

# Contents

<b>1 Motivation, Hypothesis and Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Motivation	1
1.2 Hypothesis	3
1.3 Objectives	4
1.4 Structure of the thesis	5
<b>2 Heart Physiology, Electrocardiography and Atrial Fibrillation</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Heart anatomy and physiology	8
2.1.1 Heart anatomy	8
2.1.2 Electrical activation of the heart	9
2.2 Electrocardiography concepts	13
2.2.1 The electrocardiogram	13
2.2.2 Leads of the standard ECG	13
2.2.3 Composing waves of the ECG	18
2.2.4 Diagnosis	19
2.3 Atrial Fibrillation	20
2.3.1 Definition and epidemiology	20
2.3.2 Classification of AF	21
2.3.3 Mechanisms of AF	22
2.3.4 Treatment of AF	24
<b>3 Materials and Methodology</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1 Materials	28
3.1.1 Database analyzed in the prediction of AF termination	28
3.1.2 Database studied in the early prediction of AF termination	29
3.1.3 Database analyzed in the discrimination between paroxysmal and persistent AF	29

3.2 Methodology	30
3.2.1 Atrial Fibrillation organization estimation	30
3.2.2 Signal conditioning and atrial activity extraction	35
3.2.3 Main Atrial Wave	39
3.2.4 Studied metrics to compute AF organization	40
3.2.5 Application of the studied metrics	50
3.2.6 Statistical analysis	54
<b>4 Results</b>	<b>57</b>
4.1 Nonlinearity and non-stationarity	57
4.2 Prediction of AF termination	60
4.3 Optimal computational parameters for H(2)	72
4.4 Early prediction of AF termination	77
4.5 Discrimination between paroxysmal and persistent AF	80
<b>5 Discussion</b>	<b>83</b>
5.1 Prediction of AF termination	84
5.1.1 Comparison with previous predictors of AF termination	84
5.1.2 Performance of the studied metrics	85
5.1.3 Interpretation of the studied metrics values	87
5.1.4 Statistical analysis	88
5.2 Early prediction of AF termination	89
5.2.1 Optimal computational parameters for H(2)	90
5.2.2 Study of AF organization time course before AF spontaneous termination	90
5.3 Classification between paroxysmal and persistent AF	92
5.3.1 Comparison with previous works	92
5.3.2 Clinical interpretation of the results	93
5.4 Limitations of the study	94

<b>6 Conclusions, Future Lines and Contributions</b>	<b>97</b>
6.1 Conclusions	97
6.2 Future Lines	99
6.3 Contributions	99
6.3.1 Publications	99
6.3.2 Funding	101
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>List of Acronyms</b>	<b>129</b>