

PrimeIMU: High-Frequency Video-to-IMU Synthesis via Physics-Guided Simulation and Hybrid U-Net Refinement

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Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) data are ubiquitous in today’s wearable and mobile devices with various wearable applications. However, obtaining large-scale high-sampling-rate IMU data with reliable ground-truth labels presents significant challenges, as the process is time consuming, expensive, and requires specialized domain expertise. To address the scarcity of labeled IMU data, existing research has explored synthetic IMU generation through two primary approaches: using language models to generate motions for IMU simulation or converting video-based 2D/3D poses into corresponding IMU data. While the LLM-based approach offers computational convenience, it suffers from a lack of real-world visual grounding, frequently producing unrealistic or poor-quality IMU signals. State-of-the-art video-to-IMU methods, on the other hand, generate more realistic signals but encounter three critical limitations: (i) pose estimation errors can substantially compromise the quality of generated IMU signals, (ii) the limited frame rates of videos restrict the temporal resolution needed for generating high-frequency IMU data essential for wearable devices, and (iii) a persistent anatomical-inertial gap remains between estimated kinematics and actual sensor readings. To overcome these limitations, we introduce a novel video-to-IMU framework (PrimeIMU) that intelligently fuses low-frequency kinematic guidance extracted from video poses with physics-inspired simulated IMU initialization, employing a hybrid U-Net architecture to refine these combined signals, effectively bridging the anatomical-inertial gap while generating high-fidelity sensor data. Extensive experiments demonstrate that PrimeIMU (1) generates realistic IMU synthesis with improvements over baselines, (2) generalizes to unseen activities with realistic signal synthesis, (3) establishes synthetic-only training as an effective substitute for real IMU data and shows potential as an augmentation source when combined with real sensor data, and (4) adapts across datasets using different hardware configurations with minimal fine-tuning, achieving high-fidelity signal generation, and supports multiple downstream applications under domain shift. These results position PrimeIMU as a scalable and practical solution for generating deployable IMU-based models directly from video.

CCS Concepts: • **Human-centered computing** → **Ubiquitous and mobile computing**; • **Computing methodologies** → **Machine learning**.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: IMU Signal Synthesis, Wearable Computing

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1 Introduction

Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) data are ubiquitous in today’s wearable and mobile devices [37]. They allow low-energy motion tracking, supporting applications such as event detection [14], ergonomics assessment [39], health monitoring [1], exercise and sports tracking [12], and gesture-based user interfaces [18]. Achieving such applications at scale requires large, high-frequency IMU datasets with reliable annotations. However, collecting such data remains highly challenging, as the process is time-consuming, costly, and demands substantial domain expertise [6, 10, 16, 23, 26, 34, 37].

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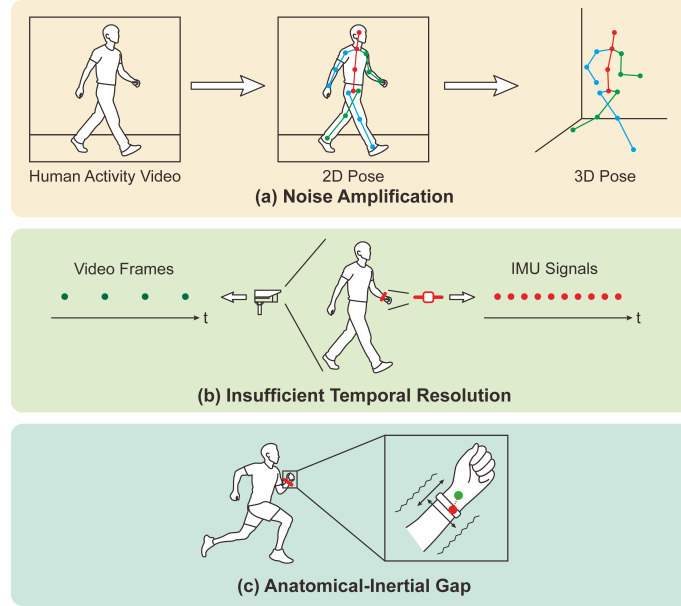


Fig. 1. Illustration of three fundamental issues overlooked in current video-to-IMU generation pipelines.

To address the scarcity of labeled IMU data, existing research has explored synthetic IMU generation for data augmentation through two primary approaches. The first leverages *large language models* (LLMs) to generate diverse activity descriptions, which are converted into 3D human motions via motion synthesis and subsequently transformed into virtual IMU signals through motion-to-IMU modeling [16, 17, 39]. The second leverages *video-based models* to extract 2D human poses from videos, lift them to 3D skeletons, and then generate virtual IMU signals via kinematic modeling [14, 15, 28]. The LLM-based approach offers scalability but lacks real-world visual grounding, which often yields IMU signals with unrealistic dynamics. In contrast, video-to-IMU methods provide visual grounding and typically produce more realistic signals; however, they still fall short of real IMU quality for three key reasons (Figure 1): (i) IMU signals derived from 2D/3D pose estimates are inherently noisy, with errors from inaccurate 2D pose estimation and error amplification during 2D-to-3D lifting, resulting in unrealistic spiky signals after differentiation; (ii) in video-to-IMU synthesis, video frame rates (15–30 FPS) are far lower than the sampling rates required by real IMU devices (> 50 Hz), so the derived IMU signals must be interpolated; however, such interpolation cannot recover high-frequency motion, inevitably reducing signal fidelity; (iii) an anatomical–inertial gap exists: skeleton-based kinematics assume sensors are fixed to bones, whereas real IMUs are skin-mounted and affected by soft tissue artifacts (STA) from skin, fat, and muscle, causing relative displacement and vibration that alter the frequency response of synthesized signals. These limitations reduce the realism of synthesized signals and limit the value of synthetic data.

Addressing such challenges holds significant value not only for the scientific community but also for the industry, as it could enable training detectors with zero or minimal real IMU data. Consequently, one crucial question has arisen: ***Is it feasible to generate IMU signals that are both realistic and faithful to actual sensors, while also allowing the synthetic data to effectively support sensor-stream labeling and classification tasks?***

IMU Generation Method	Realism-Oriented Designs				
	real.	vis.+phys.	temp.res.	dev.adpt.	kin.t.freq.
IMUGPT [17]	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
IMUGPT 2.0 [16]	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
UniMTS [39]	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Video2IMU [15]	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Vi2IMU [28]	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
IMUTube [14]	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
PrimeIMU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 1. Comparison of **PrimeIMU** with previous State-of-the-Art IMU generation methods on realism-oriented designs, where *real.*: explicitly aims for realistic IMU generation (beyond pure augmentation); *vis.+phys.*: combines visual grounding with physical modeling; *temp.res.*: addresses limited temporal resolution from video frame rates; *dev.adpt.*: adapts synthesis to device-specific characteristics (e.g., FPS, IMU sampling rates); *kin.t.freq.*: incorporates kinematic, temporal, and frequency-domain information during synthesis.

To overcome these challenges, we propose **PrimeIMU** framework, differing from prior works as shown in Table 1, specially designed for device-based high fidelity IMU generation from human activity videos. Our contributions are:

- We introduce **PrimeIMU**, a novel video-to-IMU generation framework that directly addresses three core limitations of prior works: pose estimation noise amplification, insufficient temporal resolution from video frame rates, and the anatomical-inertial gap between skeletal kinematics and real sensor readings.
- We design a hybrid refinement pipeline that combines low-frequency kinematic guidance from video poses with learned high-frequency inertial dynamics, optimized under reconstruction, spectral, and kinematic objectives to generate sensor-faithful signals with proper temporal and frequency characteristics.
- We show that **PrimeIMU** generalizes to *unseen activities*, producing realistic IMU signals even when entire action classes are excluded during training, demonstrating transferable motion modeling beyond label memorization.
- We demonstrate that classifiers trained solely on **PrimeIMU**-generated data achieve performance close to those trained on ground-truth IMUs, enabling synthetic-only training when real data collection is infeasible.
- We show that **PrimeIMU** serves as an effective augmentation source, with preliminary results suggesting improvements when combined with real sensor data.
- We establish cross-dataset generalization: **PrimeIMU** adapts to new domains with minimal fine-tuning (as little as 10–20% target data), enabling efficient transfer across diverse sensor configurations and activity types.

2 Related Work

2.1 Sensor-Stream Classification with Wearable IMUs

Sensor-stream classification has become a core theme in ubiquitous and mobile computing, enabled by the widespread availability of compact inertial sensors [13, 36]. Earlier systems typically followed the Activity Recognition Chain [4], where signals were preprocessed, segmented, engineered into features, and then classified. While this modular pipeline enabled steady progress, it relied heavily on manual design choices. Recent years have seen a shift toward deep learning models that directly map sensor streams to labels [24, 25], offering more generalizable representations. Nevertheless, these approaches remain heavily dependent on large, labeled datasets, which are costly and difficult to obtain.

