

1 Article

2 BCI Gaze Sensing Method Using Low Jitter Code 3 Modulated VEP

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7

8 **Abstract:** Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs) are used in clinical applications in ophthalmology,
9 neurology and extensively in brain computer interface (BCI) research. BCI literature covers steady
10 state VEP (SSVEP) and code modulated VEP (c-VEP) BCIs along with sophisticated methods to
11 improve information transfer rates (ITR). There is a gap of knowledge regarding the VEP adaptation
12 dynamics, physiological generation mechanisms and relation with BCI performance. A simple dual
13 display VEP switch was developed to test signatures elicited by non-isochronic, non-singular, low
14 jitter stimuli at the rates of 10, 32, 50 and 70 reversals per second (rps). Non-isochronic, low-jitter
15 stimulation elicits Quasi-Steady-State VEPs (QSS-VEPs) that are utilized for simultaneous
16 generation of transient VEP and QSS-VEP. QSS-VEP is a special case of c-VEPs and it is assumed
17 that it shares the similar generators of the SSVEPs. Eight subjects were recorded and the
18 performance of the overall system was analyzed by means of Receiver Operating Characteristic
19 (ROC) curves, accuracy plots and ITRs. In summary QSS-VEPs performed better than transient
20 VEPs. It was found that in general 32rps stimulation had the highest ROC area, accuracy and ITRs
21 in general. To investigate the reasons behind this, adaptation dynamics of transient VEPs and QSS-
22 VEPs at all four rates were analyzed and speculated. Moreover, QSS-VEPs were found to lead to
23 higher accuracy by the template matching compared to SSVEPs at 10rps and 32rps.

24 **Keywords:** Gaze Sensing; SSVEP; BCI; c-VEP; transient VEP; QSS-VEP; Deconvolution;

25

26 1. Introduction

27 Recently Brain Computer Interface (BCI) research has shown a remarkable progress as witnessed
28 by an increasing number of publications. BCI provides a direct communication and control channel
29 between the human brain and output devices in order to achieve a desired output function by using
30 the control signals derived from the human brain [1]. Most of the BCI research is focused on
31 increasing the Information Transfer Rate (ITR). Depending on the signal acquisition methods, EEG
32 based BCIs are getting more and more attention due to non-invasiveness and practical EEG headsets
33 available in the market. In EEG based BCI applications there are four main signal classes, namely
34 Slow Cortical Potentials (SCP), Sensorimotor Rhythms (SMR), P300 Evoked Potentials and Visual
35 Evoked Potentials (VEP) [2]. VEP based BCIs paradigms are common due to several advantages.
36 These are mainly high ITR, simple setup, and little user training [3].

37 VEPs are named after stimulation types such as flash VEP, pattern reversal VEP, pattern-onset-
38 offset VEP [4]. In clinical testing pattern-reversal VEP is the most preferred one due to having least
39 variability in the waveform, latencies and motion [5]. VEP stimulus can be modulated by space, time,
40 luminance, contrast, color, pattern, depth [5]. VEPs can be grouped into two depending on the
41 stimulation rate. At low stimulation rates (< 3-4 reversals per second (rps)) electrical activity on the
42 occipital scalp elicits abrupt changes by the contrast reversing stimulus and then settles until the
43 presentation of the next stimulus. This type of VEP is called 'transient VEP' (TR-VEPs) [6-7]. However

44 if the stimulus presented at a higher rate and the response contains frequency components constant
45 in amplitude and phase, then it is called 'Steady State Evoked Potentials or SSEP [8-10].

46 Depending on VEP modulation, three main VEP BCI types exist: time modulated VEP (t-VEP)
47 BCI, frequency modulated VEP (f-VEP) BCI and pseudorandom code modulated VEP (c-VEP) BCI
48 [11]. Both f-VEP and c-VEP BCIs produce high ITRs. Steady state VEP (SSVEP) (f-VEP) based BCIs
49 have advantages of easy system configuration, excellent SNR, immunity to interferences, minimal
50 user training, easy quantification and high ITR [1,11-16]. However, possible target frequencies are
51 limited due to computer display refresh rates limitations and the SSVEP have low amplitudes at high
52 stimulation rates [1, 12, 16].

53 Pseudo random binary sequences (PRBS) based c-VEP BCI paradigm offers promising results in
54 terms of the ITR, accuracy, and use of many targets in applications [2,11,17]. Even though PRBS are
55 mostly used in system identification, they are also used in physiological applications such as
56 deconvolution and BCI. One particular PRBS, the maximum length sequences or m-sequences were
57 used by Sutter in a BCI application [18]. Although m-sequences have a-priori remarkable noise
58 attenuation due to its sharp autocorrelation properties, they do not provide the expected SNR
59 improvement in physiological recordings due to adaptation [19]. Working on BCI applications, Bin
60 Bin et al. [17], found that when a stimuli with sharp autocorrelation is used, the physiological system
61 generates responses with lower autocorrelation sharpness, significantly reducing the a-priori
62 effectivity of that BCI system. Therefore, the knowledge of the adaptation characteristics of the visual
63 system should be integrated in the design of the whole BCI system to achieve optimal performance.

64 Low-jitter PRBS have been successfully used to unveil the unitary responses of the visual system
65 through Pattern Electroretinograms and VEPs [20-21]. Low jitter stimuli elicit c-VEPs with narrow
66 spectrum, similar to the SSVEP and named as Quasi SSVEP (QSS-VEP); they have unique features
67 such as capability for deconvolution of transient VEPs (TR-VEPs), immunity to adaptation, and
68 shared brain generators of the SSVEP.

