

INLG 2018

**The 11th International
Natural Language Generation Conference**

Proceedings of the Conference

November 5-8, 2018
Tilburg, The Netherlands

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Preface

We are proud to present the Proceedings of the 11th International Natural Language Generation Conference (INLG 2018)!

INLG 2018 was organised by the Tilburg University Language Production (TULP) research group, part of the Department of Communication and Cognition (DCC) of the Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences (TSHD). The event took place under the auspices of the Special Interest Group on Natural Language Generation (SIGGEN) of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) as well as the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA).

In view of the long Dutch tradition of automatically generating soccer reports (e.g., Theune et al., 2001; van der Lee et al., 2017), we felt it was wholly appropriate that the conference was organised in the Willem II stadium, home of the best soccer team in The Netherlands (in 1916, 1952 and 1955).

The INLG conference is the main international forum for the presentation and discussion of all aspects of Natural Language Generation (NLG), including data-to-text, concept-to-text, text-to-text and vision-to-text approaches. Special topics of interest for the 2018 edition included:

- Generating Text with Affect, Style and Personality,
- Conversational Interfaces, Chatbots and NLG, and
- Data-driven NLG (including the E2E Generation Challenge).

Related to these three topics, we invited three international experts to contribute to the conference:

- Lillian Lee (Cornell University, Ithaca, USA)
- Piek Vossen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- Yoav Goldberg (Bar Ilan University, Israel)

The latter opened the conference with an invited tutorial on Neural NLG. In addition to the main conference, five workshops were accepted following a Call for Workshop Proposals:

- 3rd Workshop on Computational Creativity in Language Generation (CC-NLG 2018),
- Workshop on Intelligent Interactive Systems and Language Generation (2IS&NLG),
- MyNLG: 1st Workshop on Style, Affect and Character,
- Workshop on Natural Language Generation for Human-Robot Interaction and
- Workshop on Text adaptation.

Additionally, the conference hosted the third SIGGEN Hackathon which, for the first time, is a full day event.

For the main conference, we received a record number of 102 submissions, of which 20 were accepted for oral presentation, 4 as demo presentations and 38 as posters (including 5 related to the E2E challenge). All accepted papers are included in these proceedings.

We received financial support from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), via grant Grant PR-14-87 (Producing Affective Language: Content Selection, Message Formulation and Computational Modelling). Additionally, the conference was sponsored by (in alphabetical order):

- Arria NLG;
- flow.ai;
- Microsoft Research; and
- Philips.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support, and want to extend our gratitude to all speakers and reviewers for their excellent work.

Emiel Krahmer
Albert Gatt
Martijn Goudbeek

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Martijn Goudbeek (Tilburg University, The Netherlands)
Albert Gatt (University of Malta, Malta)

Invited Speakers:

Yoav Goldberg (Bar Ilan University, Israel)
Lillian Lee (Cornell University, Ithaca, USA)
Piek Vossen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

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Michael White (Ohio State University, USA)
Sander Wubben (Flow.ai/Tilburg University, The Netherlands)
Sina Zarriß (Universität Bielefeld, Germany)

Table of Contents

<i>Deep Graph Convolutional Encoders for Structured Data to Text Generation</i> Diego Marcheggiani and Laura Perez-Beltrachini	1
<i>Describing a Knowledge Base</i> Qingyun Wang, Xiaoman Pan, Lifu Huang, Boliang Zhang, Zhiying Jiang, Heng Ji and Kevin Knight	10
<i>Syntactic Manipulation for Generating more Diverse and Interesting Texts</i> Jan Milan Deriu and Mark Cieliebak	22
<i>Automated Learning of Templates for Data-to-Text Generation: Comparing Rule-Based, Statistical and Neural Methods</i> Chris van der Lee, Emiel Kraemer and Sander Wubben	35
<i>End-to-End Content and Plan Selection for Data-to-Text Generation</i> Sebastian Gehrmann, Falcon Dai, Henry Elder and Alexander Rush	46
<i>SimpleNLG-ZH: A Linguistic Realisation Engine for Mandarin</i> Guanyi Chen, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin	57
<i>Adapting SimpleNLG to Galician language</i> Andrea Cascallar Fuentes, Alejandro Ramos Soto and Alberto Bugarín Diz	67
<i>Going Dutch: Creating SimpleNLG-NL</i> Ruud de Jong and Mariët Theune	73
<i>Learning to Flip the Bias of News Headlines</i> Wei-Fan Chen, Henning Wachsmuth, Khalid Al Khatib and Benno Stein	79
<i>Stylistically User-Specific Generation</i> Abdurrisyad Fikri, Hiroya Takamura and Manabu Okumura	89
<i>Explainable Autonomy: A Study of Explanation Styles for Building Clear Mental Models</i> Francisco Javier Chiyah Garcia, David A Robb, Xingkun Liu, Atanas Laskov, Pedro Patron and Helen Hastie	99
<i>Treat the System like a Human Student: Automatic Naturalness Evaluation of Generated Text Without Reference Texts</i> Isabel Groves, Ye Tian and Ioannis Douratsos	109
<i>Content Aware Source Code Change Description Generation</i> Pablo Loyola, Edison Marrese-Taylor, Jorge Balazs, Yutaka Matsuo and Fumiko Satoh	119
<i>Improving Context Modelling in Multimodal Dialogue Generation</i> Shubham Agarwal, Ondřej Dušek, Ioannis Konstas and Verena Rieser	129
<i>Generating Market Comments Referring to External Resources</i> Tatsuya Aoki, Akira Miyazawa, Tatsuya Ishigaki, Keiichi Goshima, Kasumi Aoki, Ichiro Kobayashi, Hiroya Takamura and Yusuke Miyao	135

