Analysis of Different Level of EOG Signal from Eye Movement for Wheelchair Control

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Abstract – This paper is aimed to analyze different levels of eye movement signals strength using Electrooculography (EOG). The eye movement that is known to be a significant communication tool for a tetraplegia, can be defined as a paralysis that is caused by serious injuries or illness to a human that lead to a partial or total loss of their lower limb and torso. A person who has such paralysis is highly dependent on an assistant and a wheelchair for movement. It is not always the case where the helper is with the patient all the time, therefore independence is encouraged among the wheelchair users. The signal from the eye muscles that is called electrooculogram is generated at different eye movements' directions and levels. The eye movement signals are acquired using g.USBamp from G.TEC Medical Engineering GMBH by using Ag/AgCl electrodes. The data is then passed to MATLAB/SIMULINK software for data analysis. Different directions and strength level of eye movement are fed to a virtual wheelchair model developed in MSC.Visual Nastran 4D software to study the effect of the signals on the distance and rotation travelled by the wheelchair. Simulation exercises has verified that different strength of eye movement signals levels that have been processed could be manipulated for helping tetraplegia in their mobility using the wheelchair.

Keywords - eye movement, signal processing, wheelchair control, tetraplegia, and EOG

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, there have been increasing in the interest on the wheelchair improvement among inventors, design engineers, and the general public.

*Corresponding author, Tel: (603) 6196 4506; Fax No: (603)61964433 Email address: salmiah@iium.edu.my This is because the use of wheelchair that has come to help many people with different illness and injuries. For example, a suitable wheelchair may facilitate the user to be out of sick bed, continuing their life, pick and place things, maneuvers in narrow spaces and partaking of human experience [1]. The use of wheelchair has becoming very important for mobility among disabled as well as the quadriplegic, which may cause by road accident, falling from the high position or severe diseases. The initial purpose of the wheelchair is actually aimed to give more freedom for these people to do basic things on their own, such as carrying items from one place to another and maneuver [2]. The mobility of the wheelchair users can be aided according to the level of injuries of a user has, or depending on the capability of the user to handle the wheelchair.

There are several techniques used to aid disabled people based on the user's ability and the communication tools between the human and machine such as mouse, keyboard and joystick [3]. In addition, bio-potential signal also is one of the examples of human-machine interface using of nonverbal information such as electrooculography (EOG), electromyography (EMG), and electroencephalography (EEG) signals [4],[5]. The EOG and EMG signals are caused by physiological changes; many studies have focused on using EMG signals for the human-machine interface. The EOG signal is more suitable as a mode of the interface for those wheelchair users who are categorized as tetraplegia. A person who is categorized under tetraplegia is known to have disability on the torso and lower extremities, partially or total losses; such that their eye movement could be benefited for their mobility. This paper has investigated that different EOG signals obtained from four different places around eye; (right, left, up, and down) have lead to different level of distance and rotation of wheelchair. Those four signals are correspond to different levels of right and left steer, forward and backward motion. There are many research that have concentrated in making use of the eye movement signals for tetraplegia, [6], [7], [8] despite of the complexity that arises when analyzing the eye movement signals. In this case the constraints are made such that the eye movement is assumes to be very limited to; (straight-to-up, straight-to-down, straight-to-right and straightto-left). The issue of other eye movement patterns, i.e. not so straight or in diagonal direction of the eye movement signals are not discussed in this paper, which will be catered in future research. It is very crucial in translating the eye movement into a correct motion input. Any wrong judgment of eye movement input classification will lead to a fault motion instruction of the wheelchair. This can be catered by having an intelligent classification method, i.e fuzzy logic, which is separately discussed in another paper.

This paper is organized as follows: Section II presents the description of electrooculography (EOG) while Section III presents the EOG data acquisition using g.USBamp and MATLAB. In

Section IV, the modeling of wheelchair using MSC. VisualNastran 4D is presented. While in Section V, the EOG signals result and also the relationship between inputs and distances and the angles position using simulation is performed and followed by the conclusion.

