The FINITE STRING Newsletter

Note from the Editor of The FINITE STRING

After eight good years at the University of Delaware, I am moving to Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., effective 1 September 1984. Correspondence should then be addressed as follows:

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Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.
10 Moulton Street
Cambridge, MA 02238 U.S.A.

computer mail: Weischedel@BBNG.arpa
phone: 617 497-3496

Calls for Papers

Computer Assisted Information Retrieval
18-20 March 1985
Grenoble, France

International Symposium organized by the Centre des Hautes Etudes d'Informatique Documentaire (C.I.D.)
General chairman: J. Arsac

Program Chairman
E. Chouraqui, *France*

Program Committee
A. Bookstein, *U.S.A.*
J. Boucher, *Canada*
Y. Chiaramella, *France*
C. Ciampi, *Italy*
J. DuCloy, *France*
E. Garcia Camareiro, *Spain*
F. Lynch, *Great Britain*
R.S. Marcus, *U.S.A.*
N. Naffah, *France*
C.D. Paice, *Great Britain*
B. Rieger *G.F.R.*
C.J. vanRijsbergen, *Ireland*
J. Rohmer, *France*
G. Salton, *U.S.A.*
H.J. Schneider, *G.F.R.*
P. Willet, *Great Britain*

Aims of the Symposium

Practical and methodological problems related to computer-assisted analysis and retrieval of information, especially in the area of textual data bases, are far from being completely solved. In a world where the control of growing amounts of information has great importance for every social group, there is a fundamental necessity to enhance research and realization efforts in this domain.

This is the reason why the Centre de Hautes Etudes Internationale d'Informatique Documentaire has for several years undertaken numerous actions for an improved knowledge of the needs in the area, to facilitate and promote meetings among research groups throughout the world, and also in the industrial sector.

With the effective participation and support of high-level scientific personalities, this Conference will allow an understanding of the advancement of research in the field, and an analysis of usefulness of the new systems.

Scientific Program

Main contributions of Artificial Intelligence
- content analysis and automatic indexing of texts
- knowledge representation and computer assisted generation and interrogation of thesauri
- man-computer communication
- multi-lingual systems; related problems and their resolution
- expert systems as basic tools for high level user interfaces in information retrieval software

Research advances in information retrieval
- theoretical bases: information retrieval models, probabilistic models, vector models, fuzzy set models
- qualitative and quantitative evaluation of retrieval system behaviour
- information retrieval ergonomics

Main contributions of Computer Science
- distributed information retrieval systems
- multi-media systems
- DBMS contribution: such as storage techniques, search systems, query refinement techniques, on-line interaction
- iconic systems

User contribution to information retrieval system advances
- generation and use of thesauri
- text indexing; indexing by subject experts or by documentation experts
- integrated management software for libraries and documentation offices

Instructions to Authors

Submit four copies of the full paper (no longer than 5000 words). *Send 10 copies of the first page.* The first page should include the title of the communication, the full name(s) of the author(s), affiliation and address of the author (or of the first author), and an abstract (10 lines).

French-speaking countries: abstract in French and English;
Other countries: abstract in English.

The Conference proceeding will be edited by Grenoble University.

Deadlines

15 September 1984 receipt of papers
30 December 1984 notification of acceptance by Referring Committee

Official Languages
French-English

Theoretical Approaches to Natural Language Understanding
28-30 May 1985
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
sponsored by the CSCSI/SCE10

General Chairperson
Richard Rosenberg, *Dalhousie University*
Program Chairperson
Nick Cercone, *Simon Fraser University*

Program and Organising Committee
Len Schubert, *University of Alberta*
Veronica Dahl, *Simon Fraser University*
David Isarael, *Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.* and *SRI International*
Graeme Hirst, *University of Toronto*
James Allen, *University of Rochester*
Ralph Weischedel, *Bolt, Beranek and Newman Inc.*

