

# SwissLog: Robust and Unified Deep Learning Based Log Anomaly Detection for Diverse Faults

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2020.10.12



中山大學  
SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

# Severe Anomalies in Cloud

Alibaba Cloud Reports IO Hang Error  
in North China

Network Issues Cause Amazon

The outage of servers occurred to all service providers.

Google Services  
U.S.

**Failure of downstream services**  
**Customer drain**  
**Huge Economic loss**

People ex

Goo

Google

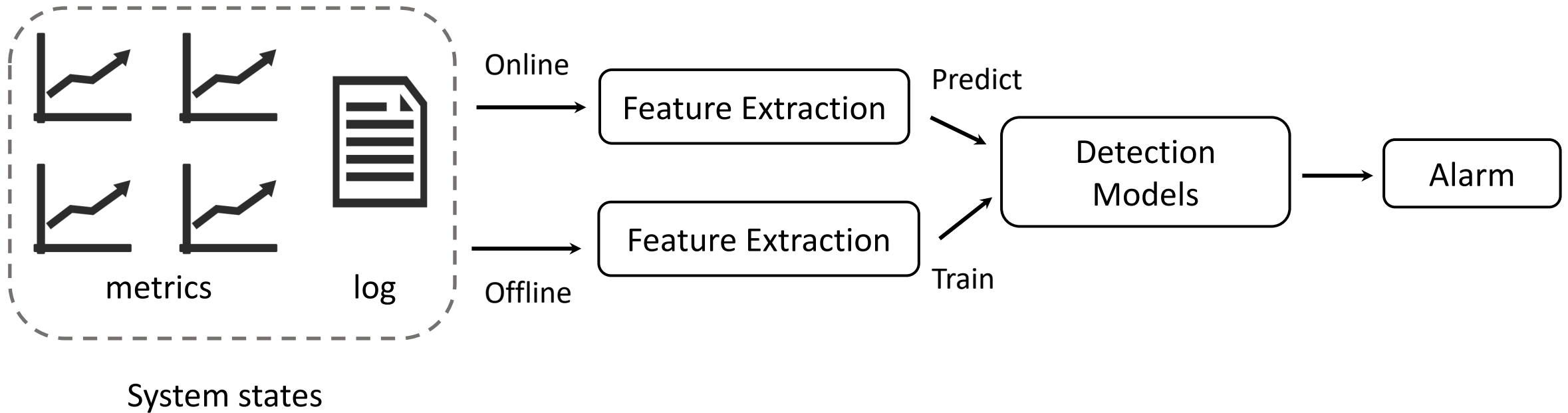
Systemwide outage kn

**NSA Warns of Cloud Misconfigurations in W**  
**Microsoft's Azure Error**

It's not just you. The social network experienced a major outage today, though it remains unclear what caused it.

morning as  
ed,  
the U.S.  
major outage,

# How to detect anomalies: common solutions



Our goal: to reduce **MTTR** (Mean Time To Recovery)

# Log-based anomaly detection methods

Detecting Large-Scale System Problems by Mining Console Logs

Wei Xu\*   Ling Huang<sup>†</sup>   Armando Fox\*   David Patterson\*   Michael I. Jordan\*

**Anomaly Detection Using Program Control Flow Graph Mining from Execution Logs**

Identifying Impactful Service System Problems via Log Analysis

Shilin He<sup>†</sup>  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong, China

Qingwei Lin  
Microsoft Research  
Beijing, China

Jian-Guang Lou  
Microsoft Research  
Beijing, China

**Robust Log-Based Anomaly Detection on Unstable Log Data**

Animesh Nandi<sup>‡</sup>, Atri Mandal<sup>‡</sup>, Shubham Atreja<sup>°</sup>, Gargi B. Dasgupta<sup>‡</sup>, Subhrajit Bhattach

**DeepLog: Anomaly Detection and Diagnosis from System Logs through Deep Learning**

Min Du, Feifei Li, Guineng Zheng, Vivek Srikumar

Xu Zhang\*  
Microsoft Research  
Beijing, China  
Tsinghua University  
Beijing, China

Yong Xu  
Qingwei Lin  
Bo Qiao  
Microsoft Research  
Beijing, China

Hongyu Zhang  
University of Newcastle  
Callaghan, Australia

Yingnong Dang  
Microsoft Azure  
Redmond, USA

**Mining Program Workflow from Interleaved Tra**

**LogAnomaly: Unsupervised Detection of Sequential and Quantitative Anomalies in Unstructured Logs**

Jian-Guang Lou<sup>1</sup>   Qiang Fu<sup>1</sup>   Shengqi Yang<sup>2</sup>   Jiang Li<sup>1</sup>   B  
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Yuqing Liu<sup>3</sup>, Yihao Chen<sup>1,5</sup>, Ruizhi Zhang<sup>4</sup>, Shimin Tao<sup>4</sup>, Pei Sun<sup>4</sup> and Rong Zhou<sup>4</sup>

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Microsoft Azure  
Redmond, USA

Furao Shen  
Nanjing University  
Nanjing, China

Dongmei Zhang  
Microsoft Research  
Beijing, China

**Real-world environment is more complex**

# Log templates are changing

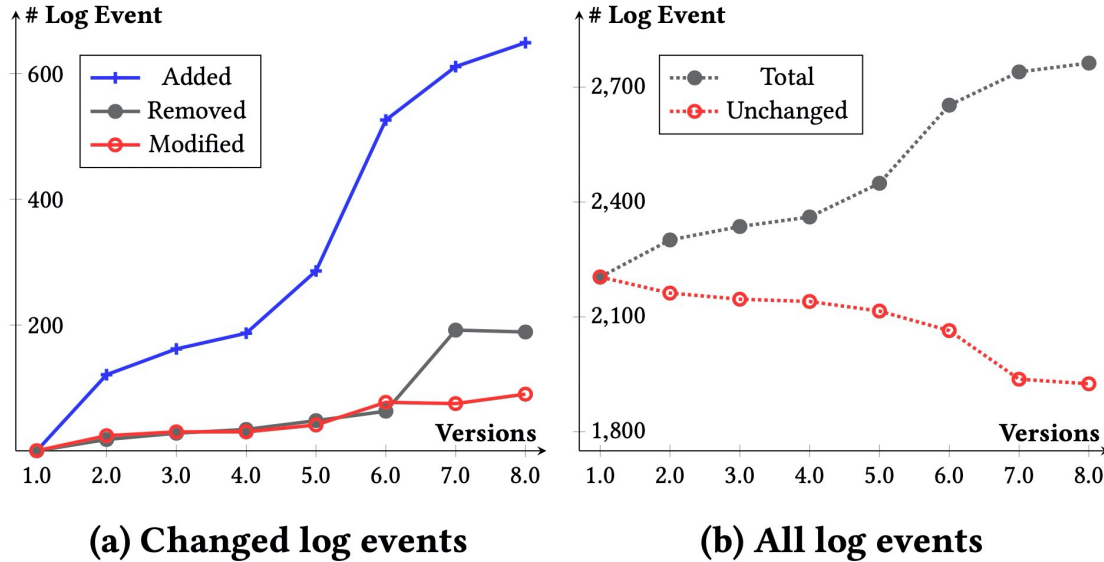


Figure 2: The Evolution of Log Events across Versions

[1]