II. ELECTROOCULOGRAPHY (EOG)

Electrooculography is a technique for measuring the resting potential [9], [10]. A resting potential is generated by an electric dipole formed by a positive cornea and a negative cornea [11]. This resulting signal which is called EOG is essentially a record of the difference in electrical voltage between the front and back of the eye that is correlated with the eyeball movement and obtained by electrodes placed on the skin near the eye.

EOG signal is acquired by placing Ag/AgCI electrodes around the eyes. Silver (Ag) – Silver Chloride (AgCI) electrodes have been used, which produce low levels of junction potential, motion artifacts and drift in the direct current signal [12]. There are two channels of bipolar EOG signal are acquired for analysis, which are horizontal channels and vertical channels. The horizontal channel EOG reflects horizontal eyeball movements while the vertical channel EOG reflects the vertical eyeball movements.

Two disposable Ag/AgCI electrodes were placed above and below the right eye to measure the vertical EOG while two other electrodes were placed at the outer canthi to measure the horizontal EOG. The illustration of electrodes placements is shown in Figure 1. The reflected eye signal direction depends on the position of electrodes which can be shown in Table 1.

The ground is needed in order to create a safety electrical path off and protect the amplifier [13]. On the other hand, the reference point is needed to allow a known starting point for all EOG measurements in the horizontal and vertical planes. It is to make sure all eye signals data are recorded including a small EOG signal.

III. EOG DATA ACQUISITION

a) G.USBamp and MATLAB

G.USBamp from G.TEC Medical Engineering GMBH is a high performance and high accuracy biopotential amplifier and acquisition/processing system [14]. It allows the investigation of brain, heart and muscle activity, eye movement, respiration, galvanic skin response and many other physiological and physical parameters. In addition, g.USBamp amplifier is a USB 2.0 enabled and comes with 24-bit of 16 simultaneously sampled bio-potential channels. A total of 4 independent grounds, guarantee no interference between the recorded signals are connected. The amplifier is then can be connect easily with the computer and can be used for data recording. In order to process the data, the g.USBamp can be configured easily and set via MATLAB/SIMULINK Version 7.0.1 (R14SP1) and LABVIEW.

b) Basic data acquisition of eye movement

In this experiment, g.USBamp was used to acquire the eye movement data. It has been interfaced with MATLAB/SIMULINK. The experiment set up is shown in Figure 2. The data was collected in 20s for each eye movement.

In the setup, the g.USBamp was plugged into the computer with MATLAB/SIMULINK. Then, the Ag/AgCl electrodes were connected to g.USBamp. In this experiment, there were two channels used; Channel 1 and Channel 2 of port A. The others two electrodes were grounded and referenced. The simple simulation diagram as in Figure 3 has been used to collect the data from the eye movement. There were parameters of the g.USBamp block function that can be set as in Figure 4. The parameters include the channels selection, bandpass and notch parameters setting. In this experiment, the band pass filter with a range between 0.5 and 30 Hz is applied with a sample rate of 256 Hz. This is because EOG signal information is mainly contained in low frequencies. In this experiment, the body (normally hand) must also be grounded in the sense that the hand should touch the g.USBamp to avoid the disturbance and noise.

EOG signals acquired in this experiment were collected using an array of six 35 mm Ag/AgCl electrodes from Salus Healthcare. The horizontal signals that represent the leftward and rightward direction were collected using one electrode on the edge of the right eye socket and another one on left eye socket. Similarly, the vertical signals that represent the upward and downward direction are collected using electrode on the above of right eyebrow and another on the lower edge of the right eye socket as shown in Figure 5. The fifth and sixth electrodes, the signal represents as reference and ground. Both electrodes are located near the right and left side of ears. The eye movement data acquisition can be seen in Figure 6 to Figure 9.

In Figure 6, it shows the eye signal data when the eye moves downward. The minimum peak

is almost -173 μ V. The minimum peak show that when the eye moves downward, the signal will reflect to negative direction. The eye signal is reflected to the upward direction can be seen in Figure 7. It represents the eye movement to the upward direction that will give the positive maximum peak accordingly. The value of this peak is 150 μ V.

