The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad at UC Irvine

What?
• A competition for high school students interested in linguistics, languages, and computer science
• Paper and pencil contest
• No prerequisites needed, only logic and analytical skills! (see samples online)
• Easier problems in the Open Round
• Harder problems in the Invitational Round – national selection of the US team for the international olympiad

Did you know?
• More than 7,000 languages are spoken in the world
• Human language is central to human communication and social interaction
• Human languages exhibit interesting patterns and structure
• You can practice scientific reasoning (forming hypotheses and using data to support them)

What is Linguistics?
• The study of human language
• Phonetics: how spoken sounds are produced and heard
• Syntax: how sentences are structured
• Semantics: meaning of words and sentences
• Sociolinguistics: how language use varies

What is Computational Linguistics?
• Computational Linguistics is about teaching computers to understand human language (basis of Artificial Intelligence)
• It is fundamental to search engines such as Google, Yahoo!, and Bing
• Apple’s Siri, Amazon Echo, and IBM’s Watson are also built using computational linguistics technology
• Automatic translation programs such as Google Translate use it as well

International Linguistics Olympiad
• http://www.ioling.org
• More than 30 countries participate
• US teams have won most gold medals
• ILO 2018 will be held in Prague

http://sites.uci.edu/naclo