

# A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF INTRUSION DETECTION TECHNIQUES IN WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORK

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## ABSTRACT

Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) are composed of low cost sensor nodes and usually deploy in open and unprotected area, which make security the major challenge in this kind of network, due to their characteristics WSN is vulnerable to various types of attacks and intrusions, where it require security mechanisms to defend against these attacks. Intrusion detection system (IDS) is one of the principal and efficient defensive methods against intrusion and attacks in WSN. This paper presents a comparative evaluation of the most performant intrusion detection techniques in IDS systems for WSNs and identifying their features. For each technique, the main principal and the related functionality are briefly introduced, discussed, and compared, based on the operational advantages and inconveniences. To implement and measure the performance of these techniques we prepare our dataset, based on KDD'99, after normalizing our dataset, we determined normal class and 4 types of attacks, and used the most relevant attributes for the classification process, by applying CfsSubsetEval with BestFirst approach. Finally a set of principles are concluded, which have to be satisfied in future research of implementing IDS for WSNs, in order to help researchers in the selection of IDS for WSNs, recommendations of promising proposed IDSs are provided with future directions for this research.

**Keywords:** *Wireless sensor network, Intrusion detection system, Classification, KDD'99*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless sensor network (WSN) consists of sensor nodes, which are small devices equipped with sensors, wireless transceiver, battery and microcontroller, the major function of this nodes is to monitors a physical phenomenon and measure physical factors. WSNs are applied to various fields of science and technology that have applications starting from military surveillance and reconnaissance to civilian application area like traffic controlling, environment monitoring, home automation and healthcare applications[1]. Due to restricted characteristics of this kind of network, such as data storage, limited power supply, small memory size, low transmission bandwidth, and according to simplicity of sensor nodes, dynamic network topology, open and unprotected area of deployment, Security is a big concern. Thus, all security mechanisms for WSNs must take into consideration these constraints. Many traditional security mechanisms have been proposed for securing WSN such as data aggregation protocols

[2], and secure routing[3], but they cannot guaranteed enough security for this network, because an attacker can compromise any sensor nodes. Furthermore cryptographic techniques [4], still not enough, since an internal attacker can be a legitimate node in the network and has access to all of the node's key material that is why authentication and data encryption cannot help defending against attacks. Therefore using and developing an intrusion detection system, or IDS, became a necessity as a second line of defense. IDSs are used to detect several types of malicious behaviors that can compromise the security and trust of WSN. The development of IDS in WSN is based on different approaches[5-6] the majority of existing solutions have advantages and inconveniences, so it's impossible to have an entire secure system. This paper presents a comparative evaluation study for the most performants applied anomaly based IDS in WSN. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces a survey of the IDS in WSN. In section 3 we analyze and evaluate the newly anomaly intrusion detection

techniques using in IDS for WSN. Section 4 present a comparison and evaluation results. Finally, a conclusion is introduced in section 5, a set of recommendations, and principles are suggested to boosting the performance of IDS in WSN for future researches.

## 2. RELATED WORK

In WSN, any kind of unauthorized or unapproved activities are called intrusions. An IDS is a collection of the resources, methods, and tools, to help identify, and report intrusions [7]. IDSs should satisfy the requirements of WSN restricted characteristics. According to these characteristics and other factors, we can classify IDS relating to: Source of the collected data, intruder type, intrusion type, method of detection, and IDS architecture [8]. Each division is divided itself into several subdivision as shown in the table below.

Source of the collected data	Intruder type	Intrusion type	Method of detection	IDS Architecture
Network-based	Internal	Dos	Anomaly detection	Stand alone
Host-based	External	Malicious use	Misuse detection	Distributed and cooperative
Hybrid		Leakage	Specification based detection	
		Penetration		
		Masquerade		

Table 1: IDSs Classification

There are many different and possible configurations for IDSs in WSNs, therefore defining an effective and efficient intrusion detection technique is a very big challenge, and IDS must combine several or one feature from each division.

