

Analysis & Interpretation of Biomedical Signals using component extraction techniques

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Abstract

Biomedical signals can arise from one or many sources including heart, brains and endocrine systems. Multiple sources poses challenge to researchers which may have contaminated with artifacts and noise. The analysis of these signals is important both for research and for medical diagnosis and treatment. Independent component analysis (ICA) is a technique capable of separating independent components (ICs) from complex electrocardiogram (ECG) signals. The applications of Independent Component Analysis (ICA) to biomedical signals is a rapidly expanding area of research and many groups are now actively engaged in exploring the potential of blind signal separation and signal deconvolution for revealing new information about the brain and body. The Biomedical time series signal like electroencephalogram (EEG), electrocardiogram (ECG), etc. The morphology of the cardiac signal is very important in most of diagnostics based on the ECG. The immense scope in the field of biomedical-signal processing Independent Component Analysis (ICA) is gaining momentum due to huge data base requirement for quality testing. The diagnosis of patient is based on visual observation of recorded ECG, EEG, etc. may not be accurate. To achieve better understanding PCA (Principal Component Analysis) and ICA algorithms helps in analyzing ECG signals. This paper describes some algorithms of ICA in brief, such as Fast-ICA, Kernel-ICA, MS-ICA, JADE, EGLD-ICA, etc. The experimental results presented in the paper show that the SNR proposed here to identify the various components with higher accuracy in the particular algorithm based on classifying biomedical data.

Keywords -CBS(complex biomedical signals), EEG(electroenphalogram), ECG(Electrocardiograph), PCA(Principal Component Analysis), ICA(Independent Component Analysis), Algorithms, SNR, Signal processing

1. INTRODUCTION

The Processing biomedical data becomes more and more important now days, because of its relevance and support for the decisions of the specialists. Due to its complex nature, the process of acquisition for medical information about a certain patient usually supplies data that contains a significant amount of noise. The ECG is major tool used in clinical situations. In recorded ECGs many types of noise and artifact are present. Early work on noise and artifact reduction in the ECG used either temporal or spatial averaging techniques. Apart, many methods to filter out the noise and artifacts from ECG are only partially successful. On the other hand the filters often lead to a reduction in the amplitudes of the components waves, Q-R-S wave. Hence filters to remove interference when it is same frequency range as the cardiac signal.

