# Classification accuracy of the wrist-worn GENEA accelerometer 

Whitney A. Welch ${ }^{1}$, David R. Bassett ${ }^{1}$, Dixie L. Thompson ${ }^{1}$, Patty S. Freedson ${ }^{2}$, John W. Staudenmayer ${ }^{3}$, Dinesh John ${ }^{2}$, Jeremy A. Steeves ${ }^{1}$, Scott A. Conger ${ }^{1}$, Tyrone Ceaser ${ }^{1}$, Cheryl A. Howe ${ }^{2}$, Jeffer E. Sasaki ${ }^{2}$, and Eugene C. Fitzhugh ${ }^{1}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Dept. of Kinesiology, Recreation, \& Sport Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN<br>${ }^{2}$ Dept. of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA<br>${ }^{3}$ Dept. of Mathematics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA


#### Abstract

Purpose-The purpose of this study was to determine whether the published left-wrist cut-points for the triaxial GENEA accelerometer, are accurate for predicting intensity categories during structured activity bouts.

Methods-A convenience sample of 130 adults wore a GENEA accelerometer on their left wrist while performing 14 different lifestyle activities. During each activity, oxygen consumption was continuously measured using the Oxycon mobile. Statistical analysis used Spearman's rank correlations to determine the relationship between measured and estimated intensity classifications. Cross tabulation tables were constructed to show under- or over-estimation of misclassified intensities. One-way chi-square tests were used to determine whether the intensity classification accuracy for each activity differed from $80 \%$. Results-For all activities the GENEA accelerometer-based physical activity monitor explained $41.1 \%$ of the variance in energy expenditure. The intensity classification accuracy was $69.8 \%$ for sedentary activities, $44.9 \%$ for light activities, $46.2 \%$ for moderate activities, and $77.7 \%$ for vigorous activities. The GENEA correctly classified intensity for $52.9 \%$ of observations when all activities were examined; this increased to $61.5 \%$ with stationary cycling removed.

Conclusion-A wrist-worn triaxial accelerometer has modest intensity classification accuracy across a broad range of activities, when using the cut-points of Esliger et al. Although the sensitivity and specificity are less than those reported by Esliger et al., they are generally in the same range as those reported for waist-worn, uniaxial accelerometer cut-points.


## Keywords

activity monitor; accelerometry; physical activity; energy expenditure

[^0]
## Introduction

Since the mid-1980s there has been a steady increase in the evidence-based literature associating low levels of physical activity with an increased risk of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease (25). The integrity of physical activity monitoring studies, intervention studies, and epidemiology studies rely on the valid and reliable assessment of physical activity (2). Doubly-labeled water, direct observation, and direct and indirect calorimetry are the most valid "criterion" measures of physical activity (27). However, these methods are expensive, require trained professionals to administer, and are not practical for some applications (15).

Movement sensors, such as pedometers and accelerometers, are inexpensive portable devices that allow researchers to objectively measure activity within the free-living environment (15). While pedometers are specifically designed to measure walking behaviors such as total steps taken per day (14), accelerometer-based physical activity monitors allow researchers to track frequency, intensity, and duration of activity (18). Prior to the development of triaxial accelerometers, uniaxial accelerometers were used to measure accelerations that occurred within the vertical plane (27). Triaxial accelerometers capture movement in the orthogonal planes. As a result, these devices provide the opportunity to capture many more activities than uniaxial accelerometers; thus, in comparison with uniaxial instruments, the output from triaxial devices tends to have higher correlations with energy expenditure $(5,7,12)$. In addition, advances in modern technology now allows tracking of both dynamic and static accelerations (8).

It is now common practice to place motion sensors on the waist of human subjects, but this site has limitations. Placed near the center of mass, waist-mounted accelerometers fail to detect arm movements, which leads to significant measurement errors and physical activity intensity misclassification (7). Therefore, alternative sites for placement that may elicit improved results compared to the waist-worn sensors could enhance future research (7). Researchers have attempted to place accelerometers on the ankle, upper arm, wrist, or multiple sites of the body $(4,29)$. A newly introduced wrist-worn accelerometer-based physical activity monitor, the Gravity Estimator of Normal Everyday Activity (GENEA), has been reported to have high accuracy for classifying physical activity intensity (e.g., sedentary, light, moderate, vigorous) (9). Furthermore, due to its wristwatch-like characteristics and size, the GENEA will potentially encourage higher rates of wear compliance, when compared to waist-worn accelerometers (26).

