# Logistic Regression-HSMM-based Heart Sound Segmentation

: 红色下划线代表有疑惑的部分

場色下划线代表理解的且帮助梳理的部分 David B. Springer\*, Student Member, IEEE, Lionel Tarassenko, Senior Member, IEEE and Gari D. Clifford, Senior Member, IEEE

Abstract—The identification of the exact positions of the first and second heart sounds within a phonocardiogram (PCG), or heart sound segmentation, is an essential step in the automatic analysis of heart sound recordings, allowing for the classification of pathological events. While threshold-based segmentation methods have shown modest success, probabilistic models, such as hidden Markov models, have recently been shown to surpass the capabilities of previous methods. Segmentation performance is further improved when a priori information about the expected duration of the states is incorporated into the model, such as in a hidden semi-Markov model (HSMM). This article addresses the problem of the accurate segmentation of the first and second heart sound within noisy, real-world PCG recordings using a HSMM, extended with the use of logistic regression for emission 发射概率估 probability estimation. In addition, we implement a modified Viterbi algorithm for decoding the most-likely sequence of states, and evaluated this method on a large dataset of 10172 seconds of PCG recorded from 112 patients (including 12181 first and 11627 second heart sounds). The proposed method achieved an average  $F_1$  score of 95.63 $\pm$ 0.85% while the current state-ofthe-art achieved 86.28±1.55% when evaluated on unseen test recordings. The greater discrimination between states afforded using logistic regression as opposed to the previous Gaussian distribution-based emission probability estimation as well as the use of an extended Viterbi algorithm allows this method to significantly outperform the current state-of-the-art method based on a two-sided, paired t-test.

Index Terms—Phonocardiography, Hidden Markov models, Logistic regression, Heart sound segmentation

## I. Introduction

THE segmentation of the fundamental heart sounds (FHSs) is an essential step in the automatic analysis of the phonocardiogram (PCG). The accurate localisation of the FHSs is a prerequisite for the identification of the systolic or diastolic regions of a PCG, allowing the subsequent classification of pathological murmurs in these regions [1]. The FHSs refer to the first heart sound,  $S_1$ , and the second heart sound,  $S_2$ , originating at the beginning of mechanical systole and diastole respectively [2].  $S_1$  occurs immediately after the R-peak (ventricular depolarisation) of the electrocardiogram (ECG), while  $S_2$  occurs at approximately at the end-T-wave of the ECG (the end of ventricular depolarisation) [3], as shown in Figure 1.

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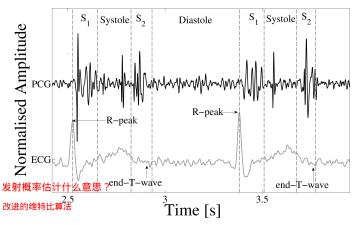


Figure 1. Example of an ECG-labelled PCG, with the ECG, PCG and four states of the heart cycle ( $S_1$ , systole,  $S_2$  and diastole) shown. The R-peak and end-T-wave are labelled as references for defining the approximate positions of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  respectively. Mid-systolic clicks, typical of mitral valve prolapse, can be seen.

While the segmentation of heart sounds is relatively simple in noise-free recordings, it becomes a difficult task when the recordings are corrupted by in-band noise. Common noise sources include endogenous or ambient speech, motion artefacts and physiological sounds such as intestinal and breathing sounds. Other physiological sounds of interest, such as murmurs, clicks, splitting of the FHSs and additional  $S_3$  and  $S_4$ sounds, can also complicate the identification of the FHSs.

This article addresses the problem of accurate segmentation of the FHSs in noisy, real-world recordings from healthy and pathological patients without the use of a reference signal such as an ECG. The principal contributions of this work are: an exploration of features for heart sound segmentation, including a robust selection of the wavelet family and decomposition level when using the discrete wavelet transform; an enhanced hidden Markov model, which includes duration dependencies and logistic regression-based emission probabilities; and the implementation of an extension to the Viterbi algorithm for use with hidden semi-Markov models (HSMMs). The proposed segmentation approach is rigorously evaluated on one of the largest published datasets, and compared to the current stateof-the-art segmentation algorithm.

#### II. BACKGROUND

Table I summarises the relevant background literature. The table presents the size of the datasets used, numerical results

Table I Summary of previous work. Ac denotes accuracy, Se sensitivity, Sp specificity and  $P_+$  positive predictivity

Authors	Dataset	Reported Metrics and Results	Notes
[4]	37 recordings (515 cycles) from children with murmurs (14	93.0% Ac	Unsupervised. Optimised on
	being pathological)		entire dataset
[5]	77 (1165 cycles) recordings from children with both	94.6% Ac	Unsupervised. Optimised on
	pathological and physiological murmurs		entire dataset
[6]	55 recordings (7530 cycles), 51 with valve replacements	97.95% Se, 98.2% Sp	Unsupervised. Optimised on entire dataset
[7]	71 recordings (357 cycles), 9 different pathologies	97.47% Ac	No split between train, test sets
[8]	166 clean heart cycles from normal and pathological patients	84.0% Ac	Unsupervised. No stated
			segmentation tolerance
[9]	41 recordings (340 cycles). Mix of normal (32%), systolic (36%) and diastolic murmurs (32%)	90.29% Ac	Unsupervised
[10]	27 recordings of 30 s (997 cycles) from healthy subjects	92.1% Se, 88.4% P <sub>+</sub>	Unsupervised
[11]	30 clean recordings (20 s) from healthy subjects	96.2% Ac	No split between train, test sets
[12]	120 recordings from children, 80 with congenital heart disease (totalling 1200 s, 823 cycles in test set)	93.6% $Ac$ on test set	50% train-test split
[13]	9 recordings (less than 5s). 55% pathological	99.0% Ac on whole cycle detection	No split between train, test sets
[14]	9426.8 s of recordings, normal (22.2%) and various	$S_1$ : 98.53% $Ac$ , $S_2$ : 98.31% $Ac$ ,	Unsupervised. No stated
	pathologies (ASD, PDA, VSD and RHD)	Cycles: 97.37% Ac	segmentation tolerance.
[15]	80 recordings from an unknown number of patients of 6-12 s	96% and 97% Se, 95% and 95%	Unsupervised algorithm. No
	(40 healthy, 40 pathological recordings)	$P_+$ (healthy and pathological)	stated segmentation tolerance
[16]	26 clean recordings (565 cycles), 3 healthy subjects and 23 with various pathologies	94.9% and 95.9% $Ac$ ( $S_1$ and $S_2$ )	No split between train, test sets and no stated segmentation tolerance
[17]	50 two-minute healthy and pathological recordings	99.0% $Se$ and 98.6% $P_+$	No split between train, test sets. Results reported on 20% of dataset
[18]	64 teaching quality recordings of less than 10 s (701 cycles).  Various pathologies	93.06% Ac, 99.43% Se. 93.56% P <sub>+</sub>	No split between train, test sets. Results reported on portion of dataset. No stated segmentation tolerance.
[19]	52 recordings (14 controls, 38 with murmurs), 43 in test set	$83.05 \pm 15.14\% \ Ac$	Ac denoted for correctly
	(2602 cycles)	$94.56 \pm 6.58 \; G-measure$	segmented cycles.
			$G-measure$ is geometric mean of $Se$ and $P_+$
[20]	80 patients, 8 pathological. Recordings of 20 s from four auscultation sites (10045 $S_1$ , 9818 $S_2$ sounds	$S_1$ : 94.6% $Se$ and 97.7% $P_+$ $S_2$ : 95.2% $Se$ and 96.1% $P_+$	No split between train, test sets
[21]	46 clean recordings from 8 patients (2286 s). No pathologies mentioned	97.6% Ac	Ac computed from average of 8 fold cross-validation
[22]	17 patients, 44 recordings (30-60 s). No pathologies mentioned	$S_1$ : 98.6% $Se$ and 96.9% $P_+$ $S_2$ : 98.3% $Se$ and 96.5% $P_+$	Results computed from average of 4 fold cross-validation
[23]	113 recordings of 8 s, 8% with coronary artery disease	98.8% Se, 98.6% P <sub>+</sub> on test set	73 test, 40 training recordings

