Collecting, detecting and handling non-wear intervals in longitudinal light exposure data

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Abstract

In field studies using wearable light loggers, participants often need to remove the devices, resulting in non-wear intervals of varying and unknown duration. Accurate detection of these intervals is an essential step during data pre-processing. Here, we deployed a multi-modal approach to collect non-wear time during a longitudinal light exposure campaign and systematically compare non-wear detection strategies. Healthy participants (n=26; mean age 28±5 years, 14F) wore a near-corneal plane light logger for one week and reported non-wear events in three ways: pressing an "event marker" button on the light logger, placing it in a black bag, and using an app-based Wear log. Wear log entries, checked twice daily, served as ground truth for non-wear detection, showing that non-wear time constituted 5.4±3.8% (mean±SD) of total participation time. Button presses at the start and end of non-wear intervals were identified in >85.4% of cases when considering time windows beyond one minute for detection. To detect non-wear intervals based on black bag use and lack of motion, we employed an algorithm detecting clusters of low illuminance and clusters of low activity. Performance was higher for illuminance (F1=0.76) than activity (F1=0.52). Light exposure metrics derived from the full dataset, a dataset filtered for non-wear based on self-reports, and a dataset filtered for non-wear using the low illuminance clusters detection algorithm showed minimal differences. Our results highlight that while non-wear detection may be less critical in high-compliance cohorts, systematically collecting and detecting non-wear intervals is feasible and important for ensuring robust data pre-processing.

Introduction

The use of light loggers to measure personal light exposure

Ocular light exposure in everyday life is increasingly being recognised for its potential to influence human physical and mental wellbeing, including cognitive functions, sleep, circadian health, and eye health (Brown et al., 2022; Muralidharan et al., 2021). In this framework, measuring light exposure in the real world is essential to understand what light exposure individuals receive in their daily lives and the cultural, geographical, architectural, and behavioural contexts underlying their exposure patterns (Biller, Balakrishnan, et al., 2024; Guidolin et al., 2024). The measurement of light exposure in free-living conditions is largely accessible in research contexts due to the availability of light loggers, that is, wearable devices recording light exposure over extended periods of time (Hartmeyer et al., 2022; van Duijnhoven et al., 2024). Depending on the intended measurement location, light loggers come in various form factors, including wrist-watches (wrist level measurements), pendants or brooches (chest level measurements), and removable attachments to non-prescription glasses frames (near-corneal plane level measurement) (Hartmeyer et al., 2022). The collected light exposure data can either be directly analysed to classify exposure patterns (Zauner et al., 2024), or also aggregated and summarised in light exposure metrics, which can in turn be associated with health-related outcomes of interest (Spitschan et al., 2022). The versatility of wearable light loggers has led to their use for different research applications. Most commonly, light loggers have been used in observational field studies aiming to capture the effects of light exposure on sleep (Mead et al., 2023), alertness (Didikoglu et al., 2023), and metabolic function (Reid et al., 2014). Furthermore, light loggers integrated into actigraphy devices have been used in large-scale epidemiological studies to assess light exposure as a potential risk factor for disease prevalence observed at follow-up (Burns et al., 2023; Windred et al., 2024; Windred et al., 2024). Finally, a few studies have employed light loggers in clinical settings to monitor compliance with prescribed light regimes (Sit et al., 2018) or in occupational health to assess whether employees meet target light levels during working hours (Peeters et al., 2020).

Data quality challenges in pre-processing light exposure data: non-wear intervals

Light logging also poses challenges to researchers interested in extracting light metrics from measured light levels, including data quality assessment. The raw wearable data is usually exported as a singular data file containing a time series of light levels and other logged variables, such as activity and external temperature, depending on the individual device (van Duijnhoven et al., 2024). These light data can contain artefacts and data recorded while the device was not worn (Hartmeyer et al., 2022). In fact, in field studies using light loggers, participants may need to remove the devices, such as when taking a shower, or during certain physical activities and sports. Moreover, participants may forget to wear the device or choose to remove it for miscellaneous reasons (Stefani et al., 2024). These periods of non-wear result in invalid data included in the collected datasets. To date, best practices for data cleaning pipelines have not been systematically investigated yet, and implemented strategies are seldom reported in the methods section of research papers (Hartmeyer et al., 2022). Hence, it is currently unknown whether non-wear intervals impact the derived light exposure metrics. It is important to note that the challenge of detecting non-wear time is not exclusive to wearable light loggers, but common across other research wearable devices, such as wrist-worn actimeters used for measuring rest and activity rhythms in field settings. In actimetry research, a variety of algorithms leveraging skin temperature, skin conductance, and (lack of) wearable movement have been developed to detect non-wear intervals (Choi et al., 2012; Pilz et al., 2022; Van Der Donckt et al., 2024). However, skin temperature and conductance might not be available in light loggers, or it might not be a useful measure to detect non-wear for light loggers that are not placed directly on the participants' skin. Furthermore, contrary to movement in actimetry, non-wear time of light loggers is not necessarily characterised by a lack of light signal, since leaving the device on a window sill could lead to light levels similar to those of someone sitting in the same room and wearing the device. Some studies have addressed this issue by relying on intervals of device inactivity to identify invalid periods, using cut-off lengths ranging from 5 to 120 minutes of inactivity (Hartmeyer et al., 2022). Other approaches to detect non-wear intervals include relying on self-reported non-wear times, combining minimal variability in light signal and activity to detect non-wear time, and detecting stability in device tilt angles

(Daugaard et al., 2017; Price et al., 2019; Stefani et al., 2024; Van der Maren et al.,
2018). However, whether these methods were data-driven or involved manual
inspection of participants' files often remains unclear. Furthermore, even when data-
driven techniques are employed, no study thus far has systematically analysed the
performance of algorithmic approaches using a ground truth for comparison.

The current study

The current study aims to describe and compare strategies for collecting, detecting
and handling non-wear time of light exposure data using a high-quality ground truth
for non-wear time intervals. To achieve this, during a week-long ambulatory light
exposure study, we first collected non-wear information from three independent
sources: participants' self-reports, button presses on the light logger, and placement
of the light logger in an opaque black cloth bag during non-wear time. Self-reported
entries were checked twice daily to ensure high data quality and used as ground truth
for non-wear interval detection. Second, we examine how non-wear detection varies
based on non-wear sources. As part of this analysis, we employ an algorithm to detect
clusters of low illuminance resulting from black bag use during non-wear, and clusters
of low activity resulting from lack of motion during non-wear. We discuss its
performance and how it could be leveraged to develop robust non-wear detection
strategies further. Lastly, we assessed the impact of non-wear data on the accuracy
of daily light exposure metrics.

