

Acknowledgements

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CHAPTER
1

Introduction

Governments and companies are producing vast streams of data and require effective data analytics and machine learning methods to assist in making predictions and decisions promptly. One crucial aspect is the machine learning pipeline, which involves training a prepared dataset to construct a model and subsequently utilizing this model to predict new instance outputs. Figure 1.1 shows that the process entails fetching historical data from the database during the training phase to construct the machine learning model. Then, the system can input new instances from the database to predict the output.

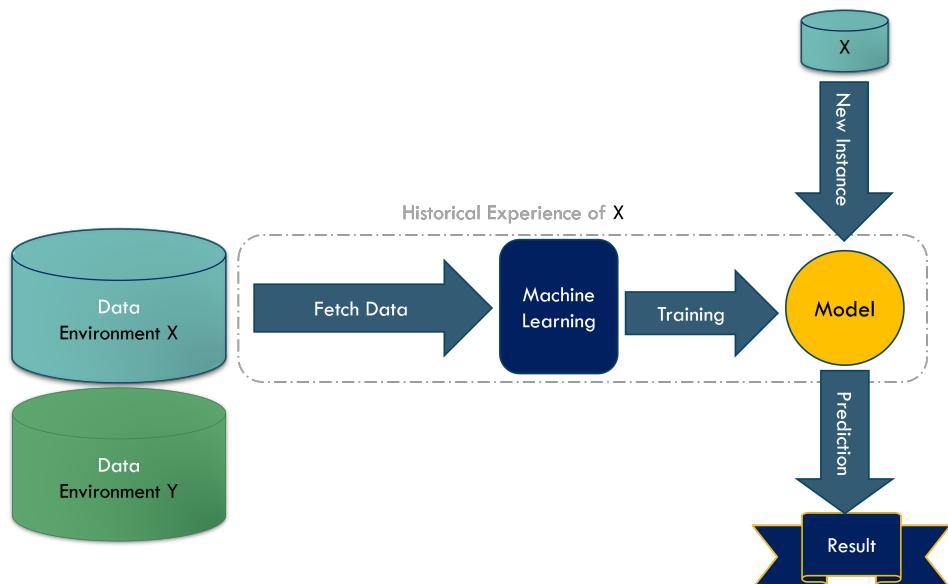


Figure 1.1: Machine Learning Workflow for Environment X.

Nevertheless, when endeavoring to forecast outcomes for fresh instances sourced from an alternative database, as illustrated in Fig. 1.2 , there frequently emerges a conspicuous decline in accuracy. This disparity accentuates the imperative for model developers to intervene and rectify the issue. Addressing this, developers must adjust and retrain the model utilizing datasets from the new environment to ameliorate accuracy. This iterative process aims to refine the model’s precision and ensure its efficacy across diverse contexts, thereby bolstering the reliability of decision-making and predictive capabilities. To confront this challenge, the field of auto machine learning endeavors to facilitate online updates to the model without necessitating direct intervention from developers for modification.

In recent years, high-speed data streams have presented significant challenges to machine learning models, particularly in streaming data analysis. These streams, characterized by continuous, dynamic, and high-volume data arrivals, demand adaptive learning algorithms to cope effectively with their evolving nature [1–3]. Among the critical challenges are concept drift, class imbalance, emerging new classes, and heterogeneous transfer learning.

Concept drift refers to changes in the statistical properties of data over time [4, 5], which necessitates continuous adaptation of machine learning models. This phenomenon may manifest as shifts in underlying concepts, relationships between variables, or alterations in data distribution. Addressing concept drift involves employing detection mechanisms that monitor classifier performance or data distribution changes, triggering model updates, retraining, or replacement. These dynamic adjustments ensure model efficacy in the face of evolving data streams.

Class imbalance and class overlap pose additional challenges, particularly in multi-class scenarios. Class imbalance, where data is unevenly distributed across classes [6, 7], often leads to misclassification of underrepresented classes. Techniques such as oversampling, undersampling, algorithm adaptation, and hybrid approaches have been employed to address these challenges [8–11]. Class overlap, where instances from different classes occupy the same data regions [12, 13], complicates distinguishing between classes. Methods like class-overlap undersampling leverage local similarities to mitigate these issues.

Dynamic classifier ensembles, particularly Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) methods, offer solutions by adapting ensemble composition based on data charac-

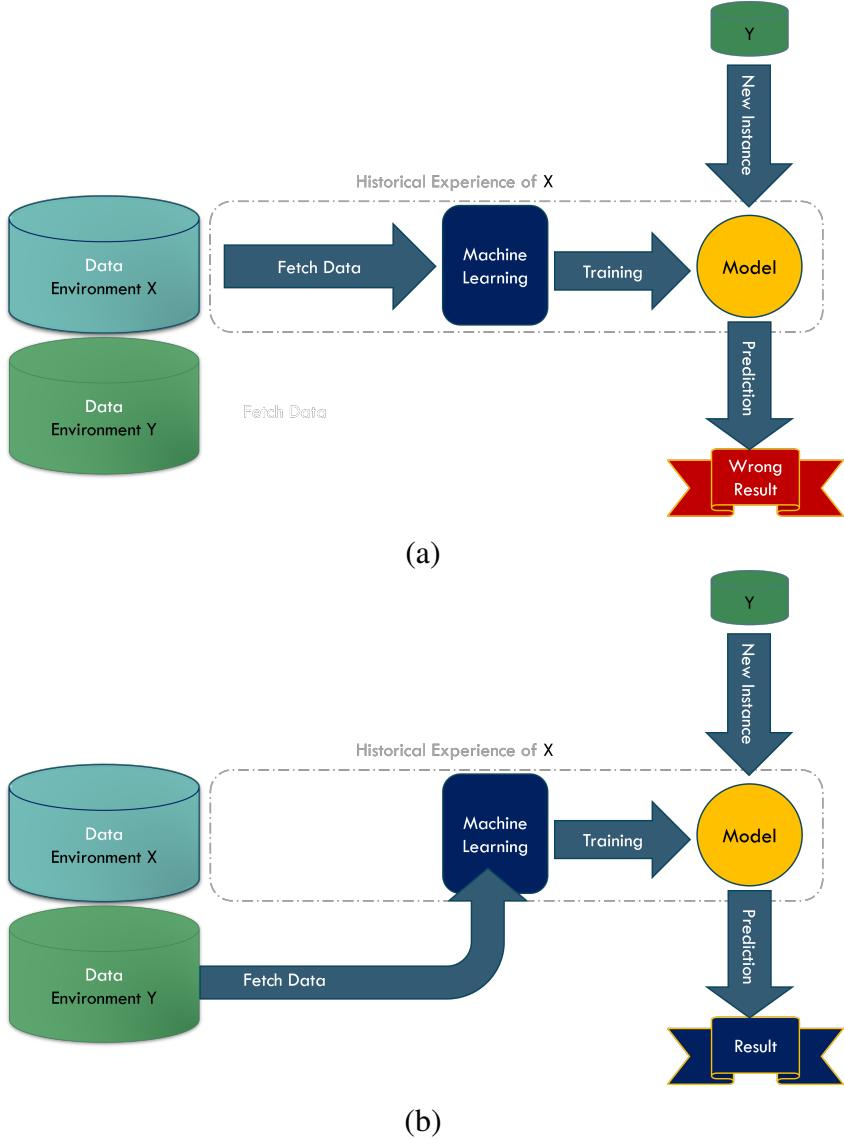


Figure 1.2: Machine Learning Workflow for Environment Y.

teristics [14]. These methods optimize classifier subsets through criteria like diversity metrics and performance estimation, ensuring a balance between accuracy and computational efficiency [15]. DES approaches can dynamically select the most competent classifiers for each data instance [16–18], enhancing classification in non-stationary streams.

Transfer learning plays a pivotal role in addressing dynamic data streams and

concept drift, focusing on leveraging knowledge from source domains to improve target domain learning [4, 6]. Strategies include instance re-weighting, feature matching, and mitigating negative transfer effects to bridge domain gaps and improve adaptability.

Finally, the challenge of Streams with Emerging New Classes (SENC) involves scenarios where new classes, absent during initial training, emerge in data streams. Traditional models struggle to recognize and integrate these novel classes in real-time, necessitating adaptive learning mechanisms. This underscores the complexity of real-world data streams and highlights the importance of robust frameworks to manage such dynamics.

Overall, addressing these challenges requires integrating dynamic ensembles, adaptive sampling techniques, and transfer learning to ensure accuracy and scalability in non-stationary data environments. Figures and citations support these discussions, emphasizing the critical need for adaptive solutions [19, 20].

In this chapter, the problem definition for this research that naturally arise is discussed in Section 1.1. After this, the motivation is presented in Section 1.2. After this, the objectives and research contribution are presented in Sections 1.3 and 1.4. Next, the research plan is summarised in Section 1.5. Finally, the outline of this thesis is presented in 1.6.

1.1 Problem Definition

The rapid growth of high-speed data streams presents significant challenges for traditional machine learning models, particularly in non-stationary environments where data properties, concepts, and distributions evolve over time. These dynamic conditions cause models, initially trained on historical data, to experience a decline in accuracy when confronted with new data. The key challenges in managing non-stationary data streams are:

- **Concept Drift:** Changes in data distributions or relationships between variables over time, causing models to lose relevance and accuracy [1, 2].
- **Multi-class Imbalanced Data:** The uneven distribution of classes in multi-class data streams leads to biased predictions, with minority classes being misclassified [6, 7].

- **Class Overlap:** Instances from different classes occupying the same feature space, making it difficult for models to distinguish between them [12, 13].
- **Emergence of New Classes:** The appearance of new classes that were not present during training, causing instability and degraded performance as traditional models struggle to adapt.
- **Heterogeneous Transfer Learning:** The challenge of transferring knowledge between domains with differing characteristics, risking negative knowledge transfer in non-stationary data environments [4, 6].

These challenges hinder the performance and adaptability of machine learning models in real-time data streams, necessitating the development of advanced frameworks to address these issues effectively.

1.2 Thesis Motivations

The swift progress in machine learning, particularly in real-time data streams, introduces new challenges that demand innovative solutions. This thesis seeks to address the limitations of traditional models in dynamic, non-stationary data environments. The motivations behind this research are as follows:

- **Adapting to Emerging Classes in Real-Time:** New classes within data streams can cause a decline in accuracy. The goal is to develop adaptive mechanisms that quickly incorporate new classes, maintaining system relevance.
- **Proactive Management of Concept Drift:** Concept drift degrades model performance as data properties change. This research focuses on strategies to detect and manage concept drift to maintain model accuracy.
- **Dynamic Optimization of Classifier Ensembles:** To address emerging classes and shifting distributions, the goal is to develop techniques for the real-time optimization of classifier ensembles.
- **Addressing Multi-Class Imbalance:** Imbalanced multi-class distributions often lead to biased classification. The thesis aims to create methods that address class imbalances dynamically, ensuring fair classification.

- **Enhancing Transfer Learning in Non-Stationary Environments:** Transfer learning can suffer from negative transfer in non-stationary settings. The research focuses on frameworks that minimize negative transfer and enhance knowledge sharing across diverse domains.

1.3 Thesis Objectives

The objectives of this research are driven by the critical need to address the following key motivations:

- **Objective 1.** Handling Imbalanced Multiclass Drifted Data and overlapping classes streams.
- **Objective 2.** Addressing Emerging New Classes in Incremental Streams via Concept Drift and K-means Techniques.
- **Objective 3.** Addressing Heterogeneous Transfer Learning Problem in data streams via Concept Drift and Eigenvector Techniques.

1.4 Thesis Contributions

Our research focuses on developing advanced frameworks to manage non-stationary data streams with high accuracy and minimal computational complexity. The key contributions include:

- **Concept Drift Detection and Ensemble Classifier:** Integrating concept drift detection with ensemble classifiers for real-time adaptation in transfer learning.
- **Dynamic Classifier Ensemble for Emerging Classes:** A framework that dynamically adjusts classifiers to address emerging class issues in non-stationary streams.
- **Precise Weighting for Local Classifiers:** A novel method to refine local classifier contributions, enhancing overall ensemble accuracy.
- **Eigenvector-Based Framework for Heterogeneous Transfer Learning:** A framework using eigenvectors to facilitate knowledge transfer across diverse domains, improving performance.

- **Dynamic Adjustment for Multi-class Imbalanced Data:** A method combining drift detection and optimized ensemble selection to improve accuracy in imbalanced streams.
- **Adaptive Class Imbalance Method:** A dynamic approach to select oversampling methods, addressing class overlap in drifted data streams.

1.5 Thesis Plan

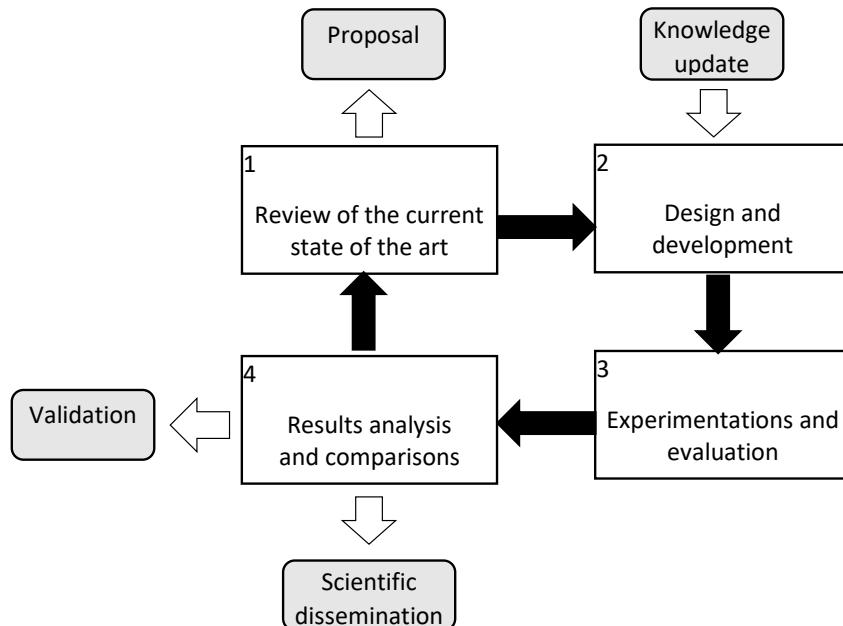


Figure 1.3: The Research Plan of Thesis.

The research in this thesis is progressing rapidly due to technological advancements and continuous contributions in machine learning (ML). An iterative research methodology was followed, where each cycle builds upon the knowledge gained in the previous phase, leading to increasingly effective and original solutions as shown in Fig. 1.3. The phases of this research methodology are as follows:

1. **Review of the current state-of-the-art:** Investigate existing research to identify challenges and inform the design of a solution.
2. **Design and development:** Design a novel solution using updated knowledge to address the identified challenges.

3. **Experimentation and evaluation:** Test the solution through experimentation, using established criteria for comparison.
4. **Results analysis and comparison:** Analyze and compare results with state-of-the-art to determine the effectiveness of the solution, and disseminate the findings.

1.6 Structure of the Dissertation

The structure of the remainder of this thesis dissertation is outlined below:

- **Chapter 2** reviews background about concept drift, concept drift types, concept drift components, adapting types.
- **Chapter 3** reviews state-of-the-art concept drift, classifier ensemble selection, imbalanced data streams, Streams with Emerging New Classes (SENC), and transfer learning.
- **Chapter 4** presents the first proposal to build an effective proposed approach for handling Imbalanced Multi-class Drifted Data streams.
- **Chapter 5** provides the second proposal to address emerging new classes in incremental streams via concept drift techniques.
- **Chapter 6** introduces a novel approach to addressing the heterogeneous transfer learning problem in incremental data streams using concept drift techniques.
- **Chapter 7** revisits the main goal and specific objectives posted earlier. This chapter summarizes the main contributions of the thesis and outlines potential directions for future research.

Background

Amidst the surge of vast streaming data, governments and businesses find themselves in an urgent need for sophisticated data analysis and machine learning analytics approaches. These tools are indispensable for anticipating future trends and making well-informed decisions. However, the perpetual emergence of new goods, markets, and consumer behaviors introduces a formidable challenge known as concept drift [21]. This phenomenon involves the variation of statistical parameters of the target variable over time in unexpected ways, posing a substantial obstacle to accurate forecasting and optimal decision-making. The patterns derived from historical data may become obsolete when applied to new and evolving datasets. The impact of concept drift extends across data-driven information systems, including decision support and early warning systems, diminishing their overall effectiveness. In the dynamic realm of big data, where data types and distributions are inherently unpredictable, the challenge of concept drift becomes even more pronounced. In response to this challenge, the field introduces a new subject: adaptive data-driven prediction/decision systems.

2.1 Drifted Streams

A drifted stream refers to a data stream in which the underlying patterns or relationships between the input features and the target variable change over time. This shift in the data distribution, known as concept drift, can manifest in several ways, including changes in the underlying data distributions, the appearance of new classes, or the disappearance of existing ones. Drifted streams are common

in many real-world applications, such as financial markets, sensor networks, and online recommendation systems, where user behavior or environmental conditions evolve.

In a drifted stream, traditional machine learning models may struggle to maintain high predictive accuracy, as they are built on the assumption that the relationships within the data remain static. The challenge in such scenarios is that the model must adapt to the changes in the stream to continue providing reliable predictions. This necessitates the development of adaptive algorithms that can detect concept drift and adjust their learning accordingly.

To handle drifted streams effectively, various methods have been proposed, such as drift detection algorithms (e.g., ADWIN, DDM) and ensemble learning techniques that can dynamically update their models in response to drift. Additionally, algorithms like KNN may need to be adapted to account for these changes by giving more weight to recent data or by periodically retraining on updated portions of the data stream to ensure that the predictions remain relevant.

2.2 Concept Drift Sources

Concept drift, as illustrated in Fig. 2.1, occurs in three distinct scenarios. First, (a) depicts a shift in data distribution, indicating changes in the underlying patterns and characteristics of incoming data, challenging the model's ability to adapt to new trends [22–25]. Second, (b) shows a change in function output, requiring adjustments in the class delimiter's position as the relationship between input features and output classes evolves. Lastly, (c) represents a dual shift in both data distribution and function output, a more complex form of concept drift that requires the model to adapt to simultaneous changes in patterns and output relationships. Effectively managing these shifts is essential for maintaining predictive accuracy and decision-making in dynamic environments, highlighting the importance of adaptive strategies in machine learning models.

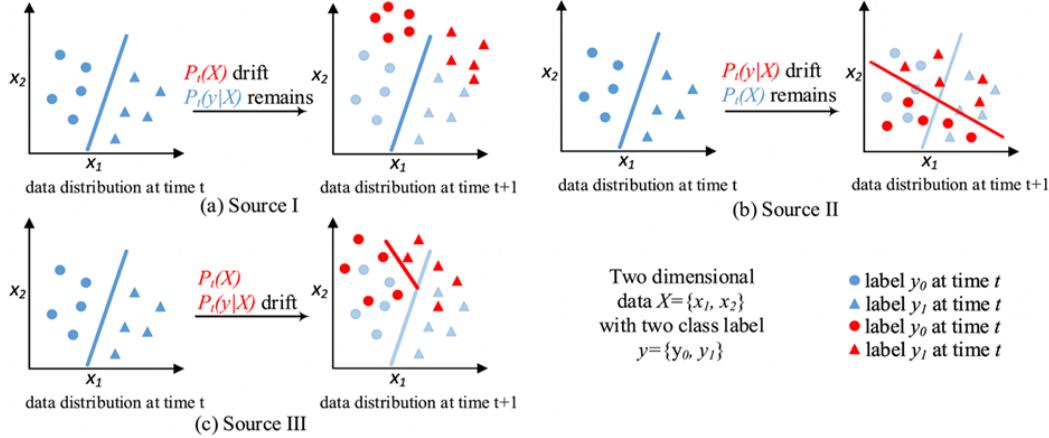


Figure 2.1: Sources of Concept Drift [26].

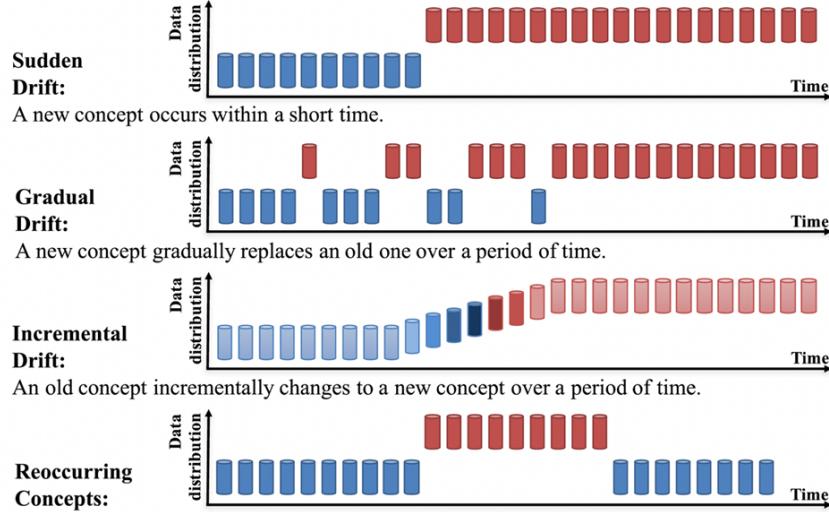
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2.3 Concept Drift Types

Concept drift is categorized into four types, as shown in Fig. 2.2. Types 1-3 focus on minimizing accuracy loss and maximizing recovery during concept transformation. Type 4, however, emphasizes leveraging historical concepts to identify the best-matched concept during new concept emergence. The term "intermediate concept," introduced by [24], refers to transitional phases between concepts. [11] further notes that concept drift can extend over time, with intermediate concepts representing a blend of starting and ending concepts in incremental drift or one of these in gradual drift. Understanding these intermediate concepts is key to grasping the dynamics of concept drift during transitions.

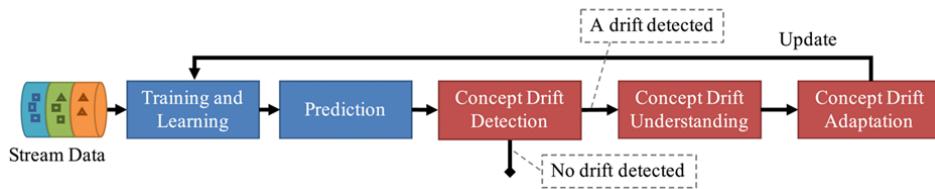
2.4 Concept Drift Components

Conventional machine learning involves prediction and training, but learning under the concept drift paradigm introduces three additional steps: concept drift detection, drift understanding, and drift adaptation 2.3. Concept drift detection identifies changes in the data distribution, pinpointing when and where drift occurs. Drift understanding analyzes the timing, duration, and location of drift, offering critical insights for the adaptation step. Adaptation, or reaction, involves

**Figure 2.2:** Types of Concept Drift [26].

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updating models in response to detected drift. Approaches for drift adaptation include Simple Retraining, Ensemble Retraining, and Model Adjusting. Drift detection methods vary, with some using constant chunk lengths and others employing variable lengths. Drift understanding helps inform decisions on whether to retrain a model from scratch or adjust the existing one, based on the severity of the drift 2.4.

**Figure 2.3:** Main Components of Concept Drift [26].

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2.4.1 Concept Drift Detection

Drift detection involves techniques and mechanisms to characterize and quantify concept drift by identifying change points or intervals [11]. The general frame-

work for drift detection consists of four stages:

- **Stage 1 (Data Retrieval):** This stage focuses on retrieving data chunks from data streams. Given that a single data instance lacks sufficient information to infer the overall distribution [22], organizing data chunks meaningfully is crucial for effective data stream analysis [27].
- **Stage 2 (Data Modeling):** This optional stage abstracts the retrieved data, extracting key features that contain sensitive information impacting a system in case of drift. This stage may involve dimensionality reduction or sample size reduction to meet storage and online speed requirements [11].
- **Stage 3 (Test Statistics Calculation):** This stage involves measuring dissimilarity or estimating distance to quantify drift severity and generate test statistics for hypothesis testing. Defining an accurate and robust dissimilarity measurement remains a challenging aspect of concept drift detection. Test statistics can also be used for clustering evaluation [28] and to determine dissimilarity between sample sets [29].
- **Stage 4 (Hypothesis Test):** This stage employs a specific hypothesis test to assess the statistical significance of the change observed in Stage 3, such as the p-value. These tests determine drift detection accuracy by establishing statistical bounds for the test statistics from Stage 3. Without Stage 4, the acquired test statistics are meaningless for drift detection, as they cannot establish the drift confidence interval. Commonly used hypothesis tests include estimating the distribution of test statistics [30, 31], bootstrapping [32, 33], the permutation test [22], and Hoeffding’s inequality-based bound identification [34].

Without Stage 1, concept drift detection can be framed as a two-sample test problem, where the objective is to determine if two sample sets come from the same distribution [29]. Any multivariate two-sample test can be used in Stages 2-4 for concept drift detection [29]. However, if distribution drift is not present in the target features, selecting the appropriate target feature becomes crucial for the performance of the learning system, presenting a significant challenge in concept drift detection [35].

