
FOREWORD

Special Section on Recent Advances in Machine Learning for Spoken Language Processing

Recent advances in machine learning techniques, including deep learning, have caused a distinct paradigm shift in many research fields. Spoken language processing, which is a composite technology consisting of many kinds of technologies, is no exception.

The Special Interest Group on Speech held an international workshop on Machine Learning in Spoken Language Processing (MLSLP2015) to allow researchers in this field to gather and discuss how they can maximize the power of machine learning in spoken language processing technologies.

This special section has been published in order to more widely share the research presented at this workshop. We accepted 17 articles, out of a total 26 of submissions, covering various areas of spoken language research such as acoustic and language modeling in speech recognition, dialogue management, speech synthesis, and so on. We hope our readers will find these papers interesting and will be inspired by them in their future research.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the contributors and reviewers for their efforts. I would especially like to thank my dedicated partners, Dr. Masakiyo Fujimoto of the National Institute of Information and Communication Technology, and the other guest editors and guest associate editors for their excellent work creating this special section.

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Norihide Kitaoka (*Member*) received his B.E. and M.E. degrees from Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, in 1992 and 1994, respectively, and his Dr. Eng. degree from Toyohashi University of Technology, Toyohashi, Japan, in 2000. He joined the DENSO CORPORATION, Kariya, Japan, in 1994, and Toyohashi University of Technology as a Research Associate in 2001, and as a Lecturer from 2003 to 2006. From 2006 until 2014, he was an Associate Professor at Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan, and has been a Professor at Tokushima University since 2014. He was the General Chair of MLSLP2016 as well as Vice Chairman of SIG Speech (SIG-SP) of the IEICE/ASJ from 2014 to 2016.

