Modern Standard and Dialectal Arabic Speech Synthesis

Chairs:

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Scope and topics:

Speech synthesis of Arabic languages faces some specific difficulties. One of them is the diversity of dialects and the variability in the association of written and spoken forms. Modern speech synthesis techniques are based on learning techniques that associate written input with spoken output. In Arabic, the written input is quite often ambiguous (lack of diacritic symbols) and the intelligence of the speaker is required to resolve the ambiguities. This is a challenge for machine leaning techniques because fully diacritized text and resources for some dialects are scarce.This special session aims to present advanced and original machine and deeplearning-based methods for the synthesis of Modern Standard Arabic as well as dialectal Arabic. It will be an opportunity to exchange the results of research and new developed techniques in this research field with promising prospects.

The topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Deep learning models for:
    - diacritisation
    - end to end speech synthesis
    - synthesis of Arabic dialects
- as well as resources to work in these domains and demonstration of working systems.