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(54) **HYDRAULIC BED SENSOR AND SYSTEM FOR NON-INVASIVE MONITORING OF PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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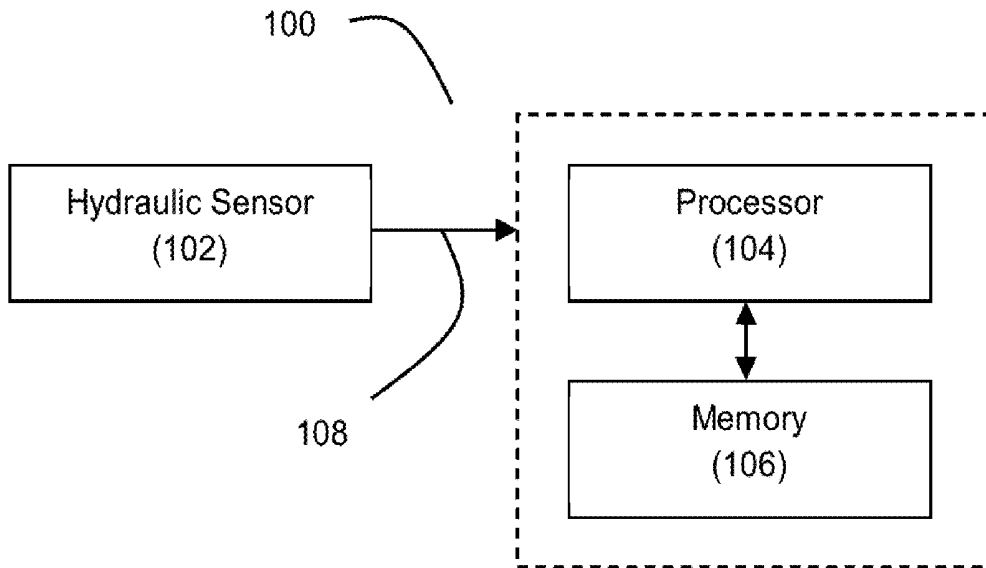
Related U.S. Application Data

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Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 5/0205 (2006.01)
A61B 5/11 (2006.01)

Disclosed herein is a new and improved non-invasive bed sensing system for detecting and monitoring physiological movements such as heartbeat and respiration. The system may employ a hydraulic fluid to transduce the physiological pressures to an integrated pressure sensor and a new and improved signal processing method to identify individual cardiac pulses from the electronic signals generated by the hydraulic transducer. The system provides increased sensitivity capable of capturing quantitative pulse and respiration rates with subtle changes, ability to distinguish between instances of low pulse rate and shallow breathing, and improved comfort over existing system.



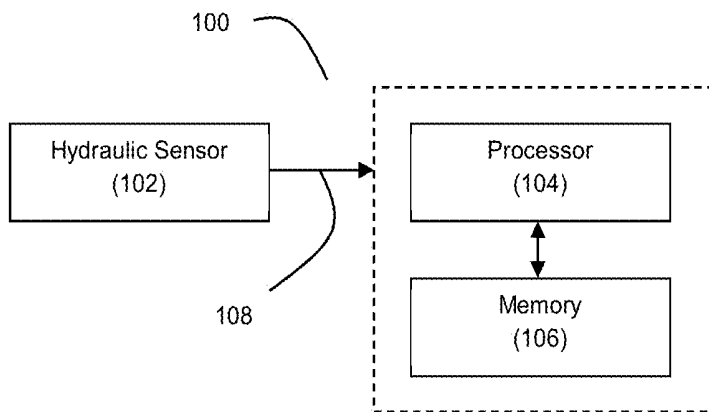


Figure 1

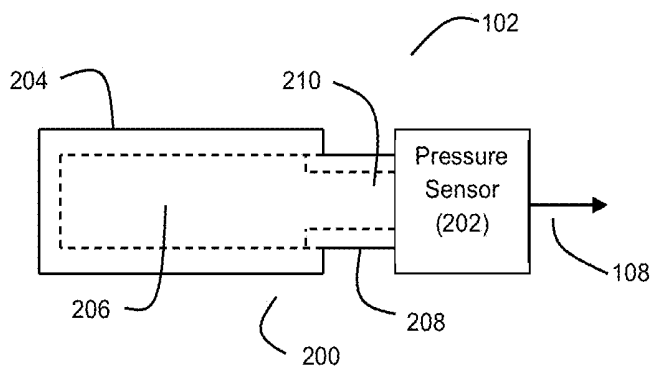


Figure 2(a)

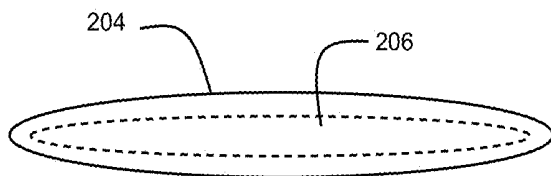


Figure 2(b)

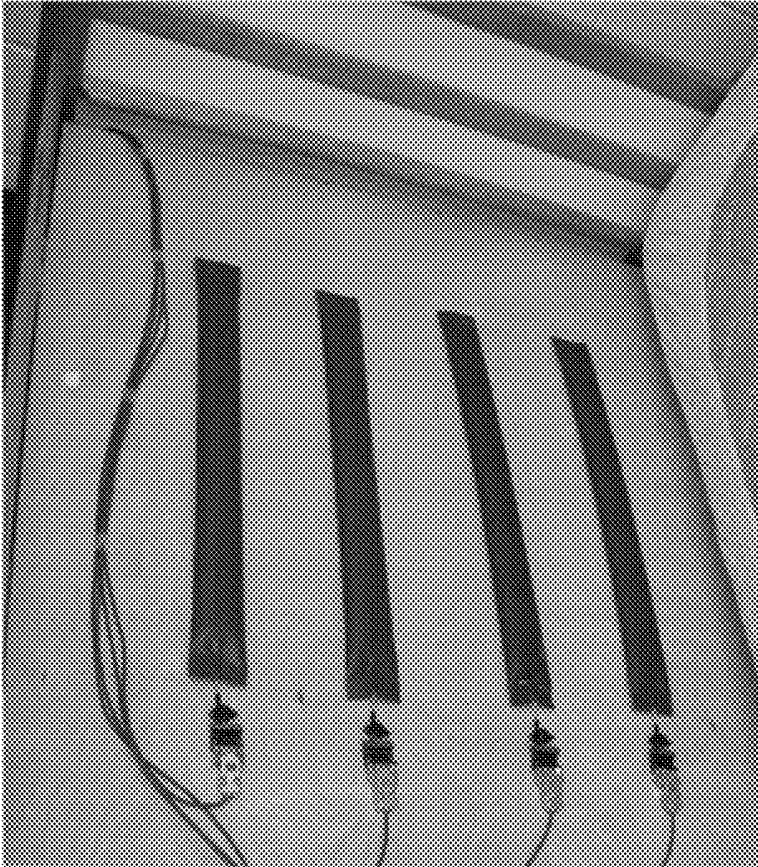


Figure 3

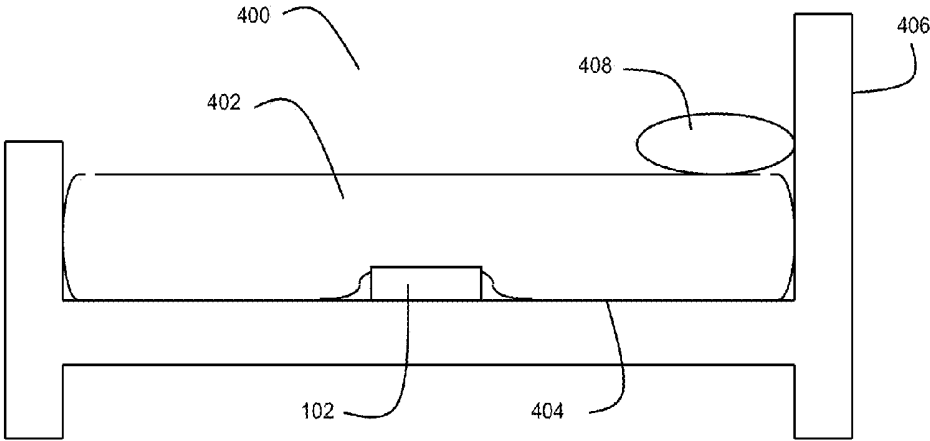


Figure 4

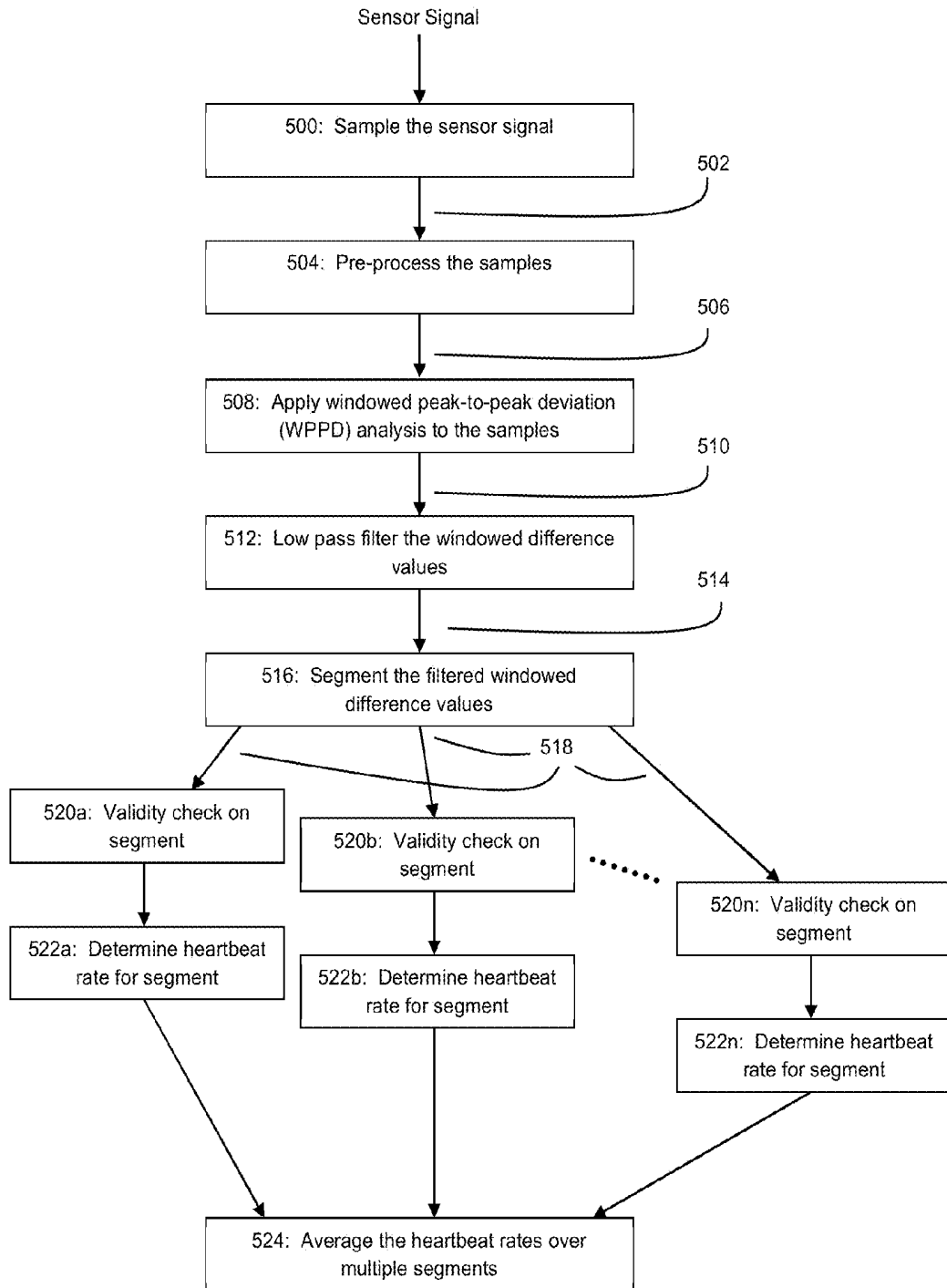


Figure 5

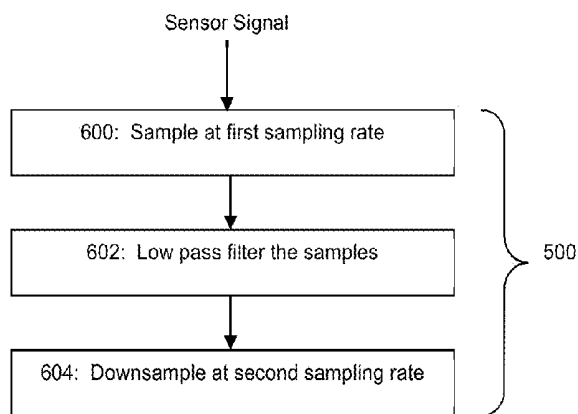


Figure 6(a)

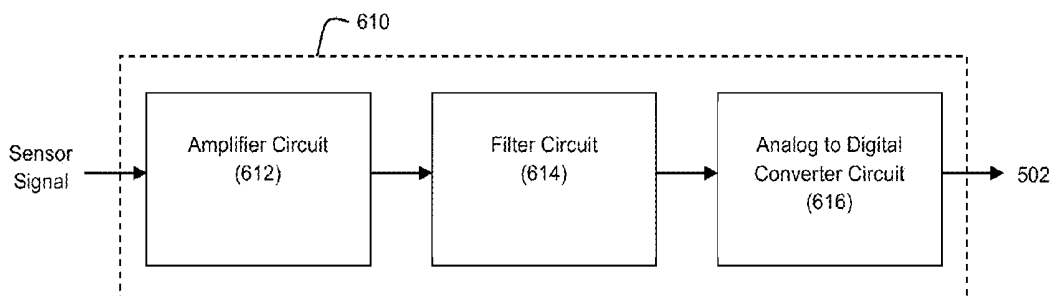


Figure 6(b)