In Figure 8, when the eye moves rightward, the signal will be reflected to the right direction. From the graph, the maximum peak is having positive direction same as when eye moves upward, but the value for this peak, is smaller than the peak value during the upward eye movement. The maximum peak is 80 μ V. Similarly, the eye signal when the eye moves to the left is shown in Figure 9, which has the minimum peak (negative), and the value at this peak is smaller than the minimum peak during downward eye movement. From this graph, the minimum peak is - 80 μ V.

c) Different levels of eye movement signals

There are different strengths of eye movement for different people. This experiment was done to analyze different levels of eye movement which will lead to different control signals at later. In this experiment, the goggle was used to differentiate the different levels for eye movement. On the goggle, the position was marked to three levels as in Figure 10. The objective of this step is to know the effect of eye movement signals on the different levels of eye movement strength. For each level, the distance between levels to another level was made 7 mm. The summary for these three positions for each eye signal is shown in Table 2. In this experiment, five readings were taken for each level of eye movement in 20 s. Then these readings were averaged as in Table 3.

The average of readings for each position = $(1^{st} \text{ reading} + 2^{nd} \text{ reading} + 3^{rd} \text{ reading} + 4^{th} \text{ reading} + 5^{th} \text{ reading})/5.$

In Figure 11, eye down_3 has highest strength input of EOG signal compared with the other two level of eye signal which give the highest peak level. From the graph, the input of EOG at eye down_1 is -90 μ V. At the eye down_2, the input of EOG is -150 μ V and at the eye down_3, the input of EOG signal is -170 μ V.

Figure 12 shows the eye up_3 has the highest input of EOG signal compared with the other two level of eye signal. From the graph, the input of EOG at eye up_1 is 90 μ V. At the eye up_2, the input of EOG is 110 μ V and at the eye up_3, the input of EOG signal is 180 μ V. While in Figure 13, the eye right_3 has the highest input of EOG signal compared with the other two level of eye signal. From the graph,

the input of EOG at eye right 1 is 65 μ V. At the eye right_2, the input of EOG is 80 μ V and at the eye right 3, the input of EOG signal is 90 μ V.

It can be seen from Figure 14, the eye left_3 has the highest negative peak of signal compared with the other two level of eye signal. From the graph, the input of EOG at eye left_1 is -65 μ V. At the eye left_2, the input of EOG is -75 μ V and at the eye left_ 3, the input of EOG signal is -80 μ V. Those signals will be used to control wheelchair motion upon suitable signal conditioning and a proper classification.

IV. WHEELCHAIR MODELLING

In this research, the model of a standard wheelchair with basis shapes of frame was designed using MSC VisualNastran 4D [15]. MSc. VisualNastran 4D (MSC.N4D) is software used for design and engineering professional developing products involving assemblies of 3D parts [16].

This software can measure forces, torques, friction, collisions, and also velocity. It is also capable to be integrated with MATLAB for control. The wheelchair with human model as in Figure 15 was used as a plant in this research. The model was further integrated with EOG signal for control purpose as shown in Figure 16. The data obtained from eye movement signal was fed into the developed wheelchair model. This was done offline in initial stage.

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

At this stage, the data obtained from eye movement is fed into MATLAB/SIMULINK for simulation. The simulation exercise was done to investigate on how far the wheelchair can move based on eye signals that have been processed and conditioned. In the simulation, the transfer function of motor was used before it was fed into the model. The gain was also added to see significant impact on the distance travelled of wheelchair since the eye movement signals are very small (in μ V).

From the eye movement signals, the vertical and horizontal positions of electrodes that gave the maximum or minimum peak accordingly will determine how far the distance or rotation of wheelchair is. Thus the minimum peak or maximum fraction block was used to condition the signals. However, eye movement signal that used only starts from 5s onwards in 20s. All data below 5s are not used and thus were removed. Figure 17 shows block diagram for the open loop on the effect of simulation conditioned eye movement signals on the wheelchair motion.

