

ABNORMALLOG: A DEEP ANOMALY DETECTION METHOD FOR LOG SEQUENCE DATA

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ABSTRACT

1 Anomaly detection for computer log sequence data plays a very important role
2 in various industries. Log data is complex time series with plenty of text infor-
3 mation, which is difficult to process due to both its non-structural characteristics
4 and temporal correlation. Existing log anomaly detection schemes do not utilize
5 all available data information such as the semantic and parameter information,
6 nor do they consider weighting of data based on time. The AbnormalLog algo-
7 rithm proposed in this paper implements semantic parsing technique to expand
8 current detection schemes by analyzing template and parameter information of
9 the log data. AbnormalLog is comprised of four functional modules: Log Pars-
10 ing, Semantic Embedding, Parameter Anomaly Detection and Template Anomaly
11 Detection. We compare the proposed method to three most commonly used log
12 anomaly detection methods in industry. The results demonstrate that Abnormal-
13 Log is superior to the other algorithms with respect to common model evaluation
14 criteria.

15 1 INTRODUCTION

16 The anomaly detection for sequence data has very important and extensive applications in various
17 industry areas. The traditional anomaly detection problem, such as in [Gao et al. \(2019; 2020\)](#),
18 focuses on the time series data that only contains numerical information and aims to study the change
19 in the data generating schemes. However, with the development of large-scale computer servers, the
20 sequential data has evolved from the traditional numerical data to the complicated unstructured
21 data, which contains a large amount of text information and numerical information. One typical
22 example of such data is the log data, which is essentially a time series text data generated from the
23 operating system automatically. The log data is composed of the original content and time stamp
24 of the computer log. It records the detailed event information of the system operation, which can
25 help the system administrator to quickly target problems and find errors efficiently. Therefore, log
26 data is treated as one of the most critical information resources for the anomaly detection tasks of
27 the system. The artificial intelligence for IT operations (AIOps) utilizes the log data which contains
28 key information about the operation and maintenance of the IT system to reduce the need for human
29 intervention which reduces costs. The difficulty of log data processing lies on the non-structural
30 characteristics of log data itself and its temporal correlation.

31 The traditional log detection methods require a lot of expert experience, and do not take advantage
32 of the temporal nature of the log data. [Xu et al. \(2009a\)](#) proposed an analysis method based on
33 PCA. [Schölkopf et al. \(2001\)](#) proposed the One-Class SVM method. [Liu et al. \(2008\)](#) proposed the
34 IsolationForest algorithm. These methods are essentially looking for outliers in the cluster, which
35 are usually treated as abnormalities. Although these methods perform well in general anomaly de-
36 tection studies, they have very obvious deficiencies in log exception detection. Firstly, it simply
37 characterizes the log data as a vector, and then detects outliers of the vector. Secondly, some impor-
38 tant temporal information is missing, where the time stamp of log is not considered as a feature in
39 the analysis. [Vaarandi and Pihelgas \(2015\)](#) proposed the LogCluster algorithm to detect the anomaly
40 of log sequence by comparing the log to an existing cluster by utilizing the characteristics of log in-
41 formation. However, their method failed in diagnoses the template and temporal characteristics of
42 the logs thus cannot effectively distinguish two significant different logs under the same template.
43 For example, “the running time is 1s” and “the running time is 5000s”, these two logs with the

44 same template but with contexts are quite different. The log template extraction methods, such as
 45 Drain (He et al., 2017), Spell (Du and Li, 2016), and MoLFI (Messaoudi et al., 2018), were then
 46 developed. Among these work, Drain achieved the best performance and the highest accuracy.

