

# Humantenna

*Using the Human Body as an Antenna for  
Real-Time Whole-Body Interaction*

**Gabe Cohn**<sup>1,2</sup>

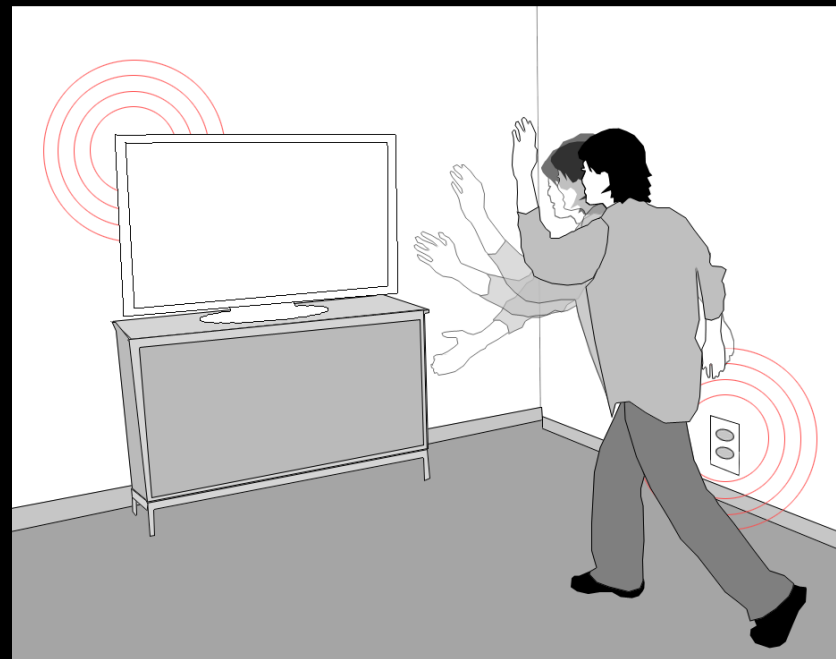
**Dan Morris**<sup>1</sup>

**Shwetak N. Patel**<sup>1,2</sup>

**Desney S. Tan**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Microsoft Research

<sup>2</sup>University of Washington



MSR Faculty Summit – July 16, 2012

Microsoft®  
**Research**

**dub** design:  
use:  
build:  
university of washington

**ubicomp lab**  
university of washington

# Computer Vision and Depth Cameras



**KINECT™**  
for  **XBOX 360.**







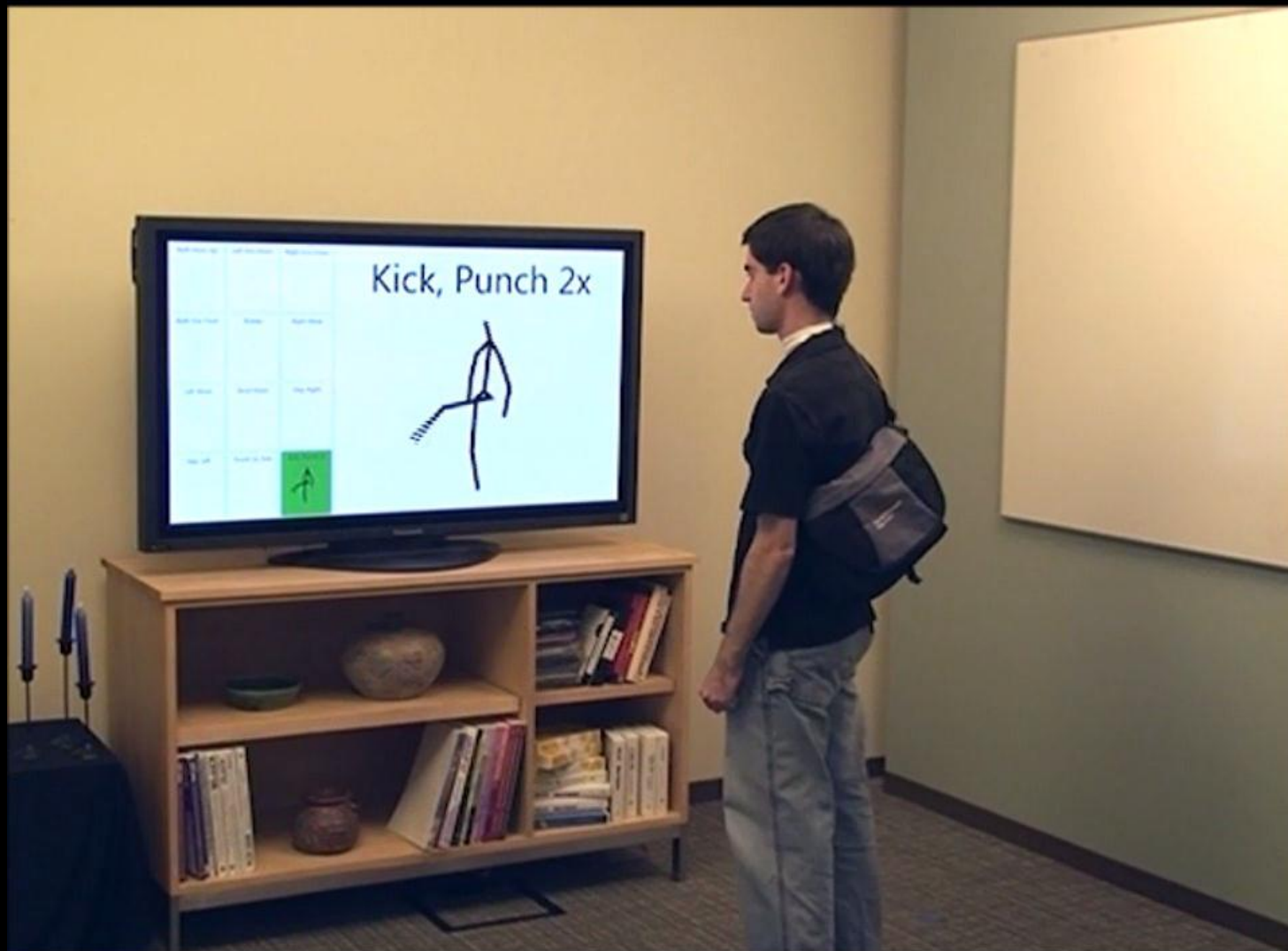
# Using Human Body as an Antenna



no **instrumentation** to environment  
minimal **instrumentation** on body

*“Kinect-like gestures without the Kinect”*


# Humantenna



*Typical  
“bunny ears”  
TV antenna*





A photograph of a young man standing in a kitchen with his arms raised, illustrating the concept of a human antenna. He is wearing a blue t-shirt and light-colored shorts. The kitchen has wooden cabinets and a white door is visible to the right.

