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209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA
Tel: +1-570-476-8006
Fax: +1-570-476-0860
acl@aclweb.org

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Introduction

Welcome to the ACL 2020 Student Research Workshop!

The ACL 2020 Student Research Workshop (SRW) is a forum for student researchers in computational linguistics and natural language processing. The workshop provides a unique opportunity for student participants to present their work and receive valuable feedback from the international research community as well as from faculty mentors.

Following the tradition of the previous student research workshops, we have two tracks: research papers and thesis proposals. The research paper track is a venue for Ph.D. students, Masters students, and advanced undergraduates to describe completed work or work-in-progress along with preliminary results. The thesis proposal track is offered for advanced Masters and Ph.D. students who have decided on a thesis topic and are interested in feedback on their proposal and ideas about future directions for their work.

This year, the student research workshop has received considerable attention, reflecting the growth of the field. We received 137 submissions in total: 10 thesis proposals and 127 research papers. Among these, 12 research papers were non-archival. We accepted 49 papers, with an acceptance rate of 36%. After withdrawals and excluding non-archival papers, 43 papers appear in these proceedings, including six thesis proposals and 37 research papers. All the accepted papers will be presented virtually, as a part of the main conference, spread across three days (July 6th-8th).

Mentoring is at the heart of the SRW. In keeping with previous years, we had a pre-submission mentoring program before the submission deadline. A total of 57 papers participated in the pre-submission mentoring program. This program offered students the opportunity to receive comments from an experienced researcher to improve the writing style and presentation of their submissions. Additionally, authors of accepted SRW papers were matched with mentors to review their camera-ready drafts and conference presentations.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, including the National Science Foundation and the Don and Betty Walker Scholarship Fund. We also thank Grammarly for offering writing assistance to the authors of SRW papers. We thank our program committee members for their careful reviews of each paper and all of our mentors for donating their time to provide feedback to our student authors. Thank you to our faculty advisors, Omri Abend, Sujian Li, and Zhou Yu, for their essential advice and guidance, and to the ACL 2020 organizing committee for their support. Finally, thank you to our student participants!
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