

ArabicNLP 2024

The Second Arabic Natural Language Processing Conference

Proceedings of the Conference

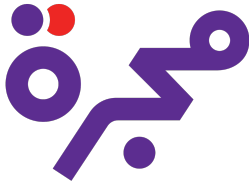
August 16, 2024

The ArabicNLP organizers gratefully acknowledge the support from the following sponsors.

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ISBN 979-8-89176-132-2

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.

Table of Contents

<i>Wikidata as a Source of Demographic Information</i> Samir Abdaljalil and Hamdy Mubarak	1
<i>Synthetic Arabic Medical Dialogues Using Advanced Multi-Agent LLM Techniques</i> Mariam ALMutairi, Lulwah AlKulaib, Melike Yildiz Aktas, Sara A. Alsalamah and Chang-Tien Lu	11
<i>AuRED: Enabling Arabic Rumor Verification using Evidence from Authorities over Twitter</i> Fatima Haouari, Tamer Elsayed and Reem Suwaileh	27
<i>Exploiting Dialect Identification in Automatic Dialectal Text Normalization</i> Bashar Alhafni, Sarah Al-Towaity, Ziyad Fawzy, Fatema Nassar, Fadhl Eryani, Houda Bouamor and Nizar Habash	42
<i>Strategies for Arabic Readability Modeling</i> Juan Pineros Liberato, Bashar Alhafni, Muhamed Osman Al Khalil and Nizar Habash	55
<i>AREEj: Arabic Relation Extraction with Evidence</i> Osama Rakan Al Mraikhat, Hadi Khaled Hamoud and Fadi Zaraket	67
<i>Improving Language Models Trained on Translated Data with Continual Pre-Training and Dictionary Learning Analysis</i> Sabri Boughorbel, Md Rizwan Parvez and Majd Hawasly	73
<i>A Context-Contrastive Inference Approach To Partial Diacritization</i> Muhammad Elnokrashy and Badr AlKhamissi	89
<i>AraCLIP: Cross-Lingual Learning for Effective Arabic Image Retrieval</i> Muhammad Al-Barham, Imad Afyouni, Khalid Almubarak, Ashraf Elnagar, Ayad Turkey and Ibrahim Abaker Hashem	102
<i>Large Language Models as Legal Translators of Arabic Legislatives: Does ChatGPT and Gemini Care for Context and Terminology?</i> Khadija Ait ElFqih and Johanna Monti	111
<i>Towards Zero-Shot Text-To-Speech for Arabic Dialects</i> Khai Duy Doan, Abdul Waheed and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	123
<i>Performance Analysis of Speech Encoders for Low-Resource SLU and ASR in Tunisian Dialect</i> Salima Mdhaffar, Haroun Elleuch, Fethi Bougares and Yannick Estève	130
<i>Arabic Automatic Story Generation with Large Language Models</i> Ahmed Oumar El-Shangiti, Fakhraddin Alwajih and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	140
<i>AlclM: Arabic Dialect Language Model</i> Murtadha Ahmed, Saghir Alfasly, Bo Wen, Jamal Addeen, Mohammed Abdelmajeed M. Ahmed and Yunfeng Liu	153
<i>Data Augmentation for Speech-Based Diacritic Restoration</i> Sara Shatnawi, Sawsan Alqahtani, Shady Shehata and Hanan Aldarmaki	160
<i>Out-of-Domain Dependency Parsing for Dialects of Arabic: A Case Study</i> Noor Abo Mokh, Daniel Dakota and Sandra Kübler	170