# *Typical “teenager” human antenna*

dielectric with  
complex geometry  
40 Hz – 400 MHz

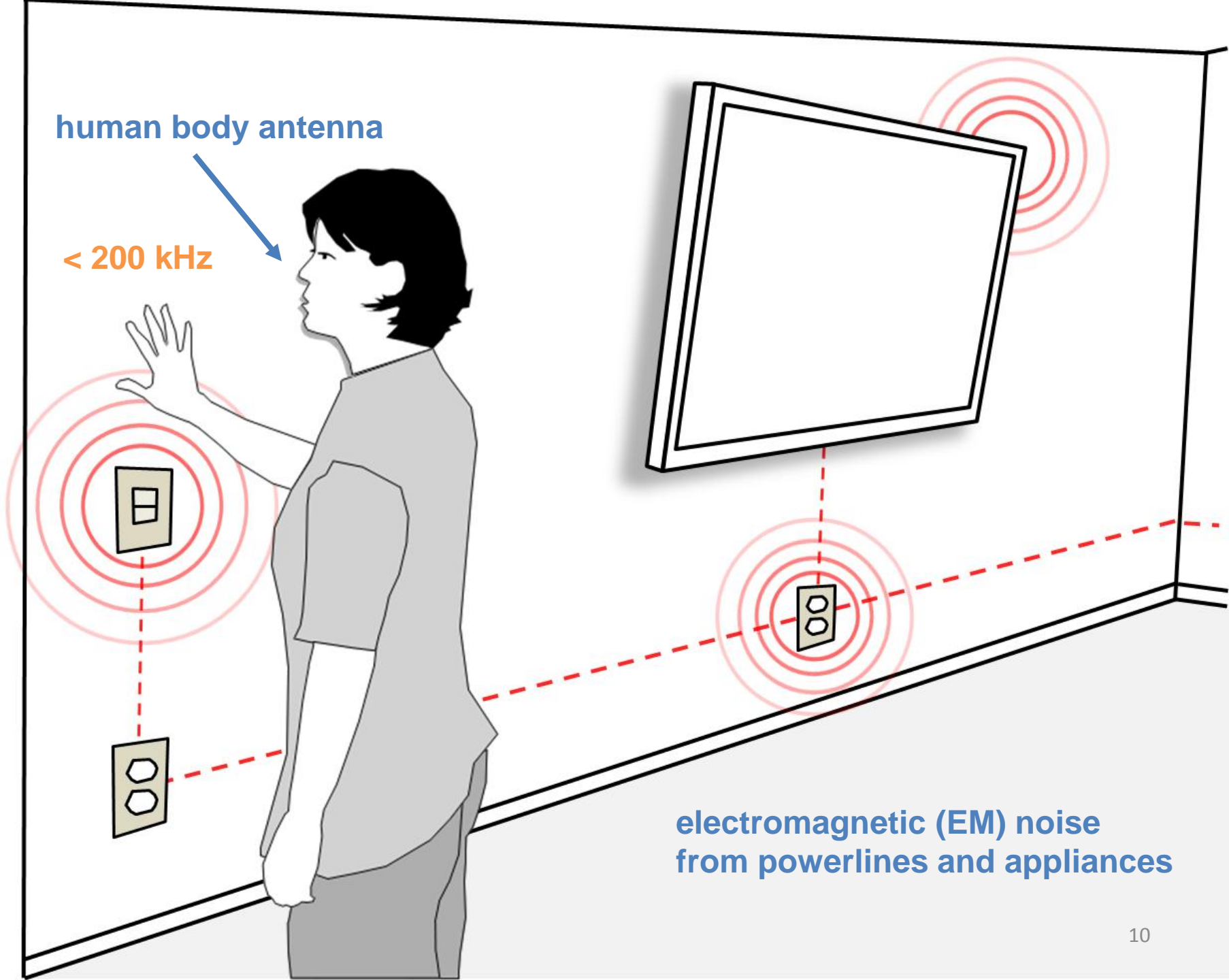
**“body antenna effect”**

- body area networks (BAN)
- analyzing electrical activity on body

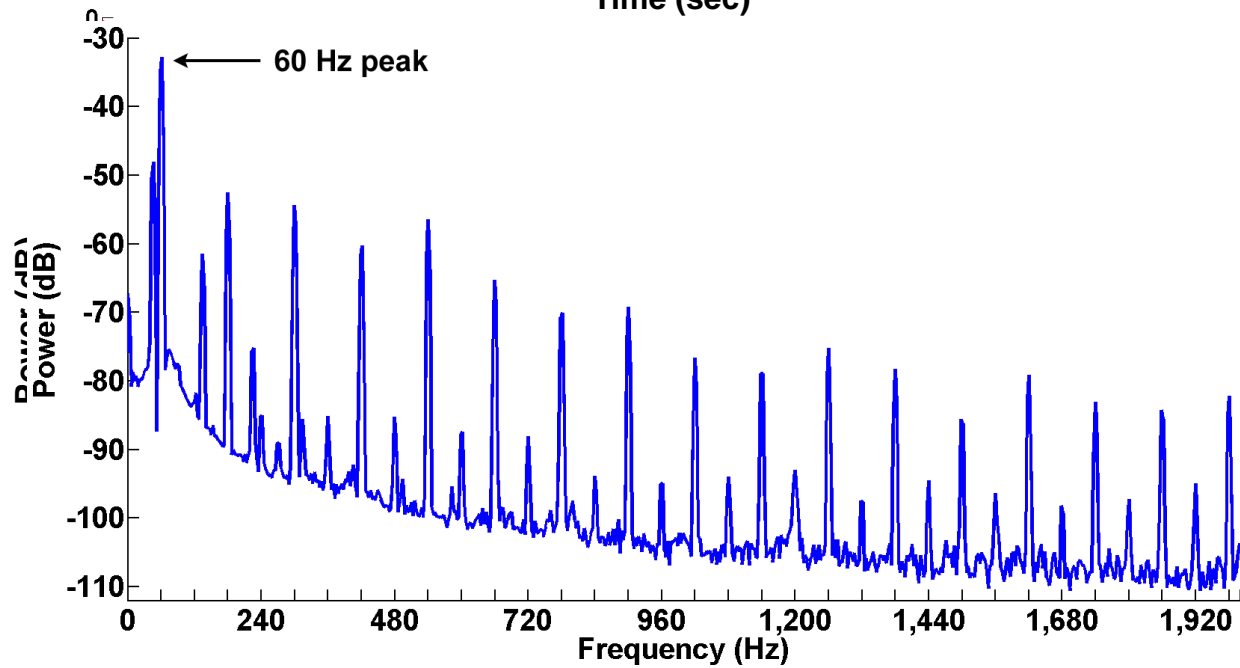
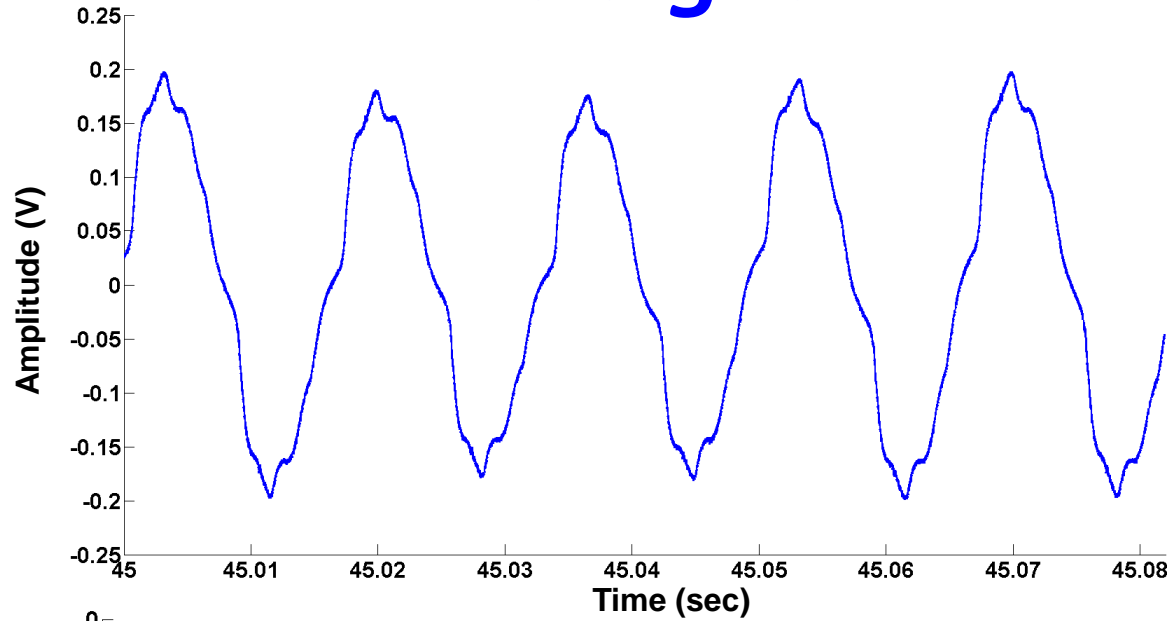
human body antenna

< 200 kHz

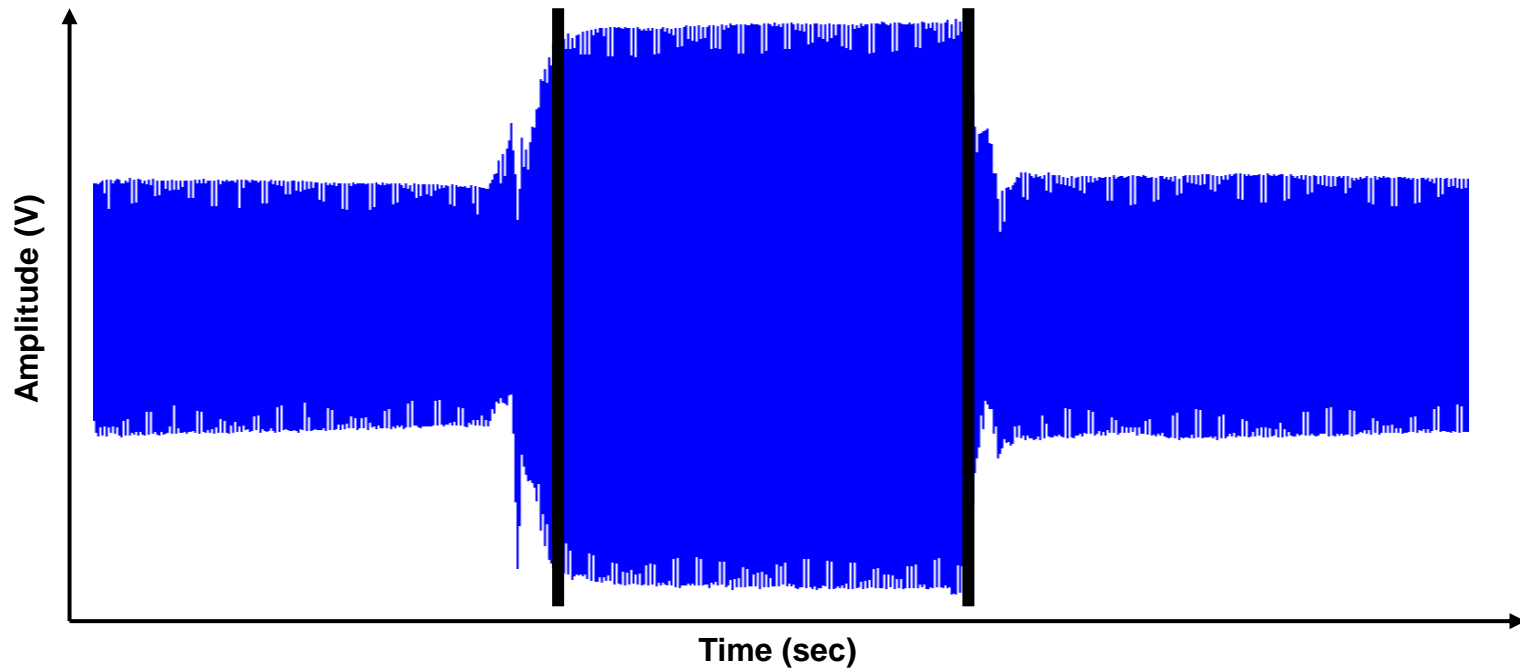
electromagnetic (EM) noise  
from powerlines and appliances