2.2 Data Scarcity and Learning Paradigms

The scarcity of annotated IMU datasets remains a central bottleneck for progress. Although collecting raw inertial signals is straightforward with commodity wearables and phones, curating datasets that are both large and reliable is difficult. Accurate labeling requires carefully scripted protocols or extensive manual segmentation of continuous streams, both labor-intensive and error-prone. Ambiguity at activity boundaries and inconsistent class definitions lead to noisy or weakly aligned ground truth [6, 10, 16, 23, 26, 34, 37]. Low-cost MEMS sensors introduce drift, bias, and noise [9, 19]; inter-subject variation in physiology, movement style, and sensor placement induces distribution shifts; and cross-device differences (sampling rate, orientation, sensitivity) undermine transfer. As a result, many collections are relatively small and biased toward narrow domains, limiting motion diversity.

To mitigate these issues, the community has explored self-supervised pretraining [11, 27], semi-/few-shot adaptation [3, 8], metric-based learning [7], adversarial training [2], and transfer across datasets or sensors [29]. Despite progress, these strategies are constrained by the limited scale and coverage of available data. This persistent gap motivates realistic synthetic IMU generation: if synthetic signals preserve real-sensor dynamics while scaling across behaviors, users, and placements, they can complement scarce annotations and support robust downstream models under minimal real data.

2.3 Cross-Modality IMU Synthesis

Recent work increasingly investigates synthesizing inertial signals from other modalities, motivated by the difficulty of collecting large annotated corpora. Approaches fall into *text-driven* and *video-driven* categories. Text-driven pipelines such as IMUGPT [17] and IMUGPT 2.0 [16] rely on LLMs to generate descriptions that are mapped to parametric motions and then to synthetic IMUs; UniMTS [39] enriches semantics with LLM priors and maps them to skeletal motions. While scalable, these pipelines lack visual grounding and can drift from device-level statistics. Video-driven pipelines leverage visual grounding: IMUTube [14] extracts 2D poses from online videos, lifts them to 3D skeletons, and differentiates kinematics to approximate inertial data; Video2IMU [15] regresses IMU directly from 2D poses; Vi2IMU [28] focuses on sign-language settings with wrist-mounted sensors.

Despite stronger realism than text-driven synthesis, video-driven methods remain constrained by (i) error amplification from pose estimation, (ii) the frame-rate vs. sampling-rate mismatch (15–30 FPS vs. >50 Hz), and (iii) the anatomical–inertial gap due to soft-tissue artifacts and non-rigid attachment. These limitations highlight an open space for frameworks—such as our **PrimeIMU**—that fuse kinematic guidance with inertial priors and employ joint time–frequency–physics-aware objectives to produce signals faithful to real devices and effective for downstream sensor-stream classification when real data are scarce.

3 Method

Our objective is to develop a framework that synthesizes high-frequency, physically plausible Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) data from standard RGB video inputs. The core challenge lies in bridging the significant domain gap between low-frequency visual data and high-frequency inertial signals, while also addressing the noise and inaccuracies inherent in video-based motion capture. To this end, we propose a novel two-stage method **PrimeIMU**, as depicted in Figure 2. The first stage leverages established computer vision models and principles of kinematics to generate an initial, albeit noisy and low-frequency, IMU signal. The second stage employs a deep generative model to refine this signal, upsample it to the target frequency, and enforce kinematic consistency.

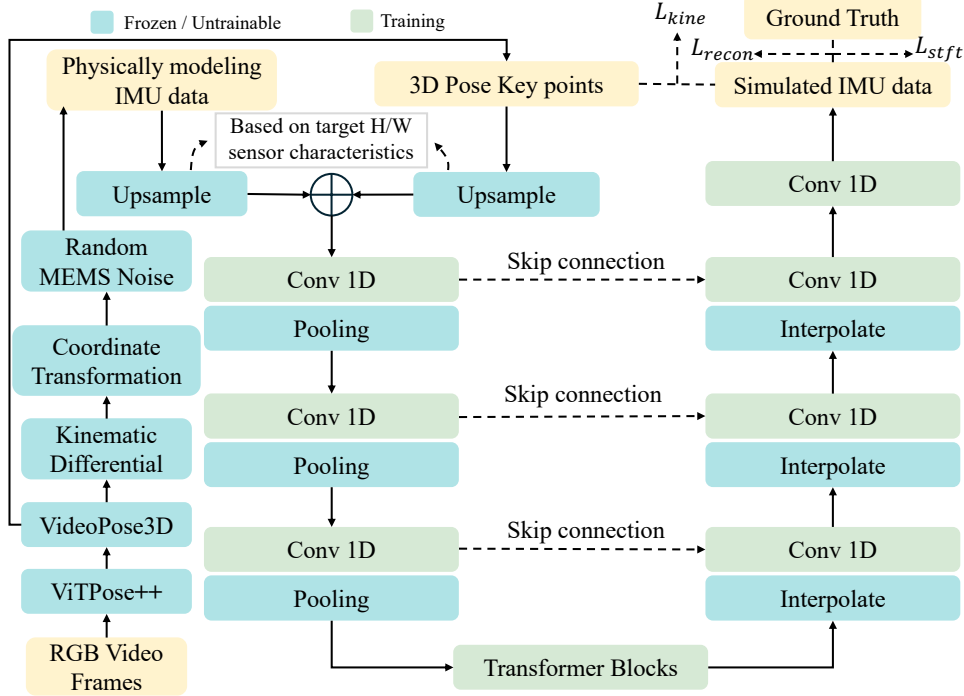


Fig. 2. Overview of the **PrimeIMU** pipeline for synthesizing high-frequency IMU signals from RGB videos. (**Stage 1: Physics-based Simulation**) Each RGB frame is processed by ViTPose++ to estimate 2D keypoints, which are then lifted to 3D joint trajectories using VideoPose3D. The 3D poses are converted into low-frequency simulated IMU signals through kinematic differentiation, coordinate transformation, and MEMS noise modeling. (**Stage 2: Deep Generative Refinement**) A Hybrid U-Net with a transformer bottleneck takes the upsampled simulated IMU together with the upsampled pose sequence, refines them via convolutional–transformer blocks with skip connections, and generates realistic high-frequency IMU signals. Training is guided by a composite loss that combines time-domain reconstruction, frequency-domain STFT alignment, and kinematic consistency to enforce both fidelity and physical plausibility.

3.1 Stage 1: Physics-Guided IMU Simulation

This initial stage translates an input video sequence into a corresponding low-frequency IMU signal through 3D pose estimation and kinematic modeling.

3.1.1 3D Human Pose Estimation. Given an RGB video sequence, our first step is to reconstruct the 3D trajectory of key human body joints. We adopt a robust two-step lifting approach. First, we process each video frame with ViTPose++ [38], a powerful vision transformer-based model, to obtain accurate 2D keypoint coordinates for each person in the scene. Subsequently, the resulting 2D pose sequence is fed into VideoPose3D [22], a temporal convolutional network that leverages motion context to lift the 2D coordinates into a coherent 3D skeleton sequence. The output of this step is a sequence of 3D joint positions $P_{3D} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_v \times K \times 3}$, where T_v is the number of video frames and K is the number of keypoints.

3.1.2 Physics-driven Kinematic Modeling. With the 3D joint trajectories, we simulate the readings of a 6-axis IMU (3-axis accelerometer, 3-axis gyroscope) attached to a specific body segment. This process involves three key modules.

Kinematic Differentiation. This module computes the linear acceleration and angular velocity from the pose data. Let the 3D position of the distal joint of a segment (e.g., the wrist) at time t be denoted by the vector $\mathbf{p}(t)$. The global linear velocity $\mathbf{v}(t)$ and acceleration $\mathbf{a}_{\text{global}}(t)$ are obtained by taking the first and second time derivatives of the position, respectively:

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \frac{d\mathbf{p}(t)}{dt}, \quad \mathbf{a}_{\text{global}}(t) = \frac{d^2\mathbf{p}(t)}{dt^2}. \quad (1)$$

Directly differentiating discrete, noisy position data drastically amplifies noise. Therefore, we first apply a Savitzky-Golay filter [30] to the position sequence $\mathbf{p}(t)$ to obtain a smoothed trajectory before differentiation, which is implemented using finite differences.

The orientation of the body segment is more robustly defined by the vector connecting the proximal joint $\mathbf{p}_{\text{prox}}(t)$ to the distal joint $\mathbf{p}_{\text{dist}}(t)$. We use this vector to construct a time-varying local coordinate frame for the segment, represented by a sequence of orientation quaternions $q(t)$. The local angular velocity $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{local}}(t)$ is then derived from the temporal evolution of these quaternions. Given the relationship $\dot{q}(t) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{local}}(t) \end{bmatrix} \otimes q(t)$, where \otimes denotes quaternion multiplication, the angular velocity can be computed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{local}}(t) \end{bmatrix} = 2 \cdot \dot{q}(t) \otimes q(t)^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

where $q(t)^{-1}$ is the quaternion conjugate and $\dot{q}(t)$ is computed via finite differences.

