# A Systematic Review of Radio Wave Techniques for Indoor Positioning Systems

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Abstract-Indoor human positioning has become crucial for applications such as health monitoring, security surveillance, human pose identification and rescue operations. However, achieving reliable indoor human positioning is challenging due to numerous constraints. This paper aims to compare and analyze radio waves techniques and approaches for indoor positioning, providing a comprehensive review for human detection, positioning and activity recognition. A systematic review of the scientific literature and datasets was conducted. Four digital libraries, ACM Library Digital, IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect and Springer Link were searched to identify results that met the selection criteria. A data extraction process was performed on the selected articles and datasets. The Parsifal platform was utilized to extract relevant information. After completing the systematic review, it was identified 26 eligible articles and extracted 11 methods for radio wave detection. The overview of indoor positioning system with radio waves was introduced. The most frequently mentioned tools in the articles for the capture stage were Radio Frequency Sensors, Antennas, WiFi, Radar Sensors and BLE Beacons. For the processing stage, Filtering and Transformation Methods, Deep Neural Networks Techniques, Specifc Algorithms followed by Fingerprint, Trilateration, and other machine learning algorithms formed the majority.

Link to graphical and video abstracts, and to code: https://latamt.ieeer9.org/index.php/transactions/article/view/9219

*Index Terms*—Indoor positioning systems, Radio Waves, Radio Frequency Sensors, Antennas, Filtering, Fingerprint.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

**I** NDOOR Positioning Systems represent a relevant area for the development of methods capable of accurately monitoring the location of individuals indoors [1]–[3], especially in the context of human health monitoring [4], [5]. Precise location in real time can make it possible to track patients in hospitals or the elderly in homes [6], [7], making it easier to detect falls [8], [9] and abnormal behavior. This technology plays a crucial role in improving medical care, contributing to the safety and well-being of monitored individuals [10]–[13].

However, in human health monitoring, camera-based indoor positioning systems, although widely used due to their high accuracy [14]–[17], have limitations related to privacy [18], [19]. Constant surveillance by means of image-capturing devices raises ethical and operational concerns, given the potential for invasion of privacy in personal spaces [20], [21]. Radio frequency (RF) based systems are therefore emerging as a viable complementary technology, offering alternatives that do not rely on image capture to detect the presence and movements of individuals.

In this context, Radio Frequency (RF) techniques have gained prominence [22]–[24]. RF techniques encompass a set of methodologies, technologies, and devices applied in various domains, such as communication [25]–[27] and sensing [28]–[30]. In the realm of indoor positioning, RF techniques play a pivotal role in estimating human poses in environments with poor lighting and even through walls [31]–[33]. These methods are based on the interpretation of electromagnetic waves, which are effective for long-distance communication as they do not require a physical medium for propagation [34]–[36].

Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are widely recognized RF techniques used for indoor positioning [37]–[41]. These technologies estimate a target's position through the transmission and reception of RF signals between devices, such as smartphones and access points. By measuring signal strength, time of flight, and other relevant features, these systems can triangulate the target's position with relatively high accuracy [42].

Another approach involves deploying dedicated RF beacons or tags throughout the indoor environment [43]–[46]. These devices emit unique RF signals that can be detected and interpreted by strategically placed receivers or sensors. The target's position can be estimated using techniques such as trilateration or fingerprinting by analyzing the signal strength and arrival time of these beacon signals at different receiver nodes [47]–[50].

Moreover, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology has facilitated the development of RFID-based indoor positioning systems [51]–[54]. These systems use RF tags or labels attached to objects or individuals, which emit signals detectable by RFID readers distributed throughout the environment. The position of tagged objects or individuals can be determined with precision by correlating readings from multiple RFID readers [55]–[58].

