



# Rule Based Evaluation of Myocardial Ischemia in Ecg Signals Using Wavelet Transform

<b>Dr. S. Sumathi</b>	Professor, Mahendra Engineering College, Mahendrapuri, Mallasamudiram
<b>K. Yasodha</b>	PG Scholar, Mahendra Engineering College, Mahendrapuri, Mallasamudiram
<b>P. Sheela</b>	PG Scholar, Mahendra Engineering College, Mahendrapuri, Mallasamudiram

## ABSTRACT

*This paper approaches an intellectual diagnosis system using rule based evaluation of myocardial ischemia in electrocardiogram (ECG) signals using wavelet transform. This method is mainly through the computation of an indicator related to the area covered by the ST-wave curve. The algorithm is healthy to acquisition noise, to wave form morphological variations and to baseline wandering. To find the main computation has been implemented to simple finite impulse response filter. The inclusion of rule based system in the complex investigating algorithms yields very interesting recognition and classification capabilities across a broad spectrum of biomedical engineering. The results give importance to that the proposed model illustrates potential advantage to identify the myocardial Ischemia. The sensitivity 90.01% and positive predictivity of 95.19 is achieved.*

## Introduction

Myocardial Ischemia (MI) is the most common cardiac disorder and its early diagnosis is of great importance. It is defined by a reduced blood flow to parts of the myocardium which causes alterations in the ECG signal, such as deviations in the ST segment and changes in the T wave. MI is considered to be a major complication of the cardiac function and a prime cause for the occurrence of cardiac infarction and dangerous cardiac arrhythmias has been pointed out by Cohen (1988). The main characteristic of ischemia at the cellular level is the depolarization of the cellular resting membrane potential. This causes a potential difference between the normal and ischemic tissue which, in turn, causes the flow of an "injury current" (Coulmel and Garfein 1990).

This injury current is manifested in the electrocardiogram (ECG) by an ST depression or elevation, depending on the anatomical position of the heart and the dipole's position with respect to the recording electrodes (Paul 1998, Gu-Young Jeong and Kee-Ho Yu 2007, Tapobrata et al 2009). Thus, there are cases in the 12-lead standard electrode system where the ST depression is not evident in ischemic beats, while ST depression may exist when ischemia is not present such as can happen with leads III and a VF due to patient position has been pointed by Zimmerman and Povinelli (2004).

Ischemic episodes could be acute ones that should be detected immediately when the patient is in a Critical Care Unit (CCU) environment, but also in a Holter database ischemic episodes should be reliably and correctly detected. Although ischemia detection from ST analysis alone is difficult to accomplish and has to be accompanied by a number of biochemical and other examinations, ECG still remains one of the basic biosignals for aiding the clinical staff in a CCU environment. Major problems contributing to poor detection of the ST segment in the ECG can be identified as follows:

- 1) Slow baseline drift
- 2) Noise
- 3) Sloped ST changes
- 4) Patient dependent abnormal ST depression levels and
- 5) Varying ST-T patterns in the ECG of the same patient.

The ST level change episodes lasting several seconds or sometimes some minutes, is an important indication in the diagnosis of myocardial ischemia.

A typical ST segment is comprised of the following fiducial points: S, J, ST area, T point, T peak, and ST segment level measurement. Figure 1 shows the relevant ST segment points in ECG signal. In order to identify these fiducial points, we use the WT method. WT has been successfully applied to the digital processing of ECG signals for its ability to localize the signals in both time and frequencies. The ST level change episodes lasting several seconds or sometimes some minutes, is an important indication in the diagnosis of myocardial ischemia.

## 1.1 WAVELET TRANSFORM

The ECG signals are considered as representative signals of cardiac physiology, which are helpful in diagnosing cardiac disorders. The absolute way to display this information is to perform spectral analysis. The Wavelet Transform (WT) gives very general techniques, which can be implemented to many tasks in signal processing. The ECG signal, consisting of many characteristic points, can be compressed into a few points. These points characterize the behaviour of the ECG signal.

