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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Isolation Forest With Exclusion of Attributes Based on Shapley Index

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ABSTRACT Recognizing anomalies is an extremely important process in data analysis, aimed at identifying patterns in data that deviate from known norms or typical standards. These anomalies are often indicative of significant, and sometimes critical, issues such as fraud, network intrusions, and system failures. Traditional anomaly detection algorithms primarily focus on the attributes of individual observations within a dataset, typically establishing a 'normal' profile and flagging deviations from this profile as anomalies. This paper introduces an innovative enhancement to the Isolation Forest algorithm, a renowned method for anomaly detection known for its effectiveness and efficiency, especially in large datasets. The Isolation Forest algorithm operates by randomly partitioning the data space and constructing a binary tree, where the oddity score of a data point is ascertained based on its separation from the extremity to the base of the structure, enabling the autonomous detection of outliers in a completely unsupervised manner. The methodology presented in the paper is based on repeatedly building Isolation Forest models on datasets from which individual attributes are excluded. In our research, we used the SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) method which comes from game theory and is used to determine the impact of individual features on the result of the model. When training the Isolation Forest on the full dataset, the SHAP method is used to obtain the coefficients of influence of model attributes on the prediction result. Both negative and positive influences are considered significant when counting the anomaly score. On the foundations of the results from all sub-models, a weighted average is calculated, to which weights are calculated based on the SHAP model. The comparative analysis of evaluation metrics revealed a substantial enhancement attributed to the implemented methodology. The metrics used for evaluation have shown improvement in most cases from 3.5 to 6 percent point. One of the metrics have shown an improvement of 12 percent. Obtained results demonstrate that this integrated approach not only enhances the prediction accuracy of the Isolation Forest algorithm but also offers a more interpretable understanding of the data. This advancement in anomaly detection methodology promises significant implications for various fields where quick and accurate detection of outliers is paramount.

INDEX TERMS Anomaly detection, outliers detection, isolation forest, shapley index, attribution exclusion.

I. INTRODUCTION

With technological advancement, society seeks to anticipate situations that diminish the quality of life. Early disease diagnosis and the foresight of potential electronic equipment malfunctions can prevent detrimental health and life risks [\[1\].](#page-14-0) To address such kind of challenges, computer science researchers develop anomaly detection algorithms to identify

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outlier observations. These algorithms usually process unlabeled data, termed as unsupervised anomaly detection. Two primary assumptions guide anomaly detection: Anomalies are rare in the dataset, and their features significantly diverge from normal instances.

Several methods exist for anomaly detection, including density-based [\[2\],](#page-14-1) [\[3\],](#page-15-0) [\[4\],](#page-15-1) [\[5\], cl](#page-15-2)uster-based [\[6\], B](#page-15-3)ayesiannetwork [\[7\], an](#page-15-4)d neural network techniques [\[8\],](#page-15-5) [\[9\],](#page-15-6) [\[10\],](#page-15-7) [\[11\].](#page-15-8) The isolation forest method, a popular topic of discussion, offers diverse applications, ranging from spam

filters $[12]$, social network spam detection, $[13]$, and faulty detection $[15]$ to various applications in medicine $[16]$, $[17]$.

Isolation Forest (IF) [\[18\],](#page-15-14) [\[19\], i](#page-15-15)s an anomaly detection algorithm, utilize binary trees for detecting anomalies. Unlike traditional outlier detection methods, which focus on measuring distances between points or belonging to particular areas of a dataset based on the density of observations, Isolation Forest isolates outlier elements by randomly selecting features and dividing the values until the individual observations are isolated. The IF method randomly selects an attribute and then chooses a random division value from the range between the smallest and largest instances of that selected feature. The set space is consistently segmented into subsets based on randomized partition values. These steps are repeated until a single observation is isolated. The number of splits needed to isolate an observation indicates its anomaly; fewer splits indicate an outlier observation.

This algorithm boasts linear time complexity and minimal memory requirements, accommodating large datasets. Its rise in popularity stems from its unsupervised nature, capable of handling unlabeled data sets. The algorithm divides the data space with lines parallel to the standard basis, assigning higher anomaly scores to data points requiring fewer splits for isolation. The Isolation Forest algorithm has been implemented across a multitude of industrial sectors, affirming its versatility and effectiveness. Its applications extend to anomaly detection in deepwater drilling data [\[20\],](#page-15-16) fault identification in wind turbines [\[21\], s](#page-15-17)olar power plants [\[22\],](#page-15-18) [\[23\]](#page-15-19) and nuclear power facilities [\[24\]. T](#page-15-20)he flexibility of the Isolation Forest is further illustrated by its adoption in blockchain technology, particularly in the detection of cyber attacks in real-time blockchain transactions [\[25\]. I](#page-15-21)t is also employed to pinpoint anomalies in wireless sensor networks [\[26\]](#page-15-22) and to undertake the expansive task of detecting anomalous behavior and patterns [\[27\],](#page-15-23) [\[28\],](#page-15-24) [\[29\].](#page-15-25) In the medical field alone, there are some examples of applications like predicting chronic kidney disease [\[30\],](#page-15-26) [\[31\],](#page-15-27) [\[32\],](#page-15-28) [\[33\].](#page-15-29)

