

# Comparing and Combining Eye Gaze and Interface Actions for Determining User Learning with an Interactive Simulation

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**Abstract.** This paper presents an experimental evaluation of eye gaze data as a source for modeling user's learning in Interactive Simulations (IS). We compare the performance of classifier user models trained only on gaze data vs. models trained only on interface actions vs. models trained on the combination of these two sources of user interaction data. Our long-term goal is to build user models that can trigger adaptive support for students who do not learn well with ISs, caused by the often unstructured and open-ended nature of these environments. The test-bed for our work is the CSP applet, an IS for Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSP). Our findings show that including gaze data as an additional source of information to the CSP applet's user model significantly improves model accuracy compared to using interface actions or gaze data alone.

**Keywords:** Eye tacking, Eye Movement Data, Interface Actions, Interactive Simulations, User Classification, Clustering, Data Mining for User Modeling

## 1 Introduction

With increasing interest in using Interactive Simulations (IS) for education and training, it has become evident that not all students learn well from the rather unstructured and open-ended form of interaction that these e-learning environments provide [1, 2]. The long-term goal of our research is to devise mechanisms to provide guidance during interaction with an IS, personalized to the needs of each individual student. Detecting these needs, however, is challenging because there is still limited knowledge of which behaviors are indicative of effective vs. non-effective interactions with an IS. Our general approach is to discover these behaviors from data, using (i) clustering to identify students who interact similarly with an IS, (ii) association rule mining to extract the relevant behaviors from each cluster, and (iii) finding ways to map these behaviors to learning performance. The resulting data is used to train a user model that recognizes the salient behaviors when a new user interacts with the system, and suggests interventions if those behaviors were labeled to be not conducive to learning. In previous work, we showed the effectiveness of this approach when only interface

actions are used for clustering and classifying users [3]. We then started looking at the potential of gaze data as an additional source of information for assessing how well a user learns with an IS [4]. The results in [4] were encouraging, because they showed that gaze data alone can help distinguish those users who learn from an IS and those who do not. The results, however, related to the performance of a classifier that predicts user learning after seeing gaze data from a complete interaction session. Thus, they do not tell us if and how soon during interaction, gaze data can be used to predict learning performance, which is crucial to provide adaptive support as students work with a simulation.

In this paper, we address this limitation by evaluating the over-time performance of classifiers that rely only on gaze data to determine learning, i.e. the performance of the classifier as a function of the gaze data available over time. We also thoroughly investigate the relative value of gaze data for user modeling in ISs by comparing the over-time performance of models trained on gaze data only vs. models trained on interface actions only vs. models trained on both data sources. While these comparisons are similar in nature to those described in [5, 6], the main difference is that this previous work focused on task-specific gaze patterns predefined a priori, while in our work we analyze gaze data in a much more general and automatic way, using task-independent gaze features and automatic clustering to discover the relevant patterns.

An additional contribution of this paper is an extension to the user modeling framework described in [3] to improve the effectiveness of behavior clustering. The extension is a mechanism known as the hybrid approach to clustering that extends the typical clustering used in [3]. When information on user learning performance is available for a given data set, the hybrid approach leverages this information to guide clustering so that users are grouped in terms of both their distinguishing behaviors and their learning performance. We show that on-line classifiers trained on the groupings generated by the hybrid approach are significantly more accurate than classifiers trained on groupings defined solely based on learning gain.

In the rest of the paper, we first discuss related work. Next, we briefly describe the CSP applet (the IS we have been using as a test-bed for our research). Then, we summarize our user modeling framework, followed by a description of the various dimensions of our evaluation (datasets, ways to generate the training sets, classifiers evaluated). Subsequently we report the results of the evaluation, and then present a second method for combining eye gaze and interface action data (using ensemble models) and its performance. Finally, we conclude with a discussion of future work.

## **2 Related work**

Eye tracking has long been used in psychology for understanding cognition and perception, but in recent years there has been increasing interest in leveraging eye-tracking data also in HCI and in user modeling. Most of the existing work still uses gaze data for off-line analysis of processes of interest, as it is traditionally done in psychology. For instance, gaze data has been used to assess word relevance in a reading task [7], to assess how well users process a given information visualization [8], to understand how users attend to adaptive hints in an educational game [9], to evaluate

the impact of user differences on gaze patterns while processing a visualization [10], and to analyze attention to an open learner model [11].

