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MICROCONTROLLER-IMPLEMENTED ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK FOR ELECTROOCULOGRAPHY-BASED WEARABLE DROWSINESS DETECTION WITH ALERT SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Drowsiness has been one of the leading causes of work-related accidents. One reason that is pointed out by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (2001) is that, drowsiness tends to reduce the reaction time and attentiveness of a person resulting to poor performance on attention-based activities. This is due to the fact that the speed at which information is processed in the brain is also reduced by drowsiness (NCSDR/NHTSA 1998).

Different methods have been explored to develop an effective drowsiness detection system (DDS) to give drivers warning of impending drowsiness. However, no study implemented a wearable and standalone DDS. Most of the existing DDS require the use of a computer application or a separate processor for signal processing and drowsiness detection. The present study aimed to design a wearable electrooculography (EOG)-based DDS that doesn't require a computer to operate; to implement an artificial neural network (ANN) into a microcontroller; to determine the best electrode placement setup on the visor cap for optimal extraction of EOG signals; to test the accuracy, precision and sensitivity of the system in real-time; and to evaluate the system in terms of comfort and unobtrusiveness. Figure 1 below shows the methodology from which the the development of the system was based upon.

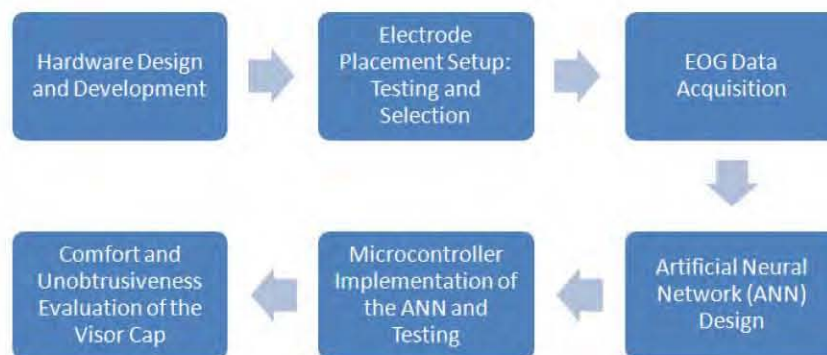


Figure 1. Methodology

The function of the EOG-based drowsiness detection with alert system focused primarily on detecting whether a person is drowsy or not. The testing was done by emulating the blinking behavior on a normal and drowsy state. A feed-forward neural network was used in the system and was trained using the back-propagation algorithm through a supervised learning. Blink duration patterns were used as basis for drowsiness detection. The construction of the system was based on the conceptual block diagram as shown in Figure 2. An Arduino LilypadUSB microcontroller was used as the main controller of the system, an analog band-pass filter/amplifier, a vibrator and a beeper for the alarm, and Silver/Silver-Chloride (Ag/AgCl) electrodes for the extraction of the vertical EOG signals. The entire system is battery operated which allows it to be embedded into the interior of the custom-built visor cap.

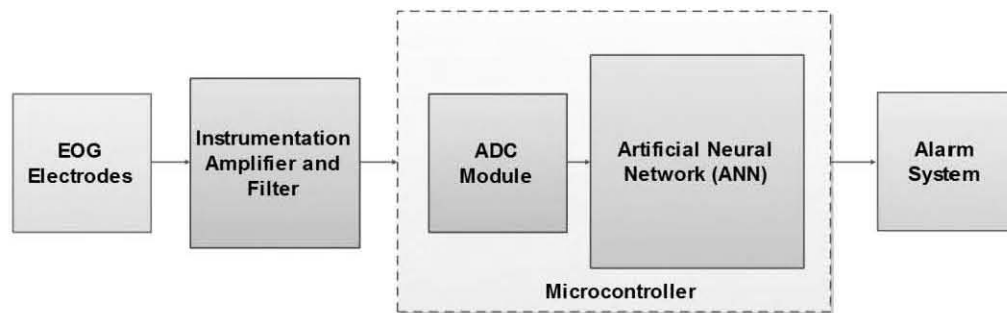


Figure 2. EOG-based Drowsiness Detection System Block Diagram

Among the fifty (50) blinks performed by the test subject, the system was able to positively identify forty-six (46) normal blinks while for the drowsy blinks, the system was able to positively identify forty-four (44). Using the Confusion Matrix (Kohavi, R. and F. Provost 1998), the performance of the system for drowsiness classification was evaluated with an overall accuracy of 90.00%, precision of 88.00%, sensitivity of 91.67%. For the evaluation for comfort and unobtrusiveness, the rating of the subjects had a mean of 3.60 and 4.10, respectively which both fall under the very good criterion.

Keywords: Artificial neural network, electrooculography, drowsiness detection, microcontroller implementation.

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