RePAD3: Advanced Lightweight Adaptive Anomaly Detection for Univariate Time Series of Any Pattern

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Abstract: Univariate time series anomaly detection is crucial for early risk identification and prompt response, making it essential for diverse applications such as energy usage monitoring, temperature monitoring, heart rate monitoring. To be applicable and valuable in the real world, anomaly detection must process time series data on the fly, detect anomalies in real time, and adapt to unexpected pattern changes in an efficient and lightweight manner. Several anomaly detection approaches with such capability have been introduced; however, they often generate frequent false positives. In this paper, we present a lightweight and adaptive anomaly detection approach named RePAD3 by leveraging the strengths of two state-of-the-art methods and mitigating their shortcomings with advanced detection and pattern inspection. According to our extensive experiments with real-world time series datasets, RePAD3 demonstrates superior detection accuracy and lower false positives across various patterns presented in the time series, thereby broadening its real-world applicability.

1 INTRODUCTION

A univariate time series refers to a sequence of observations or measurements recorded at consistent intervals over time and associated with a single timedependent variable (Blázquez-García et al., 2021). It may display either a non-recurrent pattern or a recurrent pattern. Examples of such data include room temperature, CO2 levels, energy usage, vibration levels, and blood pressure. This type of time series data is widespread in various monitoring systems and IoT devices across multiple sectors, such as cyber-physical systems (Ma et al., 2023), smart cities, healthcare monitoring (Haque et al., 2015), environmental tracking, and smart manufacturing.

Identifying unusual or abnormal data points within univariate time series is crucial for industries and organizations, as these anomalous data points can signal potential issues such as intrusion attempts, malicious attacks, or system malfunction. Providing real-time anomaly detection is also imperative as it enables prompt responses to emerging issues and helps prevent catastrophic failures or events (Blázquez-García et al., 2021; Lee et al., 2020a; Lee et al., 2020b). Furthermore, for anomaly detection to be truly valuable and applicable in real-world scenarios, it must process time series data on the fly, accurately detect anomalies as they occur, and efficiently adapt to unforeseen pattern changes without any downtime (Lee and Lin, 2023a; Wu et al., 2020).

Many univariate time series anomaly detection approaches, based on either statistical methods or machine learning, have been developed. However, they often lack the ability to adapt to changes in data patterns over time. In recent years, several anomaly detection approaches utilizing recurrent neural networks have been introduced, such as RePAD (Lee et al., 2020b), ReRe (Lee et al., 2020a), and RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a). Nonetheless, they encounter difficulties with high false positives when applied to time series that exhibit recurrent patterns. To address the aforementioned issues, this paper proposes RePAD3, a lightweight and adaptive anomaly detection approach for univariate time series, based on two methods, RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a) and GrammarViz 3.0 (Senin et al., 2018). The former excels at providing real-time, lightweight, unsupervised, and adaptive anomaly detection, while the latter excels in identify-

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ing recurrent patterns. However, RePAD2 may produce notable false positives with recurrent time series. Conversely, GrammarViz 3.0 (GV for short), an offline tool, allows users to configure parameters and visually validate results but cannot process time series in real time as new data points emerge.

To leverage the strengths of both methods and mitigate their drawbacks, RePAD3 employs both methods to jointly detect anomalies in the target time series. Whenever RePAD2 identifies an anomalous data point, RePAD3 evaluates whether it should be considered anomalous by performing advanced detection based on recent data fluctuations within the time series. This strategy helps reduce false positives introduced by RePAD2. Additionally, RePAD3 strategically invokes GV periodically to identify all possible recurrent patterns within the current time series. Only qualified recurrent patterns defined by RePAD3 are considered to determine if the time series has shifted its pattern and whether this transition should be considered anomalous. This design aids in identifying recurrent patterns and reducing false positives.

To demonstrate the performance of RePAD3, we conducted experiments with four different real-world time series datasets to compare RePAD3 against several state-of-the-art anomaly detection approaches. The results demonstrate that RePAD3 excels in detecting anomalies in both recurrent and non-recurrent time series, achieving high efficiency and accuracy. It notably outperforms the other approaches by reducing false positives without any significant increase in detection time.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work. Section 3 introduces RePAD2 and GV. Section 4 presents the design of RePAD3. Section 5 covers experiments and results. Section 6 outlines conclusions and future work.

2 RELATED WORK

Time series anomaly detection approaches can be divided into three categories: statistical methods, machine learning methods, and deep learning methods (Braei and Wagner, 2020). Statistical-based methods create a model of normal behavior from historical time series data to detect anomalies. Typical examples include Autoregressive Model, Moving Average Model, and Autoregressive Moving Average Model, as mentioned in (Braei and Wagner, 2020). Luminol (LinkedIn, 2018), developed by LinkedIn, calculates an anomaly score for each data point in a time series. However, final determination requires human domain expertise. Siffer et al. proposed a detection method based on Extreme Value Theory without assuming time series distribution or requiring manual threshold settings (Siffer et al., 2017), but it requires a significant calibration period.

Machine learning-based anomaly detection methods excel in diverse domains beyond traditional statistical approaches because they do not need to understand the data generation process or assume a specific model (Braei and Wagner, 2020; Breiman, 2001). Examples include subsequence time-series clustering, local outlier factor, Isolation Forest, One-Class SVN, and Extreme Gradient boosting, as described in (Braei and Wagner, 2020). Isolation Forest (Liu et al., 2008) gained more popularity due to its simplicity and effectiveness, but it treats each data point independently without considering temporal order, which might lead to poor detection performance (Audibert et al., 2020).

