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## SURVEY

# Automatic Classification of Cardiac Arrhythmias Using Deep Learning Techniques: A Systematic Review

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**ABSTRACT** Cardiac arrhythmias are one of the main causes of death worldwide; therefore, early detection is essential to save the lives of patients who suffer from them and to reduce the cost of medical treatment. The growth of electronic technology, combined with the great potential of Deep Learning (DL) techniques, has enabled the design of devices for early and accurate detection of cardiac arrhythmias. This article presents a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using a Systematic Mapping study and Bibliometric Analysis, through a set of relevant research questions (RQs), in relation to DL techniques applied to the automatic detection and classification of cardiac arrhythmias using electrocardiogram (ECG) signals, during the period 2017-2023. The PRISMA 2020 methodology was employed to identify the most pertinent scholarly articles, by querying the following databases: Scopus, IEEE Xplore, and PhysioNet Challenges, resulting in 494 publications being retrieved. This study also included a bibliometric analysis aimed at tracing the evolution of the primary technologies utilized in the automatic detection and recognition of cardiac arrhythmias. Additionally, it evaluates the performance of each technology, offering insights crucial for guiding future research.

**INDEX TERMS** Cardiac arrhythmia, convolution neural network, deep learning, electrocardiogram, systematic literature review, classification.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), such as heart attacks and strokes, are among the leading types of non-communicable diseases that increase the risk of death and disability [1]. These diseases disproportionately affect low and middle-income countries, where more than 75% (32 million) of the deaths have been recorded [2]. In South America, a mortality rate of 17% has been reported compared to Europe and North America, which have mortality rates of 3%. In Ecuador, in 2018, cardiac arrhythmia was the primary cause of death

in 4,430 patients with ischemic diseases and 1,368 with heart failure [3].

Experienced cardiologists can determine whether a heartbeat is healthy or abnormal by studying the ECG waveform. An abnormal heartbeat is known as an arrhythmia and can usually be recognized by its different waveform.

Arrhythmia leads to irregular electrical activity that manifests itself on the ECG. Some common types of arrhythmia are premature beats; supraventricular types, including atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia, ventricular types including ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation; and heart blocks including right bundle branch block and left bundle branch block. Each of

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these conditions exhibits characteristic features that manifest and are identified in the electrocardiogram signal [4].

The interpretation of the ECG is the cornerstone of the diagnosis of arrhythmias [5], [6]. However, arrhythmias are usually paroxysmal, so they are difficult to detect.

Recent studies have shown that deep learning techniques are efficient in terms of precision and computational complexity, which are essential aspects of real-time applications [7], such as those for the detection of cardiac arrhythmia.

The objective of this study is to conduct an exhaustive review of the different methodologies used in the automatic detection and classification of cardiac arrhythmia (ACAD), focusing on deep learning methods [8].

Articles published between the period 2017-2023 were identified, considering several aspects, such as the deep learning technique, cardiac arrhythmia data set, performance evaluation metrics and optimization algorithms.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section I describes the general aspects of this study. Section II presents the methodology and steps used in this study. Section III presents the most relevant results. In Section IV, a discussion of the future of DL methods applied to the analysis of electrocardiograms is presented. Finally, in Section V, conclusions and recommendations are presented.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This section describes the steps defined in the research protocol, for developing a SLR using the two methodologies.

- Systematic Mapping Study.
- Bibliometric Analysis.

### A. SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW THROUGH SYSTEMATIC MAPPING

#### 1) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The search process and article filtering were performed according to the schemes for systematic reviews defined in the PRISMA protocol [9]. Figure 1 depicts this procedure. A Systematic Mapping Study (SMS) based research methodology was reviewed according to the guidelines indicated in [10], [11] and [12]. An SMS aims to structure the research area, by providing a general description of it, obtained through the classification and numbering of the contributions in its different topics. SMS was performed in five steps.

- 1) Establish the mapping questions.
- 2) Search for candidate publications.
- 3) Selection of candidate articles.
- 4) Summary writing.
- 5) Extraction of data and mapping of results.

#### 2) LITERATURE RESOURCES

In this study, three bibliographic databases were used:

- [Scopus](#)
- [IEEE Xplore](#)
- [PhysioNet Challenges](#)

To search for publications, search strings were proposed to answer the research questions.

These strings are used in the search engines of digital libraries to find articles published between 2017 and 2023. The keywords used were as follows.

- Arrhythmia detection techniques.
- Techniques for 'automatic' detection of arrhythmias.
- Machine learning (ML) and electrocardiogram (ECG).
- Deep learning (DL) and electrocardiogram (ECG).
- Deep learning, electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Deep neural network, electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Convolutional neural network (CNN), electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Pretrained networks, electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Recurrent neural network (RNN), electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Long-term short-term memory (LSTM) (BI-LSTM), electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.
- Transformers, electrocardiogram (ECG), arrhythmias.
- Quantum, electrocardiogram, arrhythmias.

The articles reviewed are categorized by the technique used and the result of its metrics, where the first includes detection classification, and the second includes analysis of the metrics used. The first task involved revising titles by executing search criteria in different digital libraries. Certain articles could be found in various libraries; therefore, it was necessary to use filters that guarantee title uniqueness: identifying 444 in Scopus, 150 in IEEE Xplore and 93 in PhysioNet Challenges, for a total of 687 publications. In addition, 140 publications that did not refer to the topics under study and 52 articles participating in Challenge 2020, which did not exceed the contest policies, were excluded. Therefore, due to this exclusion, 494 articles were obtained to be reviewed in detail. The process of inclusion and exclusion of publications is presented in Table 1.

#### 3) DATA EXTRACTION FOR THE STUDY ANALYSIS

The procedure to accomplish the research objectives involved a systematic search for articles satisfying a predefined set of inclusion and exclusion criteria. Additionally, research questions were formulated based on the progression of cardiac arrhythmia detection and classification techniques.

#### 4) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study aimed to identify evolution techniques for detecting and automatically classifying cardiac arrhythmias from 2017-2023. Table 2 presents the six research questions (RM) used for this purpose and their main motivations. The order of the questions is important because the trend of each question determines the focus of the next question.

- MQ1. It focuses on discovering the medical procedures frequently used to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias.

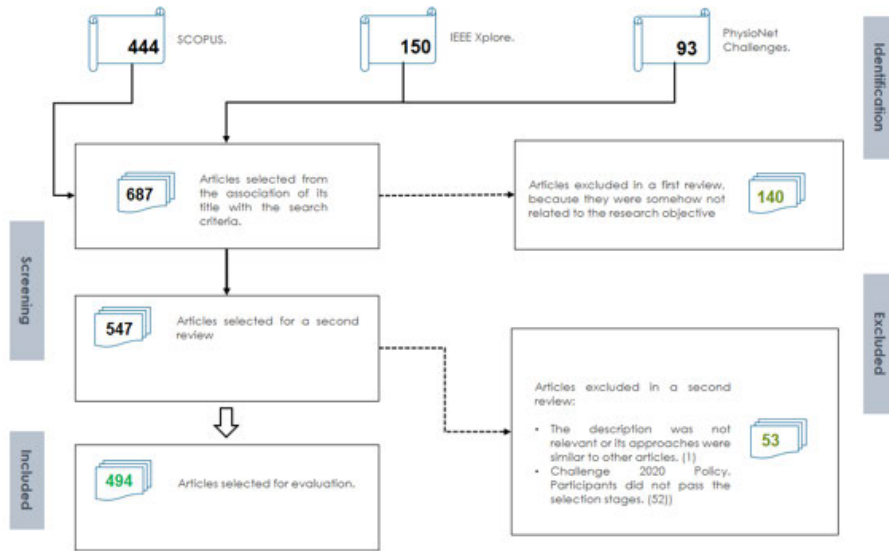


FIGURE 1. PRISMA flow diagram depicting the article selection process for this systematic review.

TABLE 1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
1. Articles using DCAAC methods using deep learning to address cardiovascular disease, even in conjunction with other diseases 2. Articles that compare with other classification techniques, but whose main purpose is the classification of arrhythmias 3. In the case of duplicate documents that investigate the same topic, only the most recent and most complete ones were included. 4. Articles that are within the study interval	1. Articles not written in English 2. Articles that present a single classification technique and comparisons of the CAAD methods without providing a discussion.

- MQ2. This study aimed to identify different methodologies for the “automatic” detection of cardiac arrhythmias.
- MQ3. It seeks to verify which artificial intelligence (AI) models are most frequently used for automatically detecting and classifying cardiac arrhythmias.
- MQ4. It identifies the different deep-learning methods used in automatically classifying cardiac arrhythmias using the electrocardiogram.
- MQ5. It identifies the hyperparameter optimization techniques used in training deep learning models and their contribution to published results.
- MQ6. The set of metrics used to evaluate the performance of the deep learning models was analyzed.
- MQ7. It aims to identify the impact and performance of quantum computing-based models compared with classical deep learning models.

5) SEARCH STRATEGY

The purpose of this study was to identify the primary studies that could potentially address the mapping questions. This involves two main steps: establishing a search and selecting bibliographic resources.

a: SEARCH STRING

Several steps are executed to establish search strings [11] and [10]. The keywords used are listed in Table 3.

6) TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL AREAS OF RESEARCH

Table 4 shows each and every medical procedure used in the detection of cardiac arrhythmias. The aim is to identify potential procedures in which it may be possible to incorporate aspects based on artificial intelligence.

