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AN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL CONTACT FORMULATION FOR DRY/WET ELECTRODE-SCALP INTERFACES IN AN EEG HEADSET

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ABSTRACT

The process of generating an initial prototype for a new dry electrode wearable EEG headset system design can be time and resource intensive. The ability to predict the mechanical and electrical characteristics of this recording device could lead to major cost savings in this process. Since the skin surface roughness has a deep impact on the decrease of brain electric contact conductance (or the increase of the contact impedance) when electrode with bristles contact scalp skin, the estimation of electric conductance across rough dry and wet boundaries is a challenging task in the designing optimization of the wearable EEG headset system. In this contribution, the contact mechanism to predict the electrical impedance of scalp skin pressed against the electrode is considered as the electrical connection by the mechanical contact. With this, we have extended the Pohrt and Popov model by including the effects of conductive gel. An experiment is developed and carried-out to validate the interfacial contact impedance model.

KEY WORDS

Bristle electrode, Wearable EEG headset, Skin roughness, scalp, loading pressure, contact impedance, optimization.

1. INTRODUCTION

When an electrode's bristles and scalp skin are squeezed into contact, brain electrical activities of a few microvolts (5 to 100 μV), called EEG signals, are passed from the skin to the electrode [1, 2]. As the electrode's bristles and scalp skin surfaces are pressed together, the skin's soft surface is squashed flat elastically by the contact pressure, so that perfect or full smooth contact is observed by the naked eye through the nominal contact area A_0 . In reality, the perfect contact never exists, skin micro-scale surfaces, no matter how carefully prepared, always contain surface roughness (hills and valleys) or deviations which are largely compared to an atomic-size and are often called surface asperities [3, 4]. The roughness on the skin surface causes the contact to be restricted to a set of micro-contact spots, randomly distributed on the apparent contact area. The sum of all these areas constitutes the real (true) area of contact, A_r , which is a small fraction of apparent or nominal area A_0 [5, 6].

If we now conduct the brain electrical transfer as function of applied pressure from the scalp skin to the electrode's headset, the ion current from the brain is

restricted to flow through the micro-contact spots. Constriction of the electrical current by spots reduces the volume of material used for electrical conduction, significantly decreasing the expected contact conductance or increasing the contact impedance beyond the case of a fully conducting contact area [5]. In the case of this study, the contact conductance between electrode and skin must be increased (or decreased the contact impedance) as much as possible in order to avoid artifacts and record better quality brain signals.

The importance of the prediction of the electrical contact conductance as function of applied pressure has been clearly recognised since the earliest studies on contact mechanics [7, 8]. Contact mechanics modelling of this kind has focused on lightly loaded rigid solid contact interface. However, for a soft solid having a randomly rough surface (like skin) pressed against a flat rigid solid, the mechanical analysis for self-affine using the finite element method (FEM) has contributed to identifying the real contact area [9, 10] and stiffness change of the contact [11, 12], which can be interpreted in terms of contact conductance as a function of the applied load F_N [13, 14].

In this contribution, the prediction of electrode-scalp electrical contact conductance (or contact impedance) is examined. For simplification, the contact mechanism of scalp skin pressed against the electrode is considered as the electrical connection by the mechanical contact. Thus, in order to predict contact conductance, the interfacial contact is separated into two parts: mechanical contact and electrical connection. For mechanical contact analysis, a new normal force-displacement approach based on the micro-mechanical studies is developed for analyse of the non-linear electrode-skin contact interface problem with "high contact precision". Finite element method (FEM) was well used to account for the geometry of the device and for predicting the interfacial non-uniform pressure distribution when the headset-electrodes block is pressed on the skin scalp under a constant loading pressure.

For the electrical contact conductance modelling, this work adopts the models presented in [15] to predict the interfacial normal contact stiffness and contact conductance when the dry electrode is pressed on the scalp skin. After the dry contact calculation, conductive gel (paste) with a given thickness is introduced to cover the deformed rough surface and improve the conductance. In this paper, we have extended the Pohrt and Popov model [15] by including the effects of conductive gel.

This approach provides a means to gain insight on the effects of conductive gel when a wet electrode is pressed on the scalp skin.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Wearable Headset

In a more generalised view, a wearable EEG headset (Figure 1) can be defined as a sub-system (or front-end interface) that records and delivers a vital brain signal to a higher level application or overall EEG system. The functioning block diagram of the wearable headset, shown in Figure 2, consists of three parts: electrodes for signal acquisition, signal amplification and wireless transmission / receiving for data transmission.

