

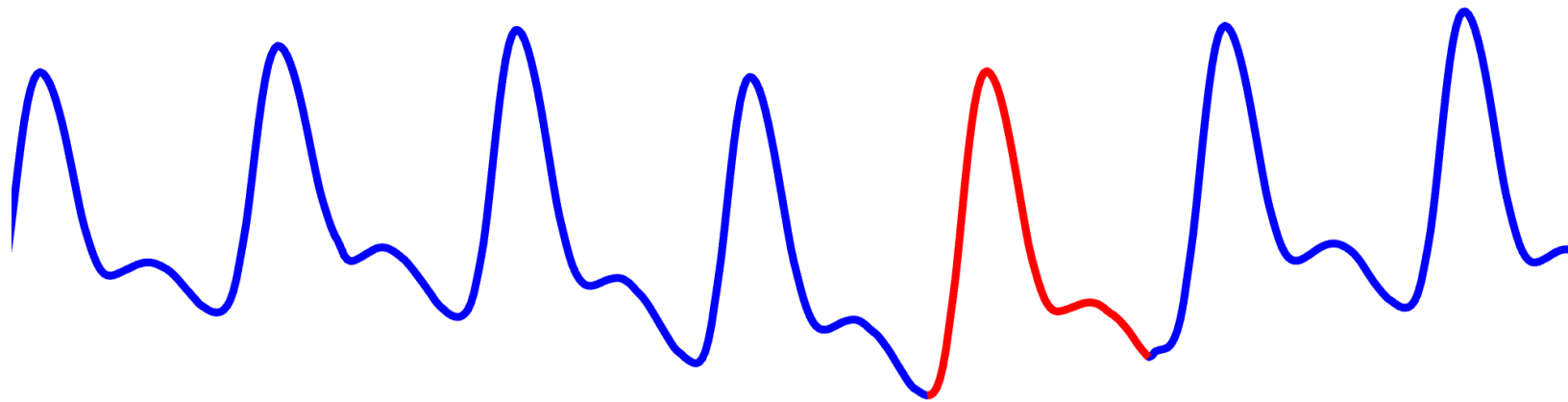
Recorded in preparation for the  
2024 Computing in Cardiology  
Conference.

# MSPTDfast: An Efficient Photoplethysmography Beat Detection Algorithm

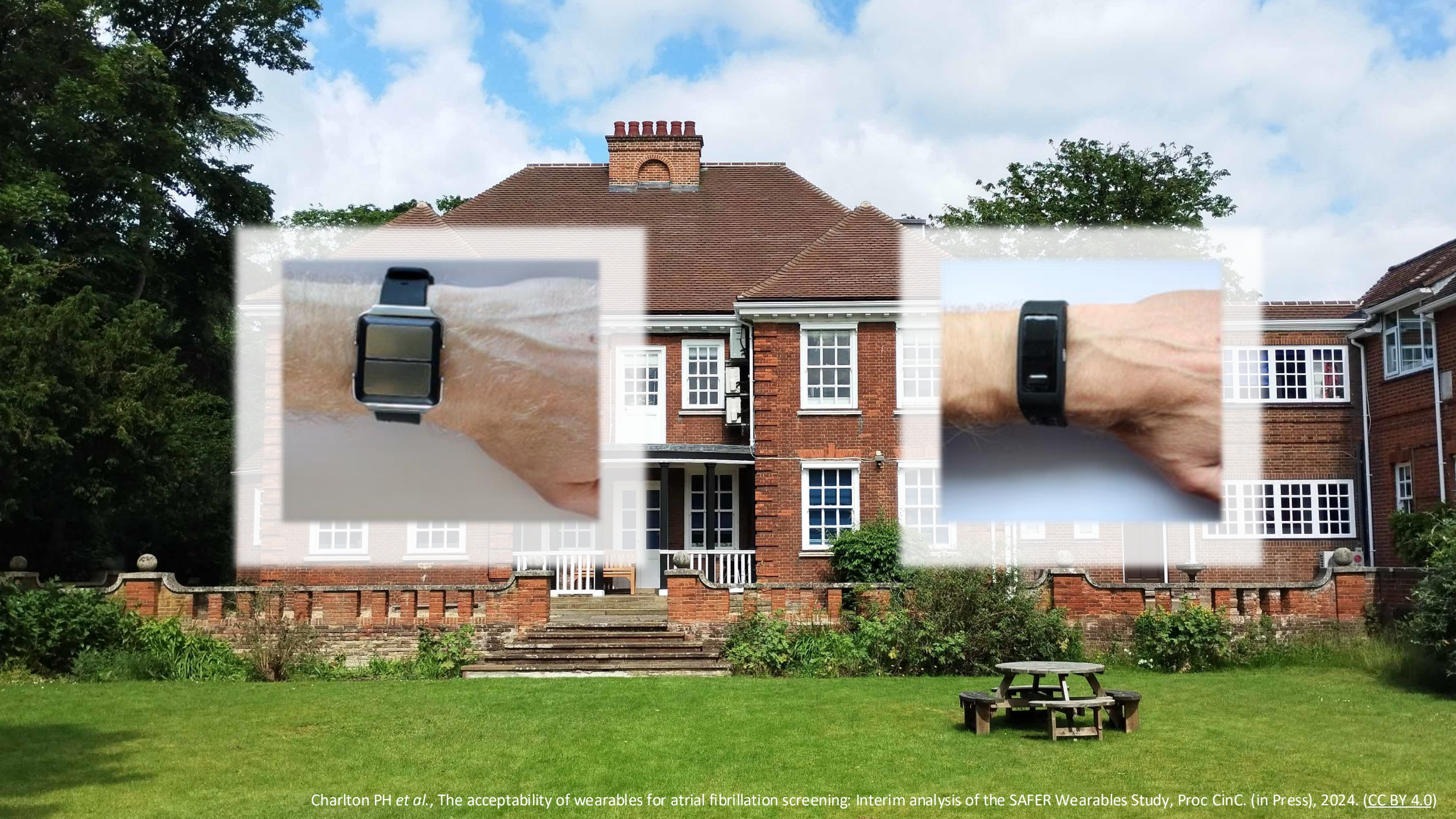
Dr Peter H. Charlton

University of Cambridge  
City, University of London

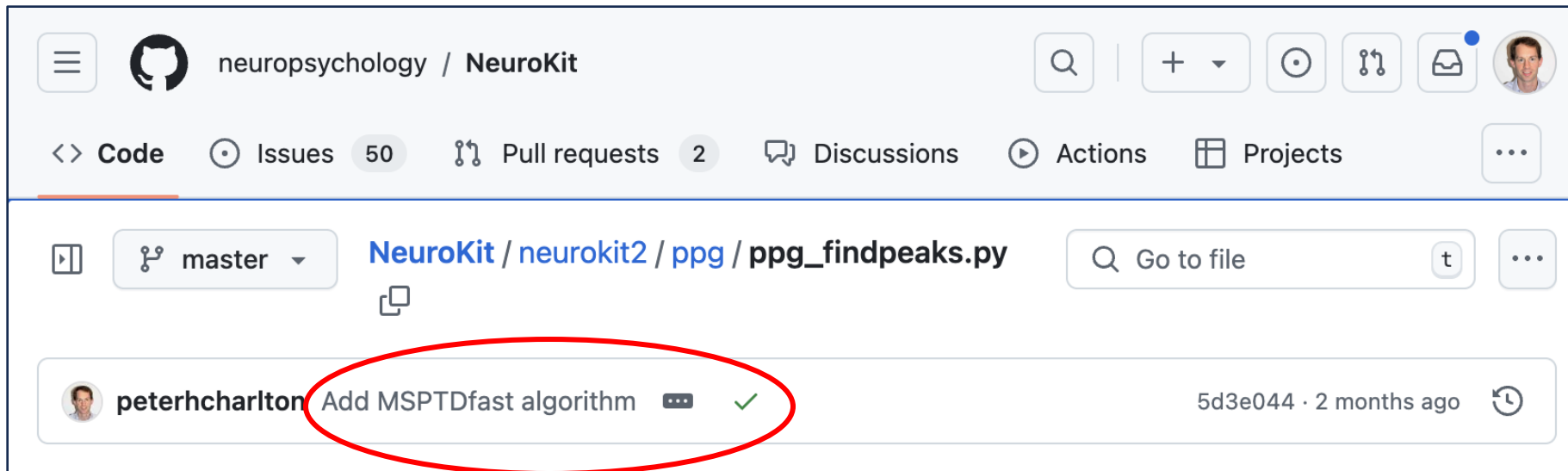












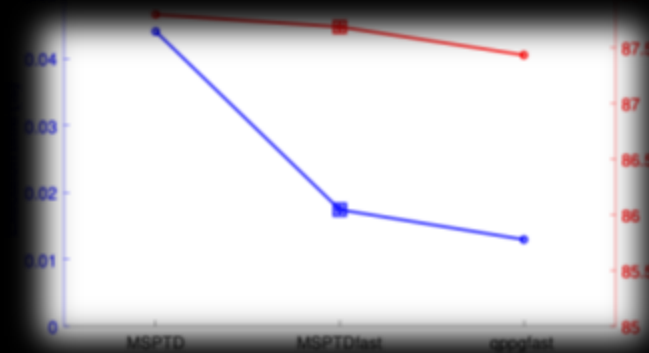
an efficient, open-source PPG beat detector

