

HUMAN-CENTERED PERSPECTIVES IN INTERACTIVE MACHINE LEARNING FOR ADVANCING AMBIENT INTELLIGENCE

***Dr. B Vasavi¹, Samatha Konda², M S V V Satya Narayana³, B Ganga Bhavani⁴**

¹Associate Professor, MVSR Engineering College, Hyderabad, Telangana-501510

²Assistant Professor, Muffakam Jah Engineering College, Hyderabad, Telangana-500034

³UG Scholar, St. Martin's Engineering College, Secunderabad, Telangana – 500100

⁴Assistant Professor, St. Martin's Engineering College, Secunderabad, Telangana – 500100

***Corresponding Author**

Email: vasavi_it@mvsrec.edu.in

Abstract—As the vision of Ambient Intelligence (AmI) becomes more feasible, the challenge of designing effective and usable human-machine interaction in this context becomes increasingly important. Interactive Machine Learning (IML) offers a set of techniques and tools to involve end-users in the machine learning process, making it possible to build more trustworthy and adaptable ambient systems. In this paper, our focus is on exploring approaches to effectively integrate and assist human users within ML-based AmI systems. Through a survey of key IML-related contributions, we identify principles for designing effective human-AI interaction in AmI applications. We apply them to the case of Opportunistic Composition, which is an approach to achieve AmI, to enhance collaboration between humans and Artificial Intelligence. Our study highlights the need for user-centered and context-aware design, and provides insights into the challenges and opportunities of integrating IML techniques into AmI systems

Keywords: Human-Computer Interaction, User Interfaces, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ambient Intelligence (AmI) aims to provide a personalized physical and software environment that adapts to users' needs and situations (Sadri, 2011; Dunne et al., 2021). Its potential impact is significant, as it can enhance human-environment interaction through the integration of intelligent systems into everyday life. There are various applications of AmI, particularly in the fields of healthcare (Acampora et al., 2013), transportation (Velastin et al., 2004), energy management (Robinson et al., 2015), and smart homes (Makonin et al., 2012). However, the dynamics, openness, and unpredictability of ambient environments pose significant challenges to the development of effective AmI systems, particularly due to the mobility of devices and users, and the diversity of components in the environment. To overcome these challenges, solutions must take into account the operational context, including user preferences and needs that may vary with time. Opportunistic Composition is an approach to achieve AmI. It revolves around the idea of dynamically and opportunistically constructing complex applications by leveraging existing software components in the environment. The goal of Opportunistic Composition is to enable the seamless integration and collaboration of these components to create adaptive and context-aware systems. It is achieved by the Opportunistic Composition Engine (OCE) (Delcourt et al., 2021), that relies on Machine Learning in interaction with the human user.

Interactive Machine Learning (IML) (Fails & Olsen Jr, 2003) investigates ways to enable humans to teach machine learning algorithms, with a focus on providing tools that are usable by end-users without machine learning backgrounds. As such, IML can provide a valuable set of tools and techniques for addressing the challenges of AmI and enabling more effective human-machine interaction. The aim of this paper is to survey design solutions and recommendations that enhance the collaboration between a human and a learning machine. Then, we analyze their application to Opportunistic Composition. To achieve this goal, we undertake a critical review (Grant & Booth, 2009) of the existing IML-related literature. By critically analyzing and synthesizing insights from this body of work, we aim to advance Opportunistic Composition while uncovering potential applications beyond the specific context of our project. Indeed, the solutions and recommendations we provide mark the initial steps in addressing the question of designing socially responsible AI solutions (Cheng et al., 2021) that provide a fair, transparent and secure interaction. The article is structured as follows: • Section 2 offers a comprehensive overview of the fields of Machine Learning, Interactive Machine Learning, and sets the research questions that this survey aims to address. • Section 3 provides a thorough analysis of several key IML-related contributions that are relevant to the challenges of AmI. These contributions are analyzed based on the

