ACL 2007

PRAGUE

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Proceedings of the ACL-PASCAL Workshop on Textual Entailment and Paraphrasing

June 28-29, 2007
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PREFACE

Recognizing and generating textual entailment and paraphrases are regarded as important technologies in a broad range of NLP applications, including, information extraction, summarization, question answering, information retrieval, machine translation and text generation. Both textual entailment and paraphrasing address relevant aspects of natural language semantics. Entailment is a directional relation between two expressions in which one of them implies the other, whereas paraphrase is a relation in which two expressions convey essentially the same meaning. Indeed, paraphrase can be defined as bi-directional entailment. While it may be debatable how such semantic definitions can be made well-founded, in practice we have already seen evidence that such knowledge is essential for many applications.

There have been two lines of workshops in this field. One is a series of three workshops on paraphrasing -- in Tokyo 2001, in Sapporo at ACL-2003 and in Jeju at IJCNLP-2005. The other is the Workshop on Empirical Modeling of Semantic Equivalence and Entailment (at ACL-2005), and two workshops of the previous PASCAL Recognizing Textual Entailment (RTE) Challenges (2005 and 2006). We combine those two lines of similar effort together at this workshop in order to see the convergence of the field and exchange ideas among a wider audience.

The workshop has two parts. The first is the general session where submission was open, which covers a wide variety of topics including knowledge formalisms and resources and techniques for acquiring and utilizing knowledge. The second part is the concluding workshop of the 3rd PASCAL RTE Challenge, the primary benchmark for textual entailment recognition systems (see the RTE-3 organizers paper). The workshop program includes the general session papers and selected presentations and a poster session of participating RTE-3 systems.

We appreciate the contributions of all presenters and participants.

Workshop Chairs,

General Session:
Satoshi Sekine (New York University)
Kentaro Inui (Nara Institute of Science and Technology)

PASCAL RTE-3 Challenge:
Ido Dagan (Bar Ilan University)
Bill Dolan (Microsoft Research)
Danilo Giampiccolo (CELCT)
Bernardo Magnini (ITC-irst)

Organizers

Chairs:

General Session:

Satoshi Sekine, New York University
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PASCAL RTE-3 Challenge:

Ido Dagan, Bar Ilan University
Bill Dolan, Microsoft Research
Danilo Giampiccolo, CELCT
Bernardo Magnini, ITC-irst

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Kentaro Torisawa, JAIST
Lucy Vanderwende, Microsoft Research
Kazuhide Yamamoto, Nagaoka University of Technology
Fabio Zanzotto, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Invited Speaker:

Oren Etzioni, University of Washington

Website:

http://nlp.cs.nyu.edu/WTEP

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Danilo Giampiccolo, Bernardo Magnini, Ido Dagan and Bill Dolan

Linguistic-Semantic Systems

2:30–2:55 *A Semantic Approach To Textual Entailment: System Evaluation and Task Analysis*
Aljoscha Burchardt, Nils Reiter, Stefan Thater and Anette Frank

2:55–3:20 *Precision-focused Textual Inference*
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Thursday, June 28, 2007 (continued)

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Friday, June 29, 2007

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COFFEE BREAK

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5:30–6:15 Open discussion–what next?