Indoor Positioning Systems (IPS) [59]–[61] are becoming increasingly vital for determining the locations of individuals and objects by leveraging resources such as smartphone sensors, embedded sources, localization mapping, and wireless communication networks [62], [63]. Among electromagnetic waves, radio waves stand out for their ability to transmit information wirelessly over long distances [64]. Radio waves

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are defined as the use of unguided propagating electromagnetic fields within the frequency range of 3 kHz to 300 GHz to convey information [65]. Their unique property of being able to travel through air, vacuum, or other materials with minimal attenuation allows for efficient communication across various environments [66]–[68]. Thus, understanding radio wave capture techniques, also referred to as RF techniques, is essential for developing effective indoor positioning systems.

# A. Background

This section describes the studies that explore indoor localization with RF techniques reviewed by researchers proposed in the literature.

The paper [69] provides an overview of positioning systems, with an emphasis on indoor positioning systems (IPS). It highlights the growing use of radio frequency (RF) communication technologies, such as Wi-Fi, BLE, RFID and UWB. Among these technologies, the Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) algorithm stands out for its effectiveness. In addition, the trilateration technique is recommended for its cost-effectiveness, ease of implementation and high accuracy.

The paper [70] provides a meta-analysis that carried out a comprehensive compilation of 62 review articles in the field of indoor positioning. Thus, the meta-analysis allows to quickly inspect the current state of IPS and serves as a guide to easily find more details about each technology used in IPS. The meta-analysis contributed insights into the abundance and academic importance of published GST proposals, using the criterion of the number of citations.

[71] examines radio wave signals for indoor environments, presenting the challenges faced by current algorithms and problem-solving strategies. The creation of radio maps and the use of crowdsourcing are considered promising strategies for improving regional accuracy in difficult environments. In addition, the combination of machine learning has been explored as a way to accurately and efficiently improve the indoor positioning at home.

Despite the significant advances documented in the academic literature, there is still a gap in the comprehensive analysis of radio wave capture techniques, including a detailed comparison of usability, advantages, limitations and accuracy in different usage scenarios. The papers reviewed provide an overview of the techniques available but there is still a need for in-depth analysis and systematic comparison.

# B. Objectives

This systematic review aims to provide concepts about radio waves, while presenting a comprehensive study of the techniques used to capture these waves. Therefore, the objectives of this article are as follows: (1) to establish the definition of radio wave capture techniques; (2) to conduct a study that promotes discussions about the usability of each of these techniques; (3) to carry out a comparison between the techniques in order to obtain a more complete analysis of their implementations; and (4) to present the results obtained by each of the techniques mentioned in this article, highlighting their advantages, limitations and accuracy in different usage scenarios.

# II. METHODOLOGY

This research followed the guidelines proposed by Kitchenham et al [72] for systematic literature reviews in software engineering for the planning and execution of the study proposed. The review was conducted in three main stages: planning, conducting research and analyzing the results. To assist in this process, we used the Parsifal.al tool [73], which offers an environment conducive to planning and carrying out systematic reviews. In this section, we will present in detail how this review was planned and performed.

## A. Research Questions

In order to achieve the objectives of this systematic review, we established the following research questions:

- RQ1: What are the most widely used techniques for capturing radio waves?
- RQ2: What are the theoretical bases that underpin the development of these techniques?
- RQ3: What are the procedures used to carry out these techniques?
- RQ4: What tools are used to implement these techniques?
- RQ5: What processing techniques are used during signal capture?
- RQ6: What are the advantages and limitations of each technique?
- RQ7: Which technique has the best accuracy in capturing radio waves?

