

Article

Unveiling Circumnutation in Pea Plants via Supervised Machine Learning

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Abstract: Climbing plants require an external support to grow vertically and enhance light acquisition. Climbers that find a suitable support have greater performance and fitness than those that remain prostrate. Support search is characterized by oscillatory movements (i.e., circumnutation), in which plants rotate around a central axis during their growth. Numerous studies have elucidated the mechanistic details of circumnutation, but how this phenomenon is controlled remains unclear. Here, we use supervised machine learning algorithms to generate models that learn to discriminate between the presence/absence of a support in the environment. Results indicate that there is a difference in the pattern of circumnutation, depending on the presence of a support, that can be learned and classified rather accurately. We also identify distinctive kinematic features that contribute to the classification tasks. Overall, machine learning approaches appear to be powerful tools for understanding the movement of plants.

Keywords: plant movement; circumnutation; machine learning; classification; kinematics

1. Introduction

When observing plants, they seem relatively immobile, stuck to the ground in rigid structures. But for careful watchers, as Darwin was in the 19th century, it is quite clear that plants do produce movements. Darwin was fascinated by the graceful movements of twining plants, revolving in large arcs, winding around a support, and forming a helical tube of tissue. He described this movement as “a continuous self-bowing of the whole shoot, successively directed to all points of the compass” [1] and later named this movement circumnutation [2].

Circumnutation is a common phenomenon in plants but is exaggerated in twining stems. By circumnutating, twiners increase the probability of encountering a support to grow vertically and enhance light acquisition. Vines that find a suitable support have greater performance and fitness than those that remain prostrate. Therefore, locating a suitable support is a key process in the life history of climbing plants. Numerous studies on climbing plant behavior have elucidated mechanistic details of support searching and attachment [e.g., 3]. This body of research relies chiefly on field observations reporting on morphological or physiological responses [4] as well as on laboratory studies focused on the characterization of kinematical patterning through the use of time-lapse photography [5,6]. Although this body of research provides some quantitative data, the process is admittedly subjective and rather preliminary. In other words, it does not offer a clear explanation of what happens in the pattern of circumnutation when climbers perceive a potential support and decide to orient their movement towards it.

Machine learning approaches might be an alternative to address this issue and for enabling accurate phenotyping. The application of machine learning to questions in plant biology is still in its infancy, yet the promise of these methods to a broad range of problems is clear. These technologies have recently achieved impressive performance on a variety

of predictive tasks, such as species identification [7,8], plant species distribution modeling [9,10], weed detection [11], and mercury damage to herbarium specimens [12]. They are also being applied to questions of comparative genomics [13], gene expression [14] and to conduct high-throughput phenotyping [15,16] for agricultural and ecological research. Machine learning methods, however, have never been used for modeling or predicting plants' movement. Predicting plant behavior through their movement is important for several reasons. Realistic predictions could aid in the formation of conservation strategies to combat the decline in biodiversity. For example, predicting movement might be important in the context of understanding the spread of infectious diseases through plant species. Many diseases are spread through different means of communication between individuals. Realistic predictions of the movement of infected individuals can suggest interventions that will optimally alleviate the further spread of diseases.

In this connection, here we use machine learning methods to classify plants movement behavior and to predict movement patterns that will enable us to build stochastic movement generators useful in scenarios where collecting actual movement data is laborious. Given that predicting plant movement is important when building simulators, we tested whether simulations-based machine learning methods can capture the movement patterns nested in actual kinematical data. We compared several machine learning classifiers to model plants' movement with the goal of generating models that, on the basis of a binary labeled dataset, learn to discriminate between the presence/absence of a support in the environment so as to formulate precise predictions based on an unlabeled dataset. We found that there is a difference in the pattern of circumnutation that can be learned and classified rather accurately depending on the presence or absence of the support. Furthermore, we identified the most distinctive kinematic features that contribute to the classification tasks and provide additional information for driving future 'circumnutation' studies. Overall, machine learning appears to be a valid tool for studying the movement of plants as well as the decisional processes underlying it.