Deep learning-based anomaly detection leverages neural networks, such as recurrent neural networks (RNN), long short-term memory (LSTM), convolutional neural networks, and autoencoders, to identify anomalies in time series data. Goh et al. introduced an unsupervised approach to detect cyber attacks in cyber-physical systems (Goh et al., 2017). The method leverages LSTM-RNN as a time series predictor and employs the cumulative sum method to identify anomalies within a simulated water treatment plant environment. However, the model lacks adaptability as it is trained offline without subsequent updates or retraining.

RePAD (Lee et al., 2020b) represents the first effort to train detection models online and automatically adapt to pattern changes without human intervention. It uses a simple LSTM model trained with short-term historical data points to predict and detect anomalies. If the model fails to accurately predict a data point, RePAD replaces it with a new model trained on the latest data points. If the new model also fails to predict the same data point, the data point is considered anomalous. This enables RePAD to adapt to pattern changes in the time series and identify anomalies. However, RePAD experiences high false positives with recurrent time series and may exhaust system resources with open-ended time series.

ReRe (Lee et al., 2020a) builds upon RePAD to enhance detection accuracy by employing two LSTM detectors to detect anomalies. While one detector operates similarly to RePAD, the other uses a stricter detection threshold. However, the detection improvement seems limited. RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a) employs the same logic as RePAD for anomaly detection but adjusts the design of the detection threshold. In RePAD, all historical Average Absolute Relative Error (AARE) values are used to calculate its threshold, which could potentially strain system resources when dealing with open-ended time series. To mitigate this, RePAD2 considers only a fixed number of recent AARE values. Nevertheless, RePAD2 does not resolve the issue of high false positives in recurrent time series. SALAD (Lee et al., 2021b) is designed for recurrent time series. It converts the time series into AARE values dynamically in its first phase and then predicts future AARE values based on short-term historical data in its second phase. However, users need knowledge about the duration of recurrent patterns in the target time series to pre-configure the parameter *b*, which is the number of data points used to train the LSTM model in the first phase.

Other time series anomaly detection approaches based on deep learning, such as (Chen et al., 2022), (Yang et al., 2023), and (Wang et al., 2023), have also been introduced. However, they often require offline model training, which can be time-consuming, and they might not be able to adapt to pattern changes within time series in dynamic environments.

3 BACKGROUND

Before introducing RePAD3 in details, this section provides a brief overview of RePAD2 and GV.

3.1 RePAD2

RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a) is designed to detect anomalous data points in real time from an openended time series while adapting to pattern changes over time. Let *T* denote the current time point, starting from 0, which indicates the first time point in the target time series. RePAD2 always uses three historical data points to train an LSTM model and uses the model to predict the next upcoming data point. Hence, the first model can be trained at time point 2, and the second at time point 3. In order to identify anomalies, RePAD2 calculates an AARE value at every *T*, denoted by $AARE_T$, using Equation 1.

$$AARE_{T} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{y=T-2}^{T} \frac{|D_{y} - \widehat{D_{y}}|}{D_{y}}, T \ge 5$$
(1)

 D_y and $\widehat{D_y}$ represent the observed and predicted data point values at time point y, respectively. A low AARE value signifies that the predicted values are close to the observed values. Additionally, to calculate its detection threshold *thd* (see Equation 2), RePAD2 requires at least three AARE values, allowing it to calculate the threshold at each time point from time point 7 onward. In Equations 3 and 4, W limits the number of historical AARE values used to calculate *thd*. If the total number of historical AARE values is less than *W*, all values are used; otherwise, only the *W* most recent ones are used, preventing resource exhaustion.

$$thd = \mu_{aare} + 3 \cdot \sigma_{aare}, T \ge 7 \tag{2}$$

$$\mu_{aare} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{T-4} \sum_{x=5}^{T} AARE_x, 7 \le T < W+4\\ \frac{1}{W} \sum_{x=T-W+1}^{T} AARE_x, T \ge W+4 \end{cases}$$
(3)

$$\sigma_{aare} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{x=5}^{T} (AARE_x - \mu_{aare})^2}{T-4}}, 7 \le T < W + 4\\ \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{x=T-W+1}^{T} (AARE_x - \mu_{aare})^2}{W}}, T \ge W + 4 \end{cases}$$
(4)

At every *T* where $T \ge 7$, RePAD2 compares $AARE_T$ with the current *thd*. If $AARE_T$ does not exceed *thd*, the data point at *T*, denoted by D_T , is not considered anomalous, and the current LSTM model is retained for future prediction. However, if $AARE_T \ge thd$, RePAD2 attempts to adapt to potential pattern changes by retraining another LSTM model with the three most recent data points to re-predict D_T . If the new model yields an AARE value lower than *thd*, RePAD2 does not consider D_T anomalous. Otherwise, RePAD2 immediately reports D_T as anomalous, allowing for immediate actions or countermeasures.

3.2 GV

μ

GV (Senin et al., 2018), standing for GrammarViz 3.0, is an interactive tool for time series pattern discovery. It employs grammar-based compression to detect and visualize anomalies. To use it, users need to input an entire time series and configure three parameters: sliding window size (*sw*), PAA size (*w*), and alphabet size (α). Note that PAA stands for Piecewise Aggregate Approximation.

