

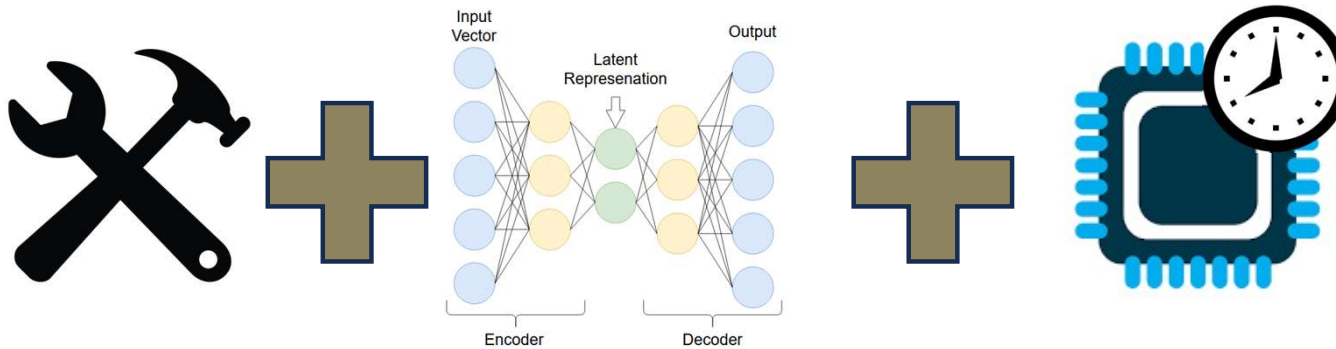
Machine Learning to Detect Attacks on CAN (Controller Area Network)



Finn Giegengack

Project Overview

- Deliverables
 - Machine learning pipeline to detect attacks on the CAN bus
 - Develop an autoencoder which can detect most attacks on CAN bus with reasonable accuracy



Project Overview

- Deliverables
 - Machine learning pipeline to detect attacks on the CAN bus
 - Develop an autoencoder which can detect most attacks on CAN bus with reasonable accuracy

Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?



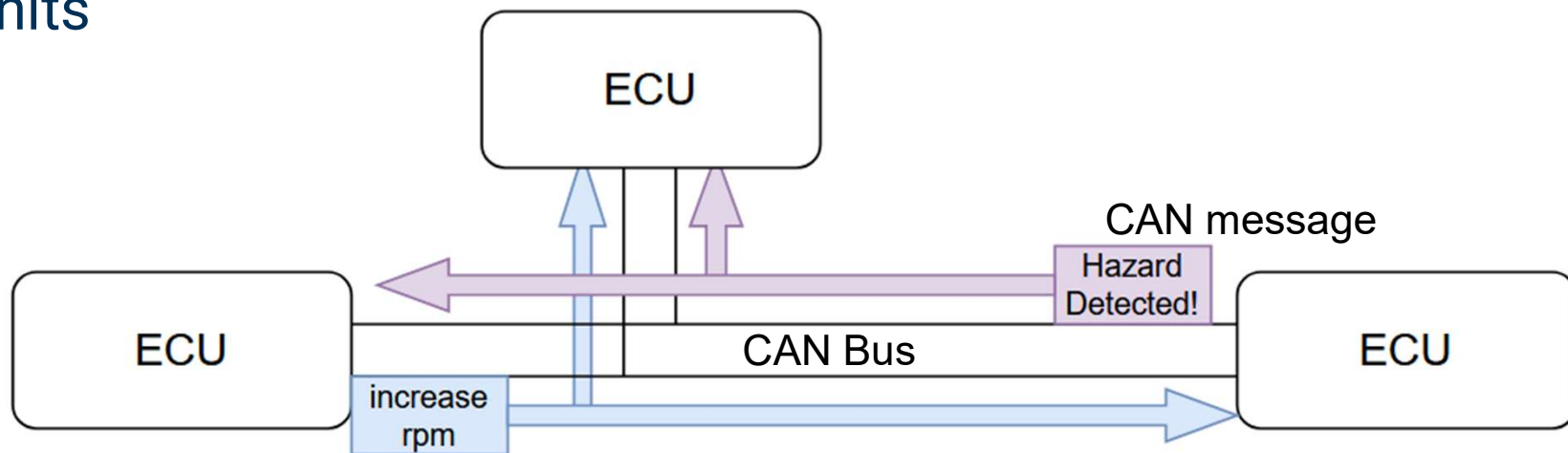
Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- CAN protocol
- Used commonly in automobiles
- Coordinates Communication between multiple Electronic Control Units





Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Designed before wireless, over-the-air updates, ...
- **Threat model/assumptions have changed**

Q: What happens if a malicious actor gains access to bus?



Background

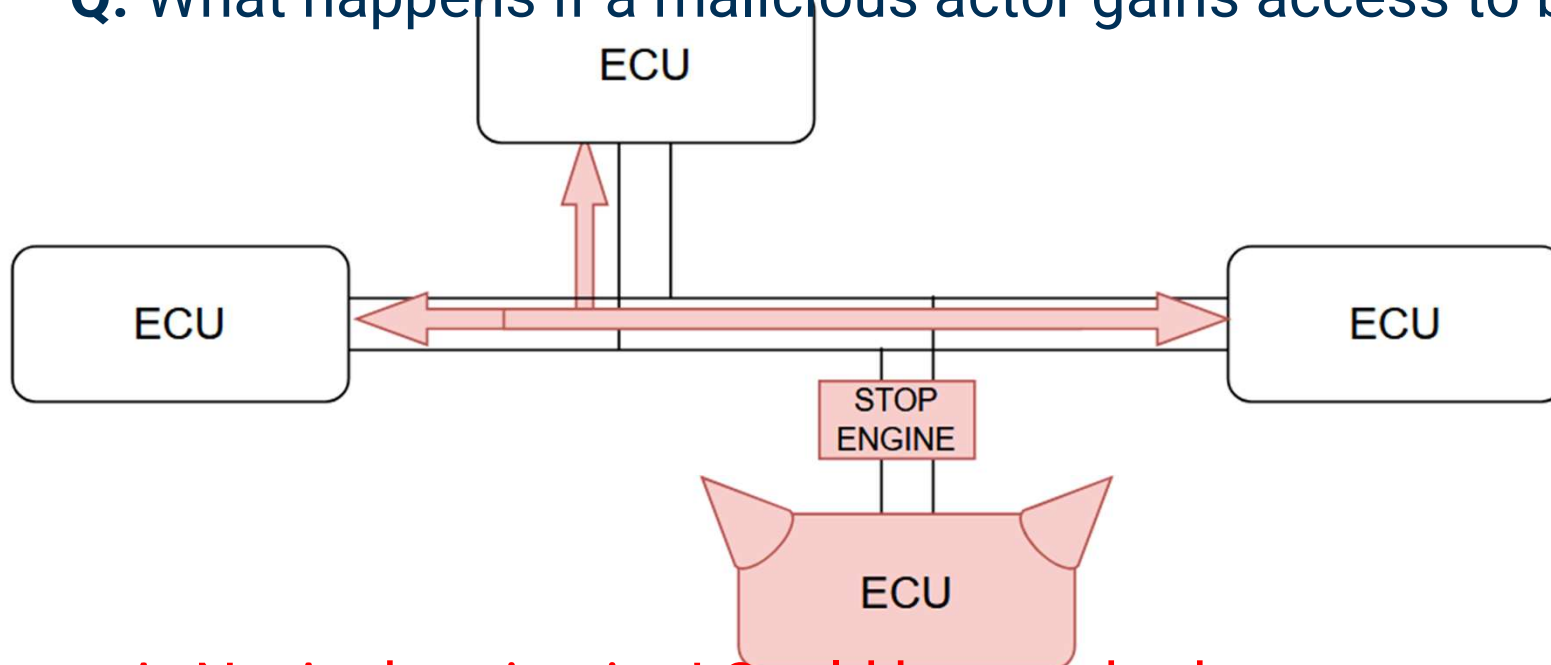
Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Designed before the internet, over-the-air updates, ...
- **Threat model/assumptions have changed**