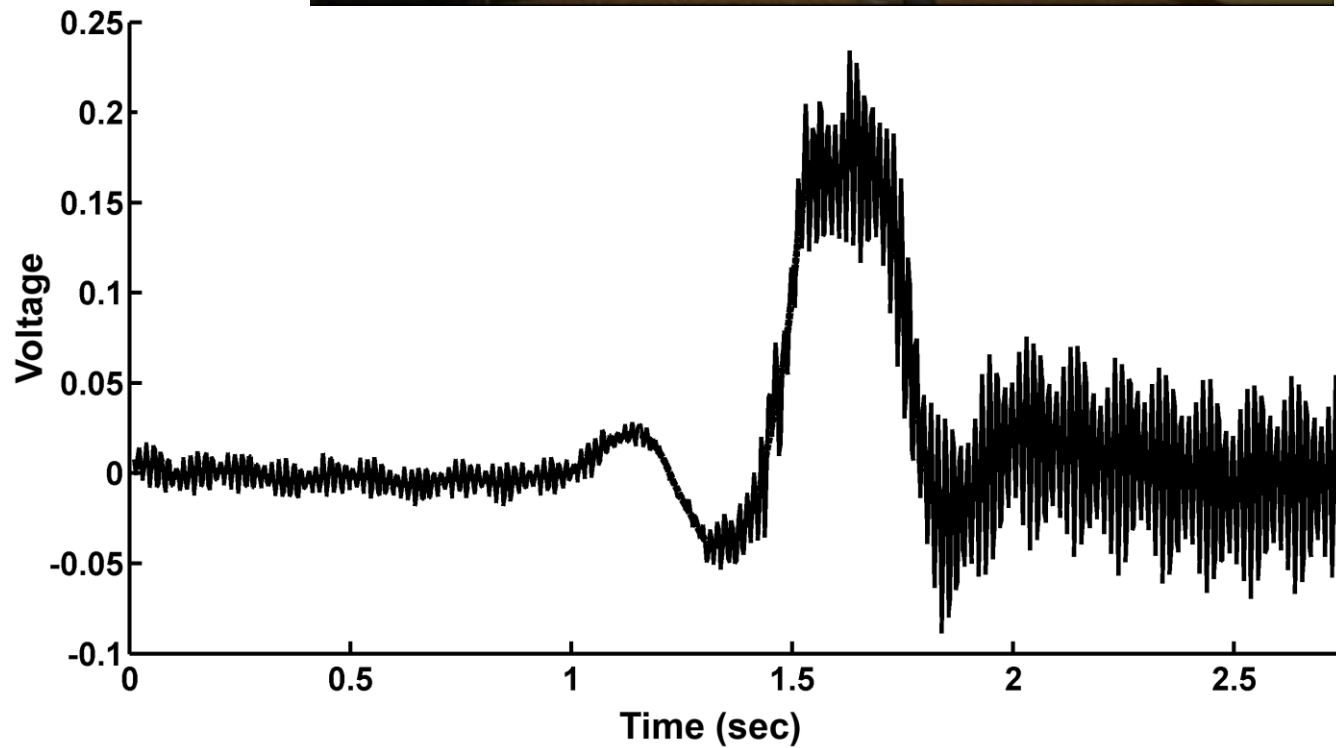
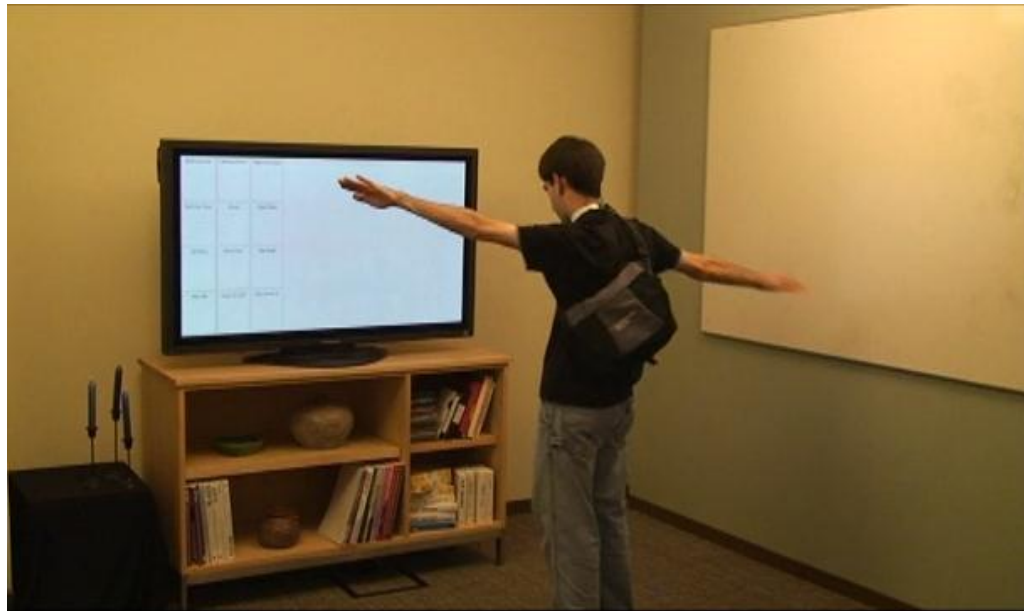
# The Signal



