

DIARIZATIONLM: SPEAKER DIARIZATION POST-PROCESSING WITH LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we introduce DiarizationLM, a framework to leverage large language models (LLM) to post-process the outputs from a speaker diarization system. Various goals can be achieved with the proposed framework, such as improving the readability of the diarized transcript, or reducing the word diarization error rate (WDER). In this framework, the outputs of the automatic speech recognition (ASR) and speaker diarization systems are represented as a compact textual format, which is included in the prompt to an optionally finetuned LLM. The outputs of the LLM can be used as the refined diarization results with the desired enhancement. As a post-processing step, this framework can be easily applied to any off-the-shelf ASR and speaker diarization systems without retraining existing components. Our experiments show that a finetuned PaLM 2-S model can reduce the WDER by rel. 25.9% on the Fisher telephone conversation dataset, and rel. 31% on the Callhome English dataset¹.

1 INTRODUCTION

Speaker diarization is the task of partitioning speech into homogeneous segments according to speaker identities, answering the question “who spoken when” [1, 2]. Typical speaker diarization systems can be roughly categorized into two groups: modularized systems and end-to-end systems. A modularized speaker diarization system usually consists of multiple separately trained components including voice activity detection (VAD) [3, 4, 5, 6], speaker turn detection [7, 8], speaker encoder [9, 10, 11], and a clustering algorithm, which can be either unsupervised [12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17] or supervised [18, 19]. End-to-end systems, on the other hand, directly optimize the entire system on diarization errors by introducing a permutation invariant loss function [20, 21, 22, 23].

In many real world applications such as meeting summarization, call center analysis, mobile recorder apps [24], and video captioning, knowing “who spoke when” is not sufficient. Speaker labels are more interpretable and meaningful when they are associated with speech transcripts. Various solutions have been proposed to directly address the problem of “who spoke what”, including jointly training speech recognition and speaker diarization [25], speaker-attributed automatic speech recognition (SA-ASR) [26, 27, 28, 29], target speaker automatic speech recognition (TS-ASR) [30, 31, 32, 33] and word-level end-to-end neural speaker diarization [34].

In practice, however, most production speech systems still consist of separately trained ASR models and speaker diarization models, with various considerations including:

1. *Modularized development and deployment*: ASR and speaker diarization systems are usually trained on different datasets, and potentially using different modeling framework, by different research teams.
2. *Potential quality regression on ASR*: ASR has many more use cases than speaker diarization. Joint modeling of ASR and speaker diarization usually has worse Word Error Rates (WER) than ASR-only models, thus is not acceptable in many applications.

¹This project is currently a work in progress. We may add new experiment results to this paper soon.

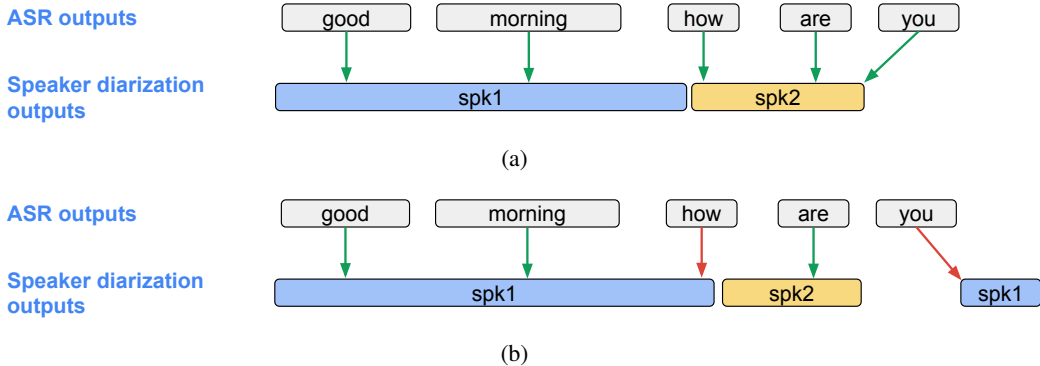


Figure 1: The orchestration module associates each word from the ASR transcript with a speaker label from the speaker diarization outputs. (a) In this example, all words are associated with the correct speaker labels (green arrows). The words “good”, “morning”, and “are” and “you” are associated with the only speaker label that overlap with them. The word “how” overlaps with both spk1 and spk2, but has bigger overlaps with spk2, thus is associated with spk2. The word “you” does not overlap with any speaker, but is closest to spk2, thus is associated with spk2. (b) In this example, two words are associated with wrong speaker labels (red arrows) due to inconsistent timing information from the two systems. The word “how” is mistakenly associated with spk1, since spk1 has more overlap with this word than spk2. The word “you” is mistakenly associated with spk1, since spk1 is closer to this word than spk2.

3. *Flexibility*: Combining separately trained ASR models and speaker diarization models is a very flexible solution. As long as the ASR model provides word timing information, it can be combined with almost any speaker diarization model, either unsupervised or supervised, either modularized or end-to-end trained.

