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To cite this version :

Jean-Claude MARTIN, Radoslaw NIEWIADOMSKI, Laurence DEVILLERS, Stéphanie BUISINE, Catherine PELACHAUD - Multimodal complex emotions : gesture expressivity and blended facial expressions - International Journal of Humanoid Robotics p.3, 1-23 - 2006

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MULTIMODAL COMPLEX EMOTIONS: GESTURE EXPRESSIVITY AND BLENDED FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

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One of the challenges of designing virtual humans is the definition of appropriate models of the relation between realistic emotions and the coordination of behaviors in several modalities. In this paper, we present the annotation, representation and modeling of multimodal visual behaviors occurring during complex emotions. We illustrate our work using a corpus of TV interviews. This corpus has been annotated at several levels of information: communicative acts, emotion labels, and multimodal signs. We have defined a copy-synthesis approach to drive an Embodied Conversational Agent from these different levels of information. The second part of our paper focuses on a model of complex (superposition and masking of) emotions in facial expressions of the agent. We explain how the complementary aspects of our work on corpus and computational model is used to specify complex emotional behaviors.

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Keywords: Emotion; multimodality; Embodied Conversational Agent; corpus.

1 **1. Introduction**

3 One of the challenges of designing virtual humans is the definition of appropriate
models of the relation between realistic emotions and the coordination of behaviors
5 in several modalities. Studies of the non-verbal behaviors occurring during emotions
have focused on mono-modal and acted basic emotions during experimental in-lab
7 situations. Yet, in order to design Embodied Conversational Agents (ECAs) with
human-like qualities, other sources of knowledge on multimodal behaviors occurring
9 during real-life complex emotions deserve consideration, such as audiovisual corpora
of spontaneous behaviors. This raises several questions: How does one collect data
11 on spontaneous emotions? How does one represent and classify such complex emo-
tions? Which dimensions of multimodal behaviors are perceptually related to these
emotions and require representation?

13 Our aim is not only to reproduce multimodal behaviors with an ECA but also to
study the coordination between modalities during emotional behaviors, in particular
15 in the case of complex emotions. In order to design ECAs with such human-like
qualities, one preliminary step is to identify the levels of representation of emotional
17 behavior. For example, regarding the analysis of videos of real-life behaviors, before
achieving the long-term goal of fully automatic processing of emotion from low levels
19 (e.g. image processing, motion capture) to related behaviors in different modalities,
a manual annotation phase might help to identify the representation levels that are
21 relevant for the perception of complex emotions. Similarly to the copy-synthesis
approaches that have been developed for speech, the replay by an ECA of these
23 manually annotated behaviors can be useful for the validation of the model relating
emotions and multimodal behaviors.

25 Since the externalization of nonverbal behaviors plays an important role in the
perception of emotions, our approach is to model what is visible; that is we consider
27 the signals and how they are displayed and perceived. We do not model the processes
that were made to arrive to the display of such and such signals; we simply model the
externalization part. We are interested in understanding and modeling how a given
29 emotion would be both perceived and expressed quantitatively and qualitatively.

31 In this paper, we propose a model for the representation of non-verbal visual
behaviors occurring during complex emotions. It makes a distinction between two
33 types of complex emotions: superposition of emotions and masking of emotions.
The first part of the model aims at representing gesture expressive behaviors during
35 superposition of emotions and is grounded in a video corpus. The second part of the
model aims at representing facial behaviors during superposition of emotions and
37 masking of emotions. It is grounded in the literature of facial expressions during
complex emotions.

39 The remaining parts of this paper are structured as follows. Section 2 summarizes
some of the studies on complex emotions, gesture expressivity, and facial expres-
41 sions. Section 3 provides two examples of gesture and facial expression behaviors
observed during complex emotions in videos of TV interviews. Section 4 describes

1 the part of the model that we propose for representing gesture expressivity. Section
5 describes the part of the model focusing on facial expressions of complex emotions.
3 Section 6 explains how this model has been used for the annotation of expressive
behaviors observed in videos, and for the specification of expressive gestures in the
5 Greta agent.¹

2. Related Work

7 There has been a lot of psychological research on emotion and nonverbal
communication in facial expressions,¹ vocal expressions²⁻⁴ and expressive body
9 movements.⁵⁻⁸ Yet, these psychological studies were based mostly on acted basic
emotions: anger, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise. In the area of affective comput-
11 ing, recent studies are also limited with respect to the number of modalities or the
spontaneity of the emotion. Cameras are used by Kapur *et al.* to capture markers
13 placed on various points of the whole body in order to recognize four acted basic
emotions (sadness, joy, anger, fear).⁹ Some studies deal with more complex emo-
15 tions. In the “Lost Luggage” experiment, passengers at an airport were informed
that their luggage has been lost, and the participants were asked to rate their emo-
17 tional state.¹⁰ Scherer and his colleagues show in this experiment that some events
may give rise to several simultaneous emotions. These emotions are referred to as
19 complex emotions and also as blends of emotions.^{1,10,11} They may occur either as a
quick succession of different emotions, the superposition of emotions, the masking
21 of one emotion by another one, the suppression of one emotion or the overacting of
one emotion.

23 In particular, in the visual modalities, these blends produce “multiple simul-
taneous facial expressions.”¹² Depending on the type of blending, the resulting
25 facial expressions are not identical. A masked emotion may leak over the displayed
emotion,¹ while superposition of two emotions will be shown by different facial fea-
27 tures (one emotion being shown on the upper face while another one on the lower
face).¹ Perceptual studies have shown that people are able to recognize facial expres-
29 sion of felt emotion^{13,14} as well as fake emotion.¹³ Similar studies producing similar
results have been conducted on ECAs.¹⁵ In a study on a deceiving agent, Rhem and
31 André found that the users were able to differentiate when the agent was displaying
expression of felt emotion or expression of fake emotion.¹⁶ Aiming at understand-
33 ing if facial features or regions play identical roles in emotion recognition, Bassili¹⁷
and later on Gouta and Miyamoto,¹⁸ and Constantini *et al.*¹⁹ performed various
35 perceptual tasks, and Cacioppo *et al.*²⁰ studied psychological facial activity. They
found that positive emotions are mainly perceived from the expression of the lower
37 face (e.g. smile) while negative emotion from the upper face (e.g. frown).

