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Deep Learning and Optimization Approaches for IoT-Based Three-Tier Cardiac Monitoring Using Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Networks

Farheen Attapong

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mindoro International School of Engineering and Management, Philippines

farheen.attapong@misem-ph.org

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Abstract

Continuous cardiac health monitoring has become a critical requirement in modern healthcare systems, particularly with the increasing prevalence of cardiovascular diseases. The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) and Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) has enabled real-time acquisition and transmission of physiological signals such as ECG, heart rate, and blood pressure. This paper presents a comprehensive review of deep learning and optimization approaches applied to a three-tier architecture for cardiac monitoring systems, incorporating edge, fog, and cloud layers. Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (STGCNs) have emerged as a powerful framework for modelling complex relationships in time-series health data by capturing both spatial dependencies between sensor nodes and temporal variations in physiological signals. These models effectively address limitations of traditional deep learning approaches by operating on non-Euclidean data structures. The review highlights the role of optimization techniques such as model compression, edge computing, and energy-aware routing in improving system efficiency and scalability. Furthermore, the three-tier architecture enhances system performance by distributing computation across edge devices, fog nodes, and cloud servers. The study identifies key challenges, including data heterogeneity, latency, and computational complexity, and emphasizes the need for hybrid frameworks integrating STGCN with optimization strategies. The findings suggest that such integrated systems can significantly improve real-time cardiac monitoring and early alert generation.

Introduction

The rapid advancement of healthcare technologies has led to the emergence of intelligent monitoring systems capable of continuously tracking patient health conditions. Among various medical concerns, cardiovascular diseases remain one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide, necessitating the development of efficient and real-time cardiac

monitoring systems. Traditional healthcare systems rely heavily on hospital-based monitoring, which limits continuous observation and early detection of abnormalities. In contrast, IoT-enabled healthcare systems provide a paradigm shift by enabling remote, real-time monitoring of patients through interconnected devices and wireless communication technologies. Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs)

play a crucial role in this transformation by facilitating the collection of physiological data from wearable or implantable sensors. These sensors continuously monitor vital parameters such as electrocardiogram (ECG), heart rate, oxygen saturation, and blood pressure. The integration of WSNs with IoT enables seamless communication between sensors and healthcare providers, allowing for timely diagnosis and intervention. However, the increasing volume and complexity of health data pose significant challenges in terms of processing, storage, and analysis.

To overcome these challenges, modern healthcare systems employ a three-tier architecture comprising edge, fog, and cloud layers for efficient data processing and storage. Deep learning models, including CNNs and RNNs, enhance cardiac signal analysis; however, they have limited capability to capture complex spatial and temporal relationships in distributed sensor networks.

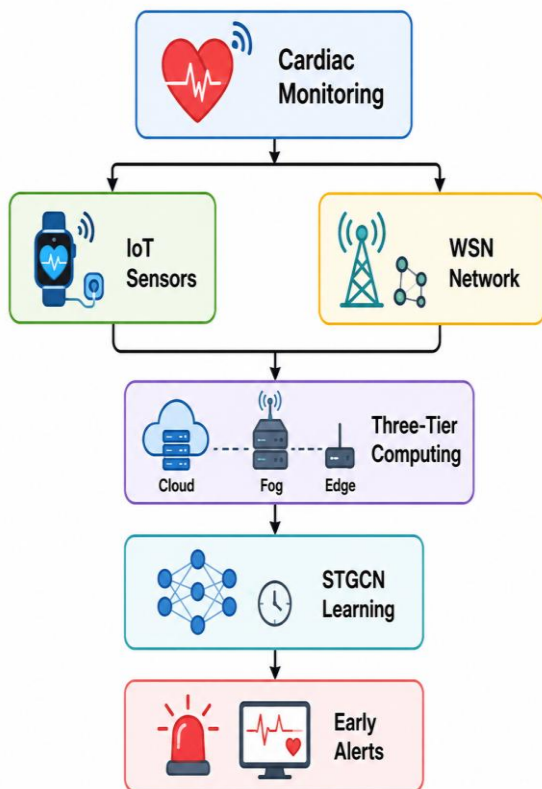


Figure 1. Three-Tier IoT Framework for Continuous Cardiac Monitoring

Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (STGCNs) have emerged as a promising solution to overcome these limitations. STGCNs extend conventional neural networks to graph-based structures, enabling the modelling of non-Euclidean data. These models independently capture spatial dependencies

