Graphical Abstract

Adaptable and Interpretable Framework for Anomaly Detection in SCADA-based Industrial Systems

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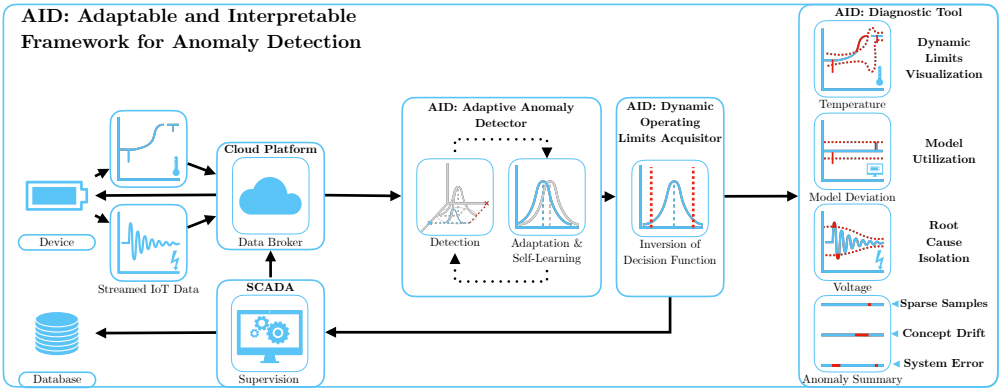

Highlights

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- Interpretable anomaly detector with self-supervised adaptation
- Demonstrates interpretability by providing dynamic operating limits
- Leverages self-learning approach on streamed IoT data
- Utilizes existing SCADA-based industrial infrastruture
- Offers faster response time to incidents due to root cause isolation

Adaptable and Interpretable Framework for Anomaly Detection in SCADA-based Industrial Systems

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Abstract

In this paper, we introduce an Adaptable and Interpretable Framework for Anomaly Detection (AID) designed for industrial systems utilizing IoT data streams on top of well-established SCADA systems. AID leverages dynamic conditional probability distribution modeling to capture the normal operation of dynamic systems and isolate the root causes of anomalies at the level of individual inputs. The self-supervised framework dynamically updates parameters of underlying model, allowing it to adapt to non-stationarity. AID interprets anomalies as significant deviations from conditional probability, encompassing interactions as well as both spatial and temporal irregularities by exposing them as features. Crucially, AID provides dynamic operating limits to integrate with existing alarm handling mechanisms in SCADA-based IoT systems. Two industrial-scale case studies demonstrate AID's capabilities. The first study showcases AID's effectiveness on energy storage system, adapting to changes, setting context-aware limits for SCADA, and ability to leverage a physics-based model. The second study monitors battery module temperatures, where AID identifies hardware faults, emphasizing its relevance to energy storage safety. A benchmark evaluation on real data shows that AID delivers comparable performance to other self-learning adaptable anomaly detection methods, with the significant advancement in diagnostic capabilities for improved system reliability and performance.

Keywords: Anomaly detection, Root cause isolation, Iterative learning, Statistical learning, Self-supervised learning

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1. Introduction

Anomaly detection systems play a critical role in risk-averse systems by identifying abnormal patterns and adapting to novel expected patterns in data. These systems are particularly vital in the context of Internet of Things (IoT) devices that continuously stream high-fidelity data to control units.

In this rapidly evolving field with long-spanning roots, Chandola et al. (2009) conducted an influential review of prior research efforts across diverse application domains. Recent studies have underscored the need for holistic and tunable anomaly detection methods accessible to operators (Laptev et al., 2015; Kejariwal, 2015; Cook et al., 2020).

Cook et al. denote substantial aspects that pose challenges to anomaly detection in IoT, including the temporal, spatial, and external context of measurements, multivariate characteristics, noise, and nonstationarity (Cook et al., 2020). To address these complexity issues, Zhang et al. (2024) have successfully employed spatially distributed sensors and time-relative modulation. Their approach has proven effective, particularly in the context of complex non-linear systems, offering potential solutions to some of the challenges posed by IoT data. Huang et al., on the other hand, tackled the problems of detecting global outliers, local outliers, and outlier clusters simultaneously. Their proposed approach, based on density estimation, relies on the notion that density distributions should exhibit minimal variations in local areas. To achieve this, they introduce a novel turning ratio metric, which reduces reliance on hyperparameters and enhances anomaly detection (Huang et al., 2023).

Additionally, feature engineering techniques play a crucial role in capturing contextual properties and enhancing anomaly detection performance (Fan et al., 2019). However, it is worth noting that feature engineering may introduce categorical variables and significantly increase the dimensionality of the data, requiring specific methods for handling large data, sizeable data storage, and substantial computational resources (Talagala et al., 2021). Recently, Li et al. introduced an attribute-weighted outlier detection algorithm, designed for high-dimensional datasets with mixtures of categorical and numerical data. Their approach assigns different weights to individual attributes based on their importance in anomaly detection and uses these weights to calculate distances between data points. Notably, Li et

al. demonstrated the superior performance of their algorithm compared to state-of-the-art methods (Li and Liu, 2024). Another strategy for handling high-dimensional data involves using deep learning methods with synthetic normal data to enhance the detection of outliers with subtle deviations, as proposed in Du et al. (2024).

Nevertheless, the presence of nonstationarity, often stemming from concept drift (a shift in data patterns due to changes in statistical distribution) and change points (permanent alterations in system state), presents a substantial challenge (Salehi and Rashidi, 2018). In practical scenarios, those changes tend to be unpredictable in both their spatial and temporal aspects. Consequently, they require systems with solid outlier rejection capabilities of intelligent tracking algorithms (Barbosa Roa et al., 2019). This underscores the critical importance of an anomaly detection method's ability to adapt to evolving data structures, especially in long-term deployments. Nevertheless, as (Tartakovsky et al., 2013) remarked, immediate detection is not a feasible option unless there is a high tolerance for false alarms. Promissing balance between early transition detection and low false alarm rate could be achieved by contrastive learning approach. Deldari et al. (2021) have shown that by evaluating cosine similarity between predicted future representation and anticipated representation of time windows, it is possible to detect evolution in data with high accuracy.

The adaptation of batch models at scale introduces a significant latency in detector adaptation (Wu et al., 2021). Incremental learning methods allowed adaptation while restraining the storage of the whole dataset. The supervised operator-in-the-loop solution offered by Pannu et al. (2012) showed the detector's adaptation to data labeled on the flight. Others approached the problem as sequential processing of bounded data buffers in univariate signals (Ahmad et al., 2017) and multivariate systems (Bosman et al., 2015).

1.1. Related Work

Recent advances in anomaly detection have broadened its scope to include root cause identification governed by the development of explanatory methods capable of diagnosing and tracking faults across the system. Studies can be split into two groups of distinct approaches. The first group approaches explainability as the importance of individual features (Carletti et al., 2019; Nguyen et al., 2019; Amarasinghe et al., 2018). Those studies allow an explanation of novelty by considering features independently. The

second group uses statistical learning creating models explainable via probability. For instance, the integration of variational Bayesian inference probabilistic graph neural network allowed Zhang et al. to model the posterior distribution of sensor dependency for gas leakage localization on unlabeled data (Zhang et al., 2023b). Yang et al. recently proposed a Bayesian network (BN) for fault detection and diagnosis. In this BN, individual nodes of the network represent normally distributed variables, whereas the multiple regression model defines weights and relationships. Using the predefined structure of the BN, the authors propose offline training with online detection and diagnosis (Yang et al., 2022).

Given the infrequent occurrence of anomalies and their potential absence in training data, the incorporation of synthetic data or feature extraction for various detected events emerges to assist diagnosis of the system. Brito et al. designed synthetic faults based on expert knowledge and introduced them into a transfer learning classifier to exploit faults in rotating machinery, with a subsequent explanation layer (Brito et al., 2023). Conversely, We et al. leveraged feature selection to expose various types of abnormal behavior. The team presents competitive performance while using change in relationships to provide causal inference (Wu et al., 2024).

However, it is crucial to underscore that offline training, as previously emphasized, is inherently inadequate when it comes to adapting to anticipated novel patterns, rendering it unsuitable for sustained, long-term operation on IoT devices.

This paper emphasizes the importance of combining adaptability in interpretable anomaly detection and proposes a method that addresses this challenge in real industrial systems. Here we report the discovery and characterization of an adaptive anomaly detection method for existing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, employing streaming IoT data. The ability to diagnose multivariate data while providing root cause isolation via statistical learning, extends our previous contribution to the field as presented in (Wadinger and Kvasnica, 2023). The proposed algorithm aims to represent a general method that aids a range of existing safety-critical systems where anomaly diagnosis and identification are paramount. The schematic overview of the proposed method's integration is presented in Figure 1.

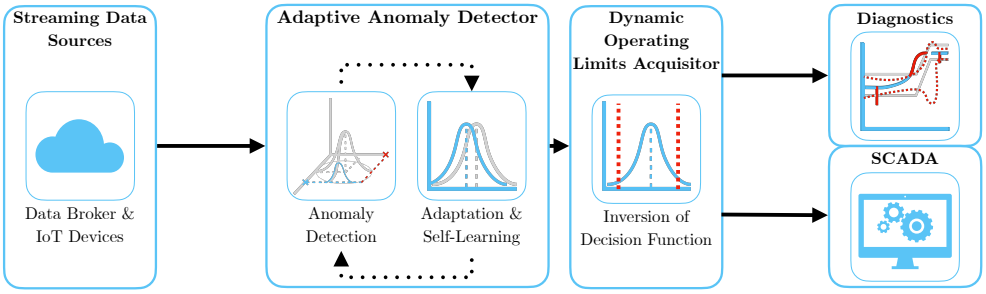

Figure 1: Schematic representation of the proposed method AID.

