

Outline

- Introduction
- Background Knowledge
 - Neural Network Basics
 - Reinforcement Learning
- Modular Dialogue System
 - Spoken/Natural Language Understanding (SLU/NLU)

Break

- Dialogue Management
 - Dialogue State Tracking (DST)
 - Dialogue Policy Optimization
- Natural Language Generation (NLG)
- Evaluation
- Recent Trends and Challenges
 - End-to-End Neural Dialogue System
 - Multimodality
 - Dialogue Breath
 - Dialogue Depth

Introduction

Introduction

Brief History of Dialogue Systems

Multi-modal systems

e.g., Microsoft MiPad, Pocket PC



TV Voice Search

e.g., Bing on Xbox



Virtual Personal Assistants



Task-specific argument extraction

(e.g., Nuance, SpeechWorks)
User: "I want to fly from Boston
to New York next week."





Intent Determination

Early 2000s

(Nuance's Emily™, AT&T HMIHY)
User: "Uh...we want to move...we
want to change our phone line
from this house to another house"



2017

WIEMWATSON

DARPA CALO Project

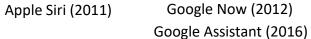
Keyword Spotting

(e.g., AT&T)

System: "Please say collect, calling card, person, third number, or operator"

Language Empowering Intelligent Assistant





Microsoft Cortana (2014)







Amazon Alexa/Echo (2014)

Facebook M & Bot (2015)

Google Home (2016)

Apple HomePod (2017)

Why We Need?

- Get things done
 - E.g. set up alarm/reminder, take note
- Easy access to structured data, services and apps
 - E.g. find docs/photos/restaurants
- Assist your daily schedule and routine
 - E.g. commute alerts to/from work
- Be more productive in managing your work and personal life











Why Natural Language?

Global Digital Statistics (2015 January)



The more **natural** and **convenient** input of devices evolves towards speech.

Spoken Dialogue System (SDS)

- Spoken dialogue systems are intelligent agents that are able to help users finish tasks more efficiently via spoken interactions.
- Spoken dialogue systems are being incorporated into various devices (smart-phones, smart TVs, incar navigating system, etc).



JARVIS - Iron Man's Personal Assistant

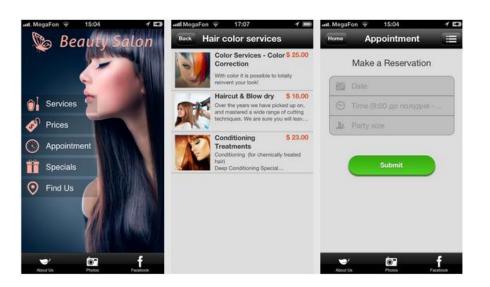


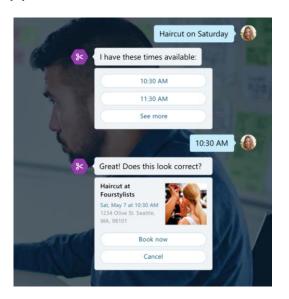
Baymax - Personal Healthcare Companion

Good dialogue systems assist users to access information conveniently and finish tasks efficiently.

$App \rightarrow Bot$

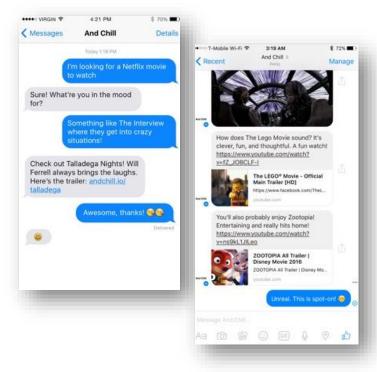
A bot is responsible for a "single" domain, similar to an app











GUI v.s. CUI (Conversational UI)

	Website/APP's GUI	Msg's CUI
Situation	Navigation, no specific goal	Searching, with specific goal
Information Quantity	More	Less
Information Precision	Low	High
Display	Structured	Non-structured
Interface	Graphics	Language
Manipulation	Click	mainly use texts or speech as input
Learning	Need time to learn and adapt	No need to learn
Entrance	App download	Incorporated in any msg-based interface
Flexibility	Low, like machine manipulation	High, like converse with a human

Challenges

- Variability in Natural Language
- Robustness
- Recall/Precision Trade-off
- Meaning Representation
- □ Common Sense, World Knowledge
- Ability to Learn
- Transparency

Two Branches of Bots

Task-Oriented Bot

- Personal assistant, helps users achieve a certain task
- Combination of rules and statistical components
 - POMDP for spoken dialog systems (Williams and Young, 2007)
 - End-to-end trainable task-oriented dialogue system (Wen et al., 2016)
 - End-to-end reinforcement learning dialogue system (Li et al., 2017; Zhao and Eskenazi, 2016)

Chit-Chat Bot

- No specific goal, focus on natural responses
- Using variants of seq2seq model
 - A neural conversation model (Vinyals and Le, 2015)
 - Reinforcement learning for dialogue generation (Li et al., 2016)
 - Conversational contextual cues for response ranking (AI-Rfou et al., 2016)







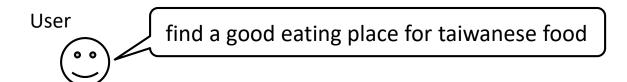


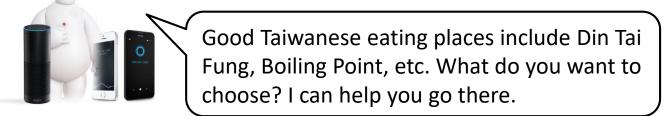
http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/358/1769/1389.short

Task-Oriented Dialogue System (Young, 2000)

Speech Signal **Hypothesis** are there any action movies to see this weekend Language Understanding (LU) Speech Domain Identification Recognition **User Intent Detection** Slot Filling Text Input re there any action movies to see this weekend? Semantic Frame request movie genre=action, date=this weekend **Dialogue Management (DM) Natural Language** Dialogue State Tracking (DST) **Generation (NLG)** Text response Dialogue Policy Where are you located? System Action/Policy request location Backend Action / **Knowledge Providers**

Interaction Example

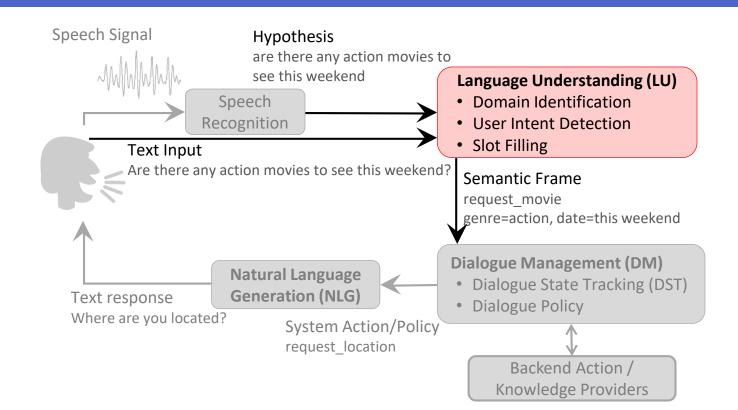




Intelligent Agent

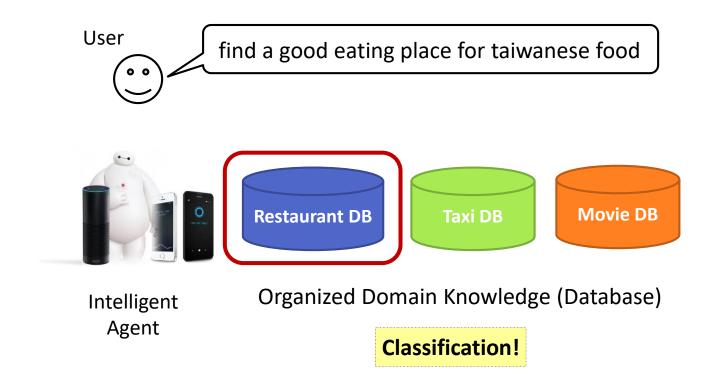
Q: How does a dialogue system process this request?

Task-Oriented Dialogue System (Young, 2000)



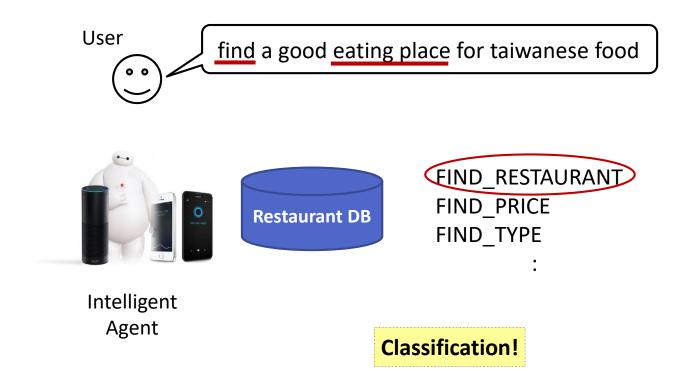
1. Domain Identification

Requires Predefined Domain Ontology



2. Intent Detection

Requires Predefined Schema

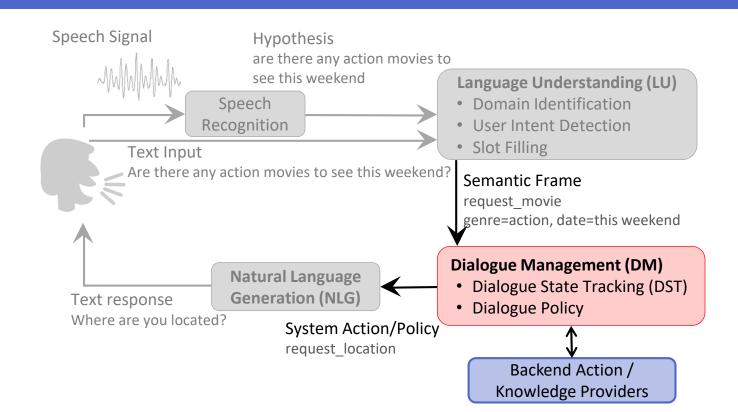


3. Slot Filling

Requires Predefined Schema

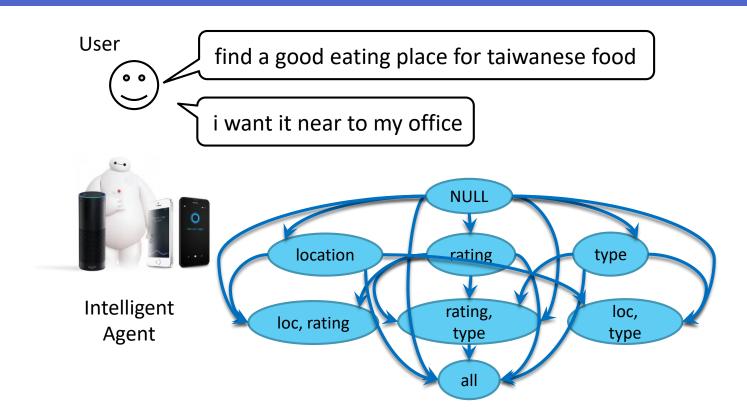
O B-rating O 0 B-type User find a good eating place for taiwanese food Restaurant Rating Type Rest 1 good Taiwanese Thai Rest 2 bad **Restaurant DB** FIND RESTAURANT SELECT restaurant { Intelligent rating="good" rest.rating="good" Agent type="taiwanese" rest.type="taiwanese" Semantic Frame **Sequence Labeling**

Task-Oriented Dialogue System (Young, 2000)



State Tracking

Requires Hand-Crafted States



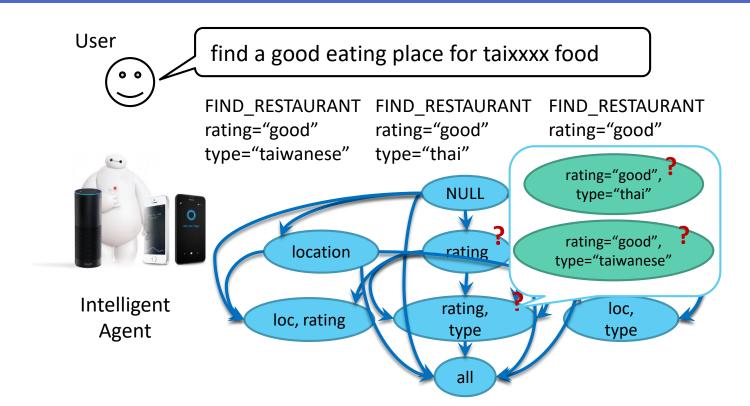
State Tracking

Requires Hand-Crafted States



State Tracking

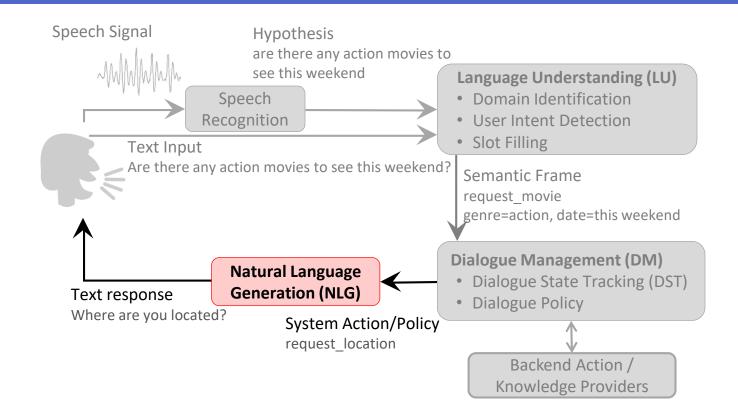
Handling Errors and Confidence



Dialogue Policy for Agent Action

- Inform(location="Taipei 101")
 - "The nearest one is at Taipei 101"
- Request(location)
 - "Where is your home?"
- Confirm(type="taiwanese")
 - "Did you want Taiwanese food?"

