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Spoken Dialogue Systems

Kristiina Jokinen
Michael McTear

***SYNTHESIS LECTURES ON
HUMAN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES***

Graeme Hirst, *Series Editor*

Spoken Dialogue Systems Michael Mctear

G Thomas



Spoken Dialogue Systems Michael McTear:

Spoken Dialogue Systems Kristina Jokinen, Michael McTear, 2022-05-31 Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the development of dialogue systems that support robust and efficient human machine interaction using spoken language Spoken dialogue technology allows various interactive applications to be built and used for practical purposes and research focuses on issues that aim to increase the system's communicative competence by including aspects of error correction cooperation multimodality and adaptation in context This book gives a comprehensive view of state of the art techniques that are used to build spoken dialogue systems It provides an overview of the basic issues such as system architectures various dialogue management methods system evaluation and also surveys advanced topics concerning extensions of the basic model to more conversational setups The goal of the book is to provide an introduction to the methods problems and solutions that are used in dialogue system development and evaluation It presents dialogue modelling and system development issues relevant in both academic and industrial environments and also discusses requirements and challenges for advanced interaction management and future research Table of Contents Preface Introduction to Spoken Dialogue Systems Dialogue Management Error Handling Case Studies Advanced Approaches to Dialogue Management Advanced Issues Methodologies and Practices of Evaluation Future Directions References Author Biographies

Conversational AI Michael McTear, 2022-05-31 This book provides a comprehensive introduction to Conversational AI While the idea of interacting with a computer using voice or text goes back a long way it is only in recent years that this idea has become a reality with the emergence of digital personal assistants smart speakers and chatbots Advances in AI particularly in deep learning along with the availability of massive computing power and vast amounts of data have led to a new generation of dialogue systems and conversational interfaces Current research in Conversational AI focuses mainly on the application of machine learning and statistical data driven approaches to the development of dialogue systems However it is important to be aware of previous achievements in dialogue technology and to consider to what extent they might be relevant to current research and development Three main approaches to the development of dialogue systems are reviewed rule based systems that are handcrafted using best practice guidelines statistical data driven systems based on machine learning and neural dialogue systems based on end to end learning Evaluating the performance and usability of dialogue systems has become an important topic in its own right and a variety of evaluation metrics and frameworks are described Finally a number of challenges for future research are considered including multimodality in dialogue systems visual dialogue data efficient dialogue model learning using knowledge graphs discourse and dialogue phenomena hybrid approaches to dialogue systems development dialogue with social robots and in the Internet of Things and social and ethical issues

Spoken Dialogue Technology Michael F. McTear, 2004-09-09 Spoken Dialogue Technology provides extensive coverage of spoken dialogue systems ranging from the theoretical underpinnings of the study of dialogue through to a

detailed look at a number of well established methods and tools for developing spoken dialogue systems The book enables students and practitioners to design and test dialogue systems using several available development environments and languages including the CSLU toolkit VoiceXML SALT and XHTML voice This practical orientation is usually available otherwise only in reference manuals supplied with software development kits The latest research in spoken dialogue systems is presented along with extensive coverage of the most relevant theoretical issues and a critical evaluation of current research prototypes A dedicated web site containing supplementary materials code links to resources will enable readers to develop and test their own systems Previously such materials have been difficult to track down available only on a range of disparate web sites and this web site provides a unique and useful reference source which will prove invaluable **Spoken**

Dialogue Systems Technology and Design Wolfgang Minker,Gary Geunbae Lee,Satoshi Nakamura,Joseph Mariani,2010-11-09 Spoken Dialogue Systems Technology and Design covers key topics in the field of spoken language dialogue interaction from a variety of leading researchers It brings together several perspectives in the areas of corpus annotation and analysis dialogue system construction as well as theoretical perspectives on communicative intention context based generation and modelling of discourse structure These topics are all part of the general research and development within the area of discourse and dialogue with an emphasis on dialogue systems corpora and corpus tools and semantic and pragmatic modelling of discourse and dialogue *Proceedings of the Paralinguistic Information and its Integration in*

Spoken Dialogue Systems Workshop Ramón López-Cózar Delgado,Tetsunori Kobayashi,2011-08-27 This volume includes proceedings articles presented at the Workshop on Paralinguistic Information and its Integration in Spoken Dialogue Systems held in Granada Spain The material focuses on the three broad areas of spoken dialogue systems for robotics emotions and spoken dialogue systems and Spoken dialogue systems for real world applications The workshop proceedings are part of the 3rd Annual International Workshop on Spoken Dialogue Systems which brings together researchers from all over the world working in the field of spoken dialogue systems It provides an international forum for the presentation of research and applications and for lively discussions among researchers as well as industrialists Spoken Dialogue