To compare our propose, we have considered popular anomaly detection techniques such as Isolation Forest, HDBSCAN, neural networks, and autoencoders. They offer diverse approaches and, depending on the dataset, yield good results. However, sometimes it is beneficial to look at the anomaly detection problem from a broader perspective so that a single iteration of the algorithm on the data becomes part of a more comprehensive methodology. We sought efficient descriptive methods that could be used to gain insight into how anomaly detection models operate, and consequently, which components of the analyzed data are particularly important to the model's outcome, while others have no impact or a negative impact on the result. Some known descriptive methods do not have direct application in anomaly detection task but only in multi-class classification. However, a method that have proven to work excellently with tree-structured algorithms is SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations). SHAP is a method for explaining models based on game theory [\[34\]. I](#page-15-30)t uses Shapley values - a concept in game theory for assessing the 'value' of a participant's contribution in a multiplayer game - to ascertain the significance of features in predictive models. SHAP values operate under the premise that every feature entered into the model contributes to the prediction to some extent. SHAP calculates the importance of each feature by considering every possible combination of features and measuring the effect of adding or removing a feature on the prediction score. The above approach gives intuitive as well as clear explanations of the model. In the quest for interpretable machine learning models, the SHAP model [\[35\]](#page-15-31) emerges. It assigns dataset attribute values, reflecting their influence on the final prediction during the model's learning phase. SHAP is now widely used in medicine [\[36\],](#page-15-32) [\[37\]](#page-15-33) and computer science, including anomaly detection [\[38\].](#page-15-34)

In the realm of anomaly detection, the SHAP model collaborates with machine learning models [\[39\],](#page-15-35) [\[40\]. T](#page-15-36)his collaboration aids in understanding feature impacts on model outputs and occasionally guides maintenance engineers on which factors deserve keen focus to prevent future issues $[41]$, [\[42\].](#page-15-38) Some studies have even utilized the tree SHAP explanatory model, which has also been employed in this work to elucidate the Isolation Forest model [\[43\].](#page-15-39)

Although Isolation Forest currently has a plurality of applications, it is being intensively studied for possible improvements. One avenue of development may be to note that IF focuses on isolating individual observations of a dataset without paying attention to attribute properties. Several ways to enhance the effectiveness of the isolation forest by modifying the tree structure's construction method have already been developed [\[46\],](#page-15-40) [\[48\],](#page-16-0) but to the best of our knowledge none of them involved interfering with the features of the observations. Some Isolation Forest development methods try to modify the way the tree is created, such as using trees based on the $k -$ *means* algorithm $[44]$ or minimal spanning tree algorithm $[45]$ instead of binary trees. There are also innovative works focusing on extending the isolation forest technique with methods based on fuzzy logic and granular computing [\[47\].](#page-15-43)

Many classic anomaly detection methods, not based on neural networks, give good results and high efficiency when used in modern industrial problems, but they still give room for development by creating larger, more complex anomaly detection systems that utilize aggregation techniques to use data from different models to maximize the results. Therefore, descriptive analysis methods such as SHAP presented in this work can be an excellent tool that, in cooperation with existing techniques, can serve as feedback, providing "positive reinforcement" by maximizing the impact of positive features and minimizing the impact of negative features.

The motivation for this work is to develop the anomaly detection technique using binary trees, known as Isolation Forest, by combining it with descriptive model techniques, exemplified by the SHAP model. The aim of the study is to demonstrate that the feedback provided to the algorithm by the descriptive model during the learning phase can be utilized in a way that takes into account the impact of data on the result, enhancing the final prediction and leading to greater accuracy and improved algorithm performance. Additionally, other goals that guided the creation of this work include developing new expansions of the Isolation Forest method characterized by higher metrics for result evaluation, and gaining a deeper understanding of dataset properties to advance methods that reveal significant features within the studied field. In this work, the SHAP method is employed to assess the impact of dataset characteristics on the Isolation Forest (IF) model's final output during its training phase. The IF model is trained for each scenario where a single attribute is omitted from the dataset. Following this, the anomaly scores obtained from the individual models are averaged based on the weights derived through SHAP. This approach, where the prediction is performed on the averaged vector, consistently yields better results compared to the standard baseline IF method.

