



US008983800B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Stetson**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,983,800 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 17, 2015**

(54) **SELECTION OF PRESET FILTER PARAMETERS BASED ON SIGNAL QUALITY**

(56) **References Cited**

(75) Inventor: **Paul F. Stetson**, Oakland, CA (US)  
(73) Assignee: **Covidien LP**, Mansfield, MA (US)  
(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 2039 days.  
(21) Appl. No.: **11/247,427**  
(22) Filed: **Oct. 11, 2005**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,638,640 A	2/1972	Shaw	
4,714,341 A	12/1987	Hamaguri et al.	
4,805,623 A	2/1989	Jöbbsis	
4,807,631 A	2/1989	Hersh et al.	
4,833,714 A *	5/1989	Shimotani et al.	704/253
4,911,167 A	3/1990	Corenman et al.	
4,913,150 A	4/1990	Cheung et al.	
4,936,679 A	6/1990	Mersch	
4,938,218 A	7/1990	Goodman et al.	
4,971,062 A	11/1990	Hasebe et al.	
4,972,331 A	11/1990	Chance	

(Continued)

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2006/0030766 A1 Feb. 9, 2006

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/341,722, filed on Jan. 13, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,016,715.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	19640807	9/1997
EP	1491135	12/2004

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Wirmitzer, Bernhard, Adaptive Filters. A Matlab (Nano) Toolbox and Laboratory Exercises, ver. 1.0 Oct. 99, FH-Mannheim—Institut für Digitale Signalverarbeitung.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Manuel L Barbee

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Fletcher Yoder, P.C.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

**A61B 5/00** (2006.01)  
**A61B 5/1455** (2006.01)  
**G06K 9/00** (2006.01)  
**A61B 5/01** (2006.01)  
**A61B 5/021** (2006.01)  
**A61B 5/024** (2006.01)

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

CPC ..... **A61B 5/14551** (2013.01); **A61B 5/725** (2013.01); **G06K 9/00503** (2013.01); **A61B 5/7221** (2013.01); **A61B 5/01** (2013.01); **A61B 5/021** (2013.01); **A61B 5/02416** (2013.01); **A61B 5/7203** (2013.01); **A61B 5/7239** (2013.01)

USPC ..... **702/191**; 600/323

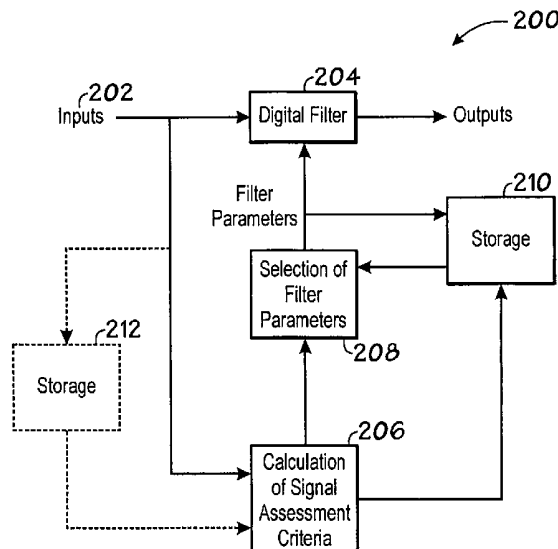
(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC ..... 702/190  
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods and devices for reducing noise effects in a system for measuring a physiological parameter, including receiving an input signal, obtaining an assessment of the signal quality of the input signal, selecting coefficients for a digital filter using the assessment of signal quality; and filtering the input signal using the digital filter, without comparing the filter's output signal with the input signal.

**28 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**



(56)

