

# Artificial Intelligence and Emotion Recognition: saving pain.

VALENTINA FRANZONI

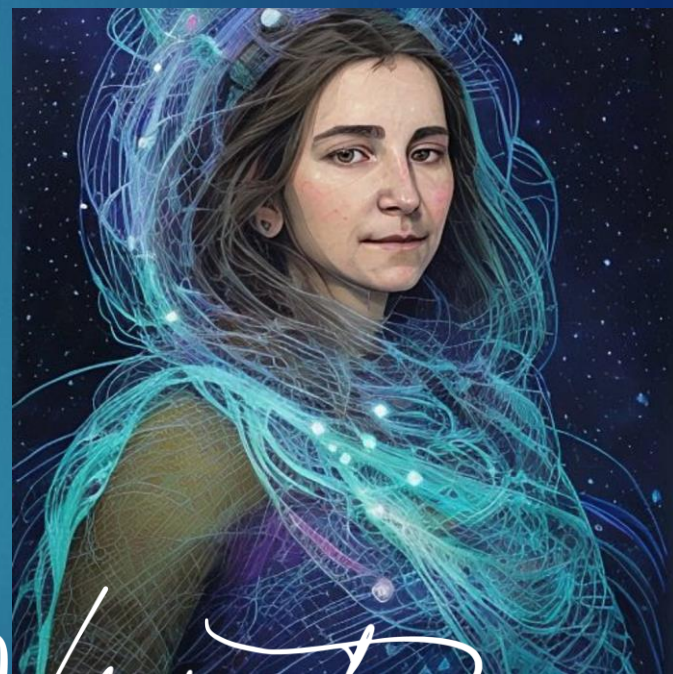
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V Workshop of the *Department  
of Mathematics  
and Computer Science*  
*University of Perugia*  
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*Valentina Franzoni*  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMOTION RECOGNITION

# Research questions

- *What* is an emotion, and how it can be defined in Artificial Intelligence
- *How* emotions can be measured
- *How* emotions and pain are similar
- *Which* applications we can have in health management
  - methods and techniques used to recognize emotions
  - real-world applications and recent advances
  - limitations and challenges

What is an emotion?

# What is an «emotion»

**Cognitive** system input  
+  
**emotional** system input  
(limbic/Cranial Nerves)  
=  
**decision** output

**BRAIN**

*situations*

**Cognitive** system

**Emotional** system

**Cognitive** system

**Emotional** system

*If there is a lion...*



**Cognitive** system says: baby lion, maybe mother around.

**Emotional** system says: AAAWW! CUTE!! I would like to touch!

**Decision** system says: better to watch from far.

# And what if...



*Cognitive* system says: lions running at me!

*Emotional* system says: **FEAR** of death! **RUN AWAY!**

*Decision* system says: **EMERGENCY!**

# What emotions are

*Emotions* are something that get us to **act** in a particular way.

We don't need to *feel* or *understand* emotions to act, but to teach and **plan** for the future.

Emotions are universal; a **feeling** is instead the internal **subjective** component of the sense of perception, arising from the stimulation of the senses by phenomena.

# Emotions in an AI perspective

- Primitives (**modular**)
- Fast (**approximate**)
- Executed automatically (**reactive**)
- Based on environment (**adaptive**)
- Temporary with learning (**evolutionary**)
- Can be **collective** and **contagious**

## Affective Computing studies emotions and:

- *feelings and physiological sensations*
- *sentiments (positive/negative/neutral)*
  - *moods and mind states*
  - *thoughts and beliefs*

# Emotions in Collaborative Collective Networks

*Relational*

Emotions in Network Science and  
Social Network Analysis

*Communication channel*

Emotions in Multitasking and  
Process Management

*Bidirectional flux*

# Emotions in Trauma

- Executed automatically (**reactive**)
- Based on environment (**adaptive**)
- Temporary with learning (**evolutionary**)

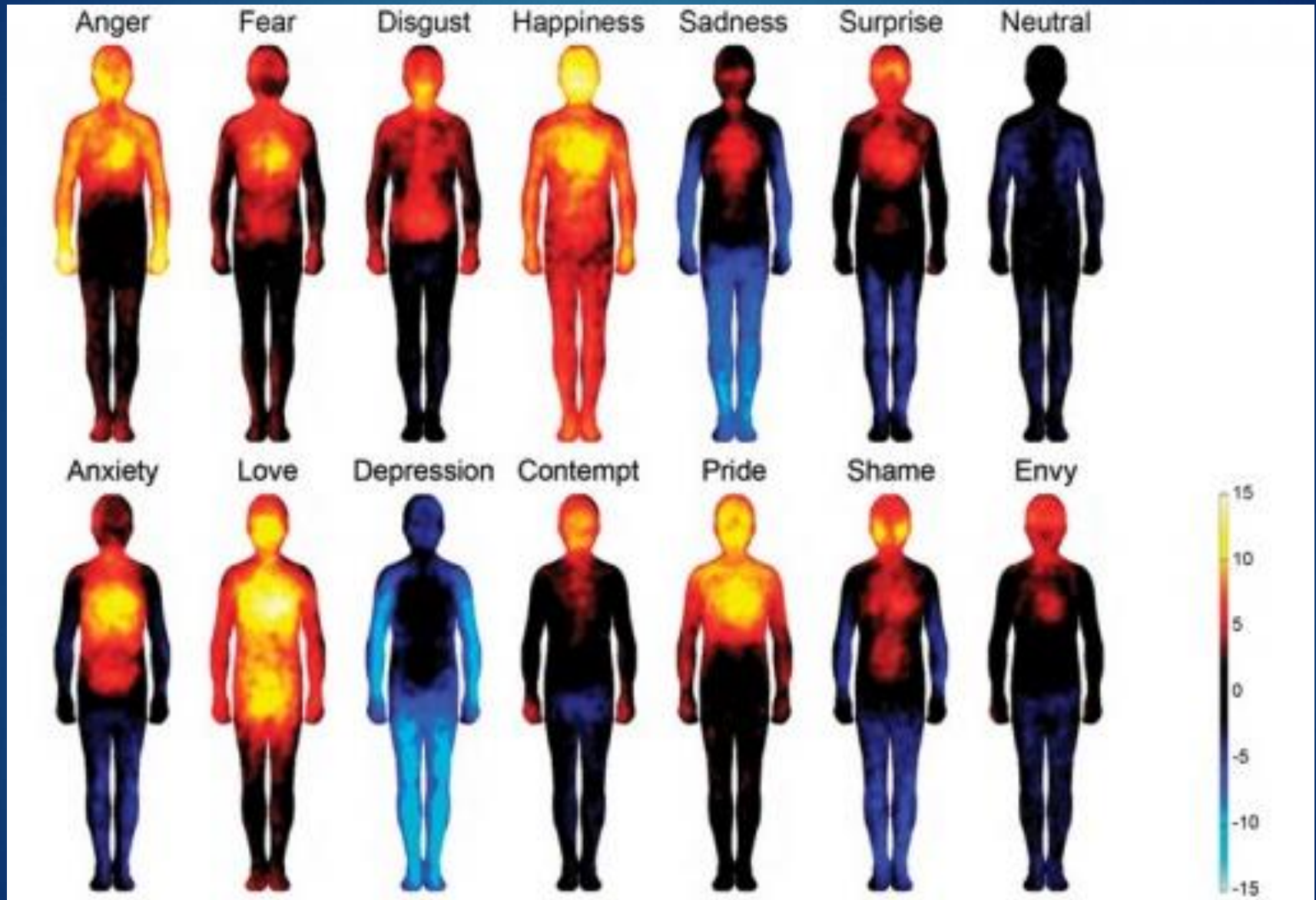
# Emotions in Trauma

- Executed automatically (**reactive**)
- Based on environment (~~adaptive~~ **maladaptive**)
- Temporary with learning (**evolutionary**)

