

Personalised, Multi-modal, Affective State Detection for Hybrid Brain-Computer Music Interfacing

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Abstract—Brain-computer music interfaces (BCMIs) may be used to modulate affective states, with applications in music therapy, composition, and entertainment. However, for such systems to work they need to be able to reliably detect their user's current affective state.

We present a method for personalised affective state detection for use in BCMI. We compare it to a population-based detection method trained on 17 users and demonstrate that personalised affective state detection is significantly ($p < 0.01$) more accurate, with average improvements in accuracy of 10.2% for valence and 9.3% for arousal. We also compare a hybrid BCMI (a BCMI that combines physiological signals with neurological signals) to a conventional BCMI design (one based upon the use of only EEG features) and demonstrate that the hybrid design results in a significant ($p < 0.01$) 6.2% improvement in performance for arousal classification and a significant ($p < 0.01$) 5.9% improvement for valence classification.

Index Terms—EEG, GSR, Affective state detection, BCMI, Personalised affective state detection.

1 INTRODUCTION

BRAIN-COMPUTER music interfaces (BCMIs) provide a mechanism for their users to interact with music directly via brain activity, without the need for movement [1]. BCMIs have a number of potential applications, including entertainment and creative expression [2]. They have also been suggested for use in music therapy as they provide an alternative method for individuals to express themselves emotionally [3].

Music therapy is a psychological therapy technique which aims to facilitate communication between patient and therapist, and to ultimately improve the emotional state of the patient via musical interaction with the therapist [4]. This represents the intentional use of an arts discipline to effect therapeutic change, rather than solely for the purpose of an artistic experience [5]. In this context, the music becomes a means to an end; there is a shift of focus from production to process, which includes amongst other things, the music-making and the interaction between the client and therapist as a source of various therapeutic interventions. Practices include music improvisation, song-writing, and guided imagery with music. There are two schools of thought regarding the communication process: expressionist/referential approaches, whereby the meaning in the

music creation process may express or refer to something non-musical (this sound reminds me of when I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro), and absolutist/formalist approaches, where the meaning is solely contained and communicated by the musical form [6].

In either of these approaches, the patient might, for example, perform in duet or in response to the music of the therapist. A BCMI could work in this context by facilitating patients who are not musically confident or otherwise competent enough (for example due to physical disability) to engage in these music-making processes via traditional methods. Music has been described as the language of emotion and the possibility of offering emotional expression without significant training by means of BCMI explored in [7], for example when working with sufferers of Alexithymia (a trait which can cause a deficiency in the ability to verbally express emotions) [8], [9], as engaging in music creation might offer one way in which individuals with such difficulties might be able to express themselves [10], [11].

A related area of research is the use of sonification to translate an individual's physiological signals into music. For example, in [12] methods are reported for translating EEG activity into music, while in [13] a combination of EEG and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) is used to achieve a similar effect.

We extend this idea and present a BCMI designed for use in music therapy applications as an affective state modulation tool. This BCMI aims to both detect and provide a mechanism to assist users in modulating their own affective state. As such it aims to provide a method for allowing musical communication within a music therapy context.

In order for this BCMI design to work it is vital to have an accurate method for detecting affective states. We have

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recently developed a method to detect a user's affective states, while they listen to music, by classifying EEG derived features [3].

It has been demonstrated that it is possible to recognise emotions from the EEG via a variety of techniques [14], [15], [16], and that this may be done in real-time for use in music-therapy [17]. It has also been demonstrated that it is possible to recognise emotions from the EEG during music listening tasks [18] and from a combination of EEG and acoustic features [19], [20]. However, these approaches use a population based classification approach, in which the same classification model is applied to all the study participants.

Emotional responses to stimuli such as music are also known to involve a wide range of different physiological processes affecting the heart, the central nervous system, and other related processes, such as respiration [21], [22]. It has been demonstrated that such physiological signals may be used to recognise emotions [23]. Thus, in order to best understand and accurately detect changes in affective states it is also important to integrate these different physiological processes into an affective state detection system.

Additionally, it has been shown that a combination of EEG and other physiological signals may be used to identify an individual's affective state when visual stimuli or combinations of visual and auditory stimuli are used [24], [25], [26], [27]. However, neurological responses to affective stimuli differ according to the modality of the stimuli [28], so affective state detection methods designed for visual stimuli may not work as well for musical stimuli. Specifically, the combination of visual and audio stimuli are likely to show synergistic effects, which makes detection of affective states a fundamentally different problem.

Furthermore, it is well-known that individuals can each respond to the same emotional stimulus in very different ways depending on factors such as their gender [29] and age [30]. Furthermore, physiological signals such as the EEG are subject to a very large amount of inter-participant variability [31] and non-stationarity [32]. Thus, we suggest that such population-based approaches are not optimal for identifying an individual's emotional response to music or other stimuli.

Therefore, we seek to develop a high performance affective state detection system as part of a hybrid BCMI (hBCMI) design, an extension of a conventional BCI [33], which incorporates both EEG features and other physiological features [34]. Additionally, we investigate personalisation of this affective state detection system. We train the method on a per-participant basis and compare the resulting classification accuracies to those that may be achieved when individual participant differences are not considered by the affective state detection system. Specifically, we compare per participant classification accuracies to those achieved when cross-participant training is used.

We make two hypotheses: first, the accuracy with which we can detect affective states, while users of a BCI system listen to music, will increase when we integrate a range of physiological processes; second, because the neural and physiological markers of these affective states are specific to each participant's felt response to music, the affective state detection system will be more accurate when it is personalised to the individual.

2 METHODS

2.1 hBCMI design

The proposed hBCMI design comprises four key stages. First, EEG and other physiological signals are recorded from the user. Second, the BCMI attempts to detect the user's current affective state from these signals. Third, a rule-set is used to determine how best to move the user from their current affective state to a new target affective state. Finally, a music generator is used to play music corresponding to the rule-set to achieve the goals of the BCMI system (modulation of the user's affective state).

This hBCMI system is illustrated in figure 1 and is more fully described elsewhere [35].

