
Contents

Contents	ix
List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xvii
Glossary	xix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Motivation	1
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 Hypotheses	3
1.4 Structure of this dissertation	4
2 State of the Art	5
2.1 The heart: role and anatomy	5
2.1.1 The cardiovascular system in a nutshell	5
2.1.2 Structural anatomy of the heart	6
2.2 Electrophysiology behind the pulse	7
2.2.1 Electrophysiology and conduction system	7
2.2.2 Cardiac action potentials	7
2.2.3 Electrophysiological signal propagation: the heartbeat	9
2.3 Cardiac arrhythmias	9
2.3.1 Atrial flutter	10
2.3.2 Atrial fibrillation	11
2.3.3 Ventricular tachycardia	11
2.4 Non-invasively measuring the cardiac activity	13
2.4.1 Introduction to the electrocardiogram	13
2.4.2 Twelve-lead ECG patterns and features	14
2.4.3 Vectorial analysis of the cardiac cycle	15
2.4.4 The vectorcardiogram	17
2.5 Electrical propagation through the cardiac tissue	18
2.5.1 Propagation of the action potential signal	19
2.5.2 Electrogram signals	19

2.5.3	Transmembrane currents	20
2.5.4	Conduction velocity estimation	21
2.6	Characterizing the tissue: intracardiac recordings	26
2.6.1	Electro-anatomic mapping systems in arrhythmias	27
2.6.2	Electrogram recordings in a grid catheter	28
2.6.3	Signal processing for omnipolar electrograms	30
3	Characterization of AFL and Slow Conduction Regions	33
3.1	Introduction	34
3.2	Study design	35
3.3	Materials	36
3.3.1	Synthetic data	36
3.3.2	Clinical data	37
3.4	Methods	39
3.4.1	Preprocessing	39
3.4.2	VCG archetypes	41
3.4.3	Characterisation of VCG loops	41
3.4.4	Statistical analysis	45
3.5	Results	46
3.5.1	Synthetic data	46
3.5.2	Real data	47
3.6	Discussion	50
3.6.1	Study limitations	54
3.7	Conclusions	54
4	Cross-Omnipolar Electrograms in HD Arrays	55
4.1	Introduction	56
4.2	Methods	58
4.2.1	Configurations of bEGMs within a clique	59
4.2.2	Estimation of oEGMs	60
4.2.3	Assesment of oEGM estimation	60
4.2.4	Statistical Analysis	61
4.3	Results	61
4.4	Discussion	66
4.5	Conclusions	68
5	Cross-omnipolar EGMs in HD Catheters: Experimental Animal Study	69
5.1	Introduction	70
5.2	Materials	71
5.3	Methods	71
5.3.1	Clique configurations	71
5.3.2	oEGM estimation	73
5.3.3	Assessment of oEGM reliability	74
5.3.4	Statistical analysis	75
5.4	Results	76
5.5	Discussion	80
5.5.1	Study limitations	83
5.6	Conclusions	84
6	Vector Field Heterogeneity in Cardiac Electrical Propagation Maps	85

6.1	Introduction	86
6.2	Materials	87
6.2.1	Simulated data	87
6.2.2	Experimental data	88
6.3	Methods	88
6.3.1	Creation of propagation maps	88
6.3.2	Vector Field Heterogeneity	89
6.3.3	Metric comparison with the widely accepted Spatial Inhomogeneity index	91
6.3.4	Statistical analysis	92
6.4	Results	93
6.4.1	Simulations	93
6.4.2	Experimental data	95
6.4.3	Metric comparison	96
6.5	Discussion	98
6.5.1	Limitations and future work	101
6.6	Conclusions	102
7	Identification of Ablation Targets of VT using VFH	103
7.1	Introduction	104
7.2	Materials and methods	104
7.3	Results	107
7.4	Discussion	109
7.5	Conclusions	110
8	Quantifying Clinical Response in Atrial Arrhythmias using REACT	111
8.1	Introduction	112
8.2	Methods	113
8.2.1	Patient recruitment and clinical electrophysiology study	113
8.2.2	Electrogram recording and pre-processing	114
8.2.3	Identification of regions of repetitive activity	114
8.2.4	Identifying physiological variations underlying repetitive activity values	115
8.2.5	Unsupervised machine learning of repetitive activity and clinical variables	116
8.2.6	Statistical analysis	116
8.3	Results	116
8.3.1	Patient demographics	116
8.3.2	Islands of electrogram similarity	116
8.3.3	Islands of electrogram similarity: global and regional	118
8.3.4	Clinical phenotypes based on islands of electrogram similarity	119
8.3.5	Calibrating repetitive activity value to physiological electrogram variations	120
8.3.6	Clinical phenotypes identified by machine learning	120
8.4	Discussion	121
8.4.1	Metrics of atrial fibrillation organization and disorganization	121
8.4.2	Mechanisms for synchronized sites	122
8.4.3	Previous reports of repetitive activations in atrial fibrillation	122
8.4.4	Prior studies linking atrial tachycardia and atrial fibrillation	123

CONTENTS

8.4.5	Clinical utility of repetitive activity	123
8.4.6	Limitations	123
8.5	Conclusions	124
9	Discussion	125
9.1	Achievement of thesis objectives	125
9.2	Answering the initial hypotheses	126
9.3	Non-invasive vs intracardiac measurements: can we do without one?	127
9.4	ECGi as a promising bridge	129
9.5	Intracardiac recordings: not all that glitters is gold	129
9.6	Omnipolar technology and the advantage of the cross clique	130
9.7	Validation of the cross-omnipole in animal and clinical studies	131
9.8	Insights on the inter-electrode distance for array catheters	132
9.9	From omnipolar technology to quantifying local electrical disarray in clinical settings	133
9.10	Local and global organization conduction patterns	134
9.11	Overall limitations and future work	135
10	Conclusions	139
A	Scientific Impact of this Dissertation	141
A.1	Scientific journal articles	141
A.2	Awards associated with the research for this thesis	142
A.3	International engineering conference publications	142
A.4	International medical conference publications	143
A.5	National engineering conference publications	144
B	Appendices to Chapter 3	147
B.1	VCG loop alignment	147
C	Appendices to Chapter 5	149
C.1	Statistical analysis	149
C.2	Code	150
D	Appendices to Chapter 6	155
D.1	Statistical tests results	155
D.2	Computation of VFH from LATs	155
E	Appendices to Chapter 8	159
E.1	Additional description of the data	159
E.2	Dynamics of AF organization quantified by the REACT algorithm	159
E.3	REACT pseudocode	162
	Bibliography	165