Task-Oriented Dialogue System (Young, 2000)



Output / Natural Language Generation

- Goal: generate natural language or GUI given the selected dialogue action for interactions
- Inform(location="Taipei 101")
 - "The nearest one is at Taipei 101" v.s.
- Request(location)
 - "Where is your home?" v.s.
- Confirm(type="taiwanese")
 - □ "Did you want Taiwanese food?" v.s.



Background Knowledge

Neural Network Basics

Reinforcement Learning

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Machine Learning ≈ Looking for a Function

Speech Recognition

Image Recognition



$$)= cat$$

Go Playing

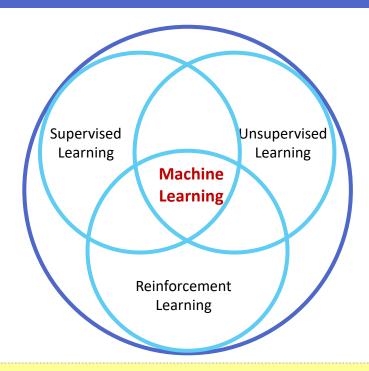


Chat Bot

$$f($$
 "Where is Westin?" $)=$ "The address is..."

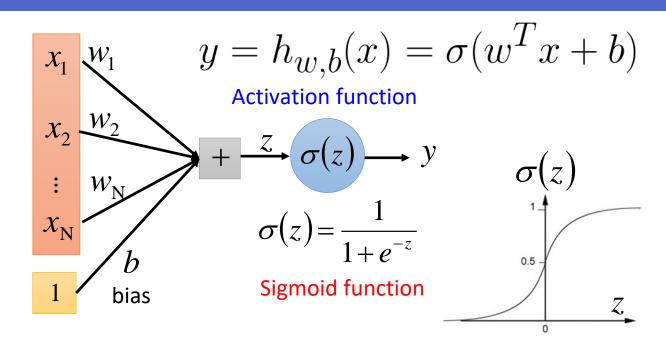
Given a large amount of data, the machine learns what the function f should be.

Machine Learning



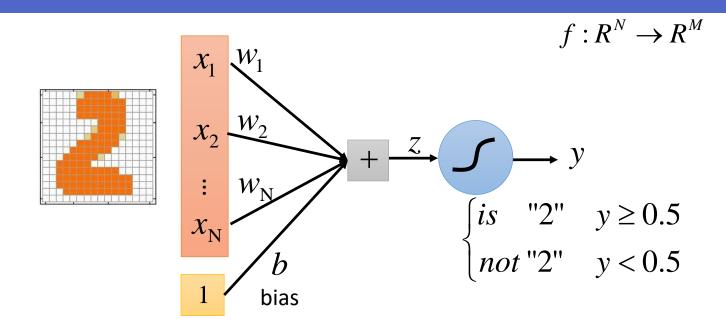
Deep learning is a type of machine learning approaches, called "neural networks".

A Single Neuron



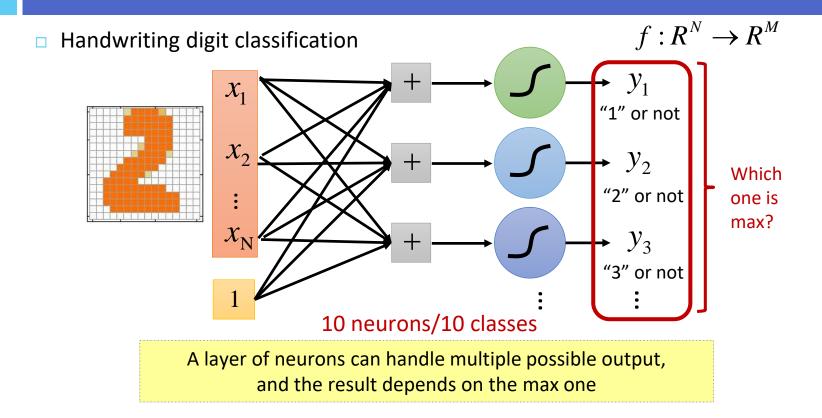
w, b are the parameters of this neuron

A Single Neuron



A single neuron can only handle binary classification

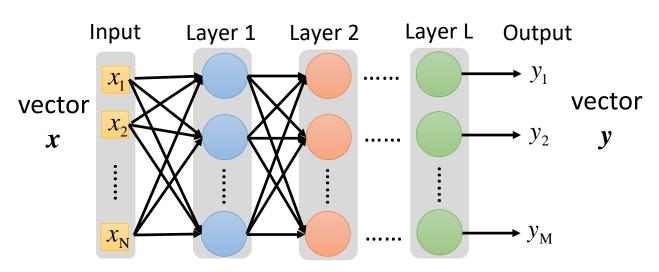
A Layer of Neurons



Deep Neural Networks (DNN)

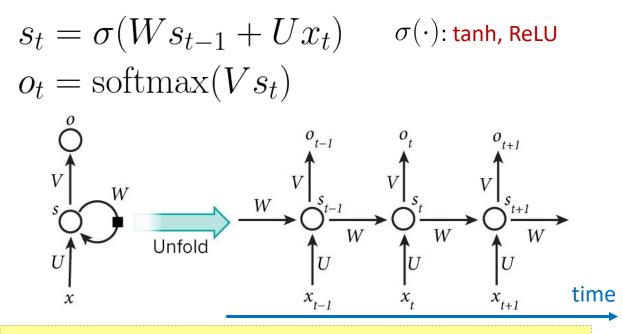
Fully connected feedforward network

$$f: \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^M$$



Deep NN: multiple hidden layers

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



RNN can learn accumulated sequential information (time-series)

Outline

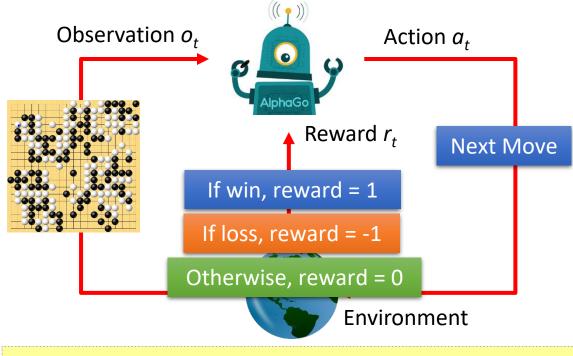
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Reinforcement Learning

- RL is a general purpose framework for decision making
 - RL is for an agent with the capacity to act
 - Each *action* influences the agent's future *state*
 - Success is measured by a scalar reward signal
 - Goal: select actions to maximize future reward

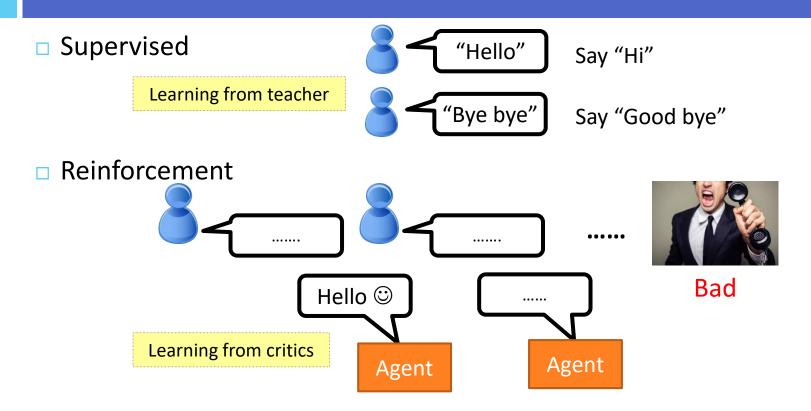


Scenario of Reinforcement Learning



Agent learns to take actions to maximize expected reward.

Supervised v.s. Reinforcement



Sequential Decision Making

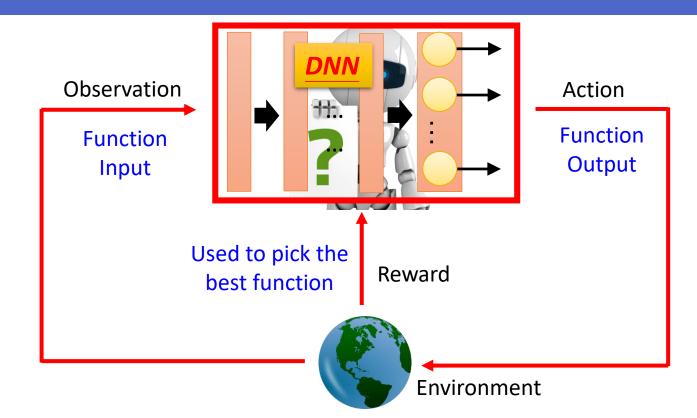
- Goal: select actions to maximize total future reward
 - Actions may have long-term consequences
 - Reward may be delayed
 - It may be better to sacrifice immediate reward to gain more long-term reward







Deep Reinforcement Learning



Reinforcing Learning

- \square Start from state s_0
- \Box Choose action a_0
- □ Transit to $s_1 \sim P(s_0, a_0)$
- Continue...

$$s_0 \xrightarrow{a_0} s_1 \xrightarrow{a_1} s_2 \xrightarrow{a_2} s_3 \xrightarrow{a_3} \dots$$

 \square Total reward: $R(s_0) + \gamma R(s_1) + \gamma^2 R(s_2) + \cdots$

Goal: select actions that maximize the expected total reward

$$\mathbb{E}[R(s_0) + \gamma R(s_1) + \gamma^2 R(s_2) + \cdots]$$

Reinforcement Learning Approach

- Policy-based RL
 - lacktriangle Search directly for optimal policy π^*

 π^* is the policy achieving maximum future reward

- Value-based RL
 - lacktriangle Estimate the optimal value function $\,Q^*(s,a)\,$

 $Q^*(s,a)$ is maximum value achievable under any policy

- Model-based RL
 - Build a model of the environment
 - □ Plan (e.g. by lookahead) using model

Modular Dialogue System

http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/358/1769/1389.short

Task-Oriented Dialogue System (Young, 2000)

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Language Understanding (LU)

Pipelined
 1. Domain Classification
 2. Intent Classification
 3. Slot Filling

LU – Domain/Intent Classification

Mainly viewed as an utterance classification task

• Given a collection of utterances u_i with labels c_i , $D = \{(u_1, c_1), ..., (u_n, c_n)\}$ where $c_i \in C$, train a model to estimate labels for new utterances u_k .

