

1 **Title:** Skill assessment in upper limb myoelectric prosthesis users: Validation of a clinically feasible  
2 method for characterising upper limb temporal and amplitude variability during the performance of  
3 functional tasks.

4  
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25 **ABSTRACT (200 words)**

26 Upper limb myoelectric prostheses remain challenging to use and are often abandoned. A proficient  
27 user must be able to plan/execute arm movements while activating the residual muscle(s), accounting  
28 for delays and unpredictability in prosthesis response. There is no validated, low cost measure of skill in  
29 performing such actions. Trial-trial variability of joint angle trajectories measured during functional task  
30 performance, linearly normalised by time, shows promise. However, linear normalisation of time  
31 introduces errors, and expensive camera systems are required for joint angle measurements.

32 This study investigated whether trial-trial variability, assessed using dynamic time warping (DTW)  
33 of limb segment acceleration measured during functional task performance, is a valid measure of user  
34 skill. Temporal and amplitude variability of forearm accelerations were determined in 1) seven  
35 myoelectric prosthesis users and six anatomically-intact controls and 2) seven anatomically-intact  
36 subjects learning to use a prosthesis simulator over repeated sessions.

37 1: temporal variability showed clear group differences ( $p < 0.05$ ). 2: temporal variability  
38 considerably increased on first use of a prosthesis simulator, then declined with training (both  $p < 0.05$ ).  
39 Amplitude variability showed less obvious differences. Analysing forearm accelerations using DTW  
40 appears to be a valid low-cost method for quantifying movement quality of upper limb prosthesis use  
41 during goal-oriented task performance.

42

43 **Keywords**

44 Myoelectric prostheses, dynamic time warping, accelerations, variability, upper limb.

45

## 46 1. INTRODUCTION

47 As a result of concerted efforts over recent decades, there have been significant advances in myoelectric  
48 prostheses design. The motors used have become smaller and more powerful, cosmetic covers have  
49 become more life-like, and, of most note, multi-functional hands, such as the i-Limb (Touch Bionics,  
50 Livingston, UK) and Be-Bionic (Steeper, Leeds, UK) have been developed. Yet, prosthesis users are still  
51 greatly limited by the available control modalities and lack of sensory feedback from the prosthesis [1].  
52 Hence it is not surprising that such devices remain challenging to use and are often poorly utilized, or  
53 rejected [2, 3]. As more expensive multi-function myoelectric prostheses have become available, such as  
54 the i-limb full hand and i-limb digits (Touchbionics Inc., Livingston UK), there is an urgent need for well-  
55 validated and robust quantitative measures that allow for informed selection of a particular technology  
56 (to achieve a better match between user and device), and that have the potential to inform user  
57 training.

58  
59 Currently, quantifying the effectiveness of a given device, or the proficiency with which it is used,  
60 remains limited by the available outcome measures [4]. Clinical tests often capture self-reported  
61 capabilities (e.g. Orthotics and Prosthetics Users' Survey "OPUS" [5]), evaluate performance subjectively  
62 (e.g. Assessment of capacity for myoelectric control [6]), or measure speed of performance of a pre-  
63 defined set of tasks (e.g. Southampton Hand Assessment Procedure "SHAP" [7]). Research has  
64 discussed the limitations with many of these measures, such as reliance upon self-report and/or  
65 observer ratings [8-10]; self-report does not directly measure the person's physical capabilities and can  
66 be influenced by subject bias, and observer-dependent measures are susceptible to (inter-/intra-) rater  
67 bias, which inherently reduces reliability compared to performance-based measures in which the  
68 administrator does not form part of the instrument. Previous research has also shown that whilst  
69 important [10], speed of task completion is only one of several factors which characterize skilled

70 prosthetic use; other measures, notably gaze and kinematics may further enhance our understanding of  
71 user performance and skill level [11].

72

73 Accordingly, Major et al. recently compared the kinematics of myoelectric prosthesis users and able-  
74 bodied controls without known pathology [12]. Specifically, considering that motor variability (motor  
75 variance across task repetition) has shown to decrease with skill acquisition [13, 14], and given the  
76 redundant degrees of freedom (DoFs) in the upper body musculoskeletal architecture that permit  
77 various task-equivalent motor strategies, Major et al. [12] focused on studying kinematic variability of  
78 these DoFs. Their results showed that joint kinematic variability is higher in prosthesis users than  
79 controls, and was correlated with years of experience of prosthesis use. Their findings suggest that  
80 increased compensation may be reflected in increased joint kinematic variability above able-bodied  
81 individuals.

82

83 In common with almost all studies of upper limb functional task performance, in [12] joint angle  
84 trajectories were calculated as follows. Angle trajectories were first linearly normalized with respect to  
85 time, and joint level kinematic variability was defined as the variability around a kinematic profile  
86 averaged across multiple time-normalized trials. The standard deviation and coefficient of multiple  
87 determination then served as outcome measures to characterize variability and repeatability,  
88 respectively. However, non-cyclic kinematics are subject to two different aspects of trajectory  
89 variability: temporal and amplitude variability (Figure 1). Specifically, the relative duration of different  
90 phases of a given functional movement can vary from trial to trial, and linear time normalization of the  
91 entire task cannot take this into account [15]. Hence, while these traditional measures can inform on  
92 overall differences in movement variability, they remain limited in that they do not consider temporal  
93 variability separately to variations in signal amplitude, yet this has shown to be advantageous in the  
94 assessment of non-cyclic functional upper limb tasks [15,16].

