**Proceedings** 

## 2013 Humaine Association Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction ACII 2013

2-5 September 2013 Geneva, Switzerland



Los Alamitos, California

Washington • Tokyo



Copyright © 2013 by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

All rights reserved.

*Copyright and Reprint Permissions*: Abstracting is permitted with credit to the source. Libraries may photocopy beyond the limits of US copyright law, for private use of patrons, those articles in this volume that carry a code at the bottom of the first page, provided that the per-copy fee indicated in the code is paid through the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923.

Other copying, reprint, or republication requests should be addressed to: IEEE Copyrights Manager, IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 133, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331.

The papers in this book comprise the proceedings of the meeting mentioned on the cover and title page. They reflect the authors' opinions and, in the interests of timely dissemination, are published as presented and without change. Their inclusion in this publication does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the editors, the IEEE Computer Society, or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

IEEE Computer Society Order Number E5048 BMS Part Number CFP1364H-ART ISBN 978-0-7695-5048-0

Additional copies may be ordered from:

IEEE Computer Society Customer Service Center 10662 Los Vaqueros Circle P.O. Box 3014 Los Alamitos, CA 90720-1314 Tel: + 1 800 272 6657 Fax: + 1 714 821 4641 http://computer.org/cspress csbooks@computer.org IEEE Service Center 445 Hoes Lane P.O. Box 1331 Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331 Tel: + 1 732 981 0060 Fax: + 1 732 981 9667 http://shop.ieee.org/store/ customer-service@ieee.org IEEE Computer Society Asia/Pacific Office Watanabe Bldg., 1-4-2 Minami-Aoyama Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062 JAPAN Tel: + 81 3 3408 3118 Fax: + 81 3 3408 3553 tokyo.ofc@computer.org

Individual paper REPRINTS may be ordered at: <reprints@computer.org>

Editorial production by Juan E. Guerrero Cover art production by Zoey Vegas Printed in the United States of America by Applied Digital Imaging





IEEE Computer Society Conference Publishing Services (CPS)

http://www.computer.org/cps

## 2013 Humaine Association Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction

# ACII 2013

## **Table of Contents**

Foreword	xviii
Organizing Committee	xxi
Keynotes	xxvii

### Main Conference—Full Papers

A Computational Model of Empathy: Empirical Evaluation	1
Hana Boukricha, Ipke Wachsmuth, Maria Nella Carminati, and Pia Knoeferle	
A Control-Theoretic Approach to Adaptive Physiological Games	7
Avinash Parnandi, Youngpyo Son, and Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna	
A Large Video Data Base for Computational Models of Induced Emotion	13
Yoann Baveye, Jean-Noël Bettinelli, Emmanuel Dellandréa, Liming Chen, and Christel Chamaret	
A Multimodal Corpus Approach to the Design of Virtual Recruiters	19
Mathieu Chollet, Magalie Ochs, Chloé Clavel, and Catherine Pelachaud	
A Preliminary Investigation of the Effect of Social Media on Affective Trust	
in Customer-Supplier Relationships	25
Fabio Calefato, Filippo Lanubile, and Nicole Novielli	
A Preliminary Study on GMM Weight Transformation for Emotional Speaker	
Recognition	31
Li Chen and Yingchun Yang	
A Probabilistic Approach to Tweets' Sentiment Classification	37
Francesco Colace, Massimo De Santo, and Luca Greco	
Accessing Emotion Patterns from Affective Interactions Using Electrodermal	
Activity	43
Rui Henriques, Ana Paiva, and Cláudia Antunes	

Action Unit Models of Facial Expression of Emotion in the Presence of Speech Miraj Shah, David G. Cooper, Houwei Cao, Ruben C. Gur, Ani Nenkova, and Ragini Verma	49
Active Labeling of Facial Feature Points Menghua He, Shangfei Wang, and Qiang Ji	55
Addressing Loneliness and Isolation in Older Adults: Proactive Affective Agents Provide Better Support Lazlo Ring, Barbara Barry, Kathleen Totzke, and Timothy Bickmore	61
Affect and Creative Performance on Crowdsourcing Platforms Robert R. Morris, Mira Dontcheva, Adam Finkelstein, and Elizabeth Gerber	67
Affective Benchmarking of Movies Based on the Physiological Responses of a Real Audience Julien Fleureau, Philippe Guillotel, and Izabela Orlac	73
Analyses of the Differences between Posed and Spontaneous Facial Expressions	79
Analysis and Compensation of the Reaction Lag of Evaluators in Continuous Emotional Annotations Soroosh Mariooryad and Carlos Busso	85
Analysis and Modelling of Affective Japanese Sitting Postures by Japanese and British Observers	91
Are Discrete Emotions Useful in Human-Robot Interaction? Feedback from Motion Capture Analysis	97
Arguments for a Computational Model for Forms of Selective Attention Based on Cognitive and Affective Feelings <i>Luis Macedo</i>	103
Assessing Postural Control for Affect Recognition Using Video and Force Plates <i>Tom Giraud, David Antonio Gómez Jáuregui, Jiewen Hua, Brice Isableu,</i> <i>Edith Filaire, Christine Le Scanff, and Jean Claude Martin</i>	109
Assessment of Computer-Supported Collaborative Processes Using Interpersonal Physiological and Eye-Movement Coupling <i>Guillaume Chanel, Mireille Bétrancourt, Thierry Pun, Donato Cereghetti,</i> <i>and Gaëlle Molinari</i>	116
Audiovisual Detection of Behavioural Mimicry Sanjay Bilakhia, Stavros Petridis, and Maja Pantic	123

