

Touché @ CLEF 2023

Shared Tasks on Argument and Causal Retrieval

[touche.webis.de]



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Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval



Goals

- Platform for argument and causal retrieval and analysis research.
- Argument relevance / quality / stance corpora and rankings.
- Tools for submission and evaluation [\[tira.io\]](https://tira.io).
- Collaborative events, e.g., workshops [\[touche.webis.de\]](https://touche.webis.de).

A screenshot of the Touché website homepage. The header features the Touché logo (a stylized figure) and the word "TOUCHÉ". The main navigation menu includes "SHARED TASKS", "EVENTS", "DATA", "PUBLICATIONS", and "ORGANIZATION". Below the menu, a large image of two fencers in action serves as the background for a central text area. The text reads: "Touché is a series of scientific events and shared tasks on computational argumentation and causality". A "LEARN MORE" button is located below this text. The page is divided into three main sections: "Touché at CLEF 2023", "Touché at SemEval 2023", and "Touché at CLEF 2022". Each section contains links to "Overview", "Argument Retrieval for Controversial Questions", "Evidence Retrieval for Causal Questions", "Image Retrieval for Arguments", and "Multilingual Stance Classification". At the bottom of each section is a "REGISTER NOW" button. The "CLEF 2022" section also includes a "PROCEEDINGS" button.

Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval

4th edition in 2023



Task 1: Argument Retrieval for Controversial Questions

args | hate speech should be banned |

All Discussions News People Pro vs. con view ▾ 913 arguments retrieved in 50.0 ms

PRO

Certain laws, Like emergency laws, Are often crafted to...
▶ Show full argument
Certain laws, Like emergency laws, Are often crafted to give an unreasonable amount of power to certain individuals without much checks, Because even the creators of the law cannot imagine all possible forms of emergency, And ...
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-speech-should-be-banned/1/> score ▾

Hate speech is, No doubt, A very sensitive issue....
▶ Show full argument
Hate speech is, No doubt, A very sensitive issue, Especially in a culturally, Linguistically and socially so diverse country like mine (India). ... If not, Then you are censoring hate speech at some level.
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-speech-should-be-banned/1/> score ▾

However, As the pro side rightly said, Each case is...
▶ Show full argument
However, As the pro side rightly said, Each case is different, And hence a bit of ambiguity in the law allows the judge latitude to decide how much provocation, Bullying, Incitement, And so on is too much, And then decide ...
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-speech-should-be-banned/1/> score ▾

CON

Hate speech shouldn't be banned as it would infringe on...
▶ Show full argument
Hate speech shouldn't be banned as it would infringe on free speech and could be easily used to silence people that oppose those that define what hate speech is.
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-speech-should-be-banned/1/> score ▾

Because that would simply be impossible for a TV channel...
▶ Show full argument
Because that would simply be impossible for a TV channel like that to exist in a normal country. ... I mean, If it would be so simple why won't the judge just say "he's guilty" or "he's not guilty.
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-speech-should-be-banned/1/> score ▾

If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First...
▶ Show full argument
If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable. ... A hate crime is a ...
<https://www.debate.org/debates/Hate-Speech-Should-Not-Be-Protected-Under-Freedom-of-Speech/1/> score ▾

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Task 1: Argument Retrieval for Controversial Questions

- Scenario: Users search for arguments on controversial topics.

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Title *Should teachers get tenure?*

Description *A user has heard that some countries do give teachers tenure and others don't. Interested in the reasoning for or against tenure, the user searches for positive and negative arguments. [...]*

Narrative *Highly relevant documents clearly focus on tenure for teachers in schools or universities. Relevant documents consider tenure more generally, not specifically for teachers, or [...]*

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- Evaluation: Relevance, argument rhetorical quality, and stance detection.

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Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval

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Task 2: Evidence Retrieval for Causal Questions

A screenshot of a search engine interface. The search bar contains the query "does hair loss cause sun radiation?". Below the search bar are navigation links: ALL (underlined), CHAT, SHOPPING, IMAGES, VIDEOS, MAPS, and MORE. A status message indicates "About 1.250.000 results". To the right of the search results, there is a graphic featuring a yellow emoji of a person's head, a large black arrow pointing right containing a question mark and exclamation point, and a smiling yellow sun emoji.

does hair loss cause sun radiation?

ALL CHAT SHOPPING IMAGES VIDEOS MAPS MORE

About 1.250.000 results Date ▾

Yes

According to 3 sources

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Title	<i>Can eating broccoli lead to constipation?</i>
Cause	<i>Broccoli</i>
Effect	<i>Constipation</i>
Description	<i>A young parent has a child experiencing constipation after eating some broccoli for dinner and is wondering whether broccoli could cause constipation [...]</i>
Narrative	<i>Relevant documents will discuss if broccoli and other high fiber foods can cause or ease constipation [...]</i>

Task 2: Evidence Retrieval for Causal Questions

- Scenario: Support users that search for answers to causal questions.
- Task: Retrieve and rank causality-related relevant documents and detect if the document supports or refutes the causal statement.

