Information Retrieval Technology

Asia Information Retrieval Symposium, AIRS 2004
Beijing, China, October 18-20, 2004
Revised Selected Papers
Preface

The Asia Information Retrieval Symposium (AIRS) was established by the Asian information retrieval community after the successful series of Information Retrieval with Asian Languages (IRAL) workshops held in six different locations in Asia, starting from 1996. While the IRAL workshops had their focus on information retrieval problems involving Asian languages, AIRS covers a wider scope of applications, systems, technologies and theory aspects of information retrieval in text, audio, image, video and multimedia data. This extension of the scope reflects and fosters increasing research activities in information retrieval in this region and the growing need for collaborations across subdisciplines.

We are very pleased to report that we saw a sharp increase in the number of submissions and their quality, compared to the IRAL workshops. We received 106 papers from nine countries in Asia and North America, from which 28 papers (26%) were presented in oral sessions and 38 papers in poster sessions (36%). It was a great challenge for the Program Committee to select the best among the excellent papers. The low acceptance rates witness the success of this year’s conference.

After a long discussion between the AIRS 2004 Steering Committee and Springer, the publisher agreed to publish our proceedings in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) series, which is SCI-indexed. We feel that this strongly attests to the excellent quality of the papers.

The attendees were cordially invited to participate in and take advantage of all the technical programs at this conference. A tutorial was given on the first day to introduce the state of the art in Web mining, an important application of Web document retrieval. Two keynote speeches covered two main areas of the conference: video retrieval and language issues. There were a total of eight oral sessions run, with two in parallel at a time, and two poster/demo sessions.

The technical and social programs, which we are proud of, were made possible by the hard-working people behind the scenes. In addition to the Program Committee members, we are thankful to the Organizing Committee (Shao-Ping Ma and Jianfeng Gao, Co-chairs), Interactive Posters/Demo Chair (Gary G. Lee), and the Special Session and Tutorials Chair (Wei-Ying Ma). We also thank the sponsoring organizations: Microsoft Research Asia, the Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and LexisNexis for their financial support, the Department of Computer Science and Technology, Tsinghua University for local arrangements, the Chinese NewsML Community for website design and administration, Ling Huang for the logistics, Weiwei Sun for the conference webpage management, EONSOLUTION for the conference management, and Springer for the postconference
LNCS publication. We believe that this conference set a very high standard for a regionally oriented conference, especially in Asia, and we hope that it continues as a tradition in the upcoming years.

Sung Hyon Myaeng and Ming Zhou (PC Co-chairs)
Kam-Fai Wong and Hong-Jiang Zhang (Conference Co-chairs)
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peter Anick</th>
<th>Kui-Lam Kwok</th>
<th>Hae-Chang Rim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yunbo Cao</td>
<td>Wai Lam</td>
<td>Tetsuya Sakai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yee Seng Chan</td>
<td>Gary Geunbae Lee</td>
<td>Tomek Strzalkowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hsin-Hsi Chen</td>
<td>Mun-Kew Leong</td>
<td>Maosong Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zheng Chen</td>
<td>Gena-Anne Levow</td>
<td>Ulrich Thiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aitao Chen</td>
<td>Hang Li</td>
<td>Takenobu Tokunaga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tee Kiah Chia</td>
<td>Mu Li</td>
<td>Hsin-Min Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee-Feng Chien</td>
<td>Hongqiao Li</td>
<td>Haifeng Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabio Crestani</td>
<td>Chin-Yew Lin</td>
<td>Ross Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward A. Fox</td>
<td>Robert Luk</td>
<td>Kam-Fai Wong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jianfeng Gao</td>
<td>Wei-Ying Ma</td>
<td>Lide Wu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hani Abu-Salem</td>
<td>Gay Marchionini</td>
<td>Jinx Xu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xuanjing Huang</td>
<td>Helen Meng</td>
<td>Peng Yu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetsuya Ishikawa</td>
<td>Sung Hyon Myaeng</td>
<td>Chunfa Yuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Khoo</td>
<td>Hiroshi Nakagawa</td>
<td>ChengXiang Zhai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jung Hee Kim</td>
<td>Hwee Tou Ng</td>
<td>Hong-Jiang Zhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minkoo Kim</td>
<td>Jian-Yun Nie</td>
<td>Min Zhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munchurl Kim</td>
<td>Jon Patrick</td>
<td>Ming Zhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazuaki Kishida</td>
<td>Ricardo Baeza-Yates</td>
<td>Jian-lai Zhou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