Technology Michael F. McTear,2011-06-27 Spoken Dialogue Technology provides extensive coverage of spoken dialogue systems ranging from the theoretical underpinnings of the study of dialogue through to a detailed look at a number of well established methods and tools for developing spoken dialogue systems The book enables students and practitioners to design and test dialogue systems using several available development environments and languages including the CSLU toolkit VoiceXML SALT and XHTML voice This practical orientation is usually available otherwise only in reference manuals supplied with software development kits The latest research in spoken dialogue systems is presented along with extensive coverage of the most relevant theoretical issues and a critical evaluation of current research prototypes A dedicated web site containing supplementary materials code links to resources will enable readers to develop and test their own systems

Previously such materials have been difficult to track down available only on a range of disparate web sites and this web site provides a unique and useful reference source which will prove invaluable

The Conversational Interface Michael McTear, Zoraida Callejas, David Griol, 2016-05-19 This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the conversational interface which is becoming the main mode of interaction with virtual personal assistants smart devices various types of wearable and social robots The book consists of four parts Part I presents the background to conversational interfaces examining past and present work on spoken language interaction with computers Part II covers the various technologies that are required to build a conversational interface along with practical chapters and exercises using open source tools Part III looks at interactions with smart devices wearables and robots and discusses the role of emotion and personality in the conversational interface Part IV examines methods for evaluating conversational interfaces and discusses future directions

Natural Language Processing for Social Media Atefeh Farzindar, 2022-11-10 In recent years online social networking has revolutionized interpersonal communication The newer research on language analysis in social media has been increasingly focusing on the latter's impact on our daily lives both on a personal and a professional level Natural language processing NLP is one of the most promising avenues for social media data processing It is a scientific challenge to develop powerful methods and algorithms which extract relevant information from a large volume of data coming from multiple sources and languages in various formats or in free form We discuss the challenges in analyzing social media texts in contrast with traditional documents Research methods in information extraction automatic categorization and clustering automatic summarization and indexing and statistical machine translation need to be adapted to a new kind of data This book reviews the current research on Natural Language Processing NLP tools and methods for processing the non traditional information from social media data that is available in large amounts big data and shows how innovative NLP approaches can integrate appropriate linguistic information in various fields such as social media monitoring health care business intelligence industry marketing and security and defense We review the existing evaluation metrics for NLP and social media applications and the new efforts in evaluation campaigns or shared tasks on new datasets collected from social media Such tasks are organized by the Association for Computational Linguistics such as SemEval tasks or by the National Institute of Standards and Technology via the Text REtrieval Conference TREC and the Text Analysis Conference TAC In the concluding chapter we discuss the importance of this dynamic discipline and its great potential for NLP in the coming decade in the context of changes in mobile technology cloud computing and social networking

Pretrained Transformers for Text Ranking

Jimmy Lin, Rodrigo Nogueira, Andrew Yates, 2022-06-01 The goal of text ranking is to generate an ordered list of texts retrieved from a corpus in response to a query Although the most common formulation of text ranking is search instances of the task can also be found in many natural language processing NLP applications This book provides an overview of text ranking with neural network architectures known as transformers of which BERT Bidirectional Encoder Representations

from Transformers is the best known example The combination of transformers and self supervised pretraining has been responsible for a paradigm shift in NLP information retrieval IR and beyond This book provides a synthesis of existing work as a single point of entry for practitioners who wish to gain a better understanding of how to apply transformers to text ranking problems and researchers who wish to pursue work in this area It covers a wide range of modern techniques grouped into two high level categories transformer models that perform reranking in multi stage architectures and dense retrieval techniques that perform ranking directly Two themes pervade the book techniques for handling long documents beyond typical sentence by sentence processing in NLP and techniques for addressing the tradeoff between effectiveness i e result quality and efficiency e g query latency model and index size Although transformer architectures and pretraining techniques are recent innovations many aspects of how they are applied to text ranking are relatively well understood and represent mature techniques However there remain many open research questions and thus in addition to laying out the foundations of pretrained transformers for text ranking this book also attempts to prognosticate where the field is heading

Linguistic Fundamentals for Natural Language Processing II Emily M. Bender, Alex Lascarides, 2022-06-01