## 3. STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF ANOMALY AND INTRUSION DETECTION TECHNIQUES IN WSN

Designing an efficient and effective intrusion detection technique to manage security in WSN is a very big concern. However, Determinate an anomaly detection technique is an essential step to ensure the best performance for IDS in WSN, which is the main motivation of our work. This paper aims to compare the different anomaly intrusion detection techniques, these techniques, had ability to detect unknown attacks compared to

the other techniques (specification, signature) that require complex expression, and memory size which WSNs cannot offer [9]. This part explains briefly the common and newly anomaly detection intrusion proposed for IDS in WSN, show their principals and functionality. The advantages and limitations of the studied techniques are presented in the end of this section. The investigated techniques are: K-means, Naïve Bayesian classifier, Support Vector Machine, and Random Forest.

### 3.1 Clustering approach by K-means:

The k-means algorithm is used to recognize data into different classes (known as clusters). This unsupervised learning algorithm is widely used in sensor node clustering problem due to its linear complexity and simple implementation [10]. Loo et al. [11], present an intrusion detection scheme for sensor networks based on anomaly detection. They use a fixed width clustering algorithm to allow for the detection of previously unseen attacks. They also came up with 12 general features for detecting sinkholes and periodic route error attacks. Generally K-means is used to detect novel intrusions in WSN by dividing or clustering the network connection's data to collect the majority of the intrusions together in one or several clusters, the figure below present the K-means clustering algorithm:

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Input:
n Number of records
c Number of clusters
X Set of cluster centers
X set of readings
dxi The distance between xi and the center of its cluster
Output:
Final cluster centers
Step1: Set initial cluster centers
      xj=xj, j=1.....,c
Step2: classify each pattern about the cluster centers
For each xi ∈ {x1, x2,.....,xn}
  For each xj (j=1, 2,.....,c)
    If (dxi > distance(xi, xj))
      dxi = distance(xi, xj)
      xi ∈ cluster j
    End If
  End For
  Recalculate the center of each cluster
End For
Step3: Repeat the above steps still the center of each cluster
      doesn't change

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Figure 1: K-means algorithm

The k-means steps to resolve such node clustering problem are: (i) Randomly choose k nodes to be the initial centroids for different clusters. (ii) Label each node with the closest

centroid using a distance function. (iii) Re-compute the centroids using the current node memberships. (iv) Stop if the convergence condition is valid. However, the main problems, in addition to being sensitive to initialization, the result of the clustering mostly depends on the selection of the initial centers, that k-means is a limiting case of fitting data by a mixture of k Gaussians with identical, isotropic covariance matrices ( $\Sigma = \sigma^2 I$ ), when the soft assignments of data points to mixture components are hardened to allocate each data point solely to the most likely component [12].

### 3.2 Naïve Bayesian classifier:

Naïve Bayes is a simple, fast and accurate classifier based on Bayes' theorem with independent assumption. It is used in [13] for Mobile ad hoc network, and In [14], a novel approach was proposed to identify the possible faulty sensor node using Naïve Bayes classifier in wireless sensor network. The proposed Naïve Bayes framework was deployed for performing WSN faulty node(s) detection. A new attribute, the end-to-end transmission time of each packet arrived at the sink is analyzed using Naïve Bayesian classifier for determining the network status. This technique doesn't involve any additional protocol and extra resource consumption of sensor nodes, it suggests a list of suspicious faulty nodes to the user [14]. The figure below presents the principal of naïve Bayesian classifier.

m Number of classes C1, C2, ..., Cm  
 $d_{ct}$  Dimensional vector for class  
 $t \ d_{ct} = \{d_{ct1}, d_{ct2}, \dots, d_{ctn}\}$   
 where  $\sum_i d_{cti} = 1$   
 K total ksenses of network operation  
 $S = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$   
 $S_1$  Is a product of the data that appear in the scene  
 $P(S_1 | d_{ct}) = \frac{(N_1)!}{\prod_i N_i!} \prod_i (d_{cti})^{N_i}$  (1)  
 Where  $N_i$  is the number of data I  
 in scene  $S_1$ .  
 $L = \arg \max_c [\log P(D_{ct}) + \sum_i N_i \log d_{cti}]$  (2)

Figure 2: Naïve Bayesian Classifier algorithm

The probability L provides the most appropriate decision of the classification task with prior distributions of all classes P(DCt). It is presented as the following equation (1), The prior distributions are found during training phase by Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE). When the testing attribute values were collected, the classification can be done by equation (2). Usually naïve bayesian classifier as a statistical methods

require too much data processing in order to sift the information that is valuable for statistics. Even below, Naïve Bayes (utilized as a classifier) has been successfully applied to wireless sensor network based intrusion detection by several researchers [15].