[1] X. Zhang, Y. Xu, Q. Lin, B. Qiao, H. Zhang, Y. Dang, C. Xie, X. Yang, Q. Cheng, Z. Li *et al.*, “Robust log-based anomaly detection on unstable log data,” in *ESEC/FSE’19: Proc. of the 2019 27th ACM Joint Meeting on European Software Engineering Conference and Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering*. ACM, 2019, pp. 807–817.

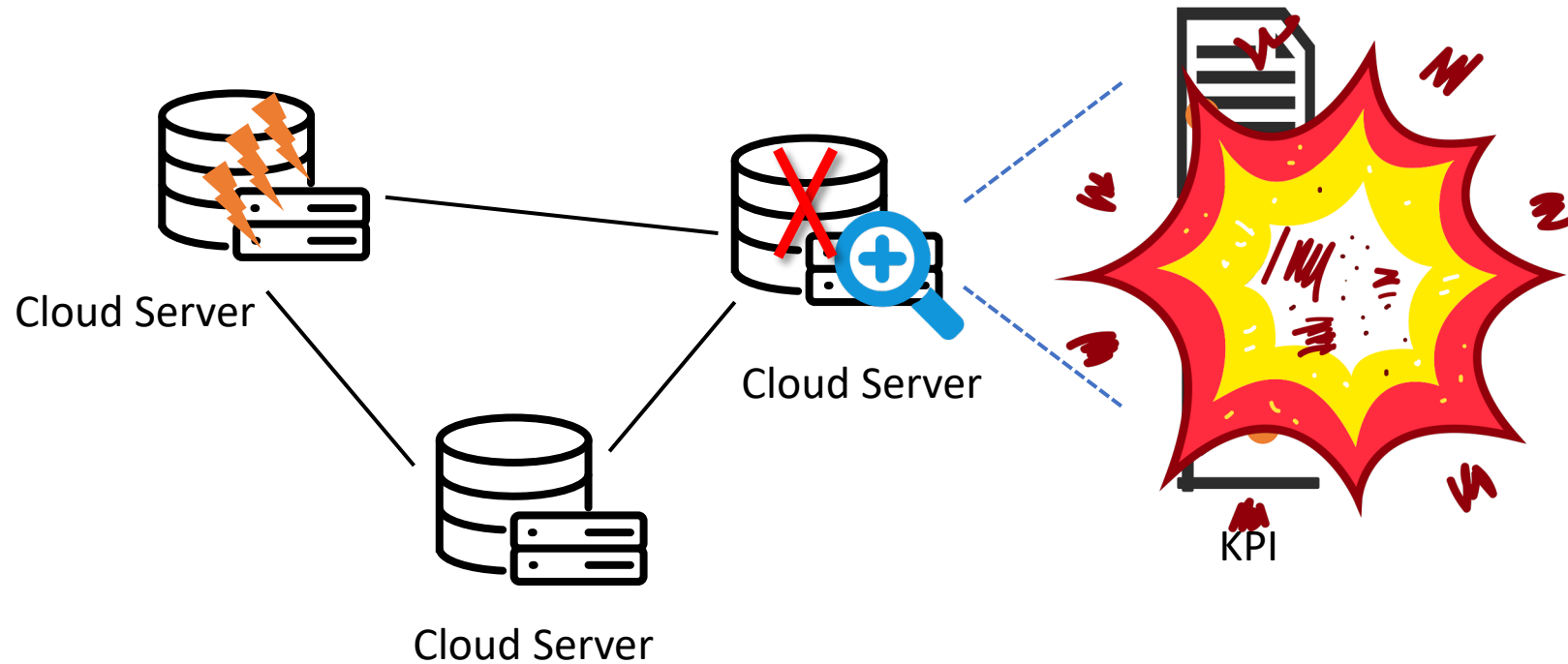
[2] S. Kabinna, C.-P. Bezemer, W. Shang, M. D. Syer, and A. E. Hassan, “Examining the stability of logging statements,” *Empirical Software Engineering*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 290–333, 2018.

TABLE I: An overview of the studied applications (all metrics calculated using the latest HEAD of the repository)

|                                 | ActiveMQ | Camel | CloudStack | Liferay |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------|------------|---------|
| # of logging statements         | 5.1K     | 6.1K  | 9.6K       | 1.8K    |
| # of commits                    | 11K      | 21K   | 29K        | 143K    |
| # of years in repository        | 8        | 8     | 4          | 4       |
| # of contributors               | 41       | 151   | 204        | 351     |
| # of added lines of code        | 261K     | 505K  | 1.09M      | 3.9M    |
| # of deleted lines of code      | 114K     | 174K  | 750K       | 2.8M    |
| # of added logging statements   | 4.5K     | 5.1K  | 24K        | 10.4K   |
| # of deleted logging statements | 2.3K     | 2.4K  | 17K        | 8.1K    |
| % of logging-related changes    | 1.8%     | 1.1%  | 2.3%       | 0.3%    |

[2]

# Performance issues are silent



Performance issues are the common manifestation of “partial failures”  
Performance issues are not so easy to detect

# **So...How to build a model to be robust to changing events and be effective to detect performance issues?**

We first observe log data, and analyze the requirements in real-world:

- ◆ Effective to diverse faults
  - Sequence order change (severe issues)
  - Log time interval change (performance issues)
- ◆ Robust to changing events

# Observation from real-world log data

09:59:38 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:02 INFO AddStoredBlock

Normal block

09:37:53 INFO AllocateBlock  
09:37:54 INFO Receiving block  
09:37:54 INFO Receiving block  
09:37:54 INFO Receiving block  
09:38:49 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
09:38:49 INFO Received block size  
09:38:49 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
09:38:49 INFO Received block size  
09:38:49 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
09:38:49 INFO Received block size  
09:38:49 INFO AddStoredBlock  
09:38:49 INFO AddStoredBlock  
09:38:51 INFO AddStoredBlock  
09:38:49 WARN Redundant addStoredBlock request

