



Evaluation of Various Machine Learning Algorithms in Order to Reduce the Impact of Alert Fatigue by Eye Blinking Analysis

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1. Abstract

In nowadays Big-Data world cybersecurity measurements have become a legal requirement for businesses of nearly all fields. Continuous monitoring of all the activities in the enterprise's network is usually the basic requirement. This is a place where SIEM systems become a highly demanded player. SIEM system is intended to aggregate the logs created by various elements of the enterprise network and produce alerts when strange activity is noticed. SOC analysts are the people intended to take care of each alert produced and to decide whether it's really suspicious or not. The problem is that a standard SIEM system usually produces a high amount of alerts, while most of them are in fact False Positives. This causes the operator to lose his or her attention, which may lead to the ignorance of the rare truly suspicious alert that may end up as an attack (that could be potentially prevented if the analyst was engaged while processing this specific alert). This phenomenon is known as alert fatigue.

Various methods to reduce the impact of alert fatigue could be categorized into three main groups: reducing the number of alerts, increasing the human performance of the operators and using not non-SIEM-based systems in order to detect potential attacks on the enterprise. This research makes an attempt to find a model that will take control of an operator's attention level by the analysis of his or her eye blinking and making an assumption whether he or she is engaged or not in the current moment. The study provides an evaluation of accuracy of various machine learning algorithms for this purpose.

2. Thanks

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5. Introduction

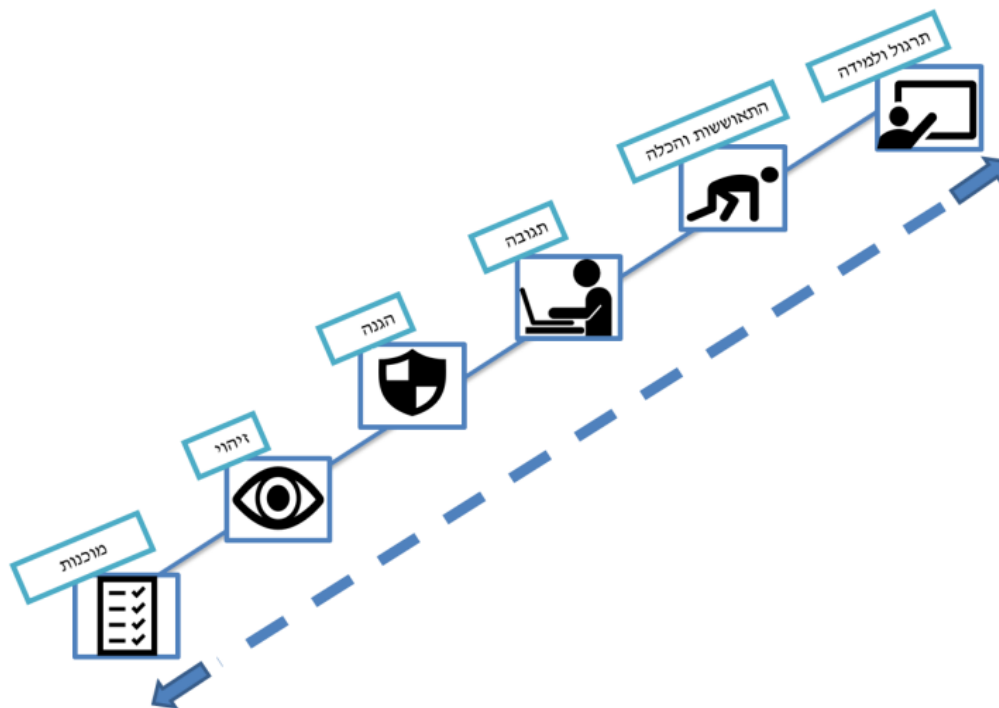
As the world of business and technology advances, there is a great and serious need for information security services for businesses. The services help in maintaining all kinds of classified materials of the businesses such as: files, documents, photos, data about the organization, etc. There is great importance in providing information security services to businesses. First, due to the fact that the world of business and companies does not only consist of large businesses, but also consists of private and public sector businesses that include high-tech complexes, marketing chains, logistics centers, factories and corporations, and small businesses. These businesses hold confidential and classified information including personal information of customers, medical information of customers, details of bank accounts and means of payment, etc. Such a business cannot exist without a comprehensive security system that includes information security services that combine human and computerized systems capable of providing a general sense of security to the business, guarding property, alerting against break-ins and thefts, filtering and controlling the business's assets and any other threat from various parties. Another importance is that business owners store on company servers or in the cloud a lot of information that may find itself at risk when a cyber attack occurs. As the information is more sensitive and belongs to more classified businesses, there is a greater need for information security. In order to secure the companies' information, operators are usually appointed whose job it is to identify security alerts and if there is anything unusual, to report it.