Audiovisual Detection of Laughter in Human-Machine Interaction Stavros Petridis, Maelle Leveque, and Maja Pantic	129
AutoBAP: Automatic Coding of Body Action and Posture Units from Wearable Sensors	135
Eduardo Velloso, Andreas Bulling, and Hans Gellersen	
Automatic Classification of Literature Pieces by Emotion Detection: A Study on Quevedo's Poetry	141
Linda Barros, Pilar Rodriguez, and Alvaro Ortigosa	
Automatic Nonverbal Behavior Indicators of Depression and PTSD: Exploring Gender Differences	147
Giota Stratou, Stefan Scherer, Jonathan Gratch, and Louis-Philippe Morency	
Automatic Phonetic Transcription of Laughter and Its Application to Laughter Synthesis	153
Jérôme Urbain, Hüseyin Çakmak, and Thierry Dutoit	
Automatically Recognizing Facial Indicators of Frustration: A Learning-centric Analysis	159
Joseph F. Grafsgaard, Joseph B. Wiggins, Kristy Elizabeth Boyer, Eric N. Wiebe, and James C. Lester	
Bayesian Affect Control Theory	
Jesse Hoey, Tobias Schroder, and Areej Alhothali	
Bayesian Inference Based Temporal Modeling for Naturalistic Affective Expression Classification	173
Linlin Chao, Jianhua Tao, Minghao Yang, and Ya Li	
Bodily Manifestations of Affects: The Example of Gait and Virtual Reality	179
Computational Analysis of Emotion Dynamics	
Ayesha Hakim, Stephen Marsland, and Hans W. Guesgen	
Contactless Measurement of Heart Rate Variability from Pupillary Fluctuations	191
Continuous Emotion Recognition: Another Look at the Regression Problem Pouria Fewzee and Fakhri Karray	197
Conversational Topics Handle Social Relationships	203
Does Learner Conscientiousness Matter When Generating Emotional Support	
in Feedback?	209
Matt Dennis, Judith Masthoff, and Chris Mellish	
EmotionAir: Perception of Emotions from Air Jet Based Tactile Stimulation	215
Mohamed Yassine Tsalamlal, Nizar Ouarti, Jean-Claude Martin, and Mehdi Ammi	

Event-Driven Fuzzy Automata for Tracking Changes in the Emotional Behavior	224
of Affective Agents Ahmad Soleimani and Ziad Kobti	221
Exploring Eye-Blink Startle Response as a Physiological Measure for Affective	007
Computing Luca Chittaro and Riccardo Sioni	227
Expressive Non-verbal Interaction in String Quartet Donald Glowinski, Giorgio Gnecco, Stefano Piana, and Antonio Camurri	233
Facial Expression Recognition Using Deep Boltzmann Machine from Thermal	
Infrared Images Shan He, Shangfei Wang, Wuwei Lan, Huan Fu, and Qiang Ji	239
Facing Imbalanced DataRecommendations for the Use of Performance	245
Metrics László A. Jeni, Jeffrey F. Cohn, and Fernando De La Torre	245
Food and Mood: Just-in-Time Support for Emotional Eating	252
Erin A. Carroll, Mary Czerwinski, Asta Roseway, Ashish Kapoor, Paul Johns, Kael Rowan, and M.C. Schraefel	
From Emotions to Interpersonal Stances: Multi-level Analysis of Smiling Virtual	259
Characters Magalie Ochs, Ken Prepin, and Catherine Pelachaud	230
Fusion of Smile, Valence and NGram Features for Automatic Affect Detection Ovidiu Serban, Ginevra Castellano, Alexandre Pauchet, Alexandrina Rogozan, and Jean-Pierre Pecuchet	264
HapFACS: An Open Source API/Software to Generate FACS-Based	
Expressions for ECAs Animation and for Corpus Generation Reza Amini and Christine Lisetti	270
Head Movement Dynamics during Normal and Perturbed Parent-Infant	070
Interaction Zakia Hammal, Jeffrey F. Cohn, Daniel S. Messinger, Whitney I. Mattson, and Mohammad H. Mahoor	276
Head Pose and Movement Analysis as an Indicator of Depression	
Sharifa Alghowinem, Roland Goecke, Michael Wagner, Gordon Parkerx, and Michael Breakspear	
Heart Rate Variability and Skin Conductance Biofeedback: A Triple-Blind Randomized Controlled Study	
S.F. Raaijmakers, F.W. Steel, M. de Goede, N.C. van Wouwe, J.B.F. van Erp, and AM. Brouwer	
How Action Adapts to Social Context: The Movements of Musicians in Solo and Ensemble Conditions	204
Donald Glowinski, Maurizio Mancini, Roddie Cowie, and Antonio Camurri	294

