



# Digital Twin for Drone Control through a Brain-Machine Interface

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# Agenda

01

## Introduction

02

## Implementation

- Proposed Solution Overview
- The Digital Twin
- The Decision Component

03

## Validation

- Experimental Setup
- Experiments
- Results

04

## Conclusion

- Demonstration

# 01. Introduction

# 01 Introduction

- ✈ There has been an increase of interest on the drone sector
- ✈ The usage of drones is particularly important for the execution of high-risk operations
- ✈ Dangerous operations require that the operator is fully focused to deliver a reliable control

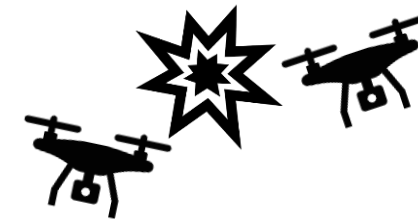
## Brain-Computer Interface



## Emotional States



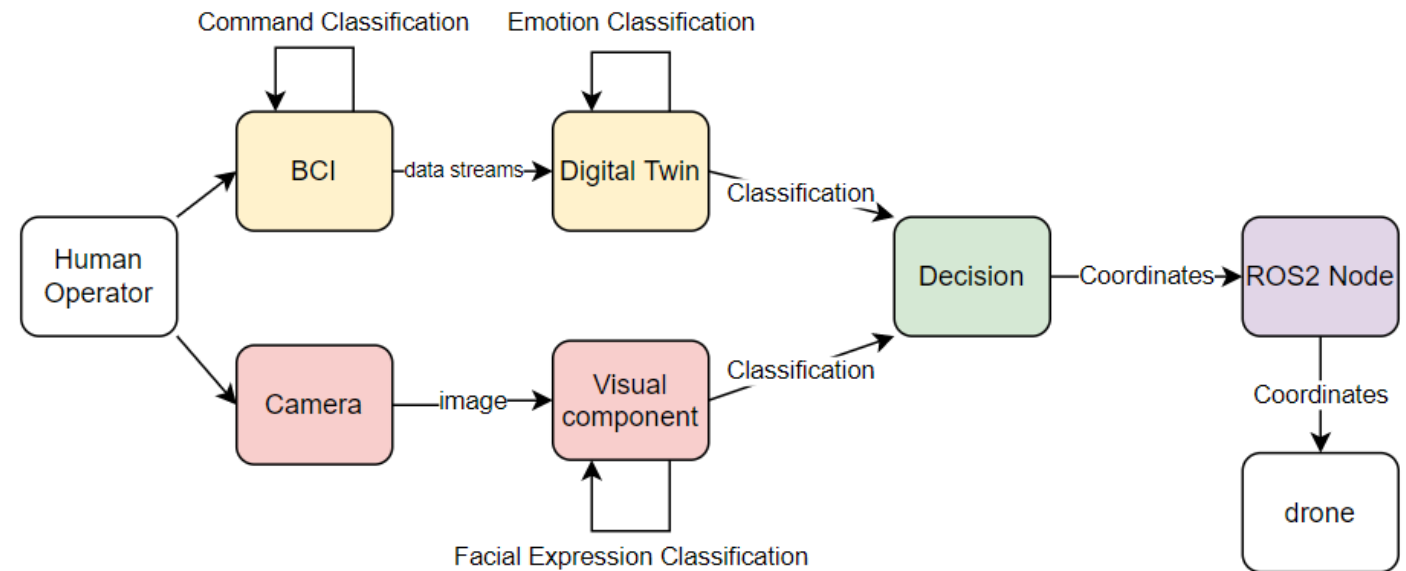
## Accidents



# 02. Implementation

- ✦ **Digital Twin**: virtual representation of the operator; BCI data streams input; classifies the cognitive emotional state;
- ✦ **Visual Component**: facial expressions footage input; classifies the visual emotional state<sup>1</sup>;
- ✦ **Decision Component**: decides whether the operator is in a suitable emotional state to send commands and computes necessary information;
- ✦ **ROS2 Client node**: communication between the *base station* that manages the drones and this system; client node is connected to the server node to send information.

