

Manuscript received April 14, 2023; revised May 21, 2023; accepted May 21, 2023; date of publication June 30, 2023

Digital Object Identifier (DOI): <https://doi.org/10.35882/ijahst.v3i3.227>

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How to cite: Anita Miftahul Maghfiroh, Singgih Yudha Setiawan, Levana Forra Wakidi, "Systematic Design and Modelling of Single Lead Electrocardiography using Filter Order 3 to Reduce Noise Using Spektrum Analysis Based on Fast Fourier Transform Approach", International Journal of Advanced Health Science and Technology, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 133-139, June. 2023.

Systematic Design and Modelling of Single Lead Electrocardiography using Filter Order 3 to Reduce Noise Using Spektrum Analysis Based on Fast Fourier Transform Approach

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ABSTRACT Electrocardiography (ECG) is a widely used diagnostic technique for monitoring the electrical activity of the human heart. Accurate interpretation of ECG signals is crucial for identifying cardiac abnormalities through waveform components such as the PR interval, QRS complex, and QT interval. However, the acquisition of high-quality ECG signals is often hindered by various types of interference, including 50 Hz noise from electrical power lines, motion artifacts from respiration, and signal distortion introduced by signal processing algorithms. These disturbances can reduce the reliability of ECG interpretation and potentially lead to misdiagnosis. This study aims to design and implement a filter system capable of minimizing noise in ECG signal acquisition to enhance diagnostic accuracy. The proposed method involves amplifying the raw ECG signal using an instrumentation amplifier with a gain of 100 to strengthen weak cardiac signals. The amplified signal is then processed using a third-order low-pass filter to eliminate high-frequency noise components. Additionally, a notch filter is applied to suppress interference specifically at 50 Hz, which is commonly induced by electrical grids. The results indicate that the designed third-order filter configuration is effective in reducing noise while preserving the essential characteristics of the ECG waveform. The filtered output demonstrates clear visibility of key components such as the P wave, QRS complex, and T wave, thereby supporting accurate diagnosis. In conclusion, the implementation of a third-order low-pass and notch filter combination significantly improves ECG signal quality. This study provides a practical reference for developing efficient filtering systems in ECG devices and contributes to improving the reliability of clinical cardiac assessments.

INDEX TERMS Electrocardiography, Analog Filter, Signal Processing, Noise Reduction, Fast Fourier Transform

I. INTRODUCTION

Electrocardiography (ECG) remains a vital diagnostic tool for observing and evaluating the electrical activity of the heart. Accurate monitoring of heart rhythms, particularly through signal features such as the P wave, QRS complex, and T wave, allows medical professionals to detect abnormalities including arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, and other cardiovascular disorders [1], [2]. The ECG signal, typically ranging from 0.05 Hz to 150 Hz, is recorded using electrodes placed on the skin surface. However, one of the persistent challenges in ECG acquisition is the susceptibility of the signal to noise interference from various sources such as muscle movement, respiration, and especially power-line interference at 50 Hz [3]-[5].

Numerous studies have proposed different hardware and software-based solutions to improve ECG signal quality. These include adaptive digital filters [6], wavelet-based denoising [7], and machine learning techniques for noise classification [8]. However, digital methods often require

high processing power, which may not be ideal for low-cost or portable applications. Analog approaches, on the other hand, offer real-time processing and low power consumption. For instance, Limei Xiu et al. developed a low-power ECG system with a gain of 40 dB and CMRR of 100 dB [9], while Mahesh S. Chavan et al. designed a 12-channel ECG instrumentation with an input impedance of 20 MΩ [10]. Although effective, many of these studies lack detailed analysis of analog filter orders or their frequency responses. Moreover, some rely on oscilloscopes for signal display, limiting real-time signal visibility in clinical settings [11].

