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Preface

Welcome to the 8th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP). IJCNLP was initiated in 2004 by the Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing (AFNLP) with the major goal to provide a platform for researchers and professionals around the world to share their experiences related to natural language processing and computational linguistics. In the past years, IJCNLPS were held in 7 different places: Hainan Island (2004), Jeju Island (2005), Hyderabad (2008), Singapore (2009), Chiang Mai (2011), Nagoya (2013) and Beijing (2015). This year the 8th IJCNLP is held in Taipei Nangang Exhibition Hall on November 27-December 1, 2017.

We are confident that you will find IJCNLP 2017 to be technically stimulating. The conference covers a broad spectrum of technical areas related to natural language processing and computation. Besides main conference, the program includes 3 keynote speeches, 6 tutorials, 17 demonstrations, 5 workshops, and 5 shared tasks (new event).

Before closing this brief welcome, we would like to thank the entire organizing committee for their long efforts to create and event that we hope will be memorable for you. Program chairs Greg Kondrak and Taro Watanabe coordinate the review process allowing for top quality papers to be presented at the conference. Workshop chairs Min Zhang and Yue Zhang organize 5 nice pre-conference and post-conference workshops. Tutorial chairs Sadao Kurohashi and Michael Strube select 6 very good tutorials. Demo chairs Seong-Bae Park and Thepchai Supnithi recommend 17 demonstrations. Shared Task chairs Chao-Hong Liu, Preslav Nakov and Nianwen Xue choose 5 interesting shared tasks. Sponsorship chairs Youngkil Kim, Tong Xiao, Kazuhide Yamamoto and Jui-Feng Yeh design sponsor packages and find financial supports. We thank all the sponsors. Publicity chairs Pushpak Bhattacharya, Xuanjing Huang, Gina-Anne Levow, Chi Mai Loung and Sebastian Stüker help circulate the conference information and promote the conference. We would like to express our special thanks to publication chairs Lung-Hao Lee and Derek F. Wong. After the hard work, they deliver an excellent proceeding to the participants.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors for submitting high quality research this year. We hope all of you enjoy the conference program, and your stay at this beautiful city of Taipei.

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Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 8th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP 2017) organized by National Taiwan Normal University and the Association for Computational Linguistics and Chinese Language Processing (ACLCLP) and hosted by The Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing (AFNLP).

Since the first meeting in 2004, IJCNLP has established itself as a major NLP conference. This year, we received 580 submissions (337 long and 243 short), which is by far the largest number ever for a stand-alone IJCNLP conference. From these, 179 papers (103 long and 76 short) were accepted to appear at the conference, which represents an acceptance rate of 31%. In particular, approximately 46% of the accepted papers are from Asia Pacific, 30% from North America, and 20% from Europe.

Our objective is to keep the conference to three parallel sessions at any one time. 86 long papers and 21 short papers are scheduled as oral presentations, while 17 long papers and 55 short papers will be presented as posters.

We are also very pleased to announce three exciting keynote talks by the renowned NLP researchers: Rada Mihalcea (University of Michigan), Trevor Cohn (University of Melbourne) and Jason Eisner (Johns Hopkins University).

The conference will conclude with the award presentation ceremony. The Best Paper Award goes to Nikolaos Pappas and Andrei Popescu-Belis for their paper “Multilingual Hierarchical Attention Networks for Document Classification.” The Best Student Paper award goes to “Roles and Success in Wikipedia Talk Pages: Identifying Latent Patterns of Behavior” by Keith Maki, Michael Yoder, Yohan Jo and Carolyn Rosé.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped make IJCNLP 2017 a success. In particular, the area chairs (who are listed in the Program Committee section) worked hard on recruiting reviewers, managing reviews, leading discussions, and making recommendations. The quality of the technical program reflects the expertise of our 536 reviewers. All submissions were reviewed by at least three reviewers. The review process for the conference was double-blind, and included an author response period, as well as subsequent discussions.

We would like to acknowledge the help and advice from the General Chair Chengqing Zong, and the Local Arrangements Committee headed by Liang-Chih Yu. We thank the Publication Chairs Lung-Hao Lee and Derek F. Wong for putting together the conference proceedings and handbook, and all the other committee chairs for their great work.

We hope you will enjoy IJCNLP 2017!

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José G. C. de Souza, Deng Cai, Burcu Can, Ziqiang Cao, Yuan Cao, Vittorio Castelli, Daniel Cer,
Invited Talk: Words and People

Rada Mihalcea

University of Michigan

Abstract

What do the words we use say about us and about how we view the world surrounding us? And what do we - as speakers of those words with our own defining attributes, imply about the words we utter? In this talk, I will explore the relation between words and people and show how we can develop cross-cultural word models to identify words with cultural bias – i.e., words that are used in significantly different ways by speakers from different cultures. Further, I will also show how we can effectively use information about the speakers of a word (i.e., their gender, culture) to build better word models.

Biography

Rada Mihalcea is a Professor in the Computer Science and Engineering department at the University of Michigan. Her research interests are in computational linguistics, with a focus on lexical semantics, multilingual natural language processing, and computational social sciences. She serves or has served on the editorial boards of the Journals of Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluations, Natural Language Engineering, Research in Language in Computation, IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing, and Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics. She was a program co-chair for the Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (2011) and the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (2009), and a general chair for the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (2015). She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER award (2008) and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers awarded by President Obama (2009). In 2013, she was made an honorary citizen of her hometown of Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
Invited Talk: Learning Large and Small: How to Transfer NLP Successes to
Low-resource Languages

Trevor Cohn
University of Melbourne

Abstract

Recent advances in NLP have predominantly been based upon supervised learning over large corpora, where rich expressive models, such as deep learning methods, can perform exceptionally well. However, these state of the art approaches tend to be very data hungry, and consequently do not elegantly scale down to smaller corpora, which are more typical in many NLP applications.

