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# Wavelet Transform Based ECG Signal Processing for Feature Extraction of HRV Signal

Neha Jadon<sup>1</sup>, Dr. S.Wadhawani<sup>2</sup>

PG Student [MAC], Dept. of EE, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Professor, Dept. of EE, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India<sup>2</sup>

**ABSTRACT:** This paper presents analysis of HRV Signal and feature extraction using Electrocardiogram signal processing. HRV analysis is used as a mirroring tool for investigation of heart rhythm. Data has been downloaded from MIT-BIH arrhythmia Database for HRV signal generation from ECG signal. Discrete Wavelet Transform utilized for noise removal and R peaks detection of ECG signal. Here, three time domain parameters namely SD ratio, pNN50 and RMSSD and one frequency-domain parameter namely LF/HF ratio is calculated for HRV analysis. Using the information from RR intervals, we also obtained the Poincare plot and the power spectral density plot for the HRV analysis. The results are based on the obtained values of the parameters we comment on the nature of values of the parameters in the paper, for normal and abnormal conditions.

**KEYWORDS:** Electrocardiogram, Power Spectral Density, Wavelet Transform, HRV.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Electrocardiography is a technique of recording the bioelectric current or voltage generated by the heart muscles. The graph of voltage versus time of this recording is called the electrocardiogram (ECG). The heart does not beat at a regular rhythm. It changes depending on various physiological conditions. In heart rate variability, we are interested in capturing the variation that occurs between successive heart beats. This variation occurs due to the autonomic nervous system (ANS) that acts largely unconsciously and regulates internal body processes. Autonomic nervous system consists of two types of activities, called the sympathetic and parasympathetic. Sympathetic activities leads to accelerate the heart rate or decrease heart rate variability while parasympathetic activity decrease the heart rate [1][2]. Analysis of heart rate variability (HRV) signals is considered as a scanning tool for assessing the autonomic nervous system as it reflects the balance between sympathetic and parasympathetic activity in autonomic functioning and its influence on the heart rhythm. Heart Rate Variability analysis, is a recognized technique to obtain valuable information from ECG signals that can be used for prediction of abnormal cardiac conditions [3] and other non-cardiovascular diseases. Hypertension, respiratory, metabolic, exercise, age, gender, etc. can be effective factors which are responsible for changes in the heart rate variability. This fluctuation of HRV is associated with some specific pathologies such as diabetes, arrhythmia [4]. Now a day, through the development of mobile monitoring systems and smartphone applications HRV become part of the everyday life of amateur and professional sports.

### II. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Analysis for HRV begins with the ECG signal. At the time of recording of ECG signal, different type of noises found in ECG data. It is necessary to avoid these noises by using some filters. After denoising, next task is to R peak detection in ECG signal, is widely used to diagnose heart rhythm irregularities and estimate heart rate variability. Then HRV signal is generated and various feature are extracted for analysis of HRV.



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The main steps involved in the HRV analysis are

- Data Collection of ECG Signal.
- Pre-processing (noise removal and peak detection).
- Generating HRV Signal from ECG signal.
- Assessment of Parameters values.
- Classification on the basis of obtained parameters values.

The flow diagram of HRV analysis is show below.

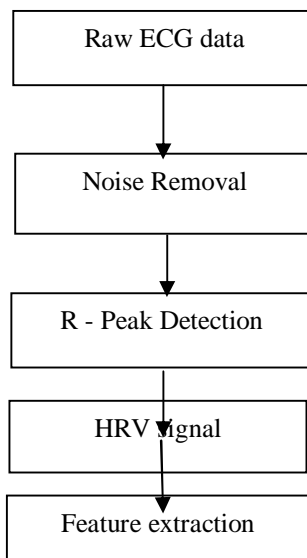


Fig. 1 flow diagram of HRV analysis

## ECG Data Collection

ECG data for analysis of HRV is has been taken from Physio-Bank which freely available online .Each recording of this database have sampling frequency of 360Hz. All collected ECG samples are of standard Lead II and of 30 minute duration

## Noise Removal

The given ECG signal is contain various noises such as muscle noise, grid noise, base line drift, power line interference, motion artifacts etc. Noise removal is the most important process for further processing of signal. IIR Notch Filter is used for removing Power line interface (PLI) at 50Hz or 60Hz and grid noise is removed by moving average filter. Wavelet transform is used for removing base line wander and other high frequency noises from the ECG signal.