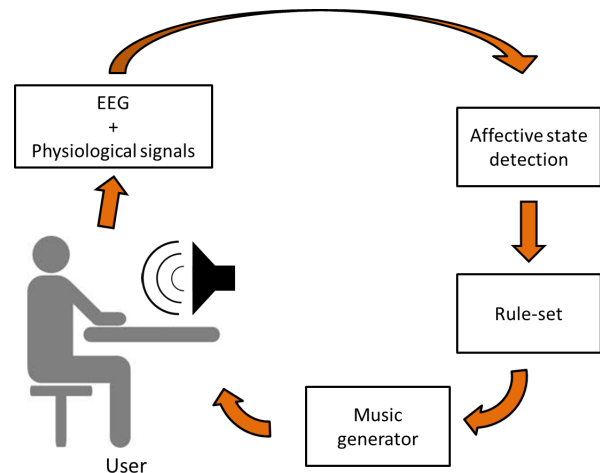


Fig. 1. Schematic of the proposed hBCMI system for use in affective state modulation.

2.2 Experiments

In order to train and test the proposed affective state detection system, a set of experiments were conducted as a part of a larger study seeking to develop and test the hBCMI. This study consisted of multiple sessions, with each participant asked to attend five sessions, spread over a period of about five months.

There were three types of sessions in the experiment: (1) a single calibration session, (2) three training sessions, and (3) a single testing session. This is illustrated in figure 2.

The calibration session was designed to identify neural and physiological correlates of emotional responses to music, while subsequent runs were used to identify trajectories for moving between affective states. The details of the complete study are described elsewhere [36], along with a comprehensive discussion of details such as referencing schemes. In this present study we analyse the data obtained during the calibration session to determine whether personalised classification methods for each participant provide better results than generic classifiers for all participants.

The calibration session consisted of five runs, while each training session contained four runs. Each run contained eighteen trials. A single trial contained a fixation cross (1-2 s), a period of music playing (20 s) during which the music was generated to attempt to induce a particular affective

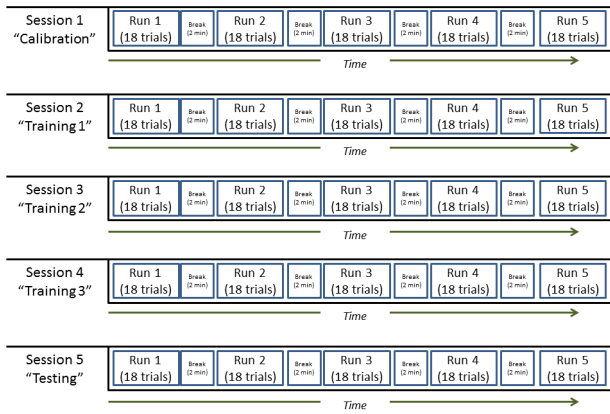


Fig. 2. Order of events (sessions and runs) within the experiment. The sessions occur sequentially on separate days; within each session the runs occur in sequence with breaks between each run.

state in the participant, a self-assessment manikin [37], and a final distraction task (15 s). This is illustrated in figure 3. Each participant completed one calibration session. During the music period participants were instructed to use a track-ball to continuously report their current affective state via the FEELTRACE interface, which allows 2-dimensional simultaneous reporting of both valence and arousal by the participant [38].

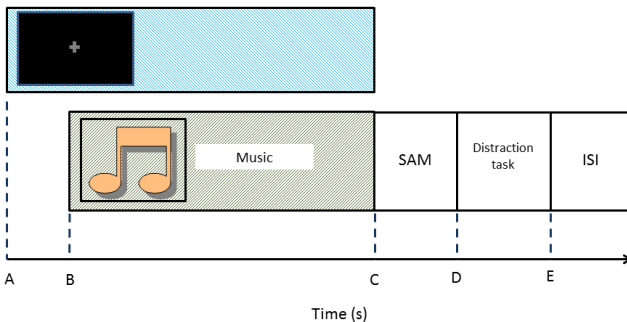


Fig. 3. Trial order used in the experiment. A fixation cross was first presented, followed by a period of music (during which participants may also be asked to report their current emotions via FEELTRACE), followed by a self-assessment manikin (SAM), a washout task, and then a short inter-stimulus interval (ISI). Note, the timings of each item vary according to the type of session.

A stimulus length of 20 s of music was chosen as this was considered to be sufficiently long to evoke the desired emotional responses [39], while being short enough to allow for a large enough number of trials within each session for sufficient statistical power. This length of stimuli was confirmed to be appropriate in pilot work conducted with an independent small group of participants, who reported experiencing the desired affective states.

The training session had a very similar structure. The only key differences were that the music was played for 40 s and the music was generated to attempt to induce two different affective states in the participant. The first 20 s attempted to induce one affective state and the next 20 s

attempted to induce a different state. The training session was repeated three times over three different days for each participant.

In each trial of the calibration session one of nine different affective states was targeted. Thus, each calibration session played music generated to induce one of nine different affective states in each participant ten times.

Each trial within the training sessions contained a unique pairing of a different initial and final affective state from the same set of nine discrete affective states used in the calibration run.

The testing session was used to test the hBCMI system during online use and is not considered here. Results on this session type and further details on the method, as well as further details on the differences and relationships between the sessions, are reported in [36].

2.2.1 Participants

Twenty-two healthy participants were recruited for this study. The participants were all right handed. Ethical approval was granted by the University of Reading research ethics committee and participants gave informed consent.

In order to ensure some homogeneity in the participant population in terms of musical preferences, all participants were asked to complete a Short Test Of Musical Preferences (STOMP) questionnaire [40]. Participants who indicated they had a strong dislike for two or more music genres, or who had a strong dislike for the classical music genre, were excluded from the study.

This resulted in two participants being excluded at this stage. The remaining twenty participants had a mean age of 22 (range 19-30). Nine of these participants were female. Each participant was reimbursed £10.00 GBP for each session of the experiment they attended.

