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Influence of Skin Type and Wavelength on Light Wave Reflectance

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Influence of Skin Type and wavelength on Light Wave Reflectance

by

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Thesis

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Dedication

In dedication to my family, friends, and Jessie for whom I could of not done this without. Their constant support, faith and encouragement provided me with the strength and passion that allowed me to pursue my dreams. They are my foundation and worked just as hard as I did being here for me. Thank you with all my heart and love.

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Abstract

Influence of skin type and wavelength on light wave reflectance

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Heart rate monitoring (HRM) is an essential tool for monitoring physical activity and as a diagnostic tool in the clinical setting. The ability to monitor heart rate gives users and clinicians vital information about the current condition of the cardiovascular system before, during, and after exercise. However, HRM requires a telemetric chest strap, and comfort, transmission and fit can become problems with the chest strap. New technology using photoplethysmography (PPG) has emerged recently to provide the possibility of HRM without a telemetric chest strap during exercise. The aim of this study was to determine if a new device could detect heart rate over a broad range of skin types (I-V), and whether what wavelength would be most suitable for detecting the signals. A light emitting diode (LED) based PPG system was used to determine heart rate by change in pulsatile blood flow on 22 apparently healthy individuals (11 male and 11 female, 20-59 years old) of varying skin type. Skin type was classified according to a questionnaire in combination with digital photographs with a skin type chart. Each subject was exposed to four different wavelengths (470 nm, 520 nm, 630 nm, and 880 nm) and multiple trials were conducted on each wavelength. Heart rate detection was represented by modulation of the incident light wave and normalized by saturation into a pulsatile waveform represented as modulation average. The 520nm wavelength classified as visible green light provided a significantly greater ($p<0.001$) ability to detect heart rate. Increasing levels of melanin, or darker skin type (Type V) showed decreased modulation however this trend was not significant ($p<0.067$). There was no significant interaction between the wavelength of light and the skin type. In conclusion, a PPG based device can detect heart rate across skin types and use of a green light wavelength provides an even greater resolution.

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Introduction

Exercise is an integral part of reducing the risks of cardiovascular disease and improving quality of life.[42] Aerobic exercise involves large muscle group movement in a coordinated and purposeful fashion in the intention of stressing the cardiovascular system and causing chronic and beneficial adaptation over time.[4,11,21] An important requirement for performing and prescribing physical activity and exercise is to ensure that the dose and intensity of exercise are sufficient to elicit a response that benefits the individual or group.[1,21,27,30,42,47] By assuming the linearity of heart rate and oxygen consumption, heart rate provides a window into the cardiovascular stress being placed on the body during exercise. [1,17,34] HRM are convenient means to ensure that exercise is performed at a proper intensity.[10,11,12,14,17,21] In particular, endurance athletes use HRM as a key component in training to ensure proper adaptation and protect against overexertion and overtraining.[1,11]

Although heart rate monitoring provides a practical approach for training, exercise and clinical and research applications, traditional HRM faces several limitations. [30] Most HRM require a chest strap connected to the exercisers skin in order to obtain a signal based on electrocardiogram (ECG) technology. Transmission problems can arise due to conflicting radio signals or frequencies or because of multiple monitors in proximity. The strap is also dependent on moisture and sweat to maintain conductivity on the skin. Many exercisers also experience problems properly adjusting the strap; this obstacle is intensified in obese individuals who may struggle to find bands that fit. The strap must also be kept quite tight, prompting some exercisers to report discomfort during testing or training; this factor compounds the challenge of wearing the monitor for an extended duration.[30]

A solution to the issues presented in HRM would be a watch-based unit that measures heart rate locally on the wrist that eliminates the use of a chest strap. Using photoplethysmography (PPG), the watch-based unit could monitor changes in arterial blood volume to derive pulse rate by the change in volume upon systolic/diastolic fluctuations of light wave reflectance attenuation. PPG also measures local perfusion and vessel depth through the same light wave reflectance. A light emitting diode (LED) transmits light, while a photoreceptor placed adjacently receives the reflected light. Changes in the incident to reflected wavelength are then calculated and used to determine the physiological phenomena below; at the same time, known wavelengths are able to reach the underlying vasculature.[6,16,49,50]

The main concern with PPG technology for detection of pulse rate is related to the melanin concentration of the skin and its related pigmenting of skin.[3,20,50] Melanin is known to be highly absorbent to light, and thereby attenuating the incident light wavelength.[9,20] The level of skin in which melanin is found is the epidermal layer.[9] There is no blood supply to the epidermal layer and it relies solely on diffusion of oxygen from deeper vessels.[9] The target for a PPG device is sub-epidermal and thus should not modify the overall shape of the modulation waveform.[9] It is therefore suggested that a weak reflected light due to dark pigmentation can be compensated for by using a stronger light source, without compromising the signal to noise ratio.[9] Another important aspect is the artifact that motion and physiological changes can create.[3,9,23,32] This is represented by the signal to noise ratio. The determination of the signal to noise ratio involves taking the AC current during exercise and comparing it to AC at rest. The greater the value of the signal compared to the noise, the greater the detection of pulse rate during activity.[20]

