INLG'2000

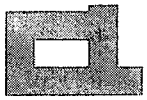
Proceedings of the First International Conference on

Natural Language Generation

Mitzpe Ramon, Israel

12-16 June 2000

Sponsored by Ben Gurion University of the Negev



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Preface

We are pleased to present this volume containing the papers accepted for presentation at the 1st International Natural Language Generation Conference, June 12-16, 2000 in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel.

This volume contains 30 papers for the main session, 4 papers to the student session and 5 system demonstration descriptions. The conference will also include two invited talks, and two panel discussions on Evaluation methods in Generation and on the impact of cognitive modeling on generation research.

This conference continues in the tradition of the nine biennial workshops on natural language generation that have been held from 1982 to 1998. INLG'2000 will offer the opportunity to a larger audience to participate in the main meeting of researchers in the field of generation. Following the tradition of previous INLG meetings, the conference will be held in an isolated and stunning natural environment: Mitzpe Ramon, located on the edge of the Ramon Crater, in the middle of the Negev Desert, Israel. We hope this environment will inspire the participants and encourage the type of vibrant participation and intellectual stimulation that has characterized previous INLG meetings.

We would like to thank everybody who helped organize this conference: all the authors and researchers who submitted papers and the program committee who faced a higher than expected load, reviewing in a short period the 70 submissions we have received. Their time, expertise and dedication enabled the selection of this fine sample of Natural Language Generation research. Finally, special thanks to Yael Dahan Netzer who prepared most of everything related to the conference and whose commitment and enthusiasm enabled this conference to be held.

Welcome to the First International Natural Language Generation!

Michael Elhadad
Program Chair

Program Committee

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James Shaw, Columbia University

Local Arrangements

Michael Elhadad, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel
Yael Dahan Netzer, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel

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Srinivas Bangalore, Owen Rambow and Steve Whittaker

10:00 *A Task-based Framework to Evaluate Evaluative Arguments*
Giuseppe Carenini

10:30 Panel on Evaluation (Inderjeet Mani moderator)

11:30 Break

Multilingual Generation

12:00 *An empirical study of multilingual natural language generation: What Should a Text Planner Do?*
Daniel Marcu, Lynn Carlson and Maki Watanabe

12:30 *Document structure and multilingual authoring*
Caroline Brun, Marc Dymetman and Veronika Lux

13:00 *DTD-driven bilingual document generation*
Arantza Casillas, Joseb Abaitua, Requel Martinez

13:30 Lunch

Argumentation

14:45 *Using Argumentation Strategies in Automated Argument Generation*
Ingrid Zukerman, Richard McConachy and Kevin B. Korb

15:15 *A strategy for generating evaluative arguments*
Giuseppe Carenini and Johanna Moore

15:45 *Towards the Generation of Rebuttals in a Bayesian Argumentation System*
Nathalie Jitnah, Ingrid Zukerman, Richard McConachy, and Sarah George

16:15 Break

New Applications

16:45 *Content aggregation in natural language hypertext summarization of OLAP and Data Mining Discoveries*
Jacques Robin, Eloi L. Favero

17:15 *Optimising text quality in generation from relational databases*
Michael O'Donnell, Alistair Knott, Jon Oberlander and Chris Mellish

17:45 *Generating a controlled language*
Laurence Danlos, Guy Lapalme and Veronika Lux

18:15 *Multilingual Summary Generation in a Speech--To—Speech Translation System for Multilingual Dialogues*
Jan Alexandersson, Peter Poller, Michael Kipp and Ralf Engel

Wednesday, 14 June

Cognitive Modeling Papers

9:00 *Incremental Event Conceptualization and Natural Language Generation in Monitoring Environments*
Markus Guhe, Christopher Habel, Heike Tappe

9:30 *The hyperonym problem revisited: Conceptual and lexical hierarchies in language generation*
Manfred Stede

10:00 Panel on Cognitive Modeling (R. Klabunde moderator)

10:30 Break

Surface Realization

11:00 *Planning word-order dependent focus assignments*
Cornelia Endriss and Ralf Klabunde

11:30 *Enriching partially specified representations for text realization using an attribute grammar.*
Songsak Channarukul, Susan W. McRoy and Syed S. Ali

12:00 *Coordination and context-dependence in the generation of embodied conversation*
Justine Cassell, Matthew Stone and Hao Yan

12:30 Lunch

Architecture

14:30 *Reinterpretation of an Existing NLG System in a Generic Generation Architecture*
Lynne Cahill, Christy Doran, Roger Evans, Chris Mellish, Daniel Paiva, Mike Reape, Donia Scott, Neil Tipper

15:00 *An integrated framework for text planning and pronominalisation*
Rodger Kibble and Richard Power

15:30 Break

15:45 **Invited Talk –**
From lexical-aspectual components to syntax.
Nomi Erteschik-Shir & T.R. Rapoport

17:30
Excursion to the Ramon Crater + Banquet

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9:00 *Generating Referring Quantified Expressions*
James Shaw, Kathleen McKeown

9:30 *An Empirical Analysis of Constructing Non-restrictive NP Modifiers to Express Semantic Relations*
Hua Cheng and Chris Mellish

10:00 *On identifying sets*
Matthew Stone

10:30 Break

Planning and Descriptions

Generating Vague Descriptions
11:00 Kees van Deemter

11:30 *Capturing the Interaction between Aggregation and Text Planning in Two Generation Systems*
Hua Cheng and Chris Mellish

12:00 *Can text structure be incompatible with rhetorical structure?*
Nadjet Bouayad-Agha, Richard Power, Donia Scott

12:30 Lunch

Student Session

From Context to Sentence Form
14:00 Sabine Geldof

14:20 *The CLEF semi-recursive generation algorithm*
Rodrigo Reyes

14:40 *Sentence Generation and Neural Networks*
Kathrine Hammervold

15:10 *Rhetorical Structure in Dialog*
Amanda Stent

15:30 Break

16:00 **Invited Talk –**
Language Generation and Summarization: Moving Away from Sentence Extraction
Kathleen McKeown

17:00 Break

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RSTTool 2.4 - A markup Tool for Rhetorical Structure Theory
17:15 Michael O'Donnell

17:30 *Demonstration of ILEX 3.0*
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17:45 *A development Environment for an MTT-Based Sentence Generator*
Bernd Bohnet, Andreas Langjahr and Leo Wanner

18:00 *YAG: A Template-Based Generator for Real-Time Systems*
Susan W. McRoy, Songsak Channarukul and Syed S. Ali

18:15 *An Efficient Text Summarizer Using Lexical Chains.*
H. Gregory Silber and Kathleen F. McCoy

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9:30 *Integrating a Large-Scale, Reusable Lexicon with a Natural Language Generator*
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10:00 *Knowledge Acquisition for Natural Language Generation*
Ehud Reiter, Roma Robertson and Liesl Osman

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