

SUMMARY OF REMARKS

TECHNICAL PROSPECTS FOR MT

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MANY THINGS ARE ENCOURAGING

New hardware

- will make pattern-matching based second generation MT systems available on micros ;
- will make it possible to use data bases of previously translated and/or revised texts on mainframes, to be used by HAMT and MAHT systems ;
- will make it feasible to use AI languages like Lisp or Prolog as implementation languages for operational, cost-effective MT systems.

The growing number of expert systems (ES)

- will create situations where a third generation MT system can be constructed by "grafting" the ES on a second generation MT system ;
- will perhaps lead to MT systems constructed as ES, relying on linguistic, paralinguistic and extralinguistic knowledge.

Multilingual, multiusage lexical databases

- will be constructed to share the cost of building large dictionaries for new applications of the knowledge processing age ;
- will help to decrease sharply the cost of building MT systems adapted to particular needs.

New specification techniques for dynamic grammars

- will increase the reliability of very large grammars written for analysis or generation ;
- will perhaps lead to the construction of grammatical data bases.

Text processing systems

- will contain critiquing and translating facilities ;
- will be equipped with optional facilities for using them as translator workstations.

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BUT FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL REMAIN

Advances in linguistics will be slow,
especially considering that so many linguists are only concerned with formalisms, and not with their intended content.

Hence, the asymptotic quality of second generation MT (purely automatic translation based only on linguistic and paralinguistic knowledge) is not likely to climb very quickly.

Current trends in AI don't make it probable that some adequate learning mechanism will soon be discovered and integrated in MT systems.

The self-improving MT system is not for tomorrow...

and good computational linguists will be in demand for quite a time!

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