Recovery model during an event A security incident in the Internet world is defined as a negative event that threatens the security of information resources. Negative events may include, denial of service, breach of confidentiality, reliability of information, availability of the network or/and damage to any part of the systems. Examples include the introduction of malicious code (for example, viruses, Trojan horses or backdoors), unauthorized scans or tests, successful

and new intrusions and internal organizational attacks. The effects of these events may result in severe damage to the organization, financial and business processes, therefore, it is important to integrate the evaluation process Cyber risks as part of the overall organizational process. Among other things, it must be ensured that the risk factors included in the organizational risk assessment model and that help in assessing the likelihood of the risk materializing also refer to cyber threats.

The model has six stages:

Figure 1: six stages model



1. Readiness - the readiness of the SOC for any scenario, starting with the formulation and implementation of adequate security measures that will ensure the continuous activity of business services, response procedures in accordance with the laws used in SIEM systems Critical computer and infrastructure, up to a technological environment and up-to-date security systems and ending with a talented workforce.

The one who knows how to act, react and thwart any event that may materialize. Determining methodology and managing an orderly event from Understanding that targeted attacks can disable an organization in a short time and cause it to suffer business and image damage.

2. Identification/monitoring - developing organizational understanding in order to manage cyber risks to information systems and assets. the actions the steps taken at this stage are at the base level - understanding the business context, the resources that support the critical functions and identifying the cyber risks to which they are exposed.

Taking these actions allows the organization to focus and prioritize the his efforts in line with the corporate risk management strategy and business needs. This discipline concerns, among other things, for the following aspects: information asset management, understanding the business environment, information security governance and risk management.

3. Defense - formation and implementation of defense systems, which will ensure the continuous operation of business services, servers and the assets of the organization. This function concerns, among other things, the following aspects: relevant laws (SIEM), quick response for the event, isolating the attacked area, characterizing new laws once in a while in the face of the existing threats.

4. Response - development and implementation of the actions to be taken when identifying a cyber incident. Responsiveness allows us to accommodate the

impact of the cyber incident after its occurrence. This discipline concerns, among others, the following aspects:

Planning a response to a cyber incident, forensic investigation, communication with various parties, commercial investigation tools, improvement persisting by creating OT investigation options.

5. Recovery and Containment - Forming an order of operations designed to maintain the recovery and rehabilitation plans while continuing business and inclusion, as a result of a cyber incident. The recovery allows a quick return to normal operation while reducing the negative consequences of a cyber incident. This discipline concerns, among others, the following aspects: recovery planning, improvements and communication.

6. Practice and learning - during recovery, or after it, lessons will be learned about the event that was the goal of reaching the event come with maximum readiness. This function includes: starting a work plan, reducing predatory points in the network, absorption of new systems and improvement of laws.

The information security incident management system has many capabilities such as: aggregation of data: storing data from many sources (network traffic, servers, databases, applications, etc.) and retrieving them when necessary in accordance with the requests coming from the data adapter and the network administrator (when digital investigations are conducted, this data is needed to prove that the action is against the predefined legal policy).

Data correlation: comparing data and common features and linking to certain events, integrating information from different sources and turning it into useful information.

Analysis and detection: analyzes changes in operating systems and databases, monitors and manages user permissions, services and folders and identifies non-standard operating patterns.

Warning system: alerts, analyzes and blocks suspicious actions, unauthorized access attempts, attacks on the network or any action that is against pre-defined laws. The system sends a report about these actions via e-mail and also through the message system in the application itself.

A situation can happen where the operator gets tired or loses concentration due to a lot of notifications coming to him and may miss important notifications.

We are investigating the aforementioned phenomenon called "alert fatigue" and checking whether and how it can be prevented.

Our project is a research project in the field of alert fatigue in SIEM.

We actually researched what alert fatigue is and saw how it is possible to detect fatigue and lack of concentration in an operator by detecting blinks and thus prevent the aforementioned fatigue.

6. Theoretical Background

6.1. SIEM

SIEM (stands for Security Information and Event Management) is a software the main purpose of which is to provide an ability of detecting and preventing a cyberattack by collecting, monitoring and analyzing logs that come from different sources (such as network devices, applications, servers etc.). (Hossain Mozammel 2021)

SIEM usually is a combination of two systems: Security Information System and Security Event Management (Dorigo 2004). Security Information System intends to store, analyze and report logs for the long-term period, while the Security Event Management's purpose is real-time logs processing (Hossain Mozammel 2021).

Most of the modern SIEMs are operated by humans, and a human analyst is the one who receives alerts generated by the system and should make a decision based on it. Although the system processes the data received from logs, omits irrelevant data and makes other actions in order to reduce the number of alerts generated, it still generates an amount of alerts that is big enough to distract an attention of the human operator and to make him less sensitive to alerts. This phenomenon is known as the alert fatigue problem and can be partly solved by integrating AI-based functionality to the SIEM system (Tan Bao 2021).

6.2. Alert Fatigue

There are two different conceptual ways to define alert fatigue phenomenon.

According to the first one, labeled as cognitive overload, the alert fatigue is caused by a large amount of received information with a lack of time or cognitive resources to distinguish the relevant and irrelevant information.

