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Alessandro Vinciarelli Rüdiger Hoffmann
Vincent C. Müller (Eds.)

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Cognitive Behavioural Systems

COST 2102 International Training School
Dresden, Germany, February 2011
Revised Selected Papers

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Social Signal Processing Network

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This book is dedicated to endings and to what is left behind

Preface

This volume brings together the advanced research results obtained by the European COST Action 2102 “Cross Modal Analysis of Verbal and Nonverbal Communication”, primarily discussed at the EUCogII-SSPNet-COST2102 International Training School on “Cognitive Behavioural Systems”, held in Dresden, Germany, February 21–26 2011 (www.ias.et.tu-dresden.de/ias/cost-2102/).

The school was jointly sponsored by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST, www.cost.eu) in the domain of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for disseminating the advances of the research activities developed within the COST Action 2102: “Cross-Modal Analysis of Verbal and Nonverbal Communication” (cost2102.cs.stir.ac.uk); by the European Network of Excellence on Social Signal Processing (SSPNet, www.sspnet.eu) and by the 2nd European Network for the Advancement of Artificial Cognitive Systems, Interaction and Robotics (EUCogII, www.eucognition.org/).

The main focus of the school was on Cognitive Behavioural Systems. In previous meetings, EUCogII-SSPNet-COST2102 focused on the importance of data processing for gaining enactive knowledge, as well as on the discovery of new processing possibilities that account for new data analysis approaches, coordination of the data flow through synchronization and temporal organization and optimization of the extracted features. The next step will be to discover more natural and intuitive approaches for modelling and uncovering the wealth of information conveyed by humans during interaction for developing realistic and socially believable agents. This moves the research focus to cognitive systems and models of cognitive processes. It has been shown that cognitive processes – such as inference, categorization and memory – are not independent of their physical instantiations. Individual choices, perception and actions emerge and are dynamically affected/enhanced by the interaction between sensory-motor systems and the inhabited environment (including the organizational, cultural and physical context). This interplay carries up instantiations of cognitive behavioural systems.

How can these aspects be modelled in order to bring machine intelligence close to human expectations? Are existing paradigms sufficient or is more research needed on signals and data? How trustful, credible and satisfactory will emotionally-coloured multimodal systems appear to the end user? How will their physical instantiation and appearance affect the human-machine interplay?

The papers accepted in this volume were peer reviewed and include original contributions from early stage researchers. The volume presents new and original research results in the field of human-machine interaction inspired by cognitive behavioural human-human interaction features. The themes covered are cognitive and computational social information processing, emotional and socially believable Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) systems, behavioural and

contextual analysis of interactions, embodiment, perception, linguistics, semantics and sentiment analysis in dialogues and interactions, and algorithmic and computational issues for the automatic recognition and synthesis of emotional states.

The contents have been divided into two scientific sections according to a rough thematic classification. The first section, “Computational Issues in Cognitive Systems”, deals with models, algorithms, and heuristic strategies for the recognition and synthesis of behavioural data. The second section, “Behavioural Issues in Cognitive Systems”, presents original studies that provide theoretical and behavioural analyses on linguistic and paralinguistic expressions, actions, body movements and activities in human interaction.

The papers included in this book benefited from the lively interactions between the many participants of the successful meeting in Dresden. Over 100 senior and junior researchers gathered for the event.

The editors would like to thank the Management Board of the SSPNet and the ESF COST- ICT Programme for their support in the realization of the school and the publication of this volume. Acknowledgements go in particular to the COST Science Officers, Guseppe Lugano, Matteo Razzanelli, and Aranzazu Sanchez, and the COST 2102 rapporteur, Guntar Balodis, for their constant help, guidance and encouragement. The event owes its success to more individuals than can be named, but notably the members of the Dresden Local Steering Committee, who actively operated for the success of the event. Special appreciation goes to the President of the International Institute for Advanced Scientific Studies (IIASS), and to the Dean and the Director of the Faculty and the Department of Psychology at the Second University of Naples for making available people and resources for editing this volume. The editors are deeply indebted to the contributors for making this book a scientifically stimulating compilation of new and original ideas and to the members of the COST 2102 International Scientific Committee for their rigorous and invaluable scientific revisions, dedication, and priceless selection process.

