

# Investigation of the dependency of the drivers' emotional experience on different road types and driving conditions

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Abstract— The growing sophistication of technologies and sociological advances are major causes for the dramatic change the automotive sector is currently undergoing. To address changes from a human-centered design perspective an improved understanding of the occupants' emotional experience and behavior is required. Facial-Expression Analysis (FEA) is an emerging tool in support of such an approach, suitable for automotive research due to its non-contact application and low intrusiveness.

The research described here investigated the dependency of the occupants' emotional experience on road types and driving conditions by investigating emotional responses and their causes through FEA and observational analysis.

Twenty-one university students and staff were recruited for the real-time test on a planned road circuit covering different road types and conditions. Facial-expression data and video information from two in-car cameras were collected during an average driving time of 40 minutes per participant. A multi-method approach was applied for the data analysis, including both quantitative statistical analysis and qualitative observational analysis, as well as an inter-observer reliability test. Emotion frequencies were compared between the different road types, resulting in a percentage difference from the total average of emotion frequency of -6.09% below average for urban roads, +11.15% above average for major roads and +4.88% above average for rural roads.

The causes most frequently assigned to the emotional responses in this dataset were poor road conditions and causes related to the navigation device. The research supported the dependency of emotional experiences on the driving condition and type of road. The study presents the first step of a human-centered design approach towards modern automotive design. The results have wide application in automotive design, applicable to the development of, for instance, an affective human-machine interaction or a personalized autonomous driving experience.

Index Terms— Affective computing, Automotive case study, Emotion recognition, Human computer interaction

## 1. Introduction

Emotions play a significant role in the automotive environment. Emotional states can impact driving performance, behavior and safety. Anger can lead to aggressive driving behavior (Wells-Parker et al., 2002), stress can lead to a significant decrease in driving performance (Hoch et al., 2005; Uchiyama et al., 2002), and frustration and sadness can decrease levels of attention (Dula and Geller, 2003; Jeon, 2015; Lee, 2010). Emotional states can significantly influence goal generation, decision making, focus, attention and performance (Eyben et al., 2010).

Consequently, seeking to better understand human emotions has become a rapidly expanding research area (Noldus et al., 2017). Numerous studies have been conducted investigating emotional states, (Grimm et al., 2007; Healey, 2000; Healey and Picard, 2005;

47 Hoch et al., 2005; Jones and Jonsson, 2008; Lisetti and Nasoz, 2005), with a particular  
48 prevalence of aggression, workload and stress. Working to improve this understanding allows  
49 automotive design to directly respond to and address shortcomings and problem areas in  
50 current automobiles and road systems; through this, negative influencing factors can be  
51 mitigated, allowing use of the road to become a safer and more pleasant experience.  
52 Emotional factors and affective states are therefore crucial for acceptance, safety and comfort  
53 of future automotive design (Eyben et al., 2010).

54

55 As the automotive industry progresses, a host of new technologies, such as telematics,  
56 electrification, autonomous driving and other recent developments, offer many potential  
57 benefits for the future of the automotive industry (Bullis, 2011; Manyika et al., 2013).  
58 Autonomous automobiles are predicted to reduce CO2 emission and fuel consumption (Bullis,  
59 2001), increase safety and reduce fatalities (Manyika et al., 2013) and decrease congestion  
60 (Dumaine, 2012). Furthermore, developments like telematics and vehicle autonomy are  
61 anticipated to expand automotive revenues by 30% (Gao et al., 2016), with self-driving cars  
62 predicted to be a \$87 billion opportunity by 2030 (Jacques, 2014). As these features are  
63 introduced, the emotional relationship between owner and automobile (Miller, 2001; Noldus  
64 et al., 2017), the role and significance of emotions in the wider automotive environment, and  
65 customer needs, desires and behaviors, will change (Gao et al., 2016). The automotive design  
66 process will need to adapt to the growing sophistication of in-car technologies and these  
67 changing requirements (Gao et al., 2016). To meet human requirements for coping with  
68 current and future automobile technology, it is important to understand the multi-layered  
69 emotional role of the automobile (Sheller, 2004).

70

71 One approach to responding to current and future developments is the application of affective  
72 computing, the study of systems or devices which can recognize, interpret or process human  
73 emotion (Picard, 2003) in automotive research. Numerous modern human-centered design  
74 approaches combining various methods have been applied to automotive research and  
75 design, to investigate the drivers' and passengers' behavior, emotion and needs and improve  
76 the driving experience (Giuliano, Germak and Giacomini, 2017; Gkatzidou, Giacomini and  
77 Skrypchuk, 2016).

78

79 An essential part of the study of the drivers' emotional behavior is the investigation of causes  
80 for emotions, which often include certain driving conditions or road types (Healey and Picard,  
81 2005; Mesken, 2002). Certain emotional states have been directly linked to certain road types  
82 (e.g. rural, urban or major roads) in previous research, for instance aggressiveness (Carmona  
83 et al., 2016), frustration (Lupton, 2003) anger (Du et al., 2018) and stress (Mesken, 2002).  
84 While many automotive research studies investigated the influence of different road types on  
85 the automobile or traffic flow (DFT, 2017b; Rubino et al., 2007; Sheehan, 2017), research  
86 studies investigating road and driving conditions and their influences on the occupants are  
87 limited. Existing studies investigated accident rates on certain road types (RAC Foundation,  
88 2009), driving behavior and speeding on different roads (Elliott, Armitage and Baughan, 2007)  
89 and risky and aggressive driving triggered by certain driving conditions (Dula and Geller,  
90 2003). In-depth research approaches investigating the direct relationship between certain  
91 driving conditions and roads and emotional responses of occupants are scarce (Healey and  
92 Picard, 2005; Kuniecki et al., 2017; Mesken, 2002) and often restricted by their choice of  
93 measurement technique. Limitations caused by measurement techniques (e.g. sensors

94 requiring direct contact with the participants' skin) include for instance high intrusiveness  
95 which often has an impact on the participants' behavior (Mesken, 2002). The choice of self-  
96 assessment has been criticized in previous research due to its subjectivity and influences of  
97 decaying memory strength, and fading affect bias due to the delay in the rating of emotions  
98 (Cerin, Szabo and Williams, 2001).