# Towards an efficient, open-source PPG beat detector

## 1. State-of-the-art



## 2. Algorithm design and evaluation

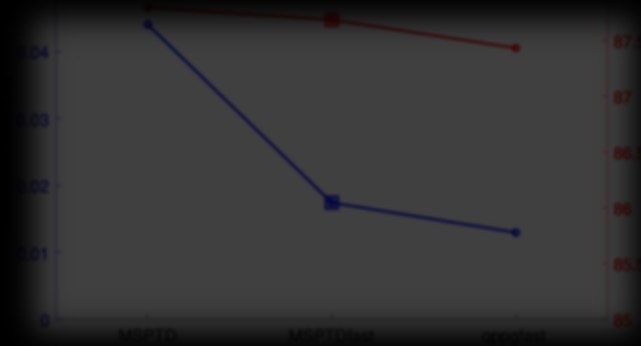


# Towards an efficient, open-source PPG beat detector

## 1. State-of-the-art



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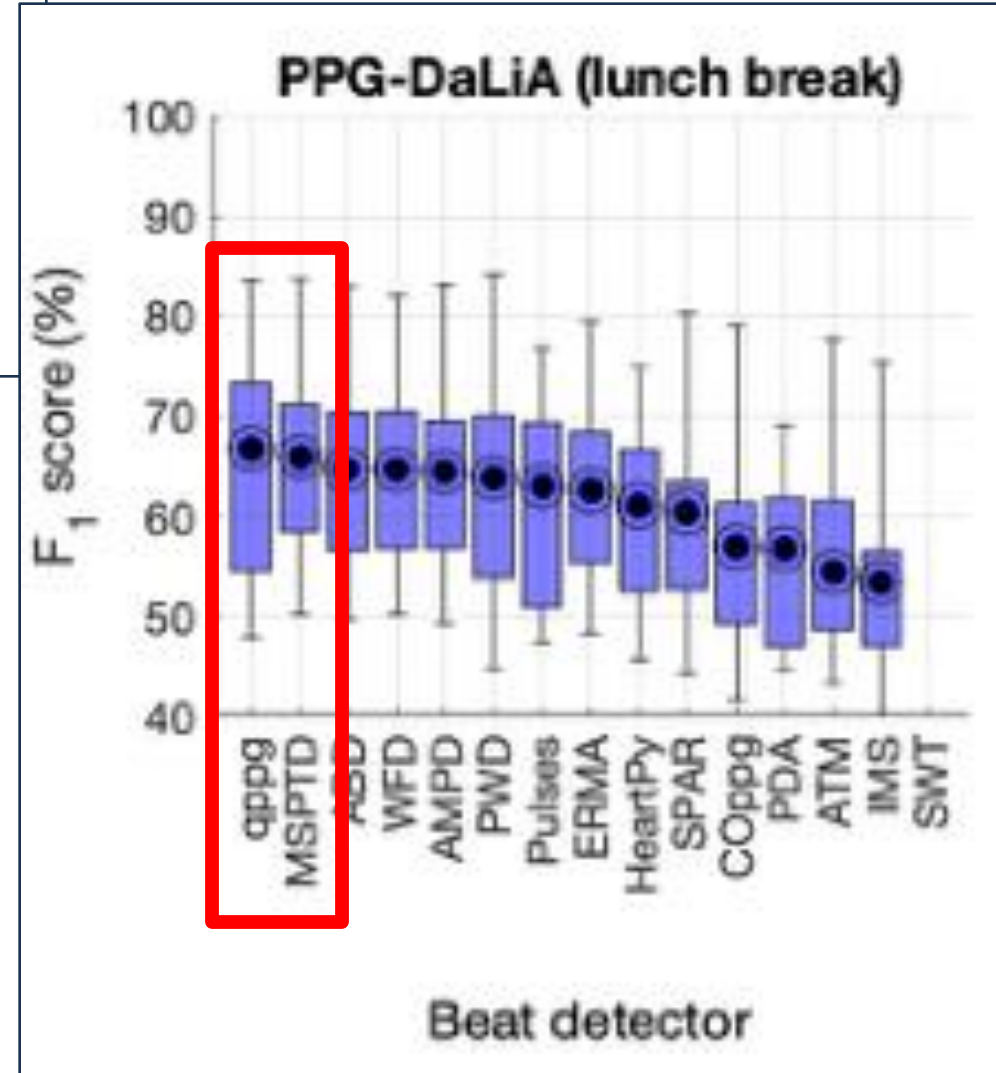


## PAPER

### Detecting beats in the photoplethysmogram: benchmarking open-source algorithms

Peter H Charlton<sup>1,2,\*</sup> , Kevin Kotzen<sup>3</sup>, Elisa Mejía-Mejía<sup>2</sup> , Philip J Aston<sup>4</sup>, Karthik Budidha<sup>2</sup>, Jonathan Mant<sup>1</sup> , Callum Pettit<sup>4</sup>, Joachim A Behar<sup>3</sup> and Panicos A Kyriacou<sup>2</sup> 

“we suggest that MSPTD and qppg performed best, although we note that this is subjective”





qppg

MSPTD

- Openly available
- GNU GPL Licence
- Highly efficient

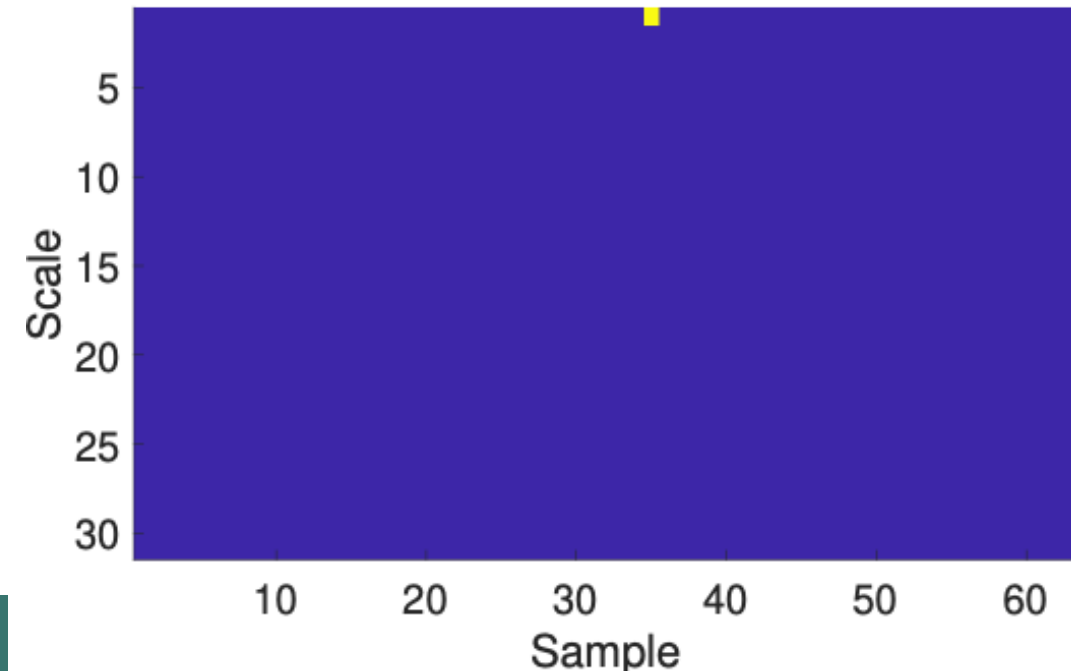
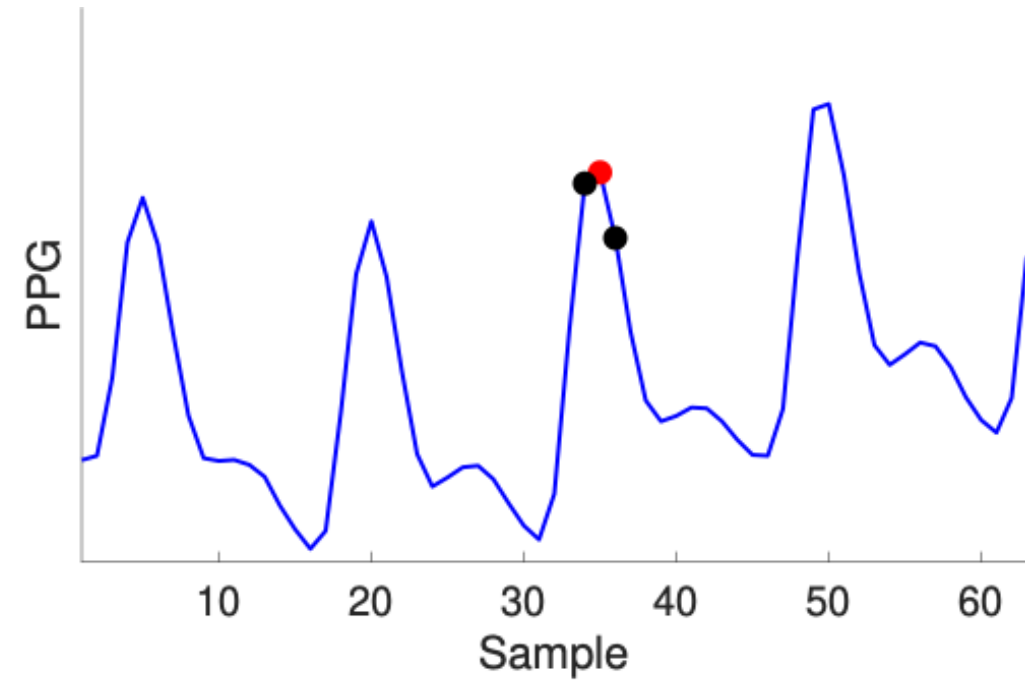
- Openly available
- MIT Licence
- Less efficient

