Recent Trends in Automatic Image Captioning Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The rapid development of digitalization, tagging and user-generated content has brought about a substantial increase in datasets where images are accompanied by related text, giving rise to automatic image captioning (AIC), a process that seeks to automatically generate properly formed English sentences or captions that describe the content of images. AIC research has a great impact on various domains, such as virtual assistants, image indexing, recommendation systems, and medical diagnosis systems, among others. Image captioning in particular relies on computer vision for image comprehension and natural language processing to generate textual descriptions that are semantically and linguistically sound.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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