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Topological Characteristics of ECG Signal using Lyapunov Exponent and RBF Network

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ABSTRACT

The electrocardiogram (ECG) signal is the recording of the bioelectrical activities of the cardiac system. It provides valuable information about the functional aspects of the heart and cardiovascular system. Early detection of heart diseases/abnormalities can prolong life and enhance the quality of living through appropriate treatment. Due to large number of patients in intensive care units and the need for continuous observation of such conditions, several techniques for automated electrocardiographic changes detection have been developed in the past ten years to attempt to solve this problem. Such techniques work by transforming the mostly qualitative diagnostic criteria into a more objective quantitative signal feature classification problem.

Keywords : ECG, Lyapunov Exponents, RBF Network

1. INTRODUCTION

Electrocardiography is an important tool in diagnosing the condition of the heart. Cardiac health care is the fastest growing market as cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the world. Among the various medical or healthcare information, ECG is the best way to measure and diagnose abnormal conditions of heart. The electrocardiogram (ECG) signal is the recording of the bioelectrical activities of the cardiac system. It provides valuable information about the functional aspects of the heart and cardiovascular system.

Due to large number of patients in intensive care units and the need for continuous observation of such conditions, several techniques for automated electro-cardiographic changes detection have been developed in the past 10 years to attempt to solve this problem. The analysis of the ECG signals for detection of electrocardiographic changes has been performed by using the autocorrelation function[1], frequency domain features, time frequency analysis[2], and wavelet[3] transform. There are several other techniques under research in the field of automated classification [9] [12] [14].

The objective of the present study in the field of automated diagnosis of heart diseases/abnormalities is to extract the representative morphological features of the ECG signals (normal beat, congestive heart failure beat, ventricular tachyarrhythmia beat, atrial fibrillation beat) obtained from the PhysioBank database and to present the accurate classification model. As in traditional pattern recognition systems, the model consists of three main modules: a feature extractor that generates a feature vector from the raw ECG signals, feature selection that composes feature vectors (Lyapunov exponents), and a feature classifier that outputs the class based on the feature vectors (Radial Basis Function Network – RBF). A significant contribution of the present work is the composition of feature vectors from selected Lyapunov exponents which are used to train novel classifier (RBF Network trained on computed Lyapunov exponents) for the ECG signals. The basic block diagram of the study is as given in figure 1.

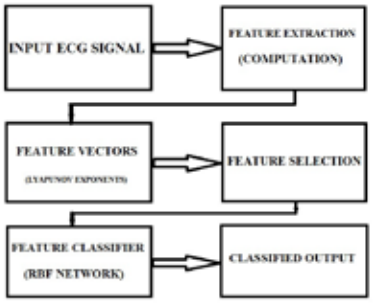

Fig.1 Block Diagram of Proposed Study.

2. DATA DESCRIPTION

PhysioBank database is a large and growing archive of well-characterized digital recordings of physiologic signals and related data for use by the biomedical research community. PhysioBank currently includes databases of multiparameter cardiopulmonary, neural, and other biomedical signals from healthy subjects and patients.

The waveforms of four different ECG beats (normal beat, congestive heart failure beat, ventricular tachyarrhythmia beat, atrial fibrillation beat) considered in the present study are shown in Fig. 2(a-d). The ECG signal examples (normal beat, congestive heart failure beat, ventricular tachyarrhythmia beat, atrial fibrillation beat) are presented in Fig. 3(a–d).

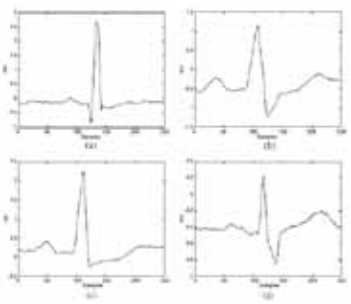

Fig.2 Waveforms of the ECG beats (a) normal beat, (b) congestive heart failure beat, (c) ventricular tachyarrhythmia beat and (d) atrial fibrillation beat.