Some researchers, on the other hand, started to investigate gaze data as a source for real-time modeling of users. Some examples of real-time use of gaze data include: assessing user motivation during interaction with an intelligent tutoring system (ITS) [12]; determining a variety of elements relevant to supporting users during visualization processing [13]; and detecting and reacting to disengagement in a gaze-reactive ITS [14]. Most closely related to our research on modeling users in ISs is the work by Conati and Merten [5] and Amershi and Conati [6]. They found that tracking a task-specific gaze pattern defined a priori helped modeling user learning with an IS for mathematical functions. We extend this work by looking at a much broader range of general eye tracking features that are either task independent or based solely on identifying the main interface components of the target IS. This is an important distinction, for two reasons: (i) pre-defining gaze patterns that indicate learning may not always be possible, due to the often unstructured and open-ended nature of ISs; (ii) task specific patterns likely do not transfer to a different IS. Additionally, while [6] only evaluates the performance of a model that leverages both interface actions and gaze data, our work specifically compares and combines eye gaze with interface actions to better evaluate the added value of gaze data for user modeling in ISs.

In the field of Educational Data Mining, clustering has been applied to different applications for discovering groups of similar users. Relevant to our work, in problem solving tasks, clustering has been used to find better parameter settings for models that assess student knowledge [15, 16]. Closer to our work, Shih and Koedinger employed clustering to discover student learning tactics and how these tactics relate to learning in a problem solving environment [17]. The clustering is done on sequences of student actions (namely, attempting to answer the problem and asking for help) using Expectation Maximization and Hidden Markov Models. Here, we are investigating student behaviors in ISs, where interactions tend to be open-ended and typically there are many valid actions available at each point which makes looking at sequences of user actions computationally expensive (see [3], for a detailed discussion). Thus, we calculate features that summarize the interactions of each user, and then cluster users based on these features to find users with similar behaviors. Then, we extract the salient behaviors of each cluster which is orthogonal to clustering similar sequences of actions from different users together as done in [17].

### **3 The AISpace CSP applet**

This section describes the Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP) applet, which is the IS we have been using as the test-bed for our research. The CSP applet, shown in Fig. 1, is one of a collection of interactive tools for learning artificial intelligence algorithms, called AISpace [18]. Algorithm dynamics are demonstrated via interactive visualizations on graphs by the use of color and highlighting, and graphical state changes are reinforced through textual messages.

A CSP consists of a set of variables, variable domains, and a set of constraints on legal variable-value assignments. Solving a CSP requires finding an assignment that satisfies all constraints. The CSP applet simulates application of the Arc Consistency

3 (AC-3) algorithm for solving CSPs represented as networks of variable nodes and constraint arcs. AC-3 iteratively makes individual arcs consistent by removing variable domain values inconsistent with a given constraint, until all arcs have been considered and the network is consistent. Then, if there remains a variable with more than one domain value, a procedure called domain splitting can be applied to that variable to split the CSP into disjoint cases so that AC-3 can recursively solve each case.

