# SIGDIAL 2013



# 14th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue



**Proceedings of the Conference** 



22-24 August 2013 SUPELEC Metz, France

#### In cooperation with:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) International Speech Communication Association (ISCA) Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

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## Introduction

Welcome to the SIGDIAL 2013 Conference, the 14th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue. The conference is held in Metz, France, August 22-24, 2013, and is co-located with the 14th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (INTERSPEECH).

We received a record 115 submissions. Submissions were received from 24 different countries around the world, including countries in Asia (24 submissions), Australia/New Zealand (2), Europe (49), North America (37), and South America (3). Of the 115 submissions, 63 were long paper submissions, 35 short paper submissions, and 17 demonstration submissions.

All papers received 3 reviews, and demonstrations 2 reviews. The members of the Program Committee did a superb job in reviewing the submitted papers. We thank them for their advice in selecting the accepted papers and for helping to maintain the high quality of the program. In line with the SIGDIAL tradition, our aim has been to create a balanced program that could accommodate as many favorably rated papers as possible. Of the 63 long paper submissions, 40 were accepted: 26 were accepted as long papers for oral presentation, 5 were accepted as long papers for poster presentation, and 9 were accepted as short papers for poster presentation. Of the 35 short paper submissions, 17 were accepted for poster presentation, for a total of 31 posters. Of the 17 demonstration submissions, 14 were accepted. In light of the record number of papers and demonstrations, this year SIGDIAL runs 2.5 days, rather than 2 days as had been the convention for the past few meetings.

SIGDIAL continues to serve as a publication venue for research that spans many aspects of discourse and dialogue. This year, the program contained oral presentation sessions and poster papers on discourse, semantics, generation, situated and multi-modal dialogue, dialogue system control and evaluation, models of dialogue and spoken discourse, speech processing technology in dialogue, and dialogue state tracking, as well as on the SIGDIAL 2013 special theme on "Discourse and Dialogue in Social Media". SIGDIAL 2013 also hosted results from the "Dialogue State Tracking Challenge", organized by Jason D. Williams, Antoine Raux, Deepak Ramachandran, and Alan Black. Papers related to this challenge were submitted and reviewed as normal SIGDIAL papers, with 9 being accepted.

We particularly thank the two keynote speakers for their contributions to research on discourse and dialog systems: Bonnie Webber (University of Edinburgh) and Jerome Bellegarda (Apple Inc).

We thank Kallirroi Georgila, Mentoring Chair for SIGDIAL 2013. The goal of mentoring is to assist authors of papers that contain innovative ideas to improve their quality regarding English language usage or paper organization. This year, 7 of the accepted papers were mentored. We thank the Program Committee members who volunteered to serve as mentors: Ron Artstein, Heriberto Cuayáhuitl, Kallirroi Georgila, Andrei Popescu-Belis, Matthew Purver, Carolyn Penstein Rosé, and Amanda Stent.

We extend special thanks to Olivier Pietquin, the local arrangements chair, and his local arrangements team of Calogero Bomba, Danièle Cebe, Jérémy Fix, Thérèse Fressengeas, Matthieu Geist, Sébastien Van Luchène, Claudine Mercier, Nathalie Ruch, and Chantal Sabbagh. SIGDIAL 2013 would not have been possible without Olivier, who worked tirelessly to handle a seemingly unending stream of details for the local arrangements, from organizing the venue, handling registration, arranging student accommodation, planning video recording, helping individual participants navigate public transport in France, and more. We also thank the student volunteers for on-site assistance. Thanks to Casey Kennington for preparing the USB drives with the proceedings.

We thank Amanda Stent, Sponsorships Chair, for recruiting and liaising with our conference sponsors. The sponsorship program enables valuable aspects of the program, such as the invited speakers, conference reception and dinner, and best paper awards. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, including Amazon, Apple, AT&T, Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS), Honda Research Institute (HRI), La Région Lorraine, Microsoft, Nuance, Samsung, and SUPELEC. We also thank Priscilla Rasmussen at the ACL for handling the financial aspects of sponsorship for SIGDIAL 2013.

We gratefully acknowledge SoftConf for use of the START conference management system.

We also thank the SIGdial board, especially officers Tim Paek, Amanda Stent, and Kristiina Jokinen, for their advice and support. In particular we thank Amanda Stent for providing continuity, as a program chair for SIGDIAL 2012.

Finally, we thank all the authors of the papers in this volume, and all the conference participants for making this event such a great opportunity for new research in dialogue and discourse.