1.2. Novelty of proposed approach

The idea of using statistical outlier detection is well-established. We highlight the impactful contributions of Yamanishi et al. in (Yamanishi and Takeuchi, 2002; Yamanishi et al., 2004). The authors propose a method for detecting anomalies in a time series. The method is based on the assumption that the continuous data is generated by a mixture of Gaussian distributions, while discrete data is modeled as histogram density. The authors solve the problem of change point detection as well. However, the adaptation system is unaware of such changes, making the moving window the only source of adaptation. Online vectorized forecasting methods based on well-established autoregression and moving averages have recently shown the capability of adapting to non-stationarity in multivariate systems without supervision Melnyk et al. (2016); Zhang et al. (2023a). Their extension to diagnostic tasks is yet to be explored. Our self-supervised approach facilitates intelligent adaptation concerning detected change points, to increase the speed of adaptation where the probability of concept drift is high. By leveraging its ability to adapt to changes in operational states, our proposed method operates autonomously when such changes occur. Moreover, Yamanishi et al. (2004) does not attempt to isolate the root cause of the anomaly. Our approach extends statistical outlier detection by incorporating interpretability. This is achieved by evaluating the inverse cumulative distribution function of the latest conditional probabilities for each measurement, considering the remainder of the measurements, and establishing limits that define the threshold for normal event probabilities.

A limited number of studies have focused on adaptation and interpretability within the framework of anomaly detection. Two recent contributions in

this area are made by Steenwinckel et al. as reported in (Steenwinckel, 2018; Steenwinckel et al., 2021). In Steenwinckel (2018), the authors emphasize the importance of combining prior knowledge with a data-driven approach to achieve interpretability, particularly concerning root cause isolation. They propose a novel approach that involves extracting features based on knowledge graph pattern extraction and integrating them into the anomaly detection mechanism. This graph is subsequently transformed into a matrix, and adaptive region-of-interest extraction is performed using reinforcement learning techniques. To enhance interpretability, a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) reconstructs a new graphical representation based on selected vectors. However, it is important to note that the validation of this idealized approach is pending further investigation. Lately, Steenwinckel et al. (2021) introduced a comprehensive framework for adaptive anomaly detection and root cause analysis in data streams. While the adaptation process is driven by user feedback, the specific mechanism remains undisclosed. The authors present an interpretation of their method through a user dashboard, featuring visualizations of raw data. This dashboard is capable of distinguishing between track-related problems and train-related issues, based on whether multiple trains at the same geographical location approach the anomaly. Meanwhile, our efforts are directed towards the development of a self-supervised method that can learn autonomously, reducing the reliance on human supervision, which is often constrained by time limitations and can lead to significant delays in adaptation. Our method is distinguished by its straightforward statistical reasoning and the ability to isolate the root cause of anomalies. The interpretability of our method is demonstrated through the establishment of dynamic operating limits for each signal, leveraging conditional probabilities derived from the signal and other system measurements and features. This provides operators with a clear understanding of the system's state and the underlying causes of anomalies and offers interoperability with existing alarm handling mechanisms in SCADA which utilize operating limits. To the best of our knowledge, this study appears to be one of the initial attempts to introduce a self-supervised approach for adaptive anomaly detection and root cause isolation in SCADA-based systems utilizing IoT data streams.

1.3. Validation

Two real-world industrial-scale case studies showcase that our proposed method has the capacity to explain anomalies, isolate the root cause, and

allow adaptation to change points, allowing long-term deployment at the end users of energy storage systems. We observe similar detection performance, albeit with lower scalability, on benchmark data when comparing our approach to well-established unsupervised anomaly detection methods in streamed data which create a bedrock for many state-of-the-art contributions, such as One-Class SVM (Amer et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2014; Krawczyk and Woźniak, 2015; Miao et al., 2019; Gözüaçık and Can, 2021), and Half-Space Trees (Wetzig et al., 2019; Lyu et al., 2020).

1.4. Practical Impact

Potential applications of the proposed method are in the field of energy storage systems, where the ability to detect anomalies and isolate their root causes while adapting to changes in operation and environment, is crucial for the system safety. The proposed method is designed to be integrated into the existing infrastructure of the systems, utilizing IoT data streams on top of well-established SCADA systems. SCADA systems continuously monitor these process data in real-time, embodying alarm handling mechanisms, which are designed to notify operators of the system's abnormal behavior and drive attention to the root of the problem. By comparing the current values to the upper and lower operating limits, they take action when a variable exceeds or falls below these limits. However, safe operating limits are often established based on a combination of equipment design limits and the dynamics of the process (Stauffer and Chastain-Knight, 2021). Those are indifferent to the actual state of the system and environmental conditions. The proposed method allows the establishment of dynamic operating limits, based on the current state of the system and its environment, with direct utilization in SCADA systems expecting minimal intervention to existing infrastructure. This allows the system to operate closer or further from its design limits, increasing its safety and profitability. The dynamic operating limits allow operational metrics monitoring, making potential early detection and prevention easier. Using general adaptable methods without interpretability, on the other hand, may pose safety risks and lower total financial benefits, as the triggered false alarms may need to be thoroughly analyzed, resulting in prolonged downtimes.

The main contribution of the proposed solution to the developed body of research is that it:

- Interpretable anomaly detector with self-supervised adaptation

- Demonstrates interpretability by providing dynamic operating limits
- Leverages self-learning approach on streamed IoT data
- Utilizes existing SCADA-based industrial infrastruture
- Offers faster response time to incidents due to root cause isolation

1.5. Paper Organization

The rest of the paper is structured as follows: We begin with the problem and motivation in **Section 1**, providing context. Next, in **Section 2**, we lay the theoretical groundwork. Our proposed adaptive anomaly detection method is detailed in **Section 3**. We then demonstrate real-world industrial-scale applications in **Section 4**. Finally, we conclude the paper in **Section 5**, summarizing findings and discussing future research directions.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we present the fundamental ideas that form the basis of the developed approach. Subsection 2.1 explains Welford's online algorithm, which can adjust distribution to changes in real-time. Subsection 2.2 proposes a two-pass implementation that can reverse the impact of expired samples. The math behind distribution modeling in Subsection 2.3 establishes the foundation for the Gaussian anomaly detection model discussed in Subsection 2.5, followed by conditional probability computation in Subsection 2.4. The last subsection of the preliminaries is devoted to the definition of anomalies.

2.1. Welford's Online Algorithm

Welford introduced a numerically stable online algorithm for calculating mean and variance in a single pass through data. Therefore, the algorithm allows the processing of IoT device measurements without the need to store their values (Welford, 1962).

Given measurement x_i where $i = 1, ..., n$ is a sample index in sample population n, the corrected sum of squares S_n is defined as

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2, \tag{1}$$

with the running mean $\bar{x}_n$ defined as previous mean $\bar{x}_{n-1}$ weighted by proportion of previously seen population $n-1$ corrected by current sample as

$$\bar{x}_n = \frac{n-1}{n}\bar{x}_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n}x_n = \bar{x}_{n-1} + \frac{x_n - \bar{x}_{n-1}}{n}. \tag{2}$$

Throughout this paper, we consider the following formulation of an update to the corrected sum of squares:

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + (x_n - \bar{x}_{n-1})(x_n - \bar{x}_n), \tag{3}$$

as it is less prone to numerical instability due to catastrophic cancellation, significant loss of precision due to subtracting two nearly equal numbers. Finally, the corresponding unbiased variance is

$$s_n^2 = \frac{S_n}{n-1}. \tag{4}$$

This implementation of the Welford method requires the storage of three scalars: $\bar{x}_{n-1}$; n; S_n.

2.2. Inverting Welford's Algorithm

Based on (2), it is clear that the influence of the latest sample over the running mean decreases as the population n grows. For this reason, regulating the number of samples used for sample mean and variance computation has crucial importance over adaptation. Given access to the instances used for computation and expiration period $t_\mathrm{e} \in \mathbb{N}_0^{n-1}$, reverting the impact of x_{n-t_e} can be written as follows

$$S_{n-1} = S_n - (x_{n-t_\mathrm{e}} - \bar{x}_{n-1})(x_{n-t_\mathrm{e}} - \bar{x}_n), \tag{5}$$

where the reverted mean is given as

$$\bar{x}_{n-1} = \frac{n}{n-1}\bar{x}_n - \frac{1}{n-1}x_{n-t_\mathrm{e}} = \bar{x}_n - \frac{x_{n-t_\mathrm{e}} - \bar{x}_n}{n-1}. \tag{6}$$

Finally, the unbiased variance follows the formula:

$$s_{n-1}^2 = \frac{S_{n-1}}{n-2}. \tag{7}$$

Notably, inversion allows the algorithm to keep a constant rate of adaptation at the cost of storing a bounded data buffer.

2.3. Statistical Model of Multivariate System

Multivariate normal distribution generalizes the multivariate systems to the model where the degree to which variables are related is represented by the covariance matrix. Gaussian normal distribution of variables is a reasonable assumption for process measurements, as it is a common distribution that arises from stable physical processes measured with noise (Mishra and Datta-Gupta, 2018). The general notation of multivariate normal distribution is:

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}_k(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}), \tag{8}$$

where k-dimensional mean vector is denoted as $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\bar{x}_1, ..., \bar{x}_k)^T \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is the $k \times k$ covariance matrix, where k is the index of last random variable.

The probability density function (PDF) $f(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ of multivariate normal distribution is denoted as:

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{k/2}|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})}, \tag{9}$$

where $\boldsymbol{x}$ is a k-dimensional vector of measurements x_i at time i, $|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|$ denotes the determinant of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}$ is the inverse of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.

The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of a multivariate Gaussian distribution describes the probability that all components of the random vector $\boldsymbol{X}$ take on a value less than or equal to a particular point q in space, and can be used to evaluate the likelihood of observing a particular set of measurements or data points. In other words, it gives the probability of observing a random vector that falls within a certain region of space. The standard notation of CDF is as follows:

$$F(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \int_{-\infty}^{q} f(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}, \tag{10}$$

where $\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}$ denotes the integration over all k dimensions of $\boldsymbol{x}$.

As the equation (10) cannot be integrated explicitly, an algorithm for numerical computation was proposed in Genz (2000).

Given the PDF, we can also determine the value of $\boldsymbol{x}$ that corresponds to a given quantile q using a numerical method for inversion of CDF (ICDF) often denoted as percent point function (PPF) or $F(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})^{-1}$. An algorithm that calculates the value of the PPF is part of standard statistical software tools.