It is worth noting that we assume that all these methods that modify the way of building a forest can be adapted for use with the descriptive method based on SHAP presented in this article, because SHAP approaches the examined Isolation Forest model as a black box from which it obtains information about the importance of individual attributes on prediction results using SHAP.

The structure of the article is as follows: Section [II](#page-2-0) delves into the theory of the Isolation Forest and the SHAP INDEX operation. Section [III](#page-3-0) then presents a pioneering approach that merges SHAP and Isolation Forest to enhance anomaly detection. Subsequently, Section [IV](#page-5-0) elucidates the experimental results and draws conclusions. The final section, Conclusions, wraps up the findings, highlighting potential future trajectories and the novel applications of the proposed approach.

II. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SHAP AND ISOLATION FOREST

In this section, we will delve more deeply into the scientific theory underpinning the Isolation Forest algorithm as well as its association with Shapley values. The isolation forest algorithm used for anomaly detection consists of two stages. In the first stage, a set of binary trees is constructed based on the data. In the second stage, operations are performed to read the properties of individual trees, specifically the path lengths from the root to the leaf. Based on this information, the anomaly score is determined. The SHAP model is an approach derived from game theory, which serves to determine the influence of players on the outcome of a game. It is based on Shapley values. In the context of machine learning, it can be directly applied by treating the model's attributes as players in the game and the model's output as the

game's result. Additionally, the TreeExplainer model, which is utilized for computing Shapley values, will be described.

A. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF ISOLATION FOREST

Consider a node *T* in an isolation tree. Such a node can be categorized as either an external node, devoid of children, or an internal node characterized by a singular condition and precisely two child nodes, denoted as (T_l, T_r) . The defining condition of an internal node involves an attribute *q* and a corresponding split value *p*, orchestrating a division of data points into T_l and T_r based on the criterion $q < p$.

In the construction of an isolation tree from a dataset $X =$ ${x_1, \ldots, x_n}$ comprising *n* instances, a recursive partitioning strategy is employed. This involves random selection of an attribute q and a split value p , which continues until the emergence of one of the following scenarios:

- (i) attainment of a predefined tree height,
- (ii) reduction of *X* to a singular element,
- (iii) uniformity in the attribute values within *X*.

An isolation tree exemplifies a proper binary tree structure, each node of which either has no children or exactly two. Under the assumption of distinct instances, each instance becomes isolated in an external node upon full maturation of the isolation tree. Consequently, the count of external nodes equals *n*, while that of internal nodes is *n*−1, yielding a total node count of $2n - 1$. This structure ensures a linear memory requirement relative to *n*.

The primary objective in anomaly detection is to generate a ranking reflective of anormality. An effective approach entails ordering data points based on their path lengths or anomaly scores, with top-ranked points signifying anomalies. The definitions of path length and anomaly score are as follows. The path length $h(x)$ of a data point x is determined by the quantity of edges traversed in an isolation tree from the root to an external node. The challenge in anomaly score formulation lies in the variance between the maximum potential height of the isolation tree, which scales with *n*, and the average height, which scales with log *n*. Consequently, normalizing $h(x)$ with either of these metrics presents limitations in either bounding or comparability.

Given the structural parallel between Isolation Trees and Binary Search Trees (BST), the estimation of average $h(x)$ at the termination at external nodes mirrors the unsuccessful search scenario in a BST. Adopting analytical techniques from BST, the average path length in an isolation tree for a dataset of *n* instances is estimated as [\[50\]:](#page-16-1)

$$
c(n) = 2H(n-1) - \frac{2(n-1)}{n}
$$
 (1)

where $H(i)$ represents the harmonic number, approximated by $ln(i) + 0.5772156649$ (Euler's constant).

Utilizing $c(n)$ as the average benchmark for $h(x)$, the anomaly score for an instance *x* is delineated as:

$$
s(x, n) = 2^{-\left(\frac{E(h(x))}{c(h)}\right)}\tag{2}
$$

where $E(h(x))$ indicates the mean path length across multiple isolation trees. In this context:

- As $E(h(x))$ approaches $c(n)$, *s* gravitates towards 0.5.
- When $E(h(x))$ is minimal, *s* trends towards 1.
- Conversely, as $E(h(x))$ nears $n-1$, *s* approaches 0.

Employing this anomaly score, *s*, facilitates the following assessments:

- (a) Instances yielding *s* values close to 1 are unequivocally anomalous.
- (b) Instances with *s* significantly below 0.5 can be safely classified as normal.
- (c) A uniform distribution of *s* around 0.5 across all instances indicates an absence of pronounced anomalies within the sample.

