Automatic Atrial Fibrillation Detection: A Novel Approach Using Discrete Wavelet Transform and Heart Rate Variability

Early detection of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is crucial in order to prevent acute and chronic cardiac rhythm disorders. In this study, a novel method for robust automatic AF detection (AAFD) is proposed by combining atrial activity (AA) and heart rate variability (HRV), which could potentially be used as a screening tool for patients suspected to have AF. The method includes an automatic peak detection prior to the feature extraction, as well as a noise cancellation technique followed by a bagged tree classification. Simulation studies on the MIT-BIH Atrial Fibrillation database was performed to evaluate the performance of the proposed method. Results from these extensive studies showed very promising results, with an average sensitivity of 96.51%, a specificity of 99.19%, and an overall accuracy of 98.22%.