Meaning is a fundamental concept in Natural Language Processing NLP in the tasks of both Natural Language Understanding NLU and Natural Language Generation NLG This is because the aims of these fields are to build systems that understand what people mean when they speak or write and that can produce linguistic strings that successfully express to people the intended content In order for NLP to scale beyond partial task specific solutions researchers in these fields must be informed by what is known about how humans use language to express and understand communicative intents The purpose of this book is to present a selection of useful information about semantics and pragmatics as understood in linguistics in a way that is accessible to and useful for NLP practitioners with minimal or even no prior training in linguistics

Deep Learning Approaches to Text Production Shashi Narayan, Claire Gardent, 2022-06-01 Text production has many applications It is used for instance to generate dialogue turns from dialogue moves verbalise the content of knowledge bases or generate English sentences from rich linguistic representations such as dependency trees or abstract meaning representations Text production is also at work in text to text transformations such as sentence compression sentence fusion paraphrasing sentence or text simplification and text summarisation This book offers an overview of the fundamentals of neural models for text production In particular we elaborate on three main aspects of neural approaches to text production how sequential decoders learn to generate adequate text how encoders learn to produce better input representations and how neural generators account for task specific objectives Indeed each text production task raises a slightly different challenge e g how to take the dialogue context into account when producing a dialogue turn how to detect and merge relevant information when summarising a text or how to produce a well formed text that correctly captures the information contained in some input data in the case of data to text generation We outline the constraints specific to some of these tasks

and examine how existing neural models account for them More generally this book considers text to text meaning to text and data to text transformations It aims to provide the audience with a basic knowledge of neural approaches to text production and a roadmap to get them started with the related work The book is mainly targeted at researchers graduate students and industrials interested in text production from different forms of inputs *Metaphor* Tony Veale,Ekaterina Shutova,Beata Beigman Klebanov,2022-06-01 The literary imagination may take flight on the wings of metaphor but hard headed scientists are just as likely as doe eyed poets to reach for a metaphor when the descriptive need arises Metaphor is a pervasive aspect of every genre of text and every register of speech and is as useful for describing the inner workings of a black hole itself a metaphor as it is the affairs of the human heart The ubiquity of metaphor in natural language thus poses a significant challenge for Natural Language Processing NLP systems and their builders who cannot afford to wait until the problems of literal language have been solved before turning their attention to figurative phenomena This book offers a comprehensive approach to the computational treatment of metaphor and its figurative brethren including simile analogy and conceptual blending that does not shy away from their important cognitive and philosophical dimensions Veale Shutova and Beigman Klebanov approach metaphor from multiple computational perspectives providing coverage of both symbolic and statistical approaches to interpretation and paraphrase generation while also considering key contributions from philosophy on what constitutes the meaning of a metaphor This book also surveys available metaphor corpora and discusses protocols for metaphor annotation Any reader with an interest in metaphor from beginning researchers to seasoned scholars will find this book to be an invaluable guide to what is a fascinating linguistic phenomenon Finite-State Text Processing Kyle Gorman,Richard Sproat,2022-06-01 Weighted finite state transducers WFSTs are commonly used by engineers and computational linguists for processing and generating speech and text This book first provides a detailed introduction to this formalism It then introduces Pynini a Python library for compiling finite state grammars and for combining optimizing applying and searching finite state transducers This book illustrates this library s conventions and use with a series of case studies These include the compilation and application of context dependent rewrite rules the construction of morphological analyzers and generators and text generation and processing applications Bayesian Analysis in Natural Language Processing Shay Cohen,2022-11-10 Natural language processing NLP went through a profound transformation in the mid 1980s when it shifted to make heavy use of corpora and data driven techniques to analyze language Since then the use of statistical techniques in NLP has evolved in several ways One such example of evolution took place in the late 1990s or early 2000s when full fledged Bayesian machinery was introduced to NLP This Bayesian approach to NLP has come to accommodate for various shortcomings in the frequentist approach and to enrich it especially in the unsupervised setting where statistical learning is done without target prediction examples We cover the methods and algorithms that are needed to fluently read Bayesian learning papers in NLP and to do research in the area These methods and algorithms are partially

borrowed from both machine learning and statistics and are partially developed in house in NLP We cover inference techniques such as Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling and variational inference Bayesian estimation and nonparametric modeling We also cover fundamental concepts in Bayesian statistics such as prior distributions conjugacy and generative modeling Finally we cover some of the fundamental modeling techniques in NLP such as grammar modeling and their use with Bayesian analysis