### 3.3 Support Vector Machine:

Support vector machines (SVMs): It is a machine learning algorithm that learns to classify data points using labeled training samples [16]. In WSN SVM is used to investigate temporal and spatial correlations of data for detecting malicious behavior of a node. To illustrate, given WSN's observations as points in the feature space, SVM divides the space into parts. These parts are separated by margins, and new recording will be classified based on which side of the gaps they fall on as presented in figure below:

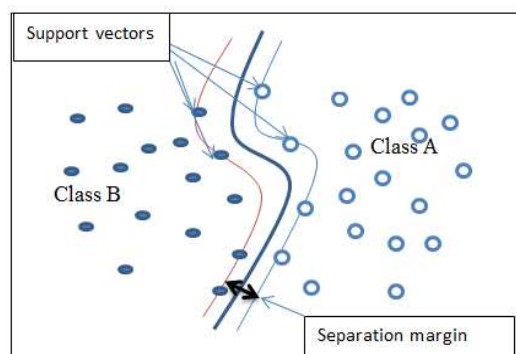


Figure 3: Principle of SVM

There were currently limited researches using SVM classifier in WSN. In [17] the SVM algorithm, including optimizing a quadratic function with linear constraints provides an alternative method to the multi-layer neural network with non-convex and unconstrained optimization problem. Kaplantzis et al [18] worked on centralized intrusion detection system based on support vector machine to detect selective forwarding and black hole attacks, the IDS is running in the base station using one-class SVM in training collected nodes 'data. Centralized SVM training method allows a better separation of the classes [19]. However, it requires a high communication overhead, and it is less suitable for resource-constrained sensor networks. For this reason many authors mentioned that the SVM training fit the requirement of sensor nodes in terms of energy cost ([19], [20], [21], [22]).

### 3.4 Random Forest:

Random forests are based on collection learning method for classification (and regression) that operate by constructing a multitude of decision trees at training time and outputting the class that is the mode of the classes output by individual trees. Random tree, on the other hand, involves construction of multiple decision trees randomly [23]. Each tree is constructed using the following algorithm:

- Step1: Let the number of training cases be  $N$ , and the number of variables in the classifier be  $M$ .
- Step2: We are told the number  $m$  of input variables to be used to determine the decision at a node of the tree;  $m$  should be much less than  $M$ .
- Step3: Choose a training set for this tree by choosing  $n$  times with replacement from all  $N$  available training cases (i.e. take a bootstrap sample). Use the rest of the cases to estimate the error of the tree, by predicting their classes.
- Step4: For each node of the tree, randomly choose  $m$  variables on which to base the decision at that node. Calculate the best split based on these  $m$  variables in the training set.
- Step5: Each tree is fully grown and not pruned (as may be done in constructing a normal tree classifier).

Figure 4: Random Forest algorithm

In [24] Random Forests (RF) is used as a classifier for the proposed intrusion detection framework. RF gives better performance in designing IDS that is efficient and effective for network intrusion detection. Recently, in [25] a novel data mining approach based on random forests was proposed to characterize and classify a similar large scale physical environment. The proposed data mining formulation, allows better performance in terms of tradeoff between energy efficiency and accuracy. Compared to a single decision tree algorithm, RFs runs efficiently on large datasets with a better performance.

