

1 **Full Title:** Validating an algorithm from a trunk-mounted wearable sensor for detecting stroke  
2 events in tennis

3

4 **Submission Type:** Original Investigation

5

6 **Authors:** Thomas Perri<sup>1,2</sup>, Machar Reid<sup>2</sup>, Alistair Murphy<sup>2</sup>, Kieran Howle<sup>3</sup> and Rob Duffield<sup>1</sup>

7

8 **Institutional Affiliations:**

9 <sup>1</sup> School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health, University of Technology  
10 Sydney, Sydney, Australia

11 <sup>2</sup> Sports Science and Sports Medicine Unit, Tennis Australia, Melbourne, Australia

12 <sup>3</sup> Catapult Sports, Melbourne, Australia

13

14 **Corresponding Author and Address:**

15 Thomas Perri

16 Tennis South Australia

17 P.O. Box: 43

18 North Adelaide 5006, South Australia

19 Australia

20

21 **Phone:** 0439 153 025

22 **Email:** TPerri@Tennis.com.au

23

24

25 **Abstract Word Count:** 196

26 **Text-Only Word Count:** 3631

27 **Number of Figures:** 0

28 **Number of Tables:** 5

29

30

31

32

33

34

35 **Abstract**

36 This study analysed the accuracy of a prototype algorithm for tennis stroke detection from  
37 wearable technology. Strokes from junior-elite tennis players over ten matches were analysed.  
38 Players wore a GPS unit containing an accelerometer, gyroscope and magnetometer.  
39 Manufacturer-developed algorithms determined stroke type and count (forehands, backhands,  
40 serves and other). Matches were video recorded to manually code ball contacts and shadow  
41 swing events for forehands, backhands and serves and further by stroke classifications (i.e.,  
42 drive, volley, slice, end-range). Comparisons between algorithm and coding were analysed via  
43 ANOVA and Bland-Altman plots at the match-level and error rates for specific stroke-types.  
44 No significant differences existed for stroke count between the algorithm and manual coding  
45 ( $p>0.05$ ). Significant ( $p<0.0001$ ) overestimation of “Other” strokes were observed from the  
46 algorithm, with no difference in groundstrokes and serves ( $p>0.05$ ). Serves had the highest  
47 accuracy of all stroke types ( $\geq 98\%$ ). Forehand and backhand “drives” were the most accurate  
48 ( $>86\%$ ), with volleys mostly undetected (58-60%) and slices and end-range strokes likely  
49 misclassified (49-51%). The prototype algorithm accurately quantifies serves and forehand and  
50 backhand “drives” and serves. However, underestimations of shadow swings and  
51 overestimations of “other” strokes suggests strokes with reduced trunk rotation have poorer  
52 detection accuracy.

53

54 **Key Words:** racquet sports, accuracy, external load, wearable sport technology

55

56

57

58

59

## 60 **Introduction**

61 Competitive tennis involves combinations of high-intensity intermittent court movement  
62 concomitant with the execution of stroke play, and both are important insights for optimal  
63 training and match preparation (Elliot, Reid & Whiteside 2019; Reid & Duffield 2014).  
64 Quantifying these physical loads via traditional methods, such as wearable microtechnology  
65 (i.e., global positioning systems [GPS] and accelerometers), has proven challenging in tennis  
66 as the location of the unit at the base of the cervical spine may be limited in inferring the  
67 specific mechanical demands of limb-dominant stroke play (Reid et al. 2019). Although wrist-  
68 worn or racquet-mounted sensors provide accurate information on basic stroke type volumes  
69 (Genevois et al. 2018; Keaney & Reid 2020; Myers et al. 2019; Whiteside et al. 2017), they  
70 lack the reporting of player movement loads in their final output, which form an integral part  
71 of a tennis player's overall mechanical load (Reid et al. 2019). Accordingly, greater  
72 understanding of tennis physical demands require measurements of both on-court activity (i.e.,  
73 movement load) in combination with the stroke type and volumes (i.e., hitting load) similar to  
74 observations on cricket bowling (McNamara et al. 2015). Indeed, recent developments in  
75 commercially available, yet unvalidated GPS and micro electro-mechanical systems (MEMS)  
76 technologies, could reveal a way forward for tennis in the simultaneous capture of stroke events  
77 and movement metrics from a single device.

78

79 Studies seeking to understand tennis stroke events and associated physical loading of the upper-  
80 body have been performed mostly using wrist-worn sensors. Kos and colleagues (2016)  
81 evaluated the recall of a wrist-worn sensor for forehands, backhands and serve strokes during  
82 closed and open settings and reported respective accuracies of 96%, 98% and 100%. However,  
83 they did not include volleys, slices or smashes in their algorithm, with later research on wrist-  
84 worn sensors showing poorer recall of these stroke types ( $\approx 80\%$ ) compared to groundstrokes

85 ( $\geq 98\%$ ) during typical training drills and simulated match-play (Whiteside et al. 2017). This is  
86 common in tennis, where the recall of basic stroke types (i.e., forehand, backhand and serve)  
87 show acceptable accuracies from wrist-worn sensors (Myers et al. 2019; Whiteside et al. 2017),  
88 but perform with reduced accuracy when detecting explicit stroke types (if reported at all).  
89 Keaney and Reid (2020) highlight this point, whereby a racquet-mounted sensor showed high  
90 accuracy for total strokes, but poor differentiation between specific stroke types (i.e.  
91 groundstroke, volley etc.), postulated to result from sensor quality and location. Indeed, the  
92 wider issue existing in tennis load measurement is not solely on limitations of stroke event  
93 detection, but rather the lack of application of hitting load measures in commercial wearables  
94 that already provide insights on whole-body movement.

