

SemDial 2011
(Los Angeles)

Proceedings of the 15th Workshop
on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue

September 21–23, 2011
Los Angeles, California

edited by
Ron Artstein
Mark Core
David DeVault
Kallirroi Georgila
Elsi Kaiser
Amanda Stent

Preface

We are happy to present SemDial 2011 (Los Angeles), the 15th annual workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue, and the first in the series to be held outside Europe. This year's workshop continues the tradition of presenting high-quality talks and posters on dialogue from a variety of perspectives such as formal semantics and pragmatics, artificial intelligence, computational linguistics, and psycholinguistics. Despite the change of location, the workshop retains its international flavor, with more than half of the presentations coming from Europe.

We received 31 submissions to the main session, and each was reviewed by two or three experts. We selected 18 talks for oral presentation; the poster session hosts many of the remaining submissions, together with additional submissions that came in response to a call for late-breaking posters and demos. We are proud to offer the first ever electronic poster session, where posters are presented on large television screens instead of being printed out on paper. We see this as a trend-setting move, and we believe that as large displays become ubiquitous, electronic display of posters will become the norm.

We are lucky to have four first-rate researchers on discourse and dialogue as invited speakers – Lenhart Schubert, Jerry Hobbs, Patrick Healey, and David Schlangen. They represent a broad range of perspectives and disciplines, and together with the accepted talks and posters we hope to have a productive and lively workshop.

We are grateful to our reviewers, who invested a lot of time giving very useful feedback, both to the program chairs and to the authors: Hua Ai, Jennifer Arnold, Luciana Benotti, Nate Blaylock, Johan Bos, Harry Bunt, Donna Byron, Paul Dekker, Myroslava Dzikovska, Raquel Fernández, Victor Ferreira, Jonathan Ginzburg, Amy Isard, Andrew Kehler, Alistair Knott, Kazunori Komatani, Staffan Larsson, Gary Lee, Oliver Lemon, Colin Matheson, Gregory Mills, Yukiko Nakano, Martin Pickering, Chris Potts, Matthew Purver, Antoine Raux, Hannes Rieser, David Schlangen, Elizabeth Shriberg, Gabriel Skantze, Ronnie Smith, Matthew Stone, Nigel Ward, and Michael White.

This workshop would not have been possible without the generous financial support from ICT Executive Director Randy Hill. Many thanks to the local organization team – Alesia Egan, Anabel Franco-Huerta, Sudeep Gandhe, Angela Nazarian, Anton Leuski and David Traum, who have invested an enormous amount of work and preparations to have the workshop run smoothly. Special thanks go to Ben Farris and Rob Groome from ICT's IT department, who put in many hours to enable the electronic poster session.

Ron Artstein, Mark Core, David DeVault, Kallirroi Georgila, Elsi Kaiser, and Amanda Stent

September 2011

Contents

Wednesday talks

Invited talk: <i>What Would a Human-Like Dialogue Agent Need to Know?</i>	
Lenhart K. Schubert	8
<i>Gestures Indicating Dialogue Structure</i>	
Hannes Rieser	9
<i>Understanding Route Directions in Human-Robot Dialogue</i>	
Martin Johansson, Gabriel Skantze and Joakim Gustafson	19
<i>Temporal Distributional Analysis</i>	
Nigel G. Ward	28
<i>A decision-theoretic approach to finding optimal responses to over-constrained queries in a conceptual search space</i>	
Anton Benz, Núria Bertomeu and Alexandra Strelakova	37
<i>DIUM – An Incremental Dialogue Manager That Can Produce Self-Corrections</i>	
Okko Buß and David Schlangen	47
<i>Reducing cognitive load in in-vehicle dialogue system interaction</i>	
Kristina Lundholm Fors and Jessica Villing	55
<i>Toward Rapid Development of Multi-Party Virtual Human Negotiation Scenarios</i>	
Brian Plüss, David DeVault and David Traum	63