2.4. Conditional Probability Distribution

Considering that we observe particular vector $\boldsymbol{x}_i$, we can update probability distributions, calculated according to the rules of conditional probability, of individual measurements within the vector given the rest of the measurements in $\boldsymbol{x_i}$. Let's assume multivariate normal distribution (8) and without loss of generality, that the vector $\boldsymbol{x}_i$ can be partitioned into subset variable x_a, and complement vector $\boldsymbol{x_b}$ as follows

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i = \begin{bmatrix} x_a \\ \boldsymbol{x_b} \end{bmatrix} \text{ with dimensions } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \\ (k-1) \times 1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{11}$$

where $a = 1, ..., k$ and $\boldsymbol{b} = \{1, 2, \ldots, k\}$ where $a \notin \boldsymbol{b}$. This partitioning allows us to define block-wise mean and covariance as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_a \\ \boldsymbol{\mu_b} \end{bmatrix} \text{ with dimensions } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 \\ (k-1) \times 1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{12}$$

and

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2_{aa} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma_{ab}} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma_{ba}} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma_{bb}} \end{bmatrix} \text{ with dimensions } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 & 1 \times (k-1) \\ (k-1) \times 1 & (k-1) \times (k-1) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{13}$$

Subsequently, we can derive the conditional distribution of any subset variable x_a, given the complementary vector $\boldsymbol{x_b}$. This conditional distribution conforms to a univariate normal distribution, characterized by:

$$X_a \mid \mathbf{X_b} \sim \ \mathcal{N}(\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}, \sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}). \tag{14}$$

where $\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ denotes the conditional mean and $\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ represents the conditional variance. These crucial parameters can be computed by applying the Schur complement as follows:

$$\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}} = \sigma^2_{aa} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma_{ab}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma^{-1}_{bb}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma_{ba}}, \tag{15}$$

for the conditional variance $\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$, while the conditional mean, denoted as $\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$, is determined by:

$$\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}} = \mu_a + \boldsymbol{\Sigma_{ab}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma^{-1}_{bb}}(\boldsymbol{x_b} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_b). \tag{16}$$

The conditional variance $\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ essentially represents the Schur complement of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma_{bb}}$ within the overall covariance matrix $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.

2.5. Gaussian Anomaly Detection

From a viewpoint of statistics, outliers are commonly denoted as values that significantly deviate from the mean. Under the assumption that the spatial and temporal characteristics of a system, observed over a moving window, can be suitably represented as normally distributed features, we assert that any anomaly can be identified as an outlier.

In empirical fields like machine learning, the three-sigma rule (3σ) provides a framework for characterizing the region of a distribution within which normal values are expected to fall with high confidence. This rule renders approximately 0.265% of values in the distribution as anomalous.

The 3σ rule establishes the probability that any sample x_a of a random vector X falls within a given CDF over a semi-closed interval as the distance from the conditional mean $\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ of 3 conditional variances $\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ and gives an approximate value of q as

$$q = P\{|x_a - \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}| < 3\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}\} = 0.99735. \tag{17}$$

Utilizing a probabilistic model of normal behavior, we can determine threshold values x_l and x_u corresponding to the closed interval of the CDF where this probability is established. The inversion of Equation (10) facilitates this calculation, yielding:

$$x_\mathrm{l} = F((1 - P\{|x_a - \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}| < 3\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}\}); \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}, \sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}})^{-1}, \tag{18}$$

for the lower limit, and

$$x_\mathrm{u} = F((P\{|x_a - \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}| < 3\sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}\}); \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}, \sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}})^{-1}, \tag{19}$$

for the upper limit. These lower and upper limits together form vectors $\boldsymbol{x}_\mathrm{l}$ and $\boldsymbol{x}_\mathrm{u}$, respectively, defining the region of normal system operation. This region is conceptualized as a hypercube in the feature space, with each dimension bounded by the corresponding feature limits, as computed using Equations (18) and (19) for all $a = 1, ..., k$; $\boldsymbol{b} = \{1, 2, \ldots, k\}$ where $a \notin \boldsymbol{b}$. The approximation of a confidence ellipse as a hypercube can be employed to represent the region of normal system operation for individual variables of a multivariate system, rendering it as an aid for visual representation.

The predicted state of the system, denoted as y_i, and the normality of signals $\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i}$ at time i are determined based on the maximum distance of observations from the center of the probabilistic density. The center of the

probabilistic density corresponds to the vector of conditional means $\mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}$ with respect to other features. The calculation of this distance involves the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of observations and conditional distributions, as follows:

$$F(x_a; \mu_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}, \sigma^2_{a|\boldsymbol{b}}) : a = 1, ..., k;\ \boldsymbol{b} = \{1, 2, \ldots, k\} \text{ where } a \notin \boldsymbol{b}. \tag{20}$$

Subsequently, operation states of individual inputs are defined as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } T \leq (20) \\ 1 & \text{if } T > (20), \end{cases} \tag{21}$$

where T represents a threshold that distinguishes between normal signal measurement ($\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i} = 0$) and abnormal ($\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i} = 1$).

For the overall abnormality of the system, any anomaly in signals $\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i}$ is considered, resulting in:

$$y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 1 \in \boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \tag{22}$$

defining the discrimination boundary between system operation where $y_i = 0$ indicates normal system operation, and $y_i = 1$ indicates anomalous operation.

2.6. Anomaly Definition

This subsection provides an overview of the definition of anomalies in data analysis and their categorization, setting conventions for this paper.

In the realm of data analysis, anomalies are conspicuous deviations from the anticipated patterns within a dataset. Traditionally, the task of anomaly detection has relied upon unsupervised methodologies, wherein the identification of "outliers" entails the comparison of data points in both temporal and spatial contexts. This approach, often referred to as point-wise anomaly detection, classifies a data point as an anomaly when it exhibits significant dissimilarity from its neighboring data points (Iglesias Vázquez et al., 2023).

The concept of point anomalies, influenced by factors such as temporal and spatial aspects, can be further categorized into conditional and contextual anomalies (Ruff et al., 2021).

Nevertheless, this conventional method may not be suitable for scenarios characterized by collective anomalies, where clusters of abnormal data points

coexist. A more pragmatic approach defines anomalies as deviations from established "normal" patterns, resembling the principles of semi-supervised learning. Change point detection, in a similar vein, can be regarded as a relative approach that takes into account the varying dynamics of changes, whether they occur gradually or abruptly (Iglesias Vázquez et al., 2023).

It is imperative to recognize that the interpretation of anomalies, outliers, and novelties can vary upon the application. Anomalies typically garner significant attention, while outliers are often treated as undesirable noise and are typically excluded during data preprocessing. Novelties, on the other hand, signify new observations that necessitate model updates to adapt to an evolving environment (Ruff et al., 2021).

Notwithstanding the differences in terminology, methods employed for the identification of data points residing in low-probability regions, irrespective of whether they are referred to as "anomaly detection," "outlier detection," or "novelty detection," share fundamental similarities (Iglesias Vázquez et al., 2023).

For visual clarity, Figure 2 illustrates the differences between point anomalies, collective anomalies, and change points.

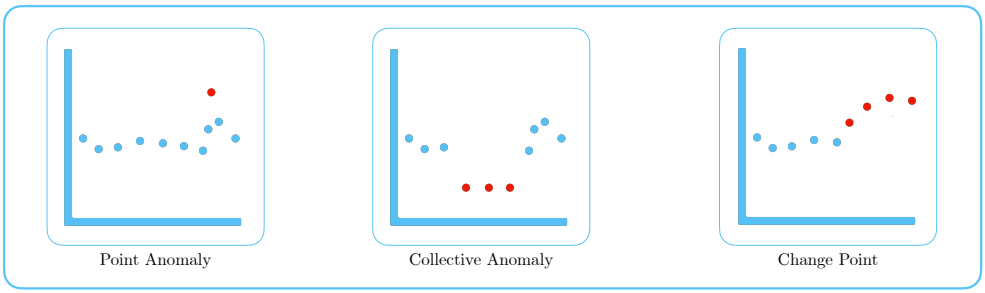

Figure 2: Ilustration of sample scenarios of point anomaly (measurement with significant dissimilarity), collective anomaly (cluster of abnormal points), and change point (initial sequence of changed operation) detection.

3. Adaptive Anomaly Detection and Interpretation Framework

In this section, we present an adaptive and interpretable detection framework (AID) designed for SCADA-based industrial systems with streaming IoT devices. Our approach is rooted in the foundational concepts discussed in Preliminaries 2. We systematically leverage these theoretical building blocks to introduce our method in a coherent manner.

Our approach begins by modeling the system as a dynamic multivariate normal distribution, allowing it to effectively handle pervasive nonstationary effects and interactions that impact industrial processes. We address several critical factors, such as change points, concept drift, and seasonal effects. Our primary contribution is the integration of an adaptable self-supervised system with root cause identification and dynamic operating limits setting. This unique combination empowers our online statistical model to diagnose anomalies through three distinct mechanisms.

Firstly, we employ conditional probability calculations to assess the normality of the system's operating conditions. This step ensures that our method identifies outliers within individual signal measurements and interprets the root causes of anomalies, facilitating faster and more precise diagnoses. Secondly, we detect abrupt changes due to concept drift, serving for faster adaptation to new operating conditions without human intervention. Thirdly, we harness interpretability as a tool to establish dynamic operating limits. These adaptive limits enable our framework to seamlessly integrate with existing SCADA-based infrastructure, a substantial advantage over existing solutions.

We have structured the subsequent sections to delve into the details of our proposed methodology by the logical flow of data. The upcoming subsection will cover the anomaly detection mechanism, followed by sections on online training and adaptation. The next subsection will describe dynamic operating limits setting, followed by diagnostic capabilities. Lastly, we describe how those parts converge into a diagnostic tool. For a schematic representation of our proposed method, with a highlighted subsection attribution, please refer to Figure 3. For a concise technical representation of our proposed method, please refer to Algorithm 1.

3.1. Online detection

In the online detection phase, AID distinguishes between normal and anomalous observations based on the model of the system's normal behavior.

