



# Angle-of-Arrival-Based Gesture Recognition Using Ultrasonic Multi-Frequency Signals

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# 1 Introduction

2 Proposed Gesture Recognition System

3 Angle of Arrival Estimation

4 Gesture Classification

5 Experiments and Results

6 Summary and Future work

A form of non-verbal communication:

- Conveying information
- Expressing emotions
- Language for disabled people



# Human-machine Interactive Products



King Abdullah University  
of Science and Technology



Camera

(Microsoft Kinect)



Lasers & IMU

(HTC Vive)



Accelerometer

(Synertial Glove)



Ultrasound

(Ellipticlabs)



IR cameras and  
infrared LEDs

(Leap Motion)



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# A Demo of Writing "KAUST"



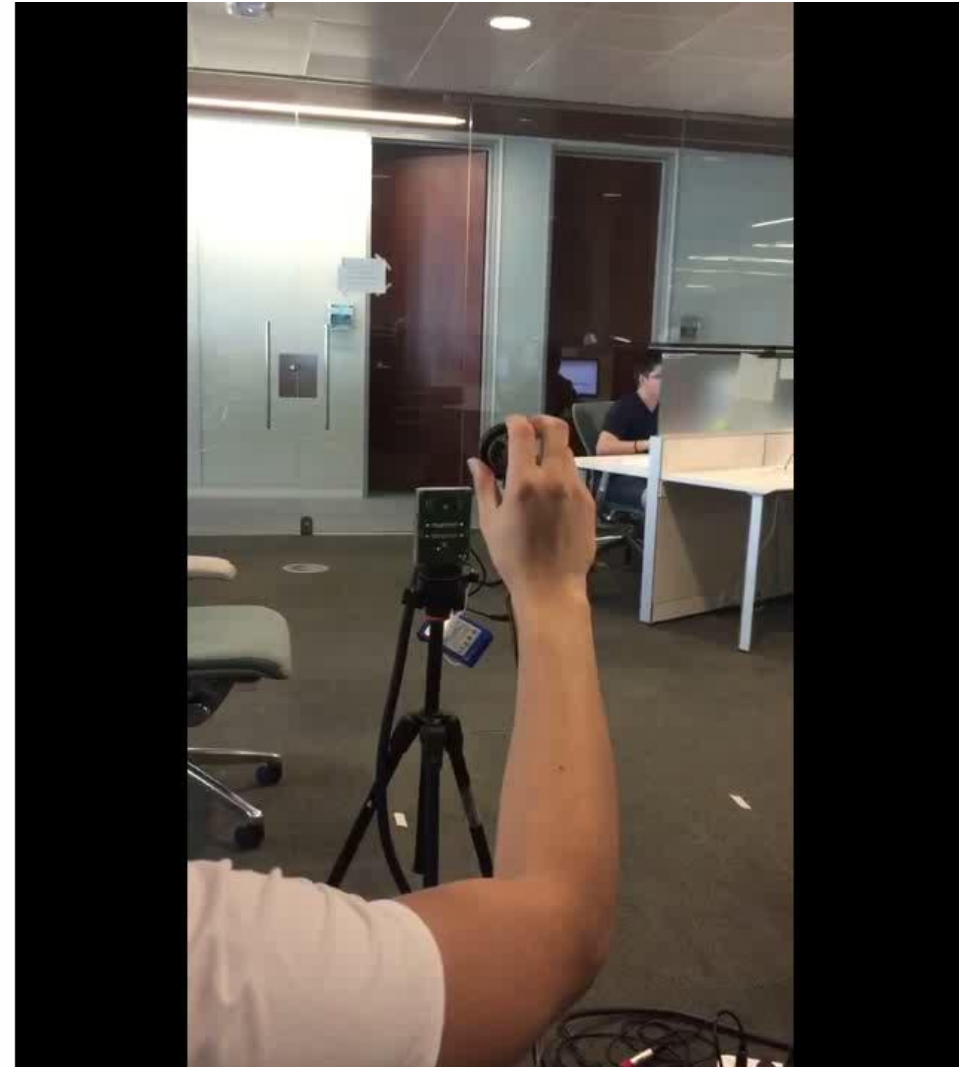
King Abdullah University  
of Science and Technology

Write 'K', 'A', 'U', 'S', 'T'  
continuously within a window.

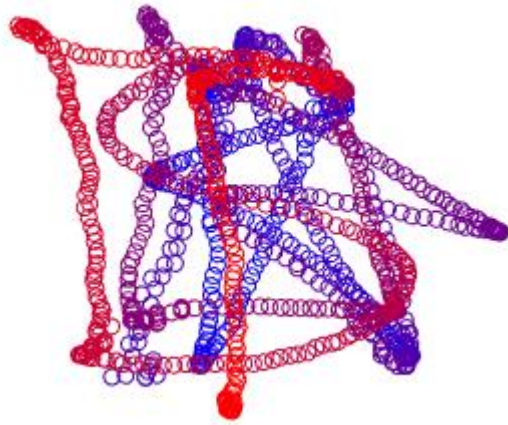
# A Demo of Writing "KAUST"



King Abdullah University  
of Science and Technology

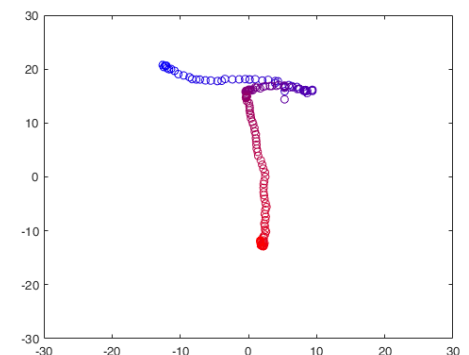
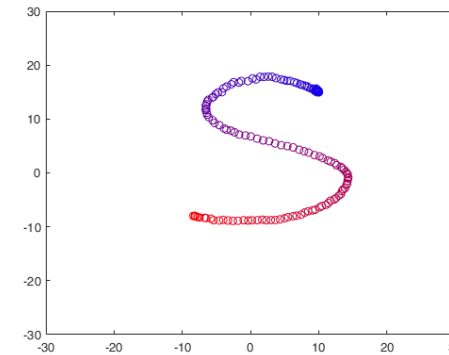
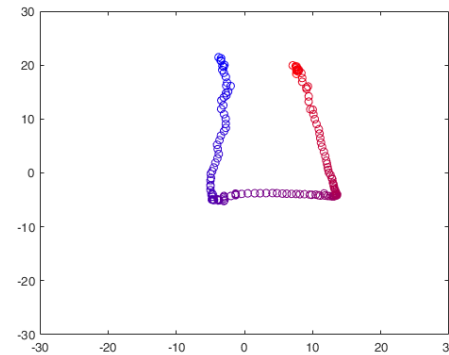
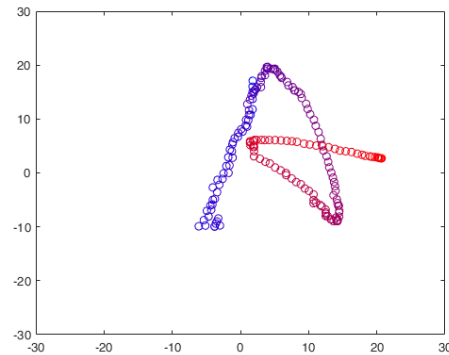
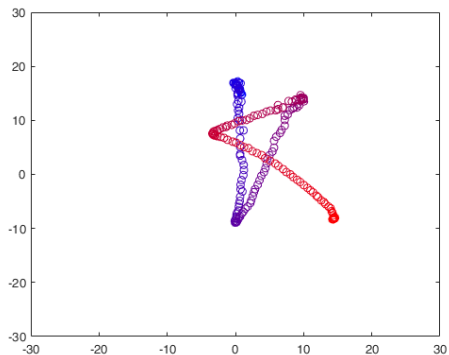


