ccb@cis.upenn.edu ▾
Edit this form

103 responses

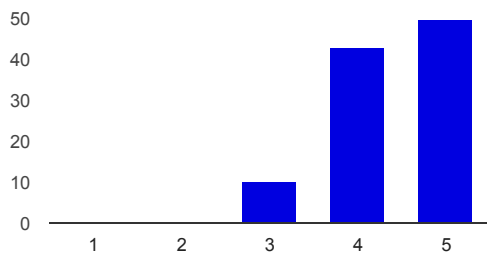View all responses   Publish analytics

Summary

General Questions

Did you attend EMNLP 2015 in Lisbon?
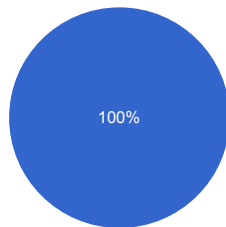
Yes	**103**	100%
No	**0**	0%

100%

How satisfied are you with the EMNLP 2015 conference in Lisbon?

Dissatisfied: 1	**0**	0%
2	**0**	0%
3	**10**	9.7%
4	**43**	41.7%
Satisfied : 5	**50**	48.5%

Awards

What paper do you think should have received the best paper award? (Please paste a link to the ACL Anthology PDF)

https://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1243.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1202.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1001.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1003.pdf

don't know

https://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1003.pdf

http://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1120.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1198.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1199.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1172.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1038.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1249.pdf

We are planning on giving a Best Talk award. What was your favorite *talk* at the conference? (Please paste a link to the ACL Anthology PDF)

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q15/Q15-1035.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1202.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1001.pdf

http://www.emnlp2015.org/proceedings/EMNLP/pdf/EMNLP041.pdf

https://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1005.pdf

https://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1003.pdf

https://aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q14/Q14-1035.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q15/Q15-1034.pdf

Not sure this is a good idea

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1075.pdf

http://aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1108.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1008.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1076.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1172.pdf

https://tacl2013.cs.columbia.edu/ojs/index.php/tacl/article/download/421/65

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q14/Q14-1035.pdf

don't remember

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q15/Q15-1014.pdf

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D/D15/D15-1249.pdf
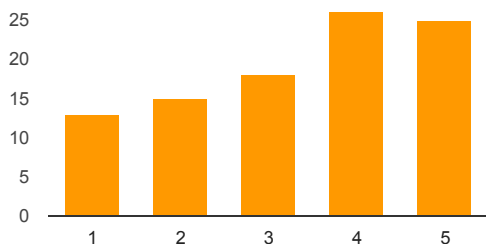
http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/Q/Q15/Q15-1021.pdf

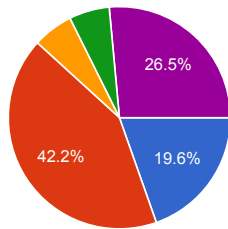## Presentation: talks vs posters

This year we used a popular vote to help choose what papers got presented as talks versus posters. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

Bad idea: 1	**13**	13.4%
2	**15**	15.5%
3	**18**	18.6%
4	**26**	26.8%
Good idea: 5	**25**	25.8%

Did you present a paper at the conference?

Yes, I gave a talk	**20**	19.6%
Yes, I had a poster	**43**	42.2%

Yes, I had both a talk and a poster	**6**	5.9%
No, my co-authors presented on my behalf	**6**	5.9%
No, I did not have a paper at the conference	**27**	26.5%

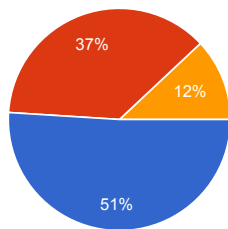## If you presented a poster, did you like the format of the poster session?
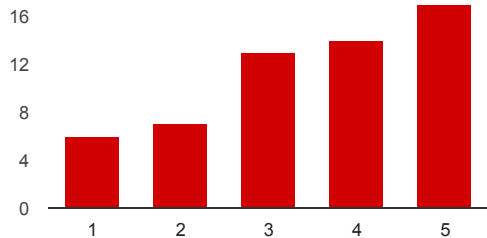
Disliked: 1	**6**	10.5%
2	**7**	12.3%
3	**13**	22.8%
4	**14**	24.6%
Liked: 5	**17**	29.8%

