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Computational Linguistics and Intelligent Text Processing

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Preface

CICLing 2006 (www.CICLing.org) was the 7th Annual Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics. The CICLing conferences are intended to provide a wide-scope forum for discussion of the internal art and craft of natural language processing research and the best practices in its applications.

This volume contains the papers included in the main conference program (full papers) and selected papers from the poster session (short papers). Other poster session papers were included in a special issue of the journal *Research on Computing Science*; see information on this issue on the website. The previous CICLing conferences since 2001 were also published in Springer-Verlag's Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) series, vol. 2004, 2276, 2588, 2945, and 3406.

The number of submissions to CICLing 2006 was higher than that of the previous conferences: 141 full papers and 35 short papers by 480 authors from 37 countries were submitted for evaluation, see Tables 1 and 2. Each submission was reviewed by at least two independent Program Committee members. This book contains revised versions of 43 full papers (presented orally at the conference) and 16 short papers (presented as posters) by 177 authors from 24 countries selected for inclusion in the conference program. The acceptance rate was 30.4% for full papers and 45.7% for short papers.

The book is structured into two parts subdivided into 14 sections representative of the main tasks and applications of Natural Language Processing:

Computational Linguistics Research

- Lexical Resources
- Corpus-based Knowledge Acquisition
- Morphology and Part-of-Speech Tagging
- Syntax and Parsing
- Word Sense Disambiguation and Anaphora Resolution
- Semantics
- Text Generation
- Natural Language Interfaces and Speech Processing

Intelligent Text Processing Applications

- Information Retrieval
- Question Answering
- Text Summarization
- Information Extraction and Text Mining
- Text Classification
- Authoring Tools and Spelling Correction

The volume features invited papers by **Eduard Hovy** of the Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, **Nancy Ide** of the Vassar College, and **Rada Mihalcea** of the University of North Texas, who presented excellent keynote lectures at the conference. Publication of extended full-text invited papers in the Proceedings is a distinctive feature of CICLing conferences. What is more, in addition to presentation of their invited papers, the

Table 1. Statistics of submissions and accepted papers by country or region.

Country or region	Authors		Papers ¹		Country or region	Authors		Papers ¹	
	Subm	Accp	Subm	Accp		Subm	Accp	Subm	Accp
Algeria	2	–	1	–	Korea, South	67	17	29	7
Argentina	1	1	0.5	0.5	Lebanon	1	–	1	–
Austria	6	–	1	–	Mexico	51	24	17.65	7.23
Belgium	2	1	1.2	0.2	Netherlands	1	1	0.5	0.5
Brazil	10	10	3.33	3.33	Norway	2	–	1	–
Canada	10	5	5	2	Portugal	6	6	1.5	1.5
Chile	3	–	0.65	–	Romania	2	–	1.5	–
China	68	19	22	5.45	Russia	5	1	2.25	0.25
Costa Rica	1	–	0.5	–	Singapore	1	1	0.25	0.25
Cuba	1	1	0.25	0.25	Spain	49	22	14.1	6
Czech Republic	9	2	5	1	Sweden	2	–	2	–
France	12	1	5.7	1	Taiwan	12	3	4	1
Germany	2	1	0.53	0.33	Tunisia	3	3	1	1
Hong Kong	25	12	9.8	4.8	Turkey	3	–	2	–
India	21	2	10	1	UAE	2	–	1	–
Ireland	4	–	1	–	UK	3	2	0.8	0.6
Israel	3	–	1	–	USA	29	22	11.27	8
Italy	3	2	1	0.5	Uruguay	1	–	0.5	–
Japan	57	18	15.25	5.5	<i>Total:</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>59</i>

¹ Counted by authors. E.g, for a paper by 3 authors: 2 from Mexico and 1 from USA, we added $\frac{2}{3}$ to Mexico and $\frac{1}{3}$ to USA.

keynote speakers organized separate vivid informal discussions and encouraging tutorials—which is also a distinctive feature of this conference series.