2. Results

2.1. *Classifiers are able to perform accurate predictions depending on the presence/absence of the support.*

To test whether the pattern of circumnutation differed depending on the presence/absence of a support in the environment we exposed pea plants to a condition in which a support was not present in the environment ("no support" condition; Fig. 1a) and a condition in which a support was present in the environment ("support" condition; Fig. 1b). The plants that grew in the presence of the support oriented their movement towards it and prepared for grasping. The plants that grew in the absence of the support continued to circumnutate toward the light source and then fell down. From the 3D reconstruction of movement trajectories for the considered anatomical landmarks (i.e., the tendrils and the junction; Fig. 1c), we extracted a set of kinematic features that were used for machine learning classification (see details in *Material and Methods*; also see *Supplementary Materials* S1,2). Three classifiers, namely random forest (RF), logistic regression (LR), and support vector classifier (SVC), were used as a cross-model validation [17]. These approaches have been optimized and validated in a variety of fields [18,19]. The classifiers generated models based on a binary labeled training set, learned to discriminate between the presence/absence of the support and formulated precise predictions based on an unlabelled test set. The performance corresponds to the accuracy of classification (i.e., the rate of discriminating plants growing in the presence/absence of the support on the test set correctly). When considering the totality of the circumnutations performed by the plant (i.e., "overall movement classification") the classifiers were able to distinguish between the "support" and the "no support" conditions with a mean accuracy across all classifiers and all features of 66.80 % (SD 15.39; Table 1). When considering circumnutations singularly (i.e., "circumnutation classification"), the mean accuracy was

68.52% (SD 12.63; Table 2). These results demonstrate that the classifiers were capable of differentiating the pattern of circumnutation depending on the presence/absence of the support rather accurately above the chance level (> 50.00%).

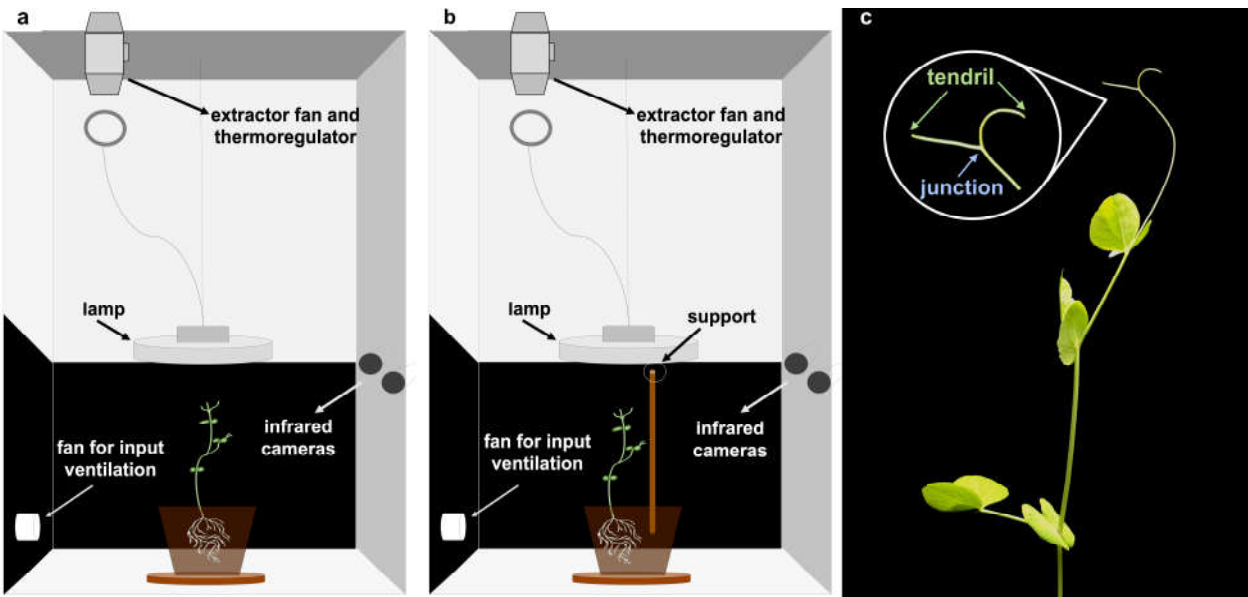


Figure 1. Experimental conditions and anatomical landmarks. Experimental setup, experimental conditions and anatomical landmarks considered. Each chamber is equipped with two infrared cameras on one side, a thermoregulator for controlling the temperature at 26 °C, two fans for input and output ventilation, and a lamp on top of the plant. (a) “no support” condition, n = 19. (b) “support” condition, n = 13. (c) The anatomical landmarks of interest were the “tendrils” and the “junction” developing from the considered leaf. The “tendrils” refers to the tip of the shoot, and the “junction” refers to the point where the tendrils tie together.