As the PPG signal is dependent on the energy associated with its wavelength, different wavelengths are able to penetrate the tissue to varying depths based on their energy level, and provide various levels of pulse detection from different sources.[3,9,23,50] In choosing a proper wavelength the target must be appropriately selected in combination with the wavelength. It is therefore critical that the device penetrate deep enough to provide detection of arterial vessels in order to determine the pulsatile changes in associated volume between systole and diastole.[3,6,8,9,16,20,23,25,26]

In the present study, the interaction between various light wavelengths and skin type was investigated at rest and during exercise. We hypothesized that certain wavelengths of light would provide better light reflectance across skin types represented by a greater peak in modulation. We also hypothesized that shorter wavelengths would provide a better signal to noise ratio indicating improved detection during exercise.

Methods

Subjects. A total of 22 apparently healthy adults (11 males/ 11 females) aged 20-59 years were recruited from the University of Texas at Austin and surrounding community (Table 1). The Human Research Committee reviewed and approved all procedures, and written informed consent was obtained from all subjects. Subjects with varying skin types were recruited to assess the influence of skin type on wave reflectance (Table 2).

Experimental Protocol. After arrival, subjects were kept in a quiet laboratory room in a seated position for 15 min and their blood pressure was taken. A photograph of each subject's forearm was taken against a color chart for skin pigmentation. Subjects were then classified into four different skin type groups ranging from type I to type V. LED sensors from the PPG device (OMROM Kyoto, Japan) were placed on the radial artery and the back of the forearm approximately 4 centimeters from the wrist joint. An accelerometer was then strapped to detect movement and eliminate environmental light. Pressure of the strap that the LED sensors were attached was standardized by a spring gauge. Upon the proper placement of the sensor, the signal was verified on screen before the tests were initiated. Four different wavelengths of light were used in assessment of heart rate detection (Green 520 nm, Red 630 nm, Infrared 880 nm, and Blue 470 nm). Skin types I and II were combined into one group. Wavelength order was randomly chosen from a randomized number generator.

Three different intensities of each wavelength were used for each site. The protocol involved the subject keeping the forearm stable atop a desk with his or her fist relaxed, then performing a flexion/extension of the arm in a curling motion for 10 seconds, and finally grasping a dynometer and applying 5 to 10 newton meters (NM) of force for 10 seconds.

Once the light has been transmitted and reflected, two different waveforms are created, an alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC).[3,20,23] The AC pulsation refers to the pulsatile change in blood flow between systole and diastole from the absorption of hemoglobin, where the DC current is composed of the saturation of the skin, surrounding tissue, and average blood volume.[3,9,20,23,26] Normalized modulation level is calculated as the AC/DC component and represents the change in flow over the underlying constant state of flow or perfusion.[3,9,23]

Skin type was measured based on a subjective questionnaire that has been established in the literature for skin type determination. This skin typing was then compared to a photograph of each subjects forearm, whereupon any discrepancies between these two were adjusted towards the photograph and actual pigmentation, not the pigmentations behavior defined in the Fitzpatrick skin type chart.

Both AC and DC currents were measured during each trial. Modulation is the average change between peaks and valleys in the AC component or the constant rate of the DC component. Taking the AC current over the DC current provides normalized modulation and represents the effect of the status of the tissue by the change in blood flow within the artery.[2,3,9,20] For the exercise section of the trial, the AC during exercise was taken over the AC rest to determine a signal to noise ratio for each wavelength.

Statistical Analysis

Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) (wavelength x skin type) was performed for both side of the forearm. The entire trial duration for each section was averaged and used separately for analysis (10 seconds). Tukeys HSD post hoc was performed and used to determine where the significance occurred after providing a significant finding from the two-way ANOVA. A three-way ANOVA was also conducted to determine if intensity of wavelengths contributed to influencing wavelength. A difference in intensity of each wavelength was not demonstrated, and therefore intensities were combined for each wavelength. Two-way ANOVA was run for the signal to noise ratio, a main effect was found and an interaction. Pair wise comparisons were then made to determine where the interaction occurred. All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20.0 (IBM Corporation Armonk, NY). Significance was set a priori at the $p<0.05$ level. All data are expressed as means±SD.

Results

Skin types ranged from type I (Very pale) to type V (Dark). Differences between levels of intensity for each wavelength were minimal, and a three-way AVNOVA was run to determine any significance or interaction. All intensities were thereby combined for each wavelength for each subject. There was a trend towards skin type influencing modulation, ($p<0.064$), but it did not reach statistical significance. There was no interaction between skin type and wavelength on light reflectance during rest.