The physical activity intensity cutpoints for the GENEA accelerometer developed by Esliger et al. (9) showed high levels of criterion validity ( $\mathrm{r}=0.85$ ) across a range of activities, including home/office and ambulatory activities, which was approximately equal to that seen with the waist-mounted ActiGraph GT1M and the RT3(9). The authors speculate that the tight clustering of their data within each activity will allow for an increased accuracy of activity classification. To date, however, these cut-points have not been cross-validated in a separate study. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine whether the left wrist GENEA cut-points developed by Esliger and colleagues are accurate for predicting intensity categories. Ambulatory activities, home/office activities, and sport activities were examined.

## Methods

## Participants

One hundred thirty-nine participants were recruited from on-campus and the surrounding community of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville or the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Nine people from the total sample who were left hand dominant were excluded in
order to have a standardized sample of right hand dominant individuals; thus the number of subjects in this analysis was 130 (UTenn $n=90$; UMass $n=40$ ). Participants were $20-60$ years of age, were apparently healthy, and free from chronic disease or any joint or musculoskeletal injuries that might affect gait. Prior to testing, all participants signed an informed consent approved by the Institutional Review Boards at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## Data Collection

Participants reported to the laboratory having fasted for four hours, having abstained from nicotine, caffeine, or other stimulants for four hours, and having refrained from exercise for 24 hours. Each participant filled out a Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire, Health History Questionnaire, and Physical Activity Status questionnaire in order to determine his/ her ability to participate in the study. Height was measured using a stadiometer and weight was measured by either the Tanita BC-418 scale (Tanita Corporation of America, Inc.; Arlingtion Heights, Illinois [UTenn])or a physicians' scale (Detecto; Webb City, MO [UMass]). Body mass index was calculated from these measurements.

Each participant completed a series of seven activities from one of two routines. Routine 1 ( $\mathrm{n}=70$ ) activities included: Filing papers, vacuuming, self-paced walking, treadmill walking at $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$, cycling at 49 watts, basketball practice, and treadmill running at $9.6 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$. Routine $2(\mathrm{n}=68)$ activities included: computer work, treadmill walking at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$, cycling 98 watts, moving a box $(4.5 \mathrm{~kg})$, treadmill walking at a $5 \%$ incline $\left(4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}, 6.4\right.$ $\mathrm{km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ ), and tennis. Each activity was performed for seven minutes with a 4-minute break between activities. Participants wore the Oxycon Mobile portable metabolic unit (CareFusion; San Diego, CA), which measured oxygen uptake $\left(\mathrm{VO}_{2}\right)$ during testing. The GENEA was worn on the non-dominant wrist (left wrist), positioned between the radial and ulnar styloid process, and was secured by a Velcro strap. The GENEA was placed on the non-dominant wrist because this study was part of a larger study that used another device on the dominant wrist. The GENEA (Activinsights Limited; Colworth, United Kingdom) is a triaxial, $\pm 6 \mathrm{~g}$, accelerometer weighing 16 g , measuring $36 \mathrm{~mm} \times 30 \mathrm{~mm} \times 12 \mathrm{~mm}$, and can be worn on the wrist, waist, or ankle. Accelerometers were initialized to sample data at 80 Hz (30). After each test, data were downloaded and stored on a laboratory computer.

## Analysis

Breath-by-breath $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ data collected by the Oxycon were averaged over three minutes (minutes 4-6) of each activity in order to obtain steady state $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ data. Because of variations between the Oxycon systems at the two testing sites, averaged $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ values were increased by $7.8 \%$ at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and decreased by $7.8 \%$ at The University of Massachusetts Amherst. This was done because relative to the ACSMpredicted $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ 's for fixed submaximal work rates ( 49 and 98 watts) on the cycle ergometer, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville data were higher than expected and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst data were lower than expected, making it necessary to align the data from the two sites (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Corrected $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ values were converted to METs using $1 \mathrm{MET}=3.5 \mathrm{ml} \cdot \mathrm{kg}^{-1} \cdot \mathrm{~min}^{-1}$. The MET values obtained for each activity were classified into an intensity category (sedentary ( $<1.5$ MET), light (1.5-3.99 METs), moderate (4.0-6.99 METs), or vigorous (7+ METs)) following the same thresholds used by Esliger et al. (9).