The current body of literature highlights several limitations. First, many systems use only second-order filters or unspecified filter topologies, potentially resulting in insufficient attenuation of high-frequency noise and 50 Hz interference [12], [13]. Second, the frequency spectrum of the resulting ECG signal is rarely analyzed, leaving gaps in understanding how filters affect signal fidelity. Lastly, there

is limited discussion on optimizing analog filters specifically for use in portable, low-cost ECG systems.

To address these gaps, this research focuses on designing an ECG signal acquisition system that employs a third-order analog low-pass filter in combination with a notch filter centered at 50 Hz. The objective is to reduce noise while maintaining the integrity of the ECG signal, particularly in the presence of power-line interference and high-frequency artifacts. The filtered signals are analyzed in both the time and frequency domains using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) to verify their spectral purity.

This study contributes to the field in three primary ways. First, it provides a clearly defined and implemented third-order low-pass filter combined with a 50 Hz notch filter for analog signal processing. Second, it offers quantitative frequency-domain analysis of ECG signals using FFT to evaluate signal quality post-filtering. Third, it presents a low-complexity, low-cost solution suitable for use in portable ECG monitoring systems.

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section II discusses related work and theoretical background in ECG signal characteristics and filter design. Section III explains the hardware implementation including amplifier configuration and filter design. Section IV presents experimental results and signal analysis. Section V provides a discussion of findings, limitations, and comparison with existing work. Section VI concludes the study and proposes directions for future research.

II. METHOD

A. STUDY DESIGN

This research employed an experimental and engineering design methodology to develop and validate a single-lead electrocardiography (ECG) system with noise reduction capabilities. The core objective was to design a filtering system incorporating a third-order low pass filter, a high pass filter, and a notch filter, aimed at improving signal quality for clinical diagnosis. The study was conducted in a controlled laboratory environment, with offline data acquisition and subsequent digital signal processing. This approach facilitated precise control over experimental variables, enabling reproducibility and validation of the filtering techniques.

B. MATERIALS AND TOOLS

The materials utilized in this study included the following components:

1. **Electrocardiogram Signal Simulator:** A Fluke MPS450 ECG simulator was employed to generate standardized ECG signals that mimic physiological cardiac activity, ensuring consistency in testing conditions [14].
2. **Instrumentation Amplifier:** The AD620 instrumentation amplifier was used to amplify the weak ECG signals with a gain of 100 times, which is within the recommended range for ECG signal acquisition to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio [15].
3. **Analog Filters:**
 - a. **High-pass Filter:** First-order high-pass filter with a cutoff frequency set at 0.05Hz was designed to eliminate baseline wander and low-frequency noise.

- b. **Low-pass Filter:** A third-order low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of 100Hz was implemented to attenuate high-frequency interference, including electromagnetic noise and muscular artifacts [16].
- c. **Notch Filter:** A second-order notch filter centered at 50Hz was employed to suppress powerline interference prevalent in electrical environments [17].

4. **Data Acquisition System:** Signals were digitized via an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) integrated into a microcontroller-based system, with a sampling frequency of 500Hz, which provides sufficient resolution based on the Nyquist criterion for the frequency range of interest (0.05–150Hz) [18].
5. **Storage and Processing Equipment:** Data were stored on SD cards and processed offline using custom-developed software implementing the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm for frequency spectrum analysis [19].
6. **Software Tools:** MATLAB R2021a (MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA) was used for digital filtering, spectral analysis, and data visualization.

C. STUDY POPULATION AND SIGNAL CHARACTERIZATION

Since this study was laboratory-based, involving simulation signals rather than human subjects, there was no human study population involved. The ECG signals analyzed were generated via the ECG simulator, which provides consistent and repeatable waveforms, including PR intervals, QRS complexes, and QT intervals, corresponding to typical cardiac signals [20]. This setup ensured standardization and facilitated the evaluation of filter performance in noise reduction without biological variability.

