



# Human Interaction with Complex and Autonomous Systems and Vehicles

*Advanced Interaction Research Lab at Drexel*

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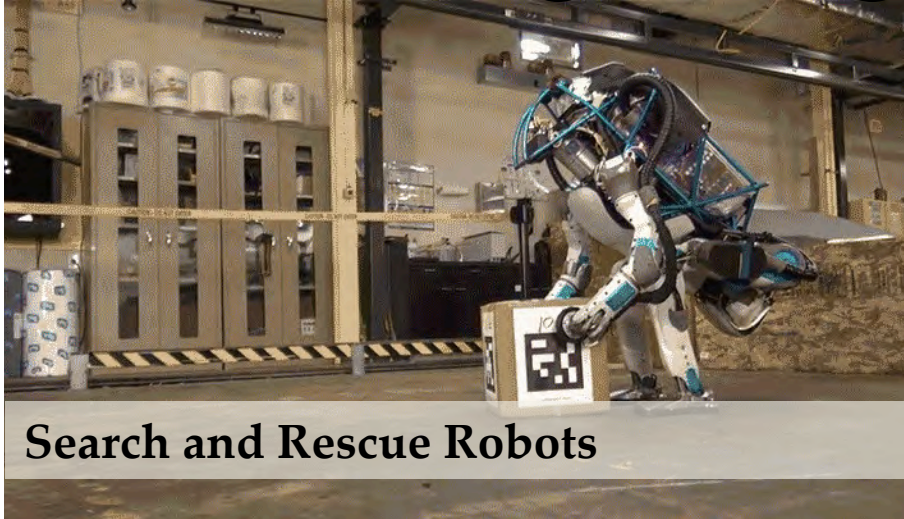
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# Increasing Usage of Automation



**Search and Rescue Robots**



**Artificial Intelligence**



**UAVs**



**Self-Driving Cars**



**Manufacturing**

# Human + Autonomy

## Human Strengths:

- Inference
- Adaptation
- Intuition
- Judgment
- Morality

## Autonomy Strengths:

- Fast
- Does not get bored
- Consistent
- Good for Predictable cases

## Human Limits:

- Response Time
- Bandwidth
- Cognitive Capacity
- Inconsistency
- Endurance
- Training

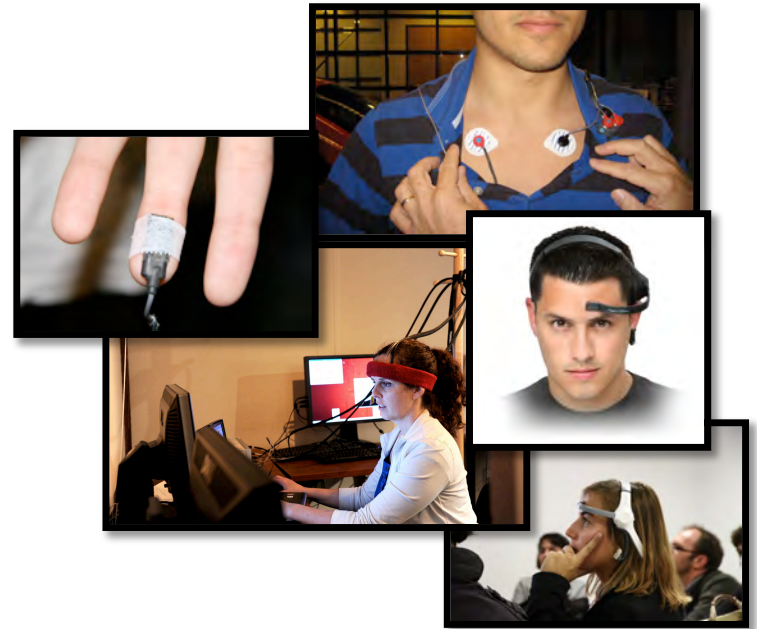
## Autonomy Limits:

- Adaptability
- Data requirements
- Interface with System
- Need Rules

# Using brain and body sensing for implicit interfaces

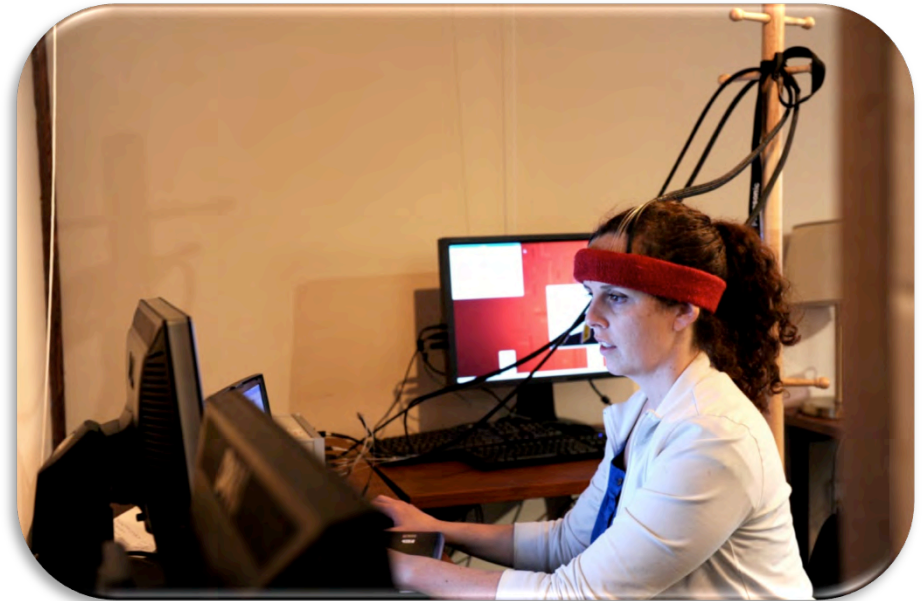
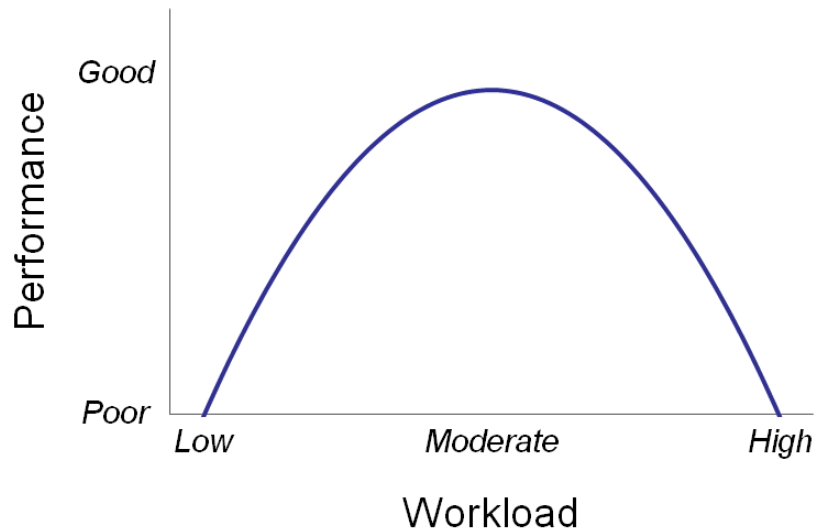
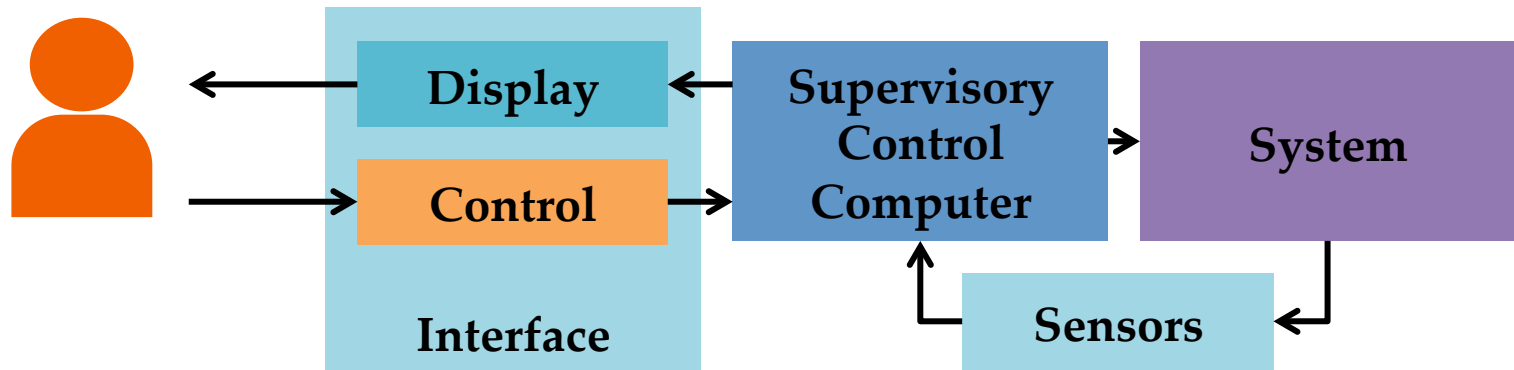
**Goal:** expand bandwidth between human & computer

**Approach:** identify signals people naturally give off and adapt systems appropriately



When are these signals useful in human supervisory control?  
How do you use them effectively?