<i>Investigating Linguistic Features for Arabic NLI</i> Yasmeen Bassas and Sandra Kübler	183
<i>John vs. Ahmed: Debate-Induced Bias in Multilingual LLMs</i> Anastasiia Demidova, Hanin Atwany, Nour Rabih, Sanad Sha’ban and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	193
<i>Qalam: A Multimodal LLM for Arabic Optical Character and Handwriting Recognition</i> Gagan Bhatia, El Moatez Billah Nagoudi, Fakhraddin Alwajih and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	210
<i>ArabLegalEval: A Multitask Benchmark for Assessing Arabic Legal Knowledge in Large Language Models</i> Faris Hijazi, Somayah S Alharbi, Abdulaziz A. AlHussein, Harethah Abu Shairah, Reem Alzaharani, Hebah A. Alshamlan, George Turkiyyah and Omar Knio	225
<i>CATT: Character-based Arabic Tashkeel Transformer</i> Faris Alasmay, Orjuwan Zaafarani and Ahmad Ghannam	250
<i>Picking Up Where the Linguist Left Off: Mapping Morphology to Phonology through Learning the Residuals</i> Salam Khalifa, Abdelrahim Qaddoumi, Ellen Broselow and Owen Rambow	258
<i>On the Utility of Pretraining Language Models on Synthetic Data</i> Alcides Alcoba Inciarte, Sang Yun Kwon, El Moatez Billah Nagoudi and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	265
<i>Benchmarking LLaMA-3 on Arabic Language Generation Tasks</i> Md Tawkat Islam Khondaker, Numaan Naeem, Fatimah Lyba Khan, AbdelRahim A. Elmadany and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	283
<i>From Nile Sands to Digital Hands: Machine Translation of Coptic Texts</i> Muhammed Saeed, Asim Mohamed, Mukhtar Mohamed, Shady Shehata and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	298
<i>Event-Arguments Extraction Corpus and Modeling using BERT for Arabic</i> Alaa Aljabari, Lina Duaibes, Mustafa Jarrar and Mohammed Khalilia	309
<i>Dallah: A Dialect-Aware Multimodal Large Language Model for Arabic</i> Fakhraddin Alwajih, Gagan Bhatia and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	320
<i>QAES: First Publicly-Available Trait-Specific Annotations for Automated Scoring of Arabic Essays</i> May Bashendy, Salam Albatarni, Sohaila Eltanbouly, Eman Zahran, Hamdo Elhuseyin, Tamer Elsayed, Walid Massoud and Houda Bouamor	337
<i>Functional Text Dimensions for Arabic Text Classification</i> Zeyd Ferhat, Abir Betka, Riyadh Barka, Zineddine Sarhani Kahhouli, Selma Boutiba, Mohamed Lakhdar Tiar, Habiba Dahmani and Ahmed Abdelali	352
<i>ArabicNLU 2024: The First Arabic Natural Language Understanding Shared Task</i> Mohammed Khalilia, Sanad Malaysha, Reem Suwaileh, Mustafa Jarrar, Alaa Aljabari, Tamer Elsayed and Imed Zitouni	361
<i>Pirates at ArabicNLU2024: Enhancing Arabic Word Sense Disambiguation using Transformer-Based Approaches</i> Tasneem Wael, Eman Elrefai, Mohamed Makram, Sahar Selim and Ghada Khoriba	372