Using precisely the same methods as Esliger et al. (9), the GENEA post processing software (version 1.2.1) was used to analyze the accelerometer data to provide a Signal Magnitude Vector (gravity-subtracted) $\left(\mathrm{SVM}_{\mathrm{gs}}\right)$ for each minute. This value represents a mean r-g value, rather than a cumsum r-g, therefore these values were multiplied by 60 , which has the
same effect as summing the 601 -sec epochs. Three minutes (minutes 4-6) of each activity were used to obtain the average $\mathrm{SVM}_{\mathrm{gs}}$ for each activity. Using the left wrist cut-points of Esliger et al. (9), each activity was classified into an intensity category: sedentary (<217 counts $/ \mathrm{min}$ ), light ( $217-644$ counts $/ \mathrm{min}$ ), moderate ( $645-1810$ counts $/ \mathrm{min}$ ), or vigorous (>1810 counts/min).

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 19 for Windows (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Spearman's rank correlation coefficients were used to determine whether there was a linear relationship between METs and the GENEA SVM ${ }_{g g}$. This test was chosen due to a nonnormal distribution of the GENEA data. Crosstabs were used to identify the accuracy of the device to predict intensity classifications within each activity performed. One-way chisquare analyses were used to test whether the accuracy rate differed from $80 \%$. Eighty percent was chosen as an acceptable accuracy rate based on accuracy rates observed in validation studies of accelerometers analyzed by pattern recognition (20, 31).

## Results

Of the 130 adult participants, $48.5 \%$ were male and $51.5 \%$ were female. Most were Caucasian (71.5\%), followed by African American (13.1\%), Asian (10.8\%), and Hispanic/ Latino (4.6\%). On average, participants were $41.2 \pm 10.9$ years of age, $170.4 \pm 9.0 \mathrm{~cm}$ tall, weighed $74.9 \pm 15.2 \mathrm{~kg}$, and had a BMI of $25.7 \pm 4.7 \mathrm{~kg} \cdot \mathrm{~m}^{-2}$.

Table 1 shows the mean and standard deviation for the METs obtained for each activity by the Oxycon, and MET estimates from the Compendium of Physical Activities (1), as well as the mean and standard deviation for the GENEA estimated $\mathrm{SVM}_{\mathrm{gS}}(\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{min})$ for each activity. The Spearman's correlation coefficient expressing the relationship between GENEA SVMgs and METs was $\rho=0.641$ ( $\mathrm{p}<0.001$ ), when all activities are combined.

A cross tabulation table for all activities combined is shown in Table 2a, with correct intensity classification category denoted by the shaded blocks. By summing the numbers in the shaded boxes (i.e. correctly classified activity bouts) and dividing this number by the sum of the numbers in the shaded and white boxes (i.e. total number of activity bouts) the total percentage of correctly classified activity bouts can be computed. The intensity classification accuracy for all of the activities was $52.9 \%$. Since the two cycling activities had high rates of misclassification, we removed cycling from the rest of the activities and this increased the overall accuracy rate to $61.5 \%$ (Table 2b) and Spearman's correlation coefficient to $\rho=0.802(\mathrm{p}<0.001)$. Figure 3 depicts the relationship between METs and GENEA SVM ${ }_{g s}$ for each observation. Vertical lines are placed at each Esliger et al. (9) left wrist cut-point, and horizontal lines are placed at each MET level cut-point, creating blocks of space showing agreement between the measured and predicted intensity categories. Observations that fell outside those regions for each intensity level show misclassifications of the different activities.

Table 1 shows the results of the one-way chi-square analysis. When combining all activities, the GENEA correctly classified the intensity category in $52.9 \%$ of the observations. Individually, most of the activities ( 9 out of 14) were significantly less than our predetermined acceptable accuracy rate of $80 \%$. Vacuuming, basketball, computer work, and walking on a treadmill at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ on a $5 \%$ grade were estimated with an accuracy rate that did not differ from $80 \%$. Jogging on the treadmill at $9.7 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ with $0 \%$ grade showed statistically greater accuracy than $80 \%$.

Further analyses were performed to determine the sensitivity and specificity of each proposed left wrist intensity category (Table 3). Since moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) is a common outcome measure among physical activity research,
sensitivity and specificity of an MVPA cut-point was also calculated with all activities (sensitivity $=0.710$ and specificity $=0.699)$ and with cycling removed from the total observations (sensitivity $=0.846$ and specificity $=0.632$ ).