95

96 In team sport, the use of wearable sensors (i.e., GPS devices) are commonly used for  
97 quantifying running loads, but also increasingly for the specific detection of other load  
98 producing events, such as throwing and collisions (Crang et al. 2021). Indeed, the raw outputs  
99 from in-built accelerometer (linear accelerations), gyroscope (angular accelerations) and  
100 magnetometer (unit orientation) within commercially available GPS units have been used to  
101 develop algorithms to detect acute cricket bowling events with high accuracy (sensitivity  
102  $>95\%$ ), though reductions in accuracy are observed in official matches due to the introduction  
103 of other upper-body events such as fielding (Jowitt et al. 2020; McNamara et al. 2015). Similar  
104 results have been observed in handball, where high event detection sensitivity (84-100%) was  
105 present in a controlled setting but reduced during match-play (sensitivity 52-91%) (Skejo et al.  
106 2021). These results highlight the challenges of identifying multi-dimensional sporting actions  
107 when algorithms developed from a single body location are relied upon for event detection  
108 (Ishii et al. 2021). Further limitations have been observed in event detection algorithms for  
109 rugby and Australian football (AF), where positional differences and tackling technique

110 negatively impacts the true reporting of collision events (Gastin et al. 2014; Reardon et al.  
111 2017). Whilst these limitations reveal the need for rigorous testing of event detection  
112 algorithms, the data available from such devices provide richer insights into the mechanical  
113 demands of technical actions to benefit athlete preparation and management, which is lacking  
114 in tennis (Reid et al. 2019). In this regard, the aims of this study were to; 1) evaluate the  
115 accuracy of a prototype algorithm to detect tennis strokes from a commercially available trunk-  
116 mounted wearable sensor and 2) evaluate the accuracy of this event detection across different  
117 stroke types. It was hypothesised that serves will have the highest detection accuracy due to  
118 their distinctive trunk rotation profile, while strokes with less trunk rotation (such as end-range  
119 forehands and backhands) and shadow swings would be detected less accurately.

120

## 121 **Methods**

122 Ten matches from eight junior-elite male tennis players (age  $15.5 \pm 1.6$ y) were analysed in this  
123 study. The players were part of Tennis Australia's National Academy program and trained and  
124 competed as per the guidelines suggested in Tennis Australia's athlete development matrix  
125 including  $\approx 20$  h of on-court training per week,  $\approx 6$  h off-court training per week and were  
126 competing in regular International Tennis Federation (ITF) sanctioned junior tournaments. All  
127 players in the study were right-handed with a double-handed backhand. A Human Research  
128 Ethics Committee (HREC) gave ethical approval for the methods used in this study (ETH19-  
129 4062).

130

131 Matches were analysed across an ITF sanctioned Grade 5 tournament and two National  
132 Championships in Australia for singles matches held on hard and grass courts during the 2019  
133 season. All matches were best-of-three sets in accordance with the rules of the ITF (ITF 2016).  
134 Recording of matches was performed using video cameras (HDR-CX700VE, Sony, Japan) that

135 were positioned 10 m above and 6 m behind the baseline in accordance with previous protocols  
136 (Murphy et al. 2014; Perri et al. 2018).

137

138 Stroke events were captured via a wearable device (Catapult OptimEye S5, Catapult Sports,  
139 Melbourne) with an in-built triaxial accelerometer, magnetometer and gyroscope. The device  
140 was worn between the scapulae in the manufacturer-designed harness that minimised  
141 movement on the skin (McLean et al. 2018), with a combined weight of 102g. The  
142 manufacturer has developed a prototype algorithm (White Paper, Catapult Sports) to recognise  
143 the swing and movement pattern of stroke events, which can be used to count strokes for  
144 workload monitoring. The prototype algorithm from the manufacturer has been internally  
145 investigated through implementing machine learning models that classify four categories of  
146 strokes ('Forehand [FH] Drive', Backhand [BH] Drive', 'Serve' and 'Other stroke') based on  
147 absolute rotation yaw values. These unpublished investigations have shown respective  
148 accuracies of the aforementioned stroke categories to be 94%, 96.5%, 99.9% and 83.5%  
149 (Personal Communication, Catapult Sports). Raw accelerometer data from the wearable units  
150 were downloaded via custom software (OpenField 2.3.4, Catapult Sports, Melbourne) and  
151 processed by company staff using customised algorithms in RStudio (RStudio, 1.1.463,  
152 RStudio, Inc.). All data provided to the manufacturer were de-identified. The processed data  
153 detailing the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) (hh:mm:ss) of each stroke and detail on its  
154 respective category was provided to the research team in a comma separated values (.csv) file  
155 to be analysed, without knowledge of the match, player or access to video footage. All strokes  
156 captured by the wearable device were presented in consecutive chronological rows to then be  
157 compared with the video footage.