In the resting condition, the green light wavelength (520 nm) provided greater peak normalized modulation of blood regardless of skin type. The back side of the forearm also resulted in green light being significantly greater in modulation. Type V skin type was significantly lower in peak modulation than all other skin types on the back of the forearm. Green light was significantly ($p<0.001$) different from the other wavelengths in normalized modulation (Table 3) and displayed the greatest peak among all wavelengths (Figure 1). Post hoc comparisons for the exercise simulation demonstrated that both blue and green wavelengths provide displayed detection and improved signal to noise ratio than red or infrared wavelengths ($p<0.001$). There were differences in signal to noise ratio among skin types during exercise simulation. (I & II vs. IV, III vs. IV, and IV vs. V , all ($p<0.01$);(Table 4)). A significant interaction was found between wavelength and skin type during the exercise portion of the protocol $p<0.029$. Pair wise comparisons were then done to determine where the interaction occurred.

Discussion

The intent of the present study was to determine the influence of skin type and wavelength on light reflectance for heart rate detection. Heart rate was detectable across all skin types represented by the detection of an AC modulatory pulsatile waveform. The AC waveform was averaged as the peak and the modulation from that peak was then recorded and reported as AC modulation. This modulation was recorded as the pulsatile waveform and confirmed from visual inspection from the software. Green light (520 nm) was found to produce greater modulation than other wavelengths at rest. Exercising signal to noise ratio was greatest for blue and green wavelengths. Each subject's pulsatile waveform was acquired before recording modulations. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first study to examine the effect of skin type on light wave reflectance for heart rate detection at rest and during exercise using four different wavelengths of light from a LED PPG device.

The green wavelength was able to detect the pulsatile blood volume changes better than any other wavelength, as demonstrated by a significantly greater peak in normalized modulation for both radial arterial side and the back of forearm. The shorter the wavelength of light, the less distance the incident light can travel, which also results in faster reflectance of the incident wavelength. This facilitates a more robust resistance to artifact or noise but shortening the duration of total time.[9,23,32,49,50] This was represented in the green and blue wavelengths producing significantly greater signal/noise ratios compared with that of red and infrared for the same and different skin types. Overall the green wavelength was significantly different across varying skin types compared to all other wavelengths. Blood during systole has a greater volume and creates a greater absorbance of light compared with that of diastole. Hemoglobin plays a major role on light absorption especially at the lower wavelengths.[44,50] The sensor then interprets the inverse of the absorption in relation to blood volume in the tissue.[49] By detecting the change in the fluctuation of hemoglobin in the radial artery, a PPG-based device is able to determine pulse rate. This is represented by the AC current change. The DC current represents local perfusion and saturation along with light absorption of the tissue itself. If the DC current changes (due to different skin types, different subjects) this will result in a difference in pulse height and such differences must be accounted for in the signal processing.[2,9,43] The use of a normalized modulation allows for detection across the spectrum of skin types and physiological phenomena. It also allows for comparison across skin types to interpret any type of interaction.[2,3,6]

There was no significant differences in modulation between the interaction of skin type at rest. While it is known that the size of light reflectance should change dependent on wavelength through varying skin types, the shape, or detection overall shouldn't be affected.[9] The level at which pigmentation from melanin occurs in the skin is the epidermis. Because arterial blood resides in sub-epidermal layers, the overall detection of pulsatile flow should not be greatly affected. The current study reflected this by demonstrating that each wavelength was able to find blood flow for each subject regardless of skin type yet produced differences in the level of modulation. By normalizing the modulation, and using wavelengths that have been found to better determine pulsatile blood flow, our present study demonstrated the practical application of a PPG device may be a promising technique as a heart rate monitor.[9,16,20,26,32] To our knowledge this is the first study to examine light wavelength reflectance and skin type influence during both rest and exercise.

While the training effect and intensity are critical components in exercise and training, another key point HRM provides is caloric expenditure vital for calculations to determine the caloric intake necessary for weight loss. Because of the linear link to oxygen consumption, HRM can furnish insight into energy expenditure and provides a cost-effective method for calculating total caloric rates.

Even as the paradigm for HRM seems to have been established in radio telemetric units, the PPG has the potential to offer much greater resolution than mere heart rate in the future. PPG can also provide such variables as pulse wave velocity, a measure of arterial stiffening and vascular aging, hemodynamic stress through augmentation of the waveforms, and heart rate variability, a maker for autonomic health. In the future, this device can extend its clinical utility by equipping these extra features.

A limitation to the current study was the relatively small sample size. Groups were not equal in terms of number of subjects per group.

In conclusion photoplethysmography has the ability to detect pulse rate through the use of light wave reflection. In our study, a wavelength of 520 nm corresponding to green visible light produced the best modulation at rest. There was a trend towards skin type having a significant effect yet no interaction was present during rest. Exercise elucidated a significant interaction between wavelength and skin type at the shorter wavelengths for signal/noise ratio. This stresses the need for shorter wavelengths to be used in detection of heart rate through light reflectance. PPG heart rate monitoring therefore presents both a viable step and a logical one in better resolution for monitoring the heart rate.