# Human Supervisory Control



# The brain as **explicit and primary** input



# Brain & body as **implicit, supplementary** input

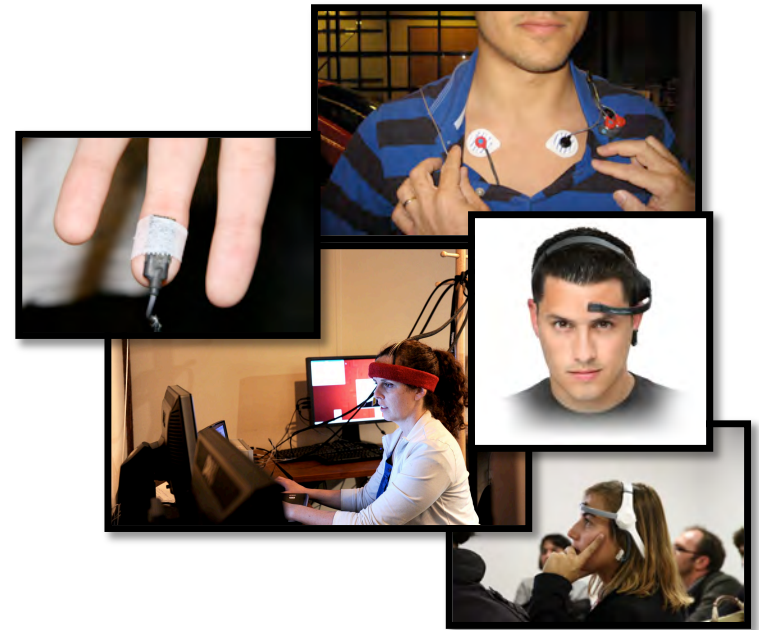


# Brain & body as **implicit, supplementary** input

- **Augment** traditional input devices
- **Wider group of users**, beyond disabled
- **Passive, implicit** input channel
- Capture **subtle** cognitive state changes
- Input to **adaptive** interactive system
- **Real-time**, continuous data

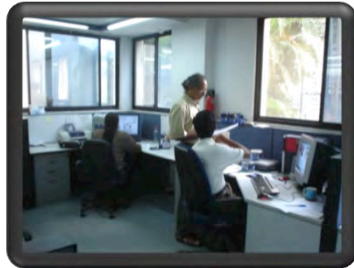
## Examples

- Adapting **autonomy** levels
- Modifying **quantity** of information
- Transform **modality** of info presentation
- Task **allocation**, manage **task load, difficulty**
- **Offline evaluation** of user interfaces, systems

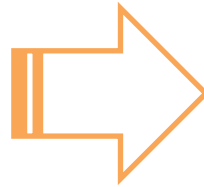




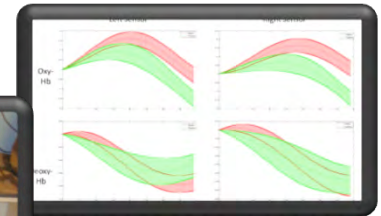
# Brain & Body Signals as Input



Practical Considerations



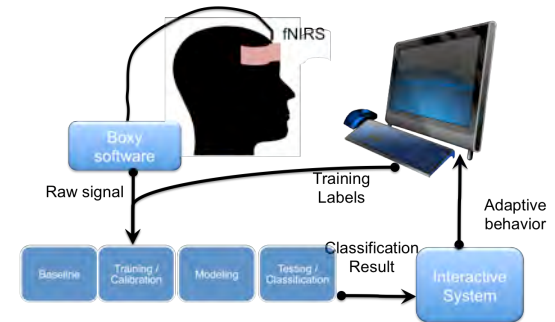
Offline cognitive state studies



## Interface Design & Evaluations



## Real-time System



# Offline Feasibility Studies

A person with dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking at several computer monitors. The monitors display various data visualizations, including bar charts and line graphs. The person is wearing a dark shirt. The background is a blurred office or laboratory environment.

## Questions:

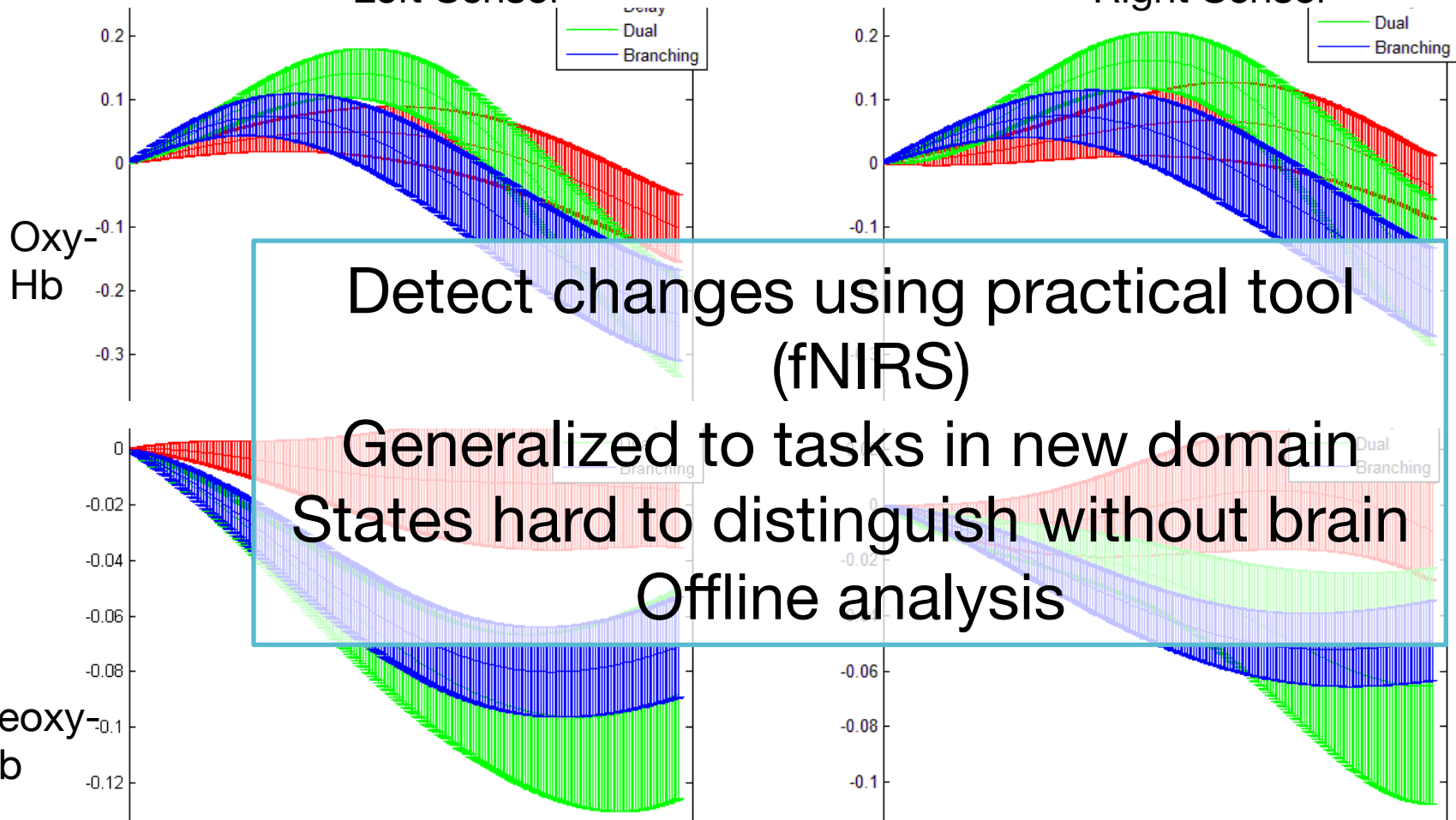
- Can we detect relevant signals within brain and physiology that would be otherwise difficult to observe?
- Are there generic brain processes that can be detected in multiple tasks and domains?