MSPTDfast

# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Calculating the local  
maxima scalogram:

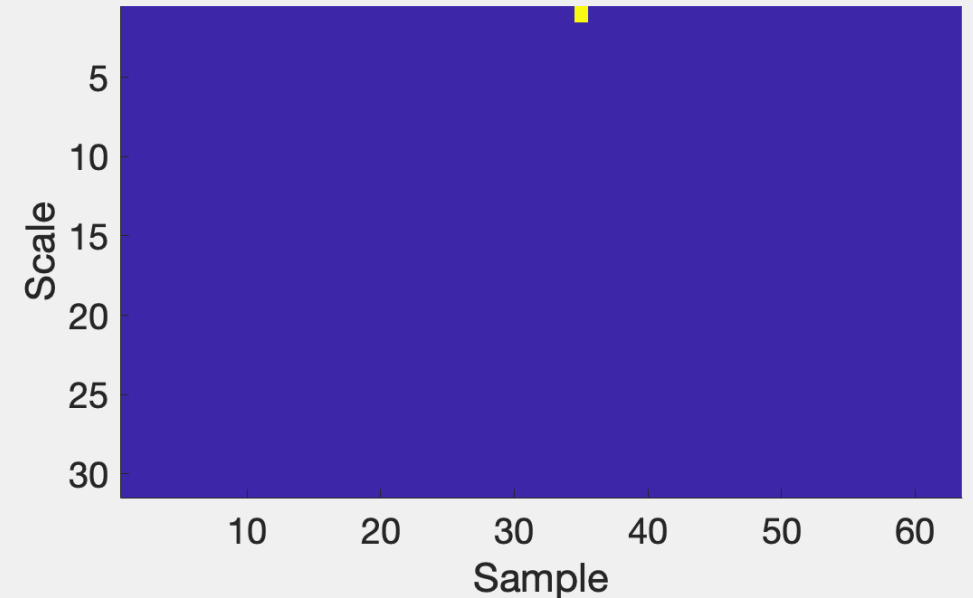
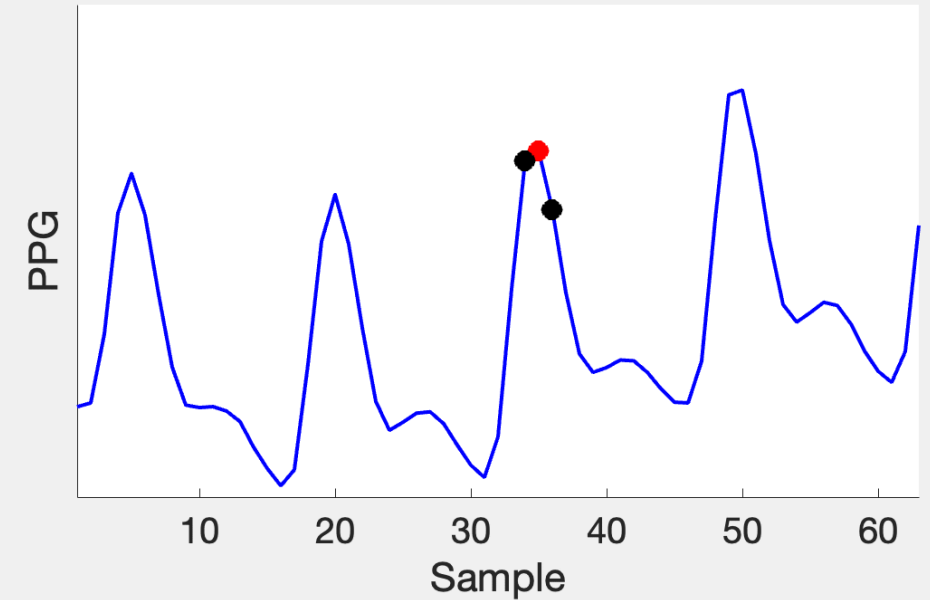
- Point of interest
- Points separated from the point of interest by  $n$  samples.  $n$  is the scale.



# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Calculating the local  
maxima scalogram:

A pulse peak which is  
higher than most of its  
surrounding neighbours.

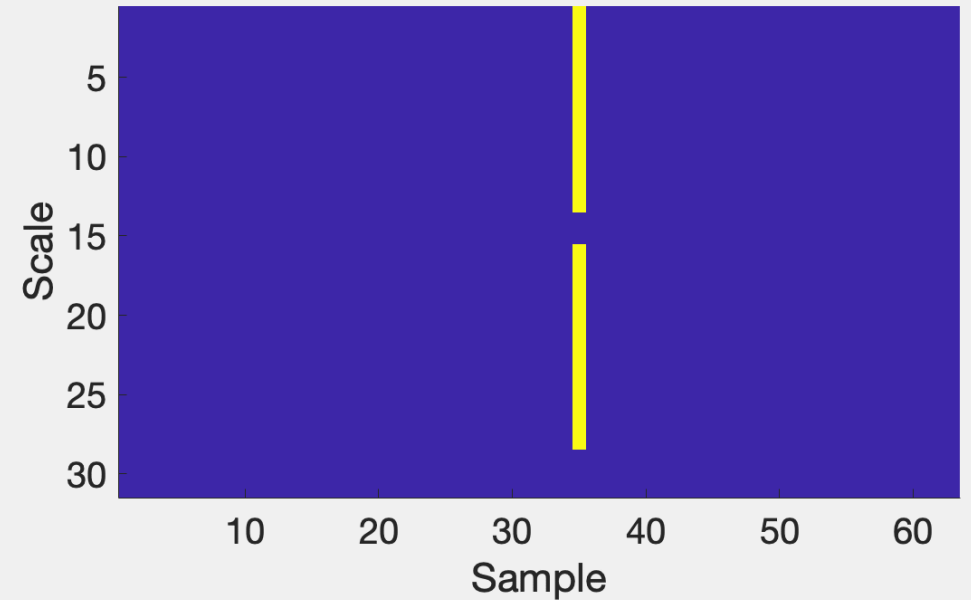
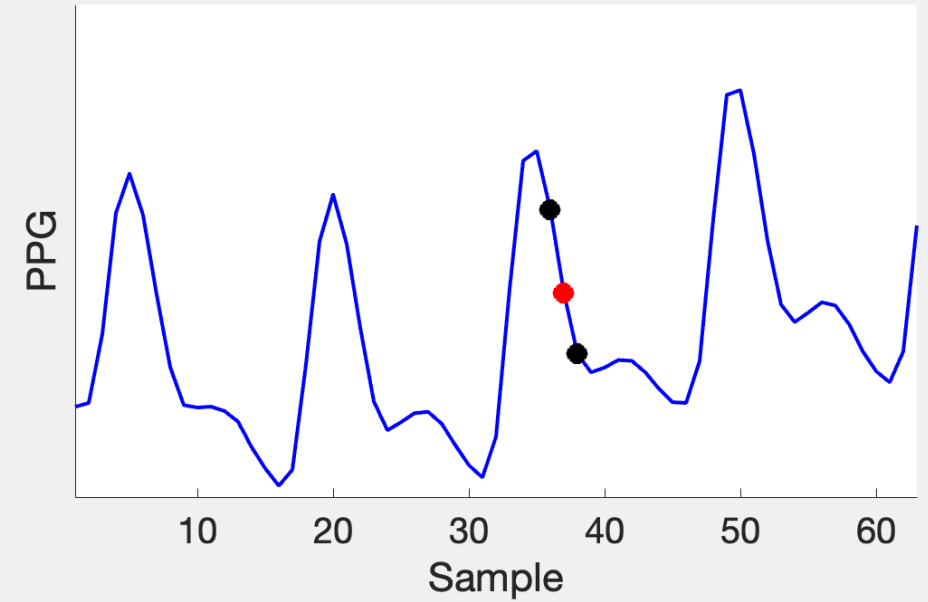




# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Calculating the local  
maxima scalogram:

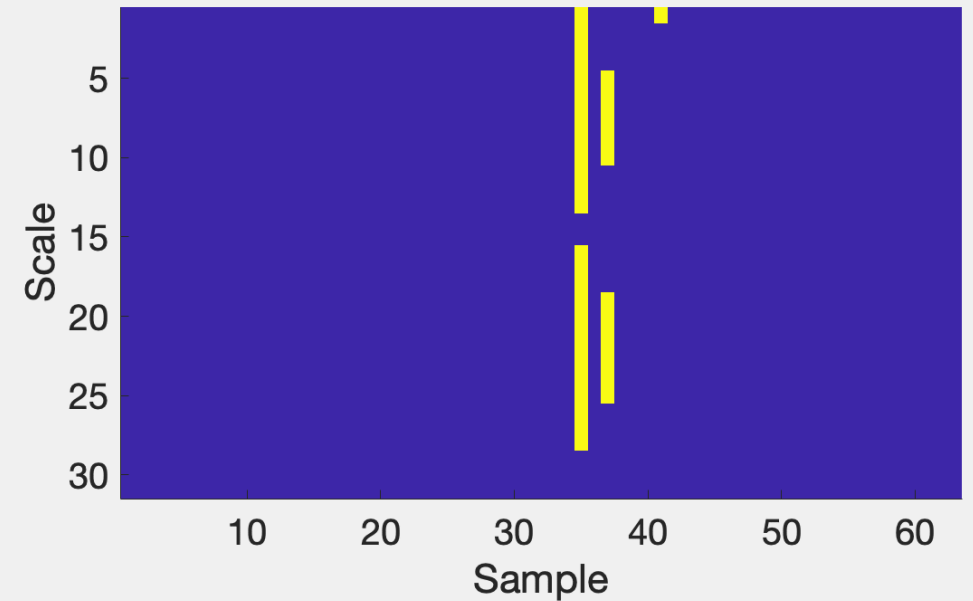
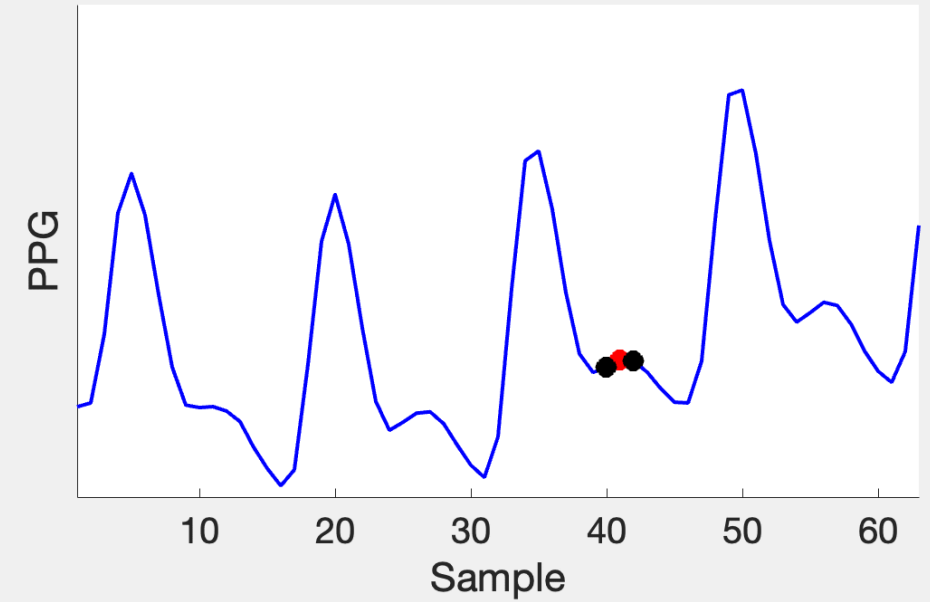
A point on a downslope  
which is lower than most  
of its surrounding  
neighbours.



# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Calculating the local  
maxima scalogram:

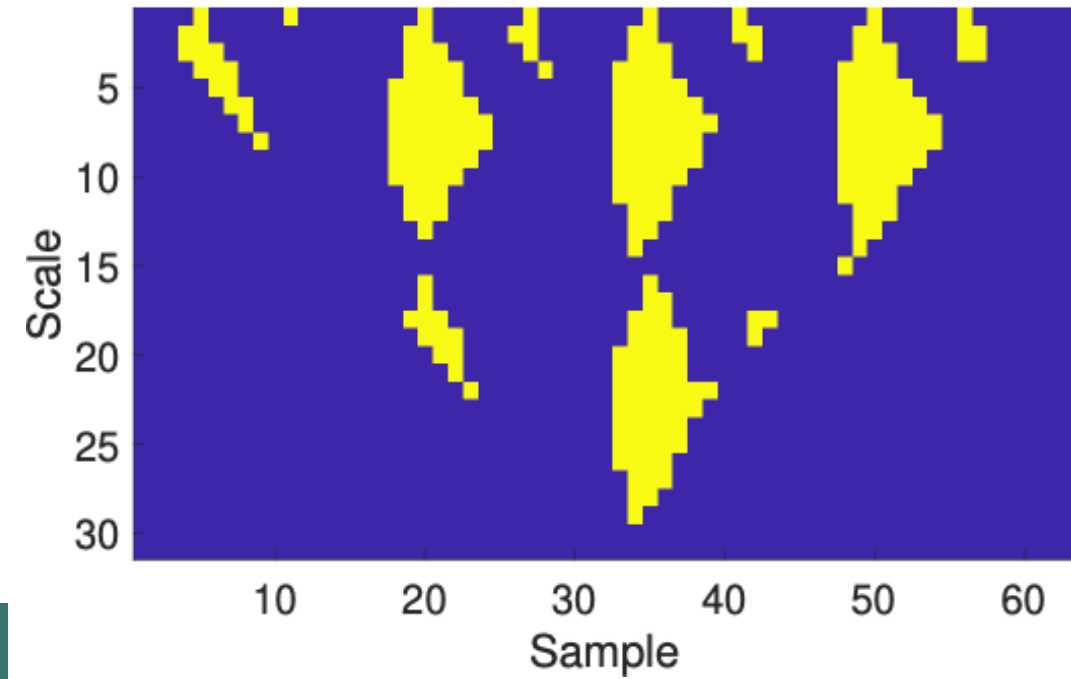
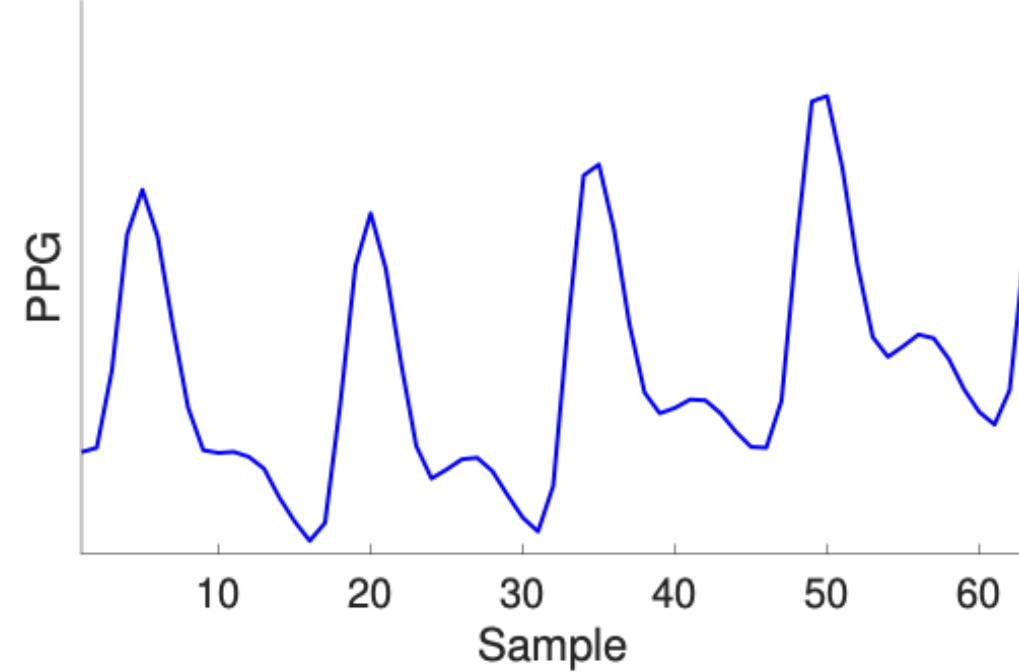
A dicrotic notch which is  
higher than a few of its  
surrounding neighbours.



# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Calculating the local  
maxima scalogram:

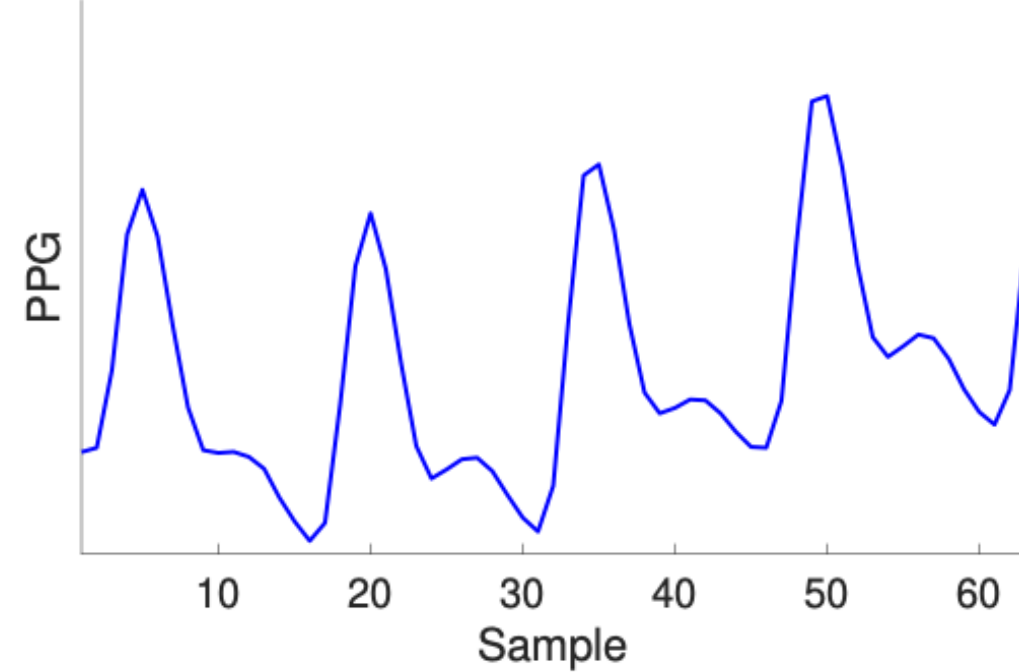
This process is repeated for each  
point on the PPG signal to produce a  
'local maxima scalogram'.



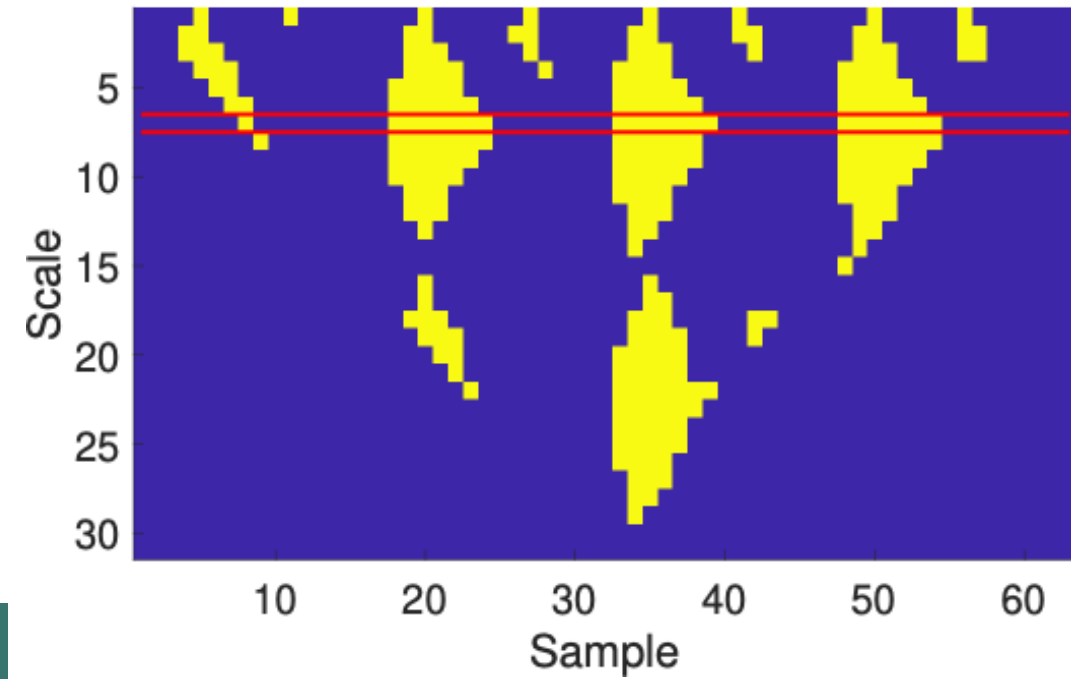


# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Identifying pulse peaks:

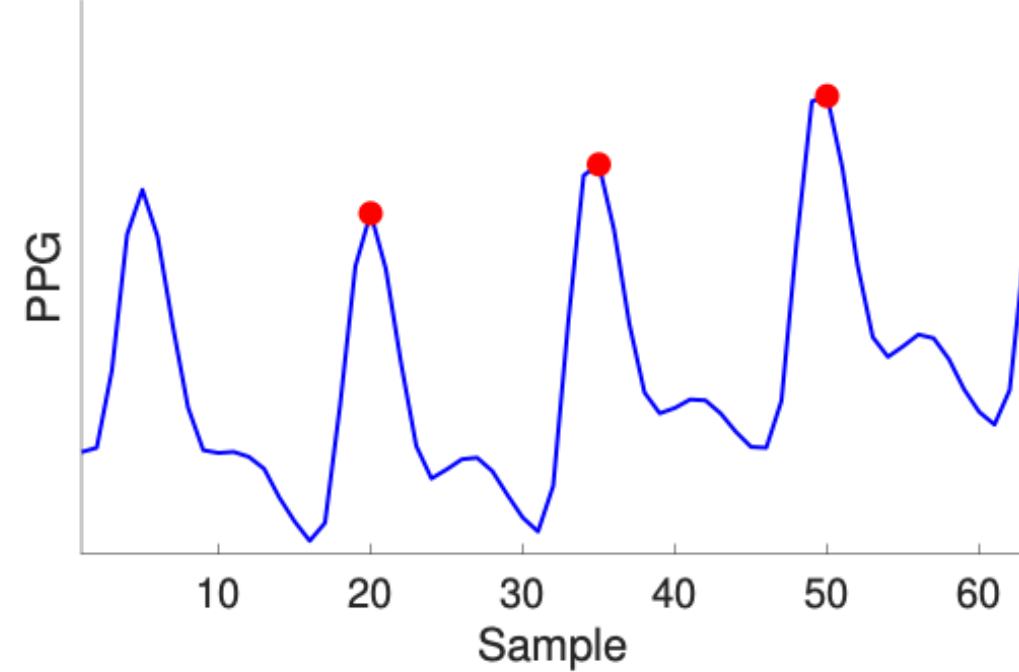


The scale with the most  
local maxima is identified.