Table 1. Selected subject characteristics

N, male/female	11/11		
Age, yrs	31	±	12
Height, cm	172	±	8
Body Mass, kg	72	±	14
BMI, kg/m²	24	±	3
Systolic BP, mmHg	123	±	14
Diastolic BP, mmHg	73	±	9
Mean BP, mmHg	91	±	9

Data are mean ± SD. BMI = body mass index, BP = blood pressure.

Table 2. The number of subjects per skin type

Skin Type	**N**
Type I and II	8
Type III	5
Type IV	4
Type V	6

Table 3. Wavelength and skin type interaction at rest

	470 nm	520 nm	630 nm	880 nm
Type I and II	36.4 ± 16.1	81.2 ± 25.2*	19.4 ± 10.9	23.0 ± 17.6
Type III	37.2 ± 11.7	69.9 ± 32.3*	22.7 ± 14.8	32.9 ± 15.6
Type IV	31.8 ± 10.0	77.7 ± 22.7*	34.6 ± 12.3	34.9 ± 25.8
Type V	23.6 ± 4.4	49.0 ± 46.8*	22.5 ± 5.7	18.1 ± 7.7

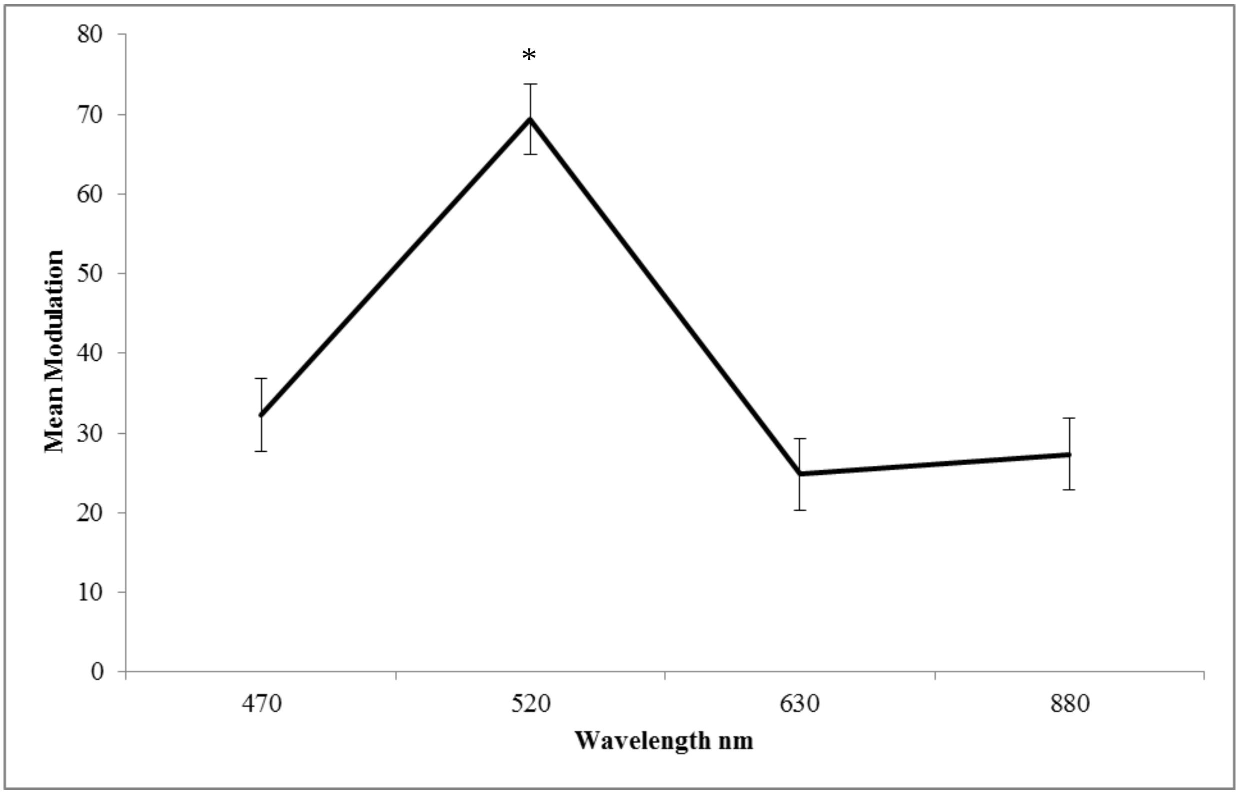
Data are expressed as mean modulation x 1000 ± SD. *p <0.001

Table 4. Wavelength and Skin Type Interaction signal to noise ratio during exercise

	470 nm	520 nm	630 nm	880 nm
Type I and II	40.7 ± 8.5	31.6 ± 8.5*	6.3 ± 8.5	8.4 ± 9.3
Type III	77.5 ± 9.3ǂ	46.9 ± 8.5	11.6 ± 8.5ǂ	25.5 ± 7.9ǂ
Type IV	56.9 ± 10.4	84.3 ± 10.4*†	18.4 ± 10.4†	16.6 ± 10.4†
Type V	33.1 ± 8.5	16.6 ± 8.5*	11.0 ± 8.5	9.5 ± 8.5

Data are expressed as mean modulation x 100 ± SD. *p <0.05 for same wavelength between skin types for 520 nm of Type I and II compared to 630 nm and 880 nm. †p<0.05 between wavelengths for same skin type for 520 nm compared to 630 nm and 880nm. ǂ p<0.05 between wavelengths for same skin type wavelength 470 nm compared to 630 nm and 880 nm.