of the studies, and important notes, such as whether any independent test set was used to evaluate the presented algorithm.

Many methods of heart sound segmentation use an amplitude threshold after various transformations of the PCG signal. Numerous researchers have applied this approach with various features [4]–[9]. Chen et al. [10] used a portion of the dataset used in this work, and adapted ECG analysis methods based on the use of a threshold and k-means clustering to identify the heart sounds. Others have used neural networks to segment fundamental heart sounds, using Morlet wavelet decomposition or frequency band and periodicity features [11], [12]. Yan et al. [13] derived a characteristic moment waveform, based on the variance of the PCG over differing timescales, and showed promising results on a small dataset. Sun et al. [14] used the same envelope as Yan et al. [13], but then from this derived a modified Hilbert transform-based envelope. Moukadem et al. [15] found the Shannon envelope after applying the S-transform to locate the FHSs while Tang et al. [16] employed dynamic clustering after atom decomposition, but both did not state a localisation tolerance. Naseri and Homaeinezhad [17] employed a combined frequency-energy feature, while Varghees and Ramachandran [18] employed the phase from the analytical signal after finding the Shannon entropy, but both optimised their approach on their entire dataset and reported results on a small portion of this. Papdaniil *et al.* [19] outperformed many of these methods using empirical mode decomposition and kurtosis features to select non-Gaussian intrinsic mode functions (IMFs), and detected the start and end positions of heart sounds within the selected IMFs.

The introduction of probabilistic models for heart sound segmentation led to improved accuracy. Gamero and Watrous [20] applied two separate hidden Markov models (HMMs), trained using mel-frequency cepstral coefficients, to a large dataset of mostly healthy patients with notable success. Ricke *et al.* [21] used embedded HMMs within each state, along with mel-frequency cepstral coefficients, Shannon energy and regression coefficients on a small dataset with success. Gill *et al.* [22] were the first researchers to consider timing durations within HMMs for heart sound segmentation, incorporating the time to preceding and following amplitude peaks in the homomorphic envelope as input features into

它时持续时 间在HMMS中

幅度阈 值的方 法

神经网络分 割基础心音 the HMM, which yielded high segmentation accuracy on a small dataset. Schmidt *et al.* [23] were the first researchers to explicitly model the expected duration of heart sounds within the HMM using a HSMM. These researchers performed a rigorous assessment of this method on a noisy dataset and demonstrated this method to be the current state-of-the-art. However, limitations of this work include a small dataset of only 113, eight-second recordings and the investigation of only two input features.

This work builds on the work of these researchers by using a substantially larger dataset, the assessment of additional input features, an extension of the Viterbi algorithm and more discriminative emission probability derivation using logistic regression (LR) within the HSMM.

#### III. METHODS

The flow diagram in Figure 2 illustrates the different steps used in the evaluation of the heart sound segmentation methods.

### A. Study database

数据集: 405条30-40s的同步PCG和ECG信号

The study database consisted of 405 synchronous 30-40 s PCG and ECG recordings from 123 de-identified adult patients (roughly three recordings per patient) attending the Massachusetts General Hospital for cardiac screening or in-home recordings of people suffering from mitral valve prolapse (MVP). Recordings were made using a Meditron (NY, USA) electronic stethoscope, saved in uncompressed Wave format at 44.1 kHz at 16 bit resolution [24]. Many of these PCG recordings were corrupted by various sources of noise, including stethoscope motion, breathing, intestinal sounds and talking. Comparing the size of this database to others in Table I, one can see this dataset represents one of the largest published in terms of patient numbers and recording length.

Of the 123 patients, 38 were normal controls, 37 had murmurs relating to MVP, 36 had benign murmurs, five had aortic disease and seven had other miscellaneous conditions (tricuspid regurgitation, endocarditis, asymmetric septal hypertrophy). Recordings were made from the parasternal, apical, aortic and pulmonic auscultation positions, with patients sitting forward, squatting or in the supine position. All diagnoses were verified by a single clinical expert through echocardiographic examination.

## 依据ECG信号来剔除一些数

## B. Data exclusion based on ECG signal quality

This section refers to step i) in Figure 2. The gold-standard reference positions for the FHSs in the PCG were derived from the synchronous ECG recordings. The R-peak and the end-T-wave in the ECG correspond to the positions of the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds in the PCG respectively [3] (see Figure 1) and were the reference positions for PCG-labelling in Section III-D and evaluation of the segmentation algorithms in Section IV (as shown in steps ii) and vii) in Figure 2). Therefore, it was essential to ensure the correct detection of the R-peak and the end-T-wave in the ECG. The correct positions of these markers in the ECG were found by comparing the agreement between

精确定位ECG的R峰和端T波能够帮助精确分割PCG信号

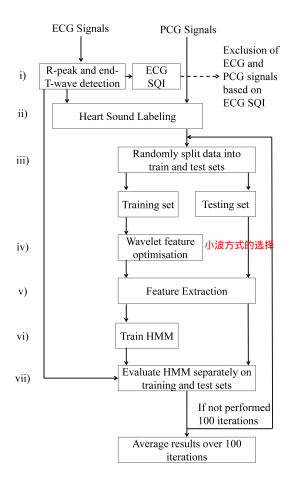


Figure 2. Block diagram of the steps employed in the evaluation of the segmentation algorithms.

four R-peak and four end-T-wave detectors. Intuitively, the presence of noise and artefacts within the ECG will lead to disagreement between semi-independent detectors for both the R-peak and end-T-wave. Therefore, in order to ensure high-quality periods of ECG signal and accurate localisation of the R-peak and end-T-wave, the agreement between the R-peak and end-T-wave detectors was assessed in order to derive an ECG signal quality index (SQI).