### Proposed Solution Architecture



<sup>1</sup> Open-source project was integrated in the solution: [Emotion Recognizer](#)



### Data Acquisition

- Emotiv Epoc+



- Subscription to *motion, facial expressions* and *band power* data streams



### Data Format

- Handling raw data by assigning each value to the corresponding feature



### Data Integration

- Observations are matched with the values of the nearest point in time



### Data Cleaning and Feature Engineering

- *Arousal* and *valence* are computed for each observation
- Categorical features are binary encoded
- Single-value features and other irrelevant ones are eliminated



### Modeling

- 4 classes: positive classes (*calm* and *focused*) and negative classes (*distracted* and *stressed*)
- 70% for modeling and 30% for validation
- Algorithms: Decision Tree, k-NN, LDA, Naïve Bayes, Random Forest, SVM (linear and rbf kernel) and Neural Networks
- Random Forest is selected





- ✈ Receives input of the same period of time of the digital twin, visual component and the command;
- ✈ Approves a command under an overall positive classification:

Group	Classes	
	Digital Twin	Visual Component
<b>Positive</b>	<i>Focused and Calm</i>	<i>Happy and Neutral</i>
<b>Negative</b>	<i>Distracted and Stressed</i>	<i>Angry, Disgust, Fear, Sad and Surprise</i>



Decision	Detections	
	Digital Twin	Visual Component
<b>Not send</b>	Positive	Negative
<b>Not send</b>	Negative	Positive
<b>Not send</b>	Negative	Negative
<b>Send</b>	Positive	Positive

- ✈ Computes coordinates after the command is approved:

$$distance = (command\ confidence * increment) * cognitive\ emotion\ confidence$$

# 03. Validation

### Arena

Anchor<sup>1</sup>








Crazyflie<sup>2</sup> Quadcopter



<sup>1</sup> Anchor part of the positioning system by *Bitcraze* company: [Loco Positioning system](#)

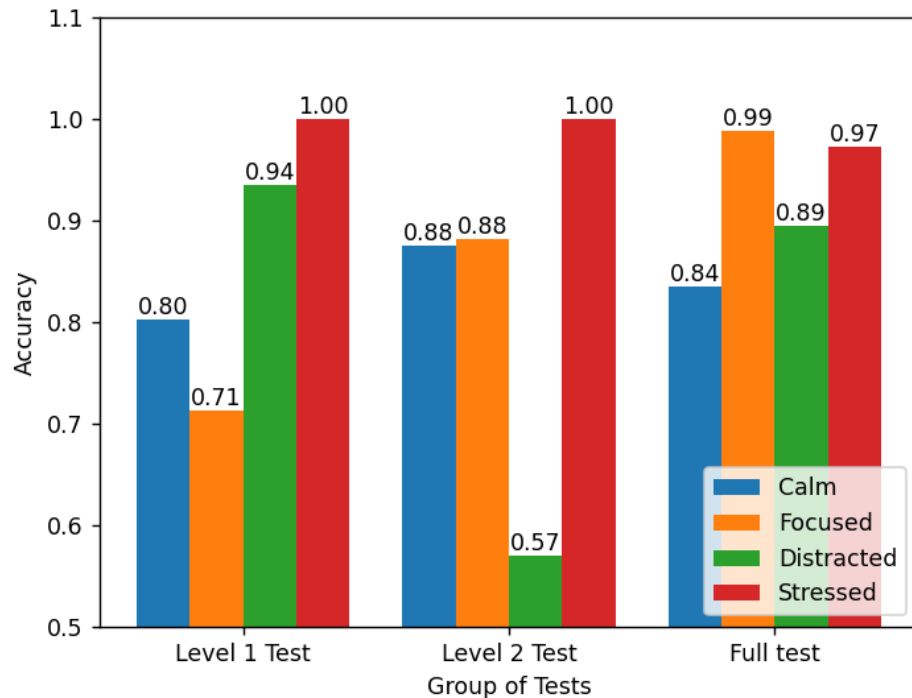
<sup>2</sup> Crazyflie 2.1 quadcopter by *Bitcraze* company: [Crazyflie 2.1](#)

-  **Baseline Test:** no emotion classification and commands are directly sent to the drone (only a ROS2 client node is established);
-  **Level 1 Test:** only the digital twin is added and decision will be accomplished according to the predictions (core functionality);
-  **Level 2 Test:** digital twin and computation of coordinates are added;
-  **Full Test:** digital twin, visual component and computation of coordinates are added (all functionalities).