## References Cited

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,974,591	A	12/1990	Awazu et al.	6,461,305	B1	10/2002	Schnall
5,028,787	A	7/1991	Rosenthal et al.	6,466,809	B1	10/2002	Riley
5,065,749	A	11/1991	Hasebe et al.	6,487,439	B1	11/2002	Skladnev et al.
5,084,327	A	1/1992	Stengel	6,501,974	B2	12/2002	Huiku
5,119,815	A	6/1992	Chance	6,501,975	B2	12/2002	Diab et al.
5,122,974	A	6/1992	Chance	6,526,301	B2	2/2003	Larsen et al.
5,167,230	A	12/1992	Chance	6,544,193	B2	4/2003	Abreu
5,190,038	A	3/1993	Polson et al.	6,546,267	B1	4/2003	Sugiura et al.
5,246,003	A	9/1993	DeLonzor	6,549,795	B1	4/2003	Chance
5,247,931	A	9/1993	Norwood	6,580,086	B1	6/2003	Schulz et al.
5,263,244	A	11/1993	Centa et al.	6,591,122	B2	7/2003	Schmitt
5,275,159	A	1/1994	Griebel	6,594,513	B1	7/2003	Jobsis et al.
5,279,295	A	1/1994	Martens et al.	6,606,509	B2	8/2003	Schmitt
5,297,548	A	3/1994	Pologe	6,606,511	B1	8/2003	Ali et al.
5,355,880	A	10/1994	Thomas et al.	6,615,064	B1	9/2003	Aldrich
5,357,965	A	* 10/1994	Hall et al. .... 600/454	6,618,042	B1	9/2003	Powell
5,372,136	A	12/1994	Steuer et al.	6,622,095	B2	9/2003	Kobayashi et al.
5,385,143	A	1/1995	Aoyagi	6,631,281	B1	10/2003	Kastle
5,390,670	A	2/1995	Centa et al.	6,654,621	B2	11/2003	Palatnik et al.
5,413,099	A	5/1995	Schmidt et al.	6,654,624	B2	11/2003	Diab et al.
5,469,845	A	11/1995	DeLonzor et al.	6,658,276	B2	12/2003	Kianl et al.
5,482,036	A	1/1996	Diab et al.	6,658,277	B2	12/2003	Wasserman
5,483,646	A	1/1996	Uchikoga	6,662,030	B2	12/2003	Khalil et al.
5,506,798	A	4/1996	Shimada et al.	6,668,183	B2	12/2003	Hicks et al.
5,553,614	A	9/1996	Chance	6,671,526	B1	12/2003	Aoyagi et al.
5,564,417	A	10/1996	Chance	6,671,528	B2	12/2003	Steuer et al.
5,575,285	A	11/1996	Takanashi et al.	6,678,543	B2	1/2004	Diab et al.
5,594,807	A	* 1/1997	Liu ..... 382/128	6,684,090	B2	1/2004	Ali et al.
5,611,337	A	3/1997	Bukta	6,690,958	B1	2/2004	Walker et al.
5,630,413	A	5/1997	Thomas et al.	6,697,658	B2	2/2004	Al-Ali
5,632,272	A	* 5/1997	Diab et al. .... 600/323	6,708,048	B1	3/2004	Chance
5,645,059	A	7/1997	Fein et al.	6,711,424	B1	3/2004	Fine et al.
5,645,060	A	7/1997	Yorkey	6,711,425	B1	3/2004	Reuss
5,680,857	A	10/1997	Pelikan et al.	6,714,245	B1	3/2004	Ono
5,692,503	A	12/1997	Kuenstner	6,731,274	B2	5/2004	Powell
5,730,124	A	3/1998	Yamauchi	6,785,568	B2	8/2004	Chance
5,758,644	A	6/1998	Diab et al.	6,793,654	B2	9/2004	Lemberg
5,769,785	A	6/1998	Diab et al.	6,801,797	B2	10/2004	Mannheimer et al.
5,779,631	A	7/1998	Chance	6,801,798	B2	10/2004	Geddes et al.
5,782,757	A	7/1998	Diab et al.	6,801,799	B2	10/2004	Mendelson
5,786,592	A	7/1998	Hök	6,829,496	B2	12/2004	Nagai et al.
5,830,136	A	11/1998	DeLonzor et al.	6,836,235	B2	* 12/2004	Asami ..... 341/155
5,830,139	A	11/1998	Abreu	6,850,053	B2	2/2005	Daalmans et al.
5,831,598	A	11/1998	Kauffert et al.	6,863,652	B2	3/2005	Huang et al.
5,842,981	A	12/1998	Larsen et al.	6,873,865	B2	3/2005	Steuer et al.
5,871,442	A	2/1999	Madarasz et al.	6,889,153	B2	5/2005	Dietiker
5,873,821	A	2/1999	Chance et al.	6,898,451	B2	5/2005	Wuori
5,920,263	A	7/1999	Huttenhoff et al.	6,939,307	B1	9/2005	Dunlop
5,995,855	A	11/1999	Kiani et al.	6,947,780	B2	9/2005	Scharf
5,995,856	A	11/1999	Mannheimer et al.	6,949,081	B1	9/2005	Chance
5,995,859	A	11/1999	Takahashi	6,961,598	B2	11/2005	Diab
6,011,986	A	1/2000	Diab et al.	6,983,178	B2	1/2006	Fine et al.
6,052,659	A	* 4/2000	Mermelstein ..... 704/219	6,993,371	B2	1/2006	Kiani et al.
6,064,898	A	5/2000	Aldrich	6,996,427	B2	2/2006	Ali et al.
6,081,742	A	6/2000	Amano et al.	7,006,856	B2	2/2006	Baker, Jr. et al.
6,088,607	A	7/2000	Diab et al.	7,016,715	B2	3/2006	Stetson
6,120,460	A	9/2000	Abreu	7,024,235	B2	4/2006	Melker et al.
6,134,460	A	10/2000	Chance	7,027,849	B2	4/2006	Al-Ali
6,135,952	A	10/2000	Coetzee	7,027,850	B2	4/2006	Wasserman
6,142,942	A	11/2000	Clark	7,030,749	B2	4/2006	Al-Ali
6,150,951	A	11/2000	Olejniczak	7,035,697	B1	4/2006	Brown
6,154,667	A	11/2000	Miura et al.	7,047,056	B2	5/2006	Hannula et al.
6,157,850	A	12/2000	Diab et al.	7,060,035	B2	6/2006	Wasserman
6,163,715	A	12/2000	Larsen et al.	7,110,951	B1	* 9/2006	Lemelson et al. .... 704/270
6,181,958	B1	1/2001	Steuer et al.	7,127,278	B2	10/2006	Melker et al.
6,181,959	B1	1/2001	Schöllermann et al.	7,162,306	B2	1/2007	Caby et al.
6,230,035	B1	5/2001	Aoyagi et al.	7,209,775	B2	4/2007	Bae et al.
6,266,546	B1	7/2001	Steuer et al.	7,236,811	B2	6/2007	Schmitt
6,285,895	B1	9/2001	Ristolainen et al.	7,263,395	B2	8/2007	Chan et al.
6,312,393	B1	11/2001	Abreu	7,272,426	B2	9/2007	Schmid
6,353,750	B1	3/2002	Kimura et al.	7,373,193	B2	5/2008	Al-Ali et al.
6,397,091	B2	5/2002	Diab et al.	7,392,075	B2	6/2008	Baker, Jr.
6,415,236	B2	7/2002	Kobayashi et al.	7,474,907	B2	1/2009	Baker, Jr.
6,419,671	B1	7/2002	Lemberg	7,496,393	B2	2/2009	Diab et al.
6,438,399	B1	8/2002	Kurth	7,519,488	B2	4/2009	Fu et al.
				2001/0005773	A1	6/2001	Larsen et al.
				2001/0020122	A1	9/2001	Steuer et al.
				2001/0039376	A1	11/2001	Steuer et al.
				2001/0044700	A1	11/2001	Kobayashi et al.

