Introduction to the Workshop

Linguistic annotation of natural language corpora is the backbone of supervised methods of statistical natural language processing and has contributed to breakthroughs in practical natural language applications, most notably in Machine Translation, Machine Reading, Question Answering, and Recognizing Textual Entailment. Nonetheless, challenges remain in developing systems that can actually “understand” human language, including the ability to track entities in a text, understand the relations between these entities, track events and their participants described in a text, understand how events unfold in time, and distinguish events that have actually happened from events that are planned or intended, are uncertain, or did not happen at all. The fifteenth LAW and third DMR workshops have been combined for the first time to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of innovative research on all aspects of linguistic annotation, with a special focus on the design and annotation of representations of the various elements of meaning contributing to understanding. These proceedings include papers presented at LAW-DMR on November 11, 2021, held online in conjunction with the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

This premier iteration of the joint LAW-DMR workshop received 35 submissions, out of which 18 papers have been accepted to be presented at the workshop—8 as talks and 10 as posters. In addition to oral and poster paper presentations, LAW-DMR also featured invited talks by Joyce Chai (University of Michigan) and Stephan Oepen (University of Oslo), and a panel session discussion of the topic, “What is the future of linguistic annotation?”

We thank the Association for Computational Linguistics’ Special Interest Group for Annotation (ACL SIGANN), our organizing committee, for its continuing organization of the LAW workshops, and the EMNLP 2021 workshop chairs for their support. We are grateful to all of the authors for submitting their papers to the workshop and our program committee members for their dedication and their thoughtful reviews. Finally, we thank our invited speakers and panelists for making the workshop a uniquely valuable discussion of linguistic annotation research.

Special Theme: Multi-layered and Multi-modal Annotations

Given that this is the first joint LAW and DMR workshop, this year’s theme was to explore multi-layered annotations, and how different types of annotations can be brought together to enhance progress towards true understanding. This includes papers on the broadening and deepening existing annotation schemas, as well as annotations going beyond text to mark up head movements.
Workshop Chairs

Claire Bonial, DEVCOM U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Nianwen Xue, Brandeis University

Organizing Committee

Stefanie Dipper, Ruhr University Bochum
Annemarie Friedrich, Bosch Center for Artificial Intelligence
Chu-Ren Huang, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Nancy Ide, Vassar College
Lori Levin, Carnegie-Mellon University
Adam Meyers, New York University
Antonio Pareja-Lora, Universidad Complutense de Madrid / ATLAS, UNED
Massimo Poesio, University of Essex
Sameer Pradhan, University of Pennsylvania and cemantix.org
Ines Rehbien, Leibniz Science Campus, Institute for German Language and Heidelberg University
Manfred Stede, University of Potsdam
Katrin Tomanek, OpenTable
Fei Xia, University of Washington
Heike Zinsmeister, University of Hamburg

Invited Speakers

Joyce Chai, University of Michigan
Stephan Oepen, University of Oslo

Program Committee

Ron Artstein, USC Institute for Creative Technologies
Johan Bos, University of Groningen
Nicoletta Calzolari, ILC-CNR
Emmanuele Chersoni, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Kathryn Conger, University of Colorado Boulder
William Croft, University of New Mexico
Valeria de Paiva, Topos Institute
Stefanie Dipper, Ruhr University Bochum
Lucia Donatelli, Saarland University
Jonathan Dunn, University of Canterbury
Kilian Evang, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
Federico Fancellu, Samsung AI Research Canada
Annemarie Friedrich, Bosch Research
Kim Gerdes, Université Paris-Saclay
Jan Hajic, Charles University
Jena D. Hwang, Allen Institute for AI
Nancy Ide, Vassar College
Elisabetta Jezek, Università di Pavia
Sandra Kübler, Indiana University
Lori Levin, Carnegie Mellon University
Bin Li, Nanjing Normal University
Adam Meyers, New York University
Kemal Oflazer, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar
Simon Ostermann, Saarland University
Martha Palmer, University of Colorado
Antonio Pareja-Lora, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares
Massimo Poesio, Queen Mary University of London
Matt Post, Johns Hopkins University
Sameer Pradhan, University of Pennsylvania and cemantix.org
Weiguang QU, Nanjing Normal University
Ines Rehbein, University of Mannheim
Nathan Schneider, Georgetown University
Djamé Seddah, Inria
Manfred Stede, University of Potsdam
Zdenka Uresova, Charles University
Bonnie Webber, University of Edinburgh
Michael Wiegand, Alpen-Adria-Universitaet Klagenfurt
Hongzhi Xu, Shanghai International Studies University
Deniz Zeyrek, Middle East Technical University
Heike Zinsmeister, Universität Hamburg
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Thursday, 11 November 2021