7) SELECTION OF STUDIES

Each document was categorized as either included, excluded, or marked as uncertain following the next rule, according to the following rule.

- Articles were classified as included if they met the first inclusion criterion and at least one of the remaining criteria.
- An article was classified as excluded if it met an exclusion criteria.
- An article was classified as uncertain if there were doubts about its classification.

Each article was examined based on its title, abstract, keywords, and full text, as deemed necessary. Table 1 lists the inclusion and exclusion criteria for selecting relevant articles.

**TABLE 2. Research Questions and their motivation.**

ID	Mapping Question	Motivation
MQ1	What medical procedures have been used to detect cardiac arrhythmias?	Identify the trends of the different articles, regarding the medical procedures used in the detection of arrhythmias
MQ2	What methods have been proposed to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias using ECG automatically?	It is intended to identify the different technologies used to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias.
MQ3	What AI models have been used to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias using ECG automatically?	It is intended to identify which are the AI models, which are most frequently used in the detection and automatic recognition of cardiac arrhythmias on the ECG.
MQ4	What Deep Learning (DL) models have been used to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias using ECG automatically?	It is intended to identify the different models of PA, used in detecting and recognizing cardiac arrhythmias using the ECG.
MQ5	What optimization techniques and hyperparameter configuration have been used to implement the DL models?	It is intended to identify the different optimization techniques and hyperparameter configurations used in the training and inference processes.
MQ6	What metrics have been used to assess the performance of DL models to detect and classify cardiac arrhythmias automatically. ?	It is intended to identify the performance metrics evaluation frameworks.
MQ7	What will be the impact and performance of quantum computing-based models compared to classical deep learning models. ?	it aims to identify the degree of impact and performance of quantum computing-based models compared to classical deep learning models.

**TABLE 3. Terms used to establish the Search String.**

Scope	Keywords
Population	Cardiology, cardiac pathologies, cardiac arrhythmias,
Intervention	Artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning
Comparison	Classification, prediction, regression

## B. SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW THROUGH BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

### 1) PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

To evaluate the performance of scientific research on the topic of detection and automatic classification of arrhythmias, different bibliometric attributes have been used, such as the identification of authors, sources, citations, trends, networks and affiliations, considering individual contributions, groups and organizations. Scientific mapping identifies and visualizes the relationships and interconnections between authors, journals, etc., focusing on historical development, or research trends.

## III. RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

This section describes the main results related to the research questions.

### A. SUMMARY OF THE SYSTEMATIC MAPPING STUDY

#### 1) SUMMARY SELECTION PROCESS

Figure 1 shows the selection scheme of publications to be reviewed. The process began by searching three digital libraries, considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria. This initial collection yielded 687 articles. In the first review, 140 articles were excluded because the topics of their publications was not the objective of the study, leaving 547 for a new review. In the second review, 53 articles were excluded because similar approaches were found among the publications, as well as the PhysioNet Challenges. Articles that did not pass the contest rules were not considered, leaving

a total of 494 publications, that served as a reference source to answer the mapping questions.

#### 2) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

##### a: MQ1: WHAT MEDICAL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN USED TO DETECT CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS?

In [13], [14] the different medical procedures for the detection of cardiac arrhythmias were explained, and are summarized in Table 5.

##### b: MQ2: WHAT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGICAL METHODS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE AUTOMATIC DETECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS?

The objective of this study was to identify trends in the literature regarding medical procedures used to automatically detect arrhythmias. To do this, 120 of the latest publications were selected in Scopus, which responded to the search criteria: “automatic detection of arrhythmias.” Figure 2, shows the tendency to use information from the ECG as the primary data source.

##### c: MQ3: WHAT AI MODELS HAVE BEEN USED FOR AUTOMATIC DETECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS USING ECG ?

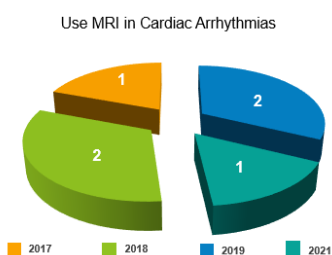
Figure 3 shows the automatic learning models used to detect arrhythmias. It was observed that more deep-learning models were adopted. Likewise, classical machine learning models decreased throughout the study period. One explanation for this could be the results of the metrics described in Table 7.

**TABLE 4. Medical Procedures for the Detection of Cardiac Arrhythmias.**

	Methodology	Characteristics
1	Electrocardiogram	Non-invasive. Relatively simple. [15] [16] [17] [18]
2	Holter	Non-invasive. You can generate information of several days. [19] [20] [21] [22]
3	Event monitor	Non-invasive. It is of the patch type and can be used for long periods of time. [19] [23] [24] [25]
4	Treadmill test	Non-invasive. Physical exercise is ordered and heart rate and rhythm are monitored. [26] [27] [19] [28]
5	Tilting table test table test	Invasive. A catheter is placed in an artery to monitor blood pressure inside the blood vessel. An intravenous line (a small plastic tube in a vein) may also be placed before the test. [29] [30] [31]
6	Electrophysiological tests	Invasive. Temporary electrode catheters are introduced through the peripheral veins (or arteries) into the heart using a fluoroscope. [32] [33] [34] [35]
7	Invasive	Esophageal Electrophysiological Procedure. In this procedure, a thin, flexible catheter is inserted into the nostril and placed into the esophagus. The catheter wire performs an electrocardiogram (EKG). [36] [37] [38]
8	Echocardiogram	Painless procedure. Uses ultrasound waves to reveal the size, structure, and movement of your heart. [39] [40] [41] [42]
9	Cardiac CT Scan	CBT obtains images by passing thin beams of X-rays through the body at various angles to create a cross-sectional image. [43] [44] [45] [46]
10	Cardiac Magnetic Resonance	This technology is based on the images generated by hydrogen protons; this is an advantage given the abundance of water in the human body. [47] [48] [49] [50]

**TABLE 5. Distribution of Medical Procedures for the Detection of Cardiac Arrhythmias.**

Technique	Years		
	17-21	2022	2023
Ballistocardiogram Signal	1		
Cardiac computed tomography	5	2	
ECG	72	23	3
Echocardiography	4	1	
Molecular imaging	2		
MRI	6		
Multimodality imaging	3		1
Photoplethysmography	2		
Stereotactic body radiation therapy		1	
Cardioverter defibrillator	12	5	



**FIGURE 2. Number of articles using MRI in Cardiac Arrhythmias.**

Similarly, Table 6 presents the values obtained using the deep learning models in their metrics.

*d: MQ4: WHAT DL MODELS HAVE BEEN USED TO AUTOMATICALLY DETECT AND CLASSIFY CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS USING THE ECG?*

Trends regarding the use of different DL models were identified during the period 2017-2023. From each of the digital libraries used in the study, the best articles are shown in descending order according to their accuracy; in the case

of the Challenge 2020 articles, they are ordered according to the metric defined for the contest.

Figure 4 shows a boxplot of the precision metric used in the classification models to discriminate the various classes of cardiac arrhythmias. The mean values of the DNN and SVM models were closest. The CNN and LSTM models follow the behavior of close mean values, not DT (Decision Tree) or RNN, which present far mean values.

Considering the obtained accuracy, Table 6 and Figure 5 present the best publications from the Scopus Library, where articles with CNN models reaching 100% accuracy were observed, such as [8] and [52]. In [52], it is mentioned: “the dataset used was divided into three smaller subsets for training, validation, and testing.” In [8] “we trained the model on 75% of the subjects, validated it with 5% of the subjects, and tested it on the remaining 20% of the subjects.” A rigorous separation of the training and validation sets can lead to leakage problems, as achieving 100% accuracy certainly raises eyebrows, as there is the possibility that the model has memorized patterns rather than learned useful ones.

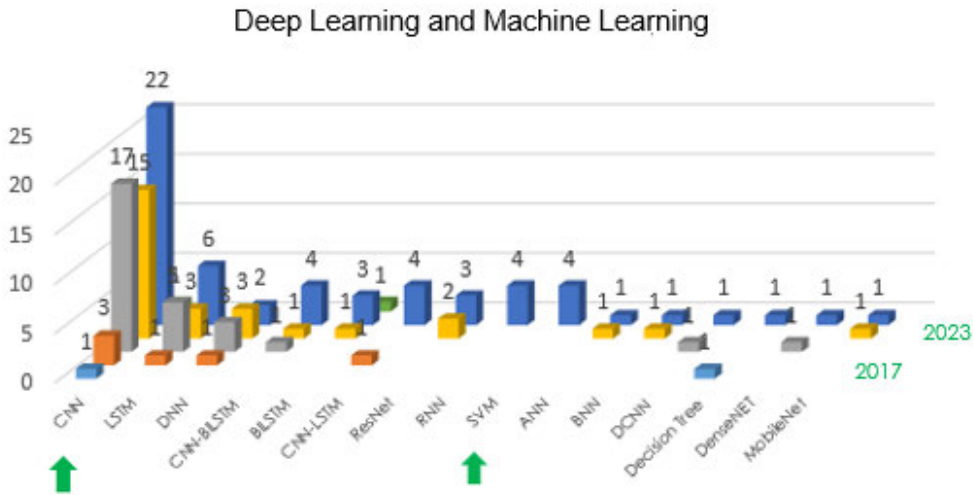


FIGURE 3. Number of articles with Deep Learning and Machine Learning models during the selected period of time.