<i>Upaya at ArabicNLU Shared-Task: Arabic Lexical Disambiguation using Large Language Models</i> Pawan Kumar Rajpoot, Ashvini Kumar Jindal and Ankur Parikh	377
<i>rematchka at ArabicNLU2024: Evaluating Large Language Models for Arabic Word Sense and Location Sense Disambiguation</i> Reem Abdel-Salam	383
<i>AraFinNLP 2024: The First Arabic Financial NLP Shared Task</i> Sanad Malaysha, Mo El-Haj, Saad Ezzini, Mohammed Khalilia, Mustafa Jarrar, Sultan Almu- jaiwel, Ismail Berrada and Houda Bouamor	393
<i>SMASH at AraFinNLP2024: Benchmarking Arabic BERT Models on the Intent Detection</i> Youssef Al Hariri and Ibrahim Abu Farha	403
<i>Fired_from_NLP at AraFinNLP 2024: Dual-Phase-BERT - A Fine-Tuned Transformer-Based Model for Multi-Dialect Intent Detection in The Financial Domain for The Arabic Language</i> Md. Sajid Alam Chowdhury, Mostak Mahmud Chowdhury, Anik Mahmud Shanto, Hasan Murad and Uday Das	410
<i>AlexuNLP24 at AraFinNLP2024: Multi-Dialect Arabic Intent Detection with Contrastive Learning in Banking Domain</i> Hossam Elkordi, Ahmed Sakr, Marwan Torki and Nagwa El-Makky	415
<i>SemanticCuetSync at AraFinNLP2024: Classification of Cross-Dialect Intent in the Banking Domain using Transformers</i> Ashraf Islam Paran, Symom Hossain Shohan, Md. Sajjad Hossain, Jawad Hossain, Shawly Ahsan and Mohammed Moshil Hoque	422
<i>SENIT at AraFinNLP2024: trust your model or combine two</i> Abdelmomen Ben Nasr and Moez Ben HajHmida	428
<i>BabelBot at AraFinNLP2024: Fine-tuning T5 for Multi-dialect Intent Detection with Synthetic Data and Model Ensembling</i> Murhaf Fares and Samia Touileb	433
<i>MA at AraFinNLP2024: BERT-based Ensemble for Cross-dialectal Arabic Intent Detection</i> Asmaa Ramadan, Manar Amr, Marwan Torki and Nagwa El-Makky	441
<i>BFCI at AraFinNLP2024: Support Vector Machines for Arabic Financial Text Classification</i> Nsrin Ashraf, Hamada Nayel, Mohammed Aldawsari, Hosahalli Lakshmaiah Shashirekha and Tarek Elshishtawy	446
<i>dzFinNlp at AraFinNLP: Improving Intent Detection in Financial Conversational Agents</i> Mohamed Lichouri, Khaled Lounnas and Amziane Mohamed Zakaria	450
<i>AraIEval Shared Task: Propagandistic Techniques Detection in Unimodal and Multimodal Arabic Con- tent</i> Maram Hasanain, Md. Arid Hasan, Fatema Ahmad, Reem Suwaileh, Md. Rafiul Biswas, Wajdi Zaghoulani and Firoj Alam	456
<i>MemeMind at AraIEval Shared Task: Generative Augmentation and Feature Fusion for Multimodal Propaganda Detection in Arabic Memes through Advanced Language and Vision Models</i> Uzair Shah, Md. Rafiul Biswas, Marco Agus, Mowafa Househ and Wajdi Zaghoulani	467
<i>ASOS at AraIEval Shared Task: Integrating Text and Image Embeddings for Multimodal Propaganda Detection in Arabic Memes</i> Yasser Alhabashi, Abdullah I. Alharbi, Samar Ahmad, Serry Sibae, Omer Nacar, Lahouari Ghouthi and Anis Koubaa	473

<i>Mela at AraIEval Shared Task: Propagandistic Techniques Detection in Arabic with a Multilingual Approach</i>	
Md Abdur Razzaq Riyadh and Sara Nabhani	478
<i>MODOS at AraIEval Shared Task: Multimodal Propagandistic Memes Classification Using Weighted SAM, CLIP and ArabianGPT</i>	
Abdelhamid Haouhat, Hadda Cherroun, Slimane Bellaouar and Attia Nehar	483
<i>Nullpointer at AraIEval Shared Task: Arabic Propagandist Technique Detection with Token-to-Word Mapping in Sequence Tagging</i>	
Abrar Abir and Kemal Oflazer	489
<i>MemeMind at AraIEval Shared Task: Spotting Persuasive Spans in Arabic Text with Persuasion Techniques Identification</i>	
Md. Rafiul Biswas, Zubair Shah and Wajdi Zaghouni	494
<i>CLTL at AraIEval Shared Task: Multimodal Propagandistic Memes Classification Using Transformer Models</i>	
Yeshan Wang and Ilia Markov	501
<i>CUET_sstm at AraIEval Shared Task: Unimodal (Text) Propagandistic Technique Detection Using Transformer-Based Model</i>	
Montazul Arefin Labib, Samia Rahman, Hasan Murad and Udoy Das	507
<i>AlexUNLP-MZ at AraIEval Shared Task: Contrastive Learning, LLM Features Extraction and Multi-Objective Optimization for Arabic Multi-Modal Meme Propaganda Detection</i>	
Mohamed Zaytoon, Nagwa El-Makky and Marwan Torki	512
<i>SemanticCuetSync at AraIEval Shared Task: Detecting Propagandistic Spans with Persuasion Techniques Identification using Pre-trained Transformers</i>	
Symom Hossain Shohan, Md. Sajjad Hossain, Ashraful Islam Paran, Shawly Ahsan, Jawad Hossain and Mohammed Moshiul Hoque	518
<i>SussexAI at AraIEval Shared Task: Mitigating Class Imbalance in Arabic Propaganda Detection</i>	
Mary Fouad and Julie Weeds	524
<i>The FIGNEWS Shared Task on News Media Narratives</i>	
Wajdi Zaghouni, Mustafa Jarrar, Nizar Habash, Houda Bouamor, Imed Zitouni, Mona T. Diab, Samhaa R. El-Beltagy and Muhammed AbuOdeh	530
<i>Narrative Navigators at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: New Frontiers in Bias and Propaganda Annotation Techniques</i>	
Maryam AlEmadi, Jana ElMesselmani, Lyna Bermak, Goumana Saleh Abdullah, Esra'a Sharqawi, Anissa Jrad, Zied Zouabi and Wajdi Zaghouni	548
<i>DRAGON at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: a Dedicated RAG for October 7th conflict News</i>	
Sadegh Jafari, Mohsen Mahmoodzadeh, Vanooshe Nazari, Razieh Bahmanyar and Kathryn Burrows	555
<i>LexiconLadies at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Identifying Keywords for Bias Annotation Guidelines of Facebook News Headlines on the Israel-Palestine 2023 War</i>	
Yousra Alaa El-Ghawi, Abeer Ehab Marzouk and Aya Mohamed Khamis	561
<i>Uot1 at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Labeling News Bias</i>	
Abdusalam F A Nwesri, Mai M. Elbaabaa, Fatima A. Ben Lashihar and Fatma Ali Alalos . . .	567