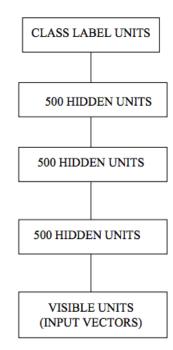
find me a cheap taiwanese restaurant in oakland

Movies Find_movie
Restaurants Buy_tickets
Sports Find_restaurant
Weather Book_table
Music Find_lyrics

•••

http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/5947649/

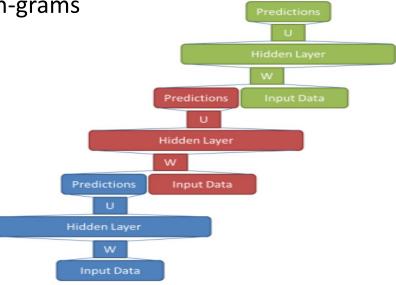
- Deep belief nets (DBN)
 - Unsupervised training of weights
 - □ Fine-tuning by back-propagation
 - Compared to MaxEnt, SVM, and boosting



50

http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/6289054/; http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/6424224/

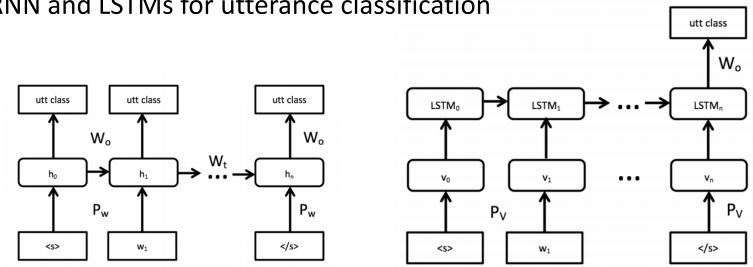
- Deep convex networks (DCN)
 - Simple classifiers are stacked to learn complex functions
 - Feature selection of salient n-grams
- Extension to kernel-DCN



DNN for Domain/Intent Classification – III (Ravuri & Stolcke, 2015)

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/RNNLM_addressee.pdf

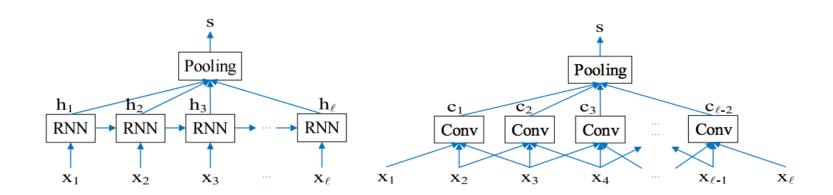
RNN and LSTMs for utterance classification



Intent decision after reading all words performs better

DNN for Dialogue Act Classification – IV (Lee & Dernoncourt, 2016)

RNN and CNNs for dialogue act classification



LU – Slot Filling

As a sequence tagging task

• Given a collection tagged word sequences, $S = \{((w_{1,1}, w_{1,2}, ..., w_{1,n1}), (t_{1,1}, t_{1,2}, ..., t_{1,n1})\}, ((w_{2,1}, w_{2,2}, ..., w_{2,n2}), (t_{2,1}, t_{2,2}, ..., t_{2,n2})\} ...\}$ where $t_i \in M$, the goal is to estimate tags for a new word sequence.

flights from Boston to New York today

Entity Tag Slot Tag

	flights	from	Boston	to	New	York	today
;	0	0	B-city	0	B-city	I-city	0
	0	Ο	B-dept	0	B-arrival	I-arrival	B-date

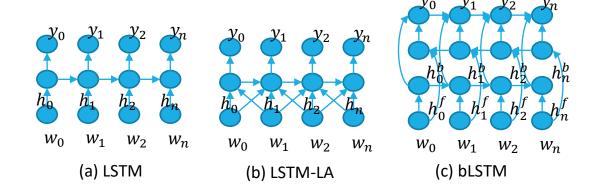
Recurrent Neural Nets for Slot Tagging — I (Yao et al, 2013;

Mesnil et al, 2015)

http://131.107.65.14/en-us/um/people/gzweig/Pubs/Interspeech2013RNNLU.pdf; http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2876380

Variations:

- a. RNNs with LSTM cells
- b. Input, sliding window of n-grams
- c. Bi-directional LSTMs

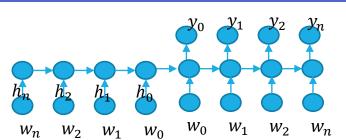


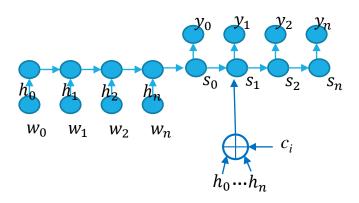
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http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D16-1223

- Encoder-decoder networks
 - Leverages sentence level information

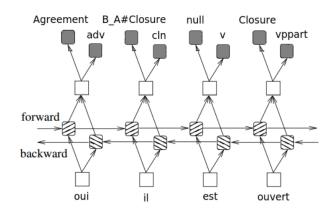
- Attention-based encoder-decoder
 - Use of attention (as in MT) in the encoder-decoder network
 - Attention is estimated using a feedforward network with input: h_t and s_t at time t



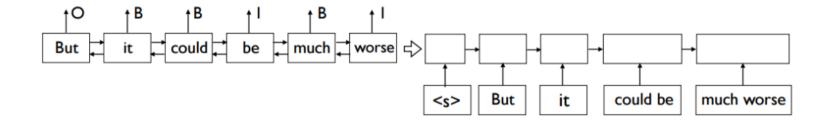


https://arxiv.org/abs/1604.00117; http://www.sensei-conversation.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/favre is2016b.pdf

- Multi-task learning
 - □ Goal: exploit data from domains/tasks with a lot of data to improve ones with less data
 - Lower layers are shared across domains/tasks
 - Output layer is specific to task



- Encoder that segments
- Decoder that tags the segments



Joint Semantic Frame Parsing

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/IS16_MultiJoint.pdf; https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.01454

 X_2

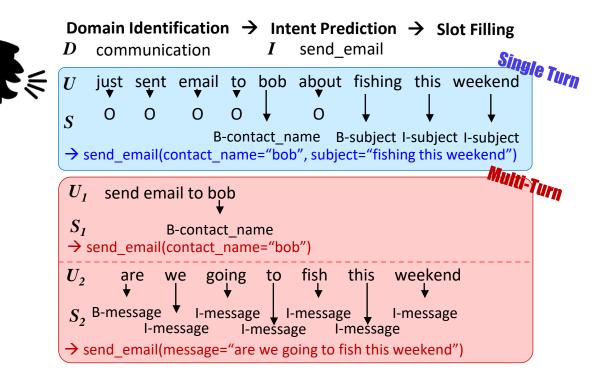
 X_1

 Slot filling and intent prediction Sequencein the same based output sequence (Hakkani-Tur et al., 2016) please taiwanese food **EOS** FIND_REST, B-type **Slot Filling** Intent Prediction

 Intent prediction and slot filling **Parallel** are performed (Liu and in two branches Lane, 2016) Flight (Intent) (Slot Filling) FromLoc⁴ 0 ^ ToLoc from Seattle

 X_{Δ}

Contextual LU



Contextual LU

User utterances are highly ambiguous in isolation

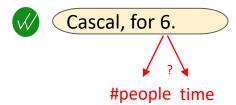




Book a table for 10 people tonight.

Which restaurant would you like to book a table for?

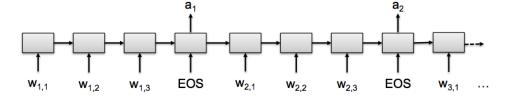




https://www.merl.com/publications/docs/TR2015-134.pdf

Contextual LU (Bhargava et al., 2013; Hori et al, 2015)

- Leveraging contexts
 - Used for individual tasks
- Seq2Seq model
 - Words are input one at a time, tags are output at the end of each utterance



Extension: LSTM with speaker role dependent layers

End-to-End Memory Networks (Sukhbaatar et al, 2015)

U: "i d like to purchase tickets to see deepwater horizon"		
S: "for which theatre"		m_o
U: "angelika"		•
S: "you want them for angelika theatre?"		•
U: "yes angelika"		
S: "how many tickets would you like ?"		m_i
U: "3 tickets for saturday"		•
S: "What time would you like ?"		•
U: "Any time on saturday is fine"		•
S: "okay , there is 4:10 pm , 5:40 pm and 9:20 pm"	m _{n-1}	
U: "Let's do 5:40"		u

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/IS16 ContextualSLU.pdf

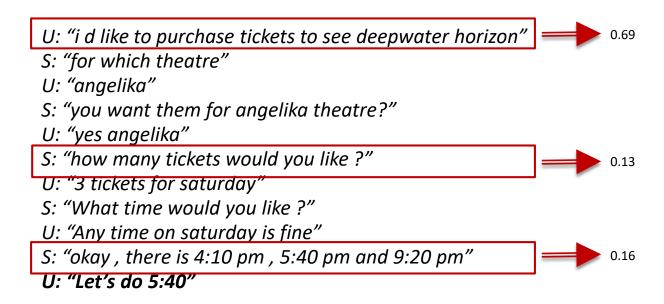
E2E MemNN for Contextual LU (Chen et al., 2016)

1. Sentence Encoding 2. Knowledge Attention 3. Knowledge Encoding $m_i = \text{RNN}_{\text{mem}}(x_i)$ $p_i = \operatorname{softmax}(u^T m_i)$ $h = \sum p_i m_i \ o = W_{kg}(h+u)$ $u = RNN_{in}(c)$ **Knowledge Attention Distribution** slot tagging sequence y **RNN Tagger** Contextual Sentence Encoder Weighted $\mathsf{RNN}_{\mathsf{mem}}$ Sum h Memory Representation Sentence Inner Encoder **Product** RNN_{in} **Knowledge Encoding** Representation 0 history utterances $\{x_i\}$ current utterance

Idea: additionally incorporating contextual knowledge during slot tagging

→ track dialogue states in a latent way

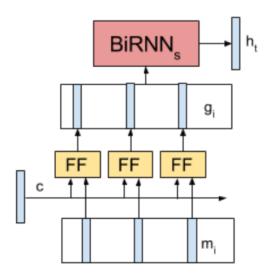
Analysis of Attention



Sequential Dialogue Encoder Network (Bapna et al., 2017)

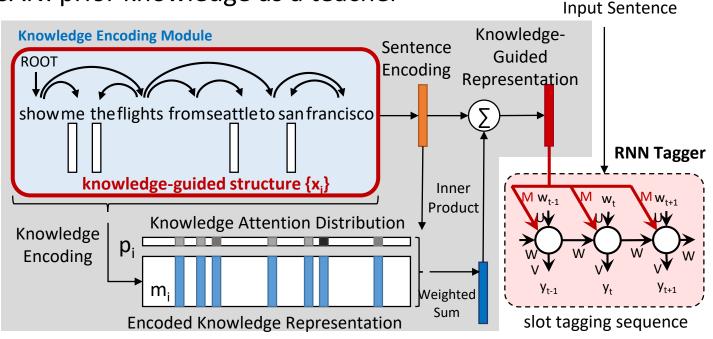
Bapna et.al., SIGDIAL 2017

□ Past and current turn encodings input to a feed forward network



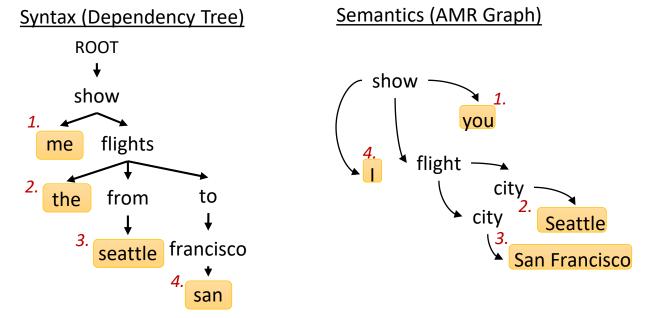
66 http://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03286

K-SAN: prior knowledge as a teacher



Sentence structural knowledge stored as memory

Sentence s show me the flights from seattle to san francisco



68 http://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03286

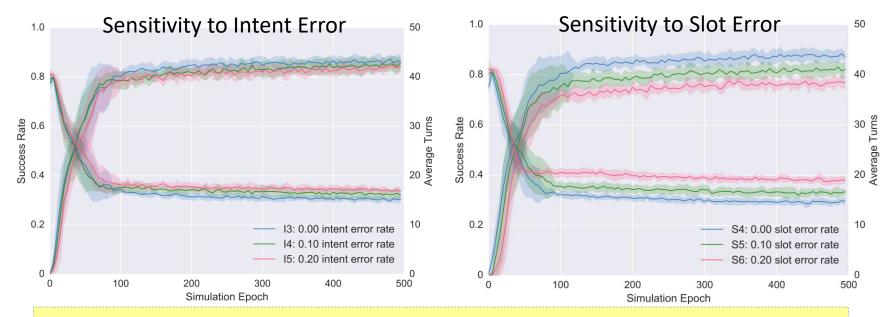
Sentence structural knowledge stored as memory



Using <u>less training data</u> with K-SAN allows the model pay the similar attention to the <u>salient substructures</u> that are important for tagging.

