

EMNLP 2011

TextInfer 2011 Workshop on Textual Entailment

Proceedings of the Workshop

July 30, 2011
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

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ISBN 978-1-937284-15-2 / 1-937284-15-8

Introduction

Textual inference and paraphrase have attracted a significant amount of attention in recent years. Many NLP tasks, including question answering, information extraction, and text summarization, can be mapped at least partially onto the recognition of textual entailments and the detection of semantic equivalence between texts. Robust and accurate algorithms and resources for inference and paraphrasing can be beneficial for a broad range of NLP applications, and have stimulated research in the area of applied semantics over the last years.

The success of the Recognizing Textual Entailment challenges and the high participation in previous workshops on textual inference and paraphrases – *Empirical Modeling of Semantic Equivalence and Entailment* (ACL 2005), *Textual Entailment and Paraphrasing* (ACL/PASCAL 2007), and *TextInfer 2009* (ACL) – show that there is substantial interest in the area among the research community.

TextInfer 2011 follows these workshops and aims to provide a common forum for researchers to discuss and compare novel ideas, models and tools for textual inference and paraphrasing. One particular goal is to broaden the workshop to invite both theoretical and applied research contributions on the joint topic of “inference.” We aim to bring together empirical approaches, which have tended to dominate previous textual entailment events, with formal approaches to inference, which are more often presented at events like ICoS or IWCS. We feel that the time is ripe for researchers from both groups to join for this event, with the goal of establishing a discussion on how the two approaches relate to one another, and how to define interfaces between the two methodologies.

We would like to thank all the people that made this event possible: the authors of submitted papers, the reviewers, and the participants.

Enjoy the workshop!

The workshop organizers,

Peter Clark, Vulcan Inc.

Ido Dagan, Bar-Ilan University

Katrin Erk, University of Texas at Austin

Sebastian Pado, Heidelberg University (Program Co-chair)

Stefan Thater, Saarland University (Program Co-chair)

Fabio Massimo Zanzotto, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

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Kentaro Torisawa, NICT (Japan)
Annie Zaenen, PARC (USA)

Invited Speaker:

Bill Dolan, Microsoft Research (USA)

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Workshop Program

Saturday, July 30, 2011

- 8:45–9:00 Opening Remarks
- 9:00–10:00 Invited Talk by Bill Dolan: “Broad-domain Paraphrasing”
- 10:00–10:30 *Evaluating Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions in Context: Results for German and the Role of Information Structure*
Detmar Meurers, Ramon Ziai, Niels Ott and Janina Kopp
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00–11:30 *Towards a Probabilistic Model for Lexical Entailment*
Eyal Shnarch, Jacob Goldberger and Ido Dagan
- 11:30–12:00 *Classification-based Contextual Preferences*
Shachar Mirkin, Ido Dagan, Lili Kotlerman and Idan Szpektor
- 12:00–12:20 *Is it Worth Submitting this Run? Assess your RTE System with a Good Sparring Partner*
Milen Kouylekov, Yashar Mehdad and Matteo Negri
- 12:20–12:40 *Diversity-aware Evaluation for Paraphrase Patterns*
Hideki Shima and Teruko Mitamura
- 12:40–14:20 Lunch
- 14:20–14:50 *Representing and resolving ambiguities in ontology-based question answering*
Christina Unger and Philipp Cimiano
- 14:50–15:20 *Strings over intervals*
Tim Fernando
- 15:20–15:40 *Discovering Commonsense Entailment Rules Implicit in Sentences*
Jonathan Gordon and Lenhart Schubert
- 15:40–16:10 Coffee break

Saturday, July 30, 2011 (continued)

16:10–17:00 Final Panel and Discussion