

Distinguished Lecture: Michael Riley

Place and date: PROPOR 201 in Sao Carlos, Brazil from Oct 6 to Oct 8, 2014.

Hosts: Prof. Thiago Pardo of the University of Sao Paulo.

Title: Challenges in Voice Search

Abstract: Speech recognition is becoming a crucial technology for Google as search traffic moves more and more mobile. The talk will cover a range of topics towards building the world's best speech recognizer including deep learning (DNNs) for acoustic modeling, challenges in language and pronunciation modeling, using new hardware infrastructure, among others that are leading to rapid advances in accuracy and performance.

I gave the following hour-long presentation. The conference had approximately 80 attendees from a variety of countries, with a large presence from Portuguese-speaking countries. The topics covered a variety of aspects in speech processing and natural language processing with an emphasis on the Portuguese language.

The talk was well-attended and seemed well-received, generating many questions. Brazilian national television filmed part of the presentation and interviewed me afterwards. I also chaired one of the sessions on speech processing and met with several groups to discuss their work.