

Development of a vibrotactile stimulation system for cognitive rehabilitation

Master Thesis

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

"Master of Science in Engineering"

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Kurzfassung

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Schlagwörter: Schlagwort 1, Schlagwort 2, Schlagwort 3, Schlagwort 4, Schlagwort 5

Abstract

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Keywords: Keyword 1, Keyword 2, Keyword 3, Keyword 4, Keyword 5

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1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation and Problem Statement

F"uhren Sie an dieser Stelle zur Arbeit hin und erkl"aren Sie die Hintergr"unde welche der Themenstellung ihre besondere Relevanz verleiht.

1.2 Objectives of the Thesis

Erl"autern Sie an dieser Stelle *genau* was ihre Aufgabe ist. Gegebenfalls grenzen Sie auch die Teile aus, welche nicht im Umfang der Arbeit liegen. Dies kann Ihnen gegen Ende ihrer Arbeit bei der Argumentation helfen.

1.3 Structure of the Thesis

Geben Sie in diesem Abschnitt eine grobe Vorausschau auf den Aufbau der Arbeit. Die Arbeit k"onnte empirisch motiviert sein und mit der Auswertung eines Experimentes beginnen oder theoretisch und somit logischerweise mit einem Theoriekapitel beginnen.

2 Theoretical Background

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@articleCabral.2024, author = Cabral, Ariana Moura and Lora-Millán, Julio Salvador and Pereira, Adriano Alves and Rocon, Eduardo and Andrade, Adriano de Oliveira, abstract = (1) Background: Vibrotactile stimulation has been studied for tremor, but there is little evidence for Essential Tremor (ET). (2) Methods: This research employed a dataset from a previous study, with data collected from 18 individuals subjected to four vibratory stimuli. To characterise tremor changes before, during, and after stimuli, time and frequency domain features were estimated from the signals. Correlation and regression analyses verified the relationship between features and clinical tremor scores. (3) Results: Individuals responded differently to vibrotactile stimulation. The 250 Hz stimulus was the only one that reduced tremor amplitude after stimulation. Compared to the baseline, the 250 Hz and random frequency stimulation reduced tremor peak power. The clinical scores and amplitude-based features were highly correlated, yielding accurate regression models (mean squared error of 0.09). (4) Conclusions: The stimulation frequency of 250 Hz has the greatest potential to reduce tremors in ET. The accurate regression model and high correlation between estimated features and clinical scales suggest that prediction models can automatically evaluate and control stimulus-induced tremor. A limitation of this research is the relatively reduced sample size., year = 2024, title = On the Effect of Vibrotactile Stimulation in Essential Tremor, volume = 12, number = 4, journal = Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland)

@articleCampbell.2022, author = Campbell, Elsa A. and Kantor, Jiří and Kantorová, Lucia and Svobodová, Zuzana and Wosch, Thomas, abstract = The prevalence of dementia is increasing with the ever-growing population of older adults. Non-pharmacological, music-based interventions, including sensory stimulation, were reported by the Lancet Commission in 2020 to be the first-choice approach for managing the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. Low frequency sinusoidal vibration interventions, related to music interventions through their core characteristics, may offer relief for these symptoms. Despite increasing attention on the effectiveness of auditory music interventions and music therapy for managing dementia, this has not included low frequency vibration. This scoping review, following the JBI methodology guidelines, was conducted to investigate participants' responses to both sound and mechanical vibration, the characteristics of the delivered interventions, methodological challenges, and the specifics of the research experiments reported. An extensive search was conducted in BMC, CINAHL, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, EMBASE, ERIC, MEDLINE (OvidSP), Pedro, ProQuest Central, PsycINFO, Scopus, and Web of Science. Current Controlled Trials, Clinical Trials, and Google Scholar were also

searched as well as a hand search in relevant journals. Studies on adults with all types of dementia, investigating tactile low frequency sound or mechanical vibration in any context were considered. Data from eight full-length studies (three RCTs, two quasi-experimental, two case reports, and one qualitative) were extracted using the data extraction table developed by the authors and were included in the analysis and critical appraisal. Issues in quality related to, for example, control groups and blinding. Few studies addressed participants' subjective responses to the interventions. Reporting on the intervention characteristics was unclear. It appeared more frequent sessions led to better outcomes and home-based interventions potentially addressing the issue of access and feasibility. Future research should include neuroimaging to measure and confirm the hypothesised mechanism of cerebral coherence. Standardised reporting of intervention characteristics is also needed to ensure replicability of the experiments. Higher quality research is needed to investigate the impact and effect of low frequency vibration for the symptoms of dementia and compare outcomes in meta-syntheses., year = 2022, title = Tactile Low Frequency Vibration in Dementia Management: A Scoping Review, pages = 854794, volume = 13, journal = Frontiers in psychology