# A Demo of Writing "KAUST"



Captured hand motion with proposed system

Start from blue to red

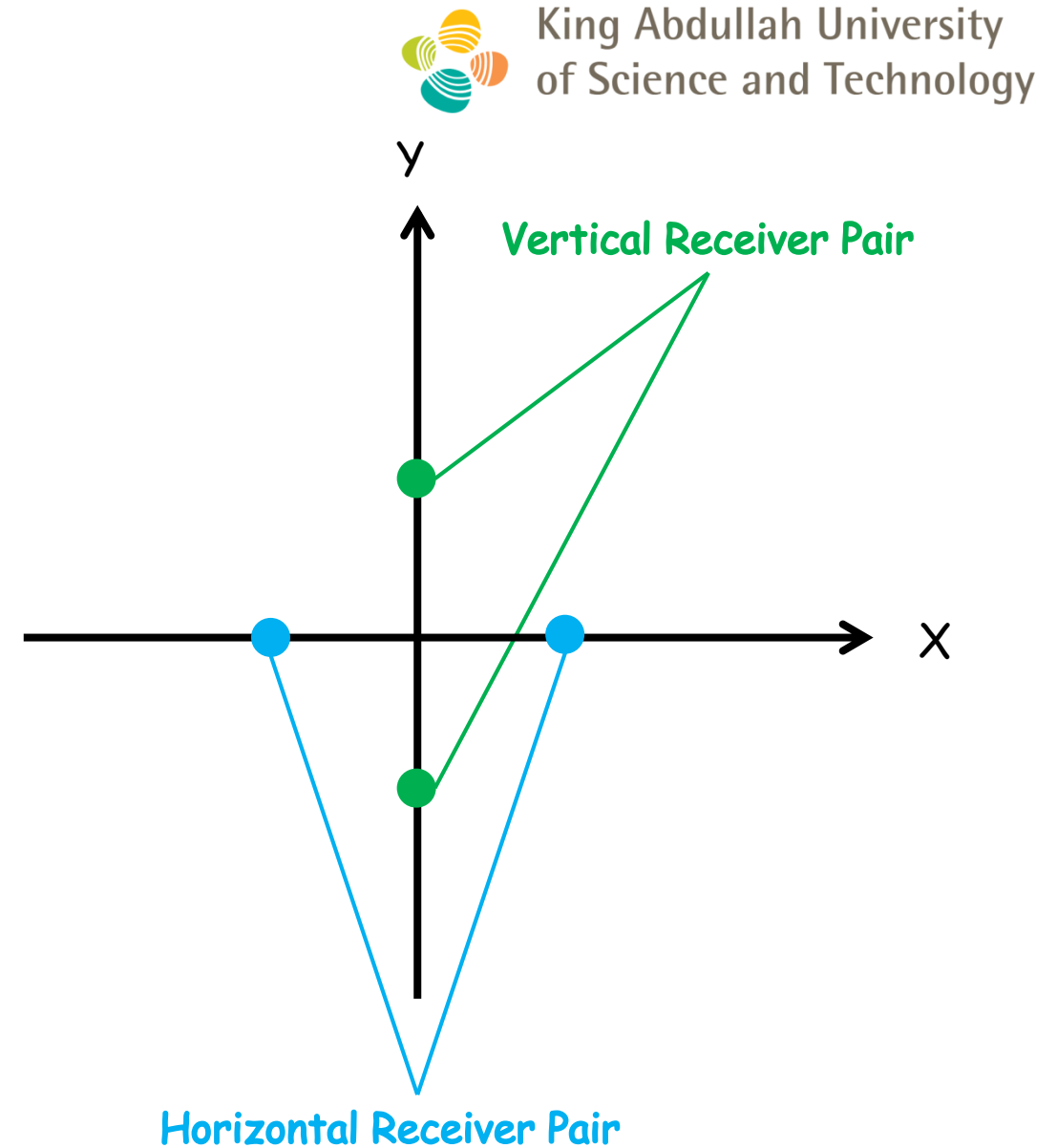
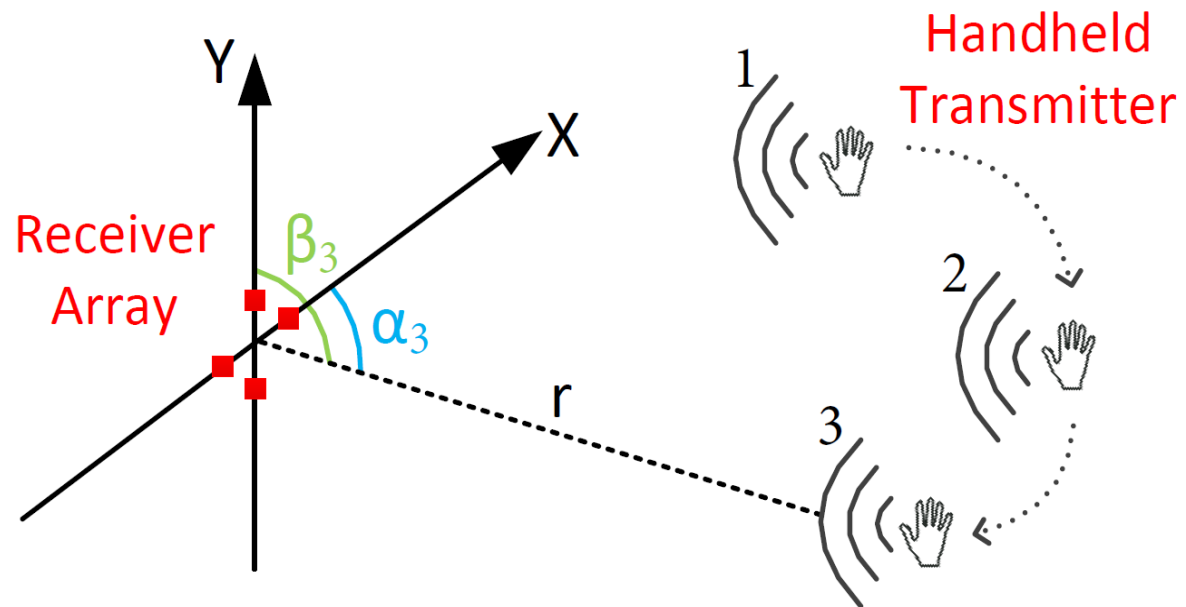


## Extracted Segments



# How it works?

Angle information  $\rightarrow$  Classify





## 1 **AOA estimation:**

Ultrasonic signals are transmitted from the transmitter. AoA algorithm is used to obtain the angle information for each sample.

## 2 **Classification:**

Estimated angle data are processed and sent to classifier to recognition this gesture.



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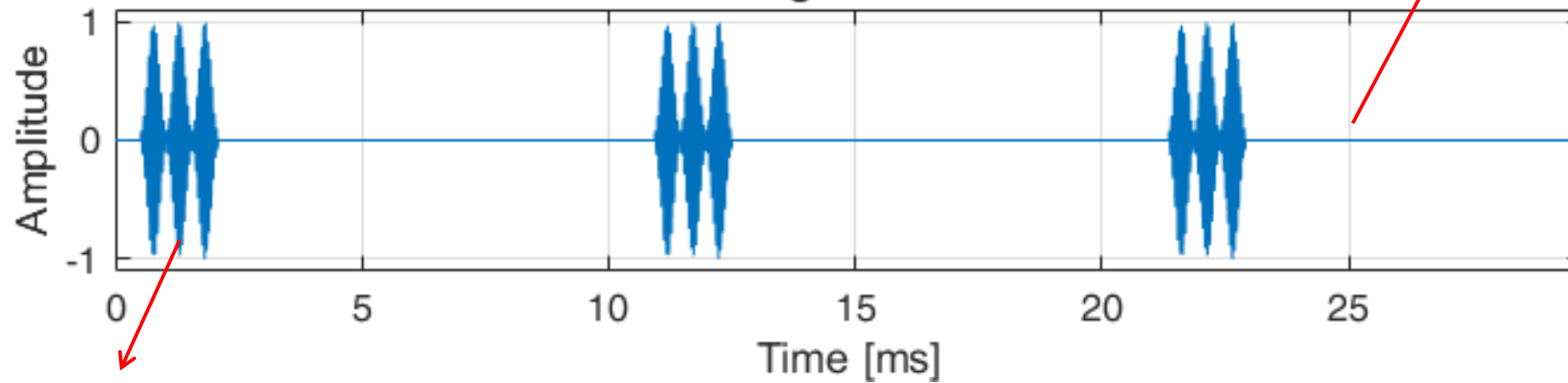
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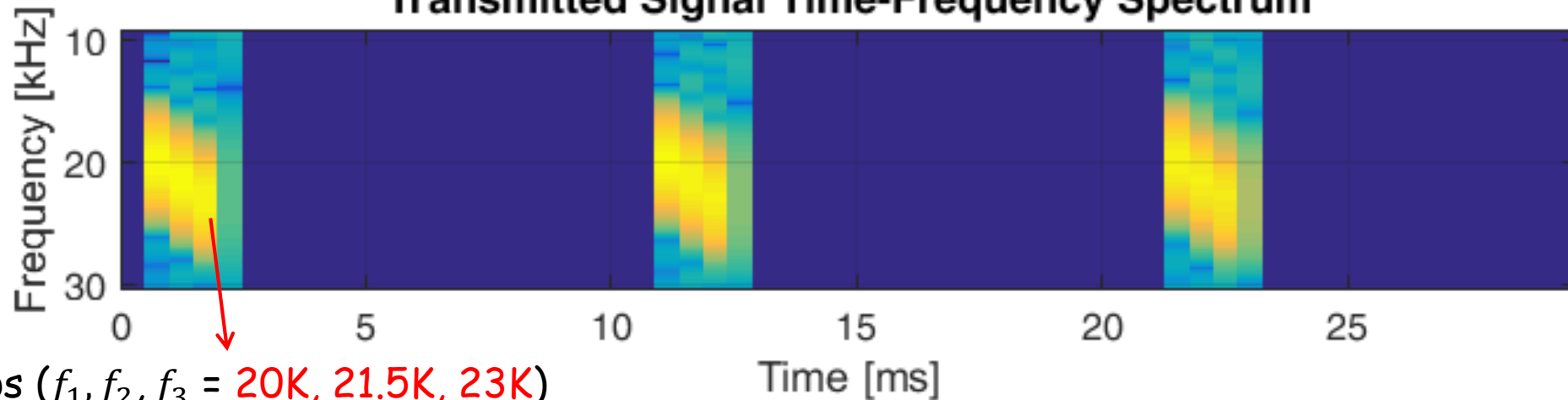
Measurements/Frame per second: 100 (Hz)

