LTI Colloquium Series

Carnegie Mellon University
Language Technologies Institute

Ming Zhou

(Microsoft)

Friday, March 22nd

Doherty Hall 2315
2:30 pm Talk,
4:00 pm Snacks, LTI 5th Floor

WHAT WILL SEARCH ENGINES BE CHANGED BY NLP ADVANCEMENTS

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ming Zhou is an Assistant Managing Director of Microsoft Research Asia and research manager of the Natural Language Computing Group. He is the president of Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL). He is the chair of the Chinese Computer Federation's (CCF) Chinese Information Technology Committee and an executive member of the Chinese Information Processing Society (CIPS). With decades of relentless efforts, he made important contribution to the promotion and development of NLP, especially in China.

His research interests include next generation search engines, statistical and neural machine translation, question-answering, chatbots, computer poetry, riddle resolving and generation, knowledge graph, commonsense graph, semantic parser, text mining, user modelling and recommendation system.

ABSTRACT

I think that the vision of a search engine is "Natural Search" with which users input a search intent in a natural way such as using natural language or an image and obtain their desired accurate information, expressed concisely and comprehensibly. During this process, NLP is undoubtedly one of the most crucial technologies. In the past, the search engine uses limited and shallow NLP technologies because NLP technology is not as mature as people have expected.

In recent years, we have witnessed that NLP has made huge advances in various tasks such as semantic parser, question-answering, machine translation, machine reading comprehension and text generation. I think that now it is the time to consider applying these new technologies to search engines to improve the intelligence and naturalness in the search process. Introducing new NLP technologies, among other cutting-tech AI technologies, will trigger new thoughts of next generation of search engine.