CoNLL 2023

The 27th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning

Proceedings of the Conference

December 6 - 7, 2023

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Introduction

CoNLL is a conference organized yearly by SIGNLL (ACL's Special Interest Group on Natural Language Learning), focusing on theoretically, cognitively and scientifically motivated approaches to computational linguistics. This year, CoNLL was held alongside EMNLP 2023.

The program of CoNLL 2023 comprises 40 papers. This was the result of a careful selection process. Reviewing 143 received submissions resulted in a 28% acceptance rate.

Reviewing was organized into 10 tracks, each of them headed by one or two area chairs:

- Computational Psycholinguistics, Cognition and Linguistics (Mary Kelly)
- Computational Social Science (Jana Diesner, Wei Gao)
- Interaction and Grounded Language Learning (Hao Tan)
- Lexical, Compositional and Discourse Semantics (Shane Steinert-Threlkeld)
- Multilingual Work and Translation (Maja Popović)
- Natural Language Generation (Fei Liu)
- Resources and Tools for Scientifically Motivated Research (Sebastian Gehrmann)
- Speech and Phonology (Kyle Gorman)
- Syntax and Morphology (Ryan Cotterell)
- Theoretical Analysis and Interpretation of ML Models for NLP (Dieuwke Hupkes, Kevin Small)

We thank our reviewers and area chairs for curating the program. The conference also invited Mohit Bansal and Preslav Nakov to present keynotes, and included a session of 18 additional papers on the BabyLM Challenge, a shared task that challenges community members to train a language model from scratch on the same amount of linguistic data available to a child.

We would like to acknowledge support from our sponsor, Google.

Jing Jiang (Singapore Management University)
David Reitter (Google DeepMind)
CoNLL 2023 conference co-chairs

Organizing Committee

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Computational Social Science: Wei Gao, Jana Diesner

Interaction and Grounded Language Learning: Hao Tan

Lexical, Compositional and Discourse Semantics: Shane Steinert-Threlkeld

Multilingual Work and Translation: Maja Popović

Natural Language Generation: Fei Liu

Resources and Tools for Scientifically Motivated Research: Sebastian Gehrmann

Speech and Phonology: Kyle Gorman

Syntax and Morphology: Ryan Cotterell

Theoretical Analysis and Interpretation of ML Models for NLP: Dieuwke Hupkes, Kevin Small

Invited Speakers

Preslav Nakov, Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, UAE

Mohit Bansal, University of North Carolina, USA

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9:00–9:10 ***Opening***

9:10–10:30 *Keynote 1*
Preslav Nakov

10:30–11:00 ***Coffee Break***

11:00–12:30 **Oral Session 1**

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Yuhan Zhang, Edward Gibson and Forrest Davis

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Christian Bentz

On the Effects of Structural Modeling for Neural Semantic Parsing
Xiang Zhang, Shizhu He, Kang Liu and Jun Zhao

12:30–13:45 ***Lunch***

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13:45–15:15 Poster Session 1

Humans and language models diverge when predicting repeating text
Aditya Vaidya, Javier Turek and Alexander Huth

Investigating the Nature of Disagreements on Mid-Scale Ratings: A Case Study on the Abstractness-Concreteness Continuum
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Aron Molnar, Jaap Jumelet, Mario Giulianelli and Arabella Sinclair

[BabyLM Challenge] Baby Llama: knowledge distillation from an ensemble of teachers trained on a small dataset with no performance penalty
Inar Timiryasov, Jean-Loup Tastet

[BabyLM Challenge] BabyLM Challenge: Curriculum learning based on sentence complexity approximating language acquisition
Miyu Oba, Akari Haga, Akiyo Fukatsu, Yohei Oseki

[BabyLM Challenge] Can training neural language models on a curriculum with developmentally plausible data improve alignment with human reading behavior?
Aryaman Chobey, Oliver Smith, Anzi Wang, Grusha Prasad