Table 1. Accuracy in “overall movement classification” task. This table shows the *mean* and *standard deviation* of the accuracy for each classifier.

	Accuracy %			
	Mean (Standard deviation)			
	Random forest	Logistic regression	SVC	Feature mean accuracy
Junction trajectory	71.00 (18.30)	80.50 (13.54)	71.50 (9.89)	74.30 (14.80)
Junction velocity	78.50 (12.24)	78.00 (9.04)	75.50 (12.23)	77.30 (11.19)
Junction acceleration	66.50 (11.81)	72.00 (12.12)	71.00 (11.81)	69.80 (11.99)
Tendrill trajectory	67.00 (16.49)	56.50 (14.93)	66.00 (11.13)	63.2 (14.95)
Tendrill velocity	75.50 (10.51)	68.00 (15.34)	72.50 (10.21)	72.00 (12.47)
Tendrill acceleration	51.00 (11.92)	57.00 (10.87)	63.50 (10.16)	57.20 (12.01)
Tendrils aperture	62.50 (15.73)	49.50 (12.23)	60.00 (6.25)	57.30 (13.17)
Movement duration	48.50 (17.43)	65.00 (16.54)	56.50 (10.90)	56.70 (16.48)
All features	76.50 (12.14)	71.00 (13.84)	72.00 (10.38)	73.20 (12.27)
Classifier’s mean accuracy	66.30 (17.36)	66.40 (16.37)	67.60 (11.94)	66.80 (15.39)

Note. A string of accuracy for each classifier and feature is obtained after repeating the classification task 25 times.

2.2. Specific contribution of the considered features across classifiers for the overall movement classification.

As shown in Table 1 (also see *Supplementary Materials* Fig. S1), the SVC performs with a slightly higher average accuracy (mean 67.60%, SD 11.94) compared to the RF (mean 66.30%, SD 17.36) and the LR (mean 66.40%, SD 16.37) classifiers. Regarding those features that contributed to the successful classification, the “junction velocity” (mean 77.30%, SD 11.19), the “junction trajectory” (mean 74.30%, SD 14.80), and “all features” (mean 73.20%,

SD 12.27) show generally better performance compared with the "tendrils aperture" (mean 57.30%, SD 13.17), the "tendrils acceleration" (mean 57.2%, SD 12.01), and "movement duration" (mean 56.70%, SD 16.48). With a mean accuracy of 80.50% (SD 13.54) obtained with the LR classifier, "junction trajectory" seems to be the best indicator for distinguishing between the "support" and "no support" conditions. Overall, this suggests that the plants exhibit differences in behavioral patterns depending on the presence/absence of the support.

Table 2. Accuracy in "circumnutation movement". This table shows the *mean* and *standard deviation* for accuracy for each classifier.

		Accuracy %			
		Mean (Standard deviation)			
		Random forest	Logistic regression	SVC	Feature mean accuracy
	Junction trajectory	71.84 (10.71)	74.87 (12.14)	71.54 (14.03)	72.75 (12.29)
	Junction velocity	65.09 (11.09)	71.01 (15.23)	70.42 (14.44)	68.84 (13.78)
	Junction acceleration	67.12 (9.50)	70.27 (10.44)	69.33 (12.22)	68.91 (10.72)
	Tendril trajectory	59.49 (9.10)	68.65 (14.56)	67.38 (12.01)	65.17 (12.61)
	Tendril velocity	67.35 (11.39)	70.84 (15.23)	70.37 (14.28)	69.52 (13.63)
	Tendril acceleration	62.87 (10.42)	65.62 (12.31)	66.20 (11.23)	64.90 (11.29)
	Tendrils aperture	64.82 (11.28)	65.60 (11.80)	64.67 (12.79)	65.03 (11.82)
	Circumnutation movement duration	63.24 (12.18)	72.98 (12.82)	69.92 (12.58)	68.71 (13.02)
	All features	73.74 (12.91)	73.37 (10.35)	72.14 (11.54)	73.08 (11.51)
	Classifier's mean accuracy	66.20 (11.60)	70.29 (12.98)	69.07 (12.96)	68.52 (12.63)

