

- 1 **Classification and processing of 24-hour wrist accelerometer data**
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3 **Abstract**

4 **Background** An important step in accelerometer data analysis is the classification of
5 continuous, 24-hour, data into sleep, wake, and non-wear time. We compared classification
6 times and physical activity metrics across different data processing and classification
7 methods.

8 **Methods** Participants (n=576) from the Finnish Retirement and Aging Study (FIREA) wore
9 an accelerometer on their non-dominant wrist for 7 days and nights and filled in daily logs
10 with sleep and waking times. Accelerometer data were first classified as sleep or wake time
11 by log, and Tudor-Locke, Tracy, and ActiGraph algorithms. Then, wake periods were
12 classified as wear or non-wear by log, Choi algorithm and wear sensor. We compared time
13 classification (sleep, wake, and wake wear time) as well as physical activity measures (total
14 activity volume and sedentary time) across these classification methods.

15 **Results** Mean (SD) nightly sleep time was 467 (49) minutes by log and 419 (88), 522 (86)
16 and 453 (74) minutes by Tudor-Locke, Tracy and ActiGraph algorithms, respectively. Wake
17 wear time did not differ substantially when comparing Choi algorithm and the log. The wear
18 sensor did not work properly in about 29% of the participants. Daily sedentary time varied by
19 8–81 minutes after excluding sleep by different methods and by 1–18 min after excluding
20 non-wear time by different methods. Total activity volume did not substantially differ across
21 the methods.

22 **Conclusion** The differences in wear and sedentary time were larger than differences in total
23 activity volume. Methods for defining sleep periods had larger impact on outcomes than
24 methods for defining wear time.

25

26 Key words: 24-h accelerometry, physical activity, sedentary, sleep

27 INTRODUCTION

28

29 Wearing the accelerometer on the (non-dominant) wrist is gaining popularity as an alternative
30 to hip placement (Doherty et al., 2017; Schrack et al., 2016; Troiano et al., 2014). Wrist-worn
31 accelerometers have been shown to be valid in estimating physical activity energy
32 expenditure in free-living situations (Ellis et al., 2016; Staudenmayer et al., 2015; White et
33 al., 2016) and they have four important advantages over the hip-worn accelerometers:
34 increased participant compliance, increased comfort for 24-hour wear, enabling measurement
35 of sleep duration and quality, and better detection of light activity related to daily tasks,
36 which may be primarily upper body movements (Quante et al., 2015; Schrack et al., 2016;
37 Troiano et al., 2014). However, wearing the device 24 hours/day creates new challenges to
38 accelerometer data processing (McVeigh et al., 2016; Meredith-Jones et al., 2016; Tracy et
39 al., 2014; van der Berg et al., 2016). Before being able to analyze either sleep or physical
40 activity, one needs to separate non-wear, wake and sleep time (Kosmadopoulos et al., 2016;
41 McVeigh et al., 2016). In particular, sedentary behavior, sleep and non-wear time are difficult
42 to distinguish from each other based on the accelerometer readings alone, because they are all
43 comprised of low intensity or no movement, resulting in the accelerometer registering
44 predominantly zero counts (Kosmadopoulos et al., 2016; Quante et al., 2015).

45

46 Generally, sleep needs to be defined before wear time, and this can be done either by using
47 participant logs or using sleep algorithms, such as those developed by Tudor-Locke (Tudor-
48 Locke et al., 2014), Tracy (Tracy et al., 2014) and Van Hees (van Hees et al., 2015).

49 Different methods have been used to separate wear time from non-wear time including
50 algorithms, participant logs and wear sensors, all of which have their own strengths and
51 weaknesses. Commonly used non-wear algorithms, such as Troiano (Troiano et al., 2008) and

52 Choi (Choi, Liu et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2012), define non-wear time based on the number of
53 consecutive zero counts. Although participant logs are commonly used, they increase
54 participant burden, often have missing values and are subject to biases due to recall and social
55 desirability (Keadle et al., 2014; Quante et al., 2015; Shiroma et al., 2015). In addition, some
56 accelerometers have wear sensors, which detect wear times based on capacitive coupling or
57 skin temperature, but their utility remains largely unexplored to date (Intille et al., 2012;
58 Zhou et al., 2015). As the non-wear algorithms cannot detect non-wear periods that are
59 shorter than the minimum number of consecutive zero-counts (Winkler et al., 2012), wear
60 sensors might improve wear estimations by detecting also the short non-wear periods.
61 However, to our knowledge, the utility of the ActiGraph wear sensor in separating wear and
62 non-wear time has not yet been reported.

63

64 Previous studies have assessed the effect of different non-wear algorithms on ActiGraph
65 accelerometers' wear time and sedentary time, but mainly from accelerometers worn on the
66 hip during wake time only (Evenson & Terry, 2009; Keadle et al., 2014; Masse et al., 2005;
67 Peeters et al., 2013; Winkler et al., 2012). In addition, some studies have assessed impact of
68 sleep algorithms on sleep and sedentary time in adults wearing the accelerometer on hip
69 (McVeigh et al., 2016; Meredith-Jones et al., 2016) or alternating between hip and wrist
70 placement (Jaeschke et al., 2017; Rosenberger et al., 2016; Zinkhan et al., 2014). However,
71 no previous studies have examined the effects of sleep and non-wear algorithms on the
72 classification of sleep, non-wear and sedentary time based on wrist measurement (Migueles
73 et al., 2017; Schrack et al., 2016).