Thursday talks

Invited talk: <i>Structures in Three-Person Decision-Making Dialogues</i>	
Jerry R. Hobbs	73
<i>Three Ways to Avoid Commitments: Declarative Force Modifiers in the Conversational Scoreboard</i>	
Sophia Malamud and Tamina Stephenson	74
<i>Expressing Taste in Dialogue</i>	
Inés Crespo and Raquel Fernández	84
<i>Focus Facilitation and Non-associative Sets</i>	
Mary Byram-Washburn, Elsi Kaiser and Maria Luisa Zubizarreta	94
Invited talk: <i>Structural Divergence in Dialogue</i>	
Patrick G. T. Healey	103
<i>Local Discourse Structure of Chat Dialogues: Evidence from Keystroke Logging</i>	
Evgeny Chukharev-Hudilainen	104
<i>Adaptation in Child Directed Speech: Evidence from Corpora</i>	
Richard Kunert, Raquel Fernández and Willem Zuidema	112
<i>Lingua Receptiva: Explicit Alignment in Estonian-Russian Communication</i>	
Daria Bahtina	120

Friday talks

Invited talk: *Incremental Dialogue Processing*

David Schlangen	129
<i>Negation in Dialogue</i> Robin Cooper and Jonathan Ginzburg	130
<i>The TTR perceptron: Dynamic perceptual meanings and semantic coordination</i> Staffan Larsson	140
<i>Enthymemes as Rhetorical Resources</i> Ellen Breitholtz and Robin Cooper	149
<i>A global experience metric for dialog management in spoken dialog systems</i> Silke Witt	158
<i>Dialogue Analysis to Inform the Development of a Natural-language Tutoring System for Physics</i> Sandra Katz, Patricia Albacete, Pamela Jordan and Diane Litman	167

Wednesday Posters

<i>Dialog Acts from the Processing Perspective in Task Oriented Dialog Systems</i> Markus Berg, Bernhard Thalheim and Antje Düsterhöft	176
<i>Unveiling the Information State with a Bayesian Model of the Listener</i> Hendrik Buschmeier and Stefan Kopp	178
<i>Natural Language Explanations of Planning Failure</i> Matthew Frampton and Stanley Peters	180
<i>Gestures Supporting Dialogue Structure and Interaction in the Bielefeld Speech and Gesture Alignment Corpus (SaGA)</i> Florian Hahn and Hannes Rieser	182
<i>Cognitive Models of Failure and Recovery in Natural Language Interactions – A Joint Actions Approach</i> Arthi Murugesan, Derek Brock, Wende K. Frost and Dennis Perzanowski	184
<i>Tracking Communication and Belief in Virtual Worlds</i> Antonio Roque	186
<i>Towards Speaker Adaptation for Dialogue Act Recognition</i> Congkai Sun and Louis-Philippe Morency	188
<i>A Smart Interaction Device for Multi-Modal Human-Robot Dialogue</i> Glenn Taylor, Rich Frederiksen, Jacob Crossman, Jonathan Voigt and Kyle Aron	190

Thursday Posters

<i>Effects of 2D and 3D Displays on Turn-taking Behavior in Multiparty Human-Computer Dialog</i> Samer Al Moubayed and Gabriel Skantze	192
<i>Optional visual information affects conversation content</i> Richard Andersson, Jana Holsanova and Kenneth Holmqvist	194
<i>How deeply rooted are the turns we take?</i> Jens Edlund	196
<i>Pause length variations within and between speakers over time</i> Kristina Lundholm Fors	198
<i>The impact of gender and bilingualism on cognition: the case of spatial perspective-taking</i> Rachel A. Ryskin and Sarah Brown-Schmidt	200
<i>Timing in turn-taking: Children's responses to their parents' questions</i> Marisa Tice, Susan C. Bobb and Eve V. Clark	202

Eye gaze of 3rd party observers reflects turn-end boundary projection
Marisa Tice and Tania Henetz 204

Friday Posters

The Structure of Greetings and Farewells/Thankings in MSNBC Political News Interviews
Karen Duchaj and Jeanine Ntahirageza 206

Concern Alignment in Consensus Building Conversations
Yasuhiro Katagiri, Katsuya Takanashi, Masato Ishizaki, Mika Enomoto, Yasuharu Den and
Yosuke Matsusaka 208

The emergence of procedural conventions in dialogue
Gregory Mills 210

Modelling Non-Cooperative Dialogue: the Role of Conversational Games and Discourse Obligations
Brian Plüss, Paul Piwek and Richard Power 212