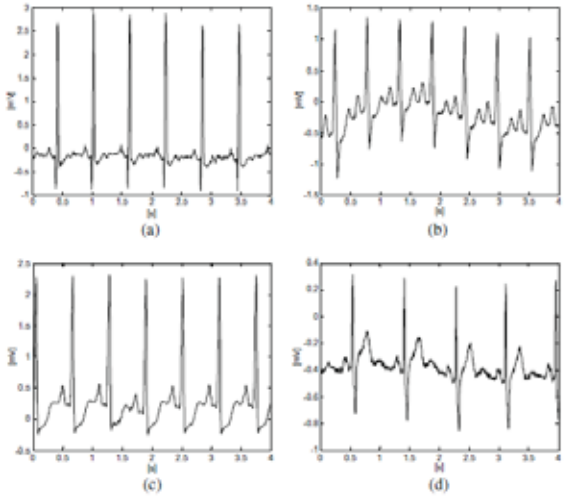

Fig. 3 ECG signal examples: (a) normal beat, (b) congestive heart failure beat, (c) ventricular tachyarrhythmia beat and (d) atrial fibrillation beat.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Decision making was performed in two stages: feature extraction by computing Lyapunov exponents and classification using the selected Lyapunov exponents as inputs of the RNNs. The basic block diagram is as shown in fig.1.

3.1 Lyapunov Exponents

Numerous methods for calculating the Lyapunov exponents have been developed during the past decade. In the present study, the Lyapunov exponents are estimated from the observed time series. Lyapunov exponents are a quantitative measure for distinguishing among the various types of orbits based upon their sensitive dependence on the initial conditions, and are used to determine the stability of any steady-state behavior, including chaotic solutions [10] [12]. The reason why chaotic systems show aperiodic dynamics is that phase space trajectories that have nearly identical initial states will separate from each other at an exponentially increasing rate captured by the so-called Lyapunov exponent.

Consider two (usually the nearest) neighboring points in phase space at time 0 and at time t, distances of the points in the i-th direction being ||δxi(0)|| and ||δxi(t)||, respectively. The Lyapunov exponent is then defined by the average growth rate λi of the initial distance,

$$\frac{\|\delta x_i(t)\|}{\|\delta x_i(0)\|} = 2_i^{\lambda} t(t \to \infty) \text{ or } \lambda_i = \lim_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log_2 \frac{\|\delta x_i(t)\|}{\|\delta x_i(0)\|}$$

The existence of a positive Lyapunov exponent indicates chaos. Generally, Lyapunov exponents can be extracted from observed signals in two different ways. The first is based on the idea of following the time-evolution of nearby points in the state space. This method provides an estimation of the largest Lyapunov exponent only. The second method is based on the estimation of local Jacobi matrices and is capable of estimating all the Lyapunov exponents. Vectors of all the Lyapunov exponents for particular systems are often called their Lyapunov spectra.

3.2 Radial Basis Function Network

Radial Basis Function (RBF) Network can perform highly nonlinear dynamic mappings and thus have temporally extended applications, whereas multilayer feedforward networks are confined to performing static mappings. RBF networks have been used in a number of interesting applications including associative memories, spatiotemporal pattern classification, control, optimization, forecasting and generalization of pattern sequences.

RBF networks use unconstrained fully interconnected architectures and learning algorithms that can deal with time-varying input and/or output in non-trivial ways [9]. The RBF allows the network to remember cues from the past without complicating the learning excessively.

An RBF network is a network which in principle is set up as a regular feedforward network. This means that all neurons in one layer are connected with all neurons in the next layer. An exception is the so-called context layer which is a special case of a hidden layer. Fig. 4 shows the architecture of an RBF network. The neurons in the context layer (context neurons) hold a copy of the output of the hidden neurons. The output of each hidden neuron is copied into a specific neuron in the context layer. The value of the context neuron is used as an extra input signal for all the neurons in the hidden layer one time step later. Therefore, the RBF network has an explicit memory of one time lag.

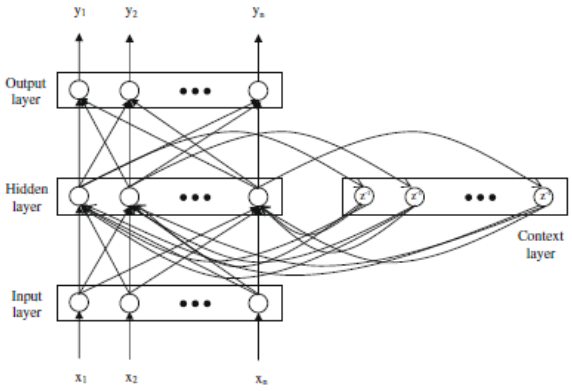

Fig.4 A schematic representation of RBF network.Z-1 represents a one time step delay unit.

4. RESULTS

In this study of automated classification of ECG signals, the Lyapunov Exponent has been calculated from the signals obtained from the Pshysionet database. The fig 5 shows some of the results. These exponents are used to train the RBF Network for the classification of the ECG signals.