Methods and materials

Procedure

This study aimed to identify individual and contextual factors contributing to light
exposure patterns in free-living conditions, and a detailed protocol of the study was
previously described (Guidolin et al., 2024). Healthy participants aged 18 to 55 years
were recruited to participate in a study on light exposure in everyday life lasting for a
week (Monday to Monday) in Tübingen, Germany (48.5216° N, 9.0576° E) between
August and November 2023.

Near-corneal plane light logging

Participants wore a small commercial, multispectral 10-channel light logger (ActLumus, Condor Instruments, São Paolo, Brazil) able to measure photopic illuminance and melanopic equivalent daylight illuminance (mEDI). The device further contains an accelerometer, temperature sensor, and an 'event' button accessible to the participants. The light logger was inserted into a custom-made 3D-printed holder, which was in turn attached to the frame of non-prescription glasses (**Figure 1**). The glasses were available in sizes S, M and L, and provided by the brand Firmoo (**Figure 1** and **Supplementary Materials**). The sampling interval of the light logger was set to 10 seconds to achieve highly temporally resolved light exposure data. To ensure clarity in our explanations to participants and in this document, we referred to the combination of the non-prescription glasses and the mounted ActLumus light logger together as "light glasses". Participants were instructed to wear the light glasses as much as possible throughout their participation in the study and only remove them in case of sleep, water sports, contact sports and during showering. Participants were compensated €10 for each day of wearing the light glasses for at least 80% of their waking hours.

Logging of non-wear events

Throughout the week, participants reported (non-)wear events, which included taking the light glasses off, placing the light glasses back on, and taking the light glasses off before sleep. These events were logged in three ways: (1) Pressing the event button on the light logger, (2) placing the light glasses in an opaque black-cloth bag (UVEX microfibre bag for spectacles) for the entire duration of non-wear, and (3) manually entering the time of this event in a Wear log on the mobile app MyCap (Harris et al., 2022). Participants were instructed as follows. When taking the light glasses off, they were to press the event button on the light glasses and then place them in the black bag provided. Participants were then to log this action in the app-based Wear log as "Taking the light glasses off". Likewise, when putting the light glasses back on, they were instructed to take them out of the black bag, press the event button and log this action in the Wear log as "Putting the light glasses on". In the Wear log, participants also had to indicate whether the light glasses were actually placed in the black bag. If they forgot the black bag, they had to describe where they placed the light glasses

instead. When taking the light glasses off before sleep, participants were to place them

facing upwards on a bedside table or flat surface near their bed and to log this action

in the Wear log as "Taking the light glasses off before sleep and placing them on a

nightstand". Each Wear log entry included an automatic timestamp of the moment this

action was performed. If they forgot to log an event, participants were allowed to

retrospectively log any of the possible Wear log events as a "past event". In this case,

they were instructed to try their best to remember and retrospectively report the times

of these actions.

Analysis of non-wear data

The strategy for collecting non-wear intervals in three ways led to three independent

non-wear sources: (1) A binary outcome for each button press (0/1) automatically

added in the raw ActLumus data file, (2) clusters of near zero-lux illuminance levels

while the device was placed in the black bag, and (3) a timestamp for each Wear log

entry ("Taking the light glasses off", "Putting the light glasses on", and "Taking the light

glasses off before sleep") within the MyCap record (**Figure 2**). Among these three

sources of non-wear information, the Wear log entries were deemed the cleanest

based on continuous data quality assurance checks (see *Continuous non-wear data*

quality assurance in *Data pre-processing*). For this reason, we considered this source

of non-wear as the ground truth for our analyses. To explore the concordance between

the other two sources of non-wear at our ground truth, we performed two separate

analyses: identifying the presence of button presses for each Wear log non-wear

interval and identifying clusters of low illuminance and low activity as a proxy of non-

wear using a custom-made algorithm. Details on these analyses are provided in

Analysis of button presses and *Analysis of low illuminance clusters and low activity*

clusters, respectively.

Data analysis

Data pre-processing

Pre-processing of multi-modal data sets, such as the one used in the current study, is

a time-consuming step. It demands a principled, systematic and reproducible

approach. While scientific publications often report "data cleaning" and/or "data

transformation" steps in the Methods section, the entire pre-processing pipeline is

seldom reported in a detailed, systematic way (Hartmeyer et al., 2022) that allows
other investigators to reproduce these analyses. This leads to multiple similar yet likely
not equivalent ways of approaching the same type of data. In the following paragraphs,
we summarise the pre-processing approach taken in the current study for handling
each of the three non-wear sources to inspire other researchers working with wearable
light loggers and facing similar challenges. Additional detailed information on our pre-
processing strategy can be found in the **Supplementary Materials**.

Our pre-processing pipeline can be divided into two steps: (1) continuous non-wear
data quality assurance, taking place during the study, and (2) data cleaning and
transformation, taking place after the end of data collection. For the latter, all
processing steps were performed in R statistical software (version 4.4.2) (R Core
Team, 2024), using the packages "tidyverse" (version 2.0.0) (Wickham et al., 2019)
and "LightLogR" (version 0.3.8) (Zauner, et al., 2024).

Continuous non-wear data quality assurance

Throughout the study, we performed data quality assurance as participants were
enrolled in the study. This step of our pre-processing pipeline was only applied to the
Wear log entries, as information about button presses and the use of the black bag,
as indicated by low illuminance values, was only available upon study completion. A
researcher checked participants' incoming Wear log entries at least twice daily, once
in the morning and once in the late afternoon. This quality assurance was performed
using the online platform REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture; Harris et al.,
2009), which was used for survey data collection and provides the backend with
MyCap (Harris et al., 2022). The goal of this continuous check was to ensure that the
collected data could be trusted and increase participants' adherence to the protocol,
thus ensuring high data quality throughout the study. For each participant, a
spreadsheet was used to log the manual quality assurance and colour-coding valid
Wear log entries as green and invalid (unclear and/or missing) entries as red. **Figure
3** illustrates how invalid entries were identified and adjusted, and further examples of
invalid entries are provided in the **Supplementary Materials**.

Data cleaning of Wear log entries

A detailed, step-by-step description of the data cleaning and transformation approach
undertaken for the Wear log entries is provided as a flowchart in the Supplementary

Materials (**Figure S1**). The goal of the Wear log pre-processing pipeline was to identify

intervals that participants spent wearing the light glasses (Wake 'on'), not wearing the

light glasses while awake (Wake 'off'), and not wearing the light glasses during sleep

(Sleep 'off'). To further examine the validity of the Wear log entries beyond the manual

quality assurance procedures performed during the study (see above under ***Error!***

Reference source not found.), two additional types of quality checks were

performed:

1) Quality check #1: Identifying identical timestamps for two consecutive Wear log states,

i.e. identical and consecutive Datetime values.

