# **APPENDIX**

# **Electrodiagnosis Support System for Localizing Neural Injury in an Upper Limb**

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### **Table of contents:**



## **Design Objectives**

As ESS is developed mainly for educational purpose, the primary users of the system will be medical trainees. Nonetheless, the core algorithms of ESS can also be embedded in the medical devices used for neural diagnosis. With both applications in mind, we aim to make ESS interactive, extendible and reliable in its diagnosis. First, for interactivity, ESS provides an intuitive graphical user interface through which users can interact with the system throughout the diagnosis. Its graphical interface can visualize complex neural structures in a simple and easily conceptualizable graph. Second, for extendibility, it allows users to modify the default input file or create their own files reflecting their interpretation of neural structures. ESS then parses the input file and faithfully reproduces the neural structure prescribed in it. Moreover, it has the capacity to deal with different neural structures or myotomes such as lower limb without much change to its core logics. Lastly, for reliability and accuracy of diagnosis, ESS employs localization algorithms that are based on systematic structure analysis and sophisticated clinical heuristics. The diagnosis algorithms are finetuned after a rigorous validation process.

#### **Input Data Format**

The input data file reflects the expert's own interpretation of the general neural structure and the patient's particular state of health. The format of the input data file is a tab-delineated text file in a markup language. The input data file is separated into two parts: <Header> and <Contents>.

The top of Figure 2 shows the <Header> of the input file. The <Header> contains the metadata for <Contents>, which consists of six elements: <Name>, <Muscle>, <Peripheral nerve>, <Cord>, <Trunk>, and <Segments>. The text of each element is the precise name of the nerve bundle or muscle, and the order of the text reflects the order of the muscles and bundles in the upper limb. If a given muscle is expressed earlier than the others, it means that the muscle is closer to the root than the others. For example, as the serratus anterior (SA) on the long thoracic nerve is closer to the root than the biceps brachii (BB) on the musculocutaneous nerve according to a given interpretation, SA is expressed earlier than BB.

Figure 2 (middle-to-bottom) shows an example of the <Contents> element. The <Contents> element represents the connection structure of the muscles from the root to the peripheral nerve. These elements are expressed in the order of <Muscle>, <Abbreviation>, <Peripheral nerve>, <Cord>, <Trunk>, and <Segments>. For example, line 14 represents a nerve originating from the C5 bundle, passing through the dorsal scapular peripheral nerve, and ending at the rhomboid major muscle. In another example in lines 24-26, the latissimus dorsi muscle is innervated by three spinal nerve roots: C6, C7 and C8. The C6 line (nerve) passes through the upper trunk, the C7 line passes through the middle trunk, and the C8 line passes through the lower trunk. These three nerve lines join in the posterior cord, and continue to the thoracodorsal nerve. The final destination is the latissimus dorsi muscle.

# **Internal Data Structure**

The input data file is parsed by an internal parser object. Figure 3 shows the internal data structure after parsing. This data structure is expressed as a sparse matrix. The rows of the matrix represent individual muscles and the columns represent the paths they pass through. If a muscle passes the specified bundle, its position is 1, otherwise it is 0. Also, the matrix rows reflect the real clinical order (if the muscle is closer to the root, then the muscle rank is higher).

## **System Validation**

#### **A. Test data set**

The evaluation was performed using real data of 133 patients from KUAH. There were 90 male patients and 43 female patients. The patients were diagnosed with three types of diseases; radiculopathy, brachial plexopathy, and peripheral neuropathy. The accuracy of the system was measured by comparing the suggestions provided by the system with the diagnosis made by the physicians, per disease. For this reason, a patient with two diseases was counted as two test cases in our evaluation.

Consider the example of a patient with a diagnosis of a lower trunk injury and a C7, C8 radiculopathy. In this case, because a lower trunk injury is a brachial plexopathy and a C7, C8 radiculopathy is a radiculopathy, we regarded this patient as two samples. Consider another case involving a patient with a diagnosis of a C7, C8 radiculopathy and an ulnar neuropathy. Because the injury to the ulnar nerve is a peripheral neuropathy, and a C7, C8 injury means a radiculopathy, we divided this patient's cases into two samples. In accordance with this sample counting policy, 149 samples (100 males and 49 females) were used for the evaluation. Table 1 shows the distribution of patients and their samples across age groups.

#### **B. Injury localization**

For analysis we grouped all samples into three clusters, consisting of patients with a radiculopathy (67 samples), brachial plexopathy (19 samples) and peripheral neuropathy (63 samples). The recall and precision were used as evaluation metrics given by

$$
Recall = \frac{|\{ Doctor's \operatorname{diagnosis}\} \cap \{ESS's \operatorname{diagnosis}\}|}{|\{Doctors' \operatorname{diagnosis}\}|}
$$
\n
$$
Precision = \frac{|\{D octor's \operatorname{diagnosis}\} \cap \{ESS's \operatorname{diagnosis}\}|}{|\{ESS's \operatorname{diagnosis}\}|}
$$

These were computed for each disease and each possibility group (i.e., impression and other possibilities) for the evaluation. To elaborate, consider an example of real patient data involving a male patient who had visited the Department of Rehabilitation at KUAH. He was 66 years old, and had undergone a needle EMG on his left hand. He was given a diagnosis of a lower trunk injury and a C7, C8 radiculopathy. We evaluated this patient's record using ESS, and obtained a diagnosis of a lower trunk injury and a C8 radiculopathy from 'impressions'. For a brachial plexopathy, the doctor's diagnosis indicated that the patient had been damaged in the lower trunk, and ESS also decided that he had sustained an injury to the lower trunk. This was counted as recall  $= 100\%$ , precision  $= 100\%$ . On the other hand, for a radiculopathy, he had been given a diagnosis of a C7, C8 injury by the doctor, and ESS said he had a C8 injury. This sample's results are recall =  $50\%$ , precision =  $100\%$ .