In this talk, I will describe the importance of small data in our field, drawing particular attention to so-called “low-” or “under-resourced” languages, for which corpora are scarce, and linguistic annotations scarcer yet. One of the key problems for our field is how to translate successes on the few high-resource languages to practical technologies for the remaining majority of the world’s languages. I will cover several research problems in this space, including transfer learning between high- and low-resource languages, active learning for selecting text for annotation, and speech processing in a low-resource setting, namely learning to translate audio inputs without transcriptions. I will finish by discussing open problems in natural language processing that will be critical in porting highly successful NLP work to the myriad of less-well-studied languages.

Biography

Trevor Cohn is an Associate Professor and ARC Future Fellow at the University of Melbourne, in the School of Computing and Information Systems. He received Bachelor degrees in Software Engineering and Commerce, and a PhD degree in Engineering from the University of Melbourne. He was previously based at the University of Sheffield, and before this worked as a Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. His research interests focus on probabilistic and statistical machine learning for natural language processing, with applications in several areas including machine translation, parsing and grammar induction. Current projects include translating diverse and noisy text sources, deep learning of semantics in translation, rumour diffusion over social media, and algorithmic approaches for scaling to massive corpora. Dr. Cohn’s research has been recognised by several best paper awards, including best short paper at EMNLP in 2016. He will be jointly organising ACL 2018 in Melbourne.
Invited Talk: Strategies for Discovering Underlying Linguistic Structure

Jason Eisner
Johns Hopkins University

Abstract

A goal of computational linguistics is to automate the kind of reasoning that linguists do. Given text in a new language, can we determine the underlying morphemes and the grammar rules that arrange and modify them?

The Bayesian strategy is to devise a joint probabilistic model that is capable of generating the descriptions of new languages. Given data from a particular new language, we can then seek explanatory descriptions that have high prior probability. This strategy leads to fascinating and successful algorithms in the case of morphology.

Yet the Bayesian approach has been less successful for syntax. It is limited in practice by our ability to (1) design accurate models and (2) solve the computational problem of posterior inference. I will demonstrate some remedies: build only a partial (conditional) model, and use synthetic data to train a neural network that simulates correct posterior inference.

Biography

Jason Eisner is Professor of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University, where he is also affiliated with the Center for Language and Speech Processing, the Machine Learning Group, the Cognitive Science Department, and the national Center of Excellence in Human Language Technology. His goal is to develop the probabilistic modeling, inference, and learning techniques needed for a unified model of all kinds of linguistic structure. His 100+ papers have presented various algorithms for parsing, machine translation, and weighted finite-state machines; formalizations, algorithms, theorems, and empirical results in computational phonology; and unsupervised or semi-supervised learning methods for syntax, morphology, and word-sense disambiguation. He is also the lead designer of Dyna, a new declarative programming language that provides an infrastructure for AI research. He has received two school-wide awards for excellence in teaching.
# Table of Contents

**Evaluating Layers of Representation in Neural Machine Translation on Part-of-Speech and Semantic Tagging Tasks**  
Yonatan Belinkov, Lluís Márquez, Hassan Sajjad, Nadir Durrani, Fahim Dalvi and James Glass  

**Context-Aware Smoothing for Neural Machine Translation**  
Kehai Chen, Rui Wang, Masao Utiyama, Eiichiro Sumita and Tiejun Zhao  

**Improving Sequence to Sequence Neural Machine Translation by Utilizing Syntactic Dependency Information**  
An Nguyen Le, Ander Martinez, Akifumi Yoshimoto and Yuji Matsumoto  

**What does Attention in Neural Machine Translation Pay Attention to?**  
Hamidreza Ghader and Christof Monz  

**Grammatical Error Detection Using Error- and Grammaticality-Specific Word Embeddings**  
Masahiro Kaneko, Yuya Sakaizawa and Mamoru Komachi  

**Dependency Parsing with Partial Annotations: An Empirical Comparison**  
Yue Zhang, Zhenghua Li, Jun Lang, Qingrong Xia and Min Zhang  

**Neural Probabilistic Model for Non-projective MST Parsing**  
Xuezhe Ma and Eduard Hovy  

**Word Ordering as Unsupervised Learning Towards Syntactically Plausible Word Representations**  
Noriki Nishida and Hideki Nakayama  

**MIPA: Mutual Information Based Paraphrase Acquisition via Bilingual Pivoting**  
Tomoyuki Kajiwara, Mamoru Komachi and Daichi Mochihashi  

**Improving Implicit Semantic Role Labeling by Predicting Semantic Frame Arguments**  
Quynh Ngoc Thi Do, Steven Bethard and Marie-Francine Moens  

**Natural Language Inference from Multiple Premises**  
Alice Lai, Yonatan Bisk and Julia Hockenmaier  

**Enabling Transitivity for Lexical Inference on Chinese Verbs Using Probabilistic Soft Logic**  
Wei-Chung Wang and Lun-Wei Ku  

**An Exploration of Neural Sequence-to-Sequence Architectures for Automatic Post-Editing**  
Marcin Junczys-Dowmunt and Roman Grundkiewicz  

**Imagination Improves Multimodal Translation**  
Desmond Elliott and Ákos Kádár  

**Understanding and Improving Morphological Learning in the Neural Machine Translation Decoder**  
Fahim Dalvi, Nadir Durrani, Hassan Sajjad, Yonatan Belinkov and Stephan Vogel  