Sequence order change

# Observation from real-world log data

09:59:38 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:02 INFO AddStoredBlock

Normal block

09:59:38 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock  
09:59:42 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:42 INFO Receiving block  
10:00:04 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:04 INFO Received block size  
10:00:04 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:04 INFO Received block size  
10:00:04 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:04 INFO Received block size  
10:00:04 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:04 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:05 INFO AddStoredBlock

Log time interval change

# Observation from real-world log data

09:59:38 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating  
10:00:01 INFO Received block size  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock  
10:00:02 INFO AddStoredBlock

09:59:38 INFO Receiving block from ip

09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock

09:59:39 INFO Receiving block from ip

09:59:39 INFO Receiving block from ip

10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating

10:00:01 INFO Received block size

10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating

10:00:01 INFO Received block size

10:00:01 INFO PacketResponder terminating

10:00:01 INFO Received block size

10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock

10:00:01 INFO AddStoredBlock

10:00:02 INFO AddStoredBlock

Changing events

# Thus, we propose *SwissLog*

Facing these *challenges* in real-world

- ◆ Diverse Faults
  - Sequence order change
  - Log time interval change
- ◆ Changing Events



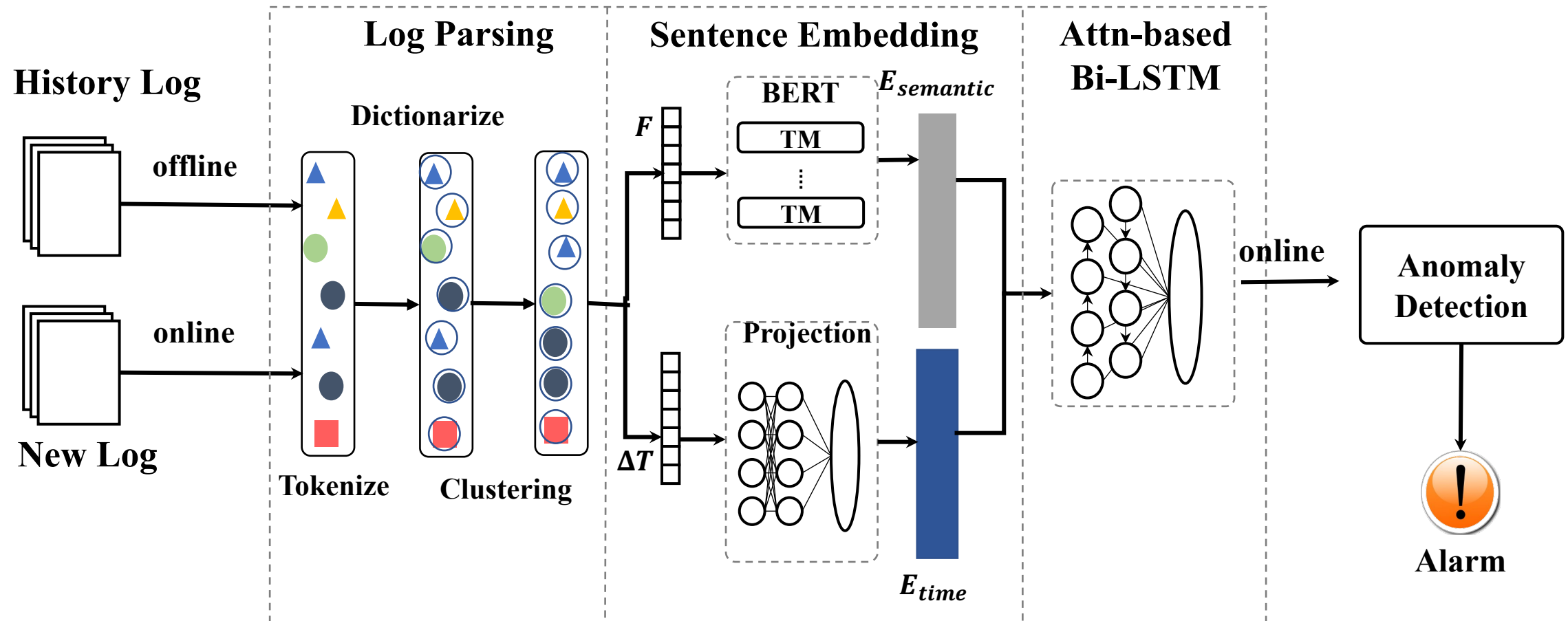
***SwissLog***

- ◆ Robust
- ◆ Unified
- ◆ Versatile

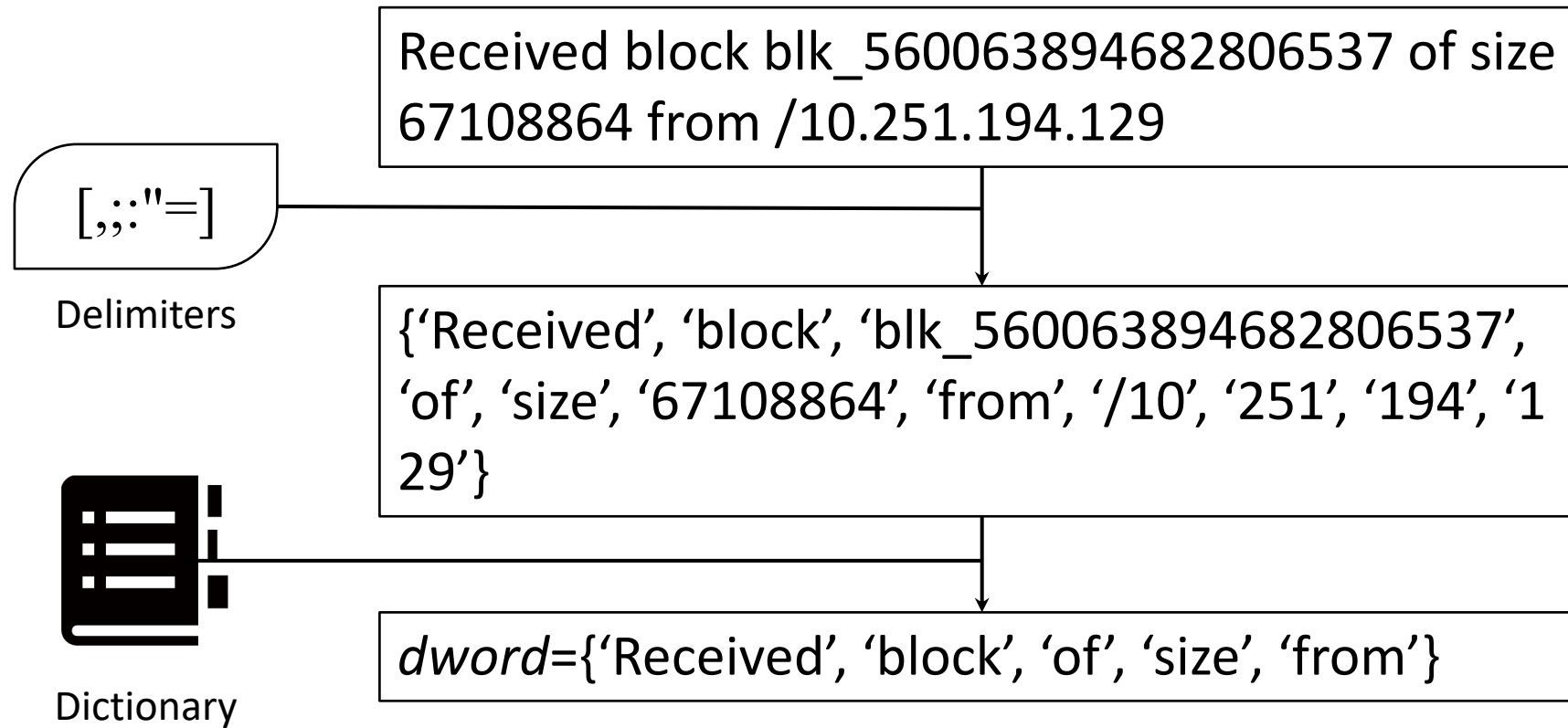


*Swiss Army Knife*

# Overview of *SwissLog*



# Log Parsing: Tokenize and Preprocess

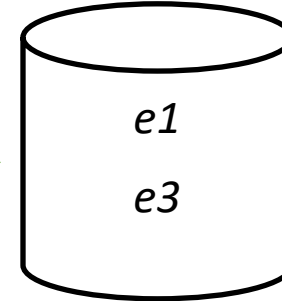


# Log Parsing: Clustering by Wordset

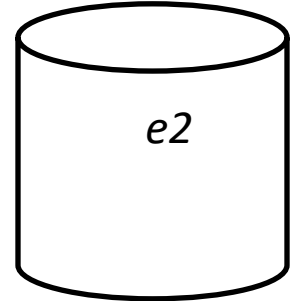
*dword1*={'Received', 'block', 'of', 'size', 'from'}

*dword2*={'Block', 'name', 'system', 'allocate', 'block'}

*dword3*={'Received', 'block', 'of', 'size', 'from'}



*Cluster 1*



*Cluster 2*

# Log Parsing: Mask Variables with LCS

{'Received', 'block', 'blk\_560063894682806537', 'of',  
'size', '67108864', 'from', '/10', '251', '194', '129'}

{'Received', 'block', 'blk\_7503483334202473044', 'o  
f', 'size', '233217', 'from', '/10', '250', '19', '102'}

Token-level LCS



*Cluster 1*

{'Received', 'block', \*, 'of', 'size', \*, 'from', \*, \*, \*, \*}

# Log Parsing: Clustering using Prefix Tree

Template:

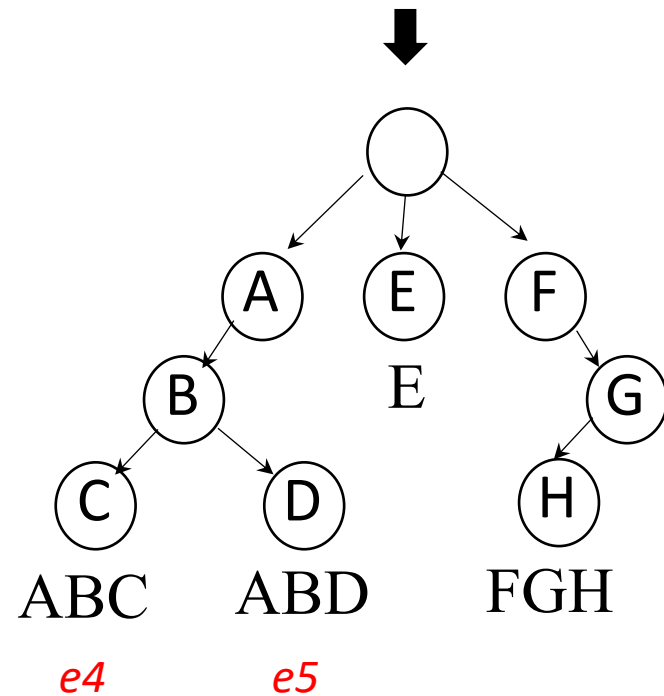
Disconnecting: Too many authentication failures for \* [preauth]

**e4:** Disconnecting: Too many authentication failures for admin [preauth]

**e5:** Disconnecting: Too many authentication failures for root [preauth]

Templates: “Disconnecting: Too many authentication failures for \* [preauth]”

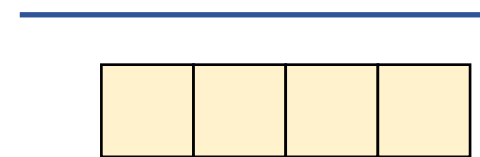
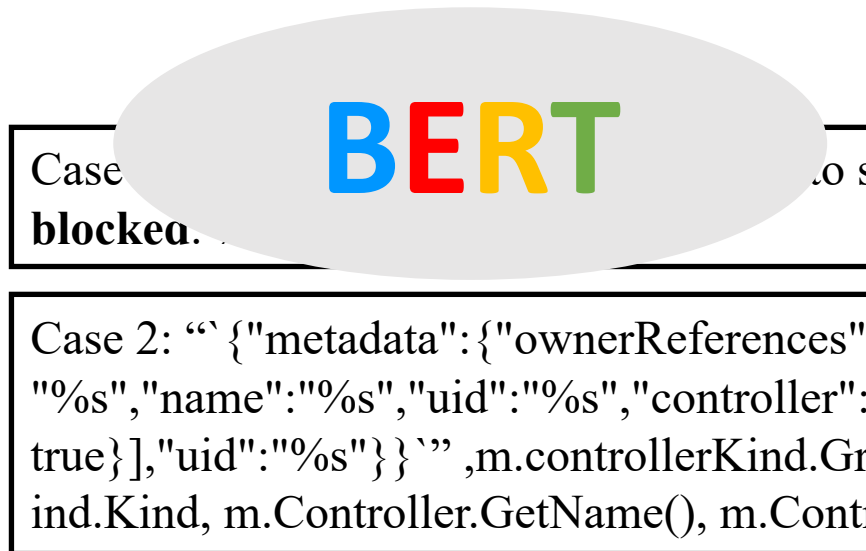
{‘ABC’, ‘ABD’, ‘E’, ‘FGH’}



