Min Zhang · Vincent Ng · Dongyan Zhao
Sujian Li · Hongying Zan (Eds.)

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Natural Language Processing and Chinese Computing

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Hohhot, China, August 26–30, 2018
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Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of NLPCC 2018, the 7th CCF International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Chinese Computing. Following the highly successful conferences in Beijing (2012), Chongqing (2013), Shenzhen (2014), Nanchang (2015), Kunming (2016), and Dalian (2017), this year's NLPCC was held in Hohhot, the capital and the economic and cultural center of Inner Mongolia. As a leading international conference on natural language processing and Chinese computing organized by CCF-TCCI (Technical Committee of Chinese Information, China Computer Federation), NLPCC 2018 served as a main forum for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to share their ideas, research results, and experiences, and to promote their research and technical innovations in the fields.

There is nothing more exciting than seeing the continual growth of NLPCC over the years. This year, we received a total of 308 submissions, which represents a 22% increase in the number of submissions compared with NLPCC 2017. Among the 308 submissions, 241 were written in English and 67 were written in Chinese. Following NLPCC's tradition, we welcomed submissions in eight key areas, including NLP Fundamentals (Syntax, Semantics, Discourse), NLP Applications, Text Mining, Machine Translation, Machine Learning for NLP, Information Extraction/Knowledge Graph, Conversational Bot/Question Answering/Information Retrieval, and NLP for Social Network. Unlike previous years, this year we intended to broaden the scope of the program by inviting authors to submit their work to one of five categories: applications/tools, empirical/data-driven approaches, resources and evaluation, theoretical, and survey papers. Different review forms were designed to help reviewers determine the contributions made by papers in different categories. While it is perhaps not surprising to see that more than 88% of the submissions concern empirical/data-driven approaches, it is encouraging to see three resources and evaluation papers and one theoretical paper accepted to the conference. Acceptance decisions were made in an online PC meeting attended by the general chairs, the Program Committee (PC) chairs, and the area chairs. In the end, 70 submissions were accepted as full papers (with 55 papers in English and 15 papers in Chinese) and 31 as posters. Six papers were nominated by the area chairs for the best paper award. An independent best paper award committee was formed to select the best papers from the shortlist. The proceedings include only the English papers accepted; the Chinese papers appear in *ACTA Scientiarum Naturalium Universitatis Pekinensis*.

We were honored to have four internationally renowned keynote speakers — Charles Ling, Joyce Chai, Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, and Luo Si — share their views on exciting developments in various areas of NLP, including language communication with robots, conversational dynamics, NLP research at Alibaba, and megatrends in AI.

We could not have organized NLPCC 2018 without the help of many people:

- We are grateful for the guidance and advice provided by TCCI Chair Ming Zhou, General Chairs Dan Roth and Chengqing Zong, and Organizing Committee Co-chairs Dongyan Zhao, Ruifeng Xu, and Guanglai Gao.
- We would like to thank Chinese Track and Student Workshop Co-chairs Minlie Huang and Jinsong Su, as well as Evaluation Co-chairs Nan Duan and Xiaojun Wan, who undertook the difficult task of selecting the slate of accepted papers from the large pool of high-quality papers.
- We are indebted to the 16 area chairs and the 232 reviewers. This year, we operated under severe time constraints, with only a month between the submission deadline and the notification date. We could not have met the various deadlines during the review process without the hard work of the area chairs and the reviewers.
- We thank ADL/Tutorial Co-chairs Wenliang Chen and Rui Yan for assembling a tutorial program consisting of six tutorials covering a wide range of cutting-edge topics in NLP.
- We thank Sponsorship Co-chairs Kam-Fai Wong and Ming Zhou for securing sponsorship for the conference.
- Publication Co-chairs Sujian Li and Hongying Zan spent a tremendous amount of time ensuring every little detail in the publication process was taken care of and truly deserve a big applause.
- We thank Dan Roth, Xuanjing Huang, Jing Jiang, Yang Liu, and Yue Zhang for agreeing to serve in the best paper award committee.
- Above all, we thank everybody who chose to submit their work to NLPCC 2018. Without their support, we could not have put together a strong conference program.

Enjoy the conference as well as Hohhot' vast green pastures and natural sceneries!

July 2018

Vincent Ng
Min Zhang

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