

1.5 Controlling of the Functional Electrical Stimulation—Enabled Human

Upper Extremity

The development of Functional Eelectrical Sstimulation (FES) systems that can bring backrestore essential useful-upper-extremity movements demands controllers that can achieve accurate and consistent performance over many-dynamically-varying conditions. The This following section will review the current status of FES control technology for upper-extremity systems and discuss further technological advancements in FES control technology necessaryrequired to achieve more natural upper-extremity movements in individuals with highlevel spinal cord injuries.

The Upper-Extremity Functional Electrical Stimulation Control Problem

Controllers for Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) systems are most often structurally complex in structure, because they have tomust solve address the sensorimotor coordination problems normally handled by the central nervous system (Davoodi et al. 2007). These controllers select the nerves or muscles to be stimulated and apply, with a particular amount quantity of current and, in a particular specific sequence, to do perform a the desired movement. For upper-extremity movements, postural stability needs tomust be maintained as while the hand travels to its target location (Crago et al. 1996). Since As reaching tasks are goal-directed, FES controllers to that restore movements must allow a wide variety of actions, each necessitating requiring a unique stimulation pattern, since reaching tasks are goal-directed. In This-contrast, s **Commented [CP1]:** Here and throughout, I have recommended spelling out all abbreviations used in headings, as is typically recommended in scientific writing.

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Commented [CP3]: As mentioned earlier, once an acronym has been introduced into the text with its expanded form, only the acronym form of the word needs to be used. I have applied this throughout the remainder of the text as needed. with lower-extremity FES systems to that restore walking or sit-to-stand movements that can utilize cyclic or predictable stimulation patterns to produce stereotyped movements.

The physiological properties of FES systems are related to a challenging control problem. The muscles being stimulated are nonlinear and time-varying actuators. Moreover, muscle response will-variesy nonlinearly with fatigue (Lynch and Popovic 2005; Popadic Gacesa et al. 2010). When stimulation is applied, muscles can become stronger and resistant to fatigue₅; this training effect should be taken into account (Lynch and Popovic 2005). In individuals with incomplete spinal cord injuries, some muscular function may be retained and should be incorporated into the controller. Muscle functions can be redundant; thus, making the selection of specific muscles necessary must be selected for a given task.

FES systems have an inherent delay between the time of stimulation and the start of muscle contraction₃, and Additionally, there are also delays related to signal processing and transmission are also present within the electrical stimulation system (Lynch and Popovic 2005; Cooman and Kirsch 2012). Muscular spasticity may be present, which resultings in increased muscle tone and unpredictable muscle activity (Rekand et al. 2012; Skold et al. 1999). Methods for objectively assessing spasticity are unsystematic (Priebe et al. 1996).

<u>Additional challenges arise because j</u>Joints are kinematically redundant and multiple-joint systems are inherently nonlinear (Lan et al. 1990). <u>Moreover, j</u>Joints can be coupled by multiarticular muscles (Adamczyk and Crago 2000). <u>Further, j</u>Joint contractures are often

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present (Diong et al. 2012) and can greatly limit the <u>available</u> range of motion that is available (Harvey et al. 2011).

Additionally, for <u>in_upperUpper</u>-extremity control<u>must counter the effects of</u>, gravity makes it difficult to u<u>stilizsemove</u> the arm. <u>To address this, the arm</u>, which is often supported by a mobile arm support<u>that</u>. <u>This support</u> is intended to approximate a zero-gravity environment; <u>however</u>, <u>buthis support</u> rarely achieves precise counteracting of gravity. <u>AndMoreover</u>, external perturbations<u></u> such as interactions with objects<u></u> must be managed. We will refer to <u>the grouping</u> of these considerations <u>when_during the</u> development of <u>ing</u> upper-extremity FES controllers <u>collectively</u> as the Upper-Extremity FES Control Problem.

