



Human Centered Multimedia
Institute of Computer Science

UNA Universität
Augsburg
University

Bringing Social Computing to Ambient Environments: Synergies and Challenges

Elisabeth André

Augsburg University, Germany

<http://hcm-lab.de>

- **Founded:** April 2001
- **Chair:** Elisabeth André
- **Research Topics:**
 - Embodied Conversational Agents
 - Perceptive User Interfaces
 - Affective Computing
 - Interactive Storytelling
- **Study Programs**
 - BSc/MSc Informatics
 - BSc/MSc Informatics and Multimedia
 - Elite Graduate Program Software Engineering
 - BA Media and Communication





National and International Projects

■ Affective Computing

humaine

emotion-research.net



- Humaine, CALLAS, CEEDS, Ilhaire, TARDIS

■ Technology-Enhanced Learning



- CUBE-G, DynaLearn, eCUTE, e-Circus, TARDIS

■ Multimodal Interaction, Behavior Analysis

- IRIS, OC Trust, CEEDS, TARDIS



■ E-Health

- Metabo



Education in Cultural Understanding, technology enhanced



■ Smart Energy

- IT4SE



■ Mutual Gains and Benefits

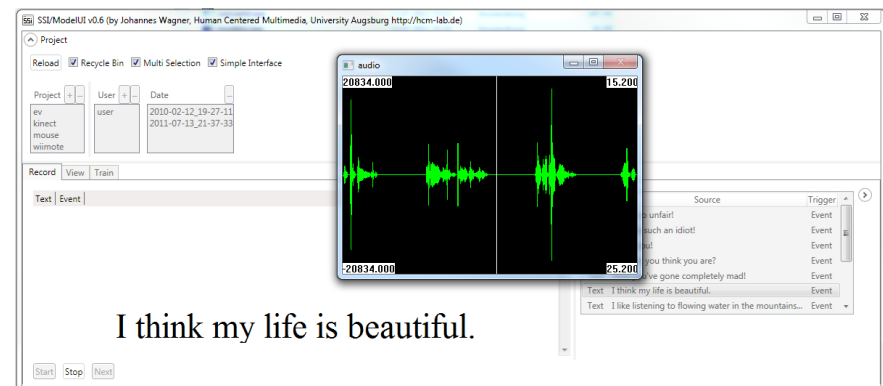
■ AMI environments:

- unobtrusive sensors that let us collect subtle behavioral cues under naturalistic conditions
- usually focus on context and user activity data
- reasoning mechanisms
- typically mobile environments



■ Social Signal Processing:

- techniques for analyzing and interpreting behavioral cues and linking them onto higher-level psychological concepts, such as emotions and personality
- focus on psychological user states
- typically desktop environments



Project	User	Date
ev	user	2010-02-12_19-27-11
kinect		2011-07-13_21-37-33
mouse		
wiimote		

Record | View | Train

Text | Event

audio

20834.000 | 15.200

20834.000 | 25.200

Source | Trigger

unfair! | Event

such an idiot! | Event

id! | Event

you think you are? | Event

I've gone completely mad! | Event

Text: I think my life is beautiful. | Event

Text: I like listening to flowing water in the mountains... | Event

I think my life is beautiful.

Start | Stop | Next



Conscious vs. Unconscious Interaction

- **Conscious Interaction:**
 - Open interaction with a system where a user intentionally inputs discrete commands to explicitly express his needs
 - Example: Language, Pointing ...
- **Unconscious Interaction:**
 - Continuous (often nonverbal) behavior the user does not voluntarily control, but which may be interpreted as the implicit expression of a particular need
 - Example: non-acted facial expressions and body postures
- **Role of Context:**
 - Both in the case of conscious and unconscious interaction, ambiguities need to be resolved by context modeling



Outline of the Talk

- Examples of unconscious behaviors in human-machine interaction
- Unconsciously expressed social and emotional behaviors
- Problems with traditional machine learning approaches and potential solution strategies
- Agenda for future research



Distinction between Conscious and Unconscious Signals

- We got rid of the Push-to-Talk?
- But what about ...

Push-to-Touch?



Does the boy rest his right arm on the table or conduct a command gesture?

Push-to-Gesture?



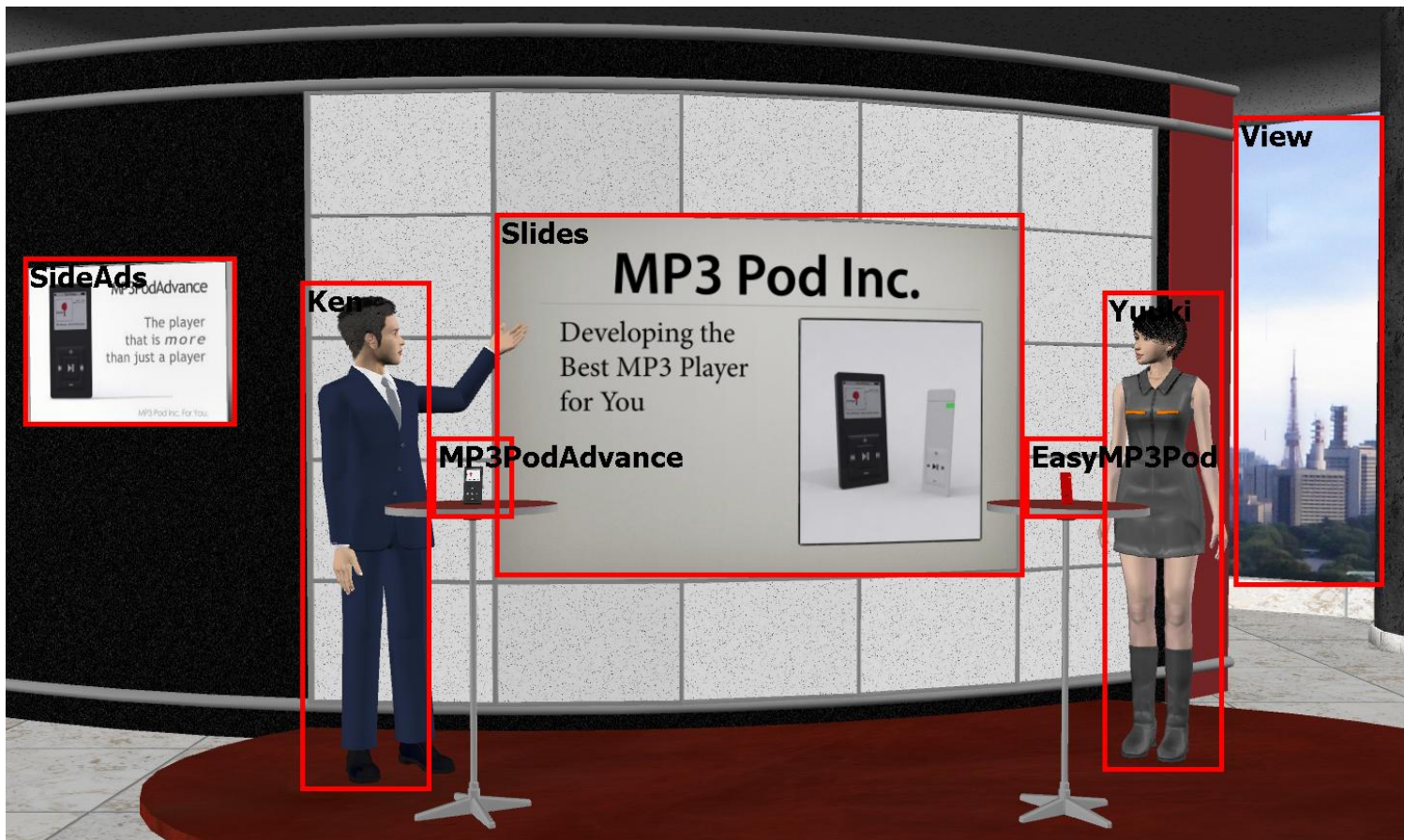
Is the left user just raising his hands (out of desperation) or conducting a command gesture?

■ Home Entertainment System

- Distinction between command and no-command gestures (for example, greeting gestures)
- Distinction between conscious (command) and unconscious signals (for example, scratching one's head)
- Automatically interrupts presentation when the users' interest is diverted.