Coordinate System Transformation. An IMU measures acceleration and angular velocity in its own local coordinate frame. The angular velocity $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{local}}(t)$ is already in this frame. However, the linear acceleration $\mathbf{a}_{\text{global}}(t)$ must be transformed. Using the orientation quaternion $q(t)$, we rotate the global acceleration vector into the local frame and subtract the effect of gravity, $\mathbf{g} = [0, 0, -9.81]^T \text{m/s}^2$, which is also transformed into the local frame:

$$\mathbf{a}_{\text{local}}(t) = R(q(t))^{-1}(\mathbf{a}_{\text{global}}(t)) - R(q(t))^{-1}\mathbf{g}, \quad (3)$$

where $R(q(t))$ is the rotation matrix corresponding to quaternion $q(t)$. This step is crucial for simulating realistic accelerometer readings that include gravitational components.

Random MEMS Noise Simulation. Real IMU sensors are subject to various sources of noise. To enhance the realism of our simulated data, we model two primary noise types: a Gaussian white noise component and a random walk bias. The final simulated IMU signal $I_{\text{sim}}(t) = [\mathbf{a}_{\text{sim}}(t), \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{sim}}(t)]$ is generated as:

$$\mathbf{a}_{\text{sim}}(t) = \mathbf{a}_{\text{local}}(t) + \mathbf{n}_a(t) + \mathbf{b}_a(t), \quad (4)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{sim}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{local}}(t) + \mathbf{n}_\omega(t) + \mathbf{b}_\omega(t), \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{n}(t)$ is sampled from a zero-mean Gaussian distribution whose standard deviation depends on the sensor's noise density, and $\mathbf{b}(t)$ is a bias term that evolves as a random walk. The output of this stage is a low-frequency simulated IMU signal, $I_{\text{sim}} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_v \times 6}$.

3.2 Stage 2: Hybrid U-Net Generative Refinement

The physically simulated data I_{sim} is noisy and shares the low frequency of the source video. The second stage of our framework uses a generative network to learn the mapping from this low-quality simulation to high-quality, high-frequency IMU data, conditioned on the low-frequency pose.

3.2.1 Network Architecture. We design a Hybrid U-Net architecture that combines the local feature extraction power of convolutions with the global context modeling of transformers. The network takes a low-frequency pose sequence $P_{\text{low}} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_l \times D_{\text{pose}}}$ and a random noise vector $N \in \mathbb{R}^{T_h \times D_{\text{imu}}}$ as input, where T_l and T_h are the lengths of the low- and high-frequency sequences, respectively.

The pose sequence P_{low} is first upsampled to the target length T_h via linear interpolation and then projected into a high-dimensional embedding space. This pose embedding is added to an embedding of the input noise N . The resulting sequence $X \in \mathbb{R}^{T_h \times D_{\text{model}}}$ is the input to the U-Net.

Encoder. The encoder consists of a series of 1D convolutional blocks. Each block contains convolutional layers with residual connections, followed by a max-pooling layer that halves the temporal resolution. The outputs of each block before pooling are saved as skip connections.

Bottleneck. At the lowest temporal resolution, the feature map is passed to a Transformer block. This allows the model to capture long-range temporal dependencies and global patterns in the motion sequence. Positional encodings are added to the features before the Transformer block to provide temporal context.

Decoder. The decoder mirrors the encoder’s structure. At each stage, the feature map is upsampled using linear interpolation. The upsampled features are concatenated with the corresponding skip connection from the encoder path and passed through a 1D convolutional block. This process progressively refines the features while restoring the original temporal resolution. A final 1D convolutional layer projects the output features back to the dimension of the IMU data, yielding the generated high-frequency signal $I_{\text{gen}} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_h \times 6}$.

3.3 Composite Loss Design

The network is trained end-to-end by minimizing a composite loss function that evaluates the generated signal in both the time and frequency domains, while also enforcing physical plausibility. The ground truth is a sequence of real, high-frequency IMU data $I_{\text{gt}} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_h \times 6}$.

Reconstruction Loss ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$). To ensure the generated signal matches the ground truth in the time domain, we use a standard L1 loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}} = \|I_{\text{gen}} - I_{\text{gt}}\|_1. \quad (6)$$

This loss penalizes deviations in the signal’s amplitude and temporal structure.

STFT Loss ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$). Matching the frequency content is crucial for realistic IMU signals. We employ a multi-resolution Short-Time Fourier Transform (STFT) loss. This loss is the sum of two components: a spectral convergence term and a log STFT magnitude term, computed over multiple FFT resolutions:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}} = \sum_{r \in R} \left(\frac{\| |S_r(I_{\text{gen}})| - |S_r(I_{\text{gt}})| \|_F}{\| |S_r(I_{\text{gt}})| \|_F} + \|\log |S_r(I_{\text{gen}})| - \log |S_r(I_{\text{gt}})|\|_1 \right), \quad (7)$$

where $S_r(\cdot)$ denotes the STFT operator at resolution r , $|\cdot|$ is the magnitude, and $\|\cdot\|_F$ is the Frobenius norm. This loss ensures that the spectral characteristics of the generated signal align with the ground truth.

Kinematic Consistency Loss ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$). This novel loss term enforces that the generated IMU data is physically consistent with the input motion. We take the acceleration component of the generated high-frequency IMU signal, $I_{\text{gen}}^{\text{accel}} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_h \times 3}$, and apply a differentiable double integrator to recover the corresponding high-frequency 3D pose trajectory, \hat{P}_{high} . An

initial position from the ground-truth low-frequency pose is used as the integration constant. This predicted trajectory is then downsampled via interpolation to the original low frequency, yielding \hat{P}_{low} . The kinematic loss is the Mean Squared Error (MSE) between this predicted low-frequency pose and the ground-truth low-frequency pose P_{low} that was an input to the network:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}} = \|\text{Downsample}(\hat{P}_{\text{high}}) - P_{\text{low}}\|_2^2. \quad (8)$$

This loss acts as a powerful regularizer, ensuring the network generates signals that adhere to the laws of motion.

Total Loss. ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}}$). The final training objective is a weighted sum of the three loss components:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \lambda_{\text{recon}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}} + \lambda_{\text{stft}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}} + \lambda_{\text{kine}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}, \quad (9)$$

where λ_{recon} , λ_{stft} , and λ_{kine} are hyper-parameters that balance the contribution of each term.

4 Experiments

4.1 Setup

4.1.1 Datasets. We conduct experiments on two publicly available multimodal benchmarks that provide both video and inertial sensor modalities for human activity recognition: *(i) UTD-MHAD* [5] contains synchronized RGB videos, depth videos, skeleton joint positions, and 6-axis inertial signals (accelerometer and gyroscope) recorded from a Kinect camera and a single wearable inertial sensor. Eight subjects (4 female, 4 male) performed 27 different actions, including sports (e.g., basketball shoot, tennis swing), hand gestures (e.g., wave, clap, draw shapes), daily activities (e.g., sit-to-stand, knock on door), and exercises (e.g., squat, lunge, arm curl). Each subject repeated every action four times, yielding a total of 861 sequences. The inertial sensor was placed on the right wrist or thigh depending on the action, and all modalities were temporally synchronized and manually segmented, making UTD-MHAD a compact yet diverse benchmark for multimodal human activity recognition. *(ii) MM-Fit* [32] contains synchronized multi-view RGB-D videos, skeleton poses, and wearable inertial signals (accelerometer, gyroscope, and magnetometer) recorded from smartphones, smartwatches, and earbuds. Ten subjects (7 male, 3 female) performed ten types of resistance exercises, including squats, lunges, push-ups, sit-ups, curls, rows, presses, raises, and jumping jacks. Each exercise consisted of three sets of ten repetitions, resulting in 21 sessions, 616 sets, and 6160 annotated repetitions. All modalities were time-synchronized using a calibration jump and annotated with exercise types, set boundaries, and repetition counts, providing a challenging and diverse benchmark for multimodal human activity recognition in workout scenarios.

4.1.2 Baseline. Since no prior video-to-IMU methods release their code, we reviewed recent state-of-the-art works, including IMUTube [14] and UniMTS [39]. IMUTube is the state-of-the-art method specifically targeting video-to-IMU generation, and we therefore re-implemented its pipeline to serve as our baseline. Although UniMTS is not a video-to-IMU approach, it provides valuable insights into multimodal sensor synthesis, which informed our re-implementation of IMUTube. Unless otherwise specified, all subsequent mentions of the *baseline* refer to this re-implemented IMUTube pipeline.

4.1.3 IMU Generation Quality Evaluation Metrics. We assess the fidelity of generated IMU signals by comparing them to ground-truth recordings using both error- and correlation-based measures. Error-based metrics (RMSE/MAE) quantify magnitude discrepancies but may overlook trend misalignment, while correlation-based metrics (R^2 and Pearson) ensure temporal and physical plausibility: *(i) Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)* emphasizes large deviations between

generated and real signals, making it sensitive to spikes; small values indicate stable predictions, while large values suggest spiky or unstable outputs. *(ii)* **Mean Absolute Error (MAE)** captures the average absolute deviation from ground truth; lower values reflect better overall alignment, while higher values indicate consistent drift. *(iii)* **Coefficient of Determination (R^2)** measures the proportion of variance in the real signal explained by the generated one; values close to 1 indicate faithful reproduction of dynamics, values near 0 imply mean-level prediction, and negative values denote worse-than-mean performance. *(iv)* **Pearson Correlation** quantifies linear trend alignment between generated and ground-truth signals; values near +1 denote strong positive alignment, values near 0 indicate no relation, and values near -1 imply reversed, physically implausible trends.

