

The TREC-8 Question Answering Track Report

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Abstract

The TREC-8 Question Answering track was the first large-scale evaluation of domain-independent question answering systems. This paper summarizes the results of the track by giving a brief overview of the different approaches taken to solve the problem. The most accurate systems found a correct response for more than 2/3 of the questions. Relatively simple bag-of-words approaches were adequate for finding answers when responses could be as long as a paragraph (250 bytes), but more sophisticated processing was necessary for more direct responses (50 bytes).

The TREC-8 Question Answering track was an initial effort to bring the benefits of large-scale evaluation to bear on a question answering (QA) task. The goal in the QA task is to retrieve small snippets of text that contain the actual answer to a question rather than the document lists traditionally returned by text retrieval systems. The assumption is that users would usually prefer to be given the answer rather than find the answer themselves in a document.

This paper summarizes the retrieval results of the track; a companion paper ("The TREC-8 Question Answering Track Evaluation") gives details about how the evaluation was implemented. By necessity, a track report can give only an overview of the different approaches used in the track. Readers are urged to consult the participants' papers elsewhere in the Proceedings for details regarding a particular approach.

1 The Task

A successful evaluation requires a task that is neither too easy nor too difficult for the current technology. If the task is too simple, all systems do very well and nothing is learned. Similarly, if the task is too difficult, all systems do very poorly and again nothing is learned. Accordingly, we chose a constrained version of the general question answering problem as the focus of the track.

The document collection used in the task was the same as the TREC-8 ad hoc collection, namely the set of documents on TREC disks 4 and 5 minus the *Congressional Record* documents. The documents consist mostly of newspaper articles and thus contain information on a wide variety of subjects. Participants were given 200 fact-based, short-answer questions, such as those given in Figure 1. Each question was guaranteed to have at least one document in the collection that explicitly answered the question.

Participants returned a ranked list of five [document-id, answer-string] pairs per question such that each answer string was believed to contain an answer to the question. Answer strings were limited to either 50 or 250 bytes, and could either be extracted from the corresponding document or automatically generated from information contained in the document. Human assessors read each string and made a binary decision as to whether the string actually did contain an answer to the question in the context provided by the document. Taking document context into account allowed a system that correctly derived a response from a document that was incorrect to be given full credit for its response.

Given a set of judgments for the strings, the score computed for a submission was mean reciprocal rank, defined as follows. An individual question received a score equal to the reciprocal of the rank at which the first correct response was returned, or 0 if none of the five responses contained a correct answer. The score for a submission was then the mean of the individual questions' reciprocal ranks. The reciprocal rank has several advantages as a scoring metric. It is closely related to the average precision measure used extensively in document retrieval. It is bounded between 0 and 1, inclusive, and averages well. A run is penalized for

The Trec 8 Question Answering Track Report

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The Trec 8 Question Answering Track Report:

Text- and Speech-Triggered Information Access Steve Renals, Gregory Grefenstette, 2003-09-09 This book presents revised versions of the lectures given at the 8th ELSNET European Summer School on Language and Speech Communication held on the Island of Chios Greece in summer 2000 Besides an introductory survey the book presents lectures on data analysis for multimedia libraries pronunciation modeling for large vocabulary speech recognition statistical language modeling very large scale information retrieval reduction of information variation in text and a concluding chapter on open questions in research for linguistics in information access The book gives newcomers to language and speech communication a clear overview of the main technologies and problems in the area Researchers and professionals active in the area will appreciate the book as a concise review of the technologies used in text and speech triggered information access

Natural Language Processing for Online Applications Peter Jackson, Isabelle Moulinier, 2007 This text covers the technologies of document retrieval information extraction and text categorization in a way which highlights commonalities in terms of both general principles and practical concerns It assumes some mathematical background on the part of the reader but the chapters typically begin with a non mathematical account of the key issues Current research topics are covered only to the extent that they are informing current applications detailed coverage of longer term research and more theoretical treatments should be sought elsewhere There are many pointers at the ends of the chapters that the reader can follow to explore the literature However the book does maintain a strong emphasis on evaluation in every chapter both in terms of methodology and the results of controlled experimentation

Advances in Information Retrieval Djoerd Hiemstra, Marie-Francine Moens, Josiane Mothe, Raffaele Perego, Martin Potthast, Fabrizio Sebastiani, 2021-03-26 This two volume set LNCS 12656 and 12657 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 43rd European Conference on IR Research ECIR 2021 held virtually in March April 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic The 50 full papers presented together with 11 reproducibility papers 39 short papers 15 demonstration papers 12 CLEF lab descriptions papers 5 doctoral consortium papers 5 workshop abstracts and 8 tutorials abstracts were carefully reviewed and selected from 436 submissions The accepted contributions cover the state of the art in IR deep learning based information retrieval techniques use of entities and knowledge graphs recommender systems retrieval methods information extraction question answering topic and prediction models multimedia retrieval and much more