Information Organization

Automatic Word Clustering for Text Categorization Using Global Information
  Wenliang Chen, Xingzhi Chang, Huizhen Wang, Jingbo Zhu,
  Tianshun Yao .......................................................... 1

Text Classification Using Web Corpora and EM Algorithms
  Chen-Ming Hung, Lee-Feng Chien ................................. 12

Applying CLIR Techniques to Event Tracking
  Nianli Ma, Yiming Yang, Monica Rogati ....................... 24

Document Clustering Using Linear Partitioning Hyperplanes and Reallocation
  Canasai Kruengkrai, Virach Sornlertlamvanich, Hitoshi Isahara .. 36

Automatic Summarization

Summary Generation Centered on Important Words
  Dongli Han, Takashi Noguchi, Tomokazu Yago, Minoru Harada ...... 48

Sentence Compression Learned by News Headline for Displaying in Small Device
  Kong Joo Lee, Jae-Hoon Kim ......................................... 61

Automatic Text Summarization Using Two-Step Sentence Extraction
  Wooncheol Jung, Youngjoong Ko, Jungyun Seo ........................ 71

Sentence Extraction Using Time Features in Multi-document Summarization
  Jung-Min Lim, In-Su Kang, Jae-Hak J. Bae, Jong-Hyeok Lee ........ 82

Alignment/Paraphrasing in IR

Extracting Paraphrases of Japanese Action Word of Sentence Ending Part from Web and Mobile News Articles
  Hiroshi Nakagawa, Hidetaka Masuda .............................. 94
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving Transliteration with Precise Alignment of Phoneme Chunks</td>
<td>Wei Gao, Kam-Fai Wong, Wai Lam</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Using Contextual Features</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Sentence Length with Location Information to Align</td>
<td>Weigang Li, Ting Liu, Sheng Li</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monolingual Parallel Texts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Search</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Topic Distillation with Key Resource Pre-selection</td>
<td>Yiqun Liu, Min Zhang, Shaoping Ma</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient PageRank with Same Out-Link Groups</td>
<td>Yizhou Lu, Xuezheng Liu, Hua Li, Benyu Zhang, Wensi Xi, Wei-Ying Ma</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literal-Matching-Biased Link Analysis</td>
<td>Yinghui Xu, Kyoji Umemura</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic Issues in IR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilingual Relevant Sentence Detection Using Reference Corpus</td>
<td>Ming-Hung Hsu, Ming-Feng Tsai, Hsin-Hsi Chen</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Bootstrapping Approach for Geographic Named Entity Annotation</td>
<td>Seungwoo Lee, Gary Geunbae Lee</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Verb Dependency Matching in a Reading Comprehension System</td>
<td>Kui Xu, Helen Meng</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document/Query Models</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense Matrix Model and Discrete Cosine Transform</td>
<td>Bing Swen</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query Model Estimations for Relevance Feedback in Language Modeling</td>
<td>Seung-Hoon Na, In-Su Kang, Kyonghi Moon, Jong-Hyeok Lee</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Measure Based on Optimal Matching in Graph Theory for Document</td>
<td>Xiaojun Wan, Yuxin Peng</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similarity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Estimation of Query Model from Parsimonious Translation Model

*Seung-Hoon Na, In-Su Kang, Sin-Jae Kang, Jong-Hyeok Lee*  
239

## Enabling Technology

### Ranking the NTCIR Systems Based on Multigrade Relevance

*Tetsuya Sakai*  
251

### X-IOTA: An Open XML Framework for IR Experimentation

*Jean-Pierre Chevallet*  
263

### Recognition-Based Digitalization of Korean Historical Archives

*Min Soo Kim, Sungho Ryu, Kyu Tae Cho, Taik Heon Rhee, Hyun Il Choi, Jin Hyung Kim*  
281

### On Bit-Parallel Processing of Multi-byte Text

*Heikki Hyyrö, Jun Takaba, Ayumi Shinohara, Masayuki Takeda*  
289

## Mobile Applications

### Retrieving Regional Information from Web by Contents Localness and User Location

*Qiang Ma, Katsumi Tanaka*  
301

### Towards Understanding the Functions of Web Element

*Xinyi Yin, Wee Sun Lee*  
313

### Clustering-Based Navigation of Image Search Results on Mobile Devices

*Hao Liu, Xing Xie, Xiaou Tang, Wei-Ying Ma*  
325

## Author Index  
337