

1 CHAPTER 10

2
3 **Computational Analysis of Affect,**
4 **Personality, and Engagement in**
5 **Human–Robot Interactions***
6
7
8

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29 **Abstract**

30 This chapter focuses on recent advances in social robots that are capable of sensing
31 their users, and support their users through social interactions, with the ultimate goal
32 of fostering their cognitive and socio-emotional wellbeing. Designing social robots
33 with socio-emotional skills is a challenging research topic still in its infancy. These skills
34 are important for robots to be able to provide physical and social support to human
35 users, and to engage in and sustain long-term interactions with them in a variety of
36 application domains that require human–robot interaction, including healthcare, edu-
37 cation, entertainment, manufacturing, and many others. The availability of commercial

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1 robotic platforms and developments in collaborative academic research provide us 1
2 with a positive outlook; however, the capabilities of current social robots are quite 2
3 limited. The main challenge is understanding the underlying mechanisms of humans 3
4 in responding to and interacting with real life situations, and how to model these 4
5 mechanisms for the embodiment of naturalistic, human-inspired behavior in robots. 5
6 Addressing this challenge successfully requires an understanding of the essential com- 6
7 ponents of social interaction, including nonverbal behavioral cues such as interper- 7
8 sonal distance, body position, body posture, arm and hand gestures, head and facial 8
9 gestures, gaze, silences, vocal outbursts, and their dynamics. To create truly intelligent 9
10 social robots, these nonverbal cues need to be interpreted to form an understand- 10
11 ing of the higher level phenomena including first-impression formation, social roles, 11
12 interpersonal relationships, focus of attention, synchrony, affective states, emotions, 12
13 personality, and engagement, and in turn defining optimal protocols and behaviors 13
14 to express these phenomena through robotic platforms in an appropriate and timely 14
15 manner. This chapter sets out to explore the automatic analysis of social phenomena 15
16 that are commonly studied in the fields of affective computing and social signal pro- 16
17 cessing, together with an overview of recent vision-based approaches used by social 17
18 robots. The chapter then describes two case studies to demonstrate how emotions 18
19 and personality, two key phenomena for enabling effective and engaging interactions 19
20 with robots, can be automatically predicted from visual cues during human–robot 20
21 interactions. The chapter concludes by summarizing the open problems in the field and 21
22 discussing potential future directions. 22

23 Keywords

24 Social robotics, Human–robot interaction, Affective computing, Social signal process- 24
25 ing, Personality computing, Computer vision, Machine learning 25

26 10.1 INTRODUCTION

27 Humanoid robots are being deployed in public spaces including hospitals 27
28 [1], banks [2], and airports [3]. An increasing number of individuals 28
29 needing companionship and psychological support push the need for socially 29
30 assistive robotics. Socially assistive robotics focuses on building robots 30
31 that can facilitate an effective interaction with their human users for the 31
32 purpose of assisting them at the social and cognitive level, namely, aiding 32
33 them to achieve their goals, manage their medical needs, or enhance their 33
34 overall well-being. In the context of health care and therapy, there is a significant 34
35 body of work on how Paro, a robotic seal, improves well-being and 35
36 reduces depression and anxiety in elderly people [4]. KASPAR, Kinesics 36
37 And Synchronization in Personal Assistant Robotics, is a child-sized hu- 37
38 manoid robot designed to develop basic social interaction skills in children 38
39 with autism through turn taking and imitation games [5]. SPRITE, Stewart 39
40 Platform Robot for Interactive Tabletop Engagement, helps a group of 40

1 people to complete a task by manipulating turn-taking patterns and the 1
2 participants' attention, with the goal of increasing group cohesion [6]. 2
3 In education, several studies have already shown the benefits of using 3
4 robots in one-to-one tutoring sessions and classroom settings. Students 4
5 performed better in mathematics when a robot tutored them [7], and 5
6 were more emotionally expressive when engaged in an interactive edu- 6
7 cational task with a social robot than when performing the same task with 7
8 a tablet [8]. Personalizing a robot's actions to individual differences has 8
9 been shown to be compulsory for achieving good learning outcomes in 9
10 several studies. Keepon, a tabletop robot, was made to provide personal- 10
11 ized feedback using a skill assessment algorithm in [9]. To accommodate 11
12 children's short attention spans, Nao, a child-sized humanoid robot, was 12
13 programmed to offer breaks based on personalized timing strategies [10]. 13
14 Similarly, in [11], Nao tutored language learning by adapting its feedback 14
15 to the children's skills and observed behaviors. 15
16 User modeling, adaptation, and personalization are key to the effec- 16
17 tive deployment of social robots in real-world settings. The generic system 17
18 of such a robot consists of three modules [12]: (1) the perception mod- 18
19 ule; (2) the reasoning (intermediate) module; and (3) the action module. 19
20 The perception module acquires information regarding the human user by 20
21 capturing (multimodal) data through both the robot's sensors and the en- 21
22 vironmental sensors, and analyzes the human user's behaviors based on the 22
23 information collected during interactions. The action module deals with 23
24 the design and generation of behaviors for the robot. The reasoning (in- 24
25 termediate) module connects the perception and action modules to deliver 25
26 robot behaviors that are shaped by the output of the perception module. In 26
27 this chapter, we exclusively focus on the perception module, in particular 27
28 from the perspective of affect and social signal analysis from visual cues. 28
29 Affective and social signals are integral parts of communication. Hu- 29
30 mans exchange information and convey their thoughts and feelings through 30
31 gaze, facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice along with spo- 31
32 ken words, and infer 60–65% of the meaning of the communicated mes- 32
33 sages from these nonverbal behaviors [13]. These nonverbal behaviors carry 33
34 significant information regarding higher level social phenomena such as 34
35 emotions, personality, and engagement. Recognizing and interpreting these 35
36 signals is a natural routine for humans, and automatizing these mechanisms 36
37 is necessary for robots to be successful in their interactions with humans. 37
38 The objective of this chapter is to present a survey of computational 38
39 approaches to the analysis of affective and social signals, together with re- 39

1 cent techniques used by social robots, to categorize the available algorithms 1
2 and to highlight the latest trends. The chapter starts with representative 2
3 techniques for the analysis of an individual's emotions, personality, and en- 3
4 gagement state, three social phenomena that have been commonly studied 4
5 in the area of affective and social signal processing (see Section 10.2). The 5
6 chapter then focuses on summarizing the state of the art of robotic plat- 6
7 forms endowed with the capability of analyzing these social phenomena. 7
8 To provide concrete examples, the chapter presents two case studies to 8
9 describe how a computational method can be built for predicting emo- 9
10 tions and personality from visual cues during human–robot interactions 10
11 (see Section 10.3). The chapter concludes by summarizing the open prob- 11
12 lems in the field and discusses potential solutions to these problems (see 12
13 Section 10.4). 13
14

15 **10.2 AFFECTIVE AND SOCIAL SIGNAL PROCESSING** 15

16
17 In this section, we first introduce the state-of-the-art computer vision- 17
18 based approaches to affective and social signal processing, and then review 18
19 the prominent techniques used by the currently available social robots. We 19
20 scope out and explore three social phenomena that are widely studied in 20
21 this context: (i) emotion; (ii) personality; and (iii) engagement. 21
22

23 **10.2.1 Emotion** 23

24 Emotion (or affect) recognition has been one of the most active research ar- 24
25 eas across multiple disciplines ranging from psychology to computer science 25
26 and social robotics. There have already been several extensive surveys on au- 26
27 tomatic emotion recognition from facial cues [14,15] and bodily cues [16]. 27
28

29 Emotion recognition methods from facial cues aim at recognizing the 29
30 appearance of facial actions or the expression of emotions conveyed by these 30
31 actions, and usually rely on the Facial Action Coding System (FACS) [17]. 31
32 FACS consists of facial Action Units (AUs), which are codes that describe 32
33 certain facial muscle movements (e.g. AU 12 is lip corner puller). The 33
34 temporal evolution of an expression is typically modeled with four temporal 34
35 phases [17]: neutral, onset, apex, and offset. Neutral is the expressionless 35
36 phase with no signs of muscular activity. Onset denotes the period during 36
37 which muscular contraction begins and increases in intensity. Apex is a 37
38 plateau where the intensity usually reaches a stable level. Offset is the phase 38
39 of muscular action relaxation. 39

