

# Programme Appel à projets générique 2015 AAP Numérique et Société DADA Acronyme du projet : DADA Edition 2015 Document administratif et financier

## Fiche d'identité du projet

Acronyme :		DADA						
Titre du projet : En français		Direction d'Acteurs Digitaux Autonomes						
Titre du projet : En anglais		Direc	cting Autonomous Dig	gital Actors				
Durée du projet :		42	Mois					
Montant prévisionne demandée (k€)	de l'aide	383	- 518					
Instrument de financ	ement	Proje	et de recherche collat	porative (PRC)				
Année de soutenand thèse			applicable					
Défi sociétal principal		Société de l'information et de la communication						
Défi sociétal secondaire			Non applicable					
Axes thématiques		Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets						
Déclinaison en sous-axes thématiques (et mots clés associés):		Non a	pplicable pour cet Appel à i	Projets				
Catégories R&D :	Recherche	he fondamentale  Plateforme:  Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets						
Projet transnational :								
Disciplines dominantes :		Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets						
Coopération internat	ionale							
Types de projets :		Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets						

Mots-clés :	Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets

Temps d'implication du co	Non applicable pour cet Appel à Projets
Le projet a-t-il déjà été dép	
Si oui, en quelle année ?	

Le projet fait-il suite à ur	projet antérieur financé par l'ANR ?	
Acronyme du projet		
Le projet a-t-il un lien ave	ec un programme Investissements d'avenir (PIA) '	)

#### Récapitulatif : Partenariat, budget et main d'œuvre

	Sigle du partenaire	Coût Complet (€)	Aide Demandée (€)	Personnel permanent (pers/mois)	Personnel non permanent AVEC financement demandé (pers/mois)	Personnel non permanent SANS financement demandé (pers/mois)
Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique (Coordinateur)	INRIA-IMAGINE	679 432,70	159 863,00	45,60	36,00	0,00
Laboratoire Traitement et Communication de l'Information	LTCI, CNRS, Télécom ParisTech	440 541,20	139 880,00	12,00	36,00	6,00
Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale de Marseille	LIF	512 640,00	125 840,00	25,00	36,00	18,00
Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoirs critiques	Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoirs critiques	348 804,20	95 680,00	29,00	24,00	0,00
Totaux	Totaux	1 981 418,10	521 263,00	111,60	132,00	24,00

#### Résumé (non confidentiel) du projet en français

Creating believable, human-like performances by virtual actors is an important problem in many digital storytelling applications, e.g. creating non-player characters (NPC) for video games, creating expressive avatars in next-generation virtual worlds, populating movies and architectural simulations with background characters and crowds, creating believable virtual tutors and coaches in educational serious games, and creating believable characters for interactive fiction and interactive drama.

A desirable feature for such applications is the ability to create virtual actor performances which are both expressive and controllable. Motion capture actors are expressive, but once recorded, their performances cannot easily be controlled, edited or modified. As a result, game companies ought to get engaged in extensive motion capture sessions of all actions and moods of all characters in every new game they create. On the other end of the spectrum, procedural 3D animation can be controlled in every detail using sophisticated programming techniques, but they fall short of providing the level of expression required for conveying the subtle inflexions of human-like performances.

Character animation has been tackled through various approaches in the past. To name a few, chosen among those that are directly related to DADA, we can cite: embodied conversational agents (ECA); statistical models learned from motion

capture examples; physically-based animation; and speech-driven animation. Very few attempts have tried to merge these various approaches into a single model offering on one hand expressive animation and on the other hand high control over the animation.

In order to make progress in the field, we propose to shift the focus from autonomous characters to autonomous actors. Autonomous characters (such as The Sims) make decisions based on AI models of their personality and goals. In contrast, autonomous actors follow a precise script, written by the director. Their autonomy is therefore limited to performing a precise sequence of actions as a result of various « cues » written in the script. Creating such performances procedurally using autonomous actors is a valuable goal because it would make it possible for each performance to be unique, which is widely regarded as an important quality to ensure liveliness and immersion, while maintaining a high level of directorial control. Merging both approaches will allow to create autonomous actors able to follow a script (specified in high-level command-like language) that give the main directions the actors ought to follow while adapting their behaviors autonomously to the virtual environment they are placed in that includes objects and other actors.

The DADA project will coordinate the work of four leading research teams in computer graphics, embodied conversational agents, statistical machine learning and theatre studies towards the common goal of advancing the state of the art in autonomous digital actors to the point where convincing dramatic performances can be directed and rendered on a laptop computer by theatre directors.

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#### Résumé (non confidentiel) du projet en anglais

Creating believable, human-like performances by virtual actors is an important problem in many digital storytelling applications, e.g. creating non-player characters (NPC) for video games, creating expressive avatars in next-generation virtual worlds, populating movies and architectural simulations with background characters and crowds, creating believable virtual tutors and coaches in educational serious games, and creating believable characters for interactive fiction and interactive drama.

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#### Objectifs globaux, verrous scientifiques/techniques

The goal of the DADA project is to design, implement and evaluate novel interfaces for directing expressive, autonomous virtual actors, borrowing from established theatre practices. We will combine fundamental research in 3D animation, machine learning and intelligent agent programming to leverage motion capture data sets of professional actors into a virtual theatre company of synthetic actors with acting skills, i.e. ability to respond to a director's instructions and to perform together on a virtual stage. Virtual theatre will be used as a test application for obvious extensions to other digital storytelling applications.

To reach this ambitious goal, DADA will learn parameterized models of actor's movements and gestures from existing annotated motion capture databases of actor performances; and create intuitive authoring tools for creating a script of actions and cues in a machine-readable format suitable to real-time control of the virtual actors. More precisely, the academic partners of the project will engage fundamental research along two main directions:

Animating autonomous actors procedurally. A key idea in DADA is to separate the animation model into a proxemic component regulating how actors interact with each other and the audience, and a kinesic component regulating how actors use their body language to communicate moods and expressions (Tannenbaum 2014). The proxemic component of animation will drive the positions and orientations of actors on the stage as well as their gaze directions. This component will be driven by a model encompassing the social relations between and the emotional attitudes of the autonomous actors. The kinesic component of animation will drive all other degrees of freedom of the virtual actors. This component will be driven by parametric statistical models trained from an existing motion capture data-set. The separation between the two components is expected to yield important benefits in terms of expressivity and composability. Synchronizing virtual actors to a single story-line using a story-driven architecture of actors following a scripted sequence of instructions. In contrast to previous works, which used programming languages, we will investigate multimodal interfaces offering directorial control in a high-level, pseudo-natural language familiar to the director. The language will be compiled internally to a finite-state machine representation controlling the real-time execution of the autonomous actors.

All developments will be validated by experiments with the theatre department of Paris 8, under the supervision of director Georges Gagneré. Starting from a selection of play scripts in various genres and with increasing complexity, theatre experts will use the DADA tools to create virtual theatre performances in the Unity game engine, including stage movements and actions (entering, exiting, sitting down, standing up, taking and putting objects on the stage); body language expression of the personalities, moods and emotions of the characters; and believable gaze, proxemics and action/reaction behaviors between actors.

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#### Programme de travail

Work will be divided into four main work packages: (WP1) animation of isolated actors; (WP2) interaction between actors; (WP3) authoring and real-time control; (WP4) user evaluations. The general scenario for DADA is as follows: Through the authoring tool (WP3), a script is elaborated by a theater director (WP4); virtual actors act out autonomously the commands of the script to position toward each other and in the virtual space (WP2). The behaviors of each actor is computed taking into account their emotional states and social relations (WP1).

WP1. Kinesic component: Procedural animation models for isolated actors. We will create multi-modal statistical models of individual body movements from annotated mocap data to generate novel expressive animation suitable for dramatic performances. Based on an existing motion capture databse, we will train general action controllers for such actions as: sitting, standing, walking, grasping, taking and putting objects, in a variety of expressions and moods. In addition we will investigate learning animation models for new gestures and activities from only few training samples which will allow enriching the system easily by avoiding the costly and tedious task of gathering a large corpus of training data as usually required in statistical machine learning.

WP2. Proxemic component: procedural animation models for interaction between actors. Previous work on modeling proxemics has focused on the spatial positioning and orientation of conversational agents. Few researchers have looked at modeling agents with different personalities and social attitudes, which is an important aspect of dramatic performances. In this task, we will focus on simulating group of autonomous actors interacting with each other. To simulate the dynamic evolution of proxemic behaviors we will make use of Neural Network simulations. Mutual coupling of behaviors will be modeled as emerging from such action-reactive behavior simulation ensuring not only the synchronization between actors' behaviors but also their mutual influence.

WP3. Performance authoring and real-time execution. This work package will elaborate a common conceptual framework for assembling all the behaviors, goals and animations of all actors into a coordinated, real time performance. Authoring of performances will be based on traditional cue sheet, which are familiar to theatre directors. Cue-sheet are multi-modal documents consisting of « blocking notations » written in a pseudo-natural language of verbs and adverbs, together with a graphical annotation providing spatial and temporal « cue signals » for all actor movements. Internally, we will compile the cue sheet into a hierarchical finite-state machine, which is a de-facto standard in real-time game engines. Depending on their current states, virtual actors will update their positions, orientations and gaze directions using behaviors from WP2, and their other animation parameters using statistical models from WP1.

WP4. Evaluation and validation. Using the autonomous digital actors from WP1, WP2 and WP3, we will create short theatre scenes covering the spectrum of actions and emotions covered by the project. The directorial constraints will be adapted to the research scope in order to guarantee expressive results matching creative issues. Evaluation and validation will include short staged performances by the virtual actors, demonstrating both the quality of the animation and the usability of the user interface.

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#### Retombées scientifiques, techniques, économiques...

The general public has become familiar with « virtual movie actors » whose performances are in fact exact reproductions of human actors recorded with motion capture devices. Despite much research work on autonomous agents, believable characters and multi-agent simulations, there is curretnly no such thing as a virtual actor, i.e. a software agent capable of generating a plausible and expressive performance of a dramatic play script.

The DADA project will contribute to this important scientific and technological challenge by leveraging knowledge in building dramatic performances from theatre studies and practices, and applying this knowledge to virtual performances. New statistical and procedural methods for character animation will be integrated in a unique software environment, focusing entirely on the core problem of generating expressive and believable actor performances under a director's control. Virtual theatre productions will be used to showcase the

expressive power of the blocking notation developed by DADA, the quality of its animation, and the usability of its authoring tools.

Creating plausible and expressive virtual actor performances without motion capture is also a major challenge for the video game industry, which is one of the leading creative industries in France, with success stories include the number-two world leader Ubisoft and the innovative independent developer Quantum Dream.

The expected results of DADA will be (1) a virtual theatre company of autonomous actors with a large vocabulary of expressive animation skills; and (2) a prototype system for directing arbitrary dramatic plays, amenable to a variety of digital storytelling applications.

Those results will be integrated into the Unity3D game engine, which is already used by the GRETA platform at Telecom ParisTech and the virtual cinematography framework developed by the IMAGINE team at Inria. Results will be used by Paris 8 as a virtual rehearsal space for theatre productions involving real actors interacting with digital actors, and as a platform for publishing digital dramatic performances online. If applicable, results will also be patented and exploited by the three academic partners, targeting commercial applications such as video games, digital storytelling, virtual worlds and movie previz.

At the end of the project, the toolset developed in DADA will be made available publicly as an open source project serving as a platform for the development of the next-generation of non player character (NPC) in video games, and for supporting virtual and augmented theatre productions.

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**Remarque**: toutes les informations figurant ci-dessus à l'exception de celles relatives aux trois derniers champs ont vocation à être publiées si le projet est retenu pour financement (sous réserve d'une mise à jour si besoin). En déposant un dossier, les partenaires acceptent la publication de toutes ces informations.

## **Fiche Experts**

#### Experts non souhaités pour l'évaluation du projet

#### **Commentaires**

## Fiche Partenaire No 1: Identification et budget

Tél. portable :

#### Responsable scientifique et technique

Chargé de recherche Genre: Homme Titre:

Nom: Ronfard Prénom: Rémi

04 76 61 53 03 Tél: Email: remi.ronfard@inria.fr Date de naissance: 25/06/1963

Identification du partenaire

Nom complet du partenaire : Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique

Sigle du partenaire : **INRIA-IMAGINE** 

Catégorie de partenaire : Laboratoire public

Base de calcul pour

l'assiette de l'aide :

Coût marginal

Oui

Partenaire labellisé Institut

Carnot?

