

# Accelerometer Data based Individual Verification

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## Abstract

*In this midway report, we will discuss the motivation behind this project, methods we have explored and will be explored later, a detailed description of the database used, and the results we get by applying our methods on the data. Finally, we will briefly discuss similar work that have been done in the past, and our plan from now to the project deadline.*

## 1. Introduction

The specific way people walk, often known as gait, is something that may be as unique between people as their fingerprint. Although the gait can be measured in many different ways, currently the most useful and accessible one is with accelerometer data. By using the accelerometer data in a smart phone, or the ever more popular smart watch, we will be able to verify if the person is the owner of the smart device he is carrying. This can be useful as both a convenient way to keep the device unlocked, and a hard to fake verification system keeping unwanted users out. This project compares different classification algorithms as well as performance with different device placements (e.g. wrist vs waist). We will also expand the classification to include identification based on other typical actions such as standing or sitting.

## 2. Method

In this section, we list all the methods we have employed so far. We discuss those methods we have tried extensively in details, and state those we are likely to try later.

### 2.1. Data Preprocessing

Before accelerometer data is used in further steps like feature extraction and classification, a preprocessed stage is needed, as data from different sources are used. As a convention, all data are resampled at 32Hz, and converted to milli-g, where g represents the standard gravity.

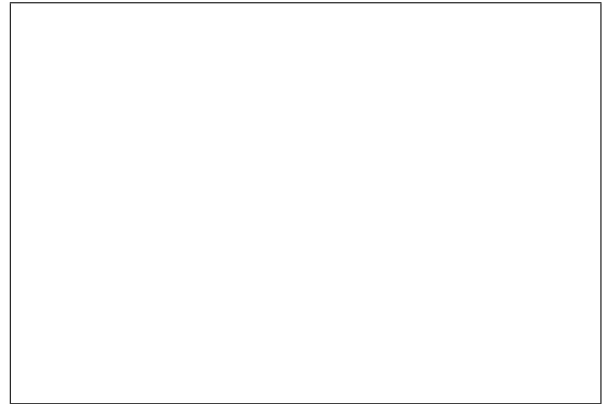


Figure 1.

The input data has 3 dimension –  $x$ -axis,  $y$ -axis and  $z$ -axis. The following image shows how the data looks like, using the *walk* data of *female1* recorded from 09 : 51 : 07 on March 24th, 2011.

By looking at the data, we can find that the period is around  $0.7s$ . Moreover, we noticed that the signal is pretty noisy, and a low pass filter might be useful for future processing. To find out a proper cutoff frequency, we did Fourier transform on the raw data, along its  $x$  axis, resulting the following image:

By observing this image, the fundamental frequency is around  $0.1\pi$ , while the envelop is descending with ascending frequency. Taking a reasonable frequency diversity of different individuals into account, we finally set the cutoff frequency to  $0.3\pi$ . While a group delay is produced by passing data through a finite duration low pass filter, a trivial step is needed to remove this group delay. The filtered data shown below:

Along with noise reduction, slow changing offsets in the signal must be removed. Observing the figure below it is clear that the signal is slowly drifting which could

lead to issues in later stages. Bringing the data through a simple high pass filter with a cutoff of  $0.5Hz$  allows us to remove the offending drift without compromising the in-

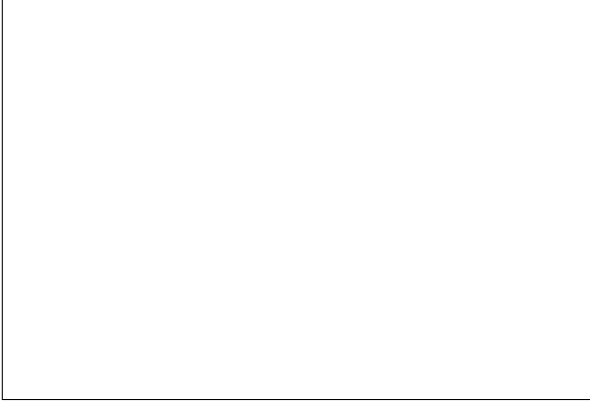


Figure 2.

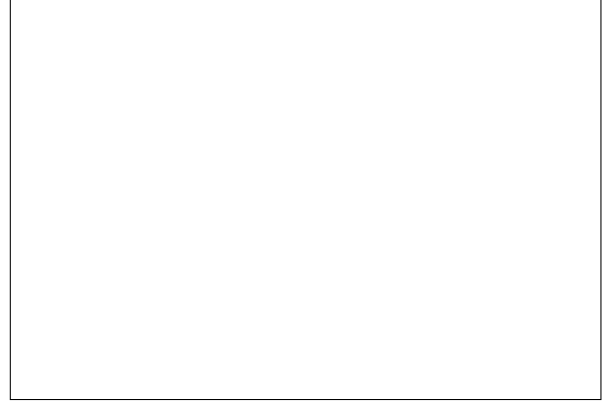


Figure 5.

