

Evaluation of Cross-Language Question Answering Systems

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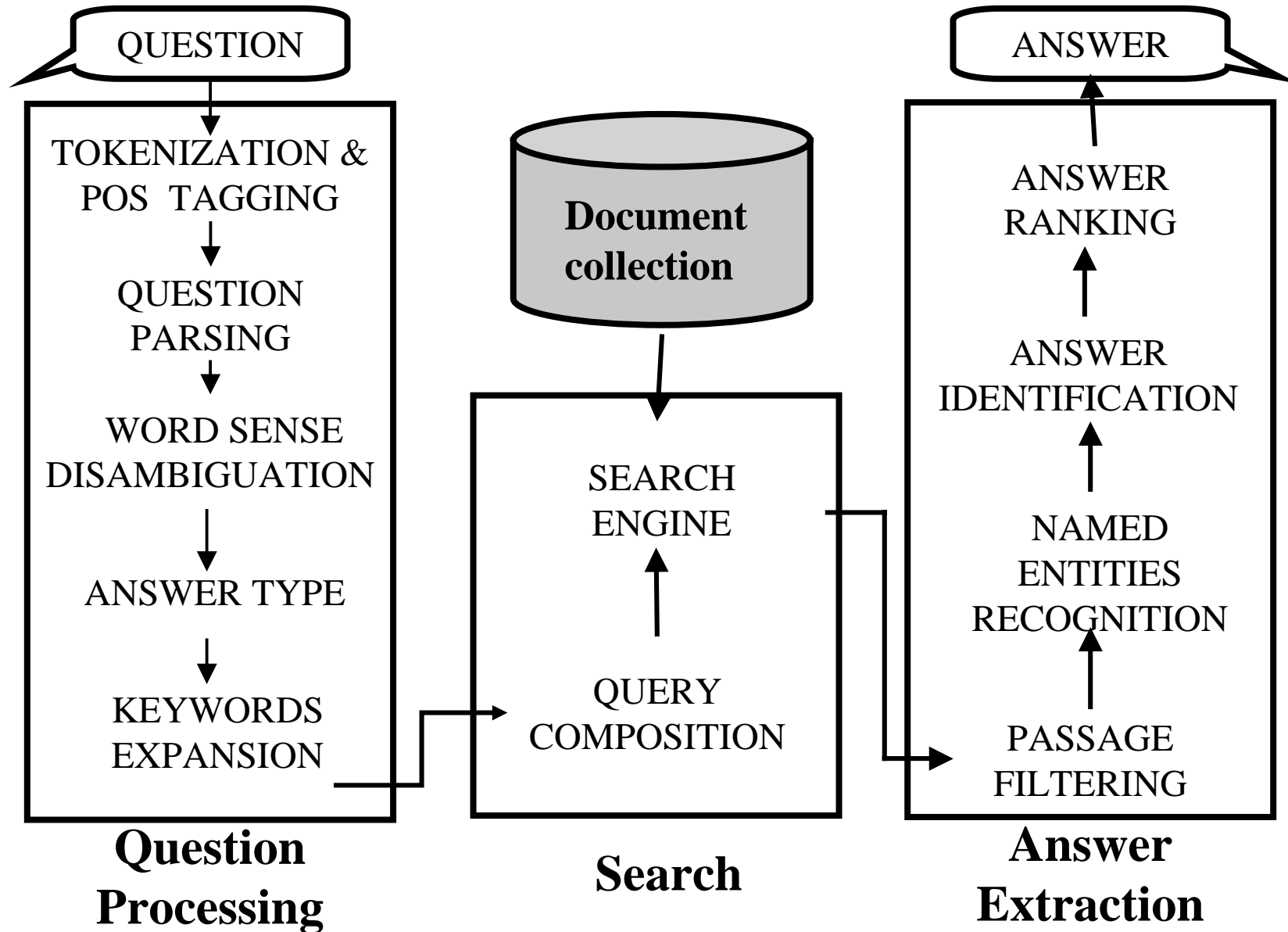
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Question Answering