## Discussion

Using the proposed cut-points, the wrist-worn GENEA, classified intensity for 5 out of our 14 activities (basketball, jogging on a treadmill at $9.6 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ with $0 \%$ grade, computer work, vacuuming, and walking on a treadmill at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ with $0 \%$ grade) with an accuracy rate that did not differ from $80 \%$. For most of the other activities, intensity was frequently misclassified. When all the activities were separated out by intensity, the percentage of activities correctly classified was $69.76 \%$ for sedentary activities, $44.86 \%$ for light activities, $\mathbf{4 6 . 2 \%}$ for moderate activities, and $77.71 \%$ for vigorous activities. In addition, when all activity bouts were considered together, the wrist-worn GENEA correctly classified $52.9 \%$ of the total observations, or $61.5 \%$ when stationary cycling was excluded.

In our analysis of the GENEA device, the Spearman's Rho-squared explained 41.1\% of the variance in energy expenditure. Even though our data violated the assumptions of normality, we also calculated the Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient for the sake of comparison with other studies. Using Pearson's $\mathrm{R}^{2}$, the GENEA worn on the left wrist explained $54.1 \%$ of the variance in energy expenditure. Using Pearson's R ${ }^{2}$, Esliger et al. (9) reported that the GENEA worn on the left wrist explained $73.9 \%$ of the variance in energy expenditure. Swartz et al. (22) placed a uniaxial CSA accelerometer (now the Actigraph GT1M) on the wrist while participants performed 28 different lifestyle activities. In their study, the wrist-worn CSA accelerometer explained only $3.3 \%$ of the variance in energy expenditure using Pearson's $\mathrm{R}^{2}$. Thus, it appears that a triaxial accelerometer (worn on the wrist) results in a stronger relationship with energy expenditure, than a uniaxial accelerometer.

It is important to understand whether the wrist site is an acceptable alternative compared to the waist for measuring physical activity. In 2011, the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey began using wrist-worn accelerometers to estimate physical activity from measured activity counts (6). Esliger et al. (9) reported that a GENEA triaxial accelerometer worn at the waist yielded a nearly identical correlation with energy expenditure $\left(\mathrm{R}^{2}=0.757\right)$ as one worn at the left wrist $\left(\mathrm{R}^{2}=0.739\right)$, suggesting that either site can be used to predict energy expenditure. However, Swartz et al. (22) placed CSA uniaxial accelerometers on the dominant wrist and right hip of participants while they performed 28 lifestyle activities. Upon analysis, the waist-worn accelerometer explained $31.7 \%$ of the variance in energy expenditure, while the wrist-worn accelerometer accounted for only $3.3 \%$ of the variance. Thus, it appears that if a triaxial accelerometer is used, the wrist and waist sites have similar relationships with measured energy expenditure. However, if a uniaxial accelerometer is used, then the waist-worn accelerometer has a much stronger relationship with energy expenditure.

Esliger et al. (9) found the left wrist placement of the GENEA to be $93 \%$ accurate in classifying physical activity intensity. Our analysis showed an intensity classification accuracy of $69.76 \%$ for sedentary activity, $44.86 \%$ for light activity, $46.20 \%$ for moderate activity, and $70.71 \%$ for vigorous activity. It is important to note that Esliger et al. (9) did not cross-validate their cut-points. They determined the accuracy of their cut-points using the same data set on which their cut-points were developed; thus the accuracy may be inflated, relative to what it would be when examining other people and other activities.

In the present study, the wrist-worn GENEA correctly identified the intensity category between $23.6 \%$ and $93.6 \%$ of the time for treadmill walking and running. Generally, as speed increases, both energy expenditure and accelerometer activity counts increase. However, when grade is increased and speed is kept constant, energy expenditure increases without any increase in accelerometer activity counts (11,17). Interestingly, at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$, $0 \%$ grade classification accuracy was significantly less than at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}, 5 \%$ grade. The average MET values for walking at $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}, 0 \%$ grade was 3.5 METs , which is close to the lower cut-point for moderate intensity. However, adding a 5\% grade increased the average MET value to 5.17 METs, which fell clearly within the moderate intensity category; this greatly improved classification accuracy. Similarly, at $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}, 5 \%$ grade the energy cost was 5.41 METs, which fell in the middle of the moderate intensity range; thus the classification accuracy was high. However, at $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}, 0 \%$ grade the average energy cost was 7.07 METs, straddling the cut-point between moderate and vigorous intensity. Thus, classification accuracy at this speed and grade decreased by $15.3 \%$. These factors likely contributed to our wide range of classification accuracy during treadmill walking and running activities.