## R Peak Detection

R-peaks detection and calculation of R-R interval of ECG signals is a very important and complex part of ECG signal processing, HRV signal analysis or arrhythmia analysis. Wavelet transform has been used to detect the R-Peaks in this work. A wavelet family is obtained by applying a scale factor and translational factor to the basic mother wavelet. The name of the Daubichies family wavelets are written as 'dbN', where 'N' is the order, and 'db' is the surname. Wavelet Transform is able to decompose signals into many lower resolution components, which allows accurate feature extraction from non-stationary signals like ECG and HRV signal. In this work ,we considered db4 Wavelet as this



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wavelet shown similarity with the ECG waveform and gives details and more accurate results than others. All R peaks are detected successfully using searching algorithm and threshold of  $.45 \times \text{max Peak amplitude}$ . [3][6]

## HRV Signal Generation

HRV signal shows variation in time intervals between successive heartbeats. In other words, the beat to beat variation in the R peaks of ECG pattern. Figure shows HRV signal which is extracted from ECG signal. Calculation of HRV starts after detection of R peaks in an ECG signal [1]. As the R-peaks are detected the peak to peak distance can be easily calculated as:

If R-Peaks are defined at samples.

$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$

Then, RR interval =  $R_{n+1} - R_n(1)$

The above equation shows time period or the inverse of heart rate, i.e. the distance between two successive R-Peaks defined at intervals  $n$  and  $n + 1$ . If this Interval is plotted against their samples or time, then the resultant vector would give the variation in heart rate. And thus the heart rate variability signal is constructed [1]. This generated signal can be used as a clinical sign in recognition of diseases. This signal contains information about balance of autonomic nervous system. Also changes in HRV time series can be taken into consideration as a danger factor for mortality after myocardial infarction.

## III. TIME DOMAIN FEATURE

For the HRV analysis, the time domain parameters are directly derived from RR interval of ECG signals. The time domain parameters such as RMSSD, pNN50 and SD ratio are calculated.

1. SD Ratio: The SD Ratio is the ratio of length of the semi minor axis to major axis of the Poincare plot of an ECG signal. The Poincare plot is a nonlinear method to assess the dynamics of HRV. It is graphical representation in which each RR interval is plotted against next RR interval. We also obtained Poincare plot of an ECG signal for HRV analysis [6].

2. pNN50: The parameter NN50 is the total number of interval differences of the consecutive RR interval that are greater than 50MS. The parameter Pnn50 derived by dividing NN50 by the total no. of RR interval. These short term variation is highly correlated with high frequency variation in heart rate [6].

3. RMSSD: The square root of the mean squared difference of successive RR interval. This parameter depends on the total number of RR interval and lengths of the RR interval [6].

## IV. FREQUENCY DOMAIN FEATURES

HRV plot in frequency domain mainly comprised of very low frequency components and low frequency components and high frequency components are less comparative to other two frequency components. Various frequency components are as follows;

1. Very low Frequency (VLF): information about the physiological significance of very low frequency HRV is less as compare to the other two frequency component. Very low frequency components (VLF) is most commonly used in clinical applications as a predictor of cardiac condition outcomes. It is recommended to study this frequency range using ECG recordings greater than 5 minutes in duration [7].

2. Low frequency component (LF): The low frequency ranges was once thought to be representative of sympathetic activity of the body, but recent studies have argued it actually represents impact by both sympathetic and parasympathetic of the autonomic nervous system [7].

3. High frequency components (HF): High-frequency (HF) band of HRV signal is also referred to as the RSA band due to the influence in this range of respiration on beat to beat variance. In fact, this frequency band in particular has been shown to represent parasympathetic nervous system regulation almost exclusively [7].