Q: What happens if a malicious actor gains access to bus?



A: No Authentication! Could be very bad.

Background

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF EXPLOITS AGAINST THE CONTROLLER AREA NETWORK (CAN) BUS.

| <i>Vulnerability</i> | <i>Attack Type</i> | <i>Result</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Unauthorized access | Packet injection. Reflashing ECU while driving. | Engine stopped. Code loaded into vehicles' telematics unit. |
| Unauthorized access Denial of Service | Packet injection to Body Control Module (BCM). Fuzzing. | Door lock relay activated. Wipers turned on/forced off. Trunk opened. Horn activated. Auto-headlight control deactivated. Use of washer fluid. Brake/auxiliary lights rendered inoperable. |
| Unauthorized access | Packet injection to Engine Control Module (ECM) | Engine timing and RPM disturbed. Engine cylinders stopped. Grind starter motor |
| Unauthorized access | Packet injection to Brake Control Module (BCM) | Brake application and release (evenly or unevenly) at speeds below 5 mph. |
| Denial of Service | Packet injection to other CAN-connected bus devices. | Disable CAN bus communication. Freeze instrument panel status. |
| Unauthorized access | Packet injection | Kill engine |

Next?

[9] J. N. Brewer and G. Dimitoglou, "Evaluation of Attack Vectors and Risks in Automobiles and Road Infrastructure," in 2019 International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence (CSCI), Las Vegas, NV, USA: IEEE, Dec. 2019, pp. 84–89, isbn: 978-1-7281-5584-5. doi: 10.1109/CSCI49370.2019.00021. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online].

Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- How can we detect attacks on the CAN bus using ML?
- Lots of related work...

2024 International Conference on Power, Energy and Innovations (ICPEI 2024)
October 16-18, 2024, Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat), THAILAND

Intrusion Detection in CAN Bus using the Entropy of Data and One-class Classification

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Autoencoder based CAN BUS IDS system architecture and performance evaluation

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Abstract—
detection me
using an
anomaly me
proposed met

Abstract—With the increasing sophistication and frequency of cyber threats targeting modern vehicles [1], the need for efficient, real-time intrusion detection systems (IDS) has become critical. This study explores the feasibility of deploying an autoencoder-based IDS [2] for CAN BUS networks in resource-constrained automotive environments. Unlike conventional deep learning approaches that rely on computationally intensive models, this research focuses on developing a lightweight, optimized autoencoder architecture capable of detecting anomalies while

safety (e.g., adaptive cruise control, Internet access to car systems), but on the other hand poses new safety challenges. One of the oldest internal data communication system in cars is CAN BUS, which is one of the most vulnerable ones. Robert Bosch developed the CAN BUS system in 1986 to replace point-to-point systems. CAN BUS is a much simpler, more robust, and fault-tolerant system, which is particularly critical in the automotive environment (CAN BUS is not only

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<https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/5827056>

Research Article

A GRU-Based Lightweight System for CAN Intrusion Detection in Real Time

Haoyu Ma¹, Jianqiu Cao², Bo Mi³, Darong Huang³, Yang Liu³, and Shaoqian Li³

¹School of Information Science and Engine

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One-Class Classification for Intrusion Detection on Vehicular Networks

Iry*, Fahad Sohrab[†], Raju Gottumukkala*, Satya Katragadda[†] and Moncef Gabbouj[‡]

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r Area Network bus systems within ve
not equipped with the tools necessary to
themselves from modern cyber-security
done on using machine learning methods

to external networks such as the Internet. These modern features open vehicles' networks to new vectors of attack that they were never designed for. This openness leaves vehicles as prime targets for well-known and widely used cyber-security attacks [2]–[4]. The gravity of these threats is exhibited by researchers who performed hacks on Tesla vehicles that disabled critical safety features [5]. As these threats become more apparent, automobile manufacturers are implementing countermeasures such as data encryption and message authentication in order to mitigate the likelihood of a

CAN-Bus Attack Detection With Deep Learning

Flora Amato¹, Luigi Coppolino², Francesco Mercaldo³, Francesco Moscato³,
Roberto Nardone⁴, and Antonella Santone⁵

Abstract—Modern cars include a huge number of sensors and actuators, which continuously exchange data and control commands. The most used protocol for communication of different components in automotive system is the Controller Area Network (CAN). According to CAN, components communicate by broadcasting messages on a bus. In addition, the standard definition of the protocol does not provide information for authentication, so exposing it to attacks. This paper proposes a method based on deep learning aiming at discovering attacks towards the CAN-Bus. In particular, Neural Networks and Multi-Layer Perceptrons are the class of networks employed in our approach. We also validate our approach by analysing a real-world dataset with the injection of messages from different types of attacks: denial of service, fuzzy pattern attacks, and attacks against specific components. The obtained results are encouraging and demonstrate the effectiveness of the approach.

Index Terms—Automotive, intelligent systems, deep learning, neural networks, attack detection, security.