Innovations, Securities, and Case Studies Across Healthcare, Business, and Technology Burrell, Darrell Norman, 2024-01-15 The longstanding practice of keeping academic disciplines separate has been a barrier to effectively addressing the complex challenges in our world The boundaries separating fields like healthcare social sciences and technology have obscured the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration preventing us from unlocking innovative solutions to the most pressing issues of our time As a result the critical problems we face from healthcare inequities to technological advancements with ethical dilemmas have remained largely

unresolved This fragmented approach to academic inquiry has left a void in our quest to tackle these challenges effectively The solution is found within the pages of *Innovations Securities and Case Studies Across Healthcare Business and Technology* This groundbreaking compendium illuminates the transformative potential of interdisciplinary collaboration offering direction and support in the form of knowledge for scholars researchers practitioners and students committed to solving real world problems By harnessing the collective wisdom of diverse disciplines the book demonstrates how convergence across healthcare social sciences organizational behavior and technology can lead to groundbreaking insights and solutions It showcases success stories and innovative strategies that drive positive change within our societies offering a roadmap towards a brighter more interconnected future

Annual Review of Information Science and Technology

Information Today Inc,2005-10 ARIST published annually since 1966 is a landmark publication within the information science community It surveys the landscape of information science and technology providing an analytical authoritative and accessible overview of recent trends and significant developments The range of topics varies considerably reflecting the dynamism of the discipline and the diversity of theoretical and applied perspectives While ARIST continues to cover key topics associated with classical information science e g bibliometrics information retrieval editor Blaise Cronin is selectively expanding its footprint in an effort to connect information science more tightly with cognate academic and professional communities Contents of Volume 40 2006 SECTION I Information and Society Chapter 1 The Micro and Macroeconomics of Information Sandra Braman Chapter 2 The Geographies of the Internet Matthew Zook Chapter 3 Open Access M Carl Drott SECTION II Technologies and Systems Chapter 4 TREC An Overview Donna K Harman and Ellen M Voorhees Chapter 5 Semantic Relations in Information Science Christopher S G Khoo and Jin Cheon Na Chapter 6 Intelligence and Security Informatics Hsinchun Chen and Jennifer Xu SECTION III Information Needs and Use Chapter 7 Information Behavior Donald O Case Chapter 8 Collaborative Information Seeking and Retrieval Jonathan Foster Chapter 9 Information Failures in Health Care Anu MacIntosh Murray and Chun Wei Choo Chapter 10 Workplace Studies and Technological Change Angela Cora Garcia Mark E Dawes Mary Lou Kohne Felicia Miller and Stephan F Groschwitz SECTION IV Theoretical Perspectives Chapter 11 Information History Alistair Black Chapter 12 Social Epistemology and Information Science Don Fallis Chapter 13 Formal Concept Analysis in Information Science Uta Priss

MultiMedia Modeling Klaus Schoeffmann,Thanarat H. Chalidabhongse,Chong Wah Ngo,Supavadee Aramvith,Noel E. O'Connor,Yo-Sung Ho,Moncef Gabbouj,Ahmed Elgammal,2018-01-30 The two volume set LNCS 10704 and 10705 constitutes the thoroughly refereed proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Multimedia Modeling MMM 2018 held in Bangkok Thailand in February 2018 Of the 185 full papers submitted 46 were selected for oral presentation and 28 for poster presentation in addition 5 papers were accepted for Multimedia Analytics Perspectives Techniques and Applications 12 extended abstracts for demonstrations and 9 accepted papers for Video Browser Showdown 2018 All papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 185

