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# Natural Language Processing and Chinese Computing

9th CCF International Conference, NLPCC 2020  
Zhengzhou, China, October 14–18, 2020  
Proceedings, Part II

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# Preface

Welcome to 9th CCF International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Chinese Computing (NLPCC 2020). Following the success of previous conferences held in Beijing (2012), Chongqing (2013), Shenzhen (2014), Nanchang (2015), Kunming (2016), Dalian (2017), Hohhot (2018), and Dunhuang (2019), this year's NLPCC was held at Zhengzhou, which is located in the central part of China. As a leading international conference on natural language processing (NLP) and Chinese computing (CC), organized by the CCF-NLP (Technical Committee of Natural Language Processing, China Computer Federation, formerly known as Technical Committee of Chinese Information, China Computer Federation), NLPCC 2020 serves as an important forum for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to share their ideas, research results and experiences, and promote their research and technical innovations in the various fields.

The fields of NLP and CC have boomed in recent years, and the growing number of submissions to NLPCC is testament to this trend. After unfortunately needing to reject 25 submissions that did not meet the submission guidelines, we received a total of 404 valid submissions to the entire conference, inclusive of the main conference, student workshop, evaluation workshop, and the special explainable AI (XAI) workshop. Of the 377 valid submissions to the main conference, 315 were written in English and 62 were written in Chinese. Following NLPCC's tradition, we welcomed submissions in nine topical areas for the main conference: Conversational Bot/QA; Fundamentals of NLP; Knowledge Base, Graphs and Semantic Web; Machine Learning for NLP; Machine Translation and Multilinguality; NLP Applications; Social Media and Network; Text Mining; Trending Topics (Explainability, Ethics, Privacy, Multi-modal NLP, etc.)

Acceptance decisions were made by multiple virtual scientific Program Committee (PC) meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attended by the general, PC, and area chairs. After our deliberations for the main conference, 83 submissions were accepted as oral papers (with 70 papers in English and 13 papers in Chinese) and 30 as poster papers. 9 papers were nominated by the area chairs for the Best Paper Award in both the English and Chinese tracks. An independent Best Paper Award Committee was formed to select the best paper from the shortlist. The proceedings included only the accepted English papers; the Chinese papers appear in the journal *ACTA Scientiarum Naturalium Universitatis Pekinensis*. In addition to the main proceedings, 2 papers were accepted for the student workshop, 8 papers were accepted for the evaluation workshop, and 4 papers were accepted to the special Explainable AI (XAI) workshop.

We were honored to have four internationally renowned keynote speakers – Claire Cardie (Cornell University, USA, and ACL Fellow), Ido Dagan (Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and ACL Fellow), Edward Grefenstette (Facebook AI Research, UK), and Danqi Chen (Princeton University, USA) – share their expert opinions on recent developments in NLP via their wonderful lectures.

The organization of NLPCC 2020 is due to the help of a great many people:

- We are grateful for guidance and advice provided by general co-chairs Mark Steedman and Xuanjing Huang, and Organization Committee co-chairs Hongying Zan, Xiaojun Wan, and Zhumin Chen. We especially thank Xiaojun Wan, as the central committee member who as acted as a central adviser to both of us as PC chairs, in making sure all of the decisions were made on schedule.
- We would like to thank the student workshop co-chairs Jin-Ge Yao and Xin Zhao, evaluation co-chairs Shoushan Li and Yunbo Cao, XAI workshop co-chairs Feiyu Xu, Dongyan Zhao, Jun Zhu, and Yangzhou Du, as well as techical workshop co-chairs Xiaodong He and Feiyu Xu.
- We are indebted to the 18 area chairs and the 251 primary reviewers, for both the English and Chinese tracks. This year, in the special COVID-19 period, they operated under severe load, and completed their high-quality reviews. We could not have met the various deadlines during the review process without their hard work.
- We thank tutorial co-chairs Xipeng Qiu and Rui Xia for assembling a comprehensive tutorial program covering a wide range of cutting-edge topics in NLP.
- We thank sponsorship co-chairs Dongyan Zhao and Derek Wong for securing sponsorship for the conference.
- Yu Hong and Ruifang He for ensuring every little detail in the publication process was properly taken care of. Those who have done this form of service work know how excruciating it can be. On behalf of us and all of the authors, we thank them for their work, as they truly deserve a big applause.
- Above all, we thank everybody who chose to submit their work to NLPCC 2020. Without your support, we could not have put together a strong conference program.

Stay safe and healthy, and we hope you enjoyed NLPCC 2020.

August 2020

Xiaodan Zhu  
Min Zhang

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