Semantics and Sarcasm in Online Dialogue

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Online forums provide a fascinating source of data for research on the structure of dialogue. Unlike traditional media corpora, online conversation is highly social and subjective and its interpretation and analysis are strongly dependent on context. Phenomena such as sarcasm and rhetorical questions abound. In this talk I will first describe the IAC corpus that we have made publicly available. I will then discuss our research on several tasks related to dialogue structure and the meaning of utterances, such as recognizing sarcasm, distinguishing agreement from disagreement, identifying the linguistic properties of factual vs. emotional arguments, and mining the aspects of arguments on different topics.