1. INTRODUCTION

IN THE last years, the automotive domain has experienced a rapid growth of complexity, mainly due to the introduction of more and more complex components for control, super-

ECUs execute many safety controls, such as skid detection, crash prediction or anti-lock braking [1]. In general, the whole control system, so considerably changed during the years, has soft or hard on real-time requirements on network components in order to guarantee the correct operation and the sufficient quality levels (i.e., performance, reliability, safety) of the whole system.

The most used communication standard is the Controller Area Network (CAN) (also known as CAN-bus) [3]. The CAN standard defines a communication protocol: it dates back to the 80s and it was developed by Bosch GmbH company in order to provide efficient communication among several automotive applications, also with a critical impact on the safety. It became a standard within the ISO 11898-1:2011 [1]. The CAN standard was initially applied to automotive, but it is currently employed in many industrial applications for communication of embedded components. It mainly consists in a broadcast protocol where messages sent by a sender are analysed by all receivers connected to the same network, which in turn decide if the message have to be delivered at application layer [4].

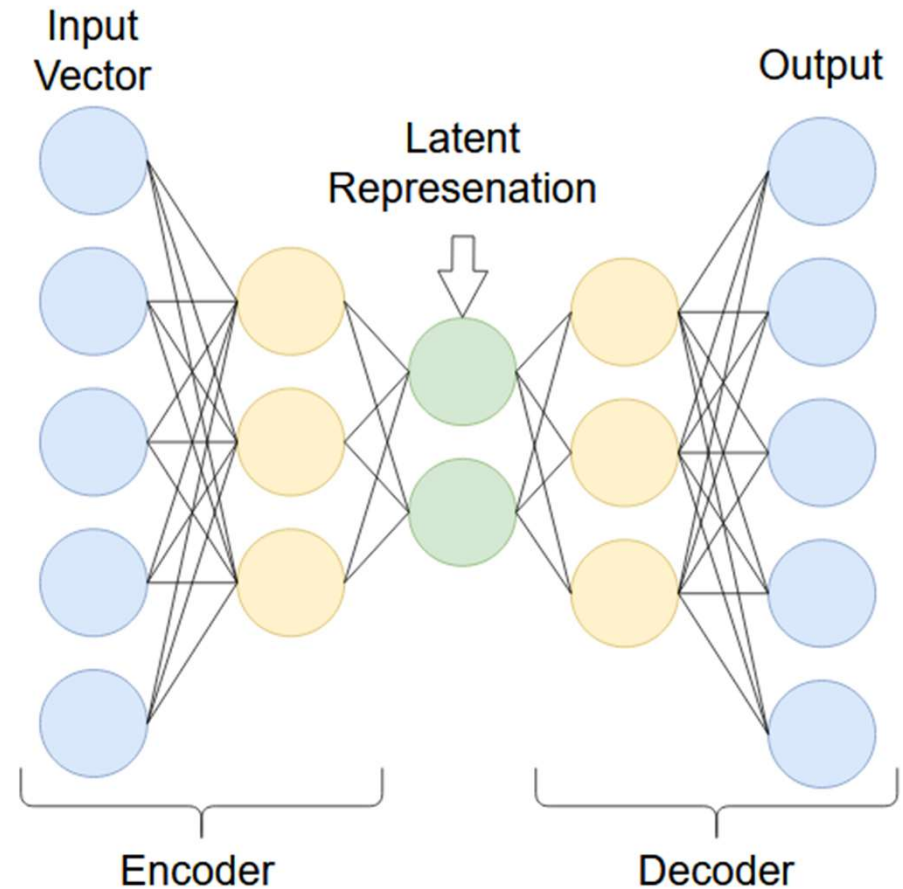
Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- What is an autoencoder?
- Learns to 'reconstruct' input



Background

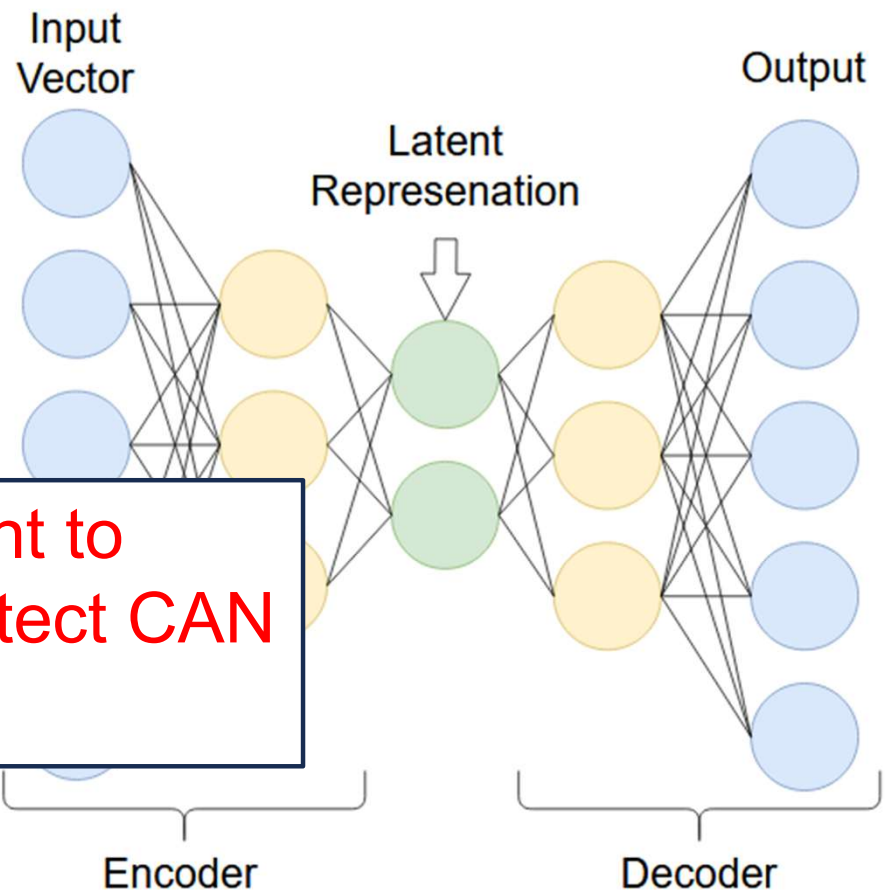
Methods

Results

What's Next?

- What is an autoencoder?
- Learns to 'reconstruct' input

But why would we want to reconstruct data to detect CAN bus attacks?



