Preface

The International Conference on the Computational Processing of Portuguese, PRO-POR, is the most important scientific event dedicated to the processing of spoken and written Portuguese, covering both basic and applied research. This event is hosted every other year, alternating between Brazil and Portugal. Previous events were held in Lisbon, Portugal (1993), Curitiba, Brazil (1996), Porto Alegre, Brazil (1998), Évora, Portugal (1999), Atibaia, Brazil (2000), Faro, Portugal (2003), Itatiaia, Brazil (2006), Aveiro, Portugal (2008), Porto Alegre, Brazil (2010), Coimbra, Portugal (2012), and São Carlos, Brazil (2014).

The community attending the conference is highly multidisciplinary and dynamic. The sharing of expertise, the communication of results, the promotion of methodologies and the exchanging of language resources and tools have been key contributions for the continuous scientific advance of the automated processing of the Portuguese language.

This 12th edition of PROPOR took place in Tomar, in the center of Portugal, and was hosted by the University of Lisbon and the NLX—Natural Language and Speech Group from its Department of Informatics at the Faculty of Sciences.

The event also featured the 4th edition of the MSc/MA and PhD Dissertation Contest, which selects the best new academic research work in the computational processing of Portuguese.

For the first time, PROPOR featured a Job-shop and Innovation Forum aiming at the creation of a fruitful environment to promote the exchange of results, talent, and partnerships between researchers in the field of language technologies and companies using and developing these technologies.

This year PROPOR had three workshops in addition to the main program, namely, (a) ASSIN, an evaluation forum for semantic similarity and textual entailment recognition; (b) LexSem+Logics, the Third Workshop on Logics and Ontologies and the First Workshop on Lexical Semantics for Lesser-Resourced Languages; and (c) CTPC, the Workshop on Corpora and Tools for Processing Corpora. It is noteworthy that the CTPC workshop was co-organized with the Portuguese Language Department of the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission.

Other additions to the main program were a Student Research Workshop and two tutorial sessions, one on "Gaussian Processes for Natural Language Processing" and another on "Translation Quality Estimation."

Two keynote speakers honored the event with their lectures: Dr. Hynek Hermansky (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA and Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic) and Dr. Eneko Agirre (University of the Basque Country, San Sebastian, Spain).

In all, 52 submissions were received for the main event, totaling 134 authors from many countries worldwide, such as Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Macao, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA. This volume brings together a

selection of the 39 best papers accepted at this meeting: 23 full papers and 14 short papers. The acceptance rate for full papers was 44 %. To these, the two papers corresponding to the winning submissions to the MSc/MA and PhD dissertation contest were added. In this volume, the papers are organized thematically and include the most recent developments in language applications, language processing, language resources, and speech processing.

We express our sincere thanks to every person and institution involved in the complex organization of this event, especially the members of the scientific committee of the main event, the dissertations contest and the associated workshops, the invited speakers, and the general organization staff.

We are also grateful to the agencies and organizations that supported and promoted the event, namely, the QTLeap Project, the Portuguese Language Department of the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission, the Hotel dos Templários, the Universidade de Lisboa and the Department of Informatics of its Faculty of Sciences, the Foundation of the Faculty of Sciences of the Universidade de Lisboa, and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology.

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