We refer to the combination of ASR transcripts and speaker diarization results as an *orchestration module* (in some other work [35], this process is called “reconciliation”). In this module, each word from the ASR transcript is associated with a speaker label. A typical orchestration algorithm works as follows: (1) If the word segment overlaps with at least one speaker segment, then this word is associated with the speaker that has the biggest temporal overlap with this word; (2) otherwise if this word segment does not overlap with any speaker segment, then it is associated with the speaker that has the smallest temporal distance to this word based on the segment boundaries. This orchestration algorithm is illustrated in Fig. 1a.

However, since ASR and speaker diarization are separately trained with usually different training datasets and modeling approaches, the timing information from these two systems can be inconsistent, resulting in word diarization errors, as demonstrated with the example in Fig. 1b. Specifically, modern ASR models are usually trained end-to-end without using the ground truth timing information, and the word timing is inferred from the probability lattice of the decoder, which could be inaccurate.

In many cases, such errors can usually be fixed by leveraging semantic information from the ASR transcripts. Take Fig. 1 as an example, simply by looking at the textual transcript “good morning how are you”, if we know it consists of two speakers, we can easily tell which word comes from which speaker confidently without using any speaker diarization system. In practice, diarization errors can be much more complicated than the simple example in Fig. 1. To handle such cases, we propose DiarizationLM, a framework to post-process the orchestrated ASR and speaker diarization outputs with a large language model (LLM). While the experiments performed in this paper mainly focus on reducing word diarization errors using LLM, we also show examples how LLM can be used for other purposes such as autofilling speaker names, autofilling speaker roles, or even completely replacing the orchestration module in Appendix A.

2 MOTIVATING EXAMPLE

Here is a small example where we construct a prompt (in blue) which consists of a brief instruction, and the diarization transcript with several errors. The prompt is sent to Google Bard [36] via its Web UI². We can see that the completion generated by LLM (in orange) correctly moved the error words to the right speakers. This example can be easily reproduced with many off-the-shelf commercial or open source instruction-finetuned LLMs, such as Google Bard [36] or OpenAI ChatGPT [37].

Prompt:

In the speaker diarization transcript below, some words are potentially misplaced. Please correct those words and move them to the right speaker. Directly show the corrected transcript without explaining what changes were made or why you made those changes.

```
<spk:1> Good morning Patrick, how
<spk:2> are you? Good, good. How are you Tom? Pretty
<spk:1> good. Going to work?
<spk:2> Yes. Busy day. How are your kids? Do they go
<spk:1> to school? Oh they are too young for that. I sent them to daycare earlier
<spk:2> today. Oh yeah I forgot about that.
```

Completion:

```
<spk:1> Good morning Patrick, how are you?
<spk:2> Good, good. How are you Tom?
<spk:1> Pretty good. Going to work?
<spk:2> Yes. Busy day. How are your kids? Do they go to school?
<spk:1> Oh, they are too young for that. I sent them to daycare earlier today.
<spk:2> Oh yeah, I forgot about that.
```

Apart from correcting diarization errors, we also found several other diarization capabilities of LLMs, such as autofilling speaker names, autofilling speaker roles, or even completely replacing the orchestration module. Examples of these capabilities are shown in Appendix A. However, due to lack of relevant training and testing datasets, these capabilities are not thoroughly studied or evaluated in this paper. Here we focus on LLM’s capability of reducing diarization errors.

3 DIARIZATIONLM

3.1 SYSTEM OVERVIEW

We illustrate the DiarizationLM framework in Fig. 2. In this framework, the ASR and speaker diarization systems are frozen, and their outputs are processed by the orchestration module to associate a speaker label with each recognized word. The orchestrated diarization outputs are processed by a *prompt builder* module, which creates a compact textual representation of the diarized transcript, segment it into shorter versions to fit the LLM input size limit, and apply prompt prefix and suffix. The prompts are then sent to a finetuned LLM, and the completions generated by the LLM will be handled by a *completion parser* module, which truncates undesired outputs from the LLM, combines the completions of multiple segments, and apply a transform (see Section 3.4) to preserve the original transcripts of the ASR model.

3.2 PROMPT BUILDER

The output of the orchestration module is two sequences of equal length: a sequence of words, and a sequence of speaker labels. To fit it into a prompt, we use a compact textual representation, where speaker tokens are only inserted in the beginning of the transcript, or when the speaker has changed. Below is an example:

²We used an internal version of Bard that is based on a larger model and supports more tokens than the public version.

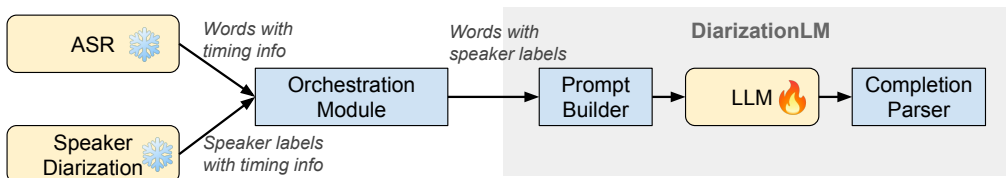


Figure 2: Diagram of the proposed DiarizationLM framework.