2) Quality check #2: Identifying consecutive identical Wear log states, i.e. identical and

consecutive Wake 'on', Wake 'off', or Sleep 'off' values

These quality checks were performed on a total of 797 observations. Eight entries

(1%) failed Quality check #1, and 14 entries (1.76%) failed Quality check #2. These

invalid entries were adjusted manually by referring to the raw files. We describe how

these adjustments were applied in the **Supplementary Materials** (Data cleaning of

Wear log entries: details on manually adjusted entries). After these adjustments, a

rerun of the quality checks showed no erroneous entries after applying these

corrections. The next step was to only include all entries up until and including the

"Putting the light glasses on" entry after sleep on the last study day (Monday), before

the participants returned to the laboratory to return the materials. Lastly, the Wear log

entries were cleaned, arranged chronologically for each participant and integrated into

the light logger dataset. This led to a final data frame where each light logger

measurement, including a measurement of illuminance and activity, was labelled

based on the Wear log *State* (Wake 'on', Wake 'off', Sleep 'off').

Data cleaning of button presses and low illuminance clusters

For the other two sources of non-wear information, namely the button presses and

clusters of low illuminance levels, pre-processing was less extensive than for Wear

log entries. Button presses within the same 60-second interval were considered

invalid, i.e. caused by the participant accidentally pressing the button more than once

to indicate the same (non-)wear action. These invalid consecutive button presses were

removed, so only the first was kept. Regarding low illuminance clusters, the mEDI

values corresponding to the Wear log Sleep 'off' state were excluded before

implementing our custom-made algorithm, as the scope was to detect either wear or

non-wear time during waking hours. Further transformations on illuminance levels

throughout data analysis are detailed in the Results sections. When visualising

illuminance levels on a logarithmic scale (Figure 7A), 0 values were handled by adding

a value of 1 to all mEDI values. However, all calculations related to mEDI were

performed without conversion to logarithmic scale and on the raw data, which included

values of mEDI=0 lux.

270 *Description of wear status based on ground truth*

271 The first part of our analysis consists of a description of wear status based on the

272 ground truth, i.e. the (non-)wear information obtained from the Wear log. Specifically,

273 we examined the time spent in each Wear log state across the week, the distribution

274 of Wake 'off' status during weekdays and weekend days, and the timing of Wake 'off'

275 status across the day.

276 *Analysis of button presses*

To compare non-wear information obtained by the button presses to the ground truth,

we examined whether the start and end of each Wake 'off' interval aligned with a

button press. More specifically, we classified each Wake 'off' interval based on the

presence of a button press within a given time window from the Wear log timestamp.

Non-wear intervals were categorised as follows: intervals not bounded by a button

press at the start and/or the end were labelled as open, while intervals bounded by

two button presses, one at the start and one at the end, were labelled as closed. To

investigate how the percentage of open and closed intervals varied with increasing

time window lengths, we performed this analysis using eight windows ranging from

one to eight minutes, increasing in one-minute steps.

287 *Analysis of low illuminance clusters and low activity clusters*

To compare non-wear information obtained by the use of the black bag to that of our

ground truth, we used an algorithm (Hartmeyer et al., 2024) to detect clusters of low

illuminance (melanopic equivalent daylight illuminance, mEDI) values in the light

logger dataset. This algorithm takes three input parameters: (1) A maximum threshold

for the boolean variable of interest, for which the clusters should be found (in our case,

mEDI), (2) a minimum length of the cluster, and (3) a maximum interruption length of

the cluster by values above threshold (in our case, mEDI values above threshold).

With these three input parameters, the algorithm labels every illuminance observation

in a participant's light exposure dataset as belonging to a cluster of low illuminance
levels or not. To assess the performance of this cluster detection algorithm in
identifying the same non-wear intervals identified by our ground truth, we constructed
a precision-recall (PR) curve. PR curves provide a graphical illustration of a classifier's
performance across several threshold values (in our case, mEDI values), with positive
predictive value (PPV, or precision) on the Y-axis and true positive rate (TRP, or recall)
on the X-axis. In the context of our classifier, precision indicates the number of
instances that were predicted as non-wear by the algorithm and were non-wear
according to the Wear log. On the other hand, recall indicates the number of instances
correctly identified as non-wear by the algorithm out of all actual non-wear instances
(i.e. Wear log Wake 'off' instances). Importantly, PR curves are preferred to commonly
used receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves in scenarios of class imbalance,
as in our dataset. In this case, the small percentage of non-wear relative to wear
intervals could risk overstating the algorithm's performance, when evaluating it with a
ROC curve (Cook & Ramadas, 2020).
To define the optimal combination of the minimum cluster length and maximum
interruption length to detect clusters of low illuminance in our dataset, PR curves were
first built with varying thresholds of these two variables, while keeping a threshold of
<1 mEDI lux (Supplementary materials, **Figure S2**). A minimum length of clusters of
10 minutes and a maximum interruption of 0 minutes led to the highest F1 score
(F1=0.76). F1 is a metric representing the harmonic mean of precision and recall, with
values ranging from 0 to 1 (Cook & Ramadas, 2020). Thus, these input parameters
were used in our algorithm to build the PR curve with varying mEDI thresholds.
Because clusters of low activity are often used to detect non-wear in field studies
investigating sleep and light exposure with wearables similar to our light logger
(Hartmeyer et al., 2022), we implemented our algorithm to also detect clusters of low
activity in our dataset. Activity was quantified from the ActLumus built-in accelerometer
as proportional integrating measure (PIM), a quantity directly calculated by the device
throughout the study. As for illuminance, we first built RC curves for minimum cluster
length and maximum cluster interruption length, while keeping an activity threshold of
<5 (Supplementary materials, **Figure S3**). A minimum cluster duration of 9 minutes,
and a maximum cluster interruption of 0 minutes led to the highest F1 score (F1=0.52),
and this combination was then used to build a PR curve with varying PIM thresholds.

Comparison of light exposure metrics

To determine whether handling non-wear intervals identified by either the Wear log or by the algorithm would result in different light exposure metrics compared to not handling non-wear intervals, we calculated 12 commonly used light exposure metrics and compared them across three datasets:

1. Raw dataset: All mEDI values included, i.e. ignoring non-wear information;
2. Clean dataset (Wear log): All mEDI values corresponding to a Wear log Wake 'off' interval replaced with "NA", R's standard placeholder for missing values;
3. Clean dataset (algorithm): All mEDI values corresponding to algorithm-detected clusters of low illuminance replaced with "NA".

