

# Conversational Agents

## GROUP PROJECTS – GETTING STARTED

# Assessment

- 100% by group coursework & class participation
- No exam :) But 8 hours per week **group work**
- Group Project **presentation** + feedback : 15% (week 7) :
- **Project Demonstration** + feedback session : 15% (week 12):
- Group **Final report**: 55% (week 12)
  - 6-8 pages, ACL conference paper style (latex or word template):
- **Individual reflection report** : 15% (week 12)

# Group Projects

- Design: **explain and motivate possible designs** for your chosen system, including an analysis of the target user group and/or a relevant corpus analysis. Compare and contrast at least 2 possible designs;
- Analyse: based on research literature and previous approaches relevant to your system, write an analytical **review of the main problems and research issues** relevant to your problem;
- Develop: use some of the tools listed (or other relevant software, or your own code) to **develop a working prototype** of your system design;
- Evaluate: using either a working prototype or a functional mockup of your system(s), **perform a contrastive evaluation** of 2 or more possible designs, using qualitative and/or quantitative methods. Analyse your results for statistical significance.



# Possible roles in the project

Some roles might need 2 or more people to collaborate

All members contribute to: design, demo, presentations, report-writing

1. Project Coordinator
2. Deputy Coordinator
3. NLU - language understanding (with LLM)
4. DM - dialogue manager (with LLM)
5. NLG - language generation (with LLM)
6. User testing / Evaluations / Ethical issues and approval
7. Speech recognition: ASR / STT
8. Speech synthesis : TTS
9. System integration (ASR → LLM → TTS, + back-end /APIs)
10. App and GUI development

# Group meeting times – supervision meetings

8 meetings with your supervisor(s) – weeks 2-4, 7-11  
Have your **weekly progress update** ready!

**Supervision slot for each group** from the following:

Tuesdays:

- 2-3.30 F20CA (4<sup>th</sup> years)

Thursdays:

- 2-3 F21CA (MSc)
- **You should also meet with your group for >1 hour each week**





# Weekly progress /issues tracking

- Weekly group reporting google doc – to be submitted before each meeting
- Helps you to track progress and issues, and write the final report
- You should also keep an **Individual Project Logbook** to track your own work on the project – update this with your notes weekly to help create your Individual report

# How to collaborate?



We will set up a Team (on MS Teams) for each group



You can also use Slack, Discord, etc if you wish



You will meet with your supervisor for ~30 mins each week



You should have at least one other group meeting per week with all of your team members – to be planned by your group coordinator

# Next steps

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Read the sources suggested by your supervisors (papers, websites, ..)



Decide on the overall goals of your project – what will your system do?

Write some example conversations that you aim to support

Make a list of features that you target



**Assign one or more roles to each team member (by week 3)**



Select software and tools that you will use (LLM, ASR, TTS ...)

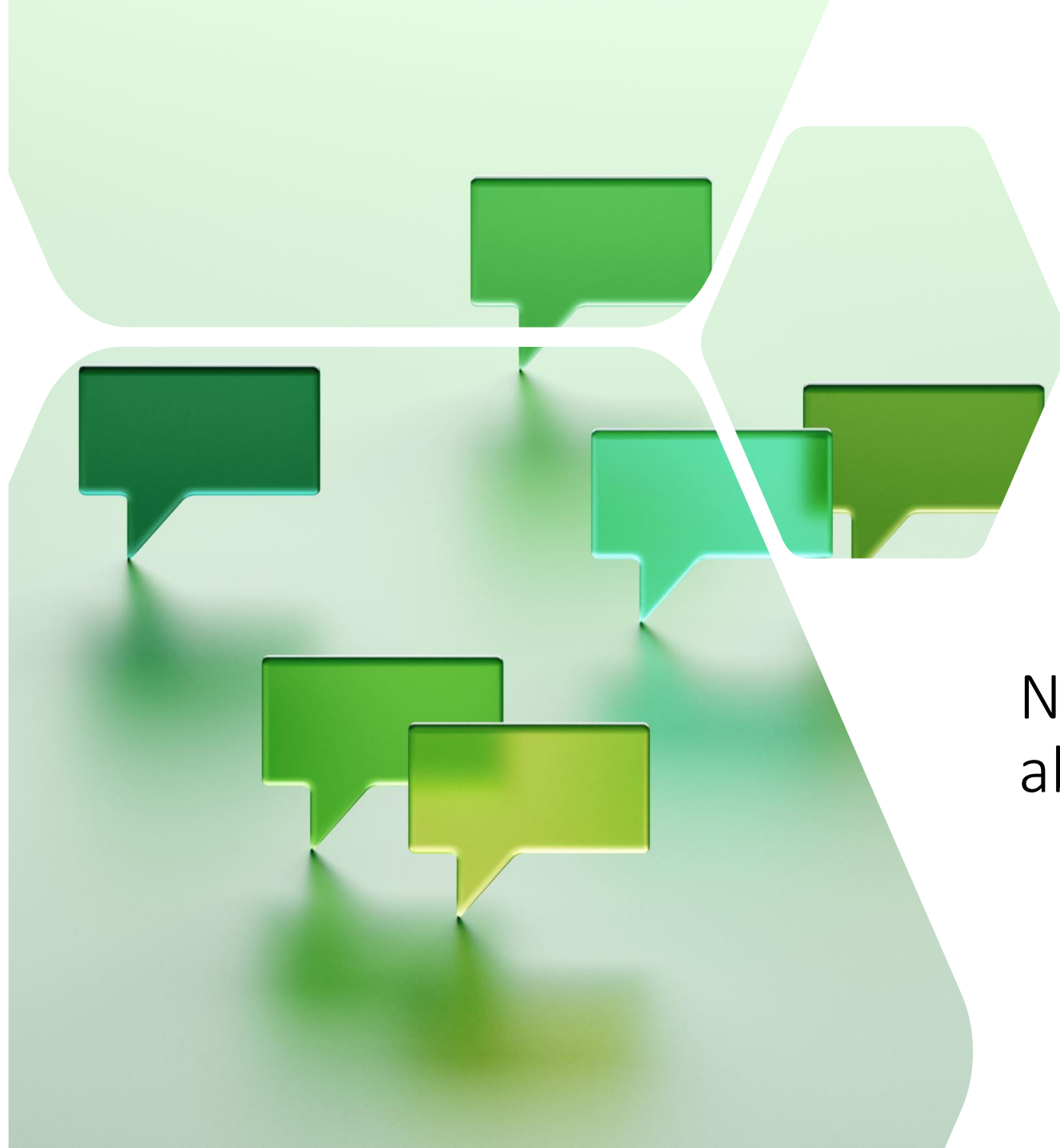


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Now let's talk  
about your project!

