Robust Signal Processing With Biomedical Applications



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT

Michael Muma

SIGNAL PROCESSING GROUP

Electrical Engineering and Information Technology TU Darmstadt mmuma@spg.tu-darmstadt.de

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SPG Lab for Body Worn Sensing of Physiological Parameters

Wearable Devices



Wearable Devices for Monitoring of Vital Signs:

- emerging technology enabling continuous monitoring of human vital signs
- great potential both for self-health tracking and for clinical applications
- combining multiple sensors yields "body area sensor networks"
- real-time physiological information via dynamic, noninvasive measurements

Available Hardware



Bitalino (r)evolution Plugged Kit BT

- electrodermal activity (EDA)
- electroencephalography (EEG)
- electrocardiography (ECG)
- electromyography (EMG)
- photoplethysmography (PPG)
- acceleration (ACC)
- blood pressure (BP)



Bitalino (r)evolution Plugged Kit BT-Set.

Available Hardware



AD Intstruments Teaching Suite, Mobil-O-Graph

- respiration (RSP)
- electrocardiography (ECG)
- photoplethysmography (PPG)
- blood pressure (BP)
- pulse-wave velocity (PWV)
- vascular age index (VAI)



AD Intstruments Teaching Suite, Mobil-O-Graph.



Possible Topics

Robust and Biomedical Signal Processing Seminar (WS20/21)



Possible topics using newly collected and available data from SPG Biolab

- Robust ECG Signal Estimation in Presence of Artifacts
- Robust HR Estimation for ECG Signals
- Robust HR Estimation for PPG Signals
- Robust HRV Estimation for PPG Signals
- Robust Cuffless Blood Pressure Monitoring
- ... your own project that uses our available hardware



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Overview



Basics of ECG

- R-Peak detection algorithm
- Applications of robust location and scale estimation in ECG
- Artifact cancellation algorithm

Later in the course

- Robust spectral analysis
- Robust location-based filtering

Basics



Cardiac cycle:



- Systole (pumping)
- Diastole (filling)





Diastole (filling)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardiac_cycle

Basics



Electrocardiograph:

- graph of voltage versus time of the electrical activity of the heart using electrodes placed on the skin.
- electrodes measure the small electrical changes that are a consequence of cardiac muscle depolarization followed by repolarization during each cardiac cycle

Einthoven's triangle:



three bipolar limb leads

- Lead I: negative electrode on right arm, positive on left arm
- Lead II: negative electrode on right arm, positive on left leg
- Lead III: negative electrode on left arm, positive on left leg

Basics



Electrocardiograph:

- graph of voltage versus time of the electrical activity of the heart using electrodes placed on the skin.
- electrodes measure the small electrical changes that are a consequence of cardiac muscle depolarization followed by repolarization during each cardiac cycle

12-Lead ECG:

- clinical gold standard
- 6 precordial electrodes and 4 electrodes on limbs are used to get 12 leads
- combines the lead systems from Einthoven, Goldberger and Wilson
- provides information about vertical and horizontal axes



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrocardiography

Basics



Three main components:

- 1. P wave: represents the depolarization of the atria
- 2. QRS complex: represents the depolarization of the ventricles
- 3. T wave: represents the repolarization of the ventricles



Basics

Three main components:

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Basics



Three main components:

- 1. P wave: represents the depolarization of the atria
- 2. QRS complex: represents the depolarization of the ventricles
- 3. T wave: represents the repolarization of the ventricles



Heart Rate Variability (HRV)



Heart rate variability (HRV):

variation in the time interval between heartbeats



- nonstationary signal
- variation may contain indicators of current disease, or warnings about impending cardiac diseases
- popular noninvasive tool for assessing the activities of the autonomic nervous system
- requires estimating beat-to-beat interval from ECG

Popular R Peak Detection Algorithm



Pan and Tompkins Algorithm:

- Most commonly used method for R peak detection
- General steps:
 - 1. Bandpass filtering
 - 2. Differentiation
 - 3. Squaring
 - 4. Theshold computation & peak finding



Real-data example of ECG signal.

Pan, J., & Tompkins, W. J. (1985). A real-time QRS detection algorithm. IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng, 32(3), 230-236.

https://de.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/45840-complete-pan-tompkins-implementation-ecg-qrs-detector

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Result after bandpass filtering.

Pan, J., & Tompkins, W. J. (1985). A real-time QRS detection algorithm. IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng, 32(3), 230-236.

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Result after derivation.

Pan, J., & Tompkins, W. J. (1985). A real-time QRS detection algorithm. IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng, 32(3), 230-236.

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Popular R Peak Detection Algorithm



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Result after squaring.

Pan, J., & Tompkins, W. J. (1985). A real-time QRS detection algorithm. IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng, 32(3), 230-236.

https://de.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/45840-complete-pan-tompkins-implementation-ecg-qrs-detector

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Popular R Peak Detection Algorithm



Pan and Tompkins Algorithm:

- Most commonly used method for R peak detection
- General steps:
 - 1. Bandpass filtering
 - 2. Differentiation
 - 3. Squaring
 - 4. Theshold computation & peak finding



Detected R peaks.

