EMNLP 2017

Workshop on Building Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems

Proceedings of the Workshop

September 8, 2017
Copenhagen, Denmark

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ISBN 978-1-945626-86-9

Introduction

While the field of natural language processing has made tremendous strides as a result of machine learning techniques, systems trained within this traditional model typically do not generalize well beyond the characteristics of their training data. Especially with the influx of deep learning approaches in NLP, it is increasingly the case not only that systems are restricted in the conditions under which they work well—but also that we have little idea what exactly those conditions are.

We believe that linguistic knowledge will be instrumental to addressing these issues, so for this workshop we designed a special shared task, with the goal of bringing together researchers from NLP and linguistics to test the true linguistic generalization capacities of NLP systems. In addition to the shared task, the workshop also welcomed research contribution papers on the topic of linguistically generalizable NLP systems.

EMNLP 2017 hosts the first iteration of the Workshop on Building Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems, in Copenhagen, Denmark on September 8, 2017.

This volume contains an overview paper describing the workshop and shared task, in addition to Shared Task Description papers from our task participants, and several Research Contribution papers. We received 13 paper submissions, including 9 in the Research Contribution track and 4 Shared Task Description track. We accepted 9 submissions: 5 Research Contributions, and 4 Shared Task Descriptions.

We are grateful to our program committee, our participants, and all authors who submitted papers for consideration, for making possible the first iteration of this workshop and shared task. We also thank the EMNLP 2017 organizers for their support.

The BLGNLP Organizers,
Emily M. Bender, Hal Daumé III, Allyson Ettinger, Sudha Rao

Organizers:

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Invited Speakers:

Aurelie Herbelot, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Grzegorz Chrupała, Tilburg University
Martha Palmer, University of Colorado at Boulder

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Conference Program

Friday, September 8, 2017

09:00–09:15 ***Welcome Note***

Towards Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems: A Workshop and Shared Task
Allyson Ettinger, Sudha Rao, Hal Daumé III and Emily M. Bender

09:15–10:00 *Invited Talk*
Aurelie Herbelot

10:00–12:10 **Session 1: Research Contribution Papers**

10:00–10:25 *Analysing Errors of Open Information Extraction Systems*
Rudolf Schneider, Tom Oberhauser, Tobias Klatt, Felix A. Gers and Alexander Löser

10:30–11:00 ***Coffee Break***

11:00–11:45 *Invited Talk*
Grzegorz Chrupała

11:45–12:10 *Massively Multilingual Neural Grapheme-to-Phoneme Conversion*
Ben Peters, Jon Dehdari and Josef van Genabith

12:10–12:30 ***"Build It Break It, Language Edition" Shared Task Overview***

12:30–14:00 ***Lunch Break***

14:00–14:45 *Invited Talk*
Martha Palmer

Friday, September 8, 2017 (continued)

14:45–15:35 Session 2: Shared Task Description Papers

14:45–15:10 *BIBI System Description: Building with CNNs and Breaking with Deep Reinforcement Learning*
Yitong Li, Trevor Cohn and Timothy Baldwin

15:10–15:35 *Breaking NLP: Using Morphosyntax, Semantics, Pragmatics and World Knowledge to Fool Sentiment Analysis Systems*
Taylor Mahler, Willy Cheung, Micha Elsner, David King, Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, Cory Shain, Symon Stevens-Guille and Michael White

15:35–16:00 ***Coffee Break***

16:00–17:15 Poster Session

An Adaptable Lexical Simplification Architecture for Major Ibero-Romance Languages
Daniel Ferrés, Horacio Saggion and Xavier Gómez Guinovart

Cross-genre Document Retrieval: Matching between Conversational and Formal Writings
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17:15–17:30 ***Closing Remarks***