Learning to Rank for Information Retrieval and Natural Language Processing, Second Edition
 Hang Li, 2022-05-31 Learning to rank refers to machine learning techniques for training a model in a ranking task Learning to rank is useful for many applications in information retrieval natural language processing and data mining Intensive studies have been conducted on its problems recently and significant progress has been made This lecture gives an introduction to the area including the fundamental problems major approaches theories applications and future work The author begins by showing that various ranking problems in information retrieval and natural language processing can be formalized as two basic ranking tasks namely ranking creation or simply ranking and ranking aggregation In ranking creation given a request one wants to generate a ranking list of offerings based on the features derived from the request and the offerings In ranking aggregation given a request as well as a number of ranking lists of offerings one wants to generate a new ranking list of the offerings Ranking creation or ranking is the major problem in learning to rank It is usually formalized as a supervised learning task The author gives detailed explanations on learning for ranking creation and ranking aggregation including training and testing evaluation feature creation and major approaches Many methods have been proposed for ranking creation The methods can be categorized as the pointwise pairwise and listwise approaches according to the loss functions they employ They can also be categorized according to the techniques they employ such as the SVM based Boosting based and Neural Network based approaches The author also introduces some popular learning to rank methods in details These include PRank OC SVM McRank Ranking SVM IR SVM GBRank RankNet ListNet ListMLE AdaRank SVM MAP SoftRank LambdaRank LambdaMART Borda Count Markov Chain and CRanking The author explains several example applications of learning to rank including web search collaborative filtering definition search keyphrase extraction query dependent summarization and re ranking in machine translation A formulation of learning for ranking creation is given in the statistical learning framework Ongoing and future research directions for learning to rank are also discussed Table of Contents

Learning to Rank Learning for Ranking Creation Learning for Ranking Aggregation Methods of Learning to Rank Applications of Learning to Rank Theory of Learning to Rank Ongoing and Future Work

Automated Grammatical Error Detection for Language Learners, Second Edition Claudia Leacock, Michael Gamon, Joel Alejandro Mejia, Martin Chodorow, 2022-06-01 It has been estimated that over a billion people are using or learning English as a second or foreign language and the numbers are growing not only for English but for other languages as well These language learners provide a burgeoning market for tools that help identify and correct learners writing errors Unfortunately the errors targeted by

typical commercial proofreading tools do not include those aspects of a second language that are hardest to learn This volume describes the types of constructions English language learners find most difficult constructions containing prepositions articles and collocations It provides an overview of the automated approaches that have been developed to identify and correct these and other classes of learner errors in a number of languages Error annotation and system evaluation are particularly important topics in grammatical error detection because there are no commonly accepted standards Chapters in the book describe the options available to researchers recommend best practices for reporting results and present annotation and evaluation schemes The final chapters explore recent innovative work that opens new directions for research It is the authors hope that this volume will continue to contribute to the growing interest in grammatical error detection by encouraging researchers to take a closer look at the field and its many challenging problems **Web Corpus**

Construction Roland Schäfer,Felix Bildhauer,2022-05-31 The World Wide Web constitutes the largest existing source of texts written in a great variety of languages A feasible and sound way of exploiting this data for linguistic research is to compile a static corpus for a given language There are several advantages of this approach i Working with such corpora obviates the problems encountered when using Internet search engines in quantitative linguistic research such as non transparent ranking algorithms ii Creating a corpus from web data is virtually free iii The size of corpora compiled from the WWW may exceed by several orders of magnitudes the size of language resources offered elsewhere iv The data is locally available to the user and it can be linguistically post processed and queried with the tools preferred by her him This book addresses the main practical tasks in the creation of web corpora up to giga token size Among these tasks are the sampling process i e web crawling and the usual cleanups including boilerplate removal and removal of duplicated content Linguistic processing and problems with linguistic processing coming from the different kinds of noise in web corpora are also covered Finally the authors show how web corpora can be evaluated and compared to other corpora such as traditionally compiled corpora For additional material please visit the companion website sites morganclaypool com wcc Table of Contents Preface Acknowledgments Web Corpora Data Collection Post Processing Linguistic Processing Corpus Evaluation and Comparison Bibliography Authors Biographies *Semantic Similarity from Natural Language and Ontology Analysis* Sébastien

