

1 **Title:** Quality assessment of an UWB positioning system for indoor wheelchair court sports

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19 **Abstract**

20 Ultra-Wide Band radio positioning systems are maturing very quickly and now represent a
21 good candidate for indoor positioning. The aim of this study was to undertake a quality
22 assessment on the use of a commercial Ultra-Wide Band positioning system for the tracking
23 of athletes during indoor wheelchair court sports. Several aspects have been investigated
24 including system setup, calibration, sensor positioning, determination of sport performance
25 indicators and quality assessment of the output. With a simple setup procedure, it has been
26 demonstrated that athletes tracking can be achieved with an average horizontal positioning
27 error of 0.37 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.24$ m). Distance covered can be computed after data processing with
28 an error below 0.5% of the course length. It has also been demonstrated that the tag update
29 rate and the number of wheelchairs on the court does not affect significantly the positioning
30 quality; however, for highly dynamic movement tracking, higher rates are recommended for a
31 finer dynamic recording.

32 **Keywords:** Player tracking, Ultra Wide Band, Training, Coaching, Error analysis

33 **1. Introduction**

34 There is an interest in the use of technology to enhance the performance of athletes in
35 wheelchair sports whether this is for improving equipment within sports or monitoring
36 athlete's performance. However, monitoring athletes during competition can be problematic.
37 There are many challenges both in the collection and analysis of the data collected to fully
38 understand where athletes can improve their performance. To add to the complexity of
39 measuring athletes movements, team sports involve many players competing at one time on a
40 pitch indoors or outdoors.

41 There are an increasing number of methods for tracking moving objects. Outdoors, Global
42 Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technology, normally the Global Positioning System
43 (GPS), is often the simplest method to adopt [1] but indoors the situation becomes more
44 complex as visibility of satellites for a GPS solution is not feasible or practical. There are
45 however a number of systems available for indoor tracking [2]. These systems usually rely on
46 different radio technologies such as WiFi [3–5], RFID [4,5] or Ultra-Wide Band [5–7].
47 There are also a number of image based systems relying on infra-red [8] or traditional images
48 [9]. This study focuses on the use of an Ultra-Wide Band (UWB) radio positioning system
49 [10] which has been developed for the manufacturing, warehouse, and other industrial
50 purposes. UWB systems are based on the use of fixed sensors around the region of movement
51 where these sensors track the positions of tags which are fixed to the target object.

52 For every tracking application there is a requirement for a certain level of accuracy to ensure
53 the location data collected is fit for purpose. As UWB radio positioning has not been
54 designed for monitoring athletes, there is an even greater need to assess the capability of this
55 technology to ensure the data collected and the derived information is valid.

56 **2. Aims and objectives**

57 The general aim of the current research was to determine the quality of position that can be
58 achieved by the UWB system during a range of movements specific to the wheelchair court
59 sports. The following objectives were investigated:

- 60 1. System setup
 - 61 a) Setup and configuration quality
 - 62 b) Sensors spatial configuration
- 63 2. Positioning quality analysis
 - 64 a) Stationnary positioning
 - 65 b) Dynamic positioning
 - 66 c) Impact of wheelchair environment
 - 67 d) Filtered positioning quality analysis for distance measurement
 - 68 e) Tag mounting location

69 3. Indoor Tracking System

70 3.1. Background

71 UWB is a short-range, large bandwidth radio technology. Its signal properties offer a strong
72 multipath resistance and good penetrability in materials, which makes it particularly suitable
73 for indoor environments. Additionally, the use of UWB pulses enables a very good time-
74 domain resolution which allows such radio systems to be used for precise location and
75 tracking [10–14].

76 Impulse-radio-based UWB systems are composed of sensors and tags. Sensors are receivers
77 distributed around the area of interest while tags are fixed on objects to be located and emit
78 UWB pulses. The UWB pulse is received by a set of sensors which is used to compute a
79 location based on Time Of Arrival (TOA), Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA) or Angle Of
80 Arrival (AOA) techniques [15,16].

81 The TOA technique uses the time of flight of the UWB pulse to determine the distance
82 between the tag and the sensor. For each sensor, this leads to a sphere of possible solutions.
83 The position is then estimated by intersecting spheres of several sensors, a technique
84 commonly known as multi-lateration [17]. However, TOA requires a perfect time
85 synchronisation of all sensors and tags alongside a time stamped UWB pulse so the time of
86 flight can be determined. These requirements are critical and generally not practical for
87 commercial systems.

88 The TDOA technique is based on the TOA principle but instead of computing the time of
89 flight of an UWB pulse directly, it computes the difference in time of arrival between several
90 sensors receiving the same UWB pulse. As this technique is time based, all sensors must be
91 time synchronised. However, a benefit over TOA is that tags do not need to be synchronised.

92 If the orientation of the sensor is known, it is also possible to use the AOA technique to
93 estimate the tag position. This is achieved for each sensor by determining the direction of
94 arrival of the UWB pulse. Position can then be estimated by intersecting AOA of several
95 sensors, a technique commonly known as multi-angulation [17].

96 All of these techniques are frequently combined together using non-linear regression or
97 Kalman filtering to optimise the positioning quality [18].

98 3.2. Ubisense real-time location system

99 This study focuses on the use of a commercial impulse-radio-based UWB system from
100 Ubisense [6] (UWB system). This system is one implementation of UWB tracking among
101 others. It is composed of sensors (Figure 1a) and tags (Figure 1b). Sensors are stationary and
102 suitably distributed around the playing area to locate the positions of the tags "worn" by the

103 athletes. Typically, 4 or 6 sensors would be used to surround an indoor wheelchair rugby
104 court (28 m x 15 m).

105 ***** INSERT Figure 1: Ubisense Real-Time Location System

106

107 All sensors are linked by an Ethernet cable to a master sensor for time synchronisation. The
108 tag location information is computed and displayed on a computer connected to the system.
109 According to Ubisense Real-time location system (RTLS) specifications, an accuracy of 15-
110 30 cm with an update rate over 10Hz can be expected.

111 The system is transportable so it can be easily deployed during competition or training at
112 multiple venues. For this study, the system was installed and calibrated following Ubisense's
113 recommended procedure. The first stage of the calibration is to determine sensor positions by
114 measuring the distance between each sensor and two reference points. This is easily
115 performed with a laser distance measurer. Each distance measured is given as an input to the
116 Ubisense software which determines sensors' position. The next step is to perform the cable
117 offset correction to take into account the different length of wires used to allow for time
118 synchronisation. The last step is to determine the orientation of each sensor. Several methods
119 are proposed by Ubisense. The method used in this study is a "dual calibration" which
120 identifies both cable offset correction and sensors orientation at the same time using a
121 surveyed point, approximately in the middle of the area of interest, so its coordinates are
122 known. A tag is left stationary at this point whilst the system calibrates each sensor as the tag
123 position is known [19]. Once this has been done, the system is set up and ready to use. A
124 complete installation and calibration takes approximately 1 hour.

125 The UWB system only outputs tag positions so other information such as speed and distance
126 travelled are derived from these coordinates. The different analysis and processing techniques
127 presented in this study were integrated in software specifically developed at the University of
128 Nottingham for indoor wheelchair court sports to assist sport scientists and coaches. [Some](#)
129 [examples of applications can be found in \[20,21\].](#)

130 **4. Methodology**

131 *4.1. Trials and location facility*

132 All trials discussed in this paper are using the Ubisense RTLS system. Trials were undertaken
133 in a large sports hall with a viewing gallery for setting up the surveying equipment
134 (Section 4.2) providing a good view of the playing area (Figure 2).

135 ***** INSERT Figure 2: Viewing gallery showing the Leica TS-30 surveying
136 equipment and one UWB sensor on an elevated stand

137 *4.2. Surveying equipment*

138 The Leica TS-30 is a robotic total station that allows classic surveying tasks (angle and
139 distance measurement) and also tracking of a moving prism shown in Figure 4.