Specifically, we calculated the following 12 metrics:

- Metrics representing temporal variability of light exposure: across days (interdaily stability, IS) and within days (intradaily variability, IV) (n=2);
- Metrics quantifying timing-related light exposure characteristics: Mean timing of light above 250 lux ($MLiT^{250}$), mean timing of light above 1000 lux ($MLiT^{1000}$), first timing of light above 10 lux ($FLiT^{10}$), first timing of light above 250 lux ($FLiT^{250}$), first timing of light above 1000 lux ($FLIT^{1000}$), last timing of light above 10 lux ($LLiT^{10}$), last timing of light above 250 lux ($LLiT^{250}$), last timing of light above 1000 lux ($LLiT^{1000}$) (n=8);
- Metrics quantifying duration-related light exposure characteristics: Time above 250 lux (TAT^{250}), and time above 1000 lux (TAT^{1000}) (n=2).

All metrics were calculated for every day of the study where full light exposure data was available (n=6, since the first Monday was incomplete for all participants). IS and IV were calculated directly on the entire dataset, the outcome being a single participant value for each metric. For the remaining metrics, values were first calculated for each of the six study days, and then mean and standard deviation values were calculated across these six values. This led to a single mean and standard deviation participant value for each metric. Differences in the selected 12 metrics were assessed using paired t-tests corrected for multiple comparisons with the Benjamini-Hochberg method (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995). Results are presented here with a significance threshold of 0.05. All statistical analyses were performed in R statistical software (version 4.4.2; R Core Team, 2024), using the packages "stats" (base package, version 4.4.2; R Core Team, 2024) and "rstatix" (version 0.7.2; Alboukadel, 2024). All code and data analysed in this study are publicly available on GitHub (

362 https://github.com/tscnlab/GuidolinEtAl_xxx_2025/tree/main) under MIT licence

363 (code) and CC-BY licence (data).

Results

Final dataset

A total of 30 participants enrolled in the study and began data collection. Of these, one participant withdrew from the study, and participation was terminated early for the other two participants due to a lack of compliance with and understanding of the study procedure. This led to a sample of 27 participants who completed the study. One participant was excluded from the analyses because of technical problems with the light logger leading to unrecoverable data loss. Thus, our analyses were performed on a final sample of n=26 aged between 22 and 46 years (mean±1SD: 28±5 years, 14 female).

Description of wear status based on ground truth

To explore how participants engaged in non-wear behaviours across the week, we first visually inspected light exposure, button presses and self-reported (Wear log) wear status for each participant across all study days (**Figure 4**). This allowed us to gain a qualitative understanding of how the three sources of non-wear (Wear log, button presses, and use of black bag) compared in our study. To quantify wear status according to our ground truth, we then calculated the amount of time participants spent in each Wear log state throughout the week: Wake 'on', Wake 'off' and Sleep 'off' (**Figure 5A**). Based on Wear log entries, participants spent 57.7% of their total participation time wearing the light logger (Wake 'on' mean, SD=6.3%, range= 42.2%–72.7%), 5.4% of time not wearing the light logger (Wake 'off' mean, SD=3.8%, range=0.3%–13.0%), and 37.0% of time with the light logger off during sleep (Sleep 'off' mean, SD=4.6%, range=25.9%–46.1%). When comparing non-wear time between weekdays and weekend days, a similar trend was observed, with participants spending a small amount of time not wearing the light glasses on weekdays (mean±SD= 4.7±3.8%, range=0%–16.0%) as well as during weekend days (mean±SD=7.0±8.0%, range=0%–29.9%) (**Figure 5B**). To further examine patterns in

participants' non-wear behaviour, we inspected the timing of reported non-wear
episodes across the day (**Figure 5C**). For this purpose, the centre point of each Wake
'off' episode was calculated as proxy of non-wear timing. Non-wear episodes occurred
continuously across 24 hours, with the exception of two time windows during night
hours (between 02:00 and 03:00 and between 04:00 and 05:00). Density estimates
for non-wear episodes showed an increase throughout the day and reached a peak at
20:00 with 20 non-wear episodes falling into this time bin. The number of non-wear
time episodes decreased in the evening hours.

Analysis of button presses

We next compared non-wear information obtained by the button presses to non-wear
status information from our ground truth. We examined the presence of button presses
at the start and end of each Wake 'off' interval using different time windows. When
considering button presses within a 1-minute window from a start and/or end of a
Wake 'off' interval, only 64.1% of n=198 intervals were bounded by a button press on
both ends and thus classified as closed. Expanding window sizes to more liberal cut-
offs of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 minutes increased this number to 85.4%, 87.4%, 88.4%, 88.9%,
and 89.9%, respectively. Adopting longer window sizes of 7 and 8 minutes did not
increase the proportion of Wake 'off' intervals classified as closed, with the percentage
of these intervals seemingly asymptotic at 88.9% for these cut-offs (**Figure 6**).

Algorithmic approach for non-wear detection

To explore the possibility of using clusters of low illuminance and low activity in our
dataset as proxy of non-wear, we first examined illuminance and activity levels across
Wear log states (**Figure 7A**). Participants' median illuminance and median activity
levels across the study showed a similar pattern, whereby similarly low mEDI and
activity values were observed during Wake 'off' and Sleep 'off' intervals (mEDI
mean±SD in Wake 'off' and Sleep 'off': 0.4±1.2 lux and 0.01±0.07 lux, respectively;
activity mean±SD in Wake 'off' and Sleep 'off': 4.5±22.8 and 0.0±0.0, respectively). On
the other hand, higher median illuminance and activity values were observed during
Wake 'on' intervals (mean±SD: 62.4±66.6 lux and 61.5±46.1, respectively). Based on
this observation, we used a previously developed algorithm (Hartmeyer et al., 2024)
for detecting low illuminance clusters and low activity clusters in our dataset. The

performance of this algorithm was examined using a precision-recall (PR) curve with
varying maximum mEDI thresholds (from 1 lux to 10 lux, at 1-step increments), and
activity thresholds (from 5 to 50, at increments of 5) (Figure 7B). Overall, detecting
clusters of low illuminance performed better than detecting clusters of low activity in
predicting non-wear. This difference was reflected in the F1 score, with the highest
score for mEDI F1=0.76 (with a mEDI threshold of 1 lux) and the higher score for
activity F1=0.52 (with an activity threshold of 5).