# B. Search Strategy

The search aimed to identify studies that provided data relevant for this review. The following digital libraries were used: **ACM Library Digital, IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect and Springer Link**. These libraries were selected due to the reliability of their studies in the field of technology. The search string was designed to look for sets of articles dealing with radio waves and the techniques used. This search was carefully developed based on the focus of the review and the established research questions. It was decided to use the boolean operator "OR" as a link between the alternative terms in order to obtain comprehensive results, and the boolean operator "AND" as a link between the sets of terms. In the end, the sets of duplicate articles were identified and removed using the Parsifal.al tool [73] tool. The terms used were:

("Radio Frequency" **OR** "Radio Wave") **AND** ("Approach" **OR** "Instrument" **OR** "Method" **OR** "Technique") **AND** ("Accuracy" **OR** "Assessment" **OR** "Efficiency" **OR** "Evaluation" **OR** "Measurement" **OR** "Testing")

# C. Selection Criteria

A set of selection criteria was established to select the research articles. The selection process took place in two sequential stages: (1) filtering the studies by analyzing the metadata, such as title, abstract and keywords; (2) analyzing the full text of the articles selected in the first filtering stage.

TABLE I Data Extraction

| Information                   | Description  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Title                         | Original title, preserving the original language   |  |
| Authors                       | Include the names of all authors, regardless of quantity                                       |  |
| Publication Venue             | Database where the document is located   |  |
| Year of Publication           | Year of publication available in the journal and/or database                                   |  |
| Publication Type              | Indicate the type of publication,<br>e.g., conference paper, academic<br>journal article, etc. |  |
| Radio Wave Context            | Discuss the context in which radio waves are embedded  |  |
| Radio Wave Capture Techniques | Specify the techniques used or<br>mentioned in the document                                    |  |
| Methodology                   | Highlight the methodology employed by the publications   |  |
| Accuracy                      | Present the obtained results   |  |

# Inclusion Criteria

The paper describes the use of radio wave capture techniques. The paper makes a comparative study of radio wave capture techniques. The paper describes a process for developing a technique used to capture radio waves.

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

The paper deals with signals outside the scope of radio waves. The paper is duplicated, i.e. it was already selected from another digital library. The paper does not describe the use of radio wave capture techniques. The paper is not a scientific article, but a summary of a short course, introduction to a conference, etc. The paper was published before 2010.

#### D. Data Extraction

Throughout this stage, data were systematically gathered from the papers to address the research questions delineated in this review. A thoroughly designed form, elaborated in Table I, was employed for this purpose. The components within this form were thoughtfully devised to extract pertinent information from these studies, thereby enabling the acquisition of responses to the research inquiries and the discernment of research gaps and trends.

# III. RESULTS

# A. Study Selection

An overview of the review process is presented in the prism shown in Fig. 1, in which 4 digital libraries (ACM, IEEE, ScienceDirect and Spring Link) were used to search for scientific articles that presented content relating to radio waves. A total of 54,499 articles were returned. After a meticulous analysis phase, a total of 54,473 articles were excluded based on predefined criteria. These criteria encompassed the following: The focus on signals outside the scope of radio waves; Duplication, where the article had already been selected from another digital library; A lack of description regarding the use of radio wave capture techniques; Classification as nonscientific publications, such as summaries of short courses or conference introductions; and publication dates prior to 2010. This process culminating in the final selection of 26 articles that met the requirements of interest.



Fig. 1. Flowchart illustrating the Prism methodology applied in the systematic review process, detailing the stages of article selection, inclusion, and exclusion based on predefined criteria.

#### B. Techniques for Capturing Radio Waves



Fig. 2. Distribution of capture techniques in the reviewed studies, with radio frequency sensors being the most prevalent.

The analysis of capture techniques, as evidenced by the Fig. 2 illustrates the distribution of the most commonly used capture techniques in monitoring and localization systems. The techniques have been grouped and quantified in terms of usage frequency, providing an overview of how different approaches are applied in current technological environments. It reveals a greater utilization of RF-based techniques and antennas, which

are widely applied to ensure accuracy in various fields such as healthcare, security, and indoor localization. In contrast, SDR, Radar, and Mobile Terminals are more commonly applied in specialized scenarios, with RF-based Device-Free showing a growing trend due to its non-intrusive application, although it still has a limited presence.