**Improving Neural Machine Translation through Phrase-based Forced Decoding**  
Jingyi Zhang, Masao Utiyama, Eiichro Sumita, Graham Neubig and Satoshi Nakamura  

**Convolutional Neural Network with Word Embeddings for Chinese Word Segmentation**  
Chunqi Wang and Bo Xu
Character-based Joint Segmentation and POS Tagging for Chinese using Bidirectional RNN-CRF  
Yan Shao, Christian Hardmeier, Jörg Tiedemann and Joakim Nivre ................................. 173

Addressing Domain Adaptation for Chinese Word Segmentation with Global Recurrent Structure  
Shen Huang, Xu Sun and Houfeng Wang ................................................................. 184

Information Bottleneck Inspired Method For Chat Text Segmentation  
S Vishal, Mohit Yadav, Lovekesh Vig and Gautam Shroff ........................................ 194

Distributional Modeling on a Diet: One-shot Word Learning from Text Only  
Su Wang, Stephen Roller and Katrin Erk ..................................................................... 204

A Computational Study on Word Meanings and Their Distributed Representations via Polymodal Embedding  
Joohee Park and Sung-Hyon Myaeng ........................................................................ 214

Geographical Evaluation of Word Embeddings  
Michal Konkol, Tomáš Brychcín, Michal Nykl and Tomáš Hercig .................................. 224

On Modeling Sense Relatedness in Multi-prototype Word Embedding  
Yixin Cao, Jiaxin Shi, Juanzi Li, Zhiyuan Liu and Chengjiang Li ................................. 233

Unsupervised Segmentation of Phoneme Sequences based on Pitman-Yor Semi-Markov Model using Phoneme Length Context  
Ryu Takeda and Kazunori Komatani ............................................................. 243

A Sensitivity Analysis of (and Practitioners’ Guide to) Convolutional Neural Networks for Sentence Classification  
Ye Zhang and Byron Wallace .................................................................................. 253

Coordination Boundary Identification with Similarity and Replaceability  
Hiroki Teranishi, Hiroyuki Shindo and Yuji Matsumoto ............................................. 264

Turning Distributional Thesauri into Word Vectors for Synonym Extraction and Expansion  
Olivier Ferret ............................................................................................................. 273

Training Word Sense Embeddings With Lexicon-based Regularization  
Luis Nieto Piña and Richard Johansson .............................................................. 284

Learning How to Simplify From Explicit Labeling of Complex-Simplified Text Pairs  
Fernando Alva-Manchego, Joachim Bingel, Gustavo Paetzold, Carolina Scarton and Lucia Specia 295

Domain-Adaptable Hybrid Generation of RDF Entity Descriptions  
Or Biran and Kathleen McKeown .......................................................................... 306

ES-LDA: Entity Summarization using Knowledge-based Topic Modeling  
Seyedamin Pouriyeh, Mehdi Allahyari, Krzysztof Kochut, Gong Cheng and Hamid Reza Arabnia 316

Procedural Text Generation from an Execution Video  
Atsushi Ushiku, Hayato Hashimoto, Atsushi Hashimoto and Shinsuke Mori .................. 326

Text Sentiment Analysis based on Fusion of Structural Information and Serialization Information  
Ling Gan and Houyu Gong ..................................................................................... 336
Length, Interchangeability, and External Knowledge: Observations from Predicting Argument Convincingness
Peter Potash, Robin Bhattacharya and Anna Rumshisky .................................................. 342

Exploiting Document Level Information to Improve Event Detection via Recurrent Neural Networks
Shaoyang Duan, Ruifang He and Wenli Zhao ................................................................. 352

Embracing Non-Traditional Linguistic Resources for Low-resource Language Name Tagging
Boliang Zhang, Di Lu, Xiaoman Pan, Ying Lin, Halidanmu Abudukelimu, Heng Ji and Kevin Knight .......................................................... 362

NMT or SMT: Case Study of a Narrow-domain English-Latvian Post-editing Project
Inguna Skadina and Mārcis Pinnis .................................................................................. 373

Towards Neural Machine Translation with Partially Aligned Corpora
Yining Wang, Yang Zhao, Jiajun Zhang, Chengqing Zong and Zhengshan Xue .............. 384

Identifying Usage Expression Sentences in Consumer Product Reviews
Shibamouli Lahiri, V.G.Vinod Vydishwaran and Rada Mihalcea ..................................... 394

Between Reading Time and Syntactic/Semantic Categories
Masayuki Asahara and Sachi Kato .................................................................................. 404

WiNER: A Wikipedia Annotated Corpus for Named Entity Recognition
Abbas Ghaddar and Phillippe Langlais ................................................................................ 413

Reusing Neural Speech Representations for Auditory Emotion Recognition
Egor Lakomkin, Cornelius Weber, Sven Magg and Stefan Wermter ................................ 423

Local Monotonic Attention Mechanism for End-to-End Speech And Language Processing
Andros Tjandra, Sakriani Sakti and Satoshi Nakamura .................................................. 431

Attentive Language Models
Giancarlo Salton, Robert Ross and John Kelleher .......................................................... 441

Diachrony-aware Induction of Binary Latent Representations from Typological Features
Yugo Murawaki ............................................................................................................. 451

Image-Grounded Conversations: Multimodal Context for Natural Question and Response Generation
Nasrin Mostafazadeh, Chris Brockett, Bill Dolan, Michel Galley, Jianfeng Gao, Georgios Spithourakis and Lucy Vanderwende ......................................................... 462

A Neural Language Model for Dynamically Representing the Meanings of Unknown Words and Entities in a Discourse
Sosuke Kobayashi, Naoaki Okazaki and Kentaro Inui ....................................................... 473