<i>NLPColab at FigNews 2024 Shared Task: Challenges in Bias and Propaganda Annotation for News Media</i>	
Sadaf Abdul Rauf, Huda Sarfraz, Saadia Ishtiaq Nauman, Arooj Fatima, SadafZiafat SadafZiafat, Momina Ishfaq, Alishba Abdul Suboor, Hammad Afzal and Seemab Latif	573
<i>Bias Bluff Busters at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Developing Guidelines to Make Bias Conscious</i>	
Jasmin Heierli, Silvia Pareti, Serena Pareti and Tatiana Lando	580
<i>Ceasefire at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Automated Detection and Annotation of Media Bias Using Large Language Models</i>	
Noor Sadiyah, Sara Al-Emadi and Sumaya Abdul Rahman	590
<i>Sahara Pioneers at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Data Annotation Guidelines for Propaganda Detection in News Items</i>	
Marwa N. Solla, Hassan Ali Ebrahim, Alya Muftah Issa, Harmain Harmain and Abdusalam F A Nwesri	601
<i>BiasGanda at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: A Quest to Uncover Biased Views in News Coverage</i>	
Blqees Blqees, Al Manar Al Wardi, Malath Nasser Khalfan Al-Sibani, Hiba Salim Mohammed Al-Siyabi and Najma Al Zidjaly	609
<i>The CyberEquity Lab at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Annotating a Corpus of Facebook Posts to Label Bias and Propaganda in Gaza-Israel War Coverage in Five Languages</i>	
Mohammed H.s. Helal, Radi Jarrar, Mohammed Alkhanafseh, Abdallah Karakra and Ruba Awadallah	614
<i>BSC-LANGTECH at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Exploring Semi-Automatic Bias Annotation using Frame Analysis</i>	
Valle Ruiz-Fernández, José Javier Saiz and Aitor Gonzalez-Agirre	620
<i>GroningenAnnotatesGaza at the FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Analyzing Bias in Conflict Narratives</i>	
Khalid Al Khatib, Sara Gemelli, Saskia J. Heisterborg, Pritha Majumdar, Gosse Minnema, Arian-na Muti and Noa Visser Solissa	630
<i>Sina at FigNews 2024: Multilingual Datasets Annotated with Bias and Propaganda.</i>	
Lina Duaibes, Areej Jaber, Mustafa Jarrar, Ahmad Qadi and Mais Qandeel	640
<i>SQUad at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Unmasking Bias in Social Media Through Data Analysis and Annotation</i>	
Asmahan Al-Mamari, Fatma Al-Farsi and Najma Al Zidjaly	646
<i>JusticeLeague at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: Innovations in Bias Annotation</i>	
Amr Khaled Saleh, Huda Mohamed and Hager Sayed	651
<i>Eagles at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: A Context-informed Prescriptive Approach to Bias Detection in Contentious News Narratives</i>	
Amanda Chan, Mai A.Baddar and Sofien Baazaoui	656
<i>The Guidelines Specialists at FIGNEWS 2024 Shared Task: An annotation guideline to Unravel Bias in News Media Narratives Using a Linguistic Approach</i>	
Ghizlane Bourahouat and Samar M. Amer	672
<i>KSAA-CAD Shared Task: Contemporary Arabic Dictionary for Reverse Dictionary and Word Sense Disambiguation</i>	
Waad Thuwaini Alshammari, Amal Almazrua, Asma Al Wazrah, Rawan Nasser Almatham, Muneera Alhoshan and Abdulrahman M Alosaimy	677