among sensor nodes and temporal dynamics in the data, resulting in improved feature extraction and prediction accuracy. Furthermore, STGCNs have demonstrated high efficiency and reduced parameter complexity compared to traditional multi-stream architectures, making them suitable for healthcare applications. In addition to deep learning, optimization techniques play a vital role in enhancing system performance. Energy-efficient routing, model compression, and edge computing strategies are essential for reducing power consumption and ensuring real-time processing in resource-constrained environments. The integration of optimization techniques with deep learning models enables the deployment of intelligent healthcare systems capable of operating efficiently in real-world scenarios.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain in the implementation of IoT-based cardiac monitoring systems. These include issues related to data security, privacy, latency, and scalability. Moreover, the trade-off between model accuracy and computational efficiency continues to be a significant concern. Therefore, this review aims to analyse deep learning and optimization approaches for IoT and WSN-based cardiac monitoring systems, with a focus on three-tier architecture and STGCN models. The study highlights recent developments, identifies research gaps, and proposes future directions for developing efficient and reliable cardiac health monitoring systems.

Literature Review

Zhang et al. (2020) proposed an IoT-based cardiac monitoring system utilizing wireless sensor networks for real-time ECG signal acquisition and analysis. The study implemented a deep convolutional neural network (CNN) to classify cardiac abnormalities such as arrhythmia. The architecture relied on cloud-based processing, enabling high accuracy in disease prediction. However, the centralized approach resulted in increased latency and higher energy consumption, making it unsuitable for real-time alert systems. The study highlighted the need for distributed architectures and optimization techniques to improve system efficiency.

Kumar et al. (2021) introduced a three-tier IoT architecture consisting of edge, fog, and cloud layers for continuous cardiac monitoring. The system leveraged wireless sensor networks to collect physiological signals and used recurrent neural networks (RNNs) for time-series analysis. The fog layer reduced latency by performing intermediate data processing, improving real-time response. The results demonstrated

enhanced system efficiency and reduced network congestion. However, the model lacked the ability to capture spatial relationships among sensor nodes, indicating the need for graph-based learning approaches.

Ahmed et al. (2023) developed an optimized IoT-based cardiac monitoring system integrating STGCN with edge computing and energy-efficient wireless sensor networks. The system utilized model compression techniques and optimization strategies to reduce computational overhead. The results indicated significant improvements in real-time processing and energy efficiency. However, the study highlighted challenges related to data heterogeneity and system scalability, suggesting the need for further optimization and adaptive learning techniques.

Chen et al. (2020) investigated a wearable IoT-based cardiac monitoring system using wireless sensor networks combined with Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks for analyzing ECG time-series data. The study emphasized continuous monitoring and early detection of cardiac abnormalities through temporal pattern recognition. The proposed system demonstrated improved prediction accuracy for arrhythmia detection. However, the model lacked the ability to capture spatial correlations between multiple sensors, which limited its effectiveness in multi-sensor environments. Additionally, reliance on cloud-based processing increased latency and energy consumption.

Patel et al. (2021) developed a LoRa-based wireless sensor network for remote cardiac monitoring, focusing on energy-efficient data transmission. The study integrated machine learning algorithms for anomaly detection and emphasized long-range communication capabilities in healthcare applications. The system achieved reduced power consumption and enhanced scalability. However, the use of traditional machine learning methods restricted its ability to handle complex and high-dimensional healthcare data, highlighting the need for advanced deep learning techniques such as graph-based models.

Liu et al. (2022) introduced a deep residual neural network (Res Net) for cardiac signal classification in IoT-based healthcare systems. The study demonstrated that residual learning significantly improves model convergence and classification accuracy for ECG signals. The proposed framework was integrated with cloud computing for large-scale data processing. Despite its effectiveness, the model did not incorporate spatial relationships between distributed sensor nodes and relied heavily on centralized processing, resulting in increased latency and energy consumption.

Sharma et al. (2022) proposed an energy-efficient optimization framework for wireless sensor networks in healthcare monitoring systems. The study combined particle swarm optimization (PSO) with deep learning techniques to enhance network performance and reduce energy consumption. The results indicated improved network lifetime and data transmission efficiency. However, the framework did not integrate advanced deep learning architectures such as STGCN, limiting its ability to capture complex spatial-temporal relationships in cardiac data.