- Agents adapt presentation implicitly to the user's attention as inferred from his or her eye gaze



- **Human-like Conversation:**

- Participants interacting with the gaze-based agents felt that the agents were aware of them
- Participants interacting with “blind” agents thought that the agents react to them in a strange way

- **Midas Touch Problem:**

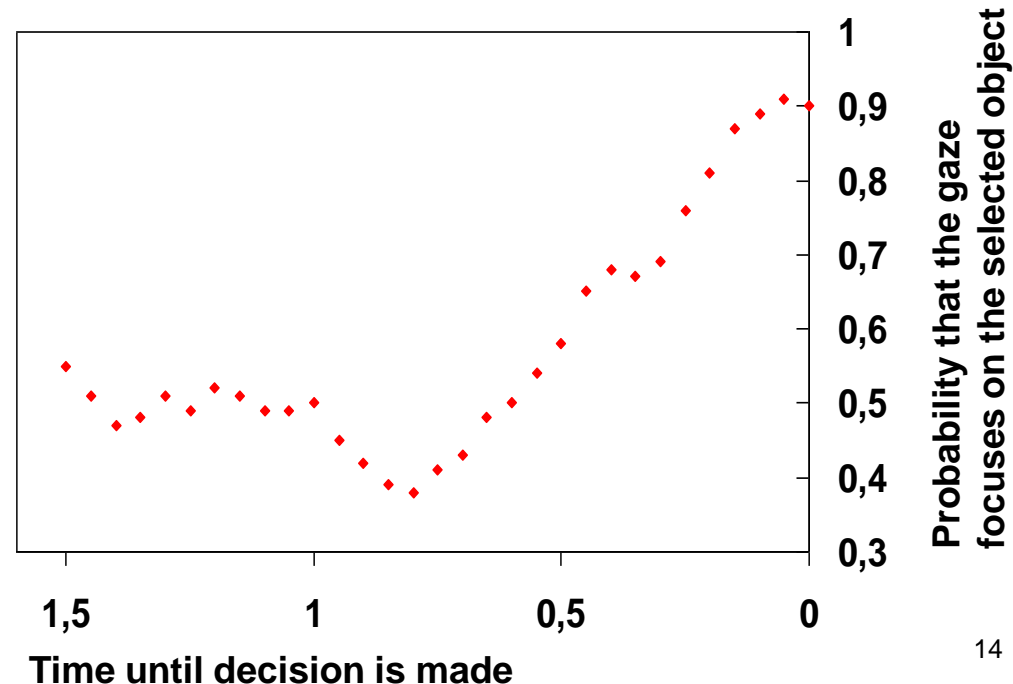
- interface should not react to each change of fixation
- risk of „overdoing“ attentiveness
- User starts to adopt unnatural gaze behaviors

■ Question:

- Is it possible to predict based on the user's gaze behavior which one of two objects he or she prefers?
- Shimojo & Simion (CALTECH) analyzed gaze behaviors 1.5 s before a selection (by pressing a button) was made.

■ Gaze Cascade Effect:

- Probability that the user focuses on the preferred object increases continuously



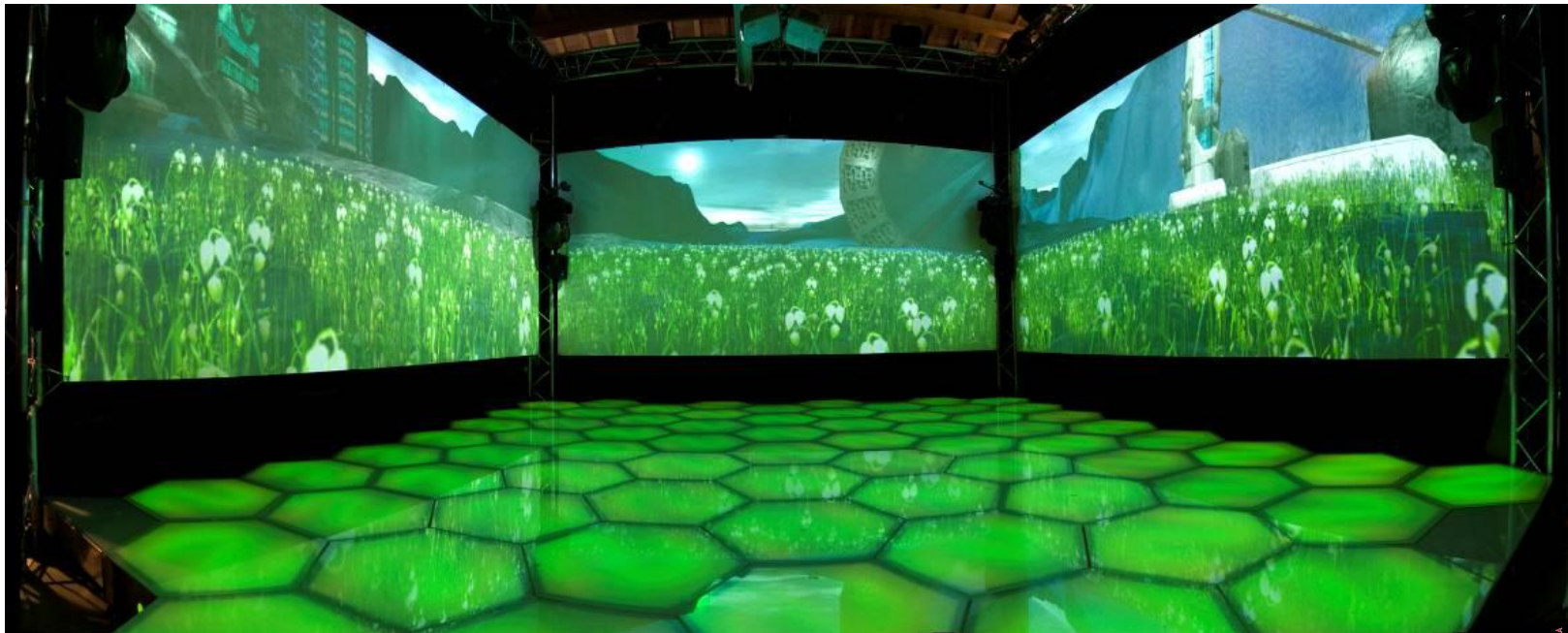
- Transfer of this work on the selection of ties
- In 81% of the cases, the preferred tie was correctly predicted.
- Better results for similar than for different ties.

