

Controlling and predicting cardiac dynamics

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Currently, the only therapy to terminate life-threatening ventricular fibrillation is the application of very strong electrical shocks with adverse side effects. As an alternative to the clinical single pulse method, low-energy pulse trains have been suggested and successfully applied in ex vivo experiments. In a previous numerical study of cardiac excitable media, we showed that high success rates at low energies are possible with specific combinations of pulse frequency and pulse energy resulting in a non-monotonous behavior of the dose-response curve. Here we show that this sensitive dependence on control parameters can be overcome by decelerated pulse sequences, which can be derived from the Fourier spectrum of the ECG. Furthermore, we will briefly discuss applications of machine learning for reconstructing electrical excitation waves in a 3D excitable medium from surface observations.