(56)

## References Cited

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2002/0003832 A1 1/2002 Siefert  
 2002/0026106 A1 2/2002 Khalil et al.  
 2002/0034222 A1\* 3/2002 Buchwald et al. .... 375/232  
 2002/0035318 A1 3/2002 Mannheimer et al.  
 2002/0038079 A1 3/2002 Steuer et al.  
 2002/0042558 A1 4/2002 Mendelson  
 2002/0045806 A1\* 4/2002 Baker et al. .... 600/309  
 2002/0049389 A1 4/2002 Abreu  
 2002/0062071 A1 5/2002 Diab et al.  
 2002/0099282 A1 7/2002 Knobbe et al.  
 2002/0111748 A1 8/2002 Kobayashi et al.  
 2002/0128544 A1 9/2002 Diab et al.  
 2002/0133068 A1 9/2002 Huiku  
 2002/0156354 A1 10/2002 Larson  
 2002/0161287 A1 10/2002 Schmitt  
 2002/0161290 A1 10/2002 Chance  
 2002/0165439 A1 11/2002 Schmitt  
 2002/0198443 A1 12/2002 Ting  
 2003/0023140 A1 1/2003 Chance  
 2003/0043925 A1\* 3/2003 Stopler et al. .... 375/254  
 2003/0053617 A1 3/2003 Diethorn  
 2003/0055324 A1 3/2003 Wasserman  
 2003/0060693 A1 3/2003 Monfre et al.  
 2003/0069727 A1\* 4/2003 Krasny et al. .... 704/228  
 2003/0115061 A1\* 6/2003 Chen ..... 704/240  
 2003/0139687 A1 7/2003 Abreu  
 2003/0144584 A1 7/2003 Mendelson  
 2003/0220548 A1 11/2003 Schmitt  
 2003/0220576 A1 11/2003 Diab  
 2003/0223489 A1 12/2003 Smee et al.  
 2004/0010188 A1 1/2004 Wasserman  
 2004/0054270 A1 3/2004 Pewzner et al.  
 2004/0087846 A1 5/2004 Wasserman  
 2004/0107065 A1 6/2004 Al-Ali  
 2004/0127779 A1 7/2004 Steuer et al.  
 2004/0138538 A1 7/2004 Stetson  
 2004/0171920 A1 9/2004 Mannheimer et al.  
 2004/0176670 A1 9/2004 Takamura et al.  
 2004/0176671 A1 9/2004 Fine et al.  
 2004/0230106 A1 11/2004 Schmitt et al.  
 2005/0049468 A1 3/2005 Carlson et al.  
 2005/0080323 A1 4/2005 Kato  
 2005/0101850 A1 5/2005 Parker  
 2005/0113651 A1 5/2005 Wood et al.  
 2005/0113656 A1 5/2005 Chance  
 2005/0168722 A1 8/2005 Forstner et al.  
 2005/0177034 A1 8/2005 Beaumont  
 2005/0192488 A1 9/2005 Bryenton et al.  
 2005/0197552 A1 9/2005 Baker, Jr. et al.  
 2005/0203357 A1 9/2005 Debreczeny et al.  
 2005/0228248 A1 10/2005 Dietiker  
 2005/0267346 A1 12/2005 Faber et al.  
 2005/0283059 A1 12/2005 Iyer et al.  
 2006/0009688 A1 1/2006 Lamego et al.  
 2006/0015021 A1 1/2006 Cheng  
 2006/0020181 A1 1/2006 Schmitt  
 2006/0030763 A1 2/2006 Mannheimer et al.  
 2006/0030766 A1 2/2006 Stetson  
 2006/0052680 A1 3/2006 Diab  
 2006/0058683 A1 3/2006 Chance  
 2006/0064024 A1 3/2006 Schnall  
 2006/0122476 A1 6/2006 Van Slyke  
 2006/0135860 A1 6/2006 Baker, Jr. et al.

2006/0195028 A1 8/2006 Hannula et al.  
 2006/0224058 A1 10/2006 Mannheimer  
 2006/0247501 A1 11/2006 Ali  
 2006/0258921 A1 11/2006 Addison et al.  
 2007/0073120 A1 3/2007 Li et al.  
 2007/0073124 A1 3/2007 Li et al.  
 2008/0255436 A1 10/2008 Baker

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 3170866 7/1991  
 JP 3238813 10/1991  
 JP 4332536 11/1992  
 JP 7124138 5/1995  
 JP 7136150 5/1995  
 JP 10216115 8/1998  
 JP 2003210438 7/2003  
 JP 2003275192 9/2003  
 JP 2004008572 1/2004  
 JP 2004113353 4/2004  
 JP 2004194908 7/2004  
 JP 2004248819 9/2004  
 JP 2004290545 10/2004  
 WO WO9309711 5/1993  
 WO WO9316629 9/1993  
 WO WO9843071 10/1998  
 WO WO0021438 4/2000

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Vincente, L.M., et al.; "Adaptive Pre-Processing of Photoplethysmographic Blood Volume Pulse Measurements," pp. 114-117 (1996).

Leahy, Martin J., et al.; "Sensor Validation in Biomedical Applications," *IFAC Modelling and Control in Biomedical Systems*, Warwick, UK; pp. 221-226 (1997).

Barreto, Armando B., et al.; "Adaptive LMS Delay Measurement in dual Blood Volume Pulse Signals for Non-Invasive Monitoring," *IEEE*, pp. 117-120 (1997).

Todd, Bryan, et al.; "The Identification of Peaks in Physiological Signals," *Computers and Biomedical Research*, vol. 32, pp. 322-335 (1999).