69 The use of a physiologically adapted low jitter PRBS stimuli in a BCI gaze sensor may capture
70 advantages of both f-VEPs and c-VEPs paradigms reducing their shortcomings. For this reason, in
71 this study, we developed a dual display BCI gaze sensor based on specially designed low-jitter PRBS
72 codes eliciting QSS-VEP and adopted the template matching as the detection method.

73 2. Materials and Methods

74 Right and left gaze sensing systems were developed using two independent regions (right and
75 left) on a fast Visual Display Unit (VDU). Four stimulation rates (10, 32, 50 and 70rps) were explored
76 on a normal subject population. For each rate, detection was evaluated using QSS-VEP and TR-VEPs.
77 For the rates of 10 and 32 rps the SSVEPs were also evaluated. 50 and 70rps SSVEPs were excluded
78 due to low amplitudes [22]. Using raw EEG recordings, the system performance, in all conditions,
79 was quantified off-line by using ROC curves, areas under the curves (AUC), accuracies and ITRs.

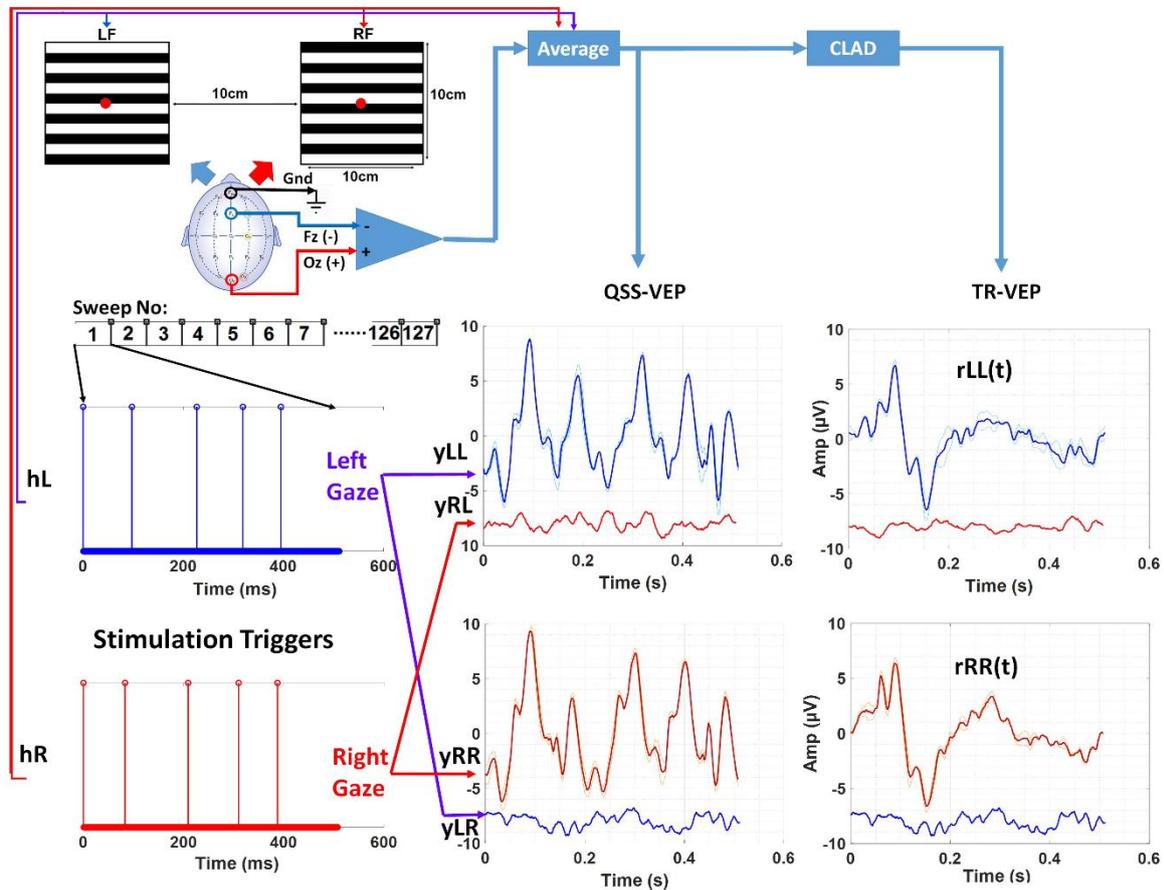
80 2.1. Subjects

81 Total 8 subjects (5M, 3F) with no history of neurological impairment participated in this study.
82 The subject ages ranged from 18 to 31. All the subjects had either normal or corrected-to normal
83 vision and were right eye dominant. They signed informed consent forms approved by University of
84 Miami Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to the participation.

85 2.2. Stimuli Design and Stimulator Display

86 The display consisted of two fast switching on demand LED based regions for left (Left Field,
87 LF) and right targets (Right Field, RF) (Figure 1). Subjects were placed 1 meter away from the
88 stimulator display to ensure the target displays lie in foveal field of view. Stimulator provided two
89 target stimuli, each covering a visual field of $5.7^\circ \times 5.7^\circ$. The luminance of the display was 580 Cd/m^2 .
90 The stimulus pattern of the targets consisted of 12 horizontal black and white bars with spatial
91 frequency of 1.03 cycles/degree. Right and left regions were driven by two stimuli of slightly different

92 length and jitter but similar rate (Table 1). Low jittered, low noise amplification sequences similar to
 93 were used [20-21, 23]. These sequences have low jitter and thus resemble the steady state isochronic
 94 stimulation sequences. Moreover they are non-singular in frequency domain and allow
 95 deconvolution to extract transient VEPs (See [8] for deconvolution). A cue light blue for Left, red for
 96 Right, green for Center was lit for indication of gaze direction to the subjects.



