



AALBORG UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT REPORT

# Simultaneous and proportional control of reaching and grasping

P7 Master project - Autumn 2017

Group 17gr7404

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of reaching and grasping

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**Abstract**

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## 0.1 Abstract

**Background:** Electromyography (EMG) is widely used as input to control scheme of myoelectric prosthetics. However, EMG signals change with limb position and thus lowers the accuracy in classification. Inclusion of the use of Inertial Measurement Units (IMU) has proved to raise the accuracy in pattern recognition methods. However, pattern recognition methods provides only control of one degree of freedom (DoF) at a time, and are computational costly. This study propose to use the combination of EMG recordings and accelerometer data in a linear regression model to overcome the slower reaction time of pattern recognition systems and to enable a simultaneous and proportional control scheme.

**Methods:** In this study recordings from four able-bodied subjects has been collected, performing four hand movements at the wrist in three different limb positions. The data is evaluated through principal component analysis (PCA) and processed/trained with a linear model to classify the hand movements. Eight regressors are trained for each test subject; four with and without using IMU data. The regressors are tested in a real-time visual environment on PC measuring time to complete a target-reaching task of eight targets. The performance of the regressors are compared between using the IMU data and not using IMU data to determine the effect of including IMU data.

modified Fitts' Law

**Results:**

**Conclusion:**

**Keywords:**? surface electromyography, inertial measurement unit, simultaneous and proportional myoelectric control, regression, hand motion classification, hand prosthetic

# Preface

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# Contents

0.1 Abstract . . . . .	ii
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Background</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Anatomy of the lower arm . . . . .	2
2.2 Origin of electromyography . . . . .	4
2.3 Electromyography acquisition . . . . .	6
2.4 Instrumentation . . . . .	7
2.5 JACO2 robotic arm . . . . .	8
2.6 Preprocessing of EMG . . . . .	9
2.7 Regression methods . . . . .	10
2.8 Overview of previous research . . . . .	11
<b>3 Methods</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 Data Acquisition . . . . .	13
3.2 Feature extraction . . . . .	14
3.3 Regression model . . . . .	15
3.4 Accuracy of regressors . . . . .	16
<b>4 Results</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 Separability of data . . . . .	18
4.2 Regression accuracy . . . . .	19
.1 Training data acquistion protocol . . . . .	21

# 1 | Introduction

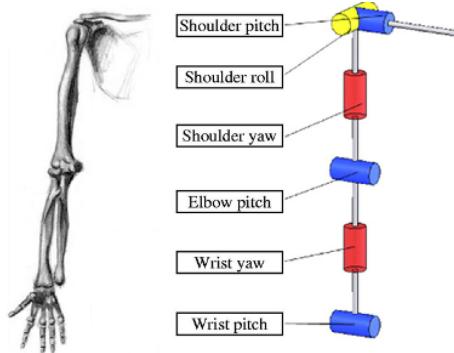
Upper limb prostheses have the purpose of fulfilling the costumers demand, which consists of cosmetic and functional support. The utmost wish for the consumer is to regain full appearance and function of the missing biological upper limb. The functionality is the most challenging aspects to fulfil. Two types of functional prostheses exist: body-powered and electrical, where the electrical has the highest functionality, and therefore ideally has a higher similarity to a biological upper limb. The most common electric prosthesis is the myoelectric prosthesis, where EMG signals are used as the control signal. [jiang2012].

In recent years the development of EMG controlled prosthetics have advanced considerably, due to an increased interest in the area along with a higher demand for better prosthetics and more precise control. [Fougner2012] In the early years most EMG prosthetics functioned by only controlling one DOF by *on-off control*, mostly by linking antagonistic muscles to one DOF. This along with *mode switching* provided users a way to control more than one DOF, but never simultaneously. However, as demands would rise, more complex methods was introduced to the EMG scene, and proportional control was introduced with pattern recognition methods. This effectively enabled simultaneous control of more than one DOF, but gave rise to new problems; a wider range of control would give less accurate movements, and training the pattern recognition methods proved difficult, as the training could over-fit, causing extended use of the prosthetics to degrade in performance. [Ison2016] Applying regression as a new mapping method in proportional and simultaneous control of multiple DOF's has been shown to perform well and doing this with a low computation time. [hahne2014] In spite of the proportional and simultaneous control systems performing decently, a problem still occurs when the prostheses are to mimic daily life tasks outside the clinical training environment. [jiang2012] A study by Fougner et al. [Fougner2011] has addressed the problem that most studies test their method on only one limb position. This proves a problem when it have been shown that muscles create muscle-synergies to perform movements, and so a change can be seen in recorded EMG signals from muscles when the arm is positioned in different positions. [Fougner2011, avella2006, DeRugy2013] In order to overcome this problem Fougner et al. [Fougner2011] has suggested to combine recording of EMG signals with data from an accelerometer to provide upper limb position data, would be beneficial in increasing the accuracy of EMG controlled prosthetics. Even though the combination of EMG and IMUs has been proposed as a valid way to further improve upon EMG based prosthetics, and has in other research areas been acknowledged as a mean to acquire higher level of classification accuracy, is has only rarely been reported in studies. [Roy2010, Imtiaz2014, jiang2012] A novel approach to improve upon these findings would be to include data from IMU, to the recordings of EMG, to the training of a regressor, as this to the authors knowledge only have been done with classification methods. It is possible to do proportional and simultaneous control of two DOFs in a lower-arm prosthesis, while having the arm in different positions, using simple/multiple linear regression on recorded surface EMG signals and inertial measurement units.

# 2 | Background

## 2.1 Anatomy of the lower arm

This project will focus on the lower arm as the Myo armband will be used extract information from this part of the body. The anatomy of the lower human arm will briefly be described in this section along with a description of relation between lower arm muscles and hand movements for selected gestures. The human arm is designed to give humans a manoeuvrability and dexterity to coordinate and execute complicated and precise hand and finger movements with ease. Each movement happens around an axis, and each axis denotes one degree of freedom (DOF). The arm posses six DOFs as shown in figure 2.1, where the DOF's of the hand is being ignored as they will not be relevant for the project.



