EACL-2006

11th Conference
of the European Chapter of the
Association for Computational Linguistics

Proceedings of the workshop on

Making Sense of Sense: Bringing Psycholinguistics and Computational Linguistics Together

April 4th, 2006
Trento, Italy

The conference, the workshop and the tutorials are sponsored by:

Center for the Evaluation of Language and Communication Technologies

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INTRODUCTION

This volume contains the six papers accepted for presentation at Making Sense of Sense: Bringing Psycholinguistics and Computational Linguistics Together, an EACL 2006 workshop held on April 4, 2006, preceding the 11th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.

One of the most critical problems in word disambiguation research is determining the sense distinctions that are required or meaningful for natural language processing applications. In recent years, computational linguistics have typically taken a practical approach to the problem, including the use of pre-defined sense inventories in WordNet and other lexical resources, exploration of clustering and similar techniques to identify associated word occurrences that can be regarded as representing a unique sense, and definition of relevant sense distinctions by examining cross-lingual lexicalization of ambiguous words.

Although research on lexical ambiguity has a long history in the field of psycholinguistics, work in this area is rarely considered in debates concerned with identifying relevant sense distinctions for NLP. Recent research in the field of psycholinguistics may offer significant insight into the sense distinctions that humans readily recognize. In addition, psycholinguistics research has much to say about the ways in which humans process ambiguous words and sentences, which can in turn shed some light on computational approaches to lexical disambiguation.

The goal of this workshop is to bring together computational linguists and psycholinguists in order to bring the work in each field to bear on the question of sense distinction. The call for submissions solicited papers on the following topics:

- Lexical ambiguity research in psycholinguistics;

- The relationship of psycholinguistics research to NLP work, and vice versa;

- Sense distinctions in NLP, including overviews of current practice and problems;

- Suggested means to improve sense distinctions used in NLP, including collapsing sense distinctions in current inventories, use of cross-linguistic information, use of domain information, etc.;

- Consideration of the viability of and possible means to enhance collaboration between the psycholinguistics and computational linguistics communities.

An introductory presentation by the workshop co-organizers provides an overview of the problem of sense distinctions for NLP and outlines relevant work in the field of psycholinguistics. Following presentation of the six accepted papers, a panel discussion addresses the topics listed above and considers possibilities for collaboration between the two disciplines. The introductory presentation slides and a panel summary will be available on the workshop website following the workshop.

We would like to thank our reviewers for doing an excellent and thorough job within the very short time available to them.

Nancy Ide
Christiane Fellbaum
February 2006

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Yorick Wilks, University of Sheffield

WORKSHOP WEBSITE:

`http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~ide/EACL06WS/`

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Tuesday, April 4

09:30-10:30 Welcome, Background and Context
Nancy Ide and Christiane Fellbaum

10:30-11:00 BREAK

11:00-11:30 *Using WordNet-based Context Vectors to Estimate the Semantic Relatedness of Concepts*
Siddharth Patwardhan and Ted Pedersen

11:30-12:00 *Cluster Stopping Rules for Word Sense Discrimination*
Guergana Savova, Terry Therneau and Christopher Chute

12:00-12:30 *Relating WordNet Senses for Word Sense Disambiguation*
Diana McCarthy

12:30-14:30 LUNCH

14:30-15:50 *Whats in a Name? The Automatic Recognition of Metonymical Location Names*
Yves Peirsman

15:50-15:30 *Multilingual versus Monolingual WSD*
Lucia Specia, Maria das GraçasVolpe Nunes, Mark Stevenson and Gabriela Castelo Branco Ribeiro

15:30-16:00 *Characterizing Response Types and Revealing Noun Ambiguity in German Association Norms*
Alissa Melinger, Sabine Schulte im Walde and Andrea Weber

16:00-16:30 BREAK

16:30-17:30 Panel and Discussion

17:30-18:00 Summary and Conclusions

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