Transmitted Signal in Time Domain



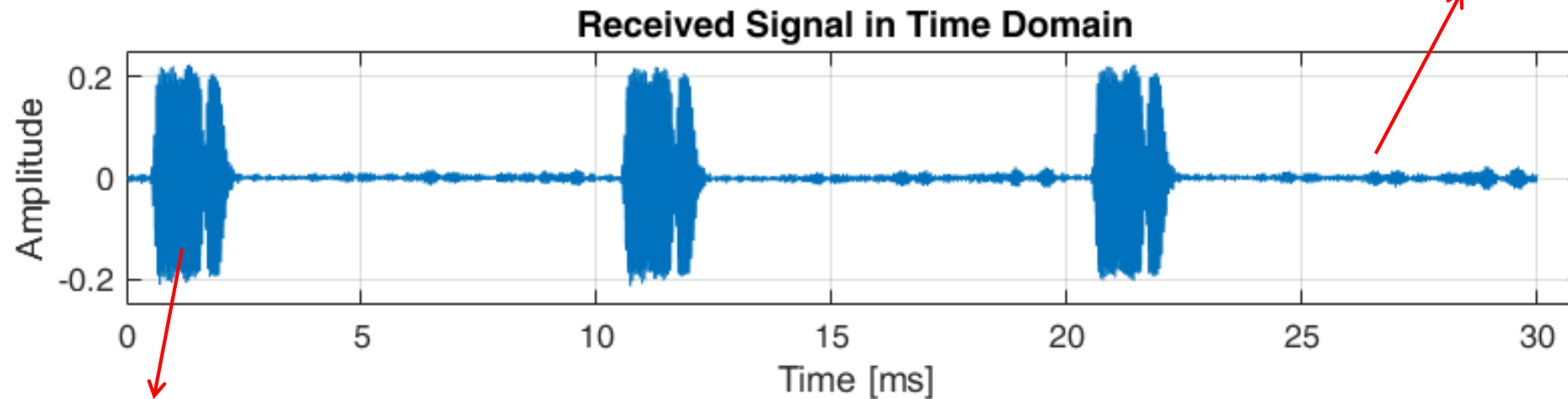
Pulse length = 1.6 ms

Transmitted Signal Time-Frequency Spectrum

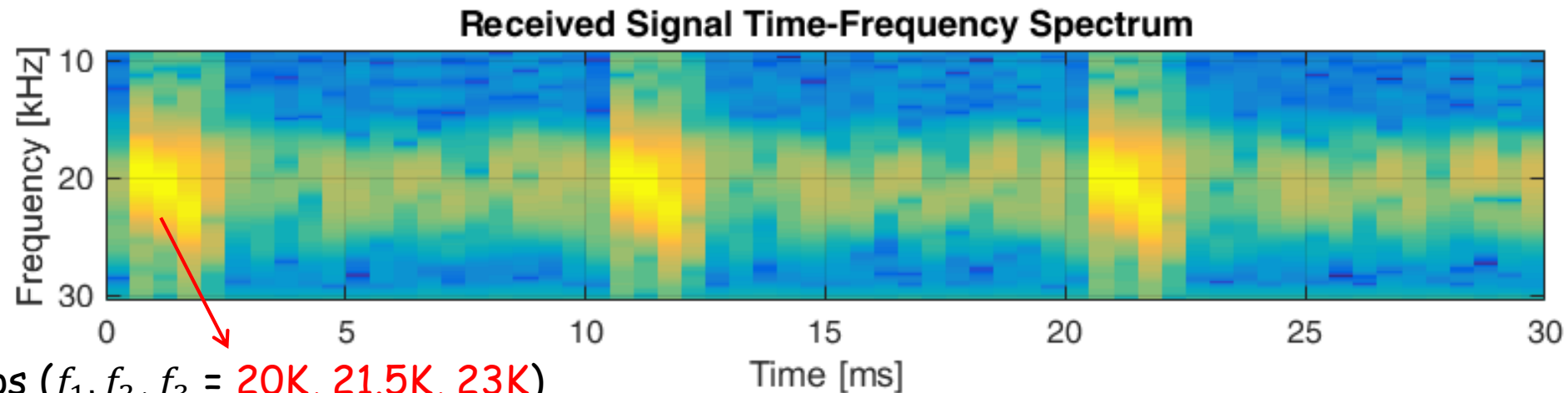


3 hops ( $f_1, f_2, f_3 = 20\text{K}, 21.5\text{K}, 23\text{K}$ )

Measurements/Frame per second: 100 (Hz)

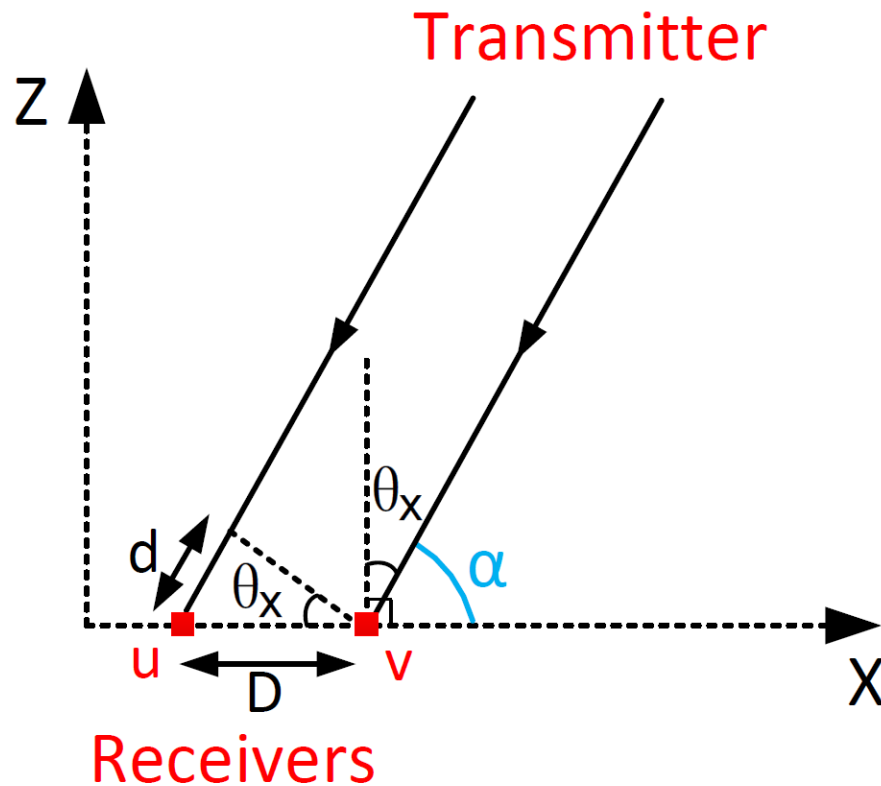


Pulse length = 1.6 ms



3 hops ( $f_1, f_2, f_3 = 20K, 21.5K, 23K$ )

# Far-field Model of AOA



$$\sin\theta_x = \frac{d}{D} = \frac{\Delta\varphi}{2\pi f} \cdot \frac{c}{D}$$

Given:

$\theta_x$ :	Horizontal angle
$d$ :	difference of arrival
$\Delta\varphi$ :	phase difference
$F$ :	frequency of current signal
$C$ :	Sound speed
$D$ :	Sensor distance

How to get:

Horizontal angle  $\theta_x$  and vertical angle  $\theta_y$

# Proposed Angle of Arrival Estimation Algorithm



1 Estimated phase difference  $\hat{\psi}_{x,i}$  for carrier frequencies  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  using cross power spectrum:

$$\boxed{\hat{\psi}_{x,i}} = \text{ang}(Y_u(f_i) \cdot Y_v^*(f_i)) = \hat{\phi}_{x,i} - 2\pi N_{x,i}, \quad (1)$$

$Y_u(f_i)$  is the DFT (Discrete Fourier Transform) of the received signals at sensor  $u$ ;

$(\cdot)^*$  indicates the complex conjugate operation;

$\hat{\phi}_{x,i}$  is the real phase difference;

$N_{x,i}$  is an integer which makes estimated phase difference  $\hat{\psi}_{x,i}$  within  $(-\pi, \pi]$ ;