One sport activity (basketball) had an intensity classification accuracy rate that did not significantly differ from $80 \%$, but both cycling activities were below $25 \%$ intensity classification accuracy, which was not a surprise considering the type of activity and the location of the GENEA on the subject. During cycling at 49 watts and 98 watts, over $60 \%$ of individuals were classified by the GENEA as sedentary even though their actual energy expenditure were clearly elevated. Similarly, the wrist-worn GENEA had reduced classification accuracy for inclined treadmill walking at $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$, as compared to the accuracy recorded for level walking at the same speed. This was due to the wrist-worn GENEA's inability to detect the increased metabolic cost associated with inclined walking. Other activities where the GENEA cut-points resulted in a high rate of misclassification were moving a box ( $54.4 \%$ classification accuracy) and tennis ( $56.3 \%$ classification accuracy).

One reason for the high intensity classification accuracy reported by Esliger et al. (9) is that most of their activities were tightly clustered, and they fell between the $1.5,4,7$ MET cutpoints. In contrast, many of the actual MET values of activities in the current investigation fell closer to the cut-points, contributing to a higher rate of intensity misclassification. For example, treadmill walking at $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}(5 \%)$ grade had an average MET value of $7.07 \pm$ 0.87 METs. $29 \%$ of subjects had values of 7 METs or higher, while $71 \%$ had values under 7 METs. Similarly, tennis had an average MET value of $7.35 \pm 1.63$ METs. Both of these activities had mean MET values that were in the vigorous-intensity range, but for many of the participants these activities were, in fact, moderate-intensity. Self-paced walking is an example of an activity that was near the cut-point distinguishing light versus moderate physical activity. Self-paced walking had an average MET value of $3.68 \pm 0.66$ METs. When actual MET values are close to the cut-points, there is a greater likelihood that the intensity of these activities will be misclassified.

As Bassett et al. (3) stated, when activity monitors are validated, they generally have good validity for the specific activities that were included in the accelerometer calibration study. It is interesting that two of our most accurate activities, computer work ( $81.8 \%$ accuracy rate) and jogging on a treadmill at $9.7 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ ( $93.6 \%$ accuracy rate), were activities used by Esliger et al. (9) in developing the intensity cut-points.

Another way to report the intensity classification accuracy is to determine the sensitivity and specificity of individual intensity cut-points by total observations, rather than accuracy by activity type. Unlike comparison of intensity category accuracy from previous studies using
the ActiGraph $(19,21)$, reporting sensitivity and specificity of these cut-points allows comparison of GENEA cut-points across the literature. Similar to the current study, Trost et al. (24) compared multiple proposed cut-points by cross-validation of a different population, using Actigraph accelerometers in children. Using 12 activities that ranged from sedentary (lying down, computer games) to vigorous (basketball and running), Trost et al. used sensitivity and specificity to determine which cut-point maximized the amount of true positives/true negatives reported and minimized the amount of false positives/false negatives. The authors found that the Evenson cutpoints reported the highest sensitivity and specificity with sensitivity ranging from $49.3 \%-100 \%$ and specificity ranging from $88.3 \%-93.8 \%$. Esliger et al. (9) conducted a sensitivity and specificity analysis for the left wrist cut-points, and the values ranged from $78-97 \%$ and $72-98 \%$, respectively. In contrast, our sensitivity analysis ranged from $45-71 \%$ and our specificity analysis ranged from $74-92 \%$. These differences could be due to the difference in the population studied, the types of activities performed, or use of the same data set for calibration and validation in the study of Esligeret al(9).

Emerging evidence suggests that new techniques, such as pattern recognition tools, will help improve physical activity assessment (13). One other GENEA wrist-worn classification study by Zhang et al. (31) examined pattern recognition algorithms to predict activity type. Our study focused on classification of intensity category rather than activity type, so we did not examine these algorithms. However, the more advanced approaches they used may be an improvement for correctly classifying various types of activities. In our study, the low classification accuracy of intensity categories across all 14 activities suggests that the cutpoints developed for the GENEA left wrist placement are not generalizable to other populations and activities different from those used in the original study of Esliger et al. (9).