The most prevalent techniques are **Radio Frequency Sensors**, which are widely employed for monitoring and tracking objects due to their ability to measure signal intensity and characteristics [74]–[80]. This technique is particularly effective in industrial environments, where its robustness and resistance to interference make it an ideal choice for challenging settings.

Another essential component is **Antennas**, which are extensively used for transmitting and receiving radio waves [81]–[86]. They play a crucial role in signal detection and in determining the relative position of devices based on metrics such as signal strength and time of arrival. The capture process using Antennas can involve both directional versions, which offer greater precision for specific applications, and omnidirectional versions, which provide broader and more flexible coverage.

The use of **Wi-Fi** signals in indoor positioning systems is widely acknowledged for its ubiquity and easy integration with existing infrastructure [87], [88]. Wi-Fi signal capture involves measuring the signal strength received from multiple access points and applying triangulation techniques to estimate location, making it an effective approach, especially in locations with an established network infrastructure, minimizing the need for new installations

**Radar sensors** also hold significant importance, as indicated by the number of occurrences in the histogram, due to their ability to emit high-frequency radio waves and analyze the echoes to detect the position and movement of objects [89], [90]. The use of these sensors involves strategically installing devices to ensure the desired coverage of the environment, making them widely applied in security monitoring systems and scenarios that require high precision, particularly because they can operate efficiently in environments with obstacles such as thin walls.

**BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) beacons** stand out as a capture technique due to their energy efficiency and ease of installation [42], [81], [91]. These devices transmit short signals at regular intervals and detect the proximity of mobile devices based on the received signal strength. The implementation process involves strategically placing the beacons within the environment and using processing algorithms to analyze the received signals and determine device location.

Wireless Sensor Systems (WSS) integrate multiple sensor technologies to create comprehensive monitoring networks [85], [92]–[94]. These systems are used for continuous and detailed tracking in complex environments, combining data from various types of sensors to provide a complete and accurate view of the monitored environment.

**Software Defined Radio** (**SDR**) emerges as a versatile capture technique due to its ability to perform signal processing through software rather than dedicated hardware [95], [96]. This flexibility allows SDR to dynamically adapt to different frequencies, modulation schemes and communication protocols, making it highly suitable for a variety of applications, including indoor positioning systems.

In research and development contexts, the use of **Universal Software Radio Peripheral (USRP)** is also relevant, although less frequently observed in the analysis. The USRP, as a hardware platform that supports SDR, facilitates advanced signal capture and processing testing, providing greater precision and control over experiments.

Finally, capture techniques based on **Mobile Terminals** [97], **Wireless Sensors**, and **RF-based Device-Free** [98] are less prevalent but remain relevant in specific niches, where mobility and integration with other monitoring systems are essential for accurate location and tracking data collection.

In summary, the analyzed capture techniques reveal a diversity of approaches that meet various needs and environments, ranging from security systems and industrial monitoring to applications in complex indoor environments, such as wireless sensor networks and radio signal-based positioning. The selection of the most suitable technique depends on the specificities of the environment and the requirements for precision and coverage, with careful consideration of the signal characteristics and the devices used.

#### C. Processing Techniques



Fig. 3. Distribution of processing techniques in the reviewed studies, highlighting the dominance of filtering and transformation methods.

The Fig. 3 illustrates the distribution of processing techniques most commonly used in systems related to monitoring and localization. The techniques have been grouped and quantified based on their frequency of usage, providing an overview of how different approaches are applied in current technological environments. As shown in the histogram, Filtering and Transformation Methods are the most widely used processing techniques. These methods are crucial for data preprocessing, enhancing signal quality, and improving the accuracy of results, particularly in systems involving sensor data or signal processing.

In summary, the graph reveals that Filtering and Transformation Methods, alongside DNN Techniques, are the most common approaches in the field, with an increasing shift towards machine learning and deep learning techniques in modern processing systems. On the other hand, RSSI and Probabilistic Classification Methods are applied in more specific contexts, where they provide precise solutions to particular challenges.

