Recommendation for the defense of Ph.D. thesis

Ph.D. candidate: **Ondřej Glembek**
advisor: **Lukáš Burget**

I am happy that Ondřej Glembek has submitted his thesis under my supervision, and that his long-years efforts have converged to this day.

Ondra's thesis is in the glooming area of speaker recognition using sub-space models and in my opinion, it represents a solid contribution to this area. I am especially happy that he has managed to summarize the state-of-the-art and his own contributions under common mathematical formalism, and that the document has the right share of theoretical correctness and readability. Also, I should mention, that his work has always been concerned not only in mathematical beauty and accuracy of SRE systems, but that everything was done with practical application in mind – his thesis therefore represents quite an important document for practical experimentation and SRE system building both in academia and industry.

The thesis actually covers only part of his activities. He has made equally important contributions in language recognition (including elaborating on "PIVCO" - phonotactic inter-session variability compensation), and speech recognition (decoders, STK and KALDI toolkits). He has been instrumental in all related projects running in BUT Speech@FIT, the most important being the EC FP7 MOBIO, IARPA-sponsored BEST, and DARPA RATS.

Ondra is actually a great team-mate – not only he has extensive know-how of all ingredients (maths, machine learning, programming, data-sets, etc) but he is ready to share with the others: local staff and PhD students, but also co-workers during his research internships (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Johns Hopkins summer workshop) and international research teams (NIST SRE and LRE, BOSARIS and KALDI). It is not by surprise that despite his youth, he has become an esteemed member of the community that awarded him with „Ganesh N. Ramaswamy Memorial Student Grant" at ICASSP 2011.

From personal point of view, I appreciate Ondra's sense of responsibility, fun and also his guitar and amplifier-building skills. I also appreciate that he keeps doing high quality research work despite his ever growing family.

To conclude, I fully recommend Ondřej Glembek's Ph.D. thesis for the defense, I am looking forward to future work with him, and wish him many great (but safe!) motorbike rides and guitar jam sessions.

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