Si oui quel Inria - Institut Carnot Inria

Coordinateur de projet : Oui

institut?

N° Siret: 18008904700013

Pour un laboratoire d'organisme public de recherche :

Type d'unité: Numéro d'unité: 0

**Tutelles Gestionnaires de** 

financement:

INRIA CENTRE GRENOBLE RHÔNE-ALPES

Nature Juridique de la tutelle

Gestionnaire:

Etablissements publics à caractère scientifique et technologique - EPST

INRIA CENTRE GRENOBLE RHÔNE-ALPES **Tutelles Hébergeantes:** 

**Autres tutelles:** INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE GRENOBLE

Université Joseph Fourier - Grenoble 1

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - Délégation

Régionale Alpes

18008904700070 N° Siret:

Pour une entreprise : Effectif (si PME):

des travaux

N° Rue:

Adresse Adresse: avenue de l'Europe de réalisation

Complément d'adresse :

CP: 38334 Ville: Saint Ismier-Montbonnot

Cedex: Pays: France

# Personne habilitée à représenter juridiquement l'établissement gestionnaire (pour acte attributif)

Genre :	Homm	е				
Nom :	GROS			Prénom :	Patrick	
Fonction:	Directe	eur				
		N° Rue :	655			
Adresse : Adresse : Complémen d'adresse :		Complément	Avenue de l'E	Europe		
		CP:	38334		Ville :	Saint Ismier-Montbonnot
		Pays:	France			

#### Relevé d'identité bancaire

Nom de la banque :	Trésor Public
Coordonnées du compte IBAN (Zone	FR76 1007 1780 0000 0010 0395 848
Europe) au format IBAN :	
BIC/SWIFT de la banque :	TRPUFRP1

#### Personne chargée du suivi administratif et financier

Civilité :	Femme		Nom:	ZA	MPAOLO		
Prénom :	Christine			Tél:	+ 3	33 4 76 61	53 06
Fax:				Email:	ch	ristine.zam	paolo@inria.fr
		N° Rue :	655				
Adre Pos		Adresse : Complément d'adresse :	avenue de l'E	urope			
		CP:	38334			Ville :	Saint Ismier-Montbonnot
		Pays:	France				

#### **Autres soutiens financiers**

Identification des	Nature et objet du	Montant sollicité	Montant obtenu
financeurs	financement		

#### Demande financière (montant HT en €, incluant la TVA non récupérable)

	Equipements	Perm	anents	Non perm	ersonnels anents avec nt demandé		nanents sans ent demandé	Prestations de service externe (€)	Missions (€)	Autres dépenses de charges	Dépenses sur facturation	Totaux
Tâches	(€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personnes. mois	Coût (€)			externes (€)	interne (€)	<b>(</b> €)
Tâche 1	5 000,00	45,60	275 671,00	36,00	117 714,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	28 000,00	3 000,00	0,00	429 385,00
Totaux	5 000,00	45,60	275 671,00	36,00	117 714,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	28 000,00	3 000,00	0,00	429 385,00

Pour information : montant maxi des frais de gestion /frais de structure pris en compte = Uniquement pour laboratoire d'organisme public ou fondation, financé au coût marginal. Indiquer le taux d'environnement : Frais de gestion/ frais de structure  $(\in)$ Frais d'environnement  $(\in)$ 6 149,00 243 898,70 6 149,00 62.00

679 432,70 159 863,00 Coût complet (€) Coût éligible pour le calcul de l'aide : Assiette (€)

> Taux d'aide demandée Aide demandée (€) 100.00 159 863,00

#### Engagement du partenaire

Après avoir pris connaissance de l'ensemble du dossier de soumission et du règlement relatif aux modalités d'attribution des aides applicables à l'appel à projets, je donne mon accord pour la participation au projet du partenaire désigné ci-dessus, dans les conditions décrites de répartition des tâches et de financement demandé, et garantis les informations données.

Responsable scient	tifique et technique	Directeur de labora	Directeur de laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil		
Prénom :	Nom :	Prénom :	Nom :		
Signature :		Préciser la fonction	:		
		Signature :			
		umission à chacune des tutelles soient publiés sur le site de l'AN	s du laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil. R si le projet est sélectionné.		

Représentant légal	
Prénom :	Nom:
Préciser la fonction :	
Signature :	

Les informations personnelles transmises dans ces documents sont obligatoires et seront conservées en fichiers par l'ANR pour assurer la conduite opérationnelle de l'évolution et d'administration des dossiers. Conformément à la loi n° 78-17 du 6 janvier 1978, relative à l'informatique, aux Fichiers et aux Libertés, les personnes concernées disposent d'un droit d'accès et de rectification des données personnelles les concernant. Les personnes concernées peuvent exercer ce droit en s'adressant à l'ANR, 5 avenue Daumesnil, 75012 PARIS.

## Fiche Partenaire No 2 : Identification et budget

#### Responsable scientifique et technique

Genre: Femme Directeur de recherche Titre:

Pelachaud Prénom: Nom: Catherine 0145817593 0648160720 Tél: Tél. portable :

Email: catherine.pelachaud@telecom-paristech.fr

Date de naissance: 13/09/1960

#### Identification du partenaire

Nom complet du partenaire : Laboratoire Traitement et Communication de l'Information

Sigle du partenaire : LTCI, CNRS, Télécom ParisTech

Catégorie de partenaire : Laboratoire public

Base de calcul pour

l'assiette de l'aide :

Coût marginal

Partenaire labellisé Institut

Oui Si oui quel institut?

Télécom et Société Numérique - Télécom et

Coordinateur de projet : Non

Carnot?

N° Siret: 18008901300320

Pour un laboratoire d'organisme public de recherche :

Type d'unité: Numéro d'unité: 5141

**Tutelles Gestionnaires de** 

financement:

Institut Mines Telecom - Telecom ParisTech

Nature Juridique de la tutelle

Gestionnaire:

Etablissements publics à caractère scientifique et technologique - EPST

Société Numérique

Institut Mines Telecom - Telecom ParisTech **Tutelles Hébergeantes:** 

Autres tutelles:

N° Siret: 18009202500022

Pour une entreprise : Effectif (si PME):

des travaux

N° Rue: 46

Adresse rue Barrault Adresse: de réalisation

Complément d'adresse :

CP: 75013 Ville: **Paris** Cedex: Pays: France

# Personne habilitée à représenter juridiquement l'établissement gestionnaire (pour acte attributif)

Genre :	Homme					
Nom :	Mouna	Mounaud		Prénom :	Patrick	
Fonction:	Déléguée régionale					
		N° Rue :	27			
Adress Postale		Adresse : Complément d'adresse :	rue Paul Bert			
		CP:	94204		Ville :	Ivry-sur-Seine
		Pays :	France			

#### Relevé d'identité bancaire

Nom de la banque :	TRESOR PUBLIC CRETEIL
Coordonnées du compte IBAN (Zone	FR76 1007 1940 0000 0010 0012 288
Europe) au format IBAN :	
BIC/SWIFT de la banque :	TRPUFRP1

#### Personne chargée du suivi administratif et financier

Civilité :	Femme			Nom:	MOGUEN-TO	OURSEL
Prénom :	Marine			Tél :	0149604021	
Fax:				Email :	DR01.liste.sp	ov@cnrs.fr
		N° Rue :	27			
Adre Pos		Adresse : Complément d'adresse :	rue Paul Bert			
		CP:	94204		Ville :	Ivry-sur-Seine
		Pays:	France			

#### **Autres soutiens financiers**

Identification des	Nature et objet du	Montant sollicité	Montant obtenu
financeurs	financement		

#### Demande financière (montant HT en €, incluant la TVA non récupérable)

				Pe	ersonnels			Prestations	Missions	Autres	Dépenses	
	Equipements	Perm	anents		anents avec nt demandé		nanents sans ent demandé	de service externe (€)	(€)	dépenses de charges	sur facturation	Totaux
	(€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personnes. mois	Coût (€)	, ,		externes (€)	interne (€)	<b>(</b> €)
Tâches												
Tâche 1	4 000,00	12,00	93 684,00	36,00	108 000,00	6,00	25 350,00	3 000,00	18 000,00	1 500,00	0,00	253 534,00
Totaux	4 000,00	12,00	93 684,00	36,00	108 000,00	6,00	25 350,00	3 000,00	18 000,00	1 500,00	0,00	253 534,00

Pour information : montant maxi des frais de gestion /frais de structure pris en compte = Uniquement pour laboratoire d'organisme public ou fondation, financé au coût marginal. Indiquer le taux d'environnement : Frais de gestion/ frais de structure  $(\in)$ Frais d'environnement  $(\in)$ 5 380,00 181 627,20 5 380,00 80.00

440 541,20 139 880,00 Coût complet (€) Coût éligible pour le calcul de l'aide : Assiette (€)

> Taux d'aide demandée Aide demandée (€) 100.00 139 880,00

#### Engagement du partenaire

Après avoir pris connaissance de l'ensemble du dossier de soumission et du règlement relatif aux modalités d'attribution des aides applicables à l'appel à projets, je donne mon accord pour la participation au projet du partenaire désigné ci-dessus, dans les conditions décrites de répartition des tâches et de financement demandé, et garantis les informations données.

Responsable scient	ifique et technique	Directeur de labora	Directeur de laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil		
Prénom :	Nom :	Prénom :	Nom :		
Signature :		Préciser la fonction	 :		
		Signature :			
0 0	•	umission à chacune des tutelles soient publiés sur le site de l'AN	du laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil. R si le projet est sélectionné.		

Représentant légal	
Prénom :	Nom:
Préciser la fonction :	
Signature :	

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## Fiche Partenaire No 3 : Identification et budget

#### Responsable scientifique et technique

Genre: Homme Titre: Enseignant-chercheur/professeur

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 ARTIERES
 Prénom :
 THIERRY

 Tél :
 +33616083539
 Tél. portable :
 +33616083539

**Email**: thierry.artieres@lif.univ-mrs.fr **Date de naissance**: 22/04/1964

#### Identification du partenaire

Nom complet du partenaire : Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale de Marseille

Sigle du partenaire : LIF

Catégorie de partenaire : Laboratoire public

Base de calcul pour l'assiette

de l'aide :

Coût marginal

Partenaire labellisé Institut Non Si oui quel Carnot ? Si oui quel institut?

N° Siret: 19133340000015

Pour un laboratoire d'organisme public de recherche :

Type d'unité : UMR Numéro d'unité : 7279

**Tutelles Gestionnaires de** 

financement:

ECOLE CENTRALE MARSEILLE

Nature Juridique de la tutelle

Gestionnaire:

Etablissements publics à caractère scientifique, culturel et professionnel.