97
 98 **Figure 1.** Overall system setup and experimental procedure is shown for 10rps stimulation. Stimulator is
 99 shown at the top left, driving sequences for left field (LF) and right field (RF) are shown at the bottom
 100 left, the QSS and transient responses from subject 5 are shown in the bottom right figures. Interference
 101 signals after averaging 127/128 sweeps in one file for left/right, yRL and yLR, are also displayed to
 102 highlight the orthogonality of the sequences.

103 2.3. Experimental Setup and EEG Recording

104 Single EEG channel was recorded using Oz as positive, Fz as negative and forehead as ground.
 105 Three passive Ag/AgCl electrodes were used in the experiments. Electrode impedances were checked
 106 and kept below 7k Ω . EEG was recorded with an Intelligent Hearing System (IHS, USA) data
 107 acquisition module (16 bits) at sampling rate of 2 kHz. Analog signal was bandpass filtered with 1-
 108 300Hz (6db/octave) filters. Raw EEG data along with stimulation triggers and synchronization cues
 109 were stored for off-line analysis.

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Table 1. Stimulation Properties for QSS and SS stimulation paradigms.

Signal	Nominal Rate (rps)	Mean Rate (rps)	Field	Sweep Duration (ms)	Sweep Count	File Acquisition Time(s)	Template Acquisition Time(s)
QSS	10	9.76	LF	512	127	64.0	128.0
		9.84	RF	508	128	64.0	128.0
QSS	32	31.25	LF	512	31	15.9	47.6
		30.25	RF	496	32	15.9	47.6
QSS	50	49.6	LF	504	62	31.2	62.5
		52.4	RF	496	63	31.2	62.5
QSS	70	70.5	LF	496	32	15.9	47.6
		70.3	RF	512	31	15.9	47.6
SS	10	10	LF	500	39	19.5	39.0
		10.5	RF	487.5	40	19.5	39.0
SS	32	31	LF	512	31	15.9	47.6
		32	RF	496	32	15.9	47.6

114 The rate study consisted of two sessions, first one was training (template generation) and second
 115 session was system performance evaluation. During the rate experiment, each rate single file
 116 acquisition durations (Table 1) were different. Hence for 10, 32, 50 and 70rps, 2 files, 3 files, 2 files and
 117 3 files were recorded respectively to generate templates in training session for left and right gazes.
 118 Same number of files were recorded for the second session for testing purpose. The acquisition order
 119 was 10rps, 32rps, 50rps and 70rps consecutively. Template acquisition was done by averaging EEG
 120 sweeps, for number of sweeps refer Table 1. During the recordings the operator monitored the
 121 experiment to ensure signal quality, no powerline interference, subject's cooperation, subject's
 122 gaze. In the event of poor cooperation by subject, sleepiness or excessive eye blinks, the recording
 123 was halted and either repeated or postponed for another time. Between recordings, subjects had 30s
 124 rest intervals.

125 2.4. EEG Offline Processing

126 The EEG epochs/sweeps in the same condition files were averaged in MATLAB 2018b
 127 (MathWorks, USA) environment except for the sweeps with peak to peak amplitudes > 80µV. Those
 128 large peak to peak sweeps were discarded. In this averaging, +/- averaging, noise and Signal to Noise
 129 Ratio (SNR) computations were also carried out.

130 For one cycle/file of stimulation when the subject gazed at one stimulation region, the response
 131 to the other stimulation region is almost zero due to orthogonality which can be seen from yRL(red)
 132 and yLR(blue) plots in Figure 1.

133 Left and right display regions were driven by hL and hR stimulation sequences respectively as
 134 shown in Figure 1. The 10rps QSS-VEPs for left and right regions were obtained by averaging the
 135 EEG data with window lengths of 1024 and 1016 points or 512ms and 508ms windows. For the other
 136 reversal rates the window sizes or sweep durations are given in Table 1. The QSS-VEP responses are
 137 hypothesized to result from convolution of the stimulation sequences hL or hR and ideal transient
 138 response at that particular adaptation rate. This can be seen from equations 1 and 2.

$$139 \quad y_{LL}(t) = h_L(t) * r(t) \Rightarrow Y_{LL}(f) = H_L(f) * R(f) \quad (1)$$

$$140 \quad y_{RR}(t) = h_R(t) * r(t) \Rightarrow Y_{RR}(f) = H_R(f) * R(f) \quad (2)$$

141 The deconvolution can be applied since stimulation sequences hL and hR are nonsingular. Then
 142 the transient responses for right field stimulation and right gaze is rRR(t) and left field stimulation
 143 and left gaze is rLL(t) which were obtained by deconvolution and inverse fast fourier transform (ifft)
 144 are almost identical due to very similar stimulation sequences and adaptation as seen from equations
 145 3 and 4.

$$146 \quad R_{RR}(f) = \frac{Y_{RR}(f)}{H_R(f)} \Rightarrow r_{RR}(t) = \text{ifft} \left(\frac{Y_{RR}(f)}{H_R(f)} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$147 \quad R_{LL}(f) = \frac{Y_{LL}(f)}{H_L(f)} \Rightarrow r_{LL}(t) = \text{ifft} \left(\frac{Y_{LL}(f)}{H_L(f)} \right) \quad (4)$$

148 By averaging the multiple EEG data segments of left or right sequence lengths, it was
 149 possible to extract QSS-VEP responses to right and left targets (see Figure 1) for different data sizes.
 150 Since stimulation sequences were nonsingular, deconvolution method in frequency domain was
 151 applied to obtain TR-VEP responses. QSS-VEP and TR-VEP templates were computed by averaging
 152 the two EEG files for 10rps and 50rps, similarly three EEG files for 32rps and 70rps for each gaze
 153 direction.