GV consists of three phases. In the first phase, GV converts the time series into a symbolic representation. The process begins with applying *sw*, which captures overlapping segments as it moves along the time series. Each segment is then normalized and reduced using PAA(Keogh et al., 2001), where the segment is divided into *w* parts, and the average data value within each part is calculated. These average values are then mapped to one of α symbols, forming a symbolic representation. Figure 1 illustrates how a time series of 100 data points transforms into the string 'cabbc'.

In the second phase, GV utilizes algorithms like Sequitur (Nevill-Manning and Witten, 1997) to analyze the symbolic representation strings and extract production rules that describe observed patterns. The resulting grammar models repetitive and significant patterns. The final phase involves detecting motifs and anomalies using the grammar, where motifs



Figure 1: An example of time series discretization (Senin, 2023).

represent typical behaviors or recurrent events, and anomalies indicate deviations from normal behavior. GV includes visualization tools for users to identify motifs and anomalies in the time series. It is important to note that GV was designed for offline operations. Converting GV into an online tool by launching it whenever a new data point is observed may seem straightforward, but it is inefficient and could lead to unnecessary computational overhead. Additionally, GV might overwrite and deny some of anomalies that they have claimed previously) (Lee et al., 2021b).

4 THE DESIGN OF RePAD3

Figure 2 illustrates the pseudo code of RePAD3. Let t denote the current time point. When t equals 0, indicating the first time point in the target time series, RePAD3 launches RePAD2 by injecting the first data point D_0 into RePAD2, and it also assumes that the time series is non-recurrent by setting flag F to False.

Whenever time advances, RePAD3 collects a newly received data point D_t and injects it into RePAD2, then waits for notifications. If D_t is identified as anomalous by RePAD2, RePAD3 further evaluates whether D_t should be reported as anomalous. To achieve this advanced detection, a threshold denoted by thd_{ad} is calculated using Equation 5, based on the Three-Sigma Rule (Hochenbaum et al., 2017).

$$thd_{ad} = \mu + 3 \cdot \sigma \tag{5}$$

 μ and σ represent the mean and standard deviation of previously collected data point values, and they are calculated using Equations 6 and 7 respectively. To prevent slowdown or resource exhaustion, parameter *L* limits the number of historical data point values used for calculating *thd_{ad}*. If the total number of collected data points is less than *L*, all are used; otherwise, only the *L* most recent ones are considered. If *D_t* exceeds *thd_{ad}*, RePAD3 immediately reports *D_t* as anomalous; otherwise, it considers *D_t* normal and instructs RePAD2 to continue using its current LSTM model for future prediction (see lines 9 and 10 of Figure 2).

$$\mu = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{t+1} \sum_{x=0}^{t} D_x, t < L \\ \frac{1}{L} \sum_{x=t-L+1}^{t} D_x, t \ge L \end{cases}$$
(6)

$$\sigma = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{x=0}^{t} (D_x - \mu)^2}{t+1}}, 7 \le t < L\\ \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{x=t-L+1}^{t} (D_x - \mu)^2}{L}}, t \ge L \end{cases}$$
(7)

Furthermore, RePAD3 periodically inspects the time series to identify pattern changes and detect anomalies by invoking GV whenever $t \ge 4K$ and $t \mod K = 0$ (see lines 11 and 12). If users can easily observe a recurring pattern within the target time series, they can set *K* to roughly the total number of data points within that pattern. Otherwise, K is determined by the duration for which users want to search for recurring patterns, calculated based on the data point interval of the target time series. For example, if users are seeking daily patterns in a time series with 1-hour interval, K is set to 24; for weekly patterns, K is set to 168. Whenever GV is launched at intervals of K, it searches for motifs within the last 4K period by setting its sliding window size to K. To simply the design of RePAD3, both PAA and alphabet sizes of GV are consistently set to 4, the default setting for GV.

It is important to note that the motifs identified by GV may overlap. If the overlap is substantial, as with the four motifs in Figure 3(a), each marked with an arrow, RePAD3 does not consider the time series to be recurrent. Moreover, if the motifs identified by GV contain fewer than three distinct alphabet letters, such as the motif 'abbababa', RePAD3 does not consider these motifs as qualified recurrent patterns because they might indicate minor, frequent fluctuations in time series. To summarize, RePAD3 employs two conditions to determine qualified motifs: 1) there must be two similar subsequences within the last 4K period, with adjacent subsequences not overlapping by more than five data points, and 2) each subsequence must contain at least three different alphabet letters. Figure 3(b) illustrates an example where two subsequences are considered qualified motifs.