# Sentence Embedding with Semantic Info

Log formats are under active evolution

Existing approaches using limited



Ordered sentence

# Sentence Embedding with Temporal Info

Why to introduce log time interval? **Latency** is the common manifestation

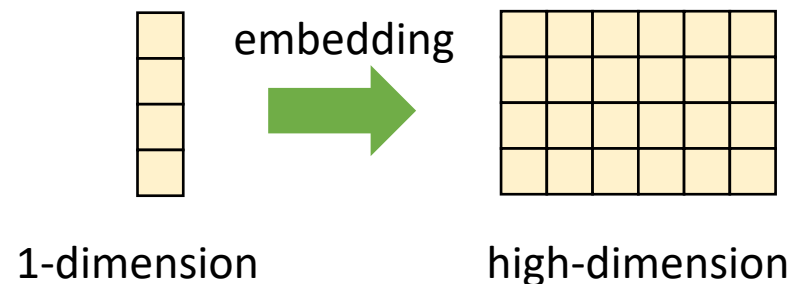
$\Delta t_1 = 0$  09:59:38 INFO Receiving block  
 $\Delta t_2 = 3$  09:59:38 INFO AllocateBlock  
 $\Delta t_3 = 0$  09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
09:59:39 INFO Receiving block  
⋮  
10:00:02 INFO AddStoredBlock

$\Delta T = \{padding, \Delta t_1, \Delta t_2, \dots, \Delta t_i, \dots\}$   
 $= \{-1, 0, 3, 0, \dots\}$