The following papers received the Best Paper Awards and the Best Student Paper Award, correspondingly:

- 1st Place: Shallow Case Role Annotation using Two-Stage Feature-Enhanced String Matching, by Samuel Chan;
- 2nd Place: Finite State Grammar Transduction from Distributed Collected Knowledge, by Rakesh Gupta and Ken Hennacy;
- 3rd Place: Automatic Acquisition of Question Reformulations for Question Answering, by Jamileh Yousefi and Leila Kosseim;
- Student: Clustering Abstracts of Scientific Texts using the Transition Point Technique, by David Pinto, Héctor Jiménez-Salazar and Paolo Rosso.

The Best Student Paper was selected out of papers with the first author being a full-time student. The authors of the awarded papers were given extended time for their presentations. In addition, the Best Presentation Award and Best Poster Award winners were selected by a ballot among the participants of the conference.

Besides its high scientific level, one of the success factors of CICLing conferences is their excellent cultural program. CICALing 2006 was held in Mexico, a wonderful country rich in culture, history, and nature. The participants of the

Table 2. Statistics of submissions and accepted papers by topic.²

Topic	Submitted	Accepted	
Theories and formalisms	9	2	22%
Lexical resources	29	13	44%
Statistical methods and machine learning	35	13	37%
Corpus linguistics	21	11	52%
Morphology	11	5	45%
Syntax (linguistic aspects)	12	4	33%
Parsing (technical aspects)	13	5	38%
Ambiguity resolution	16	9	56%
Word Sense Disambiguation	16	7	43%
Anaphora resolution	3	1	33%
Semantics	29	9	31%
Knowledge representation	26	4	15%
Text generation	4	4	100%
Machine translation	7	1	14%
Discourse and dialogue	8	4	50%
Natural language interfaces	10	3	30%
Speech recognition	8	3	37%
Speech synthesis	2	1	50%
Information retrieval	42	11	26%
Information extraction	25	4	16%
Text mining	26	6	23%
Summarization	6	3	50%
Text categorization	21	4	19%
Text clustering	12	5	41%
Spell checking	2	1	50%
Other: computational linguistics art and craft	12	2	16%
Other: text processing applications	38	13	34%

² According to the topics indicated by the authors. A paper may be assigned to more than one topic.

conference had a chance to see the solemn 2000-years-old pyramids of the legendary Teotihuacanas, a monarch butterfly wintering site where the old pines are covered with millions of butterflies as if they were leaves, a great cave with 85-meter halls and a river flowing from it, Aztec warriors dancing in the street in their colorful plumages, and the largest anthropological museum in the world; see photos at www.CICLing.org.

I want to thank all people involved in the organization of this conference. In the first place these are the authors of the papers constituting this book: it is the excellence of their research work that gives value to the book and sense to the work of all other people involved. I thank the Program Committee members for their hard and very professional work on reviewing so many submissions in a short time. Very special thanks go to Manuel Vilares and his group, John Tait and his group, Nicolas Nikolov, Rada Mihalcea, Ted Pedersen, and Oana

VIII

Postolache for their invaluable support in the reviewing process. The Best Paper Award selection working group included Alexander Gelbukh, Eduard Hovy, Rada Mihalcea, Ted Pedersen, and Yorick Wiks.

The entire submission, reviewing, and selection process, as well as putting together the Proceedings, was supported for free by the EasyChair system (www.EasyChair.org); I express my gratitude to its author Andrei Voronkov for his constant support and help. I also express my most cordial thanks to the members of the local Organizing Committee for their considerable contribution to making this conference become a reality, and to our sponsoring organization—the Center for Computing Research (CIC) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), Mexico—for hosting the conference. Last but not least, I deeply appreciate the Springer-Verlag staff’s patience and help in editing this volume—it is always a great pleasure to work with them.

December 2005

Alexander Gelbukh

Organization

CICLing 2006 was organized by the Natural Language and Text Processing Laboratory of the Center for Computing Research (CIC, www.cic.ipn.mx) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), Mexico.

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Website and Contact

The website of CICLing conferences is www.CICLing.org. It contains information on the past CICLing events and satellite workshops, abstracts of all published papers, photos from all CICLing events, and video recordings of some keynote talks, as well as the information on the forthcoming CICLing event. Contact: cicling.org, gelbukh.com; more contact options can be found on the website.

