

An Efficient Designing of IIR Filter for ECG Signal Classification Using MATLAB [†]

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Abstract: The electrocardiogram (ECG) is a biological signal that is frequently employed and plays a significant role in cardiac analysis. In the analysis of important indicators of the distribution of patients' ECG record, the R wave is crucial for both analyzing abnormalities in cardiac rhythm and determining heart rate variability (HRV). In this article, a brand-new method for classifying and detecting QRS peaks in ECG data based on artificial intelligence is provided. The integration of the ECG signal data is proposed using a reduced-order IIR filter design. To construct the reduced-order filter, the filter coefficient using the min–max method. The main focus of this study is on removing baseline uncertainty and power line interferences from the ECG signal. According to the results, the accuracy increased by about 13.5% in comparison to the fundamental Pan–Tompkins approach and by about 8.1% in comparison to the current IIR-filter-based categorization rules.

Keywords: ECG; interpretation; acquisition; HRV; Pan-Tompkins method; min–max method



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1. Introduction

The World Health Organization has determined that heart arrest is the leading cause of mortality worldwide. Due to the strong emphasis on medicine, preventive measures, and technology in cardiac health research, investigators have been working to develop the cardiovascular abilities that are typically used in clinics [1,2]. The majority of heart pathology can be understood by looking at the ECG signal. Heart rate and ECG signals are used to evaluate a healthy heart. A cardiac arrhythmia is recognized if an ECG is recorded from a patient and there is any nonlinearity. Figure 1 depicts an average ECG rhythm. The PQRS-TU wave's length and amplitude provide important information regarding the severity of the heart disease. In the clinical setting, the ECG signal is subjected to a variety of sounds during acquisition [3]. Important cardiac foundations include frequency determination, signal superiority, noise, and power line interference (PLI), in addition to external electromagnetic field intrusion [4,5]. It is advised that the issue of contaminated noise removal be solved because it improves accuracy and is crucial for the ECG data. Medical professionals use ECG extensively in the assessment and identification of cardiac health. Cardiologists frequently use ECG as a diagnostic tool to identify cardiovascular diseases [6–8]. The early stages of heart disease are crucial because they can lessen abrupt cardiac failure. Accurate diagnoses require ECG signals of good quality. Electrodes are used to display and record electrical cardiac activity on the body's skin [9].

Normal sinus rhythm (NSR), often known as a regular heartbeat, is present in healthy hearts [10–12]. Atrial depolarization is indicated by P-waves. Regular Q waves indicate septal depolarization and are an early descending deflection of the P wave. The ECG's most common waveform for identifying and detecting early ventricular depolarization is the R

wave, which shows the late ventricular depolarization [13,14]. Ventricular repolarization is characterized by the T-wave. The Purkinje fibers that show the most recent ventricular residuals, or U waves, repolarize.

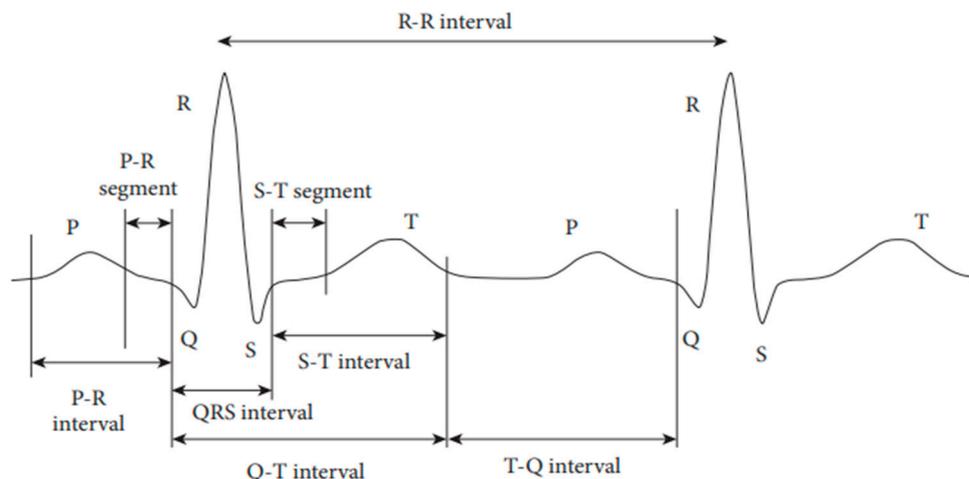


Figure 1. Two-cycle regular ECG waveform.