Very few models of facial expressions for such complex emotions have been devel-
39 oped so far for ECAs. The interpolation between facial parameters of given expres-
sions is commonly used to compute the new expression. MPEG-4 proposes to create
41 a new expression as a weighted interpolation of any of the six predefined expressions

1 of emotions.^{15,21} More complex interpolation schemes have been proposed.^{22–24}
 2 Duy Bui²⁵ introduced a set of fuzzy rules to determine the blended expressions of
 3 the six basic emotions. In this approach, a set of fuzzy rules is attributed to each
 4 pair of emotions. The intensities of muscles contraction for the blended expres-
 5 sion are related to emotions intensities using fuzzy inference. With respect to other
 6 modalities than facial expressions, static postures were recorded by De Silva *et al.*
 7 using a motion capture system during acted emotions (two nuances for each of four
 8 basic emotions).²⁶ Gunes *et al.* fused the video processing of facial expression and
 9 upper body gestures in order to recognize six acted emotional behaviors (anxiety,
 10 anger, disgust, fear, happiness, uncertainty).²⁷ A vision-based system that infers
 11 acted mental states (agreeing, concentrating, disagreeing, interested, thinking, and
 12 unsure) from head movement and facial expressions was described by el Kaliouby
 13 *et al.*²⁸ Choi *et al.* described how video processing of both facial expressions and
 14 gaze are mapped onto combinations of seven emotions.²⁹ Yet, real-life multimodal
 15 corpora are indeed very few despite the general agreement that it is necessary to
 16 collect audio-visual databases that highlight naturalistic expressions of emotions as
 17 suggested by Douglas-Cowie *et al.*³⁰

18 Regarding the design of ECAs, the majority of the works in this research area
 19 use either motion capture data,^{31,32} or videos.^{23,33} Some studies do not use any cor-
 20 pus but propose sophisticated models of mixed emotional expressions. For example,
 21 an algorithm for generating facial expressions for a continuum of pure and mixed
 22 emotions of varying intensity is described by Albrecht *et al.*²² Results from the liter-
 23 ature in psychology are useful for the specification of ECAs, but provide few details,
 24 nor do they study variations about the contextual factors of multimodal emotional
 25 behavior. Very few researchers have been using context specific multimodal corpora
 26 for the specification of an ECA.³⁴ Cassell *et al.*³⁵ described how the multimodal
 27 behaviors of subjects describing a house were annotated and used for informing the
 generation grammar of the REA agent.

29 **3. Complex Emotions: Two Illustrative Examples**

30 In this section, we briefly describe two illustrative examples of multimodal behav-
 31 iors observed during complex emotions in videos of TV interviews from the EmoTV
 32 corpus.³⁶ In video #3, a woman is reacting to a recent trial in which her father was
 33 kept in jail. As revealed by the manual annotation of this video by three coders,
 34 her behavior is perceived as a complex combination of despair, anger, sadness and
 35 disappointment. Furthermore, this emotional behavior is perceived in speech and in
 36 several visual modalities (head, eyes, torso, shoulders and gestures). In another video
 37 (video #41), a woman is pretending to be positive after negative election results.
 38 Such a video has been annotated as a combination of negative labels (disappoint-
 39 ment, sadness, anger) and positive labels (pleased, serenity). The annotation of
 40 multimodal behaviors reveals that her lips show a smile but with lips pressed. This
 41 example illustrates the combinations of facial features during complex emotions.

1 Several levels of annotation are coded in EmoTV using the Anvil tool³⁷: some
 2 information regards the whole video (called the “global level”); while some other
 3 information is related to emotional segments (the “local” level); at the lowest level,
 4 there is detailed time-based annotation of multimodal behaviors including move-
 5 ment expressivity. Several emotional segments are identified by the annotators as
 6 being perceptually consistent. The annotation scheme enables the coders to select
 7 two verbal labels describing the emotion for a single emotional segment. Three anno-
 8 tators created this segmentation and labeled each segment with one or two labels.³⁶
 9 The three annotations are combined into a single soft vector.^{38,39} In video #3, three
 10 emotional segments have been identified by the coders and annotated with the fol-
 11 lowing vectors: segment 1 (100% anger), segment 2 (67% anger, 11% despair, 11%
 12 disappointment, 11% sadness), segment 3 (56% despair, 33% anger, 11% sadness).
 13 A perceptive test on this video with 40 coders validated these annotations.⁴⁰

4. Representing, Modeling and Evaluating Expressivity

15 4.1. *Representing expressivity*

16 Several taxonomies of communicative gestures have been proposed highlighting the
 17 link between gesture signals and its meaning.^{41–43} The type of the gesture, its posi-
 18 tion in the utterance, its shape but also its manner of execution provide information
 19 about the speaker’s mental and emotional state. Facial expressions are recognized
 20 for their power of expressing emotional state. Many studies have characterized facial
 21 expressions for emotion categories¹ and for appraisal dimensions.⁴⁴ While there is
 22 a less direct link between gesture shapes and emotions, several studies have shown
 23 that gesture manners are good indicators of emotional state.^{8,45,46} Gesture man-
 24 ners are also linked to personality traits (nervousness), physiological characteristics
 25 (graciousness), physical state (tiredness), etc. Most of computational models of
 26 ECA behavior have dealt with gesture selection and gesture synchronization with
 27 speech.^{47–49} We propose a model of gesture manner, called gesture expressivity,
 28 that acts on the production of communicative gestures. Our model of expressiv-
 29 ity is based on studies of nonverbal behavior.^{8,45,46} We describe expressivity as
 30 a set of six dimensions.⁵⁰ Each dimension acts on a characteristic of communica-
 31 tive gestures. *Spatial Extent* describes how large the gesture is in space. *Temporal*
 32 *Extent* describes how fast the gesture is executed. *Power* describes how strong the
 33 performance of the gesture is. *Fluidity* describes how two consecutive gestures are
 34 co-articulated one merging with the other. *Repetition* describes how often a gesture
 35 is repeated. *Overall activity* describes how many behavior activities there are over
 36 a time span. This model has been implemented in the Greta ECA.⁵¹

37 4.2. *Evaluation of the gesture expressivity model*

38 We have conducted two studies to evaluate our gesture expressivity model which
 39 is the central part of the copy-synthesis approach described in Sec. 6. These two

1 studies involved a total number of 106 users (80 males, 26 females; aged 17 to 25).
2 All were first and second year French university students. Each user completed only
3 one of the two tests. Both tests consisted in observing sets of video clips (two per
4 trial for the first test, four for the second test) and answering a questionnaire. The
5 video clips differ only on the gesture expressivity of the agent (same audio and same
6 gesture type).