2.2.2 Data recording

EEG was recorded using a BrainAmp EEG amplifier (BrainProducts, Germany) via 32 EEG channels positioned according to the International 10/20 system and referenced to a single electrode placed at FCz (see [36] for more details). The specific EEG channels used are illustrated in figure 4. Impedances were kept below 10 kΩ for each participant. Additionally, galvanic skin response (GSR) was recorded from the ventral medial phalanx positions of the participants' left hand index and middle fingers, electrocardiogram (ECG) was recorded from the participants' wrists, respiration was recorded from a respiration belt placed around the base of the rib cage, and blood oxygenation levels were recorded via a pulse oximeter on the left thumb.

All physiological responses were recorded via a BrainAmp ExG amplifier (BrainProducts, Germany). All signals were recorded at a sampling rate of 1,000 Hz and co-registered to stimuli presentation via the 'TOBI' standards [41], [42].

2.2.3 Music generation

The music stimuli used in these experiments was generated via an affective algorithmic composition (AAC) system [43]. Music was generated to target specific discrete locations in the valence-arousal space. Specifically, 9 types of music

trackball. The FEELTRACE responses were discretised into 9 discrete affective states by segmenting the valence-arousal space into 9 equal sized regions and identifying which region the FEELTRACE report occupied at each moment in time.

2.3.4 Trials

In order to produce an affective state detection method with high temporal resolution, trials were then segmented into 1 s long, non-overlapping, sub-trial sections. Mean features and participant reports of their felt affective states were calculated over each of these new 1 s long sub-trials.

2.3.5 Feature selection

A subset of features was selected for use in the classification method via an Eigen-decomposition based automated supervised feature selection method [48]. Features were first z-scored and then decomposed into Eigen-vectors. An adapted spectral clustering method was then used to select the sets of features that clustered with the class labels (the participant's reports of their felt affective states). Specifically, an automated clustering method (spectral clustering) was applied to the set of candidate features and class labels. The cluster that was identified as containing the class labels was retained and the other features that were grouped into this cluster were selected as the features of interest.

Further detail on this method, as well as validation on synthetic and real EEG datasets and a comparison with other state-of-the-art feature selection methods, can be found in [48].

2.3.6 Classification

Classification was attempted via a support vector machine (SVM) employing a polynomial kernel and a least squares estimation method. Classifier training and validation was attempted within a cross-fold train and validation scheme. Specifically, the Integrating Homologous Samples (IHS) method was used to split the data into 10 training and testing set tuples [49], with 10% of the trials placed in the testing set in each fold. This method of constructing a cross-validation training and testing procedure assigns homologous samples to the same testing set. Consequently, this allows accurate estimates to be taken of the classification accuracy of a particular method without homologous samples in the testing set artificially inflating the accuracy. Note that the IHS method to separate the data into training and testing sets was applied before application of the feature selection method described in section 2.3.5. Thus, training and testing data were kept separate at all stages from feature selection through to classification.

The classification problems that were attempted were differentiating trials in which participants reported high vs. low affective states on either the valence or arousal axes, which were considered independently. Specifically, the discretised valence-arousal space may be further segmented via either valence or arousal independently. We considered two binary classification problems within this space, specifically high vs. low valence and high vs. low arousal. Sub-trials were extracted in which participants' mean FEELTRACE reports of their current affective state (either valence or

arousal) were labelled as high or low. Two binary classification problems were then tackled with the SVM classifier: high vs. low valence and high vs. low arousal.

2.3.7 Comparisons

In order to evaluate the difference between the personalised affective state detection method and an affective state detection method that does not consider individual participant differences, classification was performed in two different ways. In the first approach a leave-one-participant-out train and validation scheme was used, in which data from all but one participant was used to train a detection method to be applied to the left out participant. In the second approach trials from each participant were treated separately and the 10x10 train and validation scheme was re-run for each participant.

Additionally, the influence of the use of physiological and EEG based features on the performance of the personalised affective state detection method was evaluated. Classification, on each individual participant, was attempted with three different candidate feature sets: physiological features only, EEG features only, and a hybrid feature set combining both physiological and EEG based features.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Artefacts

Amplitude thresholding of the EEG on a sub-trial by sub-trial basis resulted in a total of 782 sub-trials being removed (22.9% of the total number of 3,408 sub-trials). Thus, the final dataset contained 2,626 sub-trials.

3.2 Affective state generation

We first compared the FEELTRACE responses given by participants to the affective states targeted by the music generation system within each trial for each participant. Specifically, we asked whether the participants reported the same felt emotions during the experiment as the affective states targeted by the generated music.

Table 2 lists the correlations between the affective states the generated music was targeting for each participant and the mean FEELTRACE responses reported by each participant while they listened to the music. It may be noted that there are significant correlations between the targeted affective states and the reported affective states for all participants, confirming that the music generator was able to produce the desired responses in all participants.

This may be observed in more detail by inspecting the mean confusion matrices of targeted and reported valence and arousal over all participants, as listed in table 3. It may be noted that there is a high degree of correspondence between the targeted and reported affective states when the targets were either high or low valence or arousal. However, participants often confused neutral targeted affective states with either high or low affective states.

3.3 Classification

The first classification approach used a leave-one-participant-out train and validation scheme. Thus, the classifier was trained on data from a group of participants

TABLE 2

Correlations between mean FEELTRACE responses to the music reported by each participant and the affective state the music stimuli was targeting.

Participant	Valence		Arousal	
	r	p	r	p
1	0.656	<0.01	0.564	<0.01
2	0.409	<0.01	0.524	<0.01
3	0.609	<0.01	0.433	<0.01
4	0.608	<0.01	0.516	<0.01
5	0.638	<0.01	0.675	<0.01
6	0.499	<0.01	0.408	<0.01
7	0.628	<0.01	0.612	<0.01
8	0.540	<0.01	0.488	<0.01
9	0.663	<0.01	0.479	<0.01
10	0.606	<0.01	0.426	<0.01
11	0.657	<0.01	0.694	<0.01
12	0.678	<0.01	0.711	<0.01
13	0.613	<0.01	0.664	<0.01
14	0.613	<0.01	0.509	<0.01
15	0.581	<0.01	0.379	<0.01
16	0.594	<0.01	0.661	<0.01
17	0.454	<0.01	0.429	<0.01
Avg.	0.591	-	0.539	-

TABLE 3

Confusion matrices comparing targeted and reported affective states for each piece of music over all participants (*p*-values have been corrected for multiple comparisons via Bonferroni correction).