Filtering and transformation methods play a vital role in ensuring the quality of captured signals, especially in environments where noise and interference may affect the performance of positioning systems [74], [77], [82], [83], [85], [87]–[90], [93], [95], [96]. Techniques such as the Kalman filter, fast Fourier transform (FFT), and wavelets are utilized to filter out noise and extract relevant data, enabling more accurate location estimation. Efficient filtering helps maintain system accuracy by removing inconsistencies and unwanted interferences, even in challenging conditions.

Following closely are the **DNN Techniques (Deep Neural Networks)**. DNN techniques have gained prominence due to their ability to handle complex sensor data, such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth signals, and identify intricate patterns to improve location estimation [75], [78], [80], [84], [85], [98]. Inspired by the neural structures of the human brain, these models learn from large datasets and are particularly effective in environments where high precision is required.

**Specific Algorithms** also feature prominently in the histogram. They are designed to address specific positioning challenges through optimization, error correction, and adaptive approaches [81], [83], [86], [87], [91], [94]. These algorithms are customized to work with various signal types, such as Wi-Fi, BLE, and RFID, and are adapted to the unique characteristics of indoor environments. This category includes classical methods like trilateration and probabilistic techniques, as well as innovative combinations that improve the accuracy of position calculations.

**Trilateration** is a classical geometric processing technique used to calculate the position of an object by measuring the distance from three or more known reference points [47]. This method is common in radio signal systems that rely on signal strength or time of arrival (TOA) data to estimate distances [87]. While robust and well-established, trilateration can be affected by signal reflections and interference, necessitating additional corrections in more complex scenarios.

**Probabilistic classification methods** are employed to process positioning data by estimating the probability of an object being located within a set of possible positions [79]. These methods are particularly effective for managing uncertainties and variations in data, using models such as Bayesian analysis and Monte Carlo techniques to predict the most likely location. This approach provides reliable positioning estimates even under conditions of high variability and noise.

**Fingerprinting** is another essential method used for processing radio wave data. This approach involves creating prerecorded signal maps that can be compared with captured signals to determine a device's location [42], [75], [91]. Fingerprinting provesvhighly effective in environments where other methods, such as trilateration, may struggle due to signal variability. Its application is widespread in complex indoor environments, like shopping centers and airports, where detailed signal maps enhance positioning precision

Fingerprint Matching and SVM (Support Vector Machines) appear in the histogram, reflecting their use in matching fingerprint data to known templates and applying machine learning techniques, such as SVM [97], for classification tasks, commonly in security and authentication systems. Additionally, **Fingerprinting and DNN Techniques** and **Filtering and Transformation Methods and DNN Techniques** are presented as combined approaches, highlighting the integration of traditional fingerprinting or filtering methods with deep learning techniques to enhance processing accuracy and predictive power.

**RSSI** (Received Signal Strength Indicator) is another technique used for positioning, which involves measuring the strength of the received signal to estimate the distance between the device and the source [92]. While not as prevalent as some other techniques, RSSI remains an important method in wireless positioning systems.

These varied processing techniques, each with distinct methodologies and applications, emphasize the significant advancements in radio wave signal processing. Their implementation holds considerable potential across fields such as healthcare, security, and wireless connectivity, driving improvements in accuracy and reliability within indoor positioning systems. The continuous development and refinement of these methods are expanding the possibilities for more precise, adaptable, and robust location-based solutions.

D. Accuracy



Fig. 4. Accuracy evaluation of methods for indoor positioning and human activity recognition using RF signals.

This section focuses on assessing the accuracy of the methods discussed in the previous sections. Accuracy is a crucial element in assessing the quality and reliability of methods used to locate and recognize human activity based on radio frequency (RF) signals indoors.