This study has several strengths. We had a large sample size $(\mathrm{N}=130)$ with approximately equal numbers of men and women, a heterogeneous age range, and considerable racial/ ethnic diversity. Our activities represented a wide range of MET levels and included ambulatory, household, office, and sport activities, as is appropriate for an activity monitor calibration study $(10,28)$. We used a criterion measure of $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ and approximated steadystate values by analyzing three minutes of breath-by-breath analysis for each activity. The values we obtained were in close agreement with values predicted by the Compendium of Physical Activities (1) (see Table 1). Another important strength of this study is that we examined classification accuracy for intensity categories, which are widely used outcome measures in physical activity research. Few studies have examined classification accuracy based on cut-points; most of them examine measurement error using a continuous scale of energy expenditure.

The present study also has some limitations. We only examined the validity of the wristworn GENEA cut-points, and we did not determine whether a waist-worn accelerometer would yield greater classification accuracy. A wrist accelerometer can lead to an underestimation of physical activity when lower body movement occurs without concurrent arm movements, such as stationary cycling (likewise, waist-worn accelerometers also underestimate stationary cycling). We were unable to examine the right wrist cut-points, which may have higher validity, given that $90 \%$ of the population is right-hand dominant and some activities have greater involvement of the dominant arm. Also, our population differed from the population the cut-points were developed on (participants in the current study were 20-60 years of age compared with 40-65 years of age in the study of Esliger et al. (9)), which could have affected the accuracy of the proposed cut-points and MET values used.

## Conclusion

The GENEA accelerometer has previously been reported to provide a valid measure of physical activity intensity categories, across a range of activities (9). Upon cross-validation of the left wrist cut-points proposed by Esliger et al. (9), the majority of activities performed were found to be significantly below the proposed accuracy rate of $80 \%$. When all activities were examined the intensity classification accuracy rate was $52.9 \%$. This increased to $61.5 \%$ when stationary cycling was excluded. While this cross-validation study reported similar intensity classification accuracy to previous studies, researchers should be cautious using the cut-points of Esliger et al. (9) when testing different populations and activities other than those on which the cutpoints were determined. More research is needed to determine the most effective placement of the GENEA accelerometer (wrist, waist, ankle), and to explore pattern recognition techniques, in order to yield the most valid results.

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Cary Springer, UT Statistical Consulting Center, who assisted with the statistical analysis. The authors acknowledge funding by the NIH grant R01-1795-014 and GEI grant U01-CA120783.