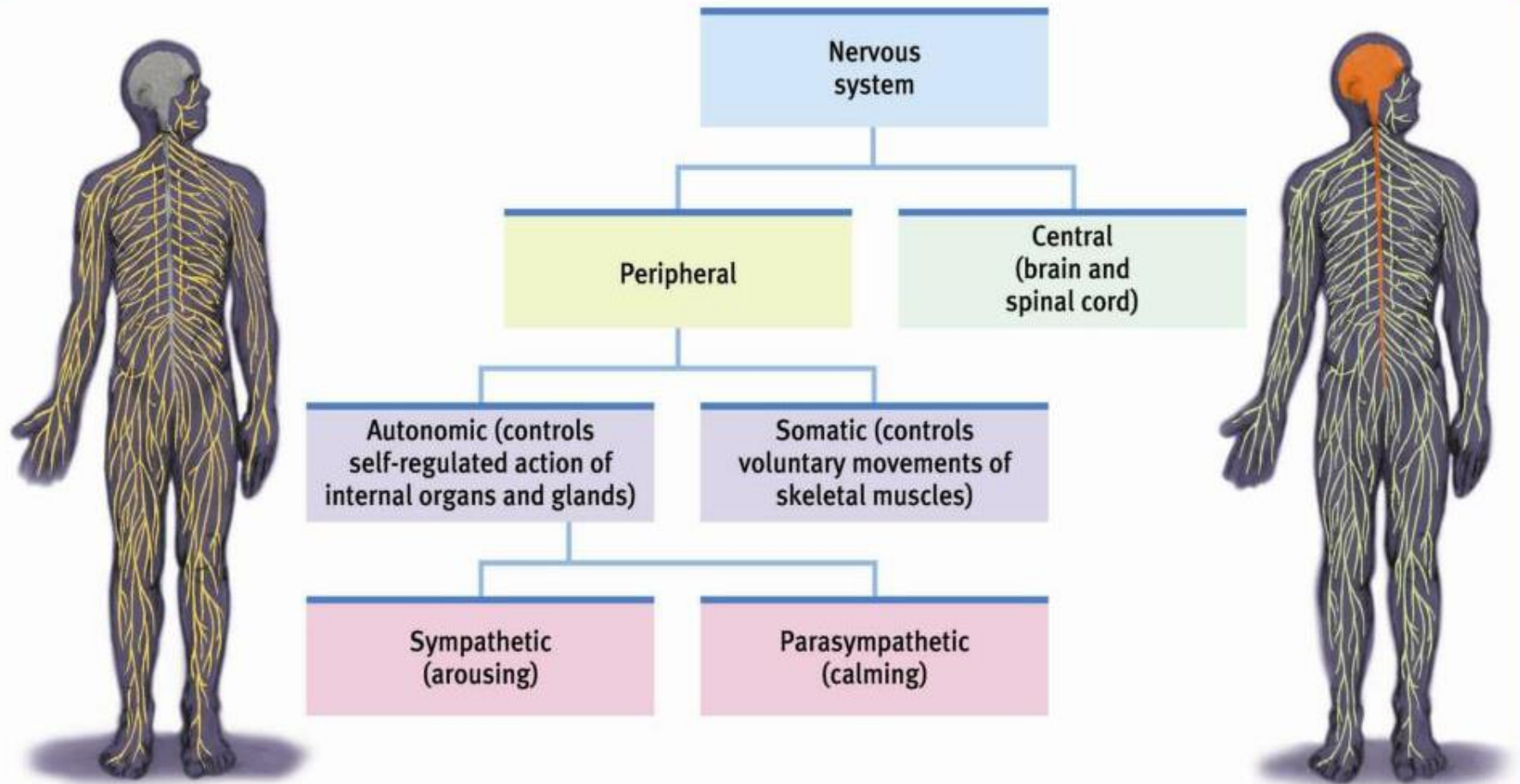
*Traumatic emotional memories are safe during the traumatic event but can be later triggered again in non-dangerous contexts, becoming **maladaptive**.*

How to measure emotions?