<i>SpatialVOC2K: A Multilingual Dataset of Images with Annotations and Features for Spatial Relations between Objects</i>	
Anja Belz, Adrian Muscat, Pierre Anguill, Mouhamadou Sow, Gaetan Vincent and Yassine Zinessabah	140
<i>Adding the Third Dimension to Spatial Relation Detection in 2D Images</i>	
Brandon Birmingham, Adrian Muscat and Anja Belz	146
<i>Automatic Opinion Question Generation</i>	
Yllias Chali and Tina Baghaee	152
<i>Modelling Pro-drop with the Rational Speech Acts Model</i>	
Guanyi Chen, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin	159
<i>Self-Learning Architecture for Natural Language Generation</i>	
Hyungtak Choi, Siddarth KM, Haehun Yang, Heesik Jeon, Inchul Hwang and Jihie Kim	165
<i>Enriching the WebNLG Corpus</i>	
Thiago Castro Ferreira, Diego Moussallem, Emiel Kraemer and Sander Wubben	171
<i>Towards Making NLG a Voice for Interpretable Machine Learning</i>	
James Forrest, Somayajulu Sripada, Wei Pang and George Coghill	177
<i>Template-Based Multilingual Football Reports Generation Using Wikidata as a Knowledge Base</i>	
Lorenzo Gatti, Chris van der Lee and Mariët Theune	183
<i>Automatic Evaluation of Neural Personality-Based Chatbots</i>	
Yujie Xing and Raquel Fernández	189
<i>Poem Machine: A Co-creative NLG Web Application for Poem Writing</i>	
Mika Hämmäläinen	195
<i>Japanese Advertising Slogan Generator using Case Frame and Word Vector</i>	
Kango Iwama and Yoshinobu Kano	197
<i>Underspecified Universal Dependency Structures as Inputs for Multilingual Surface Realisation</i>	
Simon Mille, Anja Belz, Bernd Bohnet and Leo Wanner	199
<i>LSTM Hypertagging</i>	
Reid Fu and Michael White	210
<i>Sequence-to-Sequence Models for Data-to-Text Natural Language Generation: Word- vs. Character-Based Processing and Output Diversity</i>	
Glorianna Jagfeld, Sabrina Jenne and Ngoc Thang Vu	221
<i>Generating E-Commerce Product Titles and Predicting their Quality</i>	
José G. C. de Souza, Michael Kozielski, Prashant Mathur, Ernie Chang, Marco Guerini, Matteo Negri, Marco Turchi and Evgeny Matusov	233
<i>Designing and Testing the Messages Produced by a Virtual Dietitian</i>	
Luca Anselma and Alessandro Mazzei	244
<i>Generation of Company Descriptions Using Concept-to-Text and Text-to-Text Deep Models: Dataset Collection and Systems Evaluation</i>	
Raheel Qader, Khoder Jneid, François Portet and Cyril Labbé	254