As shown on lines 13 and 14, if the current time series is non-recurrent (i.e., *F* is False) but GV returns qualified motifs within the last 4*K* period, RePAD3 determines whether the time series has transitioned from non-recurrent to recurrent. To do this, it calculates the difference between the current time point *t* and the end time point of the last qualified motif found, denoted by *e*, and then compares the difference with a pre-defined small value *x*. If t - e < x (see line 16), RePAD3 considers the time series as recurrent from that point onward and set *F* to True because a qualified motif has recently emerged. In this scenario, RePAD3 does not consider the transition anomalous, as it signifies that the time series has evolved into a more predictable and stable pattern.

| Inpu | t: Each data point in the target time series |
|------|--|
| Outp | out: Anomaly notifications |
| Proc | edure: |
| 1: | Let t be the current time point; // t starts from 0 and increases by 1 when time advances; |
| 2: | Launch RePAD2; |
| 3: | Let flag F to be False; // The time series is initially considered non-recurrent. |
| 4: | Collect data point D_0 within the time series and inject it into RePAD2; |
| 5: | While time has advanced { |
| 6: | Collect data point D_t within the time series and inject it into RePAD2; |
| 7: | if D_t is found to be anomalous by RePAD2{ |
| 8: | Calculate thd_{ad} using Equation 5; |
| 9: | if $D_t \ge thd_{ad}$ { Report D_t as anomalous;} |
| 10: | else { Inform RePAD2 to retain its current LSTM model for future predictions;}} |
| 11: | if $t \ge 4K$ and $t \mod K == 0$ { |
| 12: | Run GV by taking D_{t-4K+1} , D_{t-4K+2} ,, and D_t as its input; |
| 13: | if F is False { //It means that the time series is not currently considered recurrent. |
| 14: | if GV returns qualified motifs { |
| 15: | Let e be the end time point of the last returned qualified motif; |
| 16: | if $t - e < x$ { Consider the time series as recurrent by setting F to True; }}} |
| 17: | else { //It means that the time series is currently considered recurrent. |
| 18: | if GV returns qualified motifs { |
| 19: | Let e be the end time point of the last returned qualified motif; |
| 20: | if $t - e < x$ { Continue considering the time series as recurrent; } |
| 21: | else { Report an anomaly and set F to False;}} |
| 22: | else { Report an anomaly and set F to False; } } } |

Figure 2: The pseudo code of RePAD3.



Figure 3: Examples of motifs: (a) shows unqualified motifs; (b) depicts qualified motifs.

However, if *F* is True and GV also returns qualified motifs, RePAD3 determines whether the time series is still recurrent by re-calculating the difference between *t* and *e* and comparing it with *x*. If t - e < x (see line 20), RePAD3 still considers the time series recurrent. However, if $t - e \ge x$ (see line 21), RePAD3 instantly reports an anomaly because the time series has likely transitioned from recurrent to non-recurrent, as shown in Figure 4. This may indicate that an evident change or breakdown in the previously stable state. Another case where RePAD3 reports an anomaly is when *F* is True but GV fails to return any qualified motifs (see line 22), implying that the time series has clearly transitioned from recurrent to non-recurrent.

Based on the aforementioned design, it is evident that RePAD3 does not merely utilize RePAD2 and GV to detect anomalies. Instead, it leverages the strengths of both methods while attempting to address their limitations by introducing the advanced detection and pattern inspection.



Figure 4: Time series transition from recurrent to non-recurrent.

5 EVALUATION AND RESULTS

To evaluate RePAD3, we compared it against four other state-of-the-art approaches known for their realtime, unsupervised, and adaptive anomaly capabilities without offline model training: RePAD (Lee et al., 2020b), RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a), ReRe (Lee et al., 2020a), and SALAD (Lee et al., 2021b). In order to ensure a fair and relevant comparison, we excluded approaches that rely on offline model training, as they are often pre-retrained with extensive datasets, which differs completely from the design of

| | BSMS | P3 | CPU-B3B | P11 |
|----------------------------|--------|------|---------|------|
| Total Data Points | 744 | 8493 | 4032 | 3535 |
| Data Point Interval | 1 hour | n/a | 5 min | n/a |
| Total Point Anomalies | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Total Sequential Anomalies | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

Table 1: Details of the four real-world time series used in our experiments.

RePAD3. We conducted four experiments using four real-world time series data with distinct patterns to demonstrate RePAD3's detection capabilities across diverse cases. Table 1 summarizes these four time series. The first, Bourke Stree Mall South (BSMS), features 744 data points from Melbourne Pedestrian Foot Traffic (CityofMelbourne, 2020). The second, P3, consists of 8493 data points related to power channel from the Soil Moisture Active Passive satellite (SMAP) dataset (Hundman et al., 2018). The third time series, rds-cpu-utilization-e47b3b (CPU-B3B), includes 4032 data points related to CPU utilization from the Numenta Anomaly Benchmark dataset (Lavin and Ahmad, 2015). The last time series, P11, comprises 3535 data points from the Curiosity Rover on Mars (MSL) dataset (Hundman et al., 2018).

Each time series contains either point or sequential anomalies, annotated by human experts. A point anomaly is considered as a single data point that significantly differs from the rest of the dataset, while a sequential anomaly consists of consecutive data points deviating from the expected pattern (Schneider et al., 2021). In addition, BSMS and CPU-B3B feature data point intervals, whereas P3 and P11 do not, as their timestamps have been anonymized.

To evaluate the detection accuracy of all approaches, we adopted the evaluation method outlined in (Lee et al., 2020a) to measure precision (defined as $\frac{TP}{TP+FP}$), recall (defined as $\frac{TP}{TP+FN}$), and F1-score (defined as $2 \cdot \frac{precision \cdot recall}{precision + recall}$). Here, *TP*, *FP*, and *FN* represent true positives, false positives, and false negatives, respectively. More specifically, if any point anomaly occurring at time point z can be detected within a time range from z-k to z+k, it is considered correctly detected. On the other hand, if a sequential anomaly starting at time point *i* and ending at time point *j* can be detected within the period from i-k to *j*, this detection is deemed correct. We adhered the guidelines used in (Ren et al., 2019), setting k to 3 for hourly-interval time series and 7 for minutely-interval time series across all the approaches. Furthermore, we evaluated the efficiency of each approach using three metrics:

 Online LSTM retraining ratio: Proportion of data points requiring online LSTM model retraining to the total data points in the time series. A lower ratio signifies less resource consumption.