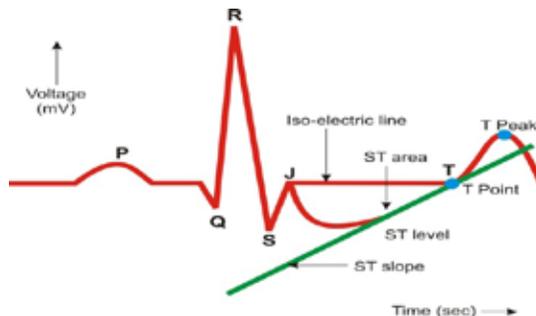


Figure 1 The relevant ST segment points in ECG signal

This feature of using a lesser number of parameters to represent the ECG signal is particularly important for recognition and diagnostic functions. The WT can be thought of as an extension of the classic Fourier transform, but instead of working on a single scale (time or frequency), it works on a multiple-scale basis. This multiple-scale feature of the WT allows the decomposition of a signal into a number of scales, every scale representing a particular coarseness of the signal under this study. The procedure of multiresolution decomposition of a signal  $x[n]$  is schematically shown in Figure 2. Every stage of this scheme consists of two digital filters and two down samplers by 2. The initial filter, the discrete mother wavelet is  $g[n]$ , high pass in nature, and the second,  $h[n]$  is its reflect version, low-pass in nature. The down sampled outputs of first high pass and low-pass filters give the detail,  $d_1$  and the approximation,  $a_1$ , respectively. The first approximation,  $a_1$  is more decomposed and this process is continued as shown in Figure 2.

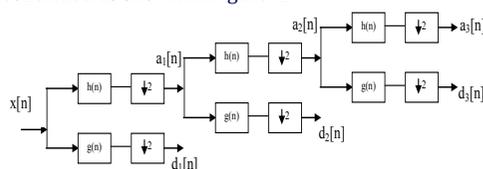


Figure 2 Three level wavelet decomposition tree

### 1.2 ECG Database

The training set was constructed using patterns from the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) ST-T Database. The ECGs included in this database are 2-hour long recordings digitized at 250 Hz. This database is intended to be used for the evaluation of algorithms for ischemia analysis based on ST and T wave changes. The database consists of 90 continuous two channel records. The leads used included modified limb leads V1, V2, V3, V4, and V5 and modified limb leads MLI and MLII. Each record contains at least one ST or T ischemic episode. Specifically, for the ST episode annotations, the expert cardiologists used the following criteria:

\*ST segment deviations are measured in relation to a reference normal waveform selected from the first 30 s of each record.

\*Measurements of ST deviation are taken 80 ms after the J-point or in the case of tachycardia 60 ms after the J-point.

\*ST episodes must contain an interval of at least 30 s during which the absolute value of the ST deviation is no less than 0.1 mV.

\* The beginning and the end of each episode are annotated searching backward and forward, respectively, from the ST episode, until a beat is found with absolute ST segment deviation less than 0.05 mV.

Working independently, the two specialist-annotators visually checked the full disclosure printouts and manually inserted annotations indicating changes in ST and T morphology, rhythm, and signal quality. Annotations from the two cardiologists were compared and the differences were resolved by a third cardiologist.

### Materials and methods

The method carried out in this thesis is given. The algorithm is developed in five steps:

- ECG Signal Preprocessing
- ECG Feature Extraction
- Detection of Beat
- Window Classification and
- Ischemia Episode Identification.

#### 2.1 ECG Signal Preprocessing

In the first stage, preprocessing of the ECG recording is performed to achieve noise removal, artifact rejection and extraction of the signal features which are used for beat characterization. For noise cancellation procedure in this work cubic spline wavelet filtering for eliminating the low and high frequency components for noise cancellation is used in this work.

#### 2.2 ECG Feature Extraction

The second stage detection of ischemic episodes with high sensitivity and specificity, the correct R peak, S point, and J point detection is needed. Different algorithms are used for R-peak detection such as Pan-Tompkins and Derivative-based methods. When these methods are used, the ST segment is assumed to begin at 60 ms after the R-peak in normal sinus rhythm case. In the case of tachycardia (RR interval < 600 ms), the beginning of the ST segment is taken at 40 ms after the R peak. These values are in general agreement with the recommendation of the European ST-T database and with the observations in (Li She et al 2002, Mahammad Karmi Moridant et al 2009, Gonzalez et al 2003). But this method is not accurate enough and the heart rate must be continuously computed. For solving these problems a wavelet method for R peak, S point, and J point is presented here.