47 In recent years, log anomaly detection methods under the deep learning framework become more
 48 and more popular. As a very representative log detection method in recent years, DeepLog (Du
 49 et al., 2017) detect the exceptions in template with respect to both template Key and template Value
 50 after extracting the template information of the log sequence. However, DeepLog still has some
 51 drawbacks. Firstly, for the Key of the predicted log data template, DeepLog clusters logs only based
 52 on their One-Hot Encoding results, and does not fully consider the similarity of the semantic infor-
 53 mation in different templates. For example, "the running time is" and "the runtime of the procedure
 54 is" should express the same meaning on some levels. Therefore in our proposed method, if we can
 55 cluster these two logs together by considering the semantic information of the logs, it will produce
 56 more accurate anomaly analysis results. Loganomaly (Meng et al., 2019) is another popular method,
 57 which addressed the drawback of Deeplog, and extract the semantic information of the template by
 58 the weighted average of the semantic information using the positive and negative synonyms. In ad-
 59 dition, it also considers the anomaly detection in both sequence and quantity. Although this method
 60 takes the template information and semantics information into account at the same time, it still has
 61 some drawbacks. Firstly, after extracting the template, it does not use the parameter information
 62 of the log template. These parameter information usually contains some critical information of log
 63 exceptions. Secondly, the first procedure of their semantic embedding algorithm is to establish a
 64 special thesaurus for the positive and negative synonyms, and then assign specific weights to these
 65 positive and negative synonyms appeared in the log template according to the thesaurus. For exam-
 66 ple, "the running time is increasing . . ." and "the running time is decreasing . . .", where "Increasing"
 67 and "Decreasing" are a pair of antonyms with key information. In a log sequence, antonyms always
 68 appear in the position where the log parameters are. Then the Word2vec technique (Mikolov et al.,
 69 2013) was developed to embed the log template to make up for the lack of parameter information.
 70 However, this technology has been gradually defeated by Bert (Devlin et al., 2019), which has a
 71 very high performance in the nature language processing field in recent years. Extensive profes-
 72 sional knowledge from the relevant fields is required in determining the size of the moving window
 73 and the embedding of positive and negative synonyms, which reduces the automation possibility of
 74 the whole method. RobustLog (Zhang et al., 2019) is another representative technology. Similar to
 75 Loganomaly, RobustLog converts each log template into a semantic vector with fixed dimensionality.
 76 Through the semantic analysis, this method can identify and process new and similar log events
 77 that arise from the constantly generated log statements and parsing errors. However, Robustlog also
 78 doesn't utilize the log parameter information sufficiently.

79 To overcome the drawbacks of the existing deep learning methods, we propose a new log anomaly
 80 detection method under the deep learning framework named as AbnormalLog. AbnormalLog makes
 81 comprehensive use of the log template information, the parameter information and the semantic in-
 82 formation to deeply analyze the log sequence and detect all possible log exceptions through well de-
 83 signed functional modules. We compare the performance of AbnormalLog to three commonly used
 84 deep learning methods, which are the unsupervised learning methods DeepLog and LogAnomaly,
 85 and the supervised learning method RobustLog on two public data sets, BGL and HDFS. The em-
 86 perical analysis shows the excellent performance of our proposed method.

87 2 METHOD

88 2.1 MODEL AND NOTATION

89 The log data consists of the original contents of the log and the timestamp, which is essentially a
 90 time series composed of text information. The AbnormalLog model treats the streaming log data as
 91 a text time series data, and analyze it in combination of the natural language processing technology
 92 and time series anomaly detection technology. Suppose $S = \{X_{t-k} | k \in \mathbb{Z}^+, 0 \leq k \leq s - 1\}$ be
 93 a log data stream generated from time $t - s + 1$ to t by the operating system. Within the entire log
 94 sequence S , the abnormal state Z_t of the log X_t , which is the log generated at the t^{th} moment, is

$$Z_t = \mathcal{G} \left\{ Z_t^T \cup Z_t^P \right\},$$

$$Z_t^T = G_{\theta_T}(S^T), \text{ and } Z_t^P = G_{\theta_P}(S^P),$$

95 where, $\mathcal{G}\{\cdot\}$ is an indicator function. $S^T = \{X_{t-s+1}^T, \dots, X_t^T\}$ and $S^P = \{X_{t-s+1}^P, \dots, X_t^P\}$ are
 96 the template information and parameter information of S , $s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ is the size of the data processing
 97 window. $G_{\theta_T}(\cdot)$ is the Template Anomaly Detection module with parameter set θ_T , and $G_{\theta_P}(\cdot)$ is
 98 the Parameter Anomaly Detection module with parameter set θ_P . Z_t^T , Z_t^P and Z_t are the corre-
 99 sponded template anomaly state, parameter anomaly state, and overall anomaly state of the log data
 100 X_t at time t . "0" represents normal and "1" represents abnormal.

