Introduction

NeuralGen is the first workshop on Methods for Optimizing and Evaluating Neural Language Generation, being held at NAACL 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The goal of this workshop is to discuss new frontiers for language generation that address some of the recurring problems in existing techniques (e.g., bland, repetitive language). More specifically, this workshop is aimed at sharing novel modeling techniques that go beyond maximum likelihood training, new techniques for robust evaluation and interpretation of model output, and strategies for generalization of generation systems.

We are pleased to have received 42 submissions, covering a wide range of topics related to modeling, evaluation and analysis of novel generation systems. 17 of the submissions have been accepted into the final program (approximately 40% acceptance rate). The workshop schedule includes 11 archival papers and 17 poster presentations. We are also thankful to have seven invited speakers: Kyunghyun Cho, He He, Graham Neubig, Yejin Choi, Alexander Rush, Tatsunori Hashimoto, and Hal Daumé III. The workshop also includes a panel discussion from the speakers and spotlight talks for a selection of accepted papers.

We would like to thank our invited speakers, authors, and reviewers for contributing to our program. Additionally, we would like to express gratitude to our sponsors, who have been generous in supporting the workshop.

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Asli Celikyilmaz, Microsoft Research
Srinivasan Iyer, University of Washington
Marjan Ghazvininejad, Facebook AI Research
Urvashi Khandelwal, Stanford University
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Keisuke Sakaguchi, Allen Institute for AI
Terra Blevins, University of Washington
Lianhui Qin, University of Washington
Vered Shwartz, Bar-Ilan University
Lifu Huang, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Verena Rieser, Heriot-Watt University
Maarten Sap, University of Washington
Yangfeng Ji, University of Virginia

Invited Speakers:

Kyunghyun Cho, New York University and Facebook AI Research
Yejin Choi, University of Washington and Allen Institute for AI
Hal Daumé III, University of Maryland and Microsoft Research
Tatsunori Hashimoto, Stanford University
He He, New York University and Amazon Web Services
Graham Neubig, Carnegie Mellon University
Alexander Rush, Harvard University
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Conference Program

Thursday, June 6, 2019

9:00–9:10  Opening Remarks

9:10–9:45  Invited Talk: Kyunghyun Cho

9:45–10:20  Invited Talk: He He

10:20–10:35  Coffee Break

10:35–11:10  Invited Talk: Graham Neubig

11:10–11:45  Invited Talk: Yejin Choi

11:45–13:15  Lunch


13:50–14:15  Spotlight Talks

14:15–15:45  Poster Session

An Adversarial Learning Framework For A Persona-Based Multi-Turn Dialogue Model
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DAL: Dual Adversarial Learning for Dialogue Generation
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Towards Coherent and Engaging Spoken Dialog Response Generation Using Automatic Conversation Evaluators
Sanghyun Yi, Rahul Goel, Chandra Khatri, Tagyoung Chung, Behnam Hedayatnia, Anu Venkatesh, Raefer Gabriel and Dilek Hakkani-Tur
How to Compare Summarizers without Target Length? Pitfalls, Solutions and Re-examination of the Neural Summarization Literature
Simeng Sun, Ori Shapira, Ido Dagan and Ani Nenkova

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Learning Criteria and Evaluation Metrics for Textual Transfer between Non-Parallel Corpora
Yuanzhe Pang and Kevin Gimpel

Dual Supervised Learning for Natural Language Understanding and Generation
Shang-Yu Su, Chao-Wei Huang and Yun-Nung Chen

Designing a Symbolic Intermediate Representation for Neural Surface Realization
Henry Elder, Jennifer Foster, James Barry and Alexander O’Connor

Insertion-based Decoding with automatically Inferred Generation Order
Jiatao Gu, Qi Liu and Kyunghyun Cho

Neural Text Style Transfer via Denoising and Reranking
Joseph Lee, Ziang Xie, Cindy Wang, Max Drach, Dan Jurafsky and Andrew Ng

Generating Diverse Story Continuations with Controllable Semantics
Lifu Tu, Xiaoan Ding, Dong Yu and Kevin Gimpel

Better Automatic Evaluation of Open-Domain Dialogue Systems with Contextualized Embeddings
Sarik Ghazarian, Johnny Wei, Aram Galstyan and Nanyun Peng

Improved Zero-shot Neural Machine Translation via Ignoring Spurious Correlations
Jiatao Gu, Yong Wang, Kyunghyun Cho and Victor O.K. Li
Thursday, June 6, 2019 (continued)

*Jointly Measuring Diversity and Quality in Text Generation Models*
Danial Alihosseini, Ehsan Montahaei and Mahdieh Soleymani Baghshah

15:45–16:20 Invited Talk: Tatsunori Hashimoto

16:20–16:55 Invited Talk: Hal Daumé III

16:55–17:55 Panel

17:55–18:00 *Closing Remarks*