In the context of an Isolation Forest, which integrates multiple isolation trees:

- (a) Anomalies are identified as data points exhibiting shorter path lengths.
- (b) The ensemble of trees serves as a collective of 'experts', each targeting distinct anomalies.

B. SHAPLEY ADDITIVE EXPLANATIONS THEORY

Originating from game theory, the Shapley value method is a classic technique that equitably allocates the total payoff of a cooperative game among its participants [\[49\].](#page-16-2) Formally conceptualized, a cooperative game comprises a set of players, $M = \{1, ..., M\}$, collectively referred to as *the grand coalition*. The game is characterized by a set function, $v: 2^{\mathcal{M}} \to \mathbb{R}$, in which $v(S)$ represents the payoff attributable to any coalition $S \subseteq M$, with the assumption that $v(\emptyset) = 0$.

The computation of Shapley value for player *i*, denoted as $\Phi_i(v)$, involves a weighted mean of the player's incremental contributions across all conceivable coalitions:

$$
\Phi_i(v) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{M} - \{i\}} \binom{M-1}{|S|}^{-1} \left(v(S \cup \{i\}) - v(S) \right). \tag{3}
$$

Notably, Shapley method is distinguished as the sole approach that satisfies four axiomatic principles: Dummy, Symmetry, Efficiency, and Linearity. This unique confluence of axioms renders it a robust and equitable metric for assessing contributions.

C. SHAP IN MACHINE LEARNING

Within the domain of machine learning, SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) values play a pivotal role in evaluating the significance of each feature within a predictive model. Specifically, for a feature denoted as *j*, the corresponding SHAP value Φ_i quantifies the relative influence of the *j*-th feature on the prediction outcome of a specific instance, compared against the average prediction across the dataset [\[51\].](#page-16-3)

The computation of SHAP values includes an exhaustive analysis of the model's predictive response across every feasible permutation of feature combinations. As the feature set expands, this computational task escalates in complexity, often exponentially. In scenarios where models incorporate

a substantial number of features, the precise calculation of SHAP values becomes impractical. Consequently, approximation methodologies are frequently adopted. [\[52\]](#page-16-4) propose an approximation technique employing Monte-Carlo sampling. Assume that *x* is the data point, *z* is a randomly selected data point from the dataset, *M* is the total number of samples, and *j* is the feature index for which we are computing the SHAP value. The vector x_{+j}^m represents the instance where feature *j* is taken from *x* and the remaining features are taken from *z*. Conversely, x^m_{-j} is similar to x^m_{+j} but includes the feature *j* from the sampled point x_j^m . using the notation introduced above, the formula then has the following form:

$$
\hat{\Phi}_j = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left(\hat{f}(x_{+j}^m) - \hat{f}(x_{-j}^m) \right),
$$
\n(4)

where $\hat{f}(x_{+j}^m)$ signifies the prediction model's output when certain feature values are substituted with those from a randomly selected data point *z*, with the exception of feature *j*. The vector x_{-j}^m closely resembles x_{+j}^m , however, it additionally incorporates the value x_j^m derived from the sampled point. In essence, SHAP values, which are extrapolated from Shapley values in game theory, offer an intuitive and transparent framework for dissecting the influence of individual features within a machine learning model.

The SHAP TreeExplainer [\[53\]](#page-16-5) is an algorithmic framework designed to offer interpretable explanations for predictions made by machine learning models, particularly those based on tree structures such as decision trees, random forests, and gradient boosting. It employs a polynomial-time algorithm to compute SHAP values efficiently, bypassing the need for the exponential-time computations previously required.

Fundamentally, the TreeExplainer works by tracing the decision paths in a tree, assessing the contribution of each feature to the final prediction by evaluating the change in prediction probability conditioned on the feature's presence or absence.

This computational model operates in $O(TLD^2)$ time, where T is the number of trees, L is the maximum number of leaves in any tree, *D* is the depth of the tree. This signifies a substantial reduction in complexity from the exponential time that exact computation of SHAP values would require, making it feasible to interpret even large ensemble models.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The innovative methodology proposed in this study is grounded in the premise that when constructing a model for anomaly detection in a dataset, certain attributes hold greater potential than others to yield accurate predictions. This potential is quantifiably measured using the values of the assessment metrics applied for the final prediction evaluation through the model. This is confirmed by the fact that attributes to which higher weight values have been assigned reflect a stronger impact on the model's outcome, as evidenced by an increase in the values of the used

FIGURE 1. A graph presenting the methodology used in a simplified manner.

metrics indicating higher accuracy in the detected anomalies. Crucial to enhancing the algorithm's performance is a deep understanding of the processes inherent in a given field being studied. Such comprehension not only facilitates a better grasp of the subject area but also sheds light on the influence of various characteristics on the associated processes.