1 There have been two lines of approaches proposed in the literature 1
2 that are associated with two models of emotions, namely, the categorical 2
3 model and the dimensional model. The categorical model refers to the af- 3
4 fect model developed by Ekman and his colleagues, who argued that the 4
5 production and interpretation of certain expressions are hard-wired in our 5
6 brains and are recognized universally (e.g. [18]). The emotions conveyed 6
7 by these expressions are grouped into six classes, known as the *six basic* 7
8 *emotions*: happiness, sadness, surprise, fear, anger, and disgust. AUs can be 8
9 mapped to the six basic emotions. For example, using a simple rule-based 9
10 method, happiness can be represented as a combination of AU6 (cheek 10
11 raiser) and AU12 (lip corner puller) [14]. However, the categorical model is 11
12 believed to be limited in its ability to represent the broad range of everyday 12
13 emotions [19]. To represent a wider range of emotions, the dimensional 13
14 approach is used to continuously model emotions in terms of affect di- 14
15 mensions [19]. The most established affect dimensions are arousal, valence, 15
16 power, and expectation [19]. 16

17 The categorical and dimensional models were evaluated in two 17
18 prominent affect recognition challenges: Facial Expression Recognition 18
19 and Analysis (FERA) [20,21] and Audio/Visual Emotion Challenges 19
20 (AVEC) [22]. The FERA challenge evaluates AU detection/AU intensi- 20
21 ty estimation and discrete emotion classification for four basic emotions 21
22 (anger, fear, happiness, sadness) and one nonbasic emotion (relief). The 22
23 AVEC challenge evaluates dimensional emotion models along arousal and 23
24 valence dimensions. 24

25 De la Torre et al. [23] addressed the AU detection problem using a 25
26 personalized learning approach based on a Selective Transfer Machine (STM) 26
27 that learns a classifier while simultaneously reweighting the training sam- 27
28 ples that are most relevant to the test subject. They extracted appearance 28
29 features based on Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) descriptors, 29
30 from patches centered on the automatically detected facial landmarks. The 30
31 proposed method achieved superior performance compared to the 31
32 conventional classification methods such as Support Vector Machines (SVMs) 32
33 for classifying five emotions on the FERA 2011 benchmark [20]. The re- 33
34 cent trend for AU detection has been deep learning methods. Jaiswal and 34
35 Valstar [24] simultaneously learned dynamic appearance and shape features 35
36 within a time window using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), 36
37 and applied Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BLSTM) networks 37
38 on top of the time-windowed CNN features to model temporal relation- 38
39 39

1 ships. The proposed method outperformed the previous approaches in the 1
2 FERA 2015 challenge datasets [21]. 2

3 Recent works adopting the dimensional model were characterized by 3
4 combining visual data with different modalities, usually audio and physio- 4
5 logical data, and employing BLSTM for predicting arousal and valence in 5
6 a time-continuous manner [25,26]. For example, the winner of the AVEC 6
7 2015 challenge [27] combined two appearance features, namely, Local Ga- 7
8 bor Binary Patterns from Three Orthogonal Planes (LGBP-TOP), which 8
9 were baseline features provided by the challenge organizers, and Local Phase 9
10 Quantization from Three Orthogonal Planes (LPQ-TOP) together with 10
11 geometric features computed from facial landmarks. Different feature types 11
12 were fused using a model-level fusion strategy, where the outputs of single 12
13 single modality models were smoothed and combined using a second layer 13
14 of BLSTM. Chen and Jin [26] proposed a multimodal attention fusion 14
15 method that automatically assigns weights to different modalities according 15
16 the current modality features and history information, which outperformed 16
17 the traditional fusion strategies (e.g. early-fusion, model-level fusion, late- 17
18 fusion) in the detection of valence in the same database. 18

19 **Emotion Recognition in HRI.** Emotion recognition methods used 19
20 by social robots were extensively surveyed by Yan et al. in [12] and Mc- 20
21 Coll et al. in [28]. Here, we only considered the prominent works that 21
22 performed the recognition task by automatically extracting features from 22
23 visual cues, and integrated the developed method on a robotic platform. 23

24 The categorical model of emotion has been the most widely adopted 24
25 approach in the literature. Cid et al. [29] developed an emotion recognition 25
26 system by extracting features based on the Facial Action Coding System 26
27 (FACS) [17], and implemented it on a robotic head, Muecas [30], for an 27
28 imitation task. For emotion recognition, they first applied a preprocessing 28
29 step to the face image taken by Muecas to normalize the illumination and 29
30 remove the noise, and a Gabor filter to highlight the facial features. From 30
31 the processed face, a set of edge-based features were extracted and modeled 31
32 using Dynamic Bayesian Networks to detect a total of 11 AUs. The 32
33 detected AUs were used to represent four basic emotions including happi- 33
34 ness, sadness, fear, and anger according to a rule-based approach, and were 34
35 mapped on the Muecas robot to display the inferred emotion in real-time. 35
36 In [31], the authors used similar visual features (i.e. Gabor filter responses) 36
37 to enable the robot to learn facial expressions of emotion from interac- 37
38 tions with humans through an online learning algorithm based on neural 38
39 networks. The Muecas robot was able to learn all the emotions success- 39

1 fully, except for sadness. This was due to the large intra-class variability for 1
2 sadness, namely, each person expressed sadness in a different manner. 2
3 In [32], Leo et al. developed an automatic emotion recognition system 3
4 to measure the facial emotion imitation capability of children with Autism 4
5 Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The R25 robot from Robokind [33], a small 5
6 cartoon character-like robot, was first made to display a facial expression, 6
7 and then the child was instructed to imitate the displayed facial expression 7
8 while being analyzed through the camera located in R25's right eye. The 8
9 emotion recognition method was based on a generic pipeline that consisted 9
10 of four components: Viola–Jones face detection, face registration, 10
11 Histogram of Gradient (HoG) face representation, and classification with 11
12 SVMs. The method was tested via a study involving three children with 12
13 ASD, and it achieved good emotion recognition performance, especially 13
14 for happiness and sadness. 14
15 Among works adopting the dimensional model of emotion, Castella- 15
16 no et al. [34] focused on valence of an affect, representing it with three 16
17 discrete states: positive, neutral, and negative. They designed an affect- 17
18 sensitive robotic game companion, with the goal of detecting these three 18
19 states and selecting an empathic strategy for the robot to display. For this 19
20 purpose, they combined visual features including smiling gestures and gaze 20
21 patterns with contextual information such as game state and game evolu- 21
22 tion. For detecting smiles, first an off-the-shelf application was used to 22
23 estimate head pose and track facial landmark points, and then a geometry- 23
24 based descriptor was defined based on the spatial locations of the facial 24
25 landmarks with respect to the head pose. The developed method was inte- 25
26 grated onto the iCat platform, a desktop user-interface robot with animated 26
27 facial expressions [35] to test with children during the course of a chess 27
28 game. Schacter et al. [36] focused on the prediction of both arousal and 28
29 valence dimensions. They extracted geometry-based features from facial 29
30 landmarks that were detected using Constrained Local Models [37], and 30
31 applied Support Vector Regression (SVR) for prediction. The proposed 31
32 method was tested using the onboard camera of their in-house robot called 32
33 Social Robot Brian. 33
34 In this chapter, we exclusively focus on facial cues. However, body pos- 34
35 tures and hand gestures are important sources of information, especially in 35
36 the context of HRI, when facial cues cannot be observed reliably. Most of 36
37 the emotion recognition methods from bodily cues has relied on real-time 37
38 skeleton tracking algorithm of Kinect depth sensor [38]. Wang et al. [39] 38
39 aimed at modeling arousal and valence dimensions in a time-continuous 39

1 manner. They captured visual recordings using a Kinect depth sensor dur- 1
2 ing the course of a game of Snakes and Ladders played by a child against 2
3 the Nao robot [40]. Nao's behaviors were manipulated to display either 3
4 competitive or supportive behaviors in order to elicit different emotional 4
5 responses from the participated children. From these recordings, they mod- 5
6 eled bodily expressions using the 3D skeleton tracking algorithm, and 6
7 skeletal representations were used to extract two types of features: (i) a set 7
8 of low-level features comprising spatial distances between hands, elbows, 8
9 and shoulders, and the angles between the spine and the upper arms, and 9
10 the orientation of the shoulders; (ii) a set of high-level features describ- 10
11 ing body movement activity and power, body spatial extension, and head 11
12 bending. These features were then used to train Online Recursive Gaus- 12
13 sian Processes for real-time emotion recognition from bodily expressions, 13
14 where they found that the valence dimension was more difficult to model 14
15 than the arousal dimension. 15

16 10.2.2 Personality 16

17 Individuals' interactions with others are shaped by their personalities and 17
18 their impressions regarding others' behaviors and personalities [41]. This 18
19 has also been shown to be the case for interactions with social robots [42]. 19
20 The traditional approach to describing personality is the trait theory that 20
21 focuses on the measurement of general patterns of behaviors, thoughts, 21
22 and emotions, which are relatively stable over time and across situational 22
23 contexts [43]. The Big Five Model is currently the dominant paradigm in 23
24 personality research which defines traits along five broad dimensions: *ex-* 24
25 *troversion* (assertive, outgoing, energetic, friendly, socially active), *neuroti-* 25
26 *cism* (a tendency to negative emotions such as anxiety, depression, or 26
27 anger), *openness* (a tendency to changing experience, adventure, new 27
28 ideas), *agreeableness* (cooperative, compliant, trustworthy), and *conscientious-* 28
29 *ness* (self-disciplined, organized, reliable, consistent). 29
30