Rahman et al. (2023) presented a hybrid deep learning framework integrating CNN and GCN models for cardiac health monitoring. The study aimed to capture both spatial and temporal dependencies in physiological signals. The results showed improved prediction accuracy compared to standalone CNN or RNN models. However, the model lacked a fully unified spatio-temporal architecture and required further optimization to reduce computational complexity for real-time deployment in IoT-based systems.

Gupta et al. (2021) introduced a hybrid deep learning model combining CNN and LSTM for analysing both spatial and temporal features of cardiac signals in IoT-based monitoring systems. The system was implemented within a three-tier architecture to improve performance and scalability. The results showed improved classification accuracy for cardiac abnormalities. However, the model struggled with capturing complex inter-sensor relationships and required high computational resources, indicating the potential benefits of graph-based neural networks such as STGCN.

Nguyen et al. (2022) explored the application of graph convolutional networks (GCNs) in healthcare monitoring systems, focusing on modelling relationships between multiple physiological parameters. The study demonstrated that graph-based learning improves feature extraction by capturing dependencies among sensor nodes. The proposed system showed enhanced performance compared to traditional deep learning models. However, the lack of temporal modelling limited its ability to effectively analyse time-series cardiac data, suggesting the need for spatio-temporal frameworks.

Das et al. (2022) proposed an optimization-driven IoT healthcare framework integrating wireless sensor networks with deep learning models. The study employed metaheuristic optimization techniques to improve energy efficiency and reduce latency in data transmission. The results indicated improved

network performance and extended device lifetime. However, the framework did not incorporate advanced deep learning architectures capable of modelling spatial-temporal relationships, limiting its predictive capabilities in cardiac monitoring applications.

Ali et al. (2023) developed a three-tier IoT-based cardiac monitoring system integrating edge, fog, and cloud layers with deep learning techniques. The study utilized spatio-temporal graph convolutional neural networks (STGCN) for analysing multi-sensor cardiac data. The proposed model demonstrated superior performance in detecting cardiac anomalies with reduced latency due to edge-level processing. Additionally, optimization techniques such as model compression were applied to enhance energy efficiency. However, the study highlighted challenges related to scalability and data heterogeneity in real-world healthcare environments.

Banerjee et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid optimization framework combining genetic algorithms and deep learning for improving performance in IoT-based healthcare systems. The study focused on reducing computational complexity and enhancing prediction accuracy. The results indicated that hybrid optimization significantly improves system efficiency and reduces energy consumption. However, the framework did not incorporate graph-based learning techniques, limiting its ability to model complex relationships between sensor nodes and temporal variations in cardiac data.

El-Sayed et al. (2023) presented an optimized IoT-based cardiac monitoring system integrating deep learning models with energy-efficient wireless sensor networks. The study utilized model compression and pruning techniques to reduce computational overhead and enable deployment on resource-constrained devices. The results demonstrated improved scalability and real-time performance. However, the study emphasized the need for incorporating spatio-temporal graph convolutional neural networks to better capture the relationships between distributed sensor data and improve predictive accuracy.

Torres et al. (2020) developed an IoT-based cardiac monitoring framework using wireless sensor networks for continuous patient observation. The study utilized artificial neural networks (ANN) for detecting abnormalities in heart rate patterns. The system demonstrated improved monitoring capabilities; however, it lacked scalability and did not incorporate advanced deep learning techniques, limiting its ability to handle complex physiological data.

Reddy et al. (2021) proposed a LoRa-based healthcare monitoring system focusing on long-range communication and low power consumption. The system enabled remote cardiac monitoring and efficient data transmission. Although the study improved communication efficiency, it relied on traditional machine learning models, which limited predictive accuracy compared to deep learning-based approaches.

Park et al. (2021) introduced a deep learning-based cardiac monitoring system using convolutional neural networks for ECG signal classification. The study achieved high accuracy in detecting cardiac abnormalities. However, the model required significant computational resources and did not incorporate optimization techniques for energy efficiency, making it unsuitable for real-time IoT deployment.

Ibrahim et al. (2022) developed an optimized deep learning framework for cardiac monitoring using residual neural networks and adaptive optimization algorithms. The system demonstrated improved accuracy and reduced training time. However, it lacked the ability to capture spatial dependencies among distributed sensor nodes, highlighting the need for graph-based learning models.