2.4.2 Understanding Phase

The severity of concept drift is a key factor in selecting suitable adaptation strategies. Figure 2.4 shows that when concept drift is minimal, resulting in only slight changes to the decision boundary, incremental learning is sufficient. However, with high severity, where the decision boundary experiences substantial shifts, retraining a new model may be more effective than incrementally updating the existing one. While some researchers have emphasized the ability to quantify drift severity, this information is not widely applied in adaptation practices. The adaptation process offers three main approaches: Simple Retraining, where a new model is trained with recent data; Model Ensemble, which retains and reuses existing models for repeated concept drift; and Model Adjusting, which allows partial updates to a model as the data distribution changes.

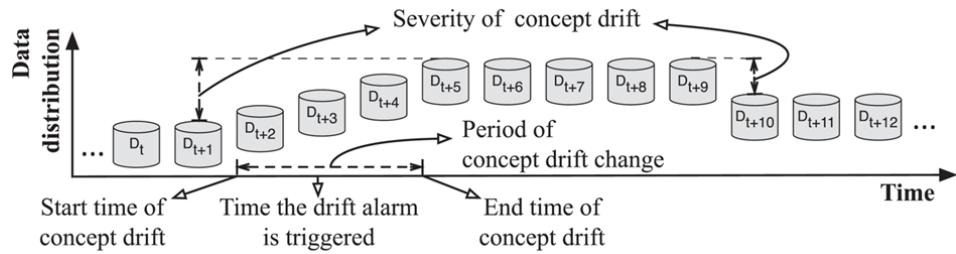


Figure 2.4: Understanding Phase of Concept Drift [26].

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2.4.3 Adaptation Phase

This section delves into strategies for updating existing learning models in response to drift, referred to as drift adaptation or reaction. The three primary categories of drift adaptation methods are simple retraining, ensemble retraining, and model adjusting, each tailored to address specific types of drift.

A. Simple Retraining

To handle concept drift, models can be retrained with the latest data, with a concept drift detector determining when retraining is necessary. A common method is the window strategy, where recent data is stored for retraining, and

old data is used for drift detection. Paired Learners [36] use a stable and a reactive learner to replace the stable one when it misclassifies instances correctly classified by the reactive learner, though choosing the appropriate window size can be challenging. ADWIN [37] improves this by dynamically adjusting window sizes based on change rates.

Other methods combine drift detection with retraining, such as DELM [38], which adapts the ELM algorithm, and FP-ELM [39], which introduces a forgetting parameter for drift adaptation. OS-ELM [40] focuses on optimal ensemble size for drift.

Instance-based learners, like Just-in-Time adaptive classifiers [30], use a CUSUM test [41] to detect drift and remove outdated instances. Advances include comparing current and previous concepts [28, 30], while NEFCS [22] uses a competence model and Stepwise Redundancy Removal (SRR) [22] to distinguish drift from noise.

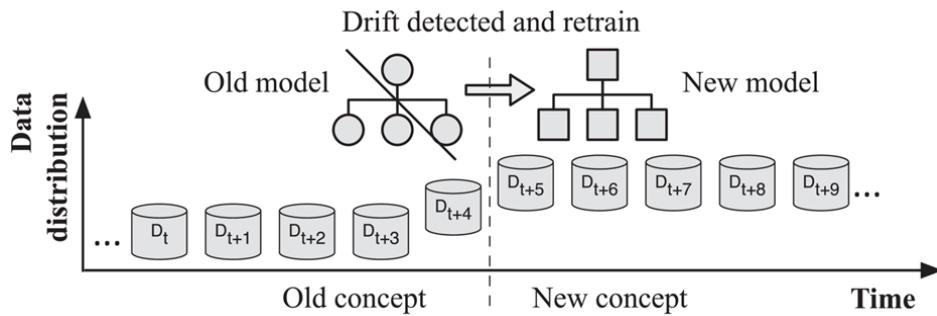


Figure 2.5: Approach for Retraining a New Model [26].

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B. Model Ensemble Eetraining

In recurring concept drift scenarios, ensemble methods, which reuse old models instead of retraining new ones, offer greater efficiency and adaptability [42]. These methods involve combining classifiers with varied types or parameters using voting rules. Adaptive ensemble techniques, including those based on classical methods, are designed to address concept drift challenges (Fig. 2.6).

Classical methods like Bagging, Boosting, and Random Forests have been adapted for concept drift. Online Bagging [43] and Bagging with ADWIN [44] replace underperforming classifiers when drift is detected. Adaptive Boosting [45] and the Adaptive Random Forest (ARF) algorithm [46] also incorporate drift detection.

Innovative methods like Dynamic Weighted Majority (DWM) [47] and Learn++NSE [48] adapt based on classifier performance. Specialized approaches, such as Accuracy Update Ensemble (AUE2) [49] and Optimal Weights Adjustment (OWA) [50], address different drift types or class evolution [51]. These methods help refine models to better handle concept drift and ensure optimal performance over time [23, 52].

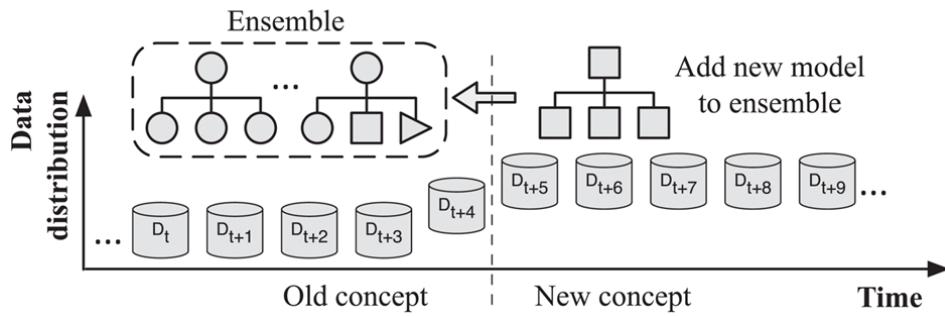


Figure 2.6: Ensemble Approach for the Adaptation Phase [26].

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C. Model Adjusting

An alternative to retraining models entirely is using adaptive learning for partial updates in response to concept drift, particularly in localized regions [53]. Decision trees are effective due to their adaptability, with methods like VFDT [54] using the Hoeffding bound for fast processing without storing instances. CVFDT [55] enhances VFDT by managing concept drift with a sliding data window and replacing sub-trees for better performance. VFDTc [55] adds support for numerical attributes and node-level drift detection. Extensions [56, 57] improve classifier selection with adaptive leaf strategies, while recent critiques [58, 59] challenge VFDT's use of the Hoeffding bound and suggest alternative impurity measures. IADEM-3 [60] addresses these

issues by using the sum of independent random variables for drift detection and pruning.

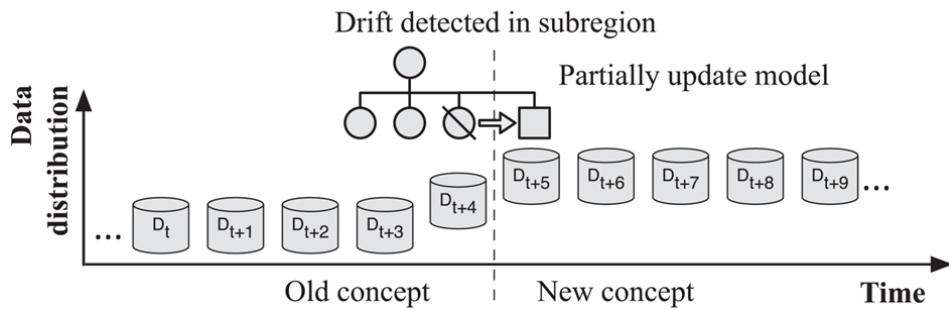


Figure 2.7: Partial Updating Approach for the Adaptation Phase [26].

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2.5 K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) Algorithm

The K-Nearest Neighbors [61] (KNN) algorithm is a simple, yet effective, method used in machine learning for classification and regression tasks. It operates on the principle of identifying the "K" closest data points to a given query point in the feature space and making predictions based on the majority class (for classification) or the average value (for regression) of those neighbors. The main advantages of KNN are its ease of implementation and ability to handle both linear and non-linear decision boundaries without requiring an explicit model to be built. However, KNN has some limitations, particularly when it comes to large datasets and high-dimensional data, as the computation of distances can become expensive.

In the context of streaming data, where new data points are constantly being added, KNN is often applied to predict the class of an incoming data point by comparing it to the most recent observations in the stream. However, one of the challenges when using KNN in dynamic environments is dealing with concept drift. Since KNN relies on the most recent data points to make predictions, its performance can degrade significantly when the statistical properties of the stream change over time, as is the case with concept drift.

CHAPTER

3

State-of-the-art

This chapter presents a comprehensive review of recent advancements in stream classification, focusing on several critical challenges that arise in dynamic data environments. The rapid evolution of data streams introduces complexities such as concept drift, imbalanced multiclass scenarios, class overlap, classifier ensemble selection, emergence of new classes, and the incorporation of transfer learning. This introduction outlines the structure of the chapter and highlights the significance of each topic in advancing stream classification methodologies. The first section (Section 3.1) focuses on concept drift, a phenomenon where the statistical properties of the data change over time. Various methodologies developed for real-time detection and adaptation to concept drift in streaming scenarios are explored. This includes a review of techniques that enable systems to identify shifts in data patterns promptly, ensuring sustained classification accuracy. By analyzing the strengths of these approaches, the necessity for robust drift detection mechanisms in evolving data streams is highlighted. Next, Section 3.2 explores classifier ensemble selection in the context of streaming data. As the characteristics of data streams evolve, selecting the most appropriate ensemble of classifiers becomes crucial. Algorithms are presented that are designed to dynamically select the best-performing classifiers based on the current data distribution. This section emphasizes the importance of adaptive ensemble strategies in enhancing classification performance amidst changing data landscapes. Section 3.3 addresses the challenges posed by imbalanced multiclass scenarios, particularly in the presence of overlapping classes. Specialized oversampling techniques are discussed to counter

the effects of class imbalance in streaming data. Insights into effective strategies for balancing the representation of minority classes are provided, laying the groundwork for developing robust frameworks that maintain performance in imbalanced drifted streams. As new classes emerge in streaming systems, traditional classifiers often struggle to adapt effectively. Section 3.4 explores methodologies that specifically focus on integrating new classes within existing frameworks. This section highlights innovative approaches that enhance the adaptability of stream classification systems, ensuring they remain effective as new data patterns emerge. Section 3.5 examines the role of transfer learning in stream classification. This section discusses how transfer learning techniques leverage knowledge from related tasks to enhance classification performance in dynamic environments. It explores current methodologies that facilitate the transfer of information across different domains, particularly in scenarios where labeled data is limited. The insights from this discussion are crucial for understanding how transfer learning integrates with other strategies in the proposed framework. In Section 3.6, a comparative analysis of recent works is presented, focusing on addressing specific challenges. This analysis evaluates their contributions, highlights limitations, and identifies research gaps that this study seeks to address. Finally, Section 3.7 concludes this chapter by identifying key challenges and gaps, which inform the research direction for the subsequent chapters.

3.1 Concept Drift

Concept drift refers to changes in the underlying data distribution over time, which can reduce the accuracy of previously trained machine learning models [62–64]. Detecting and responding to concept drift is crucial for maintaining model performance. Several detection methods have been proposed to address this challenge. The Drift Detection Method (DDM) [31, 44] uses a statistical test to identify significant error rate increases, signaling concept drift. The Early Drift Detection Method (EDDM) [31, 65] extends DDM by considering a moving window of recent data. ADWIN [31, 65] employs a sliding window to monitor statistical differences and adjusts the window size to adapt to drift patterns. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov windowing method (KSWIN) [65] calculates the Kolmogorov-Smirnov distance to

detect drift, while Hoeffding’s bounds with moving average test (HDDMA) and its variant HDDMW [31, 44] compute bounds for the true mean to detect distribution changes. Lastly, the Page-Hinkley method [66] tracks the cumulative sum of errors, detecting drift when the sum exceeds a threshold. These methods enable machine learning models to adapt to evolving data streams, enhancing model performance and robustness.

3.2 Classifier Ensemble Selection

This study examines the overproduce-and-select approach for classifier ensemble selection [15, 18, 67]. The goal is to identify the optimal subset of classifiers from a larger ensemble, considering factors like performance, diversity metrics, meta-learning techniques, and performance estimation. This process reduces computational complexity, enhances efficiency, and improves ensemble performance, particularly for real-world applications. By selecting a smaller subset, the approach balances accuracy with computational resources and adapts to evolving data streams. There are two main selection strategies: static and dynamic. Static selection assigns classifiers to specific feature space partitions, while dynamic selection chooses classifiers based on local competencies for each data sample. Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) selects the best classifiers for each test instance, considering their competence in the local region. The Randomized Reference Classifier, proposed by Woloszynski and Kurzynski [16], enhances adaptability and robustness by introducing randomness through a beta distribution. This classifier is particularly effective in concept drift scenarios. However, using diversity measures, as shown by Lysiak [17], may lead to smaller ensembles but not necessarily improved accuracy. Overall, the overproduce-and-select approach offers a framework for tackling concept drift by dynamically adapting the ensemble composition, improving classification performance, efficiency, and adaptability in dynamic environments.

3.3 Imbalanced data Streams

In imbalanced data classification, three main approaches have been identified [68], with this study emphasizing the first category, which addresses imbalanced data streams through sampling methods, particularly oversampling [69]. This technique creates synthetic instances to achieve balanced class distributions [70–73]. Imbalances can arise in both binary and multi-class settings, with this research concentrating on multi-class oversampling strategies.

To address multi-class imbalances, Multi-Label SMOTE (MLSMOTE) [9] extends SMOTE to multi-class learning by generating synthetic examples for minority class labels and ensuring their proper assignment. A more recent technique, Multi-Label Synthetic Oversampling based on Local Label Imbalance (MLSOL) [68], improves upon MLSMOTE by targeting local imbalances within multi-class classification. MLSOL uses distinct sampling strategies for each label, offering superior performance in classification accuracy and other metrics. It generates synthetic samples from minority class instances in a restricted neighborhood, improving computational efficiency and reducing overfitting, making it a promising technique that outperforms MLSMOTE in several areas.

3.4 Streams with Emerging New Classes (SENC)

Existing methods for detecting new class emergence in streaming data include clustering-based approaches like SACCOS [74], ECSMiner [75], and SAND [76], which require true labels, limiting their practical use. Similarly, SENC-MaS [77] uses matrix sketches but also needs label information for all instances. Tree-based methods, such as SENCForest [78] and SEEN [79], employ anomaly detection but suffer from high false positives and inefficiencies. SENNE [80] improves detection using nearest neighbor ensembles but lacks model retirement mechanisms, causing longer runtimes. The KNNENS [61] method combines a k-nearest neighbor ensemble with model updates to address new class detection and classification. However, existing methods generally overlook the use of concept drift techniques, highlighting the need for approaches that can handle both concept drift and new class emergence.

3.5 Transfer Learning

Transfer learning has gained significant attention for addressing distribution disparities between source and target domains, with methods falling into two categories: instance re-weighting and feature matching [81]. Instance re-weighting methods, such as Kernel Mean Matching (KMM) [82], Kullback-Leibler Importance Estimation Procedure (KLIEP) [83], and TrAdaBoost [84], adjust the weights of source instances to align with the target domain. These methods have been extended to multisource transfer learning (e.g., MsTrAdaBoost [85]). Feature matching approaches, including Transfer Component Analysis (TCA) [85] and CORAL [86], focus on aligning feature representations between domains, often through transformations that minimize distribution differences. However, negative transfer, where transferred knowledge harms performance, is a challenge addressed by techniques like Transfer Joint Matching (TJM) [87]. Additionally, methods such as HE-CDTL [88] handle concept drift in transfer learning by incorporating historical knowledge and class-wise weighted ensembles. Finally, online transfer learning techniques like Melanie [85] manage non-stationary environments by dynamically adjusting model weights to accommodate concept drift.

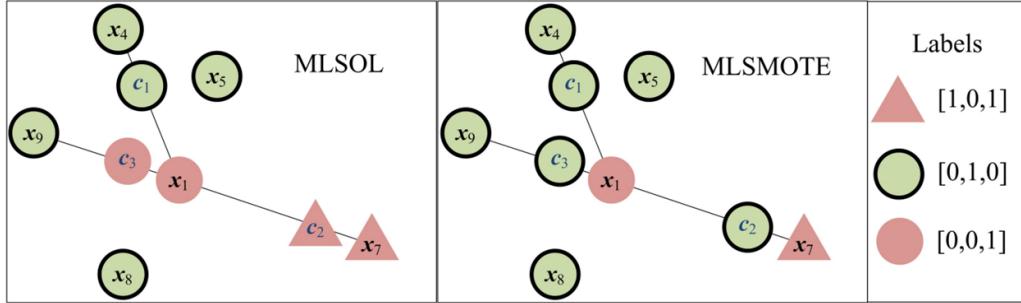
3.6 Comparsion

This section presents a critical comparison of closely related works addressing the challenges of imbalanced multiclass streams 3.6.1, the emergence of new classes 3.6.2, and the integration of transfer learning 3.6.3 within streaming environments. The increasing complexity of real-world data streams necessitates advanced methodologies that can effectively manage the intricacies of these challenges. By examining various approaches in the literature, the goal is to highlight their contributions, strengths, and limitations in dealing with imbalanced data distributions, adapting to new class occurrences, and leveraging transfer learning techniques. This comparative analysis highlights the current state of research while emphasizing specific gaps and unresolved challenges, paving the way for more robust and adaptive solutions in streaming data classification.

3.6.1 Imbalanced Stream

In the context of multi-class classification, addressing class imbalances is crucial. Multi-Label SMOTE [9] (MLSMOTE) extends the principles of SMOTE to generate synthetic examples for each minority class label, thereby enhancing classifier performance by considering neighboring examples in the feature space. Recently, Multi-Label Synthetic Oversampling based on Local label imbalance [89] (MLSOL) has emerged as a more effective technique. MLSOL systematically addresses local imbalances by employing distinct sampling strategies for each label. Empirical research demonstrates that MLSOL outperforms existing methods, including MLSMOTE, in terms of classification accuracy and computational efficiency. By generating synthetic samples exclusively from minority class instances within a restricted neighborhood, MLSOL produces a more compact and efficient synthetic dataset, mitigating concerns related to overfitting. Figure 3.1 illustrates that MLSOL is more likely to select x_1 as a seed instance because it is surrounded by more neighbors of the opposite class for l_3 . MLSMOTE assigns the label vector $[0,1,0]$ to all synthetic instances based on their neighbors. In contrast, MLSOL creates more diverse instances by assigning labels according to their location. Moreover, synthetic instances c_2 and c_3 generated by MLSMOTE introduce noise, whereas MLSOL copies the labels of the nearest instance to the new examples. In summary, MLSMOTE tends to generate new instances biased toward the dominant class in the local area, whereas MLSOL effectively explores and exploits both the feature and label space.

Table 3.1 presents a comparison of two methods, MLSMOTE and MLSOL, which are designed to address the issue of imbalanced data in multi-class classification. MLSMOTE enhances classifier performance by generating synthetic examples for each minority class label, thereby balancing the class distribution. Its primary advantage is the generation of these synthetic examples, which helps mitigate the imbalance. However, it has significant limitations: the synthetic samples generated might be related to the majority class, which can blur the distinction between classes, and the method struggles with overlapping classes, leading to potential misclassification. On the other hand, MLSOL systematically combats local imbalances by employing distinct sampling strategies for each label within a restricted

**Figure 3.1:** Comparsion of MLSMOTE and MLSOL Generated Instances [89].

DOI: 110.1016/j.patcog.2021.108294

neighborhood. This localized approach allows MLSOL to generate synthetic examples more precisely, addressing local imbalances effectively. Nonetheless, like MLSMOTE, MLSOL faces challenges with overlapping classes, which can result in misclassification in areas where class boundaries are not clear. Despite its advantages in handling local imbalances, the overlapping class issue remains a critical limitation for both methods, affecting their overall effectiveness in classification tasks.

3.6.2 Emergence of new classes

Effectively detecting and adapting to new classes in streaming data is crucial for maintaining classification accuracy. Tree-based methods like SENCForest [78] and SEEN [79] utilize anomaly detection but face high false positive rates and runtime inefficiencies. SENNE improves detection performance using a nearest neighbor ensemble but suffers from longer runtimes due to the lack of an effective model retirement mechanism. The k-nearest Neighbor Ensemble-based method [61] (KNNENS) addresses new class detection and known class classification using a k-nearest neighbor-based hypersphere ensemble and dynamic model updates. However, a critical limitation of these methods is their inadequate handling of concept drift, which is essential for detecting new classes and retraining the classification model.

Table 3.1: Comparison of the MLSMOTE and MLSOL Methods.

Method	Theory	Advantages	Limitations
MLSMOTE [9]	MLSMOTE significantly enhances classifier performance by generating synthetic examples for each minority class label.	Generating synthetic examples for each minority class label.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random synthetic samples may be related to the majority class. Overlapping classes.
MLSOL [89]	MLSOL systematically combats local imbalances within the domain of multi-class classification by employing distinct sampling strategies for each label.	Generating synthetic examples for each minority class label within a restricted neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlapping classes.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the SENCForest approach, which divides the space into three regions (normal, outlying, and anomaly) and detects emerging new classes (anomalies) using a calculated threshold path length. Figure 3.3 depicts the SENNE algorithm, where hyperplanes are drawn in three dimensions (x_1 , x_2 , and x_3) for each class (Fig. 3.3a). New instances are then classified as emerging or known classes based on the rank of each class (Fig. 3.3b). Figure 3.4 presents the KNNENS algorithm, which draws hyperplanes for all class samples (Fig. 3.4a), and classifies new instances using a voting mechanism to determine if the instance is an emerging or known class (Fig. 3.4b). These visualizations highlight the operational differences between the SENNE and KNNENS algorithms in handling the classification of emerging and known classes.

Table 3.2 compares three methods for emerging class detection: SENCForest, SENNE, and KNNENS. SENCForest employs the anomaly detection method iForest [20] for new class detection and uses a threshold path to identify anomalies,

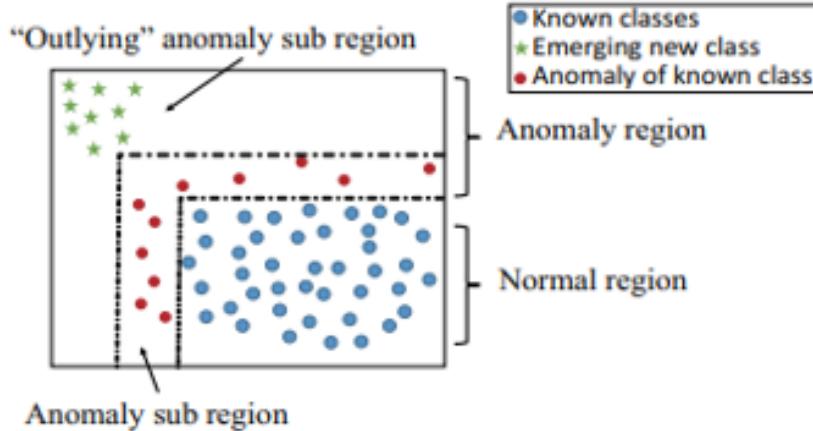


Figure 3.2: Overview of SENCForest Detection Flow Diagram [78].

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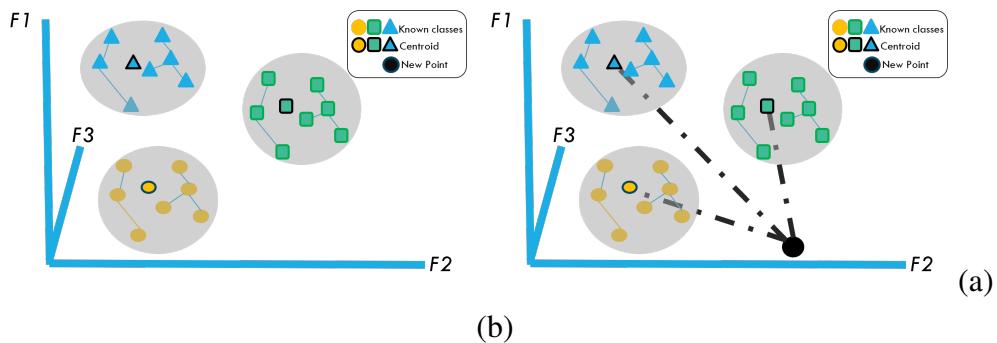


Figure 3.3: Overview of the Stream Emerging Nearest Neighbor Ensemble (SENNE) [79].

serving both as an unsupervised anomaly detector and a supervised classifier. However, it has a high potential for false positives and depends on a complex path length threshold. SENNE utilizes a nearest neighbor-based hypersphere of one class ensemble to explore local neighborhood information and sort distances, handling both low and high geometric distances between classes. Its limitations include the assumption that the distribution of known classes remains unchanged and it has lengthy update times. KNNENS employs a nearest neighbor-based hypersphere of all class ensembles to explore local neighborhood information, reducing false positives for new classes without needing true labels for model updates. However, like

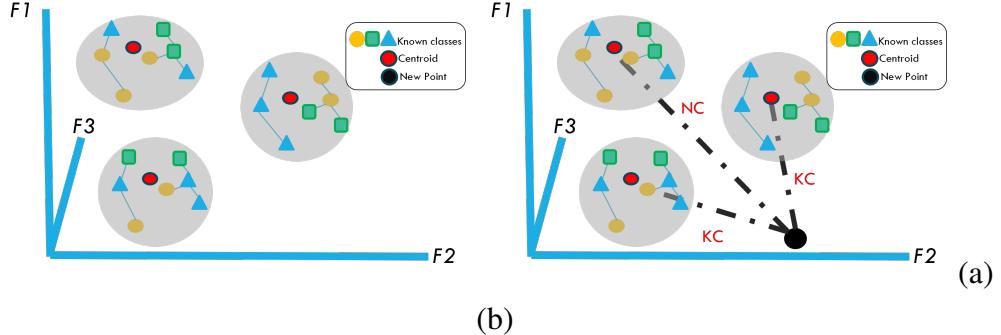


Figure 3.4: Overview of the k-nearest Neighbor Ensemble-based [61] (KENNE).

