

Gianni Barlacchi



Machine learning scientist at Amazon
Amazon

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Short Bio
Gianni Barlacchi is a machine learning scientist at Amazon working on creating new solutions for Alexa and doing research on question answering. He received a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Trento and a MSc in Computer Engineering at the University of Siena. His research interests span from conversational question answering to continual learning for NLP and how to enable systems to learn new knowledge from a stream of data across time.

ILC Seminars

The Institute of Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli” promotes study and dissemination activities of scientific research in the sectors of interest through a series of meetings with a prevailing interdisciplinary nature.

ILC Scientific Committee for Seminars organizes activities broken down into:

- **Study Days** Lessons held by external experts and internal short presentations, mainly connected to national and international projects ongoing at the Institute. These meetings are open to the public, but for practical reasons the notification of participation is necessary a couple of days earlier to the address seminari@ilc.cnr.it
- **Thematic Seminars** Seminars on specific themes, prevalently interdisciplinary, and discussion of scientific papers
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- **Brown Bags** Informal internal seminars to discuss the critical points of ongoing works (talks, papers, MA and PhD theses, etc.)

Home Page of the Seminars
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Scientific Committee

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The role of Contextual Information in Question Answering Systems

Gianni Barlacchi

Amazon

Jan 19th, 2023

11:00

Pisa, Area della Ricerca CNR

AULA 27



Programme

Pisa, Area della Ricerca CNR
AULA 27
Via G. Moruzzi, 1 - 56124 PISA
(online: **Microsoft Teams**)
Jan 19th, 2023, 11:00 - 12:00

Introduction

Felice Dell'Orletta, ILC-CNR (1')

The role of Contextual Information in Question Answering Systems

Gianni Barlacchi, Amazon (45')

Discussion

(15')

The role of Contextual Information in Question Answering Systems

Abstract

As more and more information-seeking activities are moving to visual interfaces, the way of interacting with QA systems is changing. For a QA system, this poses two key challenges: (i) understanding when and if the question is related to the context, and (ii) ensuring that the answers are contextually-relevant when required. In this talk I will show how traditional QA approaches fail in such scenarios, and present solutions that serve information-seeking in the presence of rich contextual information. This includes the efficient modeling of conversations, the design of a realistic dataset with contextual information, and experiments showing that, by incorporating context from different sources, strong baselines can outperform SOTA models from traditional QA.