In this method, ECG signal is decomposed to  $S = 2^1 - 2^3$  scales by WT algorithm using dyadic spline wavelets. In  $S = 2^2$  scales, R wave has the highest amplitude while the high frequency noises are decreased greatly and the low frequency noises are weak, so the R wave is extracted at  $S = 2^2$  scale. Low-frequency and slow-changing T wave is usually influenced by low amplitude and high frequency disturbances, which can be avoided

at larger scales such as  $S = 2^3$ . S wave is high-frequency low-amplitude, and its energy is mostly at  $S = 2^5$  scale. So the S wave is extracted at  $S = 2^4$  scale. R peak extraction is based on the relation between the signal singularity and its WT, QRS complex wave corresponds to maxima and minima terminations at  $S = 2^2$  scale, and R peak corresponds to the zero-crossing point of the maxima and minima terminations with a fixed delay.

ST segment is composed of S peak, J point, the beginning of the T wave, T peak and ST voltage. The extractive scheme of the feature points is illustrated in detail as follows. S peak is located at the first downward peak after the zero-crossing point of R peak at  $S = 2^2$  scale. Tpeak is the first zero-crossing point of maxima and minima terminations after R peak at  $S = 2^3$  scale.

#### 2.3 Detection of Beat

The third stage has the classification of each beat as normal or ischemic based on a set of rules used by cardiologist for locating ST episodes to diagnose ischemia. The two rules are framed based on ST deviation being measured relative to ST deviation in the reference template which has been constructed from the first 30s of each record. The extractive results of six different shapes of ST segment: normal, downsloping depression, horizontal depression, upsloping depression, concave elevation, convex elevation were shown in Figures 2.1 to 2.4. The first rule refers to negative ST deviation, in which ST deviation is more than 0.08mV below the isoelectric line and has an angle larger than 65 degree measured from vertical line, it is considered as negative ST deviation or ST depression. The second rule classifies beat as ischemic if ST deviation is more than 0.08 mV above the isoelectric line has been pointed out by Goldberger (2006).

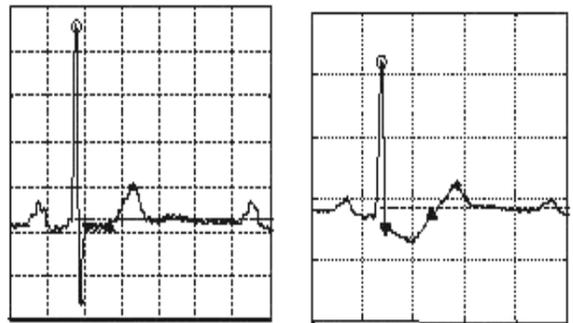


Figure 2.1 (a) Normal ECG signal (b) Downsloping Depression

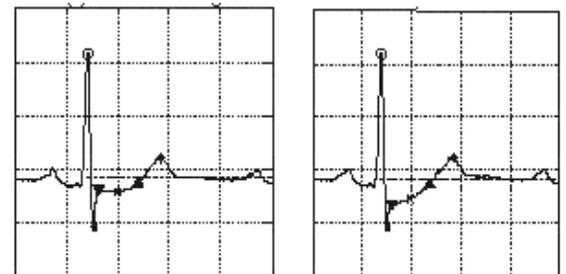


Figure 2.2 ST Horizontal Depression and Upsloping Depression

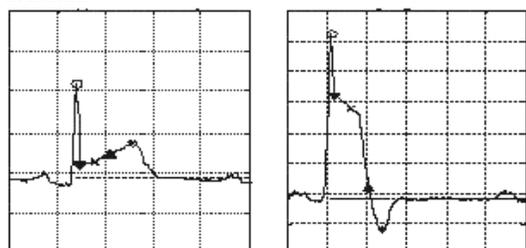


Figure 2.3 ST Concave and convex elevation

where ● - Position of S peak  
 ○ - Position of R peak  
 \* - Position of T peak  
 ▼ - Position of J point

**2.4 Window Classification**

According to European Society of Cardiology (ESC) recommendation, a ST episode must include an interval of at least 30 seconds containing ischemic beats. Therefore, we use an adaptive moving window of 30 seconds that starts sliding beat-by-beat from the first cardiac beat to examine whether there exists a sequence of ischemic beats lasting more than 30 seconds. The window is classified as ischemic if the number of ischemic beats is more than 75% of all beats in the window.

**2.5 Ischemia Episode Identification**

In the final stage, we find all sequences of ischemic windows. If the duration of normal intervals appeared between two ischemic windows is less than 30 seconds, then a merging technique will be activated to avoid fragmentation of the ST episodes. After episode identification, we annotate the beginning and the end of each episode. The beginning is located by searching backward from the point at which the absolute ST deviation first exceeds 0.08 mV. The search continues until a beat is found for which the absolute ST deviation is less than 0.05 mV. The end of each episode is located by searching forward from the point at which the absolute ST deviation last exceeds 0.08 mV.

