

Contents

- 1 Introduction 1**
 - 1.1 Preterm birth 1
 - 1.1.1 Origin, prevalence and relevance 1
 - 1.1.2 Current methods of predicting preterm delivery 2
 - 1.2 Electrohysterography for predicting preterm births 5
 - 1.3 Machine learning 8
 - 1.3.1 The application of machine learning in EHG signals to predict the preterm labor 8
 - 1.3.2 Dimensionality reduction methods 10
 - 1.3.3 Resampling Methods for Imbalanced Data Learning 13
 - 1.3.4 Performance Metrics for Predicting Preterm Labor 15
 - 1.4 State of the art of preterm delivery prediction using EHG signals . . . 18
 - 1.4.1 Studies with no strategy to deal with imbalanced data learning 19
 - 1.4.2 Resampling techniques for imbalanced data learning 19
 - 1.4.3 Matching the composition of the preterm and term database . 22
 - 1.5 References 25

- 2 Scope of the Study 37**
 - 2.1 Hypothesis 38
 - 2.2 General objective 38
 - 2.3 Specific objectives 38
 - 2.4 References 39

- 3 Optimized Feature Subset Selection Using Genetic Algorithm for Preterm Labor Prediction Based on Electrohysterography 41**
 - 3.1 Introduction 42
 - 3.2 Materials and Methods 43
 - 3.2.1 Database 43
 - 3.2.2 EHG Signal Characterization 44
 - 3.2.3 Classifier Design and Evaluation 46
 - 3.3 Results 49
 - 3.4 Discussion 55

3.5	Conclusions	58
3.6	References	59
4	Assessment of Dispersion and Bubble Entropy Measures for Enhancing Preterm Birth Prediction Based on Electrohysterographic Signal	65
4.1	Introduction	66
4.2	Materials and Methods	69
4.2.1	Database Description	69
4.2.2	EHG Signal Analysis	69
4.2.3	Classifier Design and Evaluation	72
4.3	Results	75
4.4	Discussion	79
4.5	Conclusions	83
4.6	References	83
5	Combination of Feature Selection and Resampling Methods to Predict Preterm Birth Based on Electrohysterographic Signals from Imbalance Data	91
5.1	Introduction	92
5.1.1	Preterm Labor	92
5.1.2	Electrohysterography for Preterm Labor Prediction	93
5.1.3	Resampling Methods for Imbalance Data Learning	94
5.2	Materials and Methods	95
5.2.1	Database Description	95
5.2.2	EHG Signal Analysis	96
5.2.3	Classifier Design and Evaluation	97
5.3	Results	103
5.4	Discussion	108
5.4.1	Imbalanced Data Learning	108
5.4.2	Preterm Labor Prediction System	110
5.4.3	Limitations, Future Works and Practical Implications	111
5.5	Conclusions	111
5.6	References	112
6	General Discussion	121
6.1	EHG characterization	121
6.1.1	Analysis of temporal and spectral EHG features	121
6.1.2	Analysis of non-linear EHG features	122
6.1.3	Analysis of synchronization EHG features	123
6.2	Overcoming the curse of dimensionality	124
6.2.1	Effective feature selection strategies for preterm labor prediction	124

6.2.2	Genetic algorithm and imbalanced datasets: tailoring feature selection for preterm birth prediction	125
6.3	Imbalanced data learning for a preterm labor prediction system: challenges and perspectives	127
6.3.1	Resampling before partitioning in preterm labor prediction from EHG signals	127
6.3.2	Partitioning before resampling in preterm labor prediction from EHG signals	128
6.4	Limitations and future work	129
6.5	References	132
7	Conclusions	143