Theoretical Approaches to Natural Language Understanding is intended to bring together active researchers in Computational Linguistics, Artificial Intelligence, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Cognitive Science to discuss/hear invited talks, papers, and positions relating to some of the "hot" issues regarding the current state of natural language understanding. The three topics chosen for discussion are intended to form the focus for contributions to Theoretical Approaches to Natural Language Understanding. The three topics include aspects of grammars, aspects of semantics/pragmatics, and knowledge representation. Each of the three topics will consider current methodologies: for grammars – theoretical developments, especially generalised phrase structure grammars and logic-based meta-grammars; for semantics – situational semantics and Montague seman-

tics; for knowledge representation – logical systems (temporal logics, etc.) and special purpose inference systems.

Papers are solicited on topics in any of the areas mentioned above. You are invited to submit four copies of a paper (double-spaced, maximum 4000 words) to the program chairman before **12 January 1985**. Authors will be notified of acceptances by **27 February 1985**. Accepted papers, typed on special forms, will be due **30 March 1985** and should be sent to the program chairman.

To make refereeing possible, it is important that the abstract summarise the novel ideas, contain enough information about the scope of the work, and include comparisons to the relevant literature.

Accepted papers will appear in the Proceedings; those papers so recommended by the reviewers will be considered for inclusion in a special issue of *Computational Intelligence,* an international artificial intelligence journal published by the National Research Council of Canada.

Presentation of papers at the Workshop will be at the discretion of the program/organising committee in order to maintain the focus and workshop flavour of this meeting.

Information concerning local arrangements will be available from the general chairman. Proceedings will be distributed at the Workshop and subsequently available for purchase.

23rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics
8-12 July 1985
University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

This international conference ranges over all of computational linguistics, including understanding, generation, translation, syntax and parsing, semantics, natural language interfaces, speech understanding and generation, phonetics, discourse phenomena, office support systems, author assistance, translation, and computational lexicons. Its scope is intended to encompass the contents of an Applied Natural Language Processing Conference as well as one on Theoretical Issues in Natural Language Processing. In short, we are striving for comprehensiveness.

The meeting will include presented papers, system demonstrations, and, on 8 July, a program of computational linguistics tutorials.

Authors should submit, by **18 January 1985,** 6 copies of an extended summary (6 to 8 pages) to

William C. Mann
ACL85 Program Chairman
USC/ISI
4676 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292, USA
(213)822-1511; mann@isib.

The summaries should describe completed work rather than intended work, and should indicate clearly the state of completion and validation of the research reported, identify what is novel about it, and clarify its status relative to prior reports.

Authors will be notified of acceptance by **8 March 1985**. Full length versions of accepted papers prepared on model paper must be received, along with a signed copyright release notice, by **26 April 1985**.

All papers will be reviewed for general acceptability by one of the two panels of the Program Committee identified below. Authors may designate their paper as either an Applications Paper or a Theory Paper; undesignated papers will be distributed to one or both panels.

Review Panel for Applications Papers

Timothy Finin, *University of Pennsylvania*
Ralph Grishman, *New York University*
Beatrice Oshika, *System Development Corporation*
Gary Simons, *Summer Institute of Linguistics*
Jonathan Slocum, *MCC Corporation*

Review Panel for Theory Papers

Robert Amsler, *Bell Communications Research*
Rusty Bobrow, *Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.*
Daniel Chester, *University of Delaware*
Philip Cohen, *SRI International*
Ivan Sag, *Stanford University*

Those who wish to present demonstrations of commercial, developmental, and research computer programs and equipment specific to computational linguistics should contact

Carole Hafner
College of Computer Science
Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston MA 02115, USA
(617) 437-5116 or (617) 437-2462
hafner.northeastern@csnet-relay

For planning purposes, we would like this information as early as possible, but certainly before **30 April.**

Local arrangements will be handled by

Martha Evens
Computer Science Department
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, IL 60616, USA
(312)567-5153 or (312)869-8537; evens@sri-ai

For other information on the conference, on the 8 July tutorials, and on the ACL more generally, contact

Don Walker (ACL)
Bell Communications Research
445 South Street

Morristown, NJ 07960, USA
(201)829-4312; bellcore!walker@berkeley

Please note that the dates of the conference will allow people to attend the National Computer Conference, which will be held in Chicago the following week.