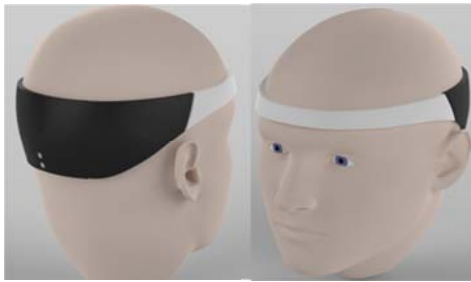


Figure 1: The prototype wireless headset system

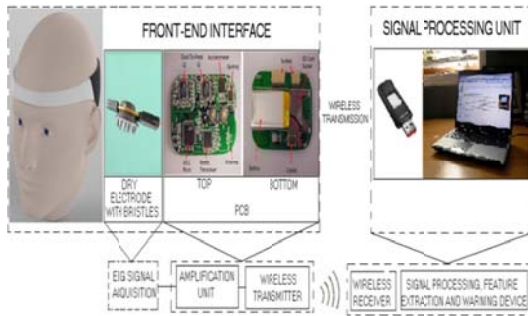


Figure 2: Block diagram of a wireless EEG system in development.

In the case of this work, the headset is incorporated with a number of dry and wet electrodes with bristles, placed in accord with the targeting EEG recording regions (see Figure 3).

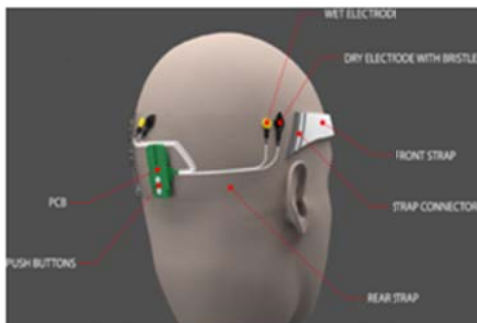


Figure 3: Electrode placements

Two dry electrodes are mounted on the targeted region of the headset in accord with the 10/20 electrode placement system as follows: the bristle-electrode for data recording was placed over the left occipital region (O1) and its reference electrode also was a bristle-electrode placed at T4 [1]. All electronics components are integrated on-board a printed circuits board (PCB) which was designed in miniature to serve as a sensing module and improve the headset hardware flexibility. The PCB and part of the electrode, except the bristles, are internally fixed in the headset.

2.2 Electrode with Bristles

This electrode is reusable silver/silver chloride made with twelve 2 mm contact posts or bristles for EEG testing without the need for scalp preparation and use of conductive gel or paste (Figure 4A).



Figure 4: (A) Electrode with bristles and (B) Bristle electrode with clip lead.

So, when the headset is appropriately pressed on the scalp skin and held firmly in contact, the bristles will penetrate thick hair, press into the skin without penetrating beyond the epidermis and providing a quick and efficient electrical contact between the electrode and the scalp.

2.3 Contact Mechanics Formulation

2.3.1 Macroscopic Model

Contact between the wearable headset and scalp skin can be modeled simply by using the basic unilateral contact law by referring to the Kuhn-Tucker-Karush or Signorini conditions [16]. This is completely described by the following set of inequalities and the nonlinear complementarity relation,

$$g_N \geq 0 \quad p \geq 0 \quad pg_N = 0 \quad (1)$$

In this formulation, the essence of the contact problem lies in the fact that any point on the boundary of each body must either be in contact or not in contact. If it is not in contact, the gap g_N between it and the other body must be positive ($g_N > 0$) whereas if it is in contact, $g_N = 0$, by definition. A dual relation involves the contact pressure p between the bodies which must be positive

($p > 0$) where there is contact and zero ($p = 0$) where there is no contact.

The relation (1) provides the basis to treat electrode-skin contact as a non-penetration problem, but with “low contact precision”, where the most essential necessity is the correct enforcement or optimisation of the headset geometry. However, due to the extremely complex structure of the skin roughness surface, the chemical and the physical behaviour of the material close to the interface (conductive gel, skin or electrode metal), analysis of the electrode-skin contact interface problem requires “high contact precision”. To do so, we will consider effects related to the micro-mechanical contacting surfaces which have to be solved on a macro-scale level.

2.3.2 Microscopic Model

For the purpose of this analysis let us consider the block headset-electrode, as a flat rigid surface, pressed against the scalp, as rough soft surface, at a constant loading pressure σ_0 around the headset (Figure 5). Each electrode is a metal with elastic modulus $E_{el} = E$, a flat surface or area A_0 and a thickness d .

We will study both wet and dry interfaces, resulting with and without the presence of conductive gel at the electrode-skin wall interface. When flat and rough surfaces are brought into dry contact they touch initially at a single point or along a line. Under the action of the slightest load, electrode-headset block is squeezed against a soft, randomly rough surface.

