



# Estimation of distribution for anomaly detection in Water Distribution Networks

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# Estimation of distribution for anomaly detection in Water Distribution Networks



# Plan

- Water distribution network
- Anomaly detection
- Estimation of distribution Algorithms (EDA)



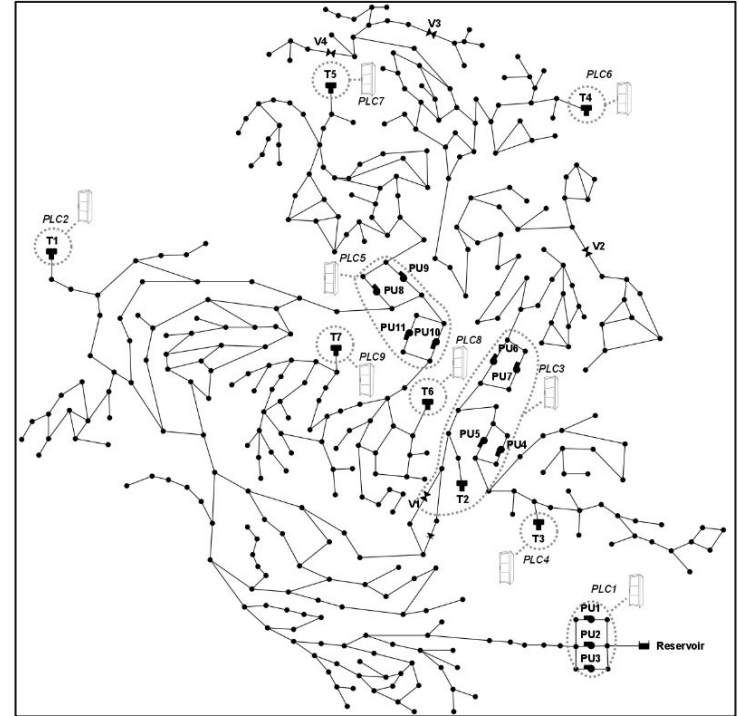
# Plan

- Water distribution network
  - Context
- Anomaly detection
  - Problem
- Estimation of distribution Algorithms (EDA)
  - Solution

# Water distribution networks

- Composed of Pipes, Tanks, Valves, Pumps, etc.
- Mesh an area
- provide water to endpoints

→ Essential to the society



Water distribution network from the BATADAL[1] dataset



# Water distribution networks

Not operated manually !

Modernization → automation → connected devices

- Better monitoring
- Better adaptability
- Better control



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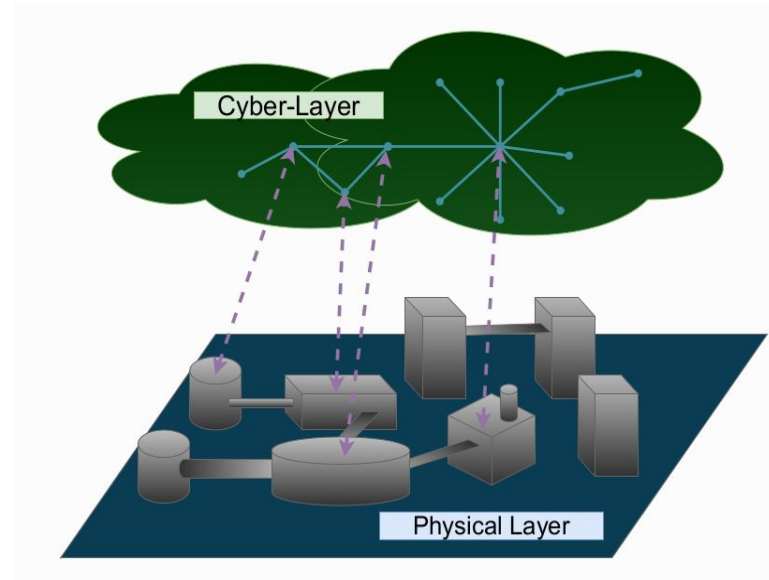
↓  
Increased Vulnerability to cyber-attack !

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# Water distribution networks

Transition from Physical systems to  
Cyber-physical systems

Attack perimeter includes both layers







# Anomaly Detection

- Detecting anomalies with network data
  - malicious
  - non-malicious (malfunctions)

2 main approaches

- Supervised
- Unsupervised



# Anomaly Detection

- Detecting anomalies with network data
  - malicious
  - non-malicious (malfunctions)

2 main approaches

- Supervised ➤ Training data *with labeled attacks included*
- Unsupervised ➤ Training data *clean of attacks*

