



CALL FOR PAPERS INVITED SESSION ON ARABIC NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING: MODELS, SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS

Invited session on “Arabic Natural Language Processing: Models, Systems and Applications” will be held on 21-22 October 2014 within [IEEE CIST'14](#), in Tetuan-Chefchaouen, Morocco.

Language technologies are instrumental to millions of people who use them every day without even being aware of them. Systems like Google Translate and web search engines rely more and more on levels of linguistic information automatically provided through NLP-based tools operating in the background. This development, we believe, has deeply affected the way we think about language from a scientific perspective. Linguists have progressively turned the focus of their research from abstract structural properties of language to the dynamics of its usage in every-day communicative contexts. There is increasing awareness that language technologies and computational models of language processes not only shed considerable light on traditional issues in language and literary studies but may also lead to a radical reconceptualization of them. Theoretical models of aspects of language usage such as language acquisition, lexical access, speech recognition, text translation, text analysis, ontology extraction, reading and optical character recognition can be put to a rigorous empirical test through computer-based implementations of some of their assumptions. In this perspective, computer technologies prove to provide an empirical middle ground where interdisciplinary insights coming from different theoretical standpoints and scientific domains can be empirically assessed and possibly integrated.

This special session is intended to explore and debate the contribution of computational language models to a better understanding of linguistic, psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic, historical and literary issues of the Arabic language and culture. We particularly welcome contributions addressing fundamental aspects of Arabic NLP, communication technology, language resources and automated text analysis by looking at their implications for both state-of-the-art language technologies and Arabic language knowledge at large.

Topics

We solicit submission of original ideas and papers describing significant results and developments from both researchers and practitioners in a specific range of fields addressing the following topics:

- Information retrieval and extraction
- Text mining
- Named entity recognition
- Question answering
- Word sense disambiguation
- Machine Translation
- Stochastic language models
- Connectionist language models
- Language technologies for Arabic cultural heritage
- Arabic optical character recognition
- Arabic digital epigraphy

Chairs

Vito Pirrelli, Institute for Computational Linguistics CNR, Pisa Italy
Arsalane Zarghili, FST University of Fez, Morocco

Scientific Committee

Ahmed Arab, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Tangier Morocco
Sami Boudelaa, Department of Linguistics University Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
Federico Boschetti, Institute for Computational Linguistics CNR, Pisa Italy
Houda Bouamor, Carnegie Mellon University, Qatar
Violetta Cavalli-Sforza, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco
Ilham Chaker, FST University of Fez, Morocco
Yacine El Younoussi, ENSA of Tetuan, Morocco
Nizar Habash, Center for Computational Learning Systems, Columbia University
Nabil Hathout, CNRS Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail, France
Karima Lyhyaoui, King Fahd High School of Translation, Tangier Morocco
Azzedine Mazroui, University of Oujda, Morocco
Behrang Mohit, Carnegie Mellon University, Qatar
Kemal Oflazer, Carnegie Mellon University, Qatar
Vito Pirrelli, Institute for Computational Linguistics CNR, Pisa Italy
Horacio Rodriguez, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Barcelona Spain
Abdelhadi Soudi, Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale, Rabat Morocco
Youssef Tahir, University Hassan 2 of Casablanca Morocco
François Yvon, LIMSI CNRS Université de Paris-Sud, France
Arsalane Zarghili, FST University of Fez, Morocco

Organising Committee

Ouafae Nahli, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy
Claudia Marzi, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy
Ismail Jellouli, FST, UAE, Tetuan, Morocco
Ahmed Zinedine, FSDM, USMBA, Fez, Morocco
Marcello Ferro, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy
Eva Sassolini, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy
Sebastiana Cuccurullo, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy
Angelo Del Grosso, ILC-CNR Pisa, Italy

Papers submissions

Prospective authors are expected to submit an original paper of 4 to 6 pages max (including references) in English, French or Arabic. However, accepted submissions will be required to be in scholarly English for publication in the conference proceedings. Use of the [on-line abstract submission form](#) and [IEEE manuscript template](#) is also required.

Deadlines

Paper Submission	April 15, 2014
Acceptance Notification	May 30, 2014
Camera-ready Submission	June 23, 2012
Author Registration	July 23, 2012
Invited session Date	October 21,22 2012

At least one of the co-authors of every paper should register.

Contact information

Detailed and up-to-date information about IEEE CIST'14, Fez and Morocco can be accessed through the colloquium's website <http://www.ieee.ma/cist14/>