74

75 To address these gaps in the literature, we used accelerometers worn on wrist for 24
76 hours/day to compare classification times and physical activity metrics across different data

77 processing and classification methods. There were two primary aims of this study. Aim 1) To
78 compare estimates of sleep time from participant logs against three published algorithms
79 (ActiGraph, 2017; Tracy et al., 2016; Tudor-Locke et al., 2014). Aim 2) To compare
80 estimates of wake wear time and number of participants with ≥ 4 valid days using three
81 methods: Choi non-wear algorithm (Choi et al., 2012), ActiGraph wear sensor or log-
82 indicated wear time. Wake wear time estimates are dependent on first identifying and
83 excluding sleep times, and then sequentially excluding non-wear time. Therefore, the three
84 non-wear time detection methods tested in this study were applied to each of the four ‘wake
85 time data sets’ generated by the algorithms tested in aim one, resulting in 18 pairwise sleep
86 time and 12 pairwise non-wear time comparisons. Aim 3) was to compare common
87 accelerometer metrics, including mean daily vector magnitude (VM) counts/60 seconds, as a
88 measure of total activity volume, and mean sedentary time, when the different combinations
89 of sleep and non-wear detection methods were applied to 24-hour accelerometer data.

90

91 **METHODS**

92

93 **Participants**

94 Finnish Retirement and Aging Study (FIREA) is an ongoing longitudinal cohort study of
95 older adults in Finland established in 2013. The aim of the FIREA study is to determine how
96 health behaviors and clinical risk factors change during the transition from working to
97 statutory retirement among aging workers. The eligible population for the FIREA study
98 cohort included all public-sector employees whose individual retirement date is between
99 2014 and 2019 and who were working in year 2012 in one of the 27 municipalities in
100 Southwest Finland or in the 9 selected cities or 5 hospital districts around Finland. We first
101 contacted participants 18 months prior to their estimated retirement date by sending a

102 questionnaire. To those who responded to the questionnaire, we mailed an invitation to
103 participate in the accelerometer sub-study. We mailed the accelerometers to all those
104 participants who returned the signed informed consent and who were still working. The
105 FIREA study was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki declaration, and was approved
106 by the Ethics Committee of Hospital District of Southwest Finland.

107

108 For the current study, we included baseline data from the first 604 participants of the
109 accelerometer sub-study who wore the accelerometer between September 20, 2014 and
110 February 18, 2017. We excluded those who returned the accelerometer unused ($n = 20$) and
111 those who had less than 2 days and 2 nights of recording with log entries on bed time and
112 time of waking up ($n = 8$). This resulted in 576 participants (95% of the original sample) in
113 the analytic sample, of whom 22 (4%) had night shifts during the measurement period.

114

115 **Measurements**

116 **Protocol** We mailed a triaxial ActiGraph wActiSleep-BT accelerometer (ActiGraph,
117 Pensacola, Florida, US) to the participants and asked them to wear the device on their non-
118 dominant wrist starting from the Saturday following receiving the device and continuing until
119 the morning of next Saturday, i.e. 7 days and nights. Participants were instructed to wear the
120 device at all times, including during water-based activities such as swimming, but to remove
121 it for sauna. Participants were provided a daily log, where they were asked to record the date,
122 bedtime and waking time in a log for each day that they wore the device. In some cases,
123 participants also recorded the time they put the device on the first time, and time when they
124 finished the measurement, but these were not requested in the log. After the one-week
125 measurement, participants mailed the devices and logs back to the research office in a pre-
126 paid envelope.

127

128 **Identification of sleep and waking periods.** Figure 1 shows the methods used for detecting
129 sleep, wake and non-wear times as well as outcomes produced with different methods. We
130 used four methods to separate wake and sleep periods: participant logs, algorithms developed
131 by Tudor-Locke and colleagues (Tudor-Locke et al., 2014), and Tracy and colleagues (Tracy
132 et al., 2014) and an algorithm available in ActiGraph's ActiLife software (ActiGraph, 2017).

133

134 First, using the *participant logs*, we defined waking period as times between waking and bed
135 times during the same day (or the following day, if the time was past midnight) and sleep
136 period as times between bed time and waking time on the following day (or the same day if
137 the bed time was past midnight). If data on individual date (but not time) were missing, the
138 research assistants imputed the date when entering the log data in database. If data on wake
139 or bed time was missing, the sleep and waking period data was also marked as missing
140 starting from previous recorded time until the following recorded time.

141

142 The second sleep detection method was the *Tudor-Locke algorithm* (Tudor-Locke et al.,
143 2014) which first uses Sadeh algorithm to define sleep and wake epochs (Sadeh et al., 1994)
144 and then detects the in-bed and waking times based on the wake epochs. Tudor-Locke
145 algorithm defines the in-bed time as the first five consecutive epochs of sleep, and waking
146 time as the first 10 consecutive wake epochs following a sleep period. We ran the Tudor-
147 Locke algorithm in ActiLife software, where it is available as an automatic sleep period
148 detection option, but it is slightly modified from the original Tudor-Locke algorithm. The
149 ActiLife implementation allows the user to select either Sadeh (Sadeh et al., 1994) or Cole-
150 Kripke (Cole et al., 1992) algorithms to identify sleep and wake epochs (ActiGraph, 2017). In

151 the current study we chose to use the Cole-Kripke algorithm because it was originally
152 validated in adult population using wrist-worn accelerometers (Cole et al., 1992).

