Proceedings of

SSST-2

Second Workshop on

Syntax and Structure in Statistical Translation

David Chiang and Dekai Wu (editors)

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Introduction

The Second Workshop on Syntax and Structure in Statistical Translation (SSST-2) was held on 20 June 2008 following the ACL-08: HLT conference hosted by Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Like the first SSST workshop in 2007, it aimed to bring together researchers from different communities working in the rapidly growing field of statistical, tree-structured models of natural language translation.

We selected eleven papers for this year's workshop. There was a strong emphasis this year on the use of explicit syntactic information: constituent structures (Yamamoto, Okuma and Sumita; Zhou, Xiang, Zhu and Gao; Elming; Clark, Frederking and Levin; Lavie, Parlikar and Ambati), dependency structures (Nikoulina and Dymetman; Ma, Ozdowska, Sun and Way), part-of-speech tags (Tillmann), and combinations thereof (Ge, Ittycheriah and Papineni). These papers applied syntactic information to grammar-based models as well as to phrase-based and word-based models. The program was rounded out by papers describing new decoding techniques (Li and Khudanpur) and machine-learning techniques (Subotin) for grammar-based translation models.

We would like to thank our authors and our Program Committee for making this year's SSST workshop another success.

David Chiang and Dekai Wu¹

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Workshop Program

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- 16:50–17:15 Syntax-Driven Learning of Sub-Sentential Translation Equivalents and Translation Rules from Parsed Parallel Corpora Alon LAVIE, Alok PARLIKAR and Vamshi AMBATI
- 17:15–17:45 Panel Discussion