95 Thies et al. previously introduced a novel methodology based on dynamic time warping (DTW) for curve  
96 registration across multiple trials to calculate measures of amplitude and timing variability over entire  
97 trajectories of functional movements [15]. In their approach a chosen target signal is warped to a  
98 declared reference signal by compressing or stretching the target signal along the time-axis with respect  
99 to the reference signal in a non-uniform manner. Warp Cost reflects the amount of time-warping  
100 needed to achieve the best possible temporal match between curves and serves as a measure of  
101 temporal variability. Following the time warping of signals, RMS error then informs on amplitude  
102 variability. Separating out temporal from amplitude variability is of particular advantage during  
103 processing of non-cyclic upper limb kinematics: we take the stand that DTW is a more appropriate  
104 method to analyse kinematic inter-trial variability of the upper limbs during functional task performance  
105 since it minimizes the mismatch of the different movement components (Figure 2).

106

107 A first demonstration of the DTW method involved characterization of acceleration trajectories derived  
108 from an arm-worn accelerometer during performance of two daily-living activities in subjects with  
109 stroke and matched controls. Findings showed increased timing variability for the stroke subjects as  
110 compared to controls, and this outcome was reliably reproduced on a second test day one month later  
111 [15]. This finding of increased variability following stroke was consistent with numerous previous  
112 studies, which have generally used simpler tasks and discrete, rather than continuous, measures of  
113 variability (e.g. variability of end point error in pointing tasks [17, 18]. A more recent study used the  
114 DTW method to demonstrate differences in trajectory variability when comparing stroke survivors with  
115 right and left hemisphere lesions, as well as to healthy controls [16]. They showed increased timing  
116 variability in the paretic arm of stroke survivors with right compared with left hemisphere lesions and  
117 further confirmed previous finding [15] of increased variability following stroke compared with controls.  
118 The DTW method which assesses contributions of temporal and amplitude variability separately proved  
119 particularly suitable to identify differences between left and right hemispheric stroke survivors.

120 Although already demonstrated for assessment of upper limb kinematics in people with stroke, the  
121 potential and validity of this methodology to characterize upper limb movements in relation to  
122 functional performance for upper limb prosthesis users has yet to be explored. Hence this paper  
123 reports on the characterization of functional task performance with an upper limb myoelectric  
124 prosthesis using the DTW method. The purpose of this retrospective study was to investigate whether  
125 DTW is a valid tool for assessing temporal and amplitude variability of upper limb prosthesis kinematics  
126 through a known-groups assessment (Study 1) and a responsiveness assessment (Study 2).

127

## 128 **2. METHODS**

129 In Study 1 we investigated the use of DTW to characterize upper limb function of myoelectric prosthesis  
130 users and anatomically intact (AI) controls and its ability to discriminate between these two groups,  
131 based on temporal and amplitude variability. In Study 2 we report on the changes in temporal and  
132 amplitude variability with practice in using a myoelectric prosthesis simulator (AI subjects), to assess if  
133 DTW can identify changes in temporal and amplitude variability resulting from practice of goal-oriented  
134 tasks. Since accelerometers are wearable, inexpensive and clinically-accessible devices, we here apply  
135 DTW to simulated accelerometer trajectories derived from position data, however, the method is  
136 applicable to a range of kinematic data, including joint angle trajectories and data from other segment-  
137 mounted inertial measurement units.

138

### 139 ***2.1 DTW for assessment of temporal and amplitude variability***

140 As previously described [15], the DTW method employed in these two studies utilized dynamic  
141 programming [19] to separately quantify timing and amplitude variability across multiple trials. Using  
142 custom software in Matlab (Mathworks, Natick, MA), the algorithm first time-warps a chosen target  
143 signal to a declared reference signal by compressing or stretching the target signal along the time-axis  
144 with respect to the reference signal in a non-uniform manner. Warp Cost is returned as a unitless

145 measure indicating the amount of time-warping needed to achieve the best possible temporal match  
146 between curves. Warp Cost is hence reported as a measure of temporal variability between trials. Figure  
147 3 stresses the need for DTW for accurate assessment of upper limb kinematic variability in an  
148 anatomically intact subject, an anatomically intact subject using a prosthesis simulator, and an actual  
149 prosthesis user. After time warping, the algorithm calculates the remaining root mean square error  
150 (RMS Error) between signals after time-warping is complete. We interpret the reported RMS Error as a  
151 measure of signal amplitude variations after temporal variations have been addressed.