2. Relevant Review Work

As communication technology has developed, wireless communication has become one of the most popular ways for people to conveniently exchange ideas and thoughts. An audio noise-reduction system is a technique for eliminating noise from audio transmissions. Devices for audio noise reduction use two main strategies. The complementary type calls for carefully removing the audio signal before recording (primarily on tape) [1–5]. The relative weight that the filter assigns to data samples is determined by these settings. Typically, to accomplish this, particular frequencies or frequency ranges must be eliminated [6–13]. Contrarily, filters have a wide range of extra aims, particularly in the area of image processing. They do not merely operate in the frequency domain. There is no apparent hierarchy, but there are many classification systems, all of which overlap in different ways. Filters come in both linear and nonlinear varieties. The system's properties include shift invariance, which is sometimes known as time-variant or time-invariant [14–17]. A filter that operates in a spatial domain is said to be space invariant. The filters that handle time- or spatial-domain signals are slow in time [18,19]. Unlike continuous-time filters, which can be both active and inactive, discrete-time filters can only be active or inactive. This study illustrated the effective use of an optimization-based filter for identifying and categorizing ECG peaks. It participated in both passes. In the first pass, a useful lower-order IIR filter design method based on transfer function optimization was suggested for detecting QRS peaks. For peak detection performance improvement, the IIR filter and Hilbert transform was used. Three distinct approaches were tested for their filtering effectiveness for baseline wandering.

The majority of people today aged between the ages of 40 and 60 experience cardiac-related health problems. An electrocardiogram is the best way to capture heart impulses and identify any abnormalities at an early stage, as demonstrated in Figure 2a, showing anormal ECG, and Figure 2b, showing an abnormal ECG. The heart rate variability and QRS complex are used to classify the abnormalities [20]. For the purpose of removing motion distortions from the ECG data, numerous authors have put forth various methods. The aforementioned techniques include wavelet transforms (WTs), adaptive filters (AFs), and empirical mode decomposition (EMD) [21]. Blanco-Velasco proposed an ECG enhancement technique to remove baseline drift and noise brought on by high frequencies. On the other hand, mode mixing, which yields erroneous intrinsic mode functions, is one of the prevalent problems in empirical mode decomposition.

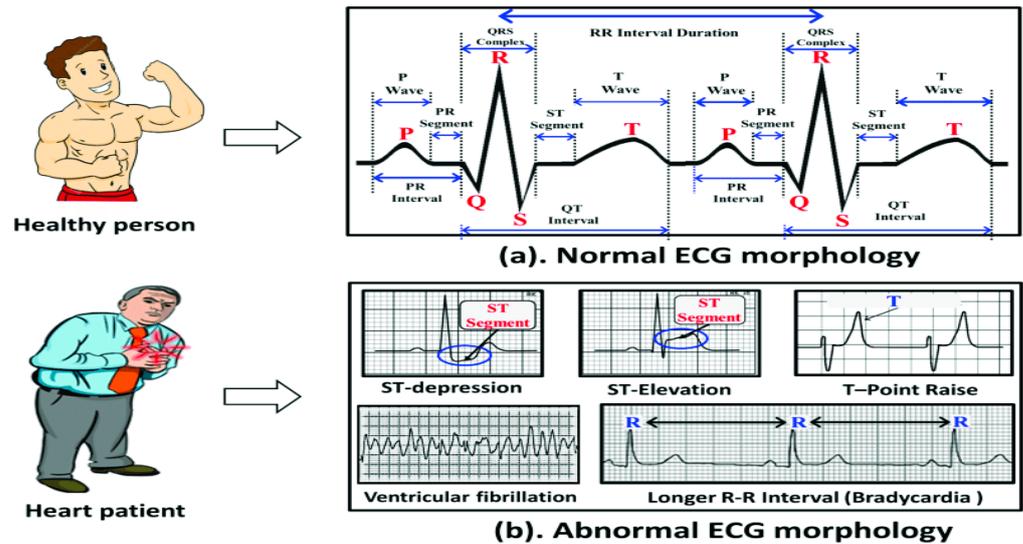


Figure 2. (a) Healthy ECG; (b) diseased ECG.

3. Objectives of Research

Designing an efficient IIR filter for ECG signals to identify heart problems was the main focus of the design, analysis, and implementation of the following subsystems. They are categorized as aspects of the work flow in order to create an effective model for ECG analysis.

- The first theory is furthered by the implementation of modules such arithmetic circuits for filters used in ECG signal classification, as well as the construction of parallel prefix circuits with the least amount of depth utilizing the FPGA hardware prototype.
- The second theory is that by creating an algorithm that can identify the difficult QRS problem in real-time ECG classification, we may further investigate the effective filter utilized in ECG signal classification.

4. Pan–Tompkins Peak Detection Approach

There have been numerous strategies created to enhance the effectiveness peak detection and classification efficiency, which are anticipated to be directly correlated with the effectiveness of the methods used during the preprocessing step. Thus, two current filtering techniques—Pan–Tompkins and a 60-order IIR filter, respectively—were used. For peak identification, the Pan–Tompkins technique was most frequently utilized. However, other variations of the Pan–Tompkins approach were developed to increase the categorization effectiveness of the ECG signal using the updated peak detection algorithm.