By focusing on attributes with higher weights, researchers can delve deeper into the nuances of these features, exploring their interrelations and the mechanisms by which they exert their influence. This nuanced understanding is vital for refining the model, as it allows for the adjustment of the algorithm to better capture the complexities of the data. As a result, the model becomes more adept at not only identifying anomalies but also at providing insights into why certain data points are classified as such.

A graph illustrating the methodology proposed in this work is presented in the Figure [1.](#page-4-0) In each dataset under examination, the SHAP method is employed to derive a vector that encapsulates the influence coefficients, quantitatively expressing how significantly each attribute affects the operational efficiency of the model. Initially, for the main analysis, an isolation forest model is specifically trained on a substantial portion, amounting to 80% of the training dataset. This model's purpose is to identify and quantify anomalies within the data. Following this, the trained Isolation Forest model is directly subjected to the SHAP framework's Tree-Explainer, employing Tree SHAP to elucidate the model's decision-making processes. For the purpose of this study, the Isolation Forest model provided by the scikit-learn library is employed, operating with a contamination factor set at 10%. In our experiments, it has been shown that the algorithm performs slightly better when focusing solely on the strength of a feature's impact, rather than its positive or negative direction. Consequently, the results were transformed into absolute values and appropriately scaled so that the number assigned to each feature reflects its proportion, i.e., the share of each element in the total sum, which can later be directly translated into probabilities.

Once trained on the isolation forest model, the Tree-Explainer is capable of calculating SHAP values for new data. Therefore, we provide it with the 20% test dataset to generate SHAP values for this subset. This process results in the determination of a weight vector, which fundamentally represents the impact of each attribute on the model's decision-making process, with a particular focus on the test data. This methodical approach ensures a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the model's behavior, particularly highlighting how each feature influences the identification of anomalies in new, unseen data. The next step involves repetitively training the isolation forest model on a modified dataset, where each iteration excludes a different attribute. Subsequently, the decision functions that each model yields for all observations in the set are recorded. With all the partial anomaly scores collected, a weighted average is

Algorithm 1 Methodology for Anomaly Detection Using Isolation Forest and SHAP

calculated using the SHAP values. This process aggregates the decision functions of models trained on the modified datasets, resulting in a consolidated value. Based on this aggregated value, the final prediction is conducted. The methodology described above is also presented using pseudo code in Alghoritm [1.](#page-5-1) n our algorithm, we scaled the obtained anomaly scores to be within the range [-1; 1]. We then set a threshold value at 0 to separate normal observations from anomalies, where achieving a threshold of 0 is still treated as a normal value, despite being on the boundary.

Instead of Tree Explainer, the KernelExplainer, another component of the SHAP framework can be used. It requires the decision function of the model and the training set records as inputs rather than the constructed model itself. While KernelExplainer is a more universal model, offering broad applicability across various algorithms, for tree-based structures like Isolation Forests, the TreeExplainer is more apt due to its specialized design that ensures enhanced interpretability tailored to the intrinsic workings of tree ensembles.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

This chapter presents the results of the performed experiments.

A. DESCRIPTION OF USED DATASET

In this work, we used data sets popular in the field of data science, available publicly on the Internet, which are specially prepared for the task of detecting anomalies. Each

of these sets has been marked for anomalous observations by experts, adding labels indicating ''0'' for normal observations and ''1'' for outstanding observations. These datasets include Breastw, Cardio, Cover, Ionosphere, Letter, Mammography, MNIST, Mulcross, Musk, Optdigits, Pima, Satellite, Satimage-2, Seismic-Bumps, Thyroid, Vertebral, Vowels, WBC, Wine, and Ecoli, totaling 20 distinct datasets. Details about each of these datasets are described in the Table [1.](#page-5-2)

The selection of 20 datasets is significant, as this number provides a robust basis for evaluating the real-world efficacy of the model. Such a diverse and substantial collection of datasets ensures that the observed improvements in the model's performance are not confined to a narrow set of data characteristics but are broadly applicable across various types of data. This extensive range of datasets enhances the reliability of the conclusion that the new methodologies applied to the classic isolation forest algorithm contribute to a statistically significant improvement in anomaly detection.

In these datasets, every observation is labeled to indicate whether it is an anomaly or not. However, for the purpose of training the algorithm in this experiment, these labels were removed to simulate an unsupervised learning scenario. This approach aligns with real-world situations where anomaly labels are often unavailable, and the algorithm must learn to identify anomalies without this guidance. This methodology reflects a common practice in the field, where the primary goal is to allow the algorithm to independently discover patterns and irregularities that signify anomalous behavior. By employing datasets commonly used in the scientific community, this study adheres to the standards of reproducibility and comparability, enabling other researchers to validate and compare the results with their own findings.