69 http://arxiv.org/abs/1703.07055

Compare different types of LU errors



Slot filling is more important than intent detection in language understanding

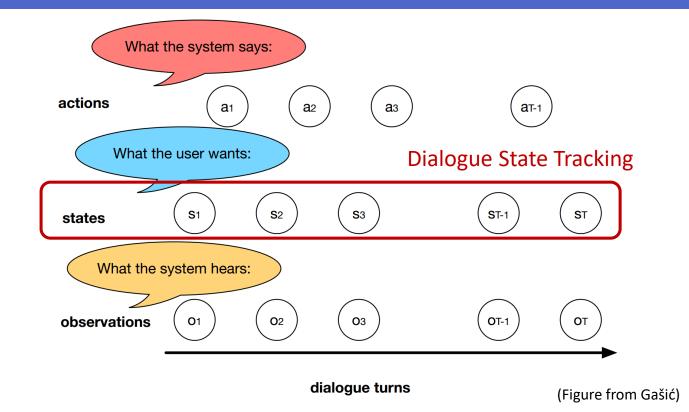
LU Evaluation

- Metrics
 - □ Sub-sentence-level: intent accuracy, slot F1
 - Sentence-level: whole frame accuracy

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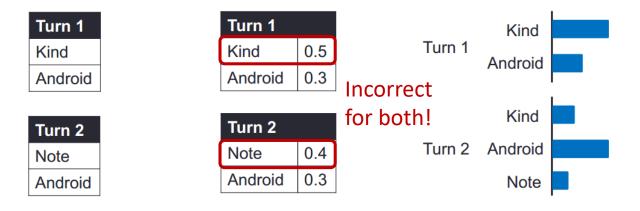
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Elements of Dialogue Management



Dialogue State Tracking (DST)

 Maintain a probabilistic distribution instead of a 1-best prediction for better robustness



Dialogue State Tracking (DST)

 Maintain a probabilistic distribution instead of a 1-best prediction for better robustness to SLU errors or ambiguous input

Slot	Value	
# people	5 (0.5)	
time	5 (0.5)	

Slot	Value
# people	3 (0.8)
time	5 (0.8)

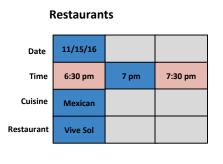


Multi-Domain Dialogue State Tracking (DST)

- A full representation of the system's belief of the user's goal at any point during the dialogue
- Used for making API calls

Movies

11/15/16 6 pm 7 pm 8 pm 9 pm 2 3 Inferno Trolls Century 16





Dialog State Tracking Challenge (DSTC)

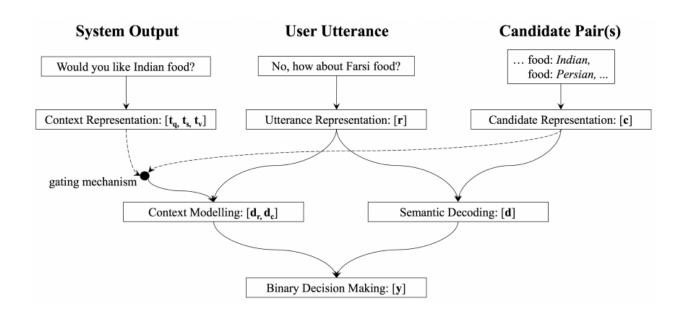
(Williams et al. 2013, Henderson et al. 2014, Henderson et al. 2014, Kim et al. 2016, Kim et al. 2016)

Challenge	Туре	Domain	Data Provider	Main Theme
DSTC1	Human-Machine	Bus Route	СМИ	Evaluation Metrics
DSTC2	Human-Machine	Restaurant	U. Cambridge	User Goal Changes
DSTC3	Human-Machine	Tourist Information	U. Cambridge	Domain Adaptation
DSTC4	Human-Human	Tourist Information	I2R	Human Conversation
<u>DSTC5</u>	Human-Human	Tourist Information	I2R	Language Adaptation

NN-Based DST (Henderson et al., 2013; Henderson et al., 2014; Mrkšić et al., 2015; Mrkšić et al., 2016)

http://www.anthology.aclweb.org/W/W13/W13-4073.pdf; https://arxiv.org/abs/1506.07190; https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.03777 Jordan RNN Output layer Hidden layer Turn t Input layer System turn t-1 User turn t <nil> want v.food sentence s.food representation <nil> **Delexicalised CNN** 1st conv. 2nd conv. 3rd conv. max-pool avg-pool

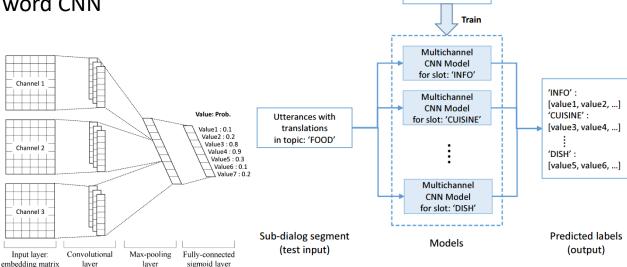
(Figure from Wen et al, 2016)



79 https://arxiv.org/abs/1701.06247

Training a multichannel CNN for each slot

- Chinese character CNN
- Chinese word CNN
- English word CNN



DSTC5 training corpus

Training corpus in topic: 'FOOD'

Filtered by topic 'FOOD'

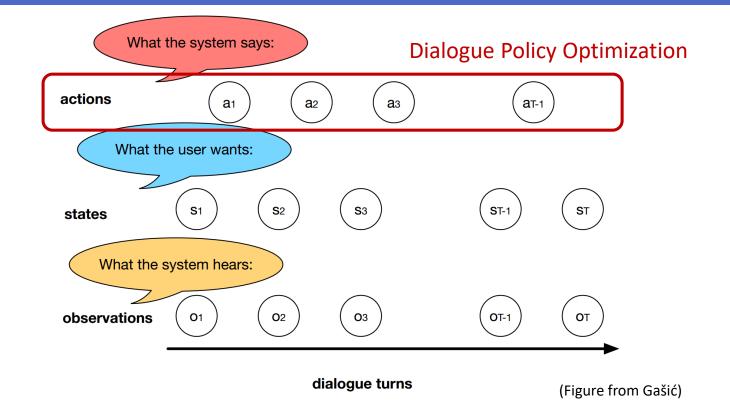
DST Evaluation

- Dialogue State Tracking Challenges
 - □ DSTC2-3, human-machine
 - □ DSTC4-5, human-human
- Metric
 - Tracked state accuracy with respect to user goal
 - Recall/Precision/F-measure individual slots

Outline

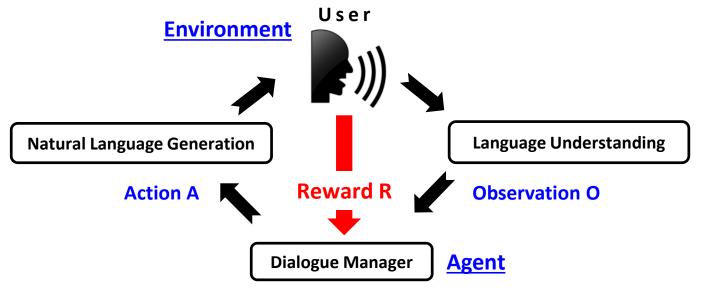
- Introduction
- Background Knowledge
 - Neural Network Basics
 - Reinforcement Learning
- Modular Dialogue System
 - Spoken/Natural Language Understanding (SLU/NLU)
 - Dialogue Management
 - Dialogue State Tracking (DST)
 - Dialogue Policy Optimization
 - Natural Language Generation (NLG)
- Evaluation
- Recent Trends and Challenges
 - End-to-End Neural Dialogue System
 - Multimodality
 - Dialogue Breath
 - Dialogue Depth

Elements of Dialogue Management



Dialogue Policy Optimization

Dialogue management in a RL framework



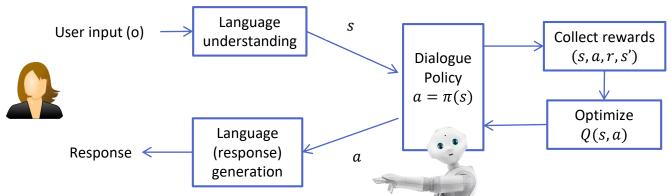
Optimized dialogue policy selects the best action that can maximize the future reward. Correct rewards are a crucial factor in dialogue policy training

Reward for RL \cong Evaluation for System

- Dialogue is a special RL task
 - Human involves in **interaction** and **rating** (evaluation) of a dialogue
 - Fully human-in-the-loop framework
- Rating: correctness, appropriateness, and adequacy

- Expert rating	high quality, high cost
- User rating	unreliable quality, medium cost
- Objective rating	Check desired aspects, low cost

Reinforcement Learning for Dialogue Policy Optimization



Type of Bots	State	Action	Reward
Social ChatBots	Chat history	System Response	# of turns maximized; Intrinsically motivated reward
InfoBots (interactive Q/A)	User current question + Context	Answers to current question	Relevance of answer; # of turns minimized
Task-Completion Bots	User current input + Context	System dialogue act w/ slot value (or API calls)	Task success rate; # of turns minimized

Goal: develop a generic deep RL algorithm to learn dialogue policy for all bot categories

Dialogue Reinforcement Learning Signal

- Typical reward function
 - -1 for per turn penalty
 - Large reward at completion if successful
- Typically requires domain knowledge
 - √ Simulated user
 - ✓ Paid users (Amazon Mechanical Turk)
 - X Real users

The user simulator is usually required for dialogue system training before deployment

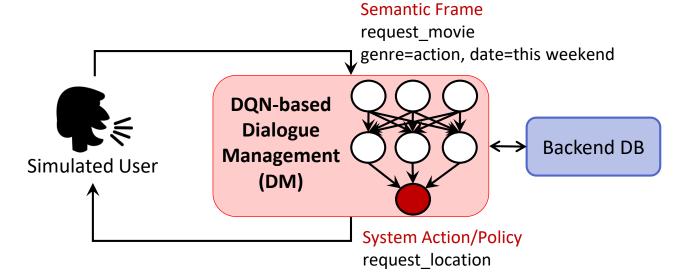






https://arxiv.org/abs/1703.01008

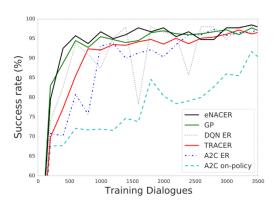
- Deep Q-network for training DM policy
 - Input: current semantic frame observation, database returned results
 - Output: system action

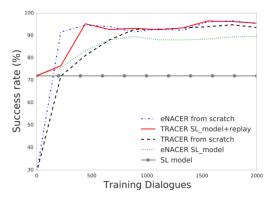


Su et.al., SIGDIAL 2017

https://arxiv.org/pdf/1707.00130.pdf

- Issue about RL for DM
 - slow learning speed
 - cold start
- Solutions
 - Sample-efficient actor-critic
 - Off-policy learning with experience replay
 - Better gradient update
 - Utilizing supervised data
 - Pretrain the model with SL and then fine-tune with RL
 - Mix SL and RL data during RL learning
 - Combine both

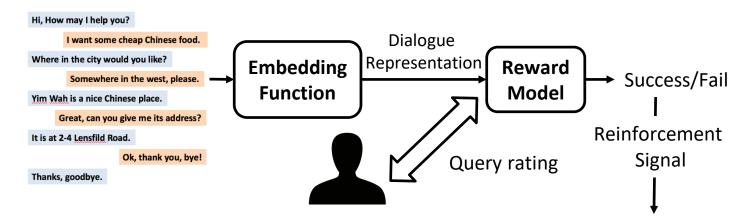




http://www.anthology.aclweb.org/W/W15/W15-46.pdf; https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P/P16/P16-1230.pdf