Coordinateur de projet : Non

- EPSCP

Tutelles Hébergeantes : UNIVERSITE D'AIX-MARSEILLE

Autres tutelles : CNRS Délégation PACA

N° Siret: 13001533200013

Pour une entreprise : **Effectif (si PME) :** 

Adresse Adress

de réalisation des travaux

**N° Rue**: 163

Adresse: avenue de Luminy, Parc Scientifique et Technologique de Luminy

**Complément** Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale (LIF)

d'adresse :

CP: 13288 Ville: Marseille
Cedex: 9 Pays: France

# Personne habilitée à représenter juridiquement l'établissement gestionnaire (pour acte attributif)

Genre :	Homm	е					
Nom :	Fotiad	Fotiadu		Prénom :	Frédéric		
Fonction:	Directe	eur					
		N° Rue :	38				
Adresse : Adresse : Complément d'adresse :		Rue Frédéric	Joliot Curie				
		CP:	13451		Ville :	Marseille	
		Pays :	France				

#### Relevé d'identité bancaire

Nom de la banque :	TRESOR PUBLIC
Coordonnées du compte IBAN (Zone	FR76 1007 1130 0000 0010 0605 324
Europe) au format IBAN:	
BIC/SWIFT de la banque :	TRPUFRP1

#### Personne chargée du suivi administratif et financier

Civilité :	Femme		Nom :	Maddaloni		
Prénom :	Danielle	Danielle		Tél:	0491054557	
Fax:	04910546	617	Email: danielle.maddaloni@centrale-mars		daloni@centrale-marseille.fr	
		N° Rue :	38			
Adre Pos		Adresse : Complément d'adresse :				
		CP:	13451		Ville :	Marseille
		Pays :	France			

#### **Autres soutiens financiers**

Identification des	Nature et objet du	Montant sollicité	Montant obtenu
financeurs	financement		

#### Demande financière (montant HT en €, incluant la TVA non récupérable)

	Equipements	Personnels  Permanents  Non permanents avec financement demandé		Non permanents sans financement demandé		Prestations de service externe (€)	Missions (€)	Autres dépenses de charges	Dépenses sur facturation	Totaux		
Tâches	(€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personne s.mois	Coût (€)	personnes. mois	Coût (€)			externes (€)	interne (€)	(€)
Tâche 1	5 000,00	25,00	120 000,00	36,00	101 000,00	18,00	50 000,00	0,00	15 000,00	0,00	0,00	291 000,00
Totaux	5 000,00	25,00	120 000,00	36,00	101 000,00	18,00	50 000,00	0,00	15 000,00	0,00	0,00	291 000,00

Pour information : montant maxi des frais de gestion /frais de structure pris en compte =
Uniquement pour laboratoire d'organisme public ou fondation, financé au coût marginal. Indiquer le taux
d'environnement : Frais de gestion/ frais de structure  $(\in)$ Frais d'environnement  $(\in)$ 4 840,00 216 800,00 4 840,00 80.00

512 640,00 125 840,00 Coût complet (€) Coût éligible pour le calcul de l'aide : Assiette (€)

> Taux d'aide demandée Aide demandée (€) 100.00 125 840,00

#### Engagement du partenaire

Après avoir pris connaissance de l'ensemble du dossier de soumission et du règlement relatif aux modalités d'attribution des aides applicables à l'appel à projets, je donne mon accord pour la participation au projet du partenaire désigné ci-dessus, dans les conditions décrites de répartition des tâches et de financement demandé, et garantis les informations données.

Responsable scientifique et technique		Directeur de labora	Directeur de laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil			
Prénom :	Nom :	Prénom :	Nom :			
Signature :		Préciser la fonction	Préciser la fonction :			
		Signature :				
0 0	•	umission à chacune des tutelles soient publiés sur le site de l'AN	du laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil. R si le projet est sélectionné.			

Représentant légal	
Prénom :	Nom:
Préciser la fonction :	
Signature :	

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## Fiche Partenaire No 4 : Identification et budget

Responsable scientifique et technique

Coordinateur de projet : Non

Enseignant-chercheur/maître de Genre: Homme Titre:

conférence

Nom: Gagneré Prénom: Georges Tél: Tél. portable : 0620272761

Email: georges.gagnere@univ-paris8.fr Date de naissance: 09/05/1967

Identification du partenaire

Nom complet du partenaire : Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoirs critiques

Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoirs critiques Sigle du partenaire :

Catégorie de partenaire : Laboratoire public

Base de calcul pour l'assiette

de l'aide :

Coût marginal

Partenaire labellisé Institut

Carnot?

Non Si oui quel

institut?

N° Siret: 19931827000014

Pour un laboratoire d'organisme public de recherche :

Type d'unité: EΑ Numéro d'unité : 1573

**Tutelles Gestionnaires de** 

financement:

Université Paris Vincennes Saint Denis - Paris 8

Nature Juridique de la tutelle

Gestionnaire:

Etablissements publics à caractère scientifique, culturel et professionnel.

- EPSCP

Université Paris Vincennes Saint Denis - Paris 8 **Tutelles Hébergeantes:** 

Autres tutelles:

19931827000014 N° Siret:

Pour une entreprise : Effectif (si PME):

Adresse de réalisation

des travaux

N° Rue:

rue de la Liberté Adresse:

Complément d'adresse :

CP: 93526 Ville: Saint-Denis France Cedex: 02 Pays:

# Personne habilitée à représenter juridiquement l'établissement gestionnaire (pour acte attributif)

Genre :	Femm	е				
Nom :	TART	AKOWSKY		Prénom :	Danielle	
Fonction:	Présid	ente				
		N° Rue :	2			
Adress Postal	Aul Cooc .		rue de la Liberté			
		CP:	93526		Ville :	Saint-Denis
		Pays :	France			

#### Relevé d'identité bancaire

Nom de la banque :	Trésorerie Générale de Bobigny
Coordonnées du compte IBAN (Zone	FR76 1007 1930 0000 0010 0047 464
Europe) au format IBAN :	
BIC/SWIFT de la banque :	TRPUFRP1

#### Personne chargée du suivi administratif et financier

Civilité :	Homme			Nom :	CHENDEB	
Prénom :	Safwan			Tél:	01 49 40 64	60
Fax:					valorisationd	elarecherche@univ-paris8.fr
Adresse Postale		N° Rue :	2			
		Complément d'adresse :		rue de la Liberté 93526		
						SAINT DENIS CEDEX 02
		Pavs :	France			

#### **Autres soutiens financiers**

Identification des	Nature et objet du	Montant sollicité	Montant obtenu
financeurs	financement		

## Demande financière (montant HT en €, incluant la TVA non récupérable)

		Personnels					Prestations	Missions	Autres	Dépenses		
			Permanents		Non permanents avec		Non permanents sans		(€)	-,	sur	
	Equipements			financeme	financement demandé		é financement demandé			charges	facturation	Totaux
	(€)	personne	Coût (€)	personne	Coût (€)	personnes.	Coût (€)			externes (€)	interne (€)	<b>(</b> €)
		s.mois		s.mois		mois						
Tâches												
Tâche 1	3 000,00	29,00	105 069,00	24,00	80 000,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5 000,00	4 000,00	0,00	197 069,00
Totaux	3 000,00	29,00	105 069,00	24,00	80 000,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5 000,00	4 000,00	0,00	197 069,00

Pour information : montant maxi des frais de gestion /frais de structure pris en compte = Uniquement pour laboratoire d'organisme public ou fondation, financé au coût marginal. Indiquer le taux d'environnement : Frais de gestion/ frais de structure  $(\in)$ Frais d'environnement  $(\in)$ 3 680,00 148 055,20 3 680,00 80.00

348 804,20 95 680,00 Coût complet (€) Coût éligible pour le calcul de l'aide : Assiette (€)

> Taux d'aide demandée Aide demandée (€) 100.00 95 680,00

#### Engagement du partenaire

Après avoir pris connaissance de l'ensemble du dossier de soumission et du règlement relatif aux modalités d'attribution des aides applicables à l'appel à projets, je donne mon accord pour la participation au projet du partenaire désigné ci-dessus, dans les conditions décrites de répartition des tâches et de financement demandé, et garantis les informations données.

Responsable scientifique et technique		Directeur de laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil		
Prénom :	Nom :	Prénom :	Nom :	
Signature :		Préciser la fonction :		
		Signature :		
	copie du dossier de soumission nom et adresse email soient pu		du laboratoire ou de l'unité d'accueil. si le projet est sélectionné.	

Représentant légal	
Prénom :	Nom :
Préciser la fonction :	
Signature :	

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## TABLEAUX RECAPITULATIFS

#### Récapitulatif des dénominations des partenaires

	Sigle du partenaire	Nom complet du partenaire
Partenaire 1	INRIA-IMAGINE	Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique
Partenaire 2	LTCI, CNRS, Télécom ParisTech	Laboratoire Traitement et Communication de l'Information
Partenaire 3	LIF	Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale de Marseille
Partenaire 4	Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoire	Laboratoire Scènes du Monde, création, savoirs critiques
	critiques	

## **Directing Autonomous Digital Actors**

#### 19 avril 2015

Warning : the comments are turned on. All directives and guidelines appear. To turn them off, comment the line  $\newnvironment{xcomment}{em}{}$  and uncomment the line  $\newnvironment{xcomment}$ 

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#### 1 Résume de la proposition de projet / Executive summary

Recopier le résumé utilisé dans le document administratif et financier.

## 1.1 Contexte et enjeux économiques et sociétaux / Context, social and economic issues

Décrire le contexte économique, social, réglementaire' dans lequel se situe le projet en présentant une analyse des enjeux sociaux, économiques, environnementaux, industriels' Donner si possible des arguments chiffrés, par exemple, pertinence et portée du projet par rapport Ãă la demande économique (analyse du marché, analyse des tendances), analyse de la concurrence, indicateurs de réduction de coÃżts, perspectives de marchés (champs d'application, '). Indicateurs des gains environnementaux, cycle de vie'

Animating virtual agents with expressivity is a big challenge for the entertainment industries (video games, movie industry) that rely mainly on motion capture data which allows them to produce rich and subtle motion but with a high cost in time and finance. On the other hand, technology for interactive agents uses mainly procedural approach. While such approach allows modulating in real-time agents' motion and its quality, the results are still far from being natural and realistic. Lately statistical approaches have been developed. They are promising as they produce animations captur-ing naturalness and richness of human motion. However the control of such animation technique is still an issue and its extension to a large range of motion activities is also an important challenge.

DADA aims to bridge the gap between those previous techniques by proposing a general framework for combining them into a unified interface. A desirable outcome of the project will be a completely novel interaction model for rehearsing with virtual actors and incrementally building complex multi-actor performances with multiple layers of 3D animation. Thus DADA fits the component Information and Communication Society; it is also in line with at least two axes of the ANR call.

First axis: Le numérique au service des arts, du patrimoine, des industries culturelles et éditoriales (3.7.1.3). There are several potential applications of DADA on top of the proposed virtual theater. The creation of expressive virtual charac-ters can be used in video games, especially for NPC (non-player characters), and in serious games. Indeed being able to simulate the motion of a virtual actor with different expressivities and for different morphologies while maintaining a high level of naturalness and lifelikeness will be a big benefit in time and money.

Second axis: Interactions des mondes physiques, de l'humain et du monde numérique (3.7.2.4). The outcome of DADA will benefit the creation of virtual agents, either autonomous or controlled by humans. These agents ought to display a large variety of communicative and emotional expressions toward human interactants as well as to perform many actions with objects in their virtual environment. Enhancing, in quantity and expressivity, the behaviors of virtual agents is one of the challenges of DADA that falls under the axis.

**Related projects:** There exist several large European projects that are related to DADA research themes. However, to our knowledge, none covers our research question of building expressive animation with different levels of control. We can name the NoE IRIS on story-telling, the IP Companions on dialog virtual agents, the IP REVERIE on modeling virtual characters in

highly immersive virtual environment, and the STREP Ilhaire aims to simulate laughing agent using data-driven and motion graph approaches. On the National side, we can name the Feder project Anipev in which the database Emilya has been captured.

Several recent projects have been devoted to the interface between computers and theatre, e.g. ANR VIRAGE (a generic architecture for controlling lighting and music during theatre production), ANR OSSIA (authoring tools for writing interactive, multimedia scenarios) and ANR INEDIT (INteractivité dans l'Ecriture De l'Interaction et du Temps). ANR Spectacle-en-ligne(s) is a SHS CORPUS project dedicated to capturing, indexing and annotating 200 hours of theatre rehearsals recorded in high-definition video. Those projects focus on the interaction of computer systems with real actors. In contrast, DADA will focus on the core issue of directing virtual actors.

Despite considerable academic research, few procedural animation systems have become commercially available in recent years. Euphoria by Natural Motion is a real-time procedural animation engine, which has been used in Grand Theft Auto 4 and other games. However, actions and expressions are difficult to control. Xtranormal Technologies was an online service for quickly creating 3-D animations from dialogues decorated with stage directions, using a proprietary procedural animation engine limited to non-expressive behaviors. Actor Machines is a company created by Ken Perlin to commercialize packages of trained virtual actors with a large range of actions and expressions, which has not delivered any product yet.