Figure 1: Combined mean modulation for all skin types (I – V) for each wavelength



***p<0.001 for 520 nm (green) compared to 470 nm, 630 nm, 880 nm**

Figure 2: Differences in modulation between skin types across wavelengths at rest

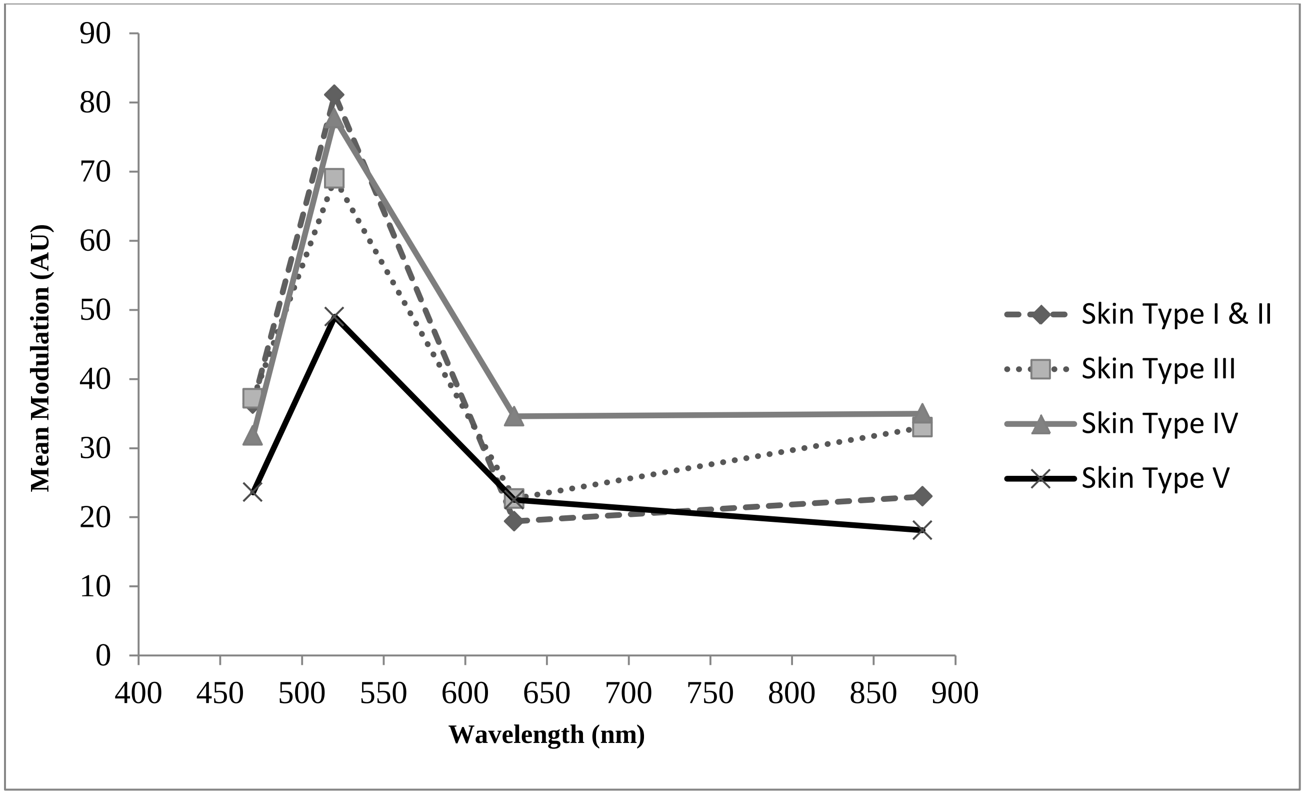
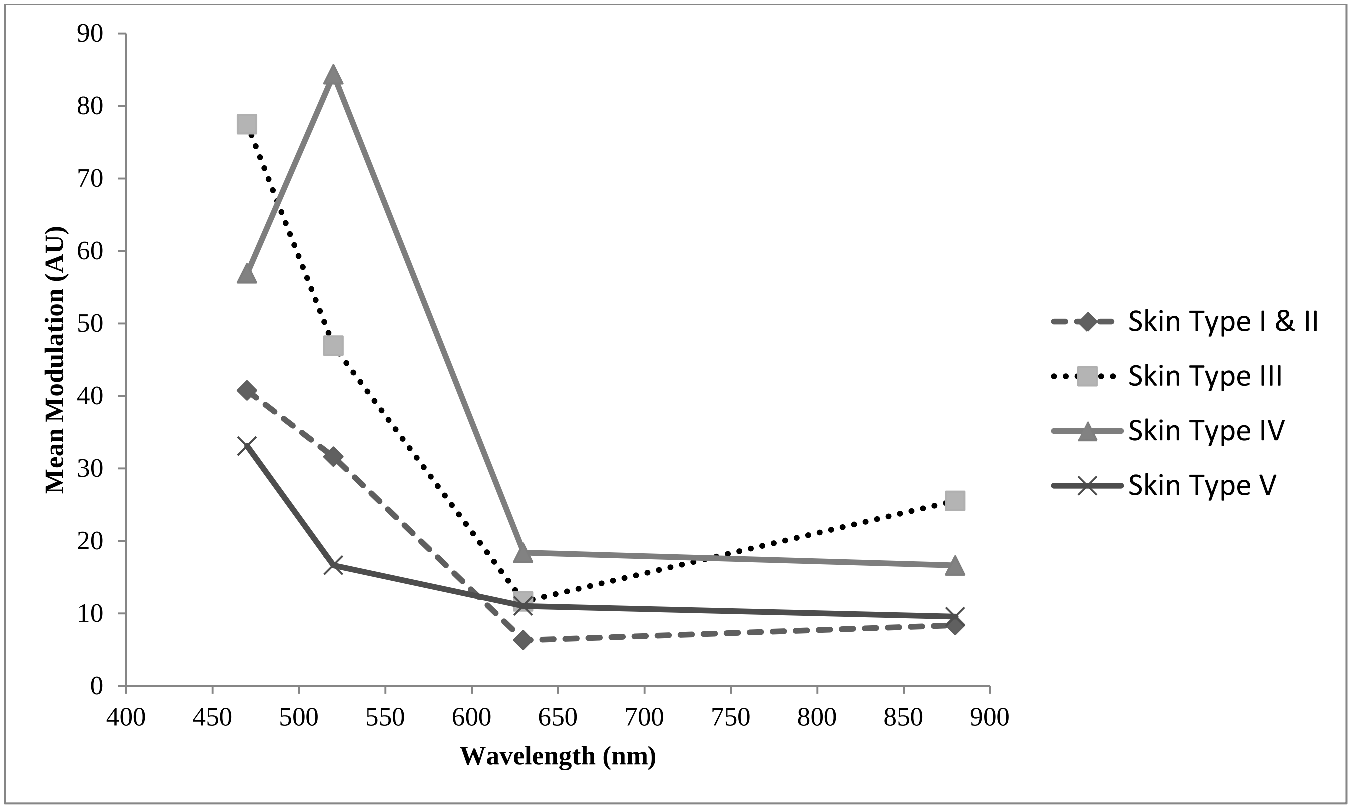