# Physiology of emotional sensations

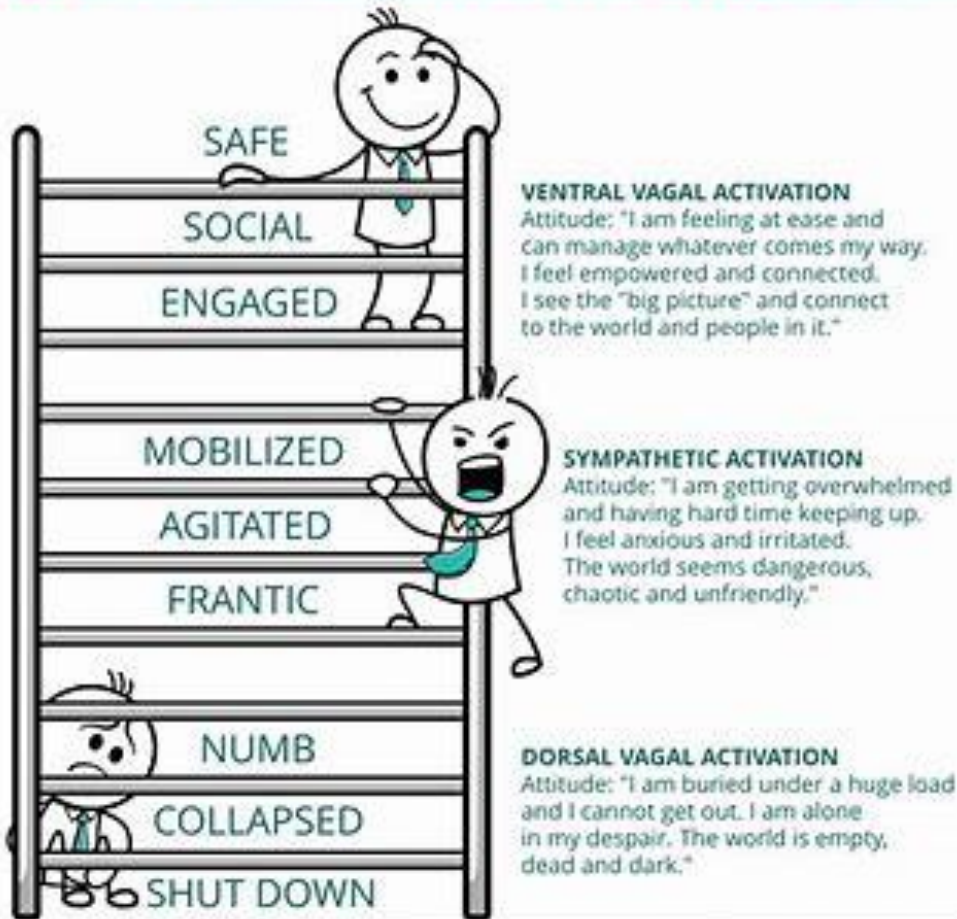


# Neurophysiology of emotions



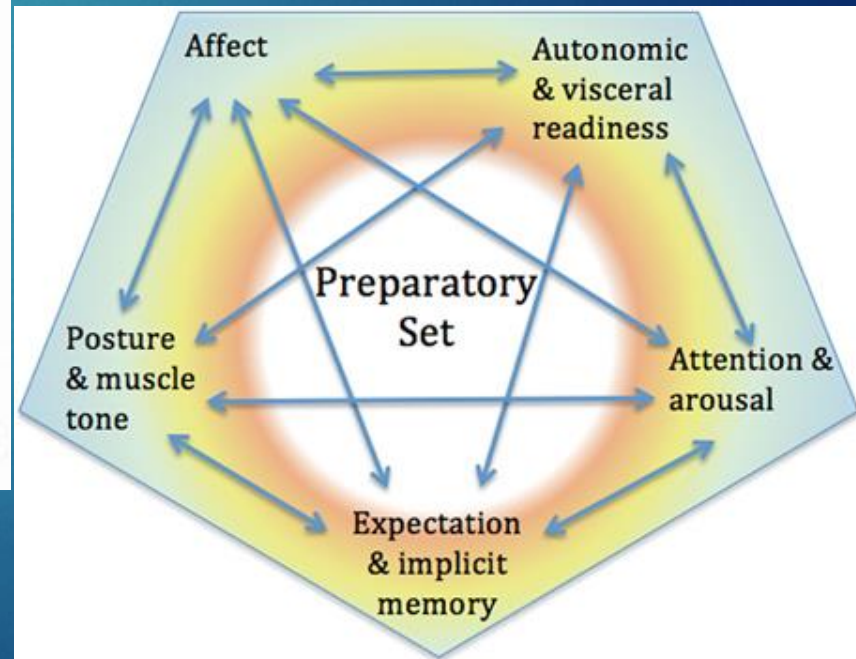
# Polyvagal Theory

## AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM AS A LADDER



Adapted from *The Polyvagal Theory in Therapy* by Deb Dana

Sensitive (input) and Active (output) nerve bidirectional fibers from the Cranial Nerves to internal organs, skin, and head.



How are emotions  
and pain similar?

# Emotions and pain

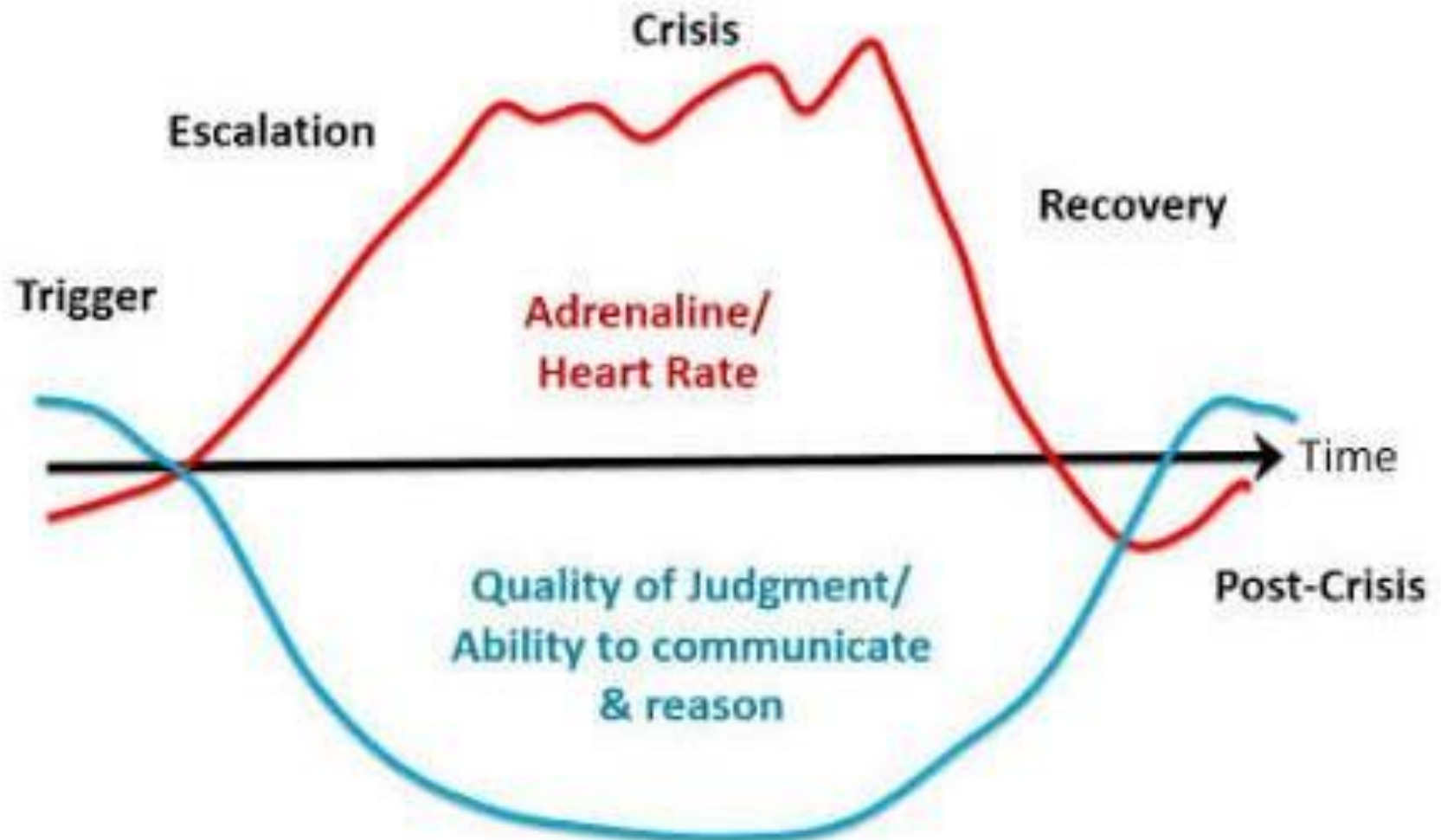
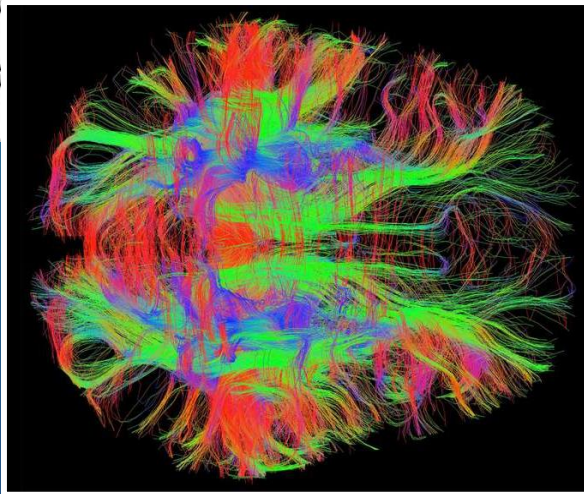
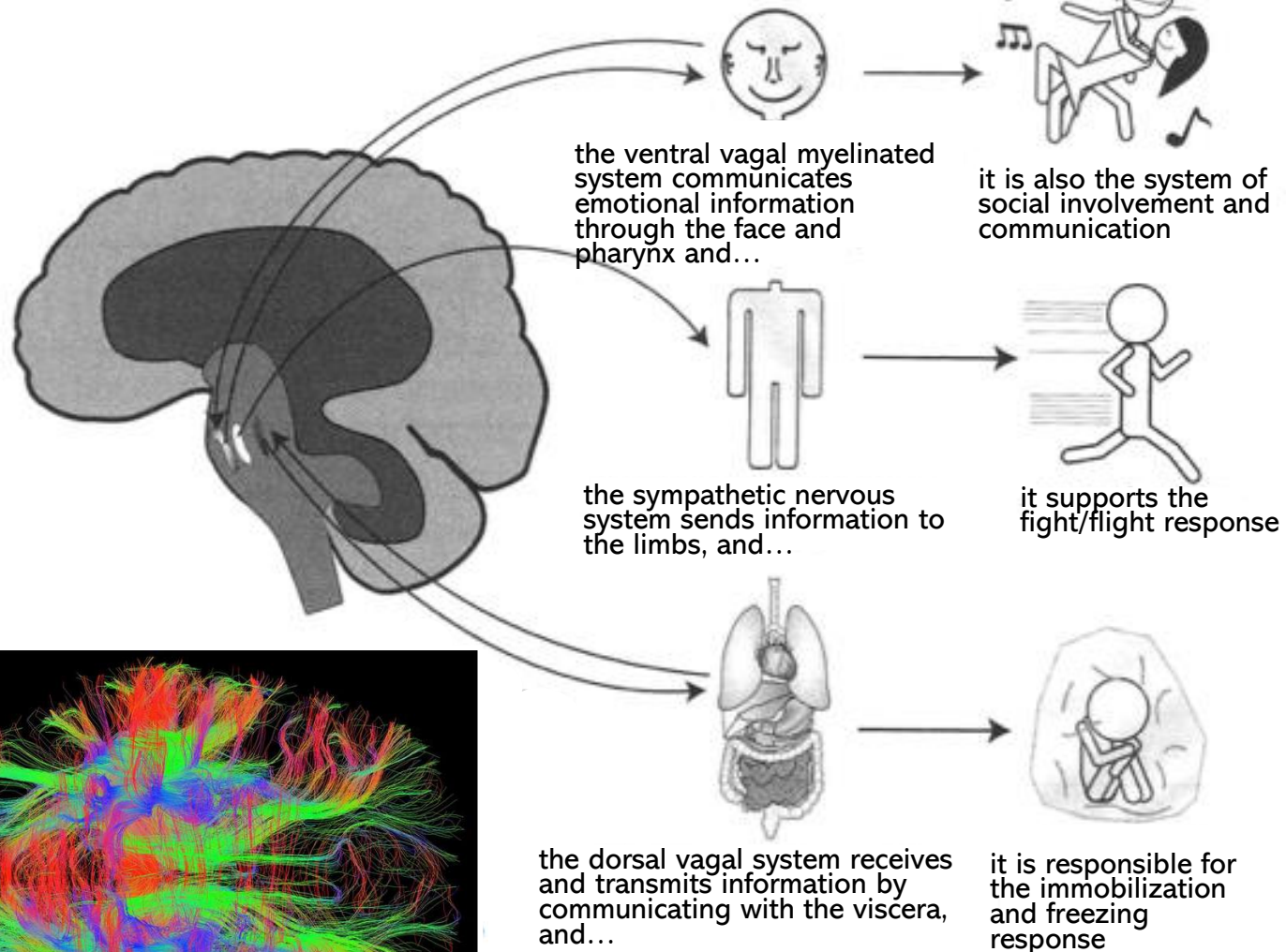