Table 2 shows the results of the evaluation. The diagnosis of a radiculopathy has a high accuracy. The precision and recall of the ESS diagnosis for radiculopathy is 94% and 97% respectively when 'impressions' alone is used. When both 'impressions' and 'other possibilities' are used together, recall improves by 1%, while precision is reduced by 11%. On the other hand, for a brachial plexopathy and peripheral neuropathy, recalls are improved by 12% and 10% respectively, while precisions are reduced by 24% and increased by 2% respectively. Given this result, we can conclude that there is a tradeoff between using 'impressions' alone and using both lists. For higher precision, 'impressions' alone suffices, while for better recall, both lists might be considered.

Note that the accuracy of the tests of brachial plexopathy is somewhat lower compared to the other two cases. The probable cause includes the limited number of samples that might have been skewed, and the lack of NCS results. As we previously mentioned, the EMG examination consists of two tests – needle EMG and NCS. In order to find a nerve injury, both tests are performed together in practice. The current version of ESS, however, does not consider the NCS tests in the diagnosis. Although ESS using needle EMG alone still produces a compelling result, in the future we plan to include NCS in ESS in order to improve the performance further.

#### **C. Lesion diagnosis**

For a more detailed evaluation, we validated our result for specific lesions. Especially, we considered nerve injury lesions including C5, C6, C7 and C8 from a radiculopathy, and radial, median, and ulnar nerves from a peripheral neuropathy. In this evaluation, we performed binary classification in order to measure the sensitivity and specificity of our system. The sensitivity and the specificity are defined as follows.

Sensitivity = 
$$
\frac{\text{#of True Positives}}{\text{#of True Positives} + \text{#of False Negatives}}
$$

\nSpecificity = 
$$
\frac{\text{#of True Negatives}}{\text{#of True Negatives} + \text{#of False Positives}}
$$

where True Positive  $(TP) = \text{injury}$  lesion correctly diagnosed as injury, True Negative (TN) = non-injury lesion correctly diagnosed as non-injury, False Positive (FP)= non-injury lesion incorrectly diagnosed as injury, and False Negative  $(FN)$  = injury lesion incorrectly diagnosed as non-injury. A sensitivity of 100% means that the system correctly recognizes all injury lesions. A specificity of 100% means that the system correctly recognizes all non-injury lesions.

Table 3 shows the sensitivity and specificity test results for the seven lesions using the diagnosis in the 'impressions' list alone, while Table 4 shows the results using both 'impressions' and other 'possibilities'. Of the 149 samples, there were 67 samples of C5, C6, C7, and C8 radiculopathy and 63 samples of radial, median, and ulnar neuropathy. As shown in Table 3, the sensitivity of the radiculopathy lesion tests was 97% on average and the specificity was 95% on average. For the neuropathy lesions, the sensitivity was 89% on average while the specificity was 100%.

From this result, we can see that with the diagnosis in the 'impressions' list alone we can still achieve a good sensitivity and specificity. As shown in Table 4, when the diagnoses in the 'impressions' and 'other possibilities' lists were used together we could improve the sensitivities, while the specificities were somewhat reduced. For example, for neuropathy lesions, the sensitivity was improved to 100% from 89%, while the specificity was reduced to 94% from 100%.

#### **Algorithms 1 through 3**

## **Algorithm 1 for Injury Diagnosis**

**Input** muscles with normal findings and muscles with abnormal findings **Output** diagnosis vector

 $d =$ total #of muscles

 $i = #$ of normal findings

 $j = #$ of abnormal findings

 $k = #$ of bundles representing muscle paths

 $T = k \times d$  matrix representing upper limb neural structure

 $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i]$  /\* k x *i* matrix representing muscles with normal findings \*/

 $Y= [Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_i]$  /\* k x j matrix representing muscles with abnormal findings \*/

 $D = [0, 0, \dots 0]$  /\* diagnosis vector of size  $k \times$ 

 $N = [0, 0, \dots 0]$  /\* normal findings summary vector of size  $k \times 1$ 

```
for t = 0 to t = i do
```
 $N = N + X/t$ 

**end for** 

 $A = [0, 0, \dots 0]$  /\* abnormal findings summary vector of size  $k$  \*/ **for**  $t = 0$  to  $t = j$  **do**  $A = A + Y[t]$ **end for**