154 2.5. Gaze Detection and ROC Estimation

155 Gaze detection process involved cross-correlation between the reference templates and the
 156 signal. We utilized Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient between subject's template VEP
 157 and subject's actual test data in our method. The correlation coefficient was compared to a threshold
 158 for decision. If the correlation coefficient was higher than threshold, the signal matched the template's
 159 gaze direction. For this purpose templates for each gaze and rate condition were extracted following
 160 the training sessions. Proper calculation and selection of threshold values from cross correlation
 161 coefficients were critical in the gaze detection. ROC is a curve representing the performance of the
 162 classifier. By change of operation threshold value, ROC determines the probability of error and
 163 accuracy (true positive ratio) in system. After the files recorded and templates ready to be used in
 164 comparison, ROC curves were calculated in order to evaluate the performance of the classifier. To
 165 compute ROC curves two classes of files (left and right gaze files) were fed into an algorithm where
 166 left or right templates were used as references. Since file gaze conditions were known, true positives,
 167 false positives, true negatives, false negatives were available while threshold was varied from -1 to 1
 168 by steps of 0.05 for correlation coefficient. ROC curves were computed for 0.5s, 1s, 1.5s, 2s, 2.5s, 3s,
 169 3.5s, 4s of data length.

170 3. Results

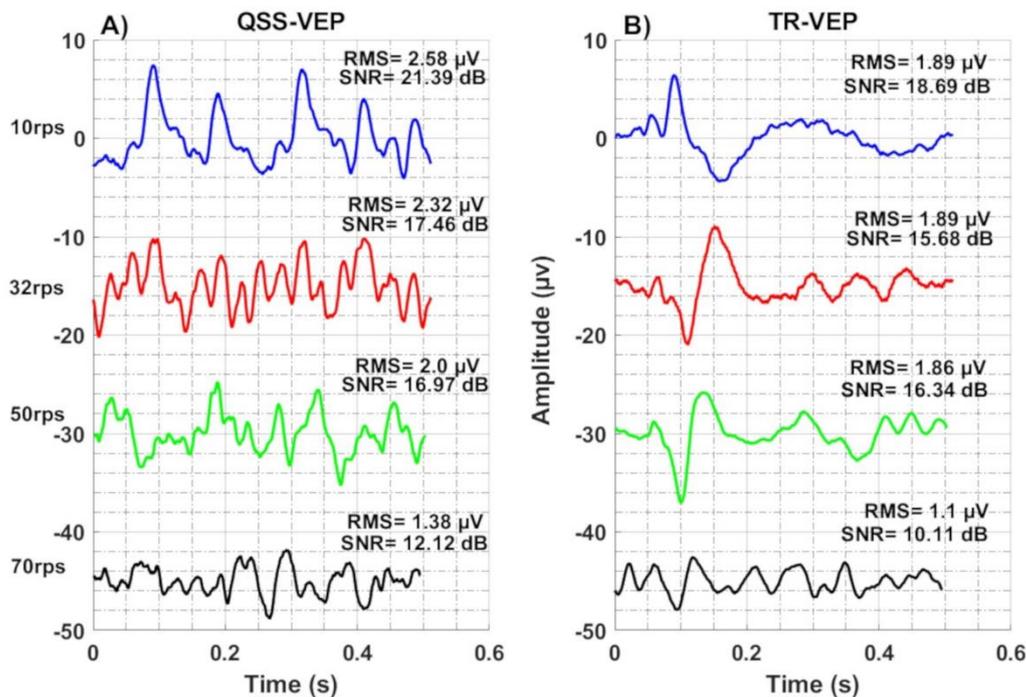
171 Overall system performance was evaluated by offline analysis. This covered ROC curves and
 172 areas, accuracies, ITR computations, plots and comparisons. Generally t-test paired two sample for
 173 means was used to examine the effects of various conditions on the performance, particularly on
 174 accuracy and ITR. The effect of gazing left or right stimulus was tested by computing accuracies. It
 175 has been found that statistically there is no significant difference in the mean accuracies by left or
 176 right gaze using single sweep (0.5s) QSS-VEP signature at all rates. Therefore for the same conditions
 177 left and right gazed performances were averaged in order to generate a single parameter to represent
 178 the performance at that particular condition. This reduced the number of comparisons hence
 179 complexity in the analysis.

180 There were many signatures to test the system performance with. For 10rps stimulation these
 181 were mainly the combinations of right and left, QSS-VEP and TR-VEP responses. It followed the
 182 same signatures for 32rps, 50rps and 70rps stimulation. By averaging left and right QSS-VEP
 183 performances in terms of accuracy or ROC area, an average accuracy or ROC area was computed for
 184 each rates of QSS (10, 32, 50, 70rps) and steady state (SS) conditions (10 and 32rps).

