6th Workshop on Computational Approaches to
Subjectivity, Sentiment and Social Media Analysis
(WASSA 2015)
http://optima.jrc.it/wassa2015/

Held in conjunction with EMNLP 2015
Endorsed by SIGANN, SIGNLL, SIGSEM and SIGWAC

BACKGROUND

Research in automatic Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis (SSA), as subtasks of Affective Computing and Natural Language Processing (NLP), has flourished in the past years. The growth in interest in these tasks was motivated by the birth and rapid expansion of the Social Web that made it possible for people all over the world to share, comment or consult content on any given topic. In this context, opinions, sentiments and emotions expressed in Social Media texts have been shown to have a high influence on the social and economic behaviour worldwide. SSA systems are highly relevant to many real-world applications (e.g. marketing, eGovernance, business intelligent, social analysis) and also many tasks in Natural Language Processing (NLP) – information extraction, question answering, textual entailment, to name just a few.

The importance of this field has been proven by the high number of approaches proposed in research in the past decade, as well as by the interest that it raised from other disciplines (Economics, Sociology, Psychology) and the applications that were created using its technology.

In spite of the growing body of research in the area in the past years, dealing with affective phenomena in text has proven to be a complex, interdisciplinary problem that remains far from being solved. Its challenges include the need to address the issue from different perspectives and at different levels, depending on the characteristics of the textual genre, the language(s) treated and the final application for which the analysis is done.

ENVISAGED SCOPE OF WASSA 2015

The aim of the 6th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment and Social Media Analysis (WASSA 2015) is to continue the line of the previous editions, bringing together researchers in Computational Linguistics working on Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis and researchers working on interdisciplinary aspects of affect computation from text. Additionally, starting with WASSA 2013, we extended the focus to Social Media phenomena and the impact of affect-related phenomena in this context. In this new proposed edition, we would like to encourage the submission of long and short research and demo papers including, but not restricted to the following topics related to subjectivity and sentiment analysis:

- Resources for subjectivity, sentiment and social media analysis; (semi-)automatic corpora generation and annotation
- Opinion retrieval, extraction, categorization, aggregation and summarization
- *Trend detection in social media using subjectivity and sentiment analysis techniques*
- Data linking through social networks based on affect-related NLP methods
- Impact of affective data from social media
- *Mass opinion estimation based on NLP and statistical models*
- Online reputation management
- Topic and sentiment studies and applications of topic-sentiment analysis

- Domain, topic and genre dependency of sentiment analysis
- Ambiguity issues and word sense disambiguation of subjective language
- Pragmatic analysis of the opinion mining task
- Use of Semantic Web technologies for subjectivity and sentiment analysis
- Improvement of NLP tasks using subjectivity and/or sentiment analysis
- Intrinsic and extrinsic evaluations subjectivity and sentiment analysis
- Subjectivity, sentiment and emotion detection in social networks
- Classification of stance in dialogues
- *Applications of sentiment and social media analysis systems*

In addition, in the light of the fact that different sentiment analysis systems have been proposed and showcased in the past years, we feel there is a growing need to make users familiar with these systems and have them employed for building an end application. To this aim, we would like to organize a "Hackathon" (please see details below).

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS SYSTEMS HACKATHON

In the light of the fact that different sentiment analysis systems have been proposed and showcased in the past years, we feel there is a growing need to make other researchers and users familiar with these systems and have them employ them for building an end application.

The Hackathon word stands for "Hacking Marathon", and its purpose is to introduce some technology or software toolkit to the attendees, and let then "play" and develop ideas around it.

We envisage providing the systems with technology to access the Europe Media Monitor news clusters [1], which are updated every 10 minutes and access to Twitter and Facebook data through applications that employ the Twitter and Facebook APIs.

Several groups and projects have already agreed to a possible participation (in case the workshop is accepted as such) to a hackathon. One of them is the sentiment analysis system developed within the OpeNER project: http://www.opener-project.org/2013/07/18/opener-hackathon-in-amsterdam/ . Other participants that have agreed to take part in the hackathon are the creators of high ranking systems in the recent sentiment analysis competitions (SemEval 2013 Task 2 and TASS 2013). ***However, the activity will be open to all the people who will sign up for the workshop.***

We plan to organize a one day session, in the first half presenting the participating systems and their use and creating teams for "application" development and leaving the second half of the day for working on the systems and presenting the results. We plan to give the participants the possibility to vote on the best application created and reward the winner with a gadget.

ORGANIZERS

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[1] http://emm.newsbrief.eu/NewsBrief/clusteredition/en/latest.html

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE (PARTICIPATION CONFIRMED)

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- Theresa Wilson – John Hopkins University, U.S.A.
- Taras Zagibalov - Brantwatch, U.K.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Paper submission deadline: 28 June 2015
- Notification of acceptance: 21 July 2015
- Camera-ready deadline: 11 August 2015
- Workshop to take place at EMNLP 2015: 17 September 2015

SUBMISSIONS

We encourage the submission of long, short and demo papers (especially describing systems participating in the hackathon)

Long papers for WASSA 2015 must not exceed eight (8) pages without references. Short papers must not exceed five (5) pages without references. Papers for WASSA should be submitted using the ACL 2015 Style Files, available at: http://acl2015.org/call_for_papers.html

Reviewing for WASSA 2015 will be double blind: reviewers will not be presented with the identity of paper authors. Authors should avoid writing anything that makes their identity obvious in the text.

Submissions should be original, and in particular should not previously have been formally published.

Accepted papers will be published in the EMNLP WASSA proceedings. The best papers will be chosen for a special issue of an ISI- indexed journal. Previous special issues of WASSA were/are in the process of being published in the Decision Support Systems, Computer Speech and Language and Information Processing and Management journals (Elsevier).

To submit a paper, please access: https://www.softconf.com/emnlp2015/WASSA15