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@articleClementsCortes.2016, author = Clements-Cortes, Amy and Ahonen, Heidi and Evans, Michael and Freedman, Morris and Bartel, Lee, abstract = This study assessed the effect of stimulating the somatosensory system of Alzheimer's disease (AD) patients at three stages of their illness with 40Hz sound. In this AB cross-over study design, 18 participants (6 mild, 6 moderate, 6 severe) each participated in 13 sessions: one intake and 12 treatment. Treatment A consisted of 40Hz sound stimulation and Treatment B consisted of visual stimulation using DVDs, each provided twice a week over 6 weeks for a total of 6 times per treatment. Outcome measures included: St. Louis University Mental Status Test (SLUMS), Observed Emotion Rating Scale, and behavioral observation by the researcher. Data were submitted to regression analysis for the series of 6 SLUMS scores in treatment A and 6 scores in B with comparison by group. The slopes for the full sample and subgroups in the 40Hz treatment were all significant beyond $\alpha=0.05$, while those for the DVD were not. A thematic analysis of qualitative observations supported the statistical findings. 40Hz treatment appeared to have the strongest impact on persons with mild and moderate AD. Results are promising in terms of a potential new treatment for persons with AD, and further research is needed., year = 2016, title = Short-Term Effects of Rhythmic Sensory Stimulation in Alzheimer's Disease: An Exploratory Pilot Study, pages = 651–660, volume = 52, number = 2, journal = Journal of Alzheimer's disease : JAD

@articleClementsCortes.2017, author = Clements-Cortes, Amy and Bartel, Lee and Ahonen, Heidi and Freedman, Morris and Evans, Michael and Tang-Wai, David, year = 2017, title = Can Rhythmic Sensory Stimulation Decrease Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer's Disease?: A Clinical Case Study, pages = 174, volume = 9, number = 3, journal = Music and Medicine

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@articleClementsCortes.2022, author = Clements-Cortes, Amy and Bartel, Lee, abstract = Dementia prevalence is increasing globally, and symptom management and treatment strategies require further investigation. Music-based interventions have demonstrated some efficacy with respect to quality of life and symptom reduction, though limited with respect to cognition. This study reports on three case studies where the use of gamma stimulation over one year contributed to maintenance of cognition and increases in mood for participants with Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment. Auditory stimulation with isochronous sound at 40 Hz was delivered to participants via a commercially available vibroacoustic chair device five times per week for 30 min with assistance from caregivers. Further research is needed to assess the integration of this therapy in the overall care for persons with dementia., year = 2022, title = Long-Term Multi-Sensory Gamma Stimulation of Dementia Patients: A Case Series Report, volume = 19, number = 23, journal = International journal of environmental research and public health

@articleGuger.2012, author = Guger, Christoph and Krausz, Gunther and Allison, Brendan Z. and Edlinger, Guenter, abstract = Most brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) rely on one of three types of signals in the electroencephalogram (EEG): P300s, steady-state visually evoked potentials, and event-related desynchronization. EEG is typically recorded non-invasively with electrodes mounted on the human scalp using conductive electrode gel for optimal impedance and data quality. The use of electrode gel entails serious problems that are especially pronounced in real-world settings when experts are not available. Some recent work has introduced dry electrode systems that do not require gel, but often introduce new problems such as comfort and signal quality. The principal goal of this study was to assess a new dry electrode BCI system in a very common task: spelling with a P300 BCI. A total of 23 subjects used a P300 BCI to spell the word "LUCAS" while receiving real-time, closed-loop feedback. The dry system yielded classification accuracies that were similar to those obtained with gel systems. All subjects completed a questionnaire after data recording, and all subjects stated that the dry system was not uncomfortable. This is the first field validation of a dry electrode P300 BCI system, and paves the way for new research and development with EEG recording systems that are much more practical and convenient in field settings than conventional systems., year = 2012, title = Comparison of dry and gel based elec-

trodes for p300 brain-computer interfaces, pages = 60, volume = 6, journal = *Frontiers in neuroscience*