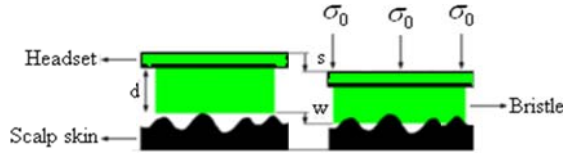


Figure 5. An headset-electrode's bristle block in wet contact with a soft, randomly rough skin. Left: no applied load. Right: the block is squeezed against the skin with normal loading force $F_N = \sigma_0 A_0$.

The rough solid deforms in the vicinity of its point of first contact so that both bodies touch over an area which is finite though small compared with the dimensions of the two bodies. The upper surface of the bristle-headset will move downwards by the distance s , which is the sum of a uniform compression of the bristle-headset block, $d\sigma/E$, and a movement or penetration w of the average position of the lower surface of the bristle into the valleys or cavities of the skin counter surface:

$$s = w + d \frac{\sigma}{E} \quad (2)$$

Let us now denote the separation between the average surface plane of the flat hard solid and the average surface plane of the rough soft solid by u with $u \geq 0$. Since for

low squeezing pressure, the area of real contact A_r varies linearly with the squeezing force $F_N = \sigma(u) A_0$, Lorenz et al. [13] found that an exponential rise in load with decreasing u ,

$$F_N = \beta A_0 E^* e^{-u/u_0} \quad (3)$$

where $u_0 = \gamma h_{rms}$ and h_{rms} is the root mean square (*rms*) variation in surface height; where γ is a constant of order 1 and β is a characteristic which depends on the surface roughness but is independent of the pressure σ [17]. Since we assume only electrode material is much more elastic than the skin, the effective (called also harmonic or contact) elastic modulus E^* is just the plane-strain modulus $E^* = E_{el} / (1 - \nu_{el}^2) \approx 4E_{el}/3$ as for bristle $\nu_{el} \approx 0.5$ [17, 18]. Using (3) gives

$$\log\left(\frac{\sigma}{E_{el}}\right) = B + \frac{1}{u_0} \left(s - d \frac{\sigma}{E_{el}} \right) \quad (4)$$

where $B = \log(4\beta/3) - h_{max}/u_0$, $\sigma = F_N/A_0$ is the squeezing pressure and $E_{el} = E$ and ν_{el} are the elastic moduli and the Poisson ratio for the electrode, respectively.

The equation (4) is exact whenever the contact between the electrode block and the rough soft is dry, no conductive gel film is used at the interface. For wet contact boundary conditions, this takes the form

$$\log\left(\frac{\sigma}{E'}\right) = B' + \frac{1}{u_0} \left(s - d \frac{\sigma}{E'} \right) \quad (5)$$

where the elastic modulus for wet contact interface $E' > E$ is consistent with the prediction of the Lindley equation [19]. Equations (4) and (5) predict that for small squeezing load F_N , the interfacial separation u depends logarithmically on F_N [20]. These equations are mechanically non-linear.

2.3.3 Finite Element Method

The finite element method is well suited to account for the geometry of the device and for the non-uniform mechanical of the contact interface. By applying the FEM to the headset-scalp, numerical simulations are performed for the scalp targeted region, considered as a rough elastic surface in contact with bristles, as perfectly rigid flat surfaces, in order to find the contact distribution. To perform this analysis, we use an adaptative FEM simulation package, SolidWorks simulation. The properties of both materials used by FEM are shown in Table I [9].

Table I
Parameters for normal contact simulation

Parameter	Skin	Electrode
Young's modulus	0.3 MPa	20 GPa
Poisson's ratio	0.459	0.4
Electrical resistivity [10 ⁻⁸ Ω/m]	100000	1.7

Periodic boundary conditions are imposed at the contact surfaces to eliminate boundary effects and a contact algorithm is used only to enforce the impenetrability constraint on the two surfaces.

Results

The sample results of FEM analysis are as follows. Figure 7 shows the distribution of contact pressure due to different displacements determined when a constant loading pressure is applied around the headset. It is observed that the pressure distribution of the headset contacting with the occipital region of the scalp (where recording electrodes are placed [1]) is larger compared to that in others regions. This is related to the increased deformation or displacement imposed by the presence of electrodes.

