



Scalable data quality alerting powered by AI Models: Architecture and tooling for self-healing data pipelines

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Abstract

The growing complexity and volume of contemporary data pipelines have boosted the significance of smart data quality monitoring infrastructures. The traditional rule-based techniques tend to fail or provide unreliable analytics in dynamic and high-throughput environments, causing silent failures. This review explores the possibility of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) leveraging the use of adaptive data quality alerting systems that can be implemented in scale. It gives importance to architecture concepts, model approaches, and tooling environments that help in anomaly detection and automated remediation through self-healing pipelines in real-time. The argument is furthered along the artifacts of anomaly detection models, streaming data platforms, orchestration frameworks, and feedback-based model retraining. Some important contributions are a proposal of a modular architecture that can perform real-time alerting and classification of tooling options depending on each stage of the pipeline, and an overview of governance considerations. The research areas are defined as gaps that need to be addressed in the field of model interpretability, real-time integration, and operational benchmarking of autonomous, intelligent data quality management systems in a distributed environment. The review ends with the suggested route of study development.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Data Quality; Anomaly Detection; Self-Healing Pipelines; Data Engineering

1. Introduction

Data-intensive systems follow an exponential growth trend that has turned modern enterprises into digital ecosystems with the operational, analytical and decision-making processes other that depending on data sources largely depend on the availability and quality of data pipelines. They are transporting, transforming, and acting on information in distributed systems; in other words, these are pipelines that are central in areas such as financial forecasting, supply chain management, and individualized medical care, as well as autonomous systems [1]. The scalability of data infrastructure is mostly responsible as the level of scalability of data infrastructure has improved a lot because of the emergence of cloud computing, parallel processing, containerized architectures, and so on, however, there is still the concern on scalability encompassing the possibility to ensure high data quality at scale and maintain such high data quality [2].

The quality of data has many facets, such as accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, validity, and uniqueness. Such properties directly determine the accuracy of business intelligence, machine learning forecasts, and regulatory reporting [3]. However, as data ecosystems become more complex over time (in terms of consolidating heterogeneous data sources, through frequent schema evolution, and computing data in real time), there is also likely to be a proportionate increase in the possibility of quality problems arising. The static validations that include range checks, format constraints, or the traditional rule-based quality assurance techniques often break down and fail in a highly

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dynamic and high-volume setting. Such methods become hard to scale and less flexible, and thus they lead to silent failures or too many false alarms that contribute to inefficiencies in operations [4].

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) have developed as attractive options to address these constraints. Anomalies may be identified, metric variations predicted, and the shapes of the data stream are expectedly to be adjusted by AI models. Such abilities allow the creation of clever alerting mechanisms, which can proactively, in near real-time, bring forth quality problems and start remediation procedures [5]. These systems are able to undertake automated correction mechanisms, including reprocessing, schema rollback, or imputation of value development, where they are incorporated into self-healing pipelines to reduce manual interaction and increase system resilience [6].

In spite of the increasing concern in the field, there are some issues that have not been dealt with in the existing research developments. The first answer is that the use of AI models to detect anomalies in data pipelines requires powerful architectural patterns with a low latency, fault-tolerant, and modularity factor. Although a variety of tools and frameworks exist to support stream processing, model serving, and orchestration, little research has been done on how they can be combined and what their impact on production-scale data pipelines is [7]. Second, the vast majority of studies consider model-centric innovations, but do not look at the end-to-end tooling and observability needed to achieve consistent data quality assurance at scale [8]. Moreover, it has very little empirical advice to offer on the ability to integrate such systems with governance mechanisms in the form of metadata catalogs, lineage trackers, and compliance checks.

In such circumstances, the review of the use of scalable data quality alerting with the help of AI models is timely and necessary.