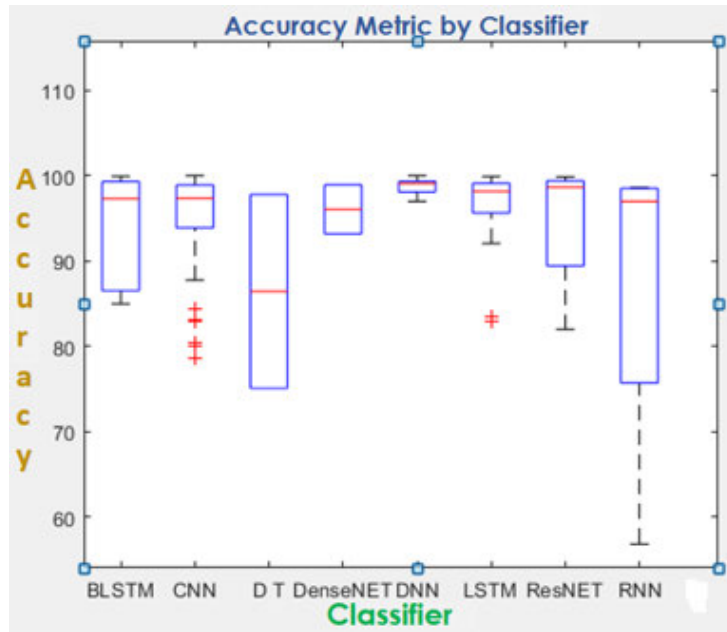


FIGURE 4. Box plots of accuracy metrics for each deep learning model.

Table 8 lists the best proposals for the “Challenge 2020” contest, which shows that the winning proposal used the transformer model. Table 9 presents the usage statistics for the different deep learning methodologies in the contest.

*e: MQ5: WHAT OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES AND HYPERPARAMETER CONFIGURATION HAVE BEEN USED TO IMPLEMENT THE AP MODELS?*

Building an effective deep learning model is a complex process that involves arriving at an appropriate algorithm with optimal architecture by tuning the hyperparameters. Hyperparameter settings should be adjusted according to the datasets [4], [85], and [86].

The first function to configure is the loss function, which is chosen primarily based on the type of problem (e.g., binary cross-entropy for binary classification problems; cross-entropy for multi-classification or multiclass problems, and RMSE for regression problems). In this case, crossed entropy has been observed in most publications because several arrhythmias must be classified [87], [88], and [89].

Another important hyperparameter is the activation function, which is chosen from among the following alternatives: softmax, rectified linear unit (ReLU), sigmoid, tanh, or soft-sign [87] [90] [91].

The optimizer type can be selected using Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), Adaptive Moment Estimation

TABLE 6. Summary of Deep Learning Scholarly Publications in the period 2017-2023.

	Title	Year	Model	C	Accuracy	Sensib.	TrDS	TeDS	Optim	OS	AIR
1	Abnormal ECG Beat Detection Based on CNN [51]	2020	CNN	15	100.00	98.09	MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH/AHA	Relu	N/m	N/m
2	A deep neural network heartbeat classification approach for arrhythmia [52]	2020	DNN	8	100.00	96.20	MIT-BIH/BIDMC	N/m	Relu	N/m	N/m
3	Time adaptive ECG driven cardiovascular disease detector [8]	2021	CNN	4	100.00		MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH	Adam	N/m	N/m
4	Improved Arrhythmia Detection from Electrocardiogram [53]	2019	DAE	6	99.98	99.99	MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH	Adam	N/m	CSIR
5	Robust detection of atrial fibrillation from short-term electrocardiogram using.. [54]	2020	DWT-CNN	3	99.98	99.91	MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH/IHD	Adam	N/m	MRTE
6	A Novel Deep Arrhythmia-Diagnosis Network for Atrial Fibrillation Classi. [55]	2019	CNN-BLSTM	1	99.94	98.63	MIT-BIH AF	MIT-BIH NSR	Adam	N/m	FJHS
7	Inter- and Intra- Patient ECG Heartbeat Classification for Arrhythmia Detection. [56]	2019	LSTM	6	99.92	99.50	MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH	N/m	N/m	NSF
8	Classification of ECG heartbeats using deep neural networks [57]	2021	CNN-LSTM	6	99.90	98.60	MIT-BHI	MIT-BHI	Adam	N/m	N/m
9	A Two-level Attention-based Sequence-to-Sequence Model for Accurate Inter-patient. [58]	2020	LSTM	5	99.89	99.87	MIT-BHI	MIT-BHI	RMSProp	Y	DIRTP
10	Hybrid CNN-LSTM deep learning model and ensemble technique for automatic detection [59]	2021	CNN-LSTM	7	99.89	95.40	MIT-BIH PTBDB	N/m	Adam	N/m	N/m
11	ECG Signals Segmentation Using Deep Spatiotemporal Feature Fusion U-Net for QRS Complexes and R-peak Detection [60]	2023	ST-Res U-net	2	99.87	99.76	MIT-BHI	CPSC2019	Adam	N/m	N/m
12	An explainable attention-based TCN heartbeats classification model for arrhythmia detection [61]	2023	TCN	2	99.84	91.85	MIT-BIH-AD	MIT-BIH-AD	Adam	N/m	N/m
13	Computer Aided Diagnosis for atrial fibrillation based on new artificial adaptive systems [62]	2018	RNN	2	99.72	99.76	MIT-BIH	N/m	Adam	N/m	N/m
14	A Deep Learning-Based Model for Arrhythmia Detection Using Feature Selection and Machine Learning Methods [63]	2023	CNN	2	99.46		MIT-BIH	N/m	Adam	N/m	N/m
15	Classification of ECG Signal for Cardiac Arrhythmia Detection Using GAN Method [64]	2023	GAN	2	95.40	93	MIT-BIH	N/m	N/m	N/m	N/m
16	The continuous wavelet transform using for natural ECG signal arrhythmias detection by statistical parameters [65]	2023	CWT	3	87		MIT-BIH	MIT-BIH	N/m	N/m	DSR

(Adam), and Root Mean Square Propagation (RMSprop). An example of using the Adam optimizer can be found in [92]. The learning rate is another important hyperparameter that determines each iteration’s step size, allowing the convergence speed to be calibrated. A large learning rate accelerates the learning process; however, the gradient may oscillate around a local minimum or may not even converge. However, with a low learning rate, the training time of the model is significantly increased by requiring more epochs [87] and [93].

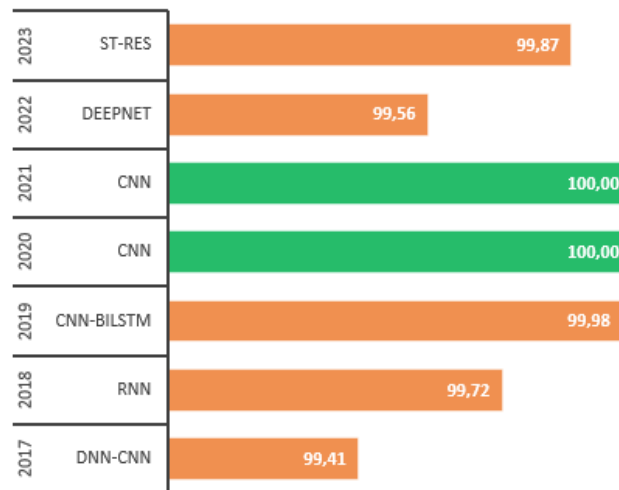
Abandonment rate (drop-outs). Dropout is a standard regularization method for deep learning models and has been, proposed to reduce overfitting. At dropout, the proportion of neurons is randomly removed, and the percentage of neurons to be removed must be adjusted [92].

The number of epochs depends on the size of the training set and should be adjusted by slowly increasing its value until the validation accuracy decreases, indicating overfitting. However, deep learning models often converge within a few epochs, and subsequent epochs can result in unnecessary additional running time and overfitting, which can be avoided by the “stop early” method. Early stopping is a form of regularization whereby model training is stopped early when the accuracy does not increase after a certain number of consecutive epochs. The number of waiting epochs could also be adjusted to reduce the training time of the model.

Figure 6 shows the percentages of use of the different optimization algorithms. On the left are the percentages of optimizers used in the articles referenced in Table 6, which

**TABLE 7. Summary of Scholarly Publications on Machine Learning (period 2017-2023).**

	Reference	Year	Model	C	Accur	Sensit	BDD
1	Human machine interfacing technique for diagnosis of ventricular arrhythmia using supervisory machine learning algorithms [66]	2018	SVM	2	100		MIT-BIH
2	Arrhythmia classification based on wavelet transformation and random forests [67]	2018	Random Forest	8	99.7	95.56	MIT-BIH
3	Classification of cardiac arrhythmia stages using hybrid features extraction with k-nearest neighbors [68]	2018	KNN	2	99.4		MIT-BIH
4	Neighborhood rough set based ecg signal classification for diagnosis of cardiac diseases [69]	2017	k-neighbors	5	99.32		MIT-BIH
5	Cardiac arrhythmia classification using boosted decision trees [70]	2017	Decision Tree	2	99		UCI
6	Automatic classification of cardiac arrhythmias based on hybrid features and decision tree algorithm [71]	2020	Decision Tree	5	98.88		MIT-BIH
7	An automated detection of heart arrhythmias using machine learning technique: Svm [72]	2021	SVM	3	95.92		MIT-BIH

**Best results of the Accuracy metric, in the period 2017-2023, by years****FIGURE 5. Best results of the Accuracy metric, in 2017-2023, by years.**

are related to a summary of deep learning publications. On the right are the percentages of use of the optimizer algorithms in the articles participating in the 2020 challenge. The two graphs show that the Adam optimizer was the most used, with values of 58 and 59%, respectively.