If you attended any of the poster sessions, did you like the format?
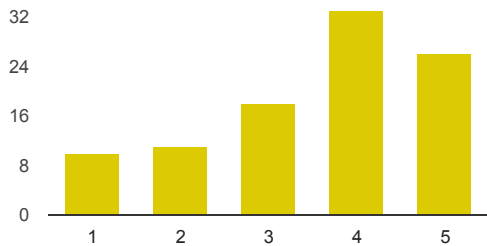
Disliked: 1	**10**	10.2%
2	**11**	11.2%
3	**18**	18.4%
4	**33**	33.7%
Liked: 5	**26**	26.5%

There are several models for doing poster sessions. Which do you like the best?

EMNLP 2015 style - two poster sessions with small clusters of thematically-grouped posters in parallel with the talks (100 minutes long)	**51**	51%
NAACL-style poster session with many posters and buffet dinner (~3 hours long)	**37**	37%
NIPS-style where nearly all papers are presented as posters, with a small number of talks in a single plenary track	**12**	12%

Please use this space if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the poster session.

I found the poster session running in parallel with the talks to actually take away from the talks. I found it harder to see posters and talks that I wanted to compared to NAACL.

I liked having posters in parallel with talks, as huge poster sessions tend to be overwhelming and not all time slots had a talk I

wanted to see. If posters had been spread out over a larger area it would have made it easier to interact with the presenters.

either EMNLP2015 or NIPS style is good. The EMNLP2015 style worked out quite well i think.

The only issue with the EMNLP 2015 style is that it is difficult to see posters that are similar to the one you are presenting. Perhaps make the themes broader?

New-style poster session: poster session should not be scheduled during talks or during dinner! Both are unfair for people that present!

- Difficult to go between poster sessions and talks: timings dont align well - Some areas were all posters because of the popularity vote perhaps. I would rather have more parallel sessions so people can go the talks in the areas they like.

NIPS style is the best for exposure to everyone's work but NAACL style is a little loose and the last hour is usually wasteful. EMNLP poster sessions are nice especially when the no. of posters per session is kept pretty low compared to NAACL but if there's more poster, NIPS might be a better.

The poster sessions were great, I prefer shorter and thematically ordered once as you did this year, great! Just one technical note: try to get stands that can hold both landscape and portrait (I personally prefer landscape)

I would have preferred only short papers as posters and long papers being a presentation. Also I almost always prefer talks to posters, so I didn't end up seeing many posters. I would prefer a separate poster session with no talks in parallel. I understand this would be difficult to fit in the schedule, but I wouldn't mind 15-20 min talks.

The poster sessions which were held in parallel to the wide area talks, lost a big part of the audience. For example, the poster sessions running parallel to 'fun and quirky topics' did not receive much audience.

Overall conference was great. However having parallel sessions of posters and talks was a bad idea. People tend to sit in the talk for the whole session and then come to posters in the coffee break. While poster guys had to remove their posters at that time to make space for the next session.

A little bit more space around poster areas would be ideal. Often, more than 5 people huddled around the poster and it got a bit cramped. Obviously, this also depends on the venue.

I think we should aim for more oral presentations rather than posters. Maybe papers could be grouped into long oral vs. short oral formats. Some of the parallel poster sessions only had 4-5 posters ... those could have easily been oral talks. And let's get rid of the TACL presentations ... you really need to read these full journal articles anyway ... a short talk isn't sufficient for a journal article. On a separate note, the reason I dislike voting to decide on oral vs poster presentation is because it favors papers from large groups/institutions because they may all vote for each other's papers to be oral. I saw some of this behavior first-hand so it's not hypothetical.

If this format is used again, two ways to improve are (1) put all posters in a continuous area, (2) in the conference handbook, provide a clear and simple indication of where a poster can be found. A separate suggestion, that could apply to any format - it would be great to have a '1 minute madness' plenary session, where every poster gets 1 slide and 1 minute to pitch the work.

I heard other participants discuss how their labs colluded to rig the poster-vs-talk voting to attempt to ensure their labs papers got more votes for talks.

dinner with posters is just cruel to the presenters, plus makes the day a lot longer.

