Machine Translation (MT) usage is on the rise and the technology and algorithms behind it are advancing everyday. More than 200 million people all over the world use Google Translate on a daily basis. It would be silly to disregard the improvements that machine translation technology has made in terms of accuracy, context matching, and grammar usage. However, there are limitations to MT technology in some languages. This is particularly true for Chinese because it is significantly more difficult to develop MT engines due to the lack of inflections in Chinese. The main reason is we do not always know what tense the verb should be, or where we need to insert words that don’t exist in the Chinese sentence but exist in English such as articles. If MT’s intend to effectively address this issue, linguistic techniques such as speech tagging, the process of marking up a word in a piece of text as corresponding to a particular part of speech and understanding contextual situations need to be incorporated into the algorithms to train the MT to identify these differences in Chinese.

Another aspect of Chinese that MT engines need to be aware of is which version of written Chinese we are dealing with either Simplified or Traditional Chinese. Traditional Chinese has a much richer and complex character set so if we develop MT engines with only Simplified Chinese data then there will be a lot of Traditional Chinese words that cannot be translated. Solving this problem involves developing a process to convert between the two variations.

In the simplest case, a list of character mappings can be used to perform conversions. This works effectively when going from Traditional into Simplified Chinese. However, converting in the other direction is less straightforward as there is significant ambiguity and each Simplified Chinese character can map to many different Traditional Chinese characters. Simplified Chinese is more prevalent and all most all MT can translate into Simplified Chinese. So be cautious if you are translating into Chinese with an MT especially if you need Traditional Chinese. It is recommended to MT and edit with a human translator if you want to avoid mistakes.

Source: Multilingual Magazine
Cosmic Rays to Scan Pyramids

The secrets of ancient Egypt may no longer be a secret anymore. Scientist from the Egyptian department of antiquities will begin scanning the pyramids using cosmic rays and thermal imaging to look inside the pyramids that are over 4,500 years old. The study know as “Scan Pyramids” will begin with the scanning of four pyramids: The Bent Pyramid in Dahshur, the Red Pyramid and the two Giza Pyramids of Cheops and Chepren. The goal of this study is to discover any hidden chambers within these pyramids. This new scanning technique was designed to ensure that non-destructive technologies are used in the scanning process. The scanning will also help architects and archaeologist understand how these ancient monuments were built in the first place, which is still one of science’s greatest mysteries. Source: Atkins

World Turned Blue for UN

On Oct. 24, the United Nations turned more than 200 world famous landmarks blue to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Some of those locations include: The Sydney Opera House, Great Pyramids of Giza, Great Wall of China, Leaning Tower of Pisa, and many more. You can view all these stunning locations by scanning the QR code below. Source: Popsci

Create a Crêpe for the Holidays

A simple recipe for a holiday breakfast.

- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- Butter, for coating the pan

In a blender, combine all of the ingredients and pulse for 10 seconds. Place the crêpe batter in the refrigerator for 1 hour. This allows the bubbles to subside so the crêpes will be less likely to tear during cooking. The batter will keep for up to 48 hours.

Heat a small non-stick pan. Add butter to coat. Pour 1 ounce of batter into the center of the pan and swirl to spread evenly. Cook for 30 seconds and flip. Cook for another 10 seconds and remove to the cutting board. Lay them out flat so they can cool. Continue until all batter is gone. After they have cooled you can stack them and store in sealable plastic bags in the refrigerator for several days or in the freezer for up to two months. When using frozen crêpes, thaw on a rack before gently peeling apart.

Sweet Variation: Add 2 1/2 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and 2 tablespoons of Grand Marnier to the egg mixture.

Savory Variation: Add 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs, spinach or sun-dried tomatoes to the egg mixture.

Recommended International Films

Run Boy Run (Poland, 2013) Srlulik, an eight-year-old boy, flees from the Warsaw ghetto in 1942. He attempts to survive, at first alone in the forest, and then as a Christian orphan named Jurek. Throughout his ordeal, his Jewish identity is in danger of being lost. The true story is based on the bestseller by Uri Orlev.

White God (Hungary, 2014) Seventeen-year-old Lili fights to protect her dog Hagen. She is devastated when her father eventually sets Hagen free on the streets. Still innocently believing love can conquer any difficulty, Lili sets out to find her dog and save him.

Love and Lemons (Sweden, 2013) Agnes is a chef and she loves cooking. She has a good job, a boyfriend who loves her and a best friend who is always there for her. One day she is both fired from the restaurant and dumped by her boyfriend. Therefore she has nothing left to lose when a friend asks Agnes if she would like to be part owner in and open up a new restaurant. At the same time she manages to fall in love with the one person who cannot know who she really is. This romantic comedy is based on the successful novel of the same name by Kajsa Ingemarsson. Source: IMDb

Russia Plans Lunar Landing

Human beings on the moon is not a new thing, but Russia plans to send a team to the moon by 2029 with the goal of using this trip as a stepping stone to develop technologies that could one day set up colonies on the Moon or even Mars. Russian’s plan is to come up with a way to build gas stations for other missions by breaking down lunar water into oxygen and hydrogen (rocket fuel). Source: Popsci

Did You Know?

- Russia is the treeless for the better part of the last century. Today, the country plants more trees per person than any other nation.
- Iceland’s telephone book is listed by first name.
- Icelanders, Lief the Lucky discovered America nearly 500 years before Christopher Columbus.
- In the 1960s and 70s there was a dispute between Iceland and the UK over fishing grounds known as the “Cod Wars”.
- Geologically, Iceland is the youngest country. It only began to rise from the North Atlantic seabed about 25 million years ago. The newest of its islands formed via volcanic eruption in 1963.

Hwaseong Fortress Established Suwon

As an American living in Suwon, South Korea, Ashleigh Alii, project manager at ICD Translation, was captivated by many things – particularly the city’s simultaneously antiquated and modernistic structures.

Hwaseong Fortress, one of the places Ashleigh frequented in the heart of Suwon, King Jeongjo completed the fortress in 1796 to honor his father and establish the city of Suwon. It is a remnant of South Korea’s rich history and was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1997.

UNIQUE WORD: Sprezzatura

(Italian) refers to as nonchalance in dress or appearance that seems completely effortless. It’s been described as a “studied carelessness”. Use it the next time you want to complement someone’s effortless style. Source: Merriam Webster

Translation

Fellow IC Translation

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ORIGINS

Dachshund

Dachshunds are often called “wiener dogs” but, their true name is due to the breed’s original purpose. “Dachs” comes from the German word badger and “hund” is dog. These dogs were trained to hunt badgers in Germany. We have our very own badger hunter in our badger state – ICD’s mascot Léo. Source: Merriam Webster

Country Profile

ICELAND

Settled by Norwegian and Celtic (Scottish and Irish) immigrants during the late 9th and 10th centuries A.D., Iceland boasts the world’s oldest functioning legislative assembly, the Althing, established in 930. Iceland has the most active volcano area in the world, the largest waterfall and glacier in Europe, the northern most botanical garden and golf course in the world, the cleanest capital in the world, a population with the longest life expectancy, and had the first democratically elected female president in the world, Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir (in office 1980-93). She remains the longest serving, elected female head of state of any country.

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