185
 186

187 3.1. VEP Morphology by Rate Adaptation

188 The recording electrode sites might reveal different signals depending on the adaptation
 189 characteristics of dominant neural populations over the particular sites [24]. Four rates of 10rps,
 190 32rps, 50rps and 70rps QSS-VEPs are shown in Figure 2-A, it can be seen that 70rps QSS-VEP has
 191 smaller peaks compared to others. In Figure 2-B, transient TR-VEP waveforms are shown. While
 192 10rps TR-VEP has characteristic early peaks and negativities, 32rps, 50rps and 70rps have totally
 193 different waveforms. There a positive peak replaces the negativity around 120-150ms. When we
 194 compare the TR-VEP amplitudes, 32rps has the largest amplitude 12 μ V, 50rps has 10.9 μ V, 10rps has
 195 10.5 μ V, and 70rps has the minimum 5.2 μ V amplitude.



196

197 **Figure 2.** Population average left field QSS-VEP and TR-VEP plots are shown. A) 10rps, 32rps, 50rps and
 198 70rps QSS-VEPs are at the left. B) TR-VEPs are at the right. Note the morphology change in the TR-
 199 VEPs by rate from 10rps to 32rps.

200 3.2. Offline Analysis and Performance

201 Template matching was adopted as the method for target recognition. Threshold values for right
 202 and left target detection were pulled from ROC curves as the threshold index value corresponding
 203 to max ROC AUC. Once thresholds were set and template signals were uploaded, files with known
 204 status were tested with system and the results were plotted.

205 There are many metrics to evaluate the performance of a BCI system. Thompson et al. 2013
 206 compared these metrics of accuracy or error rate, Cohen's Kappa coefficient, confusion matrix,
 207 mutual information and ITR in terms of throughput, categorical output, unbiased/biased, practicality
 208 [25]. They suggested ITR as optimum metric for level-1 BCI system. Our system was tested offline
 209 with QSS-VEP and TR-VEP signatures and for all stimulation rates. ITR and accuracies were used in
 210 this evaluation. ITR can be calculated by the following equation 5:

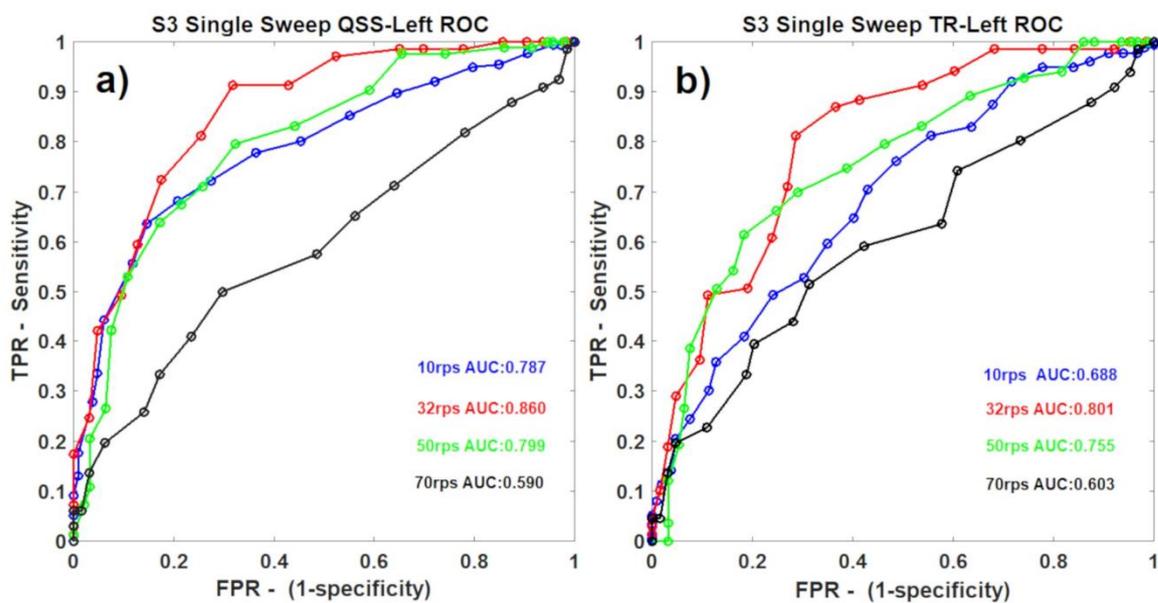
$$211 \quad ITR = \left[\log_2(N) + P \log_2(P) + (1 - P) \log_2\left(\frac{1-P}{N-1}\right) \right] \frac{60}{T} \quad (5)$$

212 P is the probability of correct selection, N is the number of choices and T (seconds/selection) time
 213 required to select a choice/target [25]. Its unit is given in bits per minute (bpm). ITR simply follows
 214 the accuracy of the classification, the higher the accuracy the bigger is the ITR. There is a limit of ITR

215 by selection time and maximum accuracy of 1. For a two target system, at maximum accuracy ITR is
 216 60 / (selection time).

217 In the experiments subject 6 achieved a remarkable accuracy of 0.96 and corresponding ITR of
 218 93bpm at 32rps 0.5s data and QSS-VEP right gazing BCI switch condition. QSS-VEP and TR-VEP
 219 ROC curves for 50rps and left gaze conditions were compared. For data durations 0.5s, 1.5s and 2.5s,
 220 50rps ROC areas were found as 0.86, 0.92 and 0.95 respectively for left QSS signal. Similarly for left
 221 TR-VEP, 0.5s, 1.5s and 2.5s data durations, accuracies were 0.73, 0.80 and 0.83 respectively. It should
 222 be noted that the ROC area increases by increase of data size. Inclusion of extra sweeps in the average
 223 increases the SNR and better ROC area and accuracy are achieved.

