ArabicNLP 2024

The Second Arabic Natural Language Processing Conference

Proceedings of the Conference

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Introduction

Welcome to The Second Arabic Natural Language Processing Conference (ArabicNLP 2024), co-located with ACL 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

ArabicNLP 2024 is the ninth edition of the WANLP/ArabicNLP meeting series, which has developed a growing reputation as a high quality venue for researchers and engineers working on Arabic NLP, where they share and discuss their ongoing work. The first in the WANLP series was held in Doha, Qatar (EMNLP 2014), followed by Beijing, China (ACL 2015), Valencia, Spain (EACL 2017), Florence, Italy (ACL 2019), online with COLING 2020, online with EACL 2021, then finally a hybrid event in Abu Dhabi, UAE (EMNLP 2022). ArabicNLP 2023 was held last year in Singapore with EMNLP 2023.

For this year's edition of ArabicNLP, we received a total of 68 main conference submissions and accepted 29 papers (25 long and 4 short), which brings us to an acceptance rate of 42.6%, the lowest to date in the WANLP/ArabicNLP series. All papers submitted to the conference were reviewed by at least three reviewers each. Out of the 68 submitted papers, there were 3 desk rejects.

ArabicNLP 2024 included eight shared tasks with 79 papers (8 overview papers and 71 system descriptions): (1) Arabic Financial NLP (AraFinNLP) with 9 papers, (2) News Media Narratives of the Israel War on Gaza (FIGNEWS) with 17 papers (20 submitted), (3) Propagandistic Techniques Detection in Unimodal and Multimodal Arabic Content (ArAIEval) with 11 papers, (4) Arabic Stance Evaluation (StanceEval) with 13 papers, (5) Arabic Named Entity Recognition (WojoodNER) with 6 papers, (6) Arabic Natural Language Understanding (ArabicNLU) with 3 papers, (7) Nuanced Arabic Dialect Identification (NADI) with 8 papers, and (8) Contemporary Arabic Reverse Dictionary and Word Sense Disambiguation (KSAA-CAD) with 4 papers. The shared task overview and system description papers are included in the proceedings and presented during the conference. None of the shared task papers are counted toward the acceptance rate presented above.

ArabicNLP 2024 also includes an invited talk by Kareem Darwish, titled "BALSAM: Community-Driven Arabic LLM Evaluation".

We were able to secure sponsorship funding from different institutions, Google, SCAI, Majarra, Arabic AI Center, and Lisan.ai. We used the sponsorship funds to support student registrations. We thank all our sponsors for their generous support and their help in building up the Arabic NLP community.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to everyone who submitted a paper to the conference, and to the Program Committee members for their diligent efforts in providing reviews within a very tight timeframe.

Nizar Habash, General Chair, on behalf of the conference organizers.

Website of the conference: https://arabicnlp2024.sigarab.org

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Invited Speaker

Kareem Darwish, QCRI and aiXplain Inc.

Keynote Talk

Kareem Darwish

QCRI and aiXplain Inc

2024-08-16

Abstract: BALSAM (Benchmarking Arabic LLM Standards and Metrics) is a community-driven consortium bringing together esteemed academic and governmental institutions across the Middle East. BALSAM's objective is to spearhead the development of a benchmarking platform and the curation of broad domain test sets crucial for benchmarking and evaluating the performance of LLMs for a plethora of Arabic tasks. The talk presents the achievements of the consortium including community contributions, task coverage, platform design, major design decisions, and the road ahead for BALSAM.

Bio: Dr. Kareem Darwish is a principal scientist with a joint appointment at QCRI and aiXplain Inc working on efficient human-in-the-loop ML, speech processing, and Large Language Models (LLMs). Previously, he was the acting research director of the Arabic Language Technologies group (ALT) at the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) where he worked on information retrieval, computational social science, and natural language processing. Kareem Darwish worked as a researcher at the Cairo Microsoft Innovation Lab and the IBM Human Language Technologies group in Cairo. He also taught at the German University in Cairo and Cairo University.

