QA4MRE

Question Answering for Machine Reading Evaluation

http://celct.fbk.eu/QA4MRE/

held in conjunction with CLEF 2011,
September 19-22, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Call for Participation

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Teams are solicited for QA4MRE at CLEF 2011, an evaluation campaign of Machine Reading systems through Question Answering and Reading Comprehension Tests. Systems should be able to extract knowledge from given texts and use this knowledge to answer questions. The task focuses on the reading of single documents, where correct answers require some inference and the consideration of previously acquired background knowledge. For more information visit http://celct.fbk.eu/QA4MRE/.

The results of the evaluation campaign will be disseminated at the final workshop which will be organized in conjunction with the CLEF 2011 conference, 19–22 September in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Test data

Participating systems will be given three topics as input. Associated with each topic, the organization will provide a reference corpus consisting of about 30,000 un-annotated documents related to the topic. These documents should be used by the systems to acquire the reading capabilities and the background knowledge needed to answer a test on the topic.

The test for each topic will consist of one single document and a set of multiple choice questions having five options each. The participating systems will be required to answer the questions by choosing in each case one answer from the five alternatives.

Languages

Document collections and reading tests will be available in English, Spanish, German, Italian, and Romanian.
- The document collections created in the different languages will be available to all participants. Thus, the learning of knowledge could be in one language or several.
- The tests will be exactly the same in all languages, using parallel translations.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be performed automatically by comparing the answers given by systems to the ones given by humans. No manual assessment will be required.

Each test will receive an evaluation score between 0 and 1 using c@1. This measure, already tried in previous CLEF QA Tracks, encourages systems to reduce the number of incorrect answers and maintain the number of correct ones by leaving some questions unanswered.

Moreover, beside the Main task, one pilot tasks is offered this year at QA4MRE 2011:

Processing Modality and Negation for Machine Reading
In this task we aim at evaluating whether systems understand extra-propositional aspects of meaning like modality and negation. Modality is a grammatical category that allows to express aspects related to the attitude of the speaker towards her statements. Modality understood in a broader sense is also related to the expression of certainty, factuality, and evidentiality. Negation is a grammatical category that allows to change the truth value of a proposition. Modality and negation interact to express extra-propositional aspects of meaning.
More info at: http://www.cnts.ua.ac.be/BiographTA/qa4mre.html

Tentative Schedule
-    Test set release: June 6;
-    Run submissions: June 17;
-    Results to the participants: July 1;
-    Submission of Notebook Papers: August 14.

General Coordination
  - Anselmo Peñas, UNED NLP & IR Group, Spain
  - Eduard Hovy, Information Sciences Institute, USA

Technical Coordination
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Programme Committee
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- Johan Bos, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands
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- John Prager, IBM, USA
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- Dan Tufis, Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Romanian Academy