224 When ROC curves for QSS-VEP and TR-VEPs were compared, QSS-VEPs were found to perform
 225 better than TR-VEPs for 10rps stimulation ($p < 0.05$) (See Figure 3). Classifier performances for TR-
 226 VEPs using 0.5s - 1 sweep data were compared in Figure 3-b. The low performance with 10rps can be
 227 attributed to the alpha band activity interference which was reported in [22] and [26]. It can be seen
 228 from the Figure 3 that among S3 ROC curves for different rates, 32rps has the largest ROC area for
 229 both left QSS-VEP and left TR-VEP. 10rps and 50rps have similar ROC areas for QSS-VEP, 70rps
 230 has the minimum ROC area for both QSS-VEP and TR-VEP which summarizes the system
 231 performance at these rates. The QSS-VEP paradigm boosts the ROC area performances obtained by
 232 TR-VEPs by 14% for 10rps for S3.
 233



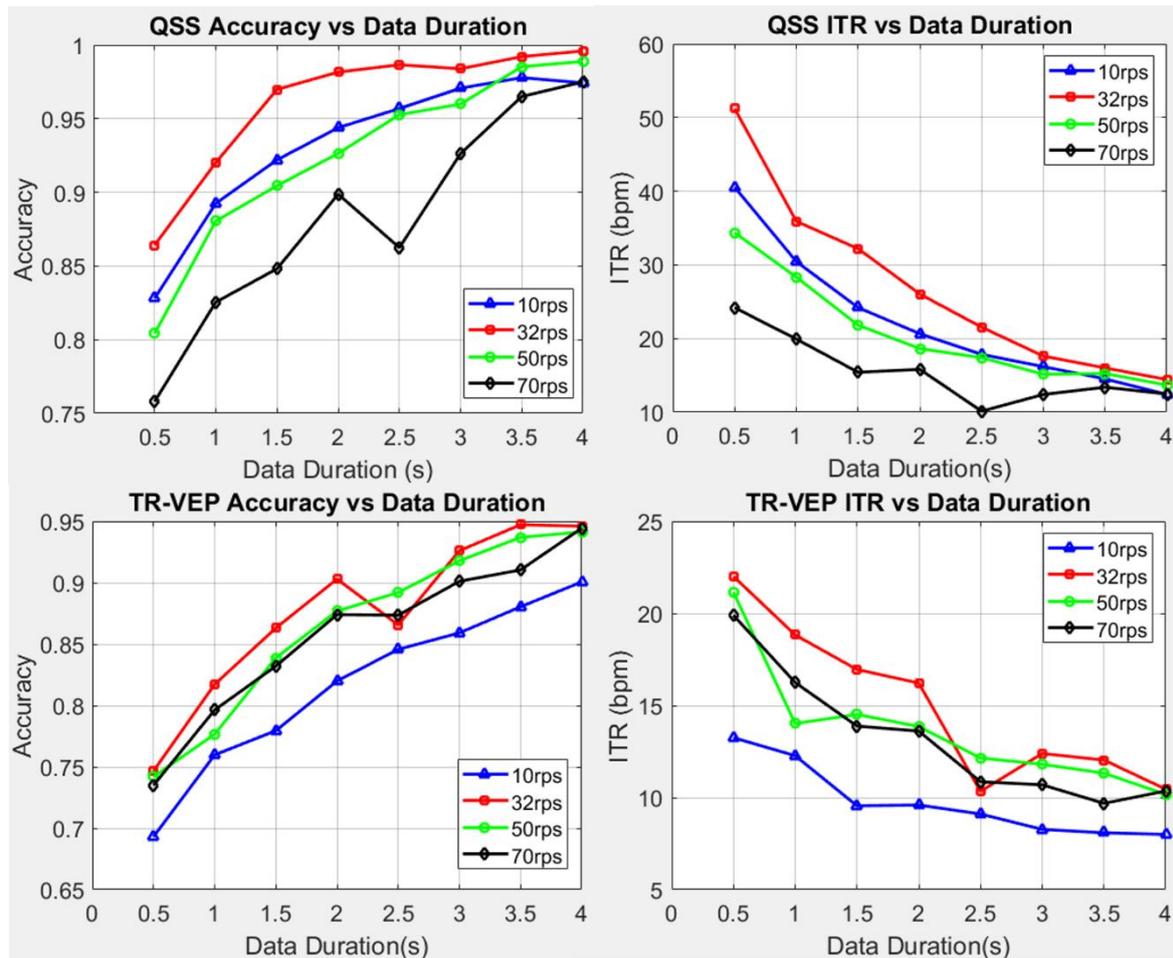
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235 **Figure 3.** S3 single sweep 0.5second condition. **a)** Left QSS-VEP ROC curves and areas for all the rates are
 236 shown at the left. **b)** Left TR-VEP ROC curves and areas for all the four rates are shown at the right.

237 When we compare the accuracy table with QSS-VEP rms table given in the supplementary table
 238 S1, there is a relation that increasing QSS-VEP rms increases the accuracy. However the relation
 239 between SNR and accuracy is more prominent. With QSS-VEP rms and accuracies averaged for
 240 each subject, we found correlation coefficients of 0.72 for 1s and 0.70 between rms values and
 241 accuracies for 0.5s data. On the other hand the correlation coefficient between the subject average
 242 SNR and accuracies are 0.94 and 0.92 for 1s and 0.5s data respectively.