How Virtual Teammate Support Types Affect Stress Peter Kindness, Chris Mellish, and Judith Masthoff	300
Human Perception of Laughter from Context-Free Whole Body Motion Dynamic Stimuli	306
Gary McKeown, William Curran, Denise Kane, Rebecca Mccahon, Harry J. Griffin, Ciaran McLoughlin, and Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze	
Hybrid Deep Neural NetworkHidden Markov Model (DNN-HMM) Based Speech Emotion Recognition Longfei Li, Yong Zhao, Dongmei Jiang, Yanning Zhang, Fengna Wang, Isabel Gonzalez, Enescu Valentin, and Hichem Sahli	312
In My ShoesA Computer Assisted Interview for Communicating with Children about Emotions	318
Investigating the Impact of Language Style and Vocal Expression on Social Roles of Participants in Professional Meetings Ashtosh Sapru and Herve Bourlard	324
Is It Time to Rethink Motion Artifacts? Temporal Relationships between Electrodermal Activity and Body Movements in Real-Life Conditions <i>Ryad Chellali and Shannon Hennig</i>	330
Judging Emotion from Low-Pass Filtered Naturalistic Emotional Speech John Snel and Charlie Cullen	336
Laban Effort and Shape Analysis of Affective Hand and Arm Movements Ali-Akbar Samadani, Sarahjane Burton, Rob Gorbet, and Dana Kulic	343
Laughter Type Recognition from Whole Body Motion Harry J. Griffin, Min S.H. Aung, Bernardino Romera-Paredes, Ciaran McLoughlin, Gary McKeown, William Curran, and Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze	349
Local Gabor Binary Patterns from Three Orthogonal Planes for Automatic Facial Expression Recognition <i>Timur R. Almaev and Michel F. Valstar</i>	356
Measuring Emotional Arousal for Online Applications: Evaluation of Ultra-short Term Heart Rate Variability Measures <i>Kristina Schaaff and Marc T.P. Adam</i>	362
Measuring Voter's Candidate Preference Based on Affective Responses to Election Debates Daniel McDuff, Rana El Kaliouby, Evan Kodra, and Rosalind Picard	369
Micro-blogging Content Analysis via Emotionally-Driven Clustering Despoina Chatzakou, Vassiliki Koutsonikola, Athena Vakali, and Konstantinos Kafetsios	375

381
387
393
399
405
411
417
423
429
435
442
448
454

460
467
473
479
485
492
498
505
511
517
523
529
534
540

The Effect of Agency on the Impact of Emotion Expressions on People's Decision Making	.546
Celso M. de Melo, Jonathan Gratch, and Peter J. Carnevale	
The Perception of Charisma from Voice: A Cross-Cultural Study Francesca D'Errico, Rosario Signorello, Didier Demolin, and Isabella Poggi	552
The Relative Importance and Interrelations between Behavior Parameters for Robots' Mood Expression Junchao Xu, Joost Broekens, Koen Hindriks, and Mark A. Neerincx	.558
Towards Ambulatory Mental Stress Measurement from Physiological Parameters Jacqueline Wijsman, Ruud Vullers, Salvatore Polito, Carlos Agell, Julien Penders, and Hermie Hermens	564
Towards Robust Real-Time Valence Recognition from Facial Expressions for Market Research Applications Jens-Uwe Garbas, Tobias Ruf, Matthias Unfried, and Anja Dieckmann	.570
Towards the Design of Affective Survival Horror Games: An Investigation on Player Affect Vanus Vachiratamporn, Roberto Legaspi, Koichi Moriyama, and Masayuki Numao	.576
User-centric Affective Video Tagging from MEG and Peripheral Physiological Responses <i>Mojtaba Khomami Abadi, Seyed Mostafa Kia, Ramanathan Subramanian,</i> <i>Paolo Avesani, and Nicu Sebe</i>	582
Using a Probabilistic Topic Model to Link Observers' Perception Tendency to Personality	.588
Shiro Kumano, Kazuhiro Otsuka, Masafumi Matsuda, Ryo Ishii, and Junji Yamato VibeRate, An Affective Wearable Tool for Creative Design Stelios Giannoulis and Corina Sas	.594
Wearable Physiological Sensors Reflect Mental Stress State in Office-Like Situations Jacqueline Wijsman, Bernard Grundlehner, Hao Liu, Julien Penders, and Hermie Hermens	.600
What Really Matters? A Study into People's Instinctive Evaluation Metrics for Continuous Emotion Prediction in Music Vaiva Imbrasaite, Tadas Baltrušaitis, and Peter Robinson	.606
When Humans Become Objects: Out-Group Effects in Real and Artificial Faces Aleksandra Swiderska, Eva G. Krumhuber, and Arvid Kappas	.612
Which Is More Responsible for Boredom in Intelligent Tutoring Systems: Students (Trait) or Problems (State)? William Hawkins, Neil Heffernan, and Ryan S.J.D. Baker	.618