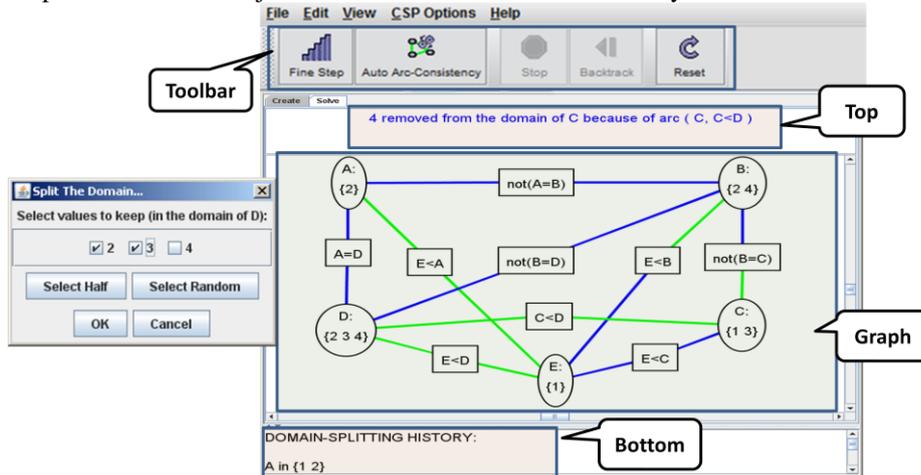


Fig. 1. CSP applet with an example CSP being solved

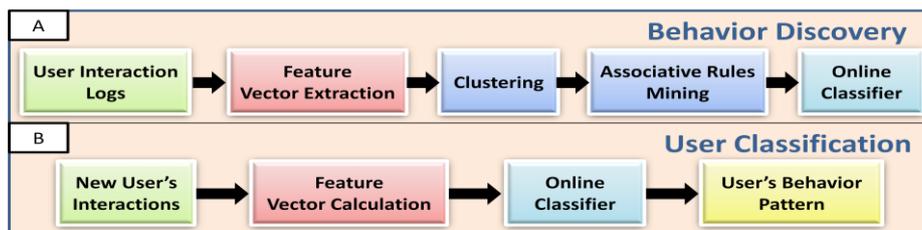
The CSP applet provides several mechanisms for the interactive execution of the AC-3 algorithm on a set of available CSPs. These mechanisms are accessible through the toolbar, or through direct manipulation of graph elements. The user can perform seven different actions: (i) use the Fine Step button to see how AC-3 goes through its three basic steps (selecting an arc, testing it for consistency, removing domain values to make the arc consistent); (ii) directly click on an arc to apply all these steps at once; (iii) automatically fine step on all arcs one by one (Auto Arc Consistency button); (iv) pause auto arc consistency (Stop button); (v) select a variable to split on, and specify a subset of its values for further application of AC-3 (see popup box in the left side of Fig. 1); (vi) recover alternative sub-networks during domain splitting (Backtrack button); (vii) return the graph to its initial status (Reset button). As a student steps through a problem, the message panel above the graph reports a description of each step. Another message panel situated below the graph reports the domain splits made by the user (i.e., the value-variable assignment selected at each splitting point).

#### 4 User modeling framework

This section briefly summarizes our user modeling framework for providing support during interaction with an IS, personalized to each student's needs [3]. We will only focus on the components of the framework relevant to building the classifier user models evaluated later in the paper: Behavior Discovery (Fig. 2A) and User Classification (Fig. 2B) (see [3, 19] for more details on the complete framework).

In Behavior Discovery (Fig. 2A) user interaction data is first processed into feature vectors representing each user. Then, these vectors are clustered in order to (i) identify users with similar interaction behaviors, and (ii) determine which interaction behaviors are effective or ineffective for learning. The distinctive interaction behaviors in each cluster are identified via association rule mining [20]. This process extracts the common behavior patterns in terms of Class Association Rules (CAR) in the form of  $X \rightarrow c$ , where  $X$  is a set of feature-value pairs and  $c$  is the predicted class label for the data points where  $X$  applies. We use the Hotspot algorithm from the Weka datamining toolkit [21] for association rule mining, with an added initial parameter optimization step (see [3] for details). In order to associate behaviors to learning performance, it is first necessary to establish how the user groups generated by clustering relate to learning. This can be done in different ways, depending on whether information on the users' learning performance is available or not:

- If learning performance measures are not available, we face a problem of unsupervised learning. In this case, clustering is done using  $k$ -means with a modified initialization step (see [3] for more details on this technique and why it was selected). It is then left to the judgment of a human expert to evaluate how each cluster and associated behaviors may relate to learning. Since we have access to a learning performance measure, this case is not considered in this paper.
- If learning performance measures are available, one possible approach is to generate the clusters solely based on interaction data, and then assign a label for each cluster by comparing the average learning performance of the users in that cluster with the performance of the users in the other clusters. This is the approach we successfully adopted in [3] to support on-line classification of CSP applet users into high and low learners (called the *old approach* from now on). It is possible, however, that clustering solely based on behaviors do not generate groups with a clear (i.e., statistically significant) difference in learning performance, making it difficult to assign labels to the clusters automatically. To tackle this situation, we propose a solution that leverages user performance data to guide the clustering process, thus creating a *hybrid approach* (described in details in section 5.2).