A. Johansson; "Neural network for photoplethysmographic respiratory rate monitoring," *Medical & Biological Engineering & Computing*, vol. 41, pp. 242-248 (2003).

Lee, C.M., et al.; "Reduction of motion artifacts from photoplethysmographic recordings using wavelet denoising approach," *IEEE EMBS Asian-Pacific Conference on Biomedical Engineering*, Oct. 20-22, 2003; pp. 194-195.

Stetson, Paul F.; "Determining Heart Rate from Noisy Pulse Oximeter Signals Using Fuzzy Logic," *The IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems*, St. Louis, Missouri, May 25-28, 2003; pp. 1053-1058.

Addison, Paul S., et al.; "A novel time-frequency-based 3D Lissajous figure method and its application to the determination of oxygen saturation from the photoplethysmogram," *Institute of Physics Publishing, Meas. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 15, pp. L15-L18 (2004).

Canadian Office Action for Application No. 2,512,579 dated May 30, 2012; 4 pgs.

\* cited by examiner

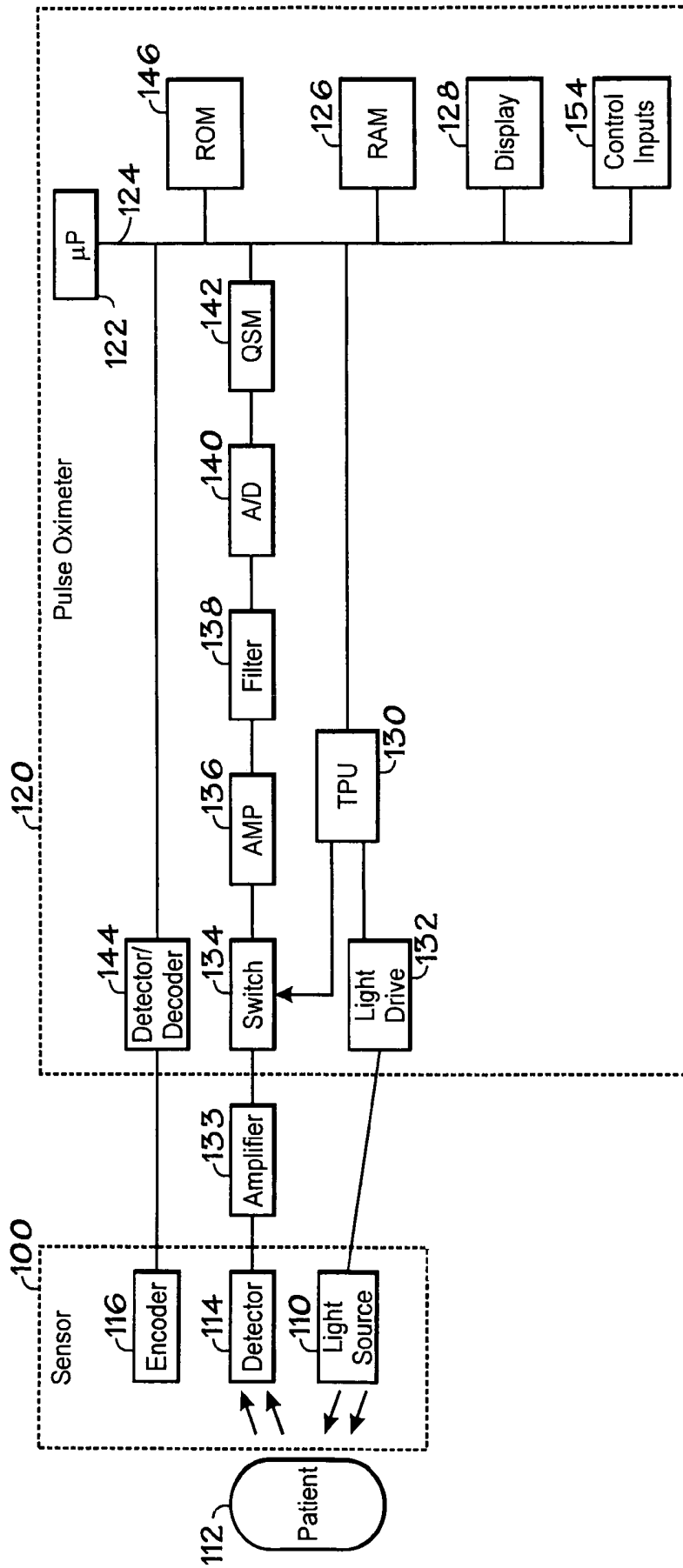


FIG. 1

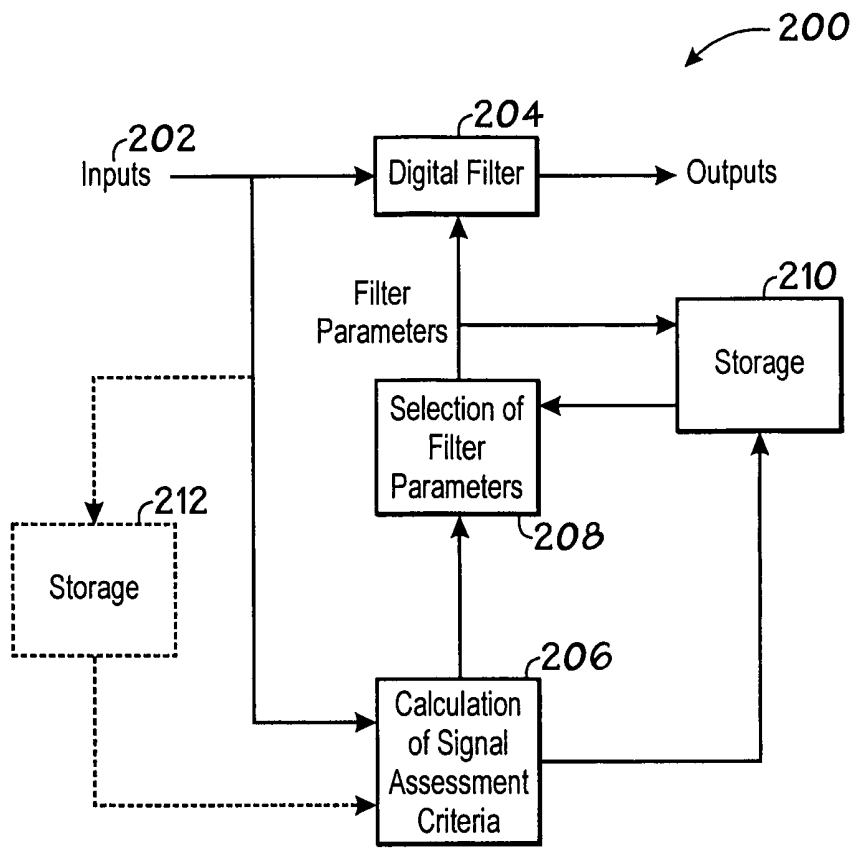


FIG. 2

## SELECTION OF PRESET FILTER PARAMETERS BASED ON SIGNAL QUALITY

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 10/341,722, filed Jan. 13, 2003, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,016,715 the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the processing of signals obtained from a medical diagnostic apparatus, such as a pulse oximeter, using a digital filter to reduce noise effects.

A typical pulse oximeter measures two physiological parameters, percent oxygen saturation of arterial blood hemoglobin (SpO<sub>2</sub> or sat) and pulse rate. Oxygen saturation can be estimated using various techniques. In one common technique, the photocurrent generated by the photo-detector is conditioned and processed to determine the ratio of modulation ratios (ratio of ratios) of the red to infrared signals. This modulation ratio has been observed to correlate well to arterial oxygen saturation. The pulse oximeters and sensors are empirically calibrated by measuring the modulation ratio over a range of in vivo measured arterial oxygen saturations (SaO<sub>2</sub>) on a set of patients, healthy volunteers, or animals. The observed correlation is used in an inverse manner to estimate blood oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) based on the measured value of modulation ratios of a patient. The estimation of oxygen saturation using modulation ratios is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,853,364, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTIMATING PHYSIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS USING MODEL-BASED ADAPTIVE FILTERING," issued Dec. 29, 1998, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,911,167, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING OPTICAL PULSES," issued Mar. 27, 1990. The relationship between oxygen saturation and modulation ratio is further described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,645,059, entitled "MEDICAL SENSOR WITH MODULATED ENCODING SCHEME," issued Jul. 8, 1997. Most pulse oximeters extract the plethysmographic signal having first determined saturation or pulse rate, both of which are susceptible to interference.