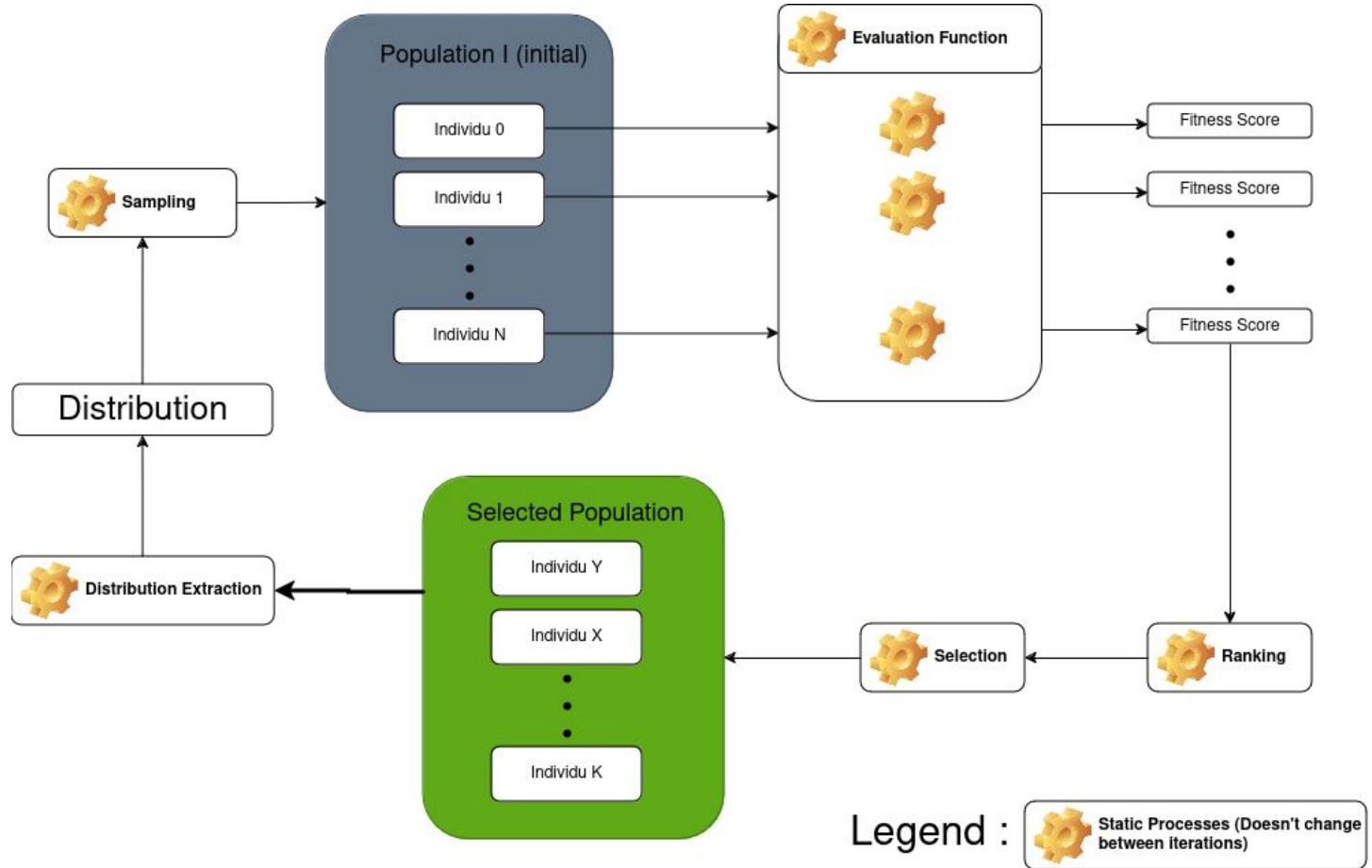


# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

## General description

- Family of evolutionary algorithms
- Population based
- **Extract and optimise a probability distribution**

# EDA :





# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

Process for anomaly detection: Unsupervised

1. Extract the distribution of legitimate data → Reference
2. Extract the current data distribution
3. Compare the two distributions
  - a. Close match = Normal
  - b. Mismatch = Anomaly !



# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

For anomaly Detection: Supervised

1. Extract the distribution of each label (including normal)
2. Extract the current data distribution
3. Find the closest distribution → Current state



# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

Why it is a novel approach:

- EDA never used on network data
  - Mainly used on binary vectors
  - Only Theoretical work on generalisation to r-valued vectors [2]
  - Non-numerical data needs encoding



# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

Why it is a novel approach:

- EDA never used for detection → Challenges
  - Express detection as an optimisation process
    - Score function representative of attack ‘level’
  - multiple proximity measures possible
    - divergence
    - distance





# Estimation of Distribution algorithms

Expected advantages

- State of the system = Distribution
  - single object representation
- EDA is robust to noise
- EDA could identify informative features
- Potentially agnostic of data type
  - possible extension with physical data



## Conclusion:

- Prospective work
  - Many open research questions
  - New approach for detection
  - Theoretical work + technical work ( no library of EDA for detection !)



# References

1. Taormina, R.; Galelli, S.; Tippenhauer, N.O.; Salomons, E.; Ostfeld, A.; Eliades, D.G.; Aghashahi, M.; Sundararajan, R.; Pourahmadi, M.; Banks, M.K.; et al. Battle of the Attack Detection Algorithms: Disclosing Cyber Attacks on Water Distribution Networks. *Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management* **2018**, *144*, 04018048, doi:[10.1061/\(ASCE\)WR.1943-5452.0000969](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)WR.1943-5452.0000969).

2. Ben Jedidia, F.; Doerr, B.; Krejca, M.S. Estimation-of-Distribution Algorithms for Multi-Valued Decision Variables. In Proceedings of the Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference; Association for Computing Machinery: New York, NY, USA, July 12 2023; pp. 230–238.

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