Harispe,Sylvie Ranwez,Stefan janaqi,Jacky Montmain,2022-05-31 Artificial Intelligence federates numerous scientific fields in the aim of developing machines able to assist human operators performing complex treatments most of which demand high cognitive skills e g learning or decision processes Central to this quest is to give machines the ability to estimate the likeness or similarity between things in the way human beings estimate the similarity between stimuli In this context this book focuses on semantic measures approaches designed for comparing semantic entities such as units of language e g words sentences or concepts and instances defined into knowledge bases The aim of these measures is to assess the similarity or relatedness of such semantic entities by taking into account their semantics i e their meaning intuitively the words tea and

coffee which both refer to stimulating beverage will be estimated to be more semantically similar than the words toffee confection and coffee despite that the last pair has a higher syntactic similarity The two state of the art approaches for estimating and quantifying semantic similarities relatedness of semantic entities are presented in detail the first one relies on corpora analysis and is based on Natural Language Processing techniques and semantic models while the second is based on more or less formal computer readable and workable forms of knowledge such as semantic networks thesauri or ontologies Semantic measures are widely used today to compare units of language concepts instances or even resources indexed by them e g documents genes They are central elements of a large variety of Natural Language Processing applications and knowledge based treatments and have therefore naturally been subject to intensive and interdisciplinary research efforts during last decades Beyond a simple inventory and categorization of existing measures the aim of this monograph is to convey novices as well as researchers of these domains toward a better understanding of semantic similarity estimation and more generally semantic measures To this end we propose an in depth characterization of existing proposals by discussing their features the assumptions on which they are based and empirical results regarding their performance in particular applications By answering these questions and by providing a detailed discussion on the foundations of semantic measures our aim is to give the reader key knowledge required to i select the more relevant methods according to a particular usage context ii understand the challenges offered to this field of study iii distinguish room of improvements for state of the art approaches and iv stimulate creativity toward the development of new approaches In this aim several definitions theoretical and practical details as well as concrete applications are presented

Automated Grammatical Error Detection for Language Learners Claudia Leacock, Martin Chodorow, Michael Gamon, Joel Tetreault, 2014-02-01 It has been estimated that over a billion people are using or learning English as a second or foreign language and the numbers are growing not only for English but for other languages as well These language learners provide a burgeoning market for tools that help identify and correct learners writing errors Unfortunately the errors targeted by typical commercial proofreading tools do not include those aspects of a second language that are hardest to learn This volume describes the types of constructions English language learners find most difficult constructions containing prepositions articles and collocations It provides an overview of the automated approaches that have been developed to identify and correct these and other classes of learner errors in a number of languages Error annotation and system evaluation are particularly important topics in grammatical error detection because there are no commonly accepted standards Chapters in the book describe the options available to researchers recommend best practices for reporting results and present annotation and evaluation schemes The final chapters explore recent innovative work that opens new directions for research It is the authors hope that this volume will continue to contribute to the growing interest in grammatical error detection by encouraging researchers to take a closer look at the field and its many challenging problems

Semantic Relations Between Nominals Vivi Nastase, Stan

Szpakowicz, Preslav Nakov, Diarmuid Ó Séaghdha, 2021-04-08 Opportunity and Curiosity find similar rocks on Mars One can generally understand this statement if one knows that Opportunity and Curiosity are instances of the class of Mars rovers and recognizes that as signalled by the word on ROCKS are located on Mars Two mental operations contribute to understanding recognize how entities concepts mentioned in a text interact and recall already known facts which often themselves consist of relations between entities concepts Concept interactions one identifies in the text can be added to the repository of known facts and aid the processing of future texts The amassed knowledge can assist many advanced language processing tasks including summarization question answering and machine translation Semantic relations are the connections we perceive between things which interact The book explores two now intertwined threads in semantic relations how they are expressed in texts and what role they play in knowledge repositories A historical perspective takes us back more than 2000 years to their beginnings and then to developments much closer to our time various attempts at producing lists of semantic relations necessary and sufficient to express the interaction between entities concepts A look at relations outside context then in general texts and then in texts in specialized domains has gradually brought new insights and led to essential adjustments in how the relations are seen At the same time datasets which encompass these phenomena have become available They started small then grew somewhat then became truly large The large resources are inevitably noisy because they are constructed automatically The available corpora to be analyzed or used to gather relational evidence have also grown and some systems now operate at the Web scale The learning of semantic relations has proceeded in parallel in adherence to supervised unsupervised or distantly supervised paradigms Detailed analyses of annotated datasets in supervised learning have granted insights useful in developing unsupervised and distantly supervised methods These in turn have contributed to the understanding of what relations are and how to find them and that has led to methods scalable to Web sized textual data The size and redundancy of information in very large corpora which at first seemed problematic have been harnessed to improve the process of relation extraction learning The newest technology deep learning supplies innovative and surprising solutions to a variety of problems in relation learning This book aims to paint a big picture and to offer interesting details

Decoding **Spoken Dialogue Systems Michael Mctear**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In a time characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its power to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Spoken Dialogue Systems Michael Mctear**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned by a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring impact on our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book's central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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