The popular vote based on titles and abstracts is a little unfair to good papers that aren't exciting enough to drum up popular support by their title and abstract.

Given that it is always emphasized so much that there is no difference between talk and poster, you should consider a best poster award as well

More space around poster stands would help.

I find CoNLL style better than the other 3. That is, talks are all shorter, and every paper gets a talk and a poster. Not sure how feasible this is for a conference as big as EMNLP though.

I was skeptical of the new emnlp model at first, but I really enjoyed it, as both a presenter and viewer of posters. I still think it would be fun for an NLP conference to try the NIPS model.

Because the talks and posters for the same theme were at the same time, I often had to miss one or the other.

In every session there are one or two papers that I was not interested in, and it was refreshing to be able to go to the poster session to fill that time.

Have we measured how many audience members actually attend each poster and for how long? Any decision about poster sessions should consider whether those numbers are fair. I suspect that the average poster gets *vastly* less exposure than the average talk, and that even its abstract is less likely to get read. That was exacerbated at this EMNLP by putting posters and talks in competition; the NAACL or NIPS style at least ensures some collective attention for the posters and makes them seem less like a sideshow. It's true that some posters have a narrower natural audience, which is one possible reason for giving them a poster slot, but the talk/poster classification is somewhat arbitrary (especially at ACL and EMNLP this year!), so I fear that good work is likely to get overlooked by its natural audience. If I've written a paper that I think deserves attention, then I'd rather be rejected than banished to the poster session - with a rejection, at least one can try again for a talk at the next conference. Regarding talk/poster voting: Some talks had an intriguing title and abstract but the work turned out to be trivial or wrong. If such papers had to be accepted, it is a shame that they got talk slots. This suggests that the many uninformed voters may have had too much influence relative to the few informed reviewers. (I am assuming that the reviewers were not all that positive about these papers and they were accepted as borderline cases.)

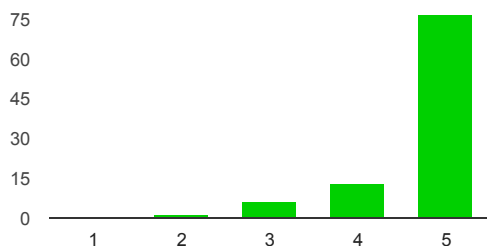I liked the poster concept because there is not always a talk I want to watch.

EMNLP Firsts

This year we added an award for the best data set or resource. Should we continue this award?
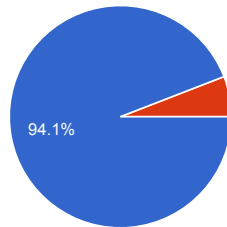
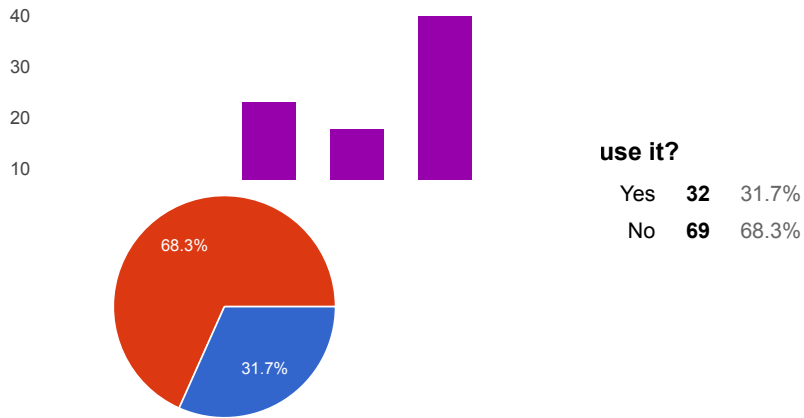|		
Yes	**96**	94.1%
No	**6**	5.9%

This year we included a conference dinner. Did you like it?

Disliked: 1	**0**	0%
2	**1**	1%
3	**6**	6.2%
4	**13**	13.4%
Liked: 5	**77**	79.4%

This year we organized a farewell drink. Did you like it?