4.1.4 Classification Performance Evaluation Metrics. We adopt two standard metrics for HAR evaluation: *(i)* **Accuracy (Acc)** is the overall Top-1 classification accuracy, i.e., the fraction of correctly predicted activity labels across all samples. *(ii)* **Macro F1 (F1)** is the unweighted average of per-class F1 scores, giving equal importance to each class and thus providing robustness to class imbalance.

4.1.5 Classification Models. We evaluate the effectiveness of synthetic IMU data on five representative HAR models spanning both classical machine learning and deep learning paradigms: *(i)* **Random Forest** [21] is an ensemble of decision trees that serves as a strong non-deep-learning baseline for IMU classification. *(ii)* **Support Vector Machine (SVM)** [33] is a kernel-based margin classifier that provides a competitive traditional baseline for time-series data. *(iii)* **DeepConvLSTM** [20] integrates convolutional layers for local feature extraction with LSTMs for temporal sequence modeling and is widely used in HAR tasks. *(iv)* **DeepConvLSTM_Attention** [31] extends DeepConvLSTM by adding a self-attention mechanism to capture long-range temporal dependencies through adaptive weighting of time steps. *(v)* **Transformer** [35] is a fully attention-based architecture that models long-range dependencies without recurrence or convolutions and has recently gained popularity for sequential HAR tasks. Together, these models form a diverse evaluation suite for assessing the utility of synthetic IMU data across classical and deep learning HAR classifiers.

4.1.6 Configuration. For the IMU generation stage, the sampling frequency of the IMU data from the physics-based simulation is set to match the frame rate of the source video. Our U-Net model is trained for 100 epochs with a learning rate of 1×10^{-3} for both datasets. To evaluate the quality of our synthetic data, we use Human Activity Recognition (HAR) as a downstream task to measure the performance gap between models trained on our generated data versus real IMU data. All neural classifiers in this downstream setting are trained for 50 epochs with a learning rate of 1×10^{-3} .

4.2 Comparison with the Baseline Method on IMU Generation Quality

We compare **PrimeIMU** with a kinematics-only baseline on two multimodal benchmarks, UTD-MHAD and MM-Fit, using four complementary criteria (MAE, RMSE, R^2 , and Pearson). Table 2 summarizes results per axis for accelerometer and gyroscope signals.

Overall trends. Across both datasets, **PrimeIMU** produces signals that align much more closely with real sensors in terms of variance explained and temporal trend agreement. On UTD-MHAD, our method achieves very high R^2 (0.87–0.98) and Pearson correlations (0.99 level) for all six axes, whereas the baseline yields negative R^2 and weak or even negative correlations. On MM-Fit—a more diverse, device-heterogeneous setting—the baseline effectively collapses (near-zero Pearson and extremely negative R^2), while **PrimeIMU** consistently delivers strong correlations (0.90–0.95) and substantially lower errors.

Table 2. Comparison of our **PrimeIMU** with the re-implemented IMUTube Baseline on the UTD-MHAD and MM-Fit datasets. We report per-axis results for accelerometer (X/Y/Z) and gyroscope (X/Y/Z) signals using four complementary metrics: mean absolute error (MAE↓), root mean square error (RMSE↓), coefficient of determination (R^2 ↑), and Pearson correlation (↑). Across both datasets, **PrimeIMU** consistently yields lower errors and substantially higher correlations, indicating stronger fidelity to real sensor measurements compared to the baseline.

Dataset	Method	Metric	Accel X	Accel Y	Accel Z	Gyro X	Gyro Y	Gyro Z
UTD-MHAD	Physics-Guided Simulation	MAE ↓	0.8395	7.6634	4.6674	1.3719	1.4953	2.1858
		RMSE ↓	1.0821	8.2838	5.3449	1.9902	2.2392	2.9975
		R^2 ↑	-670.6101	-65171.0273	-66641.8406	-1.1429	-1.3515	-2.9680
		Pearson ↑	-0.1797	0.1374	-0.1966	0.0143	0.0507	-0.1329
	PrimeIMU (Ours)	MAE ↓	0.0306	0.0176	0.0189	3.0549	3.1581	2.9964
		RMSE ↓	0.0399	0.0230	0.0262	4.2513	4.0785	3.8244
		R^2 ↑	0.8706	0.9785	0.9583	0.9842	0.8805	0.8852
		Pearson ↑	0.9886	0.9977	0.9916	0.9972	0.9957	0.9983
MM-Fit	Physics-Guided Simulation	MAE ↓	2.1401	8.0887	6.4013	0.6339	0.7826	1.4799
		RMSE ↓	3.1713	9.7756	8.3973	0.9037	1.1181	2.2551
		R^2 ↑	-1754265773	-1540101166	-7826811739	-3045290257	-17280099211	-416054159758
		Pearson ↑	-0.0018	0.0016	-0.0032	-0.005	0.0005	-0.0047
	PrimeIMU (Ours)	MAE ↓	0.2808	0.5844	0.2074	0.0691	0.0341	0.0495
		RMSE ↓	0.3656	0.6386	0.2764	0.0890	0.0442	0.0655
		R^2 ↑	-0.1784	-6.4791	0.3422	-0.1988	0.5433	-1.8088
		Pearson ↑	0.8963	0.9275	0.9333	0.9455	0.9526	0.9200

Accelerometer fidelity. UTD-MHAD shows the clearest gap in accelerometry: **PrimeIMU** reduces MAE from 0.84–7.66 (baseline) to 0.018–0.031, and RMSE from 1.08–8.28 to 0.023–0.040, alongside near-perfect Pearson (≥ 0.99). The baseline’s negative R^2 indicates it fails to model even coarse amplitude/variance, while our hybrid refinement closely tracks both magnitude and dynamics. On MM-Fit, the baseline again shows almost no correlation to real signals; **PrimeIMU** improves Pearson to 0.90–0.93 and reduces MAE/RMSE by large margins on all axes (e.g., Accel-Z MAE 6.40 \rightarrow 0.21).

Gyroscope behavior and scale. For UTD-MHAD gyroscope, **PrimeIMU** attains excellent R^2 (0.88–0.98) and Pearson (0.996–0.998), indicating highly faithful temporal patterns and variance modeling. Interestingly, its absolute error (MAE/RMSE) is sometimes larger than the baseline on certain axes (e.g., Gyro X/Y/Z MAE ~ 3.0 –3.16 vs. baseline 1.37–2.19). Given the simultaneously high R^2 /Pearson, this discrepancy points to a residual *scale* or *bias* mismatch rather than dynamics errors. Such effects are consistent with device- or placement-specific angular rate scaling and soft-tissue artifacts; they are typically addressable with a lightweight post-hoc calibration (e.g., per-axis affine re-scaling) without altering downstream recognition performance. On MM-Fit, **PrimeIMU** clearly dominates the baseline across all gyro axes in both error (e.g., Gyro X RMSE 0.90 \rightarrow 0.089) and correlation (Pearson ≈ 0.95), reflecting stronger device/domain robustness.

Stability across datasets. The contrast between datasets highlights the intended design of **PrimeIMU**: when the baseline is exposed to domain shifts (camera FPS, subject style, sensor sampling, placement), its signals lose both spectral structure and temporal alignment (strongly negative R^2 , Pearson ≈ 0 on MM-Fit). By fusing low-frequency kinematics with learned high-frequency priors and training under joint time–frequency–kinematic objectives, **PrimeIMU** preserves activity-relevant dynamics and maintains high correlations under shift.

Takeaways. (1) **Temporal fidelity:** near-ceiling Pearson/ R^2 on UTD-MHAD and strong correlations on MM-Fit indicate that **PrimeIMU** captures the correct motion dynamics where the baseline fails. (2) **Amplitude alignment:**

large MAE/RMSE reductions for accelerometers on both datasets show improved magnitude realism; remaining gyro scale offsets on UTD-MHAD are minor and correctable. (3) **Domain robustness**: the gains are most pronounced under cross-device variability (MM-Fit), where the baseline degenerates but **PrimeIMU** remains reliable.

Overall, the results corroborate our design goals: by combining kinematic guidance with learned frequency-aware refinement, **PrimeIMU** generates signals that are markedly more realistic and sensor-faithful than those from a physics-only baseline. The improvements are evident across both accelerometer and gyroscope axes, where variance explained and temporal correlations reach near-ceiling levels on UTD-MHAD and remain strong even under the cross-device variability of MM-Fit. These findings confirm that integrating physics priors with data-driven refinement not only enhances realism but also preserves robustness under domain shift.

4.3 Classification Performance using Generated IMU Data: Baseline vs. Ours

Table 3. Classification results on the UTD-MHAD dataset comparing the baseline generator and **PrimeIMU** across four training–testing settings: **GT**→**GT** (train/test on real IMU), **GEN**→**GEN** (train/test on generated IMU), **GT**→**GEN** (train on real IMU, test on generated IMU), and **GEN**→**GT** (train on generated IMU, test on real IMU). Reported metrics are Accuracy (Acc) and macro-F1; ↑ indicates higher is better.