**Fig. 2.** Behavior Discovery and User Classification in the user modeling framework

In User Classification (Fig. 2B), the labeled clusters and the corresponding Class Association Rules extracted in Behavior Discovery are used as training data to build an on-line classifier student model (rule-based classifier from now on). As new users interact with the system, they are classified in real-time into one of the clusters generated by Behavior Discovery, based on a membership score that summarizes how well (i.e. higher is better) the user's behaviors match the discovered behavior patterns (i.e.,

association rules) for each cluster. This score is the normalized sum of weights of the satisfied rules over all the rules for each cluster as described in [3].

## 5 Evaluation Dimensions

The interaction data used as features by a classifier user model to perform on-line user classification can include a variety of sources. As we discussed in the introduction, in this paper we want to compare using features based on interface actions vs. eye gaze data vs. a combination of the two (see section 5.1). We also want to evaluate the effectiveness of each of the two major components of our classifier user model: (1) using the hybrid approach (described in section 5.2) to generate the training set for the classifiers (i.e. groups of users with labels that describe their learning performance) compared to a conventional approach; 2) using a rule-based classifier for learning vs. other available classifiers (see section 5.3). Thus, we have three dimensions in our evaluation: feature set, approach for training set generation, and type of classifier. In the rest of this section, we describe each of these three evaluation dimensions.

### 5.1 Different feature sets for classification

We calculated three sets of features for each user. The data was collected from a user study with 45 computer science students. Each participant: (i) studied a textbook chapter on the AC-3 algorithm; (ii) wrote a pre-test on the concepts covered in the chapter; (iii) used the CSP applet to study two CSPs, while her gaze was tracked with a Tobii T120 eye-tracker; (iv) took a post-test analogous to the pre-test [4].

The first set of features consists of statistical measures that summarize a user's interface actions (ACTION dataset from now on). We calculated usage frequency for each action, as well as mean and standard deviation of time interval between actions (similar to [3]) for a total of 12,308 actions. As described in section 3, there are 7 actions available on the interface resulting in 21 features (none were highly correlated).

The second set of features captures user's attention patterns using gaze information collected by the eye-tracker (EYE dataset from now on), namely fixations (i.e., maintaining eye gaze at one point on the screen) and saccades (i.e., a quick movement of gaze from one fixation point to another). As was done in [4], the features were derived by computing a variety of statistics (sum (total), average, standard deviation and rate) as appropriate, for the measures shown in Table 1. These measures were taken both over the full CSP applet window as well as over four Areas of Interest (AOI) defining salient visual elements of the applet (Toolbar, Top, Graph and Bottom shown in Fig. 1). In addition to the features above, following [4], the proportion of transitions between different AOI pairs was also calculated. Unlike the ACTION dataset, of the initial 67 features in the EYE dataset, we found and removed 16 features that were highly correlated ( $r > 0.7$ ), reducing the final number of eye-related features to 51.

Finally, the third set of features (ACTION+EYE dataset) is obtained by combining the two feature sets described above. For each user, the ACTION and EYE feature vectors are concatenated to form a new vector with 72 features. This process generated a dataset with 45 datapoints (participants) with 72 dimensions (features).

Given these three datasets, we want to test the following hypothesis:

**H1:** Combining both eye tracking and interface action data significantly enhances the performance of the resulting user model, as opposed to using either eye tracking or interface actions data alone.

**Table 1.** Description of basic eye tracking measures

Measure	Description
Fixation rate	Rate of eye fixations per milliseconds
Number of Fixations	Number of eye fixations detected during an interval of interest
Fixation Duration	Time duration of an individual fixation
Saccade Length	Distance between the two fixations delimiting the saccade
Relative Saccade Angles	The angle between the two consecutive saccades
Absolute Saccade Angles	The angle between a saccade and the horizontal axis
Transitions between AOIs	Transition of user's gaze between two Areas of Interest