Funding Source: NIH grant R01-1795-014; GEI grant U01-CA130783

## References

1. Ainsworth BE, Haskell WL, Herrmann SD, et al. 2011 Compendium of Physical Activities: a second update of codes and MET values. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2011; 43(8):1575-81. [PubMed: 21681120]
2. Bassett DR Jr. Validity and reliability issues in objective monitoring of physical activity. Res Q Exerc Sport. 2000; 71(2 Suppl):S30-6. [PubMed: 10925822]
3. Bassett DR Jr, Rowlands A, Trost SG. Calibration and validation of wearable monitors. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S32-8. [PubMed: 22157772]
4. Bergman RJ, Bassett DR Jr, Muthukrishnan S, Klein DA. Validity of 2 devices for measuring steps taken by older adults in assisted-living facilities. J Phys Act Health. 2008; 5(Suppl 1):S166-75. [PubMed: 18364521]
5. Bouten CV, Westerterp KR, Verduin M, Janssen JD. Assessment of energy expenditure for physical activity using a triaxial accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 1994; 26(12):1516-23. [PubMed: 7869887]
6. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) Physical Activity Monitor Procedures Manual. 2011:1-2. 1.
7. Chen KY, Bassett DR Jr. The technology of accelerometry-based activity monitors: current and future. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2005; 37(11 Suppl):S490-500. [PubMed: 16294112]
8. Chen KY, Janz KF, Zhu W, Brychta RJ. Redefining the roles of sensors in objective physical activity monitoring. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S13-23. [PubMed: 22157770]
9. Esliger DW, Rowlands AV, Hurst TL, Catt M, Murray P, Eston RG. Validation of the GENEA accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2011; 43(6):1085-93. [PubMed: 21088628]
10. Freedson P, Bowles HR, Troiano R, Haskell W. Assessment of physical activity using wearable monitors: recommendations for monitor calibration and use in the field. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S1-4. [PubMed: 22157769]
11. Freedson PS, Melanson E, Sirard J. Calibration of the Computer Science and Applications, Inc. accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 1998; 30(5):777-81. [PubMed: 9588623]
12. Hendelman D, Miller K, Baggett C, Debold E, Freedson P. Validity of accelerometry for the assessment of moderate intensity physical activity in the field. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2000; 32(9 Suppl):S442-9. [PubMed: 10993413]
13. Intille SS, Lester J, Sallis JF, Duncan G. New horizons in sensor development. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S24-31. [PubMed: 22157771]
14. LaPorte RE, Montoye HJ, Caspersen CJ. Assessment of physical activity in epidemiologic research: problems and prospects. Public Health Rep. 1985; 100(2):131-46. [PubMed: 3920712]
15. Mathie MJ, Coster AC, Lovell NH, Celler BG. Accelerometry: providing an integrated, practical method for long-term, ambulatory monitoring of human movement. Physiol Meas. 2004; 25(2):R1-20. [PubMed: 15132305]
16. Matthews CE, Hagstromer M, Pober DM, Bowles HR. Best practices for using physical activity monitors in population-based research. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S68-76. [PubMed: 22157777]
17. Montoye HJ, Washburn R, Servais S, Ertl A, Webster JG, Nagle FJ. Estimation of energy expenditure by a portable accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 1983; 15(5):403-7. [PubMed: 6645869]
18. Plasqui G, Joosen AM, Kester AD, Goris AH, Westerterp KR. Measuring free-living energy expenditure and physical activity with triaxial accelerometry. Obes Res. 2005; 13(8):1363-9. [PubMed: 16129718]
19. Rothney MP, Schaefer EV, Neumann MM, Choi L, Chen KY. Validity of physical activity intensity predictions by ActiGraph, Actical, and RT3 accelerometers. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2008; 16(8):1946-52. [PubMed: 18535553]
20. Staudenmayer J, Pober D, Crouter S, Bassett D, Freedson P. An artificial neural network to estimate physical activity energy expenditure and identify physical activity type from an accelerometer. J Appl Physiol. 2009; 107(4):1300-7. [PubMed: 19644028]
21. Strath SJ, Bassett DR Jr, Swartz AM. Comparison of MTI accelerometer cut-points for predicting time spent in physical activity. Int J Sports Med. 2003; 24(4):298-303. [PubMed: 12784173]
22. Swartz AM, Strath SJ, Bassett DR Jr, O'Brien WL, King GA, Ainsworth BE. Estimation of energy expenditure using CSA accelerometers at hip and wrist sites. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2000; 32(9 Suppl):S450-6. [PubMed: 10993414]
23. Troiano RP, Berrigan D, Dodd KW, Masse LC, Tilert T, McDowell M. Physical activity in the United States measured by accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2008; 40(1):181-8. [PubMed: 18091006]
24. Trost SG, Loprinzi PD, Moore R, Pfeiffer KA. Comparison of accelerometer cut points for predicting activity intensity in youth. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2011; 43(7):1360-8. [PubMed: 21131873]
25. United States Department of Health and Human Services. Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Commitee Report. Washington D.C.: 2008. p. A-1-A-10.
26. van Hees VT, Renstrom F, Wright A, et al. Estimation of daily energy expenditure in pregnant and non-pregnant women using a wrist-worn tri-axial accelerometer. PLoS One. 2011; 6(7):e22922. [PubMed: 21829556]
27. Welk, GJ. Physical activity assessments for health-related research. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Publishers, Inc.; 2002. p. 16
28. Welk GJ, McClain J, Ainsworth BE. Protocols for evaluating equivalency of accelerometry-based activity monitors. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(1 Suppl 1):S39-49. [PubMed: 22157773]
29. Welk GJ, McClain JJ, Eisenmann JC, Wickel EE. Field validation of the MTI Actigraph and BodyMedia armband monitor using the IDEEA monitor. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2007; 15(4): 918-28. [PubMed: 17426327]
30. Zhang S, Murray P, Zillmer R, Eston RG, Catt M, Rowlands AV. Activity classification using the GENEA: optimum sampling frequency and number of axes. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012:2228-34. [PubMed: 22617400]
31. Zhang S, Rowlands AV, Murray P, Hurst TL. Physical activity classification using the GENEA wrist-worn accelerometer. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2012; 44(4):742-8. [PubMed: 21988935]


Figure 1.
Measured oxygen cost $\left(\mathrm{VO}_{2}\right)$ of stationary cycling at two different intensities, pre- and postcorrection. The $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ values from the study sites were corrected to align them and create closer matching with the ACSM-predicted $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ values for 49 and $98 \mathrm{~W}(1019 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$ and $1548 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$, respectively).