# Wall Touch



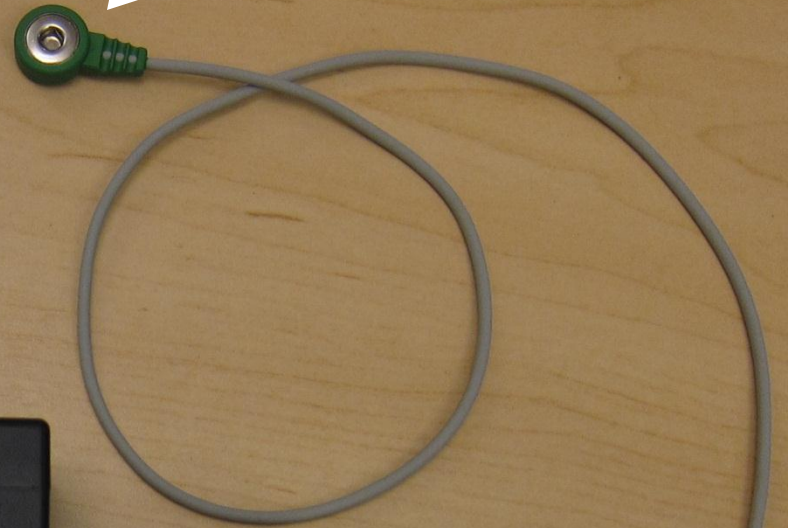
# User Motion



***Is this signal useful?***

# Apparatus

Voltage Probe



Wifi Data Link



Analog-to-Digital Converter

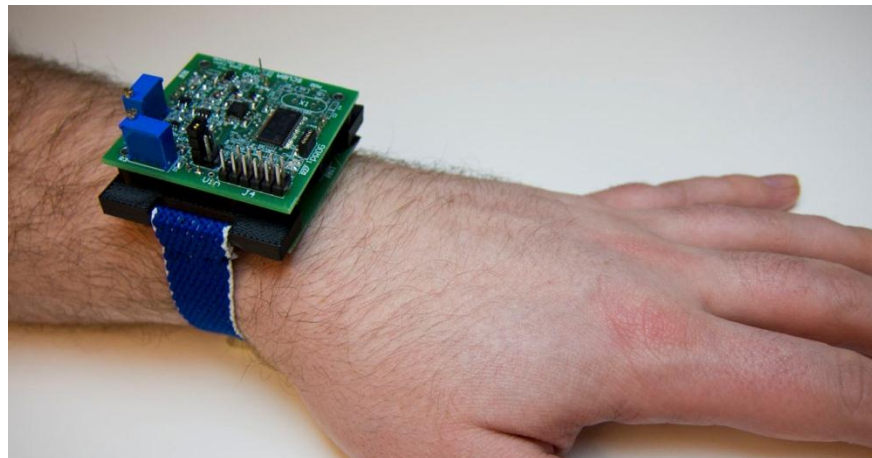
# Apparatus



CHI 2011



CHI 2012



Ubicomp 2012



# *In-Home Data Collection*



# *Analysis*



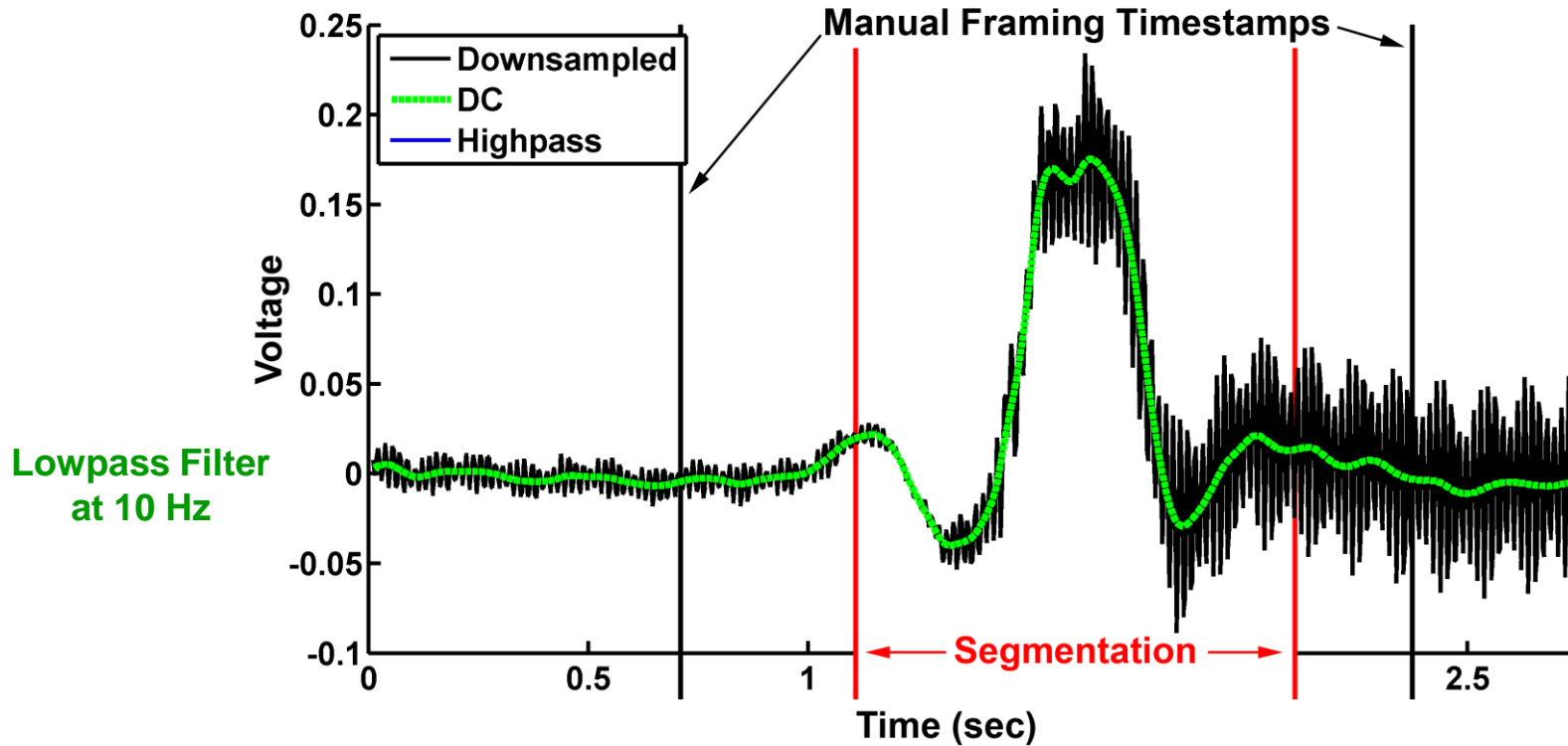
**1. segmentation**

**2. feature extraction**

**3. classification**

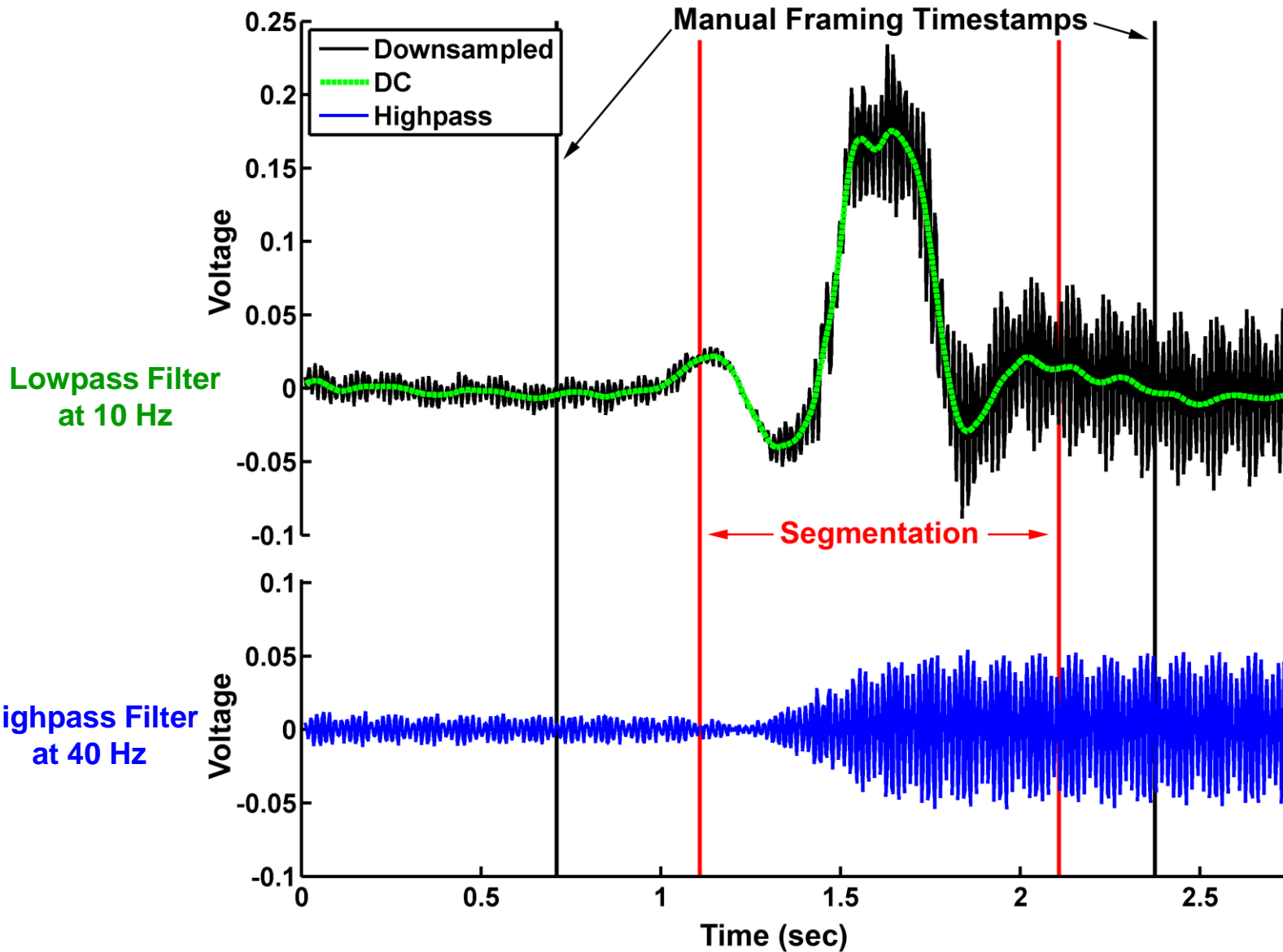
# Analysis

# Segmentation



# Analysis

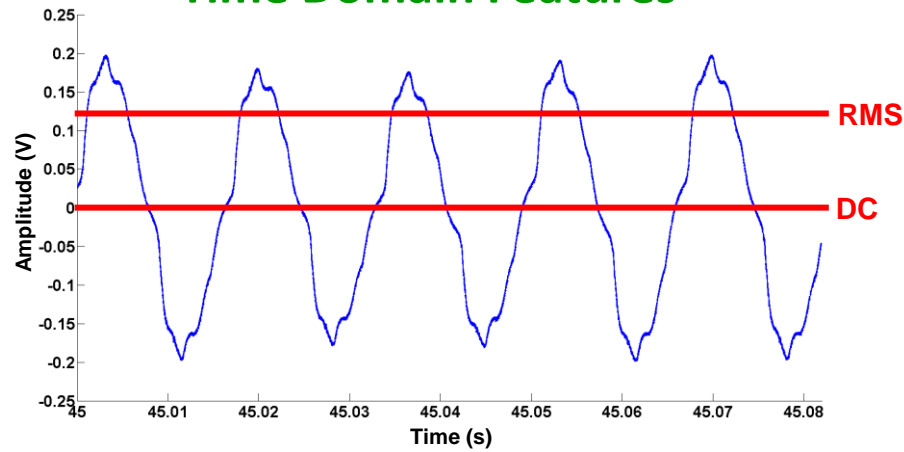
# Feature Extraction



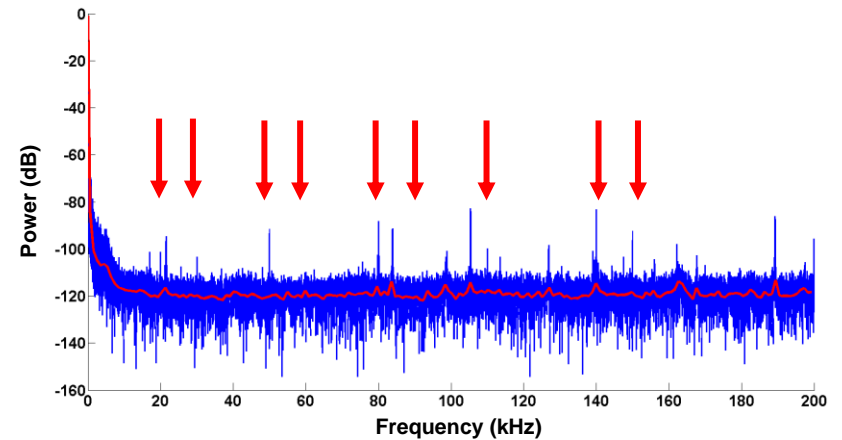
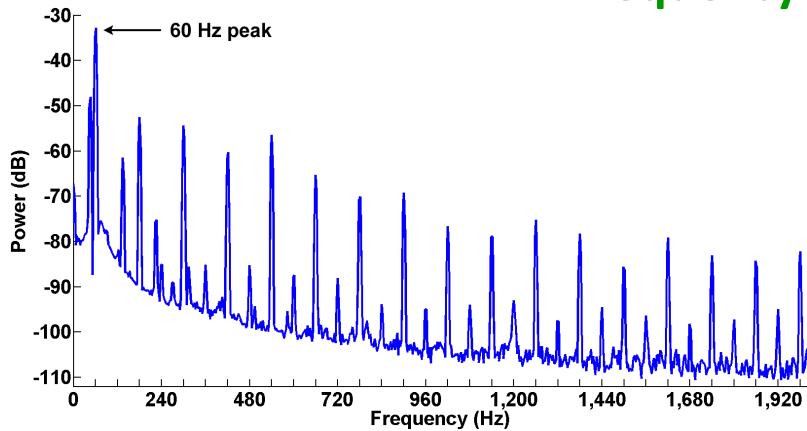
# Analysis

