Application of Random Matrix Theory on heartbeat dynamics

A. Knežević ¹, M. Martinis ¹, G. Krstačić ², E. Vargović ³

¹Rudjer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia ²Institute for Cardiovascular Disease and Rehabilitation, Zagreb, Croatia ³CDV info, Zagreb, Croatia

Fluctuations of heartbeat (RR) intervals in ECG are studied and compared with the predictions of Random Matrix Theory (RMT). Of particular interest is observing differences in fluctuation patterns for healthy and diseased subjects. The case of corronary heart disease - stable angina pectoris are examined.

It is found that RR intervals only locally exhibits the fluctuation patterns (universality) predicted by the RMT. The complex heartbeat dynamics is of the mixed type, where regular and irregular (chaotic) regimes coexist. The Brody and the Berry-Robnik type of nearest neighbour distributions are tested for structure sensitivity. It is seen that a parameter of the Brody distribution could be a useful value for observing differences between healthy and diseased states, even for short-time data series.

References:

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