

Proposal for a Competition

Online Arabic Handwriting Recognition Competition

The ICDAR 2009 Online Arabic Handwriting Recognition Competition aims to contribute in the evolution of Arabic handwriting recognition research. This competition will be organized on the new database on online Arabic handwritten text (ADAB). A comparison and discussion of different algorithms and recognition methods should give a push in the field of Arabic handwritten word recognition.

Evaluation Process

The object is to run each Arabic handwritten word recognizer (trained on a part of version 1.0 of the ADAB-database) on an already published part of the ADAB-database and on a test set not included in the published part. The recognition results on word level of each system are compared on the basis of correct recognised words, i.e. their correspondent consecutive Numeric Character References (NCR). A dictionary can be used in the recognition process.

A recognizer may return up to 10 candidates for each classification that not only the first ranked result can be used for comparison but also the correct result between the 5 or 10 candidates will be used for comparison.

Running a Recognizer

We run your recognizer (called myrec) by invoking it from the command line as follows:

```
myrec input.txt output.txt
```

input.txt

The input file is just a list of relative paths to each *.inkml online trace to be recognized. For example:

```
word/1.inkml  
word/2.inkml  
...
```

output.txt

The output file should have one line as result for each input file. Each line should show the name of the online trace file that was recognized, followed by the responses (sequence of NCRs code) for that file.

Each response is given as a pair of values: the text, followed by the confidence. In the following example the first line shows that for the file word/1.inkml the recognizer has produced two word hypotheses (ننير، بوذر) with confidences of 1.0 and 0.3 respectively.

```
word/1.inkml UFE91 UFE44 U0630 U0631 1.0 UFE47 UFE92 U0651 UFE4E 0.3  
word/2.inkml U062A U0627 U0644 U0629 0.7 U0645 U0627 U0631 U062B 0.4 U0634 U064A U0627  
U0628 0.2
```

Uploading your Recognizer and Registration

Please register to the competition to have the upload information. Registration deadline is 01 March 2008. Once you've registered, we can then inform you of any updates.

Important Dates

- Registration: 01 March 2009
- Submission of system: 15 March 2009.
- Results Announced at ICDAR 2009

Any Problems

Please contact [Adel M. Alimi \(adel.alimi@ieee.org\)](mailto:adel.alimi@ieee.org) if you have any questions.

Organisers

Adel M. Alimi¹, Haikal El Abed², Volker Märgner² and Monji Kherallah¹

¹ Engineering School of Sfax, Tunisia

² Technical University Braunschweig, Germany

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