Note. A string of accuracy for each classifier and feature is obtained after repeating the classification task 25 times

2.3. Specific contribution of the considered features when considering single circumnutations.

On the basis of the features derived from a single circumnutation, the classifiers can reliably predict whether the plants are moving in the presence/absence of a potential support (Table 2; also see *Supplementary Materials* Fig. S2). In comparison to the RF (mean 66.20%, SD 11.60) and the SVC (mean 70.29%, SD 12.98), the LR has a slightly greater average accuracy (mean 69.07%, SD 12.96). As for the contribution of the different features, "all features" (mean 73.08%, SD 11.51), "junction trajectory" (mean 72.75%, SD 12.29), and "tendrils velocity" (mean 69.52%, SD 13.63) exhibit better performance compared with "tendrils trajectory" (mean 65.17%, SD 12.61), "tendrils aperture" (mean 65.03%, SD 11.82), and "tendril acceleration" (mean 64.90%, SD 11.29). With a mean accuracy of 74.87% (SD 12.14) obtained with the LR classifier, "junction trajectory" seems to be the best indicator for distinguishing between the "support" and the "no support" conditions. This is in accordance with the findings for the "overall movement classification." Again, this demonstrates that the classifiers are able to extract from the kinematics of circumnutation whether the plant is moving in the presence/absence of a potential support.

2.4. The accuracy of the classification depends on organs and features.

When looking more deeply into the contribution played by the considered features for classification, we found that kinematic features for the tendrils appear to be less relevant with respect to junction-related features for both classification tasks (Tables 1 and 2). When considering movement duration, this feature appears to be less informative when the overall movement classification is considered. However, this very same feature appears to be a reliable indicator when single circumnutations are considered (68.71%, SD 13.02).

2.5. A full kinematic profile favors classification.

When we combined all the extracted features, we achieved a high level of accuracy across all classifiers (overall movement classification: mean 73.20%, SD 12.27; Table 1; circumnutation classification: mean 73.08%, SD 11.51; Table 2). After the models had been fitted, the importance of kinematic features was determined by applying permutation importance (Fig. 2a and b). Different feature importance is detected among classifiers when considering overall movement and single circumnutations separately. For instance, when the overall movement is considered, “junction velocity”, “junction trajectory”, and “junction acceleration” appear to be the most crucial classification features, whereas “tendrill movement acceleration,” “tendrill aperture,” “tendrill trajectory,” and “movement duration” appear to be less essential. The negative value (< 0.00) for the less important features mentioned above, indicates that predictions based on shuffled data typically turn out to be more accurate than real data. “Junction trajectory” and “junction acceleration” appear to be more important than “tendrill acceleration” and “tendrill aperture” for classification when single circumnutations are considered. Movement duration is an important feature for distinguishing between the presence/absence of the support when it is referred to single circumnutation but not when “overall movement duration” is considered.