		Target		
		Low	Neutral	High
Reported	Low	0.856	0.385	0.031
	Neutral	0.038	0.352	0.455
	High	0.106	0.263	0.514

(a) Valence

		Target		
		Low	Neutral	High
Reported	Low	0.496	0.400	0.143
	Neutral	0.437	0.420	0.174
	High	0.066	0.179	0.683

(b) Arousal

and applied on a different, left-out, participant, without any attempt made to personalise the detection method to individual participants. Leave-one-participant-out train and test classification approaches such as this allow us to train a classifier from a population and test its applicability to a new individual who was not a part of the training population. Thus, this approach represents the best way to evaluate the performance of the non-personalized classification approach.

This resulted in a mean valence classification accuracy of 0.586 (standard deviation across folds 0.053). This result was statistically significant when compared to the null hypothesis of random classification (i.e. that each class has equal chance of being selected by the classifier) ($p < 0.01$). Arousal was also classified with a similar mean accuracy of

0.593 (standard deviation of 0.038) and was also statistically significant ($p < 0.01$) when compared to random chance level classification.

The second classification approach (feature selection and SVM-based classification) was trained and applied on individual participants. Data from each participant was trained and classified within a 10x10 cross-fold train and validation scheme. The classification results for the individual participants are listed in table 4.

TABLE 4

Accuracy (Acc.) of the performance of the personalised affective state detection method for high vs. low valence trials and high vs. low arousal trials.

Participant	Valence		Arousal	
	Acc.	p	Acc.	p
1	0.734	<0.01	0.727	<0.01
2	0.657	<0.01	0.677	<0.01
3	0.786	<0.01	0.751	<0.01
4	0.840	<0.01	0.801	<0.01
5	0.667	<0.01	0.657	<0.01
6	0.570	<0.01	0.638	<0.01
7	0.677	<0.01	0.653	<0.01
8	0.672	<0.01	0.569	<0.01
9	0.791	<0.01	0.753	<0.01
10	0.653	<0.01	0.665	<0.01
11	0.749	<0.01	0.795	<0.01
12	0.642	<0.01	0.654	<0.01
13	0.686	<0.01	0.629	<0.01
14	0.673	<0.01	0.715	<0.01
15	0.661	<0.01	0.697	<0.01
16	0.672	<0.01	0.660	<0.01
17	0.569	<0.01	0.612	<0.01
Avg.	0.688	-	0.686	-

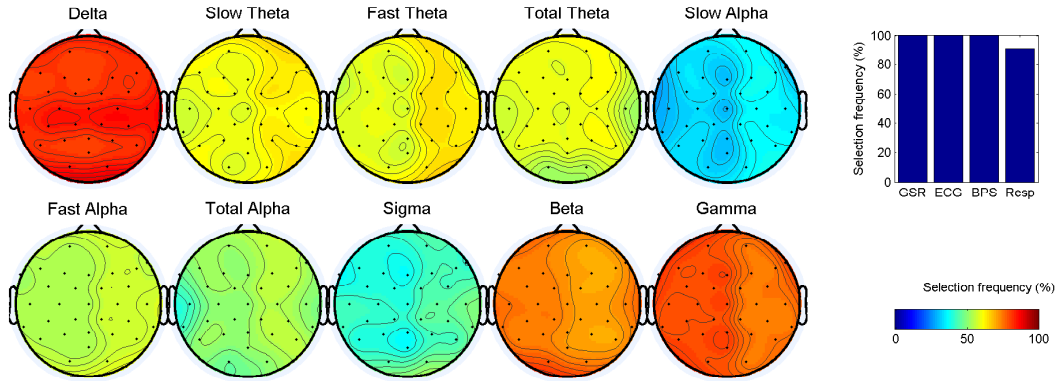
This second approach (personalized detection for each participant) resulted in a mean classification accuracy for valence of 0.688 and a mean classification accuracy of 0.686 for arousal. Both results are statistically significant, compared to chance level classification, for all participants ($p < 0.01$).

The results from this personalized classification approach were also compared to the results achieved using the leave-one-participant-out train and validation scheme via a paired *t*-test. These results are listed in table 5.

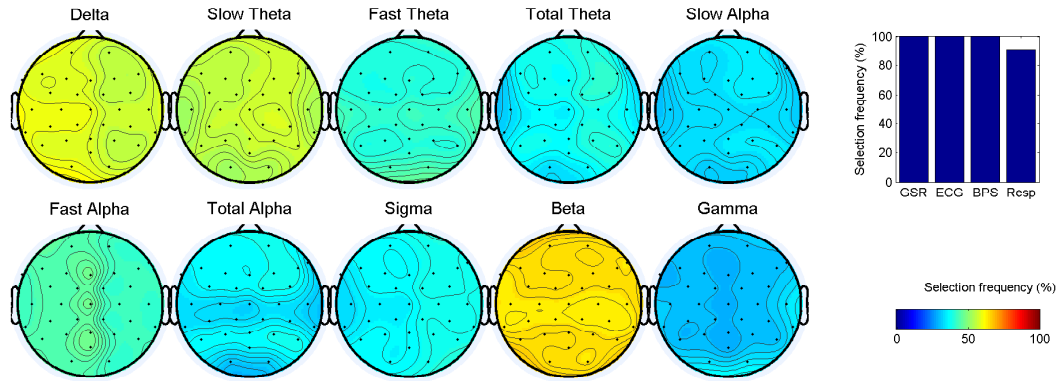
It may be observed that the personalised affective state classification approach was found to be significantly more accurate than the population-based classification approach ($p < 0.01$) in 10 out of 17 participants for valence and 13 out of 17 participants for arousal classification.

