

The scientific programme of COLING-92

In my capacity as Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee of COLING-92, I wish to express my gratitude to all my colleagues who have contributed to the reading and selection of about 420 papers submitted for COLING-92. The work of the Programme Committee has been organized at two levels. In consultation with the members of the International Committee on Computational Linguistics, I have identified nine major areas of interest, and for each area I have appointed a coordinator. Each of the nine coordinators, which together formed the Programme Committee, has set up a subcommittee, selecting a number of reviewers.

The task of the coordinator was to distribute the papers to the reviewers, to collect and summarize their evaluations, and to express an overall recommendation: to accept a paper as topical, to accept the paper as a project note, or to reject the paper. I have always followed the recommendations of the coordinators. The few papers which, in each area, were classified as "uncertain", i.e. left without a specific recommendation, were ranked in descending order of acceptability by the coordinator. In these cases, I have used the following criteria for acceptance: i) within each area, the ranking of the coordinator has been respected, ii) across areas, preference has been given to papers accompanied by a demonstration, and to topics less represented in the overall programme.

I also wish to express my appreciation to my colleagues N Calzolari, A. Capelli, P. Orsolini, and S. Rossi of the Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale of the CNR of Pisa for their generous support in the task of classifying and distributing the papers, collecting the judgements, and setting the final programme.

My deepest gratitude must go to Ch. Boitet and F. Peccoud for their contribution to the work of the Programme Committee, and for the enthusiasm and the energy they have given in organizing the Conference. I can fully appreciate the quantity of work required for the organization of a COLING Conference, since I have already been involved in the organization of the Conference twice before: in 1978 (Bergen) as Chairman of the Programme Committee, and in 1973 (Pisa) as local organizer.

Recollecting these two COLING Conferences, two considerations regarding developments in our field come to mind. In my Introduction to the proceedings of COLING-73 (A. Zampolli, N. Calzolari, eds., Computational and Mathematical Linguistics, Firenze, 1977, 4 volumes), I advocated the complementarity between the then dominant "puristic" approach to computational linguistics (represented, for example, in the Foreword of Hans Karlgren to the same Proceedings), focusing on computation and on the derivation of results according to rules, and a more "pragmatic" approach, focusing on practical, applicable results and on the ability to process large collections of real linguistic data.

In particular, I stressed the need to promote corpus-based studies, statistical methods, robust morphosyntactic taggers and parsers, adequate large machine dictionaries, cooperation with descriptive linguists, lexicographers, humanists using computers, etc. Today, particularly due to the pressing requests of the "language industry" sector for robust NLP components capable of dealing with real language uses, the process of convergence between the two approaches is underway, and can be recognized as a major feature characterizing the present stage of development.

Programmes and actions promoted by the major international and national Funding Agencies have been of paramount importance in shaping the evolution of our field in this direction. The Commission of the European Communities began to promote large scale activities in natural language processing more or less around the time of the Bergen COLING Conference in 1978. I still remember the endless conversations and discussions taking place during the Conference cruise along the magnificent Norwegian fjords, stimulated by the rumours that the Commission intended to launch programmes in machine translation and documentation.

The role and influence of the Funding Agencies has, since then, dramatically increased. Furthermore, to respond to the pressing needs of our multilingual society in producing, distributing, accessing, and retrieving information encoded in natural language, international cooperation is crucial. Specifically, common policies, adequate linguistic infrastructures, standards for resources and product development must be established if we want an effective language technology and a real language industry.

For these reasons, we felt it was appropriate to organize, for the first time within COLING, a panel of the representatives from European (CEC, EUREKA), American (DARPA, NSF) and Japanese Funding Agencies to discuss needs, priorities, policies, and perspectives, and to set up a session dedicated to the presentation of representative large-scale, publicly funded projects. The global amount of resources made available to natural language processing activities and the awareness of the strategic relevance of possible industrial applications has increased in the last few years.

