

# Data Selection in EEG Signals Classification

Shuaifang Wang, Yan Li and Peng Wen, David Lai

1 **Abstract** The alcoholism can be detected by  
2 analyzing electroencephalogram (EEG) signals.  
3 However, analyzing multi-channel EEG signals is  
4 a challenging task, which often requires  
5 complicated calculations and long execution time.  
6 This paper proposes three data selection methods  
7 to extract representative data from the EEG signals  
8 of alcoholics. The methods are the principal  
9 component analysis based on graph entropy (PCA-  
10 GE), the channel selection based on graph entropy  
11 (GE) difference, and the mathematic combinations  
12 channel selection, respectively. For comparison  
13 purposes, the selected data from the three methods  
14 are then classified by three classifiers: the J48  
15 decision tree, the K-nearest neighbor (KNN) and  
16 the Kstar, separately. The experimental results  
17 show that the proposed methods are successful in  
18 selecting data without compromising the EEG  
19 classification accuracy in discriminating the EEG  
20 signals from alcoholics and non-alcoholics. Among  
21 them, the proposed PCA-GE method uses only  
22 29.69% of the whole data and 29.5% of the  
23 computation time but achieves a 94.5%  
24 classification accuracy. The channel selection  
25 method based on the GE difference also gains a  
26 91.67% classification accuracy by using only  
27 29.69% of the full size of the original data. Using  
28 as little data as possible without sacrificing the  
29 final classification accuracy is useful for online  
30 EEG analysis and classification application design.

31 **Keywords** EEG, data selection, horizontal visibility  
32 graph (HVG), principal component analysis  
33 (PCA).  
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Shuaifang Wang,  
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences, University of  
Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, QLD 4350, Australia (e-  
mail: [Shuaifang.Wang@usq.edu.au](mailto:Shuaifang.Wang@usq.edu.au)).

Yan Li,  
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences, University of  
Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, QLD 4350, Australia (e-  
mail: [yan.li@usq.edu.au](mailto:yan.li@usq.edu.au)).

Peng (Paul) Wen  
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences, University of  
Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, QLD 4350, Australia (e-  
mail: [peng.wen@usq.edu.au](mailto:peng.wen@usq.edu.au)).

David Lai  
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences, University of  
Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, QLD 4350, Australia (e-  
mail: [david.lai@usq.edu.au](mailto:david.lai@usq.edu.au)).

## 35 1. INTRODUCTION

36 Discovered by Hans Berger [1] in 1924, EEGs are  
37 recorded using multiple electrodes placed on the  
38 scalp to measure voltage fluctuations resulting  
39 from ionic current flows within the neurons of the  
40 brain. The brain electrochemical activity is widely  
41 used in the detection of epilepsy [2-5] as well as  
42 the assessment of alcoholism [6], the  
43 characterization of sleep phenomena[7,8], the  
44 diagnosis of encephalopathy [9], depression and  
45 Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease [10], and monitoring the  
46 depth of anesthesia [11,12]. The advantages, such  
47 as having short time constants, less environmental  
48 limits and inexpensive equipment, ensure the wide  
49 practical uses of EEGs. Instead of making visual  
50 presentations of the brain's anatomy like computed  
51 tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging  
52 (MRI), EEGs evaluate the brain's physiology with  
53 a millisecond-range temporal resolution in a  
54 convenient and relatively inexpensive way. EEG  
55 signals play a central role in the diagnosis and  
56 management of patients with brain disorders,  
57 working in conjunction with other diagnostic  
58 techniques developed over the last 30 or so years.

59 People who drink alcohol excessively suffer from  
60 blurred vision, difficulty walking, slurred speech,  
61 slow reaction, impaired memory and sleep [13].  
62 Long-term alcohol abuse is called alcoholism.  
63 Alcoholism is a common neurological disease  
64 which may not only lead to cognitive,  
65 identification and mobility impairments, but may  
66 also damage the brain systems [14]. Clinical  
67 evidences of using advanced signal processing  
68 methods have proven that detecting alcoholism  
69 from the EEG signals can be effective [15-17].  
70 Therefore, an increasing number of researchers are  
71 studying the connections between EEGs and  
72 alcoholics.