Word sequence:	["good", "morning", "how", "are", "you"]
Speaker sequence:	[1, 1, 2, 2, 2]
Text representation:	"<spk:1> good morning <spk:2> how are you"

Since most LLMs have an input length limit, the text representation of an entire utterance may not fit this limit. In such cases, we recursively binary partition the word and speaker sequences in the middle, until all segments fit the the input length limit.

We also apply prefix and suffix to each prompt. The prefix is usually an instruction describing the task for the LLM to perform, and the suffix is a sequence of tokens to indicate the end of the prompt.

3.3 COMPLETION PARSER

Each prompt from the prompt builder will be sent to the finetuned LLM, which will generate a text completion for this prompt. First of all, we need to truncate any undesired outputs from the LLM. For example, during the LLM finetuning, each completion may have a suffix to indicate the end of the completion. Thus the suffix and any text generated after the suffix should be truncated from the original completion.

After the truncation, we need to convert the text representation of the completion back to the word sequence and the speaker sequence format. If the text representation does not start with a speaker token, we either use the last speaker from the previous segment, or just use speaker 1 if it is the first segment.

Next, we concatenate the word sequences and speaker sequences from all segments. However, the resulting concatenated word sequence may not be identical to the original word sequence from the ASR model due to modifications by LLM. This is undesired and may hurt word error rate. Thus here we need an algorithm to transfer the speaker labels from the concatenated speaker sequence to the original word sequence from the ASR model. We will introduce this algorithm in the following section.

3.4 TRANSCRIPT-PRESERVING SPEAKER TRANSFER

Here we describe an algorithm called *Transcript-Preserving Speaker Transfer* (TPST), which will be used in several places in our proposed framework, including training data preparation and the completion parser module.

Assume we have two sets of diarized transcript, referred to as “source” and “target”, each represented by two sequences of the same length: a sequence of words, and a sequence of speaker labels. The purpose of TPST is to transfer the speaker labels from the source sequences to the target sequences, such that:

1. The transfered speaker label sequence has a 1-to-1 association with the target word sequence.
2. The transfered speaker labels are more consistent with the source speaker labels.

As an example, the concatenated word sequence from the completion parser module may not be identical to the original word sequence from the ASR model. Thus we can treat the completion

sequences as the source, and the original sequences from the orchestration module as the target, and transfer the speaker labels. Finally, the DiarizationLM outputs will be the original word sequence, associated with the transferred speaker label sequence.

The detailed TPST algorithm is described in Algorithm 1. An implementation is open sourced on GitHub³.

Algorithm 1 The transcript-preserving speaker transfer (TPST) algorithm.

inputs

Source word sequence of length N : $\mathbf{w}^{src} = (w_1^{src}, \dots, w_N^{src})$
 Source speaker sequence of length N : $\mathbf{s}^{src} = (s_1^{src}, \dots, s_N^{src})$
 Target word sequence of length M : $\mathbf{w}^{tgt} = (w_1^{tgt}, \dots, w_M^{tgt})$
 Target speaker sequence of length M : $\mathbf{s}^{tgt} = (s_1^{tgt}, \dots, s_M^{tgt})$

outputs

Transferred speaker sequence of length M : $\mathbf{s}^{tra} = (s_1^{tra}, \dots, s_M^{tra})$

```

1: procedure TPST( $\mathbf{w}^{src}, \mathbf{s}^{src}, \mathbf{w}^{tgt}, \mathbf{s}^{tgt}$ )
2:   Align  $\mathbf{w}^{src}$  to  $\mathbf{w}^{tgt}$  with the Levenshtein algorithm [38], resulting in a transform  $f_{align}(\cdot)$ 
3:    $\mathbf{s}^{ali} \leftarrow f_{align}(\mathbf{s}^{src})$   $\triangleright$   $\mathbf{s}^{ali}$  is a speaker sequence of length  $M$ , and may contain blank
   speakers  $\emptyset$  due to insertion errors in the alignment
4:    $K \leftarrow \max\{\max(\mathbf{s}^{ali}), \max(\mathbf{s}^{tgt})\}$   $\triangleright$  the maximal number of speakers in  $\mathbf{s}^{ali}$  and  $\mathbf{s}^{tgt}$ 
5:   Initialize a cost matrix  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$ 
6:   for  $1 \leq i \leq K$  and  $1 \leq j \leq K$  do
7:      $\mathbf{C}_{i,j} \leftarrow \sum_{1 \leq m \leq M} \delta(s_m^{ali} = i \text{ and } s_m^{tgt} = j)$ 
8:   end for
9:   Solve the assignment problem with cost matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  using the Hungarian algorithm [39],
   resulting in a transform  $f_{assign}(\cdot)$   $\triangleright$  handle speaker permutations
10:  for  $1 \leq m \leq M$  do
11:    if  $s_m^{ali} \neq \emptyset$  then
12:       $s_m^{tra} \leftarrow f_{assign}(s_m^{ali})$   $\triangleright$  transfer the speakers from the source
13:    else
14:       $s_m^{tra} \leftarrow s_m^{tgt}$   $\triangleright$  preserve the target speaker if source speaker is unavailable
15:    end if
16:  end for
17: end procedure

```

3.5 LLM FINETUNING

Although the examples shown in Section 2 and Appendix A were using off-the-shelf Web APIs of commercial LLMs, finetuning the LLM specifically on the speaker diarization task is still required if we need to:

1. Reduce errors of a specific speaker diarization system;
2. Handle more complicated errors;
3. Keep ASR transcripts unmodified as much as possible from the LLM outputs;
4. Use smaller and cheaper LLMs.