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09:00–10:00  Invited talk by Stephan Oepen: Linguistic Structure beyond Strings and Trees

10:00–10:15  Zero-shot cross-lingual Meaning Representation Transfer: Annotation of Hungarian using the Prague Functional Generative Description
Attila Novák, Borbála Novák and Csilla Novák

10:15–10:30  Theoretical and Practical Issues in the Semantic Annotation of Four Indigenous Languages
Jens E. L. Van Gysel, Meagan Vigus, Lukas Denk, Andrew Cowell, Rosa Vallejos, Tim O’Gorman and William Croft

10:30–10:45  Representing Implicit Positive Meaning of Negated Statements in AMR
Katharina Stein and Lucia Donatelli

10:45–11:00  AutoAspect: Automatic Annotation of Tense and Aspect for Uniform Meaning Representations
Daniel Chen, Martha Palmer and Meagan Vigus

11:30–13:30  Session B: Poster presentations:
Thursday, 11 November 2021 (continued)

11:30–12:00 Overview of poster presentations

12:00–12:45 *Can predicate-argument relationships be extracted from UD trees?*
Adam Ek, Jean-Philippe Bernardy and Stergios Chatzikyriakidis

12:00–12:45 *Classifying Divergences in Cross-lingual AMR Pairs*
Shira Wein and Nathan Schneider

12:00–12:45 *A Linguistic Annotation Framework to Study Interactions in Multilingual Healthcare Conversational Forums*
Ishani Mondal, Kalika Bali, Mohit Jain, Monojit Choudhury, Ashish Sharma, Evans Gitau, Jacki O’Neill, Kagonya Awori and Sarah Gitau

12:00–12:45 *Sister Help: Data Augmentation for Frame-Semantic Role Labeling*
Ayush Pancholy, Miriam R L Petruck and Swabha Swayamdipta

12:00–12:45 *A Corpus Study of Creating Rule-Based Enhanced Universal Dependencies for German*
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12:00–12:45 *Subcategorizing Adverbials in Universal Conceptual Cognitive Annotation*
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12:00–12:45 *Simplifying annotation of intersections in time normalization annotation: exploring syntactic and semantic validation*
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12:00–12:45 *Overcoming the challenges in morphological annotation of Turkish in universal dependencies framework*
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12:00–12:45 *Automatic Entity State Annotation using the VerbNet Semantic Parser*
Ghazaleh Kazeminejad, Martha Palmer, Tao Li and Vivek Srikumar

12:00–12:45 *On Releasing Annotator-Level Labels and Information in Datasets*
Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Aida Mostafazadeh Davani and Mark Diaz
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12:45–13:30  Panel discussion: what’s the future of linguistic annotation?

14:00–16:00  Session C: Oral presentations:

14:00–15:00  Invited talk by Joyce Chai: Intuitive Physics in Commonsense Language Understanding

15:00–15:15  Increasing Sentence-Level Comprehension Through Text Classification of Epistemic Functions
Maria Berger and Elizabeth Goldstein

15:15–15:30  Towards a Methodology Supporting Semiautomatic Annotation of Head Movements in Video-recorded Conversations
Patrizia Paggio, Costanza Navarretta, Bart Jongejan and Manex Agirrezabal

Gregor Williamson, Patrick Elliott and Yuxin Ji

15:45–16:00  WikiGUM: Exhaustive Entity Linking for Wikification in 12 Genres
Jessica Lin and Amir Zeldes

16:00–16:15  Concluding remarks