /a/ succeeding the consonant /p/ and its geminate /pp/

3.35 Confidence interval of duration of /a/ succeeding the consonant /p/ and its geminate /pp/

3.36 Probability density function of duration of /a/ in all instances, after fixing positional factors and contextual factors

3.37 Plot of standard deviation of duration values of /a/ grouped according to different factors

3.38 Plot of mean duration of /a/ according to its position in the word

3.39 Plot of mean duration of /a/ according to number of phonemes in the word

3.40 Plot of mean duration of /a/ according to preceding consonants
3.41 Plot of mean duration of /a/ according to succeeding consonants ........................................ 76

4.1 Schematic diagram of the probabilistic model ........................................ 84
4.2 CART of phoneme /u/ pruned to level 205 ........................................ 87
4.3 Cost of CART for phoneme /k/ ........................................ 88
4.4 Cost of the CART for phoneme /a/ ........................................ 88
4.5 CART of phoneme /a/ pruned to level 223 ........................................ 89
4.6 Histogram of deviation values ........................................ 95
4.7 Histogram of number of phonemes in words ........................................ 96
4.8 Hidden Markov Model for duration modeling ........................................ 97
4.9 A portion of duration model ........................................ 98

5.1 Duration pattern of the word /paRanju/ ........................................ 114
5.2 Duration pattern of the word /sambandhichu/ ........................................ 114
5.3 Duration pattern of the segment /keralathi/ ........................................ 115
5.4 Duration pattern of the segment /munnar/ ........................................ 115
5.5 Duration patterns of 5 rhyming words with last syllable as /Ti/ 117
5.6 Duration patterns of 3 rhyming words differing in the first syllable only ........................................ 118
5.7 Duration patterns of 5 rhyming words with last syllable as /am/ 118
5.8 Duration patterns of 7 rhyming words and the mean profile 119
5.9 Duration patterns of 5 rhyming words with second morpheme as /manam/ 119
5.10 Duration pattern of phrase /charcha natathi/ ........................................ 120
5.11 Duration pattern of phrase /mantri paranju/ ........................................ 121
5.12 Silhouette plot of clusters with /na/ as first syllable ........................................ 122
5.13 Silhouette plot of clusters with vowel /a/ in first and second syllable. ........................................ 123
5.14 Silhouette plot of clusters with vowel /a/ in first, second and third syllable ............................. 123
5.15 Rank frequency relation of Malayalam words in a corpus of 26865 words compiled from Malayalam newspaper reports .............................. 125
5.16 Memory Prediction Model for duration modeling .............................................. 126

B.1 Map showing languages spoken in different states. (Courtesy: www.mapsofindia.com) .................. 146
B.2 Percentage of people speaking different Indian Languages. (Courtesy: ‘Language in India’, Volume 4, 8 August 2004) ......................... 147
B.3 Map of Indian Language Families. (Courtesy: Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore) .......... 148
List of Tables

2.1 Mean Opinion Score ........................................... 42

3.1 The mean duration and standard deviation of vowels and diphthongs. Third column gives ratio of the duration of long vowel to corresponding short vowel ............................ 50

3.2 The mean duration and standard deviation of consonants ........................................... 56

5.1 Percentage of corpus covered by frequently occurring words ................................... 124