

Pulse Factor/Characteristic Matrix

		Characteristic →																										
Pulse ↓		Leading pulse	Floating	Big (wide)	No force (soft)	Empty center	Empty (vacuous)	String-like (hard)	Tight on outside	Thin (fine)	Absent by heavy pressure	Scattered (no clear borders)	Deep	Forceful	Long	Slow (rate <60 bpm)	Rate = 60 bpm	Uneven	Rapid (rate > 90 bpm)	Slippery / rolling	Continuous & unbroken	Very rapid (120 < rate < 140)	Small	Short	Rough	Sometimes present or not		
Fú Mài – Floating	Fú Mài – Floating	■	■																									
	Kōu Mài – Scallion-stalk		■																									
	Gé Mài – Drumskin																											
	Rú Mài – Soggy																											
	Sàn Mài – Dissipated																											
Chén Mài – Deep	Chén Mài – Deep	■																										
	Fú Mài – Hidden					V																						
	Láo Mài – Confined																											
Chí Mài – Slow	Chí Mài – Slow																											
	Huān Mài – Moderate																											
	Sè Mài – Rough	■																										
Shuò Mài – Rapid	Shuò Mài – Rapid																											
	Huá Mài – Slippery																											
	Dòng Mài – Stirring																											
	Jí Mài – Racing																											
Xū Mài – Vacuous	Xū Mài – Vacuous																											
	Wēi Mài – Faint																											
	Ruò Mài – Weak																											



Pulse Factor/Characteristic Matrix

		Characteristic →																								
		Leading pulse	Floating	Big (wide, large)	No force (soft)	2 times size as normal	String-like (hard)	Thin (like a string of a Qin)	Large and Long	All 3 positions	Forceful	Long	Slow (rate <60 bpm)	Rapid (rate > 90 bpm)	Hard (tense)	At all levels	Unstable (snapping/rope)	Fine and small (silk thread)	Continuous	Not scattered by force **	Guan position + a little	Distinct edges	Stops at irregular intervals	Skips at irregular intervals	Skips beats at regular intervals	Straight and long
Pulse ↓																										
Shí Mài type	Shí Mài – Replete																									
	Hōng Mài – Surging			E																						
	Jīn Mài – Tight																									
Changes in shape	Duǎn Mài – Short																									
	Xì Mài – Fine																									
	Cháng Mài – Long																									
	Xiàn Mài – String-like																									
	Dà Mài – Large																									
Changes in rhythm	Jié Mài – Bound																									
	Cù Mài – Skipping																									
	Dài Mài – Intermittent																									

Legend
 L: Little
 V: Very
 E: Extreme
 P: Possible

Note: When the definition of a pulse in a text contains the word ‘and’ or a comma, then it results in more characteristics. This is why some leading pulses have two or more characteristics.

Huǎn Mài – Moderate: neither fast nor slow, even and balanced, neither floating nor deep, four beats in one breath (T. Deng).

** Clearly felt with light pressure.

Sources

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