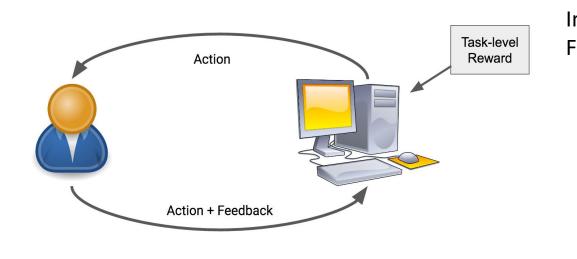
Online Training (Su et al., 2015; Su et al., 2016)

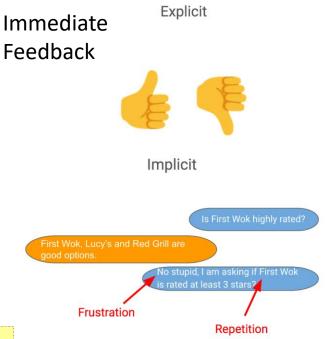
- □ Policy learning from real users
 - Infer reward directly from dialogues (Su et al., 2015)
 - □ User rating (Su et al., 2016)
- Reward modeling on user binary success rating



an

https://research.google.com/pubs/pub45734.html





Use a third agent for providing interactive feedback to the DM

https://research.google.com/pubs/pub45734.html

Interpreting Interactive Feedback (Shah et al., 2016)

a_{T-1} a_{t+1} Agent policy S_{t+1} S_{T-1} S_T optimizes S Reward value combined reward $R_{t} + F_{t}$ **Reward Shaping** Agent policy is: ، a_{t+1} , · a_{T-1} Label on $\pi \propto \pi_R \times \pi_F$ S_{t+1} S_{T-1} \mathbf{S}_{T} previous action Reward Feedback $R_{\scriptscriptstyle T}$ **Policy Shaping Policy Policy**

Dialogue Management Evaluation

- Metrics
 - □ Turn-level evaluation: system action accuracy
 - □ Dialogue-level evaluation: task success rate, reward

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Natural Language Generation (NLG)

Mapping semantic frame into natural language

inform(name=Seven_Days, foodtype=Chinese)

Seven Days is a nice Chinese restaurant

Template-Based NLG

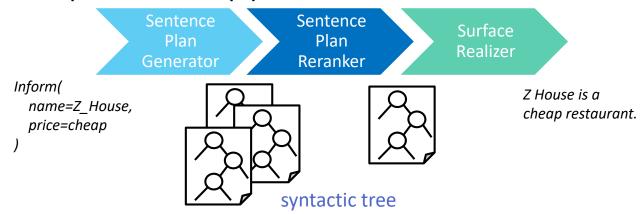
Define a set of rules to map frames to NL

Semantic Frame	Natural Language
confirm()	"Please tell me more about the product your are looking for."
confirm(area=\$V)	"Do you want somewhere in the \$V?"
confirm(food=\$V)	"Do you want a \$V restaurant?"
confirm(food=\$V,area=\$W)	"Do you want a \$V restaurant in the \$W."

Pros: simple, error-free, easy to control **Cons:** time-consuming, poor scalability

Plan-Based NLG (Walker et al., 2002)

Divide the problem into pipeline



- Statistical sentence plan generator (Stent et al., 2009)
- Statistical surface realizer (Dethlefs et al., 2013; Cuayáhuitl et al., 2014; ...)

Pros: can model complex linguistic structures

Cons: heavily engineered, require domain knowledge

act query

content depart_time

Complete Utterance

What time on Mon, May 8th?

depart_date 20000501

http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1117568

Class-based language modeling

$$P(X \mid c) = \sum_{t} \log p(x_t \mid x_0, x_1, \cdots, x_{t-1}, c)$$
 inform_area inform_addres ... request_area request_postor

TTS

■ NLG by decoding

Language

Tagged

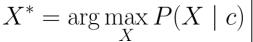
Corpora

Generation

Scoring

Slot Filling

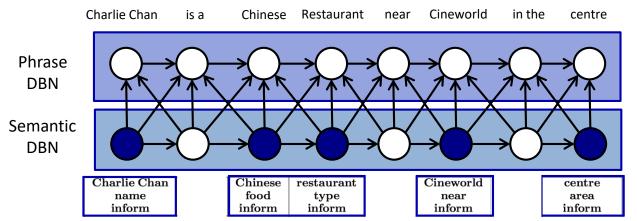
Best Utterance What time on {depart_date}



Classes: inform address request postcode

Models Dialog Manager Candidate Utterances **Pros:** easy to implement/ understand, simple rules What time on {depart_date} **Cons:** computationally inefficient At what time would you be leaving {depart_city} Input Frame

http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1858838



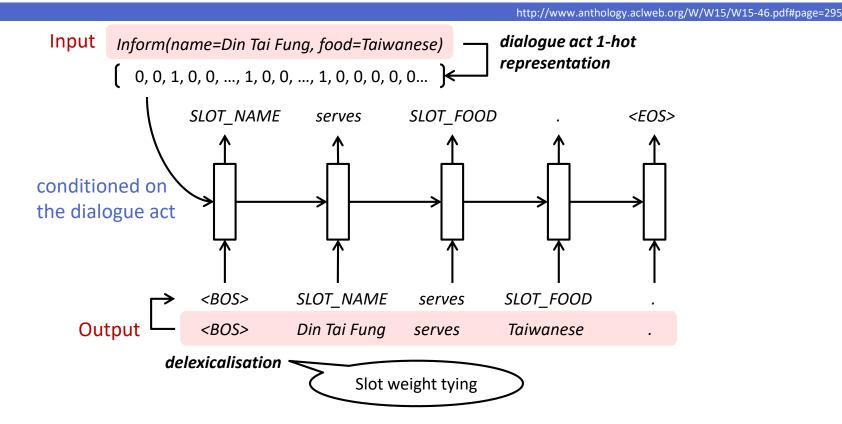
Inform(name=Charlie Chan, food=Chinese, type= restaurant, near=Cineworld, area=centre)

realization phrase semantic stack

r_t	s_t	h_t	l_t
<s></s>	START	START	START
The Rice Boat	inform(name(X))	X	inform(name)
is a	inform	inform	EMPTY
restaurant	<pre>inform(type(restaurant))</pre>	restaurant	inform(type)
in the	inform(area)	area	inform
riverside	inform(area(riverside))	riverside	inform(area)
area	inform(area)	area	inform
that	inform	inform	EMPTY
serves	inform(food)	food	inform
French	inform(food(French))	French	inform(food)
food	inform(food)	food	inform
	END	END	END

Pros: efficient, good performance **Cons:** require semantic alignments

RNN-Based LM NLG (Wen et al., 2015)



Handling Semantic Repetition

- Issue: semantic repetition
 - Din Tai Fung is a great Taiwanese restaurant that serves Taiwanese.
 - Din Tai Fung is a child friendly restaurant, and also allows kids.
- Deficiency in either model or decoding (or both)
- Mitigation
 - Post-processing rules (Oh & Rudnicky, 2000)
 - Gating mechanism (Wen et al., 2015)
 - Attention (Mei et al., 2016; Wen et al., 2015)

- Original ISTM col

$$\mathbf{i}_t = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{wi}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{W}_{hi}\mathbf{h}_{t-1})$$

$$\mathbf{f}_t = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{wf}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{W}_{hf}\mathbf{h}_{t-1})$$

$$\mathbf{o}_t = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{wo}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{W}_{ho}\mathbf{h}_{t-1})$$

$$\hat{c}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_{wc}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{W}_{hc}\mathbf{h}_{t-1})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_t = \mathbf{f}_t \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1} + \mathbf{i}_t \odot \hat{\mathbf{c}}_t$$

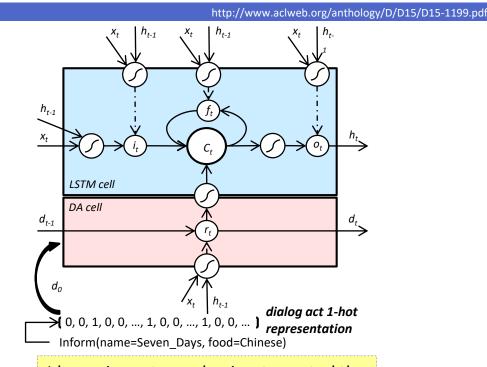
$$\mathbf{h}_t = \mathbf{o}_t \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}_t)$$

Dialogue act (DA) cell

$$\mathbf{r}_{t} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{wr}\mathbf{x}_{t} + \mathbf{W}_{hr}\mathbf{h}_{t-1})$$
$$\mathbf{d}_{t} = \mathbf{r}_{t}\odot\mathbf{d}_{t-1}$$

Modify Ct

$$\mathbf{c}_t = \mathbf{f}_t \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1} + \mathbf{i}_t \odot \hat{\mathbf{c}}_t + \tanh(\mathbf{W}_{dc} \mathbf{d}_t)$$



Idea: using gate mechanism to control the generated semantics (dialogue act/slots)

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https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P/P16/P16-2.pdf#page=79

- Goal: NLG based on the syntax tree
 - Encode trees as sequences
 - Seq2Seq model for generation

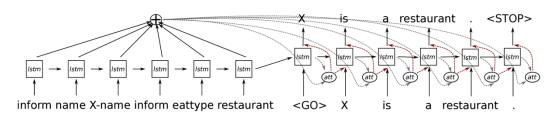
```
inform(name=X-name,type=placetoeat,eattype=restaurant, area=riverside,food=Italian)

t-tree
zone=en

X-name
n:subj
Italian
river
adi:attr
n:near+X
```



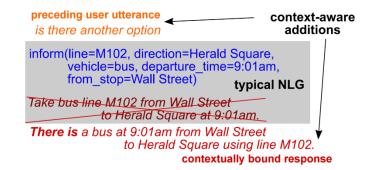
X is an Italian restaurant near the river.

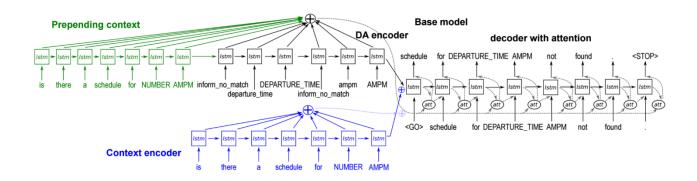


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https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W/W16/W16-36.pdf#page=203

- Goal: adapting users' way of speaking, providing contextaware responses
 - Context encoder
 - Seq2Seq model

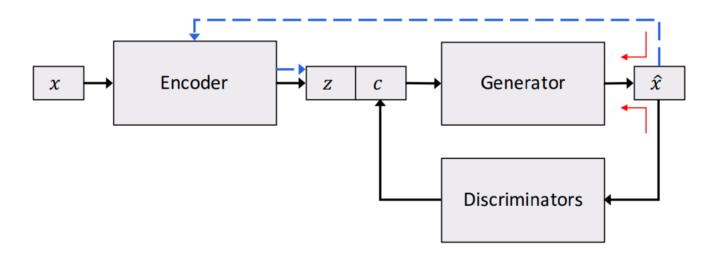




Controlled Text Generation (Hu et al., 2017)

104 https://arxiv.org/pdf/1703.00955.pdf

- □ Idea: NLG based on generative adversarial network (GAN) framework
 - **c**: targeted sentence attributes



NLG Evaluation

- Metrics
 - Subjective: human judgement (Stent et al., 2005)
 - Adequacy: correct meaning
 - Fluency: linguistic fluency
 - Readability: fluency in the dialogue context
 - Variation: multiple realizations for the same concept
 - Objective: automatic metrics
 - Word overlap: BLEU (Papineni et al, 2002), METEOR, ROUGE
 - Word embedding based: vector extrema, greedy matching, embedding average

There is a gap between human perception and automatic metrics

Evaluation

Dialogue System Evaluation

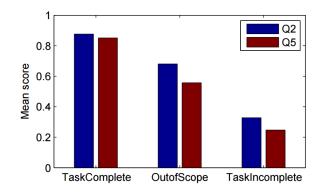
- Dialogue model evaluation
 - Crowd sourcing
 - User simulator
- Response generator evaluation
 - Word overlap metrics
 - Embedding based metrics

Crowdsourcing for Dialogue System Evaluation (Yang et al., 2012)

108 http://www-scf.usc.edu/~zhaojuny/docs/SDSchapter_final.pdf

Do you think you understand from the dialog what the user wanted? 1) No clue 2) A little bit 3) Somewhat Opt 4) Mostly 5) Entirely Aim elicit the Worker's confidence in his/her ratings. Do you think the system is successful in providing the information that the user wanted? 2) Mostly unsuccessful Opt 1) Entirely unsuccessful 3) Half successful/unsuccessful 4) Mostly successful 5) Entirely successful Aim elicit the Worker's perception of whether the dialog has fulfilled the informational goal of the user. **Q3** Does the system work the way you expect it? Opt 1) Not at all 2) Barely 3) Somewhat 4) Almost 5) Completely Aim elicit the Worker's impression of whether the dialog flow suits general expectations. Overall, do you think that this is a good system? 04 1) Very poor 2) Poor 3) Fair 4) Good 5) Very good Aim elicit the Worker's overall impression of the SDS. What category do you think the dialog belongs to? **Q5** Opt 1) Task is incomplete 2) Out of scope 3) Task is complete Aim elicit the Worker's impression of whether the

dialog reflects task completion.