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- Evaluation: Relevance, evidence quality (circumstantial or general), (causal) stance detection (supporting or refuting).

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Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval

4th edition in 2023



Task 3: Image Retrieval for Arguments

The screenshot shows a search interface with the args logo and a search bar containing the query "hate speech should be banned". Below the search bar, there are two main sections: "PRO" and "CON".

PRO: A bar chart titled "U.S. Hate Crime At New Decade High" showing the total number of hate crime incidents recorded by the FBI from 2007 to 2020. The chart shows a general upward trend, with a significant peak in 2020. The data is as follows:

Year	Incidents
07	~7,500
08	~7,800
09	~7,000
10	~6,800
11	~6,500
12	~6,000
13	~5,800
14	~5,500
15	~5,800
16	~6,000
17	~7,000
18	~7,000
19	~7,500
20	7,759

CON: An illustration of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop, looking distressed. A thought bubble above them contains various negative words and emojis: LOSER, IDIOT, STUPID, BOLTY, LAME, LOL, etc. To the right, a large green circle contains the text "82%" and the subtitle "Say It's Hard to Ban Hate Speech Because People Can't Agree On What Speech is Hateful". Below this, there is a cartoon illustration of a potato wearing sunglasses and a top hat, holding a martini glass, with the text "Haters gonna hate" and "Potatoes ~ gonna ~ POTATE".

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Task 3: Image Retrieval for Arguments

- Scenario: Users search for images to corroborate their argumentation.

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Title	<i>Should all museums be free of charge?</i>
Description	<i>A user believes that education is the key to success and should be open to everyone. Therefore, they often suggest that museums should be free of charge. However, they wonder whether this suggestion might not also have disadvantages.</i>
Narrative	<i>On-topic images address, for example, the value of museums or the cost aspect of going to a museum. Pro images might be shared on social media with this text (no irony, no link): All museums should be free of charge.</i>

Task 3: Image Retrieval for Arguments

- Scenario: Users search for images to corroborate their argumentation.
- Task: Retrieve images (from web pages) for each stance (pro/con) that show support for that stance.

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- Corpus: > 50 000 web images with respective web documents and XPath of image, OCR'ed image text, detected image objects.

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- Evaluation: Topical relevance, argumentativeness, stance relevance.

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Task 4: Multilingual Stance Classification



Conference
on the Future
of Europe

[Log in](#) [English ▾](#)

Make nuclear power the focus of the green transformation



21/04/2021 18:31

21/04/2021 18:38 79 comments

The only way we can power the future of EU sustainably is to displace fossil fuels (including controversial natural gas) with more ecological alternatives. The science (which recent JRC report affirmed) is in agreement that the only viable answer is nuclear power. It's safe, it's been around for decades and it's the only technology that can provide enough power for a fighting chance against climate change.



10/05/2021 10:25

⋮

Against

Der radioaktive Müll wird zehntausende Jahre giftig und gefährlich sein. Das dürfen wir unseren Nachkommen nicht zumuten.



20/05/2021 22:27

⋮

In favor

For densely populated and industrialized Europe (if without mountains) there is hardly any other option than nuclear.
There is still plenty of gas, but that is ultimately also limited.
Invest research in handling the waste material.

Task 4: Multilingual Stance Classification

- Scenario: Users want to form an opinion on an important societal topic.

Title	Topic	Proposal	Comment	Stance
Focus on Anti-Aging and Longevity research	Health	The EU has presented their green paper on aging, and correctly named the aging ...	The idea of prevention being better than a cure is nothing new or revolutionary. Rejuvenation ...	Pro
Impose an IQ or arithmetic-logic test to immigrants	Migration	We should impose an IQ test or at least several cognitive tests making sure immigrants have ...	On ne peut pas trier les migrants par un simple score sur les capacités cognitives. Certains fuient la guerre et vous ...	Against

Task 4: Multilingual Stance Classification

- Scenario: Users want to form an opinion on an important societal topic.
- Task: Detect the stance of a comment towards a proposal.

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Task 4: Multilingual Stance Classification

- Scenario: Users want to form an opinion on an important societal topic.
- Task: Detect the stance of a comment towards a proposal.
- Corpus: 4 200 proposals and 20 000 comments focused on various topics from Online Participatory Democracy Platform.

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Task 4: Multilingual Stance Classification

- Scenario: Users want to form an opinion on an important societal topic.
- Task: Detect the stance of a comment towards a proposal.
- Corpus: 4 200 proposals and 20 000 comments focused on various topics from Online Participatory Democracy Platform.
- Evaluation: Stance detection: 3 classes, multilingual texts.