Photo by totalaldo

# Different Activation Patterns

Left Sensor

Right Sensor



Detect changes using practical tool  
(fNIRS)

Generalized to tasks in new domain  
States hard to distinguish without brain  
Offline analysis

# Feasibility Studies on the Road

## 1) Within Individuals

- Natural driving
- 2-back task
- Physiological and vehicle data
- 20 subjects

## 2) Across Individuals

- Natural driving
- n-back tasks
- Physiological and vehicle data
- 99 subjects

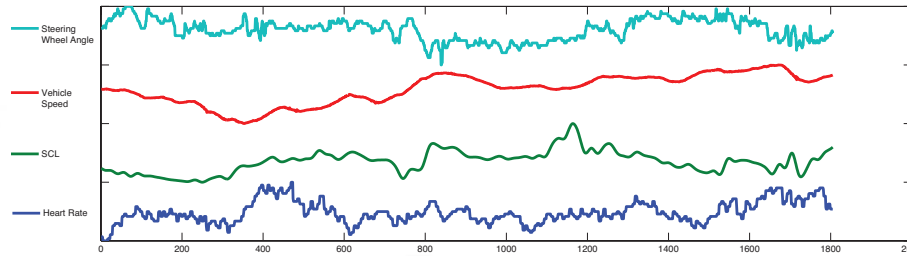
## 3) Experiment 3: Brain Sensing

- Simulator driving
- Simple driving, Blank-back, 0-back, 1-back, 2-back tasks
- 3 blocks of these tasks
- 19 subjects

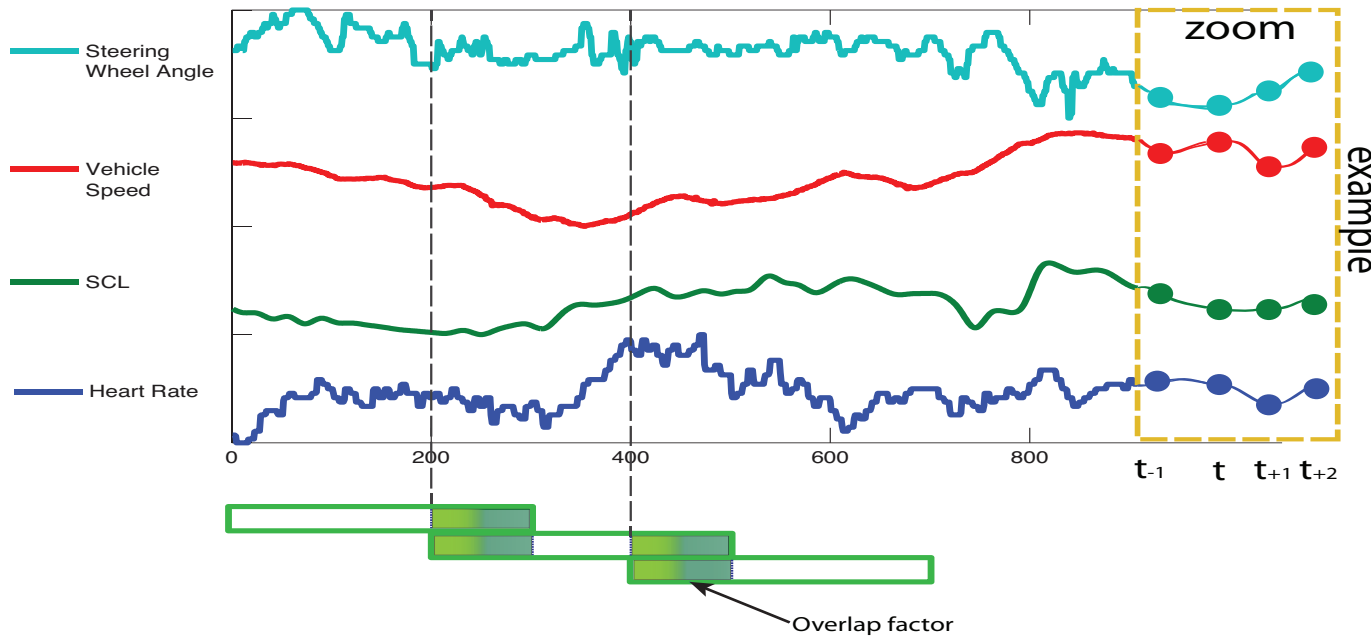


# Feature extraction

Raw input data



Feature extraction



Average, std, ... of each stream in the window becomes a feature

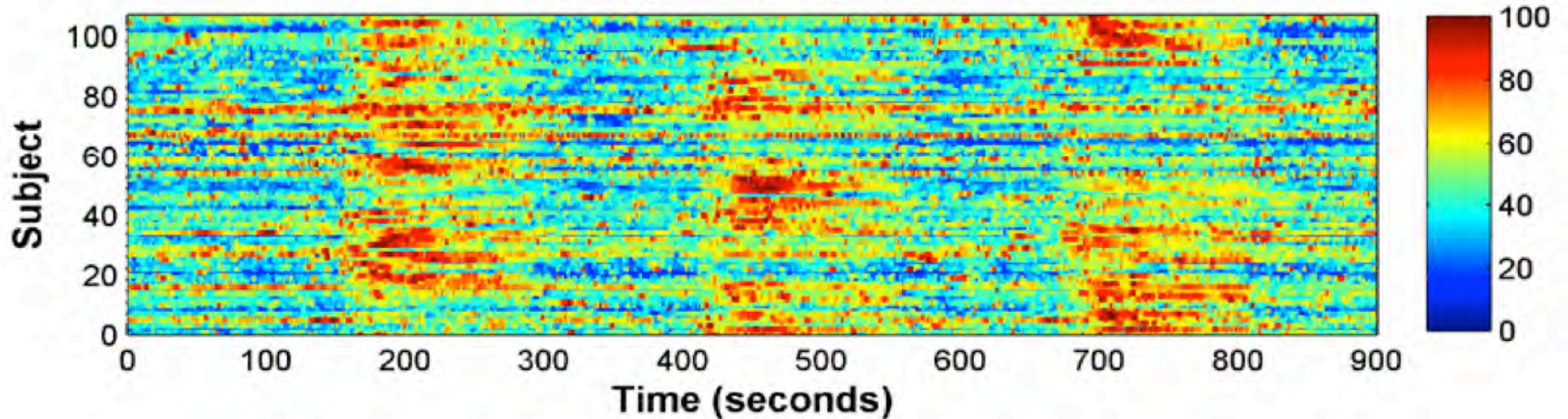
# Experiment 1 results

	All Features		Heart Rate	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
<b>Decision Tree</b>	75.0	10.8	72.8	12.8
<b>Logistic Regression</b>	75.5	10.9	73.9	11.3
<b>Multilayer Perceptron</b>	75.7	10.9	74.0	12.4
<b>Naïve Bayes</b>	75.0	12.5	74.1	11.8
<b>Nearest Neighbor</b>	69.4	11.6	71.5	10.3