Algorithm 1: AbnormalLog

Input: The Log streaming data $(X_{t-s+1}, \dots, X_{t-k}, \dots, X_t)$ at time t , where
 $0 \leq k \leq s - 1$, and $k, s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Step 0: Create a log template semantic vector set: map a log templates set $\Lambda^T = \{X_1^T, \dots, X_n^T\}$ into a log template semantic vector set $\Omega^T = \{(X_i^T, \phi_i) | i = 1, \dots, n\}$ based on the sentence-bert technique as shown in Section 2.3.1, where n is the total number of templates found in log data.

Step 1: Log parsing parse each log data X_{t-k} using Drain to get the their and templates and parameters information $\{X_{t-k}^T, X_{t-k}^P\} = \text{Drain}(X_{t-k})$.

Step 2: Template anomaly detection

Step 2.1: Semantic embedding: according to Ω^T , map each log template X_{t-k}^T obtained in Step 1 into a semantic vector $\phi_{t-k} = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i \times I(X_{t-k}^T = X_i)$.

If $(X_{t-k}^T, \phi_{t-k}) \notin \Omega^T$, do

- include X_{t-k}^T into the log template set Λ^T ;
- repeat Step 0 to update Ω^T ;
- return back to Step 2.

Step 2.2: Template anomaly status evaluation for the target log:

$$Z_t^T = G_{\theta_T}(\{\phi_{t-k} | k = 0, \dots, s - 1\}).$$

Step 3: Parameter anomaly detection: obtain the anomaly status of the parameters for the target log

$$Z_t^P = G_{\theta_P}(\{X_{t-k}^P | k = 0, \dots, s - 1\}).$$

Step 4: Obtain the overall anomaly status of the target log:

$$Z_t = \mathcal{G}\{Z_t^T \cup Z_t^P\}.$$

Output: The anomaly status Z_t of the target log X_t .

101 Algorithm 1 is the computational process of our proposed AbnormalLog method. Abnormal-
 102 Log consists of four functional modules, which are Log Parsing, Semantic Embedding, Parameter
 103 Anomaly Detection and Template Anomaly Detection. Since the template part and parameter part
 104 of the log data provide different level of semantic information, it is necessary to detect the exception
 105 status of the template and parameter separately. The next challenge is how to design the correspond-
 106 ing anomaly detection scheme for the template and parameters. Usually, the anomaly log detected
 107 by the algorithm needs to be checked manually. In practice, people always have different definitions
 108 of exceptions based on their own perceptions. Therefore, in the process of model training, we need
 109 to establish different annotation schemes to adapt to different scenes. The computational workflow
 110 of the AbnormalLog algorithm is summarized as follows. First, the log sequence at time t is parsed
 111 to obtain all template and parameter information. Then the abnormality detection of the template
 112 and parameter are carried out simultaneously. Finally, whether the log sequence generated at time t
 113 is abnormal or not, will be determined by the results of the template anomaly detection model and
 114 the parameter anomaly detection model through the indicator function $\mathcal{G}\{\cdot\}$.

115 2.2 LOG PARSING

116 For log streaming data, because the log parameters and templates are of slightly different importance,
 117 it is necessary to design different anomaly detection schemes for these two parts. In the log parsing
 118 phase, we use Drain to separate the template and the parameter information. For log streaming data,
 119 because the log parameters and templates are of slightly different in importance, it is very necessary
 120 to design different anomaly detection schemes for these two parts in algorithm construction. In the
 121 log parsing phase, we use Drain (He et al., 2017) to separate the template and parameter information.
 122 That is

$$\{X_t^T, X_t^P\} = \text{Drain}(X_t),$$

123 where $\text{Drain}(\cdot)$ is the log parse tree of Drain with fixed depth. Its performance has achieved SOTA.
 124 The template and the parameter information can be obtained well through log parse tree constructed
 125 from Drain.