*f: MQ6: WHAT METRICS HAVE BEEN USED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF PA MODELS IN THE AUTOMATIC DETECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS?*

The Accuracy (Accur), Specificity (Specif), Sensitivity (Recall) and Score-F1 (S-F1), etc. [94] have been some metrics used to validate the classification models.

- Accuracy: measures the proportion of all correct predictions of the classifier in relation to the total predictions.

$$\text{Accur} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (1)$$

- Specificity: measures the proportion of all positive predictions in the positive class.

$$\text{Specif} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (2)$$

- Sensitivity: Sensitivity or recall measures the ratio of the total number of elements belonging to the positive class to the number of positive predictions belonging to the



**TABLE 8. Summary of Scholarly Publications on the PhysioNet Challenge.**

	Title	Model	C	Score	Optim.
1	A Wide and Deep Transformer Neural Network for 12-Lead ECG Classification [73]	TNN	27	0.533	Noam
2	Adaptive lead weighted ResNet trained with different duration signals for classifying 12-lead ECGs [74]	ResNet	27	0.52	Adam
3	Classification of Cardiac Abnormalities From ECG Signals Using SE-ResNet [75]	SE-Resnet	27	0.514	Adam
4	Combining Scatter Transform and Deep Neural Networks for Multilabel ECG Signal Classification [76]	ResNet	27	0.485	Adam
5	Classification of 12-lead ECG Signals with Adversarial Multi-Source Domain Generalization [77]	CNN-LSTM	27	0.437	Adam
6	Bag of Tricks for Electrocardiogram Classification with Deep Neural Networks [78]	DNN	27	0.42	Adam
7	Automated Comprehensive Interpretation of 12-lead Electrocardiograms Using Pre-trained Exponentially Dilated Causal Convolutional Neural Networks [79]	CNN	24	0.417	Adam
8	SE-ECGNet: Multi-scale SE-Net for Multi-lead ECG Data [80]	SE-Net	27	0.411	N/m
9	Impact of Neural Architecture Design on Cardiac Abnormality Classification Using 12-lead ECG Signals [81]	CNN-BILSTM	27	0.382	N/m
10	Arrhythmia Detection and Classification of 12-lead ECGs Using a Deep Neural Network [82]	ResNet34	27	0.359	Adam
11	Cardiac Pathologies Detection and Classification in 12-lead ECG [83]	Decision Tree	27	0.354	N/m
12	Rule-Based methods and Deep Learning Networks for Automatic Classification of ECG [84]	CNN	24	0.298	N/m

**TABLE 9. Model utilization frequency in the PhysioNet Challenge.**

Model	Trend of Models in the Physionet Challenge		
	No Artic.	Prom Fb	Prom Gb
1 Convocional Neural Network (CNN)	30	82.1	56.7
2 Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)	3	55.4	33.7
3 Autoencoder CNN	1	88.2	87.6
4 CNN BI-LSTM	4	92.19	93.44
5 CNN FNN	1	81.3	82.2
6 CNN BI GRU	1	77.1	57.1
7 Resnet	5	68.4	69.4
8 RNN GRU	1	81.8	60.2
9 RNN LSTM	2	77.1	57.1
10 U Net	1	88.2	87.1
11 XGBoost	1	73.1	47

positive class.

$$Sensit = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \tag{3}$$

- Score-F1: It is the harmonic mean of specificity and recall.

$$S-F1 = 2 \frac{Specif \times Recall}{Specif + Recall} \tag{4}$$

- Macro-F1: This metric was evaluated over  $C$  classes, in a multi-classification problem.

$$mF1 = \frac{1}{C} \sum_{n=1}^C \frac{TP}{TP + 1/2(FP + FN)} \tag{5}$$

In all the equations, TP is a true positive, TN is a true negative, FP is a false positive, FN is a false negative, and C is the number of classes.

In [95] and [96], the metric (score column of Table 8) developed for the “PhysioNet/Computing in Cardiology Challenge 2020” is described, which grants partial credit to erroneous diagnoses that result in values similar to the true diagnoses, in the opinion of cardiologists. This is based on the fact that some misdiagnoses are more harmful than others, and [82] should be scored accordingly. Furthermore, it reflects the fact that confusing some classes is much less harmful than confusing others because of the nature of their pathology.

*g: MQ7: WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT AND PERFORMANCE OF QUANTUM COMPUTING-BASED MODELS COMPARED TO CLASSICAL DEEP LEARNING MODELS. ?*

The emerging role of deep learning (DL) in automatic arrhythmia detection has been highlighted. This role is driven

by large amounts of data and its ability to address challenges more efficiently.

In [97], an introduction to quantum computing (QC) and its symbiotic relationship with quantum machine learning was provided based on the principles of quantum theory. This approach has experienced significant growth, particularly in the healthcare sector. The intersection of machine learning and quantum computing has gained relevance in artificial intelligence (AI), with research successfully applying quantum algorithms to real medical datasets, emphasizing Quantum Machine Learning (QML). In the healthcare domain, applying QML to analyze complex data, such as electronic health records, medical imaging, genomic and sensor data, can potentially enhance disease diagnosis and prognosis.

In the field of automatic detection of cardiac arrhythmias, QML has been presented as a promising tool to accelerate processing and analysis. It enables the identification of patterns in ECG signals faster and more accurately than traditional methods. This enhances predictions of certain diseases and their progression, providing new possibilities for future research.

Table 10 shows some of the performances observed in publications in which the model was based on a quantum-based machine learning algorithm.

## B. SUMMARY OF THE BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

In the Bibliometric Analysis, use will be made from the Scopus database, using the computer tools Biblioshiny [106] and VOSviewer [107], to present important information such as annual scientific production, best publications by number of citations, most productive authors, most productive countries, total citations by country, and most relevant sources (journals) [108].

### 1) MOST PRODUCTIVE SOURCES, AUTHORS, MOST PRODUCTIVE COUNTRIES

#### a: SOURCES

##### Most Relevant Sources:

The most relevant sources are essential for evaluating the performance of a journal regarding the target topic of study. In the article [108] the following is mentioned: “The journal “Computer in Biology and Medicine” has reached first position with 11 publications. The second prolific source is the journal “Physiological Measurement” which focuses on research and clinical practices. The next three journals are “Biomedical Signal Processing and Control.”, “Expert System with Applications.”, and “IEEE Access.” have equaled positions by publishing nine articles.” In our 2023 review Figure 7, the first position goes to “Biomedical Signal Processing and Control.” with 26 publications, leaving “Computer in Biology and Medicine” in second place with 19 publications.

*Most Local Cited Sources:* Figure 8 shows the article [109] by Professor Acharya U R (PhD University of Southern

Percentage of usage of optimizers

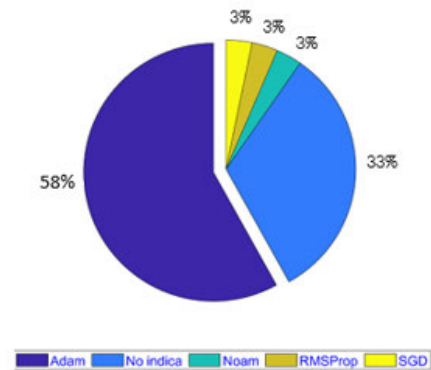


FIGURE 6. Percentage of optimizer usage in the publications under study.

Queensland School of Mathematics, Physics and Computing) as the most cited local sources with 263.

*Sources' Production over Time:* Figure 9 shows the constant performance that BIOMEDICAL SIGNAL PROCESSING AND CONTROL has maintained, clearly positioning itself in first place in terms of production. It was also observed that COMPUTERS IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE has remained the leader since its inception in 2017, until mid-2021 when it was surpassed by BIOMEDICAL SIGNAL PROCESSING AND CONTROL.

#### b: AUTHORS

##### Most Relevant Authors:

Figure 10 shows the top 10 authors with the highest number of published articles on the classification of arrhythmias. Tuncer et al. [110] appears in it, leading the group with 13 contributions and Zhang et al. [111] with a record of 11 contributions.

##### Authors' Production over Time:

Figure 11 details the production of the authors by periods, highlighting 2021 as one of the most fruitful stages.