## 5.2 Different approaches for training set generation

As mentioned earlier, the first step in our approach for building a classifier user model is to identify groups of users that interact similarly with the learning environment and then label these groups based on the learning performance of their members, in order to provide the training set for the classifier. As pointed out in section 4, our old approach for generating this training set relied on clustering users solely based on their interactions. However, without a clear (i.e., statistically significant) difference in average learning performance of different clusters, it is difficult to assign labels to the clusters found. We encountered this problem when using clustering on the EYE dataset. The only requirement for interpretability of the clusters in our approach is that there should be a significant difference between the average learning performances of members in different clusters, as measured by an appropriate statistical test. In other words, since we know the users in each cluster behave similarly, just knowing that the members of a cluster achieve significantly higher/lower average performance than other clusters, is enough to interpret salient behaviors observed in that cluster as effective/ineffective. Based on this requirement, we propose the hybrid approach first introduced in section 4. The hybrid approach finds the best cluster set (in terms of sum of within-cluster distances) with a significant difference in learning performance. The measure of learning performance used in this paper is Proportional Learning Gain (PLG), i.e., the ratio of the difference between post-test and pre-test, over the maximum possible gain; described in percentage ratio.

When determining the optimal number of clusters with the hybrid approach using the three different feature sets described in section 5.1 (ACTION, EYE and ACTION+EYE), we found that two clusters was always the optimal number of user groups, but with slightly different composition. We use Fleiss' kappa (a measure of agreement between more than two raters) for comparing the three different sets of user labels thus generated and found high agreement (kappa = 0.701). This kappa value shows that the two groups detected using each feature set share the same core of users (supporting the relevance of using clustering to detect these groups), with few users that are labeled differently when using different sources of data (showing that there are non-overlapping information captured by each source). For illustration, the

size and performance measures associated with the two clusters generated by the hybrid approach applied to the ACTION+EYE dataset is shown in Table 2, where LLG stands for Low Learning Gain and HLG stands for High Learning Gain. The difference in PLG is significant ( $p = 0.017 < 0.05$ ) with a medium effect size ( $d = 0.625$ ). When the performance measure of interest for classification is available (in our case, PLG), the conventional method for creating a training set of labeled classes is to divide the performance spectrum into different ranges and putting users within each range into one group. Thus, in our evaluation we want to compare our hybrid approach for generating the training set against the standard approach that relies solely on PLG<sup>1</sup>. We generate what we call the PLG-based training set by dividing users into two groups based on the median of the PLG measure (45.83). Table 2 reports the size and PLG measures for the corresponding groups.

**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics of the training sets generated via different methods

		Hybrid on ACTION+EYE	PLG-based
HLG	Number of users	19	22
	Average (std. dev.)	53.29 (SD = 22.79)	68.27 (SD = 12.39)
LLG	Number of users	26	23
	Average (std. dev.)	32.45 (SD = 39.33)	15.40 (SD = 30.29)

When grouping users together, the hybrid approach relies on both PLG as well as the similarity in user interaction data as opposed to only relying on PLG. Thus, we argue that it can generate better performing user models since the user models can only rely on user interaction data when classifying users. This is the second hypothesis we will test in our evaluation:

**H2:** The hybrid approach for training set generation outperforms the conventional PLG-based approach in terms of user model performance.

### 5.3 Different types of classifiers

Our goal is to evaluate the rule-based classifier generated by our user modeling framework. Thus, we compare its performance with a battery of ten different classifiers available in the Weka toolkit on the EYE, ACTION and ACTION+EYE datasets. These classifiers are C4.5, Support Vector Machine, Linear Ridge Regression, Binary Logistic Regression, Multilayer Perceptron, as well as Random Subspace and AdaBoost with different base classifiers. We tested the 10 Weka classifiers on each of the three datasets, and report the results for the classifier with the highest performance, which we will simply refer to as the Weka classifier. The third hypothesis tested in this study is the following:

**H3:** The rule-based classifier will have better performance compared to the best Weka classifier on each dataset.

<sup>1</sup> Note that, the hybrid approach is an improvement over the old approach used in [3], to address cases when the latter approach fails to find clusters with significant learning difference (e.g., the EYE dataset). In other cases, e.g. the dataset used in [3], both approaches produce the same cluster set; therefore, a comparison between these two approaches is not necessary.