research questions outlined in Section 2, and provide insights into how IML can be used to address the specific challenges of AmI systems. • Section 4 provides a comprehensive synthesis of the key findings from the previous section. • Section 5 presents the principles of Opportunistic Composition and the Opportunistic Composition Engine (OCE). Then, it discusses how the findings from Sections 3 and 4 can be applied to Opportunistic Composition to enhance human-AI collaboration within this project. • Section 6 provides concluding remarks and suggests potential avenues for future research in the areas of Opportunistic Composition, IML, and AmI.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Topic	Focus Area	Key Contributions	References
Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)	Design for Human Interaction	Discusses designing user interfaces to minimize cognitive load and allow intuitive model control.	Dudley and Kristensson (2018); Wexelblat (1999)
Ambient Intelligence (AmI)	Definition and Applications	Introduces AmI as integrated, responsive environments, with examples in smart homes, healthcare, etc.	Aarts and Marzano (2003); Cook and Das (2004)
Personalization in AmI with IML	User Adaptation and Preferences	IML allows personalized, adaptive user interactions through continuous feedback from users.	Terveen and Hill (2001); Kapoor and Horvitz (2008)
Trust and Interpretability	Transparent Model Design	Highlights the importance of interpretable models to increase user trust and understanding of system behavior.	Doshi-Velez and Kim (2017); Ribeiro et al. (2016)
Future Directions & Ethical Issues	Ethics of Pervasive IML in AmI	Examines ethical issues like privacy, autonomy, and control in IML applications within personal spaces.	Zuboff (2019)

III. PREVIOUS RELATED WORK DONE

In situations where solving complex problems through programming is not feasible, due to a lack of understanding, Machine Learning (ML) is often the go-to method for building a solution. Developing an ML-based solution typically involves engaging an ML expert. This expert is responsible for designing the learning aspect of the solution, such as selecting the appropriate algorithm and tuning the parameters, while working in collaboration with both the end-users and the ML system under development. The users or their representatives provide data to the expert, who then tunes the learning system until it produces satisfactory results. These results are subsequently reviewed by the users, who provide further feedback. This iterative process continues until the ML system, precisely the ML model, is deemed ready for production.

However, as noted by Amershi et al. (Amershi et al., 2014), there is a large demand for machine learning applications but a shortage of experts in this field, which can slow down the development process. To address this challenge, Interactive Machine Learning (IML) approaches have been proposed to allow human users, who are the target users of these applications, to contribute to the learning process without requiring an ML expert. These approaches are designed for humans without prior knowledge of machine learning and are categorized under IML. In certain cases, a user representative with knowledge of the user base and their needs may also be considered a human user.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE WORK

- 1) To identify and analyse how incorporating user feedback, preferences, and behaviors into interactive machine learning algorithms can improve user experience and satisfaction in ambient intelligent environments.
- 2) To investigate collaborative models where users actively participate in the learning process, contributing their knowledge and insights to enhance system performance while fostering a sense of agency and control over the technology.

V. THE PROPOSED WORK

According to (Fails & Olsen Jr, 2003), IML is the field of machine learning that involves human users interacting with a learning algorithm to provide some or all of the data used for learning. The goal of IML is to produce a solution that meets the needs of the end users of the ML-based solution, with the involvement of humans who typically lack machine learning skills. This human involvement in the learning process enables personalization of the resulting ML system. The iterative operation of an IML system, as depicted in Figure 2, involves the human providing various parameters, preferences, or any data required by the ML system for its operation. The ML system then presents the results of its learning, such as recommendations or predictions, to the human who evaluates if the presented results are satisfactory with respect to their objectives. The human provides additional inputs and feedback, which are then incorporated by the ML system to update its model. The system can be retested with the updated model, and the process repeats until the human is satisfied with the results. In certain cases, the process may continue indefinitely, while the system is operated, to adapt to new data and changes in user preferences or needs. Compared to the process described in Figure 1, IML feedback loops are faster in the absence of the intermediate expert. IML applications have been successfully used to build various machine learning solutions such as image classifiers (Carney et al., 2020), text classifiers (Ramos et al., 2020), training robots to perform handling tasks (Celemin & Ruiz-del Solar, 2019), and recommendations based on user actions (Aamir & Bhusry, 2015). Several research areas share similarities with IML and are closely related. AutoML focuses on automating the entire machine learning pipeline, from data pre-processing to model deployment (Karmaker et al., 2021).