<i>Automatically Generating Questions about Novel Metaphors in Literature</i> Natalie Parde and Rodney Nielsen	264
<i>A Master-Apprentice Approach to Automatic Creation of Culturally Satirical Movie Titles</i> Khalid Alnajjar and Mika Hämmäläinen	274
<i>Can Neural Generators for Dialogue Learn Sentence Planning and Discourse Structuring?</i> Lena Reed, Shereen Oraby and Marilyn Walker	284
<i>Neural Generation of Diverse Questions Using Answer Focus, Contextual and Linguistic Features</i> Vrindavan Harrison and Marilyn Walker	296
<i>Evaluation Methodologies in Automatic Question Generation 2013-2018</i> Jacopo Amidei, Paul Piwek and Alistair Willis	307
<i>Task Proposal: The TL;DR Challenge</i> Shahbaz Syed, Michael Völske, Martin Potthast, Nedim Lipka, Benno Stein and Hinrich Schütze	318
<i>Findings of the E2E NLG Challenge</i> Ondřej Dušek, Jekaterina Novikova and Verena Rieser	322
<i>Adapting Descriptions of People to the Point of View of a Moving Observer</i> Gonzalo Méndez, Raquel Hervas, Pablo Gervás, Ricardo de la Rosa and Daniel Ruiz	329
<i>BENGAL: An Automatic Benchmark Generator for Entity Recognition and Linking</i> Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo, Michael Röder, Diego Moussallem, Ricardo Usbeck and René Speck	339
<i>Sentence Packaging in Text Generation from Semantic Graphs as a Community Detection Problem</i> Alexander Shvets, Simon Mille and Leo Wanner	350
<i>Handling Rare Items in Data-to-Text Generation</i> Anastasia Shimorina and Claire Gardent	360
<i>Comprehension Driven Document Planning in Natural Language Generation Systems</i> Craig Thomson, Ehud Reiter and Somayajulu Sripada	371
<i>Adapting Neural Single-Document Summarization Model for Abstractive Multi-Document Summariza- tion: A Pilot Study</i> Jianmin Zhang, Jiwei Tan and Xiaojun Wan	381
<i>Toward Bayesian Synchronous Tree Substitution Grammars for Sentence Planning</i> David M. Howcroft, Dietrich Klakow and Vera Demberg	391
<i>The Task Matters: Comparing Image Captioning and Task-Based Dialogical Image Description</i> Nikolai Ilinykh, Sina Zarriß and David Schlangen	397
<i>Generating Summaries of Sets of Consumer Products: Learning from Experiments</i> Kittipitch Kuptavanich, Ehud Reiter, Kees van Deemter and Advaith Siddharthan	403
<i>Neural Sentence Generation from Formal Semantics</i> Kana Manome, Masashi Yoshikawa, Hitomi Yanaka, Pascual Martínez-Gómez, Koji Mineshima and Daisuke Bekki	408

<i>Talking about Other People: An Endless Range of Possibilities</i>	
Emiel van Miltenburg, Desmond Elliott and Piek Vossen	415
<i>Meteorologists and Students: A Resource for Language Grounding of Geographical Descriptors</i>	
Alejandro Ramos Soto, Ehud Reiter, Kees van Deemter, Jose Alonso and Albert Gatt.....	421
<i>Cyclegen: Cyclic Consistency Based Product Review Generator from Attributes</i>	
Vasu Sharma, Harsh Sharma, Ankita Bishnu and Labhesh Patel	426
<i>Neural Transition-Based Syntactic Linearization</i>	
Linfeng Song, Yue Zhang and Daniel Gildea	431
<i>Characterizing Variation in Crowd-Sourced Data for Training Neural Language Generators to Produce Stylistically Varied Outputs</i>	
Juraj Juraska and Marilyn Walker	441
<i>Char2char Generation with Reranking for the E2E NLG Challenge</i>	
Shubham Agarwal, Marc Dymetman and Eric Gaussier.....	451
<i>E2E NLG Challenge Submission: Towards Controllable Generation of Diverse Natural Language</i>	
Henry Elder, Sebastian Gehrmann, Alexander O'Connor and Qun Liu	457
<i>E2E NLG Challenge: Neural Models vs. Templates</i>	
Yevgeniy Puzikov and Iryna Gurevych.....	463
<i>The E2E NLG Challenge: A Tale of Two Systems</i>	
Charese Smiley, Elnaz Davoodi, Dezhao Song and Frank Schilder	472
<i>Interactive Health Insight Miner: An Adaptive, Semantic-Based Approach</i>	
Isabel Funke, Rim Helaoui and Aki Harma	478
<i>Multi-Language Surface Realisation as REST API Based NLG Microservice</i>	
Andreas Madsack, Johanna Heininger, Nyamsuren Davaasambuu, Vitaliia Voronik, Michael Käußl and Robert Weißgraeber	480
<i>Statistical NLG for Generating the Content and Form of Referring Expressions</i>	
Xiao Li, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin.....	482
<i>Specificity Measures and Reference</i>	
Albert Gatt, Nicolás Marín, Gustavo Rivas-Gervilla and Daniél Sánchez	492
<i>Decoding Strategies for Neural Referring Expression Generation</i>	
Sina Zarriß and David Schlangen.....	503