1. the time interval vibrates in a task-related time range

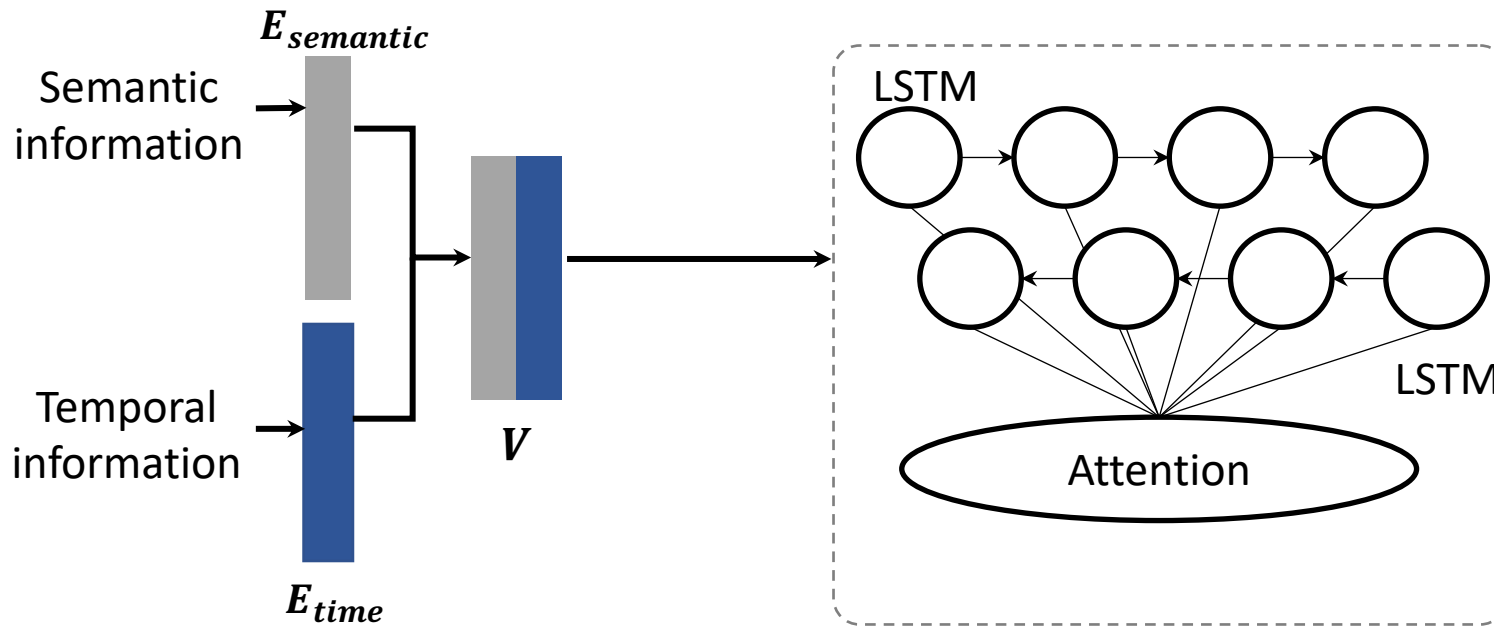
$$\theta = \frac{1}{\Delta t}$$

2. 1-dimension temporal data exhibits limited information

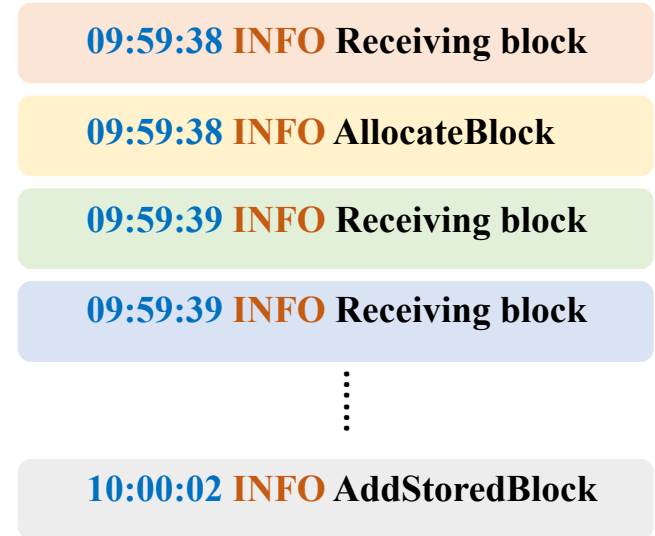


# Attention-based Bi-LSTM: Training

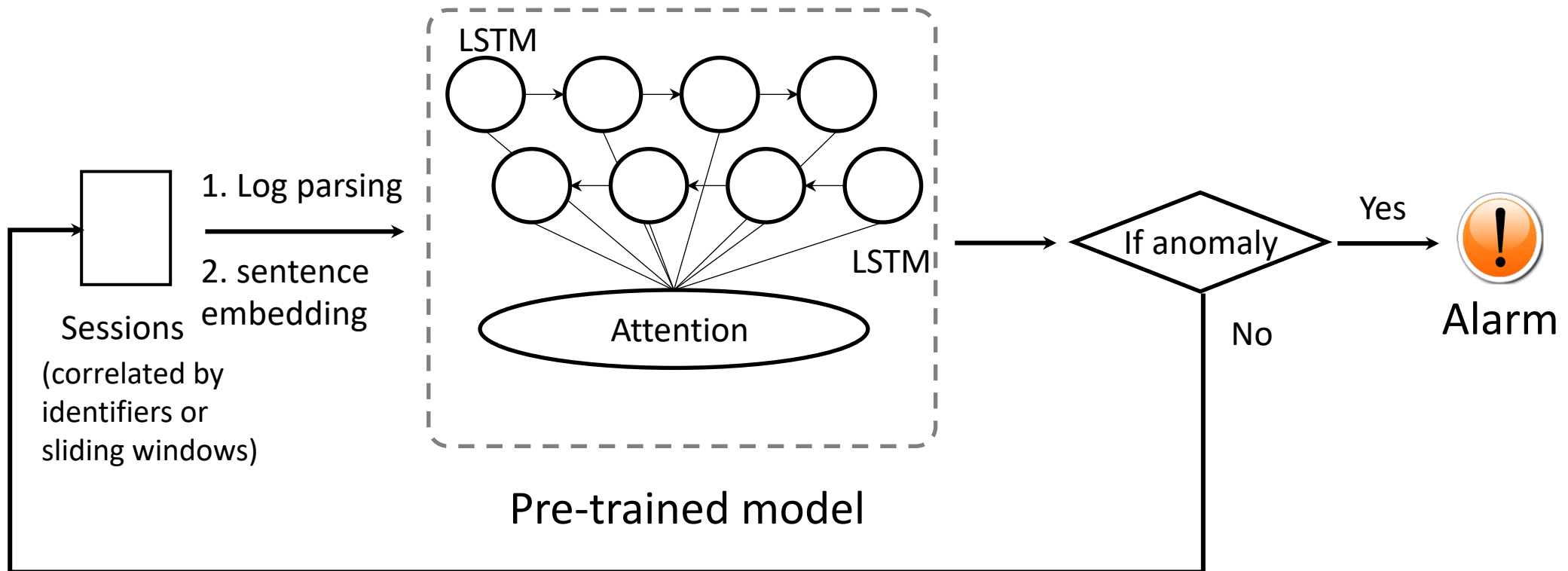
Assign different weights to different log statements



$$V = \text{concat}\{E_{semantic}, E_{time}\} \quad \text{Deep learning model}$$



# Anomaly Detection



# Evaluation

## Research Questions:

- RQ1: How effective and robust is the proposed log parser?
- RQ2: How effective is the BERT encoder on anomaly detection? Do other log parsers perform as well as the proposed log parser using BERT encoder?
- RQ3: How robust is ***SwissLog*** on those log data with changing events?
- RQ4: Can ***SwissLog*** detect performance issues? How sensitive is ***SwissLog*** to log time deviations?

# Evaluation

## Datasets:

### ◆ Real-World datasets

| Log Type     | #Messages  | #Templates | Labeled |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------|
| HDFS         | 11,175,629 | 30         | Yes     |
| Blue Gene /L | 4,747,963  | 377        | Yes     |
| Android      | 30,348,042 | 76,923     | No      |

### ◆ Synthetic datasets

| Injected Type      | Notes                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Changing events    | Only unimportant words are inserted or removed. Ratio ranges from 5% to 30% to the original HDFS log data.                                                                        |
| Performance issues | apply the time interval latency injection to mimic CPU hog, memory hog, disk write burn and network delay with ratio 5% to those log whose original time interval is less than 2. |

# Evaluation

## Metrics:

- Parsing Accuracy:  $PA = \frac{\text{count}(\text{correct event ID group})}{\text{count}(\text{all event ID group})}$ . The ratio of correctly parsed log messages over the total number of log messages.
- Precision:  $P = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$ . The percentage of correctly detected anomalies amongst all detected anomalies.
- Recall:  $R = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$ . The percentage of correctly detected anomalies amongst all real anomalies.
- F1-Score:  $F1 = \frac{2 * P * R}{P + R}$ . The harmonic mean of Precision and Recall.

# RQ1: The Effectiveness and Robustness of Log Parser

TABLE II  
COMPARISONS OF SWISSLOG AND SOTA OF PARSING ACCURACY ON DIFFERENT LOG DATASETS

| Dataset          |          | HDFS         | Hadoop       | Spark        | Zookeeper    | BGL          | HPC          | Thunderbird  | OpenStack    | Mac          |
|------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Parsing Accuracy | SwissLog | <b>1.000</b> | <b>0.992</b> | <b>0.997</b> | <b>0.985</b> | <b>0.970</b> | <b>0.910</b> | <b>0.992</b> | <b>1.000</b> | 0.840        |
|                  | SOTA     | 1.000        | 0.957        | 0.994        | 0.967        | 0.963        | 0.903        | 0.955        | 0.871        | <b>0.872</b> |
| Dataset          |          | Windows      | Linux        | Andriod      | HealthApp    | Apache       | Proxifier    | OpenSSH      | Average      |              |
| Parsing Accuracy | SwissLog | <b>1.000</b> | <b>0.869</b> | <b>0.954</b> | <b>0.901</b> | <b>1.000</b> | <b>0.990</b> | <b>1.000</b> | <b>0.962</b> |              |
|                  | SOTA     | 0.997        | 0.701        | 0.919        | 0.822        | 1.000        | 0.967        | 0.925        | 0.865        |              |

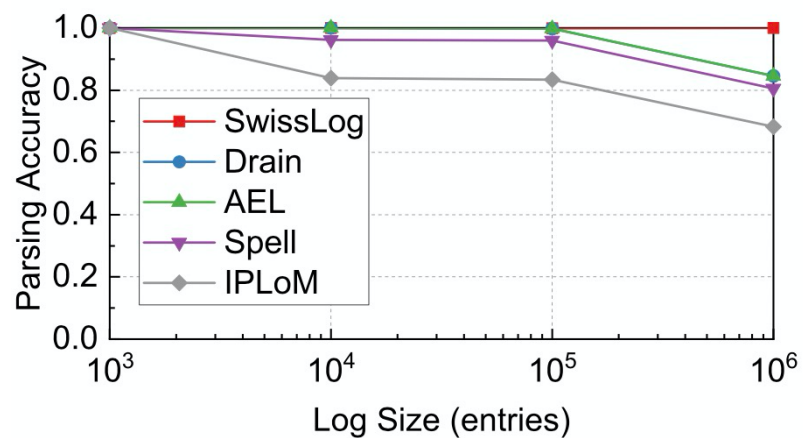
PM response took <\*> ms (<\*>, powerd)  
PM response took <\*> ms (<\*>, QQ)  
PM response took <\*> ms (<\*>, WeChat)

