

Cardiac Electrophysiology Studies Based on Image and Machine Learning

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Abstract Cardiac Electrophysiology study is the origin and treatment of arrhythmia, which is an abnormality in the rate, regularity or sequence of cardiac activation. There has been considerable recent development in this field, where computational methods such as Imaging and Machine Learning for Cardiac Electrophysiology, provide the framework for cardiac re-modeling. In this research, we review various recent strategies currently available for the meeting the goal of structurally and functionally integrated models of cardiac function that combine data intensive cellular systems models with compute-intensive anatomically detailed multiscale simulations.

Keywords: *cardiac electrophysiology, cardiac re-modelling, cardiac imaging, machine learning*

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1. Introduction

The human cardiovascular system is the naturally specialized system which circulates oxygenated blood to the other body parts and collects deoxygenated blood at the same time. The non-stop function of this system is the key to our existence. However, a major number of surprise deaths occur due to malfunction associated with the cardiac system and nowadays, electrophysiology related malfunctions are high in the count. Arrhythmia is one of the serious issues associated with the electrophysiology in which heartbeat deviates from its usual behavior and abnormal heartbeat occurs. It is seen that arrhythmia occurs by the formation of the combination of pro arrhythmic substrate, triggers, and modulators. To curb this problem, prior precaution and diagnosis are necessary, yet the human cardiac electrical system is not a plain-sailing task. Medication can be helpful at a certain stage but for a better cure, there should where we can do more. The issue is quite challenging and complex, however, Electrophysiologists are working hard to deal with the more complex organ constituents e.g. the left atrium and complex, often repaired, congenital heart disease, as well as more complex circuits, e.g. atypical atrial flutters, often after prior surgery or ablation procedures [1]. Electro physiologically related problems as a concern in imaging patients, heart rate, and ectopy are important factors [2]. A number of Imaging techniques are offering aid in diagnosing cardio electrophysiology pathologies. Apart from the other cardiac problems, electrophysiology issues must be corrected during live

sessions of the cardiac anatomy. Most imaging techniques are majorly reliable on either invasive methods or exposure of radiations to depict the problem. A lot of other imaging techniques like standard fluoroscopy, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are helpful. There are also many other imaging modalities obtained during a procedure, such as those obtained utilizing catheter movement – the so-called non-fluoroscopic mapping systems, those obtained using some form of ultrasound, such as transesophageal (TEE) and intracardiac (ICE) echocardiography, in either 2D or 3D form, and various forms of cardiac MRI, either intracardiac catheter-based MRI, or utilizing experimental MRI EP laboratories [1]. The non-invasive imaging techniques like Standard Electrocardiogram (ECG), Epicardial activation map, Integral maps and Non-invasive imaging of cardiac electro physiology (NICE) [3]. But to develop cost-effective real-time assessment techniques to diagnose the cardio electrophysiology pathologies can assist in disseminating the error-free information of the affected area of the patient for the further treatment procedure. Modern cardiac electrophysiology studies include catheter-based arrhythmia ablation and transvenous device implantation, which are highly dependent on accurate, real-time cardiac imaging and machine learning [4]. This era has been led to an explosion of advance technology especially machine learning. Rapidly increasing in biological data dimension and acquisition rate is demanding conventional analysis strategies [5]. Modern machine learning methods are like deep learning and convolutional neural network, promise to influence very large data sets for finding hidden arrangement within them, and for making more precise predictions. Present

time, cardiac Electrophysiologists are handling more complex procedures that involve very complex anatomy. The goals of the newer techniques are varying to decrease radiation exposure to patient and physician, to improve the efficacy of the procedures, their outcomes, safety, and to allow Electrophysiologists to tackle more complex procedures [6,7]. In medical science, we usually prefer medical image dataset for a Machine learning application which is adequate data volume, annotation, and reusability. Each cardiac image data consist data elements and an identifier. Such combination exhibits an imaging examination. The dataset must have enough imaging examinations to answer the question being asked. To maximize algorithm development, both the dataset itself and each imaging examination must be described and labelled accurately [8,9]. Here in this paper, we tried to describe the already present techniques of imaging and what can be possible in the future in respect of machine learning with the cardiac image.