## 153 **2.2 Study 1 (Known-groups assessment)**

154 Study 1 was carried out at Northwestern University, USA. Full details of the protocol are provided in [12].  
155 Following ethical approval by the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board, six AI individuals (3  
156 male,  $35\pm 11$  years of age) and seven myoelectric transradial prosthesis users (5 male,  $49\pm 18$  years of age,  
157  $20\pm 18$  years of prosthesis experience) were recruited and tested. Subjects visited the lab on one occasion  
158 and, after providing informed consent, performed five trials of three seated, goal-oriented tasks (selected  
159 from the SHAP [7]): 1) lifting a carton and emptying liquid contents into a jar using their non-dominant or  
160 prosthetic limb, 2) lifting and transferring a weighted container across a low-level barrier using their non-  
161 dominant or prosthetic limb, and 3) lifting and transferring a tray across a low-level barrier using both  
162 hands. The non-dominant limb of able-bodied individuals was chosen for sensible comparison with  
163 prosthesis users whose prosthetic limb we assumed to act as the non-dominant limb [20]. The number of  
164 trials (5) was comparable with other studies concerned with assessment of prosthesis kinematics [21, 22].  
165 Subjects were asked to perform the task as quickly as possible and the start and end of each trial was  
166 denoted by a button-push. Both groups also completed the entire SHAP protocol with their non-dominant  
167 hand to assess general upper limb functional abilities. SHAP has shown to have good reliability and validity  
168 for assessment of hand function [7], with scores of less than 100 indicating how impaired hand function  
169 is. During each task, marker position approximating location of the radial and ulnar styloid processes were

170 collected and used to track the virtual wrist joint centre. Three markers on the forearm (radial styloid,  
171 ulnar styloid, and medial epicondyle) were used to define the forearm local reference frame. The 3D  
172 position data were collected at 120 Hz using a twelve camera motion capture system (Motion Analysis  
173 Corporation, Santa Rosa, CA, USA). Wrist joint three-axis accelerations were calculated in the global  
174 frame, then gravity was added to the vertical acceleration component. Finally, the acceleration vector  
175 was rotated from the global to the forearm frame [23]. These simulated accelerometer data were used to  
176 calculate inter-trial temporal (Warp Cost) and amplitude (RMS Error) variability [15].

177  
178 This known-groups assessment was deemed to support validity of the methodology if the trends in the  
179 variability assessed with DTW reflected those previously observed in joint-level kinematics [12], i.e., we  
180 hypothesized that prosthesis users would demonstrate greater variability than controls. Moreover, use of  
181 DTW in this study would identify individual contributions of temporal- and amplitude-specific variability  
182 to overall movement variability. Data were statistically analysed using independent group t-tests to  
183 compare mean differences in Warp Cost, RMS Error, and SHAP score between AI and prosthesis user  
184 cohorts, and significance was evaluated based on equality of variances as estimated by the Levene's Test.

### 186 **2.3 Study 2 (Responsiveness assessment)**

187 Study 2 was carried out at the University of Salford, UK. Following ethical approval by the University of  
188 Salford Research Ethics Committee, seven AI individuals (4 male, 6 right handed,  $36 \pm 10$  years of age)  
189 provided informed consent and were recruited to the study. AI subjects rather than novel myoelectric  
190 prosthesis users were recruited because of the very small numbers of traumatic upper limb amputees  
191 referred to limb fitting centres. For example, in 2004/5, there were just 54 new referrals of trans-radial  
192 amputees in the UK. Subjects visited the lab on 9 occasions over approximately a 2-week period; full  
193 details of the full protocol are published in [24], however, only a subset of visits is reported on here. On  
194 their first visit, subjects were asked to perform a seated task which involved reaching with their



195 anatomic hand for a juice carton, picking it up and pouring the liquid into a cup, before returning it to its  
196 original location, then moving their hand back to the original resting point (anatomic hand baseline). The  
197 location of the carton, cup and starting point for the hand were fixed for each subject across all trials.  
198 Subjects repeated the task 12 times. During their second functional task assessment as well as during  
199 their final functional task assessment, subjects performed the same task with the same number of  
200 repeats but with a custom-made myoelectric prosthesis simulator [24]. In between these prosthesis  
201 simulator sessions, subjects carried out the SHAP on four occasions for practicing with the prosthesis  
202 simulator. During task performance, 3D position data of a cluster of 4 reflective markers located on the  
203 forearm were collected at 100 Hz using a ten camera Vicon 612<sup>®</sup> motion capture system (Vicon Motion  
204 Systems, Los Angeles, USA). The position data of their anatomic hand baseline, their first prosthesis  
205 simulator session, and their final session with the prosthesis simulator (after SHAP training) were then  
206 used to calculate the simulated output of a three-axis accelerometer [23]. Subsequently, temporal and  
207 trajectory variability within session were calculated. It was hypothesized that introduction of the  
208 prosthesis would increase variability (anatomic baseline versus initial Prosthesis simulator session), and  
209 that training through practice to use a prosthesis simulator would reduce variability. Following checks  
210 for their normal distribution, warp cost and remaining RMS error were statistically analyzed using a one-  
211 way repeated measures ANOVA (SPSS General Linear Model tab) with post-hoc Bonferroni correction  
212 for Type 1 Error.