Figure 3: Differences in modulation between skin types during exercise



Subject ID#

The Fitzpatrick Skin-Type Chart

You can use this skin-type chart for self-assessment, by adding up the score for each of the questions you've answered. At the end there is a scale providing a range for each of the six skin-type categories. Following the scale is an explanation of each of the skin types. You can quickly and easily determine which skin type you are.

Genetic Disposition

Score	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
What is the colour of your eyes?	Light blue, Grey, Green	Blue, Grey or Green	Blue	Dark Brown	Brownish Black
What is the natural colour of your hair?	Sandy Red	Blond	Chestnut/Dark Blond	Dark Brown	Black
What is the colour of your skin (non exposed areas)?	Reddish	Very Pale	Pale with Beige tint	Light Brown	Dark Brown
Do you have freckles on unexposed areas?	Many	Several	Few	Incidental	none

Total score for Genetic Disposition: _____

Reaction to Sun Exposure

Score	0	1	2	3	4
What happens when you stay in the sun too long?	Painful redness, blistering, peeling	Blistering followed by peeling	Burns sometimes followed by peeling	Rare burns	Never had burns
To What degree do you turn brown?	Hardly or not at all	Light colour tan	Reasonable tan	Tan very easy	Turn dark brown quickly
Do you turn brown within several hours after sun exposure?	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
How does your face react to the sun?	Very sensitive	Sensitive	Normal	Very resistant	Never had a problem

Total score for Reaction to Sun Exposure: _____

Tanning Habits

Score	0	1	2	3	4
When did you last expose your body to sun (or artificial sunlamp/tanning cream)?	More than 3 months ago	2-3 months ago	1-2 months ago	Less than a month ago	Less than 2 weeks ago
Did you expose the area to be treated to the sun?	Never	Hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Always

Total score for Tanning Habits: _____

Add up the total scores for each of the three sections for your Skin Type Score.