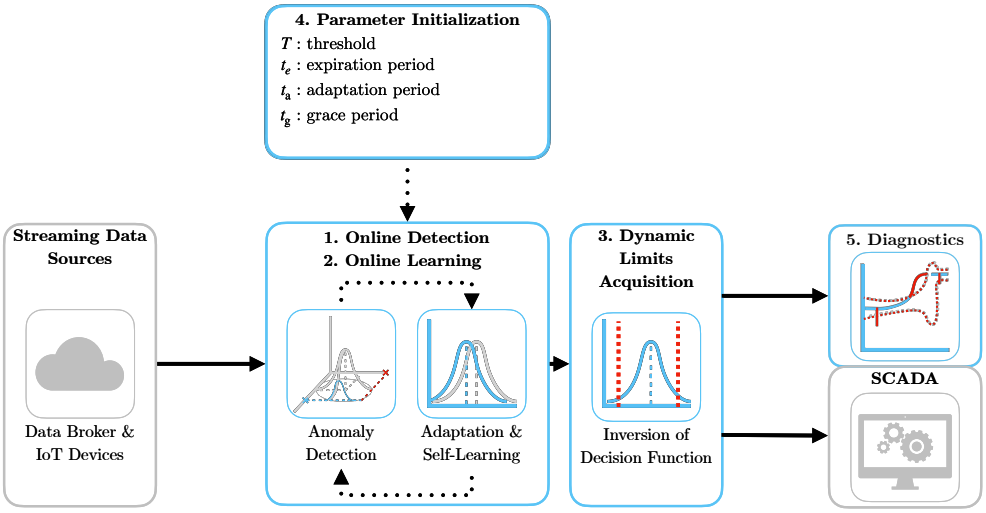

Figure 3: Schematic representation of the proposed method AID with parameter initialization. Colored boxes represent steps described within the subsection.

The detection pipeline is event-triggered upon the arrival of a new set of measurements.

To initiate the process, AID computes the properties of the conditional distribution based on the current observations given the dynamic joint normal distribution. These calculations are performed for each element of the process observation vector $\boldsymbol{x}_i$ at time instance i. Specifically, we calculate the conditional mean using (16) and the conditional variance using (15) for elements of $\boldsymbol{x}_i$. These computations yield univariate conditional distributions for individual signals and features. These conditional distributions play a crucial role in assessing the abnormality of signals and features concerning their relationships with other elements of $\boldsymbol{x}_i$. Consequently, AID inherently considers the interactions between input signals and features.

The determination of anomalous behavior is influenced by the parameter T, which is a user-defined hyperparameter representing a probabilistic threshold that sets the boundary between normal and anomalous behavior. Details regarding the selection of an appropriate value for T are discussed in Subsection 3.5. Whenever an anomaly is detected within one of the signals or features, it triggers an alert regarding the overall system's anomalous behavior, as described in (22). Nevertheless, individual determinations of

anomalies serve as a diagnostic tool for isolating the root causes of anomalies, as further discussed in Subsection 3.4.

The proposed mechanism is applicable to both point anomalies and collective anomalies. In the case of collective anomalies, their duration and deviation may serve as precursors to concept drift in the system. To identify concept drift, we introduce a parameter adaptation period t_{a}. Given the predicted system anomaly state from (22) as y_i over a window of past observations $\boldsymbol{y}_i = \{y_{i-t_{\mathrm{a}}}, ..., y_i\}$ bounded by t_{a}, the following test determines anticipated change points:

$$\frac{\sum_{y \in \boldsymbol{y}_i} y}{n(\boldsymbol{y}_i)} > T. \tag{23}$$

Here, $n(\boldsymbol{y}_i)$ denotes the dimensionality of $\boldsymbol{y}_i$. The logic behind (23) is that over an adaptation period t_{a}, change points can be distinguished from collective anomalies and point anomalies due to their minimum duration, while T allows for some overlap with previous normal conditions.

Our framework anticipates unexpected novel behavior, including non-uniformities in sampling. Assuming that the distribution of sampling times remains stable over the long term, we can employ equivalent steps on the observed time between samples to discriminate signal loss from long-term anomalous network events.

3.2. Online learning

AID's training process follows an incremental self-learning approach, allowing for online model updates as new samples arrive. Self-learning, in this context, focuses on selecting only relevant data for training to maintain the model's long-term relevancy and stability. This approach proves particularly valuable in handling streaming data, where human supervision can introduce significant computational delays, affecting response time in a sequential setting.

In online anomaly detector training, regardless of the type of supervision, the learning is typically built upon observations of the normal state. We introduce a grace period denoted as t_{g} to enable model calibration in the initial stages after deployment. During this period, when normality in samples is expected, the model learns from all observations. Subsequently, self-supervised and unsupervised detectors are expected to make autonomous decisions.

However, in the case of industrial systems, the drifts in the concept might often render the normal state anomalous, slowing down or preventing adaptation completely. This is particularly true for the case of seasonal effects, where the system is expected to operate in a different mode for a certain period of time. To address this issue, AID's adaptation incorporates two self-supervised mechanisms.

Firstly, the model is updated if the observation at time instance i is marked normal in the detection phase. In the case of a dynamic multivariate probability distribution, the updated parameters are $\boldsymbol{\mu_i}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma_i}$ at time instance i. Update of the mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu_i}$ and covariance matrix $\boldsymbol{\Sigma_i}$ is governed by Welford's online algorithm using equation (2) and (4) respectively. Samples beyond the expiration period t_{e}, discussed further in Subsection 3.5, are disregarded during the second pass. The effect of expired samples is reverted using inverse Welford's algorithm for mean (6) and variance (7), accessing the data in the bounded internal buffer. For more details, refer to Subsection 2.2.

The second mechanism, which enables adaptation to anomalous samples, relies on changepoint detection. This mechanism operates under the assumption that detected changepoints represent new operational states with limited overlap with the previous ones, as specified in Equation 23. It facilitates rapid adaptation to evolving data patterns without the need for human intervention. The selection of the adaptation period t_{a}, as discussed further in Subsection 3.5, is thus crucial for determining the speed of adaptation or the potential mitigation of the second adaptation mechanism.

To anticipate potential deviations from sampling uniformity, we calculate the cumulative distribution function (CDF) over the univariate normal distribution of sampling. We operate under the assumption that, over the long term, the distribution of sampling times remains stable, employing a one-pass update mechanism of (2) and (4), for efficiency. To proactively detect subtle changes in sampling patterns, self-supervised learning is employed, leveraging anomalies weighted by the deviation from $(1 - F(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2))$ for training.

3.3. Dynamic limits acquisition

As we wrote in the subsection 1.4 Practical Impact, the monitoring mechanisms of SCADA readily depend on the upper and lower operating limits of individual parameters of the system. In the case of industrial systems,

these limits are often defined by the sensor's designed limits and the system dynamics. These limits are typically static and do not account for the dynamically changing conditions. Our proposed method AID is capable of setting dynamic operating limits, thus allowing integration into the existing SCADA-based infrastructure.

The threshold T applied on the dynamic multivariate normal distribution creates a confidence hyperellipse at T probability level. Such a hyperellipse would not allow to effectively bound individual signals as it depends on values that other jointly distributed variables take. Nevertheless, by computing the conditional for process observation vector $\boldsymbol{x}_i$ at time instance i, we can compute the conditional density function for individual signals. By applying threshold T on individual conditional probabilities, we establish a hypercube defined by lower and upper threshold values, denoted as $\boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{l}}$ and $\boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{u}}$, respectively. These thresholds are derived from (18) and (19), incorporating updated model parameters. Lower and upper thresholds play a pivotal role as dynamic operating limits. They may be used as an addition to static operating limits used by monitoring systems in SCADA, accounting for spatial factors, such as multipoint measurements, temporal factors, such as aging, and actual environmental conditions that influence sensor operation. Moreover, any violation of the limits is also detected as an anomaly.

3.4. Diagnostics

One of the crucial aspects of diagnostics is root cause isolation. Using the ability to detect anomalies in individual signals and features, AID is capable of isolating the root cause of anomalies with consideration of their mutual relationships. This is achieved by computing the conditional probability of individual signals and features given the rest of the process observation vector $\boldsymbol{x}_i$ at time instance i. The dynamic process limits further enhance the diagnosis by providing the context of the anomaly, including the extent of deviation from normal operation and the direction of the deviation. The proposed diagnostic mechanism is particularly useful in the case of collective anomalies, where the unified direction of deviations is expected. AID's interpretability is an asset for domain experts to understand why certain anomalies are flagged and enables operators to assess the system's state by visualizing limits and deviations, thus detecting the speed at which the process variable approaches the limits before an anomaly occurs.

3.5. Model Parameters Initialization

The model initialization is governed by defining two required hyperparameters of the model: the expiration period (t_e) and the threshold (T). The expiration period determines the window size for time-rolling computations, impacting the proportion of outliers within a given timeframe and directly influencing the relaxation (with a longer expiration period) or tightening (with a shorter expiration period) of dynamic signal limits. Additionally, we introduce a grace period t_g, which defaults to *uite*, allowing for model calibration. During this grace period, system anomalies are not flagged to prevent false positives and speed up self-supervised learning, introduced in Subsection 3.2. t_g can take any value smaller than *uite*, if the detection must be delivered fast after intergration. The length of the expiration period inversely correlates with the model's ability to adapt to sudden changes. The adaptation and detection of significant drifts in the data-generating process, such as changes in central tendency, is managed through the adaptation period t_a. A shorter t_a results in faster adaptation to new operating conditions, while making the system vulnerable to prolonged collective anomalies. A longer t_a results in slower adaptation to significantly deviating new operations, but allows longer alerts regarding collective anomalies. In most cases, $t_a = 1/4t_e$ offers optimal performance.

As a general rule of thumb, expiration period t_e should be determined based on the slowest observed dynamics within the multivariate system. The threshold T defaults to the three-sigma probability of q in (17). Adjusting this threshold can fine-tune the trade-off between precision and recall. A lower threshold boosts recall but may lower precision, while a higher threshold enhances precision at the cost of recall. We recommend starting with the default values of other parameters and making adjustments based on real-time model performance, as the model's interpretability can reduce the time and effort required for fine-tuning. The presence of one non-default interpretable hyperparameter facilitates quick adaptation of AID in a broad range of use cases.