#### 1.2 Positionnement du projet / Position of the project

Préciser: positionnement du projet par rapport au contexte développé précédemment: vis-Ãă-vis des projets et recherches concurrents, complémentaires ou antérieurs, des brevets et standards' indiquer si le projet s'inscrit dans la continuité de projet(s) antérieurs déjÃă financés par l'ANR. Dans ce cas, présenter brièvement les résultats acquis, positionnement du projet par rapport aux axes thématiques de l'appel Ãă projets, positionnement du projet aux niveaux européen et international.

Creating believable, human-like performances by virtual actors is an important problem in many digital storytelling applications, e.g. creating non-player characters (NPC) for video games, creating expressive avatars in next-generation virtual worlds, populating movies and architectural simulations with background characters and crowds, creating be-lievable virtual tutors and coaches in educational serious games, and creating believable characters for interactive fiction and interactive drama (Tannenbaum 2014).

A desirable feature for such applications is the ability to create virtual actor performances which are both expressive and controllable. Motion capture actors are expressive, but once recorded, their performances cannot easily be controlled, edited or modified. As a result, game companies ought to get engaged in extensive motion capture sessions of all actions and moods of all characters in every new game they create. On the other end of the spectrum, procedural 3D animation can be controlled in every detail using sophisticated programming techniques, but they fall short of providing the level of expression required for conveying the subtle inflexions of human-like performances.

Character animation has been tackled through various approaches in the past. To name a few, chosen among those that are directly related to DADA, we can cite: embodied conversational agents (ECA), ie autonomous virtual characters [12]; statistical models learned from motion capture examples [50]; physically-based animation [60]; and speech-driven animation [20]. Very few attempts have tried to merge these various approaches into a single model offe-

ring on one hand expressive animation and on the other hand high control over the animation.

In order to make progress in the field, we propose to shift the focus from autonomous characters to autonomous actors. Autonomous characters (such as The Sims) make decisions based on AI models of their personality and goals. In con-trast, autonomous actors follow a precise script, written by the director. Their autonomy is therefore limited to perform-ing a precise sequence of actions as a result of various cues written in the script. Creating such performances procedurally using autonomous actors is a valuable goal because it would make it possible for each performance to be unique, which is widely regarded as an important quality to ensure liveliness and immersion, while maintaining a high level of directorial control. Merging both approaches would allow creating autonomous actors able to follow a script (specified in high-level command-like language) that give the main directions the actors ought to follow while adapting their behaviors autonomously to the virtual environment they are placed in that includes objects and other actors.

The goal of the DADA project is to design, implement and evaluate novel interfaces for directing expressive, autonomous virtual actors, borrowing from established theatre practices. We will combine fundamental re-search in 3D animation, machine learning and intelligent agent programming to leverage motion capture data sets of professional actors into a virtual theatre company of synthetic actors with acting skills, i.e. ability to respond to a director's instructions and to perform together on a virtual stage. Virtual theatre will be used as a test application for obvious extensions to other digital storytelling applications.

To reach this ambitious goal, DADA will learn parameterized models of actor's movements and gestures from existing annotated motion capture databases of actor performances; and create intuitive authoring tools for creating a script of actions and cues in a machine-readable format suitable to real-time control of the virtual actors. More precisely, the academic partners of the project will engage fundamental research along two main directions:

- 1. Animating autonomous actors procedurally. A key idea in DADA is to separate the animation model into a proxe-mic component regulating how actors interact with each other and the audience, and a kinesic component regulating how actors use their body language to communicate moods and expressions [88]. The proxemic component of animation will drive the positions and orientations of actors on the stage as well as their gaze directions. This component will be driven by a model encompassing the social relations between and the emotional states of the autonomous actors. The kinesic component of animation will drive all other degrees of freedom of the virtual actors. This component will be driven by parametric statistical models trained from an existing motion capture data-set. The separation between the two components is expected to yield important benefits in terms of expressivity and composability.
- 2. Synchronizing virtual actors to a single story-line using a story-driven architecture of actors following a scripted sequence of instructions [73]. In contrast to previous works, which used programming languages [66], we will investigate multimodal interfaces offering directorial control in a high-level, pseudo-natural language familiar to the director. The language will be compiled internally to a finite-state machine representation controlling the real-time execution of the autonomous actors.

#### 1.3 Etat de l'art / State of the art

Présenter un état de l'art national et international, en dressant l'état des connaissances sur le sujet. Faire apparaÃőtre d'éventuelles contributions des membres de la proposition de projet

Ãă cet état de l'art. Faire apparaÃőtre d'éventuels résultats préliminaires. Inclure les références bibliographiques nécessaires au ǧ 7.

A large body of theoretical research work relates to acting and directing in the theatre, especially from a cognitive science perspective [43]. Its applicability to virtual actors is limited because of the huge gap between virtual and human acting skills. An extensive survey of acting techniques used in 3D animation and virtual worlds can be found in the excellent collection edited by Tanenbaum, et al. [88].

#### 1.3.1 Single-character animation

Animation of an avatar is usually tackled by working separately on the full body animation model on the one hand and on the face (and gesture) animation model on the other hand (since the latter animation strongly depends on the dialogue the avatar is engaged in), where the animation produced by the two models are merged to produce a final complete animation [85].

Full body kinematic animation (or control) consists in animating the full body of an avatar while he is performing actions such as walking, dancing, sitting etc. Although there has been lots of work on this subject it is still a challenging problem due to the high dimensionality of the character's configuration. Data-driven approaches are very popular here and make of use motion-capture data to learn animation models which, once learned, may be used to animate a virtual character to perform a given task. Many systems have been proposed for producing animation models and controlers, they usually are based on statistical models such as Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) [55] and Conditional Random Fields (CRFs) [53, 15]. Most accurate methods exploit a large dataset of motions where one can synthesize a complete motion sequence corresponding to a particular task by using warping or blending strategies of motions in the training set [?]. Locomotion controllers have been proposed that concatenate motion clips from a motion capture dataset to produce an animation that is smooth [Treuille et al. 2007; Mc-Cann and Pollard 2007]. High-quality kinematic controllers have been built from this idea by using a *motion graph*, which is a graph structure that describe how clips from a dataset can be reordered into new motions [?].

While locomotion controllers are driven by direct high-level commands (such as desired movement direction), no such clear control signal is available for body language. To animate the face, and accompanying arm gestures, many works have focused on developing specific animation models based on a dialogue related input, either speech, text or prosody features [55, 53, 15, ?]. At the end, recent work has demonstrated such models for the case of locomotion believable controllers, gesture controllers (Levine 2010) and face controllers (Ding et al., 2013).

Yet all these statistical approaches require large annotated datasets to work well.

Thereby these approaches do not easily work with small training sets which is a key issue, as stressed for instance in [56], since first it requires considerable effort and time to build large datasets, and second because many applications demand unique motion styles and require their own datasets. This has led a number of researchers to put the effort on designing models that may be easily learned from a few samples. One main approach for doing so lies in the use (or learning) of a continuous state space to represent the data, making learning in this low dimensional space much easier [56, 15]. A relevant technology for this are Gaussian Process which have been extended for dealing wiuth dynamic data in [95].

These latter models are not far from recurrent neural networks, and to Long Short Term Memory neural networks in particular [40, 33], that have been shown recently to work well

for complex signals such as speech and handwriting, for recognition tasks [32] as well as for synthesis tasks [31]. These models are part of a current trend in machine learning called representation learning (see the recently born conference ICLR at http://www.iclr.cc/) which aims at discovering relevant and usually low dimensional representation of the data under investigation (the pionner work of this domaine is the one by G. Hinton in Science [39].

#### 1.3.2 Multiple-character animation

**ECAs gathering in groups**: Prada and Paiva [75] modeled groups of autonomous synthetic virtual agents that collaborated with the user in the resolution of collaborative tasks within a 3D virtual environment. Rehm and Endrass [79] implemented a toolbox for modeling the behavior of multi-agent systems. In [78], Ravenet and colleagues combined a number of reactive social behaviors, including those reflecting personal space [36] and the F-formation system [44], in a general steering framework inspired by [80]. This complete management of position and orientation is the foundation of the Anonymous Engine used in the work presented here. All these models did not take into account the expression of attitudes while exhibiting the behaviors of the agents.

Forward Kinematics (FK) and Inverse Kinematics (IK) : FK and IK [8, 91] have been used to generate animation sequence procedurally. Different constraints and unconstrained numerical equation solvers are used to model the motion postures and their transitions [100]. The target based reaching models, such as Jacobian methods [99] [11], are proposed to use linear approximation to bring the end-effector close to the target; it can be used to build a posture configuration for virtual characters. These methods are flexible and widely used for real time lost cost procedural generation and motion editing, but the resulting motions may not be as realistic as human motion. They can show quite some stiffness.

**Data-driven animation**: Another animation technique that is being used more and more is motion capture data. Many animation techniques based on concatenation of motion capture data and clips selection [51, 48, 37] have been proposed. These methods focus on how to improve the clips searching performance or the transition quality between successive clips. These methods have been applied very successfully to locomotion synthesis. Feng et al. [26] have extended motion example method for gesture synthesis. Since they use directly motion capture, their synthesized result is quite natural, but do suffer from some limitations: new data needs to be recorded for any new required animation.

Style Machines [9] achieve the stylistic motion synthesis by learning motion patterns from a highly varied set of motions, as a distinct choreography can perform motions with a distinctive style. Stylistic Hidden Markov models (SHMM) are proposed to train different stylized behaviors. A new style motion can also be obtained from the interpolation of SHMM sub-spaces. This approach treats animations as a pure data modeling task. Later, such types of work have been extended [96] [72], but, so far, the focus of these synthesis works is more on cyclic motion; cyclic motions are somehow easier to treat for clustering, blending or filling missing data.

**Systems embedding different animation techniques**: There exist several systems embedded in large platform that combine different animation synthesis solutions. The Smartbody system [83] [89] includes a schedule controller and a realization controller. Smartbody

includes different motion synthesis methods such as motion capture data and dynamic system. ETENDRE: DONNER PLUS D INFORMATION. IL FAUT AUSSI EXPLIQUER EN QUOI NOTRE SYSTEME DIFFERE DU LEUR. The behavior engine developed by Marsella et al. [65] makes use of Smartbody. This engine embeds a rule-based system that can determine facial expressions and gestures by extracting semantic, pragmatic and rhetorical content from an input utterance. Some behaviors (eg head motion) are also obtained through data-driven model. Luo et al. [61] proposed a procedural arm gesture model. They improve the quality of the procedural animation by introducing motion capture data for full body animation. ADAPT [84] is also a flexible platform for virtual human characters. This system has been designed as a gaming system for physical reactions. They use a behavior tree to model human-like behaviors for multicharacters and a Level of Detail character shadows solution is proposed to generate body parts sequentially. Blending technique is applied to compute the movements of different body parts from different Choreographers. While some motion artifacts may appear when doing blending or character motion transition, this animation platform combines various animation techniques. However it has not been focused on communicative and emotional behaviors that are defined by specific temporal patterns.

**Beyond State of the Art**: Both animation techniques, procedural and data-driven, have pros and cons. With the procedural animation, gestures are described using the symbolic language BML [?, ?]. New behaviors can be created very rapidly; but, most of the time, the obtained animation lacks naturalness and fluidity. On the other hand animation from motion-capture data reproduces all human motion subtleties and dynamics; however creating new gesture is more cumbersome as it requires new recording of data and new training.

Our aim is to develop an embodied conversational agent system that embeds both animation approaches. Communicative behaviors are computed procedurally while socio-emotional behaviors such as emotions are driven from machine-learning techniques (Task 1.X). Both computations involve the same body parts. While the two animation streams are computed separately they need to be merged to produce the final animation output. This work is part of Task 2.3.

#### 1.3.3 Authoring tools and metaphors

There has been previous work on story-driven architectures and directing tools specifically dedicated for virtual theatre. The desktop theatre, the story-driven architecture and Improv are seminal works in building virtual actors that can be scripted. Other early work includes Pinnochio [63] and GEIST [86] which targets players of interactive games by letting them "play director". Both projects were left unfinished.

Xtranormal State and Notion are based on the paradigm of "text-to-scene" animation. The DRAMA project at the University of Toulouse has also investigated this paradigm. At this point, using natural language processing appears to be out of reach.