140 According to the Leica specifications [22] the tracking mode gives a positioning accuracy of
141 3 mm + 4 parts per million (ppm). With a 40 m maximum range for the trials presented, the
142 ppm part can be neglected. Timing specifications give a maximum measurement rate of 5 Hz
143 for the tracking mode.

144 When computing distance travelled from measured positions, the measurement frequency is a
145 limitation. If the length of a trajectory is computed directly from the sum of distances
146 between successive Leica TS-30 positions, it will be under-estimated as straight lines will
147 join the points. In order to correct this under-estimation and knowing that Leica TS-30
148 measurements are precise in position, an interpolation is applied to more closely follow the
149 track (Figure 3). The interpolation used is a cubic interpolation so the interpolated trajectory
150 effectively goes through all Leica TS-30 measured points as they are known to be precise in
151 position.

152 ***** INSERT Figure 3: Interpolation benefits to more closely follow the
153 track

154 As a conclusion, we can say that the Leica TS-30 can also be used as a gold-standard for the
155 distance assessment. However, this is true as long as the Leica TS-30 gives enough
156 measurements for the interpolation to fill gaps. All Leica TS-30 traces used in this paper
157 have been checked to ensure no unacceptable gaps (> 0.5 s) were present.

158 *4.3. Data collection*

159 As the aim was to assess the UWB positioning quality using the Leica TS-30 as a gold-
160 standard, it was necessary to mount tags and prism as close as possible. Another critical
161 requirement with the Leica TS-30 is to maintain a line-of-sight between the total station and
162 the prism for the tracking. So mounted on a wheelchair was a pole with the prism on top and
163 a plate attached to accommodate the tags, see Figure 4. With this setup, the actual horizontal
164 position of the prism and tags is almost the same; the small offset being negligible compared
165 with the expected system accuracy (15-30 cm). This setup was very convenient as the
166 wheelchair can be pushed normally keeping the line-of-sight between the Leica TS-30 and
167 the prism. Another advantage of this setup is that it was possible to reproduce wheelchair
168 sports movements in an ecologically valid environment.

169 ***** INSERT Figure 4: Tags and prism mounted on a wheelchair

170 *4.4. Data processing and smoothing*

171 The processing workflow can be seen on Figure 5 and time synchronisation is required after
172 positions are determined as both systems are using their own internal clock for time
173 stamping. The time synchronisation is achieved based on Fast-Fourier Transform (FFT).
174 Once the time synchronisation is complete, the common time window is determined to make
175 sure both systems are running during the analysis period. From here, several movement
176 parameters and quality indicators are computed.

177 The first quality measure is obtained by computing the horizontal position error of each UWB
178 measurement compared to the interpolated Leica trace considered as the gold standard. The
179 second quality indicator is based on the distance covered as it is one of the key metrics used
180 to monitor sports performance. This was computed by summing up the distance between
181 consecutive points for both Ubisense tags and the Leica TS-30 interpolated data. However, as
182 the UWB positions are subject to random noise, a filter was applied to mitigate this effect.
183 The filtering used was a 3-pass sliding-average with a window size proportional to the
184 acquisition frequency.

185 ***** INSERT Figure 5: Workflow of the processing used in this study

186 **5. Trials, Results and Analysis**

187 *5.1. System setup*

188 *5.1.1. Setup and configuration quality*

189 The first objective was an assessment of the setup procedure recommended by Ubisense,
190 which is a quick, low-cost and practical approach to the system installation. As mentioned in
191 Section 3.2, the main step during this installation is to input sensor locations into the
192 Ubisense software. Sensor locations were obtained by laser distance measurements relatively
193 to two reference points, one at either end of the playing area.

194 In order to assess the precision of the laser measurement technique; sensors and reference
195 points have been surveyed with the Leica TS-30. Comparing laser distances with Leica TS-30
196 equivalent distances gives a root mean square error of 4 cm which is a typical result
197 according to the measurement technology used.

198 The distance measurements were provided to the Ubisense Location Engine Configuration
199 (LEC) tool [23] which computed estimates for sensors' locations. The comparison between
200 these estimates and the ground truth provided by the Leica TS-30 has been made for one
201 particular setup of 5 sensors (Table 1). This shows an expected result from the Ubisense setup
202 procedure. There is some evidence of small systematic bias (for example all negative X
203 differences) and random measurement errors (for example the variation in the negative X
204 values) which are of a typical magnitude for the system.

205 ***** INSERT Table 1: Sensors position differences using Ubisense LEC
206 tool

207 5.1.2. Sensors spatial configuration

208 One advantage of a flexible UWB system is that the sensors' distribution can be adjusted to
209 optimise the coverage of the area being tracked. Trials were undertaken in order to find the
210 optimum sensors' spatial distribution to cover an indoor wheelchair rugby court.

211 In order to assess the impact of sensor locations on the output of the system, the wheelchair
212 has been used with both tags and prism mounted. The trajectory pattern used to maximise
213 coverage of the playing area is shown in Figure 6. Positioning quality has been evaluated
214 with a statistical analysis on the horizontal positioning error of the UWB system obtained as
215 described in Section 4.4.

216 ***** INSERT Figure 6: Trajectory pattern used for sensors spatial
217 configuration analysis

218 Different configurations have been tried to get an optimal coverage of the court using
219 respectively four, five and six sensors. Using four sensors, one in each corner of the court,
220 resulted in a mean error of 0.40 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.28$ m). Similar results were obtained when adding
221 one sensor on one of the middle side with a mean error of 0.39 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.29$ m). Finally,
222 slightly better results (Ubisense track closer to the TS-30 track) were obtained using six
223 sensors, one in each corner at 4m height and two on the middle sides at 2 m providing a mean
224 error of 0.35 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.23$ m). This is the optimum setup tried and is the one used for all the
225 trials presented next. A spatial analysis has been performed to identify possible areas with
226 bad coverage. However, it appeared that the noise and random errors of the system did not
227 allow for the identification of consistently weak areas.

228 5.2. Positioning quality analysis

229 5.2.1. Stationary Positioning

230 In order to assess the stationary positioning quality, tags were left stationary for 5 minutes in
231 known court locations. As an example, Figure 7 shows the output of one tag left stationary on
232 a corner of the playing area and is a typical pattern of measurements from various positions
233 around the court. The plot shows that positions out of the UWB system are separated into two
234 distinct clusters. This clustering can be explained by the noise due to sensors sets switching
235 as described in Banerjee [24] which also propose a particle filter to mitigate this effects.

236 ***** INSERT Figure 7: Stationary tag positioning

237 5.2.2. Dynamic Positioning

238 The first assessment evaluated the horizontal positioning error of each position output by the
239 UWB system. In order to collect data relevant to indoor wheelchair court sports, trials were

240 conducted during a simulated wheelchair rugby match with 1 participant playing 4 quarters of
241 8 minutes. The participant was asked to simulate a match play including turns, pivots, back
242 and forth movements with rapid changes of speed. An example of a trajectory during a
243 quarter is visible on Figure 8.

244 ***** INSERT Figure 8: Example trajectory during a quarter of a simulated
245 match

246 Two matches of this format have been conducted. Table 2 presents the statistical analysis of
247 the error for both two matches.

248 ***** INSERT Table 2: Mean (m) \pm standard deviation (m) of the UWB
249 positioning error during 2 simulated matches with 9 tags operating at 3 different update rates

250 Results illustrated the accuracy of the system with a horizontal positioning mean error of
251 0.37m and a standard deviation of ± 0.24 m. Detailed results are presented to highlight the
252 consistency of the system. Note that numbers obtained are similar to those obtained in the
253 sensor spatial configuration trial (Section 5.1.2) where a mean error of 0.35 m and a standard
254 deviation of ± 0.23 m were found. Additionally, the tag update rate does not seem to affect the
255 positioning quality according to the values grouped by update rate.