Disliked: 1	**0**	0%
2	**4**	4.7%
3	**23**	27.1%
4	**18**	21.2%
Liked: 5	**40**	47.1%

use it?

Yes	**32**	31.7%
No	**69**	68.3%

Do you like it?

Disliked: 1	**2**	5.1%
2	**1**	2.6%
3	**9**	23.1%
4	**12**	30.8%
Liked: 5	**15**	38.5%
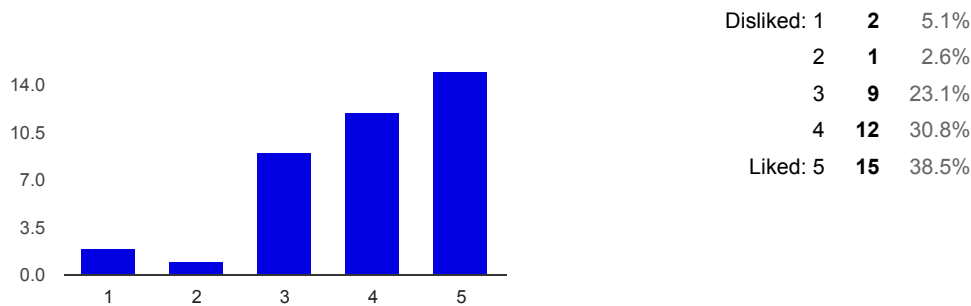
What would you change in the app? What do you think is missing?

I didn't know about it!

remind people that it exists; i didn't hear about it until the last day.

App was slow, had to update everytime I opened it, and I had to click through several submenus (other conferences, workshops) before getting to the actual conference. I understand that it's a multipurpose app, but the overhead was a little cumbersome.

reminders from within the app (without using my own calendar)

I didn't even know there is an app. But I remembered to like the one at ACL 2014. Maybe need more advertising.

I didn't even know about it!

Way too complicated, not easy to use - I could have made a plan on the back of a napkin in the time it took to figure it out

The idea is great, but I found the app buggy to the point where I just stopped using it.

Letting me make my own agenda in the app itself.

Easier to check the ongoing sessions.

Some form of integration with Google calendar would be nice.

It is horrendously ugly and hard to use. Very unintuitive loading and navigating. There are much better options out there (e.g., GuideBook) Love having an app though.

This app wanted access to so much stuff on my phone that I did not install it in the first place

Other

What was your favorite part of the conference?

The semantic similarity tutorial

Parallel poster and talk sessions.

The dinner was amazing! This might be Lisbon-specific.

Lisbon.

Social events, especially the banquet and the additional farewell drink.

Socializing with everyone, specially during the poster sessions.

poster sessions, socials

The conference dinner :)

the social dinner - AWESOME!

The poster sessions in parallel with the talks.

unfortunately, I could attend only a part of the conference

Invited talk: "Deep Learning of Semantic Representations"

The conference dinner was quite nice -- interesting venue and good food.

I loved having the workshops before the conference. also LOVED the banquet venue. beautiful location. Very important in general
that banquets not be sit down affairs, crucial to be able to mingle and explore.

The conference dinner! Fantastic venue and a great way to talk to people. Much better than the sit-down dinners.

Dinner

The conference dinner was perfect! About the conference itself, the venue was well configured for good quality exchanges.

I think the conference dinner was very well done.

Lisbon hosts and organizers were awesome! The venue was also very nice.

Meeting other NLP researchers.

Fun and Quirky topics, Dinner

Not having to choose between a million parallel sessions. (Also, lovely Lisbon!)

workshops

The dinner in a cultural part of the city

I enjoyed the workshops and most sessions.

poster sessions

The ACL-related conferences always run very smoothly.

Talks were good.

Social Events

Dinner was great at the unique Lisbon location. Also, the location is out of the tourist center and still accessible. Academic wise,
the talks at the machine translation sessions was interesting for a while then it got a little repetitive with variations of syntax
infused SMT vs Neural MT papers. I have also attended the semantics talks and they were much more interesting from various
perspectives.

The conference dinner was amazing and helped a lot to meet new people.

Lots of very positive things: - great program - interesting invited speakers - pasteis and *espresso* between sessions. i really
don't see how we can go back to lukewarm starbucks coffee jugs after this. - fun location

What was your least favorite part?

