

You are invited to the 60th edition of the PRAGUE COMPUTER SCIENCE SEMINAR

ONDŘEJ BOJAR

AI Stolen by Transformers!

The lecture will be followed by a discussion

May 23, 2024

4:15pm

Auditorium KN:E-107,
FEL CTU, Karlovo nám. 13,
Praha 2

ABSTRACT

Sequence-to-sequence deep learning models originating in the area of machine translation (MT) have exploded the public interest in AI, effectively stealing the name of the field for the current years. To MT researchers, this is reminiscent of 2013-2015 when deep learning invaded the field of MT and completely rewrote the methodology.

In my talk, I will mention some of our achievements in translation thanks to Transformers and demonstrate our heavily multilingual speech-to-text translation, but I will primarily illustrate and warn about common misconceptions and evaluation fallacies we know well from the MT domain, e.g. attributing observed gains to wrong reasons.

Unfortunately, the current AI hype is fuelled to some extent by such mismeasurements. If we do not bring more technically sound and realistic assessment of large language models' abilities into the discussion, we are risking another AI winter, i.e. a sudden decline in interest and both private and public funding into AI development.

ABOUT THE PRAGUE COMPUTER SCIENCE SEMINAR

The seminar takes place once a month on Thursdays at 4:15pm (except June to September, and December) alternately in the buildings of Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Karlovo nám. 13, Praha 2 and Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Malostranské nám. 25, Praha 1. Its program typically consists of a one-hour lecture followed by a discussion. The lecture is based on an (internationally) exceptional or remarkable achievement of the lecturer, presented in a way which is comprehensible and interesting to a broad computer science community. The lectures are in English.



Ondřej Bojar is an Associate Professor at ÚFAL (Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics), Charles University, and a lead scientist in Machine Translation in the Czech Republic. He has been co-organizing a well-known series of shared tasks in machine translation and machine translation evaluation (WMT) since 2013. His system has dominated English-Czech translation in the years 2013-2015, before deep learning and neural networks fundamentally changed the field. Having taken part and later supervised ÚFAL's participation in a series of EU projects (EuroMatrix, EuroMatrixPlus, MosesCore, QT21, HimL, CRACKER, Bergamot), he has recently concluded his coordination of the EU project ELITR (<http://elitr.eu/>) focused on simultaneous speech translation into over 40 languages. ELITR has also coined the task of project meeting summarization with its AutoMin 2021 and 2023 shared task.

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