The features that were selected for classification are compared between groups of participants for whom the personalised classification approach performed significantly better than the population-based approach against those participants for whom personalised classification did not perform better than the population-based approach. The results are illustrated in figure 5.

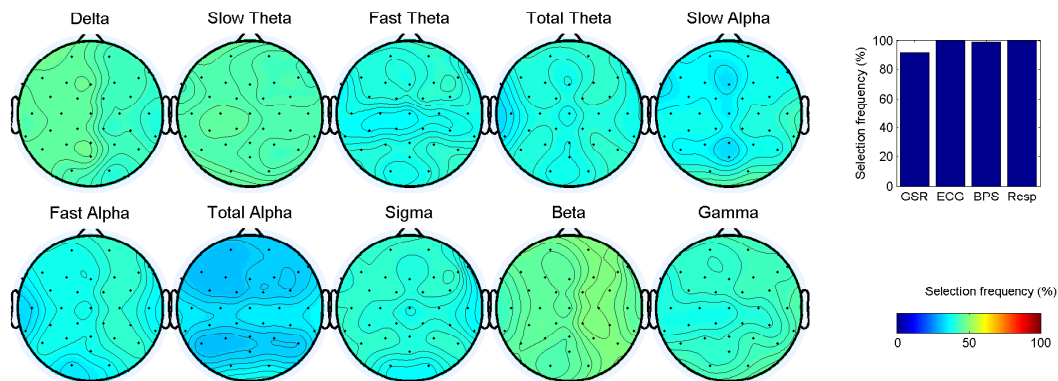
It may be observed that, for participants for whom affective state classification is significantly better when classification is performed on a per-participant basis than on a population basis, EEG band-power based features are much more frequently selected. This suggests that EEG-based features are useful for classification but that inter-participant variability in the EEG is a key factor in determining the classification success of this approach.



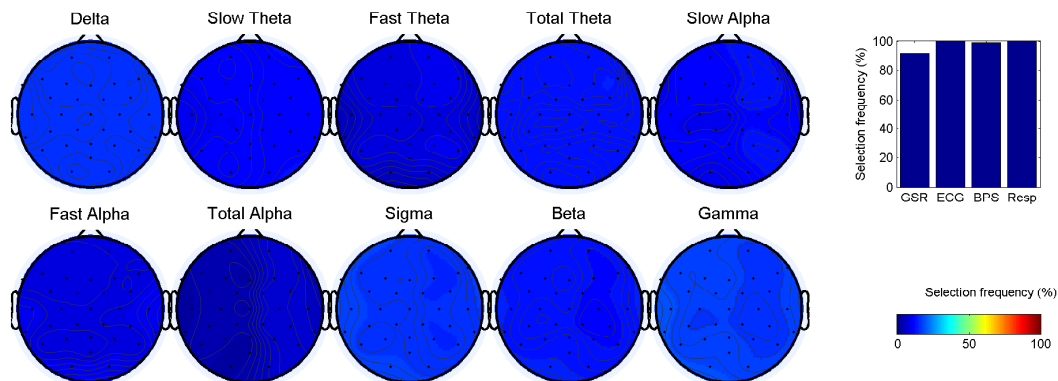
(a) Valence: better than the population-based approach



(b) Valence: not better than the population-based approach



(c) Arousal: better than the population-based approach



(d) Arousal: not better than the population-based approach

Fig. 5. Features selected for classifying affective states (valence and arousal) for participants for whom classification was significantly better on a per participant basis than the population-based approach and for participants for whom individual classification was not better than the population-based approach.

TABLE 5

Accuracy (Acc.) of participant (P.) wise classification compared to population based classification (*t*-tests). The *p*-values indicate whether the personalised classifier performed significantly better than the population-based classification approach.

Participant	Valence		Arousal	
	Acc.	<i>p</i>	Acc.	<i>p</i>
1	0.734	0.008	0.727	<0.001
2	0.657	0.037	0.677	0.016
3	0.786	0.003	0.751	<0.001
4	0.840	<0.001	0.801	<0.001
5	0.667	0.001	0.657	0.002
6	0.570	0.503	0.638	0.031
7	0.677	0.089	0.653	0.062
8	0.672	0.024	0.569	0.120
9	0.791	<0.001	0.753	0.001
10	0.653	0.069	0.666	0.009
11	0.749	0.004	0.795	<0.001
12	0.642	0.056	0.654	0.013
13	0.686	0.044	0.629	0.097
14	0.673	0.029	0.715	0.002
15	0.661	0.061	0.697	0.006
16	0.672	0.141	0.660	0.037
17	0.569	0.438	0.612	0.119
Avg.	0.688	-	0.686	-

3.4 Feature types

The performance of the classification approach was compared between different feature sets. Specifically, feature selection and classification were performed on a per participant basis with three different sets of candidate features: (1) just EEG features, (2) just physiological features, and (3) a hybrid feature set combining both EEG and physiological features.

The classification results for high vs. low valence classification for each of these three feature sets are listed in table 6.

TABLE 6

Performance (classification accuracies) of the affective state detection method for high vs. low valence trials for different feature types (EEG features, physiological features, and hybrid features), for each participant (P.). Asterisks indicate classification accuracies that are significantly better than chance (*p* < 0.05).

P.	Accuracy		
	EEG features	Phys. features	Hybrid features
1	0.637*	0.371	0.734*
2	0.629*	0.473	0.657*
3	0.721*	0.505	0.786*
4	0.809*	0.615	0.840*
5	0.606*	0.385	0.667*
6	0.500*	0.477	0.570*
7	0.603*	0.609*	0.677*
8	0.627*	0.470	0.672*
9	0.733*	0.601*	0.791*
10	0.586*	0.532*	0.653*
11	0.682*	0.576*	0.749*
12	0.586*	0.531*	0.642*
13	0.592*	0.519*	0.686*
14	0.631*	0.589*	0.673*
15	0.613*	0.611*	0.661*
16	0.609*	0.546*	0.672*
17	0.524*	0.521*	0.569*
Avg.	0.629	0.525	0.688

These may be compared with the classification results for

high vs. low arousal when each of the different candidate feature types are used. These results are listed in table 7.