Using Explicit Discourse Connectives in Translation for Implicit Discourse Relation Classification
Wei Shi, Frances Yung, Raphael Rubino and Vera Demberg ........................................... 484

Tag-Enhanced Tree-Structured Neural Networks for Implicit Discourse Relation Classification
Yizhong Wang, Sujian Li, Jingfeng Yang, Xu Sun and Houfeng Wang .............................. 496

Cross-Lingual Sentiment Analysis Without (Good) Translation
Mohamed Abdalla and Graeme Hirst ................................................................................ 506
Implicit Syntactic Features for Target-dependent Sentiment Analysis
Yuze Gao, Yue Zhang and Tong Xiao .......................................................... 516

Graph Based Sentiment Aggregation using ConceptNet Ontology
Srikanth Tamilselvam, Seema Nagar, Abhijit Mishra and Kuntal Dey ............... 525

Sentence Modeling with Deep Neural Architecture using Lexicon and Character Attention Mechanism for Sentiment Classification
Huy-Thanh Nguyen and Minh-Le Nguyen ....................................................... 536

Combining Lightly-Supervised Text Classification Models for Accurate Contextual Advertising
Yiping Jin, Dittaya Wanvarie and Phu Le ...................................................... 545

Capturing Long-range Contextual Dependencies with Memory-enhanced Conditional Random Fields
Fei Liu, Timothy Baldwin and Trevor Cohn .................................................... 555

Named Entity Recognition with Stack Residual LSTM and Trainable Bias Decoding
Quan Tran, Andrew MacKinlay and Antonio Jimeno Yepes ............................... 566

Neuramanteau: A Neural Network Ensemble Model for Lexical Blends
Kollol Das and Shaona Ghosh ........................................................................ 576

Leveraging Discourse Information Effectively for Authorship Attribution
Elisa Ferracane, Su Wang and Raymond Mooney ........................................... 584

Lightly-Supervised Modeling of Argument Persuasiveness
Isaac Persing and Vincent Ng ........................................................................ 594

Multi-Task Learning for Speaker-Role Adaptation in Neural Conversation Models
Yi Luan, Chris Brockett, Bill Dolan, Jianfeng Gao and Michel Galley .................. 605

Chat Disentanglement: Identifying Semantic Reply Relationships with Random Forests and Recurrent Neural Networks
Shikib Mehri and Giuseppe Carenini .............................................................. 615

Towards Bootstrapping a Polarity Shifter Lexicon using Linguistic Features
Marc Schulder, Michael Wiegand, Josef Ruppenhofer and Benjamin Roth .......... 624

Cascading Multiway Attentions for Document-level Sentiment Classification
Dehong Ma, Sujian Li, Xiaodong Zhang, Houfeng Wang and Xu Sun .................. 634

An Ensemble Method with Sentiment Features and Clustering Support
Nguyen Huy Tien and Nguyen Minh Le .......................................................... 644

Leveraging Auxiliary Tasks for Document-Level Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification
Jianfei Yu and Jing Jiang ................................................................................ 654

Measuring Semantic Relations between Human Activities
Steven Wilson and Rada Mihalcea ................................................................... 664

Learning Transferable Representation for Bilingual Relation Extraction via Convolutional Neural Networks
Bonan Min, Zhuolin Jiang, Marjorie Freedman and Ralph Weischedel ............... 674
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual Word Embeddings for Bilingual Terminology Extraction from Specialized Comparable Corpora</td>
<td>Amir Hazem and Emmanuel Morin</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Bambara Tonalization System for Word Sense Disambiguation Using Differential Coding, Segmentation and Edit Operation Filtering</td>
<td>Luigi (Yu-Cheng) Liu and Damien Nouvel</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Learning of Dialog Act Segmentation and Recognition in Spoken Dialog Using Neural Networks</td>
<td>Tianyu Zhao and Tatsuya Kawahara</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predicting Users’ Negative Feedbacks in Multi-Turn Human-Computer Dialogues</td>
<td>Xin Wang, Jianan Wang, Yuanchao Liu, Xiaolong Wang, Zhuoran Wang and Baoxun Wang</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding Dominant User Utterances And System Responses in Conversations</td>
<td>Dhiraj Madan and Suchindra Joshi</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-to-End Task-Completion Neural Dialogue Systems</td>
<td>Xiujuun Li, Yun-Nung Chen, Lihong Li, Jianfeng Gao and Asli Celikyilmaz</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-to-end Network for Twitter Geolocation Prediction and Hashing</td>
<td>Jey Han Lau, Lianhua Chi, Khoi-Nguyen Tran and Trevor Cohn</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing the Verifiability of Attributions in News Text</td>
<td>Edward Newell, Ariane Schang, Drew Margolin and Derek Ruths</td>
<td>754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domain Adaptation from User-level Facebook Models to County-level Twitter Predictions</td>
<td>Daniel Rieman, Kokil Jaidka, H. Andrew Schwartz and Lyle Ungar</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizing Explicit and Implicit Hate Speech Using a Weakly Supervised Two-path Bootstrapping Approach</td>
<td>Lei Gao, Alexis Kuppersmith and Ruihong Huang</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimating Reactions and Recommending Products with Generative Models of Reviews</td>
<td>Jianmo Ni, Zachary C. Lipton, Sharad Vikram and Julian McAuley</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarizing Lengthy Questions</td>
<td>Tatsuya Ishigaki, Hiroya Takamura and Manabu Okumura</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept-Map-Based Multi-Document Summarization using Concept Coreference Resolution and Global Importance Optimization</td>
<td>Tobias Falke, Christian M. Meyer and Iryna Gurevych</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstractive Multi-document Summarization by Partial Tree Extraction, Recombination and Linearization</td>
<td>Litton J Kurisinkel, Yue Zhang and Vasudeva Varma</td>
<td>812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Argument Identification on Dependency Graphs with Bidirectional LSTMs</td>
<td>Alex Judea and Michael Strube</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective Decoding for Cross-lingual Open Information Extraction</td>
<td>Sheng Zhang, Kevin Duh and Benjamin Van Durme</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Ordering with a Generalized Model for Sieve Prediction Ranking</td>
<td>Bill McDowell, Nathanael Chambers, Alexander Ororbia II and David Reitter</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Open Relation Extraction and Grounding
Dian Yu, Lifu Huang and Heng Ji ................................................................. 854