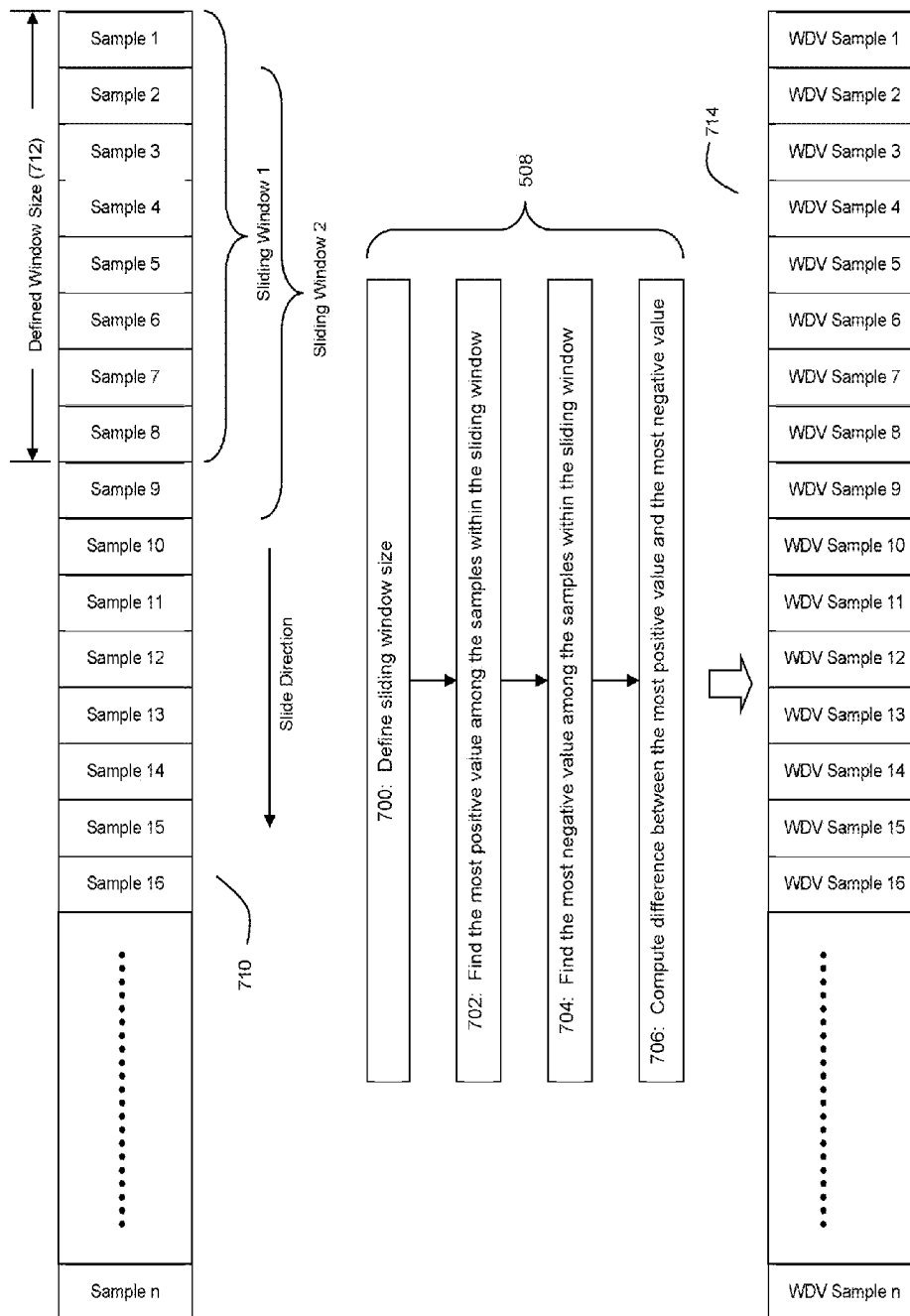


Figure 7

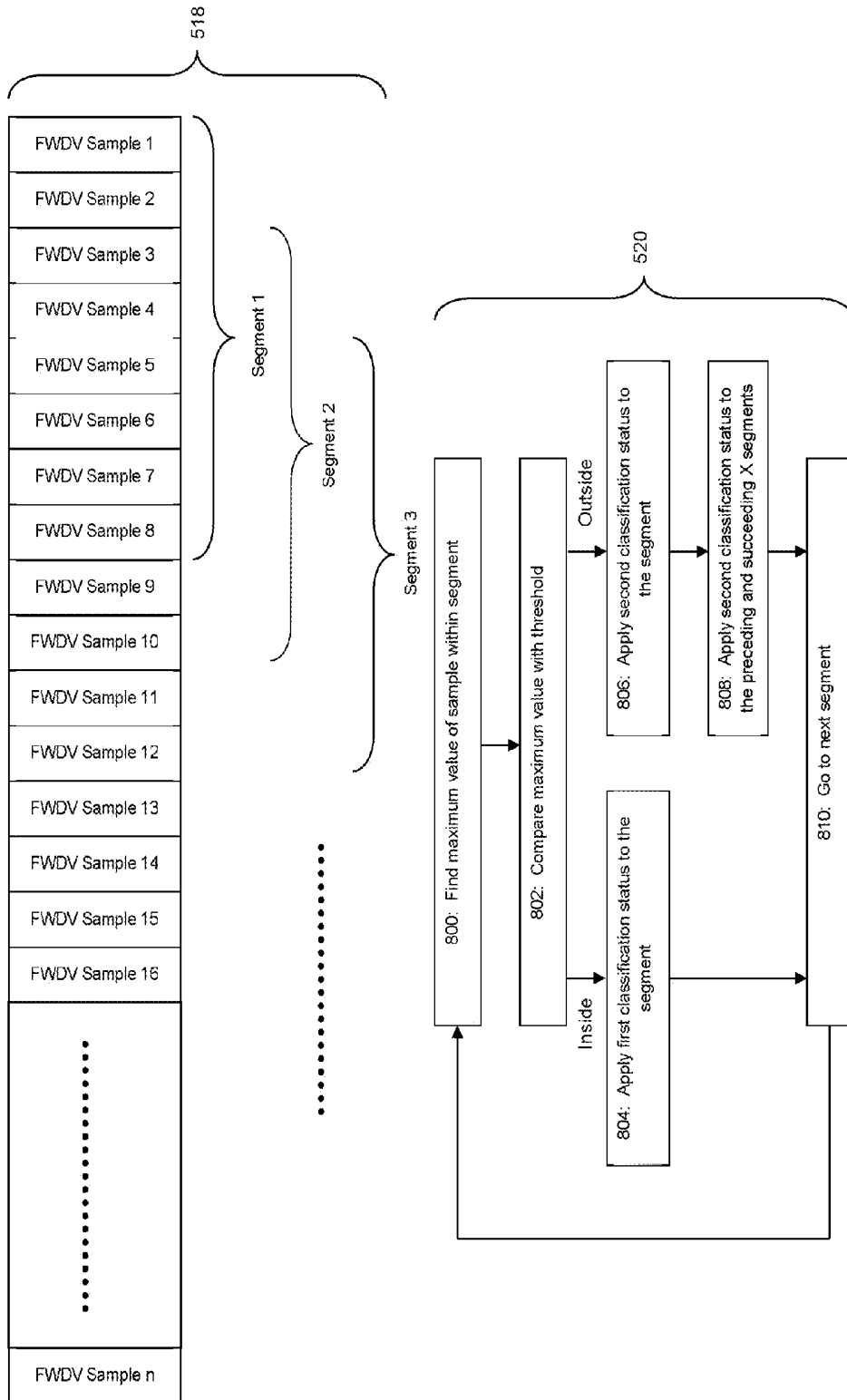


Figure 8

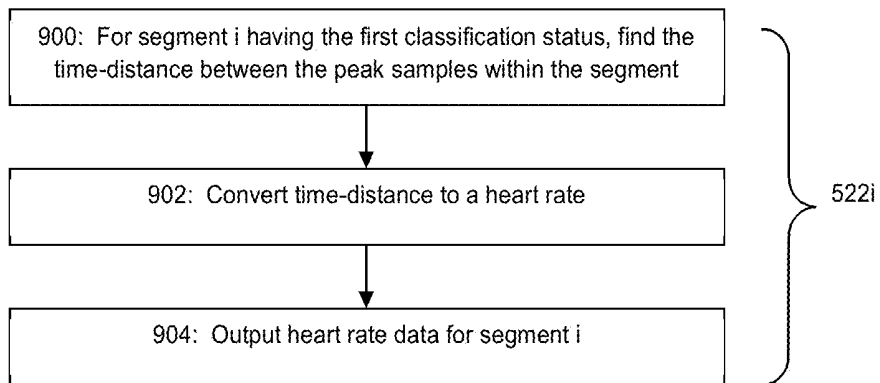


Figure 9

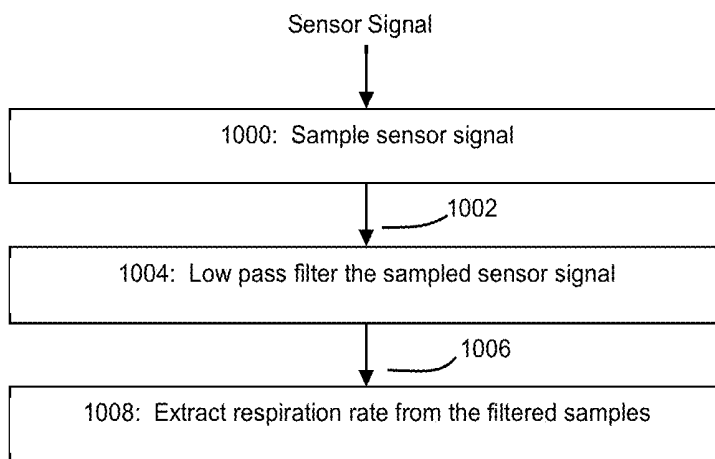


Figure 10

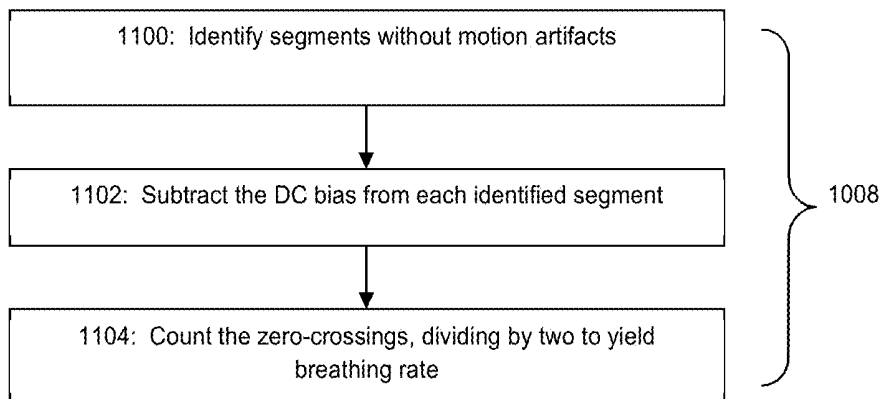


Figure 11

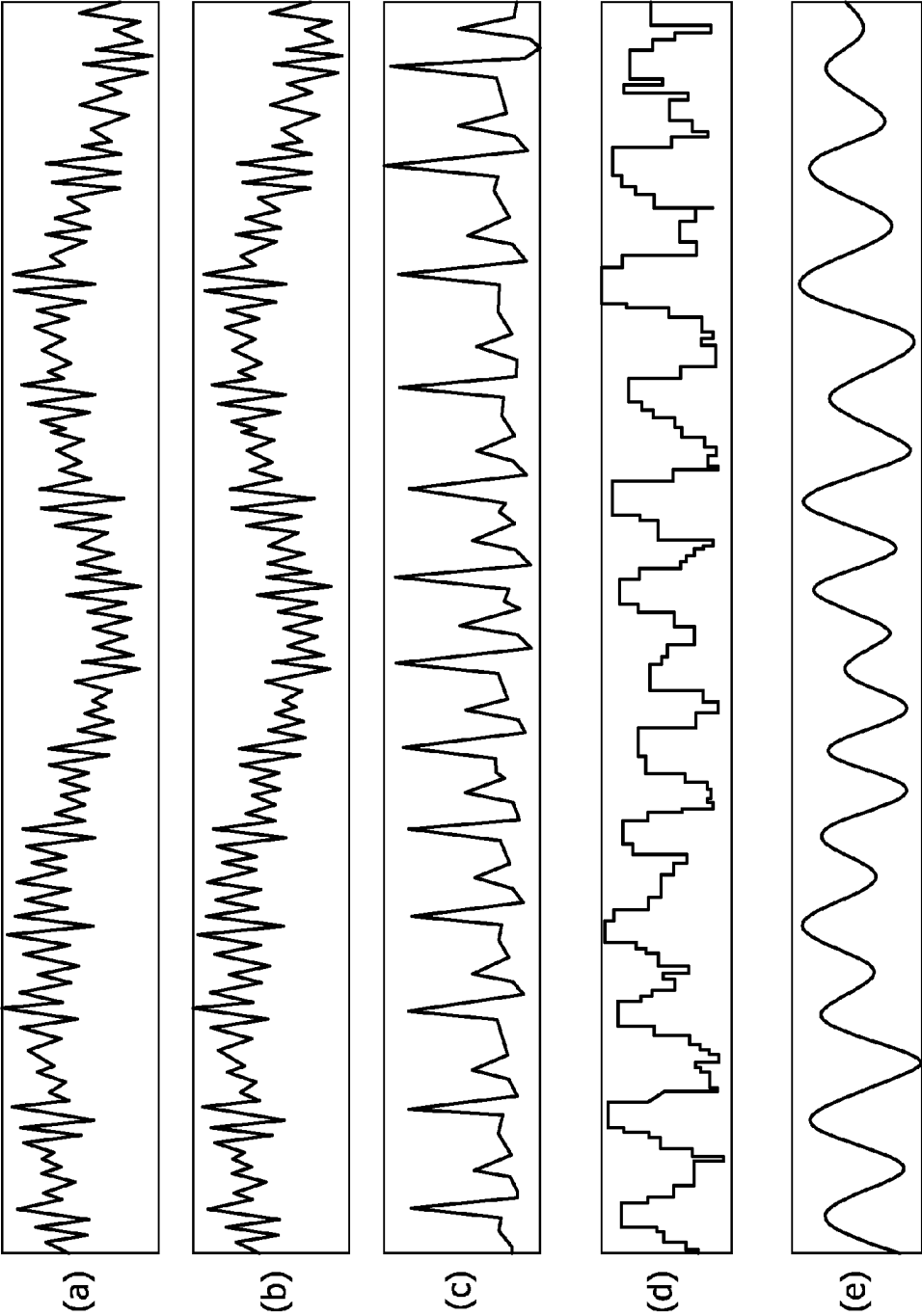


Figure 12

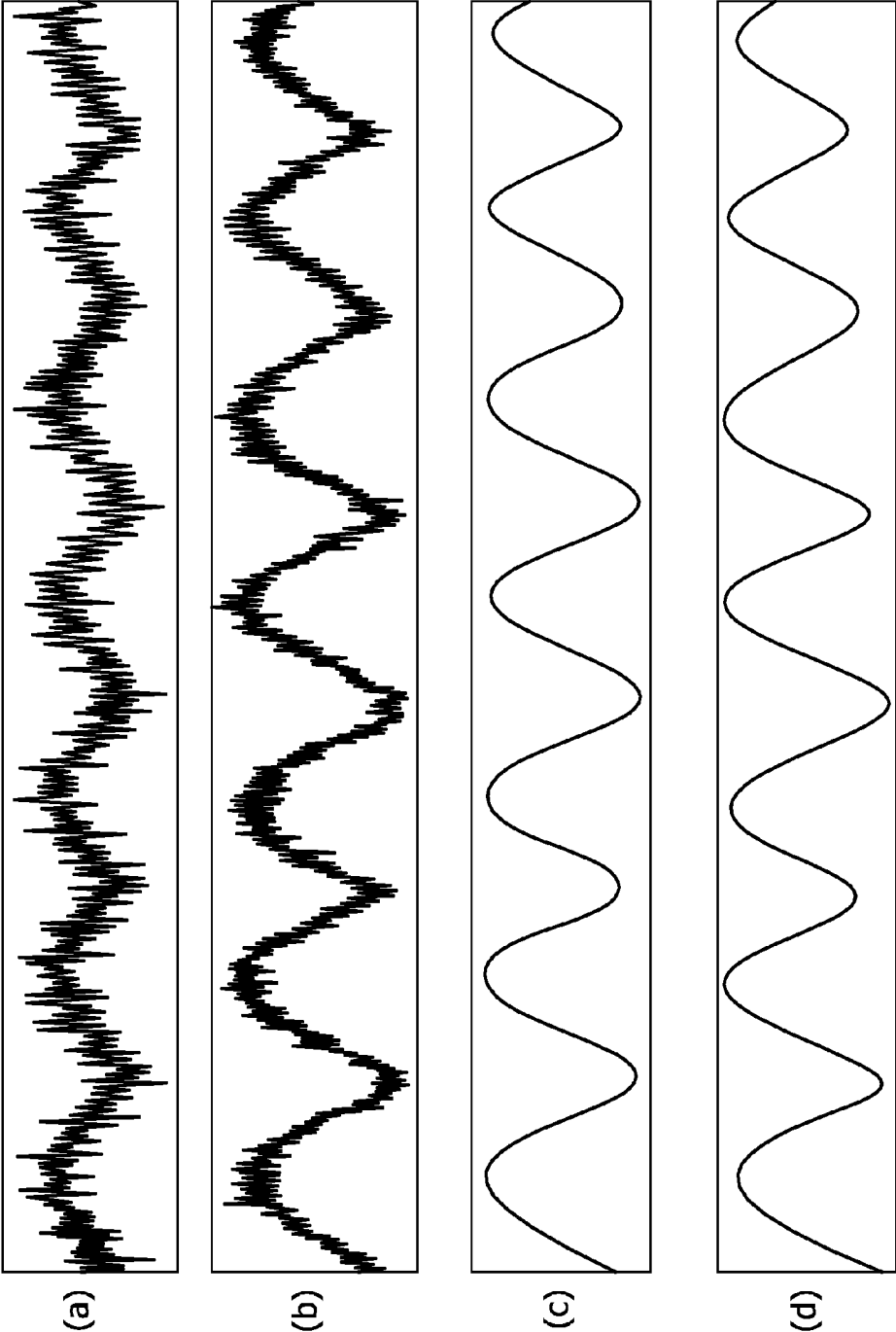


Figure 13

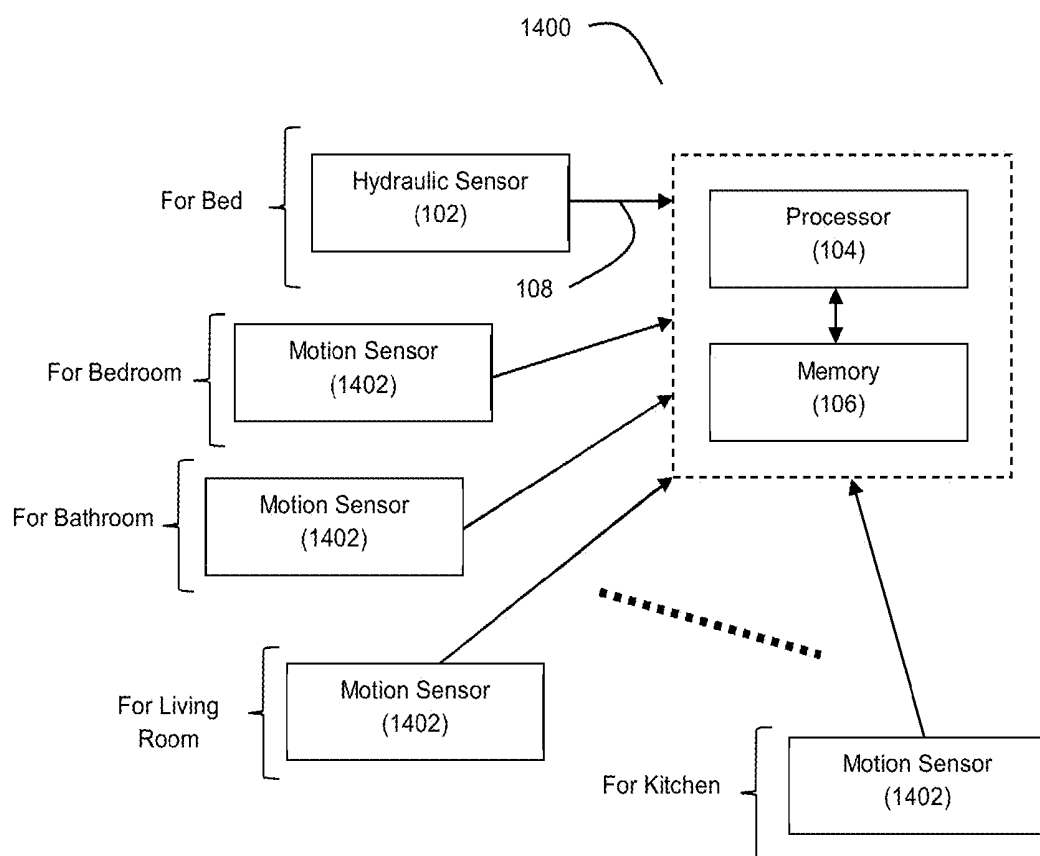