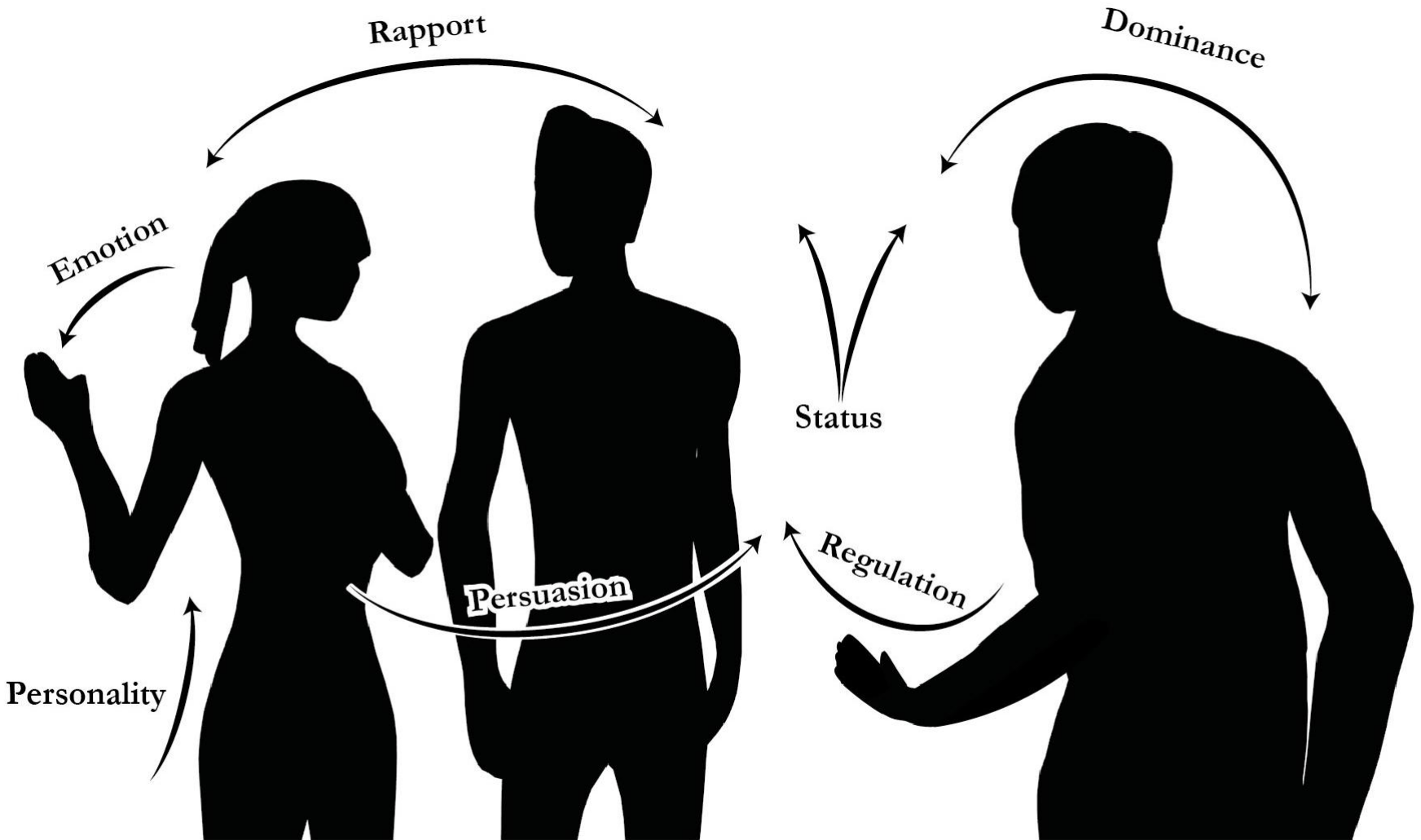


Very different ties

Similar ties

- Users are projected into data spaces while their body suit monitors their coupling with this experience
- Exploit implicit sources of information (gaze, gestures, posture, EEG)
- Linking multiple users together to create a collective discovery system







Why to Care about Social Skills of Machines?

- **Traum and colleagues:**
 - Many breakdowns in man-machine communication could be avoided if the machine was sensitive to the user's emotions.
- **Aist and colleagues:**
 - Emotional scaffolding leads to a more persistent learning performance.
- **Prendinger and colleagues:**
 - An empathetic system led to a more positive physiological response.
- **Bosma and André:**
 - Physiological data (heart rate, skin conductance etc.) are significantly correlated to the level of commitment
 - → Resolve ambiguities in feedback signals, such as “ok”



Challenges of Social Signal Interpretation

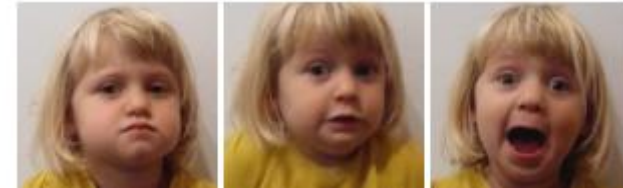
- Ambiguities of social cues
- Variations in social cues are quite high
 - Situation-specific
 - User-specific
 - ...
- Social cues may be suppressed or faked

- **Even more challenges in AML environments due to the highly unpredictable situations**

■ Kinds of psychological and conversational states

■ Emotions from

- Facial expressions (Zeng et al. 2009)
- Gestures (Caridakis et al. 2006)
- Speech (Vogt et al. 2008)
- Physiological measurements (Kim & André 2008)



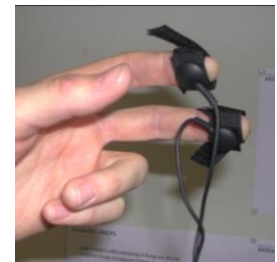
■ Interest (Schuller et al. 2009)

■ Engagement (Nakano & Ishii 2012)

■ Trust (Bee et al. 2011)

■ Personality (Pianesi et al. 2008)

■ Rapport (Gratch et al. 2006)

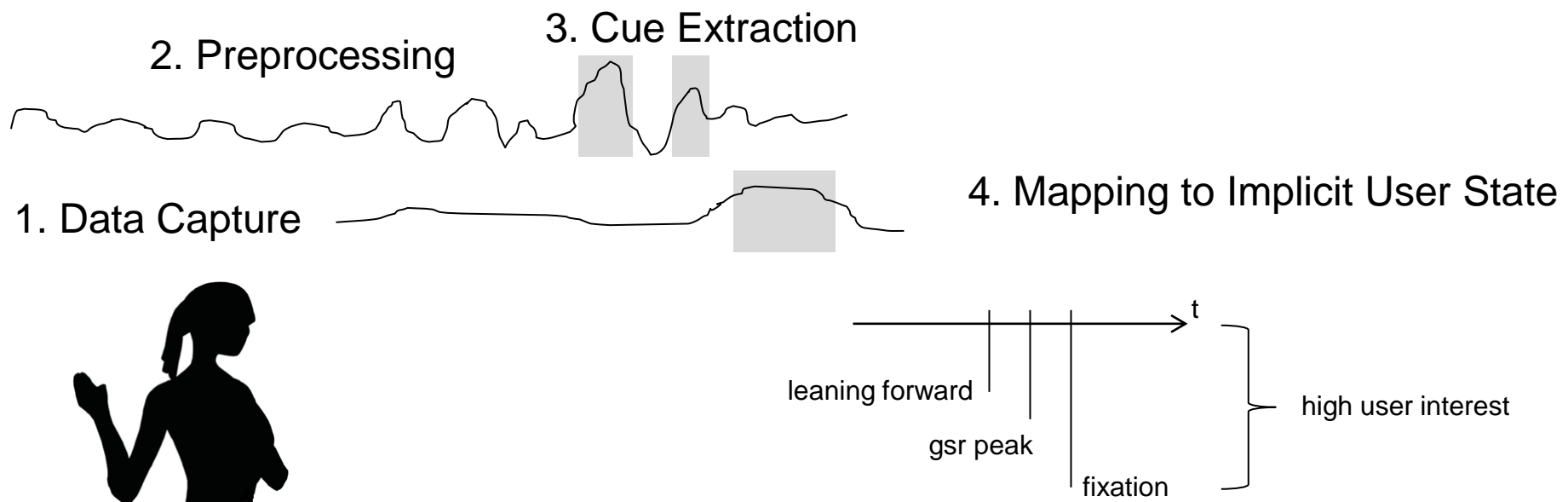


■ SSPNet FP7 Network of Excellence on Social Signal Processing

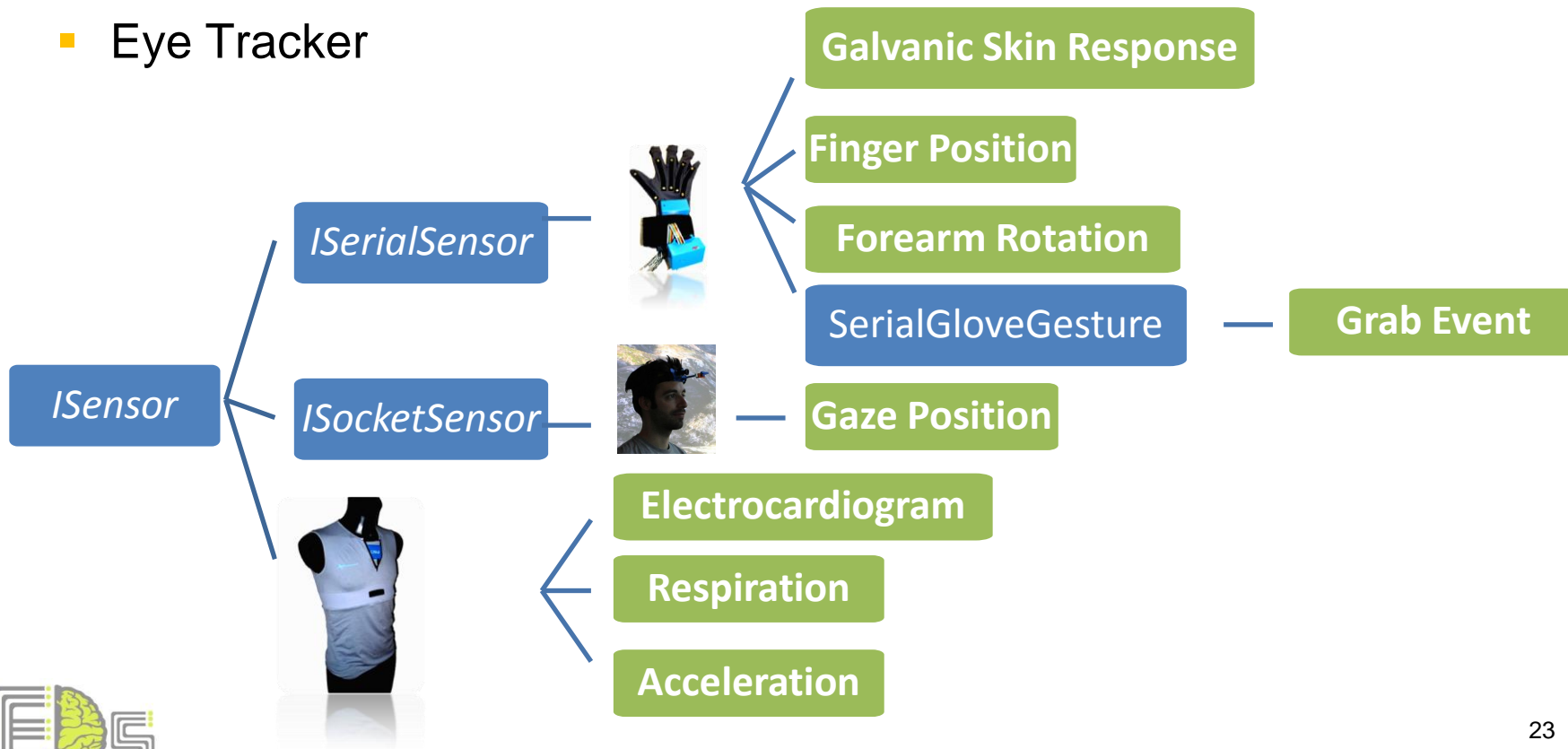
- Speech activity and fidgeting, i.e. amount of movement in a person's hands and body, to detect **functional roles** in a group (Dong et al. 2007)
- Overlapping speech, video cues, such as motion energy and audio-visual cues, such as the amount of movement during speech, to determine the **level of group cohesion** in meetings (Hung and Gatica 2010)
- Recognition of social laughter as an indicator of **emotional contagion** (Wagner et al. 2012)



