



68th RAP Seminar

The 68th Seminar on RIKEN Center for Advanced Photonics

Language: Japanese

- Online Seminar -

Date: **November 20 (Fri) 16:00 - 17:00, 2020**

Title: **Natural Language Understanding
and Assessment**

自然言語理解と自然言語アセスメント

Speaker: **Prof. Kentaro INUI**

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NLP has made considerable progress towards the goal of making computers understand human language. But two crucial, longstanding challenges remain: Equipping computers with knowledge and giving them the ability to reason like humans. The key to driving research towards solving these two challenges is building a path of concrete and attainable, but still challenging, intermediate goals. In this talk, we will explore the frontiers of NLP by taking a closer look at ongoing research towards two such intermediate goals: Machine reading comprehension and natural language assessment. Machine reading comprehension has become one of the main benchmarks for evaluating knowledge and reasoning in NLP models, but recent studies found that in many cases the datasets used allow models to cheat. My group is currently analyzing and re-thinking existing reading comprehension benchmarks, as well as creating new, better datasets. Natural language assessment, on the other hand, encompasses tasks related to evaluation and giving constructive feedback for a broad range of human-written text such as descriptive responses in pedagogical achievement tests, argumentative essays, debates, or texts written by second language learners. Besides the immediate practical applications, natural language assessment is an ideal intermediate goal towards natural language understanding, since models can be trained for a limited, but still very challenging domain, such as a particular essay topic. I will present issues and future directions for this exciting goal.