

CONTENTS

Acronyms	ix
Abstract	xi
Resumen	xiii
Resum	xv
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Motivation	1
1.2. Objectives	2
1.3. Structure of the thesis	3
2. State of the art	5
2.1. The heart	5
2.1.1. Anatomy of the heart	5
2.1.2. Electrophysiology of the heart	6
2.1.3. The electrocardiogram	8
2.1.4. Body Surface Potential Mapping	11
2.2. Heart Arrhythmias: Electrophysiology and treatment	13
2.2.1. Introduction	13
2.2.2. Atrial arrhythmias: Atrial fibrillation	13
2.2.3. Ventricular arrhythmias: Brugada syndrome	22
2.3. The mathematical bioelectrical field formulation	28
2.3.1. Field in an infinite homogeneous medium	29
2.3.2. Field in a finite inhomogeneous medium: the Boundary Element Method	30
2.4. The Forward and Inverse Problems of the electrocardiography	33
2.5. Methods for the volume transfer matrix computation	36
2.6. Methods for the inverse problem resolution	38

3. Methods	43
3.1. Building the BEM transfer matrix	43
3.1.1. Numerical computation of D (the solid angle Ω integral)	48
3.1.2. Numerical computation of G (the dS/r integral)	51
3.2. The inverse problem resolution methodology	54
3.3. Validation with mathematical cellular model	54
4. An Iterative Method for Indirectly Solving the Inverse Problem of Electrocardiography	57
4.1. Introduction	57
4.2. Methods	58
4.2.1. Approach for ECG inverse problem	58
4.2.2. Potential database generation	58
4.2.3. Iterative search algorithm	59
4.3. Results	60
4.3.1. Accuracy in single dipole location	60
4.3.2. Influence of SPDB resolution	61
4.3.3. Influence of noise	62
4.3.4. Accuracy in double dipole location	63
4.3.5. Computing time	64
4.3.6. Study with a realistic torso model	64
4.4. Discussion	67
4.5. Conclusion	67
5. Characteristics of inverse-computed epicardial electrograms of Brugada syndrome patients	69
5.1. Introduction	69
5.2. Methods	70
5.2.1. Patient Population	70
5.2.2. BSPM recording	70
5.2.3. ECG signal processing	71
5.2.4. EGM measurements	71
5.2.5. Statistical analysis	72
5.3. Results	72
5.4. Discussion	74
5.4.1. Main findings	74
5.4.2. Comparison with previous studies	74
5.4.3. Limitations and future work	74
5.5. Conclusion	75

6. Noninvasive estimation of the activation sequence in the atria during sinus rhythm and atrial tachyarrhythmia	77
6.1. Introduction	77
6.2. Methods	77
6.2.1. Clinical case study	78
6.3. Results	80
6.3.1. Mathematical model validation	80
6.3.2. Clinical case study	80
6.4. Discussion	82
6.5. Conclusion	82
7. Noninvasive Estimation of Epicardial Dominant High-Frequency Regions during Atrial Fibrillation	83
7.1. Introduction	83
7.2. Methods	84
7.2.1. Simultaneous body surface and intracardiac recordings in AF patients	84
7.2.2. Computational models of the atria and torso	84
7.2.3. Noninvasive Characterization of Epicardial AF Activity	86
7.3. Results	87
7.3.1. Noninvasive Identification of Atrial DFs during AF	87
7.3.2. Accuracy of the Inverse Problem Resolution	89
7.4. Discussion	92
7.4.1. Noninvasive Estimation of Atrial Activation Patterns	92
7.4.2. Noninvasive Estimation of Atrial Dominant Frequencies	92
7.4.3. Limitations of the study	93
7.5. Conclusion and Clinical Implications	94
8. Discussion	95
8.1. Main findings	95
8.2. Comparison with previous studies	97
8.3. Limitations	99
9. Conclusions and future works	101
9.1. Conclusions	101
9.2. Future works	102

10. Contributions	105
10.1. Main publications of this thesis	105
10.1.1. Journal papers	105
10.1.2. International conferences	105
10.1.3. National conferences	106
10.2. Publications related to this thesis	107
10.2.1. Journal papers	107
10.2.2. Book chapter	107
10.2.3. International conferences	107
10.2.4. National conferences	108
10.3. Author contribution	109
10.4. Research stays	110
References	111