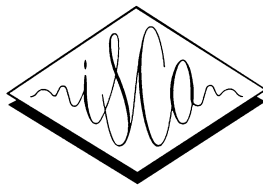


SIGDIAL 2024



**25th Annual Meeting of
the Special Interest Group on
Discourse and Dialogue**



Proceedings of the Conference

September 18 - 20, 2024
Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

In cooperation with:

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International Speech Communication Association (ISCA)

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Preface

We are glad to address the first few words for the proceedings of SIGDIAL 2024, the 25th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue. The SIGDIAL conference is a premier venue for research publication and exchanges in discourse and dialogue. This year, the conference is organized as a fully in-person event on September 18-20, 2024, at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.

The SIGDIAL 2024 program features two keynote talks, six sessions of oral presentations, including the special session on “GEMINI – Graph-based knowlEdge for Modelling Intelligent Natural Interaction”, two sessions of poster presentations and demonstrations, and a panel discussion. Two satellite workshops are held on the preceding days: the 2024 Young Researchers’ Roundtable on Spoken Dialog Systems (YRRSDS 2024) and the Workshop on Spoken Dialogue Systems for Cybernetic Avatars (SDS4CA).

SIGDIAL received a record of 156 submissions (excluding desk rejects and withdrawals) this year, comprising 106 long papers, 44 short papers, and 6 demo descriptions. Only a small minority of submissions was received via ARR (3 submissions). We had 15 Senior Program Committee (SPC) members, leading the discussion process and also writing meta-reviews. Each submission was assigned to an SPC member and received at least three reviews. Decisions carefully considered the original reviews, meta-reviews, and discussions among reviewers facilitated by the SPCs. We are immensely grateful to the members of the Program Committee and Senior Program Committee for their efforts in providing excellent, thoughtful reviews of the large number of submissions. Their contributions have been essential to selecting the accepted papers and providing a high-quality technical program for the conference. We have aimed to develop a broad, varied program spanning the many positively-rated papers identified by the review process. We therefore accepted 65 papers in total: 44 long papers (41.5%), 17 short papers (38.6%), and 4 demo descriptions, for an overall acceptance rate of 41.7%. The topics to be presented demonstrate the current breadth of research in discourse and dialogue.

We thank the two keynote speakers: Koji Inoue (Kyoto University, Kyoto) and Zhou Yu (Columbia University, New York, and Articulate.AI), for their inspiring talks. We also thank the organizers of the special session: “GEMINI – Graph-based knowlEdge for Modelling Intelligent Natural Interaction”. We are grateful for the mentoring chairs of Shikib Mehri and David Howcroft.

SIGDIAL 2024 is made possible by the dedication and hard work of our community. First, we express our gratitude to the SIGDIAL officers for their continuous support and advice. We also appreciate the volunteer works of all members of the organizing committee: Sponsorships Chair, Ramesh Manuvinakurike; Publication Chair, Kazunori Komatani; Publicity Chair, Ryuichiro Higashinaka, and Local Arrangements Chair, Koji Inoue. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors: Apple (Gold), SB Intuitions (Gold), CyberAgent (Gold), PKSHA (Gold), Equmenopolis (Gold), Google (Silver), and Fairy Devices (Bronze).

Finally, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Kyoto and Kyoto University. Kyoto was the old capital of Japan from the 8th to the 19th century; thus, it has many national treasures and cultural heritages and yet incubates many innovative companies. Kyoto University is the second oldest (founded in 1897) national university in Japan, which encourages liberal and original research, resulting in the largest number of Nobel laureates in Asian institutes. You will meet robot interviewers at the conference. The banquet will be hosted in Heian Jingu Shrine, which models the old imperial palace. We hope that you will have an enjoyable and productive experience and leave with fond memories of SIGDIAL 2024. With our best wishes for a successful conference.