Approach	Advantages	Inconveniences
<b>K-means</b>	-Fast and easier to understand. -Gives best result when data set are distinct.	-Sensitive to initialization -Low detection accuracy
<b>Naïve-bayes</b>	-Low computation complexity -High detection accuracy	-Increased communication overhead required for sending full data from common nodes to cluster heads. -Central point of failure as anomalous detection is accomplished only at cluster heads
<b>SVM</b>	-No central points of failure, all nodes have the same capability of detection -Reduced energy consumption by transmitting support vectors between nodes instead of all captured data	There must be an efficient way to select relevant features instead of delete one at a time and rank the important one the biggest limitation of the support vector approach lies in choice of the kernel
<b>Random Forest</b>	-Runs efficiently on large databases -Provides effective methods for estimating missing data -High detection accuracy and low false positive rate.	have been observed to over fit for some datasets with noisy classification/regression tasks the variable importance scores from random forest are not reliable for all types of data

Table 2: Advantages and inconveniences of studied techniques

#### 4. EXPERIMENT RESULTS

A series of experiments were conducted to evaluate and simulate each technique, we used several critical evaluation metrics to compare these techniques. The algorithms simulations are done in WEKA. We can summarize the treatments performed to prepare our database, based on the standard KDDCup'99 intrusion detection dataset [26], in the following 5 steps:

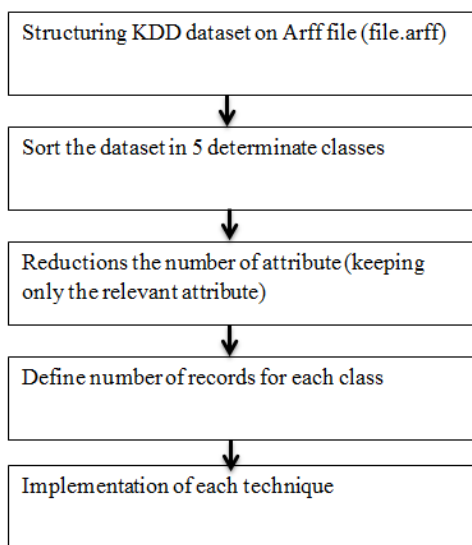


Figure 5: Classifier implementation Process

Step1: The main aim of this first step is to structure all records on Attribute-Relation File Format (ARFF), which is an input file format used by the machine learning tool WEKA [27].

Step2: In this step we classed all types of attacks, existing in the dataset, on four principal categories. As shown the table below:

category	Attacks type
Probe	Ipsweep, mscan, nmap, portsweep, saint, satan
Dos	Apache, back, land, mailbomb, neptune, pod, processtable, smurf, teardrop, udpstorm
U2R	Buffer_overflow, loadmodule, perl,rootKit, ps, sqlattack, xterm
R2L	ftp_write, guess_password, imap, multihop

Table 3: Attacks Category

The four classes above can be used in IDS to classify intrusions, rather than just the distinction between "normal" and "intrusion". This gives more information about the intrusion, which can affect the method of reporting and acting on the alleged detection. We note also that the spoofed attacks altered, Replayed Routing Information, Sinkhole, Sybil, Wormholes attacks must go through the Probe step before they start to attack, so they would be classified as Probe attacks. Selected Forwarding, which uses illegitimate transfer data to an attack, is known as a Dos attack. Hello Floods are caused by internal attacks, and are therefore classified as U2R.

Step3: In this step we choose the number of records treated for each class, we used 70% in training stage and 30% in the test stage for each class.

Class	Number of records
Normal	10233
Dos	41748
Probe	441
R2L	96
U2R	92

Table 4: Records Number

Step4: Reduction characteristics are a process of choosing a subset of the original characteristics so that the feature space is reduced optimally at an endpoint. In general, a characteristic is good if it is relevant to the concept of class but not redundant to one of the other functions. In our experiment, Weka tool is used for reduction function. CfsSubsetEval with BestFirst approach is applied to the set of training data to obtain the relevant features for the classification process. Each subset was analyzed using correlation analysis to identify important features for a specific attack. The best known Measuring correlation is the linear correlation coefficient. For a pair of variables (x, y), the linear correlation coefficient r (x, y) is given by the expression below:

$$r(x,y) = \frac{n \sum xy - \sum x \sum y}{\sqrt{(n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2)(n \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2)}}$$

The main principle of CfsSubsetEval method is evaluating the value of a subset of attributes by considering the individual predictive ability of each element as well as the degree of redundancy between them. It generates subsets of features that are highly correlated with the class while having a low cross correlation. The results are presented in the table below:

Search Method	CFS Subset Evaluator + Best first
Selected attributes	5,6,9,11,12,14,31,32
Attributes names	src_bytes; dst_bytes; urgent; num_failed_logins; logged_in; root_shell; srv_diff_host_rate; dst_host_count

Table 5: Selected Attributes

Step5: Implementation of techniques of intrusion detection: Before this step, we start firstly defining a set of terms, which represent critical evaluation metrics:

True positive (TP): classifying an intrusion as an intrusion. The true positive rate is synonymous with detection rate, sensitivity which are other terms often used in the literature

$$\text{True positive rate (TPR)} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} = \frac{\text{correct intrusions}}{\text{intrusions}}$$

False positive (FP): incorrectly classifying normal data as an intrusion:

$$\text{False positive rate (FPR)} = \frac{FP}{TN + FP} = \frac{\text{normal as intrusions}}{\text{normal}}$$

An additional performance metrics are also commonly used referred to as precision:

$$\text{precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} = \frac{\text{correct intrusions}}{\text{instances classified as intrusion}}$$

Recall: The recall is defined by the number of occurrences found relevant in terms of the number of relevant occurrences that owns the database. This means that when a user queries the database you want to appear all occurrences that could meet their need for information. If this balance between the questioning of the user and the number of occurrences is important then presented the recall rate is high. Conversely if the system has many interesting instances but they do not appear in the list of answers, we speak of silence. Silence opposes the recall.

F-measure: The Fmeasure can be interpreted as a weighted average of the precision and recall, where an  $F_1$  score reaches its best value at 1 and worst score at 0:

$$F = 2 \cdot \frac{\text{precision} \cdot \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}}$$

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC): is a graphical plot that illustrates the performance of a classifier system as its discrimination threshold is varied. The curve is created by plotting the true positive rate against the false positive rate at various threshold settings.

The main objective is to compute the accuracy of anomaly detection process for each technique based on this set of evaluation metrics. In the fifth step we implemented each intrusion detection technique on our dataset, using Weka tool .below the result obtained according to the metrics defined above.

K-means Detailed Accuracy By Class						
	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	ROC
Normal	0.4	0.119	0.448	0.4	0.64	0.999
Dos	0.749	0.586	0.831	0.749	0.581	0.999
U2r	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.994
R2L	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.998
Probe	0.322	0.11	0.024	0.32	0.606	0.987
Naïve Bayes Detailed Accuracy By Class						
	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	ROC
Normal	0.807	0.008	0.962	0.807	0.878	0.995
Dos	0.939	0.014	0.996	0.939	0.967	0.978
U2r	0.989	0.001	0.657	0.989	0.79	1
R2L	0.845	0.014	0.1	0.845	0.179	0.987
Probe	0.934	0.064	0.11	0.934	0.197	0.987
SVM Detailed Accuracy By Class						
	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	ROC
Normal	0.997	0.001	0.995	0.997	0.996	0.999
Dos	1	0.001	1	1	1	0.999
U2r	0.989	0	0.972	0.989	0.984	0.994
R2L	0.856	0	0.902	0.856	0.878	0.998
Probe	0.948	0	1	0.948	0.973	0.987
Random Forest Detailed Accuracy By Class						
	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	ROC
Normal	1	0	0.998	1	0.999	1
Dos	1	0	1	1	1	1
U2r	0.989	0	1	0.989	0.995	0.995
R2L	0.918	0	0.967	0.918	0.942	1
Probe	0.988	0	0.998	0.988	0.989	1

Table 6: Accuracy of studied techniques

A perfect intrusion detection system will provide precision and recall values which equal to "1" (finds all attacks - recall - and make no mistake - precision). In reality, the intrusion detection techniques are more or less accurate, more or less relevant. It will be possible to obtain a very

accurate system (a precision score of 0.99), but inefficient (with a reminder of 0.10, which will mean that found that 10% of possible attacks). In the same vein, a technique whose recall is high (0.99), but low accuracy (0.10) will provide many reply erroneous attacks in addition to those relevant.