## Main Conference—Doctoral Consortium

Affective Conversational Models: Interpersonal Stance in a Police Interview Context	624
Merijn Bruijnes	
An Automated Framework for Depression Analysis	630
Context Based Facial Expression Analysis in the Wild	636
Depression Detection & Emotion Classification via Data-Driven Glottal Waveforms David Vandyke	642
From Joyous to Clinically Depressed: Mood Detection Using Multimodal Analysis of a Person's Appearance and Speech Sharifa Alghowinem	648
Identifying Task Engagement: Towards Personalised Interactions with Educational Robots Lee J. Corrigan, Christopher Peters, and Ginevra Castellano	655
Measuring Affect for the Study and Enhancement of Co-present Creative Collaboration <i>Evan Morgan, Hatice Gunes, and Nick Bryan-Kinns</i>	659
Speaker Recognition and Speaker Characterization over Landline, VoIP and Wireless Channels Laura Fernández Gallardo	665
Stress Recognition Using Wearable Sensors and Mobile Phones	671
Toward a Computational Model of Social Relations for Artificial Companions	677
Towards a Virtual Teammate Whose Support Can Help Alleviate Stress in the Prehospital Care Domain <i>Peter Kindness</i>	683
Towards an Autonomous Theatrical Robot Julián M. Angel Fernandez and Andrea Bonarini	689
Towards Automatic and Unobtrusive Recognition of Primary-Process Emotions in Body Postures	695

## Main Conference—Demo and Interactive Events

Affective Touch at a Distance	701
Gijs Huisman, Aduén Darriba Frederiks, and Dirk Heylen	
Automated Coach to Practice Conversations Mohammed (Ehsan) Hoque and Rosalind W. Picard	703
Automatic Staging of Audio with Emotions Lakshmi Saheer and Milos Cernak	705
EEG-Enabled Affective Applications Olga Sourina and Yisi Liu	707
Gtrace: General Trace Program Compatible with EmotionML Roddy Cowie, Martin Sawey, Cian Doherty, Javier Jaimovich, Cavan Fyans, and Paul Stapleton	709
Herme, Yet Another Interactive Conversational Robot JinGuang Han, Emer Gilmartin, and Nick Campbell	711
On the Fly User's Emotion Capture Philippe Guillotel, Julien Fleureau, Izabela Orlac, and Fernando Silveira	713
Sport and Technology: The Case of Archery Cédric Bornand, Angelika Güsewell, Enrico Staderini, and Jagdish Patra	715
Ubiquitous Interaction for Computer Mediated Communication of Emotions Maurizio Caon, Omar Abou Khaled, Elena Mugellini, Denis Lalanne, and Leonardo Angelini	717
User Modelling and Adaptive, Natural Interaction for Conflict Resolution Kostas Karpouzis, Georgios Yannakakis, Ana Paiva, Jeppe Herlev Nielsen, Asimina Vasalou, and Arnav Jhala	719
Video Visualization of Predictors of Emotions Dynamically Expressed by Music Olivier Lartillot, Kim Eliard, Donato Cereghetti, and Didier Grandjean	722
Multimodal Affect Recognition in Virtual Worlds: Avatars Mirroring User's Affect	724
Javier Gonzalez-Sanchez, Maria Elena Chavez-Echeagaray, David Gibson, and Robert Atkinson	
Mood Conductor: Emotion-Driven Interactive Music Performance György Fazekas, Mathieu Barthet, and Mark B. Sandler	726

# Fifth International Workshop on Affective Interaction in Natural Environments (AFFINE 2013)

Fifth International Workshop on Affective Interaction in Natural Environments	
(AFFINE 2013): Interacting with Affective Artefacts in the Wild	727
Ginevra Castellano, Kostas Karpouzis, Jean-Claude Martin,	
Louis-Philippe Morency, Christopher Peters, and Laurel D. Riek	
Constraining Content in Mediated Unstructured Social Interactions: Studies	
in the Wild	728
James Kennedy, Paul Baxter, and Tony Belpaeme	
Determining the Smallest Emotional Unit for Level of Arousal Classification	734
Bogdan Vlasenko and Andreas Wendemuth	
Learner Modelling and Automatic Engagement Recognition with Robotic	
Tutors	740
Fotios Papadopoulos, Lee J. Corrigan, Aidan Jones, and Ginevra Castellano	
Shopmobia: An Emotion-Based Shop Rating System	745
Nouf Alajmi, Eiman Kanjo, Nour El Mawass, and Alan Chamberlain	
The Emotracker: Visualizing Contents, Gaze and Emotions at a Glance	751
Isabelle Hupont, Sandra Baldassarri, Eva Cerezo, and Rafael Del-Hoyo	
Towards Automated Full Body Detection of Laughter Driven by Human Expert	
Annotation	757
Maurizio Mancini, Jennifer Hofmann, Tracey Platt, Gualtiero Volpe,	
Giovanna Varni, Donald Glowinski, Willibald Ruch, and Antonio Camurri	
Towards Effective Emotional Support for Community First Responders	
Experiencing Stress	763
Matt Dennis, Peter Kindness, Judith Masthoff, Chris Mellish, and Kirsten Smith	

# International Workshop on Mediated Touch and Affect (MeTA 2013)

International Workshop on Mediated Touch and Affect (MeTA 2013): Introduction	39
Gijs Huisman, Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze, and Dirk Heylen	
An Embodiment Perspective of Affective Touch Behaviour in Experiencing Digital Textiles	70
How to Collect Haptic Expressions of Spontaneous Emotions? Methodological Considerations	76