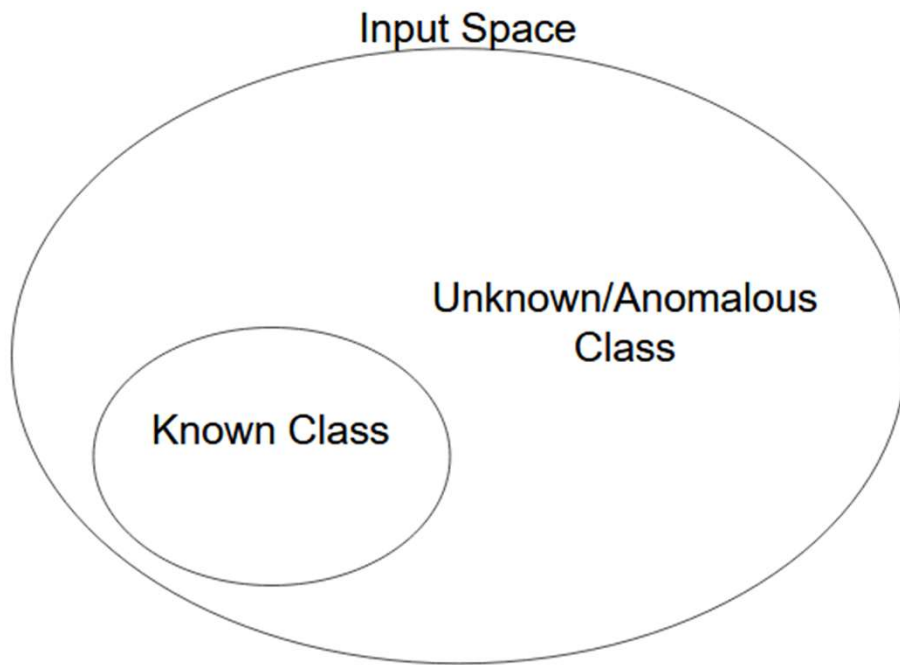
Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- One Class Classification
 - Subverts challenges with detecting CAN bus attacks: lack of attack data



- We would like to train only on known data and detect anomalies

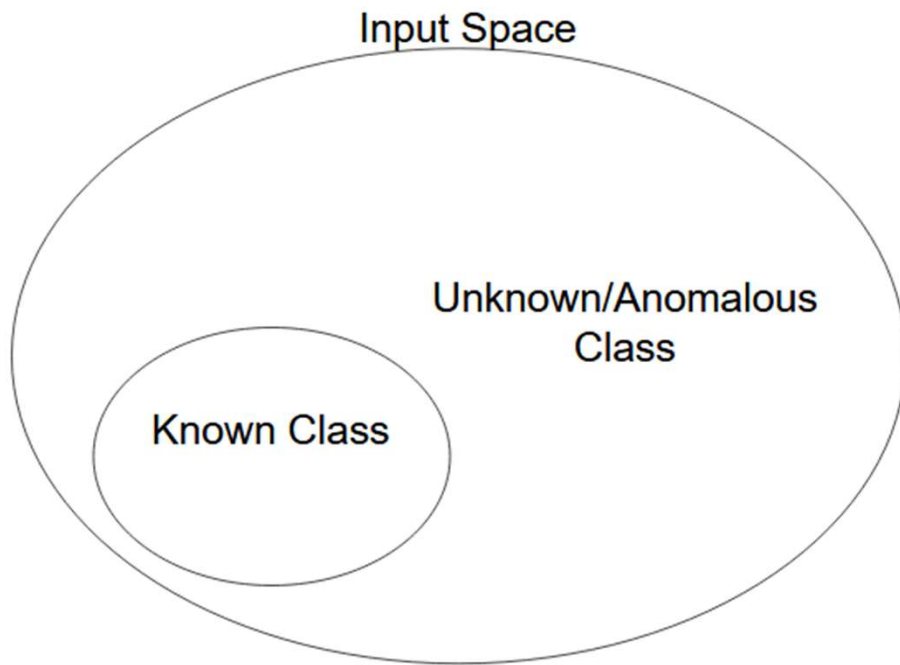
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Methods

Results

What's Next?

- One Class Classification
 - Subverts challenges with detecting CAN bus attacks: lack of attack data



- We would like to train only on known data and detect anomalies
- **Train only on Attack-Free CAN Bus DATA, detect attacks, which fall outside of known class**



Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- One Class Classification with Autoencoder
 - Train autoencoder on 'good' attack-free CAN bus data
 - Select reconstruction error threshold to maximize true positives, minimize false positives.
 - Challenges:
 - Autoencoder is characteristically good at generalizing to unseen inputs, but in this case that behavior is undesirable.
 - Possible Solutions:
 - Select latent dimension that is sufficiently small to promote overfitting on known class
 - **Use of Batch-Wise Feature Weighting block (BFW) as described in [6]**

[6] Y. Liao and B. Yang, "To Generalize or Not to Generalize: Towards Autoencoders in One-Class Classification," in 2022 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), Padua, Italy: IEEE, Jul. 18, 2022, pp. 1–8, isbn: 978-1-7281-8671-9. doi: 10.1109/IJCNN55064.2022.9892812. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online].



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School of Electrical
and Computer Engineering

Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Dataset

- can-train-and-test [8]
- Contains attack-free CAN bus DATA and attack scenarios

```
autoencoder_can > data > 2016-chevrolet-silverado-DoS-labeled.csv
16240
16241
16242 timestamp,arbitration_id,data_field,attack
16243 1672531205.964396,000,0000000000000000,1
16244 1672531205.965094,1ED,6140020801B870DE,0
16245 1672531205.965409,000,0000000000000000,1
16246 1672531205.9661832,182,98C8010000000000,0
16247 1672531205.966197,2F9,1B010A0800003B,0
16248 1672531205.966221,000,0000000000000000,1
```

DoS Attack

8] B. Lampe and W. Meng, "Can-train-and-test: A New CAN Intrusion Detection Dataset," in 2023 IEEE 98th Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC2023-Fall), Hong Kong, Hong Kong: IEEE, Oct. 10, 2023, pp. 1–7, isbn: 979-8-3503-2928-5. doi: 10.1109/VTC2023-Fall60731.2023.10333756. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee>.



Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Dataset
 - can-train-and-test [8]
 - Contains attack-free CAN bus DATA and attack scenarios

| dataset_type | total_messages | normal_messages | attack_messages | attack_percentage | duration_seconds | messages_per_second | unique_can_ids |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| attack-free | 1254632 | 1254632 | 0 | 0 | 487.7283158 | 2572.399345 | 98 |
| combined | 920226 | 918266 | 1960 | 0.212991157 | 357.0358989 | 2577.404689 | 98 |
| dos | 252707 | 208924 | 43783 | 17.32559842 | 81.25668597 | 3109.984083 | 99 |
| fuzzy | 1059035 | 1008513 | 50522 | 4.770569433 | 392.2755001 | 2699.722516 | 2048 |
| gear | 1257602 | 1254632 | 2970 | 0.236163747 | 487.728138 | 2578.489741 | 98 |
| interval | 950657 | 943319 | 7338 | 0.771887232 | 366.811969 | 2591.673883 | 98 |
| rpm | 524212 | 522688 | 1524 | 0.290722074 | 203.2086239 | 2579.673982 | 98 |
| speed | 1255235 | 1254632 | 603 | 0.048038813 | 487.727381 | 2573.640622 | 98 |
| standstill | 524245 | 522688 | 1557 | 0.296998541 | 203.2089219 | 2579.832593 | 98 |

[8] B. Lampe and W. Meng, "Can-train-and-test: A New CAN Intrusion Detection Dataset," in 2023 IEEE 98th Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC2023-Fall), Hong Kong, Hong Kong: IEEE, Oct. 10, 2023, pp. 1–7, isbn: 979-8-3503-2928-5. doi: 10.1109/VTC2023-Fall60731.2023.10333756. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee>.

Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Feature Extraction
 - Take next N messages
 - Timestamp for sample 1 = 0
 - Timestamp for subsequent messages, $n = \text{timestamp}_n - \text{timestamp}_1$
 - Pack timestamp, CAN ID, and (optionally) CAN Data broken up by byte for all N messages into a single input vector
- Consideration:
 - Ignore CAN Data Field
 - Other feature extraction methods described in [4] involve extracting density of certain messages in moving window.

[4] C. Chupong, N. Junhuathon, K. Kitwattana, T. Muankhaw, N. Ha-Upala, and M. Na-wong, "Intrusion Detection in CAN Bus using the Entropy of Data and One-class Classification," in 2024 International Conference on Power, Energy and Innovations (ICPEI), Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand: IEEE, Oct. 16, 2024, pp. 157–160, isbn: 979-83503-5677-9.doi: 10 . 1109 / ICPEI61831 . 2024 . 10748816. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025.



Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- **Evaluation**

- can-train-and-test includes 8 attack scenarios to test against
- DoS, fuzzing
- gear, interval, rpm, speed, standstill
 - involve spamming CAN message with known malicious effect, e.g. increasing rpm



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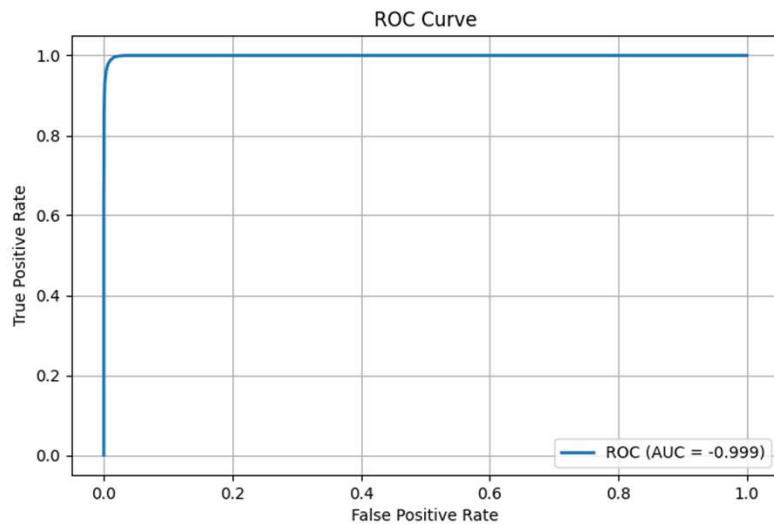
Background

Methods

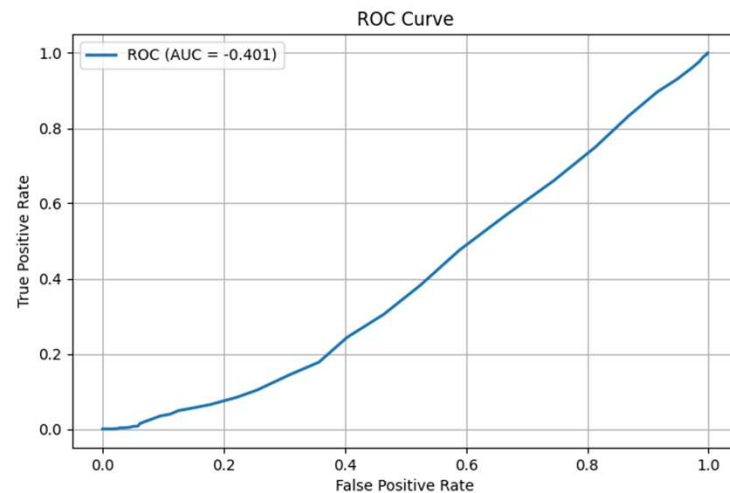
Results

What's Next?

- Analysis – ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve and AUC (Area Under Curve)
 - For one class classification, want to maximize the AUC of the ROC
 - ROC: plots true positive rate vs false positive rate for different threshold selections



