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

June 3, 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 a research engineer with the Multispeech team at LORIA-INRIA laboratory Nancy, France, where I have been 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 learn 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 which was a good experience for me in speech recognition. My master's internship with Emmanuel Vincent and Franois Charpillet, explored audio source localisation by mobile robot, where I was able to apply my learning from MSc courses on signal processing, pattern recognition and machine learning. A novel approach based on grid occupancy was proposed to localize audio source. The results of this work was communicated to and published at IEEE ICASSP 2015 Conference. These experiences have enhanced my research skills.

While contributing to the development of JSnoori, JTrans and JSafran software at LORIA-INRIA, as mentioned in my CV, I gained expertise in different programming languages like Java, Python and JavaScript. Those projects helped me to familiarise cluster computing environment and tools for collaborative coding within team projects. Recently, I was introduced to TensorFlow and DL4J frameworks for implementation of deep learning architectures while investigating combination of pitch estimation with

neural networks. These demonstrate my ability to easily adapt to new R&D environments.

The above experiences have made me well aware of research challenges. 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. During my stay at LORIA-INRIA I taught a web programming course at IUT Charlemagne. This was a great experience and helped me become a better communicator.

Being in the domain of research and working with researchers for over two years gave me the urge to pursue a research career. The challenges and the perpetual evolution associated with research only increases my desire to continue as a researcher. I believe that the PhD position will contribute enormously to my future research plan.

I am confident that my fluency in multi languages such as French, English, Berber, Arabic and my basic understanding of German language will also enable me to contribute well to the project.

Thank you for your time. Looking forward to discuss with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

Aghilas SINI

Attached: Curicullum Vitae