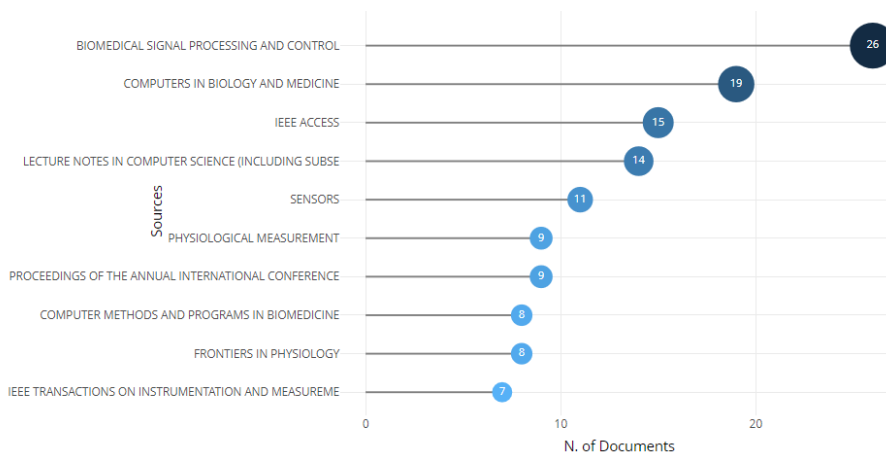
#### c: AFFILIATIONS

##### Most Relevant Affiliations:

The term “relevant affiliation” refers to organizations in which related research is conducted. The order of information presented was based on the number of investigations and publications. Article [108] describes the following: “in Figure 3, which shows that the USA is one of the most productive countries, based on the number of published papers. The analysis of the most relevant affiliations (Figure 5) revealed that the University of Pennsylvania, located in the USA, is the most relevant affiliation with 12 published articles. Johns Hopkins University in the USA is the second most relevant institution with 11 publications.”. In the present study Figure 12 shows that the top affiliations correspond to Universities in China, displacing US Universities.

**TABLE 10. Summary Scholarly Publications whose models are based on Quantum Machine learning.(period 2017-2023).**

Reference	Year	Model	C	Accur	Sensit	BDD
1 An IOT framework for detecting cardiac arrhythmias in real-time using deep learning Resnet model [98]	2023	MCHResNet	5	98.2		MIT-BIH
2 Real-Time Patient-Specific ECG Arrhythmia Detection by Quantum Genetic Algorithm of Least Squares Twin SVM [99]	2020	QAG	3	98		MIT-BIH
3 Quanvolution Neural Network to Recognize arrhythmia from 2D scalogram features of ECG signals [100]	2022	QNN	5	98		MIT-BIH
4 QuCardio: application of quantum machine learning for detection of cardiovascular diseases [101]	2023	QNN	5	97.31		MedMNIST
5 Detection of Cardiac Arrhythmia Using Multi-Perspective Convolutional Neural Network for ECG Heartbeat Classification [102]	2022	QNN	5	91.7		MIT-BIH
6 ECG-based heartbeat classification using exponential-political optimizer trained deep learning for arrhythmia detection [103]	2023	QNN		91.4	92	MIT-BIH
7 A classification and prediction hybrid model construction with the iqpsosvm algorithm for atrial fibrillation arrhythmia [104]	2021	IQPSO-SVM	2	91		MIT-BIH
8 Performance Evaluation of Quantum-Based Machine Learning Algorithms for Cardiac Arrhythmia Classification [105]	2023	QSVM	4	85		Chapman



**FIGURE 7. Most Relevant Sources.**

*Affiliation Production over Time:*

Figure 13 clearly shows the great production of Asian Universities, in which Shanghai Jiao Tong University stands out with notable leadership.

*d: COUNTRIES*

*Most Productive Countries:* Figure 14 shows the 20 most productive countries in publishing articles from 2017 to 2023, for the detection and classification of arrhythmias using Deep Learning models. The section marked in blue “Scientific Collaboration Production” (SCP) reports the number of publications in which the authors are all from the

same country, whereas the orange box “Multi-Country Collaboration Production” (MCP) indicates production in which at least one co-author is from a different country. China and India have a significantly higher number of publications than the rest of the countries, including the USA.

*Most Cited Countries:* It necessary to determine the degree of importance that an article would have in the general context of research on the topic. We quantify this by the number of citations that other publications make about the article. Figure 15 shows the ten most cited countries worldwide. We highlight China’s leadership.

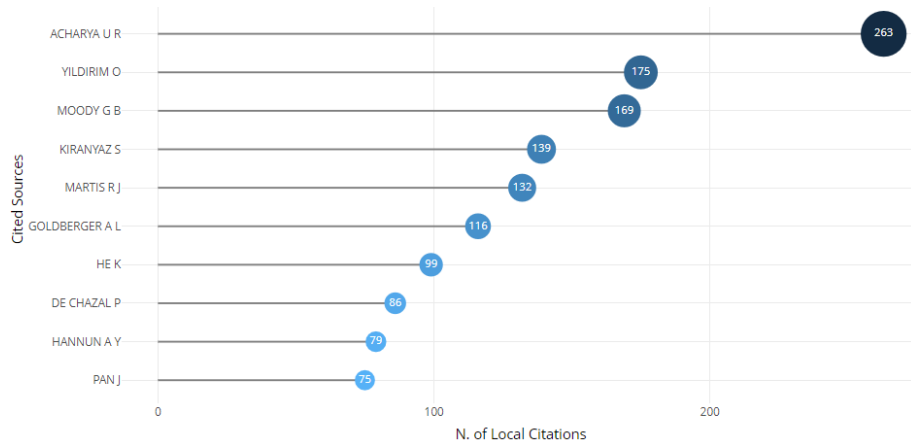


FIGURE 8. Most Local Cited Sources.

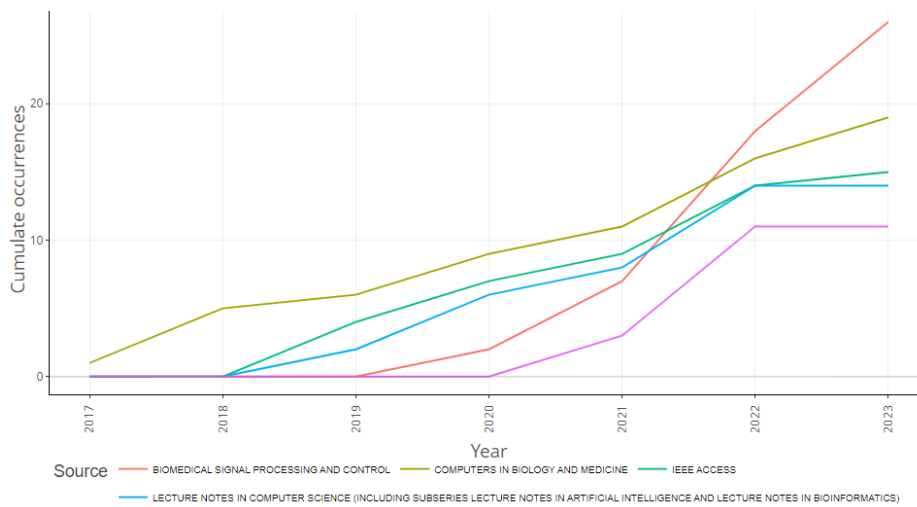


FIGURE 9. Trends in digital library production over the period.

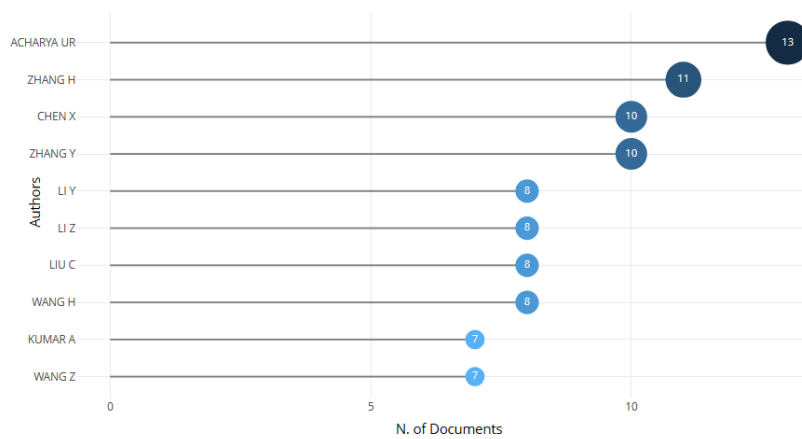


FIGURE 10. List of most relevant authors over the period.

Countries Production over time: Figure 16 shows that China and India led research on detecting cardiac

arrhythmias during the study period. The growing trend in the leading countries is also notable, while in the

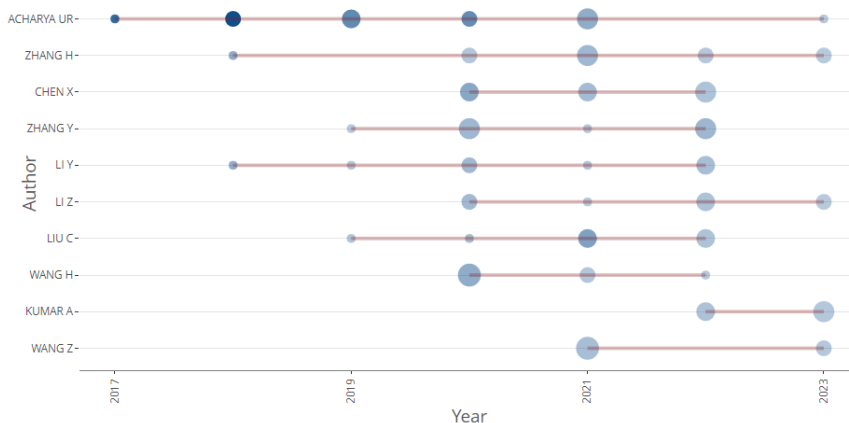


FIGURE 11. Academic production of authors over the period.