31 There are two strategies coupled with two main problems in automatic 31
32 personality analysis [44], which are personality recognition (prediction of 32
33 actual personality) and personality perception (prediction of personality im- 33
34 pressions). In both problems, the commonly used method to measure Big 34
35 Five personality traits is the Big Five Inventory (BFI) [45]. In personality 35
36 recognition, an individual is asked to fill in the BFI which aims to assess per- 36
37 sonal behavioral tendencies, i.e. how an individual sees herself in the way 37
38 she approaches problems, likes to work, deals with feelings, and manages 38
39 relationships with others. In personality prediction, external observers are 39

1 asked to view a video of the individual and rate the individual along the Big 1
2 Five personality dimensions based on thin slices of behavior ranging from 2
3 10 seconds to several minutes. However, employing observers to carry out 3
4 this tedious task is in itself a problem. A number of researchers [46,47] ob- 4
5 tained manual annotations through online crowd-sourcing services such as 5
6 the Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) service. Typically, several folds of 6
7 independent ratings are run since there is rarely full agreement between the 7
8 raters. 8

9 Nonverbal behaviors are significant predictors of personality. Gaze and 9
10 head movement are strongly correlated with personality. For example, *dom-* 10
11 *inance* and *extroversion* are found to be related to holding a direct facial po- 11
12 *sture* and long durations of eye contact during interaction, whereas *shyness* 12
13 and *social anxiety* are highly correlated with gaze aversion [48]. Extroverted 13
14 people are found to be more energetic, leading to higher head movement 14
15 frequency, more hand gestures, and more posture shifts than introverted 15
16 people [49,50]. Research has demonstrated that these nonverbal behaviors 16
17 can be reliably modeled from visual cues for predicting personality. 17

18 Among the works focusing on facial and head cues, Joshi et al. [51] 18
19 investigated varied situational contexts using audio-visual recordings of 19
20 conversations between a human and four different virtual characters using 20
21 the SEMAINE corpus [52]. The SEMAINE corpus comprises audio-visual 21
22 recordings of interactions between human participants and four different 22
23 virtual characters. Facial cues were extracted using the pyramid of HoG, 23
24 which counts the gradient orientations in the whole face and in the lo- 24
25 calized portions. The mean and the standard deviation of the histograms 25
26 accumulated from all the frames were fed into SVMs for regression. The 26
27 visual features used yielded the best prediction accuracy for *conscientious-* 27
28 *ness* among the Big Five personality traits. 28

29 High-level features were taken into account by Teijeiro–Mosquera et al. 29
30 [46] using videos from Youtube, so-called “video blogs”, with annotations 30
31 generated through the MTurk service. They detected facial expression of 31
32 emotions (e.g. anger, happiness, fear, sadness) on a frame-by-frame basis and 32
33 extracted emotion activity cues from sequences either by thresholding or by 33
34 using an HMM-based method. These features were then fed into SVMs for 34
35 predicting the five traits. Their results showed that facial expressions were a 35
36 strong predictor of *extroversion*. 36

37 Another line of work has focused on the fusion of facial/head cues and 37
38 bodily cues at the feature level. Aran and Gatica-Perez [53] used recordings 38
39 from the ELEA corpus [54] involving three or four participants performing 39

1 a Mission Survival task [55]. They represented the visual cues by extract- 1
2 ing two types of features, namely, activity features and attention features. 2
3 The participants' heads and bodies were tracked in videos, and optical 3
4 flow was computed from tracked head and body parts, yielding the 4
5 binary occurrence of head/body activity at a specific time instant and the 5
6 amount of activity. Activity features were then computed by aggregating 6
7 the occurrences and amount of activity over the whole sequence, which 7
8 included head/body activity length, head/body activity turns, standard de- 8
9 viations of head/body activity in x and y directions, etc. In addition to 9
10 head/body activity features, simple statistics were calculated from weighted 10
11 Motion Energy Images (MEI) in order to encapsulate the whole body ac- 11
12 tivity over time. Attention features were extracted based on the visual focus 12
13 of attention analysis during interactions, which included attention given 13
14 while speaking/listening, attention received while speaking/listening, and 14
15 visual dominance ratio. Ridge regression was used both for the prediction 15
16 of *extroversion* level and for the binary classification of *extroversion*, *agreeable-* 16
17 *ness*, and *openness*. For both regression and classification, the best results 17
18 were achieved by combining all the features. However, the prominent vi- 18
19 sual features were attention features and MEI statistics in the classification 19
20 of *extroversion*. 20

21 From human–virtual character interactions [52], Celiktutan and Gunes 21
22 [56] modeled the face/head and body movements by extracting three sets 22
23 of features: (i) spatial and spatio-temporal appearance features (e.g. Zernike 23
24 moments, gradient and optical flow); (ii) geometric features (e.g. spatio- 24
25 temporal configuration of facial landmark points, horizontal and vertical 25
26 trajectories over time); and (iii) hybrid features (e.g. the fusion of local ap- 26
27 pearance and motion information around facial landmark points). These 27
28 features were then used in conjunction with Long Short-Term Memory 28
29 Networks for predicting personality traits continuously in space and time, 29
30 which yielded the highest coefficient of determination (R^2) for *conscientious-* 30
31 *ness* using the face appearance features and for *neuroticism* and *openness* using 31
32 the body appearance features. 32

33 **Personality Prediction in HRI.** Incorporating human personality 33
34 analysis to adapt a robot's behavior for engaging a person in an activity is 34
35 a fundamental component of social robots [57,47]. One prominent work 35
36 by Rahbar et al. [58] focused on the prediction of the *extroversion* trait 36
37 only, when a participant was interacting with the humanoid iCub [59], 37
38 a robot shaped like a four-year-old child. They combined individual fea- 38
39 tures and interpersonal features that were extracted from Kinect recordings. 39

1 More explicitly, the individual features included the participant’s quantity 1
2 of motion computed from the depth images. The interpersonal features 2
3 modeled synchrony and dominance between the movements of iCub and 3
4 the participant, and also proxemics (i.e. the distance between iCub and the 4
5 participant). They achieved the best F-measure when they fused individ- 5
6 ual and interpersonal features at the feature level using Logistic Regres- 6
7 sion. 7

8 Some works focused on the robot’s personality to improve the qual- 8
9 ity of the human experience with the robot: humans tend to be attracted 9
10 by characters that have either matching personality traits (similarity rule) 10
11 or non-matching personality traits (complementarity rule) [60]. Salam et 11
12 al. [47] investigated the impact of the participants’ personalities on their en- 12
13 gagement states from the Kinect depth sensor recordings. These recordings 13
14 contained interactions between two participants and Nao [40], a small hu- 14
15 manoid robot. They extracted two sets of features, namely, individual and 15
16 interpersonal features, similarly to [58]. Individual features described the 16
17 individual behaviors of each participant, e.g. body activity computed from 17
18 articulated pose and motion energy images, body appearance, etc. Interper- 18
19 sonal features characterized the interpersonal behaviors of the participants 19
20 with respect to each other and the robot. These include the visual focus 20
21 of attention (VFOA), the global quantity of movement, the relative ori- 21
22 entation of the participants, the relative distance between the participants, 22
23 and the relative orientation of the participants with respect to the robot. 23
24 They first applied Gaussian process regression for personality prediction. 24
25 They then combined the predicted personality labels with the individual 25
26 and interpersonal features to classify whether the participants were engaged 26
27 or not. The best results were achieved using individual features together 27
28 with personality labels. 28

29 Despite its importance, automatic personality analysis as a part of a social 29
30 robot has been scarce; indeed, to the best of our knowledge, there has been 30
31 no system that is integrated onto a robot, and performs real-time analysis 31
32 of personality in the course of interaction. In [61], Celiktutan et al. used 32
33 a real-time implementation of their method of personality prediction from 33
34 nonverbal cues [56], and demonstrated this system, called MAPTRAITS, 34
35 together with the Nao robot. Using a Wizard of Oz setup, Nao asked the 35
36 participants a predefined set of questions about their jobs, hobbies, and 36
37 memories while the MAPTRAITS system (running on a PC) analyzed 37
38 the participants’ personalities in real-time using a camera placed on a tri- 38
39 pod. The predicted personality scores were displayed to each participant 39

1 instantaneously on a screen; however, no quantitative analysis was con- 1
2 ducted. 2