# Feature Extraction

## Time Domain Features



## Frequency Domain Features



***classification using the Weka SVM***

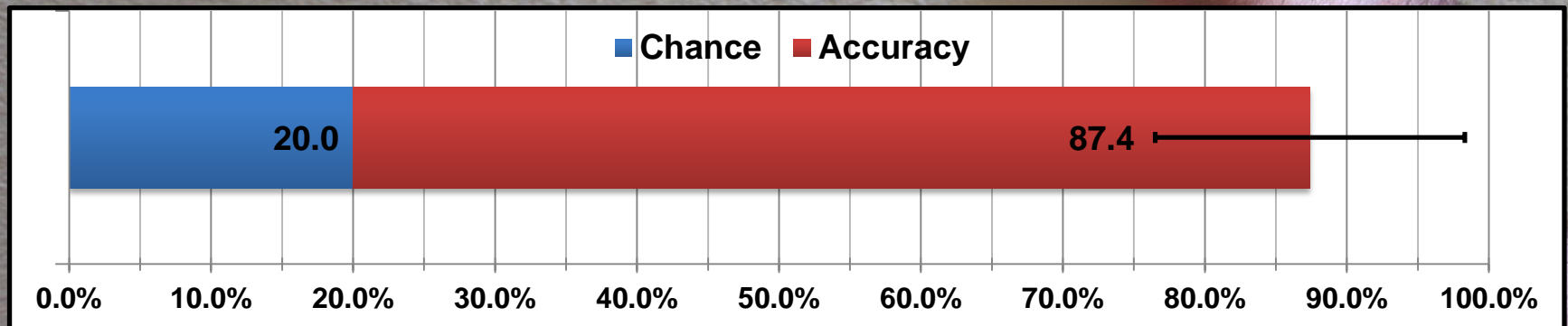
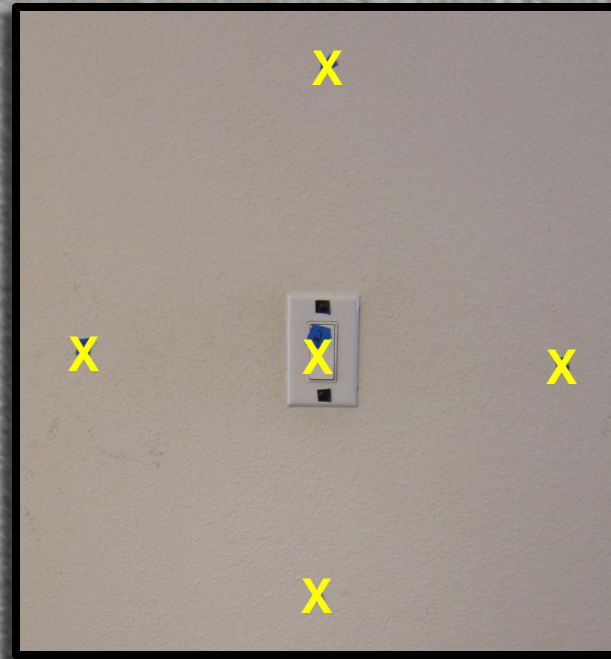
***cross-validation in which we  
fold by “session” to avoid over-fitting***

***training/testing sets in different “sessions”  
(separated in time)***

# Results

## Touch Position on Wall

5-position classification

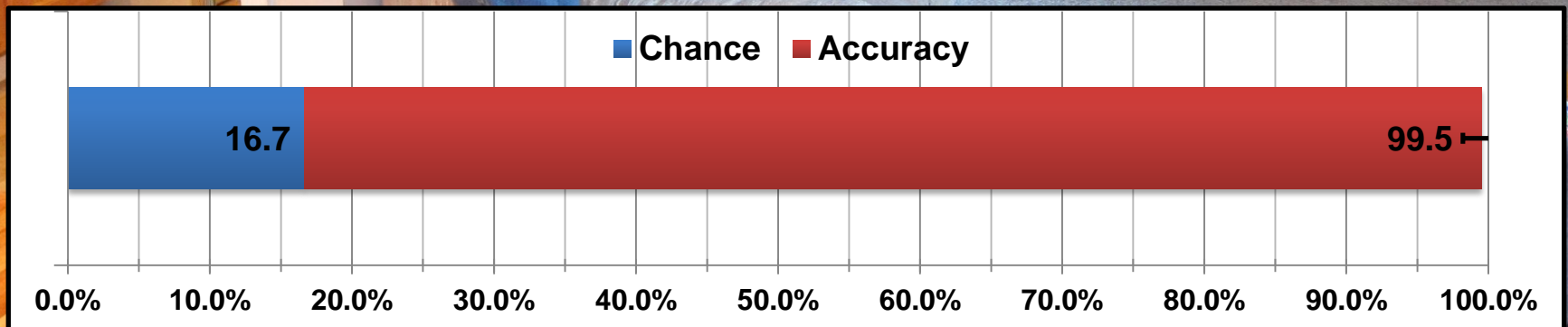


# Results

## Location in Home

6-location classification

2 locations in same room

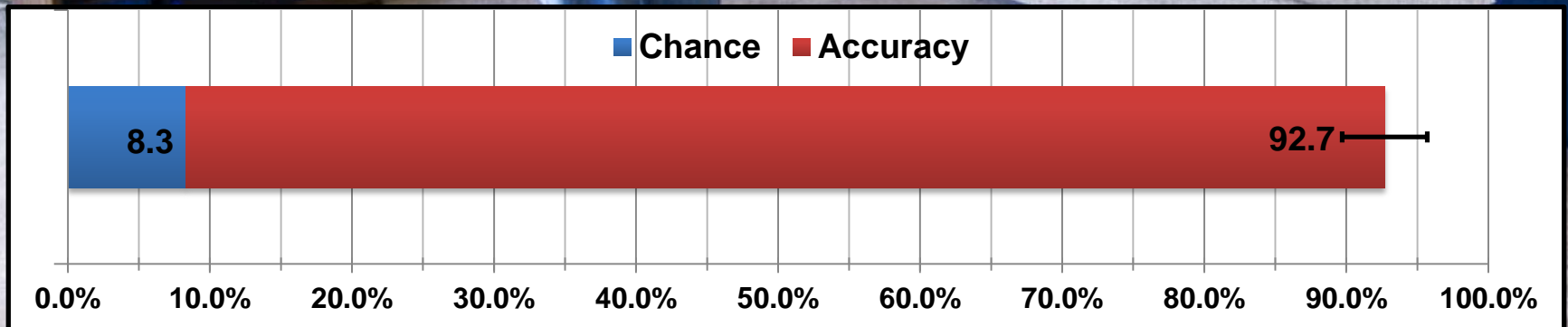
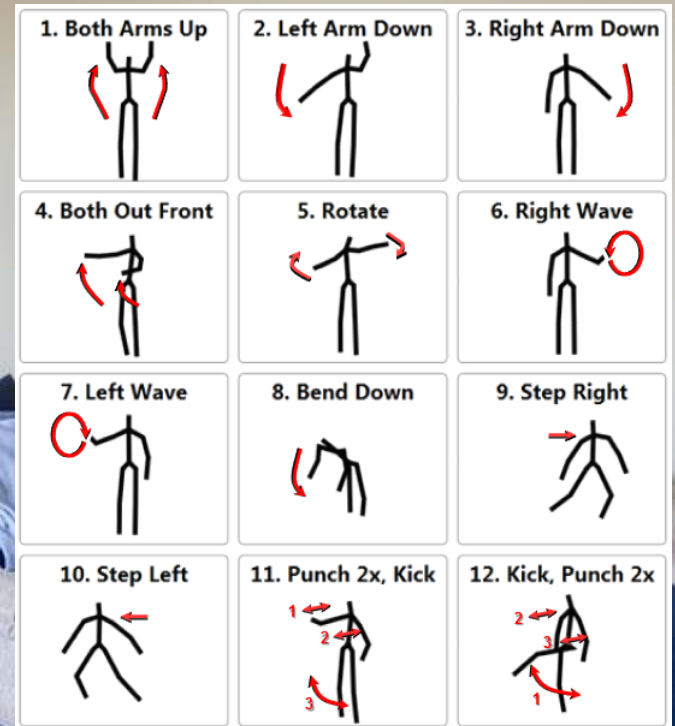