- Integrating work on **Embedded Computing** (University of Pisa, De Rossi) and **Social Signal Processing** (Augsburg University)



- Integration of sensor devices into the SSI framework in order to provide a coherent platform for sensing and processing raw signals
 - Smartex T-Shirt
 - Data Glove
 - Eye Tracker

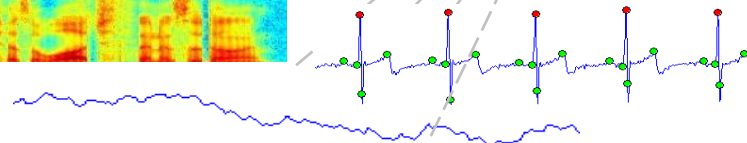
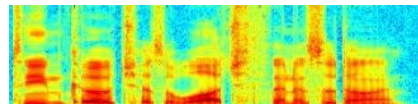


Multiple Sensor Input

*ECG, Skin Conduction, Blood
Glucose Level,
Speech, Acceleration, ...*

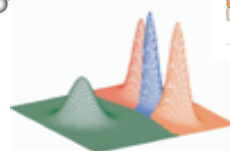
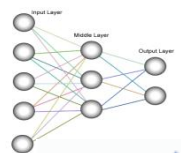


Preprocessing and Feature Analysis



*Filtering,
Frequency
Analysis,
...*

Pattern Recognition



Fusion and Final Decision

*Physiological and
Affective State,
Context Information*



Why traditional ML does not work in AMI environments

- **Social cue recognition performance is overestimated**
 - Most recognition systems are trained and tested on corpora that contain fixed segments with acted prototypical cues
 - Often only cues that have been labeled equally by a majority of annotators are used for classification.
- **Requirements for realistic applications**
 - We have to cope with non-prototypical user data.
 - Cues have to be processed frame by frame as being produced by the user.



Why traditional ML does not work in AMI environments

■ Previous approaches

- Segmentation-based
- Offline
- Classifier trained on prototypical data
- Focus on acted data

■ Requirements for AMI

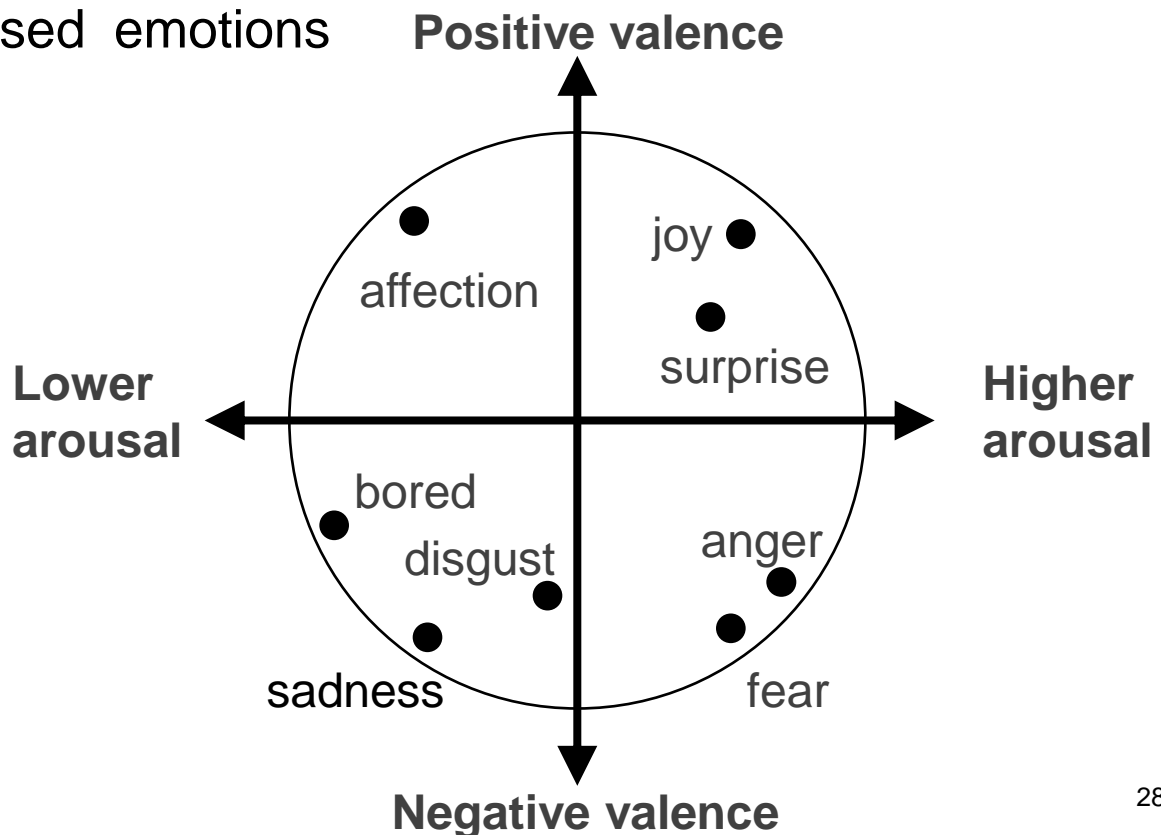
- Framewise
- Online
- Classifier trained on all data (prototypical and non-prototypical)
- Focus on spontaneous data

- **Ekman's Basic Emotions:**
 - Anger, Disgust, Fear, Happiness, Sadness, Surprise

- **Application-oriented Emotions:**
 - Call Centers: Anger
 - Meetings: Engagement, Approval, Disapproval
 - Dialog Systems: Confidence, Confusion, Frustration, Baby Talk, Politeness, Interest
 - Driver Assistance Systems: Stress
 - Smart Home: Emotions do not only depend on the application, but on the user's general situation, e.g. stress with partner, tiredness due to sickness etc.

■ Strategy:

- train a limited set of emotion classes based on pleasure and arousal in a dimensional emotion model
- which should then subsume the actually expressed emotions at runtime



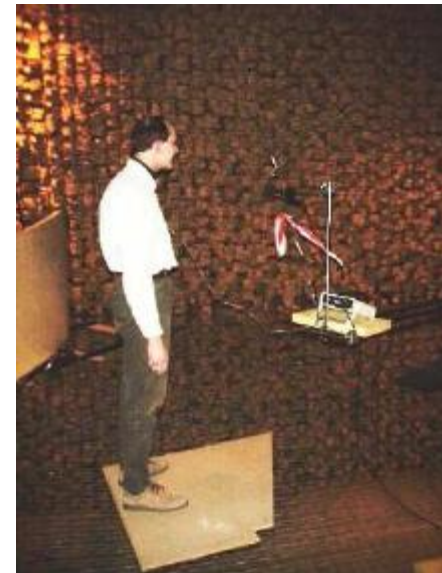
■ Corpus of TU Berlin

- Acted speech of 10 professional actors
- **Recognition rates:** about 80 % for a 7-class problem (BERLIN)

Joy: In 7 Stunden wird es soweit sein.





Anger: In 7 hours, it will happen.



- **SmartKom Korpus of LMU**
 - Spontaneous speech of ca. 80 users, approx. equal gender distribution
 - Wizard-of-Oz setting
 - Partly emotional speech as sometimes malfunction of system was simulated
 - **Recognition Rates:** 26% for 7 emotions



Irritation: Ich möchte' ne Email schreiben. Email – nicht Telephon. Ok? Email.
I would like to write an email. Email – not telephone. Ok? Email. 