153

154 The third method, *bedrest algorithm by Tracy and colleagues* was developed with Actigraph
155 GT1M accelerometers worn on the dominant wrist and validated in youth (Tracy et al.,
156 2016). We used the algorithm modified for adult participants: first, the algorithm marks 45-
157 min time blocks with mean axis 1 counts lower than 400 counts/min as sleep time. After this,
158 the algorithms finds a transition time before the first 45-min sleep time block where counts
159 below 300/min mark the first sleep minute and a transition time after the last sleep time block
160 where counts above 800 mark the first waking minute (D. J. Tracy, personal communication,
161 January 26, 2017).

162

163 The fourth method for detecting sleep periods was the *ActiGraph algorithm* available in
164 ActiLife software which builds on Troiano's wear time validation algorithm and defines non-
165 wear times less than 24 hours and with minimum of 5 minutes of non-zero counts as sleep
166 time (ActiGraph, 2017).

167

168 **Identification of wake non-wear time.** We used three methods to differentiate between
169 wake wear and non-wear time: participant logs, Choi algorithm and wear sensor. First, using
170 participant logs, we defined the whole time between start of the measurement (first date and
171 time marked in the log, usually the wake time on the first morning) and end of the
172 measurement (last date and time marked in the log, usually the last sleep time on the 7th day
173 of measurement) as wear time. Thus, we did not remove any non-wear time between start and
174 end time of measurement using the participant log. Second, we used the Choi algorithm
175 which defines non-wear time as 90 consecutive minutes of vector magnitude zero counts,

176 allowing for 2 minutes of non-zero counts, providing that there were 30 minutes of zero
177 counts before or after the non-zero counts (Choi et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2012). The Choi
178 algorithm has later been validated for 24-hour measurement by wrist-worn triaxial
179 accelerometers (Choi et al., 2012). Third, we utilized the wear sensor in wActiSleep-BT that
180 provides minute-by-minute information on wear time based on capacitive coupling
181 (ActiGraph, 2016; Quante et al., 2015). We assessed the functioning of the sensor by visual
182 inspection method, which is described in detail in Online Appendix 1. Visual inspection has
183 previously been used as a reference method for separating wake wear time from sleep periods
184 (McVeigh et al., 2016), and it has shown to be valid for identifying wear and non-wear days
185 (Shiroma et al., 2015).

186

187 **Statistical analysis**

188 All the continuous variables were normally distributed; thus, linear mixed models were used.
189 The results are shown as means and their Bonferroni corrected 95% confidence intervals. All
190 models included participant and time as random effects, and the estimation method as a fixed
191 effect. We only included nights when participants had recorded both the time when they went
192 to bed and the time when they woke up. For sleep time (Aim 1), the comparisons were done
193 between the sleep time estimation methods. For wake wear time (Aim 2), and physical
194 activity measures (Aim 3), the comparisons were done between different methods to exclude
195 sleep time (log, and Tudor-Locke, Tracy and ActiGraph algorithm) and non-wear time (Choi
196 algorithm, log and sensor). For Aim 3, only valid days and only participants with valid data
197 from ≥ 4 days were included. Sedentary time was defined as VM counts $\leq 1853/60\text{sec}$ (Koster
198 et al., 2016).

199

200 To visualize the magnitude of the pairwise differences of the estimates obtained after
201 applying the most often employed methods, we used Bland-Altman analysis for paired
202 measurements of a varying true value (Bland & Altman, 2007). The results are shown as
203 mean differences and 95% limits of agreement (LOA). For Aim 1, we compared the three
204 sleep detection algorithms to logs, as participant logs are commonly used to define sleep in
205 24-h accelerometer measurements. For Aim 2, we compared wake wear time and for Aim 3
206 sedentary time a) after excluding sleep time by the algorithms to those obtained after
207 excluding sleep time by the diary and b) after excluding non-wear time by participant log or
208 wear sensor to those obtained after excluding non-wear time by Choi algorithm. We chose
209 the Choi algorithm because it is the most commonly used method to identify non-wear time.

210

211 The accelerometer counts and wear sensor data were processed in ActiLife v6.13.3 software
212 (ActiGraph, Pensacola, Florida, US) into 1 minute epochs and exported into .csv file. Sleep
213 periods according to Tudor-Locke and ActiGraph algorithms and wear sensor information
214 were also processed in ActiLife software. Sleep periods according to the Tracy algorithm and
215 non-wear time according to the Choi algorithm were calculated in R program using packages
216 “PhysActBedRest” (Tracy et al., 2016) and “PhysicalActivity” (Choi, Zhouwen et al., 2011),
217 respectively. All other analyses were performed using SAS 9.4 statistical software (SAS
218 Institute Inc, Cary, NC, USA).

219

220 **RESULTS**

221

222 Mean age of the participants was 62.6 years (standard deviation, SD 1.1), 97 (17%) of them
223 were men. The 576 participants contributed to 3303 nights and 3908 days of data. Of the
224 participants, 534 (91%) and 555 (96%) and had minimum of 6 nights and days, respectively,

225 with log times available. Figure 2 shows an example of wear and wake time defined by
226 different methods.

227

228 **Effect of sleep algorithms on length of sleep periods (Aim 1).** Mean (SD) nightly sleep
229 period was 467 (49) min by participant log and 419 (88), 522 (86) and 453 (74) min by
230 Tudor-Locke, Tracy and ActiGraph algorithms, respectively. Compared to the log, estimates
231 of sleep by Tudor-Locke algorithm were 47 min lower and by Tracy algorithm 51 min higher,
232 whereas estimates derived from ActiGraph algorithm were on average only 12 min lower
233 (Figure 3 and Table 1). Based on the Bland-Altman plots, the differences between methods
234 were slightly larger as the mean in-bed time increased. Figure 3 also shows that there were
235 nights when Tudor-Locke algorithm or ActiGraph algorithm did not detect any sleep.