The second one, that could be named desensitization, explains that the lasting exposure to alerts reduces operator's responsiveness, this is to say, the alert is the most effectively processed by the operator when it comes for the first time and steadily becomes less effective when the operator acclimatizes to it (Jessica S. Ancker, Alison Edwards, Sarah Nosal, Diane Hauser, Elizabeth Mauer, Rainu Kaushal 2017).

Two major fields suffering from the alert fatigue phenomenon are medicine and security. In health care field it is an important study subject, especially in case of Clinical Decision Support System and Electronic Health Records, used to notify the physician about the possible problems associated with the prescribing of the specified drug (Adam Wright, Skye Aaron, Diane L. Seger, Lipika Samal, Gordon D. Schiff, David W. Bates 2018), (Aaron S. Kesselheim, Kathrin Cresswell, Shobha Phansalkar, David W. Bates, Aziz Sheikh 2011), (William C. Carspecken, Paul J. Sharek, Cristopher Longhurst, Natalie Pageler 2013), (Adam El Sehamy, Naureen Kabany, Amanda Nussdorf, YiFeng Chen, Rauno Joks 2016), (Jamie J. Coleman, Heleen van der Sijs, Walter E. Haefeli, Sarah P. Slight, Sarah E. McDowell, Hanna M. Seidling, Birgit Eirmann, Jos Aarts, Elske Ammenwerth, Robin E. Ferner, Ann Slee 2013)).

The alert fatigue problem in the security field will be discussed closer in the next paragraphs.

6.3. The ways to reduce alert fatigue phenomenon in SIEM system

Despite the alert fatigue problems in many cases could be treated in the same way both in security and medicine this paragraph presents the security related research only.

There are three main groups of methods used by researchers in order to reduce alert fatigue influence in security monitoring systems:

- The use of machine learning models to reduce the number of alerts
- Increasing of the operator's concentration
- The use of non-SIEM & non alert-oriented systems for monitoring the activities in the client's network.

6.3.1. Machine Learning Models Reducing the Number of Alerts

The largest group of the researchers implement different methodologies of reducing the number of alerts yielded to the human operator using machine learning techniques. The researchers compare the results achieved by different machine learning algorithms too in order to understand the effectiveness of each one.

According to (Tan Bao 2021), where KNN, Naïve Bayes, linear discriminant analysis, decision tree, AdaBoost, SVM, weighted SVM were compared. As one of the research's conclusions, the SVM, WSVM, AdaBoost and LDA (among them: the highest recall value of 99.732% belongs to AdaBoost and LDA, the lowest model's FP-rate shown by SVM and WSVM is 0.001%). In general, it was concluded that the FP rate of unsupervised methods is higher than the supervised methods' one and therefore supervised learning methods seems to be more suitable to detect the alerts that can be omitted in the SIEM system.

During the research (Gordon Werner, Shanchieh Jay Yang, Katie McConky 2021) a special system that aggregates alerts into groups based on time differences between their arrivals, that are afterwards aggregated into "concepts" based on statistical similarity. This system has shown good performance results in grouping alerts and detecting attack's signature.

Another unsupervised method was studied in (M. E. Aminanto, T. Ban, R. Isawa, T. Takahashi and D. Inoue 2020). In their model, the researchers used isolation forest to ensure unsupervised performance and adaptability to different network types. In the next step, it takes advantage of day-forward-chaining analysis to ensure detection of highly important alerts in real-time. The FP-rate of this model is reduced by the use of an autoencoder. Despite relatively high recall value of 95.89% the FP-rate of the model is high, too – it is 5.86%, it means the result of this study correlate with (Tan Bao 2021), where it was stated that unsupervised methods are less effective in combating alert fatigue via the reduction of the number of alerts presented to the operator.

Graph-based machine learning techniques are widely used by the researchers in order to detect false alerts too. In the study (Hassan, Wajih UI, Guo, Shengjian, Li, Ding, Chen, Zhengzhang, Jee, Kangkook, Li, Zhichun, and Bates, Adam 2019) the model called NoDoze based on contextual and historical information of generated threat alert was developed. NoDoze firstly generates a casual dependency graph of an alert event, and gives each edge score based on frequency of the related events. By network diffusion algorithms these scores are afterwards propagated to the neighbor edges and in this way the aggregation anomaly score used for triaging is generated. The experiment has shown that NoDoze ranks true positives higher than false positives based on this score. The authors estimate that the cutoff threshold enables the system to reduce the number of false alerts by 84% and save the operator 80 hours weekly.

To conclude, there is a wide variety of machine learning methods that were investigated in order to evaluate their effectiveness to perform the reduction of the number of false positive alerts that SIEM analysts receive. There are the wide methods-survey researches that compare a number of “pure” methods (by “pure method” we mean “the one used alone, without an engagement of another one”), and specific models that usually combine a number of different methods used to enrich the model with specific features. It was also shown that pure supervised methods usually outperform unsupervised (in the meaning of FP-rate which is the critical characteristic as far as our purpose is to reduce the number of false

positive alerts) but there are several described models that use unsupervised learning techniques and still get good results.