- QA: find the answer to an open domain question in a large collection of documents
 - IN: questions (instead of keyword-based queries)
 - OUT: answers (instead of documents)
- QA track at TREC
 - Main task, context task
- Scientific Community
 - this year workshops at LREC, COLING, QA session at ACL
 - AQUAINT program in USA
- QA as an applicative scenario

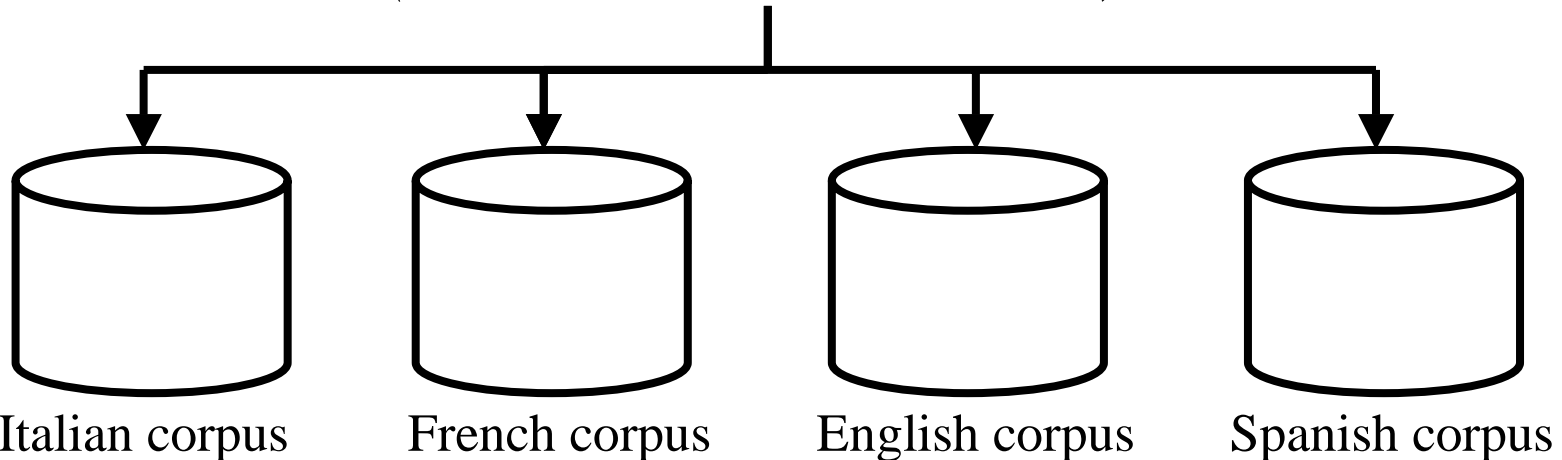
QA Architecture



Cross-Language QA

IN: Quanto è alto il Mont Ventoux?

(How tall is Mont Ventoux?)



“Le Mont Ventoux, impérial avec ses *1909 mètres* et sa tour blanche telle un étendard, règne de toutes ...”

OUT: 1909 metri

Motivations



- Answers may be found in languages different from the language of the question
- Interest in QA systems for languages other than English
- Force the QA community to design real multilingual systems
- Check/improve the portability of the technologies implemented in current English QA systems

Task proposal



- Evaluation for:
 - Monolingual QA systems for languages other than English
 - Cross-Language Question Answering systems
- Task Organization:
 - effort required (no funding)
 - Coordination (one group for language)
- Issues: Question, Corpora, Translations, Evaluation
- Task schedule

CL - QA at CLEF-2003



- Adopt the same rules used at TREC-2002 QA
 - Factoid questions (i.e. no definition questions)
 - Exact answers + document id
- Use the CLEF corpora
- Return the answer in the language of the text collection in which it has been found (i.e. no translation of the answer)
- Consider CLEF-2003 as an initial step toward a more complex task to be organized at CLEF-2004

