

TARGET SELECTION USING SINGLE ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAM  
ELECTRODE BASED ON MENTAL TASK

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To my beloved  
Azmy Abdul Aziz, Wan Hindon Wan Sulong,  
Ahmad Sazali Senawi together with my 3 children  
and  
Norlaili Mat Safri (Dr.)

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## ABSTRACT

Electroencephalogram (EEG)-based BCI studies have been done since early 21st century. The main focus is to improve in areas of neuroscience. It has led to the use of electrical activity on brain into controlling devices such as wheelchair, cursor movement on computer screen, etc. The purpose of this study is to detect the brain activation on scalp by EEG task-based Brain Computer Interface (BCI) using wireless control robot to determine one scalp location which will give signals that can be used to control the wireless robot without subject training. EEG was measured in 8 normal subjects for control and two tasks conditions. In control condition, subjects were asked to relax but in Task 1 condition, subjects were asked to imagine a star rotating clockwise at position of 45 degree direction pointed by the wireless robot where at this angle the target is located. Same conditions applied for Task 2 but subjects were asked to solve multiplication number 13 without saying or moving, just solve in their mind. At position 0 and 90 degrees angle for both tasks, subjects were asked to relax since there is no target on these directions. Using EEG spectral power (analysis I) and normalization (analysis II), the optimum location for these two tasks were detected and compared. For Task 1, the significant brain activation occurred at position  $F_8$ , which is at the frontal cortex area and the significant rhythm was alpha frequency band with  $P < 0.001$  and  $F_{(10,70)} = 5.31$ . However, Task 2 which is mental task of solving multiplication number did not give significant results as Task 1 ( $P > 0.05$ ). In conclusion, it is possible to direct wireless robot towards direction of target location using an imaginary star rotation movement without prior training given to subject and with only single electrode.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian Electroencephalogram (EEG) berasaskan *Brain Computer Interface* (BCI) telah dilakukan sejak abad ke-21. Focus utama adalah untuk meningkatkan bidang neurosains. Ia telah mengembangkan ilmu aktiviti elektrik pada otak untuk mengawal peralatan seperti kerusi roda, pergerakan kursor pada skrin komputer dan lain-lain. Tujuannya adalah untuk menentukan satu lokasi di kulit kepala yang memberikan isyarat yang boleh digunakan bagi mengawal robot tanpa wayar menggunakan EEG dan BCI tanpa perlu melatih subjek. EEG diuji kepada 8 orang biasa untuk mengawal minda dalam keadaan rehat dan tugas. Terdapat dua keadaan tugas iaitu Tugas 1 dan Tugas 2. Subjek telah diminta untuk berehat pada keadaan rehat. Dalam ujikaji Tugas 1, subjek diminta untuk membayangkan bintang berputar mengikut arah jam apabila robot tanpa wayar berada dalam kedudukan 45 darjah di mana sasaran terletak pada arah ini. Begitu juga Tugas 2 tetapi subjek diminta untuk menyelesaikan beberapa sifir 13 tanpa mengatakan atau bergerak, hanya menyelesaikan dalam fikiran mereka. Pada kedudukan 0 dan 90 darjah untuk kedua-dua tugas, subjek diminta untuk berehat tanpa memikirkan apa-apa kerana tiada sasaran pada arah ini. Menggunakan kuasa spektrum EEG (analisis I) dan normalisasi (analisis II), lokasi yang optimum bagi kedua-dua tugas dikesan dan dibandingkan. Sebagai keputusannya, analisis II telah menunjukkan bahawa pada Tugas 1, pengaktifan otak yang ketara berlaku di  $F_8$  yang berada dalam kawasan korteks hadapan dan berlaku di frekuensi alfa dengan  $P < 0.001$  dan  $F_{(10,70)} = 5.31$ . Pada kedudukan ini, isyarat dari otak dapat mengawal robot ke arah yang diperlukan dengan memberi isyarat yang betul dan tepat bagi robot bergerak ke arah sasaran. Walau bagaimanapun Tugas 2 tidak memberikan hasil yang ketara seperti Tugas 1 untuk kedua-dua analisis dengan nilai  $P > 0.05$ . Sebagai rumusan, adalah tidak mustahil untuk mengarahkan robot tanpa wayar ke arah lokasi sasaran menggunakan imaginasi gerakan bintang berputar tanpa perlu melatih subjek dan hanya menggunakan satu elektrod.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

Electroencephalogram (EEG) and Brain-computer Interface (BCI) are well known in areas related to medical such as biomedical, neurosciences, cardiology and etc. The researches in this area is becoming more crucial and important especially to people with motor disabilities such as people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), people who has brainstem stroke and people who are paralyzed. Therefore the purpose of this study is to develop a system that can read and record EEG signal from a patient or subject, then translate the signal into a command that can control tools or devices such as wheelchair, robot arm, mobile robot, cursor movement and others. This chapter tells about the history of EGG and BCI together with problem statement of the study. Then the objectives, scope of study, significance of study and the organization of this study thesis are also explained here.