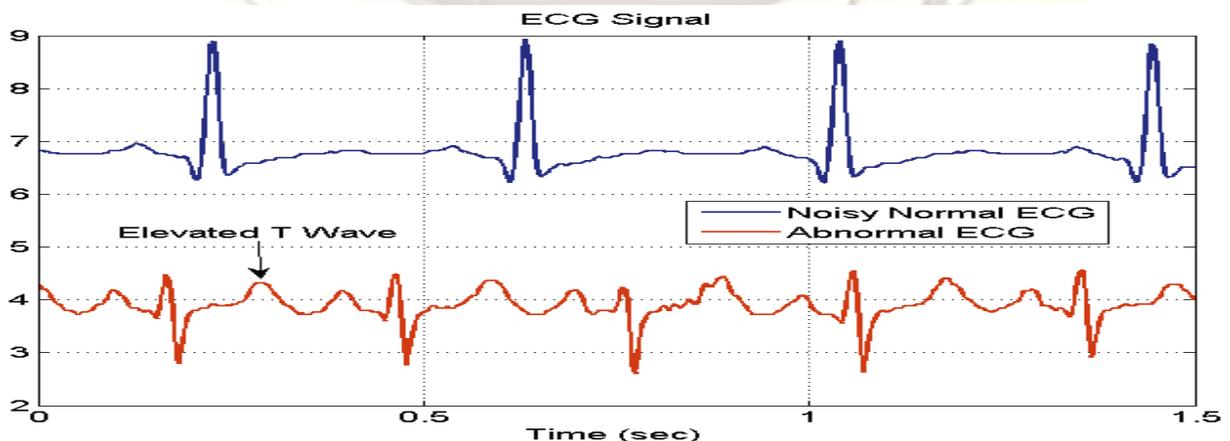


Fig.1 Standard ECG with noise activity

In the particular problem of classifying certain types of biomedical signals, many techniques that extract relevant information from the data have been used. In order to detect abnormalities in informational data, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is used. The idea behind extracting the principal components is to find the spatial directions of the data set, that have the maximum data variance ([1], [2]). PCA is a very efficient technique used widely to obtain relevant statistical description of the data. It is extensively applied in preprocessing and classification steps of the information in several domains. Its popularity comes from the fact that it uses first and second order statistics in order to characterize the data sets, thus giving a high level of confidence in the obtained results [3]. Although PCA is very useful in the case of extracting relevant information from some data sets, there are other techniques that use higher-order statistics in characterizing the data. Independent Component Analysis (ICA) may be regarded as a particular case of blind source separation problem ([4], [5], [6]) that attempts to separate all underlying sources contributing to the data without knowing these sources or the way that they are mixed. In order to achieve the goal of separating independent components from mixed signals, the ICA model does not need any prior knowledge about each source. The most important assumption that is associated with the ICA model is the independence of the sources to be estimated. Another assumption used in the ICA model is the following: the signal from each sensor (that is, an observable variable) has different mixing ratio of the independent components. ICA has been introduced to mechanical dynamic signal analysis in the last few years ([7], [8]). In our application, the signals received from the sensors are formally represented by the examples in the data set that is taken into consideration. The sources are, in fact, the independent components estimated by the ICA model or the latent variables depending on which the recorded signals can be expressed. In biomedical data, noise is almost always present, because of the residuals in the signals, coming from other body activities [9]. The main disadvantage of the various types of approaches in the problem of noise reduction is that they are time consuming and computationally expensive. That is why the idea of preprocessing the data is much more popular nowadays. The noise reduction may be done by applying suitable low pass filters in time domain before implementing ICA algorithm [10]. ECG appears to satisfy some of the conditions for ICA : 1) mixing happens linearly at electrodes 2) Time delays in signal transmission are negligible: 3) There appears to be fewer sources than mixtures 4) sources have non-Gaussian voltage distributions. Some violations can happen just because of movements of the heart such as contraction of the chambers. The ECG signal is a very weak time varying signal (about 10 microvolt) and has a frequency between 0.5Hz to 100Hz. The waveforms thus recorded have been standardized in terms of amplitude and phase relationships and any deviation from this would reflect the presence of an abnormality. Abnormal patterns of ECG may be due to undesirable artifacts Normally ECG is contaminated by power line interference of 60Hz. So it is desired to eliminate this noise and to find how best the signal can be improved.

2. Theoretical Framework: Decomposition

2.1 PCA (Principal Component Analysis)

Principal component analysis (PCA) has widespread applications because it reveals simple underlying structures in complex data sets using analytical solutions from linear algebra which provides a brief summary for implementing PCA. A primary benefit of PCA arises from quantifying the importance of each dimension for describing the variability of a data set. In particular, the measurement of the variance along each PCA is completely nonparametric: any data set can be plugged in and an answer comes out, requiring no parameters to tweak and no regard for how the data was recorded. From one perspective, the fact that PCA is non-parametric (or plug-and-play) can be considered a positive feature because the answer is unique and independent of the user. From another perspective the fact that PCA is agnostic to the source of the data is also a weakness. PCA to certain extent due to PCA worked mainly on dimension reduction. So, discrimination of signal (ECG) and noise dimension is not straightforward.

2.2. Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

ICA has become an important signal processing and data analysis technique; it is a particular case of blind source separation and it is used on a wide range of data, such as biomedical, acoustical and astrophysical signals. Generally speaking, ICA is viewed (Jutten [14], Cardoso [15], Jutten and Herault [16], Comon [17], Hyvarinen et al. [6]) as a statistical signal processing technique that models a set of observations, x , with an instantaneous linear mixing of independent latent variables, s

$$x(t)=As(t)+ns(t) \quad (1)$$

where ns is additive noise.