The primary goal of AutoML is to make machine learning more accessible to non-experts and to improve the efficiency of experts. AutoML is primarily an automated, data-driven approach (Hutter et al., 2019), while IML is a more interactive human-driven approach. While AutoML has the potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of machine learning systems, it may not be suitable in cases where data is scarce or not available. Human-autonomy teaming, also known as human-autonomy collaboration, refers to the collaboration between humans and autonomous agents to achieve a common goal, such as data processing or decision making (O'Neill et al., 2022). This research field tends to focus on the interactions between humans and AI, for instance, how to coordinate the two in a seamless way (Liang et al., 2019). To highlight the use of AI in autonomous agents, Human-autonomy teams are often referred to as Human-AI teams (Zhang et al., 2021a). Hybrid Intelligence systems are similar to IML, where a human and an AI agent collaborate to solve complex tasks (Dellermann et al., 2019). While the majority of current ML systems do not take into account human feedback after initial training, making them unsuitable for real-world dynamic settings, Hybrid Intelligence theorizes that continuous adaptation of the ML model and continuous human intervention are necessary to achieve results in highly dynamic environments. Our work focuses on the field of Ambient Intelligence (Sadri, 2011), where dynamics are high, and humans constantly interact with their environment. Adaptation is a fundamental property, and IML is a promising approach for building intelligent systems that can adapt to human needs and preferences in real-time.

Table I: Summary of the answers to the research questions

Contribution	RQ11	RQ12	RQ21	RQ22
Carney et al., 2020	Selection of concept, samples, parameters	Heavy	Labeled images, parameters	Guiding HMI
Fish and Olsen Jr, 2003	Coloring of portions of an image	Medium	Raw image, labeled pixels	Request for a manual task
Berg et al., 2018	Choice of workflow, parameters, samples	Heavy	Algorithm, labeled data, parameters	No assistance
Florian et al., 2018	Reporting of false positive/negative	Medium	Body movements, implicit feedback	Targeted sound notifications
Zhang et al., 2018	Discarding of news recommendations	Light	Usage data	No assistance
Barnea et al., 2020	Selection of examples and labels	Medium	Labeled textual data	Baseline evaluation, expert patterns
Kessler Faulkner and Thomaz, 2021	Monitoring and rewarding	Light	Positive rewards	No assistance
Akrouf et al., 2014	Composition of every action sequence	Heavy	Reinforcement feedback	No assistance
Christians et al., 2017	Composition of some action sequence	Medium	Non-reinforcement feedback	Shortcuts
Honeycutt et al., 2020	Assessment of face recognition	Light	Performance feedback	No assistance
Holzinger et al., 2019	Interaction with a snake-like game	Light	Guidance of a MAS	No assistance
Schnabel et al., 2020	Selection of news to read	Light	Usage data	Pre-visualization of the recommendation update
Amershi et al., 2019	Providing guidance feedback	Light	Additional feedback, guidance from the humans	Building trust, explainability

4.3 RQ21-Information

The information provided by the human is crucial for the learner to function, and the way it is used varies between contributions. In Table 3, column RQ21 summarizes what kind of human data fuels the ML system, while in column RQ21 of Table 4, the richness of the data is indicated. Low-dimensional, simpler data is rated - while higher dimensional data is rated + or ++. Contributions rated ++ offer richer interactions, allowing humans to steer the ML process more effectively towards their preferences. For example, Teachable Machine (Carney et al., 2020) offers deeper access to the learner’s settings, but requires more learning skills from the human. Some implicit sources of interaction, such as mouse hovering (Schnabel et al., 2020) or attention detection (Kessler Faulkner & Thomaz, 2021), allow the human to indirectly influence the learner. These methods provide non-intrusive ways to support the learning process and are accessible to non-specialist end-users.

4.4 RQ22-Assistance

The assistance provided to the human is summarized in column RQ22 of Table 3 and its level is rated on a scale to - to ++ in column RQ22 of Table 4. In the majority of applications, we found no significant level of assistance provided to the humans, hence rated -. Some applications, like the face recognition system (Honeycutt et al., 2020) and the snake-like game (Holzinger et al., 2019), were designed without any assistance to the humans, likely due to their research nature. However, contributions rated + and ++ offer various techniques to alleviate the workload for humans. Interactive Machine Teaching (Wall et al., 2019), for example, provides notifications and advice based on expert knowledge in machine learning. In the recommendation application (Schnabel et al., 2020), previsualization techniques allow humans to see the consequences of their actions on the machine learning process, thereby improving their experience. Additionally, guidelines from (Amershi et al., 2019) can be a useful tool for providing assistance in any application because they offer a comprehensive framework for designing human-AI collaborative systems. They address the assistance needs we identified in the literature by advocating for various measures, such as providing comprehensible explanations of the ML system’s purpose or performance, among other things.