3 4 **10.2.3 Engagement** 4

5 Engagement is the process by which interactors start, maintain, and end 5
6 their perceived connection to each other during an interaction [62]. When 6
7 individuals interact with each other, they display affective and social signals 7
8 that give away information regarding their engagement states (i.e. intention 8
9 to engage, engagement, and disengagement). 9

10 Most of the methods for predicting engagement have focused on ob- 10
11 servable visual cues including social gaze patterns, facial gestures, and body 11
12 posture. Although these cues were manually annotated, Kapoor et al. [63] 12
13 exploited features based on facial gestures and body posture in order to 13
14 predict the level of interest of a child who was solving a puzzle. In par- 14
15 ticular, facial gestures were coded in terms of manually annotated facial 15
16 action units associated with upper face muscle movements around the eyes, 16
17 eyebrows, and upper cheeks, and body posture was determined using a 17
18 sensor chair. Their results showed that body posture alone was more in- 18
19 formative than facial gestures, yielding a better classification performance 19
20 with Hidden Markov Models (HMMs). Oertel and Salvi [64] only re- 20
21 lied on features extracted from manually annotated social gaze patterns 21
22 to model group involvement and individual engagement in game-based 22
23 group interactions. They divided the social gaze patterns into four groups, 23
24 namely, looking at another participant, looking away, looking down, and 24
25 eyes closed, that were converted into a matrix for each participant. They 25
26 then extracted group-level features and individual-level features from these 26
27 matrices. While group-level features modeled interpersonal dynamics such 27
28 as mutual gaze, individual features intended to capture individual differences 28
29 in gaze behaviors. Good classification results were obtained with Gaussian 29
30 Mixture Models (GMMs) for detecting the high level of group involvement 30
31 and group forming/getting familiar with each other, whereas the low-level 31
32 group involvement was classified poorly. 32

33 Peters et al. [65] focused on automatic gaze estimation and shared at- 33
34 tention detection from a web camera during interactions with a virtual 34
35 agent. They first estimated head pose and gaze by automatically detecting 35
36 and tracking facial landmark points. The user's head and gaze directions 36
37 were then mapped on the computer screen in order to model the level of 37
38 attention and the level of engagement. While the level of attention was 38
39 measured in terms of gaze fixations onto the virtual objects on the screen 39

1 (including the virtual agent itself), the scene background, or outside of the 1
2 screen, the level of engagement was defined as how much the user looks at 2
3 the relevant objects in the scene at the appropriate times. 3
4 There is another line of research investigating the impact of personal- 4
5 ity on engagement in human–virtual character interactions. Cerekovic et 5
6 al. [66] considered two virtual agents from the SEMAINE System [52], 6
7 namely, Obadiah and Poppy. While Obadiah was gloomy and neurotic with 7
8 low variation in speech and a flat tone, Poppy was cheerful and extroverted 8
9 with frequent gestures and head nods. They measured the engagement level 9
10 of each participant along three dimensions: quality, rapport, and likeness. 10
11 In order to predict the levels of these three dimensions, they took into ac- 11
12 count both audio–visual features and manually annotated personality trait 12
13 labels collected from external observers. As visual features, they computed 13
14 the distribution of body leans and frequency of shifts from one body posture 14
15 to another using the 3D skeleton tracking information from the Kinect 15
16 depth sensor. Similar features were computed for manually annotated hand 16
17 gestures, and facial expressions were modeled using an off-the-shelf facial 17
18 expression recognition toolbox. They achieved the best results when they 18
19 combined nonverbal features with personality scores. They found that ex- 19
20 troverted people tended to like the neurotic agent, whereas people that 20
21 score high on *neuroticism* liked the cheerful agent, supporting the interper- 21
22 sonal complementarity rule [60]. 22
23 **Engagement Prediction in HRI.** Understanding the user’s engage- 23
24 ment is important to ensure that the user maximally benefits from an activ- 24
25 ity conducted with the assistance of the robot, particularly in health-related 25
26 applications and education settings. In [67], Sanghvi detected engagement 26
27 states during a chess game played by a child and iCat [34]. In order to detect 27
28 whether the child was engaged or not, the child’s body silhouette was first 28
29 extracted, and then a set of features was extracted based on the posture and 29
30 body movements. These features included (i) body lean angle, a measure 30
31 of the orientation of the child’s upper body when playing the game with 31
32 the robot; (ii) slouch factor, a measure of the curvature of the child’s back; 32
33 (iii) quantity of motion, a measure of the amount of detected motion from 33
34 the extracted silhouette; and (iv) contradiction index, a measure of the de- 34
35 gree of contraction and expansion of the upper body. Using the extracted 35
36 features in conjunction with ADTree and OneR classifiers yielded a high 36
37 accuracy for engagement classification. 37
38 In [68], Benkaouar and Vaufreydaz proposed a multimodal approach 38
39 for recognizing nonverbal cues and inferring engagement in a home envi- 39

1 ronment where they used a Kinect depth sensor mounted onto a mobile 1
2 robot called Kompai from Robosoft [69]. They extracted three sets of vi- 2
3 sual features: (i) proxemics features such as distance to the robot, speed from 3
4 the recorded depth data; (ii) face location and face size from the recorded 4
5 RGB data; and (iii) positions of stance, hips, torso, and shoulders, and 5
6 their relative rotations from the tracked skeletons. The most relevant fea- 6
7 tures yielding the best engagement detection accuracy were selected using 7
8 the Minimum Redundancy Maximum Relevance method. Their results 8
9 showed that shoulder rotation, face position and size, relative distance, and 9
10 speed played an important role in engagement detection. 10

11 Salam and Chetouani [70] conducted a study in a triadic HRI scenario 11
12 to investigate to what extent it is possible to infer an interactor's engagement 12
13 state starting from the cues of the others in the interaction. They considered 13
14 two set of features from two human participants and a robot. Each partici- 14
15 pant's features were composed of manually annotated social cues including 15
16 head nods, visual focus of attention (VFOA), head pose, face location, and 16
17 utterances. In addition to these cues, they extracted simple features over 17
18 time, e.g. VFOA shifts, sliding windows statistics of head pose and face 18
19 location, etc. The robot's features comprised utterances, addressee (address- 19
20 ing the speech to an interactor), and the topic of the speech. These features 20
21 were used, both singly and in pairwise combinations (i.e. combining fea- 21
22 tures of both participants, or combining a participant's features with the 22
23 robot's features), in conjunction with SVMs for engagement classification. 23
24 Their results showed that in a multiparty interaction, the cues of the other 24
25 interactors can be used to infer the engagement state of the individual in 25
26 question, which suggests that inter-personal context plays an important role 26
27 in engagement classification. 27
28
29

30 10.3 TWO CASE STUDIES 30

31
32 In this section, we describe two automatic methods for modeling emo- 32
33 tion and personality in interactions with a robot. First, we present a novel 33
34 AU detection method. AU detection has been a popular research prob- 34
35 lem in computer science; however, there are fewer works performing AU 35
36 detection in the context of HRI. Differently from [30], for more robust 36
37 AU detection, our method combines shape and appearance information, 37
38 and exploits differential features with respect to an individual's neutral 38
39 face. Then, we introduce how this method can be implemented on the 39

1 humanoid robot Nao in real-time and can be used in live public demon- 1
2 strations. 2

3 Second, we describe a pipeline for automatic prediction of an indi- 3
4 vidual’s personality in the course of their interactions with Nao, from 4
5 experimental study design to data collection and feature extraction. Despite 5
6 its importance, there are only a few works performing automatic personality 6
7 prediction in the context of HRI. Additionally, most of these works inves- 7
8 tigate the relationship between the personality traits and engagement state 8
9 based on self reports, which might not be available in real-life applications. 9
10 Here, we show that personality can be predicted from a set of low-level 10
11 features extracted from videos captured from a first-person perspective. 11
12

13 **10.3.1 Automatic Emotion Recognition** 13

14 In this chapter, we introduce a novel method for detecting Action Units 14
15 (AUs) in video sequences, and present comparative figures on a state-of- 15
16 the-art database. We also demonstrate how this approach can be used for 16
17 public engagement at various events (e.g. science festivals). 17
18

19 **10.3.1.1 Action Unit Detection Methodology** 19

20 There has been a significant body of work in the area of automatic AU 20
21 detection. Recently, Sariyanidi et al. [15] highlighted the importance of 21
22 two practices: (i) combining shape and appearance features, which yields 22
23 better performance because they carry complementary information, and 23
24 (ii) using differential features that describe information with respect to 24
25 a reference image (i.e. a neutral face in the case of emotion recognition). 25
26 The main advantage of the differential features is to place greater emphasis 26
27 on the facial action by reducing person-specific appearance cues. 27
28