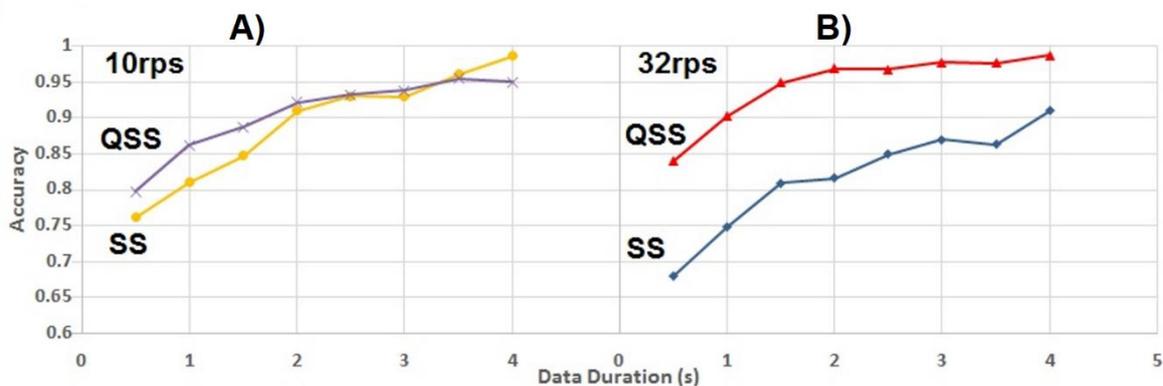
243 As mentioned before in this paper, the left and right QSS-VEP performances are combined to
 244 create a single parameter for that condition which reveals the rate dependent characteristics easily in
 245 one figure. See Figure 4 for the rate effect on QSS-VEP and TR-VEP signals. It was found that for
 246 QSS-VEP 32rps had the biggest accuracy and ITR among all rates for 0.5s data. QSS-VEP ITRs are
 247 bigger than TR-VEP ITRs. On the other hand TR-VEP ITR performances can be seen from the bottom

248 right panel in Figure 4 which shows that except for 10rps, the remaining rates had ITR values around
 249 20-23bpm. 10rps had low TR-VEP performance and low ITR around 14bpm with single sweep data.



250

251 **Figure 4.** QSS-VEP performances for left and right gazes were averaged as single QSS-VEP performance
 252 parameter at each rate. 32rps had the highest accuracy and ITR performance ($p < 0.05$) with QSS-VEP
 253 signature while 70rps had the lowest performance ($p < 0.05$). For the 8 Subject population average ITR
 254 values for QSS-VEP (top-right) and TR-VEPs (bottom-right) were plotted for each rate and data
 255 durations.



256

257 **Figure 5.** QSS-VEP and SSVEP performances are compared. A) 10rps QSS vs SS VEP accuracies. B) 32rps
 258 QSS vs SS VEP accuracy performances are compared.

259 When QSS and Steady State (SS) performances were compared, QSS-VEP 10rps accuracy was
260 lower than QSS-VEP 32rps accuracy but bigger than both SS 10rps and 32rps accuracies ($p < 0.05$) for
261 0.5s data duration as seen in Figure 5. 32rps SS performed much lower than 10rps SS ($p < 0.05$) for 0.5s
262 and 1s data. However after 3s data, they all reached a similar value except for 32rps SS, which was
263 below the rest. On the other hand QSS-VEP 32rps paradigm on the average had 23.5% higher
264 accuracy than the SSVEP paradigm for 0.5s data. Similarly 10rps QSS-VEP paradigm also had 5%
265 higher accuracy performance than the SSVEP paradigm accuracy performance for single sweep data.

266 4. Discussion

267 Although SSVEP based BCIs demonstrated their excellence in ITRs, performances of pattern-
268 reversal c-VEP and transient-VEP based BCIs can be improved by researches. Since there is limited
269 number of studies with pattern-reversal VEP, we proposed a research into different reversal rates
270 and the template matching performance of the pattern reversal c-VEP or particularly low jittered
271 QSS-VEPs. For TR-VEP ROC comparisons 10rps performed low compared to other rates. This might
272 be attributed to the interference with alpha band at 10rps. There existed a huge subject variability in
273 the accuracies and ITRs. It was found that user variation could be reduced by selecting the channel
274 location, the stimulus frequency, and the speed of selection parameters carefully [3]. Another source
275 of variation could be attendance and cooperation during the particular tasks, if the user lacked
276 attention during target gazing, the resultant target VEP characteristics would be affected hence
277 accuracy and ITRs would be influenced adversely for these tasks. However on the overall
278 performance 32rps QSS-VEP paradigm led to highest accuracy values and ITRs in offline analysis
279 compared to 10rps, 50rps and 70rps reversal rates. One of the reasons behind this is that the number
280 of visible peaks with 32rps stimulation in the resultant QSS-VEP is higher than the number of visible
281 peaks with other QSS stimulation rates. However at 50rps and 70rps due to convolution and
282 superposition of transient VEPs, the resulting QSS-VEPs did not elicit that many peaks contributing
283 to template matching. Another aspect of the research was comparison of SSVEP to QSS-VEP in
284 template matching accuracy. As mentioned before SSVEPs had smaller peaks at high rates [22]. QSS-
285 VEPs on the other hand had multiple peaks and higher amplitudes compared to SSVEPs.