Table of Contents

Computational Linguistics Research

Lexical Resources

Invited paper:

- Integrating Semantic Frames from Multiple Sources
Namhee Kwon, Eduard Hovy 1

Invited paper:

- Making Senses: Bootstrapping Sense-Tagged Lists of
Semantically-Related Words
Nancy Ide 13

- Enriching Wordnets with New Relations and with Event and Argument
Structures
Raquel Amaro, Rui Pedro Chaves, Palmira Marrafa, Sara Mendes ... 28

- Experiments in Cross-Language Morphological Annotation Transfer
Anna Feldman, Jirka Hana, Chris Brew 41

- Sentence Segmentation Model to Improve Tree Annotation Tool
So-Young Park, Dongha Shin, Ui-Sung Song 51

- Markov Cluster Shortest Path Founded Upon the Alibi-Breaking
Algorithm
Jaeyoung Jung, Maki Miyake, Hiroyuki Akama 55

Corpus-Based Knowledge Acquisition

- Unsupervised Learning of Verb Argument Structures
*Thiago Alexandre Salgueiro Pardo, Daniel Marcu,
Maria das Graças Volpe Nunes* 59

- A Methodology for Extracting Ontological Knowledge from Spanish
Documents
*Rafael Valencia-García, Dagoberto Castellanos-Nieves,
Jesualdo Tomás Fernández-Breis, Pedro José Vivancos-Vicente* 71

- Automatically Determining Allowable Combinations of a Class of
Flexible Multiword Expressions
Afsaneh Fazly, Ryan North, Suzanne Stevenson 81

Web-Based Measurements of Intra-collocational Cohesion in Oxford Collocations Dictionary
Igor A. Bolshakov, Sofía Natalia Galicia-Haro 93

Probabilistic Neural Network Based English-Arabic Sentence Alignment
Mohamed Abdel Fattah, Fuji Ren, Shingo Kuroiwa 97

Morphology and Part-of-Speech Tagging

Towards the Automatic Lemmatization of 16th Century Mexican Spanish: A Stemming Scheme for the CHEM
Alfonso Medina-Urrea 101

Word Frequency Approximation for Chinese Without Using Manually-Annotated Corpus
Maosong Sun, Zhengcao Zhang, Benjamin Ka-Yin T'sou, Huaming Lu 105

Abbreviation Recognition with MaxEnt Model
Chunyu Kit, Xiaoyue Liu, Jonathan J. Webster 117

An Efficient Multi-agent System Combining POS-Taggers for Arabic Texts
Chiraz Ben Othmane Zribi, Aroua Torjmen, Mohamed Ben Ahmed ... 121

Syntax and Parsing

A Comparative Evaluation of a New Unsupervised Sentence Boundary Detection Approach on Documents in English and Portuguese
Jan Strunk, Carlos N. Silla Jr., Celso A.A. Kaestner 132

A General and Multi-lingual Phrase Chunking Model Based on Masking Method
Yu-Chieh Wu, Chia-Hui Chang, Yue-Shi Lee 144

UCSG Shallow Parser
Guntur Bharadwaja Kumar, Kavi Narayana Murthy 156

Evaluating the Performance of the Survey Parser with the NIST Scheme
Alex Chengyu Fang 168

Sequences of Part of Speech Tags vs. Sequences of Phrase Labels: How Do They Help in Parsing?
Gabriel Infante-Lopez, Maarten de Rijke 180

Word Sense Disambiguation and Anaphora Resolution

Verb Sense Disambiguation Using Support Vector Machines: Impact of WordNet-Extracted Features <i>Davide Buscaldi, Paolo Rosso, Ferran Pla, Encarna Segarra, Emilio Sanchis Arnal</i>	192
Preposition Senses: Generalized Disambiguation Model <i>Chutima Boonthum, Shunichi Toida, Irwin Levinstein</i>	196
An Unsupervised Language Independent Method of Name Discrimination Using Second Order Co-occurrence Features <i>Ted Pedersen, Anagha Kulkarni, Roxana Angheluta, Zornitsa Kozareva, Thamar Solorio</i>	208
Extracting Key Phrases to Disambiguate Personal Names on the Web <i>Danushka Bollegala, Yutaka Matsuo, Mitsuru Ishizuka</i>	223
Chinese Noun Phrase Metaphor Recognition with Maximum Entropy Approach <i>Zhimin Wang, Houfeng Wang, Huiming Duan, Shuang Han, Shiwen Yu</i>	235
Zero Anaphora Resolution in Chinese Discourse <i>Yuzhen Cui, Qinan Hu, Haihua Pan, Jianhua Hu</i>	245