Control Strategies for Upper-Extremity Functional Electrical Stimulation Systems

Feedforward (i.e., open-loop) control, which is also referred to as open-loop control, involves the calculation and application of muscle stimulation patterns <u>for to</u> generat<u>eing</u> movement in a predefined <u>waymanner</u>. For example, stimulation of the triceps muscle might be pre-programmed to create elbow extension (Crago et al. 1998). Feedforward stimulation sequences can be applied volitionally by the user, or <u>can be</u>-programmed to execute in sequence, such as when locomotion is restored (Kostov et al. 1995). No feedback signals are used in <u>feedforward open-loop</u>-control, which makes<u>making</u> it useful for <u>performing</u> rapid movements (Crago et al. 1996). If <u>it_'is</u> necessary, controller parameters can be tuned between uses, but feedforward control does_n²ot allow dynamic adjustment of controller parameters. This <u>feature</u> prevents feedforward controllers from adjusting to changes in the system, such as muscle fatigue or a mass held in the hand.

In order fForThe feedforward controller is tuned for a specific to succeed, the arm system being controlled must closely match the modeled or estimated system that for which the controller has been tuned for; if the model does_n²ot match the actual system, bad-performance will result be poor (Crago et al. 1996). ThusSo far, feedforward control has dominated the clinical applications of FES systems (Popovic et al. 2001; Lynch and Popovic 2008; Peckham and Knutson 2005) due to its simplicity simple of implementation. Because As no sensors are required, feedforward control systems are easy to put on and take off, and this can be which is a significant consideration (Braz et al. 2007; Lynch and Popovic 2008; Braz et al. 2009). Clinical applications of feedforward control for upper-extremity FES systems have included hand grasping (Kilgore et al. 1997; Mauritz and Peckham 1987; Keith et al. 1989) and elbow extension (Crago et al. 1998).

Feedback (or-i.e., closed-loop) control takes care of addresses some of the shortcomings of feedforward control (Abbas and Triolo 1997; Crago et al. 1996). Because ffeedback control utilizes sensors, it_i's possible to identify allowing the identification of inaccuracies in arm control and to the correction of the arm's position if it differs from a specified the desired position. Such error_-correction enables feedback control to adjust to dynamic changes, such as muscle fatigue. However, an error signal must be generated in order to produce controller action; .and since Due to its feedback control inherently involves a delay, this makes it feedback control is preferable to for use it forin slow and posture-maintaining movements rather than fast movements (Crago et al. 1996).

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Commented [CP9]: I would recommend being a bit more specific here, if possible. For example, does this mean that the simplicity of use is a significant consideration when choosing which type of FES system to use? Although feedback control is more accurate than feedforward control, it is also muchconsiderably more challenging to implement because it needs requires sensors mounted on the body (Lan et al. 1998). Putting on Applying and taking offremoving the sensors for each use is time_consuming, and calibrating the sensors consistently between uses involves a challenge (Braz et al. 2007; Braz et al. 2009). Notably, mMore than one sensor is required to achieve the accuracy necessary for adequate control (Kirkwood et al. 1989; Tong and Granat 1999; Andrews et al. 1995).

Additionally, there are The properties of physiological systems that pose problemspresent challenges for FES feedback control. Muscles respond quite slowly to stimulation (Solomonow 1986; Abbas and Triolo 1997) and have time_-varying and nonlinear properties when stimulated (Lynch and Popovic 2008; Leonas 1986). Thus, there are systemic delays in response within-FES systems manifest systemic delays in responses that may eause problems problematic for fast movements (Crago et al. 1996; Stroeve 1996). For these many-reasons, the clinical usetilizsation of feedback control has been limited (Crago et al. 1996; Peckham and Knutson 2005).

References

Adamczyk MM, Crago PE. 2000. Simulated <u>Ff</u>eedforward <u>nN</u>eural <u>Nn</u>etwork <u>Ce</u>oordination of <u>hH</u>and <u>gG</u>rasp and <u>wW</u>rist <u>aA</u>ngle in a <u>Nn</u>europrosthesis. *IEEE transactions on rehabilitation engineering*, 8(3): 297–304.

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Davoodi R, Urata C, Hauschild M, Khachani M, Loeb GE. 2007. Model-Based Development of Neural Prostheses for Movement. *IEEE transactions on biomedical engineering*. Volume 54(., Issue 11): 1909–18.

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