158

159 Manual notation of each match was performed in the months after the conclusion of the final  
160 match and were analysed by a coder with five years of experience coding tennis matches and  
161 a coefficient of variation (CV) <2% from previous work notating stroke counts and technical  
162 errors during tennis training and match-play (Perri et al. 2018). The manually coded strokes  
163 were collated in the .csv file with algorithm stroke outcomes. Strokes were coded manually  
164 from the video footage in accordance with their basic type of stroke (i.e., forehand, backhand,  
165 serve) and further detailed by their specific spin or trajectory (i.e., rally, slice, volley, drop shot)  
166 (Table 1) and whether they were in “live play” or in-between points. Strokes that did not meet  
167 these general classifications (i.e., an underarm stroke to pass ball back to server) were coded  
168 as an “Other stroke”. As the Catapult algorithm does not differentiate between smashes and  
169 serves, smashes were manually coded as an “Other stroke”. Racquet swings, which still  
170 resemble a forehand or backhand drive but without ball contact, were coded in respective  
171 “forehand” or “backhand” categories (Table 1). Reliability of the coding method was  
172 determined through re-coding a randomly selected match that was separated by one month. A  
173 total of 624 stroke events existed in the match, with 616 strokes correctly matching the previous  
174 coding method (CV = 0.9%).

175

176 **\*\*\*TABLE 1 NEAR HERE\*\*\***

177

178 Data was further prepared for analysis using a customised Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Excel,  
179 16.49, Microsoft, Washington) spreadsheet. Strokes detected by the Catapult algorithm were  
180 compared to the manually coded data across multiple levels. The dataset was first analysed to  
181 denote whether a stroke event was detected by the wearable device. This was then further  
182 scrutinised to classify whether the algorithm correctly identified the type of stroke (i.e.,  
183 forehand, backhand or serve). In this example, a stroke labelled a “FH Drive” by the algorithm

184 and manually coded as a forehand volley was considered to be correct from the algorithms  
185 perspective as it does not discriminate between stroke types beyond rally strokes. Instances  
186 where the algorithm detected a forehand, backhand or serve but classified it as an “Other  
187 stroke”, this was categorised as an incorrect classification. However, if “Other stroke” was  
188 recorded by the algorithm and a smash or stroke not meeting the previous criteria was played,  
189 this was considered to be correct.

190

### 191 *Statistical Analysis*

192 All statistical analysis was performed in the R language (RStudio, 1.1.463, RStudio, Inc.).  
193 Initial comparisons between wearable sensor and manual coding at a match level for strokes  
194 and shadow swing events were performed via a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), with  
195 significance set at  $p = 0.05$ . To calculate the levels agreement between wearable sensor and  
196 manual coding at a stroke level ( $n=5349$ ), Bland-Altman limits of agreement (LOA) (standard  
197 error of the means [SEM]) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were reported. To calculate  
198 absolute and relative measures of error for stroke and swing events across the respective four  
199 stroke categories (forehand, backhand, serve and other), the number of correctly classified  
200 strokes from the wearable sensor was divided by the total number of events in that category  
201 and multiplied by 100. This calculation was also applied to strokes detailed in Table 1 to  
202 determine specific limitations of the wearable technology versus manually coded categories.

203

### 204 **Results**

205 A total of 5349 stroke/swing events were identified through manual coding, with 5119 events  
206 detected by the wearable unit. Within the 5119 events detected by the wearable unit, 204 were  
207 classified as false positives via cross-referencing the video footage. At a match-level, Table 2  
208 shows the strokes and shadow swings during match play recorded in the dataset. No significant



209 differences were observed for total strokes ( $p=0.56$ ) as well as the four stroke categories  
210 categorised by the wearable sensor ( $p>0.05$ ). Bland-Altman analysis revealed a mean bias for  
211 an underestimation of total stroke counts ( $-67.80\pm 35.96[-93.52$  to  $-42.08]$ ), by the wearable  
212 sensor. The wearable sensor showed the lowest mean bias for serves ( $-4.00\pm 4.24[-7.04$  to  $-$   
213  $0.96]$ ), with highest bias levels observed for the “other stroke” category ( $30.70\pm 17.13[18.45$  to  
214  $42.95]$ ). Analysis of shadow swing data showed a significant main effect for “Other strokes”,  
215 with an overestimation by the wearable sensor compared to manual coding ( $p=0.0001$ ).  
216 Significant main effects were also observed for forehand, backhand and other shadow swings  
217 between the two methods, with the wearable device significantly underestimating shadow  
218 swings played ( $p=0.001$ ,  $p=0.002$  and  $p=0.002$ , respectively). Bland-Altman analysis for  
219 shadow strokes revealed greatest bias for the “other stroke” category, with an overestimation  
220 of strokes from the wearable unit ( $8.80\pm 7.90[3.15$  to  $14.45]$ ). Mean bias for total, forehand and  
221 backhand shadow swings showed underestimations ranging from  $-3.10$  to  $-6.10$ .

222

223 **\*\*\*TABLE 2 NEAR HERE\*\*\***

224

225 Table 3 shows the stroke and swing events observed in all matches by stroke type and  
226 respective absolute error between the wearable device and the video coding. Error rates  $<20\%$   
227 were observed for total stroke and swing actions for the wearable device, with error rates of  
228  $\leq 11\%$  for forehand and backhand stroke events. Lowest error rates ( $\leq 2\%$ ) were observed for  
229 serve stroke events. Poorest classification ( $>75\%$  error) was evident in swings with no ball  
230 contact and “other strokes”.

