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Can the MIQ-RS questionnaire be used to estimate the performance of a MI-based BCI?

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Introduction:
Predicting a subject’s ability to use the interface with good accuracy is one of the major issues in the motor Brain-Computer interface (BCI) domain. A few recent studies show that subjective questionnaires could be used to predict the performance of motor imagery (MI) based BCI. Indeed, the Kinesthetic and Visual Imagery Questionnaire (KVIQ), could allow a better predictability of BCI-illiterate cases [1]. Another more recent questionnaire called the Motor Imagery Questionnaire Revised-Second Edition (MIQ-RS) is a suitable option for examining MI ability [2]. In 2016, Marchesotti et al. found that the representation of subjective behaviour, calculated using the MIQ-RS questionnaire, and the control of the BCI were intimately linked [3]. However, in these studies [1, 3], the performance of the classifier was calculated for a right-hand MI versus a left-hand MI task. In this abstract, we classify between resting state and imagined movement, which is a relevant classification task in BCI research [4]. The aim of this study is to answer the following question for a resting state versus MI classification task: can the MIQ-RS be used to estimate the performance of an MI-based BCI?

Material, Methods and Results:
36 right-handed healthy subjects (12 females; aged 31.3 years ± 14.4) were tested for their perception level of their visual and kinesthetic MI ability via the MIQ-RS questionnaire. EEG signals were recorded with a Biosemi Active Two 32-channel EEG system during a MI task (i.e. a single closing of the right hand) in one session of 40 trials. The EEG signal was bandpassed using a Butterworth filter between 8 and 30 Hz and segmented into 3.5 second trials. A Riemannian-based Tangent Space classification method [5] coupled with a Logistic Regression classifier was used to generate classification results in a 4-fold cross validation scheme. We computed the correlation between the classification results and both the kinesthetic (K) and the visual scores (V). The recovered Pearson correlation coefficient was equal to \( \rho = 0.02 \) (p-value = 0.87) in the first comparison, and \( \rho = -0.12 \) (p-value = 0.47) in the second. Moreover, we performed a Principal Component Analysis over the aforementioned three features (Figure 1A) whose analysis produced no indication of any correlation between them. Finally, we observed 3 different profiles according to users’ MIQ-RS values (identified K+ and/or V+ if their score is over 70%, K- and/or V- otherwise). We computed the average accuracy of each class (Figure 1B) and performed Welch’s t-test to verify the statistical significance of the differences between the average classification results. We obtained the following p-values: 0.118 between K+V+ and K-V+; 0.714 between K+V+ and K-V-; and 0.048 between K-V- and K-V+. Finally, we computed the Event-Related Spectral Perturbation (ERSP) between 5-30 Hz within each group using the EEGLab toolbox and we again compared the differences between groups. The obtained p-values were all superior to 0.01.
Discussion:
Our results revealed no correlation between the classification results and the MIQ-RS scores, contrary to those suggested by [1, 3]. While the classification results and ERSPs differ upon grouping the subjects according to their MIQ-RS profiles, we found no statistical significance (at p-value < 0.01).

Significance:
Our results demonstrate that the MIQ-RS questionnaire cannot be used to estimate the performance of a MI-BCI based on distinguishing between resting state and right-hand MI tasks.

References
Figure 1: (A) Principal Component Analysis performed over 36 right-handed healthy subjects for the classification accuracy, the kinesthetic subscale and the visual subscale. The explained variance ratio of each component is 41%, 34% and 25% (B) Kinesthetic scale, visual scale, accuracy and number of subjects according to MIQ-RS profile (K+V+ in red; K-V- in blue; K-V+ in green).