213

214 For all statistical analyses, the critical  $\alpha$  was set at 0.05 to guide interpretation of the results, and  
215 statistics were conducted using SPSS software (IBM, Armonk, New York).

216

217

218

219

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Study 1 (Known-groups assessment)

Significant differences in temporal variability (Warp Cost) were found between prosthesis-users and able-bodied controls. Specifically, prosthesis users exhibited greater temporal variability than controls, and this was so for all three tasks (Figure 4 and Table 1). Results suggested that amplitude variability was greater for prosthesis users than able-bodied across tasks, but these group differences were not statistically significant ( $P>0.05$  for all tasks, Figure 4 and Table 1). Average SHAP Index of Function scores for able-bodied and prosthesis users were  $96(\pm 3 \text{ SD})$  and  $53(\pm 12 \text{ SD})$  ( $p<0.001$ ), respectively, suggesting lower upper limb functional abilities for prosthesis users.

#### 3.2 Study 2 (Responsiveness assessment)

Clear changes in temporal variability emerged throughout the study period (Figure 5 (left) and Table 2). Specifically, when AI subjects were asked to use the prosthesis simulator for the first time, their temporal variability increased as compared to their baseline performance with the anatomical hand ( $P=0.022$ ), but as they learned how to use the prosthesis simulator, their variability decreased again ( $P=0.043$ ) and returned to levels similar to baseline ( $P=0.267$ ). Changes in amplitude variability likewise emerged, although with a direction of continuous reduction in RMS Error throughout the study period (Figure 5 (right) and Table 2). Specifically, RMS Error slightly decreased from baseline as subjects were introduced to the prosthesis simulator ( $P=1.000$ ), and a further reduction in RMS Error occurred with practice to use the simulator ( $P=0.003$ ), interestingly to levels much lower than baseline ( $P=0.043$ ).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The combined results from Studies 1 and 2 support the validity and usefulness of the DTW method for characterizing movement quality of task execution when using an upper limb prosthesis. Study 1 found significant differences in temporal inter-trial variability between prosthesis users and controls, but not in amplitude variability. This finding demonstrates for the first time the nature of differences in trial-to-trial variability between experienced users of myoelectric prostheses and controls. Specifically, by separating out the two elements of trajectory variability, DTW revealed the primary contribution of temporal variability to overall movement quality, with less apparent contributions of amplitude variability. Moreover, that prosthesis users exhibited greater kinematic variability as compared to controls across all three tasks along with reduced function, as quantified by lower SHAP scores, is in agreement with previous findings [12], thereby supporting the validity of this method. It should be noted that one of the possible reasons for the lack of statistical significance in amplitude variability was the low statistical power due to a small sample size. Although consistent group differences in amplitude variability existed across tasks, with magnitudes greater than those found with training in Study 2, these differences were not large enough to reach significance given the within-group variability.

Although not unexpected, no-one has previously demonstrated that variability reduces with practice with a prosthesis simulator. In Study 2 we investigated the extent by which temporal and amplitude variability each contribute to this outcome and demonstrated that temporal variability in a carton pouring task increased considerably on first use of a prosthesis simulator, then declined with goal-oriented training (SHAP). Temporal variability hence showed to be responsive to effects of training. Consistent with the findings in Study 1, amplitude variability showed less clear changes, especially on first introduction of the prosthesis simulator. Two limitations of Study 2 are that AI subjects used a prosthesis simulator and performed only one functional task. Therefore further research involving actual

269 myoelectric prosthesis users and a more comprehensive task protocol is required to substantiate the  
270 findings of Study 2.

271

272 Consistent with our previous study in stroke [15] temporal variability, as compared to amplitude  
273 variability, emerged as the more insightful measure. As all of the tasks studied involved acquiring and  
274 releasing objects using the prosthetic hand, and since opening the hand to acquire or release an object  
275 is a common challenge in prosthesis control, then hesitations upon grasp and release may be one of the  
276 sources of the higher timing variability seen in prosthesis users. It is noteworthy that temporal variability  
277 varied significantly across tasks (see Table 1), each of which involved a single grasp and release, and  
278 further work is needed to interpret this finding. Furthermore, given the trends observed in Studies 1 and  
279 2, higher prosthesis user amplitude variability and a decrease with simulator training respectively, the  
280 contribution of amplitude variability to movement quality should be explored further. Previous work has  
281 suggested that below-elbow amputees are able to generate an accurate internal model of the prosthetic  
282 limb [25] which implies self-integration of the limb to refine relationships between physiological input  
283 and performance output. For example, one explanation for the decrease in amplitude variability with  
284 practice (Figure 5) is that learning to use a prosthesis simulator with reduced DoFs may require some  
285 development of a new internal model with training to minimize limb amplitude variability. The increase  
286 (Prosthesis 1, Figure 5) and subsequent decrease (Prosthesis Final, Figure 5) in temporal variability upon  
287 introduction to the prosthesis simulator would be reflective of skill acquisition.