**Figure 2.1:** Visualisation on the arms six degrees of freedom. [ahmed2017]

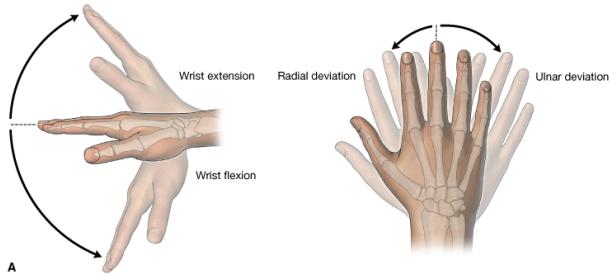
The number of DOFs is defined as the number of possible input parameters to a movable mechanism, where each input controls an independent movement in one axis. Several bodies can work together in relation to each other, but the total number of DOFs will be the number of possible independent movements that can be performed between the bodies. [dicker2003]

The great dexterity of the human arm is achieved through the use of several muscles which intertwine and make synergies to perform all the different gestures of the hand [jiang2009, avella2006]. Muscles in the lower arm is arranged in layers, having an outer, middle and inner layer. These muscles are used to rotate the forearm, flex and extend the hand at the wrist as well as performing ulnar and radial deviation. The muscles control extension and flexion of the fingers at each separate joint and the movements of the thumb, so that hand can be opened and closed. This enables movement in six DOFs of the arm and several more at the hand and fingers.

The aim for this project is to translate ulnar and radial deviation along with extension and flexion of the wrist via EMG signals to control a robotic arm. Therefore, only

## Chapter 2. Background

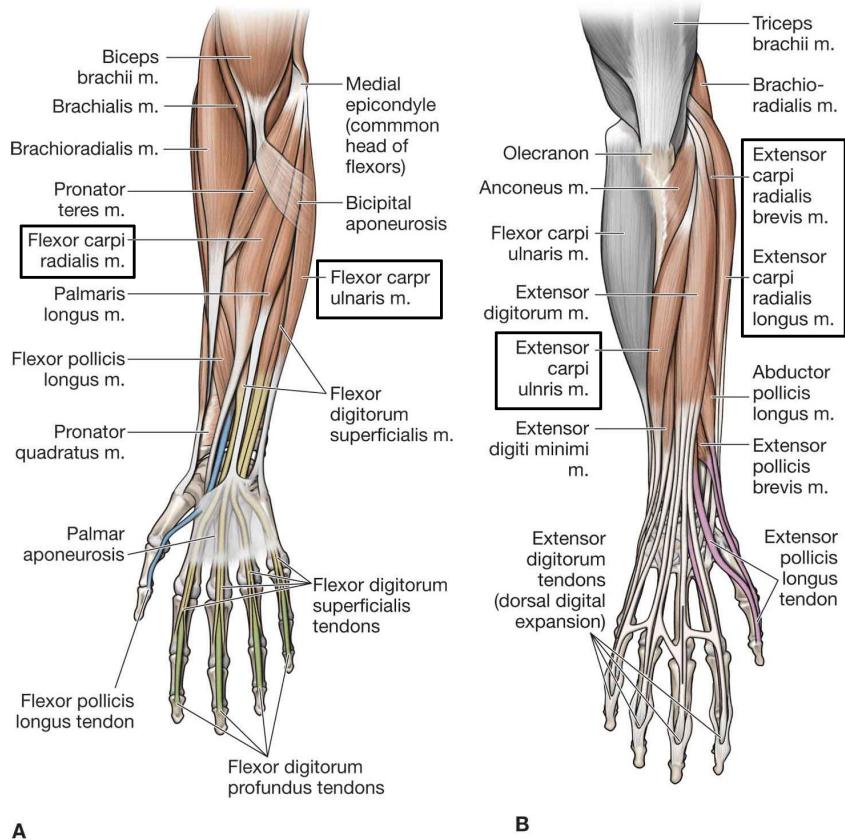
selected muscles will be relevant to further investigate. Muscles involved with radial and ulnar deviation includes several muscles in the arm. Most of these muscles extend throughout the whole forearm as most of them originates from the distal lateral surfaces of humerus or the proximal portions of radius and ulnar, and extends towards the wrist and fingers to fixate on the metacarpal bones in the wrist and through tendons fixate on the different phalanges bones of the fingers and thumb. The two most important muscles in radial/ulnar deviation are the flexor and extensor carpi ulnaris and radialis muscles.



**Figure 2.2:** Flexion, extension and radial and ulnar deviation of the hand. Modified from [zezo2016]

Several more muscles in addition to those responsible for ulnar and radial deviation are involved with the flexion and extension of the wrist. Like the other muscles, the flexor and extensor muscles also extend through the whole forearm from the distal part of humerus and proximal parts of radius and ulnar to the metacarpal bones in the wrist. Many of these muscles are included in movements of both radial/ulnar deviation and flexion/extension, though flexion/extension have one muscle who is only used for flexion at the wrist, the palmaris longus muscle. This can be explained as more force is usually needed in flexion at the wrist than in extension or radial/ulnar deviation. The movements which will be performed in this project are depicted in figure 2.2.

Though several of the same muscles are included in both types of movement, studies have shown that it is possible to differentiate between recorded EMG signals from these muscles when performing radial/ulnar deviation and flexion/extension at the wrist. [hahne2014] In figure 2.3 the muscles in the forearm both involved with extension/flexion and radial/ulnar deviation is marked with boxes around the name of the muscles.



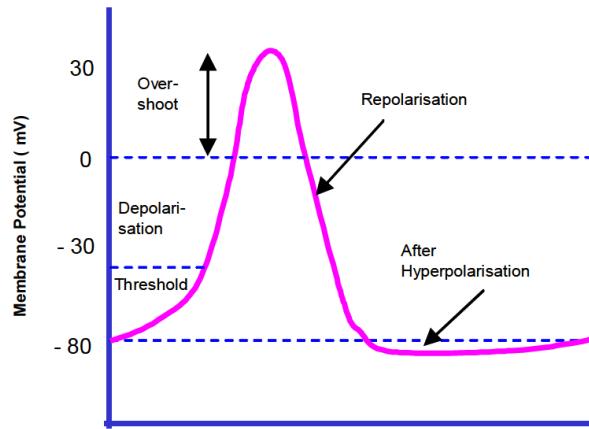
**Figure 2.3:** A) posterior view of the superficial muscle layer in a right arm. B) posterior view of the middle muscle layer in a left arm. The muscle names in the boxes are muscles which are included in both extension/flexion and ulnar/radial deviation at the wrist. Modified from [zezo2016]

## 2.2 Origin of electromyography

This project will use EMG to map the hand gestures mentioned in the previous section. In this section it will be described how the EMG signal is generated.