[BabyLM Challenge] CogMemLM: Human-Like Memory Mechanisms Improve Performance and Cognitive Plausibility of LLMs
Lukas Thoma, Ivonne Weyers, Erion Çano, Stefan Schweter, Jutta L Mueller, Benjamin Roth

[BabyLM Challenge] McGill BabyLM Shared Task Submission: The Effects of Data Formatting and Structural Biases
Ziling Cheng, Rahul Aralikatte, Ian Porada, Cesare Spinoso-Di Piano, Jackie CK Cheung

[BabyLM Challenge] On the effect of curriculum learning with developmental data for grammar acquisition
Mattia Opper, J Morrison, Siddharth N

[BabyLM Challenge] ToddlerBERTa: Exploiting BabyBERTa for Grammar Learning and Language Understanding
Ömer Veysel Çağatan

15:15–15:30 ***Coffee Break***

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The Validity of Evaluation Results: Assessing Concurrence Across Compositionality Benchmarks
Kaiser Sun, Adina Williams and Dieuwke Hupkes

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Thursday, December 7, 2023

9:10–10:30 *Keynote 2*
Mohit Bansal

10:30–11:00 ***Coffee Break***

11:00–12:30 Oral Session 3

ChiSCor: A Corpus of Freely-Told Fantasy Stories by Dutch Children for Computational Linguistics and Cognitive Science
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12:30–13:45 ***Lunch***

13:45–15:15 **Poster Session 2**

How Fragile is Relation Extraction under Entity Replacements?
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[BabyLM Challenge] A surprisal oracle for active curriculum language modeling
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[BabyLM Challenge] Baby's CoThought: Leveraging Large Language Models for Enhanced Reasoning in Compact Models
Zheyu Zhang, Han Yang, Bolei Ma, David Rügamer, Ercong Nie

[BabyLM Challenge] Byte-ranked Curriculum Learning for BabyLM Strict-small Shared Task 2023
Justin DeBenedetto

[BabyLM Challenge] ChapGTP, ILLC's Attempt at Raising a BabyLM: Improving Data Efficiency by Automatic Task Formation
Jaap Jumelet, Michael Hanna, Marianne De Heer Kloots, Anna Langedijk, Charlotte Pouw, Oskar van der Wal

[BabyLM Challenge] GPT-wee: How Small Can a Small Language Model Really Get?
Bastian Bunzeck, Sina Zarrieß

[BabyLM Challenge] Mean BERTs make erratic language teachers: the effectiveness of latent bootstrapping in low-resource settings
David Samuel

[BabyLM Challenge] Tiny Language Models Enriched with Multimodal Knowledge from Multiplex Networks
Clayton Fields, Osama Natouf, Andrew McMains, Catherine Henry, Casey Kennington

15:15–15:30 ***Coffee Break***

Thursday, December 7, 2023 (continued)

15:30–17:20 BabyLM Challenge (Oral Session)

15:30–15:50 *Welcome and Findings Overview*
Alex Warstadt, Leshem Chosen, Ethan Wilcox, Aaron Mueller

15:50–16:10 *Strict / Strict-Small Track Winner: Not all layers are equally as important: Every Layer Counts BERT*
Lucas Georges Gabriel Charpentier, David Samuel

16:10–16:30 *Loose Track Winner: Towards more Human-like Language Models based on Contextualizer Pretraining Strategy*
Chenghao Xiao, G Thomas Hudson, Noura Al Moubayed

16:30–16:50 *Outstanding Paper Award 1: Large GPT-like Models are Bad Babies: A Closer Look at the Relationship between Linguistic Competence and Psycholinguistic Measures*
Julius Steuer, Marius Mosbach, Dietrich Klakow

16:50–17:10 *Outstanding Paper Award 2: CLIMB – Curriculum Learning for Infant-inspired Model Building*
Richard Diehl Martinez, Hope McGovern, Zebulon Goriely, Christopher Davis, Andrew Caines, Paula Buttery, Lisa Beinborn

17:10–17:20 *Closing Remarks*
Alex Warstadt, Leshem Chosen, Ethan Wilcox, Aaron Mueller

17:20–17:35 Best Paper Awards and Closing