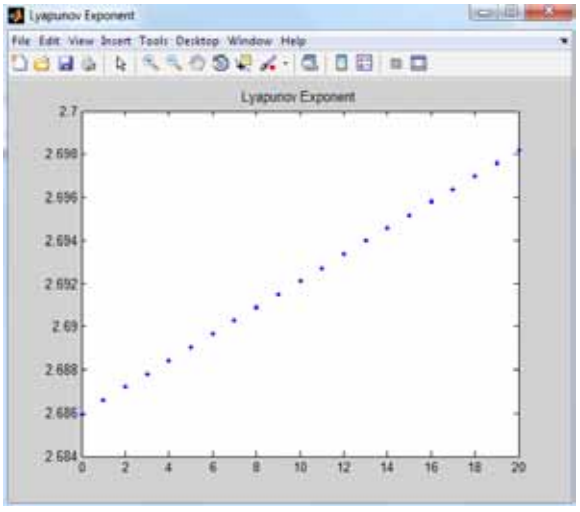

Fig 5(a). Normal Beat.

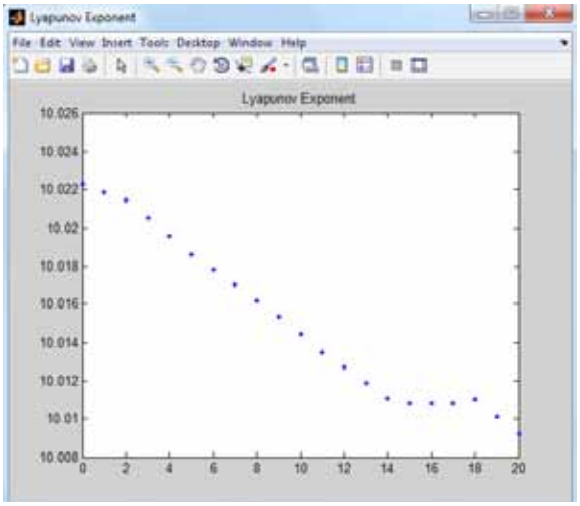

Fig 5(b). Congestive Heart Failure Beat.

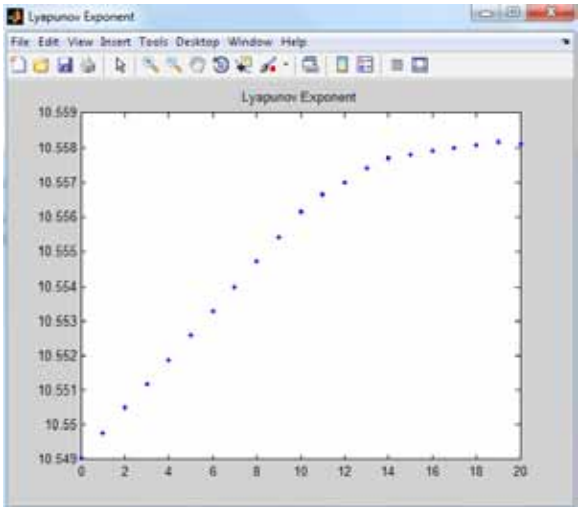

Fig 5(c). Ventricular Tachyarrhythmia Beat.

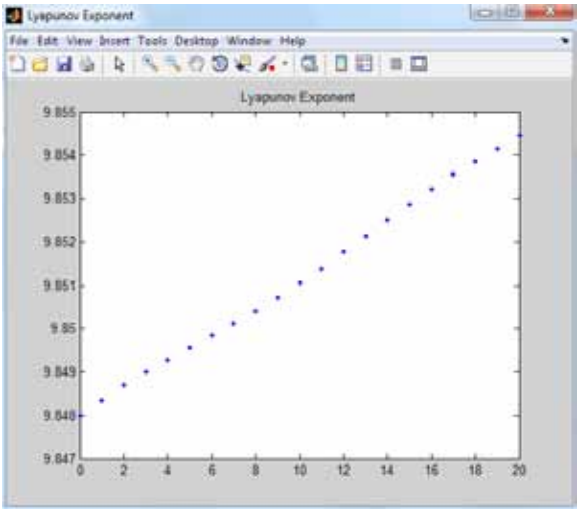

Fig 5(d). Atrial Fibrillation Beat.

5. CONCLUSION

This study presents an attempt to develop a reliable computerized classifier, which can detect the abnormalities of the ECG signals. The classifier that will be used here is the RBF Network. This work is currently under progress. The preprocessing, feature extraction and RBF Network are the main modules of this study. These play an important role in automated diagnostic systems and therefore they play an important role in determining the classification accuracies.

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