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CLASSIFICATION OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG) WAVEFORM USING A NOVEL TECHNIQUE

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Abstract: Electrocardiogram (ECG) is the P-QRS-T wave, representing the cardiac function. The information concealed in the ECG signal is useful in detecting the disease afflicting the heart. It is very difficult to identify the subtle changes in the ECG in time and frequency domains. The Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) can provide good time and frequency resolutions and is able to decipher the hidden complexities in the ECG. In this work, three types of beat classes of arrhythmia as recommended by Association for Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) were classified. The dimensionality reduction algorithm; Independent Component Analysis (ICA) was applied on DWT sub bands for dimensionality reduction. These dimensionality reduced features were fed to the neural network (NN); Multilayer Perceptron (MLP), Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifiers for automated diagnosis.

Keywords: ECG, DWT, ICA, PCA, PNN, Neurosolutions



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INTRODUCTION

The electrocardiogram (ECG) is the recording of the electrical property of the heartbeats, which provides a physician with a view of the heart's activity through electrical signals generated during the cardiac cycle, and measured with external electrodes. Its clinical importance in cardiology is well established, being used for example to determine heart rate, investigate abnormal heart rhythms, and causes of chest pain. Due to the high mortality rate of heart diseases, early detection and precise discrimination of ECG arrhythmia is essential for the treatment of patients.

An arrhythmia is any abnormal cardiac rhythm [18]. Heart arrhythmias result from any disturbance in the rate, regularity, and site of origin or conduction of the cardiac electric impulse [19]. Classification of arrhythmia is an important step in developing devices for monitoring the health of individuals. The sequence of electrical signals of heart provides symptomatic information for classifying cardiac arrhythmias. Classification of normal and abnormal beats requires analysis of the ECG data.

A good performance of an automatic ECG analyzing system depends heavily upon the accurate and reliable detection of the QRS complex. QRS detection is difficult, not only because of the physiological variability of the QRS complexes, but also because of the various types of noise that can be present in the ECG signal. Noise sources include muscle noise, artifacts due to electrode motion, power-line interference, baseline wander and T waves with high-frequency characteristics similar to QRS complexes. In this work, digital filters and wavelet transforms are used reduce the influence of these noise sources, and thereby improve the signal-to-noise ratio, followed by QRS detection using Pan-Tomkins algorithm.

In this work the wavelet transformation based on a set of analyzing wavelets allowing the decomposition of ECG signal in a set of coefficients that is used for classification. Each analyzing wavelet has its own time duration, time location and frequency band. The wavelet coefficient resulting from the wavelet transformation corresponds to a measurement of the ECG components in this time segment and frequency band. Electrocardiography has a basic role in cardiology since it consists of effective, simple, noninvasive, low-cost procedures for the diagnosis of cardiovascular disorders that have a high epidemiological incidence and are very relevant for their impact on patient life and social costs.

Independent component analysis (ICA) is a statistics method whose aim is to find from multivariate (multidimensional) data the underlying components that are statistically independent to one another [10].

In this work, the integration of independent component analysis and neural network classifiers to discriminate three types of ECG beats was evaluated. Four different neural networks, including a MPL with back-propagation neural network, PCA, PNN and SVM are employed for classification of ECG beats. The capabilities of the neural networks in coordinate with the ICA features were evaluated.

This work gives the fast and accurate solution to analyze and classify the different ECG beats by using FastICA Algorithm & SVM neural network. It is possible to detect the overall percentage accuracy of 93.36% beats detection in ECG by simply taking the ECG data and processing it to get the analytical results so that accurate diagnosis of patient can be done.

2. SYSTEM LAYOUT

The ECG signal downloaded from MIT-BIH database was subjected to wavelet based denoising using Daubechies D6 ('db6') wavelet basis function [23]. The ECG signals sampled at 360 Hz were decomposed up to 9 levels using db6 wavelet. The 9th level approximation sub band contains the frequency range of 0–0.351 Hz which is mainly the because of baseline wander, was not used for reconstructing the denoised signal [10]. Also the ECG would not contain much information after 45 Hz. Therefore the first and second level detail coefficients consisting frequency band of 90–180 Hz and 45–90 Hz respectively were not used for reconstructing the denoised ECG signal. The required sub bands, the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th level detail signals were only used (all other sub-band coefficients were replaced with zeros) for computing the reconstructing the original after denoising [23].

