Workshop on Multilingual Summarization and Question Answering – Machine Learning and Beyond

Proceedings of the Workshop

11 July 2003
Sapporo Convention Center
Sapporo, Japan

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Program

Time	Title
09:00-09:05	Welcome
09:05-09:55	Invited Speech (Dan Roth)
Session 1	Question Answering
09:55-10:20	Question Answering via Bayesian Inference on Lexical Relations
10:20-10:50	Break
Session 2	Summarization
10:50-11:15	Using Thematic Information in Statistical Headline Generation
11:15-11:40	Combining Optimal Clustering and Hidden Markov Models for Extractive Summarization
11:40-12:05	Evaluation of Features for Sentence Extraction on Different Types of Corpora
12:05-12:30	An Evolutionary Approach for Improving the Quality of Automatic Summaries
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:50	Invited Speech (Noriko Kando)
Session 3	New Directions in Question Answering
14:50-15:15	HITIQA: An Interactive Question Answering System: A Preliminary Report
15:15-15:40	Discovery of Manner Relations and Their Applicability to Question Answering
15:40-16:10	Break
Session 4	Machine Learning Approach to QA
16:10-16:35	Question Classification using HDAG Kernel
16:35-17:00	Statistical QA - Classifier vs. Re-ranker: What's the difference?
17:00-17:25	Automatic Detection of Causal Relations for Question Answering
17:25-17:50	Question Answering on a Case Insensitive Corpus
17:50-17:55	Closing Remarks and Adjourn

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Preface

Automatic summarization and question answering aim at producing a concise, condensed representation of the key information content in an information source for a particular user and task. Interest in automatic summarization and question answering continues to grow, motivated by the explosion of on-line information sources and advances in natural language processing and information retrieval. In fact, various forms of automatic summarization and question answering will undoubtedly be indispensable given the massive information universes that lie ahead in the 21st century.

Summarization and question answering involves the extraction or generation of text snippets to fulfill some user needs. Rule-based or statistical-based summarization and QA systems have shown promising results in the TREC QA-tracks, NTCIR QAC, and NIST DUC; it is, however, very difficult to find good evaluation functions or rules that work well across domains or in all questions because there are many system parameters that must be carefully tuned in order to achieve good system performance. In consequence, various machine learning (ML) techniques have recently been applied to summarization and QA systems.

We hope that the workshop will foster an open discussion of current issues and present some novel techniques used for question answering and summarization. The chairs thank members of the program committee that provided reviews for the papers and for all the other useful comments while we were organizing this workshop. We also want to say a word of thanks to all of the authors that submitted papers, and hope to see them all presented in the future.