How to Touch Humans: Guidelines for Social Agents and Robots That Can	
Touch	
Jan B.F. Van Erp and Alexander Toet	
Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Virtual Hand: Affectively Connected	
through Mediated Touch	
A. Toet, J.B.F. van Erp, F.F. Petrignani, M.H. Dufrasnes, A. Sadhashivan,	
D. Van Alphen, F. Boeree, H.O. de Gruijter, J. Hoeksema, C.T. Stamhuis,	
and P.J. Steenbergen	
Touched by the Storyteller: The Influence of Remote Touch in the Context	
of Storytelling	792
Merel M. Jung, Robert W.M. Boensma, Gijs Huisman, and Betsy van Dijk	
Virtual Touch Sensations in an Online Shopping Context: An Experimental	
Approach	798
Suzanne Overmars and Karolien Poels	

### Second International Workshop on Context Based Affect Recognition (CBAR 2013)

Towards Context Based Affective Computing Zakia Hammal and Merlin Teodosia Suarez	802
Annotation and Classification of Changes of Involvement in Group Conversation	803
Ronald Böck, Stefan Glüge, Ingo Siegert, Andreas Wendemuth, and Stefan Glüge	
Estimation of Attentiveness of People Watching TV Based on Their Emotional Behaviors	809
Masaki Takahashi, Masahide Naemura, Mahito Fujii, and Shin'ichi Satoh	
Vocal and Facial Imitation of Humans Interacting with Virtual Agents	815

# Third Workshop on Affective Brain–Computer Interfaces (ABCI 2013)

Third Workshop on Affective Brain-Computer Interfaces (ABCI 2013): Introduction	821
Christian Mühl, Guillaume Chanel, Brendan Allison, and Anton Nijholt	
A Comparison of Evaluation Measures for Emotion Recognition	
in Dimensional Space	822
Robert Jenke, Angelika Peer, and Martin Buss	
Affective Brain-Computer Interfaces for Arts Hayrettin Gürkök and Anton Nijholt	827

Continuous Recognition of Affective States by Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy Signals	22
Dominic Heger, Reinhard Mutter, Christian Herff, Felix Putze, and Tanja Schultz	2
Development of a Binary fMRI-BCI for Alzheimer Patients: A Semantic Conditioning Paradigm Using Affective Unconditioned Stimuli	38
EEG-Based Emotion-Adaptive Advertising	43
Emotion Detection from QRS Complex of ECG Signals Using Hurst Exponent for Different Age Groups	49
Emotion Recognition from EEG during Self-Paced Emotional Imagery	55
Emotional Influence on SSVEP Based BCI85 Yachen Zhu, Xilan Tian, Guobing Wu, Gilles Gasso, Shangfei Wang, and Stéphane Canu	59
Phase-Amplitude Coupling between EEG and EDA While Experiencing Multimedia Content	35
Towards an Affective Brain-Computer Interface Monitoring Musical Engagement	71
Using Cross-Task Classification for Classifying Workload Levels in Complex Learning Tasks	76

Author Index	32
--------------	----

## Development of a Binary fMRI-BCI for Alzheimer Patients

A semantic conditioning paradigm using affective unconditioned stimuli

Giulia Liberati Psychological Sciences Research Institute Université catholique de Louvain Louvain la Neuve, Belgium giulia.liberati@uclouvain.be

Christine von Arnim, Anne Jenner, Dorothée Lulé, Albert Christian Ludolph Department of Neurology Ulm University Ulm, Germany Ralf Veit, Sunjung Kim, Niels Birbaumer Institute of Medical Psychology and Behavioral Neurobiology Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany

Antonino Raffone, Marta Olivetti Belardinelli Department of Psychology Faculty of Medicine and Psychology Sapienza University Rome, Italy

Josué Dalboni da Rocha, Ranganatha Sitaram Department of Biomedical Engineering University of Florida Gainesville, USA

Abstract— With the aim of developing a brain-computer interface for the communication of basic mental states, a classical conditioning paradigm with affective stimuli was used, assessing the possibility to discriminate between affirmative and negative thinking in an fMRI-BCI setting. 6 Alzheimer patients and 7 healthy control subjects participated to the study. Congruent and incongruent word-pairs were respectively associated to pleasant (baby laughter) and unpleasant (scream) affective stimuli. A Support Vector Machine classifier focusing on insula, amvgdala and anterior cingulate cortex was used to discriminate between the activations relative to congruent and incongruent word-pairs (eliciting respectively affirmative and negative thinking), following the conditioning process. Classification accuracy was on average 70% for Alzheimer patients, reaching 85%, and on average 69% for control subjects, reaching 83%. This study shows that it is possible to extract information on individuals' mental states by exploiting affective responses, overcoming the typical obstacles of traditional BCIs, which generally require time-consuming trainings and intact cognition.

Keywords—Affective BCI; Alzheimer; Classical conditioning; Support Vector Machine

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Communication deficits can be pervasive in Alzheimer's disease (AD). In the most advanced stages of the neuropathology, patients may be left with the ability to utter only few words, or regress to mutism [1-3]. Despite the

remarkable difficulty in oral communication, patients may still seek social contact [4].