A vertical blue arrow pointing downwards, indicating the progression of the validation levels.

Increasing level  
of the solution's  
robustness

**Success Rate of the digital twin per emotional state and per test level**



### Distracted Emotion Recognition

Positive Detections	Level 1 Test	Level 2 Test	Full Test
Total number	6	11	10
Nº neutral commands	4	7	6
Nº of sent commands	2	4	1
BCI positive and visual negative	N/A	N/A	3

### Stressed Emotion Recognition

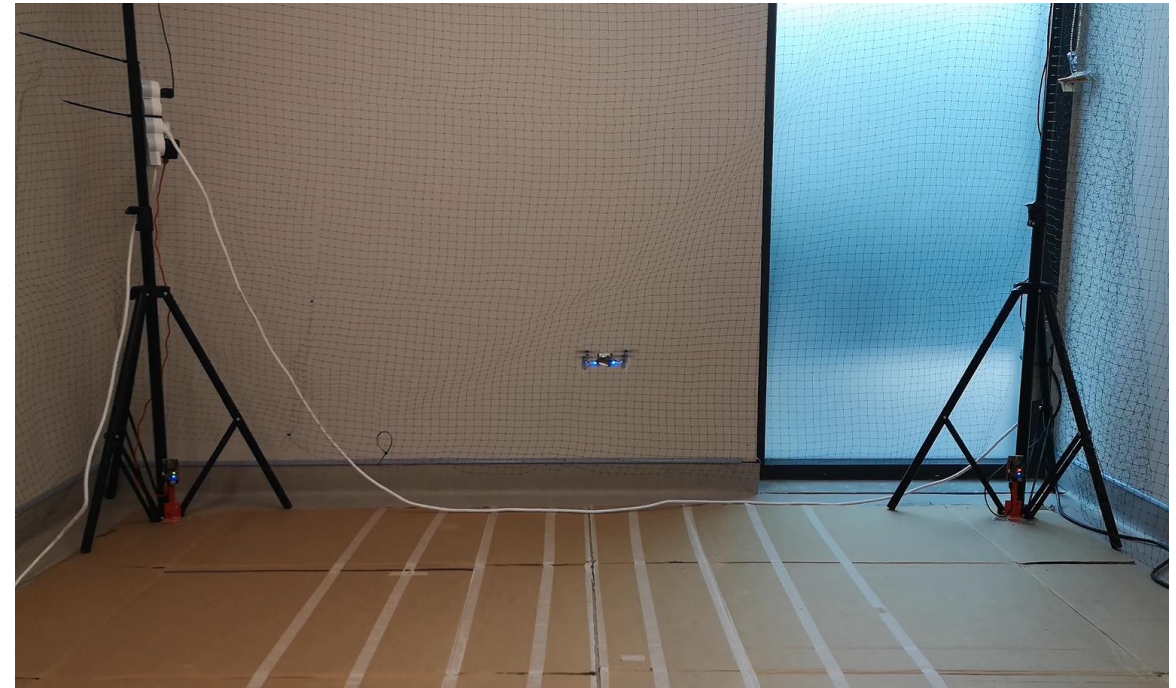
Positive Detections	Level 1 Test	Level 2 Test	Full Test
Total number	0	0	2
Nº neutral commands	0	0	1
Nº of sent commands	0	0	0
BCI positive and visual negative	N/A	N/A	1