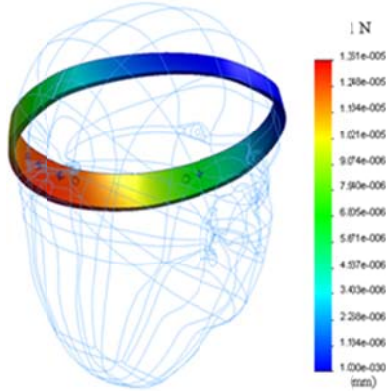


Figure 7. Contact pressure distribution at various displacement between headset and scalp at 1 N/m using the FEM simulation with bristle's normal shape.

2.4 Interfacial Electrical Contact Conductance Formulation

2.4.1 Dry Contact Interface

The mechanical analysis presented using a computer-generated self-affine surface FEM has contributed to identifying the normal contact stiffness change which will contribute to determine the electrical contact conductance model. Based on the analogy presented by Barber in [21], this work considers the dimensionless analytical expression for the contact conductance (C_{dry}), presented by Pohrt and Popov [15], to analyse the normal contact

between skin rough self-affine surface and the electrode's flat rigid body in dry conditions. Thus,

$$C_{dry} = \frac{1}{Z_{dry}} = \frac{\pi D_f \sqrt{A_0}}{5(\rho_{flat} + \rho_{rough})} \left(\frac{F_N}{E^* h \sqrt{A_0}} \right)^{0.2567 D_f} \quad (6)$$

where Z_{dry} is the specific interfacial contact impedance.

Where E^* and $\rho = \rho_{flat} + \rho_{rough}$ are the combined Young's elastic modulus and the combined resistivities of the two contacting bodies, respectively. The relation (6) is valid only for dry contact interface. For wet contact interface this equation no longer holds due to the presence of conductive gel between electrode and skin. This work therefore extends the Eq. (6) to estimate the contact conductance or impedance in wet conditions by including a parameter in the normal stiffness representing the presence of conductive gel at the interfacial contact between the electrode's bristles and the scalp skin.

2.4.2 Wet Contact Interface

It is known that when a flat electrode surface comes in static contact on the scalp skin rough surface, the contact is not directly in equilibrium [22]. With the presence of conductive gel (paste), two actions occur before the interface reaches equilibrium. First, curved menisci form around the contacting and near contacting spots due to gel mediated adhesion on the skin surface [22-25]. Besides the meniscus, the ions in the gel are rapidly filled-up into the skin by diffusion due to the existing concentration gradient [22], thus ensuring a maximum electrical conductivity (or a minimal electrical impedance) in the wetted areas.

Based on the Young and Laplace equation and assuming that the liquid film thickness is uniform everywhere on the flat surface, the meniscus force (also referred to as adhesive force), F_m , is then numerically calculated using the extended first principle of the micro meniscus theory [26] by the following equation:

$$F_m \approx \frac{\gamma_L (\cos \theta_1 + \cos \theta_2) A_m}{h_m} \quad (7)$$

where θ_1 and θ_2 are the contact angles of the liquid on the two solid surfaces, h_m is the mean meniscus height, and γ_L is the surface tension of the liquid and where A_m is the total projected meniscus area.

With an additional meniscus force existing at the contact interface, the total normal force on the wetted interface F_N^W is the externally applied normal force F_N plus the additional meniscus force F_m

$$F_N^W = F_N + F_m \quad (8)$$

Thus, we can directly obtain an approximate expression for the wet contact conductance by substituting (8) for (6).

$$C_{wet} = \frac{1}{Z_{wet}} = \frac{\pi D_j \sqrt{A_v}}{5(\rho_{flatt} + \rho_{rough} + \rho_{gel})} \left(\frac{F_N + F_m}{E^* h \sqrt{A_v}} \right)^{0.2567 D_j} \quad (9)$$

where Z_{wet} and ρ_{gel} are the contact impedance and the resistivity for conductive gel, respectively.

3. EXPERIMENT

To validate the interfacial contact impedance model, we have performed experimental investigations when the wearable headset is squeezed on the scalp skin in dry and wet conditions as illustrated in Figure 3. The experiment was undertaken at the Centre for Health Technologies (CHT) with the understanding and written consent of each participant, following the recommendations of the ethics committee of the University of Technology, Sydney-Australia.

The principle of the experimental test rests in the comparison of the different pressing loads at the electrode-scalp contact interface to having different contact impedance. To carry out these tests, we collected data from ten (10) healthy subjects (7 males including 2 dark-skinned and 5 fair-skinned, and 3 females including 1 dark-skinned and 2 fair-skinned). This is because we have noted that the skin impedance differs from person to person [15]. All of the measurements were performed while the subjects were sitting and all participants were volunteers.