29 **Feature Extraction.** In the light of these insights, we extracted four 29
30 types of features, namely, shape, appearance, differential-appearance (here- 30
31 after δ -appearance) and differential-shape (hereafter δ -shape) as follows. 31
32 Shape features were obtained by concatenating the vertical and horizontal 32
33 coordinates of the facial landmarks that were estimated using the Super- 33
34 vised Descent Method (SDM) in [71]; δ -shape features were computed by 34
35 subtracting the shape representation of a given facial image from the shape 35
36 representation that was computed from a facial image, of the same subject, 36
37 with a neutral expression. 37

38 Appearance features were extracted using the Quantized Local Zernike 38
39 Moments (QLZM) method [72]. The use of this method was previously 39

1 demonstrated for affect recognition based on both the categorical and di- 1
2 mensional models of emotion [72]. The QLZM method consists of two 2
3 steps: (i) computing local Zernike moments to describe image disconti- 3
4 nuities at various scales and orientations, and (ii) performing non-linear 4
5 encoding and pooling to improve the robustness against image noise and 5
6 translation. Here we computed the appearance features in a part-based 6
7 manner. Using the estimated facial landmarks, we first cropped three square 7
8 patches that contained the left eye, right eye, and mouth, and then com- 8
9 puted the QLZM histograms from each part. 9

10 We computed δ -appearance features using the Gabor motion energy 10
11 filters [73], where we adopted a part-based representation similarly to 11
12 the appearance features. We used Gabor motion energy filters to describe 12
13 the motion between a given face image of a subject and the subject's neutral 13
14 face image. One advantage of using the Gabor representation over using 14
15 simpler representations (e.g. difference between neutral and apex phases) 15
16 is its robustness to illumination variations. During the on-the-fly tests, we 16
17 ensured that we had the neutral face of human subjects by asking them to 17
18 stand still and make a neutral face in front of the camera prior to beginning 18
19 a test session. 19

20 Note that each AU can occur either in the upper part or in the lower 20
21 part of the face. For example, AU1 (inner brow raiser) occurs in the up- 21
22 per part and AU25 (lips part) occurs in the lower part. Therefore, when 22
23 detecting an AU, we took into account the above-mentioned four fea- 23
24 tures extracted either from the upper part or from the lower part of face. 24
25 For shape and δ -shape features, this resulted in a 60-length feature vector, 25
26 corresponding to the landmarks associated with eyes and eyebrows, and a 26
27 38-length feature vector, corresponding to the landmarks associated with 27
28 mouth. For the appearance and δ -appearance features, this resulted in a 28
29 800-length and a 512-length feature vector, respectively, computed from 29
30 the left and right eye patches, and a 400-length and a 256-length feature 30
31 vector, respectively, computed from the mouth patch. 31

32 **Decision Fusion.** We trained four binary SVM classifiers, each in con- 32
33 junction with one of the above-mentioned feature types, for each AU. The 33
34 final AU detection decision was given by fusing the outputs of the four 34
35 individual classifiers. Specifically, we adopted the *consensus fusion* approach, 35
36 where an AU was detected based on the condition that all four classifiers 36
37 were in full agreement. The advantage of the consensus fusion approach is 37
38 that it yields a low False Alarm Rate (FAR). The downside is that it can 38
39 also lead to a low True Positive Rate (TPR) because the consensus cannot 39

1 be reached even when one of the classifiers misses an AU. To address this 1
2 issue, we decreased the AU detection threshold for each classifier, where 2
3 we empirically set the threshold to 0.95 TPR on the training dataset. This 3
4 also increased the False Positive Rate (FPR) of the individual classifiers, but 4
5 the overall FPR of the consensus fusion approach was low, as shown in the 5
6 next section. 6

7 **10.3.1.2 Experimental Results** 7

9 In this work, we focused on a total of seven AUs, namely, inner brow raiser 9
10 (AU1), outer brow raiser (AU2), brow lowerer (AU4), cheek raiser (AU6), 10
11 lip corner puller (AU12), lips parted (AU25), and jaw drop (AU26). For 11
12 these AUs, we evaluated the performance of the proposed AU detection 12
13 pipeline using the MMI Facial Expression dataset [74], one of the most 13
14 widely used benchmark datasets in the field. 14

15 **Experimental Setup.** For each AU, we trained an SVM classifier using 15
16 the one-vs-all approach, namely, positive samples were the images where 16
17 the AU was displayed, and the negative samples were all the other images 17
18 where the AU was not displayed, including neutral samples. We used a 18
19 linear c -SVM [75] and fixed the c parameter to $c = 10^{-3}$. 19

20 We used the MMI Facial Expression [74] database, which contains a 20
21 total of 329 video sequences with annotations provided for the temporal 21
22 segments of onset, apex, and offset. In order to increase the number of 22
23 training samples, we selected multiple frames from the apex segment. Sub- 23
24 jects often displayed eye movements or small head movements; therefore, 24
25 the frames extracted from the apex segment were not identical. Similarly, 25
26 in order to create negative samples, for δ -appearance and δ -shape represen- 26
27 tations, we randomly picked pairs of frames with neutral expressions. This 27
28 resulted in a total of 6349 training samples; however, some AUs (e.g. AU1, 28
29 AU12) have a relatively small number of samples. We handled the data im- 29
30 balance issue by limiting the number of negative samples. More explicitly, 30
31 for each AU, we formed 20% of the training samples from the positive sam- 31
32 ples, 40% from the negative samples with neutral faces, and 40% from the 32
33 negative samples with nonneutral faces. 33

34 **Results.** We evaluated AU detection performance using five-fold 34
35 subject-independent cross validation. Table 10.1 presents AU detection re- 35
36 sults with respect to the four individual features, and their combination 36
37 via the consensus fusion approach in terms of (a) the alternative forced 37
38 choice (2AFC) metric [76], (b) the TPR, and (c) the FPR. The 2AFC 38
39 metric can be defined as the area A underneath the receiver-operator char- 39

Table 10.1 AU detection performance in terms of (a) the alternative forced choice (2AFC) score, (b) the false positive rate (FPR), and (c) the true positive rate (TPR). Bold text indicates the best (i.e. highest) score

	AU1	AU2	AU4	AU6	AU12	AU25	AU26
(a) 2AFC							
Shape	0.74	0.53	0.67	0.61	0.79	0.73	0.53
Appearance	0.74	0.73	0.65	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.67
δ -shape	0.78	0.67	0.71	0.74	0.78	0.82	0.64
δ -appearance	0.90	0.92	0.87	0.82	0.92	0.89	0.78
Fusion	0.91	0.89	0.78	0.87	0.93	0.86	0.79
(b) FPR							
Shape	0.41	0.87	0.49	0.77	0.40	0.44	0.77
Appearance	0.45	0.46	0.50	0.35	0.31	0.32	0.58
δ -shape	0.41	0.62	0.46	0.42	0.45	0.30	0.51
δ -appearance	0.15	0.12	0.21	0.28	0.12	0.17	0.35
Fusion	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.12	0.06	0.02	0.11
(c) TPR							
Shape	0.89	0.93	0.82	1.00	0.98	0.90	0.83
Appearance	0.92	0.92	0.80	0.90	0.94	0.88	0.93
δ -shape	0.98	0.96	0.87	0.90	1.00	0.93	0.79
δ -appearance	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.91	0.96	0.95	0.91
Fusion	0.84	0.81	0.61	0.86	0.92	0.73	0.68

acteristic (ROC) curve, and an upper bound for the uncertainty of the A statistic for n_p positive and n_n negative samples, $s = \sqrt{A(1-A)/\min\{n_p, n_n\}}$. Looking at the AFC scores (Table 10.1(a)), the best performing individual feature is the δ -appearance feature, and the consensus fusion achieves a higher AFC score than the δ -appearance feature for four AUs (AU1, AU6, AU12, AU26) out of seven AUs. The main advantage of the consensus fusion is the low FPR, as given in Table 10.1(b) (the corresponding TPRs are provided in Table 10.1(c)). We also used the best performing trained models in the real-time demonstration.

Real-Time Demonstration. We performed the real-time implementation using C++. For the initial face detection in each session, we used the Viola–Jones face detector [77] and then tracked the face using the SDM method [71]. We redetected the face when tracking failed. The real-time implementation was integrated onto the Nao robot as shown in Fig. 10.1. The computational power of the Nao robot did not allow us to run the AU detection algorithm in real-time. For this reason, we used a pair of



Figure 10.1 The robotic platform used during real-time public demonstrations.

external cameras plugged into a laptop (Intel Core i6, 16 GB RAM), and ran the AU detection algorithm on the laptop. As shown in Fig. 10.1, these cameras were attached to Nao’s head using custom 3D printed glasses. AU detection from the robot’s point of view is shown in Fig. 10.2. Vertical and horizontal bars indicate the head pose, and the color green is associated with frontal or nearly frontal head poses that yield more reliable AU detection. The detected AUs are highlighted in blue on the left-hand side of each frame; for example, AU1 and AU2 are detected in Fig. 10.2A.

