

CustomNLP4U 2024

**The 1st Workshop on Customizable NLP: Progress and
Challenges in Customizing NLP for a Domain, Application,
Group, or Individual (CustomNLP4U)**

Proceedings of the Workshop

November 16, 2024

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Introduction

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Workshop on Customizable NLP (CustomNLP4U) at EMNLP 2024, held at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel on November 16, 2024. This workshop will explore the latest advancements and challenges in creating NLP models that can be customized for varied users, settings, and ethical considerations. CustomNLP4U aims to foster discussion and showcase research on the next generation of NLP models, which can adapt to unique user needs while addressing privacy, copyright, and personalization challenges.

This year’s workshop brings together researchers, developers, and practitioners from across the NLP community. The program includes keynote talks, presentation sessions, and a poster session featuring both long and short papers. Each presentation and poster provides insights into data, modeling, evaluation, open science practices, applications, and ethical considerations in customizable NLP. These topics are crucial as we seek to build NLP systems that are not only powerful but also adaptable, transparent, and ethically sound.

Our call for papers attracted a diverse range of submissions across both academic and industry perspectives. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Program Committee and the Steering Committee members, who carefully reviewed each submission. Their efforts were invaluable in shaping this year’s program and ensuring high-quality presentations.

Workshop Highlights

1. Keynotes and Presentations: The program includes multiple keynote talks and oral presentation sessions covering topics such as data collection, customized model evaluation, privacy in NLP, and ethical considerations for adaptive AI. 2. Poster Session: Presentations in poster format enable more interactive engagement, offering opportunities for attendees to discuss topics like personalized AI assistants, sociolect modeling, federated learning, and chain-of-thought prompting. 3. Themes: This year’s submissions reflect a growing interest in applications across sensitive domains like medical and legal NLP, as well as advancements in interpretability and control for varied use cases. Papers span topics from data privacy to interpretability, open science practices, and ethical issues in customization.

The workshop would not have been possible without the efforts of our Organizers and Steering Committee. We extend our gratitude to Sachin Kumar (Ohio State University, Allen Institute for AI), Weijia Shi (University of Washington), Chan Young Park (Carnegie Mellon University), Vidhisha Balachandran (Microsoft Research), and Shirley Anugrah Hayati (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities) for their leadership and dedication in organizing CustomNLP4U.

Our Steering Committee members—Yulia Tsvetkov, Noah A. Smith, Hannaneh Hajishirzi (all from the University of Washington), Dongyeop Kang (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), and David Jurgens (University of Michigan)—have provided guidance and support throughout the planning process.

Thank you for joining us at CustomNLP4U 2024! We look forward to an inspiring day of discussions, insights, and collaborations, all aimed at driving the future of adaptable, ethical, and user-centered NLP systems.

