A short introduction to Computational Creativity

Hannu Toivonen University of Helsinki www.cs.helsinki.fi/hannu.toivonen









Image Copyright 1976 by Creative Computing

- Creative computers, machine creativity
- Computers supporting human creativity
- Studies of creative computational processes



- Turing et al, 1950s: generation of music



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

www.helsinki.fi/yliopisto 14.9.2015 5





- What do you call a murderer with fibre?

- A cereal killer.

By JAPE (Greame Ritchie and others)

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

www.helsinki.fi/yliopisto



The course is an introduction to

- Concepts and theories of computational creativity
 - different types of creativity, formalization of creativity as search, social creativity, ...
- Computational creativity in some fields
 - language, music, images, ...
- Philosophy of computational creativity
 - what is creativity, what is creative autonomy, how to assess creativity, ...



What is (computational) creativity?



– Many definitions. A representative one:

"Creativity is the ability to come up with ideas or artefacts that are new, surprising, and valuable." - Boden 1992

- Note: Human creativity is typically defined by the output
- Tests like Torrance (below) are used in practical settings



Connect the nine dots with four straight lines, without lifting the pen



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

www.helsinki.fi/yliopisto



Measuring creativity in humans

E.g., Torrance test of creative thinking:

- Fluency: ability to produce of many ideas
- Flexibility: ability to produce different ideas
- Originality: ability to produce unusual ideas
- Elaboration: ability to explain ideas

Note: in this course, "idea" ≈ "artefact" ≈ "concept" = the product of creation



- 1. Combinational: new combinations of familiar ideas
- 2. Exploratory: generation of new ideas by exploration of a space of concepts
- *3. Transformational:* involves a transformation of the search space so new kinds of ideas can be generated.



- We propose the following, extended classification of different types of creativity (Xiao, Toivonen et al 2015)
- The types differ in terms of the input they take
- Additionally, there is the transformational case



Computational creativity is

- The philosophy, science and engineering
- of computational systems which,
- by taking on particular responsibilities,
- exhibit behaviours that unbiased observers would deem to be creative.

- Colton and Wiggins 2012

Computational creativity – why on earth?

An ultimate AI challenge

- A test bed for AI methods
- Applications
 - Games
 - User interfaces, usability
 - Applications where human creativity is not feasible, e.g., instant creativity
 - Support of human creativity
- An intellectual challenge



Sleep musicalization

Perceive your sleep as a unique musical experience! Musicalization turns data into a genuine piece of composed music.

Try it on your Beddit data!

Introduction

Sleep musicalization is a novel way of perceiving and experiencing sleep measurement data. The goal is to help users understand and analyze their sleeping patterns and eventually improve their sleep.

The musicalization process follows musicological principles when composing a melody, designing the rhythm and changes in tempo, arranging the accompaniment, and playing out the music at different levels of volume. These aspects are inspired but not dictated by the data. The result of musicalization of eight hours of sleep is an origianal piece of couple of minutes of music.

Musicalization of data provides a whole new way to experience data as a music. Music has a unique capability to invoke emotions, giving users a novel opportunity to perceive their data

Listen to latest samples

Sleeper Agent Contributed by UFOPOLI	
Wild Trances Contributed by UFOPOLI	
Deep dreams Contributed by discovery	∩ Listen
Hannun viime yö Contributed by discovery	∩ Listen
eva 09/11/12	



Sleep musicalization Composed songs

Deep dreams

Share this song

Copy-paste the following link to email, discussion, etc:

http://sleepmusicalization.net/song/wOqbL1icfDNE



Sleep stages visualized The hypnogram on the left shows visualized sleep stages.

Movements during the sleep

The actigram on the left shows the amount of movements during the night.

My songs

Latest songs

Sleeper Agent Contributed by UFOPOLI

Wild Trances Contributed by UFOPOLI



∩ Listen

There are no songs yet

Data mining (DM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) vs. Computational Creativity

Data Mining vs. Computational Creativity

"Creativity is the ability to come up with ideas or artefacts that are new, surprising, and valuable." - Boden 1992

"KDD is the nontrivial process of identifying valid, novel, potentially useful, and ultimately understandable patterns in data."

- Fayyad et al. 1995

So is computational creativity ≈ data mining?

Data Creat

Data Mining vs. Computational Creativity

Data Mining problems	Computational Creativity problems
<i>Well-specified</i> (e.g., "induce a classifier", "find all frequent patterns")	Ill-defined, open-ended (e.g. "write a poem")
Have obvious and objective	Have subjective and non-
success criteria	explicit criteria
(e.g. classification accuracy)	(e.g. when is a poem good?)
Success can be measured with	Evaluation cannot be computed
relative ease	easily
(e.g. evaluate on test set)	(e.g. ask subjects to evaluate)



Learning objectives

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

14.9.2015 27

After taking the course, students are able to...

- Describe and analyse creative systems using concepts and theories of computational creativity
 - Creativity as search; the FACE model
- Implement generic generative methods
 - Markov models, genetic algorithms
- Produce creative software for various fields
 - language, music, images