236

237 **Effect of different sleep and non-wear detection methods on length of wake wear time**
238 **and number of included participants (Aim 2).** Mean wake time and wake wear time
239 obtained by the different methods, and the number of participants with minimum of 4 valid
240 days are shown in Appendix Table S1 and graphical representation of the results are shown in
241 Appendix Figure S2. Differences in mean wake wear time, VM counts and sedentary time
242 between sleep and non-wear detection methods are presented in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.
243 Wake wear time differed widely, up to 98 min, when different methods were used for
244 excluding sleep periods (Table 2 and Appendix Figure S3). For example, mean (SD) wake
245 wear time was 949 (65), 991 (92), 903 (90) and 957 (83) min when defined by log, Tudor-
246 Locke algorithm, Tracy algorithm and ActiGraph algorithm, respectively, while excluding
247 non-wear time by Choi algorithm in all the cases (Appendix Table S1).

248

249 Based on the visual inspection, the wear sensors indicated non-wear during apparent wear
250 time. This can be seen from Appendix Figure S3, panel E, where the mean difference in wake
251 wear time between the sensors and Choi algorithm is -85 min/day. Thus, in the following
252 results we only include data from the functioning sensors (n=409). Mean daily differences in
253 wake wear time derived from different methods to exclude non-wear time varied only up to
254 24 min (Table 3 and Appendix Figure S3). For example, mean (SD) wake wear time was 949
255 (65) min for Choi algorithm, 964 (49) min for log and 939 (66) min for wear sensor when
256 sleep periods were excluded based on the logs (Appendix Table S1).

257

258 Number of participants with minimum of 4 days of valid data differed only by maximum of 6
259 participants (1% of the sample) after excluding sleep periods by different methods and non-
260 wear time by Choi algorithm or participant log (Appendix Table S1 and Appendix Figure
261 S2). However, data from 167 participants (29%) were excluded because of non-functioning
262 wear sensors.

263

264 **Effect of different sleep and non-wear detection methods on vector magnitude counts**

265 **and sedentary time (Aim 3).** Mean VM counts did not vary markedly between the methods
266 when only those with minimum of 4 valid days were included in the analysis: excluding sleep
267 by Tudor-Locke algorithm generally resulted in 2-3% smaller and Tracy 4-5% higher counts
268 than when excluding sleep by log or ActiGraph algorithms (Table 1 and Appendix Table S2).

269 On the contrary, sedentary time varied widely, especially between different methods used to
270 exclude sleep time, shown by wide LOAs in Figure 4, panels A, B and C. Excluding sleep by
271 different methods resulted in 8–81 min differences in daily sedentary time (Appendix Table
272 S2) while using different methods to exclude non-wear time resulted only in 1–18 minute
273 differences in sedentary time (Appendix Table S3).

274

275 **DISCUSSION**

276

277 In this study, we compared 24-hour classification times and physical activity metrics derived
278 with four different methods for defining sleep periods and three different methods for
279 defining non-wear time. Our results highlight the large impact of sleep algorithms on
280 estimated sleeping time and resulting sedentary time during waking hours. Compared to the
281 participant log, defining sleep time by the algorithm available in the ActiLife software
282 resulted in only 10–15 min differences in sleep, wake wear and sedentary time, and thus it
283 could be a method of choice when participant logs are not available. The differences between
284 participant log and Choi algorithm in detecting non-wear time were also small and both
285 methods are suitable for excluding non-wear time. Major uncertainty in the functioning of
286 wear sensor and the resulting exclusion of large part of data lead us not to recommend use of
287 ActiGraph's wear sensor for non-wear time detection.

288

289 **Sleep and waking periods (Aim 1).** Although 24-hour measurement with ActiGraph
290 accelerometers using wrist positioning is gaining popularity, the methods for sleep detection
291 using only accelerometer data are not established. We found considerable differences in sleep
292 times identified by different methods, which is in concordance with some previous studies
293 comparing sleep estimations between different methods (Hjorth et al., 2012; McVeigh et al.,
294 2016; Meredith-Jones et al., 2016; Zinkhan et al., 2014). In previous studies Cole-Kripke
295 algorithm, which we used as a basis for Tudor-Locke algorithm, resulted in half an hour more
296 sleep in adults (Zinkhan et al., 2014) but >1 hour less sleep in children (Hjorth et al., 2012)
297 when compared to self-reported sleep in 24-hour wrist measurement. In our sample, Tudor-
298 Locke algorithm indicated about 47 min less sleep than the participant logs. Part of this might

299 be explained by the latency between going to bed and falling asleep, as the participants were
300 asked to fill in the time when they went to bed, which does not necessarily correspond to the
301 time when they fall asleep. In our study, the algorithm developed by Tracy et al. estimated
302 longer sleep periods than the logs. The algorithm allows classifying short sleep periods as
303 naps. Using this option would probably have improved the estimations, however, we decided
304 to assess the original algorithm. The algorithm available in ActiLife software, on the other
305 hand, resulted in sleep period lengths that were close to self-reported sleep lengths. To our
306 knowledge, this is the first study to compare this algorithm to other sleep detection methods.
307 Both the Tudor-Locke and ActiGraph algorithms were originally developed for waist-worn
308 devices, which might in part explain why they indicated longer sleep periods than participant
309 logs: small movement during sleep might be classified as wake time because the counts from
310 accelerometers worn on wrist are inherently higher than those worn on waist.