Tatsuya Kawahara, General Chair

Vera Demberg and Stefan Ultes, Program Co-Chairs

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Conference Program

Wednesday September 18

09:30–10:00 **Opening**

10:00–11:40 **Oral session 1: Discourse** (Chair: Peter Bourgonje)

Dialogue Discourse Parsing as Generation: A Sequence-to-Sequence LLM-based Approach

Chuyuan Li, Yuwei Yin and Giuseppe Carenini

Rhetorical Strategies in the UN Security Council: Rhetorical Structure Theory and Conflicts

Karolina Zaczynska and Manfred Stede

Elaborative Simplification for German-Language Texts

Freya Hewett, Hadi Asghari and Manfred Stede

Examining Gender and Power on Wikipedia through Face and Politeness

Adil Soubki, Shyne E. Choi and Owen Rambow

ReALM: Reference Resolution as Language Modeling

Joel Ruben Antony Moniz, Soundarya Krishnan, Melis Ozyildirim, Prathamesh Saraf, Halim Cagri Ates, Yuan Zhang and Hong Yu

11:40–13:00 **Lunch**

Wednesday September 18 (continued)

13:00–14:40 Oral session 2: Special Session (GEMINI – Graph-based knowlEdge for Modelling Intelligent Natural Interaction) (Chair: Kristiina Jokinen)

Dialog Flow Induction for Constrainable LLM-Based Chatbots

Stuti Agrawal, Pranav Pillai, Nishi Uppuluri, Revanth Gangi Reddy, Sha Li, Gokhan Tur, Dilek Hakkani-Tur and Heng Ji

Knowledge-Grounded Dialogue Act Transfer using Prompt-Based Learning for Controllable Open-Domain NLG

Alain Vazquez Risco, Angela Maria Ramirez, Neha Pullabhotla, Nan Qiang, Haoran Zhang, Marilyn Walker and Maria Ines Torres

Incremental Learning for Knowledge-Grounded Dialogue Systems in Industrial Scenarios

Izaskun Fernandez, Cristina Aceta, Cristina Fernandez, Maria Ines Torres, Aitor Etxalar, Ariane Mendez, Maia Agirre, Manuel Torralbo, Arantza Del Pozo, Joseba Agirre, Egoitz Artetxe and Iker Altuna

Anticipating Follow-Up Questions in Exploratory Information Search

Graham Wilcock

Bridging Information Gaps in Dialogues with Grounded Exchanges Using Knowledge Graphs

Phillip Schneider, Nektarios Machner, Kristiina Jokinen and Florian Matthes

14:40–15:00 Sponsors

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

15:30–17:00 Poster session 1

"Keep up the good work!": Using Constraints in Zero Shot Prompting to Generate Supportive Teacher Responses

E. Margaret Perkoff, Angela Maria Ramirez, Sean von Bayern, Marilyn Walker and James Martin

HelloThere: A Corpus of Annotated Dialogues and Knowledge Bases of Time-Offset Avatars

Alberto Chierici and Nizar Habash

It Couldn't Help but Overhear: On the Limits of Modelling Meta-Communicative Grounding Acts with Supervised Learning

Brielen Madureira and David Schlangen

Wednesday September 18 (continued)

Data Augmentation Integrating Dialogue Flow and Style to Adapt Spoken Dialogue Systems to Low-Resource User Groups

Zhiyang Qi and Michimasa Inaba

StyEmp: Stylizing Empathetic Response Generation via Multi-Grained Prefix Encoder and Personality Reinforcement

Yahui Fu, Chenhui Chu and Tatsuya Kawahara

Multi-Criteria Evaluation Framework of Selecting Response-worthy Chats in Live Streaming

Zhantao Lai and Kosuke Sato

Generating Unexpected yet Relevant User Dialog Acts

Lucie Galland, Catherine Pelachaud and Florian Pecune

Training LLMs to Recognize Hedges in Dialogues about Roadrunner Cartoons

Amie Paige, Adil Soubki, John Murzaku, Owen Rambow and Susan E. Brennan

On the Controllability of Large Language Models for Dialogue Interaction

Nicolas Wagner and Stefan Ultes

Divide and Conquer: Rethinking Ambiguous Candidate Identification in Multi-modal Dialogues with Pseudo-Labeling

Bhathiya Hemanthage, Christian Dondrup, Hakan Bilen and Oliver Lemon

Self-Emotion Blended Dialogue Generation in Social Simulation Agents

Qiang Zhang, Jason Naradowsky and Yusuke Miyao

Enhancing Model Transparency: A Dialogue System Approach to XAI with Domain Knowledge