Image based on Harper, G. (2004). *The joy of conflict resolution: Transforming victims, villains and heroes in the workplace and at home*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers.

# Polyvagal Theory



## Phylogenetic hierarchy of response strategies

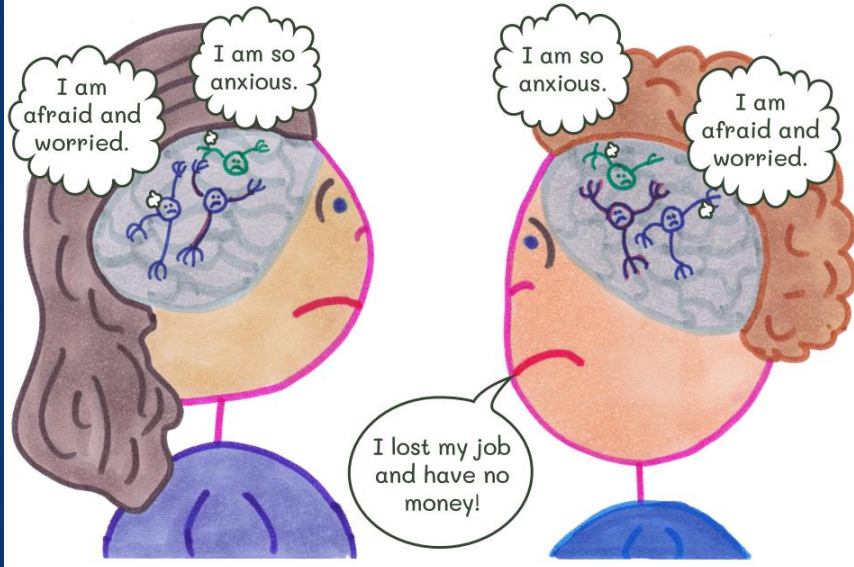


# Mirror Neurons

We create millions of mirror neurons which mirror the neural actions and feelings of other people.

MediGraytion

TRUTHTOONS by Laura Graye



## Sensory, cognitive and motor implications



Response is similar for:

Performing the action

Witnessing the action

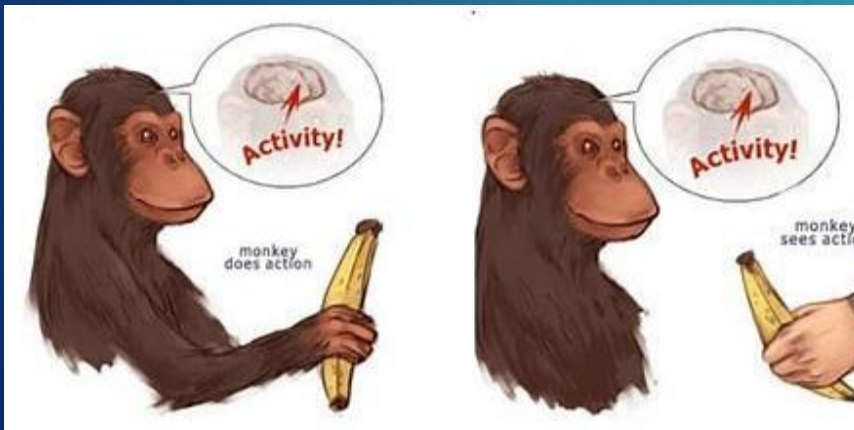
Hearing about the action

Mirror Neurons enable:

Empathy

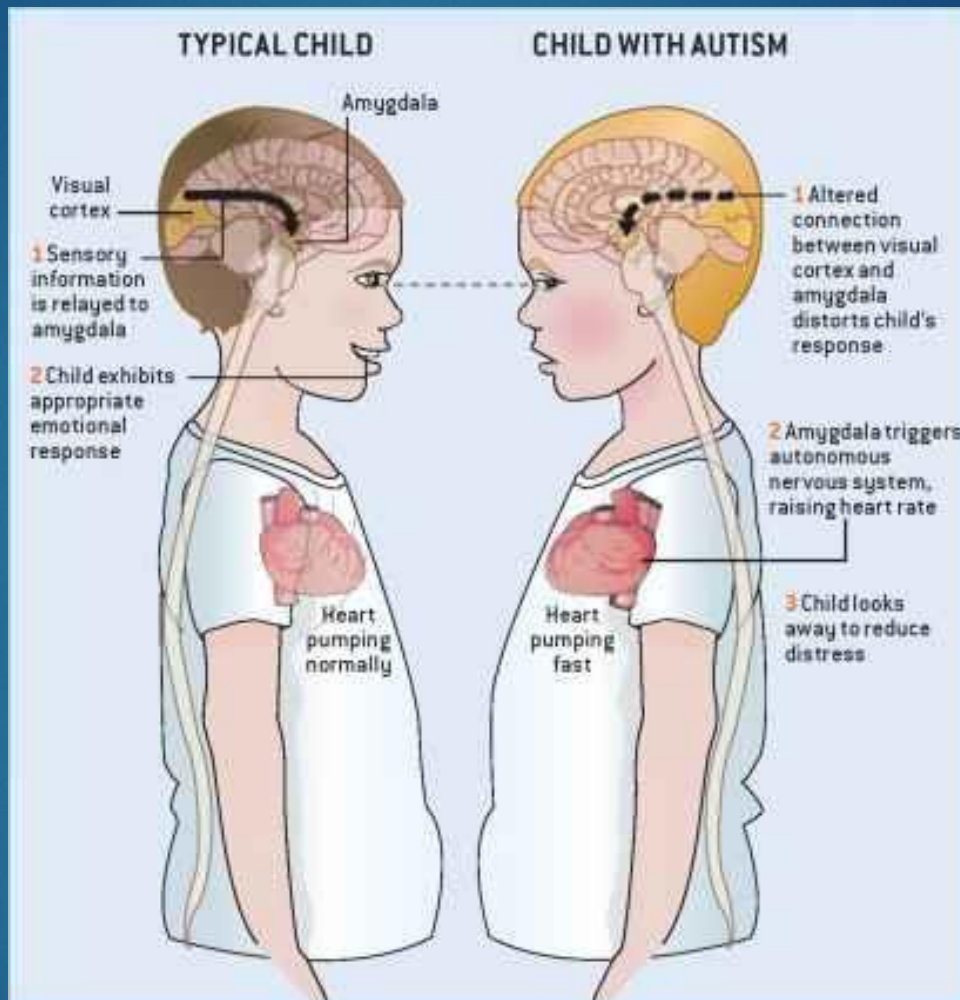
Skill building through mimic

Vicarious experience



Which challenges for health?