73 Currently, most of the diagnoses are done by  
74 traditional visual inspections in the clinical settings.  
75 However, it is time-consuming, error prone and  
76 highly trained medical professionals are needed.  
77 Therefore, automatic EEG analysis and  
78 classification systems are the trend in both research  
79 and clinical areas. In automatic EEG classification,  
80 the amount of data needed increases exponentially

81 with the dimensionality of the feature vectors to  
 82 gain high classification accuracy. It is  
 83 recommended to use, at least, five to ten times as  
 84 many training samples per class as the  
 85 dimensionality. The analysis and classification of  
 86 EEG signals require a large amount of data when  
 87 dealing with high dimensional EEG data by  
 88 supervised classification. Besides, considering the  
 89 computation time of the classification, data  
 90 reduction is essential. Therefore, how to reduce the  
 91 amount of data while still preserving the original  
 92 critical information is one of the major problems in  
 93 EEG research. Of course, better classifiers also  
 94 contribute to the improvement of classification  
 95 accuracy.

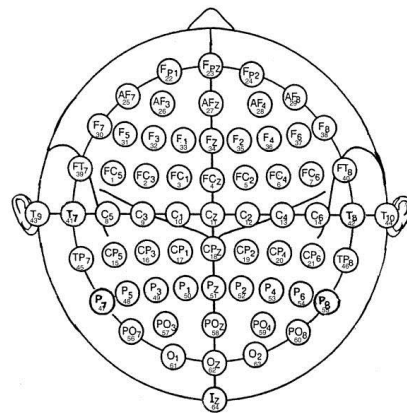
96 There has been a host of related work on automatic  
 97 EEG classification published in the literature. Siuly  
 98 [5] chose nine statistical features instead of using  
 99 all the data points from each channel. Subasi [18]  
 100 decomposed EEG signals into frequency sub-bands  
 101 using discrete wavelet transform and classified  
 102 normal and epileptic EEGs with a mixture of  
 103 expert modes. İnan Güler and Elif Derya Übeyli  
 104 [19] extracted features using wavelet transform and  
 105 the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system trained  
 106 with the backpropagation gradient descent method  
 107 in combination with the least squares method.  
 108 Toshio et al. [20] employed a Gaussian mixture  
 109 model to conduct EEG pattern classification.  
 110 Vasicek [21] tested the normality using sample  
 111 entropy. Kemal [22] detected epileptic seizures in  
 112 EEG signals using a hybrid system based on a  
 113 decision tree classifier and fast Fourier transform  
 114 with 98.72% classification accuracy.  
 115 Suryannarayana et al. [23] introduced cross-  
 116 correlation aided SVM based classifier, and  
 117 achieved 95.96% classification accuracy with  
 118 normal and epileptic EEG data. Guohun Zhu et al.  
 119 [24] analysed alcoholic EEG signals based on  
 120 HVG entropy, which dramatically decreased the  
 121 data size to be processed. Naoki Tomida et al. [25]  
 122 used an active data selection method for motor  
 123 imagery EEG data classification. Most of the  
 124 studies aim at improving the classification  
 125 accuracy only while my work is evaluated on terms  
 126 of both classification accuracy and execution time.

127 This study applies three different data selection  
 128 methods and compares their performances on EEG  
 129 signals from alcoholics. The first method is the  
 130 PCA based on GE features. The second one is the  
 131 channel selection based on GE difference. The  
 132 third one is the mathematic combinations channel  
 133 selection, which chooses the corresponding  
 134 numbers of channels randomly to get a subset of

135 the extracted data. All of the three methods  
 136 perform the features extracted based on the HVGs  
 137 mapped from the original data. After that, all the  
 138 selected data are classified by the J48 decision tree,  
 139 the KNN and the Kstar.