A challenge in pulse oximetry is in analyzing the data to obtain a reliable measure of a physiologic parameter in the presence of large interference sources. Various solutions to this challenge have included methods that assess the quality of the measured parameter and decide on displaying the measured value when it is deemed reliable based upon a signal quality. Another approach involves a heuristic-based signal extraction technology, where the obtained signals are processed based on a series of guesses of the ratio, and which require the algorithm to start with a guess of the ratio, which is an unknown. Both the signal-quality determining and the heuristic signal extraction technologies are attempts at separating out a reliable signal from an unreliable one, one method being a phenomenological one and the other being a heuristic one.

A known approach for the reduction of noise in medical diagnostic devices including pulse oximeters involves the use of an adaptive filter, such as an adaptive digital filter. The adaptive filter is actually a data processing algorithm, and in most typical applications, the filter is a computer program that is executed by a central processor. As such, the filter inherently incorporates discrete-time measurement samples rather than continuous time inputs. A type of digital filter that is used

in pulse oximeter systems is a Kalman filter. While conventional adaptive digital filters in general and Kalman filters in particular have been assimilated in medical diagnostics system to help reduce noise in a signal, there are still many challenges that need to be addressed to improve the techniques that are used to reduce noise effects in signals; noise effects such as those present in a medical diagnostic device. One of the shortcomings of using a Kalman filter is that a Kalman filter is an adaptive filter whose functioning is mathematically-based and where its aim is to compare the output of the filter with a desired output, and reduce the error in the comparison by continuously varying the filter's coefficients. So, a Kalman filter generates filter coefficients in an adaptive manner to minimize an error. While this method has been adopted by many, it is still a method that is somewhat blind regarding the signal that it is being filtered. Such an approach does not take into account the unique attributes that an input signal may possess and which are physiologically based. Another shortcoming of the Kalman filtering is that the Kalman filter is linear in its input-output relationship. One can appreciate that in certain conditions, the requirement that the filter be linear in its input-output relationship is too constraining. Yet another shortcoming of a Kalman filter is that filter parameters are continuously tuned, which can be computationally expensive.

There is therefore a need to develop a filter for reducing noise effects in signals that does not suffer from the above-mentioned constraints of conventional adaptive filters.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed towards methods and devices for reducing noise effects in a system for measuring a physiological parameter, including receiving an input signal; obtaining an assessment of the signal quality of the input signal; selecting coefficients for a digital filter using the assessment of signal quality; and filtering the input signal using the digital filter, without comparing the filter's output signal with the input signal.

In certain aspects, the filter coefficients are selected from a plurality of discrete preset values. In certain embodiments, the discrete and preset values are fixed or non-changing values. The digital filter can have either a linear or preferably a non-linear input-output relationship.

