Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences, 10(1) January 2016, Pages: 196-200

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

ISSN:1991-8178 EISSN: 2309-8414
Journal home page: www.ajbasweb.com

Estimation of the Information Transfer Rate in the Dual-Mode Tongue Driver System Forsevere Disabled People

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 10 December 2015
Accepted 28 January 2016
Available online 10 February 2016

Keywords:
wireless sensor networks, Performance evaluation,BNEP protocol, Information Transfer Rate

ABSTRACT

Nowaday's alternative control for computer access and wheeled mobility for the disabled people are considered the most important for today's active lifestyle since they can improve the users' quality of life (QoL) by easing two major limitations: effective communication and independent mobility. In this paper it has been showed that a new wireless and wearable human computer interface called the dual-mode Tongue Drive System (d TDS), allows people with severe disabilities to use computers more effectively with increased speed, flexibility, usability, and independence through their tongue motion and speech. The effectiveness of the d TDS is proved by calculating the Information Transfer Rate using the Ns2 simulator.The high Information Transfer Rate proves that the d TDS is better than either unimodal forms based on the tongue motion or speech alone, particularly in completing tasks that require both pointing and text entry.

INTRODUCTION

A wireless sensor network is a collection of nodes organized into a cooperative network. Each node consists of processing capability (one or more microcontrollers, CPUs or DSP chips), may contain multiple types of memory (program, data, and flash memories), have a power source and accommodate various sensors and actuators. A wireless sensor network (WSN) consists of spatially distributed autonomous sensors to monitor physical Or environmental conditions, such as temperature, sound, pressure, etc. and to cooperatively pass their data through the network to a main location. The more modern networks are bi-directional, also enabling control of sensor activity.

Individuals with severe disabilities, such as those paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injuries (SCI) at levels C4 and above, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or traumatic brain injuries (TBI), heavily rely on assistive technologies (AT) to carry out various tasks in their everyday lives. Among ATs, those providing Computers and internet are regarded as great equalizers that allow all individuals to have similar vocational and recreational opportunities. It is generally accepted that once an individual with disability is "enabled" to move around and effectively access computers or smart phones, he/she can virtually do most of the things that able-bodied individuals with educational, administrative, or scholarly careers do on a daily basis.

The tongue, as one of the most flexible and capable parts of human body, has been considered as a suitable candidate for sophisticated motor control tasks by various researchers inthe fields of AT and human computer interaction (HCI). By taking advantage of the rich capabilities of tongue, an existing wireless and wearable tongue-operated human computer interface, called the Tongue Drive System (TDS) is developed which can

To Cite This Article: M. Keerthana and D.Pradeepa., Estimation of the Information Transfer Rate in the Dual-Mode Tongue Driver System Forsevere Disabled People. ***Aust. J. Basic & Appl. Sci.,*** *10(1): 196-200, 2016*

enable individuals with severephysical disabilities to control their environments, access computers, and drive powered wheelchairs through their volitional tongue movements.

The Information Transfer Rate of the TDS is obtained by simulation process(Ns2).Ns-2 is a widely used tool to simulate the behavior of wired and wireless networks. NS2 is an open-source event-driven simulator designed specifically for research in computer communication networks

- Time taken for signal processing is high
- Follows single mode operation

The above fig: 1shows the Information transfer Rate analysis of the tongue driven sytem. It proves that the information or the data is transferred from the person to the system in 200ms.

The above fig: 1shows the Information transfer Rate analysis of the Speech Recognition (SR) technology. It proves that the information or the data is transferred from the person to the system in 200ms.

The d TDS, which block diagram, is shown in Fig.3, operates based on the information collected from two independent input channels; free voluntary tongue motion and speech. The two input channels are processed independently, while being simultaneously accessible to the users. The primary d TDS modality involves tracking tongue motion in the 3D oral space using a small magnetic tracer attached to the tongue via adhesives, piercing, or implantation and an array of magnetic sensors, similar to the original TDS.