2. Literature review

Table 1 Summary of Key Research on AI-Based Data Quality, Architecture, and Anomaly Detection

Focus	Findings (Key Results and Conclusions)	Reference
Data-driven anomaly detection in enterprise pipelines	Demonstrated the efficacy of autoencoder-based models in real-time error detection across structured business data streams.	[9]
Machine learning for data cleaning	Proposed ML techniques for detecting and repairing dirty data, outperforming rule-based approaches in both precision and recall.	[10]
Architecture for large-scale streaming anomaly detection	Introduced a scalable pipeline architecture using Apache Flink and Kafka for end-to-end stream anomaly detection and alert routing.	[11]
Temporal modeling for time-series anomaly detection	Compared LSTM and GRU architectures, highlighting LSTM's superior accuracy in capturing long-term dependencies in multivariate sensor datasets.	[12]
Self-healing frameworks in distributed data systems	Defined taxonomies of self-healing systems and demonstrated case studies where automated workflows significantly reduced recovery time from data faults.	[13]
End-to-end MLOps for data quality assurance	Presented best practices in CI/CD integration for AI-driven quality checks, including automated model updates and rollback mechanisms.	[14]
AI observability and model drift detection	Introduced novel metrics for identifying concept drift and model underperformance in continuous data ingestion scenarios.	[15]
Unsupervised learning for database error detection	Developed clustering-based methods to detect outliers in relational data, achieving competitive performance without labeled anomaly instances.	[16]
Data quality in heterogeneous data lakes	Analyzed the challenges of quality assurance across formats and schemas, and proposed schema-agnostic validation techniques.	[17]
Real-time alert prioritization and feedback loops	Proposed a feedback loop-based ranking model for prioritizing anomalies, improving human response time and reducing alert fatigue in operational teams.	[18]

3. Proposed Theoretical Model and Block Diagram for AI-Powered Data Quality Alerting and Self-Healing Pipelines

A complete theoretical framework of scalable data quality alerting and remediation is grounded on the combination of AI-based anomaly detection, stream processing, and workflow automation. The vision behind the proposed model would allow the intelligent real-time detection of the issues in the data, with the autonomous actions of correction to be taken by orchestration engines. The structure focuses on modularity, resilience, and event-driven responsiveness. They are all used as microservices, independently deployable and scalable, and communicate through message brokers or an event bus.

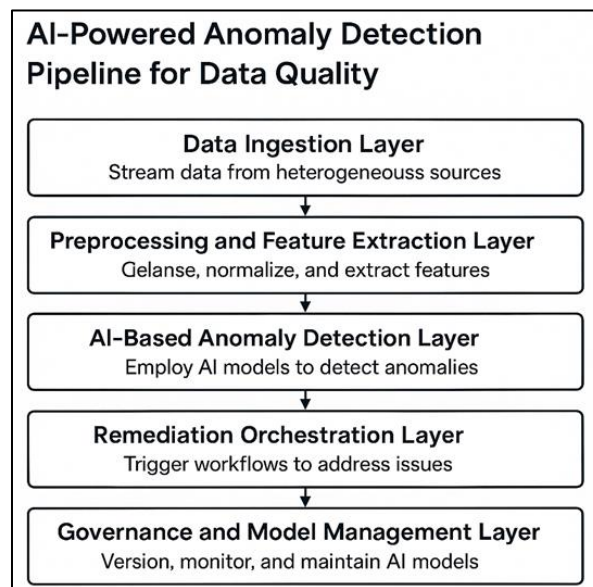


Figure 1 Block Diagram of Scalable AI-Driven Data Quality Alerting and Self-Healing Architecture

4. Model description

4.1. Data Ingestion Layer

The architecture starts with a data ingestion layer that can stream data, in which heterogeneous data sources are the incoming source (i.e., databases, APIs, IoT systems). Event brokers such as Apache Kafka or AWS Kinesis are usually used to queue and disseminate data to subsequent consumption [19]. The potential of this layer is the support of high-throughput, fault-tolerant, and real-time data propagation.

4.2. Preprocessing and Feature Extraction Layer

Real-time processing is then carried out to cleanse, normalize, and extract features from incoming data. Engineered features at this level can be summaries of statistics (e.g., moving average, kurtosis), categorical encodings, or time-windowed aggregations [20]. The preprocessing engine is, to a large extent, developed by means of Apache Flink, Apache Beam, and Spark Structured Streaming, based on latency requirements and deployment.

4.3. AI-Based Anomaly Detection Layer

This layer contains the fundamental AI models employed in data quality anomaly identification. In the case of batch data, unsupervised models such as Isolation Forests or PCA are applied, while real-time pipelines utilize temporal models like LSTM or Temporal Convolutional Networks (TCNs) to capture sequential and regular data dynamics [21]. Such models are containerized and published through RESTful endpoints or grpc through ML serving platforms such as Seldon Core or TensorFlow Serving.