## 140 2. EXPERIMENTAL DATA

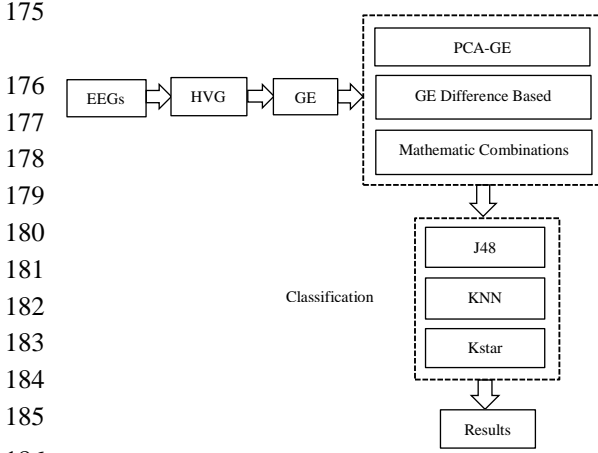
141 The EEG signals (SMNI\_CMI\_TRAIN.tar.gz and  
 142 SMNI\_CMI\_TEST.tar.gz) from alcoholics and the  
 143 control subjects used in this paper were published  
 144 by Henri Begleiter from State University of New  
 145 York Health Center [26]. The large data sets  
 146 contain data from 10 alcoholic and 10 control  
 147 subjects, with 10 runs per subject. There are 600  
 148 samples making up of 64 channels of data in  
 149 SMNI\_CMI\_TRAIN.tar.gz and 600 samples  
 150 making up of 64 channels of data in  
 151 SMNI\_CMI\_TEST.tar.gz, respectively. Each data  
 152 sample contains the signals digitized at 256 Hz for  
 153 one second. The indices of the 64 electrodes are  
 154 "FP1", "FP2", "F7", "F8", "AF1", "AF2", "FZ",  
 155 "F4", "F3", "FC6", "FC5", "FC2", "FC1", "T8",  
 156 "T7", "CZ", "C3", "C4", "CP5", "CP6", "CP1",  
 157 "CP2", "P3", "P4", "PZ", "P8", "P7", "PO2",  
 158 "PO1", "O2", "O1", "X", "AF7", "AF8", "F5", "F6",  
 159 "FT7", "FT8", "FPZ", "FC4", "FC3", "C6", "C5",  
 160 "F2", "F1", "TP8", "TP7", "AFZ", "CP3", "CP4",  
 161 "P5", "P6", "C1", "C2", "PO7", "PO8", "FCZ",  
 162 "POZ", "OZ", "P2", "P1", "CPZ", "nd" and "Y".  
 163 The electrodes, "X" and "Y", are EOG signals; and  
 164 "nd" is the reference electrode. The locations of the  
 165 EEG electrodes used for data acquisition are shown  
 166 in Fig. 1. In this paper, the data from  
 167 SMNI\_CMI\_TRAIN.tar.gz are used as the training  
 168 data, and those from SMNI\_CMI\_TEST.tar.gz are  
 169 used as the testing data, respectively.



170  
 171 Fig. 1 Electrode Location.

### 172 3. METHODOLOGY

173 The workflow of the three proposed data selection  
174 methods is shown in Fig. 2.



185 Fig. 2 The workflow of the proposed methods.

187 Data selection aims at using optimal subsets of  
188 variables, while retaining as much useful  
189 information as possible. The implementation  
190 details are described below.

#### 191 • HVG

192 A HVG is a mapping between time series and  
193 complex network [27] according to a specific  
194 geometric criterion to make use of methods of  
195 complex network theory for characterizing time  
196 series. Each datum in the time series corresponds  
197 to a node in the graph, such that two nodes are  
198 connected if their corresponding data heights are  
199 larger than all the data heights between them [28].  
200 Its degree distribution is a good discriminator  
201 between randomness and chaos. Let  $\mathbf{X} = (x_i \in$   
202  $R \geq 0: i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$  be an ordered set (or,  
203 equivalently, a sequence) of non-negative real  
204 numbers. The HVG of  $\mathbf{X}$  is graph  $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{E})$ ,  
205 where  $\mathbf{X}$  is a set of elements called nodes and  $\mathbf{E}$  is  
206 a set of unordered pairs of nodes called edges. Its  
207 definition is shown in equation (1):

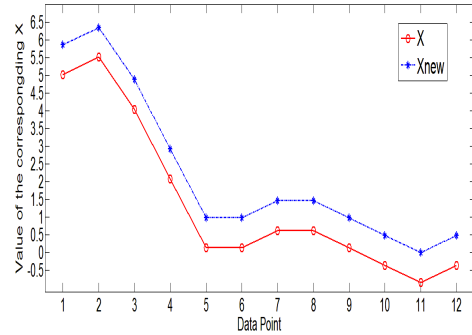
$$208 \quad e_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & (x_k < x_i) \wedge (x_k < x_j) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

209 where every  $k \in (i, j)$ . In graph theory, the degree  
210 of a node (or vertex) of a graph is the number of  
211 edges connecting to the node, with loops counted  
212 twice [29]. The degree of a vertex is denoted as  
213  $\text{deg}(x_i)$ . The degree sequence ( $\mathbf{DS}$ ) is the sequence  
214 of the degree of a graph. The node degree and its

215 sequence can be used to describe the characteristics  
216 of the graph.

217 In this paper, the time series of EEGs are mapped  
218 into graphs ( $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{E})$ ). Each EEG sample is  
219 mapped to a HVG, and each HVG has a GE value.  
220 There are 1200 samples to be analyzed for each  
221 electrode from 10 different trails. Totally 76800  
222 features are extracted for 64 electrodes. All GE  
223 features are evaluated with groups of alcoholics or  
224 non-alcoholics. To illustrate the data  
225 transformation process, let us take the dataset  
226 co2a0000368 from electrode FP1 in the  
227 forementioned database for an example. Given  $\mathbf{X} =$   
228  $\{5.015, 5.503, 4.039, 2.085, 0.132, 0.132, 0.621,$   
229  $0.621, 0.132, -0.356, -0.844, -0.356\}$ , we can get  
230 the degree sequence  $\mathbf{DS} = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3,$   
231  $2, 2\}$  by the following implementation:

232 (a). Transform  $\mathbf{X}$  into  $\mathbf{X}_{new}$ , making every element  
233 be a non-negative real number by adding the  
234 absolute value of the smallest value which is  
235 negative. For example,  
236  $\mathbf{X} = \{5.015, 5.503, 4.039, 2.085, 0.132, 0.132,$   
237  $0.621, 0.621, 0.132, -0.356, -0.844, -0.356\}$   
238 should be transformed as  
239  $\mathbf{X}_{new} = \{5.859, 6.347, 4.883, 2.929, 0.976, 0.976,$   
240  $1.465, 1.465, 0.976, 0.488, 0, 0.488\}$ , which is  
241 demonstrated in Fig. 3.



242 Fig. 3 Nonnegative transform of X.

244 (b). Horizontal visibility check is used to calculate  
245 the degree of each node, which is shown in Fig. 4.  
246 Two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  in the graph are connected if one  
247 can draw a horizontal line in the time series joining  
248  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  that does not intersect any intermediate  
249 data height.

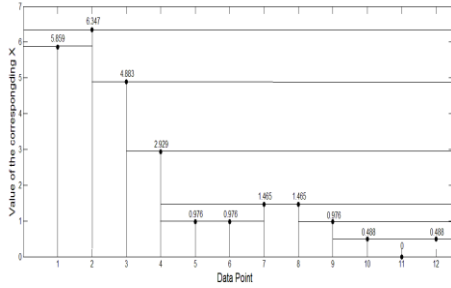


Fig. 4 The degree of each node from HVGs.

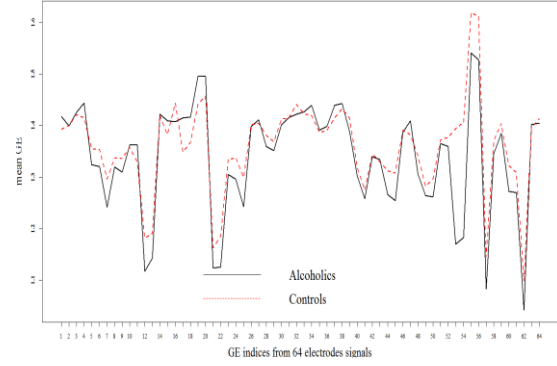


Fig. 5 Mean GE from 64 electrode signals.

250

251

252 (c). Degree sequence. For arbitrary datum in the  
 253 time series, we calculate the visibility with all the  
 254 other corresponding nodes and record the number  
 255 of edges connecting to it as the degree of the node.  
 256 In the above example, the degree sequence is as  
 257 follows:

258  $DS = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2\}$ .

259 • *GE*

260 The GE is the entropy of the frequency distribution  
 261 of the node connections in an undirected and  
 262 unweighted HVG. It is a function from information  
 263 theory on a graph  $G$ , with a probability distribution  
 264  $p(k)$  on its node set. It was introduced by Janos  
 265 Korner in [30]. Shannon entropy [31] is used in  
 266 this paper, which is shown in equation (2):

$$267 \quad h = -\sum_{k=1}^n p(k) \log(p(k)) \quad (2)$$

268 where *entropy* is the degree distribution of graph  
 269  $G$ . The degree distribution  $p(k)$  of a network is  
 270 defined to be the fraction of nodes in the network  
 271 with degree  $k$ . Thus if there are  $n$  nodes in total in  
 272 a network and  $n_k$  of them have degree  $k$ , we have  
 273 equation (3) below:

$$274 \quad p(k) = n_k / n \quad (3)$$

275 In the above case,  $p(k)$  of DS is (0, 1/12, 8/12,  
 276 3/12). The GE is 0.824 when it takes the logarithm  
 277 base two. The Mean GE plot from 64 electrodes is  
 278 shown in Fig. 5. From Fig. 5, it is clear that the  
 279 differences between the alcoholics and the control  
 280 subjects are indeed different from channel to  
 281 channel. That is the reason why optimal subsets of  
 282 channel selection are possible. In this paper, the  
 283 principal component analysis, the GE difference  
 284 and the mathematic combinations based on GE  
 285 channel selection are proposed. The details of the  
 286 proposed methods are demonstrated below.

