

Preface

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On Friday 18 January 2013, the 23rd meeting of Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands (CLIN 2013) took place in Enschede, The Netherlands. CLIN 2013 was hosted by the Human Media Interaction (HMI) group of the University of Twente. It was the third time the meeting was organized by the University of Twente. However, the location of the meeting was slightly unusual: Poppodium Atak in the Music Quarter of Enschede, with sessions taking place in (among other places) the concert halls, the bar and the theatre hall. Many participants commented that they appreciated the special venue.

The CLIN conference is mainly aimed at The Netherlands and Flanders (the Dutch language region of Belgium), but among the 125+ participants of CLIN 2013 many other countries were represented, ranging from nearby Germany to far away China, Russia and USA. More than 90 abstracts were submitted for CLIN 2013, leading to an extensive programme featuring 59 oral presentations (presented in 5 parallel sessions) and 19 poster presentations (including 4 software demonstrations) on a wide variety of topics in computational linguistics. Fitting with the tradition of CLIN as having a low threshold for starting researchers, we were pleased to have many presentations by graduate and undergraduate students. The STIL Thesis Prize for the best MA thesis in computational linguistics or its applications was awarded to Phong Le (University of Amsterdam) for his thesis on “Learning Semantic Parsing”.

The invited speaker was Candy Sidner from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA. In her talk titled “Creating a Real-Time Conversation Manager with Multiple Time Scales” she presented her research on conversational agents capable of building long-term relationships with people. There was also a plenary talk from CLARIN-NL, a large project in the Netherlands that aims to make a significant contribution to the European CLARIN infrastructure; a research infrastructure for humanities researchers that work with language data and tools. A new track introduced at CLIN 2013 was the Industry Track, which had eight talks on a large variety of language technology research in industry. It may have been a factor in attracting industry attention to CLIN 2013: among the participants were representatives from 12 different companies.

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All authors of accepted abstracts were invited to submit a full version of their paper to the current volume (Volume 3) of the CLIN journal. Twenty papers were submitted and they underwent a rigorous review process. We would like to thank all the reviewers as well as the authors¹ of the submitted papers for their hard work. Thirteen of the submitted papers are included in this volume of the CLIN journal.

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