126 2.3 TEMPLATE ANOMALY DETECTION MODULE

127 2.3.1 SEMANTIC EMBEDDING

128 Sentence-bert (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019) is chosen as the modeling tool for semantic embed-
 129 ding. Sentence-bert is a variant of BERT, and it has great advantages in computational speed com-
 130 pared to the traditional Bert. The Sentence-bert uses pairwise comparison to quickly obtain the
 131 embedding of sentences. In the pooling stage, the token mean or max or other criteria can be used.
 132 In general, Sentence-bert greatly improves the operational speed of obtaining the sentence embed-
 133 ding information, while retaining semantic information.

134 In the AbnormalLog algorithm, we first need to semantically embed the existing n templates
 135 into a template set $\Lambda^T = \{X_1^T, \dots, X_n^T\}$ and generate a template semantic vector set $\Omega^T =$
 136 $\{(X_i^T, \phi_i) | i = 1, \dots, n\}$ through a pre-training procedure with template vectors and semantic vec-
 137 tors matched one by one. The pre-training process of the template semantic vector set Ω^T is as
 138 follows. First, we map all the template information in the template library into the semantic vector
 139 set $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k, \dots, \phi_n\}$ through the model $Q(\cdot)$, which is the Paraphrase-Multilingual-MiniLM-
 140 L12-v2 model based on Sentence-bert proposed by Lab (2021) (Note: if possible, using a large
 141 amount of log data to perform the pre-training is suggested). The input here is a collection of all n
 142 log templates, and the output is a multidimensional semantic vector sets $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k, \dots, \phi_n\}$.

$$\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k, \dots, \phi_n\} = \text{Sentence-bert}\left(\{X_1^T, \dots, X_k^T, \dots, X_n^T\}\right),$$

143 where, ϕ_i is the semantic vector for the i^{th} log template X_i^T , n is the total number of templates, and
 144 Q is the Sentence-bert model that maps the template set to the vector set. The dimension of semantic
 145 vector ϕ_i is determined by Sentence-bert model. For any new log data generated at time t , use the
 146 template X_t^T to find the corresponded semantic vector ϕ_t in Ω^T . That is

$$\phi_t = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i \times I(X_t^T = X_i).$$

147 If $(X_t^T, \phi_t) \notin \Omega^T$, put X_t^T into the template set Λ^T . Then retrain the model to update Ω^T .

148 2.3.2 TEMPLATE ANOMALY STATUS EVALUATION

149 In the template anomaly detection, the model used to analyze log time series data needs to have the
 150 ability to process sequential data. RNN related models or Transformer are all capable to process se-
 151 quence data. Therefore, the Template Anomaly Detection module is a set of deep learning detection
 152 framework based on LSTM and Attention mechanism. Since the sequence length of the log data
 153 is limited in a few words, we adopt double-layer bidirectional LSTM stack as the core algorithm
 154 structure for our template anomaly detection algorithm to capture the sequence characteristics. The

155 bidirectional LSTM can capture the forward sequence information, as well as the feature informa-
 156 tion from the inverse direction. The stacking model structure can improve the learning ability of the
 157 model by increasing the model structure depth. In this work, a two-layer network is built to improve
 158 the complexity of the model structure and increase the number of effective model parameters, which
 159 improve the expressive effect of the model. Also, since the bidirectional double-layer LSTM stack
 160 model has outputs in both directions, the bidirectional LSTM will splice the two outputs together.
 161 Then the spliced vectors are weighted by a layer of Attention. Then the results will be projected to
 162 the 2-dimensional space through a Full Connection layer for classification. Finally, a SoftMax layer
 163 is used to calculate the final classification probability.