Figure 14

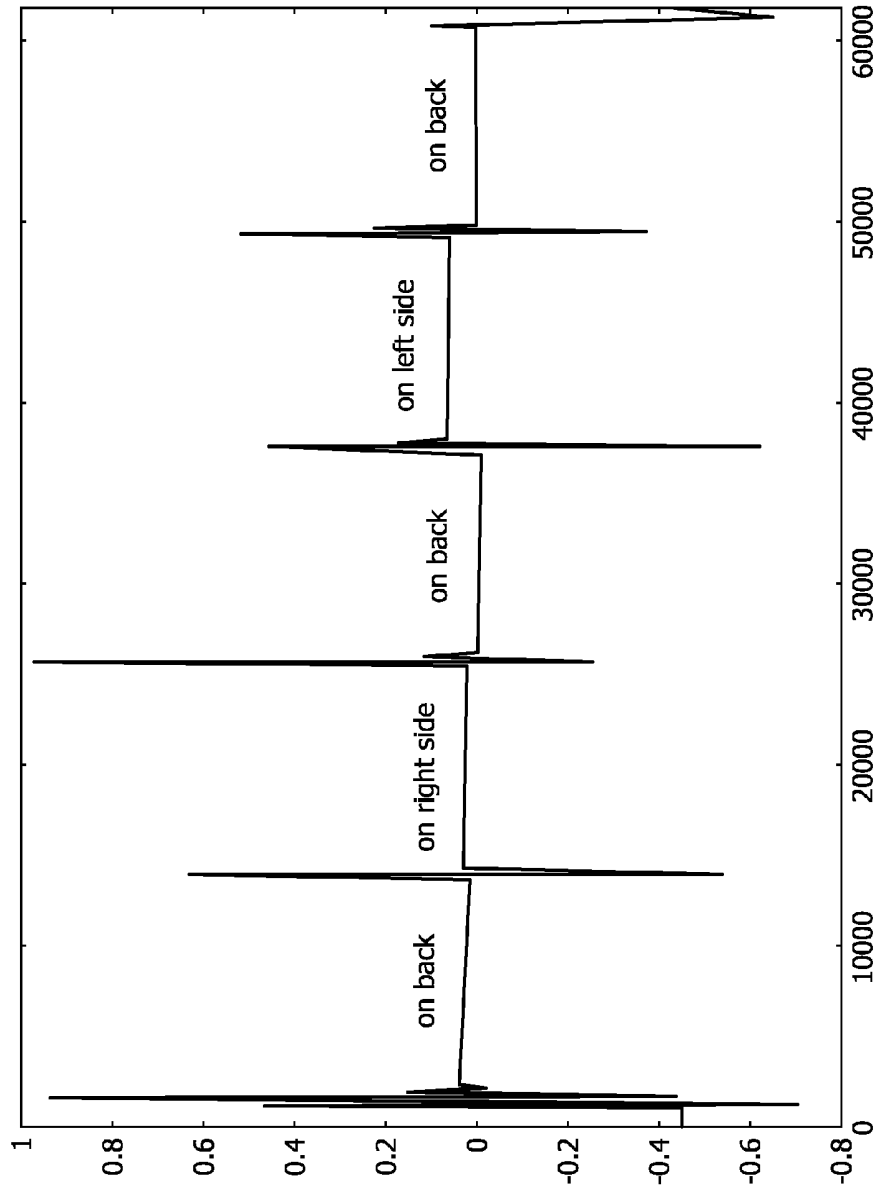


Figure 15

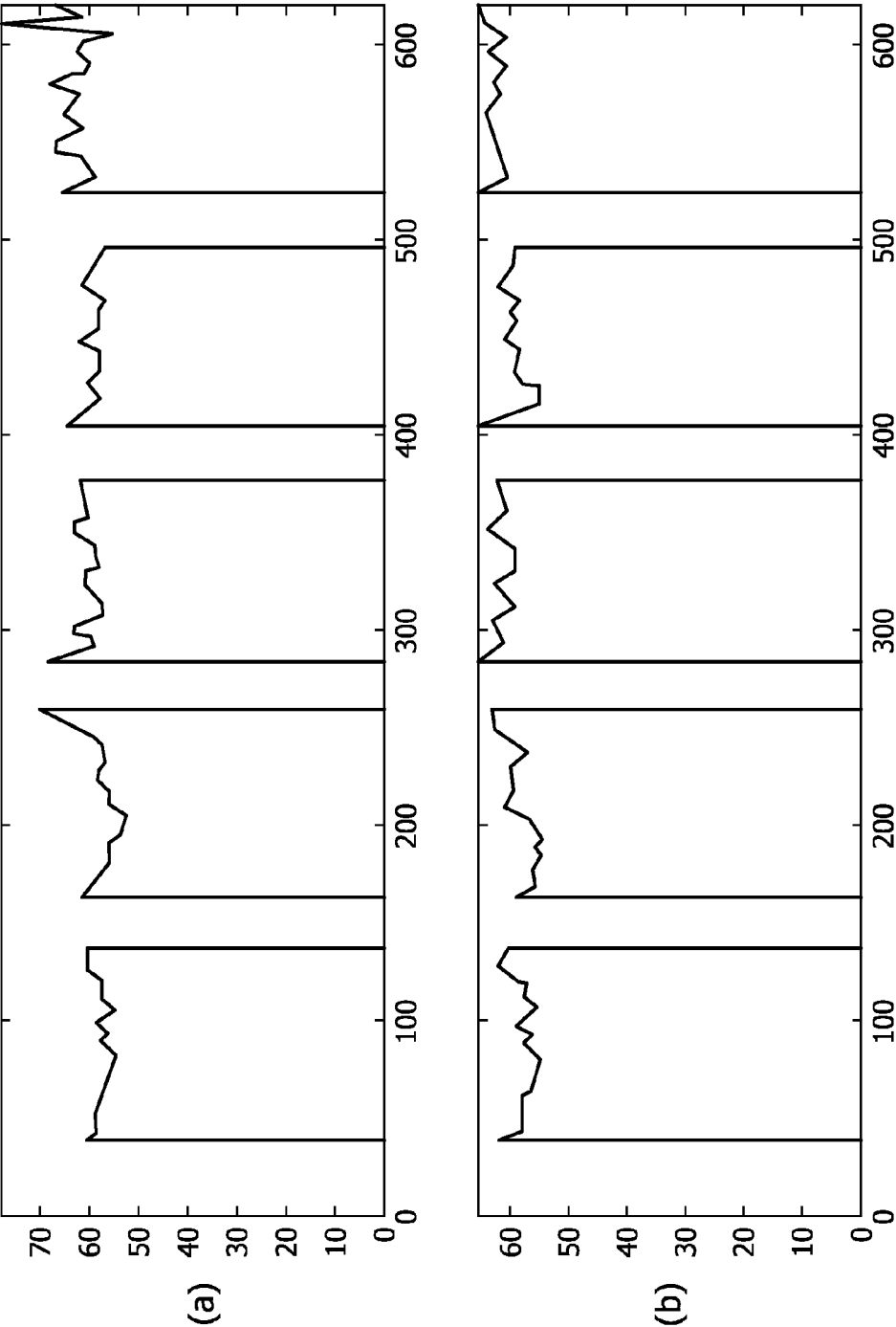


Figure 16

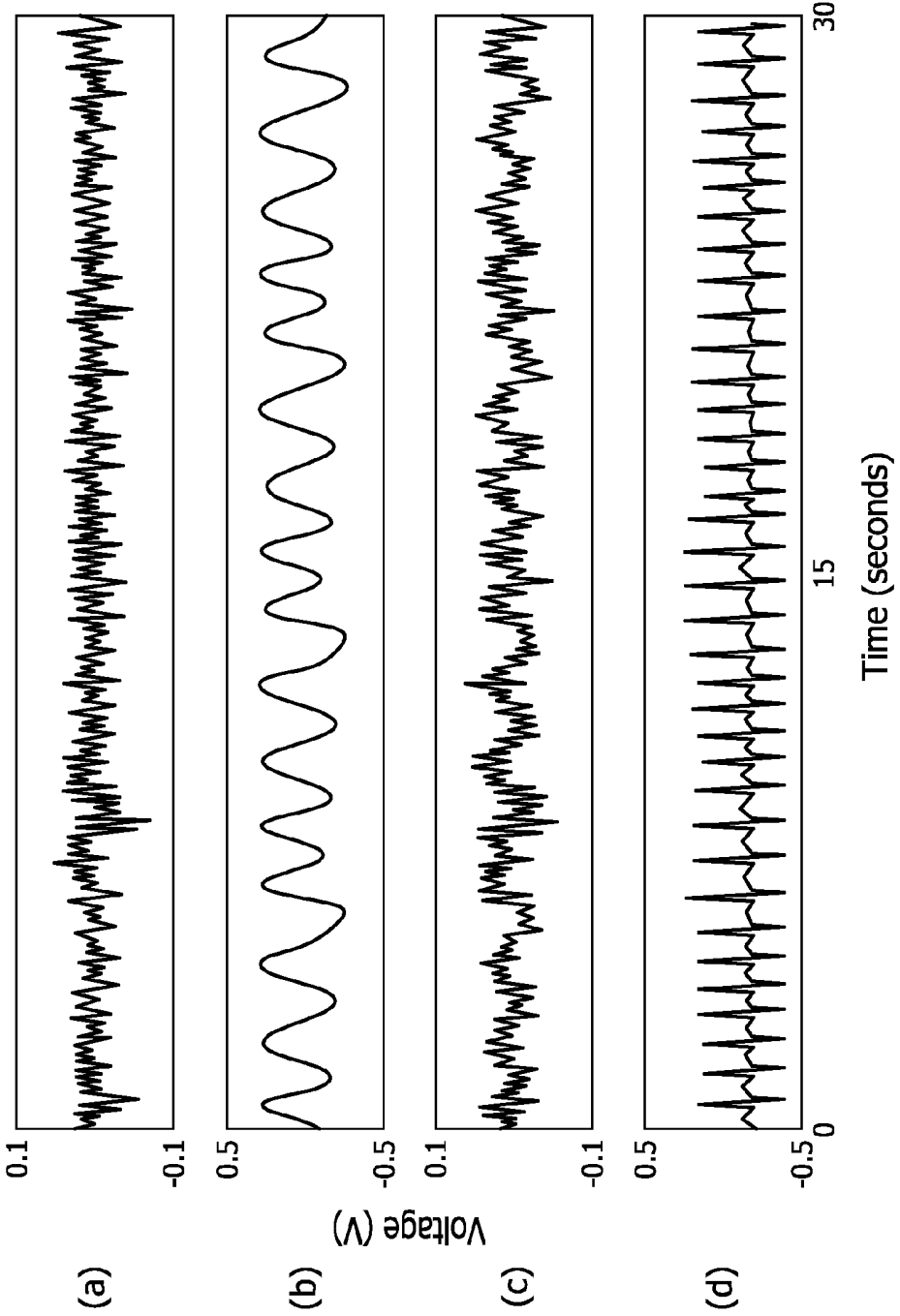


Figure 17

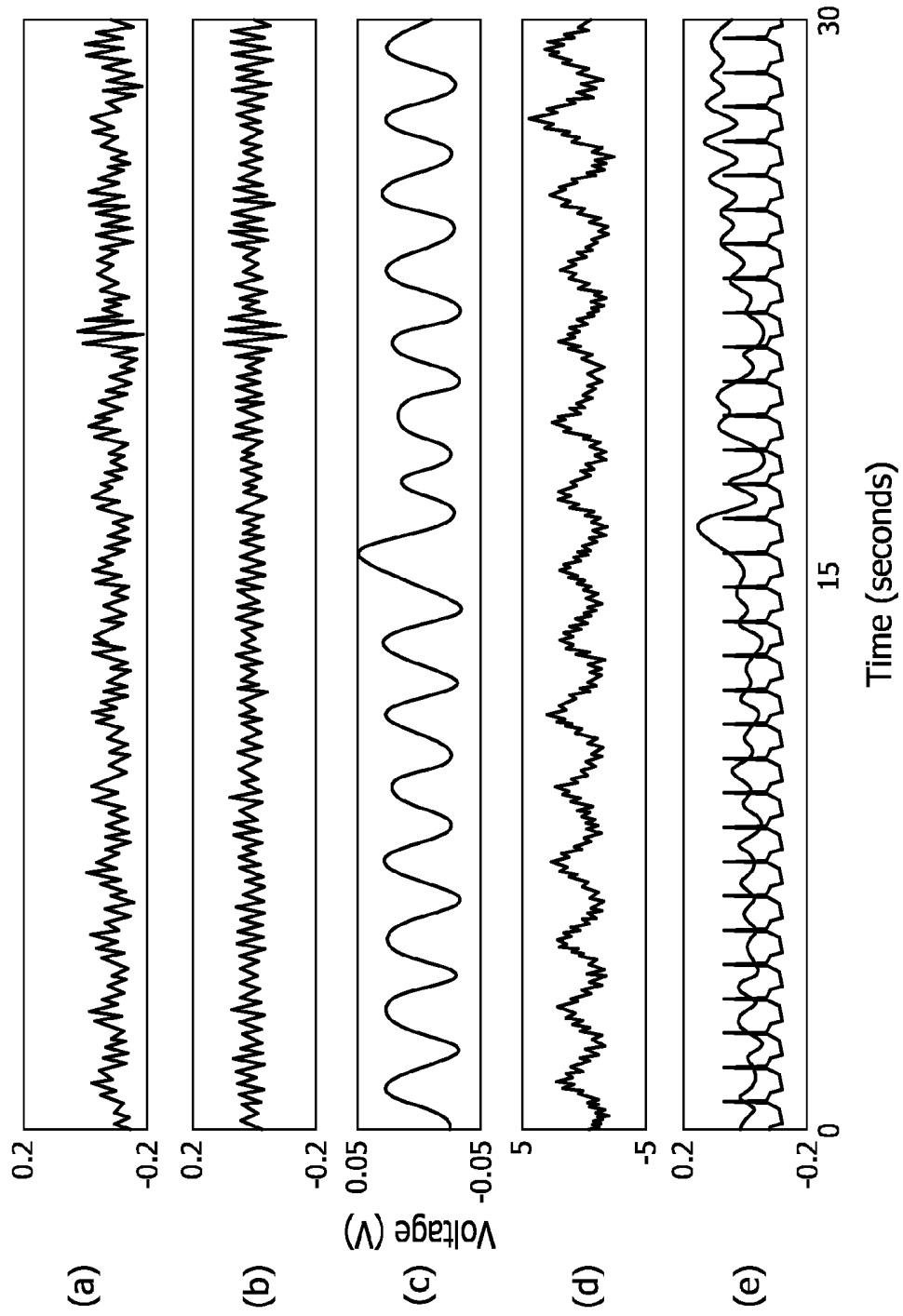


Figure 18

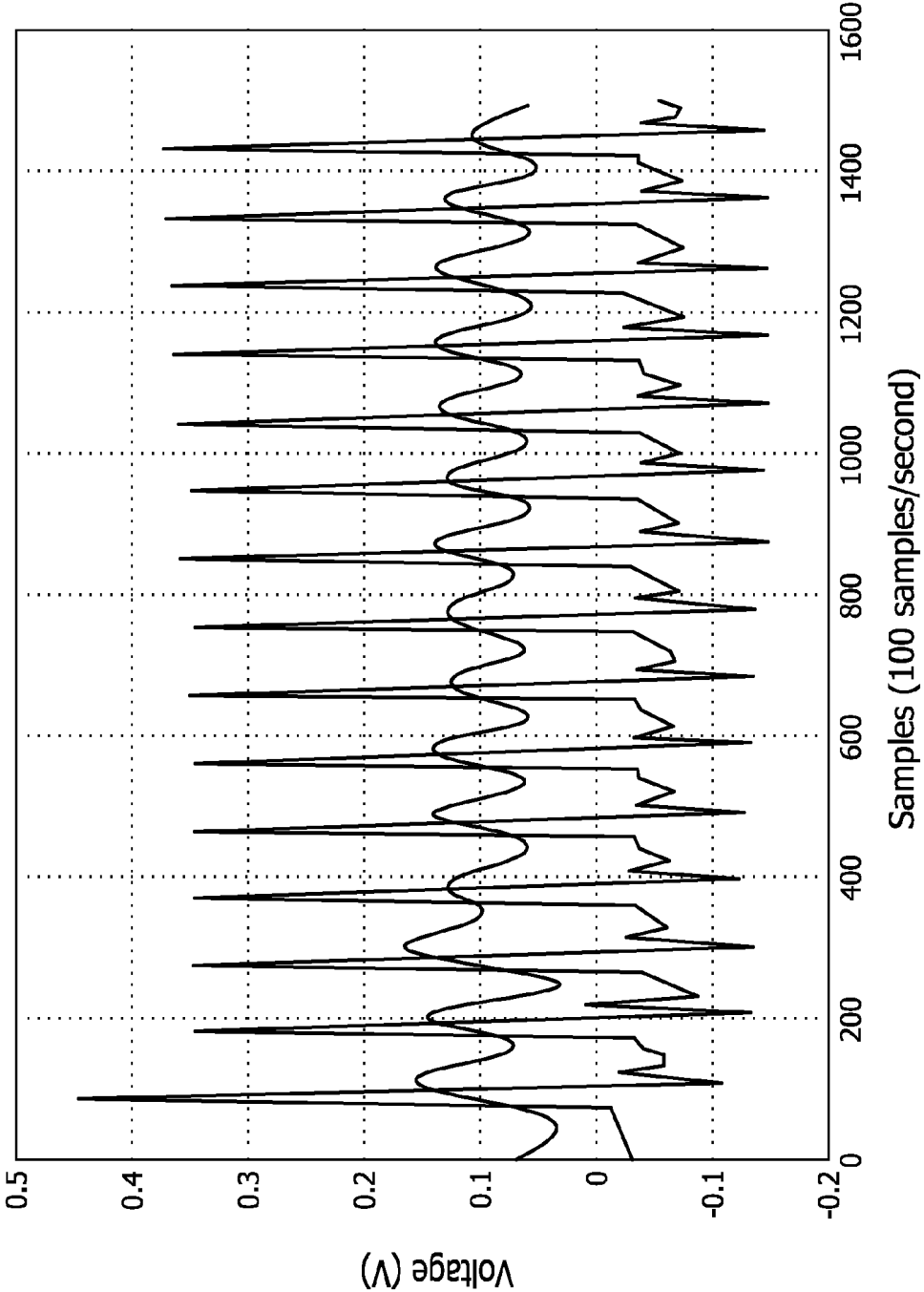


Figure 19

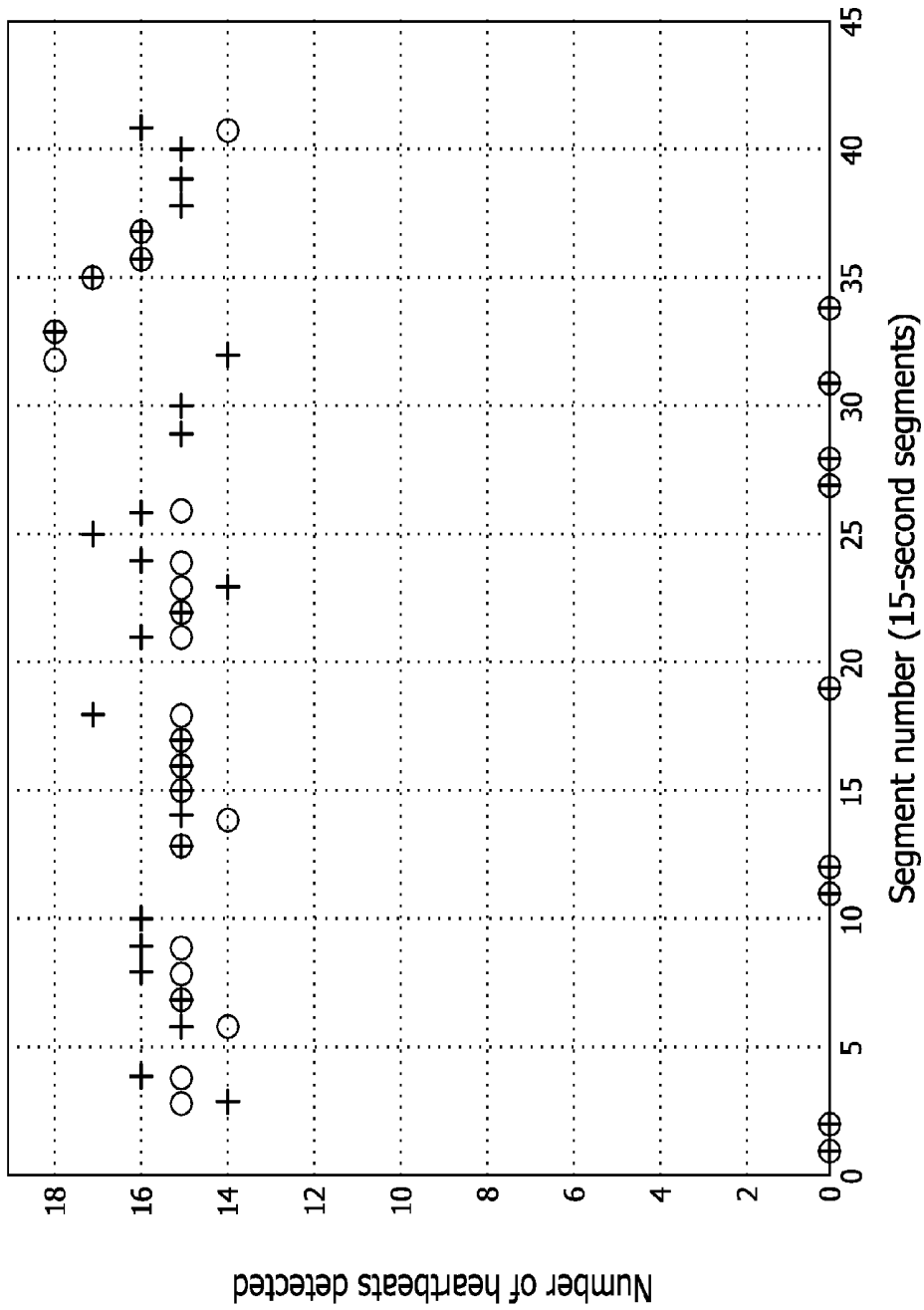


Figure 20

Results of Evaluation Trial Processing the Signal with Varying Algorithm Parameters