5. IIR Filter Design

It is recommended to use the optimization method in order to bring down the expected order of the IIR filter design. A block diagram of the proposed ECG categorization algorithm can be found in Figure 3a. In the proposed IIR filter, which is a two-stage filter, the pass band filters and stop band filters are laid out in the manner that is depicted in Figure 3b.

$$Y(n) = X(n) * H1 * H2, \tag{1}$$

where H1 is the pass band filter’s transfer function; and an example of a transfer function for 106 MIT-ECG BIH’s data is provided as

$$H1 = \frac{0.20346s^4 - 0.7131s^2 + 0.24566}{s^4 + 0.5488s^3 + 0.4535s^2 + 0.1763s + 0.1958} \tag{2}$$

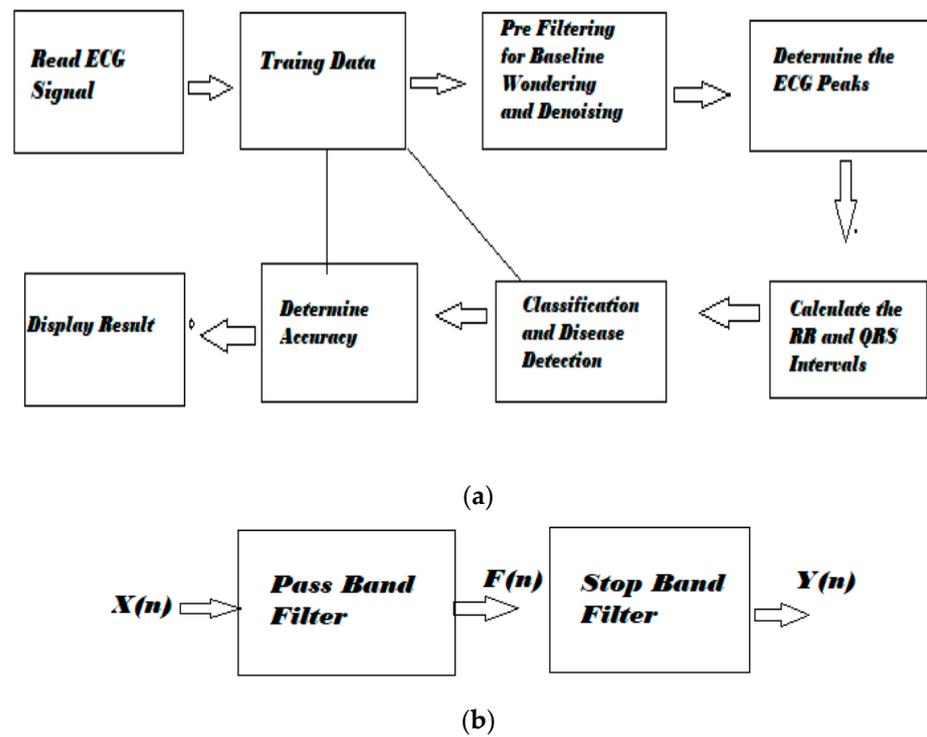


Figure 3. (a): Image detection and classification methods.(b): Basic IIR filter design procedure in two stages.

The optimization method is suggested to reduce the expected IIR filter design’s order:

$$H2 = \frac{0.3201s^{16} + 4.517s^{15} + 30.45s^{14} + 130s^{13} + 393.2s^{12} + 892.9s^{11} + 1574s^{10} + 2196s^9 + 2452s^8 + 2196s^7 + 1574s^6 + 892.9s^5 + 393.2s^4 + 130s^3 + 30.45s^2 + 4.517s + 0.3201}{s^{16} + 12.12s^{15} + 70.25s^{14} + 258.1s^{13} + 672.2s^{12} + 1316s^{11} + 2004s^{10} + 2419s^9 + 2340s^8 + 1819s^7 + 113s^6 + 559.4s^5 + 214.8s^4 + 62s^3 + 12.7s^2 + 1.649s + 0.102} \quad (3)$$

Equations (1) and (2) depict the transfer function for the IIR filter, the pass band filter, and the stop band filter, respectively (3).

5.1. Optimization Methods

The methods of ECG processing that are used most frequently are discussed below.

5.1.1. The Low-Pass Differentiation Approach (LPD)

The total band-pass filter significantly reduces the effects of all sorts of unwanted interference and frequency noise. This algorithm chooses the necessary QRS complexes based on a set of thresholds and modifies the threshold according to the magnitude of the peak. The thresholds for this algorithm are determined by a human component. The operator’s threshold-setting expertise may be the main source of error in this Pan–Tompkins method.

5.1.2. Hilbert Transform (HT)

HT use the 90° phase angle shift method of each component of the signal $h(t)$. The Hilbert transform of $h(t)$, using $h(t)$ as its signal representation, can be written as

$$\hat{h} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{h(p)}{t - p} dp \quad (4)$$

The HT approach was employed by researchers in Refs. [13,21–23] implemented for the recognition of ECG QRS.

5.1.3. Optimum Reduced-Order IIR Filter Design

The basic IIR filter requires 16 orders, as can be seen from the equations above. In this study, MINMAX optimization is proposed as a way to reduce the order of the transfer function. Figure 3 shows the image detection and classification methods in sequence.

$$\min_{x_1 \in X} \max_{x_2 \in X} f(x_1, x_2) \quad (5)$$

where $X \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}$ and $Y \mathbb{R}^{d \times 2}$ are convex sets, f is a differentiable objective function, and x_1 and x_2 are optimization variables. Transfer function coefficients are optimized in a sequential manner, as demonstrated in the sequential min–max optimization technique.

