CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The Blizzard Challenge 2020

Evaluating corpus-based speech synthesis on common databases

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February 2020

In order to better understand and compare research techniques in building corpus-based speech synthesisers on the same data, the annual Blizzard Challenges 2005-2019 were held. We are now pleased to call for participation in the sixteenth challenge: Blizzard Challenge 2020. The challenge is to take the released speech data, build synthetic voices, and synthesise a prescribed set of test sentences. The output from each synthesiser is then evaluated through extensive listening tests. The following is an outline description of the challenge – for full details and the rules of participation, please see the web pages.

- **Hub task 2020-MH1: Mandarin Chinese** - About 9.5 hours of speech data from a male native speaker of Mandarin. The task is to build a voice from this data.
- **Spoke task 2020-SS1: Shanghainese** - About 3 hours of speech data from a female native speaker of Shanghainese. The task is to build a voice from this data.

Teams may submit synthetic speech for either or both tasks within their entry.

Blizzard Workshop: The systems will be presented by the participants at the Blizzard Challenge 2020 workshop, which we will be held in Shanghai, China; the provisional date is immediately after Interspeech 2020.

Website: http://www.synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard_Challenge_2020

Registration: Interested parties should register as soon as possible, by mailing blizzard@festvox.org. They should identify a contact person in their team, and provide email and postal addresses. A registration fee is payable for each system underlined submitted for evaluation – details can be found on the website. Do underlined not pay the fee at the time of registration.

Licenses: The license for the data can be found via the Blizzard website. Data will be released to each participant from 20th February, once the appropriate license has been agreed to

Mailing list: It is essential to join the blizzard-discuss mailing list, which is used to send important information to participants. Instructions are on the Blizzard website.

Timeline: http://synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard_Challenge_2020#Timeline

Further Information: For further information please contact blizzard@festvox.org. A description of the challenge was published at Interspeech 2005: http://www.festvox.org/blizzard/bc2005/IS051946.PDF

Please *only* use the address blizzard@festvox.org to contact the organisers of the challenge.