החוג לניהול מידע וידע

The Department of Information
and Knowledge Management

אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa
جامعة حيفا

הפקולטה לניהול
Faculty of Management

The Faculty of Management
The Department of Knowledge and Information Management
Invites you to attend a seminar

Searching for Community-based Answers

Dr. Idan Szpektor
Google Research

Monday, May 10th at 12:00 pm
Jacobs Building, room no. 506

Abstract

As Web users search more for opinions, recommendations and advice, Community-based Question Answering (CQA) sites, such as Yahoo Answers, StackExchange and Quora, appear more frequently in the top results returned by Web search engines. In this talk I will present two works that study elements within the ways that Web searchers may interact with CQA sites, including clicking on a "blue link" to view a CQA page and directly viewing an answer that was retrieved from a CQA corpus via vertical search.

In the first work we propose to extend standard dependency grammar to describe the syntax of Web queries with (CQA) question intent. The new grammar is based on the notion of syntactic segments - independent syntactic units within a larger syntactic structure. We develop two distant-supervision approaches for syntactic segmentation and show that they outperform a supervised baseline on a new query treebank.

In the second work, we suggest to rank answers provided for a question posted on a CQA site not only by their relevance to the question but also by diversification and novelty qualities they hold compared to other answers. This approach is common in Information Retrieval, yet it was not addressed within the CQA settings before, which is quite different from classic document retrieval. We propose an answer ranking algorithm that borrows ideas from aspect ranking and multi-document summarization, but adapts them to our scenario. An experiment over a dataset of Health-related CQA questions demonstrates the benefits of this algorithm.

Bio:

Dr. Idan Szpektor recently joined Google Research as a senior research scientist, focusing on dialogue and conversation. Previously, Idan was a senior research scientist at Yahoo Research, where he studied the relationship between Web search and community-based question answering. Idan serves on the editorial board of the Natural Language Engineering journal and he co-organized the WebQA'15 and WebQA'16 workshops. Idan co-authored over 40 publications and he is a recipient of the best paper honorable mention at ECIR'16 and of best paper runner-up awards at ACL'13 and CoNLL'14. He earned his PhD in computer science from Bar-Ilan University, Israel, in 2009.

All Are Welcome

Contact Email:
aweber@univ.haifa.ac.il