

SRI International (Sarnoff)
(Sensei) Technical Report: Distribution A

Sensei: A Multi-Modal Framework for Assessing Stress Resiliency

(February 1-28, 2013)

From:

Ajay Divakaran, Technical Leader
Jeffrey Lubin, Senior Research Scientist
Joe Ferraro, Program Manager

Sensei (SRI #P21103)
Contract # N00014-12-C-0288

Spending for Period 14

1 Update: Technical Progress and Accomplishments for Period 14
(February 2013):

Task 3.1: Capture Behavioral Stress Markers in Real-Time in Lab Environment
with graded exposure to ICT's scenarios **MAC 1-6**

Progress during this reporting period was in two primary areas. First, we completed all necessary modifications to our laboratory environment to allow accurate, automatic data collection in Experiment 2. This included:

- (1) Enabling full time stamping of all data streams (IR and visible video sensors, plus physiological signals from the Equivital belt).
- (2) Developing automatic, trial synced audio recording.
- (3) Better illumination to allow pupillometry from the high resolution video camera.
- (4) Time-stamping of subject responses to the peripheral detection task.
- (5) Python-based automatic start/stop of all data streams.
- (6) Automatic generation and population of directories for each data stream for each subject.

In addition to these lab accomplishments, we also fine-tuned the timing of the Stroop/PDT presentations to achieve maximal engagement and hence maximal stress response as the trials come more and more quickly towards the end of the session.

In data analysis, we perfected a technique, described briefly in the last report, for accurately tracking facial feature points in the IR video stream. As shown in Figure 1, this tracking works quite well, even over large facial rotations.

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE MAR 2013		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-02-2013 to 00-02-2013	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Sensei: A Multi-Modal Framework for Assessing Stress Resiliency				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) SRI International, 1100 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA, 22209				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

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Figure 1. Sample frames from IR video stream, with tracking marks superimposed

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The tracking works so well, in fact, that we now intend to perform facial expression analysis primarily from the IR stream, with the high resolution video stream reserved primarily for pupillometry and gaze analysis.

As an example of the utility of this high quality tracking, we implemented a technique to measure breathing rate based on observable temperature changes around the nostrils. The technique uses a barycentric approach to determine if a pixel is inside a polygon formed from a set of six tracked points around the nostrils, and then computes a mean value within this polygon. These points include those labeled 9.3, 9.1, 9.5, 9.15, 9.4, and 9.2 in Figure 2 below.

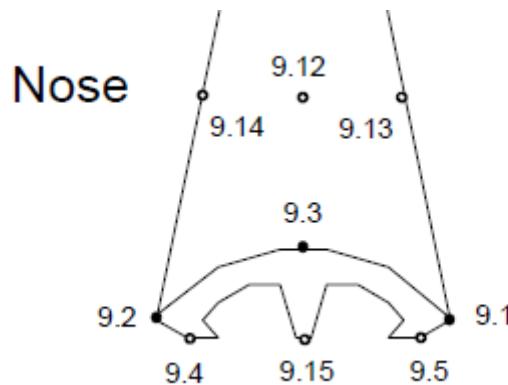


Figure 2. Tracked points used for inhale/exhale detection

Figure 3 below shows the result of this computation for a representative sequence of frames. Each inhale/exhale cycle is very clearly evident in this figure.

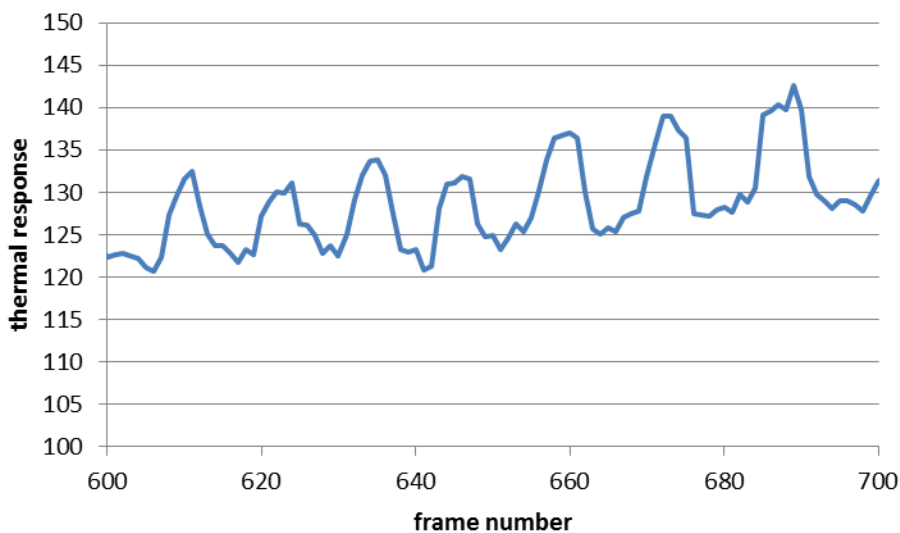


Figure 3. Breathing rate measurement example

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Based on the success of this approach, we intend to also implement heart rate monitoring in an analogous fashion.

Task 3.2: Administer Scenarios and Verify Hypothesis **MAC 6-12**

Not yet at this stage.

Task 3.3: Program Management **MAC 1-12**

2. Issues:

- No current issues.

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