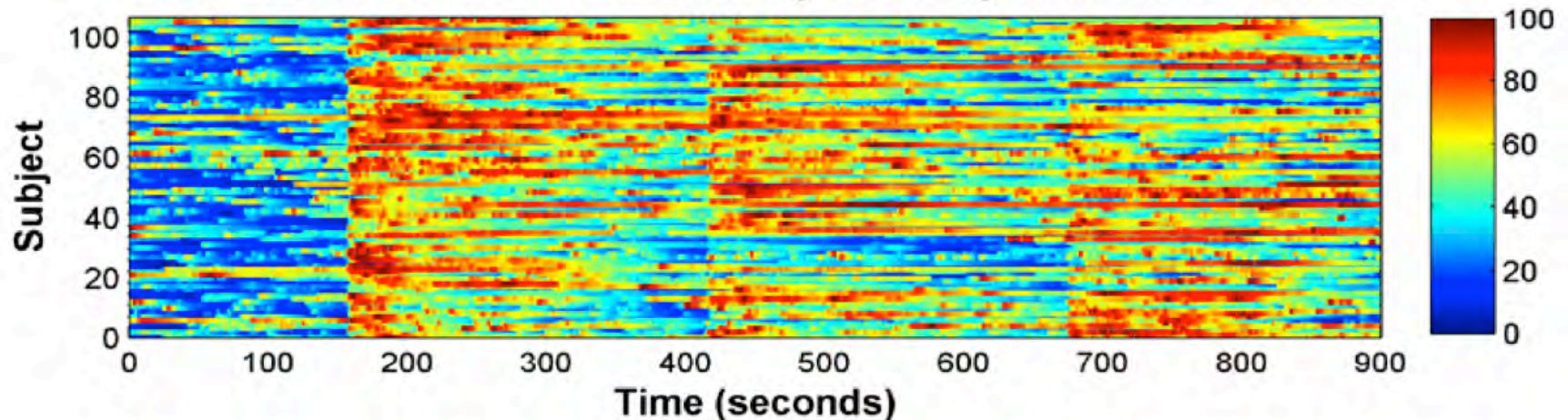
- Reasonable accuracy, using simple features and classification methods, HR alone even has promise
- 24 trials = ~48 minutes of data, training on 43 minutes
  - Okay for proof-of-concept, not ideal for real-world
  - Future: improved methods to shorten this
  - Classification across individuals may reduce/eliminate this training time (Exp 2)

# Experiment results

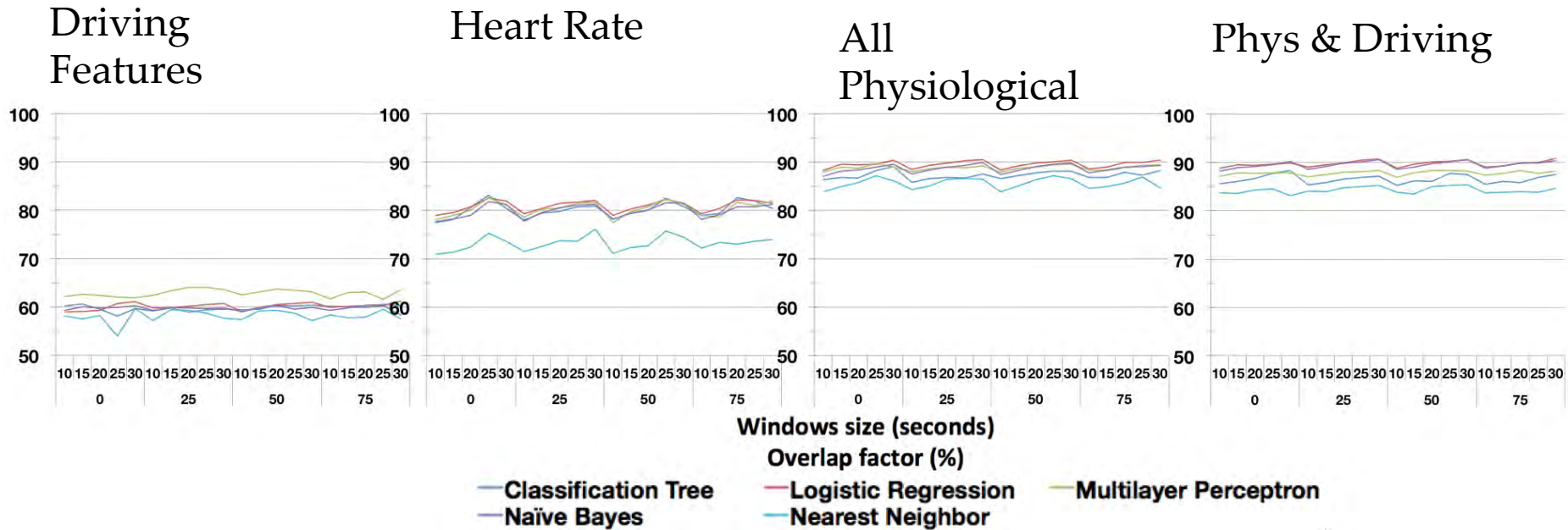
Heart rate change during experiment drive



Skin conductance level change during experiment drive



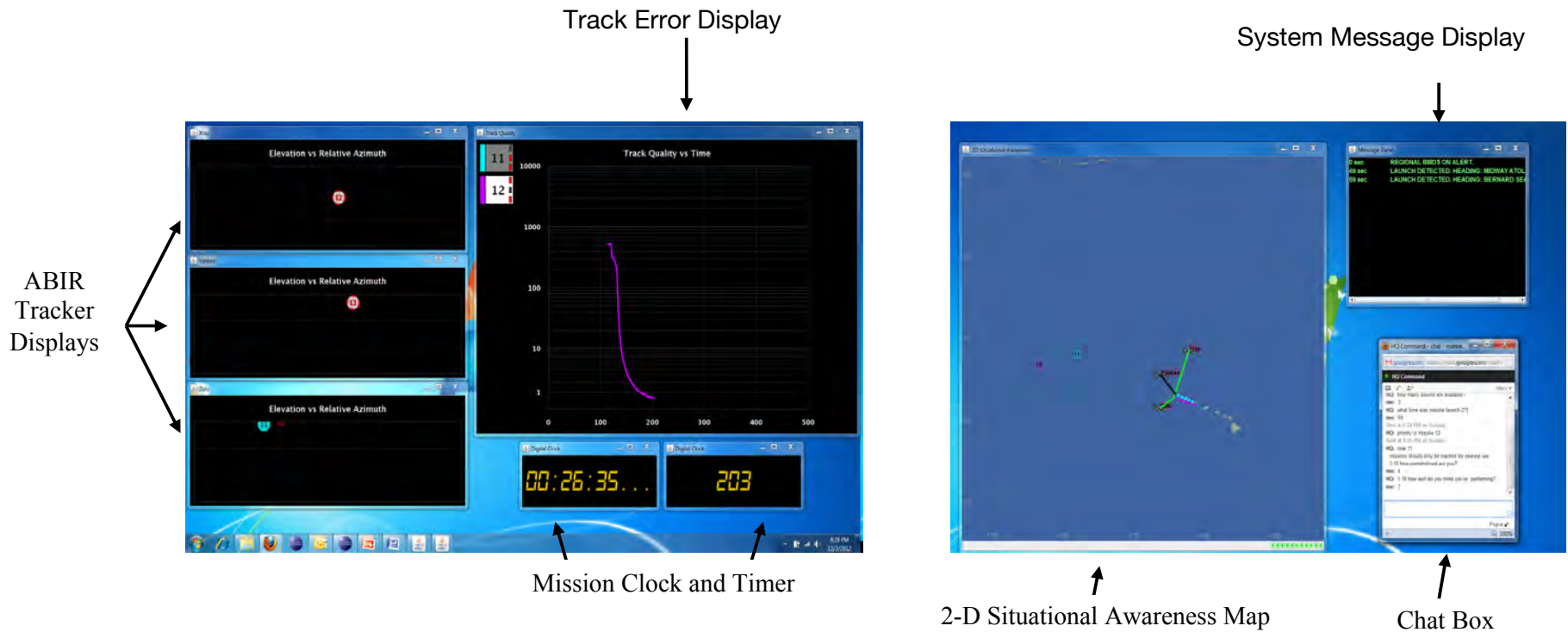
# Experiment 2 Classification Results



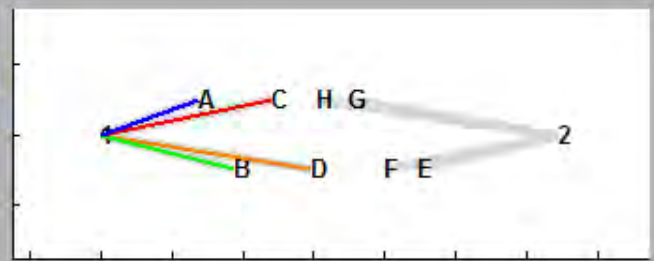
- Type of features had a clear effect on the classification results
  - HR had big improvement over driving only (64% -> 80%)
  - Adding SCL also improves