288

289 Overall, analysing forearm accelerations using the DTW method appears to be a valid method for  
290 quantifying movement quality of upper limb prosthesis use during the execution of goal-oriented tasks.  
291 The information delivered from such assessment offers a valuable, objective outcome for monitoring  
292 rehabilitation progress that would complement other performance-based and self-report clinical  
293 outcome measures. A rich set of outcome data would aid in development of more appropriate, patient-

294 centric training programs with the aim of maximizing functional performance and minimizing potential  
295 for device abandonment. Yet, further work is needed to understand the implications of our work for  
296 clinical training. We have shown that in simulator users both amplitude and temporal trajectory  
297 variability decrease with practice, suggesting our metrics may be of value in assessing skill. However,  
298 research is needed to understand whether patients would benefit from training specifically targeted at  
299 reducing variability.

300

301 Importantly, the studies reported here used camera based techniques to derive overall task completion  
302 time and simulated accelerometer trajectories. However, both of these parameters could be derived  
303 from a forearm-mounted accelerometer and hence the approach offers the potential for clinicians to  
304 characterise both overall task completion time and trial-trial temporal and trajectory variability using  
305 low cost instrumentation. Accelerometers have previously been used for classification of hand  
306 movements [26, 27], and this study shows their potential in assessment of kinematic variability as an  
307 aspect of movement quality. Future work should continue to explore use of wearable devices as a  
308 simple, reliable, and clinically-accessible method for assessing prosthesis-use skill. When combined with  
309 the use of low cost instrumentation, reliability of the DTW method for assessing prosthesis user  
310 movement quality should be investigated to complete an evaluation of its psychometric properties.

311

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317

318

319 **DECLARATIONS**

320 **Ethics approval and consent to participate:** For testing of human subjects, Study 1 (Known-groups  
321 assessment) received ethical approval from the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board,  
322 USA (Ref # STU00028580), whilst Study 2 (Responsiveness Assessment) received ethical approval from  
323 the University of Salford Research Ethics Committee (Ref # REPN09/174). All participants provided  
324 informed consent. Animals were not part of the study.

325 **Conflicts of interest:** The authors declare that no financial and personal relationships with other people  
326 or organizations exist that could have inappropriately influenced (biased) this work.

327

328 **AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

329 All substantial contributions of authors to the paper were as follows: (1) the conception and design of  
330 the study (all), or acquisition of data (MS, RS), or analysis and interpretation of data (SBT, LPJK, MJM);  
331 (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content (all); (3) final approval of  
332 the version to be submitted (all).

333

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- 393

394 TABLES

395 Table 1. Known-groups assessment (Study 1)

|                                    | Group               | Carton Pouring |                           | Weighted Container Transfer |                            | Tray Transfer |                            |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
|                                    |                     | Mean (SD)      | <i>P</i><br>[95% CI]      | Mean (SD)                   | <i>P</i><br>[95% CI]       | Mean (SD)     | <i>P</i><br>[95% CI]       |
| <b>Warp Cost</b>                   | Anatomically Intact | 85.80 (27.14)  | 0.02<br>[-158.55, -18.33] | 6.92 (2.31)                 | 0.004<br>[-100.63, -29.03] | 13.55 (9.14)  | 0.019<br>[-73.96, -9.40]   |
|                                    | Prosthesis User     | 174.24 (74.48) |                           | 71.75 (38.71)               |                            | 55.23 (34.70) |                            |
| <b>RMS Error [m/s<sup>2</sup>]</b> | Anatomically Intact | 0.60 (0.09)    | 0.07<br>[-934.53, 43.69]  | 0.93 (0.28)                 | 0.127<br>[-750.20, 106.65] | 1.26 (0.41)   | 0.164<br>[-833.74, 160.12] |
|                                    | Prosthesis User     | 1.04 (0.53)    |                           | 1.25 (0.40)                 |                            | 1.60 (0.41)   |                            |

396

397 Group mean (standard deviation “SD”) and statistical t-test results for Warp Cost and RMS Error for the  
 398 three functional tasks. 95%CI: 95% Confidence Interval of Mean Difference.

399

400 Table 2. Responsiveness assessment (Study 2)

|                         | Warp Cost      |                                   | RMS Error [m/s <sup>2</sup> ] |                                   |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                         | Mean (SD)      | <i>P</i> <sup>†</sup><br>[95% CI] | Mean (SD)                     | <i>P</i> <sup>†</sup><br>[95% CI] |
| <b>Anatomic</b>         | 60.45 (17.02)  | 0.022<br>[-141.55; -13.07]        | 0.47 (0.09)                   | 1.000<br>[-0.15; 0.19]            |
| <b>Prosthesis 1</b>     | 137.77 (43.92) |                                   | 0.45 (0.07)                   |                                   |
| <b>Prosthesis 1</b>     | 137.77 (43.92) | 0.043<br>[2.15; 125.48]           | 0.45 (0.07)                   | 0.003<br>[0.05; 0.18]             |
| <b>Prosthesis Final</b> | 73.95 (19.27)  |                                   | 0.33 (0.04)                   |                                   |
| <b>Prosthesis Final</b> | 73.95 (19.27)  | 0.267<br>[-8.38; 35.37]           | 0.33 (0.04)                   | 0.043<br>[-0.26; -0.01]           |
| <b>Anatomic</b>         | 60.45 (17.02)  |                                   | 0.47 (0.09)                   |                                   |

401 †Adjustment for multiple comparisons: Bonferroni.