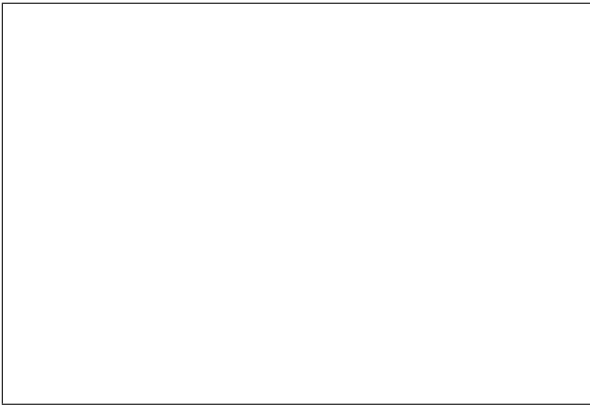


Figure 3.

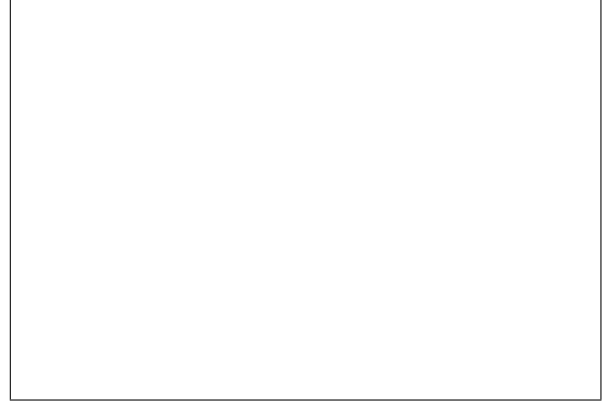


Figure 6.

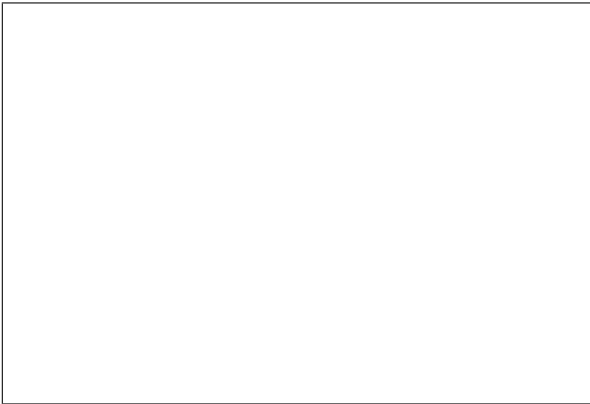


Figure 4.

formation in the data which is closer occurring at  $1Hz$  or faster leaving us with the signal seen below:

## 2.2. PCA and Projection

The data from the files is measured along 3 axis over time, however the data processing is targeted at 1 dimen-

sional time signal. In order to simplify further calculations the dimension of interest is extracted using PCA. The 3 dimensional data is projected onto the primary eigenvector resulting in the 1 dimensional time signal we desire that has the majority of the movement information. A 3 dimensional signal and its 1 dimensional projection are shown in the figures below:

As each person carries themselves differently the direction of this vector may also be telling as to who it is so this vector is saved to be a possible feature in further classifiers.

## 2.3. Period Extraction

Since walking can be approximated as a periodic movement of multiple body parts (legs cause bodies to move up and down; arms swing circularly with a certain period), we decided that the period of each dimension, and more importantly one full period of body movement along that dimension, are two important features that might help separate one person from another. To extract the period of a signal, we decided to employ the autocorrelation method, which computes the cross energy between a signal and its shifted copy.

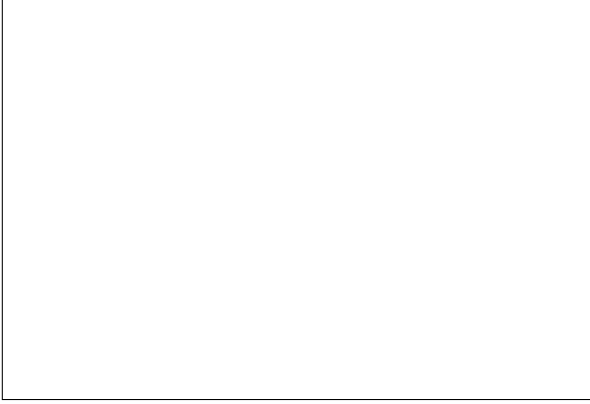


Figure 7.

## 2.4. MACE Filtering for Individual Verification

To deal with pattern verification regardless of variations between different trials of the same individual, correlation seems to be a natural choice. As the first thought, a matched filter seems to be a choice. Matched filter is basically a template pattern that with training patterns as input, the correlation result will be at the pre-specified level, meaning matched. It is good for detecting the known reference with additive white Gaussian noise, but its not robust with even slight distortion of the data.

Another correlation method to be considered is MACE(Minimum Average Correlation Energy) filter[1]. As it minimizes the average energy of the correlation outputs while maintaining high correlation with origins, it will has better discrimination performance.

Testing vectors are normalized, to avoid correlation result confusion since different individuals might have considerable amplitude differences on accelerometer data.

