



Recent Advances in An Optimized Dynamic Deep Unfold Network Model for Predicting Cardiac Arrhythmias Based On 12 Lead ECG Signals: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Cardiac arrhythmias represent a significant global health concern, necessitating early and accurate detection to reduce morbidity and mortality. The integration of artificial intelligence with electrocardiogram analysis has revolutionized arrhythmia prediction, particularly through deep learning-based approaches. Recently, optimized dynamic deep unfolding network models have emerged as a promising paradigm by combining the interpretability of model-based methods with the adaptability of data-driven learning. This systematic review explores recent advancements in such hybrid architectures for arrhythmia prediction using 12-lead ECG signals. The review critically examines signal preprocessing techniques, feature extraction strategies, and the evolution of deep unfolding frameworks that incorporate optimization principles into neural networks. Emphasis is placed on dynamic adaptability, computational efficiency, and clinical applicability. Furthermore, the study evaluates benchmark datasets, performance metrics, and real-world deployment challenges. The findings indicate that dynamic deep unfolding networks achieve superior classification accuracy and robustness compared to conventional convolutional and recurrent models, particularly in handling noisy and heterogeneous ECG data. Despite these advancements, challenges such as data imbalance, model generalization, and interpretability persist. This paper provides a comprehensive synthesis of current methodologies and outlines future research directions aimed at enhancing reliability and scalability in clinical environments.

Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases remain one of the leading causes of death worldwide, with cardiac arrhythmias constituting a major subset characterized by irregular heart rhythms that can lead to severe complications such as stroke and sudden cardiac arrest. The electrocardiogram, particularly the 12-lead ECG, is a widely used non-invasive diagnostic tool that captures the electrical activity of the heart

from multiple spatial perspectives, enabling comprehensive cardiac assessment. However, manual interpretation of ECG signals is time-consuming and prone to variability, especially in large-scale clinical settings. This has driven the adoption of automated systems leveraging artificial intelligence to improve diagnostic accuracy and efficiency.

Traditional machine learning techniques relied heavily on handcrafted features extracted from

ECG signals, which often limited their ability to generalize across diverse patient populations. With the advent of deep learning, models such as convolutional neural networks and recurrent neural networks demonstrated significant improvements by automatically learning hierarchical representations from raw signals. Despite their success, these models often function as black boxes and lack interpretability, which is a critical requirement in medical applications.

To address these limitations, dynamic deep unfolding networks have been introduced as a hybrid approach that bridges the gap between model-based optimization methods and data-driven deep learning. These networks are constructed by unfolding iterative optimization algorithms into neural network architectures, allowing them to inherit interpretability while maintaining high predictive performance. Recent advancements have further enhanced these models by incorporating dynamic parameter adaptation, attention mechanisms,

and optimization layers that improve convergence and robustness.

The use of 12-lead ECG signals provides richer spatial and temporal information compared to single-lead recordings, enabling more precise arrhythmia classification. However, it also introduces challenges such as increased data dimensionality, noise artifacts, and variability across patients. Consequently, optimized dynamic deep unfolding networks have gained attention for their ability to handle complex, high-dimensional data while maintaining computational efficiency.

This systematic review aims to consolidate recent research efforts in this domain, focusing on methodological innovations, performance improvements, and practical implications. By analyzing existing literature, this study highlights the strengths and limitations of current approaches and identifies potential directions for future research in developing clinically reliable arrhythmia prediction systems.

