

Automated detection of premature atrial contractions in noninvasive fetal heart rate recordings: a case report

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Where innovation starts

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- 2. Methodology:
 - Non-invasive fetal electrocardiogram
 - Extract fetal heart rate
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- 3. Results
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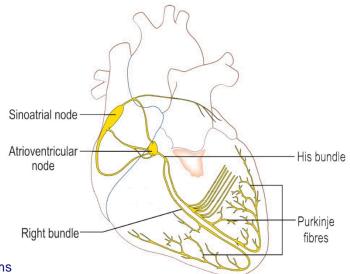
Fetal arrhythmias

Fetal Arrhythmias

- Occurs in 2% of all pregnancies
- Account for up to 20% of the referrals to fetal cardiologists
- Irregular heart rhythms, tachycardia (>180BPM), bradycardia (<100BMP)

Premature atrial contraction (PAC)

- Contraction that originates in the atria, but not at the sinoatrial-node
- Isolated PACs are not associated with fetal distress (no treatment required)





Fetal arrhythmias

Arrhythmia monitoring

- Doppler ultrasound (M-mode imaging, pulsed-wave Doppler, tissue-Doppler)
- Unsuited for long-term continuous monitoring:
 - Manually performed
 - Fetal orientation
 - Susceptible to movement
 - Transmits energy into the body

Additional information: non-invasive fetal ECG

- Continuous monitoring
- Beat-to-beat heart rate
- ECG-waveform morphology

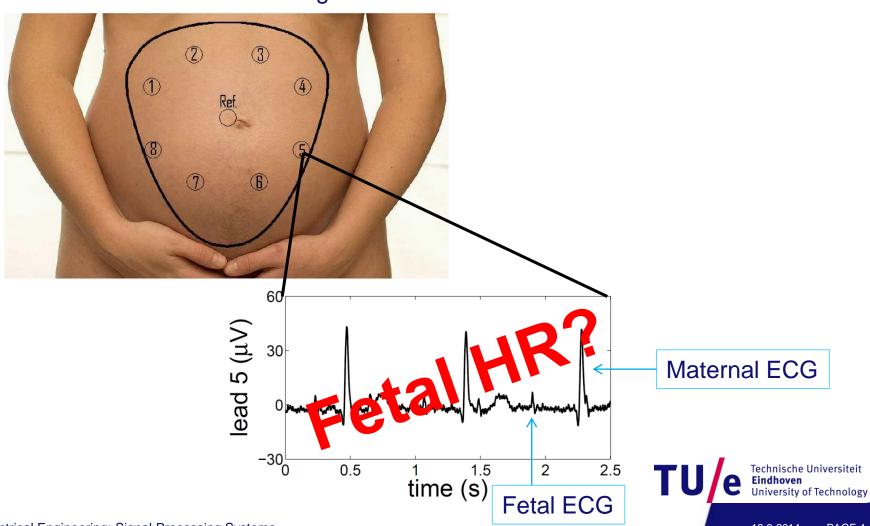
Goal

Show the potential of non-invasive fetal ECG for prolonged recording of arrhythmias

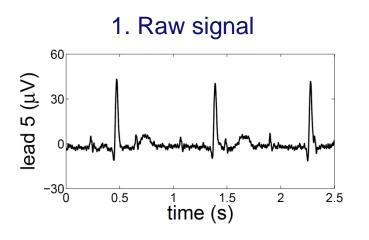


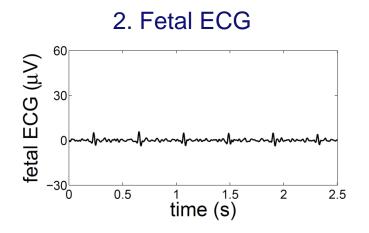
Non-invasive fetal ECG

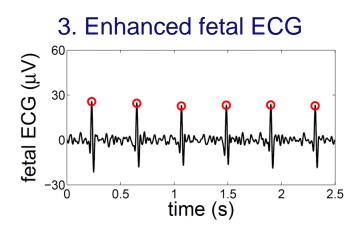
Schematic electrode configuration

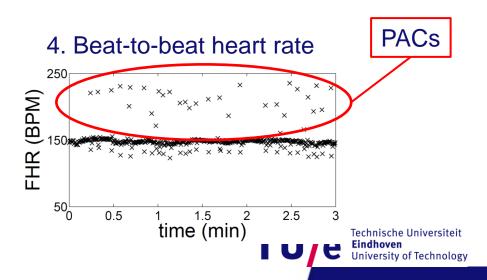


Extract fetal heart rate





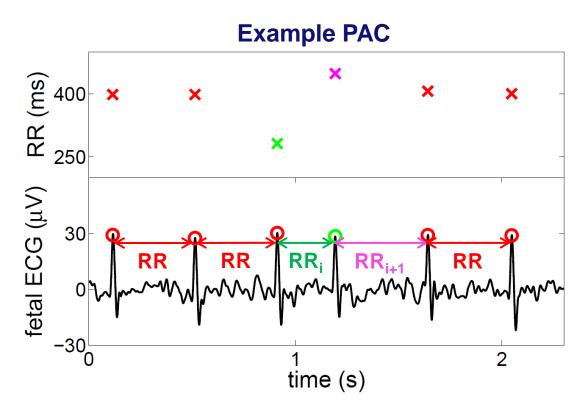




Heart rate based PAC detection

PAC classification

- 1. Instantaneous RR (RR_i) < 85% of average RR
- 2. Next RR (RR_{i+1}) >115% of RR_{i}



RR = time between R-peaks, not BPM!



Results case study

Case:

Recording 45 minutes, gestational age: 24+1

Annotation:

- # 6376 ECG complexes
- # 371 PACs

Performance algorithm

Sensitivity (Se):

$$Se = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} 100\%$$

TP = # True-Positives

FN = # False-Negatives

FP = # False-Positives

Positive-Predictive-Value (PPV):

$$PPV = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} 100\%$$



Results

- Sensitivity: 91%
 - Most PACs are detected
- Positive-Predictive-Value: 92%
 - Only a few ECG complexes are misclassified as a PAC



Discussion & conclusions

Case study

- The non-invasive fetal ECG can be used for detection of fetal arrhythmia
- Reduced performance near artifacts

To do

- Further validation of PAC detection
- Extent to different types of arrhythmias
- Use ECG-waveform information





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