To measure the interfacial contact impedance, the Siesta system was intended for use in the displaying, monitoring, recording, printing and storage of the contact impedance of each electrode-scalp involved and signal calibration features. We measured the impedance Z over the squeezing load F_N for two different cases: dry and wet. First the dry bristle electrode was used, without gel or pasta. Second, we used Ten20 Conductive gel (D.O. Weaver and Co, Aurora-USA) to wet the electrode's bristle contact areas. Because of its high viscosity, the fluid is an excellent lubricant; hence it was not easily squeezed out of the contact area under normal pressure applications.

To measure the contact pressure at the electrode-skin scalp contact interface, we used a sub-miniature load cell (Models LPM 500-COOPER Instruments), in combination with a manual inflation head pressure cuff (Omron-Australia) as a pressure pad. The pad is placed directly on top of the headset worn on the subject's scalp and held in place with an adjustable section for bespoke fit (Velcro). The loading force F_N was changed in steps of 0.1 by inflating the pad from the bulb. Thus, the contact pressure could be varied and the interfacial impedance was measured. The data was sent from the data acquisition system over a serial connection and

processed on a PC using Profusion PSG 2 software for reviewing, analysing, processing and validation.



Figure 9: Manual inflation head pressure cuff and the load cell.

3.1 Results

The contact impedance obtained using dry and wet contact interface are plotted against the contact load in figure 10, when compared with that of the simulation theory of wet interface as given in equation (9). The compared interfacial contact impedances results exhibit a converging behaviour when a low squeezing pressure range is applied. They decrease rapidly at a small squeezing load and then decrease gradually as the load is increasing. In addition, results obtained using wet contact interfaces (Bristles and Gold electrodes) are closer to that of Pohrt's analogy than with dry contact conditions.

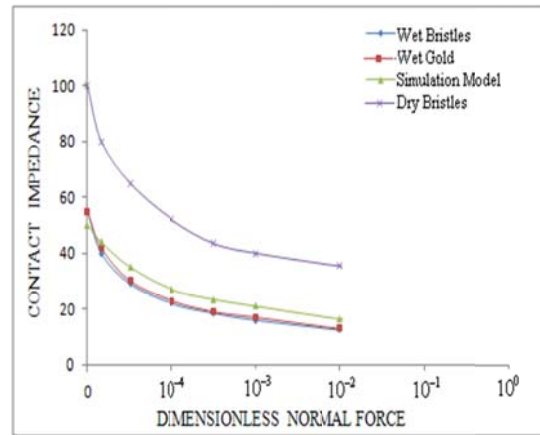


Figure 10: Dimensional interfacial impedance obtained using dry and wet (bristles and Gold) contact interface plotted against the contact load, when compared with simulation equation of Pohrt and Popov [15].

3.2 Optimization of the Contact Pressure Distribution

In the context of EEG recording applications, the contact impedance between skin-electrodes must be decreased as much as possible in order to maintain better quality recording signals [1, 22, 27]. Hence, an optimum skin-electrode real contact shape producing minimum interfacial contact impedance is expected in the headset designing. However, it is difficult to exactly optimise contact shape directly. The first question is what a contact

pressure distribution (p_n) gives minimum contact impedance (Z) when the total compression force (F) is fixed. The optimum problem can therefore be described as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Find} \quad & p_n(x) & (10) \\ \text{Minimum} \quad & Z = Z(p_n) \\ \text{When} \quad & \int_0^l p_n dx = F \quad \text{are given.} \end{aligned}$$

The design variable is the contact pressure distribution, and the objective function, i.e., contact impedance, which is a function of contact pressure distribution [28]. The optimisation process shows that a constant pressure distribution is therefore an optimum pressure distribution:

$$p(x) = \frac{F}{L} \quad (11)$$

where L is the perimeter of the contact region.

From this optimization analysis, we have measured the estimating optimal contact impedance when bristles are pressed on the scalp with increasing loads for the case where one contact surface is wet (bristles and gold) and the other dry. Ten tests were performed on five different subjects studied. All of the measurements were performed while the subjects were sitting. The contact pressure at the interface was increased gradually to assess its influence on the interfacial scalp-skin impedance and at the same time to insure subject comfort. The contact impedances obtained with increasing loading pressure are plotted in Figure 11.