SENNE, it assumes that the distribution of known classes remains unchanged.

3.6.3 Transfer Learning

In the realm of transfer learning, three prominent methods—CORAL, Melanie, and HE-CDTL—serve as closely related approaches to the third proposed approach 6. Correlation Alignment [85] (CORAL) is an asymmetric transformation approach that aligns sub-space bases using second-order statistics. By employing a learned transformation matrix, CORAL projects source instances into the target domain, thereby minimizing domain discrepancies and reducing negative knowledge transfer. Melanie addresses the challenge of non-stationary environments through an online ensemble learning approach [2]. It incrementally trains models from both source and target domains, dynamically adjusting their weights to handle concept drift, and combines these models via a weighted-sum approach as shown in Fig. 3.5. Figure 3.6 shows that this method can be extended to Concept Drift Transfer Learning [85] (CDTL) by using an ensemble for chunk-based concept drift. HE-CDTL, designed explicitly for CDTL, leverages knowledge from source domains and historical time steps within the target domain to enhance learning performance. It utilizes a class-wise weighted ensemble for historical knowledge and implements AW-CORAL for extracting knowledge from source domains. The class-wise weighted ensemble allows individual classes to select historical knowledge independently, while AW-CORAL minimizes domain disparities and mitigates negative knowledge transfer. Extensive experiments have shown HE-CDTL to outperform

Table 3.2: Comparison of the SENCForest, SENNE, and KENNE methods.

Method	Theory	Advantages	Limitations
SENCForest [78]	employs anomaly detection method iForest for a new class detection and then applies threshold path to detect the anomalies.	SENCForest serves as both an unsupervised anomaly detector and a supervised classifier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for High false positives. Dependency on path length threshold (more complexity).
SENNE [79]	nearest neighbor-based hypersphere of one class ensemble to explore local neighborhood information and sort distance to calculate distance.	SENNE is able to handle both the low and high geometric distance between two classes in the feature space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumes that the distribution of known classes remains unchanged. Take long time for update.
KENNE [61]	nearest neighbor-based hypersphere of all class ensemble to explore local neighborhood information.	KNNENS to reduce false positives for the new class. KNNENS does not require true labels to update the model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumes that the distribution of known classes remains unchanged.

baseline methods in addressing transfer learning challenges in the context of concept drift. Together, these methods provide a comprehensive framework for effective transfer learning in dynamic and evolving data environments.

Table 3.3 compares three methods: CORAL, Melanie, and HE-CDTL. CORAL (Correlation Alignment) utilizes a learned transformation matrix and Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) to project source instances into the target domain, effectively minimizing domain discrepancy and reducing negative knowledge transfer. However, it faces challenges with non-stationary and heterogeneous data. Melanie (Multisource Online Transfer learning for Non-stationary Environments) addresses online learning problems where data in source and target domains are generated

from non-stationary environments. Its advantages include considering online problems but it too is limited by the complexities of online learning and data heterogeneity. HE-CDTL (Class-wise Weighted and Domain-wise Ensemble) minimizes domain shift by aligning second-order statistics of source and target distributions, leveraging historical knowledge to reduce disparities between domains. Despite its strengths, it relies on the quality of the source domain and also struggles with heterogeneous data.

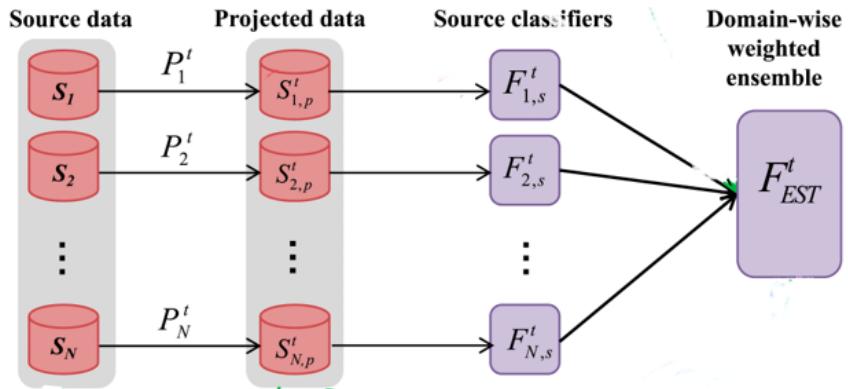


Figure 3.5: Overview of CORrelation ALignment (CORAL)[85].

3.7 Related Works Challenges

By comparing the literature on ensemble learning for classification tasks, the proposals in this thesis differ from other studies in several ways:

- As highlighted in the literature on imbalanced streams, most studies have concentrated on generating synthetic samples while ignoring class overlap. *To address this challenge*, an approach is proposed to generate non-overlapping classes in imbalanced streams.
- Oversampling techniques often perform inefficiently in the presence of concept drift. *To tackle this issue*, a methodology is introduced that selects the oversampling technique based on the current and historical distribution of the stream chunks.

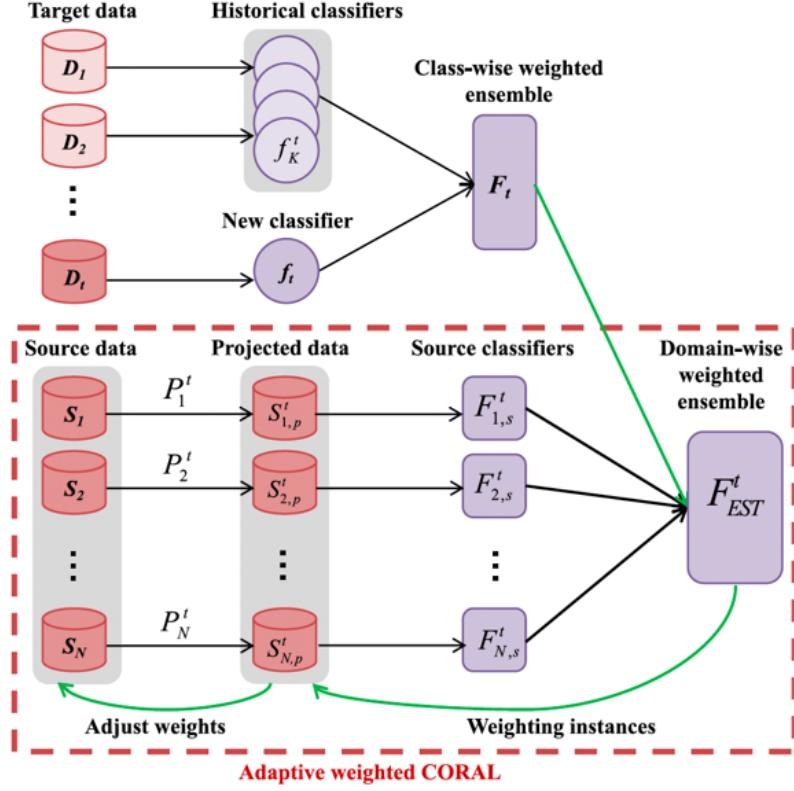


Figure 3.6: Overview of Concept Drift Transfer Learning (CDTL) [85].

- As highlighted in the literature on non-stationary environments reveals that most works focus on detecting emerging new classes while overlooking distribution changes. *To overcome this challenge*, a combined approach is proposed that utilizes Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to select the best classifier for each chunk based on stream distribution, k-means clustering, and concept drift to address both emerging new class detection and distribution changes.
- As highlighted in the literature on transfer learning, most studies focus on homogeneous multisource transfer and neglect heterogeneous multisources in non-stationary environments are observed. *To resolve this issue*, a combined approach is proposed that integrates Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES), Concept Drift Transfer Learning (CDTL), eigenvector techniques, and con-

Table 3.3: Comparison of the CORAL, Malanie, and CDTL Methods.

Method	Theory	Advantages	Limitations
CORAL [85]	Correlation Alignment (CORAL) uses a learned transformation matrix and Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) to project the source instances into the target domain.	CORAL can minimize domain discrepancy across source and target domains, meanwhile reducing the negative knowledge transfer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-stationary environments. • Heterogenous multisource.
Melanie [2]	Multi-sourcE onLine TrAnsfer learning for Non-stationary Environments (Melanie). utilize the class-wise weighted .	It considers an online problem in which the data in source and target domains are generated from non-stationary environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the online learning only. • Heterogenous multisource.
HE-CDTL [85]	HE-CDTL uses the class-wise weighted and domain wise ensemble for historical knowledge and reduce the disparities between the source and target domains .	HE-CDTL minimizes domain shift by aligning the second-order statistics of source and target distributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depend on source domain quality. • Heterogenous multisource.

cept drift to address heterogeneous transfer learning in non-stationary environments.

Dynamic Classification Ensembles for Handling Imbalanced Multiclass Drifted Data Streams

In recent years, the explosion of high-speed data streams has presented new challenges for machine learning models. Three critical issues that have emerged are concept drift, class imbalance, and class overlap. Concept drift refers to the phenomenon where the statistical properties of a data generation process change over time [1, 2]. This signifies that the underlying concepts, relationships between variables, or data distribution can change, leading to a fundamental shift in the nature of data. Dealing with concept drift poses a fundamental challenge in machine learning and data mining. This can cause models trained on historical data to become inadequate when applied to new data affected by concept drift, leading to a decline in the model performance [2]. To address this issue, concept drift detectors are used to identify changes in data stream distributions by leveraging information associated with classifier performance or the incoming data items themselves. These signals frequently prompt model updates, retraining, or substitution of an old model with a new one. In addition, class imbalance [2, 4], which is characterized by uneven class distribution, poses a challenge for traditional classifiers [5], particularly in multiclass scenarios where minority class samples are at risk of

misclassification owing to their limited representation [6]. Addressing imbalanced data classification requires specialized techniques to ensure accurate minority class classification without compromising the performance of the majority class [7–9]. This challenge becomes more daunting when minority class instances are scattered in unknown configurations, thereby increasing the likelihood of overfitting during the learning process. To address this issue, three primary methods are employed in the context of imbalanced data classification, which are effective in both binary and multiclass imbalance scenarios [10]. The first approach involves sampling methods that address class imbalance by either reducing the number of majority class instances (undersampling) or generating artificial minority class instances (oversampling) [11, 90]. The second and third groups encompass adaptive algorithms and hybrid methods, respectively. Adaptive algorithms include one-class and cost-sensitive classification [91]. Hybrid methods merge data preprocessing with classification techniques, often utilizing ensemble classifiers to effectively mitigate class imbalance and enhance classifier performance [12, 19, 20]. Class overlap occurs when instances from different classes inhabit the same region in the data space [13, 14]. This overlap complicates the task of distinguishing between representative instances of various classes and posing performance challenges for traditional classifiers. This issue is commonly referred to as class overlap. Researchers have proposed class overlap undersampling techniques to address class imbalance problems [15]. These techniques aim to leverage local similarities among minority instances to identify potentially overlapping majority instances. Although these methods have demonstrated promising results in improving model performance on specific datasets, many of them rely heavily on nearest-neighbor approaches to detect overlapping regions around minority instances. This approach often neglects the global similarity within the overlapping domain, which can lead to local optimal values getting stuck during calculations. Furthermore, determining appropriate parameters for these models poses a significant challenge. If the parameter selection is too extensive, it may lead to the exclusion of valuable instances, while conservative parameters may overlook instances with overlap. This issue can significantly affect classifier performance, particularly when handling streams containing both a minority class and instances with class overlap. Therefore, both class imbalance and class overlap present significant challenges in the realm of data stream analyses.

Consequently, addressing class imbalance is crucial in multiclass learning, leading to research efforts that focus on both concept drift and class imbalance challenges. Researchers have explored techniques such as DES and multiclass oversampling to address these issues. Dynamic classifier ensembles offer the unique ability to adapt their composition based on data characteristics, making them valuable in situations with evolving data conditions [16]. The aim of classifier ensemble selection is to identify the optimal subset of classifiers from a larger ensemble. A prominent approach in classifier ensemble selection is the overproduce-and-select strategy. This selection process is guided by diverse criteria, including individual performance measures, diversity metrics, meta-learning techniques, and performance-estimation approaches. Such optimization is particularly crucial in scenarios in which striking a balance between accuracy and computational resource constraints is paramount. There are two distinct approaches: static and dynamic approaches. Static selection involves assigning classifiers to predefined feature partitions, whereas dynamic selection adaptively selects classifiers based on their competency [17]. Dynamic selection offers two choices: Dynamic Classifier Selection (DCS) and Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES). DCS algorithms enable the selection of the most appropriate classifier for each data point, based on its local competencies. In contrast, DES focuses on selecting the optimal classifiers for each instance based on their competence within localized regions [18, 21, 22]. Competency assessment relies on a Dynamic SELECTION dataset (DSEL) containing labeled samples. Moreover, innovative techniques, such as the randomized reference classifier, introduce randomness into class supports to enhance adaptability in addressing the challenges related to imbalanced data. The main goal of this study is to formulate a precise classification approach that addresses changing conditions. Specifically, the first proposed approach aims to address scenarios where there is an uneven distribution among several classes, overlapping instances of classes, and instances where the fundamental concept of data evolves. To address these challenges, dynamic classifier ensembles are employed. These ensembles utilize oversampling techniques, implemented either on a global or local scale, as a preprocessing step to address class imbalance. Furthermore, multiclass learning techniques are enhanced to counteract class imbalance through method adaptation.

The remainder of this chapter is organized as follows: In Section 4.1, the motivations and the contributions are presented. The first proposed framework are discussed in detail in Section 4.2. The experimental results and the discussion are presented in Sections 4.4. Section 4.5 presents a summary of this chapter.

4.1 Motivations and Contributions of this Chapter

1. A classification approach is introduced that dynamically adjusts to multiclass imbalanced data, incorporates mechanisms for detecting concept drift, and optimizes classifier ensemble selection. The objective is to enhance the classification performance, specifically for multiclass imbalanced non-stationary streams.
2. Additionally, an adaptive method is proposed for the class imbalance issue, considering the data distributions and historical instances of class imbalance. This is particularly relevant in cases where class overlap occurs within the multiclass and drifted data performance by selecting the most suitable oversampling method based on the unique characteristics of the data stream.

4.2 Proposed Methodology

This section outlines the primary phases of the study, comprising three distinct stages. Following this introduction, the synthetic data-generator method is explored in detail, offering a comprehensive breakdown of the four essential steps. Our proposal aims to develop a robust approach designed to overcome the challenging domain of multiclass classification for imbalanced and drifting data streams. To achieve this objective, the proposed solution tackles the four primary challenges associated with developing this approach.

- **Multi-class imbalanced streams:** This study focuses on addressing the widespread problem of imbalanced data streams in the context of multiple classes, aiming to tackle this issue using well-known techniques, particularly MLSMOTE and MLSOL.

- **Overlapping class:** A critical challenge involving class overlapping, which is known to substantially affect model performance [18, 21], is also addressed. An adaptive method is introduced to generate non-overlapping synthetic instances, thereby enhancing the overall performance of the model.
- **Drifted streams:** First proposed approach integrates a concept drift detector to identify shifts in the underlying data distribution. This dynamic detection mechanism enables the model to promptly recognize changes and adjust its classifiers, thereby ensuring its effectiveness in handling drifting stream.
- **Classifier performance:** To enhance the classifier performance, first approach employs Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES). This technique creates a pool of classifiers and dynamically selects the most suitable classifier for each incoming data point, further improving classification performance and robustness.

4.2.1 First Proposed Approach (PA1) Description

First proposed approach is designed with three distinct phases that work together to improve its performance in managing multiclass imbalanced and drifting data streams.

- **DES phase (dynamic ensemble selection phase):** The first phase, known as the dynamic ensemble selection (DES) phase, is responsible for selecting the most appropriate classifier for the incoming data. This ensures that the selected classifier is well-suited for the current data chunk.
- **Drift detector phase:** The second phase of the first approach is the drift detector phase, which operates in real-time to continuously monitor the data stream. Its primary function is to identify any signs of concept drift, which indicates shifts in the underlying data distribution over time.
- **Synthetic data generator phase:** The final phase of the first approach is the synthetic data generator phase, which is dedicated to generating synthetic data for the minority classes. This step is crucial for addressing class imbalance by producing additional samples for underrepresented classes, thereby

significantly enhancing the model’s ability to accurately classify instances from minority classes.

- **Synthetic data generator phase:** The final phase of the first approach is the synthetic data generator phase, which is dedicated to generating synthetic data for the minority classes. This step is crucial for addressing class imbalance by producing additional samples for underrepresented classes, thereby significantly enhancing the model’s ability to accurately classify instances from minority classes.

Specifically, as shown in Fig. 4.1, the DES phase retrieves the current data chunk from the stream and applies the DES technique to select the most suitable classifiers for the received chunk. The selected classifiers were then passed to the second phase, where they were employed to predict the class of each instance within the received data chunk. Simultaneously, detectors like ADWIND or DDM are employed to monitor any occurrence of concept drift. If the discrepancy between the class frequency and standard deviation of the current chunk is significant, as described in reference [31], and the imbalance ratio exceeds the average imbalance ratio, the current chunk is forwarded to the third phase, as indicated by the red rectangle in 4.1. In the third phase, first proposed method uses a set of equations 4.14.24.3 to identify minority classes. The initial equation computes the frequency of each class within the current chunk, where i represents the current chunk, c denotes the input class, and y_i refers to the predicted class. The second equation determines the optimal frequency for each class based on the size of the chunk (n) and the number of classes in the current chunk(C). Finally, the third equation identifies the classes as minority classes if their frequency deviates significantly from the standard deviation of the current chunk, where sd_c represents the standard deviation of the class instances, and frq_i refers to the standard deviation of the current chunk. Figure 4.2 shows that phase These identified minority classes are then fed into the synthetic data generator phase, which increases the minority class samples to balance any imbalanced chunks. This ensures optimal performance for the new classifiers. Algorithm 1 provides a comprehensive outline of the process of the first proposed approach, which is the main contribution of this study and is designed to effectively address multiclass imbalanced and drifting data

streams, uses streaming data as input, and systematically executes each step within the approach. The outcome of this process is the classification prediction generated using the first proposed approach.

4.2.2 Synthetic Data Generator Phase Description

Figure 4.2 presents a comprehensive overview of the synthetic data generator phase, which is an essential component responsible for generating synthetic samples by considering both data distribution and historical chunk behaviors. This phase has several advantages and can perform a wide range of tasks.

- **Similar chunk analysis:** Initially, the phase analyzes the current chunk distribution and identifies a similar chunk from historical data. This analysis forms the basis for generating synthetic samples that align with prevailing distribution patterns.
- **Oversampling method selection:** This phase utilizes the knowledge of the oversampling technique applied to the identified similar chunk. Consequently, it employs an alternative oversampling technique, using MLSMOTE and MLSOL, to create the most effective synthetic data. This step is designed not only to optimize the current classification but also to preemptively address potential drifts in similar future chunks.
- **Class overlap validation:** This step involves generating synthetic samples for the minority classes to effectively address the issue of minority classes and consequently enhance the classifier performance. The process utilizes the K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) algorithm, as applied in [22], to identify overlaps between newly generated data instances and existing instances. If overlaps are detected, the first proposed approach iteratively removes these samples because their presence can potentially diminish the overall classifier performance [18, 21]. Consequently, the first proposed approach generates alternative samples to address this challenge and preserve the primary objectives of the synthetic data generator step.

- **Continuous refinement:** This process iterates until it successfully generates high-quality synthetic data that aligns with the data distribution, minimizes overlap, and mitigates potential concept drift. The generated data were subsequently utilized in the training phase to improve classifier performance.

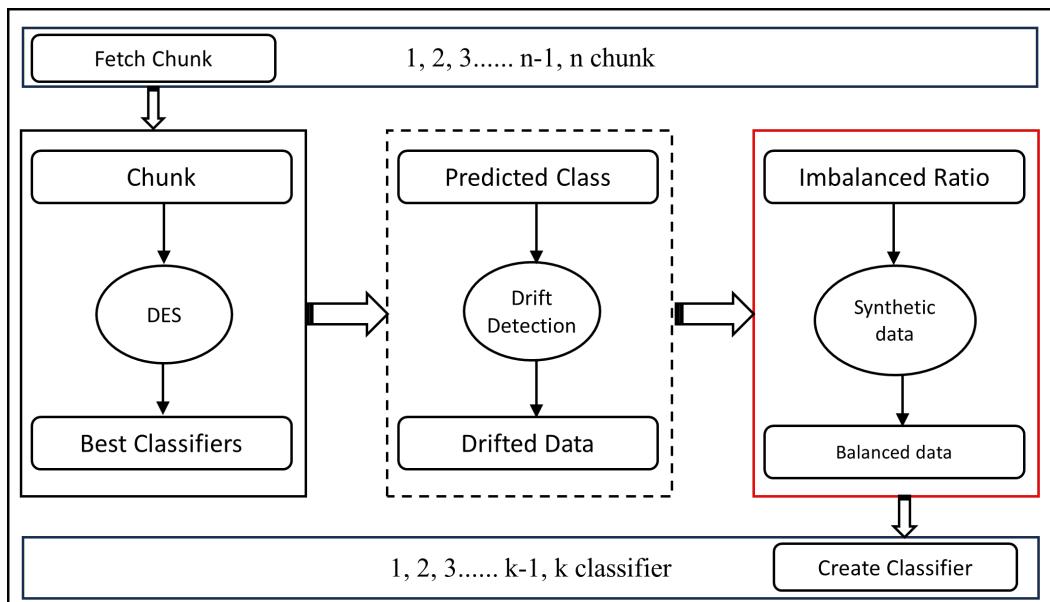


Figure 4.1: First Proposed Approach (PA1) for Imbalanced Multi-class Drifted Streams.

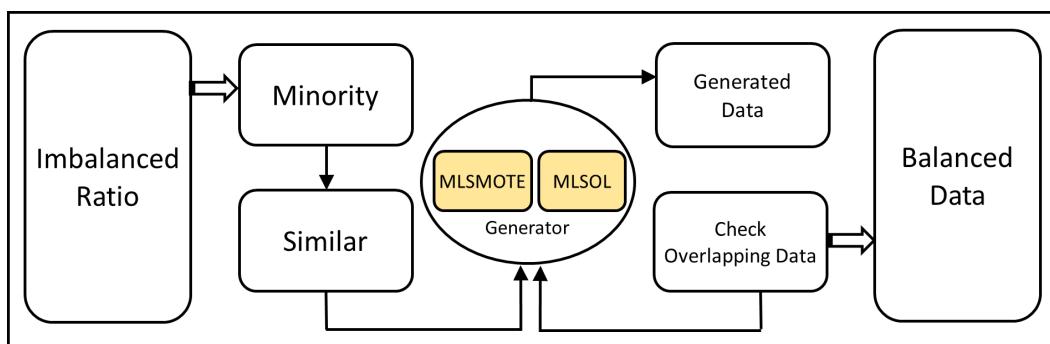


Figure 4.2: Flow Diagram of the Synthetic Data Generator.

Algorithm 1: First Proposed Approach for Imbalanced Multi-class Drifted Streams.

Input: data stream, maximum classifiers pool size κ
Output: Prediction P

```

 $\psi, \Psi, \Omega, \mu \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
 $\omega \leftarrow 0;$ 
for stream have chunk do
    if  $a$  is the First chunk then
         $k \leftarrow \text{trainingNewClassifier}(a);$ 
         $P \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k);$ 
    else
         $k \leftarrow \text{DES}(a, \Psi);$ 
         $P \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k);$ 
         $\psi \leftarrow \text{conceptDriftDetector}(P);$ 
        if  $\psi > 0$  then
             $\Omega \leftarrow \text{get classes frequency according to Eq.1};$ 
             $\omega \leftarrow \text{best frequency according to Eq.2};$ 
             $\mu \leftarrow \text{get minority classes according to Eq.3};$ 
             $b \leftarrow \text{utilize } a \text{ and } \mu \text{ to get the synthetic data according to}$ 
             $\text{Algorithm 2};$ 
             $\text{trainingData} \leftarrow a + b;$ 
             $k \leftarrow \text{trainingNewClassifier}(\text{trainingData});$ 
             $\Psi \leftarrow \Psi + k;$ 
            if  $\Psi > \kappa$  then
                 $\text{removeWorstClassifier}(\Omega);$ 
     $P \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k);$ 
return  $P$ 

```

In Algorithm 2, also known as the Synthetic Data Generator, three essential elements are inputted: the minority class samples, the current data chunk, and the desired size for generating synthetic data. The primary objective of this algorithm is to produce synthetic data samples. To achieve this, the KNN algorithm is employed to identify any overlapping instances within the current chunk (Line 3). This algorithm utilizes two specific techniques, MLSMOTE [31] and MLSOL [92]. MLSMOTE was chosen for its introduction of randomness during instance generation, reducing its reliance on the local characteristics and distribution of the

minority class. This randomization diminishes the likelihood of producing overlapping instances, particularly in cases where minority class instances are situated in overlapping regions. In contrast, MLSOL considers the local behavior of minority classes, resulting in synthetic points that closely resemble the minority class. This approach significantly improves the performance of the classifier (lines 4-10). Additionally, in this algorithm, specifically from lines 11 to 17, these lines are dedicated to generating synthetic instances that ensure non-overlap with existing classes. This procedure depends on the selected oversampling method and utilizes the KNN algorithm to guarantee that the generated instances do not overlap with the existing ones.