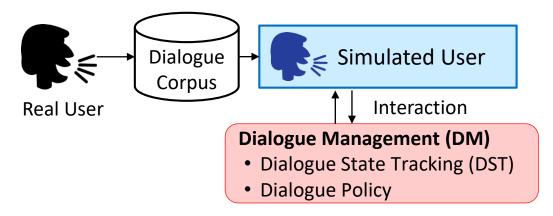
The normalized mean scores of Q2 and Q5 for approved ratings in each category. A higher score maps to a higher level of task success

Approach

keeps a list of its goals and actions

andomly generates an agenda updates its list of goals and adds new ones

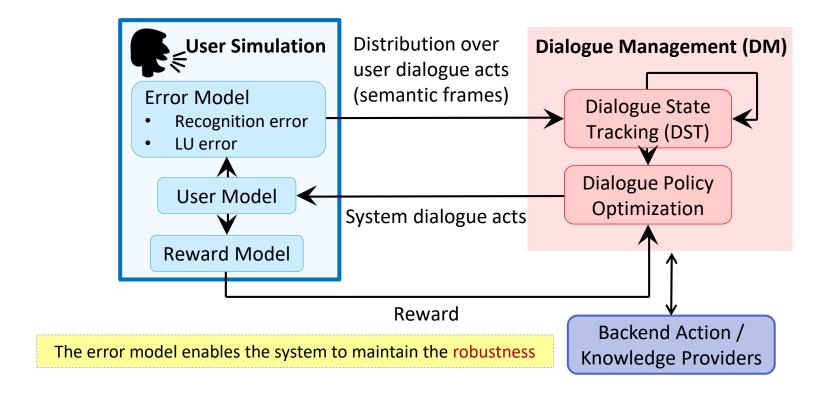
 Goal: generate natural and reasonable conversations to enable reinforcement learning for exploring the policy space



- Rule-based crafted by experts (Li et al., 2016)
- Learning-based (Schatzmann et al., 2006; El Asri et al., 2016, Crook and Marin, 2017)

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Elements of User Simulation



Rule-Based Simulator for RL Based System (Li et al., 2016)

111 http://arxiv.org/abs/1612.05688

- rule-based simulator + collected data
- starts with sets of goals, actions, KB, slot types
- publicly available simulation framework
- movie-booking domain: ticket booking and movie seeking
- provide procedures to add and test own agent

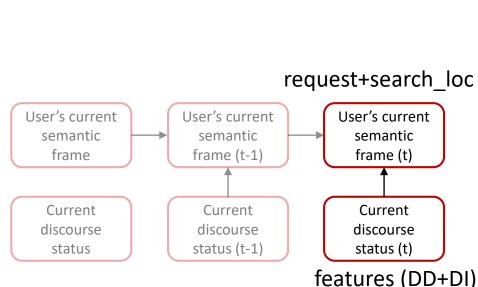
```
class AgentDQN(Agent):
       def run_policy(self, representation):
           """ epsilon-greedy policy """
           if random.random() < self.epsilon:</pre>
               return random.randint(0, self.num_actions - 1)
           else:
               if self.warm_start == 1:
                   if len(self.experience_replay_pool) > self.experience_replay_pool_size:
                       self.warm.start = 2
                   return self.rule_policy()
               else:
                   return self.dqn.predict(representation, {}, predict_model=True)
15
      def train(self. batch_size=1. num_batches=100):
16
           """ Train DON with experience replay """
18
           for iter_batch in range(num_batches):
19
               self.cur_bellman_err = 0
               for iter in range(len(self.experience_replay_pool)/(batch_size)):
20
                   batch = [random.choice(self.experience_replay_pool) for i in xrange(batch_size)]
                   batch_struct = self.dqn.singleBatch(batch, {'qamma': self.qamma}, self.clone_dqn)
```

Model-Based User Simulators

- □ Bi-gram models (Levin et.al. 2000)
- □ Graph-based models (Scheffler and Young, 2000)
- Data Driven Simulator (Jung et.al., 2009)
- Neural Models (deep encoder-decoder)

Data-Driven Simulator (Jung et.al., 2009)

- □ Three step process
 - 1) User intention simulator



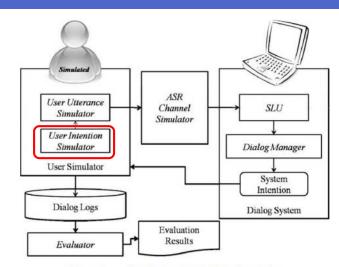


Fig. 1. Overall architecture of dialog simulation.

- (*) compute all possible semantic frame given previous turn info
- (*) randomly select one possible semantic frame

Data-Driven Simulator (Jung et.al., 2009)

- Three step process
 - 1) User intention simulator
 - 2) User utterance simulator

request+search_loc

I want to go to the city hall

PRP VB TO VB TO [loc_name]

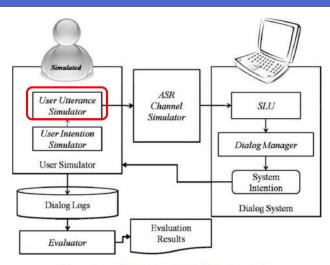


Fig. 1. Overall architecture of dialog simulation.

Given a list of POS tags associated with the semantic frame, using LM+Rules they generate the user utterance.

Data-Driven Simulator (Jung et.al., 2009)

- Three step process:
 - 1) User intention simulator
 - 2) User utterance simulator
 - 3) ASR channel simulator
- Evaluate the generated sentences using BLUE-like measures against the reference utterances collected from humans (with the same goal)

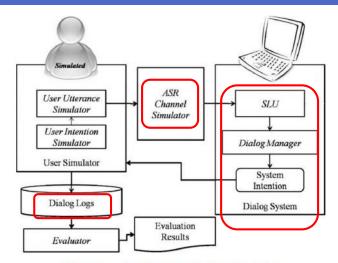
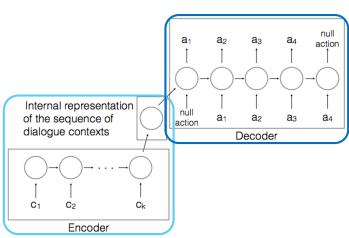


Fig. 1. Overall architecture of dialog simulation.

Seq2Seq User Simulation (El Asri et al., 2016)

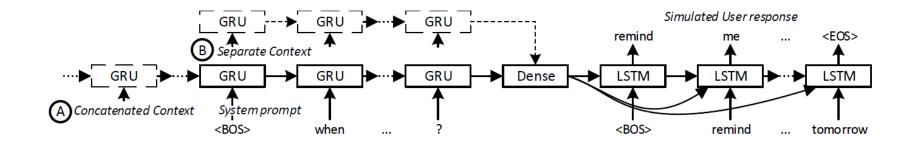
116 https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.00070

- Seq2Seq trained from dialogue data
 - $lue{}$ Input: c_i encodes contextual features, such as the previous system action, consistency between user goal and machine provided values
 - Output: a dialogue act sequence form the user
- Extrinsic evaluation for policy



Seq2Seq User Simulation (Crook and Marin, 2017)

- Seq2Seq trained from dialogue data
 - No labeled data
 - Trained on just human to machine conversations



Understanding Ability

- whether constrained values specified by users can be understood by the system
- agreement percentage of system/user understandings over the entire dialog (averaging all turns)

Efficiency

- Number of dialogue turns
- Ratio between the dialogue turns (larger is better)

Action Appropriateness

- an explicit confirmation for an uncertain user utterance is an appropriate system action
- providing information based on misunderstood user requirements

How NOT to Evaluate Dialog System (Liu et al., 2017)

https://arxiv.org/pdf/1603.08023.pdf

- How to evaluate the quality of the generated response ?
 - Specifically investigated for chat-bots
 - Crucial for task-oriented tasks as well



Metrics:

- Word overlap metrics, e.g., BLEU, METEOR, ROUGE, etc.
- Embeddings based metrics, e.g., contextual/meaning representation between target and candidate

Dialogue Response Evaluation (Lowe et al., 2017)

- Problems of existing automatic evaluation
 - can be biased
 - correlate poorly with human judgements of response quality
 - using word overlap may be misleading
- Solution
 - collect a dataset of accurate human scores for variety of dialogue responses (e.g., coherent/un-coherent, relevant/irrelevant, etc.)
 - use this dataset to train an automatic dialogue evaluation model – learn to compare the reference to candidate responses!
 - Use RNN to predict scores by comparing against human scores!

Context of Conversation

Speaker A: Hey, what do you want

to do tonight?

Speaker B: Why don't we go see a

movie?

Model Response

Nah, let's do something active.

Reference Response

Yeah, the film about Turing looks great!

Recent Trends and Challenges

End-to-End Learning for Dialogues

Multimodality

Dialogue Breath

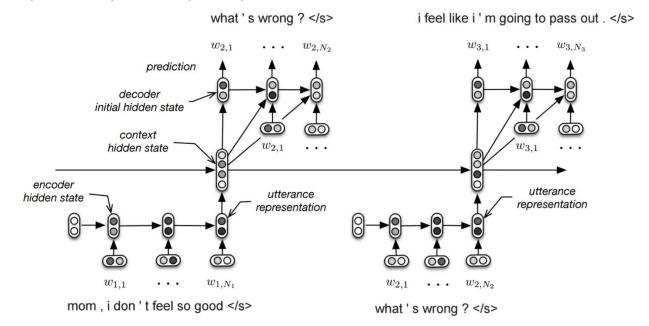
Dialogue Depth

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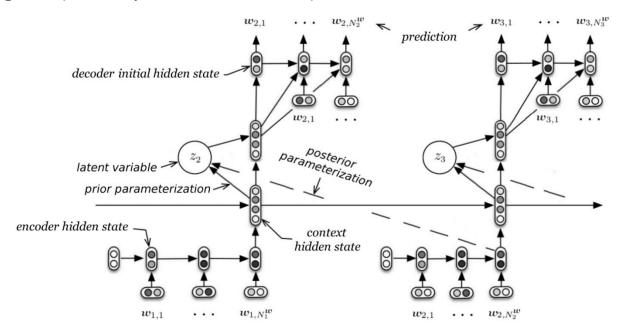
http://www.aaai.org/ocs/index.php/AAAI/AAAI16/paper/view/11957

- Learns to generate dialogues from offline dialogs
- □ No state, action, intent, slot, etc.



124 https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.06069

 A hierarchical seq2seq model with Gaussian latent variable for generating dialogues (like topic or sentiment)



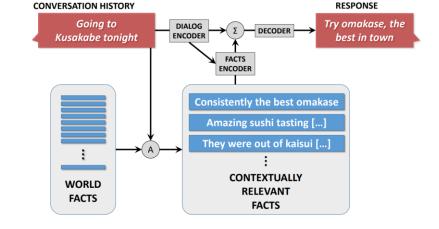
Knowledge Grounded Neural Conv. Model (Ghazvininejad et al., 2017)

125 https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.01932



User input: Going to Kusakabe tonight. **Neural model:** Have a great time!

Human: You'll love it! Try omasake, the best in town.

