

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>1 Motivation, Hypotheses, and Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Motivation . . . . .	1
1.2 Initial Hypotheses . . . . .	3
1.3 Objectives . . . . .	4
1.4 Thesis Structure . . . . .	6
<b>2 Basic Electrocardiography Concepts</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Cardiovascular Physiology . . . . .	10
2.1.1 Heart Anatomy . . . . .	10
2.1.2 Cardiac Cycle . . . . .	11
2.2 Cardiac Conduction System . . . . .	11
2.3 The Electrocardiogram . . . . .	13
2.3.1 Leads of the Standard ECG . . . . .	13
2.3.2 Orthogonal Planes of the ECG . . . . .	17
2.3.3 The Normal ECG . . . . .	18
2.3.4 Genesis of the ECG. The Heart Vector . . . . .	20
2.3.5 The ECG as a Clinical Tool for Cardiac Diagnosis . . . . .	21
<b>3 Atrial Fibrillation and its Linear Model</b>	<b>25</b>

3.1	Definition and Clinical Manifestation . . . . .	26
3.2	Classification . . . . .	27
3.3	Electrophysiological Mechanisms . . . . .	28
3.4	Epidemiology . . . . .	29
3.5	Atrial Fibrillation and Quality of Life . . . . .	33
3.6	Bioelectric Model of Atrial Fibrillation . . . . .	34
3.6.1	Potentials on the Body Surface . . . . .	34
3.6.2	Independence and Nongaussianity of Atrial and Ventricular Activities . . . . .	40
<b>4</b>	<b>Estimation Strategies of the Atrial Activity from the ECG</b>	<b>43</b>
4.1	Time-domain Based Techniques . . . . .	44
4.2	Blind Source Separation . . . . .	46
4.2.1	General Mixing Model . . . . .	46
4.2.2	Instantaneous Linear Mixing Model . . . . .	47
4.2.3	Convolutional Linear Mixing Model . . . . .	50
4.2.4	Global Matrix $G$ . . . . .	51
4.3	Applicability of BSS to Estimate the Atrial Activity . . . . .	53
4.3.1	Conditions of the Sources in BSS . . . . .	53
4.3.2	Separability and Identifiability . . . . .	54
4.4	Separation Criteria for Convolutional BSS . . . . .	56
4.5	Convolutional BSS algorithms Under Test . . . . .	57
4.5.1	Infomax . . . . .	58
4.5.2	MBLMS . . . . .	58
4.5.3	TDD . . . . .	60
4.5.4	CoBlISS . . . . .	61
4.6	Atrial Activity Extraction from Holter Recordings . . . . .	62
4.6.1	Inherent Problems . . . . .	62

4.6.2	Wavelet Transform Principles . . . . .	63
4.6.3	A New Algorithm for Atrial Activity Estimation: Convolutional Multiband Blind Separation . . . . .	66
<b>5</b>	<b>Prediction of Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation Termination</b>	<b>71</b>
5.1	Sample Entropy as a Regularity Estimator . . . . .	72
5.2	Multi-Parametric Sample Entropy . . . . .	74
5.2.1	Shared Steps . . . . .	75
5.2.2	Univariate Analysis . . . . .	76
5.2.3	Multivariate Analysis . . . . .	77
5.2.4	Selection of the Optimal Time-Frequency Distribution . . . . .	78
5.3	ECG Signal Quantization Effects . . . . .	79
5.3.1	Introduction . . . . .	79
5.3.2	Methodology . . . . .	80
5.4	Poincaré Plots of Time-Frequency Parameters . . . . .	82
5.4.1	Introduction . . . . .	82
5.4.2	Methodology . . . . .	82
<b>6</b>	<b>Database and Performance Analysis</b>	<b>85</b>
6.1	Database Source and Signal Preprocessing . . . . .	86
6.2	Performance Analysis of CBSS Algorithms . . . . .	86
6.2.1	Testing Environments . . . . .	86
6.2.2	Performance Indicators . . . . .	90
6.2.3	Identification of the AA source . . . . .	94
6.3	Performance Analysis of CMBS . . . . .	94
6.3.1	Testing environments . . . . .	95
6.3.2	Performance Indicators . . . . .	96
6.4	Performance Analysis of AF Termination Prediction . . . . .	96
6.4.1	Testing Environment . . . . .	97

6.4.2	Spectral Features in MPSE . . . . .	97
6.4.3	Performance Indicators of Quantization Effects . . . . .	98
<b>7</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>101</b>
7.1	CBSS . . . . .	102
7.1.1	First Environment . . . . .	102
7.1.2	Second Environment . . . . .	113
7.2	CMBS . . . . .	117
7.2.1	First Environment . . . . .	117
7.2.2	Second Environment . . . . .	122
7.3	MPSE . . . . .	124
7.3.1	Selection of the Time-Frequency Distribution . . . . .	124
7.3.2	Univariate Analysis . . . . .	125
7.3.3	Multivariate Analysis . . . . .	130
7.4	Quantization Effects . . . . .	137
7.5	Poincaré Plots . . . . .	141
<b>8</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>147</b>
8.1	Estimation Strategies of AA . . . . .	147
8.2	Prediction of PAF Termination . . . . .	151
<b>9</b>	<b>Conclusions, Future Lines and Contributions</b>	<b>155</b>
9.1	Conclusions . . . . .	155
9.2	Future Lines . . . . .	158
9.3	Contributions . . . . .	159
9.3.1	Main Thesis Publications . . . . .	159
9.3.2	Collaborations . . . . .	162
9.3.3	Funding . . . . .	165

<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>Mathematical Notation</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>195</b>