Furthermore, accuracy is indispensable in safeguarding the security and privacy of users, as well as meeting the demands and expectations inherent in the possible applications of these methods. In order to summarize the levels of accuracy of the studies examined, a Fig. 4 was drawn up classifying them into categories of low, moderate and high accuracy.

**Inaccurate:** Accuracy is less than 80% or average error is greater than 1 m.

Precise: Accuracy is between 80% and 95% or the average

error is between 0.5 m and 1 m.

**Very precise:** Accuracy is greater than 95% or the average error is less than 0.5 m.

This metric is based on typical values found in the literature [99], [100] and can vary depending on the context and application of the methods. This metric was chosen to make it simpler and more intuitive to compare the articles and highlight the most accurate ones.

The accuracy of the localization and detection systems discussed in this review is a critical factor for applications in areas such as health monitoring, security surveillance, human pose identification, and rescue operations. Accuracy is measured in different ways depending on the technology used and the application scenario, and the results indicate significant advancements in the precision of these systems, especially in complex and dynamic environments.

In **health monitoring** [89], systems based on radar and depth sensors showed highly accurate results, with radar sensors achieving an average error of less than 0.04 m/s for walking speeds between 0.5 m/s and 0.8 m/s. These sensors maintained a standard deviation of less than 0.08 m/s, demonstrating great capability for monitoring movement in healthcare environments such as hospitals and clinics, with precise tracking of patients' mobility. In parallel, depth sensors showed an average error of less than 0.03 m/s, with standard deviation below 0.08 m/s, further reinforcing the reliability of these systems for continuous monitoring of patient movement.

For security surveillance, the RF-Capture system [76], used to identify and track body parts in controlled environments, achieved 99.13% accuracy in detecting body parts at a distance of 3 meters, with a hand tracking error of only 2.19 cm (median). These results highlight the high precision of the system, which is essential for real-time surveillance in high-density areas and in non-line-of-sight (NLOS) conditions, common in urban or indoor environments with obstacles. The high performance of RF-Capture makes it a valuable tool for security systems in real-time, enabling precise detection of people and objects in critical areas.

In the field of **human pose identification** [85], the WiPose system, which uses Wi-Fi signals to reconstruct 3D poses, achieved an average error of 2.83 cm in locating human skeleton joints, representing a 35% improvement in accuracy compared to previous radar-based systems. The high accuracy of WiPose is crucial for applications that require detailed tracking of human movements, such as in augmented reality environments or rehabilitation systems, as well as in rescue operations, where accurate pose reconstruction can be used to identify people at risk in disaster situations.

In **rescue operations**, where the ability to detect and locate individuals in real-time is vital, systems like RF-Net [98] and RFlow [77] demonstrated superior accuracy. RF-Net, used for human activity recognition, achieved 95% accuracy with only one example per class (one-shot learning), making it ideal for dynamic environments like rescue scenarios, where rapid identification of human activities is needed. RFlow, used for gesture tracking, achieved an average error of less than 5 cm, equivalent to an accuracy greater than 95%. This high accuracy is crucial for gesture detection in complex environments with

obstacles, such as in rescue operations in areas with limited visibility or access.

For **indoor localization**, such as in hospitals or industrial environments, the RFMap system [84] proved highly effective, with the ability to generate well-defined maps without the need for extensive movement of the setup. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the method for mobile device navigation in closed environments, with qualitatively high accuracy, although no exact error values were provided in the article.

These results demonstrate that the monitoring and detection systems have achieved very high accuracy across various applications, with most systems exhibiting average errors below 1 meter. This precision is essential for ensuring the effectiveness of these systems in health monitoring, security surveillance, human pose identification, and rescue operations, where high accuracy not only enhances operational efficiency but also contributes to the safety and well-being of individuals in critical situations. The continuous advancement in RF and machine learning-based technologies has allowed these systems to reach high levels of precision, showing their potential to improve security and effectiveness in challenging and dynamic environments.

