AutoBET: towards automatic answering of BET questions for meeting browser evaluation

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The BET (Browser Evaluation and Test) is a method for browser evaluation which relies on human users of a browser, which answer meeting-related questions that were constructed following a carefully-designed procedure. The present study aims at designing an automatic BET question-answering tool, AutoBET, with three objectives in mind: (1) compare human scores (first for the TQB transcript-based browser) to those obtained by the AutoBET, in order to better assess human performance; (2) build an automatic assistant tool that would have demonstrable utility in helping humans answer such questions more efficiently; and (3) study the feasibility of a fully-automatic question-answering system for meeting transcripts.

In its current version, the AutoBET aims at identifying the true statement in a pair of analogous true and false statements from the BET test set. The AutoBET proceeds in two stages. The first stage identifies the section of the meeting transcript which is most likely to contain the answer (i.e. the facts that discriminate between the true and the false statement), using lexical similarity of pre-processed transcript windows and statements. The second stage compares the two candidate statements with respect to the identified paragraph(s), and hypothesizes the true one. The poster will describe the current state of the system, presenting the evaluation method and the results for the first stage, which achieves around 60% correct window identification over two meetings and about 200 questions.