287

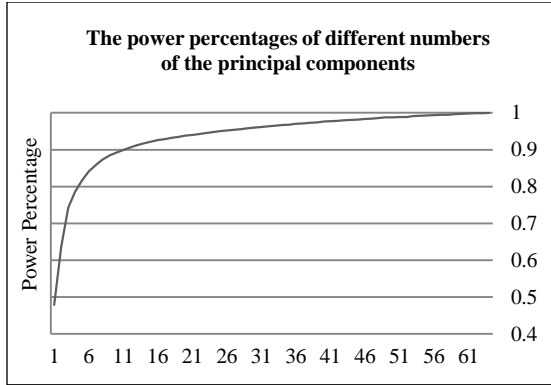
288

### 289 3.1 The PCA Based on GE from HVG (PCA-GE)

290 Invented by Pearson [32] in 1901, the PCA was  
 291 widely used in mechanics and independently  
 292 developed (and named) by Harold Hotelling later  
 293 in the 1930s [33]. Nowadays, it is used as a tool in  
 294 exploratory data analysis and for making predictive  
 295 models. The faithful transformation  $T = XW$  maps  
 296 a data vector  $X$  from an original space to a new  
 297 space of  $p$  variables which are uncorrelated over  
 298 the dataset. However, not all the principal  
 299 components are kept. Keeping only the first  $L$   
 300 principal components, it gives the truncated  
 301 transformation as shown in equation (4):

$$302 \quad T_L = XW_L \quad (4)$$

303 where matrix  $T_L$  now has  $n$  rows but only  $L$   
 304 columns. By reconstruction, all the transformed  
 305 data matrices reserve only  $L$  columns out of the  
 306 original data. Such dimensionality reduction can be  
 307 a very useful step for visualizing and processing  
 308 high-dimensional data while keeping as much  
 309 useful information as possible. In order to keep the  
 310 same size of input data for the further classification  
 311 process, here, the corresponding number of the  
 312 principal components which are the same as that of  
 313 channels has been chosen. Therefore, the  
 314 dimensionalities of all the samples are the same.  
 315 The PCA is implemented in Matlab2013b. The  
 316 distribution percentage of the total power is shown  
 317 in Fig.6 as follows.



318 Fig. 6 The corresponding power percentages of different  
 319 numbers of the principal components from the full size of data.  
 320

321 The PCA-GE technique is applied to extracted  
 322 representative data transformed from the dataset  
 323 without specific channel selection investigation.  
 324 For the alcoholic database, there are 64 electrodes  
 325 of signals per trial. The inconvenient data  
 326 preparation and complicated calculations are still  
 327 challenging for an online analysis and  
 328 classification system. In the following section, how  
 329 to gain an optimal subset of specific channels is  
 330 discussed.

### 331 3.2 The GE Difference Based Channel Selection

332 From Fig. 5, it is clear that the mean GE differs  
 333 from electrode to electrode between alcoholic  
 334 subjects and non-alcoholic ones. Therefore, the  
 335 channel selection based on the GE difference is  
 336 proposed. Firstly, the electrodes should be ordered  
 337 degressively according to the mean GE gap values.  
 338 They are C1, C2, PO8, PO7, C3, FC2, FCZ, CP2,  
 339 CPZ, PZ, FZ, CP5, F1, P2, C4, FC1, F2, P4, CP1,  
 340 P1, CP6, CZ, CP4, AFZ, FC5, AF2, AF1, F8, P3,  
 341 TP7, T7, POZ, F3, FPZ, FT7, FP1, PO2, AF8, OZ,  
 342 X, F4, CP3, P6, FC3, PO1, FC4, FT8, O2, Y, F6,  
 343 P7, P5, nd, C6, C5, TP8, AF7, F7, F5, FC6, T8, P8,  
 344 FP2, and O1. For comparison reasons, the  
 345 corresponding specific numbers of channels are  
 346 selected to generate the optimal subsets for  
 347 classification. For example, C1 is selected to gain  
 348 the one-channel subset because the mean GE gap is  
 349 the largest among all the channels. Similarly, C1  
 350 and C2 are chosen to gain the two-channel subset,  
 351 and so on. After that, all the selected data are  
 352 forwarded to three different classifiers for  
 353 classification separately. The performance of the  
 354 proposed channel selection method is demonstrated  
 355 in the experimental results section.

### 356 3.3 The Mathematic Combinations Channel 357 Selection

358 In mathematics, a combination is a way of  
 359 selecting members from a group, and the order of  
 360 members does not matter. In smaller cases, it is  
 361 possible to count the number of combinations.  
 362 More formally, a  $k$ -combination of a set  $S$  is a  
 363 subset of  $k$  distinct elements of  $S$ . If the set has  $n$   
 364 elements, the number of  $k$ -combination is equal to  
 365 the binomial coefficient.

$$366 C_n^k = \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}{k(k-1)\dots 1} \quad (5)$$

367 which can be written using factorials as  $\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$  if

370  $k \leq n$ , and is zero when  $k > n$ . The set of all  $k$ -  
 371 combination of a set  $S$  is sometimes denoted by  
 372  $C_n^k$ .

