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Special Issue

Multimodal Interaction in Automotive Applications

Guest Editors

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With the smartphone becoming ubiquitous, pervasive distributed computing is becoming a reality. Increasingly, aspects of the internet of things find their way into many aspects of our daily lives. Users are interacting multimodally with their smartphones and expectations with regard to natural interaction have increased dramatically in the past years. Even more, users have started to project these expectations towards all kind of interfaces encountered in their daily lives. Currently, these expectations are not yet fully met by car manufacturers since the automotive development cycles are still much longer compared to software industry. However, the clear trend is that manufacturers add technology to cars to deliver on their vision and promise of a safer drive. Multiple modalities are already available in today's dashboards, including haptic controllers, touch screens, 3D gestures, voice, secondary displays, and gaze.

In fact, car manufacturers are aiming for a personal assistant with deep understanding of the car and an ability to meet driving-related demands and non-driving-related needs to get the job done. For instance, such an assistant can naturally answer any question about the car and help schedule service when needed. It can find the preferred gas station along the route, or even better – plan a stop and ensure to arrive in time for a meeting. It understands that a perfect business meal involves more than finding a sponsored restaurant, and
includes unbiased reviews, availability, budget, trouble-free parking and notifies all invitees
of the meeting time and location. Moreover, multimodality can be a source for fatigue
detection. The main goal for multimodal interaction and driver assistance systems is on
ensuring that the driver can focus on his primary task of a safe drive.

This is why the biggest innovations in today’s cars happened in the way we interact with the
integrated devices such as the infotainment system. For instance, it has been shown that
voice based interaction is less distractive than interaction with visual haptic interface, but it is
only one piece in the way we interact multimodally in today’s cars, shifting away from the
GUI as the only source of interaction. This also leads to additional efforts to establish a
mental model for the user. With the plethora of available modalities requiring multiple mental
maps, learnability decreased considerably. Multimodality may also help here to decrease
distraction. In the special issue we will present the challenges and opportunities of
multimodal interaction to help reducing cognitive load and increase learnability as well as
current research that has the potential to be employed in tomorrow’s cars.

Scope

In this special issue, we especially invite researchers, scientists, and developers to submit
contributions that are original and unpublished and have not been submitted to any other
journal, magazine, or conference. We are soliciting original research related to multimodal
smart and interactive media technologies in areas including - but not limited to - the
following:

- In-vehicle multimodal interaction concepts
- Multimodal Head-Up Displays (HUDs) and Augmented Reality (AR) concepts
- Reducing driver distraction and cognitive load and demand with multimodal
  interaction
- (pro-active) in-car personal assistant systems
- Driver assistance systems
- Information access (search, browsing etc) in the car
- Interfaces for navigation
- Text input and output while driving
- Biometrics and physiological sensors as a user interface component
- Multimodal affective intelligent interfaces
- Multimodal automotive user-interface frameworks and toolkits
- Naturalistic/field studies of multimodal automotive user interfaces
- Multimodal automotive user-interface standards
- Detecting and estimating user intentions employing multiple modalities
Timeline

1-page abstract submission 05.02.2017
Invitation for full submission 15.03.2018
Full Submission 28.04.2018
Notification about acceptance 15.06.2018
Final article submission 15.07.2018
Tentative Publication ~ 09/2018

Submission Instructions

Abstract submissions should not exceed 1 page and be submitted to https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=mmautomotive2018.

Authors of accepted abstract submissions will be invited for full submission.

Full submissions should be around 8-16 pages and must not have been previously published.

Authors are requested to follow instructions for the full manuscript submission to the Journal of Multimodal User Interfaces (http://www.springer.com/computer/hci/journal/12193) and to submit manuscripts at the following link: http://www.editorialmanager.com/jmui/.

The article type to be selected is “Special Issue S.I. : Automotive”.

Companion website: https://sites.google.com/view/multimodalautomotive/

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