Outstanding



Terrible

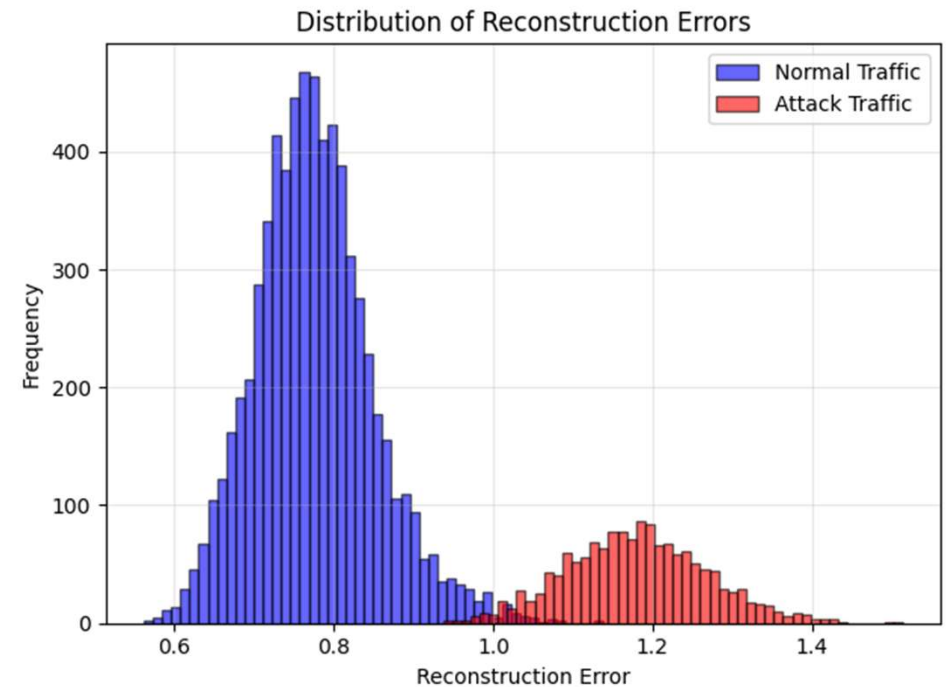
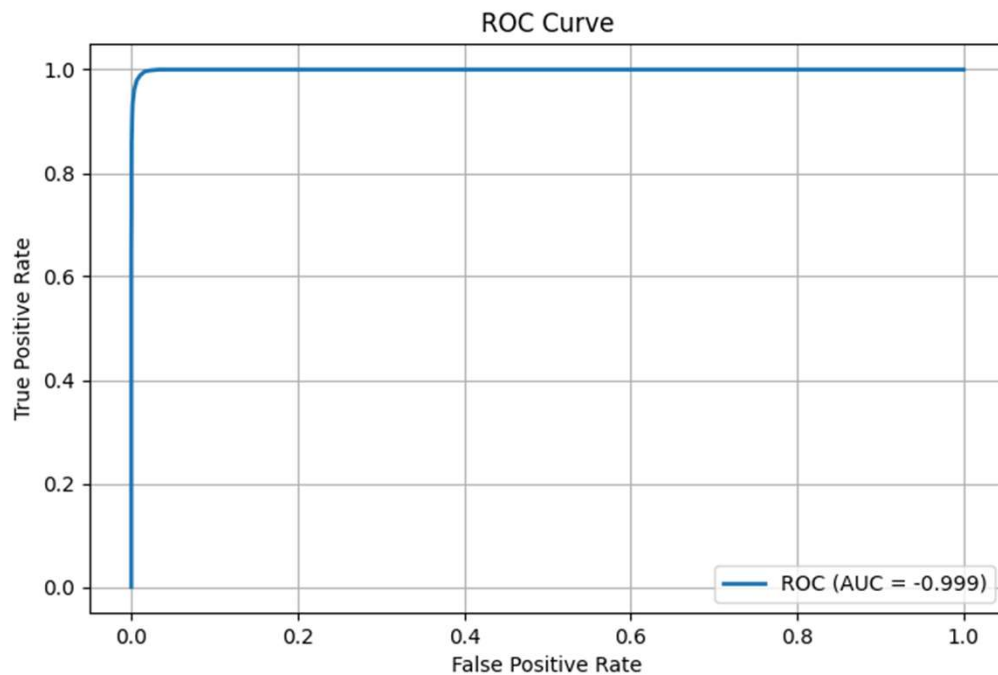
Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Analysis – ROC Curve, another look





Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Finding Optimal Parameters
 - N: number of CAN messages in a single input vector (size of window)
 - Learning rate
 - Batch size
 - Number of epochs
 - Feature extraction: whether to include CAN Data



Background

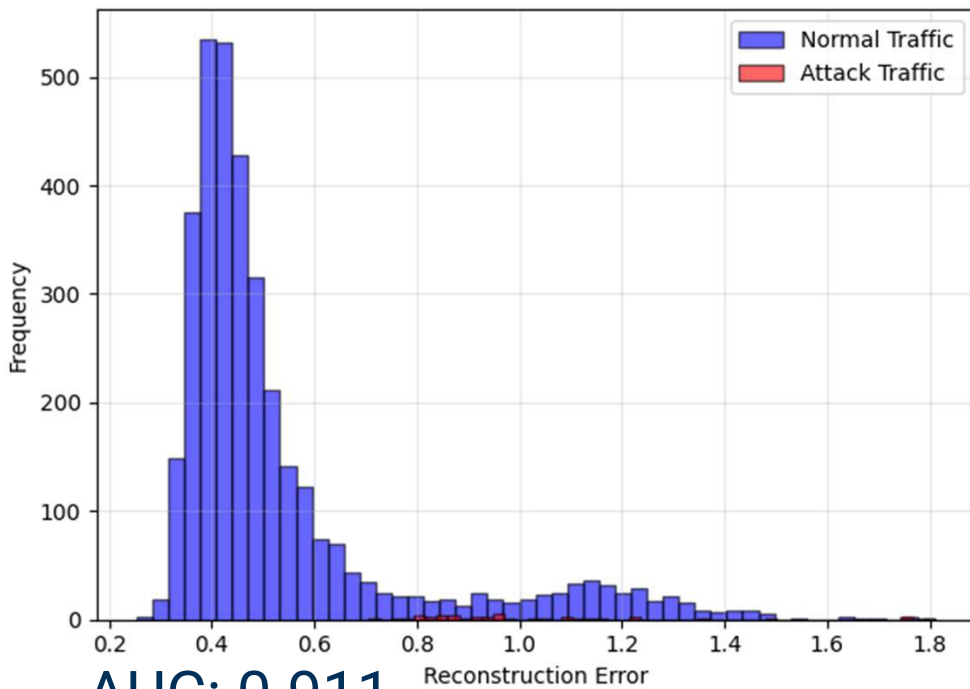
Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Best results for Combined Attacks