373 Here, mathematic combinations can also be used to  
 374 select channels from the original 64 electrodes. The  
 375 proposed method ignores the importance of the  
 376 individual channels and treats them equally. The  
 377 main idea of this method is to introduce a simple  
 378 computer-assisted-mathematic-method for medical  
 379 signals analysis. It seems inefficient to do random  
 380 mathematic combinations. However, it can easily  
 381 find out the optimal subsets in a dataset by  
 382 computers through  $C_n^k$  runs. In this paper, the  
 383 average classification accuracy of the ten-time  
 384 trials with specific numbers of channels chosen by  
 385 mathematic combinations is demonstrated in the  
 386 experimental results section for comparison.

387 During the classification process in this paper, the  
 388 extracted data from the previous data selection  
 389 stage are classified by three different classifiers,  
 390 namely: the J48 decision tree, the K-nearest  
 391 neighbor (KNN) and the Kstar. The details of the  
 392 classifiers are introduced in this section.

#### 393 • J48 Decision Tree

394 The J48 decision tree (Weka implementation of  
 395 C4.5) was published by Ross Quinlan in 1993 [34].  
 396 It is a classic method to represent information from  
 397 a machine learning algorithm and offers a fast and  
 398 powerful means to express structures in data [35].  
 399 In this paper, the J48 algorithm provided by Weka  
 400 is used. Weka is an open-source Java application  
 401 produced by the University of Waikato in New  
 402 Zealand. This software offers an interface through  
 403 which many algorithms can be utilized on pre-  
 404 formatted datasets. Using this interface, several test

405 domains are experimented to gain an insight into  
406 the effectiveness of the above three different data  
407 selection methods.

408 • *K-nearest neighbor (KNN)*

409 The KNN algorithm is also selected to conduct the  
410 binary classification. The KNN algorithm is a  
411 statistical supervised classification which is widely  
412 used in traditional pattern recognition techniques  
413 [36]. The idea is that given a set of data  $t$ , the  
414 algorithm obtains the  $K$  nearest neighbors from  
415 the training set based on the distance between  $t$   
416 and the training set. The most dominating class  
417 amongst these  $K$  neighbors is assigned as class  $t$ .  
418 In this study, the KNN algorithm is implemented  
419 as IBK package in Weka 3.7.11.

420 • *Kstar*

421 The Kstar algorithm is used to evaluate the  
422 efficiency of the proposed data selection methods.  
423 It can be defined as a method of clustering analysis  
424 which aims at partitioning  $n$  observations into  $k$   
425 clusters in which each observation belongs to a  
426 cluster with the nearest mean. The algorithm  
427 provides a consistent approach to handle real  
428 valued attributes, symbolic attributes and missing  
429 values. It uses *entropy* as a distance measure. In  
430 this study, the Kstar algorithm is also implemented  
431 in Weka 3.7.11.

432 4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

433 • *Experimental Environment*

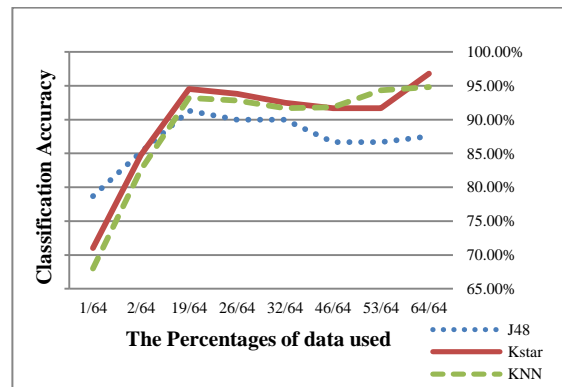
434 GE is extracted by R x64 3.1.0 and the  
435 implementation of the PCA is done by  
436 Matlab2013b. The classification is performed using  
437 the J48 decision tree, the KNN and the Kstar in  
438 Weka 3.7.10. All experiments are performed on a  
439 3.40GHz Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-3770 CPU  
440 processor PC, with 8.00G RAM and 64-bit  
441 Operation System. The operation system of the PC  
442 is Microsoft Windows 7.

443 • *Data Set Selection*

444 The experimental EEG datasets consist of two  
445 classes (denoted as alcoholic (a) and control (c)).  
446 There are 600 samples in  
447 SMNI\_CMI\_TRAIN.tar.gz and 600 samples in  
448 SMNI\_CMI\_TEST.tar.gz from 64 different  
449 channels, respectively. In this paper, GE is used to  
450 extract features based on HVGs and then the PCA,  
451 GE differential based selection or mathematic  
452 combinations selection are implemented in  
453 choosing the subset of the EEG signals. Each

454 channel data in one second from one sample is  
455 mapped to a HVG, and each HVG is extracted as  
456 one GE value. Therefore, 76,800 GE features are  
457 extracted from the 1200 samples, with each sample  
458 having 64 channels. That is to say, both the  
459 training data and the testing data are transferred  
460 into a [600\*64] matrix.