MIRAGE [25] is an interactive story generation engine featuring 3D animation of two virtual actors playing the roles of Electra and Archemedis in a tragic style. Actions are represented by a verb, and adverb and an actor; and are either controlled by the player or generated by the system. Actor's behaviours are organized into dramatic beats with multiple actions and reactions based on communicative goals. While the focus of MIRAGE is different from DADA, it offers the important insight that actions performed by the virtual actors must be appraised

from the point of view of the user (director, audience or player). This will be used as a general guideline in DADA as well.

The body action and posture coding system (BAP) [16] is an extensive description language for body movement on the anatomical level (body parts), the form level (directions and orientations of movements) and the function level (communicative and goal-driven actions). Their work is important for DADA because it offers a catalogue of expressive gestures used by professional actors in depicting various emotions [17]. The language makes it possible to precisely annotate body actions in video using the ANVIL annotation tool [45, 46].

The movie script markup language (MSML) [93] has been proposed to encode the stucture of movie and play scripts into scenes, actions and dialogues. One interesting feature of the language is that it includes an animation layer, making it possible to compute a realization of the play script in 2D animation. The synchronization of the various actors and actions in the play script is performed by generating an Object Composition Petri Net (OCPN) [59] for the entire scene. This feature has not been demonstrated with 3D animation, and it will be one of the objective of the DADA project to implement, test and validate the MSML animation layer with multiple autonomous 3D actors in a real-time game engine.

Petri nets have also been proposed as a high-level specification for virtual actor behaviours [62, 7], including the important case of turn-taking in dialogue and imitation games [14, 13]. They are also the basis for the interactive musical score system developed by the INEDIT project [4, 64], which is being extended to multimedia events [90]. Petri nets are likely candidates to become an internal, intermediate representation of the dramatic score in DADA, between the high level commands of the director and the low-level executable finite-state machine of the game engine. In previous work, the composer or director manipulates the Petri nets directly. In DADA, we will instead offer direct manipulation of cue sheet and prompt books, which offer more natural interaction for theatre directors than Petri net places and transitions.

The Q language [?] is an authoring language for writing scenarios involving multiple autonomous agents. While not targeting theatre as an application, the language borrows heavily from theatre practices and is based on defining cues that synchronize the actions and reactions of the agents. Q is a dialect of the scheme language and assumes that the scenario writer is familiar with programming. The directing language for DADA will also be based on cues and actions, but will be extended to include direct user manipulation using a graphical user interface, rather than a programming interface. Furthermore, animation generated with the Q language was fairly primitive and we plan to offer a more expressive and extensive description of actor's full body animation.

State of the art in France International state of the art

#### 1.3.4 Autonomous agents and non-player characters (NPC)

Our project is also related to work on NPCs - behavior trees,

#### 1.3.5 Robotic actors

Our project is also related to the emerging field of robotic actors performing theatre on a live stage [58]. An international workshop was dedicated to robotics and theatre at ICRA 2012 1.

<sup>1.</sup> Robotics and Performing Arts: Reciprocal Influences, http://www.robotics-and-performing-arts.sssup.it/

Our research on directing autonomous digital actors will likely be applicable to the case of robotic actors as well.

#### 1.3.6 Prior art at Inria

Previous work in the IMAGINE team can be useful to the DADA project, including work on retargeting costumes to different actor body shapes [10]; representing actor's anatomy with high precision ontologies [?]; sketch-based modeling of actor's movements using motion brushes [67], lines of action [34] and spatio-temporal curves [35]; steering behaviors coordinated with finite state machines [57] and extended to the case of actors (or cameras) looking in other directions than their target destination [29]; implicit skinning of actor's body shapes for improved rendering of character animation [92]; and audio-visual prosody modeling for expressive facial animations of actors [5, 18, 6]. All previous work will be made available to the DADA project.

#### 1.3.7 Software foundation

Our developments will be based on the GRETA platform and use the EMILYA database.

**GRETA** The Greta platform simulates virtual agents able to communicate verbally and nonverbally with human users and/or other virtual agents. Given a set of intentions and emotions to be communicated, the platform instantiates them into sequences of synchronized nonverbal behaviours. It can be used to compute these multimodal behaviours when the virtual agent acts as a speaker or as a listener.

The Greta system allows a virtual or physical (e.g. robotic) embodied conversational agent to communicate with a human user [71, 70]. It is a SAIBA compliant architecture (SAIBA is a common framework for the autonomous generation of multimodal communicative behavior in Embodied conversational agents [47]). The main three components are: (1) an *Intent Planner* that produces the communicative intentions and handles the emotional state of the agent; (2) a *Behavior Planner* that transforms the communicative intents received in input into multimodal signals and (3) a *Behavior Realizer* that produces the movements and rotations for the joints of the ECA.

A *Behavior Lexicon* contains pairs of mappings from communicative intentions to multimodal signals. The Behavior Realizer instantiates the multimodal behaviors, it handles the synchronization with speech and generates the animations for the ECA.

The information exchanged by these components is encoded in specific representation languages defined by SAIBA. The representation of communicative intents is done with the Function Markup Language (FML) [38]. FML describes communicative and expressive functions without any reference to physical behavior, representing in essence what the agent's mind decides. It is meant to provide a semantic description that accounts for the aspects that are relevant and influential in the planning of verbal and nonverbal behavior. Greta uses an FML specification named *FML-APML* and based on the Affective Presentation Markup Language (APML) introduced by [19]. FML-APML tags encode the communicative intentions following the taxonomy defined by [74], where a communicative function corresponds to a pair (*meaning,signal*). The meaning element is the communicative intent that the ECA aims to accomplish, whereas the signal element indicates the multimodal behavior exhibited in order to achieve the desired communicative intent. The multimodal behaviors to express a given communicative function to

achieve (e.g. facial expressions, gestures and postures) are described by the Behavior Markup Language (BML) [?].

Lately we have been developing data-driven approach to capture the link between acoustic features (speech [22], laughter [21, 23]) and multimodal behaviors. The obtained animations show more subtle motions than those generated with the procedural model.

**EMILYA** In this section we briefly present the Emilya database (Emotional body expression in daily actions database). The interested reader can find more details in [28]. Eleven (unprofessional) actors participated in the data collection. Both 3D motion capture data (using Xsens technology [1]) and audio visual data were recorded and synchronized. The actors were asked to express 8 emotions (Joy, Anger, Panic Fear, Anxiety, Sadness, Shame, Pride and Neutral) in 7 daily actions (walking, waking with an object in the hands, sitting down, knocking at a door, lifting and throwing an object (a ball made of paper) with one hand, and moving objects (books) on a table with two hands) [28]. Those emotions were selected to cover the arousal and valence dimensions. We asked the actors to perform each action four times in a row to capture a large set of data. A continuous sequence consisting of the series of all the actions with just one trial per action was also recorded. After segmentation, we obtain a database of around 10000 segments depicting expressive body movements. Moreover we have validated this database through perceptual study [28].

## 1.4 Objectifs et caractère ambitieux/novateur du projet / Objectives, originality and novelty of the project

Décrire les objectifs du projet et détailler les verrous scientifiques et techniques Ãă lever par la réalisation du projet. Insister sur le caractère ambitieux et/ou novateur de la proposition. Décrire éventuellement le ou les produits finaux développés, présenter les résultats escomptés en proposant si possible des critères de réussite et d'évaluation adaptés au type de projet, permettant d'évaluer les résultats en fin de projet.

All developments will be validated by experiments with the theatre department of Paris 8, under the supervision of Georges Gagneré. Starting from a selection of play scripts in various genres and with increasing complexity, theatre experts will use the DADA tools to create virtual theatre performances in the Unity game engine, including stage movements and actions (entering, exiting, sitting down, standing up, taking and putting objects on the stage); body language expression of the personalities, moods and emotions of the characters; and believable gaze, proxemics and action/reaction behaviors between actors.

The expected results of DADA will be (1) a virtual theatre company of autonomous actors with a large vocabulary of expressive animation skills; and (2) a prototype system for directing arbitrary dramatic plays, amenable to a variety of digital storytelling applications. Results will be integrated into Unity3D which is already used by the GRETA plat-form at Telecom ParisTech and the virtual cinematography framework developed by the IMAGINE team at Inria. Results will be used at University of Marseille for building a pivot actor model allowing the retargeting of the DADA actors to actors with different morphologies and styles. Results will be used by Paris 8 as a virtual rehearsal space for theatre productions involving real actors interacting with digital actors, and as a platform for publishing digital dramatic performances online. If applicable, results will also be patented and exploited by the three academic partners, targeting commercial applications such as video games, digital storytelling, virtual worlds and movie previz.

#### 1.4.1 Expressive virtual actors

**Proxemic models** The role of the proxemic models is to compute the precise positions and orientations of actors at all time, given the director's blockings.

**Kinesic models** The role of the kinesic models is to compute the remaining degrees of freedom, given the director's blockings and the precise positions and orientations of actors at all time.

One difficulty will be to generate those remaining degrees of freedom with high quality, avoiding the robotic effects associated with procedural animation, and the repetitive effects associated with data-driven methods.

More precisely, we will work to make each performance plausible (actor maintains personality of the role), expressive (actor follows director's commands) and natural (actor adapts to the environment with variations)

#### 1.4.2 Authoring tools

Expose all important dramatic parameters to the director; compute all other parameters at runtime.

**Real-time animation and synchronization** Our solution is based on a prompter system.

The main bottleneck in character animation is the very large dimension of the parameter space (50-80 degrees of freedom per actor).

We will decompose the parameter space into a hierarchy of nested subspaces: (a) blocking parameters controlled directly by the director, including actions, attitudes, stage positions and trajectories, etc.; (b) proxemic parameters computed by the autonomous actors in relation to each other, to the stage and to the audience, given the blocking directions; (c) kinesic parameters computed by the the autonomous actors to realize the blocking directions, given the their proxemic relations.

# 2 Programme scientifique et technique, organisation du projet / Scientific and technical programme, Project organisation

A titre indicatif : de 5 A 10 pages pour ce chapitre, en fonction du nombre de tÂcches

## 2.1 Programme scientifique et structuration du projet / Scientific programme, project structure

Présentez le programme scientifique et justifiez la décomposition en tÃcches du programme de travail en cohérence avec les objectifs poursuivis. Utilisez un diagramme pour présenter les liens entre les différentes tÃcches (organigramme technique) Les tÃcches représentent les grandes phases du projet. Elles sont en nombre limité. Le cas échéant (programmes exigeant la pluridisciplinarité), démontrer l'articulation entre les disciplines scientifiques. N'oubliez pas les tÃcches correspondant Ãă la dissémination et Ãă la valorisation, Ãă décrire en détails au Âğ4.

Work will be divided into four main work packages: (1) procedural animation of isolated actors; (2) procedural anima-tion of interaction between actors; (3) authoring and real-time control; (4) user evaluations. Through the authoring tool (WP3), a script is elaborated by a theater director (WP4); it gives direction to group of actors which act out autono-mously the commands of the script to position toward each other and in the virtual space (WP2). The behaviors of each actor is computed taking into account their emotional states and social relations (WP1).

#### 2.1.1 WP1. Kinesic component

thierry: ce passage lÃă doit probablement etre remontÃl' au dessus pour l'explication gÃl'nÃl'rale du flux entre WPs. This workpackage focuses on animation models for isolated actors. The inputs that are used by the methods to be developped in this WP are procedural animation scenario as output by WP2. Such a scenario includes in particular detailed indications on the action to be realized (walk from one point to another, carry object, knock on door, throw object, lift object, move object), the mood of the character (neutral, happy, afraid, angry, anxious, sad, proud, shameful) and a set of static information about the character that change the way people move (age, gender, morphology, corpulence, expressivity level, etc). Both action and mood may vary with time almong the animation while static information remain fixed per nature. These three sets of information will be refered hereafter as action context, mood context and profile context.

This WP aims at creating multi-modal statistical models of individual body movements from annotated, mainly from mocap data, to generate novel expressive animation suitable for dramatic performances. To do so we will tackle few difficult and open problems: Learning full body animation models for many settings including emotional state and actor's profile (morphology, expressivity level etc). Moreover while the animation model will be learned from a limited number of actors' data we want it to be able to be remapped to other actors. Next we will investigate learning animation models for new gestures and activities from only few training samples which will allow enriching the system easily by avoiding the costly and tedious task of gathering a large corpus of training data as usually required in statistical machine learning.