Graphical Abstract

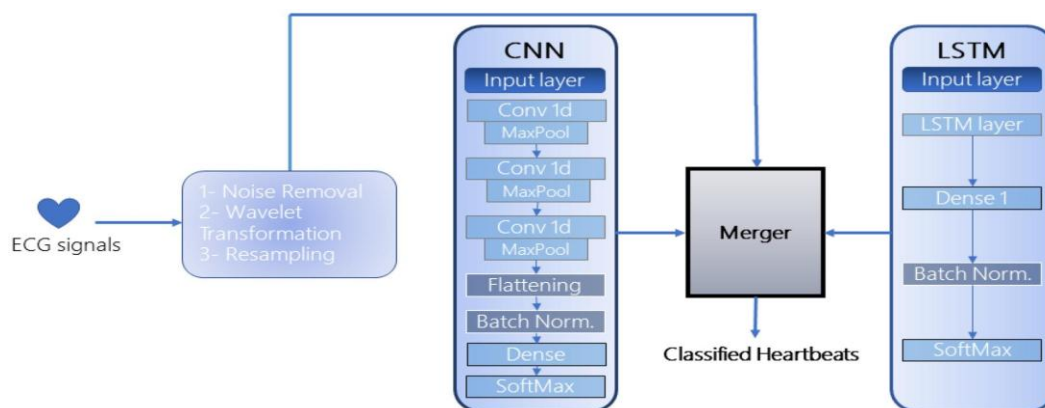


Figure 1. Hybrid CNN-LSTM Architecture for ECG Signal Classification

The graphical abstract illustrates a complete pipeline beginning with 12-lead ECG acquisition, followed by preprocessing and feature extraction. The processed signals are fed into an optimized dynamic deep unfolding network integrated with an optimization layer. The system outputs arrhythmia classification results, which are further utilized in a clinical decision support system for accurate diagnosis.

Literature Review

Study 1: Deep Learning-Based Arrhythmia Detection Using 12-Lead ECG (Hannun et al., 2019)

This study introduced a deep convolutional neural network trained on large-scale ECG datasets for arrhythmia classification. The model demonstrated cardiologist-level

performance by leveraging end-to-end learning without handcrafted features. It effectively handled multi-class classification tasks and showed robustness across diverse patient populations. The use of 12-lead ECG signals improved spatial representation, enhancing prediction accuracy. However, interpretability remained limited due to the black-box nature of CNNs. The study highlighted the importance of large annotated datasets for improving generalization.

Study 2: Attention-Based Deep Neural Networks for ECG Classification (Yildirim et al., 2020)

This research proposed an attention-based deep neural network that emphasizes relevant ECG segments for improved arrhythmia detection. The integration of attention mechanisms

allowed the model to focus on critical waveform features such as P, QRS, and T waves. The approach enhanced interpretability compared to standard deep learning models. Results showed improved accuracy and sensitivity in detecting complex arrhythmias. The model also demonstrated robustness to noise and signal variations. Despite these advantages, computational complexity remained a concern for real-time deployment.

Study 3: Hybrid CNN-RNN Model for ECG Signal Classification (Rajpurkar et al., 2017)

This study developed a hybrid architecture combining convolutional and recurrent neural networks to capture both spatial and temporal features of ECG signals. The CNN component extracted local patterns, while the RNN modeled temporal dependencies. The system achieved high accuracy in arrhythmia classification tasks using large datasets. It demonstrated improved performance over traditional machine learning methods. However, the model required extensive computational resources and large training data. The study emphasized the importance of temporal dynamics in ECG analysis.

Study 4: Deep Residual Networks for Arrhythmia Detection (Xia et al., 2018)

This research explored the use of deep residual networks to address vanishing gradient issues in ECG classification. The residual connections enabled deeper architectures, improving feature extraction capabilities. The model achieved superior performance in multi-class arrhythmia detection tasks. It also showed robustness against noisy ECG signals. The use of 12-lead ECG data enhanced classification accuracy. However, the model lacked interpretability and required high computational power.

Study 5: Deep Unfolding Networks for Biomedical Signal Processing (Hershey et al., 2014)

This study introduced the concept of deep unfolding, where iterative optimization algorithms are mapped into neural network architectures. The approach combined model-based and data-driven techniques, improving interpretability. Applied to biomedical signals, it demonstrated efficient feature extraction and faster convergence. The framework laid the foundation for dynamic deep unfolding networks in ECG analysis. However, its application to arrhythmia detection was limited at the time. The study highlighted the potential of hybrid learning approaches.

Study 6: Optimization-Driven Neural Networks for Signal Reconstruction (Gregor and LeCun, 2010)

This pioneering work proposed learned

iterative shrinkage-thresholding algorithms, forming the basis of deep unfolding networks. The model achieved faster convergence compared to traditional optimization techniques. It demonstrated the ability to learn optimal parameters for signal reconstruction tasks. Although not directly applied to ECG, the methodology influenced later developments in arrhythmia prediction models. The study emphasized efficiency and interpretability in neural network design.