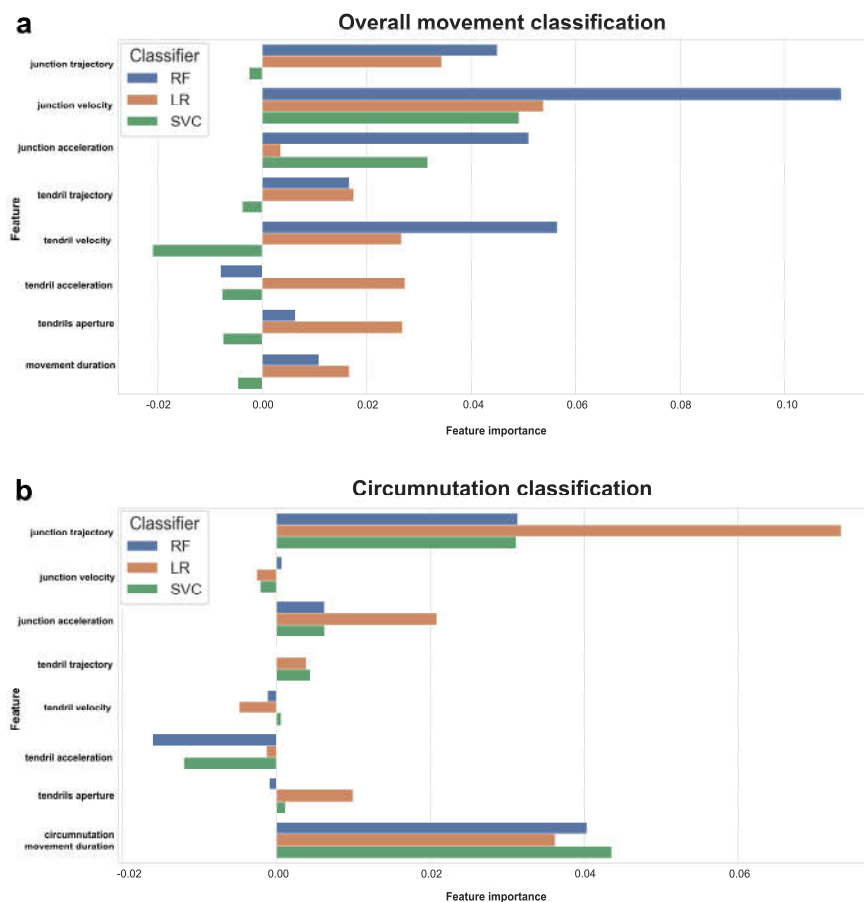


Figure 2. Feature importance in “all features”. Kinematic feature importance of three classifiers random forest (RF, blue), logistic regression (LR, orange), support vector classifier (SVC, green). (a) Feature importance in “overall movement classification” task; (b) Feature importance in “circumnutation classification” task.

3. Discussion

In this study, we propose a general framework to classify pea plants’ circumnutation movement. We applied this framework using various machine learning models ‘fed’ with kinematic data. Our findings show that machine learning techniques have the ability to

unveil how kinematic patterning is modulated in key organs when pea plants ‘hunt’ for a support.

Nutation kinematics of different organs has served to lay a foundation of several mechanisms postulated as responsible for the movement in question with tendrils being amongst the most investigated [3,20-22]. Tendrils serve climbing plants by providing a parasitic alternative to building independently stable structural supports, allowing the plant to wend its way to sunlight and numerous ecological niches [23]. In this connection, previous evidence provides a degree of support that some climbing plants can modify their *circumnutation* patterns to a greater or lesser extent depending on the presence/absence of a potential support in the environment [24,25]. Experimental evidence demonstrating that this is the case has been forthcoming from recent studies that used kinematic analysis to characterize the movements of the tendrils of pea plants [6,26-28]. Guerra and colleagues [29], for example, demonstrated that pea plants (*Pisum sativum* L.) are able to perceive a stimulus and modulate the kinematics of the tendrils according to the features of a potential support. Therefore, it seems that the tendrils of climbing plants reaching to grasp a stimulus plays a pivotal role as far as support detection is concerned.

The findings of the present study, however, seem to suggest that rather than being the tendrils, it is the junction underneath them a superior indicator for discerning the presence/absence of the support. The fact that the kinematics for the junction is a stronger predictor than the kinematics of the tendrils for the presence of the support points to this organ as a navigator guiding the tendrils towards the support. Indeed, if we look carefully at how circumnutation unfolds once the support has been somewhat detected, it is evident that the junction of the tendrils modifies its velocity and timing to launch the tendrils toward the support. And, once informed that the ‘take-off’ is approaching the tendrils open and assume a choreography as to accommodate the thickness and the shape of the support [29]. All this corroborates the idea that plant movements are adaptive, flexible, anticipatory, and goal-directed. Put simply, they are somewhat organized and structured, with different organs ‘cross-talking’ to accomplish a crucial endeavor for the plant's survival. Our study using machine learning techniques illuminates and quantifies this proposal.