Figure 2.
Measured energy expenditure (METs) of each activity pre- and post-correction. (a) Uncorrected measured MET values at both study sites (white=UMASS; black=UTENN) across all activities. (b) Corrected measured MET values at both study sites (white=UMASS; black=UTENN) across activities.


Figure 3.
Relationship between METs and GENEA SVM ${ }_{g s}$. Marked lines depict cut-points for each variable.

|  | n | Compendium METs ${ }^{\wedge}$ | METs Mean(SD) | GENEA SVMgs (g.min) Mean(SD) | Classification Accuracy | p-value (80\% accuracy) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Home/Office |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Filing Papers | 69 | 3.0 | 1.49 (0.29) | 310.19 (125.45) | 62.90\% | <0.001* |
| Vacuuming | 70 | 3.3 | 3.23 (0.58) | 470.75 (175.66) | 81.70\% | 0.722 |
| Computer Work | 56 | 1.3 | 1.17 (0.27) | 134.94 (60.0) | 81.80\% | 0.736 |
| Moving a Box | 58 | 4.5 | 4.52 (0.90) | 756.39 (282.96) | 54.40\% | $<0.001$ * |
| Self-Paced Walking | 69 | NA | 3.68 (0.66) | 1017.13 (440.51) | 22.90\% | $<0.001$ * |
| Walking/Running on TM |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TM $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1} 0 \%$ grade | 56 | 3.5 | 3.70 (0.52) | 980.63 (435.64) | 23.60\% | $<0.001$ * |
| TM $4.8 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1} 5 \%$ grade | 55 | 5.3 | 5.17 (0.60) | 961.93 (370.92) | 68.90\% | 0.062 |
| TM $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1} 0 \%$ grade | 69 | 5.0 | 5.41 (0.65) | 1735.88 (882.84) | 48.60\% | $<0.001$ * |
| TM $6.4 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1} 5 \%$ grade | 46 | NA | 7.07 (0.87) | 1553.07 (1006.52) | 33.30\% | $<0.001$ * |
| TM $9.6 \mathrm{~km} \cdot \mathrm{hr}^{-1} 0 \%$ grade | 48 | 9.8 | 9.66 (1.21) | 4644.55 (1682.40) | 93.60\% | 0.020 |
| Sports |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cycle 48 watts | 54 | 3.5 | 3.76 (0.63) | 203.72 (103.67) | 10.10\% | $<0.001$ * |
| Cycle 98 watts | 68 | 6.8 | 5.94 (1.15) | 252.85 (189.38) | 24.00\% | $<0.001$ * |
| Basketball | 57 | 9.3 | 8.25 (2.51) | 2988.63 (1346.21) | 77.60\% | 0.646 |
| Tennis | 47 | 7.3 | 7.35 (1.63) | 1742.82 (667.86) | 56.30\% | $<0.001$ * |
| All Activities Combined |  |  |  |  | 52.90\% |  |

[^1]Table 3
Sensitivity and Specificity Analysis of Left Wrist GENEA Cut-points

|  | Sensitivity | Specificity |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Sedentary | 0.697 | 0.857 |
| Light | 0.449 | 0.825 |
| Moderate | 0.462 | 0.743 |
| Vigorous | 0.707 | 0.919 |
| MVPA (all activities) | 0.710 | 0.699 |
| MVPA (cycling removed) | 0.846 | 0.632 |


[^0]:    Copyright © 2013 American College of Sports Medicine
    Address Correspondence to: Whitney A. Welch, Department of Kinesiology, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Enderis Hall Room 416, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, wawelch @uwm.edu, Phone: 414-229-5676, Fax: 414-229-3166.
    The results of the present study do not constitute endorsement by ACSM.
    The authors do not have any conflict of interest.
    Publisher's Disclaimer: This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

[^1]:    $\mathrm{TM}=$ Treadmill
    $\mathrm{NA}=$ not available in compendium
    (1)

    * classification accuracy is significantly less than $80 \%$ accuracy rate