Tasks at CLEF - 2003



Tasks at CLEF - 2003



Monolingual
Italian

question



answer

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Tasks at CLEF - 2003



Monolingual
Italian

Monolingual
Spanish

question

question



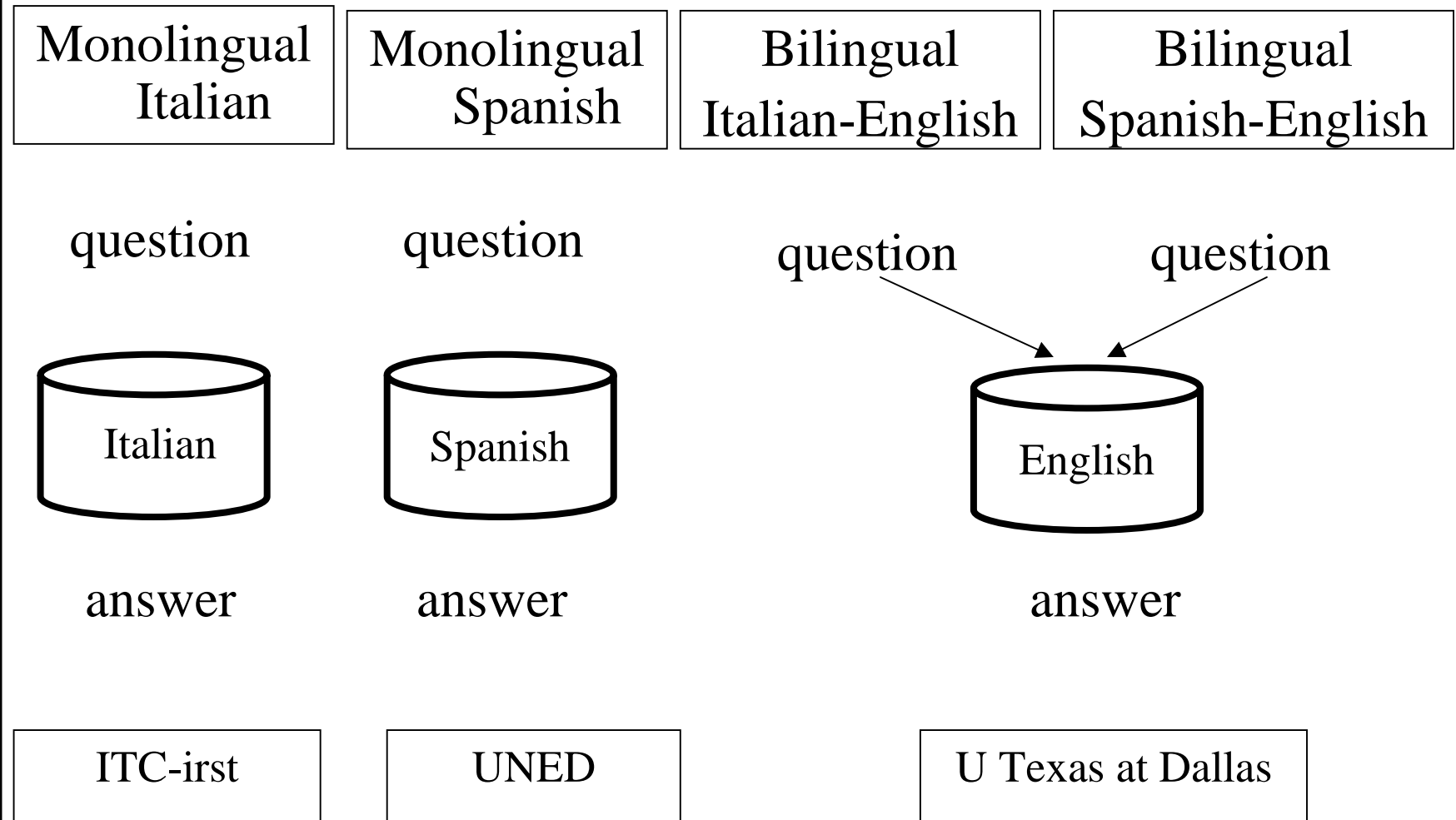
answer

answer

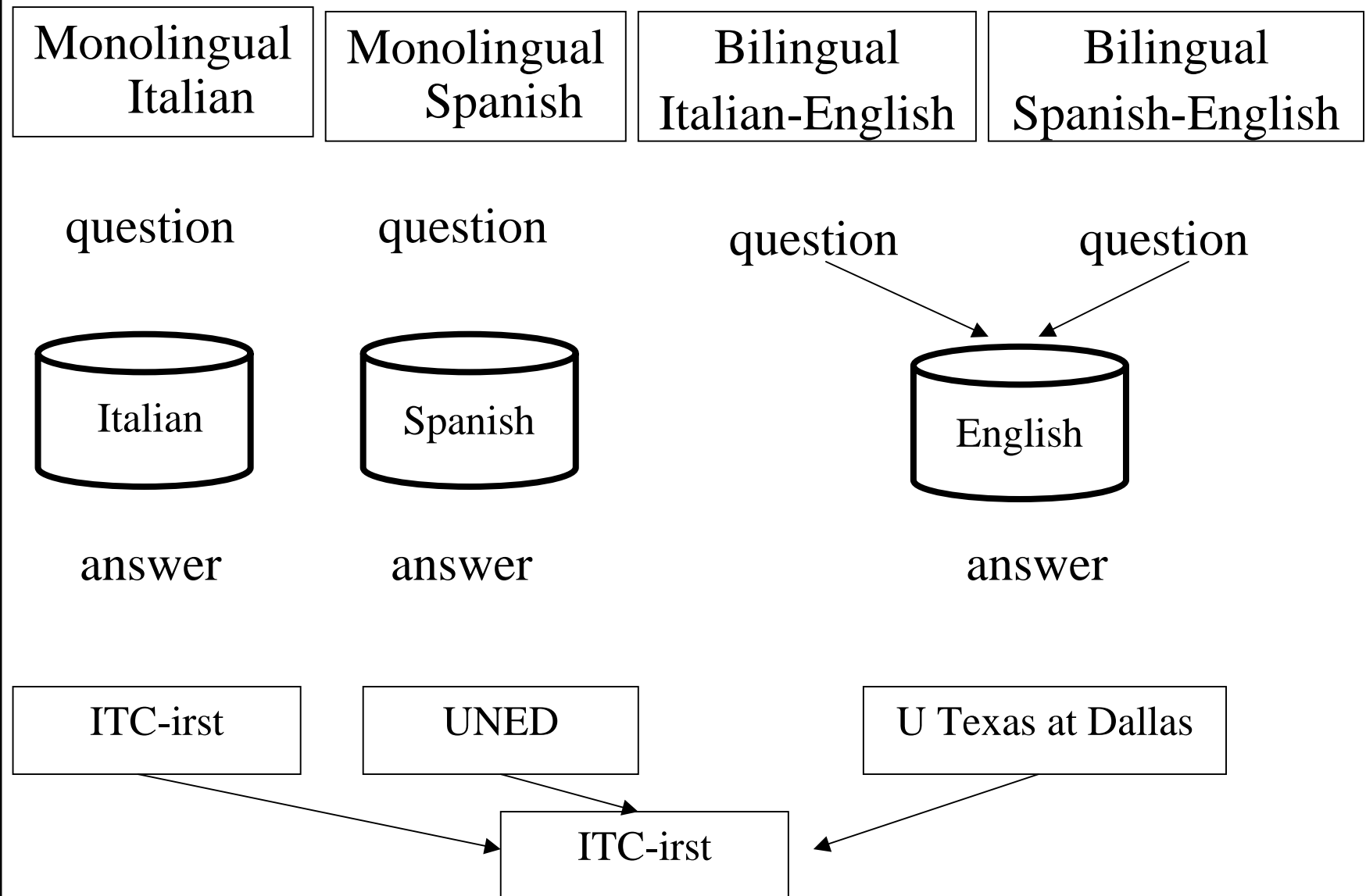
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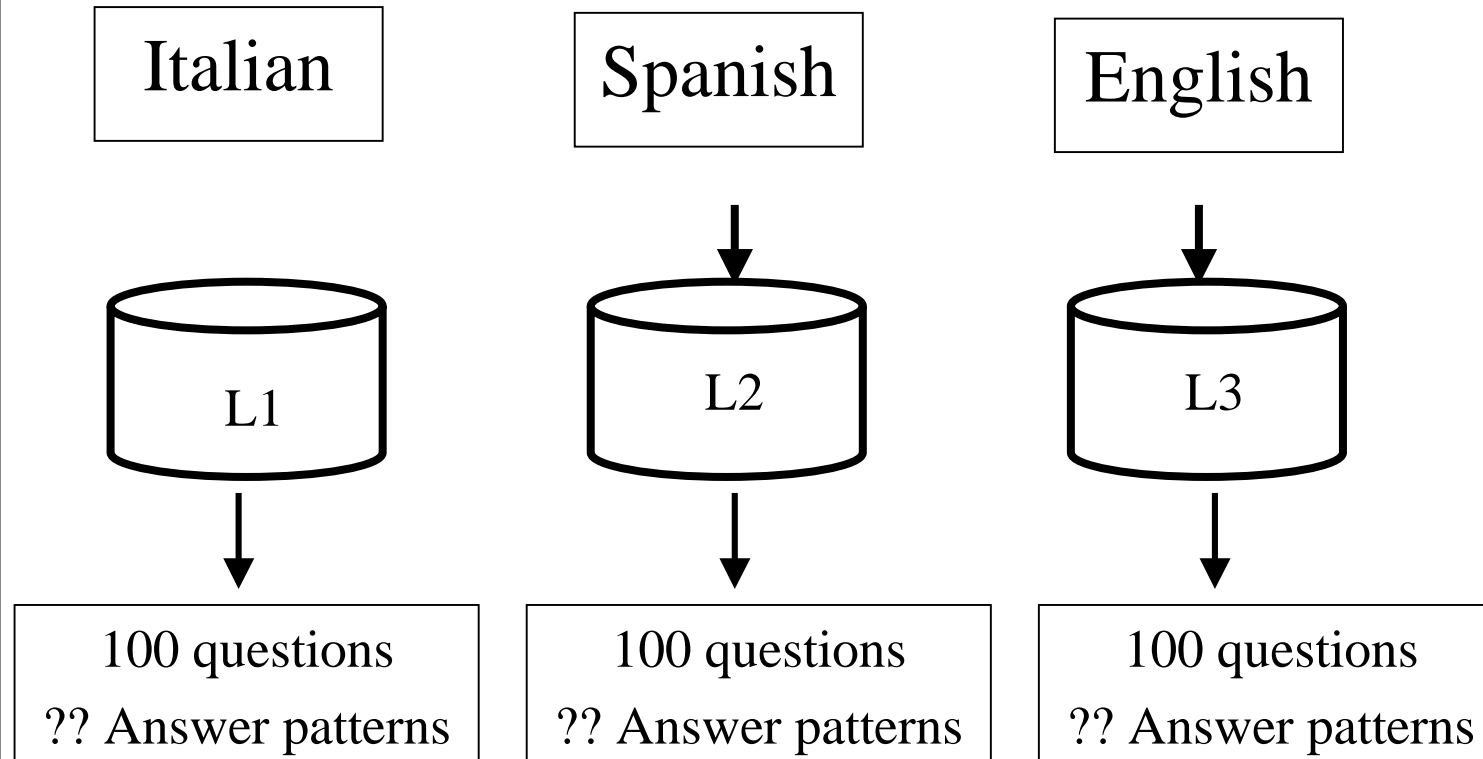
Tasks at CLEF - 2003



Tasks at CLEF - 2003



Questions



Require: CLEF support for corpora, NIST support for methodology
native speakers for each language

Evaluation



- Manual: exact answers are relatively easy to be judged
- Semi-automatic, using answer patterns
 - IF a system-answer satisfies an answer patter
 - THEN the answer is judged correct
 - ELSE manual check is required

Require: NIST support for methodology and software
native speakers for each language

Schedule (preliminary)



- November 15: final task proposal
- February 1: corpora distributed to participants
- May 5: Questions to participants
- May 12: Results back to organizer
- July 1: Assessments to participants

- August 21/22: CLEF workshop