2 Calculate real phase difference  $\hat{\phi}_{x,i}$  for  $\theta_x = \theta$  (eg:  $\theta = -90^\circ$ ) for all the 3 frequencies:

$$\sin(\hat{\theta}_x) = \frac{d}{D} = \frac{\boxed{\hat{\phi}_{x,i}} c}{2\pi f_i D}, \quad (2)$$

$\frac{2\pi f_i D \sin(\theta)}{c}$

→

# Proposed Angle of Arrival Estimation Algorithm



3 Obtain wrapped real phase difference  $\tilde{\psi}_{x,i}$  from real phase difference  $\hat{\phi}_{x,i}$  :

$$\tilde{\psi}_{x,i}(\theta) = \text{wrap}(\tilde{\phi}_{x,i}(\theta)) = \text{wrap}\left(\frac{2\pi f_i D \sin(\theta)}{c}\right), \quad (3)$$

4 Calculate the **error** between estimated phase difference and at all frequencies ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ );

$$\sum_{\langle i \rangle} (|\hat{\psi}_{x,i} - \tilde{\psi}_{x,i}(\theta)|)$$

5 Repeat 2,3 for **all the angles**  $\theta_x = -90 : 1 : 90$  and find the  $\theta$  gives **min error** as the estimated angle.

$$\hat{\theta}_x = \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\langle i \rangle} (|\hat{\psi}_{x,i} - \tilde{\psi}_{x,i}(\theta)|), \quad (4)$$



# AOA Estimation Summary



1 Estimated phase difference  $\hat{\psi}_{x,i}$

$$\hat{\psi}_{x,i} = \text{ang}(Y_u(f_i) \cdot Y_v^*(f_i)) = \hat{\phi}_{x,i} - 2\pi N_{x,i}$$

2 Calculate real phase difference  $\hat{\phi}_{x,i}$  for  $\theta = -90^\circ : 1 : 90$  at all the 3 frequencies:

3 Obtain wrapped real phase difference  $\tilde{\psi}_{x,i}$

$$\tilde{\psi}_{x,i}(\theta) = \text{wrap}(\tilde{\phi}_{x,i}(\theta)) = \text{wrap}\left(\frac{2\pi f_i D \sin(\theta)}{c}\right)$$

4 Obtain absolute error (difference) summation of  $\hat{\psi}_{x,i}$  and  $\tilde{\psi}_{x,i}$ :

5 Find the  $\theta$  gives **min error** as the estimated angle.

$$\hat{\theta}_x = \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\langle i \rangle} (|\hat{\psi}_{x,i} - \tilde{\psi}_{x,i}(\theta)|)$$



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## Proposed classifier

Redundant Dictionary Matching;  
(RD classifier)

- No training procedure;

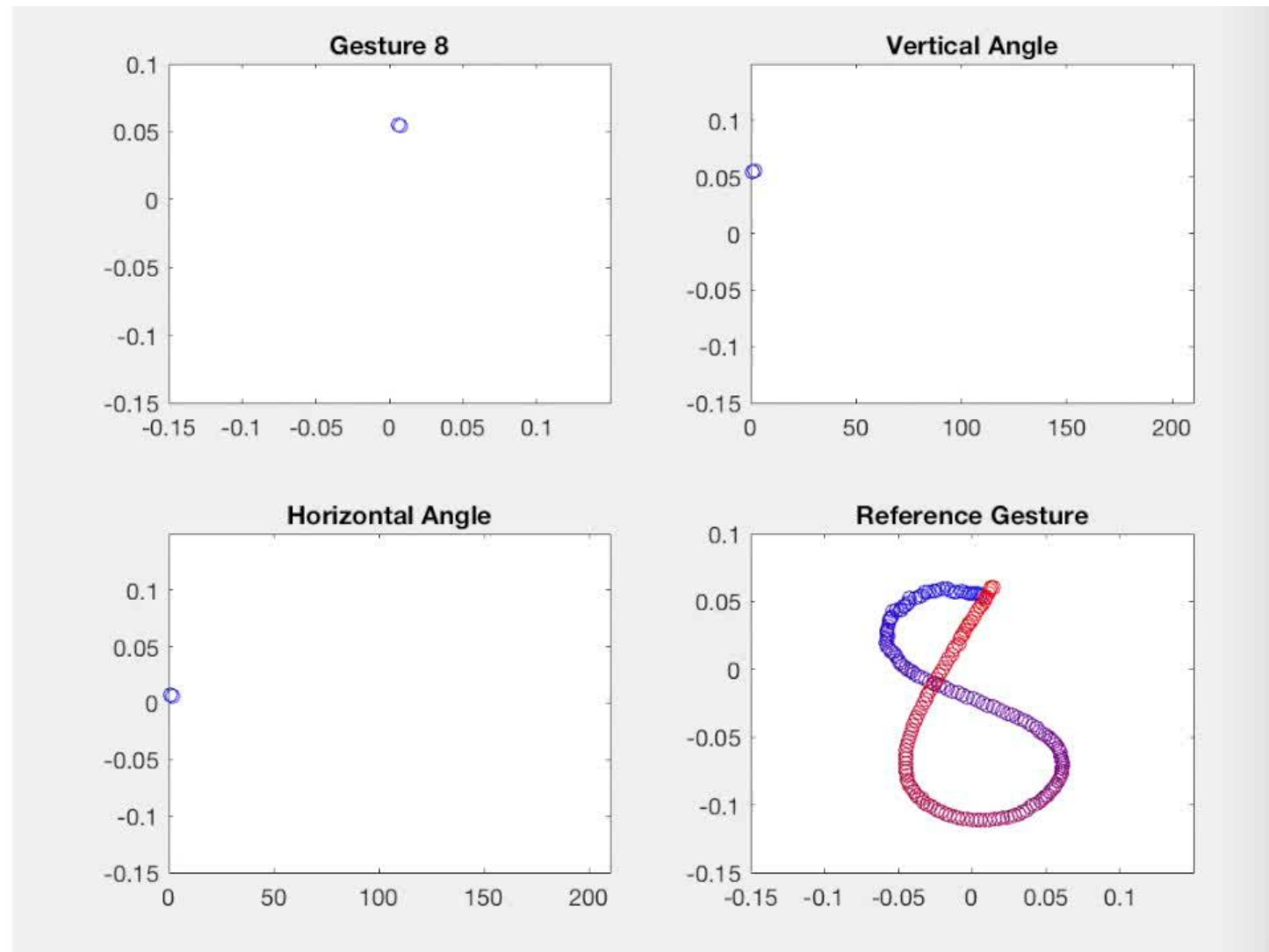
## Benchmark Classifier

Neural Network Model Trained by:  
(NN classifiers)

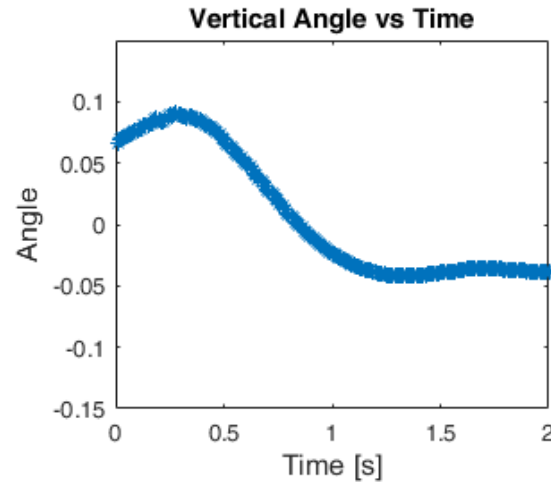
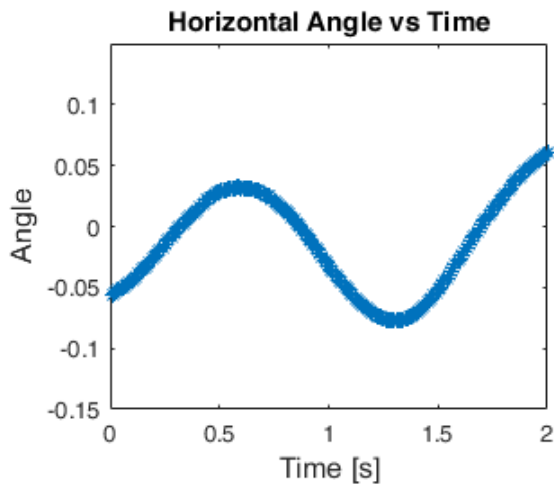
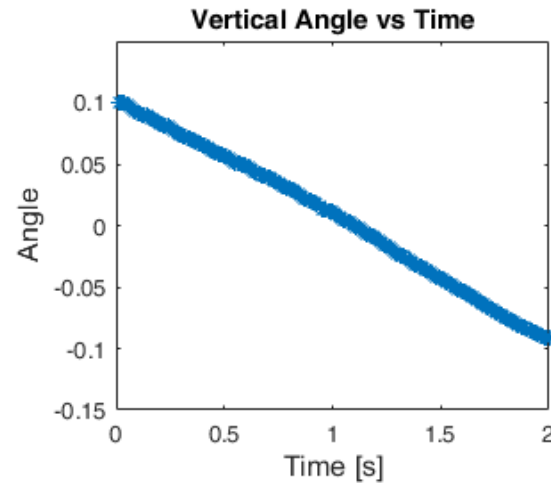
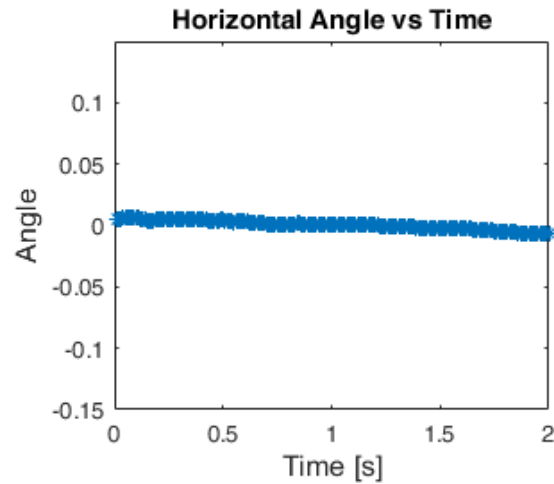
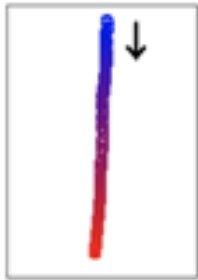
- Train the model with angle data
- Train the model with constructed image
- MNIST database