A first scientific lock lies in the design of generic body controllers able to synthesize the animation of the full body of a character for many settings (combination of action, emotion and actor's profile). It is an elegant way for producing smooth animation of complex motions which usually requires artifical smoothing and postprocessing. It is also a relevant modeling framework for learning from limited datasets. Indeed gathering a dataset including enough training samples for every combination of (action, emotion, actor profile) is unlikely. Defining generic models should allow to maximize the exploitation of the training data for learning, which is a key issue here. The idea is to build models that take as input contextual variables that encode the setting in such a way that the animation model for a particular action may be learned from all samples of this action whatever the mood, and from all samples of any action performed with this particular mood. One main idea for doing so consists in extending to full body animation the idea of contextual models [77, 20, 24] which are a variant of Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) that have shown strong potential for designing face controllers. Contextual HMMs are HMMs whose parameters (means of Gaussian distribution transition probabilities etc), are defined as a (learned) function of contextual variables. One Contextual HMM may be viewed as a continuum of HMMs, one model for every possible value of contextual variables. These models will serve as a baseline. Next, we will investigate the use of continuous state space models

and particularly of (deep) recurrent neural networks. Such models have shown strong abilities for dealing with complex signals like speech and handwriting [31]. The main difficulty lies here in imagining ways to integrate the idea of using contextual variales in these models in order to integrate contextual information that would modify the behaviour of the models. Finally we plan to explore alternative strategies such as using neuro muscular based models following ideas like the one of deltalognormal models from [27, ?] which allow recovering the sequence of neuromuscular commands that generated a handwritten gesture.

A second lock will concern the animation of the face in dialogue situations. Given that we have worked previously with three complementary methods, we will focus here on how to mix our face animation models: mocap based animation, video-based animation, and procedural anmation. The latter animation model is already working and part of the GRETA system. The mocap based animation model will be easily built on previous works by the team [?]. Finally starting from previous work on visual prosody we will design the third model ... Ideally, this should be done without MOCAP data, using only audio and video processing, possibly enhanced with depth (kinect). To be continued (RÃI'mi)...We will explore strategies for optimally combining these three animation models...

Finally we want our animation models easily extendable to new activities and moods, by making them learnable from only few training samples. This will allow enriching the system easily whitout a costly and tedious task of gathering a large corpus of training data as usually required in statistical machine learning. Learning models, and particularly statistical models from few samples is a key and open issue [49]. We will mainly explore two ways that aim at favoring transfer from learning one gesture model to learning another gesture model. First, few preliminary works have shown that contextual markovian models such as the ones proposed in [77] for gesture recognition could be defined in such a way that the data from all gesture classes could be exploited to learn models for all gesture classes. Second using continuous state space models with a low dimensional state space such as Reccurrent neural nets (corresponding to the degree of freedom of body poses) should permit characterizing a particular gesture as its dynamic in this latent space whose limited dimension would enable learning from few samples.

All along the project we will rely as much as possible on existing datasets. For instance Mocap data of considered actions have already been recorded by C. Pelachaud within the project Feder Anipev (http://www.anipev.com/). The corpus EMILYA (EMotional body expression in daiLY Actions databaseBodily Emotional Actions Behavior) (Fourati, 2014) is constituted of 7 actions performed by 11 actors with 8 emotions. The actions encompass everyday actions such as walking, carrying an object, and sitting. The emotions cover the positive and negative spectrum.

# 2.1.2 WP2. Proxemic component : procedural animation models for interaction between actors.

Previous works on modeling group formation have been mainly applied to ECAs and have focused on the spatial posi-tioning and orientation of the ECAs (Pedica, 2010). Few researches have looked at modeling group of ECAs with dif-ferent personalities and social attitudes (Gillies 2004; Prada, 2005). However these models do not consider the dynamic evolution of the group behaviors nor how do the actors' behaviours synchronize with each other. In this task, we focus on simulating group of autonomous actors interacting with each other where each actor is defined by its emotional state and its relation toward others and objects. Social relations can be represented by two dimensions, affiliation and domi-nance (Wiggins 1979). We will extend

group behavior model (Pedica 2010) that embeds the F-Formation proposed by Kendon (2004) to consider social relations and emotional states of actors.

Physical distance between actors, their body orientation toward each other, gaze direction, facial expression, gesture expressivity are cues of the relation with others and with objects and of emotional states. These cues will be embedded in the proxemics component. They evolve con-tinuously in relation to the others' behaviors. To simulate the dynamic evolution of these behaviors we will make use of Neural Network simulation (Prepin 2013) where we can render how behaviors of one actor can act on behaviors of other actors (eg walking powerfully toward an actor with an angry expression will result in moving backward of another actor with a less dominant attitude. Mutual coupling of behaviors will be modeled as emerging from such action-reactive behavior simulation (Prepin 2013) ensuring not only the synchronization between actors' behaviors but also their mutual influence. This task will be led by Telecom ParisTech with the contribution of Inria.

## 2.1.3 WP3. Performance authoring and real-time execution.

This work package will elaborate a common conceptual framework for assembling all the behaviors, goals and animations of all actors into a coordinated, real time performance. Based on this framework, we will develop software tools for authoring the performance and controlling it in real-time. Authoring of performances will be based on traditional cue sheet, which are familiar to theatre directors (Gagneré 2012, Ronfard 2012). Cue-sheet are multi-modal documents consisting of blocking notations written in a pseudo-natural language of verbs and adverbs, together with a graphical annotation providing spatial and temporal cue signals for all actor movements, using stage views and floor plan views. A cue-sheet provides a convenient notation of stage directions, which can be easily created and edited by directors, and used a specification for a virtual performance. Internally, we will compile the cue sheet into a hierarchical finite-state machine, which is a de-facto standard in real-time game engines.

We will take advantage of the motion models created in WP1 and WP2 to create finite-state machines with a rich vo-cabulary of high-level actor behaviors, suitable for generating complex performances. Following (Mateas 2002), we will decompose the input cue-sheet into minimal units of behaviors (beats) organized as one state-machine per actor, all connected together, and one state-machine for a stage manager controlling the advancement of the storyline. Depending on their current states, virtual actors will update their positions, orientations and gaze directions using be-haviors from WP2, and their other animation parameters using procedural models from WP1.

All software tools developed in WP1 and WP2 will thus be integrated into a common runtime, playable in the Unity game engine, and used in WP4 for evaluation and validation. This task will be led by Inria, with contributions from all partners.

## 2.1.4 WP4. Evaluation and validation.

This task will insure the integration of the research prototype within the cultural context of creative industries and artis-tic practices. Using the autonomous digital actors from WP1, WP2 and WP3, Paris 8 will create short theatre scenes covering the spectrum of actions and emotions covered by the project. The directorial constraints will be adapted to the research scope in order to guarantee expressive results matching creative issues. A survey of teachers and creators from theater, dance, cinema, digital art, video game of Paris 8 creative environment

will help to design the prototype in the direction of users' needs. Evaluation and validation will include short staged performances targeting different application areas, including theatre, pantomime, staging of chorists in opera, as well as previsualization of movie scenes and simulation of non player characters in video games. It will aim at a high expressive level of realization and give feed-back on the quality of animation and the usability of the authoring tools offered for directing virtual actors in those contexts. This task will be supervised by Paris 8 with contributions from members of the Labex Arts-H2H leading project Process of directing actors which involves international stage directors teachers and students of the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique (CNSAD 'National theater school).

# 2.2 Management du projet / Project management

Préciser les aspects organisationnels du projet et les modalités de coordination (si possible individualisation d'une tÃcche de coordination).

#### 2.2.1 WP0. Coordination

Four one-day meetings per year -> 14 meetings, including kick-off meeting and final review meeting.

Collegical decision making: A steering committee composed of Thierry Artières, Georges Gagneré, Catherine Pelachaud and Rémi Ronfard will make all important decisions in unanimity. In cases of disagreements, a compromise will have to be found. The committee will meet before every consortium meeting and its decisions will be communicated to all consortium members and to ANR.

Software development will be coordinated by Inria and Paris 8 using rapid prototyping methods. All PHD Students will be asked to contribute their latest results to be included in the DADA prototype at least twice a year (two months each). The rest of their time will be devoted to their research work. References on rapid prototyping would be useful.

Source code files will be signed by all contributing authors, together with their affiliations, to properly track intellectual property rights.

A consortium agreement will be signed in the course of the first year to define a common intellectual property rights policy. In order to patent their inventions, partners should seek authorization from all other partners. The other partners cannot prevent the patent unless they have prior art. The partners can ask to be mentioned as co-inventors if they can demonstrate that they contriuted to the invention.

The consortium is composed exclusively of academic partners, whose goal is primarily to disseminate and publish their research work, not to commercialize software.

On the other hand, some of the inventions may have a commercial value. We will seek advice from a small board of industry experts from relevant French companies (Goalem, Quantum Dream, Ubisoft, Dassault Systèmes) to detect and address such cases and make sure that potentially important inventions are protected and made available to them.

# 2.3 Description des travaux par tÃcche / Description by task

Pour chaque tÂcche, décrire : les objectifs et éventuels indicateurs de succès, les personnes impliquées, le programme détaillé des travaux, les livrables, les contributions des personnes impliquées.

sonnes (le qui fait quoi ), la description des méthodes et des choix techniques et de la manière dont les solutions seront apportées, les risques et les solutions de repli envisagées.

#### 2.3.1 WP1 Kinesics

WP1	Kinesic component
Responsable	ECM
Participants	Inria, Telecom ParisTech
Duration	
Objectives	
Content	
Task 11	Full body animation
Task12	Interaction animation
Task13	Learning from few samples

The aim of this WP is to develop new generic models able to produce animation of a single character. It includes designing animation models of a character realizing an action (walking, sitting etc) given a context that consists in a particular mood and in character profile (age, gender) as well as designing models for taking into account the interaction of the character with others (gaze, harm gesture). Moreover it will explore the ability to extend these models in order to deal with only few training data by relying on transfer learning strategies.

The workpackage is divided into three subtasks which are dedicated to the animation of the full body of a character, to the animation of specific parts of its body which are engaged in an interaction with another character (mainly the face) by combining few animation models, and to the specific strategies that will be explored for learning such models from few training data.

**Task 1.1. Generic full body animation model** We will first focus on the design of generic body controllers able to synthesize the animation of the full body of a character (through the sequence of mocap representation) for a given procedural animation scenario as output by WP2, i.e. a sequence of actions realized with a particular mood context and for a specific character profile (morphology, expressivity level).

To start we will consider that there is one model per action and that the animation produced by such a model should take into account, as inputs, the mood context as well as the character profile context, later on we will investigate one model for all settings (action, mood, charecter profile). We will investigate modeling frameworks that allow taking into account the contextual variables (e.g. mood components and profile components) as few inputs which are mixed to produce an animation. This will enable learning from a limited combination of (mood, profile) settings while allowing extrapolating to any other combination (mood, profile). Whatever the models under investigation we will pay attention to focus on strategies that enable synthesizing smooth transition between successive actions, moods, or gestures. We plan to investigate the following lines of research:

Firstly we will investigate *contextual markovian models* where gaussian probability density functions associated to states are parameterized by (i.e. defined as a function of) contextual observation (mood and profile information). Recent work has demonstrated such models for the case of locomotion believable controllers, gesture controllers (Levine 2010) and face controllers [77, 20, 24]. We will aim to generalize these works to more general action controllers, including such actions as: sitting, standing, walking, grasping, taking and putting objects, in a variety of

expressions and moods. These models will serve as a baseline for evaluating new modeling approaches.