**for**  $t = 0$  to  $t = k$  **do if**  $BUNDDE\_NAME$ (t) ="peripheral nerve" **then if**  $A[t] < 0$  **then**  $D[t] = -1$ **else if**  $N[t] = 0 \& N[t] > 0$  **then**  $A[t] = 1$ **else if**  $N[t] = 0 \& A[t] = 0$  **then**  $D[t] = 0$ **end if else then**  *if*  $N/t$  > 0 **then**  $D/t$  = 1 **else if**  $N[t] = 0 \& A[t] < 0$  **then**  $D[t] = -1$ **else if**  $N[t] = 0 \& A[t] = 0$  **then**  $D[t] = 0$ 

**end if** 

 **end if** 

**end for**

#### **Algorithm 2 for Selecting 'Impressions' and 'Other Possibilities'**

**Input** normal findings summary vector, abnormal findings summary vector, diagnosis vector

**Output** 'impressions' and 'other possibilities'(localization of nerve injury)

 $k = #$ of bundles representing muscle paths

 $N =$  normal findings summary vector of size  $k$ 

 $M =$  abnormal findings summary vector of size  $k$ 

 $D =$  diagnosis vector of size  $k$ 

#### **for**  $t = 0$  to  $t = k$  **do**

**if**  $D[t] = -1$  **then** 

 $p = N[t] + abs(M[t])$  /\* total # of times muscle path t is inspected \*/

**if**  $p > 1$  **then** /\* only consider the paths tested more than once  $\frac{*}{s}$ 

**if** *MEMBER\_OF(BUNDDLE\_NAME(t), "peripheral nerve" )* **then** *specificInjurySite* =

```
GET_SPECIFIC_INJURY_SITE( BUNDDLE_NAME(t) )
```
**if**  $p \geq max(N + abs(M))$  **then** 

*add BUNDDLE\_NAME(t)+ specificInjurySite to "impressions"* 

**else if**

*add BUNDDLE\_NAME(t) + specificInjurySite to "other possibilities* 

#### **end if**

*"* 

**else if** *MEMBER\_OF(BUNDDLE\_NAME(t), " root " )* **then** *add BUNDDLE\_NAME(t) to "impressions"*  **else if**  $p \geq max(N + M)$  **then** 



#### **Algorithm 3 for Localization of Peripheral Nerve Injury**

**Input** normal findings set, abnormal findings set, target nerve **Output** localized injury site

 $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i]$  /\* k x *i* matrix representing muscles with normal findings, where k=total #of bundles and i=#of muscles tested normal \*/  $Y = [Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_i]$  /\* k x j matrix representing muscles with abnormal findings, where k=total #of bundles and j=#of muscles tested abnormal  $*/$  $Z = [Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_h]$  /\* k x h matrix representing the union of X and Y, where  $h = #$ of muscles passing through the target nerve(peripheral nerve)  $*/$ *current* =state of the muscle currently examined *next* =state of the next muscle *distalMuscle* = muscle far from the root *proximalMuscle*=muscle close to the root

```
for t = l to t = h do
 current = -1
```
 $next = -1$ 

**if** *t=h* **then** *break* **end if** 

**if** *MEMBER\_OF( Z[t], X )* **then** *current* =1 **end if if**  $MEMBER_OF(Z[t+1],X)$  then  $next = 1$ 

 **end if** 

```
if current =-1 & next=1 then 
  distalMuscle =Z[t] 
 proximalMuscle =Z[t+1] 
else if current=-1 & next =-1 then
          proximalMuscle=Z[t+1] 
          distalMuscle =null 
 else if current =1 & next=-1 then
          return null 
 end if
```
#### **end for**

```
if distalMuscle != null & proximalMuscle != null then
```
*injurySite = between distalMuscle and proximalMuscle* 

#### **else**

*injurySite =before proximalMuscle* 

**end if** 

**return** *injurySite*



### **Tables 1 through 4**

(Number of samples) / (Number of patients)

**Table 1. Patients who had visited the Department of Rehabilitation of Korea University Anam Hospital**. The distribution of patients and their samples are shown for different age groups. The first row represents male patients and the second row represents female patients.



**Table 2. Precision and recall.** We tested 149 samples, and grouped these samples into three clusters – radiculopathy, brachial plexopathy, and peripheral neuropathy.



**Table 3.** Sensitivity and specificity from impressions.



Table 4. Sensitivity and specificity from impressions and other possibilities.



**Figures 1 through 3** 

**Figure 1. User interface of Electrodiagnosis Support System**. Users can load input data file describing the neural structures using the "Load" button, and insert normal and abnormal findings. Users can obtain diagnosis results at any point in time during the inspection by clicking the "Diagnosis" button.



**Figure 2. Input data file format**. Part of the default input file provided with the system. The input file describes the neural structure of the brachial plexus, which is constructed based on the description of (Rubin and Safdieh, 2007).



**Figure 3. Example of internal data structure**. Once the input data file is loaded, ESS constructs the internal data structure shown above from the input file in order to represent the complex neural structures. This structure is not only used to visualize the brachial plexus graph in the user interface, but also to localize the injury sites. The rows and columns represent muscles and bundles, respectively. The order of each row and column reflects the clinical order in the neural system.