Isabel Feustel, Niklas Rach, Wolfgang Minker and Stefan Ultes

Affect Recognition in Conversations Using Large Language Models

Shutong Feng, Guangzhi Sun, Nurul Lubis, Wen Wu, Chao Zhang and Milica Gasic

Sentiment-Aware Dialogue Flow Discovery for Interpreting Communication Trends

Patrícia Sofia Pereira Ferreira, Isabel Carvalho, Ana Alves, Catarina Silva and Hugo Gonçalves Oliveira

Analyzing and Enhancing Clarification Strategies for Ambiguous References in Consumer Service Interactions

Changling Li, Yujian Gan, Zhenrong Yang, Youyang Chen, Xinxuan Qiu, Yanni Lin, Matthew Purver and Massimo Poesio

Wednesday September 18 (continued)

Coherence-based Dialogue Discourse Structure Extraction using Open-Source Large Language Models

Gaetano Cimino, Chuyuan Li, Giuseppe Carenini and Vincenzo Deufemia

Transforming Slot Schema Induction with Generative Dialogue State Inference

James D. Finch, Boxin Zhao and Jinho D. Choi

Using Respiration for Enhancing Human-Robot Dialogue

Takao Obi and Kotaro Funakoshi

Interactive Dialogue Interface for Personalized News Article Comprehension

Tomoya Higuchi and Michimasa Inaba

Scoring Coreference Chains with Split-Antecedent Anaphors

Silviu Paun, Juntao Yu, Nafise Sadat Moosavi and Massimo Poesio
(paper from Dialogue & Discourse journal)

17:00–18:00 Keynote 1: Koji Inoue (Chair: Vera Demberg)

Yeah, Well, Haha: Generating Non-linguistic Behaviors For Human-like Conversational Robots

18:00–20:00 Reception @Foyer

Thursday, September 19

09:00–10:20 Oral session 3: ML for Dialogue (Chair: Yun-Nung Chen)

Enhancing Dialogue Speech Recognition with Robust Contextual Awareness via Noise Representation Learning

Wonjun Lee, San Kim and Gary Geunbae Lee

Local Topology Measures of Contextual Language Model Latent Spaces with Applications to Dialogue Term Extraction

Benjamin Matthias Ruppik, Michael Heck, Carel van Niekerk, Renato Vukovic, Hsien-chin Lin, Shutong Feng, Marcus Zibrowius and Milica Gasic

Adaptive Open-Set Active Learning with Distance-Based Out-of-Distribution Detection for Robust Task-Oriented Dialog System

Sai Keerthana Goruganthu, Roland R. Oruche and Prasad Calyam

Dialogue Ontology Relation Extraction via Constrained Chain-of-Thought Decoding

Renato Vukovic, David Arps, Carel van Niekerk, Benjamin Matthias Ruppik, Hsien-chin Lin, Michael Heck and Milica Gasic

10:20–10:40 Coffee break

10:40–11:40 Keynote 2: Zhou Yu (Chair: Stefan Ultes)

AI Agents beyond ChatGPT

11:40–13:00 Lunch

Thursday, September 19 (continued)

13:00–14:20 Oral session 4: Education / Tutoring (Chair: Kallirroi Georgila)

InteLLA: Intelligent Language Learning Assistant for Assessing Language Proficiency through Interviews and Roleplays

Mao Saeki, Hiroaki Takatsu, Fuma Kurata, Shungo Suzuki, Masaki Eguchi, Ryuki Matsuura, Kotaro Takizawa, Sadahiro Yoshikawa and Yoichi Matsuyama

Curriculum-Driven Edubot: A Framework for Developing Language Learning Chatbots through Synthesizing Conversational Data

Yu Li, Shang Qu, Jili Shen, Shangchao Min and Zhou Yu

Going beyond Imagination! Enhancing Multi-modal Dialogue Agents with Synthetic Visual Descriptions

Haolan Zhan, Sameen Maruf, Ingrid Zukerman and Gholamreza Haffari

User Review Writing via Interview with Dialogue Systems

Yoshiki Tanaka and Michimasa Inaba

14:20–14:30 Introduction to Heian Jingu

14:30–15:00 Coffee break

Thursday, September 19 (continued)