Semantics

<i>Invited paper:</i> Random Walks on Text Structures <i>Rada Mihalcea</i>	249
<i>Best paper award (first place):</i> Shallow Case Role Annotation Using Two-Stage Feature-Enhanced String Matching <i>Samuel W.K. Chan</i>	263
SPARTE, a Test Suite for Recognising Textual Entailment in Spanish <i>Anselmo Peñas, Álvaro Rodrigo, Felisa Verdejo</i>	275
Analysis of a Textual Entailer <i>Vasile Rus, Philip M. McCarthy, Arthur C. Graesser</i>	287

Text Generation

Referring Via Document Parts <i>Ivandr� Paraboni, Kees van Deemter</i>	299
Generation of Natural Language Explanations of Rules in an Expert System <i>Mar�a de los �ngeles Alonso-Lavernia, Argelio V�ctor De-la-Cruz-Rivera, Grigori Sidorov</i>	311
Generating a Set of Rules to Determine Honorific Expression Using Decision Tree Learning <i>Kanako Komiya, Yasuhiro Tajima, Nobuo Inui, Yoshiyuki Kotani</i>	315

Natural Language Interfaces and Speech Processing

NLP (Natural Language Processing) for NLP (Natural Language Programming) <i>Rada Mihalcea, Hugo Liu, Henry Lieberman</i>	319
Balancing Transactions in Practical Dialogues <i>Luis Albreto Pineda Cort�s, Hayde Castellanos, Sergio Rafael Coria Olguin, Varinia Estrada, Fernanda L�pez, Isabel L�pez, Ivan Meza, Iv�n Moreno, Patricia P�rez, Carlos Rodr�guez</i>	331
<i>Best paper award (second place):</i> Finite State Grammar Transduction from Distributed Collected Knowledge <i>Rakesh Gupta, Ken Hennacy</i>	343
Predicting Dialogue Acts from Prosodic Information <i>Sergio Rafael Coria Olguin, Luis Albreto Pineda Cort�s</i>	355
Disambiguation Based on Wordnet for Transliteration of Arabic Numerals for Korean TTS <i>Youngim Jung, Aesun Yoon, Hyuk-Chul Kwon</i>	366

Intelligent Text Processing Applications

Information Retrieval

<i>MFCRank</i> : A Web Ranking Algorithm Based on Correlation of Multiple Features <i>Yunming Ye, Yan Li, Xiaofei Xu, Joshua Huang, Xiaojun Chen</i>	378
---	-----

On Text Ranking for Information Retrieval Based on Degree of Preference <i>Bo-Yeong Kang, Dae-Won Kim</i>	389
Lexical Normalization and Relationship Alternatives for a Term Dependence Model in Information Retrieval <i>Marco Gonzalez, Vera Lúcia Strube de Lima, José Valdeni de Lima</i> . .	394
Web Search Model for Dynamic and Fuzzy Directory Search <i>Bumghi Choi, Ju-Hong Lee, Sun Park, Tae-Su Park</i>	406
Information Retrieval from Spoken Documents <i>Michal Fapšo, Pavel Smrž, Petr Schwarz, Igor Szöke, Milan Schwarz, Jan Černocký, Martin Karafiát, Lukáš Burget</i>	410
Automatic Image Annotation Based on WordNet and Hierarchical Ensembles <i>Wei Li, Maosong Sun</i>	417
Creating a Testbed for the Evaluation of Automatically Generated Back-of-the-Book Indexes <i>Andras Csomai, Rada F. Mihalcea</i>	429
Question Answering	
<i>Best paper award (third place):</i>	
Automatic Acquisition of Semantic-Based Question Reformulations for Question Answering <i>Jamileh Yousefi, Leila Kosseim</i>	441
Using N-gram Models to Combine Query Translations in Cross-Language Question Answering <i>Rita M. Aceves-Pérez, Luis Villaseñor-Pineda, Manuel Montes-y-Gómez</i>	453
A Question Answering System on Special Domain and the Implementation of Speech Interface <i>Haiqing Hu, Fuji Ren, Shingo Kuroiwa, Shuwu Zhang</i>	458
Text Summarization	
Multi-document Summarization Based on BE-Vector Clustering <i>Dexi Liu, Yanxiang He, Donghong Ji, Hua Yang</i>	470