<i>Cher at KSAA-CAD 2024: Compressing Words and Definitions into the Same Space for Arabic Reverse Dictionary</i>	
Pinzhen Chen, Zheng Zhao and Shun Shao	686
<i>MISSION at KSAA-CAD 2024: AraT5 with Arabic Reverse Dictionary</i>	
Thamer Maseer Alharbi	692
<i>ASOS at KSAA-CAD 2024: One Embedding is All You Need for Your Dictionary</i>	
Serry Sibae, Abdullah I. Alharbi, Samar Ahmad, Omer Nacar, Anis Koubaa and Lahouari Ghouti	697
<i>Baleegh at KSAA-CAD 2024: Towards Enhancing Arabic Reverse Dictionaries</i>	
Mais Alheraki and Souham Meshoul	704
<i>NADI 2024: The Fifth Nuanced Arabic Dialect Identification Shared Task</i>	
Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Amr Keleg, AbdelRahim A. Elmadany, Chiyu Zhang, Injy Hamed, Walid Magdy, Houda Bouamor and Nizar Habash	709
<i>Arabic Train at NADI 2024 shared task: LLMs' Ability to Translate Arabic Dialects into Modern Standard Arabic</i>	
Anastasiia Demidova, Hanin Atwany, Nour Rabih and Sanad Sha'ban	729
<i>AlexUNLP-STM at NADI 2024 shared task: Quantifying the Arabic Dialect Spectrum with Contrastive Learning, Weighted Sampling, and BERT-based Regression Ensemble</i>	
Abdelrahman Sakr, Marwan Torki and Nagwa El-Makky	735
<i>NLP_DI at NADI 2024 shared task: Multi-label Arabic Dialect Classifications with an Unsupervised Cross-Encoder</i>	
Vani Kanjirangat, Tanja Samardzic, Ljiljana Dolamic and Fabio Rinaldi	742
<i>ASOS at NADI 2024 shared task: Bridging Dialectness Estimation and MSA Machine Translation for Arabic Language Enhancement</i>	
Omer Nacar, Serry Sibae, Abdullah I. Alharbi, Lahouari Ghouti and Anis Koubaa	748
<i>dzNLP at NADI 2024 Shared Task: Multi-Classifer Ensemble with Weighted Voting and TF-IDF Features</i>	
Mohamed Lichouri, Khaled Lounnas, Zahaf Boualem Nadjib and Rabiai Mehdi Ayoub	754
<i>ELYADATA at NADI 2024 shared task: Arabic Dialect Identification with Similarity-Induced Mono-to-Multi Label Transformation.</i>	
Amira Karoui, Farah Gharbi, Rami Kammoun, Imen Laouirine and Fethi Bougares	758
<i>Alson at NADI 2024 shared task: Alson - A fine-tuned model for Arabic Dialect Translation</i>	
Manan AlMusallam and Samar Ahmad	764
<i>CUFE at NADI 2024 shared task: Fine-Tuning Llama-3 To Translate From Arabic Dialects To Modern Standard Arabic</i>	
Michael Ibrahim	769
<i>StanceEval2024 : The First Arabic Stance Detection Shared Task</i>	
Nora Alturayef, Hamzah Luqman, Zaid Alyafeai and Asma Z. Yamani	774
<i>Team_Zero at StanceEval2024: Frozen PLMs for Arabic Stance Detection</i>	
Omar Galal and Abdelrahman Kaseb	783
<i>ANLP RG at StanceEval2024: Comparative Evaluation of Stance, Sentiment and Sarcasm Detection</i>	
Mezghani Amal, Rahma Boujelbane and Mariem Ellouze	788

