Report on the EAMT Activity:
Machine Translation Marathon 2019

Organizers

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1   Activity

The organization of the fourteenth Machine Translation Marathon (MTM), a week-long summer school and hackathon connecting students, researchers and practitioners in the field of machine translation.

The MT Marathon 2019 took place between August 26-31 in Edinburgh, and was hosted at the Informatics Forum, School of Informatics, 10 Crichton St, Edinburgh EH8 9AB, Scotland. Tutorials were hosted in the computing labs at the 50 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JU, only 1 minute walk from the main venue.

- Website with the programme: http://www.statmt.org/mtm19/
- Lectures, tutorials and materials: https://github.com/EdinburghNLP/mtm19/

2   MT Marathon 2019

The MT Marathon, as usually, featured lectures and tutorials given by leading researchers in the field, invited talks on current MT-related topics, and collaborative hacking projects.

2.1   Participants

We had 71 participants in total, including speakers. 68 participants have registered on-line, and 3 more registered on-site.

- About 31 (44%) participants were from industry, about 6 (19%) had junior positions and 5 (16%) was senior positions.[1]

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[1] Please note that these numbers have been estimated based on "Affiliation" and "Position" fields from the registration form. The latter field was not obligatory.

- 40 (56%) participants came from academia, 20 (50%) of them were MSc or PhD students, and about 8 (20%) were senior researchers.

- We have participants from about 26 different institutions:
  http://www.statmt.org/mtm19/registration.html

2.2 Programme

The programme has been announced two weeks prior to the MT Marathon and is available on the website: http://www.statmt.org/mtm19/programme.html. We had 14 speakers giving 4 lectures (one lecture occupied time of two normal-length talks), 5 talks and 5 tutorials.

- Lectures on introduction to neural machine translation, unsupervised bilingual embeddings and machine translation, quality estimation, speech translation, and NVIDIA CUDA Platform.

- Talks on mining parallel sentences and WikiMatrix, recent challenges in evaluation of machine translation, gender bias in natural language processing and machine translation, and on practical NMT.

- Tutorials on introduction to NMT with Nematus, debugging translation issues with NMT models, quality estimation with OpenKiwi, transfer learning for low-resource NMT, and on efficient NMT using Marian.

We had speakers from University of Tartu, University of the Basque Country, Facebook, Unbabel, Microsoft, Apple, and NVIDIA. Tutorials were given by researchers from the University of Edinburgh, University of Tokyo, Unbabel, and Charles University. 7 (50%) presenters were from academia, and 7 presenters were from industry with a strong background in academia.

Slides and additional materials from lectures, talks, and tutorials can be found in the programme and are publicly available from: https://github.com/EdinburghNLP/mtm19/

2.3 Projects

Collaborative hacking projects filled out afternoons in the MT Marathon programme. We have collected project proposals in the following document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/15vYhewaJnpV3IT0jLsSxhdo55xmOVRVTXa7nslgVr2A

There were 10 projects proposed during the first day, and 7 projects had their final presentations at the end of the event. This year we had a variety of projects, including research focused and implementation focused projects. Slides for project proposals, as well as mid-week and final presentations are available from the repository: https://github.com/EdinburghNLP/mtm19/tree/master/projects

3 Budget

The detailed budget for MT Marathon 2019 is presented in the table below. The support granted from EAMT was €4,700, which was £4,096 (using the GBP/EUR conversion rate from the time of the bank transfer).

The university has waived the fees for the lecture rooms, computing labs and computing equipment. This year we did not have papers on open-source MT software, so the expenses related to preparation of submissions, reviews, editing and printing are removed from the budget.

The largest planned expense of £2,244 (VAT inclusive) in our budget was catering for coffee breaks. Following the advice from EAMT, we have been looking for other sponsorship opportunities. We have got generous support from Microsoft that sponsored the coffee breaks. Also thanks to Microsoft, we were able to organise a social event for all participants costing approximately £1,100 (which they paid directly on a corporate card).

We have covered (fully or partially) travel expenses from 3 speakers traveling from London, Paris, and Tartu for their partial participation in the event totaled at £954.01.

From Google Cloud Platform Education Grant for Students we have been granted $5,400 GCP credits, which we used for tutorials and projects.

Expense	Description	Cost (£)	Funding
Venue hire	Lecture room, computing labs, coffee area	–	Waived by the University
	Wireless accounts	–	Waived by the University
	Servitor cover (Saturday)	82.50	EAMT
Catering	Coffee breaks (6 morning, 5 afternoon)	2,244.00	Microsoft
	Social event	∼1,100.00	Microsoft
Invited speakers	Accommodation for 2 speakers (1+3 nights)	554.01	EAMT
	Travel for 2 speakers (train + flight)	400.00	EAMT
Admin. staff	Travels, invoices, registration, etc.	–	Done by organizers and support
Technical staff	Website, technical support, etc.	–	Done by organizers and support
Other costs	Paper, printing	–	Waived by the University
	Badges	–	Waived by the University
Computing time	GPU machines	($5,400)	Google Education Grant
	Total costs	3,280.51	
	Costs covered from EAMT	1,036.51	
	EAMT funding	£4,096.00	(= €4,700.00)
	Remaining EAMT funding	£3,059.49	(≈ €3,572.57)

We have spent only £1,036.51 from the funding provided by the EAMT. This is largely due to the last minute notice we had of Microsoft's sponsorship; had we more notice, we could have supported student travel for those that needed it to attend. We would like to return the remaining budget to EAMT or, if the EAMT committee agrees, forward it to an organiser of the next MT Marathon in 2020.

4 Summary

In general the MT Marathon 2019 in Edinburgh was a great success. We got a lot of positive feedback about the organization, venue and, most importantly, the programme. We had attendees from academia and industry, including students and people experienced in the field, who were collaborating in a friendly environment for a week. We hope that this fulfilled the goals

of MT Marathons and the EAMT Sponsorship of Activity programme.

The MT Marathon 2020 is planned to be hosted at the Charles University in Prague, Czechia.