In the following figures we evaluate the performance of studied techniques based on: True positive TP, false positive FP and ROC curve:

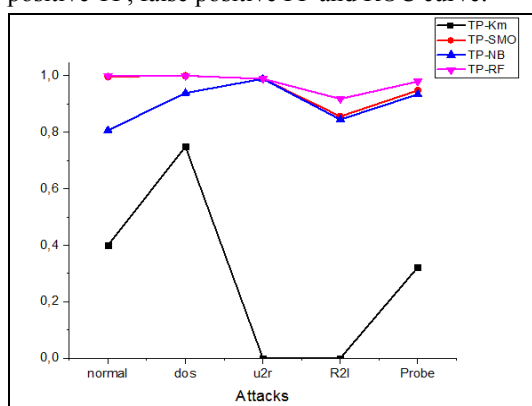


Figure 6: True positive rate

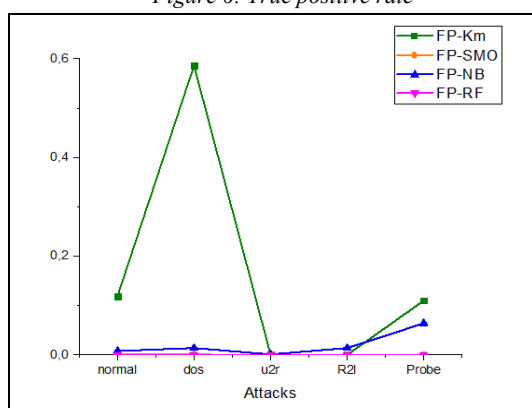


Figure 7: False positive rate

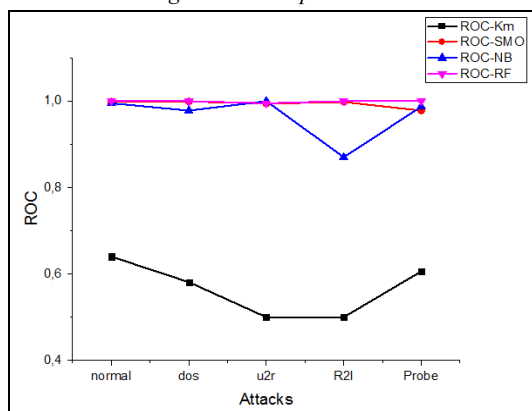


Figure 8: ROC curve

According to TP results the rate of true positive for the Random Forest method is -1-, which makes it the most efficient technique, however it is less matured even reach zero for some class using K-means, for SMO and Naïve Bayesian classifier they have different value according to the class.

Regarding the curves representing false positive detection rate, we deduce that the most effective method is Random Forest, where the FP rate reach 0 for all classes, while we notice a higher rate for K-means above for DoS attacks class, the rate of Naïve Bayesian classifier and SVM varies according to the class (more efficient for some classes than other).

The system is perfectly performed if the ROC curve equal to "1". So it is clear that the efficient method is Random forest, which is the most effective for all classes based on ROC. Naïve Bayes and SMO have different value for each class, while we remark a lower rate for the K-means approach.

Indeed, the superiority of Random Forest intrusion detection technique, SVM, Naïve Bayes and K-means respectively, can be clearly observed, in this order, according to previous metrics we can classify these techniques, from the higher to lower performant technique. Classification based on suitable feature selection is one of the main factors which reach the performance of IDS, especially in WSN.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND FUTUR WORK

This paper has compared and evaluated the newest anomaly detection intrusion techniques used in wireless sensor network. More research is needed to define intrusion detection techniques performance metrics, detection rate, true positive rate and false positive rate are given as efficient metrics in the most researches. According to the results, it is highly recommended to use the data mining techniques to detect effectively the intrusions and attacks in WSN. In addition, feature selection is one of the important factors which affect the performance of IDS. Also, the proper selection of clustering parameters can reinforce the decision making process. The decision of choosing efficient IDS is a compromise between technique employed and performance metrics. However, many issues are still open and need further research efforts such as hierarchical clustering patterns, using machine learning in resource management problem of wireless sensor networks, developing a

classifier that is trained well with network patterns, selecting and preprocessing an appropriate dataset.

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