Automatic annotation of head velocity and acceleration in Anvil

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Automatic annotation of face velocity and acceleration in Anvil

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We describe an automatic face tracker plugin for the ANVIL annotation tool. The face tracker produces data for velocity and for acceleration in two dimensions. We compare the annotations generated by the face tracking algorithm with independently made manual annotations for head movements. The annotations are a useful supplement to manual annotations and may help human annotators to quickly and reliably determine onset of head movements and to suggest which kind of head movement is taking place.

\[ v_x = \frac{x(t) - x(t-1)}{t - t-1} \]

\[ a_x = \frac{x(t) - 2x(t-1) + x(t-2)}{(t-1)^2 - t^2} \]

Velocity:
- up
- down

Acceleration:
- up
- down

Experiment
5-minute video of a conversation between two people
Manually annotated beforehand
0.4 s analysis window (10 frames)
Threshold values 5-14 (for both velocity and acceleration)

Analysis
Cohen's kappa as measure for agreement between human and machine.
Framewise, no coarse graining of time domain. (≈8000 frames)

Results
Good indication of begin and, to lesser degree, end time of head gesture.
All kinds of communicative gestures with the head are detected:
- HeadForward
- (down-)Nod
- Shake
- SideTurn
- Tilt
- Waggle
- HeadOther

Some types of head movements can be categorized automatically, but with low reliability:
- up/down = Nod or HeadForward
- left/right = Shake or SideTurn

The statistical analysis of a single 5-minute video of a conversation between two people has taught us that there are no threshold values that are optimal for detecting all kinds of head movements.

Future
Combine sequences of automatically detected head movement phases into phrases, aiming at 1:1 correspondence with manual annotations.
Combine velocity and acceleration to detect movements along curved paths.