164 Figure 1 is the framework of the log template anomaly detection module. FC is the Full Connection
 165 layer. X_t is the semantic vector of the t^{th} log template. Hkl_t is the hidden state of the output of the
 166 t^{th} LSTM module in layer l . $k = 1$ represents the forward LSTM, and $k = 2$ represents the reverse
 167 model. Similar to the above notation, Ckl_t is the cell state output of the t^{th} LSTM module in layer
 168 l . $k = 1$ represents the forward LSTM, and $k = 2$ represents the reverse model. Y_t is the output of
 169 the t^{th} sequence, which is the splicing result of two outcomes from the bidirectional LSTM module.
 170 The Attention layer processes the output from the LSTM stack. In the Attention layer,

$$u_i = \text{Tanh}(W_w Y_i), \quad \alpha_i = \frac{\exp(u_i^\top u_w)}{\sum_i \exp(u_i^\top u_w)}, \quad \theta = \sum_i \alpha_i Y_i,$$

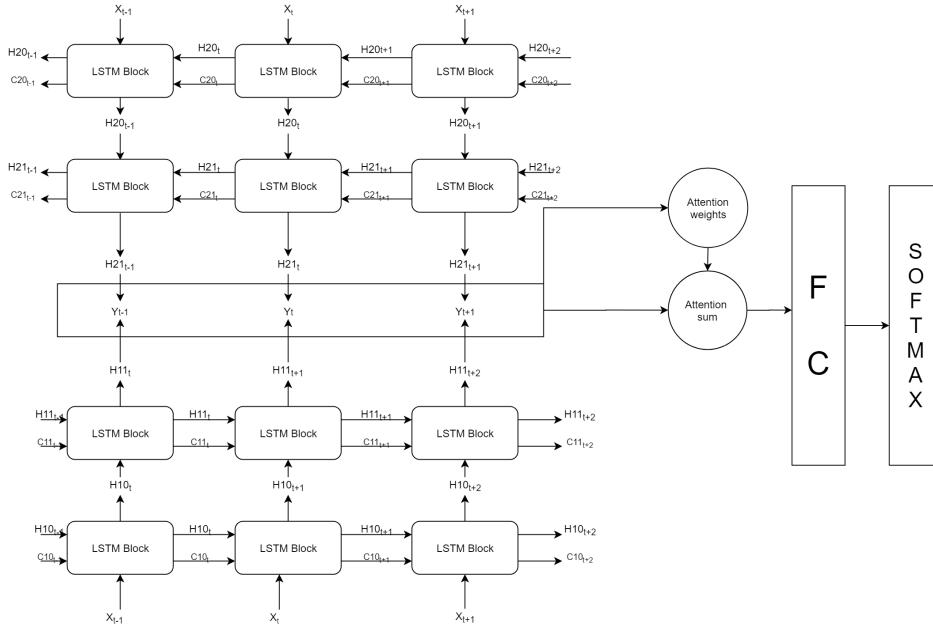


Figure 1: The framework of the Log Template Anomaly Detection Module

171 where u_i is the output vector of the hyperbolic tangent activation function Tanh , with each of its
 172 element $u_{ij} \in [-1, 1]$. α_i is the weight of sequence Y_i . θ is the output of the Attention layer. W_w
 173 is the weight projection matrix. u_w is the sequence weight adjustment vector. Plug the output of
 174 the Attention layer into the Full Connection layer, and finalize the classification probability result
 175 through a Softmax classification layer.

176 For example, plug the log sequence data obtained at time t into a size s analysis window. At this
 177 moment, the window contains s different log sequences $\{X_{t-s+1}, \dots, X_t\}$. Next, we use the first
 178 $s - 1$ log sequences information $\{X_{t-s+1}, \dots, X_{t-1}\}$ to predict the abnormal status of the last
 179 log sequence X_t . The overall operation process of the model is as follows. We first convert all log
 180 sequences in the analysis window into semantic vectors based on semantic analysis module and plug
 181 the results into the template exception detection model. Initialize the LSTM stack by initializing the
 182 hidden state H and cell state C in a random fashion. Then splice the positive and negative LSTM

183 outputs. Which is $Y_i = \{H11_{i+1}, H21_i\}$, where the dimensionality of Y_i is twice that of the
 184 hidden state H . Then, all feature weights are learned through the Attention module. As mentioned
 185 above, W_w and u_w are initialized randomly. After the Attention layer, a Full Connection layer
 186 with two-dimensional output is designed to calculate the score of abnormal status of the template.
 187 Finally, the probability of the anomaly status of the template X_t is computed through the SoftMax
 188 layer. The template exception detection model are optimized by minimizing the cross entropy loss
 189 $H(p, q) = -\sum_j p_j \ln q_j$, where p_j is the true probability distribution of the event and q_j is our
 190 predicted probability distribution.