# Assistive Systems



## Assistive Systems for Emotion Recognition

O.Gervasi, V.Franzoni, M.Riganelli, S.Tasso: **Automating facial emotion recognition**. Web Intell. 17(1): 17-27 (2019)

# Affective Computing in Trauma management

- Key approach to use with patients who are unable to verbalize their trauma.
- Critical ways the head and facial muscles activate to calm a fear response.
- How to activate the part of the nervous system that promotes stronger social engagement.
- How to shift a patient's physiological state to move them out of shutdown.

M. Riganelli, V. Franzoni, O. Gervasi, S.Tasso: **EmEx, a Tool for Automated Emotive Face Recognition Using Convolutional Neural Networks**. ICCSA (3) 2017: 692-704V.Franzoni, G.Biondi, V.Franzoni, O.Gervasi, D.Perri: **An Approach for Improving Automatic Mouth Emotion Recognition**. ICCSA (1) 2019: 649-664

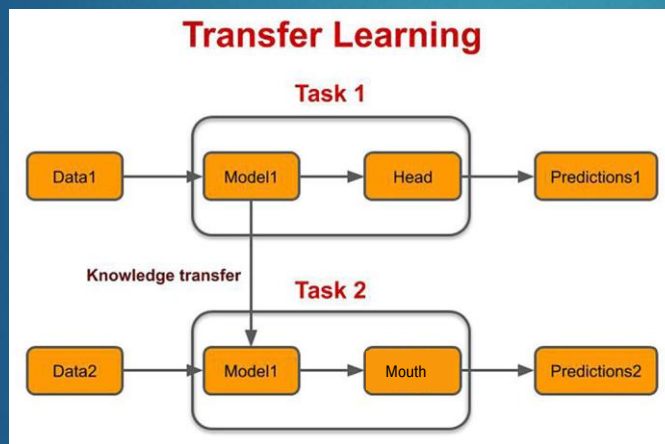
Franzoni V., Biondi G., Perri D., Gervasi O. (2020). Enhancing mouth-based emotion recognition using transfer learning. SENSORS, vol. 20

**MOUTH**: critical element of human face recognition, symmetric, visible from any perspective, ideal element to focus for facial Emotion Recognition.

Mouth-based ER gets 95% of the performance compared to full face.

### Emotional model:

Neutral  
Happy  
Surprise  
Anger



### Applications (e.g.):

- automated supervision of bedridden critical patients,
- portable support for disabled users in seeing or recognizing facial emotions.

Table 2. Final results related to the considered CNNs.

Network	Accuracy
Vgg-16	71.8%
InceptionResNetV2	79.5%
Inception V3	77.0%
Xception	75.5%

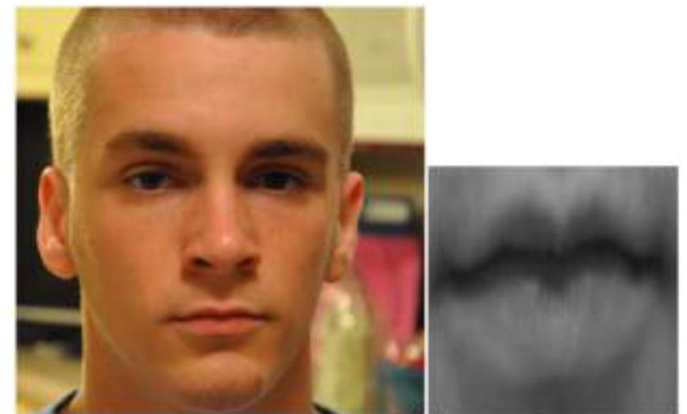


Figure 1. Mouth detection, cropping and resizing (source image from AffectNet database).

# Baia, A.E., Biondi, G., Franzoni, V., Milani, A., Poggioni, V., (2022). **Lie to me: Shield Your Emotions from Prying Software.** SENSORS, vol.22

For an input facial image  $x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and the related label  $y$ , let  $F$  be a Neural Network (NN) classifier that correctly predicts the emotional class label for the input image  $x : F(x) = y$ . An EAA attempts to modify  $x$  adding a  $\delta$  perturbation into an adversarial image  $x^* = x + \delta$ , such as to induce  $F$  to make a *faulty emotion class prediction*, i.e.,  $F(x^*) \neq F(x)$ .



The quality of the images from the human perception point of view is maintained.

EASR = 91.25%, 93.75%, and **96.25%** when using 3, 4, and **5 filters**.

The only classes that maintain some correct classifications are **fear** and **happiness**. Other classes show a **100% success** rate.

Adversarial attack preserving users' privacy from ER.