1. To assess a particular instance, a sample was suggested;
2. It was suggested that an optimization approach be designed for the denoising of the herring assistance signal using a minimized-order IIR filter;
3. Two different filters must consider the proposed IIR filter before denoising.

6. IIR Filter Design Algorithm

The following list describes each step taken in the suggested algorithm:

- i. The ECG data containing occurrences of arrhythmia has 48 channels;
- ii. ECG characteristics are defined;
- iii. The standard QRS interval (0.098 s) and sampling frequency F_s (500 Hz), i.e., the QRS (t), are established;
- iv. A 60-order IIR high pass filter is used to perform baseline wondering;
- v. The best 150 Hz IIR low-pass filter possible is created. An upper and lower cutoff frequency FL and FH are designed for a pass band Butterworth filter. A stop band is created (Figure 3b). $FL1$ and $FH1$ are the lower and higher cutoff frequencies for the Butterworth IIR filter;
- vi. With a 100-coefficient IIR stop band filter, interference from power lines is eliminated;
- vii. The average of the regular and irregular heart rates is determined.

The 30 ECG data, which contain a wide variety of ECG data, were chosen for the current investigation out of the 48 channels that humans have available. Figure 4 displays the input ECG data. At a rate of 360 samples per second, the following ECG data were captured. The ECG information is displayed in Figure 5a–f. The ECG data show the most erratic variations in these channels. Therefore, it is important to show how well the peak detection method works against them. These channels were chosen for another reason; several ECG peak detection techniques already in use, such the ones in Refs. [24–34], also take them into account.

6.1. Min–Max Optimization Enabled Filter Design

This research suggests a fundamental change to the ECG signal processing procedure in order to develop an optimal reduced-order IIR filter. In order to achieve smoothing, the proposed lower-order IIR filter design was used in place of the traditional FIR low-pass filters. The sequential results for the proposed IIR filter using optimization strategies for filtering the ECG signal are shown in the last row in results, making it evident that the projected technique significantly smooths out the artifacts while also maintaining the characteristics of the QRS peaks.

6.2. Results of Optimized Filter ECG Design

Figure 4 provides an outcome comparison for the suggested IIR filter design. Three filters are given after the results with a stop band as an IIR filter.

6.3. Simulation Results of QRS Peak Detection in MATLAB

From Figure 5 the proposed filter design, as can be seen, increases the magnitude of the following data, which are included in this collection: 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 100,

101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 113, 114, 200, 201, 202, 203, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 215, 217, 219, 221, 222, and 228.

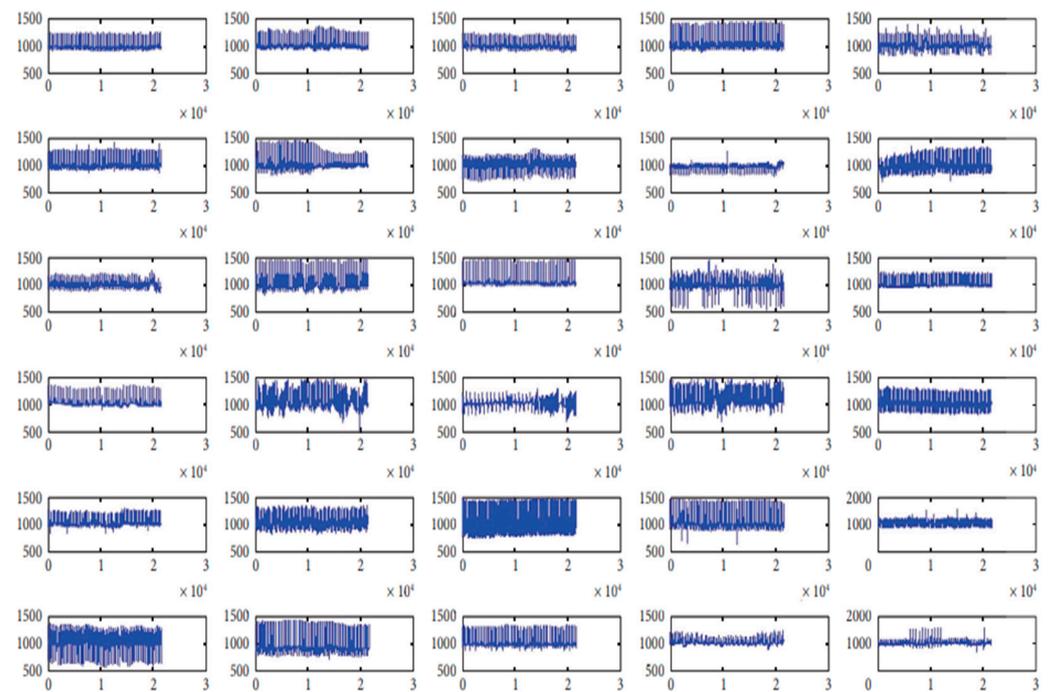


Figure 4. Data from the 5.556-s ECG arrhythmia database of 35 people recorded for more than 25 min at the MIT-BIH/Physio Net were used in the current investigation.