4. LF/HF Ratio: A ratio of Low Frequency to High Frequency is considered as indicator of Sympathetic to Parasympathetic Autonomic Balance on heart rate variability control. In this work, the ratio of the LF and HF band power (LF/HF) is calculated as the frequency domain features of the HRV signal.



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Frequency domain techniques uses power spectral density analysis which can be used to separate the complex HRV signal into its different spectral components. In spectral density analysis power is distributed as a function of frequency. The main advantages of spectral analysis over the time domain measures are that its provides a useful way to characterize the amplitude versus frequency content of HRV signal. PSD can be estimate using two methods, based on Fast-Fourier Transform (FFT) and autoregressive (AR) method modeling in spectral analysis of HRV. We obtained fft based welch psd plot for HRV analysis .This psd plot provides a useful way to characterize the power vsfrequency content of a randomsignal [4] .

## V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the fig 2, it shows the graph of time vs amplitude of raw ECG signal. This signal is taken from MIT-BIH arrhythmia database which is freely available online at physionet.

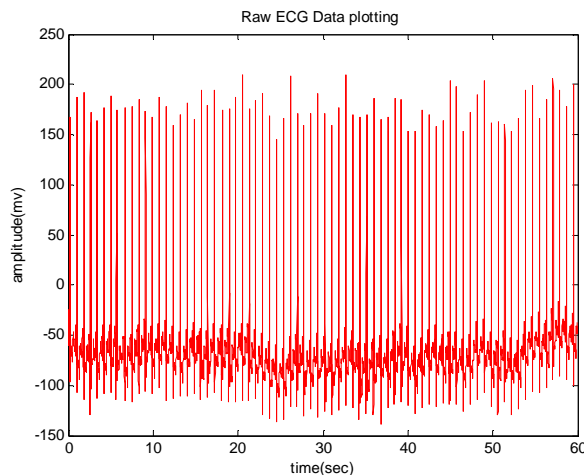


Fig. 2: Raw ECG signal

True R peak detection is a challenge because of the physiological variability of the QRS complex and due to the various types of noises that are generally present in the ECG signal. In the fig 2, it shows R peaks are detected successfully in ECG signal using Wavelet Transform.

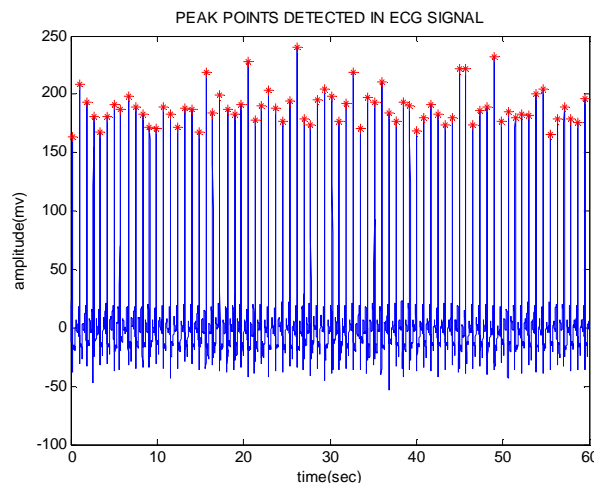


Fig. 3: R-peaks detection using Wavelet Transform

HRV signal is generated by plotting RR length against their samples. Figure(4) shows HRV signal.



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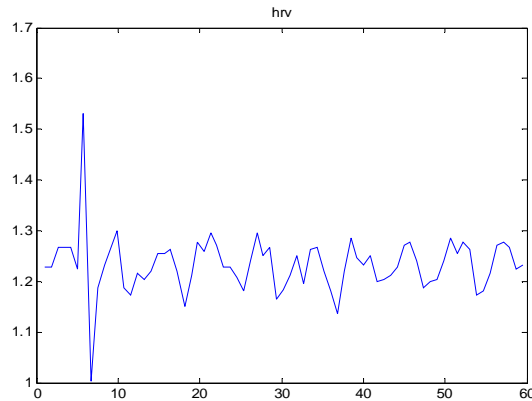


Fig.4: HRV signal

Figure (5) shows FFT based welch periodiogram for HRV signal spectral analysis. Welch method is used for measuring power density at various frequencies and the graph signifies that there is a power peak observed around lower frequency which shows that there is an abnormality.