311

312 **Wake wear time and number of participants (Aim 2).** After using different methods for
313 excluding sleep periods, wake wear time varied widely but number of participants with ≥ 4
314 days of data remained almost similar. Although we did not exclude any non-wear time based
315 on the participant log, the differences in wake wear time between different methods for
316 excluding non-wear time were not large. As the Choi algorithm and wear sensors only
317 excluded 15–25 min/day non-wear time from the log-indicated measurement period, it seems
318 that compliance for wearing the device among our participants was very good. The daily non-
319 wear of 15–25 min would be in concordance with short non-wear periods daily caused by
320 removing the device for shower or sauna and it is also similar to daily non-wear time found in
321 a previous study using 24-hour accelerometer measurements (Jaeschke et al., 2017).

322

323 To our knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate the functionality of ActiGraph wear
324 sensor. Because almost 30% of the sensors were not functioning properly but indicated non-
325 wear during apparent wear time, we cannot recommend ActiGraph's wear sensor as a reliable
326 method for defining wear time. However, in cases where the sensor was functioning properly,
327 it detected even short non-wear periods (data not shown), which resulted in few minutes less
328 wear time than was detected by Choi algorithm. Therefore, it can be the method of choice for
329 studies where the researchers can visually inspect the data and confirm that the sensors are
330 working properly to avoid unreliable wear time estimations.

331

332 **Vector magnitude counts and sedentary time (Aim 3).** Our results echoed a previous study
333 that used 24-hour measurement with hip-worn accelerometers in finding that mean VM
334 counts differ only slightly after excluding sleep and non-wear time by different algorithms or
335 participant log (Meredith-Jones et al., 2016). In our study, sedentary time was greatly
336 affected by the data processing decisions, especially the method for defining in-bed time.
337 Depending on the method used for excluding sleep and non-wear time, the participants in our
338 study spent 7.6–9.2 hours/day being sedentary, which is slightly less than 8.5–10.4 hours/day
339 in older adults found in previous studies using objective methods (Harvey et al., 2015). In a
340 previous study, estimations of sedentary time varied up to 50 min/day between sleep
341 detection algorithms and logs in children (Meredith-Jones et al., 2016). Our results were
342 fairly similar, with 8–81 min differences in sedentary time between sleep detection methods.

343

344 The strengths of our study include large number of participants from both men and women,
345 with diverse occupational backgrounds, and high compliance in both wearing the monitors
346 and filling out the participant log. In addition, we had participants with wide variety of
347 activity-rest patterns in our sample, including people with night shifts. As a weakness, we did

348 not have a criterion measure (“gold standard”), such as polysomnography, for detecting sleep
349 and thus we were not able to define the validity of different methods for defining sleep time.
350 Previous research shows that participant logs can either overestimate (Silva et al., 2007) or
351 underestimate (Zinkhan et al., 2014) total sleep time compared to polysomnography.
352 However, to facilitate comparisons between different studies that do not include participant
353 logs or the logs are poorly filled in, we provided estimates of different sleep detection
354 algorithms in comparison to participant logs. Participant logs are a more feasible method for
355 assessing sleep time in large scale studies than polysomnography and thus widely used.
356 Participant logs have also been used as a criterion method to which other sleep detection
357 methods are compared (Barreira et al., 2015; van Hees et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2015). As a
358 limitation, our results might not be generalized to populations with markedly poorer
359 compliance of wearing the device.

360

361 In conclusion, we found that data processing decisions have large impact on estimations of
362 sleep, waking wear, and sedentary time in accelerometer measurements with wrist placement
363 and 24-hour measurement protocol. The impact on physical activity volume was smaller.
364 Sleep detection methods had generally larger impact on outcomes than methods for detecting
365 non-wear time, apart from wear sensor which gave unreliable estimates among about 30% of
366 the participants. In studies with no log information, we recommend using ActiGraph
367 algorithm for detecting sleep periods and Choi algorithm for detecting non-wear time.

368 **List of abbreviations**

369 FIREA: Finnish Retirement and Aging Study; LOA: limits of agreement; SD: standard
370 deviation; VM: vector magnitude

371

372 **Competing interests**

373 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

374

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379

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383

384 **Authors' contributions**

385 SS, AP, EJS and TBH conceptualized and designed this study. SS designed the data
386 collection. AP analyzed the data and AP, EJS, JP, JV and SS contributed to the interpretation
387 of the data. AP drafted the manuscript, with critical revisions from EJS, TBH, JP, JV and SS.
388 All authors approved the final manuscript.

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525

526 Table 1 Differences in sleep time between the sleep detection methods

Sleep detection methods being compared	Mean difference (95% confidence interval) in sleep time, min ¹
Log vs. Tudor-Locke algorithm	47 (41 to 52)
Log vs. Tracy algorithm	-51 (-57 to -67)
Log vs. ActiGraph algorithm	12 (6 to 18)
Tudor-Locke algorithm vs. Tracy algorithm	-98 (-104 to -92)
Tudor-Locke algorithm vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-35 (-40 to -29)
Tracy algorithm vs. ActiGraph algorithm	63 (58 to 69)

527 ¹ The confidence intervals are Bonferroni corrected

528 Table 2 Differences in wake wear time, mean vector magnitude counts, and mean sedentary time between sleep detection methods