**iii RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The algorithm was tested using a subset of ESC ST-T database. This database contains ECG recordings with annotated ischemic episodes. To evaluate the performance of the proposed classifier, two measures were used and defined as follows:

$$\text{Sensitivity (\%)} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (3.1)$$

$$\text{Positive Predictivity(\%)} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (3.2)$$

where TP, FN and FP are defined in Table 3.1. In order to derive ST episode sensitivity and positive predictivity, an episode-by-episode comparison was needed. According to American National Standard, overlap exists during any interval in which both the reference and algorithm annotations indicate that an ST change is in progress. Events match for the purposes of measuring sensitivity when the period of overlap includes either the reference marked extremum or at least 50% of the length of the reference-marked event. Events match for the purposes of measuring positive predictivity when the period of overlap includes either the algorithm-marked extremum or at least 50% of the length of the algorithm-marked event (ANSI/AAMI EC57, 1998). The processing time for ECG recordings was expressed as mean value ± one standard deviation.

**TABLE 3.1 ST EPISODE SENSITIVITY AND POSITIVE PREDICTIVITY MATRIX**

Algorithm Reference \ ST Episode	ST Episode	Not Episode
ST Episode	TP	FN
Not Episode	FP	TN

The proposed method is evaluated as follows: we used 40 ECG records of ESC ST-T database. Each record consists of two-channel two-hour ECG recordings with ischemic episode annotation. Table 3.2 shows the results of applying our method to each record. For each ECG recording, the sensitivity and positive productivity values are given in terms of percentages.

**TABLE 3.2 PERFORMANCE OF THE EPISODE DETECTION METHOD FOR 40 RECORDINGS OF THE ESC ST-T DATABASE**

Record	Healthy Beat Number	Ischemia Beat Number (TP)	FN	FP	Sensitivity (%)	Positive Predictivity (%)
e0103	7221	15	1	0	93.75	100.00
e0104	6598	9	2	1	81.81	90.00
e0105	6628	30	4	0	88.24	100.00
e0106	6759	21	1	0	95.45	100.00
e0107	7085	11	1	1	91.66	91.66
e0108	8567	34	6	0	85.00	100.00
e0111	7486	12	1	0	92.30	100.00
e0113	8911	35	5	6	87.50	85.36
e0114	9654	6	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0115	8986	15	1	0	93.75	100.00
e0118	8095	23	4	1	85.16	95.83
e0119	7963	9	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0121	10532	7	1	0	87.50	100.00
e0123	9164	9	1	0	90.00	100.00
e0125	9065	13	1	1	92.85	92.85
e0126	7538	6	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0127	9390	23	1	1	95.83	95.83
e0133	8378	14	0	1	100.00	93.33
e0129	6826	11	1	2	91.66	84.61
e0139	7598	11	2	0	84.61	100.00
e0147	6367	15	2	0	88.23	100.00
e0148	8766	5	1	1	83.33	83.33
e0151	7524	6	1	0	85.71	100.00
e0155	9655	8	2	1	80.00	88.88
e0166	8498	24	2	1	92.30	96.00
e0170	8432	12	3	0	80.00	100.00
e0203	10051	14	2	2	87.50	87.50
e0303	8865	7	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0305	9289	9	1	0	90.00	100.00
e0403	9763	7	2	1	77.77	87.50
e0404	8528	4	1	1	80.00	80.00
e0405	11056	18	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0411	9487	8	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0413	7367	9	1	0	90.00	100.00
e0415	11276	12	3	1	80.00	92.30
e0417	9227	11	0	0	100.00	100.00
e0501	7754	18	5	2	78.26	90.00
e0601	8728	6	0	1	100.00	85.71
e0605	6749	13	3	1	81.25	92.85
e0808	8765	16	2	1	88.88	94.11
Total	338591	536	64	27	90.01	95.19

**IV CONCLUSION**

This paper presented an efficient system for the detection of Myocardial Ischemia episodes in ECG signal. Since the detection algorithm is based on the rules used by cardiologists for diagnosing ischemia in ECG records, it is useful as a diagnostic tool to aid the physician in the analysis of ST changes. Short processing time and acceptable accuracy of the proposed method, are its main advantages and enables it to be used in real time ischemic episodes detection systems and reliable clinical monitoring of the patient status.

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