7 The goal of the first study was to test the following hypothesis: the chosen imple-
8 mentation for mapping single dimensions of expressivity onto animation parameters
9 is appropriate — a change in a single dimension can be recognized and correctly
10 attributed by users. In this test, users ($N = 52$) were asked to identify a sin-
11 gle dimension in forced-choice comparisons between pairs of animations. Table 1
12 presents the distribution of users' answers for each parameter. Gray cells indicate
13 when they met our expectations: this diagonal totals 320 answers, which corre-
14 sponds to 43.1% of accurate identifications of parameters. The chi-square test shows
15 that this distribution cannot be attributed to chance [$\chi^2(35) = 844.16$, $p < 0.001$].
16 Recognition was best for the dimensions Spatial Extent and Temporal Extent. Mod-
17 ifications of Fluidity and Power were judged incorrectly more often, but the correct
18 classification still had the highest number of responses. The parameter Repetition
19 was frequently interpreted as Power. Overall Activation was not well recognized.
20 Overall, we take the results of the first test as indication that the mapping from
21 dimensions of expressivity to gesture animation parameters is appropriate for the
22 Spatial Extent and Temporal Extent dimensions while it needs refinement for the
23 other parameters.

24 The hypothesis tested in the second study was the following: combining param-
25 eters in such a way that they reflect a given communicative intent will result in a
26 more believable overall impression of the agent. Avoiding behavior qualities that
27 imply an emotional state or a personality trait, we considered the three following
28 qualities: abrupt, sluggish, and vigorous. Abrupt is characterized by rapid, discon-
29 tinuous and powerful movements. Sluggish is characterized by slow, effortless and
30 close to the body but fluid movements. Vigorous is characterized by a lot of large,
31 fast, fluid and repetitive movements. For each quality, we generated four anima-
32 tions. One animation corresponds to the neutral, generic animation, two to variants
33 of the chosen expressive intent (strongly and slightly expressive) and one to an
34 opposite assignment of expressivity parameters. This test ($N = 54$) was conducted
35 as a preference ranking task: the user had to order four animations from the most
36 appropriate to the least appropriate with respect to the expressive intent. For the
37 abrupt and vigorous qualities, users preferred the coherent performances as we had
38 hoped [$F(3/153) = 31.23$, $p < 0.001$ and $F(3/153) = 104.86$, $p < 0.001$, respec-
39 tively]. The relation between our parameterization and users' perception can also
40 be expressed as a linear correlation, which amounts to +0.655 for the abrupt quality
41 and +0.684 for the vigorous quality. Conversely for the sluggish quality, the effect
of input stimuli was not significant [$F(3/153) = 0.71$, N.S.]: the overall rating of

Table 1. Distribution of users' answers as a function of the modified parameter.

Modified parameter	Perceived modification							Total	
	Spatial extent	Temporal extent	Fluidity	Power	Repetition	Overall activation	No modification		Do not know
Spatial Extent	77	2	5	5	3	3	3	8	106
Temporal Extent	3	104	7	13	7	1	1	5	141
Fluidity	2	4	42	10	23	2	34	7	124
Power	7	8	23	42	9	6	27	8	130
Repetition	18	12	17	20	35	5	10	8	125
Overall Activation	7	7	7	17	6	20	41	11	116
Total	114	137	101	107	83	37	116	47	742

1 stimuli was random and the linear correlation was almost null (+0.047). This may
2 be attributable partly to the inadequacy between the specific gestures that accom-
3 panied the text and the way a sluggish person would behave. This finding raises
4 the need for integrating gesture selection and gesture modification to best express
5 an intended meaning.

6 In the first test, we checked if subjects perceived variation of each parameter,
7 while in the second perceptual test we looked at the interpretation of these varia-
8 tions. Since our expressivity parameters show some dependency with one another,
9 we wanted to check that the subject perceived their individual changes and their
10 combined meaning in two separate perceptual tests. The results confirm that our
11 general approach for expressivity modeling is worthwhile pursuing. A notable advan-
12 tage of our implementation is to enable the decomposition of gesture expressivity
13 and the test of parameters one by one. In the experiment by Wallbott, actors were
14 instructed to act basic emotions.⁸ This experiment revealed that each acted emo-
15 tion had an impact on all the parameters of expressivity. The first perceptual test
16 we conducted would have been surely more difficult to control with a human actor
17 instead of an agent: humans may be able to control their expressivity to a certain
18 extent but can hardly isolate each parameter. In our animations, the decomposi-
19 tion of expressivity may have produced artificial behaviors but this step seemed
20 necessary to evaluate our model and highlight possible ways of improvement. These
21 results will be used to refine the technical implementation of individual parameters
22 to achieve higher quality animation and better visibility of changes to the param-
23 eters. For the second perceptual test, we were careful to avoid introducing labels
24 related to personality or emotion. While we ultimately want to simulate such traits
25 and mental states, the link from these high-level concepts to the expressive dimen-
26 sions is still not clear — the social psychology literature on this problem appears to
27 be very sparse. This second test mainly showed that we need to integrate gesture
28 selection and gesture modification when generating an animation. A shortcoming
29 of the current test was that only a single utterance with a unique gesture selection
30 was used with varying animations. A wider variety of different utterances and corre-
31 sponding gesture selections is needed to understand the perception of expressivity.

5. Representing and Modeling Blended Facial Expressions

33 In this section, we present a computational model of facial expressions arising from
34 blends of emotions. Instead of formulating our model at the level of facial muscle
35 contractions or FAP values, we propose a face partition based model, which not
36 only computes the complex facial expressions of emotions but also distinguishes
37 between different types of blending. Blends (e.g. superposition and masking) are
38 distinguished among each other as they are usually expressed by different facial
39 areas.^{1,52} Expressions may also occur in rapid sequences one after the other. More-
40 over, the expression of masking a felt emotion by a fake one (i.e. not felt) is different
41 from the expression corresponding to the superposition of two felt emotions.¹ Thus

1 complex facial expressions can be distinguished depending on the type of emotions,
 2 their apparition in time (sequence, superposition) as well as if the emotions are
 3 felt or fake. For the moment, we have considered only two cases of complex facial
 4 expressions: the superposition of two felt emotions and the masking of a felt emo-
 5 tion with a fake one. In the following sub-section, we present a general framework
 6 for our model and describe next details of computational procedures based on fuzzy
 7 inference.