Algorithm 1 Online Detection and Identification Workflow

Input: expiration period t_{e}

Output: system anomaly y_i, signal anomalies $\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i}$, sampling anomaly $y_{\mathrm{t},i}$, change-point $y_{\mathrm{c},i}$, lower thresholds $\boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{l},i}$, upper thresholds $\boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{u},i}$,

Initialisation :

$i \leftarrow 1;\ n \leftarrow 1;\ T \leftarrow (17);\ \boldsymbol{\mu} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{x_0};\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \leftarrow \mathbf{1}_{k\times k};\ \mu_{\mathrm{t}} \leftarrow 0;\ \sigma_{\mathrm{t}}^2 \leftarrow 1;$

compute $F(\boldsymbol{x_0}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ using algorithm in Genz (2000);

LOOP Process

loop

  $\boldsymbol{x}_i, t_i \leftarrow$ RECEIVE();

  $\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i} \leftarrow$ PREDICT$(\boldsymbol{x}_i, T)$ using (21);

  $y_i \leftarrow$ PREDICT$(\boldsymbol{y}_{\mathrm{s},i})$ using (22);

  $\boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{l},i},\ \boldsymbol{x}_{\mathrm{u},i} \leftarrow$ GET$(T, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ using (18), (19);

  $y_{\mathrm{t},i} \leftarrow$ PREDICT$(t_i - t_{i-1})$ using (21);

  $\mu_{\mathrm{t}}, \sigma_{\mathrm{t}}^2 \leftarrow$ UPDATE$(t_i - t_{i-1}, \mu_{\mathrm{t}}, \sigma_{\mathrm{t}}^2)$ using (2), (4);

  if (22) $= 0$ **or** (23) **then**

    $\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \leftarrow$ UPDATE$(\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, n)$ using (2), (4);

    if (23) **then**

      $y_{\mathrm{c},i} \leftarrow 1;$

    else

      $y_{\mathrm{c},i} \leftarrow 0;$

    end if

    $n \leftarrow n + 1;$

    for $\boldsymbol{x}_{i-t_{\mathrm{e}}}$ **do**

      $\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \leftarrow$ REVERT$(\boldsymbol{x}_{i-t_{\mathrm{e}}}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, n)$ using (6), (7);

      $n \leftarrow n - 1;$

    end for

  end if

  $i \leftarrow i + 1;$

end loop

4. Case Study

This section presents two case studies on real industrial-scale energy storages and a real data benchmark to demonstrate the effectiveness and applicability of our proposed approach. We investigate the properties and performance of the approach using signals from IoT devices in an energy system and streamed benchmark system data. The successful deployment demonstrates that this approach is suitable for existing industrial systems utilizing IoT data streams on top of well-established SCADA systems.

4.1. Battery Energy Storage System TERRA

In the first case study, we demonstrate our proposed method on real industrial-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) TERRA, depicted in Fig 4. TERRA has an installed capacity of 151 kWh distributed among 10 modules with 20 Li-ion NMC cells. The Inverter's nominal power is 100 kW. The TERRA reports measurements of State of Charge (SoC), supply/draw energy set-points, and inner temperature, at 6 positions (channels) of each battery module. A substantial size of the system, which is 2.4x2.4x1.2m (HxWxD), requires a proper cooling mechanism. The cooling is handled by forced air from the HVAC system and inner fans, while the fire safety system is passive. Tight battery temperature control is needed to optimize performance and maximize the safety and battery's lifespan. Identifying anomalous events and removal of corrupted data might yield significant improvement in the process control level and increase the reliability and stability of the system.

The AID is integrated into the existing software infrastructure of the system, allowing detection and diagnosis of the system using streamed IoT data. Here we replay a 9-day stream of historical measurements of the device, to demonstrate key features of AID.

For demonstration purposes, the expiration period t_{e} is set to 4 days, as the system is expected to adapt to the new behavior, due to the transfer of the module to the outside. The grace period was reduced to 1 day, to observe the reaction to concept drift. The threshold T is set to 3.5σ to reduce the number of alarms. The frequency will be higher as the detector is protected and self-supervised. The adaptation period t_{a} is changed to 3 hours as this is the time constant of the temperature to the unit change of supply/draw power demand.

Figure 4: Photograph of the actual studied TERRA energy storage unit with open doors (left), and closed doors (right).

Figure 5 depicts the average cell temperature measurement of the TERRA for all 10 modules. The data are normalized to the range $[0, 1]$ to protect the sensitive business value. The light red area represents the region out of dynamic operating limits as provided by AID. On 7$^{\text{th}}$ March 2022, the system was relocated from the inside of the building to the outside power socket. The system was expected to adapt to the new behavior within 4 days as specified by t_{e}. Nevertheless, due to the protection of the model from learning the anomalous data, the new behavior could not be captured as the system was not operating within the safe limits. The adaptation started three days later, as only some of the measurements within the safe region after transfer were learned. Therefore, the importance of self-supervised adaptation to changes in data is crucial. As we can see, the change points detection according to (23) alerted such change shortly after the TERRA was connected to a data broker, while the length of the adaptation period enabled discrimination from collective anomaly.

In Figure 6 we depict the same measurement with a changepoint adaptation mechanism in place. The mechanism speeds up the adaptation to the new behavior, as the system is allowed to learn from anomalous data when they represent the changed behavior. The adaptation took approximately 6 times shorter.

The default sampling rate of the incoming signal measurements is 1 minute. However, network communication of the IoT devices is prone to

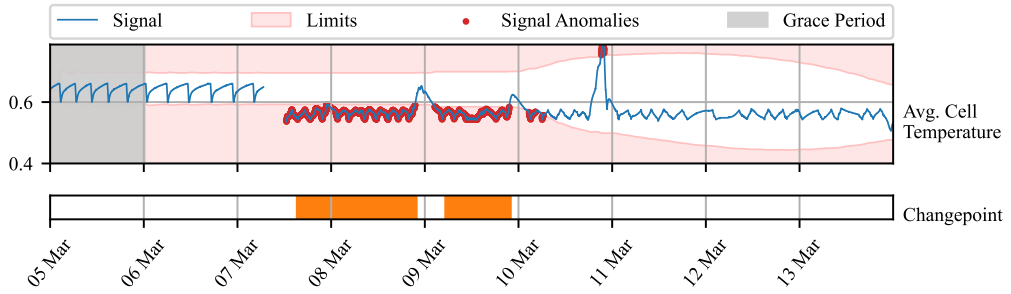

Figure 5: Detection of anomalies using model **without** adaptation to change points in normalized average cell temperature of TERRA observed over nine days (blue line). The model alerts anomalies (red dots) for approximately three days. The dynamic operating limits (light red area), given by the model without adaptation to change points, are stagnant during the period of detected change point (orange bars), which is triggered t_a hours after anomaly is alerted. The adaptation of the model to novel behavior starts as the t_e is approached.

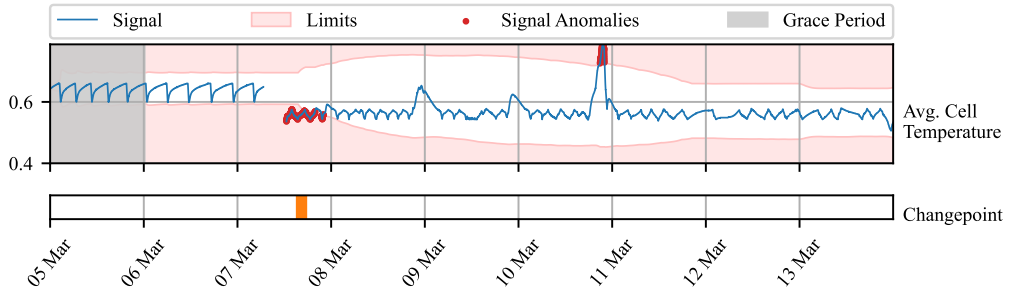

Figure 6: Detection of anomalies using model **with** adaptation to change points over the same historical measurement as in Figure 5. The change point is detected t_a hours after the anomaly is alerted, triggering adaptation to changed behavior more than two days sooner, compared to model **without** adaptation to change points in Figure 5. The adaptation is reflected in changes in dynamic operating limits. The system alerts anomalies for approximately 10 hours.

packet dropout, which results in unexpected non-uniformities in sampling from the perspective of the SCADA system. The transfer of TERRA was accompanied by the disconnection of IoT sensors from the data broker which might be considered an anomaly. The system can detect such anomalies as well, as depicted in Figure 7. Along with known disconnection, the system alerted two more non-uniformities of shorter extend, scaled in the figure for better visibility. The short loss of signal was caused by the packet drop, as it impacted only a few consecutive measurements. Various confidence levels could be used to further analyze and map potential causes to the duration of the outage.

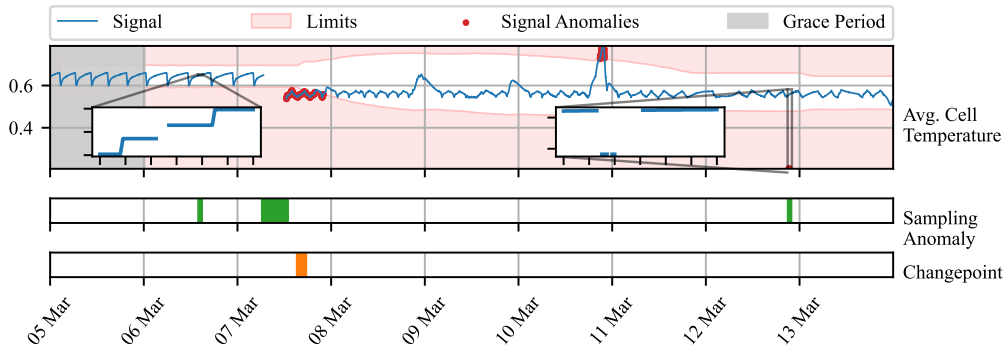

Figure 7: Depiction of accompanying task of sampling anomaly detection (green bars) for model **with** adaptation to change points from Figure 6. Zoomed areas focus on short events of abnormal sampling detected by AID. The second zoomed area also highlights faulty measurements, which the system marked as point anomalies (red dots in the main figure area). The scaling in Figure 5 and Figure 6 for visibility rendered this fault out of the axis.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the outlier, left uncaptured due to increased variance of the distribution in a period of adaptation. Observing multiple variables, where some might be influenced less by the change in behavior, might be beneficial in such cases. The industrial partner provided a physics-based model of the battery module temperature, defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\mathrm{bat},i+1} = T_{\mathrm{bat},i} + T_{\mathrm{s}}(q_{\mathrm{fan}} V_{\mathrm{b,max}} \rho c_{\mathrm{p}} (T_{\mathrm{out}} - T_{\mathrm{bat},i}) + V_{\mathrm{c,max}} q_{\mathrm{circ.fan}} \rho c_{\mathrm{p}} T_{\mathrm{bat},i} \\ + q_{\mathrm{circ.fan}} (P_{\mathrm{cool}} q_{\mathrm{cool}} P_{\mathrm{heat}} q_{\mathrm{heat}}) + c_{\mathrm{scale}} Q_{\mathrm{bat}} + q_{\mathrm{inner\ fans}} \\ - (V_{\mathrm{b,max}} q_{\mathrm{fan}} V_{\mathrm{c,max}} q_{\mathrm{circ.fan}}) \rho c_{\mathrm{p}} T_{\mathrm{bat},i}) / (m_{\mathrm{bat}} c_{\mathrm{p,b}}) \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