To finetune the LLM, we build our training data as a collection of prompt-completion pairs. First, for each utterance, we run the ASR model and the speaker diarization system on it, and apply the orchestration module as shown in Fig. 2. This will produce the hypothesis word sequence \mathbf{w}^{hyp} and hypothesis speaker sequence \mathbf{s}^{hyp} . From the ground truth annotations of this utterance, we build the reference word sequence \mathbf{w}^{ref} and the reference speaker sequence \mathbf{s}^{ref} . Next, we apply the Transcript-Preserving Speaker Transfer algorithm from Section 3.4 by treating hypothesis sequences

³<https://github.com/google/speaker-id/tree/master/DiarizationLM>

as source and reference sequences as target:

$$s^{deg} = TPST(w^{hyp}, s^{hyp}, w^{ref}, s^{ref}), \tag{1}$$

where the output s^{deg} is the **degraded reference speakers** transferred from the hypothesis sequences. With s^{deg} , the prompts and completions in our training data are created as below:

- *Prompts*: The text representation of w^{ref} and s^{deg} , with segmentation, and optionally prefix and suffix.
- *Completions*: The text representation of w^{ref} and s^{ref} , with segmentation, and optionally suffix.

Note that it is critical for the prompt and completion to use the same word sequence with different speaker sequences. This helps the LLM to focus on correcting the speaker labels without modifying the ASR transcripts.

4 EXPERIMENTS

4.1 DATASETS

To finetune the LLM, we use the training subset of the Fisher corpus [40], which consists of 1,920 hours of 11,527 conversations.

For evaluation, we use the testing subset of the Fisher corpus [40], as well as the testing subset of Callhome American English data [41]. The Fisher testing subset consists of 28.7 hours of 172 conversations⁴. The Callhome American English testing subset consists of 1.7 hours of 20 conversations. Both datasets are in the telephone speech domain, and all conversations have 2 speakers.

4.2 METRICS

To evaluate the diarization performance, we use two metrics: the Word Diarization Error Rate (WDER) [25] and the concatenated minimum-permutation word error rate (cpWER) [42]. To briefly recap, WDER is defined as:

$$WDER = \frac{S_{IS} + C_{IS}}{S + C}, \tag{2}$$

where,

1. S_{IS} is the number of ASR Substitutions with Incorrect Speaker tokens.
2. C_{IS} is the number of Correct ASR words with Incorrect Speaker tokens.
3. S is the number of ASR substitutions.
4. C is the number of Correct ASR words.

And cpWER is computed as follows:

1. Concatenate all transcripts of each speaker for both reference and hypothesis.
2. Compute the WER between the reference and all possible speaker permutations of the hypothesis.
3. Pick the lowest WER among all these permutations, which is assumed to be the best permutation.

⁴<https://github.com/google/speaker-id/blob/master/publications/ScdLoss/eval/fisher.txt>

4.3 MODELS

For the ASR model in Fig. 2, we use a universal speech model (USM) [43] with 600 million parameters trained with the RNN-T loss [44]. For the speaker diarization model in Fig. 2, we use the turn-to-diarize system [7] with a multi-stage clustering setup [17] in our experiments. The number of speakers is unknown (from 1 to ∞) to the speaker diarization system in all of our experiments. However, we would like to point out that the proposed framework is very generic and should work with other ASR or speaker diarization systems as well, such as variants of end-to-end speaker diarization models [20, 21, 22, 23].

For the LLM in Fig. 2, we take a PaLM 2-S model (“text-bison” model in Google Cloud API) [45] as our foundation model, and finetune it on the dataset described in Section 4.1 with data processing steps described in Section 3.5. This model uses a sentence piece model (SPM) of 256k tokens as its tokenizer [46]. During finetuning, we limit the LLM input size by 4,096 tokens, and segment our training and testing data accordingly.

In our prompt builder module, we use an empty prompt prefix, and a 5-character prompt suffix “`-->`” (note the two spaces around the arrow). For the completions in our training data, we use a 6-character completion suffix “`[eod]`” (note the leading space). After processing the training data with the prompt builder module, we result in 13,430 prompt-completion pairs for training in total. The average length of a prompt is 2,371 SPM tokens, and the average length of a completion is 2,329 tokens. The LLM is trained for 1,200 steps with a batch size of 16.

