Welcome to the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 Student Research Workshop!

The ACL-IJCNLP 2021 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 again received wide attention. We received 114 submissions including 109 research papers and 5 thesis proposals. The submissions included 68 long papers and 46 short papers. Following withdrawals and desk rejects, 45 were accepted for an acceptance rate of 39%. Excluding non-archival papers, 36 papers appear in these proceedings. All the accepted papers will be presented virtually in three sessions during the course of August 3rd.

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 36 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.

We are deeply grateful to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for providing funds that covered student registrations. 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, Jing Jiang, Rico Sennrich, Derek F. Wong and Nianwen Xue, for their essential advice and guidance, and to the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 organizing committee for their support. Finally, thank you to our student participants!
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