The four R-peak detectors employed in this study were "gQRS" (available on Physionet [25]), "jQRS" (previously used in two studies [26], [27]), an algorithm based on parabolic fitting [28] and a wavelet-based ECG delineator [29]. The four end-T-wave detectors employed in this study were "ecg-puwave" [30] (available on Physionet [25]), a method based on maximising the area in a sliding window between successive R-peaks [31], the same wavelet-based delineator mentioned previously [29] and a method developed by Vazquez-Seisdedos et al. [32] based on maximising the area of a trapezium fixed at points within the ECG.

The performance of R-peak detectors is usually assessed by beat-to-beat comparisons between the detected beats and the reference beats. The standard adult tolerance window for candidate R-peaks is 150 milliseconds (ms) [33]. However, this is longer than the expected duration of a heart sound [23] and was believed to be too wide a tolerance in this case. In order to get a more robust estimate of the correct location

评估探测器之间的一致性导出SOL?为了得到高质量的ECC信号和R、T的精确定位

T波末端检测 器

在两个r峰之 间滑动窗口 面积最大化

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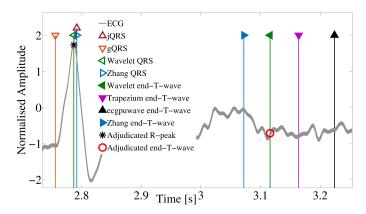


Figure 3. Example of the accurate R-peak and end-T-wave positions derived in a noisy ECG signal, based on the agreement between R-peak and end-T-wave annotations. The positions of the four R-peak detections and four end-T-wave detections are shown. The algorithm adjudicated R-peak and end-T-wave, based on the four detections, is shown.

四个R峰探测器,四个T末波探测器

认为只要在100ms内就是正确的R峰位

of peaks, in this study, if R-peak detectors agreed to within 100 ms, they were said to have agreed on the position of the R-peak. The same tolerance was followed for the end-T-wave positions. R峰检测过程

The process for R-peak detection was: 确保没有基线漂移和滤除高频噪声

- Band pass filter the ECG signal between 0.7 and 50 Hz using zero-phase, forward-backward second-order Butterworth filters to ensure no baseline wander and the exclusion of high-frequency noise.
- Measure the agreement between all pairs of R-peak detectors, where agreement is measured as per the "bxb" algorithm, available from Physionet [25], which evaluates the agreement between two sets of annotations within a specified tolerance. The agreement was measured using the  $F_1$  score (see Section III-I3). Then, select the three R-peak detectors that had the highest product of their  $F_1$ scores, thereby excluding the R-peak detector that had the lowest overall agreement with the other detectors over the entire record. This allows the exclusion of a detector that may perform poorly on a particular record, while keeping three independent R-peak detectors.
- · Over four second windows, the ECG SQI was labelled as the  $F_1$  score of agreement between the chosen three detectors. The choice of a four-second window was based on the need for at least two heart cycles, even in the case of low heart rates. Two heart cycles are needed, as many of the end-T-wave detectors employed subsequently rely on the detection of at least two R-peaks. This is equivalent to methods employed by other authors, with a smaller window size [34], [35]. The window was then shifted by one second, leading to a second-by-second SQI.
- In windows of 100%  $F_1$  score, or complete agreement between the three peak detectors within the 100 ms tolerance, the adjudicated position of the R-peaks were 得到R峰位置 defined to be the R-peak position from the three detectors with the maximum absolute value. Windows of less than 100%  $F_1$  score were not used for further analysis, as they were deemed to have untrustworthy annotations.

The process for end-T-wave detection was:

末端T波检测过程

- 什么是100%F1score? In windows of 100%  $F_1$  score (based on the R-peak
- detections), find the end-T-wave positions from the four detectors. 去掉离中间位置的R峰探测器位置最远的T末波探测器
- Exclude the annotation furthest from the median of these four annotations, allowing the exclusion of an outlier annotation. If only three end-T-wave detections were present, due to a missed detection, no exclusion was performed. If fewer than three annotations were present, a missed end-T-wave was marked and the ECG SQI was set to zero.
- If the remaining three annotations were all within the 100 ms tolerance of each other, the adjudicated end-T-wave position was marked as the median positions of the three annotations. Otherwise, the ECG SQI was set to zero to 设置为0 indicate an untrustworthy portion of the signal.

ECG signals, and the corresponding PCG signals, of at least two heart cycles of continuous 100% SQI were kept for further analysis. Periods of ECG without 100% SQI, based on the lack of agreement between R-peak and end-T-wave annotations, were excluded as their annotations were possibly erroneous.

Two cycles of continuous high-quality ECG were selected as this would give the hidden semi-Markov models employed in this study sufficient data to accurately assign state labels. This is because such segments of data would consist of at least one complete systolic and diastolic period, the durations of which aid in the differentiation of the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds, as systole is expected to be shorter than diastole.

The remaining data consisted of 10171.85 seconds of PCG, including 12181 R-peaks and 11627 end-T-waves (corresponding to the same number of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds), from 112 patients. An example of the R-peak and end-T-wave detection in the ECG is shown in Figure 3. It is important to note that the ECG signal, and the derived R-peak and end-T-wave locations, were only used for heart sound labelling and evaluation of the segmentation models. They were not used in the heart sound segmentation process itself. Furthermore, ECG signal quality has little to no impact on PCG signal quality, except in the case of motion artifact, which is limited in such a dataset of recordings performed on adults. Therefore, selection of highquality ECG does not bias this study towards the selection of high-quality PCG recordings.