4.4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In Table 1, we show the evaluation results of the USM + turn-to-diarize baseline together with the outputs post-processed by DiarizationLM. On the Fisher testing set, we see a rel. 25.9% improvement of WDER after post-processing with DiarizationLM. Even if we did not use any Callhome data during the LLM finetuning, on the Callhome testing set, we see a rel. 31% improvement of WDER. The WER of the USM on the two testing sets are relatively high due to domain mismatch and suboptimal annotation quality of the ground truth. However, this also demonstrated that the DiarizationLM solution provides consistent quality gains even with out-of-domain ASR and speaker diarization models.

To further demonstrate this, in Table 2, we show the results of a similar setup, but we replace the USM-based ASR model directly by the ground truth ASR transcripts from the testing sets. For these experiments, we will have WER=0%. From the table, we can still see big improvements of WDER after post-processing the diarization results by the same DiarizationLM model.

Based on the results from Table 1, we also present example cases from the Fisher and Callhome testing sets where we see big improvements of WDER in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively. From these examples, we are seeing multiple patterns of corrections:

- DiarizationLM make corrections where **different parts of sentence** are moved to the same speaker, e.g. “it’s more of” and “it’ll be warm” in fe_03_07146 from Table 3. This is consistent with our initial observations as demonstrated in Section 2.
- DiarizationLM can merge short speaker turns due to **disfluency**, such as “yeah yeah” and “i i hear i hear” in fe_03_11159 from Table 3. Diarization errors from disfluency usually attribute to low quality speaker embeddings extracted from very short speaker turn segments.
- DiarizationLM can also detect speaker turns due to **interruptions**, such as “oh all right” in fe_03_11210 from Table 3, and “oh my” in en_6408 from Table 4.

5 DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK

The experiments in Section 4 have shown very promising results where LLMs can significantly reduce speaker diarization errors. However, we also admit the limitations of these experiments. First of all, the training and testing data from the experiments are all based on the telephone speech domain, all with exactly 2 speakers. An important future work would be to include more diverse datasets to

Table 1: Evaluation results of the USM + turn-to-diarize baseline system and the results post-processed by DiarizationLM.

Testing set	USM + turn-to-diarize			DiarizationLM	
	WER (%)	WDER (%)	cpWER (%)	WDER (%)	cpWER (%)
Fisher	15.48	5.32	21.19	3.94	18.55
Callhome	15.36	7.72	24.39	5.33	21.47

Table 2: Evaluation results of the turn-to-diarize baseline system with reference ASR transcript (assuming WER=0%) and the results post-processed by DiarizationLM.

Testing set	Reference + turn-to-diarize		DiarizationLM	
	WDER (%)	cpWER (%)	WDER (%)	cpWER (%)
Fisher	2.81	5.19	1.18	2.21
Callhome	3.74	6.82	1.49	2.66

finetune the LLM, and evaluate its performance across different domains with unknown number of speakers.

In Appendix A, we have demonstrated other diarization capabilities of LLMs. However, due to lack of relevant datasets, we haven’t been able to thoroughly evaluate these capabilities. One interesting future work would be to collect datasets of these tasks and evaluate how LLM performs.

Another research direction would be to compare different LLMs, in different size variants on the speaker diarization task. It would also be interesting to reproduce the experiments with other speaker diarization systems such as EEND [20] or WEEND [34].

Lastly, as PaLM 2 models are multilingual [45], the DiarizationLM framework can naturally apply to speaker diarization tasks in other languages. It would be helpful to evaluate how DiarizationLM performs on speaker diarization datasets in other languages than English.

6 RELATED WORK

6.1 SPEAKER DIARIZATION POST-PROCESSING

In the context of conventional speaker diarization, “post-processing” usually refers to a stage where the clustering results are refined with signals from other sources or systems. An early post-processing approach was known as “resegmentation”, where the Gaussian mixture models (GMMs) are estimated for each speaker with the Baum-Welch algorithm, and a Viterbi algorithm is used to re-annotate the speakers with the GMMs [47]. Later in [48], the authors proposed to use a neural network for resegmentation, with an additional class for non-speech. In [49], the authors proposed DiaCorrect, a method inspired by error correction techniques in ASR. DiaCorrect uses parallel convolutional encoders for the speakers from the initial diarization results and a transformer based decoder to produce corrected diarization results. One major difference in our proposed framework is that we leverage semantic information to refine the diarization results on a word level, while these resegmentation approaches are only based on acoustic information and perform at cluster level.

Another type of post-processing is to combine the outputs of multiple speaker diarization systems, e.g. via majority voting [50], speaker matching [51], or both [52]. More recently in [16], the authors proposed to perform speaker diarization on different temporal scales, and combine their outputs via 1-D convolutional neural networks. In [53], the authors proposed to use end-to-end speaker diarization as a post-processing step for initial speaker diarization results of a clustering-based system. Our proposed framework is generic such that it can apply to either the results of a single speaker diarization system, or to the combined results of multiple speaker diarization systems.

Table 3: Example cases from the Fisher testing set where we see big absolute WDER reduction (Δ WDER) with DiarizationLM.