@articleGuger.2017, author = Guger, Christoph and Spataro, Rossella and Allison, Brendan Z. and Heiling, Alexander and Ortner, Rupert and Cho, Woosang and La Bella, Vincenzo, abstract = Many patients with locked-in syndrome (LIS) or complete locked-in syndrome (CLIS) also need brain-computer interface (BCI) platforms that do not rely on visual stimuli and are easy to use. We investigate command following and communication functions of mindBEAGLE with 9 LIS, 3 CLIS patients and three healthy controls. This tests were done with vibro-tactile stimulation with 2 or 3 stimulators (VT2 and VT3 mode) and with motor imagery (MI) paradigms. In VT2 the stimulators are fixed on the left and right wrist and the participant has the task to count the stimuli on the target hand in order to elicit a P300 response. In VT3 mode an additional stimulator is placed as a distractor on the shoulder and the participant is counting stimuli either on the right or left hand. In motor imagery mode the participant is instructed to imagine left or right hand movement. VT3 and MI also allow the participant to answer yes and no questions. Healthy controls achieved a mean assessment accuracy of 100% in VT2, 93% in VT3, and 73% in MI modes. They were able to communicate with VT3 (86.7%) and MI (83.3%) after 2 training runs. The patients achieved a mean accuracy of 76.6% in VT2, 63.1% in VT3, and 58.2% in MI modes after 1-2 training runs. 9 out of 12 LIS patients could communicate by using the vibro-tactile P300 paradigms (answered on average 8 out of 10 questions correctly) and 3 out of 12 could communicate with the motor imagery paradigm (answered correctly 4,7 out of 5 questions). 2 out of the 3 CLIS patients could use the system to communicate with VT3 (90 and 70% accuracy). The results show that paradigms based on non-visual evoked potentials and motor imagery can be effective for these users. It is also the first study that showed EEG-based BCI communication with CLIS patients and was able to bring 9 out of 12 patients to communicate with higher accuracies than reported before. More importantly this was achieved within less than 15-20 min., year = 2017, title = Complete Locked-in and Locked-in Patients: Command Following Assessment and Communication with Vibro-Tactile P300 and Motor Imagery Brain-Computer Interface Tools, pages = 251, volume = 11, journal = *Frontiers in neuroscience*

@articleHeesterbeek.2019, author = Heesterbeek, Marelle and van der Zee, Eddy Anton and van Heuvelen, Marieke Joan Gerda, abstract = BACKGROUND

Increasing physical activity levels in patients with dementia can reduce pathology severity and progression of the disease. However, physical activity programs can be challenging to adhere to for this vulnerable population. Three novel forms of passive exercise in a multisensory environment may be feasible alternatives for patients who can no longer be involved in physical activity.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the feasibility of three different forms of passive exercise in a multisensory environment in inactive institutionalized older adults with dementia.

METHODS

120 patients with dementia participated in this single blind randomized controlled trial (64.5% female, age 85.3 ± 6.8 years Mini-Mental State Examination range 0-29). Ninety participants were randomly assigned to one of the three intervention groups: Therapeutic Motion Simulation (TMSim), Whole Body Vibration (WBV), and TMSim+WBV. Participants received 6 weeks of passive exercise, 4 sessions a week, 4 (WBV) to 12 (TMSim and TMSim+WBV) minutes per session. Feasibility of the novel forms of passive exercise was evaluated based on attendance, compliance, (proxy) experience scores, adverse events and drop-out rates.

RESULTS

On average 87.9% of the offered intervention sessions were attended. All three forms of passive exercise were well appreciated by the participants (7.3 on a scale from 0 to 10). Intervention related drop-out rates were reasonable (12.2%) and no serious adverse events occurred.

CONCLUSION

The novel passive exercise interventions TMSim, WBV, and TMSim+WBV are feasible to apply in patients at all stages of dementia. More research is needed to establish effectiveness of passive exercise to limit adverse effects of dementia., year = 2019, title = Feasibility of Three Novel Forms of Passive Exercise in a Multisensory Environment in Vulnerable Institutionalized Older Adults with Dementia, pages = 681–690, volume = 70, number = 3, journal = Journal of Alzheimer's disease : JAD