Deriving Event Relevance from the Ontology Constructed with Formal
Concept Analysis
Wei Xu, Wenjie Li, Mingli Wu, Wei Li, Chunfa Yuan 480

A Sentence Compression Module for Machine-Assisted Subtitling
Nadjet Bouayad-Agha, Angel Gil, Oriol Valentin, Victor Pascual 490

Information Extraction and Text Mining

Application of Semi-supervised Learning to Evaluative Expression
Classification
Yasuhiro Suzuki, Hiroya Takamura, Manabu Okumura 502

A New Algorithm for Fast Discovery of Maximal Sequential Patterns
in a Document Collection
*René Arnulfo García-Hernández, José Francisco Martínez-Trinidad,
Jesús Ariel Carrasco-Ochoa* 514

A Machine Learning Based Approach for Separating Head from Body
in Web-Tables
Sung-Won Jung, Hyuk-Chul Kwon 524

Text Classification

Best student paper award:
Clustering Abstracts of Scientific Texts Using the Transition Point
Technique
David Pinto, Héctor Jiménez-Salazar, Paolo Rosso 536

Sense Cluster Based Categorization and Clustering of Abstracts
*Davide Buscaldi, Paolo Rosso, Mikhail Alexandrov,
Alfons Juan Ciscar* 547

Analysing Part-of-Speech for Portuguese Text Classification
Teresa Gonçalves, Cassiana Silva, Paulo Quaresma, Renata Vieira ... 551

Improving kNN Text Categorization by Removing Outliers from
Training Set
Kwangcheol Shin, Ajith Abraham, Sang Yong Han 563

Authoring Tools and Spelling Correction

Writing for Language-Impaired Readers
Aurélien Max 567

Document Copy Detection System Based on Plagiarism Patterns <i>NamOh Kang, SangYong Han</i>	571
Regional vs. Global Robust Spelling Correction <i>Manuel Vilares Ferro, Juan Otero Pombo,</i> <i>Víctor Manuel Darriba Bilbao</i>	575
Author Index	587

Author Index

- Abdel Fattah, Mohamed 97
Abraham, Ajith 563
Aceves-Pérez, Rita M. 453
Akama, Hiroyuki 55
Alexandrov, Mikhail 547
Alonso-Lavernia,
 María de los Ángeles 311
Amaro, Raquel 28
Angheluta, Roxana 208

Ben Ahmed, Mohamed 121
Ben Othmane Zribi, Chiraz 121
Bharadwaja Kumar, Guntur 156
Bollegala, Danushka 223
Bolshakov, Igor A. 93
Boonthum, Chutima 196
Bouayad-Agha, Nadjat 490
Brew, Chris 41
Burget, Lukáš 410
Buscaldi, Davide 192, 547

Carrasco-Ochoa, Jesús Ariel 514
Castellanos, Hayde 331
Castellanos-Nieves, Dagoberto 71
Černocký, Jan 410
Chan, Samuel W.K. 263
Chang, Chia-Hui 144
Chaves, Rui Pedro 28
Chen, Xiaojun 378
Choi, Bumghi 406
Coria Olguin, Sergio Rafael 331, 355
Csomai, Andras 429
Cui, Yuzhen 245

Darriba Bilbao, Víctor Manuel 575
De-la-Cruz-Rivera, Argelio Víctor 311
de Rijke, Maarten 180
Duan, Huiming 235

Estrada, Varinia 331

Fang, Alex Chengyu 168
Fapšo, Michal 410
Fazly, Afsaneh 81
Feldman, Anna 41
Fernández-Breis, Jesualdo Tomás 71

Galicia-Haro, Sofía Natalia 93
García-Hernández, René Arnulfo 514
Gil, Angel 490
Gonçalves, Teresa 551
Gonzalez, Marco 394
Graesser, Arthur C. 287
Gupta, Rakesh 343

Han, SangYong 563, 571
Han, Shuang 235
Hana, Jirka 41
He, Yanxiang 470
Hennacy, Ken 343
Hovy, Eduard 1
Hu, Haiqing 458
Hu, Jianhua 245
Hu, Qinan 245
Huang, Joshua 378

