

PBML



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NOTE

ACL 2007—the 45th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Prague, June 23-30, 2007

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The 45th ACL Annual Meeting has been held in Prague on June 23–30, 2007 organized by the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics at Charles University in Prague. It was the largest ACL meeting ever held by the ACL during the time of its existence. There were more than 1000 participants from abroad, coming from 48 countries, and about 70 researchers and students from the Czech Republic, mostly from Charles University in Prague. The meeting was held under the auspices of the former Rector of Charles University prof. ing. Ivan Wilhelm, the present-day Rector of the University prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl (who welcomed the participants on behalf of the University at the opening session) and the Mayor of the City of Prague MUDr. Pavel Bém. The General Chair of the Conference was John Carroll; the programme chairs were Annie Zeanen and Antal van den Bosch, the tutorial chair Joakim Nivre and the workshop chair Simone Teufel. The Local Organizing Committee was headed by Eva Hajičová with Jan Hajič as Local Coordinator and Anna Kotěšovcová as Local Arrangements Chair.

The three-day main conference consisted of four parallel sessions and one student session. There were 588 submissions for the main conference out of which 131 have been accepted (acceptance rate 22,30%). The invited speakers were Tom Mitchell (on the relations between language, meaning, and brain), and Barney Pell (from Powerset) on intelligent text retrieval.

15 workshops were organized before and after the conference and there were also two adjoined conferences, the International Workshop on Parsing Technologies (IWPT) and the joint conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and on Computational Natural Language Learning (EMNLP-CoNLL). The EMNLP-CoNLL joint conference this year was also exceptionally large, there were more than 340 participants and 398 submissions from which 66 were accepted as oral presentations and 43 as posters, making the acceptance rate 27%. This conference also included some short reports on the results of a shared task concerning dependency based analysis applied to annotated corpora of several languages.

There were five tutorials before the main conference with a range of topics: special statistical methods for NLP, data mining from Internet, dialogue systems, methods of logical inferencing from texts and methods of evaluation and advancing the quality of corpus annotation.

The Best Paper Award went to Yuk Wah Wong and Raymond J. Mooney who delivered the paper “Learning Synchronous Grammars for Semantic Parsing with Lambda Calculus.”

The recipient of the 2007 Life Achievement Award was a very influential theoretical and computational linguist, Lauri Karttunen from Stanford University, USA.

Among the sponsors of the 2007 ACL meeting there were Google, Microsoft, IBM, Xerox, TextKernel, BBN, Morphologic, NewsTin, Powerset, the Czech Association for Information Science and some others.

This was the third time when Prague hosted an international meeting on computational linguistics: after a rather small but for that time rather influential Colloquium on Algebraic Linguistics in 1964 there was the COLING Conference in Prague in 1982, with almost 400 participants, at the occasion of which the foundation of the European Chapter of ACL was announced by Donald Walker, the then ACL Secretary, accompanied by the establishment of the ACL International Fund which made it possible for considerably economically handicapped researchers from Central and Eastern European countries to be ACL members, receiving the journal and being supported in their participation at the ACL meetings. This was one of the greatest support we have got and by organizing the 2007 ACL meeting we also wanted to express our gratefulness.

Eva Hajičová
Local Organisation Chair

Jan Hajič
Sponsorship Chair

Pavel Straňák
Publicity Chair

link to webpage:
<http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/acl2007>