# Long Duration, Low Workload



- 3.5 hour session
- controlling the sensors for 3 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- job is to direct which UAV will track which missile
- mission is to achieve sufficient track accuracy on every missile
- Targets begin to appear at 40, 100, or 160 minutes
- 3 or 6 targets at a time



- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile14.n
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile15.n
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile4.nir
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile5.nir
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile6.nir
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile7.nir
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile8.nir
- fnIRS\_UAVExp\_missile9.nir

Options

Copy Options

Calculate HRF

Group

Zoom, Pan, Etc

Waterfall

0

Zoom  Exclude Time

Stim Reject  Show Excluded

Pan  Motion by Channel

Group Average

Grp Avq Pass Trance 5 10

Grp Avq Pass Thresh (Hb x 1e-6) 1

Require all channels pass

Plot

Raw Data 690

OD 830

Conc --1

show Run HRF

show Sess HRF

show Grp HRF

show Stim

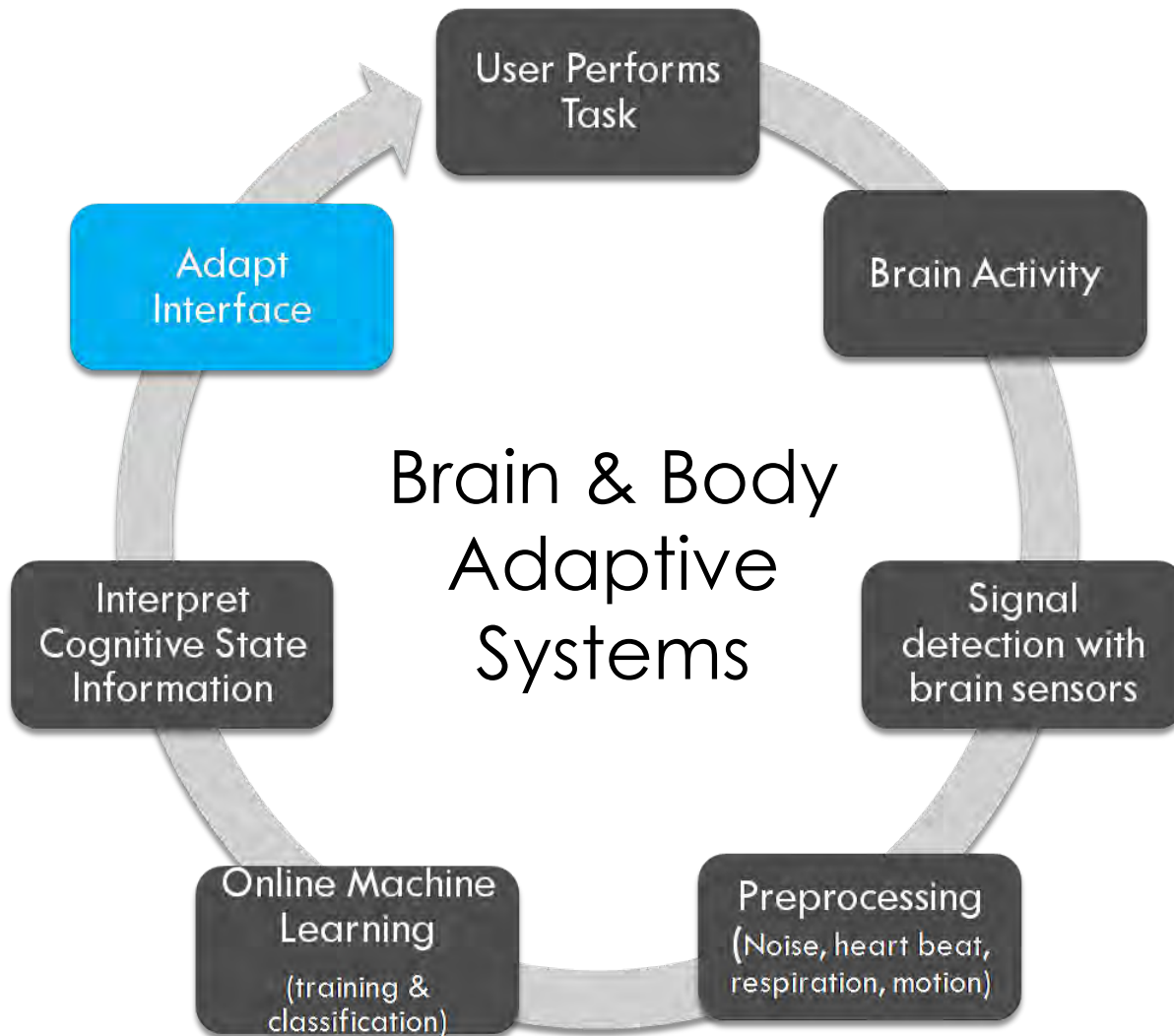
Plot Probe

current Group

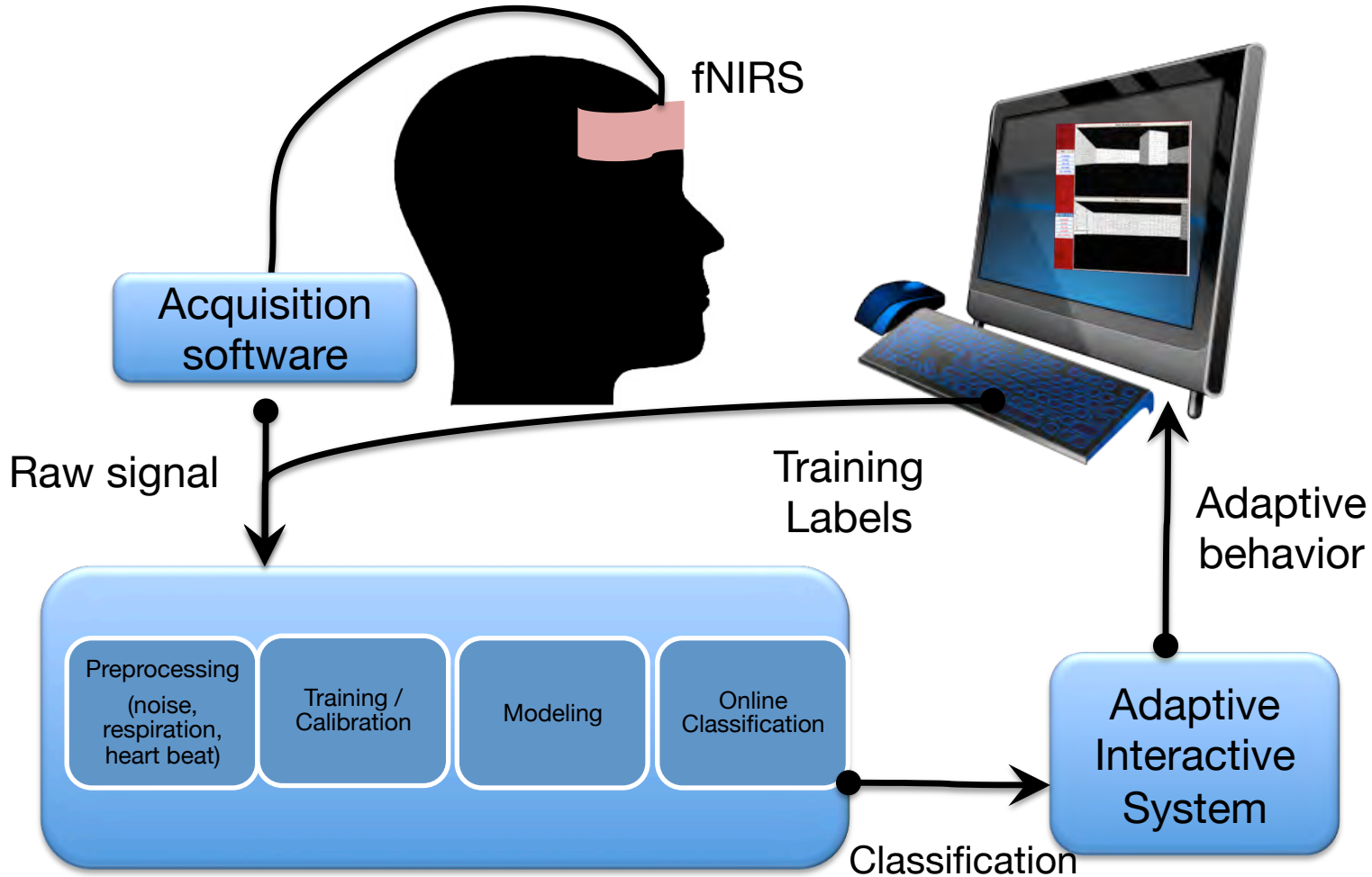
Plot Aux

Aux 1

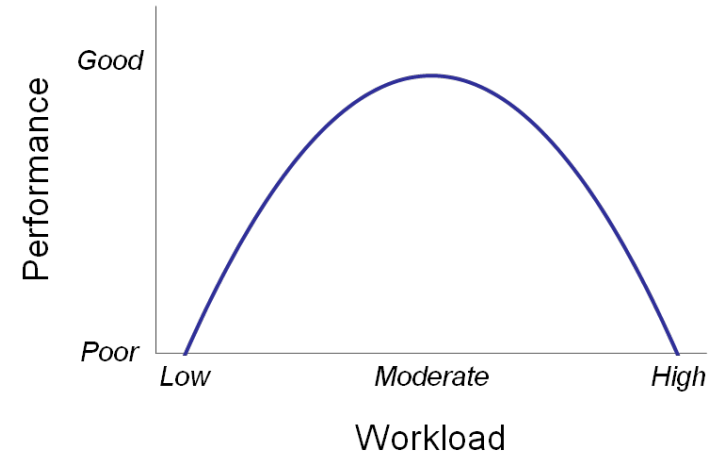