5.1. Blend of emotions

9 The analysis of the video corpus has revealed the evidence of disparity between
 10 different types of complex expressions.³⁸ Different situations such as “superposed,”
 11 “masked” or “sequential” were recognized by annotators. In our model, we have
 12 defined for each type of blend a set of fuzzy rules *SFR*. In Ekman’s research on blend
 13 of emotions, his analysis is restricted to a small number of so-called basic emotions:
 14 anger, disgust, fear, joy, sadness and surprise. Our model is based on the set of rules
 15 he has established for the blending of these six emotions. However, there exist many
 16 more expressions of emotions,²³ some of which are considered to have a universal
 17 aspect as well.^{53,54} Emotions like disappointment, despair or pride appear in the
 18 annotation of our video corpus. To overcome this restriction, we introduced the
 19 notion of similarity between expressions. We compute similarity between expressions
 20 of any given emotion and basic emotion using fuzzy similarity.⁵⁵ Let $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ be
 21 the expression of an emotion E_i and $\text{Exp}(N)$ be the neutral expression. Let us
 22 suppose that any facial expression is divided into n areas F_k , $k = 1, \dots, n$. Each
 23 F_k represents a unique facial part like brows or eyes. For any emotion E_i , $\text{Exp}(E_i)$
 24 is composed by n different facial areas. Thus, $\text{Exp}(E_i) = \{F_k^{(E_i)}, k = 1, \dots, n\}$. In
 25 our model we are currently considering seven areas, namely brows, upper eyelids,
 26 lower eyelids, cheeks, nose, upper lip and lower lip.

27 Let E_i and E_j be the emotions occurring in a blend and $\text{Exp}_{\text{blend}}(E_i, E_j)$
 28 the resulting complex expression, where *blend* is either masking (*M*) or superpo-
 29 sition (*S*). The $\text{Exp}_{\text{blend}}(E_i, E_j)$ is also composed by the combination of n dif-
 30 ferent face areas, where each $F_k^{(E_i, E_j)}$ is equal to one corresponding area from
 31 $\text{Exp}(E_i)$, $\text{Exp}(E_j)$, $\text{Exp}(N)$. We note, that for any k in the interval $[1, n]$, $F_k^{(E_i, E_j)}$
 32 cannot contain simultaneously elements of two different expressions; it can be either
 33 $\text{Exp}(E_i)$, $\text{Exp}(E_j)$, or $\text{Exp}(N)$. That is, a facial area can not show different expres-
 34 sions at the same time; it can show one expression at a time: this expression can
 35 come from either emotion or the neutral expression. Combining facial expressions on
 36 the same facial area can have the artefact to introduce a new expression. For exam-
 37 ple, if we add the facial actions in the eyebrow region of surprise “raise-eyebrow”
 38 and of anger “frown” we obtain a new facial action “upper-raised-eyebrow-down”
 39 that is typically linked to fear. Thus, we opt for the rules that no facial action can
 40 be added up on a same facial region. This ensures the conformity of our model with
 41 empirical evidence.¹

1 Let E_u be one of the basic emotions and let E_i be an input emotion. We aim to
 2 compute which basic emotion is the most similar E_i expression-wise. Thus, the fuzzy
 3 similarity between E_i and E_u needs to be established. Each emotion E_u is associated
 4 to a set of fuzzy intervals in which all plausible expressions for this emotion are
 5 defined. That is, for each numerical parameter of an expression of E_u there is a
 6 fuzzy interval that specifies a range of plausible values. The value of fuzzy similarity
 7 for each significant parameter of $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ and $\text{Exp}(E_u)$ is then established. Finally,
 8 all values are combined linearly. At the moment the M-measure of resemblance on
 9 FAP values of each expression is used to establish similarity values.^{55,56}

10 Our algorithm works as follows: for each input expression $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ we first define
 11 its similarity with the six basic expressions $\text{Exp}(E_u)$, $u = 1, \dots, 6$. The best value,
 12 that is, the highest value of similarity, defines the basic emotion whose expression
 13 is the most similar to the input one. According to the degree of similarity, the
 14 final expression $\text{Exp}_{\text{blend}}(E_i, E_j)$ is chosen based on rules of the adequate *SFR* set.
 15 Each type of the blend $\{S, M\}$ uses different set of fuzzy rules (SFR_S in case of
 16 superposition or SFR_{fake} and SFR_{felt} ; in case of masking; see also Secs. 5.2 and 5.3).
 17 These rules describe the principles of composition of facial expressions depending on
 18 the blending type. The final expression $\text{Exp}_{\text{blend}}(E_i, E_j)$ is obtained by combining
 19 *face areas* of $\text{Exp}(E_i)$, $\text{Exp}(E_j)$ and/or $\text{Exp}(N)$.

5.2. Masking

21 Masking occurs when a felt emotion should not be displayed for some reason; it is
 22 preferred to display a different emotional expression. It may be due to some socio-
 23 cultural norms, often called *display rules*.⁵⁷ Masking can be seen as an asymmetric
 24 emotion-communicative function in the sense that given two emotions E_i and E_j ,
 25 the masking of E_i by E_j leads to a different facial expression than the masking of E_j
 26 by E_i .¹ Often humans are not able to control all their facial muscles. Ekman claims
 27 that the features of the upper face of any expression are usually more difficult to
 28 control.¹ Moreover, felt emotions may be characterized by specific facial features:
 29 e.g. sadness brows¹ or *orbicularis oculi* activity in case of joy.⁵⁸ Such reliable features
 30 lack in fake emotions as they are difficult to do voluntarily.⁵⁸ Ekman describes, for
 31 any of the so-called basic emotions, which features are missing in fake expressions, in
 32 particular in the case of masking. On the other hand, people are not able to inhibit
 33 felt emotions completely. Based on Darwin's work, Ekman proposed the *inhibition*
 34 *hypothesis*: elements of facial expressions that are hardly done voluntarily, are also
 35 hardly inhibited.⁵⁸ Finally, Ekman provides a description of which part of the felt
 36 expression leaks during masking.¹

37 We call $\text{Exp}_M(E_i, E_j)$ the expression resulting from the masking of a felt emotion
 38 E_i by a fake emotion E_j . Two independent sets of fuzzy rules, SFR_{fake} and SFR_{felt} ,
 39 are defined in the case of masking. The first one — SFR_{fake} — describes the features
 40 of the fake expression, while SFR_{felt} — of the felt expression. All rules are of the
 41 certainty type.⁵⁹ The value of fulfilment of a rule is a degree of similarity between E_i

1 and E_u . Each input variable corresponds to one basic emotion E_u , $u = 1, \dots, 6$, and
 each output variable corresponds to one facial region F_k of the resulting expression.
 3 In particular, each rule of SFR_{felt} describes leakage of the felt emotion E_u during
 the masking. Each rule is defined as: *the more the input expression of E_i is similar*
 5 *to the expression of E_u , the more certain the face areas corresponding to the reliable*
features of E_u should be used in the final expression.

