LTI Colloquium Series

Carnegie Mellon University
Language Technologies Institute

Kevin C. Knight
(DiDi Chuxing)

Friday, Sept. 21

2:30 pm Talk, Porter Hall 100
4:00 pm Snacks, LTI 5th Floor

THE MOMENT WHEN THE FUTURE FELL ASLEEP

Recently, recurrent neural networks (RNNs) have been revolutionizing natural language processing and other fields. Among other things, RNNs can assign probabilities to sequences (such as English sentences) and transform one sequence into another (such as English into French). I will describe some of our work over the past couple of years, addressing four questions: What are neural sequence models learning? How can they learn better? Are there theoretical limits? Can they be creative?

Kevin Knight is Chief Scientist for Natural Language Processing (NLP) at DiDi Chuxing. He leads a DiDi lab in Los Angeles devoted to NLP research. He was previously Dean's Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California (USC) and a Research Director and Fellow at USC's Information Sciences Institute (ISI). He received a PhD in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Dr. Knight's research interests include human-machine communication, machine translation, language generation, automata theory, and decipherment.