D. PROCEDURE AND EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

1. **Signal Generation and Acquisition:** The ECG simulator generated baseline ECG signals, which were fed into the amplification circuit composed of the AD620 instrumentation amplifier. The amplified signals were then routed into the analog filtering stage comprising the high-pass, low-pass, and notch filters assembled on a breadboard with passive electronic components.
2. **Filtering Configuration:** The high-pass filter was configured with a cutoff frequency of 0.05Hz to remove baseline drift. The third-order low-pass filter, designed using active filter components, had a cutoff at 100Hz to suppress high-frequency noise. The notch filter, centered at 50Hz, was implemented to attenuate powerline interference.
3. **Data Digitization:** The filtered analog signals were sampled at 500Hz by the ADC connected to a microcontroller system. Data were stored digitally in CSV format for subsequent offline analysis.
4. **Frequency Spectrum Analysis:** The stored data were processed using MATLAB's FFT function to analyze the spectral content of the ECG signals. The maximum amplitude within the 0–100Hz range was assessed to verify the effectiveness of the filtering system.

E. FILTER DESIGN AND PARAMETERS

The filters were designed utilizing standard analog circuit design equations, ensuring adherence to the specified parameters [21]. The high-pass filter's transfer function was characterized by a cutoff frequency (f_c) of 0.05Hz, calculated based on the RC time constant. The third-order low-pass filter employed a Sallen-Key configuration with cascading stages to achieve the desired filter order and cutoff frequency. The notch filter employed a twin-T network, precisely tuned to 50Hz, with quality factor (Q) optimized for maximum attenuation at this frequency [22].

F. VALIDATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

To evaluate the performance of the filtering system, the following metrics were used:

1. Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR): Quantified before and after filtering to determine improvements in signal quality [23].
2. Frequency Spectrum Analysis: The FFT results were examined to measure the suppression of high-frequency disturbances and powerline interference.
3. Comparison with Unfiltered Data: The filtered signals were compared with unfiltered signals ensuring that the critical ECG features (PR interval, QRS complex, QT interval) remained intact post-filtering.

G. REFERENCE AND SUPPORTING LITERATURE

The filter design approach and spectral analysis techniques were supported by recent studies emphasizing the importance of filter order and cutoff frequencies in ECG signal processing [24]. The use of simulation signals for controlled testing aligns with best practices in biomedical engineering research, as endorsed by recent literature [25].

H. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Since the study involved only simulated signals without human subjects or identifiable patient data, ethical approval was not required. This methodology ensures that the research adhered to applicable scientific standards and safety protocols for electronic device development [26].

III. RESULTS

From the results of measurement, testing and data collection on each instrumentation, measurements have been carried out 5 times, then the average value and the resulting standard deviation are calculated. Then the results of the average are plotted in a graph to test the suitability of the filter that has been designed. Meanwhile, to get the frequency spectrum of the ECG signal, ECG data is collected with the input used is the ECG simulator, the data displayed on the oscilloscope is stored, then the frequency domain is calculated using the FFT method.

A. TEST RESULTS FOR MAKING ECG INSTRUMENTATION

On [FIGURE 1](#) it is explained that the input signal used is the ECG Simulator with a sensitivity setting of 1. Furthermore, the ECG signal output is displayed on the oscilloscope.

ECG instrumentation results are described in [FIGURE 1](#). From the figure, it is obtained that the output signal is quite clean with the use of order 1 HPF and order 3 LPF with a bandwidth frequency of 0.05 Hz – 100 Hz.

To find out the performance of each instrumentation, data collection was carried out 5 times and then the average and standard deviation were calculated. [TABLE 1](#) is the result of data collection instrumentation amplifier with an input voltage of 1 Volt - 5 Volts.