Joy: Ja, bitte. Ich möchte telephonisch reservieren.
Yes, please. I would like to make a reservation by phone. 

■ AIBO Corpus of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen

- Spontaneous speech of ca. 50 children between 10 and 13 years old
- **Recognition Rates:** ca. 60% for four emotions



Joy: Nein, Aibo, Du sollst nach links gehen.
No, Aibo, you have to go to the left.



Irritation: Aibo, Du sollst aufstehen.
Aibo, you have to get up.





Why we need to train classifiers from spontaneous data

- Accuracy for acted speech quite high
 - about 80 % for a 7-class problem (BERLIN)
- Classification of natural emotions only usable for a smaller number of classes
 - about 60 % for a 4-class problem (AIBO)
 - about 50 % for a 3-class problem (SMARTKOM)
- Feature reduction less important for natural emotions
- We cannot learn best segment length and best features for natural emotions from acted emotions

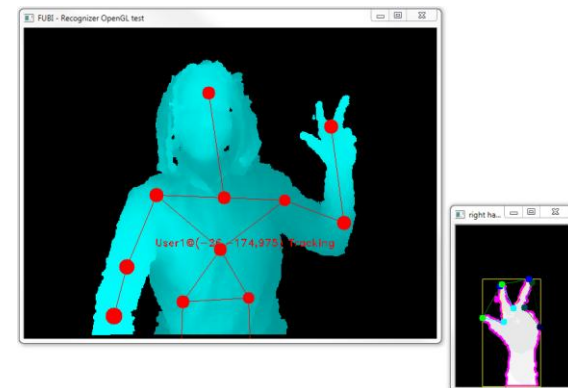
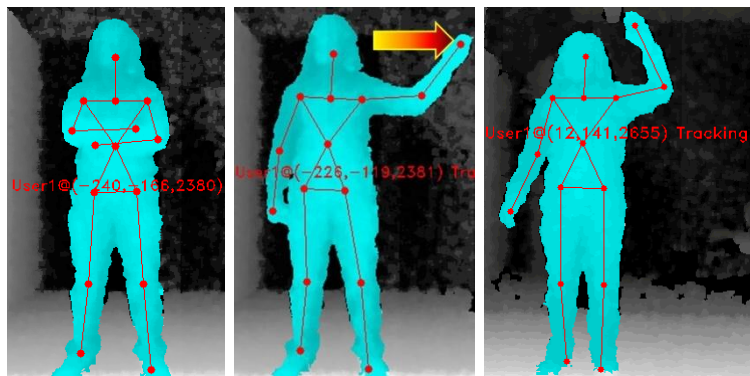
- **Task:**
 - explore features that are suitable to detect laughter in continuous speech
- **Challenge:**
 - Laughter consists of many distinctive sounds: evident, inaudible, song-like, grunt-like etc. many of which resemble speech (Bachorowski, Smoski and Owren)
- **Corpus Used for Classifier Training:**
 - Emotionally colored conversations from SEMAINE corpus
 - Additional YOUTUBE laughter sessions

- Most studies achieve > 90 %, however, no distinction between different kinds of laughter

	Cai et al.	Konx & Mirghafori	Felkin , Terrien & Thorisson	Guirguis, Wagner, Lingenfelser & André
Classifier	HMM	SVM MLP	C4.5	SVM
Window	1.5 s	~2 s	2.5 s	1 s
Dataset	TV Programs	ICSI Meetings	Own Recordings	Semaine, Youtube Videos
Accuracy	~ 90 %	92 % ~ 96 %	89.5 %	91,2 %

■ Kinect Gesture Recognition FUBI

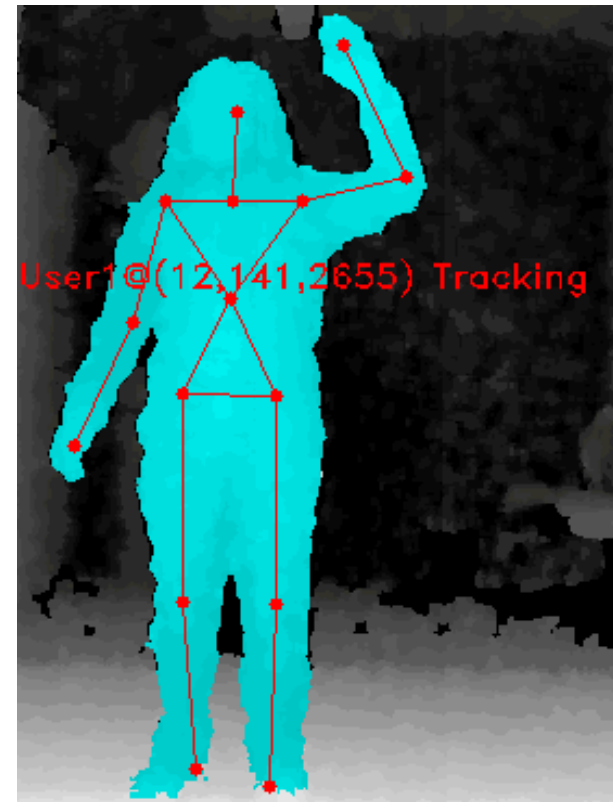
- recognition of full body gestures and postures
- large set of pre-defined recognizers
- own recognizers can be defined in XML
- finger recognition



XML Definition

```
<PostureCombinationRecognizer  
  name="Waving">  
  
  <Recognizer name="rightHandRight"/>  
  <State maxDuration="1.2"  
    minDuration="0.05"  
    timeForTransition="0.4"/>  
  
  <Recognizer name="rightHandLeft"/>  
  <State maxDuration="1.2"  
    minDuration="0.05"  
    timeForTransition="0.4"/>  
  
</PostureCombinationRecognizer>
```

