Introduction

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth Workshop on e-Commerce and NLP (ECNLP).

This workshop focuses on intersection of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and e-Commerce. NLP and information retrieval (IR) have been powering e-Commerce applications since the early days of the fields. Today, NLP and IR already play a significant role in e-Commerce tasks, including product search, recommender systems, product question answering, machine translation, sentiment analysis, product description and review summarization, and customer review processing. With the exploding popularity of chatbots and shopping assistants – both text- and voice-based – NLP, IR, question answering, and dialogue systems research is poised to transform e-Commerce once again.

The ECNLP workshop series was designed to provide a venue for the dissemination of late-breaking research results and ideas related to e-commerce and online shopping, as well as a forum where new and unfinished ideas could be discussed. After three successful editions since 2019, we are happy to host ECNLP 4 at ACL 2021 and once again bring together researchers from both academia and industry.

We have received a larger number of submissions than we could accept for presentation. ECNLP 4 received 34 submissions of long and short research papers. In total, ECNLP 4 featured 21 accepted papers (62% acceptance rate). The selection process was competitive and we believe it resulted in a balanced and varied program that is appealing to audiences from the various sub-areas of e-Commerce.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted a paper to the workshop. We would also like to express our gratitude to the members of the Program Committee for their timely reviews, and for supporting the tight schedule by providing reviews at short notice.

We hope that you enjoy the workshop!

The ECNLP Organizers

June 2021
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Surya Kallumadi (Lowe’s Companies, Inc., USA)
Nicola Ueffing (eBay Inc, Germany)
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# Table of Contents

**BERT Goes Shopping: Comparing Distributional Models for Product Representations**  
Jacopo Tagliabue, Federico Bianchi and Bingqing Yu .................................................. 1

**Attribute Value Generation from Product Title using Language Models**  
Kalyani Roy, Pawan Goyal and Manish Pandey ............................................................ 13

**ASR Adaptation for E-commerce Chatbots using Cross-Utterance Context and Multi-Task Language Modeling**  
Ashish Shenoy, Sravan Bodapati and Katrin Kirchhoff .................................................. 18

**Turn-Level User Satisfaction Estimation in E-commerce Customer Service**  
Runze Liang, Ryuichi Takanobu, Feng-Lin Li, Ji Zhang, Haiqing Chen and Minlie Huang ..... 26

**Keyword Augmentation via Generative Methods**  
Haoran Shi, Zhijiao Rao, Yongning Wu, Zuohua Zhang and Chu Wang ............................. 33

**Personalized Entity Resolution with Dynamic Heterogeneous Knowledge Graph Representations**  
Ying Lin, Han Wang, Jiangning Chen, Tong Wang, Yue Liu, Heng Ji, Yang Liu and Premkumar Natarajan ........................................................................................................... 38

**A Semi-supervised Multi-task Learning Approach to Classify Customer Contact Intents**  
Li Dong, Matthew C. Spencer and Amir Biagi ................................................................. 49

**“Are you calling for the vaporizer you ordered?” Combining Search and Prediction to Identify Orders in Contact Centers**  
Abinaya K and Shourya Roy ............................................................................................... 58

**Identifying Hijacked Reviews**  
Monika Daryani and James Caverlee ................................................................................. 70

**Learning Cross-Task Attribute - Attribute Similarity for Multi-task Attribute-Value Extraction**  
Mayank Jain, Sourangshu Bhattacharya, Harshit Jain, Karimulla Shaik and Muthusamy Chelliah 79

**Unsupervised Class-Specific Abstractive Summarization of Customer Reviews**  
Thi Nhat Anh Nguyen, Mingwei Shen and Karen Hovsepian ....................................... 88

**Scalable Approach for Normalizing E-commerce Text Attributes (SANTA)**  
Ravi Shankar Mishra, Kartik Mehta and Nikhil Rasiwasia .............................................. 101

**Multimodal Item Categorization Fully Based on Transformer**  
Lei Chen, Houwei Chou, Yandi Xia and Hirokazu Miyake ............................................ 111

**Textual Representations for Crosslingual Information Retrieval**  
Hang Zhang and Liling Tan ............................................................................................... 116

**Detect Profane Language in Streaming Services to Protect Young Audiences**  
Jingxiang Chen, Kai Wei and Xiang Hao ........................................................................ 123

**Exploring Inspiration Sets in a Data Programming Pipeline for Product Moderation**  
Justine Winkler, Simon Brugman, Bas van Berkel and Martha Larson .......................... 132

**Enhancing Aspect Extraction for Hindi**  
Arghya Bhattacharya, Alok Debnath and Manish Shrivastava .................................... 140
Combining semantic search and twin product classification for recognition of purchasable items in voice shopping
  Dieu-Thu Le, Verena Weber and Melanie Bradford .................................................. 150

Improving Factual Consistency of Abstractive Summarization on Customer Feedback
  Yang Liu, Yifei Sun and Vincent Gao ................................................................. 158

SupportNet: Neural Networks for Summary Generation and Key Segment Extraction from Technical Support Tickets
  Vinayshekhar Bannihatti Kumar, Mohan Yarramsetty, Sharon Sun and Anukul Goel .......... 164

Product Review Translation: Parallel Corpus Creation and Robustness towards User-generated Noisy Text
  Kamal Kumar Gupta, Soumya Chennabasavaraj, Nikesh Garera and Asif Ekbal ............ 174