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Philip GARNER
Idiap Research Institute
Centre du Parc
Rue Marconi 19
PO Box 592
CH - 1920 Martigny
Switzerland

August 19, 2016

Dear Philip GARNER,

I am writing to express my interest in the open PhD position titled "Multilingual Affective Speech Synthesis ", posted at Idiap Research Institute website. I am currently research engineer with the Multispeech team at LORIA-INRIA laboratory Nancy, France. Where I pursuing my interest in speech signal processing for the past two years.I respectfully submit this letter of application for the PhD position at Idiap since I believe my experience so far and my quest for knowledge make me qualified to meet the needs of the program.

At LORIA-INRIA I have been working in the area of Computer-Assisted Spoken Language Learning to assist German speakers to learner French. My contribution is towards both the signal processing and machine learning aspects including; speech feature extraction, speech modification and dynamic programming. Previously, I worked on speech text alignment where I was introduce me to speech recognition. My master's internship with Emmanuel Vincent and Franois Charptier, explored audio source localisation by mobile robot.A novel approach based on grid occupancy was proposed, this work got published in IEEE ICASSP 2015 Conference. This experiences demonstrate my research skills and exposure. My MSc courses on signal processing, pattern recognition and machine learning laid the foundation for these.

While contributing to the development of open source speech such as: JSnoori, JTrans and JSafran tools at LORIA-INRIA, I gained expertise in different programming languages like C/C++, Java, Python and JavaScript. At the same time I got a hands on experience in various algorithms and programming paradigms. And I got well acquainted to cluster computing environment and tools for coding within team project. Recently I was introduced to the Theano and DL4J frameworks for implementation of deep learning

architectures.Similarly during MSc intern-ship, I worked with Kinect based robot audio acquisition. These demonstrate my ability to easily adapt to new R&D environments.

The above experiences have made me well aware of the challenges of research. As an individual I also got the opportunity to develop my interpersonal communication and team skills.Working on multi-disciplinary projects involved coordination within team as well as collaboration with other teams. Giving courses to students was one of the great experience that I had, which taught me to communicate to a large group. I am confident that this will enable me to serve me well in your project.

Thank you for your time. Looking forward to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

Aghilas SINI

Attached: Curicullum Vitae