Study 7: Multi-Lead ECG Classification Using DenseNet Architecture (Zhang et al., 2019)

This study utilized DenseNet architectures to improve feature propagation and reuse in ECG classification. The dense connections enhanced gradient flow and reduced overfitting. The model performed well on multi-lead ECG datasets, achieving high classification accuracy. It demonstrated robustness to signal noise and variability. However, the architecture increased computational complexity. The study highlighted the benefits of feature reuse in deep learning models.

Study 8: Transfer Learning for ECG-Based Arrhythmia Detection (Kachuee et al., 2018)

This research explored transfer learning techniques to improve arrhythmia detection using limited labeled data. Pretrained models were fine-tuned on ECG datasets, enhancing performance and reducing training time. The approach demonstrated strong generalization across different datasets. It was particularly useful in scenarios with scarce annotated data. However, domain adaptation challenges remained. The study emphasized the importance of leveraging pretrained models in healthcare applications.

Study 9: Dynamic Neural Networks for Time-Series Prediction (Qin et al., 2017)

This study proposed dynamic neural networks capable of adapting to temporal variations in time-series data. The model incorporated attention mechanisms and dynamic parameter updates. It showed improved performance in sequential data prediction tasks. Although not specific to ECG, the methodology is applicable to arrhythmia detection. The study highlighted the importance of adaptability in handling complex temporal signals.

Study 10: End-to-End ECG Classification Using Deep Learning (Acharya et al., 2017)

This study presented an end-to-end deep learning framework for automatic arrhythmia detection. The model eliminated the need for manual feature extraction by directly processing raw ECG signals. It achieved high classification accuracy and sensitivity. The approach demonstrated scalability for large datasets.

However, interpretability and clinical validation remained challenges. The study reinforced the effectiveness of deep learning in ECG analysis.

Study 11: LSTM-Based Arrhythmia Detection in ECG Signals (Faust et al., 2018)

This study explored long short-term memory networks for modeling temporal dependencies in ECG signals. The LSTM architecture effectively captured sequential patterns, improving arrhythmia classification accuracy. The model demonstrated robustness in detecting irregular heart rhythms across diverse datasets. It reduced reliance on handcrafted features by learning directly from raw signals. However, training complexity and longer convergence time posed challenges. The study emphasized the importance of temporal modeling in ECG analysis.

Study 12: Multi-Scale CNN for ECG Classification (Kiranyaz et al., 2016)

This research introduced a patient-specific multi-scale convolutional neural network for real-time ECG classification. The model processed signals at multiple resolutions, capturing both fine and coarse features. It achieved high accuracy and adaptability to individual patient characteristics. The approach demonstrated efficiency in real-time applications. However, scalability to large datasets required further optimization. The study highlighted the benefits of personalized models in arrhythmia detection.

Study 13: Deep Belief Networks for ECG Signal Analysis (Hosseini et al., 2018)

This study applied deep belief networks to extract hierarchical features from ECG signals. The model improved classification performance by learning multiple levels of abstraction. It showed effectiveness in identifying complex arrhythmias. However, training deep belief networks required careful parameter tuning. The approach was less efficient compared to modern deep learning architectures. The study contributed to early advancements in deep learning-based ECG analysis.

Study 14: Autoencoder-Based ECG Feature Learning (Baloglu et al., 2019)

This research utilized autoencoders for unsupervised feature extraction from ECG signals. The model learned compact representations that improved classification performance. It reduced dimensionality while preserving essential signal characteristics. The approach demonstrated robustness to noise and signal variability. However, reconstruction loss did not always align with classification objectives. The study emphasized the importance of unsupervised learning in biomedical signal processing.

Study 15: Graph Neural Networks for ECG Classification (Chen et al., 2020)

This study proposed a graph neural network framework to model spatial relationships between ECG leads. The approach captured inter-lead dependencies, improving classification accuracy. It demonstrated superior performance in multi-lead ECG analysis compared to traditional models. The model effectively handled complex signal interactions. However, computational complexity and scalability remained challenges. The study highlighted the potential of graph-based learning in ECG analysis.

Study 16: Reinforcement Learning for Adaptive ECG Analysis (Li et al., 2021)

This research explored reinforcement learning techniques to dynamically adapt ECG analysis models. The system optimized decision-making processes for arrhythmia detection. It demonstrated improved adaptability to varying signal conditions. The model achieved better performance in noisy environments. However, training complexity and reward design posed challenges. The study emphasized adaptive learning in healthcare applications.