## C. Heart sound duration distributions

A key component of the HSMM models used in this study is an estimate of the probability density function of the time expected to remain in each state. In the case of heart sound analysis when using a four-state HMM, this is the duration in each of the four major components of a heart cycle. These are: 1) the  $S_1$  sound, 2) the systolic period between  $S_1$  and the  $S_2$  sound, 3) the  $S_2$  sound and 4) the diastolic period between  $S_2$  and  $S_1$  (see Figure 1). The duration of each of these components was modelled as described by Schmidt et al. [23], who modelled the duration of each state as a Gaussian distribution modelled on their own annotated dataset. These distributions are heart rate dependant. Therefore, the reference heart rate for each PCG was calculated using the R-peak locations computed in Section III-B. This section is



not illustrated in Figure 2, but the durations are intrinsic to steps *ii*) and *vii*) of the flow diagram.

#### D. ECG-derived heart sound labelling

In order to train the segmentation algorithms on the PCG data, it was necessary to label the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds within the PCG recordings using an external reference signal. The references for the positions of the  $S_1$  and the  $S_2$  sounds within the PCGs were the R-peak and end-T-wave positions were computed from the synchronous ECG signals in Section III-B. This is shown as step ii) in Figure 2.

As the start of  $S_1$  coincides with the R-peak of the ECG [3], the period from each R-peak to the mean  $S_1$  duration  $(\overline{S_1},$  found from [23] in Section III-C) from each R-peak was labelled as a  $S_1$  sound. R峰持续到S1的平均持续时间这段就是S1

The  $S_2$  sound occurs at approximately the end-T-wave in the ECG [3]. Therefore, labelling based on only the end-T-wave position would be erroneous. However, the amplitude of the  $S_2$  sound would reach a maximum in the vicinity of the end-T-wave. Therefore, the centre of the  $S_2$  sound was found by searching for the maximum peak in the Hilbert envelope (see Section III-H) of the PCG signal within a specified search window around the end-T-wave. This search window was set to the position of the end-T-wave, plus and minus the longest expected duration of  $S_2$  ( $\overline{S_2} \pm \sigma_{S_2}$ ). The position of the maximum value of the Hilbert envelope within this search window was marked as centre of the  $S_2$  sound. An interval equal to the length of the expected  $S_2$  sound, centred on this maximum position, was labelled as the  $S_2$  sound. The period between the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds was labelled as systole, while those periods between  $S_2$  and  $S_1$  were labelled as diastole. An example of a labelled PCG recording is shown in Figure 1.

#### E. Hidden semi-Markov models 隐半马尔可夫模型

s2心音的位置

HMMs are a statistical framework used to describe sequential data. They operate by making inferences about the likelihood of being in certain discrete "hidden states", moving between those states and seeing an observation generated by each state. In this work, the HMM was first order, with the hidden sequence consisting of the four states of the heart  $(S_1, systole, S_2, diastole)$ , while the observed sequence is the PCG signal, or features computed from the PCG signal. An HMM is governed by the "Markov property", which states that the next state is only dependant on the state that is occupied at the current time step. This is valid for heart sounds, as each successive state can only be reached from one particular previous state. A HMM can be defined as:

$$\lambda = (A, B, \pi)$$
 (1) 转移矩阵

where A is the transmission matrix, B is the emission or observation distribution and  $\pi$  is the initial state distribution [36]. Let the <u>hidden states</u> be defined as  $\xi = [\xi_1, \xi_2, ..., \xi_N]$  where N is the total number of states. In this work, N=4 and  $\xi_1$  refers to  $S_1$ ,  $\xi_2$  refers to systole,  $\xi_3$  refers to  $S_2$  and  $\xi_4$  refers to diastole. Let the duration of an entire sequence be T and the state at time t be  $q_t$  with the entire sequence

of states being  $\mathbf{Q}$  [36]. Let the observation sequence be  $\mathbf{O} = {\mathbf{O}_1, \mathbf{O}_2, ... \mathbf{O}_T}$ , where  $\mathbf{O}_t$  is a vector of feature values at time t.

 $A = \{a_{ij}\}$  defines the probability of moving from state i at time t to state j at time t+1. A four-state heart sound HMM is a case of a "non-ergodic" HMM, where each state is only accessible from one specific other state. For example,  $S_2$  has to precede diastole; diastole cannot be preceded by systole or  $S_1$ .

 $B = \{b_j(\mathbf{O}_t)\}, 1 \leq j \leq N \text{ defines the probability that state } j \text{ generates the observation vector } \mathbf{O}_t \text{ at time } t.$ 

The initial state distribution,  $\pi = \{\pi_i\}$  defines the probability of being in state i at the first time point.

In the case of heart sound segmentation, a utility of the HMM is the computation of the optimal state sequence, given a model,  $\lambda$ , and an observation sequence,  $\mathbf{O}$ , where optimality is defined as the most likely sequence of states. Cycling through every combination of  $\mathbf{Q}$  or order to find the optimal sequence is infeasible, even for short time sequences. Therefore, a dynamic programming method called the <u>Viterbi algorithm</u> is employed to solve the most likely state sequence [36]:  $\mathfrak{A}$ 

We define  $\delta_t(j)$  as the likelihood of the most probable state sequence that accounts for the first t observations and ends in state j at time t, while  $\delta_1(j)=\pi_jb_j(\mathbf{O}_1)$ . Incorporating the information from the previous time step,  $\delta_t(j)$  can be calculated by induction using:

$$\delta_t(j) = \left[\max_{1 \le i \le N} \delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij}\right] \cdot b_j(\mathbf{O}_t) \tag{2}$$

The argument which maximised (2), which is needed to track the optimal state sequence, is stored in the matrix  $\psi_t(j)$ :

$$\psi_t(j) = \left[\arg\max_{1 \le i \le N} \delta_{t-1}(i)a_{ij}\right] \tag{3}$$

This matrix stores the most likely previous state i at time t, if in state j at time t+1. This allows the backtracking of the most likely sequence of states,  $q_t^*$  when reaching the end of the sequence using:

$$q_T^* = \arg\max_{1 \le i \le N} [\delta_T(i)] \tag{4}$$

$$q_t^* = \psi_{t+1}(q_{t+1}^*), t = T - 1, T - 2, ...1$$
 (5)

A major limitation of the standard HMM is that it does not explicitly incorporate any information about the expected duration of each state. Without incorporating this information, the state durations are governed only by the self-transition probability  $a_{ii}$ . This results in a geometric distribution for the duration expected to remain in each state [36]. This distribution monotonically decreases, resulting in the most likely state duration always being one time step. This is poorly suited for PCG analysis. In order to improve the duration modelling, an extra parameter is needed in the model.

Let us define the new model as  $\lambda = (A, B, \pi, p)$ , where  $p = \{p_i(d)\}$  is the explicitly defined probability of remaining in state i for duration d (derived in Section III-C).