For illuminance, setting the threshold to smaller mEDI values for cluster detection led
to a higher PPV (or precision) compared to higher mEDI thresholds (PPV=0.71 for <1
mEDI lux and PPV=0.33 for <10 mEDI lux). The gain in precision with decreasing
mEDI threshold values came at a minimal cost for the TRP (or recall), with TRP=0.89
and TRP=0.81 for thresholds of <10 mEDI lux and <1 mEDI lux, respectively. As the
PR curve in **Figure 7B** shows the aggregate classification accuracy, we next probed
whether participants had idiosyncratic non-wear behaviours and analysed if
classification accuracy depended on each participant. This was indeed the case
(Figure 8). Furthermore, we did not identify a clear pattern for classification accuracy
of low illuminance clusters and participants' self-reported compliance with using the
black bag during non-wear time. For example, for a participant who reportedly used
the black bag for all non-wear (Wake 'off' events), both precision and recall of the
classifier were low (**Figure 8, PID 214**). Likewise, for a participant who reportedly
never placed the light glasses in the black bag when taking them off, the recall of the
classifier was very high (**Figure 8, PID 218**).

Examination of algorithm misclassification

Since detecting clusters of low activity would be an easy-to-implement strategy to
detect non-wear, we examined reasons behind the poor performance of the algorithm
for detection of non-wear based on clusters of low activity. We first analysed whether
using PIM as activity parameter was a justified choice, and whether changing activity
parameter would yield a different algorithm performance. ActLumus files contain three
parameters that quantify activity: proportional integration mode (PIM, a measure of
activity levels), time above threshold (TAT, a measure of time spent in motion), and
zero crossing mode (ZCM, a measure of frequency of movement) (Pilz et al., 2022).
Our results indicate that the performance of our algorithm was similarly poor for all
three activity-quantifying parameters (Supplementary materials, **Figure S4**).

Furthermore, we investigated whether pre-processing activity (PIM) values would lead

to a better classification performance. We applied several pre-processing methods

including log-transformation, smoothing, and normalisation of PIM values, and showed

that none of these strategies benefitted classification performance (Supplementary

materials, **Figure S5**). Given the superior performance in detecting clusters of low

illuminance using a mEDI threshold of <1 lux (F1=0.76), we then applied our algorithm

to the dataset using this threshold, and focused subsequent analyses on illuminance

rather than activity. In order to understand in which circumstances our algorithm failed

at predicting non-wear (resulting in false positive and false negative instances), we

next analysed characteristics of these instances that might have contributed to

misclassification. Specifically, we calculated the duration of each misclassified

instance, the mean melanopic illuminance during this interval, and whether the

participants reported using the bag during this time. Using these three variables, we

identified four potential causes of misclassification and labelled each false negative

and false positive interval in our dataset accordingly:

1. Algorithm limitation or bag not actually used: False negative intervals (>3 minutes)
where participants reported using the bag and with mean mEDI >1 lux. These false
negatives could be caused by participants not using the black bag despite reporting
doing so, or by the algorithm input parameters preventing correct classification (e.g.
cluster duration <10 minutes).

2. Bag not used: False negative intervals of any duration where participants reported not
using the bag and with mean mEDI >1 lux. In this case, since the bag was reportedly
not used and the mEDI values suggest similarly, no clusters of low illuminance could
be detected by the algorithm.

3. Low illuminance during wear: False positive intervals (<3 minutes) with mean mEDI
≤1 lux. In this case, individuals received low illuminance during wear time, leading to
the algorithm detecting these intervals as non-wear clusters.

4. Transition state: False negative intervals (≤3 minutes) where participants reported
using the bag and with mean mEDI >1 lux, and false positive intervals (≤3 minutes)
with mean mEDI ≤1 lux. These brief intervals likely represent transitions from one
Wear log state to the next one, where a short time lag between logging wear status
on the Wear log and placement or removal of the light glasses from the black bag can
lead to misclassification.

A summary of misclassified and correctly classified instances can be found in **Table**

1. Furthermore, examples of the algorithm misclassification instances in **Table 1** are

shown in an exemplary participant (**Figure 9**). Due to the high number of transition
states identified as potential causes of our algorithm's misclassification (n=245, or
20.5% of 1195 total instances), we implemented a modification to the algorithm-
detected clusters of low illuminance. Specifically, for each cluster of low illuminance
values (i.e. a non-wear cluster), we checked for a transition state label, identified as
described above, immediately before or immediately after the cluster. If a transition
state was detected, the non-wear cluster was expanded as follows. In case of a
transition state detected before the cluster, all observations from the start of the
transition state to the start of the non-wear cluster were re-labelled as non-wear. In
the case of a transition state after the cluster, all observations from the end of the non-
wear cluster to the end of the transition state were re-labelled as non-wear. This
adjustment ensured that each low illuminance cluster adjacent to a transition state was
"padded" with non-wear observations at both ends.

Comparison of light exposure metrics

To assess whether removal of non-wear time would affect light exposure metrics in
our dataset, we calculated 12 light exposure metrics across three datasets:

1. Raw dataset: All mEDI values included, i.e. ignoring non-wear information,
2. Clean dataset (Wear log): All mEDI values corresponding to a Wear log Wake 'off' interval
replaced with NA,
3. Clean dataset (algorithm): All mEDI values corresponding to the padded algorithm-
detected clusters of low illuminance replaced with NA.

The choice of light metrics was based on commonly used metrics quantifying timing-
related characteristics ($MLiT^{250}$, $MLiT^{1000}$, $FLiT^{10}$, $FLiT^{250}$, $FLIT^{1000}$, $LLiT^{10}$, $LLiT^{250}$, $LLiT^{1000}$),
duration-related characteristics (TAT^{250} and TAT^{1000}), and temporal dynamics (IS and IV)
of light exposure patterns (Hartmeyer & Andersen, 2023). The relationship between
each metric calculated in the raw dataset and cleaned datasets, as well as a histogram
of the delta of the metrics can be found in **Figure 10**. To test for differences in metrics
across datasets, we performed a paired sample t-test. No significant differences were
found between metrics across the three datasets, except for the metric TAT^{250}.
Specifically, a marginally significant difference was detected between TAT^{250}
calculated in the clean (algorithm) dataset and the raw dataset (t(25)=-3.67, p=0.03).
The effect size for the difference between the groups is strong at -0.72 (Cohen's d),

and the unstandardised effect size is -2.15 seconds. Results of the paired t-test for all
metrics and means and standard deviation values for all 12 metrics are reported in the
Supplementary materials (**Table S1** and **Table S2**, respectively).

Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to systematically assess the impact
of non-wear intervals on light exposure metrics in ambulatory light logging studies. Our
protocol, characterised by continuous data quality checks, was designed to yield a
high-quality ground truth for non-wear intervals, i.e. the self-reported Wear log entries,
essential to evaluate and compare different non-wear detection strategies. Our results
indicated that button presses did not consistently mark the start and end of non-wear
intervals and that algorithmically detecting clusters of low illuminance resulting from
black bag use was a successful strategy for detecting non-wear. Lastly, we found that
addressing non-wear intervals in our high-compliance dataset did not impact
commonly used light exposure metrics.