Model	Train	Test	Baseline	PrimeIMU (Ours)	
			Acc ↑ F1 ↑	Acc ↑ F1 ↑	
Random Forest	GT	GT	0.8023 0.7962	0.8023	0.7962
	GEN	GEN	0.6734 0.6737	0.8166	0.8044
	GT	GEN	0.0201 0.0041	0.7880	0.7813
	GEN	GT	0.0516 0.0223	0.7937	0.7847
SVM	GT	GT	0.7106 0.6908	0.7106	0.6908
	GEN	GEN	0.4785 0.4711	0.7106	0.6882
	GT	GEN	0.0602 0.0042	0.7221	0.7052
	GEN	GT	0.0287 0.0021	0.6991	0.6747
DeepConvLSTM	GT	GT	0.7564 0.7612	0.7564	0.7612
	GEN	GEN	0.4871 0.4793	0.7421	0.7303
	GT	GEN	0.0372 0.0057	0.7564	0.7537
	GEN	GT	0.0201 0.0124	0.7278	0.7119
DeepConvLSTM_Attention	GT	GT	0.8940 0.8907	0.8940	0.8907
	GEN	GEN	0.7736 0.7744	0.9083	0.9033
	GT	GEN	0.0315 0.0024	0.8854	0.8750
	GEN	GT	0.0401 0.0168	0.8863	0.8813
Transformer	GT	GT	0.8625 0.8624	0.8625	0.8624
	GEN	GEN	0.7679 0.7717	0.8625	0.8563
	GT	GEN	0.0315 0.0023	0.8453	0.8396
	GEN	GT	0.0659 0.0236	0.8453	0.8375

To assess the quality and downstream utility of generated IMU signals, we evaluate classification performance under four training–testing configurations:

- **GT**→**GT**: training and testing on real IMU data, serving as the reference upper bound.
- **GEN**→**GEN**: training and testing on generated data, probing the internal consistency and informativeness of synthetic signals.
- **GT**→**GEN**: training on real IMU but testing on generated data, measuring whether synthetic signals are realistic to real-trained classifiers.

Table 4. Classification results on the MM-Fit dataset comparing the baseline generator and **PrimeIMU** across four training–testing settings: **GT**→**GT** (train/test on real IMU), **GEN**→**GEN** (train/test on generated IMU), **GT**→**GEN** (train on real IMU, test on generated IMU), and **GEN**→**GT** (train on generated IMU, test on real IMU). Reported metrics are Accuracy (Acc) and macro-F1; ↑ indicates higher is better.

Model	Train	Test	Baseline		PrimeIMU (Ours)	
			Acc ↑	F1 ↑	Acc ↑	F1 ↑
Random Forest	GT	GT	0.4034	0.3833	0.4034	0.3833
	GEN	GEN	0.2149	0.1613	0.3556	0.3345
	GT	GEN	0.1596	0.1287	0.3499	0.3073
	GEN	GT	0.1664	0.1446	0.3614	0.3342
SVM	GT	GT	0.3572	0.3106	0.3572	0.3106
	GEN	GEN	0.1166	0.0729	0.3512	0.3522
	GT	GEN	0.1088	0.1483	0.3103	0.3013
	GEN	GT	0.1357	0.1138	0.3492	0.3086
DeepConvLSTM	GT	GT	0.3686	0.3488	0.3686	0.3488
	GEN	GEN	0.2461	0.1890	0.3429	0.3063
	GT	GEN	0.1437	0.1140	0.3218	0.2777
	GEN	GT	0.0988	0.0770	0.3322	0.3031
DeepConvLSTM_Attention	GT	GT	0.3541	0.3374	0.3541	0.3374
	GEN	GEN	0.2851	0.2176	0.3446	0.3044
	GT	GEN	0.1587	0.1485	0.2993	0.2667
	GEN	GT	0.1624	0.1267	0.3144	0.2957
Transformer	GT	GT	0.3787	0.3631	0.3787	0.3631
	GEN	GEN	0.2871	0.2106	0.3442	0.2926
	GT	GEN	0.0743	0.0759	0.3086	0.2719
	GEN	GT	0.1376	0.1143	0.3255	0.3030

- **GEN**→**GT**: training on generated data but testing on real IMU, the most realistic deployment setting when labeled sensor data are scarce or unavailable.

Tables 3 and 4 report results on UTD-MHAD and MM-Fit across classical (Random Forest, SVM) and neural (DeepConvLSTM, Transformer) classifiers, comparing the baseline generator and **PrimeIMU**.

GEN→*GT*: *synthetic training, real deployment*. This setting is most relevant to practice, since it corresponds to training HAR models purely on synthetic IMU and deploying them directly on real devices. With baseline synthetic signals, performance drops catastrophically: on UTD-MHAD, all models collapse to near-random accuracies (e.g., Random Forest 0.052/0.022, SVM 0.029/0.002, Transformer 0.066/0.024). These results indicate that baseline synthetic data lack the discriminative dynamics necessary for real-world generalization. In contrast, **PrimeIMU** nearly closes the gap to GT→GT. For instance, on UTD-MHAD, Transformer achieves 0.845/0.838 (GEN→GT) compared to 0.863/0.862 (GT→GT), and DeepConvLSTM_Attention yields 0.886/0.881 vs. 0.894/0.891. Even simple classifiers benefit: Random Forest reaches 0.794/0.785, and SVM 0.699/0.675, despite being trained entirely on synthetic inputs. On MM-Fit, which introduces cross-domain challenges such as heterogeneous devices, sensor placements, and activity styles, **PrimeIMU** still provides substantial improvements. For example, Random Forest improves from 0.166/0.145 (baseline) to 0.361/0.334, and Transformer from 0.138/0.114 to 0.326/0.303. These results demonstrate that **PrimeIMU** enables synthetic-only training to produce models competitive with those trained on scarce, expensive sensor datasets, even under domain shift.

GEN→GEN: internal consistency of synthetic data. Training and testing fully within the generated domain examines whether the synthetic data distribution is coherent and sufficiently informative for learning. The baseline generator fails this test: on UTD-MHAD, accuracies remain below 0.67 across models, reflecting internal inconsistency and unrealistic temporal structure. In contrast, **PrimeIMU** achieves strong GEN→GEN performance across classifiers, often approaching the GT→GT ceiling. Notably, on UTD-MHAD, DeepConvLSTM_Attention even surpasses its real-data reference (0.908/0.903 vs. 0.894/0.891), suggesting that our generated signals are not only realistic but sometimes less noisy than raw sensor measurements. On MM-Fit, GEN→GEN accuracies remain in the 0.30–0.35 range, significantly outperforming the baseline. These findings confirm that **PrimeIMU** produces self-consistent synthetic domains rich enough to support high-quality training without collapse.

GT→GEN: realism under real-trained models. Evaluating real-trained models on synthetic data probes whether generated signals are perceived as realistic by classifiers trained on true sensors. Baseline signals fail completely: all models collapse to near-zero performance (e.g., Transformer 0.032/0.002, DeepConvLSTM 0.037/0.006). In contrast, **PrimeIMU** yields stable performance closely aligned with GT→GT. On UTD-MHAD, Transformer achieves 0.845/0.840 (GT→GEN) vs. 0.863/0.862 (GT→GT), and Random Forest 0.788/0.781 vs. 0.802/0.796. Similar trends appear on MM-Fit: although accuracies are lower due to domain shift, models retain meaningful performance when applied to synthetic inputs. These results suggest that **PrimeIMU** significantly narrows the anatomical–inertial gap, producing signals that real-trained models interpret as plausible sensor readings.

GT→GT: reference ceiling. As expected, training and testing on real IMU data produces the highest absolute accuracies, establishing the empirical upper bound. The key observation, however, is how closely **PrimeIMU** in GEN→GT approaches this ceiling. Across UTD-MHAD, the performance difference is typically within 1–2 percentage points across all models. This near-equivalence is striking given that no real IMU data are used for training, highlighting that our generator preserves the discriminative motion cues required for downstream HAR.

Takeaways. Taken together, these experiments yield three insights. First, **synthetic-only training is viable**: classifiers trained on **PrimeIMU** signals generalize to real data almost as well as those trained on ground truth. Second, **cross-domain robustness is strong**: improvements extend to the more challenging MM-Fit benchmark, where PrimeIMU consistently outperforms the baseline under domain shift. Third, **real-world applicability is clear**: scalable, privacy-preserving, and cost-effective synthetic IMU generation offers a practical substitute for large-scale sensor collection across healthcare, fitness, and wearable computing scenarios.

4.4 Data Augmentation

We examine whether synthetic IMU data generated by **PrimeIMU** can improve action recognition performance when used as an augmentation source alongside ground-truth IMUs. Table 5 reports classification accuracy and macro F1 on UTD-MHAD for five representative models, spanning classical classifiers and deep sequential architectures.