FIGURE 2. Metrics comparison using boxplots.

TABLE 2. Comparison of metrics used in base and improved model.

Metric	Base IF	Improved IF
AUC	0.682	0.733
Accuracy	0.856	0.859
Balanced accuracy	0.682	0.733
F1	0.283	0.343
PRAUC	0.215	0.249
Precision	0.336	0.315
Recall	0.436	0.565

B. METHODS COMPARISON

Table [2](#page-6-0) presents a comparative analysis of seven performance metrics across 20 datasets, providing mean scores for both the base and improved models. A systematic examination of the data reveals several key findings. The improved model demonstrates a superior mean performance in five out of seven metrics when compared to the base model. This is particularly evident in the AUC (Area Under the Curve) and balanced accuracy metrics, where the improved model exhibits a mean increase of approximately 5.1 percentage points.

A notable increase in the F1 Score by 6 percentage points for the improved model suggests a more balanced performance in terms of precision and recall. This implies that the improved model is better at managing the trade-off between the false positives and false negatives.

While the improved model shows a slight decrease in precision by 2.1 percentage points, it concurrently presents a significant improvement in recall by approximately 12.9 percentage points. This suggests that the improved model is more sensitive and able to identify a higher number of true positive cases, even at the expense of a slight increase in false positives. Table [3](#page-7-0) compares all 7 metrics used across 20 datasets. The values in the table represent the differences in average scores that the improved model achieves compared to the base model. Positive values signify superior performance by the improved model, whereas negative values suggest the base model fares better. The final two entries consolidate these results into average and median values. Notably, the median value is consistently positive, and the mean value also remains positive with the exception of the precision metric. Table [4](#page-7-1) itemizes the four principal metrics and delineates the corresponding values for both the baseline and the enhanced models. The concluding records present the mean and median of these metrics. The data exhibited in the tables corroborate the premise that the adopted approach yielded significant improvements in metric assessments. Notably, metrics such as AUC and balanced accuracy show increases exceeding 5 percentage points for the improved model, and the F1 metric even reaches an enhancement of 6 points, while the Recall metric registers a substantial rise of over 12 points. Comparing the results presented in table [3](#page-7-0) with the data specification shown in table [1,](#page-5-2) it can be concluded that the algorithm more often achieves higher improvement in metrics in situations when there is a large percentage of anomalies in the set. On the other hand, let's look at the F1 metric. For example, out of 20 sets, its values decreased in only 4 cases, which had anomalies percentage levels of 0.96, 2.68, 6.25, and 2.32, which are relatively small values. Of course, this is not the only factor influencing the result, but there is some correlation.

TABLE 3. Difference in average metrics values for the improved and base models expressed in percentage points.

TABLE 4. Detailed results of the metrics that achieved the highest average improvement.

Table [5](#page-8-0) contains the execution times of the various components of the approach proposed in this work. These include: SHAP computation, Isolation Forest model computation, results aggregation, and total times. The calculations were performed using Python 3.11.7 on a machine with an AMD Ryzen 7 4800H processor.

C. GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF THE OBTAINED **RESULTS**

The boxplot visualization of performance metrics presented on Figure [2](#page-6-1) yields several insights into the comparative efficacy of the base and improved models. A key observation is that the median values, depicted by the horizontal lines

within the boxes, are generally higher for the improved model across the metrics of F1 score, AUC, PRAUC, recall, and balanced accuracy. This denotes a central tendency towards improved performance, suggesting that methodological enhancements may have positively influenced these metrics. For the accuracy and precision metrics, the boxplots indicate no substantial difference in median values between the base and improved models. The similarity in median performance implies that the improvements introduced in the improved model did not significantly affect these specific metrics.

Another point of interest is the variability in results, which can be inferred from the range of the 'whiskers' and the

TABLE 5. Measurements of the processing time of a single iteration of the method in seconds.