When combined with an averaged measurement of battery module temperature, we could compute the difference between real and predicted temperature. Such deviation can be useful in detecting unexpected patterns in temperature due to the impact of external disturbance and aging. Nevertheless, it may be inaccurate as the physics-based model is simplified and does not account for spatial aspects, like temperature gradients as well as different dynamic effects of charging and discharging on temperature. For instance, in Fig. 4 during the first two days we see, that the cooling dynamic is not captured well, resulting in a subtle positive difference between average cell temperature and the temperature predicted by the model. In combination with the raw measured average of the temperature, the AID captures the outlier on 9^{th} March which could not be captured in a univariate setting. The physics-based model exposes temporal aspects of the behavior as it considers the dynamics of its inputs. The rapid increase in temperature w.r.t the modeled dynamics due to environmental conditions will draw a sharp positive peak in the difference between the real and predicted temperature, which will slowly vanish. Based on the significance of the deviation, the peak will be notified as a single-point anomaly or collective anomaly.

This case study demonstrated AID's effectiveness within the context of the energy storage system, specifically the TERRA system. The AID system exhibited adaptability to changes in the operational environment, contributing to its versatility and robustness. Additionally, it facilitated the establishment of dynamic operating limits for SCADA systems, considering context of the device such as environmental conditions or aging. Furthermore, the AID system showcased its capability to operate with a physics-based model, enhancing the precision of anomaly detection processes. This highlights the potential of AID as a valuable tool within complex industrial systems. The validity of our proposed approach was verified by our industrial partner, who confirmed that the detected anomalies were indeed caused by the aforementioned events.

4.2. Kokam Battery Module

A second case study presents temperature profile monitoring of individual modules of battery pack TERRA deployed at the premises of the end user. During the operation, a hardware fault of module's 9 cooling fan occurred on 23^{rd} August 2023 at 17:12:30. Our industrial partner was interested in finding out, whether such an event could be captured by an anomaly detection system. Each of the 10 modules, embodies 20 cells measured by 6 spatially

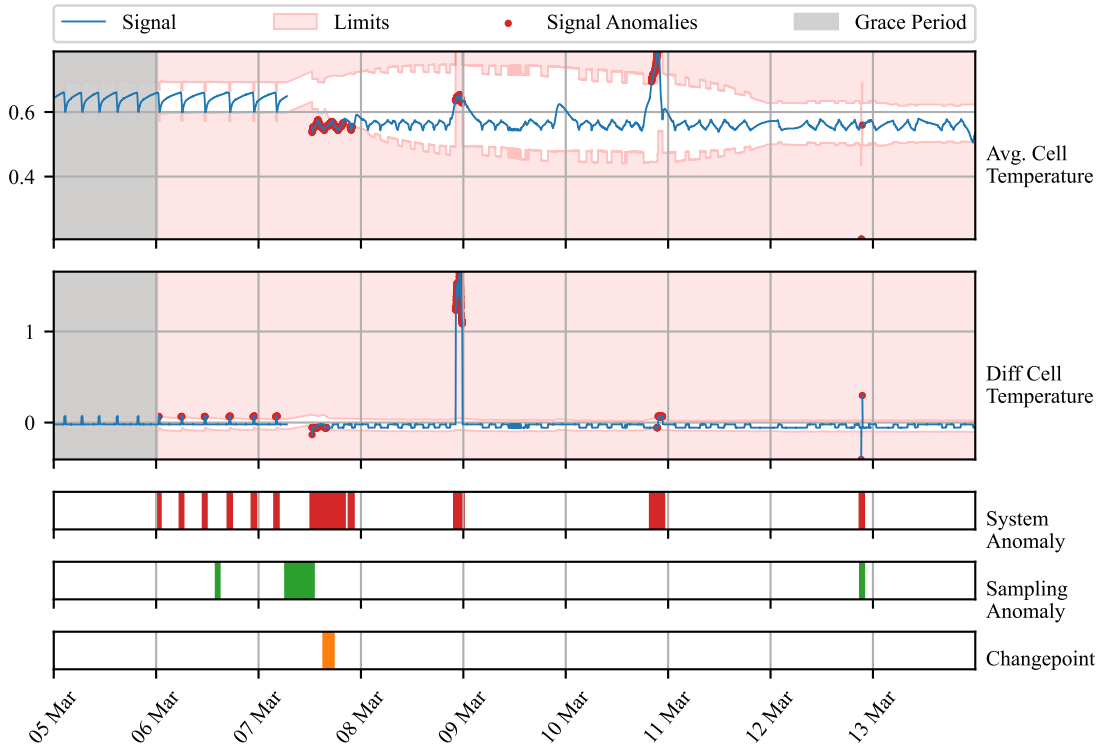

Figure 8: Time series of TERRA measurements observed over 9 days (blue line). The y-axis renders the average temperature of all cells and modules after the normalization to the range of $[0, 1]$. The light red area represents an area out of dynamic operating limits for individual signals. Observations out of the limits are marked by a red dot. Orange bars represent the times, at which changepoints were detected. Green bars represent periods where sampling anomaly was alerted. Red bars denote the period where any of the signals contained anomaly. Grace period is grayed out.

distributed sensors as shown in Figure 9. The measurements are sent in 30-second intervals and processed in a streamed manner by SCADA. With the availability of the temperature profiles for all the modules, we computed the deviation of the observed value from the average of all the modules' temperature measurements. The ground truth information about the fan fault was provided to the best of the operator's knowledge. However, this information serves for evaluation only, as the system operates in a self-supervised manner.

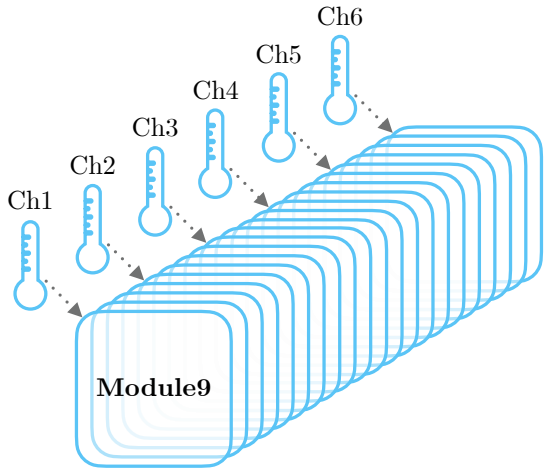

Figure 9: Module 9 with 20 cells and 6 sensors measuring the temperature at each 4^{th} cell.

Our anomaly detection system was, in this case, initialized for the operation in production. The expiration period of 7 days, allowed the system to adapt to weekly seasonality due to the usage of the battery following work week. The grace period was kept at the default value, equal to t_{e}. The threshold value was shifted to a 4 sigma value of 99.977% which makes the the frequency of anomalous events approximately once a week given 30-second sampling. The adaptation period was held constant as the deployed system is not expected to change its behavior dramatically on a daily basis.

In Figure 10 we observe 4 days of operation around the period of fan fault occurrence. The deviations between the observed temperature measured by channels of module 9 and the average temperature of all modules are displayed. The dynamic operating limits tightly envelop temperatures measured by the sensors in the middle of the module (refer to Figure 9),

while measurements at both sides deviate more due to the proximity to the walls and sources of disturbance. We observed multiple alarms raised by various channels individually before the fan fault. These anomalies, while not addressed here further, could be subjects of interest for further investigation by system operators. Meanwhile, the fan fault at the center of our focus is alarmed based on three measurements, namely channels 1, 2, and 3. From the zoomed views, we can observe a sharp increase in the temperature deviation. The alarm is on until 24^{th} August at noon, when significant fluctuations vanish followed by temporary settling of the temperature. On 25^{th} August at 11:21, increased temperature fluctuations are followed by an increase of temperature similar to the initial one. AID alerts this fault again based on measurements by channels 1, 2, and 3.

Time series of TERRA measurements observed over 9 days (blue line). The y-axis renders the average temperature of all cells and modules after the normalization to the range of $[0, 1]$. The light red area represents an area out of dynamic operating limits for individual signals. Observations out of the limits are marked by a red dot. Orange bars represent the times, at which changepoints were detected. Green bars represent periods where sampling anomaly was alerted. Red bars denote the period where any of the signals contained anomaly. Grace period is grayed out.

Interestingly, during the presence of a fault in the fan, two more periods where the fan started operating again followed as depicted in Figure 11. Periods of operation were interrupted again on 27^{th} and 28^{th} August respectively in the early morning hours. In both of the cases, AID detected the presence of the fault at the moment of occurrence. In the first case, channel 3 reported an anomaly slightly before the increase in temperature, due to abnormal fluctuation happening prior to faults.