191 2.4 PARAMETER ANOMALY DETECTION MODULE

192 In the parameter anomaly detection, parameters can be distinguished as numeric parameters and
 193 character parameters. The difficulty of parameter anomaly detection is the design of the parameter
 194 exception detection scheme is a case driven study, and there is no way to setup a general detection
 195 scheme for different application scenarios. Even though there are numerical parameter appears, it
 196 may not either represent the quantity or quality. For example, "the type number of the car is 911"
 197 and "the type number of the car is 350", the digital parameters 911 and 350 are categorical variables
 198 and have no numerical significance. Therefore, it is not feasible to simply adopt the quantitative
 199 analysis method for all digital parameters. Similarly, if all parameters are treated as character data,
 200 the problem that lack of sensitivity to the numerical values will show up. In previous example, "the
 201 running time is * seconds". Generally, the value of * will be about 100, but there will be significant
 202 difference when the value grows to 10,000. Therefore, a universal parameter exception detection
 203 scheme may not be a reasonable choice. For different service scenarios, the business party should
 204 always design a personalized parameter anomaly detection scheme according to the characteristics
 205 of their service.

206 In this paper, we adopt the Isolation Forest for the anomaly detection of numeric parameters. The
 207 computational logic is quit straightforward. Based on the historical parameter information of the
 208 corresponded log template, by comparing with the threshold to judge the abnormal status of the new
 209 parameter in the target log data. For character parameters, our approach is identifying outliers based
 210 on their frequencies. These character parameters that have never appeared in any existing templates
 211 are treated as exceptions directly. Those with cumulative frequency lower than the predetermined
 212 threshold δ are also treated as exceptions. Note that the choices of δ varies in different application
 213 scenarios.

214 3 EXPERIMENT

215 In the empirical analysis, we compare the performance of our proposed AbnormalLog algorithm
 216 to three commonly used deep learning algorithms DeepLog, LogAnomaly and RobustLog. Among
 217 these methods, DeepLog and LogAnomaly are unsupervised methods, while RobustLog and our
 218 proposed AbnormalLog are supervised methods. We set the size of sequence analysis window
 219 $s = 10$, which means there will be 10 log sequences in the analysis window at any time t . We
 220 use the first 9 log sequences' abnormal informations to predict the anomaly status of the last log
 221 sequence.

222 In our experiments, we found that the unsupervised learning methods have two very obvious draw-
 223 backs. Section 3.2.1 shows that the unsupervised learning methods are highly depends on the hyper
 224 parameter K , which is the number of candidate templates with the Top- K largest probabilities in the
 225 template anomaly detection procedure. The optimal value of K varies greatly in different data appli-
 226 cation scenarios, and the optimization of the hyper parameter K cost too much labor and time. In our
 227 experiment, after a large amount of model debugging works, we get the optimal value of K for the
 228 HDFS data set is $K = 10$, and is $K = 20$ for the BGL data set. Section 3.2.2 shows that the highly
 229 duplication nature of the log data makes the test performance of the unsupervised learning methods
 230 unexpected inflated. To explore the true detection ability of these four methods, a comprehensive
 231 test is conducted on the deduplicated HDFS and BGL data sets. We compare the performance of
 232 these four methods based on several commonly used model evaluation criteria, *Precision*, *Recall*
 233 and *F1* score.

234 All experiments are performed on a Windows PC with *Intel I-7 9750cpu @ 2.60GHz* and *2.60GHz*.
 235 To avoid the influence of randomness, all the following experimental results are the average of five
 236 replicated experiments.

