

SIGDIAL 2010

Proceedings of the SIGDIAL 2010 Conference



The 11th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue

Edited by

Raquel Fernández, Yasuhiro Katagiri,
Kazunori Komatani, Oliver Lemon, Mikio Nakano

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Tel: +1-570-476-8006
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acl@aclweb.org

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Introduction

It is our great pleasure to present the Proceedings of the SIGDIAL 2010 Conference, the 11th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue. This is the second meeting since the SIGDIAL meeting was elevated from a Workshop to a Conference.

We received a large number of submissions: 97 in total. The members of the Program Committee did a superb job in reviewing the submitted papers, providing helpful comments and contributing to discussions when required. We wish to thank all of them for their advice in selecting the accepted papers and for helping to maintain the high quality of the resulting program. Many submissions received strong recommendations from the Program Committee. 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. Out of 70 submitted long papers, 23 were accepted as full papers for plenary presentation and 20 were accepted as short papers for poster presentations or demos. In addition, 15 out of the 27 submitted short papers and demo descriptions were accepted.

This year, the review process has included a new initiative: a mentoring program designed to assist authors of papers that contain innovative ideas to improve their quality regarding English language usage or paper organization. Overall, 7 accepted papers participated in the mentoring program, which was coordinated by Jason D. Williams. Our thanks go to the Program Committee members and others who volunteered to serve as mentors, and especially those volunteers who were called upon to mentor. Feedback from authors and mentors on the mentoring program has been very positive, and we hope that mentoring will be included as part of the review process in future SIGDIAL conferences.

We are also grateful to two keynote speakers: Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro and Professor Marilyn Walker for giving thought-provoking talks on the state-of-the-art in dialogue systems and human-robot interaction research.

For the first time, this year a local organizing committee was formed. Our thanks go to its members who worked very hard on the local arrangements such as deciding the venue, maintaining the conference web site, handling registrations, managing the conference bank account, printing proceedings, and arranging the conference lunches and dinner.

We would like to thank the ACL and Priscilla Rasmussen for handling the financial transactions. Thanks also to the SIGDIAL board, in particular Tim Paek, Amanda Stent, and Kristiina Jokinen, for their advice and support in all matters including finding industrial sponsors, budget planning, handling sponsorship, and advertising the call for papers.

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.

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Raquel Fernández and Oliver Lemon
Program Co-Chairs

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(*) Mentor volunteers

(**) Mentor volunteers who mentored a paper this year

Invited Speakers:

Hiroshi Ishiguro, Osaka University, Japan
Marilyn Walker, University of California at Santa Cruz, USA

Table of Contents

<i>Towards Incremental Speech Generation in Dialogue Systems</i> Gabriel Skantze and Anna Hjalmarsson	1
<i>Comparing Local and Sequential Models for Statistical Incremental Natural Language Understanding</i> Silvan Heintze, Timo Baumann and David Schlangen	9
<i>Dynamic Adaptation in Dialog Systems</i> Marilyn Walker	17
<i>Modeling User Satisfaction Transitions in Dialogues from Overall Ratings</i> Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Yasuhiro Minami, Kohji Dohsaka and Toyomi Meguro	18
<i>Evaluation Metrics For End-to-End Coreference Resolution Systems</i> Jie Cai and Michael Strube	28
<i>Probabilistic Ontology Trees for Belief Tracking in Dialog Systems</i> Neville Mehta, Rakesh Gupta, Antoine Raux, Deepak Ramachandran and Stefan Krawczyk	37
<i>How was your day? An architecture for multimodal ECA systems</i> Raúl Santos de la Cámara, Markku Turunen, Jaakko Hakulinen and Debora Field	47
<i>Middleware for Incremental Processing in Conversational Agents</i> David Schlangen, Timo Baumann, Hendrik Buschmeier, Okko Buß, Stefan Kopp, Gabriel Skantze and Ramin Yaghoubzadeh	51
<i>Towards Semi-Supervised Classification of Discourse Relations using Feature Correlations</i> Hugo Hernault, Danushka Bollegala and Mitsuru Ishizuka	55
<i>Using entity features to classify implicit discourse relations</i> Annie Louis, Aravind Joshi, Rashmi Prasad and Ani Nenkova	59
<i>Same and Elaboration Relations in the Discourse Graphbank</i> Irina Borisova and Gisela Redeker	63
<i>Negotiating causal implicatures</i> Luciana Benotti and Patrick Blackburn	67
<i>Presupposition Accommodation as Exception Handling</i> Philippe de Groote and Ekaterina Lebedeva	71
<i>Exploring the Effectiveness of Lexical Ontologies for Modeling Temporal Relations with Markov Logic</i> Eun Y. Ha, Alok Baikadi, Carlyle Licata, Bradford Mott and James Lester	75
<i>Reference reversibility with Reference Domain Theory</i> Alexandre Denis	79
<i>Utilizing Review Summarization in a Spoken Recommendation System</i> Jingjing Liu, Stephanie Seneff and Victor Zue	83
<i>Dialogue Management Based on Entities and Constraints</i> Yushi Xu and Stephanie Seneff	87