Utterance	Before DiarizationLM	After DiarizationLM
fe_03_07146 (Δ WDER =8.80%)	... <spk:3> it's it's <spk:1> more of summer always like you know we never experience a bit cold over here <spk:4> usually it'll <spk:1> be warm or like very hot in summer yeah and <spk:3> extremely hot yeah with high humidity my humidity is pretty <spk:1> much high because i stay close to the sea coast over here <spk:3> yeah <spk:1> so <spk:3> that makes you live houston is it like houston where you live yeah i i i live <spk:1> in houston <spk:1> it's it's more of summer always like you know we never experience a bit cold over here usually it'll be warm or like very hot in summer <spk:2> yeah and extremely hot yeah with high humidity my <spk:1> humidity is pretty much high because i stay close to the sea coast over here <spk:2> yeah so that makes you live houston is it like houston where you live <spk:1> yeah i i i live in houston ...
fe_03_06816 (Δ WDER =6.61%)	... <spk:3> uhuh <spk:2> did you see the the woman golfer that was on this the one <spk:1> monica yeah yeah <spk:2> what's her name monica stone yeah mhm she she <spk:1> blew out she fell out of that tournament but i didn't think she'd do it she she's girls can't compete against guys <spk:2> uhuh did you see the the woman golfer that was on this the one <spk:1> monica yeah yeah <spk:2> what's her name monica stone <spk:1> yeah <spk:2> mhm <spk:1> she she blew out she fell out of that tournament but i didn't think she'd do it she she's girls can't compete against guys ...
fe_03_11210 (Δ WDER =6.35%)	... <spk:1> the vikings mine's the eagles i'm from new jersey oh all right i have my jersey on now i watch the game tonight yeah well i i may i may just watch <spk:2> part of it tonight too then but uh it's a case as i say if i had to pay for it i probably wouldn't watch it <spk:1> i wouldn't either uhuh <spk:2> unless <spk:1> it was an eagles game <spk:1> the vikings mine's the eagles i'm from new jersey <spk:2> oh all right <spk:1> i have my jersey on now i watch the game tonight yeah <spk:2> well i i may i may just watch part of it tonight too then but uh it's a case as i say if i had to pay for it i probably wouldn't watch it <spk:1> i wouldn't either <spk:2> uhuh <spk:1> unless it was an eagles game ...
fe_03_11159 (Δ WDER =4.05%)	... <spk:2> yeah <spk:1> anniversary that's horrible <spk:2> yeah <spk:1> yeah it's not good <spk:2> i <spk:1> i hear i hear you there that's not a good thing you <spk:2> know i mean of course you know that's a day that will go down instantly nobody will ever remember it <spk:1> yeah anniversary that's horrible yeah yeah it's not good i i hear i hear you there that's not a good thing <spk:2> you know i mean of course you know that's a day that will go down instantly nobody will ever remember it ...

Table 4: Example cases from the Callhome testing set where we see big absolute WDER reduction (Δ WDER) with DiarizationLM .

Utterance	Before DiarizationLM	After DiarizationLM
en_6447 (Δ WDER =12.49%)	... <spk:1> i'm <spk:2> going to see if i can talk to the guy that's selling the trailer if i can chew him down a bit uhuh <spk:1> and <spk:2> you know what you just said benedicta is are you living with benedicta <spk:1> yes yes yes <spk:2> you know what i bet she answered the phone <spk:2> i'm going to see if i can talk to the guy that's selling the trailer if i can chew him down a bit <spk:1> uhuh <spk:2> and you know what you just said benedicta is are you living with benedicta <spk:1> yes yes yes <spk:2> you know what i bet she answered the phone ...
en_6408 (Δ WDER =10.87%)	... <spk:1> uhu <spk:2> so <spk:1> he had big surgery again and he's in a wheelchair oh my <spk:2> and <spk:1> he doesn't want to go to school in a wheelchair uhuh but <spk:2> he might he wants to have tutoring at home but they're still where they lived on 45th street <spk:1> yeah they're there <spk:2> uhu <spk:1> so he had big surgery again and he's in a wheelchair <spk:2> oh my <spk:1> and he doesn't want to go to school in a wheelchair <spk:2> uhuh <spk:1> but he might he wants to have tutoring at home <spk:2> but they're still where they lived on 45th street <spk:1> yeah they're there ...
en_6298 (Δ WDER =9.95%)	... <spk:1> um hey we're we're confused about you guys address <spk:2> is <spk:1> it 1324 or 13 <spk:2> it's 1 324 <spk:1> excuse me 1324 yes and it's me view is me two words or one word yes it's two words and there's an In besides <spk:1> um hey we're we're confused about you guys address is it 1324 or 13 <spk:2> it's 1 324 <spk:1> excuse me 1324 <spk:2> yes <spk:1> and it's me view is me two words or one word <spk:2> yes it's two words and there's an In besides ...
en_4792 (Δ WDER =9.42%)	... <spk:2> yeah well he was at columbia <spk:1> he was there like five years and they turned him down for tenure then he went somewhere else he he was down in college park maryland yeah and he i think he was only non tenure track down there then supposedly supposed to be back in japan now yeah but you know he's he's probably become an english teacher at some unit yeah i know a guy believe it or not i know a guy from manhattan who was up in sapotto his major he did an mba believe it or not he's he's an english teacher now huh <spk:2> yeah well he was at columbia <spk:1> he was there like five years and they turned him down for tenure then he went somewhere else he he was down in college park maryland <spk:2> yeah <spk:1> and he i think he was only non tenure track down there then supposedly supposed to be back in japan now <spk:2> yeah <spk:1> but you know he's he's probably become an english teacher at some unit <spk:2> yeah <spk:1> i know a guy believe it or not i know a guy from manhattan who was up in sapotto his major he did an mba believe it or not he's he's an english teacher now <spk:2> huh ...

