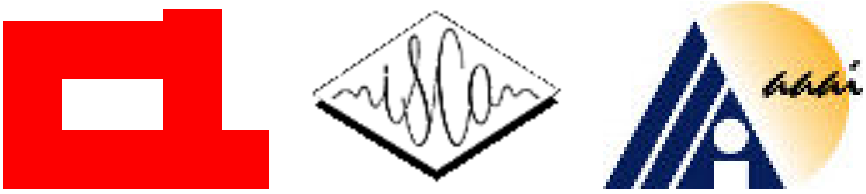
SIGDIAL 2015

16th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue



Proceedings of the Conference

2-4 September 2015
Prague, Czech Republic

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

We are excited to welcome you to this year's SIGDIAL Conference, the 16th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue. We are pleased to hold the conference this year in Prague, Czech Republic, on September 2nd-4th, in close proximity to INTERSPEECH 2015.

The SIGDIAL conference remains positioned as the publication venue for research under the broad umbrella of discourse and dialogue. This year, the program includes oral presentations and poster sessions on Dialogue Management, Discourse Strategy, Perspective and Point of View, and New Directions. SIGDIAL 2015 also hosts a special session entitled MultiLing 2015: Multilingual Summarization of Multiple Documents, organized by George Giannakopoulos. The papers from this special session that appear in the proceedings were submitted and reviewed as regular SIGDIAL papers, and cleared the same high bar for quality. Papers not accepted through the regular review process are not included in the proceedings, but were still invited to be presented as posters in the special session. Due to the success of last year's special session, this is the second year SIGDIAL has issued a general call for special sessions.

We received a record breaking number of submissions this year, 136 complete submissions altogether, which included 79 long papers, 42 short papers and 15 demo descriptions—from a broad, international set of authors. Additionally, 2 papers were submitted and then withdrawn, and 1 was rejected without review due to being out of scope. All papers received 3 reviews. We carefully considered both the numeric ratings and the tenor of the comments, both as written in the reviews, and as submitted in the discussion period, in making our selection for the program. Overall, the members of the Program Committee did an excellent job in reviewing the submitted papers. We thank them for the important role their reviews have played 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 accommodates as many favorably rated papers as possible.

This year's SIGDIAL conference runs 2.5 days as it did in 2014, with the special session being held on the second day. Of the 79 long paper submissions: 14 were accepted as long papers for oral presentation, 21 were accepted as long papers for poster presentation. Of the 42 short paper submissions, 17 were accepted for poster presentation, for a total of 38 posters. There were 7 demonstration papers that were accepted. 3 of the long papers and 4 of the short papers accepted for poster presentation were accepted for publication to appear in the MULTILING Special Session.

We enthusiastically thank the two keynote speakers, Dilek Hakkani-Tur (Microsoft Research, USA) and Frank Fischer (Ludwigs Maximilian Universität München) and for their contributions to research on discourse and dialogue systems, and we look forward to their keynote talks!

We offer our thanks to Svetlana Stoyanchev, Mentoring Chair for SIGDIAL 2015, for her dedicated work on coordinating the mentoring process, just as last year. The goal of mentoring is to assist authors of papers that contain important ideas but lack clarity. Mentors work with the authors to improve English language usage or paper organization. This year, 3 of the accepted papers were mentored. We thank the Program Committee members who served as mentors: Pamela Jordan, Jason Williams, and Heriberto Cuayahuitl.

We extend special thanks to our local arrangements chair, Filip Jurcicek, and his team Libuse Brdickova, Ondrej Dusek, Lukas Zilka, and Ahmad Agha Ebrahimian. We know SIGDIAL 2015 would not have been possible without Filip and his team, who invested so much effort in arranging the conference hotel venue and accommodations, handling registration, making banquet arrangements, and handling numerous other preparations for the conference. The student volunteers for on-site assistance also deserve our appreciation.

Kristy Boyer, Sponsorships Chair, has earned our appreciation for recruiting and liaising with our conference sponsors, many of whom continue to contribute year after year. The sponsorship program enables valuable aspects of the program, such as the invited speakers, conference reception and dinner. In recognition of this, we gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors: Educational Testing Service, Interactions, Microsoft Research, Honda Research Institute, Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories, and Turnitin/LightSide. At the same time, we thank Priscilla Rasmussen at the ACL for tirelessly handling the financial aspects of sponsorship for SIGDIAL 2015, and for securing our ISBN on a moment's notice!

We also thank the SIGdial board, especially officers, Jason Williams, Amanda Stent and Kristiina Jokinen for their advice and support from beginning to end. We especially appreciate Jason's substantial, prompt and patient replies to numerous questions along the way.

Finally, we thank all the authors of the papers in this volume, and all the conference participants for making this stimulating event a valuable opportunity for growth in research in the areas of dialogue and discourse.