AD patients who have lost the ability to communicate verbally may benefit from a brain-computer interface (BCI) that could allow them to convey basic thoughts and emotions. So far, there has been lack of research in this direction, since BCIs are traditionally considered to require an intact cognitive system to function as a communication method. Moreover, most BCI systems require users' active participation and long trainings to learn to self-regulate their own brain activity.

It has been recently proposed that not only self-regulated brain signals, but also signals that are independent from users' effort, could provide useful information related to users' mental states. The recently introduced 'affective BCIs', by relying on emotions, do not require users to actively perform a cognitive task [5]. Such interfaces could be particularly useful for individuals with cognitive impairment, such as mental retardation or dementia.

Given that BCIs based on operant conditioning are generally problematic for cognitively impaired individuals, we performed a paradigm shift to classical conditioning, using affective stimuli as unconditioned stimuli (US) and simple word-pairs as conditioned stimuli (CS). Using affective stimuli is particularly convenient because affectivity is generally preserved in the course of dementia [6]. More specifically, we assessed the feasibility of an auditory classical conditioning paradigm within an fMRI-based BCI setting, designed to condition AD patients to associate negative and positive affective sounds with incongruent and congruent word-pairs. We decided to use auditory stimulation since it has been shown that although AD patients differ significantly from healthy subjects in emotional processing of visual stimuli, there are no consistent differences in processing emotions through the auditory domain [7].

Our main goal was to ascertain whether the brain activations relative to congruent and incongruent word-pairs, respectively eliciting affirmative ("yes") and negative ("no") responses, could be classified using a linear Support Vector Machine (SVM) after the conditioning process. The possibility to discriminate positive and negative emotional states using a SVM was already demonstrated by Sitaram and colleagues [8]. We hypothesized that the differentiation between affirmative and negative responses would be evident, following the conditioning with affective stimuli, in brain regions that are mostly involved in emotional processing, such as insula, amygdala and anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) [9].

#### II. METHODS

#### A. Participants

6 AD patients recruited at the Memory Clinic of Ulm (2 males, 4 females, age: 69-91, average Mini Mental State Examination score: 22.5), and 7 healthy controls (5 males, 2 females, age 62-83), all native German speakers, participated to the study. All participants gave written informed consent prior to participation to the fMRI experiment. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Ulm and was performed in compliance with the Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki).

#### B. Stimuli

Stimuli consisted of 300 German word-pairs, half "Tier-Katze", "Animal-Cat") and half congruent (e.g. incongruent (e.g. "Tier-Apfel", "Animal-Apple"), recorded using a SpeedLink USB microphone and QuickTime Player 7 program for Macintosh. Word-pairs included very simple terms belonging to common categories (such as animals or fruit), so that the recognition of their congruence or incongruence take place, at least implicitly, in mild AD patients [10-14]. Each word-pair lasted 1.5 s. The negative and affirmative responses to the word-pairs constituted the conditioned stimuli (CS). The unconditioned stimuli (US) were two standardized emotional sounds drawn from the International Affective Digitized Sounds (IADS, [15]): a pleasant emotional stimulus (a baby-laughter) and an unpleasant emotional stimulus (a scream). The duration of each US was also 1.5 s. To ascertain that all stimuli had the same precise length, their duration was adjusted using the software program Audacity 1.3.14 Beta for Mac OS X. Stimuli presentation in the fMRI scanner was performed with a software interface developed in Matlab v. 6.5 (Mathworks, Inc., Sherbon, MA). Participants heard all auditory stimuli

through MRI-compatible headphones with efficient gradient noise suppression (up to 45 dB).

#### C. Experimental paradigm

The paradigm consisted of a single session divided into three blocks (Fig 1). In the first block, congruent (CS1) and incongruent (CS2) word-pairs were presented aurally, immediately followed by an affective pleasant (baby-laughter, US1) or unpleasant (scream, US2) sound, respectively. In the second and third blocks, only half of the word-pairs were followed by affective stimulation. While the first block was necessary to associate affirmative and negative thinking to positive and negative emotions, the remaining blocks served to verify the possibility to discriminate between affirmative and negative thinking when the affective stimulation was not present anymore.

Participants were simply instructed to listen to the word-pairs, and to think 'yes' if a word-pair was congruent, 'no' if it was incongruent.

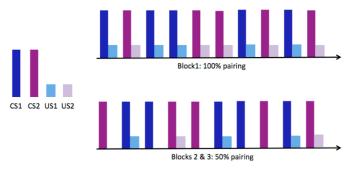


Fig. 1. In the first block incongruent and congruent word-pairs (CS1, CS2) were always followed by a pleasant or unpleasant affective stimulus (US1, US2), in order to associate negative and affirmative thinking to negative and positive emotions respectively. In the second and third blocks, only 50% of the word-pairs were followed by affetive stimuli, to verify the possibility to discriminate between the activation elicited by affirmative and negative thinking when affective stimulation was no more present.