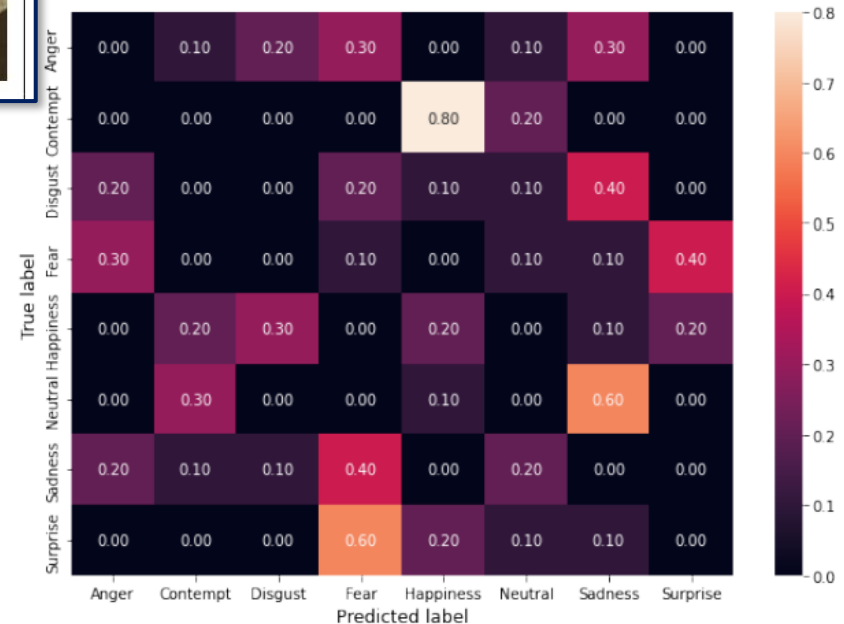
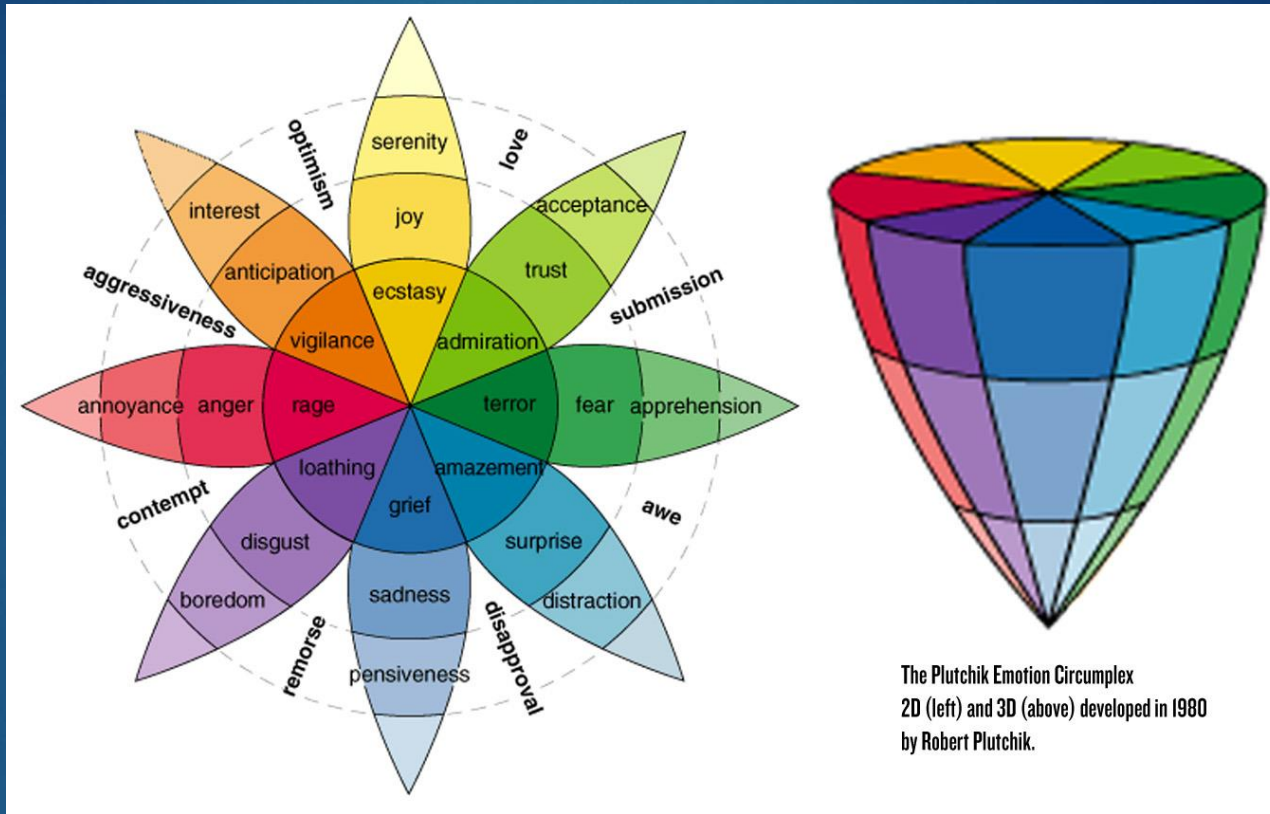


Figure 3. Confusion matrix from the results of the attack with five filters.

# Multidimensional models



V.Franzoni, J.Vallverdú, A.Milani: **Errors, Biases and Overconfidence in Artificial Emotional Modeling**. WI (Companion) 2019: 86-90

V.Franzoni, V.Poggioni, F.Zollo: **Automated Classification of Book Blurbs According to the Emotional Tags of the Social Network Zazie**. ESSEM@AI\*IA 2013: 83-94

V.Franzoni, V.Poggioni: **Emotional book classification from book blurbs**. WI 2017: 931-938

V.Franzoni, G.Biondi, A.Milani: **A Web-Based System for Emotion Vector Extraction**. ICCSA (3) 2017: 653-668

Milani A., Rajdeep N., Mangal N., Mudgal R. K., Franzoni V. (2018).  
**Sentiment extraction and classification for the analysis of users' interest in tweets.** INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WEB INFORMATION SYSTEMS, vol. 14, p. 29-40

- **Topic Extraction:** open NLP, WORDNET similarity to categories: *Entertainment, Business/Finance, Technology, Sports, Recreation, Health, Politics, Social Issues*
- **Sentiment Analysis:** Stanford CoreNLP Tweet positivity and negativity based on sentiment score in [0,4]->Positive

*231750 tweets 1150 users: behaviour*

*202578 tweets: comparison of 5 cities in India*

Hybrid Methodology  
for Sentiment and  
Topic Extraction.

M.Atif, V.Franzoni, A.Milani: **Emojis Pictogram Classification for Semantic Recognition of Emotional Context.** BI 2021: 146-156

M.Atif, V.Franzoni: **Tell Me More: Automating Emojis Classification for Better Accessibility and Emotional Context Recognition.** Future Internet 14(5): 142 (2022)

G. Biondi, V.Franzoni, A.Mancinelli, A.Milani, R.Niyogi: **Hate Speech and Stereotypes with Artificial Neural Networks.** ICCSA (Workshops 3) 2022: 15-32

D. Saetta, V. Franzoni, et al., **Collection and Analysis of Narratives for a Values Charter of the Italian Society for Hospital Pharmacy.** WI 2022 (in press)

Biondi, Giulio, FRANZONI, VALENTINA, Li, Yuanxi, Milani, Alfredo (2016).  
**Web-based similarity for emotion recognition in web objects.** In: 2016  
IEEE/ACM UCC. vol. 1, p. 327-332, ACM

Emotion recognition based on  
**distance from emotional poles** of  
state-of-the-art models:

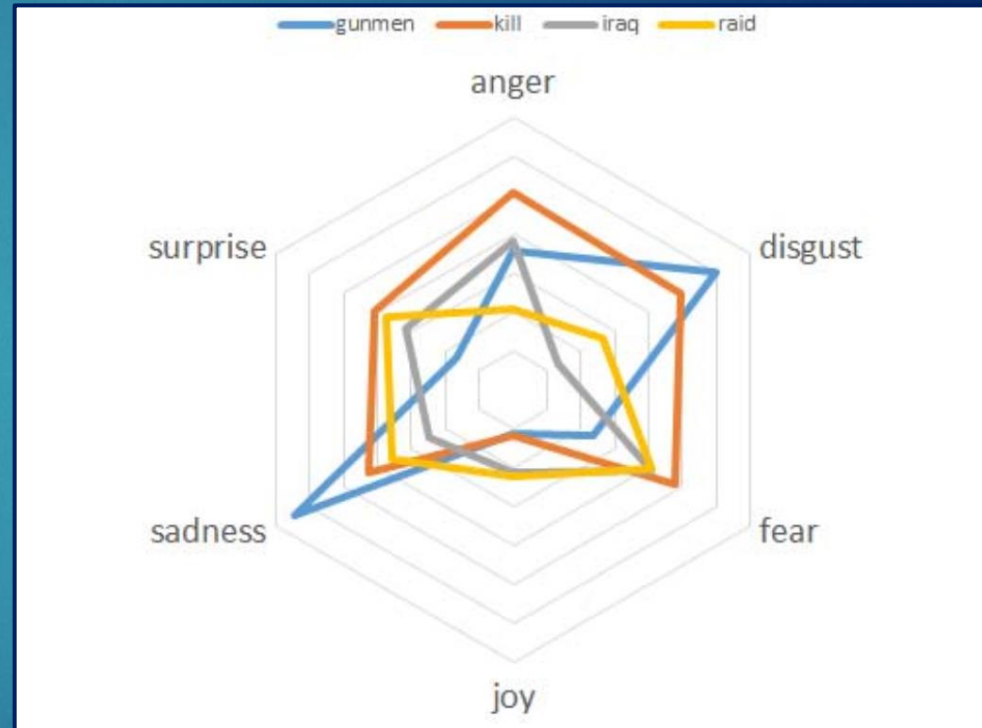
**Ekman**.=[*anger, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise*]