We have arrived at a very crucial stage: interest in our field and the anticipation of valid results are great. We must carefully evaluate the state-of-the-art in relation to the various tasks and applications, identify priorities in research and development, and seriously promote the integration of various approaches. We hope that this COLING will provide a significant contribution towards these goals.

Pisa, May 11th, 1992.

Relecteurs

Committee 1a (phonology, morphology, syntax)

Coordinator *Coördinateur*

Hans Uszkoreit, Univ. of Saarbrücken

Reviewers *Lecteurs*

Anne Abeillé, Univ. Paris 7
Bran Boguraev, IBM Yorktown Heights
Steven Bird, Univ. of Edinburgh
Gosse Bouma, Univ. Groningen
Bob Carpenter, Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Lauri Carlson, Univ. of Helsinki
Martin Emele, Univ. Stuttgart
Alex Franz, CMU, Pittsburgh
Sebastian Millies, Univ. Saarbrücken
David Milward, Univ. Edinburgh
Klaus Netter, DFKI Saarbrücken
Karel Oliva, Univ. Saarbrücken
Steve Pulman, SRI Cambridge
Michael Rosner, IDSIA Lugano
Harald Trost, Univ. Wien
Gertjan van Noord, Univ. Groningen
Nino Varile, CEC Luxemburg
Meg Withgott, XEROX PARC
Henk Zeevat, Univ. of Amsterdam

Committee 1b (semantics & pragmatics)

Coordinator *Coördinateur*

Eva Hajicova, Charles Univ. (Prague)

Reviewers *Lecteurs*

Diane Litman, Columbia University (NY)
Bonnie Lynn Webber, University of Pennsylvania
Wolfgang Wahlster, DFKI (Saarbrücken)
Jens Erik Fenstad, University of Oslo
Petr Sgall, Charles University (Prague)

Reviewers

Committee 1c (dialogue and discourse)

Coordinator *Coördinateur*

Candy Sidner, Cambridge Research Lab (DEC)

Reviewers *Lecteurs*

Douglas Appelt, SRI-International
Jim Barnett, MCC
Mario Borillo, IRIT/CNRS
Susan Brennan, Univ. of New York at Stony Brook
Sande Carberry, Univ. of Delaware
Robert Dale, Univ. of Edinburgh
Brad Goodman, Mitre Corp.
Julia Hirschberg, AT&T Bell Labs
Graeme Hirst, Univ. of Toronto
Diane Horton, Univ. of Toronto
Ed Hovy, ISI (Univ. of S. Cal)
Inderjeet Mani, MCC
Megumi Kameyama, SRI-International
Alex Lascarides, Univ. of Edinburgh
Diane Litman, Columbia Univ.
Susann Luperfoy, Mitre Corp.
Kathy McCoy, Univ. of Delaware
Johanna Moore, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Jon Oberlander, Univ. of Edinburgh
Cecile Paris, ISI (Univ. of S. Cal)
Becky Passoneau, Columbia Univ.
Ehud Reiter, Univ. of Edinburgh
Elaine Rich, MCC
Gregory Ward, Northwestern Univ.
Bonnie Webber, Univ. of Pennsylvania
Ursula Wolz, Trenton State College

Committee 2 (computational methods)

Coordinator / *Coordinateur*

Mark Liberman, Univ of Pennsylvania

Reviewers / *Lecteurs*

Robert C. Berwick, MIT AI Laboratory
Michael Brent, Johns Hopkins University
Peter F. Brown, IBM - T.J. Watson
Ken Church, Bell Laboratories
Ralph Grishman, New York University
Per-Kristian Halvorsen, Xerox PARC
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Aravind Joshi, University of Pennsylvania
Judith Klavans, IBM T.J. Watson Research
Mitch Marcus, University of Pennsylvania
Sergei Nirenburg, Carnegie Mellon University
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Michael D. Riley, AT&T Bell Laboratories
Yves Schabes, University of Pennsylvania
Richard Sproat, AT&T Bell Laboratories
Mark Steedman, University of Pennsylvania

Committee 3 (Tools)

