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Petr Sojka Ivan Kopeček
Karel Pala (Eds.)

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Jaime G. Carbonell, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
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Petr Sojka
Masaryk University, Brno, Faculty of Informatics
Department of Programming Systems and Communication
Botanická 68a, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
E-mail: sojka@informatics.muni.cz

Ivan Kopeček
Karel Pala
Masaryk University, Brno, Faculty of Informatics
Department of Information Technologies
Botanická 68a, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic
E-mail: {kopecek,pala}@informatics.muni.cz

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Preface

This volume contains the Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue, held in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2004, under the auspices of the Masaryk University.

This series of international conferences on text, speech and dialogue has come to constitute a major forum for presentation and discussion, not only of the latest developments in academic research in these fields, but also of practical and industrial applications. Uniquely, these conferences bring together researchers from a very wide area, both intellectually and geographically, including scientists working in speech technology, dialogue systems, text processing, lexicography, and other related fields. In recent years the conference has developed into a primary meeting place for speech and language technologists from many different parts of the world and in particular it has enabled important and fruitful exchanges of ideas between Western and Eastern Europe.

TSD 2004 offered a rich program of invited talks, tutorials, technical papers and poster sessions, as well as workshops and system demonstrations. A total of 78 papers were accepted out of 127 submitted, contributed altogether by 190 authors from 26 countries. Our thanks as usual go to the Program Committee members and to the external reviewers for their conscientious and diligent assessment of submissions, and to the authors themselves for their high-quality contributions. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all the members of the Organizing Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing the conference and ensuring its smooth running. In particular, we would like to mention the work of the Chair of the Program Committee, Hynek Hermansky. In addition we would like to thank some other people, whose efforts were less visible during the conference proper, but whose contributions were of crucial importance. Dagmar Janoušková and Dana Komárková took care of the administrative burden with great efficiency and contributed substantially to the detailed preparation of the conference. The TEXpertise of Petr Sojka resulted in the extremely speedy and efficient production of the volume which you are now holding in your hands, including preparation of the subject index, for which he took responsibility. Last but not least, the cooperation of Springer-Verlag as the publisher of these proceedings is gratefully acknowledged.

July 2004 Ivan Kopeček, Karel Pala

Organization

TSD 2004 was organized by the Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University, in cooperation with the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň. The conference webpage is located at `http://nlp.fi.muni.cz/tsd2004/`

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