256 Finally, the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the positioning error has been
257 computed and a typical example is shown on Figure 9. The CDF has been represented for the
258 3 different tag update rates used (4Hz, 8Hz, 16Hz) using the horizontal error on one
259 simulated match (4 quarters of 8 min). The closeness of curves in Figure 9 show that tag
260 update rate doesn't have a significant impact on the error distribution which confirms that the
261 tag update rate does not affect the positioning quality as already seen on Table 2. The 90th-
262 percentile positioning error is 0.63m regardless of tag rate. Similar results were obtained with
263 an equivalent setup procedure in Muthukrishnan [18] where it is also compared to more
264 complex system setups. The nominal update rates (4Hz, 8Hz, 16Hz) were checked against
265 the time stamped measurement records and agreed within less than 1Hz.

266 ***** INSERT Figure 9: Cumulative Distribution Function of the positioning
267 error

268 5.2.3. *Impact of wheelchair environment*

269 Results presented in previous sections were obtained with only one wheelchair moving on the
270 court which is not representative of a wheelchair rugby environment. In order to address this,
271 a match (4 quarters of 8 minutes) has been simulated with another wheelchair interacting on
272 the court. To simulate a game this involved close engagement between the wheelchairs and
273 more distant separation between them. The positioning quality was assessed using the
274 statistical analysis on the horizontal positioning error described in Section 4.4. These trials
275 were done using the setup with 5 sensors described in Section 5.1.2 which reported a mean
276 horizontal positioning error of 0.39 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.29$ m).

277 During the first two quarters, one wheelchair was tracked by both the UWB system and the
278 Leica TS-30, whilst the second wheelchair remained untracked. The first and second quarters
279 reported a mean error of 0.38 m (\pm 0.30 m) and 0.39 m (\pm 0.35 m) respectively. Such results
280 demonstrate that perturbations caused by a second wheelchair on court do not influence the
281 positioning quality. To determine whether the tags were working entirely independent, the
282 second wheelchair was also tracked by the UWB system during the third and fourth quarters.
283 Subsequently, error values remained similar, with a mean error of 0.38 m (\pm 0.26 m) and 0.36
284 m (\pm 0.27 m). As a result, tracking several independent objects in close and distant
285 relationships did not affect the positioning quality.

286 Finally, some real match data has been investigated to evaluate the impact of having eight
287 athletes and one referee on the court. Due to the need of a constant line of sight between the
288 surveying equipment and the object tracked, no reference data was available. However, the
289 data has been investigated regarding its availability (presence of data gaps) and visual
290 correctness of the track.

291 As the real match data was obtained using a tag mounted on the foot strap, the presence of
292 data gaps was compared to the results obtained in Section 5.2.5 using a similar tag mounting
293 location. A gap is defined as being a data outage for more than 0.5s. The results from
294 Section 5.2.5 are representative of a situation where only one wheelchair is on the court.
295 Over the 488.1 seconds of the trial, 32 gaps were detected, giving an average occurrence of 1
296 gap every 15.25 seconds of an average duration of 1.20 seconds. The gaps distribution is
297 visible on Figure 10.

298 ***** INSERT Figure 10: Distribution of the data gaps with one wheelchair
299 on the court

300 Moving to the real match data, the whole match was considered with the 4 quarters of 8
301 minutes including any stop in the game (ball out of play, fouls, ...) representing a total
302 dataset of approximately 70 minutes. Over the 4196.8 seconds of the dataset, 299 gaps were
303 detected, giving an average occurrence of 1 gap every 14.0 seconds of an average duration of
304 1.28 seconds. Similarly, the gaps distribution is visible on Figure 11.

305 ***** INSERT Figure 11: Distribution of the data gaps during a real match
306 with 8 athletes + 1 referee on the court

307 The second aspect of the data that has been investigated is the visual correctness of the track.
308 This visual investigation also included a real-time replay of the track to detect any unnatural
309 or irregular movement of the athlete. After investigation, no major anomalies or irregularities
310 could be detected. An example of the track produced for a quarter during a real match is
311 visible on Figure 12.

312 ***** INSERT Figure 12: Example of an athlete's trajectory during one
313 quarter of a real match

314 5.2.4. *Filtered positioning quality analysis for distance measurement*

315 Before being able to compute the distance covered, UWB measurements were processed
316 using the smoothing described in Section 4.4. Then distances are computed for both UWB
317 smoothed measurements and ‘interpolated’ Leica tracks and compared.

318 Detailed results are presented in Table 3 which summarises the errors obtained for 9 tags,
319 operating at 3 different update rates, during the 2 simulated matches.

320 ***** INSERT Table 3: Distance error of 9 tags operating at 3 different
321 update rates during 2 simulated matches

322 The mean error on the distance travelled for all tags of the UWB system is 0.45% of course
323 length. Each quarter trajectory was approximately 1000m in length therefore a 0.45% error is
324 equivalent to 4.5m. Additionally, results showed that the higher the update rate, the better the
325 distance estimate. This can be explained as the trajectory will be composed of more points
326 which give a better recording of the dynamics with the same positioning quality
327 (Section 5.2.2).

328 5.2.5. *Tag mounting location*

329 Section 5.2.4 presented the results for distance estimation considering different update rates
330 with tags attached as shown in Figure 4. In order to find mounting locations more appropriate
331 to wheelchair court sports, a specific trial was conducted with tags located in different places
332 on the wheelchair or worn by the athlete. Below are the detailed tag mounting locations
333 considered:

- 334 • Vest: Tag positioned between the scapula using a GPS vest worn by the participant
- 335 • Frame: Tag attached to the wheelchair frame located at the front of the chair.
- 336 • Foot strap: Tag positioned onto the foot strap of the wheelchair
- 337 • Camber bar: Tag secured to the camber bar of the chair located beneath the seat.

338 Additionally, one tag was left attached to the prism pole to allow for a direct comparison with
339 the results presented in Section 5.2.4. A quarter of 8 minutes has been simulated and distance
340 estimates have been computed for each tag. The Leica TS-30 has measured a distance of
341 752.81 m for this quarter. Results are summarised in Table 4 which also includes the number
342 of data gaps (no measurement for more than 0.5s) for each tag.

343 ***** INSERT Table 4: Distance estimates and data gaps for different
344 mounting locations

345 **6. Discussion**

346 The setup procedure that has been used and assessed in the current study was recommended
347 by Ubisense which was chosen for its simplicity, convenience and speed of set up. Results of
348 Section 5.1.1 showed that the root mean square error using a laser distance measurer is
349 around 4 cm when measuring the distance between each sensor and reference points. This

350 was an acceptable result for the technology used. More expensive, time-consuming and
351 complex setup procedure are possible [18,19] but wouldn't be as easy and quick to deploy for
352 a mobile system used in a sports environment.

353 Several sensor configurations were investigated to optimise coverage of the court. The best
354 configuration was obtained using 6 sensors, with one in each corner of the court 4m high and
355 2 on the middle-sides of the court 2m high. With such a configuration the mean horizontal
356 positioning error was found to be 0.35 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.23$ m). The stationary positioning analysis
357 in the study showed that the distribution of computed positions is typical of an UWB radio-
358 positioning systems with evidence of sensors set switching noise [24].

