



## 2. Decoding Movement for a Brain-Controlled Prosthetic Leg

Engineers are designing a brain-controlled prosthetic ankle that infers a user’s intended movement from electrical activity in their leg muscles. To train the system, the user performs known movements while electrodes measure muscle activity (EMG), producing labeled data that link muscle signals to intended actions.

At each time step, two muscle sensors are recorded:

- $S_{TA}$ : tibialis anterior (“lift up” muscle),
- $S_{GA}$ : gastrocnemius (“press down” muscle).

Each sensor reading is labeled as either **Active (A)** or **Quiet (Q)**. The user can intend one of three movements:

$$U = \text{lift foot up}, \quad D = \text{press foot down}, \quad N = \text{neutral/relax.}$$

During calibration, the engineers measured how often each sensor fired while the user intended each movement. They found:

- When the user intends Up, sensor TA is Active 90% of the time and sensor GA is Active 20% of the time.
- When the user intends Down, sensor TA is Active 10% of the time and sensor GA is Active 85% of the time.
- When the user intends Neutral, sensor TA is Active 10% of the time and sensor GA is Active 10% of the time.

Engineers also found that when walking, a user spends about 30% of the time intending “Up,” about 30% intending “Down,” and the remaining 40% in “Neutral.” Engineers model the two muscle sensors as independent once the users intended movement is specified.

**Question.** We observe  $S_{TA} = \text{Active}$  and  $S_{GA} = \text{Active}$ , which intended movement  $M \in \{U, D, N\}$  is most likely?