Extraction of Gene-Environment Interaction from the Biomedical Literature
Jinseon You, Jin-Woo Chung, Wonsuk Yang and Jong C. Park ....................... 865

Course Concept Extraction in MOOCs via Embedding-Based Graph Propagation
Liangming Pan, Xiaochen Wang, Chengjiang Li, Juanzi Li and Jie Tang ............... 875

Identity Deception Detection
Verónica Pérez-Rosas, Quincy Davenport, Anna Mengdan Dai, Mohamed Abouelenien and Rada Mihalcea ................................................................. 885

Learning to Diagnose: Assimilating Clinical Narratives using Deep Reinforcement Learning
Yuan Ling, Sadid A. Hasan, Vivek Datla, Ashequl Qadir, Kathy Lee, Joey Liu and Oladimeji Farri 895

Dataset for a Neural Natural Language Interface for Databases (NNLIDB)
Florin Brad, Radu Cristian Alexandru Iacob, Ionel Alexandru Hosu and Traian Rebedea ........ 906

Acquisition and Assessment of Semantic Content for the Generation of Elaborateness and Indirectness in Spoken Dialogue Systems
Louisa Pragst, Koichiro Yoshino, Wolfgang Minker, Satoshi Nakamura and Stefan Ultes ........ 915

Demographic Word Embeddings for Racism Detection on Twitter
Mohammed Hasanuzzaman, Gaël Dias and Andy Way .................................. 926

Automatically Extracting Variant-Normalization Pairs for Japanese Text Normalization
Itsumi Saito, Kyosuke Nishida, Kugatsu Sadamitsu, Kuniko Saito and Junji Tomita .......... 937

Semantic Document Distance Measures and Unsupervised Document Revision Detection
Xiaofeng Zhu, Diego Klabjan and Patrick Bless ......................................... 947

An Empirical Analysis of Multiple-Turn Reasoning Strategies in Reading Comprehension Tasks
Yelong Shen, Xiaodong Liu, Kevin Duh and Jianfeng Gao ............................. 957

Automated Historical Fact-Checking by Passage Retrieval, Word Statistics, and Virtual Question-Answering
Mio Kobayashi, Ai Ishii, Chikara Hoshino, Hiroshi Miyashita and Takuya Matsuzaki .......... 967

Integrating Subject, Type, and Property Identification for Simple Question Answering over Knowledge Base
Wei-Chuan Hsiao, Hen-Hsen Huang and Hsin-Hsi Chen ............................ 976

DailyDialog: A Manually Labelled Multi-turn Dialogue Dataset
Yanran Li, Hui Su, Xiaoyu Shen, Wenjie Li, Ziqiang Cao and Shuzi Niu ................. 986

Inference is Everything: Recasting Semantic Resources into a Unified Evaluation Framework
Aaron Steven White, Pushpendre Rastogi, Kevin Duh and Benjamin Van Durme .......... 996

Generating a Training Corpus for OCR Post-Correction Using Encoder-Decoder Model
Eva D’hondt, Cyril Grouin and Brigitte Grau ........................................... 1006

Multilingual Hierarchical Attention Networks for Document Classification
Nikolaos Pappas and Andrei Popescu-Belis ............................................. 1015
Conference Program

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

10:30–11:50  Machine Translation 1

Yonatan Belinkov, Lluís Màrquez, Hassan Sajjad, Nadir Durrani, Fahim Dalvi and James Glass

10:50–11:10  Context-Aware Smoothing for Neural Machine Translation
Kehai Chen, Rui Wang, Masao Utiyama, Eiichiro Sumita and Tiejun Zhao

11:10–11:30  Improving Sequence to Sequence Neural Machine Translation by Utilizing Syntactic Dependency Information
An Nguyen Le, Ander Martinez, Akifumi Yoshimoto and Yuji Matsumoto

11:30–11:50  What does Attention in Neural Machine Translation Pay Attention to?
Hamidreza Ghader and Christof Monz

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

10:30–11:50  Syntax and Parsing

10:30–10:50  Grammatical Error Detection Using Error- and Grammaticality-Specific Word Embeddings
Masahiro Kaneko, Yuya Sakaizawa and Mamoru Komachi

10:50–11:10  Dependency Parsing with Partial Annotations: An Empirical Comparison
Yue Zhang, Zhenghua Li, Jun Lang, Qingrong Xia and Min Zhang

11:10–11:30  Neural Probabilistic Model for Non-projective MST Parsing
Xuezhe Ma and Eduard Hovy

11:30–11:50  Word Ordering as Unsupervised Learning Towards Syntactically Plausible Word Representations
Noriki Nishida and Hideki Nakayama

xxiii
Tuesday, November 28, 2017

10:30–11:50  Semantics 1

10:30–10:50  MIPA: Mutual Information Based Paraphrase Acquisition via Bilingual Pivoting
Tomoyuki Kajiwara, Mamoru Komachi and Daichi Mochihashi

10:50–11:10  Improving Implicit Semantic Role Labeling by Predicting Semantic Frame Arguments
Quynh Ngoc Thi Do, Steven Bethard and Marie-Francine Moens

