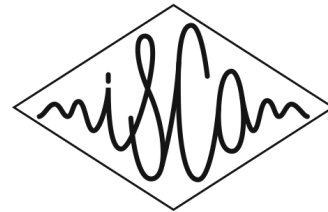


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# Proceedings of the 9th SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue

Edited by David Schlangen and Beth Ann Hockey



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## Introduction

We are pleased to present in this volume, the Proceedings of the 9th SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue. These proceedings could not have been produced without the assistance of this year's excellent program committee. The quality of the collection is a result of their efforts and we are indebted to them for donating their time and expertise. 19 of the 46 submissions were accepted as long papers and another 10 were accepted as short papers. This selection of papers follows the SIGdial tradition of providing a venue for work on theory, implemented systems, developed work and new approaches. The topics covered include generation for dialogue systems, dialogue system evaluation, opinions, persuasion, multi-party dialogue, probabilistic methods for dialogue, grounding and the use of dialogue features for improving speech processing. We are optimistic that the breadth and quality of the selected papers will contribute to a lively and interesting workshop event and will prove a valuable resource for the SIGdial readership.

There are many to thank for their assistance with the organization of the 2008 SIGdial event; we mention a few of them here. We would like to thank ACL for providing workshop support, and Priscilla Rasmussen for handling the financial transactions and providing us with valuable information about the mysteries of matters budgetary. The SIGdial Board was very supportive and provided sage advice to us on a number of questions that arose in the course of organizing the event. David Traum gave us extra assistance on several issues and was very responsive to our numerous questions. Additional thanks go to Harry Bunt, Tim Paek and Livia Polyani for helping us secure sponsorship, to Crystal Nakatsu for giving us excellent advice on potential reception locations, and to the SIGdial webmaster, Torben Madsen, for putting up the website.

We also thank Prof. Julia Hirschberg of Columbia University for giving the 2008 SIGdial keynote address on "Lexical, Acoustic/Prosodic, and Discourse Entrainment in Spoken Dialogue Systems".

And finally, thank you, the SIGdial audience, for your continued support in making SIGdial a premier venue for work in Discourse and Dialogue.

Beth Ann Hockey & David Schlangen  
SIGdial 2008 Co-Chairs



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# Conference Program

**Thursday, June 19, 2008**

9:00–9:15      Opening Remarks

## **Session 1: Dialogue Features and Speech Processing**

9:15–9:40      *Optimizing Endpointing Thresholds using Dialogue Features in a Spoken Dialogue System*

Antoine Raux and Maxine Eskenazi

9:40–10:05      *Response-Based Confidence Annotation for Spoken Dialogue Systems*

Alexander Gruenstein

10:05–10:30      *Learning N-Best Correction Models from Implicit User Feedback in a Multi-Modal Local Search Application*

Dan Bohus, Xiao Li, Patrick Nguyen and Geoffrey Zweig

10:30–11:00      Coffee Break

## **Session 2: Grounding in Dialogue**

11:00–11:25      *Agreement and Disputes in Dialogue*

Alex Lascarides and Nicholas Asher

11:25–11:50      *Reactive Redundancy and Listener Comprehension in Direction-Giving*

Rachel Baker, Alastair Gill and Justine Cassell

11:50–12:15      *Semantic negotiation in dialogue: the mechanisms of alignment*

Gregory Mills and Pat Healey

12:15–12:40      *Degrees of Grounding Based on Evidence of Understanding*

Antonio Roque and David Traum

12:40–2:40      Lunch and Poster Session

Thursday, June 19, 2008 (continued)

**Poster Session**

*Rapidly Deploying Grammar-Based Speech Applications with Active Learning and Back-off Grammars*

Tim Paek, Sudeep Gandhe and Max Chickering

*Persistent Information State in a Data-Centric Architecture*

Sebastian Vargas, Giuseppe Riccardi and Silvia Quarteroni

*Speaking without knowing what to say... or when to end*

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*Implicit Proposal Filtering in Multi-Party Consensus-Building Conversations*

Yasuhiro Katagiri, Yosuke Matsusaka, Yasuharu Den, Mika Enomoto, Masato Ishizaki and Katsuya Takanashi

## Thursday, June 19, 2008 (continued)

### Session 3: Probabilistic Methods

- 2:40–3:05 *Optimal Dialog in Consumer-Rating Systems using POMDP Framework*  
Zhifei Li, Patrick Nguyen and Geoffrey Zweig
- 3:05–3:30 *Training and Evaluation of the HIS POMDP Dialogue System in Noise*  
Milica Gašić, Simon Keizer, Francois Mairesse, Jost Schatzmann, Blaise Thomson, Kai Yu and Steve Young
- 3:30–4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00–4:25 *A Frame-Based Probabilistic Framework for Spoken Dialog Management Using Dialog Examples*  
Kyungduk Kim, Cheongjae Lee, Sangkeun Jung and Gary Geunbae Lee
- 4:25–5:25 SIGdial business meeting
- 5:25 End of first day
- 7:00 Reception, Palm House at Franklin Park Conservatory

## Friday, June 20, 2008

- 9:30–10:30 Invited Talk
- Speaking More Like You: Lexical, Acoustic/Prosodic, and Discourse Entrainment in Spoken Dialogue Systems*  
Julia Hirschberg
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee Break
- ### Session 4: Opinions, Persuasion, and Multi-Party Dialogue
- 11:00–11:25 *Discourse Level Opinion Relations: An Annotation Study*  
Swapna Somasundaran, Josef Ruppenhofer and Janyce Wiebe
- 11:25–11:50 *Argumentative Human Computer Dialogue for Automated Persuasion*  
Pierre Andrews, Suresh Manandhar and Marco De Boni

**Friday, June 20, 2008 (continued)**

11:50–12:15 *Modeling Vocal Interaction for Text-Independent Participant Characterization in Multi-Party Conversation*  
Kornel Laskowski, Mari Ostendorf and Tanja Schultz

12:15–12:45 *Modelling and Detecting Decisions in Multi-party Dialogue*  
Raquel Fernández, Matthew Frampton, Patrick Ehlen, Matthew Purver and Stanley Peters

12:45–2:15 Lunch

**Session 5: Evaluation**

2:15–2:40 *User Simulation as Testing for Spoken Dialog Systems*  
Hua Ai and Fuliang Weng

2:40–3:05 *Evaluation Understudy for Dialogue Coherence Models*  
Sudeep Gandhe and David Traum

3:05–3:30 *A Framework for Model-based Evaluation of Spoken Dialog Systems*  
Sebastian Möller and Nigel Ward

3:30–4:00 Coffee Break

**Session 6: Generation**

4:00–4:25 *The Effect of Dialogue System Output Style Variation on Users' Evaluation Judgments and Input Style*  
Ivana Kruijff-Korbayova and Olga Kukina

4:25–4:50 *Making Grammar-Based Generation Easier to Deploy in Dialogue Systems*  
David DeVault, David Traum and Ron Artstein

4:50–5:00 Closing Remarks

5:00 End of SIGdial 2008