Conference Program

Monday, November 5, 2018

- 08:30–09:00** Registration at Tilburg University Campus
- 09:00–10:30** Workshop 1: 3rd Workshop on Computational Creativity in Language Generation (CC-NLG)
- 09:00–10:30** Workshop 2: Workshop on Intelligent Interactive Systems and Language Generation (2IS&NLG)
- 09:00–10:30** Workshop 3: MyNLG: 1st Workshop on Style, Affect and Character
- 10:30–11:00** Coffee/Tea Break
- 11:00–12:30** Workshop 1 (cont.)
- 11:00–12:30** Workshop 2 (cont.)
- 11:00–12:30** Workshop 3 (cont.)
- 12:30–13:30** Lunch
- 14:00–15:00** Registration at Willem II Stadium
- 15:00–15:15** Opening of INLG 2018
- 15:15–16:15** Tutorial: Yoav Goldberg, *Neural Natural Language Generation (Part 1)*
- 16:15–16:30** Coffee/Tea Break
- 16:30–17:30** Tutorial: Yoav Goldberg, *Neural Natural Language Generation (Part 2)*
- 17:30–19:00** Welcome Reception

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

08:30–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:05 Welcoming address

09:05–10:45 Oral Session 1: Knowledge Representation and Text Generation

09:05–09:25 *Deep Graph Convolutional Encoders for Structured Data to Text Generation*
Diego Marcheggiani and Laura Perez-Beltrachini

09:25–09:45 *Describing a Knowledge Base*
Qingyun Wang, Xiaoman Pan, Lifu Huang, Boliang Zhang, Zhiying Jiang, Heng Ji and Kevin Knight

09:45–10:05 *Syntactic Manipulation for Generating more Diverse and Interesting Texts*
Jan Milan Deriu and Mark Cieliebak

10:05–10:25 *Automated Learning of Templates for Data-to-Text Generation: Comparing Rule-Based, Statistical and Neural Methods*
Chris van der Lee, Emiel Krahmer and Sander Wubben

10:25–10:45 *End-to-End Content and Plan Selection for Data-to-Text Generation*
Sebastian Gehrmann, Falcon Dai, Henry Elder and Alexander Rush

10:45–11:15 Coffee/Tea Break

11:15–12:15 Keynote 1: Piek Vossen

Don't Believe Everything You See, Hear or Read: A Theory of Mind that Drives Robot-Human Communication

12:15–12:30 3rd SIGGEN Hackathon: Introduction

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (continued)

12:30–14:30 Poster Session 1 (including lunch)

SimpleNLG-ZH: A Linguistic Realisation Engine for Mandarin

Guanyi Chen, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin

Adapting SimpleNLG to Galician language

Andrea Cascallar Fuentes, Alejandro Ramos Soto and Alberto Bugarín Diz

Going Dutch: Creating SimpleNLG-NL

Ruud de Jong and Mariët Theune

Learning to Flip the Bias of News Headlines

Wei-Fan Chen, Henning Wachsmuth, Khalid Al Khatib and Benno Stein

Stylistically User-Specific Generation

Abdurrisyad Fikri, Hiroya Takamura and Manabu Okumura

Explainable Autonomy: A Study of Explanation Styles for Building Clear Mental Models

Francisco Javier Chiyah Garcia, David A Robb, Xingkun Liu, Atanas Laskov, Pedro Patron and Helen Hastie

Treat the System Like a Human Student: Automatic Naturalness Evaluation of Generated Text without Reference Texts

Isabel Groves, Ye Tian and Ioannis Douratsos

Content Aware Source Code Change Description Generation

Pablo Loyola, Edison Marrese-Taylor, Jorge Balazs, Yutaka Matsuo and Fumiko Satoh

Improving Context Modelling in Multimodal Dialogue Generation

Shubham Agarwal, Ondřej Dušek, Ioannis Konstas and Verena Rieser

Generating Market Comments Referring to External Resources

Tatsuya Aoki, Akira Miyazawa, Tatsuya Ishigaki, Keiichi Goshima, Kasumi Aoki, Ichiro Kobayashi, Hiroya Takamura and Yusuke Miyao