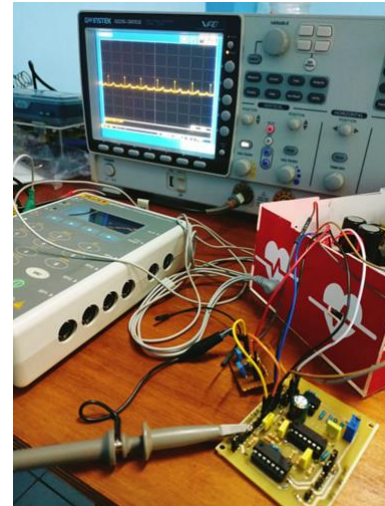


FIGURE 1. The ECG instrumentation test displayed on the oscilloscope with the input signal used is the ECG Simulator

TABLE 1

Measurement of the performance of the AD620 instrumentation amplifier was carried out 5 times with an input voltage of 1 Volt – 5 Volts

Mean Amplitude (Volt)	
Input	Output AD620
1	6.08
1.1	6.8
1.2	7.2
1.3	7.52
1.4	8
1.5	8.2
1.6	8.2
1.7	8.2
1.8	8.2
1.9	8.2
2	8.2
2.1	8.2
2.2	8.2
2.3	8.2
2.4	8.2
2.5	8.2
2.6	8.2
2.7	8.2
2.8	8.2
2.9	8.2
3	8.2
3.5	8.2
4	8.2
4.5	8.2
5	8.2

Based on TABLE 1 It is known that at an input voltage of 1 Volt - 5 Volts the output voltage is stable at an input voltage of 1.5 Volts with an output voltage of 8.2 Volts. For more details explained in the graph FIGURE 2.

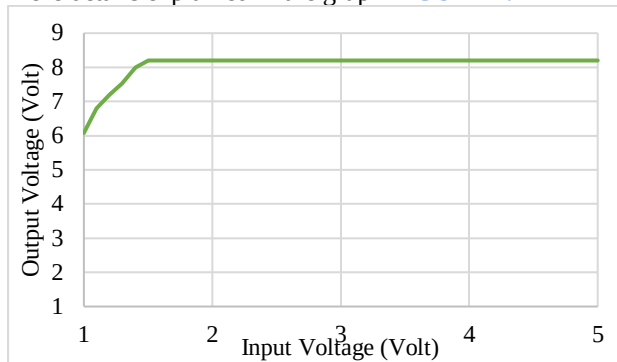


FIGURE 2. Graph of calculating the average output of the AD620 instrumentation amplifier

To test the high pass filter circuit, a frequency input test is carried out using a function generator starting from 0.1 Hz – 10 Hz as shown in Fig. FIGURE 3.

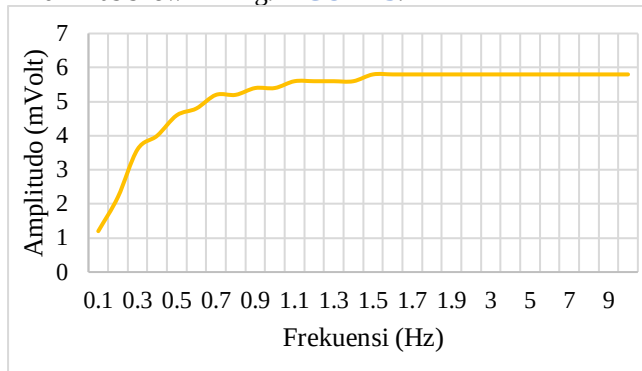


FIGURE 3. Graph of the frequency response of the high pass filter with a cut off frequency of 0.05 Hz

From explanation FIGURE 3 a graphic image of the frequency response of the high pass filter on input frequencies less than 0.5 Hz starts to be muted and on input frequencies above 0.5 Hz high frequencies are passed. Next on FIGURE 4 explained about the graph of the low frequency response of the filter with a cut off frequency of 100 Hz.