@article{laccarino.2016, author = laccarino, Hunter F. and Singer, Annabelle C. and Martorell, Anthony J. and Rudenko, Andrii and Gao, Fan and Gillingham, Tyler Z. and Mathys, Hansruedi and Seo, Jinsoo and Kritskiy, Oleg and Abdurrob, Fatema and Adaikkan, Chinnakkaruppan and Canter, Rebecca G. and Rueda, Richard and Brown, Emery N. and Boyden, Edward S. and Tsai, Li-Huei, abstract = Changes in gamma oscillations (20-50Hz) have been observed in several neurological disorders. However, the relationship between gamma oscillations and cellular pathologies is unclear. Here we show reduced, behaviourally driven gamma oscillations before the onset of plaque formation or cognitive decline in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. Optogenetically driving fast-spiking parvalbumin-positive (FS-PV)-interneurons at gamma (40Hz), but not other frequencies, reduces levels of amyloid-b (Ab)1-40 and Ab 1-42 isoforms. Gene expression profiling revealed induction of genes associated with morphological transformation of microglia, and histological analysis confirmed increased microglia co-localization with Ab. Subsequently, we designed a non-invasive 40Hz light-flickering regime that reduced Ab1-40 and Ab1-42 levels in the visual cortex of pre-depositing mice and mitigated plaque load in aged, depositing mice. Our findings uncover a previously unappreciated function of gamma rhythms in recruiting both neuronal and glial responses to attenuate Alzheimer's-disease-associated pathology., year = 2016, title = Gamma frequency entrainment attenuates amyloid load and modifies microglia, pages = 230–235, volume = 540, number = 7632, journal = Nature

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@articleLam.2018, author = Lam, Freddy M. H. and Liao, L. R. and Kwok, Timothy C. Y. and Pang, Marco Y. C., abstract = OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the effects of whole-body vibration (WBV) added to a routine activity program on lower limb strength, balance, and mobility among community-dwelling individuals with mild or moderate dementia, compared with the routine program alone.

METHODS

Fifty-four older adults (40 women; mean (SD) age: 79.8 (6.1) years) with mild or moderate dementia were recruited from two daycare centers. The participants were randomly allocated to undergo a routine day activity program combined with WBV training (WBV at 30Hz, 2-mm peak-to-peak amplitude) or the routine program only without WBV for 9 weeks (18 sessions). The primary outcome was functional mobility, measured using the timed up-and-go test. The following secondary outcomes were evaluated: Berg Balance Scale, Tinetti balance assessment, time to complete 5 repetitions of sit-to-stand, Quality of Life in Alzheimer's disease questionnaire, and Activities-specific Balance Confidence scale. The attendance rate and incidence of adverse events were also recorded.

RESULTS

The attendance rate for the training was high (86.0%). The incidence of adverse events was low, with only two of the 27 participants in the WBV group reporting mild knee pain. While significant improvement in timed up-and-go, Berg Balance Scale, and Tinetti balance score was found in both groups, none of the outcomes demonstrated a significant group by time interaction.

CONCLUSIONS

WBV training is feasible and safe to use with people with mild or moderate dementia. However, it did not lead to further improvement in physical function and quality of life than the usual activity program provided at the daycare centers. Copyright © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., year = 2018, title = Effects of adding whole-body vibration to routine day activity program on physical functioning in elderly with mild or moderate dementia: a randomized controlled trial, pages = 21–30, volume = 33, number = 1, journal = International journal of geriatric psychiatry

@articleMably.2018, author = Mably, Alexandra J. and Colgin, Laura Lee, abstract = Gamma oscillations (~25-100Hz) are believed to play a role in cognition. Accordingly, aberrant gamma oscillations have been observed in several cognitive disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Fragile X syndrome. Here, we review how recent results showing abnormal gamma rhythms in Alzheimer's disease and Fragile X syndrome help reveal links between cellular disturbances and cognitive impairments. We also discuss how gamma results from rodent models of Alzheimer's disease and Fragile X syndrome may provide insights about unique functions of distinct slow (~25-50Hz) and fast gamma (~55-100Hz) subtypes. Finally, we consider studies employing brain stimulation paradigms in Alzheimer's disease and discuss how such studies may reveal causal relationships between gamma impairments and memory disturbances., year = 2018, title = Gamma oscillations in cognitive disorders, pages = 182–187, volume = 52, journal = Current opinion in neurobiology

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ume = 177, number = 2, journal = Cell

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@articleSebastianRomagosa.2020, author = Sebastián-Romagosa, Marc and Udina, Esther and Ortner, Rupert and Dinarès-Ferran, Josep and Cho, Woosang and Murovec, Nensi and Matencio-Peralba, Clara and Sieghartsleitner, Sebastian and Allison, Brendan Z. and Guger, Christoph, abstract = INTRODUCTION

Recent studies explored promising new quantitative methods to analyze electroencephalography (EEG) signals. This paper analyzes the correlation of two EEG parameters, Brain Symmetry Index (BSI) and Laterality Coefficient (LC), with established functional scales for the stroke assessment.

