University of Southern California

Affective Computing CSCI534

Fall 2017

Objective:
Affective Computing is computing that relates to, arises from, or deliberately influences emotions. This course overviews the theory of human emotion (how it arises from and influences cognition, the body and the social environment), techniques for recognizing and synthesizing emotional behavior, and illustrate how these can be applied to application design. The graduate Computer Science and Computer Engineering major will gain a strong background in the theory and practice in human-centered computing as it relates to games, immersive environments and pedagogical applications.

Instructors: Jonathan Gratch

Number/Units: 3 (4)

Date/Time: Mon, Wed 3:30-5:20, GFS 118

Grades: Grades determined by class participation 10%, mid-term project presentation 15%, homework 30%, final project presentation 15%, final project writeup 30%

The course is largely project based. Students are expected to work in teams to develop, executed and present a research project. Students are encouraged to build on existing tools. A complete list of pre-existing software tools available to students, and summaries of some prior student projects build with these tools can be found HERE. Project guidelines can be found HERE


Software: Students will gain knowledge and/or hands-on experience with the following software tools related to affective computing including:

- Emotion Recognition Techniques
- Emotion Synthesis Techniques
- Cognitive and Emotional Modeling
- Machine Learning algorithms that support the above methods
Course Outline [Evolving]
(WARNING: Below will change somewhat throughout the semester. Most current version will be HERE. Don’t get more than 1 week ahead on readings. The same topics will be presented but some changes to reading lists may occur. Homework will be added)

Lecture 1 (Aug21) Course Overview. Introduction to Affective Computing
- Review structure of course
- What is affective computing?
- Broadly overview functions of affect and why of interest to computer science
- Overview applications that take advantage of these perspective
- Readings:
  - OHAC, Chapter 1 (skim). Summarizes major topics in affective computing
- Optional Readings:
  - OHAC, Chapter 2. Entertaining retrospective on field of affective computing from founder of the field
- Lecture slides

Lecture 2 (Aug 23) Emotion Theory
- Define affective phenomena (emotion, mood, attitude/sentiment, personality)
- What is theory and why does it matter?
- Review alternative theoretical perspectives on emotion
- Homework Exercise 1: (Estimated time, 15min) (Due Aug 28 before class)
- Readings
  - OHAC, Chap 3. Short history of psychological perspectives on emotion
  - Barrett video interview (first 15min): Outlines alternative theories of emotion
- Optional readings
  - Scherer(2010), p10-19: Another take on alternative theories of emotion
  - LeDoux 2012: Neuroanatomy take on the meaning of emotion
  - The science of ‘Inside Out’
- Lecture slides

Lecture 3 (Aug 28) Emotion Theory (continued)
- Dual-process theories of emotion
- Constructivist theories
- Appraisal theories (continued)
- Download and bring to class: Stim1; Stim2
- Optional Readings
  - Ellsworth and Scherer 2003: review of appraisal theories
  - Smith and Lazarus 1990: description of their appraisal and coping theory
- Lecture slides

Lecture 4, 5(Aug 30/Sep 6) Giving Computers Emotion
- Discuss ways to make machines “have” emotions
- Introduce Computational Appraisal Theory
  - Discuss plan-based approaches (EMA)
  - Discuss reinforcement learning based approaches
  - Introduce component framework
- Reading- Marsella, Gratch and Petta (2010): reviews modeling research
- Reading- Marsella and Gratch (2009), sections 1.1, 1.2, 2 and 3: describes model of “the Bird”
Optional reading: Moerland et al. (in press): Survey of Emotion in Reinforcement Learning

Lecture 4 slides

Sep 4: Labor Day (NO CLASS)

Lecture 6 (Sep 11) Emotion and Decision-making
- Review rational choice theory (decision theory)
- Emotion and decision making
- Contrast between human and rational decisions (e.g. prospect theory)
- Reading: Lowenstein and Lerner 2003, p620-633. You should understand figure 31.1
- Reading: Watch PBS’s “Mind over Money”
- Optional Reading:
  - Lerner video interview: Outlines alternative theories of emotion
  - Mellers et al 1999: Emotion-based choice
- Lecture slides

Lecture 7 (Sep 13) Emotion and the Brain
- Tentative guest lecture
- Physiological and Brain Computing
- Optional Reading: OHAC, Chap 15: Discusses affective brain-computer interfaces
- Reading (Sep24): Fairclough 2009 – Fundamentals of physiological computing
- Outside resource (Sep24): Brain-Computer Interface Tutorial
- Lecture slides

Lecture 8 (Sep 18) Group project discussion
- Discussion of group projects. Explore topics and tentative teams
- Lecture slides

Lecture 9 (Sep 20) Emotion and the Body
- Embodied theories of emotion: Guest lecture by Stacy Marsella, Northeastern Univ.
  - Physical manifestation of emotion
  - Embodied theories of emotion
- Reading: Blascovich & Mendes 2010: Reviews psychophysiological findings. Only required to read following sections:
  - Neurophysiological systems, advantages & Indices (p199-203)
  - Uses [affect, attitudes, emotion] (p 210-215)
- Optional Reading (Sep22): OHAC, Chap 14: Reviews physiological sensing of emotion
- Reading (Sep29): Niedenthal 2007: Discusses embodied approaches to emotion
- Optional Reading (Sep29): Cuddy body language TED Talk
- Lecture slides

Lecture 10 (Sep 25) Bodily Expression of Emotion
- Embodied theories of emotion
  - Physical manifestation of emotion
  - Embodied theories of emotion
  - Exercise on decoding
- Lecture slides