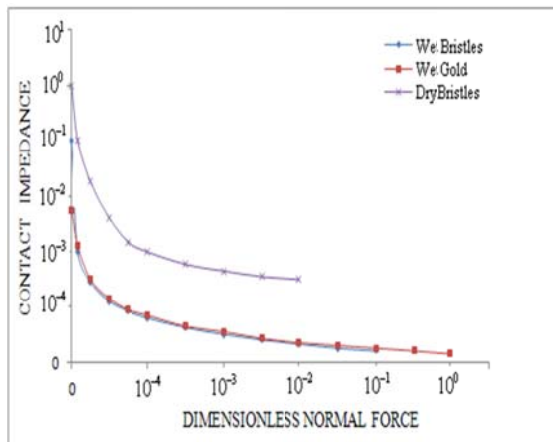


Figure 11: The contact impedances at optimal loading pressure

The optimum loading was determined as a sign of subject discomfort (pain). While using dry bristles, all participants studied displayed discomfort (pain) when the

increased pressure reach dimensionless values of 10^{-2} or higher. At the same time, with the presence of the viscous paste on the contact interface, we were able to gradually increase pressure up to 10^{-1} (ten times higher) for wet bristles condition and up to 10^0 (hundred times higher) for the gold wet condition, no signal of discomfort has been registered from participants.

3.3 EEG Recording

Besides the contact impedance evaluation, we compare the performance of the wet and dry bristle electrodes in recording EEG data with the standard wet gold-plated cup electrode using a 2 channel recording device, as shown in figure 3. For this end, five participating subjects performed two mental tasks, eyes-closed and arithmetic calculation. Since only two mental tasks were required to be classified, one electrode located in O_1 position was used to collect EEG signals during the mental task performing procedure. Eyes-closed command data were collected from each of 5 participants for a period of 20sec and the same procedure was applied for the mathematical calculation task. These data were used for both statistical and classification analyses.

As a result, power spectra were presented for wet and dry bristle electrodes in comparison with wet gold electrode (Figure 12).

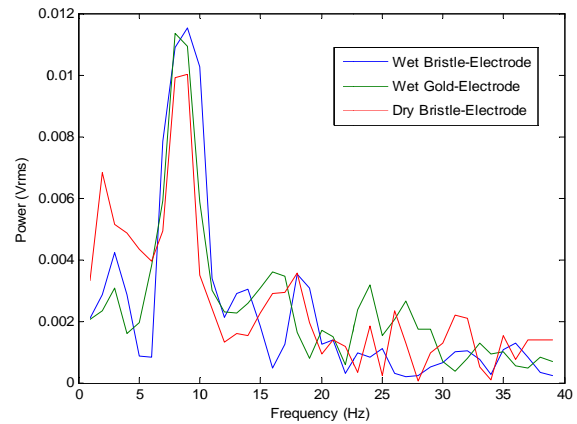


Figure 12: EEG activity recorded with wet and dry bristle electrode in comparison with gold electrode for eyes-closed task at loading pressure of 0.5N.

Although, all three electrode recordings have shown prominent peaks in the alpha frequency band around 10Hz and also in the beta range (15–25Hz), around 20Hz, but, with the presence of loading pressure at the contact interface, the dry bristle electrode did reveal less increasing compared with the two other wet electrodes.

3.4 Electrode Classification

For optimal robustness of the evaluation, the classification approach with brain-computer interface (BCI) was

performed with both wet and dry electrode with bristles using two mental tasks: eyes-closed and mathematical calculation, as presented in figure 13. This aimed at showing the possibility of performing the BCI experiment with the electrode with bristles and not at comparing them with wet gold electrode.

The combined EEG raw data were first transformed in FFT domain and the EEG powers at frequencies from 1 to 40Hz were then fed into Matlab-Multilayer Feed-Forward Neural Network. By trial and error, 30 hidden nodes were chosen, and only one output node was required for two-

task classification (0 for arithmetic calculation task and 1 for eyes-closed task).

For two-mental task classification, the overall accuracy of a neural network trained with EEG data collecting from wet bristle electrodes was 98.79%, whereas the accuracy of a neural network trained with EEG data collecting by dry bristle electrode was 93.17%. This difference is mainly due to some instability behaviour observed in recording EEG data when the dry bristle electrode is pressed on the scalp compared with the wet one.