TABLE 7

Performance of the affective state detection method for high vs. low arousal trials for different feature types (EEG features, physiological features, and hybrid features), for each participant (P.). Asterisks indicate classification accuracies that are significantly better than chance (*p* < 0.05).

P.	Accuracy		
	EEG features	Phys. features	Hybrid features
1	0.629*	0.586*	0.727*
2	0.614*	0.539*	0.677*
3	0.737*	0.608*	0.786*
4	0.834*	0.625	0.801*
5	0.602*	0.587*	0.657*
6	0.558*	0.551*	0.638*
7	0.601*	0.528	0.653*
8	0.555*	0.517*	0.569*
9	0.633*	0.556*	0.791*
10	0.574*	0.587*	0.666*
11	0.689*	0.658*	0.795*
12	0.580*	0.551*	0.654*
13	0.571*	0.476*	0.629*
14	0.657*	0.578*	0.715*
15	0.616*	0.637*	0.697*
16	0.627*	0.591*	0.672*
17	0.522*	0.541*	0.612*
Avg.	0.624	0.572	0.686

The classification accuracies achieved with each type of feature were compared via an ANOVA with factor 'feature type' and levels 'EEG', 'Physiological', and 'Hybrid'. A χ^2 test demonstrates that the data is normally distributed (*p* < 0.05) and Bartlett's test demonstrates that the accuracies have statistically insignificantly different variances (*p* = 0.108), thus the assumptions of the ANOVA hold. A significant effect of 'feature type' was observed when attempting to classify valence ($F(2,48) = 21.38, p < 0.001$) and when attempting to classify arousal ($F(2,48) = 14, p < 0.001$).

Post-hoc *t*-tests were used to compare the differences between individual pairs of feature types. Figure 6 illustrates the mean and standard deviation of the classification accuracies achieved with each feature type when attempting valence and arousal classification. Significant differences, as identified via the paired *t*-tests, are also indicated on the figure.

It may be observed, from figure 6, that EEG and Hybrid features produce significantly higher classification accuracies (*p* < 0.01) than physiological features for both valence and arousal classification. The use of hybrid features also results in significantly higher classification accuracies than EEG features alone for arousal classification.

3.5 Selected features

An illustration of the features selected, from the hybrid candidate feature set, to differentiate high and low valence for a single, randomly selected, participant is shown in figure 7. Figure 7 also illustrates the features selected for differentiating high vs. low valence over all participants. It may be observed that EEG band-power features in the delta, alpha, and beta frequency bands are most frequently

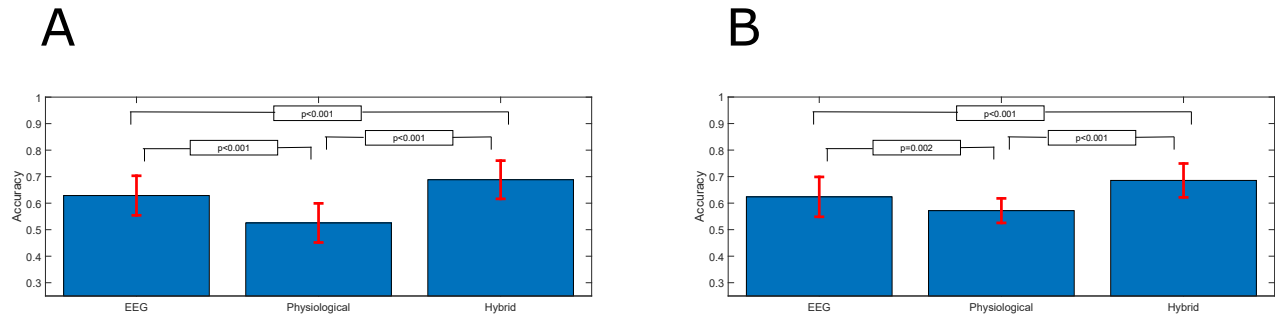


Fig. 6. Mean classification accuracies achieved for high vs. low valence (A) and arousal (B) classification for each feature type. Error bars indicate ± 1 standard deviation and the p-values indicate feature types that produce significantly different classification accuracies (paired t -test).

selected and that all four physiological features are very frequently selected.

This may be contrasted with features selected to solve the other classification problem (high vs. low arousal) for a different randomly selected participant and all participants. These features are illustrated in figure 8. Note that EEG band-power features in the alpha band are less frequently selected than in the case of valence classification.

4 DISCUSSION

Brain-computer music interfaces (BCMIs) may be used as affective state modulation systems and have potential applications in music therapy. Specifically, our proposed BCMI design aims to provide a tool for allowing interaction between an individual undergoing music therapy and ongoing music generation. Thus, providing a method for musical communication that aims to help individuals with regulate their emotions. However, in order for the proposed BCMI to be effective it needs to be able to accurately and quickly estimate a user's current affective state.

Our proposed affective state detection system for use in BCMI systems and music therapy is able to significantly accurately ($p < 0.05$) detect affective states in each participant in our study. The performance of the system is significantly better ($p < 0.01$) when the classifier is trained on a personalised basis for each participant. This is most likely a result of the large, well-known inter-personal differences in physiological processes, EEG, and emotional responses to music [50].

The features selected for use by our affective state detection system cluster into several key frequency bands and, in some cases, key spatial regions, while in others appearing to be more broadly spread across the scalp. The spreading of features across the scalp is not uniform, although the colour scaling gives this appearance in a small number of occasions. However, the relatively high specificity of the frequency bands involved in affective processing reflects results reported elsewhere which suggests a high degree of specificity in the frequency bands involved in affective state processing [14], [46], [51].

Physiological features are selected with very high frequency. This suggests that they are highly informative about an individual's affective state and this reflects the well-

known close relationship between these sorts of signals and the emotions [3], [23], [52], [53].

We can conclude that personalised affective state detection is more effective for use in BCMI systems than affective state detectors trained on population averages.