Maxine Eskenazi and Michael Strube General Co-Chairs

Barbara Di Eugenio and Jason D. Williams Technical Program Co-Chairs

#### SIGDIAL 2013

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#### **Invited Speakers:**

Jerome Bellegarda, Apple Inc, USA Bonnie Webber, University of Edinburgh, UK

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# **Conference Program**

## Thursday, August 22, 2013

9:00	Welcome and conference overview
	Keynote I
9:10	Discourse Relations, Discourse Structure, Discourse Semantics Bonnie Webber
10:10	Break
	Oral session: Discourse, semantics, and generation
10:35	<i>Expressivity and comparison of models of discourse structure</i> Antoine Venant, Nicholas Asher, Philippe Muller, Pascal Denis and Stergos Afantenos
10:55	Unsupervised structured semantic inference for spoken dialog reservation tasks Alejandra Lorenzo, Lina Rojas-Barahona and Christophe Cerisara
11:15	Verbal indicators of psychological distress in interactive dialogue with a virtual human David DeVault, Kallirroi Georgila, Ron Artstein, Fabrizio Morbini, David Traum, Stefan Scherer, Albert (Skip) Rizzo and Louis-Philippe Morency
11:35	<i>Training an integrated sentence planner on user dialogue</i> Brian McMahan and Matthew Stone
11:55	Lunch
	Oral session: Dialog and Discourse in social media and interpersonal relation- ships
13:00	<i>Topic Independent Identification of Agreement and Disagreement in Social Media</i> <i>Dialogue</i> Amita Misra and Marilyn Walker
13:20	Automatic Prediction of Friendship via Multi-model Dyadic Features Zhou Yu, David Gerritsen, Amy Ogan, Alan Black and Justine Cassell
13:40	Stance Classification in Online Debates by Recognizing Users' Intentions Sarvesh Ranade, Rajeev Sangal and Radhika Mamidi

#### Thursday, August 22, 2013 (continued)

#### Poster and demonstration session

- 14:00 Poster "madness" (short presentations of each poster)
- 14:25 Poster session (with coffee)

Generating More Specific Questions for Acquiring Attributes of Unknown Concepts from Users

Tsugumi Otsuka, Kazunori Komatani, Satoshi Sato and Mikio Nakano

*Modeling Collaborative Referring for Situated Referential Grounding* Changsong Liu, Rui Fang, Lanbo She and Joyce Chai

A quantitative view of feedback lexical markers in conversational French Laurent Prévot, Brigitte Bigi and Roxane Bertrand

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*Modelling Human Clarification Strategies* Svetlana Stoyanchev, Alex Liu and Julia Hirschberg

Interactive Error Resolution Strategies for Speech-to-Speech Translation Systems

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#### Demonstration of an Always-On Companion for Isolated Older Adults

Candace Sidner, Timothy Bickmore, Charles Rich, Barbara Barry, Lazlo Ring, Morteza Behrooz and Mohammad Shayganfar

# A Multithreaded Conversational Interface for Pedestrian Navigation and Question Answering

Srinivasan Janarthanam, Oliver Lemon, Xingkun Liu, Phil Bartie, William Mackaness and Tiphaine Dalmas

# Demonstration of the PARLANCE system: a data-driven incremental, spoken dialogue system for interactive search

Helen Hastie, Marie-Aude Aufaure, Panos Alexopoulos, Heriberto Cuayáhuitl, Nina Dethlefs, Milica Gasic, James Henderson, Oliver Lemon, Xingkun Liu, Peter Mika, Nesrine Ben Mustapha, Verena Rieser, Blaise Thomson, Pirros Tsiakoulis and Yves Vanrompay

#### Multi-step Natural Language Understanding

Pierrick Milhorat, Stephan Schlögl, Gérard Chollet and Jérôme Boudy

*WebWOZ: A Platform for Designing and Conducting Web-based Wizard of Oz Experiments* Stephan Schlögl, Saturnino Luz and Gavin Doherty

## Thursday, August 22, 2013 (continued)

# Oral session: Situated and multi-modal dialog

16:30	<i>Exploring the effects of gaze and pauses in situated human-robot interaction</i> Gabriel Skantze, Anna Hjalmarsson and Catharine Oertel
16:50	Interpreting Situated Dialogue Utterances: an Update Model that Uses Speech, Gaze, and Gesture Information Casey Kennington, Spyros Kousidis and David Schlangen
17:10	<i>Multimodality and Dialogue Act Classification in the RoboHelper Project</i> Lin Chen and Barbara Di Eugenio
	Day 1 conclusion and banquet
17:30	Informational announcements

19:00 Buses depart venue for banquet

### Friday, August 23, 2013

9:00	Day overview and informational announcements
	Keynote II
9:05	<i>Spoken Language Understanding for Natural Interaction</i> Jerome Bellegarda
10:05	Break
	Oral session: Dialog system control and evaluation
10:30	Learning Dialogue Management Models for Task-Oriented Dialogue with Parallel Dia- logue and Task Streams Eun Ha, Christopher Mitchell, Kristy Boyer and James Lester
10:50	<b>POMDP-based dialogue manager adaptation to extended domains</b> Milica Gasic, Catherine Breslin, Matthew Henderson, Dongho Kim, Martin Szummer, Blaise Thomson, Pirros Tsiakoulis and Steve Young
11:10	Training and evaluation of an MDP model for social multi-user human-robot interaction Simon Keizer, Mary Ellen Foster, Oliver Lemon, Andre Gaschler and Manuel Giuliani
11:30	<i>Evaluation of Speech Dialog Strategies for Internet Applications in the Car</i> Hansjörg Hofmann, Ute Ehrlich, André Berton, Angela Mahr, Rafael Math and Christian Müller
11:50	Lunch, business meeting, and sponsor talks
	Oral session: Models of dialog and spoken discourse
13:30	Predicting Tasks in Goal-Oriented Spoken Dialog Systems using Semantic Knowledge Bases Aasish Pappu and Alexander Rudnicky
13:50	Surface Text based Dialogue Models for Virtual Humans Sudeep Gandhe and David Traum
14:10	Speech Reduction, Intensity, and F0 Shape are Cues to Turn-Taking Oliver Niebuhr, Karin Görs and Evelin Graupe

