

ANNOTATION OF ATIS DATA

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PROJECT GOALS

The performance of spoken language systems on utterances from the ATIS domain is evaluated by comparing system-produced responses with hand-crafted (and -verified) standard responses to the same utterances. The objective of SRI's annotation project is to provide SLS system developers with the range of correct responses to human utterances produced during experimental sessions with ATIS domain interactive systems. These correct responses are then used in system training and evaluation.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

In the next year, SRI will continue to provide MADCOW annotation and other services to the DARPA community. In addition to tasks previously performed, SRI will assume a greater role in the resolution of training data bug reports.

RECENT RESULTS

Since June 1991, SRI has produced classification and response files for about 13,000 utterances of training data (4000 of these since January, 1993). A dry run system evaluation and three official evaluations have been held since the project began in 1991. SRI has produced the standard responses for all of these evaluations; in all, about 3300 utterances.

These tests were performed according to the Common Answer Specification (CAS) protocol which is used in training. All systems are evaluated on a common set of data, with system responses measured against official reference answers produced at SRI in the same manner as the training data.

In addition to producing the classification and standard response files, SRI takes an active role in the adjudication of test and training data bug reports, initiates nearly all of the changes to the *Principles of Interpretation* document (a basic set of principles for interpreting the meaning of ATIS sentences agreed upon by the DARPA community), and continues to support NIST by modifying software and acting as a consultant regarding the correct annotation of data.