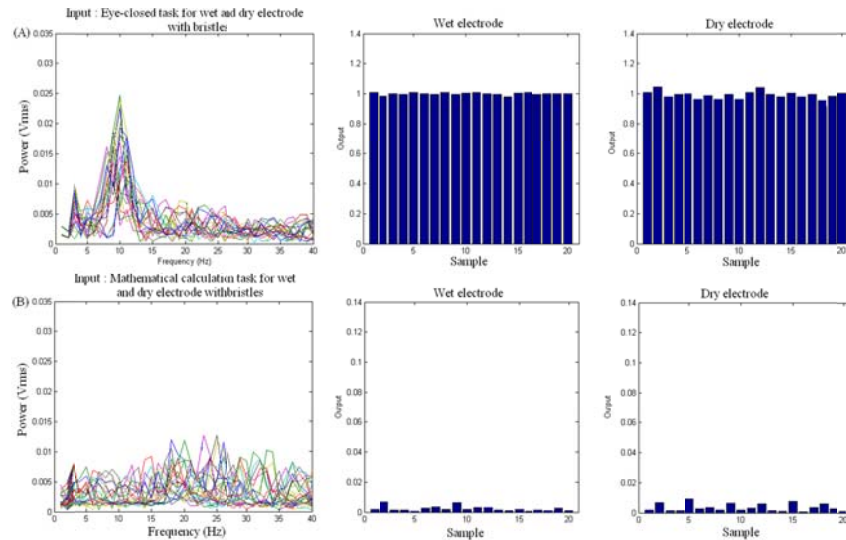


Figure 13: Eyes-closed and mathematical calculation mental tasks using wet and dry electrode with bristles at loading pressure of 0.5N.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The results of this study can be summarised as follows:

- The micro-mechanical contact model developed and analysed using a computer-generated self-affine surface FEM has contributed to evaluate the contact pressure distribution between headset-electrode block and scalp.
- The presence of this distributed pressure results in the normal contact stiffness change which has contributed to determine the electrode-scalp interfacial electrical contact conductance (or impedance) models for dry and wet bristle-scalp contact interface.
- Although the compared interfacial contact impedances results exhibit a converging behaviour when a low squeezing pressure range is applied, results obtained using wet contact interfaces (bristles and gold electrodes) are closer to that of the simulation model than with dry contact conditions.
- From the optimization analysis, the contact pressure at the interface was increased gradually to assess its influence on the interfacial scalp-skin impedance and at the same time to insure subject comfort. Thus, the

optimum loading value for each case studied was determined as a sign of subject discomfort (pain).

- For optimal robustness of the evaluation, the classification approach with a brain-computer interface (BCI) was performed with both wet and dry electrodes with bristles. For the two-mental task classification, the overall accuracy of the Neural Network trained with EEG data collecting from wet bristle electrodes was higher and stable when compared with dry bristle electrodes pressed on the scalp at the same loading pressure.
- We conclude this paper by pointing out that the dry bristle electrode can be used in recording EEG only when minimal scalp-electrode contact pressure is required to obtain a robust mechanical fixation. However, when the increased loading pressure is needed prior to obtaining better EEG signal quality, dry electrodes are not adequate for use when avoiding subject discomfort or penetrating the scalp.
- This would suggest the optimisation of the perimeter or lateral contact surface of each bristle in the electrode, to maximising the displacement and then the area of real contact between bristles in the electrode and the target region of scalp-skin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors thank Dr Phuoc Huynh (School of Electrical, Mechanical and Mechatronic Systems-University of Technology Sydney) and Nicholas Karlovasitis (Director, Design-By-Them – Australia) for their kindly supports and usefully contributions.

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An Electro-Mechanical Contact Formulation for Dry/Wet Electro-Scalp Interfaces in an EEG Headset

Vangu Kitoko, Tuan N. Nguyen, and Hung T. Nguyen

Keywords

Bristle electrode, Wearable EEG headset, Skin roughness, scalp

Abstract

The process of generating an initial prototype for a new dry electrode wearable EEG headset system design can be time and resource intensive. The ability to predict the mechanical and electrical characteristics of this recording device could lead to major cost savings in this process. Since the skin surface roughness has a deep impact on the decrease of brain electric contact conductance (or the increase of the contact impedance) when electrode with bristles contact scalp skin, the estimation of electric conductance across rough dry and wet boundaries is a challenging task in the designing optimization of the wearable EEG headset system. In this contribution, the contact mechanism to predict the electrical conductance of scalp skin pressed against the electrode is considered as the electrical connection by the mechanical contact. For mechanical contact analysis, a new normal force-displacement approach based on the micro-mechanical studies is developed for analyse of the non-linear electrode-skin contact interface problem with "high contact precision". For the electrical contact conductance modelling, in this paper, we have extended the Pohrt and Popov model by including the effects of conductive gel. An experiment is developed and carried-out to validate the interfacial contact impedance model.