- DT-noTrain: Time taken to detect anomaly for each data point when model retraining is not required.
- DT-Train: Time taken to detect anomaly for each data point when model retraining is required.

To ensure a fair comparison, we attempted to configure the same hyperparameter and parameter setting for all the approaches. However, SALAD consists of two phases, making identical configuration impossible. Despite this, we aligned the settings as closely as feasible. Table 2 lists the hyperparameter and parameter settings for all the approaches compared. These settings closely adhere to those used by ReRe (Lee et al., 2020a) and RePAD2 (Lee and Lin, 2023a), ensuring consistent and comparable comparison across different approaches. Specifically, the Look-Back parameter was set to 3, and the Predict-Forward parameter was set to 1, as recommended by Lee et al. (Lee et al., 2021a) The LSTM models trained in all the approaches have only one hidden layer with 10 hidden units, making them very lightweight. In addition, Early Stopping (EarlyStopping, 2023) was used in all the approaches to automatically determine the number of epochs, preventing the LSTM models from overfitting the data. The maximum number of epochs for all the approaches was set at 50, except for the first phase of SALAD, which was set to 100 due to the increased data points used for model (re)training (Lee et al., 2021b).

| | RePAD, ReRe, RePAD2, RePAD3 | SALAD | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| | | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | |
| Total Hidden Layers | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Total Hidden Units | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| Maximum Epochs | 50 | 100 | 50 | |
| Learning Rate | 0.005 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | |
| Activation Function | tanh | tanh | sigmoid | |
| Random Seed | 140 | 140 | 140 | |
| Look-back parameter | 3 | - | 3 | |
| Predict-forward parameter | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

Table 2: Hyperparameter and parameter setting.

Recall that RePAD3 employs RePAD2 to identify suspicious data points, so it inherits parameter *W* used by RePAD2 to avoid resource exhaustion. To ensure fairness in comparison, *W* was set to the total length of each time series for RePAD2 and RePAD3, allowing all the approaches to utilize all historical AARE values for their dynamic threshold calculation. This setting also means that RePAD2 would operate exactly the same as RePAD.

Additionally, using RePAD3 requires preconfiguring the parameters L and x. The former is used in Equations 6 and 7 to perform advanced

| | P2 | | P3 | | P4 | | P11 | | P14 | | | P15 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|---|----|-------|----|-------|-----|---|-----|-------|---|-------|-------|---|-------|---|---|----|
| | Р | R | F1 | Р | R | F1 | P | R | F1 | Р | R | F1 | Р | R | F1 | P | R | F1 |
| RePAD3(L=8) | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| RePAD3(L=9) | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| RePAD3(L=10) | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| RePAD3(L=11) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=12) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=13) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.995 | 1 | 0.997 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=14) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.995 | 1 | 0.997 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=15) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.989 | 1 | 0.994 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=16) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.989 | 1 | 0.994 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=17) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.989 | 1 | 0.994 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=18) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.984 | 1 | 0.992 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RePAD3(L=19) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.978 | 1 | 0.989 | 0 | 0 | - |
| RePAD3(L=20) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 0.999 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.996 | 1 | 0.998 | 0.973 | 1 | 0.986 | 0 | 0 | - |

Table 3: Detection accuracy of RePAD3 across various settings of parameter L for advanced detection in six different time series. Note that P, R, and F1 denote precision, recall, and F1-score, respectively.

detection on any suspicious data points reported by RePAD2. To determine an appropriate value for L, we evaluated the advanced detection function of RePAD3 on six different time series (named P2, P3, P4, P11, P14, and P15) from the SMAP and MSL datasets by disabling periodic invocations of GV. Table 3 details the detection accuracy of RePAD3 across 13 settings of L on these six time series. It is evident that setting L to 11 or 12 yields the highest F1-score of 1 across all the six time series. In contrast, lower values of L resulted in a recall of 0, and higher values of L resulted in a recall of 11 or 12. Therefore, in this paper, L was set to 11 for RePAD3.

On the other hand, recall that the parameter x determines whether a qualified motif has recently emerged (see lines 16 and 20 in Figure 2). Setting x too high can lead to misidentification of data patterns; thus, a lower value is recommended. In all the experiments, x was carefully set to 10 based on a thorough analysis. This setting implies that a time series is considered recurrent if a qualified motif appears within the last 10 time points.

All the approaches were implemented using DL4J (Deeplearning4j, 2023), a Java-based programming library for deep learning. All the experiments were conducted on a laptop running MacOS Sonoma 14.2.1, equipped with a 2.6 GHz 6-Core Intel Core i7 processor and 16GB DDR4 SDRAM. To simulate the streaming behavior of time series, we adopted Apache Kafka with version 2.13-3.4.0. For each time series, each data point was sequentially injected into each approach being compared.