231

232 **\*\*\*TABLE 3 NEAR HERE\*\*\***

233

234 Detailed descriptions of the type of forehand stroke detected by the wearable sensor based on  
235 manual coding are detailed in Table 4. Forehand strokes classified as “rally” events showed  
236 the lowest error rates (6%), with the “dig”, “shadow” and “volley” classifications revealing the  
237 highest error (>90%). For “end-range” strokes, a greater proportion of errors existed due to  
238 misclassification rather than being undetected. Further, this pattern also existed for forehand  
239 slices however, forehand volley strokes were more likely to be undetected by the wearable’s  
240 algorithm. Additionally, strokes categorised as a “smash” are presented in Table 4 and reveals  
241 a lower error rate when smash strokes are classified as “other strokes” versus being classified  
242 as a serve (percent correct=62% vs. 26%, respectively).

243

244 **\*\*\*TABLE 4 NEAR HERE\*\*\***

245

246 For specific types of backhand strokes, the “drive” category had the lowest error rate (14%  
247 error) compared to all other backhand strokes categories. Backhand slice and end-range strokes  
248 respectively contributed the next highest proportions to the overall backhand stroke/swing  
249 count, with both sub-types revealing errors to be predominantly a result of algorithm  
250 misclassification versus being undetected (49% and 56% error, respectively). Similar to  
251 forehand strokes, backhand volleys and “dig” actions were not accurately classified by the  
252 algorithm (60% and 50% error, respectively).

253

254 **\*\*\*TABLE 5 NEAR HERE\*\*\***

255

## 256 **Discussion**

257 This study is the first attempt to validate the accuracy of a prototype algorithm from a wearable  
258 device to detect stroke events in tennis. The present results indicate that total strokes from the

259 wearable sensor show acceptable accuracy for general stroke classification and count during  
260 tennis match-play, albeit with caution for more specific stroke classifications. In particular,  
261 strokes with more pronounced trunk rotation, such as the forehand (Landlinger et al. 2010) and  
262 backhand drive (Reid & Elliot 2002) and serves (Abrams et al. 2011) show acceptable accuracy  
263 in stroke count. However, stroke events such as volleys, end-range and slices experienced  
264 higher error rates resulting from non-detection or misclassification, and likely due to the  
265 prototype algorithm not being specifically trained to detect these specific stroke patterns. These  
266 findings support our hypotheses and demonstrates the usefulness of current technology to  
267 quantify high-load actions such as serving. Future enhancements to accurately identify stroke  
268 events with increased lower-limb dominance and reduced trunk rotation intensity (i.e., end-  
269 range) would provide further insights for load management strategies in tennis.

270

271 Accurate technology to detect tennis stroke type and counts in tennis can guide both training  
272 prescription and match preparation (Shanley & Myers 2019). The results of the present study  
273 indicate no differences in total stroke volume at the match level, which can be interpreted as a  
274 strength of the investigated technology. Tennis match-play is typified by the exchange of  
275 forehand and backhand drive or “rally” strokes, which contribute  $\approx 73\%$  of total strokes  
276 (Whiteside & Reid 2017); though training often emphasises higher volumes of forehand strokes  
277 and separate identification of these events is required (Genevois et al. 2018). Nevertheless,  
278 these strokes are characterised by distinct kinematic (axial rotation) profiles (Reid & Elliot  
279 2002; Reid, Elliott & Crespo 2013), which may help to explain this sensor’s accuracy in  
280 detecting these more frequent aspects of tennis stroke play. Accordingly, implementing this  
281 wearable technology in tennis training environments could improve understanding of the  
282 mechanical stresses imposed from repeated forehand and backhand groundstrokes (Johansson  
283 et al. 2021).

284

285 The underestimation of shadow swings suggests that ball impact somehow plays an important  
286 role in event detection. Previous work on wrist-worn sensors has identified that ‘swing-type’  
287 movements of the arm can be captured in the absence of impact (Hadzic, Germic & Filipcic  
288 2021), which may suggest wearing the device on the torso is a limitation in itself rather than  
289 resulting from the algorithm. The practical implications of this finding are questionable though,  
290 as recent load management practices have not considered “shadow” technical actions in their  
291 reporting. Further, this may be seen as a positive from the algorithm’s perspective given the  
292 prototype was not designed to detect these events but rather quantify the load associated with  
293 these movement patterns.

294

295 The application of a prototype algorithm from wearable sensor data showed no differences in  
296 serve count compared to manual coding. The accuracy of serve detection ( $\geq 98\%$ ) compares  
297 favourably with similar notation using wrist and racquet-mounted sensors (Kos et al. 2016;  
298 Yang et al. 2017). This is a notable practical application for tennis given the relevance of the  
299 serve to match-play success (Kolman et al. 2019) and trunk and upper-limb injury rehabilitation  
300 (Campbell et al. 2014; Sombelon et al. 2017). Hence, coaches and support staff can be  
301 confident in using this technology to monitor serve loads for tennis. This is especially relevant  
302 given that chronic upper limb and trunk injuries are often linked to the serve, which likely  
303 results from inappropriate overload (Pluim et al. 2006). Interestingly, the detection of  
304 “smashes” was comparatively poor and likely explained by the less predictable nature of stroke  
305 mechanics during match-play. Despite the low contribution of smashes to overall stroke  
306 volumes in tennis matches (Whiteside & Reid 2017), the imposed load resulting from overhead  
307 strokes (i.e., serve and smash) can have a negative impact on shoulder joint health if not

308 managed appropriately (Kekelekis et al. 2020) and thus, total overhead load may be  
309 underestimated from the wearable device.