15:00–16:30 Poster session 2

Conversational Feedback in Scripted versus Spontaneous Dialogues: A Comparative Analysis

Ildiko Pilsan, Laurent Prévot, Hendrik Buschmeier and Pierre Lison

Exploring the Use of Natural Language Descriptions of Intents for Large Language Models in Zero-shot Intent Classification

Taesuk Hong, Youbin Ahn, Dongkyu Lee, Joongbo Shin, Seungpil Won, Janghoon Han, Stanley Jungkyu Choi and Jungyun Seo

Voice and Choice: Investigating the Role of Prosodic Variation in Request Compliance and Perceived Politeness Using Conversational TTS

Eva Szekely, Jeff Higginbotham and Francesco Possemato

A Dialogue Game for Eliciting Balanced Collaboration

Isidora Jeknic, David Schlangen and Alexander Koller

Improving Speech Recognition with Jargon Injection

Minh-Tien Nguyen, Dat Phuoc Nguyen, Tuan-Hai Luu, Xuan-Quang Nguyen, Tung-Duong Nguyen and Jeff Yang

Optimizing Code-Switching in Conversational Tutoring Systems: A Pedagogical Framework and Evaluation

Zhengyuan Liu, Stella Xin Yin and Nancy Chen

ECoh: Turn-level Coherence Evaluation for Multilingual Dialogues

John Mendonca, Isabel Trancoso and Alon Lavie

An Investigation into Explainable Audio Hate Speech Detection

Jinmyeong An, Wonjun Lee, Yejin Jeon, Jungseul Ok, Yunsu Kim and Gary Geunbae Lee

Mhm... Yeah? Okay! Evaluating the Naturalness and Communicative Function of Synthesized Feedback Responses in Spoken Dialogue

Carol Figueroa, Marcel de Korte, Magalie Ochs and Gabriel Skantze

Generalizing across Languages and Domains for Discourse Relation Classification

Peter Bourgonje and Vera Demberg

BoK: Introducing Bag-of-Keywords Loss for Interpretable Dialogue Response Generation

Suvodip Dey and Maunendra Sankar Desarkar

Thursday, September 19 (continued)

Cross-lingual Transfer and Multilingual Learning for Detecting Harmful Behaviour in African Under-Resourced Language Dialogue

Tunde Oluwaseyi Ajayi, Mihael Arcan and Paul Buitelaar

A Few-shot Approach to Task-oriented Dialogue Enhanced with Chitchat

Armand Stricker and Patrick Paroubek

Exploration of Human Repair Initiation in Task-oriented Dialogue: A Linguistic Feature-based Approach

Anh Ngo, Dirk Heylen, Nicolas Rollet, Catherine Pelachaud and Chloé Clavel

Comparing Pre-Trained Embeddings and Domain-Independent Features for Regression-Based Evaluation of Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems

Kallirroi Georgila

Question Type Prediction in Natural Debate

Zlata Kikteva, Alexander Trautsch, Steffen Herbold and Annette Hautli-Janisz

MemeIntent: Benchmarking Intent Description Generation for Memes

Jeongsik Park, Khoi P. N. Nguyen, Terrence Li, Suyesh Shrestha, Megan Kim Vu, Jerry Yining Wang and Vincent Ng

Automating PTSD Diagnostics in Clinical Interviews: Leveraging Large Language Models for Trauma Assessments

Sichang Tu, Abigail Powers, Natalie Merrill, Negar Fani, Sierra Carter, Stephen Doogan and Jinho D. Choi

DialBB: A Dialogue System Development Framework as an Educational Material

Mikio Nakano and Kazunori Komatani

A Multimodal Dialogue System to Lead Consensus Building with Emotion-Displaying

Shinnosuke Nozue, Yuto Nakano, Shoji Moriya, Tomoki Ariyama, Kazuma Kokuta, Suchun Xie, Kai Sato, Shusaku Sone, Ryohei Kamei, Reina Akama, Yuichiroh Mat-subayashi and Keisuke Sakaguchi