359 An important aspect of this study was the dynamic positioning quality assessment using a
360 robotic total station with tracking capabilities. Previous studies were limited on dynamic
361 assessment by performing only basic linear drills [25], differential comparison (tags
362 comparison instead of a gold-standard comparison) [7] or by asking participants to follow a
363 predefined path marked on the ground [25]. These have shortcomings for the validation of an
364 UWB system in a sports performance context where athletes perform multi-directional
365 movements at varying intensities. A more recent study [26] addressed most of these
366 shortcomings by using a trundle wheel to obtain a distance reference. While this allows more
367 freedom for the players, it still has some limitations in the dynamics that can be tracked and
368 the measure may not reflect exactly the actual distance covered by the athlete. Finally, as
369 mentioned by the authors [26], the trundle wheel provides a way to assess distance estimation
370 but does not provide any information about the positioning quality. The protocol using a
371 robotic total station addresses these shortcomings. Results during 2 simulated matches
372 showed a mean horizontal positioning error of 0.37 m ($\sigma = \pm 0.24$ m) which correlates with
373 the sensors spatial configuration analysis results ($\mu = 0.35$ m, $\sigma = \pm 0.23$ m). This validated
374 the capacity of an UWB system to track highly dynamic movements. Additionally, having a
375 second wheelchair moving and tracked on the court did not affect the positioning quality.
376 While it was not possible to use the surveying equipment during a real match due to the need
377 for a constant line of sight, some real match data has been investigated. Two aspects were
378 considered, the availability and regularity or smoothness of the track. The availability study
379 was based on a direct comparison to the results obtained in Section 5.2.5. With only one
380 athlete on the court, on average, a data gap occurred every 15.2 seconds for an average
381 outage of 1.20 seconds. During a real match, with eight athletes and one referee on the court,
382 the occurrence rate slightly increased to one gap every 14.0 seconds for an average outage of
383 1.28 seconds. The comparison of the respective gaps distribution (Figure 10 and Figure 11)
384 shows that larger gaps (> 2.5 seconds) are more likely to appear during a real match situation.
385 However, this difference is not significant since 94% of the gaps are below 2.5 seconds in the
386 real match dataset compared to 97% in the single wheelchair situation. Additionally, the
387 visual correctness of the track has been checked using a real-time replay and did not show
388 any evidence of major anomalies or irregularities. As a conclusion, going from a single
389 athlete on the court to a real match situation with eight athletes and one referee only slightly
390 degrades the performance of the tracking system. However, according to the results of our

391 analysis, the degradation is not significant and does not affect the suitability of the system to
392 be used for indoor wheelchair court sports.

393 The next focus of this study was on the distance covered, an important metric in analysing
394 athlete's performance. A previous study [26] assessed that the same UWB system can
395 provide a distance estimate with an error of 3.45 ± 1.99 % of the course length in a basketball
396 context. These results were obtained using a combination of Kalman filter and low-pass filter.
397 The approach adopted in this study uses a 3-pass sliding average (Section 4.4). Using this
398 filtering technique the distance can be known with a mean error below 0.5% of course length.
399 This difference in results may also be partly explained by the protocol used in [26] as the
400 trundle wheel does not follow exactly the same path as the tag. Also, the tags update rate in
401 [26] (4Hz) may contribute to a reduced quality of distance measurement. The present work
402 found that higher tag update rates (≥ 8 Hz) are more suitable for distance estimation as outlier
403 effects can be more easily mitigated by the processing and are also giving the finest recording
404 of the dynamics.

405 The tag attached to the prism pole provided the best distance estimate with results in
406 agreement with those found in Section 5.2.4. Regarding mounting locations relevant to
407 wheelchair sports, the vest appeared to show the smallest error. It also appeared that lower
408 mounting places are more subject to data gaps which could affect the distance estimate.
409 Nevertheless, the magnitude of error was still minimal regardless of location, and lower
410 places may offer the most practically relevant tag locations.

411 **7. Conclusion**

412 This study has assessed the quality of an UWB system for tracking wheelchair athletes
413 indoors. With a quick and easy deployment procedure, dynamic tracking can be achieved
414 with a mean horizontal positioning error of 0.37m ($\sigma = \pm 0.24$ m). Additionally, distance
415 covered can be determined with an error below 0.5% of course length with adequate data
416 processing. Tag update rates did not have a significant impact on the positioning quality;
417 however, higher rates (≥ 8 Hz) provided a greater number of points to more closely record the
418 high dynamic movements. It was also found that having many wheelchairs on the court did
419 not have a significant effect on the positioning. Finally, several tag mounting places have
420 been tried with the smallest error obtained for the tag worn by the athlete in a GPS vest.
421 Although the results presented are sport specific the method has wider potential application to
422 other indoor and possibly outdoor sports.

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518 **Tables :**

519

520 **Table 1: Sensors position differences using Ubisense LEC tool**

	X [along court] difference (m)	Y [cross court] difference (m)	Z difference (m)	Total difference
Sensor 1	-0.224	-0.031	0.094	0.245
Sensor 2	-0.128	-0.058	0.001	0.141
Sensor 3	-0.069	-0.134	0.017	0.152
Sensor 4	-0.102	+0.050	0.037	0.119
Sensor 5	-0.165	-0.252	0.002	0.301

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Table 2: Mean (m) ± standard deviation (m) of the UWB positioning error during 2 simulated matches with 9 tags operating at 3 different update rates

	Match 1				Match 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tag 1 (16Hz)	0.33 ± 0.21	0.31 ± 0.21	0.36 ± 0.26	0.34 ± 0.22	0.39 ± 0.24	0.34 ± 0.22	0.41 ± 0.25	0.39 ± 0.27
Tag 2 (16Hz)	0.36 ± 0.23	0.31 ± 0.22	0.36 ± 0.25	0.35 ± 0.23	0.40 ± 0.22	0.34 ± 0.23	0.40 ± 0.24	0.39 ± 0.26
Tag 3 (16Hz)	0.36 ± 0.22	0.34 ± 0.21	0.39 ± 0.24	0.37 ± 0.22	0.40 ± 0.26	0.37 ± 0.21	0.41 ± 0.25	0.41 ± 0.25
Tag 4 (8Hz)	0.34 ± 0.21	0.33 ± 0.21	0.36 ± 0.25	0.36 ± 0.22	0.39 ± 0.23	0.33 ± 0.23	0.40 ± 0.24	0.39 ± 0.27
Tag 5 (8Hz)	0.36 ± 0.22	0.34 ± 0.21	0.38 ± 0.26	0.37 ± 0.22	0.41 ± 0.24	0.37 ± 0.24	0.41 ± 0.24	0.42 ± 0.25
Tag 6 (8Hz)	0.35 ± 0.21	0.34 ± 0.26	0.37 ± 0.25	0.36 ± 0.23	0.40 ± 0.24	0.37 ± 0.22	0.41 ± 0.25	0.41 ± 0.28
Tag 7 (4Hz)	0.35 ± 0.27	0.32 ± 0.22	0.38 ± 0.25	0.36 ± 0.24	0.39 ± 0.26	0.33 ± 0.23	0.40 ± 0.25	0.40 ± 0.26
Tag 8 (4Hz)	0.35 ± 0.23	0.32 ± 0.21	0.39 ± 0.25	0.36 ± 0.24	0.39 ± 0.26	0.34 ± 0.22	0.41 ± 0.26	0.40 ± 0.26
Tag 9 (4Hz)	0.36 ± 0.23	0.34 ± 0.22	0.41 ± 0.28	0.36 ± 0.24	0.38 ± 0.30	0.38 ± 0.25	0.42 ± 0.26	0.42 ± 0.26
Mean	(16 Hz) 0.37 ± 0.23 m		(8 Hz) 0.37 ± 0.24 m		(4 Hz) 0.37 ± 0.25 m		(Total) 0.37 ± 0.24 m	

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526 **Table 3: Distance error of 9 tags operating at 3 different update rates during 2 simulated matches**