6.3.2. Increasing of Operator's Concentration

Another way to combat alert fatigue is, while the number of the received alerts would not change, to ensure the SIEM analyst will remain concentrated on alerts during all his or her shift. This way to solve the alert fatigue problem is less researched than the previous one but still there are studies that approach.

The work (McRee 2021) compares the usability of text-based and visualized alerts and concludes that the acceptance of visualized alerts is significantly higher than that of the textual ones.

Another research, (Mirilla 2018), talks about Dynamic SOC Monitoring Framework (DSM)'s potential in improving the alertness of SOC analyst during his or her work performance. DSM assigns the analyst a specified task for the strictly defined time period (2-3 hours), and forces him or her to log out after that to take a break or to switch to a different task. More than a half of the responding analysts (54.84%) reported switching tasks had a positive impact on their vigilance.

The paper (Mirilla 2018) mentions also other methods to improve the concentration of operators, such as short breaks, cyberloafing, tasks switching (the paper also reminds that the last two have potential danger – the person may forget to return to the initial task).

To conclude, there are a number of researchers whose point of interest is the improvement of human performance in order to avoid alert fatigue phenomenon. This field is much less studied then the previous one but still has some, not many, methods to increase operator's vigilance. As far as it is our main field of study it will be described in more detail in the next sections.

6.3.3. Not SIEM & Not Alert-Based Systems

As far as the overwhelming for human's mind alerts are generated by machine's processing of logs information, some researchers provide not alert-based systems in order to monitor network's security situation and recognize dangerous activity.

For example, the paper (Steingartner, William, Darko Galinec, and Andrija Kozina 2021) describes an intrusion detection system that consists of the decoys placed on four different levels (network, endpoint, application and data). In general, they mimicrate to the real product in order to be a valid target for the attacker and not only avoid him from getting to the valuable resource he wants to get but also to detect an attacker. The decoys complex also collects data about which way the attacker used to enter the system, how did he bypass system's protections etc. that which in complex with immediate, machine-only detection of the intruder may make this solution more effective then SIEM system.

As far as we have seen, there are three groups of methods to avoid alert fatigue phenomenon in the SIEM system. The first and the most researched one is dramatically decreasing the number of alerts the system yields to the operator using various machine learning techniques in order to reduce false positives in the output data. The second one deals with human performance increasing. The last one proposes to use non alert-based technologies in order to protect the system.

6.4. Human performance improvement

6.4.1. Operator's Vigilance as time-dependent characteristic

It is mentioned in the literature that the alertness of the operator would decrease as time proceeds and he or she gets more and more alerts (Jessica S. Ancker, Alison Edwards, Sarah Nosal, Diane Hauser, Elizabeth Mauer, Rainu Kaushal 2017).

The research on CCTV security operators (whose work is simpler than that of SOC analysts but requires to be attentive all the time despite the way to do it is monotonously monitoring some kind of data) has shown that during the performance of 90-minutes monitoring task only a quarter of respondents remain engaged during the whole task, while another quarter lost their attention in the first 30 minutes. The researchers assume the disengagement level depends on the experience level of the operator, but still there was no detected statistical correlation between the experience or education level and the true positive and false positive rates (Fiona M. Donald, Craig H. M. Donald 2015).

The later research (Mirilla 2018) used the results of the experiment, described in the previous work and extrapolated them to the SOC operators. The novices' results from the previous experiment were omitted due to the required qualification level of SOC operators. Still, the research (Mirilla 2018) has shown that most of the analysts get disengaged at least once during a two-hour long study, while only 15.63% of respondents remained vigilant for the whole task, and less than a half (43.75%). remained vigilant for an hour. While SOC analytics are better qualified than CCTV operators, as far as we can conclude most of them too can't remain fully attentive and vigilant while performing mostly monotonous and therefore boring work. We assume in our research that human performance in SOC should be improved in order to ensure that the analysts will remain vigilant for most of their shifts' time.

6.4.2. The ways to monitor the attention level of the human operator

There are several commonly used ways to detect the attention level of a person, yet the most frequently used are the methods based on either eye movement or EEG records.

The attention level may be accessed through eye-tracking technologies only. For example, the study (Harshita Sharma, Lior Drukker, Aris T. Papageorgiou, J. Alison Noble 2021) has shown that the cognitive overload level can be detected by one's pupillary response. The machine learning models succeeded to detect it based on the pupil's size. The study has found that ID CNN is the most effective algorithm to solve this problem – it yields the area under ROC curve of 0.98 in recognition of the task performed by the ultrasound operator by his or her pupil's size.

Another study (Jung Hwan Kim, Chul Min Kim, Eun-Soo Jung, Man-Sung Yim 2020) has used eye movement data combined with EEG records in order to estimate nuclear power plant's operators' attention level. The researchers have reached an average accuracy of 90% with K-nearest neighbors and support vector's algorithms used to build the detection models.

EEG records only can be used to estimate an attention level too. In the study (Yuriy Miroshnichenko, Murat Kaya 2015) the researchers have succeeded in detection of three operators' states (focused, unfocused and sleepy) with accuracy closed to 90% using an SVM state classifier on time-frequency representation of EEG data.

