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- The Eighth International Conference on Digital Information Management (ICDIM 2013)
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Editorial

This special issue of the **International Journal of Computational Linguistics Research** gathers extended versions of papers that were presented at the AISB 2012 Convention as part of the second Linguistic and Cognitive Approaches to Dialog Agents (LACATODA) symposium that concentrates on providing a platform for researchers from different research backgrounds who mix different methods for achieving smarter conversational systems.

This time our special issue includes two long and one short paper on three topics related to three important aspects of human intelligence - emotions, humor and ethics, which fit perfectly to the main goal of our community.

Rank et al. present “*Affect Listeners*”, part of the Cyber Emotion project, which are artificial agents(helping us to understand emotions in online communication. They are able to interact both in dyads as well as in group settings with multiple users and the authors present the evolution of such affective dialog systems from a focus on dyadic interaction to multi-party interaction on chat networks. First they describe experiments on the use of these dialog systems in virtual dyadic settings, and then they outline the requirements, design and implementation decisions necessary to apply the systems to affective interactions with multiple users. Finally, authors introduce two realizations of Interactive Affective Bots designed for such interaction scenarios that integrate modeling of individuals and groups as part of their decision mechanism. The research demonstrates how an enjoyable and realistic dialog agents can be useful also for understanding behavior of people using the newest technologies.

The next contribution is from Komuda et al. who write about differences between descriptive and normative approach to ethics and challenge the usefulness of the latter for the field of Machine Ethics (ME). They present their insights on previous trends in this field and highlight the need for a change in the approach, which should be an experimental one and they introduce a moral reasoning system based on Aristotelian identification of civic rhetoric with a common-sense base. They claim it as a step forward in the machine ethics research bypassing theoretical disputes between philosophers and conclude their work with showing results of their latest system that uses web-mining to retrieve common consequences of “*any human behavior*”.

In their paper titled “*Metaphor, Humor and Emotion Processing in Human-Computer Interaction*”, Dybala et al. present a concept of a non-task oriented conversational system (chatterbox) for Japanese, able to generate humorous utterances in response to users’ negative moods. Humorous utterances are either jokes (puns) or humorous metaphor misunderstandings. The system first detects user emotions from texts, and if they are negative, it tries to use humor to turn them into positive. User’s response to this is again analyzed to check her emotive reaction, and on this basis the system builds an individual model of the user’s preferences. Authors give us an interesting combination of two technologies to simulate and stimulate humans.

In the last paper on, “*Contributions to HMM-based Speech Recognition Systems*”, the authors Hazmoune Samira, Bougamouza Fateh, Mazouzi Smaine and Benmohammed Mohamed proposed a new approach based on multiple modeling by Hidden Markov Models (HMM) for isolated word recognition. The authors claim that it aims to maximize word recognition rate by combining several models coming from different start points.

This special issue would not have been possible without tireless work of the program committee of LACATODA who also agreed to review journal papers, especially Michal Ptaszynski from Kitami Institute of Technology who was giving all authors massive amount of support and advice, which shaped the final versions of the extended papers. The whole endeavor only made possible through the efforts of the IJCLR staff, especially the Editor-in-Chief, Aladdin Ayesha who kindly invited LACATODA participants to contribute to this special issue.

Rafal Rzepka
Guest Editor