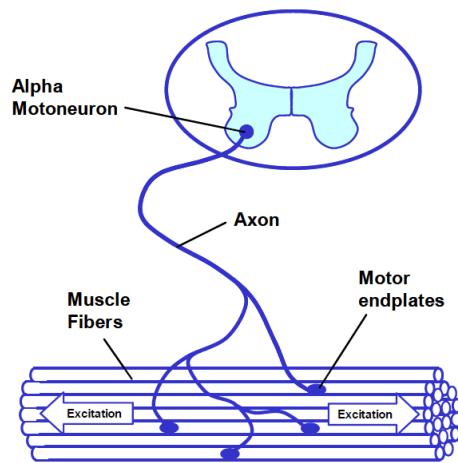
The electric potential detected with electromyography is an action potential causing the muscle to contract. Certain mechanisms are involved for this to happen. The motor unit of the muscle needs to be activated alongside with its associated alpha motor system, which is the lower motor neuron, its axon, and the muscle fibres the motor unit innervates. The muscle fibre is an excitable cell with a resting potential of between -90mV and -70mV. A threshold of approximately -55mV needs to be reached for an action potential to be generated, this is visualised in figure 2.4. The sarcolemma, the membrane covering the muscle fibres, has sodium and potassium ion channels that maintains the resting potential, depolarize the muscle fibre if the threshold is exceeded or repolarize the muscle fibre. [cram2012]

## Chapter 2. Background



**Figure 2.4:** Illustration of the action potential exceeding the threshold for it to be generated and the following depolarization and repolarization. [konrad2005]

The lower motor axon is branching out so that it can attach to the muscle fibre at the motor end-plate and create neuromuscular synapses. The action potential traveling down the axon reaches the synapses and releases Acetylcholine (ACh). ACh raises the permeability of the cell membrane where sodium ions influx and causes the membrane to depolarize. Calcium ions are released and binds with troponin and exposes the active sites on the thin filaments which allows the muscle to contract. The action potential travels along the whole muscle fibre through t-tubuluses, as depicted in figure 2.5. This happens in both directions from the motor end-plate to the tendentious attachment. When the peak of the depolarization of about 30mV is reached a rapid efflux of potassium ions causes the muscle fibre to repolarize and reach its resting potential again. [cram2012]



**Figure 2.5:** Illustration of the action potential exciting the muscle fibre, which causes the release of calcium ions and the muscle to contract. [konrad2005]

Depending on the force that needs to be applied for a given task more or less motor units are activated and therefore more or less muscle fibres are contracted. The bigger the force

the more motor units are activated. Furthermore, the number muscle fibres per motor unit varies between muscles in the human anatomy. The finer the movement the higher the innervation, e.g. the lower arm muscles has a higher innervation than those in the quadriceps. [cram2012]

### 2.2.1 EMG states

The EMG signal is the result of the addition of different motor unit action potential trains(MUAPTs) and can be divided into two main states, the transient state and the steady state. The transient state is related with the beginning phase of the muscle contraction, while the steady state is the stable phase of the muscle contraction when a constant position is held. [mobarak2014]

Although the steady state only contains a short temporal structure of the patterns involved in the contraction of the muscle [mobarak], studies has shown that it is possible to achieve online continuous control using steady-state EMG signals. A study by Englehart et al. [] demonstrated that steady-state data classified more precisely than transient state data. This could be due to the fact that a larger amount of meaningful data is contained in this muscle contraction phase [mobarak] For the training of the control system in this project the steady signal will then be used.

## 2.3 Electromyography acquisition

The following section will contain an explanation of the main component of acquiring EMG signals using surface electrodes.

When acquiring EMG signals the electrodes act as a transducer by converting the differences in ion distribution on the skin surface caused by ion exchange under muscle activity, into an electric current. Surface electrodes used to acquire EMG signals comes both with and without gel covered surfaces, where the Myo armband employs dry electrodes. Using dry electrodes will often be more practical in use, while the gel covered electrodes will acquire more exact readings of the signals. [lee2008, cram2012]

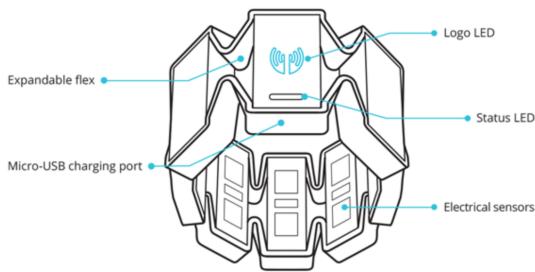
The most commonly used electrodes for EMG are made of disposable silver-impregnated plastic, and in order to keep the electric potential on the skin surface stable and reduce impedance between the surfaces, they are often covered in a silver chloride gel. Using dry electrodes will result in a higher surface impedance, which means that the signal contains more noise compared to a gel covered electrode. However, when using dry electrodes the skin will itself provide a “gel” by sweating which will increase readings and decrease the impedance. [cram2012]

## 2.4 Instrumentation

The following section will contain a presentation of the Myo armband from Thalmic Labs, which will be used for data acquisition in this study and an explanation of acquiring EMG signals using surface electrodes.

### 2.4.1 Myo armband

The Myo armband is a device developed by Thalmic Labs capable of identifying hand gestures and arm movements in order to interact and control different electronic devices. The system can be used with software provided by Thalmic Labs to control a limited range of devices using the data from the armband. The Myo armband is illustrated in figure 2.6.



**Figure 2.6:** Main components of the Myo armband. **SOURCE**

The Myo armband has eight medical grade stainless steel surface EMG sensors. These electrodes are dry and therefore not covered in silver chloride gel to reduce impedance between the electrode and skin. However, it has been shown by Mendez et al. [Mendez2017] that the EMG recorded with the Myo armband is a suitable acquisition system for mapping hand gestures compared to conventional EMG acquisition. The only mapping method used in that study was linear discriminant analysis, and it is noted that other mapping methods should be investigated to further validate the quality of mapping the EMG obtained by the Myo armband.

In addition, it has a nine axis inertial measurement unit (IMU) which enable the detection of arm movement. An IMU is an electronic device that provides information concerning position and orientation for navigation and stabilization purposes. The IMU's in the Myo armband is a three axis accelerometer, a three axis gyroscope and a three axis magnetometer. The accelerometer measures the physical acceleration experienced by an object, where the object in this case is the body part where the Myo armband is placed. The gyroscope has the property of measuring angular velocity, giving the ability to measure the speed at which movements happen at. The magnetometer has the property of a compass, measuring the earth's magnetic field. This enables the armband to provide

data on orientation.

The Myo armband is capable of pulling sEMG data at a sample rate of 200Hz while the IMU data is pulled at a sample rate of 50Hz. The Myo armband communicates through Bluetooth 4.0 to a PC.