2. Materials and Methods

We reported the criteria used to identify the relevant works for the review performed in this domain. We followed the PRISMA statement for the design, implementation, analysis, and reporting of the results [10].

2.1. Selection Method

A search was performed on Pub Med (827 Articles), Scopus (197 Articles), and ISI Web of Sciences databases (24 Articles) 2000 to 2017. The search used the exact expression "Cardiac electrophysiology." Only works published between 2000 and 2017 were considered. A total of distinct articles were obtained and evaluated and followed the same method using the keyword "Machine Learning on cardiac image". We got 128 articles on Pub Med, 6 articles on Scopus and 55 articles on ISI Web of Sciences databases.

2.2. Data Collection and Processing

The identification of the relevant works was performed through double-stage strategy, as explained below and previously reported in PRISMA guidelines. First, the title and the abstract of all articles obtained, analyzed by the first author of the current study [10]. Second, the obtained 225 articles were completely read and analyzed, and the following criteria were used to identify the relevant studies: (1) the selected studies should focus on novel technical innovations of the cardiac electrophysiology, discarding small case-to-case adaptations of the traditional approach due to difficult intervention or strange anatomies; (2) About the current cardiac electrophysiology technique were also considered as valid for this review; (3) Short clinical reports, letters between editor, author or reader and short communications without technical description were discarded; (4) previously presented reviews about cardiac electro physiology and similar topics were also rejected. As such, a total of 123 articles were selected for the review. Note that the identification of the relevant works was done by the first author of this review [10].

2.3. Data Analysis

The 123 selected articles were fully analyzed and classified into different categories: incidence studies, pre-procedural planning methods, surgical instruments and machine learning approach. Each publication could be included in more than one category [10].

3. Results

3.1. Study Characteristics

Most reports suggest that machine learning and cardiac imaging has become effective technique at this time. A lot of applications of machine learning have been proposed for feature extraction and segmentation of cardiac images. This technique can be utilized for automatic detection of lesions on coronary computed tomography angiography images. Improvements for automatic lesion localization have been demonstrated by support vector machine method, which integrated many quantitative geometric and shape features (including stenosis, minimum luminal diameter, circularity, eccentricity), resulting in high sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy (93%, 95%, 94%). Very recently, machine learning techniques have been applied for the identification of calcified plaques on computed tomography angiography images, demonstrating improved accuracy over the existing methods (Table 1).

3.2. Incidence Study

Many researches contain heterogeneous populations that involve abnormal atria anatomy. The research shows that approximately 12% of the procedures require more than one complications/failures rate. It may be noted that since studies with different operator's expertise (i.e., expert and trainee), heterogeneous populations, and multiple surgical types of equipment were included in this analysis, high variation of complication and failure rate was found.

3.3. Recent cardiac Imaging Techniques

There are few cardiac imaging techniques are involved in cardiac electrophysiology which is the most effective way to discover and analyze the problem. A number of imaging techniques are available: **Rotational angiography:** This imaging technique is used to obtain 3D CT-like images using X-rays with a high-speed rotation of C-arm. It provides clear, accurate and high-quality images in preparation for surgery. This technique can be applied for pre-surgical imaging of various vascular anomalies [21]. **Pre-operative CT or MRI:** These two imaging techniques are quite similar in their processing part. They both provide the cross-sectional images of the body organs. However, the imaging techniques are non-identical. CT scanners use X-rays across the body part to obtain many cross-sectional view images while MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields and radio frequencies to obtain the detailed images of the organ. The obtained results help in diagnosis and what should be the next step to deal with the problem.

