

The 9th International Conference on Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Machine Translation, held in Keihanna, Japan in March 2002 emphasizes the synergy between empirical and knowledge-based approaches to machine translation. Recent research on the use of corpus-based, statistical techniques to create MT knowledge bases holds promise for the rapid development of open domain MT systems for new languages.

The main conference consists of a series of papers on machine translation. In order to keep the conference to a single session, only 20 papers were accepted, all of which appear in these proceedings. There were 29 submissions to TMI 2002 (14 from Asia, 9 from America, and 6 from Europe). Each paper was reviewed by three members of the program committee, who not only judged each submission, but also gave detailed comments to the authors. The overall quality of submissions was high, making the final selection very difficult.

The papers touch on a variety of topics in machine translation, including empirical approaches (acquisition of lexica, morphology rules, grammars, and example bases), rule-based systems (anaphora and ellipsis resolution) and other special topics (summarization, evaluation, American Sign Language). There are several papers that focus on Japanese MT, but there are also papers on German, Spanish, Catalan, Polish and English.

The conference also includes tutorials and a workshop, which are intended to make the conference more interesting and useful for a wider audience. There are three tutorials:

- Example-Based Machine Translation (Eiichiro Sumita, ATR)
- Statistical Machine Translation (Kevin Knight, ISI/USC)
- Translation Memories (Timothy Baldwin CSLI, Stanford University)

The conference also includes an “MT Roadmap” workshop, organized by Steven Krauwer (ELSNET), to address three main issues for MT research:

- a critical analysis of the present state of Machine Translation
- visions of the future
- major research challenges and intermediate milestones

We would like to thank the program committee for their detailed and insightful reviews, and the workshop and tutorial organizers for their contributions to the conference. TMI 2002 is supported by the NTT Communication Science Laboratories as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations, as well as AAMT, ANLP and IEICE.

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Program Chairs, TMI 2002