99

100 To avoid negative influences of the measurement tool on the participants' behavior a non-  
101 contact tool with low intrusiveness was chosen: Facial-Expression Analysis (FEA). FEA is a  
102 behavioral emotion measurement technique which requires a standard video camera.  
103 Conventional FEA approaches follow three steps for the recognition of facial expressions. The  
104 first step includes face and facial component detection. A facial image and its landmarks (e.g.  
105 corners of the eyebrows or tip of the nose) are detected and mapped from an input image  
106 through computer vision algorithms. The second step involves feature extraction, where  
107 spatial and temporal features are extracted from the facial components. In the third step  
108 expressions are classified. For this purpose machine learning algorithms, which are trained  
109 facial expression classifiers (e.g. support vector machines) are applied, producing a  
110 recognition result based on pixels analyzed in the extracted features (Ko, 2018; Lucey, et al.,  
111 2010). The classification algorithm is based on the Facial Action Coding System (FACS) (Ko,  
112 2018). The FACS originates in Ekman's research in human facial expressions and is the most  
113 comprehensive and widely used taxonomy for the coding of facial behavior (McDuff et al.,  
114 2016).

115

116 To include a number of road types and driving conditions in the current study, a road circuit  
117 was planned based on the recommendation of existing studies (Miller, 2013; Schweitzer and  
118 Green, 2007) to include three different road types: rural, urban and major roads. An effort was  
119 made to include multiple driving conditions (e.g. high traffic density, roundabouts, poor road  
120 conditions) which may influence the emotional driving experience (Argandar, Gil and  
121 Berlanga, 2016; Cœugnet et al., 2013; Deffenbacher et al., 1994; Lee and Winston, 2016;  
122 Pau and Angius, 2001; Roidl et al., 2013).

123

124 This research combines the use of affective computing with a human-centered design  
125 approach, through investigating occupants' emotional responses during driving on different  
126 road types in different driving situations. To identify what aspects of the automotive  
127 environment are the most influential on the emotional experience, causes were assigned to  
128 the measured emotions. Facial-Expression Analysis, as a tool for the measurement of  
129 emotions was identified as suitable for the research purpose due to its low intrusiveness and  
130 non-contact application. Knowledge of the statistical frequencies and of the contextual causes  
131 would be expected to permit automotive designers to priorities a small number of road  
132 conditions and automotive systems, which may be having a disproportionate effect on the  
133 experiences and opinions of the vehicle users, for investigation.

134

135 The hypothesis of this research was therefore defined as the following:

136 Emotional responses during driving depend on driving conditions and road types. Differences  
137 in emotion frequencies between road types are statistically significant. An appropriate  
138 methodology for the real-time investigation of natures and frequencies of emotions during

139 driving, and the assignment of their causes, combines both qualitative and quantitative  
140 research.

141

142 Results of this research reinforce the notion that emotions play a significant role during  
143 automobile driving and provide knowledge on causes of emotional responses on different  
144 roads in different conditions. The results of this research may be applied to the design of  
145 standardized road tests intended to investigate emotional responses during driving. Another  
146 possible application of the collected results could be an improved human-machine interaction  
147 through personification based on the individual's emotions and their causes, achieved through  
148 the avoidance of certain roads or driving situations for example.

149

### 150 1.1 Background research

151 A number of studies have investigated emotional states during driving in the past (Grimm et  
152 al., 2007; Healey, 2000; Healey and Picard, 2005; Hoch et al., 2005; Jones and Jonson, 2008;  
153 Lisetti and Nasoz, 2005;). While multiple emotion studies include different road types or driving  
154 conditions in the road circuit planning (Grimm et al., 2007; Klauer et al., 2005), results are  
155 often not analyzed from the perspective of comparing emotions between the different  
156 conditions. Approaches investigating differences in emotions on different roads are therefore  
157 limited.

158

159 One study including a comparison of emotions on different road types was conducted by  
160 Menken et al. (2007). In total 44 participants drove in an instrumented car while heart-rate  
161 measures were collected. During the test drive participants were asked to rate their emotional  
162 experiences thorough emotion scores every three minutes. When comparing heart-rate  
163 measurements on City, Ring road and Motorway roads, results showed that the three different  
164 driving conditions did not produce significantly differing results. Only small differences were  
165 noted between ring road and motorway. Self-assessed emotion scores showed that types and  
166 numbers of emotions did not differ for different driving conditions or road types. Nevertheless,  
167 the self-assessment method has been criticized in previous research due to limitations caused  
168 by the subjectivity of the measurement, difficulties in cross-cultural use and no distinct emotion  
169 measurement but measurement of general emotional states (Desmet, 2003).

170 Physiological data (electrocardiogram, electromyogram, skin conductance, and respiration)  
171 was recorded and combined with self-assessed data to investigate stress-levels in an on-road  
172 study with 24 participants (Healey and Picard, 2005). Highway, city-driving and rest-periods  
173 were compared. While difficulties of the application and use of the physiological sensors in  
174 the real-driving environment occurred, the self-assessed data showed that participants rated  
175 city driving as the most stressful, followed by highway driving as less stressful and the rest-  
176 period as the least stressful. Once again, the sole reliance of results on self-assessment can  
177 be criticized (Mesken, 2002).