### 2.4.2 Surface electromyography

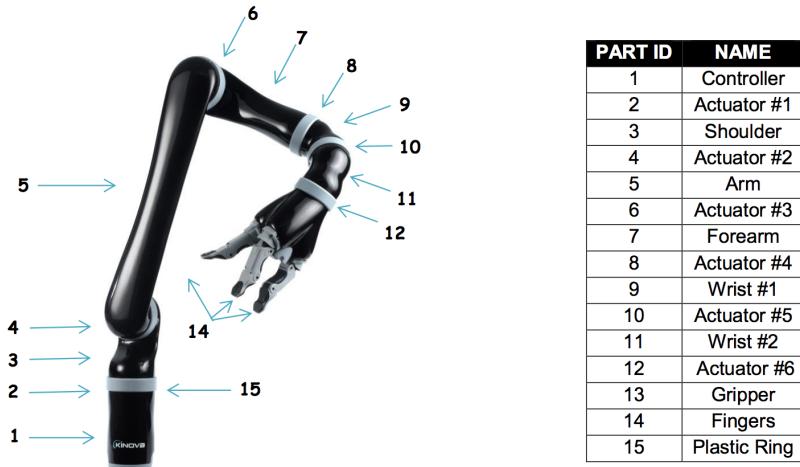
Surface EMG is a means of obtaining recordings from muscle activity at the skin. This procedure can also be done using needle electrodes inserted into the muscle, but sEMG is far more commonly used as it is non-invasive and easy to use. [cram2012]

When acquiring sEMG signals the electrodes act as a transducer by converting the recorded action potentials from the muscles, as explained in section 2.2 on site 4, into an electric current. Surface electrodes used to acquire EMG signals comes both with and without gel covered surfaces, where the use of dry electrodes will often be more practical in use, while the gel covered electrodes will acquire more exact readings of the signals. [lee2008, cram2012]

The most commonly used electrodes for EMG are made of disposable silver-impregnated plastic, and in order to keep the electric potential on the skin surface stable and reduce impedance between the surfaces, they are often covered in a silver chloride gel. Using dry electrodes will result in a higher surface impedance, which means that the signal contains more noise compared to a gel covered electrode. However, when using dry electrodes the skin will itself provide a “gel” by sweating which will increase readings and decrease the impedance. [cram2012]

## 2.5 JACO2 robotic arm

In this section a briefly description of the JACO<sup>2</sup> robotic arm will be given. It is a 6 DOF robotic arm with a three fingered hand, as shown in 2.7, developed by Kinova Robotics. It is lightweight ( $4.4\text{kg}$ ), which makes this machine specially usable in assistive and collaborative applications. It is designed to help people with upper body disabilities in order to gain more autonomy in ordinary daily tasks [kinova2017].



**Figure 2.7:** 6 DOF JACO<sup>2</sup> robotic arm from Kinova Robotics. [kinova2017]

The JACO<sup>2</sup> is a serial manipulator, which means that this kind of robotic arm is designed as a series of links connected by motor-actuated joints that extend from a base to an end-effector. Any movement in a joint affects all the following joints and links in the chain. The arm can by default be controlled with the help of a joystick, but it can be programmed in C++ to be controlled by other means, using the software development kit (SDK) provided by the manufacturer [kinova2017].

## 2.6 Preprocessing of EMG

Before recorded EMG signals can be utilized in control of prosthetics, the signals must be processed. This section will feature information on preprocessing of the signal with filtering and noise reduction, following with feature extraction.

Surface EMG is emitted up to 500 Hz and depending on the area of the EMG acquisition, it is recommended to implement a bandpass filter from 25 to 500 Hz in order to avoid low frequency movement artifacts in the recorded signal. A downside to this bandwidth is that fatigued muscles will fire at a lower rate, which means the performance of the system will be affected when the subject gets tired. [cram2012]

In order to achieve a higher signal to noise ratio (SNR) it is common practice to perform preprocessing of the signal. The raw EMG signals have to be preprocessed due to them being sensible to noise elements from the surroundings, since the range of the signal is in the order of millivolts to microvolts. To acquire a high SNR, the input impedance of the amplifier has to be between 10 and 100 times the impedance at the skin-electrode interface [cram2012].

Differential amplification is used in EMG in order to amplify the original signal and remove

common signals from two or more electrodes, in order to avoid common noise from more electrodes in the amplified signal. The amplifier must have a build in gain as well which determines the final strength of the signal, and both of these features are implemented in order to avoid the SNR. Basic filtering should be implemented in order to avoid electrical noise. The filtering should include a bandpass filter with a bandwidth chosen depending on where the EMG is performed. The low-pass filtering will ensure avoiding aliasing in the signal, because it will filter out frequencies higher than the used samplings frequency. The high-pass filter will filter out movement artifact, and thus lowering the baseline. [cram2012]

### 2.6.1 Feature extraction

Following preprocessing of the recorded EMG signal, features can be extracted and used to map different hand gestures. When analyzing EMG signals there will be three different signal components to be extracted, which are the frequency and time domains, as well as the time-scale representation. Frequency domain features require a Fourier transformation of the signal, which requires more processing than the direct extraction of time domain features. [phiny2012]

The time domain features are extracted directly from the EMG signal, and these feature extraction methods are often used both for research and practices since they often require very little processing compared to frequency domain features. Time domain features are mainly focused on the amplitude of the signal, which means they have a disadvantage if the signal differs in amplitude due to muscle fatigue. [phiny2012]

Based on the study af Hahne et al. [hahne2014], we will choose logarithmic variance as the feature to be extracted from the recorded EMG signal. Hahne et al. finds that the cross-validation performance improves significantly with the use of linear regression combined with logarithmic variance, compared to combining the linear regression with variance or RMS. [hahne2014].

## 2.7 Regression methods

Regression methods are widely used in statistics as a method to determine relationship between variables. It can be used to extract relations to predict future developments or tendencies in a given data set. It is also a commonly used method to evaluate EMG signals to determine different parameters.

The most basic form of regression is linear regression, which is a test for linear dependency between two variables. In simple linear regression it is investigated how one, dependent variable, is related to another, independent variable. The term *simple* denotes that only two variables are being considered simultaneously. The equation for simple linear regression is: [zar2009]

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta X_i + \epsilon_i \quad (2.1)$$

In equation (2.1)  $Y$  is the dependent variable,  $X$  is the independent variable,  $\beta$  is the regression coefficient in the sampled population, and  $\alpha$  is the predicted value of  $Y$  at  $X = 0$ .  $\epsilon$  is the error, since the goal of regression is to find an approximation of  $Y$  on some function of  $X$ , thus there will always be some error.