310

311 Forehand and backhand strokes classified as “drives” showed the highest detection accuracy  
312 across respective forehand and backhand strokes. This finding is unsurprising given their  
313 respective consistency in the direction and magnitude of trunk rotation (Landlinger et al. 2010;  
314 Reid & Elliot 2002). Therefore, the present algorithm appears well suited to detecting these  
315 stroke types and provides a suitable alternative to wrist-mounted sensors, which also produce  
316 high detection accuracies for forehand and backhand drives (Myers et al. 2019; Whiteside et  
317 al. 2017). However, the detection accuracy of the algorithm deteriorated for other strokes (i.e.,  
318 volleys, slices) that have reduced or more variable magnitudes and intensities of trunk rotation  
319 (Chow, Carlton, Chae, et al. 1999; Chow, Carlton, Lim, et al. 1999) and presumably affects the  
320 distinctiveness of their kinematic signatures. Previous research has identified that although  
321 trunk rotation is involved in the execution of forehand volleys, the resultant force patterning is  
322 subject to considerable variability as a result of movement at the racquet arm (Crespo 1999;  
323 Roetert & Groppel 2001). This movement variability may complicate the precision and  
324 reliability of the algorithm’s detection of volleys, while the placement of the sensor (between  
325 scapulae) may be suboptimal for strokes characterised by lower magnitudes of trunk rotation.  
326 From a training load monitoring perspective, unregistered volleys are likely to have limited  
327 impact on training load decisions given they contribute  $\approx 1\%$  of total strokes in elite-level tennis  
328 (Whiteside & Reid 2017).

329

330 The hypothesis that detection accuracy for low-intensity strokes (ie. low swing velocity or  
331 trunk rotation) would be comparatively poor was further supported when evaluating the  
332 sensor’s ability to detect “end-range” strokes. End-range shots represent an integrated load

333 profile in tennis given they are played under considerable time-pressure and, generally, after  
334 the player has moved at high-speed (Pieper, Exler & Weber 2007). From this perspective, these  
335 strokes are especially relevant for load monitoring and management in tennis, though were not  
336 detected by the algorithm given the low-level of torso rotation. End-range shots have high  
337 mechanical stresses at the lower limb concomitant with the load imposed on upper limb  
338 structures to execute the hitting action (Giles & Reid 2021). The fact that end-range shots are  
339 often characterised by alterations in upper limb involvement, likely manifesting as increased  
340 variability of accompanying trunk rotation may suggest an area for enhancement of the  
341 prototype algorithm given its current focus on recognising distinct “drive” groundstroke  
342 patterns and serving actions.

343

#### 344 *Limitations*

345 Whilst this study is novel in that no previous literature has investigated the validity of applying  
346 this prototype event detection algorithm to trunk-mounted wearable sensor data in tennis, the  
347 study is limited by the homogenous sample of players (i.e., male, right-handed and double-  
348 handed backhand). Indeed, the prototype algorithm was developed on data from elite senior  
349 males and may not be specific to the developing stroke patterns of junior players. Further, the  
350 stroke categories presented in Table 1 may be seen as a possible limitation given the subjective  
351 nature of such classifications; however, these were devised through discussion with tennis  
352 coaches holding the highest level of qualification in Australia for longer than 10 years in  
353 combination with previous expert reports (Crespo & Miley 1998). These descriptions are more  
354 detailed than the prototype algorithm and is acknowledged as a limitation of our methods.  
355 Additionally, assessing coder reliability from one match and for one coder conforms with  
356 previous methods (Gastin et al. 2014), though may be viewed as a potential limitation. The  
357 approach to classifying “shadow” swings may also be considered as a limitation given

358 difficulties in developing algorithms to detect actions mimicking detectable events. Lastly, the  
359 confidentiality of the propriety algorithm did not allow for alterations of timing windows or  
360 specific signal detection for assessing possible modifications to the current device.

361

### 362 *Conclusions*

363 This study aimed to validate the tennis stroke event detection accuracy of a prototype algorithm  
364 developed from a trunk-mounted wearable sensor. Overall stroke events in match-play are  
365 accurately detected from the sensor, though inaccuracies can result through misclassification  
366 or non-detection of volleys, slices, and end-range strokes, which contribute the total of  
367 forehand and backhand strokes. Highest accuracies for specific stroke classifications were  
368 observed for serves, suggesting support staff can confidently monitor serve loads from the  
369 present device. Future enhancements toward the detection of stroke events with limited trunk  
370 movement (i.e., volleys, slices) and those occurring at high movement speeds (i.e., end-range)  
371 would provide greater insights into understanding the mechanical demands of stroke play.

