

COLING 2020

**The 7th Workshop on Argument Mining
(ArgMining 2020)**

Proceedings of the Workshop

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Barcelona, Spain (Online)

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Introduction

Welcome to the 7th Workshop on Argument Mining (ArgMining 2020), collocated with COLING 2020 (online conference). The ArgMining workshop series is the premier research forum devoted to the mining, the assessment, and the generation of natural language arguments. Previous editions have been held annually at ACL (2014, 2016, 2019), NAACL (2015), and EMNLP (2017, 2018).

Argument(ation) mining is an emerging research area of computational linguistics. At its heart, it involves the automatic identification of argumentative structures in free text, such as the premises, conclusions, and inference schemes of arguments as well as their inter relations and counter-considerations. To date, researchers have investigated argument mining on various registers including legal texts, scientific papers, product reviews, news editorials, Wikipedia articles, persuasive essays, political debates, tweets, and online discussions.

Argument mining is tied to stance and sentiment analysis, since every argument carries a stance towards its topic, often expressed with sentiment. Recently, the quality assessment of arguments came into focus; it is considered as an important step to bring computational argumentation to practical impact. Another raising topic in this area is the generation of argumentative structures in natural language, with the goal of providing explanations. While solutions to basic steps such as component segmentation and classification slowly become mature, many tasks remain largely unsolved, particularly when facing more open genres and topics. Success in computational argumentation requires joint efforts integrating NLP, theories of semantics and pragmatics, discourse, artificial intelligence, information retrieval, argumentation theory, and computational models of argument.

Computational argumentation gives rise to various applications of great importance. It provides methods that can find and visualize the main pro and con arguments on a topic of interest in a corpus — or even in documents, forums, and debates on the web. In instructional and educational contexts, written and diagrammed arguments can be mined to convey and assess students' command of course material, while the retrieval of mined arguments is expected to play a salient role in the emerging field of conversational search. With IBM's Project Debater, technology based on computational argumentation recently received a lot of media attention.

The community around ArgMining is constantly growing, and this is demonstrated by the number of submissions on argument mining accepted also in top level international conferences in NLP and AI. Concerning the workshop, this year's edition had 30 valid submissions (27 in 2017, 32 in 2018 and 41 in 2019), despite the complex situation due to the covid-19 pandemic. Among the submitted papers, there were 22 full papers, 6 short papers, and 2 demo papers. The submissions came from institutions on 13 countries. Two submissions were withdrawn due to acceptance at other venues, indicating the quality of submissions. Thanks to the hard work of 36 program committee members, all authors got three reviews on time. 9 full papers, 2 short papers, and 2 demo papers have been accepted, resulting in an overall acceptance rate of 43%. All such papers are included in the proceedings at hand. Give the unusual online conference format, we decided to give to all authors the possibility to present their work orally. Each presentation is pre-recorded and the video is available to the workshop audience in advance. A QA session is then organized during the workshop to discuss each paper, allowing the authors to get feedback from the ArgMining community. Additionally, one paper accepted at the Findings of the ACL: EMNLP 2020 will also be presented orally at the workshop.

We are delighted to have Marco Guerini (researcher at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy) as keynote speaker, expert in persuasive communication and counter narratives generation. The final program is announced on the official workshop website: <https://argmining2020.i3s.unice.fr/>

Elena Cabrio and Serena Villata (ArgMining 2020 co-chairs)

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Invited Speaker:

Marco Guerini, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy

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Workshop Program

The ArgMining 2020 workshop will take place on December 13, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the related emergency situation, the program may be subject to last-minute change. The updated workshop program is available at <https://argmining2020.i3s.unice.fr/>