	Match 1				Match 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tag 1 (16Hz)	-0.05%	-0.40%	0.00%	0.04%	-0.55%	0.22%	-0.07%	-0.36%
Tag 2 (16Hz)	-0.62%	-1.05%	-0.25%	-0.56%	-0.90%	-0.35%	-0.14%	-0.36%
Tag 3 (16Hz)	-0.44%	-0.76%	-0.06%	-0.43%	-0.72%	0.13%	-0.08%	-0.02%
Tag 4 (8Hz)	-0.63%	-1.09%	-0.38%	-0.50%	-0.80%	-0.56%	-0.46%	-1.04%
Tag 5 (8Hz)	-0.40%	-0.97%	0.01%	-0.35%	-0.72%	0.00%	-0.04%	-0.17%
Tag 6 (8Hz)	0.27%	0.20%	0.49%	0.33%	-0.12%	0.78%	0.42%	0.63%
Tag 7 (4Hz)	-0.92%	-1.68%	-0.80%	-0.82%	-1.22%	-1.07%	-0.46%	-1.19%
Tag 8 (4Hz)	-0.05%	-0.56%	0.07%	0.31%	-0.54%	0.00%	0.22%	-0.12%
Tag 9 (4Hz)	-0.21%	-0.72%	-0.09%	-0.27%	-0.51%	0.49%	-0.01%	-0.11%
Mean	(16 Hz) 0.36 %		(8 Hz) 0.47 %		(4 Hz) 0.52 %		(Total) 0.45 %	

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528 **Table 4: Distance estimates and data gaps for different mounting locations**

	Distance estimate	Error (%)	Data gaps
Prism pole	751.8 m	-0.13 %	1
Vest	755.4 m	0.35 %	6
Frame	750.1 m	-0.36 %	31
Foot strap	745.9 m	-0.91 %	32
Camber bar	736.9 m	-1.85 %	34

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531 **Figures :**

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a) Sensor (20cm x 14cm x 9.5cm)



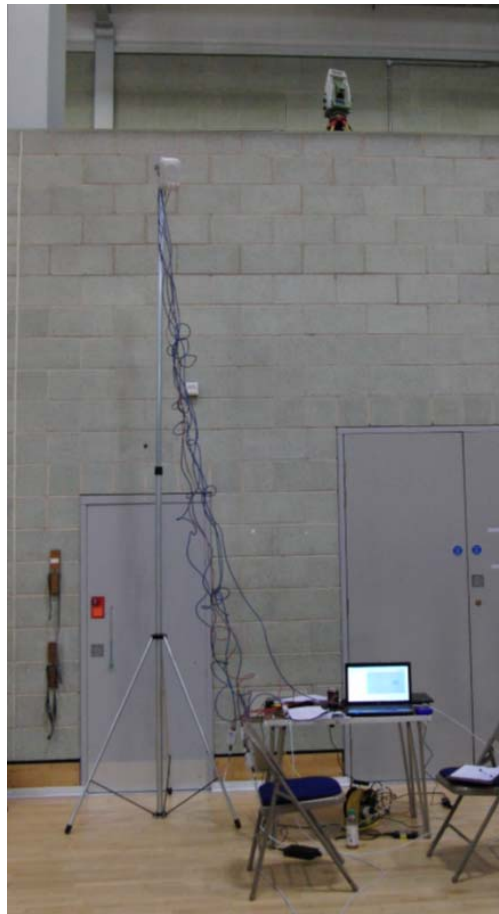
b) Tag (40mm x 40mm x 10mm)

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Figure 1: Ubisense Real-Time Location System [6]

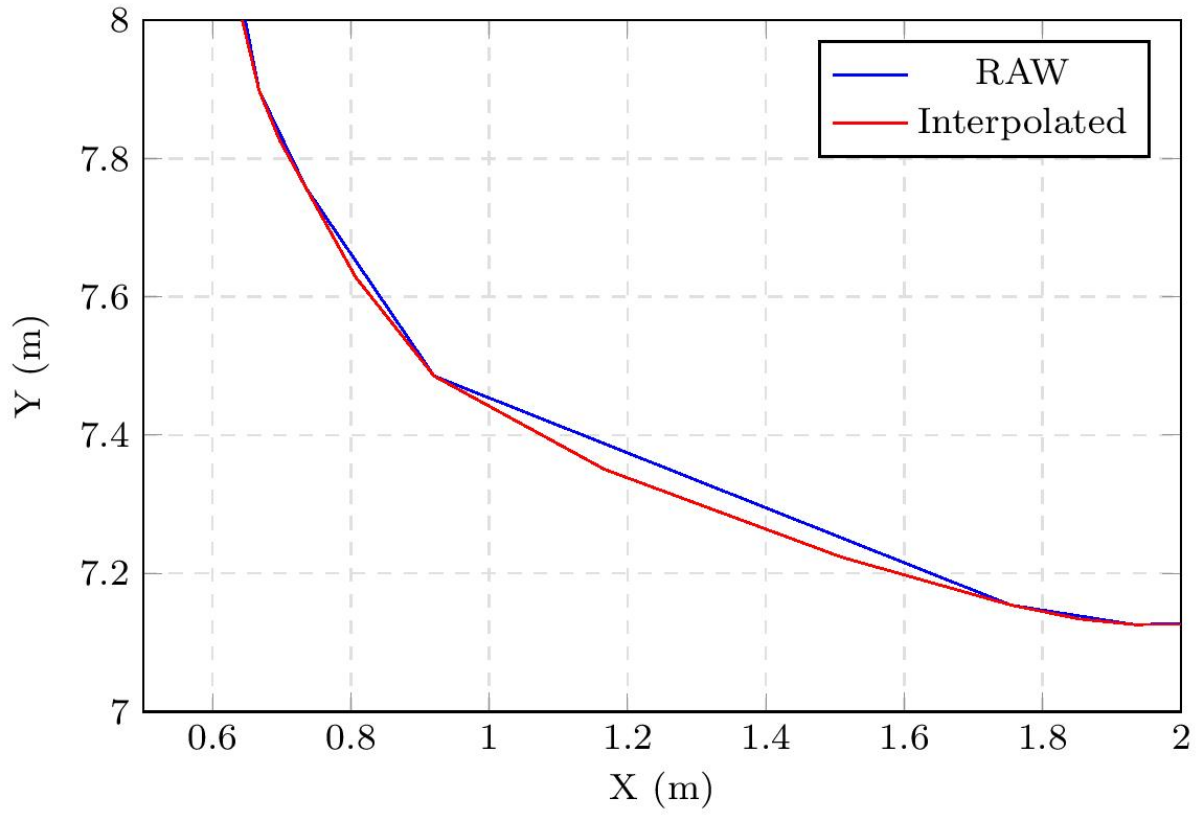
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Figure 2: Viewing gallery showing the Leica TS-30 surveying equipment and one UWB sensor on an elevated stand