In pulse oximetry applications, the quality of the input signal may be assessed by obtaining or measuring signal parameters that include the skew of the time derivative of the signal; the correlation between signals from different wavelengths; the variation in signal amplitude, as well as others. Other assessments, such as maximum values or spectral peak frequencies, may also be used in determining filter parameters.

In some embodiments, the selection of filter parameters or coefficients is performed in real time, with the coefficients of the digital filter being determined using a current input sample. In certain other embodiments, the selection of filter parameters is performed using a previously stored input signal sample.

In pulse oximetry applications, the input signals can be a function of an oxygen saturation, or a pulse rate. Furthermore, these signals correspond with sensed optical energies from a plurality of wavelengths.

For a further understanding of the nature and advantages of the invention, reference should be made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary oximeter.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram depicting the operation of the signal-quality-based filter operation in accordance with 5  
embodiments of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The methods and systems in accordance with embodi- 10  
ments of the present invention are directed towards selecting and adjusting the parameters of a digital filter based an assessment of the quality of the input signals to the filter. The invention is particularly applicable to and will be explained by reference to measurements of oxygen saturation of hemo- 15  
globin in arterial blood and patient heart rate, as in pulse oximeter monitors and pulse oximetry sensors. However, it should be realized the invention is equally applicable to any generalized patient monitor and associated patient sensor, such as ECG, blood pressure, temperature, etc., and is not to 20  
be limited for use only with oximetry or pulse oximetry.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a pulse oximeter that may be configured to implement the embodi- 25  
ments of present invention. The filter embodiments of the present invention can be a data processing algorithm that is executed by the microprocessor 122, described below. Light from light source 110 passes into patient tissue 112, and is scattered and detected by photodetector 114. A sensor 100 30  
containing the light source and photodetector may also contain an encoder 116 which provides signals indicative of the wavelength of light source 110 to a detector/decoder 144 in a pulse oximeter 120 to allow the oximeter to select appropriate calibration coefficients for calculating oxygen saturation. Encoder 116 may, for instance, be a resistor.

Sensor 100 is connected to a pulse oximeter 120. The 35  
oximeter includes a microprocessor 122 connected to an internal bus 124. Also connected to the bus is a RAM memory 126 and a display 128. A time processing unit (TPU) 130 provides timing control signals to light drive circuitry 132 which controls when light source 110 is illuminated, and if 40  
multiple light sources are used, the multiplexed timing for the different light sources. TPU 130 also controls the gating-in of signals from photodetector 114 through an amplifier 133 and a switching circuit 134. These signals are sampled at the proper time, depending upon which of multiple light sources 45  
is illuminated, if multiple light sources are used. The received signal is passed through an amplifier 136, a low pass filter 138, and an analog-to-digital converter 140. The digital data is then stored in a queued serial module (QSM) 142, for later 50  
downloading to RAM 126 as QSM 142 fills up. In one embodiment, there may be multiple parallel paths of separate amplifier filter and A/D converters for multiple light wavelengths or spectrums received.

Based on the value of the received signals corresponding to the light received by photodetector 114, microprocessor 122 55  
will calculate the oxygen saturation using various algorithms. These algorithms require coefficients, which may be empirically determined, corresponding to, for example, the wavelengths of light used. These are stored in a ROM 146. In a two-wavelength system, the particular set of coefficients chosen for any pair of wavelength spectrums is determined by the value indicated by encoder 116 corresponding to a particular 60  
light source in a particular sensor 100. In one embodiment, multiple resistor values may be assigned to select different sets of coefficients. In another embodiment, the same resistors 65  
are used to select from among the coefficients appropriate for an infrared source paired with either a near red source or

far red source. The selection between whether the near red or far red set will be chosen can be selected with a control input from control inputs 154. Control inputs 154 may be, for instance, a switch on the pulse oximeter, a keyboard, or a port providing instructions from a remote host computer. Further- 5  
more, any number of methods or algorithms may be used to determine a patient's pulse rate, oxygen saturation or any other desired physiological parameter.

The brief description of an exemplary pulse oximeter set forth above, serves as a contextual fabric for describing the methods for reducing noise effects in the received signals according to embodiments of the present invention, which are described below. The embodiments of the present invention, which are used to reduce the noise effects in the signal using an assessment of the quality of the input signal, are described 10  
below in conjunction with the block diagram of FIG. 2.

A signal quality indicator is a measured parameter that is capable of estimating the reliability and accuracy of a signal. For example, when measuring blood oxygen saturation using a pulse oximeter, a signal quality indicator is able to indirectly assess whether an estimate of a value of blood oxygen saturation is an accurate one. This determination of accuracy is made possible by a thorough and detailed study of volumes of measured values and various indicators to determine which 15  
indicators are indicative of signal quality and what, if any, is the correlation between the indicator and the accuracy of the estimated value.

In pulse oximetry, examples of signal quality indicators include the skew of the time derivative of the signal; the correlation between signals from different wavelengths; the variation in signal amplitude, as well as others. Other assessments, such as maximum values or spectral peak frequencies, may also be used in determining filter parameters. In addition to these signal quality indicators, other signal quality indica- 20  
tors may also be used for the selection of filter coefficients. In pulse oximetry, these additional signal quality indicators include: a signal measure indicative of the degree of similarity of an infrared and red waveforms; a signal measure indicative of a low light level; a signal measure indicative of an arterial pulse shape; a signal measure indicative of the high 25  
frequency signal component in the measure value; a signal measure indicative of a consistency of a pulse shape; a signal measure indicative of an arterial pulse amplitude; a signal measure indicative of modulation ratios of red to infrared modulations and a signal measure indicative of a period of an arterial pulse. These various indicators provide for an indirect 30  
assessments of the presence of known error sources in pulse oximetry measurements, which include optical interference between the sensor and the tissue location; light modulation by other than the patient's pulsatile tissue bed; physical movement of the patient and improper tissue-to-sensor positioning. These additional signal quality indicators are described in further detail in a co-pending US patent applica- 35  
tion entitled: "SIGNAL QUALITY METRICS DESIGN FOR QUALIFYING DATA FOR A PHYSIOLOGICAL MONITOR," the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram 200 depicting the operation of the signal-quality-based selection of filter parameters in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. In one embodiment, the digital filter is a linear filter. For a linear filter is chosen, the filter can have either a finite or an infinite impulse response. Alternately, the filter may be a non-linear filter. Inputs 202 are applied to the digital filter 204 and to a signal quality assessment subsystem 206 that assesses how 40  
noisy the inputs look. Subsystem 206 calculates various signal quality metrics and provides the information to the selec-