# Results

## Whole-Body Gestures

### 12-gesture classification



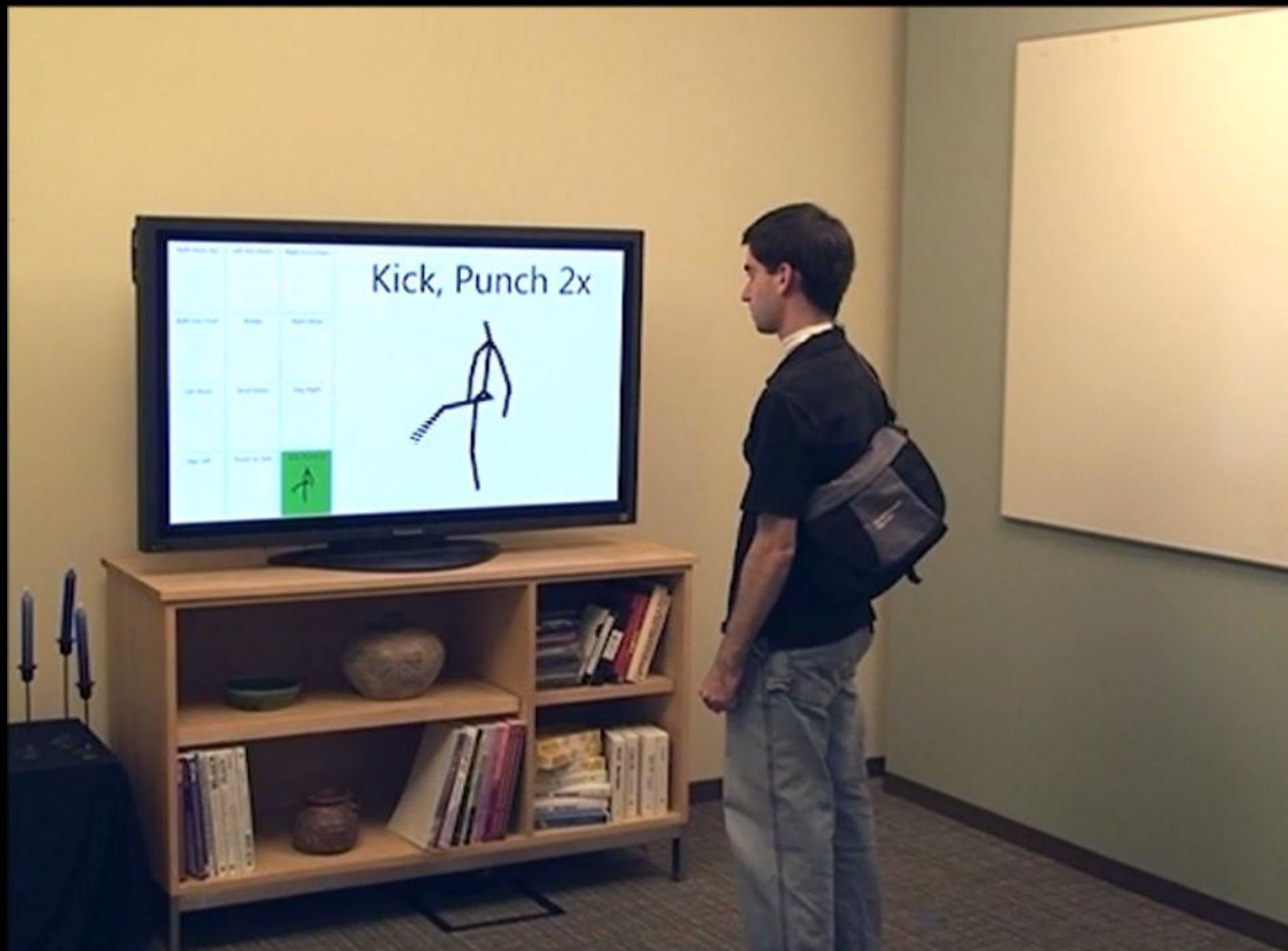
## *Results Summary*

**location of user in home** **100%**

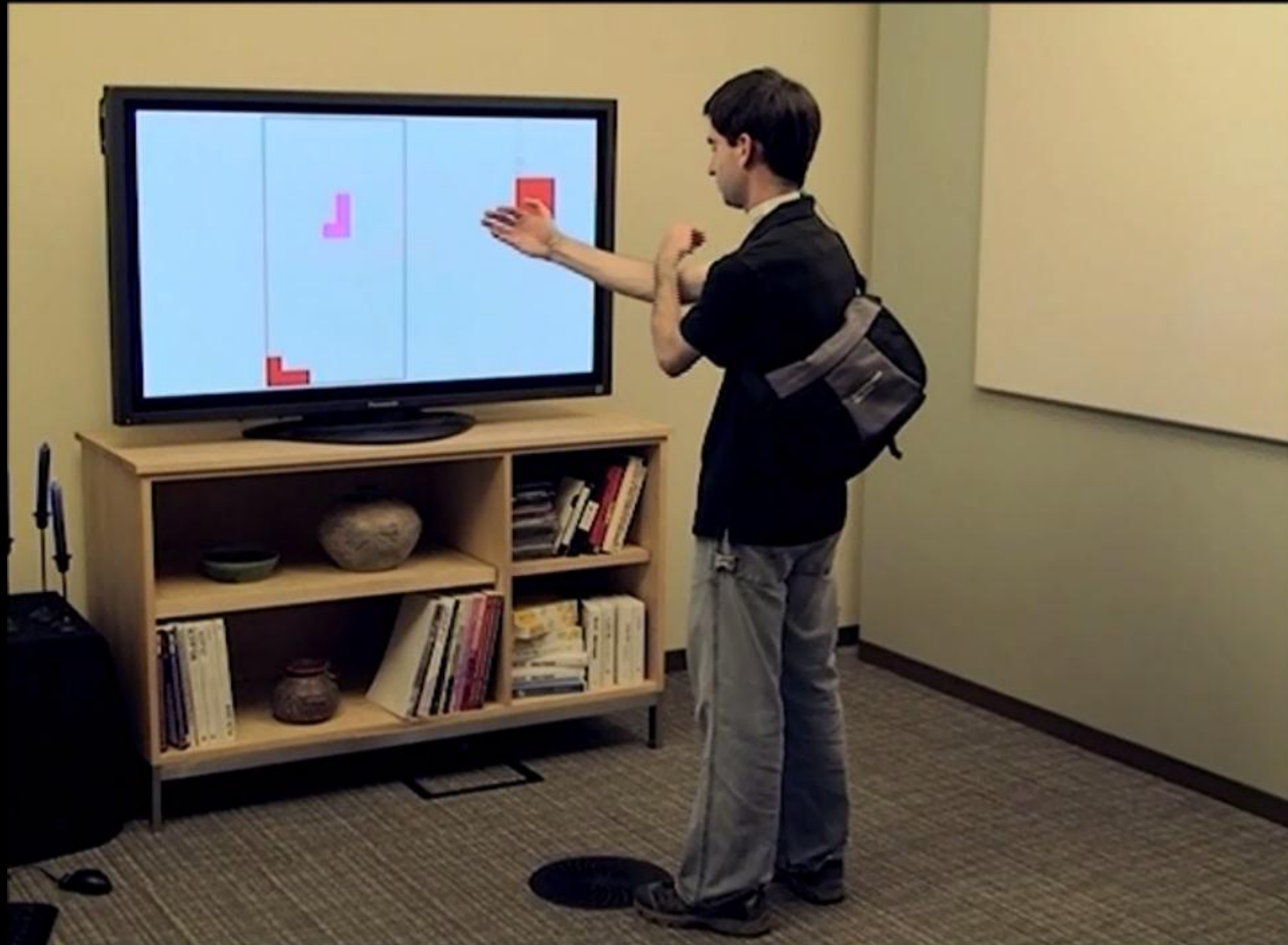
**whole-body gesture** **93%**

**touch position on wall** **87%**

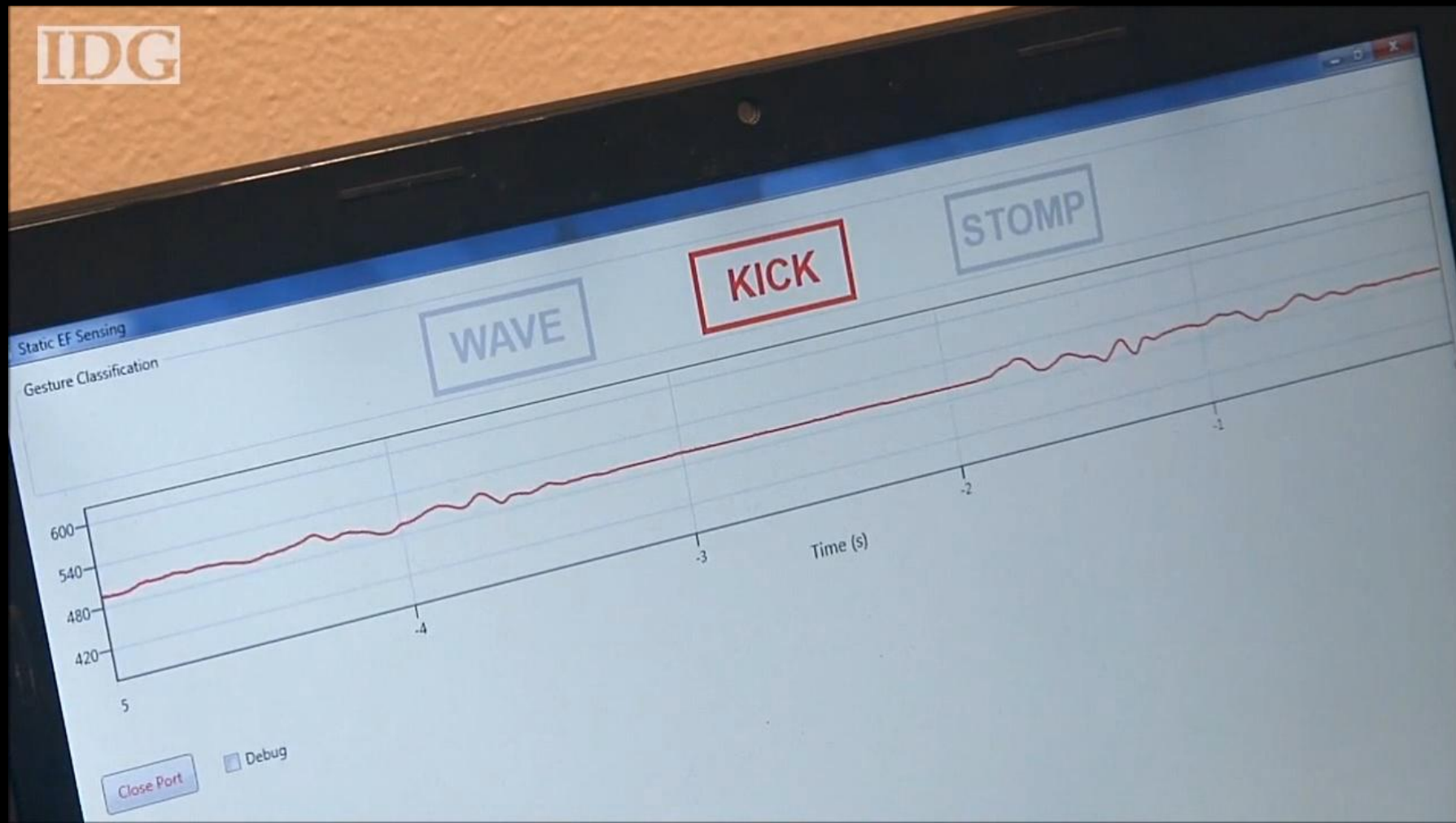
# *Real-Time Implementation*



# *Tetris Demo Application*



# Slide Changer Demo Application



# Sensing Gestures

## Using the Body as an Antenna

### Your Noise is My Command

CHI 2011



*feasibility of sensing:*

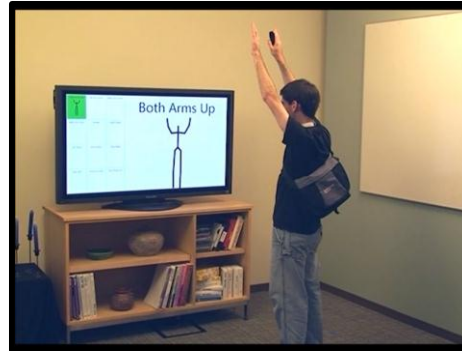
*location of user*

*position of wall touches*

*offline post-processing*

### Humantenna

CHI 2012



*demonstrates sensing:*

*whole-body,*

*free-space gestures*

*in a real-time system*

## Future Work

### Generalizability of noise signals

- Training procedure
- Signal variation with location
- Appliances switched on/off
- Variation in gestures

### Improved feature set

### Continually adaptive classifier

### Signal injection

- on-body
- into power line

### Explore gesture set

### Explore application space

# Humantenna

*Using the Human Body as an Antenna  
for Real-Time Whole-Body Interaction*



