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COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

ABSTRACT

Automatic analysis of human behavior brought computer science closer to social sciences and, in particular, enabled collaborations between computer scientists and many different disciplines, including psychology and sociology. In this talk, I will highlight some research questions and trends in this burgeoning interdisciplinary area, and provide an overview of the opportunities and challenges. It is possible to observe human behavior at different levels. Measurements can be performed at an individual level, or during dyadic and small group interactions, or with the larger lens of computational social science, where behavior from thousands or millions of people are aggregated and analyzed. While the research questions pertaining to these scales are different, there are large overlaps in terms of methodology, for example in the way pattern recognition and machine learning are applied to data extracted from humans. Drawing on examples from our recent research at each of these levels, ranging from the analysis of facial signals observed with cameras to behavioral patterns of refugees across Turkey observed with mobile phones, I will discuss both the technical and the societal aspects of this field.