→ <\*>

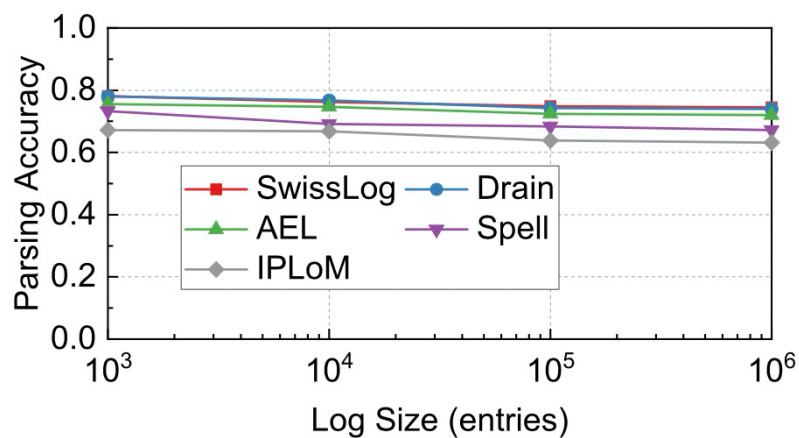
Challenges in template definition

Customize dictionary when preprocessing according to different template discriminant

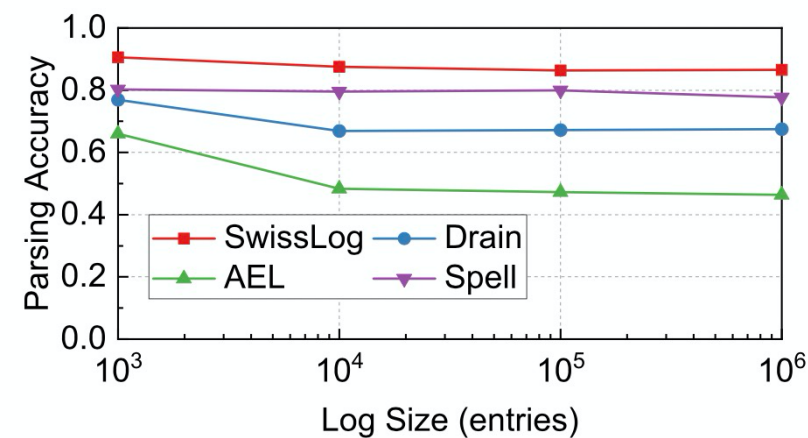
# ***RQ1: The Effectiveness and Robustness of Log Parser***



(a) HDFS



(b) BGL

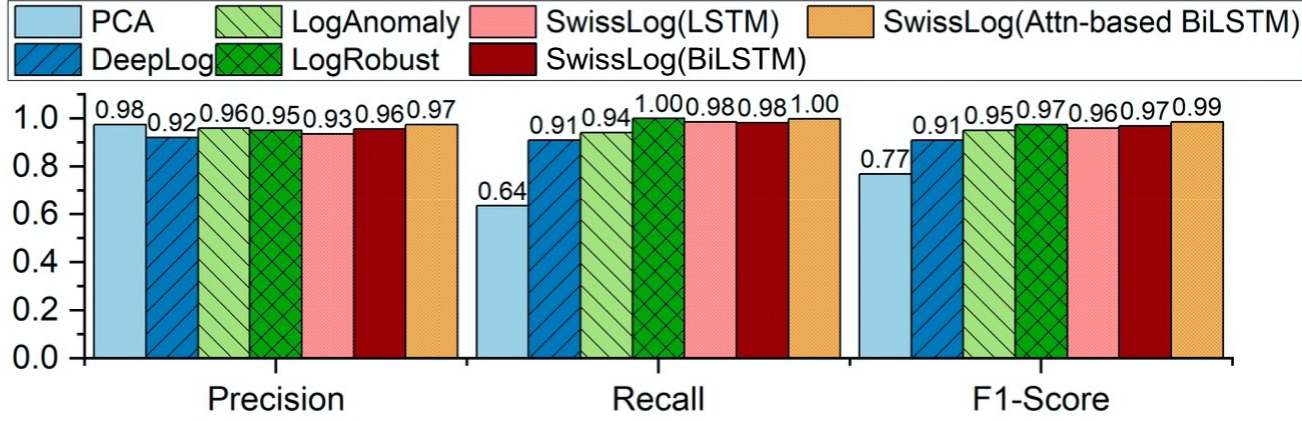


(c) Android

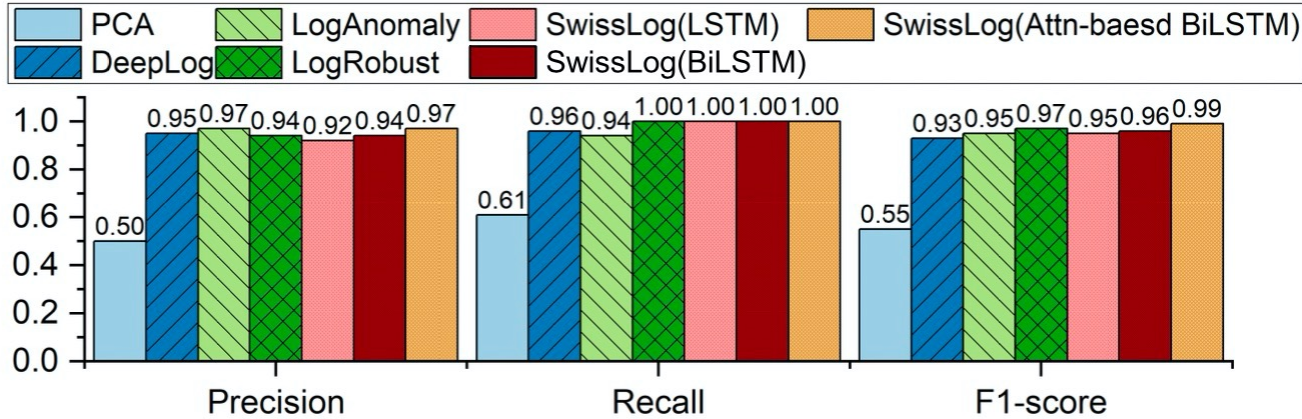
Fig. 8. Comparisons among different log parsers of parsing accuracy on different volumes of logs