461 Then different subsets of both the training data and  
462 the testing data used during the experiments are  
463 determined as: (1). Set 1 (1/64 of data), (2). Set 2  
464 (2/64 of data), (3). Set 3 (19/64 of data), and (4).  
465 Set 4 (64/64 of data). The reason why adopt the  
466 above mentioned sets is illustrated as follows: The  
467 classification results based on different percentages  
468 of the whole data, which is 1/64, 2/64, 19/64, 26/64,  
469 32/64, 39/64, 46/64, 53/64, 64/64, using the J48  
470 decision tree, the KNN and the Kstar are displayed  
471 in Fig. 7. The classification accuracy increases  
472 dramatically when increasing the amount of data  
473 used between 1/64 and 19/64. But the accuracy  
474 decreases slightly after that and rises again after  
475 using 53/64 of the whole data. For online EEG  
476 analysis and classification system design, both  
477 classification accuracy and the computation time  
478 are critical. The redundancy and noise often cause  
479 the decrease of the classification efficiency.  
480 Therefore, it is significant to select the informative  
481 data and eliminate the redundant and misleading  
482 data to reduce the computation time.



483  
484 Fig. 7 Classification accuracies based on the different  
485 percentages of data used.

486 Data selection is expected to preserve as much  
487 information as those in the whole database. This  
488 paper proposes three data selection methods: (1).  
489 the PCA-GE, (2). the GE difference based channel  
490 selection, and (3). the mathematic combinations  
491 channel selection. In PCA-GE, the four groups of  
492 experiments with their power percentages are  
493 shown in Table 1. The distributions of the data sets



494 and the PCA selected data are summarized in Table  
495 2.

496 **Table 1**

497 The corresponding power percentages of different numbers of  
498 principal components from original data.

Set ID	No. of Principal Components	Power Percentage
Set 1	1	0.479
Set 2	2	0.637
Set 3	19	0.935
Set 4	64	1

499 **Table 2**

500 The distribution of sample sets and the PCA extracted features.

Set ID	Training Set	Testing Set	Total
Set 1	[600 x 1]	[600 x 1]	[1200 x 1]
Set 2	[600 x 2]	[600 x 2]	[1200 x 2]
Set 3	[600 x 19]	[600 x 19]	[1200 x 19]
Set 4	[600 x 64]	[600 x 64]	[1200 x 64]

501 • *Performance Comparisons*

502 The performances of the PCA-GE method with the  
503 experimental EEG datasets using the three different  
504 classifiers are evaluated with the aspect of the  
505 classification accuracy as shown in Table 3 and the  
506 computation time in Table 4. From Tables 3 and  
507 Table 4, it is apparent that using 19 out of 64  
508 original data can achieve as high as 94.5%  
509 accuracy by costing only 29.52% of the  
510 computation time, compared to the 96.8% accuracy  
511 by using the whole data through the Kstar classifier.  
512 Besides, it is interesting to see the improvement of  
513 the accuracy from 87.5% to 91.3% by using 19/64  
514 data through the J48 decision tree classifier for the  
515 PCA-GE data selection method. It is probably due  
516 to the filtering of the noise, so that the remaining  
517 data are more representative but with much smaller  
518 amount. To evaluate the wide applicability of the  
519 selected data, three different classifiers are adopted  
520 and the one having the highest classification  
521 accuracy among the three classifiers is denoted as  
522 Bold in the following tables (e.g., Tables 3, 5 and  
523 6).

524 **Table 3**

525 The classification accuracy of the proposed PCA-GE method.

Classifier Group	Kstar	KNN	J48
1 component	71.0%	68.0%	<b>78.7%</b>
2 components	84.8%	82.5%	<b>85.2%</b>
19 components	<b>94.5%</b>	93.2%	91.3%
64 components	<b>96.8%</b>	94.8%	87.5%

526 **Table 4**

527 The computation time of the proposed PCA-GE method.

Classifier Group	Kstar	KNN	J48
1 component	0.63s	0.01s	0.01s
2 components	1.28s	0.01s	0.02s
19 components	11.51s	0.06s	0.03s
64 components	38.99s	0.10s	0.04s