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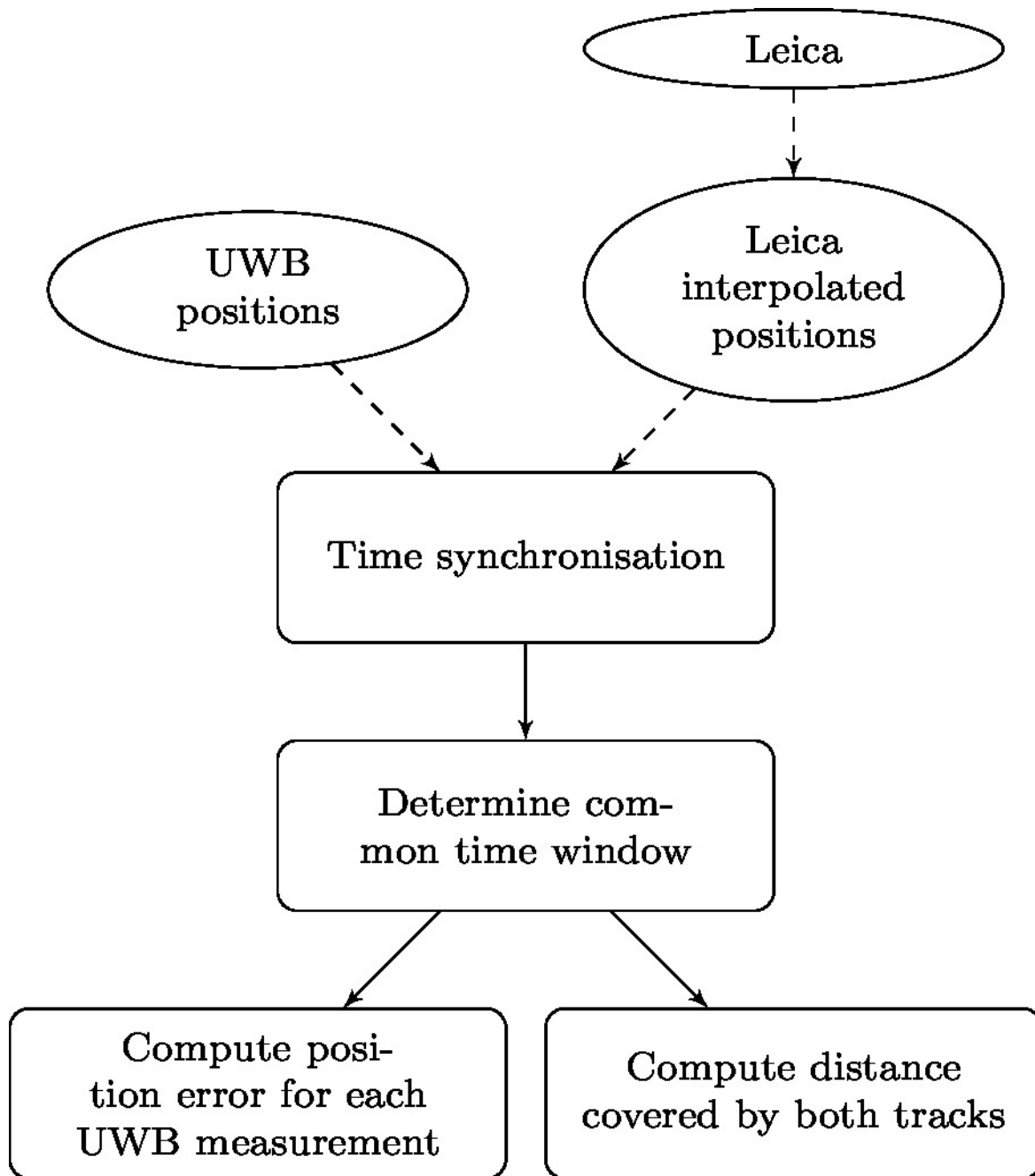
Figure 3: Interpolation benefits to more closely follow the track



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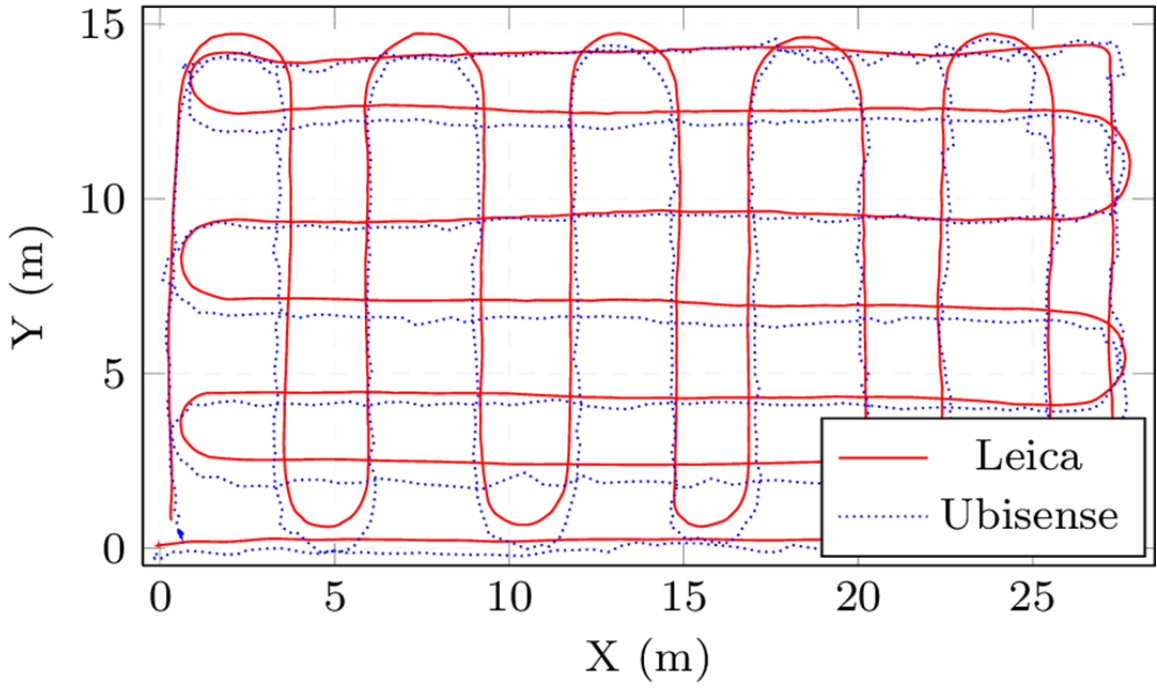
Figure 4: Tags and prism mounted on a wheelchair



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Figure 5: Workflow of the processing used in this study