We demonstrated the real-time AU detection method through face-to-face interactions with the Nao robot in a series of public engagement events. For this purpose, we designed an interactive game where Nao asked participants to help him improve his emotional intelligence by displaying facial expressions of emotion, such as happiness, sadness, etc. The participant could choose to display any AU such as pulling lip corners up (smile), pulling eyebrows up (surprise), dropping the mouth/chin (surprise), lowering the eyebrows (frown), etc. To collect the neutral face that was needed for the δ -appearance and δ -shape representations, we asked the participant at the beginning of the session to stand still and look at the camera. Since the neutral face was collected only for the frontal face, we did not take into account AUs detected in the non-frontal faces.

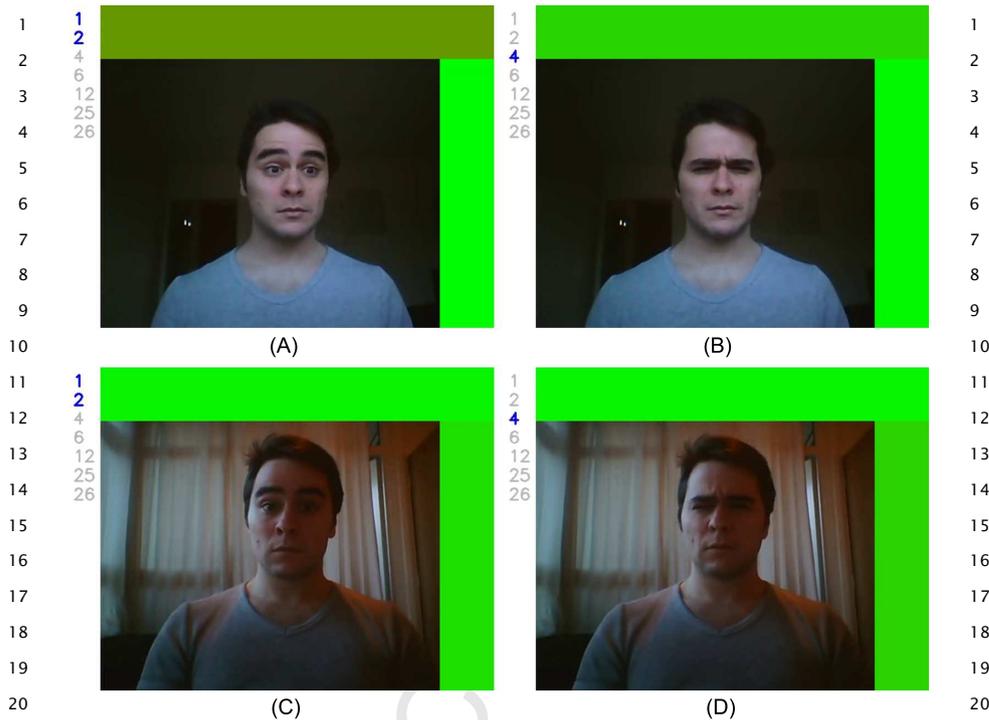


Figure 10.2 AU detection results under different illumination conditions, i.e. (A–B) vs (C–D). Vertical and horizontal bars indicate the head rotation; the color green is associated with frontal/nearly frontal head poses. The detected AUs in each face image are highlighted in blue: (A, C) AU1 and AU2; (B, D) AU4. (For interpretation of the colors in this figure, the reader is referred to the web version of this chapter.)

As illustrated in Fig. 10.2, Nao attempted to recognize each AU displayed by the participant, and inferred the expressed emotion based on the rule based approach, and then asked the participant for feedback in the form of whether the recognized emotion was correct or not. However, an online learning algorithm was not considered, similarly to [31]. Sample images from the Cambridge Science Festival that took place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, on March 13, 2017,¹ are given in Fig. 10.3. The images illustrate the moment that one of the participants from the public displayed different facial expressions of emotions.

Here, we presented a real-life demonstration of the proposed affect analysis approach in an entertainment scenario. However, this approach can be

¹ <https://www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk/events/teach-me-emotional-intelligence>.

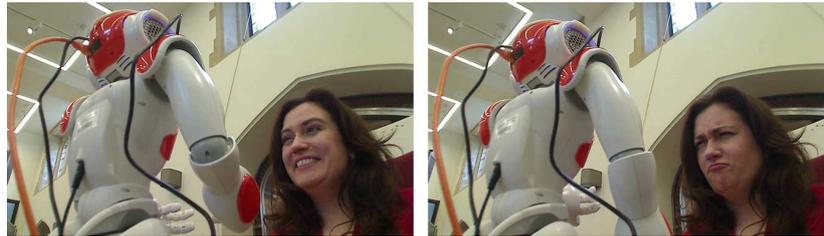


Figure 10.3 Photos from the public demonstration at the Cambridge Science Festival (Image copyright: University of Cambridge).

utilized in a health scenario, where, similarly to [32], the robot would provide assistance to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders for improving their facial emotion expression/recognition capability.

10.3.2 Automatic Personality Prediction

Several studies have shown that the success of social robots highly depends on assessing and responding to the user's personality (see Section 10.2.2). In this section, we describe how to build an automatic predictor of user personality during human–robot interactions as originally presented in [57]. We also investigate the impact of the participant's personality and the robot's personality on the human–robot interaction.

10.3.2.1 Personality Analysis Methodology

Data Collection and Annotation. To model the user's personality, we designed an experimental study involving interactions between two human participants and a robot, and collected audio–visual data using a set of first-person vision cameras (also called egocentric cameras) and annotation data by asking participants to complete BFI personality questionnaires [45].

We recruited participants from graduate students and researchers to take part in our experiment. The flow of interaction between the two participants and the robot was structured as follows. The robot was initially seated and situated on the table. The interaction session was initiated by the robot standing up on the table and greeting the participants. The robot initiated the conversation by asking neutrally, “You, on my right, could you please stand up? Thank you! What is your name?” Then the robot continued by asking each of the participants about their occupations, feelings, and so on, by specifying their names at each turn.

We used the Nao robotic platform with the technical details of NaoQi version 2.1, head version 4.0, and body version 25. The robot was con-

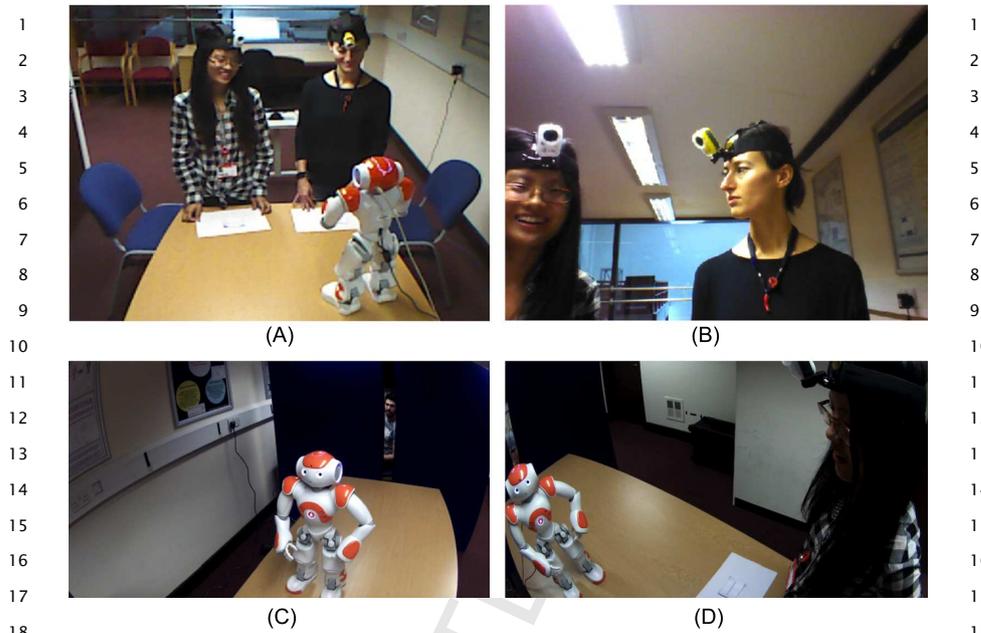


Figure 10.4 (A) The human–robot interaction setup. (B–D) Simultaneously captured snapshots from the first-person videos: the robot’s camera (B) and the ego-centric cameras placed on the foreheads of the participants (C–D).

trolled remotely in a Wizard of Oz setup during the interaction. To manage the turn taking, an experimenter (i.e. operator), who was seated out of sight behind a sheet of poster board, operated the robot using a computer, the robot’s camera, and the other cameras placed in the experimental room. To examine the importance of the robot’s personality in the HRI, the robot was made to exhibit either extroverted or introverted personality. Following the previous literature [49,50], we manipulated the robot’s behaviors to generate the two types of personality. The extroverted robot displayed hand gestures and talked faster and louder, the introverted robot was hesitant, less energetic, and exhibited no hand gestures in the course of the interaction.

