Project abstract:

Dialogue systems have been widely applied in the applications such as Apple’s Siri and Google Voice. It helps us to control our smart devices and to complete tasks, such as making an order in a restaurant or booking a flight ticket with our mobile phones. Unfortunately, there is no dialogue system available for the Small and Middle Enterprises (SMEs) in Hong Kong due to the limited Cantonese dialogue dataset information. There are around 320,000 SMEs in Hong Kong, which constitute over 98% of all business establishments. With the limited resources, there is a high demand for more automation strategies to improve manufacturing and service quality, especially in the restaurant industry. The dialogue system could be a waitress's assistant to help the customer to accomplish their order. Different from the electrical order, the dialogue system can provide the customer with more individual advice and personalized recommendation. But in Hong Kong, limited to the Cantonese dialogue dataset and the newest dialogue system technology, there are no mature technical solutions to make it.

For this reason, we need to publish the first Cantonese knowledge-driven Dialogue Dataset for General
Use (CK-DDD) in Hong Kong. In this case, it collects the information in multi-turn conversations with restaurants. The dataset comes from Reddit, and we will crawl the dialogues from representative restaurants concerning data collection policy. The dialogue will be annotated by the labeler and generate dialogue states and dialogue actions. With the labeled data, we will design the dialogue system model to support human-computer interaction. The dialogue system composes advanced natural language processing techniques, such as pre-trained language models and few-shot learning settings. It will efficiently integrate the data into the natural language understanding and response generation in the conversation between the customer and the dialogue system.

After the above steps, the data will be accessible to the online repository, and we believe the publication of CK-DDD will be a necessary supplement to current dialogue datasets and more suitable and valuable for SMEs of society, such as building a customized dialogue system for each application. Finally, the corpus and benchmark models will be publicly available.

**Start date:** 10-01-2022

**End date:** 09-30-2023

**Last modified:** 09-28-2023

**Copyright information:**

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A Multi-level Knowledge-driven Customized Dialogue System for General Use

Data Collection

Will you create or collect data in your study?

- Yes

If yes, by what means will you create or collect the data?

- Experiment
- Survey

We first choose 10 representative restaurants with different styles in Hong Kong from the Web to build the database. To better imitate the real scenario, we designed 7 primary slots and 14 secondary slots and extracted those slots from the restaurants' information. Then we collected 832 dialogues by developing a website specifically to enable two workers to play the role of customers and the restaurant to talk and exchange information with each other. Meanwhile, the slots and corresponding values were explicitly chosen and filled by the workers during the dialogue collection stage.

What type of data will you create or collect?

- Text

A general summary of the types and the estimated amount of scientific data to be generated and/or used in the research. Describe data in general terms that address the type and amount/size of scientific data expected to be collected and used in the project (e.g., 256-channel EEG data and fMRI images from ~50 research participants). Descriptions may indicate the data modality (e.g., imaging, genomic, mobile, survey), level of aggregation (e.g., individual, aggregated, summarized), and/or the degree of data processing that has occurred (i.e., how raw or processed the data will be)

What are the data formats?

- Text - .xml
- Others

Data and metadata formats

- Microsoft EXCEL format is used for listing slots information, and data statistics.
- JSON format is used for dialogue data, slots annotations, and goal
- Python format (UTF8-encoded text files with .py extensions) is used for
- The dialogue models will be stored and distributed in binary (PyTorch) format, and their associated processing files (vocabulary, tokenizer, ) will be stored in JSON format.
- The corresponding documentation will be stored in Markdown
How will the data be organized?

All the original data described above under "used data" will be stored and managed by our research group. And we will make it publicly accessible once the project is finished. Also, the codes and models of the dialogue system will be preserved and shared openly in a data repository after our product launch.

We will make accessible all the data, codes, and models, as well as a detailed instruction document about how we collect and annotated the data, a technical document about how to use our codes and models, and a research paper to introduce the whole research project.

Users do not need any specialized tools to use our collected dialogue data. But the codes and dialogue models to reproduce our dialogue system will require the Python environment and Pytorch library. Python (https://www.python.org/) and PyTorch (https://pytorch.org/) are all freely accessible for most modern computers and at the moment there are no plans to discontinue their support. More information is available at their respective websites.

The codes, dialogue models, and documentation will be made publicly available through GitHub and the HuggingFace website (widely used within the machine-learning community) under an Apache 2.0 License. The research paper will be put on arXiv.

The collected data, trained dialogue models, and associated code will be findable on Github at https://github.com/.

The PIs for this project will ensure that the data management plan is followed by auditing the project personnel on a monthly basis and monitoring the project through an online project management tool. The RA is in charge of data collection, annotation, and annotated file storage. We hire some workers (number = 6) for annotation, which is required for training supervised machine learning models. The project coordinator is responsible for updating the repository and version record keeping.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be backed up?

- Cloud storage

How will the data be recovered in the event of an incident?

- Data recovery software

Selection and Preservation
How will you decide what data to be kept or destroyed?

- By value of data

How long will the data be retained and preserved?

- 5 years

Where will the data be preserved?

- CUHK Research Data Repository

Will the data repository charge for depositing data?

- No

Data Sharing

Will you share the data created or collected in the study?

- Yes

When will you make the data available for sharing?

- Upon project completion

With whom will you share the data?

- Public

How will potential users find out about your data?

- Via data repository

Will data sharing be restricted?

- No

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will be provided to help others discover and understand the data?

- readme.txt
What metadata standard will be used?

- Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)

Ethics and Legal Compliance

Will human participants be involved in your study?

- No

What are the risks to data security?

- Others

No confidential information in the data.

How will confidential or sensitive data be handled to ensure it is stored and transferred securely?

- Others

No security issue involved.

Who own(s) the data generated in your study?

- CUHK

How will the data be licensed for reuse?

- CC BY-NC

Are there any restrictions on the reuse of secondary data that were created by others?

- No

Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for the data management activity?

- Principal investigator
- Data creator

Will additional specialist expertise (or training for existing staff) be required to deliver your data management plan?
• No

Do you require hardware or software which is additional or exceptional to existing institutional provision?

• No
Planned Research Outputs

Dataset - "A Multi-level Knowledge-driven Customized Dialogue System for General Use"

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## Planned research output details

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