237 3.1 DATA PREPARATION

238 We conduct the experiments on two public data sets, which are the HDFS data set (Xu et al., 2009b),
 239 and the BGL data set (Oliner and Stearley, 2007) two classical log data sets, the HDFS data (Xu
 240 et al., 2009b) and the BGL data (Oliner and Stearley, 2007). In the log anomaly detection field,
 241 scholars often use these two data sets to testify the performance of their methods. HDFS is collected
 242 by Amazon, which has tens of millions of log records from different data block operation systems
 243 with unique IDs. BGL contains millions of system log records generated by the supercomputer
 244 BlueGene/L in Lawrence Livermore’s National Laboratory. Both HDFS and BGL have their abnormality
 245 status labels marked by experts for all logs. Normal logs are all started with a symbol of "-",
 246 while the abnormal logs are not marked specifically.

247 In our experiments, for the HDFS data, we directly use the well-designed experimental framework
 248 provided by Deeplee-Afar (2020). This framework has nearly 0.57 millions logs, which are used
 249 as the HDFS experiment data in this paper. For the BGL data, we designed our own experimental
 250 framework. We extract the first 0.5 millions logs from the BGL data pool and use them as our
 251 experiment data. Then we perform our experiments based on the BGL sample data, including the
 252 extraction of log template sequences, the semantic embedding of different log templates, and the
 253 division of the training set and test set of the experiment. Finally, the total number of templates in
 254 our HDFS data set is 28 and that in BGL data set is 178. In order to properly apply the unsupervised
 255 learning algorithms, the data set has to be preprocessed. DeepLog only needs template sequence
 256 information, while LogAnomaly only needs the quantity information of template sequences. We
 257 split data into training sets and test sets as shown in Table 1. In the log anomaly detection, validation
 258 sets only contains normal logs. All models are trained on the original duplicated training sets, and
 259 tested on both the duplicated test sets and the deduplicated test sets.

Table 1: The data sets setup

Data	Method	Training	Test (duplicated)	Test (deduplicated)
HDFS	DeepLog	12,000	563,060	17,095
	LogAnomaly	12,000	563,060	17,095
	RobustLog	12,000	563,060	17,095
	AbnormalLog	12,000	563,060	17,095
BGL	DeepLog	11,883	480,268	7,667
	LogAnomaly	11,883	480,268	7,667
	RobustLog	11,883	480,268	7,667
	AbnormalLog	11,883	480,268	7,667

260 3.2 EXPERIMENT RESULTS

261 3.2.1 CHOICE OF HYPER PARAMETER K FOR UNSUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

262 For these unsupervised algorithms (DeepLog and LogAnomaly), we evaluated the impact of the
 263 hyper parameter K on the model performance. Figure 2 is the trace plot of $F1$ score at different
 264 values of the hyper parameter K . The major problem is that the performance of the unsupervised
 265 algorithms relies too much on the choice of K , and fluctuates greatly with respect to different K
 266 values. For example, for the DeepLog on the BGL data set, when $K = 40$, the $F1$ score for the
 267 DeepLog on the BGL data set is 0.83; when $K = 50$, the $F1$ score drops sharply to 0 approximately.
 268 Besides, the selection of K is not a easy work. It requires a lot of labor and time due to the repeated
 269 debugging.

270 3.2.2 EXPERIMENT RESULTS ON THE DUPLICATED DATA AND DEDUPLICATED DATA

271 In this section, we compare the performance of four methods on both the duplicated and dedupli-
 272 cated HDFS and BGL data sets. For the HDFS data set, before deduplication, there are 16,838

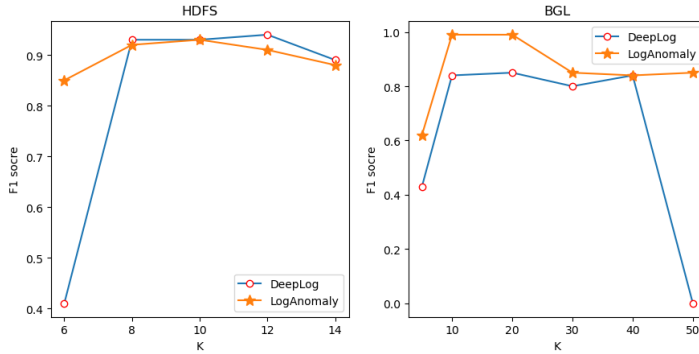


Figure 2: $F1$ score of unsupervised methods under different values of hyper parameter K