tion subsystem **208**, which selects filter parameters according to the criteria calculated by the signal quality subsystem **206**. Storage subsystem **210** interfaces with the subsystems **206** and **208** to store and provide signal quality metrics as well as filter parameters. In one embodiment, the selection of filter parameters is performed in real time, with the filter parameters being determined using current input samples.

In an alternate embodiment, the filter parameters are calculated using a buffer **212** of recent input samples. In addition, signal assessment criteria and filter parameters can also be held in storage **210** for reference or for use in the calculation of new values.

As set forth above, various signal quality indicators may be used to select filter parameters. Additionally, the selection of the filter parameters may be based on more than one signal quality indicator. Furthermore, the selection of the filter parameters may be based on the output of an algorithm that combines several signal quality indicators. In one embodiment in an oximeter system, the variance in the raw saturation value is used to determine the filter's smoothing coefficients. In this embodiment, the selection is achieved by comparing the variance in the raw sat signal to several thresholds, and the filter's smoothing coefficients are selected depending on which range the variance falls in.

In an alternate embodiment in an oximeter system used for average pulse estimation, the filter parameter selection algorithm uses a combination of various signal quality metrics,  $Z$  to select values for filter coefficients for the digital filter, where

$$Z = w_1 * SQ1 + w_2 * SQ2 + w_3 * SQ3,$$

where

$w_1$ ,  $w_2$ , and  $w_3$  are weighting factors

$SQ1$  is a measure of the variance in the raw saturation signal

$SQ2$  is a measure of the correlation between signals from different wavelengths

$SQ3$  is a measure of the skew of the derivative waveform

Yet alternately, instead of using  $Z$  to select the filter coefficients, a non-linear function of  $Z$  can be used to select a coefficient or coefficients for the filter. In operation, the selection algorithm may first be tuned before it is fully implemented in a particular diagnostics system. The tuning of the selection algorithm(s) may be done manually using heuristic approaches. Alternately, the selection algorithm may be tuned statistically, in a manner similar to training a neural network.

Embodiments of the present invention offer several advantages over conventional adaptive filtering. It is known that conventional adaptive filtering seeks to optimize some output criterion by continuously tuning the coefficients in a linear filter. The approach as embodied by the present invention is advantageous over conventional adaptive filtering for the following reasons. First, filter parameters in accordance with embodiments of the present invention are selected by switching among several preset or fixed values, rather than being varied or tuned continuously. By switching the parameters of the digital filter among fixed, preset values, the embodiments of the present invention provide for computational savings and simplicity of implementation. Second, the parameters of the digital filter are selected based upon an assessment of the input signal received by the filter rather than by comparing the filter's output with its input. This too, provides for computational savings and simplicity of implementation. Third, the filter need not be a linear filter, that is the filter is not required to be linear in its input-output relationship. Since the filter in accordance with embodiments of the present invention is not constrained to be linear, the filter's design can correspond

more to physiological than to mathematical requirements, as is the case with most conventional adaptive filtering schemes. This physiological-based filter parameter selection may be used to, for example, attenuate pulse amplitudes above a threshold, or respond more quickly to decreases than to increases in blood oxygen saturation.

Accordingly, as will be understood by those of skill in the art, the present invention which is related to reducing noise effects in a system for measuring a physiological parameter, may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential characteristics thereof. For example, signals indicative of any physiological parameter other than oxygen saturation, such as pulse rate, blood pressure, temperature, or any other physiological variable could be filtered using the techniques of the present invention. Moreover, many other indicators of the quality of the input signal can be used as a basis for the selection of the filter's coefficients. Further, while the present embodiments have been described in the time-domain, frequency-based methods are equally relevant to the embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly, the foregoing disclosure is intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

**1.** A method comprising:

receiving a sequence of digital data inputs at a medical monitor;

selecting one or more fixed digital filter coefficients for each digital data input based on at least one signal quality indicator for each respective digital data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input; and

filtering each digital data input using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients to generate respective filter outputs, wherein selecting one or more fixed digital filter coefficients comprises:

accessing a data bank of stored coefficients.

**2.** The method, as set forth by claim 1, wherein filtering each digital data input comprises:

configuring a linear digital filter using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients for each respective digital data input.

**3.** The method, as set forth by claim 1, wherein filtering each digital data input comprises:

configuring a non-linear digital filter using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients for each respective digital data input.

**4.** The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator comprises at least one of a measure of variance in a raw saturation signal, a measure of correlation between signals from different wavelengths, a measure of skew of a derivative waveform of the data signal or a combination thereof.

**5.** A method comprising:

receiving a sequence of digital data inputs at a medical monitor;

selecting one or more fixed digital filter coefficients for each digital data input based on at least one signal quality indicator for each respective digital data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input; and

filtering each digital data input using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients to generate respective filter outputs, wherein selecting one or more fixed digital

filter coefficients is not based on a comparison between each digital data input and the corresponding filter output.

6. The method, as set forth by claim 5, wherein filtering each digital data input comprises:

configuring a linear digital filter using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients for each respective digital data input.