Conference on Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Machine Translation of Natural Languages
14-16 August 1985
Colgate University, Hamilton, NY 13346

The program of the conference will be biased toward invited lectures and panel discussions. However, a restricted number of excellent submitted papers will be also included.

Major Topics of the Conference

- Machine Translation (MT) as an application area for Theoretical Linguistics (including stylistics and discourse analysis)
- MT as an application area for Artificial Intelligence (including the choice of the representation schemata for MT)
- Theory and methodology of translation and machine translation
- Sublanguages, restricted domains and MT
- MT as a case study in software system development
- Computational tools for MT, human engineering aspects, management and evaluation of MT projects.

Paper Submission

The papers should not exceed 3,000 words, should contain a 250-word abstract and a list of index terms. Send them (and address all inquiries) to

Sergei Nirenburg
MT Conference Program Chair
Department of Computer Science
Colgate University
Hamilton NY 13346
(315) 824-1000 x586

Every paper will be read by two members of the program committee, whose members are:

Christian Boitet, *University of Grenoble*
Jaime Carbonell, *Carnegie-Mellon University*
David MacDonald, *University of Massachusetts*
James Pustejovsky, *University of Massachusetts*
Allen Tucker, *Colgate University*
Don Walker, *Bell Communications Research*

The emphasis of the conference is on the theoretical and methodological issues. Therefore, the papers that do not address such issues will not be considered.

Dates

Submission deadline   March 11, 1985
Notification of acceptance May 15, 1985
Final version due   June 17, 1985

IJCAI-85
18-24 August 1985
University of California, Los Angeles

The IJCAI conferences are the main forum for the presentation of Artificial Intelligence research to an international audience. The goal of IJCAI-85 is to promote scientific interchange, within and between all subfields of AI, among researchers from all over the world. The conference is sponsored by the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Inc., and co-sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). IJCAI-85 will be held at the University of California, Los Angeles, from August 18 through August 24, 1985, with tutorials on the first two days and technical sessions on the last four days.

Topics of Interest

Authors are invited to submit papers on substantial, original, and previously unreported research in any aspect of AI, including

- AI architectures and languages
- AI and education (including intelligent CAI)
- Automated reasoning (including theorem proving, automatic programming, planning, search, problem solving, commonsense, and qualitative reasoning)
- Cognitive modelling
- Expert systems
- Knowledge representation
- Learning and knowledge acquisition
- Logic programming
- Natural language (including speech)
- Perception (including visual, auditory, tactile)
- Philosophical foundations
- Robotics
- Social, economic, and legal implications

Requirements for Submission

Authors should submit four (4) complete copies of their paper. (Hard copy only, no electronic submissions.)

- **Long Papers:**
  5500 words maximum, up to 7 proceedings pages
- **Short Papers:**
  2200 words maximum, up to 3 proceedings pages

Each paper will be stringently reviewed by experts in the topic area specified. Acceptance will be based on originality and significance of the reported research, as well as the quality of its presentation. Applications clear-ly demonstrating the power of established techniques, as well as thoughtful critiques of previously published material will be considered, provided that they point the way to new research and are substantive scientific contributions in their own right.

Short papers are a forum for the presentation of succinct, crisp results. They're not a safety net for long paper rejections.