In modeling of the motor, the transfer function was obtained as in Equation (1). The followings are the parameters that were used in the transfer function. The input is the voltage (V) while the output is angular speed (ω).

$$\frac{\omega(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{K_i}{(J_m L_a s^2 + (J_m R_a + B_m L_a + B_m R_a)s + K_i K_b)}$$
(1)

where

w(s) = rotor angular velocity V(s) = applied voltage $K_i = torque constant J_m$ = rotor inertia $L_a = armature inductance R_a$ = armature resistance $B_m = viscous - friction coefficient$ $K_b = back emf constant$

In this system, $K_i = 1 \text{ Nm/A}$, $J_m = 0.01 \text{ kg.m}^2$, $L_a = 0.5 \text{ H}$, $R_a = 0.1 \text{ Ohm}$, $B_m = 0.1 \text{ Nms}$ and $K_b = 0.1001 \text{ Nm/A}$ were used. Therefore, the transfer function of motor for this simulation is obtained as follow,

$$\frac{\omega(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{0.005s^{2} + 0.06s + 0.1001}$$

(a) Relationship between EOG signal as the inputs (V) versus distances (meter) *i*) *Wheelchair distance travelled by downward eye movement input signal*

In order to get the relationship between EOG signals as an input with distance travelled by wheelchair, the graph for each distance versus each eye movement input was plotted. Different eye movement strength levels were simulated to get the distance/rotation output of wheelchair. This is only an open loop simulation without any feedback and position control.

The graph in Figure 18 shows the different distances obtained with three different levels of eye movement. The eye movement signals used is from the vertical position of electrodes, where the wheelchair moves to backward direction. From this graph, when the eye moves at position at eye down_1 as in Figure 10, the distance travelled by wheelchair is the shortest as compared to the distance travelled using eye down_2 and eye down_3. The distance travelled more backward at the position eye down_2 and eye down_3. The negative sign shows the wheelchair is moving in the

backward direction. The output distances are tabulated in Table 4. Notice that the distance in Figure 18 is keep an increasing due to open loop system that is currently considered.

Figure 19 shows that the different levels of eye movement input signals upon signal conditioning. The negative sign in the eye movement input signal shows that there is minimum peak. As shown in Table 5, the eye position of eye down_1 is having highest magnitude value than the inputs at eye down_2 and eye down_3. The higher the magnitude of the peak, the longer distance will be as in Figure 20. Thus, it can be said that;

distance travelled at eye down_1 < distance travelled at eye down_2 < distance travelled at eye down_3, and

linput of EOG signal at eye down_1 | < *linput of EOG signal at eye down_2* | < *linput of EOG signal at eye down_3* |

ii) Wheelchair distance travelled by upward eye movement input signal

Figure 21 shows different distances travelled with different levels of upward eye movement. When the eye moves upward, the wheelchair will move to forward direction. In this graph, when the eye moves to eye up_1 as in Figure 10, the distance travelled shorter than the distance at eye up_2 and eye up_3. Therefore, the output distances for upward eye movement are shown in Table 6.

On the other hand, the eye movement input signals upon signal conditioning is shown in Figure 22. The summary of upward eye movement signal strength is tabulated in Table 7. On the eye position of eye signal up_1, the input has lowest value than the inputs at position of eye up_2 and eye up_3 positions. In this case, the higher magnitude of eye signal the longer will be the distance as in Figure 23. Thus, it can be said that;

distance travelled at eye $up_1 < distance$ travelled at eye $up_2 < distance$ travelled at eye up_3 , and

 $|input of EOG signal at eye up_1| < |input of EOG signal at eye up_2| < |input of EOG signal at eye up_3|$

(b) Relationship between EOG signal as the inputs (V) versus angle (degree) *i*. *Wheelchair angle steered by leftward eye movement input signal*

The eye movement signals obtained from the horizontal position of electrodes will represent the right and the left directions. The same approach was conducted as before. Therefore, to relate between leftward eye movement degree rotation and the input signals, the graph has been plotted for each leftward input signals.

The graph in Figure 24 shows different angles obtained with three different levels of leftward eye movement. From this graph, when the eye moves at position of eye left_1 as in Figure 10, the smallest angle is steered by wheelchair. The angle steered more leftward when the angle at the position of eye left_2 and eye left_3 are executed. The negative sign shows the wheelchair is moving in negative rotation angle. Therefore, from the graph shown, the output angles are shown in Table 8.