Skin Type Score - Fitzpatrick Skin Type

0-7	I
8-16	II
17-25	III
25-30	IV
over 30	V -VI

TYPE 1: Highly sensitive, always burns, never tans. Example: Red hair with freckles
TYPE 2: Very sun sensitive, burns easily, tans minimally. Example: Fair skinned, fair haired Caucasians
TYPE 3: Sun sensitive skin, sometimes burns, slowly tans to light brown. Example: Darker Caucasians.
TYPE 4: Minimally sun sensitive, burns minimally, always tans to moderate brown. Example: Mediterranian type Caucasians, some Hispanics.
TYPE 5: Sun insensitive skin, rarely burns, tans well. Example: Some Hispanics, some Blacks
TYPE 6: Sun insensitive, never burns, deeply pigmented. Example: Darker Blacks.

Health Research Questionnaire
Cardiovascular Aging Research Laboratory
University of Texas at Austin

Personal Information

Today's Date ______________ Please print your name __________________________
Phone Number __________________ Email __________________________________
Date of Birth ____________ Age ______ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Who is your physician? ______________________ Phone ______________________
In case of emergency, contact _________________ Phone ______________________

Please circle the highest grade in school you have completed:

Elementary school	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
High school	9	10	11	12				
College/Post Grad	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20+

What is your martial status? ☐ Single ☐ Married; ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced; Separated

Ethnic Background: ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race:

☐ White ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native

☐ Pacific Islander

☐ Black or African American ☐ Asian

Symptoms or Signs Suggestive of Disease

Check appropriate box:

Yes	No		
☐	☐	1.	Have you experienced unusual pain or discomfort in your check, neck, jaw, arms or other areas that may be due to heart problems?
☐	☐	2.	Have you experienced unusual fatigue or shortness of breath at rest, during usual activities, or during mild-to-moderate exercise (e.g., climbing stairs, carrying groceries, brisk walking, cycling)?
☐	☐	3.	When you stand up, or sometimes during the night while you are sleeping, do you have difficulty breathing?
☐	☐	4.	Do you lose your balance because of dizziness or do you ever lose consciousness?
☐	☐	5.	Do you suffer from swelling of the ankles (ankle edema)?
☐	☐	6.	Have you experienced an unusual and rapid throbbing or fluttering of the heart?
☐	☐	7.	Have you experienced severe pain in your leg muscles during walking?
☐	☐	8.	Has a doctor told you that you have a heart murmur?

Chronic Disease Risk Factors
Check appropriate box:

Yes	No		
☐	☐	9a.	Are you a male over age 45 years or a female over age 55 years?
☐	☐		b. Are you a female who has experienced premature menopause?
☐	☐		c. If you answered "yes" to 9b, are you on estrogen replacement therapy?
☐	☐	10.	Has your father or brother had a heart attack or died suddenly of heart disease before the age of 55; has your mother or sister experienced these heart problems before the age of 65?

Yes	No		
☐	☐	11.	Are you a current cigarette smoker?
☐	☐	12.	Has a doctor told you that you have high blood pressure (more than 140/90 mm Hg) or a heart condition?
☐	☐	13.	Is your total serum cholesterol greater than 200 mg/dl, or has a doctor told you that your cholesterol is at a high risk-level?
☐	☐	14.	Do you have diabetes mellitus?
☐	☐	15.	Are you physically inactive and sedentary (little physical activity on the job or during leisure time)?
☐	☐	16.	Do you have a bone or joint problem that could be made worse by a change in your physical activity?
☐	☐	17.	During the past year, would you say that you have experienced enough stress, strain, and pressure to have a significant effect on your health?
☐	☐	18.	Do you eat foods nearly every day that are high in fat and cholesterol such as fatty meats, cheese, fried foods, butter, whole milk, or eggs?
☐	☐	19.	Do you weigh 30 or more pounds than you should?
☐	☐	20.	Do you know of any other reason you should not do physical activity?

Medical History

21. *Please check which of the following conditions you have had or now have. Also check medical conditions in your family (father, mother, brother(s), or sister(s)). Check as many as apply.*

Self	Family	Medical Condition	Self	Family	Medical Condition
☐	☐	Coronary heart disease, heart attack; by-pass surgery	☐	☐	Major injury/fracture to foot, leg, knee
☐	☐	Arrhythmias	☐	☐	Major injury to back or neck
☐	☐	Angina	☐	☐	Major injury/fracture to hip or shoulder
☐	☐	High blood pressure	☐	☐	Rheumatoid Arthritis
☐	☐	Peripheral vascular disease	☐	☐	Osteoarthritis