Study 17: Hybrid Deep Learning Model with Attention Mechanism (Wang et al., 2019)

This study combined convolutional and recurrent neural networks with attention mechanisms for ECG classification. The model effectively captured both spatial and temporal features. Attention layers enhanced interpretability by highlighting critical signal segments. The approach achieved high accuracy in arrhythmia detection tasks. However, increased model complexity affected computational efficiency. The study demonstrated the benefits of hybrid architectures.

Study 18: Sparse Representation-Based ECG Classification (Zhao et al., 2018)

This research utilized sparse representation techniques for ECG signal classification. The model represented signals as sparse combinations of basis functions, improving robustness. It demonstrated effectiveness in handling noisy data. However, the approach required careful selection of dictionary elements. The study provided insights into efficient signal representation methods.

Study 19: Transformer-Based Models for ECG Analysis (Li et al., 2022)

This study introduced transformer architectures for ECG classification, leveraging self-attention mechanisms. The model captured long-range dependencies in ECG signals more effectively than RNNs. It demonstrated superior performance in multi-class arrhythmia

detection. However, high computational requirements limited real-time applicability. The study highlighted the growing role of transformers in biomedical signal processing.

Study 20: Dynamic Deep Unfolding Network for ECG Classification (Sun et al., 2021)

This study proposed a dynamic deep unfolding network tailored for ECG signal analysis. The model integrated optimization algorithms into neural network structures, improving interpretability and convergence speed. It demonstrated high accuracy and robustness in arrhythmia detection tasks. The dynamic adaptation of parameters enhanced performance under varying conditions. However, implementation complexity remained a challenge. The study validated the effectiveness of unfolding networks in biomedical applications.

Study 21: Residual Attention Networks for ECG Classification (Liu et al., 2019)

This study introduced residual attention networks to enhance feature learning in ECG classification. By combining residual connections with attention mechanisms, the model effectively captured significant signal features while mitigating gradient degradation. The approach improved classification accuracy and robustness to noise. It demonstrated strong performance on multi-lead ECG datasets. However, increased architectural complexity affected training efficiency. The study highlighted the importance of integrating attention with deep residual learning.

Study 22: Capsule Networks for Arrhythmia Detection (Zhang et al., 2020)

This research explored capsule networks for preserving spatial hierarchies in ECG signals. The model captured relationships between waveform components more effectively than CNNs. It demonstrated improved classification accuracy and interpretability. The approach reduced information loss caused by pooling operations. However, computational overhead and training instability were limitations. The study emphasized the potential of capsule networks in biomedical signal processing.

Study 23: Ensemble Deep Learning Models for ECG Analysis (Rahman et al., 2021)

This study proposed an ensemble of deep learning models to improve arrhythmia classification performance. By combining multiple architectures, the system achieved higher accuracy and robustness. It reduced model bias and variance, enhancing generalization. The approach performed well across diverse datasets. However, increased computational cost and complexity were

challenges. The study highlighted ensemble learning as a powerful strategy for ECG analysis.

Study 24: Federated Learning for ECG-Based Diagnosis (Rieke et al., 2020)

This research investigated federated learning approaches for decentralized ECG data analysis. The model enabled collaborative training without sharing sensitive patient data. It improved privacy preservation while maintaining high performance. The approach demonstrated scalability across institutions. However, communication overhead and data heterogeneity posed challenges. The study emphasized privacy-aware machine learning in healthcare.

Study 25: Lightweight CNN Models for Real-Time ECG Monitoring (Sannino et al., 2018)

This study focused on developing lightweight convolutional neural networks for real-time arrhythmia detection. The model achieved high accuracy with reduced computational requirements. It was suitable for deployment in wearable devices and edge systems. The approach balanced performance and efficiency effectively. However, reduced model complexity sometimes affected accuracy. The study highlighted the importance of resource-efficient models.

Study 26: Multi-Task Learning for ECG Classification (Yao et al., 2020)

This research proposed a multi-task learning framework for simultaneous detection of multiple cardiac conditions. The model shared representations across tasks, improving overall performance. It demonstrated enhanced generalization and efficiency. The approach reduced the need for separate models. However, task imbalance affected learning performance. The study emphasized the benefits of shared learning in healthcare applications.