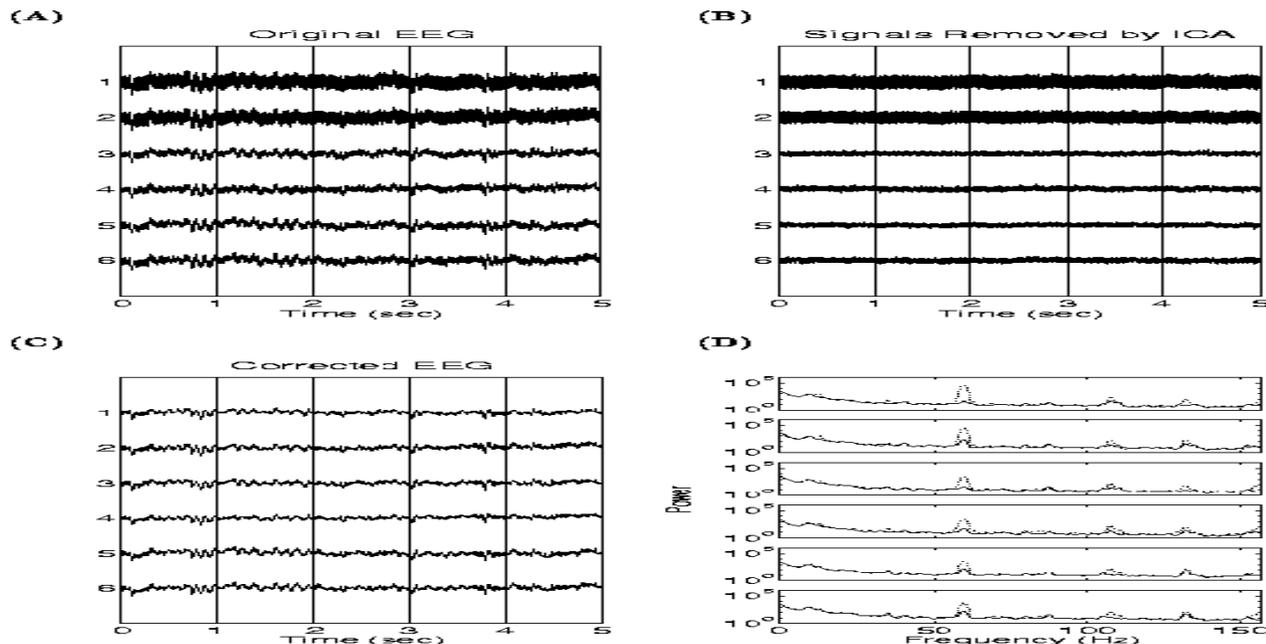


Fig.2 A) five-second portion of a corrupted EEG time series resulting from a poor data-acquisition setting;B) noise components extracted by ICA (*right panel*).C) The same EEG signals corrected for artifacts by ICA by removing the six selected components, and,D) spectral analysis of the original and artifact-corrected EEG recordings.

Note that EEG activity is more visible than in (A), particularly in channels 1 and 2, and the line noise (60 Hz) and aliased line noise frequencies (near 12 Hz, 105 Hz, 135 Hz) are reduced ICA supplies a series of techniques allowing the decomposition of a random vector in linear components which are as independent as possible, where the independence should be understood in its strong statistical sense. The problem of recovering sources from their linear mixtures without knowledge of the mixing channel can be expressed in its simplest form as the problem of identifying the factorization of the N -dimensional observations x into a mixing channel A and M -dimensional sources s , a large body of work being devoted to the case when the statistical independency of sources is assumed. The goal of ICA is to recover the latent components from the observations. If noise negligible, this can be achieved by the determination of an inverse linear mapping from x to s , say Generally, when compared on simple simulated data mixing truly independent source signals, they give similar results. When applied to actual data, however, they may produce somewhat different solutions whose significance is hard to evaluate[12].