5.1 Evaluation Results on BSMS

In the first experiment, we evaluated the five approaches on BSMS, which has a data point interval of one hour. Figure 5 depicts the entire BSMS time series, with the sequential anomaly marked in red. Recall that SALAD requires users to configure parameter *b* based on their knowledge about the duration of recurrent patterns in the target series. Given that the duration of recurrent patterns in BSMS roughly consists of 24 data points, we set *b* to 48 (i.e., $24 \cdot 2$) and 72 (i.e., $24 \cdot 3$) to evaluate SALAD's performance under these two settings. These two variants are denoted by SALAD-48 and SALAD-72. Additionally, due to the evident recurring pattern, we set parameter *K* to 24 for RePAD3. For the remaining tested approaches, no such parameters need to be pre-configured.



Figure 5: Anomalies detected within BSMS by each tested approach, with a true sequential anomaly highlighted in red.

Figure 5 shows all data points detected as anomalies by each tested approach, and Table 4 provides detailed results on detection accuracy and time efficiency. It is clear from the table that RePAD and RePAD2 exhibited identical detection accuracy, as they both utilized all historical AARE values to calculate their detection threshold in this experiment, rendering them indistinguishable. Both were unable to identify the sequential anomaly, resulting in precision and recall scores of 0. Because of this reason, we omit RePAD's detection results in Figure 5, as they mirror those of RePAD2. Furthermore, we observed that ReRe could not detect the anomaly either, imply-

| | E a | etectio | on cy | Online LSTM retraining ratio | DT-Tra | in (sec) | DT-noTrain (sec) | | |
|----------|--------|---------|----------|------------------------------|--------|----------|------------------|-------|--|
| | Р | R | F1 | | Avg. | Std. | Avg. | Std. | |
| RePAD | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0.042(=31/744) | 0.265 | 0.042 | 0.012 | 0.001 | |
| RePAD2 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0.042(=31/744) | 0.267 | 0.043 | 0.012 | 0.001 | |
| PaPa | 0 | 0 | NI/A | D1: 0.042(=31/744) | 0.505 | 0.148 | 0.052 | 0.021 | |
| KEKE | 0 | 0 | IN/A | D2: 0.052(=39/744) | 0.393 | 0.140 | 0.052 | 0.031 | |
| SALAD 48 | 0.533 | 1 | 0.605 | Phase 1: 0.109(=81/744) | 4 867 | 0.532 | 0.197 | 0.000 | |
| SALAD-40 | 0.333 | 1 | 0.095 | Phase 2: 0.063(=41/648) | 4.807 | | | 0.090 | |
| SALAD 72 | 0.667 | 1 | 0.800 | Phase 1: 0.132(=98/744) | 7.035 | 0.545 | 0.256 | 0.114 | |
| SALAD-72 | 0.007 | 1 | 0.800 | Phase 2: 0.047(=28/600) | 1.055 | 0.545 | 0.230 | 0.114 | |
| RePAD3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.071(=53/744) | 0.274 | 0.050 | 0.016 | 0.003 | |

Table 4: Performance results of all compared approaches on BSMS.

ing that its parallel detectors still cannot recognize the recurrent pattern within BSMS.

When SALAD-48 and SALAD-72 were tested, both detected the anomaly; however, they also generated false positives. It is evident that setting b to 72 yields better results than setting b to 48. It is clear that among all the tested approaches, RePAD3 stands out for its superior detection accuracy, as it successfully detected the anomaly without any false positives, resulting in the highest F1-score of 1. In fact, as shown in Figure 5, it proactively detected the anomaly one hour before it occurred, enabling timely intervention from human experts.

Regarding time consumption in anomaly detection, it is evident from Table 4 that when LSTM model retraining was necessary, all approaches required more time to detect each data point compared to when LSTM model retraining was not required. Notably, the two SALAD variants took more time to detect each data point compared to the other approaches. This is due to the more frequent model retraining needed to adapt to pattern changes in BSMS, especially in the first phase of SALAD, as indicated by the LSTM retraining ratios of 0.109 and 0.132 shown in Table 4. Additionally, due to the utilization of two parallel detectors, D1 and D2, ReRe required 0.595 seconds for DT-Train and 0.052 seconds for DT-noTrain in average. These values are higher than those of RePAD, RePAD2, and RePAD3.

It is evident that, despite the use of RePAD2 and GV, there was only a slight increase in DT-Train and DT-noTrain for RePAD3. This is due to 1) the advanced detection only occurred when a suspicious data point was reported by RePAD2, and 2) GV was invoked periodically at 24 time points instead of every time point. This design ensures that RePAD3 not only remains lightweight but only provides real-time responses.

Based on the above results, we conclude that RePAD3 excels in detection accuracy and maintains high efficiency, despite a slight increase in detection response time compared to RePAD and RePAD2. In contrast, while RePAD, RePAD2, and ReRe are considered lightweight, they struggle to handle BSMS. Furthermore, SALAD's accuracy depends on the proper setting of parameter b, and it is less time-efficient than the other approaches.

5.2 Evaluation Results on P3

In the second experiment, we evaluated the five approaches on P3, where data point intervals are unknown due to anonymization by the data owner. Figure 6 depicts the time series, with the true sequential anomaly marked in red. It can be easily observed that there is a recurring pattern within P3, and the approximate length is 168 data points. Hence, we set K to 168 for RePAD3, and we also used this information to configure parameter b for SALAD. Here, we set b to 336 (i.e., 168 \cdot 2) and 504 (i.e., 168 \cdot 3) to evaluate SALAD's performance under these two settings. These two variants are denoted by SALAD-336 and SALAD-504. Similar to the first experiment, the other approaches do not require such a setting.

