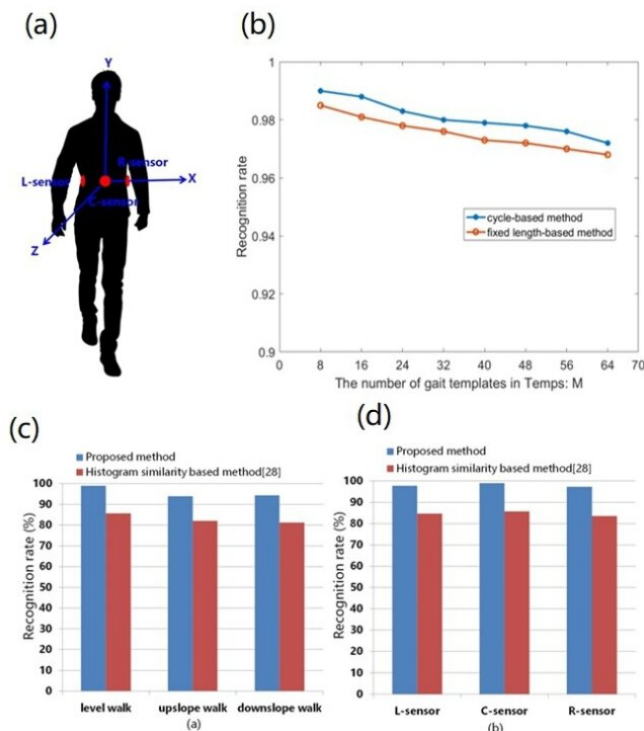


Scientists propose gait-based biometric identification method for the old with wearable devices

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(a) Placement of acceleration sensor nodes; (b) Impact of the number of templates in Temps on recognition rate; (c) and (d) Comparison of identity recognition of older adults using the proposed method. Credit: Dr. Sun Fangmin)

Human gait is a unique feature that could be used for robust identity recognition. The gait-based identity recognition method combines several advantages, such as high fraud-resistance, secure data collection, no need for explicit user interaction, and continuous and long-distance authentication. This combination makes gait a very suitable biometric parameter for user verification when associated with wearable devices.

However, intra-subject gait fluctuation in older

adults is more significant than in [young people](#) due to physical strength changes associated with aging. As a result, gait-based identity recognition of older adults is more challenging.

Prof. Li Ye and his colleagues Dr. Sun Fangmin and Dr. Zang Weilin at the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology (SIAT) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with colleagues from the University of Calabria in Italy, have proposed a gait-based identification method for elderly users.

The current work, published in *Information Fusion*, is based on the team's a previous study which was published in *IEEE Internet of Things Journal* in 2018 and extends gait identification to elderly users. In the previous study, Li's team has proposed a speed-adaptive gait cycle segmentation method and an individualized matching threshold generation method to improve the gait authentication of young adults when walking at various speeds.

In the current report, the researchers introduced a gait-based identity recognition method used for the access control of elderly people-centered wearable healthcare devices. A gait template synthesis algorithm was proposed to alleviate the problem of intra-subject gait fluctuation in elderly older people. To further improve the identity recognition rate, the researchers designed an arbitration-based score-level fusion algorithm: two matching algorithms are used to make preliminary decisions; if there are inconsistencies in the preliminary decisions, the third matching algorithm is used to provide the final decision. Such procedures are shown to improve the recognition rate of [older adults](#) compared with the existing histogram similarity based method.

The feasibility of the proposed method was verified

using a public dataset containing acceleration signals from three IMUs (inertial measurement units) worn by 64 older users ranging in age from 50 to 79 years which was shared by Osaka University in 2011. The [experimental results](#) obtained prove that the average [recognition](#) rate reached 96.7%, indicating the proposed method was quite suitable for robust [gait](#)-based identification of elderly users.

More information: Fangmin Sun et al, Gait-based identification for elderly users in wearable healthcare systems, *Information Fusion* (2019).
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