As both biosignals' (eye activity and EEG signals) can be used to distinguish between an "attentive" and "disengaged" operators' states, we have decided to perform our study based on eye tracking only (in real-world enterprise it would be highly challenging and expensive to provide each SOC operator with personal EEG machine), and we have decided to focus on eye-blinking data as the source

to detect fatigue. The blinking data is recognized as legal data for this purpose, for example, in the studies (Masaaki Goto, Tetsuo Tanaka, and Kazunori Matsumoto 2021) and (McIntire, Lindsey & McKinley, R. & Goodyear, Chuck & McIntire, John 2013).

As we have mentioned, some studies have yielded certain specific machine learning methods as more effective for building a model based on the data available to them. However, we have decided to evaluate a large number of algorithms to find those that perform most accurate on our specific kind of data.

The description of the preparation of the data to experiment, experiment and its results' evaluation would be presented in the next chapter.

7. Experiments to determine the best methods detecting the attention level by eye blinking

7.1 Data preprocessing

7.1.1 mEBAL database description and structure

mEBAL database is a multimodal database for eye blink detection and attention level estimation (R.Daza, A.Morales, J.Fierrez and R.Tolosana 2020), (J. Hernandez-Ortega, R. Daza, A. Morales, J. Fierrez and J. Ortega-Garcia 2019). The database information was collected during the experiments in the e-education field, and the data collected is eye blinking records, corresponding EEG records, attention level estimated based on EEG, and eye recordings during the experiment. It also contains general information about each student participating in the study (such as the timestamp when the experiment has started, when finished, total time the student spent on assignment, whether he or she wears glasses etc). The database contains the data collected from 38 participants but only for 11 of the full data is presented (the other 27, while having attention level and EEG data don't have eye blinking records). Therefore we have decided to use the data collected from the first 11 students only.

7.1.2 Data transformations in order to create appropriate dataset

We've utilized the Student_data.csv, file_ATT.csv and Right_Blink.csv files in order to get the information needed for the experiment. As far as the files' timings are not unified (file_ATT.csv has it in accurate timestamps whilst Right_Blink.csv marks times in frame units, each line corresponding to 18 frames), all the time markup was translated into frames as far as they are less complex for processing. The transformation was performed according to this formula:

$$F_i = \frac{(t_i - t_0)}{FC},$$

where F_i is current frame number,

t_i is current timestamp,

t_0 is the timestamp of the start of experiment (recorded in Student_data.csv),

FC is frame length constant, equal to 0.033 s.

Then, for each attention record in file_ATT.csv we have checked whether there is a corresponding line in Right_Blink.csv. Correspondence was defined by the next function:

$$Cor = \{true, if f_s \leq F_i \leq f_e \text{ false, otherwise}$$

Where f_s, f_e stand for start frame and end frame correspondingly (current frame value should be checked upon the section due to the fact that Right_Blink.csv contains the blinking data recordings per 18-frame period).

The database files contain significantly more records when the user blinked then when he or she didn't blink. On the other hand, it contains significantly more records about attention level than eye blink/ not blink data. Based on these two facts we made the assumption that if there is an attention level record with no corresponding blinking/ unblinking data the user didn't blink during this frame.

In addition to the data directly presented in mEBAL for each record in our dataset we have computed the distance (in frames) from the last frame. This distance was computed by this formula:

$$D_j = \frac{f_e - f_s}{2} - D_i,$$

Where D_j, D_i correspond to the distance from the previous blink for the current record and previous blink timestamp (computed by the same way but for the record containing blink data) respectively.

Attention level if file_ATT.csv is presented as an integer value that varies in [1, 100] section. In this work we consider the person in certain frame to be “attentive” (“positive” mark-up) if his/her attention is strictly greater than 50 percent ($att(t_i) > 50$) and “disengaged” (“negative” mark-up) otherwise ($att(t_i) \leq 50$).

This data was extracted and computed where needed from mEBAL data by Python 3.8. script (presented in Appendix A) and then written to sample_blinling_data.arff, that was used as dataset for training models based on classical ML algorithms in Weka software (Eibe Frank 2016).

7.2 Experiments to evaluate the performance of the classical machine learning algorithms on our eye blinking – attention dataset

7.2.1 Experiments execution

The arff file created on the previous stage was uploaded to Weka Experimenter as a dataset and then the models were trained. The results of experiments for certain groups of machine learning algorithms presented in Weka (bayes, functions, lazy, meta, misc, rules, trees) were written in separate .csv files named `learning_results_{algorithm_name}.csv`.

The results of the experiments were analyzed with another Python 3.8 script (presented in appendix B).

The measure of the machine learning model that we want to minimize is the error rate (sum of False Positives and False Negatives, named as “Percent_incorrect” in Weka experiment documentation). This measure was chosen because a high False Positive rate will return us to the initial problem (actually creating “alert fatigue” but from our system’s alerts instead of initial SIEM’s). On the other hand, a lot of False Negatives will make our system ineffective not catching properly the moments when the analyst becomes disengaged.