Coordinator / *Coordinateur*

Martin Kay, Xerox Parc

Reviewers / *Lecteurs*

John Maxwell, Xerox PARC
Hadar Shemtov, Stanford University

Committee 4 (Large-Scale resources)

Coordinator / *Coordinateur*

Don Walker, AT&T Bell Labs

Reviewers / *Lecteurs*

Thomas Ahlswede, Central Michigan University
Hiyan Alshawi, SRI International Cambridge
Shinya Amano, Toshiba R&D Center
Bran Boguraev, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
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Ulrich Heid, Universitaet Stuttgart
Peter Hellwig, Universitaet Heidelberg
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Robert J. P. Ingria, BBN Systems & Technologies
Paul S. Jacobs, General Electric Corporate R&D
Karen Jensen, Microsoft corp.
Judith Klavans, IBM TJ Watson Research Center
Karen Kukich, Bellcore
Thomas Landauer, Bellcore
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Willy Martin, Free University Amsterdam
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Sergei Nirenburg, Carnegie Mellon University
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Michael Sherwood-Smith, University College Dublin
Stuart M. Shieber, Harvard University
Frank A. Smadja, Columbia University
Richard Sproat, AT&T Bell Laboratories
Hiroyuki Suzuki, Matsushita (Tokyo Laboratory)
Hideki Tanaka, NHK Sc. & Techn. Research Labs
Syun Tutiya, Chiba University
Paola Velardi, Universita di Ancona
Jean Veronis, Vassar College
Piek Vossen, Amsterdam
Bonnie Lynn Webber, University of Pennsylvania
Yorick A. Wilks, New Mexico State University
Sho Yoshida, Kyushu Institute of Technology
Annie Zaenen, Xerox PARC (Palo Alto)
Uri Zernik, GE-CRD

**Committee 5
Applications)**

Coordinator
Coördinateur

Makoto Nagao, Kyoto University

Reviewers
Lecteurs

Winfield Scott Bennett, LRC (Siemens, Austin)

Louis Des Tombe, RILS (Utrecht)

Bonnie J. Dorr, University of Maryland

Arnold Douglas, University of Essex

Ralph Grishman, New-York University

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Richard Kittredge, University of Montreal

Kiyoshi Kogure, NTT Basic Research Labs

Yuji Matsumoto, Kyoto University

Michael McCord, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center

Jun-ichi Nakamura, Kyushu Institute of Technology

Sergei Nirenburg, Carnegie Mellon University

Yoshihiko Nitta, Hitachi Basic Research Labs

Naoyuki Okada, Kyushu Institute of Technology

Elaine Rich, MCC

Christian Rohrer, Universitaet Stuttgart

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Robert F. Simmons, University of Texas at Austin

Harry L. Somers, CCL (UMIST, Manchester)

Hozumi Tanaka, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Masaru Tomita, Carnegie Mellon University

Jun-ichi Tsujii, CCL (UMIST, Manchester)

Peter Wallis, CITRI (Carlton, Australia)

Susan Warwick, ISSCO (Geneva)

**Committee 6
(NLP & hypermedia)**

Coordinator
Coördinateur

Stephen G. Pulman, SRI Cambridge

Reviewers
Lecteurs

Hiyan Alshawi, SRI Cambridge

Arnold Smith, SRI Cambridge

Ted Briscoe, Cambridge University

Manny Rayner, SRI Cambridge

Karen Sparck Jones, Cambridge University

Steve Young, Cambridge University

Nick Youd, Logica Cambridge

Ewan Klein, Edinburgh University

Graeme Ritchie, Edinburgh University

Chris Mellish, Edinburgh University

Louisa Sadler, Essex University

**Committee 7
(generic questions in language
industry)**

Coordinator
Coördinateur

Antoine Ogonowski, GSI-Erli

Reviewers
Lecteurs

Jean FARGUES, IBM France

Corinne FOURNIER, DASSAULT AVIATION

Kenji HANATAKA, ARIS GmbH

Ralph KESE, TRIUMPH ADLER

Joseph PENTHEROUDAKIS, ECS (Provo)