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Table of Contents

<i>Navigate Complex Physical Worlds via Geometrically Constrained LLM</i> Yongqiang Huang, Wentao Ye, Liyao Li and Junbo Zhao	1
<i>Empowering AAC Users: A Systematic Integration of Personal Narratives with Conversational AI</i> Sayantan Pal, Souvik Das, Rohini Srihari, Jeff Higginborham and Jenna Bizovi.....	12
<i>LLM-Based Robust Product Classification in Commerce and Compliance</i> Sina Gholamian, Gianfranco Romani, Bartosz Rudnikowicz and Stavroula Skylaki.....	26
<i>Less is Fed More: Sparsity Reduces Feature Distortion in Federated Learning</i> Abhinav Sukumar Rao, Aashiq Muhamed and Harshita Diddee	37
<i>Understanding Players as if They Are Talking to the Game in a Customized Language: A Pilot Study</i> Tianze Wang, Maryam Honarijahromi, Styliani Katsarou, Olga Mikheeva, Theodoros Panagiota- kopoulos, Oleg Smirnov, Lele Cao and Sahar Asadi.....	47
<i>L3Masking: Multi-task Fine-tuning for Language Models by Leveraging Lessons Learned from Vanilla Models</i> Yusuke Kimura, Takahiro Komamizu and Kenji Hatano	53
<i>Grounded Language Agent for Product Search via Intelligent Web Interactions</i> Moghis Fereidouni, Adib Mosharrof and A.b. Siddique	63
<i>AdaptEval: Evaluating Large Language Models on Domain Adaptation for Text Summarization</i> Anum Afzal, Ribin Chalumattu, Florian Matthes and Laura Mascarell	76
<i>CPS-TaskForge: Generating Collaborative Problem Solving Environments for Diverse Communication Tasks</i> Nikita Haduong, Irene Wang, Bo-Ru Lu, Prithviraj Ammanabrolu and Noah A. Smith.....	86
<i>Active Learning for Robust and Representative LLM Generation in Safety-Critical Scenarios</i> Sabit Hassan, Anthony Sicilia and Malihe Alikhani.....	113
<i>Exploring the Readiness of Prominent Small Language Models for the Democratization of Financial Literacy</i> Tagore Rao Kosireddy, Jeffrey David Wall and Evan Lucas.....	124
<i>Customized Style Transfer using Discrete Sampling</i> Anugunj Naman	150
<i>Trustful LLMs: Customizing and Grounding Text Generation with knowledge bases and Dual Decoders</i> Xiaofeng Zhu and Jaya Krishna Mandivarapu	156
<i>Constructing Domain-Specific Evaluation Sets for LLM-as-a-judge</i> Ravi Shanker Raju, Swayambhoo Jain, Bo Li, Jonathan Lingjie Li and Urmish Thakker	167
<i>Learning to Adapt Large Language Models to One-Shot In-Context Intent Classification on Unseen Domains</i> Joongbo Shin, Youbin Ahn, Seungpil Won and Stanley Jungkyu Choi	182
<i>Pearl: Personalizing Large Language Model Writing Assistants with Generation-Calibrated Retrievers</i> Sheshera Mysore, Zhuoran Lu, Mengting Wan, Longqi Yang, Bahareh Sarrafzadeh, Steve Mene- zes, Tina Baghaee, Emmanuel Barajas Gonzalez, Jennifer Neville and Tara Safavi	198

<i>Evaluating and Training Long-Context Large Language Models for Question Answering on Scientific Papers</i>	
Lukas Hilgert, Danni Liu and Jan Niehues	220
<i>HyPA-RAG: A Hybrid Parameter Adaptive Retrieval-Augmented Generation System for AI Legal and Policy Applications</i>	
Rishi Kalra, Zekun Wu, Ayesha Gulley, Airlie Hilliard, Xin Guan, Adriano Koshiyama and Philip Colin Treleaven	237
<i>What Kind of Sourcery is This? Evaluating GPT-4’s Performance on Linking Scientific Fact to Citations</i>	
Autumn Toney	257
<i>“Let’s Argue Both Sides”: Argument Generation Can Force Small Models to Utilize Previously Inaccessible Reasoning Capabilities</i>	
Kaveh Eskandari Miandoab and Vasanth Sarathy	269
<i>LLM-as-a-tutor in EFL Writing Education: Focusing on Evaluation of Student-LLM Interaction</i>	
Jieun Han, Haneul Yoo, Junho Myung, Minsun Kim, Hyunseung Lim, Yoonsu Kim, Tak Yeon Lee, Hwajung Hong, Juho Kim, So-Yeon Ahn and Alice Oh	284
<i>E-Commerce Product Categorization with LLM-based Dual-Expert Classification Paradigm</i>	
Zhu Cheng, Wen Zhang, Chih-Chi Chou, You-Yi Jau, Archita Pathak, Peng Gao and Umit Batur	294
<i>Adapting LLM Predictions in In-Context Learning with Data Priors</i>	
Javier Chiyah-Garcia, Prasoon Goyal, Michael Johnston and Reza Ghanadan	305
<i>V-Glória - Customizing Large Vision and Language Models to European Portuguese</i>	
Afonso Simplício, David Semedo and Joao Magalhaes	317