6.2 SPEAKER DIARIZATION WITH SEMANTIC INFORMATION

Apart from the joint ASR and speaker diarization models discussed in Section 1, researchers have also studied various approaches of integrating semantic information into conventional speaker diarization systems. Some of the benefits of DiarizationLM may also be achieved with non-LLM methods.

The most common approach to leverage semantic information is to use ASR word alignments to refine the voice activity detection and initial segmentation [54]. A variant of this approach is to build a speaker turn detection model and segment by speaker turns [55]. In [56], a Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) [57] based speaker turn probability estimator is trained on top of word embeddings and speaker embeddings, and the estimated probabilities are combined with the adjacency matrix for spectral clustering. Similarly in [7], an end-to-end trained transformer transducer (T-T) [58] based speaker turn detection model is used to constrain the spectral clustering via Exhaustive and Efficient Constraint Propagation (E2CP).

6.3 SPEAKER DIARIZATION WITH LLM

In [35], the authors proposed Speaker Error Corrector (SEC), which aims to solve the same problem as we stated in Section 1. In [35], word embeddings from the ASR transcript are extracted with a pre-trained Roberta-base LM [59]. Then a separately trained transformer encoder takes the word embeddings and the hypothesis speaker labels as input, and produces the corrected speaker labels. The transformer encoder is trained on both simulated diarization errors and real data. The biggest difference from our proposed framework to [35] is that we directly feed the compact pure textual representation of the ASR and diarization results as part of the prompt to the LLM, and directly finetune the LLM to produce the corrected results in the same compact textual representation. Our DiarizationLM is a “text-in, text-out” system, without relying on internal embedding representations from the LLM.

More recently in [60], the authors proposed to use LLM to predict the speaker probability for the next word, and incorporate this probability into the beam search decoding of speaker diarization. Our proposed framework differs from this work by using a single prompt (or several prompts due to LLM input size limit) to post-process the entire results of the speaker diarization system, instead of word-by-word prompting. Additionally, our proposed framework can be more generally applied to any speaker diarization system, instead of requiring word-level speaker probabilities for beam search decoding.

7 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we demonstrate that large language models (LLM) can be used to post-process speaker diarization results, achieving various goals such as improving the readability of the diarization transcript, and reducing the diarization errors. Specifically, we proposed DiarizationLM, a framework where we use a finetuned LLM to refine the results from off-the-shelf ASR and speaker diarization systems. Our experiments on Fisher and Callhome datasets show that a finetuned PaLM 2-S model can significantly reduce the word diarization error rates of typical diarization systems like turn-to-diarize.

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Appendices

A OTHER DIARIZATION CAPABILITIES OF LLMs

In our studies, we have found multiple diarization capabilities of LLMs. Due to the lack of relevant training and testing datasets, this paper mainly focuses on evaluating how LLMs can reduce diarization errors. In this section, we provide several examples to demonstrate LLM’s other diarization capabilities. All the provided examples are obtained by directly sending the prompts to Google Bard [36]⁵.

A.1 AUTOFILLING SPEAKER NAMES

In real world applications, real speaker names or aliases are much more readable than anonymous speaker labels such as “speaker 1” or “speaker 2”. In many cases, speaker names can be obtained from the context of the conversation and from additional metadata of the conversation. In meeting summarization, the names can be obtained from the list of meeting attendants. And for video captioning, the names may be extracted from the video title or description. An example is provided below.

Prompt:

[video title] Tom meets Patrick in the parking lot
[video description] A short conversation

Replace the <spk:?> tokens from the below video caption with actual person names.

<spk:1> Good morning Patrick, how are you?
<spk:2> Good, good. How are you Tom?
<spk:1> Pretty good. Going to work?
<spk:2> Yes. Busy day. How are your kids? Do they go to school?
<spk:1> Oh they are too young for that. I sent them to daycare earlier today.
<spk:2> Oh yeah I forgot about that.

Completion:

Based on the video title "Tom meets Patrick in the parking lot", here’s the transcript with speaker names replaced:

Tom: Good morning Patrick, how are you?
Patrick: Good, good. How are you Tom?
Tom: Pretty good. Going to work?
Patrick: Yes. Busy day. How are your kids? Do they go to school?
Tom: Oh they are too young for that. I sent them to daycare earlier today.
Patrick: Oh yeah, I forgot about that.