Second, we will investigate the use of (deep) neural networks and of dynamic versions of these (i.e. recurrent neural nets) which have demonstrated strong abilities to model, to classify and to synthesize complex signals such as speech or handwriting [?, ?, 32, 31]. These models are related to what is called representation learning which emerged in the last few years as a key topic in the machine learning community 2 (Contardo 2014). One main difficulty will be to integrate the use of contextual information as input in order to modify the behaviour of the models. We plan to extend the principle of contextual markovian models to neural nets by investigating ideas like designing bilinear layers in the neural net where weights could be defined as a function of the contextual input, inspired by works like [101, 42]. At last we will investigate low dimensional state space models such as neuro muscular based models following ideas like [?] which aims at recovering from a handwritten signal the sequence of neuromuscular commands that generated the handwriting signal. The underlying idea here is to exploit such models in order to work in a new representation space, the space of neuromuscular commands that generate motion, rather than on the observed motion itself. Although such models have not been used to model complex gestures up to now it is expected that they could be robust enough to provide good estimation of the command sequence. The main advantage of such a change of representation space is an expected reduction of the dimension of this space (as in [95]), enabling easier learning from few samples and transfer learning (as will be investigated in task 13).

**Task 1.2. Combining models for face animation** The second task focuses on learning models of gesture and facial expressions in dialogue situations. It is dedicated to the combination of animation models, which is a diifuckt and open question, with a focus on the animation of the face. We will start from available face animation models in the consortium: a mocap based animation [20], a video-based animation [?], and a procedural animation [69] (integrated in the GRETA system).

All of these models types have pros and cons. While statically-driven models are more prone to produce natural looking animation, cognitive models capture more precisely the semantic emotional behaviors to communicate. These latter ones are often event-driven; that is they compute a behavior only when a given communicative function is specified. Statically driven models produce animation continuously that captures the communicative colour of the message to convey but they have difficulty to compute behaviors which have specific meaning. As a result, virtual agents driven by cognitive-like system are able to convey more precise displays while those driven by statistical models look more natural and lively [52].

We will explore ways to combine few such animation models which remains an open question today, be it for animating the face of the full body [?]. We will explore strategies and implement these within the Greta framework where communicative intentions and emotions are represented with the FLM language while multimodal behaviors with BML [94]. The merge of multiple animation models may be performed as a weighted blend of the animations produced where the weights might be context dependent and tuned either manually or automatically, alike in [85]. Alternatively the animation models may be merged earlier, when deciding which kind of motion to launch, or may have asymetric role. For instance, the procedural animation model (or semantically-driven?) might act as the main animation model and use when neccessary animatyions produced by the other models.

<sup>2.</sup> See the recently born ICLR conference on Learning Representations at http://www.iclr.cc/

Task 1.3. Learning from few samples We will mainly investigate two approches for extending approaches developped in task T11 to enable learning from few samples. The first strategy consists in extending the idea of context variables that models of task T11 rely on in order to design a global model for all actions. In the case of markovian model for instance this means that instead of definig one model per action one could define a unique global markovian model where every state would stand for a particular position of the body and performing an action would correspond to following a path (i.e. a state sequence) in this big model. Making transition probablities dependent on the action to perform such a big model would be instaiated as an action model by considering a bundle of paths only in this model. Doing so one could expect that all the training data (whatever the action it corresponds to) could be exploited to learn all the states of this big markovian model, hence implementing some kind of transfer learning between actions. A new action would correspond then in a bundle of paths in this model and could be learnt from few samples only. Preliminary works that we did let us expect that such a strategy would work with statistical markovian models (Ding et al., 2013). In this case the above idea is implementing by introducing new contextual variables, which might be at the simplest on-hot indicators of the action to perform (a vector with zeros everywhere but at the position of the action number), that modify the gaussian densities. We will first investigate this strategy deeper for contextual markovien models then we will extend this approach to neural networks...

Second we will explore the use of using continuous state space models with a low dimensional state space (e.g. corresponding to the degree of freedom of body poses or to the neuro muscular commands) which should permit characterizing a particular motion or gesture as its dynamic in this latent space whose limited dimension would enable learning from few samples...

**Deliverables** bla bla bla

Deliverables	Name and content	Date
L1.1	Report on the state of the art for statistical models for animation synthesis	
L1.2		
L1.3		

Partners' roles bla bla

### 2.3.2 WP2 Proxemics

WP2	Proxemic component
Responsable	LTCI
Participants	Inria, ECM
Duration	
Objectives	
Content	
Task 21	Communicative behaviours
Task22	Steering behaviours
Task23	Combination of statistical and procedural models

In this workpackage we are interested in modeling behaviors of group of agents while conversing and while moving around. We will pay particular attention at the social interaction of the agents during these activities. We will also develop an animation model that incorporates

two models: statistical model as developed in WP1 and procedural model developed within the Greta platform.

Task 2.1: Group behaviors during multi-way conversation In this task we will model multiparty conversation behaviors. We will focus on turn-taking management. While indication of what the agents would say to whom and when will be provided by a script (Task 3.1 and Task 4.X), the turn-taking model will instantiate which behaviors the agents will display. Gaze, body orientation, position in space are important cues for indicating who has the turn, who wants to keep it, to give it to someone, who listens? We will extend an existing turn-taking model [78] that is based on Sack?s model [81], that embeds F-Formation [44] and that takes into account social attitude of the agents toward each other. This model is implemented as a state machine where the states are defined by the turn-taking and correspond to conversational roles. Transition between states is triggered when an agent changes conversational role. Attitudes vary the behavior of the agents such as their propensity to gaze at others. We will extend this model to simulate different configurations of speech overlap such as terminal overlaps, conditional access to the turn, and choral [82] as well as long silences when nobody takes the turn. We will add further states to encompass more conversational functions (eg greeting, word search?). We will also model that transitions from one state to another one can bring the agents of a group to be in the same state (parallel configuration as when greeting each other or laughing together).

Task 2.2 : Group behaviors during stage movements? implementation of advanced ń steering behaviors  $\dot{z}$  such as follow, flee, separate, join, merge, enter stage, exit stage, This task will model agents? behavior when moving around in the environment. The animation of the virtual agent doing some tasks will be given by WP1. It will not focus on path planning as this information will be provided by a script (Task 3.1 and Task 4.X). Rather it will model how agents perform displacement in social settings. Gaze direction, body orientation and spatial distance to other agents will be computing for different ?steering behaviors ?. These features will be modeled through different synchronization mechanisms: moving in synch, moving ahead, following, etc. They evolve dynamically in function of each agent?s position and orientation in space. The basic animation of the agent, ie without any influence from surrounding agent, is given by WP1. To simulate the dynamic evolution of agens? behaviors we will make use of Neural Network simulation [76] where we can render how behaviors of one actor can act on behaviors of other actors (eg walking powerfully toward an actor with an angry expression will result in moving backward of another actor with a less dominant attitude. Mutual coupling of behaviors will be modeled as emerging from such action-reactive behavior simulation [76] ensuring not only the synchronization between actors? behaviors but also their mutual influence.

Task 2.3: Combination of statistical and procedural models. In this task we will develop an animation model that will merge animations coming from statistical model developed in WP1 and procedural model developed in WP2 (Task 2.1 and Task 2.2). This blend is required for the interaction settings where behaviors of the agents are driven by both animation models. The procedural model relies on forward and inverse kinematic models [41]. It controls the arms position, gaze direction and body orientation. The statistical model (from WP1) controls the whole body. Our animation blender model will work at the modalities level and will also incorporate

movement propagation; that is how motion of one body part affects other body parts. At first, the animation blender model will merge whole body motion computed by the statistical model as specific body motion computed by the procedural model. More precisely, arms position, gaze direction and body orientation outputted by the procedural model will be viewed as constraints to be reached. These motions will be added onto the animation computed by statistical model; the position of the arms, head and torso computed by the procedural model will overwrite those computed by the statistical model. In a second step, the animation blender model will incorporate propagation of movements. To compute movement propagation we will develop a statistical model that learns which motion is due to action and which motion is due to movement propagation.

**Deliverables** bla bla

Deliverables	Name and content	Date
L1.1	Report on the state of the art of proxemics models in computer animation	
L1.2		
L1.3		

## 2.3.3 WP3 Authoring

WP3	Authoring
Responsable	Inria
Participants	Paris 8, ECM, Telecom ParisTech
Duration	
Objectives	
Content	
Task 31	Blocking language
Task12	Authoring tools
Task13	Real-time animation

**Task31 : Specification of a dramatic language for virtual actors.** This will include a choice of verbs (actions, speech acts, movements) and adverbs (moods, attitudes, dramatic effects) for directing actors; define cues as synchronisation points between actors; define parallel and sequential behaviors; etc.

Part of this language will be devoted to stage blocking / movement

Part of this language will be devoted to dialogue

**Task32 : Authoring tools for blocking a scene with multiple actors.** Design and implementation of authoring tools for creating animation with the dramatic language.

Previous work has focused on direct annotation of play-scripts with high-level (FML) or low-level (BML) mark-up.

From a user perspective, this is neither intuitive nor expressive. Instead, we will offer authoring tools with natural interaction, taking inspiration from existing practices in theatre (prompt-books, cue sheet, storyboards, etc.).

The authoring tool may include multimodal interaction with the director: sketching tools for designing actor trajectories and meeting points; writing tools for adding didascalia to dialogues; timeline-driven interaction for defining cue points and actions, timing, etc.

User interface for directing actors by sketching stage floor plans and composing the dramatic score; one line per actor per motion component (proxemic behaviors, kinesic actions, kinesic moods, speech acts, etc.)

Compilation of the language into a finite state machine and/or Petri net; allowing real-time execution of the dramatic score.

**Task33: Real-time execution of the dramatic score.** This should include real-time combination of proxemic (procedural) and kinesic components of motion; non-deterministic motion generation; synchronization to cues; real-time skinning and advanced 3D animation; integration of physically-based secondary animation (skin, hair, clothes, etc.)

This includes integration of the GRETA BML realizer with IMAGINE animation; and real-time integration of the statistical models of motion with the procedural animation components.

One challenge to be overcome is in combining full body animation and interaction animation at runtime.

We believe it will be an importa asset for the DADA platform that each performance is unique, and can be controlled in real time by cues given by the director.

We will pay particular attention to design models capable of generating real animations. Indeed synthezing from statistical models usually resumes to finding the most likely animation sequence in a given situation, which may yield to too similar and unrealistic animations.

Actually one would be pretty much interested in synthezing animations that are both likely given the learnt statistical models but also exhibiting the variability one can observe in human motion and gestures. Introducing such a stochastic component in the synthesis while maintaining a high quality animation level is not straightforward and is an open question that we will have to solve.

## Partners' roles bla bla

**Deliverables** bla bla

Deliverables	Name and content	Date
L1.1	Report on the state of the art for virtual theatre	
L1.2		
L1.3		

## 2.3.4 WP4 User evaluation and validation

WP4	User evaluation and alidation			
Responsable	Paris 8			
Participants	ECM, Inria, LTCI			
Duration				
Objectives				
Content				
Task 41	Scenarios			
Task 42	Validation of interaction			
Task 43	Validation of animation			

### Task41 Scenarios.

Writing scenes with didascalia

Dialogue scenes with groups of 2 or 3 actors using a choice of didascalia

Movements with groups of 2 or 3 actors using a choice of didascalia

Alternations of dialogue and stage movements in theatre scenes with 2 or 3 actors

A possible choice would be "the augmentation", a play by Georges Perec with a large number of variations on a single theme (an employee asks an augmentation from his boss in the presence of his secretary).

### **Task42** Validation of the interaction.

Is the dramatic language adequate? useful? efficient?

Is the dramatic score interface adequate? useful? efficient?

Is the stage floor plan sketching tool adequate? useful? efficient?

## Task43 Validation of the animation

Dialogue scenes with groups of 2, 3 and 4 actors.

Silent stage movements of groups of 2, 3 and 4 actors, as in opera synched to music

Combination of dialogue and action for scenes with 2 actors

### **Deliverables** bla bla

Deliverables	Name and content	Date
L4.1	Selection and annotation of example scenes	
L4.2	Usability of authoring tools	
L4.3	Evaluation of single-character and multiple-character animation	

### Additional notes

We will dedicate joint research between Inria and LIF to make it easy to extend our database of actions and attitudes using video, rather than motion capture. This will necessitate fundamental research in transfer learning (so that the sparse data obtained from video can benefit from the dense data obtained with motion capture) and video processing. Following the methodology of gesture controllers [54], where the gesture are controlled directly by speech prosody features extracted from real actors voices, it appears possible to drive expressive and plausible gestures and body movements from visual signatures of actions and attitudes extracted from example videos.