Description of wear status based on ground truth

As part of data pre-processing, we first visually inspected all three sources of non-
wear. Relying on visual inspection alone to detect non-wear intervals is time
consuming and requires training (Pilz et al., 2022), but it can be used as an initial step
for exploring raw data. Visual inspection allowed us to gain a better understanding of
participant compliance and concordance between non-wear sources, and provided a
qualitative insight into which automated detections (i.e., non-wear algorithms) could
be applied to our data. Visualisation of raw light exposure data is possible using open-
access packages in programming environments such as the *LightLogR* package
(Zauner et al., 2024) or the *pyLight* submodule of pyActigraphy (Hammad et al., 2024),
the former also offering options to visualise multiple non-wear sources in the same
graph, as shown in Figure 4 of this paper.
When examining self-reported Wear log entries, the relatively low non-wear time
(mean±SD=5.4±3.8% of total participation time) across the sample indicates that
participants were compliant with study instructions, spending a substantial amount of
time wearing the light glasses during their daily activities. Compliance rates were high

for both weekdays and weekend days. Our results align closely with the findings of a
recent study where participants wore a near-corneal plane light logger for five days, a
duration similar to that of our study. The authors report that, despite participants
documenting discomfort and unwanted attention in public settings when wearing the
device, adherence to the study instructions was high (89% during waking hours,
excluding sleep time) (Stefani et al., 2024). As to the timing of non-wear, the highest
number of reported non-wear episodes in our dataset coincided with early evening
hours, peaking at 20:00. Stefani and colleagues (2024) also reported slightly higher
wear compliance during daytime compared to evening hours during weekdays (92%
of recording time during daytime, 71% of recording time the evening). While we lack
additional data to understand which specific situation prompted the removal of the light
glasses at this time, we speculate that reasons for removal might be similar to those
reported in other studies that used near-corneal level light loggers: being in the
shower, being in public spaces where wearing the light glasses is thought to cause
undesirable reactions from others, performing sports, or experiencing discomfort
(Balajadia et al., 2023; Stefani et al., 2024).

Analysis of button presses

When turning to button presses marking the start or end of a non-wear interval, our
results indicated that button press events mostly happened within 1 minute to 6
minutes from the corresponding Wear log entry. Extending the time window beyond
this range did not result in more non-wear intervals labelled as closed, suggesting that
participants occasionally forgot to press the button to mark a non-wear event. To the
best of our knowledge, no previous study has examined the concordance of button
presses with self-reported non-wear time, although some studies mention instructing
participants to use this when removing the light logger (Van der Maren et al., 2018),
as well as using it in visual inspection of the data (Stefani et al., 2024). Our results
suggest that button presses alone are unreliable for collecting accurate information on
non-wear intervals. However, since several available light loggers have a built-in event
marker (van Duijnhoven et al., 2024), collecting non-wear information using button
presses does not add a significant burden to participants and can help validate non-
wear self-reports. This strategy could especially benefit research studies in which non-
wear self-reports are not as clean as in the current dataset, and no other source of

non-wear is collected. Based on our findings, we recommend using cut-off criteria
larger than 1 minute for automatic detection of button presses corresponding to a self-
reported non-wear event, as stricter criteria could compromise non-wear validation.

Data-driven non-wear detection

As part of our non-wear detection analysis, we applied an algorithm detecting clusters
of low illuminance values caused by the use of the black bag during non-wear time,
as well as clusters of low activity, which might also be indicative of non-wear time.
Evaluating the performance of our algorithm using PR curves, our results indicate that
collecting non-wear information by asking participants to place the light logger in a
black bag might be a successful strategy to facilitate automated detection of non-wear
time in ambulatory light exposure studies. Considering the poorer performance of
detecting low activity clusters compared to low illuminance clusters, it is important to
consider that this was not always observed when looking at individual PR curves
(Figure 8). Specifically, for some individuals, using low illuminance clusters to detect
non-wear led to perfect recall, but using clusters of low activity led to greater precision.
Furthermore, the observation that compliance with bag use did not seem to underlie
better algorithm performance for illuminance might be explained by individuals placing
the device in a dark space, such as a drawer, even when they did not place it in the
black bag. We suggest that relying on both illuminance and activity (i.e., multi-modal
input to our algorithm) could improve automated non-wear detection, particularly in
accounting for non-compliance with black bag use. This approach would increase
classification performance for non-wear intervals where the signal from the two
variables is opposite, such as when the device sits on an illuminated surface (i.e., high
light levels, low activity levels).
Upon examining the reasons behind our algorithm's misclassifications, transition
states were a major contributor to false positives and false negatives. We attribute this
to a time mismatch in non-wear logging: While participants were instructed to first
place the light glasses in the black bag and then log non-wear in the Wear log, they
might have performed these actions in reverse order. As a result, the Wear log would
indicate a non-wear period at time X, while the algorithm would detect a cluster of low
illuminance only at time X+1 minute, when the light glasses were placed in the black
bag. Consequently, the algorithm would label the instances between X and X+1

minute as false negatives. A similar issue occurs when putting the glasses back on
after non-wear. If participants log this action before taking the light glasses out of the
bag, the algorithm detection will result in false positive instances until the device is
actually outside the bag and being worn. We addressed this transition state problem
post-hoc by padding each non-wear cluster where a misclassification related to a
transition state was identified. A further improvement to our algorithm would be to
identify transition states dynamically as part of the classification process. It is important
to note that our algorithmic approach might not be the only one suitable for identifying
non-wear time in ambulatory light exposure studies. For example, since our algorithm
employs a minimum length during which light or activity must be below a threshold
value, short intervals are likely misclassified. Algorithms that do not rely on an interval
but rather explore signal characteristics immediately preceding or following a non-
wear interval might lead to better non-wear classification (Syed et al., 2021).

