Summer Workshop Project on Continuous Interaction for ECAs
on the 6th Intl. Summer Workshop on Multimodal Interfaces

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, July 12th – August 6th, 2010
Call for Participation

In the framework of the eNTERFACE Summer Workshop, a team of enthusiastic researchers will come together to work on this project that integrates the recognition and synthesis of certain social signals.

The main objective of this project is to develop an Embodied Conversational Agent able to receive and to handle certain kinds of feedback, backchannel and interruptions from the user. We plan on modeling and implementing the sensing, interaction and generation for what we call continuous interaction. A continuous interactive ECA will be able to perceive and generate conversational (non-)verbal behavior fully in parallel, and can coordinate this behavior to perception continuously -- a capability which is not present in most state-of-the-art ECAs. We propose to do this specifically by looking at feedback, backchannel and interruption behavior from the human user who is listening to the ECA that serves as a virtual route guide. The ECA will present information to the user in a multi-modal way. Actively dealing with and responding to the above mentioned behaviors from the user requires the ECA to be able to handle overlap, re-planning and re-timing of expressions, ignoring attempts by the user to interrupt, and abandoning of planned utterances (letting itself in effect be interrupted). An evaluation study will show how the ECA developed is perceived by human users in terms of politeness and certain personality traits.

We invite researchers to participate in this project, and to work together for 4 weeks on developing a continuous interactive ECA. These 4 weeks are a unique opportunity, especially for young researchers, to work together in a multidisciplinary and international environment on challenging man-machine interface issues. This year's eNTERFACE is held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, at the Intelligent Systems Lab of the University of Amsterdam. The workshop includes some plenary lectures and tutorials given by leading professionals in the field.
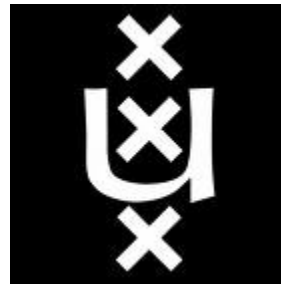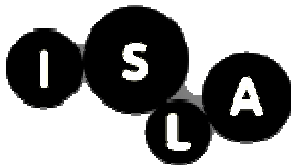
The deadline for participation is **15 February 2010**. For more information on how to apply and participate in our project, see http://enterface10.science.uva.nl/ and the eNTERFACE CfP below. Make sure that you select our project "Continuous Interaction for ECAs" (project #04).

For additional information visit http://hmi.ewi.utwente.nl/e10continuousinteraction or email the project management team at e10continuousinteraction@ewi.utwente.nl.

We hope to see you this summer in Amsterdam!

- Dennis Reidsma (Project Leader), Herwin van Welbergen, and Khiet Truong (University of Twente)

Partners

Social Signal Processing Network

GATE Game research for training and entertainment

ISLA

CITEC

Universität Bielefeld

Human Media Interaction

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

eNTERFACE'10
the 6th Intl. Summer Workshop on Multimodal Interfaces

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, July 12th – August 6th, 2010

Call for Participation

The eNTERFACE workshops aim at establishing a tradition of collaborative, localized research and development work by gathering, in a single place, a team of leading professionals in multimodal man-machine interfaces together with students (both graduate and undergraduate), to work on a pre-specified list of challenges, for 4 complete weeks. In this respect, it is an innovative and intensive collaboration scheme, designed to allow researchers to integrate their software tools, deploy demonstrators, collect novel databases, and work side by side with a great number of experts.

Outcomes of synergy and success stories of past eNTERFACE Workshops held in Mons (2005), Dubrovnik (2006), Istanbul (2007), Paris (2008), and Genova (2009) can be seen at www.enterface.net. Intelligent Systems Lab Amsterdam of the University of Amsterdam is organizing the 2010 edition of the Workshop.

Senior researchers, PhD, MS, or undergraduate students interested in participating at the Workshop should send their application by emailing the Organizing Committee at a.a.salah@uva.nl on or before February 15, 2010. The application should contain:
- A short CV
- A list of three preferred projects to work on
- A list of interests/skills to offer for these projects.

The workshop is free for all participants, but participants must procure their own travel and accommodation expenses. Information about the venue and accommodation are provided on the eNTERFACE'10 website (http://enterface10.science.uva.nl).

eNTERFACE'10 will welcome students, researchers, and seniors, working in teams on the following projects:

#01	CoMediAnnotate: a usable multimodal annotation framework
#02	Looking around in a virtual world
#03	Parameterized user modelling of people with disabilities and simulation of their behaviour in a virtual environment
#04	Continuous interaction for ECAs
#05	Multimodal Speaker Verification in NonStationary Noise Environments
#06	Vision based Hand Puppet
#07	Audio-visual speech recognition
#08	Affect-responsive interactive photo-frame
#09	Automatic Fingersign to Speech Translator

Full descriptions of the projects are available at http://enterface10.science.uva.nl/projectsTeams.php