Figure 6 depicts all data points identified as anomalies by each approach tested, and Table 5 provides detailed performance results. All tested approaches successfully detected the anomaly within P3, which is why they achieved a recall of 1, except for SALAD. It is clear that RePAD2 performed similarly to RePAD because its parameter *W* was set to match the total length of P3. Both generated the highest number of false positives (i.e., 12), leading to a F1-score of 0.995. When ReRe was tested, it produced slightly fewer false positives, leading to a slightly higher F1-score of 0.996.

When SALAD-336 and SALAD-504 were tested, their second phase malfunctioned. Consequently, we could not evaluate their performance in this experiment. This issue arose because all data points in P3 were normalized using min/max normalization by the data owner, which distributed non-anomalous data



Figure 6: Anomalies detected within P3 by each approach, with a true sequential anomaly marked in red.

| |] | Detection accuracy | n 7 | Online LSTM retraining ratio | DT-Tra | in (sec) | DT-noTrain (sec) | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------|--------|--|--------|----------|------------------|-------|--|
| | Р | R | F1 | | Avg. | Std. | Avg. | Std. | |
| RePAD | 0.991 | 1 | 0.995 | 0.058(=493/8493) | 0.265 | 0.056 | 0.012 | 0.003 | |
| RePAD2 | 0.991 | 1 | 0.995 | 0.058(=493/8493) | 0.266 | 0.055 | 0.013 | 0.002 | |
| ReRe | 0.992 | 1 | 0.996 | D1:0.058(=493/8493) D2:0.093(=791/8493) | 0.439 | 0.188 | 0.061 | 0.018 | |
| SALAD-336 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| SALAD-504 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| RePAD3 | 0.995 | 1 | 0.997 | 0.054(=458/8493) | 0.318 | 0.064 | 0.035 | 0.011 | |

Table 5: Performance results of all compared approaches on P3.

points between -0.3 and 0.1, as illustrated in Figure 6. These low values resulted in very small AARE values in the first phase of SALAD, which subsequently caused the malfunction in the second phase of SALAD.

RePAD3 achieved the highest F1-score of 0.997 among all tested approaches, as it not only successfully detected the anomaly but also generated only 8 false positives, fewer than other approaches. Furthermore, RePAD3 required the fewest LSTM model retrainings since it instructed RePAD2 to continue using the current model for future prediction when it did not identify the current data point as anomalous (see line 10 in Figure 2). However, we observed that RePAD3 required slightly more DT-Train and DTnoTrain compared to the first experiment (please compare Table 5 with Table 4). This increase is due to the larger number of data points for parameter K, which was set at 168 in this experiment, compared to 24 in the first experiment. Nevertheless, RePAD3 remains highly efficient because it can detect each of the 458 data points within P3 in an average of 0.318 seconds, and each of the remaining 8035 (= 8493 - 458) data points in an average of 0.035 seconds.

5.3 Evaluation Results on CPU-B3B

In the third experiment, we attempted to analyze the performance of all the five approaches on CPU-B3B, which has the data point interval of 5 minutes. However, as depicted in Figure 7, CPU-B3B does not ex-

hibit any evident recurrent patterns. Therefore, we excluded SALAD from this experiment, due to inflexibility in setting the parameter *b* for SALAD. Furthermore, since users of RePAD3 cannot easily observe recurring patterns within CPU-B3B, we assume that they wish to seek daily and weekly patterns within it. Hence, the parameter *K* of RePAD3 was set to 288 (= $60/5 \cdot 24$) for the daily pattern scenario and 2016 (= $288 \cdot 7$) for the weekly pattern scenario. Both are referred to as RePAD3-288 and RePAD3-2016.

Figure 7 marks the two true point anomalies as red hollow circles, along with all data points detected as anomalies by each tested approach. Furthermore, Table 6 provides detailed performance results. When RePAD3-288 and RePAD3-2016 were tested, they successfully detected the two anomalies without producing any false positives, resulting in the highest F1-score of 1. It is important to note that GV was never invoked by RePAD3-2016 because the length of CPU-B3B (i.e., 4032) is shorter than the inspection period of 4K (i.e., $4 \cdot 2016$). In other words, RePAD3-2016 relied entirely on its advanced detection function to identify anomalies within CPU-B3B. Nevertheless, RePAD3-2016 achieved detection results that are equally superior to those of RePAD3-288. On the other hand, RePAD, RePAD2, and ReRe also successfully detected the two anomalies. However, they all generated the same number of false positives, indicating that ReRe was unable to enhance RePAD's performance despite employing two parallel detectors.

Regarding time efficiency, we observed that both RePAD3-288 and RePAD3-2016 required fewer on-



Figure 7: Anomalies detected within CPU-B3B by each approach, with two true point anomalies marked as red hollow circles.

| | Detection accuracy | | | Online LSTM retraining ratio | DT-Train (sec) | | DT-noTrain (sec) | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|-------|--|----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | Р | R | F1 | | Avg. | Std. | Avg. | Std. |
| RePAD | 0.789 | 1 | 0.882 | 0.010(=42/4032) | 0.262 | 0.051 | 0.012 | 0.002 |
| RePAD2 | 0.789 | 1 | 0.882 | 0.010(=42/4032) | 0.261 | 0.053 | 0.012 | 0.002 |
| ReRe | 0.789 | 1 | 0.882 | D1: 0.010(=42/4032) D2: 0.020(=81/4032) | 0.391 | 0.146 | 0.046 | 0.010 |
| RePAD3-288 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.007(=28/4032) | 0.296 | 0.059 | 0.026 | 0.006 |
| RePAD3-2016 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.007(=28/4032) | 0.301 | 0.063 | 0.030 | 0.007 |

Table 6: Performance results of all compared approaches on CPU-B3B.

line model retrainings than the other approaches due to the implementation of the advanced detection (i.e., Equation 5), which decreased the need for model retraining. Similar to the previous experiments, RePAD3 exhibited a detection response time slightly longer than RePAD2's but shorter than ReRe's. Based on these results, we confirm that RePAD3 delivers superior detection accuracy on CPU-B3B without significantly increasing detection time.