## 2.5. Other Classification Methods

We consider trying the following methods for the optimal classification scheme:

- LDA
- KNN clustering
- Adaboost Classifier
- Gaussian Mixture Model

## 3. Database

Dataset was found from UCI Machine Learning Repository[2], called Dataset for ADL Recognition with Wrist-worn Accelerometer Data Set. In this dataset, there are recordings of 16 volunteers performing 14 Activities of

Daily Living(ADL) while carrying a wrist-worn tri-axial accelerometer. These 14 activities include brush-teeth, climb-stairs, comb-hair, descend-stairs, drink-glass, eat-meat, eat-soup, getup-bed, liedown-bed, pour-water, sitdown-chair, standup-chair, use-telephone, and walk.

For now, we are using *walk* as the only label for individual verification. In the future, we need to add more labels to perform simple activity identification before running individual verification. Moreover, we plan to use data collected by our own using Pebble watch and Android device, to apply the method used in this project in real world.

The *walk* activity is identified as taking a number of steps, and there are 100 entries labeled *walk* which are contributed by 10 volunteers; each entry contains 3 columns – the first one represents x axis, which is pointing toward the hand; the second one is y axis pointing toward the left; the last one is z axis and its perpendicular to the plane of the hand.

The range of data is from  $-1.5g$  to  $1.5g$ , which is encoded using a linear mapping with an encoded data range of 0 to 63 inclusive. The sensitivity is 6 bits per axis and the sampling rate is  $32Hz$ . Following is a snippet in the dataset:

```
...
24 44 33
21 46 32
10 55 32
11 48 32
...
```

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Current

#### • Period Extraction

Periods are extracted as described in the Method section, and here are some sample results with all period are resampled at a length of 50 samples, to have the same dimension as well feed following steps like MACE filter with equal dimension input.

#### • MACE Filter

The current result of MACE filter is pretty weak, which might implies that MACE filter is not as robust and generative as expected. MACE filter correlation result is as follows:

For now, the input training vectors of MACE filter are whole trials, which involving multiple periods. The correlation result is considered to be improved by training the MACE filter on a period basis.

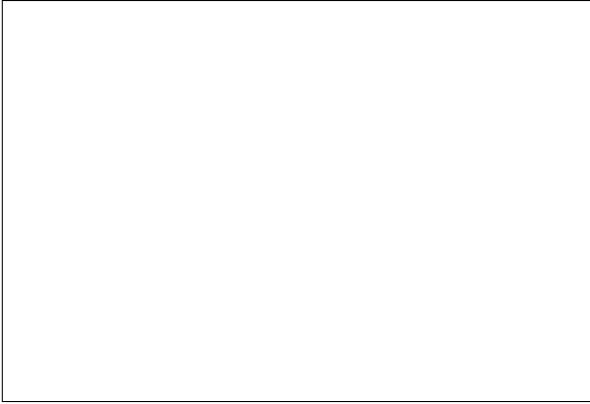


Figure 8.

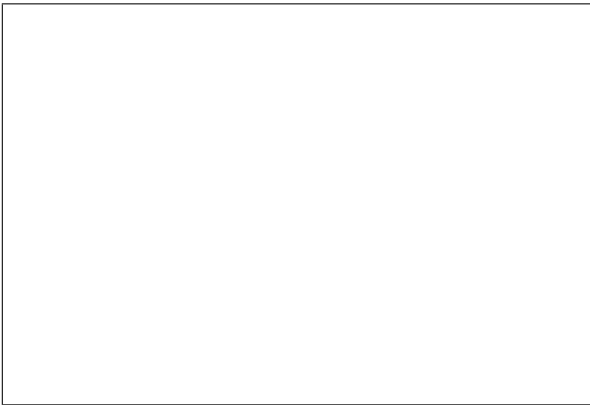


Figure 9.

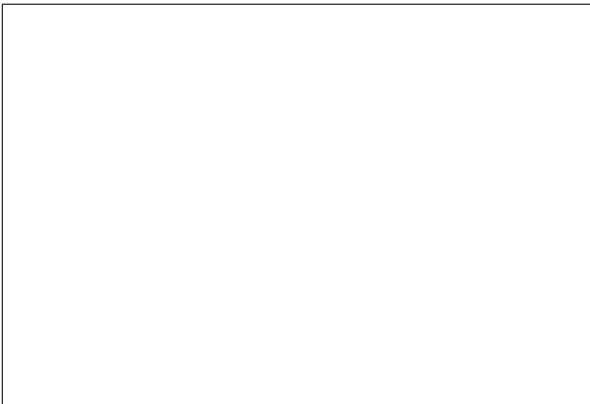


Figure 10.

paper [3], Gafurov et al used three accelerometers to capture the accelerations along the X, Y, and Z dimensions. Then, they combined this three-dimensional data to calculate a more reliable combined acceleration signal. They further defined two features as functions of the combined acceleration signal, namely histogram similarity and cycle length, and used them as the features for their classifiers.

#### **4.2. Expected**

### **5. Comparison with Other Work**

Gait authentication by the means of pattern recognition is a novel idea. However, several workers have made the attempt to solve this problem with promising result. In their