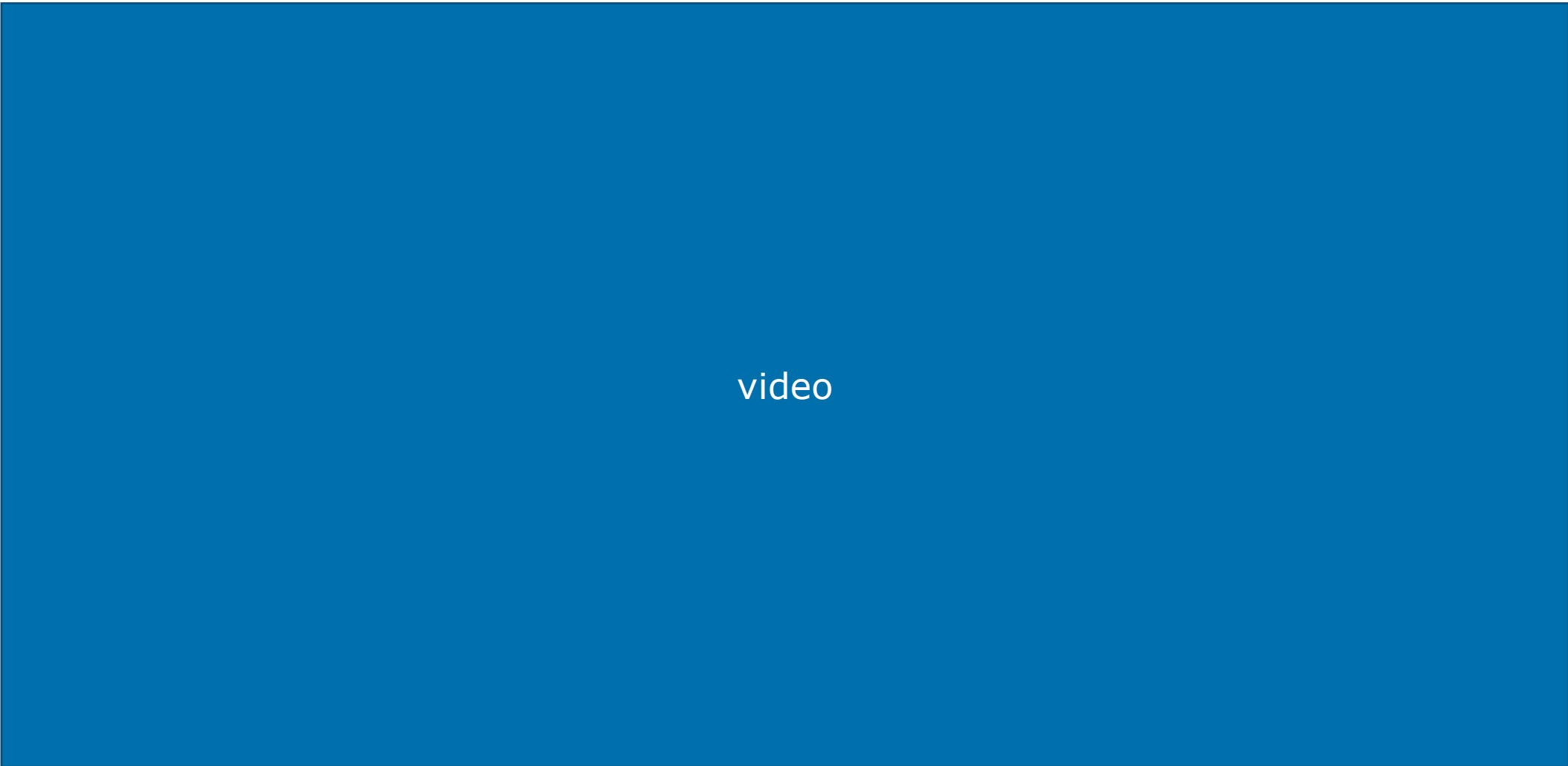
**Prevented** commands to be sent under a cognitive negative emotion

# 04. Conclusion

- ✈ We were able to demonstrate that a digital twin of an operator can discriminate his multiple, positive and negative, emotional states;
- ✈ The conjunction of a digital twin (cognitive classifier) and a visual component (visual classifier) improve the system's overall reliability;
- ✈ We were able to demonstrate that drones can be managed through a ROS 2 client and server nodes.

**Drone position after take-off**









# Thank you!

video

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