Algorithm 2: Synthetic Data Generator Algorithm.

Input: Minority classes μ , current chunk a , sample size η , historical chunks h

Output: Generated data b

```

 $b \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
 $f \leftarrow \text{MLSMSOTE};$ 
 $knn \leftarrow \text{kNearestNeighbor}(a);$ 
 $chunk \leftarrow \text{similarChunk}(a, h);$ 
 $f \leftarrow \text{similarChunkOverSamplingMethod}(chunk);$ 
if  $f = \text{MLSMSOTE}$  then
     $f \leftarrow \text{MLSOL};$ 
else
     $f \leftarrow \text{MLSMSOTE};$ 
while  $|b| < \eta$  do
     $p \leftarrow \text{generateSyntheticPoint}(\mu, f);$ 
     $similarPointsClass \leftarrow \text{KNN.getKneighbor}(b);$ 
    if  $similarPointsClass = \mu$  then
         $b \leftarrow b \cup \{p\};$ 
return  $b;$ 

```

4.3 Mathematical Foundation for PA1

The mathematical foundation for PA1 involves key equations designed to identify and classify data chunks based on class frequencies and distributions. These

equations are fundamental to analyzing imbalanced data streams effectively.

Equation 4.1 calculates the frequency of a specific class c within a data chunk. For each instance y_i , the frequency frq_c is incremented if the instance belongs to class c :

$$frq_c = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{chunk size}} \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } y_i = c \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{chunk size.} \quad (4.1)$$

Equation 4.2 defines the *best frequency* for a chunk, $freq_n$, as the proportion of instances n relative to the total number of classes C :

$$\text{best } freq_n = \frac{|n|}{|C|}. \quad (4.2)$$

Finally, Equation 4.3 determines the type of each class in the chunk (*Minority* or *Majority*) by comparing the difference between the standard deviation (sd_c) and the class frequency (frq_i) against the best frequency of the chunk ($freq_{\text{chunk}}$):

$$\text{classes type}_{\text{chunk}} = \sum_{c=1}^C \begin{cases} \text{Minority,} & \text{if } diff(sd_c - frq_i) > \text{best } freq_{\text{chunk}} \\ \text{Majority,} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

These equations collectively enable precise identification of class types within data chunks, forming a critical component of the PA1 framework.

4.4 Experimental Results

The objective of the experiments conducted in this study was to evaluate the efficacy of multiclass oversampling techniques in enhancing the performance of the first proposed method in imbalanced drifted multiclass classification streams. Our primary goal was to develop a novel approach that combines Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to improve classification performance and robustness in such streams. These experiments yielded valuable insights that could further refine the performance of the first proposed approach and its ability to effectively handle imbalanced data streams. These findings provide a better understanding of the capabilities of the first proposed approach and offer insights into an optimal strategy for tackling minority class issues and concept drift in imbalanced data streams. This study contributes to the advancement of stream mining techniques for

generating more accurate and robust classification models in dynamic data stream environments. By addressing the challenges posed by minority classes and concept drift, this study offers valuable insights for improving the performance of the first proposed approach and enhancing the overall efficiency of stream mining.

4.4.1 Experimental setup

The evaluation of the first proposed approach incorporated the utilization of various metrics such as recall, precision, specificity, F1 score, balanced accuracy score (BAC), and geometric mean score (G-mean) [32]. The experimental protocol utilized for evaluation was the test-then-train approach [33], where the classification classifier was trained on a specific data chunk and subsequently evaluated on the subsequent one. The chunk size was standardized for all utilized data streams to 2,000 instances. Four classification classifiers are employed as base estimators: K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Gaussian Naive Bayes (GNB), and Hoeffding Tree (HT), as implemented in scikit-learn [34]. A pool of classifiers was constructed with a maximum size of $L = 8$, where the DES selected the best classifier for each chunk. If the pool surpassed the set threshold (L), the classifier with the lowest performance was eliminated. The experiments were conducted using Python programming language, and the source code was publicly available on GitHub¹. A comparison was conducted between multiclass oversampling techniques (MLSMOTE and MLSOL) and the first proposed approach to demonstrate the effectiveness of the contribution. Additionally, these experiments are conducted that uses two different concept drift detectors, ADWIN [25] and DDM [24], to demonstrate the adaptability and robustness of first proposed approach across varying drift detectors.

4.4.2 Data Streams

In this study, the first approach was assessed using various datasets including benchmark datasets, a real application stream dataset, and synthetic data streams.

¹https://github.com/Amadkour/dynamic_classification_ensembles_for_handling_imbalanced_multi-class_drifted_data_streams.git

The Stream-learn Python library was used to conduct the evaluations [29]. Table 4.1 illustrates the benchmark dataset employed in this study, which consists of the Covertype dataset containing 40 features, seven classes, and 581,010 instances. For real application stream evaluation, the Sensor stream dataset was used, which consisted of five features, 58 classes, and 392,600 instances. This represents a real-world application scenario and provides valuable insights into the performance of the first proposed approach in practical settings. Synthetic datasets were generated using Scikit-learn Python library to evaluate the performance of the first proposed approach. The synthetic dataset was designed to simulate data streams and comprised 10 features and four classes divided into 200 chunks of 2,000 instances each. The performance of the first approach was systematically evaluated using these datasets and a stream-learn library. These evaluations provided insights into the effectiveness of the first approach in handling different types of data streams, including benchmark datasets, real application streams, and synthetic data streams.

Table 4.1: Summary of Dataset Characteristics Utilized in the PA1 Experimental.

Dataset	Number of Features	Number of Classes	Number of Instances
Covertype dataset ¹	40	7	581,010
Sensor Stream dataset ²	5	58	392,600
Synthetic stream	8	3	200,000

4.4.3 Analysis of Experimental Results

The performance of the first proposed approach was comprehensively assessed on multiple data streams, considering two distinct concept drift detectors, ADWIN and DDM. To ensure thorough evaluation, six key performance metrics—F1 score, recall, precision, G-mean, specificity, and balanced accuracy—were carefully presented using two visualization diagrams: radar and line. A radar diagram was strategically utilized to provide an overview that effectively depicted the performance of each algorithm across the six metrics. The mean value of each metric was calculated to present the overall performance of each method (MLSMOTE, MLSOL, PA1). It is important to note that the PA1 is represented by red lines.

4.4.3.1 Results on the Benchmark Stream

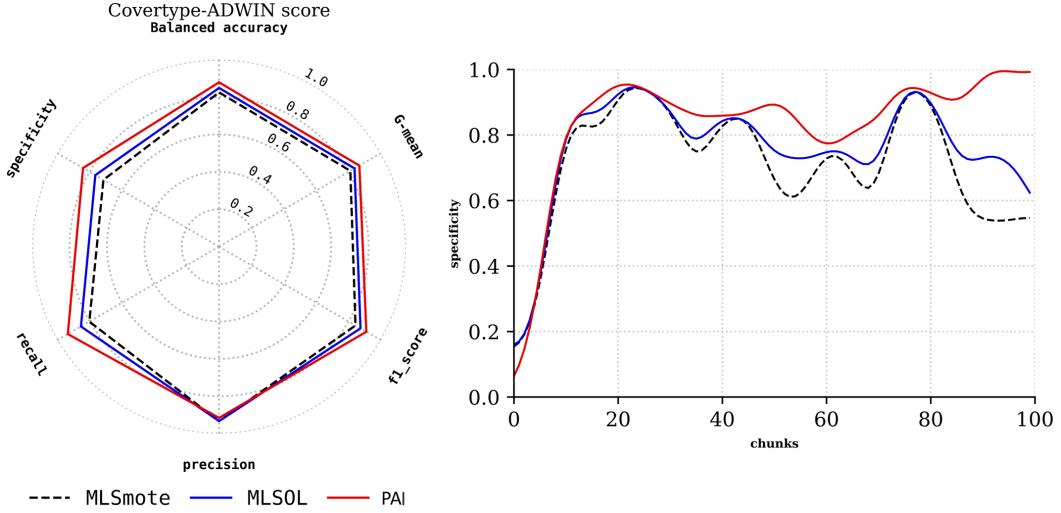


Figure 4.3: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Covertype Dataset with ADWIN Concept Drift Detector.

Figures 4.3 and 4.4 present the outcomes of applying MLSMOTE, MLSOL, and PA1 to the Covertype dataset, utilizing ADWIN and DDM as drift detectors, respectively.

In Fig. 4.3, the radar diagram provides a multidimensional perspective on the comparative performance of the three approaches across six critical metrics: precision, recall, specificity, F1 score, G-mean, and balanced accuracy. Each axis, normalized between 0 and 1, reveals the nuanced trade-offs inherent in these methods. PA1, denoted by the red line, consistently surpasses its counterparts in most metrics, particularly precision, F1 score, and G-mean, exemplifying its robustness in tackling the complexities of the Covertype dataset. MLSOL, represented by the blue line, exhibits a more balanced but less competitive performance, especially in specificity and G-mean. In contrast, MLSMOTE, illustrated by the dashed black line, demonstrates the least favorable performance, particularly struggling with recall and balanced accuracy. This visualization encapsulates the strengths and limitations of each approach, underscoring the philosophical interplay between metric optimization and algorithmic trade-offs in machine learning.

The line diagram within the same figure delves into the temporal evolution of classification performance, measured by specificity, over 100 data chunks. During the initial 20 chunks, all methods exhibit suboptimal performance, attributed to the nascent state of their classifier pools. This phase, marked by adaptation and learning, paves the way for a significant performance leap as the classifier pool expands. The Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) mechanism, empowered by this expansion, adeptly selects optimal classifiers for incoming data, driving a marked improvement in performance. Beyond chunk 20, PA1 emerges as the dominant performer, maintaining its supremacy throughout the subsequent chunks. Its superior performance stems from its strategic use of historical chunks to generate nonoverlapping and representative samples, which facilitate the effective training of pool classifiers. In contrast, MLSMOTE consistently lags behind, reflecting its limitations in leveraging the same adaptability.

Figure 4.4, where DDM functions as the drift detector, offers a complementary perspective. The radar plot mirrors the relative performance hierarchy observed with ADWIN but with marginally diminished values across all metrics. The line diagram further corroborates PA1’s dominance, albeit with less pronounced gaps between the approaches. However, the overall reduction in performance across all methods highlights the comparative limitations of DDM in detecting and responding to concept drift within the Covertype dataset.

This juxtaposition of ADWIN and DDM as drift detectors underscores the profound impact of drift detection mechanisms on classifier performance. ADWIN’s demonstrated superiority in handling the intricate dynamics of the Covertype stream reaffirms its pivotal role in ensuring robust learning and adaptation. PA1’s sustained excellence across diverse scenarios, facilitated by its strategic use of historical knowledge and dynamic ensemble mechanisms, exemplifies a philosophical alignment between algorithmic design and the evolving nature of benchmark Stream data streams. These findings emphasize the necessity of harmonizing drift detection techniques with classifier methodologies to navigate the multifaceted challenges posed by non-stationary environments, thereby advancing the frontiers of machine learning research.

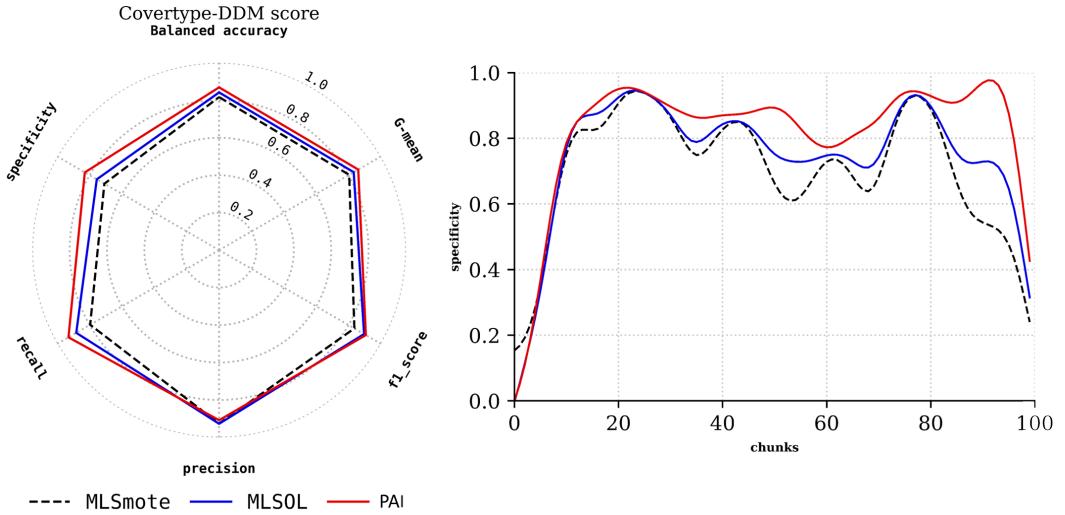


Figure 4.4: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Covertype Dataset with DDM Concept Drift Detector.

4.4.3.2 Results on the Real Application Stream

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 demonstrate the performance of the three evaluated methods—PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL—on the Sensor data stream using ADWIN and DDM as drift detectors, respectively.

In Fig. 4.5, the radar plot reveals metric values primarily between 0.6 and 0.8, underscoring the inherent drift and imbalance present in the Sensor stream. While precision and recall metrics for all three methods appear nearly identical, PA1 exhibits a pronounced advantage across the remaining metrics. The similarity in performance between MLSMOTE and MLSOL reflects their comparable strategies in handling imbalanced streams, yet neither matches PA1’s robustness.

The line plot provides deeper insight into the temporal dynamics of the methods. During the initial 30 chunks, PA1 demonstrates a transient suboptimal phase, likely due to its limited pool of classifiers. However, as the pool expands over time, PA1’s performance improves significantly, achieving consistent superiority across subsequent chunks. MLSMOTE and MLSOL, in contrast, display fluctuations, with each excelling in alternate chunks but failing to maintain consistent performance. These observations highlight PA1’s ability to adapt and sustain its performance in the face of continuous challenges.

Figure 4.6 shifts the perspective to DDM as the drift detector. While the radar plot indicates a general decline in metric values compared to the ADWIN-based results, the line plot reaffirms PA1’s dominance across most chunks. Nevertheless, the overall convergence of method performance over time, coupled with the reduced effectiveness of all approaches under DDM, underscores the sensitivity of drift detection mechanisms to data characteristics.

The comparative analysis between Figures 4.5 and 4.6 emphasizes ADWIN’s superiority over DDM when applied to the Sensor data stream. This distinction reveals the intricate interplay between drift detection and classifier performance, affirming the pivotal role of appropriate drift detection mechanisms in achieving optimal outcomes. PA1’s consistent adaptability and resilience, regardless of the underlying drift detector, further solidify its potential as a robust solution in addressing complex, non-stationary, and imbalanced data streams. These findings not only highlight the efficacy of PA1 but also underscore the necessity of harmonizing algorithm design with drift detection strategies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by real-world data streams.

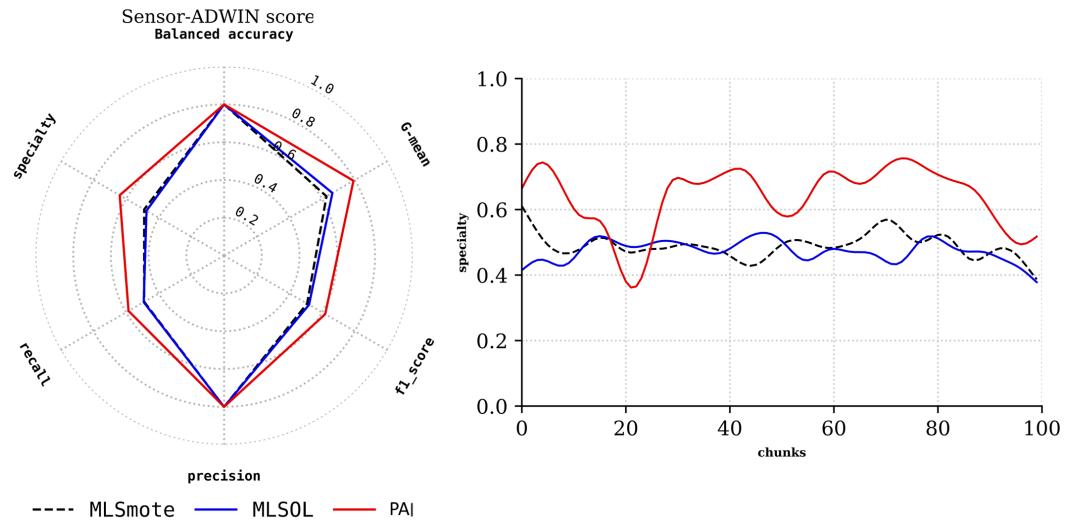


Figure 4.5: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Sensor Dataset with ADWIN Concept Drift Detector.

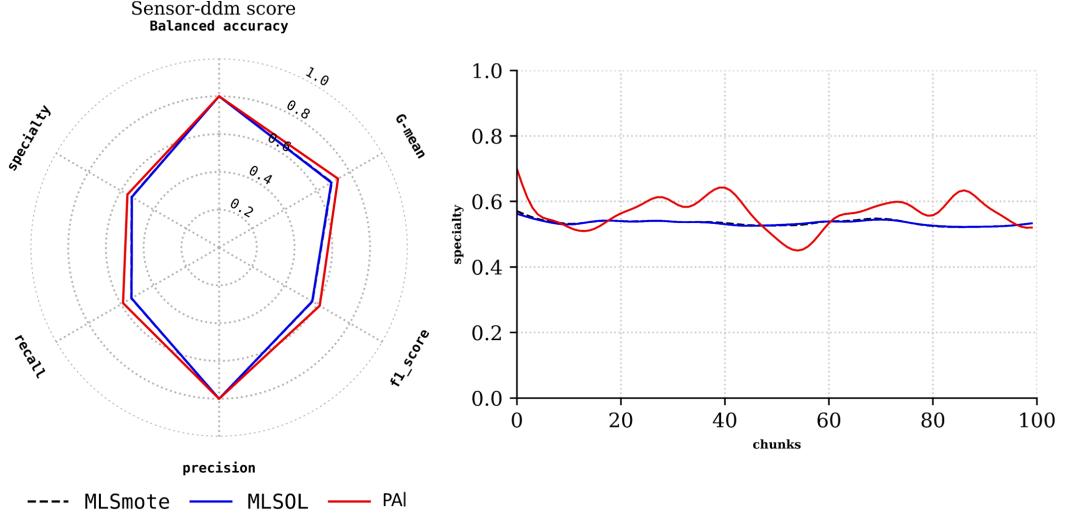


Figure 4.6: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Sensor Dataset with DDM Concept Drift Detector

4.4.3.3 Results on the Synthetic Stream

Figures 4.7 and 4.8 illustrate the performance of the evaluated methods on the synthetic data stream using ADWIN and DDM as concept drift detectors, respectively.

In Fig. 4.7, the radar plot reflects metric values predominantly ranging between 0.6 and 0.8, highlighting the susceptibility of the synthetic stream to frequent drifts. The methods demonstrate divergent capabilities: MLSOL achieves the highest precision, while MLSMOTE records the lowest performance across metrics. Notably, PA1 emerges as the superior approach in metrics other than precision, showcasing its robustness in the presence of frequent drifts. The accompanying line plot underscores a transitional phase in PA1's performance during the initial ten chunks, which can be attributed to the limited size of its classifier pool. However, beyond this initial phase, PA1 exhibits a significant and sustained improvement, consistently outperforming MLSOL and MLSMOTE across subsequent chunks. These results underscore the adaptability and effectiveness of PA1 in dynamically adjusting to the evolving data stream.

Figure 4.8 reveals analogous patterns when employing DDM as the drift de-

tector. The radar plot metrics align with those observed in the previous experiment, reinforcing the insights gleaned from ADWIN-based evaluation. However, the line diagram highlights a subtle degradation in the performance of MLSOL and MLSMOTE compared to the ADWIN experiment. This variation underscores the sensitivity of these techniques to the underlying drift detection mechanism. PA1, in contrast, maintains its consistent superiority, further validating its robustness and adaptability across diverse drift detectors.

The comparative analysis of ADWIN and DDM affirms the superiority of ADWIN in handling synthetic data streams, where abrupt and frequent concept drifts pose substantial challenges. These findings transcend the experimental domain, illustrating the versatility and resilience of PA1 in addressing concept drift across diverse datasets, including the synthetic, Covertype, and Sensor datasets. This robustness, coupled with its adaptability to different drift detection mechanisms, reflects the algorithm's capacity to harmonize precision with recall, even under challenging conditions. Thus, PA1 emerges as a paradigm of effective learning in the non-stationary realm, embodying the intricate interplay between adaptability, precision, and robustness essential for real-world applications.

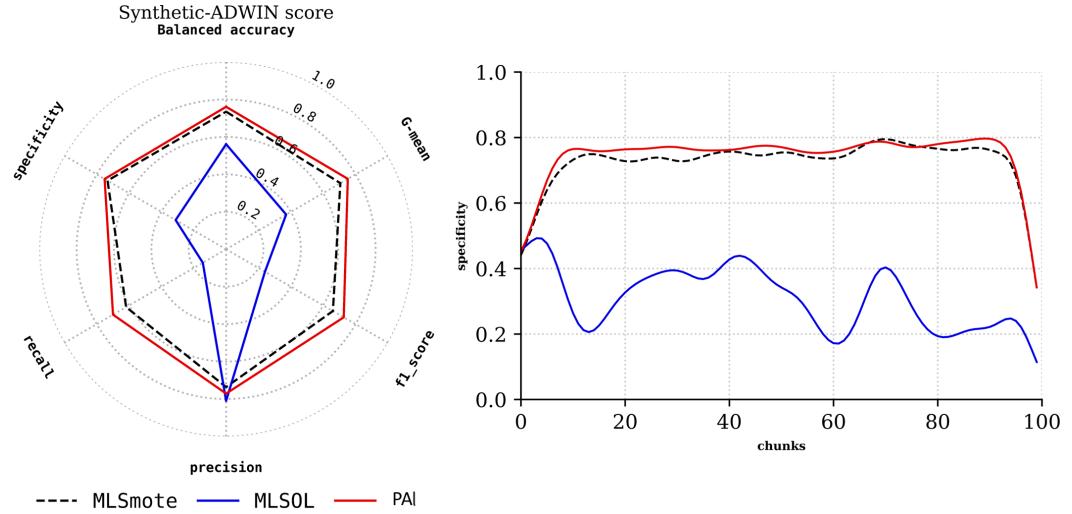


Figure 4.7: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Synthetic Dataset with ADWIN Concept Drift Detector.

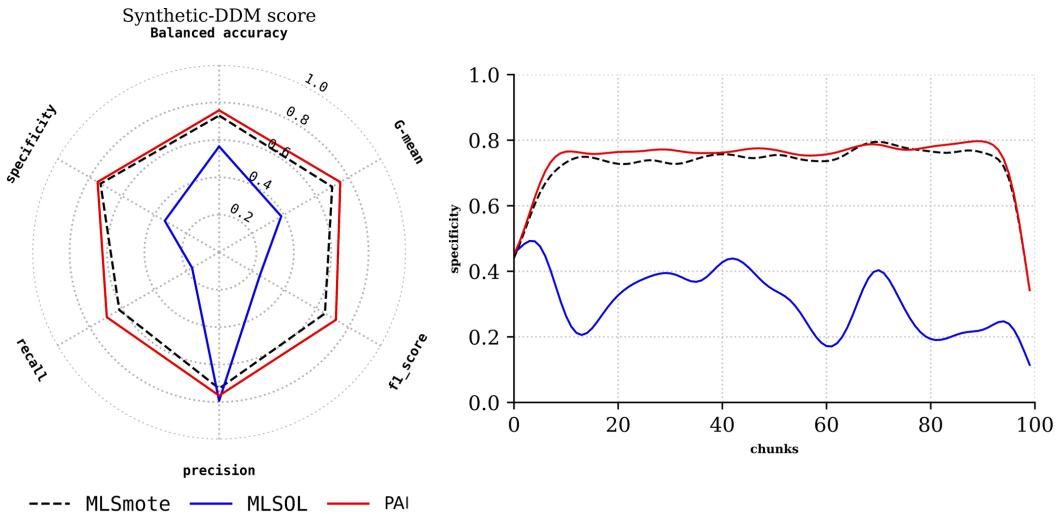


Figure 4.8: Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Synthetic Dataset with DDM Concept Drift Detector.