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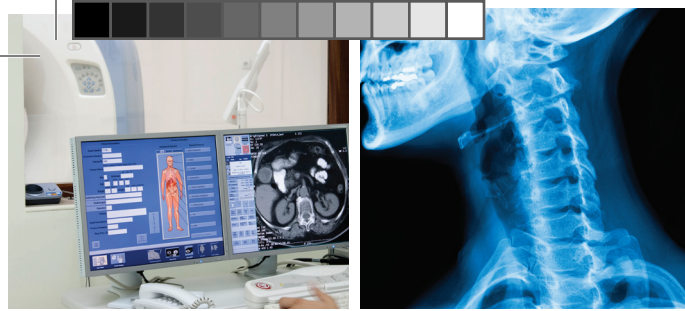
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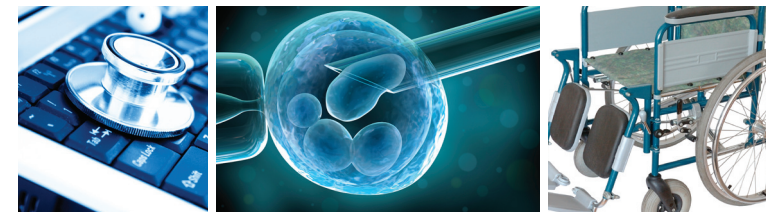
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Location: Diesner Foyer

08:00 – 08:30 BioMed WELCOME ADDRESS

Location: Hall Strassburg

08:30 – BioMed SESSION 1 - BIOMEDICAL SIGNAL PROCESSING SYSTEMS AND CONTROL I

Chairs: TBA

Location: Hall Strassburg

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Automated Extraction of Principal Components of Non-Structural Protein 1 from SERS Spectrum

Afaf R. Mohd Radzol, Yoot K. Lee, Wahidah Mansor, and Faizal Mohd Twon Tawi (Malaysia)

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Changes in Bilateral Phase Synchronization in Parkinsonian Tremor Related to Amplitude Difference

Sang Kyong Kim, Hyo Seon Jeon, Han Byul Kim, Ko Keun Kim, Beom Seok Jeon, and Kwang Suk Park (Korea)

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An Electro-Mechanical Contact Formulation for Dry/Wet Electrode-Scalp Interfaces in an EEG Headset

Vangu Kitoko, Tuan N. Nguyen, and Hung T. Nguyen (Australia)

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A Time-Series Pre-Processing Methodology for Biosignal Classification using Statistical Feature Extraction

Simon Fong (Australia), Kun Lan, Paul Sun (PR China), Sabah Mohammed, and Jinan Fiaidhi (Canada)

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Wrist Pulse Signal Acquisition System Design

Bhaskar Thakkar and Anoop L. Vyas (India)

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Computer Models for Gait Identification and Analysis using Autonomous System for Control and Monitoring

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Knowledge Discovery and Knowledge Reuse in Clinical Information Systems

Jon D. Patrick (Australia), Leila Safari (Iran), and Yuzhong Cheng (PR China)

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Cauchy Wavelet-based Mechanomyographic Analysis for Muscle Contraction Evoked by FES in a Spinal Cord Injured Person

Eddy Krueger, Eduardo M. Scheeren, André E. Lazarretti, Guilherme N. Nogueira-Neto, Vera L.S.N. Button, and Percy Nohama (Brazil)

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Wavelet Filter Proposal to Attenuate the Background Activity and High Frequencies in EEG Signals

Geovani R. Scolaro, Christine F. Boos, and Fernando M. Azevedo (Brazil)

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

Location: Diesner Foyer

11:00 – BioMed SESSION 1 CONTINUED

Location: Hall Strassburg

12:00 – LUNCH BREAK

Self-Catered

14:00 – BioMed SESSION 2 - MEDICAL IMAGING MRI ROBOTICS MONITORING I

Chairs: TBA

Location: Hall Strassburg

791-026

Assessment of Asymmetry in Dermoscopic Colour Images of Pigmented Skin Lesions

Joanna Jaworek-Korjakowska and Ryszard Tadeusiewicz (Poland)

791-081

Automated Processing Pipeline for Texture Analysis of Childhood Brain Tumours based on Multimodal Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Suchada Tantisatirapong, Nigel P. Davies, Lawrence Abernethy, Dorothee P. Auer, Chris A. Clark, Richard Grundy, Tim Jaspán, Darren Hargrave, Lesley MacPherson, Martin O. Leach, Geoff S. Payne, Barry L. Pizer, Andrew C. Peet, and Theodoros N. Arvanitis (UK)

791-105

Evaluation of CT-based 3D-Printed Colon Models for Surgical Operation Planning

Nikita Shevchenko, Sonja Gillen, Hubertus Feußner, and Tim C. Lüth (Germany)

791-128

Analysis of Right Ventricular Remodeling using Curvature Histogram Comparison

Soo-Kng Teo, Si-Yong Yeo, Chi Wan Lim, Liang Zhong, Ru-San Tan, and Yi Su (Singapore)