286 QSS stimulation improves the SNR performance due to jitter in the paradigm and this jitter
287 cancels out adverse effects of adaptation on signal peaks. QSS-VEP generates larger peaks at higher
288 rates where steady state responses are diminished by adaptation. The low jitter design of QSS
289 stimulation allows the extraction of base TR-VEPs responses. If TR-VEPs have bigger amplitude at
290 particular rates, it is due to the boosting effect of special QSS stimulation. As compared QSS-VEPs at
291 32rps performed significantly ($p < 0.05$) better than 32rps SS counterparts for 1,2 or 3 sweeps averages.
292 Similarly 10rps QSS stimulation performed better than 10rps SS for 1,2 or 3 sweeps.

293 5. Conclusions

294 This research revealed that QSS-VEP paradigm offers a feasible alternative to the methods
295 applied to c-VEP or SSVEP based BCIs. The advantages of the QSS-VEP method are that it increases
296 accuracy of the SSVEP template matching at the same reversal rates, it enables extraction of clinically
297 significant TR-VEP from low jittered QSS-VEPs. By special design of low jitter QSS sequences, it was
298 possible to enhance SNR and accuracy at higher rates compared to rates interfering with alpha band.
299 32rps achieved the maximum boosting effect by the QSS-VEP, which led to higher accuracy
300 performances in template matching based dual target BCI switch.

301 **Supplementary Materials:** The following is available online at www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1, Table S1: Single Sweep
302 QSS-VEP Accuracy and SNR values for all subjects.

303 **Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, I.K., J.B., O.O; methodology, I.K., J.B., O.O; software, I.K.; validation,
304 I.K.; formal analysis, I.K.; investigation, I.K.; resources, J.B; data curation, I.K.; writing—original draft
305 preparation, I.K.; writing—review and editing, I.K., J.B, O.O.; visualization, I.K.; supervision, J.B., O.O.; project
306 administration, O.O.

307 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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399 Table S1. Single sweep (0.5s) QSS-VEP accuracy, ITR, SNR and RMS values for all rates and subjects.

Rate	Classification	Subject ID															
		Single Sweep (0.5s) Accuracy								ITR (bpm)							
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
10rps	QSS-Left Accuracy	0.83	0.91	0.76	0.83	0.76	0.89	0.71	0.63	42.18	65.65	23.61	41.35	25.00	61.10	15.91	5.65
	QSS-Right Accuracy	0.79	0.92	0.69	0.80	0.72	0.95	0.61	0.71	31.25	73.45	12.82	33.61	18.01	83.62	4.07	15.29
32rps	QSS-Left Accuracy	0.85	0.92	0.80	0.82	0.80	0.92	0.71	0.79	46.52	70.48	34.09	37.61	32.65	72.16	16.22	31.71
	QSS-Right Accuracy	0.89	0.93	0.78	0.81	0.85	0.96	0.71	0.85	59.29	75.64	29.66	36.33	45.33	93.16	15.91	46.82
50rps	QSS-Left Accuracy	0.89	0.85	0.73	0.78	0.76	0.82	0.65	0.84	58.58	46.52	19.54	29.44	24.60	37.61	8.02	42.74
	QSS-Right Accuracy	0.78	0.83	0.66	0.84	0.79	0.87	0.71	0.86	28.78	41.08	8.91	43.31	31.25	53.44	15.45	48.95
70rps	QSS-Left Accuracy	0.92	0.88	0.60	0.72	0.68	0.72	0.62	0.83	70.48	55.45	3.49	16.86	10.83	17.84	4.62	40.26
	QSS-Right Accuracy	0.77	0.85	0.66	0.77	0.61	0.86	0.51	0.77	26.64	47.42	8.91	25.81	4.30	48.95	0.03	26.43
	Average	0.84	0.89	0.71	0.80	0.75	0.87	0.65	0.78	45.46	59.46	17.63	33.04	24.00	58.49	10.03	32.23
Rate	Signal	SNR (dB)								Average QSS-VEP RMS (μ V)							
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
10rps	QSS-VEP Left	20.63	20.75	14.90	12.32	13.72	16.09	13.98	10.77	4.98	3.85	3.25	2.26	2.51	4.67	2.22	1.81
	QSS-VEP Right	18.06	20.28	15.73	19.48	14.92	18.59	14.47	14.39	4.48	3.82	3.61	2.12	2.56	4.90	2.20	1.91
32rps	QSS-VEP Left	14.50	16.65	13.53	16.29	9.79	16.04	6.46	16.14	4.10	4.45	4.07	2.28	2.71	4.80	2.33	2.68
	QSS-VEP Right	14.40	14.75	12.61	14.90	14.91	16.85	7.00	9.90	3.26	4.60	3.44	1.95	3.02	5.15	2.23	3.04
50rps	QSS-VEP Left	15.95	13.56	9.00	15.83	12.72	11.19	7.11	15.17	4.75	2.86	3.34	2.17	2.22	3.19	1.77	3.08
	QSS-VEP Right	19.14	16.34	10.33	14.37	13.78	11.96	5.27	16.98	4.38	2.84	3.05	2.20	2.63	3.17	1.65	3.25
70rps	QSS-VEP Left	14.00	15.52	3.66	8.60	9.48	8.40	6.15	8.94	4.30	3.36	1.95	1.20	2.09	2.37	1.53	2.02
	QSS-VEP Right	11.81	10.17	8.42	9.94	6.88	10.31	2.83	12.42	2.89	3.38	2.85	1.38	1.61	2.77	1.41	2.10
	Average	16.06	16.00	11.02	13.97	12.03	13.68	7.91	13.09	4.32	3.68	3.24	2.03	2.53	4.04	1.99	2.54

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