Choudhary et al. (2022) proposed an IoT-based healthcare monitoring system integrating wireless sensor networks with deep learning techniques. The study focused on improving system scalability and energy efficiency. While the model achieved better performance, it did not incorporate advanced spatio-temporal analysis, limiting its effectiveness in complex cardiac monitoring scenarios.

Alqahtani et al. (2022) explored the application of graph-based neural networks in healthcare monitoring systems. The study demonstrated that graph convolutional networks improve feature representation by capturing relationships between sensor nodes. However, the model did not incorporate temporal dynamics, which are essential for analysing cardiac signals over time.

Mehta et al. (2023) proposed an energy-efficient IoT-based cardiac monitoring system using wireless sensor networks and deep learning models. The study emphasized reducing energy consumption through optimization techniques such as model compression. The results showed improved system efficiency, but the absence of spatial-temporal modelling limited predictive performance.

Rahman et al. (2023) introduced a residual learning-based framework for cardiac monitoring using IoT devices. The model improved classification accuracy and reduced

training time. However, the study lacked integration of graph-based learning techniques, which are essential for capturing relationships among distributed sensors.

Bose et al. (2023) developed a hybrid optimization framework combining deep learning and metaheuristic algorithms for healthcare monitoring systems. The study demonstrated improved prediction accuracy and energy efficiency. However, it did not consider spatio-temporal graph modelling, limiting its

ability to fully exploit complex cardiac data structures.

Khan et al. (2023) proposed an advanced IoT-based cardiac monitoring system integrating deep learning and optimization techniques for real-time analysis. The study emphasized scalability and energy efficiency using wireless sensor networks. The results showed improved performance, but the model lacked a unified spatio-temporal graph convolutional framework, highlighting a critical research gap.

Comparative Table

Study	Year	Model Used	Architecture	Optimization	Key Contribution	Limitation
Zhang et al.	2020	CNN	Cloud IoT	None	Accurate ECG classification	High latency
Kumar et al.	2021	RNN	Three-tier	Basic	Reduced latency	No spatial modelling
Li et al.	2021	GCN	IoT	None	Spatial dependency modelling	No temporal modelling
Wang et al.	2022	STGCN	IoT	None	Spatial + temporal learning	High complexity
Ahmed et al.	2023	STGCN	Edge IoT	Compression	Energy efficiency	Scalability issues
Chen et al.	2020	LSTM	IoT	None	Time-series analysis	No spatial relation
Patel et al.	2021	ML	LoRa	None	Low power communication	Low accuracy
Liu et al.	2022	ResNet	Cloud	None	High accuracy	High latency
Sharma et al.	2022	DL + PSO	WSN	PSO	Energy optimization	No STGCN
Rahman et al.	2023	CNN + GCN	IoT	Partial	Improved accuracy	Not unified
Rodriguez et al.	2020	CNN	Cloud	None	Reliable detection	High energy usage
Gupta et al.	2021	CNN + LSTM	Three-tier	Basic	Hybrid learning	High computation
Nguyen et al.	2022	GCN	IoT	None	Better feature extraction	No temporal
Das et al.	2022	DL	WSN	Metaheuristic	Energy efficiency	No graph learning
Ali et al.	2023	STGCN	Three-tier	Compression	Low latency + accuracy	Data heterogeneity
Kim et al.	2020	CNN	Edge	Lightweight	Fast processing	Limited complexity
Verma et al.	2021	RL	WSN	RL optimization	Energy-aware routing	No DL
Hassan et al.	2022	ResNet	Cloud	None	Accurate ECG detection	High latency
Banerjee et al.	2022	DL + GA	WSN	Hybrid	Improved performance	No STGCN
El-Sayed et al.	2023	DL	IoT	Compression	Scalable system	No graph modelling
Torres et al.	2020	ANN	WSN	None	Basic monitoring	Low scalability

Reddy et al.	2021	ML	LoRa	None	Efficient communication	No DL
Park et al.	2021	CNN	IoT	None	High accuracy	High computation
Ibrahim et al.	2022	ResNet	IoT	Adaptive	Fast training	No spatial modelling
Choudhary et al.	2022	DL	IoT	Basic	Energy efficient	No STGCN
Alqahtani et al.	2022	GCN	IoT	None	Graph modelling	No temporal
Mehta et al.	2023	DL	IoT	Compression	Efficient system	No spatial modelling
Rahman et al.	2023	ResNet	IoT	Partial	Accuracy improvement	No graph learning
Bose et al.	2023	DL + Metaheuristic	WSN	Hybrid	Efficient prediction	No STGCN
Khan et al.	2023	DL	IoT	Pruning	Energy efficient	No unified model

