



IJCNLP 2011

Proceedings of
the KRAQ11 Workshop:
Knowledge and Reasoning
for Answering Questions

November 12, 2011
Shangri-La Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand



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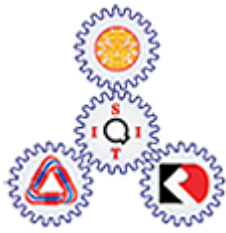
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Introduction

The introduction of reasoning capabilities in question-answering (QA) systems appeared in the late 70s. A second generation of QA systems, aimed at being cooperative, emerged in the late 80s - early 90s. In these systems, quite advanced reasoning models were developed on closed domains to go beyond the production of direct responses to a query, in particular when the query has no response or when it contains misconceptions. More recently, systems such as JAVELIN, Inference WEB or Cogex, operating over open domains, gradually integrated inferential components, but not as advanced as those of the 90s. The performances of state-of-the-art systems such as the above (as highlighted e.g. in recent TREC-QA tracks) show that reasoning components substantially improve the response relevance and accuracy. They can also potentially be much more cooperative.

On the one hand, there is still a long way before being able to produce accurate, cooperative and robust QA systems, because of the very large complexity of natural systems and of the need to make several communities work together on common grounds.

On the other hand, recent foundational, methodological and technological developments in knowledge representation (e.g. ontologies, knowledge bases incorporating various forms of incompleteness or uncertainty), in speech processing, in multimedia and multimodality, and in advanced language processing resources and techniques (for question processing as well as for generating responses) make it possible to foresee the elaboration of much more accurate, cooperative and robust systems dedicated to answering questions from multimedia supports or from textual data, from e.g. online texts or web pages, operating either on open or closed domains.

The user interface aspects regarding both input and output (e.g. SMS or advanced interfaces, on line help, dialogue, etc.) and their integration into interactive environments are also crucial for the viability of such systems.

We thank all authors who submitted papers. The review process was implemented in a way such that papers conform to the IJCNLP objectives and level. We thank the important work made by our reviewers.

Patrick Saint-Dizier

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Conference Program

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