We will use our previous work in actor and action recognition [98, 97, 30] to detect and recognize actors and their actions in real movies; and extract visual signatures of the corresponding actions and attitudes. Based on this analysis, we will learn joint statistical models for driving gesture controllers from those video signals.

Combining proxemics and kinesics components can be done along the lines of Mitake et al. [68], where the degrees of freedom of a virtual character are separated into six parameters for rigid body simulations, and four parameters for encoding multi-dimensional keyframe animations. Similarly, we would like to hide the complexity of high-dimensional character animation (with 40-60 degrees of freedom) behind a small number of control parameters. We will extend rigid body simulations to include proxemic interaction forces in WP2. And we will replace keyframe animations with statistical models learned from data in WP1.

One promising avenue for research will be to design strategies for controlling the proxemic components of character animation using the rigid motion of the head, rather than the full

body. Sreenivasa et al. [87] have proposed inverse kinematics methods for computing the body motion of a humanoid robot, including footsteps and walking patterns of motion, given its head motion. In the context of DADA, the head motion of the virtual actors could similarly be put under the direct control of the director because it plays such an important expressive and dramatic function. The full body motion could then be computed with the constraints that the actor's head motion matches the director's directions, and the prescribed actions (walking, sitting, standing, etc.) and attitudes (sadly, swiftly, merrily, etc.).

# 2.4 Calendrier des tÃcches, livrables et jalons / Tasks schedule, deliverables and milestones

Présenter sous forme graphique un échéancier des différentes tÃcches et leurs dépendances (diagramme de Gantt par exemple). Présenter un tableau synthétique de l'ensemble des livrables du projet (numéro de tÃcche, date, intitulé, responsable). Préciser de faÃgon synthétique les jalons scientifiques et/ou techniques, les principaux points de rendez-vous, les points bloquants ou aléas qui risquent de remettre en cause l'aboutissement du projet ainsi que les réunions de projet prévues.

# 3 Stratégie de valorisation, de protection et d'exploitation des résultats / Dissemination and exploitation of results. intellectual property

A titre indicatif: 2 pages maximum pour ce chapitre. Présenter les stratégies de valorisation des résultats: la communication scientifique, la communication auprès d'autres communautés scientifiques et du grand public, notamment la promotion faite Ãă la culture scientifique et technique. Si un budget spécifique est prévu Ãă cet effet, le spécifier et l'identifier dans une tÃcche de la proposition (voir Âğ 3.1). les résultats attendus en matière de valorisation, les retombées scientifiques, techniques, industrielles, économiques, 'la place du projet dans la stratégie industrielle des entreprises partenaires du projet, les autres retombées (normalisation, information des pouvoirs publics, formation dans l'enseignement supérieur, ...), les échéances et la nature des retombées technico-économiques attendues, l'incidence éventuelle sur l'emploi, la création d'activités nouvelles, '

Présenter les grandes lignes des modes de protection et d'exploitation des résultats.

# 4 Description de l'equipe / Team description

A titre indicatif: 2 pages maximum pour ce chapitre.

# 4.1 Description, adéquation et complémentarité des participants / Partners description, relevance and complementarity

Fournir les éléments permettant d'apprécier la qualification des personnes impliquées dans la proposition de projet (le pourquoi qui fait quoi ). Il peut s'agir de réalisations passées, d'indicateurs (publications, brevets), de l'intérÂt pour le projet' Montrer la complémentarité et la valeur ajoutée des coopérations entre les différents participants. Le cas échéant, l'interdisciplinarité

et l'ouverture Ãă diverses collaborations seront Ãă justifier en accord avec les orientations du projet.

The consortium involves three research teams with complementary experience in computer graphics, intelligent virtual agents and statistical machine learning and a research team in theatre studies. Telecom ParisTech and University of Marseille are already working together on facial animation from speech through the co-supervision of Yu Ding's thesis (Ding 2013). Inria/Imagine and Paris 8 are also already working together on directing audiovisual prosody of actors, as part of Adéla Barbulescu thesis (Barbulescu 2014). Results of the two theses will be exploited in the project.

# 4.2 Qualification du coordinateur du projet / Qualification of the project coordinateur

0,5 page maximum Fournir les éléments permettant de juger la capacité du coordinateur Ãă coordonner le projet.

Rémi Ronfard is a senior researcher at Inria in the IMAGINE team, whose research is devoted to designing novel interfaces between artists and computers (Intuitive Modeling and Animation for Interactive Graphics & Narrative Envi-ronments). He has a 20 year experience in industry and academia in France, Canada and USA, and has directed an R & D team on virtual cinematography at Montreal-based startup Xtranormal Technologies. He will be acting as coordinator of DADA.

# 4.3 Qualification, rÃt'le et implication des participants / Qualification and contribution of each partner

(1 page maximum) Qualifier les personnes, préciser leurs activités principales et leurs compétences propres.

Pour chacune des personnes dont l'implication dans le projet est supérieure Ãă 25% de son temps sur la totalité du projet (c'est-Ãă-dire une moyenne de 3 hommes.mois par année de projet), une biographie d'une page maximum sera placée en annexe du présent document qui comportera : Nom, prénom, Ãége, cursus, situation actuelle Autres expériences professionnelles Liste des cinq publications (ou brevets) les plus significatives des cinq dernières années, nombre de publications dans les revues internationales ou actes de congrès Ãă comité de lecture. Prix, distinctions Si besoin, pour chacune des personnes, leur implication dans d'autres projets (Contrats publics et privés effectués ou en cours sur les trois dernières années) sera présentée et fournie en annexe du présent document. On précisera l'implication dans des projets européens ou dans d'autres types de projets nationaux ou internationaux. Expliciter l'articulation entre les travaux proposés et les travaux antérieurs ou déjÃă en cours.

**Inria** Marie-Paule Cani is a full-time professor at INPG and director of the IMAGINE team. She will contribute to DADA with her recent work on implicit skinning, advanced hair style rendering, advanced clothe adaptation, etc.

**Damien Rohmer** is an associate member of the IMAGINE team. He will contribute to DADA with his recent work on implicit skinning? physically-based animation?

**Adela Barbulescu** is a third-year Phd student who will work part-time on the DADA project during her post-doc in 2016. She will contribute to DADA with her recent work on visual prosody, which will be extended for joint generation of speech and facial animation from directorial input.

Name	First name	Position	Field of re- search	PM	Contribution to the proposal
Artières	Thierry	Pr	Machine Learning	30	WP1 (task leader), WP2 and WP3,
Emyia	Valentin	Assistant Pr	Machine Learning and Signal Processing	10	WP1

TABLE 1 – Qualification and contribution of each partner

**ECM** Two main researchers from the QARMA team will participate to the project.

Thierry Artières is a professor at University of Aix-Marseille, and a member of the *QARMA team* (eQuipe AppRentissage et MultimÃl'dia) at LIF (Laboratoire dâĂŹInformatique Fondamentale). One of his major research topic concerns machine learning for multimedia applications, more particularly for sequences and signals, either for classification, pattern discovery, sequence labeling and sequence synthesis, with strong experience with various signals such as speech, bioacoustics, handwriting, gestures, eye movements, WII signals, Kinect and motion capture data. He is author or co-author of about sixty papers and articles in top ranked international conferences (NIPS, ICML, AISTAT, ICASSP, EMNLP) and journals (IEEE PAMI, JMLR, Pattern Recognition) in the fields of theoretical as well as applied machine learning (speech and handwriting recognition, user modeling) and artificial intelligence.

**Valetin Emiya** is assistant professor in the QARMA team at LIF since 2011. He has conducted research in audio processing and sparse models for 8 years and has strong connexion with the signal processing group at I2M Lab in Marseille. His current works on models and algorithms for audio inpainting (see [3, 2] and project ANR JCJC MAD), i.e. interpolation and extrapolation in audio sequences. This works are currently being extended to the extrapolation of gesture for the control of electronic musical instrument and contemporary music creation, through the Progest project by GdR ISIS (2014-2016) in collaboration with the gmem Centre National de CrÃl'ation Musicale (http://www.gmem.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=5580144&Itemid=13660).

## Paris 8 Georges Gagneré bla bla Cédric Plassier bla bla

LTCI (Laboratoire de Traitement et Communication de I ?Information) is a joint laboratory between CNRS and TELECOM ParisTech (UMR 5141). It hosts all the research efforts of TELECOM ParisTech (a faculty of about 150 full-time staff (full professors, associate and assistant professors), 30 full time researchers from CNRS and 300 Ph.D students). Its disciplines include all the sciences and techniques that fall within the term "Information and Communications": Computer Science Networks, Communications, Electronics, Signal and Image Processing, as well as the study of economic and social aspects associated with modern technology.

Catherine Pelachaud is Director of Research at CNRS in the laboratory LTCI, TELECOM ParisTech. She received her PhD in Computer Graphics at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA in 1991. Her research interest includes representation languages for agents, embodied conversational agents, nonverbal communication (face, gaze, and gesture), expres-

sive behaviours and multimodal interfaces. She has been involved and is still involved in several European projects related to multimodal communication (EAGLES, IST-ISLE), to believable embodied conversational agents (IST-MagiCster, FP5 PF-STAR), emotion (FP5 NoE HUMAINE, FP6 IP CALLAS, FP7 STREP SEMAINE) and social behaviours (FP7 NoE SSPNet, H2020 Aria-Valuspa).

Chloé Clavel is Assistant Professor at Telecom Paristech. She owned a PhD on acoustic analysis of emotional speech. Before joining Telecom ParisTech she worked as a researcher at Thales Research and Technology where she focused on emotion analysis; then she became a researcher at EDF R & D working on sentiment analysis and opinion mining. She has participated to several collaborative projects and has coordinated one national project.

Yu Ding is post-doctorant at CNRS? LTCI. He has obtained his PhD in September 2014 under the supervision of Thierry Artières and Catherine Pelachaud. His topics of interest are to develop data-driven approach for expressive animation of virtual agents.

# 5 Justification scientifique des moyens demandés / Scientific justification of requested ressources

On présentera ici la justification scientifique et technique des moyens demandés dans le document de soumission tel que synthétisé et rempli en ligne sur le site de soumission dans la fiche tableaux récapitulatifs du document administratif et financier tel que rempli en ligne sur le site de soumission. Justifier les moyens demandés en distinguant les différents postes de dépenses. (2 pages maximum)

Budget: We request a financial aid of 450 K $\in$ for 3 PhD students (360 K $\in$ ), 1 post-doc at Paris 8 (40 K $\in$ ), computer hardware and software (10 k $\in$ ), travel expenses (40 K $\in$ ). The project duration should be 42 months in order to develop a functional prototype and to use it to animate several play scripts.

# 5.1 équipement / Equipment

Préciser la nature des équipements\* et justifier le choix des équipements (un devis pourra Ãłtre demandé si le projet est retenu pour financement). Dans le cas oÃź les achats doivent Ãłtre complétés par d'autres sources de financement, indiquer le montant et l'origine de ces aides complémentaires, et le pourcentage demandé Ãă l'ANR sur le présent projet.

### 5.2 Personnel / Staff

Le personnel non permanent (thèses, post- doctorants, CDD...) financé sur le projet devra Ãłtre justifié. Fournir les profils des postes Ãă pourvoir pour les personnels Ãă recruter.

Pour les thèses, préciser si des demandes de bourse de thèse sont prévues ou en cours, en préciser la nature et la part de financement imputable au projet.

## 5.3 Prestation de service externe / Subcontracting

Préciser : la nature des prestations, le type de prestataire.

## 5.4 Missions / Travel

Préciser : les missions liées aux travaux d'acquisition sur le terrain (campagnes de mesures'), les missions relevant de colloques, congrès'

# 5.5 Dépenses justifiées sur une procédure de facturation interne / Costs justified by internal procedures of invoicing

Préciser la nature des prestations.

## 5.6 Autres dépenses de fonctionnement / Other expenses

Toute dépense significative relevant de ce poste devra Âltre justifiée.

# 6 Références bibliographiques / References

Inclure la liste des références bibliographiques utilisées dans la partie Etat de l'art et les références bibliographiques des partenaires ayant trait au projet.

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