Comparison of light exposure metrics

Our analysis of 12 light exposure metrics revealed that non-wear time calculated with
self-reports (clean Wear log dataset) or automatically detected (clean algorithm
dataset) did not affect illuminance measures typically assessed in light exposure
studies. In fact, among the 12 analysed metrics, TAT^{250} was the only one significantly
different between the clean algorithm dataset and the raw dataset. It is important to
note that the value of TAT^{250} was approximately two seconds shorter in the clean
algorithm dataset than in the raw dataset (unstandardised effect size: -2.15 seconds).
This means that, despite the difference being significant, the magnitude of this
difference is very small and likely driven by low variability in our data. The lack of
differences between light metrics could be explained by the timing of non-wear
observed in our dataset. Our participants mostly reported removing the light glasses
in the evening hours, when light levels tend to be low. Thus, the missing data during
this period do not impact light metrics quantifying exposure to bright light of 250 mEDI
lux and 1000 mEDI lux. Of note, we calculated differences in ten out of the 12 metrics
analysed as differences in mean values of the metrics across the study. Thus, it could
be that our results would differ when investigating differences in metrics for each day
of the week or for specific times of the day. For example, in studies that examine the
association between evening light exposure levels and health outcomes, filtering non-

wear time using clusters of low illuminance might yield different metrics compared to

calculating metrics on the raw data. In other words, longer recording periods might

make the data more robust to artefacts and missing data, a finding which is supported

by a recent preprint by Biller, Zauner and colleagues (2024), where multiple hours of

missing daily data did not significantly influence average light exposure metrics for a

dataset that spans a whole month. However, as more studies will need to confirm the

generalisability of these findings in different cohorts and in studies of varying duration,

we recommend including non-wear detection as part of pre-processing pipelines and

hereby present an easy-to-implement algorithm that can serve this purpose.

Towards proposed best practices for collecting and reporting non-wear data

In the current study, participants had to perform three actions to report non-wear: press

a button (event marker) on the device, place it in a black bag, and log this action in an

app-based Wear log. We recognised that this could significantly burden participants

and potentially result in lower data quality and implemented various countermeasures

to minimise this risk. In this paragraph, we outline the strategies which we found to be

successful.

Since the light glasses were very visible on participants' faces, thus potentially

contributing to more instances of non-wear, transparency about the device form factor

was essential in exchanges with participants before screening. During the screening,

emphasising the importance of wearing the device as much as possible and logging

non-wear with honesty was successful in ensuring compliance. Our Wear log

questionnaire provided options for retrospective logging of non-wear events as well as

indicating where the device was located in case no black bag was used. Although

these are scenarios impacting data quality, they are inevitable in ambulatory studies,

and it is recommended to account for them and systematically label these instances

rather than disregarding their occurrence (Van Der Donckt et al., 2024). This proactive

and informed approach allows researchers to make better choices of how to handle

this data in the analyses. Furthermore, providing participants with the rationale behind

performing specific non-wear behaviour was important for compliance. Specifically,

we explained that the use of the black bag would lead to low light levels, and that this

would help our analyses. Maintaining contact with the participants during the week,

monitoring their compliance, and reinstructing them when needed were essential to

promote engagement throughout the study. This included continuous inspection of
wear behaviour and interference when a Wear log entry appeared inconsistent with
the previous entry. We acknowledge that this continuous monitoring can increase
experimenter burden and does not scale well to studies with many participants. We
recommend providing study participants with non-wear instruction sheets that can be
directly consulted by participants in case of doubts on how to log a wear behaviour
and even unexpected behaviour of the light logger. While a comprehensive review of
challenges and solutions to promote accuracy of non-wear data collection in
ambulatory light logging field studies is out of the scope of this paper, we refer the
reader to related work in the field of actimetry, where relevant strategies to mitigate
data entry challenges and ensure participant compliance have been examined (Balbim
et al., 2021; Sriram et al., 2009; Van Der Donckt et al., 2024).

Limitations

We acknowledge several limitations of the current study. First, we consider the self-
reported information from the Wear log as ground truth. We acknowledge that self-
reports may be not be reliable and they do not represent an optimal ground truth of
when the light glasses were worn or not. While we tried our best to limit inconsistencies
in the self-reported data by performing continuous data monitoring of Wear log entries
and systematic pre-processing of this data, we ultimately cannot determine whether
these entries represent participants' actual non-wear behaviour. Second, our
collection approach and our pre-processing pipeline have to be interpreted in light of
our study sample, which consisted of healthy, compliant, and engaged participants. In
large scale studies or clinical populations, continuously monitoring data and asking
participants to report non-wear time as performed in the current study is not possible,
and more extensive pre-processing pipelines might be required to ensure data quality
and accurate detection of non-wear. As a consequence, we can consider the results
of this study as the best possible outcome. Third, feasibility and accuracy of non-wear
collection, detection, and handling strategies depend on specific characteristics of the
light logger used in ambulatory studies. For example, for wrist-worn light loggers, skin
temperature and conductance can be used as inputs to automated non-wear
detection, and existing algorithms might be more useful than the approach taken here
(Van Der Donckt et al., 2024). On the other hand, for chest and eye-level light loggers,

different inputs are required for automated non-wear detection, and the strategies
outlined in the current paper might be useful to further develop suitable algorithms for
each light logger form factor. Lastly, the current study had a high temporal resolution
with a measurement frequency of 10 seconds. Smoothing or re-sampling of light data
might affect the performance of automated non-wear intervals detection, particularly
for those of short duration. While more research is required on how to best pre-process
light data and whether smoothing techniques affect non-wear detection, researchers
should provide detailed information on how they apply smoothing transformations prior
to non-wear detection on their datasets.

Conclusion

The emergence of wearable light loggers in recent years has advanced the study of
light exposure in free living conditions. However, there remains a need of
standardisation in pre-processing the large time series data produced by these
devices, including the detection of non-wear intervals. In this study, we systematically
collected non-wear data using multiple independent sources and continuously
monitored participant's self-reported non-wear behaviour. This approach provided a
highly accurate non-wear ground truth, enabling a robust assessment of data-driven
detection methods. Our findings demonstrate that, in a high compliance cohort, using
a black bag for non-wear collection combined with an algorithm to detect resulting
clusters of low illuminance is a promising strategy to manage non-wear time.
Additionally, individual-level analysis of algorithm performance for low activity and low
illuminance clusters suggests that combining activity and illuminance data could
further improve non-wear detection. We believe that the methods and insights
presented in the current study will inform the development of more advanced
automated non-wear detection, including machine learning approaches. To support
this effort, we are making our dataset available and hope to promote continued
discussion to establish best practices for data pre-processing in ambulatory light
exposure research.

Declarations

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Conflicts of interest

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

Ethics approval

This study was performed in line with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Approval was granted by the Ethics Committee of the Technical University of Munich (TUM Ethics Committee 2023-115-S-KK).

Consent to participate

Participants signed an informed consent prior to participation in this study.

Consent for publication

Participants consented to publication of the data from this study by signing an informed consent.

Availability of data and materials

Raw and processed anonymised data are available on GitHub under the CC-BY 4.0 license: https://github.com/tscnlab/GuidolinEtAl_xxx_2025.