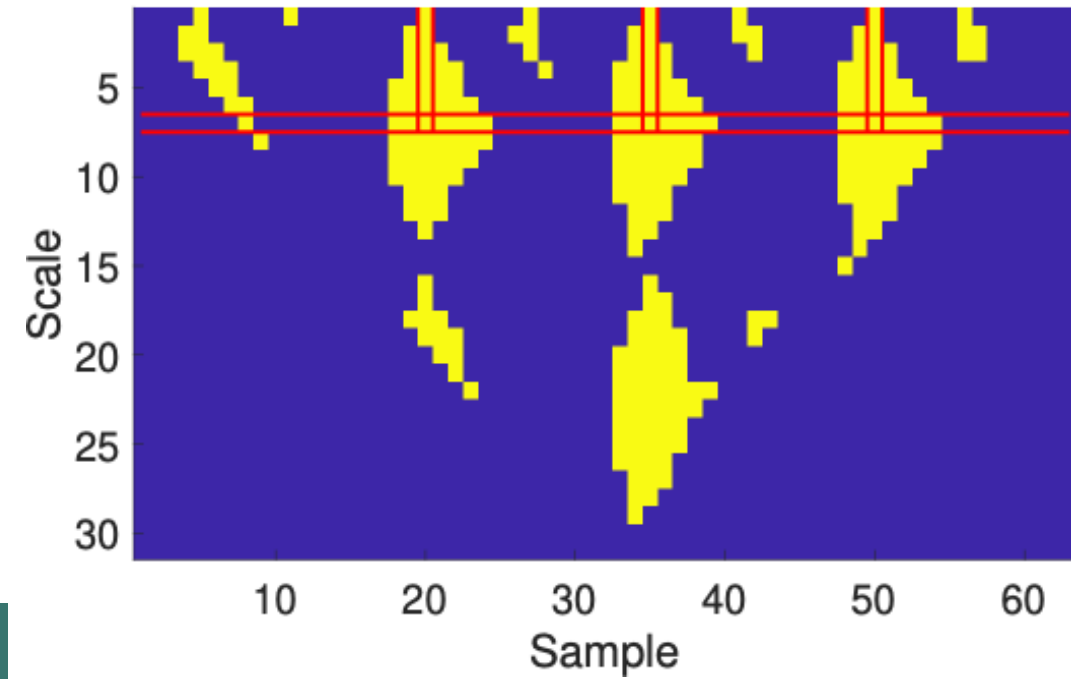


# The MSPTD beat detection algorithm

Identifying pulse peaks:



Peaks are any samples  
which are maxima at all  
scales up until this  
identified scale.

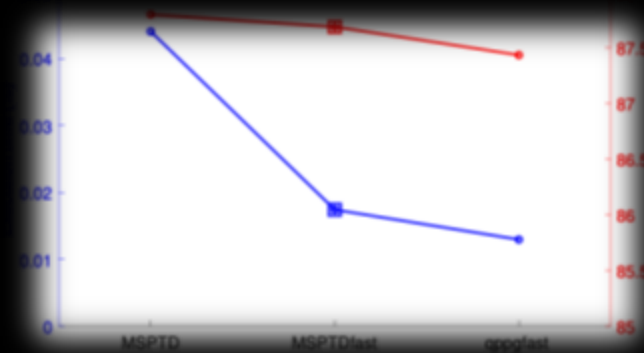


# Towards an efficient, open-source PPG beat detector

## 1. State-of-the-art



## 2. Algorithm design and evaluation

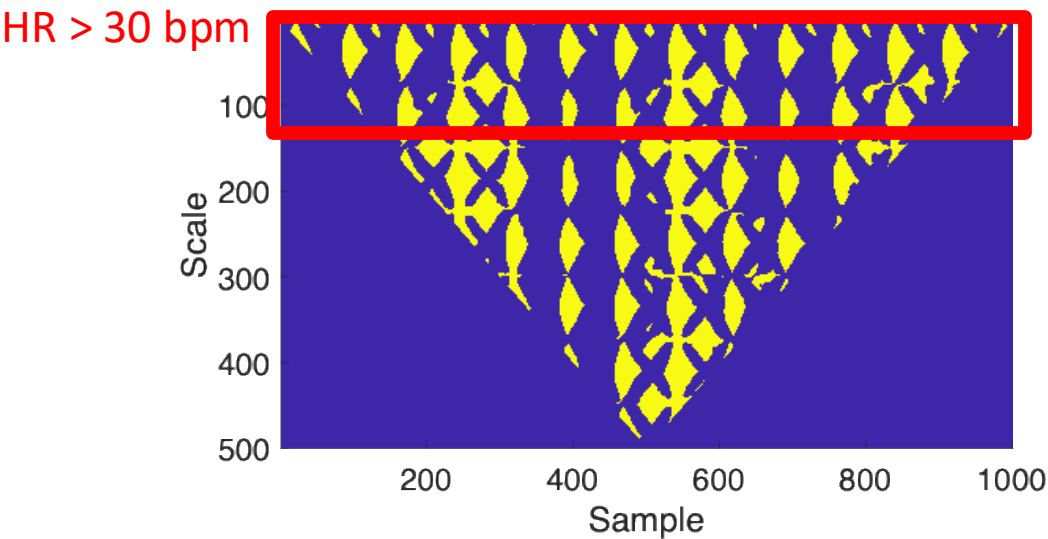
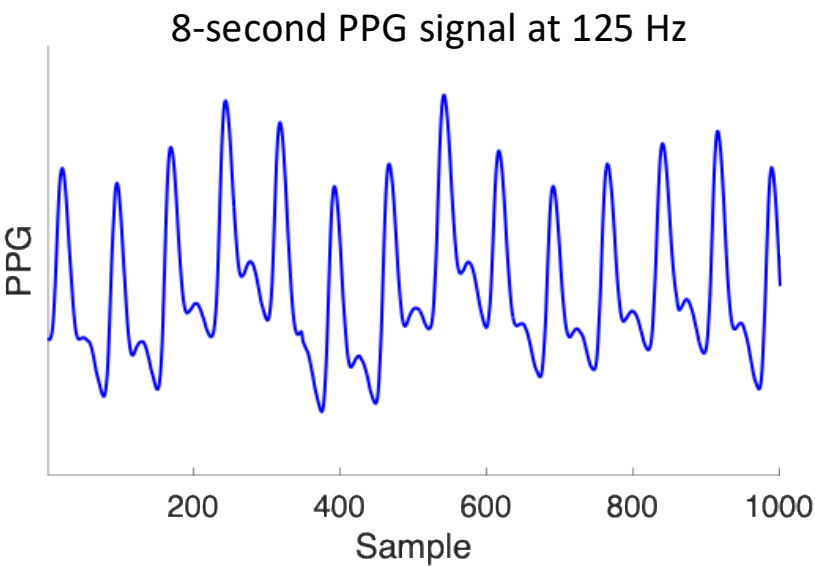




# Potential improvements

Potential improvement	Options
LMSs to calculate	peaks and onsets * peaks onsets
LMS calculation method	nested for loops * vectorised approach
LMS scales used	$N/2$ * only scales $>HR_{min}$ , with $HR_{min} \in \{30, 40\}$ bpm.
Sampling frequency (Hz)	original * 10 20 30
Window duration (s)	4 6 8 * 10