Then, modifying the Viterbi algorithm to include the duration densities, we find [23], [37]:

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预期状态持续

$$\delta_t(j) = \max_{d} \left[ \max_{i \neq j} \left[ \delta_{t-d}(i) \cdot a_{ij} \right] \cdot p_j(d) \cdot \prod_{s=0}^{d-1} b_j(\mathbf{O}_{t-s}) \right]$$

with  $1 \le i, j \le N$ ,  $1 \le t \le T$  and  $1 \le d \le d_{max}$  where in this case  $d_{max}$ , the maximum time expected to remain in any one state, is set to the duration of an entire heart cycle. This is done to ensure tractability of the algorithm.

The observation density,  $\prod_{s=1}^d b_j(\mathbf{O}_{t-s})$ , is now the calculation of the probability of observing all the observations from time t-d to time t in state j. It should be noted that when incorporating duration densities as in (6), the entries for the transition matrix  $a_{ij}$  in the case of a four-state heart sound model become unity for the transition from one state to another, provided it is a permissible transition (for example,  $S_1$  to systole, or  $S_2$  to diastole). This is due to the fact that the transition between states is now only dependant on the duration remaining in each state, and no longer the probability of transitioning between states. \*\*\text{\*\delta}\delta \text{\*\left}\text{\text{\$\delta}}\text{\$\delta}\text{\*\delta}\text{\*\delta}\delta \text{\$\delta}\delta \

Equation 6 is maximised according to two arguments, i and d, which are stored in matrices  $\psi_t(j)$  and  $D_t(j)$ . The psuedocode for the standard backtracking procedure for the HSMM is shown in [23]. This is then called a hidden semi-Markov model (HSMM)<sup>1</sup>, as only the transition between different states is Markovian [37]. Since the human heart has clear upper and lower bounds on the duration of the components of the heart cycle (because of mechanical limitations), we expect that the incorporation of such information should help improve segmentation performance.

#### F. Extended Viterbi Algorithm 扩展维特比算法

The standard backtracking procedure for decoding the most likely sequence of states when using a HSMM, as pointed out by Schmidt *et al.* [23] and Yu [38], is limited by the fact that states are required to start and end at the start and end of the PCG signal. This is infeasible, as a PCG recording can begin and end at any stage of the heart cycle. In order to a resolve this, an extended Viterbi algorithm which extends beyond the beginning and end of the PCG is proposed, shown in Algorithm 1.

In short, this algorithm allows the possible state durations to extend beyond the beginning and end of the PCG sequence, while only considering observations from within the PCG for emission probability estimation. This algorithm uses the equations for the "general assumption" of the forward-backward algorithm and Viterbi algorithm from Yu [38].

## G. Logistic regression HSMM

A further modification to the HSMM we introduced was to incorporate logistic regression (LR) into the model. LR-derived emission or observation probability estimates were used instead of Gaussian or Gamma distributions as employed in related work [23], [37], as the incorporation of LR into the HMM should allow for greater discrimination between states.

Algorithm 1 The extended Viterbi algorithm for use with HSMMs

```
\delta_1(j) = \pi_i b_i(\mathbf{O}_1) \quad 1 \le j \le N
for t = 2 : T + d_{max} - 1
     for i, j = 1 : N
         for d = 1 : d_{max}
             start_t = t - d
             if start_t < 1
                 start_t = 1
             elseif start_t > T - 1
                 start_t = T - 1
             end
             end_t = t
             if end_t > T
                 end_t = T
             end
     \max_{d} \left[ \max_{i \neq j} \left[ \delta_{start_t}(i) \cdot a_{ij} \right] \cdot p_j(d) \cdot \prod_{s=start_t}^{end_t} b_j(\mathbf{O}_s) \right] 
D_t(j) = \dots 
  \arg\max_{d} \left[ \max_{i \neq j} \left[ \delta_{start_t}(i) \cdot a_{ij} \right] \cdot p_j(d) \cdot \prod_{s=start_t}^{end_t} b_j(\mathbf{O}_s) \right]
             \psi_t(j) = \arg\max_{1 \le i \le N} \left[ \delta_{t-D_t(j)}(i) a_{ij} \right]
    end
end
T* = \arg\max_{t} [\delta_{t=T:T+d_{max}-1}(i)] \quad 1 \le i \le N
q_{T*}^* = \arg\max_i [\delta_{T*}(i)]
t = T^*
while t > 1
  d* = D_t(q_t^*)
 q_{t-d^*:t-1} = q_t^* 
 q_{t-d^*-1}^* = \psi_t(q_t^*) 
 t = t - d^*
end
```

This is similar to the use of support vector machine-based emission probabilities [39].

Logistic regression is a binary classification model that maps predictor variables, or features, to a binary response variable using the logistic function. The logistic function,  $\sigma(a)$ , can be defined by  $\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1+exp(-a)}$  [40]. 逻辑回归是不是可以换成另一种相 Using the logistic function above, the probability of a

Using the logistic function above, the probability of a specific class or state, given the input features or observations, can be defined by:

$$P[q_t = \xi_i | \mathbf{O}_t] = \sigma(\mathbf{w'} \mathbf{O}_t) \tag{7}$$

where  $\underline{w}$  are the weights of the model, applied to each input feature, and trained using iteratively reweighted least squares on the training data.

A one-vs-all approach was implemented, training one LR model for the observations from each state in the model. Thereafter, the probability of an observation given a state,  $b_j(\mathbf{O}_t|\xi_j)$ , as required for the HSMM, was found using Bayes' rule:

$$b_j(\mathbf{O}_t) = P[\mathbf{O}_t | q_t = \xi_j] = \frac{P[q_t = \xi_j | \mathbf{O}_t] \times P(\mathbf{O}_t)}{P(\xi_j)}$$
(8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Also known as an explicit duration, variable-duration, segmental or duration-dependant HMM [38]

where  $P(\mathbf{O}_t)$  is found from a multivariate normal distribution computed from the features from the entire training set and  $P(\xi_i)$  is found from  $\pi$ , the initial state probability distribution. The inputs to the LR models are the signal-derived features described in Section III-H. LR模型的输入

## H. Feature extraction 特征提取

The segmentation algorithms used a combination of four input features (This is step v) in Figure 2). 多相抗锯齿过滤器将录音