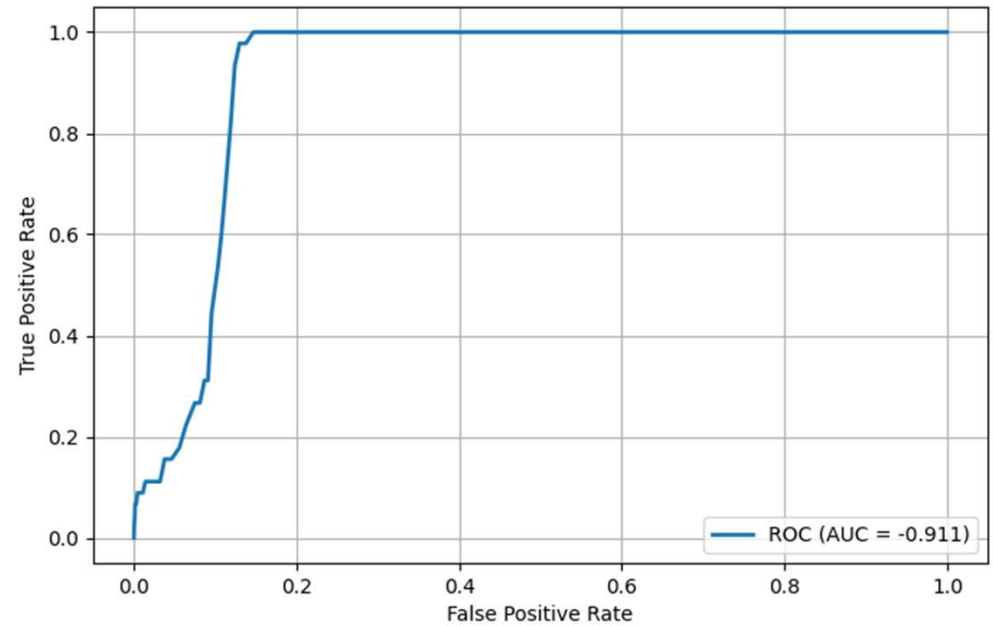
Distribution of Reconstruction Errors



AUC: 0.911

N=256, lr=0.0005, 2000 epochs, ignore CAN data

ROC Curve



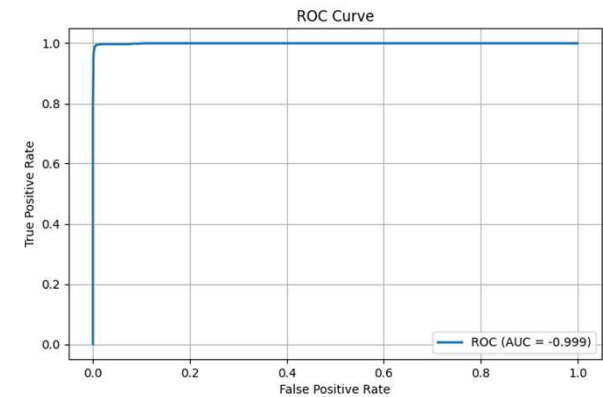
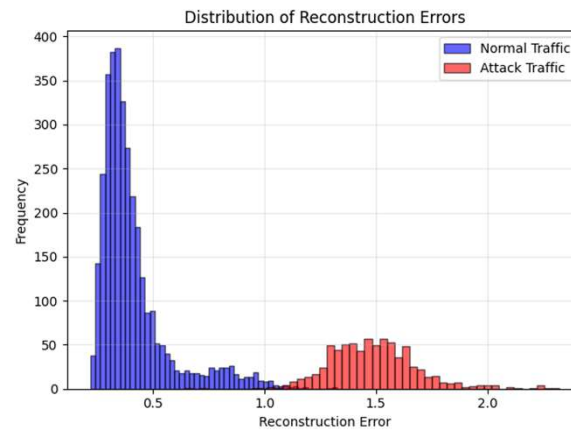
Background

Methods

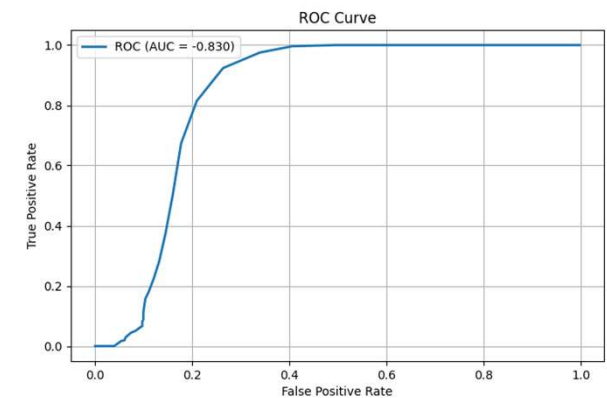
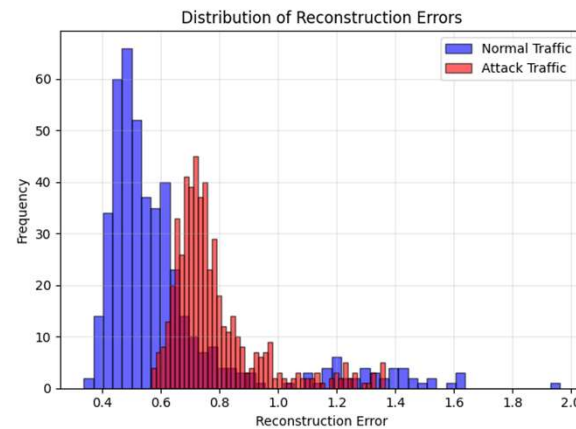
Results

What's Next?

- Fuzzing Attacks



- DoS Attacks
 - Harder to predict?



Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- But!
- F1 Scores tell a different story

| attack type | batch size | learning rate | epochs | msg per input | bfw | auc | max f1 |
|-------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| combined | 512 | 0.002 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.932146771 | 0.188679245 |
| dos | 256 | 0.0018 | 1000 | 224 | 0 | 0.859448161 | 0.912710567 |
| fuzzy | 512 | 0.002 | 1000 | 224 | 0 | 0.999173709 | 0.998822144 |
| gear | 512 | 0.002 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.90093119 | 0.215809285 |
| interval | 512 | 0.0001 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.190671031 | 0.993494172 |
| rpm | 512 | 0.002 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.906106613 | 0.275280899 |
| speed | 512 | 0.0005 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.857480673 | 0.118012422 |
| standstill | 512 | 0.002 | 1000 | 256 | 1 | 0.906834394 | 0.277777778 |

Background**Methods****Results****What's Next?**

- Effect of BFW on AUC

| attack type | Average AUC w/ BFW | Average AUC w/o BFW | Difference in AUC mean | AUC Mean T Test p-value | Percent Improvement in AUC mean with BFW |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| combined | 0.826095762 | 0.816539836 | 0.009555926 | 0.761548365 | 1.170295157 |
| dos | 0.80550158 | 0.814371122 | -0.008869542 | 0.714614287 | -1.089127731 |
| fuzzy | 0.977799241 | 0.977122082 | 0.000677159 | 0.97296619 | 0.069301324 |
| gear | 0.683509097 | 0.657284032 | 0.026225065 | 0.477526173 | 3.989913629 |
| interval | 0.572302369 | 0.564028981 | 0.008273388 | 0.84092411 | 1.466837379 |
| rpm | 0.79943465 | 0.785840837 | 0.013593813 | 0.647115285 | 1.72984298 |
| speed | 0.763801429 | 0.759404113 | 0.004397316 | 0.804667648 | 0.579048183 |
| standstill | 0.797168415 | 0.786118394 | 0.011050021 | 0.702841116 | 1.40564338 |