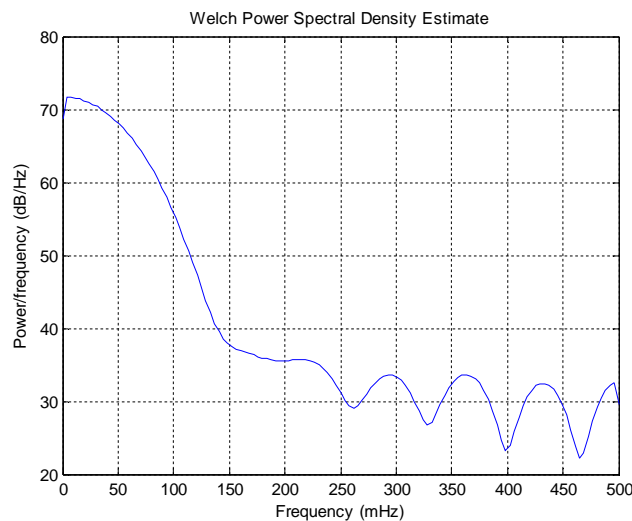


Fig.5: FFT based Welch PSD Estimate

The Poincare plot in HRV is widely used to detect and monitoring many important and critical diseases. Here this is chosen for comparison of the normal and arrhythmia affected samples [9]. Fig (6) shows the Poincare plot of healthy subject.



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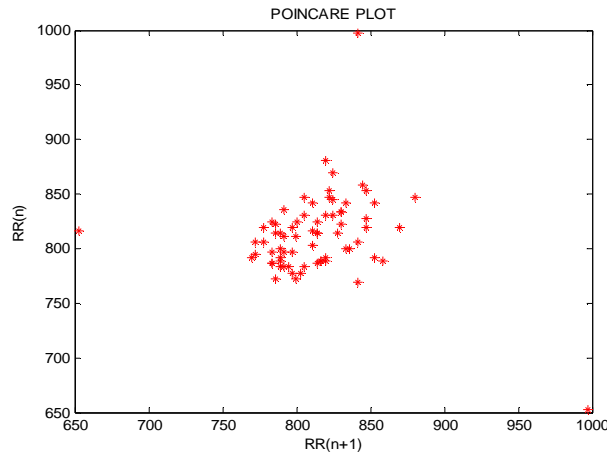


Fig.6: Poincare Plot of ECG signal

Table -1: Feature Extraction of HRV Signal

Sample No.	SDnn (msec)	RMSSD (msec)	SD Ratio	LF/HF Ratio
MITdb-100	37.894	55.737	1.0853	4.2037
MITdb-101	50.497	26.557	0.274	3.8313
MITdb-102	33.321	29.557	0.5013	4.3946
MITdb-103	90.291	147.403	1.6057	3.3642
MITdb-104	84.344	105.147	0.797	0.70612
MITdb-105	15.759	21.993	0.9828	0.49371
MITdb-106	68.053	70.016	0.6065	1.134
MITdb-107	13.231	15.257	0.714	0.5649

Table 1 shows values of standard deviation of RR interval, RMSSD and as a time domain features. In nonlinear analysis SD ratio as a parameter of Poincare plot and sample entropy are calculated for HRV analysis of ECG signals obtained from MIT-BIH arrhythmia database.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this work, Wavelet transform have been used and performed well for ECG signal processing or noise removal. Some features extracted for HRV analysis of arrhythmia affected samples. From the obtained parameters, we can propose that higher values of standard deviation shows the variability between heart rate is much higher i.e. the HRV is higher in the arrhythmias affected samples. The values of RMSSD and SD ratio is higher for abnormal signals than for normal



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signals. Whereas LF/HF ratio is lower for abnormal signal. Variation in heart rate is good sign for health but the variation should not be vary in a broad range. In future work we can extract more feature in frequency domain also as these extracted features are not enough to analysing HRV. Large number of data can be classified using any classifier such as ANN, SVM.

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