273 abnormal sequences and 553,366 normal sequences. Normal means that the sequence does not con-
 274 tain any exception logs. After data deduplication, there are 14,177 normal sequences and 4,123
 275 abnormal sequences. For the BGL data set, before data deduplication, there are 285,396 normal log
 276 sequences and 206842 abnormal sequences. After data deduplication, 7,506 normal sequences and
 277 299 abnormal sequences are obtained.

278 Table 2 shows the performance of unsupervised algorithm on the test data sets with severe dupli-
 279 cation problem. The analysis results of the DeepLog, the LogAnomaly, the RobustLog and the
 280 AbnormalLog algorithms on the deduplicated HDFS and BGL data sets are summarized in Table 3.
 281 By comparing the results from Table 2 and Table 3, we can see that the test results of unsupervised
 282 algorithms are highly inflated while there is severe duplication problem. For example, on the HDFS
 283 data set, the $F1$ score decreases from 0.93 to 0.29 and $Precision$ decreases from 0.87 to 0.17 for
 284 the LogAnomaly method, which indicates that the $F1$ score of the LogAnomaly algorithm is seri-
 285 ously inflated by the data duplication. The similar conclusion can be also obtained for the DeepLog
 286 method.

Table 2: Performance of Unsupervised Learning Methods on Datasets with Duplications

Data	Algorithm	Precision	Recall	F1
HDFS	DeepLog	0.92	0.95	0.94
	LogAnomaly	0.87	0.99	0.93
BGL	DeepLog	0.96	0.75	0.84
	LogAnomaly	0.98	1.00	0.99

287 From Table 3 we can conclude that supervised algorithms are significantly better than that of un-
 288 supervised algorithms with respect to the $Precision$ and $F1$ criteria. Moreover, among the four
 289 algorithms, the AbnormalLog method proposed in this work achieves the highest $F1$ score with other
 290 model evaluation criteria retain at good levels.

Table 3: Performance Comparison of Methods on the Deduplicated Data Sets

Data	Algorithm	Precision	Recall	F1
HDFS	DeepLog	0.12	0.98	0.21
	LogAnomaly	0.17	1.00	0.29
	RobustLog	0.85	0.83	0.84
	AbnormalLog	0.82	0.92	0.87
BGL	DeepLog	0.75	0.90	0.82
	LogAnomaly	0.80	0.94	0.88
	RobustLog	0.88	0.82	0.85
	AbnormalLog	1.00	0.82	0.90

291 In summary, unlike the strong dependence of unsupervised algorithm on the hyper parameter K , the
 292 proposed supervised learning method AbnormalLog does not rely on any hyper parameter. There-

293 fore, there is no extra cost in the training process. Compared with RobustLog, which is also a
294 supervised learning method, AbnormalLog has obvious advantages in the performance with respect
295 to the model evaluation criteria *Recall* and *F1* score, except that its *Precision* = 0.82 on the HDFS
296 data set is slightly lower than that of the RobustLog.

297 4 CONCLUSION

298 In this paper, we presented a new log anomaly detection algorithm, AbnormalLog. From the per-
299 spective of deep learning model architecture, AbnormalLog comprehensively uses the non-structural
300 characteristics of log data to detect anomalies from both templates and parameters. From the em-
301 pirical analysis, we demonstrate that the performance of AbnormalLog is better than three other
302 commonly used algorithms for log anomaly detection. Particularly, AbnormalLog has the highest
303 *F1* score on two common data sets BGL and HDFS, and it does not rely on the hyper parameter
304 *K* as is the case for the unsupervised algorithms. Furthermore, based on the philosophy of our pro-
305 posed algorithm, it can not only detect common exceptions in the log templates but also diagnose
306 those customized exception patterns.

307 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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