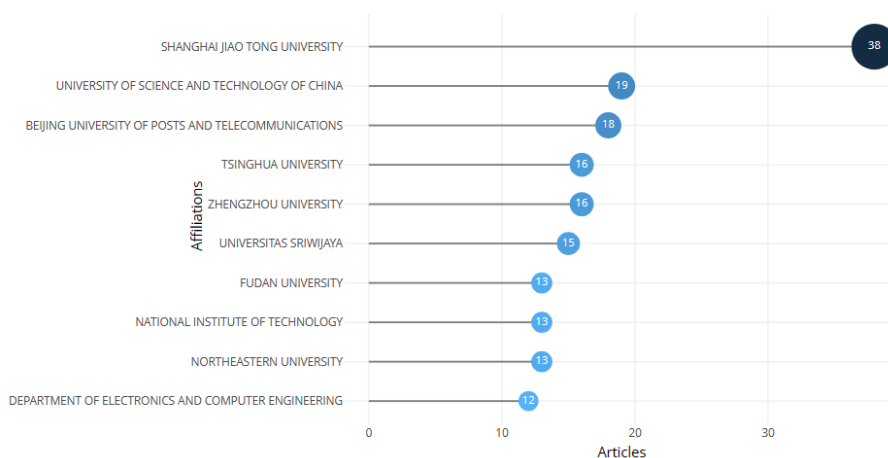


FIGURE 12. List of most relevant university or research center affiliations.

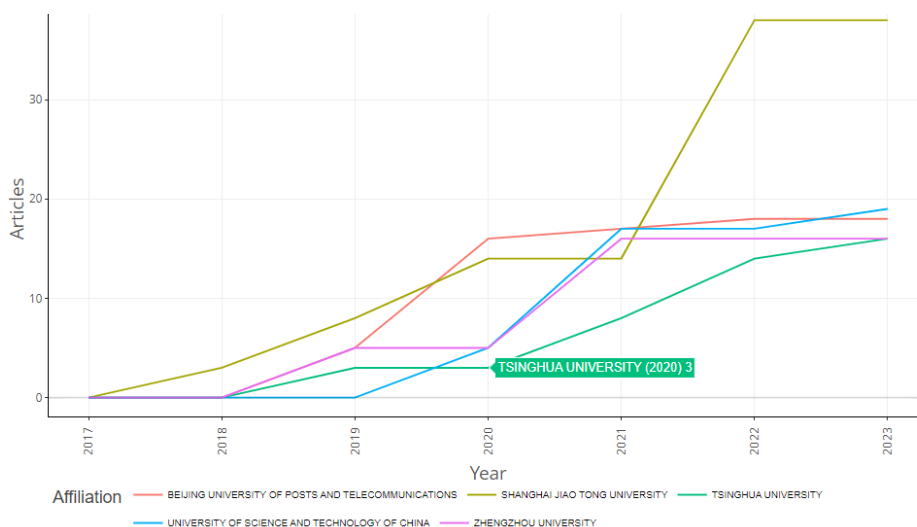
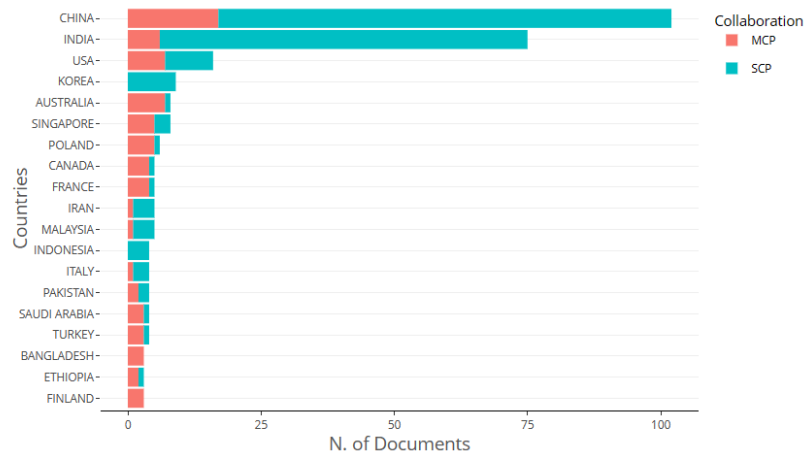


FIGURE 13. List of most relevant universities or research centers production over the period.

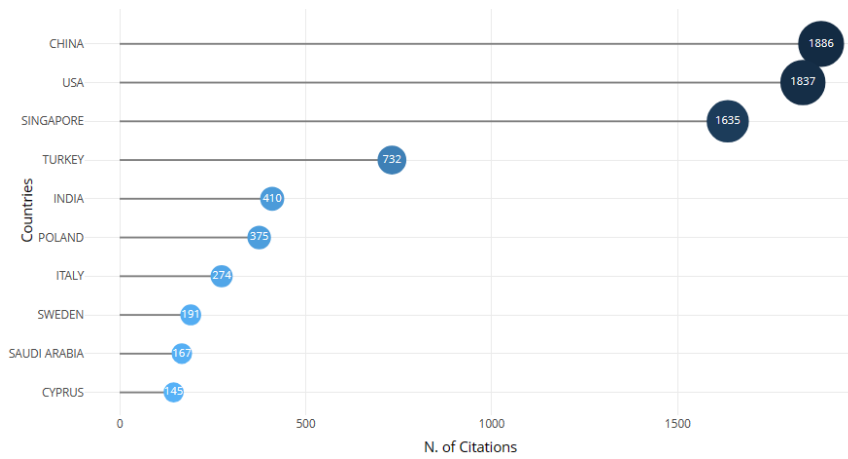
rest of them (including the US), scientific production since 2021 tends to stabilize at less representative values.

e: DOCUMENTS

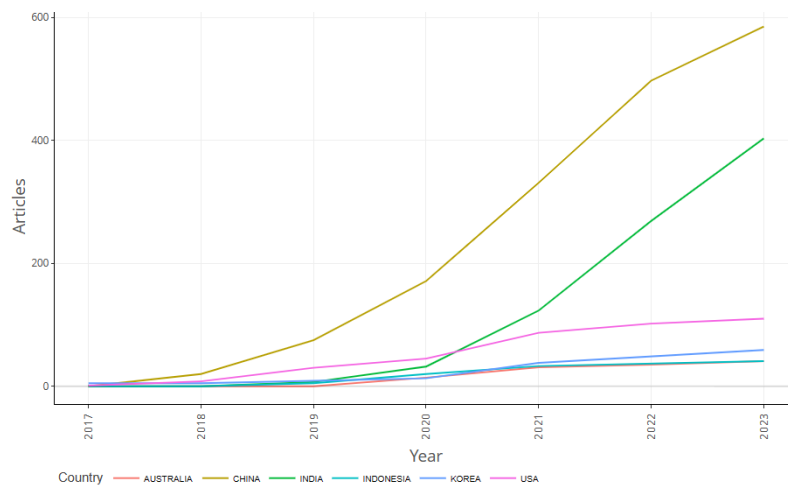
Most global cited documents: Global citations represent the total number of citations a document receives from



**FIGURE 14. Scientific production by countries considering: (SCP) those publications in which the nationality of their authors is all from the same country, and (MCP) those conducted in collaboration with multiple countries.**



**FIGURE 15. List of most cited countries over the period.**



**FIGURE 16. Scholarly Publications Production by Country Over Time.**

all publications indexed in a source (Scopus, WOS, Google Scholar, etc.) [112]. Figure 17 shows Hannun AY

(Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA) as the most referenced author with

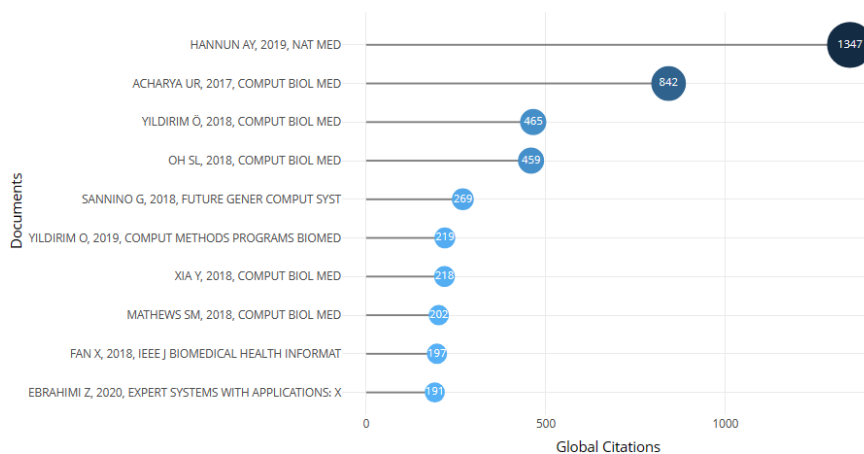


FIGURE 17. List of highly cited scholarly publications worldwide.

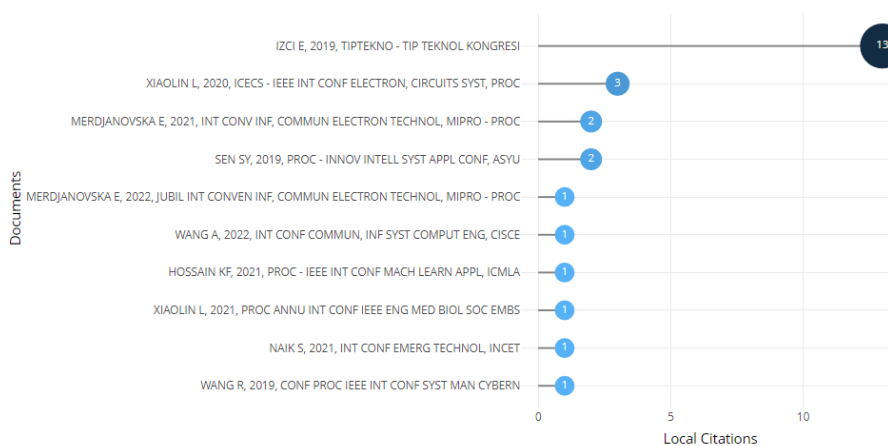


FIGURE 18. List of highly cited scholarly publications locally.