4.4.4 Analysis of Class Overlap Factor between Proposed Approach (PA1), MLSMOTE, and MLSOL Techniques.

This experimental study aims to identify the critical factors that influence the selection of an optimal approach for minority classes in imbalanced drifted streams. These factors include various aspects, such as dataset characteristics, the choice of concept drift detectors, and the effectiveness of the algorithm in handling class overlap. To compare the overlapping class behavior of first proposed approach (PA1) with MLSMOTE and MLSOL, experiments organized are designed into groups of ten chunks. The results were visualized in bar diagrams, contrasting PA1 with other methods (MLSMOTE and MLSOL). Figures 4.9.104.11 present ten groups, each with three bars representing MLSOTE, MLSOL, and PA1, respectively. Each bar visually represents overlapped samples for ten chunks of several data streams, considering distinct concept drift detectors, specifically ADWIN and DDM. Figure 4.9 shows two diagrams for the ADWIN and DDM detectors. In the ADWIN diagram, the third bar group (chunks 20-30) lacks overlapping samples because this chunk range does not have drifts, and no synthetic samples are generated for the training step. The sixth and tenth groups have the highest overlapped samples because these groups experience many drifts, leading to the generation

of several samples and, consequently, the data indicates that MLSMOTE displays the highest number of overlapping samples across all groups, while PA1 exhibits very few, except for the last group (90-100), which has a small number of overlapping samples. However, the DDM diagram has more overlapping samples than the ADWIN diagram because the DDM detector detects fewer drifts than ADWIN. Specifically, the last value on the Y-axis of the ADWIN diagram is 3,000 samples, while the last value on the Y-axis of the DDM diagram is 2,000 samples. Figure 4.10 and Fig. 4.11 display the overlapping samples of the three methods on the Sensor and synthetic data streams, respectively. In Fig. 4.10, the ADWIN diagram demonstrates fewer overlapped samples than in Fig. 4.10, indicating a lower number of drifts in the Sensor stream. The overall diagram indicates that first proposed approach achieves fewer overlapped samples than MLSOL and MLSMOTE, with MLSMOTE having the highest number of overlapped samples. In the DDM diagram of Fig. 10, the number of overlapped samples is lower than in Fig. 4.9, with first proposed approach consistently achieving the lowest number of overlapped samples across most group bars. In Fig. 4.11, the ADWIN and DDM diagrams exhibit the greatest number of overlapped samples compared to the earlier figures. This suggests that the synthetic stream underwent frequent drifts and was more susceptible to noise. Consequently, the last value on the Y-axis in both the ADWIN and DDM diagrams was recorded for 7,000 samples. First proposed approach consistently achieves the lowest number of overlapped samples, whereas MLSMOTE consistently attains the highest number of overlapped samples across most group bars in both the ADWIN and DDM diagrams. In conclusion, a thorough examination of overlapping class instances across MLSMOTE, MLSOL, and the first approach consistently reveals minimal overlap in samples compared to other methods, regardless of whether DDM or ADWIN is employed as drift detectors.

4.4.5 Analyzing Runtime Factor Between the First Proposed Approach, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL Techniques

The runtime refers to the total time taken by the algorithm to complete both the training and prediction phases on a given dataset stream. Specifically, in this con-

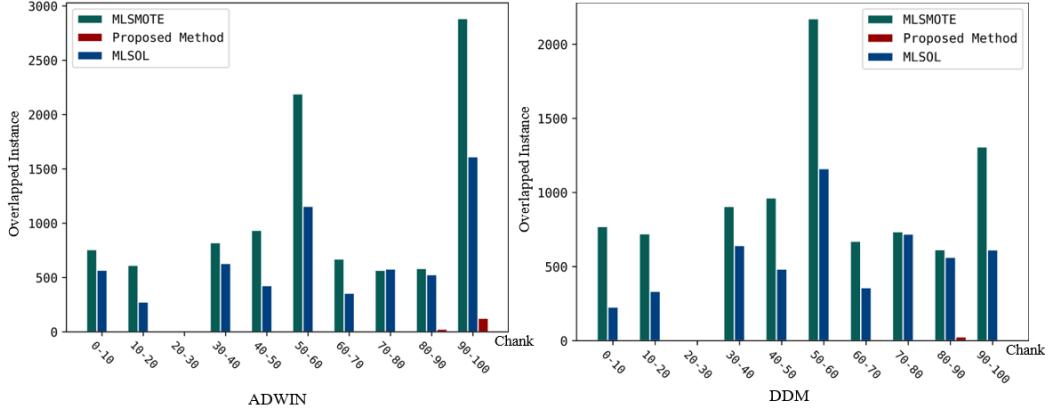


Figure 4.9: Overlapping Points of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Covertype Stream.

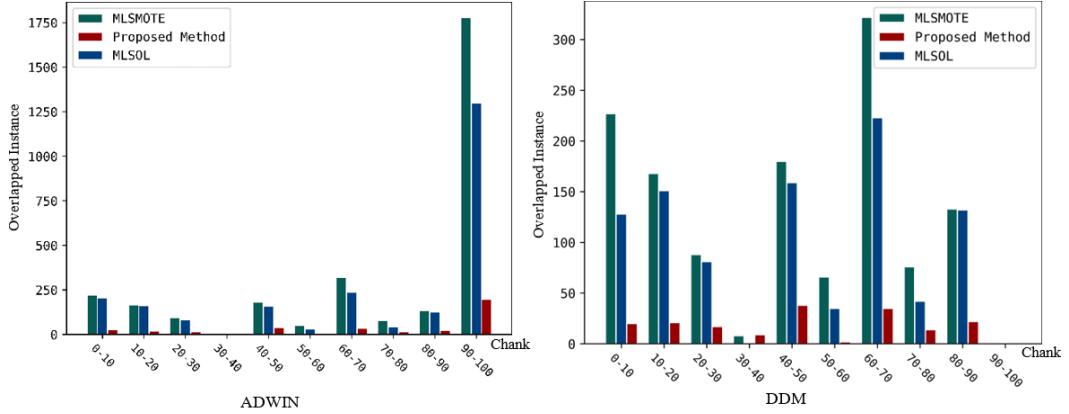


Figure 4.10: Overlapping Points of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Sensor Stream.

text, the runtime is measured in seconds and captures the efficiency of the algorithm as it processes the data, accounts for concept drift, and makes predictions.

In Table 4.2, the runtime values highlight the differences between the proposed approach and other algorithms (MLSMOTE and MLSOL) when applied to different datasets, including the Covertype stream, Sensor stream, and synthetic data.

For example, when using the ADWIN concept drift detector, the proposed approach required 8344 seconds to train and predict on the Covertype stream with ensemble classifiers. When the DDM detector was used instead, the runtime was slightly lower at 8019 seconds. This shows that the proposed approach is consistently faster than MLSMOTE and MLSOL for the same task. The table emphasizes

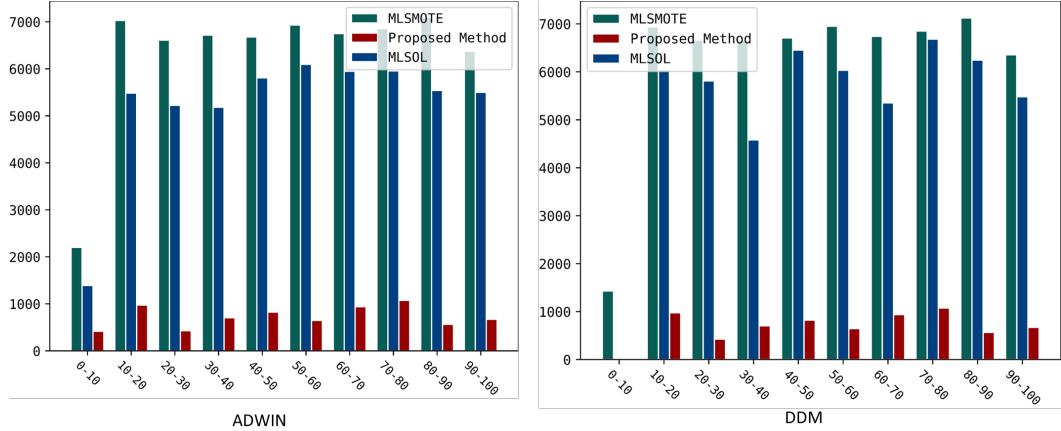


Figure 4.11: Overlapping Points of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL on Synthetic Stream.

these differences by highlighting the runtime results in bold for the proposed approach, demonstrating its efficiency across various datasets and drift detectors.

The shorter runtime of the proposed approach is largely due to its ability to generate fewer overlapped samples, which reduces the computational effort required for training and prediction. Moreover, the DDM detector, with its lower rate of drift detection, results in fewer classifier training instances, further contributing to the reduction in runtime compared to ADWIN.

Table 4.2: Runtimes (in seconds) Comparison of PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOL.

Stream	Concept Drift Detector	MLSMOTE	MLSOL	PA1
Benchmark	ADWIN	9559	8655	8344
	DDM	8388	8031	8019
Real Application	ADWIN	1291	1310	1102
	DDM	585	607	521
Synthetic	ADWIN	12870	4866	4834
	DDM	12397	4958	4687

4.4.6 Analyzing Non-parametric Tests between the First Proposed Approach, MLSMOTE, and MLSOTE Techniques

A thorough series of statistical analyses encompassing 12 comparisons across three diverse datasets were conducted, three methods, and two drift detectors. These analyses were rigorously evaluated using a non-parametric test, specifically the Kruskal-Wallis test. The results of this test were striking, revealing substantial variations in the G-mean measurements across most experiments. Importantly, these differences were not due to random chance [35]. Upon closer examination of the assessments for the three methods, PA1, MLSMOTE, and MLSOTE, as detailed in Table 4.3, compelling evidence was found supporting the acceptance of the null hypothesis (H_0). This implies that the expected and observed data exhibited statistically significant disparities. H_0 is rejected when significant differences are not observed and H_0 is accepted if the P-value falls below the critical value. Underlining the significance of these analysis, the Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted with a 95% confidence level, and the P-value was rounded to the first three digits after the decimal point. Nevertheless, it is important to note that a similarity in the performances of the methods emerged in the third and fourth experiments, resulting in the rejection of H_0 . This similarity can be attributed to the fact that the DDM detected fewer drifts in these experiments.

4.5 Summary

This study presents an innovative framework combining oversampling techniques, concept drift detection, and Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to address multiclass imbalanced data streams. Extensive experimentation on benchmark, real-world, and synthetic datasets validates its effectiveness in adapting to evolving class distributions and maintaining high performance. Key features include advanced oversampling to tackle minority class challenges, the use of KNN to avoid overlapping instances, and DES for optimal classifier selection. The approach is distinguished by its adaptability, scalability, and ability to dynamically update models in real-time, ensuring consistent performance and relevance in non-stationary environments.

Table 4.3: Kruskal-Wallis test results for MLSMOTE, MLSOL, and PA1.

Dataset	Drift detector	Comparison	P-value	Critical value	H0
Covertype stream	ADWIN	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.001	0.05	Accept
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.014	0.05	Accept
	DDM	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.361	0.05	Rejected
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.401	0.05	Rejected
Sensor stream	ADWIN	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.001	0.05	Accept
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.001	0.05	Accept
	DDM	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.001	0.05	Accept
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.001	0.05	Accept
Synthetic stream	ADWIN	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.001	0.05	Accept
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.001	0.05	Accept
	DDM	PA1 - MLSSMOTE	0.001	0.05	Accept
		PA1 - MLSOL	0.001	0.05	Accept

CHAPTER
5

Addressing Emerging New Classes in Incremental Streams via Concept Drift Techniques

In various real applications, data streams have introduced new challenges to learning algorithms. Data streams are continuous with high volumes of data arriving rapidly and dynamically. This data deluge poses unprecedented challenges for learning algorithms because they must adapt to the dynamic nature of the data environment [1–3]. Among the various research areas in machine learning, sequential learning under data Streams with Emerging New Classes (SENC) has garnered considerable attention because of its practical relevance and unique challenges [93], [77], [79]. SENC refers to a scenario in which new classes that were not present during the initial training of a learning model emerged in the data stream. This poses a significant challenge for traditional learning approaches that are typically designed to handle fixed or predefined class distributions. The ability to effectively recognize and adapt to these novel classes in real-time is crucial for maintaining accurate and up-to-date models. Furthermore, the inherent limitations of data streams, such as limited memory and storage constraints, impose additional complexities in the learning process. Learning algorithms must operate efficiently within these resource constraints to ensure real-time processing and to avoid

overwhelming computational overhead. To address the challenges presented by data streams containing emerging new classes, dynamic ensemble selection (DES) [15, 18, 67]. Dynamic ensemble selection involves utilizing multiple classifiers in machine learning to make collective predictions or classifications of data. Dynamic ensemble selection is distinguished by its ability to dynamically adapt the ensemble based on the characteristics of the data. Instead of relying on a fixed ensemble of classifiers, dynamic ensemble selection continuously assesses the performance of individual classifiers and selects the subset that demonstrates the highest competence for the current data. This adaptability enables the ensemble to enhance its performance over time by incorporating the most suitable classifiers for prevailing data conditions. Furthermore, if a classifier becomes ineffective owing to concept drift or the emergence of new classes, it can be excluded from the ensemble to prevent it from negatively affecting the overall performance. Adaptive Windowing (ADWIN) is another widely employed method to address concept drift. Concept drift refers to the phenomenon in which the statistical properties of data change over time, leading to a decline in the learning algorithm performance [31, 63, 65]. ADWIN continuously monitors incoming data and detects changes or drifts in data distribution. It achieves this by maintaining sliding windows of variable sizes and monitoring statistical measures such as the mean or variance within these windows. Upon detecting a significant change or drift, the ADWIN triggers an update in the ensemble or classifier configuration. This update may involve retraining the classifiers with new data or incorporating new classifiers that are better suited to the updated data distribution. By adapting the ensemble to changing data conditions, ADWIN ensures that the classifier system remains accurate and up-to-date even in the presence of concept drift or the emergence of new classes. The primary objective of utilizing these approaches, such as dynamic ensemble selection and ADWIN, is to establish a flexible and effective classification system that is capable of handling data streams containing emerging new classes. By dynamically adjusting the ensemble based on the data characteristics and detecting and adapting to concept drift, these approaches enable the system to maintain accurate predictions over time. Adaptability and responsiveness are crucial for addressing the unique challenges posed by the dynamic nature of data streams and the emergence of new classes within them.

The subsequent sections of this paper adhere to a well-structured organization. Section 5.2 introduces the second proposed approach, providing intricate explanations of its constituents, including dynamic classifier ensembles, concept drift handling, and emergency class identification, and the adaptive proposed method of the emerging pool size. Section 5.4 outlines the experimental setup and presents the results, providing details regarding the employed datasets, evaluation metrics, and procedures. Finally, Section 5.5 presents a summary of this chapter.

5.1 Motivations and Contributions of this Chapter

This research proposes efficient algorithms for classifying data streams in real-time scenarios, focusing on addressing the issues caused by emerging new classes in data distributions. The goal is to develop novel algorithms that can effectively address the emergence of new classes in dynamic data streams, achieve high classification performance, and reduce computational complexity. The key contributions of this study are outlined as follows:

1. Our first contribution involves utilizing the ADWIN, DES, and K-means techniques in combination with the ensemble stratified bagging technique to detect and adapt to emerging new classes. This approach allows us to dynamically update the classification model to accommodate an evolving data environment.
2. The second contribution is the introduction of an adaptive method to adapt the emerging pool size depend on the stream distribution.

5.2 Proposed Methodology

This section outlines the key stages of the research, which are comprised of three distinct steps aimed at addressing the challenges of handling emerging new classes in dynamic data streams. Second proposed approach aims to develop a robust framework capable of tackling these complex challenges through a comprehensive, three-step methodology.

1. **Emerging new classes:** Our study addresses the widespread issue of emerging new classes in drifted streams using well-known techniques, including concept drift detection and K-means clustering.
2. **Drifted streams:** To address changes in the data distribution, the second approach integrates a concept drift detector that dynamically identifies shifts, allowing the model to promptly adapt its classifiers to maintain effectiveness.
3. **Classifier performance:** Classifier Performance: We utilize Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to boost classifier performance. This method involves constructing a pool of classifiers and dynamically choosing the most appropriate one for each new data point, thereby enhancing both performance and robustness.

5.2.1 Second Proposed Approach Description

Second proposed approach is composed of three main phases that work together to manage emerging new classes and drifting data streams effectively:

1. **Dynamic ensemble selection:** The initial phase, DES, identifies the most suitable classifier for each incoming data chunk to ensure optimal performance.
2. **Drift detector phase:** In this phase, the system continuously observes the data stream in real time to detect concept drift, indicating changes in the underlying data distribution.
3. **Emerging new class identifier phase:** The final phase identifies unknown classes in drifted streams, creating new classifiers for emerging classes to improve the model's proficiency in accurately classifying new instances.

Figure 5.1 illustrates that DES extracts the current data chunk and utilizes the DES technique to identify the most effective classifiers for that chunk (black box of Fig. 5.1). These classifiers are used in the second phase to predict class labels, while drift detectors like ADWIN or DDM monitor for concept drift. If a drift is detected (highlighted by the red rectangle), the chunk is forwarded to the third phase, where

new classes are identified (see Fig. 5.2). The overall approach is implemented in Algorithm 3, which takes a data stream and a DES Pool threshold as inputs. Key components include training the initial ensemble (Lines 4-6), using DES to select the best classifier for the current chunk (Line 8), detecting drifted chunks (Line 10), creating new classifiers for emerging classes (Line 12), and removing the worst classifier if the DES Pool threshold is exceeded (Lines 14-16).

5.3 Mathematical Foundations for PA2

This section provides a mathematical analysis for the second proposed approach using the following equations:

The calculation of the maximum dissimilarity among class centroids is represented in Equation 5.1, where d_c identifies the class centroid with the maximum Euclidean Distance (ED) between any two centroids c_i and c_j :

$$d_c = \arg \max_d \sum_{i=1}^i \sum_{j=i+1}^i ED(c_i, c_j) \quad (5.1)$$

Equation 5.2 computes d_x , the minimum Euclidean Distance (ED) between a new data instance x and the existing class centroids c_i , identifying the closest class to x :

$$d_x = \arg \min_i \sum_{i=1}^i ED(x, c_i) \quad (5.2)$$

The decision-making process is governed by Equation 5.3, which determines the prediction p . If $d_x > d_c$, the new instance x is classified as an Emerging Class (EC); otherwise, the Dynamic Ensemble Selection (P_{DES}) process is used to predict its label:

$$p = \begin{cases} EC & \text{if } d_x > d_c \\ P_{DES} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (5.3)$$

These equations collectively ensure that the HTL framework effectively identifies new emerging classes while maintaining accurate predictions for known classes through adaptive modeling and ensemble selection.

5.3.1 Emerging New Classes Phase Description

In this section, the Emerging new classes phase details are presented. Figure 5.2 shows that the emerging phase contains two primary steps:

1. **Emerging new classes identifier:** The emerging class detection step plays a crucial role in the second proposed approach (the black rectangle of Fig. 5.2) by utilizing the K-means technique to cluster the drifted chunk into a set of clusters. And identifying new emerging classes by evaluating the distances between instances and their nearest class centroid. This process involves comparing the distance between an instance and the nearest class centroid with the maximum distance between class centroids (d_c), as described in Eq.5.1 and Eq.5.2, where ED represents the Euclidean Distance method and c_i, c_j denotes the centroids of the current classes. If the calculated distance (d_x) exceeds this threshold (d_c), this indicates the presence of a new emerging class, denoted by EC in Eq. 5.3; otherwise, it is P_{DES} (prediction class of the new instance).
2. **Adaptive the emerging classes pool size:** This critical step adapts the pool size based on the emergence rate of new classes and drift distribution, using statistical measures like standard deviation, first derivative, and average historical drift updates.

The Emerging New Classes phase is implemented in Algorithm 4, which utilizes drifted instances and current changes as inputs. Key steps include applying K-means (Line 1), calculating cosine similarity between centroids (Line 2), determining the maximum centroid distance (Line 3), setting the adaptive pool threshold (Lines 4-7), using KNN to find the nearest neighbor (Line 9), storing instances in the emerging pool if the distance exceeds the threshold (Lines 11-12), and creating a new classifier if the pool size surpasses the adaptive limit (Lines 14-17). A simulated scenario is illustrated in Figures 5.3 and 5.4. In Fig. 5.3 (a), the drifted chunk is divided into three clusters using the K-means algorithm. Figure 5.3 (b) shows the calculation of the maximum distance between cluster centroids, which serves as a threshold for identifying new classes. The procedure for classifying instances is as follows: when a drifted instance is detected, it is considered a new class if the

distance between the instance and its nearest centroid exceeds the maximum inter-centroid distance Fig. 5.4 (a). If the distance is within the threshold, the instance is classified as a known class Fig. 5.4 (b).

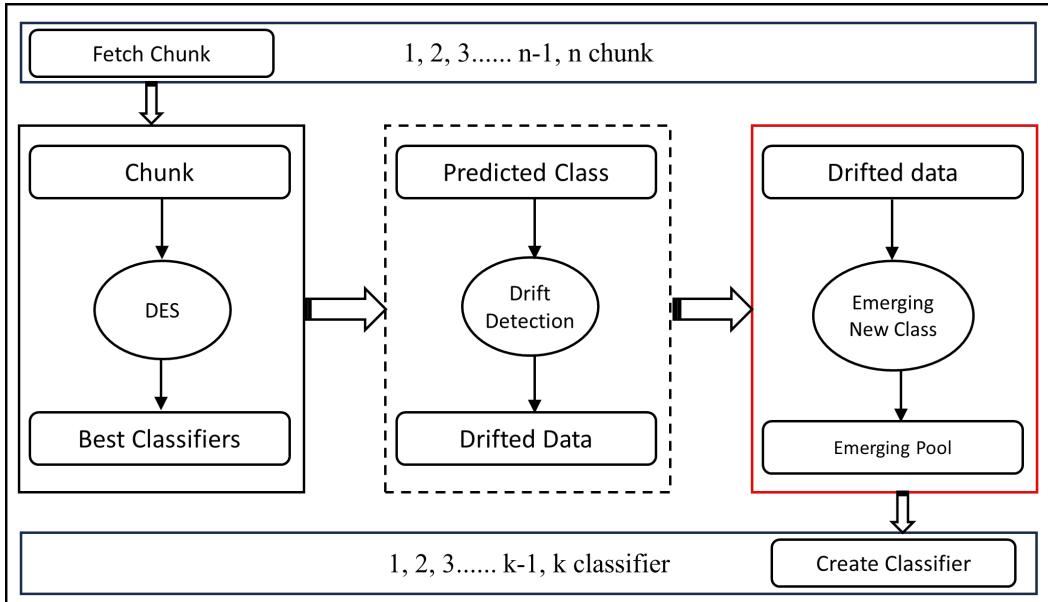


Figure 5.1: Flow Diagram of the Second Proposed Approach for Emerging Drifted stream.

5.4 Experimental Results

The experiments conducted in this study were designed to assess the effect of concept drift on the performance of the second proposed approach in detecting emerging new classes. The primary goal was to identify the machine learning algorithm in conjunction with DES, Dynamic Ensemble Selection technique, which improves the performance of classification when faced with the emergence of new classes. By conducting these experiments, valuable insights were gained, leading to potential enhancements in the effectiveness of the second proposed approach in managing imbalanced data streams and its overall performance. These experiments provide valuable insights into the capabilities of the framework and shed light on the optimal approach for handling emerging new classes in the presence of concept drift. The results provide valuable guidance for selecting the most suitable

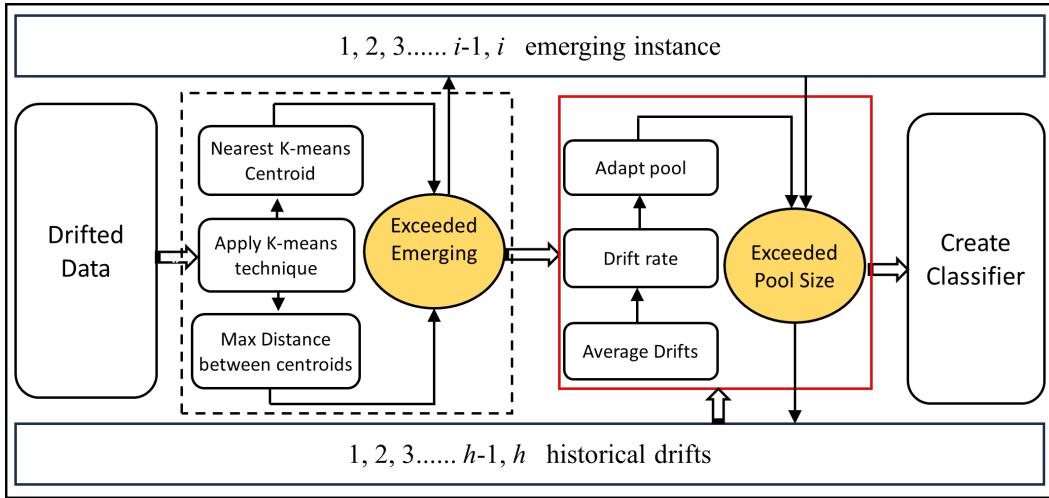


Figure 5.2: Flow Diagram of the Emerging Phase.