Sleep detection methods being compared	Non-wear detection method		
	Choi algorithm Mean difference (95% CI) ¹	Log Mean difference (95% CI) ¹	Wear sensor Mean difference (95% CI) ¹
Wake wear time, minutes			
Log vs. Tudor-Locke algorithm	-46 (-52 to -40)	-36 (-43 to -29)	-50 (-57 to -42)
Log vs. Tracy algorithm	43 (36 to 49)	62 (54 to 69)	38 (31 to 46)
Log vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-12 (-18 to -6)	-7 (-14 to 0.2)	-15 (-22 to -7)
Tudor-Locke vs. Tracy algorithm	88 (82 to 94)	98 (90 to 105)	88 (81 to 95)
Tudor-Locke vs. ActiGraph algorithm	34 (28 to 40)	29 (21 to 36)	35 (28 to 42)
Tracy vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-55 (-61 to -48)	-69 (-76 to -62)	-53 (-60 to -46)
Mean vector magnitude counts/60s²			
Log vs. Tudor-Locke algorithm	63 (52 to 75)	43 (31 to 56)	74 (60 to 88)
Log vs. Tracy algorithm	-102 (-114 to -90)	-128 (-141 to -116)	-92 (-106 to -77)
Log vs. ActiGraph algorithm	18 (6 to 30)	8 (-5 to 20)	25 (11 to 39)
Tudor-Locke vs. Tracy algorithm	-166 (-178 to -154)	-172 (-185 to -159)	-166 (-180 to -152)
Tudor-Locke vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-46 (-57 to -34)	-36 (-49 to -23)	-49 (-63 to -35)
Tracy vs. ActiGraph algorithm	120 (108 to 132)	136 (123 to 149)	117 (103 to 131)
Mean sedentary time, minutes²			
Log vs. Tudor-Locke algorithm	-38 (-43 to -32)	-30 (-35 to -24)	-42 (-48 to -36)
Log vs. Tracy algorithm	40 (-35 to 46)	50 (44 to 56)	36 (30 to 43)
Log vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-11 (-17 to -6)	-8 (-14 to -2)	-14 (-21 to -8)
Tudor-Locke vs. Tracy algorithm	78 (73 to 83)	80 (75 to 86)	78 (72 to 85)
Tudor-Locke vs. ActiGraph algorithm	26 (21 to 32)	22 (16 to 28)	28 (21 to 34)
Tracy vs. ActiGraph algorithm	-52 (-57 to -46)	-58 (-64 to -52)	-51 (-57 to -44)

529 ¹ The confidence intervals are Bonferroni corrected

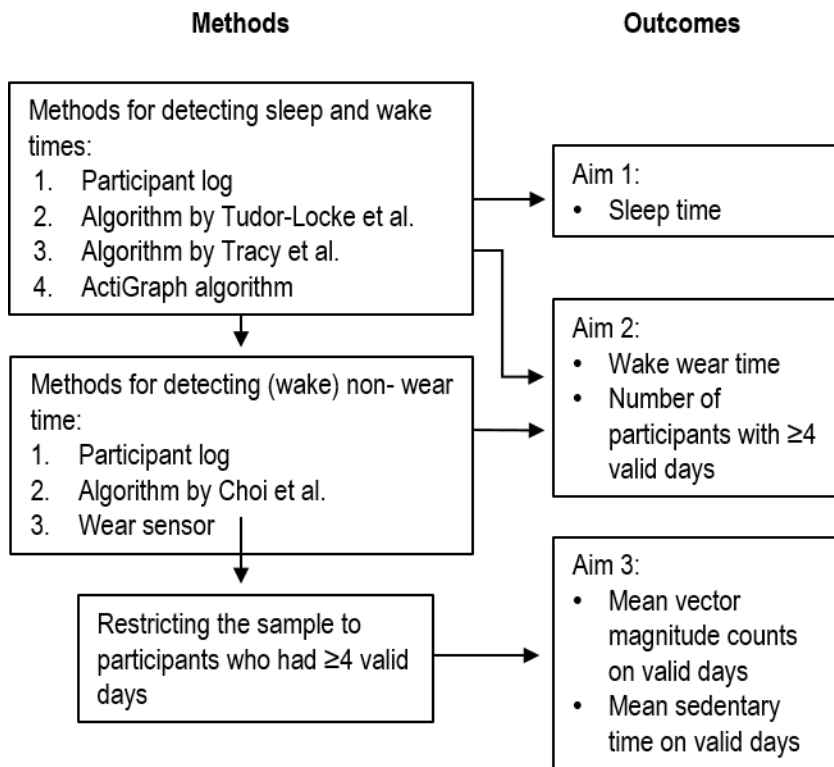
530 ² Includes only participants with 4 valid days

531 Table 3 Differences in wake wear time, mean vector magnitude counts, and mean sedentary
 532 time between non-wear methods

Non-wear detection methods being compared	Sleep detection method			
	Log	Tudor-Locke algorithm	Tracy algorithm	ActiGraph algorithm
	Mean difference (95% CI) ¹	Mean difference (95% CI) ¹	Mean difference (95% CI) ¹	Mean difference (95% CI) ¹
Wake wear time, minutes				
Choi vs. log	-14 (-17 to -12)	-7 (-10 to -4)	2 (1 to 4)	-12 (-16 to -8)
Choi vs. sensor	10 (7 to 13)	9 (5 to 13)	8 (6 to 9)	8 (4 to 13)
Log vs. sensor	24 (21 to 27)	16 (12 to 20)	5 (4 to 6)	20 (16 to 25)
Mean vector magnitude counts/60s²				
Choi vs. log	24 (19 to 28)	6 (3 to 9)	-3 (-3 to -1)	14 (9 to 18)
Choi vs. sensor	-23 (-28 to -18)	-20 (-24 to -16)	-18 (-20 to -17)	-18 (-24 to -13)
Log vs. sensor	-47 (-52 to -42)	-26 (-29 to -22)	-15 (-17 to -14)	-32 (-37 to -26)
Mean sedentary time, minutes²				
Choi vs. log	-9 (-11 to -7)	-2 (-3 to -0)	1 (1 to 2)	-5 (-7 to -3)
Choi vs. sensor	9 (7 to 10)	8 (7 to 9)	6 (6 to 7)	7 (5 to 9)
Log vs. sensor	18 (16 to 19)	10 (9 to 11)	5 (4 to 6)	12 (10 to 14)