More beverages throughout the day would have been helpful

Tutorials quality was much lower than NAACL and ACL

It would have been nice to have some drinks (at least coffee) during the poster sessions, to get through all the talking. Maybe the
poster sessions could feature a coffee break (which was nice this time)?

There we so many things going on at once it was sometimes hard to work out where I should be or what the best thing to do at any point was.

The tightly packed parallel sessions. Sadly, if only the conference is stretched longer ~4-5 days, we can attend more parallel sessions from various (sub)fields.

poster session.

workshops :|

Maybe I'm a bit too optimist, but everything was fine :-)

The venue was too small---on several occasions I was unable to attend a talk I wanted to see because the room was full. I suspect this is partly because room assignment was based on the online survey, which was not reflective of the true preferences of the conference attendees.

Posters being presented alongside talks.

Two many sessions in parallel

Some of the tutorials.

Hard to get back from lunch in time for the talks (or the business meeting).

No lunches was rough.

Struggling to get into talks where the room was full.

Cost - I understand that most participants have their employer or PI pay the cost of attending the conference, and so they would like to have things like lavish coffee breaks, fancy venue with large staff, dinner included in the registration fee, etc. I'd encourage the organizers to consider ways to make the conference a little less expensive, e.g., having an option to attend the conference but not the dinner, or having many more student travel grants (10 isn't a reasonable number for a conference this size, especially when there are industry sponsors with such deep pockets).

For those of us who teach, travel to Europe during the semester is difficult. Portugal was a great location, but arranging visas for my students (citizens of Asian countries) was complicated and expensive.

nothing major

Poster sessions being parallel to talks.

Probably missing out on the first plenary talk since the conference hall was full by the time I arrived.

Small rooms for some sessions, could not participate in the session if they were busy.

Some of the sessions were overcrowded. Again, nothing to be done there, the conference was pretty big, so it's hard to project how many people want to attend a specific session. Good job though!

The opening and closing receptions were very cramped.

Not getting into crowded presentation rooms. The overflow options were okay (at least for the small auditorium).

- The receptions were low on available drinks and food.

Ushers not allowing standing during talks. Short lunch breaks.

The invited talks. They are usually my favorite part, but I disliked both talks this year. And the topics were so predictable. I prefer talks that are outside the box, not dead-center in the box(es) du jour. And what happened to the tradition of having one NLP talk by a leader in our field? Visionary NLP is good and exciting to young NLP researchers!

That it happened over a weekend. But this has been discussed before and I understand other people have different preferences due to teaching duties et al.

coffee was burnt

Posters during talks

The fire alert in the main auditorium ;)

Didn't care for the building.

Other comments (suggestions? anything missing?)

The work at year's conference seemed pretty incremental. Don't know what to do about that, except to try to encourage and

select more adventurous work. Perhaps the acceptance rate for the main conference should be decreased, with the more obvious paper topics going to the workshops (or to topical poster sessions that are explicitly designated as less prestigious than the main talks - this is a bit like NIPS, although I think NIPS goes too far in having only a single track for talks). Anything missing: Will the talk videos be added to the ACL Anthology?

On the question about how TACL papers are presented, while I don't think all need to be presented as talks, I do think the assignment should not be random. The simplest approach would seem to be to give them to the relevant area chairs and have them decide along with the other papers.

Please consider to have a demostration paper as well.

I think presenting the work as poster can be a very good opportunity to ask as many questions as you want to and to meet people. More time and not-overlapped with oral presentations should be given to posters.

- It's a pity there was not always water available as it was quite hot.

the farewell drink was a really nice touch. really smooths the way out of the conference; ending with the closing ceremony is too abrupt

1. Important - please index the proceedings in DBLP. 2. Also important.. - what happened to logo Tshirts, or other items with logo? it's a pity that such items are not included in the registration anymore.

I like it better to have workshops and tutorials after the main conference.

Sponsor companies booths were hidden out of view on the 2nd floor, and a lot of attendees (and even some volunteers) never knew we were there. As a sponsor, this problem makes us evaluate if it makes sense to sponsor future EMNLP events.