Lecture 11 (Sep 27) Synthesis of Emotional Behavior
Interactive emotions
Encoding-Decoding: realistic vs. communicative approaches
Expression synthesis techniques
Demonstration of virtual human toolkit (Tentative Guest lecture, Arnold Hartholt)
Reading: OHAC, Chapter 18, Section 2 only; Digital expression synthesis
Reading: OHAC, Chapter 21, Section 3 only; Robotic expression synthesis
Optional Reading: Parkinson2008: Emotions in social interactions
Optional Reading: OHAC, Chapter 20; Emotional speech synthesis
Optional Reading: OHAC, Chapter 19; Gesture & postures synthesis

Lecture 13 (Oct 2) Group Project Proposal Presentations
Students will give 5min presentations of their project

Lecture 14/15/16 (Oct 4/9/11) Emotion and Social Interaction
Review rational choice theory (game theory)
  o other regarding preferences
Social theories of emotion
  o Theories of social emotions: leakage, social intention, social appraisal
Mind perception theory
Reverse appraisal theory
Reading: Game Theory Introduction, p1-11
Reading: Gray & Wegner 2012: Discusses mind-perception theory and uncanny valley
Reading: de Melo et al 2014, introduction, exp1, and general discussion: describes “reverse appraisal”
Optional Reading: Keltner and Haidt 1999: discusses social functions of emotions

Lecture 15 (Oct 16) Rapport and attunement
Emotional feedback and attunement
Optional Reading: Parkinson 2014: reviews theories of social emotions

Lecture 18 (Oct 18) Emotion and Negotiation
Negotiation as a challenge problem
Misrepresentation game
IAGO

Lecture 19 (Oct 23) Experimental Design, Methodology and Analysis
Professor Gratch at Affective Computing Conf.. Guest Lectures by Gale Lucas, USC ICT
Reading:
  o sparknotes reading on Research Methods in Psychology, a good summary of research methods. You have to click through each section separately to read. Or, if you pay Barns and Noble $5 you can get a “clean” version w/o ads here
Homework 1: Assigned during class

Lecture 20 (Oct 25) Personality and Culture
Professor Gratch at Affective Computing Conf. Guest Lecture by Gale Lucas, USC ICT

- Personality computing
  - Review Lens model
  - Discuss automatic personality recognition, perception, synthesis
- Personality (and motivation) in computer games
- Limitations of personality computing approach
- Sacred values and Moral decision making
- Need for Cognition Experiment
- Optional Reading: Haidt and Graham 2007: review of moral foundation theory
- Optional Reading: Vinciarelli and Mohammadi 2014: survey of personality computing
- Optional Reading: Yee et al. 2011: expression of personality in World of Warcraft
- Optional Reading: Connelly and Ones 2010: Discusses limits of personality approach
- Lecture slides

Lecture 21/22/23/24 (Oct 30, Nov 1/6/8) Emotion Recognition

- Emotion in Text (Twitter, Facebook, etc)
- Guest lecture Morteza Dehghani (Oct30), Tentative lectures (Scherer, SAIL Lab)
- Impact of context in emotion recognition
- Emotion in the face, voice
- Multimodal techniques and machine learning: USC ICT
- Reading: Zeng et al 2009, intro and section 4 (rest suggested); survey of affect recognition
- Reading: OHAC, Chapter 13: Recognizing affect from text
- Reading: Lee & Narayanan 2005: formative paper in recognizing affect from speech
- Optional Reading: Barrett et al 2011: Contextual influences on emotion perception
- Optional Reading: OHAC, Chapter 10: Face expressions
- Optional Reading: Bin Lu, Web Data Mining Chap 11
- Lecture slides

Lecture 25 (Nov 13) Ethics and Affective computing

- Review HW4
- Discuss theories of how social machines might help or hinder human social interactions
- Discuss ethical frameworks
- Identity and mind perception
- Reading: OHAC, Chapter 14
- Optional Reading: Robot sex: discusses ethics of building robots that have relations with people
- Optional Reading: Turkle 2010: Discussion of robot companions
- Optional Reading: Pickett and Garner: discusses social mechanisms that connect us to other humans
- Lecture slides

Lecture 26 (Nov 15/20) Emotion Applications (Music, Games and serious games; health)

- Discuss techniques to classify the “emotion” of music. Recommender systems
- Discuss relationship between theories we’ve seen (appraisal; challenge/threat; flow)
- Introduce concept of achievement goals
- Introduce the “affective loop”
- Apply these concepts to educational and entertainment games
- Optional Reading: Pekrun, et al. 2002: Discusses achievement goals
- Optional Reading: Yannakakis and Paiva 2014: Emotions in games
- Lecture slides
Thanksgiving

Lecture 28 (Nov 27)  Final Project Presentations
Lecture 29 (Nov 29)  Final Project Presentations

Dec 4: Final project writeup due
Homework Exercise 1: (Estimated time, 15min)

Think about an event in the last year that led you to feel a strong emotion.

1. Write 1 paragraph describing the emotional event, what factors triggered the emotion, and what emotion(s) you most strongly felt.

2. Describe this event to the Emotion Analyst computer program. Take a screenshot of the final screen of this software.

3. Briefly describe your impressions of this program. Were the questions it asked central to why you felt the emotion or did it miss the point. Was the response sensible?

4. Turn in the paragraph, screenshot and impressions to the TA Rens Hoegen rhoegen@ict.usc.edu by Midnight, Sunday, Aug 27.