Performing simple linear regression finds the correlation between the tested variables, and is expressed by the correlation coefficient. This coefficient describes how the two variables relate to each other by how the development of one variable is dependent on the other. Thus a positive correlation represent that a change in one variable will resolve in a similar change in the other variable as well. On the contrary, a negative correlation imply that change in one variable will resolve in an opposite change in the other variable. If no correlation is present between the two variables no change in either variable will resolve in change in the other, and it can therefore be determined that the two variables has no relation to each other. [zar2009] The simple correlation coefficient is calculated as: [zar2009]

$$r = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \sum y^2}} \quad (2.2)$$

Furthermore a coefficient of determination can be calculated to express how much of the variability of the dependent variable is accounted for when regressing upon the independent variable. This coefficient is denoted  $r^2$  and can be calculated by simply squaring the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ). The higher the correlation the closer to 1 the  $r^2$  value will be. Both  $r$  and  $r^2$  can be used to determine the strength of the relationship between the two tested variables. [zar2009]

If the obtained regressors for each of the hand gestures are trained properly performing with a low error rate, they will be able to perform independent simultaneous control. Compared to classification, where the control system decides upon a certain class of movement, using regression will allow the control system a more fluent control with a low computation time. [hahne2014]

## 2.8 Overview of previous research

For a prosthetic user a good performing prosthesis must perform hand gestures as well in an elevated limb position as in a seated position to be able to support the user in daily tasks, e.g. taking a cup from a cupboard and pouring water into the cup. However, changes in the EMG occurs when performing the same hand gestures in different limb positions [Fougner2011, avella2006]. These signal alternations can occur for different reasons. Changing limb position can make muscles move under the skin, relative to the placement of the EMG electrodes, resolving in change of the signal source. Muscle contractions in them selves can also make changes to the recorded EMG due to change

in the microscopic structure of the muscles caused by overlap of thick and thin filaments. [martini] Other findings have shown that the activity of certain muscles' is depending on angles of joints besides those primarily actuating the contraction of these muscles. [Fougner2011] Thus, the effect of limb position must be seen as an important aspect to take into consideration in the mapping of hand gestures to control a prosthesis for the user to receive a good performing support device. In 2010, Scheme et al. investigated the effect of different limb positions on pattern recognition based control. They tested eight different limb positions and processed the data using time-domain feature extraction and linear discriminant analysis. Here they found that for each limb position the classification using both EMG and accelerometer data, clearly outperformed using only EMG data. Thus, it might be insufficient to only train the control scheme in one position and expect it to translate to multiple positions. [Fougner2010] Several studies have tried to address the problem of limb position and changes in classification accuracy in EMG controlled prosthetics, using pattern recognition.

Fougner et al. combined EMG recordings and accelerometer data when classifying movements in five different arm positions during eight different hand gestures. Using pattern recognition they found a reduction in classification error from 18% to 5% when using both EMG and accelerometer data. [Fougner2011] Jiang et al. used EMG data and recordings of 3D markers places on able-bodied and amputated subjects' arms when performing different hand movements in three different arm positions. They found a decrease in classification error when using training data across different arm positions. They also concluded that the limb position does have a significant effect on the estimation performance for both subject groups, but that results cannot be translated between able-bodied and amputees. [Jiang2013] Krasoulis et al. used linear discriminant analysis to analyse recordings from 22 subjects (20 able-bodied, 2 amputees) performing 40 different movements at the wrist, hand and fingers. The recordings included EMG data along with accelerometer, gyroscope and magnetometer data. They found a significant increase in classification accuracy by 22.6% when using both EMG and IMU data. [Krasoulis2017]

Based on previous studies it can be determined that a combination of EMG and IMU's can be used to achieve higher classification accuracy when classifying different hand movements in different limb positions. Thus, this project will focus on the mapping of different hand gestures while having the arm in different positions. As a novel approach this project will also investigate the possibility of using regression methods instead of recognitions methods.

This leads to the following hypotheses:

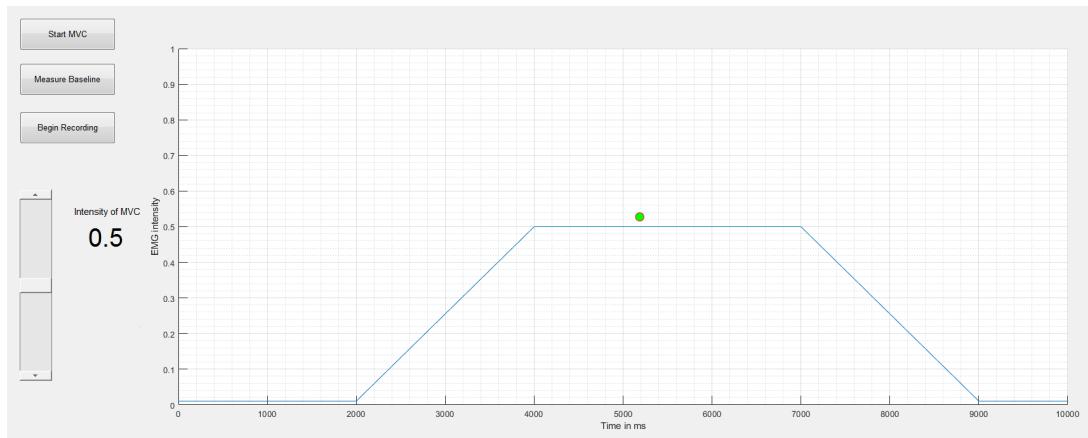
- Simultaneous and proportional control of two DOF's of the wrist in different limb positions, can be achieved through the use of linear regression as control system.
- Combining EMG and IMU's can minimize the limb position effect when using regression as control system.

# 3 | Methods

## 3.1 Data Acquisition

The following section will include a description on how the data for the study have been acquired and processed. All data processing, along with GUI design and implementation, will be done in Matlab.

To acquire data a training GUI has been designed and implemented in Matlab. The GUI has been designed to fulfil the specific needs for this project. An illustration of the GUI can be seen in figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1:** The training GUI implemented with Matlab GUI development environment. Control buttons to calculate MVC and perform MVC fraction recordings are placed on the left side. The trapezoid plot with the green dot controlled by the input EMG signal from the subject is shown on the right. The fraction of the MVC can be defined by the slider located under the control buttons.