402 Group mean (standard deviation “SD”) of Warp Cost and RMS Error for AI subjects at baseline (anatomic  
 403 hand) and during learning to use a prosthesis simulator (myoelectric prosthesis) together with repeated  
 404 measures GLM pairwise comparisons for test sessions. 95%CI: 95% Confidence Interval of Mean  
 405 Difference.

406 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

407 **Figure 1. Illustration of temporal and amplitude variability.**

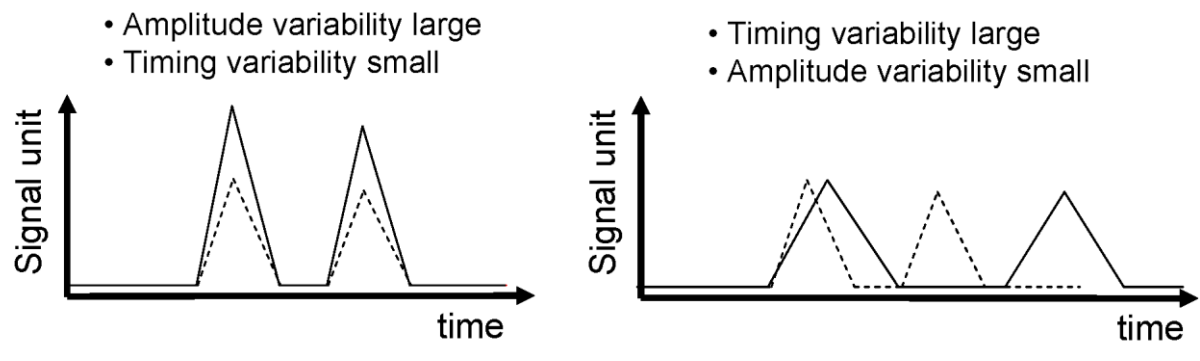
408 **Figure 2. Illustration of the effects of uniform time normalization as compared to DTW.** Example  
409 (adapted from Thies et al. 2009): “drinking from a glass” involves a reach forward, grasp of the glass,  
410 lifting, drinking and replacing the glass onto the table top. Note that for uniform time normalization  
411 (left) trials remain inadequately aligned, as evident from the mismatch of the different movement  
412 components, thereby leading to inappropriate estimation of inter-trial variation in signal amplitude  
413 when RMS Error is calculated subsequently. This is not the case for DTW (right).

414 **Figure 3. Use of time-normalization versus non-linear time warping for assessment of upper limb**  
415 **kinematic variability.** Example plots show distal-to-proximal forearm acceleration for an anatomically  
416 intact individual (top), an anatomically intact individual using a prosthesis simulator (middle), and an  
417 amputee (bottom), each pouring juice from a carton into a glass. Shown are original signals of 2 trials  
418 (left), the same signals after time normalization (middle) and after time warping (right). A mismatch of  
419 movement components remains after time normalization, whilst temporal alignment is optimized  
420 through use of DTW for more accurate estimation of amplitude variability.

421 **Figure 4. Known-groups assessment (Study 1).** Group means and corresponding standard deviations for  
422 temporal variability (Warp Cost, left) and amplitude variability (RMS Error, right) for all functional tasks.

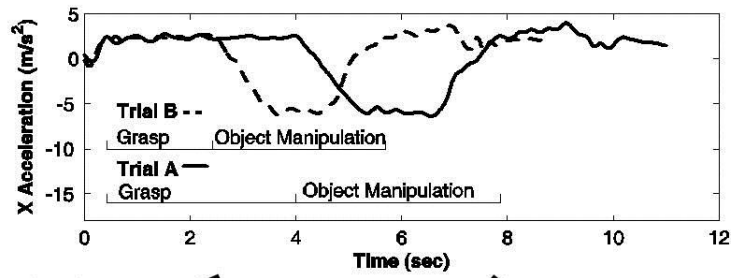
423 **Figure 5. Responsiveness assessment (Study 2).** Group means and corresponding standard deviations  
424 for temporal variability (Warp Cost, left) and amplitude variability (RMS Error, right). Anatomic: baseline  
425 with anatomic hand; Prosthesis 1: first session with a myoelectric prosthesis simulator, Prosthesis Final:  
426 final session with a prosthesis simulator (after four SHAP training sessions).