178

179 Other research approaches investigated the relationship of workload, frustration or the driver's  
180 stress level and different road types (Miller, 2013; Schweitzer and Green, 2007; Sugiono,  
181 Widhayanuriyawan and Andriani, 2017). As workload, frustration and stress level are closely  
182 related to emotions and emotional states (Hou, Sourina and Mueller-Wittig, 2015) the  
183 research was considered relevant for the current study. Schweitzer and Green compared  
184 workload and task acceptability in urban situations, expressways, rural roads and residential

185 roads based on ratings from video clips. Even though many exceptions were recorded, urban  
186 situations were associated with the highest workload, followed by expressways, rural roads  
187 and residential roads with the lowest workload (Schweitzer and Green, 2007). Sugiono,  
188 Widhayanuriyawan and Andriani investigated frustration and different demand and  
189 performance measures on city roads, motorways and rural roads based on subjective  
190 measurements using NASA TXL. Their results showed the highest level of frustration on city  
191 roads, followed by rural roads with the lowest frustration level on motorways (Sugiono,  
192 Widhayanuriyawan and Andriani, 2017). Miller investigated the effects of different roadways  
193 (expressways and rural roads) on driver stress using physiological measures (ECG data). The  
194 highest stress levels were measured on expressways, rural roads were notably less stressful  
195 (Miller, 2013).

196

197 In light of the scarcity and discrepancies of studies conducting in-depth investigations and  
198 comparisons of emotional states under different conditions, the research described here  
199 provides a methodology for the in-depth investigation of emotional responses during driving  
200 on different road types in different driving conditions, enabling the construction of methods  
201 and systems that will allow future research to address the highlighted issues.

202

203

## 204 2 Driving Study for observation of emotional responses on different roads

205

### 206 2.1 Measurement Equipment

207 FEA was chosen as a suitable tool for the measurement of emotions in the automotive  
208 environment due to its low intrusiveness and non-contact application (Kapoor, Qi and Picard,  
209 2003). Furthermore FEA and has achieved up to 90% correlation with self-assessed emotions  
210 in previous research (Zeng et al., 2009).

211

212 Criteria including real-time measurement, low cost, user-friendliness easily adaptable to  
213 different participants, high portability, high robustness, customizable software and data  
214 synchronized with video feed, were defined for the choice of emotion recognition software.

215

216 Fulfilling all criteria, *Affdex Affectiva*, a real-time FEA tool, was chosen to be integrated into  
217 the data acquisition and integration platform *iMotions Attention Tool*. The *Affdex Affectiva* face  
218 detection is performed through the Viola-Jones face detection algorithm, calibrated using a  
219 large, independent set of facial images (iMotions, 2013). Taken in natural conditions with  
220 different posture and lighting, they were subsequently coded by experts (McDuff et al., 2016).  
221 The software is based on the Facial Action Coding System, which codes specific combinations  
222 of action units (contractions of facial muscles) into the six basic emotions (Ekman, Friesen  
223 and Ellsworth, 2013; McDuff et al., 2016) joy, anger surprise, fear, disgust and sadness.

224

225 *Affdex Affectiva* provides emotion evidence scores which correspond to the probability of the  
226 presence of each emotion in the facial image. The evidence score output from the software is  
227 between 0 (absent) and 100 (present). A threshold suggested through previous research for  
228 an emotion being present or absent of 50-70 (iMotions, 2013) is defined to determine the  
229 presence of absence of an emotion.

230

231 Limitations of the application of FEA in the automotive setting were identified in previous  
232 research (Gao, Yüce and Thiran, 2014; Tischler et al., 2007). Factors influencing the usability  
233 of the tool include lighting changes, head movement and high frequencies of expressions. In  
234 order to avoid noise and increase the usability of the chosen method in the study environment,  
235 adjustments were made. These included the creation of a threshold for the presence of an  
236 emotional response at a minimum expression duration of 1 second, adding an immediate  
237 median correction of the last 3 samples of the emotion evidence score and setting the  
238 evidence score threshold for an emotion being present at 70 (Weber, 2018).

239

## 240 2.2 Test Vehicle and Set-up

241 The research automobile was provided by Jaguar Land Rover for the duration of the study  
242 and insured by the university. The Land Rover Discovery Sport SE eD4 150PS, a four-wheel  
243 drive automobile had a 2.0L four-cylinder diesel engine and a manual transmission.

244

245 Two cameras (Logitech C920HD) were fitted in the automobile to capture the driving  
246 environment, the dashboard and the participants' face. The environment camera was fixed on  
247 the seat's headrest to capture both the dashboard and the environment of the automobile,  
248 while the face camera was fixed to the windshield (Figure 1). Both the FEA data and the  
249 recorded videos were collected on a laptop (Lenovo Thinkpad) by the researcher, seated on  
250 the backseat of the automobile.



251

252 Figure 1 Camera placement in the research automobile

253 Both cameras were placed such that they fulfilled the following requirements including  
254 minimal intrusiveness and impact on the participant's visual field, robust placement and  
255 avoiding camera movement through vibration or car movement. Specific requirements for the  
256 placement of the face camera included ideal location to avoid interruption of data transfer  
257 due to the participant's head movement and minimize impact on the visual field. The  
258 requirement for the scene camera was the placement to reach a wide angle covering parts  
259 of the dashboard and the driving environment to collect as much information about the driving  
260 environment and potential event triggers as possible (Figure 2)

