

Text-to-Speech (TTS) Synthesis

Try out some on-line text-to-speech synthesizers. Think about what types of text words and phrases the synthesizer is likely to produce incorrectly and WHY. In class we discussed seven different types of potential errors; your notes from this lecture would be a good place to start. Remember that the more fancy or commercial the synthesizer, the less likely it will probably be to make mistakes. So try some humdrum synthesizers as well. Turn in the following pages filled out. You will be trying three different text strings. **Each should attempt to test for a different type of error.** Try *each* of the text strings on *three* different synthesizers and report whether they produced the string accurately/appropriately or not. If not, describe *precisely* the nature of the error.

Here are some sites to get started with but you needn't limit yourself to these; any search engine will be able to find many others. These will likely generate a audio file which you will need to play and listen to on your computer; WindowsMediaPlayer, iTunes, or Quicktime are examples of such players.

<http://www.speech.cs.cmu.edu/comp.speech/Section5/Q5.4.html>

<http://www.rhetoricalsystems.com/cgi-bin/demo.cgi>

<http://www.research.att.com/projects/tts/demo.html>

<http://www.tios.cs.utwente.nl/say/form>

<http://www.research.ibm.com/tts/coredemo.html>

<http://www.scansoft.com/realspeak/demo/>

Text String 1

Exact Text String Typed:

Describe the type of error that might occur. That is, what specific part of the test text string are you testing for accuracy or appropriateness of pronunciation:

Synthesizer 1

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 2

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

USC Ling, D. Byrd

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 3

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Text String 2

Exact Text String Typed:

Describe the type of error that might occur. That is, what specific part of the test text string are you testing for accuracy or appropriateness of pronunciation:

Synthesizer 1

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 2

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

USC Ling, D. Byrd

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 3

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Text String 3

Exact Text String Typed:

Describe the type of error that might occur. That is, what specific part of the test text string are you testing for accuracy or appropriateness of pronunciation:

Synthesizer 1

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 2

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

USC Ling, D. Byrd

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):

Synthesizer 3

Exact Website address:

Name of synthesizer (if more than one at this website):

Parameter settings specified for synthesizer (if there are any choices):

Result (either 'no error' or describe precisely what the machine said (use IPA if helpful) and why this production was inaccurate or inappropriate):