11:10–11:30  Natural Language Inference from Multiple Premises
Alice Lai, Yonatan Bisk and Julia Hockenmaier

11:30–11:50  Enabling Transitivity for Lexical Inference on Chinese Verbs Using Probabilistic Soft Logic
Wei-Chung Wang and Lun-Wei Ku

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

13:30–14:50  Machine Translation 2

13:30–13:50  An Exploration of Neural Sequence-to-Sequence Architectures for Automatic Post-Editing
Marcin Junczys-Dowmunt and Roman Grundkiewicz

13:50–14:10  Imagination Improves Multimodal Translation
Desmond Elliott and Ákos Kádár

14:10–14:30  Understanding and Improving Morphological Learning in the Neural Machine Translation Decoder
Fahim Dalvi, Nadir Durrani, Hassan Sajjad, Yonatan Belinkov and Stephan Vogel

14:30–14:50  Improving Neural Machine Translation through Phrase-based Forced Decoding
Jingyi Zhang, Masao Utiyama, Eiichro Sumita, Graham Neubig and Satoshi Nakamura
Tuesday, November 28, 2017

13:30–14:50 Segmentation and Tagging

Chunqi Wang and Bo Xu

13:50–14:10 Character-based Joint Segmentation and POS Tagging for Chinese using Bidirectional RNN-CRF
Yan Shao, Christian Hardmeier, Jörg Tiedemann and Joakim Nivre

14:10–14:30 Addressing Domain Adaptation for Chinese Word Segmentation with Global Recurrent Structure
Shen Huang, Xu Sun and Houfeng Wang

14:30–14:50 Information Bottleneck Inspired Method For Chat Text Segmentation
S Vishal, Mohit Yadav, Lovekesh Vig and Gautam Shroff

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

13:30–14:50 Semantics 2

13:30–13:50 Distributional Modeling on a Diet: One-shot Word Learning from Text Only
Su Wang, Stephen Roller and Katrin Erk

13:50–14:10 A Computational Study on Word Meanings and Their Distributed Representations via Polymodal Embedding
Joohee Park and Sung-Hyun Myaeng

14:10–14:30 Geographical Evaluation of Word Embeddings
Michal Konkol, Tomáš Brychcín, Michal Nykl and Tomáš Hercig

14:30–14:50 On Modeling Sense Relatedness in Multi-prototype Word Embedding
Yixin Cao, Jiaxin Shi, Juanzi Li, Zhiyuan Liu and Chengjiang Li
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30–17:30</td>
<td><strong>Poster and Demo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Unsupervised Segmentation of Phoneme Sequences based on Pitman-Yor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Semi-Markov Model using Phoneme Length Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryu Takeda and Kazunori Komatani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A Sensitivity Analysis of (and Practitioners’ Guide to) Convolutional</strong></td>
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<td>Neural Networks for Sentence Classification</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ye Zhang and Byron Wallace</td>
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<td><strong>Coordination Boundary Identification with Similarity and Replaceability</strong></td>
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<td>Hiroki Teranishi, Hiroyuki Shindo and Yuji Matsumoto</td>
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<td><strong>Turning Distributional Thesauri into Word Vectors for Synonym Extraction and Expansion</strong></td>
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<td>Olivier Ferret</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Training Word Sense Embeddings With Lexicon-based Regularization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Luis Nieto Piña and Richard Johansson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Learning How to Simplify From Explicit Labeling of Complex-Simplified Text Pairs</strong></td>
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<td>Fernando Alva-Manchego, Joachim Bingel, Gustavo Paetzold, Carolina Scarton and Lucia Specia</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Domain-Adaptable Hybrid Generation of RDF Entity Descriptions</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Or Biran and Kathleen McKeown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ES-LDA: Entity Summarization using Knowledge-based Topic Modeling</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>Seyedamin Pouriyeh, Mehdi Allahyari, Krzysztof Kochut, Gong Cheng and Hamid Reza Arabnia</td>
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<td><strong>Procedural Text Generation from an Execution Video</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atsushi Ushiku, Hayato Hashimoto, Atsushi Hashimoto and Shinsuke Mori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Text Sentiment Analysis based on Fusion of Structural Information and Serialization Information</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ling Gan and Houyu Gong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Length, Interchangeability, and External Knowledge: Observations from Predicting Argument Convincingness
Peter Potash, Robin Bhattacharya and Anna Rumshisky

Exploiting Document Level Information to Improve Event Detection via Recurrent Neural Networks
Shaoyang Duan, Ruifang He and Wenli Zhao

Embracing Non-Traditional Linguistic Resources for Low-resource Language Name Tagging
Boliang Zhang, Di Lu, Xiaoman Pan, Ying Lin, Halidanmu Abudukelimu, Heng Ji and Kevin Knight

NMT or SMT: Case Study of a Narrow-domain English-Latvian Post-editing Project
Inguna Skadina and Marcis Pinnis

Towards Neural Machine Translation with Partially Aligned Corpora
Yining Wang, Yang Zhao, Jiajun Zhang, Chengqing Zong and Zhengshan Xue

Identifying Usage Expression Sentences in Consumer Product Reviews
Shibamouli Lahiri, V.G.Vinod Vydiswaran and Rada Mihalcea

Between Reading Time and Syntactic/Semantic Categories
Masayuki Asahara and Sachi Kato

WiNER: A Wikipedia Annotated Corpus for Named Entity Recognition
Abbas Ghaddar and Phillippe Langlais
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

10:30–11:50  Machine Learning 1

10:30–10:50  Reusing Neural Speech Representations for Auditory Emotion Recognition
Egor Lakomkin, Cornelius Weber, Sven Magg and Stefan Wermter