261



Figure 2 View of the face and scene camera during the study

### 2.3 Road Circuit Selection

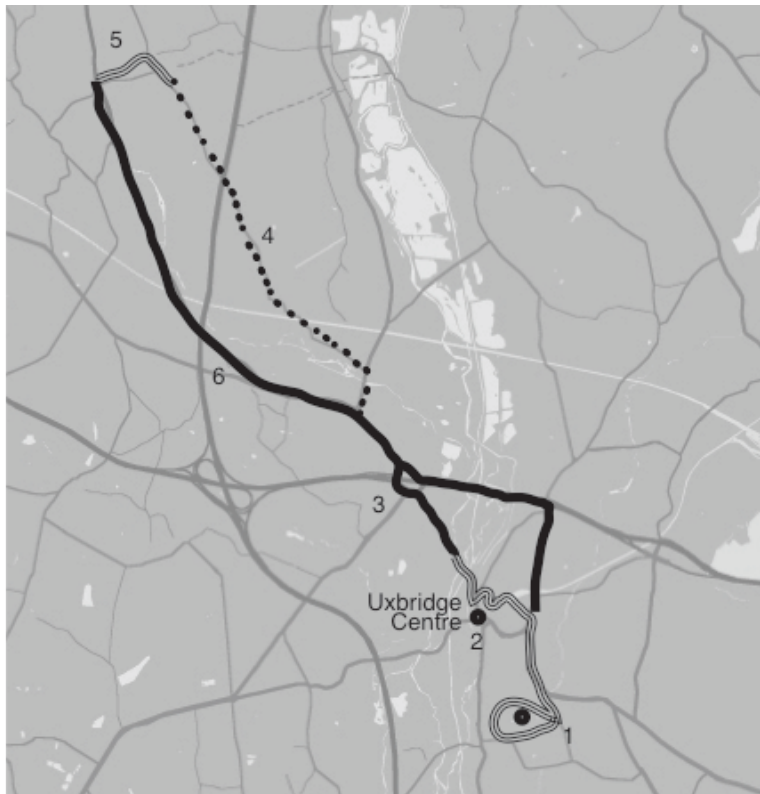
To include a variety of road types and driving situations a road circuit was planned for the current study. Existing automotive studies (Miller, 2013; Schweitzer and Green, 2007; Schweitzer and Green, 2007; Sugiono, Widhayanuriyawan and Andriani, 2017) recommend the combination of three different road types for either the planning of road circuits or the comparison between them: rural, urban and major roads. A ratio of these three road types recommended in human factors and ergonomics research is 40% rural roads, 40% urban roads and 20% major roads (Giacomin and Bracco, 1995; Taylor, Lynam and Baruya, 2000). When planning the road circuit, the definition of road types (urban, major, rural) according to the UK Department for Transport (DFT, 2017, p.1-2) was followed (Table 1).

Table 1 Definition of road types according to the UK Department for Transport (DFT, 2017, p.1-2)

Road Type	Definition
<i>Urban roads</i>	These are major and minor roads within a settlement of population of 10,000 or more. The definition is based on the 2001 Communities and Local Government definition of Urban Settlements.
<i>Major roads</i>	Includes motorways and all 'A' roads. These roads usually have high traffic flows and are often the main arteries to major destinations.
<i>Rural roads</i>	These are major and minor roads outside urban areas (these urban areas have a population of more than 10,000 people).

An attempt was made to not only cover the suggested three road types but also to respect the suggested ratio in the restricted study time. Compliance with the university's legal and ethical protocols (i.e. study length restricted to a maximum of one hour, any route point was required to be within 30 minutes of the university campus in case of emergency) suggested the choice of routes within a 30-minute radius of the university, which permitted a final configuration of (Figure 3) 4.5 miles of urban roads covering 30% of the total mileage and 17 minutes of driving on average, 6.7 miles of major roads covering 44% of the total mileage and 14 minutes of

285 driving on average and 4.0 miles of rural roads covering 26% of the total mileage and 9  
 286 minutes of driving on average.  
 287



288  
 289 Figure 3 Map indicating road types (triple line – urban roads, line – major roads, dotted – rural  
 290 roads) and road circuit numbers (see Table 2)







291 In order to include driving situations which may have an impact on the drivers' emotional  
 292 experience (Roidl et al., 2013) literature investigating emotions during driving and their  
 293 influences was reviewed (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016; Cœugnet et al., 2013;  
 294 Deffenbacher et al., 1994; Lee and Winston, 2016; Pau and Angius, 2001; Roidl et al., 2013)

295  
 296 The number of driving and road situations, known to have an emotional impact on the driver  
 297 were covered in the planned road circuit (Table 2). These include roundabouts and large  
 298 challenging junctions (Funke et al., 2007; Lee and Winston, 2016; Roidl et al., 2013;), poor  
 299 road conditions (e.g. potholes, eroded roads) (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016; Roidl et al.,  
 300 2013), limited visual field (e.g. dense vegetation, winding road) (Roidl et al., 2013), speed  
 301 bumps (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016; Pau and Angius, 2001) and bus stops and  
 302 pedestrians crossing the road (Deffenbacher et al., 1994).

303 Table 2 Detailed explanation of the road circuit

Number	Explanation	Image
(see Figure 3)		



1 (Start)	<p>A private/urban road leading over 11 speed bumps, leaving the university through 3 roundabouts.</p> <p>Possible impact: Stress (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016), anger (Pau and Angius, 2001)</p>	
2	<p>An urban road leading towards and through the town center, with high traffic density, pedestrians crossing and buses stopping.</p> <p>Possible impact: Stress (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016), annoyance (Cœugnet et al., 2013), anger (Mesken et al., 2007)</p>	
3	<p>A major road towards a large junction.</p> <p>Possible impact: Stress (Lee and Winston, 2016), frustration and anger (Roidl et al., 2013)</p>	
4	<p>A rural road with poor road conditions and a limited visual field due to dense vegetation and a winding road lay-out.</p> <p>Possible impact: Stress (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016), surprise (Roidl et al., 2013)</p>	
5	<p>An urban road with very poor road conditions and a narrow road often blocked by parked vehicles.</p> <p>Possible impact: Stress (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016), anger (Pau and Angius, 2001; Deffenbacher et al., 1994)</p>	
6	<p>Major roads leading back to university with no major challenges</p>	

304

305

## 306 2.4 Participant Selection and Recruitment

307 To ensure a high quality of data the participant selection and recruitment was conducted  
308 following a purposive sampling strategy. Factors (age, gender and driver type) identified in  
309 previous research as affecting driving behavior, performance and attitude (Gwyther and  
310 Holland, 2012; Turner and McClure, 2003) were therefore controlled. To identify driver types  
311 and ensure the participation of all types, participants were asked to complete the

312 Multidimensional Driving Style Inventory, a standard driving style assessment tool (Taubman-  
313 Ben-Ari, Mikulincer and Gillath et al., 2004). All five driver types (angry, anxious, dissociative,  
314 distress-reduction, careful driver) were represented in the study.

