CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The Blizzard Challenge 2019
Evaluating corpus-based speech synthesis on common databases
Zhizheng Wu, Sebastien Le Maguer, Joao Cabral, Simon King
January 2019

In order to better understand and compare research techniques in building corpus-based speech synthesizers on the same data, the annual Blizzard Challenges 2005-2018 were held. We are now pleased to call for participation in the fourteenth challenge: Blizzard Challenge 2019. The challenge is to take the released speech data, build a synthetic voice, 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.

• **Single task 2019-MH1: Mandarin Chinese Found Data** - About 8 hours of speech data from an internet talk show by a well-known Chinese character will be released. All data are from a single speaker. The task is to build a voice from this data that is suitable for expressive TTS.

**Blizzard Workshop:** The systems will be presented by the participants at the Blizzard Challenge 2019 workshop, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, immediately after SSW10.

**Website:** http://www.synsig.org/index.php/Blizzard_Challenge_2019

**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 submitted for evaluation – details can be found on the website.

**Licenses:** The license for the released data can be found via the Blizzard website. Data will be released to each participant 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_2019#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.