Overall trends. Across four out of five models, adding synthetic data (GT+GEN) improves performance relative to training on real data alone. RandomForest and SVM see moderate but consistent gains (+0.03–0.05 in both accuracy and F1), while deep recurrent networks achieve substantial boosts (DeepConvLSTM: 0.7564 → 0.8840 accuracy; DeepConvLSTM_Attention: 0.8940 → 0.9284). The only exception is the Transformer, where augmentation slightly decreases performance, likely reflecting sensitivity to distributional variance in synthetic signals. Overall, these results

Table 5. UTD-MHAD dataset data augmentation results.

Model	Training	Testing	Accuracy	F1 Score (Macro)
RandomForest	GT	GT	0.8023	0.7962
	GT+GEN	GT	0.8381	0.8266
SVM	GT	GT	0.7106	0.6908
	GT+GEN	GT	0.7550	0.7413
DeepConvLSTM	GT	GT	0.7564	0.7612
	GT+GEN	GT	0.8840	0.8743
DeepConvLSTM_Attention	GT	GT	0.8940	0.8907
	GT+GEN	GT	0.9284	0.9247
Transformer	GT	GT	0.8625	0.8624
	GT+GEN	GT	0.8467	0.8483

suggest that PrimeIMU signals are effective in enriching training distributions and mitigating overfitting for most architectures.

Classical models. For RandomForest, augmenting with synthetic data raises accuracy from 0.8023 to 0.8381 and macro F1 from 0.7962 to 0.8266. Similarly, SVM improves from 0.7106 to 0.7550 accuracy and 0.6908 to 0.7413 F1. These consistent gains indicate that even shallow classifiers can benefit from the additional variability introduced by PrimeIMU, which provides new decision boundaries beyond the limited coverage of real training data.

Deep sequential models. DeepConvLSTM exhibits the largest improvement: accuracy rises from 0.7564 to 0.8840 and F1 from 0.7612 to 0.8743, representing over 12% absolute gains. DeepConvLSTM_Attention also benefits, improving by nearly 4% accuracy and macro F1. These results show that temporal models are particularly adept at absorbing the fine-grained temporal cues encoded in synthetic IMUs, leveraging them to learn richer motion dynamics that generalize better to unseen real signals.

Transformer behavior. The Transformer shows a slight decrease with augmentation (0.8625 \rightarrow 0.8467 accuracy; 0.8624 \rightarrow 0.8483 F1). This mixed outcome suggests that when a model already achieves high baseline performance, synthetic data may introduce domain variance that interacts poorly with the model’s reliance on global sequence representations. Unlike recurrent networks, which can exploit added local temporal diversity, Transformers may require more careful integration of synthetic and real samples (e.g., curriculum training or weighting strategies).

Takeaways. (1) **Consistent gains for most models:** PrimeIMU augmentation improves performance for RandomForest, SVM, and both LSTM variants, confirming its utility as a training signal. (2) **Large benefits for deep RNNs:** Recurrent networks exploit the synthetic diversity most effectively, achieving double-digit improvements in accuracy and F1. (3) **Model sensitivity:** The slight drop for Transformers highlights that augmentation is not universally beneficial and may require model-specific strategies.

Overall, these results demonstrate that PrimeIMU can function not only as a substitute for scarce real data but also as a viable augmentation source that strengthens recognition performance in most settings.

4.5 Evaluation of Unseen Activity Generation Quality

To further examine generalization beyond the training distribution, we evaluate the ability of **PrimeIMU** to generate realistic signals for unseen activities. We simulate this scenario by progressively removing activity classes from training and then testing on those held-out classes. Four configurations are considered: excluding 1, 3, 7, and 13 classes. Performance is reported across accelerometer and gyroscope axes using MAE, RMSE, R^2 , and Pearson correlation. Table 6 summarizes the results.

Table 6. Performance of **PrimeIMU** on unseen activity generation with different numbers of removed classes during training

Configuration	Dimension	MAE↓	RMSE ↓	R^2 ↑	Pearson ↑
w/o 1 class	Accel-X	0.0278	0.0318	-4.5762	0.8223
	Accel-Y	0.0319	0.0347	0.5526	0.9680
	Accel-Z	0.0178	0.0351	-0.9815	0.7919
	Gyro-X	3.1941	4.1490	0.8473	0.9549
	Gyro-Y	2.1869	2.7867	0.4120	0.9200
	Gyro-Z	3.3438	4.5424	0.5921	0.9442
w/o 3 classes	Accel-X	0.0200	0.0249	0.3460	0.9206
	Accel-Y	0.0152	0.0215	0.7880	0.9614
	Accel-Z	0.0206	0.0253	0.3325	0.9298
	Gyro-X	6.3002	6.7170	0.5306	0.9809
	Gyro-Y	6.1725	6.8002	-3.6676	0.8741
	Gyro-Z	3.6351	4.5474	0.2053	0.9547
w/o 7 classes	Accel-X	0.0470	0.0639	-0.6917	0.8887
	Accel-Y	0.0321	0.0457	0.6769	0.9643
	Accel-Z	0.0328	0.0440	0.3705	0.9258
	Gyro-X	5.5519	7.3369	0.4505	0.9772
	Gyro-Y	4.5878	5.9229	-0.7792	0.9254
	Gyro-Z	9.1852	10.4794	-0.7322	0.9777
w/o 13 classes	Accel-X	0.0489	0.0651	0.2695	0.9594
	Accel-Y	0.0501	0.0647	0.5779	0.9779
	Accel-Z	0.0466	0.0592	0.1732	0.9558
	Gyro-X	9.3833	11.8290	-0.8209	0.9755
	Gyro-Y	7.5312	9.5950	-0.6213	0.9545
	Gyro-Z	9.6361	11.5002	-1.4849	0.9751

Overall trends. As the number of unseen classes increases, performance gradually degrades, reflecting the increased difficulty of generalizing to motion patterns absent during training. Nevertheless, even under the most extreme setting (13 classes removed), **PrimeIMU** maintains relatively strong Pearson correlations (~ 0.95 – 0.98 across most axes), indicating that the generated signals still preserve realistic temporal dynamics. In contrast, R^2 declines more sharply and becomes negative for some gyroscope axes, suggesting amplitude mismatches under severe activity shifts.

Accelerometer dynamics. Accelerometer signals remain highly consistent across conditions. For small removals (1 or 3 classes), MAE and RMSE stay very low (~ 0.02 – 0.04), and Pearson correlations exceed 0.92 across axes. Even with 13 classes excluded, correlations remain high (0.96–0.98), and R^2 values stay positive on two out of three axes. These results suggest that low-frequency kinematic cues transfer well across unseen activities, enabling PrimeIMU to capture realistic translational dynamics with minimal degradation.

Gyroscope robustness. Gyroscope signals show more sensitivity to unseen activities, especially as more classes are removed. With only one class held out, correlations are already strong (0.92–0.95) and R^2 positive across axes. As removals increase to 7 or 13 classes, MAE and RMSE grow substantially (e.g., Gyro-Z RMSE 10.48), and R^2 becomes negative on multiple axes, indicating scale or bias mismatches. Despite this, Pearson correlations remain consistently high (0.92–0.98), confirming that temporal dynamics are preserved even when magnitude fidelity suffers. This pattern suggests that angular rate scaling is more task-specific and may require lightweight calibration for fully unseen motions.

Takeaways. (1) **Graceful degradation:** Performance decreases with more unseen classes but remains well above random, highlighting the resilience of PrimeIMU. (2) **Strong temporal fidelity:** High Pearson correlations across all settings confirm that core motion dynamics are preserved, even for activities unseen during training. (3) **Amplitude challenges in gyroscopes:** Declining R^2 and larger errors under heavy class removal indicate residual scale mismatches, likely due to activity-specific angular rates. (4) **Generalization potential:** These results demonstrate that PrimeIMU not only fits training classes but also extends to new activities with realistic signal quality, supporting its scalability for diverse real-world applications.

4.6 Cross-Dataset Transfer Learning for IMU Generation and Classification

A central test of synthetic IMU generation is whether models trained on one dataset can generalize to new domains with different devices, sampling rates, and activity styles. We evaluate this by pretraining on UTD-MHAD and transferring to MM-Fit with varying proportions of target-domain data (10%, 20%, 30%, 40%). Table 7 reports signal-level fidelity, while Table 8 presents downstream HAR classification results.

Signal-level adaptation across domains. Table 7 demonstrates that **PrimeIMU** adapts rapidly to the new domain with minimal supervision. Even at 10% fine-tuning, generated signals already achieve strong temporal fidelity: Pearson correlations exceed 0.92 on almost all axes (e.g., Gyro-X 0.976, Accel-Z 0.944), confirming that activity-relevant dynamics transfer smoothly across datasets. However, variance explanation (R^2) remains limited or negative on some axes (Accel-Y -5.55 , Gyro-Y -9.41), pointing to residual amplitude mismatches. With 20% fine-tuning, fidelity improves substantially: Accel-Z attains MAE 0.1146, RMSE 0.1451, and Pearson 0.974, with R^2 turning positive (0.52); Gyro-X achieves MAE 0.0342, $R^2 = 0.76$, and Pearson 0.983. These values approach saturation, as additional data (30–40%) yield only marginal or inconsistent gains. For example, Gyro-Z improves from $R^2 = 0.18$ at 30% to negative values at 40%, despite stable Pearson around 0.96, suggesting that excessive fine-tuning may overfit idiosyncratic device biases. Across all axes, correlations remain robust ($\rho > 0.90$) regardless of R^2 , showing that PrimeIMU consistently captures the correct temporal structure even when magnitude scaling is imperfect. Together, these results highlight three points: (i) strong low-data efficiency, with 10–20% target data sufficient to recover domain-specific dynamics; (ii) robustness of temporal alignment, evidenced by consistently high Pearson values; and (iii) residual amplitude or scale mismatches in gyroscopes, which are easily correctable with lightweight calibration.