Dataset	Time of calculation in seconds			
	SHAP	IF	Aggregation	Summary
Breastw	0.7629	1.4411	0.0304	2,2344
Cardio	0.8630	3.1714	0.0752	4,1096
Cover	63.8487	31.4479	15.0924	110,389
Ecoli	0.5254	1.0956	0.0170	1,638
Ionosphere	0.6877	5.3143	0.0380	6.04
Letter	0.9658	5.6682	0.0730	6.707
Mammography	1.9309	1.6635	0.2410	3,8354
Mnist	3.0665	26.6616	0.5060	30,2341
Mulcross	36.9407	11.7860	7.4775	56,2042
Musk	1.5641	33.0244	0.4000	34,9885
Optdigits	2.3283	3.6342	0.2603	6,2228
Pima	0.6350	1.2553	0.0280	1,9183
Satellite	2.2404	7.7378	0.2340	10,2122
Satimage-2	1.9534	7.4128	0.2140	9,5802
Seismic-bumps	0.8807	3.0102	0.0820	3,9729
Thyroid	0.8974	1.0889	0.0880	2,0743
Vertebral	0.4450	0.8666	0.0130	1.3246
Vowels	0.8407	1.8592	0.0470	2,7469
Wbc	0.4610	4.2898	0.0370	4,7878
Wine	0.3540	1.8056	0.0080	2,1676

FIGURE 3. Comparison of various metrics for each dataset.

width of the boxes. The improved model exhibits a potentially reduced variability in metrics such as AUC and PRAUC, as indicated by the narrower boxes compared to those of the base model. This suggests a consistency in performance, which is a desirable characteristic, indicating a robustness that may translate to more reliable predictions in practical applications.

To summarize, the boxplots provide robust evidence for the superiority of the improved model in terms of F1 score, AUC, PRAUC, recall, and balanced accuracy. However, in terms of accuracy and precision, the models perform comparably. The presence of outliers in the improved model's PRAUC results, along with reduced variability in certain metrics, highlights areas where the improved model distinguishes itself from its predecessor. These results emphasize the need for ongoing model enhancement and point to future research avenues to better exploit the noted advancements.

Figure [3](#page-8-1) juxtaposes the outcomes of all metrics for the baseline and enhanced models. The depicted red diagonal line signifies the threshold of equivalence, wherein a given metric yields identical results for both methodologies. Proximity of data points to the y-axis indicates superior performance of the enhanced model relative to the baseline, while a closer alignment with the x-axis suggests the baseline model outperforms the enhanced. It is observable that a predominant number of points are situated above the diagonal, denoting a trend towards the efficacy of the proposed enhancement.

Figures [4](#page-9-0) to [10](#page-14-2) present bar charts that compare the average value of each metric for each of the 20 datasets, juxtaposing them for the baseline and the improved models.

In Figure [4,](#page-9-0) the accuracy metric appears to maintain a similar level across most cases, with minor deviations in either direction. Figure [5](#page-9-1) illustrates that the AUC metric shows deterioration in only two instances for the improved model, remains unchanged in two, while in the remaining 16, the improved model exhibits enhancements.

Figure [6](#page-12-0) demonstrates that, while most metric comparisons are at a similar level, there are several instances where the improvements brought by the enhanced model are both significant and noticeable. Figure [7](#page-12-1) displays the balanced accuracy metric, whose results are very close to those of the previously presented AUC metric.

Figure [8](#page-13-0) showcases comparisons of the PRAUC values, which generally assume relatively low values compared to other metrics. For the majority of datasets, PRAUC indicates an improvement in the enhanced method.

Figure [9](#page-13-1) presents the Precision metric, which uniquely favors the original isolation forest. Precision defines the ratio of observations correctly identified as anomalies to the total number of observations labeled as anomalous. Hence, it can be inferred that the improved model, while augmenting the values of other metrics, does so partly because it tends to classify observations as anomalous more frequently, which ultimately reduces its precision.

Finally, Figure [10](#page-14-2) describes the Recall metric, which is directly related to precision. Recall determines the ratio between the detected anomalies and all anomalies present in the dataset. A substantial increase in this metric, coupled with a decrease in precision, indicates that although the model classifies more observations as anomalous, a portion of them are correctly identified, leading to the detection of nearly all the anomalies hidden within the dataset.

D. STATISTICAL TESTS

The statistical analysis in this study is conducted using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, a non-parametric test used to compare two related samples. This test is particularly useful when the data do not conform to a normal distribution, which is a common scenario in real-world datasets, also occurring in data analyzed in this study.

FIGURE 4. Comparison of the accuracy metric value for the classic IF model and the improved model.

FIGURE 5. Comparison of the AUC metric value for the classic IF model and the improved model.

TABLE 6. Wilcoxon test results for the seven metrics used.

Metrics	p-value
Accuracy	0.4636
F1	0.0006
AUC	0.0001
PRAUC	0.0001
Precision	0.6762
Recall	0.0015
Balanced accuracy	0.0001

The Wilcoxon test operates under the null hypothesis that the median differences between pairs of observations in the

two samples are zero. The alternative hypothesis, depending on the direction of the test, can suggest that one median is greater than or less than the other. The analysis conducted adheres to a statistical significance threshold of 0.05 for the pvalue. In our analysis, the Wilcoxon test is applied to compare metrics of two models: base and improved. The test results for various performance metrics like accuracy, F1 score, AUC, PRAUC, precision, recall, and balanced accuracy are as follows:

• Accuracy: With a p-value of 0.4636, the test does not provide sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis, suggesting no significant difference in Accuracy.