Table II: Summary of the levels of response to the different research questions (the scale ” -” to ” ++” indicates the level of response to a question)

Contribution	RQ11	RQ12	RQ21	RQ22
Carney et al., 2020	+	-	++	+
Fails and Olsen Jr, 2003	+	+	-	+
Berg et al., 2019	-	-	++	-
Flutura et al., 2018	+	+	+	+
Zheng et al., 2018	+	++	+	-
Ramos et al., 2020	+	+	+	++
Kessler Faulkner and Thomaz, 2021	++	++	+	-
Alkrou et al., 2014	+	-	-	-
Christiano et al., 2017	+	+	-	+
Honeycutt et al., 2020	++	++	-	-
Holzinger et al., 2019	++	++	-	-
Schnabel et al., 2020	+	++	+	++
Amershi et al., 2019	+	++	+	++

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

Given the importance of effective human integration for successful IML solutions (Amershi et al., 2014), we aim to draw insights and guidelines from the IML literature that can be applied to ambient systems. To achieve this goal, we have formulated the following research questions that will guide our analysis of key contributions to the field of IML. The answers to these questions will enable us to identify recommendations in the context of an Ambient system, which will be presented in Section 5 based on our discussion.

RQ1-Human. What are the human's role and responsibilities in the loop?

RQ11-Tasks. What tasks should the human perform? To accomplish these tasks, how much machine learning skills are required? This understanding is important to ensure that the human is not overburdened with tasks that are beyond their skills. It can guide the design of IML systems that take into account the skills and limitations of the human user.

RQ12-Workload. How much and what workload is imposed on the human user? What level of commitment or involvement is expected?

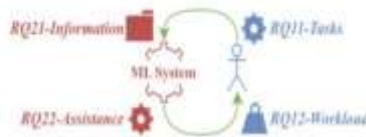
Understanding the workload and level of commitment required from the human user is crucial to ensure that the system is designed to provide the right level of support and assistance to optimize performance and user experience. In the following, to enable a comparison of the workload imposed on human users across different applications, we have defined three distinct levels of workload: light, medium, and heavy. These levels are determined based on our assessment of the time needed to complete tasks with the system, the number of steps involved, and the degree of mental effort required.

RQ2-Learner. How is the human taken into account by the ML system?

RQ21-Information. What information is needed from the human and what is it used for? The exchanged information can affect the accuracy and reliability of the system. Understanding what information is needed from the human user and how it can be incorporated into the system can help to improve the performance and effectiveness of the IML system. Offering varied and comprehensive methods of interacting with AI systems has been shown to improve both system performance and user experience (Amershi et al., 2014).

RQ22-Assistance. How does the system guide and assist the human? The provided assistance affects the efficiency, accuracy, and user experience of the system. Providing the right level of guidance and assistance to the human user can help to optimize their performance and ensure that the system operates effectively. To answer this question, we examine how the system delivers context-specific help and feedback to the user as they perform their tasks. Additionally, we assess the system's ability to offer recommendations and suggestions to the user, enabling them to make informed decisions and complete their tasks with greater efficiency.

Figure 1: Research questions (RQs)

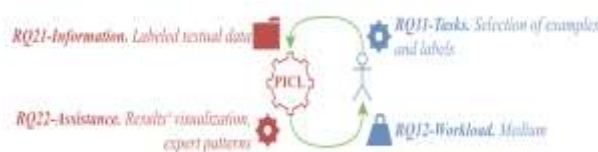


Derived from Figure 2, Figure 3 places the different research questions in relation to the IML process presented in Section 2.1. They cover all aspects of the interaction between the human and the ML system. In fact, these questions go beyond ML and address the relationship between humans and AI more broadly, as discussed, for example, by (Saisubramanian et al., 2022).

Defined in (Ramos et al., 2020), Interactive Machine Teaching is an approach to IML in which the human plays the role of a teacher, and must teach a task to the machine. The notion of teaching includes the choice of information at the source of learning, and the evaluation of the learner's performance. The underlying assumption that the authors make is that humans acquire pedagogical skills more easily than machine learning skills, as these skills are more prevalent in the general public (Wall et al., 2019). The concepts and processes studied in Interactive Machine Teaching are applicable to any learning paradigm. Nevertheless, the authors present a demonstration application, called PICL (Ramos et al., 2020) (formerly MATE (Wall et al., 2019)), that applies Interactive Machine Teaching principles to supervised learning by allowing users to teach text classification tasks. As shown in Figure 9, we consider PICL, not Interactive Machine Teaching, as the reference for studying the answers to the RQs.

RQ11-Tasks. The human, playing here the role of a teacher, must plan a curriculum and then update it according to the learner's results. A curriculum refers to the data (examples, labels) used by the learner. The skills required are mostly of a pedagogical nature.