Another novel observation that stems from our study is the classifiers being able to extract a tremendous amount of information from a single circumnutation, which represents the smallest unit of the entire movement. The very fact that the classifiers can make accurate predictions from the emergence of the very first circumnutation reveals that the plants, at the time they initiated to circumnutate, were already well-aware of the surroundings.

At this stage, a central question that could be asked is whether climbers actually make ‘decisions’ when it comes to support searching and selection. In this respect, our study supports the notion that climbers do not find support/hosts merely by chance. Apart from the evidence of oriented growth towards experimental stakes as discussed above, the methodology used here might be useful to understand climbing plants’ preferences. This was first described by Darwin for tendrils in *B. capreolata* initially seizing but then loosing sticks that were inappropriate [1]. A similar phenomenon is observed when herbaceous twining vines get in contact with a very thick trunk and wind up on themselves instead of attempting to twine around it. In the case of annual vines, Darwin remarked that, even without support diameter constraints, it would be maladaptive to twine around thick—and hence large—trees, as these vines would hardly reach high-light layers by the end of the growing season [1].

Further machine learning research should aim at characterizing how circumnutation changes as far as support characteristics are concerned. Predictions and modeling of cost-benefit analysis of climbing plant behavior should be helpful to infer the selective pressures that have operated to shape current climber ecological communities. In addition to plant movement, as a direct reflection of plants’ internal state, other physiological markers could be added to obtain a more complete, reliable, and consistent picture of how the environment shapes climbers’ behavior. Such technologies will enable the investigation of unknown aspects of the helical growth performed by the tendrils and their junction on

an evolutionary scale, shedding some light on the mechanisms involved in the acquisition and evolution of the climbing habit in terrestrial plants.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Subjects and materials

32 snow peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *Saccharum* cv Carouby de Maussane) were chosen as study plants. For each pot, six seedlings were potted at 8 cm from the pot's border and sowed at a depth of 2.5 cm. Once germinated, one healthy-looking sprout was selected and randomly assigned to the experimental conditions: 19 plants were grown individually in chambers without the presence of a support ("no support" condition; Fig.1a), while 13 plants were grown individually in chambers where a potential support was present ("support" condition; Fig.1b). Sprouts were placed 8 cm from the pot's border and sowed at a depth of 2.5 cm. The support was a wooden pole 54 cm high and 1.3 cm thick positioned 12 cm away from the plant's first unifoliate leaf. The support was inserted 7 cm below the soil surface.

4.2. Growth setup

The experimental setup was generated for each plant individually. Each plant was positioned in a thermo-light-controlled growth chamber (Cultibox SG combi 80×80×160 cm; Fig. 1). The temperature was set at 26 °C by means of an extractor fan equipped with a thermo-regulator (TT125 vents; 125 mm-diameter; max 280 mc/h) and an input-ventilation fan (Blauberg Tubo 100 - 102 m³/h). The two-fan combination allowed for a steady air flow rate into the growth chamber with a mean air residence time of 60 seconds. The fan was carefully placed so that air circulation did not affect the plants' movements.

Cylindrical pots (diameter 30 cm, depth 20 cm) were filled with river sand (type 16SS, dimension 0.8/1.2 mm, weight 1.4) and positioned at the center of the growth chamber. A cool white led lamp (V-TAC innovative LED lighting, VT-911-100W, Des Moines, IA, USA) was positioned 50 cm above each seedling, and each plant was grown under an 11:25 h light regime (5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Photosynthetic Photon Flux Density at 50 cm under the lamp in correspondence of the seedling was 350 $\mu\text{mol}_{\text{ph}}/(\text{m}^2\text{s})$ (quantum sensor LI-190R, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA). At the beginning of each experiment, the plants were watered three times a week and fertilized using a half-strength nutrient solution (Murashige and Skoog Basal Salt Micronutrient Solution; [see components & organics](#)).