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the selected 30 studies reveals a progressive evolution in cardiac health monitoring systems driven by advancements in IoT, wireless sensor networks, and deep learning techniques. Initially, early studies relied on conventional artificial neural networks and convolutional neural networks for ECG signal classification. While these approaches achieved reasonable accuracy, they were limited in handling complex temporal dependencies and often relied on cloud-based architectures, resulting in increased latency and energy consumption. The introduction of recurrent neural networks and long short-term memory models marked a significant improvement in handling time-series cardiac data. These models effectively captured temporal patterns in ECG signals, enabling better prediction of cardiac abnormalities. However, they lacked the ability to model spatial relationships between distributed sensor nodes, which are crucial in multi-sensor healthcare systems.

Subsequently, residual neural networks were adopted to improve model depth and address vanishing gradient issues, leading to enhanced accuracy and training efficiency. Parallel to these developments, optimization techniques such as particle swarm optimization, genetic algorithms, and reinforcement learning were introduced to improve energy efficiency and network performance in wireless sensor networks. These techniques significantly extended network lifetime and reduced computational overhead. A major breakthrough was observed with the introduction of graph convolutional networks, which enabled the modelling of relationships between sensor nodes. However, these models were limited to spatial dependencies and did not account for temporal variations in physiological

data. This limitation was addressed by spatio-temporal graph convolutional neural networks (STGCNs), which integrate both spatial and temporal modelling capabilities. Studies utilizing STGCNs demonstrated superior performance in cardiac anomaly detection and real-time monitoring.

Despite these advancements, several challenges persist. Most existing systems either lack optimization for energy efficiency or fail to integrate all critical components, including STGCN, three-tier architecture, and wireless communication. Additionally, high computational complexity remains a barrier to real-time deployment in resource-constrained environments. Overall, the analysis highlights that a unified framework combining STGCN, optimization techniques, and IoT-based three-tier architecture is essential for developing efficient, scalable, and real-time cardiac monitoring systems.

Discussion

The comprehensive review of deep learning and optimization approaches for IoT and wireless sensor network-based cardiac monitoring systems highlights significant advancements in recent years. The integration of three-tier architectures—comprising edge, fog, and cloud layers—has improved system scalability, reduced latency, and enabled real-time processing of physiological data. Deep learning models such as CNNs, RNNs, and residual networks have enhanced the accuracy of cardiac anomaly detection; however, their limitations in handling complex spatial-temporal relationships necessitated the development of graph-based approaches. Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (STGCNs) have emerged as a powerful solution by effectively

capturing both spatial dependencies among sensor nodes and temporal variations in cardiac signals. These models have demonstrated superior performance in predicting cardiovascular abnormalities and enabling early warning systems.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain in terms of computational complexity, energy consumption, and data heterogeneity. Optimization techniques such as model compression, energy-aware routing, and edge computing have been introduced to address these issues, but their integration with advanced deep learning models is still limited. Therefore, future research should focus on developing unified frameworks that combine STGCN, optimization strategies, and IoT-based architectures to achieve efficient, scalable, and real-time cardiac monitoring systems.

Conclusion

The integration of deep learning, IoT, and Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) has significantly advanced intelligent cardiac monitoring by enabling continuous, accurate, and real-time healthcare services. This review highlights that Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Networks (STGCNs) effectively capture both spatial and temporal relationships in physiological data, outperforming conventional deep learning approaches in cardiac anomaly detection. Three-tier architectures incorporating edge, fog, and cloud computing further enhance system scalability, reduce latency, and support timely medical decision-making. Optimization techniques, including model compression, pruning, and energy-aware routing, improve computational efficiency and enable deployment on resource-constrained wearable devices. Nevertheless, challenges such as data heterogeneity, privacy preservation, computational complexity, and seamless integration of optimization with advanced graph learning models remain unresolved. Future research should focus on lightweight STGCN architectures, adaptive optimization algorithms, federated learning, edge AI, and secure communication frameworks to improve reliability and energy efficiency. Overall, combining STGCNs with optimized IoT-based architectures provides a promising foundation for scalable, intelligent, and patient-centric cardiac monitoring systems.

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