Figure 25 shows different levels of eye movements input signal upon signal conditioning. The negative sign in the eye movement signals shows that there is minimum peak as shown in Table 9. On the eye position of eye left_1, has smallest magnitude value of eye signal than the inputs at position of eye left_2 and eye left_3. The higher magnitude of the peak, the angle will be bigger as in Figure 26.

angle steered at eye left_1 < angle steered at left_2 < angle steered at eye left_3, and |input of EOG signal at eye left_1| < |input of EOG signal at eye left_2| < |input of EOG signal at eye left_3|

ii. Wheelchair angle steered by rightward eye movement input signal

Similarly, when the eye moves to the rightward direction then the wheelchair will be steered to the right as Figure 27. In this graph, when the eye moves at position of eye right_1 as in Figure 10, the angle steered smaller than the angles at position of eye right_2 and eye right_3. Therefore, the output angles for rightward eye movement are shown in Table 10.

On the other hand, the eye movement input signals upon conditioning is shown in Figure 28. It can be seen that, the different level of rightward eye movements will also give the different inputs of eye signals shown on section 4c. Therefore, the summary of rightward eye movement signals strength is tabulated in Table 11.

On the eye position of eye right_1, the input has lowest value of eye signal than the inputs at position of eye right_2 and eye right_3. In this case, the higher magnitude of eye signal, the larger will be the angle as in Figure 29. Thus, it can be said that;

angle steered at eye right_1 < angle steered at right_2 < angle steered at eye right_3, and $|input of EOG signal at eye right_1| < |input of EOG signal at eye right_2| < |input of EOG signal at eye right_3|.$

In fact, the tetraplegia, who can use eye movement as a communication tool is capable to have a different levels of input. If the eye far from the center position the magnitude of the peak is maximum. The maximum positive peak will give the longest distance for eye moves upward and the biggest angle for eye moves to rightward direction. However, the maximum negative peak will give the longest distance for eye moves to leftward direction but in opposite direction.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Eye movement can be a very significant communication tool among tetraplegia (quadriplegia) for wheelchair control. The fact is that different tetraplegic may have different eye movement strengths to be used for commanding the wheelchair to move. This will lead to different distance travelled (used for forward and backward motion) from the vertical position of electrodes and different rotational angles (used for left and right steering motion) from the horizontal position of electrodes. Simulation exercise has been conducted using the experiment data obtained from the eye movement signal with proper signal conditionings. It has been shown that the eye movement signals are able to be used among tetraplegia for wheelchair control.

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Figure 1: Placement of electrodes

Table 1: Reflected eye signal direction

Point	Position	Reflected signal direction
А	Above eyebrow	Up
В	Below eye	Down
С	Right eye canthi	Right
D	Left eye canthi	Left
Е	Near to right ear	Reference
F	Near to left ear	Ground



er.