427



429 **Figure 1.**

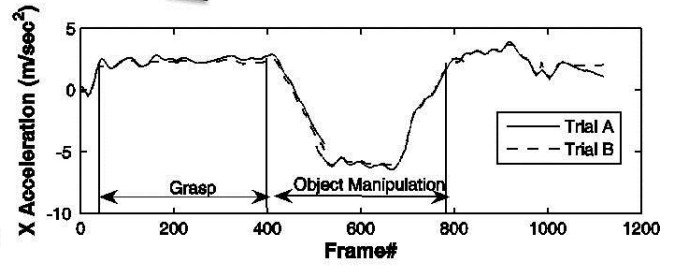
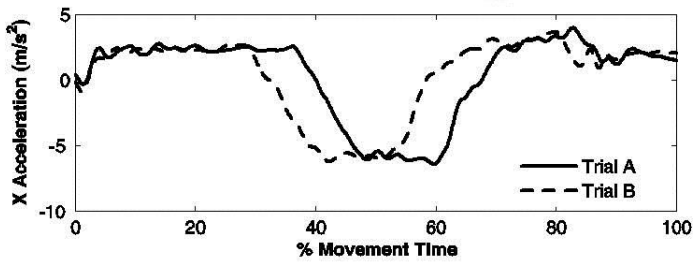
"Drinking from a glass"



"% movement cycle" method



Dynamic Time Warping



431

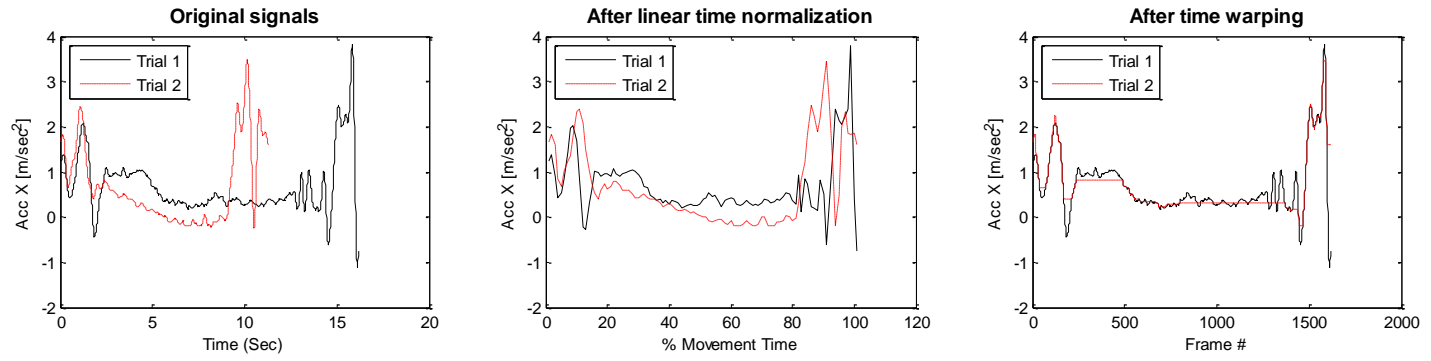
432 Figure 2.

433

434

435

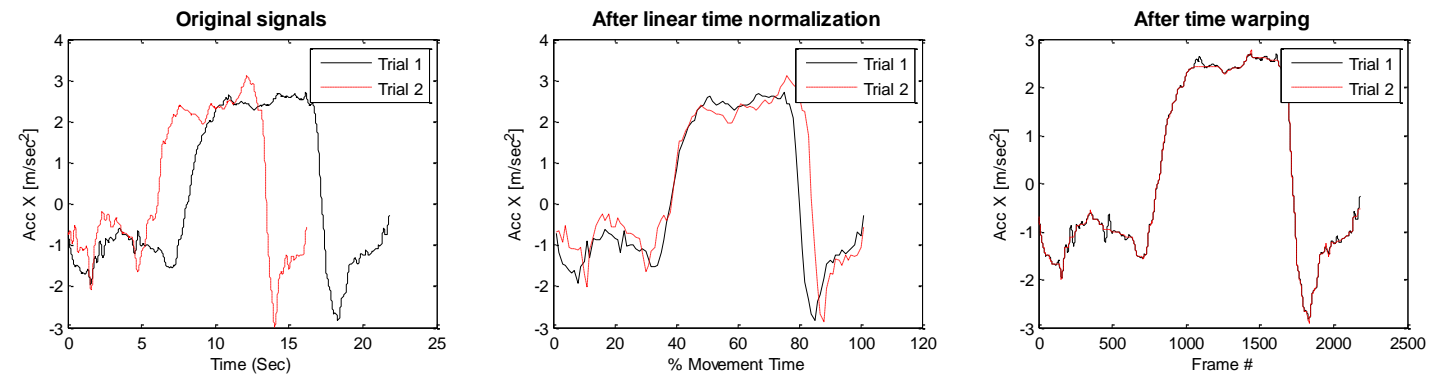
**Healthy subject anatomic arm “carton pouring task”:**