\* indicates the approach used in MSPTD



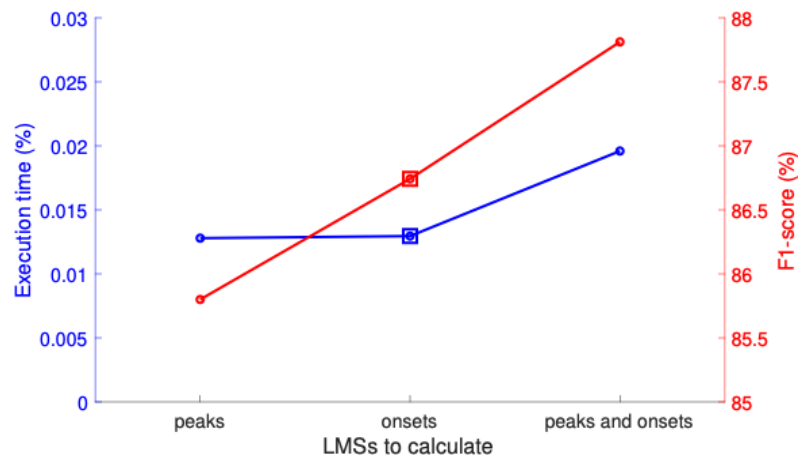
# Methods

- Evaluate the impact of each option for each potential improvement on:
  - Execution time (displayed as a percentage of signal duration)
  - F1-score (harmonic mean of sensitivity and PPV of beat detection)
    - In comparison to ECG-derived heartbeats (time-aligned, 150ms tolerance)
- Create 'MSPTDfast' using all potential improvements found to reduce execution time whilst not substantially reducing F1-score.
- Compare 'MSPTDfast' to MSPTD [1] and qppg [2] beat detection algorithms.
- All performed on PPG-DaLiA dataset [3]:
  - Wrist PPG signals acquired using Empatica E4
  - From 15 young subjects
  - During a lunchbreak (duration of 32.4 (28.7-37.2) minutes)

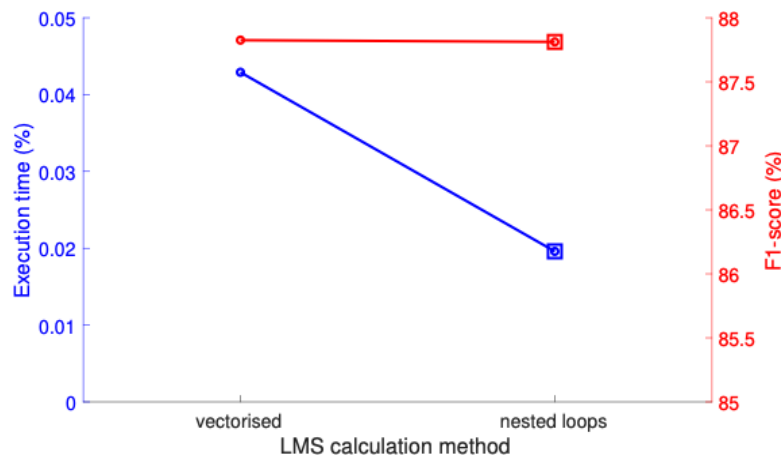
[1] S. M. Bishop and A. Ercole, "Multi-scale peak and trough detection optimised for periodic and quasi-periodic neuroscience data," in Intracranial Pressure and Neuromonitoring XVI. Acta Neurochirurgica Supplement, T. Heldt, Ed. Springer, 2018, vol. 126, pp. 189–195.

[2] A. N. Vest et al., "An open source benchmarked toolbox for cardiovascular waveform and interval analysis," Physiological Measurement, vol. 39, no. 10, 2018.

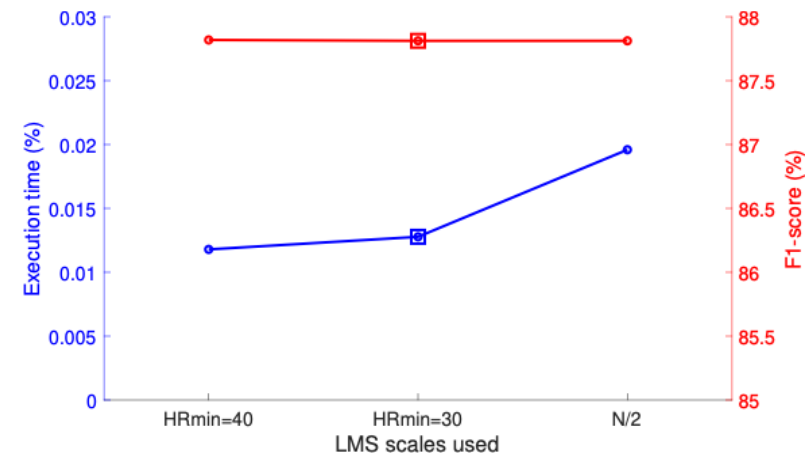
[3] A. Reiss et al., "Deep PPG: large-scale heart rate estimation with convolutional neural networks," Sensors, vol. 19, no. 14, p. 3079, 2019.



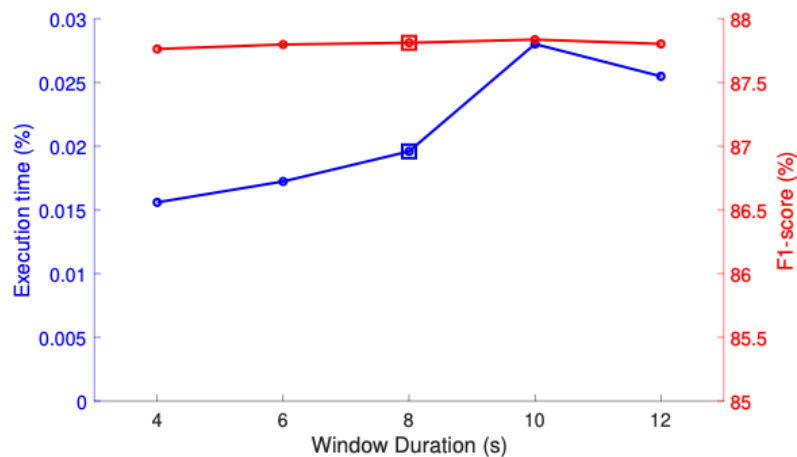
Original 'peaks and onsets' approach retained to maintain F1-score



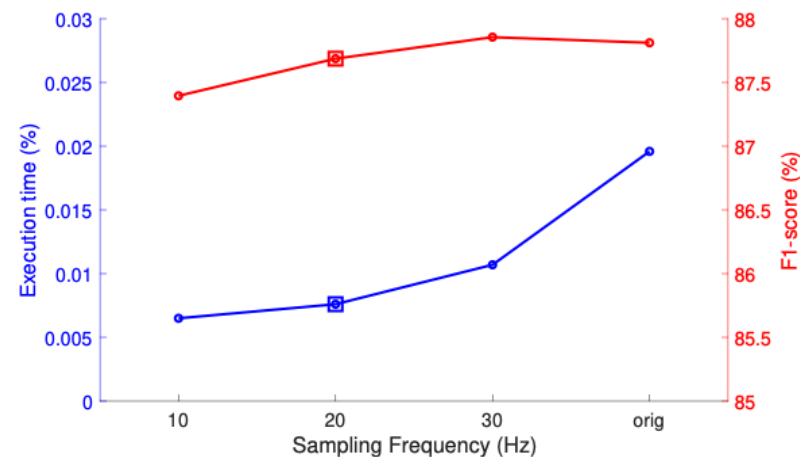
Original 'nested loops' approach retained



Only scales corresponding to HRs > 30 bpm used.