1347 citations, the curious thing is that said author does not have many publications (in fact he appears with an article [113], similar to the case of Acharya UR, who follows him in terms of the number of citations but leads in the number of publications.

*Most Local Cited Documents:* Local Citation refers to the number of citations a document received from other documents in the specific search performed (that is, in the sample of highly specialized papers under review) [112]. Figure 18 shows the document IZCI E, 2019, TIPTEKNO - TIP TEKNOLOGI KONGRESI as the most cited with 13.

*f: WORDS*

*Word Cloud of Keywords:* A comparison was made to determine the variation in the most used terms throughout the study period of 2017-2023. In Figure 19, the most used term is ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY and, Figure 20 shows that the trend in the use of artificial intelligence is increasingly evident, with the most used term being DEEP LEARNING.

*Words' Frequency over Time:* The Figure 21 shows that although the volume of occurrence of the themes increased, the trends between them remained constant throughout the study period.

2) NETWORK ANALYSIS

One of researchers' concerns is to identify colleagues who carry out studies in similar lines of research and could suddenly carry out collaborative work. Therefore, having a method to analyze the relationships between journals, affiliations, etc., from several countries may be useful.

*a: CO-AUTHORSHIP*

*Organizations:* The list of organizations referred to in the citations is led by the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering of Singapore, with 2355 citations. The second highest is occupied by the Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Science and Technology, Singapore University with 1480 citations. The five organizations in Figure 22 are located in Singapore. The Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering maintained research relationships with the four organizations indicated.

*Countries:* Figure 23 illustrates the relationships among the research-oriented countries. Countries such as China and the United States stand out and their contact with other countries is evident. Figure 24 shows the United States, which





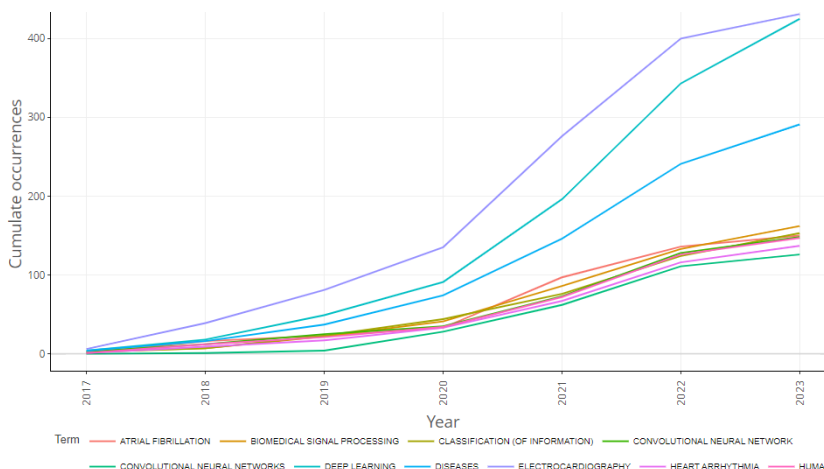


FIGURE 21. Trends of the most relevant keywords over the period.

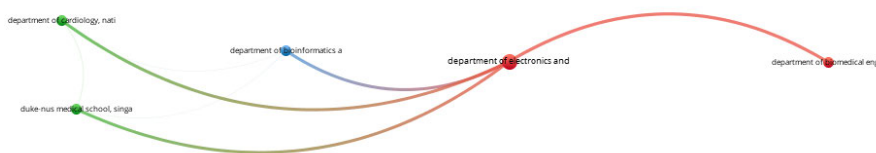


FIGURE 22. Map of co-authorship among universities or research centers.

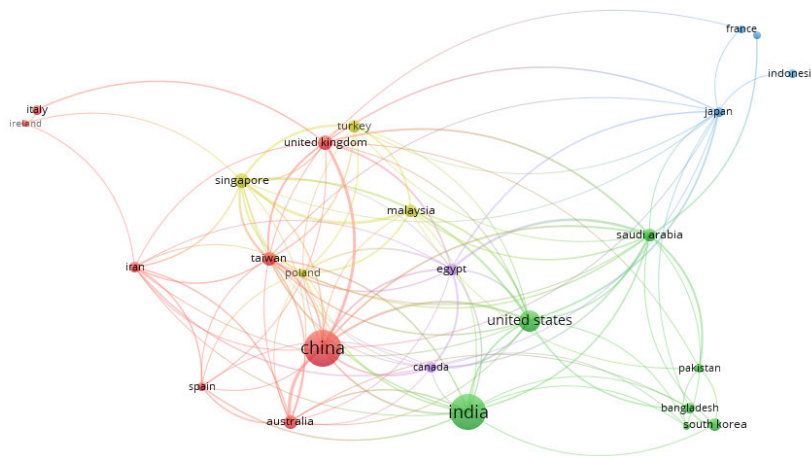


FIGURE 23. Map of co-authorship among countries.

**B. LIMITED PROSPECTIVE VALIDATION OF MACHINE LEARNING MODELS FOR MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS**

In the review of engineering-oriented machine learning papers for medical diagnosis, it is observed that there are few models validated prospectively using independent data from different medical settings. Prospective validation using independent data from diverse medical settings is crucial for assessing these models’ generalization and real-world applicability. The following are some key points to consider:

1) DIFFICULTY OF GENERALIZABILITY

Without prospective validation in diverse medical settings, there is a risk that the performance of machine learning models may be overly optimistic and not reflective of their true generalizability. In Table 6, Table 7 and Table 10, it is shown that the majority of publications used the MIT-BIH arrhythmia database as the training dataset (TrDS), but they did not describe the name of the test dataset (TeDS). Models trained on specific datasets may not perform well when applied to different populations or clinical environments.



**FIGURE 24.** Relation between No of documents and citations.

Although encouraged, validation on more datasets than the original development dataset is not always feasible, as there may be ethical, technical, or financial challenges in sharing clinical data [118] and [119]. Thus, to make ML healthcare models more accessible across different hospital settings, different model customization approaches are needed to translate specific, locally trained models to new settings [118].

## 2) BIAS AND OVERFITTING CONCERNS

Models that were not prospectively validated with independent data were more susceptible to overfitting due to the peculiarities of the training dataset. This can result in biased predictions that may not accurately reflect the complexities of real-world clinical scenarios. It is imperative to meticulously consider each developmental stage to construct a robust pipeline to identify and mitigate various biases. None of the articles described in Table 6 and Table 7, successfully developed a comprehensive process for the detection and management of multiple types of biases. Future studies should address all possible types of bias during model development for healthcare. Future studies should address all possible types of bias during model development for healthcare [120].

## 3) REAL-WORLD VARIABILITY

Medical settings vary significantly regarding patient demographics, data collection practices, equipment, and protocols. Prospective validation in diverse settings helps the model handle this variability and maintain a robust performance. Real-world clinical testing demonstrates substantial variability within a single manufacturer between two separate methods and demonstrates an impact on patient follow-up and implications in decisions regarding follow-up intervals and treatment [121].

## 4) CLINICAL IMPACT

Inaccurate or poorly generalizable models can have serious consequences in clinical settings, potentially leading to misdiagnosis or inappropriate treatment decisions. Prospective validation helps build confidence in these models' reliability

and safety. In [122], the prospective validation of a clinical decision rule allowed us to identify patients who presented to the emergency department with chest pain and could be safely removed from cardiac monitoring.

## 5) REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Regulatory bodies may require rigorous validation in many regions before approving machine learning models for clinical use. Prospective validation is necessary to meet these regulatory standards. Validation helps ensure products meet standard quality, safety, efficacy, purity, and effectiveness [123].

## 6) ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

From an ethical standpoint, deploying models without thorough validation may expose patients to unnecessary risk. It is essential to prioritize patient safety and well-being through a comprehensive validation process. Currently, no well-defined regulations are in place to address the legal and ethical issues that may arise due to the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare settings [124].

## 7) COLLABORATION AND DATA SHARING

Prospective validation in different medical settings promotes collaboration and data sharing among researchers, clinicians, and institutions. This collaborative approach can lead to more robust models better suited to widespread adoption. Learning from COVID-19-induced developments in data-driven collaboration between hospitals and other healthcare organizations is important to address systemic barriers, sustain resilience, and build transformative capacity to help build better-integrated healthcare systems [125].

In conclusion, emphasizing the importance of prospective validation using independent data from diverse medical settings is crucial to ensure the reliability, generalizability, and ethical use of machine learning models in medical diagnosis. As the clinical adoption of deep learning algorithms progresses, concerns have arisen regarding the impact of AI biases and discrimination on patient health [126]. Researchers and practitioners should actively seek opportunities for such validation to bridge the gap between theoretical advancements and real-world applications in healthcare.