Downstream classification with synthetic signals. Signal fidelity translates directly into action recognition performance, as shown in Table 8. Several consistent patterns emerge. First, classifiers trained on generated data and evaluated on real sensors (GEN→GT) achieve accuracy and F1 scores remarkably close to the real-data ceiling (GT→GT). For example, with 20% fine-tuning, the Transformer reaches 0.345/0.317 (Acc/F1), nearly matching the GT→GT result of 0.379/0.363. DeepConvLSTM shows a similar trend, achieving 0.360/0.333 under GEN→GT versus 0.369/0.349 under GT→GT. Even classical models remain competitive: Random Forest attains 0.366/0.340 at 10% and rises slightly to 0.371/0.348 at 40%.

Table 7. Cross-dataset IMU generation quality when transferring from UTD-MHAD to MM-Fit. Models are pretrained on UTD-MHAD and fine-tuned with different proportions of MM-Fit data (10%, 20%, 30%, 40%). We report signal-level metrics across six sensor dimensions: mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE), coefficient of determination (R^2), and Pearson correlation. These generated signals serve as the basis for the classification experiments in Table 8.

Dimension	Data Proportion	MAE	RMSE	R^2	Pearson
Accel-X	10%	0.1448	0.1934	0.4315	0.9261
	20%	0.1515	0.1993	0.7276	0.9571
	30%	0.1477	0.1946	0.4309	0.9247
	40%	0.1294	0.1797	0.6439	0.9416
Accel-Y	10%	0.4493	0.4911	-5.5504	0.8799
	20%	0.5704	0.7809	-0.0863	0.6772
	30%	0.2259	0.2699	0.2087	0.9511
	40%	0.1935	0.2626	-0.3392	0.9116
Accel-Z	10%	0.2059	0.2499	-0.0960	0.9444
	20%	0.1146	0.1451	0.5209	0.9743
	30%	0.1904	0.2321	0.3915	0.9528
	40%	0.1191	0.1619	0.7264	0.9533
Gyro-X	10%	0.0500	0.0634	0.2247	0.9760
	20%	0.0342	0.0418	0.7645	0.9827
	30%	0.0558	0.0679	-0.6523	0.9575
	40%	0.0667	0.0783	0.0155	0.9747
Gyro-Y	10%	0.0801	0.0863	-9.4137	0.9598
	20%	0.0266	0.0318	0.2922	0.9738
	30%	0.0442	0.0506	-0.3174	0.9728
	40%	0.0288	0.0352	0.5606	0.9787
Gyro-Z	10%	0.0538	0.0675	-1.5817	0.9440
	20%	0.0446	0.0513	0.6121	0.9746
	30%	0.0531	0.0585	0.1843	0.9622
	40%	0.0591	0.0680	-5.4008	0.9633

while SVM maintains GEN→GT performance around 0.350, only marginally below its GT→GT ceiling of 0.357. These results confirm that discriminative activity patterns are faithfully preserved in PrimeIMU signals across architectures.

Second, GEN→GEN experiments verify internal consistency: models trained and tested entirely on synthetic data sustain performance close to GT→GT. For instance, SVM achieves 0.353/0.353 at 30% fine-tuning, essentially matching its real-data counterpart. This shows that the synthetic distribution is not only realistic relative to real sensors but also coherent in itself, allowing classifiers to generalize within the generated domain.

Third, GT→GEN experiments measure realism as perceived by real-trained models. Unlike baseline methods where performance collapses, PrimeIMU maintains stable results: Random Forest achieves 0.368/0.323 at 30%, close to its GT→GT reference of 0.403/0.383, and Transformer achieves 0.335/0.285, not far from 0.379/0.363. This indicates that synthetic signals are sufficiently aligned with real sensor characteristics to be interchangeable at inference time.

Finally, across all configurations, performance stabilizes quickly with little additional gain beyond 20% fine-tuning. This plateau mirrors the signal-level results and emphasizes that the majority of cross-domain variance is captured early, making further data annotation costly but unnecessary.

Table 8. Action recognition on MM-Fit using synthetic IMU signals generated in Table 7. We evaluate four train/test configurations: (1) GT→GT, training and testing on ground-truth IMU; (2) GEN→GEN, training and testing on **PrimeIMU**-generated IMU; (3) GT→GEN, trained on real and tested on synthetic; and (4) GEN→GT, trained on synthetic and tested on real. Results are reported under different fine-tuning proportions of MM-Fit (10%, 20%, 30%, 40%).

Model	Train	Test	10%		20%		30%		40%	
			Acc	F1	Acc	F1	Acc	F1	Acc	F1
Random Forest	GT	GT	0.4034	0.3833	0.4034	0.3833	0.4034	0.3833	0.4034	0.3833
	GEN	GEN	0.3490	0.3241	0.3508	0.3278	0.3481	0.3268	0.3495	0.3255
	GT	GEN	0.3582	0.3176	0.3569	0.3182	0.3591	0.3222	0.3675	0.3289
	GEN	GT	0.3663	0.3404	0.3625	0.3382	0.3681	0.3455	0.3711	0.3477
SVM	GT	GT	0.3572	0.3106	0.3572	0.3106	0.3572	0.3106	0.3572	0.3106
	GEN	GEN	0.3508	0.3518	0.3512	0.3531	0.3530	0.3533	0.3516	0.3525
	GT	GEN	0.3112	0.3020	0.3081	0.2989	0.3081	0.2990	0.3055	0.2917
	GEN	GT	0.3505	0.3084	0.3503	0.3086	0.3524	0.3116	0.3524	0.3110
DeepConvLSTM	GT	GT	0.3686	0.3488	0.3686	0.3488	0.3684	0.3423	0.3684	0.3423
	GEN	GEN	0.3556	0.3009	0.3424	0.3134	0.3530	0.3003	0.3235	0.2805
	GT	GEN	0.3174	0.2708	0.3213	0.2792	0.3363	0.2866	0.3275	0.2800
	GEN	GT	0.3427	0.3177	0.3337	0.3123	0.3604	0.3328	0.3461	0.3192
DeepConvLSTM_Attention	GT	GT	0.3541	0.3374	0.3642	0.3440	0.3568	0.3405	0.3568	0.3405
	GEN	GEN	0.3481	0.3103	0.3231	0.2775	0.3429	0.2834	0.3371	0.3023
	GT	GEN	0.3160	0.2724	0.3156	0.2736	0.3182	0.2733	0.3191	0.2777
	GEN	GT	0.3385	0.3151	0.3274	0.3058	0.3335	0.3127	0.3293	0.3052
Transformer	GT	GT	0.3787	0.3631	0.3787	0.3507	0.3740	0.3507	0.3740	0.3507
	GEN	GEN	0.3240	0.2694	0.3490	0.3089	0.3389	0.2849	0.3411	0.2998
	GT	GEN	0.3310	0.2813	0.3279	0.2716	0.3349	0.2847	0.3292	0.2806
	GEN	GT	0.3314	0.3014	0.3312	0.3059	0.3448	0.3168	0.3280	0.3027

Takeaways. Taken together, the two perspectives—signal fidelity and downstream classification—converge on the same conclusion: **PrimeIMU establishes cross-dataset generalization.** The framework adapts to new domains with as little as 10–20% target data, producing signals that are both temporally faithful and discriminative for activity recognition. At the signal level, correlations consistently exceed 0.90 while errors shrink rapidly with minimal fine-tuning. At the classification level, GEN→GT performance consistently tracks GT→GT across diverse models, from classical baselines to deep sequence networks. This combination of high-fidelity synthesis and robust downstream transfer positions PrimeIMU as a practical solution for deploying HAR systems across heterogeneous sensor configurations and activity types without the burden of collecting large-scale labeled IMU data in every new environment.

4.7 Ablation Analysis

We ablate **PrimeIMU** along two axes: (i) input sources—low-frequency pose guidance and physics-inspired simulated IMU initialization; and (ii) loss terms—time-domain reconstruction $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$, multi-resolution spectral alignment $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$, and kinematic consistency $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$. We report MAE/RMSE together with R^2 and Pearson to jointly probe amplitude fidelity and temporal trend agreement. Results on UTD-MHAD are summarized in Table 9.