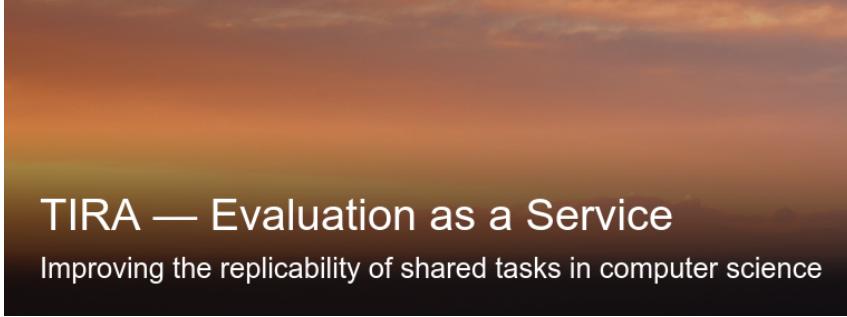
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TIRA: Submission and evaluation



<http://tira.io>

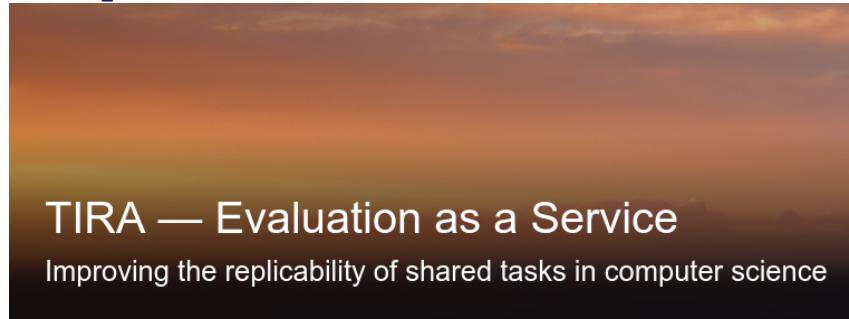


Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval

TIRA: Submission and evaluation



<http://tira.io>



Procedure:

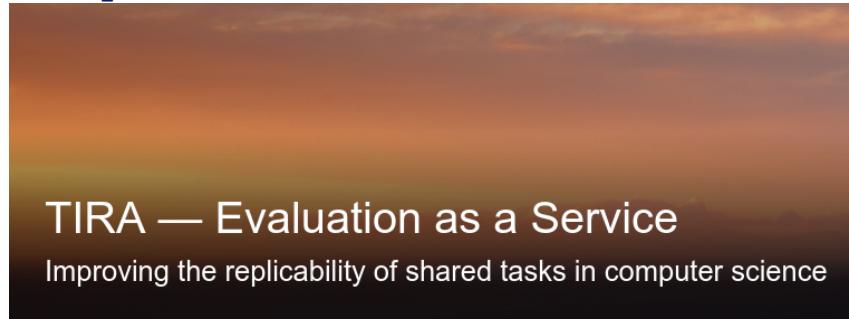
1. Implement approach in Docker image.
2. Upload image to dedicated image registry in TIRA.
3. Approach is executed in a Kubernetes cluster.

Touché: Argument and Causal Retrieval

TIRA: Submission and evaluation



<http://tira.io>



Procedure:

1. Implement approach in Docker image.
2. Upload image to dedicated image registry in TIRA.
3. Approach is executed in a Kubernetes cluster.

Enables reproducibility / replicability experiments afterwards:

```
import tira
df = tira.load_data('<dataset-name>')
predictions, evaluation = tira.run(
    '<task-name>/<user-name>/<software-name>',
    data=df, evaluate='<evaluator-name>'
)
```



Touché > Events > Touché at CLEF 2023

Touché at CLEF 2023

- ▽ [Synopsis/Call](#)
- ▽ [Shared Tasks](#)
- ▽ [Important Dates](#)
- ▽ [Organizing Committee](#)

Synopsis/Call

Making informed decisions and forming opinions on a matter often involves not only weighing pro and con arguments towards different options, but also considering cause-effect relationships for one's actions. Our goal is to foster and support the development of technologies for argument and causal retrieval and analysis. We invite you to participate in the 4th Touché lab on **argument and causal retrieval** at [CLEF 2023](#) featuring four tasks. Read about Touché tasks [[Touché papers](#)].

Shared Tasks

- [Argument Retrieval for Controversial Questions](#)
- [Evidence Retrieval for Causal Questions](#)
- [Image Retrieval for Arguments](#)
- [Intra-Multilingual Multi-Target Stance Classification](#)

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Touché > Events > Touché at CLEF 2023

Touché at CLEF 2023

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[REGISTER NOW](#)

thank you!

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