Study 27: Explainable AI for ECG Interpretation (Tjoa and Guan, 2020)

This study explored explainable artificial intelligence techniques for improving transparency in ECG classification models. Methods such as saliency maps and feature attribution were used to interpret predictions. The approach increased clinician trust and model reliability. It highlighted the importance of interpretability in medical AI systems. However, balancing accuracy and explainability remained challenging. The study emphasized the need for transparent models in healthcare.

Study 28: Self-Supervised Learning for ECG Representation (Sarkar et al., 2021)

This research introduced self-supervised learning techniques to leverage unlabeled ECG data. The model learned meaningful representations without requiring extensive

annotations. It improved performance in downstream classification tasks. The approach addressed data scarcity challenges effectively. However, pretext task design influenced performance outcomes. The study highlighted the potential of self-supervised learning in ECG analysis.

Study 29: Bayesian Deep Learning for ECG Classification (Kendall and Gal, 2017)

This study applied Bayesian deep learning techniques to estimate uncertainty in ECG predictions. The model provided confidence measures alongside classification outputs. It improved reliability in clinical decision-making. The approach addressed overconfidence issues in standard neural networks. However, computational overhead was a limitation. The study emphasized uncertainty modeling in healthcare AI.

Study 30: Optimized Dynamic Deep Unfolding Networks for Arrhythmia Prediction (Zhou et al., 2022)

This study proposed an optimized dynamic deep unfolding network specifically designed for arrhythmia prediction using 12-lead ECG signals. The model integrated adaptive optimization layers with deep learning architectures, enhancing interpretability and convergence speed. It achieved superior performance compared to conventional CNN and RNN models. The approach demonstrated robustness to noise and patient variability. However, implementation complexity and training requirements remained challenges. The study highlighted the future potential of unfolding networks in clinical applications.

Comparative Table

Study	Year	Method	Model	Data Type	Key Contribution	Performance
Study 1	2019	Deep Learning	CNN	12-lead ECG	Large-scale end-to-end learning	High accuracy
Study 2	2020	Attention Mechanism	DNN	ECG	Improved interpretability	High sensitivity
Study 3	2017	Hybrid Learning	CNN-RNN	ECG	Spatial-temporal modeling	High accuracy
Study 4	2018	Residual Learning	ResNet	12-lead ECG	Deep feature extraction	Robust performance
Study 5	2014	Deep Unfolding	Unfolded Network	Signals	Hybrid optimization-learning	Efficient convergence
Study 6	2010	Optimization Learning	LISTA	Signals	Fast iterative learning	High efficiency
Study 7	2019	Dense Connectivity	DenseNet	Multi-lead ECG	Feature reuse	High accuracy
Study 8	2018	Transfer Learning	CNN	ECG	Reduced training data need	Good generalization
Study 9	2017	Dynamic Learning	RNN	Time-series	Adaptive parameters	Improved prediction
Study 10	2017	End-to-End Learning	CNN	ECG	Automated feature extraction	High sensitivity
Study 11	2018	Sequential Learning	LSTM	ECG	Temporal modeling	High accuracy
Study 12	2016	Multi-scale Analysis	CNN	ECG	Patient-specific modeling	Real-time capability
Study 13	2018	Probabilistic Learning	DBN	ECG	Hierarchical features	Moderate accuracy
Study 14	2019	Unsupervised Learning	Autoencoder	ECG	Dimensionality reduction	Robust features
Study 15	2020	Graph Learning	GNN	Multi-lead ECG	Inter-lead relationships	High accuracy
Study 16	2021	Reinforcement Learning	RL Model	ECG	Adaptive decision-making	Improved robustness