<i>Towards Improving the Naturalness of Social Conversations with Dialogue Systems</i> Matthew Marge, João Miranda, Alan Black and Alexander Rudnicky	91
<i>Route Communication in Dialogue: a Matter of Principles</i> Theodora Koulouri and Stanislao Lauria	95
<i>The Impact of Dimensionality on Natural Language Route Directions in Unconstrained Dialogue</i> Vivien Mast, Jan Smeddinck, Anna Strotseva and Thora Tenbrink.....	99
<i>Learning Dialogue Strategies from Older and Younger Simulated Users</i> Kallirroï Georgila, Maria Wolters and Johanna Moore	103
<i>Sparse Approximate Dynamic Programming for Dialog Management</i> Senthilkumar Chandramohan, Matthieu Geist and Olivier Pietquin	107
<i>Parameter estimation for agenda-based user simulation</i> Simon Keizer, Milica Gasic, Filip Jurcicek, Francois Mairesse, Blaise Thomson, Kai Yu and Steve Young.....	116
<i>Adaptive Referring Expression Generation in Spoken Dialogue Systems: Evaluation with Real Users</i> Srinivasan Janarthanam and Oliver Lemon	124
<i>A unified account of the semantics of discourse particles</i> Markus Egg.....	132
<i>The Effects of Discourse Connectives Prediction on Implicit Discourse Relation Recognition</i> Zhi Min Zhou, Man Lan, Zheng Yu Niu, Yu Xu and Jian Su	139
<i>Discourse indicators for content selection in summarization</i> Annie Louis, Aravind Joshi and Ani Nenkova	147
<i>Comparing Spoken Language Route Instructions for Robots across Environment Representations</i> Matthew Marge and Alexander Rudnicky	157
<i>The Dynamics of Action Corrections in Situated Interaction</i> Antoine Raux and Mikio Nakano	165
<i>Understanding Humans by Building Androids</i> Hiroshi Ishiguro	175
<i>Non-humanlike Spoken Dialogue: A Design Perspective</i> Kotaro Funakoshi, Mikio Nakano, Kazuki Kobayashi, Takanori Komatsu and Seiji Yamada	176
<i>Enhanced Monitoring Tools and Online Dialogue Optimisation Merged into a New Spoken Dialogue System Design Experience</i> Ghislain Putois, Romain Laroche and Philippe Bretier	185
<i>Don't tell anyone! Two Experiments on Gossip Conversations</i> Jenny Brusik, Ron Artstein and David Traum.....	193
<i>Gaussian Processes for Fast Policy Optimisation of POMDP-based Dialogue Managers</i> Milica Gasic, Filip Jurcicek, Simon Keizer, Francois Mairesse, Blaise Thomson, Kai Yu and Steve Young.....	201
<i>Coherent Back-Channel Feedback Tagging of In-Car Spoken Dialogue Corpus</i> Yuki Kamiya, Tomohiro Ohno and Shigeki Matsubara	205