This reflects other results observed and reported elsewhere with other affective state detection systems. For example, in [54] higher EEG and physiological signal based classification of affective states are reported when the classifier is trained on a smaller group of participants, suggesting inter-participant differences result in lower classification accuracies. Additionally, in work presented in [55], [56] participant-dependent classification is compared to participant independent classification of EEG during music-video watching tasks, with the observation that participant-dependent classifiers result in higher accuracies.

Others have attempted affective state classification based on the EEG [57] or physiological signals [58]. Some researchers have also attempted to build hybrid affective state classification systems combining both EEG and other physiological signals [24], [25], [26], [27].

However, these hybrid classification methods were designed for use with affective stimuli using a visual modality and may not translate well to a music based stimuli modality [28]. Furthermore, our proposed approach makes use of a supervised machine learning method to select an optimal subset of features for affective state classification, representing an advancement on these previous approaches. Finally, our proposed approach is explicitly developed for use within a Brain-computer music interface and are intended to be used on a single trial basis during online use of a BCMI.

Others have reported good, participant independent, affective state classification accuracies. For example, in [59] participant independent EEG-based classification of valence and arousal was achieved with accuracies of up to 81.3%, while in [60] participant independent classification accuracies of up to 85.17% were achieved.

One possible explanation for this observed discrepancy could be the different stimulation modalities used in these studies to evoke emotions. Specifically, [59] uses images taken from the international affective picture system (IAPS) [61], while [60] uses images of facial expressions of emotions as its stimuli. Specifically, both studies use stimuli that

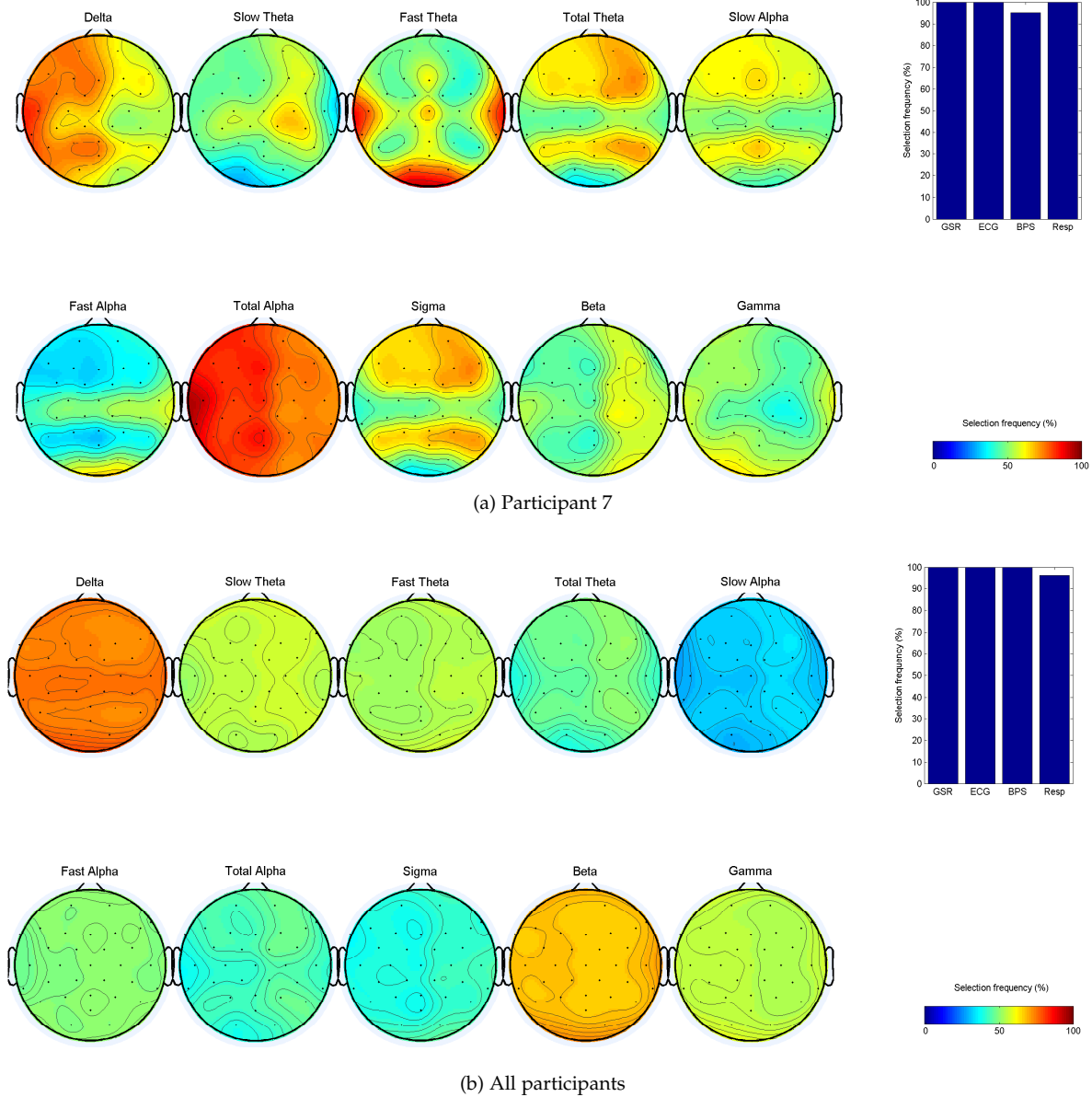


Fig. 7. Selected features from the hybrid candidate feature set to classify high vs. low music induced valence for participant 7 and for all participants. The colour bar indicates the frequency (%) with which each feature was selected.

employ a visual modality (a wide range of images or images of faces), while our study uses acoustic stimuli.

It may be suggested that music-induced emotions exhibit greater inter-participant differences than emotions evoked by stimuli of other modalities. For example, emotional responses to music can depend on culture [62], [63], personality [64], and musical training [65], while emotional responses to faces have been reported to be more consistent across different peoples [66].

