

Recommendation for the defense of Ph.D. thesis

Ph.D. candidate: František Grézl
advisor: Jan Černocký

I am happy that František Grézl has finished his thesis under my supervision (though a part of his work was directed by Hynek Hermansky and colleagues at ICSI). This letter comes to recommend his work for the Ph.D. thesis defense.

Franta's work aimed at the feature extraction for speech recognition. He has investigated probabilistic features based on temporal evolution of critical band spectrogram. His work has witnessed the evolution of these features from being poor relative of standard cepstral features, through being a useful complementary component, to current state, where they outperformed the cepstral features and became inseparable part of state-of-the-art systems. He has produced huge number of experiments and was able to critically analyze and discuss their results. His main contribution lays in investigation of modifying operators in the spectro-temporal plane, in thorough testing of posterior-based features in noise and in many experiments with TRAP-based features in LVCSR systems.

Franta was and is highly productive in terms of publications, of which some were published or are accepted for publication at prestigious journals, such as Eurospeech, ICASSP or IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language. He has spent considerable amount of time abroad (OGI/OHSU Portland, Oregon, IDIAP Martigny, Switzerland, ICSI Berkeley, California) and at all these places, his work and ability to cooperate and help were highly estimated.

From personal point of view, Franta developed from a quite self-centered person into a fellow capable of discussion (although continuing to be pretty stubborn which is, on the other hand, a necessary condition for a good researcher!) and also capable to help the others. I highly estimate all the time he spends with younger fellows in our laboratory as well as with students on various projects.

To conclude, I fully recommend his Ph.D. thesis for the defense and I am looking forward to future work with him.

Dr. Jan "Honza" Černocký, Associate Professor
Department of Computer Graphics and Multimedia
Faculty of Information Technology, Brno University of Technology
Bozotechnova 2, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
Tel: +420 5 41141284 Fax: +420 5 41141290
mailto:cernocky@fit.vutbr.cz, <http://www.fit.vutbr.cz/~cernocky>