4 classifiers

# A Demo of Angle vs. Time



# Template Dictionary



Same applies for 3, 4, 5 ~ 9, 0

Horizontal angle vector  
+  
Vertical angle vector  
+  
Normalize  
=  
Template dictionary

# Template Dictionary

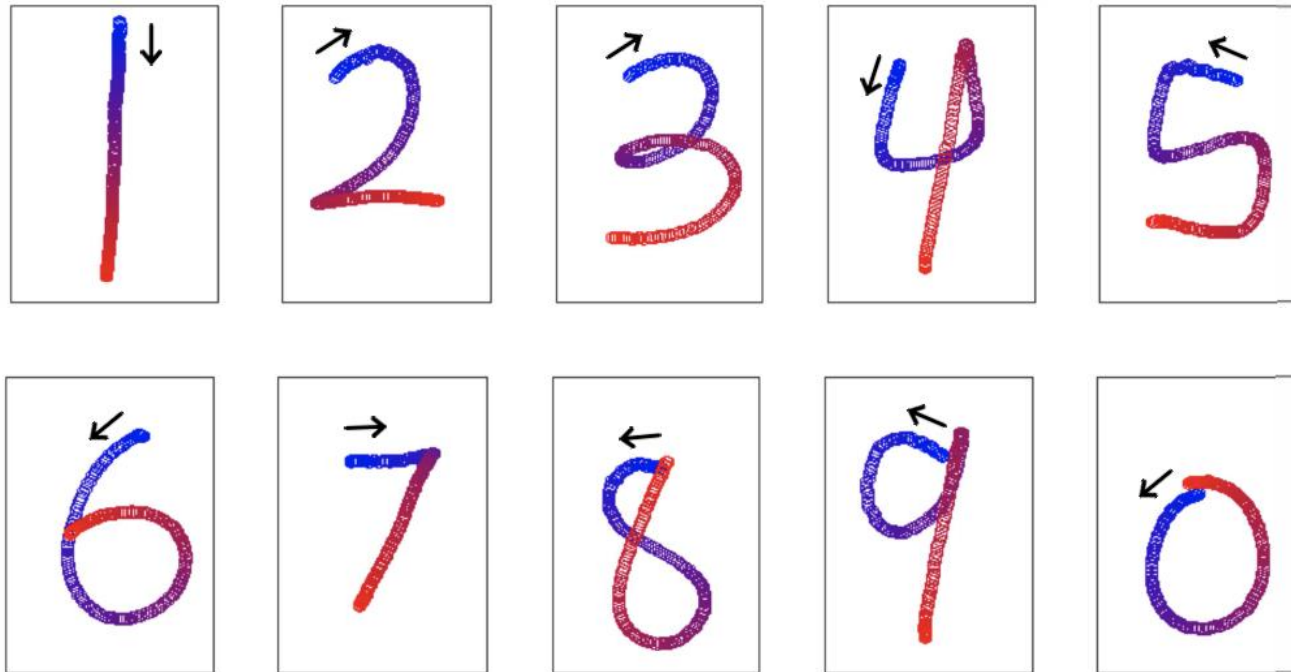
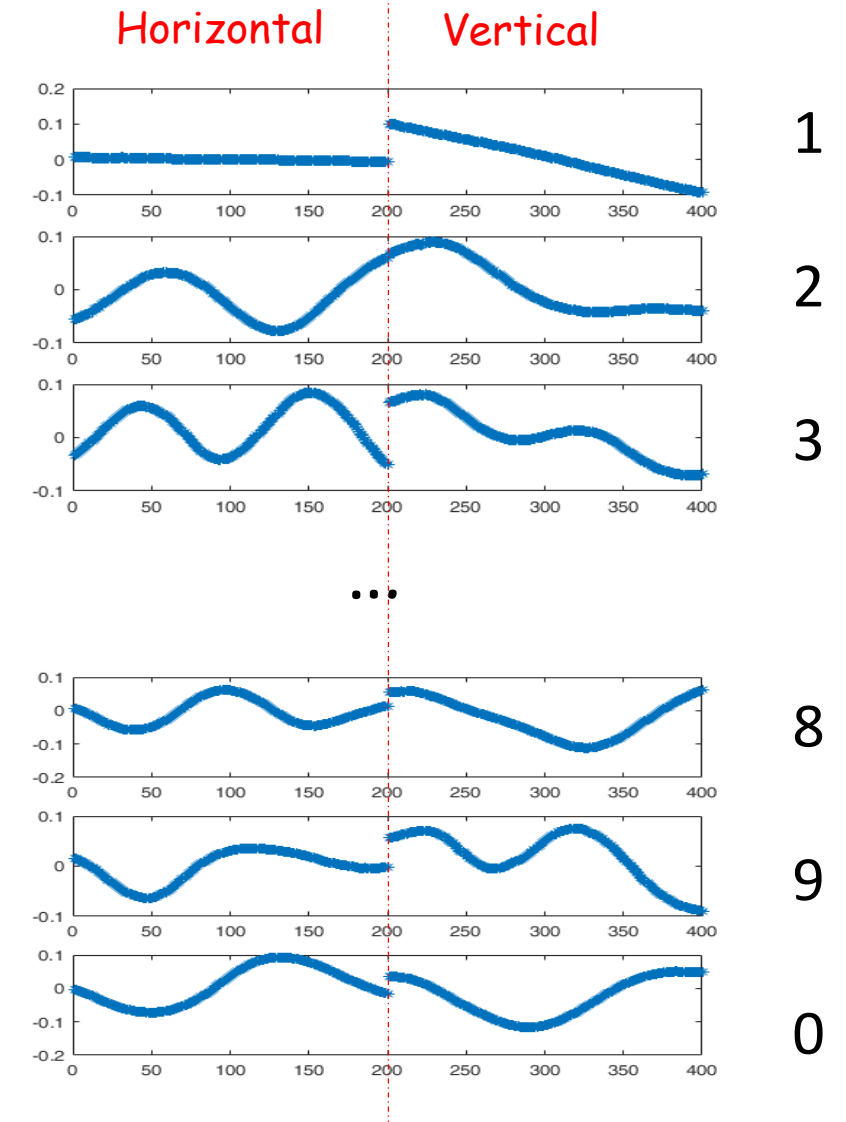


Fig. 4. Templates of the Gestures



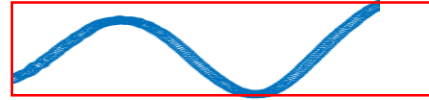
# Redundant Dictionary



Users have different habits:

Writing Speed  $\rightarrow$  **Shrink**

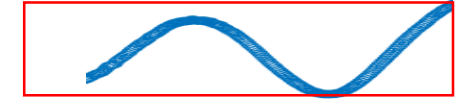
Delay  $\rightarrow$  **Shift**



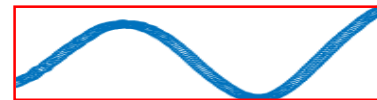
Slow



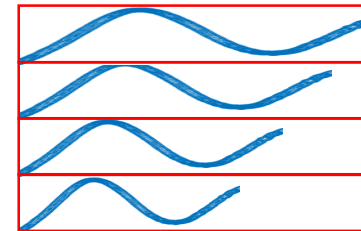
Faster



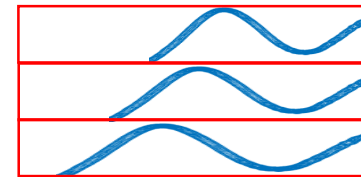
Slow delayed



Template dictionary

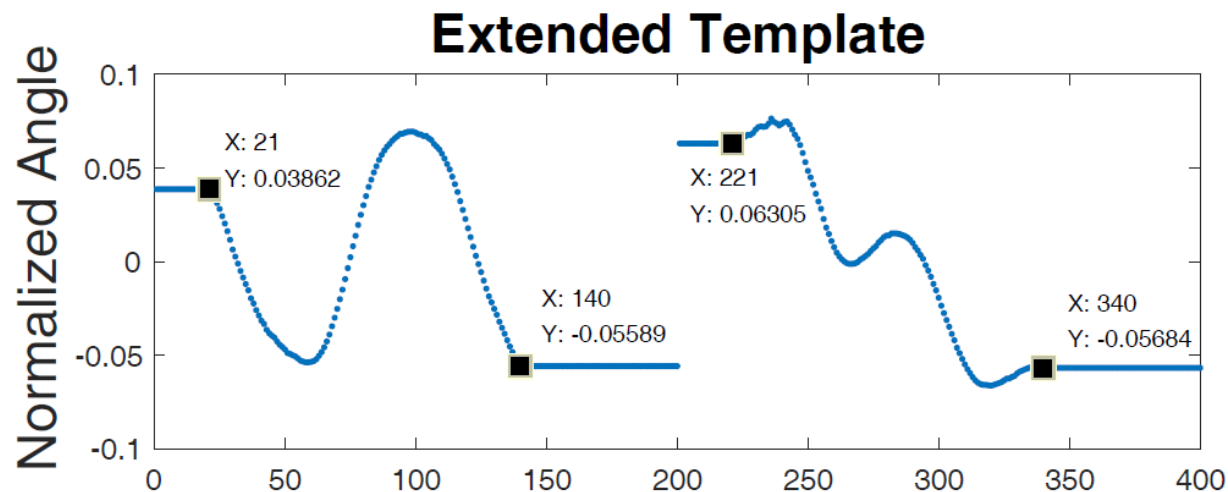
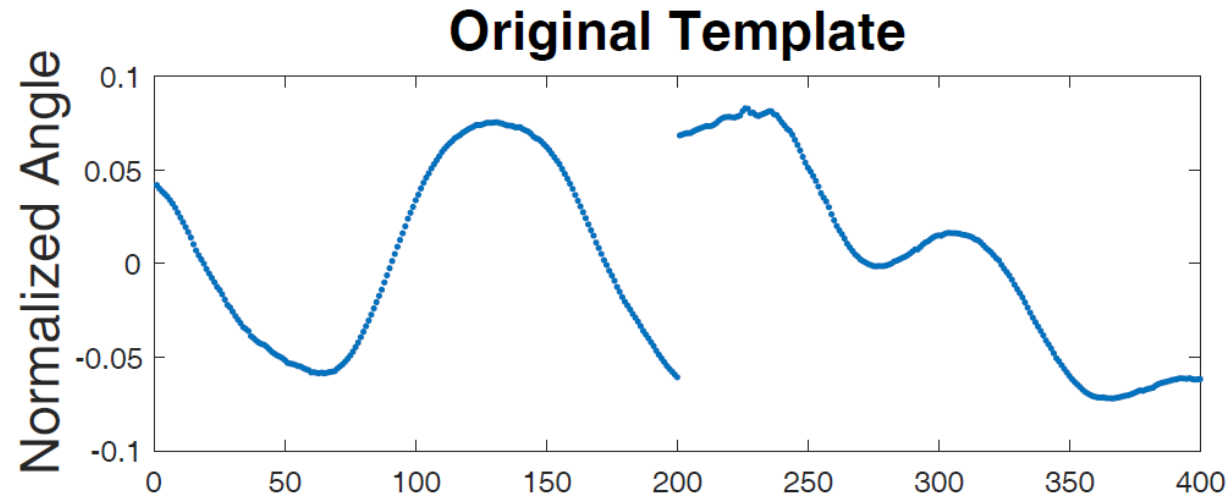


$\vdots$



Redundant Dictionary

# Redundant Dictionary—One Example



Shrink sample = 20; Shift sample = 20;

200 samples → 1 start point

180 samples → 2 start points

...

100 samples → 6 start points

Extend to 21 templates

Dictionary  $A_r$ : 400 by 210



# RD Classifier—Classify



$$r = A_r^T g. \quad (6)$$

$r$ : vector of inner products;

$A_r$ : redundant dictionary matrix;

$g$ : normalized angle information using linear interpolation to fit the size of the dictionary.

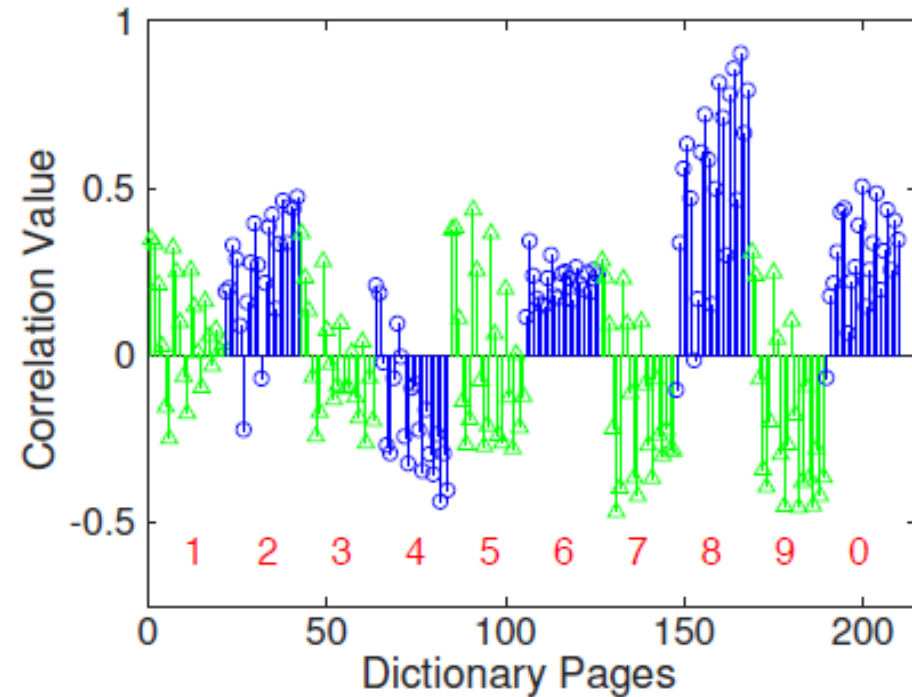
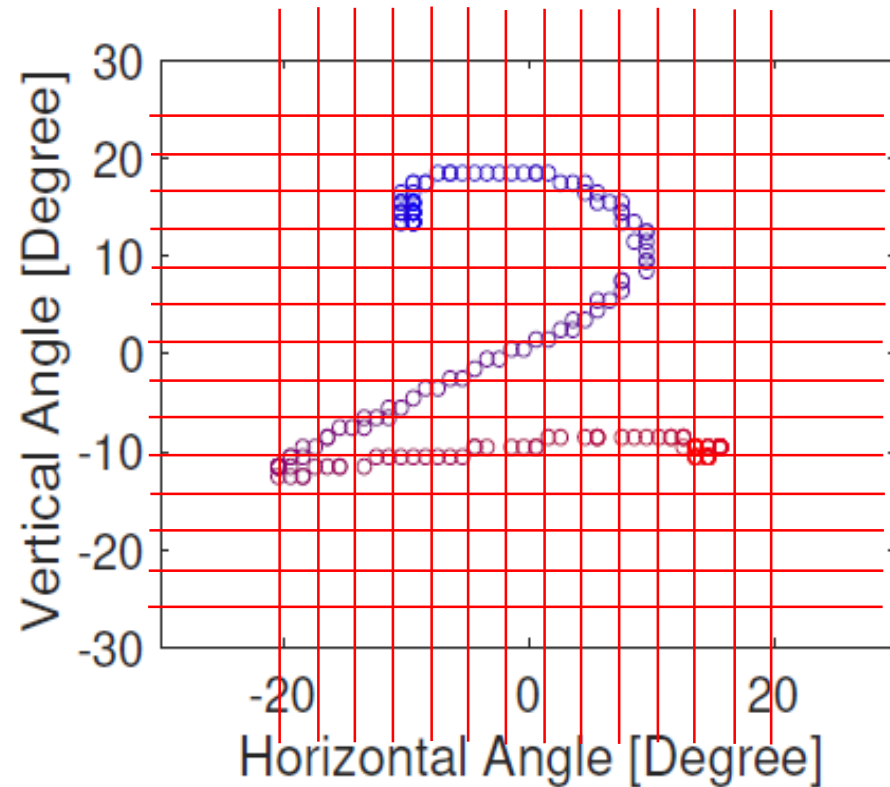


Fig. 9. An Example of Dictionary Matching for Gesture ‘8’

# NN Classifier—Image Constructing



Grid into a 28 by 28 matrix



(a) Gesture '2'



(b) Binarized Image

# NN Classifier—training data sets



Model: Stacked auto-encoder model from Matlab Neural Network Toolbox.

