2018-00319 - Post-Doc Position: Natural Language Processing: automatic speech recognition system using Deep Neural Networks without out-of-vocabulary words [S]

Contract type: Public service fixed-term contract
Level of qualifications required: PhD or equivalent
Fonction: Post-Doctoral Research Visit

Context

Post Doctoral Position. Natural Language Processing: automatic speech recognition system using Deep Neural Networks without out-of-vocabulary words

- Location: INRIA Nancy Grand Est research center, France
- Research theme: PERCEPTION, COGNITION, INTERACTION
- Project-team: Multispeech
- Scientific Context:
  More and more audio/video appear on Internet each day. About 300 hours of multimedia are uploaded per minute. In these multimedia sources, audio data represents a very important part. If these documents are not transcribed, automatic content retrieval is difficult or impossible. The classical approach for spoken content retrieval from audio documents is an automatic speech recognition followed by text retrieval.

An automatic speech recognition system (ASR) uses a lexicon containing the most frequent words of the language and only the words of the lexicon can be recognized by the system. New Proper Names (PNs) appear constantly, requiring dynamic updates of the lexicons used by the ASR. These PNs evolve over time and no vocabulary will ever contains all existing PNs. When a person searches for a document, proper names are used in the query. If these PNs have not been recognized, the document cannot be found. These missing PNs can be very important for the understanding of the document.

In this study, we will focus on the problem of proper names in automatic recognition systems. The problem is how to model relevant proper names for the audio document we want to transcribe.

Assignment

- Missions:
  We assume that in an audio document to transcribe we have missing proper names, i.e. proper names that are pronounced in the audio document but that are not in the lexicon of the automatic speech recognition system; these proper names cannot be recognized (out-of-vocabulary proper names, OOV PNs). The purpose of this work is to design a methodology how to find and model a list of relevant OOV PNs that correspond to an audio document.

  Assuming that we have an approximate transcription of the audio document and huge text corpus extracted from internet, several methodologies could be studied:
  From the approximate OOV pronunciation in the transcription, generate the possible writings of the word (phoneme to character conversion) and search this word in the text corpus.
  A deep neural network can be designed to predict OOV proper names and their pronunciations with the training objective to maximize the retrieval of relevant OOV proper names.

The proposed approaches will be validated using the ASR developed in our team.

Main activities

Keywords: deep neural networks, automatic speech recognition, lexicon, out-of-vocabulary words.

General Information

- Town/city: Villers-lès-Nancy
- Inria Center: CRI Nancy - Grand Est
- Starting date: 2018-09-01
- Duration of contract: 12 months
- Deadline to apply: 2018-06-06

Contacts

- Inria Team: MULTISPEECH
- Recruiter: Ilina Irène / irina.illina@loria.fr

The keys to success

There you can provide a "broad outline" of the collaborator you are looking for what you consider to be necessary and sufficient, and which may combine:

- tastes and appetencies,
- area of excellence,
- personality or character traits,
- cross-disciplinary knowledge and expertise...

This section enables the more formal list of skills to be completed and ‘lightened’ (reduced):

- "Essential qualities in order to fulfill this assignment are feeling at ease in an environment of scientific dynamics and wanting to learn and listen."
- "Passionate about innovation, with expertise in Ruby on Rails development and strong influencing skills. A thesis in the field of **** is a real asset."

Conditions for application

The campaign is not open to local students who have not done any significant mobility.

Defence Security:

This position is likely to be situated in a restricted area (ZRR), as defined in Decree No. 2011-1425 relating to the protection of national scientific and technical potential (PPST). Authorisation to enter an area is granted by the director of the unit, following a favourable Ministerial decision, as defined in the decree of 3 July 2012 relating to the PPST. An unfavourable Ministerial decision in respect of a position situated in a ZRR would result in the cancellation of the appointment.

Recruitment Policy:
- Bibliography
- Skills and profile: PhD in computer science, background in statistics, natural language processing, experience with deep learning tools (keras, kaldi, etc.) and computer program skills (Perl, Python).
- Additional information:
  Supervision and contact: Irina Illina, LORIA/INRIA (illina@loria.fr), Dominique Fohr INRIA/LORIA (dominique.fohr@loria.fr) https://members.loria.fr/IIllina/, https://members.loria.fr/DFohr/
  Additional links: Ecole Doctorale IAEM Lorraine  
  Duration: 12 of months.
  Starting date: between Oct. 1st 2018 and Jan. 1st 2019
  Salary: about 2.100 euros net, medical insurance included

The candidates must have defended their PhD later than Sept. 1st 2016 and before the end of 2018.

The candidates are required to provide the following documents in a single pdf or ZIP file:

CV including a description of your research activities (2 pages max) and a short description of what you consider to be your best contributions and why (1 page max and 3 contributions max); the contributions could be theoretical or practical. Web links to the contributions should be provided. Include also a brief description of your scientific and career projects, and your scientific positioning regarding the proposed subject.

The report(s) from your PhD external reviewer(s), if applicable.
If you haven’t defended yet, the list of expected members of your PhD committee (if known) and the expected date of defence.

In addition, at least one recommendation letter from the PhD advisor should be sent directly by their author(s) to the prospective postdoc advisor.

The Inria Sophia Antipolis - Méditerranée center counts 37 research teams and 9 support departments. The center’s staff (about 600 people including 400 Inria employees) is composed of scientists of different nationalities (250 foreigners of 50 nationalities), engineers, technicians and administrators. 1/3 of the staff are civil servants, the others are contractual. The majority of the research teams at the center are located in Sophia Antipolis and Nice in the Alpes-Maritimes. Six teams are based in Montpellier and a team is hosted by the computer science department of the University of Bologna in Italy. The Center is a member of the University and Institution Community (ComUE) "Université Côte d’Azur (UCA)".

Skills

Benefits package
- Subsidised catering service
- Partially-reimbursed public transport
- French courses

Remuneration
Salary: 2653€ gross/month

As part of its diversity policy, all Inria positions are accessible to people with disabilities.

Warning: you must enter your e-mail address in order to save your application to Inria. Applications must be submitted online on the Inria website. Processing of applications sent from other channels is not guaranteed.