Alexander Koller and Gabriel Skantze,
General Co-Chairs
Masahiro Araki and Carolyn Penstein Rosé,
Technical Program Co-Chairs

SIGDIAL 2014

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Christer Samuelsson, DFKI GmbH, Germany
Ramin Yaghoubzadeh

Invited Speakers:

Professor Frank Fischer, Ludwigs Maximilian Universität München, Germany
Dilek Hakkani-Tur, Microsoft Research, United States

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Conference Program

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

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Keynote: The Interplay of Discussion, Cognition and Instruction in Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning Environments
Frank Fischer

10:35–11:50 Oral Session 1: Dialogue Management

Human-Machine Dialogue as a Stochastic Game
Merwan Barlier, Julien Perolat, Romain Laroche and Olivier Pietquin

Knowledge transfer between speakers for personalised dialogue management
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Miscommunication Recovery in Physically Situated Dialogue
Matthew Marge and Alexander Rudnicky

13:00–13:50 Oral Session 2: Discourse Strategy

Reinforcement Learning in Multi-Party Trading Dialog
Takuya Hiraoka, Kallirroi Georgila, Elnaz Nouri, David Traum and Satoshi Nakamura

An Incremental Turn-Taking Model with Active System Barge-in for Spoken Dialog Systems
Tiancheng Zhao, Alan W Black and Maxine Eskenazi

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 (continued)

13:50–14:10 Poster madness

14:10–16:30 Poster session 1

Exploring the Effects of Redundancy within a Tutorial Dialogue System: Restating Students' Responses
Pamela Jordan, Patricia Albacete and Sandra Katz

A Discursive Grid Approach to Model Local Coherence in Multi-document Summaries
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Multilingual WikiTalk: Wikipedia-based talking robots that switch languages.
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16:30–17:45 Oral Session 3: Perspective and Point of View

I Couldn't Agree More: The Role of Conversational Structure in Agreement and Disagreement Detection in Online Discussions
Sara Rosenthal and Kathy McKeown

Memory-Based Acquisition of Argument Structures and its Application to Implicit Role Detection
Christian Chiarcos and Niko Schenk

Generating Sentence Planning Variations for Story Telling
Stephanie Lukin, Lena Reed and Marilyn Walker

Thursday, September 3, 2015

09:05–10:05 Keynote II

Keynote: Graph-based Approaches for Spoken Language Understanding
Dilek Hakkani-Tur

10:30–11:45 Oral Session 4: New directions

Evaluating Spoken Dialogue Processing for Time-Offset Interaction
David Traum, Kallirroi Georgila, Ron Artstein and Anton Leuski

THE REAL CHALLENGE 2014: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS
Maxine Eskenazi, Alan W Black, Sungjin Lee and David Traum

Argument Mining: Extracting Arguments from Online Dialogue
Reid Swanson, Brian Ecker and Marilyn Walker

11:45–13:30 Lunch, business meeting, and sponsor talks

13:30–17:30 Special session (MultiLing 2015) and Open Space

Multilingual Summarization with Polytope Model
Natalia Vanetik and Marina Litvak

Call Centre Conversation Summarization: A Pilot Task at Multiling 2015
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Friday, September 4, 2015

09:05–10:20 Oral Session 5: Neural Network for dialogue processing

Stochastic Language Generation in Dialogue using Recurrent Neural Networks with Convolutional Sentence Reranking
Tsung-Hsien Wen, Milica Gasic, Dongho Kim, Nikola Mrksic, Pei-Hao Su, David Vandyke and Steve Young

The Ubuntu Dialogue Corpus: A Large Dataset for Research in Unstructured Multi-Turn Dialogue Systems
Ryan Lowe, Nissan Pow, Iulian Serban and Joelle Pineau

Recurrent Polynomial Network for Dialogue State Tracking with Mismatched Semantic Parsers
Qizhe Xie, Kai Sun, Su Zhu, Lu Chen and Kai Yu

10:20–10:40 Poster madness

Friday, September 4, 2015 (continued)

10:40–12:40 Poster session 2

Opportunities and Obligations to Take Turns in Collaborative Multi-Party Human-Robot Interaction
Martin Johansson and Gabriel Skantze

Optimising Turn-Taking Strategies With Reinforcement Learning
Hatim KHOUZAIMI, Romain Laroche and Fabrice Lefevre

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Rivka Levitan, Štefan Beňuš, Agustin Gravano and Julia Hirschberg

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Incremental Coordination: Attention-Centric Speech Production in a Physically Situated Conversational Agent
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Hyper-parameter Optimisation of Gaussian Process Reinforcement Learning for Statistical Dialogue Management
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Friday, September 4, 2015 (continued)

Learning Domain-Independent Dialogue Policies via Ontology Parameterisation
Zhuoran Wang, Tsung-Hsien Wen, Pei-Hao Su and Yannis Stylianou

Reward Shaping with Recurrent Neural Networks for Speeding up On-Line Policy Learning in Spoken Dialogue Systems
Pei-Hao Su, David Vandyke, Milica Gasic, Nikola Mrksic, Tsung-Hsien Wen and Steve Young

Effects of Game on User Engagement with Spoken Dialogue System
Hayato Kobayashi, Kaori Tanio and Manabu Sassano

Evaluation of Crowdsourced User Input Data for Spoken Dialog Systems
Maria Schmidt, Markus Müller, Martin Wagner, Sebastian Stüker, Alex Waibel, Hansjörg Hofmann and Steffen Werner

A distributed cloud-based dialog system for conversational application development
Vikram Ramanarayanan, David Suendermann-Oeft, Alexei V. Ivanov and Keelan Evanini

A TV Program Discovery Dialog System using recommendations
Deepak Ramachandran, Mark Fanty, Ronald Provine, Peter Yeh, William Jarrold, Adwait Ratnaparkhi and Benjamin Douglas

Description of the PatientGenesys Dialogue System
Leonardo Campillos Llanos, Dhouha Bouamor, Éric Bilinski, Anne-Laure Ligozat, Pierre Zweigenbaum and Sophie Rosset

The Cohort and Speechify Libraries for Rapid Construction of Speech Enabled Applications for Android
Tejaswi Kasturi, Haojian Jin, Aasish Pappu, Sungjin Lee, Beverley Harrison, Ramana Murthy and Amanda Stent

12:40–13:00 Best paper award ceremony and closing