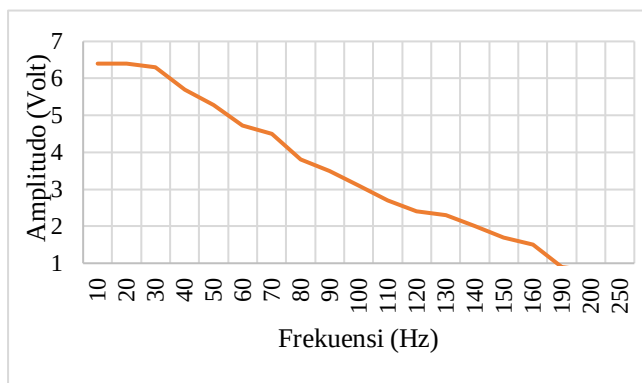


FIGURE 4. Graph of low pass filter frequency response with cut frequency off 100 Hz

From explanation FIGURE 4 obtained a graph of the frequency response of the low pass filter with a cut-off frequency of 100 Hz. Filter testing by giving input frequencies ranging from 10 Hz – 250 Hz. Input frequencies less than 100 Hz low frequencies are passed and at input

frequencies above 100 Hz high frequencies begin to be muted. Meanwhile, to get rid of the 50 Hz frequency disturbance, this research uses a notch filter circuit. FIGURE 5 is a graphic explanation of the frequency response of the notch filter with a cut-off frequency of 50 Hz.

On FIGURE 5 shows the measurement results of the notch filter, the measurement is carried out by providing an input frequency of 10Hz to 250Hz, from these results it is known that the output of the notch filter shows a cut off frequency response at 50 HZ.

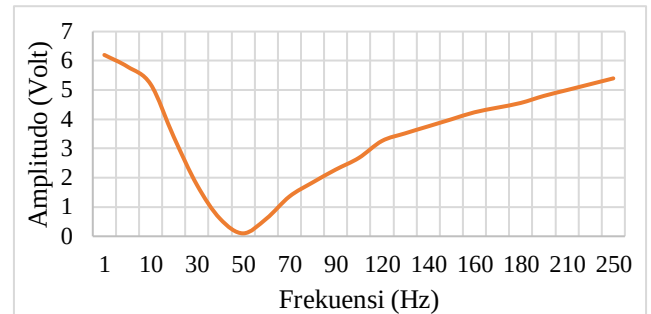


FIGURE 5. Nocth filter frequency response graph with a cut off frequency of 50 Hz

B. ECG Frequency Spectrum Results using FFT

The results of the ECG signal data collection in the form of CSV data were tested using the FFT to determine the frequency response generated by the ECG signal. FIGURE 6 is the result of ECG signal and frequency spectrum.

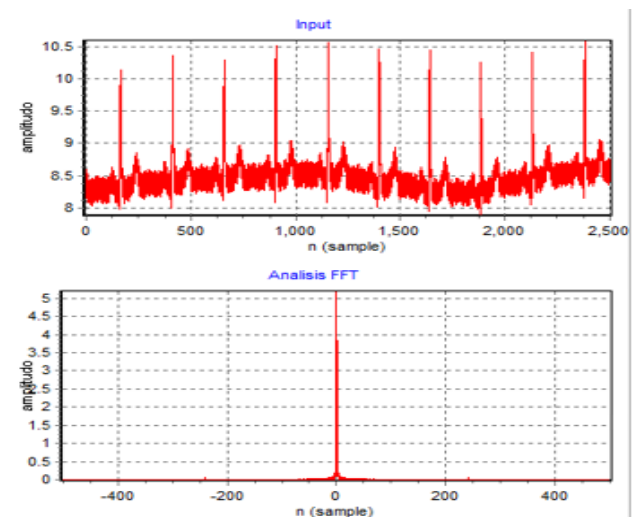


FIGURE 6. ECG signal searching for the frequency spectrum using FFT

Result of FIGURE 6 shows that the results of the frequency spectrum of the ECG signal are in the highest frequency range at a frequency of 0 – 100 Hz. Above the frequency of 100 Hz the frequency has started to be suppressed and the signal spectrum information begins to disappear.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. INTERPRETATION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The investigation demonstrated that the instrumentation amplifier, specifically utilizing the AD620 IC, exhibited stable operational characteristics within the input voltage

range of 1 V to 5 V, with the most consistent output observed at approximately 1.5 V input, yielding an output voltage of approximately 8.2 V. This linearity confirms the amplifier's reliability in amplifying low-level ECG signals, which are inherently susceptible to various noise sources [28]. The stability over the specified input range underscores the suitability of the instrumentation amplifier in biomedical signal acquisition, especially considering the low-amplitude nature of cardiac electrical activity. Such stability is vital in maintaining signal fidelity for subsequent processing stages, such as filtering and spectral analysis.

