



EVALITA 2009



The Italian Speech Community



Within the Italian speech community, several researchers are working on speech technologies evaluation. They have a wide experience in systems evaluation, database collection, scoring metrics, etc.

Even if with some delay in comparison with other similar realities in other countries, Italian speech community achieved the requirements to afford an evaluation campaign. Actors in this scenario are evenly distributed between public academic environment and private companies, even if the latter showed less interests in participating in speech technology evaluation contests.

For this first experience, we prudently decided to afford EVALITA choosing three basic tasks for which we were sure to provide participants with the proper (and publicly available) resources. AISV (Italian Association of Voice Science) firmly supported the adventure to join EVALITA and in the meantime AISV was also promoted the national ISCA Speech Interest Group (SIG). On these basis and considering our interest and background in speech technology evaluation, we start this adventure.





a brief history...

EVALITA 2007

we missed the train....



EVALITA 2009

we arrived with some delay...

*but this time we wilfully decided
not to miss it!*

(but this delay of course caused many problems....)





the 3 speech tasks

☐ Connected Digits Recognition

- ✓ clean digits
- ✓ noisy digits



☐ Spoken Dialogue Systems Evaluation



☐ Speaker Identity Verification

- ✓ Application
- ✓ Forensic





the team



TEAMWORK

coordinators for Speech Technology Evaluation:

- Francesco Cutugno (Uni. Napoli "Federico II")
- Mauro Falcone (Fondazione Ugo Bordini, Roma)

Connected Digits Recognition:

- Gianpaolo Coro (ABLA, Milano)
- Roberto Gretter (FBK-irst, Trento)
- Marco Matassoni (FBK-irst, Trento)

Spoken Dialogue Systems Evaluation:

- Giuseppe Riccardi (Uni. Trento)
- Francesco Cutugno (Uni. Napoli "Federico II")
- Roberto Pieraccini (Speechcycle, New York)
- Morena Danieli (Loquendo, Torino)

Speaker Identity Verification:

- Application

- Guido Aversano (Nuance Communications, Inc.)
- Niko Brümmer (Agnitio, Madrid)

- Forensic

- Luciano Romito (Uni. Calabria, Cosenza)





participants

Digits Recognition (4)

Cosi, ISTC-SPFD CNR (Clean+Noisy)

Cutugno et al., Uni. Napoli "Federico II" (Clean)

D'Anna et al., ABLA s.r.l. (Clean+Noisy)

Palmerini, Cedat 85 (Clean+Noisy)

Spoken Dialogue Systems (3)

Rigo, Stepanov, Quarteroni, Roberti and Riccardi, Uni. Trento

Giraud and Baggia, Loquendo

Mignini and Cutugno, Uni. Napoli "Federico II"

Speaker Identity Verification – Application (7)

Strasheim, Agnitio

Machlica, Uni. West Bohemia

Vogt, Uni. Queensland

Mason, Swansea University

van Leeuwen, Uni. Radboud

Liu, Uni. Tsinghua

Lleida, Uni. Zaragoza

Total = 20



Speaker Identity Verification – Forensic (3)

Ciampini, Reparto Carabinieri Investigazioni

Nunziati, Uni. Firenze

Tucci, Uni. Calabria

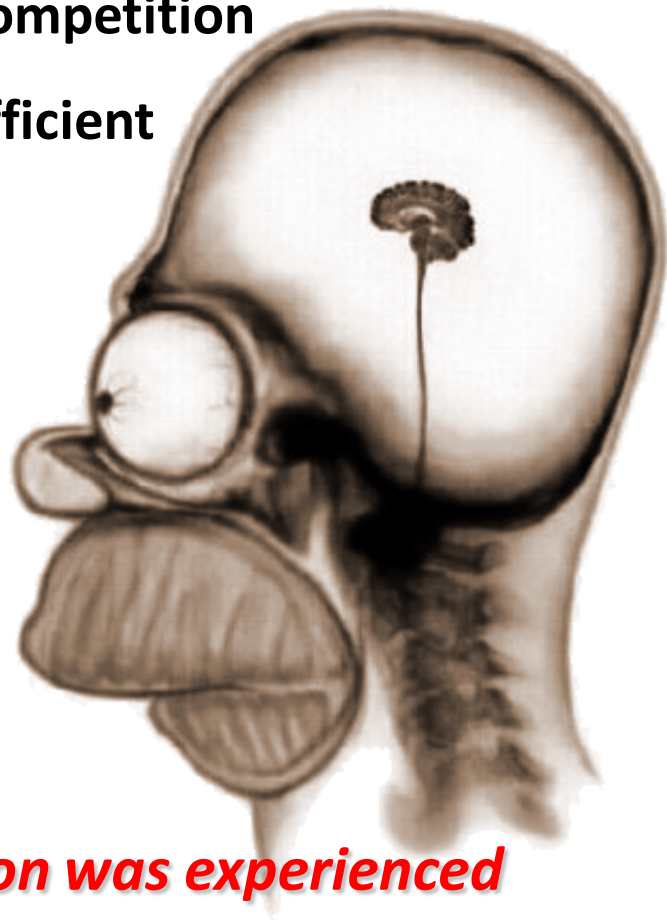


lesson learned

- Companies are, on average, not yet ready to competition
- Linguistic resources publicly available are insufficient
- Some academic research group showed a scarce sensibility for the initiative
- In order to increase success next time, a strong dissemination of present results must be performed (applicable to text too?)

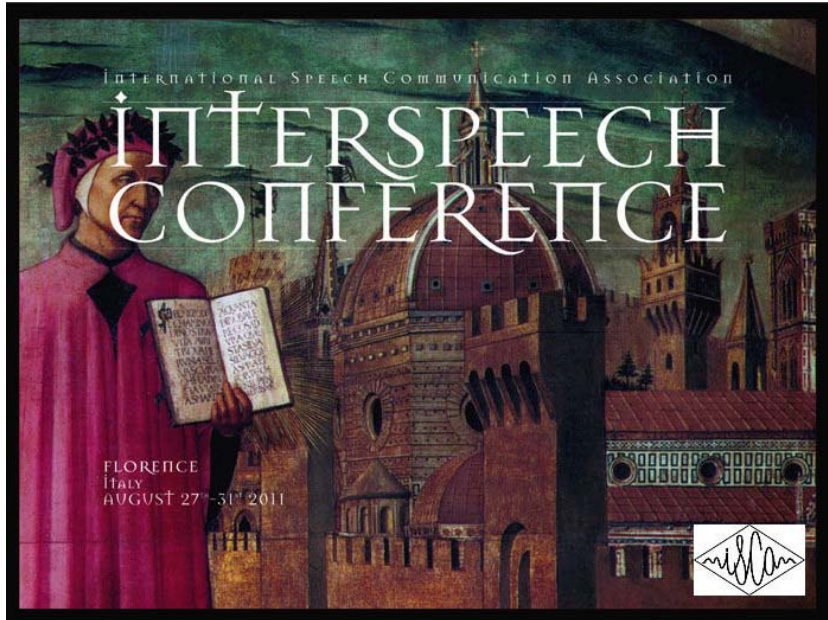
but....

- ***A constructive and enthusiastic participation was experienced among speech community members involved in the initiative.***





coming next



In the next edition:

- starting in time ☺,
- speech community should propose tasks with a higher level of complexity compared to the ones proposed in this edition.

But, synergies in the field of:

- resources availability,
- agreement between companies and academy,
- enforcement of organizational network

Must be achieved

... “Evalita” as a satellite?

... “EurEval” ??

