

Evolving Fuzzy and Neural Network Models of Finger Dynamics for Prosthetic Hand Myoelectric-based Control

Plenary speaker: Radu-Emil Precup

Co-authors: Teodor-Adrian Teban and Adriana Albu

Department of Automation and Applied Informatics, Politehnica University of Timisoara

Bd. V. Parvan 2, 300223 Timisoara, Romania

radu.precup@upt.ro, adrian.teban@student.upt.ro, adriana.albu@upt.ro

ABSTRACT

The development of myoelectric-based control systems for prosthetic hands includes several approaches: on-off control, proportional control, direct control, finite state machine control, pattern recognition-based control, posture control, and regression control. All these approaches are considered in the model-based control design framework, which requires accurate models of the human hand. The human hand in such systems is a multi-variable nonlinear dynamical system, with the inputs represented by the myoelectric signals (MESs) and the outputs by finger angles at various joints.

The concept of evolving fuzzy (rule-based) controllers was coined by P. Angelov back in 2001 and further developed in his later works. These controllers are related to evolving Takagi-Sugeno (T-S) fuzzy models, for which the rule bases are computed by a learning process, namely continuous online rule base learning. Constructing virtual state-space process models from input-output data samples can be carried out in this regard. Several techniques associated with T-S fuzzy and neural network models can be used to learn the controllers for this virtual process.

This paper starts with presenting structures for prosthetic hand myoelectric-based control systems. A set of evolving T-S fuzzy and neural network models of the human hand dynamics, i.e., the finger dynamics, is next offered. These models will be used as reference models in myoelectric-based control systems. The inputs of this nonlinear system are the MESs obtained from eight sensors placed on human subject's arm, and the outputs are the flexion percentages that correspond to the midcarpal joint angles.

The structure, models and experimental results given in this presentation belong to a relatively wide range of applications of incremental online identification algorithms focused on the development of evolving T-S fuzzy models, Tensor Product-based model transformation and neural network models and obtained by the Process Control group of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania. Implementation details concerning the incremental online identification algorithms will be given.

The models were tested on a dataset that covers approximately 450 s and the results are encouraging. The system and model responses and performance indices indicate that past samples of the output increased the performance of the models.

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