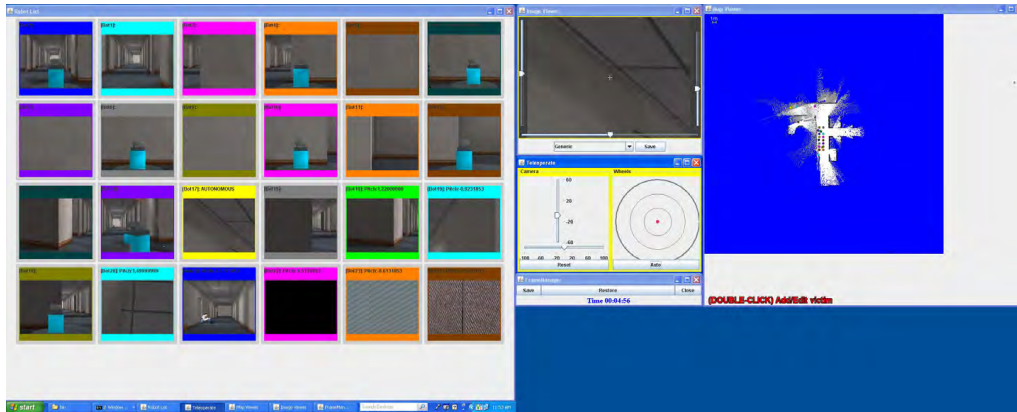
12 files loaded successfully  
0 files failed to load



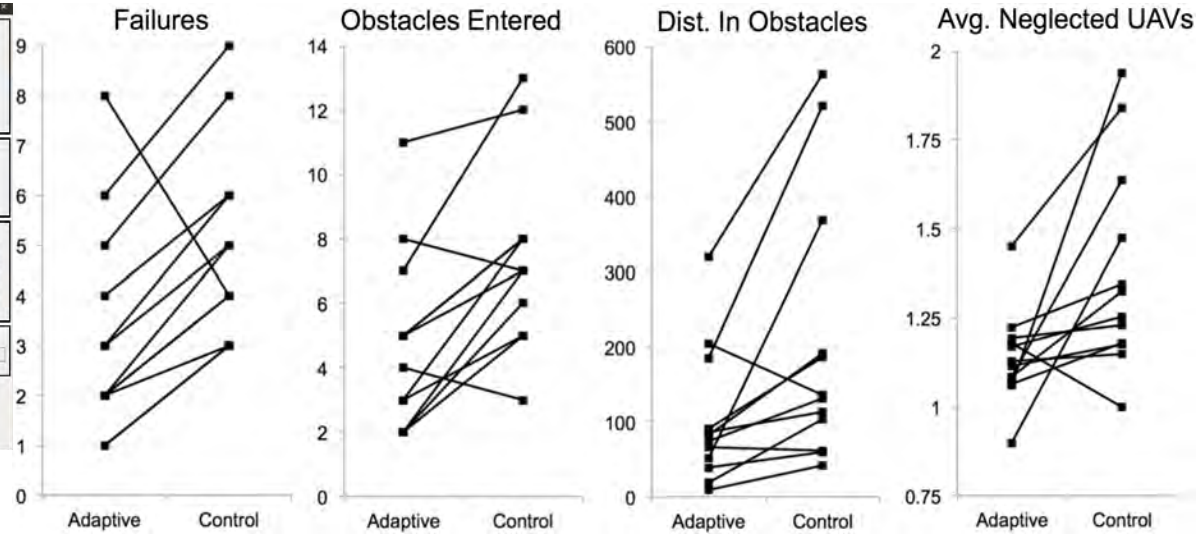
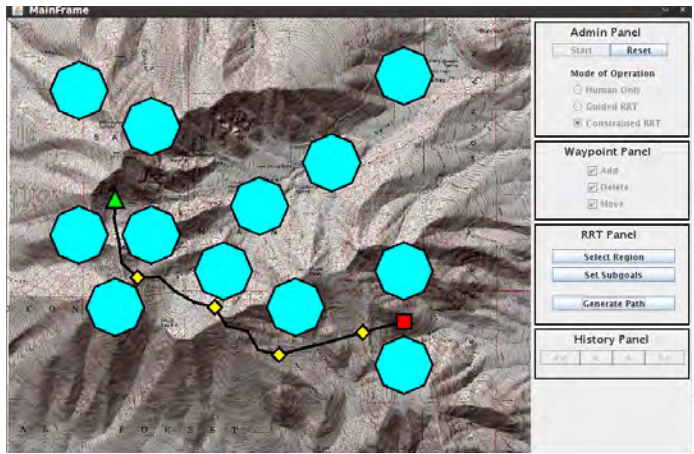
# Brain as input channel



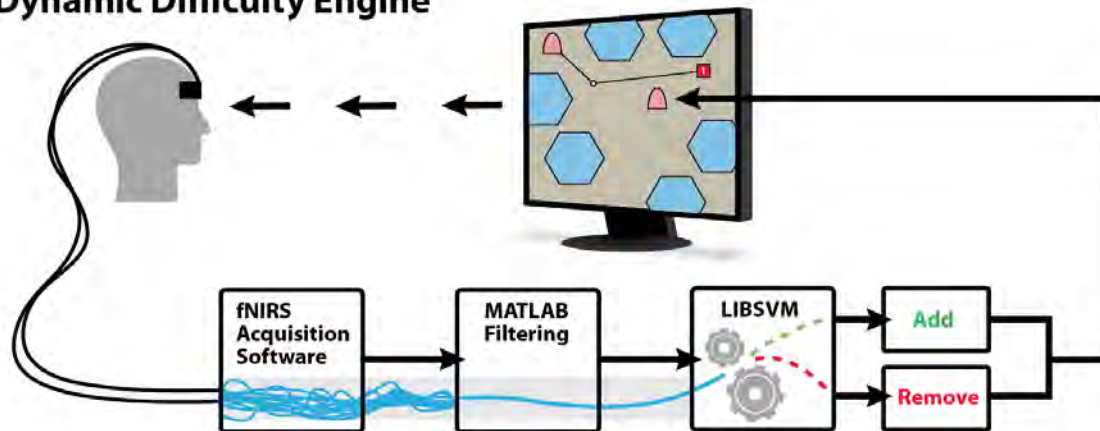
# Case Study: Humans and Autonomy



# Case Study: Dynamic Difficulty & Task Allocation



## Dynamic Difficulty Engine



# User Interface Guidelines

- **Augment** other input devices
- **Subtle**, helpful changes to interface
- Not **disruptive** if signal is **misinterpreted**
  - **Imperfect** classification, **noisy** data
  - Avoid **irreversible**, mission-**critical** adaptations

## Examples

- Adapting **autonomy** levels
- Modifying **quantity** of information
- Transform **modality** of information presentation
- Task **allocation**, manage **task load, difficulty**

# Tradeoffs in Teamwork



Process Gain

Synergy

Adaptability & Flexibility

Productivity



Process loss

Breakdown in internal team processes

Collaboration overhead

Human-in-the-loop experiment: Effect of team structure and scheduling notification on operators' performance, subjective workload, work processes, and communication



# Teamwork Experiments

Urban Search & Rescue Task: find as many victims as possible and mark their position on the map.