#### E. Advantages and Limitations

Technological advances in the area of positioning and detection based on Radio Frequency (RF), Wi-Fi and Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) signals have enabled a wide range of applications, from precise indoor location to the detection of objects and people through obstacles. This section analyzes the main advantages and limitations found, as can be seen bellow.

Table II summarizes the principal characteristics of diverse positioning and detection methods and systems utilizing RF, Wi-Fi, and BLE signals. It is evident that these approaches provide several noteworthy advantages; however, they also entail significant limitations. Analyzing the main ones:

**High Accuracy and Low Latency:** Numerous articles, exemplified by [42] and [97], underscore the capability to deliver high accuracy and low latency. This aspect holds particular significance for time-sensitive applications like indoor navigation and asset tracking.

**Need for Specialized Infrastructure:** Conversely, articles like [74] and [83] require necessitate specialized infrastructure, such as deploying multiple sensors or antennas, thereby potentially elevating implementation costs and complexity.

**Consideration of Signal Variation:** Certain articles, exemplified by [93], leverage pre-existing infrastructure but may encounter signal variations stemming from network congestion or interference, thereby impacting accuracy.

Use of Machine Learning and Signal Processing: Articles integrating machine learning and signal processing methodologies, such as [98] and [85], showcase promising outcomes; however, they frequently demand significant computational complexity and extensive training datasets.

**Detection through obstacles:** The capability to detect through barriers, as demonstrated in [95] and [87] is noteworthy. However, limitations in resolution and false alarm rates may arise.

| TABLE II                               |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ADVANTAGES AND RESTRICTIONS OF CAPTURE | E AND PROCESSING TECHNIQUES |

| Article | Capture Technique                            | Processing Technique   | Advantages  | Restrictions   |
|---------|--|--|---|--|
| [42]    | BLE Beacons                                  | Fingerprint  | High accuracy and low latency   | Requires a large number of BLE bea-<br>cons; increased cost and complexity |
| [92]    | Wireless Sensor Network                      | RSSI   | Does not require prior knowledge; han-<br>dles dynamic changes        | RSSI fluctuations affect accuracy and robustness                           |
| [95]    | SDR  | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Uses existing Wi-Fi devices; detection through walls                  | Low resolution and high false alarm rate                                   |
| [81]    | Beacons and Mobile Node Operate and Antennas | Specific Algorithms  | Theoretical analysis and experimental validation                      | Ideal scenarios; does not reflect realistic conditions                     |
| [74]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Accurate detection and tracking                                       | High complexity and calibration; af-<br>fected by noise                    |
| [97]    | Mobile Terminal                              | Fingerprint Matching and<br>SVM (Support Vector<br>Machine)          | High accuracy and low complexity                                      | Requires a large amount of training data                                   |
| [75]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | Fingerprinting and DNN Tech-<br>niques                               | High accuracy and adaptability  | High computational complexity  |
| [93]    | Wireless Sensor                              | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Existing LTE-A infrastructure; wide coverage                          | Low accuracy and high latency due to RSSI variations                       |
| [82]    | Antennas                                     | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Low power consumption; fast response                                  | Low accuracy and robustness due to interference                            |
| [83]    | Antennas                                     | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods and Specific Algo-<br>rithms | High accuracy and resolution  | High hardware cost and complexity  |
| [84]    | Antennas                                     | DNN Techniques   | High-quality indoor maps  | High computational complexity and memory requirements                      |
| [85]    | Antennas and Wireless Sensor                 | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods and DNN Techniques           | Detailed information; combines signal processing and machine learning | Low accuracy and stability due to noise                                    |
| [76]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | Filtering and Transformation Methods                                 | Robust information  | Low resolution and detail  |
| [77]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Natural user interaction  | Low accuracy and responsiveness due to latency                             |
| [98]    | RF-based Device-Free                         | DNN Techniques   | High accuracy and adaptability  | High computational complexity and memory requirements                      |
| [87]    | WiFi   | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods and Specific Algo-<br>rithms | NLOS detection using common Wi-Fi devices                             | Low accuracy and reliability due to interference                           |
| [78]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | DNN Techniques   | High security and robustness  | High computational complexity and en-<br>ergy consumption                  |
| [88]    | WiFi   | Filtering and Transformation Methods                                 | Improves positioning accuracy and ro-<br>bustness                     | High complexity and calibration re-<br>quirements                          |
| [79]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | Probabilistic Classification<br>Methods                              | Improves DFPL performance and scal-<br>ability                        | Low accuracy and stability due to un-<br>certainty                         |
| [91]    | Beacons BLE                                  | Fingerprinting and Specific Algorithms                               | Accuracy, Dynamic Management, Cost Reduction                          | Prior knowledge, Interference, Com-<br>plexity                             |
| [89]    | Radar Sensors                                | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Robust Estimation, Noisy Data, Multi-<br>Sensors                      | Parameter Selection, Bias, Non-<br>Linearity                               |
| [86]    | Antennas                                     | Specific Algorithms  | Wave Patterns, Efficient Mining, Prop-<br>agation Modeling            | Loss of Rare Patterns, Redundant Se-<br>quences, High Cost                 |
| [96]    | SDR (Software Defined Ra-<br>dio)            | Filtering and Transformation<br>Methods                              | Filter Design, Resource Reduction,<br>Field Implementation            | Balance, Output Errors, Design Limita-<br>tions                            |
| [94]    | WSS (Wireless Sensor Sys-<br>tem)            | Specific Algorithms  | High Resolution, Sampling Reduction, MLE                              | Sparsity, Reconstruction Errors, Complexity                                |
| [90]    | Radar Sensors                                | Filtering and Transformation Methods                                 | High Resolution, Chip Integration, Sig-<br>nal Generation             | Design Challenges, Phase Noise Degra-<br>dation, Antenna Design            |
| [80]    | Radio Frequency Sensor                       | DNN Techniques   | Identification, Fast Training, Temporal<br>Features                   | Labeled Data, Domain Adaptation,<br>Overfitting / Underfitting             |

