Informed Consent Form

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are invited to participate in a research study titled "CORRELATION-AWARE FINE-GRAINED PROSODY CONTROL FOR EXPRESSIVE SPEECH SYNTHESIS". This study is conducted by National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the performance of a novel text to speech algorithm in terms of speech intelligibility.

Before you decide to participate, please read the following information carefully. It will help you u nderstand the purpose, procedures, potential risks, benefits, and your rights. You are welcome to a sk any questions at any time.

1. What you will do:

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

- Wear headphones in a quiet and controlled lab environment.
- Listen to a series of audio samples.
- Rate or rank the audio samples based on your perception of their quality, clarity, etc.
- The entire session will last approximately 60 minutes.

2. Location:

The experiment will take place at Room 713, National Engineering Research Center for Multimedia Software, School of Computer Science, Wuhan University.

3. Equipment:

Professional audio equipment (e.g., headphones, audio interfaces) will be used to present the stimu li. All equipment is calibrated, and the volume will be set at a comfortable and safe level.

The risks associated with this study are minimal. Potential minor discomforts may include:

- **Fatigue:** Concentrated listening over a period may cause mild mental or auditory fatigue.
- **Discomfort:** A very small number of participants might feel slight discomfort from wearing headphones or from certain sound content.
- **Safeguards:** You may request to pause or stop the experiment at any time without any penalt y. The sound volume will be strictly controlled within a safe range (typically below 80 dBA) to prevent hearing damage.

Direct Benefits: You may gain a deeper understanding of audio technology research.
Indirect Benefits: Your participation will contribute to the advancement of audio processing tech nology for future academic and industrial applications.

Your privacy will be strictly protected:

- Anonymity: All collected data (your ratings) will be separated from your personal identity an

d stored and analyzed anonymously. Your name or any other personally identifiable informati on will never appear in any research reports or publications.

- Data Storage: All data will be encrypted and stored on password-protected computers, access ible only to the research team.
- Data Usage: The collected data will be used solely for this scientific research and subsequent related academic publications (e.g., ICASSP paper, journal articles).

Your participation is entirely voluntary.

- You have the right to decline to participate.
- Even after signing this form, you have the right to withdraw at any stage of the experiment.
- If you choose to opt out, the data you have generated will be immediately destroyed.

Testers signature: Yifan Liao, PeiYu Tian. Xinhong Li, Xinhu Li, FeiShi
Date: 2025.09.02 Chenhuan Dai, Jizhen Li, Huiyu Zhang, HaoMei