A total of 18 participants (9 female and 9 male) took part in our experiment. Each interaction session lasted from 10 to 15 minutes and was recorded from different camera views. First-person videos were recorded using two Liquid Image ego-centric cameras² placed on the forehead of each participant and the robot’s camera. The whole scene was also captured

² www.liquidimageco.com/products/model-727-the-ego-1.

1 using two static Microsoft Kinect depth sensors (version 1)³ as shown in 1
2 Fig. 10.4A, resulting in RGB–D recordings. Sound was recorded via the 2
3 microphones built into the ego-centric cameras. 3

4 We recorded 12 interaction sessions and collected approximately 6 hours 4
5 of multimodal recordings. Each session involved two participants, resulting 5
6 in 24 individual recordings (some participants took part more than once 6
7 provided that they had a different partner and were exposed to different 7
8 robot personalities). The ego-centric recordings and the robot’s camera 8
9 were unsynchronized with the Kinect cameras. For this reason, the ex- 9
10 perimenter switched the light off and on before each session started. This 10
11 co-occurred appearance change in the cameras was used to synchronize 11
12 the multiple videos (i.e. from the two ego-centric cameras, the two Kinect 12
13 depth sensors, and the robot’s camera) in time. Basically, we calculated the 13
14 amount of appearance change between two successive frames based on 14
15 gray-level histograms. For further analysis, we segmented each recording 15
16 into short clips using one question and answer duration. Each clip com- 16
17 prises the robot asking a question to one of the participants and the target 17
18 participant responding accordingly. This yielded 456 clips where each clip 18
19 has a duration ranging from 20 to 120 seconds. 19

20 In this chapter, we only took into account the recordings from the ego- 20
21 centric cameras. First-person vision has been shown to be advantageous in 21
22 analyzing social interactions [78] as it provides the most relevant part of the 22
23 data. For instance, the people who the camera wearer interacts with tend 23
24 to be centered in the scene, and are less likely to be occluded when cap- 24
25 tured from a co-located, first-person perspective rather than from a static, 25
26 third-person perspective. Fig. 10.4 illustrates simultaneous snapshots from 26
27 the ego-centric clips. 27

28 The participants were asked to complete two different questionnaires, 28
29 one before the interaction session (pre-study questionnaire) and the other 29
30 after the interaction session (post-study questionnaire). All measures were 30
31 on a 10-point Likert scale (from very low to very high). For the pre-study 31
32 questionnaire, we used the BFI-10 [79] to measure the Big Five personality 32
33 traits, which is the short version of the Big Five Inventory, and has been 33
34 used in other studies, e.g. [44]. Each item contributes to the score of a 34
35 particular trait. The post-study questionnaire consisted of five items (see 35
36 Table 10.2) that evaluate the participants’ engagement with the robot and 36
37 measure their impressions about the robot’s behaviors and abilities. 37
38

39 ³ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinect. 39

1 **Table 10.2** Post-study questionnaire to evaluate the interaction experience with the 1
2 robot 2

3	Question	Interaction measure	3
4	I enjoyed the interaction with the robot.	Engagement	4
5	I thought the robot was being supportive.	Empathy	5
6	I thought the robot was assertive and social.	Extroversion	6
7	I thought the robot was being positive.	Positivity	7
8	I found the robot's behavior realistic.	Realism	8

9
10 **Feature Extraction.** We used simple and computationally efficient 10
11 low-level features to describe motion and changes from the first-person 11
12 perspective [80]. As mentioned in Section 10.2.2, nonverbal cues conveyed 12
13 through gaze direction, attention, and head movement carry important in- 13
14 formation regarding the individual's personality and internal states. These 14
15 behaviors might lead to significant motion in the first-person videos, which 15
16 can be characterized by optical flow and motion blur. Attention shifts and 16
17 rapid scene changes may also cause drastic illumination changes. 17

18 Blur values were computed based on the no-reference blur estimation 18
19 algorithm of [81]. Given a frame, this algorithm yielded two values, vertical 19
20 (BLUR-Ver) and horizontal blur (BLUR-Hor), ranging from 0 to 1 (the 20
21 best and worst quality, respectively). We also calculated the maximum blur 21
22 (BLUR-Max) over the vertical and the horizontal values. For illumination, 22
23 we simply calculated the mean (ILLU-Mean) and the median (ILLU-Med) 23
24 of the pixel intensity values per frame. 24

25 For optical flow, we used the SIFT flow algorithm proposed in [82]. 25
26 We computed a dense optical flow estimate for each frame, where we set 26
27 the grid size to 4. We converted the x and y flow estimate of a pixel into 27
28 magnitude and angle, and then quantized the angles into eight orientation 28
29 bins. We calculated the mean (MAG-Mean) and the median (MAG-Med) 29
30 of the magnitude values per frame. For the angle values, two types of fea- 30
31 tures were computed over a frame: (i) the number of times the angle bin 31
32 i contained the most motion energy in a frame (ANG-Nrg- i) and (ii) the 32
33 total number of pixels belonging to the angle bin i (ANG-Count- i). These 33
34 features were normalized such that the sum over all eight bins was 1. 34

35 Since the frame rate of the ego-centric cameras was high (60 frames per 35
36 second), all features were extracted from frames sampled every 200 mil- 36
37 liseconds instead of at adjacent time instants. A clip was summarized by 37
38 computing a total of 40 features over the frames. Each feature was com- 38
39 puted by performing a series of operations over the blur, illumination, and 39

Table 10.3 Significant correlations between the Big Five personality traits of the participants and their interaction experience measures (at a significance level of $p < 0.05$, $*p < 0.01$). EXT: extroversion, AGR: agreeableness, CON: conscientiousness, NEU: neuroticism, OPE: openness

Trait	Extroverted robot condition	Introverted robot condition
EXT	Engagement (0.85*) Empathy (0.58)	–
AGR	Engagement (0.62)	–
CON	Positivity (0.71*)	Positivity (0.71)
NEU	Realism (0.60)	–
OPE	–	Positivity (0.70) Realism (0.67)

optical flow features. These operations calculated the mean (Mean), median (Med), and standard deviation (Std) over all frames in a video, calculating the absolute mean (Abs-Mean) over all frames, applying z-score normalization (z) across all frames and taking the first (d1) and the second (d2) temporal derivatives.

10.3.2.2 Experimental Results

This section presents the correlation analysis between the Big Five personality traits and the interaction experience, and also examines how personality is linked to the automatically extracted first-person vision features. We tested the statistical significance of the correlations (against the null hypothesis of no correlation) using a t-distribution test.

Relationship Between Personality and Interaction Experience.

We investigated the possible links between the Big Five personality traits of the participants, the *extroversion/introversion* trait of the robot, and the participants' interaction experience with the robot. In Table 10.3, the significant results are given with their respective correlation values in parentheses.

For the extroverted robot condition, the perceived *engagement* with the robot is found to be significantly correlated with participants' *extroversion* trait, which validates the similarity rule [60,42]. We observe that the robot's perceived *empathy* positively correlates with the participants' *extroversion* trait. This might be due to the fact that extroverted people feel more control over their interactions and judge them as more intimate and less incompatible [83,84]. A study of *agreeableness* reported that more agreeable people showed strong self-reported *rappport* when they interacted with a virtual agent [85]. Cuperman and Ickes [41] also indicated that more

1 agreeable people reported having more enjoyable interactions. Similarly, we 1
2 observe that perceived *engagement* with the robot is highly correlated with 2
3 the *agreeableness* trait of the participants. A significant relationship is also 3
4 established between the robot's perceived *realism* and the *neuroticism* trait of 4
5 the participants. People who score high on *neuroticism* tend to perceive their 5
6 interactions as being forced and strained [41] and therefore the artificial be- 6
7 haviors of the robot might appear to them as realistic. 7

8 For the introverted robot condition, no significant correlations are 8
9 obtained with participants' *extroversion*, *agreeableness*, and *neuroticism* traits. 9
10 People who score high on *conscientiousness* tend to interact with others by 10
11 showing greater attentiveness and responsiveness [41]. This might cause sig- 11
12 nificant correlations with the interaction measure of *positivity* regardless of 12
13 the robot's personality as the robot always provided feedback to the partic- 13
14 ipant in the course of interaction. 14