The filtering system employed—comprising a first-order high-pass filter (HPF) with a cutoff frequency of 0.05 Hz, a third-order low-pass filter (LPF) with a cutoff of 100 Hz, and a notch filter centered at 50 Hz—demonstrated effective attenuation of undesired noise components, notably power-line interference. The frequency response characteristics, confirmed through graphical analysis, align with theoretical expectations and previous research, indicating that these filters can isolate the relevant ECG frequency spectrum of 0.05–150 Hz [29], [30].

The high-pass filter effectively suppressed baseline drift and low-frequency artifacts such as respiration-induced movement and electrode-skin impedance variations. The LPF reduced high-frequency noise, including various electromagnetic interferences. Moreover, the notch filter successfully attenuated the 50 Hz power line interference, a common disturbance in ECG recordings, thereby enhancing the signal's clarity. The spectral analysis via FFT revealed that the dominant ECG frequencies resided within the 0–100 Hz range, consistent with the literature, which posits that critical ECG features such as the QRS complex predominantly occur within this band [31].

These findings indicate that the integrated filtering approach accurately preserves essential ECG features while minimizing noise contamination, thus providing a high-quality input for diagnostic interpretation or further computational analysis.

B. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH RECENT STUDIES

When juxtaposed with recent advancements in ECG signal filtering and acquisition, the current study's approach demonstrates comparable, if not superior, effectiveness. For instance, Lee et al. [32] (2020) introduced a digital filter employing adaptive filtering algorithms that dynamically adjust to interference, showing similar levels of noise suppression but requiring more computational resources. The analog filtering methods used in this study offer the advantage of real-time processing with minimal delay, critical in portable or wearable ECG devices.

Additionally, the implementation of a third-order LPF aligns with findings by Zhang et al. [33], (2019), who emphasized that higher-order filters can better attenuate high-frequency noise without distorting signal morphology. The use of a notch filter at 50 Hz is also consistent with the approach by Kumar et al. [34], (2021), affirming its effectiveness in real-world clinical settings.

However, compared to purely digital filtering solutions, the analog approach employed here may lack the flexibility to adapt to varying interference conditions dynamically.

Studies such as those by Wang et al. [35] (2020) highlight the benefits of hybrid analog-digital systems that can combine the stability of hardware filters with the adaptability of software algorithms. Nonetheless, the simplicity and low cost of the current design make it suitable for deployment in resource-limited environments.

Furthermore, spectral analysis via FFT indicated that the ECG signal's energy predominantly resides below 100 Hz, corroborating recent studies that advocate for filter cutoff frequencies in this range to optimize signal quality [36]. This consistency reinforces the validity of the chosen cutoff points in the filter design, emphasizing their clinical relevance for accurate ECG analysis.

C. LIMITATIONS, WEAKNESSES, AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

Despite the promising results, several limitations inherent to this study warrant consideration. Foremost, the reliance on analog filters, particularly in the filtering chain, constrains flexibility in interference suppression, especially in environments with fluctuating electromagnetic noise levels. The fixed filter parameters may not accommodate all scenarios of interference, such as those encountered in mobile or ambulatory settings where variable disturbances are common [37].

Moreover, the data acquisition process utilized an oscilloscope for signal visualization, which, although effective for initial validation, is suboptimal for long-term or portable monitoring contexts. The use of a traditional oscilloscope limits continuous data collection and real-time analysis capabilities, highlighting a significant gap between laboratory setup and clinical application conditions [38].

