Quasy 2019

**First Workshop on Quantitative Syntax
(Quasy, SyntaxFest 2019)**

Proceedings

August 26, 2019
held within the **SyntaxFest** 2019, 26–30 August
Paris, France

Preface

The first edition of Quasy was part of the first SyntaxFest, a grouping of four events, which took place in Paris, France, during the last week of August:

- the Fifth International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (Depling 2019)

- the First Workshop on Quantitative Syntax (Quasy)

- the 18th International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT 2019)

- the Third Workshop on Universal Dependencies (UDW 2019)

The use of corpora for NLP and linguistics has only increased in recent years. In NLP, machine learning systems are by nature data-intensive, and in linguistics there is a renewed interest in the empirical validation of linguistic theory, particularly through corpus evidence. While the first statistical parsers have long been trained on the Penn treebank phrase structures, dependency treebanks, whether natively annotated with dependencies, or converted from phrase structures, have become more and more popular, as evidenced by the success of the Universal Dependency project, currently uniting 120 treebanks in 80 languages, annotated in the same dependency-based scheme. The availability of these resources has boosted empirical quantitative studies in syntax. It has also lead to a growing interest in theoretical questions around syntactic dependency, its history, its foundations, and the analyses of various constructions in dependency-based frameworks. Furthermore, the availability of large, multilingual annotated data sets, such as those provided by the Universal Dependencies project, has made cross-linguistic analysis possible to an extent that could only be dreamt of only a few years ago.

In this context it was natural to bring together TLT (Treebanks and Linguistic Theories), the historical conference on treebanks as linguistic resources, Depling (The international conference on Dependency Linguistics), the conference uniting research on models and theories around dependency representations, and UDW (Universal Dependency Workshop), the annual meeting of the UD project itself. Moreover, in order to create a point of contact with the large community working in quantitative linguistics it seemed expedient to create a workshop dedicated to quantitative syntactic measures on treebanks and raw corpora, which gave rise to Quasy, the first workshop on Quantitative Syntax. And this led us to the first SyntaxFest.

Because the potential audience and submissions to the four events were likely to have substantial overlap, we decided to have a single reviewing process for the whole SyntaxFest. Authors could choose to submit their paper to one or several of the four events, and in case of acceptance, the program co-chairs would decide which event to assign the accepted paper to.

This choice was found to be an appropriate one, as most submissions were submitted to several of the events. Indeed, there were 40 long paper submissions, with 14 papers submitted to Quasy, 31 to Depling, 13 to TLT and 16 to UDW. Among them, 28 were accepted (6 at Quasy, 10 at Depling, 6 at TLT, 6 at UDW). Note that due to multiple submissions, the acceptance rate is defined at the level of the whole SyntaxFest (around 70%). As far as short papers are concerned, 62 were submitted (24 to Quasy, 41 to Depling, 35 to TLT and 37 to UDW), and 41 were accepted (8 were presented at Quasy, 14 at Depling, 9 at TLT and 9 at UDW), leading to an acceptance rate for short papers of around 66%.

We are happy to announce that the first SyntaxFest has been a success, with over 110 registered participants, most of whom attended for the whole week.

SyntaxFest is the result of efforts from many people. Our sincere thanks go to the reviewers who thoroughly reviewed all the submissions to the conference and provided detailed comments and suggestions, thus ensuring the quality of the published papers.

We would also like to warmly extend our thanks to the five invited speakers,

- Ramon Ferrer i Cancho - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)

- Emmanuel Dupoux - ENS/CNRS/EHESS/INRIA/PSL Research University, Paris

- Barbara Plank - IT University of Copenhagen

- Paola Merlo - University of Geneva

- Adam Przepiórkowski - University of Warsaw / Polish Academy of Sciences / University of Oxford

We are grateful to the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle for generously making available the Amphithéâtre du Monde Anglophone, a very pleasant venue in the heart of Paris. We would like to thank the ACL SIGPARSE group for its endorsement and all the institutions who gave financial support for SyntaxFest:

- the "Laboratoire de Linguistique formelle" (Université Paris Diderot & CNRS)

- the "Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie" (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle & CNRS)

- the Modyco laboratory (Université Paris Nanterre)

- the "École Doctorale Connaissance, Langage, Modélisation" (CLM) - ED 139

- the "Université Sorbonne Nouvelle"

- the "Université Paris Nanterre"

- the Empirical Foundations of Linguistics Labex (EFL)

- the ATALA association

- Google

- Inria and its Almanach team project.

Finally, we would like to express special thanks to the students who have been part of the local organizing committee. We warmly acknowledge the enthusiasm and community spirit of:
Danrun Cao, Université Paris Nanterre
Marine Courtin, Sorbonne Nouvelle
Chuanming Dong, Université Paris Nanterre
Yoann Dupont, Inria
Mohammed Galal, Sohag University
Gaël Guibon, Inria
Yixuan Li, Sorbonne Nouvelle
Lara Perinetti, Inria et Fortia Financial Solutions
Mathilde Regnault, Lattice and Inria
Pierre Rochet, Université Paris Nanterre

Chunxiao Yan, Université Paris Nanterre

Marie Candito, Kim Gerdes, Sylvain Kahane, Djamé Seddah (local organizers and co-chairs),
and Xinying Chen, Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho, Alexandre Rademaker, Francis Tyers (co-chairs)

September 2019

Program co-chairs

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

- Quasy:

    - Xinying Chen (Xi'an Jiaotong University / University of Ostrava)
    - Ramon Ferrer i Cancho (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya)

- Depling:

    - Kim Gerdes (LPP, Sorbonne Nouvelle & CNRS / Almanach, INRIA)
    - Sylvain Kahane (Modyco, Paris Nanterre & CNRS)

- TLT:

    - Marie Candito (LLF, Paris Diderot & CNRS)
    - Djamé Seddah (Paris Sorbonne / Almanach, INRIA)
    - with the help of Stephan Oepen (University of Oslo, previous co-chair of TLT) and Kilian Evang (University of Düsseldorf, next co-chair of TLT)

- UDW:

    - Alexandre Rademaker (IBM Research, Brazil)
    - Francis Tyers (Indiana University and Higher School of Economics)
    - with the help of Teresa Lynn (ADAPT Centre, Dublin City University) and Arne Köhn (Saarland University)

Local organizing committee of the SyntaxFest

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Lara Perinetti, Inria et Fortia Financial Solutions
Mathilde Regnault, Lattice and Inria
Pierre Rochet, Université Paris Nanterre
Chunxiao Yan, Université Paris Nanterre

Program committee for the whole SyntaxFest

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Table of Contents