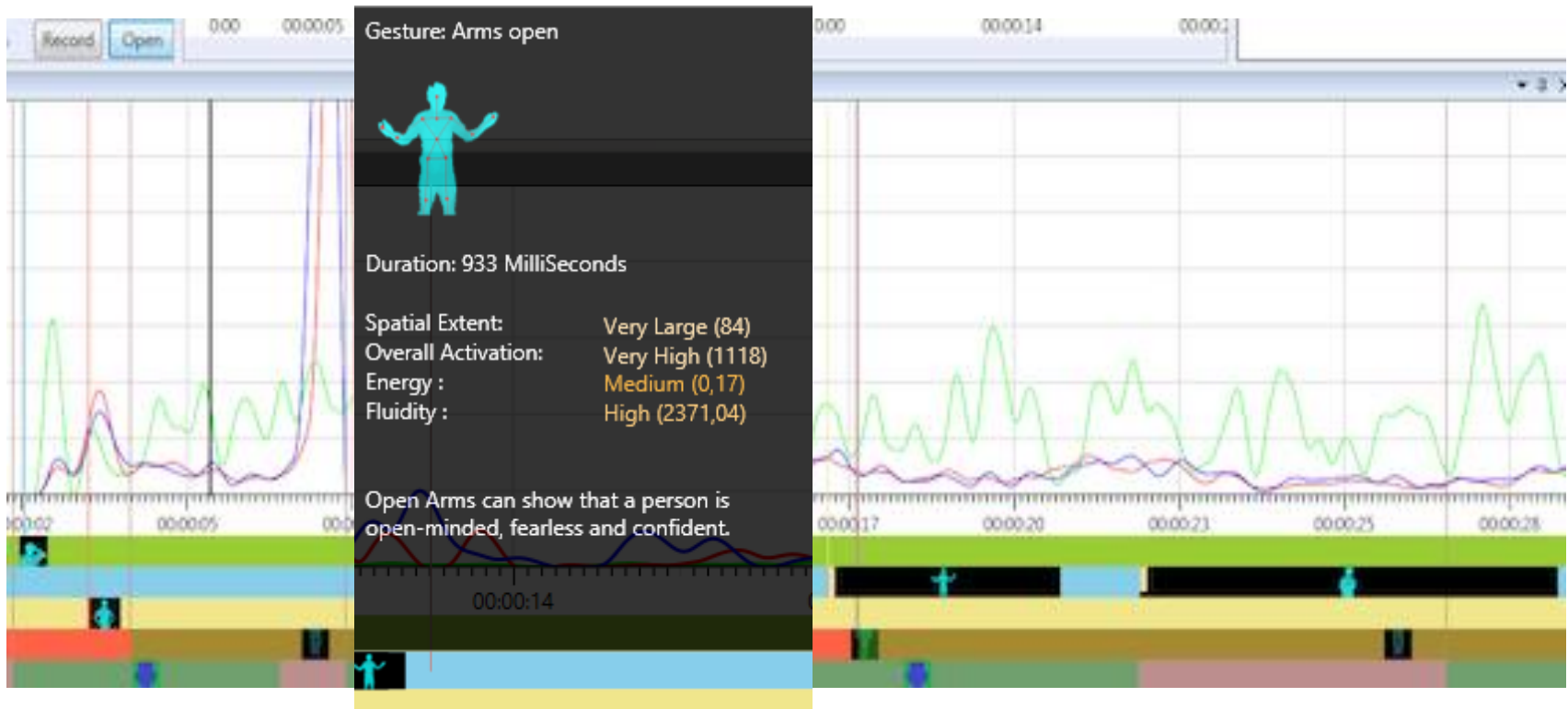
Gesture



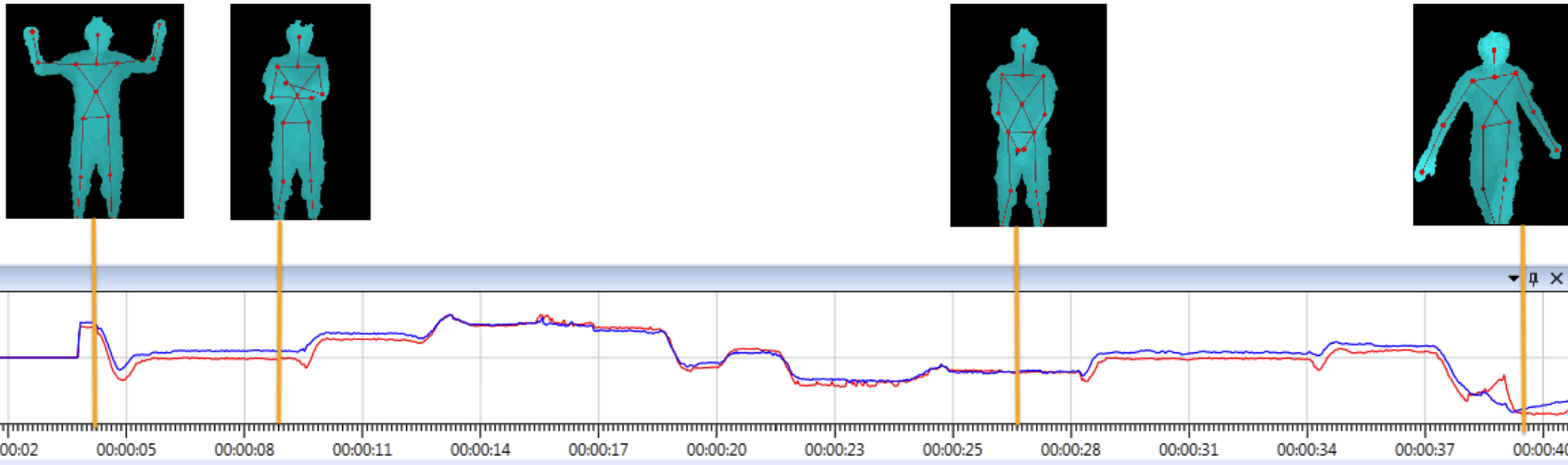
- **Example:** Level of Engagement

	Movement Quality	Specific body movements
Speaking		
High	high overall activity	orientation of the body and the face towards the interlocutor
Low	low overall activity orientation of	orientation of the body and the face away from the interlocutor
Listening		
High	low overall activity	orientation of the body and the face towards the interlocutor, head tilt, touch chin without bracing the head
Low	high overall activity	orientation of the body and the face away from the interlocutor, touch chin while fully bracing the head

- **Example:** Level of Engagement



- **Example:** Analysis of the hands' height in relation to the torso and to each other