Code availability

All analysis code is available on GitHub under MIT license: https://github.com/tscnlab/GuidolinEtAl_xxx_2025

Authors' contributions

Conceptualisation: CG, MS
Data curation: CG

Formal analysis: CG

Funding acquisition: MS

Methodology: CG, JZ, SLH

Project administration: CG

Software: CG, SLH

Resources: -

Supervision: MS

Validation: -

Visualisation: CG

Writing – original draft: CG

Writing – review & editing: CG, JZ, SLH, MS

Open practice statement

776 Data and analysis code are available on GitHub
777 at:https://github.com/tscnlab/GuidolinEtAl_xxx_2025. This study was not pre-
778 registered.

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Figures

Figure 1

Light glasses worn by participants throughout the study

Note. The light glasses comprised non-prescription glasses and the ActLumus light logger mounted

centrally on the bridge of the glasses frame. (1) Button (event marker) on the light logger.

Figure 2

Schematic diagram of the non-wear intervals collection strategy

Note. Three independent methods of non-wear intervals were collected, leading to three independent

source of non-wear information to base our analytic strategy on. This image was partially created using

BioRender.com.

Figure 3

Flowchart for continuous quality assurance of Wear log entries performed throughout the study

Note. Rectangles indicate processes, rhombuses are used for yes/no branching, and rectangles with

smoothed corners are used for descriptions.

Figure 4

Exemplary light exposure and wear status for a participant (n=1) across the study.

969
Note. The continuous black line shows mEDI as measured by the light glasses. Red points represent

button presses performed by participants in case of any (non-)wear behaviour. Shaded areas represent

self-reported wear status (Wear log).

Figure 5

Distribution of self-reported wear status throughout the week and the day

Note. (A) Percentage of time spent in each Wear log state relative to individual study duration, and

equivalent number of hours. Study duration slightly differed for each participant, as they all started the

study at different times on the first Monday. (B) Percentage of time spent not wearing the light glasses

(Wake 'off' state) relative to total weekday and weekend day time. (C) Frequency of non-wear episodes

(Y-axis) over timing of non-wear episodes (X-axis). Timing of non-wear episodes (X-axis) was

calculated as centre point of each Wake 'off' interval.

Figure 6

Classification of non-wear intervals based on presence of button press at the start and end of the interval

Note. Each Wear log Wake 'off' interval (n=198) was classified as open or closed based on the presence of a button press within a specified time window. Note that button presses at both the start and end of an interval were needed for an interval to qualify as closed.

Figure 7

Classification of non-wear time based on detection of clusters of low illuminance and low activity

Note. (A) Median values of log activity and illuminance throughout the week based on Wear log state.

Every data point indicates the weekly median value for a participant (n=26 points for each Wear log

state). Note that for this visualisation, a value of one was added to all mEDI and PIM raw values prior

to transformation to logarithmic scale. (B) Precision recall curve for detection of non-wear intervals

based on clusters low illuminance (red-orange colour scale) and low activity (blue-light blue colour

scale), as detected via our algorithm. A minimum cluster length of 10 minutes and a maximum

interruption length of 0 minutes were used as input parameters in our algorithm for illuminance. For

activity, a minimum cluster length of 9 minutes and a maximum interruption length of 0 minutes were

used. Each data point on the curve represents a maximum threshold (mEDI: 1 lux to 10 lux, at 1-step

increments; PIM: 5 to 50, at 5-step increments).

Figure 8

Individual precision-recall curves for detection of non-wear intervals based on clusters of low

illuminance and low activity, as calculated by the algorithm

1005

Note. A minimum cluster length of 10 minutes and a maximum interruption length of 0 minutes were

used as input parameters in our algorithm for illuminance (red-orange colour scale). For activity, a

minimum cluster length of 9 minutes and a maximum interruption length of 0 minutes were used (blue-

light blue colour scale). Each panel represents a participant, and each data point within a panel

represents a maximum threshold (mEDI: 1 lux to 10 lux, at 1-step increments; PIM: 5 to 50, at 5-step

increments). The percentage value displayed on the top left of each panel shows the frequency of bag

use relative to the participant's self-reported non-wear episodes.

Figure 9

Example of misclassification instances for a participant (n=1) across the study

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Note. Blue and green shaded areas represent correctly classified intervals (true negative and true

positive, respectively). Yellow and red areas represent misclassified intervals (false negative and false

positive, respectively). Grey shaded areas represent sleep episodes (excluded from the algorithm

classification). The colour of the line representing light levels (mEDI) mirrors the wear status according

to the ground truth (Wear log). The black symbols indicate examples of misclassified intervals as

labelled in Table 1. Arrow: example of "Misclassified: Transition state"; Open circle: example of

"Misclassified: Algorithm limitation or bag not actually used" instance; Asterisk: "Misclassified: Bag not

used" instance; Star: "Misclassified: Low illuminance during wear" instance.

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Figure 10

Comparison of 12 light exposure metrics (A-M) between the raw dataset and the clean (Wear log)

dataset and between the raw dataset and the clean (algorithm) dataset

Note. For each metric, the first scatter plot shows the relationship between a given metric in the raw

dataset and in the clean (Wear log) dataset (A1-M1), and a second scatterplot shows the relationship

between a given metric in the raw dataset and in the clean (algorithm) dataset (A2-M2). Each data point

in the scatterplot represents the value of the metric for a given participant (n=26). Distribution of the

delta values for the clean (Wear log) dataset and clean (algorithm) dataset relative of the raw dataset

are shown in A3-M3. Note that for timing metrics (C3-J3; $MLiT^{250}$, $MLiT^{1000}$, $FLiT^{10}$, $FLiT^{250}$, $FLIT^{1000}$,

$LLiT^{10}$, $LLiT^{250}$, $LLiT^{1000}$), the label HH:MM on the X-axis of the histogram of the deltas represents local

time, whereas for duration metrics (K3-M3; TAT^{250} and TAT^{1000}), the HH:MM represents a duration.

Tables

Table 1

Summary of correctly classified and misclassified (non-)wear instances by the algorithm detecting low

illuminance clusters

Algorithm performance		
Instance	N	N (%)
Misclassified: Algorithm limitation or bag not actually used	37	3.0962
Misclassified: Bag not used	59	4.9372
Misclassified: Low illuminance during wear	197	16.4854
Misclassified: Transition state	245	20.5021
Correctly classified	657	54.9791
Total	1195	100.0000

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1043 *Note.* Correctly classified instances represent true negative and true positive instances, and

1044 misclassified instances represent false positive and false negative instances. Potential reasons for

1045 misclassified instances were deducted from the duration of the misclassified instance, mean mEDI

1046 during this interval, and self-reported use of the black bag during this instance.