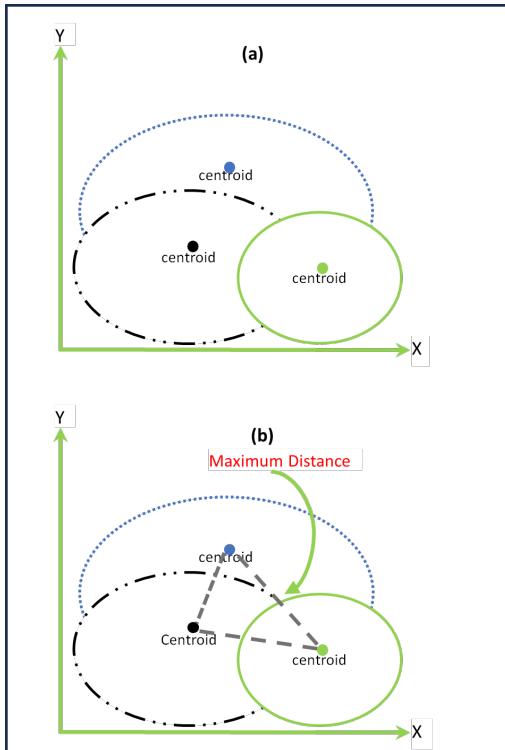


Figure 5.3: Steps for clustering a dataset with two features and three classes (Blue, Black, Green).

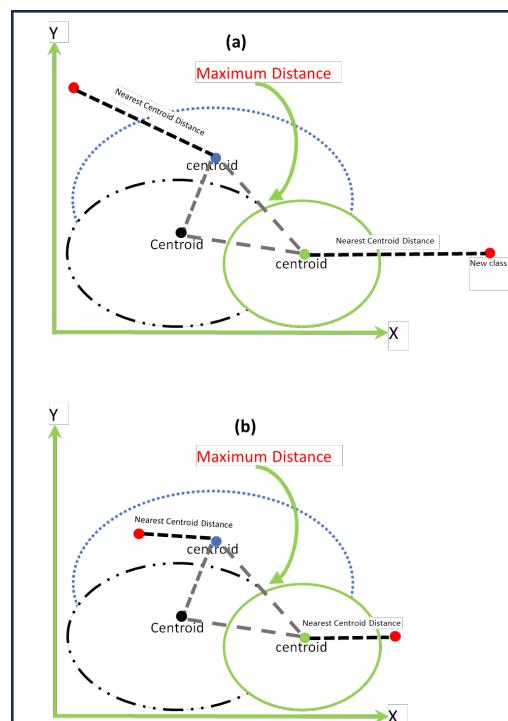


Figure 5.4: Steps for handling new points (red) with two features (x, y).

classification machine learning algorithm and DES configuration aims to enhance both classification performance and robustness. The experiments detailed in this study offer crucial insights into improving the second proposed approach’s performance and tackling challenges related to emerging new classes and concept drifts in incremental drifted streams. These insights are instrumental in advancing stream mining techniques and developing more precise and resilient classification models for dynamic and evolving data-stream environments.

5.4.1 Experimental Setup

The evaluation of the second proposed approach involves a comparison with SENCForest [78], SENNE [1], and KENNES [61]. The evaluation utilizes several metrics, including recall, precision, F1 score [94], BAC [95], and G-mean [96]. The procedure for experimentation followed a test-then-train technique [97], where the classifier is first trained on a specific chunk and then evaluated on the subsequent chunk. Each chunk was standardized to 2000 instances. Four different classification models served as base estimators: Gaussian Naive Bayes (GNB) technique, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), the Support Vector Classifier (SVC), and the Hoeffding Tree (HT), all features are implemented using scikit-learn [98]. We establish an ensemble classifier pool with a set limit of $L = 8$, wherein each ensemble consists of $N = 4$ base models. While these constraints remained fixed across all experiments, the threshold for the pool classifier in each approach was maintained at eight. Consequently, if the threshold is surpassed, the least-performing classifier is systematically eliminated. ADWIN [65] and DDM [31] are employed as concept drift detectors as implemented in the River library¹, to identify concept drifts, as they are considered more accurate techniques for use in incremental data streams [31, 62, 63, 65]. This configuration was applied consistently across all approaches to ensure fair engagement. The experiments were conducted using Python, and the source code is available publicly on GitHub².

¹<https://riverml.xyz/0.21.0/introduction/basic-concepts/>

²https://github.com/Amadkour/transfer_learning_with_concept_drift.git

5.4.2 Data Streams

In this section, the performance of the second Proposed Approach (PA2), was evaluated using several datasets, including synthetic data streams, a real-world application stream, and benchmark datasets. To conduct the evaluations, the stream-learn and River python libraries [98] were used. As detailed in Table 5.1, the Covertype dataset stream is used as the benchmark dataset in the study. This dataset comprises 52 features, 7 classes, and a total of 581,010 instances. It serves as a standard benchmark dataset widely used in stream mining research. For the evaluation of real application streams, the Sensor stream dataset was utilized. This dataset includes 5 features, 58 classes, and 392,600 instances in total, reflecting a real-world application scenario. Synthetic dataset stream was generated using the scikit-learn Python package [98]. This synthetic stream was generated to mimic data streams and assess the performance of the second proposed method. It included 10 features and four classes, divided into 200 chunks, each with a size of 2,000. The effectiveness of the second proposed method was rigorously assessed using these datasets along with a stream-learn library. This thorough evaluation offered important insights into how well the approach manages various types of data streams, encompassing benchmark datasets, synthetic data streams, and real-world application streams.

Table 5.1: Summary of Dataset Characteristics Utilized in the PA2 Experimental.

Data stream	Features	Classes	Instances	Chunk Size
Sensor stream ¹	5	58	392600	2000
Covertype stream ²	52	7	581010	2000
Synthetic stream	10	4	200000	2000

5.4.3 Compared Approaches

In the following section, a comparative analysis between GNB methodology and three established benchmark techniques is presented, detailed as follows:

1. **SENCForest [78]:** The SENCForest method employs anomaly detection techniques to identify new classes and is founded on entirely random trees.

It constructs isolation trees for both classification and detection by subsampling from each class, utilizing 20 random trees and a subsample size of 20. Although it can operate with incomplete or no label information, it frequently suffers from elevated false positive rates and suboptimal runtime efficiency in practical applications.

2. **SENNE [79]:** Utilizing a hypersphere ensemble mechanism, SENNE calculates scores to identify both new and known classes. It operates with a buffer capacity of 100 and sets a new class-score threshold of 0.5.
3. **KENNES [61]:** The KNNENS method addresses the dual challenge of detecting new classes and classifying known classes within a unified framework. It was configured with a buffer size of 100 and a new class score threshold of 0.5.

5.4.4 Examination of Experimental Findings

This section offers an in-depth analysis of the second approach’s performance across various data streams. To ensure a thorough evaluation, five performance metrics—recall, F1 score, precision, recall, G-mean, and BAG—are displayed through two types of visual diagrams: radar and line charts. The radar chart effectively summarizes the performance of each algorithm by highlighting their performance across the six key metrics. Additionally, to evaluate the overall performance of each method—including PA2, SENCForest, SENNE, and KENNES—the average value for each metric was computed. Additionally, a line diagram using the G-mean metric was used to compare these methods for each chunk across 200 chunks. A radar diagram provided a detailed and nuanced evaluation of the second approach’s performance across various experimental scenarios.

5.4.4.1 Results On The Benchmark Dataset

This experiment aimed to evaluate the performance of the second approach on the Covertype data stream using different buffer sizes with ADWIN as the concept drift detector. The findings are visually represented using scatter plots in Fig. 5.5, which contains four subplots for emerging buffer sizes of 5, 10, 20, and adaptive

sizes, respectively. In Fig. 5.5(b), G-mean of SENCForest, SENNE, KENNES, and PA2 is shown across 200 chunks, specifically focusing on a buffer size of 5 instances for emerging new classes. At first, all methods exhibit less-than-ideal performance in the initial 20 chunks. However, a marked improvement is observed after this period, as the classifier pool grows. This growth bolsters the DES, dynamic ensemble selection, technique, allowing it to choose the most suitable classifiers for subsequent chunks. Consequently, there are significant gains in performance from chunk 20 onward, PA2 consistently achieved the highest performance, while KENNES and SENNE recorded the lowest. Additional experiments with buffer sizes of 10 and 20, shown in Fig. 5.5(b) and Fig. 5.5(c), revealed slightly lower performance compared to the buffer size of 5, likely due to fewer updates when using larger buffer sizes. Finally, the adaptive buffer size experiment in Fig. 5.5(d) highlights the PA2 algorithm’s superior performance across all chunks, with the adaptive emerging pool size delivering the best results.

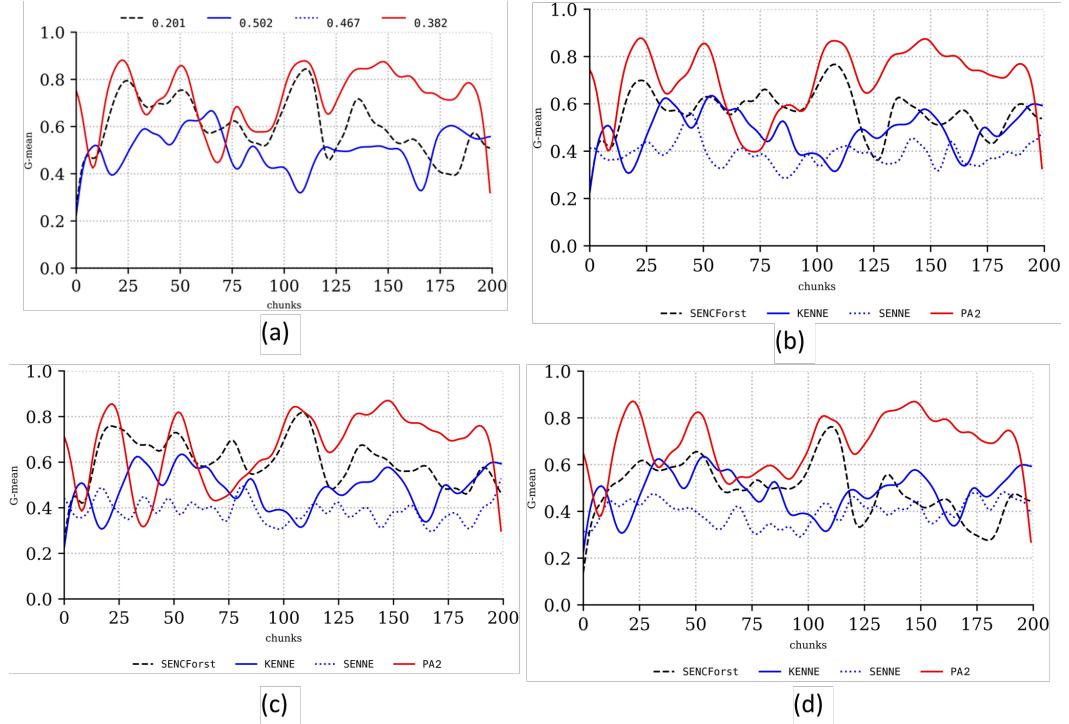


Figure 5.5: Covertype Stream Performance Across Buffer Sizes: (a) 5, (b) 10, (c) 20, and (d) Adaptive Buffer.

5.4.4.2 Results On Real Application Stream

This experiment focused on assessing the performance of SENCForest, SENNE, KENNES, and PA2 across 200 chunks of a sensor data stream, utilizing varying buffer sizes similar to the previous experiment. The results, shown in Fig. 5.6, were visualized using scatter plots. Figure 5.6 (a) displays the classification performance for each algorithm with a buffer size of 5. The PA2 algorithm achieved the highest performance overall, except for chunks 43 to 48, where some instances were incorrectly assumed as outliers rather than emergent. In contrast, SENCForest and SENNE had the lowest performance. Additional experiments with buffer sizes of 10 and 20 (Fig. 5.6(b) and Fig. 5.6(c)) demonstrated reduced performance compared to the buffer size of 5, attributed to fewer updates with larger buffer sizes. The adaptive buffer size experiment in Fig. 5.6(d) reaffirmed the effectiveness of the PA2 algorithm, which outperformed others across all chunks, with the adaptive emerging pool size providing optimal results.

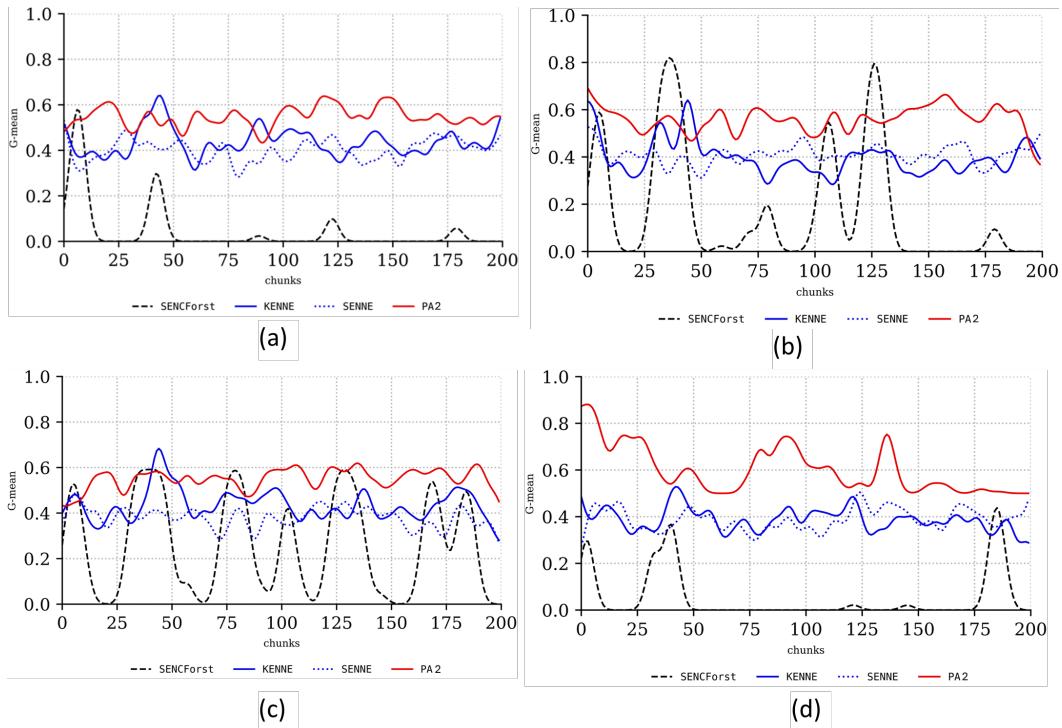


Figure 5.6: Sensor Stream Performance Across Buffer Sizes: (a) 5, (b) 10, (c) 20, and (d) Adaptive Buffer.

5.4.4.3 Results On Synthetic Stream

This experiment aimed to assess the performance of the previously tested methods on a synthetic data stream. Figure 5.7(a) shows the performance of various algorithms. Scatter plots illustrates that PA2 consistently delivered the highest performance when applied to the synthetic stream with buffer sizes of 5, 10, and 20, as shown in Fig. 5.7(a), Fig. 5.7(b), and Fig. 5.7(c), respectively. Figure 5.7(d) demonstrates that the adaptive pool size yielded the best performance on the synthetic stream, underscoring the adaptability and efficiency of the PA2 algorithm.

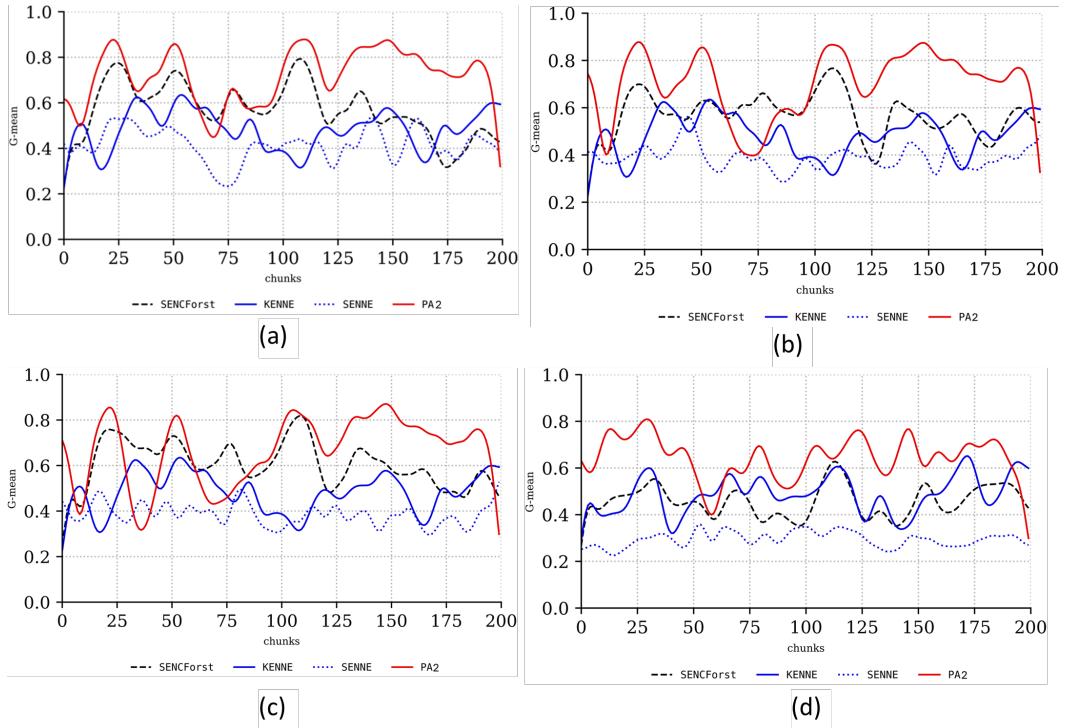


Figure 5.7: Synthetic Stream Performance Across Buffer Sizes: (a) 5, (b) 10, (c) 20, and (d) Adaptive Buffer.

5.4.5 Runtime Analysis Of The Best Algorithms

Our experimental results revealed that selecting the optimal algorithm for detecting emerging new classes is influenced by various factors, including dataset characteristics, buffer length, and the algorithm's runtime requirements. A series

of experiments to evaluate the runtime performance of different algorithms and observed that the PA2 algorithm demonstrated outstanding efficiency are conducted. Specifically, with the adaptive pool size approach, the PA2 algorithm trained bagging classifiers 150 times within 2131 seconds when using the Covertype stream, outperforming others despite SENCForest achieving the lowest runtime but with fewer updates compared to PA2 as shown in Table 5.2. On the Sensor stream, PA2 delivered the best runtime for 66 updates, while SENCForest, KENNES, and SENNE required more time to complete the same or fewer iterations. Similarly, PA2 exhibited superior runtime performance on the Synthetic stream. These results underscore the PA2 algorithm’s efficiency, making it an ideal choice for time-constrained scenarios. The superior runtime performance of PA2 is further highlighted in bold in Table 5.2.

5.4.6 Comparison between GNB, KNN, and HT, SVC

In this section, various algorithms (KNN, SVC, GNB, and HT) as base classifiers for the bagging technique are compared. The comparison, illustrated in Fig.5.8, focuses on the Covertype dataset stream, where GNB (blue line) and HT (red line) consistently achieve the highest scores across most chunks. Both classifiers also excel in radar plots across key performance metrics, including balanced accuracy, precision, recall, G-mean, and F1 score. Based on these results, GNB and HT emerge as the most suitable base classifiers for the bagging technique. We further compared GNB and HT in terms of runtime and update frequency, as shown in Table 5.3. The results indicate that GNB has the best runtime performance, while HT demonstrates superior performance, likely due to its higher number of updates compared to GNB, as reflected in Table 5.3 and Fig. 5.8.

5.4.7 Comparison between ADWIN and DDM

In this section, two concept drift detection methods: the Drift Detection Method (DDM) [31] and the Adaptive Window (ADWIN) [31, 65] are compared. These methods are widely recognized for their excellent performance in handling incremental drifted streams [31, 62, 63, 65]. Figure 5.9 shows that using the Synthetic stream with GNB as the base classifier, ADWIN consistently outperforms DDM

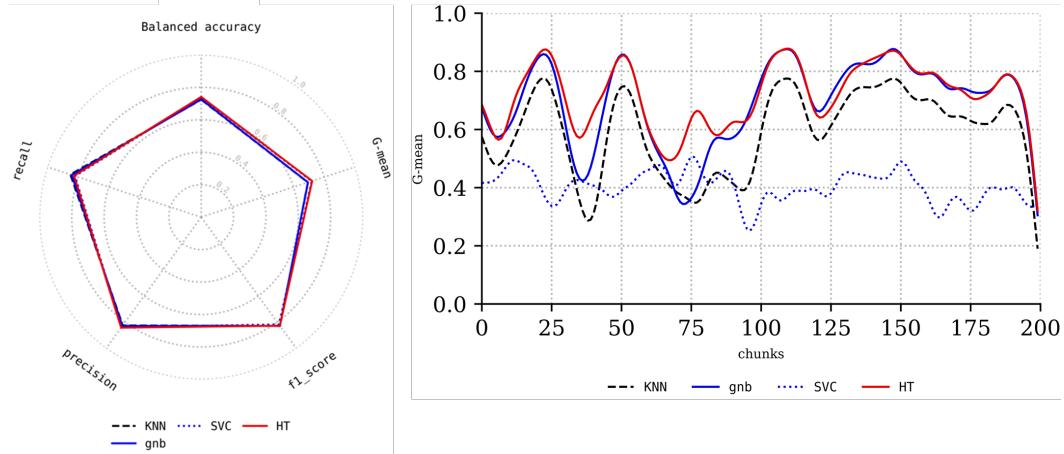


Figure 5.8: Performance Metrics for Covertype Stream with ADWIN and DDM.

in both radar and line plots across all performance metrics, including G-mean. Furthermore, when comparing their runtime and update frequency, as presented in Table 5.4, ADWIN proves to be the superior detector for drifted streams. It identifies the highest number of drifts (139) in the least amount of time (272 seconds), demonstrating its efficiency and effectiveness.

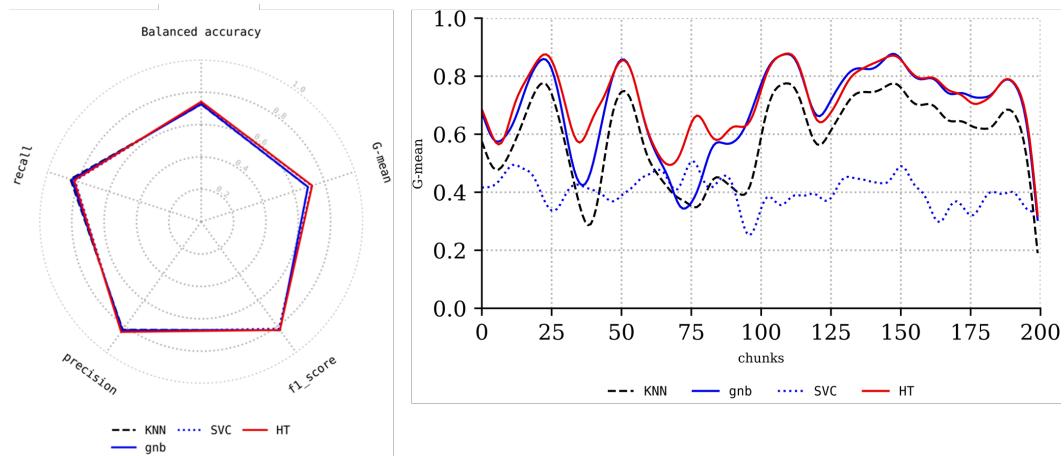


Figure 5.9: Performance Metrics for Synthetic Stream with ADWIN and DDM.

5.5 Summary

This section presents a robust framework for incremental learning in data streams with emerging new classes. It integrates the ADWIN algorithm for concept drift detection, K-means clustering, and Gaussian Naive Bayes (GNB) within an ensemble stratified bagging approach. ADWIN enables rapid drift detection and adaptation to new classes, while GNB serves as the base classifier for enhanced performance. The ensemble stratified bagging method significantly improves predictive performance, adaptability, and scalability, ensuring real-time relevance by dynamically updating the model based on incoming data.

Algorithm 3: Second Proposed Approach Algorithm for Emerging Drifted Streams.

