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Computational Processing of Arabic Dialects

Abstract: The Arabic language is a collection of variants among which Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) has a special status as the formal written standard of the media, culture and education across the Arab World. The other variants are informal spoken dialects that are the media of communication for daily life. As expected, most of the natural language processing resources and research in Arabic focuses on MSA. However, there is more work now on Arabic dialects, which includes efforts to build resources as well as exploit existing resources from MSA. In this talk, we present the challenges of processing Arabic dialects and the current advances in that area, with special emphasis on directions that exploit existing MSA (and other dialect) resources.