EMNLP 2011

Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing

Proceedings of the UCNLG+Eval: Language Generation and Evaluation Workshop

©2011 The Association for Computational Linguistics

Order copies of this and other ACL proceedings from:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) 209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA

Tel: +1-570-476-8006 Fax: +1-570-476-0860 acl@aclweb.org

ISBN: 978-1-937284-18-3 / 1-937284-18-2

Introduction

The Workshop on Language Generation and Evaluation (UCNLG+EVAL) took place in Edinburgh on 31st July 2011, as part of EMNLP'11. It was the fourth of the UCNLG workshops which have the general aims

- 1. to provide a forum for reporting and discussing corpus-oriented methods for generating language;
- 2. to foster cross-fertilisation between NLG and other fields where language is automatically generated; and
- 3. to promote the sharing of data and methods for the purpose of system building and comparative evaluation in all language generation research.

Each of these workshops has had a special theme: at the first workshop (co-located with Corpus Linguistics 2005 in Birmingham, UK) it was the use of corpora in NLG; at the second (co-located with MT Summit 2007 in Copenhagen, Denmark) it was Language Generation and Machine Translation; at the third (co-located with ACL-IJCNLP 2009 in Singapore) it was Language Generation and Summarisation. The special theme of this fourth UCNLG workshop was Language Generation and Evaluation. The core aim was to showcase the latest developments in methods for evaluating computationally generated language across NLP, and to continue the discussion of future directions.

The call for papers issued at the end of January 2011 elicited a good number of high-quality submissions, each of which was peer-reviewed by three members of the programme committee. The interest in the workshop from leading NLG researchers and the quality of submissions was high, so we aimed to be as inclusive as possible within the practical constraints of the workshop. In the end we accepted four submissions as long papers and three as short papers.

The resulting workshop programme packed a lot of exciting content into one day. We were delighted to be able to include in the programme a keynote presentation by Prof Ehud Reiter, one of the most eminent researchers in NLG and a pioneer in task-based evaluation of NLG. Our technical programme was evenly divided between papers on new data resources for NLG (Galanis & Androutsopoulos; Viethen & Dale; Greenbacker et al.), and papers on generation methodologies (Curto et al.; Rajkumar & White; Copestake & Herbelot; de Kok). The programme also included a session of overview presentations of all eight past, current and in-preparation shared tasks in NLG. These overview presentations formed the basis for an interactive discussion session on the future of shared tasks in NLG.

We would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the organisation and delivery of this workshop: the authors who submitted such high quality papers; the programme committee for their prompt and effective reviewing; our keynote speaker, Ehud Reiter; the EMNLP 2011 Organising Committee, especially the workshops chair, Marie Candito; all the participants in the workshop and future readers of these proceedings for your shared interest in this exciting area of research.

July 2011

Anja Belz, Roger Evans, Albert Gatt, and Kristina Striegnitz

Organizers:

Anja Belz, University of Brighton, UK Roger Evans, University of Brighton, UK Albert Gatt, University of Malta, Malta Kristina Striegnitz, Union College, USA

Programme Committee:

Aoife Cahill, Stuttgart University, Germany
Charlie Greenbacker, University of Delaware, USA
Emiel Krahmer, Tilburg University, NL
Mirella Lapata, University of Edinburgh, UK
Oliver Lemon, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK
Daniel Marcu, ISI, University of Southern California, USA
Kathy McKeown, Columbia, USA
Karolina Owczarzak, NIST, USA
Ehud Reiter, Aberdeen, UK

Invited Speaker:

Ehud Reiter, Aberdeen, UK

Table of Contents

A New Sentence Compression Dataset and Its Use in an Abstractive Generate-and-Rank Sentence pressor	ce Com-
Dimitrios Galanis and Ion Androutsopoulos	1
GRE3D7: A Corpus of Distinguishing Descriptions for Objects in Visual Scenes Jette Viethen and Robert Dale	12
A Corpus of Human-written Summaries of Line Graphs Charles Greenbacker, Sandra Carberry and Kathleen McCoy	23
Invited talk: Task-Based Evaluation of NLG Systems: Control vs Real-World Context Ehud Reiter	28
Exploring linguistically-rich patterns for question generation Sérgio Curto, Ana Cristina Mendes and Luísa Coheur	33
Linguistically Motivated Complementizer Choice in Surface Realization Rajakrishnan Rajkumar and Michael White	39
Exciting and interesting: issues in the generation of binomials Ann Copestake and Aurélie Herbelot	45
Discriminative features in reversible stochastic attribute-value grammars Daniël de Kok	54

Conference Programme

Resources 09:05 A New Sentence Compression Dataset and Its Use in an Abstractive Generate-and-Rank Sentence Compressor Dimitrios Galanis and Ion Androutsopoulos 09:35 GRE3D7: A Corpus of Distinguishing Descriptions for Objects in Visual Scenes Jette Viethen and Robert Dale 10:05 A Corpus of Human-written Summaries of Line Graphs Charles Greenbacker, Sandra Carberry and Kathleen McCoy 10:30 **COFFEE Shared Tasks Session** 11:00 Stock taking: Task Summary presentations Roadmapping: Interactive discussion on future of shared tasks 12:30 13:00 **LUNCH Invited Talk** 14:00 Task-Based Evaluation of NLG Systems: Control vs Real-World Context **Ehud Reiter Generation Methodologies** 15:00 Exploring linguistically-rich patterns for question generation Sérgio Curto, Ana Cristina Mendes and Luísa Coheur 15:20 Linguistically Motivated Complementizer Choice in Surface Realization Rajakrishnan Rajkumar and Michael White 15:40 **COFFEE** 16:10 Exciting and interesting: issues in the generation of binomials Ann Copestake and Aurélie Herbelot 16:40 Discriminative features in reversible stochastic attribute-value grammars Daniël de Kok