The QRS complex in the ECG is detected by using Pan Tompkins algorithm. The Pan Tompkins algorithm consists of taking derivatives, absolute/rectification operation, squaring, moving average integration and threshold operations [11]. After detection of QRS complex, 99 samples before the QRS peak and 100 samples after the peak and the QRS peak itself are considered as 200 samples segment as a single beat for the subsequent analysis [10].

Each beat consisting of 200 samples was decomposed into four fourth level approximation sub band consist of frequency range of 0–11.25 Hz, whereas the fourth level detail consist of frequency range of 11.25–22.5 Hz. The power spectral density of different beats from each of the classes has discriminatory information in these two sub bands (4th level approximation and detail). These two sub bands were subjected to dimensionality reduction using Fast ICA technique. The obtained signal is then classify by using four different neural network techniques that is MPL with back-propagation neural network, PCA, PNN and SVM. Figure 2.1 shows the system layout.



Figure.2.1. System layout.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 QRS DETECTION: Pan-Tompkins Algorithm

This algorithm is used for QRS detection in real-time. Referring to general structure linear filtering is achieved by the bandpass filter & derivative operator whereas nonlinear transformation achieved by the squaring operator & moving-window (mov-win) integrator.

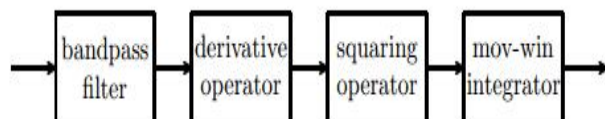


Figure :- 3.1 Block diagram of Pan-Tompkins algorithm.

The algorithm for QRS detection in real time has been developed by Pan and Tompkins it has further been analyzed and described by Hamilton and Tompkins. The algorithm recognizes QRS complexes by analyzing slope and amplitude of ECG signals taking into account the width of appearing ECG waves.

Pan-Tompkins algorithm is intended for discrete-time ECG signals that have been obtained by sampling the true, continuous-time ECG signal at a rate of 200 samples/sec. This is true because the algorithm uses "integer" filters that realize pole and zero locations that are useful for the intended sampling rate, but become unreasonable for different sampling rates [11].

3.2 DIMENSIONALITY REDUCTION :-

Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

The step by step method of ICA is as follows.

Step P: Pre-processing

(a) Centering: Here the mean of the data was subtracted so that the average value of the signal would be zero as,

$$\tilde{x} = x - E\{x\} = x - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$$

Where $E\{\cdot\}$ is the statistical expectation operator and N is the total number of patterns present in the data.

(b) Whitening: If the data is not Gaussian distributed, it is made Gaussian by the whitening transformation,

$$\tilde{x} = VD^{-1/2}V^T x$$

Where

$$E\{xx^T\} = VDV^T$$

The left hand side of above equation, is the covariance matrix of the data, x, V is the matrix of Eigenvectors and $D = \text{diag}\{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$ is the diagonal matrix of eigenvalues. The right hand side of above equation is the eigenvalue decomposition of covariance matrix.

Step 1: Choose an initial weight vector w .

Step 2: Let

$$W^+ = E\{xg(W^T x)\} - E\{g'(W^T x)\} \cdot W$$

Where

$$g(u) = \frac{1}{a_1} \log \cosh(a_1 u)$$

and $g'(u)$ is the derivative of g .

Step 3: Normalize W^+ as,

$$W = \frac{W^+}{\|W^+\|}$$

Step 4: If W is not converged (W is said to be converged if its value does not change over next iteration), go to step 2.

After W is found from the above method, its inverse is computed to get matrix A . The weights in matrix A were used as features for subsequent pattern recognition. ICA method was applied independently on two DWT sub bands, 4th level approximation and detail. From each of the sub bands fifteen ICA components were used. So in total thirty features from the two sub bands were used for subsequent pattern recognition.

3.3 FEATURE CLASSIFICATION

In this work NEUROSOLUTIONS for Excel was used for classifying the data by neural networks. Following are the some neural networks that are used in the work.

Multilayer Perceptron (MLP).

Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN).

Support Vector Machine (SVM).

NeuroSolutions for Excel

NeuroSolutions for Excel is an excel add-in that includes a limited version of NeuroSolutions which supports traditional linear regression techniques as well as probabilistic and multi-layer perceptron neural networks. It can also be integrated with any of the three levels of NeuroSolutions to provide a very powerful environment for manipulating your data, generating reports, and running batches of experiments.

In this work the classification of ECG signal for normal beat (NORM) , left bundle branch block (LBBB), right bundle branch block (RBBB) have been done by using four different classifiers such as MPL, PAC, PNN, SVM through NeuroSolutions for Excel.60% samples were used for training, 15% were used for cross validation and 25% for testing. The correct classification or misclassification was assessed as True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN), False Positive (FP) and False Negative (FN). Based on these measures the sensitivity, specificity, precision and accuracy of a particular classifier were determined. Table 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3 shows confusion matrix obtain from NeuroSolutions for Excel during training, cross validation and testing by using a SVM classifier respectively.

Table 3.3.1:-Confusion matrix obtained during training by SVM classifier.

Output / Desired	Result(NORM)	Result(LBBB)	Result(RBBB)
Result(NORM)	122	0	0
Result(LBBB)	0	162	0
Result(RBBB)	0	0	104

Table 3.3.2:- Confusion matrix obtained during cross validation by SVM classifier.

Output / Desired	Result(NORM)	Result(LBBB)	Result(RBBB)
Result(NORM)	23	1	2
Result(LBBB)	5	36	5
Result(RBBB)	0	1	24

Table 3.3.3:- Confusion matrixes obtained during testing by SVM classifier.

Output / Desired	Result(NORM)	Result(LBBB)	Result(RBBB)
Result(NORM)	39	4	6
Result(LBBB)	6	57	5
Result(RBBB)	2	2	41

Table 3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.3.6 shows performance table obtain from NeuroSolutions for Excel during training, cross validation and testing by using a SVM classifier respectively.

Table 3.3.4:- Performance table obtained during training by SVM classifier.

<i>Performance</i>	<i>Result(NORM)</i>	<i>Result(LBBB)</i>	<i>Result(RBBB)</i>
MSE	0.009890286	0.03231943	0.010716945
NMSE	0.045880783	0.132893486	0.05462391
MAE	0.088173237	0.12932406	0.091858306
Min Abs Error	0.000241854	0.001295926	0.004235459
Max Abs Error	0.255968444	1.059325178	0.332489874
r	0.986671215	0.936933994	0.985146649
Percent Correct	100	100	100

Table 3.3.5:- Performance table obtained during cross validation by SVM classifier.

<i>Performance</i>	<i>Result(NORM)</i>	<i>Result(LBBB)</i>	<i>Result(RBBB)</i>
MSE	0.077511485	0.142307351	0.097424877
NMSE	0.377487349	0.597221169	0.44803063
MAE	0.223894157	0.258522714	0.258126543
Min Abs Error	0.00041759	0.00058022	0.004223335
Max Abs Error	0.712620242	1.492585053	0.756600264
r	0.809925903	0.729266946	0.780810088
Percent Correct	82.14285714	94.73684211	77.41935484

Table 3.3.6:- Performance table obtained during testing by SVM classifier.

<i>Performance</i>	<i>Result(NORM)</i>	<i>Result(LBBB)</i>	<i>Result(RBBB)</i>
MSE	0.091984183	0.129664014	0.103292249
NMSE	0.446629584	0.545599228	0.473916394
MAE	0.244661343	0.278194854	0.259709854
Min Abs Error	0.002966458	0.000456173	0.000595961
Max Abs Error	0.796141623	0.978089729	1.012391702
r	0.75920285	0.692296595	0.736762944
Percent Correct	82.9787234	90.47619048	78.84615385

4. Conclusion

The ECG signal depicts the electrical activity of the heart providing vital information about the cardiac state. In this work it was shown that ICA with combination of SVM classifier archives the highest average accuracy, sensitivity, precision and specificity of 93.36%, 90.80%, 89.62% and 95.16% respectively. The developed methodology in this work can be used in arrhythmia classification to detect the cardiac problems.

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