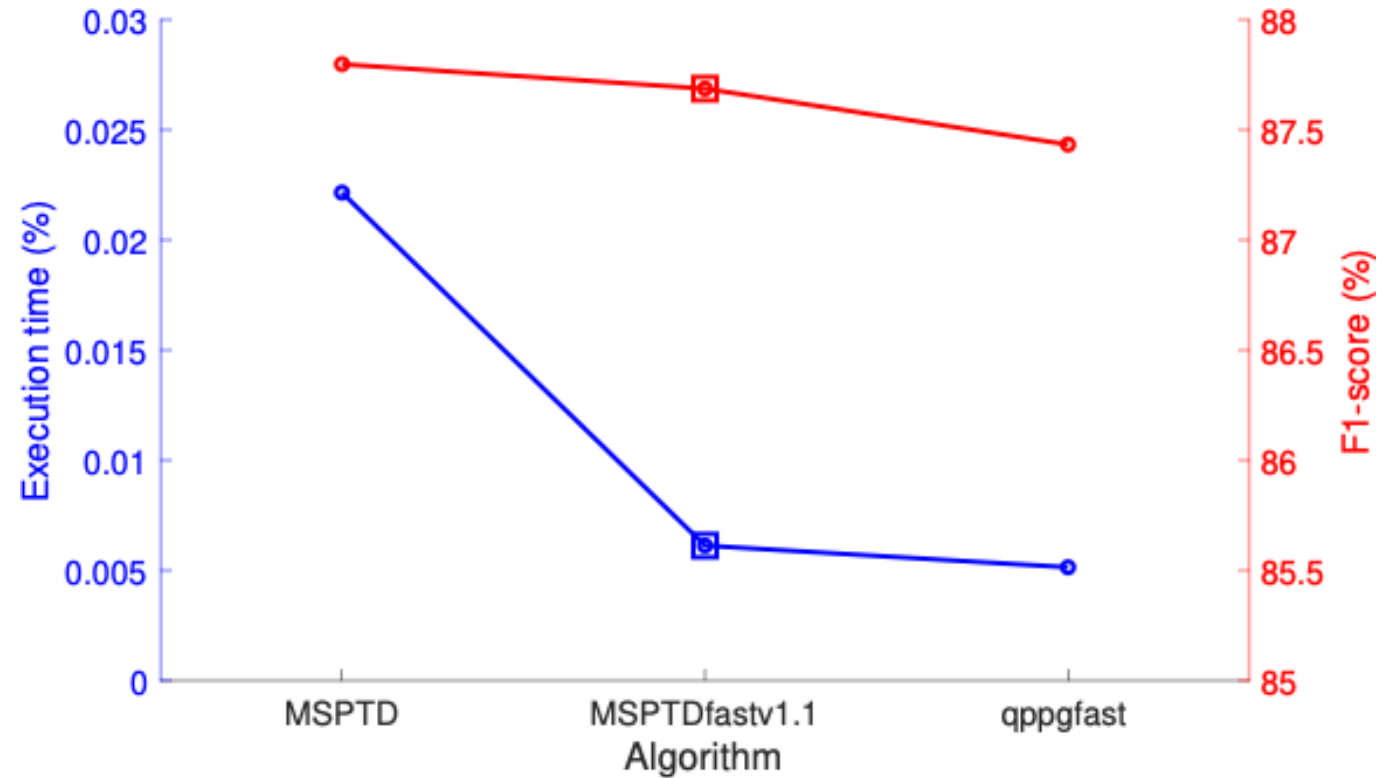


Original window duration of 8 seconds retained.



Signals downsampled to 20 Hz prior to analysis

# Results



‘MSPTDfast’ had an execution time of less than one third (27.7%) of the ‘MSPTD’ algorithm.  
This was achieved with only a very small reduction in F1-score of 0.1%.

# Results

PPG-beats

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**MSPTDFASTV1\_BEAT\_DETECTOR**  
- MSPTDfastv1 (v1.1) PPG beat detector.

Inputs

Outputs

Reference

Author

Documentation

Version

License - MIT

## MSPTDFASTV1\_BEAT\_DETECTOR - MSPTDfastv1 (v1.1) PPG beat detector.

MSPTDFASTV1\_BEAT\_DETECTOR detects beats in a photoplethysmogram (PPG) signal using a refinement of the 'Multi-Scale Peak and Trough Detection' beat detector

### Inputs

- sig : a vector of PPG values
- fs : the sampling frequency of the PPG in Hz

### Outputs

- peaks : indices of detected pulse peaks
- onsets : indices of detected pulse troughs (i.e. onsets)

### Reference

P. H. Charlton et al., 'MSPTDfast: An Efficient Photoplethysmography Beat Detection Algorithm,' Computing in Cardiology, 2024;

<https://ppg-beats.readthedocs.io/>



# Results

<https://ppg-beats.readthedocs.io/>

PPG-beats Home Toolbox ▾ Datasets ▾ Functions ▾ Tutorials ▾

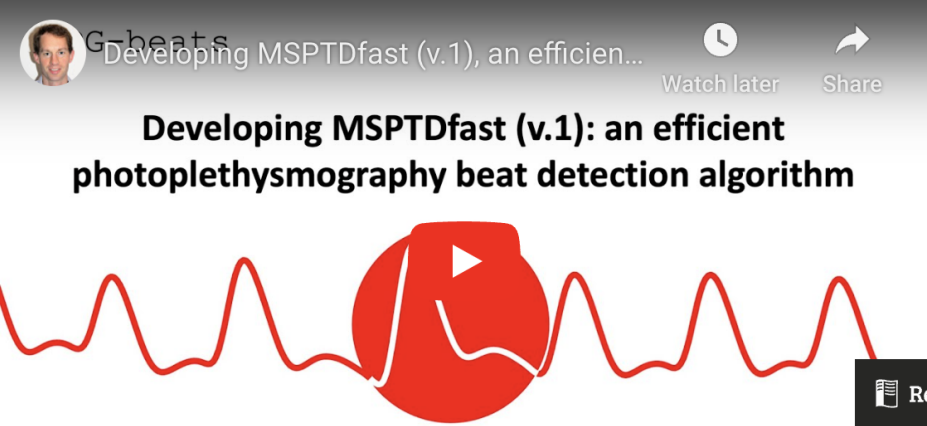
Search ← Previous Next → GitHub

## Designing MSPTDfast (v.1)

This tutorial demonstrates the processes undertaken to design MSPTDfast (v.1), which was designed using a single dataset. The publication describing this work is available [here](#).

- Install the PPG-beats toolbox. The usual instructions [here](#) are for downloading the latest version of the toolbox, whereas you will need the [v.2.0](#) release to replicate the analysis exactly. This can be downloaded from [here](#).
- Download the PPG-DaLiA dataset in Matlab format from [here](#).
- Use the `assess_multiple_datasets.m` script to run the analysis.
- During this process a new folder will have been created called `proc_data_ppg_dalia_lunch_break`. Within this folder you will find files storing the analysis steps, including the file containing the results: the `ppg_detect_stats.mat` file. Note down the location of this file.
- Finally, analyse the performance of the different algorithm configuration options by running the [msptdfast\\_cinc\\_analysis.m](#) script.

This tutorial is demonstrated in the following video:



Developing MSPTDfast (v.1), an efficient photoplethysmography beat detection algorithm

Watch later Share

Read the Docs latest

Watch on YouTube <https://ppg-beats.readthedocs.io/>

# Discussion and Conclusion

- MSPTDfast reduced execution time by 72.3% compared to 'MSPTD' whilst retaining beat detection accuracy.
- This was achieved by reducing the size of the LMS matrix by:
  - Downsampling the PPG signal
  - Reducing the number of scales over which beats are detected

With thanks to...

Panicos Kyriacou

Jonathan Mant

University of Cambridge

City, University of London

British Heart Foundation

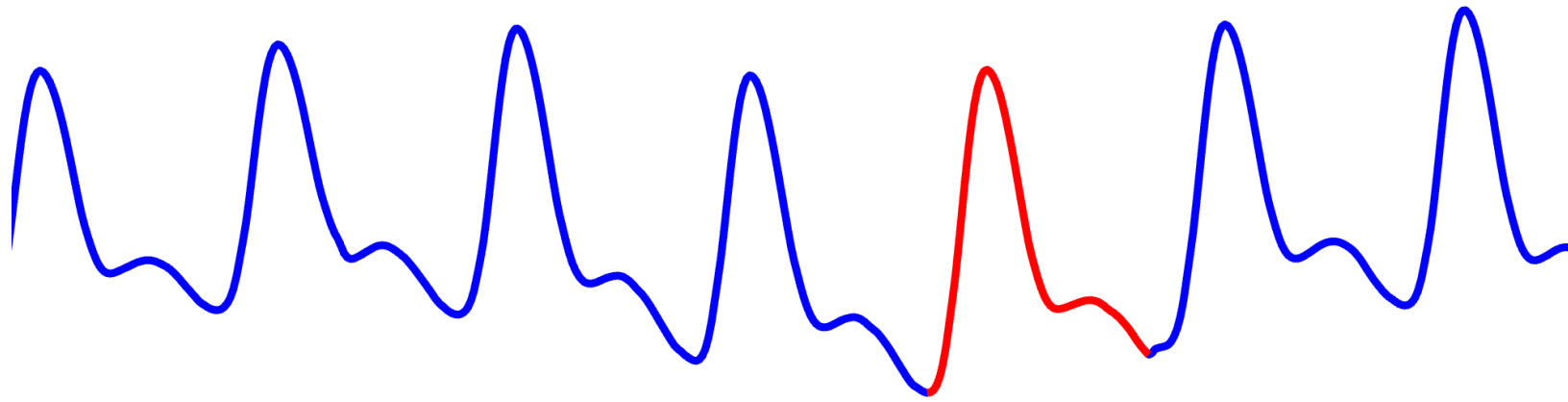
... and many others



Developed 'MSPTDfast', an efficient and accurate open-source algorithm for PPG beat detection.

Available under the permissive MIT licence

However, in an attempt to make it as reliable as a climbing rope, we are now publishing further results, implementing it in a widely used toolbox, and should test this final implementation.



# MSPTDfast: An Efficient Photoplethysmography Beat Detection Algorithm

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Slides available at:

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