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

379

380

381

382

## References

- 383  
384  
385 Abrams, G.D., Sheets, A.L., Andriacchi, T.P. & Safran, M.R. 2011, 'Review of tennis serve  
386 motion analysis and the biomechanics of three serve types with implications for injury',  
387 *Sports Biomechanics*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 378-90.
- 388 Campbell, A., Straker, L., O'Sullivan, P., Elliot, B. & Reid, M. 2014, 'Lumbar loading in the  
389 elite adolescent tennis serve: link to low back pain', *Medicine and Science in Sports  
390 and Exercise*, vol. 45, no. 8, pp. 1562-8.
- 391 Chow, J.W., Carlton, L.G., Chae, W.-S., Shim, J.-H., Lim, Y.-T. & Kuenster, A.F. 1999,  
392 'Movement characteristics of the tennis volley', *Medicine & Science in Sports &  
393 Exercise*, vol. 31, no. 6, pp. 855-63.
- 394 Chow, J.W., Carlton, L.G., Lim, Y.-T., Shim, J.-H., Chae, W.-S. & Kuenster, A.F. 1999,  
395 'Muscle activation during the tennis volley', *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*,  
396 vol. 31, no. 6, pp. 846-54.
- 397 Crang, Z.L., Duthie, G.M., Cole, M.H., Weakley, J., Hewitt, A. & Johnston, R.D. 2021, 'The  
398 validity and reliability of wearable microtechnology for intermittent team sports: a  
399 systematic review', *Sports Medicine*, vol. 51, no. 3, pp. 549-65.
- 400 Crespo, M. 1999, 'What tennis research tells us about...biomechanics of volleys and approach  
401 shots', *ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review*, vol. 7, no. 17, pp. 15-6.
- 402 Crespo, M. & Miley, D. 1998, *ITF advanced coaches manual*, International Tennis Federation.
- 403 Elliot, B., Reid, M. & Whiteside, D. 2019, 'Biomechanics of groundstrokes and volleys', in G.  
404 Di Giacomo, T. Ellenbecker & W.B. Kibler (eds), *Tennis Medicine*, Springer,  
405 Switzerland, pp. 17-42.
- 406 Gastin, P.B., McLean, O.C., Breed, R.V. & Spittle, M. 2014, 'Tackle and impact detection in  
407 elite Australian football using wearable microsensor technology', *Journal of Sports  
408 Sciences*, vol. 32, no. 10, pp. 947-53.



409 Genevois, C., Amsallem, C., Brandli, C. & Rogowski, I. 2018, 'Using inertial sensors to  
410 monitor on-court tennis training sessions', *ITF Coaching and Sport Science Review*,  
411 vol. 25, no. 75, pp. 18-9.

412 Giles, B. & Reid, M. 2021, 'Applying the brakes in tennis: how entry speed affects the  
413 movement and hitting kinematics of professional tennis players', *Journal of Sports*  
414 *Sciences*, vol. 39, no. 3, pp. 259-66.

415 Hadzic, V., Germic, A. & Filipcic, A. 2021, 'Validity and reliability of a novel monitoring  
416 sensor for the quantification of the hitting load in tennis', *PLoS One*, vol. 16, no. 7.

417 Ishii, S., Yokokubo, A., Luimula, M. & Lopez, G. 2021, 'ExerSense: physical exercise  
418 recognition and counting algorithm from wearables robust to positioning', *Sensors*, vol.  
419 21, no. 1.

420 ITF 2016, *ITF Rules of tennis*, viewed September 1st 2019,  
421 <http://www.itf.tennis.com/about/organisation/rules.aspx>.

422 Johansson, F., Gabbett, T., Svedmark, P. & Skillgate, E. 2021, 'External training load and the  
423 association with back pain in competitive adolescent tennis players: results from the  
424 SMASH cohort study', *Sports Health*.

425 Jowitt, H.K., Durussel, J., Brandon, R. & King, M. 2020, 'Auto detecting deliveries in elite  
426 cricket fast bowlers using microsensors and machine learning', *Journal of Sports*  
427 *Sciences*, vol. 38, no. 7, pp. 767-72.

428 Keaney, E.M. & Reid, M. 2020, 'Quantifying hitting activity in tennis with racket sensors: a  
429 new dawn or false dawn?', *Sports Biomechanics*, vol. 19, no. 6, pp. 831-9.

430 Kekelekis, A., Nikolaidis, P.T., Moore, I.S., Rosemann, T. & Knechtel, B. 2020, 'Risk factors  
431 for upper limb injury in tennis players: a systematic review', *International Journal of*  
432 *Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 17, no. 8.

- 433 Kolman, N.S., Kramer, T., Elferink-Gemser, M.T., Huijgen, B.C.H. & Visscher, C. 2019,  
434 'Technical and tactical skills related to performance levels in tennis: a systematic  
435 review', *Journal of Sports Sciences*, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 108-21.
- 436 Kos, M., Zenko, J., Vljaj, D. & Kramberger, I. 2016, 'Tennis stroke detection and classification  
437 using miniature wearable IMU device', *The 23rd International Conference on Systems,  
438 Signals and Image Processing*, Bratislava, Slovakia.
- 439 Landlinger, J., Lindinger, S.J., Stoggl, T., Wagner, H. & Muller, E. 2010, 'Kinematic  
440 differences of elite and high-performance tennis players in the cross court and down  
441 the line forehand', *Sports Biomechanics*, vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 280-95.
- 442 McLean, B.D., Cummins, C., Conlan, G., Duthie, G.M. & Coutts, A.J. 2018, 'The fit matters:  
443 influence of accelerometer fitting and training drill demands on load measures in rugby  
444 league players', *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance*, vol. 13,  
445 no. 8, pp. 1083-9.
- 446 McNamara, D.J., Gabbett, T.J., Chapman, P., Naughton, G. & Farhart, P. 2015, 'The validity  
447 of microsensors to automatically detect bowling events and counts in cricket fast  
448 bowlers', *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance*, vol. 10, no. 1,  
449 pp. 71-5.
- 450 Murphy, A.P., Duffield, R., Kellett, A. & Reid, M. 2014, 'A descriptive analysis of internal and  
451 external loads for elite-level tennis drills', *International Journal of Sports Physiology  
452 and Performance*, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 863-70.
- 453 Myers, N.L., Kibler, W.B., Axtell, A.H. & Uhl, T.L. 2019, 'The Sony Smart Tennis Sensor  
454 accurately measures external workload in junior tennis players', *Sports Science &  
455 Coaching*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 24-31.
- 456 Perri, T., Norton, K.I., Bellenger, C.R. & Murphy, A.P. 2018, 'Training loads in typical junior-  
457 elite tennis training and competition: implications for transition periods in a high-

458 performance pathway', *International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport*, vol. 18,  
459 no. 2, pp. 327-38.