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
	ws=150			ws=250			ws=400			ws=600		
f=1 Hz	f=1.5 Hz	f=2 Hz	f=1 Hz	f=1.5 Hz	f=2 Hz	f=1 Hz	f=1.5 Hz	f=2 Hz	f=1 Hz	f=1.5 Hz	f=2 Hz	
Subject #1												
<2	16.67	69.05	59.52	16.67	73.81	16.67	57.14	69.05	16.67	33.33	57.14	
=2	0.00	11.90	23.81	0.00	19.05	0.00	14.29	23.81	0.00	14.29	21.43	
>2	83.33	19.05	16.67	83.33	7.14	83.33	28.57	7.14	83.33	52.38	21.43	
Subject #2												
<2	17.50	90.00	40.00	17.50	40.00	17.50	62.50	60.00	17.50	57.50	57.50	
=2	5.00	2.50	35.00	5.00	17.50	2.50	27.50	17.50	2.50	12.50	15.00	
>2	77.50	7.50	45.00	77.50	42.50	60.00	10.00	22.50	80.00	30.00	27.50	
Subject #3												
<2	24.39	70.73	26.83	24.39	39.02	21.95	65.85	53.66	17.07	48.78	43.90	
=2	9.76	21.95	12.20	4.88	9.76	2.44	21.95	14.63	2.44	21.95	29.27	
>2	65.85	7.32	60.98	70.73	51.22	75.61	12.20	31.71	80.49	29.27	26.83	
Subject #4												
<2	25.64	92.31	89.74	25.64	92.31	25.64	79.49	79.49	25.64	41.03	74.36	
=2	0.00	2.56	5.13	0.00	2.56	0.00	12.82	15.38	0.00	25.64	15.38	
>2	74.36	5.13	5.13	74.36	5.13	74.36	7.69	5.13	74.36	33.33	10.26	
Subject #5												
<2	40.00	87.50	52.50	40.00	52.50	32.50	82.50	62.50	25.00	57.50	47.50	
=2	15.00	10.00	7.50	10.00	15.00	12.50	10.00	10.00	9.00	15.00	17.50	
>2	45.00	2.50	40.00	50.00	32.50	55.00	7.50	27.50	70.00	27.50	35.00	

Figure 21

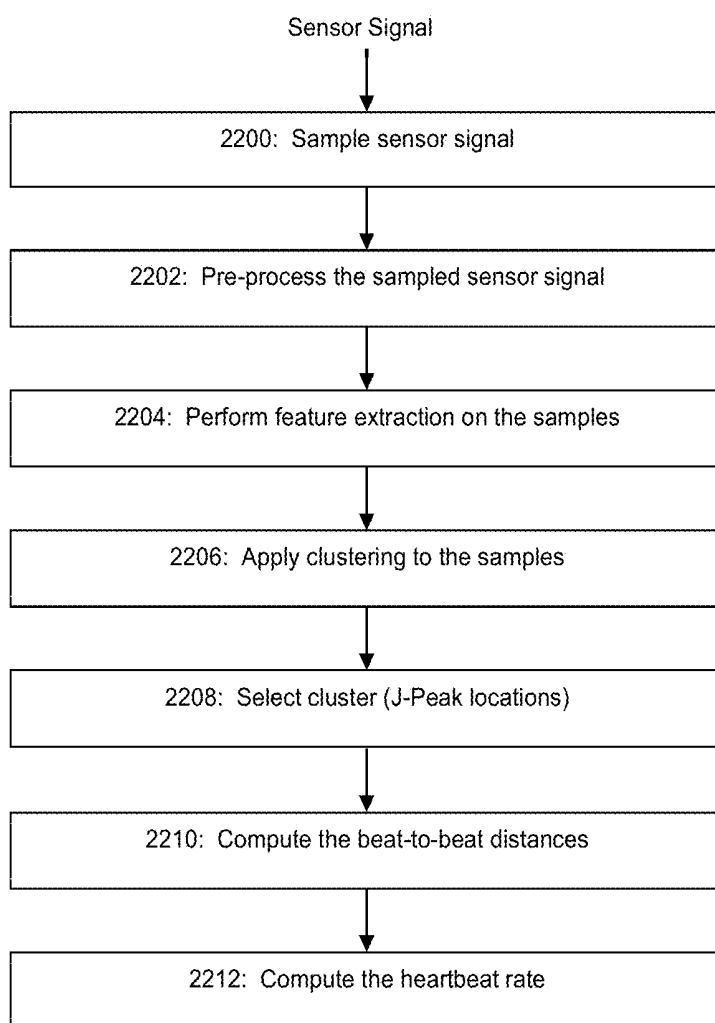


Figure 22

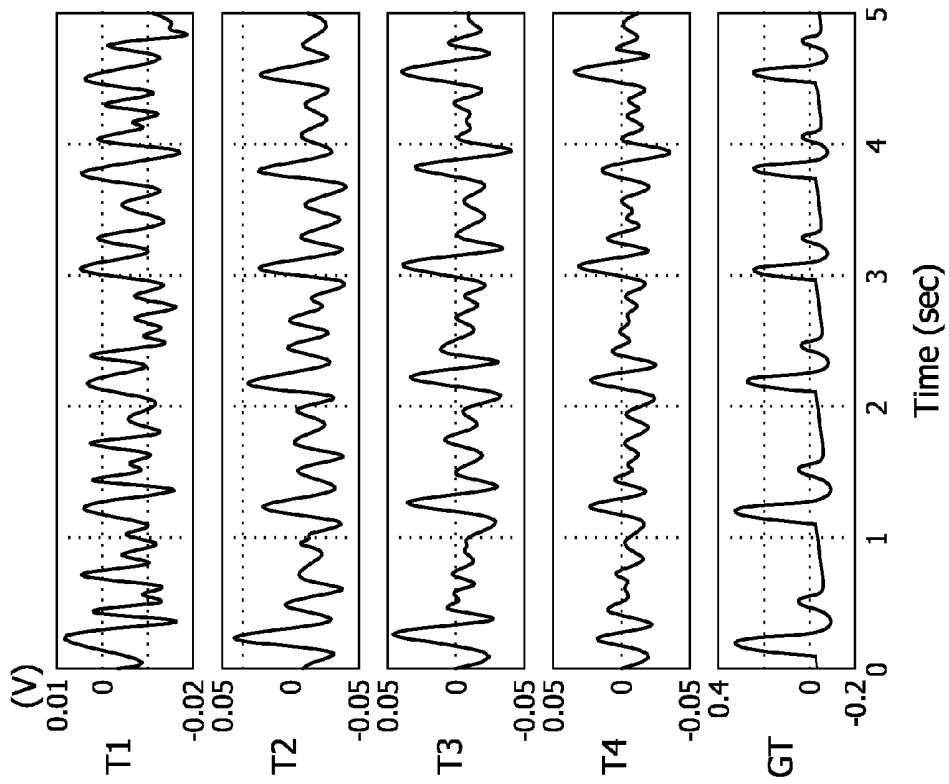


Figure 23

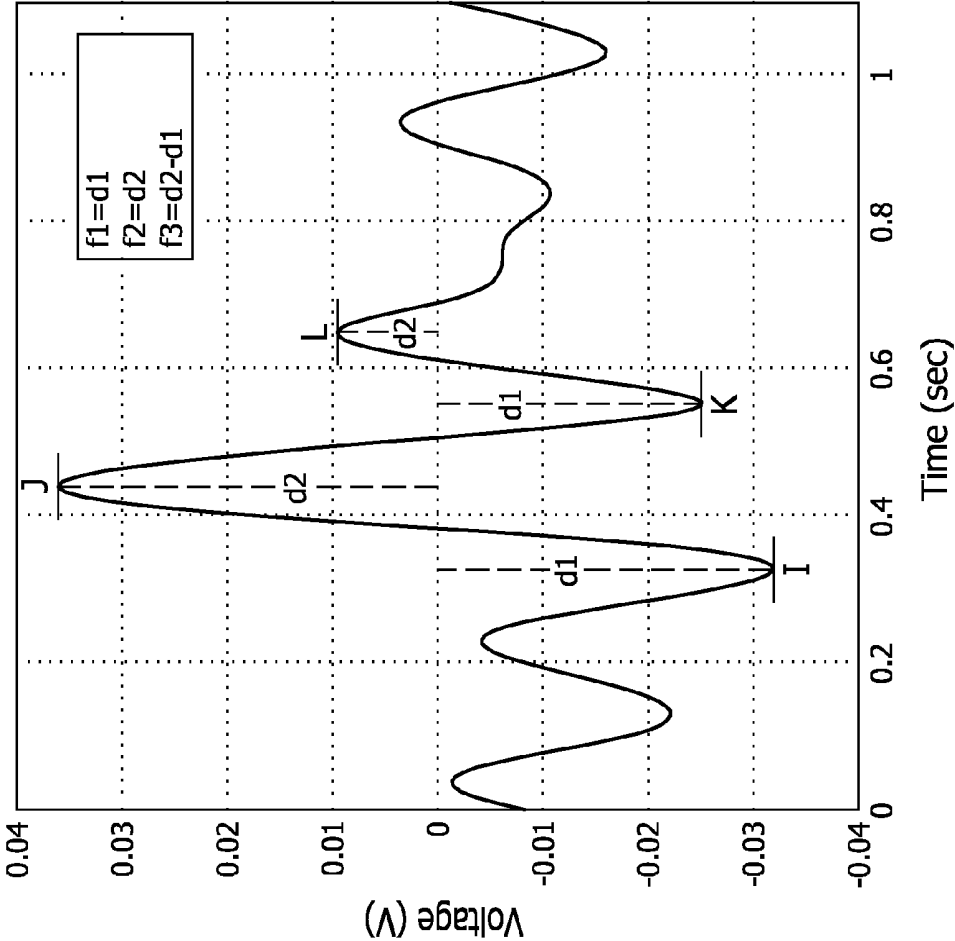
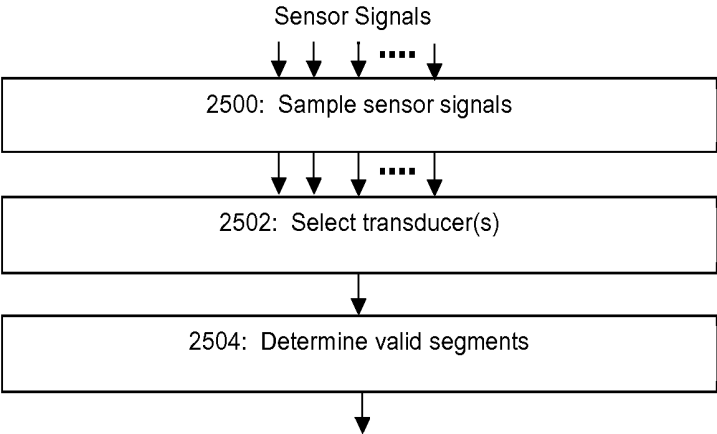


Figure 24



To Pre-Processing Steps of Figures 5/21 and/or Low Pass Filtering Step of Figure 10

Figure 25

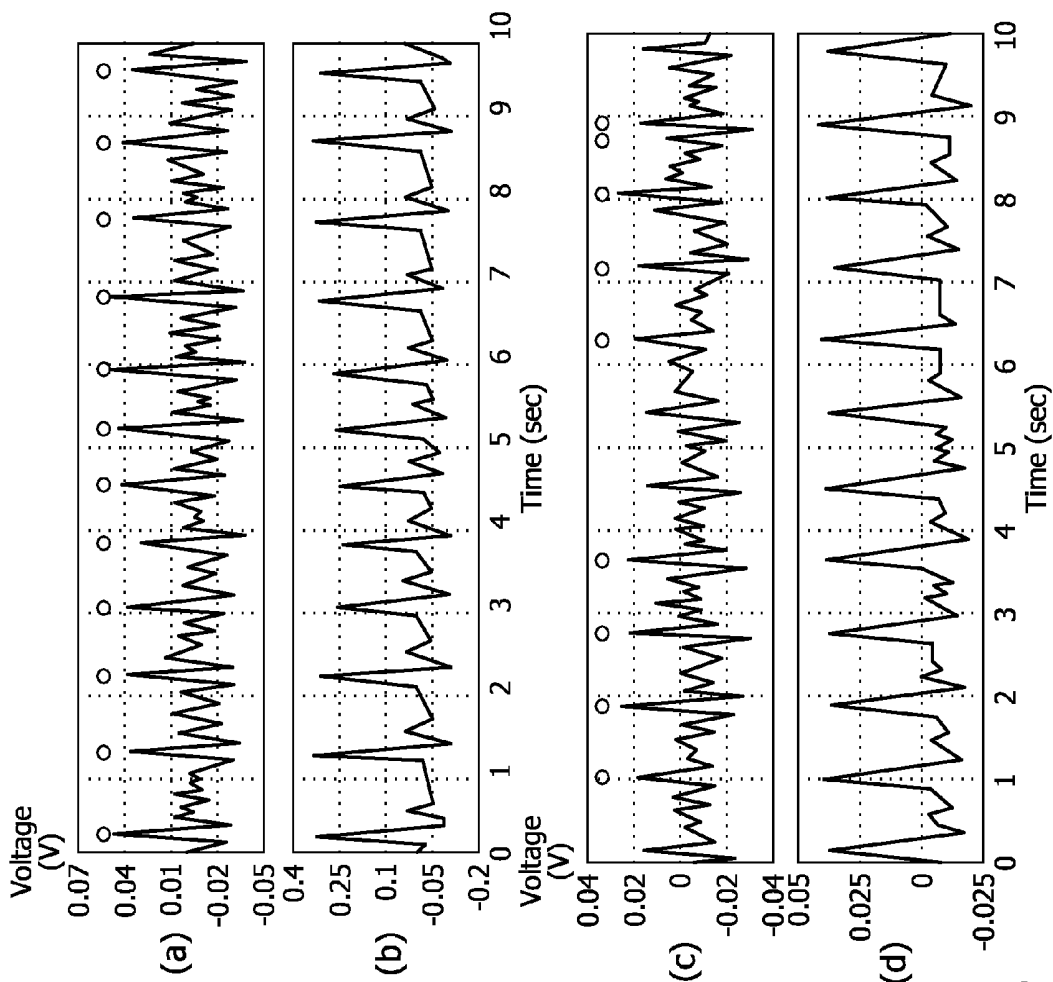


Figure 26

Heartbeat Detection Confusion Matrices

Subject	T2						T3						T4						
	B1		B2		B3		B1		B2		B3		B1		B2		B3		
	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	
	Predicted class																		
Actual class	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	
1	120	0	120	0	81	1	120	0	119	0	81	1	120	0	120	0	79	2	
	10	332	11	330	23	218	1	340	0	334	0	226	2	380	0	336	1	238	
	97.8	97.6	97.6	92.0	99.8	100.0	99.8	100.0	99.7	99.6	100.0	99.1	99.6	100.0	99.1	99.1	99.1	99.1	
2	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	
	147	6	182	3	123	5	4	556	6	626	8	472	5	4	556	6	626	8	
	98.6	98.9	98.6	97.9	98.6	98.9	98.6	98.9	97.9	98.6	98.9	97.9	98.6	98.9	97.9	98.6	98.9	97.9	
3	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	
	110	0	110	0	90	0	110	0	90	0	110	0	110	0	111	0	88	2	
	54	443	91	428	74	324	0	494	3	496	1	435	0	494	3	496	1	435	
	91.0	85.5	84.8	100.0	99.5	99.4	91.0	85.5	84.8	100.0	99.5	99.4	91.0	85.5	84.8	100.0	99.5	99.4	
4	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	HB	NHB	
	51	57	85	24	64	26	11	365	111	245	6	314	86.0	71.0	92.2	86.0	71.0	92.2	
	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2	92.2