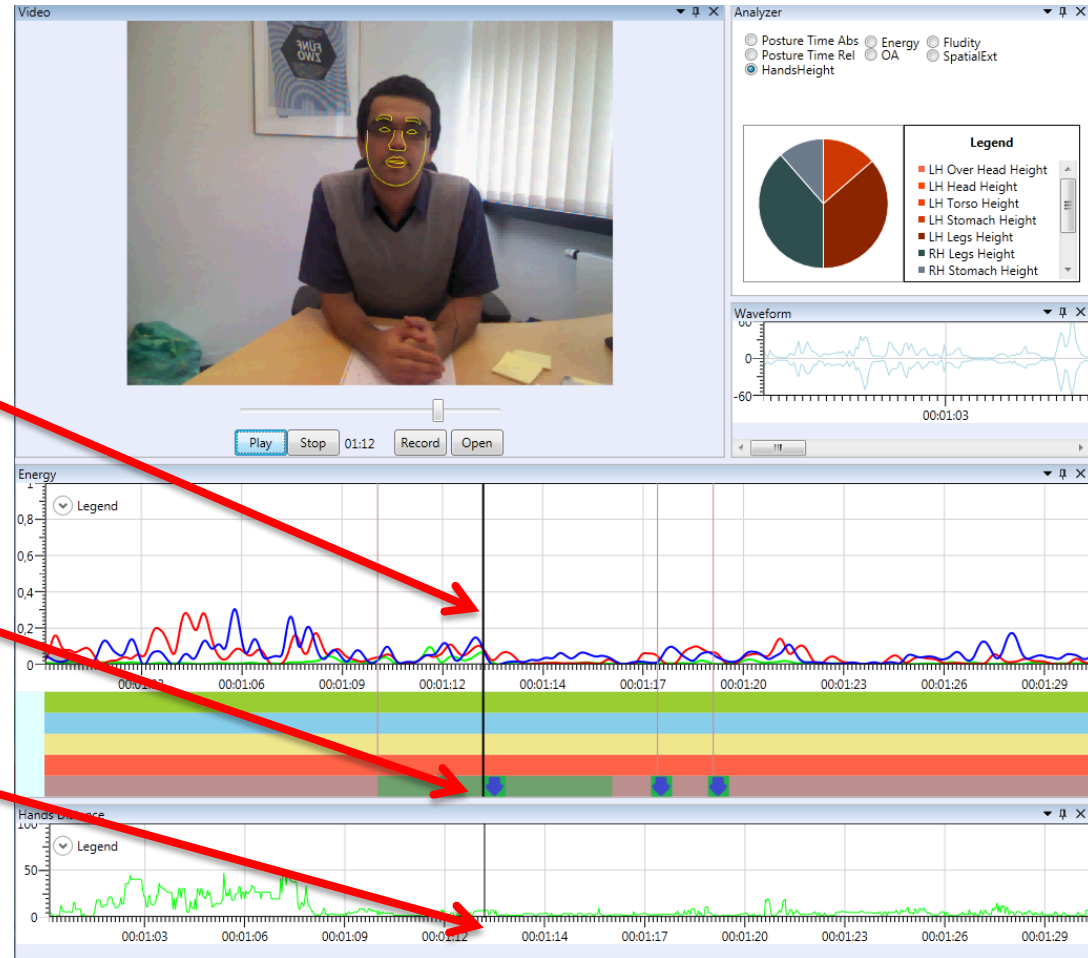




Calm hand-movement

Lean forward posture detected

Hands together, visualized in the graph

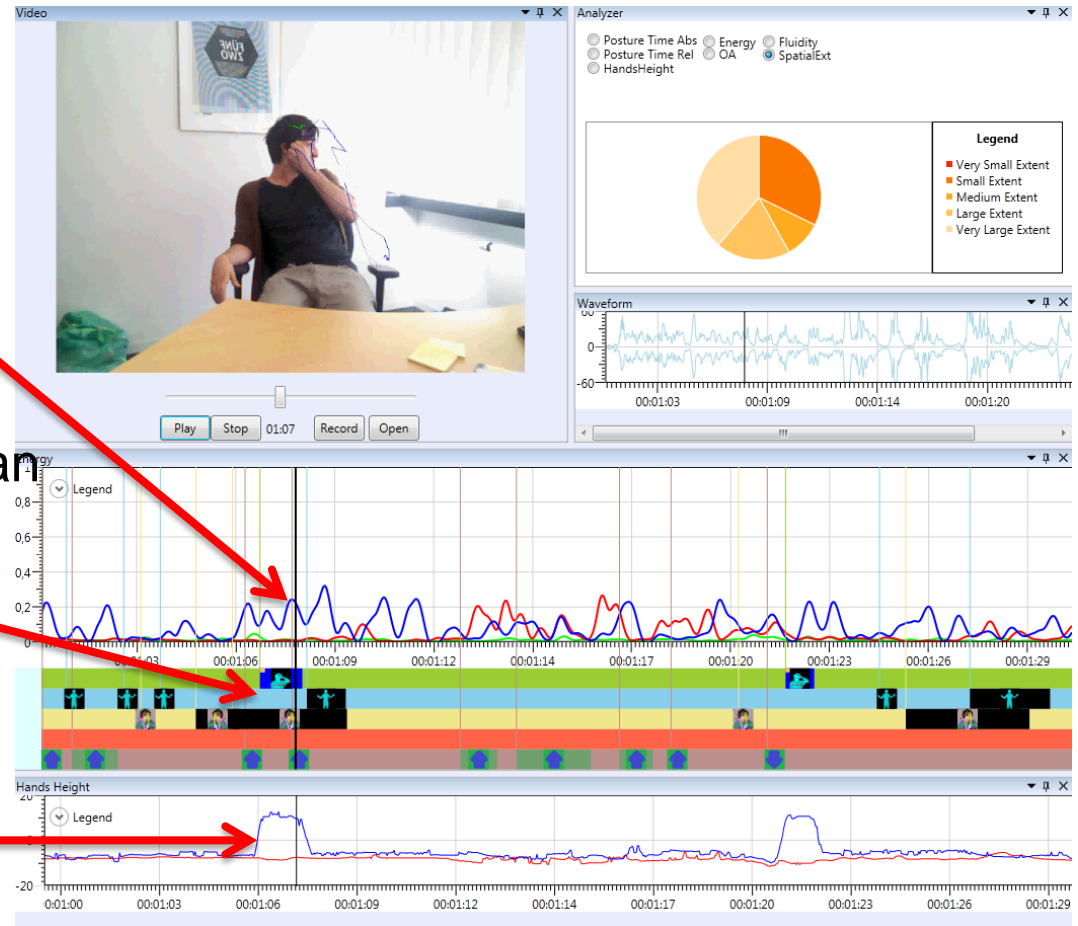


Increased Interest

Sudden hand movements

Head touch with the left hand,
Look away to the left side & Lean
backward posture, detected at
the same time

Left hand in head height,
visualized in the graph



Low Interest



Multi-Modal Social Signals

- Emotions are generally expressed through multiple modalities
- Emotions can be illustrated by a combination of vocal behavior, facial expressions, gestures and postures
- Humans base and refine their classifications of observed affective states on more than one modality - machines that try to recognize emotions should do so too

- Evaluation of fusion schemes on two Italian emotion corpora

DaFEx Corpus
*acted and
exaggerated*



CALLAS Corpus
*non-acted and
natural*





Results for Various Fusion Mechanisms

	DaFEx								CALLAS			
	anger	disgust	fear	happiness	neutral	sad	surprise	average	positive	neutral	negative	average
<i>Single Modalities</i>												
Audio	0.39	0.32	0.43	0.21	0.86	0.67	0.25	0.45	0.59	0.64	0.61	0.61
Video	0.57	0.34	0.11	0.82	0.72	0.59	0.22	0.48	0.60	0.50	0.48	0.53
<i>Feature Level Fusion</i>												
FeatureFusion	0.54	0.36	0.36	0.79	0.77	0.70	0.26	0.54	0.57	0.59	0.62	0.59
<i>Decision Level Fusion</i>												
WeightedMajorityVoting	0.57	0.34	0.11	0.82	0.72	0.59	0.22	0.48	0.59	0.64	0.61	0.61
BKS	0.53	0.45	0.30	0.84	0.85	0.51	0.35	0.55	0.62	0.62	0.56	0.60
MaxRule	0.48	0.31	0.22	0.80	0.84	0.69	0.16	0.50	0.62	0.55	0.64	0.60
MinRule	0.44	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.73	0.59	0.39	0.48	0.56	0.61	0.55	0.57
MeanRule	0.52	0.38	0.36	0.79	0.78	0.71	0.26	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59
SumRule	0.52	0.38	0.36	0.79	0.78	0.71	0.26	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59
WeightedAverage	0.58	0.41	0.28	0.83	0.77	0.66	0.23	0.54	0.61	0.58	0.58	0.59
ProductRule	0.50	0.39	0.38	0.79	0.77	0.70	0.27	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59
DecisionTemplate	0.51	0.41	0.30	0.67	0.81	0.61	0.22	0.50	0.57	0.60	0.59	0.59
DempsterShafer	0.48	0.41	0.31	0.67	0.81	0.59	0.25	0.50	0.56	0.62	0.59	0.59
CascadingSpecialists	0.35	0.38	0.44	0.53	0.90	0.66	0.27	0.50	0.60	0.63	0.61	0.61
<i>Meta Level Fusion</i>												
StackedGeneralisation	0.53	0.40	0.39	0.72	0.74	0.61	0.28	0.52	0.59	0.57	0.64	0.60
Grading	0.60	0.44	0.18	0.80	0.89	0.64	0.23	0.54	0.67	0.50	0.49	0.55
<i>Hybrid Fusion</i>												
OneVersusRest	0.53	0.34	0.36	0.83	0.79	0.71	0.25	0.55	0.59	0.59	0.60	0.59
OneVersusRest-Specialists	0.59	0.31	0.40	0.82	0.76	0.70	0.21	0.54	0.60	0.58	0.63	0.60

- Enhanced results only on the acted DaFEx corpus (acted emotions seem to lead to more consistent modalities)

	DaFEx								CALLAS			
	anger	disgust	fear	happiness	neutral	sad	surprise	average	positive	neutral	negative	average
<i>Single Modalities</i>												
Audio	0.39	0.32	0.43	0.21	0.86	0.67	0.25	0.45	0.59	0.64	0.61	0.61
Video	0.57	0.34	0.11	0.82	0.72	0.59	0.22	0.48	0.60	0.50	0.48	0.53

- Feature Level Fusion: stable and straightforward, acceptable results

FeatureFusion	0.54	0.36	0.36	0.79	0.77	0.70	0.26	0.54	0.57	0.59	0.62	0.59
---------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------------	------	------	------	-------------

- Decision Level Fusion: impression of interchangeability

MeanRule	0.52	0.38	0.36	0.79	0.78	0.71	0.26	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59
SumRule	0.52	0.38	0.36	0.79	0.78	0.71	0.26	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59
WeightedAverage	0.58	0.41	0.28	0.83	0.77	0.66	0.23	0.54	0.61	0.58	0.58	0.59
ProductRule	0.50	0.39	0.38	0.79	0.77	0.70	0.27	0.54	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.59

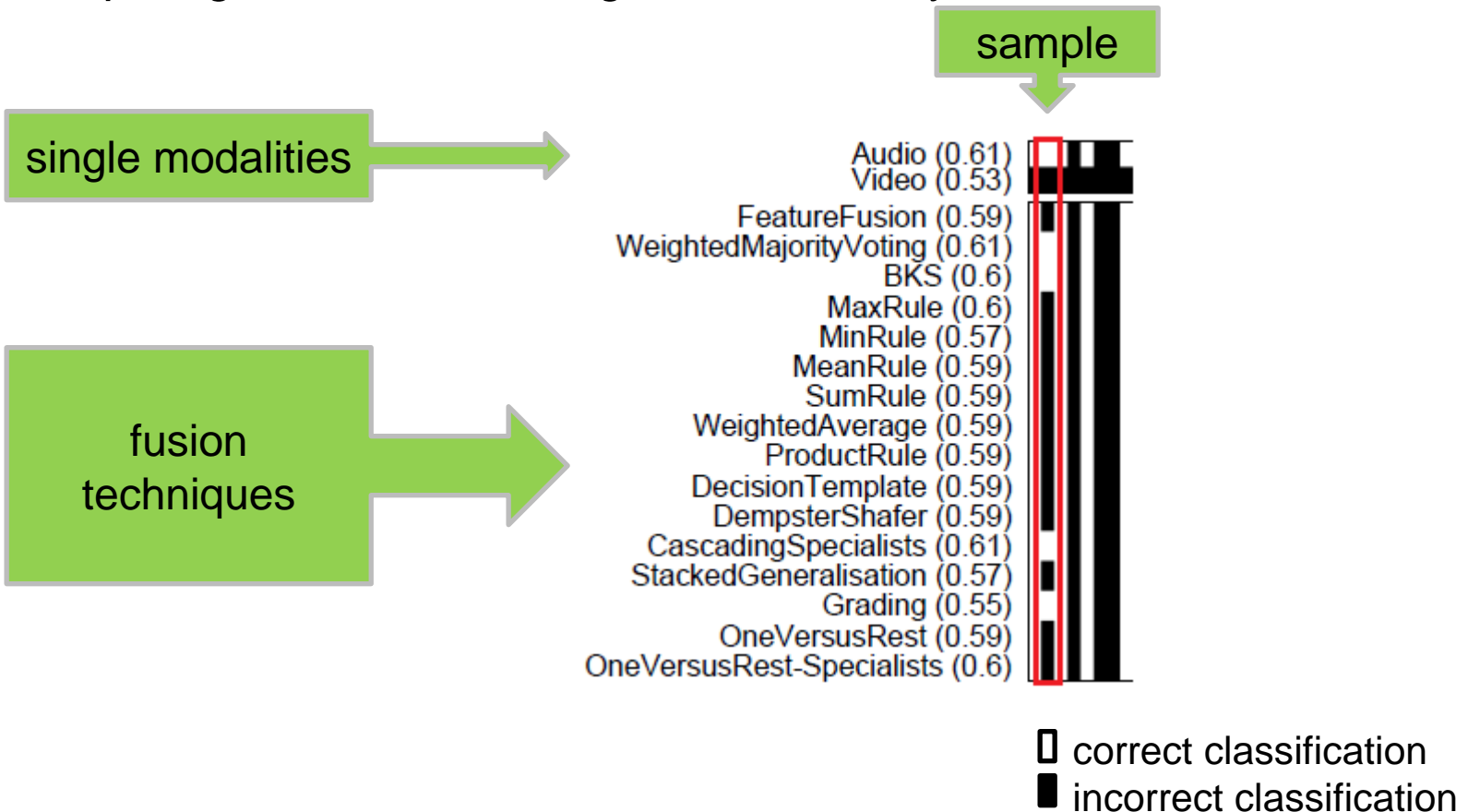
- Specialist selection fails if parameterization fails (user-independent evaluation)