315  
316 To identify a suitable sampling size, research suggesting sampling sizes for qualitative,  
317 quantitative and mixed method research approaches, and literature considering validity of  
318 sampling size for data analysis, was reviewed (Creswell and Poth, 2017; Guo et al., 2013;  
319 Morse, 1994; Teddlie and Yu, 2007; VanVoorhis, Wilson and Betsy, 2007). When following a  
320 purposive sampling strategy in mixed method studies, 20-30 participants has been suggested  
321 as an appropriate sampling size (Creswell and Poth, 2017; Teddlie and Yu, 2007). For stable  
322 data analysis, sample sizes of 8-20 have been identified as sufficient (Morse, 1994).

323  
324 Based on the reviewed literature 21 participants, including 10 female and 11 male drivers  
325 between the ages of 18-55 (M= 31.5, SD=11.2) were recruited for the study. They had an  
326 average 13.6 (SD= 12.2) years driving experience with an average of 10.000-15.000 miles  
327 driven per year. The selection of participants and all phases of the study were performed in  
328 accordance with the University's ethics policy.

329  
330

## 331 2.5 Data Analysis Approach

332 The study data was analyzed following a multimethod approach.

333

### 334 2.5.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

335 Statistical analysis was performed on the collected FEA data. All facial expressions above  
336 threshold were collated for all participants and separated for the three different road types.  
337 The total average frequency (i.e. the average number of emotions registered by the FEA tool  
338 per minute) of all facial expressions was calculated. Next, the individual expressions and their  
339 frequencies for each road type were collated and the percentage differences from the total  
340 average of emotion frequency were compared. To investigate the statistical significance of  
341 the study results the frequencies of emotions a chi- squared test was performed using the  
342 road type data sets.

343  
344

### 345 2.5.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

346 In an observational analysis during and after the study, causes (i.e. short textual description  
347 of the cause of the emotion) were assigned to the facial expressions by the researcher. All  
348 causes assigned during the study were revised afterwards, through reviewing the FEA and  
349 video data. If a cause could not be assigned during the study due to the high rate of incoming  
350 data, causes were assigned afterwards. If no obvious cause could be identified the expression  
351 was categorized as *no cause assigned* (NCA). The assigned causes were separated into the  
352 three road types.

353  
354 To minimize research bias and ensure validity of the assignment of causes an inter-observer  
355 reliability test was conducted (Marques and McCall, 2005). Two independent researchers  
356 were asked to complete the same observational analysis with the purpose of cause  
357 assignment to the measured expressions for 10% of the total sample (Armstrong et al., 1997).  
358 The degree of agreement between all three researchers was then evaluated by calculating  
359 Fleiss' Kappa.

360

### 361 3 Results

362 A total of 21 participants, including 10 female and 11 male drivers in four age groups (18-25,  
 363 26-34, 36-45, 46-55) took part in the driving study. Video and emotion data was collected for  
 364 each individual participant and categorized by road type. Due to durations of travel on each  
 365 road type varying by participant, the frequency of emotions was considered, that is the  
 366 average number of emotions registered by the FEA tool per minute. The results are  
 367 summarized in Table 3, where the percentage difference from the total average was  
 368 calculated from  $100 \frac{\text{Total average} - \text{Road type average}}{\text{Total average}}$ .

369

370 Table 3 Frequencies of facial expressions on different road types

Road type	Total time (minutes)	Total facial expressions measured	Average emotion frequency (emotions per minute)	SD	% difference from overall average
URBAN	350	210	0.605	0.564	- 6.09%
MAJOR	300	229	0.777	1.140	+11.15%
RURAL	189	120	0.617	0.823	- 4.88%
<b>Total</b>	839	559	0.666	0.861	

371

372 In a total study time of 839 minutes, 559 emotional responses were measured, the total  
 373 average frequency was calculated as 0.666 emotions per minute (SD=0.861). The  
 374 comparison of the individual road frequencies to the total average showed -6.09% below  
 375 average frequencies for urban roads, +11.15% above average frequencies for major roads  
 376 and +4.88% above average frequencies for rural roads.

377

#### 378 3.1 Expressions, frequencies and causes on urban roads

379 The tables below describe the frequencies of facial expressions as well as the most frequently  
 380 assigned causes (assigned at least 5 times) for urban roads (Table 4).

381

382 Table 4 Frequencies of basic emotions on urban roads and their most frequently assigned causes

Basic emotion	n	% of all basic emotions measured (total=210)	Causes most frequently assigned (total≥5)
JOY	50	24	Enjoying driving the car (total=21) Personal interaction (total=11) No cause assigned (total=8)
ANGER	39	18	Navigation alert (total=8) Checking navigation (total=6)

			High traffic density (total=6)
SURPRISE	50	24	Navigation alert (total=8)
FEAR	6	3	
DISGUST	46	22	Navigation alert (total=6) Checking navigation (total=6)
SADNESS	19	9	

383

384

### 385 3.2 Expressions, frequencies and causes on major roads

386 The tables below describe the frequencies of facial expressions as well as the most frequently  
387 assigned causes (assigned at least 5 times) for major roads (Table 5).

388

389 Table 5 Frequencies of basic emotions on major roads and their most frequently assigned causes

Basic emotion	n	% of all basic emotions measured (total=229)	Causes most frequently assigned (total≥5)
JOY	50	22	Enjoying driving the car (total=28) Personal interaction (total=8) No cause assigned (total=6)
ANGER	46	20	Checking navigation (total=15) Navigation alert (total=7) High traffic density (total=6)
SURPRISE	44	19	Checking navigation (total=7) Poor road conditions (total=6)
FEAR	0	0	
DISGUST	71	31	High traffic density (total=20) Poor road conditions (total=12) Checking navigation (total=6)
SADNESS	18	8	

390

### 391 3.3 Expressions, frequencies and causes on rural roads

392 The tables below describe the frequencies of facial expressions as well as the most frequently  
393 assigned causes (assigned at least 5 times) for rural roads (Table 6).