This case study demonstrates the effectiveness of the AID framework in identifying hardware faults within the context of energy storage systems. It showcases the system's ability to harness spatially distributed sensors that measure the same process variable. The AID system successfully pinpointed a fault in a cooling fan during real-world production operations, underlining its practical utility and its relevance in enhancing the safety of energy storage systems. Furthermore, the incorporation of adaptation mechanisms ensures that the system can be deployed over extended periods without necessitating resource-intensive retraining. Additionally, the concept of dynamic operating limits introduced in this study holds promise for integration with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) monitoring systems, enabling proac-

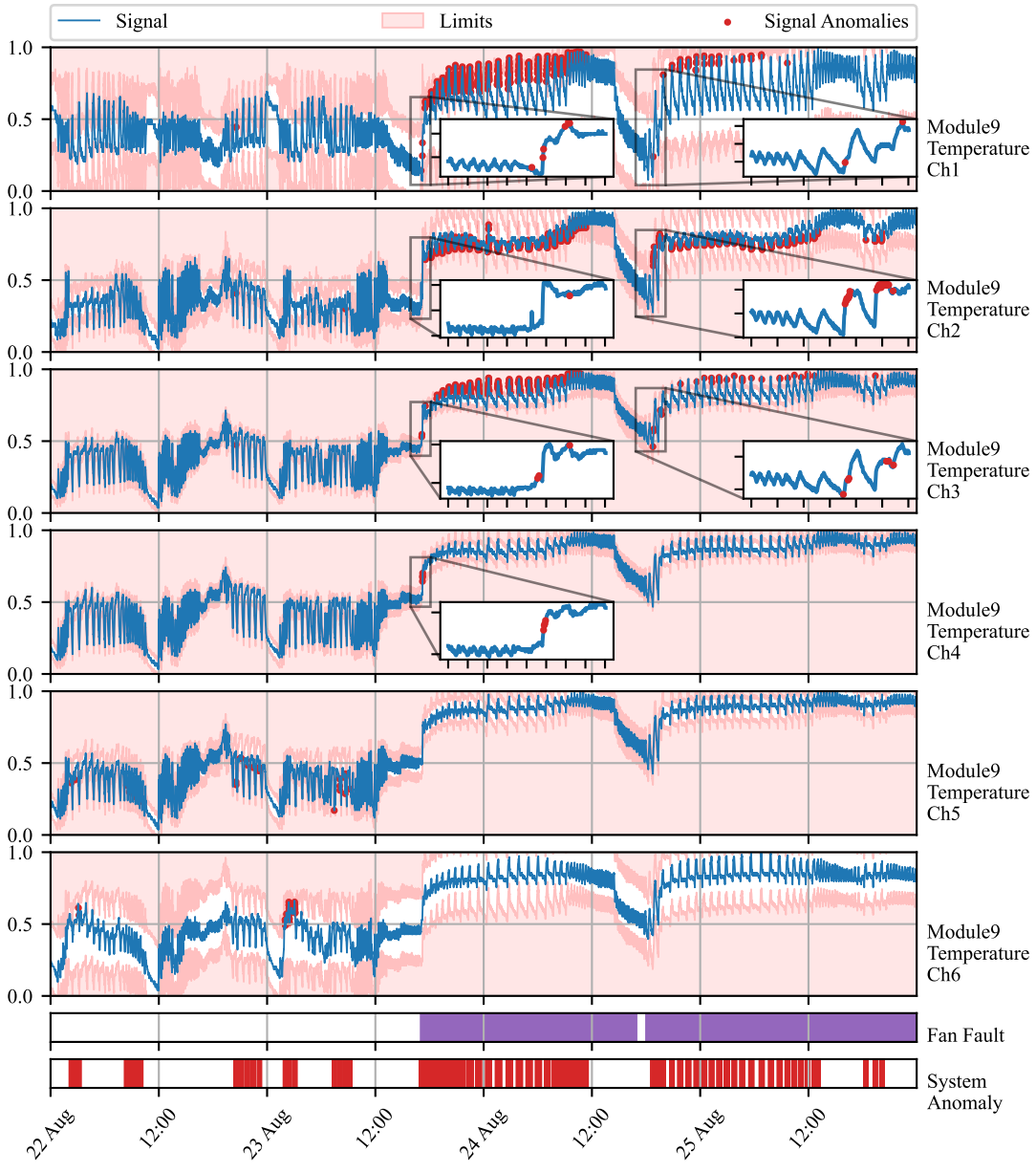

Figure 10: Time series of battery module 9 measurements (blue line). The y-axis renders the normalized deviations of temperature from the average of all modules. Signal anomalies are marked as red dots. The light red area represents an area out of dynamic operating limits. True fan faults are marked by purple bars. Green bars represent the times of changepoint detection. Red bars denote the period where any signal anomaly.

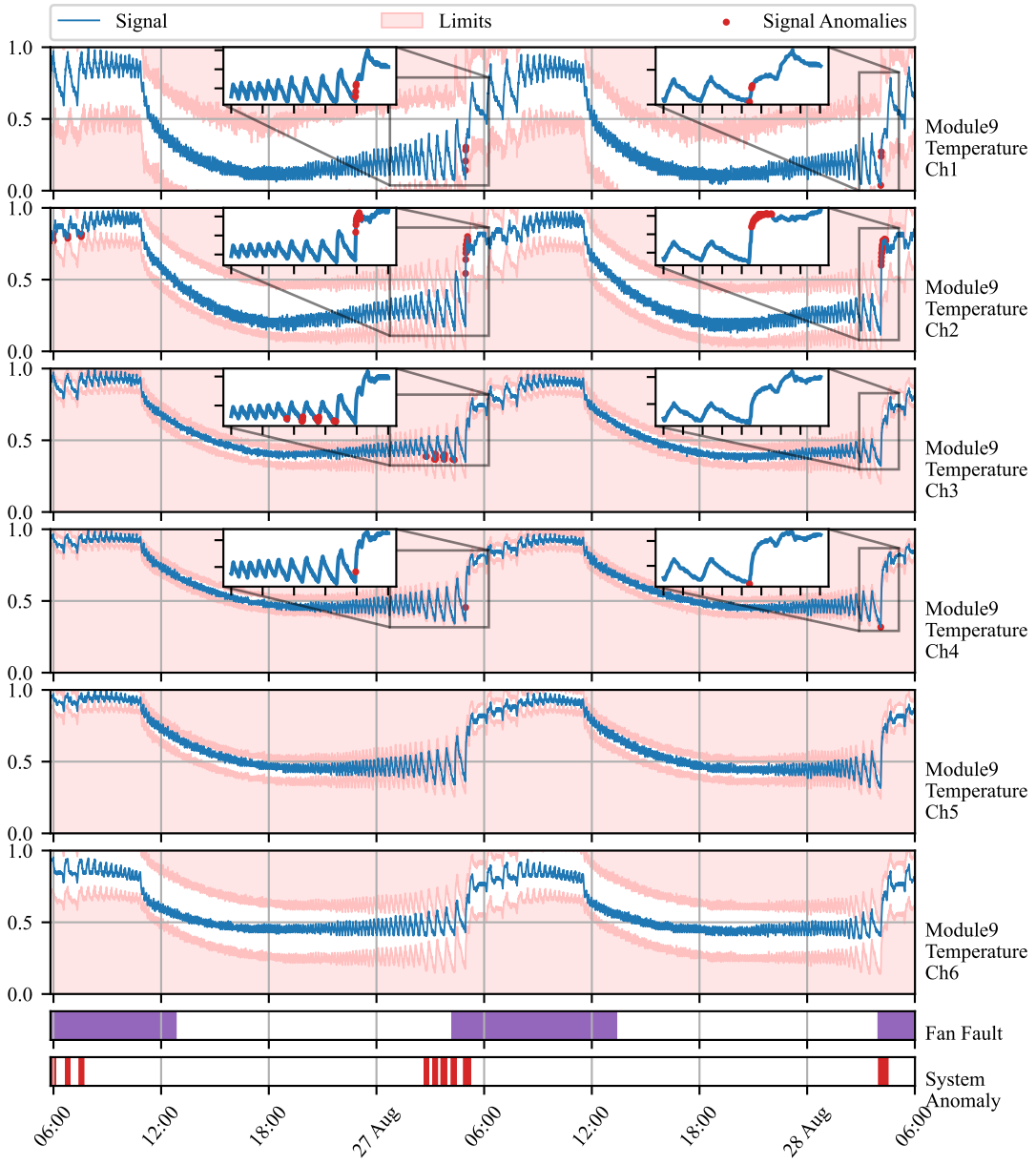

Figure 11: Time series of battery module 9 measurements (blue line). The y-axis renders the normalized deviations of temperature from an average of all modules. Signal anomalies are marked as red dots. The light red area represents an area out of dynamic operating limits. True fan faults are marked by purple bars. Green bars represent the times of changepoint detection. Red bars denote the period where any of the signals contained anomaly.

tive responses in situations where human life, equipment, or the environment may be at risk.

4.3. Real Data Benchmark

The benchmarking comparison in this subsection evaluates the AID framework against adaptive unsupervised detection methods, specifically One-Class Support Vector Machine (OC-SVM) and Half-Space Trees (HS-Trees). These methods are widely recognized for their iterative learning capabilities on multivariate time-series data, making them suitable for anomaly detection in dynamic systems, as previously discussed in the Introduction 1.3.

The comparison is based on the Skoltech Anomaly Benchmark (SKAB) dataset, a real-world dataset with annotated labels distinguishing between anomalous and normal observations (Katser and Kozitsin, 2020). SKAB is used for this purpose, as no established benchmarking multivariate data were found regarding energy storage systems similar to the ones studied in Subsection 4.1 and Subsection 4.2. The SKAB dataset involves experiments related to rotor imbalance, where various control actions and changes in water volume are introduced to the system. It encompasses eight features and exhibits both gradual and sudden drifts.

To ensure fairness in the benchmark, data preprocessing adheres to best practices for each method. OC-SVM employs standard scaling, while HS-Trees use normalization. Our proposed AID method requires no scaling. Preprocessing is performed online, simulating a real production environment, with running mean and variance for standard scaling and running peak-to-peak distance for normalization, as supported by the online machine learning library "river" (Montiel et al., 2021).

The optimal hyperparameters for both reference methods are found using Bayesian Optimization. Due to no further knowledge about the data generating process, and equity in benchmark, the hyperparameters of our proposed method were optimized using Bayesian Optimization as well. 20 steps of random exploration with 100 iterations of Bayesian Optimization were used, increasing default values set in the Bayesian Optimization library, to allow thorough exploration and increase the possibility of finding global optima in each case (Nogueira, 2014). The hyperparameters are optimized with the F1 score as a cost function first, to maximize both precision and recall on anomalous samples.