16:30–18:00 Excursion to Heian Jingu Shrine

18:00–20:30 Banquet @Heian Jingu Kaikan

Friday, September 20

09:00–10:20 Oral session 5: Persona / Emotions (Chair: Mikio Nakano)

PersonaCLR: Evaluation Model for Persona Characteristics via Contrastive Learning of Linguistic Style Representation

Michimasa Inaba

DiagESC: Dialogue Synthesis for Integrating Depression Diagnosis into Emotional Support Conversation

Seungyeon Seo and Gary Geunbae Lee

Infusing Emotions into Task-oriented Dialogue Systems: Understanding, Management, and Generation

Shutong Feng, Hsien-chin Lin, Christian Geishauser, Nurul Lubis, Carel van Niekerk, Michael Heck, Benjamin Matthias Ruppik, Renato Vukovic and Milica Gasic

Estimating the Emotional Valence of Interlocutors Using Heterogeneous Sensors in Human-Human Dialogue

Jingjing Jiang, Ao Guo and Ryuichiro Higashinaka

10:20–10:40 Coffee break

10:40–11:40 Panel: Future of Dialogue Research

11:40–13:00 Lunch

Friday, September 20 (continued)

13:00–14:20 Oral session 6: Interaction (Chair: Koichiro Yoshino)

The Gap in the Strategy of Recovering Task Failure between GPT-4V and Humans in a Visual Dialogue

Ryosuke Oshima, Seitaro Shinagawa and Shigeo Morishima

MindDial: Enhancing Conversational Agents with Theory-of-Mind for Common Ground Alignment and Negotiation

Shuwen Qiu, Mingdian Liu, Hengli Li, Song-Chun Zhu and Zilong Zheng

An Open Intent Discovery Evaluation Framework

Grant Anderson, Emma Hart, Dimitra Gkatzia and Ian Beaver

Toximatics: Towards Understanding Toxicity in Real-Life Social Situations

Mayukh Das and Wolf-Tilo Balke

14:20–14:50 Coffee break

14:50–15:50 Business meeting

15:50–16:20 Award & Closing

Keynote Abstracts

Keynote 1 - Yeah, Well, Haha: Generating Non-linguistic Behaviors For Human-like Conversational Robots

Koji Inoue

Kyoto University

Abstract

The rise of multimodal large language models (MLLMs) has notably enhanced the capabilities of spoken dialogue systems and conversational robots, paving the way for practical applications. Yet, these models still struggle with specific non-linguistic behaviors crucial for the fluidity and dynamism of human conversations. This keynote will delve into these essential behaviors—such as backchanneling, laughter, and turn-taking—tracing the evolution of research from early studies to the latest Transformer-based models. The discussion will also address the persistent challenges in spoken dialogue research, aiming to advance human-like conversational robots in the era of evolving MLLMs.

Biography

Koji Inoue received his Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Japan, in 2018. He is currently an assistant professor at Kyoto University. In 2023, he was a visiting researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. His research team has developed a spoken dialogue system for the android ERICA. He was awarded the NETEXPLO Innovation 2022 Award.

Keynote 2 - AI Agents Beyond ChatGPT

Zhou Yu

Columbia University and Articulate.AI

Abstract

ChatGPT has significantly raised public expectations for conversational agents, with many now anticipating these agents to handle a wide range of tasks. However, deploying one single larger model with generalized capabilities is often impractical, in terms of accuracy, cost, and security, particularly in industry settings. Solving specific tasks requires a systematic combination of different models to form workflows. In this talk, we will explore various approaches to developing smaller, open-source models that can power AI agents to perform specialized tasks more effectively, using diverse fine-tuning techniques. In addition, we will talk about how AI Agent frameworks such as reflection could be applied in smaller model settings.

Biography

Zhou(Jo) Yu is an Associate Professor at Columbia University's Computer Science Department. She obtained her Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Yu has received several best paper awards in top NLP conferences and has won Forbes 30 under 30 in 2018. Dr. Yu has developed various dialog system applications that have had a real impact, including winning the Amazon Alexa Prize. Dr. Yu co-founded Articulate.ai INC, democratizing AI Agent building with GenAI developer tools.