5.4 Evaluation Results on P11

In the last experiment, we evaluated the performance of all tested approaches on P11. Figure 8 depicts the entire time series and marks the two true sequential anomalies in red. It is clear that there is no easily observed recurring pattern within this time series. Therefore, SALAD was excluded from this experiment due to the inflexibility of configuring its parameter b. Furthermore, P11 lacks data point intervals because of the anonymization performed by the data owner. Hence, we considered two possible intervals for P11: one minute and one hour. We also assumed that users of RePAD3 would seek daily and weekly pattern within P11. This assumption led to the selection of four settings for parameter K: 24, representing the hourly interval and the desire to detect daily patterns (i.e., 1.24); 168, representing the hourly interval and the desire to detect weekly patterns (i.e., 24.7); 1440, representing the minute interval and the desire to detect daily patterns (i.e., 60.24); and 10080, representing the minute interval and the desire to detect daily patterns (i.e., 60.24.7). These four variants are denoted by RePAD3-24, RePAD3-168, RePAD3-1440, and RePAD3-10080.

Table 7 lists detailed performance results of all tested approaches. When RePAD3-24 was tested, it achieved a F1-score identical to RePAD and RePAD2. This occurred because setting K to 24 enabled GV to search for short recurring patterns within the last 4K period, which caused RePAD3 to misidentify patterns and led to some false positives. When RePAD3-168 was tested, the F1-score increased due to reduced false positives. When RePAD3-1440 and RePAD3-10080 were tested, they successfully detected the two sequential anomalies without any false positives, resulting in the highest F1-score of 1. Therefore, setting a low value for K is not recommended when there is no evident recurrent pattern in a time series. Furthermore, it is also important to note that GV was not invoked when RePAD3-1440 and RePAD3-10080 were tested because the period of 4K was longer than the length of P11. However, this did not impact RePAD3 at all, thanks to the excellent detection performed by RePAD3's advanced detection function. Additionally, Table 7 shows that RePAD3 maintains high efficiency, with no significant increase in both DT-Train and DTnoTrain compared to other approaches.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have introduced RePAD3 for detecting anomalies in univariate time series of any pattern



Figure 8: Anomalies detected within P11 by each approach, with two true sequential anomalies marked in red.

| | | | | 1 1 | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|---|--------|----------|------------------|-------|--|
| | Detection accuracy | | | Online LSTM retraining ratio | DT-Tra | in (sec) | DT-noTrain (sec) | | |
| | Р | R | F1 | | Avg. | Std. | Avg. | Std. | |
| RePAD | 0.912 | 1 | 0.954 | 0.026(=93/3535) | 0.270 | 0.075 | 0.011 | 0.003 | |
| RePAD2 | 0.912 | 1 | 0.954 | 0.026(=93/3535) | 0.272 | 0.077 | 0.012 | 0.003 | |
| ReRe | 0.927 | 1 | 0.962 | D1:0.026(=93/3535) D2:0.066(=234/3535) | 0.361 | 0.162 | 0.044 | 0.009 | |
| RePAD3-24 | 0.912 | 1 | 0.954 | 0.021(=75/3535) | 0.276 | 0.080 | 0.025 | 0.006 | |
| RePAD3-168 | 0.991 | 1 | 0.995 | 0.021(=75/3535) | 0.293 | 0.058 | 0.025 | 0.006 | |
| RePAD3-1440 | ePAD3-1440 1 1 1 | | 0.021(=75/3535) | 0.291 | 0.062 | 0.025 | 0.006 | | |
| RePAD3-10080 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.021(=75/3535) | 0.293 | 0.061 | 0.026 | 0.006 | |

Table 7: Performance results of all compared approaches on P11.

in real time, online, adaptive, and lightweight manner by leveraging two state-of-the-art methods: RePAD2 and GrammarViz 3.0. As discussed that each method has its own distinct strengths and limitations. By capitalizing on these strengths and addressing the limitations using the proposed advanced detection function and pattern inspection, RePAD3 demonstrates the capability to identify various types of anomalies in both recurrent and non-recurrent time series in real time.

A series of experiments using real-world time series have been conducted to compare RePAD3 with four state-of-the-art anomaly detection approaches that do not require offline model training. The results indicate that RePAD3 outperforms all other approaches in detection accuracy by effectively detecting anomalies and significantly reducing false positives, without noticeably increasing detection response time.

In future work, we plan to extend RePAD3 by integrating it with RoLA (Lee and Lin, 2023b) for detecting anomalies in multivariate time series. This extension will be deployed in various environments for different purposes, such as cyber-physical systems for detecting anomalies and intrusions.

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