The functions of the GUI consists of a baseline measurement button, a MVC measurement button, a data recording button and a fraction of MVC intensity slider. The baseline measurement is acquired for the purpose of being subtracted from the signal, in order to remove the signal artefacts that are present. At the baseline acquisition the subject is resting the lower arm in the given limb position. The MVC is calculated as a mean of the maximum values in each of the eight channels, and is set as a normalized reference point of 1. The MVC is a contraction at the intensity of which the subject can withhold for 15 seconds. The data recording contains the raw data of a given fraction of the MVC. The fraction is decided by setting the slider to the wanted fraction value, before the recording is started. The slider sets the fraction value so the plateau of the trapeze is at the set value. The trapeze depicts an initial resting phase of two seconds with the intensity of 0, a transition phase of two seconds with an ascending slope until the plateau phase is reached, which has a three second duration, and then a final descending transition phase

of two seconds and resting phase of one second. Initialization of the recording will show a green dot, which moves with time in relation to the normalized intensity. The green dot is calculated as the mean of the input EMG signal in a 200 ms window with a 100 ms overlap. Meanwhile IMU data for the orientation of the arm is being recorded and saved for later use. From this acquired data features will be extracted and used to train regressors for each of the subjects for each of the hand gestures performed.

## 3.2 Feature extraction

In this section it will be explained which features that are extracted from the EMG data.

A commonly used feature in control of prosthetics is the Mean Absolute Value (MAV). The equation of MAV is as follows:

$$MAV = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i| \quad (3.1)$$

As the equation and name indicates MAV is the average of the absolute values of the EMG signal, where N is the length of the signal, and  $x_i$  is the signal of  $i$  samples. MAV expresses the amplitude of the signal and will be use as a feature in this project.

According to a study by [hahne2014] the logarithmic variance  $\log(\sigma^2)$  behaves more linearly than features similar to the mean absolute (root means squared). This linear property might yield a better estimation in the recognition of the hand gestures since linear regression is used to as the mapping tool of the hand gestures. The logarithmic variance is calculated as in equation (3.2):

$$\log(\sigma^2) = \log\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2}{N}\right) \quad (3.2)$$

N expresses the length of the signal,  $x_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  sample of the signal and  $\mu$  is the mean. The logarithmic variance calculates the logarithm of the variance, which is the sum of the squared deviation of a variable from its mean. Thus, how spread the signal is from its average. In the study by [hahne2014], it is found that the variance behaves non-linearly. Taking the logarithm of the variance linearises the variance, which is the reason for the logarithmic variance to be extracted as a feature in this project.

### 3.2.1 Separability of data

After features has been extracted from the data, the feature data is validated through Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to determine the quality of the recorded data in the

### Chapter 3. Methods

sense of identify outliers and examining whether the data from the different hand gestures are distinguishable. Thus, the PCA will only be used as a qualitative tool to validate the data. PCA is an analysis tool used to express a set of correlated variables into non-correlated components, such that the dataset can be expressed in a reduced dimensionality hyperspace using less variables, however more defining variables for the given data set. These variables are called the principal components. Each PC is orthogonal on the former, meaning that they each define the largest variance in an axis, different from axes described by other components. PCA also provides knowledge on which components are the most defining for the dataset, where the first vectors in the hyperspace being the ones with highest variance, so only the most important can be considered. When performing PCA it provides the coefficients of the principal components (PCC), which can be visualised in a plot. This plotting of the coefficients are what is used to evaluate the quality of the feature data. A threshold of 90% for preserved information is used.

PCA is performed for each movement in each limb position and plotted in a three dimensional space. If the PCC's of a movement has significant outliers, or the points are clustered, it will be identified shortly after the feature extraction, and a new recording session for the test subject can be executed to prevent inaccurate training of regressors and time delays. If the data is of high quality, meaning the clouds of data points are easily distinguishable from each other, it can be used further on to train the regressors.

## 3.3 Regression model

Once the preprocessing and the feature extraction of the EMG data has been done, regression will be used as described in section 2.7 on site 10. The implementation follows simple linear regression as shown in equation (2.1). One regressor will be trained for each movement.

The feature data will be constructed into one matrix containing the extracted features for all four movements in the three different limb positions arranged into four segments in the matrix.

This will be set as input to the training of the regressor, while the estimator is a vector containing the mean of all eight channels of the actual data, normalized in relation to the recorded MVC. This provides data for the movement that the regressor will be trained to recognize. The estimator vector is augmented with zeros for the segments of the movements that the regressor is trained not to recognize. This is shown in equation (3.3)

$$\begin{bmatrix} normMove_1 \\ \vdots \\ normMove_n \\ 0_o \\ \vdots \\ 0_p \end{bmatrix} = \alpha + \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_8 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} rightFeat_{1,1} \dots rightFeat_{1,8} \\ \vdots \quad \ddots \quad \vdots \\ rightFeat_{n,1} \dots rightFeat_{n,8} \\ wrongFeat_{o,1} \dots wrongFeat_{o,8} \\ \vdots \quad \ddots \quad \vdots \\ wrongFeat_{p,1} \dots wrongFeat_{p,8} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.3)$$

Where *normMove* is the desired estimator, *rightFeat* is the desired input feature for the desired movement in all limb positions and *wrongFeat* is the features that should not be recognized by the given regressor. The regressor is implemented through the Matlab function *fitlm*, which use the input matrix and estimator vector to calculate the slope and intercept of the regressor. This procedure is done for each movement, which yields four regressors trained to recognize one movement each. This procedure is done individually for MAV and logarithmic variance features to test the accuracy and performance of the two features.

When implementing the IMU data three extra columns will be added to the input matrix, because the accelerometer provided a three axis output during recordings. New regressors will be trained using these data also and compared to the regressors trained with only the EMG feature data.

## 3.4 Accuracy of regressors

This section will cover the test used to determine the accuracy of the trained regressors. Both methods are performed on the regressors trained with only EMG data and when IMU data is combined with the EMG data.

### 3.4.1 Superimposition

To examine how well the regressors fit the actual data, the output of the regressors build for each feature is superimposed on the actual data. It can then be shown how the regressors perform at which intensities and which movements, and whether other regression methods should be considered to obtain a lower error.

### 3.4.2 Root Mean Square Error

To measure the accuracy of the regressors the Root Mean Square Error(RMSE) is calculated. RMSE is a measure to examine how much the regressors disagrees with the actual data. RMSE a calculation of the standard deviation of the residuals, which is the

### Chapter 3. Methods

difference between the estimated values and the actual values. The RMSE is calculated as follows:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{N}} \quad (3.4)$$

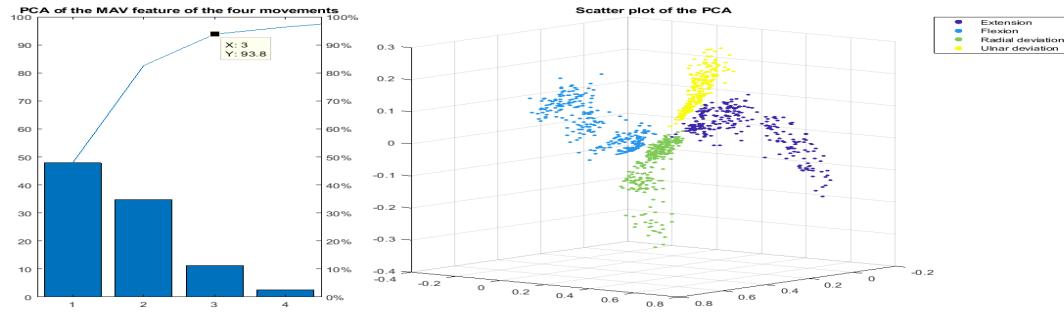
Where N is the length of the signal,  $y_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  variable of the actual data and  $\hat{y}_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  output of the regressor. The RMSE will be done for the regressor of each movement.