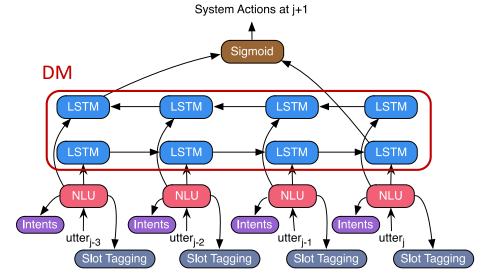


- A: Looking forward to trying @ pizzalibretto tonight! my expectations are high.
- B: Get the rocco salad. Can you eat calamari?
- A: Anyone in Chi have a dentist office they recommend? I'm never going back to [...] and would love a reco!
- B: Really looved Ora in Wicker Park.
- A: I'm at California Academy of Sciences
- B: Make sure you catch the show at the Planetarium. Tickets are usually limited.
- A: I'm at New Wave Cafe.
- B: Try to get to Dmitri's for dinner. Their pan fried scallops and shrimp scampi are to die for.
- A: I just bought: [...] 4.3-inch portable GPS navigator for my wife, shh, don't tell her.
- B: I heard this brand loses battery power.

E2E Joint NLU and DM (Yang et al., 2017)

126 https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.00913

Errors from DM can be propagated to NLU for regularization + robustness

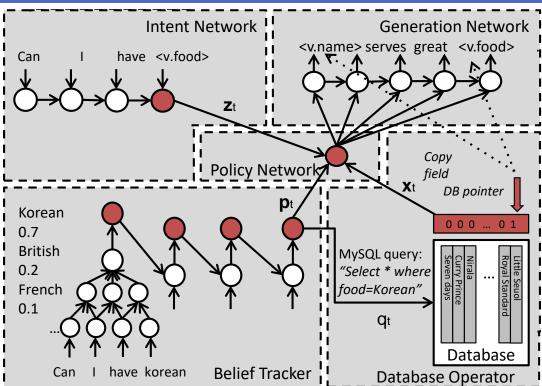


Model	DM	NLU
Baseline (CRF+SVMs)	7.7	33.1
Pipeline-BLSTM	12.0	36.4
JointModel	22.8	37.4

Both DM and NLU performance (frame accuracy) is improved

E2E Supervised Dialogue System (Wen et al., 2016)

127 https://arxiv.org/abs/1604.04562

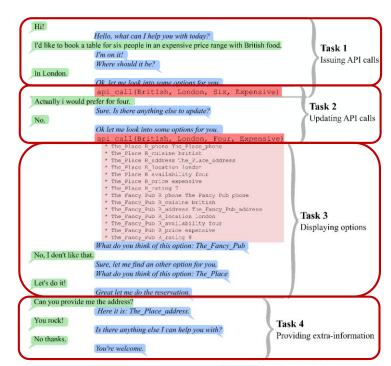


E2E MemNN for Dialogues (Bordes et al., 2016)

128 https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.07683

- Split dialogue system actions into subtasks
 - API issuing
 - API updating
 - Option displaying
 - Information informing

Task	Memory Networks			KS
	no match type		+ match type	
T1: Issuing API calls	99.9	(99.6)	100	(100)
T2: Updating API calls	100	(100)	98.3	(83.9)
T3: Displaying options	74.9	(2.0)	74.9	(0)
T4: Providing information	59.5	(3.0)	100	(100)
T5: Full dialogs	96.1	(49.4)	93.4	(19.7)
T1(OOV): Issuing API calls	72.3	(0)	96.5	(82.7)
T2(OOV): Updating API calls	78.9	(0)	94.5	(48.4)
T3(OOV): Displaying options	74.4	(0)	75.2	(0)
T4(OOV): Providing inform.	57.6	(0)	100	(100)
T5(OOV): Full dialogs	65.5	(0)	77.7	(0)
T6: Dialog state tracking 2	41.1	(0)	41.0	(0)

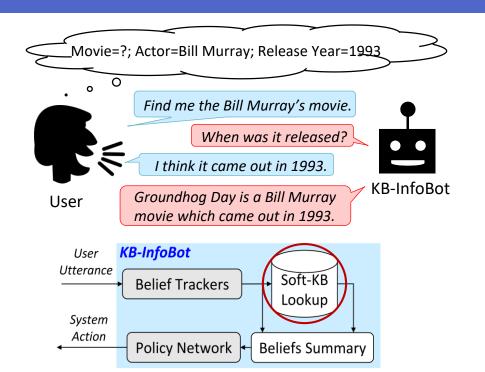


Task 5 Conducting full dialogs

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P/P17/P17-1045.pdf

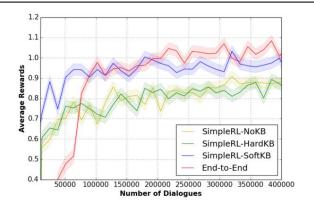
E2E RL-Based KB-InfoBot (Dhingra et al., 2017)

129



Entity-Centric Knowledge Base

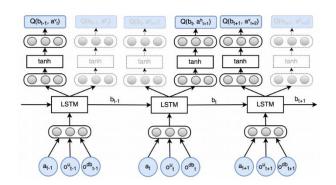
Movie	Actor	Release Year
Groundhog Day	Bill Murray	1993
Australia	Nicole Kidman	X
Mad Max: Fury Road	Х	2015

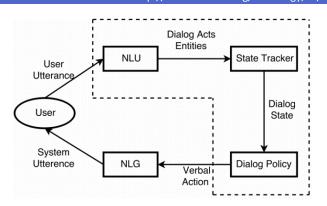


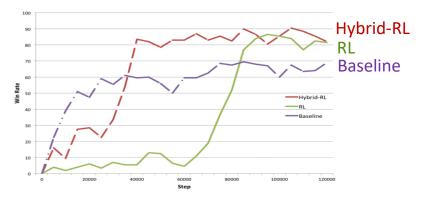
Idea: differentiable database for propagating the gradients

http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W/W16/W16-36.pdf

- Joint learning
 - NLU, DST, Dialogue Policy
- Deep RL for training
 - Deep Q-network
 - Deep recurrent network



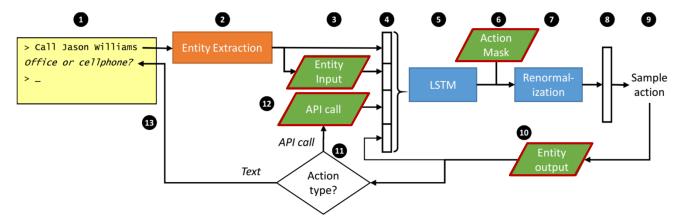




E2E LSTM-Based Dialogue Control (Williams and Zweig, 2016)

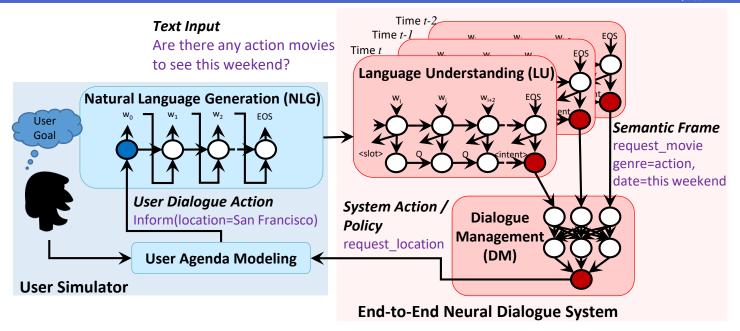
131 https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.01269

- Idea: an LSTM maps from <u>raw dialogue history</u> directly to a distribution over <u>system actions</u>
 - Developers can provide software including business rules & programmatic APIs
 - → LSTM can take actions in the real world on behalf of the user
 - The LSTM can be optimized using SL or RL



E2E Task-Completion Bot (TC-Bot) (Li et al., 2017)

https://arxiv.org/abs/1703.01008



Idea: supervised learning for each component and reinforcement learning for end-to-end training the neural dialogue system

E2E Task-Completion Bot (TC-Bot) (Li et al., 2017)

133 https://arxiv.org/abs/1703.01008

User goal: Two tickets for "the witch" tomorrow 9:30 PM at regal meridian 16, Seattle.

RULE BASED SYSTEM

User: Can I get 2 tickets for the witch? Agent: Which theater do you want?

User: Regal meridian 16

Agent: What time would you like to see it?

User: 9:30 pm

Agent: What date would you like to see it?

User: Tomorrow!

Agent: How many people are you?

User: Just two adults.

Agent: What is your location?

User: Seattle!

Agent: What kind of video format do you like?

User: Oh, any kind is okay.

Agent: Do you have any price constraint?

User: No, I don't care.

Agent: Great - I was able to purchase 2 tickets for you to see the witch tomorrow at regal meridian 16 theater in Seattle at 9:30 pm.

User: Thank you. Agent: Thank you!

REINFORCEMENT LEARNING SYSTEM

User: Can I get 2 tickets for the witch? Agent: What date would you like to see it?

User: Tomorrow

Agent: Which theater do you prefer?

User: Regal meridian 16

Agent: What is your location?

User: Seattle

Agent: What time would you like to see it?

User: 9:30 pm.

Agent: Great - I was able to purchase 2 tickets for you to see the witch tomorrow at regal meridian

16 theater in Seattle at 9:30 pm.

User: Thanks.
Agent: Thanks!



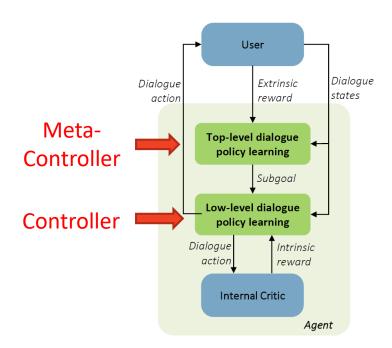
The system can learn how to efficiently interact with users for task completion

Hierarchical RL for Composite Tasks (Peng et al., 2017)

Peng et.al., EMNLP 2017 134 https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.03084 Set of tasks that need to be fulfilled collectively! **Travel Planning** Build a dialog manager that satisfies crosssubtask constraints (slot constraints) Temporally constructed goals Book **Book Local** Hotel Book Travel (bus, **Flight** ship, etc) Book Restaurant hotel_check_in_time > departure_flight_time # flight_tickets = #people checking in the hotel Actions hotel_check_out_time< return_flight_time,

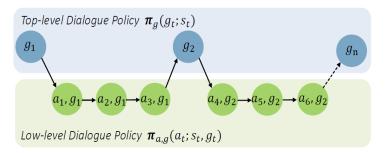
Hierarchical RL for Composite Tasks (Peng et al., 2017)

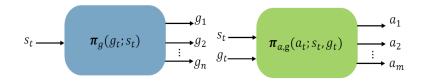
135 Peng et.al., EMNLP 2017 https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.03084



(mitigate reward sparsity issues)

- The dialog model makes decisions over two levels: metacontroller and controller
- The agent learns these policies simultaneously
 - the policy of optimal sequence of goals to follow $\pi_q(g_t, s_t; \theta_1)$
 - Policy $\pi_{a,q}(a_t, g_t, s_t; \theta_2)$ for each sub-goal g_t



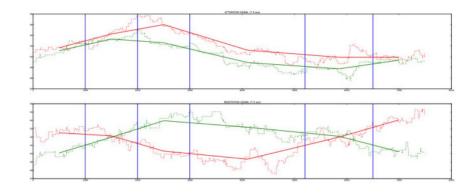


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 - Dialogue Depth

Brain Signal for Understanding

137 http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2388695

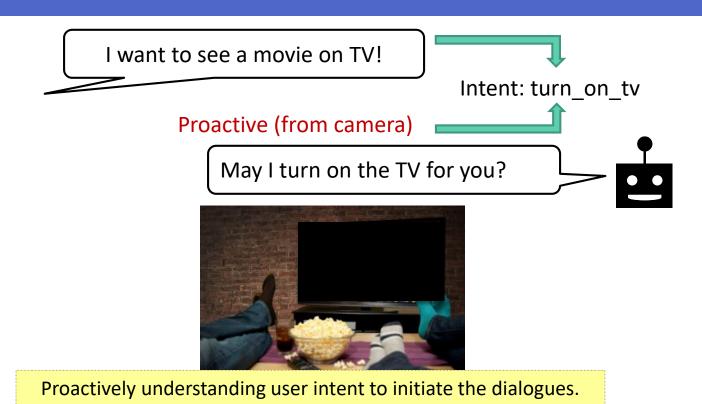
- Misunderstanding detection by brain signal
 - ☐ Green: listen to the correct answer
 - Red: listen to the wrong answer





Detecting misunderstanding via brain signal in order to correct the understanding results

Video for Intent Understanding



App Behavior for Understanding

http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=282078:

- Task: user intent prediction
- Challenge: language ambiguity





User preference

- ✓ Some people prefer "Message" to "Email"
- ✓ Some people prefer "Ping" to "Text"

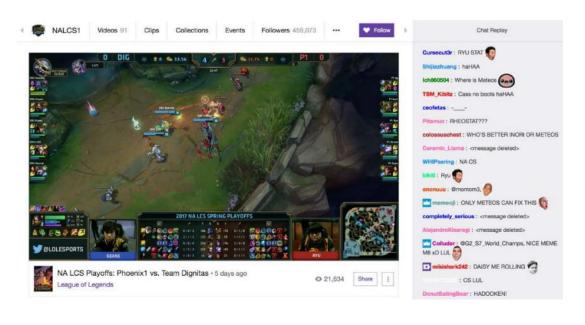
2 App-level contexts

- ✓ "Message" is more likely to follow "Camera"
- ✓ "Email" is more likely to follow "Excel"

Considering behavioral patterns in history to model understanding for intent prediction.

