Proceedings of the 6th SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue

Edited by

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Preface

We are happy to present the proceedings of the Sixth SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue. This workshop continues a series of successful workshops held in Hong Kong, Aalborg, Philadelphia, Sapporo and Boston, and spans the ACL and ISCA SIGdial interest area of discourse and dialogue. The workshop series provides a regular forum for the presentation of research in the discourse and dialogue area to both the larger SIGdial community as well as to researchers outside this community. The workshop is organised by SIGdial, which is sponsored jointly by ACL and ISCA.

We received a total of 80 submissions for this year's workshop which is the highest submission rate to date for the SIGdial workshop series. We have accepted 28 of these papers which is typical for a SIGdial workshop. However, this meant that competition was very hard this year and many good papers had to be rejected. We would like to thank all authors for the effort they spent on their submissions.

Together the accepted papers cover a wide range of topics in discourse and dialogue including discourse and dialogue modelling, dialogue design, error recovery, evaluation of dialogue systems, multimodal dialogue systems, machine learning, statistical approaches in dialogue management, intonation issues, corpora, annotation, and tools.

We are especially grateful for the work of the Program Committee. The many submissions meant that their workload has been considerable. It has been an invaluable help for us to have their input and comments when making the many and often difficult decisions on which papers to accept. The names of the Program Committee members are listed on the next page.

We would also like to express our thanks to several people who otherwise assisted us in organising the workshop. Torben Kruchov Madsen from NISLab took care of all web pages related to the workshop, including submission and review pages. Priscilla Rasmussen from ACL helped with financial matters. Angela Rittinger from the University of Ulm helped us with organsing the review process. Antonio Serralheiro from INESC took care of all local organisation. David Traum from ICT and president of SIGdial assisted with communication to the print house and with various supportive input.

Last but not least we would like to thank our invited speakers Michael McTear from University of Ulster and Roberto Pieraccini from IBM. We are convinced that their contributions will be very valuable to the workshop.

We are happy to announce that a book on recent trends in discourse and dialogue will be published in the Springer Text, Speech, and Language Technology series. The book will be based partly on selected, revised and possibly extended workshop papers and partly on invited contributions. We are looking forward to collaborating with Jolanda Voogd from Springer on this book.

We wish all workshop participants an enjoyable and fruitful event and we hope that all readers of the proceedings will benefit from the contents.

Laila Dybkjær (University of Southern Denmark) and Wolfgang Minker (University of Ulm)

Organising Committee

Program Committee

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Meet Hans Christian Andersen
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09.00 - 09.10 Opening

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11.55 - 12.20 Jason D. Williams, Pascal Poupart and Steve Young
Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes with Continuous Observations for Dialogue Management

12.20 - 12.45 Tim Paek and David Maxwell Chickering
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15.55 - 16.25 Tea break

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