SDCTD 2012

NAACL-HLT Workshop on Future directions and needs in the Spoken Dialog Community: Tools and Data

Workshop Notes

June 7, 2012
Montréal, Canada

Production and Manufacturing by
Omnipress, Inc.
2600 Anderson Street
Madison, WI 53707
USA

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ISBN13: 978-1-937284-20-6 ISBN10: 1-937284-20-4

Preface

With a large and diverse Spoken Dialog research community that is characterized by its rapid progress and innovation, the SDCTD 2012 workshop is designed to take the pulse of this community, underlining its most advanced discoveries, charting its future directions and tracking its needs. The workshop includes position papers from eminent researchers in the field on a variety of topics that can be grouped under the following five topics:

- Knowledge Acquisition and Resource Creation
- Assessment
- New Technologies for Spoken Dialogue Systems
- Architectures
- Community Building

The spoken dialog research community has interests in specific topics such as belief tracking, multimodal dialog, simulated users, dialog assessment, etc. This diversity of interests makes it difficult to find common threads that can bind the community together. The workshop aims at discovering those common threads. We can cite three types of existing common tools and data. One is data sharing. Another is the Spoken Dialog Challenge, which enables many researchers to compare techniques on a common task. Yet another is the use of a well-documented platform that can be used to teach new researchers about spoken dialog architecture, thus enabling easier entry to our field.

The workshop will have the following structure:
In the morning, speakers will cover the main advances that have been made on each of the five topics in the past five years and then point to specific promising areas of research. We will then have a poster session, reviewing recent projects and tools. In the afternoon, Participants will split into breakout groups on these topics and the groups will report back to all of the participants to attempt to define needs that are common across topics and thus the most widespread in the community. The end of day reports will be available from the workshop website: `http://projects.ict.usc.edu/nld/SDCTD2012/`

Maxine Eskenazi, Alan Black, David Traum, Workshop Chairs

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Alan Black Carnegie Mellon University
David Traum USC Institute for Creative Technologies

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Table of Contents

Up from Limited Dialog Systems!
Giuseppe Riccardi, Philipp Cimiano, Alexandros Potamianos and Christina Unger 1

Directions for Research on Spoken Dialog Systems, Broadly Defined
Nigel G. Ward 3

Position Paper: Towards Standardized Metrics and Tools for Spoken and Multimodal Dialog System Evaluation
Sebastian Möller, Klaus-Peter Engelbrecht, Florian Kretzschmar, Stefan Schmidt and Benjamin Weiss 5

Dialogue Systems Using Online Learning: Beyond Empirical Methods
Heriberto Cuayáhuitl and Nina Dethlefs 7

Statistical User Simulation for Spoken Dialogue Systems: What for, Which Data, Which Future?
Olivier Pietquin 9

The Future of Spoken Dialogue Systems is in their Past: Long-Term Adaptive, Conversational Assistants
David Schlangen 11

Towards Situated Collaboration
Dan Bohus, Ece Kamar and Eric Horvitz 13

Incremental Spoken Dialogue Systems: Tools and Data
Helen Hastie, Oliver Lemon and Nina Dethlefs 15

After Dialog Went Pervasive: Separating Dialog Behavior Modeling and Task Modeling
Amanda Stent 17

Future Directions in Spoken Dialog Systems: A Community of Possibilities
Alan W Black and Maxine Eskenazi 19

Bridging Gaps for Spoken Dialog System Frameworks in Instructional Settings
Gina-Anne Levow 21

A belief tracking challenge task for spoken dialog systems
Jason Williams 23

Framework for the Development of Spoken Dialogue System based on Collaboratively Constructed Semantic Resources
Masahiro Araki and Daisuke Takegoshi 25

The InproTK 2012 release
Timo Baumann and David Schlangen 29

A Simulation-based Framework for Spoken Language Understanding and Action Selection in Situated Interaction
David Cohen and Ian Lane 33

Mining Search Query Logs for Spoken Language Understanding
Dilek Hakkani-Tur, Gokhan Tur and Asli Celikyilmaz 37

HRItk: The Human-Robot Interaction ToolKit Rapid Development of Speech-Centric Interactive Systems in ROS
Ian Lane, Vinay Prasad, Gaurav Sinha, Arlette Umuhoza, Shangyu Luo, Akshay Chandrashekaran and Antoine Raux 41

One Year of Contender: What Have We Learned about Assessing and Tuning Industrial Spoken Dialog Systems?
David Suendermann and Roberto Pieraccini 45

Towards Quality-Adaptive Spoken Dialogue Management
Stefan Ultes, Alexander Schmitt and Wolfgang Minker 49

Workshop Program

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Position Papers

Knowledge Acquisition and resource creation

Up from Limited Dialog Systems!
Giuseppe Riccardi, Philipp Cimiano, Alexandros Potamianos and Christina Unger

Directions for Research on Spoken Dialog Systems, Broadly Defined
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Assessment

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New Techniques for SDS

Dialogue Systems Using Online Learning: Beyond Empirical Methods
Heriberto Cuayáhuitl and Nina Dethlefs

Statistical User Simulation for Spoken Dialogue Systems: What for, Which Data, Which Future?
Olivier Pietquin

The Future of Spoken Dialogue Systems is in their Past: Long-Term Adaptive, Conversational Assistants
David Schlangen

Thursday, June 7, 2012 (continued)

Architectures

Towards Situated Collaboration
Dan Bohus, Ece Kamar and Eric Horvitz

Incremental Spoken Dialogue Systems: Tools and Data
Helen Hastie, Oliver Lemon and Nina Dethlefs

After Dialog Went Pervasive: Separating Dialog Behavior Modeling and Task Modeling
Amanda Stent

Community-Bulding

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Alan W Black and Maxine Eskenazi

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Project Notes

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Thursday, June 7, 2012 (continued)

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