TABLE 7. Comparison of the metrics for various datasets (Part 1).

TABLE 8. Comparison of the metrics for various datasets (Part 2).

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Balanced accuracy Metric

- F1 score: The p-value of 0.0006 indicates a significant difference, favoring the improved model.
- AUC and PRAUC: Both have very low p-values (0.0001), strongly suggesting the improved model's superiority in these aspects.
- Precision: Similar to Accuracy, the higher p-value (0.6762) implies no significant difference.
- Recall and balanced accuracy: Both metrics show significant differences with low p-values, indicating better performance in the improved model.

These results allow us to conclude that, except for Accuracy and Precision, the improved model generally outperforms the base model in the other metrics. The application of the Wilcoxon test in this context provides robust evidence for the effectiveness of the improved model in specific areas.

Additional statistical tests conducted on data collected during the experiment include the Mann-Whitney U test and the Kruskal-Wallis test. The results of these statistical tests are presented in tables [7](#page-10-0) and [8.](#page-11-0) For 20 datasets and 7 metrics,

FIGURE 8. Comparison of the PRAUC metric value for the classic IF model and the improved model.

FIGURE 9. Comparison of the precision metric value for the classic IF model and the improved model.

results are compared across 140 records. It is apparent that in 88 out of 140 cases, the p-value indicates a statistically significant improvement favoring the method proposed in this study, while in 30 cases, the baseline method yielded statistically higher metrics. In the table [9](#page-14-3) it can be seen that the most significant improvements are in the metrics: AUC, balanced accuracy, F1, and PRAUC, which are statistically better in 15 or more cases. Accuracy, precision, and recall are slightly worse, with improvements observed in only 11- 12 cases out of 20.

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper proposes a novel improvement of the Isolation Forest model. In this enhanced method, the Isolation Forest algorithm is repeatedly applied to the dataset, each time excluding a different attribute. By assigning SHAP-derived weights to the anomaly detection results from each version of the dataset, we calculate a weighted average for the anomaly coefficients of individual observations. This calculation is tailored such that attributes deemed less significant by SHAP are assigned lower weights, whereas attributes identified as

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FIGURE 10. Comparison of the recall metric value for the classic IF model and the improved model.

TABLE 9. The number of statistically significant improvements in a given metric for the enhanced method compared to the baseline.

Metric	Enhanced Better Count
accuracy	12
auc	15
balanced accuracy	15
f1	16
prauc	16
precision	11
recall	12

more influential receive higher weights in the final average. This approach, therefore, not only enhances the robustness of the Isolation Forest in identifying anomalies but also offers a nuanced view of the relative importance of different attributes in the dataset, leading to more insightful and interpretable anomaly detection.

In the experiments conducted, 20 datasets are examined, and 7 metrics are used for evaluation. The results of the experiments show that all metrics achieve higher values for the presented method. Except for the metrics ''Accuracy'' and ''Precision'', all other metrics give statistically significant improvement, which is tested by the Wilcoxon test. For the evaluation, the Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests are also used, both of which assess the superiority of values for two independent samples. The tests revealed that for 20 datasets and 7 examined metrics, significant improvement is observed in 88 out of 140 instances. Specifically, metrics such as F1 and PRAUC indicated statistically significant improvement in 16 out of 20 cases, while AUC and balanced accuracy showed improvement in 15 out of 20 cases. This suggests that the method described in this study is highly effective at enhancing these metrics compared to the baseline method.

The remaining metrics also indicated statistically significant improvement in most cases, although not as frequently as the previously mentioned metrics. Accuracy and recall showed improvement in 12 cases each, while precision showed improvement in 11 cases. The experiments demonstrated that the majority of metrics exhibited significant improvements, such as the F1 metric, which increased its value by 6 percentage points. The proposed methodology also identified a substantially larger proportion of anomalies present in the datasets, as evidenced by the Recall metric, which exhibited an average increase of over 12 percentage points.

A potential direction for exploration could be the examination of an expanded spectrum of aggregation operations within the algorithm, including the incorporation of fuzzy operators such as the Choquet integral and the OWA operator. In addition to experimenting with various explainable models to interpret the significance of attributes in final prediction outcomes, there is also potential in aggregating results from multiple explainability models to achieve a more comprehensive understanding. Such inquiries may also lead to the creation of a custom explainability tool, providing customized and in-depth interpretations of the model's decision-making processes. This multifaceted approach could significantly enhance the interpretability and effectiveness of anomaly detection systems.

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