IIT Bombay conducted a Summer Workshop on Ontology, NLP, Personalization and IE/IR sponsored by HP Labs, Bangalore on 16-18th 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
5. Graphical Models.
7. Sentiment Analysis.
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. Vasudeo De-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. Ramanritham- 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, ONII, 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, IIIT 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.
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.
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: sandeepl@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.