Ide, Nancy 13
Infante-Lopez, Gabriel 180
Inui, Nobuo 315
Ishizuka, Mitsuru 223

Ji, Donghong 470
Jiménez-Salazar, Héctor 536
Juan Ciscar, Alfons 547
Jung, Jaeyoung 55
Jung, Sung-Won 524
Jung, Youngim 366

Kaestner, Celso A.A. 132
Kang, Bo-Yeong 389
Kang, NamOh 571
Karafiát, Martin 410
Kim, Dae-Won 389
Kit, Chunyu 117
Komiya, Kanako 315
Kosseim, Leila 441
Kotani, Yoshiyuki 315
Kozareva, Zornitsa 208
Kulkarni, Anagha 208
Kuroiwa, Shingo 97, 458
Kwon, Hyuk-Chul 366, 524
Kwon, Namhee 1

- Lee, Ju-Hong 406
 Lee, Yue-Shi 144
 Levinstein, Irwin 196
 Li, Wei 417, 480
 Li, Wenjie 480
 Li, Yan 378
 Lieberman, Henry 319
 Liu, Dexi 470
 Liu, Hugo 319
 Liu, Xiaoyue 117
 López, Fernanda 331
 López, Isabel 331
 Lu, Huaming 105
- Marcu, Daniel 59
 Marrafa, Palmira 28
 Martínez-Trinidad, José Francisco 514
 Matsuo, Yutaka 223
 Max, Aurélien 567
 McCarthy, Philip M. 287
 Medina-Urrea, Alfonso 101
 Mendes, Sara 28
 Meza, Ivan 331
 Mihalcea, Rada F. 249, 319, 429
 Miyake, Maki 55
 Montes-y-Gómez, Manuel 453
 Moreno, Iván 331
- Narayana Murthy, Kavi 156
 North, Ryan 81
- Okumura, Manabu 502
 Otero Pombo, Juan 575
- Pan, Haihua 245
 Paraboni, Ivandré 299
 Park, So-Young 51
 Park, Sun 406
 Park, Tae-Su 406
 Pascual, Victor 490
 Pedersen, Ted 208
 Peñas, Anselmo 275
 Pérez, Patricia 331
 Pineda Cortés, Luis Albreto 331, 355
 Pinto, David 536
 Pla, Ferran 192
- Quaresma, Paulo 551
- Ren, Fuji 97, 458
 Rodrigo, Álvaro 275
 Rodríguez, Carlos 331
 Rosso, Paolo 192, 536, 547
 Rus, Vasile 287
- Salgueiro Pardo, Thiago Alexandre 59
 Sanchis Arnal, Emilio 192
 Schwarz, Milan 410
 Schwarz, Petr 410
 Segarra, Encarna 192
 Shin, Dongha 51
 Shin, Kwangcheol 563
 Sidorov, Grigori 311
 Silla, Carlos N., Jr. 132
 Silva, Cassiana 551
 Smrž, Pavel 410
 Solorio, Thamar 208
 Song, Ui-Sung 51
 Stevenson, Suzanne 81
 Strube de Lima, Vera Lúcia 394
 Strunk, Jan 132
 Sun, Maosong 105, 417
 Suzuki, Yasuhiro 502
 Szöke, Igor 410
- Tajima, Yasuhiro 315
 Takamura, Hiroya 502
 Toida, Shunichi 196
 Torjmen, Aroua 121
 T'sou, Benjamin Ka-Yin 105
- Valdeni de Lima, José 394
 Valencia-García, Rafael 71
 Valentin, Oriol 490
 van Deemter, Kees 299
 Verdejo, Felisa 275
 Vieira, Renata 551
 Vilares Ferro, Manuel 575
 Villaseñor-Pineda, Luis 453
 Vivancos-Vicente, Pedro José 71
 Volpe Nunes, Maria das Graças 59
- Wang, Houfeng 235
 Wang, Zhimin 235
 Webster, Jonathan J. 117
 Wu, Mingli 480
 Wu, Yu-Chieh 144

Xu, Wei 480
Xu, Xiaofei 378

Yang, Hua 470
Ye, Yunming 378
Yoon, Aesun 366

Yousefi, Jamileh 441
Yu, Shiwen 235
Yuan, Chunfa 480

Zhang, Shuwu 458
Zhang, Zhengcao 105