SpatialVOC2K: A Multilingual Dataset of Images with Annotations and Features for Spatial Relations between Objects

Anja Belz, Adrian Muscat, Pierre Anguill, Mouhamadou Sow, Gaetan Vincent and Yassine Zinessabah

Adding the Third Dimension to Spatial Relation Detection in 2D Images

Brandon Birmingham, Adrian Muscat and Anja Belz

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (continued)

Automatic Opinion Question Generation

Yllias Chali and Tina Baghaee

Modelling Pro-Drop with the Rational Speech Acts Model

Guanyi Chen, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin

Self-Learning Architecture for Natural Language Generation

Hyungtak Choi, Siddarth KM, Haehun Yang, Heesik Jeon, Inchul Hwang and Jihie Kim

Enriching the WebNLG Corpus

Thiago Castro Ferreira, Diego Moussallem, Emiel Krahmer and Sander Wubben

Towards Making NLG a Voice for Interpretable Machine Learning

James Forrest, Somayajulu Sripada, Wei Pang and George Coghill

Template-Based Multilingual Football Reports Generation Using Wikidata as a Knowledge Base

Lorenzo Gatti, Chris van der Lee and Mariët Theune

Automatic Evaluation of Neural Personality-Based Chatbots

Yujie Xing and Raquel Fernández

12:30–14:30 Demo Session 1 (including lunch)

Poem Machine: A Co-creative NLG Web Application for Poem Writing

Mika Hämmäläinen

Japanese Advertising Slogan Generator Using Case Frame and Word Vector

Kango Iwama and Yoshinobu Kano

14:30–15:30 Oral Session 2: Syntactic Realisation

14:30–14:50 *Underspecified Universal Dependency Structures as Inputs for Multilingual Surface Realisation*

Simon Mille, Anja Belz, Bernd Bohnet and Leo Wanner

14:50–15:10 *LSTM Hypertagging*

Reid Fu and Michael White

15:10–15:30 *Sequence-to-Sequence Models for Data-to-Text Natural Language Generation: Word- vs. Character-Based Processing and Output Diversity*

Glorianna Jagfeld, Sabrina Jenne and Ngoc Thang Vu

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (continued)

15:30–16:00 Coffee/Tea Break

16:00–17:00 Oral Session 3: Applications of Automatic Text Generation

16:00–16:20 *Generating E-Commerce Product Titles and Predicting their Quality*

José G. C. de Souza, Michael Kozielski, Prashant Mathur, Ernie Chang, Marco Guerini, Matteo Negri, Marco Turchi and Evgeny Matusov

16:20–16:40 *Designing and Testing the Messages Produced by a Virtual Dietitian*

Luca Anselma and Alessandro Mazzei

16:40–17:00 *Generation of Company Descriptions Using Concept-to-Text and Text-to-Text Deep Models: Dataset Collection and Systems Evaluation*

Raheel Qader, Khoder Jneid, François Portet and Cyril Labbé

18:00–20:00 Social Event

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

08:30–09:00 Registration

09:00–10:40 Oral Session 4: Questions and Dialogue

09:00–09:20 *Automatically Generating Questions about Novel Metaphors in Literature*
Natalie Parde and Rodney Nielsen

09:20–09:40 *A Master-Apprentice Approach to Automatic Creation of Culturally Satirical Movie Titles*
Khalid Alnajjar and Mika Hämmäläinen

09:40–10:00 *Can Neural Generators for Dialogue Learn Sentence Planning and Discourse Structuring?*
Lena Reed, Shereen Oraby and Marilyn Walker

10:00–10:20 *Neural Generation of Diverse Questions using Answer Focus, Contextual and Linguistic Features*
Vrindavan Harrison and Marilyn Walker

10:20–10:40 *Evaluation Methodologies in Automatic Question Generation 2013-2018*
Jacopo Amidei, Paul Piwek and Alistair Willis

10:40–11:15 Coffee/Tea Break

11:15–12:30 Generation Challenges Special Session

11:15–11:35 *Task Proposal: The TL;DR Challenge*
Shahbaz Syed, Michael Völske, Martin Potthast, Nedim Lipka, Benno Stein and Hinrich Schütze

11:35–11:55 *Report on the Multilingual Surface Realization Challenge*
Simon Mille

11:55–12:15 *Findings of the E2E NLG Challenge*
Ondřej Dušek, Jekaterina Novikova and Verena Rieser