Our script has extracted the mentioned value for each model trained (creating list of pairs algorithm – error rate), sorted this list in increasing order by error rate and then omitted the duplicates for each algorithm, leaving only the minimal error rate for each algorithm.

The results are presented in Table 1.

7.2.2 Results evaluation and discussion

Minimal error	Algorithm
23.02947224126114	weka.classifiers.meta.RandomizableFilteredClassifier
24.126113776559286	weka.classifiers.lazy.KStar
24.9485949280329	weka.classifiers.lazy.IBk

In this Part of the table of results (from Table 1) we see that the three algorithms with the minimum Percentage of errors are :

- RandomizableFilteredClassifier
- KStar
- IBk

lazy- unsupervised learning.

weka.classifiers.meta.RandomizableFilteredClassifier- in one of his methods he uses an unsupervised filter.

we can see that in our case- unsupervised is better then supervised method.

And the reason for this is that in supervised - there is an attempt to build the model based on prior knowledge. In the data processing, you put a section in the middle that is defined according to the initial and final frames, and these things create noise. In unsupervised algorithms no noise is created because it looks for the parts with the greatest density where the average data density has no meaning and therefore there is no noise problem there.

Which actually creates a situation where in our case we will probably prefer unsupervised algorithms.

8. Eye-blinking detection in video stream

In order to detect the moment when the SIEM operator becomes disengaged according to the described model the system needs to detect the operator's blinking in accordance with the model's input (to detect blinking itself, to compute current frame's number and the distance from the previous blink).

In order to detect blink itself we used the basic detector published on (geeksforgeeks.org 2022). We have improved it with computations of current frame number by:

- 1) The computation of the frame number by the formula $F_i = \frac{t_n - t_s}{F_c}$,
where F_i stands for current frame number, t_n – for current time, t_s for the start of monitoring time, F_c is frame duration constant equal to 0.033 s;
- 2) The frame distance from the previous blink computation by the formula $D_i = F_i - F_l$, where D_i stands for the frame distance from the current frame to the last frame, F_i 's meaning is the same as in the previous formula, F_l stands for the previous blink frame.

These computations are less complex then while processing mEBAL data as far as mEBAL blinking records are presented in 18-frames chunks (the start and the end of the chunk are mentioned) and additional computations are needed in order to replace the chunk extremes by a single value; when processing video stream we deal with single frames, not chunks, therefore these computations aren't needed.

Our blinking data detection script is presented at appendix C.

9. Summary

In this project, our objective was to reduce the impact of the alert fatigue by controlling the level of human performance. Our assumption (based on the related literature, such as (Masaaki Goto, Tetsuo Tanaka, and Kazunori Matsumoto 2021, McIntire, Lindsey & Mckinley, R. & Goodyear, Chuck & McIntire, John 2013, Jung Hwan Kim, Chul Min Kim, Eun-Soo Jung, Man-Sung Yim 2020, Harshita Sharma, Lior Drukker, Aris T. Papageorghiou, J. Alison Noble 2021)) was that we can continuously check operator's attention by using machine learning models on his or her activity markers. We have chosen to use eye blinking data as such an indicator.

To evaluate various machine learning algorithms we used the eye blinking and correlated attention level data presented on mEBAL ((R.Daza, A.Morales, J.Fierrez and R.Tolosana 2020), (J. Hernandez-Ortega, R. Daza, A. Morales, J. Fierrez and J. Ortega-Garcia 2019)). The data was extracted from the database and then turned into our dataset by a number of specific computations (such as conversion of timestamps to frames, measurement of distance from each record to the previous blink, conversion of numeric attention level into boolean value). This dataset was afterwards processed in weka in order to build various models by different machine learning algorithms from different families in Weka (Eibe Frank 2016). Weka learning results were processed in order to extract the lowest error (FP + FN) rate and rank the algorithms by this parameter. The next three algorithms are considered the best one for detection of fatigue by eye-blinking based on our data.

The second important module of our project was to detect eye blinking and blink-corresponding data in accordance with the dataset in video stream. We combined the out-of-box blinking detection algorithm for videostream with computations to provide us with the data needed for our models (frame number and the distance from the previous frame) on-the-fly.

We have proved that eye blinking data analysis can provide us with certain conclusions about the engagement level of a person (SOC operator in our case). This way we can continuously check whether the SOC operator is attentive while performing his tasks or not.

We assume the next development step for our idea would be to combine the attention detection models and eye blinking detection module that are provided in the current project with a module that will increase the engagement level of the operator when fatigue is detected.

