Introduction

This volume consists of the descriptions of the CoNLL-2011 Shared Task and the participating systems. This year, the shared task was based on the English portion of the OntoNotes 4.0 corpus. The task was to identify anaphoric mentions -- both entities and events -- and perform coreference resolution to create clusters representing the same entity or event in the text.

The OntoNotes data spans five genres and multiple layers of annotation in addition to coreference. It is a very rich and diverse corpus. Since coreference is a higher-level task than the other layers in OntoNotes, it was a challenge to the participants to use the other layers and possibly build joint models to improve the state of the art. Since this is a relatively new resource, and given the time constraints for building systems for the shared task, not many participants delved into identifying sophisticated ways of utilizing the supplemental information. As is traditional with CoNLL, we had two tracks – an open track and a closed track. Since world knowledge is an important factor in coreference resolution, we provided a number and gender list in addition to the data in OntoNotes and also allowed researchers to use WordNet as part of the closed task. For the open task, as usual, any other source of information, such as wikipedia, that did not violate the evaluation criteria were allowed to be used.

A total of 23 participants submitted systems and 21 of them submitted system description papers. We hope that this data set will provide a standard benchmark and spur further research in this area pushing forward the state of the art.

Sameer Pradhan (on behalf of the shared task organizing committee)
May 22, 2011
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Friday, June 24, 2011

9:00–10:30  Shared Task Overview and Oral Presentations

10:30–11:00  Coffee Break

11:00–12:30  Shared Task Posters

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