METHODS

Thirty-two healthy subjects and thirty-six stroke patients with upper extremity hemiparesis were recruited for this study. The stroke patients were subdivided in three groups according to the stroke location: Cortical, Subcortical, and Cortical + Subcortical. The participants performed assessment visits to record the EEG in the resting state and perform functional tests using rehabilitation scales. Then, stroke patients performed 25 sessions using a motor-imagery based Brain Computer Interface system (BCI). BSI was calculated with the EEG data in resting state and LC was calculated with the Event-Related Synchronization maps.

RESULTS

The results of this study demonstrated significant differences in the BSI between the healthy group and Subcortical group ($P = 0.001$), and also between the healthy and Cortical+Subcortical group ($P = 0.019$). No significant differences were found between the healthy group and the Cortical group ($P = 0.505$). Furthermore, the BSI analysis in the healthy group based on gender showed statistical differences ($P = 0.027$). In the stroke group, the correlation between the BSI and the functional state of the upper extremity assessed by Fugl-Meyer Assessment (FMA) was also significant, $r = -0.430$ and $P = 0.046$. The correlation between the BSI and the FMA-Lower extremity was not significant ($r = -0.063$, $P = 0.852$). Similarly, the LC calculated in the alpha band has significant correlation with FMA of upper extremity ($r = -0.623$ and $P < 0.001$) and FMA of lower extremity ($r = -0.509$ and $P = 0.026$). Other important significant correlations between LC and functional scales were observed. In addition, the patients showed an improvement in the FMA-upper extremity after the BCI therapy (DFMA = 1 median [IQR: 0-8], $P = 0.002$).

CONCLUSION

The quantitative EEG tools used here may help support our understanding of stroke and how the brain changes during rehabilitation therapy. These tools can help identify changes in EEG biomarkers and parameters during therapy that might lead to improved therapy methods and functional prognoses., year = 2020, title = EEG Biomarkers Related With the Functional State of Stroke Patients, pages = 582, volume = 14, journal = Frontiers in neuroscience

@articleZucchella.2018, author = Zucchella, Chiara and Sinforiani, Elena and Tamburin, Stefano and Federico, Angela and Mantovani, Elisa and Bernini, Sara and Casale, Roberto and Bartolo, Michelangelo, abstract = Background: Alzheimer's disease (AD) and dementia are chronic diseases with progressive deterioration of cognition, function, and behavior leading to severe disability and death. The prevalence of AD and dementia is constantly increasing because of the progressive aging of the population. These conditions represent a considerable challenge to patients, their family and caregivers, and the health system, because of the considerable need for resources allocation. There is no disease modifying intervention for AD and dementia, and the symptomatic pharmacological treatments has limited efficacy and considerable side effects. Non-pharmacological treatment (NPT), which includes a wide range of approaches and techniques, may play a role in the treatment of AD and dementia. Aim: To review, with a narrative approach, current evidence on main NPTs for AD and dementia. Methods: PubMed and the Cochrane database of systematic reviews were searched for studies written in English and published from 2000 to 2018. The bibliography of the main articles was checked to detect other relevant papers. Results: The role of NPT has been largely explored in AD and dementia. The main NPT types, which were reviewed here, include exercise and motor rehabilitation, cognitive rehabilitation, NPT for behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, occupational therapy, psychological therapy, complementary and alternative medicine, and new technologies, including information and communication technologies, assistive technology and domotics, virtual reality, gaming, and telemedicine. We also summarized the role of NPT to address caregivers' burden. Conclusions: Although NPT is often applied in the multidisciplinary approach to AD and dementia, supporting evidence for their use is still preliminary. Some studies showed statistically significant effect of NPT on some outcomes, but their clinical significance is uncertain. Well-designed randomized controlled trials with innovative designs are needed to explore the efficacy of NPT in AD and dementia. Further studies are required to offer robust neurobiological grounds for the effect of NPT, and to examine its cost-efficacy profile in patients with dementia., year = 2018, title = The Multidisciplinary Approach to Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. A Narrative Review of Non-Pharmacological Treatment, pages = 1058, volume = 9, journal = Frontiers in neurology

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