

ACL-IJCNLP 2009

TextInfer 2009

2009 Workshop on Applied Textual Inference

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Introduction

Applied textual inference has attracted a significant amount of attention in recent years. Recognizing textual entailments and detecting semantic equivalences between texts are at the core of many NLP tasks, including question answering, information extraction, text summarization, and many others. Developing generic algorithms and resources for inference and paraphrasing would therefore be applicable to a broad range of NLP applications.

The success of the first three Recognizing Textual Entailment (RTE) Pascal challenges and the high participation in this year's NIST-organized RTE challenge show that there is a very substantial interest in the area among the research community. RTE and paraphrase detection tasks have considerably stimulated research in the area of applied semantics, and computational models for textual inference are becoming more and more reliable and accurate as a result.

The goal of this workshop is to provide a common forum where people can discuss and compare novel ideas, models and tools for textual inference and paraphrasing. The workshop follows previous ACL workshops on these topics (the ACL workshop on "Empirical Modeling of Semantic Equivalence and Entailment", 2005, and the joint ACL-PASCAL workshop "Textual Entailment and Paraphrasing", 2007). This line of workshops goes in parallel with the RTE challenges, now organized by NIST, by promoting a deeper understanding of what are the scientific achievements and the new findings emerging in the field.

We would like to thank all the people that made this workshop possible: the people that submitted a paper, the reviewers, and the participants.

Enjoy the workshop!

The workshop organizers,

Chris Callison-Burch, John Hopkins University (Program Co-chair)

Ido Dagan, Bar Ilan University

Christopher Manning, University of Stanford

Marco Pennacchiotti, Yahoo Research Labs

Fabio Massimo Zanzotto, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (Program Co-chair)

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Conference Program

Thursday, August 6, 2009

8:45–9:00 Opening Remarks

Session 1: Foundational Aspects and Linguistic Analysis of Textual Entailment

9:00–9:30 *Multi-word expressions in textual inference: Much ado about nothing?*
Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, Sebastian Pado and Christopher D. Manning

9:30–10:00 *A Proposal on Evaluation Measures for RTE*
Richard Bergmair

10:00–10:30 Coffee Break

10:30–11:00 *Sub-sentential Paraphrasing by Contextual Pivot Translation*
Aurélien Max

11:00–12:00 Invited Talks

12:00–13.50 Lunch

Session 2: Learning Textual Entailment Rules and Building Corpora

13:50–14:20 *Augmenting WordNet-based Inference with Argument Mapping*
Idan Szpektor and Ido Dagan

14:20–14:50 *Optimizing Textual Entailment Recognition Using Particle Swarm Optimization*
Yashar Mehdad and Bernardo Magnini

14:50–15:10 *Ranking Paraphrases in Context*
Stefan Thater, Georgiana Dinu and Manfred Pinkal

15:10–15:30 *Building an Annotated Textual Inference Corpus for Motion and Space*
Kirk Roberts

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

Thursday, August 6, 2009 (continued)

Session 3: Machine Learning Models and Application of Textual Inference

16:00–16:30 *Using Hypernymy Acquisition to Tackle (Part of) Textual Entailment*
Elena Akhmatova and Mark Dras

16:30–17:00 *Automating Model Building in c-rater*
Jana Sukkariéh and Svetlana Stoyanchev

17:00–17:20 *Presupposed Content and Entailments in Natural Language Inference*
David Clausen and Christopher D. Manning

17:20–18:00 Final Panel and Discussion