IWPT 2020

The 16th International Conference on Parsing Technologies and IWPT 2020 Shared Task on Parsing into Enhanced Universal Dependencies

Proceedings of the Conference

July 9, 2020

Organized by SIGPARSE
the ACL Special Interest Group on Natural Language Parsing

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ISBN 978-1-952148-11-8

Preface

Welcome to the 16th International Conference on Parsing Technologies (IWPT 2020), which this year (for the first time since 2007) is co-located with the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL). The IWPT meeting series, hosted by the ACL Special Interest Group in Natural Language Parsing (SIGPARSE), has been held biennualy since its inaugual meeting in 1989 in Pittsburgh, PA (USA).

For 2020, the SIGPARSE steering group decided to try out something new, co-location with the main ACL meeting in the form of a reduced one-day IWPT programme. The main motivation for this move was to reduce fragmentation (and travel) and to increase IWPT visibility in the 'mainstream' ACL community. At the same time, IWPT launches its own series of parsing shared tasks this year, which strengthens the experimental and applied perspective on parsing technologies in the conference programme.

The IWPT 2020 shared task focuses on the parsing of Enhanced Universal Dependencies (EUD) over 17 languages. This is the first time that graph-based representations of syntactic structures are evaluated on such a large scale, and we believe it will pave way for research on richer models and representations. The task attracted system submissions from ten teams from around the world and, thus, establishes a highly relevant point of comparison for this line of syntactic analysis. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to this shared task, starting with the data providers who worked hard to meet our deadline. Thanks to the participant teams who worked tirelessly in a short time period to provide such a set of great and interesting systems!

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the meeting will regrettably be held entirely virtual, where for IWPT we have adopted a mostly-asynchronous format: Accepted papers (of three different types: long, short, and shared task) will be presented through pre-recorded talks, which become available on-line for individual viewing before the actual conference day. On the original date of the conference, July 9, there will be a three-hour live session, scheduled so that the timing should be convenient (all things considered) for participants around the world: 14:00–17:00 UTC, which translates, for example, into a starting time at 7:00 in the morning at the US West Coast and wrapping up at 1:00 in the morning in Melbourne, Australia. The live sessions will be devoted exclusively to questions and answers, organized into five thematic sessions. Authors of papers associated with each session will be available to answer questions and disucss their work (possibly also among themselves).

There has been (and to some degree still is) much uncertainty about the format of ACL and IWPT this year, and in a sense we were positively surprised to receive a number of submissions comparable to recent IWPT instances. Out of 24 regular paper submissions, the programme committee accepted 14 for presentation at the conference. The IWPT 2020 programme is complemented by one invited talk, by Paola Merlo of the University of Geneva (to whom we are immensely grateful for honoring her commitment despite the mostly-asynchronous, virtual format) and by an overview paper and ten system descriptions from the IWPT 2020 shared task. We further gratefully acknowledge the work of authors and reviewers, as well as of the ACL workshop chairs, who had to try and shepherd our community through a difficult logistics process.

Copenhagen, Davis, Groningen, Kyoto, Oslo, Paris, Peking, Prague, and Tel Aviv

Gosse Bouma, Yuji Matsumoto, Stephan Oepen, Kenji Sagae, Djamé Seddah,
Weiwei Sun, Anders Søgaard, Reut Tsarfaty, and Dan Zeman

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Joachim Wagner
Rui Yan
Daniel Zeman
Yi Zhang
Yue Zhang

Invited Speaker:

Paola Merlo, University of Geneva

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