Pan, J., & Tompkins, W. J. (1985). A real-time QRS detection algorithm. IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng, 32(3), 230-236.

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Robust Location Estimation for RMSSD



RMSSD: A popular metric of HRV is defined as



> The square root of the mean of the sum of the squares of differences between adjacent RR intervals

$$RMSSD = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (RR_{i+1} - RR_i)^2}$$
(1)

Robust Location Estimation for RMSSD



• Note that for a vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{N-1})^\top$:

$$\mathsf{mean}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (x_i)$$

with $x_i = (RR_{i+1} - RR_i)^2$, Eq. (1) becomes $RMSSD = \sqrt{\text{mean}(\mathbf{x})}$.

Application of robust estimators:

- Median: $RMSSD = \sqrt{\text{median}(\mathbf{x})}$
- Huber's M: RMSSD = $\sqrt{\hat{\mu}_{H,c}(\mathbf{x})}$
- Tukey's *M*: *RMSSD* = $\sqrt{\hat{\mu}_{T,c}(\mathbf{x})}$



	mean	median	Huber's M , $c_{.95}$	Tukey's <i>M</i> , c _{.95}
RMSSD (s)	1.0212	1.0156	1.0192	1.0192

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Robust Location Estimation for RMSSD





Artifact Cancellation



Multi-Resolution Thresholding Algorithm:

- An existing method for artifact cancellation.
- General steps:
 - 1. Stationary wavelet transform (SWT) of ECG
 - 2. Thresholding in each coefficient series
 - Artifact estimation via inverse stationary wavelet transform (ISWT)



Real-data example of ECG signal.

Strasser, F., Muma, M., & Zoubir, A. M. (2012). Motion artifact removal in ECG signals using multi-resolution thresholding. In Proceedings of the 20th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) (pp. 899-903)

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SWT of ECG signal.

Strasser, F., Murna, M., & Zoubir, A. M. (2012). Motion artifact removal in ECG signals using multi-resolution thresholding. In Proceedings of the 20th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) (pp. 899-903)

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Threshold on fifth SWT coefficient.

Strasser, F., Muma, M., & Zoubir, A. M. (2012). Motion artifact removal in ECG signals using multi-resolution thresholding. In Proceedings of the 20th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) (pp. 899-903)

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ISWT of ECG and artifact signal.

Strasser, F., Muma, M., & Zoubir, A. M. (2012). Motion artifact removal in ECG signals using multi-resolution thresholding. In Proceedings of the 20th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) (pp. 899-903)

 ${\tt https://www.spg.tu-darmstadt.de/media/spg/dwonloads/multi-resolution-thresholding.zip} \label{eq:https://www.spg.tu-darmstadt.de/media/spg/dwonloads/multi-resolution-thresholding.zip$

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 - 1. Stationary wavelet transform (SWT) of ECG
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 - Artifact estimation via inverse stationary wavelet transform (ISWT)



Cleaned ECG signal.

Strasser, F., Muma, M., & Zoubir, A. M. (2012). Motion artifact removal in ECG signals using multi-resolution thresholding. In Proceedings of the 20th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) (pp. 899-903)

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Robust Location Estimation for RMSSD





RMSSD using different estimators for the mean.

	mean	median	Huber's M , $c = c_{.95}$	Tukey's M , $c = c_{.95}$
RMSSD (s)	0.8316	0.8359	0.8345	0.8363

Robust Scale Estimation for SDRR



SDRR: A second popular metric of HRV is defined as



The standard deviation of the differences between adjacent RR intervals (SDRR).

Robust Scale Estimation for SDRR



SDRR using sample standard deviation for vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{N-1})^\top$:

$$\hat{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1}\sum_{i=1}^{N-1}(x_i-\hat{\mu})^2}.$$

with $x_i = (RR_{i+1} - RR_i)^2$.

Application of robust scale estimators:

- Median absolute deviation: SDRR = madn(x), see Eq. (11) of Slides 03.
- Laplace MLE: $SDRR = \hat{\sigma}_{MLE,Laplace}(\mathbf{x})$, see Eq. (3) of Slides 04.
- Huber's *M*: *SDRR* = $\hat{\sigma}_{H,c}(\mathbf{x})$
- Tukey's M: SDRR = $\hat{\sigma}_{T,c}(\mathbf{x})$

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Robust Scale Estimation for SDRR

.





	std	madn	Laplace MLE	Huber's <i>M</i> , c _{.95}	Tukey's <i>M</i> , c _{.95}
SDRR (s)	0.1178	0.1332	0.1126	0.1121	0.1108

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Robust Scale Estimation for SDRR





Electrocardiogram (ECG) Robust Scale Estimation for SDRR





Excerpt of ECG after artifact cancellation.

SDRR using different estimators for the scale.

	std	madn	Laplace MLE	Huber's M , $c_{.95}$	Tukey's <i>M</i> , c _{.95}
SDRR (s)	0.1120	0.0463	0.0392	0.0635	0.0408

Outlook



Coming sections:

- will extend the basic concepts to enable robust regression, filtering, clustering, classification, time-series and spectral estimation,
- important tools, in biomedical engineering, for example, intracranial pressure monitoring, body-worn sensing, eye research