July 2012

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- SSPnet: European Network on Social Signal Processing, <http://sspnet.eu/>



The ability to understand and manage social signals of a person we are communicating with is the core of social intelligence. Social intelligence is a facet of human intelligence that has been argued to be indispensable and perhaps the most important for success in life. Although each one of us understands the importance of social signals in everyday life situations, and in spite of recent advances in machine analysis and synthesis of relevant behavioral cues like blinks, smiles, crossed arms, head nods, laughter, etc., the research efforts in machine analysis and synthesis of human social signals like empathy, politeness, and (dis)agreement, are few and tentative. The main reasons for this are the absence of a research agenda and the lack of suitable resources for experimentation.

The mission of the SSPNet is to create a sufficient momentum by integrating an existing large amount of knowledge and available resources in Social Signal Processing (SSP) research domains including cognitive modeling, machine understanding, and synthesizing social behavior, and so:

- Enable the creation of the European and world research agenda in SSP;
- Provide efficient and effective access to SSP-relevant tools and data repositories to the research community within and beyond the SSPNet, and
- Further develop complementary and multidisciplinary expertise necessary for pushing forward the cutting edge of the research in SSP.

The collective SSPNet research effort is directed towards integration of existing SSP theories and technologies, and towards identification and exploration of potentials and limitations in SSP. More specifically, the framework of the SSPNet will revolve around two research foci selected for their primacy and significance: Human-Human Interaction (HHI) and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). A particular scientific challenge that binds the SSPNet partners is the synergetic combination of human-human interaction models, and automated tools for human behavior sensing and synthesis, within socially-adept multimodal interfaces.

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Table of Contents

Computational Issues in Cognitive Systems

An Approach to Intelligent Signal Processing	1
<i>Matthias Wolff and Rüdiger Hoffmann</i>	
The Analysis of Eye Movements in the Context of Cognitive Technical Systems: Three Critical Issues	19
<i>Sebastian Pannasch, Jens R. Helmert, Romy Müller, and Boris M. Velichkovsky</i>	
Ten Recent Trends in Computational Paralinguistics	35
<i>Björn Schuller and Felix Weninger</i>	
Conversational Speech Recognition in Non-stationary Reverberated Environments	50
<i>Rudy Rotili, Emanuele Principi, Martin Wöllmer, Stefano Squartini, and Björn Schuller</i>	
From Nonverbal Cues to Perception: Personality and Social Attractiveness	60
<i>Alessandro Vinciarelli, Hugues Salamin, Anna Polychroniou, Gelareh Mohammadi, and Antonio Origlia</i>	
Measuring Synchrony in Dialog Transcripts	73
<i>Carl Vogel and Lydia Behan</i>	
A Companion Technology for Cognitive Technical Systems	89
<i>Andreas Wendemuth and Susanne Biundo</i>	
Semantic Dialogue Modeling	104
<i>Günther Wirsching, Markus Huber, Christian Kölbl, Robert Lorenz, and Ronald Römer</i>	
Furhat: A Back-Projected Human-Like Robot Head for Multiparty Human-Machine Interaction	114
<i>Samer Al Moubayed, Jonas Beskow, Gabriel Skantze, and Björn Granström</i>	
VISION as a Support to Cognitive Behavioural Systems	131
<i>Luca Berardinelli, Dajana Cassioli, Antinisca Di Marco, Anna Esposito, Maria Teresa Riviello, and Catia Trubiani</i>	