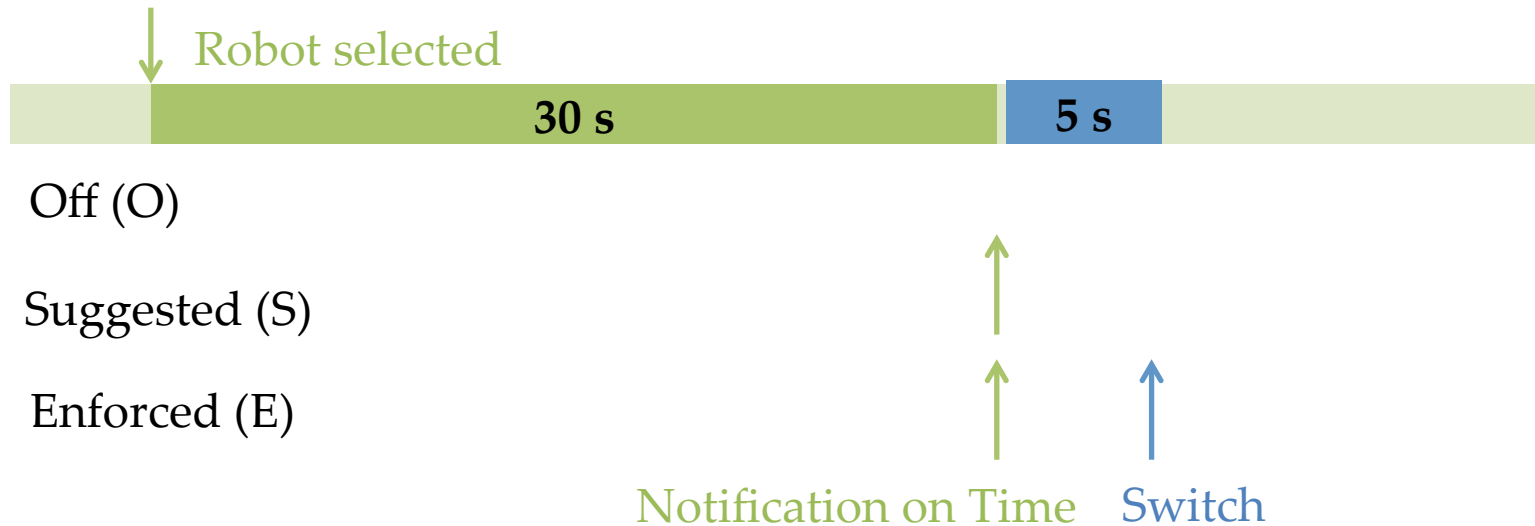
The screenshot displays a complex control interface for a multi-robot system. On the left, a 'Robot List' window shows a grid of 24 small video feeds, each representing a different robot's perspective. The central 'Video Feed' provides a larger view of one robot's camera. To the right, a 'Map' window shows a top-down view of a building layout with colored markers indicating the positions of the robots and detected victims. At the bottom center, the 'Teleoperation Panel' includes a 'Camera' control with a zoom slider and a 'Witness' control with a target icon. A 'Frame Manager' window is also visible, showing 'Save', 'Restore', and 'Close' buttons. The interface is overlaid on a Windows desktop environment.

## Robot List

Gao, Fei, Mary L. Cummings, and Erin Treacy Solovey. "Modeling teamwork in supervisory control of multiple robots." IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems 44.4 (2014): 441-453.

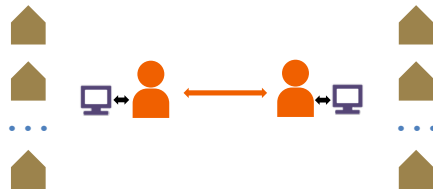
# Independent Variables

- Robot Usage Notification

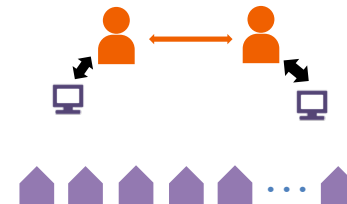


- Team Structure

- Sector (S) teams



- Pool (P) teams

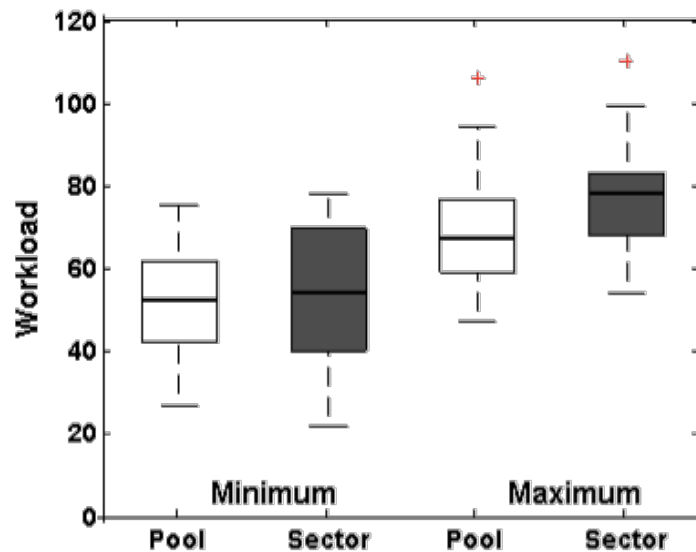


Gao, Fei, Mary L. Cummings, and Erin Treacy Solovey. "Modeling teamwork in supervisory control of multiple robots." *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems* 44.4 (2014): 441-453.

# Results

## Teamwork

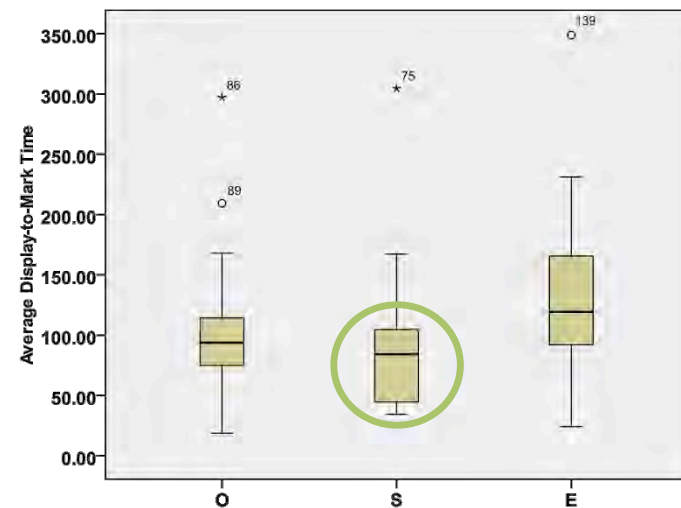
- *Pool* structure results in lower workload (NASA-TLX).



- Communication time was moderately negative correlated with errors in Pool teams ( $r = -0.309$ ,  $p = 0.008$ ).