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 (continued)

12:30–14:30 Poster Session 2 (including lunch)

Adapting Descriptions of People to the Point of View of a Moving Observer

Gonzalo Méndez, Raquel Hervas, Pablo Gervás, Ricardo de la Rosa and Daniel Ruiz

BENGAL: An Automatic Benchmark Generator for Entity Recognition and Linking

Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo, Michael Röder, Diego Moussallem, Ricardo Usbeck and René Speck

Sentence Packaging in Text Generation from Semantic Graphs as a Community Detection Problem

Alexander Shvets, Simon Mille and Leo Wanner

Handling Rare Items in Data-to-Text Generation

Anastasia Shimorina and Claire Gardent

Comprehension Driven Document Planning in Natural Language Generation Systems

Craig Thomson, Ehud Reiter and Somayajulu Sripada

Adapting Neural Single-Document Summarization Model for Abstractive Multi-Document Summarization: A Pilot Study

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Neural Sentence Generation from Formal Semantics

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Talking about Other People: An Endless Range of Possibilities

Emiel van Miltenburg, Desmond Elliott and Piek Vossen

Meteorologists and Students: A Resource for Language Grounding of Geographical Descriptors

Alejandro Ramos Soto, Ehud Reiter, Kees van Deemter, Jose Alonso and Albert Gatt

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 (continued)

Cyclegen: Cyclic Consistency Based Product Review Generator from Attributes

Vasu Sharma, Harsh Sharma, Ankita Bishnu and Labhesh Patel

Neural Transition-Based Syntactic Linearization

Linfeng Song, Yue Zhang and Daniel Gildea

12:30–14:30 E2E Challenge Posters (including lunch)

Characterizing Variation in Crowd-Sourced Data for Training Neural Language Generators to Produce Stylistically Varied Outputs

Juraj Juraska and Marilyn Walker

Char2char Generation with Reranking for the E2E NLG Challenge

Shubham Agarwal, Marc Dymetman and Eric Gaussier

E2E NLG Challenge Submission: Towards Controllable Generation of Diverse Natural Language

Henry Elder, Sebastian Gehrmann, Alexander O'Connor and Qun Liu

E2E NLG Challenge: Neural Models vs. Templates

Yevgeniy Puzikov and Iryna Gurevych

The E2E NLG Challenge: A Tale of Two Systems

Charese Smiley, Elnaz Davoodi, Dezhao Song and Frank Schilder

12:30–14:30 Demo Session 2 (including lunch)

Interactive Health Insight Miner: An Adaptive, Semantic-Based Approach

Isabel Funke, Rim Helaoui and Aki Harma

Multi-Language Surface Realisation as REST API Based NLG Microservice

Andreas Madsack, Johanna Heining, Nyamsuren Davaasambuu, Vitaliia Voronik, Michael Käufl and Robert Weißgraeber

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 (continued)

14:30–15:30 Keynote 2: Lillian Lee

Analyzing Phrasing Effects via Found Conversations: "Parallel Universes" in Movies, Twitter and ChangeMyView

15:30–16:00 Coffee/Tea Break

16:00–17:00 Oral Session 5: Referring Expression Generation

16:00–16:20 *Statistical NLG for Generating the Content and Form of Referring Expressions*

Xiao Li, Kees van Deemter and Chenghua Lin

16:20–16:40 *Specificity Measures and Reference*

Albert Gatt, Nicolás Marín, Gustavo Rivas-Gervilla and Daniél Sánchez

16:40–17:00 *Decoding Strategies for Neural Referring Expression Generation*

Sina Zarriß and David Schlangen

18:30–23:00 Conference Dinner

Thursday, November 8, 2018

08:30–09:00 Registration at Tilburg University Campus

09:00–10:30 Workshop 4: Workshop on Natural Language Generation for Human-Robot Interaction

09:00–10:30 Workshop 5: Workshop on Text Adaptation

09:00–10:30 3rd SIGGEN Hackathon

10:30–11:00 Coffee/Tea Break

11:00–12:30 Workshop 4 (cont.)

11:00–12:30 Workshop 5 (cont.)

11:00–12:30 3rd SIGGEN Hackathon (cont.)

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 Workshop 4 (cont.)

13:30–15:00 3rd SIGGEN Hackathon (cont.)

15:30–17:00 Coffee/Tea Break

15:30–17:00 Workshop 4 (cont.)

15:30–17:00 3rd SIGGEN Hackathon (cont.)

17:00 End of Conference, Workshops and Hackathon