533 ¹ The confidence intervals are Bonferroni corrected

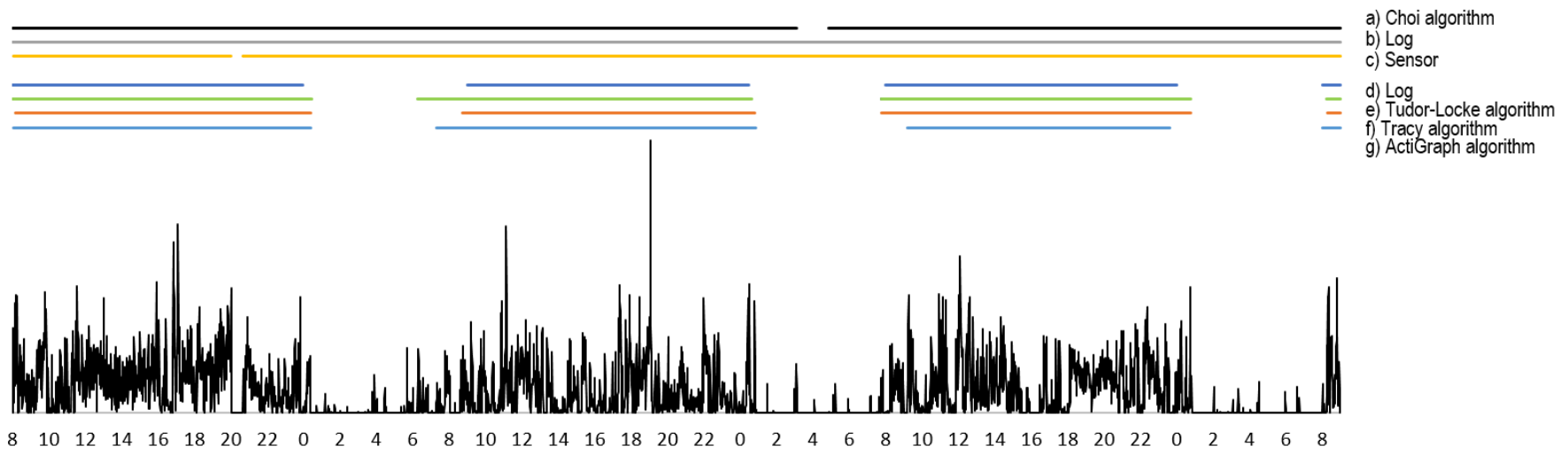
534 ² Includes only participants with 4 valid days



535

536 **Figure 1** Flow chart of the analyses.

537



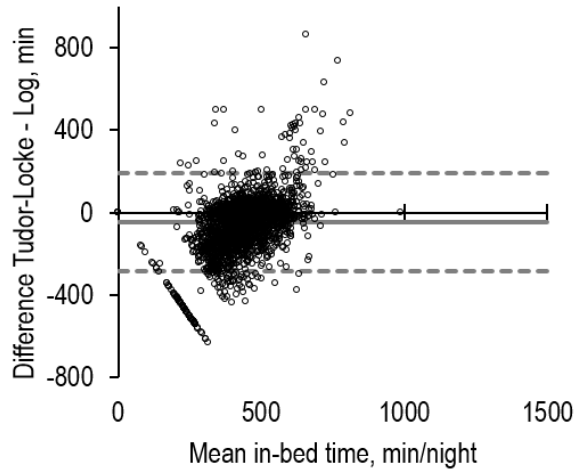
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539 **Figure 2** Graphical presentation of wear time (a-c) and wake time (d-g) defined by the different methods.

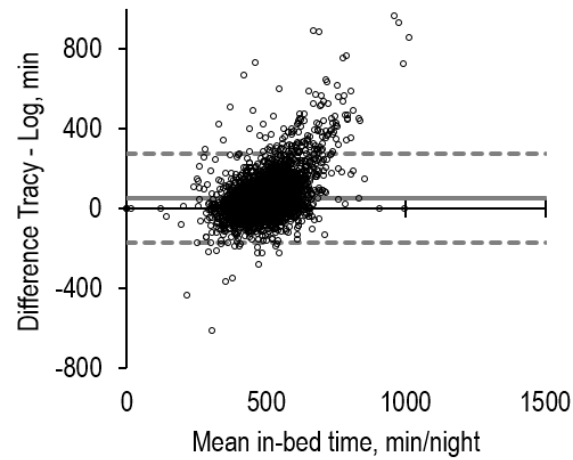
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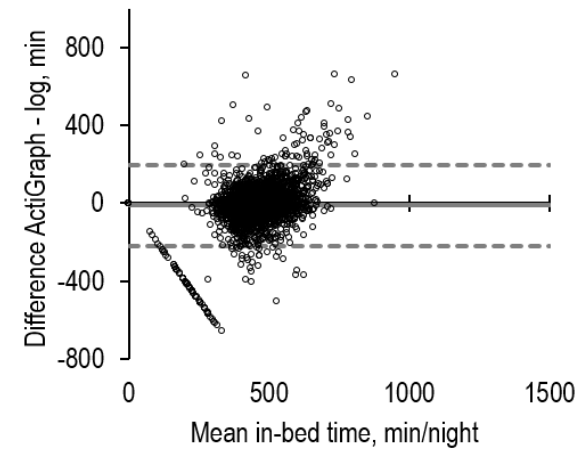
A Mean difference -47 min



B Mean difference 51 min



C Mean difference -12 min



542

543 **Figure 3** The Bland-Altman plots describing the level of agreement in sleep time defined by the different methods.

