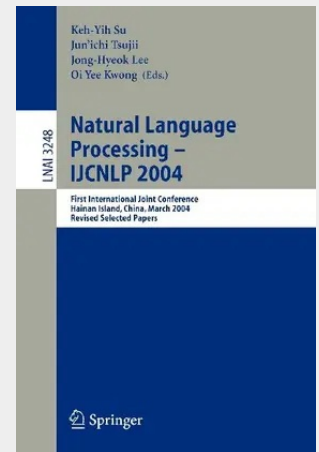


Natural Language Processing - IJCNLP 2004

First International Joint Conference, Hainan Island, China, March 22-24, 2004, Revised Selected Papers

IJCNLP 2004 heralded a new era for computational linguistics and natural language processing in Asia, as it coincided with the launching of the Asian Federation of NLP Associations (AFNLP) in Sanya, Hainan, China. This was a timely development for the most populous and linguistically diversified region in the world, and there is little wonder that this conference managed to draw over 200 participants. Following an enthusiastic response to the call for papers from 19 regions and the vigorous and rigorous efforts of the Program Committee Co-chairs, the sizable collection of papers presented at this conference enabled AFNLP to be compared with related organizations such as COLING and ACL, which have been in existence for more than 40 years. The organizers recognized that it is important for serious attempts to be made to increase and improve efforts in this area all across Asia. Towards this end, and to contribute to a better awareness of topical issues, IJCNLP 2004 included two panels of special interest: (1) Panel on Emerging Asian Language Processing Efforts, and (2) Panel on Multilingual NLP for Public Information Services, which was devoted to the NLP requirements envisioned by the organizers of the 2008 Olympics. There were also two thematic sessions on (a) Natural Language Technology in Mobile Information Retrieval and Text Processing User Interfaces, and (b) Text Mining in Biomedicine. The offerings of this conference were further enriched by tutorials and workshops as well as an Asian Symposium on Natural Language Processing to Overcome Language Barriers, organized as a satellite event by the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) and the Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) of Japan.

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