#### D. fMRI data acquisition

The measurements took place in a 3.0 Tesla body scanner, with standard 12-channels head coil (Siemens Magnetom Tim TRIO, Siemens, Erlangen, Germany). A standard echo-planar imaging sequence was used (EPI; TR = 1.5 s, matrix size =  $64 \times 64$ , TE = 30 ms, flip angle = 70°). Sixteen oblique slices (voxel size = 3.3 times;  $3.3 \times 5.0$  mm<sup>3</sup>, slice gap = 1 mm), AC/PC aligned in axial orientation were acquired. For superposition of functional maps upon brain anatomy, a high-resolution T1-weighted structural scan of the whole brain was collected from each participant (MPRAGE, matrix size = 256 times; 256, 160 partitions, 1 mm<sup>3</sup> isotropic voxels, TR = 2300 ms, TE = 3.93 ms, TI = 1100 ms, flip angle = 8°). The first 10 volumes of every block were discarded to permit T1 equilibrium.

#### E. fMRI data analysis

Data were pre-processed using Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM8, Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience, London, UK) run on Matlab R2008b (Mathworks, Inc., Sherborn, MA, USA). Images of each partcipant were normalized to a standard Echo-Planar Imaging (EPI) template in Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) space. Prior to statistical analyses, data were high-pass (cutoff 128 s) and low-pass (AR(1)) filtered.

We performed a classification analysis using a linear SVM by selecting the fMRI signals from each voxel within insula, ACC and amygdala as input vector. Signals corresponding to various conditions, namely, congruent and incongruent wordpairs from the late acquisition and extinction phases were classified. A 'searchlight approach' [16] was adopted, employing a cubic searchlight algorithm (3x3x3 cube) which moved over each voxel of the insula, ACC and amygdala in an incremental sweep. 1000 voxels were selected for feature extraction using a smoothed Fisher Score. Only the fourth and the fifth volumes after the presentation of the word-pairs were considered, based on the empirical observation that such time points produced the highest differences between conditions. Subsequently, the features were submitted to the SVM, which operated using a linear kernel function. Classification accuracy was computed by averaging the classification accuracies from 35 replications of a leave-one-out cross validation principle.

#### III. RESULTS

Table 1 and Table 2 show the individual classification accuracies, sensitivities and specifities relatively to the second and third blocks (when the affective stimulation was not present anymore). Offline classification accuracies for AD patients reached up to 85%, with an average of 71%. Offline classification accuracies for healthy controls reached up to 83%, with an average of 69%.

	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity
Patient 1	0.70	0.70	0.70
Patient 2	0.53	0.50	0.55
Patient 3	0.78	0.70	0.85
Patient 4	0.63	0.55	0.70
Patient 5	0.85	0.80	0.90
Patient 6	0.75	0.80	0.70
Average	0.71	0.68	0.73

<sup>a.</sup> Offline classification results of the unpaired word-pairs in blocks 2 and 3 for Alzheimer patients.

TABLE II.

h

d

	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity
Control 1	0.70	0.70	0.70
Control 2	0.63	0.65	0.60
Control 3	0.63	0.60	0.65
Control 4	0.58	0.55	0.60
Control 5	0.78	0.80	0.75
Control 6	0.83	0.85	0.80
Control 7	0.68	0.70	0.65
Average	0.69	0.69	0.68

<sup>c.</sup> Offline classification results of the unpaired word-pairs in blocks 2 and 3 for control subjects

#### IV. DISCUSSION

We assessed a novel affective-BCI approach using classical conditioning with emotional stimuli in combination with brain state classification. The paradigm allowed to extract information on the participants' mental states, namely affirmative and negative thinking, by exploiting affective responses. AD patients and healthy controls comparably responded to the conditioning process, showing that responses related to congruent and incongruent word-pairs could be discriminated after associating them to pleasant and unpleasant affective stimuli. The study shows that the typical hindrances of standard BCIs, which generally require timeconsuming trainings and an active effort of the user in order to learn to self-regulate brain signals, can be overcome thanks to the use of affective stimuli.

In order to develop an affective BCI, some points need to be taken into consideration. Firstly, although useful for the identification of very specific cortical and subcortical brain regions, fMRI is not a system that could be used in everyday life. More portable systems, such as near-infrared spectroscopy based BCIs (NIRS-BCISs) [17] could be adopted for online classification of mental states. Secondly, it is possible that the conditioning effect extinguishes very quickly, meaning that several acquisition sessions could be necessary for its maintenance.

In our study only mildly affected AD patients were considered. However, patients at different stages of the disease may have different acquisition and extinction timings. These differences could be exploited for diagnostic aims, for instance by measuring the conditioned response in subjects with mild cognitive impairment who have not yet developed dementia. Testing with patients affected by other kinds of dementia (e.g. frontotemporal dementia) could also be used for differential diagnosis. Moreover, affective BCIs could open up new opportunities for cognitive rehabilitation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are very grateful to Adelheid Kumpf for helping in the preparation of the stimuli and to Sonja Fuchs for her support during the fMRI measurements.