Training data sets:

- 1 Train the model with angle data; (1x400 vector)
- 2 Binarized MNIST database; (28x28 image)
- 3 Train the model with constructed images; (28x28 image)



MNIST database



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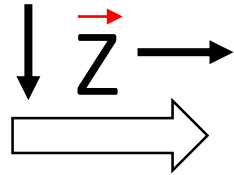
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# System Setup



Handhold  
ultrasound  
transmitter



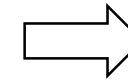
Perform  
gesture



Receiver array

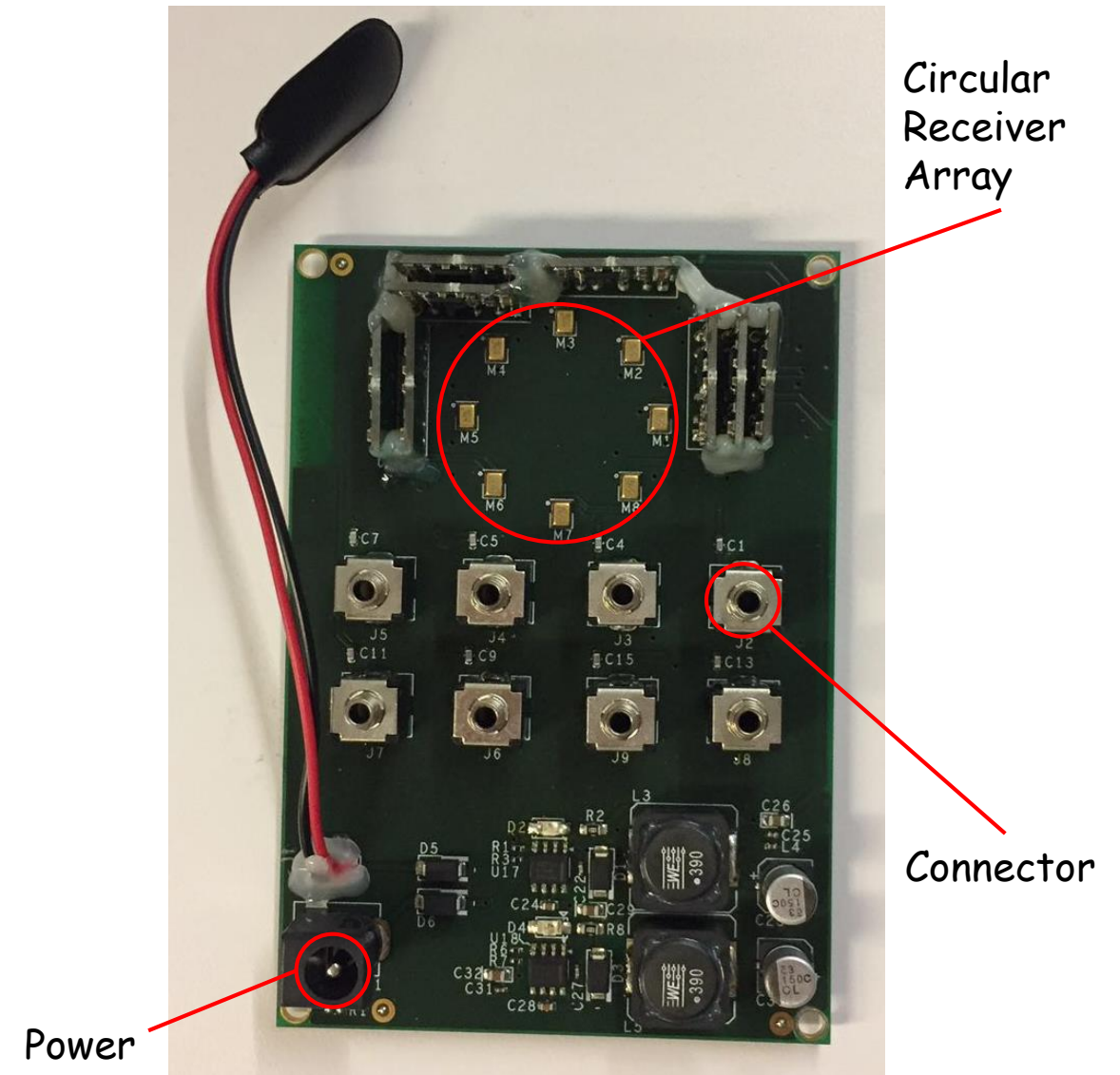
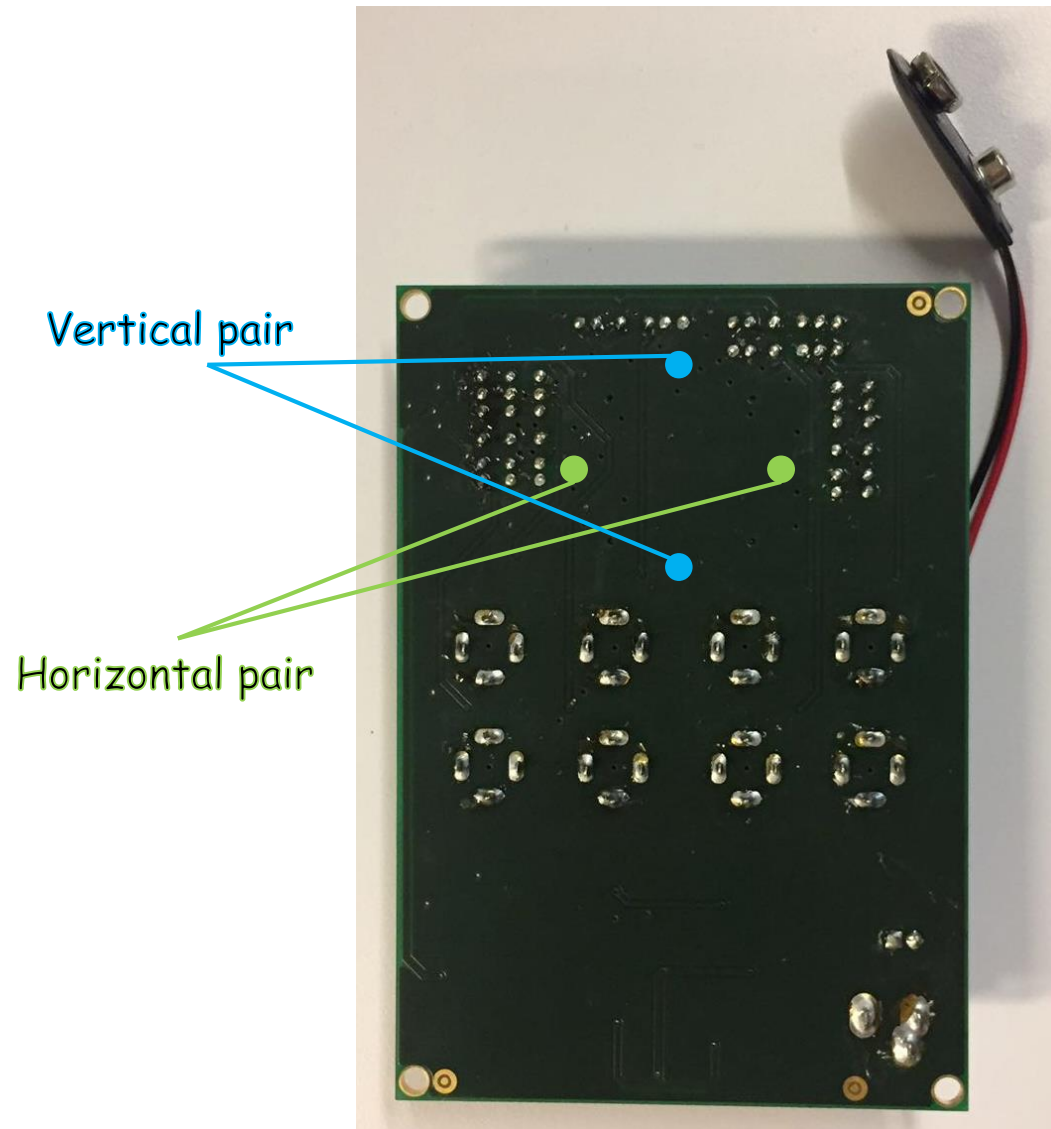


Computer



Classify  
the  
gesture

# Receiver Array



# Angle Accuracy Test Result



- Receiver is placed 1 m from the ground;
- Data is collected from 6 points with **Vertical angle = 0**  
(transmitter is the same height with the receiver)