submissions *Computer Vision – ECCV 2022 Workshops* Leonid Karlinsky, Tomer Michaeli, Ko Nishino, 2023-02-11 The 8 volume set comprising the LNCS books 13801 until 13809 constitutes the refereed proceedings of 38 out of the 60 workshops held at the 17th European Conference on Computer Vision ECCV 2022 The conference took place in Tel Aviv Israel during October 23-27 2022 the workshops were held hybrid or online The 367 full papers included in this volume set were carefully reviewed and selected for inclusion in the ECCV 2022 workshop proceedings They were organized in individual parts as follows Part I W01 AI for Space W02 Vision for Art W03 Adversarial Robustness in the Real World W04 Autonomous Vehicle Vision Part II W05 Learning With Limited and Imperfect Data W06 Advances in Image Manipulation Part III W07 Medical Computer Vision W08 Computer Vision for Metaverse W09 Self Supervised Learning What Is Next Part IV W10 Self Supervised Learning for Next Generation Industry Level Autonomous Driving W11 ISIC Skin Image Analysis W12 Cross Modal Human Robot Interaction W13 Text in Everything W14 BioImage Computing W15 Visual Object Oriented Learning Meets Interaction Discovery Representations and Applications W16 AI for Creative Video Editing and Understanding W17 Visual Inductive Priors for Data Efficient Deep Learning W18 Mobile Intelligent Photography and Imaging Part V W19 People Analysis From Face Body and Fashion to 3D Virtual Avatars W20 Safe Artificial Intelligence for Automated Driving W21 Real World Surveillance Applications and Challenges W22 Affective Behavior Analysis In the Wild Part VI W23 Visual Perception for Navigation in Human Environments The JackRabbit Human Body Pose Dataset and Benchmark W24 Distributed Smart Cameras W25 Causality in Vision W26 In Vehicle Sensing and Monitorization W27 Assistive Computer Vision and Robotics W28 Computational Aspects of Deep Learning Part VII W29 Computer Vision for Civil and Infrastructure Engineering W30 AI Enabled Medical Image Analysis Digital Pathology and Radiology COVID19 W31 Compositional and Multimodal Perception Part VIII W32 Uncertainty Quantification for Computer Vision W33 Recovering 6D Object Pose W34 Drawings and Abstract Imagery Representation and Analysis W35 Sign Language Understanding W36 A Challenge for Out of Distribution Generalization in Computer Vision W37 Vision With Biased or Scarce Data W38 Visual Object Tracking Challenge *Database Systems for Advanced Applications* Makoto Onizuka, Jae-Gil Lee, Yongxin Tong, Chuan Xiao, Yoshiharu Ishikawa, Sihem Amer-Yahia, H. V. Jagadish, Kejing Lu, 2024-10-26 The seven volume set LNCS 14850-14856 constitutes the proceedings of the 29th International Conference on Database Systems for Advanced Applications DASFAA 2024 held in Gifu Japan in July 2024 The total of 147 full papers along with 85 short papers presented together in this seven volume set was carefully reviewed and selected from 722 submissions Additionally 14 industrial papers 18 demo papers and 6 tutorials are included The conference presents papers on subjects such as Part I Spatial and temporal data database core technology federated learning Part II Machine learning text processing Part III Recommendation multi media Part IV Privacy and security knowledge base and graphs Part V Natural language processing large language model time series and stream data Part VI Graph and network hardware acceleration Part VII Emerging application industry papers

demo papers **Advanced Intelligent Computing Technology and Applications** De-Shuang Huang, Haiming Chen, Bo Li, Qinhu Zhang, 2025-07-21 The 12 volume set CCIS 2564 2575 together with the 28 volume set LNCS LNAI LNBI 15842 15869 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Intelligent Computing ICIC 2025 held in Ningbo China during July 26 29 2025 The 523 papers presented in these proceedings books were carefully reviewed and selected from 4032 submissions This year the conference concentrated mainly on the theories and methodologies as well as the emerging applications of intelligent computing Its aim was to unify the picture of contemporary intelligent computing techniques as an integral concept that highlights the trends in advanced computational intelligence and bridges theoretical research with applications Therefore the theme for this conference was Advanced Intelligent Computing Technology and Applications *Information Technology in Bio- and Medical Informatics* M. Elena Renda, Miroslav Bursa, Andreas Holzinger, Sami Khuri, 2015-08-10 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Information Technology in Bio and Medical Informatics ITBAM 2015 held in Valencia Spain in September 2015 in conjunction with DEXA 2015 The 9 revised long papers presented together with 1 poster paper were carefully reviewed and selected from 15 submissions The papers address the following two topics medical terminology and clinical processes and machine learning in biomedicine Advances in Open Domain Question Answering Tomek Strzalkowski, Sanda Harabagiu, 2006-10-07 Automated question answering the ability of a machine to answer questions simple or complex posed in ordinary human language is one of today's most exciting technological developments It has all the markings of a disruptive technology one that is poised to displace the existing search methods and establish new standards for user centered access to information This book gives a comprehensive and detailed look at the current approaches to automated question answering The level of presentation is suitable for newcomers to the field as well as for professionals wishing to study this area and or to build practical QA systems The book can serve as a how to handbook for IT practitioners and system developers It can also be used to teach advanced graduate courses in Computer Science Information Science and related disciplines The readers will acquire in depth practical knowledge of this critical new technology *Advances in Information Retrieval* Allan Hanbury, Gabriella Kazai, Andreas Rauber, Norbert Fuhr, 2015-03-16 This book constitutes the proceedings of the 37th European Conference on IR Research ECIR 2015 held in Vienna Austria in March April 2015 The 44 full papers 41 poster papers and 7 demonstrations presented together with 3 keynotes in this volume were carefully reviewed and selected from 305 submissions The focus of the papers were on following topics aggregated search and diversity classification cross lingual and discourse efficiency evaluation event mining and summarisation information extraction recommender systems semantic and graph based models sentiment and opinion social media specific search tasks temporal models and features topic and document models user behavior and reproducible IR **Advances in Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining** Hisashi Kashima, Tsuyoshi Ide, Wen-Chih Peng, 2023-05-29 The 4 volume set LNAI 13935 13938 constitutes the proceedings of the