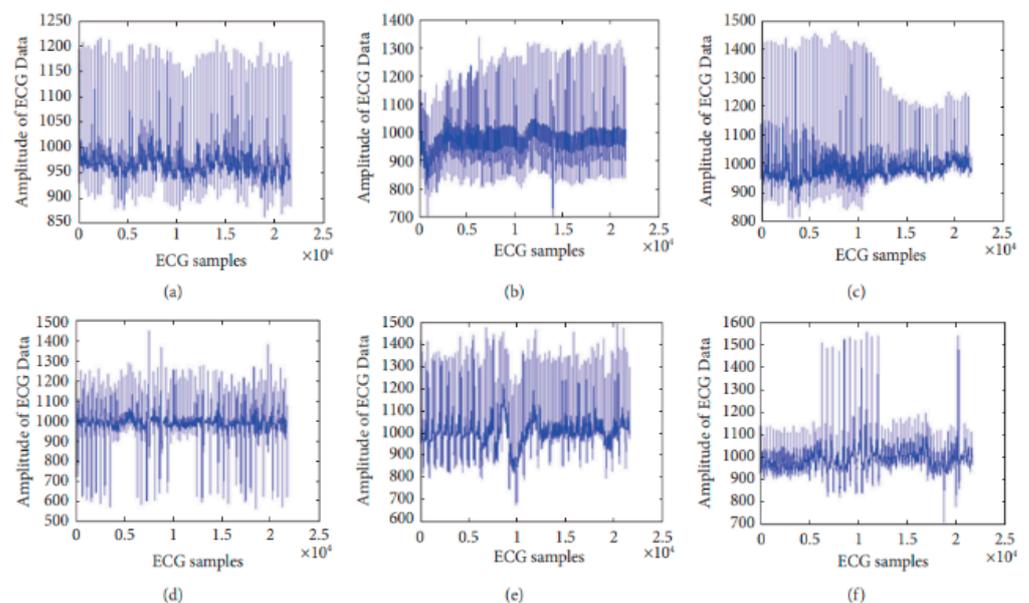


Figure 5. For perceptual result representation, six distinct ECG data with various feature difficulties were taken into account: (a) 102, (b) 106, (c) 109, (d) 200, (e) 208, and (f) 228.

6.4. ECG Image Classification

Three distinct ECG classification rules were offered in our article. In the guidelines for the HRV-based ECG classifications of regular or irregular ECGs are enumerated. When the method fails to locate a precise beat, a false negative (Fn) is produced. Fns are taken out of the corresponding annotation case in the MIT-BIH record. An inaccurate beat outcome is referred to as a false positive (Fp), whereas a true positive (Tp) is indicated by a

precise beat recognized using the suggested approach. Additionally, a true negative (T_n) is accurate, and does not include detected beats. From Figures 6 and 7 we can analyze the ECG signals of the optimized and Hilbert transform filtered signals with respect to R peak detection efficiency.

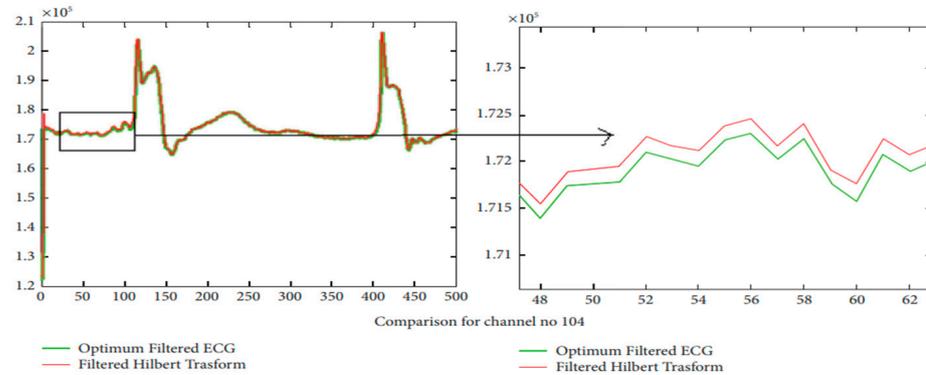


Figure 6. Hilbert transform for channel number 104.

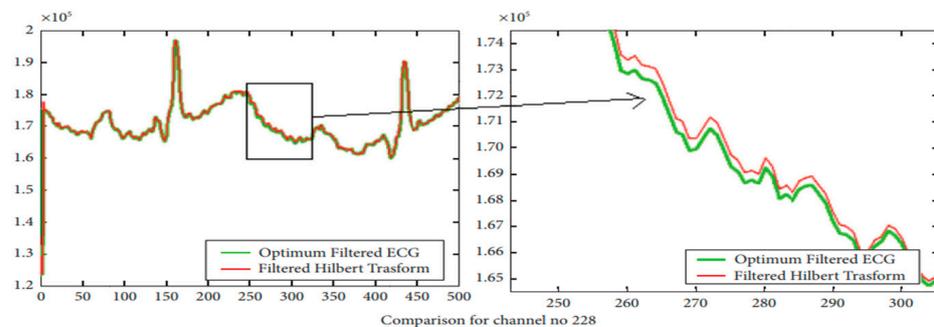


Figure 7. The channel number 228's R peak detection efficiency.