Video Highlight Prediction Using Audience Chat Reactions

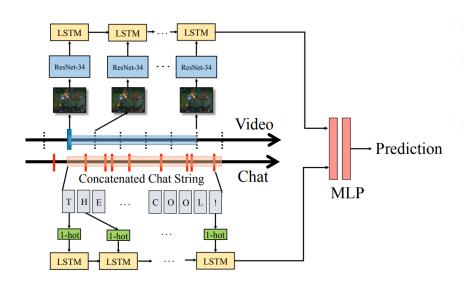
140 Fu et.al., EMNLP 2017 https://arxiv.org/pdf/1707.08559.pdf





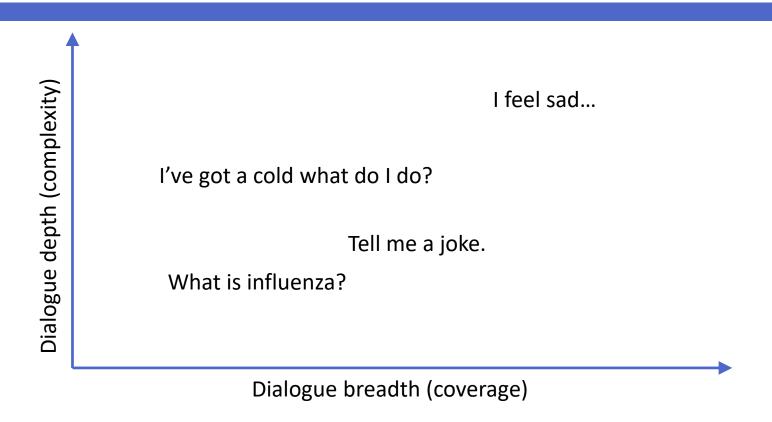
Video Highlight Prediction Using Audience Chat Reactions

141 Fu et.al., EMNLP 2017 https://arxiv.org/pdf/1707.08559.pdf



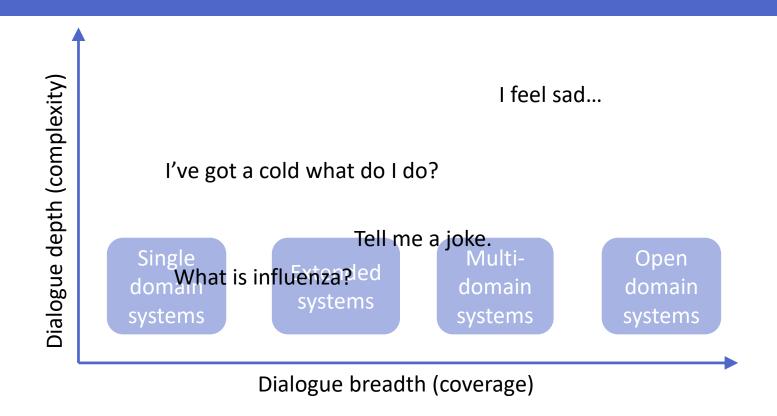
- Goal: predict highlight from the video
- Input: multi-modal and multi-lingual (real time text commentary from fans)
- Output: tag if a frame part of a highlight or not

Evolution Roadmap



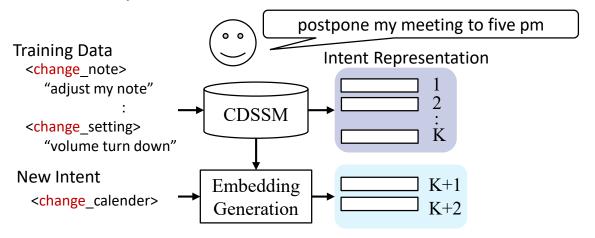
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Evolution Roadmap



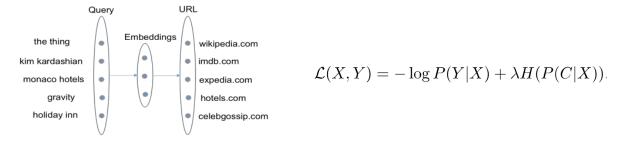
http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/7472838/

- Transfer dialogue acts across domains
 - Dialogue acts are similar for multiple domains
 - Learning new intents by information from other domains



The dialogue act representations can be automatically learned for other domains

- Semantic utterance classification
 - Use query click logs to define a task that makes the networks learn the meaning or intent behind the queries



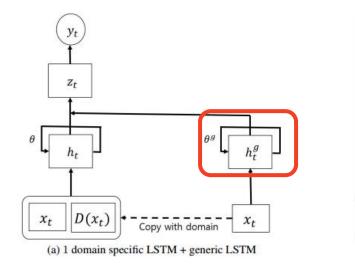
Depiction of the deep network from queries to URLs.

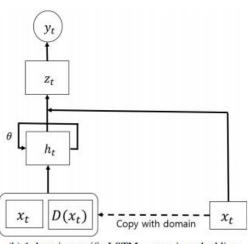
- The semantic features are the last hidden layer of the DNN
- Use Zero-Shot Discriminative embedding model combines H with the minimization of entropy of a zero-shot classifier

Domain Adaptation for SLU (Kim et al., 2016)

147 http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/C/C16/C16-1038.pdf

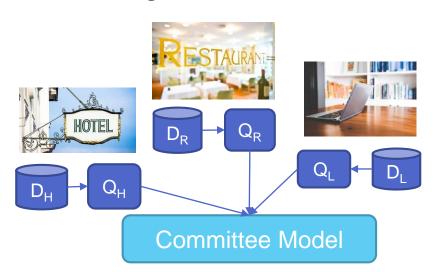
- Frustratingly easy domain adaptation
- Novel neural approaches to domain adaptation
- Improve slot tagging on several domains

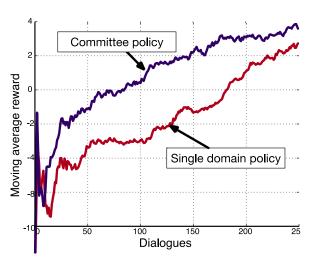




(b) 1 domain specific LSTM + generic embedding

 Bayesian committee machine (BCM) enables estimated Q-function to share knowledge across domains

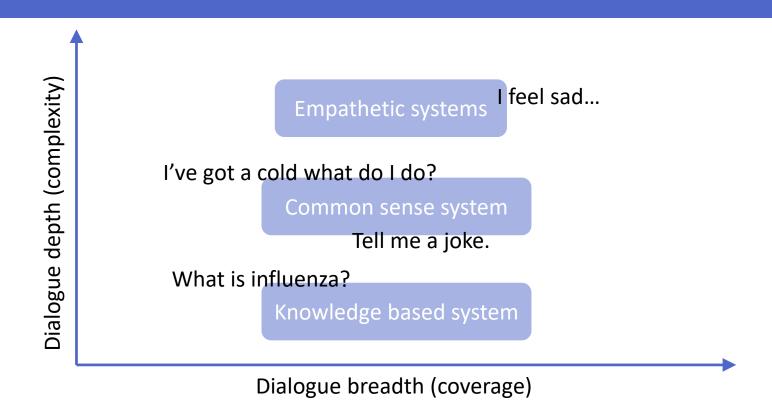




The policy from a new domain can be boosted by the committee policy

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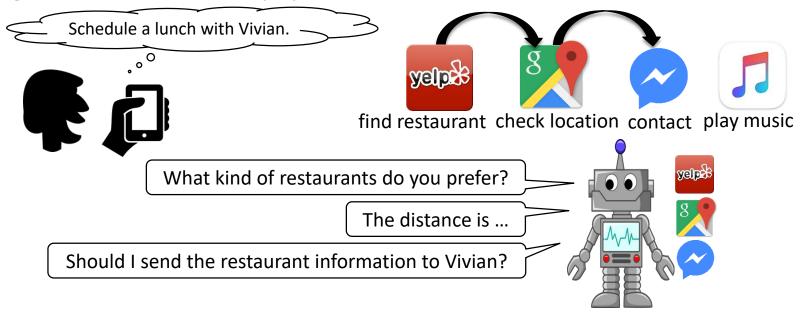
Evolution Roadmap



High-Level Intention for Dialogue Planning (Sun et al., 2016)

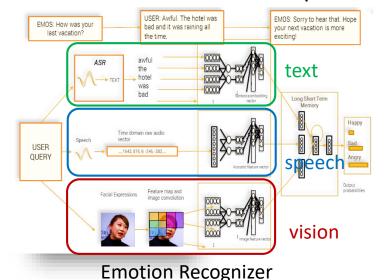
http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2856818; http://www.lrec-conf.org/proceedings/lrec2016/pdf/75 Paper.pdf

High-level intention may span several domains



Users can interact via <u>high-level descriptions</u> and the system learns <u>how to plan the dialogues</u>

- Embed an empathy module
 - Recognize emotion using multimodality
 - Generate emotion-aware responses



Zara - The Empathetic Supergirl





153 https://arxiv.org/pdf/1611.08481.pdf

- □ Recognize objects using "Guess What?" game
- Includes "spatial", "visual", "object taxonomy" and "interaction"



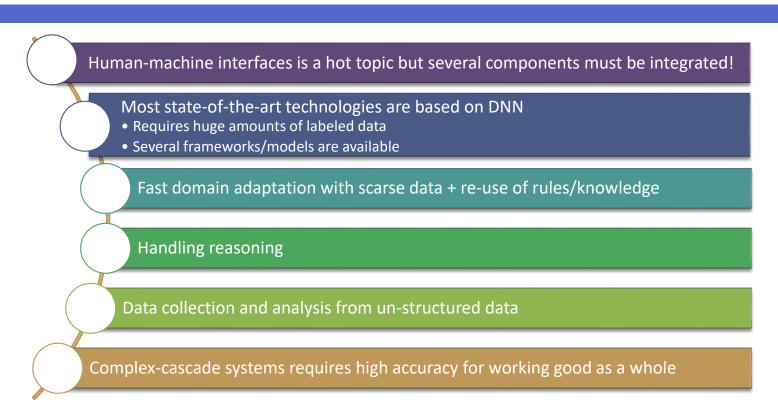
Is it a person?	No
Is it an item being worn or held?	Yes
Is it a snowboard?	Yes
Is it the red one?	No
Is it the one being held by the	Yes



Is it a cow?	Yes
Is it the big cow in the middle?	No
Is the cow on the left?	No
On the right ?	Yes
First cow near us?	Yes

154 Conclusion

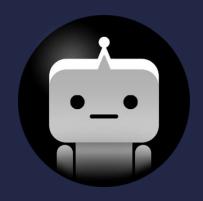
Summarized Challenges



Brief Conclusions

- □ Introduce recent deep learning methods used in dialogue models
- Highlight main components of dialogue systems and new deep learning architectures used for these components
- Talk about challenges and new avenues for current state-of-the-art research
- Provide all materials online!

http://deepdialogue.miulab.tw



Thanks to Tsung-Hsien Wen, Pei-Hao Su, Li Deng, Jianfeng Gao, Sungjin Lee, Milica Gašić, Lihong Li, Xiujin Li, Abhinav Rastogi, Ankur Bapna, PArarth Shah and Gokhan Tur for sharing their slides.

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