Before feature extraction, all recordings were down-sampled to 1 kHz using a poly-phase anti-aliasing filter. The majority of the frequency content of the fundamental heart sounds ( $S_1$ and  $S_2$ ) is below 150 Hz [41] and hence the Nyquist-Shannon sampling criterion [42] was satisfied. The following features were then calculated: 同态包络,对一个信号的低通滤波的自然对数进行指数化

- 1) Homomorphic envelogram: The homomorphic envelogram, derived by exponentiating the low-pass filtered natural logarithm of a signal [43], has been used by numerous researchers for extracting the envelope of PCG signals [9], [22], including the state-of-the-art segmentation algorithm [23].
- 2) Hilbert envelope: Messer et al. [44] and Kumar et al. [45] calculated the envelope of the PCG signal using the Hilbert transform. The Hilbert transform extracts the analytic signal which excludes the negative frequency components of a signal [43], and the Hilbert envelope is calculated from the absolute value of the Hilbert transform.
- 3) Wavelet envelope: Wavelet analysis of heart sounds has been extensively explored. However, there is limited agreement on the optimal wavelet to use when denoising, segmenting or classifying heart sounds. Some researchers have argued that the Morlet family is best suited for heart sound analysis [11], [46] while others have rationalised the use of the Daubechies wavelet family [5], [9], [44], [47]–[49].

In this study, the choice of wavelet was determined experimentally using the labelled heart sounds computed from Section III-D. This is shown as step *iv*) in Figure 2.

The heart sound recordings in the training set (see \$\frac{1}{2}\) tion III-I1) were decomposed using the discrete wavelet transform (DWT) with various wavelet families and decomposition levels<sup>2</sup>. The absolute value of the detail coefficients for each wavelet family and decomposition level were computed, in order to exclude frequency content outside of the target wavelet range and to extract a positive-valued envelope. The envelope values were summed for each state in the heart sound recordings. The wavelet family and decomposition level that yielded the highest ratio of the sum of the detail coefficients for the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds compared to the sum over other intervals across all recordings was selected for further use. This ratio gives an indication of how well each wavelet discriminates between the FHSs and other regions of the heart sound recordings. Therefore, a wavelet envelope computed using such a wavelet would provide the best overall discrimination between the FHSs and other sounds or noise for all heart sound recordings. 基础心音

#### 功率谱密度包络线

4) Power spectral density envelope: The majority of the frequency content of the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds is below 150 Hz with a peak at 50 Hz [41]. Based on these frequencies, the final feature was derived from the mean power spectral 平均功率谱密 density (PSD) between 40 and 60 Hz, found in overlapping windows of 0.05 s in width with 50 % overlap. This resulted in a envelope of PSD values. The window size used ensures that the frequency content of the shortest expected fundamental heart sound (0.05 s) is covered by an analysis window. The PSD was calculated using the short time Fourier transform after Hamming windowing. 在汉明窗口后使用短时傅里叶变换

The feature vectors for each recording were individually normalised by subtracting their mean and dividing by their standard deviation. Following Schmidt et al. [23], after feature extraction and normalisation, the resulting feature vectors were down-sampled further to 50 Hz using a poly-phase antialiasing filter, in order to increase the speed of computation. 特征提取,归一化,下采样

## I. Model training & evaluation 模型训练和评估

The parameters of the HSMM model were trained using the labelled PCG sequences described in Section III-D, which were divided as follows: 数据集的划分

1) Training and test data split: In order to avoid overtraining of the model, the dataset was randomly halved into training and test sets (step iii) in Figure 2). The number of recordings for each condition (normal, murmurs relating to MVP, benign murmurs, aortic disease and miscellaneous conditions) was split between the two sets in equal proportion, ensuring stratification by patient. This ensured that no recordings from any patient were in both the training and test sets and a balanced representation of abnormalities in both training and test sets.

2) Training: The transition matrix probabilities,  $a_{ij}$ , and the emission probabilities, B, were optimised on all data in the training dataset. In the case of B, two methods were used: In the case of the MVN emission distributions, a MVN

distribution was computed for each state by finding the means and covariances of the input features for each state from the training recordings. This can be defined as  $b_i(\mathbf{O}_t) \sim$  $\mathcal{N}_{\mu_j,\Sigma_j}(\mathbf{O}_t)$ , where  $\mathcal{N}$  is a single or multivariate normal distribution, with  $\mu_j$  and  $\Sigma_j$  being the respective means and covariances of the different input features for state j.

In the case of the LR-based observation probabilities, as stated in Section III-G, the emission probabilities were computed using the likelihood of each state from each oneversus-all LR model. Random sub-sampling for each state was performed to ensure that there were a balanced number of samples in each class of the one-versus-all LR models.

In order to compare the LR-HSMM method to multivariate normal (MVN-based) observation distributions used previously by Schmidt et al. [23], both of these methods were tested on our dataset in order to directly compare results. Therefore, the four methods tested in this study were:

- 1) The MVN-based method, using a single homomorphic envelope feature as described by Schmidt et al. [23].
- 2) The MVN-based method, but using the Hilbert, PSD, wavelet and homomorphic features.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>These included Haar, Daubechies, symlet, Coiflet, biorthogonal and reverse biorthogonal wavelets at decomposition levels 1-10. Morlet wavelets were not used since a DWT cannot be performed using the Morlet wavelet.

Table II

GROSS RESULTS OF ALGORITHMS ON TRAIN (GREY) AND TEST SETS (%) USING VARIOUS INPUT FEATURES, AVERAGED PER PATIENT AND ACROSS ALL 100 ITERATIONS. THE FIRST LINE SHOWS THE PREVIOUS STATE-OF-THE-ART. THE LAST LINE SHOWS THE RESULTS USING THE PROPOSED METHOD (BOLD).