**Energy Consumption:** [82] emphasizes low energy consumption. Nevertheless, accuracy may be compromised by interference.

**Security and Intrusion:** [78] addresses security issues, albeit at the expense of increased computational complexity and energy consumption.

**Calibration and Training Data:** Numerous articles, such as [88] and [79], require necessitate calibration procedures and extensive training datasets, thereby amplifying the implementation workload.

The selection of the most suitable method hinges on the

specific requirements of an application. While certain methods boast high accuracy and diminished latency, others prioritize ease of implementation and scalability. A comprehensive understanding of these advantages and limitations is imperative to steer the selection and development of positioning and detection solutions. As research progresses in this domain, it is plausible that novel innovations will emerge to alleviate some of the identified limitations, ushering in a new era of increasingly precise and resilient applications.

# IV. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

After completing the systematic review, It was identified 26 eligible articles and extracted 11 methods for radio wave detection . The overview of indoor positioning system with radio waves was introduced. The most frequently mentioned tools in the articles for the capture stage were Radar Sensors, Wireless Sensor, and Antennas. For the processing stage, DNN Techniques, Processing Algorithms followed by Filtering, Fingerprint, Trilateration, and other machine learning algorithms formed the majority.

Of the analyzed works, 65% showed accuracy with the "very precise" metric, indicating that the methods are effective and robust for indoor positioning. Conversely, 27% returned "precise" results, while only 8% were found to be inaccurate, suggesting that there are still challenges and limitations to overcome, such as high implementation costs and high computational complexity.

The implications of this study encompass the theoretical realm of radio wave investigation, fostering a more profound comprehension of the hurdles encountered in utilizing radio waves indoors. Drawing from the gaps unearthed in this systematic review of radio wave acquisition, numerous promising avenues for prospective research emerge.

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