7. The method, as set forth by claim 5, wherein filtering each digital data input comprises:

configuring a non-linear digital filter using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients for each respective digital data input.

8. The method, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator comprises at least one of a measure of variance in a raw saturation signal, a measure of correlation between signals from different wavelengths, a measure of skew of a derivative waveform of the data signal or a combination thereof.

9. A method comprising:

receiving a sequence of digital data inputs at a medical monitor;

obtaining at least one signal quality indicator for each digital data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input;

selecting a fixed coefficient for a digital filter for each digital data input using the respective signal quality indicator, wherein selecting the fixed coefficient is performed without comparing an output signal from the digital filter with a corresponding digital data input; and filtering the respective digital data input using the digital filter, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator comprises at least one of a measure of variance in a raw saturation signal, a measure of correlation between signals from different wavelengths, a measure of skew of a derivative waveform of the data signal or a combination thereof.

10. A method comprising:

receiving a sequence of digital data inputs at a medical monitor;

obtaining at least one signal quality indicator for each digital data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input;

selecting a fixed coefficient for a digital filter for each digital data input using the respective signal quality indicator, wherein selecting the fixed coefficient is performed without comparing an output signal from the digital filter with a corresponding digital data input; and filtering the respective digital data input using the digital filter, wherein selecting the fixed coefficients comprises: selecting the fixed coefficients based on a non-linear function of the signal quality indicator.

11. A system, comprising:

a sensor adapted to deliver a data signal having a sequence of data inputs; and

a medical monitor comprising a digital filter configured to filter each respective data input using one of a plurality of fixed digital filter coefficients selected based on a respective signal quality indicator for each respective data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective data input.

12. The system, as set forth by claim 11, wherein each digital filter coefficient is selected without comparing an output of the digital filter with a corresponding data input.

13. The system, as set forth by claim 11, wherein the digital filter is configured to filter each data input in substantially real time.

14. The system, as set forth by claim 11, wherein the digital filter comprises a linear filter.

15. The system, as set forth by claim 11, wherein the digital filter comprises a non-linear filter.

16. A system for reducing noise effects in pulse oximetry, comprising:

a pulse oximetry sensor adapted to acquire a sequence of digital data inputs;

a processor configured to obtain a respective preset filter coefficient for each respective digital data input of the sequence based on a determined noise level of each respective digital data input of the sequence; and

a digital filter configured to filter each respective digital data input using the respective preset filter coefficient.

17. The system, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the processor is configured to obtain the respective preset filter coefficient based upon at least one signal quality indicator of each respective digital data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input.

18. The system, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the preset filter coefficients are derived using a non-linear function of the signal quality indicator.

19. A tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising a computer program product, the computer program product comprising:

a first routine stored and executed on a medical monitor which, when executed, is capable of selecting one or more digital filter coefficients from a plurality of preset digital filter coefficients for each data input of a sequence using at least one signal quality indicator for each respective data input, wherein the at least one signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective data input; and

a second routine stored and executed on a medical monitor which, when executed, is capable of filtering each data input using the respective one or more digital filter coefficients.

20. The tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first routine, when executed, is capable of selecting the one or more digital filter coefficients is configured to access a data bank.

21. The tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second routine, when executed, is capable of filtering each data input filters each data input in substantially real time.

22. The tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second routine, when executed, is capable of filtering each data input applies a linear filter.

23. The tangible non-transitory computer-readable medium, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second routine, when executed, is capable of filtering each data input applies a non-linear filter.

24. A medical monitor comprising:

a memory storing a plurality of filter coefficients;

a processor configured to:

determine a signal quality indicator for each digital data input of an input signal received by the medical monitor, wherein the signal quality indicator provides an estimate of accuracy of each respective digital data input of the input signal;

select a filter coefficient from the plurality of filter coefficients based upon the signal quality indicator; and

digitally filter each digital data input using the respective filter coefficient.

**25.** The medical monitor, as set forth in claim **24**, wherein the processor comprises a digital filter configurable by each respective filter coefficient. 5

**26.** The medical monitor, as set forth in claim **24**, wherein the signal quality indicator comprises at least one of a measure of variance in a raw saturation signal, a measure of correlation between signals from different wavelengths, a measure of skew of a derivative waveform of the signal, or a combination thereof. 10

**27.** The medical monitor, as set forth in claim **24**, wherein the digital filter comprises a linear filter.

**28.** The medical monitor, as set forth in claim **24**, wherein the digital filter comprises a non-linear filter. 15

\* \* \* \* \*

专利名称(译)	根据信号质量选择预设滤波器参数		
公开(公告)号	<a href="#">US8983800</a>	公开(公告)日	2015-03-17
申请号	US11/247427	申请日	2005-10-11
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	STETSON PAUL °F		
申请(专利权)人(译)	STETSON PAUL °F		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	COVIDIEN LP		
[标]发明人	STETSON PAUL F		
发明人	STETSON, PAUL F.		
IPC分类号	A61B5/00 A61B5/01 A61B5/021 A61B5/024 A61B5/1455 G06K9/00		
CPC分类号	A61B5/14551 A61B5/725 G06K9/00503 A61B5/7221 A61B5/7239 A61B5/021 A61B5/02416 A61B5/7203 A61B5/01 A61B5/14552		
其他公开文献	US20060030766A1		
外部链接	<a href="#">Espacenet</a>	<a href="#">USPTO</a>	

摘要(译)

用于降低用于测量生理参数的系统中的噪声影响的方法和设备，包括接收输入信号，获得输入信号的信号质量的评估，使用信号质量的评估选择用于数字滤波器的系数;并使用数字滤波器对输入信号进行滤波，而不将滤波器的输出信号与输入信号进行比较。