			Features	Viterbi Algorithm	Se	$P_{+}$	Ac	$F_1^{S_1}$	$F_1{}^{S_2}$	$F_1$
a		MVN	IVN Homomorphic	Standard [23]	85.09 ± 1.31 85.74 ± 1.57	86.17 ± 1.27 86.85 ± 1.53	$77.49 \pm 1.68$ $78.35 \pm 2.06$	85.98 ± 1.39 86.58 ± 1.56	85.34 ± 1.32 86.07 ± 1.70	85.62 ± 1.29 86.28 ± 1.55
•	b	.,,,,,,		Extended	$94.29 \pm 0.89$ $94.66 \pm 0.90$	$94.61 \pm 0.86$ $94.93 \pm 0.88$	90.61 ± 1.35 91.15 ± 1.36	$96.15 \pm 0.85$ $96.50 \pm 0.84$	92.73 ± 1.13 93.06 ± 1.17	$94.45 \pm 0.88$ $94.79 \pm 0.89$
2 b		MVN	Hilbert, PSD, Wavelet, Homomorphic	Standard	83.08 ± 1.48 83.62 ± 1.57	83.84 ± 1.45 84.45 ± 1.53	74.05 ± 1.91 74.82 ± 1.99	83.67 ± 1.52 84.20 ± 1.56	83.32 ± 1.57 83.93 ± 1.72	83.45 ± 1.47 84.02 ± 1.55
				Extended	$92.74 \pm 1.05$ $93.10 \pm 1.04$	$92.93 \pm 1.04$ $93.29 \pm 1.03$	87.90 ± 1.57 88.46 ± 1.57	94.28 ± 1.07 94.67 ± 1.02	91.37 ± 1.23 91.70 ± 1.29	$92.83 \pm 1.04$ $93.19 \pm 1.04$
а 3 b		LR	Homomorphic	Standard	87.51 ± 1.29 87.87 ± 1.34	88.72 ± 1.23 89.10 ± 1.28	80.97 ± 1.68 81.49 ± 1.77	87.82 ± 1.29 88.11 ± 1.36	88.45 ± 1.38 88.91 ± 1.43	88.10 ± 1.26 88.47 ± 1.31
		LIC		Extended	$94.88 \pm 0.82$ $95.22 \pm 0.88$	$95.28 \pm 0.79$ $95.60 \pm 0.85$	91.66 ± 1.25 92.18 ± 1.35	$96.70 \pm 0.80$ $97.00 \pm 0.86$	93.43 ± 1.04 93.79 ± 1.12	$95.08 \pm 0.80$ $95.40 \pm 0.86$
a 4 b		LR	Hilbert, PSD, Wavelet, Homomorphic	Standard	87.58 ± 1.28 87.84 ± 1.35	89.16 ± 1.18 89.44 ± 1.25	81.22 ± 1.66 81.62 ± 1.76	87.97 ± 1.32 88.18 ± 1.37	88.80 ± 1.31 89.13 ± 1.42	88.35 ± 1.23 88.62 ± 1.30
				Extended	$95.09 \pm 0.80$ $95.34 \pm 0.88$	$95.69 \pm 0.75$ $95.92 \pm 0.83$	92.11 ± 1.21 92.52 ± 1.33	$96.70 \pm 0.84$ <b>96.95 \pm 0.90</b>	94.05 ± 0.97 <b>94.29 ± 1.08</b>	$95.38 \pm 0.78$ $95.63 \pm 0.85$

- 3) The LR-HSMM method using a single homomorphic envelope feature.
- 4) The LR-HSMM method using the Hilbert, PSD, wavelet and homomorphic features.

In addition, a comparison was made between the use of the standard Viterbi algorithm and the extended Viterbi algorithm for each method listed above.

3) Model evaluation: The four segmentation methods were evaluated on their ability to accurately locate the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds within the test set of recordings. The reference positions for the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds were the R-peaks and end-T-waves computed in Section III-B, as shown in step vii) in Figure 2. An  $S_1$  sound was labelled as correctly identified if the start of the segmented  $S_1$  sound was found to be within 100 ms of the R-peak of the ECG. This tolerance is based on the recognised ECG R-peak detection tolerance of 150 ms [33], which, as it is approximately the length of the fundamental heart sounds, was shortened to 100 ms. Similarly, an  $S_2$  sound was labelled as correctly segmented if the centre of this  $S_2$  sound was found to be within 100 ms of the corresponding end-T-wave. S2的中心位置在端下波的100ms内就认为是正确的S2心音位置

The performance of the segmentation algorithms were evaluated using the  $F_1$  score, which is defined as

$$F_1$$
 score, which is defined as F1分数评估分割算法性能 
$$F_1 = \frac{2 \times P_+ \times Se}{P_+ + Se}$$
 (9)

where Se is sensitivity (or recall) and  $P_+$  is positive predictivity (or precision). The  $F_1$  score was used as it gives a  $P_+$  is positive predictivity (or precision). The  $F_1$  score was used as it gives a  $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in such as accuracy ( $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in  $P_+$  in such cases do not give an adequate representation of the results, as no true negatives are included. However,  $P_+$  and  $P_+$  are reported to allow comparison to previous works.

In order to give a robust indication of segmentation performance, the process of splitting the data into a training and test set, the wavelet feature optimisation, the training of the HSMM and the evaluation on the test set was repeated 100 times and the results averaged, as shown in step vii) in Figure 2. Significance testing was then performed using a two-sided paired t-test on the 100  $F_1$  scores from the test datasets.

#### IV. RESULTS

参数选择,最好的小波优化

The wavelet optimisation (see Section III-H3 and step *iv*) in Figure 2) resulted in the reverse biorthogonal 3.9 or Daubechies 10 wavelet at decomposition level three being selected as the optimal wavelet for each of the 100 evaluation iterations.

The gross performance results of the four algorithms under consideration on both the training and test sets, using the different features and Viterbi algorithms, are presented in Table II. This table illustrates the scores for the combined  $S_1$ and  $S_2$  sounds, while also presenting the F1 scores for each sound separately to give an indication of performance on the different sounds. These gross scores were calculated on a perpatient basis, summing the total number of sounds for each patient in the train and test datasets, calculating the different metrics for each patient, then averaging over patients in each of the training and test sets. The results over the 100 iterations were then averaged. The standard deviation of the average results over the 100 evaluation iterations is also shown. The results of the current state-of-the-art algorithm [23], can be seen in the first two lines of the table (algorithm 1a in Table II), achieving an average  $F_1$  score of  $86.28 \pm 1.55\%$  on the test datasets. The proposed algorithm, combining the Hilbert envelope, PSD, wavelet envelope and homomorphic envelope features along with the LR classifier and extended Viterbi algorithm, is shown in the last two lines of Table II (algorithm 4b), achieving an average  $F_1$  score of  $95.63 \pm 0.85\%$ .

The incorporation of LR into the model alone resulted in a significant improvement of  $F_1$  score between the current state-of-the-art algorithm (Ia,  $86.28 \pm 1.55\%$ ) and the LR-Homomorphic algorithm with standard Viterbi algorithm (3a,  $88.47 \pm 1.31\%$ ), (p<0.001).



Table III

Average results of algorithms 1a and 4b from Table II when averaged across all recordings rather than per patient. These show the numbers and results averaged across all 100 iterations for the train (GREY) and test sets. The average number of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds is shown, as well as the number of true positives (TP), false negatives (FN), false positives (FP) and  $F_1$  score.