**Plutchik**.=[*anger, anticipation, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise, trust*]

**Lovheim**.=[*anger, disgust, distress, fear, interest, joy, shame, surprise*]

**Web-based proximity** correlation  
based on: *PMI, Confidence, NGD*

Ekman, PMI; Dataset: News titles  
«*Gunmen kill 11 in Iraq TV raid*»

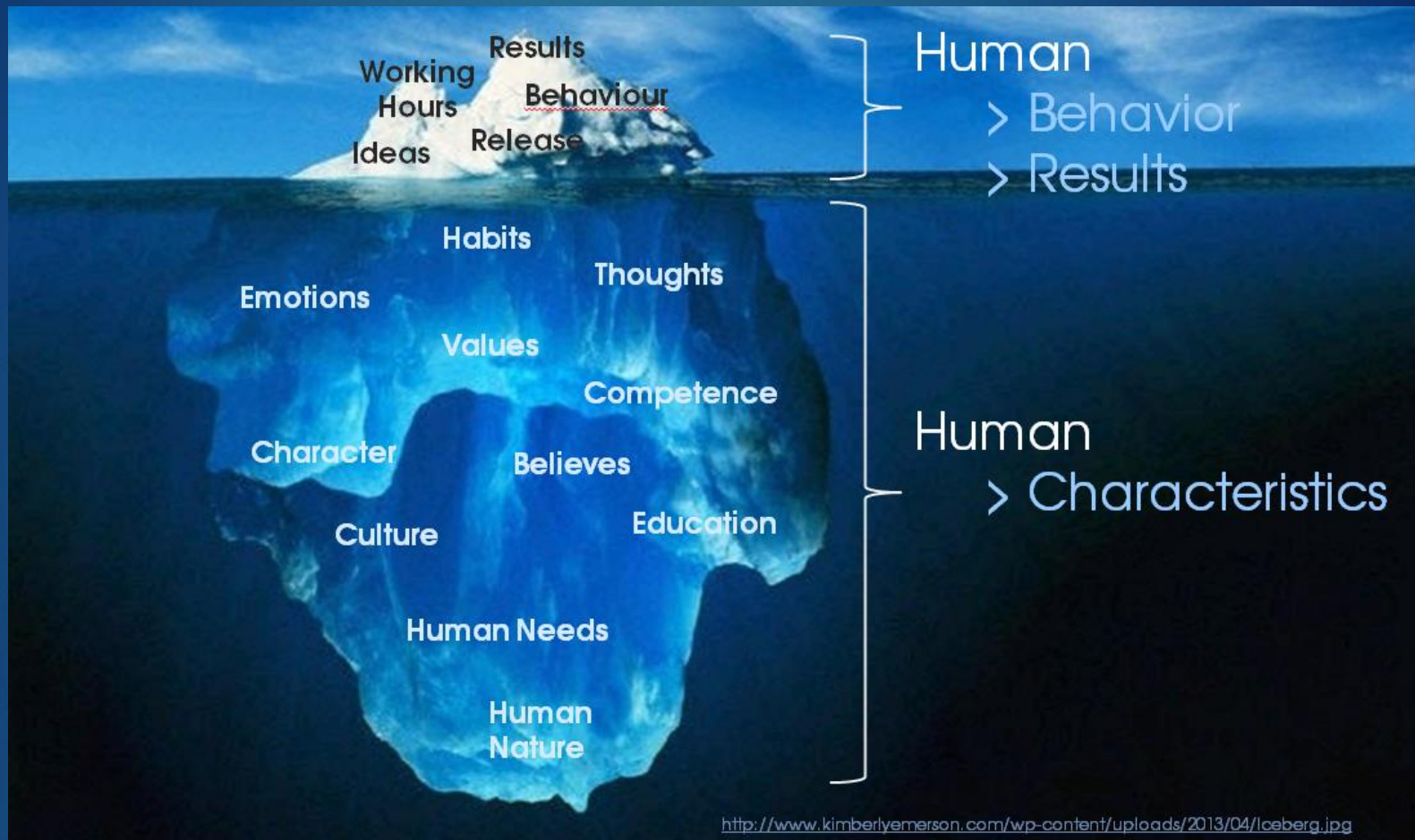


V.Franzoni, A.Milani, G.Biondi: **SEMO: a semantic model for emotion recognition in web objects.** WI 2017

V.Franzoni, Y.Li, P.Mengoni: **A path-based model for emotion abstraction on facebook using sentiment analysis and taxonomy knowledge.** WI 2017: 947-952

Giulio Biondi, Valentina Franzoni, Valentina Poggioni: **A Deep Learning Semantic Approach to Emotion Recognition Using the IBM Watson Bluemix Alchemy Language.** ICCSA (3) 2017: 718-729

# Complex models



## Emotional Affordances and Complex Models

V.Franzoni, A.Milani, J.Vallverdú: **Emotional affordances in human-machine interactive planning and negotiation**. WI 2017: 924-930

V.Franzoni, Y.Li, P.Mengoni, A. Milani: **Clustering Facebook for Biased Context Extraction**. ICCSA (1) 2017: 717-729

# Anger multidimensional model



## Non-Violent Communication

V.Franzoni, A.Milani: **Emotion Recognition for Self-aid in Addiction Treatment, Psychotherapy, and Nonviolent Communication**. ICCSA (2) 2019: 391-404

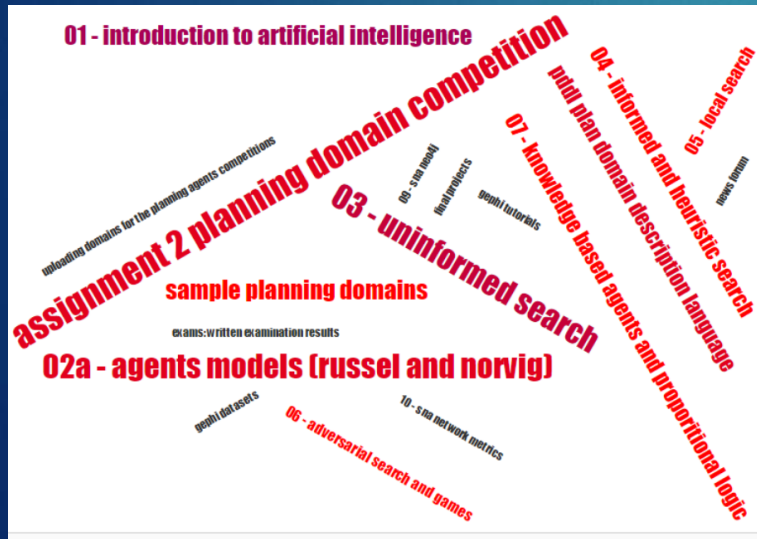
Franzoni V., Milani A., Mengoni P., Piccinato F. (2020). **Artificial intelligence visual metaphors in e-learning interfaces for learning analytics**. APPLIED SCIENCES, vol. 10, p. 1-25, ISSN: 2076-3417

## AI Learning Analytics made understandable through Visual metaphors:

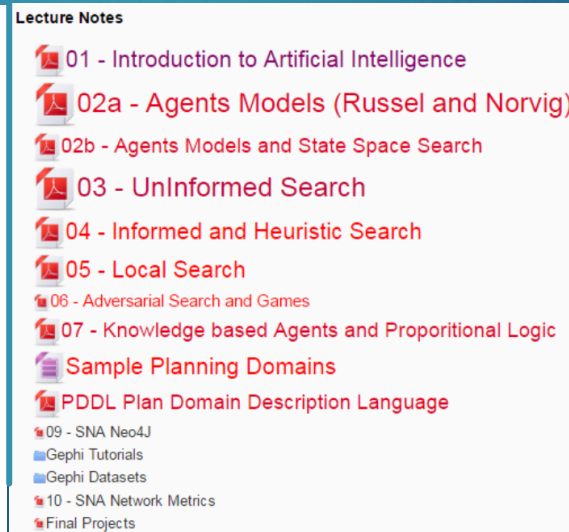
- Temporal Proximity
- Frequency and Distribution
- Users/objects Aggregation

Visual feedback on content engagement.