Input: data stream, classifier threshold κ

Data: current chunk a , classifier k , classifiers pool Ψ , drifted pool ψ

Output: prediction p

```

 $\psi \leftarrow \phi$ 
 $\Psi \leftarrow \phi$ 
for stream has chunk do
    if a is the first chunk then
         $k \leftarrow \text{trainingNewClassifier}(a)$ 
         $P \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k)$ 
    else
         $k \leftarrow \text{DES}(a, \Psi)$ 
         $P \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k)$ 
         $\psi \leftarrow \text{conceptDriftDetector}(P)$ 
        if  $\psi > 0$  then
             $k \leftarrow$ 
            utilize  $a$  and  $\psi$  to get new classes according to Algorithm 4
             $\Psi \leftarrow \Psi + k$ 
            if  $|\Psi| > \kappa$  then
                removeWorstClassifier( $a$ )
            end
             $p \leftarrow \text{getPrediction}(a, k)$ 
        end
    end
end
return p

```

Algorithm 4: Flow Diagram of the Emerging Phase.

Input: current chunk a , drifted pool ψ , historical drifts h

Data: current chunk a , classifier k , Stream Emerging New Classes SENC,
SENC Pool Ψ , K-means centroids λ , centroid distance Φ , maximum
centroid distance dc , chunk distance i , Nearest neighbor n , historical
drifts h , average historical drifts μ

Output: classifier k

```

 $\lambda \leftarrow \text{apply Kmeans}(a)$ 
 $\Phi \leftarrow \text{apply cosine similarity}(\lambda)$ 
 $dc \leftarrow \max(\Phi)$ 
 $\mu \leftarrow \frac{\sum h}{|h|}$ 
 $\sigma \leftarrow \text{std}(\psi)$ 
 $\Delta \leftarrow \text{first derivative}(h)$ 
\leftarrow \mu + \Delta \times \sigma
for  $\psi$  has instance do
     $n \leftarrow \text{apply KNN}(\lambda, i)$ 
     $d \leftarrow \text{apply cosine similarity}(i, n)$ 
    if  $d \geq dc$  then
         $\Psi \leftarrow \Psi + i$ 
    end
    if  $|\Psi| \geq threshold$  then
         $k \leftarrow \text{trainingNewClassifier}(a)$ 
         $h \leftarrow h + \psi$ 
         $\Psi \leftarrow \phi$ 
    end
end
return  $k$ 

```

Table 5.2: Runtimes (in seconds) Comparison of SENCForest, SENNE, KENNE, and PA2.

Stream	Algorithm	Training Times	Time (seconds)
Covertype	SENCForest	142	1997
	SENNE	5	2167
	KENNES	3	1742
	PA2	150	2131
Sensor	SENCForest	23	1244
	SENNE	17	3825
	KENNES	152	2109
	PA2	66	1075
Synthetic	SENCForest	12	107
	SENNE	26	224
	KENNES	149	202
	PA2	47	91

Table 5.3: Runtimes (in seconds) of KNN, SVC, GNB, and HT.

Algorithm	KNN	SVC	GNB	HT
Training Times	140	150	139	148
Runtimes (in seconds)	586	878	291	1169

Table 5.4: Runtimes (in seconds) of ADWIN and DDM.

Algorithm	ADWIN	DDM
Training Times	139	55
Runtimes (in seconds)	272	545

Dynamic Classification Ensembles for Handling Imbalanced Multiclass Drifted Data Streams

Transfer learning is a powerful approach for addressing the challenges of dynamic data streams and concept drift. Its primary objective is to improve learning performance in a target domain by utilizing knowledge from one or more source domains. The source domain typically comprises data or tasks with abundant labeled information, whereas the target domain often faces constraints such as limited or unlabeled data. This distinction underscores the significance of transfer learning in bridging knowledge gaps and enhancing learning in resource-constrained environments [4, 99]. The field of transfer learning focuses on maximizing positive knowledge transfer while minimizing negative transfer. To achieve this, researchers have developed strategies such as instance re-weighting and feature matching to reduce the domain gap [85, 100–102]. Additionally, mitigating negative knowledge transfer often involves down-weighting irrelevant data sources to prevent the incorporation of misleading information [99]. While much of the research has been dedicated to static environments where data distributions remain stable, real-world scenarios like financial forecasting, energy demand prediction, and climate analysis often feature dynamic environments. These scenarios present the concept drift

problem, where evolving data distributions challenge traditional models [103, 104]. In dynamic environments, transfer learning must go beyond static methodologies to adapt continuously to changing data. A notable technique is Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES), which employs multiple classifiers to make predictions. DES dynamically evaluates and selects the most competent classifiers for the prevailing data conditions, ensuring adaptability and resilience against concept drift. It excludes underperforming classifiers while progressively improving overall performance [15, 18, 67]. Another critical approach is Adaptive Windowing (ADWIN), which detects concept drift by monitoring statistical changes, such as mean or variance, within dynamically adjusted sliding windows. When substantial shifts occur, ADWIN reconfigures the ensemble by retraining or introducing classifiers suited to the updated data distribution [63]. Similarly, the Streaming Ensemble Algorithm (SEA) manages real-time data streams by continuously adapting classifier ensembles, maintaining robustness and performance even as data conditions shift and new classes emerge [31, 63, 65]. This study introduces efficient algorithms for classifying data streams in real-time, specifically addressing the challenges posed by heterogeneous transfer learning in non-stationary environments. The proposed framework integrates DES, ADWIN, and SEA to tackle dynamic data streams effectively. Its objectives include achieving high classification performance, adapting to evolving data distributions, and minimizing computational complexity. By leveraging these advanced techniques, the framework provides a robust, scalable, and efficient solution to the challenges of heterogeneous transfer learning, ensuring reliable performance in dynamic real-world scenarios. The subsequent sections of this paper adhere to a well-structured organization. Section 6.1 presents the motivations and contributions. Section 5.2 introduces the third proposed approach, providing intricate explanations of its constituents, including dynamic classifier ensembles, concept drift handling, and heterogeneous multisource transformation. Section 4.4 outlines the experimental setup and presents the results, providing details regarding the employed datasets, evaluation metrics, and procedures. Finally Section 6.5 presents a summary of this chapter.

6.1 Motivations and Contributions of this Chapter

This paper presents a novel contribution to real-time streaming scenarios by addressing the challenges of heterogeneous multisource streams, with key contributions that can be summarized as follows:

1. The primary innovation involves incorporating a concept drift detection method in conjunction with an ensemble classifier, enabling real-time adaptation and refinement of the third proposed approach in response to transfer learning in non-stationary environments. This methodology ensures continuous evolution of the classification model in accordance with the changing data landscape.
2. The second significant advancement is the introduction of a precise weighting method to assess the significance of each local classifier within the ultimate classifier.
3. The third significant contribution is the development of an innovative approach that employs the eigenvector technique to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from heterogeneous source domains to the target domain.

6.2 Third Proposed Methodology

This section introduces the Heterogeneous Transfer Learning (HTL) algorithm tailored for non-stationary environments. HTL adeptly assimilates knowledge from both heterogeneous and homogeneous sources, operating within the framework of data streams subject to concept drift. Leveraging an online learning inductive parameter transfer strategy, HTL achieves seamless knowledge transfer. We delineate the core components and workflow of the HTL algorithm. To address the challenges intrinsic to the third approach, the focus is on three key aspects.:

- **Heterogeneous sources:** Traditional transfer learning methods often assume homogeneity in the data distribution across source and target domains. However, in real-world scenarios, data sources may vary significantly in terms of feature space. HTL addresses this challenge by allowing knowledge transfer from sources with different dimensionalities. This means that the algorithm

can effectively learn from diverse dimentionality sources, enabling a more comprehensive knowledge transfer process.

- **Drifted streams:** In dynamic environments, data distributions may change over time, leading to concept drift. This phenomenon poses a significant challenge for machine learning algorithms, as models trained on historical data may become obsolete as the underlying data distribution shifts. HTL incorporates a concept drift detector that continuously monitors the incoming data stream. Upon detecting a shift in the data distribution, the algorithm adapts its classifiers accordingly to ensure continued effectiveness in handling drifting streams. This dynamic adjustment mechanism allows HTL to maintain high performance even in the presence of concept drift.
- **Classifier performance:** Classifier performance is crucial for the overall effectiveness of the transfer learning process. HTL employs Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to enhance classifier performance. DES creates a diverse ensemble of classifiers, each trained on different subsets of the data. When presented with a new data point, DES dynamically selects the most suitable classifiers from the ensemble based on its performance on similar chunk. This adaptive selection process ensures that the most appropriate classifier is chosen for each data point, leading to improved classification performance and robustness. By leveraging DES, HTL maximizes the utility of available classifiers, resulting in superior performance in non-stationary environments with heterogeneous data sources.

6.2.1 HTL Description

The aim of this section is to harness knowledge from diverse dimensional multi-source domain streams. Following a similar framework to CDTL [1], this approach employs a class-wise and domain-weighted strategy. However, HTL enhances the weight function of CDTL in a class-wise manner, as demonstrated in Equation 1. This equation factors in both correct and incorrect predictions for each classifier class, with K representing the number of classifiers in the current chunk, C denoting the number of classes in the current chunk, and i indicating the current chunk.

The components of HTL operate synergistically, as depicted in Fig. 6.1, encompassing three phases:

- **Dynamic ensemble selection phase (DES Phase):** The primary objective DES phase is to identify the optimal classifier for incoming data. This is crucial for ensuring that the selected classifier effectively aligns with the unique characteristics of the current data segment.
- **Drift detector phase:** After the DES phase, the method progresses to the drift detector phase, where it operates in real-time to continually monitor the data stream. This phase employs ADWIN and DDM techniques, which play a pivotal role in swiftly identifying any signs of concept drift. These techniques are designed to detect changes in the underlying data distribution over time, thus enabling the algorithm to adapt to evolving data patterns.
- **Feature scaling** The concluding phase of HTL is featuring scaling, operating in real-time to harmonize the diverse dimensionalities of the multisource streams with the target dimensionality. Leveraging the eigen vector technique, this phase facilitates the transformation of data into a unified dimensionality, essential for creating new classifiers tailored to the target and domain streams. By ensuring compatibility with the learning framework, this process enhances the algorithm's effectiveness in handling diverse dimensionality streams.

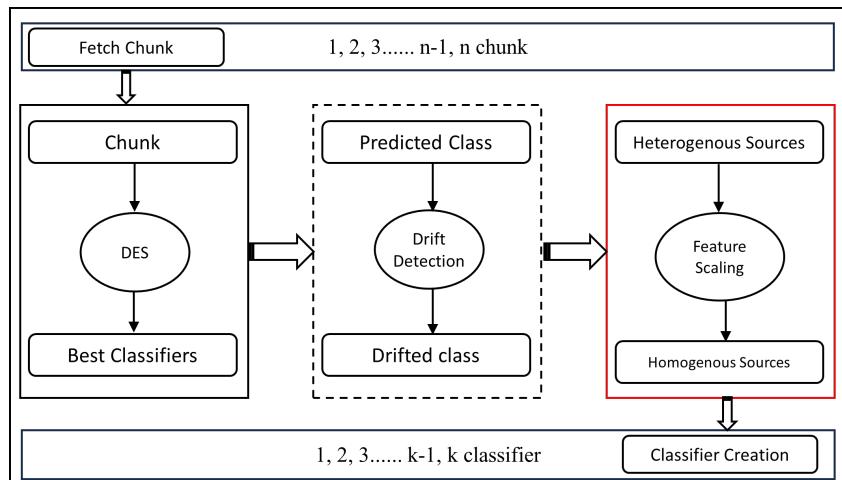


Figure 6.1: HTL Flow Diagram.

6.2.2 Classifier Creation Phase Description

Figure 6.2 provides a comprehensive overview of the classifier creation phase, a crucial component responsible for generating new classifiers based on the current chunk of the target domain, previous classifiers, and source domain classifiers. This phase offers several advantages and performs three tasks.

- **Source projection:** This step involves projecting the source domain classifiers onto the current chunk of the target domain. The projection likely employs the source weight function, as described in CDTL [1], to assign a weight to each classifier based on its relevance to the current chunk of data. This weighting mechanism ensures that classifiers from the source domains contribute appropriately to the creation of the new classifier for the target domain.
- **Class-wise weights:** This block computes class-specific weights for each classifier using Equations 6.1 and 6.2. The process involves analyzing the current chunk of the target stream (denoted as D) and considering both correct and incorrect predictions made by each classifier where prediction_i refers to the predicted class of the current instance and c to the income class. These weights are crucial for determining the significance of individual classifiers across different classes. The equations facilitate the calculation of weights that reflect the classifiers' performance on specific classes, enabling the creation of a well-balanced ensemble classifier.
- **Classifier combination:** In this phase, the class-wise weights, along with the current chunk of data and the projected source domain classifiers, are combined to derive the final classifier. The combination process follows the details outlined in Eq. 6.3, where historical classifiers (denoted as H), projected data classifiers (denoted as P), and the classifier of the current chunk (denoted as K) are integrated. This integration ensures that the resulting classifier incorporates contributions from both historical and projected data sources, leveraging the strengths of each to enhance predictive performance. The resulting classifier is then utilized to make predictions based on the data chunk, effectively leveraging the insights gleaned from both historical and current data sources.

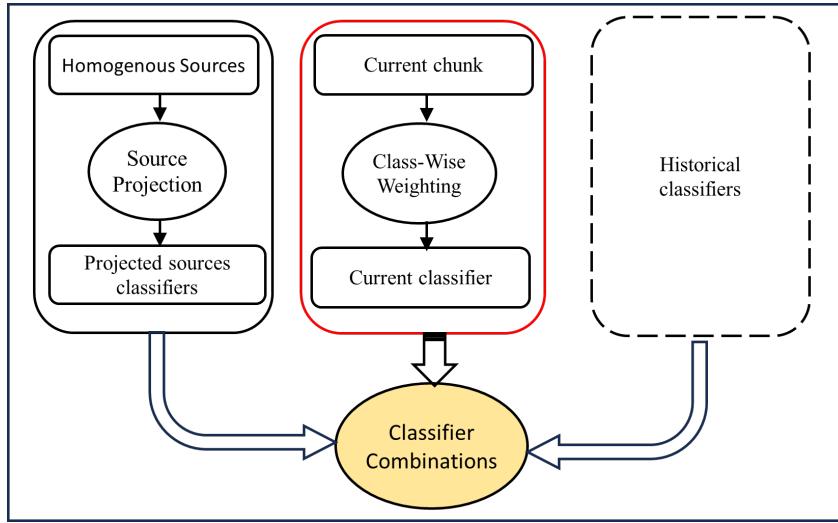


Figure 6.2: Classifier Creation Phase Flow Diagram.

6.3 Mathematical Foundations of the HTL

The proposed Heterogeneous Transfer Learning (HTL) framework incorporates several mathematical components to enhance classification performance in dynamic data streams. Below, an analysis of the key equations is provided, used to define the methodology.

The first step in the framework is calculating the **class weight** for each class c predicted by a base classifier k over a dataset \mathcal{D} :

$$classWeight_{k,c,\mathcal{D}} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \frac{|prediction_i = c|}{|\mathcal{D}|} \times \frac{|prediction_i \neq c|}{|\mathcal{D}|}. \quad (6.1)$$

This formula measures the relative contribution of a classifier k to the classification of class c , balancing correct and incorrect predictions within the dataset \mathcal{D} .

Next, the **classifier weight** is determined by aggregating the class weights across all classes C and classifiers K for the dataset:

$$classifierWeight = \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{c \in C} classWeight_{k,c,\mathcal{D}}, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{D} = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N. \quad (6.2)$$

This aggregation quantifies the overall performance of a classifier k in the context of all classes in the dataset.

Finally, the **prediction ensemble** combines predictions from primary sources P , heterogeneous sources H , and the current classifier k for a given data chunk:

$$\text{Prediction}_{p,H,k,\text{chunk}} = \sum_{p \in P} \text{prediction}_{\text{chunk}}^p + \sum_{h \in H} \text{prediction}_{\text{chunk}}^h + \text{prediction}_{\text{chunk}}^k. \quad (6.3)$$

This equation ensures that the final prediction leverages diverse knowledge sources, including heterogeneous and primary streams, to achieve robust and accurate predictions for the data chunk.

These mathematical formulations underline the HTL framework's capability to dynamically adjust to evolving data distributions and heterogeneities in multi-source streaming environments.

6.3.1 HTL Algorithm Description

As illustrated in Algorithm 5, the HTL algorithm involves several stages, beginning with training a classifier for the target stream and proceeding through various steps related to heterogeneous multisource preprocessing, classifier weighting, concept drift detection, and classifier management to ensure the performance and adaptability of the final classifier. In this section, detailed explanations of each individual step within the HTL algorithm are provided.

- **Converting heterogeneous multisource to homogeneous multisource:** In the initial step, the algorithm unifies the various data sources that might have different characteristics (heterogeneous multisource). This is achieved using eigenvectors and the feature count of the current chunk (line 7).
- **Training a new classifier for the first target chunk:** In line 8, the new classifier is trained specifically for the first chunk of the target stream. This classifier was used to predict the initial chunk of the target stream.
- **Calculate heterogeneous multisource weights:** The algorithm computes the weights for each heterogeneous data source. These weights are determined based on the characteristics of the data from each source and the target

classifier. This weighting process helps prioritize more relevant data sources (line 9).

- **Calculating class-wise weights:** In line 27, the algorithm calculates class-wise weights using Equations 1 and 2. These weights were essential for determining the contribution of each class to the final classifier.
- **Converting homogeneous multisource to projected data source:** Line 11 involves using the weights calculated in the third step to transform the homogeneous multisource representation to a projected data source. This transformation likely uses the source weight function of CDTL [1].
- **Prediction of the current chunk:** In line 16, the algorithm determines the output class using Equation 3.
- **Monitoring for concept drift:** The algorithm continuously monitors the performance of its predictions to detect any concept drift, a situation in which the underlying data distribution changes, potentially leading to a degradation in model performance. Line 19 has been used for this purpose.
- **Updating the projected multisource classifiers:** Lines 29–32 are dedicated to updating the classifiers associated with the projected multisource. It is necessary to adapt to changes in the data or to maintain the performance and relevance of the classifiers over time.
- **Managing the pool of classifiers:** If the pool of classifiers exceeds a predefined maximum size threshold, lines 23 and 24 indicate that a new classifier is trained, and the worst-performing classifier is removed. This process helps to maintain a manageable and effective set of classifiers.

The heterogeneous Transfer Learning (HTL) algorithm represents a significant advancement in addressing the complexities of non-stationary environments prone to concept drift. By integrating heterogeneous and homogeneous sources within dynamic data streams, HTL demonstrates remarkable adaptability and effectiveness. Through its meticulously designed workflow, HTL can efficiently handle the challenges posed by evolving data landscapes. From the initial reception of environmental data to the nuanced processing of new data chunks and vigilant monitoring of concept drift, HTL embodies a comprehensive approach to knowledge transfer and adaptation. Owing to its ability to compute class-specific weights and leverage

vital classifiers, HTL offers a robust solution for navigating non-stationary environments with confidence and precision.

6.4 Experimental Results

In this section, the proposed HTL, CORAL [85], and CDTL [1], and Melanie [2] algorithms are compared. Three subsections are introduced: the first section focuses on the experimental setup; second, a discussion on data streams to apply all experiments on heterogeneous and homogeneous source domains, including a comparison to evaluate the runtime factor between all methods; and finally, a comparison is made between online learning and chunk-based concept drift.

6.4.1 Experimental setup

The evaluation of Heterogeneous Taxonomy Learning (HTL) involves a comparison with CORAL [85], CDTL [1], and Melanie [2] which employs multiple metrics such as precision, recall, F1 score [94], BAC [95], and G-mean [96]. The experimental protocol employed for evaluation followed the test-then-train approach [97], where the classification model is trained on a specific data chunk and subsequently evaluated on the next chunk. The chunk size was standardized to 2000 instances. Four different classification models were used as base estimators: k-Neighbors (KNN) algorithm, Support Vector Machine (abbreviated as SVM), Gaussian Naive Bayes abbreviated as (GNB), and Hoeffding Tree (abbreviated as HT), as implemented in scikit-learn [34]. We establish an ensemble classifier pool with a set limit of $L = 8$, wherein each ensemble consists of $N = 4$ base models. While these constraints remained fixed across all experiments, the threshold for the pool classifier in each approach was maintained at eight. Consequently, if the threshold is surpassed, the least-performing classifier is systematically eliminated. This configuration was applied consistently across all approaches to ensure fair engagement. The experiments were carried out using the Python programming language, with the source code publicly accessible on GitHub¹. When dealing with

¹https://github.com/Amadkour/transfer_learning_with_concept_drift.git

heterogeneous multisource streams, it is often impractical or not applicable to truly heterogeneous experiences. Consequently, the eigenvector technique was utilized in all related approaches. This decision stems from the fact that the algorithms in related work primarily focus on homogeneous source domains and do not address the challenges posed by heterogeneous multisource data. Therefore, heterogeneous experiments were conducted.

6.4.1.1 Data Streams

In this study, the performance of the third proposed approach was evaluated using various datasets, including synthetic data streams, a real application stream, and dataset benchmark datasets. To conduct the evaluations, the stream-learn Python library [63, 98] was used. As detailed in Table 1, the benchmark dataset employed in the study is the Covertype dataset. This dataset comprises 52 features, 7 classes, and a total of 581,010 instances. It serves as a standard benchmark dataset widely used in stream mining research. For the evaluation of real application streams, the Sensor Stream dataset was utilized. This dataset includes 5 features, 58 classes, and a total of 392,600 instances, representing a real-world application scenario. Synthetic datasets were generated using the scikit-learn Python package. This synthetic dataset was created to simulate data streams and evaluate the performance of the framework. The synthetic datasets consisted of 10 features and four classes and were divided into 200 chunks. Each chunk had a size of 2,000. The performance of the third proposed approach was systematically evaluated using these datasets and a stream-learn library. These evaluations provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the framework in handling different types of data streams, including benchmark datasets, real application streams, and synthetic data streams.

Table 6.1: Summary of Dataset Characteristics Utilized in the HTL.

Dataset	Number of Features	Number of Classes	Number of Instances
Covertype dataset ¹	40	7	581,010
Sensor Stream dataset ²	5	58	392,600
Synthetic stream-52	52	5	200,000
Synthetic stream-8	8	4	200,000

6.4.1.2 Compared Approaches

In the subsequent section, the established benchmark techniques are introduced as outlined below:

- **AW-CORAL [85]:** The AW-CORAL (Adaptive Weighted CORrelation ALignment) method is a simple domain adaptation technique designed to align the distributions of both source and target features without supervision. This is accomplished by aligning second-order statistics, focusing specifically on covariance, to match the distributions between the domains.
- **HE-CDTL [85]:** The HE-CDTL approach tackles Concept Drift Transfer Learning (CDTL) by integrating knowledge from source domains and historical time steps in the target domain to improve learning performance. HE-CDTL features class-wise weighted ensemble for independent selection of historical knowledge by each class, and AW-CORAL to mitigate domain discrepancy and reduce negative knowledge transfer.
- **Melanie [2]:** Multisource Online Transfer Learning for Non-stationary Environments, known as Melanie, represents the inaugural method capable of transferring knowledge across various data streaming sources in non-stationary environments. Melanie constructs numerous sub-classifiers to grasp diverse facets from distinct source and target concepts dynamically. It identifies sub-classifiers that align closely with the prevailing target concept, assembling them into an ensemble for predicting instances originating from the target concept.

While Melanie extends online learning through chunk-based learning akin to CDTL, it exhibits two limitations:

- utilizing a global weight for each classifier, disregarding performance variation across different locations of a data chunk
- combining learned classifiers from these domains directly with the target classifier, which may impede effective knowledge transfer due to domain discrepancies. Hence, the third proposed approach (HTL) is compared with AW-CORAL [85] and HE-CDTL yang2021concept.

6.4.2 Analysis of Experimental Results

This section presents a comprehensive evaluation of the performance of the proposed approach across multiple data streams. To guarantee a thorough assessment, five performance metrics—F1 score, precision, recall, G-mean, and BAG—were presented using two visualization diagrams: radar and line. A radar chart was cleverly utilized to provide a comprehensive summary, precisely demonstrating the performance of each algorithm across the six key metrics. By calculating the average value of each metric, the overall performance of each approach (HTL, CORAL, and CDTL) was determined. On the other hand, the line diagram utilizes the G-mean metric to compare these methods for each chunk across 100 chunks. A line diagram was used in the first five experiments, whereas a combination of radar and line diagrams was employed in the last two experiments. This approach ensured a detailed and nuanced evaluation of the performance of the third proposed approach in diverse experimental scenarios.

6.4.2.1 Results on Target Domains Dataset without Source Domain

Figure 6.3 showcases the results of applying the aforementioned methods to the Covertype dataset, where no stream is utilized as a source domain. The line diagram specifically highlights the classification performance measured by the G-mean metric across 100 data chunks for each method. Notably, all methods display suboptimal performance during the initial 10 chunks. However, a significant improvement is evident in subsequent phases. This improvement can be attributed to the expansion of the classifier pool, encompassing an increasing number of classifiers. This expansion allows the DES technique to become more adept at selecting the most appropriate classifier for each incoming chunk. Consequently, performance experiences a notable upsurge in later chunks, underscoring the adaptability and efficacy of the ensemble approach. From chunk 20 to the final chunk, HTL consistently achieves the highest performance across most chunks. In contrast, CORAL shows lower performance in certain chunks, while CDTL displays lower performance in others. The superior performance of HTL can be credited to its utilization of the proposed weighting method, which assigns a weight to each his-

torical classifier. This approach contributes to the effective training of the pool classifiers, thereby enhancing the overall performance of the approach.