Table 1. Summary of Machine Learning Algorithms Applied in Cardiovascular Imaging Studies

Author 's Article (Years)	Study Design	Techniques	Measures	Major Findings
Berchiolla et al [11] (2012)	Cross-sectional study	Bayesian network/ Logistic Regression/Random forest/ Artificial Neural Network/ Support Vector Machine	Used data computed tomography angiography to predict future cardiovascular events	Measurement of Left Ventricle dysfunction
Isgum et al [12] (2012)	Longitudinal study	k- nearest neighbor/ Support Vector Machine	Score of coronary calcium in low-dose, noncontrast enhanced chest computed tomography scans	Classification with k- nearest neighbor with selected features) Detected on average (sensitivity 79.2%) of coronary Ca volume with average 4 mm false-positive volume
Lee et al [13] (2013)	Cross-sectional study	Decision tree/ /k- nearest neighbor /Support Vector Machine	Analyze abdominal aortic aneurysm geometry on contrast CT images and wall surface curvatures predict rupture risk	k- nearest neighbor demonstrated the more accuracy 85.5 %, an accuracy of Support Vector Machine, decision tree, and naive Bayes was 83.4%, 83.3%, and 80.1%, respectively
Mohammadpour et al [14] (2015)	Cross-sectional study	Fuzzy rule-based classifying system	Myocardial perfusion scan and clinical variables to predict coronary artery disease	Determined important risk factors for coronary artery disease
Xiong et al [15] (2015)	Cross-sectional study	Naive Bayes/Random forest	Determine physiologically a manifestation of coronary stenosis by assessing myocardial perfusion on computed tomography angiography images	Diagnosis of obstructive coronary artery stenosis. Accuracy 0.70, Sensitivity 0.79, and Specificity 0.64
Knackstedt et al [16] (2015)	Cross-sectional study	Vendor independent software Auto LV	Measure Left ventricle volumes, Ejection Fraction, and average biplane longitudinal strain using ultrasound images	Left Ventricle Ejection Fraction and longitudinal strain assessment
Arsanjani et al [17] (2015)	Longitudinal study	Machine learning an Logit Boost	Single positron emission computed tomography perfusion data to predict early revascularization in patients with suspected coronary artery disease;	Logit Boost predict revascularization, total ischemic perfusion of the heart
Berkel et al [18] (2016)	Longitudinal study	Artificial neural network /Naive Bayes/ Logistic regression	Diagnose acute coronary syndrome and electro echocardiography findings	Accuracy of artificial neural network, naive Bayes, logistic regression found 91.26%, 88.75%, and 90.1%
Celutkienė et al [19] (2016)	Longitudinal study	Custom multiparametric mathematical model	Detection of myocardial ischemia	Myocardial ischemia in patients with coronary stenosis $\geq 50\%$ with sensitivity 91.6% and specificity 86.3%, compared with 76.8% and 89%.
Motwani et al [20] (2017)	Longitudinal study	Custom-built predictive classifier	Predict 5-year all-cause mortality in patients with suspected coronary artery disease undergoing coronary computed tomography angiography	Area Under Curve was 0.79 vs 0.61 for Framingham risk score, 0.64 for segment stenosis score, 0.64 for segment involvement score

Non-fluoroscopic mapping systems: A catheter introduced into the system to model 3D structures of heart chambers. The application of this non-fluoroscopic catheter visualization system (NFCV) reduces fluoroscopy time and dose by 90-95% in a variety of electrophysiology (EP) procedures. This can be of relevance not only to the patients but also to the nurses and physicians working in the EP lab [22]. **Image fusion with non-fluoroscopic mapping systems:** The images are fused by using anatomic information obtained pre- or intra-operatively to fuse with an anatomic model made with the use of a fluoroscopic mapping system so as to obtain a better representation of the true anatomy of a chamber [23]. **Echocardiographic imaging:** An echocardiogram is used to obtain the images of heart by using two-dimensional,

three-dimensional and Doppler ultrasound. The 3D images are obtained in real time with Trans thoracic and transesophageal echocardiography and present off-line with intracardiac echocardiography [23]. The real-time and near real-time imaging of chambers and structures are also lesion discoveries [24]. **Intracardiac MRI:** A catheter is used to analyze the internal structure or any other difficulty in heart, likewise similar to intracardiac echocardiography [23].