10.Tables

Table 1. The minimal error rate for each algorithm used on the experiment stage

Minimal error	Algorithm
23.02947224126114	weka.classifiers.meta.RandomizableFilteredClassifier
24.126113776559286	weka.classifiers.lazy.KStar
24.9485949280329	weka.classifiers.lazy.IBk
28.032899246058946	weka.classifiers.meta.RandomCommittee
28.855380397532556	weka.classifiers.meta.RandomSubSpace
29.472241261137764	weka.classifiers.trees.RandomTree
32.48800548320768	weka.classifiers.meta.ClassificationViaRegression
34.338588074023306	weka.classifiers.meta.AttributeSelectedClassifier
34.74982864976011	weka.classifiers.rules.JRip
36.46333104866347	weka.classifiers.rules.DecisionTable
36.73749143248801	weka.classifiers.meta.FilteredClassifier
37.080191912268674	weka.classifiers.bayes.BayesNet
37.76559287183002	weka.classifiers.rules.OneR
37.90267306374229	weka.classifiers.trees.HoeffdingTree
38.519533927347496	weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayes
38.519533927347496	weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayesUpdateable

39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.functions.Logistic
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.functions.SGD
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.functions.SimpleLogistic
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.functions.VotedPerceptron
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.lazy.LWL
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.AdaBoostM1
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.CVParameterSelection
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.MultiClassClassifier
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.MultiClassClassifierUpdateable
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.MultiScheme
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.Vote
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.meta.WeightedInstancesHandlerWrapper
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.misc.InputMappedClassifier
39.067854694996576	weka.classifiers.trees.DecisionStump
51.61069225496916	weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayesMultinomial
51.61069225496916	weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayesMultinomialUpdateable

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12. Appendices

12.1. Appendix A

Python script for constructing arff dataset from mEBAL data

```
import csv
import datetime

ATT_STRING = "\n@ATTRIBUTE"
NUMER = "NUMERIC"
T_F_String = "{True, False}"
ATTENTION_LEVEL_THRESHOLD = 51

with open("sample_blinking_data.arff", 'w') as blinking_data:
    blinking_data.write('@RELATION blinking\n')
    blinking_data.write(f'{ATT_STRING} frames_since_experiment_started\n')
    blinking_data.write(f'{ATT_STRING} frames_since_the_last_blink\n')
    blinking_data.write(f'{ATT_STRING} is_blink {NUMER}\n')
    blinking_data.write(f'{ATT_STRING} attention_level {T_F_String}\n')
    blinking_data.write("\n@DATA")
    for student_index in range(1, 12):
        with open(
            f'../mEBAL_database/Webcams-EEG (User 1-11)/Webcams-EEG\n'
            f'(User 1-11)/User {str(student_index)}/StudentData/StudentData.csv') as stud_data:
            stud_reader = csv.DictReader(stud_data, delimiter=' ')
            for row in stud_reader:
                start = row["Start_the_exam"].split(':')
                end = row["End_of_exam"].split(':')
                date = row["Exam_day_is"].split('-')
                start_day_time = datetime.datetime(int(date[0]), int(date[1]),
int(date[2]), int(start[0]),
```

```

        int(start[1]),
        int(start[2].split('.')[0]),
int(start[2].split('.')[1][:3]))
        end_day_time = datetime.datetime(int(date[0]), int(date[1]),
int(date[2]), int(end[0]), int(end[1]),
        int(end[2].split('.')[0]), int(end[2].split('.')[1][:3]))
        duration = end_day_time - start_day_time
        # read attention data
        with open(
            f'C:/Users/Polina/Documents/Studies/Final Project/Alert
Fatigue/mEBAL_database/Webcams-EEG (User 1-11)/Webcams-EEG (User 1-11)/User
{str(student_index)}/MindWave/file_ATT.csv") as attention_file:
            att_reader = csv.DictReader(attention_file, delimiter=' ')
            attention_dictionary = {}
            for row in att_reader:
                date = row['Date'].split('/')
                hour = row['Hour'].split(':')
                attention_level = int(row['ATT'])
                time_diff = datetime.datetime(int(date[2]), int(date[1]),
int(date[0]), int(hour[0]),
                    int(hour[1]),
                    int(hour[2]), int(hour[3])) - start_day_time
                seconds_diff = time_diff.total_seconds()
                frame = int(seconds_diff // 0.033)
                # print(frame)
                attention_dictionary[frame] = attention_level
            # print(attention_dictionary)
        # read blinks data
        with open(

```

```

f"C:/Users/Polina/Documents/Studies/Final Project/Alert
Fatigue/mEBAL_database/Eye Blinks/Eye Blinks/User
{str(student_index)}/Blink/Right_Blink.csv") as blink_db:
    blink_reader = csv.reader(blink_db, delimiter=' ')
    blinks_list = []
    last_blink_frame = 0
    # print(blink_reader)
    for row in blink_reader:
        if row[0] != 'Start_Blink' and len(row) == 3:
            print(row)
            if row[2] == '1':
                last_blink_frame = int(((int(row[1]) + int(row[0])) / 2) -
last_blink_frame)
                blinks_list.append([int(row[0]), int(row[1]), int(row[2]),
last_blink_frame])
                # start_frame = int(row[0])
                # end_frame = int(row[0])
                # blink = row([2])
            #print(blinks_list)
            last_blink = 0
    for key in attention_dictionary:
        curr_str = "\n"
        found = False

        for bl_data in blinks_list:
            if (bl_data[0] <= key <= bl_data[1]):
                curr_str =
f"\n{str(key)}, {bl_data[3]}, {bl_data[2]}, {attention_dictionary[key]}>=ATTENTION_LE
VEL_THRESHOLD}'
                found = True
            blinking_data.write(curr_str)