10:50–11:10  Local Monotonic Attention Mechanism for End-to-End Speech And Language Processing
Andros Tjandra, Sakriani Sakti and Satoshi Nakamura

11:10–11:30  Attentive Language Models
Giancarlo Salton, Robert Ross and John Kelleher

11:30–11:50  Diachrony-aware Induction of Binary Latent Representations from Typological Features
Yugo Murawaki

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

10:30–11:50  Discourse 1

10:30–10:50  Image-Grounded Conversations: Multimodal Context for Natural Question and Response Generation
Nasrin Mostafazadeh, Chris Brockett, Bill Dolan, Michel Galley, Jianfeng Gao, Georgios Spithourakis and Lucy Vanderwende

10:50–11:10  A Neural Language Model for Dynamically Representing the Meanings of Unknown Words and Entities in a Discourse
Sosuke Kobayashi, Naoaki Okazaki and Kentaro Inui

11:10–11:30  Using Explicit Discourse Connectives in Translation for Implicit Discourse Relation Classification
Wei Shi, Frances Yung, Raphael Rubino and Vera Demberg

11:30–11:50  Tag-Enhanced Tree-Structured Neural Networks for Implicit Discourse Relation Classification
Yizhong Wang, Sujian Li, Jingfeng Yang, Xu Sun and Houfeng Wang
### Wednesday, November 29, 2017

#### 10:30–11:50  Sentiment and Opinion 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30–10:50</td>
<td>Cross-Lingual Sentiment Analysis Without (Good) Translation</td>
<td>Mohamed Abdalla and Graeme Hirst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50–11:10</td>
<td>Implicit Syntactic Features for Target-dependent Sentiment Analysis</td>
<td>Yuze Gao, Yue Zhang and Tong Xiao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10–11:30</td>
<td>Graph Based Sentiment Aggregation using ConceptNet Ontology</td>
<td>Srikanth Tamilselvam, Seema Nagar, Abhijit Mishra and Kuntal Dey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30–11:50</td>
<td>Sentence Modeling with Deep Neural Architecture using Lexicon and Character Attention Mechanism for Sentiment Classification</td>
<td>Huy-Thanh Nguyen and Minh-Le Nguyen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 13:30–14:50  Machine Learning 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:50–14:10</td>
<td>Capturing Long-range Contextual Dependencies with Memory-enhanced Conditional Random Fields</td>
<td>Fei Liu, Timothy Baldwin and Trevor Cohn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:10–14:30</td>
<td>Named Entity Recognition with Stack Residual LSTM and Trainable Bias Decoding</td>
<td>Quan Tran, Andrew MacKinlay and Antonio Jimeno Yepes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30–14:50</td>
<td>Neuramanteau: A Neural Network Ensemble Model for Lexical Blends</td>
<td>Kollol Das and Shaona Ghosh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

13:30–14:50 Discourse 2

13:30–13:50 *Leveraging Discourse Information Effectively for Authorship Attribution*
Elisa Ferracane, Su Wang and Raymond Mooney

13:50–14:10 *Lightly-Supervised Modeling of Argument Persuasiveness*
Isaac Persing and Vincent Ng

14:10–14:30 *Multi-Task Learning for Speaker-Role Adaptation in Neural Conversation Models*
Yi Luan, Chris Brockett, Bill Dolan, Jianfeng Gao and Michel Galley

14:30–14:50 *Chat Disentanglement: Identifying Semantic Reply Relationships with Random Forests and Recurrent Neural Networks*
Shikib Mehri and Giuseppe Carenini

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

13:30–14:50 Sentiment and Opinion 2

13:30–13:50 *Towards Bootstrapping a Polarity Shifter Lexicon using Linguistic Features*
Marc Schulder, Michael Wiegand, Josef Ruppenhofer and Benjamin Roth

13:50–14:10 *Cascading Multiway Attentions for Document-level Sentiment Classification*
Dehong Ma, Sujian Li, Xiaodong Zhang, Houfeng Wang and Xu Sun

14:10–14:30 *An Ensemble Method with Sentiment Features and Clustering Support*
Nguyen Huy Tien and Nguyen Minh Le

14:30–14:50 *Leveraging Auxiliary Tasks for Document-Level Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification*
Jianfei Yu and Jing Jiang
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

15:30–16:50  Word

15:30–15:50  Measuring Semantic Relations between Human Activities
Steven Wilson and Rada Mihalcea

15:50–16:10  Learning Transferable Representation for Bilingual Relation Extraction via Convolutional Neural Networks
Bonan Min, Zhuolin Jiang, Marjorie Freedman and Ralph Weischedel

16:10–16:30  Bilingual Word Embeddings for Bilingual Terminology Extraction from Specialized Comparable Corpora
Amir Hazem and Emmanuel Morin

16:30–16:50  A Bambara Tonalization System for Word Sense Disambiguation Using Differential Coding, Segmentation and Edit Operation Filtering
Luigi (Yu-Cheng) Liu and Damien Nouvel

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

15:30–16:50  Dialogue

15:30–15:50  Joint Learning of Dialog Act Segmentation and Recognition in Spoken Dialog Using Neural Networks
Tianyu Zhao and Tatsuya Kawahara

15:50–16:10  Predicting Users’ Negative Feedbacks in Multi-Turn Human-Computer Dialogues
Xin Wang, Jianan Wang, Yuanchao Liu, Xiaolong Wang, Zhuoran Wang and Baoxun Wang

16:10–16:30  Finding Dominant User Utterances And System Responses in Conversations
Dhiraj Madan and Sachindra Joshi

