

REPORT ON SIGDIAL ACTIVITIES

SIGdial is the ACL and ISCA Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue which was formed in November 1997. This report covers the period from July 2002 to June 2003.

PEOPLE:

SIGdial is being run by the following team: President: Laila Dybkjær; Vice President: David Traum; Secretary: Jennifer Chu-Carroll; Science Advisory Committee: Jan Alexandersson, Kristiina Jokinen, Akira Kurematsu, Alexander Rudnicky, Ronnie Smith, and Jan van Kuppevelt; Information Officer: Claudia Soria assisted by Kristiina Jokinen, Eric Chang, and Pamela Jordan; ACL Student Liaison: Weiqun Xu and Holmer Hensen; CHI Liaison: Nils Dahlbäck; ICSLP/ISCA Liaison: Julia Hirschberg; Mailing list maintenance: Laurent Romary.

Elections are held every second year and the next elections will take place this summer/autumn.

SIGdial has about 300 members registered on its membership web page coming from at least 20 different countries across the world.

WORKSHOP ENDORSEMENT

During the past year several workshops with strong relations to the SIGdial field of interest have been endorsed by SIGdial. The workshops endorsed by SIGdial which have taken place within the reported period include:

September 4-6 2002: EDILOG 2002: Sixth Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (Edinburgh, Scotland).

March 24-26 2003. AAAI Spring Symposium on Natural Language Generation in Spoken and Written Dialogue (Palo Alto, CA, USA).

Workshops which have been endorsed by SIGdial but haven't been held yet include:

July 20-21 2003: AI in Education 2003 Workshop on "Tutorial Dialogue Systems: With a View Towards the Classroom" (Sidney, Australia).

August 28-31 2003: ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshop on Error Handling in Spoken Dialogue Systems (Chateau-d'Oex-Vaud, Switzerland).

September 4-6 2003: DiaBruck 2003: Seventh Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (Saarbrücken, Germany).

SIGDIAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Following the first and successful SIGdial workshop on Discourse and Dialogue held on 7-8 October 2000 in Hong Kong in conjunction with ACL'2000, and the second SIGdial workshop held on 1-2 September 2001 in Aalborg, Denmark, in conjunction with Eurospeech'2001, the third SIGdial workshop took place on 11-12 July in Philadelphia, USA, in conjunction with ACL'2002. This workshop was a successful event. The workshop received 38 paper submissions. Of these 19 were accepted for presentation as long papers and 9 as short papers. The online workshop proceedings are available at <http://www.mlab.uiah.fi/~kjokinen/sigdial/publications.htm>. Hardcopies can be bought via ACL.

The fourth SIGdial workshop will take place on 5-6 July in Sapporo, Japan, right before ACL'2003. Information on SIGdial workshops can be found at <http://www.sigdial.org/workshops.php>.

WEB

SIGdial has a web site at <http://www.sigdial.org>. The web site is hosted by NISLab. Some pages are maintained by a particular person, such as the information officer, while other pages are intended to be

maintained by the membership collectively. For instance, the web site enables members to easily update their personal information in the membership database. Also a resource page has been established which members are encouraged to collectively maintain by adding references to resources they are aware of and which may be of interest to the SIGdial community. This page includes references to e.g. coding schemes, language resources, spoken dialogue systems, and tools.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Since autumn 2000 SIGdial has a collaboration with Elsnet, the European Language and Speech Network. Elsnet has a quarterly newsletter, Elsnews, and Elsnet has generously offered one page in each issue of Elsnews for SIGdial purposes. SIGdial contributions in Elsnews can be found in issue 9.3 and onwards. Elsnews can be freely downloaded in pdf format from <http://www.elsnet.org/elsnews.html>. Contributions from the reported period include

1. Roberto Pieraccini: Wireless Multimodal – the Next Challenge for Speech Recognition.
2. Wolfgang Minker and Peter Regel-Brietzmann: SmartKom – Intuitive Multimodal Human-Machine Communication.
3. Key-Sun Choi and Laurent Romary: Towards International Standards for Language Resources.
4. John Aberdeen: Dialogue Corpora from DARPA..

A flyer on SIGdial was produced for distribution at ICSLP'2002 and the COCODA workshop. The flyer is available for download in pdf format from www.sigdial.org.

SIGdial has a business meeting each year in connection with the SIGdial workshop. Agenda, slides and minutes are available at <http://www.sigdial.org/businessmeetings/>