Figure 2: Answers to RQs for Microsoft's PICL



RQ12-Workload. Involving the human in selecting relevant examples or teaching concepts moderately engages them in the process. In addition, they must judge whether the learner's results are satisfactory.

RQ21-Information. The labels and concepts provided by the human are the source of supervised learning.

RQ22-Assistance. The interface of the presented tools (Ramos et al., 2020) assists the human by allowing them to effectively visualize the learner's results. A study of the behavior of supervised learning experts on PICL/MATE (Wall et al., 2019) has also identified good practices for automatic teaching, implemented in the form of notifications.

VII. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Honeycutt et al. conducted a study that addresses the issue of user trust in machine learning applications (Honeycutt et al., 2020). It is based on results in psychology (Van den Bos et al., 1996) which show that the confidence of an individual towards a human decision group increases if an opinion expressed by the individual is taken into account by the group. Conversely, the individual will have less confidence if his opinion is ignored. The objective of this study is to recover these results by replacing the human decision group with an automatic learner, in this case an interactive supervised learning application for face recognition in images.

The online experiment measured the confidence of human users towards this application with or without interaction on the one hand, and with increasing, constant or decreasing learner performance on the other hand. In practice, the participants had to check and correct the learner's errors. The results unexpectedly have shown that in general the interacting group has less confidence in the system than the non-interacting group. The

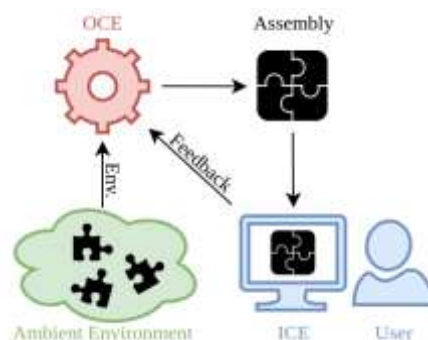
explanation put forward by the authors is that the interacting group spent more time focused on the system errors to correct them.

Figure 3: Answers to RQs for the face classification application



As illustrated in Figure 4, we consider the face recognition application that supported the experiment to look at the research questions.

Figure 4: Opportunistic Software Composition



RQ11-Tasks. The expected skills for the users are only related to the task at hand: face recognition. The human must recognize and correct the mistakes made by the system, e.g. faces that are not detected or falsely detected.

RQ12-Workload. The user is only involved in the tasks of checking and correcting the learner's output.

RQ21-Information. The simulated application takes into account feedback from users on its errors in order to refine its model.

RQ22-Assistance. Users are voluntarily given little guidance in order to measure their subjective appreciation of the application's performance, which is a measure proportional to the confidence they feel in the system (Yin et al., 2019).

VIII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have explored the Interactive Machine Learning (IML) literature to identify potential solutions for the challenges faced by Ambient Intelligent (AmI) systems. We have conducted a critical review of the literature, resulting in a set of design solutions to improve human-AI interaction. Then we have considered their application in the case of Opportunistic Composition, and formulated design solutions. In this concluding section, we discuss future directions and prospects for Opportunistic Composition, IML, and AmI based on the findings of this study. The next phase of our work is the development of a new prototype for OCE that implements the design solutions relative to the guidelines G10 and G15, which pose significant scientific challenges, as discussed in Section 5.3. This prototype will be put through a series of tests with human users to evaluate the impact of the design solutions on the user experience, learning process, and performance. The results from these tests should provide important insights into the broader field of Interactive Machine Learning and Ambient Intelligence, and inform future research in these areas. One important aspect to consider in the design of OCE is the diversity of human users' skills and knowledge. Some may have extensive technical expertise and be comfortable with programming and software development, while others may have limited experience in these areas. Therefore, it is essential to design OCE in a way that caters to the needs of all human users and allows them to participate at their own level of proficiency. Taking into account the diversity of users and their needs is an important scientific challenge in the development of OCE. Simard et al. (Simard et al., 2017) make a parallel between Interactive Machine Learning and the general programming activity through their

study on Interactive Machine Teaching(Section 3.2.1). IML and programming share, for example, the production by a human of an artifact (a learned model or a program) that meets the needs of one or more human users. This comparison leads the authors to believe that, just as programming has benefited from high-level tools and languages, like modern integrated development environments, IML needs its own tools and abstractions to facilitate the work of humans. Although the field of interactive machine learning and human-ML interaction is not yet mature, there are patterns and guidelines that can assist in this interaction. Our work may identify and contribute to these patterns.

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