

UDW 2021

**Fifth Workshop on
Universal Dependencies
(UDW, SyntaxFest 2021)**

Proceedings

To be held as part of SyntaxFest 2021

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Preface

Universal Dependencies (UD) is a framework for cross-linguistically consistent treebank annotation that has so far been applied to over 100 languages (<http://universaldependencies.org/>). The framework is aiming to capture similarities as well as idiosyncrasies among typologically different languages (e.g., morphologically rich languages, pro-drop languages, and languages featuring clitic doubling). The goal in developing UD was not only to support comparative evaluation and cross-lingual learning but also to facilitate multilingual natural language processing and enable comparative linguistic studies.

The goal of the UD workshop is to bring together researchers working on UD, to reflect on the theory and practice of UD, its use in research and development, and its future goals and challenges.

The Fifth Workshop on Universal Dependencies (UDW 2021) is, like its third edition before, part of SyntaxFest, which co-locates four related but independent events:

- The Sixth International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (Depling 2021)
- The Second Workshop on Quantitative Syntax (Quasy 2021)
- The 20th International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT 2021)
- The Fifth Workshop on Universal Dependencies (UDW 2021)

The reasons that suggested bringing these four events together in 2019 still hold in 2021. There is a continuing, strong interest in corpora and dependency treebanks for empirically validating syntactic theories, studying syntax from quantitative and theoretical points of view, and for training machine learning models for natural language processing. Much of this research is increasingly multilingual and cross-lingual, made in no small part possible by the Universal Dependencies project, which continues to grow at currently nearly 200 treebanks in over 100 languages.

For these reasons and encouraged by the success of the first SyntaxFest, which was held in 2019 in Paris, we – the chairs of the four events – decided to bring them together again in 2021. Due to the vagaries of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was eventually decided to push the actual SyntaxFest 2021 back to March 2022. In order not to delay the publication of new research and not to conflict with other events, we decided however to publish the proceedings that you are now reading in advance, in December 2021.

As in 2019, we organized a single reviewing process for the whole SyntaxFest, with identical paper formats for all four events. Authors could indicate (multiple) venue preferences, but the assignment of papers to events for accepted papers was made by the program chairs.

38 long papers were submitted, 25 to Depling, 11 to Quasy, 17 to TLT, and 24 to UDW. The program chairs accepted 30 (79%) and assigned 8 to Depling, 5 to Quasy, 7 to TLT, and 10 to UDW. 22 short papers were submitted, 6 to Depling, 7 to Quasy, 9 to TLT, and 9 to UDW. The program chairs accepted 14 (64%) and assigned 3 to Depling, 3 to Quasy, 3 to TLT, and 5 to UDW.

At the time of this writing, we do not yet know whether SyntaxFest will be a hybrid or purely online event. We regret this uncertainty but are nevertheless looking forward to it very much. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who is making this event possible, including everybody who submitted their papers, and of course the reviewers for their time and their valuable comments and suggestions. We would like to thank Djamé Seddah, whose assistance and expertise in organizing SyntaxFests was invaluable. Finally,

we would also like to thank ACL SIGPARSE for its endorsement and the ACL Anthology for publishing the proceedings.

Radek Čech, Xinying Chen, Daniel Dakota, Miryam de Lhoneux, Kilian Evang, Sandra Kübler, Nicolas
Mazziotta, Simon Mille, Reut Tsarfaty (co-chairs)

Petya Osenova, Kiril Simov (local organizers and co-chairs)

December 2021

Program co-chairs

The chairs for each event (and co-chairs for the single SyntaxFest reviewing process) are:

- Depling:
 - Nicolas Mazziotta (Université de Liège)
 - Simon Mille (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
- Quasy:
 - Radek Čech (University of Ostrava)
 - Xinying Chen (Xi'an Jiaotong University)
- TLT:
 - Daniel Dakota (Indiana University)
 - Kilian Evang (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)
 - Sandra Kübler (Indiana University)
- UDW:
 - Miryam de Lhoneux (Uppsala University / KU Leuven / University of Copenhagen)
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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Formae reformandae: for a reorganisation of verb form annotation in Universal Dependencies illustrated by the specific case of Latin | 1 |
| <i>Flavio Massimiliano Cecchini</i> | |
| Towards Universal Dependencies for Bribri | 16 |
| <i>Rolando Coto-Solano, Sharid Loáiciga and Sofía Flores-Solórzano</i> | |
| Bootstrapping Role and Reference Grammar Treebanks via Universal Dependencies | 30 |
| <i>Kilian Evang, Tatiana Bladier, Laura Kallmeyer and Simon Petitjean</i> | |
| For the Purpose of Curry: A UD Treebank for Ashokan Prakrit | 49 |
| <i>Adam Farris and Aryaman Arora</i> | |
| UD on Software Requirements: Application and Challenges | 62 |
| <i>Náima Hassert, Pierre André Ménard and Edith Galy</i> | |
| Towards a consistent annotation of nominal person in Universal Dependencies | 75 |
| <i>Georg Höhn</i> | |
| UDWiki: guided creation and exploitation of UD treebanks | 84 |
| <i>Maarten Janssen</i> | |
| Minor changes make a difference: a case study on the consistency of UD-based dependency parsers | 96 |
| <i>Dmytro Kalpakchi and Johan Boye</i> | |
| Validation of Universal Dependencies by regeneration | 109 |
| <i>Guy Lapalme</i> | |
| A Universal Dependencies corpus for Ligurian | 121 |
| <i>Stefano Lusito and Jean Maillard</i> | |
| Universal Dependencies for Old Turkish | 129 |
| <i>Mehmet Oguz Derin and Takahiro Harada</i> | |
| Word Delimitation Issues in UD Japanese | 142 |
| <i>Mai Omura, Aya Wakasa and Masayuki Asahara</i> | |
| Numerals and what counts | 151 |
| <i>Jack Rueter, Niko Partanen and Flammie A. Pirinen</i> | |
| Mischievous nominal constructions in Universal Dependencies | 160 |
| <i>Nathan Schneider and Amir Zeldes</i> | |
| Date and Time in Universal Dependencies | 173 |
| <i>Daniel Zeman</i> | |