Word Games

J Chiu

March 7, 2022

Dialogue

- ► Communication is rarely unambiguous
 - Ambiguity resolution through dialogue
 - Clarification questions
- ► Interactive, symmetric reference games
 - Isolates ambiguity resolution
 - Both give and request information

Games

Friends of agent A:

| Name | School | Major | Company |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Jessica Josh | Columbia Columbia | Computer Science Linguistics | Google Google |
| | | | |

A: Hi! Most of my friends work for Google

B: do you have anyone who went to columbia?

A. Hello?

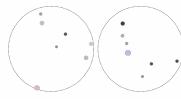
A: I have Jessica a friend of mine

A: and Josh, both went to columbia

B: or anyone working at apple?

B: SELECT (Jessica, Columbia, Computer Science, Google)

A: SELECT (Jessica, Columbia, Computer Science, Google)



Human A's view Human B's view

Human B: three light grey dots in a diagonal line

Human A: i dont have that but i have a black dot neer the top to the right, the only

black dot in the circle

Human B: i have two black dots. find something else
Human A: ok i have a light grey dot by itself
at the bottom to the left. right on the line

Human B: how big is it

Human A: its one of the bigger ones Human B: okay just pick it then

Human A: ok

Human B: SELECT blue Human A: SELECT red

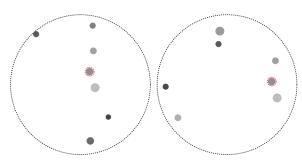
Mutual Friends and OneCommon

Issue: Poor neural reasoning

From Mutual Friends: Neural + Human

- A: Know anyone who likes chess?
- ▶ B: None of my friends like chess.
- (conversation continues)
- A: Crocheting?
- B: None like crocheting.
- ► A: Chess?
- B: None like chess either, haha.

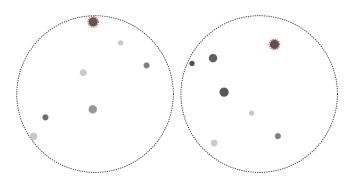
Issue: Poor neural reasoning



Agent 0: human || 1: human

| | 0 | 1 |
|---|---|--|
| 0 | 1 | I see a large grey dot with a smaller black dot right below it |
| 1 | 0 | is the smaller black dot to the right and below |
| 2 | 1 | No, it is slightly to the left and below |
| 3 | 0 | Might not be the same one. Do you have a lot of dots in a fairly vertical conformation |
| 4 | 1 | I have three dots in a kinda vertical line with different shade of gray but close in size |
| 5 | 0 | Is the middle dot curved to the left or right a little bit? |
| 6 | 1 | the middle dot is slighty to the left of the other two and is also a little bit darker than the rest |
| 7 | 0 | Yes pick that middle dot |

Issue: Poor neural reasoning



Agent 0: pragmatic_confidence || 1: human

| | 0 | 1 |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | i have one large black dot by itself . do you have it ? |
| 1 | 1 | Yes, I do have that. |
| 2 | 0 | let's pick that one |
| 3 | 1 | ok |
| 4 | 0 | ok |

Issue: Scaling rule-based

| System | C | C_T | C_S |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Human | .89 | .07 | .36 |
| Rule StanoNet DynoNet | . 88 .76 .87 | .06 .04 .05 | .29 .23 .27 |

- Rule-based text generation and understanding is viable for Mutual Friends
- Continuous and spatial nature of OneCommon makes writing rules difficult

Current approaches: Two extremes

- Neural encoder-decoder
 - Encode past interactions with a neural net
 - Generate what to say with a neural net
 - Brittle strategy, less brittle language
- Rule-based
 - Encode past interactions in a table
 - Use rules for what to say next
 - ► Nonparametric lookup of utterances
 - Brittle language, less brittle strategy
- ▶ Meet in middle with interpretable planning + neural language

A dialogue turn

- ► Engaging in dialogue requires
 - Inference: What do I know? How do I represent it?
 - ▶ Planning: What should I do and say?
- Formulate as model-based optimization
 - Plan what to say through a simple model of our partner
 - Model of partner conditions on past information

Problem setup

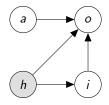
- ► Goal: Mutually select the same item as partner
 - ► Row in knowledge base, dot
 - ► Coordinate through dialogue
- ▶ Given history h, we need to chose an action a by optimizing value

$$\max_{a} V(h, a)$$

- ► How should we define value *V*?
- ► How do we represent *h*, *a*?

Value: Information Gain

- ► A good action should move us closer to game success
- Game success depends on our knowledge of our partner's context
- Requires
 - ▶ Belief distribution over selection item given history p(i | h)
 - Partner response model p(o | h, a, i)
- Represent a turn as



Value: Information Gain

- Picture would be much better here...
- ► Value = expected information gain

$$IG(h, a) = H(i \mid h) - \mathbb{E}_{p(o|h, a)} [H(i \mid h, a, o)]$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(o|h, a)} [H(i \mid h, a)] = \sum_{o} \sum_{i'} p(o \mid h, a, i) p(i \mid h) H(i \mid h, a, o)$$

- Equivalent to minimizing expected uncertainty after receiving a response
- ► Cite Yu et al, White et al

Issues with information gain

- ▶ Too much burden on the obs model p(o | h, a, i)
 - ▶ When o is natural language, conditioning on h is important
 - ▶ If we had a great obs model, would we have really have issues with solving these simple dialogue games?
- Proposal: Set up models for success by separating language from strategy
 - Rule-based representations good for strategy
 - Neural models good for language
- Convert language to and from low-dimensional representations used for planning

End

Citations I