27th Pacific Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining PAKDD 2023 which took place in Osaka Japan during May 25 28 2023 The 143 papers presented in these proceedings were carefully reviewed and selected from 813 submissions They deal with new ideas original research results and practical development experiences from all KDD related areas including data mining data warehousing machine learning artificial intelligence databases statistics knowledge engineering big data technologies and foundations **Data Warehousing and Knowledge Discovery** Il-Yeol Song, 2008-08-18 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Data Warehousing and Knowledge Discovery DaWak 2008 held in Turin Italy in September 2008 The 40 revised full papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 143 submissions The papers are organized in topical sections on conceptual design and modeling olap and cube processing distributed data warehouse data privacy in data warehouse data warehouse and data mining clustering mining data streams classification text mining and taxonomy machine learning techniques and data mining applications

Advances in Artificial Intelligence Richard Khoury, Christopher Drummond, 2016-05-13 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 29th Canadian Conference on Artificial Intelligence Canadian AI 2016 held in Victoria BC Canada in May June 2016 The 12 full papers and 27 short papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 97 submissions The focus of the conference was on the following subjects actions and behaviours audio and visual recognition natural language processing reasoning and learning streams and distributed computing **Advances in Information Retrieval** Mohand Boughanem, Catherine Berrut, Josiane Mothe, Chantal Soule-Dupuy, 2009-03-27 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 30th annual European Conference on Information Retrieval Research ECIR 2009 held in Toulouse France in April 2009 The 42 revised full papers and 18 revised short papers presented together with the abstracts of 3 invited lectures and 25 poster papers were carefully reviewed and selected from 188 submissions The papers are organized in topical sections on retrieval model collaborative IR filtering learning multimedia metadata expert search advertising evaluation opinion detection web IR representation clustering categorization as well as distributed IR Computer Vision -- ACCV 2012

Kyoung Mu Lee, Yasuyuki Matsushita, James M. Rehg, Zhanyi Hu, 2013-03-27 The four volume set LNCS 7724 7727 constitutes the thoroughly refereed post conference proceedings of the 11th Asian Conference on Computer Vision ACCV 2012 held in Daejeon Korea in November 2012 The total of 226 contributions presented in these volumes was carefully reviewed and selected from 869 submissions The papers are organized in topical sections on object detection learning and matching object recognition feature representation and recognition segmentation grouping and classification image representation image and video retrieval and medical image analysis face and gesture analysis and recognition optical flow and tracking motion tracking and computational photography video analysis and action recognition shape reconstruction and optimization shape from X and photometry applications of computer vision low level vision and applications of computer vision **Advances in Information Retrieval** Gabriella Pasi, Benjamin Piwowarski, Leif Azzopardi, Allan Hanbury, 2018-03-20 This book constitutes

the refereed proceedings of the 40th European Conference on IR Research ECIR 2018 held in Grenoble France in March 2018 The 39 full papers and 39 short papers presented together with 6 demos 5 workshops and 3 tutorials were carefully reviewed and selected from 303 submissions Accepted papers cover the state of the art in information retrieval including topics such as topic modeling deep learning evaluation user behavior document representation recommendation systems retrieval methods learning and classification and micro blogs *The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics* Ruslan Mitkov, 2004 This handbook of computational linguistics written for academics graduate students and researchers provides a state of the art reference to one of the most active and productive fields in linguistics **Internet Multimedia Computing and Service** Benoit Huet, Liqiang Nie, Richang Hong, 2018-02-28 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Internet Multimedia Computing and Service ICIMCS 2017 held in Qingdao China in August 2017 The 20 revised full papers and 28 revised short papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 103 submissions The papers are organized in topical sections on multimedia information fusion image processing and object recognition machine learning and representation learning multimedia retrieval poster papers

The Trec 8 Question Answering Track Report Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In a digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has are more apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**The Trec 8 Question Answering Track Report**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve to the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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