☐	☐	Phlebitis or emboli	☐	☐	Gout
☐	☐	Other heart problems	☐	☐	Osteoporosis
☐	☐	Stroke	☐	☐	Fibromyalgia
☐	☐	Asthma	☐	☐	Diabetes mellitus
☐	☐	Bronchitis	☐	☐	Kidney disease
☐	☐	COPD (emphysema)	☐	☐	Cataracts
☐	☐	Lung cancer	☐	☐	Glaucoma
☐	☐	Breast cancer	☐	☐	Hearing loss
☐	☐	Prostate cancer	☐	☐	Depression
☐	☐	Skin cancer	☐	☐	Anxiety, phobias
☐	☐	Colorectal cancer	☐	☐	Eating disorders
☐	☐	Other cancer. Specify:	☐	☐	Sleeping problems
☐	☐	Gallstones/gallbladder disease	☐	☐	Substance abuse problems (alcohol, other drugs, etc.)
☐	☐	Liver disease (cirrhosis)	☐	☐	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
☐	☐	Hepatitis	☐	☐	Thyroid problems

Self	Family	Medical Condition	Self	Family	Medical Condition
☐	☐	Anemia (low iron)	☐	☐	Hysterectomy
☐	☐	Stomach/duodenal ulcer	☐	☐	Problems with menstruation
☐	☐	Rectal growth or bleeding	☐	☐	Post-menopausal (date:)
☐	☐	Crohne's disease	☐	☐	Raynaud's disease
☐	☐	Irritable bowel syndrome	☐	☐	Allergies
☐	☐	Marfan's syndrome			

Any other health problems. Please specify and include information on any recent illnesses, hospitalizations, or surgical procedures.

22. *Please check any of the following medications you take regularly and give the name of the medication.*

Medication	Name of Medication
☐ Heart medicine	____________________
☐ Blood pressure medicine	____________________
☐ Blood cholesterol medicine	____________________
☐ Hormones	____________________
☐ Birth control medicine	____________________
☐ Medicine for breathing/lungs	____________________
☐ Insulin	____________________
☐ Other medicine for diabetes	____________________
☐ Arthritis medicine	____________________
☐ Medicine for depression	____________________
☐ Medicine for anxiety	____________________
☐ Thyroid medicine	____________________
☐ Medicine for ulcers	____________________
☐ Painkiller medicine	____________________
☐ Allergy medicine	____________________
☐ Other (please specify)	____________________
☐ Do you have any drug allergies?	____________________
☐ Dietary supplements (please specify)	____________________

Body Weight

23. What is the most you have ever weighed? _______________ pounds

24. Are you now trying to:

☐ Lose weight ☐ Gain weight ☐ Stay about the same ☐ Not trying to do anything

Stress

25. During the past month, how would you rate your overall level of stress?

□ Very high □ High □ Moderate □ Low

26. In the past year, how much effect has stress had on your health?

□ A lot □ Some □ Hardly any or none

27. On average, how many hours of sleep do you get in a 24-hour period?

□ Less than 5 □ 5-6.9 □ 7-9 □ More than 9

Substance Use

28. How would you describe your cigarette smoking habits?

□ Never smoked

□ Used to smoke. How many years has it been since you smoked? _______ years

□ Still smoke. How many cigarettes a day do you smoke on average? ___cigarettes/day

29. How many alcoholic drinks do you consume? (A "drink" is a glass of wine, a wine cooler, a 16oz bottle/12oz can of beer, a shot glass of liquor, or a mixed drink).

□ Never use alcohol □ Less than 1 per week □ 1-6 per week

□ 1 per day

□ 2-3 per day □ More than 3 per day

30. In one sitting, how many drinks do you typically consume? ____________________

31. How many cups (8 ounces) of coffee do you drink per day? ____________________

32. How many ounces of sodas containing caffeine do you drink per day? ___________

Physical Fitness, Physical Activity/Exercise

33. Considering a **7-Day period** (a week), how many times on the average do you do the following kinds of exercise for **more than 15 minutes** during your **free time** (write on each line the appropriate number).

a) **STRENUOUS EXERCISE (HEART BEATS RAPIDLY)** **Times Per Week**

(i.e. running, jogging, hockey, football, soccer, squash, basketball, cross country skiing, judo, roller skating, vigorous swimming, vigorous long distance bicycling) ____________

b) **MODERATE EXERCISE (NOT EXHAUSTING)**

(i.e. fast walking, baseball, tennis, easy bicycling, volleyball, badminton, easy swimming, alpine skiing, popular and folk dancing)

____

c) **MILD EXERCISE (MINIMAL EFFORT)**

(i.e. yoga, archery, fishing from river bank, bowling, horseshoes, golf, snow-mobiling, easy walking)

____

34. Considering a 7-Day period (a week), during your leisure-time, how often do you engage in any regular activity long enough to work up a sweat (heart beats rapidly)

□ OFTEN □ SOMETIMES □ NEVER/RARELY

35. How long have you exercised or played sports regularly?
□ I do not exercise regularly □ Less than 1 year □ 1-2 years
□ 2-5 years □ 5-10 years □ More than 10 years

Occupational Health
36. Please describe your main job title and duties.

____

37. How much hard physical work is required on your job?
□ A great deal □ A moderate amount □ A little □ None

38. Please list any injuries or surgeries you have or have experienced to your forearms and wrists?

____
____

39. Do you currently experience any pain or discomfort in your forearms or wrists?

____
____

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