<i>dzStance at StanceEval2024: Arabic Stance Detection based on Sentence Transformers</i> Mohamed Lichouri, Khaled Lounnas, Ouaras Khelil Rafik, Mohamed ABi and Anis Guechtouli	794
<i>SMASH at StanceEval 2024: Prompt Engineering LLMs for Arabic Stance Detection</i> Youssef Al Hariri and Ibrahim Abu Farha	800
<i>CUFE at StanceEval2024: Arabic Stance Detection with Fine-Tuned Llama-3 Model</i> Michael Ibrahim	807
<i>StanceCrafters at StanceEval2024: Multi-task Stance Detection using BERT Ensemble with Attention Based Aggregation</i> Ahmed Abul Hasanaath and Aisha Alansari	811
<i>MGKM at StanceEval2024 Fine-Tuning Large Language Models for Arabic Stance Detection</i> Mamoun Alghaslan and Khaled Almutairy	816
<i>AlexUNLP-BH at StanceEval2024: Multiple Contrastive Losses Ensemble Strategy with Multi-Task Learning For Stance Detection in Arabic</i> Mohamed Badran, Mo'men Hamdy, Marwan Torki and Nagwa El-Makky	823
<i>Rasid at StanceEval: Fine-tuning MARBERT for Arabic Stance Detection</i> Nouf AlShenaifi, Nourah Alangari and Hadeel Al-Negheimish	828
<i>ISHFMG_TUN at StanceEval: Ensemble Method for Arabic Stance Evaluation System</i> Mustapha Jaballah	832
<i>PICT at StanceEval2024: Stance Detection in Arabic using Ensemble of Large Language Models</i> Ishaan Shukla, Ankit Vaidya and Geetanjali Vinayak Kale	837
<i>TAO at StanceEval2024 Shared Task: Arabic Stance Detection using AraBERT</i> Anas Melhem, Osama Hamed and Thaer Sammar	842
<i>WojoodNER 2024: The Second Arabic Named Entity Recognition Shared Task</i> Mustafa Jarrar, Nagham Hamad, Mohammed Khalilia, Bashar Talafha, AbdelRahim A. Elmadany and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed	847
<i>muNERa at WojoodNER 2024: Multi-tasking NER Approach</i> Nouf M. Alotaibi, Haneen Alhomoud, Hanan Saeed Murayshid, Waad Thuwaini Alshammari, Nouf Alshalawi and Sakhar Alkhereyf	858
<i>Addax at WojoodNER 2024: Attention-Based Dual-Channel Neural Network for Arabic Named Entity Recognition</i> Issam Ait Yahia, Houdaifa Atou and Ismail Berrada	867
<i>DRU at WojoodNER 2024: A Multi-level Method Approach</i> Hadi Khaled Hamoud, Chadi Abou Chakra, Nancy Hamdan, Osama Rakan Al Mraikhat, Doha Albared and Fadi Zaraket	874
<i>Bangor University at WojoodNER 2024: Advancing Arabic Named Entity Recognition with CAMELBERT-Mix</i> Norah Alshammari	880
<i>DRU at WojoodNER 2024: ICL LLM for Arabic NER</i> Nancy Hamdan, Hadi Khaled Hamoud, Chadi Abou Chakra, Osama Rakan Al Mraikhat, Doha Albared and Fadi Zaraket	885
<i>mucAI at WojoodNER 2024: Arabic Named Entity Recognition with Nearest Neighbor Search</i> Ahmed Abdou and Tasneem Mohsen Mahmoud	894

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 Pineres 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 Turkey 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*