## 6 Results and discussion

In this section, we present the evaluation results across each of the three dimensions described in the previous section. We compare the performance of the rule-based and Weka classifiers described in the previous section in terms of their average over-time accuracy in classifying new users as high or low learners. This means that, over equal time intervals, the interaction features for a new user are calculated cumulatively from the start of the interaction, and the classifier is asked to provide a label for this. In [3], classifier accuracy was calculated after each user action, because only actions were used as data sources. Here, however, we have two different data sources, which provide information at different rates (typically length of a fixation is much shorter than the time between two interface actions). Thus, we compute current accuracy of the classifier at intervals of 30 seconds, i.e., long enough for observing at least one user action and a fair number of fixations. Then, to be able to combine accuracy data across users (with different interaction durations), we retrieve current accuracy after every one percent of user interaction, calculating 100 accuracy points for each user.

We use 9-fold cross validation for calculating the performance of the classifiers. Table 3 summarizes the average over-time accuracy of the two classifiers on the three feature sets (ACTION, EYE, ACTION+EYE) using both the hybrid and the PLG-based approach to generate the training set. We also report the average Cohen's kappa value for agreement between the actual labels and the labels predicted by the model. Cohen's kappa accounts for agreement by chance [23] and is useful here for comparing performance across different dimensions, because the size of the classes generated by the PLG-based approach and by the hybrid approach on each feature set are slightly different, changing the probability of agreement by chance in each case.

A 3 (feature set) by 2 (training set approach) by 2 (classifier type) ANOVA with kappa scores as dependent measure shows significant main effects for each factor ( $F(1.43,198) = 294.27$  for feature set;  $F(1,99) = 398.02$  for training set;  $F(1,99) = 329.98$  for classifier type, with  $p < 0.001$  for all factors).

**Table 3.** Average over-time performance results for different training sets, classifiers and feature sets. The best performance in each column is indicated in bold.

Training Set	Classifier	Measure	Feature Set		
			ACTION	EYE	ACTION+EYE
PLG-based	Weka	Accuracy	51.18	57.62	58.18
		Kappa	0.027	0.144	0.157
	Rule-based	Accuracy	57.24	64.29	62.2
		Kappa	0.134	0.283	0.245
Hybrid	Weka	Accuracy	79.87	71.49	77.24
		Kappa	0.359	0.384	0.522
	Rule-based	Accuracy	<b>84.04</b>	<b>81.76</b>	<b>84.51</b>
		Kappa	<b>0.471</b>	<b>0.614</b>	<b>0.675</b>

For post-hoc analysis we used pair-wise t-tests with Bonferroni adjustment using the estimated marginal means for each factor. Pair-wise comparisons over the feature set factor shows that the models trained on the EYE+ACTION dataset outperform the

models trained either on EYE or ACTION feature sets ( $p < 0.001$ ), thus supporting H1. Pair-wise comparisons over the training set factor shows that the hybrid approach outperforms the PLG-based approach ( $p < 0.001$ ), thus supporting H2. Finally, pair-wise comparisons over the classifier type factor shows that the rule-based classifier significantly outperforms the Weka classifier ( $p < 0.001$ ), thus supporting H3. The findings show that we were able to extend our user modeling framework with an effective training set generation approach (H2), and the updated framework is able to build models that employ interface actions and eye gaze data effectively (H3), reinforcing the validity of our findings regarding the added value of eye gaze data (H1).

## 7 Ensemble model for combining EYE and ACTION features

The superior performance generated by the feature set that combines gaze and action information indicates that there is an advantage in leveraging both data sources. Thus, we decided to investigate whether we could further this advantage by using a more sophisticated approach to combine gaze and action information. In particular, for each combination of training set (hybrid and PLG-based) and classifier type (rule-based vs. Weka) we created an ensemble classifier [24] that classifies a new user by using majority voting among the three following classifiers on the ACTION+EYE dataset: one trained using only the action-based features subset, one trained using the eye-based features subset, and one trained over the complete ACTION + EYE feature set. This ensemble model benefits from the added information captured by the eye gaze data (if any) by being able to correctly classify the user in some of the cases where the classifier trained solely on the action-based features fails. Moreover, in some cases where combining the features in the way that it is done in previous section on the ACTION+EYE dataset, is introducing some noise in the dataset, thus diluting the information value gained, the classifiers trained on eye-based subset and action-based subset will not be affected and will be able to capture characteristics of each user as detected by each data source. Therefore, we hypothesize that:

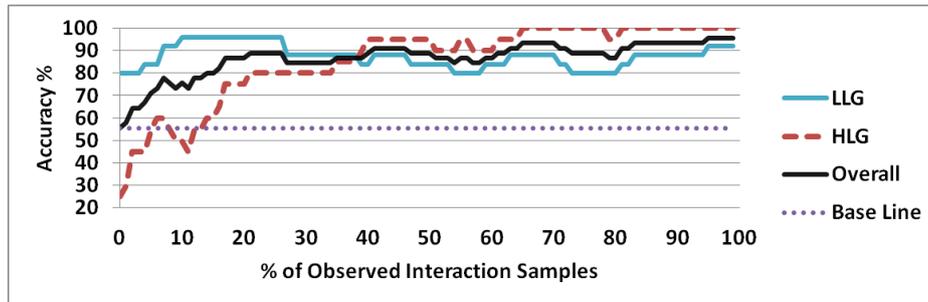
**H4:** Each ensemble model outperforms the individual model equivalent to it (i.e., the model with the same classifier type and training set generation approach).

Table 4 shows the performance results for the ensemble models (measured by kappa scores). In order to evaluate the performance of the ensemble models vs. the individual models described in previous section, we performed a 2 (model type) by 2 (training set approach) by 2 (classifier type) ANOVA with kappa scores for the ACTION+EYE dataset as dependent measure. Here, we are only interested in testing to see whether there is a main effect for the model type factor (i.e., individual vs. ensemble). The analysis shows a significant main effect for the model type factor ( $F(1,99) = 165.420$ , with  $p < 0.001$ ). Post-hoc analysis using pair-wise t-tests with Bonferroni adjustment shows that the ensemble models significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) outperform their individual model counterparts thus supporting H4. Particularly, we are interested in the best performing individual model (rule-based model trained using hybrid training set) and its ensemble equivalent, where in addition to improved average over-time performance (86.56% vs. 84.51%), the ensemble model exhibits a more balanced performance across the HLG and LLG classes as well (85.33% and 87.52% for the ensemble vs. 79% and 88.54% for the individual model respectively).

**Table 4.** Average over-time performance results for different training sets and classifiers for the ensemble models, in terms of kappa scores

Training Set	PLG-based		Hybrid	
Classifier	Weka	Rule-based	Weka	Rule-based
Kappa	0.194	0.315	0.585	0.725

Considering the ultimate goal of providing adaptive interventions to the users during their interaction, we are also interested to have a user model that can achieve an acceptable accuracy in early stages of the interaction. Thus, we plotted the over-time accuracy of the rule-based ensemble model trained using hybrid training set in Fig. 3. Performance of the majority class classifier is also plotted as the baseline. The model achieves 80% accuracy in both classes after observing 22 percent of the interaction (Fig. 3), which shows that this model is highly reliable for providing adaptive interventions during the user interaction.



**Fig. 3.** Over-time performance of the rule-based ensemble model

## 8 Conclusion and future work

We presented an experimental evaluation of eye gaze as an additional source of user data for modeling user's learning in an IS for constraint satisfaction problems (the CSP applet). We also described a new approach for generating training sets from user data, called the hybrid approach. This mechanism extends our user modeling framework originally described in [3], to be able to effectively utilize eye gaze data when building classifier user models. Our main finding is that eye gaze data when used as an additional source of user data in combination with the interface actions significantly boosts the average over-time performance of the classifier user models trained to distinguish students who learned well from students who did not. We also demonstrated that using the hybrid approach leads to models with significantly higher performance compared to a conventional alternative.

One possible extension of this work is to combine the gaze data in finer grained setting by looking at the gaze patterns between consecutive interface actions. This enables the system to provide gaze based interventions in a more meaningful way. Another important aspect of future work is further evaluation of the hybrid approach for other interactive simulations and similar open-ended environments (generalizability). We are also working on evaluating the effectiveness of the rule-based user model in triggering adaptive interventions for the CSP applet [25].

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