Figure 27

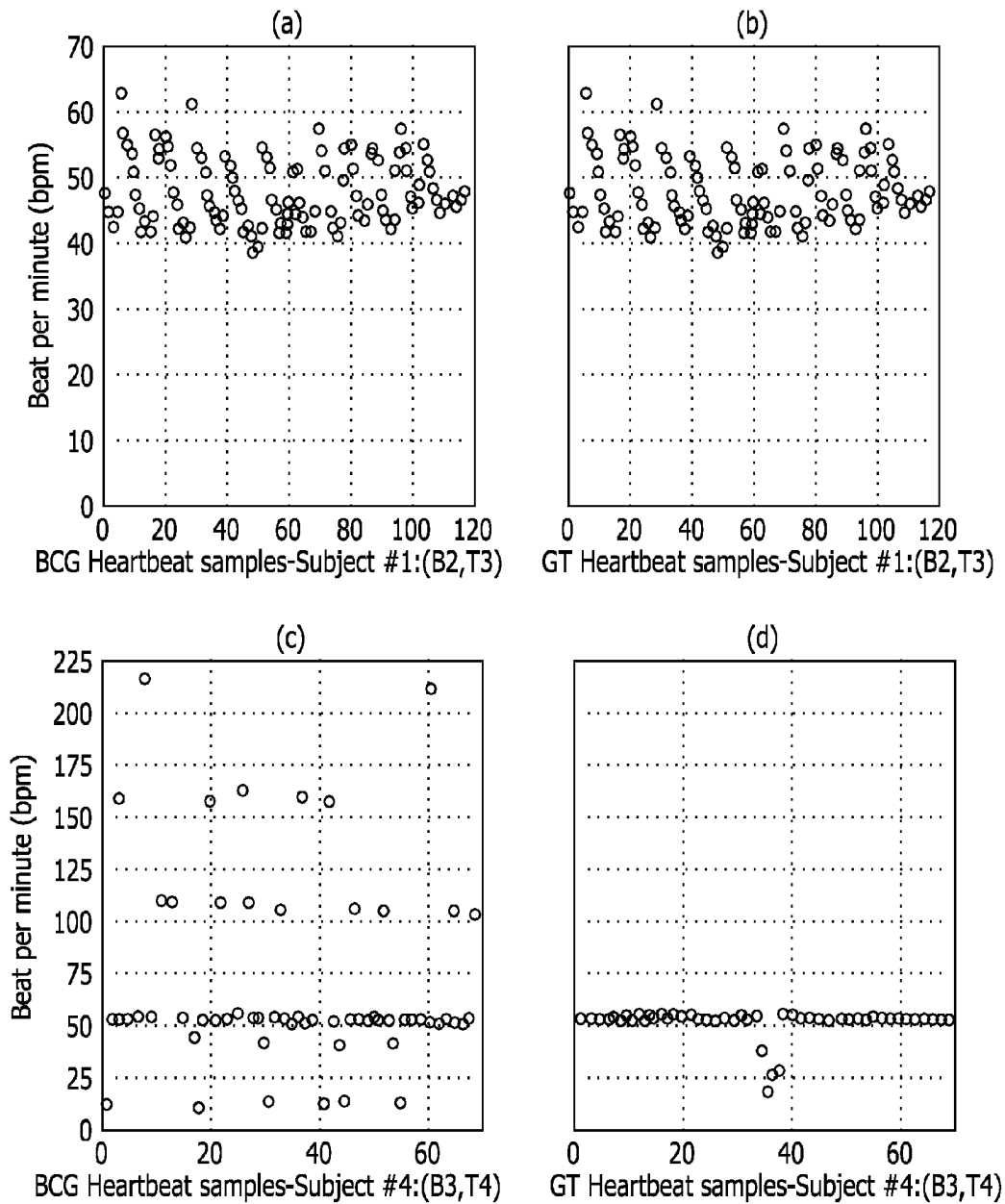


Figure 28

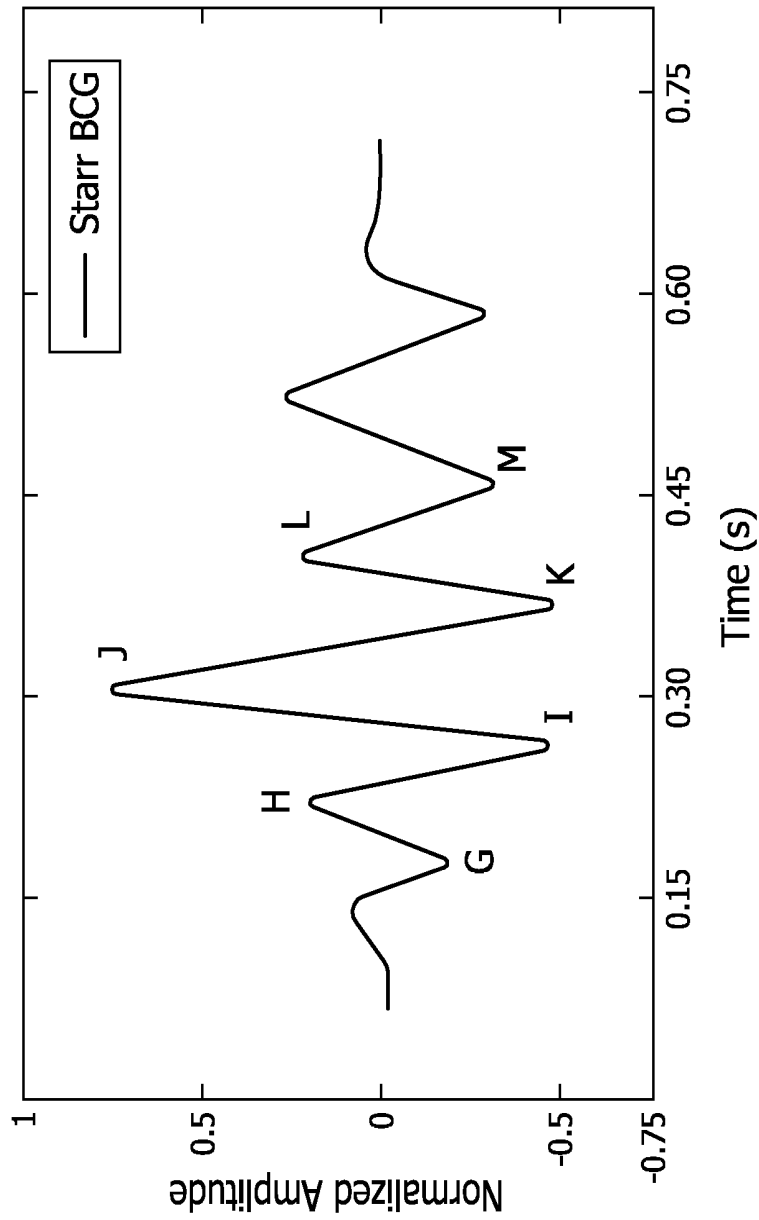


Figure 29

**HYDRAULIC BED SENSOR AND SYSTEM
FOR NON-INVASIVE MONITORING OF
PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA**

CROSS-REFERENCE AND PRIORITY CLAIM
TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

[0001] This patent application claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 61/575,931, filed Aug. 31, 2011, entitled “Hydraulic Bed Sensor”, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

GRANT STATEMENT

[0002] This invention was made with Government support under Grant No. IIS-0428420 and Grant No. CNS-0931607 from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Government has certain rights in the invention.

INTRODUCTION

[0003] Ballistocardiography (BCG), which records the movements imparted to the body by the forces associated with contraction of the heart and acceleration and deceleration of blood as it is ejected and moved in large vessels, is believed to be a promising tool for non-invasive monitoring of physiological data. These mechanical motions due to cardiac and hemodynamic events can be recorded from multiple locations and with multiple types of sensors, leading to a confusing number of techniques and signals, sometimes related and sometimes not. To help alleviate such confusion, a standardized terminology has emerged to describe ballistocardiogram waves as set forth in connection with FIG. 29. As shown in FIG. 29, the ballistocardiogram waves may be separated in three major groups, the pre-systolic (frequently disregarded), the systolic and the diastolic.

[0004] For the pre-systolic group, there are:

[0005] F wave (rarely seen)—headward wave preceding G (see FIG. 29), related to pre-systolic events not an after vibration.

[0006] G wave (see FIG. 29)—small footward wave which at time precedes the H wave.

[0007] For the systolic group, there are:

[0008] H wave (see FIG. 29)—headward deflection that begins close to the peak of the R wave (from the electrocardiogram), the maximum peak synchronously or near the start of ejection.

[0009] I wave (see FIG. 29)—footward deflection that follows the H wave, occurs early in systole. The I wave can also be referred to as an ejection wave.

[0010] J wave (see FIG. 29)—largest headward wave the immediately follows the I wave; occurs late in systole. The J wave can also be referred to as an ejection wave.

[0011] K wave (see FIG. 29)—footward wave following the J wave; occurs before the end of systole.

[0012] For the diastolic group, there are:

[0013] L and N waves—two smaller headward deflections which usually follow K (see FIG. 29 for L wave)

[0014] M wave (see FIG. 29)—footward deflection between L and N. Furthermore, it should be understood that smaller subsequent waves may be visible, and these are typically named in sequence.

[0015] Non-invasive monitoring of physiological data of a subject, especially an in-bed patient or an elderly person, plays an important role in supporting the continuous efforts of in-home care. Particularly, long-term monitoring of the eld-

erly via sensing technologies is emerging as a strategy for detecting early signs of illness and functional decline. It is anticipated that such an approach may provide opportunities for appropriate interventions that will contribute to maintaining health, quality-of-life, and independence.

[0016] In comparing sensor data changes to health changes, the bed sensor has proven to be a useful component of the sensor network. However, the inventors believe that room for improvement exists with such technologies with respect to their sensitivities in detecting physiological data and providing comfort to users.

[0017] In an effort to address such needs, the inventors disclose a health monitoring system, the system comprising: (1) a hydraulic sensor for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, and (2) a processor for receiving the sensor signal, the processor configured to analyze data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data. The inventors further disclose a method comprising: (1) hydraulically transducing physiological movement of a living being to sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, and (2) processing, by a processor, the sensed signal, the processing including the processor extracting heartbeat data from data representative of the sensor signal. With such a system and method, the processor can employ various techniques to extract the heartbeat data; for example windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis and clustering analysis.

[0018] The inventors further disclose a health monitoring system, the system comprising: (1) a hydraulic sensor for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, and (2) a processor for receiving the sensor signal, the processor configured to (i) process the sensor signal to generate heartbeat data and respiratory data for the living being, and (ii) store the generated heartbeat and respiratory data in a database for subsequent analysis.

[0019] In accordance with yet another exemplary aspect, the inventors disclose an apparatus comprising a processor for receiving a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the processor configured to apply a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

[0020] In accordance with still another exemplary aspect, the inventors disclose an apparatus comprising a processor for receiving a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the processor configured to apply a clustering analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

[0021] Furthermore, the inventors disclose a computer program product comprising a plurality of computer-executable instructions resident on a non-transitory computer-readable

storage medium for execution to process data representative of a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the instructions configured to analyze the data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

[0022] Further still, the inventors disclose a sensor comprising: (1) a hydraulic transducer for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, and (2) a pressure sensor, wherein the hydraulic transducer is configured to apply fluid pressure to the pressure sensor in response to the heartbeat and respiratory patterns of the living being.

[0023] These and other features and advantages of the invention will be in part apparent and in part pointed out in the following description and referenced figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0024] FIG. 1 shows an exemplary system employing a hydraulic sensor to sense physiological movement of a living being.

[0025] FIGS. 2(a) and (b) show an exemplary embodiment for a hydraulic sensor.

[0026] FIG. 3 shows an exemplary positioning of an exemplary hydraulic sensor with respect to a bed.

[0027] FIG. 4 shows another exemplary positioning of the hydraulic sensor with respect to a bed.

[0028] FIG. 5 shows an exemplary process flow for extracting heartbeat data from a sensor signal using a WPPD analysis.

[0029] FIGS. 6(a) and (b) show exemplary techniques for sampling the sensor signal.

[0030] FIG. 7 shows an exemplary technique for applying the WPPD analysis.

[0031] FIG. 8 shows an exemplary technique for segment validation.

[0032] FIG. 9 shows an exemplary technique for determining a heartbeat rate from validated segments.

[0033] FIGS. 10-11 show an exemplary technique for extracting respiratory data from a sensor signal.

[0034] FIG. 12 shows exemplary signals at various stages of the process flow for the heartbeat extraction algorithm of FIG. 5.

[0035] FIG. 13 shows exemplary signals at various stages of the process flow for the respiratory information extraction algorithm of FIG. 10.

[0036] FIG. 14 shows an exemplary sensor network including a hydraulic sensor and other sensors.

[0037] FIG. 15 shows data from a hydraulic bed sensor after initial filtering and downsampling.

[0038] FIG. 16 shows an extracted heart rate for a female subject with a hydraulic sensor beneath a mattress.

[0039] FIGS. 17-18 show various signals for evaluating robustness of the heartbeat extraction algorithm.

[0040] FIG. 19 shows an extracted heartbeat signal superimposed over a reference signal for a subject.

[0041] FIG. 20 shows a correspondence between extracted heartbeats relative to a reference for a subject.

[0042] FIG. 21 shows a table of results for various WPPD algorithm parameters.

[0043] FIG. 22 shows an exemplary process flow for extracting heartbeat data from a sensor signal using a clustering analysis.

[0044] FIG. 23 shows BCG signals corresponding to various hydraulic transducers in a multi-transducer arrangement, together with a ground truth reference.

[0045] FIG. 24 shows exemplary features that can be extracted from a BCG signal.

[0046] FIG. 25 shows an exemplary process flow for selecting from among the sensor signals corresponding to multiple hydraulic transducers.

[0047] FIG. 26 shows various plots for heartbeat detection using the k-means clustering algorithm.

[0048] FIG. 27 shows a results table for heartbeat detection confusion matrices using the k-means clustering algorithm.

[0049] FIG. 28 shows various plots relating to beat-to-beat interval detections using the k-means clustering algorithm.

[0050] FIG. 29 shows an exemplary BCG signal portion.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0051] The invention provides a new and improved non-invasive bed sensing system to detect and monitor small scale physiological movements, such as breathing and heartbeat. Exemplary embodiments disclosed herein employ a hydraulic fluid to transduce the physiological pressures to an integrated pressure sensor. Signal processing techniques can employ techniques such as windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) and/or clustering to identify physiological data such as windowed instantaneous heart rates, individual cardiac pulses, respiration, restlessness, or other parameters from the electronic signals generated by the hydraulic transducer. These electronic signals will contain a cardiac component (attributable to the subject's heartbeat), a respiratory component (attributable to the subject's breathing motions), and a noise component (attributable to sources other than heartbeats and breathing). The signal processing techniques can be configured to extract the relevant cardiac information from the sensor signal as well as the relevant respiratory information from the sensor signal in order to gauge physiological data such as one or more of a heart rate, respiratory rate, and restlessness.

[0052] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary sensing system 100 in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The system 100 comprises a hydraulic sensor 102 in communication with a processor 104 and memory 106. The hydraulic sensor 102 senses small-scale physiological movements of a person and provides a sensor signal 108 to the processor 104 and memory 106. The hydraulic sensor 102, processor 104, and memory 106 cooperate together to generate data that measures a person's physiological patterns over time. For example, the hydraulic sensor 102, processor 104, and memory 106 cooperate together to generate data that measures a person's respiratory rate. As another example, the hydraulic sensor 102, processor 104, and memory 106 cooperate together to generate data that measures a person's heartbeat rate. As another example, the hydraulic sensor 102, processor 104, and memory 106 cooperate together to generate data that measures a person's restlessness. Furthermore, it should also be understood that the hydraulic sensor 102, processor 104, and memory 106 cooperate together to generate data that measures any combination of the foregoing.

[0053] FIG. 2(a) depicts an exemplary embodiment for the hydraulic sensor 102. The hydraulic sensor 102 may comprise a hydraulic transducer 200 in communication with a pressure sensor 202.

[0054] The hydraulic transducer 200 may comprise a deformable vessel 204 having a cavity 206 filled with a fluid such as water. One end portion of the vessel can be closed or sealed while another end portion can be open to permit the passage of the fluid. A connector 208 can be used to provide a connection between the vessel 204 and the pressure sensor 202. Thus, as a person's movement impacts that hydraulic transducer, fluid will flow within the cavity 206 and through the channel 210 of the connector 208 to apply fluid pressure to the pressure sensor 202. However, it should be understood that the pressure sensor 202 could also be directly connected to the open end portion of the vessel 204.

[0055] In response to the applied fluid pressure, the pressure sensor thus generates the sensor signal 108 that is representative of the movement that impacted the hydraulic transducer 200. As explained below, the sensor signal 108 will comprise a respiratory or breathing component, a heart rate or cardiac component, and a noise component. Pressure sensor 202 may take the form of any suitable pressure sensor featuring a usable range (such as 0 to 10 kPa) sufficient to handle the range of pressures transmitted from the weight of the body (plus mattress, cushion, or other intermediary element between the person and the sensor 102) through the hydraulic transducer 200 while remaining sensitive enough to detect low-amplitude variations (such as heartbeat). The pressure sensor 202 may also feature on-chip calibration and compensation, and be configured to generate an output signal between 0 to 5 volts, suitable for sampling as described below. For example, a small integrated silicon pressure sensor such as the Freescale MPX5010GS or MPX5010GP pressure sensor available from Freescale Semiconductor Inc. of Austin, Tex. could be used. The sensor signal 108 can be communicated from the pressure sensor 202 to the processor 204 via any suitable medium, such as a wired connection between the two.

[0056] As shown in FIG. 2(b) for an exemplary embodiment, the deformable vessel 204 for the hydraulic transducer 200 may exhibit a flat profile. With such a design, the hydraulic sensor 102 is expected to provide greater comfort to a person during use. For example, when placed under a mattress, pillow or cushion, the hydraulic sensor 102 would thereby provide less deformation of the mattress, pillow or cushion to help make the hydraulic sensor less perceptible, or even virtually imperceptible, to a person.

[0057] The hydraulic transducer may also include one or more valves configured to permit fluid to be added to/removed from and/or permit air to be bled from the vessel. Further still, for an exemplary embodiment, it is desired that the hydraulic sensor 102 be configured to be watertight.

[0058] The inventors have constructed various prototypes for the hydraulic transducer 200 using commonly-available materials. With an exemplary first prototype, a three-inch wide (7.6 cm) discharge hose was used as the deformable vessel 204. Such a hose maintains a very flat profile even when containing fluid. A hose length of approximately 1.3 meters was used to stretch across the width of a standard twin mattress, which was used in one aspect of the testing. PVC endcaps were fitted to the discharge hose with hose clamps, and the endcaps were drilled to accept brass fittings. The sealed end portion was fitted a port with a valve, to allow

addition/removal of water and air. The open end portion was fitted a brass nipple, to which a length of 0.170" (4.3 mm, inside diameter) vinyl tubing was attached to serve as connector 208. Approximately 1.5 meters of this small diameter tubing connected the body of the transducer 200 to a Freescale MPX5010GS pressure sensor 202. After construction, water was added to the hydraulic transducer 200, and air was bled from the cavity 206. With a second prototype, PVC cement was used to seal one end of the discharge hose completely, with the other open end being sealed except for a short length (6 cm) of small (2.8 mm inside diameter) vinyl tubing to provide a port connection for attachment to the pressure sensor 202. With a third exemplary prototype, the length and volume for the fluid in the vessel were approximately 22 inches and 14 ounces respectively.

[0059] Furthermore, the hydraulic sensor may comprise a plurality of the hydraulic transducers 200/pressure sensors 202. As an example, FIG. 3 is a picture showing an exemplary arrangement where 4 of the hydraulic transducers 200/pressure sensors 202 are deployed, although other arrangements could be employed (see Rosales, L., "Exploring Passive Heartbeat Detection Using a Hydraulic Bed System", Master's Thesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference). It is preferred that the hydraulic transducer 200 and pressure sensor 202 be placed under a subject's mattress, pillow, or cushion for improved comfort and easy installation. However, it should be understood that placement elsewhere in proximity to the person (for example above the mattress, pillow, or cushion) could be employed if desired. For example, as also shown in FIG. 4, the hydraulic sensor 102 can be positioned in a bedroom 400 on a top surface of the bed frame 406 in a location contacting an underside 404 of a mattress 402. The hydraulic sensor 102 could also be positioned beneath pillow 408. In an exemplary embodiment, a sensor signal 108 representative of a person's physiological state is obtained when the hydraulic sensor 102 is positioned under the mattress 402 within a close vicinity of where a subject's torso would lie (for example, within a distance of 1.5 to 4 feet from the head board of the bed). Horizontal, vertical, or other positioning of the hydraulic sensor 102 may be selected based on factors such as the type and size of the mattress, the size of the body, etc. The example of FIG. 3, shows the hydraulic transducers 200 being positioned vertically (or along the length of the bed). In a horizontal deployment, the hydraulic transducers 200 can be placed across the width of the bed. When the transducer is placed under a pillow/cushion, it may be placed across the center region of the pillow or cushion.

[0060] Experimentation by the inventors (see the above-referenced and incorporated Master's thesis "Exploring Passive Heartbeat Detection Using a Hydraulic Bed System") has indicated to the inventors that the hydraulic sensor 102 can effectively capture heartbeat data when the hydraulic sensor 102 is located between 7 inches and 25 inches from the headboard of a bed (which as noted above, corresponds approximately to the location of the torso when lying on a bed in a normal position). Furthermore, for an embodiment where the length of the hydraulic transducer 200 is approximately 22 inches, the hydraulic transducer 200, in a vertical deployment (as shown in FIG. 3), can be positioned to span from around 2 inches from the headboard to around 24 inches from the headboard. However, it should be understood that other positioning could be employed.