		Features	Viterbi Algorithm	$S_1$	$S_2$	TP	FN	FP	$F_1(\%)$
1a	MVN	Homomorphic	Standard [23]	6117.07 5686.93	6012.56 5597.44	10613.02 9945.63	1516.61 1338.74	1380.26 1214.19	87.98 ± 1.06 88.61 ± 1.33
4b	LR	Hilbert,PSD, Wavelet, Homomorphic	Extended (this work)	6117.07 5686.93	6012.56 5597.44	11649.84 10858.53	479.79 425.84	410.92 <b>364.4</b>	96.31 ± 0.58 96.49 ± 0.64

The introduction of the Hilbert, PSD and wavelet features, in addition to the homomorphic feature, resulted in a drop in performance when using the MVN-based HSMM (2a,  $84.02 \pm 1.55\%$  as compared to 1a,  $86.28 \pm 1.55\%$ ). However, the addition of these same features resulted in a significant improvement in the performance of the LR-based HSMM (p<0.05, comparing the  $F_1$  scores of algorithms 3a to 4a and 3b to 4b).

There was a significant improvement in  $F_1$  score when using the extended Viterbi algorithm compared to the standard Viterbi algorithm on all combinations of features and MVN or LR emission probabilities (p<0.001). This resulted in at least a 6% improvement in  $F_1$  scores across all algorithms.

The average performance results for algorithms 1a and 4b, averaged over all recordings in the training and test sets, rather than by patient, can be seen in Table III. The average number of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  sounds across the 100 iterations can be seen, as well as the performance metrics. A significant improvement on the current state-of-the-art algorithm can be seen  $(88.61 \pm 1.33\% \text{ to } 96.49 \pm 0.64\%)$  (p<0.001).

An illustration of the segmentation accuracy using this method on a noisy test recording is shown in Figure 4. Note the excellent performance of the algorithm in ignoring heart sound-like noise in second systolic period, but the correct identification of the following  $S_2$  sound which was corrupted by noise.

## V. DISCUSSION

The optimal wavelets selected for all 100 evaluation iterations (see Section III-H3 and step *iv*) in Figure 2) agree with intuition, as their centre frequencies were between 65 and 85 Hz, as expected for the FHSs [41].

The results in Tables II and III, with similar results between the training and test set results, illustrate that the algorithms were not over-trained on the training data. The small values for the standard deviations in these tables indicate consistent results for the LR and MVN algorithms across the 100 evaluation iterations, with generally smaller values for the LR algorithm. This indicates that the results with the LR algorithm are more consistent than the MLR-based algorithms.

Comparing the results of the method developed by Schmidt et~al.~[23] between Tables I and II (98.8% Se~ and 98.6%  $P_+$  in Table I and 85.74% Se~ and 86.85%  $P_+$  in Table II) shows a drop in Se~ and  $P_+$  on our dataset when comparing test set results. This indicates that our data may be more noisy or heterogeneous, and therefore more difficult to analyse. The

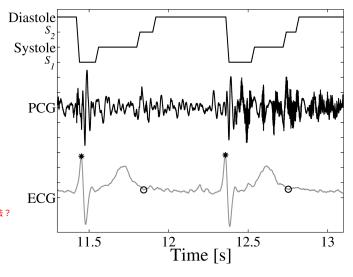


Figure 4. Example of a segmented, noisy, PCG using the LR-HSMM method with a clean ECG for reference. The positions of the detected R peaks (\*) and the end-T-waves (o) are demarcated in the ECG. The four LR-HSMM-derived states of the heart cycle ( $S_1$ , systole,  $S_2$  and diastole) are shown as a solid line, which are seen to coincide with the ECG reference positions. The noise in the systolic region of the second cycle can be seen to be ignored, while the  $S_2$  is correctly segmented.

low number of pathological cases in their dataset (8%) may also account for this.

The significant improvement in performance between the current state-of-the-art algorithm (Ia,  $86.28 \pm 1.55\%$ ) and the LR algorithm with the homomorphic feature and standard Viterbi algorithm (3a,  $88.47 \pm 1.31\%$ ) indicates that the simple introduction of LR as opposed to the MVN-based emission probabilities significantly improves segmentation performance. This is thought to be due to the higher discrimination between states afforded by the LR model.

The introduction of the three additional features, resulted in a drop in performance when using the MVN-based HSMM (comparing algorithm Ia to 2a and Ib to 2b). This was thought to be due to the MVN distribution being unable to adequately model such a higher dimensional feature space effectively. However, the introduction of these features when using the LR model resulted in a slight, yet significant improvement in performance, and the best performing algorithm in this work. This combination of features was thought to enhance the segmentation as these features contribute information about the amplitude of the PCG, but also frequency information, in the form of the wavelet transform and PSD feature.

The largest contributor to the improved segmentation per-

formance was the introduction of the extended Viterbi algorithm. This modification resulted in significant improvement across all algorithms in Table II (when comparing algorithm Ia to Ib, 2a to 2b and so on), where at least 6% increase in  $F_1$  score can be seen. The weakness of the standard Viterbi algorithm was especially noted in short recordings with a short diastolic period before the onset of the first heart sound. In this case, as the standard Viterbi algorithm tried to assign a complete diastole state before the onset of  $S_1$ , the first heart sound is often missed. When using the extended Viterbi algorithm,  $F_1^{S_1}$  scores were higher than  $F_1^{S_2}$ . This can be attributed to the patients with MVP in this dataset having systolic murmurs that often mask  $S_2$ , making it more difficult to detect.

There was an improvement in performance between the average results in Table III as compared to the gross results of Table II. The lower performance of the gross averages, which are derived by averaging per patient, indicate that specific patients (which may have fewer heart sounds as compared to others in the dataset) diminish the performance of the segmentation algorithms. This may be due to these patients having recordings contaminated by noise or having murmurs that obfuscate the positions of the FHSs.

The inclusion of explicit timing durations helps improve the differentiation of heart sound-like noise from noisy heart sounds (see Figure 4). Approaches which do not incorporate temporal duration and ordering information (like neural networks or other static machine learning approaches) may not perform as well in such circumstances.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

The work presented here investigated a new method for the segmentation of the  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  heart sounds from a single channel PCG recording with no external reference using a modified HSMM. The introduction of LR, the extended Viterbi algorithm and additional features into the HSMM each resulted in a significant improvement in segmentation performance, the combination of which significantly improved upon the current state-of-the-art. As demonstrated on this dataset, consisting of a large proportion of pathological recordings, this method is able to accurately segment the heart sounds in noisy, real-world, PCGs with murmurs and other abnormal sounds.

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