CLE SEMINAR SERIES-III

Topic: Methods for Subjective Evaluation of Synthesized Speech

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Presentation Date: 21st January, 2014

Venue: KICS Seminar Hall

Abstract:

Assessment of synthesized speech is very essential to ensure a minimum level of speech quality. Naturalness and intelligibility of the synthesized speech are evaluated to guarantee an acceptable voice quality. Diagnostic Rhyme Test in 1972 was first proposed for segmental evaluation and then came Modified Rhyme Test and the Bell-core Tests. ESPRIT_S_{AM} project (1989-1992) proposed four tests; Standard Segmental Test, Consonant Cluster Identification Test, Semantically Unpredictable Sentences, and the S_{AM} Overall Quality Test. The first standard ITU-T P.85 to assess speech quality was introduced in 1994. In 1998 G. Sonntag and T. Portele proposed a method for prosody evaluation and investigation. In 2005 for the evaluation of corpus based synthesizers a blizzard challenge was introduced. Every year this challenge is conducted with some modifications in the evaluation criteria. In this presentation I will give a brief introduction of all these existing evaluation techniques.