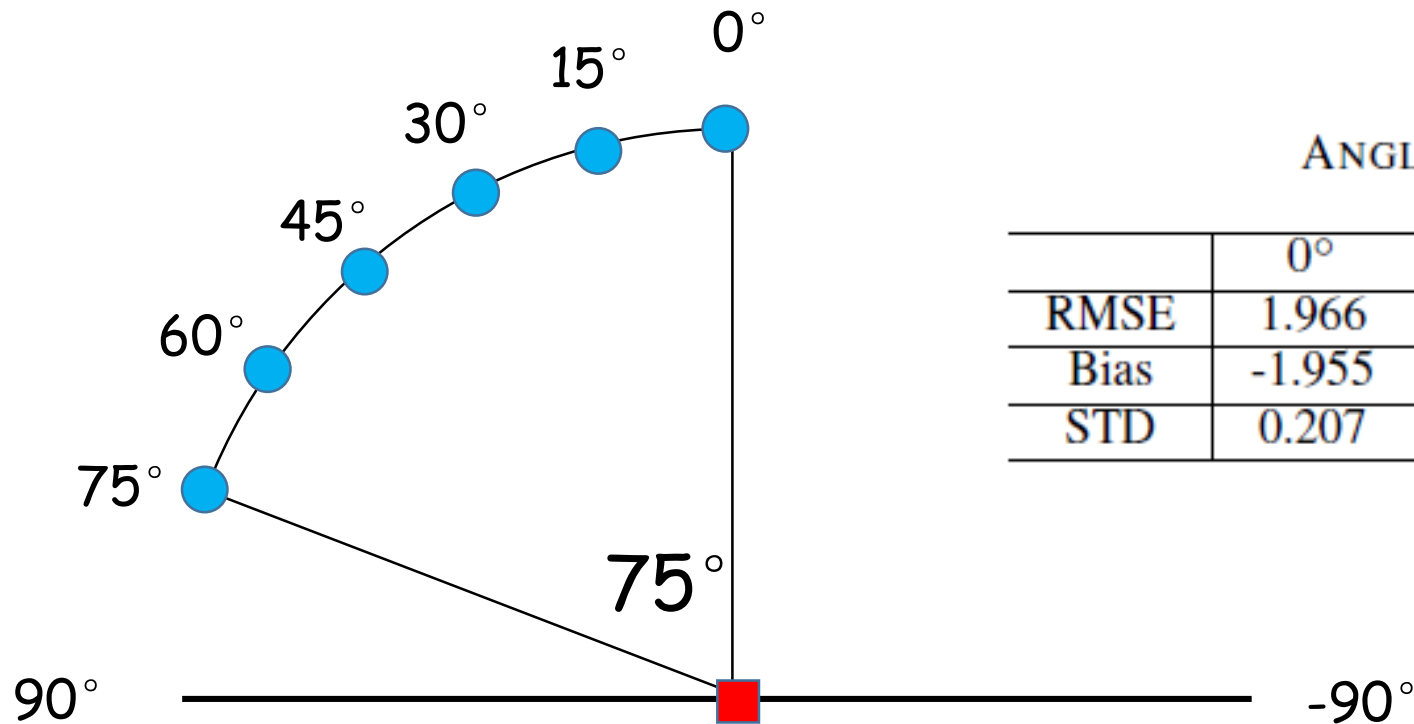
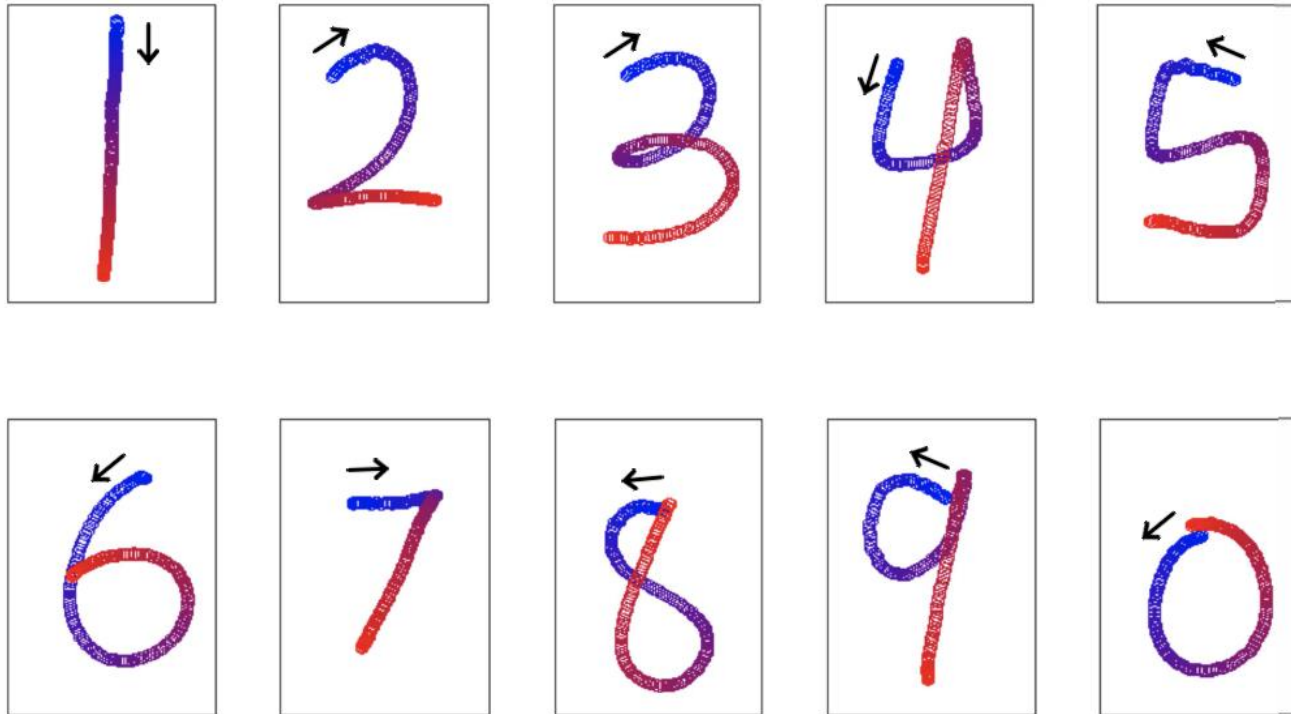


TABLE I  
ANGLE OF ARRIVAL ACCURACY TEST

	0°	15°	30°	45°	60°	75°
RMSE	1.966	1.925	1.691	2.520	0.604	1.102
Bias	-1.955	-1.895	-1.620	-2.470	-0.145	0.155
STD	0.207	0.339	0.487	0.500	0.588	1.094

# Classifier Performance



Gesture Templates

Data collection:

10 volunteers

10 gestures

Repeated for 10 times

1000 gesture data set



# Classifier Performance



Classifier	Accuracy
Redundant Dictionary Matching	95.5%
Neural Network Model	
▪ Train the model with angle data	94.4%
▪ MNIST database	66.5%
▪ Train the model with constructed image	91.1%

# Result of Dictionary-based Classifier



TABLE II  
CONFUSION MATRIX OF DICTIONARY-BASED CLASSIFIER

Actual Gesture	Classified Gestures (95.5% of 1000 gestures)									
	'1'	'2'	'3'	'4'	'5'	'6'	'7'	'8'	'9'	'0'
'1'	96						3	1		
'2'	4	91					5			
'3'	5	1	91				3			
'4'				81		5			9	5
'5'	3				95			1	1	
'6'						97				3
'7'	9						91			
'8'							1	99		
'9'					1		1		97	1
'0'						1				99



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3 *Angle of Arrival Estimation*

4 *Gesture Classification*

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- 1 A prototype of **gesture recognition system**;
- 2 **AOA algorithm** to obtain 2D angle information from the gesture;
- 3 Training-free **Redundant dictionary classifier**;
- 4 **95.5%** accuracy.

1 Letter Recognition (✓)

2 Hidden Markov Model Classifier (✓)

3 Decision Tree (✓)

4 Word Recognition

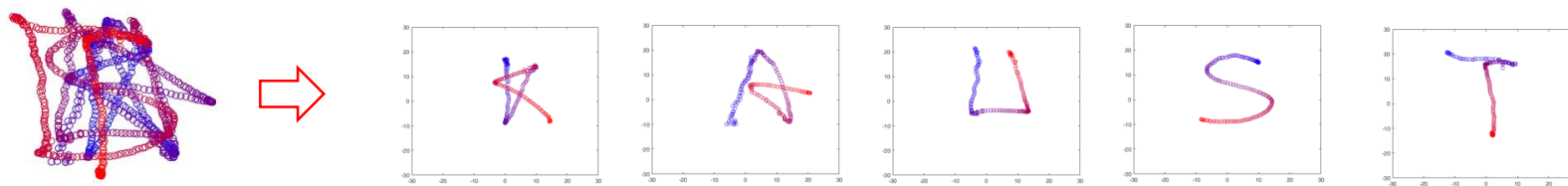
## Recent Letter Classification Results

1 With decision tree

- Redundant Dictionary: 96.09%
- Neural network: 95.45%
- Hidden Markov Model: **96.22%**

2 Without decision tree

- Redundant Dictionary: 89.39%
- Neural network: 94.29%
- Hidden Markov Model: **95.45%**





# Thanks for your time

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Date: 2017-08-25