Invited Talk

Date/time Friday, December 9, 2005 / 9:15-9:45
"Cross Language Evaluation Forum: CLEF 2005"
Gareth Jones and Carol Peters

Abstract

This presentation will report the activities of the CLEF 2005 evaluation campaign. CLEF 2005 consisted of 8 tracks focusing on topics in multilingual information retrieval. An assessment of the results will be given with particular focus on two important tracks: multilingual ad-hoc retrieval and cross-language search in image collections. The multilingual task this year had two objectives: to explore reuse of test collections to measure an improvement in system performance over time and to examine in depth the problem of merging results from a multilingual search over different collections and languages. The ImageCLEF track was very successful with several different tasks and a large participation. A main aim was to investigate how visual and textual features can best be combined for effective retrieval. The presentation will conclude with a brief description of the agenda for CLEF 2006.

Speaker Bio

Gareth Jones is Senior Lecturer in Computing at Dublin City University, Ireland where he is a member of the Centre for Digital Video Processing and the National Centre for Language Technology. He was previously a Lecturer at the University of Exeter, U.K. and a post-doctoral Research Associate at the University of Cambridge. He was awarded B.Eng and PhD degrees by the University of Bristol. From 1997-1998 he was a Toshiba Fellow at the Toshiba Corporation Research and Development Center in Kawasaki, and in 2002 a JSPS Visiting Fellow at the National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo. His .principal research interests are in information retrieval, applied natural language processing and multimedia information management. He has been active in the EU Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) since its formation in 2000, and is currently investigator on a China-Ireland research collaboration project exploring English-Chinese Cross-Language Question Answering.

Invited Talk

Date/time Friday, December 9, 2005 / 9:45-10:15
"Evaluation and Applications of Automatic Text Summarization"
Chin-Yew LIN

Abstract

Automated text summarization aims to create concise restatements of the topic and main ideas of input documents. It has been one major topic in natural language processing research. However, until recently there are no common, convenient, and repeatable evaluation methods that can be easily applied to support fast turn-around system development and just-in-time comparison among different summarization methods.

The recent adoption of the ROUGE automatic evaluation method by the text summarization community is a step toward addressing the problem. However, despite the success of ROUGE, it still works strictly on lexical level, relies on simple matching heuristics and is weak in theoretical framework. In this talk, I will introduce an information-theoretic approach to automatic evaluation of summarization that measures the quality of a summary using the Jensen-Shannon (JS) divergence between the summary and a set of reference summaries. Several variants of the approach are also considered and compared. The initial results indicate that JS divergence-based evaluation method achieves comparable performance with the current de facto automatic evaluation method ROUGE.

Speaker Bio

Chin-Yew LIN is a senior research scientist at the Information Sciences Institute of the University of Southern California. His research interests are text summarization, question answering, opinion extraction, and machine translation. He was the ACL 2005 area chair of text summarization and question answering. He built two state-of-the-art text summarization systems: SUMMARIST and NeATS and was the chief architect of ISI's Webclopedia question answering system. He also developed the automatic summarization evaluation package ROUGE and BE that have been used in the DUC evaluations. He has co-chaired several text summarization and question answering workshops in ACL, NAACL, HLT, and COLING.