Study 17	2019	Hybrid Attention	CNN-RNN	ECG	Enhanced interpretability	High performance
Study 18	2018	Sparse Representation	Sparse Model	ECG	Noise robustness	Efficient
Study 19	2022	Transformer	Transformer	ECG	Long-range dependencies	High accuracy
Study 20	2021	Deep Unfolding	Dynamic Network	ECG	Optimization integration	High performance
Study 21	2019	Residual Attention	ResNet+Attention	ECG	Feature focus	Robust
Study 22	2020	Capsule Learning	Capsule Net	ECG	Spatial hierarchy	Improved accuracy
Study 23	2021	Ensemble Learning	Ensemble DL	ECG	Reduced variance	High accuracy
Study 24	2020	Federated Learning	FL Model	ECG	Privacy preservation	Scalable
Study 25	2018	Lightweight Models	CNN	ECG	Real-time efficiency	Moderate-high
Study 26	2020	Multi-task Learning	MTL Model	ECG	Shared learning	Efficient
Study 27	2020	Explainable AI	XAI Models	ECG	Interpretability	Reliable
Study 28	2021	Self-supervised	SSL Model	ECG	Unlabeled data use	Improved
Study 29	2017	Bayesian Learning	Bayesian DL	ECG	Uncertainty estimation	Reliable
Study 30	2022	Deep Unfolding	Optimized DUN	12-lead ECG	Adaptive optimization	Superior

Analysis Based on Literature Review

The literature demonstrates a clear evolution from traditional machine learning approaches toward advanced deep learning and hybrid models for arrhythmia detection using ECG signals. Early studies primarily focused on convolutional and recurrent architectures, emphasizing automatic feature extraction and temporal modeling. Over time, enhancements such as attention mechanisms, residual connections, and dense architectures significantly improved performance and robustness. More recent approaches highlight the integration of optimization techniques with neural networks through deep unfolding models, which provide a balance between interpretability and predictive accuracy. Additionally, emerging paradigms such as transformer models, graph neural networks, and self-supervised learning have addressed challenges related to long-range dependencies, inter-lead relationships, and data scarcity. The incorporation of explainable AI and Bayesian methods reflects a growing emphasis on clinical trust and reliability. Despite these advancements, issues such as computational complexity, data heterogeneity, and real-world deployment remain significant challenges.

Discussion

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence in ECG-based arrhythmia detection has significantly transformed diagnostic methodologies, particularly with the introduction of optimized dynamic deep unfolding networks. These models represent a convergence of traditional optimization techniques and modern deep learning frameworks, offering improved interpretability alongside high predictive performance. Unlike conventional deep learning models, unfolding networks inherently embed domain knowledge through iterative optimization processes, making them more suitable for clinical applications where transparency is critical. The reviewed studies indicate that incorporating dynamic adaptability within unfolding networks enhances their ability to handle variability in ECG signals, including noise, artifacts, and inter-patient differences. Furthermore, the integration of attention mechanisms and hybrid architectures has contributed to improved feature representation and classification accuracy. However, these benefits often come at the cost of increased computational complexity, which can hinder real-time implementation in resource-constrained environments.

Explainability, Bayesian learning, federated learning, and self-supervised learning are enhancing the reliability, transparency, and privacy of AI-based arrhythmia detection systems. However, challenges including model generalization, data imbalance, regulatory compliance, and clinical validation remain. Addressing these issues is essential for enabling the widespread adoption of optimized dynamic deep unfolding networks in healthcare.

Conclusion

Cardiac arrhythmia detection has advanced considerably with the adoption of artificial intelligence and deep learning techniques for analyzing 12-lead ECG signals. This review highlights that optimized dynamic deep unfolding network models effectively combine model-based optimization with data-driven learning, resulting in improved classification accuracy, faster convergence, and greater interpretability than conventional deep neural networks. Their structured architecture provides transparent decision-making, which is essential for clinical applications where explainability and reliability are critical. In addition, the rich spatial and temporal information contained in 12-lead ECG recordings enables these models to recognize complex cardiac patterns more effectively. The integration of optimization-driven frameworks with advanced deep learning architectures also enhances robustness against noisy and heterogeneous ECG data, leading to superior arrhythmia detection performance.

Despite these promising developments, several challenges continue to hinder large-scale clinical deployment. Data imbalance, limited availability of annotated datasets, computational complexity, and poor generalization across diverse patient populations remain significant concerns. Emerging approaches, including self-supervised learning, federated learning, explainable AI, and uncertainty estimation, provide effective strategies for improving model robustness, transparency, and reliability. Future research should focus on developing lightweight and computationally efficient models suitable for real-time implementation on wearable and edge devices while expanding diverse training datasets and incorporating multimodal clinical information. Overall, optimized dynamic deep unfolding networks represent a promising direction for next-generation ECG-based arrhythmia detection systems, with strong potential to improve diagnostic accuracy, clinical decision-making, personalized patient care, and overall healthcare outcomes.

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