[0061] In a vertical deployment as shown in FIG. 3, it is believed that the heartbeat signal can be effectively captured because less of at least one of the hydraulic transducer's area will be pressed on by body parts other than the torso, such as shoulders and arms, thereby allowing at least one of the transducers to primarily capture chest movements. Additionally, the primary force being captured by the ballistocardiogram is the axial (with respect to the body) force of blood being ejected through the aorta. Since monitoring during sleep is desired, the use of multiple, vertically-deployed, hydraulic transducers 200 can be added in order to cover the width of the bed. The spacing between transducers 200 can be defined as a function of the neck-to-shoulder distance of the person being monitored such that two or more of the hydraulic transducers 200 would capture the heartbeat signals with the person lying on his/her back and at least one of the hydraulic transducers 200 would capture the heartbeat signals with the person lying on his/her left or right side. However, it should be understood that other spacing arrangements between the multiple hydraulic transducers 200 could be employed.

[0062] The processor 104 and memory 106 can take any of a number of forms. The processor 104 may comprise a hardware subsystem such a circuit board for processing the sensor signal and a microprocessor or the like for executing software to generate physiological data from the processed sensor signal. The processor and memory may also take the form of an embedded microcontroller that is configured to provide both signal processing and data analysis.

[0063] Extracting Heartbeat Information from the Sensor Signal

[0064] Various techniques may be employed to extract the heartbeat information from the sensor signal. In a first exemplary embodiment, a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis is employed. In a second exemplary embodiment, a clustering technique such as k-means clustering analysis is employed.

[0065] FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary process flow for the processor 104 and memory 106 to extract heart rate data from the sensor signal using a WPPD analysis.

[0066] At step 500, the processor samples the sensor signal 108. The exemplary sensor signal 108 may have a voltage ranging between 0 and 5 volts. This voltage signal is expected to contain a large amount of high frequency noise. To address this high frequency noise, the sensor signal is sampled to generate a plurality of digital samples that are representative of the sensor signal.

[0067] FIG. 6(a) illustrates an exemplary embodiment for the sampling operation 500. In the example of FIG. 6(a), the sensor signal 108 is sampled at a first sampling rate (e.g., 10 kHz) via a 12-bit analog-to-digital converter (ADC) (step 600). Then, the samples are low pass filtered (step 602) and downsampled at a second sampling rate (step 604) to 100 Hz for further processing. FIG. 12(a) illustrates an exemplary 10 second segment of signal 502 for the output of step 500. The steps of FIG. 6(a) may be performed in software. However, it should also be understood that the sampling step 500 can be implemented in hardware as shown in FIG. 6(b). FIG. 6(b) shows an exemplary hardware circuit 610 that comprises an amplifier circuit 612, a filter circuit 614, and an ADC circuit 616. The amplifier circuit 612 can be configured to provide amplification of the sensor signal 108 by a factor of 10 using a 741 op-amp. The filter circuit 614 can be configured to provide anti-aliasing and noise reduction via an 8th-order

integrated Bessel filter (e.g., a Maxim MAX7401) with a corner frequency of 38 Hz. The ADC circuit 616 can be configured to provide 12-bit ADC at a sampling rate of 100 Hz. By employing a hardware circuit such as that of FIG. 6(b), one can directly sample at 100 Hz and eliminate a need to sample at a much higher frequency and then filter and down-sample in software.

[0068] The samples of signal 502 are then pre-processed at step 504. This step can optionally be performed in software executed by a processor. This pre-processing can include low pass filtering, and such low pass filtering operation can employ a cutoff frequency of around 10 Hz while maintaining 100 samples per second. FIG. 12(b) illustrates an exemplary output signal 506 from this low pass filtering operation. It should also be understood that the 20 Hz cutoff frequency for this step is exemplary only. It is believed that a range of around 5 Hz to around 20 Hz can be used as the cutoff frequency.

[0069] The filtered samples of signal 506 are then subjected to a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis at step 508. Visual observation of the low-pass filtered signal (see FIG. 12(b)) shows a clear breathing component (approximately two breaths over the 10 seconds shown), but the heartbeat is less obvious. Only after comparison to the corresponding heartbeat signal (see FIG. 12(c) which shows a heartbeat signal reference detected by a pulse sensor attached to a subject's finger used as a ground truth) can one see where heartbeats are present. These heartbeats are not easily separated in frequency, but with careful observation one can see that at each heartbeat the signal has a greater deviation from the most negative voltage to the most positive voltage within a small window, i.e., peak-to-peak. As such, the inventors believe that a WPPD analysis will greatly improve the sensitivity of the system to extract a person's heartbeat from the sensor signal 108.

[0070] FIG. 7 depicts an exemplary process flow for performing the WPPD analysis of step 508. As an input, the samples 710 serve as the filtered samples of signal 506. At step 700, a size for a sliding window 712 is defined. An exemplary sliding window size, ws, can be set as 25 samples. However, it should be well understood that other values can be used, particularly in instances where a high pulse rate is expected, in which case a shorter sliding window may be desirable. Furthermore, it should be understood that the value for ws could be varied on a case-by-case basis as explained below.

[0071] At step 702, the processor finds the most positive sample value among the samples in the sliding window. At step 704, the processor finds the most negative value among the samples in the sliding window. The most positive sample value can be described as the maximum value while the most negative value can be described as the minimum value. Furthermore, in embodiments where the values of the samples do not have positive and negative values (e.g., the scale for the sample values is a range of positive values), steps 702 and 704 would be configured to find the values with the largest and smallest magnitudes (again, these can be described as the maximum and minimum values). Next, at step 706, the processor computes the difference between the maximum and minimum sample values within the sliding window. This difference value can be referred to as the windowed difference value (WDV). The equation below further elaborates on the computations involved by steps 702-706:

$$WDV(t) = \text{MAX}_{j=t}^{t+ws}[\text{signal}(j)] - \text{MIN}_{j=t}^{t+ws}[\text{signal}(j)]$$

where $WDV(t)$ represents the WDV for the samples i within sliding window t . As the sliding window slides in the direction shown in FIG. 7, the processor will continue to compute new WDV values for the subsequent windows. The output of step 706 is thus a series of WDV samples 714 as shown in FIG. 7. FIG. 12(d) shows the exemplary signal 510 (comprised of multiple WDV samples 714) that results from the operation of step 508.

[0072] As shown by FIG. 12(d), the WDV samples clearly indicate the occurrence of the heartbeats, but further filtering may be desired to reduce the effect of noise and smooth the signal. Thus, returning to FIG. 5, at step 512 the processor performs low pass filtering on the WDV samples of signal 510. This low pass filtering can employ a cutoff frequency, f , of around 4 Hz, which is expected to be sufficient for heart rates up to 240 beats per minute (bpm). FIG. 12(e) illustrates an exemplary output signal 514 from this low pass filtering operation. This signal is thus comprised of a series of filtered WDV samples (or FWDV samples). It should be understood that the value for the cutoff frequency f of step 512 can be a fixed predetermined value or it can be varied to meet the needs of a particular application (e.g., customized to a particular person) as explained below. An exemplary range of values for this cutoff frequency is around 1 Hz to around 4 Hz.

[0073] Returning to FIG. 5, at step 516, the processor extracts a number of segments from the FWDV samples. For example, a 10 second sliding window with a 9 second overlap between segments can be employed to generate each segment. It is believed that such 10 second segments provide sufficient redundancy (beats within a segment) to minimize error while remaining small enough to permit an assumption of a stationary signal. The output of this step is thus a number of segments, each segment comprising a plurality of the FWDV samples, as shown in FIG. 8. It should also be understood that segment size need not be 10 seconds (for example, 5 second segments or 15 second segments could be used). Furthermore, it should be understood that non-overlapping segments could also be used.

[0074] At steps 520*i*, the processor validates the segments according to defined criteria. These steps can thus assign classifications to each segment that contribute to the extraction of heart rate data. Furthermore, this classification can also contribute to the generation of data indicative of the person's restlessness, as explained below.

[0075] FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary process flow for steps 520*i*. Due to high amplitude noise (e.g., body motion artifacts), there are some segments 518 from which heartbeat (and thus heart rate) cannot be reliably extracted. Thus, at step 800, the processor finds a maximum value among the samples within a segment. At step 802, the processor compares this maximum value with a threshold (e.g., 0.05 volts). If the maximum value is at or below this threshold, it is assigned a first classification status (step 804) that identifies the segment as usable to extract heart rate data. If the maximum value exceeds the threshold, it is assigned a second classification status (step 806) that identifies the segment as unusable to extract heart rate data. For such a segment deemed unusable, the corresponding heart rate for the segment can be set equal to zero or some other arbitrary value. Furthermore, to reduce the chance of error near such transient segments, the processor at step 808 can also apply this second classification status to a certain number of preceding and succeeding segments (e.g., the segments corresponding to 5 seconds before and after the unusable segment). Furthermore, the inventors notes

that the second classification status can also be used to indicate the periods of time for bed restlessness, which can be another important parameter characterizing a person's sleep and health condition. At step 810, the processor proceeds to the next segment and returns to step 800. Further still, a practitioner may choose to analyze the segments deemed unusable to extract heart rate data to assess whether these segments are indicative of either restlessness (high amplitude noise) or a "not in bed" condition (a virtually flat signal). Further still, the segments can be analyzed to assess conditions such as the expected relative position on the bed (left side, right side, center, toward head or toward foot, etc.) of the subject or relative posture on the bed of the subject (on back, on side, etc.). It is expected that the segments will exhibit certain detectable patterns corresponding to such positions and postures that will permit estimation of these conditions.

[0076] Returning to FIG. 5, at step 522*i*, the processor is then able to determine a heartbeat rate for each segment having the assigned first classification status. FIG. 9 illustrates an exemplary process flow for determining the heart rate of each segment having the first classification status. At step 900, the processor finds the time-distance between the peak samples within the segment. Autocorrelation may be used to perform step 900 to better reject the effects of a sudden change in heart rate or a momentary arrhythmia, although it should be understood that other techniques, such as calculating mean distance between peaks in the segment) could be employed. At step 902, this time-distance is converted to a heart rate to generate the output heart rate for that segment (step 904).

[0077] Returning to FIG. 5, the processor next performs averaging over the output heart rates for multiple segments (step 524). For example, the processor can average the heart rates over 6 segments. In accordance with the exemplary embodiment described herein, 6 segments would correspond to 15 seconds of the original data, which would be consistent with the clinical practice of counting beats over 15 seconds and multiplying by 4 (yielding beats per minute (bpm)). The smoothing provided by step 524 is expected to reduce spurious error in calculating the heart rate from the hydraulic transducer, and the inventors deem averaging over time appropriate given the assumption of a stationary signal over a short duration.

[0078] Thus, through the process flow of FIG. 5, the system is able to extract heart rate data for a person from the sensor signal produced by a hydraulic sensor 102 as a person sleeps or rests in bed. The heart rate data generated by step 524 can be time-stamped and stored in a data structure in a database for subsequent analysis to assess a person's health condition. Moreover, as noted above, this process flow can also generate time-stamped data indicative of a person's restlessness for storage in a data structure in a database. This restlessness data can also be leveraged for subsequent analysis to assess a person's health condition. The database can be co-resident with processor 104 and memory 106 or it can be remote. Wired and/or wireless connections can be used to transmit the data to the database.

[0079] FIG. 22 illustrates an exemplary process flow for the processor 104 and memory 106 to extract heart rate data from the sensor signal using a clustering analysis. With the clustering analysis, the processor seeks to separate data corresponding to the sensor signal into multiple clusters based on various criteria that are pertinent to the signal for which extraction is desired, where at least one of these clusters is

then selected for further processing to extract the desired information. In an exemplary embodiment, the clustering analysis can be deployed to group analyze the data into prospective J-peaks, and then group the prospective J-peaks into clusters based on criteria. The cluster deemed most likely to correspond to the J-peaks is then selected for use in computing the heart beat data.

[0080] At step 2200, the sensor signal is sampled. This step may operate as previously described with reference to step 500 of FIG. 5. Next, the sampled signal is pre-processed at step 2202. This pre-processing step may employ bandpass filtering to remove low frequency respiratory components of the signal. An exemplary bandpass range can be between approximately 0.4 Hz and 10 Hz. Additionally, an 8-point moving-average filter can be used to smooth the signal.

[0081] At step 2204, the processor performs feature extraction on the pre-processed samples. The BCG signal captured by the sensor 102 will show the occurrence of heartbeats for one or more hydraulic transducers. For example, FIG. 23 shows exemplary 5-second segments of BCG signals captured for a subject by 4 hydraulic transducers T1-T4 in accordance with the exemplary hydraulic sensor embodiment of FIG. 3 (where the bottom row shows the ground truth signal from a finger sensor worn by the subject). For convenience, one can assume that the beginning of an individual heartbeat is represented by the J-peak (see FIG. 29). However, as can be seen in FIG. 23, for sufficiently short window lengths, multiple peaks are present in the signal, and not all of these peaks will correspond to J-peaks. Thus, further analysis is needed to assess which of the peaks are the most likely ones to be J-peaks. The feature extraction of step 2204 facilitates this analysis by computing various features for each prospective or candidate J-peak (where such prospective/candidate J-peaks may include L peaks for example). It should also be understood that the BCG signal captured by the hydraulic sensor will not exhibit a self-repeating pattern for the peaks that are around the J-peak due to the presence of movement, respiration, or the system itself. As an additional noise reduction, step 2204 can characterize only the J-peak and adjacent valley. With reference to FIG. 24, features that can be extracted from the signal include features f1, f2, and f3 for each and every local maxima and minima in the filtered signal data, where:

[0082] f1 is computed as the distance from zero to depletion (see depletions d1 to I and K as shown in FIG. 24).

[0083] f2 is computed as the distance from zero to peak (see peaks d2 to J and L as shown in FIG. 24).

[0084] f3 is computed as the summation of d1 and d2 for each segment, as shown in FIG. 24 (where it is assumed the d1 value will be a negative number).

However, it should be understood that other features pertinent to J-peak detection could be extracted at step 2204. Furthermore, to detect the local maxima and minima for computing f1, f2, and f3, windowing can be used to group samples into segments (e.g., segments of 5-15 seconds although other values could be used), where the maximum and minimum in each window are found. However, it should be understood that other techniques could be used to find the local maxima and minima. For example, the inflection points in the general trajectory of the waveform defined by the samples can be captured as local maxima/minima.

[0085] At step 2206, the processor applies a clustering analysis to the extracted features for each segment to group the prospective/candidate J-peaks in 3-D space, where each

dimension corresponds to a different one of the three features f1-f3. In an exemplary embodiment, the clustering analysis can be a k-means clustering analysis. Further, a random initialization of the centers can be used. The number of centers was selected as two, under the assumption that one of them will contain the J-peaks and the other will group the rest of the peaks. Because it is expected that most of the prospective J-peaks will actually not be J-peaks, the smallest cluster is assigned to the "heartbeat class" (HB) and the larger cluster is assigned to the "non-heartbeat class" (NHB).

[0086] K-means clustering aims to partition N observations into k clusters in which each observation belongs to the cluster with the nearest mean. K-means clustering can be viewed as a special case of the generalized hard clustering algorithm scheme when point representatives are used and the squared Euclidean distance is adopted to measure the dissimilarity between vectors x_i and representatives θ_j , where θ_j is the mean of cluster j and where x_i is the i-th point of the dataset X, for $i=1, \dots, N$.

[0087] The k-means algorithm is derived by minimizing a cost function of the form:

$$J(\theta, r) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ik} \|x_i - u_k\|^2$$

[0088] with respect to r_{ik} and u_k , where $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ describe the dataset (the set of data for the prospective/candidate J-peaks), r_{ik} is the set of binary indicator variables in [0,1] to indicate membership in one of the clusters, and $k=1, \dots, m$ describe which of the K clusters the data point x_n is assigned to, so that if data point x_i is assigned to cluster k, then $r_{ik}=1$.

[0089] An exemplary pseudo-code for the application of the k-means algorithm at step 2206 can be:

[0090] Choose arbitrary initial estimates for $u_k(0)$ for the $u_k, k=1, \dots, m$

[0091] Repeat

[0092] For $i=1$ to N

[0093] Determine the closest representative u_k for x_i . Compute r_{ik}

[0094] Set $b(i)=k$.

[0095] End (For-i)

[0096] For $j=1$ to m

[0097] Parameter updating: Determine u_k as the mean of the vectors x_i belongs to X with $b(i)=k$.

[0098] End (For-j).

[0099] Until no change in the u_k 's occur between two successive iterations.

[0100] Note that θ_j is the parameterized representative (mean) of the j-th cluster, $\theta_j = [\dots, \theta_m]$, b is a label vector, and m is the number of clusters.

[0101] At step 2208, the processor selects the cluster that contains the J-peak locations. The results of the k-means processing at step 2206 are stored in two vectors, each vector corresponding to a different one of the two clusters. As noted above, this cluster is expected to be the smaller cluster of the two.

[0102] Next, at step 2210, the processor computes the beat-to-beat distances for the J-peak locations from the selected cluster, and at step 2212, the processor computes the heart-beat rate. The processor may use the techniques described above in connection with FIG. 5 for these operations.

[0103] Extracting Respiratory Information from the Sensor Signal

[0104] Another item of physiological data that can be extracted from the sensor signal 108 is a person's respiratory

rate. The respiratory component in the sensor signal **108** is of much lower frequency, has smoother transitions, and has greater amplitude than either the cardiac component or the noise component. Thus, relative to extracting the heart rate, extracting the respiratory rate for a person from the sensor signal **108** is an easier task. Respiration can readily be detected from sensor signal **108** via low pass filtering. The general process for extracting the respiratory component is illustrated in FIG. **10** and explained step-by-step as follows. At step **1000**, the sensor signal is sampled to generate a plurality of samples **1002**. This operation can be the same as described above for step **500**. Then, the processor can low pass filter the samples using a low pass filter with a cutoff frequency ranging from around 1-4 Hz to yield filtered signal **1006**. To extract the respiratory rate (step **1008**), the processor can, as shown in FIG. **11**, identify 1-minute segments within the signal **1006** without motion artifacts (step **1100**), subtract the DC bias from each segment (step **1102**), and determine the breathing rate by counting the zero-crossings and dividing by two (step **1104**). This approach is expected to readily detect the rate of normal respiration as well as conditions such as apnea. Furthermore, it should be understood that the process flows of FIGS. **10** and **11** are exemplary only and other techniques could be employed to extract the respiratory component of the sensor signal.

[**0105**] FIG. **13** shows that the process flow of FIG. **10** can clearly extract the respiratory component of the sensor signal **108**. FIG. **13(a)** shows the sensor signal **108** over a 30 second segment. FIG. **13(b)** shows the reference ground truth from a piezoelectric respiratory band worn around the torso over the same segment of time. FIGS. **13(c)** and **(d)** show the signals of FIGS. **13(a)** and **(b)** (respectively) after low-pass filtering with 1 Hz cutoff frequency. The respiration is clearly evident in FIG. **13(c)** with a high degree of correlation relative to the reference of FIG. **13(d)**.