528 Apparently, less data means less computation time.  
529 The computation times of all the three proposed  
530 methods are reduced significantly when the  
531 number of data used decreases as shown in Table 4.  
532 In the meantime, the performances of the selected  
533 channels subsets based on the mean GE gap values  
534 are presented by Table 5 in terms of the  
535 classification accuracy. The one-channel signal is  
536 from electrode C1. The two-channel data are from  
537 electrodes C1 and C2. The 19 channels data are  
538 from electrodes C1, C2, PO8, PO7, C3, FC2, FCZ,  
539 CP2, CPZ, PZ, FZ, CP5, F1, P2, C4, FC1, F2, P4,  
540 CP1; and the 64 channels signals are all the  
541 recorded signals from the HVG GEs, respectively.  
542 According to our experiment, the proposed GE  
543 difference based channel selection method achieves  
544 as high as 91.67% classification accuracy by using  
545 only 19 out of 64 channels of data for the Kstar  
546 classifier. Therefore, it can significantly enhance  
547 the efficiency of the EEG data collection. Instead  
548 of using all the 64 electrodes placed on the scalp of  
549 the subjects, 19 electrodes are enough to gain  
550 satisfactory classification results.

551 **Table 5**

552 The classification accuracy of the GE difference based channel  
553 selection.

Classifier Group	Kstar	KNN	J48
1 channel	68.17%	57.67%	<b>68.83%</b>
2 channels	<b>68.5%</b>	65.5%	64.5%
19 channels	<b>91.67%</b>	90.17%	88.33%
64 channels	<b>96.8%</b>	94.83%	87.5%

554 The performances of the selected channels subsets  
555 from mathematic combinations are presented by  
556 Table 6 in terms of the classification accuracy.  
557 Compared to the data selection based on PCA-GE  
558 or GE difference, this method neglects the possible  
559 different impacts of the individual channels. The  
560 method yields an 83.83% classification accuracy  
561 when the channel number is 19 through the KNN  
562 classifier.

563 **Table 6**

564 The classification accuracy of the mathematic combinations  
565 based channel selection.

Classifier Group	Kstar	KNN	J48
1 channel	<b>58%</b>	54.18%	<b>58%</b>
2 channels	58.33%	59.5%	<b>61%</b>
19 channels	81.33%	<b>83.83%</b>	78.5%
64 channels	<b>96.8%</b>	94.83%	87.5%

566 In summary, all the proposed methods have been  
567 proved to yield an acceptable classification  
568 accuracy using significantly reduced amount of  
569 data. The results validate the efficiency of the  
570 proposed methods in the EEG data reduction.  
571 Using as less as possible data to gain high  
572 classification performances could significantly  
573 reduce the processing time as well as the data  
574 collection hardware requirements.

## 575 5. DISCUSSION

576 According to experimental results, the proposed  
577 PCA-GE algorithm can achieve the comparable  
578 accuracy 94.5% by costing only 29.52% of the  
579 computation time and using 19 out of 64 original  
580 data, compared to the 96.8% accuracy by using the  
581 whole 64 channels of the data through the Kstar  
582 classifier. Similarly, the proposed GE difference  
583 based channel selection method also gets 91.67%  
584 classification accuracy by using only 19 out of 64  
585 channels of data for the Kstar classifier. They are  
586 of high efficiency in terms of both the  
587 classification accuracy and the computation time. It  
588 is demonstrated that the proposed methods can  
589 gain relatively high classification accuracies with a  
590 significantly reduced running time during the EEG  
591 analysis and classification process. Data selection  
592 opens the possibility of using much less  
593 representative data to gain satisfactory analysis and  
594 classification results

## 595 6. CONCLUSION

596 For multi-channel real EEG signals, using optimal  
597 data subsets instead of all the original data and  
598 achieving relatively satisfactory classification  
599 accuracies with much less computation time are  
600 important for EEG analysis and classification. How  
601 to get the optimal subsets from the original data is  
602 crucial to the following classification performance.  
603 In this paper, firstly the GE features from HVGs of  
604 the EEG data from alcoholics are calculated. Based  
605 on the GE features, the proposed data selection  
606 methods are the PCA-GE, the GE difference based  
607 channel selection and the mathematic combinations  
608 channel selection. It is apparent that less running  
609 time is needed by the analysis and classification  
610 system if less data are used. Instead of using  
611 original data, we extracted features using GE based

612 on HVG. The PCA is successfully used in data  
613 selection. Meantime, channel selections based on  
614 GE difference and mathematic combinations are  
615 proposed for the purpose of comparisons. All of  
616 them can gain high classification accuracy as well  
617 as decrease the computation time, which is  
618 important for the design of the online EEG signals  
619 analysis and classification system. Data selection  
620 using PCA-GE algorithm was found to be more  
621 efficient and beneficial.

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