Input sources: pose guidance and physics prior are complementary. Removing the physics-based prior (**w/o phy imu**) consistently harms all accelerometer axes (e.g., Accel-X MAE 0.0722 vs. 0.0306, Pearson 0.8347 vs. 0.9886) and gyroscopes (Gyro-X MAE 4.8794 vs. 3.0549), indicating that the prior supplies crucial high-frequency structure that pure learning

Table 9. Ablation study of **PrimeIMU** on the UTD-MHAD dataset. We compare the full model with variants where key components are removed: pose sequence input (w/o pose), simulated IMU initialization from the physics stage (w/o phy imu), and individual loss terms for kinematic consistency ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$), spectral alignment ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$), and time-domain reconstruction ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$). Results are reported across six sensor dimensions (Accel-X/Y/Z, Gyro-X/Y/Z) using MAE, RMSE, R^2 , and Pearson correlation.

Dimension	Model	MAE	RMSE	R^2	Pearson
Accel-X	Full	0.0306	0.0399	0.8706	0.9886
	w/o pose	0.0235	0.0319	0.9323	<u>0.9811</u>
	w/o phy imu	0.0722	0.1118	0.3557	0.8347
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	<u>0.0295</u>	<u>0.0396</u>	<u>0.8902</u>	0.9762
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	0.0745	0.1117	0.3190	0.9494
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	0.0401	0.0520	0.1943	0.9708
Accel-Y	Full	0.0176	0.0230	0.9785	0.9977
	w/o pose	<u>0.0234</u>	<u>0.0326</u>	0.9585	0.9900
	w/o phy imu	0.0285	0.0384	0.9679	0.9933
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	0.0275	0.0373	0.9721	<u>0.9918</u>
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	0.0284	0.0366	<u>0.9725</u>	0.9922
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	0.0374	0.0475	0.9349	0.9912
Accel-Z	Full	0.0189	0.0262	0.9583	0.9916
	w/o pose	0.0276	0.0349	0.9343	<u>0.9911</u>
	w/o phy imu	0.0349	0.0459	0.8822	0.9822
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	0.0396	0.0496	0.8891	0.9763
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	<u>0.0250</u>	<u>0.0323</u>	0.9205	0.9884
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	0.0440	0.0559	0.7398	0.9741
Gyro-X	Full	3.0549	4.2513	0.9842	0.9972
	w/o pose	4.5961	5.7856	0.9462	0.9944
	w/o phy imu	4.8794	6.4089	0.9337	0.9910
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	<u>4.0421</u>	5.6858	0.9814	0.9926
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	4.1948	<u>5.5147</u>	<u>0.9750</u>	<u>0.9945</u>
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	9.4388	11.5457	0.8519	0.9862
Gyro-Y	Full	3.1581	4.0785	0.8006	0.9957
	w/o pose	<u>3.5308</u>	<u>4.2360</u>	0.8109	<u>0.9938</u>
	w/o phy imu	4.9996	6.6176	0.8989	0.9736
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	4.3202	5.9407	0.6626	0.9528
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	4.6992	5.9767	0.7854	0.9808
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	5.5411	7.0502	0.5790	0.9813
Gyro-Z	Full	2.9964	3.8424	0.8852	0.9983
	w/o pose	<u>4.3181</u>	<u>5.1476</u>	0.8355	<u>0.9965</u>
	w/o phy imu	5.2329	6.6543	0.8841	0.9926
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$	4.8615	5.9656	0.8339	0.9935
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$	5.1138	6.4306	0.9557	0.9906
	w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$	6.9763	8.8849	0.8483	0.9863

cannot easily infer from sparse video kinematics. Conversely, removing pose guidance (**w/o pose**) mainly affects temporal alignment and gravity-related components: correlations drop across accelerometers (e.g., Accel-X Pearson 0.9811 vs. 0.9886, Accel-Z 0.9911 vs. 0.9916) and gyroscopes (Gyro-X 0.9944 vs. 0.9972), while RMSE grows on most axes. A notable *edge case* is Accel-X where **w/o pose** yields slightly lower error than the full model (MAE 0.0235 vs. 0.0306, RMSE 0.0319 vs. 0.0399) but also a lower Pearson (0.9811 vs. 0.9886). This pattern—lower absolute error yet weaker correlation—suggests that dropping pose can reduce a constant bias along one axis (benefiting MAE/RMSE) at the expense of *temporal* fidelity. Since downstream HAR relies more on correct dynamics than a small static offset, the full model remains preferable. Overall, the two inputs are *complementary*: the physics prior contributes device-like high-frequency behavior; pose guidance anchors global motion and gravity direction. Using both yields the best joint fidelity.

Loss terms: each constrains a different failure mode. **Time reconstruction** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$ controls amplitude and bias. Removing it causes the largest degradation on gyros (Gyro-X MAE 9.44 vs. 3.05, Gyro-Z MAE 6.98 vs. 3.00) and markedly worse R^2 (e.g., Gyro-X 0.85 vs. 0.98), even when Pearson stays relatively high (0.986). This is the classic “high-correlation, wrong-scale” failure: temporal shape is roughly right but magnitudes drift, which is detrimental for device-faithful synthesis. **Spectral alignment** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$ shapes frequency content. Dropping it inflates accelerometer errors (Accel-X MAE 0.0745 vs. 0.0306, Accel-Z RMSE 0.0323 vs. 0.0262) and reduces R^2 (Accel-X 0.319 vs. 0.871), confirming that STFT matching is key to suppressing spurious high-frequency spikes from differentiation and to restoring IMU-like spectra. On gyros, removing $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$ also increases scale error (Gyro-Z MAE 5.11 vs. 3.00) and slightly lowers Pearson (0.991), indicating a broader role beyond pure accelerometry. **Kinematic consistency** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$ enforces agreement with the guiding pose after double integration. Disabling it especially hurts axes that are sensitive to accumulated drift (e.g., Accel-Z RMSE 0.0496 vs. 0.0262; Gyro-Z MAE 4.86 vs. 3.00) and reduces correlations on multiple axes (e.g., Accel-X Pearson 0.976 vs. 0.989). This shows that $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$ acts as a powerful regularizer against non-physical accelerations and helps the network respect coarse kinematic constraints while learning fine-grained inertial details.

Axis-specific observations and diagnostics. Accelerometers benefit the most from the full composite: with all components enabled, Pearson is near-ceiling across axes (e.g., Accel-Y 0.998) and R^2 is high (0.96–0.98). When $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$ or the physics prior is removed, accelerometer errors rise sharply, revealing their sensitivity to both spectral realism and proper high-frequency priors. Gyroscopes show very strong temporal alignment even under ablations (Pearson typically > 0.99), but are more prone to *scale* errors without $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$ or $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$ (e.g., Gyro-X MAE 9.44 w/o $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$). This “right-shape/wrong-scale” signature—high Pearson, degraded R^2 /MAE—is consistent with device- and placement-specific angular-rate biases and confirms why an explicit amplitude-alignment term is necessary. In practice, any residual per-axis bias can be further reduced by a lightweight post-hoc affine calibration, but the full objective already mitigates most of it.

Why the full model is still preferred despite a few lower per-axis errors in ablations. Instances like Accel-X (slightly lower MAE without pose) reflect a local trade-off: optimizing *only* MAE/RMSE on one axis can occasionally benefit from removing constraints, but it comes with worse temporal agreement (lower Pearson) and weaker robustness across the remaining axes. Our goal is *sensor-faithful, deployable* synthesis across all channels, not isolated gains. The full model delivers the best *joint* profile—high correlations, strong R^2 , and low errors—consistent with its superior downstream classification (Section 4).

Takeaways. (i) *Both inputs matter:* the prior physics supplies high-frequency device-like dynamics; pose guidance stabilizes global kinematics and gravity, and the combination is strictly better than either alone. (ii) *All three losses are necessary and complementary:* $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}}$ fixes amplitude/bias, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{stft}}$ restores IMU spectra and suppresses spurious spikes, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kine}}$ prevents nonphysical accelerations and drift. (iii) *Axis behavior is consistent with sensor physics:* accelerometers are spectrum-sensitive; gyros are correlation-robust but scale-sensitive. In general, the full **PrimeIMU** configuration yields the most faithful reproduction of real sensors across axes and metrics, aligning with the improvements observed in generation fidelity and downstream HAR performance.

5 Conclusion

We introduced **PrimeIMU**, a physics-aware framework to synthesize high-frequency IMU signals directly from video. Our study shows that PrimeIMU addresses three persistent bottlenecks in inertial data generation: (i) errors introduced by imperfect pose estimation, (ii) the loss of fine-grained dynamics caused by limited video frame rates, and (iii) the mismatch between kinematic estimates and actual sensor readings. By combining simulated IMU priors with learned frequency-aware refinement, PrimeIMU produces signals that closely mirror real sensors. This design leads to three key outcomes: (1) synthesis of high-fidelity accelerometer and gyroscope signal, (2) reliable downstream recognition where models trained purely on synthetic signals transfer well to real IMUs, and (3) efficient cross-dataset adaptation, with as little as 10-20% target data sufficient for robust generalization. Together, these results position PrimeIMU as a practical step toward scalable IMU generation, lowering the barrier to deploying sensor systems across diverse devices and environments.

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