His research on natural language processing has led to state-of-the-art tools for Arabic processing that perform several tasks such as part-of-speech tagging, named entity recognition, automatic diacritic recovery, sentiment analysis, and parsing. His work on social computing focused on predictive stance detection to predict how users feel about an issue now or perhaps in the future, and on detecting malicious behavior on social media platform, particularly propaganda accounts. His innovative work on social computing has received much media coverage from international news outlets such as CNN, Newsweek, Washington Post, the Mirror, and many others.

Aside from the many research papers that he authored, he also authored books in both English and Arabic on a variety of subjects including Arabic processing, politics, and social psychology. He also has a YouTube channel dedicated to social psychology.

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Addax at WojoodNER 2024: Attention-Based Dual-Channel Neural Network for Arabic Named Entity Recognition
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DRU at WojoodNER 2024: A Multi-level Method Approach
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Bangor University at WojoodNER 2024: Advancing Arabic Named Entity Recognition with CAMeLBERT-Mix
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DRU at WojoodNER 2024: ICL LLM for Arabic NER
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mucAI at WojoodNER 2024: Arabic Named Entity Recognition with Nearest Neighbor Search
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Program

Friday, August 16, 2024

09:00 - 09:15 *Welcome Speech*

09:15 - 10:30 *Core Technologies*

AREEj: Arabic Relation Extraction with Evidence
Osama Rakan Al Mraikhat, Hadi Khaled Hamoud and Fadi Zaraket

A Context-Contrastive Inference Approach To Partial Diacritization
Muhammad ElNokrashy and Badr AlKhamissi

Picking Up Where the Linguist Left Off: Mapping Morphology to Phonology through Learning the Residuals
Salam Khalifa, Abdelrahim Qaddoumi, Ellen Broselow and Owen Rambow

Event-Arguments Extraction Corpus and Modeling using BERT for Arabic
Alaa Aljabari, Lina Duaibes, Mustafa Jarrar and Mohammed Khalilia

Exploiting Dialect Identification in Automatic Dialectal Text Normalization
Bashar Alhafni, Sarah Al-Towaity, Ziyad Fawzy, Fatema Nassar, Fadhl Eryani, Houda Bouamor and Nizar Habash

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 - 11:45 *Downstream Applications I*

Strategies for Arabic Readability Modeling
Juan Pineros Liberato, Bashar Alhafni, Muhamed Osman Al Khalil and Nizar Habash

Large Language Models as Legal Translators of Arabic Legislatives: Does ChatGPT and Gemini Care for Context and Terminology?
Khadija Ait ElFqih and Johanna Monti

Arabic Automatic Story Generation with Large Language Models
Ahmed Oumar El-Shangiti, Fakhraddin Alwajih and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

11:45 - 12:30 *Multimodality*

AraCLIP: Cross-Lingual Learning for Effective Arabic Image Retrieval
Muhammad Al-Barham, Imad Afyouni, Khalid Almubarak, Ashraf Elnagar, Ayad Turky and Ibrahim Abaker Hashem

Towards Zero-Shot Text-To-Speech for Arabic Dialects
Khai Duy Doan, Abdul Waheed and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

Friday, August 16, 2024 (continued)

Qalam: A Multimodal LLM for Arabic Optical Character and Handwriting Recognition
Gagan Bhatia, El Moatez Billah Nagoudi, Fakhraddin Alwajih and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00 - 14:45 *Downstream Applications II*

ArabLegalEval: A Multitask Benchmark for Assessing Arabic Legal Knowledge in Large Language Models
Faris Hijazi, Somayah S Alharbi, Abdulaziz A. AlHussein, Harethah Abu Shairah, Reem Alzahrani, Hebah A. Alshamlan, George Turkiyyah and Omar Knio

Benchmarking LLaMA-3 on Arabic Language Generation Tasks
Md Tawkat Islam Khondaker, Numaan Naeem, Fatimah Lyba Khan, AbdelRahim A. Elmadany and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

From Nile Sands to Digital Hands: Machine Translation of Coptic Texts
Muhammed Saeed, Asim Mohamed, Mukhtar Mohamed, Shady Shehata and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

14:45 - 15:15 *Invited Talk BALSAM – Community-Driven Arabic LLM Evaluation*

15:15 - 15:30 *Shared Task Overview Boasters*

15:30 - 16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 - 17:30 *Main and Shared Task Posters*