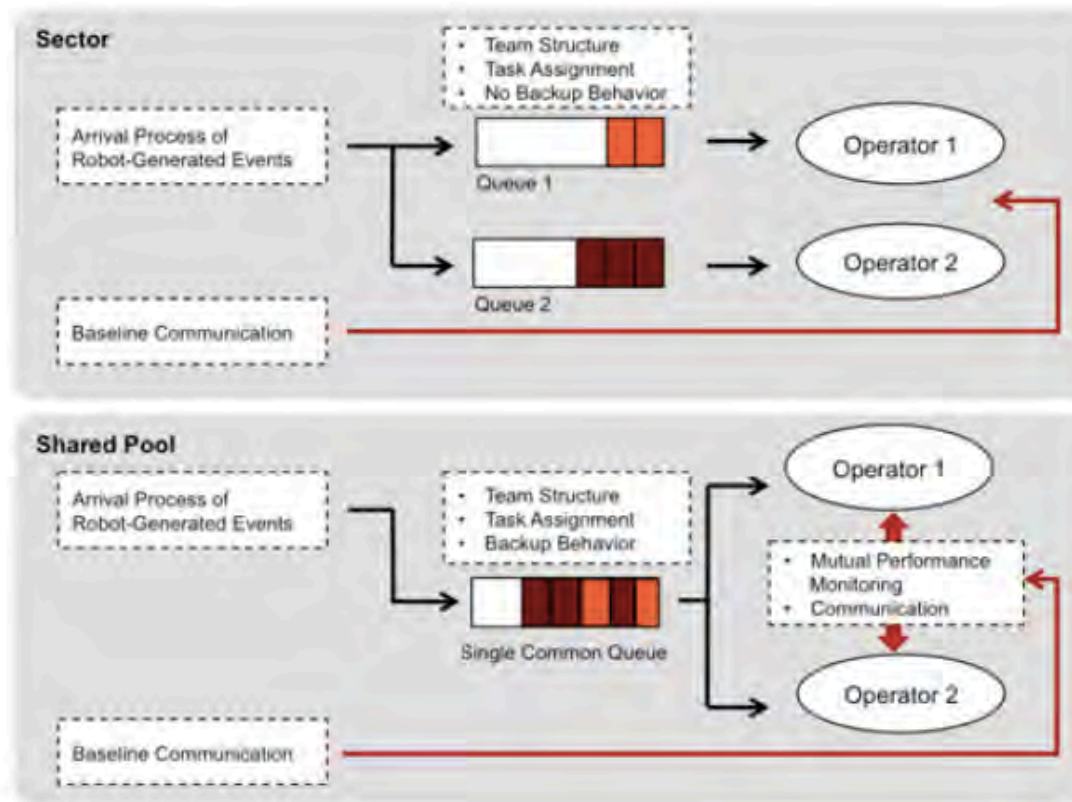
## Notification

- In Sector Teams, those with Suggested notification identify and mark victims faster as measured by display-to-mark time.



# Team Performance Modeling

## Discrete-Event Simulation (DES)

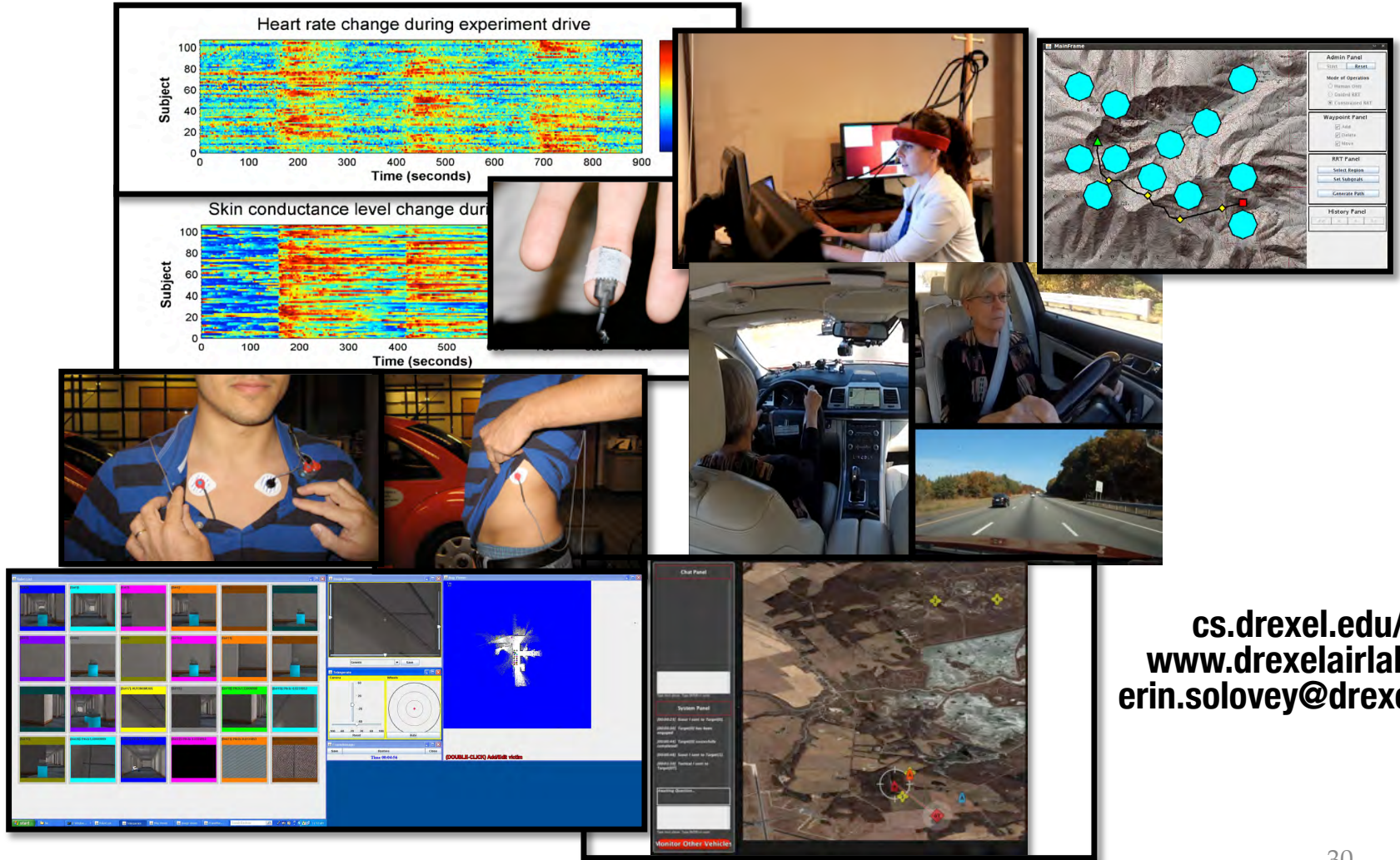


Gao, Fei, Mary L. Cummings, and Erin Treacy Solovey. "Modeling teamwork in supervisory control of multiple robots." *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems* 44.4 (2014): 441-453.

# Team Structure Conclusions

- Lower workload reported with *Pool*
- Similar performance with both structures
- *Pool*: more communication, balanced workload from backup behavior
- DES model:
  - replicate experiment
  - Explore uncertainty & backup
    - *Pool* balanced workload, but more coordination
    - Backup meaningful only when the task load is unevenly distributed

# Human Interaction with Complex and Autonomous Systems and Vehicles



Heart rate change during experiment drive

Subject

Time (seconds)

Skin conductance level change during experiment drive

Subject

Time (seconds)

Admin Panel

Mainframe

System Panel

Chat Panel

Monitor Other Vehicles

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# Acknowledgments

Thanks to:

- Robert J.K. Jacob, Audrey Girouard, Leanne Hirshfield, Michael Horn, Orit Shaer, Jamie Zigelbaum, Michael Poor
- Daniel Afergan, Evan M. Peck, Samuel W. Hincks,
- Beste Filiz Yuksel, Tomoki Shibata, Francine Lalooses,
- A.J. Jenkins, Sergio Fantini, Angelo Sassaroli
- Remco Chang & VALT Lab
- Missy Cummings, Fei Gao, Mark Boyer & HAL
- Shelby Keating, Calan Farley
- Bryan Reimer, Bruce Mehler, Daniel Belyusar