#### **1.2 Overview of EEG and BCI Research History**

Electroencephalogram (EEG) is a test to measure brain electrical activity or a procedure to measure electrical signals from scalp produced by monitoring neurons activities in brain, captured non-invasively which is rather safe, doable and low risk procedure where the electrodes are placed on the scalp without the need of surgery.

This test has been done since 1842 by Richard Caton who was the first to record the spontaneous electrical activity on brain [1]. However Hippocrates in the century of 430-350 BC has been able to espouse many in his writings about the brain function which is responsible for the behaviours and functions ascribed to the heart [2]. Therefore it can be seen here that research in brain areas has been started since many years ago. Then a German psychiatrist Hans Berger was known as the first person to report human EEG in 1929 where he recorded the electrical activity from the skull and reported brain activity changes according to the functional state of the brain such as sleep, hypnotize or during epilepsy [3]. Afterwards in 1957, an American named William Grey Walter used cutting edge electronic to built the first brain topography machine that was able to build maps of cerebral activity and it has revealed as a useful tool in the diagnosis of mental diseases (e.g. epilepsy). These examples of studies and researches from these people show the importance of this topic to be developed and explored. Up until now the research on EEG is still ongoing and developing along with the new technologies advancement [4]. The discovery of electroencephalography has lead to the advancement of neuroscience and of neurologic and neurosurgical everyday practice, especially patient with seizures, brain tumors and degenerative brain changes.

On the other hand, Brain-computer Interface (BCI) or also known as neural interface or brain-machine interface (BMI) is a direct communication link between brain and external electronic devices. BCI has been introduced in 1970s. Earliest paper describing a BCI system was published in 1973 by J. J. Vidal where he started to evaluate the feasibility and practicality of utilizing the brain computer communication [5]. BCI2000 was introduced in the era of millennium where it shows the communication between the brain signal to control robot such as a wheelchair. The BCI2000 is used to create BCI systems for a variety of brain signals, processing methods, and applications. Later after year of 2003, BCI research has grown substantially [6]. People with motor disabilities, people who are totally paralyzed or people who lost control over every motor output can still have chance to communicate with outside world by controlling external devices using their brain signals providing that they do not have any mental issues. As a result, nowadays the research has lead to applications with more advanced and useful features to these targeted group of people.

There are several ongoing research regarding to this topic, however current system has limitations and previous researchers encounter certain problems such as location of the probe that can affect the quality of signal recording. If the probe was not placed at the correct and exact location, the desired signal from the brain will be difficult to read [7]. Too many electrodes may carry strong disadvantages since they are of difficult placement, resulting in time-consuming and complex attachment procedures.

During the experiment the patient may have difficulties of feeling fatigue for the experiment that requires training beforehand. The procedure of setting up and connecting the electrodes on human scalp has led to longer time taken before starting the procedure. Feeling fatigue can cause inaccurate signal produced during the experiment as reported on paper from [8]. Too many electrodes attached on the scalp also cause problem to the system. The signals are interfering with each other causing noise and irrelevant data. Time taken to put on the electrodes on scalp is longer and leads the subject to feel exhausted.

Some of the procedure requires training protocol before taking the real data. It is because the subject has to focus better on the experiment. Therefore it requires longer time of training for the experiment[9]. The training may require to be done at many times until the desired signal is ideal. Without the training, subject can also produce good signal to control output devices [10]. Therefore subject can save a lot of time during the experiment and allows faster set up which consist less time taken and also create a robust system by eliminating training process.

These reasons causes this study to give solutions in order to meet the objectives. Next section highlighted the problem statement of this study.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

Identified limitations of current system from previous researchers on the effect of probe location to the quality of signal recording, has lead to this study mission

which is selecting target using minimal or single EEG electrode. Too many electrodes attached on the scalp also cause problem to the system. Subject will feel exhausted, heavy load on the head because of the configuration set up. The signals are interfering with each other causes noise and interference signal. The displacement of the electrode can be reduced as the electrode needed is less. With less probe involved and placed at the correct and exact location, the desired signal from the brain may have better performance.

Difficulties of feeling fatigue during the experiment can cause inaccurate signal produced during the experiment. With the simple, easy and less set up time, the subject or disable person will be more relax and less nervous during the execution on using the system.

Longer time of training for the experiment has concern this study to approach on a system without the need of training. As mentioned in section 1.2, subject still can produce good signal to control output devices. Therefore a lot of time can be saved during the experiment and allows faster set up by starting the experiment without the training.

Therefore this study identified and considered these disadvantages of EEG-based BCI and pursued towards sustainable, efficient and ergonomic BCI systems which is not only reliable at research laboratory but also reliable in practical and daily real life.

