

NAACL-HLT 2021

Teaching NLP

Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop

June 10 - 11, 2021
Mexico City (virtual)

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209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA
Tel: +1-570-476-8006
Fax: +1-570-476-0860
acl@aclweb.org

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Introduction

Welcome to the Fifth Workshop on Teaching Natural Language Processing (NLP). This online workshop featured an exciting mix of papers, teaching material submissions, panels, talks, and participatory activities.

The field of NLP is growing rapidly, with new state-of-the-art methods emerging every year, if not sooner. As educators in NLP, we struggle to keep up. We need to make decisions about what to teach and how to teach it with every offering of a course, sometimes even as a course is being offered. The fast-paced nature of NLP brings unique challenges for curriculum design, and the immense growth of the field has lead to not just core NLP courses, but also to more specialized classes and seminars in subareas such as Natural Language Understanding, Computational Social Science, Machine Translation, and many more. We also have an increasing number of students interested in NLP, bringing with them a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

We were happy to accept 13 long papers and 13 short papers on teaching materials. The latter were accompanied by exercises and assignments as Jupyter notebooks, software, slides, and teaching guidelines that will be made available via a repository created as result of the workshop. Both types of papers cover many topics: curriculum selection, teaching strategies, adapting to different student audiences, resources for assignments, and course or program design.

Our workshop also featured two panels, one on "What should we be teaching?" and another on "What does industry need?". The first panel featured Isabelle Augenstein (University of Copenhagen), Emily M. Bender (University of Washington), Yoav Goldberg (Bar Ilan University), and Dan Jurafsky (Stanford University). The second panel featured Lenny Bronner (The Washington Post), Delip Rao (Allen Institute for AI), Frank Rudzicz (University of Toronto), and Rachael Tatman (Rasa). We also had two amazing invited speakers, Ines Montani (Explosion) and Jason Eisner (Johns Hopkins University).

We thank the Program Committee, who thoughtfully reviewed these papers this year. We also appreciate the sponsorship funding we received from Google and Duolingo. Finally, we thank the workshop participants, whose interests in teaching allow us to establish and grow the next generation of NLP researchers and practitioners.

David Jurgens, Varada Kolhatkar, Lucy Li, Margot Mieskes, and Ted Pedersen (the co-organizers)

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Ines Montani, Explosion

Panelists

Isabelle Augenstein, University of Copenhagen
Emily M. Bender, University of Washington
Lenny Bronner, The Washington Post
Yoav Goldberg, Bar-Ilan University
Dan Jurafsky, Stanford University
Delip Rao, Allen Institute for AI
Frank Rudzicz, University of Toronto
Rachael Tatman, Rasa

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+ *Long Papers : Courses and Curricula*

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