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*In-Context Evaluation of Unsupervised Dialogue Act Models for Tutorial Dialogue* Aysu Ezen-Can and Kristy Boyer

#### Spoken Dialog Systems for Automated Survey Interviewing

Michael Johnston, Patrick Ehlen, Frederick G. Conrad, Michael F. Schober, Christopher Antoun, Stefanie Fail, Andrew Hupp, Lucas Vickers, Huiying Yan and Chan Zhang

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Open-domain Utterance Generation for Conversational Dialogue Systems using Webscale Dependency Structures Hiroaki Sugiyama, Toyomi Meguro, Ryuichiro Higashinaka and Yasuhiro Minami

Evaluating State Representations for Reinforcement Learning of Turn-Taking Policies in Tutorial Dialogue Christopher Mitchell, Kristy Boyer and James Lester

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Weakly and Strongly Constrained Dialogues for Language Learning Claire Gardent, Alejandra Lorenzo, Laura Perez-Beltrachini and Lina Rojas-Barahona

*Open-Domain Information Access with Talking Robots* Kristiina Jokinen and Graham Wilcock

*Demonstration of the EmoteWizard of Oz Interface for Empathic Robotic Tutors* Shweta Bhargava, Srinivasan Janarthanam, Helen Hastie, Amol Deshmukh, Ruth Aylett, Lee Corrigan and Ginevra Castellano

*The Map Task Dialogue System: A Test-bed for Modelling Human-Like Dialogue* Raveesh Meena, Gabriel Skantze and Joakim Gustafson

A Robotic Agent in a Virtual Environment that Performs Situated Incremental Understanding of Navigational Utterances Takashi Yamauchi, Mikio Nakano and Kotaro Funakoshi

*Roundtable: An Online Framework for Building Web-based Conversational Agents* Eric Forbell, Nicolai Kalisch, Fabrizio Morbini, Kelly Christoffersen, Kenji Sagae, David Traum and Albert A. Rizzo

### Friday, August 23, 2013 (continued)

# Oral session: Speech processing technology in dialog

16:55	A Data-driven Model for Timing Feedback in a Map Task Dialogue System Raveesh Meena, Gabriel Skantze and Joakim Gustafson
17:15	<i>Continuously Predicting and Processing Barge-in During a Live Spoken Dialogue Task</i> Ethan Selfridge, Iker Arizmendi, Peter Heeman and Jason Williams
17:35	Which ASR should I choose for my dialogue system? Fabrizio Morbini, Kartik Audhkhasi, Kenji Sagae, Ron Artstein, Dogan Can, Panayiotis Georgiou, Shri Narayanan, Anton Leuski and David Traum
	Day 2 conclusion

17:55 Informational announcements

### Saturday, August 24, 2013

# Oral session: Dialog state tracking

9:00	Session introduction
9:05	<i>The Dialog State Tracking Challenge</i> Jason Williams, Antoine Raux, Deepak Ramachandran and Alan Black
9:25	Recipe For Building Robust Spoken Dialog State Trackers: Dialog State Tracking Chal- lenge System Description Sungjin Lee and Maxine Eskenazi
9:40	A Simple and Generic Belief Tracking Mechanism for the Dialog State Tracking Chal- lenge: On the believability of observed information Zhuoran Wang and Oliver Lemon
9:55	<i>Multi-domain learning and generalization in dialog state tracking</i> Jason Williams
10:10	Structured Discriminative Model For Dialog State Tracking Sungjin Lee
	Poster session: Dialog state tracking
10:25	Poster "madness" (short presentations of each poster)
10:35	Poster session (with coffee)
	Comparison of Bayesian Discriminative and Generative Models for Dialogue State Track- ing Lukáš Žilka, David Marek, Matěj Korvas and Filip Jurčíček
	<i>Dialog State Tracking using Conditional Random Fields</i> Hang Ren, Weiqun Xu, Yan Zhang and Yonghong Yan
	Engineering Statistical Dialog State Trackers: A Case Study on DSTC Daejoong Kim, Jaedeug Choi Choi, Kee-Eung Kim, Jungsu Lee and Jinho Sohn
	<i>Deep Neural Network Approach for the Dialog State Tracking Challenge</i> Matthew Henderson, Blaise Thomson and Steve Young
	Future challenge task information sessions
11:50	Dialog state tracking challenge 2
12:05	The REAL dialog challenge
	Conference closing
12:20	Best paper award ceremony and closing