University of Toronto

PMU199Y1Y: Can We Make a Robot See Like a Human? (Section L0161)

Course Information Sheet

Brief Description

We've all seen movies of robots whose intelligence rivals our own. Such intelligence is a long way off, in part because we've been largely unsuccessful in building robot vision systems that rival the human vision system. Unlike HAL or the Terminator, which can recognize objects and activities as effectively as humans do, today's robots lack the capacity to recognize your dog if she's wearing a Leafs jersey or that a six-wheeled car is still a car. This multidisciplinary course explores the challenge of enabling a robot to see more like a human. Students will learn some of the basic mechanisms of human vision, and learn how to use basic techniques in computational thinking to model these mechanisms in a machine. A glimpse into the challenges facing human and robot vision provides a lens through which we can better understand what today's robots are capable of, how they're evolving, and what their impact on our society will be.

Lecturer

Sven Dickinson	office:	D.L. Pratt 283B
	phone:	416-978-3853
	email:	sven@cs.toronto.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 1	1:00-3:00pm

TA

David Szeto

Course Web Page

http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~sven/PMU199Y

Lectures

Lectures: Wednesday 2:00pm – 4:00pm BA (Bahen) B025 Fall semester UC (University College) 65 Winter semester

Textbook, References, and Lecture Notes

I will be drawing considerable material from the textbook Seeing, The Computational Approach to Biological Vision, Second Edition, John P. Frisby and James V. Stone, MIT Press, 2010. The library has secured electronic access to the relevant chapters, so that purchasing the text is not required. For those wishing to purchase a copy, it's available in paperback from Amazon for approximately Can\$80. Pointers to additional resources will be posted on the course website under "Readings." The lecture slides will be available in PDF form on the website under "Lectures." Note that the lecture slides and readings are available only to students registered in the class. The password to access these files will be made available in class.

Course Prerequisites

There are no course prerequisites. This is not a math course or a CS course, but rather an interdisciplinary course on vision that is intended to be assessible to anyone from any discipline. Understanding some concepts in human or computer vision will, on occasion, require some basic computational thinking skills, but these will be covered in class. Any underlying mathematical concepts will be limited to basic arithmeatic (addition and multiplication).

Course Notices

You are responsible for announcements made in lectures/tutorials and posted on the course website.

How to Get Help

There are a number of sources of help available to you:

- 1. instructor's office hours: for questions about assignments, laboratories, and projects and any discussion/lecture material covered in class.
- 2. email questions may be sent to the instructor, who will attempt to respond to them typically within one business day. Alternatively, the instructor may pass the email on to the tutor to respond, depending on the nature of the question. The subject of your email message should be "199 inquiry". Email should not be used to request clarification on material you may have missed during class or tutorial, nor can it be used to engage in a private tutor session. Rather, it should be administrative in nature. If you have a technical question about your project, please come to the instructor's office hours, bring it to the next class, or post it to the bulletin board.

Course Schedule and Evaluation

Fall Semester

Week	Date	Class Agenda	Assignment	Due Date	Weight
1	Sep 13	Course Overview and Introduction	Assignment 1	Sep 20	2.5%
2	Sep 20	Introduction (cont'd)/ Imaging the World: The Eye vs the Camera Assignment 1 due	Assignment 2	Sep 27	2.5%
3	Sep 27	Imaging the World (cont'd)/ Carving Up an Image into Objects Assignment 2 due	Lab Report 1	Oct 11	5%
4	Oct 4	Carving Up an Image into Objects (cont'd)			
5	Oct 11	Describing Objects Lab Report 1 due	Assignment 3	Oct 18	2.5%
6	Oct 18	Describing Objects (cont'd)/ Recognizing Objects Assignment 3 due			
7	Oct 25	Recognizing Objects (cont'd)	Lab Report 2	Nov 1	5%
8	Nov 1	What Objects Can Robots Recognize Now? Lab Report 2 due	Assignment 4	Nov 15	2.5%
	Nov 8	Reading Week (no lecture)			
9	Nov 15	Guest Lecture: Object Recognition in Industry Assignment 4 due	Project Proposal	Nov 29	2.5%
10	Nov 22	The Ethics of Robotic Object Recognition	Assignment 5	Dec 6	2.5%
11	Nov 29	Ethics (cont'd)/ Carving Up a Video into Moving Objects Project Proposal due	Progress Report	Jan 24	7.5%
12	Dec 6	Carving Up a Video into Moving Objects (cont'd) Assignment 5 due	Lab Report 3	Jan 10	5%

Winter Semester

Week	Date	Class Agenda	Assignment	Due Date	Weight
13	Jan 10	Describing Moving	Assignment 6	Jan 17	2.5%
		Objects as Activities			
		Lab Report 3 due			
14	Jan 17	Recognizing Activities			
		Assignment 6 due			
15	Jan 24	What Activities Can	Assignment 7	Jan 31	2.5%
		Robots Recognize Now?			
		Progress Report due			
16	Jan 31	The Ethics of Robotic	Assignment 8	Feb 7	2.5%
		Activity Recognition			
		Assignment 7 due			
17	Feb 7	Ethics (cont'd)	Lab Report 4	Feb 14	5%
		Assignment 8 due			
18	Feb 14	What Makes a Good	Project Presentation	Feb 28-Apr 4	10%
		Project?	and Report	Apr 4	20%
		Lab Report 4 due			
	Feb 21	Reading Week (no lecture)			
19	Feb 28	Student Presentations			
20	Mar 7	Student Presentations			
21	Mar 14	Student Presentations			
22	Mar 21	Student Presentations			
23	Mar 28	Student Presentations			
24	Apr 4	Student Presentations			
		Project Report due			
			Class Participation	over semester	20%
			Total	over semester	100%

Projects, Oral Presentations, and Class Participation

All assignments, laboratory reports, progress reports, and projects must be electronically submitted **by the beginning of class (the e-timestamp must read 2:10pm or earlier)**; quarter past the hour is late. You will lose 10% of the submission's value for each day that it is late (i.e., 2:15pm submission on the due date will cost you 10% of the assignment).

Each student begins the term with 3 grace days with which to avoid late penalties. An assignment handed in by 2:15 pm on the due date uses up one grace day; handing it in on 2:15pm the following day uses up two grace days. The grace days are intended for use in emergencies, e.g., your laptop/printer failed, or the TTC broke down. Do not use them to buy an extension because of a busy week or you will be out of luck in a true emergency.

Class participation (20%) will include attendance (which will be taken), class engagement (e.g., in response to reading assignments), classroom discussion (e.g., when issues are debated), and feedback to other students during their project presentations.

Illness

In the event of an illness or other catastrophe, get proper documentation (e.g., medical certificate).