

## **Summer Workshop on Ontology, NLP, Personalization and IE/IR**

IIT Bombay conducted a **Summer Workshop on Ontology, NLP, Personalization and IE/IR** sponsored by HP Labs, Bangalore on 16-18<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. The workshop faculty consisted of renowned experts in their respective fields.

The participants were students and faculty of academic institutions from all corners of the country and also researchers from top search engine and NLP industries like Yahoo, Rediff, IBM and MSR. 130 participants were selected from approximately 400 applicants from all over India with the following distribution:

Students: 70

Faculty from academic institutes: 23

Professionals: 37

The Workshop addressed the cutting edge technology areas of:

1. Ontology (hierarchical knowledge organization)
2. Bridge between text and Ontology
3. Semantic Relation Extraction.
4. Mathematical aspects of Information Retrieval.
5. Graphical Models.
6. Web Corpora Processing.
7. Sentiment Analysis.
8. Cross-Lingual Search.
9. Summarization

### **Inaugural Session**

The workshop was inaugurated with an invocation to Goddess Saraswati sung by Mr. Abhisekh Sankaran, a PhD student of the CSE, Depatrent, IIT Bombay.

During the inaugural, Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya- workshop chair- introduced the workshop by underlining the importance and the relevance of the event in the context of the multilingual web. Prof. Vasi-Deputy Director IIT Bombay- mentioned that IIT Bombay was celebrating its golden jubilee this year, and a number of important events including lectures by Nobel Laureates were taking place in the institute. Prof. Ramamritham- Dean R & D, IIT Bombay- underlined the importance of doing interdisciplinary research in today's world which sees immense growth and complexity of knowledge. Dr. Krishnan- from HP Labs who sponsored the workshop- mentioned the importance accorded to this workshop by HP Labs in the context of their multifarious activities in text mining, ontology etc.

The chief guest of the inaugural Prof. Rajeev Sangal welcomed the workshop as timely and relevant, and described the importance of the doing research in Natural Language Processing. He mentioned that the NLP researchers in India formed a coherent group which augurs well for the area.



**Abhisekh, PhD student, CSE Department singing the inaugural song with Anirudh, DD student of ME Department is on the Keyboard.**



**Dignitaries on the dias for the inaugural session.**

(From left to right) Dr. Ramanathan Krishnan, HP Labs Bangalore, Prof. Krithi Ramamritham, Dean R & D, IIT Bombay, Prof. J.Vasi Dy. Director, IIT Bombay, Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Director IIIT Hyderabad, Prof. A. Ranade, HoD, CSE Department, IIT Bombay, Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (Programme Chair, ONIL, 08)

**Technical Sessions**

The technical sessions started with **Prof Mandar Mitra from ISI Kolkata** speaking on Information Retrieval Evaluation. This was followed by **Prof. Vasudev Verma from IIIT Hyderabad** discussing Personalization in IE/IR. **Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyaya from Jadavpur University** then presented the existing practices in Automatic Summarization. The topics of Opinion Analysis and Anaphora resolution

were discussed by **Prof. Sudeshna Sarkar from IIT Kharagpur** and **Prof. Sobha Nair from Anna University- K.B. Chandrasekhar Center** respectively.



**Clock wise:** Prof Mandar Mitra, ISI Kolkata; Prof. Vasudev Varma, IIT Hyderabad; Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyaya, Jadavpur University; Prof. Sobha Nair, Anna University - K.B. Chandrasekhar Center; Prof. Sudeshna Sarkar, IIT Kharagpur



On the second day, **Dr. A. Kumaran, Microsoft Research, Bangalore** spoke on Mining Multilingual Named Entities from the Web. This was followed by **Prof. Soumen Chakrabarti, IIT Bombay** delivering a talk on Building Blocks for Semantic Search: Ranking and Indexing in Entity-Relation Graphs. **Mr. Adam Pease, Techknowledge Corporation, California** talked on Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO). The topic of Large Scale Classification with detailed insight into the working of Support Vector machine was covered by **Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, IISc, Bangalore**. **Dr. Rajat Mohanty, AOL, Bangalore** outlined the Challenges for Semantic Argument Realization involving Event Composition. The day's proceedings concluded with **Dr. Ramanathan Krishnan, HP Labs, Bangalore** speaking on Personalization, Overview and Challenges.



**Dr. A. Kumaran, Microsoft Research, Bangalore**



**Prof. Soumen Chakrabarti, IIT Bombay**



**Mr. Adam Pease, Articulate Software, California**



**Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, IISc, Bangalore.**



**Dr. Rajat Mohanty, AOL, Bangalore**



**Dr. Ramanathan Krishnan, HP Labs, Bangalore**

On the third and last day, **Prof. S. Sudarshan, IIT Bombay** delivered a lecture on Keyword Search on Graph-Structured Data. **Prof. Sunita Sarawagi, IIT Bombay** spoke on Max-margin training and inference on structured models for information extraction. **Prof. Christian Boitet, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble** discussed Higher Quality Internal and Outside Multilingualization of Web Sites. **Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, IIT Bombay** described his group's work on Representation and Extraction of Semantic Relations. The concluding lecture of the workshop on Scalable techniques for Information Extraction was given by **Prof. Ganesh Ramkrishnan, IIT Bombay and IBM Research Lab**.







**Clock wise:** Prof. S. Sudarshan, IIT Bombay, Prof. Sunita Sarawagi, IIT Bombay, Prof. Christian Boitet, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, Prof. Ganesh Ramkrishnan, IIT Bombay and IBM Research Lab, Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, IIT Bombay.



## Cultural Evening

A cultural program was organized on the 2nd day of the workshop (17th July) at 6.30 pm featuring two eminent exponents of Hindustani Classical Music:

- a) Pandita Shruti Sadolikar (Jaipur Atrauli Gharana, Vocal)
- b) Pandit Rupak Kulkarni





The cultural evening was very well received.

### **Glimpses of the event**



**Registration Desk**



**Lunch at Gulmohar**



**Discussions during the tea break**



**Audience**

## Organizers

Students and researchers from Center for Indian Language Technology (CFILT) under the guidance of Prof Pushpak Bhattacharyya helped in making this workshop a big success.

## Organizing Committee

- Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (Chair), IIT Bombay, Email: pb@cse.iitb.ac.in
- Dr. Ramanathan Krishnan, HP LABS, Bangalore, Email: krishnan\_ramanathan@hp.com
- Sandeep Limaye, IIT Bombay, Email: sandeep1@cse.iitb.ac.in
- Sanjay Meena, IIT Bombay, Email: sanjay@cse.iitb.ac.in
- Vasant G. Zende, IIT Bombay, Email: vasantzende@gmail.com



## Conclusion

The participants of the workshop were all praise for the very successful event. The talks by the eminent speakers from various fields were extremely enlightening- they observed. All the facets of the workshop- logistics, technical content, interactions and arrangements- were well appreciated. Almost everybody suggested that such events should be organized annually.