544

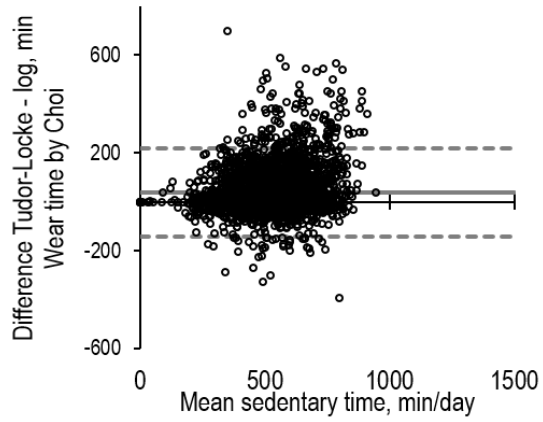
545 Legend for Figure 3: The difference in sleep times between the participant log and a) Tudor-Locke, b) Tracy and c) Actigraph algorithm is

546 plotted against the mean of sleep time obtained by these two methods. Zero bias line (solid gray line) represents the mean of the difference and

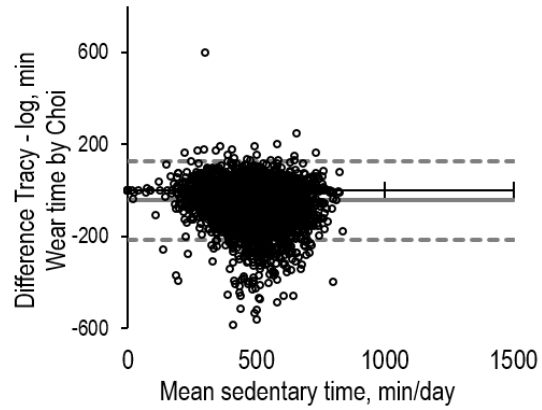
547 95% upper and lower limits are 95% limits of agreement (dashed lines).

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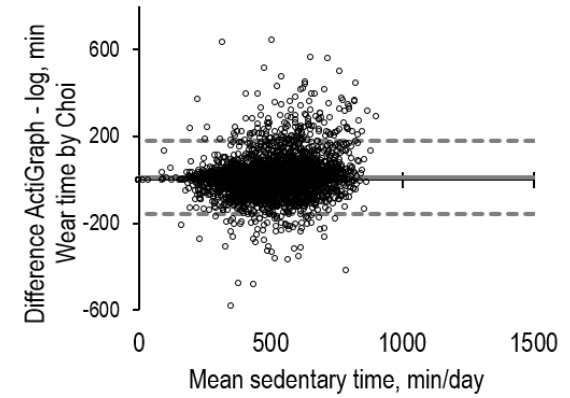
A Mean difference 38 min



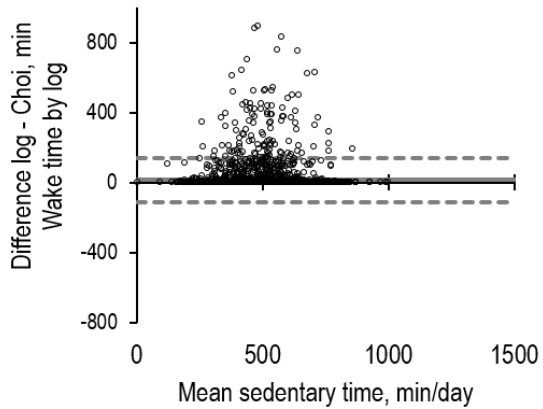
B Mean difference -45 min



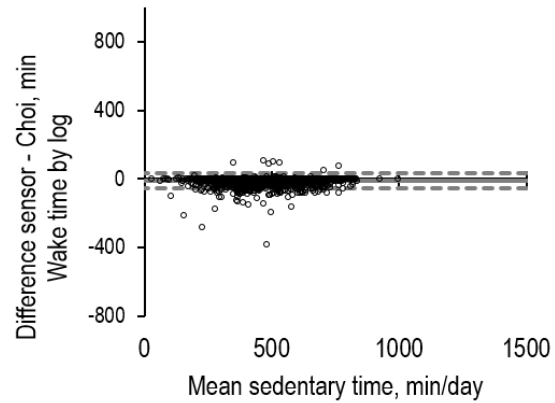
C Mean difference 11 min



D Mean difference 14 min



E Mean difference -9 min



549

550 **Figure 4** The Bland-Altman plots describing the level of agreement in sedentary time defined by the different methods.

551

552 Legend for Figure 4: The difference in sedentary times between the participant log and a) Tudor-Locke, b) Tracy and c) ActiGraph sleep
553 algorithm is plotted against the mean of sedentary time obtained by these two methods, while non-wear time is excluded by the Choi algorithm.
554 The difference in sedentary time between excluding non-wear time by Choi algorithm and d) participant log and e) functioning wear sensors is
555 plotted against the mean of sedentary time obtained after excluding non-wear by these two methods, while waking time is defined by the
556 participant log. Zero bias line (solid gray line) represents the mean of the difference and 95% upper and lower limits are 95% limits of agreement
557 (dashed lines).