The original ECG signal's characteristics are preserved as well. With the improved filtering representation for the 3500 and 2000 initial samples, which is clearly displayed in Figure 8, further analysis becomes much clearer. The results for the ECG 110 m signal are shown in Figure 8a. Figure 8b shows a zoomed-in view of the filtering, which makes the baseline filtering effects for 2000 samples very obvious.

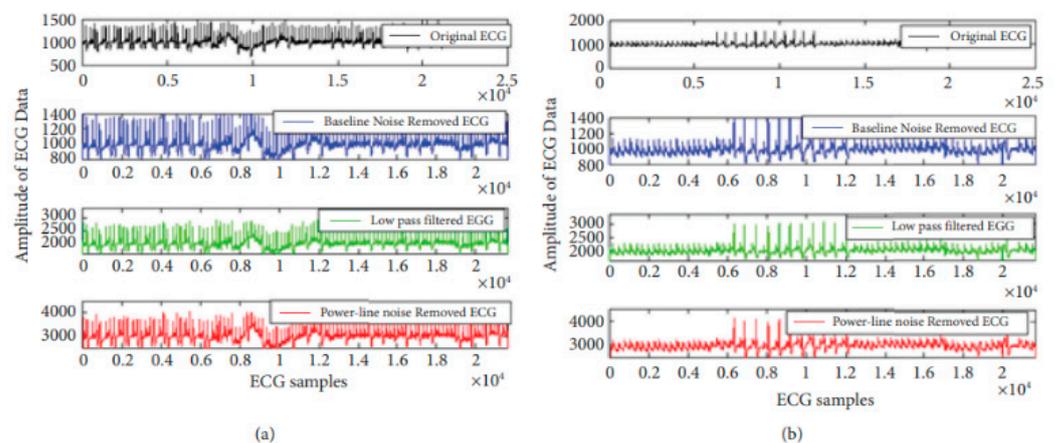


Figure 8. For the 3500 samples, ECG signal pre-processing is plotted for the (a) 101st ECG data and (b) 106th ECG data.

Figure 8a,b shows the number of samples taken into consideration for the experiment on the x-axis.

6.5. Time Domain HRV Parameter Analysis

The proposed ECG classification and peak detection approach includes the examination of time domain statistical HRV characteristics. Using the same RR intervals that were used to analyze the ECG signal, several parameters in the time domain were determined. The following definitions apply to the parameters which this study employed for analysis. Table 1 displays the statistical results of the measured parameters for the six input ECG signals using the suggested peak detection method. According to Table 1, SDNN was produced at its highest level for 228 m channels and at its lowest level for 106 m ECG channels.

Table 1. Comparative analysis for statistics parameters of existing method with proposed method.

| Ref. No. | Accuracy | QRS Peak Detection | RR Interval | HRV Analysis |
|-----------|----------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| [2] | 85% | No | No detected | No |
| [4] | 85.6% | No | No detected | No |
| [6] | 88% | No | No detected | YES |
| [8] | 89% | No | No detected | No |
| [14] | 90% | YES | detected | YES |
| [20] | 91% | YES | detected | No |
| [26] | 92.67% | YES | detected | YES |
| This work | 96.87% | YES | detected | YES |

Maximum and lowest heart rate evaluations were conducted for the 106 m ECG channels, respectively. The most effective method for keeping track of the dynamic shift in self-care under anesthesia may be Poincare plotting. The point on the plot is represented by the value of each subsequent pair of RR intervals.

From Figure 9 The maximum evaluation of the parameter The minimal RMSSD was 106 m ECG channel for the following maths problems: 102m.mat, 106m.mat, and 102m.ECG. The following definitions apply to the parameters this study employed for analysis:

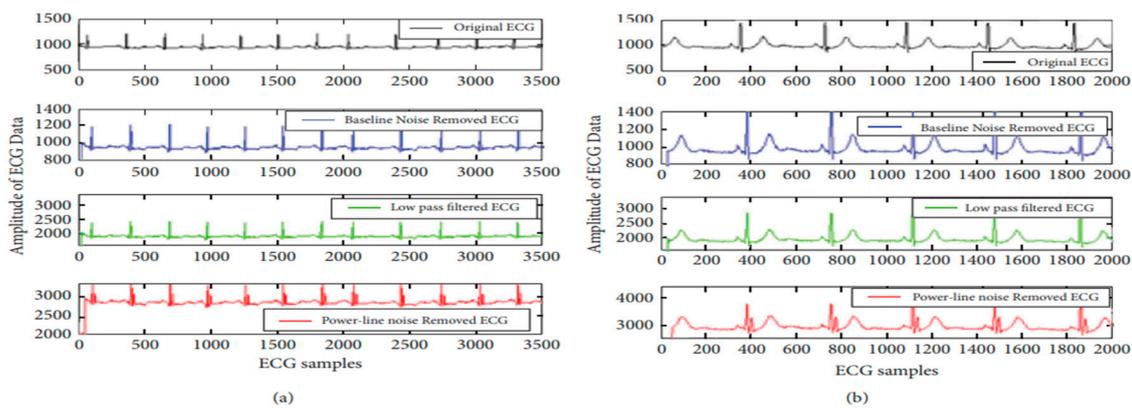


Figure 9. A signal provides a effects of ECG signal artifact reduction. (a) 101st ECG data, (b) 106th ECG data.

From Figure 10a–d, we are analyzing QRS peaks in signal 102 m, 109 m, 208 m and 228 m.

- (a) Standard deviation of NN interval (SDNN): For each pair of RR intervals is used to define the SDNN.
- (b) Root mean square SD (RMSSD):

$$RMSSD = \sqrt{1/M(\text{diff}(\text{RR region})^2)} \tag{6}$$

where M is the RR interval vector’s length, denoted by the symbol RR region.

- (c) NN50 value: The number of R to R intervals that are longer than the 50 ms interval is known as the NN50 value.

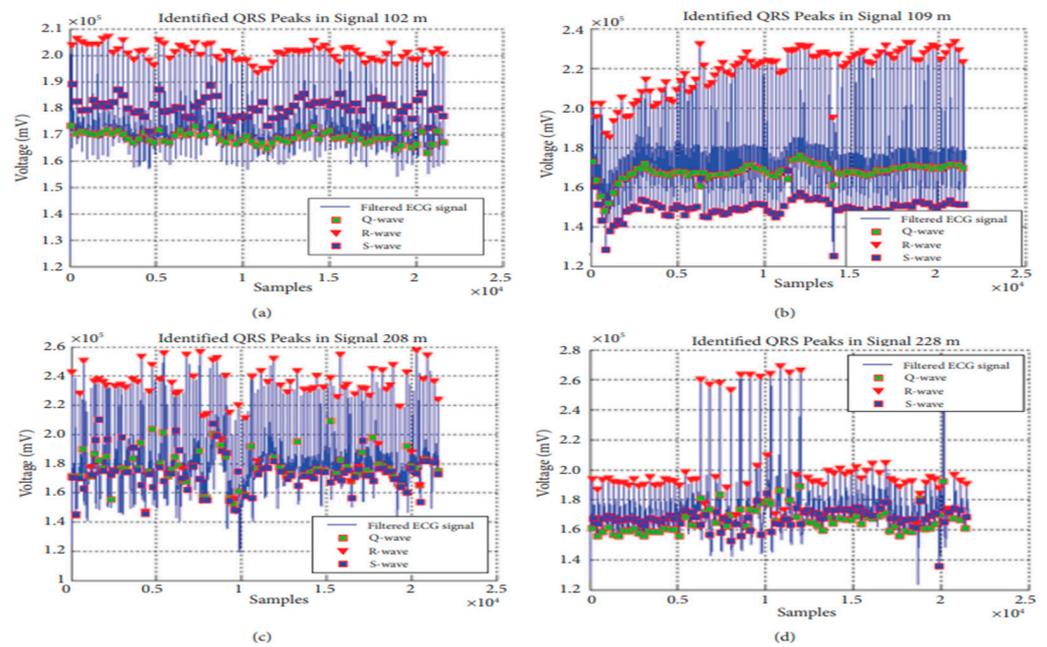


Figure 10. Results of the suggested optimum IIR filter technique for QRS peak identification for four ECG signals.

The sequential results for the proposed IIR filter using optimization strategies for filtering the ECG signal are shown in the last row in Figure 10, making it evident that the projected technique significantly smooths out the artifacts while also maintaining the characteristics of the QRS peaks. Figure 11a,b are representing the signal preprocessing of the data for 101st and 106th ECG samples respectively.