Figure 2: Experimental setup



Figure 3: g.USBamp block diagram in simulink

COMMOD GROUP	d: Common refer	rence:	Sampling rate (Hz)	Frame length:		Analog out	nut	
Group A	Group A		258			sine		
Group B	Group B					onto	10.00	
Group C	Group C		Options:	Mode:		Amplitude:	100	(mV)
Group D	Group D		Counter	 Measur Test sig 	re gnal	Offset:	0	(mV)
Serial number:	UA-2004.07.02	12	Slave			Frequency:	10	(Hz)
CHANNEL sele	ction: :Н03 CH05 CH :Н04 CH06 CH	107 _ сноэ 108 _ сн10	CH11 CH1	3 CH15 4 CH16				
CHANNEL sele CH01 CH02 CH02 CH02 CH02 CH02 CH02	ction: :H03CH05CH :H04CH06CH IANNEL SETTINGS	нотсноэ 108сн1 о 5:	CH11 CH1	3CH15 4CH16 Ch#BinHigh	0000	Lowpass	Nata	þ
CHANNEL sele	etion: :H03 _ CH05 _ CH :H04 _ CH06 _ CH (ANNEL SETTINGS	107 _ сноэ 108 _ сн1о 5:	CH11 CH1	3 CH15 4 CH16 Ch#BipHigh	pass	Lowpass	Note	h
CHANNEL sele CH01 C CH02 C Specify CH Bipolar:	etion: :H03 CH05 CH :H04 CH06 CH :ANNEL SETTINGS	107 СНОЭ 108 ССН10 5:	Shortcut	3 CH15 4 CH16 Ch#BipHigh 1 O HP: 2 O HP:	ipass 0. 500 / 0. 500 /	Lowpass LP: 30.000 LP: 30.000	Note 60 60	h
CHANNEL sele CH01 C CH02 C Specify CH Bipolar: Bandpass:	etion: 2H03 CH05 CH 2H04 CH06 CH HANNEL SETTINGS 0 HP: 0.100 / LP: 0.000	107 CH09 108 CH10 3:	CH11 CH1 CH12 CH1 CH12 CH1 apply >> apply >>	3 CH15 4 CH16 Ch#BipHigh L O HP: 2 O HP:	pass	Lowpass LP: 30.000 LP: 30.000	Notc 60 60	h

Figure 4: Parameter setting



Figure 5: EOG electrode positions



Figure 6: Eye movement in downward direction



Figure 8: Eye movement in rightward direction



Figure 9: Eye movement in leftward direction



Figure 10: The different levels of eye signal movement marked on goggle Table 2: The distance of different level of position

Position	Distance
From 0 to up1, down1, left1, right1	7 mm
From 0 to up2, down2, left2, right2	14 mm
From 0 to up3, down3, left3, right3	21 mm

	1 st	2 nd	3rd	4^{th}	5^{th}	Average eye movement signals
Up	a 1	a 2	a 3	a 4	a 5	$(a_1+a_2+a_3+a_4+a_5)/5$
Down	bı	b2	b 3	b4	b 5	$(b_1+b_2+b_3+b_4+b_5)/5$
Right	c ₁	c ₂	c3	c4	c5	$(c_1+c_2+c_3+c_4+a_5)/5$
Left	d_1	d ₂	d3	d ₄	d5	$(d_1+d_2+d_3+d_4+d_5)/5$

Table 3: Average of eye movement signals





Average for each level of upward eye movement



Figure 12: Measured upward eye movement signals



Figure 13: Measured rightward eye movement signals

Figure 14: Measured leftward eye movement signals

Figure 15: The modeling of wheelchair [12]

Figure 16: Open loop block diagram form EOG signal to wheelchair

Figure 17: Block diagram relating EOG and wheelchair.

Figure 18: The distances of downward eye movement Table 4: The output distances of downward eye movement

Down_1	- 0.27 m
Down_2	- 0.43 m
Down_3	- 0.50 m

Figure 20: The distances versus inputs of downward eye movement

down_1	-0.8 x 10 ⁻⁴ V
down_2	-1.3 x 10 ⁻⁴ V
down_3	$-1.5 \times 10^{-4} V$

Table 5: The eye inputs of downward eye movement

Figure 21: The distances of upward eye movement Table

6: The output distances	of upward	eye movement
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up_1	0.27 m
up_2	0.37 m
up_3	0.57 m

Figure 22: The inputs of upward eye movement

Figure 23: The distances versus inputs of upward eye movement

Figure 24: The angles of leftward eye movement

left_1	3.75 [°]
left_2	3.85°
left_3	4.0 [°]

Table 8: The output angles of leftward eye movement

Figure 25: The inputs of leftward eye movement Table 9: The eye inputs of leftward eye movement

left_1	$-7.20 \times 10^{-5} V$
left_2	$-7.35 \times 10^{-5} V$
left_3	-7.40 x 10 ⁻⁵ V

Figure 26: The steering angles versus inputs of leftward eye movement

Figure 27: The angles of rightward eye movement Table 10: The output angles of rightward eye movement

right_1	1.5°
right_2	2.1
right_3	2.3

Figure 29: The steering angles versus inputs of rightward eye movement