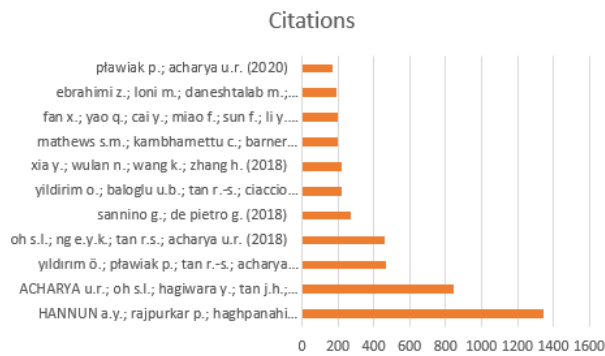
## C. DATA LEAKAGE

Data leakage is a critical issue in deep learning and most machine learning methods. It occurs when information from the validation or test set leaks into the training set, leading to an unrealistically optimistic assessment of model performance.

In Table 6, it can be observed that the same dataset origin predominates in the articles for both training and testing, although they could come from different areas, such as MIT-BIH AF and MIT-BIH NSR.

The lack of clarity in the rigorous separation of the training and validation sets can result in leakage problems.





**FIGURE 27.** Number of citations per scholarly document over the period.

to generalize unseen data fairly. Deep learning researchers and practitioners should be aware of this issue and apply robust set separation and cross-validation practices to prevent leaks and ensure model robustness. Transparency in the methodology used to split the data and train the model is fundamental for reproducibility and confidence in the results.

#### **D. THE PRACTICAL UTILITY OF DEEP LEARNING MODELS**

The lack of reproducibility and the difficulty of implementing trained models in real-world environments are legitimate concerns. The following are some considerations.

##### **1) REPRODUCIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

Reproducibility is fundamental to science and research. Deep learning models should be transparent, and details of the training process must be available for others to replicate the results. The lack of transparency and excessive complexity of algorithms can make models inaccessible to most researchers, limiting their practical utility. The lack of detailed methods and algorithm codes undermines its scientific value [128].

##### **2) APPLICABILITY IN REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS**

The true utility of a model is its ability to address real-world problems and provide practical solutions. Researchers should strive to present models that achieve high performance on specific datasets and are adaptable and applicable to practical, real-world situations.

In Table 6 column “AIR” (Academy Industry Relationship), articles supported by various research institutions are detailed, including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, India (CSIR), the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education, Indonesia (MRTE), the Foundation of Jiading Health Science (FJHS), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Dongguan Innovative Research Team Program (DIRTP).

Therefore, tools and techniques for data management are urgently needed to generate useful insights from data in a timely and intelligent manner, upon which real-world applications are based [129].

##### **3) SIMPLICITY VS. COMPLEXITY**

Algorithmic complexity does not always translate into better practical results. In many cases, simpler and easily interpretable models can be more effective and useful in real-world applications. It is important to determine a balance between the complexity of the model and its practical utility. The objective is to maintain a certain level of comprehensibility and control in response to the complexity of the model resulting from the proliferation of machine learning techniques [130].

##### **4) OPEN SOURCE AND SHARED RESOURCES**

Encouraging the adoption of open-source practices and sharing resources, such as source code, datasets, and pre-trained models, can improve the utility and applicability of research results. Knowledge of existing open source frameworks can be utilized to implement difficult and complex models of Deep Learning more efficiently and quickly by reducing the time and effort required for duplicate development [131].

Table 6 column “OS” (Open Source) describes that only one of the articles makes reference to including links to the source code and data used in its research.

In summary, deep learning researchers must prioritize transparency, reproducibility, and practical applicability of their models. This will strengthen confidence in research results and contribute to the genuine advancement of the discipline in real-world settings.

#### **E. PROSPECTIVE OF TRADITIONAL DEEP LEARNING MODELS REGARDING THE NEW EMERGING MODELS BASED ON QUANTUM COMPUTING**

It is necessary to analyze the past and future behavior of emerging models, such as quantum computing, in relation to traditional machine learning models. These models and their performance in the classification and automatic detection of cardiac arrhythmias will be compared. The following aspects were emphasized.

##### **1) LITERATURE REVIEW**

As shown in Figure 6, based on the accuracy metrics, the best outcomes were achieved using traditional deep learning models. Figure 10 shows the best results using quantum computing-based models. It is observed that traditional models exhibit better performance; however, it is confirmed that quantum computing-based models have a much faster execution speed than traditional machine learning methods [99].

##### **2) MODEL CHARACTERISTICS**

###### **a: INFORMATION REPRESENTATION**

Traditional models use binary bits to represent information. Quantum models use qubits that can exist in superposition, representing multiple states simultaneously, allowing



FIGURE 28. Bibliographic Coupling Documents.

for information manipulation that differs from traditional bits [132].

*b: PARALLELISM*

Traditional models sequentially perform operations by processing data at a time. Quantum models leverage quantum parallelism to perform calculations in multiple states simultaneously, providing significant advantages for solving certain types of problems [133] and [134].

*c: QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT*

Traditional models do not harness quantum entanglement because the classical bits are independent. Quantum models can be entangled, meaning that the state of one qubit is linked to that of another [132].

*d: ALGORITHM COMPLEXITY*

Quantum models can leverage specific quantum algorithms that may outperform traditional models in certain problems [101].

*e: MODEL SIZE*

The classical processing capacity and available memory generally limit traditional models. In quantum models, the number of qubits and their coherence directly affect the size and complexity of quantum models [135].

*f: ERROR CORRECTION*

In traditional models, errors are handled using optimization techniques and parameter adjustments. In quantum models, quantum error correction is essential due to the sensitivity of qubits to environmental interferences and errors [135] and [136].

3) PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

Classical deep learning models, executed on conventional hardware, have proven to be more effective and practical for various applications than quantum models. Quantum

computing still has limitations regarding quantum stability, error correction, and scalability [105] and [135].

4) SCALABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

*a: SCALABILITY*

Traditional models can leverage parallelism in conventional hardware, such as GPUs, to accelerate training and use the trained model for predictions or decision-making on new input data. Quantum bits (qubits) can simultaneously represent multiple states, allowing for massive parallel processing, referred to as quantum superposition and entanglement [133] and [135].

*b: EFFICIENCY*

The training times can vary depending on the complexity of the model and the size of the dataset. Some models may be efficient regarding the training process, whereas others may require more resources. Quantum algorithms have the potential to solve certain problems efficiently [137].

5) FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The future of traditional machine learning and quantum computing-based models will depend on advancements in hardware, algorithm development, hybrid integration, identification of practical applications, and overcoming technical and ethical challenges [138]. These technologies have the potential to coexist and complement each other in the future computing landscape.

V. CONCLUSION

This document presents the results of a systematic review of scientific articles developed between 2017 and 2023 on the systematic detection and classification of cardiac arrhythmias from ECG signals using DL techniques. This study reveals the superiority of DL over traditional machine learning methods. Unfortunately, computational cost remains one of the main limitations of DL methods. The study showed a growing interest in DL over the last decade for ECG signal medical

applications. This growth is sustained as DL architectures have become more popular.

The creation of large long-term public databases, together with the choice of a suitable DL deep learning method, will improve the classification results. In the meantime, researchers and clinicians will be empowered to understand DL appropriately, allowing them to interpret the results of such methods as they continue to be adopted into modern use. In summary, this study aimed to consolidate the fundamental information on all aspects of ECG signal classification using DL techniques and present it as a reference material for new researchers to improve their modeling performance.

This analysis allowed us to answer the seven RQs raised in the study. The main findings related to each question are detailed below.

- MQ1: Bibliography describes the procedures used by the medical community for the detection/classification of cardiac arrhythmias. Their knowledge could allow the discovery of new opportunities to improve medical diagnoses.
- MQ2: A retrospective study of the study period was carried out to determine which techniques have been used in the automatic detection/classification of cardiac arrhythmias, emphasizing the use of electrocardiograms; however, we observed other techniques such as echocardiography, cardiac computed tomography, and cardiac magnetic resonance. These could constitute an opportunity for future research using techniques such as DL.
- MQ3: DL models revealed in new publications owing to the excellent performance of its metrics [139], [140], [141], and [142].
- MQ4: Table 6, Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows the DL models, with the best performance based on the accuracy metric, with CNN being the best performer, with participation of 49% of the best publications found in the study.
- MQ5: The main optimization technique is Adam, which has the highest participation (58-59%) among the best publications of the study Figure 6.
- MQ6: In the “PhysioNet/Computing in Cardiology Challenge 2020, a new scoring metric was described to assess the performance of DL architectures. This scoring metric reflects reality evidence that some misdiagnoses are more harmful than others and should be scored accordingly and reflects the fact that it is less serious about confusing some classes than others [95].
- MQ7: Quantum computing has a highly valuable potential through qubits [100], allowing be more effective, especially in solving complex problems, leveraging the capabilities of quantum gates [99]. As quantum computing becomes more consolidated, quantum algorithms are expected to become significantly more powerful. Therefore, the future prospects in this field are promising. Advancements in this field include integrating quantum machine learning models with

quantum hardware and incorporating them into existing medical systems to help improve diagnostics [101].

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Marco Javier Flores-Calero is credited with the research methodology, design, and supervision. Fernando Vásquez-Iturralde developed the research implementation, writing, and information validation. Felipe Grijalva contributed to the analysis of results and actively participated in writing the paper. Andrés Rosales-Acosta has reviewed the manuscript.

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