Background**Methods****Results****What's Next?**

- Effect of BFW on F1 Score

| attack type | Average F1 with BFW | Average F1 without BFW | Difference in F1 mean | F1 Mean T Test p-value | Percent Improvement in AUC mean with BFW |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| combined | 0.117979391 | 0.111959004 | 0.006020388 | 0.590715696 | 5.37731434 |
| dos | 0.864217452 | 0.872967772 | -0.00875032 | 0.591450952 | -1.002364591 |
| fuzzy | 0.945836447 | 0.944790223 | 0.001046225 | 0.977353242 | 0.110736176 |
| gear | 0.086892499 | 0.078125988 | 0.008766511 | 0.378618931 | 11.22099173 |
| interval | 0.793008022 | 0.786842447 | 0.006165575 | 0.911550916 | 0.783584394 |
| rpm | 0.161738164 | 0.152070173 | 0.009667991 | 0.484399436 | 6.357585246 |
| speed | 0.075177555 | 0.073300329 | 0.001877225 | 0.689016663 | 2.561005362 |
| standstill | 0.162079824 | 0.155605887 | 0.006473938 | 0.644390019 | 4.160470943 |





Background

Methods

Results

What's Next?

- Try changing different parameters to improve F1
 - New feature extraction methods
 - Change latent dimension, dimensions of BFW
- Port model to Arduino Uno Q
- Explore other state of the art improvements to autoencoder for OCC



Thank You

References

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Appendix A: CAN Bus Message Description



- Relevant Fields of CAN message

CAN ID: 11 bits

CAN Data: 0-8 bytes

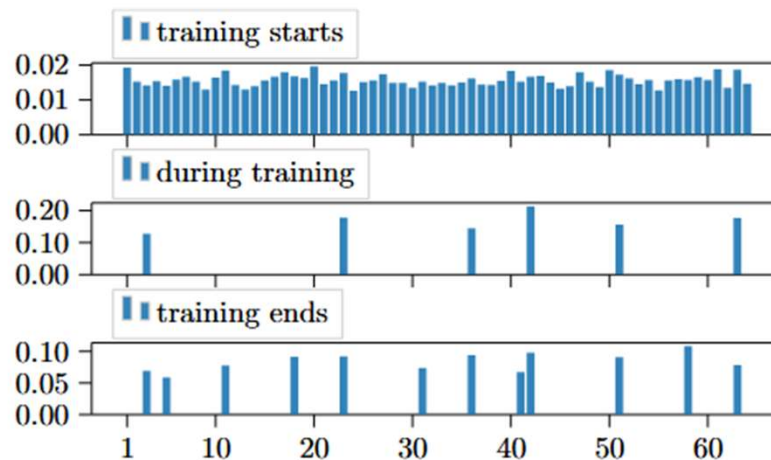
- can-train-and-test gives us
 - CAN ID, CAN data
 - Timestamp (time in seconds)
 - Label (attack or non-attack)

8] B. Lampe and W. Meng, "Can-train-and-test: A New CAN Intrusion Detection Dataset," in 2023 IEEE 98th Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC2023-Fall), Hong Kong, Hong Kong: IEEE, Oct. 10, 2023, pp. 1–7, isbn: 979-8-3503-2928-5. doi: 10.1109/VTC2023-Fall60731.2023.10333756. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee>.



Appendix B: Batch-Wise Feature Weighting

- Batch-Wise Feature Weighting (BFW)
 - Counteracts inherent ability of Autoencoder to generalize to new inputs
 - Assigns weighting to every value in latent dimension
 - Captures ‘most important’ latent features for known class, weighting others less



- Example of BFW training from Liao & Yang, 2022 [6]

[6] Y. Liao and B. Yang, “To Generalize or Not to Generalize: Towards Autoencoders in One-Class Classification,” in 2022 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), Padua, Italy: IEEE, Jul. 18, 2022, pp. 1–8, isbn: 978-1-7281-8671-9. doi: 10.1109/IJCNN55064.2022.9892812. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online].

Appendix B: Batch-Wise Feature Weighting

- Batch-Wise Feature Weighting (BFW)

```
# BFW: 2-layer network to compute w from z
self.W1 = nn.Linear(latent_dim, bfw_hidden_dim)
self.W2 = nn.Linear(bfw_hidden_dim, latent_dim)

self.b1 = nn.Parameter(torch.zeros(bfw_hidden_dim))
self.b2 = nn.Parameter(torch.zeros(latent_dim))
```

```
def forward(self, x):
    # Encode to latent representation z
    z = self.encoder(x)

    if self.use_bfw:
        inner_bfw = nn.functional.relu(self.W1(z) + self.b1)
        outer_bfw = self.W2(inner_bfw) + self.b2
        batch_mean = outer_bfw.mean(dim=0, keepdim=True)
        w = nn.functional.softmax(batch_mean, dim=1)
        z = z * w

    decoded = self.decoder(z)
    return decoded
```

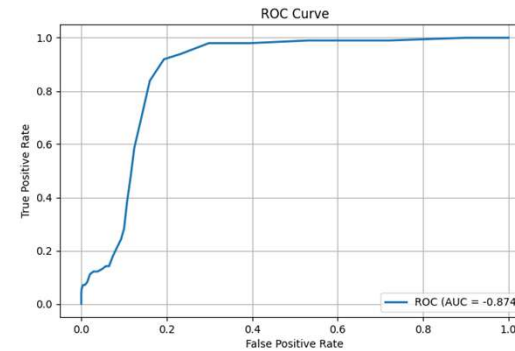
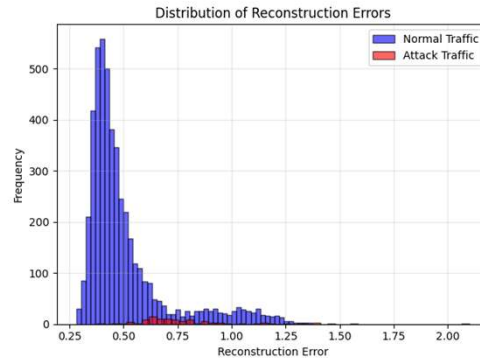
- Trainable Parameters

- Forward Pass applies BFW to latent representation

[6] Y. Liao and B. Yang, "To Generalize or Not to Generalize: Towards Autoencoders in One-Class Classification," in 2022 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), Padua, Italy: IEEE, Jul. 18, 2022, pp. 1–8, isbn: 978-1-7281-8671-9. doi: 10.1109/IJCNN55064.2022.9892812. Accessed: Nov. 7, 2025. [Online].

Appendix C: Results for Other Attacks

- Gear attack



- Rpm attack