Are these post conference survey forms open data for research? It would be great to correlate some EMNLP papers/topics to the surveys.

Might have been good to have reminders (chimes) when sessions were starting. I missed a number of them when I lost track of time. USB drive: not necessary for this conference, but might be useful in cases where WiFi is poor. What about a Best Poster category?

The USB stick necklace required care to not lose.

As is often the case in European venues there was no drinking water available between coffee breaks, which was inconvenient. Several times I discovered that I had missed the beginning of a session after a coffee break. An announcement that the session was about to start would have helped.

Start the 1st day a bit later for people with jet lag :)

Great job! 10/10, would recommend

Perhaps I'm expressing a biased opinion, but I seem to have missed a more diverse program. At least this is the feeling I have if I try to recall other EMNLP meetings (this is my 3rd). Not sure to which extent this is a reflex of the interests of the community, or something the area chairs could have addressed.
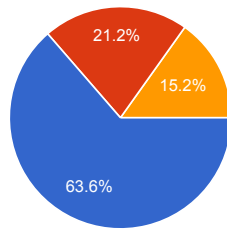
Questions for EMNLP 2016

### How long would you like talks for long papers to be?
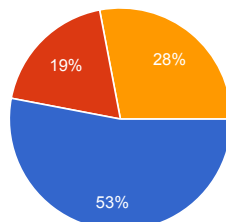
25 minutes (the current model)	**53**	53%
22 minutes (slightly shorter)	**19**	19%
20 minutes (shorter still)	**28**	28%

How long would you like talks for short papers to be?

15 minutes (the current model)	**63**	63.6%
12 minutes (slightly shorter)	**21**	21.2%
10 minutes (shorter still)	**15**	15.2%

Would you be in favor of reducing the oral presentation time (currently 25 minutes for long papers and 15 minutes for short papers) in order to increase the number of papers assigned as oral presentations (as opposed to poster presentations)?
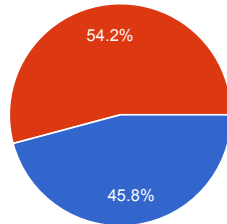
Yes, we should favor more oral presentations at the expense of shorter presentation time.	**44**	45.8%
No, the current time allotted for oral presentations is necessary and should not be compromised.	**52**	54.2%

Do you think all TACL (Transactions of the ACL) papers should be presented as oral presentations?
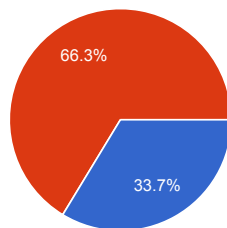
Yes	**32**	33.7%
No	**63**	66.3%

What do you think is the optimal allocation between oral and poster presentations?
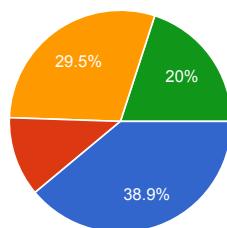
50% oral, 50% poster	**37**	38.9%
75% oral, 25% poster	**11**	11.6%
25% oral, 75% poster	**28**	29.5%
It does not matter	**19**	20%

Is there any emerging research area, not yet mainstream within NLP, that you believe should be highlighted in the call-for-papers? If so, what?

Argumentation and Debate

vision & language

I think Generation and Summarisation should be split! They are different areas.

neural nets (haha)

don't know, but should probably split the "semantics" bin

Bayesian optimization

Graph-based NLP

Computational social sciences/sociolinguistics, not as part of social media

logic of natural languages

deep-syntactic approaches

Combining embeddings with traditional NLP techniques.

Semantic similarity across words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs

Optimization: theoretically-justified NLP (i.e. not: "we ran complicated nonconvex model m several times and picked the best solution")

More Fun and Quirky topics please, also Machine Intelligence with respect to language data would be great and maybe also Task-independent NLP

computational historical linguistics

Should we continue to distribute the proceedings on a USB drive?
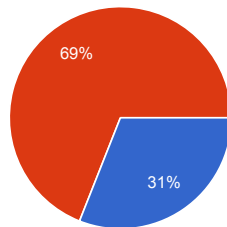
Yes, the USB drive is important	**31**	31%
No, it's fine to download them from the internet	**69**	69%

Number of daily responses