A.2 AUTOFILLING SPEAKER ROLES

In some applications, knowing the roles of each speaker is useful enough. For example, it would be helpful to distinguish the doctor from the patient in medical transcripts [25], and to distinguish the customer from the agent in call center conversations. This task can be handled with LLM usually without additional metadata about the conversation. We show an example below.

Prompt:

⁵We used an internal version of Bard that is based on a larger model and supports more tokens than the public version.

Replace the <spk:?> tokens from the below conversation with roles like teacher, student, doctor, patient, etc.

<spk:1> Hi, how can I help you today?
 <spk:2> Hi, I recently often feel quite dizzy at work.
 <spk:1> Do you have any of these symptoms? Like coughing, fever, or running nose?
 <spk:2> No, I don't think so.
 <spk:1> What do you usually eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner?
 <spk:2> I'm on a diet, so not eating very much. Mostly just one slice of toast in the morning, and eating salad for lunch and dinner.

Completion:

Doctor: Hi, how can I help you today?
 Patient: Hi, I recently often feel quite dizzy at work.
 Doctor: Do you have any of these symptoms? Like coughing, fever, or running nose?
 Patient: No, I don't think so.
 Doctor: What do you usually eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
 Patient: I'm on a diet, so not eating very much. Mostly just one slice of toast in the morning, and eating salad for lunch and dinner.

A.3 REPLACING THE ORCHESTRATION MODULE

In Fig. 1, we have explained how an orchestration module can combine the ASR transcripts with speaker diarization outputs via the timing information from the two systems. Interestingly, we have found that this process can also be fully replaced by LLM. This can be achieved by explicitly including the timing information in the textual representation of both ASR transcripts and speaker diarization outputs. Additionally, more prompt engineering will be needed, such as explicitly explaining the format of the textual representation, and providing a one-shot example in the prompt. We show an example below.

Prompt:

Here we define the problem of speaker-transcript alignment. The transcript is represented by multiple entries of text, where each text has a starting time and an ending time. The speaker is also represented in this format. The alignment problem will assign a speaker to each word in the text, based on which speaker overlaps the most with that word in time.

Below is an example.

Transcript represented in format "[start - end] text":

[0 - 2.3] Good morning Patrick
 [2.5 - 5.2] how are you?
 [5.6 - 6.1] Good, good.
 [6.2 - 8.3] How are you Tom?
 [9.2 - 9.9] Pretty good.
 [10.0 - 11.1] Going to work?
 [12.5 - 13.6] Yes. Busy day.

Speaker represented in format "[start - end] speaker":

[0 - 5.1] <spk:1>
 [5.3 - 8.7] <spk:2>
 [9.2 - 10.9] <spk:1>
 [12.1 - 13.5] <spk:2>

The alignment result should be:

[0 - 2.3] <spk:1> Good morning Patrick

[2.5 - 5.2] <spk:1> how are you?
[5.6 - 6.1] <spk:2> Good, good.
[6.2 - 8.3] <spk:2> How are you Tom?
[9.2 - 9.9] <spk:1> Pretty good.
[10.0 - 11.1] <spk:1> Going to work?
[12.5 - 13.6] <spk:2> Yes. Busy day.

Based on the example above, we solve the alignment problem below.

Transcript represented in format "[start - end] text":

[0 - 5.6] Hi, how can I help you today?
[6.2 - 11.1] Hi, I recently often feel quite dizzy at work.
[11.6 - 15.5] Do you have any of these symptoms?
[16.6 - 18.5] Like coughing, fever, or running nose?
[20.0 - 21.1] No, I don't think so.
[22.2 - 29.9] What do you usually eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner?
[31.2 - 34.8] I'm on a diet, so not eating very much.
[35.2 - 39.8] Mostly just one slice of toast in the morning, and eating salad for lunch and dinner.

Speaker represented in format "[start - end] speaker":

[0.3 - 5.3] <spk:1>
[6.0 - 12.0] <spk:2>
[12.9 - 20.1] <spk:1>
[20.2 - 21.0] <spk:2>
[21.8 - 31.1] <spk:1>
[32.4 - 40.7] <spk:2>

The alignment result should be:

Completion:

Here's the aligned transcript:

[0 - 5.6] <spk:1> Hi, how can I help you today?
[6.2 - 11.1] <spk:2> Hi, I recently often feel quite dizzy at work.
[11.6 - 15.5] <spk:1> Do you have any of these symptoms?
[16.6 - 18.5] <spk:1> Like coughing, fever, or running nose?
[20.0 - 21.1] <spk:2> No, I don't think so.
[22.2 - 29.9] <spk:1> What do you usually eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner?
[31.2 - 34.8] <spk:2> I'm on a diet, so not eating very much.
[35.2 - 39.8] <spk:2> Mostly just one slice of toast in the morning, and eating salad for lunch and dinner.

To align the transcript and speaker segments, we assign each word in the transcript to the speaker whose segment overlaps the most with that word in time.