Ujwal Gadiraju from L3S Research Center: Nomination for the Douglas Engelbart Best Paper Award

Workers of microtask crowdsourcing marketplaces strive to find a balance between the need for monetary income and the need for high reputation. Such balance is often threatened by poorly formulated tasks, as workers attempt their execution despite a sub-optimal understanding of the work to be done. In this project, the authors highlighted the role of clarity as a characterising property of tasks in crowdsourcing. 100 workers of the CrowdFlower platform were surveyed to verify the presence of issues with task clarity in crowdsourcing marketplaces, revealing how crowd workers deal with such issues, and motivating the need for mechanisms that can predict and measure task clarity. Next, the authors proposed a novel model for task clarity based on the goal and role clarity constructs. 7.1K tasks were sampled from the Amazon Mechanical Turk marketplace, and labels for task clarity were acquired from crowd workers. It was found that task clarity is coherently perceived by crowd workers, and is affected by the type of the task. A set of features were then proposed to capture task clarity, and the acquired labels were used to train and validate a supervised machine learning model for task clarity prediction. A long-term analysis of the evolution of task clarity on Amazon Mechanical Turk revealed that clarity is not a property suitable for temporal characterisation.