<i>Representing Uncertainty about Complex User Goals in Statistical Dialogue Systems</i> Paul A. Crook and Oliver Lemon	209
<i>Investigating Clarification Strategies in a Hybrid POMDP Dialog Manager</i> Sebastian Varges, Silvia Quarteroni, Giuseppe Riccardi and Alexei Ivanov	213
<i>Cooperative User Models in Statistical Dialog Simulators</i> Meritxell González, Silvia Quarteroni, Giuseppe Riccardi and Sebastian Varges	217
<i>Modeling Spoken Decision Making Dialogue and Optimization of its Dialogue Strategy</i> Teruhisa Misu, Komei Sugiura, Kiyonori Ohtake, Chiori Hori, Hideki Kashioka, Hisashi Kawai and Satoshi Nakamura	221
<i>The vocal intensity of turn-initial cue phrases in dialogue</i> Anna Hjalmarsson	225
<i>Pamini: A framework for assembling mixed-initiative human-robot interaction from generic interaction patterns</i> Julia Peltason and Britta Wrede	229
<i>Collaborating on Utterances with a Spoken Dialogue System Using an ISU-based Approach to Incremental Dialogue Management</i> Okko Buß, Timo Baumann and David Schlangen	233
<i>Cross-Domain Speech Disfluency Detection</i> Kallirroi Georgila, Ning Wang and Jonathan Gratch	237
<i>Validation of a Dialog System for Language Learners</i> Alicia Sagae, W. Lewis Johnson and Stephen Bodnar	241
<i>I've said it before, and I'll say it again: An empirical investigation of the upper bound of the selection approach to dialogue</i> Sudeep Gandhe and David Traum	245
<i>Autism and Interactional Aspects of Dialogue</i> Peter Heeman, Rebecca Lunsford, Ethan Selfridge, Lois Black and Jan van Santen	249
<i>Detection of time-pressure induced stress in speech via acoustic indicators</i> Matthew Frampton, Sandeep Sripada, Ricardo Augusto Hoffmann Bion and Stanley Peters	253
<i>How to Drink from a Fire Hose: One Person Can Annoscribe One Million Utterances in One Month</i> David Suendermann, Jackson Liscombe and Roberto Pieraccini	257
<i>Advances in the Witchcraft Workbench Project</i> Alexander Schmitt, Wolfgang Minker and Nada Sharaf	261
<i>MPOWERS: a Multi Points Of VieW Evaluation Refine Studio</i> Marianne Laurent and Philippe Bretier	265
<i>Statistical Dialog Management Methodologies for Real Applications</i> David Griol, Zoraida Callejas and Ramón López-Cózar	269
<i>YouBot: A Simple Framework for Building Virtual Networking Agents</i> Seiji Takegata and Kumiko Tanaka-Ishii	273

<i>How was your day? An Affective Companion ECA Prototype</i> Marc Cavazza, Raúl Santos de la Cámara, Markku Turunen, José Relañó Gil, Jaakko Hakulinen, Nigel Crook and Debora Field	277
<i>F² - New Technique for Recognition of User Emotional States in Spoken Dialogue Systems</i> Ramón López-Cózar, Jan Silovsky and David Griol	281
<i>Online Error Detection of Barge-In Utterances by Using Individual Users' Utterance Histories in Spoken Dialogue System</i> Kazunori Komatani and Hiroshi G. Okuno	289
<i>Dialogue Act Modeling in a Complex Task-Oriented Domain</i> Kristy Boyer, Eun Y. Ha, Robert Phillips, Michael Wallis, Mladen Vouk and James Lester	297
<i>Hand Gestures in Disambiguating Types of You Expressions in Multiparty Meetings</i> Tyler Baldwin, Joyce Chai and Katrin Kirchhoff	306
<i>User-adaptive Coordination of Agent Communicative Behavior in Spoken Dialogue</i> Kohji Dohsaka, Atsushi Kanemoto, Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Yasuhiro Minami and Eisaku Maeda314	
<i>Towards an Empirically Motivated Typology of Follow-Up Questions: The Role of Dialogue Context</i> Manuel Kirschner and Raffaella Bernardi	322
<i>Assessing the effectiveness of conversational features for dialogue segmentation in medical team meet- ings and in the AMI corpus</i> Saturnino Luz and Jing Su	332

Conference Program

Friday, September 24, 2010

9:00-9:20 Introduction

9:20-10:00 Papers 1-2:

Towards Incremental Speech Generation in Dialogue Systems
Gabriel Skantze and Anna Hjalmarsson

Comparing Local and Sequential Models for Statistical Incremental Natural Language Understanding
Silvan Heintze, Timo Baumann and David Schlangen

10:00-11:00 Invited Talk 1:

Dynamic Adaptation in Dialog Systems
Marilyn Walker

11:00-11:20 Coffee break

11:20-12:20 Papers 3-5:

Modeling User Satisfaction Transitions in Dialogues from Overall Ratings
Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Yasuhiro Minami, Kohji Dohsaka and Toyomi Meguro

