

Dr. Hansen,

I would like to thank you once again for selecting me for the undergraduate research scholarship.

Over the course of the summer and fall semesters, I continued my work with the Multi-Modal Signal Processing Lab under the guidance of Dr. Busso.

The topic of my research was crowdsourcing annotations of emotional data. I was able to develop my own system using php and a SQL server integrated with Amazon's Mechanical Turk system to collect over 80,000 manual evaluations on the MSP-IMPROV video corpus. Using some of the preliminary data, we were able to create a real-time filtering algorithm using a cosine metric to trim annotators that we deemed to be decreasing in annotation quality. Finally, we were able to prove using a control set that our filter increases quality in an annotation task.

Dr. Busso and I recently submitted a paper on this topic to the IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing, and have been working to resolve comments of the reviewers, and hope to have it published in the near future. I am also listed as co-author on another work we have submitted in the past few months regarding the MSP-IMPROV corpus. This is very exciting for me as an undergraduate, and the opportunity to work with a professor and doctoral students is a very enlightening experience. Research as a whole has been extremely critical to my development as a student and as an engineer, and I hope to continue my research in this field into graduate school.

Sincerely,

Alec Burmania