#### **1.4 Objective**

The main objective of this research is to define the best location on scalp position where the control of the device such as robot points towards target location successfully. Several key points that contribute to the main objective of this research work are to use brain wave to control robot movements for target detection, develop classification algorithm to control robot using EEG signals and BCI and to develop a faster and more convenient method for disable people by using only 1

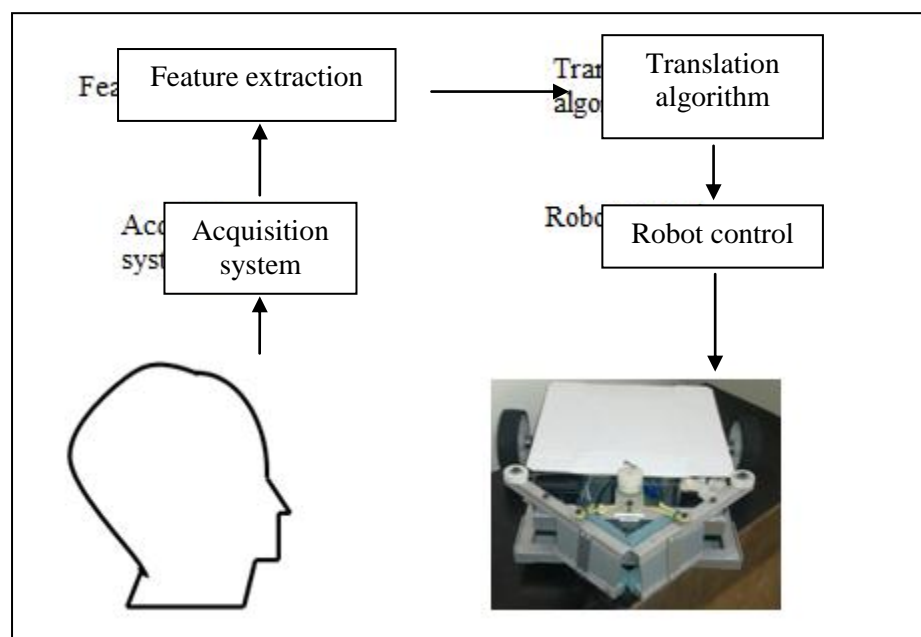


electrode/channel, non-invasive and without subject training. In other words EEG-based BCI technology reduces number of electrode used, increase the speed to recognize the direction of target and increase its accuracy and efficiency.

## 1.5 Scope of Study

As this study persist, the procedure used is using EEG signal which is a non-invasive method, without subject training and the control of wireless robot by human by EEG signal. The collection of EEG signals were from healthy adult human subjects aged between 23 to 33 years old which is a group of adults. During the experiment, there are no training involved and subject has to do task-dependent brain imagery as a method and tool to control output devices for example, wireless mobile robot.

The acquisition system contains EEG signals where it is a non-invasive BCI. The EEG signal was recorded from the scalp through 19 electrode channels and digitized using acquisition system from the EEG machine.



**Figure 1.1** Scope of study flow

After the collecting and recording data from subject, data then go through FFT (Fast Fourier Transform) analysis which also known as feature or parameter extraction. The digitized signals were manipulated to feature extraction procedures, such as power spectral analysis. After such feature extraction, the system has to go through translation algorithm where C language has been used in programming the program to analyze signals and LabVIEW program was used to control robot. The PIC on the robot was programmed and has enough information to know the direction of desired target location.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study aims to help people with motor disabilities to communicate with outside world rather than just being lock inside their own body since their body parts are malfunction. This study can also be as a platform as new paradigm for assistive medical services, helping to improve people's quality of life in their daily activities and even in gaming. Other researches can have more input and data that can be compared or study further about the location on scalp that helps getting the best EEG signals during specific task or task dependent experiment in BCI system. At the same time it supports previous researchers on their findings and help other researches on doing further and advanced studies in this area.

In developing country like Malaysia, more research is needed in this area since it can help to improve the rehab facilities for disable people to be more advance and with better infrastructure according their needs. Local people will be aware on how to treat or communicate with people with motor disabilities and vice versa for people with motor disabilities who will communicate back using their devices controlled by their brain waves.

## **1.7 Organization of Thesis**

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Following this first chapter of introduction chapter is Chapter 2, which presents some background information of the study and literature reviews of related research of EEG, BCI, types of neuro analysis techniques and motor imagery with visual imagery task of geometric rotation and multiplication numbers.

In Chapter 3, we described briefly about methodology used in this study. Overall system design and implementation are described from software and hardware perspective.

Chapter 4 discusses the findings during experiments and result of electrode position on scalp. This chapter shows every steps of feature extraction and translation algorithm and also the statistical analysis involved.

Chapter 5 concludes research findings from this study supported with previous research findings and recommendations of some ideas for future work.

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