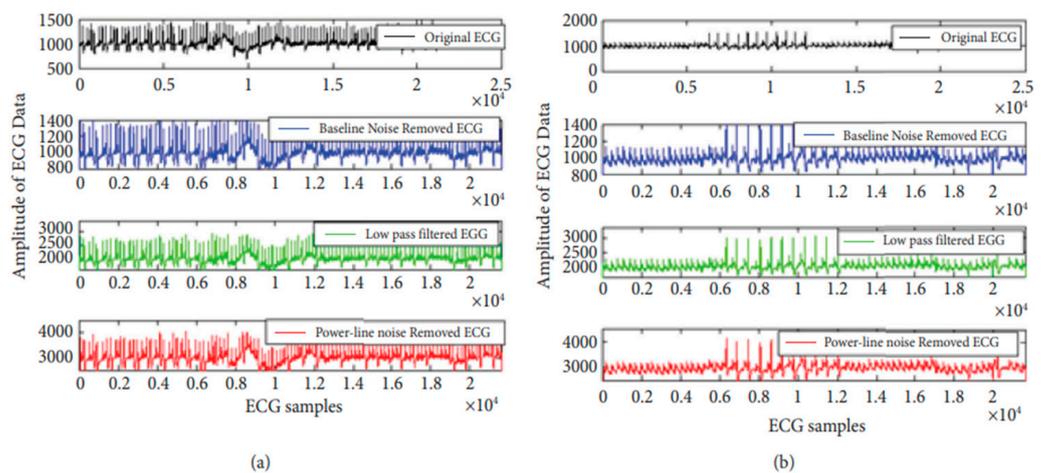


Figure 11. For collected more samples, ECG signal pre-processing is plotted for the (a) 101st data and (b) 106th ECG data.

By analyzing of Figure 12 from (a) to (f), the most effective method for keeping track of the dynamic shift in self-care under anesthesia may be Poincare plotting. The point on the plot is represented by the value of each subsequent pair of RR intervals.

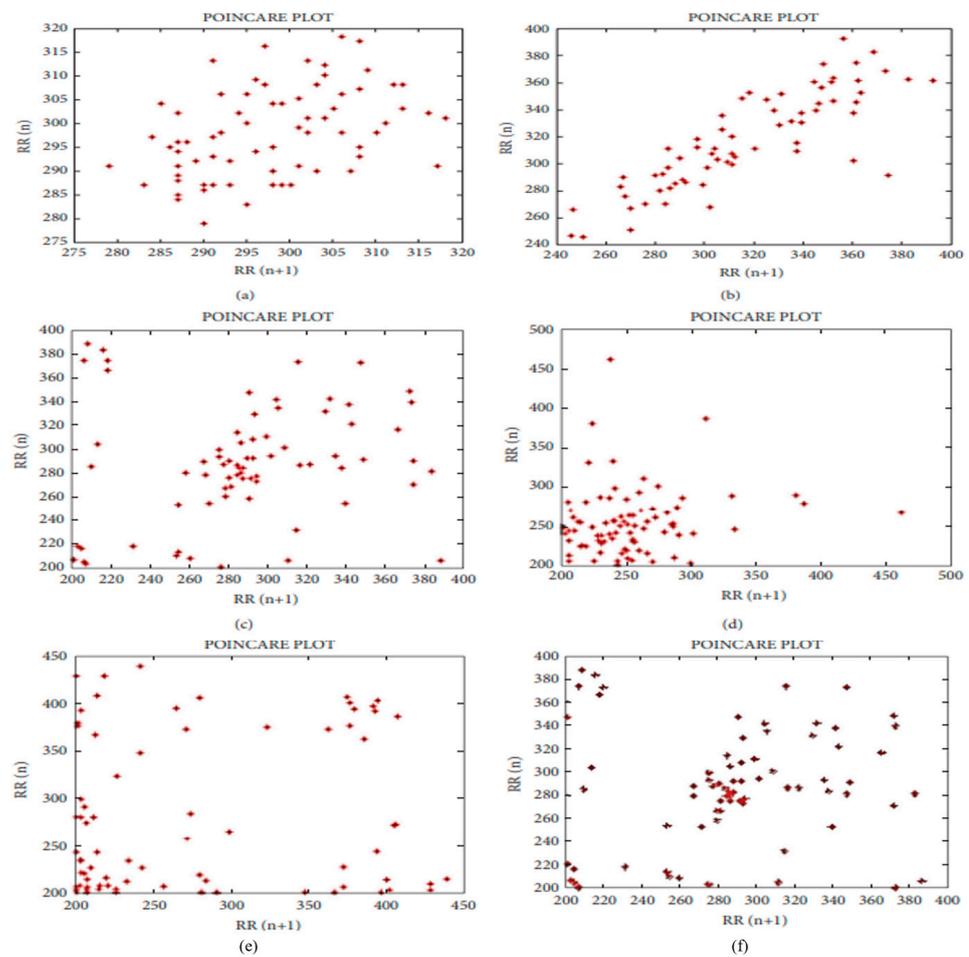


Figure 12. (a–f) Results of HRV analysis for point on the plot is represented by the value of each subsequent pair of RR intervals.

7. Conclusions

QRS peak detection helps to detect diseases and heart rate variability (HRV). The temporal history affects HRV detection. This study proposed a new ECG data classification and QRS peak detection method. The min–max method optimizes reduced-order filter coefficients. This study proposes a fuzzy-based ECG classification rule to improve performance. The projected ideal filter increases amplitude and maintains ECG characteristics, thus improving detection. The classification rule increases true positives and decreases false negatives. This study reported Poincaré plot results of ECG analysis. The projected filter with the optimization method outperformed the other methods, because it achieved 100% precision and improved accuracy by 13.5% over the basic Pan–Tompkins approach and by 8.1% over the current IIR-filter-based classification rules. We hope to find more ECG signal peaks using our analysis method. The identification of ECG peaks can be used for many CVD detection applications.

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