

Recommendation for the defense of Ph.D. thesis

Ph.D. candidate: Oldřich Plchot
advisor: Lukáš Burget

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

Olda's thesis is in the thriving area of speaker recognition using sub-space models and powerful scoring and channel compensation algorithms 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. I also appreciate his carefulness in the experimental evaluation and proficiency in working with huge and disparate data sets.

The thesis actually covers only part of his activities. He has made equally important contributions in the area of language recognition using sub-space representations, and together with Marcel Kockmann, David Martinez and Mehdi Soufifar, pioneered the usage of sub-space multinomial models for various areas of speech data mining. He has been instrumental in speaker- and language-recognition related projects running in the group, notably EC FP7 MOBIO, IARPA-sponsored BEST, and DARPA RATS. In DARPA, he was leading BUT team during the leave of other team members to BBN.

Olda is a great team-mate – not only he has extensive know-how of all ingredients (maths, machine learning, programming, data-sets, networking, operating systems, parallel computing, etc) but he is ready to share with the others: local staff, PhD students, and co-workers in international research teams (NIST SRE and LRE, BOSARIS, BEST and RATS Patrol). He has led successful diploma and Bc. projects and is regularly helping the visitors to BUT to master our speaker and language recognition know-how and tools.

He is a skilled speaker and was selected to present BUT and RATS Patrol team results at several high-level events, such as RATS Patrol PI (principal investigator) meetings.

From personal point of view, I appreciate Olda's sense of responsibility, fun and his passion for good coffee making him an important member of SPON (The Fellowship of the Beloved Beverage at the Department).

To conclude, **I fully recommend Oldřich Plchot's Ph.D. thesis for the defense**, I am looking forward to future work with him, and wish him all the best in his professional and personal life.

In Brno, August 28th 2014



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