3.4. Machine Learning Techniques

The first important task is to acquire high-quality imaging data. No matter how flexible, all algorithms will require some interface customization with respect to

locale, institution, and modality-specific configurations and infrastructures. As cardiovascular imaging modality techniques continue to evolve, algorithms also need to accommodate measures (ie, variables) and layers of imaging data added over time; thus, highly customized algorithms may need substantial edits to handle new data types (Figure 1). With respect to optimizing image quality, filtering and other algorithms can be applied in real time even though inter-individual variation in clinical characteristics will always lead to variations in image quality. Traditionally, data analysis involves trained technicians selecting anatomic structures and performing measurements that are over-read by a cardiologist or radiologist who often adds diagnostic information to the record. The data are then combined with clinical data into a single dataset, and conventional statistics are used to determine whether a given measurement is relevant to a clinical outcome. Here I have mentioned few feature which helps in the study of cardiac electrophysiology study. Velocity features, Circumferential strain, Radial strain, Local and global Simpson Volume and Segmental Volume of the cardiac image are the features where we get information to study electrophysiology of the heart.

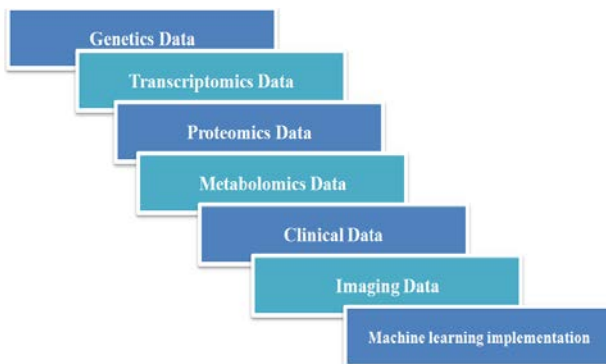


Figure 1. Machine learning implementation on different kind of data

There are few recent techniques of machine learning which is mentioned basically.

3.4.1. Deep Learning

This has become one of the most dynamic fields in machine learning that mimics the cognitive processing of the human brain using neural networks with multiple hidden layers. Deep architectures trained on millions of photographs can famously detect objects in pictures better than humans do. All current models in image classification, image retrieval and semantic segmentation make use of neural networks. At a pixel level, the convolution operation scans the image with a given pattern and calculates the strength of the match for every position [25,26]. There are also various medical imaging modalities obtained during a procedure, such as those obtained utilizing catheter movement the so-called non-fluoroscopic mapping systems, those obtained using some form of ultrasound, such as transesophageal (TEE) and intracardiac (ICE) echocardiography, in either 2D or 3D form, and various forms of cardiac MRI, either intracardiac catheter-based MRI, or utilizing experimental MRI EP laboratories [27,28,29,30]. Pooling confirms the existence of the pattern in a region, for example by calculating the maximum pattern match in smaller patches (max-pooling), thereby aggregating region information into a single number. The successive application of convolution and pooling operations is at the core of most network architectures used in image analysis [31].

3.4.2. Artificial Neural Network

An artificial neural network consist layers of interconnected compute units. The depth of a neural network corresponds to the number of hidden layers and the width to the maximum number of neurons in one of its layers. As it became potential to train networks with numerous hidden layers, artificial neural networks were rebranded to "deep networks". In the canonical configuration, the network receives data in an input layer, which are then transformed in a nonlinear way through multiple hidden layer, before final outputs are computed in the output layer (Figure 2) [32,33].