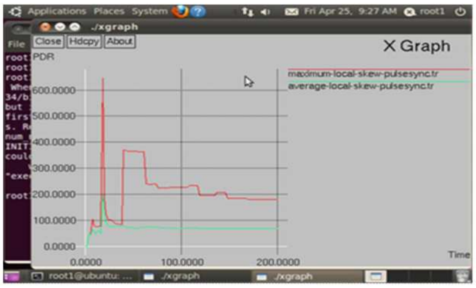


Fig. 1: ITR analysis of the unimodal TDSsystem.

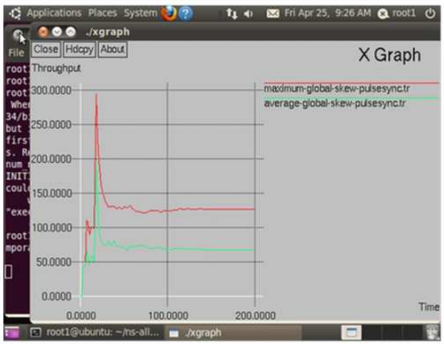


Fig. 2: ITR analysis of the SR technology.

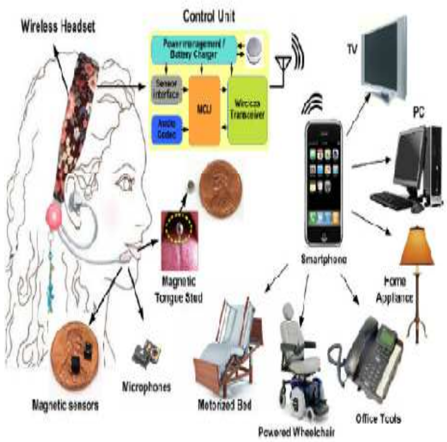
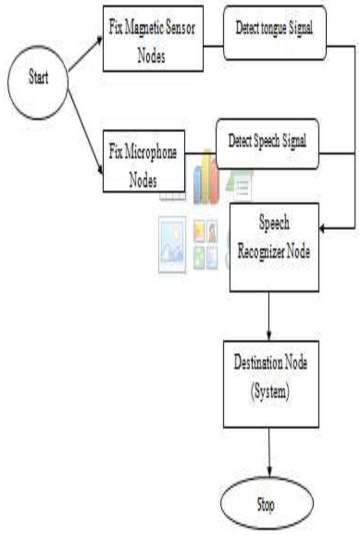


Fig. 3: Pictorial Representation of the dual-mode Tongue Drive System (d TDS).

The secondary d TDS input modality is based on the user's speech, captured using a microphone, conditioned, digitized, and wirelessly transmitted to the Smartphone/PC along with the magnetic sensor data. Both TDS and SR modalities are simultaneously accessible to the d TDS users, particularly for mouse navigation and typing, respectively, and they have the flexibility to choose their desired input mode for any specific task without external assistance. The tongue-based primary modality is always active and regarded as the default input modality.



Overview

Dual mode Tongue Drive system is mainly used for interfacing disabled peoples with computer. The setup consists of a magnetic sensor node,user micro phone node, SR node and a receiver microphone node. The disabled persons can easily utilize this for interacting with PC/smart phone. The user first gives the command by his tongue movement or by his speech. The tongue movement is traced by a magnetic sensor node. Then his speech was captured by microphone node.

Now the magnetic sensor node and the microphone nodes output was combined i.e. the signal and speech was combined and given as input to the SR(Speech Recognition) node which classifies tongue signal and speech signal in order to recognize the command. Then the combined output signals were transmitted as RF packet to the receiver microphone node.

The receiver microphone node will manipulate the commands send by the disabled person. Usually the command given by user is mouse cursor navigation, typing and reading.

The performance of the d TDS was evaluated by drawing graph for total time taken for executing the commands.

- Operating in dual mode
- Time taken for signal processing is low
- Flexible to use

Modules Description:

Magnetic Sensor Node Creation:

Two types of magnetic sensor nodes are considered. One is for sender node another one is for receiver node. That means user signal sensor and the PC or smart phone sensor. The two magnetic sensors are necessary for interfacing computer with the disabled person.