460 Pieper, S., Exler, T. & Weber, K. 2007, 'Running speed loads on clay and hard courts in world  
461 class tennis', *Medicine and Science in Tennis*, no. 2.

462 Pluim, B.M., Staal, J.B., Windler, G.E. & Jayanthi, N. 2006, 'Tennis injuries: occurrence,  
463 aetiology, and prevention', *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, vol. 40, no. 5, pp. 415-  
464 23.

465 Reardon, C., Tobin, D.P., Tierney, P. & Delahunt, E. 2017, 'Collision count in rugby union: a  
466 comparison of micro-technology and video analysis methods', *Journal of Sports  
467 Sciences*, vol. 35, no. 20, pp. 2028-34.

468 Reid, M., Cormack, S.J., Duffield, R., Kovalchik, S., Crespo, M., Pluim, B. & Gescheit, D.T.  
469 2019, 'Improving the reporting of tennis injuries: the use of workload data as the  
470 denominator?', *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, vol. 53, no. 16, pp. 1041-2.

471 Reid, M. & Duffield, R. 2014, 'The development of fatigue during match-play tennis', *British  
472 Journal of Sports Medicine*, vol. 48, pp. S7-S11.

473 Reid, M. & Elliot, B. 2002, 'The one- and two-handed backhands in tennis', *Sports  
474 Biomechanics*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 47-68.

475 Reid, M., Elliott, B. & Crespo, M. 2013, 'Mechanics and learning practices associated with the  
476 tennis forehand: a review', *Journal of Sports Science & Medicine*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp.  
477 225-31.

478 Roetert, E.P. & Groppe, J.L. 2001, 'Biomechanics of the volley', *ITF Coaching and Sport  
479 Science Review*, vol. 9, no. 24, pp. 15-6.

480 Shanley, E. & Myers, N.L. 2019, 'Understanding load in baseball and tennis', in W.B. Kibler  
481 & A.D. Sciascia (eds), *Mechanics, pathmechanics and injury in the overhead athlete*,  
482 Springer.

483 Skejo, S.D., Liaghat, B., Jakobsen, C.C., Moller, M., Bencke, J., Papi, G., Kunwald, N.P. &  
484 Sorensen, H. 2021, 'Quantifying throwing load in handball: a method for measuring the  
485 number of throws', *SportRxiv*.

486 Sombelon, G.N., Myers, N.L., Westgate, P., Smith, B.J. & Kibler, W.B. 2017, 'Tennis serve  
487 volume and its relationship to injury in professional women's tennis players', *Journal*  
488 *of Athletic Training*, vol. 52, no. 6, p. 185.

489 Whiteside, D., Cant, O., Connolly, M. & Reid, M. 2017, 'Monitoring hitting load in tennis  
490 using inertial sensors and machine learning', *International Journal of Sports Physiology*  
491 *and Performance*, vol. 12, no. 9, pp. 1212-7.

492 Whiteside, D. & Reid, M. 2017, 'External match workloads during the first week of Australian  
493 Open tennis competition', *International Journal of Sports Physiology and*  
494 *Performance*, vol. 12, no. 6, pp. 756-63.

495 Yang, D., Tang, J., Huang, Y., Xu, C., Li, J., Hu, L., Shen, G., Liang, C.-J.M. & Liu, H. 2017,  
496 'TennisMaster: an IMU-based online serve performance evaluation system', paper  
497 presented to the *the 8th Augmented Human International Conference*.

498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507

508 **Table 1.** Manually coded stroke definitions

Stroke Type	Definition
Drive	A typical ‘topspin’ or ‘flat’ forehand or backhand stroke. Also included ‘offensive’ lobs.
End-Range	A forehand or backhand stroke, typically played with the racquet arm at full stretch and in a wide position of the court.
Volley	A forehand or backhand stroke played ‘on-the-full’ with no bounce prior to the stroke.
Drop shot	A disguised forehand stroke that is played with the aim of the ball dropping short into the opposing player’s side of the court.
Block	A forehand or backhand stroke often played by the returner in response to a fast serve.
Slice	A forehand or backhand stroke played where the racquet’s forward-swing trajectory imparts backspin to the ball.
Dig	Strokes played with limited forward-swing and often are more vertical with a low to high ‘redirect’ trajectory
Shadow	Any stroke pattern played in absence of a ball being contacted.

509 (Crespo & Miley 1998)

510 **Table 2.** Mean  $\pm$  SD of strokes and shadow swings captured per match from Catapult algorithms versus manually coded strokes and shadow  
 511 swings in match play

