Reconstructing Rotor Dynamics from Sparse Noisy Data

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Rotor mapping for ablation therapy



Model of atrial fibrillation



Karma model

Phase singularities





Wu et al. (2004)

Interpreting noisy data



Phase singularities & level sets



Topological description

• Complexity of the excitation pattern can be quantified by the number of phase singularities (PS)

Marcotte & Grigoriev (2017)

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- Each PS lies at the intersection of two level sets (e.g., $\partial_t u = 0$ and $\partial_t^2 u = 0$).



Marcotte & Grigoriev (2017)

Topological description

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- Each PS has a topological charge: $q = \operatorname{sign}(\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \nabla u \times \nabla \partial_t u) = \pm 1$
- The net topological charge is conserved*: $\sum q_i = 0$
- Phase singularities can only be created/destroyed in pairs*

Practical implementation



Karma model



Step 1: Gaussian smoothing



Step 2: robust "time derivative"



Step 3: coarse level sets



Step 4: signed distance function



Step 5: smooth level sets



Dealing with sparsity



Effect of noise and sparsity



Gurevich & Grigoriev (2019)

Effect of noise and sparsity

	256x256	64x64	32x32	16x16	8x8
η=0	0.995	0.995	0.994	0.955	0.255
η=0.1	0.993	0.994	0.992	0.957	0.308
η=0.3	0.988	0.988	0.985	0.954	0.357
η=1	0.990	0.974	0.849	0.695	

Accuracy of PS detection (fraction matched)

	256x256	64x64	32x32	16x16	8x8
η=0	1.1	1.1	1.4	4.8	9.9
η=0.1	1.2	1.3	1.6	4.6	9.6
η=0.3	1.7	1.8	2.3	4.9	9.4
η=1	2.3	3.1	4.5	6.9	

Precision of PS detection (in fine grid units)

Ventricular fibrillation (pig)

More spirals? (Fenton-Karma model)

Sparse spiral (Barkley model)

Summary

- Developed, implemented, and validated novel topological analysis of excitable systems
- This method is far more robust than existing techniques and directly applicable to numerical models and optical mapping recordings
- Can find and track many nonstationary PSs simultaneously and handle challenging edge cases
- The new approach promises to provide new insight into dynamical mechanisms underlying fibrillation

Rotor mapping for ablation therapy

Phase singularities & level sets

Level sets of phase

Level sets of voltage

Thank you!