15 **Relationship Between Personality and First-Person Vision Fea-** 15
16 **tures.** The goal of this analysis was to study the one-to-one relationships 16
17 between the Big Five personality traits of the participants and the auto- 17
18 matically extracted first-person features. Table 10.4 shows the prominent 18
19 features and the significant correlations. 19

20 In general the introverted robot condition provides a larger number of 20
21 significant correlations with the extracted features. This can be due to the 21
22 participants' attention being shifted more when interacting with the intro- 22
23 verted robot. For the extroverted robot condition, the *neuroticism* trait of 23
24 the participants shows significant relationships with all three feature types 24
25 (blur, illumination, and optical flow), in particular with blur features. No 25
26 significant correlations are found between participants' *extroversion* trait and 26
27 the first-person features. For the introverted robot condition, the personal- 27
28 ity traits of *conscientiousness*, *neuroticism*, and *openness* of the participants show 28
29 significant relationships with the blur and optical flow features. However, 29
30 no correlations are found with the illumination features. 30

31 In Table 10.4, one significant relationship is seen between *agreeable-* 31
32 *ness* and the vertical blur feature, which can be associated with head nod- 32
33 ding and being positive and supportive. We observe that extroverted people 33
34 tend to enjoy the interaction with the extroverted robot more than the in- 34
35 teraction with the introverted robot. Our experimental results further show 35
36 that *extroversion* is negatively correlated with the blur (motion) features for 36
37 the introverted robot. This result indicates that less energetic (introverted) 37
38 people like the introverted robot more, and it is possible to deduce this 38
39 from the first-person vision features extracted. 39

Table 10.4 Selected statistically significant correlations between the participants' personality traits and first-person vision features (at a significance level of $p < 0.01$). BLUR: blur, ILLU: illumination, MAG: optical flow magnitude, ANG: optical flow angle, EXT: extroversion, AGR: agreeableness, CON: conscientiousness, NEU: neuroticism, OPE: openness

Trait	Extroverted robot condition	Introverted robot condition
EXT	–	BLUR-Ver-Mean(−0.55); BLUR-Ratio-Med(−0.49)
AGR	BLUR-Ver-Mean(0.36)	BLUR-Max-Med(0.35)
CON	BLUR-Ver-Mean(0.34); ILLU-Mean-Std(−0.33)	BLUR-Ver-Med(−0.53); BLUR-Ratio-Med(−0.48); ANG-Nrg-1(0.35)
NEU	BLUR-Ver-Mean(−0.40); BLUR-Ratio-Med(−0.36); ILLU-Med-Std(−0.38); ANG-Nrg-1(0.41); ANG-Count-2(−0.42)	BLUR-Ver-Mean(0.68); BLUR-Max-Std(0.40); BLUR-Ratio-Med(0.61); MAG-Mean-Mean(0.35); MAG-Mean-d1-Abs-Mean(0.38)
OPE	BLUR-Max-Mean(0.34); ILLU-Med-Std(0.39); ANG-Count-3(0.33)	BLUR-Hor-Mean(0.47); BLUR-Ver-Mean(−0.43); MAG-Mean-Mean(−0.35); ANG-Count-1(0.35)

For automatic personality prediction, we employed the linear Support Vector Regression method with nested leave-one-subject-out cross-validation. Optical flow-angle features (ANG-Nrg and ANG-Count) yielded the best prediction results in terms of coefficient of determination (R^2) and root-mean-square error ($RMSE$), where we obtained $\mu_{R^2} = 0.19$ and $\mu_{RMSE} = 1.63$ over all traits. The method successfully modeled the relationship between the first-person vision features and the traits of *agreeableness* ($R^2 = 0.48$, $RMSE = 1.37$), *conscientiousness* ($R^2 = 0.27$, $RMSE = 1.55$), and *extroversion* ($R^2 = 0.20$, $RMSE = 1.72$). Similarly, the study in [53] applied Ridge regression to predict the *extroversion* trait. Although the database, Likert scale, and visual feature set used were completely different, they also obtained the best results with motion-based features ($R^2 = 0.31$). Referring to this result as a baseline, our results for *agreeableness*, *conscientiousness*, and *extroversion* show that prediction of personality traits from first-person vision in the scope of HRI is a promising research direction.

10.4 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

Robotics as a field is continuously evolving to address the ever-changing needs of humans in society. Today the potential of affective and social robotics is enormous, including but not limited to promoting the health and well-being of the elderly living at home [86], improving the quality of life of individuals via physical recovery and rehabilitation [87], assisting the caregivers of children with cognitive and social disabilities [5], assisting children with special medical needs such as diabetes [88], providing personalized education for children [89], and facilitating engagement in group interactions for improving team performance [6]. To deploy social robots in such naturalistic human–robot interaction settings, user modeling and personalization through automatic analysis of expressions, emotions, personality, and engagement is key.

In the light of the survey of the recent research trends and techniques used by social robots, we would like to conclude this chapter by highlighting three open problems in the field, together with a number of pathways that can be used to address these problems.

Cross-Fertilization Between Affective Computing and Social Robotics Fields. In recent years significant progress has been achieved in automatic analysis of affective and social signals, particularly of emotions and affective states; even so, computational social robotics has not yet incorporated these latest developments. There is an apparent lack of cross-fertilization between these fields and the field of social robotics. In the fields of affective computing and social signal processing, the current computational techniques integrate multimodal features from visual, audio, and physiological cues over time and utilize models trained with deep learning. However, to date, there has been virtually no effort to integrate these latest trends into social robots and test their viability in the context of human–robot interaction. This is mainly due to the need of real-time processing and to the lack of computational power available on the current robotic platforms. One possible solution to this issue is attaching external cameras onto the robots and performing the real-time processing on an external computer, as described in Section 10.3.1.2. However, this solution does not hold for mobile robots. Another promising direction is cloud robotics, where the captured data is directly streamed to a server via the network for effective and efficient computing (e.g. [90]). This brings additional challenges into play, including the analysis of affect and social signals using live-streamed data that has low spatial and temporal resolution.

1 **Analysis Under Realistic and Adverse Conditions.** For emotion 1
2 recognition, most of the successful methods in computer science have fo- 2
3 cused on facial cues, and have been characterized by multimodal features, 3
4 in particular combining facial cues with audio cues and bio-signals such 4
5 as Electrodermal Activity (EDA). Bio-signals are useful when facial cues 5
6 cannot be observed reliably. However, in real-life applications, it might not 6
7 be always possible to attach sensors onto the participants to measure their 7
8 physiological responses. Reducing the cost, the size, and the invasiveness of 8
9 the physiological sensors that can work robustly under adverse conditions 9
10 is expected to resolve many of these challenges. Body postures and hand 10
11 gestures are important sources of information for the analysis of affective 11
12 and social signals. Therefore, a promising direction is to use deep learn- 12
13 ing approaches that combine multiple visual cues, such as facial and bodily 13
14 cues. However, fusing multiple cues in an effective and efficient manner still 14
15 remains an open challenge in the field. Learning what to fuse and when as 15
16 suggested in [26,91] will also help deal with missing data, i.e. the cases 16
17 where one of the cues is not available or is not reliably detected. 17
18

19 **Datasets and Ground Truth.** Most of the available datasets in social 19
20 robotics have relied on self-reported assessments, in particular, for assess- 20
21 ing personality. However, in real-life applications, self-reported assessments 21
22 might not be available for evaluating the performance of the automatic ana- 22
23 lyzers. Online crowd-sourcing platforms (e.g. MTurk) have recently gained 23
24 popularity, due to their efficiency and practicality for collecting responses 24
25 from crowds for large sets of data within a short period of time. Such ef- 25
26 forts have clearly been proven to be efficient at predicting personality [92]. 26
27 However, exploring novel ways to incorporate annotation disagreements 27
28 into the analyzers, similarly to [93], is an avenue that needs to be explored 28
29 further. 29
30

31 In summary, the review provided in this chapter illustrates that the ca- 31
32 pabilities of current social robots are quite limited. There is a clear need for 32
33 incorporating the automatic affect analysis and social processing methods 33
34 into real-life human–robot interaction applications and for improving these 34
35 techniques to address the challenges of varying environmental lighting, 35
36 user distance to camera, camera view, and real-time computational require- 36
37 ments. The availability of commercial robotic platforms such as iCat [35], 37
38 iCub [59], and Nao [40], and developments in collaborative academic re- 38
39 search such as the Frontiers Research Topic on *Affective and Social Signals* 39

1 for HRI⁴ provide us with a positive outlook. However, to truly address the 1
2 existing challenges, researchers from the relevant fields, including but not 2
3 limited to psychology, nonverbal behavior, vision, social signal processing, 3
4 affective computing, and HRI, need to constantly interact with one an- 4
5 other. 5
6

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