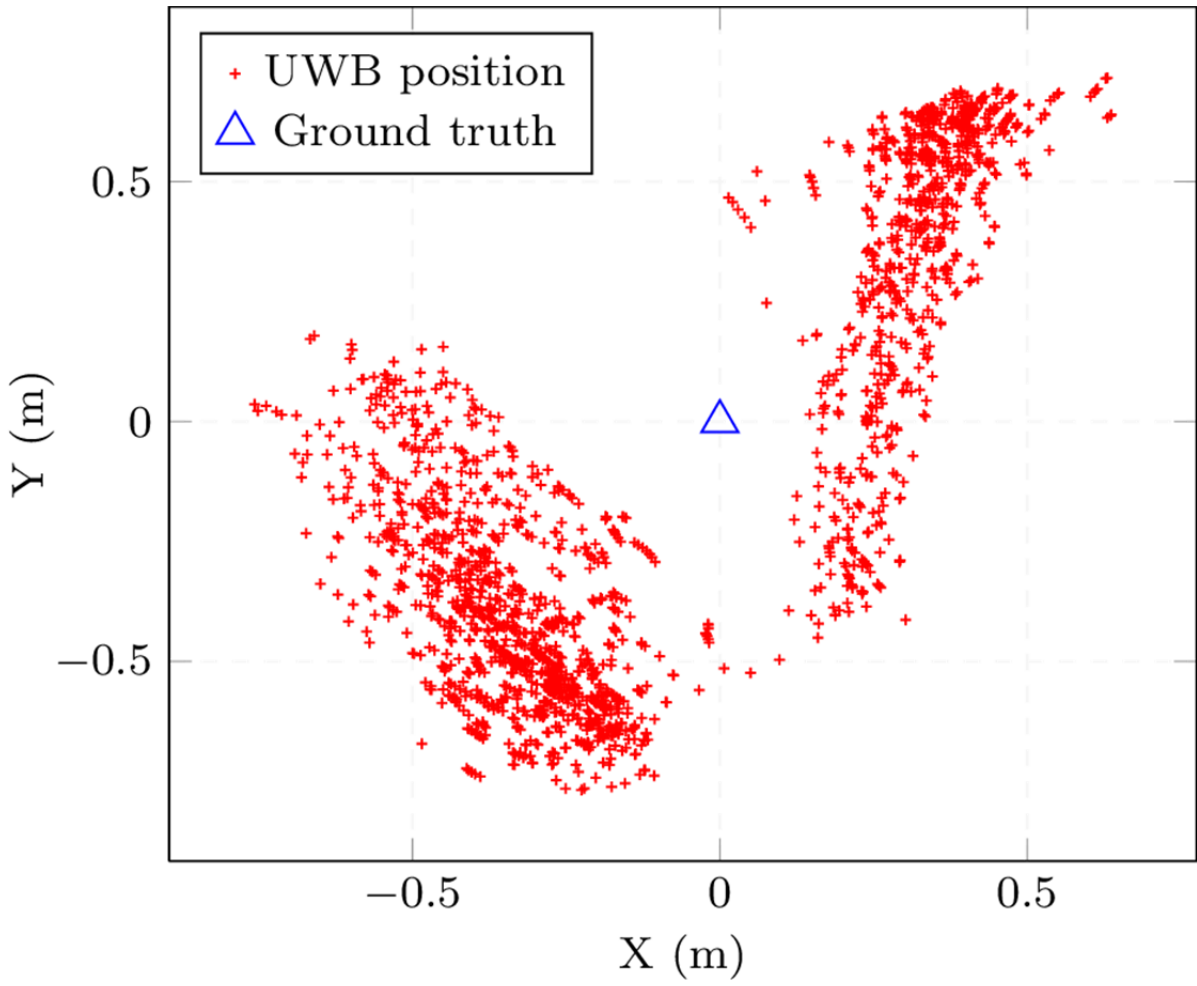


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Figure 6: Trajectory pattern used for sensors spatial configuration analysis

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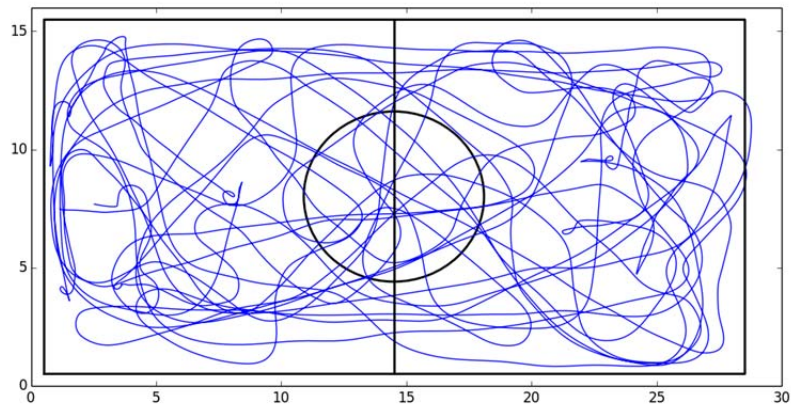
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Figure 7: Stationary tag positioning

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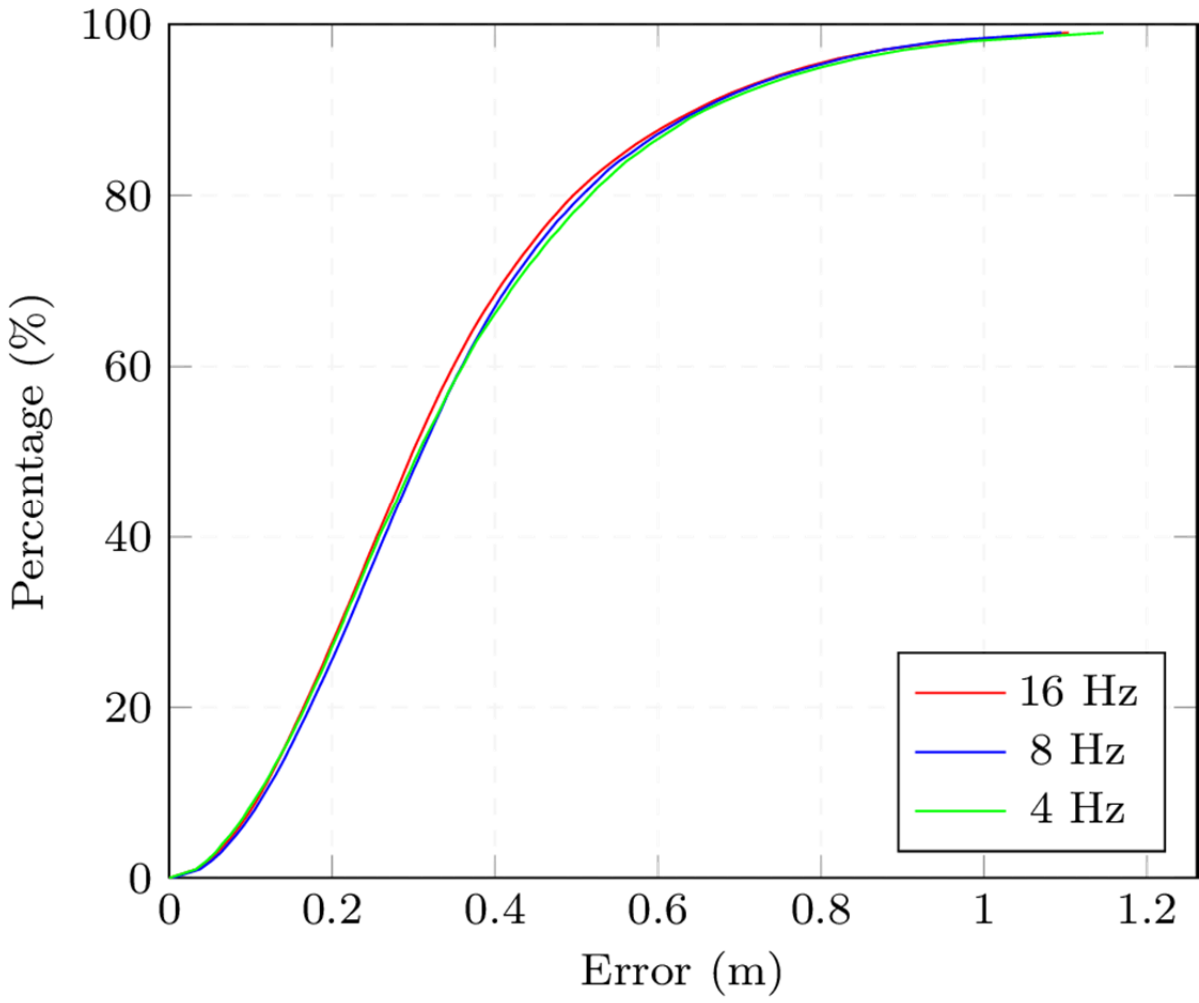
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Figure 8: Example trajectory during a quarter of a simulated match