#### References

- R. Au, M.L. Albert and L.K. Obler, "The relation of aphasia to dementia", *Aphasiology*, vol. 2, 1988, p. 161-173.
- [2] E. Miller, "Language impairment in Alzheimer type dementia", *Clinical Psychology Review*, vol. 9, 1989, p. 181-195.
- [3] V. Taler and N.A. Phillips, "Language performance in Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment: a comparative review", *Journal* of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology, vol. 30, Jul. 2008, p. 501-56.
- [4] P.A. Mayhew, G.J. Acton, S. Yauk and B.A. Hopkins, "Communication from individuals with advanced DAT: can it provide clues to their sense of self-awareness and well-being?", *Geriatric Nursing*, vol. 22, 2001, p. 106-10.
- [5] F. Nijboer, U. Hoffmann, F. Morin, S. Carmien, E. Leon and R. Koene, "Affective Brain-Computer Interfaces: Psychophysiological Markers of Emotion in Healthy Persons and in Persons with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis", Workshop on affective brain-computer interfaces & IEEE international workshop on social signal processing ABCI, vol. 2, 2009, p. 1-11.
- [6] D. Zaitchik, E. Koff, H. Brownell, E. Winner and M. Albert, "Inference of beliefs and emotions in patients with Alzheimer's disease", *Neuropsychology*, vol. 20, Jan. 2006, p. 11-20.
- [7] E. Koff, D. Zaitchik, J. Montepare and M.S. Albert, "Emotion processing in the visual and auditory domains by patients with Alzheimer's disease", *J Int Neuropsychol Soc*, vol. 5, Jan. 1999, p. 32-40.

- [8] R. Sitaram, S. Lee, S. Ruiz, M. Rana, R. Veit and N. Birbaumer, "Realtime support vector classification and feedback of multiple emotional brain states", *Neuroimage*, vol. 56, May 2011, p. 753-65.
- [9] K.L. Phan, T. Wager, S.F. Taylor and I. Liberzon, "Functional neuroanatomy of emotion: a meta-analysis of emotion activation studies in PET and fMRI", *Neuroimage*, vol. 16, Jun. 2002, p. 331-48.
- [10] M. Hartman, "The use of semantic knowledge in Alzheimer's disease: evidence for impairments of attention", *Neuropsychologia*, vol. 29, 1991, p. 213-28.
- [11] M. Laisney, B. Giffard, S. Belliard, V. de la Sayette, B. Desgranges and F. Eustache, "When the zebra loses its stripes: Semantic priming in early Alzheimer's disease and semantic dementia", *Cortex*, vol. 47, Jan. 2011, p. 35-46.
- [12] R.D. Nebes, "Contextual facilitation of lexical processing in Alzheimer's disease: intralexical priming or sentence-level priming?", *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, vol. 16, Aug. 1994, p. 489-97.
- [13] Alzheimer's disease", Neuropsychologia, vol. 26, 1988, p. 273-286.
- [14] S.L. Rogers and R.B. Friedman, "The underlying mechanisms of semantic memory loss in Alzheimer's disease and semantic dementia", *Neuropsychologia*, vol. 46, Jan. 2008, p. 12-21.
- [15] M.M. Bradley and P.J. Lang, International Affective Digitized Sounds (IADS): Stimuli, instruction manual and affective ratings, Gainesville: University of Florida, 1999.
- [16] N. Kriegeskorte, R. Goebel and P. Bandettini, "Information-based functional-brain mapping", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, vol. 103, 2006, p. 3863-3868.
- [17] R. Sitaram, H. Zhang, C. Guan, M. Thulasidas, Y. Hoshi, A. Ishikawa, K. Shimizu and N. Birbaumer, "Temporal classification of multichannel near-infrared spectroscopy signals of motor imagery for developing a brain-computer interface", *Neuroimage*, vol. 34, Feb. 2007, p. 1416-27.

## IEEE Computer Society Technical & Conference Activities Board

### **T&C Board Vice President**

Paul R. Croll Computer Sciences Corporation

### **IEEE Computer Society Staff**

Evan Butterfield, Director of Products and Services Lynne Harris, CMP, Senior Manager, Conference Support Services Alicia Stickley, Senior Manager, Publishing Operations Silvia Ceballos, Manager, Conference Publishing Services Patrick Kellenberger, Supervisor, Conference Publishing Services

### **IEEE Computer Society Publications**

The world-renowned IEEE Computer Society publishes, promotes, and distributes a wide variety of authoritative computer science and engineering texts. These books are available from most retail outlets. Visit the CS Store at *http://www.computer.org/portal/site/store/index.jsp* for a list of products.

### IEEE Computer Society Conference Publishing Services (CPS)

The IEEE Computer Society produces conference publications for more than 300 acclaimed international conferences each year in a variety of formats, including books, CD-ROMs, USB Drives, and on-line publications. For information about the IEEE Computer Society's *Conference Publishing Services* (CPS), please e-mail: cps@computer.org or telephone +1-714-821-8380. Fax +1-714-761-1784. Additional information about *Conference Publishing Services* (CPS) can be accessed from our web site at: *http://www.computer.org/cps* 

Revised: 18 January 2012



**CPS Online** is our innovative online collaborative conference publishing system designed to speed the delivery of price quotations and provide conferences with real-time access to all of a project's publication materials during production, including the final papers. The **CPS Online** workspace gives a conference the opportunity to upload files through any Web browser, check status and scheduling on their project, make changes to the Table of Contents and Front Matter, approve editorial changes and proofs, and communicate with their CPS editor through discussion forums, chat tools, commenting tools and e-mail.

The following is the URL link to the *CPS Online* Publishing Inquiry Form: http://www.computer.org/portal/web/cscps/quote