To express that the regressors do not overfit the input data, the RMSE of the test data must be lower than or equal to the training data. It does not necessarily express a great performing model if the RMSE of the training data is high, but a model that performs consistently on new data. However, if the RMSE of the training is reasonably low, and the RMSE of the test data is likely low, the model is said to fit the data well.

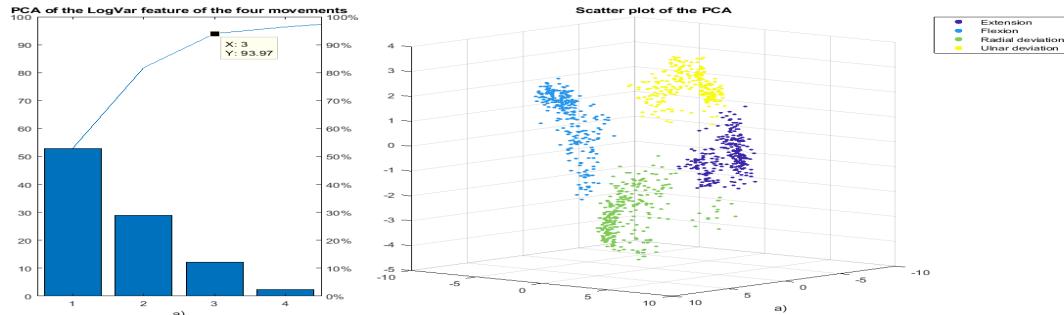
# 4 | Results

## 4.1 Separability of data

PCA is performed on all feature data from each test subject for both MAV and logarithmic variance features. In figure 4.1 a PCA is shown from one test subject, performed with the MAV feature.



**Figure 4.1:** Plot of PCA of MAV feature. To the left the first four principal components are visualised. The first three principal components account for describing 93.8% of the data set. On the right the PCC's are plotted for each movement. The clusters for each movement are distinguishable from each other and have no noteworthy outliers, so the data is considered of high quality.



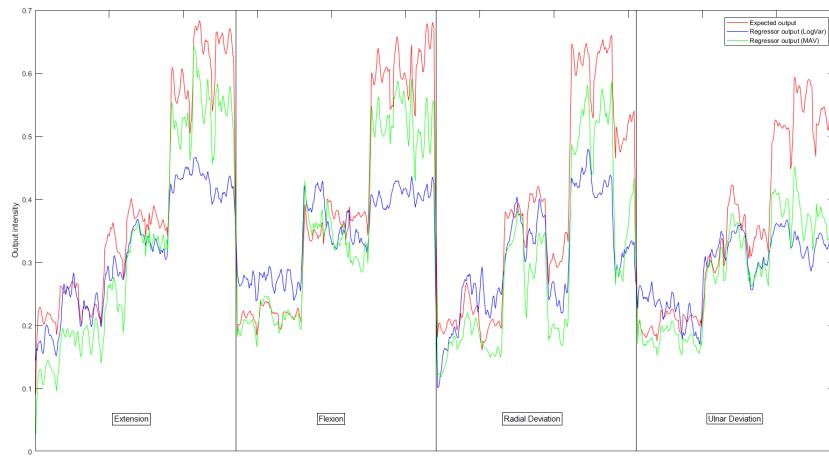
**Figure 4.2:** Plot of PCA of logarithmic variance feature. The first three principal components account for describing 93.97% of the data set. Here the clusters for each movement are also distinguishable from each other and have no noteworthy outliers, so the data is considered of high quality.

The left plot of the principal components describe the importance of each identified components, and how much of the variance in the data that is described. For the MAV feature depicted in figure 4.1, using only the first three components, 93.8% of the full dataset can be described. Only these principal components are used in the plot to the right in both figures. The same is the case for the PCA of logarithmic variance shown in figure 4.2, where the first three PC's account for describing 93.97% og the data. In both PCA's it

can be seen that the clusters are easily distinguishable and have no remarkable outliers. Therefore the data is considered good and can be used in the training of the regressors.

## 4.2 Regression accuracy

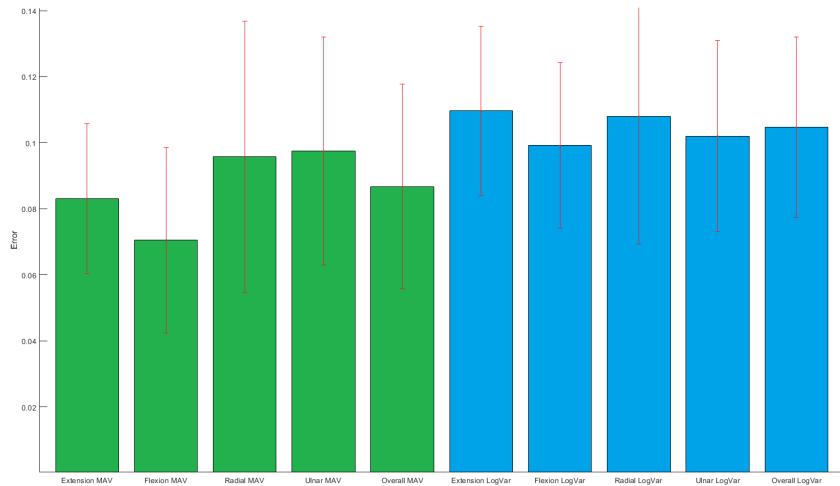
The plot in figure 4.3 depicts the actual data superimposed on the estimated data from the regressors.



**Figure 4.3:** Plot of the actual data, red plot, superimposed on the regression outputs from the logarithmic variance and MAV features for the four hand gestures, which is the blue and green plot respectively. Each segmentation of the hand gestures has the same sample size.

A quantitatively examination of the plot shows that regression on MAV features yields a more accurate output than regression on the logarithmic variance feature, whereas both estimates yield inaccurate fitting in the high intensities. However, both estimates yield inaccurate fitting in the high intensities compared to the lower intensities, especially in the ulnar deviation movement.