**Thank You!**

[www.gabeacohn.com](http://www.gabeacohn.com)

[gabecohn@uw.edu](mailto:gabecohn@uw.edu)

**Gabe Cohn  
Dan Morris  
Shwetak N. Patel  
Desney S. Tan**

Microsoft  
**Research**

**ubicomp** lab

**dub** design:  
use:  
build:  
university of washington

# Backup Slides



# Core Experiment

## 10 Participants

- 5 male / 5 female
- Age: 28 – 61 ( $\mu = 38$ )
- Weight: 52 – 82 kg ( $\mu = 64$ )  
115 – 180 lbs ( $\mu = 141$ )
- Height: 150 – 188 cm ( $\mu = 169$ )  
59 – 74 in ( $\mu = 67$ )

## 10 Homes

- single-family and townhouses
- 1 – 3 floors
- Area: 120 – 290 sq m ( $\mu = 215$ )  
1300 – 3100 sq ft ( $\mu = 2310$ )
- Built: 1948 – 2006 ( $\mu = 1981$ )

# *Locations*



*6 locations in each home*

*5 light switches*

*2 in same room*



*1 blank wall  
above an outlet*



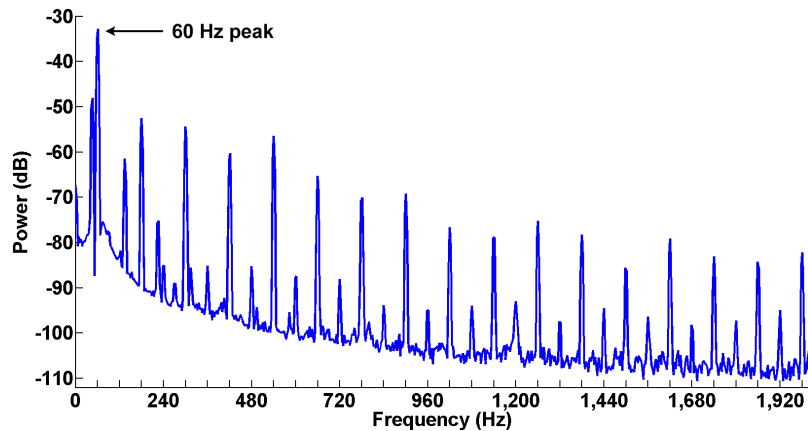
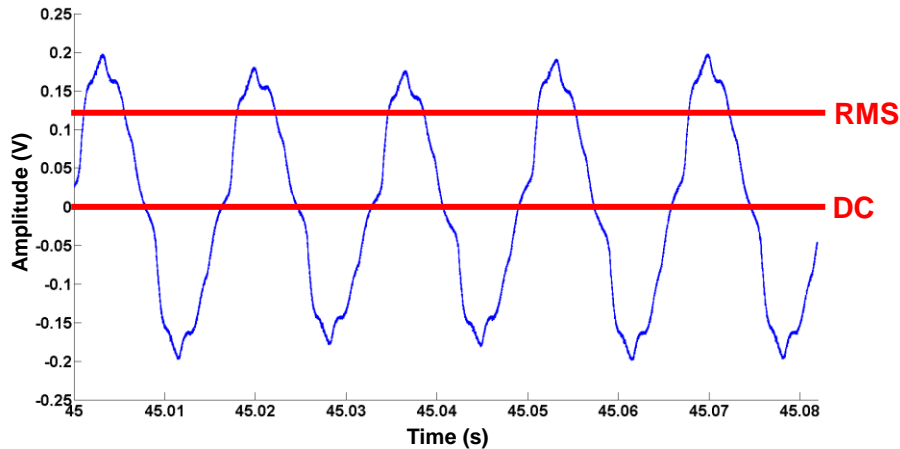
# Procedure

***6 gestures per location***  
***hold each for 6 seconds***  
***guided by computer***  
***commands***

***6 locations***  
***6 gestures per location***  
***4 “rounds” (repetitions)***

***144 total gestures per***  
***participant***

# Analysis

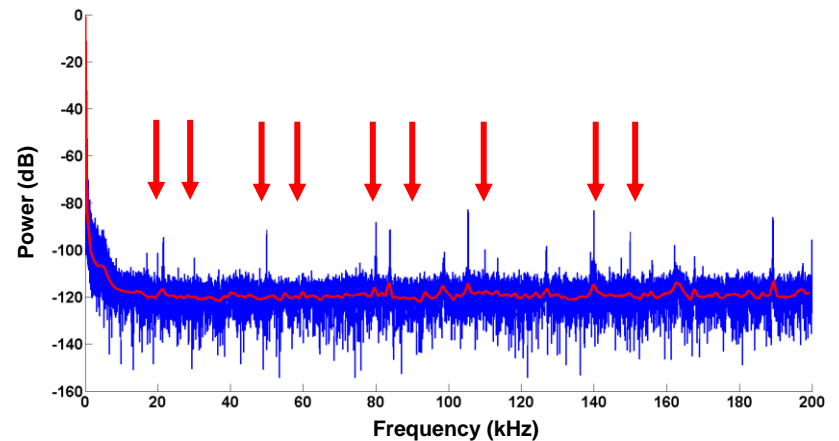
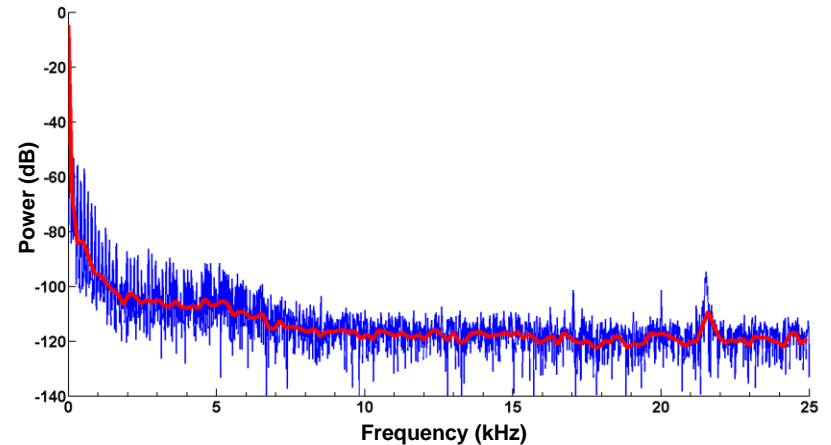