436

437

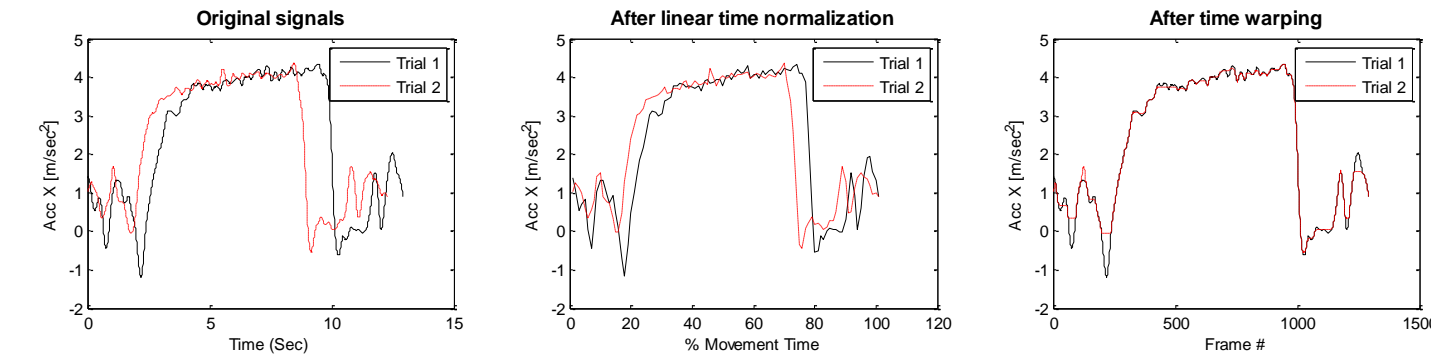
**Healthy subject prosthesis simulator “carton pouring task”:**



438

439

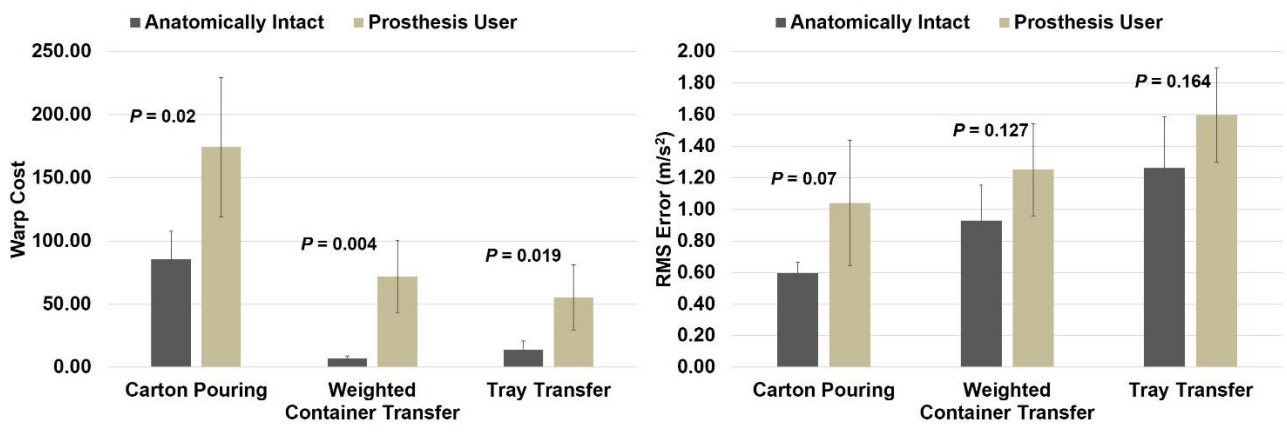
**Myoelectric prosthesis user “carton pouring task”:**



440 **Figure 3.**

441

442

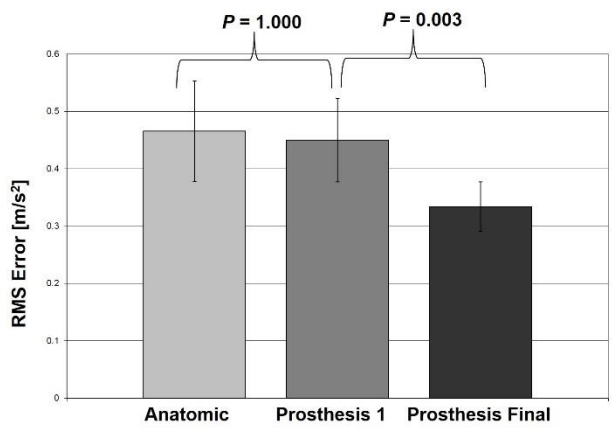
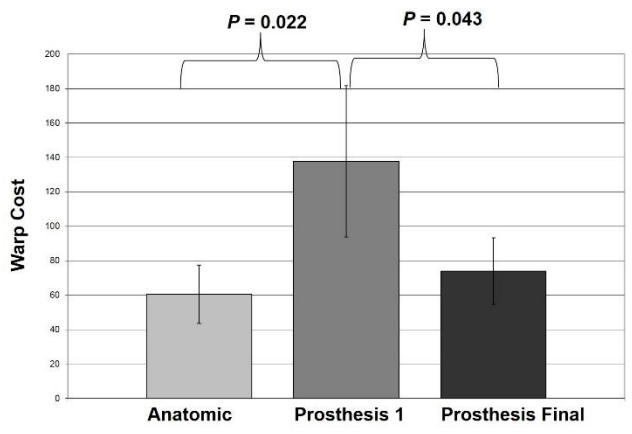


443

444 **Figure 4.**

445

446



447

448 **Figure 5.**