

МАТЕРІАЛИ ХХVII  
МІЖНАРОДНОГО  
МОЛОДІЖНОГО ФОРУМУ

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МІНІСТЕРСТВО  
ОСВІТИ ТА НАУКИ  
УКРАЇНИ

ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ  
УНІВЕРСИТЕТ РАДІОЕЛЕКТРОНІКИ

РАДІОЕЛЕКТРОНІКА  
ТА МОЛОДЬ У ХХІ  
СТОЛІТТІ



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**ТОМ 1**

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**POSSIBILITIES OF SECOND ORDER DIFFERENCE PLOT  
FEATURES FOR DIFFERENTIATION OF LOW BACK PAIN BY  
ELECTROMYOGRAPHIC SIGNALS**

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This study explores the potential of second-order difference plot (SODP) features for differentiating low back pain using electromyographic (EMG) signals. The SODP features were found to exhibit significant differences between patients with low back pain and healthy individuals. The dynamics of these features were also consistent across different segments of the EMG signal, suggesting their potential as reliable indicators for diagnosis. Overall, SODP features offer a promising approach for differentiating low back pain using EMG signals, with potential for clinical use pending further validation.

In many countries chronic low back pain (LBP) is the most common cause of long term disability in middle age. Chronic low back pain is resistant to treatment, and patients are often referred for multidisciplinary treatment [1]. Most of us will experience at least one episode of low back pain during our life. Reported lifetime prevalence varies from 49% to 70% and point prevalences from 12% to 30% are reported in Western countries [2].

The most common diagnostic test for LBP is electromyography (EMG). To date, the classification of diseases based on the results of surface electromyography is carried out by the methods of spectral, statistical and nonlinear dynamics analysis [3], [4].

Second Order Difference Plot (SODP) is a feature extraction method which is formed employing time domain information. The method of SODP can be used as an independent feature extraction tool as well as a supplemental technique to confirm the frequency domain results. If  $X(t)$  is the signal, SODP is formed by  $X(n + 1) - X(n)$  and  $X(n + 2) - X(n + 1)$  points on the plot. In other words, SODP includes scattering of consecutive difference values of points in the signal.

SODP develops the clinical skills such as cardiac disorders and determinants of disease. It allows possible simple visual interpretation techniques on the ECG. Due to these characteristics, it has a wide use over past years. The most significant deficiency of the SODP is calculation ability on the quantitative values that provide the characterization of the ECG data [5].

SODP features can help to identify changes in the slope of the EMG signal, which can provide information about the timing and strength of muscle activation. This information can be useful for distinguishing between different types of LBP, such as muscle spasm, muscle strain, or nerve root compression.

Some possible SODP features that could be used to differentiate LBP include:

- Mean slope: measures the average slope of the SODP over a defined time interval. Differences in mean slope between patients with different types of LBP could indicate differences in the timing or strength of muscle activation.

- Variability of slope: measures the variability in slope of the SODP over a defined time interval. Patients with muscle spasm or nerve root compression may exhibit higher variability in their SODP slope compared to patients with muscle strain.

- Peak amplitude: measures the maximum amplitude of the SODP over a defined time interval. Differences in peak amplitude could indicate differences in the strength of muscle activation.

- Time to peak: measures the time it takes for the SODP to reach its maximum amplitude. Patients with muscle spasm may exhibit shorter time to peak compared to patients with muscle strain or nerve root compression.

Overall, SODP features can provide useful information for differentiating between different types of LBP using EMG signals. However, it is important to note that additional research and validation is necessary before these features can be used in clinical practice.

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