Confirm the effectiveness in large datasets

## RQ2: The Effectiveness of Semantic-based Model



(a) HDFS



(b) BGL

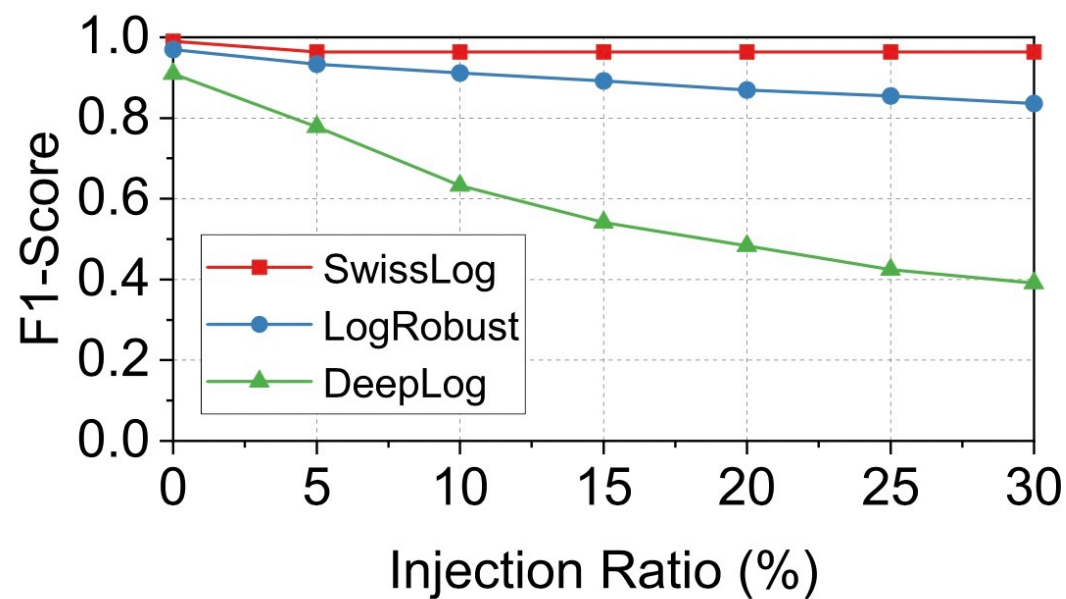
TABLE III  
RESULTS OF DIFFERENT LOG PARSERS USING BERT ENCODERS

| LogParser       | Precision   | Recall      | F1-Score    |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Drain           | 0.95        | 0.96        | 0.96        |
| AEL             | 0.96        | 0.97        | 0.97        |
| <b>SwissLog</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>0.99</b> |

The fixed variable of log parsers and anomaly detection method shows the effectiveness of semantic-based model

Fig. 10. Comparisons of different approaches on different datasets

## ***RQ3: The Robustness on Changing Log Data***



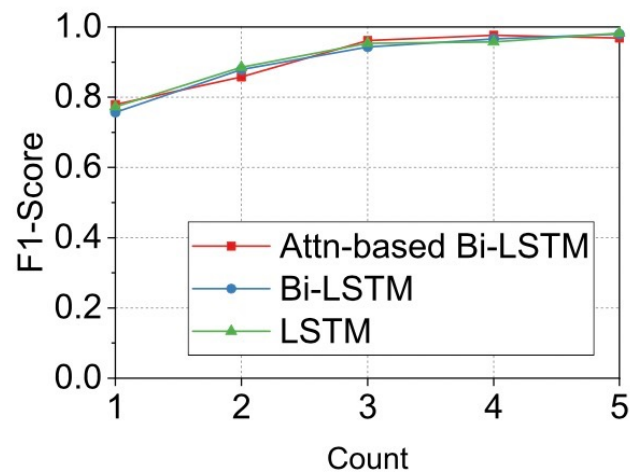
***SwissLog*** with BERT encoders is almost not affected by changing events, showing a good robustness.

Fig. 11. F1-Score on the dataset TestingEvent

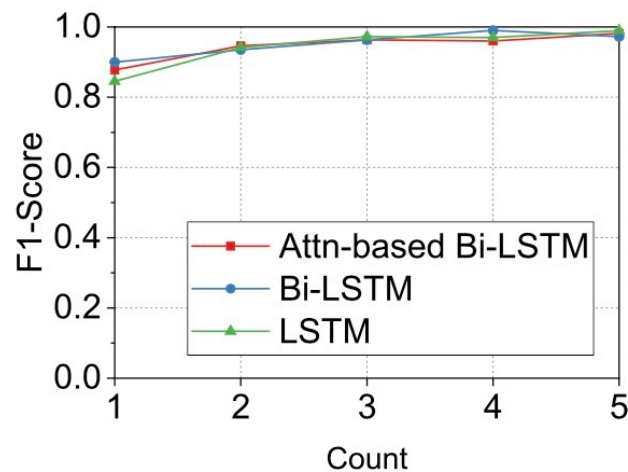
# RQ4: The Effectiveness and Sensitivity of Time Embedding

TABLE IV  
RESULTS ON DIFFERENT OPERATION FOR TIME EMBEDDING

| Time embedding  | Precision   | Recall      | F1-Score    |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Raw time        | 0.67        | 0.68        | 0.42        |
| Mean            | 0.67        | 0.94        | 0.76        |
| WO_Reciprocal   | 0.65        | 0.66        | 0.56        |
| <b>SwissLog</b> | <b>0.92</b> | <b>0.99</b> | <b>0.95</b> |



(a) Injected seconds=1



(b) Injected seconds=2

Attn-based Bi-LSTM outperforms Bi-LSTM and LSTM in detecting log sequential anomalies

Fig. 12. F1-Score on TestingPerf

# Discussions

## Threats To Validity:

- Dictionary selection
- Different tasks still have different execution time in different software systems

## Efficiency:

- log parsing: 4.5 ms/l
- sentence embedding: 2.6ms/l
- network training: 800.0 ms/l
- anomaly detection: 4.5 ms/l

# Conclusion

- Challenges in log-based anomaly detection:
  - Changing events
  - Performance issues
- We propose **SwissLog**, a robust and unified anomaly detection model for diverse faults:
  - Sequential log anomalies
  - Performance issues
- SwissLog includes 4 phases:

Log parsing -> Sentence embedding -> Attention-based Bi-LSTM -> Anomaly detection
- Evaluation on real-world datasets and synthetic datasets to answer 4 research questions:
  - The effectiveness of log parsers and semantic-based models
  - The robustness on changing events
  - The effectiveness and sensitivity of time embedding
- Future works
  - Collect performance issues related datasets
  - Optimize the performance and adaptiveness of **SwissLog**