### Tag Cloud Morphing



### Dimensional Morphing



### Thermometer Bar





*Boston Dynamics' Spot*

V.Franzoni, G.Biondi, A.Milani: **Exploring Negative Emotions to Preserve Social Distance in a Pandemic Emergency**. ICCSA (2) 2020: 562-573

## Gestione della pandemia



## Robot sociali

V.Franzoni, A.Milani, D.Nardi, J.Vallverdú: **Emotional machines: The next revolution**. Web Intell. 17(1): 1-7 (2019)

V.Franzoni, N.Di Marco, G.Biondi, A.Milani:  
-**Virtual Reality for Enhancement of Emotional Mindset in the First Lockdown of United Kingdom for the Covid-19 Pandemics**. BI 2021: 189-198;

-**How Virtual Reality Influenced Emotional Well-being Worldwide During the Covid-19 Pandemics**. WI/IAT 2021: 268-272

V.Franzoni, A.E.Baia, G.Biondi, A.Milani:**Producing Artificial Male Voices with Maternal Features for Relaxation**. WI/IAT 2021: 273-277

Franzoni, V., Biondi, G., Milani, A. (2020). **Emotional Sounds of Crowds: spectrogram-based analysis using deep learning**. MULTIMEDIA TOOLS AND APPLICATIONS

Crowds express emotions as **collective individuals**.

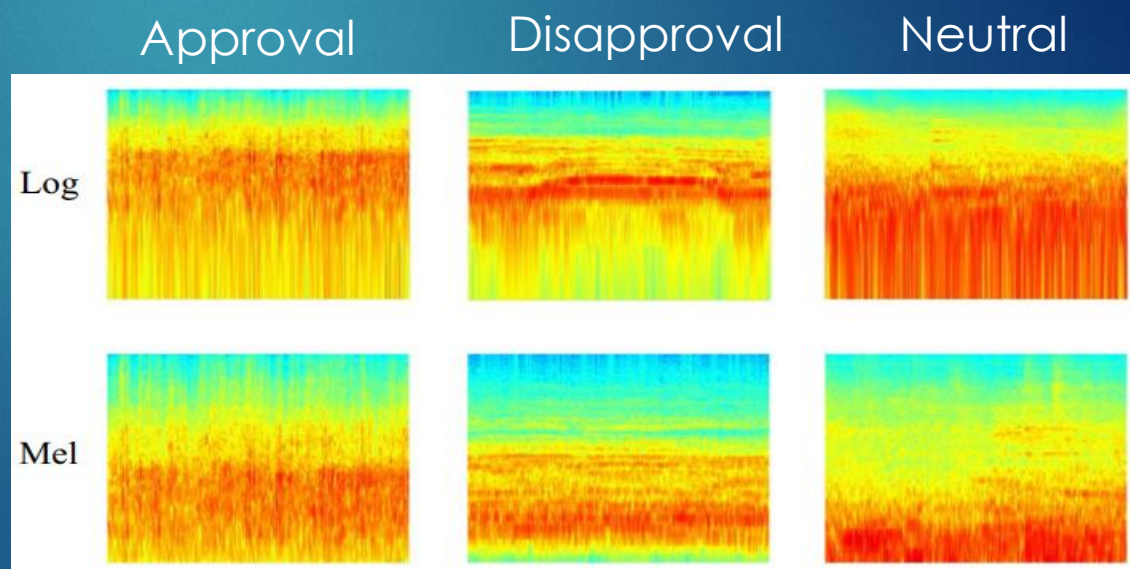
Experiments on crowd sounds in particular events

*e.g., collective booing, laughing or cheering in sports matches, cinema, theaters, concerts, political demonstrations, riots.*

Deep learning based on sound spectrogram of different **scales**:

- *Mel*
- *Log*
- *Bark*
- *Erb*

Visual deep learning on sound spectrograms using transfer learning.



# Emotion Recognition in animals

V. Franzoni, A. Milani, G. Biondi, F. Micheli: **A Preliminary Work on Dog Emotion Recognition**. WI (Web Intelligence) 2019: 91-96

Classification of *aggressive*, *happy*, and *neutral* dogs' expressions.



# Pain Recognition in Preterm Infants



V. Franzoni, D. Mezzetti: **Recognizing and Predicting Neonatal Pain in Preterm Intensive Care Unit: a Study Protocol.**  
WI (Web Intelligence) 2022 (in press)

# Challenges of pain in preterms

- Underdeveloped nociceptive modulation
- High prevalence of painful procedures
- Assessing and predicting pain intensity and duration is paramount
- More than 40 pain scales, most of them based on facial expressions identified by doctors and nurses.

# Challenges of pain in preterms

- Underdeveloped ***nociceptive modulation***
- High prevalence of ***painful procedures***
- Assessing and predicting **pain intensity and duration** is paramount
- More than 40 **pain scales**, most of them **based on facial expressions** identified by doctors and nurses.

# Proposed study protocol

- facial and body images: neural networks
- professional evaluation and objective data, e.g. patient data, pathology, and vital parameters

## Advantages:

- images acquired sequentially
- continuous monitoring
- enabling quantification pain (time,intensity)

# Methods

Convolutional Neural Networks for Image Recognition, Knowledge-Transfer Learning, Decision System and Reinforced Learning

Image acquisition setup:

- Smartphone camera on 3D-printed mount
- Body and face close-up
- Collection of data from the monitor of vital parameter
- Written notes by nurses (usual protocol)

# Goal of the research

The intended information to be achieved is related to:

- need for intervention
- correlation between pathology or intervention and pain
- prediction of pain level in similar situations

Challenge: high ethical standards.

# Conclusions

- Recognition of emotions and pain, especially in premature infants, is a complex and **challenging task**.
- It requires a **multidisciplinary approach**.
- Collaboration between computer scientists and physicians can **save lives**.

# Multidisciplinary Resources

M.C. Schumer , E.K. Lindsay, J.D. Creswell, [Brief mindfulness training for negative affectivity: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#). J Consult Clin Psychol. 2018 Jul;86(7):569-583. doi: 10.1037/ccp0000324.

D. Siegel, [Past two decades have been filled with a variety of technological advances](#). J Drugs Dermatol. 2005 Jan-Feb;4(1):12-3. PMID: 15696978.

B.A. Van Der Kolk, et al., [A Randomized Controlled Study of Neurofeedback for Chronic PTSD](#). PLoS One. 2016 Dec 16;11(12):e0166752. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0166752.

P. Ogden, C. Pain, J. Fisher, [A sensorimotor approach to the treatment of trauma and dissociation](#). Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2006 Mar;29(1):263-79, doi:10.1016/j.psc.2005.10.012.

S.W. Porges, [The polyvagal perspective](#). Biol Psychol. 2007 Feb;74(2):116-43. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsycho.2006.06.009. Epub 2006 Oct 16.

D. Mistry, et al., [Meditating in virtual reality: Proof-of-concept intervention for posttraumatic stress](#). Psychol Trauma. 2020 Nov;12(8):847-858. doi: 10.1037/tra0000959.

C. Pain, R. Lanius, [Disasters, pandemics and mental health](#). CMAJ. 2020 Jul 13;192(28):E803. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.200736.

[What happens in the brain during a potentially traumatic event](#), Infographics.

[Courses](#) by the United States National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine (NICABM).

# Contacts

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