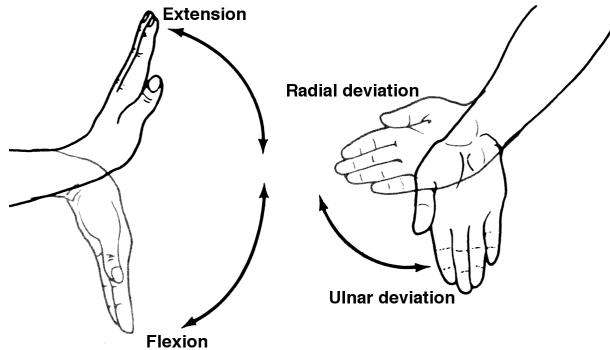
Calculating the RMSE of the regressors for the MAV and logarithmic variance features of the training data across all subjects, yields the results depicted in figure 4.4. The overall mean of the RMSE of MAV is 0.0867 with a standard deviation of  $\pm 0.0310$ , where the highest mean of a regressor is 0.0410 and the highest standard deviation is  $\pm 0.0975$ . The overall mean of the RMSE of the logarithmic variance is 0.1047 with a standard deviation of  $\pm 0.0273$ , where the highest mean of a regressor is 0.0386 and the highest standard deviation is  $\pm 0.1097$ . MAV then yields a lower mean RMSE than the logarithmic variance, where the logarithmic variance has a lower standard deviation than MAV.



**Figure 4.4:** Bar plot of the error of MAV and the logarithmic variance features for the four hand gestures. The bar chart illustrates the mean error and the error bar illustrates the standard deviation

## .1 Training data acquistion protocol

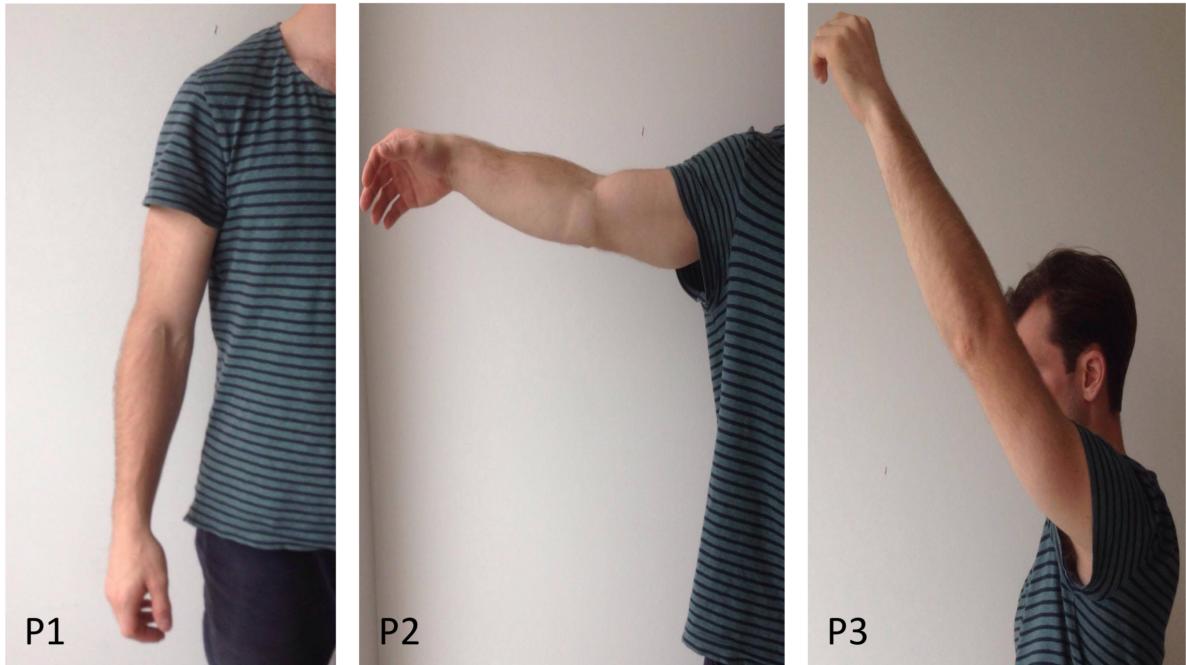
The inclusion criteria for the subjects is that they must be healthy and able-bodied. The subjects will perform four different hand gestures: ulnar deviation, radial deviation, flexion and extension of the wrist, as shown in figure 5. The order of the execution of the movements will be the same for each subject.



**Figure 5:** Flexion, extension, radial and ulnar deviation of the hand. Modified from [hamilton2008]

At first the subject will have the baseline measured. The subject will have a relaxed forearm and hold the wrist in a neutral position. Afterwards each hand gesture will be performed as a fraction of the maximum voluntary contraction (*MVC*) set as 30%, 50% and 80%. The subjects will therefore initially be performing a *MVC* measure to be used as a reference measurement before the fraction of the *MVC* measures can be performed. The subjects will rest two minutes after the *MVC* measurement to avoid fatigue. This is done for each hand gesture.

The acquisition of the fraction of the *MVC* of each hand gesture will consist of four chronological phases: a relaxed phase, a transition phase, a plateau phase and a relaxed phase, which will be depicted as a trapeze in a plot. The EMG of the subject will be depicted as a small circle in the plot, and the subject must follow the shape of the trapeze with the circle as best as possible. The recording of one fraction of *MVC* of one hand gesture will take ten seconds, where the phase with the highest contraction is four seconds. This procedure will be performed in three different limb positions, illustrated in the figure figure ??.



**Figure 6:** The limb positions consist of: 1) Relaxed arm hanging at the side of the torso, 2) straight arm reaching horizontally away from the torso and 3) straight arm reaching up 45 degrees from vertical.

The subject will be given a relaxation period between trials in order to avoid shoulder fatigue. Due to the fact that the hand gestures only consists of wrist movements, the subject must not move the fingers during the data acquisition. The subjects will be in a standing position during the data acquisition procedure. Below is a table of the order at which each hand gesture will be performed, at which intensity and at which limb position. The table functions as a checklist for acquiring the training data.

## Chapter 4. Results

**Table 1:** My caption

	Limb 1	Limb 2	Limb 3
Baseline			
MVC ulnar			
25% ulnar			
50% ulnar			
75% ulnar			
MVC radial			
25% radial			
50% radial			
75% radial			
MVC flex.			
25% flex.			
50% flex.			
75% flex.			
MVC ext.			
25% ext.			
50% ext.			
75% ext.			