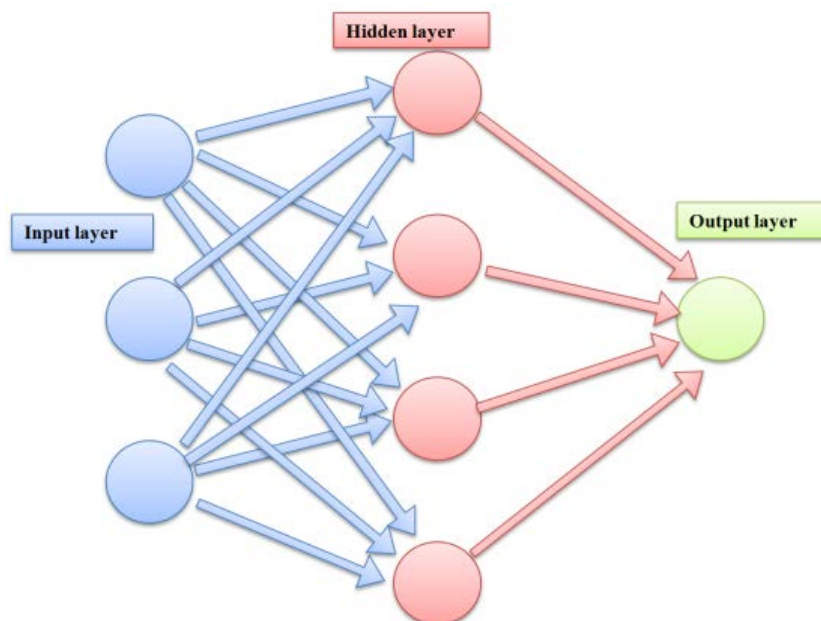


Figure 2. Diagram of Artificial Neural Network

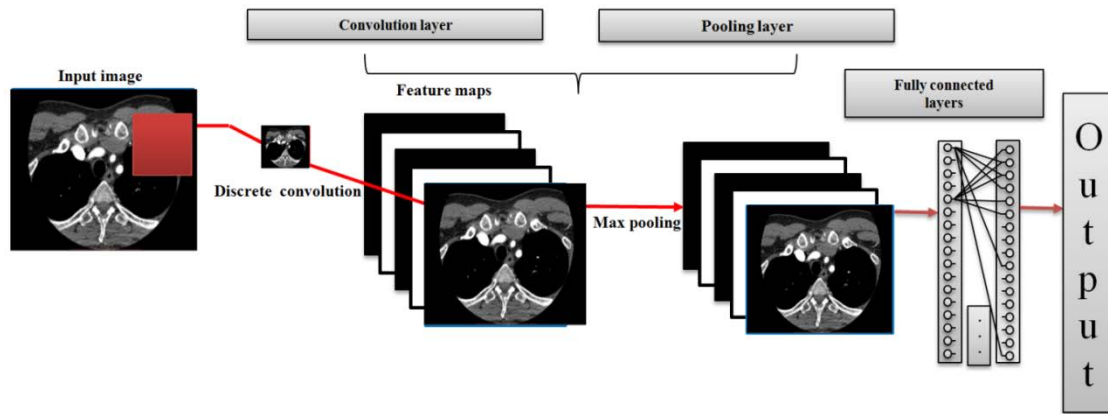


Figure 3. Diagram of Convolutional Network

3.4.3. Convolutional Designs

More recent work using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) allow to greatly reduce the number of model parameters compared to a fully connected network by applying convolutional operations to only small regions of the input space and by sharing parameters between regions (Figure 3) [34].

4. Seven-year Vision

It is likely that in a seven year time the level of automation for study and interpretation will be extensively raised and compared to what is feasible Nowadays. It is likely, that entirely unsupervised extraction of all image parameters will be possible for nuclear cardiology, and minimal supervision will be required for other modalities. Greater standardization of acquisition protocols will be needed to maximize the potential gains from automation and machine learning. This goal will require significant support from the vendors but also from the medical centres - to facilitate data sharing. Fully quantitative diagnostic and risk stratification scores will be developed for clinicians and these will become integrated with the imaging software. Risk stratification will transition from oversimplified population-based risk scores to machine-learning-based metrics incorporating a large number of clinical and imaging variables in real-time beyond the limits of human cognition - this will deliver highly accurate and individual personalized risk assessments and facilitate tailored management plans. However, the clinical translation of these exciting techniques will depend on many factors outside of technological progress, such as aspects related to logistical, legal, standardization, and reimbursement.

5. Conclusion

We hope to have given the readers an idea of why we need machine learning and what kind of data is available. The future of machine learning in cardiac electrophysiology, integrated with robotic catheter navigation systems, allowing for automated mapping and ablation, and perhaps eventually with real-time visualization of the lesions formed, to assist when complete lines of ablation lines have to be drawn.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose.

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