Abstract:
Research in automatic Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis (SSA), as subtasks of Affective Computing and Natural Language Processing (NLP), has flourished in the past years. The growth in interest in these tasks was motivated by the birth and rapid expansion of the Social Web that made it possible for people all over the world to share, comment or consult content on any given topic. In this context, opinions, sentiments and emotions expressed in Social Media texts have been shown to have a high influence on the social and economic behavior worldwide. SSA systems are highly relevant to many real-world applications (e.g. marketing, eGovernance, business intelligence, social analysis) and also to many tasks in Natural Language Processing (NLP) - information extraction, question answering, textual entailment, to name just a few. The importance of this field has been proven by the high number of approaches proposed in research in the past decade, as well as by the interest that it raised from other disciplines (Economics, Sociology, Psychology) and the applications that were created using its technology. Despite the large interest shown by the research community and the development of a set of benchmarking resources and methods to tackle sentiment analysis, SSA remains far from being a solved issue. While systems working for English on customer reviews obtain good results in sentiment classification, systems working for other languages or on Social Media texts are still struggling to surpass the baseline. As such, it is necessary to continue the sentiment analysis community’s efforts to develop new resources and methods, as well as to bring knowledge and experience from other disciplines that have been dealing with affect phenomena (e.g. Psychology, Sociology, etc.). The aim of the 5th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment and Social Media Analysis (WASSA 2014) was to continue the line of the previous editions, bringing together researchers in Computational Linguistics working on Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis and researchers working on interdisciplinary aspects of affect computation from text. Starting with 2013, WASSA has extended its scope and focus to Social Media phenomena and the impact of affect-related phenomena in this context. WASSA 2014 was organized in conjunction to the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2014), on June 27, 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America.

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