We did not attempt to classify neutral emotions within this study. This is motivated by the observation that participants frequently confused ‘neutral’ targeted affective states with either high or low valence/arousal affective states. This may in part be due to the artificiality of the concept of a ‘neutral’ emotion. In reality very few experiences are truly emotionally neutral for every person, due to individual memories and tastes, and this is highly likely to also be

the case for music. Thus, when participants label a piece of music, that is intended to be ‘neutral’ as something else it is likely that piece of music is triggering genuine emotional responses, which vary significantly between participants, and an attempt to apply a rigorous classification rule to it is less likely to succeed than the more consistently rated high or low affective responses.

There are some potential correlations between neighboring sub-trials in the analysis and it may be suggested that this represents a potential confound to the study. However, the considerable non-stationarity of the EEG [32], [67], and the randomization of trial orders prior to validation, minimizes the effect of these relatively low inter-trial correlations. Additionally, the Integrated Homologous Samples (IHS) cross-validation method was used to train and validate the classifiers as an additional precaution against inflating the classification accuracies [49].

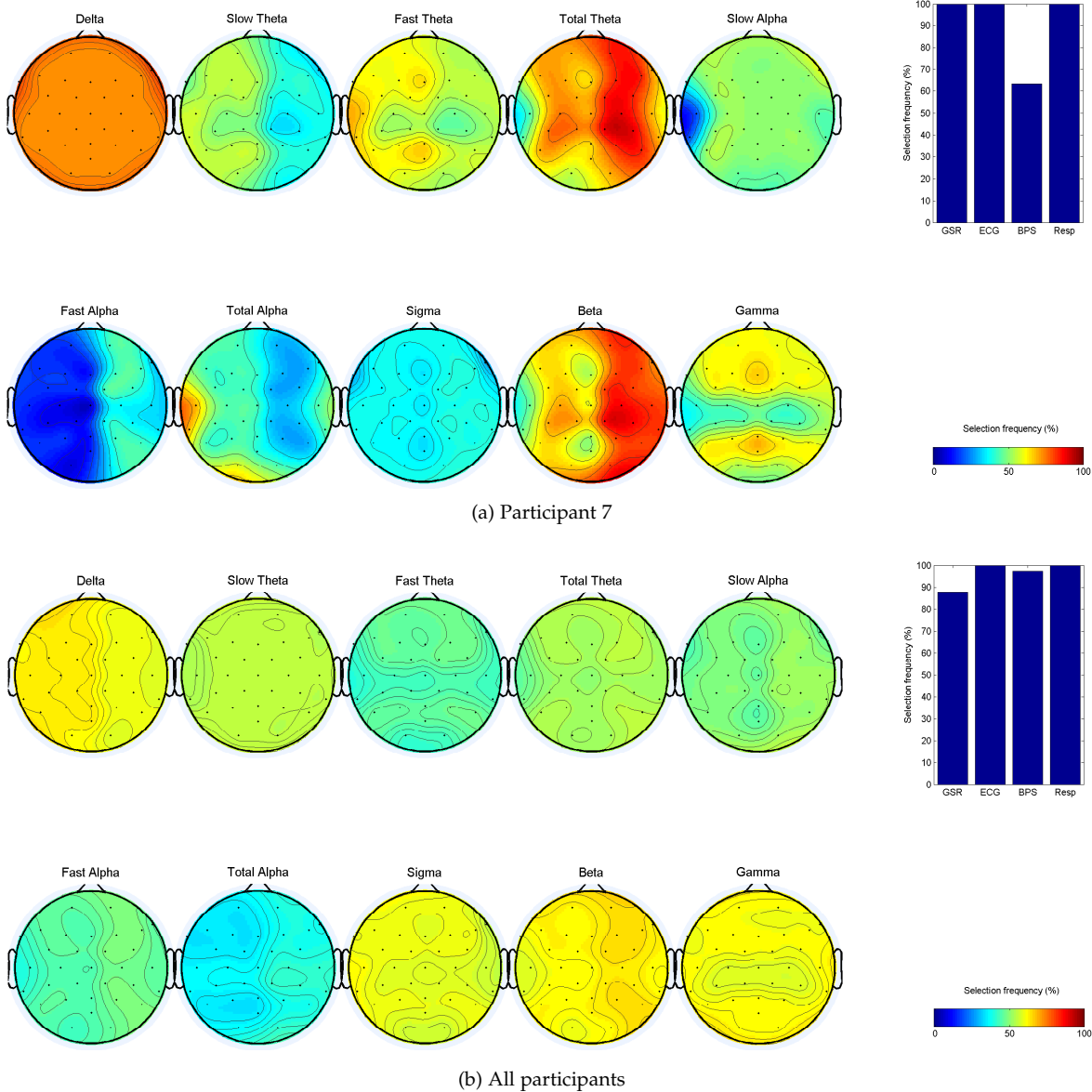


Fig. 8. Selected features from the hybrid candidate feature set to classify high vs. low music induced arousal for participant 7. The colour bar indicates the frequency (%) with which each feature was selected.

An additional limitation of the method presented in this study is the low signal to noise ratio of the EEG and other physiological signals used for the personalised affective state detection system. This poor signal to noise ratio is well known [31] and represents a challenge for all attempts to identify cognitive states from physiological signals. Additionally, the relatively small number of participants in this study may be interpreted as a potential weakness. However, as the aims of this study are to identify a method for personalised affective state detection, rather than a general method that would work with everyone, this relatively small number of participants provides a sufficiently robust test case for the method. Future work will explore the suitability of the method for affective state detection with larger numbers of participants.

The incorporation of other physiological features in addition to EEG (i.e. a hybrid BCMI design) also significantly

improves the detection performance. This demonstrates that to understand emotions it is important to observe not only the brain, but also to examine the wider physiology associated with emotional responses. It also suggests that a hybrid BCI approach [42] may be most successful in constructing affective BCMI.

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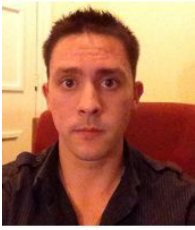
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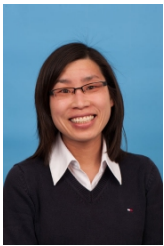


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can successfully alter the emotional state by changing the parameters of the musical stimuli presented.



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