394

395 Table 6 Frequencies of basic emotions on rural roads and their most frequently assigned causes

Basic emotion	Number of emotion occurrence	% of all basic emotions measured (total=120)	Causes most frequently assigned (total≥5)
JOY	28	23	Enjoying driving the car (total=19) Personal interaction (total=9)
ANGER	17	14	Checking navigation (total=6)
SURPRISE	35	29	Poor road conditions (total=14)

			Car passing close on narrow road (total=6)
FEAR	1	1	
DISGUST	27	23	Poor road conditions (total=10) High traffic density (total=8)
SADNESS	12	10	

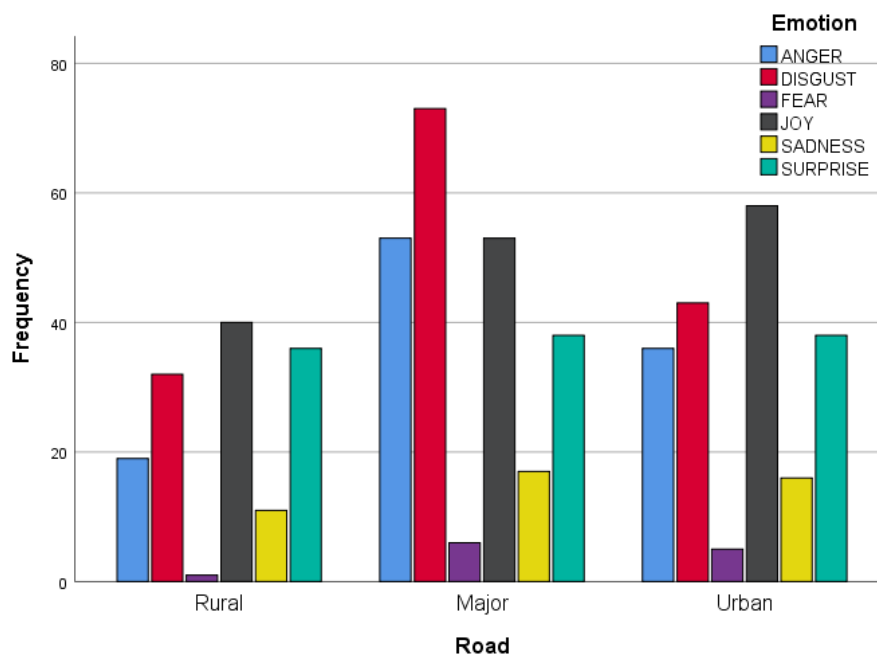
396

397 **3.4. Results of the Chi-Squared Test**

398 The high standard deviations (Table 3) indicate the wide spread of emotion frequency found  
 399 between participants. Consequently, the average frequency is a poor indicator of individual  
 400 performance, but considering the entire data can illuminate the variations in emotion  
 401 frequency between road types.

402 A chi-square test of independence was calculated comparing the drivers' emotions on the  
 403 different road type. A p-value <0.10 was considered as a threshold for statistically significant  
 404 results for this test. It is worth remarking that this significance level is slightly less strict than  
 405 the conventional ones ( $p < .05$  or  $p < .01$ ). This because the goal of this analysis is to  
 406 identify trends between the analysed dimensions of the three road type (Fisher 1992). A  
 407 significant difference was found ( $\chi^2(10) = 16.047$ ,  $p = 0.098$ ), indicating that road type  
 408 influences the drivers emotions. A bar-chart reported in Fig XX shows the emotion frequency  
 409 for each road.

410



411

412 **Figure 4 Bar chart indicating the road type influence on emotion frequency for road type.**

413

414

415

416 **3.5 Results of the inter-observer reliability test**

417 To ensure validity of the observational analysis results and avoid research bias, an inter-  
 418 observer reliability test was conducted. Two independent researcher were asked to review  
 419 10% of the study data and complete the same cause assignment exercise previously

420 completed by the primary researcher (Armstrong et al., 1997). The degree of agreement  
421 between all three researchers was calculated using Fleiss' Kappa, a standard measure of  
422 agreement between observers categorizing items of data and a generalization of Cohen's  
423 Kappa to multiple observers. It was calculated as  $\kappa = 0.68$ ; this is considered to indicate  
424 "substantial" agreement not attributable to chance. As  $\kappa$  ranges from -1 to 1, with 0 indicating  
425 purely chance, and 1 perfect agreement, it was interpreted as substantial agreement between  
426 the observers (Xie et al., 2017).

427  
428

## 429 4 Discussion

430 The aim of this research was to investigate the dependency of a driver's emotional experience  
431 on road types and driving conditions. A methodology for the investigation of natures,  
432 frequencies and causes of emotions during driving was introduced. Knowledge of the  
433 statistical frequencies and of the contextual causes could permit the optimization of the  
434 testing of new vehicle concepts, and could possibly lead to the redesign of test circuits for  
435 purposes of human-centered evaluations.

436

437 The research hypothesis that emotional responses depend on road types and driving  
438 conditions was supported by the statistical significance of the data collected; it was concluded  
439 that the data was indicative of a significant differences between emotion frequencies on each  
440 road type, with a low probability that these differences were due to random variations.  
441 Comparable studies showed similar results with stress-levels depending on road types and  
442 driving conditions (Healey and Picard, 2005; Mesken et al., 2007). When reviewing the  
443 planned road circuit, an explanation for the difference in frequencies may be the fact that the  
444 major roads in the road circuit included large, multi-lane roundabouts and higher traffic density  
445 while challenging situations on selected urban and rural roads were limited.