In order to ensure appropriate refereeing, authors are requested to specify in which of the above topic areas the paper belongs, as well as a set of no more than five keywords for further classification within that topic area. *Because of time constraints, papers requiring major revisions cannot be accepted.*

Details for Submission

The following information must be included with each paper:
- Author's name, address, telephone number and netmail address (if applicable)
- Topic area (plus a set of no more than five keywords for further classification within the topic area)
- An abstract of 100-200 words
- Paper length (in words)

Time Table

- **Submission deadline:** 7 January 1985
  (papers received after 7 January will be returned unopened)
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 16 March 1985
- **Camera ready copy due:** 16 April 1985

Contact Points

Submissions should be sent to the **Program Chair:**

Aravind Joshi
Department of Computer & Information Science
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

General inquiries should be directed to the **General Chair:**

Alan Mackworth
Department of Computer Science
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1W5

Inquiries about program demonstrations (including videotape system demonstrations) and other local arrangements should be sent to the **Local Arrangements Chair:**

Steve Crocker
The Aerospace Corporation
P.O. Box 92957
Los Angeles, CA 90009, USA

Inquiries about tutorials, exhibits, and registration should be sent to the AAAI Office:

Claudia Mazzetti
American Association for Artificial Intelligence
445 Burgess Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA

International Pragmatics Conference
1-8 September 1985
Viareggio, Italy

Organizers

Marcella Bertuccelli Papi, *Université de Genève*

Jef Verschueren, *Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research*

Aim of the Conference

The field of pragmatics (as originally defined by Charles Morris) has in recent years witnessed ever-increasing diversification. Various disciplines that make use of pragmatic concepts and that can directly contribute to our understanding of human communication exist side by side, with different alleged aims and purposes, methodologies, and terminologies. It is the aim of this conference to contribute to the theoretical coherence needed to improve the capability and applicability of research results.

Structure

During each of the five morning sessions two lectures will be delivered by representatives of different disciplines dealing with pragmatic aspects of language. To promote discussion, texts will be distributed in advance. The tentative list of lecturers includes:

H. Clark, *Stanford*
U. Eco, *Bologna*
P. Hopper, *Binghamton*
D. Hymes, *Philadelphia*
S. Levinson, *Cambridge*
D. Parisi, *Roma*
C. Perfetti, *Pisa*
L.J. Prieto, *Genève*
Ch. Schwarze, *Konstanz*
A. Zampolli, *Pisa*

Afternoon sessions will be organized around the themes touched upon during the morning lectures.

On the final day, a general synthesis and evaluation will follow in the form of a round table discussion.

Papers

Papers on any topic studied from a pragmatic perspective are invited. Abstracts (in English) should be sent *before 15 February 1985* to *each* of the organizers:

Marcella Bertuccelli Papi
Université de Genève

Département de langues et littératures romanes
3 rue Condolle
CH-1205 Genève, Switzerland
[telephone: 022/360717]

Jef Verschueren
University of Antwerp
Linguistics (Germ. Phil.)
Universiteitsplein 1
B-2610 Wilrijk, Belgium
[telephone: 03/2301680]

Conference Fees and Accommodation

A registration fee of $20.00 should be paid to the following account:

16260/00
Marcella Papi
Cassa di Risparnio di Firenze
Viareggio

The City Council of Viareggio will provide reduced rates for accommodation. Detailed information may be requested from the organizers.

Programs

Coling84:
10th International Conference on Computational Linguistics and 22nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics
1-6 July 1984; Stanford University, California

JULY 2

1030-1130   Invited paper
            Wolfgang Wahlster [D]
            User Models in Dialog Systems.

1130-1200   Short papers
   I. Machine Translation
      Lloyd B. Anderson [US]
      Multilingual Text Processing in a Two-Byte Code: Current Issues.
   II. Generation
      Malcom E. Cook, Wendy G. Lehnert, David D. McDonald [US]
      Conveying Implicit Content in Narrative Summaries.
   III. Natural Language Interface
      Gabriel Pereira Lopes [P]
      Transforming English Interfaces to Other Natural Languages: an Experiment with Portuguese.
   IV. Discourse
      J. Chauche [F]
      Un Outil Multidimenssionel de l'Analyse du Discours.
   V. Parsing
      Tetsunosuke Fujisaki [J]
      A Stochastic Approach to Sentence Parsing.