The sender magnetic sensor nodes are accurately traces the input signal given by the disabled person. A small tracer is desired to minimize any risk of discomfort and potential impact on the user's speech, which is important in achieving high accuracy with commercial SR software. It means that all disabled persons can't speak with correct pronunciations and fluency so the magnetic sensor needed to be more accurate in tracing the signals.

Wireless Head Phone Activation:

In the wireless head phone node the tongue signal and the speech signal combined and processed then transmitted wireless to the receiver's magnetic sensor node. A custom-designed wireless headset, fabricated through 3D rapid prototyping, which mechanically supports an array of four 3-axial magnetic sensors and a microphone plus their interfacing circuitry to measure magnetic field and acoustic signals. A control unit combines and packetizes the acquired raw data before wireless transmission.

Speech Recognition Node Foration:

The speech recognition node is mainly used to process the combined data from tongue signal and the speech signal. The algorithms used hear is SSP (Sensor Signal Processing). This separates the tongue signal and the speech signal.

The algorithm handles both the tongue signal and the speech signal given by the microphone node. The proper processing of these two signals will lead to execute the correct command send by the user. The speech recognition is nothing but recognizing the correct command send by user.

The speech recognized output signal is then transmitted to the receiver magnetic sensor node. Then the Pc or smart phone magnetic sensor will take the necessary action such as reading loudly, typing or mouse cursor navigation.

Packet Transmission:

Packet transmission is nothing but the transmission of speech recognized packets to the receiver magnetic sensor node. The packet of data considers both the speech signal and the tongue signal. The packet transmission needs frequency allocation to receive the PC or smart phone. There are two modes are followed by a packet transmitted from source to destination. They are hand shaking mode and normal mode. In the handshaking mode, the transceiver first listens to any incoming handshaking request packets from d TDS headsets within range (~10 m). If the transceiver receives a handshaking request packet with an appropriate header and a valid network ID, it will scan through all available frequency channels, and chooses the least crowded one as the communication channel for that specific headset. The transceiver then switches to transmit mode and sends a handshaking response packet to the headset, before switching back to receiver mode and waiting for the confirmation of the acknowledgement packet. If an acknowledge is received within 5 s, the transceiver will update its frequency channel to the same frequency as the d TDS headset channel and enters the normal operating mode to receive regular magnetic/audio data packets. Otherwise, the transceiver will notify the PC/smart phone that the handshaking has failed.

In the normal mode, the transceiver works like a bi-directional wireless gateway to exchange data and audio samples between the d TDS headset and the PC/smart phone. So the packet is nowtransmitted and the command is executed by the receiver.

Performance Evaluation:

The performance evaluation is the process of evaluating the performance of the proposed system and comparing the results with existing system. Here the performance evaluation is done by using drawing graph for total time taken by the system to complete the action. The total time is nothing but time taken between getting signals and processed them to activate the commands.

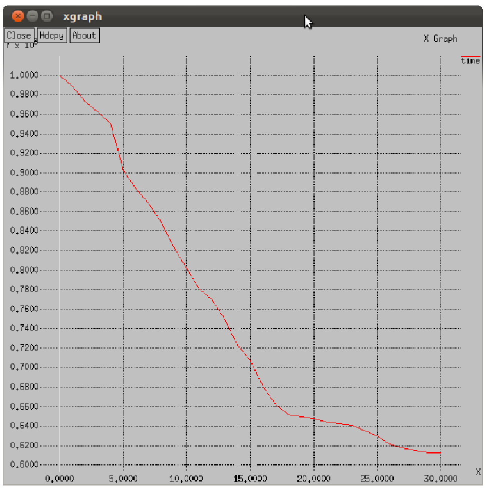


Fig. 3: ITR analysis of dual-mode Tongue Driven System.

Conclusion:

In this paper, the Information Transfer Rate(ITR) for the dual mode tongue driven system is determined using the Network simulator software.Then this ITR is compared with the tongue driven systems ITR. In comparison, it can be proven that the dual mode tongue driven system is very much beneficial to the disabled people because of its high ITR.

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