446

447 When reviewing results for the individual road types, additional differences become apparent.  
448 These additional observations produce some insight into the underlying causes of the  
449 distribution of emotions recorded during the study, however for rigorous interpretation further  
450 studies should be conducted which aim at standardizing the triggers assigned to emotion  
451 events.

452

453 The basic emotions measured most frequently for urban roads were joy and surprise (both  
454 24% of the total), followed by disgust (22%) and anger (18%), with the lowest frequencies  
455 measured for sadness (9%) and fear (3%). The measured frequencies of basic emotions are  
456 somewhat surprising since the urban road passage included high traffic density, pedestrians  
457 crossing and buses stopping, conditions which were previously identified to trigger negative  
458 emotions (Argandar, Gil and Berlanga, 2016; Cœugnet et al., 2013; Mesken et al., 2007)

459

460 The causes most frequently assigned to joy on urban roads were *enjoying driving the car* (21  
461 out of 48), *personal interaction* (11 out of 48) and *no cause assigned* (8 out of 48), showing a  
462 major impact of the type of car on experienced joy. Causes for anger were *navigation alert* (8  
463 out of 36), *checking navigation* (6 out of 36) and *high traffic density* (6 out of 36). *Navigation  
464 alert* was also assigned to surprise (8 out of 48). Causes assigned to disgust included  
465 *navigation alert* (6 out of 43) and *checking navigation* (6 out of 36). It can be inferred that the

466 type of car, as well as the use of a navigation device has a strong impact on the emotional  
467 experience on urban roads.

468

469 On major roads, disgust (31% of the total) was most frequently measured, followed by joy  
470 (22%), anger (20%) and surprise (19%), infrequent sadness (8%) and the absence of  
471 measurements of fear. These results are comparable to previous research were some of the  
472 conditions of the planned "major roads" section (e.g. challenging driving situations such as  
473 large junctions) were connected to stress and frustration (Funke et al., 2007; Lee and Winston,  
474 2016; Roidl et al., 2013;), closely related to disgust.

475 The causes most frequently assigned to joy are again *enjoying driving the car* (28 out of 50),  
476 *personal interaction* (8 out of 50) and *no cause assigned* (6 out of 50). For anger the most  
477 frequent causes include *checking navigation* (15 out of 44), *navigation alert* (7 out of 44) and  
478 *high traffic density* (6 out of 44). *Checking navigation* (7 out of 42) and *poor road conditions*  
479 (6 out of 42) were assigned to surprise, while *high traffic density* (20 out of 79), *poor road*  
480 *conditions* (12 out of 70) and *checking navigation* (6 out of 50) were assigned to disgust.  
481 Similar to urban roads, the navigation device appeared to play an important role in the drivers'  
482 emotional experience. It is also notable that joy, the most frequently measured expression on  
483 urban roads was replaced by disgust on major roads, possibly due to higher traffic density  
484 and road conditions.

485

486 For rural roads, surprise (29% of the total of measured emotions) was the most frequently  
487 measured expression, followed by disgust and joy (both 23%), with anger and sadness  
488 measured less frequently (10-14%) and very few instances of fear (1%). The frequencies of  
489 basic emotions are comparable to results of previous research connecting surprise with  
490 winding roads and limited visual fields (Roidl et al., 2013).

491

492 The most frequently assigned causes of joy, *enjoying driving the car* (19 out of 31) and  
493 *personal interaction* (9 out of 31), are shared with urban and major roads. *Checking navigation*  
494 (6 out of 19) was most frequently assigned to anger, while *poor road conditions* (14 out of 40)  
495 and *car passing close on narrow road* (6 out of 40) were most frequently assigned to surprise.  
496 Most frequently assigned to disgust were poor road conditions (10 out of 30) and high traffic  
497 density (8 out of 31). The nature of the road (poor road conditions, narrow) seems to have a  
498 major impact on emotions experienced on rural roads. Since rural roads did not have the  
499 highest measured impact on workload, frustration and stress level in previous research (Miller,  
500 2013; Schweitzer and Green, 2007; Sugiono, Widhayanuriyawan and Andriani, 2017) this  
501 should be further investigated in future research.

502

503 Low measured responses of fear in this dataset are surprising as fear and anxiety, closely  
504 related to fear, were reported to have major impact on driving emotion and behavior in  
505 previous research (Mesken et al., 2017; Taylor, Deane and Podd, 2000; Taylor et al., 2010).  
506 One possible explanation of the discrepancies of this study and past research could be the  
507 reliance on the Facial Action Coding System or potentially a weakness of the Affdex Affectiva  
508 emotion algorithm. Another explanation could be that the chosen driving area might not be  
509 eliciting fear in participants as they might be used to the surroundings of the university. The  
510 scare occurrence of fear should be investigated in future research.

511

512 The results display a clear indication of some of the primary causes for both negative and  
513 positive emotions on different road types. These insights can aid the development of an

514 affective human-machine interaction through the avoidance of the causes of negative  
515 emotions and the enhancement of positive emotions.

516

517 The fact that the causes assigned to the facial expressions are often directly linked to the road  
518 type (for instance *car passing close on narrow road* as a frequent cause for emotion on a rural  
519 road) further supports the hypothesis that the emotional experience does in fact depend on  
520 the road type and driving situation. This knowledge can be used for improved, personalized  
521 navigation, which takes the driver's individual emotional experience into account when  
522 planning a route. In the future knowledge about emotional experiences on different roads  
523 could be used to tailor the route choice of self-driving vehicles such that the occupants will  
524 have the best emotional experience possible.

525

526 The knowledge that the navigation device had a major impact on the emotional experience  
527 during this study can be used for the creation of design criteria for coping with stressful driving,  
528 for example through avoiding certain road types through an alteration of the navigation route,  
529 personalized to the emotional reactions of the driver. Depending on the driver's preference  
530 and emotional responses, a more pleasurable driving experience could be created.