Time Domain  
FFT 0 – 2 kHz

2 Features  
332 Features

**1002 Total Features per 82 ms window**

# Feature Extraction



FFT 0 – 25 kHz  
FFT 0 – 200 kHz  
High Freq. Peaks

250 Features  
400 Features  
18 Features

## Core Experiment:

- Location in home - near 100%
- Position on around switch – 87%

## Additional Exploration:

- Differentiate right/left hand
- Differentiate appliance touched
- Estimate proximity to wall
- Estimate continuous position on wall

## Summary



# Core Experiment

## 8 Participants

- 6 male / 2 female
- Age: 24 – 62 ( $\mu = 35$ )
- Weight: 50 – 79 kg ( $\mu = 68$ )  
110 – 174 lbs ( $\mu = 150$ )
- Height: 150 – 180 cm ( $\mu = 169$ )  
59 – 71 in ( $\mu = 67$ )

## 8 Homes

- all single-family homes
- 2 – 3 floors
- Area: 195 – 288 sq m ( $\mu = 247$ )  
2100 – 3100 sq ft ( $\mu = 2660$ )
- Built: 1964 – 2003 ( $\mu = 1984$ )

# *Locations*



## ***family room***

*large open space  
few electronics (except TV)*



## ***kitchen***

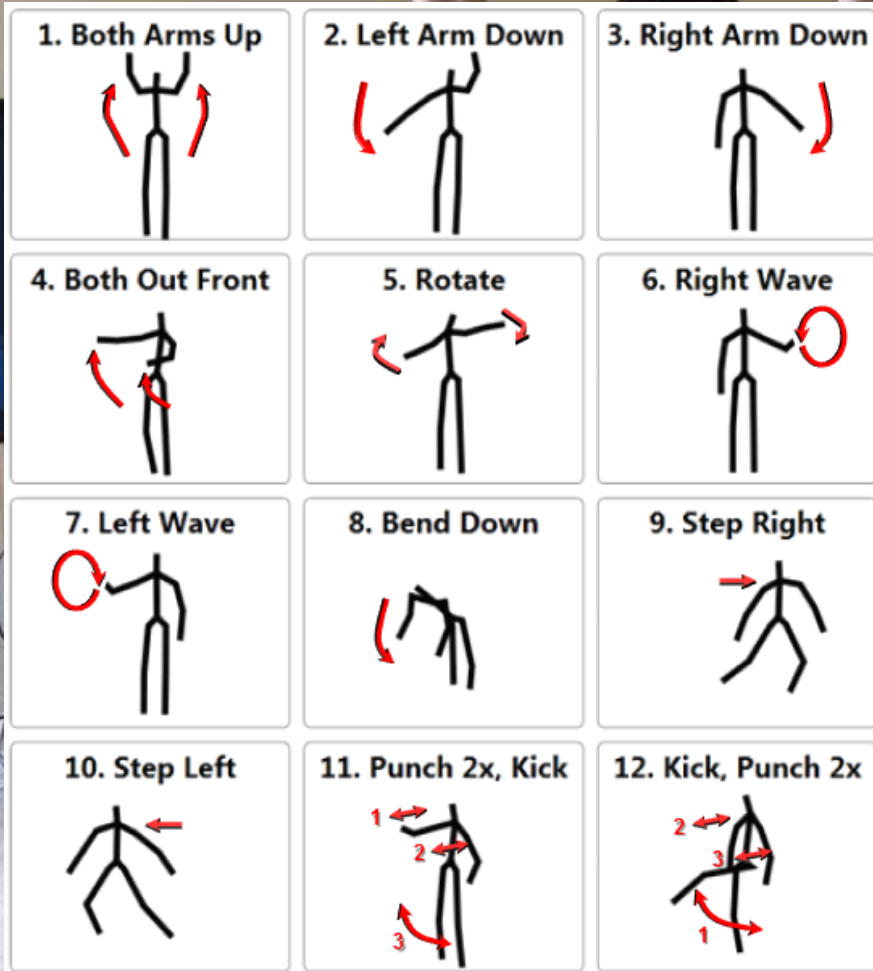
*small space  
many lights and appliances*

# Procedure

12 gestures per location  
1 run

4 runs at each of 2 locations  
1 session

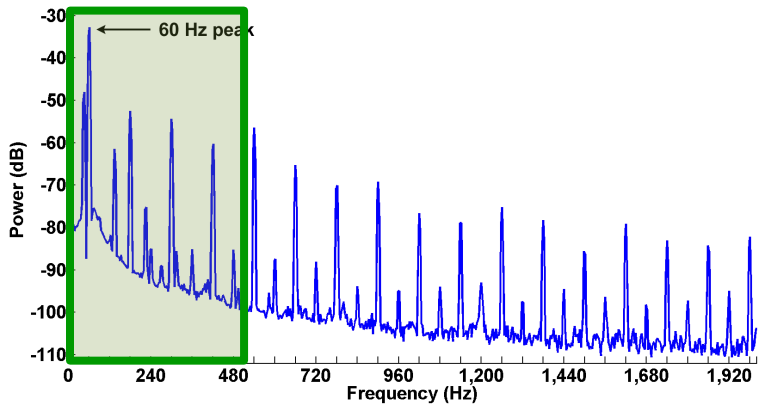
10 sessions  
40 examples of each gesture  
per location per participant



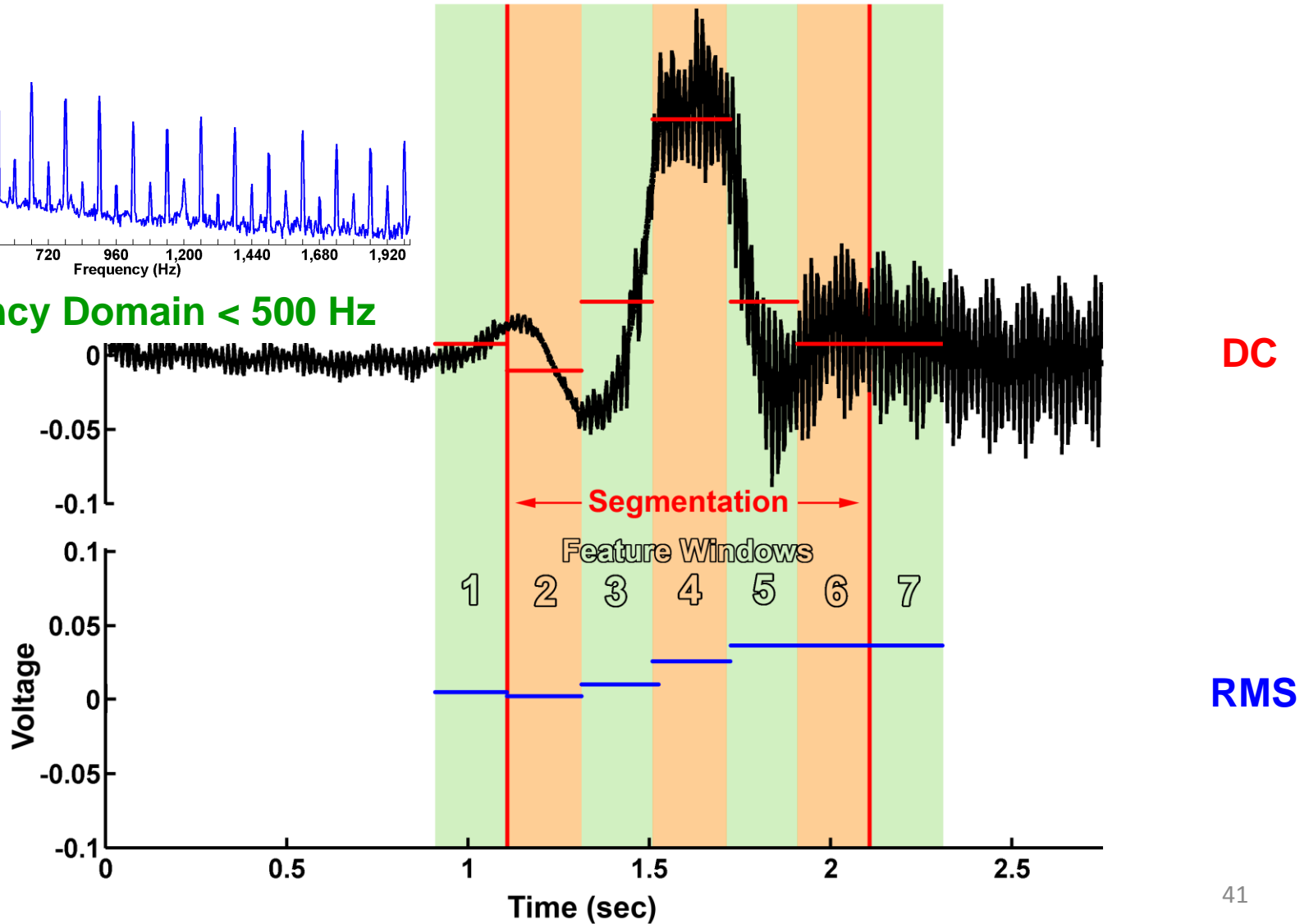


# Analysis

# Feature Extraction



Frequency Domain < 500 Hz



# Summary

Static EF Sensing

ultra-low-power

whole-body motion

ultra-low-power wakeup

simple body motion  
classification