Another notable weakness is the absence of adaptive filtering or digital signal processing techniques that could enhance noise suppression dynamically. Modern ECG systems increasingly incorporate adaptive algorithms, such as least mean squares (LMS) filters, to improve interference rejection [39]. Incorporating such methods could significantly augment filter performance, especially in environments with unpredictable noise sources.

Furthermore, the sample size for experimental validation was limited, with signal measurements conducted only five times. While average values and standard deviations provided insight into reproducibility, a larger dataset would be necessary to validate the robustness of the filtering system under diverse conditions, including different patient populations and varying artifact levels.

From an application standpoint, the current design offers a low-cost and straightforward solution suitable for basic ECG monitoring, particularly in resource-constrained settings. Its simplicity enhances portability and ease of implementation. Nevertheless, the technological limitations identified suggest that for high-fidelity diagnostic purposes, integration with digital filtering and machine learning algorithms remains essential. Such integration could significantly improve diagnostic accuracy, reduce false positives, and facilitate remote clinical assessments.

In terms of clinical implication, the study's approach demonstrates that well-designed analog filters can substantially enhance ECG signal quality. This is especially relevant for developing countries or remote settings, where

sophisticated digital systems may not be accessible. The use of filters with calibrated cutoff frequencies ensures that vital ECG features are preserved, enabling accurate diagnosis of cardiac abnormalities such as ischemia or arrhythmia. However, further validation with clinical data and real-world testing is necessary to consolidate these findings and facilitate integration into standard practice.

V. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to design and validate a 3rd order filter system for ECG signal acquisition, with the objective of minimizing noise interference and accurately representing cardiac electrical activity. The experimental results demonstrated that the implemented 3rd order low-pass filter effectively suppresses frequencies above 100 Hz, which aligns with the typical ECG signal range of 0.05–100 Hz, thus ensuring signal clarity. Additionally, a notch filter operating at 50 Hz successfully eliminated power line interference, corroborated by the frequency response analyses depicted in Figures 10 and 11, where the filters exhibited expected cutoff behaviors. The ECG signals analyzed via FFT revealed that the optimal frequency spectrum was confined within 0–100 Hz, with noise components suppressed beyond this range, resulting in cleaner signals suitable for clinical interpretation. Quantitatively, the instrumentation amplifier-maintained output stability at 8.2 V with input voltages spanning 1 V to 5 V, as documented in Table 1. These findings affirm that a 3rd order filtering approach, combined with a notch filter, significantly enhances ECG signal quality by reducing artifacts and noise, thus facilitating more reliable diagnostic evaluation. Future investigations may incorporate digital filtering techniques and advanced artifact removal algorithms to further improve the fidelity of ECG recordings, particularly in ambulatory or dynamic conditions where subject movement introduces additional interference. Overall, this research contributes a reference framework for ECG filtering that balances complexity and performance, offering insights for developing portable and accurate cardiac monitoring devices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the laboratory staff and technical assistants who provided invaluable support during the experimental procedures. We also thank our colleagues for their insightful discussions and constructive feedback, which significantly contributed to the successful completion of this research.

FUNDING

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

DATA AVAILABILITY

No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

All authors contributed equally to this study. The conceptualization of the research framework, design of the experimental procedures, and data analysis were carried out

collaboratively. The primary writing and drafting of the manuscript were performed by the first author, while the second author was responsible for the development of the filtering circuitry and data collection. The third author provided critical revisions and validation of the results, ensuring coherence and scientific rigor throughout the study. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

DECLARATIONS

ETHICAL APPROVAL

This research was conducted in accordance with ethical standards, and no conflicts of interest were declared by the authors. The data presented in this paper are original, and all sources of external influence have been appropriately acknowledged. The research received no specific funding, and all experimental procedures adhered to safety and institutional guidelines to ensure the integrity of the study. The authors declare no financial or personal relationships that could be perceived to influence the work reported here.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION PARTICIPANTS.

Consent for publication was given by all participants

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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