531

532 The study introduces an appropriate methodology for the real-time investigation of the drivers'  
533 emotions and the assignment of their causes through combining FEA and observational  
534 analysis. Results of the inter-observer reliability test ensure the validity of the assignment  
535 results. Information about the causes of emotions can assist automotive designers in  
536 detecting key issues to rectify and identifying opportunities to optimize subsystems or  
537 components. These insights could also be applied for the development of user journeys and  
538 scenario-creation, tools frequently applied in automotive research (Gkouskos, Normak and  
539 Lundgren, 2014).

540

541

## 542 5 Threats to Validity

543 Threats to validity in this study are listed and explained in the following.

544

### 545 *Limited choice of road types*

546 The choice of road types was limited by the location of the start and end point of the study route  
547 and restricted study time. This had an impact on both the road type ratio and the variance of  
548 roads (e.g. urban roads in Uxbridge Town Centre being less busy than urban roads in London  
549 city center). The ratio of road types in human factors and ergonomics research (Giacomin and  
550 Bracco, 1995; Taylor, Lynam and Baruya, 2000) was therefore not exactly met which may  
551 have influenced the variety of emotional responses on certain roads due to limited length of  
552 driving time on those. Furthermore, a different study location (busier urban roads) may have  
553 triggered different emotional responses or caused higher frequencies of emotions. To avoid  
554 influences of road type ratio and variance of road on emotional responses of participants a  
555 greater variety of roads and a larger participant sample should be considered in future research.

556

### 557 *Researcher's presence in the car*

558 The Hawthorne effect is an alteration of behavior when participants are aware they are under  
559 observation (Jackson and Cox, 2013; Oswald, 2014). While previous research has debated the  
560 existence and significance of the effect (Franke and Kaul, 1978; Jones 1992), all efforts were



561 made to avoid any potential bias attributable to the presence of the observer in the car during  
562 the study. In order to achieve this, steps were taken to mitigate the effect (Jackson and Cox,  
563 2013; Oswald, 2014): unobtrusive, naturalistic observation of the participant's behavior  
564 (researcher seated in the back and no interruption of the study); creation of a nonthreatening  
565 perception by generating a comfortable environment (giving the participant time to get used to  
566 the car, choosing a route around the participants' work or study place); application of  
567 triangulation (combination of qualitative and quantitative measurement techniques). To fully  
568 avoid any potential influences of the Hawthorne effect in future studies all data could be sent to  
569 a control room in real-time to complete the observation without the need to be present in the  
570 automobile.

571

### 572 *Technology*

573 The choice of emotion recognition technology and configuration may have impacted the results.  
574 For instance, the use of a single camera restricted the range of head movement that allows FEA  
575 and requires placement which impacts the participant's visual field. To achieve more reliable  
576 results multiple cameras should be used. Furthermore, the combination of different emotion  
577 measurement techniques must be considered in the future. It has been suggested, for instance,  
578 that a combination of behavioral and observational measures with physiological measures (e.g.  
579 galvanic-skin-response, heart rate measurement) will yield a superior result (Mesken et al.,  
580 2007).

581

### 582 *Facial Action Coding System (FACS)*

583 The use of the FACS has been criticized by numerous researchers (Essa and Pentland, 1997;  
584 Sayette et al., 2001; Wolf, 2015) for various reasons, such as the controversial opinions about  
585 FACS in science, its lack of temporal and detailed spatial information, the underlying  
586 assumption that facial expressions and emotion have an exact correspondence and the fact  
587 that its application has proven difficult to adapt for machine recognition of facial expression.  
588 While the FACS is still widely used and the most comprehensive facial-coding taxonomy  
589 (McDuff et al., 2016) the use or addition of other emotion taxonomies should be considered  
590 in future research.

591

### 592 *Assignment of causes*

593 A cause could not be assigned to all facial expressions (see NCA). Causes were not assigned  
594 if no obvious cause could be identified. This is a limitation which could be avoided by using  
595 more cameras to provide more information about the driving environment or by questioning  
596 the participant. Both suggestions should be considered in future research.

597

## 598 **6 Conclusion**

599 For this research, a mixed-method approach was applied, combining both quantitative and  
600 qualitative methods for the investigation of emotions, their natures, frequencies and causes  
601 on different road types. The results helped gain a better understanding of emotions during  
602 driving on different road types and in different driving conditions, as well as which specific  
603 causes trigger certain reactions on rural, major and urban roads. Frequencies of facial  
604 expressions were compared between the different road types and analyzed in detail for each  
605 type. Causes were examined to determine what the most significant influences on emotions  
606 are during driving on different road types. Results of this research reinforce the notion that

607 emotions play a significant role during automobile driving and provide knowledge on causes  
608 for the emotional influences.

609

610 This study provides an appropriate methodology for the real-time investigation of emotions  
611 during driving, as well as the assignment of their causes through a combination of FEA and  
612 observational analysis. This will allow future research to improve automotive design by  
613 addressing the highlighted issues, and expand the body of knowledge addressing emotions  
614 during driving. Knowledge of the natures, frequencies and causes of emotions can assist  
615 automotive designers in identifying issues and components to analyze and modify. Results of  
616 this research may be applied to the design of standardized road tests intended to investigate  
617 emotional responses during driving. **While outcomes could be used for the formulation of  
618 automotive design criteria, notice that, although very promising, some of the results should be  
619 interpreted with caution due to effect size and participants number as shown by the chi-square  
620 test in section 3.4.**

621

622 Furthermore, knowledge acquired in this research could see further application in  
623 personalizing and tailoring the driving experience, allowing causes of positive emotions to be  
624 emphasized, and those of negative emotions to be prevented. This could lead to prediction of  
625 emotional responses to a given situation, and personalization of the driving experience based  
626 on the knowledge collected about the occupants' emotions during driving. The methodology  
627 presented, and the knowledge that its application can provide, may be utilized to improve both  
628 the current generation of automobiles, and to ensure the optimal integration and  
629 implementation of new technologies in the next generation of autonomous automobiles.

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