Evaluation Metrics For End-to-End Coreference Resolution Systems
Jie Cai and Michael Strube

Probabilistic Ontology Trees for Belief Tracking in Dialog Systems
Neville Mehta, Rakesh Gupta, Antoine Raux, Deepak Ramachandran and Stefan Krawczyk

12:20-13:30 Lunch & SIGDIAL Business Meeting

13:30-15:00 Short Paper Poster Session 1

How was your day? An architecture for multimodal ECA systems
Raúl Santos de la Cámara, Markku Turunen, Jaakko Hakulinen and Debora Field

Middleware for Incremental Processing in Conversational Agents
David Schlangen, Timo Baumann, Hendrik Buschmeier, Okko Buß, Stefan Kopp, Gabriel Skantze and Ramin Yaghoubzadeh

Friday, September 24, 2010 (continued)

Towards Semi-Supervised Classification of Discourse Relations using Feature Correlations

Hugo Hernault, Danushka Bollegala and Mitsuru Ishizuka

Using entity features to classify implicit discourse relations

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Learning Dialogue Strategies from Older and Younger Simulated Users

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Friday, September 24, 2010 (continued)

15:00-16:00 Papers 6-8:

Sparse Approximate Dynamic Programming for Dialog Management
Senthilkumar Chandramohan, Matthieu Geist and Olivier Pietquin

Parameter estimation for agenda-based user simulation
Simon Keizer, Milica Gasic, Filip Jurcicek, Francois Mairesse, Blaise Thomson, Kai Yu and Steve Young

Adaptive Referring Expression Generation in Spoken Dialogue Systems: Evaluation with Real Users
Srinivasan Janarthanam and Oliver Lemon

16:00-16:20 Coffee break

16:20-17:20 Papers 9-11:

A unified account of the semantics of discourse particles
Markus Egg

The Effects of Discourse Connectives Prediction on Implicit Discourse Relation Recognition
Zhi Min Zhou, Man Lan, Zheng Yu Niu, Yu Xu and Jian Su

Discourse indicators for content selection in summarization
Annie Louis, Aravind Joshi and Ani Nenkova

19:00-22:00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, September 25, 2010

9:20-10:00 Papers 12-13

Comparing Spoken Language Route Instructions for Robots across Environment Representations

Matthew Marge and Alexander Rudnicky

The Dynamics of Action Corrections in Situated Interaction

Antoine Raux and Mikio Nakano

10:00-11:00 Invited Talk 2:

Understanding Humans by Building Androids

Hiroshi Ishiguro

11:00-11:20 Coffee break

11:20-12:20 Papers 14-16

Non-humanlike Spoken Dialogue: A Design Perspective

Kotaro Funakoshi, Mikio Nakano, Kazuki Kobayashi, Takanori Komatsu and Seiji Yamada

Enhanced Monitoring Tools and Online Dialogue Optimisation Merged into a New Spoken Dialogue System Design Experience

Ghislain Putois, Romain Laroche and Philippe Bretier

Don't tell anyone! Two Experiments on Gossip Conversations

Jenny Brusk, Ron Artstein and David Traum

12:20-13:00 Lunch & Spoken Dialogue Challenge Report

13:00-14:40 Short Paper Poster Session 2 & Demo Session

Gaussian Processes for Fast Policy Optimisation of POMDP-based Dialogue Managers

Milica Gasic, Filip Jurcicek, Simon Keizer, Francois Mairesse, Blaise Thomson, Kai Yu and Steve Young

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David Suendermann, Jackson Liscombe and Roberto Pieraccini

Demos:

Advances in the Witchcraft Workbench Project

Alexander Schmitt, Wolfgang Minker and Nada Sharaf

MPOWERS: a Multi Points Of View Evaluation Refine Studio

Marianne Laurent and Philippe Bretier

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14:40-16:00 Papers 17-20

F² - New Technique for Recognition of User Emotional States in Spoken Dialogue Systems

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16:00-16:20 Coffee break

16:20-17:20 Papers 21-23

User-adaptive Coordination of Agent Communicative Behavior in Spoken Dialogue

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Towards an Empirically Motivated Typology of Follow-Up Questions: The Role of Dialogue Context

Manuel Kirschner and Raffaella Bernardi

Assessing the effectiveness of conversational features for dialogue segmentation in medical team meetings and in the AMI corpus

Saturnino Luz and Jing Su

17:20-17:50 Best Paper Awards & Closing