For example, in the case of the rule for the felt sadness the following information
 is applied: “*the more the **input expression** is (similar to) **sadness**, the more*
*certain the input **brows** and **upper_eyelids** should be visible.*” It is described in
 SFR_{felt} by the following rule:

If X is *SADNESS* then F_{brows} is *VISIBLE* and $F_{\text{upper eyelids}}$ is *VISIBLE* and
 \dots and $F_{\text{upper lip}}$ is *NOT-VISIBLE* and $F_{\text{lower lip}}$ is *NOT-VISIBLE*,

where X expresses degree of similarity to $\text{Exp}(\text{SADNESS})$ and F_k are face areas
 of the input expression E_j . According to the inhibition hypothesis, if there is a face
 area in the masking expression that is not used by the felt emotion, it does not
 mean that it has to be used by the fake emotion. Each rule of SFR_{fake} describes
 the reliable features which will certainly not appear in the fake expression of E_i .
 For example, in the case of the fake joy the following rule is applied: “*the more the*
input expression** is (similar to) **joy**, the more certain the area of **lower_eyelids
*should **not** be visible.*” It corresponds to the following rule of SFR_{fake} :

If X is *JOY* then F_{brows} is *VISIBLE* and $F_{\text{upper eyelids}}$ is *VISIBLE* and
 $F_{\text{lower eyelids}}$ is *NOT-VISIBLE* and \dots and $F_{\text{upper lip}}$ is *VISIBLE* and
 $F_{\text{lower lip}}$ is *VISIBLE*.

7 The system takes as input two emotion labels: the felt E_i and fake E_j .
 If the expressions of both emotions are not one of the basic ones (that is
 9 if $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ and/or $\text{Exp}(E_j)$ is different from $\text{Exp}(E_u)$, $u = 1, \dots, 6$, the
 model predicts the final expression based on the degree of similarity between
 11 $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ and/or $\text{Exp}(E_j)$ and basic expressions. The fake and felt areas of the mask-
 ing expression are considered separately. Finally, for each F_k , the results of SFR_{felt}
 13 and of SFR_{fake} are composed to obtain $\text{Exp}_M(E_i, E_j)$ expression. The conflicts that
 may rise on some facial areas are resolved according to the *inhibition hypothesis*.
 15 In the case in which neither the felt nor the fake emotion can be shown in a given
 region of the face, the neutral expression is used instead. The final expression is
 17 composed of facial regions of the felt emotion, the fake and the neutral ones.

Figure 1 shows the agent displaying the masked expression of disappointment
 19 (computed as similar to sadness) and fake joy. The images (a) and (b) display the
 expressions of disappointment and joy, respectively. Image (d) shows the masking
 21 expression. We can notice that the absence of orbicularis oculi activity as indicator
 of unfelt joy⁵⁸. is visible on both images (c) and (d), the annotated video and the
 23 corresponding Greta simulation.

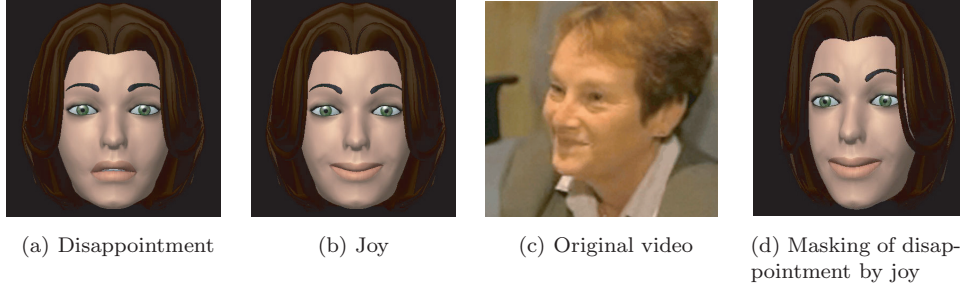


Fig. 1. Disappointment masked by joy.

1 5.3. *Superposition*

Superposition occurs when two different emotions are felt and shown simultaneously. Contrary to the masking case, it does not have the property of asymmetry. The expression $\text{Exp}_S(E_i, E_j)$ resulting from the superposition of E_i and E_j is equal to the superposition of E_j and E_i . That is: $\text{Exp}_S(E_i, E_j) = \text{Exp}_S(E_j, E_i)$. Ekman described this case of blending for all pairs of the six basic emotions.¹ No constructive rules to build the superposition were introduced and only the resulting expressions are described. The superposition of two emotions is usually expressed by combining the upper part of one expression with the lower part of the other one. However, not all combinations of the upper and the lower faces are plausible. As mentioned in Sec. 2, negative emotions are mainly recognized by their upper face (e.g. frown of anger) while positive emotion by their lower face (e.g. smile of happiness)^{17–19} Let Z be a set of plausible (according to Ekman) *schemas* for the superposition expression Exp_S . By “schema” we intend the particular division of n face regions F_k , $k = 1, \dots, n$ between any two emotions. At the moment, ten different schemas are considered. The fuzzy inference is used to model the combination of facial expressions $\text{Exp}(E_i)$ and $\text{Exp}(E_j)$ of two emotions E_i and E_j . Each fuzzy rule associates a pair of basic emotions to an element of Z . Each rule is defined as: *the more the input expression of E_i is (similar to) the expression of E_u and the more the input expression of E_j is (similar to) the expression of E_w , the more certain the upper/lower face areas of E_i and lower/upper face areas of E_j should be used.*

For example, the superposition of an emotion similar to sadness (X) and of an emotion similar to joy (Y) is described in SFR_S by the following rule:

If X is *SADNESS* and Y is *JOY* then S_1 is *FALSE* and S_2 is
FALSE and S_3 is *FALSE*
and S_4 is *FALSE* and **S_5 is TRUE** and S_6 is *FALSE* and S_7 is *FALSE* and
 S_8 is *FALSE* and S_9 is *FALSE* and S_{10} is *FALSE*

23 where S_i are schemas from a set Z . In particular S_5 corresponds to the schema in which the face areas F_{brows} and $F_{\text{uppereyelids}}$ belong to X while the other face areas

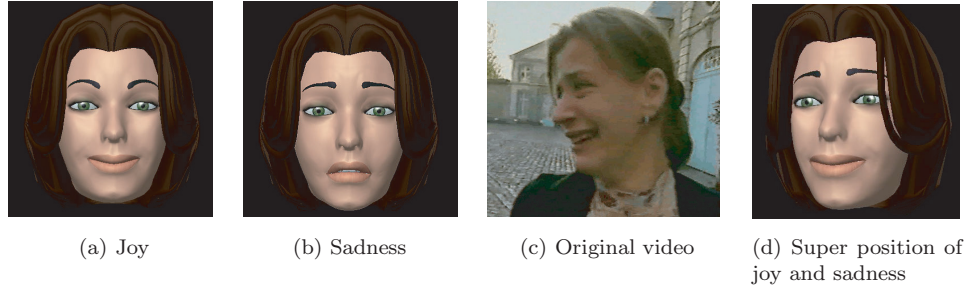


Fig. 2. Superposition of sadness and joy.