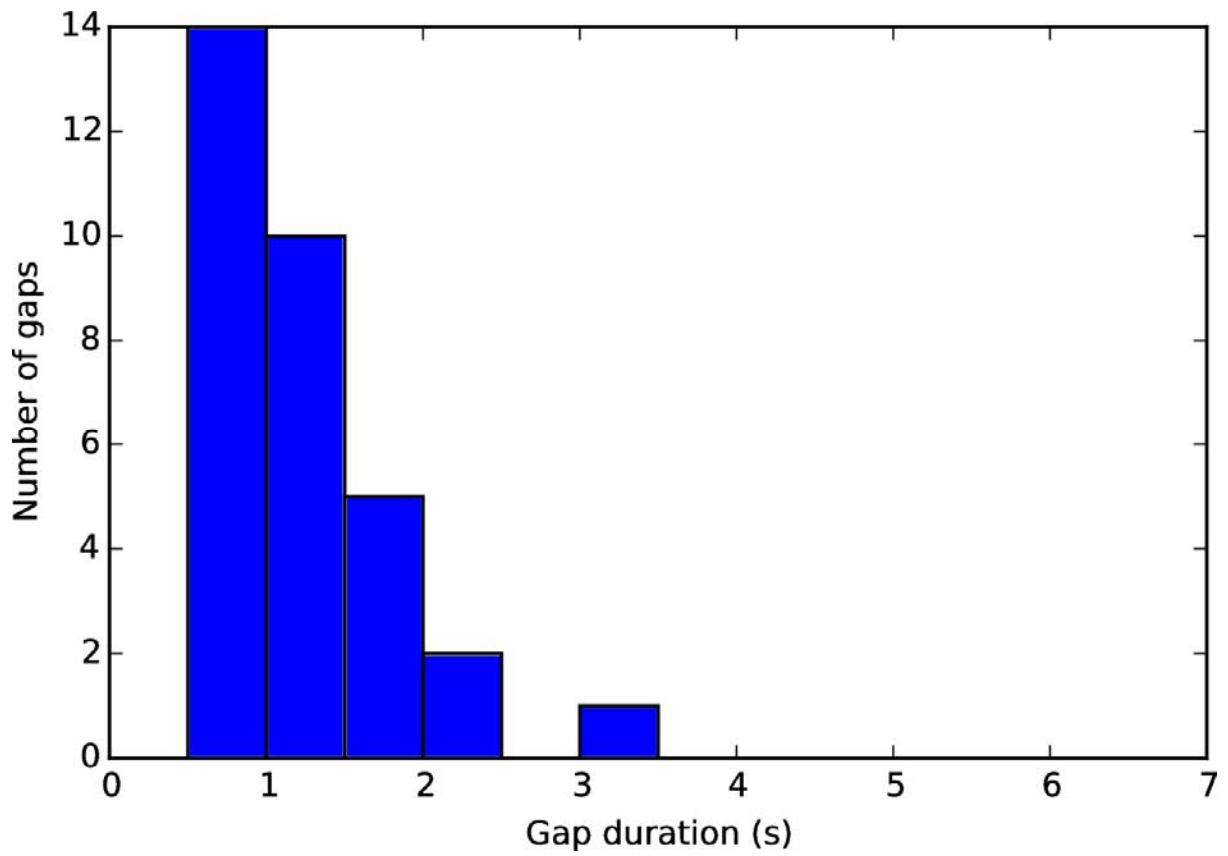


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Figure 9: Cumulative Distribution Function of the positioning error

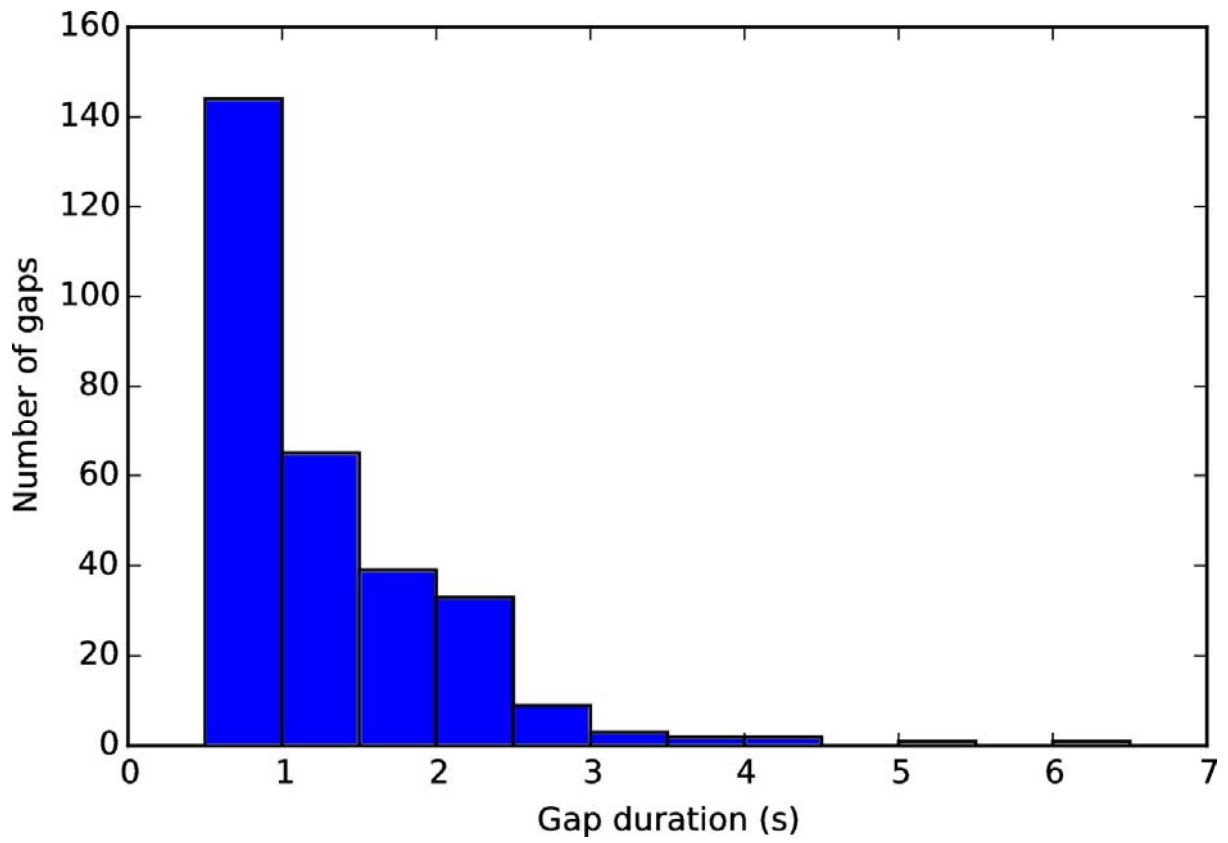


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Figure 10: Distribution of the data gaps with one wheelchair on the court



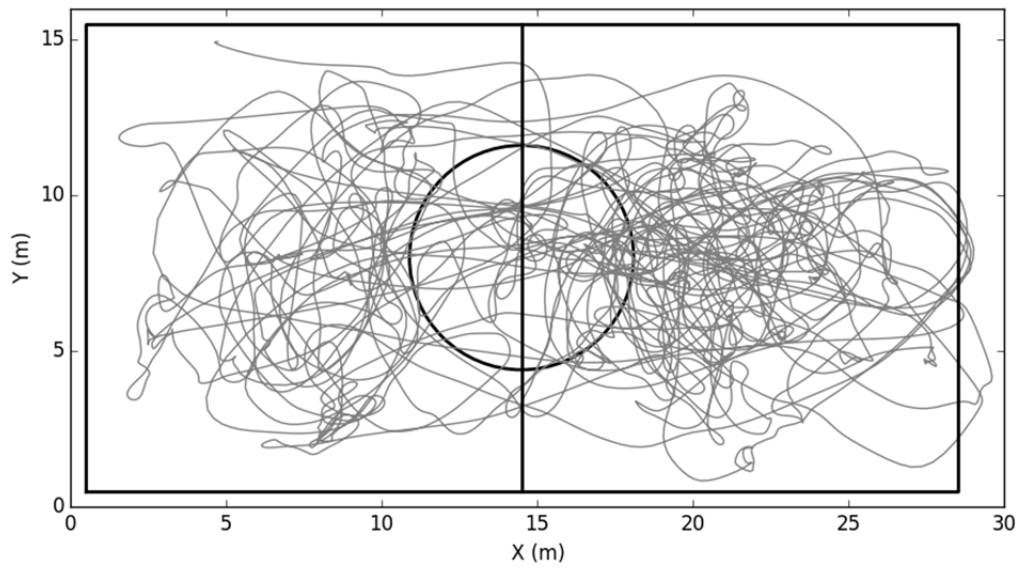
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Figure 11: Distribution of the data gaps during a real match with 8 athletes + 1 referee on the court

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Figure 12: Example of an athlete's trajectory during one quarter of a real match