MOLTO - Multilingual On Line Translation

Aarne Ranta

University of Gothenburg

aarne@chalmers.se

http://www.molto-project.eu

MOLTO was based on the idea of controlled natural languages (CNL), where an underlying semantimodel works as an interlingua and makes it possible to translate with high precision. The challenge of MOLTO was to scale up the CNL idea on several dimensions:

- to multilingual systems with up to 15 simultaneous languages
- to ambiguous language, with guided interactive disambiguation
- to different domains, ranging from mathematics to tourist phrasebooks
- to non-expert users, who could build a translation system with a minimal training and effort
- to hybrid systems combining formal grammars with statistics
- to applications relevant to the industry and with commercial potential

The main outcome of MOLTO was a set of tools for building web-based translation systems. These tools are freely available with open-source licenses. Their active development is continued in the GF community (http://www.grammaticalframework.org), in the participating companies (Ontotext and Be Informed), and also in some other companies. The number of languages with readily available resources for MOLTO-style applications has grown from 15 to 28, and includes a majority of EU's official languages as well as some major Asian languages. MOLTO's heritage also includes collaboration and exchange of resources with other open-source language technology communities, in particular, Attempto (controlled languages) and Apertium (machine translation).