Longitudinal, Unobtrusive, and Ecologically Valid Sleep Metric Estimation From a Smart Bed to Predict the Pathology of COVID-19

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INTRODUCTION

- Pathophysiologic responses to respiratory viral infection affect sleep duration and quality in addition to breathing function.
- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus; symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, and myalgia.
- These symptoms overlap with other respiratory diseases (influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and Middle East respiratory syndrome).^{1,2}
- Early detection of influenza-like symptoms is important to encourage diagnostic testing, mitigate the spread of disease, and enable early treatment.
- "Smart" and "connected" devices that monitor biosignals over extended periods of time hold promise for infectious disease monitoring.
- They can establish baseline biometric signals and detect substantial deviations from baseline during illness.³
- When used in conjunction with predictive platforms, device users could be alerted if changes consistent with COVID-19 are detected.⁴
- Sleep promotes recovery from infectious disease, whereas sleep disturbance and deprivation negatively affect immune function.⁵⁻¹⁰
- We leveraged longitudinal, biometric data captured in an unobtrusive, real-world manner using ballistocardiography (BCG) signals from a consumer smart bed platform to predict, at the individual level, the presence and duration of COVID-19 symptoms.

METHODS

- From August 2020 to November 2020, an Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved survey was presented to Sleep Number™ smart bed users who provided electronic consent to be contacted to participate in scientific research.
- Of more than 9000 smart bed users who completed the survey (a 29% response rate), 3546 reported the result of a COVID-19 test.
- After excluding participants who were not tested for COVID-19 (n = 5824), the data were further curated for quality and completeness using the criteria listed in Table 1.



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TABLE 1. QUALITY CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR DATA TO BE USED IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS

Data filter	COVID-19 positive	COVID-19 negative	
Reported dates	Start and end date of the symptomatic period	Test date	
Consistency	Start date is before end date	Absence of dates indicating a symptomatic period	
Data availability for the dates of interest	≥ 3 sleep sessions during the symptomatic period	\geq 3 sleep sessions in the time interval: test date ± 7 days	
Data availability outside the dates of interest	\geq 3 sleep sessions outside symptomatic period	≥ 3 sleep sessions outside of the time interval: test date ± 7 days	

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

- Values for 7 metrics were obtained from each sleep session based on BCG signals: respiration rate, heart rate, motion level, sleep quality, sleep duration, restful sleep duration, and time to fall asleep.
- Data from January 2019 to December 2020 were included for modeling purposes.
- We designed a symptom progression model (**Figure 1**) as follows:
- 1. A gradient-boosted decision tree was developed using sleep session metrics.
 - This predicted the presence or absence of symptoms for each sleep session.
- 2. A Gaussian Mixture Hidden Markov Model (GMHMM) was built on top of the decision tree to account for the temporal dimension of the data.
- This predicted the onset of symptoms and duration of symptoms in days.

FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY APPROACH FOR DATA COLLECTION AND MODEL DEVELOPMENT



BCG, ballistocardiogram; GMHMM, Gaussian Mixture Hidden Markov Model.

- To detect sickness while preserving temporal causality, we used a forward algorithm, which calculated the probability of a state at a certain time given the history of evidence.
- A forward-backward algorithm was used to reassess the predictions because it calculates the probability of a state conditioned on both past and future data.



• The demographics and comorbidities of the study cohort are shown in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2. DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMORBIDITIES OF THE STUDY COHORT

	Cohort after quality control steps (n = 1725)	COVID-19 positive (n = 122)	COVID-19 negative (n = 1603)
Age, mean (SD)	49.5 (13)	45.6 (11.9)	49.8 (13.1)
Men, n (%)	820 (47.5)	49 (40.2)	771 (48.1)
BMI, mean (SD)	30.2 (6.9)	30.4 (7.4)	30.2 (6.9)
Comorbidities			
Smokes, n (%)	166 (9.6)	8 (6.6)	158 (9.9)
Asthma, n (%)	279 (16.2)	22 (18)	257 (16)
Diabetes, n (%)	174 (10.1)	10 (8.2)	164 (5)
CVD, n (%)	58 (3.4)	3 (2.5)	55 (3.4)

BMI, body mass index; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; CVD, cardiovascular disease; SD, standard deviation

- Our data revealed that symptom exacerbation in COVID-19–positive users (n=122) is associated with a significant increase in sleep duration, respiration rate, heart rate, restful time, and motion.
- Furthermore, COVID-19 symptom exacerbation was associated with a decrease in sleep quality, and no apparent change in the time to fall asleep.
- At the 0.5 probability threshold, the recall-per-user symptom detection rate was 85%, whereas the per-day recall was 57% (negative per-day rate 89%) (**Figure 2A**, **2B**).
- The "prediction overlap" corresponded to the mean Jaccard similarity (ratio of intersection over union) of the reported versus predicted symptomatic days.
- Factoring in a backward GMHMM pass improved most metrics at the cost of causality (**Figure 2C**, **2D**).
- The recall-per-user rate was slightly lower because some of the predictions that were correct by chance were eliminated, which was reflected in the higher negative rate.

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FIGURE 2. MODEL PERFORMANCE USING THE FORWARD AND FORWARD-BACKWARD ALGORITHMS TO PREDICT DISEASE PROGRESSION



- The average duration of predicted symptoms was consistent with the duration of symptoms reported by users (**Figure 3A**, **3B**).
- Using the forward algorithm, we detected 25% of cases by day 0 and 75% of cases by day 5, with a median detection delay of 1 day (Figure 3C).
- Using the forward-backward algorithm, we detected 50% of cases by day 0 and 75% of cases by day 2, with a median detection delay of 0 days (**Figure 3D**).

FIGURE 3. SYMPTOM DETECTION AND ESTIMATION OF SYMPTOM DURATION USING FORWARD AND FORWARD-BACKWARD GMHMM PASSES



The horizontal, green, dashed line shows same-day symptom duration (panels A, B) and same-day detection (panels C, D). The vertical, red, dashed line shows the 0.5 severity threshold. D0, detection day; GMHMM, Gaussian Mixture Hidden Markov Model; IQ, interquartile; L, duration; pred, predicted; rep, reported.

- The distribution of the probabilities for experiencing symptoms predicted by our model was plotted for all surveyed users (N = 9370; Figure 4).
- Some probability peaks predate the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that our model system can detect respiratory illnesses that are not caused by SARS-CoV-2.

FIGURE 4. PROBABILITIES OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS PREDICTED BY OUR MODEL SYSTEM FOR ALL SURVEYED USERS.



The 75th to 95th percentiles are shown in a gradient from blue to red. The captions for the flu/COVID-19 seasons represent our conjectures. COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

CONCLUSIONS

- To our knowledge, this is the first study to use longitudinal data collected unobtrusively under real-world conditions during sleep by a smart bed platform to monitor symptoms of COVID-19 and to predict the incidence of confirmed COVID-19.
- The sleep metrics measured with this platform are a unique source of long-term health data that can be used to predict and track the development of symptoms associated with respiratory disease.



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