1 belong to Y . The meaning of this rule is: *the more one of the **input expressions** is*
 2 *(similar to) **sadness** and the other **input expression** is (similar to) **joy**, the more*
 3 *certain is that the final expression contains **brows, and upper eyelids** of the first*
 4 *expression and the **mouth** area rest of the second.*

5 The inputs to our system consist of two emotion labels E_i and E_j . The model
 6 predicts the final expression based on the degrees of similarity between $\text{Exp}(E_i)$
 7 (*resp.* $\text{Exp}(E_j)$) and $\text{Exp}(E_u)$, $u = 1, \dots, 6$. The values of fuzzy similarity between
 8 adequate pairs of expressions serve to classify an input pair according to plausible
 9 schemas for superposition Z . The inhibition hypothesis is not applied in the super-
 10 position case. As consequences the neutral expression is not used in the computa-
 11 tion of the final expression. Figure 2 shows an example of superposition expression com-
 12 puted by our model. Images (a) and (b) show, respectively, the expressions of joy
 13 and of sadness. Image (d) shows the superposition of both expressions as a composi-
 14 tion of face areas of both input expressions. In that image, the upper face expresses
 15 sadness, and the lower face joy. However, the expression of joy is expressed by
 16 $F_{\text{lowereyelids}}$, which contains orbicularis oculi muscle contraction, sign of felt joy. We
 17 can note that this muscular contraction was not shown in the Masking condition
 18 (Fig. 1). Image (c) shows a video frame annotated with superposition of joy and
 19 sadness. Image (d) shows the corresponding Greta simulation.

6. Copy-Synthesis Approach

21 Our copy-synthesis approach (Fig. 3) is composed of three main steps, namely,
 22 annotation of the data, extraction of parameters, and generation of the synthetic
 23 agent.

6.1. Annotation

25 Annotation is composed of two steps. Step 1 aims at the automatic annotation of the
 26 video with data that can be useful either for the manual annotation of the video or
 27 the specification of the agent’s behavior: pitch, intensity, etc. Step 2 involves manual
 annotations of the video. The word-by-word transcription including punctuation is

1 achieved following the LDC norms for hesitations, breath, etc. The video is then
 2 annotated at several temporal levels (whole video, segments of the video, behaviors
 3 observed at specific moments) and at several levels of abstraction. The global behavior
 4 observed during the whole video is annotated with communicative act, emotions
 5 and multimodal cues. The segments are annotated with emotion labels and the

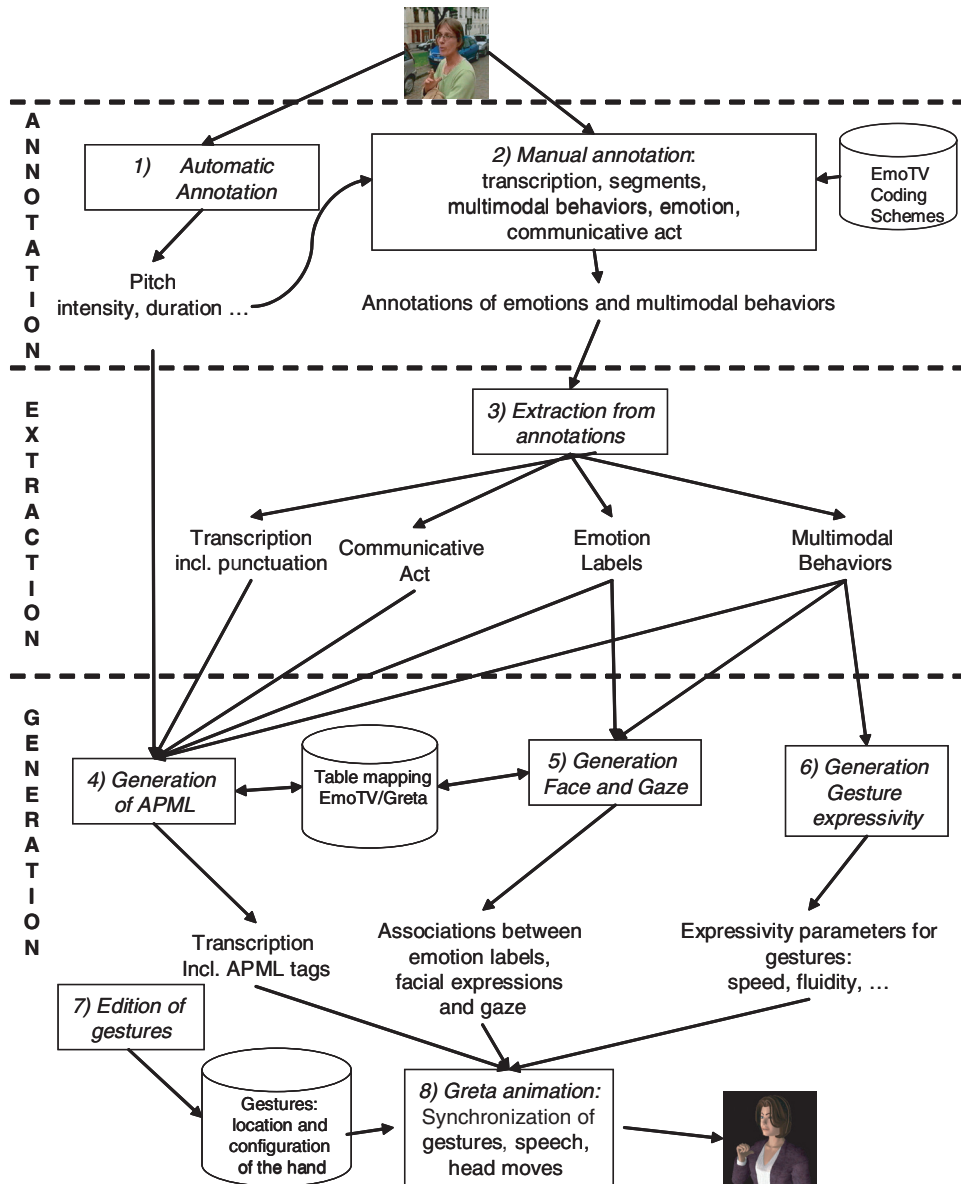


Fig. 3. Copy synthesis approach for studying gesture expressivity during emotions.