[**0106**] Thus, through the process flow of FIG. **10**, the system is able to extract respiratory rate data for a person from the sensor signal produced by a hydraulic sensor **102** as a person sleeps or rests in bed. The respiratory rate data generated by step **1008** can be time-stamped and stored in a data structure in a database for subsequent analysis to assess a person's health condition.

[**0107**] In comparing sensor data changes to health changes, a bed sensor has proven to be a useful component of the sensor network. Observation of bed sensor data has revealed instances of dramatic changes over a very short time, as well as more gradual changes over 2-3 weeks, that correspond to impending changes in health condition, e.g., cardiac problems. Thus, research has shown the importance of this type of continuous monitoring in the home setting.

[**0108**] Thus, a processor can analyze the database of heart rate data, respiratory rate data, and restlessness data to assess a person's health condition. Over time, patterns in a person's heart rate, breathing, and restlessness can be quantified to make judgments about health. Further still, the database records can be categorized to provide further health insights. For example, a person's heart rate can be identified as "low" (e.g., if the extracted heart rate is below 40 beats per minute), "normal", or "high" (if the extracted heart rate is greater than 100 beats per minute). However, it should be understood that other values for separating the categories could be used, as could additional or different categories. Similarly, a person's respiratory rate can be identified as "low" (if the extracted respiratory rate is less than 7 breaths per minute), "normal",

or "high" (if the extracted respiratory rate is greater than 31 breaths per minute). However, once again, it should be understood that other values for separating these categories could be used, as could additional or different categories. As another example, restlessness can be categorized to one or more possible levels depending on the time of continuous movement identified by the "unusable" segments from the process flow of FIG. **5**.

[**0109**] Further still, the inventors note that the system **100** including the hydraulic sensor **102** can be employed as a bed sensor within an integrated sensor network **1400** for a person's living space as shown in FIG. **14**. An example of a suitable sensor network is described in U.S. Pat. App. Pub. 2010/0302043, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Thus, the hydraulic bed sensor **102** could be used in conjunction with other types of sensors such as motion sensors **1402** and the like to track a person's health. Motion sensors can be used to detect instances of falls or motionlessness by a person in various areas of a person's living space while the hydraulic sensor **102** can be used to detect smaller scale physiological conditions for the person while in bed, such as heartbeat, respiration, and restlessness as explained herein. It should be understood that the processor **104** and memory **106** shown in FIG. **14** may comprise a plurality of processors and memories if desired by a practitioner.

[**0110**] Signal Selection

[**0111**] In embodiments where multiple hydraulic transducers **200** are deployed, a practitioner may want to employ logic to determine which of the sensor signals will be further processed to extract the desired physiological data. Toward this end, FIG. **25** discloses an embodiment wherein the outputs of the various hydraulic sensors **102** are analyzed to decide which of the sensor signals to use as the source for the physiological data extraction.

[**0112**] At step **2500**, the sensor signals corresponding to the various hydraulic transducers **200** are sampled. This sampling may proceed as described in connection with step of FIG. **5**. Next, at step **2502**, the processor selects at least one of hydraulic transducers **200** that will be used as the source for the sensor signal(s). As an example, to do so, the processor can select the sensor signals whose voltage levels exceed a threshold voltage. This threshold voltage can be set to equal or approximate the voltages recorded by the hydraulic sensors **102** when no one is lying on the bed. If desired, a practitioner can set this threshold voltage independently for each of the hydraulic sensors **102** based on the voltage outputs of each sensor **102** when no one is lying on the bed. Each sensor signal passing this threshold can be selected at step **2500**, or a practitioner can select only a subset of the sensor signals passing threshold, depending on the desires of a practitioner (for example, selecting the two sensor signals with the highest voltage magnitudes from among the sensor signals passing the threshold).

[**0113**] At step **2504**, the processor then determines the valid segments of the selected sensor signal(s). These valid segments are then further processed to extract the relevant physiological data (e.g., to the pre-processing steps of FIGS. **5** and/or **21** for extracting heartbeat data and/or the low pass filtering step of FIG. **10** for extracting respiratory information). To determine which segments of the selected sensor signal(s), the processor can compute a reference standard deviation of voltage values for the selected sensor signal(s) or a portion thereof (e.g., using a sliding window of the selected

sensor signal(s)). This can be done on a per selected sensor signal basis if desired. This reference standard deviation could then be used to evaluate the selected sensor signal(s) over defined intervals (e.g., every five seconds) for thresholds of ± 1 *std. Thus, the segments of the selected sensor signal(s) (e.g., 5-second segments) whose standard deviations are within ± 1 *std of the reference standard deviation for that selected sensor signal are identified as valid and passed along for further processing.

[0114] It should be further understood that a practitioner may choose to simply extract the desired physiological information from all of the hydraulic sensors **102**. In such an embodiment, a practitioner may also choose to compute an average of the resulting extracted item of physiological data (e.g., a mean or median of the extracted physiological information from each of the hydraulic sensors).

Experimental Results

WPPD Analysis

[0115] A. Methodology

[0116] To test a prototype hydraulic bed sensor, preliminary data were collected from two subjects, one male and one female. Subjects were asked to lie on the bed for approximately 10 minutes, following the pattern of on the back, on the right side, on the back again, on the left side, and on the back once more (with approximately two minutes in each position). This process was performed twice for each subject, once with the hydraulic transducer on top of the mattress (beneath the linens), and once with the hydraulic transducer underneath the mattress. Subjects were not told to lie “perfectly still,” but instead were asked to lie as though they were at rest and move from position to position as they might while sleeping. Data were collected continuously during this period without any denotation of changes in position. As can be seen in FIG. 15, the position changes are evident in the recorded data.

[0117] FIG. 15 shows data from the hydraulic bed sensor after initial filtering and downsampling to 100 Hz. The y-axis units are in volts; the x-axis units are in samples (100 samples per second). The transients indicate bed motion, while the relatively flat sections show the subject following the pattern of the experiment (back, left side, back, right side, back). The difference in static pressure is evident between lying on the back and lying on the side.

[0118] To provide ground truth for validating the hydraulic sensor, data were collected simultaneously from a pulse sensor connected to the subject’s finger and a respiration band wrapped around the subject’s torso. Both the pulse and respiratory sensors use piezoelectric sensors, giving artifacts of motion when the subject moves from position to position. This ground truth is used as the baseline for evaluating the effectiveness of the hydraulic sensor. The section below reports the pulse rate results.

[0119] B. Results

[0120] Visual inspection of heart rates extracted from the hydraulic sensor show a strong correlation with heart rates extracted from the piezoelectric pulse transducer worn on the finger. For further comparison, heart rates were automatically extracted from the pulse transducer using the same method as the hydraulic transducer, except that the segment validity threshold was raised to 0.5 (given the much higher signal-to-

noise ratio of the pulse transducer). A sample comparison is shown in FIG. 16, excluding segments deemed unusable due to motion.

[0121] FIGS. 16(a) and (b) show extracted heart rate from the female subject, with hydraulic sensor beneath mattress; FIG. 16(a) shows the heart rate extracted from the hydraulic sensor, while FIG. 16(b) shows the heart rate extracted from the piezoelectric pulse transducer worn on the finger. Y-axis units are in beats per minute (bpm); x-axis units are in seconds.

[0122] A method to compare the extracted heart rates quantitatively was also developed, yielding:

[0123] the average difference, in bpm, between the hydraulic transducer and the piezoelectric pulse transducer, and

[0124] the percentage of segments for which the heart rate extracted from the hydraulic transducer was within 10% of the rate extracted from the piezoelectric pulse transducer.

[0125] The justification for using a benchmark of 10% from ground truth is practical; reporting heart rates accurate within 10% is sufficient for the types of analysis and diagnosis envisioned for a system. As explained in connection with FIG. 5, the heart rate detection algorithm will give an estimated heart rate for each second of the input signal. Thus, the experimental results are evaluated on a second-by-second basis.

[0126] The results are summarized in Table 1, showing the accuracy of the hydraulic sensor relative to the piezoelectric pulse sensor over approximately 600 seconds of data (thus, comparing approximately 600 individual data points) for each run. Additionally, Table 2 and Table 3 show the results for each position (approximately 120 seconds each) during the data runs where the sensor was positioned underneath the mattress.

TABLE 1

Experimental Results of Extracting Pulse Rate		
Experimental Run	Average Difference in Beats per Minute	Percentage of Time Hydraulic Sensor was Within 10%
Female, sensor on bottom	1.34	98.9
Male, sensor on bottom	2.95	92.5
Male, sensor on top	6.70	70.2
Female, sensor on top	13.4	52.6

TABLE 2

Results for Each Position, Female Subject, Sensor on Bottom		
Female, on back #1	0.49	100
Female, on right side	2.12	100
Female, on back #2	0.69	100
Female, on left side	1.22	100
Female, on back #3	2.16	94.8

TABLE 3

Results for Each Position, Male Subject, Sensor on Bottom		
Male, on back #1	3.60	89.4
Male, on right side	5.82	72.6

TABLE 3-continued

Results for Each Position, Male Subject, Sensor on Bottom		
Male, on back #2	1.22	100
Male, on left side	2.28	100
Male, on back #3	1.57	100

[0127] The results indicate that the hydraulic bed sensor is effective at extracting heart rate when the transducer is positioned beneath the bed mattress. It should be noted that these results are statistically consistent with the ground truth; a t-test of the results from the hydraulic transducer placed below the mattress did not indicate a significant difference from the piezoelectric pulse transducer (ground truth) at the 5% level, for either the male or female subjects. (The t-test did indicate significant difference from ground truth for the hydraulic transducer placed above the mattress.) The increased accuracy of the system with the transducer below the mattress compared to on top seems to be due to the buffering effect of the mattress itself, as it seems to filter some of the erratic artifacts from small movements of the body while at rest. The constant weight of the mattress on the transducer also adds stability to the fluid within the sensor. Also, significantly, the orientation on the bed (on back, on side) does not seem to affect sensor reliability.

[0128] Ground Truth Acquisition

[0129] Ground truth for validating the output of the hydraulic sensor is collected via a piezoelectric pulse sensor connected to the subject's finger (ADInstruments MLT1010) and a piezoelectric respiration band wrapped around the subject's torso (ADInstruments MLT1132). These signals are simultaneously acquired and sampled through the same ADC as the signal from the hydraulic sensor, using the same sampling rate and avoiding issues of synchronization between separate devices.

[0130] Evaluating the Robustness of the WPPD Extraction Algorithm

[0131] In order to evaluate the robustness of the WPPD extraction algorithm, the inventors generated synthetic signals, allowing explicit control of frequency and amplitude for both heartbeat and respiration. This approach was taken to provide a measure of confidence in the inventors' methods prior to embarking on a full study with human subjects. Additionally, the inventors were interested in distinguishing shallow breathing from low heart rate, and would like to evaluate whether the extraction algorithm can handle such a scenario.

[0132] To generate synthetic signals, the inventors acquired a real signal through the system, separated and extracted the cardiac and respiratory components of the original composite signal, and then manipulated the individual components in isolation before recombining into new composites. One of the questions the inventors wished to address is whether the system is able to distinguish heartbeats in the presence of very high respiration rates; to address this, the inventors changed the rate and amplitude of the respiration component, recombined with the cardiac component, and then ran the heartbeat detection algorithm of FIG. 5.

[0133] Manipulating amplitude of the respiratory component is achieved by simply scaling the sample values by a chosen constant. Frequency is controlled by choosing a segment of respiration, resampling at a higher or lower rate to yield the desired change, and repeating the resampled segment (choosing appropriate zero-crossing endpoints to avoid

discontinuities). The respiratory component of the signal is of low enough frequency that such a resampling does not result in any corruption of the original signal, and provides a realistic model of breathing output at the target frequency.

[0134] The inventors synthesized signals with respiration rates that are 0.5, 1, 2, 4, and 8 times the frequency of the actual respiration signal captured. The inventors have also scaled the amplitude of the respiration by factors of 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, and 4, and added every possible respiratory combination with an extracted cardiac component. In every case, 100% heartbeat detection was achieved (36 out of 36 over a 30 second segment). An example of the synthesized signal along with the detected heartbeats (superimposed over the ground truth) is shown in FIG. 17.

[0135] FIG. 17 shows heartbeats detected from synthesized signal. Specifically, FIG. 17(a) shows the cardiac component (extracted from real data), FIG. 17(b) shows the synthesized respiratory component (at 4 times the original captured frequency and the amplitude), FIG. 17(c) is the resulting composite (the inventors' synthesized signal), and FIG. 17(d) shows detection of heartbeats from the extraction algorithm compared to the ground truth.

[0136] To confirm the validity of this approach to synthesizing a signal, the inventors simulated similar conditions by having a subject breathe at a specified rate during data collection. The signals for a 30-second segment of this test are shown in FIG. 18.

[0137] FIG. 18 shows the detection of heartbeats from real data. Here, the subject was asked to breathe at approximately 30 breaths per minute: FIG. 18(a) shows the collected signal, FIG. 18(b) shows the extracted cardiac component, FIG. 18(c) shows the extracted respiratory component, FIG. 18(d) shows the respiratory ground truth (from a piezoelectric respiratory belt), and FIG. 18(e) demonstrates identification of heartbeats by the hydraulic sensor and algorithm compared to the ground truth. Note that the algorithm detects heartbeats directly from the signal of FIG. 18(a); FIG. 18(b) is only shown for reference and comparison to FIG. 18(a).

[0138] The inventors thus conclude that the extraction algorithm for detecting heartbeats is relatively insensitive to changes in respiration, and there is very little chance of respiration being erroneously detected as low heart rate. Robustness of the heartbeat detection algorithm in the presence of varying respiration is expected due to the manner in which it operates. Specifically, since the WPPD analysis is effectively detecting a sudden increase (or impulse) of energy in the system within a small window, it should not be affected by respiration (because, even at 60 breaths per minute, respiration will not cause sudden impulses of energy since the lungs do not operate in a pulsatile fashion).

[0139] Evaluation Trial

[0140] After the inventors' preliminary testing of the system and evaluation of the extraction algorithm, the inventors further conducted a small trial involving five subjects, utilizing the second hydraulic transducer prototype described above (see Table 4 for summary information).

[0141] This group, while small, was representative of a wide range of ages, gender, body types, and cardiac conditions. This is significant, given that a target eldercare population is of advanced age, often with diagnosed cardiac problems. Two of the subjects reported prior cardiac conditions; one had a previously repaired ventricular septal defect, and another had suffered a mild heart attack.

TABLE 4

Details of Population for Evaluation Trial					
	Gender	Age	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Prior Cardiac History
Subject #1	Male	24	113	183	No
Subject #2	Male	30	79	187	No
Subject #3	Female	31	53	163	Yes
Subject #4	Female	56	68	163	No
Subject #5	Male	67	76	177	Yes

[0142] The subjects were asked to lie on the bed for periods of two minutes on the back, right side, back, left side, and back again (approximately 10 minutes in total). After collecting the data, the extraction algorithm of FIG. 5 was used to detect heart rates. Preliminary examination of these data led the inventors to modify two parameters of extraction algorithm: the size of the window, *ws*, used for the WPPD, and the cutoff frequency, *f*, used for post-WPPD low-pass filtering. Choices of *ws* included 150, 250, 400, and 600 ms; choices of *f* included 1, 1.5, and 2 Hz. FIG. 21 shows the results of this testing.

[0143] FIG. 21 indicates, for each subject, and for each combination of algorithm parameters (*ws* is the WPPD window size, *f* is the post-WPPD filter cutoff frequency), the percentage of 15-second segments for which the hydraulic sensor reported heartbeat count: (1) within one beat of ground truth (the "<2" rows), (2) exactly two beats from ground truth (the "=2" rows), and (3) three or more beats from ground truth (the ">2" rows).

[0144] FIGS. 19-20 illustrate the processing behind the entries in FIG. 21. FIG. 19 shows a particular 15-second segment (specifically, segment 39; *ws*=150 ms, *f*=1.5 Hz) of data from subject #5. FIG. 19 shows the detected heartbeats from the hydraulic sensor (the low-frequency signal), superimposed with the piezoelectric pulse sensor ground truth (with the characteristic heartbeat pattern). It is clear that the algorithm detects 15 heartbeats, which matches the ground truth exactly. The inventors note that there is some "drift" between the detected heartbeats and the ground truth, but this drift is found to tend to average-out over time. FIG. 20 shows a comparison of the number of detected heartbeats versus ground truth for the entire 10+ minute period for subject #5 (*ws*=150 ms, *f*=1.5 Hz). It is from these data that the table of FIG. 21 is generated, varying the algorithm parameters for each subject.

[0145] FIG. 20 shows the correspondence of the number of heartbeats detected via the hydraulic sensor (asterisks) and ground truth (circles). These data are for subject #5, using a WPPD window size of 150 ms and post-WPPD filter cutoff frequency of 1.5 Hz. Segments showing zero heartbeats were periods of noise due to movement.

[0146] Examining FIG. 21, the inventors note that the original parameter values in column F (*ws*=250 ms, *f*=2 Hz) work very well for subjects #1 and 4 (as do the parameters of Column I), but the results are much worse for subjects #2, 3, and 5. Column B demonstrates strong results for subjects #2-5, but is markedly worse for subject #1. The inventors conclude, then, that some set of default starting parameters may be chosen, but the ideal values depend upon the particular subject. As such, with an exemplary embodiment, algorithm parameters such as the window size for the WPPD

analysis and/or the cut-off frequency for the post-WPPD low pass filtering can be adjustable, preferably on a per living being basis.

[0147] Age did not appear to adversely affect the heartbeat discrimination ability of the hydraulic sensor. In fact, the very best results were obtained from subject #5, who is closest in age to the target population (approximately 70-94). Additionally, he is the subject who reported a previous heart attack, providing further evidence that the hydraulic system will be suitable for its intended purpose.

[0148] If the ideal parameter values are known, using 15-second segments, the inventors were able to report heart rates within 8 beats per minute (bpm) of ground truth from 92.7 to 97.5% of the time. While this is not perfect, it is certainly enough to detect long-term trends in data, which is a target application. Additionally, the inventors have found that the percentage of beats detected over the entire data run for each subject indicates success rates of 95.6 to 99.8%, using the best values for *ws* and *f* identified for each subject from the table of FIG. 21.

[0149] The data thus demonstrates that the captured signal can vary from person to person, and may therefore require optimized parameters for each individual. By showing in an exemplary embodiment that one can achieve acceptable results by variation of only two parameters, the inventors note that algorithm parameters such as the window size for the WPPD analysis and/or the cut-off frequency for the post-WPPD low pass filtering can be adjustable, preferably on a per living being basis.

[0150] Further still, the inventors open the possibility of developing a method of automatically tuning the parameters based upon some initial estimate to thereby provide dynamic parameter adaptation to better fit a subject. With such an approach, one might employ manual input to define initial settings for the adaptive parameters based upon prior knowledge of the subject's medical history. Thereafter, these parameters would be dynamically adjusted. To do so, for example, the processor can gauge the regularity of the detected heart rates or inter beat distances. Because the heart rate and inter beat distances are not expected to fluctuate wildly, the inventors note that a lack of regularity can indicate a need to adjust the parameters. Thus, if a sufficient degree of irregularity is detected, the processor can adjust the parameters (e.g., incrementing or decrementing them by some specified amount), and this process can continue until sufficient regularity is found (for example, if irregularity increased after adjustment, the next adjustment can proceed in the other direction). It is expected that the rate of adaptation can take into consideration the expectation that the parameters may not need to change much for a given subject in order to achieve self-tuning. Furthermore, in another embodiment, within certain ranges of regularities (or regardless of regularity), the processor can be configured to process the sensor signal using multiple sets of parameters in parallel, and the output deemed "most regular" can be then used as it likely the one to contain the true heart rate.