```

```

        last_blink = bl_data[3]
        # print(last_blink)
        break
    if not found:
        curr_str =
f'\n{str(key)}, {last_blink+key}, 0, {attention_dictionary[key]}>=ATTENTION_LEVEL_T
HRESHOLD}'
        blinking_data.write(curr_str)

```

12.2. Appendix B

Script for Analysis of the Experiments Results

```
import csv

statistic_list = []
files_endings_list = ['bayes', 'functions', 'lazy', 'meta', 'misc', 'rules', 'trees']
for file in files_endings_list:
    with open(f"learning_results_{file}.csv") as results_csv:
        results_dict = csv.DictReader(results_csv)
        for entry in results_dict:
            statistic_list.append([entry['Percent_incorrect'], entry['Key_Scheme']])

statistic_list.sort(key=lambda x: x[0])
no_duplicates_list = []
additional_list = []
for line in statistic_list:
    # print(line[1])
    if line[1] not in additional_list:
        no_duplicates_list.append(line)
        additional_list.append(line[1])
with open('best_algorithms.csv', 'w') as res:
    for any in no_duplicates_list:
        print(f'{any[0]} {any[1]}')
```

12.3. Appendix C

Python code to detect eye blinking and corresponding data for the model input

```
# All the imports go here
import numpy as np
import cv2
import time

# Initializing the face and eye cascade classifiers from xml files
face_cascade = cv2.CascadeClassifier('haarcascade_frontalface_default.xml')
eye_cascade = cv2.CascadeClassifier('haarcascade_eye_tree_eyeglasses.xml')

# Variable store execution state
first_read = True

# Starting the video capture
cap = cv2.VideoCapture(0)
ret, img = cap.read()
zero_frame_time = time.time()
last_blink_frame = 0
while (ret):
    ret, img = cap.read()
    # Converting the recorded image to grayscale
    gray = cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
    # Applying filter to remove impurities
    gray = cv2.bilateralFilter(gray, 5, 1, 1)

    # Detecting the face for region of image to be fed to eye classifier
    faces = face_cascade.detectMultiScale(gray, 1.3, 5, minSize=(200, 200))
    if (len(faces) > 0):
        for (x, y, w, h) in faces:
```



```

img = cv2.rectangle(img, (x, y), (x + w, y + h), (0, 255, 0), 2)

# roi_face is face which is input to eye classifier
roi_face = gray[y:y + h, x:x + w]
roi_face_clr = img[y:y + h, x:x + w]
eyes = eye_cascade.detectMultiScale(roi_face, 1.3, 5, minSize=(50, 50))

# Examining the length of eyes object for eyes
if (len(eyes) >= 2):
    # Check if program is running for detection
    if (first_read):
        current_frame = (time.time()-zero_frame_time)//0.033
        cv2.putText(img,
                    f"Open eye detected, frame_number{current_frame}, ",
                    (30, 30),
                    cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
                    (0, 255, 0), 2)
        cv2.putText(img,
                    f"frames elapsed since the last blink{current_frame -
last_blink_frame}",
                    (70, 70),
                    cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
                    (0, 255, 0), 2)
    else:
        current_frame = (time.time() - zero_frame_time) // 0.033
        cv2.putText(img,
                    f"Eyes open, frame_number{current_frame}, ", (30, 30),
                    cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
                    (255, 255, 255), 2)
        cv2.putText(img,

```

```

        f"frames elapsed since the last blink {current_frame -
last_blink_frame}",
        (70, 70),
        cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
        (0, 255, 0), 2)
    else:
        current_frame = (time.time() - zero_frame_time) // 0.033
        if (first_read):
            # To ensure if the eyes are present before starting
            cv2.putText(img,
                f"BLINK! frame_number {current_frame}, ", (30, 30),
                cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
                (0, 0, 255), 2)
            cv2.putText(img,
                f"frames elapsed since the last blink {current_frame -
last_blink_frame}",
                (70, 70),
                cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 1,
                (0, 255, 0), 2)
            last_blink_frame = current_frame
        else:
            # This will print on console and restart the algorithm
            print(f"Blink detected-----\nframe_number {current_frame}, "
                f"\nframes elapsed since the last
blink {current_frame-last_blink_frame}")
            cv2.waitKey(3000)
            first_read = True
            last_blink_frame = current_frame

    else:
        cv2.putText(img,

```

```
"No face detected", (100, 100),  
cv2.FONT_HERSHEY_PLAIN, 3,  
(0, 255, 0), 2)
```

```
# Controlling the algorithm with keys
```

```
cv2.imshow('img', img)
```

```
a = cv2.waitKey(1)
```

```
if (a == ord('q')):
```

```
    break
```

```
elif (a == ord('s') and first_read):
```

```
    # This will start the detection
```

```
    first_read = False
```

```
cap.release()
```

```
cv2.destroyAllWindows()
```