As adaptation is required and anticipated within benchmark datasets, the performance is evaluated iteratively, similarly to the operation after de-

ployment. The metric is updated with each new sample and its final value is used to drive Bayesian Optimization. The performance is evaluated using the best-performing model, found by Bayesian Optimization. The performance of the proposed method is evaluated on the same data as the models are optimized for.

Hyperparameter search ranges are specified, with values centered around default library values for OC-SVM and HS-Trees. The ranges are intentionally set wide to facilitate comprehensive exploration. The quantile filter threshold used in OC-SVM and HS-Trees aligns with the threshold used in AID. These hyperparameter ranges are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Hyperparameter Ranges for Detection Algorithms

Algorithm	**Hyperparameters**	**Default**	**Ranges**
AID	Threshold	0.99735	(0.85, 0.99994)
	t_e	-	(150, 10000)
	t_a	t_e	(50, 2000)
	t_g	t_e	(50, 1000)
OC-SVM	Threshold	-	(0.85, 0.99994)
	Learning Rate	0.01	(0.005, 0.02)
HS-Trees	Threshold	-	(0.85, 0.99994)
	N Trees	10	(0, 20)
	Max Height	8	(2, 14)
	Window Size	250	(100, 400)

The results for models optimized for the F1 score are summarized in Table 2, which includes precision, recall, F1 score, and average latency. Macro values are enclosed in brackets, representing the mean of the metric for both anomalies and normal data. A perfect detection achieves 100% in each metric except for the false positive rate (FAR), where a perfect detection attains 0%. According to the Scoreboard for various algorithms on SKAB's Kaggle page, all iterative approaches perform comparably to the batch-trained isolation forest and autoencoder, validating the optimization process. Notably, the proposed AID method outperforms both reference methods in terms of precision, recall, F1 score, area under curve, and false positive rate, despite having a 30-fold higher latency per sample. This highlights the scalability as a candidate for further development. Nevertheless, in this case, sampling of the benchmark data still offers enough time to deliver predictions with

sufficient frequency. Scalability analysis to number of features is presented in Subsection 4.4.

Table 2: Evaluation of models optimized for F1 score on SKAB dataset (Katser and Kozitsin, 2020). The best-performing model is highlighted in bold. Values in brackets represent macro values of the metric.

Algorithm	AID	HS-Trees	OC-SVM
Precision [%]	**41** (59)	36 (51)	39 (54)
Recall [%]	**80** (59)	74 (51)	63 (54)
F1 [%]	**54** (53)	48 (44)	48 (52)
AUC [%]	**59**	51	54
Mean Rolling AUC [%]	**57**	50	53
FPR [%]	**47**	56	48
Avg. Latency [ms]	1.45	**0.05**	**0.05**

Optimal hyperparameters found during Bayesian Optimization are detailed in Table 3. None of the parameters are at the edge of the provided ranges, serving as necessary proof of ranges being broad enough. Nevertheless, sufficient proof is not possible as multiple parameter ranges are not bounded by designed limits.

Table 3: Optimal hyperparameters of methods optimized for F1 score

Algorithm	**Hyperparameters**	**Found**
AID	Threshold	0.96442
	t_e	1136
	t_a	396
	t_g	546
OC-SVM	Threshold	0.86411
	Learning Rate	0.01956
HS-Trees	Threshold	0.99715
	N Trees	1
	Max Height	7
	Window Size	283

4.4. Scalability Analysis

We evaluate the scalability of the proposed method using temperature data from 10 battery modules with six temperature measurement points in the TERRA system. The data, sampled at 30-second intervals, are streamed to the AID system, which is initialized with parameters identical to those in Subsection 4.2. Processing the data in a streamed manner simulates a real production environment. Latency is measured as the time between the sample's arrival and the prediction's delivery, including model updates. This evaluation occurs in a containerized environment with a single core and 8 GB RAM. Latency measurement spans 20160 samples from 2023-08-21 to 2023-08-27, excluding all but one measurement made during the grace period of 1 day. We analyze latency for both the detection task alone and the combined task of detection and establishing dynamic process limits. Table 4 presents statistical indicators of the results, while the accompanying violin plots in the Figure offer visual insights into latency distribution for varying numbers of features. The significantly smaller minimum latency is attributed to evaluation during the grace period, where fewer computations are performed. The significantly higher maximum latency could be attributed to reverting the effect of multiple points after signal loss in time-series data occurs.

Table 4: Latency analysis of the proposed method AID with varying number of features.

Number of Features	**Detection** $\mu \pm \sigma$ (min, max) [ms]	**Detection + Limits** $\mu \pm \sigma$ (min, max) [ms]
1	0.37 ± 0.26 $(0.05, 31.7)$	0.63 ± 0.38 $(0.23, 35.9)$
10	2.25 ± 0.92 $(0.10, 13.6)$	5.24 ± 0.98 $(0.80, 15.1)$
20	5.46 ± 2.16 $(0.26, 30.6)$	14.7 ± 2.27 $(1.10, 47.5)$
30	10.9 ± 4.31 $(0.52, 42.4)$	34.3 ± 4.50 $(2.59, 72.4)$
40	20.7 ± 8.15 $(0.89, 52.7)$	69.5 ± 8.57 $(2.84, 140)$
50	97.3 ± 47.4 $(1.36, 1010)$	297 ± 59.4 $(3.94, 1330)$
60	142 ± 71.2 $(1.95, 1640)$	468 ± 111 $(7.08, 3710)$

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we demonstrate the capacity of adaptive conditional probability distribution to model the normal operation of dynamic systems em-

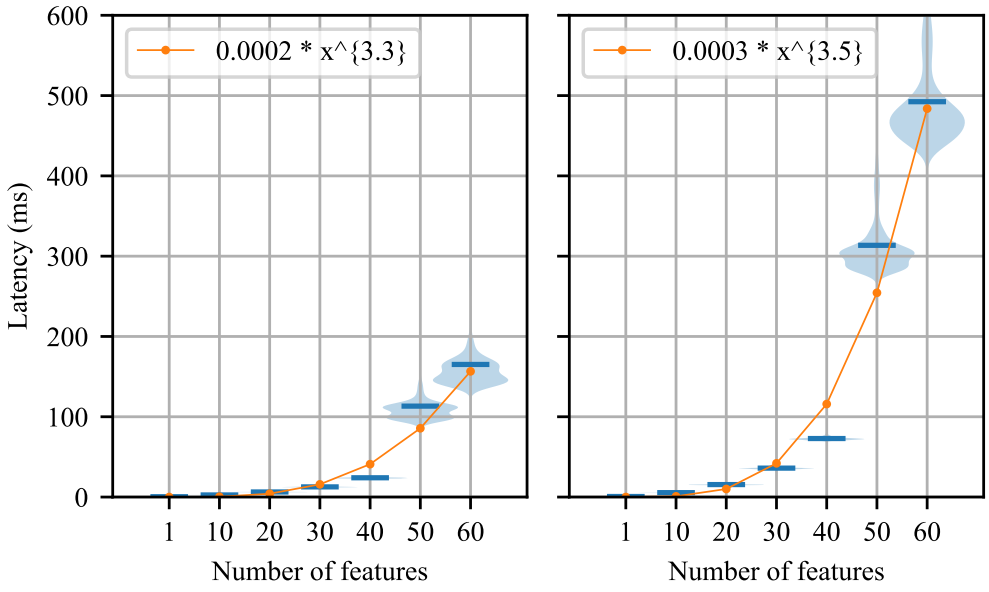

Figure 12: Analysis of latency distribution of the proposed method AID. Violin plots depict the distribution of the latency for varying number of features, while horizontal bars show mean latency.

ploying streaming IoT data and isolate the root cause of anomalies. AID dynamically adapts to non-stationarity by updating multivariate Gaussian distribution parameters over time. Additionally, self-supervision enhances the model by protecting it from the effects of outliers and increasing the speed of adaptation in response to autonomously detected changes in operation.

Our statistical model isolates the root causes of anomalies as extreme deviations from the conditional means vector, considering spatial and temporal effects encoded in features, as demonstrated in our case studies. This approach establishes the system's operational state by analyzing the distribution of signal measurements, computing the distance from the mean of conditional probability, and setting dynamic operating limits based on multivariate distribution parameters. Additionally, the detector alerts for non-uniform sampling due to packet drops and sensor malfunctions. These adaptable limits can be seamlessly integrated into SCADA architecture, enhancing context awareness and enabling plug-and-play compatibility with existing infrastructure.

The ability to detect and identify anomalies in the system, isolate the root cause of anomaly to specific signal or feature, and identify signal losses is shown in two case studies on data from operated industrial-scale energy storages. These case studies highlight the model's ability to adapt, diagnose the root cause of anomalies, and leverage both physics-based models and spatially distributed sensors. Unlike many anomaly detection approaches, the proposed AID method does not require historical data or ground truth information about anomalies, alleviating the general limitations of detection methods employed in the energy industry.

The benchmark performed on industrial data indicates that our model provides comparable results to other self-learning adaptable anomaly detection methods. This is an important property of our model, as it also allows for root cause isolation.

AID represents a significant advancement in the safety and profitability of evolving systems that utilize well-established SCADA architecture and streaming IoT data. By providing dynamic operating limits, AID seamlessly integrates with existing alarm mechanisms commonly employed in SCADA systems. To the best of our knowledge, this study appears to be one of the initial attempts to introduce a self-supervised approach for adaptive anomaly detection and root cause isolation in SCADA-based systems utilizing IoT data streams.

Future work on this method will include improvements to the change point detection mechanism, reduction in latency for high-dimensional data, and minimizing the false positive rate, which is a challenge for general plug-and-play models. We will also explore the ability to operate with non-parametric models, in contrast to Gaussian distribution.

Additional information

Our framework is openly accessible on GitHub at the following URL: `https://github.com/MarekWadinger/online_outlier_detection`.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Marek Wadinger: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Methodology; Resources; Software; Validation; Visualization; Writing - original draft; and Writing - review & editing. **Michal Kvasnica:** Conceptualization; Funding acquisition; Project administration; Resources; Supervision; Validation.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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