Experimental Results

Clustering Analysis

[0151] A. Methodology

[0152] The transducer arrangement of FIG. 3 and the clustering technique of FIG. 22 were tested on a twin coil spring mattress with a thickness of 7 in. Four participants, whose

characteristics are described in Table 5, were asked to lie down on the back for approximately 2 minutes for three consecutive times (total 6 min.). To provide ground truth, data were collected simultaneously from a pulse sensor connected to the subjects' finger. The BCG peaks were labeled manually as HB and NHB, based on the correlation between the J-peak and the pulse signal extracted from the GT signal.

TABLE 5

Participants					
Subject	Gender	Age	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Prior Cardiac History
1	Male	31	79	187	No
2	Female	32	54	163	Yes
3	Female	57	68	163	No
4	Male	68	76	177	Yes

[0153] The set of features were extracted from the participants' signals as described in connection with FIG. 22. The k-means algorithm was run with $k=2$. The performance criteria used in the evaluation was percentage of correct detection from the confusion matrix, where correct detection refers to the number of HB (J-peaks) and NHB (the rest of the BCG peaks) effectively grouped by the clustering approach when compared to the labeled peaks. Table 6 shows the number of instances, number of features computed, and number of NHB and HB for all the participants. Finally, the beat-to-beat intervals were estimated using the J-peak locations.

TABLE 6

Instances and Features				
Subject	Number of Instances	Number of Features	Class Distribution	
			HB	NHB
1	3768	3	964	2804
2	2138	3	466	1672
3	3464	3	621	2843
4	1359	3	307	1052

[0154] B. Results

[0155] (i) System's Ability to Capture Heartbeats

[0156] BCG signals captured by the hydraulic transducers of FIG. 3 and the clustering technique of FIG. 22 show similarities previous BCG studies. Visual inspection shows the presence of peak J and depletions I and K for all the recordings; however, peaks H, L and depletions G and M are not consistent for some segments of the BCG signals. Variation in waveforms can be explained by respiratory movements, involuntary movements and the system itself. BCG signals for Subject 2 extracted from the four transducers are shown in FIG. 23, which illustrate the variation in waveforms due to the distance of the transducer with respect to the heart. BCG signals for Subjects 1 and 4 in FIG. 26 illustrate the variation in waveforms due to different heights and weights.

[0157] In FIG. 26, the J-peaks detected by the k-means clustering algorithm are marked by the circle "o". Frame (a) of FIG. 26 shows a ten-second segment of the BCG's recordings for Subject 1. Frame (c) of FIG. 26 shows a ten-second segment of the BCG's recordings for Subject 4. For reference, frames (b) and (d) of FIG. 26 show the ground truth (GT)

signals extracted from a piezoresistive transducer worn on each respective subject's finger.

[0158] (ii) Heartbeat Classification from Clustering Results

[0159] FIG. 27 presents the percentage of correct classification (CC[%]) of heartbeat and non-heartbeats, as well as the number of false positives and false negatives computed from the transducer(s) which showed the occurrence of a heartbeat signal (determined by visual inspection). T1 was not included since its BCG recordings did not show the occurrence of heartbeats. The BCG of Subject 1 was captured by three transducers, while for Subjects 2 and 4, only one transducer captured their heartbeats. This is in part explained by the differences in body characteristics such as weight and can also be used for determining the position of the person on the bed.

[0160] Although percentages of correct classification for Subjects 1-3 were in the range of 97.9 to 100%, results for Subject 4 showed that some adjustment should be made. Frame (c) of FIG. 26 shows a ten-second segment of the heartbeat detection for Subject 4, where the respiratory movement is still evident and artifacts due to other causes (such as involuntary movements) are also seen in the heartbeat signal.

[0161] The number of false positives and false negatives reflects this observation. It is clear from frame (d) of FIG. 26 that the heartbeat detection algorithm does not cluster the heartbeats that are at the beginning and the end of the inhalation and exhalation, due to differences in amplitude of the J-peak. This may be because the maximal cardiac force varies from beat-to-beat as the respiratory cycle alters the filling of the heart, decreasing the amplitude of the J-peak and I-depletion, an issue that can be addressed through modifications to the clustering algorithm and/or modifications to the hydraulic transducers. For example, the transducer length and volume of fluid can be modified to suit very tall/short and heavy/light individuals. Since the system is designed for sleep monitoring, the inventors anticipate better performance when detecting the occurrence of heartbeats on sleeping segments, when the subject is still.

[0162] (iii) Beat-to-Beat Interval

[0163] Additional information can be extracted from the J-peak locations such as beat-to-beat intervals, which open the possibility of the heart rate variability (HRV) studies. FIG. 28 shows beat-to-beat intervals for the best and worst cases of the study. Frame (a) shows the segment B2 captured by transducer T4 for Subject 1. Frame (b) shows the corresponding GT signal for Subject 1. Frame (c) shows the segment B3 captured by transducer T4 for Subject 4. Frame (d) shows the corresponding GT signal for Subject 4. Correlation between the beat-to-beat intervals extracted from the GT signal and the HBS signal can easily be observed from (a) and (b) of FIG. 28, whereas (c) and (d) of FIG. 28 shows the discrepancy. Modifications to the clustering analysis and feature extractions can improve such results.

[0164] While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that the inventive device is capable of further modifications. This patent application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features herein before set forth.

What is claimed is:

1. A health monitoring system, the system comprising:
 - a hydraulic sensor for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being; and
 - a processor for receiving the sensor signal, the processor configured to analyze data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic sensor comprises a hydraulic transducer.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the hydraulic sensor further comprises a pressure sensor, wherein the hydraulic transducer is configured to apply fluid pressure to the pressure sensor in response to the heartbeat and respiratory patterns of the living being.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the hydraulic transducer comprises a deformable vessel filled with a fluid.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the deformable vessel comprises a sealed portion, an open portion, and a connector, the connector configured to connect the open portion with the pressure sensor for delivering fluid from the vessel to the pressure sensor to thereby apply the fluid pressure to the pressure sensor.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the hydraulic sensor is configured to exhibit a flat profile.
7. The system of claim 3 wherein the hydraulic sensor is positioned beneath a mattress for use by the living being in a location along the mattress in substantial alignment to where a torso of the living being is expected when the living being is lying on the mattress.
8. The system of claim 3 further comprising a plurality of the hydraulic sensors.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to (1) receive a plurality of sensor signals from the plurality of hydraulic sensors, and (2) analyze data representative of the sensor signals to select which of the sensor signals is to be further analyzed to generate the extracted heartbeat data.
10. The system of claim 8 wherein the hydraulic sensors are positioned beneath a mattress for use by the living being in a plurality of locations along the mattress in substantial alignment with a range of where a torso of the living being is expected when the living being is lying on the mattress.
11. The system of claim 3 wherein the hydraulic sensor is positioned proximate to a mattress, the mattress for use by the living being.
12. The system of claim 11 wherein the hydraulic sensor is positioned beneath the mattress.
13. The system of claim 12 wherein the hydraulic sensor is positioned to contact an underside of the mattress.
14. The system of claim 13 further comprising a memory, wherein the processor is further configured to store the extracted heartbeat data in the memory, the memory comprising a data structure representative of the extracted heartbeat data for the living being over time, and wherein the processor is further configured to interact with the memory to analyze the data structure to determine whether a health condition for the living being is indicated by the data structure.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is further configured to apply a filtering operation to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted respiratory data.
16. The system of claim 15 wherein the processor is further configured to store the extracted respiratory data in the memory, the memory further comprising a data structure representative of the extracted respiratory data for the living being over time, and wherein the processor is further configured to interact with the memory to analyze the heartbeat data structure and the respiratory data structure to determine whether any of a plurality of health conditions for the living being are indicated by the heartbeat data structure and the respiratory data structure.
17. The system of claim 16 wherein the processor is further configured to apply a condition to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted restlessness data for the living being, and wherein the processor is further configured to store the extracted restlessness data in the memory, the memory further comprising a data structure representative of the extracted restlessness data for the living being over time, and wherein the processor is further configured to interact with the memory to analyze the heartbeat data structure, the respiratory data structure, and the restlessness data structure to determine whether any of a plurality of health conditions for the living being are indicated by the heartbeat data structure, the respiratory data structure, and the restlessness data structure.
18. The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is further configured to apply a condition to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted restlessness data for the living being, and wherein the processor is further configured to store the extracted restlessness data in the memory, the memory further comprising a data structure representative of the extracted restlessness data for the living being over time, and wherein the processor is further configured to interact with the memory to analyze the heartbeat data structure, the respiratory data structure, and the restlessness data structure to determine whether any of a plurality of health conditions for the living being are indicated by the heartbeat data structure, the respiratory data structure, and the restlessness data structure.
19. The system of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to apply a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis to the data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the processor is further configured to (1) generate a plurality of digital samples that are representative of the sensor signal, and (2) apply the WPPD analysis to the digital samples.
21. The system of claim 20 wherein the processor comprises a signal processing circuit and a computer, the signal processing circuit configured to generate the digital samples, and wherein the computer is configured to apply the WPPD analysis to the digital samples.
22. The system of claim 21 wherein the signal processing circuit comprises an amplifier, a filter, and an analog to digital converter (ADC), wherein the amplifier is configured to amplify the sensor signal, wherein the filter is configured to filter the amplified sensor signal to provide anti-aliasing and noise reduction, and wherein the ADC is configured to sample the filtered amplified sensor signal to generate the digital samples.
23. The system of claim 20 wherein the processor is configured to apply the WPPD analysis by determining a difference between a maximum sample value and a minimum sample value of the samples within a sliding window, the

sliding window having a sample size, to thereby generate a plurality of windowed difference values.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the processor is further configured to perform a low pass filter operation on the windowed difference values to thereby generate a plurality of filtered windowed difference values.

25. The system of claim 22 wherein the processor is further configured to (1) segment the filtered windowed difference values into a plurality of segments, (2) compare the segments with a condition, (3) classify the segments into a plurality of classifications based on the comparison, the classifications comprising a first classification and a second classification, and (4) extract the heartbeat data from the segments having the first classification.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the condition comprises a threshold value, and wherein the processor is further configured to perform the comparison by (1) determining a maximum filtered windowed difference value within a segment, and (2) comparing the determined maximum filtered windowed difference value with the threshold value, and wherein the processor is further configured to perform the classification by assigning the second classification to the segments whose determined maximum filtered windowed difference value exceeds the threshold value.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the processor is further configured to perform the classification by assigning the second classification to a window of segments around the each segment whose determined maximum filtered windowed difference value exceeds the threshold value.

28. The system of claim 26 wherein the processor is further configured to generate restlessness data for the living being based on the segments having the second classification.

29. The system of claim 25 wherein the segments comprise a plurality of overlapping segments.

30. The system of claim 24 wherein the processor is further configured to define an adjustable cutoff frequency for the low pass filter operation.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein the processor is further configured to adjust the cutoff frequency on a living being-specific basis.

32. The system of claim 30 wherein the processor is further configured to define an adjustable sample size for the sliding window.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein the processor is further configured to adjust the sample size for the sliding window and the cutoff frequency on a living being-specific basis.

34. The system of claim 20 wherein the processor is further configured to define an adjustable sample size for the sliding window.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein the processor is further configured to adjust the sample size for the sliding window on a living being-specific basis.

36. The system of claim 34 wherein the processor is further configured to gauge a regularity for the extracted heartbeat data and dynamically adjust the sample size for the sliding window in response to the gauged regularity.

37. The system of claim 1 wherein the processor is further configured to apply a clustering analysis to the data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.

38. The system of claim 37 wherein the clustering analysis comprises a k-means clustering algorithm.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the processor is further configured to classify the data representative of the sensor

signal into a plurality of clusters, the plurality of clusters comprising a first cluster corresponding to a heartbeat and a second cluster corresponding to a non-heartbeat.

40. The system of claim 38 wherein the processor is further configured to (1) generate a plurality of digital samples that are representative of the sensor signal, (2) extract a plurality of features from a plurality of segments of the digital samples, and (3) apply the k-means clustering algorithm to the extracted features for the segments.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein the processor is further configured to extract the features by computing (1) a first distance, (2) a second distance, and (3) a summation of the first and second distances for each segment, the first distance representing a distance from a reference to a maximum for each segment, and the second distance representing a distance from a reference to a minimum for each segment.

42. The system of claim 41 wherein the processor is further configured to (1) sort the segments into two clusters based on the extracted features for each segment, (2) determine which of the two clusters contains the most segments for a time interval, (3) select the cluster determined to contain the most segments as the cluster containing J-peaks for the heartbeat component, and (4) compute the heartbeat data based on the selected cluster.

43. The system of claim 40 wherein the processor comprises a signal processing circuit and a computer, the signal processing circuit configured to generate the digital samples, and wherein the computer is configured to extract the features and apply the k-means clustering algorithm.

44. The system of claim 43 wherein the signal processing circuit comprises an amplifier, a filter, and an analog to digital converter (ADC), wherein the amplifier is configured to amplify the sensor signal, wherein the filter is configured to filter the amplified sensor signal to provide anti-aliasing and noise reduction, and wherein the ADC is configured to sample the filtered amplified sensor signal to generate the digital samples.

45. The system of claim 40 wherein the processor is further configured to bandpass filter the digital samples prior to application of the k-means clustering algorithm.

46. The system of claim 1 further comprising a sensor network for positioning in a living space of the living being, the sensor network comprising the hydraulic sensor and a plurality of other sensors, the other sensors comprising at least one motion sensor, and wherein the processor is further configured to receive and analyze signals from the other sensors to generate additional data for assessing a health status for the living being.

47. A method comprising:

hydraulically transducing physiological movement of a living being to sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being; and

processing, by a processor, the sensed signal, the processing including the processor extracting heartbeat data from data representative of the sensor signal.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein the processing step comprises the processor applying a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.

49. The method of claim **47** wherein the processing step comprises the processor applying a clustering analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.

50. A health monitoring system, the system comprising:

a hydraulic sensor for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being; and

a processor for receiving the sensor signal, the processor configured to (1) process the sensor signal to generate heartbeat data and respiratory data for the living being, and (2) store the generated heartbeat and respiratory data in a database for subsequent analysis.

51. The system of claim **50** wherein the processor is further configured to (1) process the sensor signal to generate restlessness data for the living being, and (2) store the generated restlessness data in the database for subsequent analysis.

52. An apparatus comprising:

a processor for receiving a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the processor configured to apply a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

53. An apparatus comprising:

a processor for receiving a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the processor configured to apply a clustering analysis to data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

54. A computer program product comprising:

a plurality of computer-executable instructions resident on a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium for execution to process data representative of a sensor signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for a living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being, the instructions configured to analyze the data representative of the sensor signal to generate extracted heartbeat data.

55. The computer program product of claim **54** wherein the instructions are further configured to apply a windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD) analysis to the data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.

56. The computer program product of claim **54** wherein the instructions are further configured to apply a clustering analysis to the data representative of the sensor signal to generate the extracted heartbeat data.

57. A sensor comprising:

a hydraulic transducer for positioning with respect to a living being to non-invasively sense a signal, the signal comprising a heartbeat component indicative of a heartbeat pattern for the living being and a respiratory component indicative of a respiratory pattern for the living being; and

a pressure sensor; and

wherein the hydraulic transducer is configured to apply fluid pressure to the pressure sensor in response to the heartbeat and respiratory patterns of the living being.

58. The sensor of claim **57** further comprising a plurality of the hydraulic transducers and a plurality of the pressure sensors arranged in respective pairs.

59. The sensor of claim **58** further comprising a processor in communication with the pressure sensors, each pressure sensor configured to generate a sensor signal in response to the applied fluid pressure from its paired hydraulic sensor, the processor configured to (1) receive the sensor signals from the pressure sensors, (2) analyze the received sensor signals, and (3) select a sensor signal from among the received sensor signals in response to the analysis.

60. A sensing system for non-invasive detecting/monitoring physiological data of a subject resting in bed, said system comprising:

a sensing network with at least one hydraulic transducer attached with a pressure sensor to detect electronic signals generated by said subject's physiological movements;

signal acquisition circuitry for collecting the electronic signals; and

a signal processor with an amplifier/filter hardware subsystem for anti-aliasing and noise reduction to result filtered electronic signals and a signal processing algorithm with a Windowed Peak-to-Peak Deviation function to process said filtered electronic signals and extract physiological data of the subject.

61. The device of claim **60**, whereas at least part of said sensing network is placed under a mattress, a pillow or a cushion of said subject.

62. The device of claim **60**, whereas said amplifier/filter hardware subsystem further comprising:

an amplification stage; and

a filter stage.

63. A method for extracting physiological respiratory data from a set of electronic signals generated by a subject's physiological movement while resting in a bed equipped with a sensing network with a hydraulic transducer, signal acquisition circuitry and a signal processor, said method comprising the steps of:

filtering said electronic signal to a desired frequency;

identifying 1-minute segments without artifacts;

subtracting DC bias from each segment; and

determining respiration rate within each segment by counting peaks detected.

64. A method for extracting physiological heartbeat data from a set of electronic signals generated by a subject's physiological movement while resting in a bed equipped with a sensing network with a hydraulic transducer, signal acquisition circuitry and a signal processor, said method comprising the steps of:

segmenting the signal in about 5 to 15-second non-overlapping segments;

validating each segment to reduce signals from artifacts;

filtering signals down to a first desired frequency range, while maintaining a certain number of samples per second, so that relevant characteristics of the heartbeat may be captured;

finding windowed peak-to-peak deviation (WPPD), whereas WPPD may be generated by finding the difference between the most negative and the most positive

within the sliding window, the size of which may be adjusted to accommodate the pulse rates;
filtering WPPD down further a second desired frequency range to reduce the effect of noise and smooth the signal;
and
determining heart rate within each segment by counting the peaks of the low-pass filtered WPPD within a segment and multiplying by a factor to result per-minute heart rate.

65. The method of claim **64**, whereas said first desired frequency range is between 5 to 10 Hz, and said second desired frequency range is between 1 to 4 Hz.

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专利名称(译)	液压床传感器及生理数据无创监测系统		
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摘要(译)

本文公开了一种新的和改进的非侵入性床传感系统，用于检测和监测诸如心跳和呼吸的生理运动。该系统可以采用液压流体将生理压力转换为集成压力传感器，以及新的和改进的信号处理方法，以根据液压传感器产生的电子信号识别各个心脏脉冲。该系统提供增强的灵敏度，能够捕获具有细微变化的定量脉搏和呼吸率，能够区分低脉率和浅呼吸的情况，以及改善现有系统的舒适度。