1 modalities perceived as relevant with regards to emotion. We have grounded this
 2 coding scheme in requirements collected from the parameters known as perceptually
 3 ally relevant for the study of emotional behavior, and the features of our emotion-
 4 ally rich TV interviews. This section describes how each modality is annotated in
 5 order to enable subsequent computation of the relevant parameters of emotional
 6 behavior.

7 Each track is annotated one after the other while playing the audiovisual clip
 8 (e.g. the annotator starts by annotating the first track for the whole video and
 9 then proceeds to the next track). Movement expressivity is annotated for torso,
 10 head, shoulders, and hand gestures. The annotators were instructed to use their
 11 own perception for annotating these expressive dimensions. The head pose track
 12 contains pose attributes adapted from the FACS coding scheme.⁶⁰ Facial expressions
 13 are coded using combinations of Action Units.

14 As for gesture annotation, we have kept some of the attributes used in research
 15 on gestures. Thus, our coding scheme enables the annotation of the structural
 16 description (“phases”) of gestures as their temporal patterns might be related to
 17 emotion^{34,41}: preparation (bringing arm and hand into stroke position), stroke (the
 18 most energetic part of the gesture), sequence of strokes (a number of successive
 19 strokes), hold (a phase of stillness just before or just after the stroke), and retract
 20 (movement back to rest position). We have selected the following set of gesture
 21 functions (“phrases”) as they were revealed to be observed in our corpus: manip-
 22 ulator (contact with body or object), beat (synchronized with the emphasis of
 23 the speech), deictic (arm or hand is used to point at an existing or imaginary
 24 object), illustrator (represents attributes, actions, relationships about objects and
 25 characters), emblem (movement with a precise, culturally defined meaning).^{34,41}
 26 Currently, the hand shape is not annotated since it is not considered as a main
 27 feature of emotional behavior in our survey of experimental studies nor in our
 28 videos.

29 Whereas the annotations of emotions have been done by three coders and lead
 30 to computation of agreement,³⁹ the current protocol used for the validation of the
 31 annotations of multimodal behaviors is to have a second coder checks the annota-
 32 tions done by a first coder followed by brainstorming discussions. We are currently
 33 considering the validation of the annotations by the automatic computation of inter-
 34 coder agreements from the annotations by several coders.

35 **6.2. Extraction from annotations**

36 A module has been designed for extracting from the various annotations the pieces of
 37 information which have been identified as required for generation (Step 3 in Fig. 3):
 38 the speech transcription, the communicative act, the emotion labels, the dimensions
 39 of emotions, the multimodal behaviors (including the number of occurrences and the
 40 duration of each multimodal behavior within each segment). The data extracted are

Table 2. Illustrative multimodal emotional profiles extracted from the annotations of three videos (global profile of the whole videos).

Videos		Video #3	Video #36	Video #30
Duration		37 s	7 s	10 s
EMOTION	Emotion labels	Anger (55%)	Anger (62%)	Exaltation (50%)
		Despair(45%)	Disapoint. (25%)	Joy (25%)
		Sadness (13%)	Pride (25%)	
	Intensity (1: min – 5: max)	5	4.6	4
	Valence (1: neg – 5: pos)	1	1.6	4
GESTURE	% fast vs. % slow	47% vs. 3%	33% vs. 13%	83% vs. 0%
EXPRESSIVITY	% hard vs. % soft	17% vs. 17%	20% vs. 0%	0% vs. 27%
	% jerky vs. % smooth	19% vs. 8%	6% vs. 0%	5% vs. 50%
	% expanded vs. % contracted	0% vs. 38%	13% vs. 20%	0% vs. 33%

1 used to compute a model of multimodal expressive behavior along three dimensions:
 2 emotion, activation of head/torso/hand, and gesture expressivity. Table 2 illustrates
 3 such results. The percentages indicated in Table 2 are percentages of time and
 4 are computed by considering the duration of a given annotation (e.g. Anger) over
 5 the whole duration of annotated segments. As explained below, the role of these
 6 descriptive profiles is to drive the specifications of the emotional behavior to be
 7 replayed by the ECA.

6.3. Generation

9 Our ECA system, Greta, incorporates communicative conversational and emotional
 10 qualities.⁵¹ The agent’s behavior is synchronized with her speech and is consistent
 11 with the meaning of her sentences. To determine speech-accompanying non-verbal
 12 behaviors, the system relies on a taxonomy of communicative functions proposed by
 13 Isabella Poggi.⁴³ A communicative function is defined as a pair (meaning, signal)
 14 where *meaning* corresponds to the communicative value the agent wants to commu-
 15 nicate and *signal* to the behavior used to convey this meaning. We have developed a
 16 language to describe gesture signals in a symbolic form.⁴⁹ An arm gesture is described
 17 by its wrist position, palm orientation, finger direction as well as hand shape. We use
 18 the HamNoSys system to encode hand shapes.⁶¹ To control the agent’s behavior, we
 19 are using the APML representation language, where the tags of this language are
 20 the communicative functions.⁶² The system takes as input a text tagged with APML
 21 labels as well as values for the expressivity dimensions that characterize the manner
 22 of execution of the agent’s behaviors. The system parses the input text and selects
 23 which behaviors to perform. Facial expressions and gaze behaviors are synchronized
 24 with speech defined within APML tags. The system looks for the emphasis word. It
 25 aligns the stroke of a gesture with this word. Then it computes when the preparation
 26 phase of the gesture is as well as if a gesture is hold, if it co-articulates to the next
 27 one, or if it returns to the rest position. The expressivity model controls the spatial

1 and dynamism properties of the gestures. The outputs of the system are animation
and audio files that drive the animation of the agent.