The Hourglass of Emotions	144
<i>Erik Cambria, Andrew Livingstone, and Amir Hussain</i>	
A Naturalistic Database of Thermal Emotional Facial Expressions and Effects of Induced Emotions on Memory	158
<i>Anna Esposito, Vincenzo Capuano, Jiri Mekyska, and Marcos Faundez-Zanuy</i>	
Prosody Modelling for TTS Systems Using Statistical Methods	174
<i>Zdeněk Chaloupka and Petr Horák</i>	
Modeling the Effect of Motion at Encoding and Retrieval for Same and Other Race Face Recognition	184
<i>Hui Fang, Nicholas Costen, Natalie Butcher, and Karen Lander</i>	
An Audiovisual Feedback System for Pronunciation Tutoring – Mandarin Chinese Learners of German	191
<i>Hongwei Ding, Oliver Jokisch, and Rüdiger Hoffmann</i>	
Si.Co.D.: A Computer Manual for Coding Questions	198
<i>Augusto Gnisci, Enza Graziano, and Angiola Di Conza</i>	
Rule-Based Morphological Tagger for an Inflectional Language	208
<i>Daniel Hládek, Ján Staš, and Jozef Juhár</i>	
Czech Emotional Prosody in the Mirror of Speech Synthesis	216
<i>Jana Vlčková-Mejvaldová and Petr Horák</i>	
Pre-attention Cues for Person Detection	225
<i>Karel Paleček, David Gerónimo, and Frédéric Lerasle</i>	
Comparison of Complementary Spectral Features of Emotional Speech for German, Czech, and Slovak	236
<i>Jiří Přibíl and Anna Přibilová</i>	
Form-Oriented Annotation for Building a Functionally Independent Dictionary of Synthetic Movement	251
<i>Izidor Mlakar, Zdravko Kačič, and Matej Rojc</i>	
A Cortical Approach Based on Cascaded Bidirectional Hidden Markov Models	266
<i>Ronald Römer</i>	
Modeling Users' Mood State to Improve Human-Machine-Interaction	273
<i>Ingo Siegert, R. Böck, and Andreas Wendemuth</i>	
Pitch Synchronous Transform Warping in Voice Conversion	280
<i>Robert Vích and Martin Vondra</i>	

ATMap: Annotated Tactile Maps for the Visually Impaired	290
<i>Limin Zeng and Gerhard Weber</i>	

Behavioural Issues in Cognitive Systems

From Embodied and Extended Mind to No Mind	299
<i>Vincent C. Müller</i>	

Effects of Experience, Training and Expertise on Multisensory Perception: Investigating the Link between Brain and Behavior	304
<i>Scott A. Love, Frank E. Pollick, and Karin Petrini</i>	

Nonverbal Communication – Signals, Conventions and Incommensurable Explanations	321
<i>Lutz-Michael Alisch</i>	

A Conversation Analytical Study on Multimodal Turn-Giving Cues: End-of-Turn Prediction	335
<i>Ágnes Abuczki</i>	

Conversational Involvement and Synchronous Nonverbal Behaviour	343
<i>Uwe Altmann, Catharine Oertel, and Nick Campbell</i>	

First Impression in Mark Evaluation: Predictive Ability of the SC-IAT	353
<i>Angiola Di Conza and Augusto Gnisci</i>	

Motivated Learning in Computational Models of Consciousness	365
<i>James Graham and Daniel Jachyra</i>	

Are Pointing Gestures Induced by Communicative Intention?	377
<i>Ewa Jarmolowicz-Nowikow</i>	

TV Interview Participant Profiles from a Multimodal Perspective	390
<i>Maria Koutsombogera and Harris Papageorgiou</i>	

The Neurophonetic Model of Speech Processing ACT: Structure, Knowledge Acquisition, and Function Modes	398
<i>Bernd J. Kröger, Jim Kannampuzha, Cornelia Eckers, Stefan Heim, Emily Kaufmann, and Christiane Neuschaefer-Rube</i>	

Coding Hand Gestures: A Reliable Taxonomy and a Multi-media Support	405
<i>Fridanna Maricchiolo, Augusto Gnisci, and Marino Bonaiuto</i>	

Individuality in Communicative Bodily Behaviours	417
<i>Costanza Navarretta</i>	

A Cross-Cultural Study on the Perception of Emotions: How Hungarian Subjects Evaluate American and Italian Emotional Expressions	424
<i>Maria Teresa Riviello, Anna Esposito, and Klara Vicsi</i>	
Affective Computing: A Reverence for a Century of Research	434
<i>Egon L. van den Broek</i>	
Author Index	449