4.3. Data acquisition and data processing

For each growth chamber, a pair of RGB-infrared cameras (IP 2.1 Mpx outdoor varifocal IR 1080P) were placed 110 cm above the ground, spaced at 45 cm to record stereo images of the plant (see *Supplementary Materials S1*). The two cameras synchronously acquired a frame every 180 seconds (frequency 0.0056 Hz). The anatomical landmarks of interest were the "tendrils" and the "junction" (i.e., the point where the tendrils tie together; Fig. 1c), developing from the considered leaf. We considered the initial frame as the one corresponding to the appearance of the tendrils and the junction of the considered leaf. The final frame was defined as either the frame in which the tendrils start to coil the support for the "support" condition, or the frame just before the plant fell on the ground for the "no support" condition. An ad hoc software (Ab.Acus s.r.l., Milan, Italy) developed in Matlab was used to position post-hoc virtual markers on the tendrils and the junction to track their position frame-by-frame on the images acquired by the two cameras to reconstruct the 3D trajectory for each marker (see *Supplementary Materials S2*). The 3D coordinates were extracted for all plants for each point of interest, namely the junction and the tendrils (Fig. 1c). The 3D coordinates were obtained up to 15 digits after the decimal. The frames corresponding to the time at which the plants grasped the support or touched the ground in the absence of the support were removed from the data set. This was done to prevent classifiers from using these final frames to distinguish between the two conditions. Therefore, the classifiers were only fed with helical organ movements (i.e.,

circumnutation). Moreover, since each plant has its own starting position, we used the coordinates for the first frame as the origin (0,0,0) for all plants in order to prevent a location bias that could affect learning by the classification models (Fig. 3a-c).

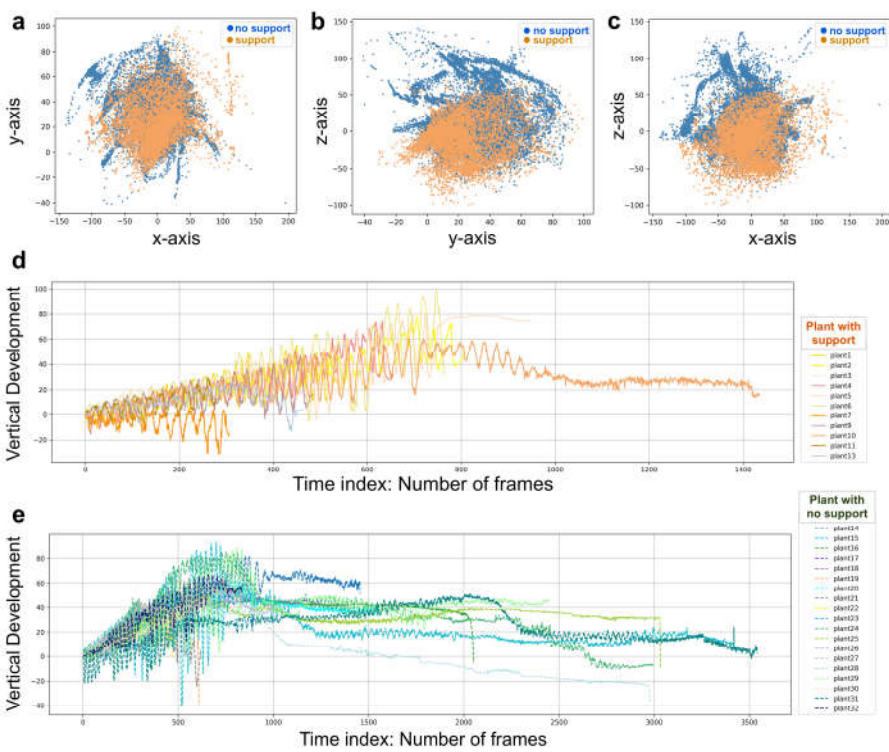


Figure 3. Data acquisition. Coordinates of junction trajectory and plant vertical development in time. (a) Junction trajectory for all plants in the x-y dimension for the two experimental conditions. (b) Junction trajectory for all plants in the y-z dimension. (c) Junction trajectory for all plants in the x-z dimension. (d) Junction vertical development in time for the “support” condition. (e) Junction vertical development in time for the “no support” conditions. Note that for the “no support” conditions, the length of the time index which is indicated as the number of frames has a longer range than the “support” conditions.

