AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair 2018: A Retrospective

John P Dickerson (University of Maryland; john@cs.umd.edu)
Nicholas Mattei (IBM Research; n.mattei@ibm.com)
DOI: 10.1145/3203247.3203249

Introduction

The 2018 AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job fair marked the third installment of the popular event for both recruiters and students. As we have seen steady growth in the attendance at AAAI over the last several years we have seen similar growth in the number of companies and students who are actively participating in the job fair. This year, twenty-one companies attended—typically with a team of recruiters and other representatives—and hundreds of students and other job seekers either uploaded their resumes to a public book before the event or came through the event space during the event. Those resumes were then shared with participating companies.

Participating Companies

- Adobe Research
- Alibaba
- Amazon
- ASAPP
- Baidu
- BBN Technologies
- DiDi Chuxing
- Georgian Partners
- HRL Laboratories
- Bosch Research and Technology Center
- The Information Sciences Institute (ISI)
- Lawrence Livermore National Labs
- Samsung Research
- Interlink
- IBM Research
- JD.com
- Lionbridge
- Microsoft
- Nissan
- Prowler
- Tencent

In a change of pace, this year’s job fair saw each company pitch themselves with a lightning talk to a room packed with students, postdocs, and other AAAI conference attendees. Each of the participating companies made a single compelling slide and a two-minute pitch for the types of talent they were looking to recruit and the opportunities available at their company. Participating companies were also allocated booth space, either in the main exhibition hall that was set up for the majority of the main conference, or in a specific large conference hall allocated specifically to the job fair. Many of the companies were looking for both theoretical and applied machine learning skills but nearly as many needed help with more classical symbolic AI techniques including logic programming, planning, and reasoning. In short the need for AI talent is large and AAAI is a great place to recruit that talent.

Figure 1: Attendees mingle with each other and recruiters before the formal start of the job fair.

More information can be found at the 2018 AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair website: http://www.aaaijob-2018.preflib.org/. We hope that all the participating companies and students had a great time and that we can grow the attendance and reach of the job fair next year. If you have any feedback on things that could be improved or are interested in organizing the next installment of the job fair please get in touch with us!
Figure 2: Representatives from each of the participating firms gave single-slide, two-minute pitches to attract job fair attendees to their respective booths.

John P Dickerson is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland. His research centers on solving practical economic problems using techniques from computer science, stochastic optimization, and machine learning.

Nicholas Mattei is a Research Staff Member in the IBM Research AI group at the IBM TJ Watson Research Laboratory. His research focuses on the theory and practice of AI, developing systems and algorithms to support decision making.