3. Algorithm And Parameters

Algorithms like FASTICA, Complex ML ICA, JADE, and Newton ML, kernel algorithms can able to find components within the mixture signal, i.e. noise or artifacts it has to be decided on the facts that mixture need to multichannel or single channel. But in spite of all there are some parameters which will calculate the amount of noise in the mixture are SNR, PI, and Psi etc.

3.1 Signals to Noise Ratio (SNR)

SNR is an engineering term for the power ratio between a signal (meaningful information) and the background noise. ECG signals normally have a wide dynamic range. SNRs are usually expressed in terms of the logarithmic decibel scale. In decibels, the SNR is 20 times the base-10 logarithm of the amplitude ratio, or 10 times the logarithm of the power ratio:

$$SNR=10 \log (E_s/E_n),$$

where E_s is a average signal amplitude and E_n is average noise amplitude measured within the system bandwidth. With FASTICA SNR is better over with normal filtering.

3.2 Performance Index (PI)

The performance of ICA is dependent on various parameters as well unmixing matrix G . The unmixing matrix do vary with multiple parameters.

$$PI = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{|g_{ik}|^2}{\max_j g_{ij}} - 1 \right) + \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{|g_{ki}|^2}{\max_j g_{ji}} - 1 \right) \right\}$$

Where g_{ij} is an ij -th element of the global matrix $G=W*A_0$, W calculated demixing matrix. Script for computing performance index is available

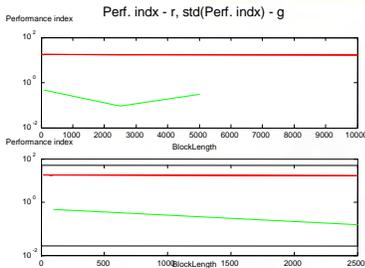


Fig.4 Performance of ICA algorithm for given mixture.

The FASTICA algorithm or fixed point algorithm is one of the most successful algorithms for linearly independent component analysis in terms of accuracy and computational complexity. The convergence phenomenon is one of the considerations in ICA algorithm. For sample mixture, this can leads to errors in unmixing matrix. For the block set of (say n) time required to calculate for unmixing or aggregating will be different in any case. But it needs to be stated that for given mixture, block length could be one of the major factor. The time factor is relatively within limit if techniques are component extraction, may vary with other technique.

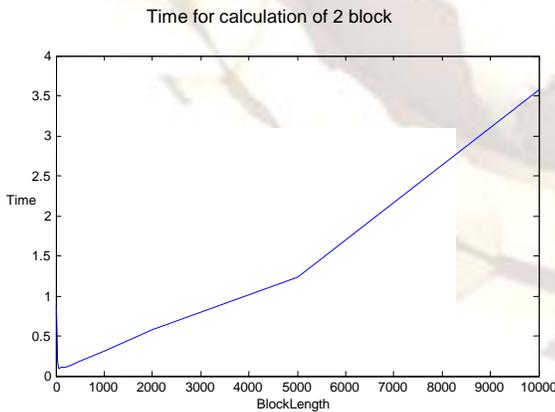


Fig.5 Time for calculation of mixture signal ECG.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Different Algorithm has different performance. The FAST-ICA & MS- ICA has acceptable results. When sources have same (λ) distribution the algorithm of EGLD-ICA has good results.

4.2 FAST- ICA overall performance is good for less number of blocks (preferably less than 2000 samples).

4.3 FAST-ICA is much more time consuming for longer blocks but less than MS-ICA

4.4 KICA worked better for more datasets than any other ICA algorithm.

4.5 JADE does not depend on gradient optimization techniques, neither on choice of unmixing matrix. This makes it more attractive over others.

4 Independent component analysis (ICA) is a technique capable of separating independent components (ICs) from complex electrocardiogram (ECG) signals. ICA can improve signal–noise ratio (SNR) in minimizing the reconstruction errors.

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6. References

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