<b>Stroke Type</b>	<b>Catapult</b>	<b>Coded</b>	<b><i>p</i></b>	<b>Bias (Mean <math>\pm</math> SD)</b>	<b>Bias (95% CI)</b>
<b>Total strokes (n/match)</b>	431 $\pm$ 219	464 $\pm$ 231	0.562	-67.80 $\pm$ 35.96	-93.52 to -42.08
<b>Forehand strokes (n/match)</b>	172 $\pm$ 114	192 $\pm$ 119	0.655	-18.70 $\pm$ 27.79	-38.58 to 1.18
<b>Backhand strokes (n/match)</b>	128 $\pm$ 64	169 $\pm$ 84	0.073	-45.10 $\pm$ 22.26	-61.03 to -29.17
<b>Serves/Overhead strokes (n/match)</b>	93 $\pm$ 43	92 $\pm$ 42	0.780	-4.00 $\pm$ 4.24	-7.04 to -0.96
<b>Other strokes (n/match)</b>	39 $\pm$ 22**	11 $\pm$ 8	0.0001	30.70 $\pm$ 17.13	18.45 to 42.95
<b>Total shadow swings (n/match)</b>	10 $\pm$ 7	15 $\pm$ 9	0.451	-3.10 $\pm$ 4.07	-6.01 to -0.19
<b>Forehand shadow swings (n/match)</b>	0 $\pm$ 1*	5 $\pm$ 4	0.001	-6.10 $\pm$ 4.41	-9.25 to -2.95
<b>Backhand shadow swings (n/match)</b>	1 $\pm$ 1*	8 $\pm$ 6	0.002	-5.80 $\pm$ 4.61	-9.10 to -2.50
<b>Serve/Overhead shadow swings (n/match)</b>	0 $\pm$ 0	0 $\pm$ 0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Other shadow swings (n/match)</b>	8 $\pm$ 7*	0 $\pm$ 1	0.002	8.80 $\pm$ 7.90	3.15 to 14.45

512 \*significantly different from manually coded strokes ( $p < 0.01$ )

513 \*\*significantly different from manually coded strokes ( $p < 0.001$ )

514

515

516

517

518 **Table 3.** Total count of Catapult versus manually coded swing patterns

Stroke Type	Coded	Catapult	Correctly Classified	Incorrectly Classified	%Error [Correctly Classified / Catapult] *100
<b>Total strokes/swings (n)</b>	5349	5119	4123	996	19%
<b>Total strokes/swings (n) – Contact made (n)</b>	5175	5016	4123	893	18%
<b>Total strokes/swings - No contact made (n)</b>	174	103	14	89	86%
<b>Forehand swings (n)</b>	2220	2002	1755	247	11%
<b>Forehand swings - Contact made (n)</b>	2155	1914	1751	163	9%
<b>Forehand swings - No contact made (n)</b>	65	4	4	0	0%
<b>Backhand swings (n)</b>	1994	1485	1358	127	6%
<b>Backhand swings - Contact made (n)</b>	1889	1417	1351	66	5%
<b>Backhand swings - No contact made (n)</b>	105	7	7	0	0%
<b>Serves swings (n)</b>	1015	1027	1005	22	2%
<b>Serves swings - Contact made (n)</b>	1015	1020	1005	15	1%
<b>Serve swings - No contact made (n)</b>	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Other swings (n)</b>	120	605	100	505	83%
<b>Other swings - Contact made (n)</b>	119	444	102	342	77%
<b>Other swings - No contact made (n)</b>	92	4	3	1	25%

519

**Table 4.** Manually coded forehand stroke classifications that were misclassified/not detected by Catapult algorithms

<b>Stroke Type</b>	<b>True Events (n)</b>	<b>Correctly Identified by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Total Errors (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Undetected by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Misclassified by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>
<b>Forehand drive (n)</b>	1743	1640 [94%]	102 [6%]	25 [1%]	77 [4%]
<b>Forehand slice (n)</b>	73	16 [22%]	57 [78%]	20 [27%]	37 [51%]
<b>Forehand volley (n)</b>	72	4 [7%]	67 [93%]	42 [58%]	25 [35%]
<b>Forehand end range (n)</b>	223	82 [27%]	141 [63%]	53 [24%]	88 [39%]
<b>Forehand drop shot (n)</b>	2	0 [0%]	2 [100%]	1 [50%]	1 [50%]
<b>Forehand block (n)</b>	5	1 [20%]	4 [80%]	2 [40%]	2 [40%]
<b>Forehand dig (n)</b>	3	0 [0%]	3 [100%]	2 [67%]	1 [33%]
<b>Forehand shadow swing (n)</b>	55	3 [5%]	52 [95%]	23 [42%]	29 [53%]
<b>Smash (n) Coded as “Other stroke”</b>	53	33 [62%]	20 [38%]	4 [1%]	15 [28%]
<b>Smash (n) Coded as “Serve”</b>	53	14 [26%]	39 [74%]	4 [1%]	35 [66%]



**Table 5.** Manually coded backhand stroke classifications that were misclassified/not detected by Catapult algorithms

<b>Stroke Type</b>	<b>True Events (n)</b>	<b>Correctly Identified by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Total Errors (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Undetected by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>	<b>Misclassified by Catapult (n) [%total]</b>
<b>Backhand drive (n)</b>	1438	1235 [86%]	197 [14%]	23 [2%]	174 [12%]
<b>Backhand slice (n)</b>	214	74 [35%]	139 [65%]	34 [16%]	105 [49%]
<b>Backhand volley (n)</b>	65	3 [5%]	62 [95%]	39 [60%]	23 [35%]
<b>Backhand end range (n)</b>	145	31 [19%]	117 [81%]	36 [25%]	81 [56%]
<b>Backhand block (n)</b>	6	0 [0%]	6 [100%]	1 [17%]	5 [83%]
<b>Backhand dig (n)</b>	6	1 [17%]	5 [83%]	3 [50%]	2 [33%]
<b>Backhand shadow swing (n)</b>	91	7 [9%]	83 [91%]	29 [32%]	54 [59%]