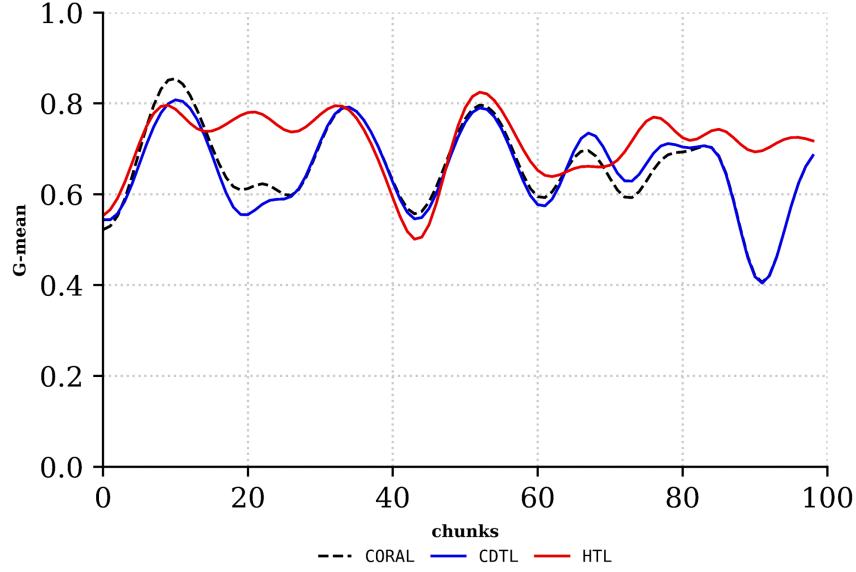


Figure 6.3: Results of the Covertype Stream as the Target Domain without the Source Domain.

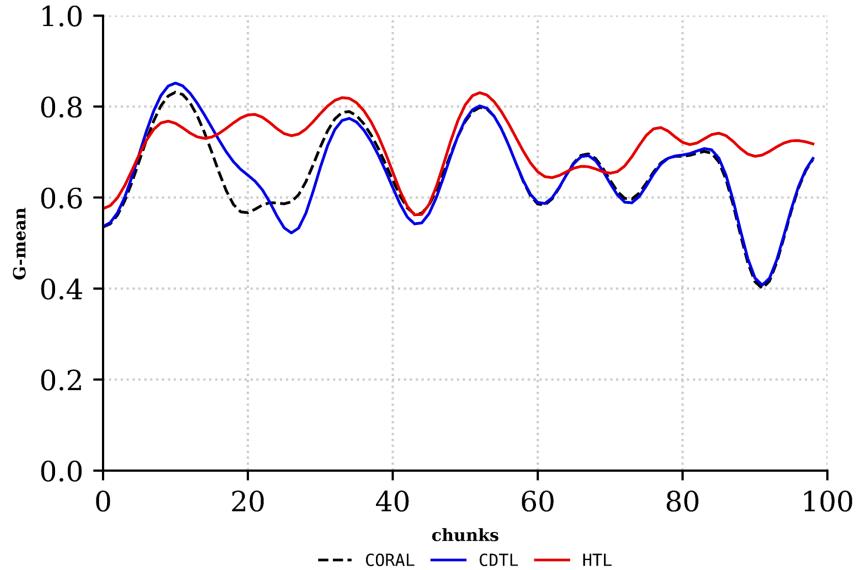


Figure 6.4: Performance results of the Covertype Stream as the target domain using homogeneous source domains.

6.4.2.2 Results on the Homogeneous Source Domains Dataset

Figure 6.4 depicts the results of applying the compared methods to the Covertype data stream as the target domain and Synthetic-52 as a homogenous source domain, which has the same dimensionality as the Covertype stream (52 features and seven classes). Upon examining the line diagram, it becomes evident that HTL's performance in the first eight chunks may be suboptimal due to the insufficient number of classifiers available. However, following the initial eight chunks, the addition of more classifiers results in an improvement in HTL's performance. In contrast, CDTL maintains satisfactory performance throughout the chunks, while MLSMOTE consistently displays lower performance. It is important to note that HTL consistently achieves the highest performance across all chunks in the diagram. Notably, the CDTL and HTL methods in Fig. 6.4 demonstrated superiority over the same methods in Fig. 6.3. This is attributed to the experiment shown in Fig. 6.4, which incorporates Synthetic-52 as a source domain, thereby enhancing the performance of the methods. In contrast to the experiment in Fig. 6.3, which lacks a source domain.

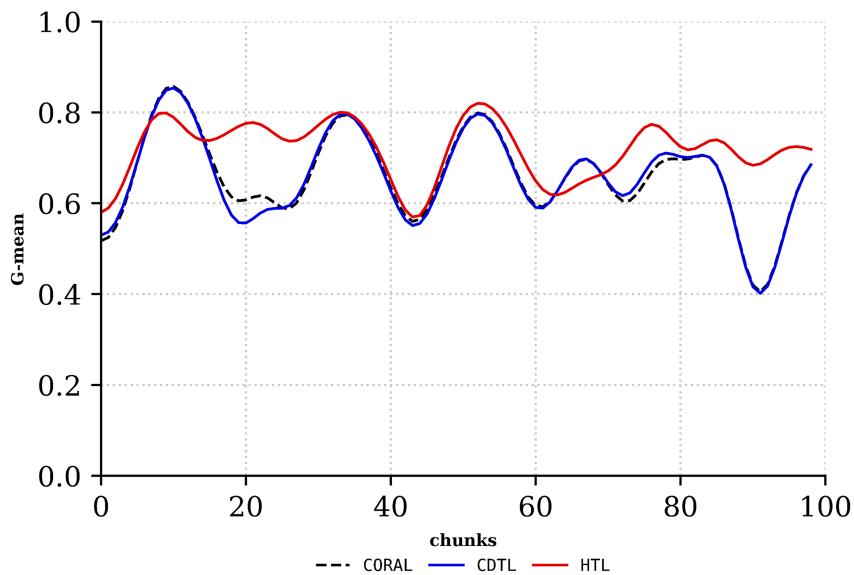


Figure 6.5: Performance results of the Covertype Stream as the target domain with a single heterogeneous source domain.

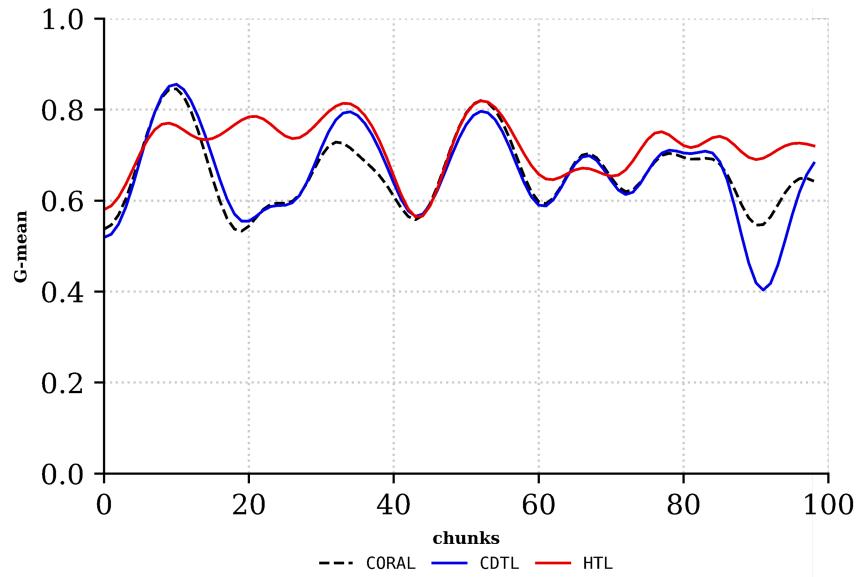


Figure 6.6: Performance results of the Covertype Stream as the target domain with multiple heterogeneous source domains.

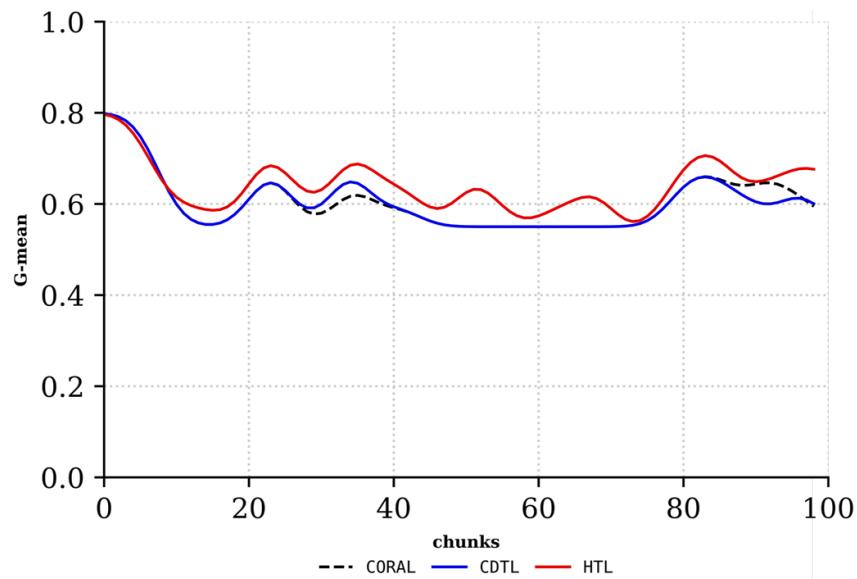


Figure 6.7: Results of the Sensor Stream as the Target Domain with Multiple Heterogeneous Source Domains.

6.4.2.3 Results on One Heterogeneous Source Domain

In this experiment, the Synthetic-8 stream was utilized as a heterogeneous source domain. Considering the nature of the HTL algorithm, which can operate with heterogeneous sources, specific adjustments were implemented to enable CORAL and CDTL, which typically do not operate with such sources, to function in a heterogeneous domain environment. The eigenvector technique was applied to CORAL and CDTL to facilitate compatibility with the heterogeneous sources. Figure 6.5 shows the results of applying the compared methods to the Covertype data stream as the target domain, with Synthetic-8 acting as the heterogeneous source domain. Synthetic-8 has a different dimensionality (eight features and four classes) compared with the Covertype stream. An analysis of the line diagram reveals that the performance of the compared approaches may vary across different chunks depending on the source domain and the positive knowledge it contributes. HTL consistently outperforms, achieving the highest performance across almost all chunks, whereas CDTL and CORAL show lower performance.

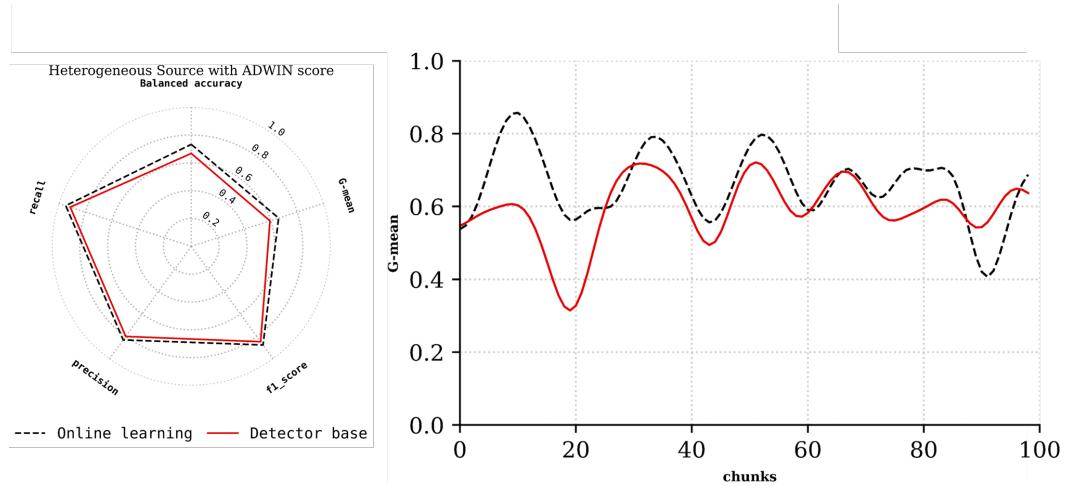


Figure 6.8: Online learning and chunk-based results for the Covertype stream using the ADWIN detector.

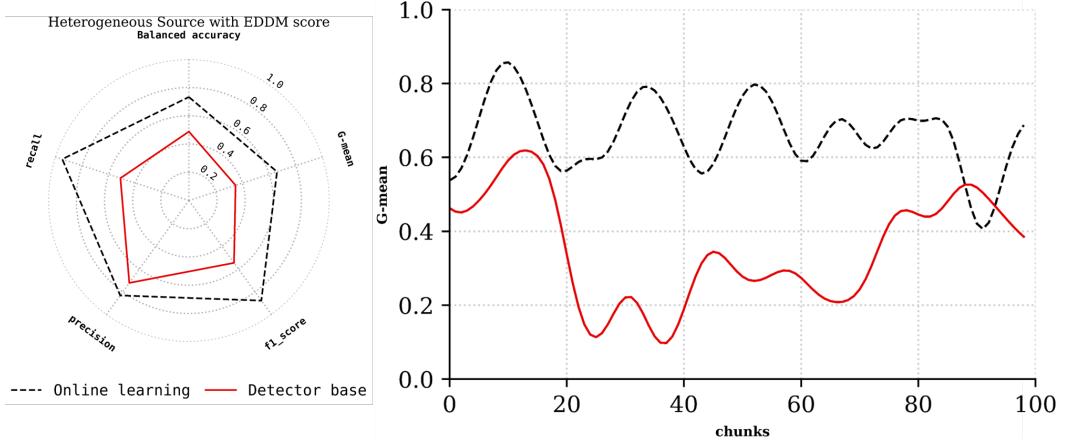


Figure 6.9: Results of online learning and chunk-based detection in the Covertype stream using the ADWIN detector.

6.4.2.4 Results on All Heterogeneous Source Domains Stream and Covertype Stream as the Target Domain

Figure 6.6 presents the results of applying the compared methods to the Covertype data stream as the target domain, with the Synthetic-8, Synthetic-52, and Sensor streams serving as heterogeneous source domains. From the analysis, the performance in this figure exceeds that in Fig. 6.6. This improvement is likely due to the larger number of source domains in this experiment, which leads to an incremental increase in positive knowledge with each added source domain, consequently improving method performance. In Fig. 6.7, the same experimental setup was employed, but the target domain was switched from the cover type to the sensor stream. Additionally, the Covertype stream was included as one of the source domains in this configuration. This modification was intended to evaluate the performance of the HTL across the various target streams. Figure 6.7 shows that the performance of all methods might be lower than that of the Covertype stream, mainly because of the increased noise in the sensor stream and numerous drifts. However, HTL consistently outperforms, achieving the highest performance across all chunks, whereas CORAL and CDTL display nearly identical values in most chunks.

6.4.2.5 Results on One Heterogeneous Source Domain

This section presents the overall performances of the compared methods (CORAL, CDTL, and HTL) across five key performance metrics: F1 score, precision, recall, G-mean, and BAG. Table 2 showcases the performance of each method across different experiments for the five metrics. The table illustrates the average value of each metric, which represents the overall performance of each method for 100 chunks. The emphasis on the bold highlighting in the table underscores the superiority of the HTL algorithm in various source domain configurations. In the first experiment (without the source domain), CORAL showed the best performance in terms of precision, while HTL demonstrated the best performance in the other metrics. Furthermore, in most experiments, HTL outperformed the other methods across most metrics, except for the recall metric in the third experiment, in which CDTL achieved the best performance. Notably, each subsequent experiment demonstrated improved performance compared with the previous experiment. This trend arose from the incremental nature of the source domain in each experiment. The incremental addition of the source domain enhances the positive knowledge of each experiment, leading to an increased performance of the compared methods in most experiments.

Table 6.2: Comprehensive performance comparison of CORAL, CDTL, and HTL across all previous experiments.

Experiment	Metric	CORAL	CDTL	HTL
Without source domain	BAC	0.723	0.723	0.725
	G-mean	0.652	0.654	0.717
	F1 score	0.875	0.874	0.890
	Precision	0.827	0.823	0.851
	Recall	0.950	0.944	0.939
Homogenous source domain	BAC	0.731	0.730	0.755
	G-mean	0.658	0.653	0.717
	F1 score	0.876	0.875	0.858
	Precision	0.830	0.829	0.851
	Recall	0.950	0.950	0.953
Single heterogeneous source domain	BAC	0.732	0.732	0.757
	G-mean	0.661	0.657	0.717
	F1 score	0.875	0.875	0.859
	Precision	0.835	0.835	0.851
	Recall	0.947	0.950	0.953
Multisource heterogeneous domain (Covertype stream)	BAC	0.732	0.732	0.757
	G-mean	0.661	0.661	0.717
	F1 score	0.875	0.875	0.859
	Precision	0.835	0.835	0.851
	Recall	0.947	0.950	0.953
Multisource heterogeneous domain (Sensor stream)	BAC	0.998	0.998	0.998
	G-mean	0.971	0.971	0.992
	F1 score	0.997	0.997	0.997
	Precision	0.998	0.998	0.998
	Recall	0.998	0.998	0.998

6.4.3 Analysis Runtime between CORAL, CDTL, and HTL Techniques

Our experimental results highlight that the selection of the optimal algorithm for handling heterogeneous transfer learning is influenced by various factors. These factors include the dataset characteristics and runtime requirements of the algorithm. In the experiments, the focus was on analyzing the runtimes of different algorithms, and the results were insightful. Notably, the HTL algorithm was exceptionally efficient. For example, when considering the training of the first expe-

rience (homogeneous source domain), the HTL algorithm completed 100 iterations within 304 seconds. In contrast, the CORAL and CDTL algorithms require more time to achieve the same number of training iterations. Furthermore, the HTL algorithm consistently demonstrated remarkable efficiency, particularly when the source domain settings were absent, single heterogeneous, or multisource heterogeneous. These findings highlight the superior runtime performance of the HTL algorithm, positioning it as an attractive choice for scenarios with stringent time constraints. The bold highlighting in Table 3 further accentuates the efficiency of the HTL algorithm across various source domain settings, including homogeneous, absent, single heterogeneous, and multi-source heterogeneous settings, making it a compelling option for applications where time efficiency is of paramount importance.

Table 6.3: Runtimes (in seconds) for CORAL, CDTL, and HTL.

Experience	Target domain	Source Domain	CORAL	CDTL	HTL
without source domain	Covertype	None	312	312	304
Homogenous source domain	Covertype	Synthetic-52	6165	614	606
Single heterogeneous source domain	Covertype	Synthetic-8	6060	4703	4475
Multi-source heterogeneous domain	Covertype	Sensor, Synthetic-52, and Synthetic-8	23011	14043	13824
Multi-source heterogeneous domain	Sensor	Covertype, Synthetic-52, and Synthetic-8	14524	3052	3005

6.4.4 Analysis performance and runtime of HTL for online learning and chunk-based concept drift

In this experiment, the performance durations of various learning flow techniques is investigated, specifically online learning and chunk-based concept drift, aiming to provide a thorough comparison between them. As shown in Table 6.4, the EDDM drift detector demonstrated significant time savings by successfully detecting 40 drifted chunks out of 100 chunks, resulting in 40 learning times. Conversely, the ADWIN drift detector achieved time savings superior to the online technique, having detected 63 drifted chunks and requiring 63 learning times. On the other hand, online learning exhibited the least efficient time savings, as it necessitated 100 times for 100 chunks. Moreover, in figures 6.8,6.9, each figure includes two diagrams (radar and line diagram). As seen in the radar and line diagrams of Fig. 6.8, used to compare online learning and the ADWIN detector, online learning

emerges as the most effective technique for achieving optimal performance, albeit with an increase in time consumption. Similarly, Fig. 6.9 is employed to compare online learning with the EDDM detector, demonstrating that online learning is the most effective method for optimal performance. Consequently, online learning stands out as the most effective approach. Hence, by examining the radar diagrams of both figures, it becomes evident that ADWIN is the most similar alternative to online learning. As a result, ADWIN proves to be a favorable compromise, striking a balance between online learning and EDDM detectors in terms of performance. In contrast, EDDM exhibits the lowest performance. Therefore, in the context of chunk-based concept drift, particularly when utilizing the ADWIN detector, this approach is ideal for environments that demand strong performance while minimizing time expenditure.

6.5 Summary

This study presents a novel framework for incremental learning in data streams, with a focus on heterogeneous transfer learning. The approach effectively integrates concept drift detection via the ADWIN algorithm, eigenvectors for knowledge transfer, and ensemble classifiers. Extensive experiments on benchmark, real-world, and synthetic datasets validate the framework's efficacy in adapting to evolving data patterns. The use of Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) optimizes classifier performance, enhancing predictive performance and robustness. The framework excels in handling heterogeneous multi-source domains, providing high adaptability, efficiency, and scalability to real-time data streams while maintaining reliable and relevant performance.

Algorithm 5: Flow Diagram of the Heterogeneous Transfer Learning.

Input: Target domain stream $stream$, heterogeneous multisource domain Ψ , pool of classifiers, threshold ℓ

Data: Current chunk a , classifiers k , source classifiers ψ , projected source domain S , target domain weights ω , source domain weights λ

Output: Prediction

for stream have chunk **do**

```

if  $a$  is the First chunk then
     $\Psi \leftarrow convertSourcesToTargetDim(\Psi, a)$ 
     $k \leftarrow trainingNewClassifier(a)$ 
     $\lambda \leftarrow SourcesDomainWeights(\Psi, k)$ 
     $\omega \leftarrow classWiseWeights(K, a)$ 
     $S \leftarrow projectedSourceDomain(\Psi, \lambda)$ 
    for source in  $S$  do
         $newClassifier \leftarrow trainingNewClassifier(source)$ 
         $\psi \leftarrow \psi \cup newClassifier$ 
     $prediction \leftarrow getPrediction(a, k, \psi, \lambda, \omega)$ 
else
     $prediction \leftarrow getPrediction(a, k, \psi)$ 
     $driftResult \leftarrow conceptDriftDetector(prediction)$ 
    if  $driftResult$  have drift then
         $newClassifier \leftarrow trainingNewClassifier(a)$ 
         $k \leftarrow k \cup newClassifier$ 
        if size( $K$ )  $\geq \ell$  then
             $removeWorstClasssifier(k)$ 
         $\lambda \leftarrow SourcesDomainWeights(\Psi, k)$ 
         $\omega \leftarrow classWiseWeights(K, a)$ 
         $S \leftarrow projectedSourceDomain(\Psi, \lambda)$ 
        for source in  $S$  do
             $newClassifier \leftarrow trainingNewClassifier(source)$ 
             $\psi \leftarrow \psi \cup newClassifier$ 
         $prediction \leftarrow getPrediction(a, k, \psi, \lambda, \omega)$ 
return prediction

```

Table 6.4: Runtimes (in seconds) for the Online Learning, ADWIN, and EDMM.

Technique	Runtime	Learning Times
Online Learning	3102	100
ADWIN detector	2257	63
EDMM detector	1948	40

CHAPTER
7

Conclusions and Future Work

This chapter summarizes the key findings of this study on incremental learning in data streams and presents potential directions for future research to further improve and expand the methodology.

7.1 Conclusions

- This study introduces a novel approach integrating oversampling techniques, concept drift detection, and Dynamic Ensemble Selection (DES) to identify the most suitable ensemble classifiers.
- We demonstrated the effectiveness of the methodology through extensive experiments across various datasets, including benchmarks, real-world streams, and synthetic data.
- A key feature is the rapid detection of concept drift, enabling the system to adapt quickly, ensuring continued relevance and performance in real-time scenarios.
- We addressed the minority class problem using advanced oversampling and KNN algorithms to prevent overlapping class instances.
- The DES technique was pivotal in selecting the most effective classifiers, optimizing overall performance.

- Our methodology excels in handling multiclass imbalanced stream challenges, maintaining high performance as class distributions evolve.
- The approach is marked by its adaptability, efficiency, and scalability, offering dynamic model updates to ensure real-time reliability.
- Despite its advantages, the methodology has limitations such as the significant time required to generate non-overlapping synthetic instances, and its reliance on the performance of MLSMOTE and MLSOL techniques.

7.2 Future Work

- Future research should focus on developing more advanced oversampling techniques that avoid overlapping synthetic instances, thus reducing the computational burden.
- Exploring meta-learning methods to better assess imbalanced multiclass ratios and improve minority class identification could enhance the effectiveness of the approach.
- Further development of advanced concept drift detection algorithms is needed to improve the timely recognition of drift and better handle the evolving data distributions.
- The incorporation of alternative ensemble strategies and deep learning techniques could lead to further improvements in both drift detection and classifier performance.
- Expanding the methodology to address a broader range of real-world applications, including streaming from diverse domains, will enhance its applicability and robustness.
- Future work should also focus on refining classifier selection and prediction methods, especially for handling multisource domains in real-time environments.
- Investigating the use of deep learning methods to predict future drifts and optimize classifier performance is a promising direction for improving model adaptation and performance.

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