CascadingSpecialists	0.35	0.38	0.44	0.53	0.90	0.66	0.27	0.50	0.60	0.63	0.61	0.61
----------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------------	------	------	------	-------------

- Hybrid Fusion: more complex than simple feature fusion, but slightly better results

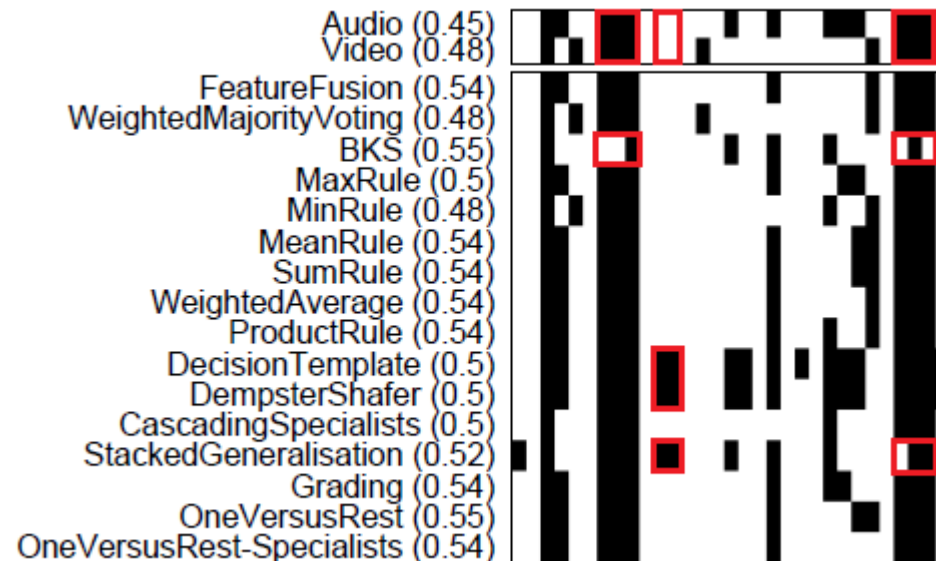
OneVersusRest	0.53	0.34	0.36	0.83	0.79	0.71	0.25	0.55	0.59	0.59	0.60	0.59
---------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------------	------	------	------	-------------

- Numbers not capable of representing where single fusion techniques gain or lose recognition accuracy



⇒ We need to consider context information!

- Error Learning (Meta Fusion Schemes, BKS, Decision Template, Dempster Shafer)



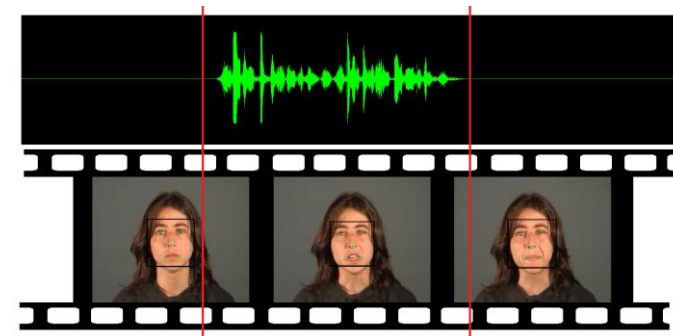
- despite wrong predictions in both modalities, correct prediction possible

BUT ALSO

- incorrect fusion result despite correct predictions by single modalities

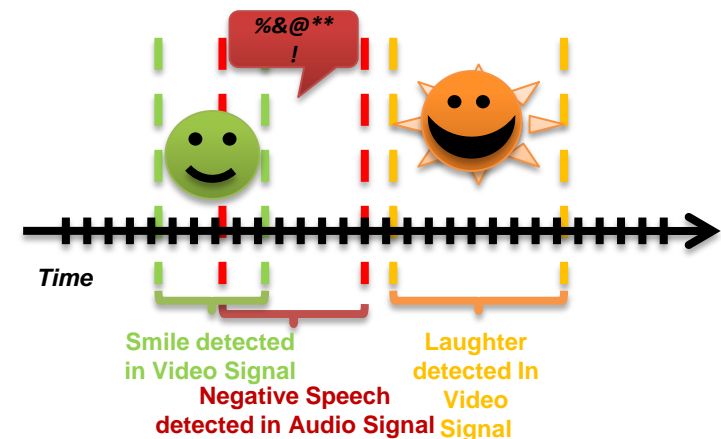
- **Hypothesis:**

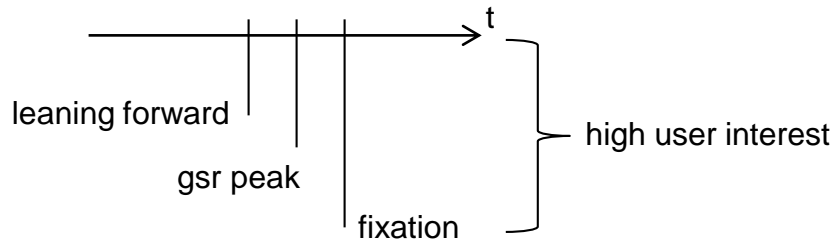
- Segmentation Problem
- Analysis of further modalities is triggered by spoken sentences in the vocal modality – meaningful information in other modalities is assumed, but not guaranteed



- **Possible solution:**

- Reject assumption „all relevant events happen at the same time in all modalities“
- Separate treatment of events in different modalities
- Incorporate temporal component





t [s]	Description	values
5.4	leaning forward	true
6.2	gsr peak	amplitude: 2.3 mS area: 13 mS ²
8.1	#fixation in last 5s	7



t [s]	Interest
5.0	low
6.0	medium
7.0	high
8.0	high
9.0	high
10.0	high
11.0	medium
12.0	medium

- Social and emotional sensitivity may provide an added value to many AMI applications.
- Bringing Social Signal Processing to AMI leads to new requirements:
 - Frame-by-frame analysis instead of segment-based analysis
 - Online analysis (while the users are interacting) instead of offline analysis
 - Classifiers need to provide acceptable results for ALL data (prototypical and non-prototypical)
- Social and emotional signals are particularly difficult to interpret requiring to understand and model the causes and consequences of them.
- Realizing social and emotional intelligence requires a fully integrated loop consisting of perception, reasoning, learning and responding.
- ⇒ Exploit context sensing and reasoning technologies from AMI

- **Multisensory fusion**
 - Integrating sensing technology in natural open environments
 - Distinguishing between command and no-command signals
→ get rid of push-to-command interfaces
 - Exploit information on context and psychological user states
 - to improve personalization
 - to increase robustness
- Fully integrated loop consisting of perception, reasoning, learning and responding → symbiotic human-machine interaction



- **Affective User Models**
 - Focusing on unconscious signals to create and maintain
 - Rapport
 - Engagement
 - Common ground
 - User experience
 - Mechanisms to cope with uncertainties
 - Models of cognition
 - Long-term user modeling



Thanks to