3 6.3.1. *Generation of the APML file*

Step 4 consists of generating the APML file used by the Greta system from the
5 data extracted from the annotations such as the speech transcription, the pitch,
the communicative act, and the emotion labels. The transcription is directly used
7 in the APML file since it corresponds to the text that the Greta agent has to
produce. It is enhanced with several tags. The pitch enables to validate/correct the
9 annotation of prosodic curves adapted from the ToBI model and used by APML.
We have also defined a table connecting the annotated communicative act with the
11 closest performative the Greta system knows about. Thus the communicative goal
“to complain” used for annotating the video #3 is translated to the performative
13 “to criticize” which corresponds to a specification of the global behavior of the agent
(gaze at listener + frown + mouth_criticize). In the videos we studied, the emotional
15 behaviors are complex and are often annotated with several emotional labels. These
annotations made by three or more annotators are grouped into an emotional vector.
17 The third segment of video #3 has been annotated with the following vector: 56%
of despair, 33% of anger and 11% of sadness. The two most represented categories
19 are grouped into a label “superposition(Despair, Anger)” that is sent to the blend
computation module (see Sec. 5). The value of the affect attribute of the rHEME tag
21 is specified as this combination of the two major emotion labels computed from the
emotional profiles resulting from the annotations (Table 2).

23 6.3.2. *Generation of gaze behaviors*

The annotations of facial expressions are used in Step 5 to associate the combined
25 emotion label to the annotated gaze behaviors. The durations of the annotation of
the gaze are used to specify in the agent the durations of gaze towards the right and
27 left, and the maximum duration of gaze towards the camera. In the third segment
of video #3, which has a total duration of 13 seconds, 41 annotations were done for
29 the gaze: towards left (12% of the duration of the segment), towards right (45%).
In order to simplify the specification of the behavior to be replayed by the ECA,
31 the gazes which were not directed towards left or right were grouped into a single
class of gazes towards the camera for 43% of the segment’s duration.

33 6.3.3. *Generation of expressive parameters for the gestures*

Step 6 aims at generating expressive animation. Five gestures were annotated for
35 the third segment. Gesture quality was annotated as follows: fluidity (79% of the
gesture annotations were perceived as being smooth, and 21% as being jerky), power
(soft = 10%, hard = 21%, normal = 69%), speed (fast = 100%), spatial extent
37 (contracted = 100%). These annotations are used to compute the values of the

1 expressive parameters of the expressive agent. For example, in the Greta agent,
2 the values of the fluidity (FLT) parameter have to be between -1 (jerky) and $+1$
3 (smooth). Thus, we computed the value of the FLT parameter for the third segment
4 of video #3 (Table 2 provides the values of the expressivity parameters for the whole
5 video) as follows: $FLT = -1 \times 0.21 + 1 \times 0.79 = 0.58$. This computation enables us
6 to set the fluidity of the generated gestures to an average value which represents
7 the perception of global distribution of smooth versus jerky gestures.

7. Conclusions and Future Directions

9 We have presented a model of multimodal complex emotions involving gesture
10 expressivity and blended facial expressions. We have described a methodology based
11 on the manual annotation of a video corpus to create expressive ECAs via an ana-
12 lytical approach; we have proposed a representation scheme and a computational
13 model for such an agent. We explained how the multi-level annotation of TV inter-
14 views is compatible with the multi-level specifications of our ECA. Our approach is
15 at an exploratory stage and does not currently include the computation of statistics
16 over a large number of videos. Yet, it did enable us to identify the relevant levels of
17 representation for studying the complex relation between emotions and multimodal
18 behaviors in non-acted and non-basic emotions. Whereas the first part of the model
19 focuses on gesture expressivity, the second part of the model addresses how such
20 complex emotions can impact on the display of superposed or masked facial expres-
21 sions. Currently, we do not use all the annotations provided by the EmoTV corpus.
22 The manual annotations of intensity are not considered yet: we only differentiate
23 between major and minor labels. These annotations of intensity could be involved
24 in the computation of the vector of emotion labels which is used for generating the
25 emotional behavior of the ECA. The context annotations include other information
26 related to “appraisal” dimensions such as the time of the event, the implication of
27 the person, etc. which might be interesting to consider in the model of the agent.
28 Other levels might also be relevant (head movements) so as to generate different
29 behaviors with different levels of fidelity.

30 In the near future, we aim to perform perceptual tests to evaluate our method-
31 ology as well as our model of blend of facial expressions. We believe that the results
32 of the two perceptual tests that we have described in this paper will be used to
33 improve the copy-synthesis approach and specify other perceptual tests evaluating
34 if the contextual cues, the emotion and the multimodal behaviors are perceptually
35 equivalent in the original video and in the simulation of the corresponding behaviors
36 by the ECA, thus revealing how much such a technique is successful. These percep-
37 tual tests will also help finding out if differences of quality and of level of details
38 between the real and the simulated multimodal behaviors have an impact on the
39 perception of emotion. For example, we currently compute average values for expres-
40 sivity parameters and we do not specify precisely which gestures are to be performed
41 by the ECA and with which expressive characteristics. Another application of these

1 tests that we foresee is the possibility to refine our ECA system. Indeed, having
 2 to reproduce complex real behaviors allows us to refine our behavioral engine; we
 3 will apply the methodology *learning by imitation*. The corpus will also enable us
 4 to compute other relations between (i) the multimodal annotations, and (ii) the
 5 annotation of emotions (labels, intensity and valence), and the global annotations
 6 such as the modalities in which activity was perceived as relevant to emotion.³⁹
 7 We are considering the use of image processing approaches in order to validate the
 8 manual annotations. Finally, we intend to extend the part of our model on complex
 9 facial expressions to include the combination of the expressivity parameters of the
 10 blended emotions. This will enable us to deal with the masked behaviors observed in
 11 our corpus and apply the copy-synthesis approach that we have defined for gesture.
 12 Indeed, in the video #41, a lady masks her disappointment with a tense smile. This
 13 could be modeled by blending the smile of the faked happiness and the tenseness
 14 of the felt disappointment.

15 Complex emotions are common in everyday conversation. Display rules, lies, and
 16 social context often lead to the combination of emotions as those observed in our
 17 corpus. We believe that the methodology that we have described might be useful
 18 with other real-life situations than TV interviews.

19 Acknowledgments

20 This work was partially supported by the Network of Excellence HUMAINE
 21 (Human-Machine Interaction Network on Emotion) IST-2002-2.3.1.6/Contract no.
 22 507422 (<http://emotion-research.net/>). The authors are very grateful to Susanne
 23 Kaiser, Bjoern Hartmann, Maurizio Mancini, and Sarkis Abrilian for their sugges-
 24 tions and help.

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