16:30–16:50  End-to-End Task-Completion Neural Dialogue Systems
Xiujuan Li, Yun-Nung Chen, Lihong Li, Jianfeng Gao and Asli Celikyilmaz

xxxi
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

15:30–16:50 Web and Social Media

15:30–15:50 *End-to-end Network for Twitter Geolocation Prediction and Hashing*
Jey Han Lau, Lianhua Chi, Khoi-Nguyen Tran and Trevor Cohn

15:50–16:10 *Assessing the Verifiability of Attributions in News Text*
Edward Newell, Ariane Schang, Drew Margolin and Derek Ruths

16:10–16:30 *Domain Adaptation from User-level Facebook Models to County-level Twitter Predictions*
Daniel Rieman, Kokil Jaidka, H. Andrew Schwartz and Lyle Ungar

16:30–16:50 *Recognizing Explicit and Implicit Hate Speech Using a Weakly Supervised Two-path Bootstrapping Approach*
Lei Gao, Alexis Kuppersmith and Ruihong Huang

Thursday, November 30, 2017

10:30–11:50 Summarization

10:30–10:50 *Estimating Reactions and Recommending Products with Generative Models of Reviews*
Jianmo Ni, Zachary C. Lipton, Sharad Vikram and Julian McAuley

10:50–11:10 *Summarizing Lengthy Questions*
Tatsuya Ishigaki, Hiroya Takamura and Manabu Okumura

11:10–11:30 *Concept-Map-Based Multi-Document Summarization using Concept Coreference Resolution and Global Importance Optimization*
Tobias Falke, Christian M. Meyer and Iryna Gurevych

11:30–11:50 *Abstractive Multi-document Summarization by Partial Tree Extraction, Recombination and Linearization*
Litton J Kurisinkel, Yue Zhang and Vasudeva Varma
Thursday, November 30, 2017

10:30–11:50  Information Extraction

10:30–10:50  Event Argument Identification on Dependency Graphs with Bidirectional LSTMs
Alex Judea and Michael Strube

10:50–11:10  Selective Decoding for Cross-lingual Open Information Extraction
Sheng Zhang, Kevin Duh and Benjamin Van Durme

11:10–11:30  Event Ordering with a Generalized Model for Sieve Prediction Ranking
Bill McDowell, Nathanael Chambers, Alexander Ororbia II and David Reitter

11:30–11:50  Open Relation Extraction and Grounding
Dian Yu, Lifu Huang and Heng Ji

Thursday, November 30, 2017

10:30–11:50  NLP Application

10:30–10:50  Extraction of Gene-Environment Interaction from the Biomedical Literature
Jinseon You, Jin-Woo Chung, Wonsuk Yang and Jong C. Park

10:50–11:10  Course Concept Extraction in MOOCs via Embedding-Based Graph Propagation
Liangming Pan, Xiaochen Wang, Chengjiang Li, Juanzi Li and Jie Tang

11:10–11:30  Identity Deception Detection
Verónica Pérez-Rosas, Quincy Davenport, Anna Mengdan Dai, Mohamed Abouelenien and Rada Mihalcea

11:30–11:50  Learning to Diagnose: Assimilating Clinical Narratives using Deep Reinforcement Learning
Yuan Ling, Sadid A. Hasan, Vivek Datla, Ashequl Qadir, Kathy Lee, Joey Liu and Oladimeji Farri
Thursday, November 30, 2017

13:30–14:50 Generation

13:30–13:50 *Dataset for a Neural Natural Language Interface for Databases (NNLIDB)*  
Florin Brad, Radu Cristian Alexandru Iacob, Ionel Alexandru Hosu and Traian Rebedea

13:50–14:10 *Acquisition and Assessment of Semantic Content for the Generation of Elaborateness and Indirectness in Spoken Dialogue Systems*  
Louisa Pragst, Koichiro Yoshino, Wolfgang Minker, Satoshi Nakamura and Stefan Ultes

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Itsumi Saito, Kyosuke Nishida, Kugatsu Sadamitsu, Kuniko Saito and Junji Tomita

Thursday, November 30, 2017

13:30–14:50 Documents and Questions

13:30–13:50 *Semantic Document Distance Measures and Unsupervised Document Revision Detection*  
Xiaofeng Zhu, Diego Klabjan and Patrick Bless

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Yelong Shen, Xiaodong Liu, Kevin Duh and Jianfeng Gao

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Mio Kobayashi, Ai Ishii, Chikara Hoshino, Hiroshi Miyashita and Takuya Matsuzaki

14:30–14:50 *Integrating Subject, Type, and Property Identification for Simple Question Answering over Knowledge Base*  
Wei-Chuan Hsiao, Hen-Hsen Huang and Hsin-Hsi Chen
Thursday, November 30, 2017

13:30–14:30 Resources and Tools

Yanran Li, Hui Su, Xiaoyu Shen, Wenjie Li, Ziqiang Cao and Shuzi Niu

13:50–14:10 *Inference is Everything: Recasting Semantic Resources into a Unified Evaluation Framework*
Aaron Steven White, Pushpendre Rastogi, Kevin Duh and Benjamin Van Durme

14:10–14:30 *Generating a Training Corpus for OCR Post-Correction Using Encoder-Decoder Model*
Eva D’hondt, Cyril Grouin and Brigitte Grau

Thursday, November 30, 2017

15:30–16:20 Best Paper Session

15:30–15:55 *Multilingual Hierarchical Attention Networks for Document Classification*
Nikolaos Pappas and Andrei Popescu-Belis

15:55–16:20 *Roles and Success in Wikipedia Talk Pages: Identifying Latent Patterns of Behavior*
Keith Maki, Michael Yoder, Yohan Jo and Carolyn Rosé