IWSLT 2021

The 18th International Conference on Spoken Language Translation

Proceedings of the Conference

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Bangkok, Thailand (online)
Preface

The International Conference on Spoken Language Translation (IWSLT) is the premiere annual scientific conference for the study, development and evaluation of spoken language translation technology. Launched in 2004 and spun out from the C-STAR speech translation consortium before it (1992-2003), IWSLT is the main venue for scientific exchange on all topics related to speech-to-text translation, speech-to-speech translation, simultaneous and consecutive translation, speech dubbing, cross-lingual communication including all multimodal, emotional, paralinguistic, and stylistic aspects and their applications in the field. The conference organizes evaluations around challenge areas, and presents scientific papers and system descriptions.

This year, IWSLT features four shared tasks: (i) Simultaneous Speech Translation; (ii) Offline Speech Translation; (iii) Multilingual Speech Translation; and (iv) Low-Resource Speech Translation. These topics represent open problems toward effective cross-lingual communication and we expect the community effort and discussion will greatly advance the state of the field. Each shared task was coordinated by a chair. The resulting evaluation campaigns attracted a total of 22 teams, from academy, research centers and industry. System submissions resulted in system papers that will be presented at the conference. Following our call for papers, this year 40 submissions were received. In a blind review process, 11 research papers were selected out of 19 for oral presentation (58%) in addition to 21 system papers. The program this year will also host 4 so-called ACL findings papers (not included in this proceedings), that expressed interest in being presented at IWSLT 2021. The program committee is excited about the quality of the accepted papers and expects lively discussion and exchange at the conference.

The conference chairs and organizers would like to express their gratitude to everyone who contributed and supported IWSLT. We thank the shared tasks chairs, organizers, and participants, the program chair and committee members, as well as all the authors that went the extra mile to submit system and research papers to IWSLT, and make this year’s conference a most vibrant event. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to ACL for hosting our conference and for arranging the logistics and infrastructure that allow us to hold IWSLT 2021 as a virtual online conference.

Welcome to IWSLT 2021 wherever you are joining from!

Marta R. Costa-jussà, Program Chair
Marcello Federico and Alex Waibel, Conference co-Chairs
Organizers:
Marcello Federico, Amazon, USA (Conference Chair)
Alex Waibel, CMU, USA (Conference Chair)
Marta R. Costa-jussà, UPC, Spain (Program Chair)
Jan Niehues, Maastricht U., Netherlands (Evaluation Chair)
Sebastian Stüker, KIT, Germany (Evaluation Chair)
Elizabeth Salesky, JHU, Germany (Website Chair)

Shared Task Organizers:

*Simultaneous Speech Translation*
Juan Pino Facebook, USA, (Chair)
Katsuhito Sudoh, NAIST, Japan (Chair)
Satoshi Nakamura, NAIST, Japan
Ondřej Bojar, Charles University, Czech Republic
Xutai Ma, JHU/ Facebook, USA
Maha Elbayad, Facebook, USA
Changhan Wang, Facebook, USA

*Offline Speech Translation*
Marco Turchi, FBK, Italy (Chair)
Sebastian Stüker, KIT, Germany
Jan Niehues, Maastricht University, Netherlands
Matteo Negri, FBK, Italy
Roldano Cattoni, FBK, Italy

*Multilingual Speech Translation*
Elizabeth Salesky, JHU, USA (Chair)
Jake Bremerman, UMD, USA
Jan Niehues, Maastricht University, Netherlands
Matt Post, JHU, USA
Matthew Wiesner, JHU, USA

*Multilingual Speech Translation*
Antonios Anastasopoulos, George Mason University, USA (Chair)
Grace Tang, Translators without Borders, Canada
Will Lewis, University of Washington, USA
Sylwia Tur, Appen, USA
Rosie Lazar, Appen, USA
Marcello Federico, Amazon, USA
Alex Waibel, CMU, USA
Program Committee:

Hirofumi Inaguma, Kyoto University, Japan
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Evgeny Matusov, AppTek, Germany
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Katsuhito Sudoh, NAIST, Japan
Laurent Besacier, IMAG, France
Marco Turchi, FBK, Italy
Markus Freitag, Google, USA
Matteo Negri, FBK, Italy
Matthias Huck, LMU, Germany
Mattia di Gangi, AppTek, Germany
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Nguyen Bach, Alibaba, USA
Preslav Nakov, QCRI, Qatar
Yves Lepage, U. Waseda, Japan
Jiajun Zhang, Institute of Automation Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Duygu Ataman, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Xutai Ma, Johns Hopkins University, USA
Melvin Johnson, Google, USA
Cuong Hoang, Amazon, USA
José Guilherme Camargo de Souza, Unbabel, Portugal
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