Course Logistics

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Goals of the Course

1. make you able to read the newest MT papers

2. give you some intuition on how to models behave
What we Expect you to Know

- basic of deep learning
  - know basic neural architectures
  - training by backpropagation
- be familiar with machine translation
  - what data we use and do we get them
  - MT evaluation
  - what are the main problems of MT and why they are difficult

Enrolling NPFL087 Statistical Machine Translation and NPFL114 Deep Learning is recommended.
First part: Lectures

1. Discussion on a reading assignment (20 minutes)
2. Lecture (70 minutes)

Preliminary Syllabus

• introductory notes on deep learning and machine translation
• neural architectures for NLP
• sequence-to-sequence learning with attention mechanism using RNNs
• sequence-to-sequence learning using self-attention networks
• dealing with limited vocabulary (character-based methods, sub-word units)
• algorithmic tricks to improve model performance (beam search, ensembling)

The topics may change based on your interests.
Second Part: Paper Presentation

Every student will:

• present a paper / a group of papers to the others
• prepare interesting questions to kick-off the discussion

Papers will cover recent research topics including: *non-autoregressive models, insertion-based decoding, unsupervised translation.*
To pass the course, you need to:

- read the papers assigned for the seminar and submit an answer to a question for each paper before the seminar (via a Google Form),
- present a paper to the fellow students.
- write a test at the end of the semester

The seminar is an **optional** course, awarded by **3 credits**.
The course materials & current reading question will be available on course webpage:

ufal.cz/courses/nlfl116

If you have questions, drop us a line:
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