4.4. Derived features

At first, kinematic variables (hereafter, ‘features’) were analyzed in order to ascertain whether they differed for the “support” and the “no support” conditions. This aspect is fundamental in order to verify the ability of machine learning tools to discriminate across the conditions. To do this, we used the Wilcoxon rank-sum test in R studio, and the size of the effect calculated as $r = z/\sqrt{N}$ which z is the z-score and N is the total number of observations was also considered. In line with previous studies [29,30], we found statistically significant differences between the “support” and the “no support” conditions (Table 3). On the basis of this, the features considered for model classifications were: (a) junction trajectory; (b) tendril trajectory; (c) junction velocity; (d) tendril velocity; (e) junction acceleration; (f) tendril acceleration; (g) tendrils aperture; (h) overall movement duration; (i) movement duration for each circumnutation; (j) all features (i.e., full kinematics). Please refer to *Supplementary Materials S3* for details regarding feature extraction.

Table 3. Kinematic data for the “support” and the “no support” conditions. Statistical values obtained when comparing the two conditions are also reported.

	Median		W	p	r
	No support	support			
Junction velocity (mm/min)	1.7488	3.5035	166	0.007	0.299

Junction acceleration (mm/min)	0.0006	-0.0001	51	0.021	0.257
Tendril velocity (mm/min)	2.5289	4.4670	1242	0.000	0.510
Tendril acceleration(mm/min)	0.0008	-0.0001	361	0.000	0.439
Tendrils aperture (mm)	25.2039	14.7132	245	0.000	0.394
Overall movement duration (min)	3744	1683	59	0.013	0.545
Circumnutation movement duration (min)	201.0857	217.0000	143	0.103	0.181

Note. mm = millimeters; mm/min = millimeters by minutes

4.5. Data pre-processing

We adopt z-score as a data normalization method (standard scaling), by using the formula $Z = (x-\mu)/\sigma$, where μ stands for the mean value of the feature and σ for the standard deviation of the features. A value equal to the mean of all the features is normalized to 0 and the standard deviation to 1. To avoid biases toward features of the dataset and, at the same time to prevent the classifiers from learning information from the test dataset, we utilized the transform method to keep the same features from the training data to transform the test data.

To split the training and test sets, each derived feature was labeled with two different conditions, “support” and “no support,” as a binary labeled dataset. The Stratified Shuffle Split cross-validator was applied to the dataset, which is a merge of StratifiedKFold and SuffleSplit to return stratified randomized folds [17]. Set as a number of re-shuffling and splitting iterations equals 25, test size as 0.25, default random state.

4.6. Models' classifications tasks

The modeling process was carried out with Python. We performed modelling of pea plants' behavior based on supervised classification frameworks. The purpose of a Machine Learning classifier is to produce models that, on the basis of a binary-labelled training set, learn to discriminate between different growth circumstances and to provide exact predictions on the basis of an unlabelled test set. Random decision forests (RF), logistic regression (LR), and support vector classifier (SVC) are the classifiers that were applied and compared through cross-validation (see *Supplementary Materials S4*) [17]. These approaches are optimized and validated in a wide variety of fields [18,19]. The percentage of test data that were successfully classified for the two conditions is counted under the accuracy of classification. The classification task employed each of the generated kinematic features separately, and the classification accuracy for each feature was evaluated. We also assessed the accuracy of "all features," where permutation importance was computed following the fitting of the classifiers [31]; we analysed feature importance for all the derived features. The "overall movement classification" and the "circumnutation classification" are the two broad categories that constitute the model classification task. Each classification task consists of 25 trials, which include 25 iterations of the training and test. The absolute movement duration was typically longer for the plants growing in the presence of a support (number of frames: 699.62, SD 379.28; Fig. 3d) than for the plants growing in the absence of a support. For the "overall movement classification" task, we considered the features extracted from the whole movement for each individual plant (number of frames: 1617.11, SD 1112.82; Fig 3e). For the "circumnutation classification task," we partitioned the data into circumnutations, smoothing the data set by generating an approximation function that captured the key patterns, namely the waves of the movement in coordinates (i.e., circumnutation). Then, by cutting between peaks, we split between the waves. The features that were extracted from each circumnutation helped compensating the dataset for this task. For classifying at which condition, a single circumnutation corresponds to, the classifiers were fitted to the dataset.

Supplementary Materials: Figure S1: Specific contribution of the considered features across classifiers for the overall movement classification; Figure S2: Specific contribution of the considered features when considering single circumnutation.

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

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