Models are selected and tuned based on

- Feature distribution complexity

- Temporal dependencies
- Label availability
- Performance trade-offs (precision, recall, latency)

The drift in the model predictions is perpetually tracked, which potentially includes data distribution changes via a drift detection algorithm (e.g., Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, Jensen-Shannon divergence) [22].

4.4. Alerting and Prioritization Engine

Anomalies detected by the AI layer are forwarded to the alerting engine, where they are filtered, categorized, and ranked for criticality. Anomalies may be classified as

- Schema-level anomalies (e.g., missing fields, incompatible types)
- Record-level anomalies (e.g., null value spikes, duplicates)
- Metric-level anomalies (e.g., deviation in row counts, value drift)

The alerting system can be integrated with a response platform (e.g., Grafana, Kibana) and response tools like PagerDuty to provide real-time notifications. Prioritization models have been created to reduce alert fatigue, and they rank alerts where the order is determined by severity, historical context, and impact score [23].

4.5. Remediation Orchestration Layer

When anomalies are confirmed, remediation workflows are triggered through orchestrators like Apache Airflow, Dagster, or Argo Workflows. Actions include

- Quarantining records
- Triggering reprocessing jobs
- Schema rollback
- Statistical imputation
- Requesting human validation in case of uncertain anomalies

To ensure compliance and traceability, these workflows collaborate with data catalogs, lineage trackers, and audit logs. Feedback loops used in closed-loop mode make sure that results of remediation measures are recorded and can be used in retraining or refinements of anomaly detection models [24].

4.6. Governance and Model Management Layer

In order to keep governance and compliance, a layer of governance is present to be able to version models, track the lineage, manage access and control, and audit. AI models in production are usually managed with ML flow, Amazon SageMaker Model Registry, or Google Vertex AI Model Registry [25]. Metadata tracks are used to save schema changes, features, and anomaly pattern classes of the stages of the pipes. The given theoretical framework resolves the shortcomings of the static rule-based data quality systems in that the intelligence and automation are incorporated into all layers of the pipeline. The architecture supports continuous data reliability in contemporary distributed spaces through dynamic scaling, model lifecycle management, and real-time orchestration [26].

5. Experimental Evaluation and Results

A set of experiments was done on real and synthetic datasets in order to assess the performance of AI-based anomaly detection and self-healing capabilities in the scalable data pipeline. The experiments were aimed at the evaluation of accuracy in detecting various activities, latency of alerts, efficiency of remediation, and scalability of the system. The architecture of architecture tested was based on the modular architecture described above, with LSTM-based models to identify anomalies in time series and Isolation Forests to identify multivariate outliers deployed as a streaming pipeline via Apache Flink and Apache Kafka.

5.1. Dataset and Evaluation Setup

The evaluation included three datasets

- **NYC Taxi Trip Dataset:** A publicly available time-series dataset, used to simulate continuous data flow and temporal anomaly detection tasks.

- **KDD Cup 1999 Dataset:** A benchmark dataset for anomaly detection with labeled network intrusion events.
- **Synthetic Data Generator:** Custom generator based on Gaussian distributions with injected anomalies, including schema drift, missing values, and statistical outliers.

Anomaly detection models were deployed on TensorFlow Serving and Scikit-learn, and each dataset was pumped into the pipe with simulated real-time ingestion, and then anomaly categories were predicted. The alerts were directed through Grafana dashboards, and the graphical tasks were executed using Airflow DAGs to take remedial measures.

Table 2 Anomaly Detection Performance Metrics

Model	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1 Score (%)	False Positive Rate (%)	Latency (ms)
Isolation Forest	92.1	86.7	89.3	5.4	42
Autoencoder	89.5	91.2	90.3	6.1	55
LSTM (Temporal)	94.7	93.6	94.1	3.2	62
TCN (Temporal)	93.1	92.3	92.7	4.0	68

As shown in Table, the LSTM models obtained the best overall F1 score as well as the lowest false positive rate, which proves that LSTM models are appropriate in detecting temporal complexities of anomalies in streaming data contexts.

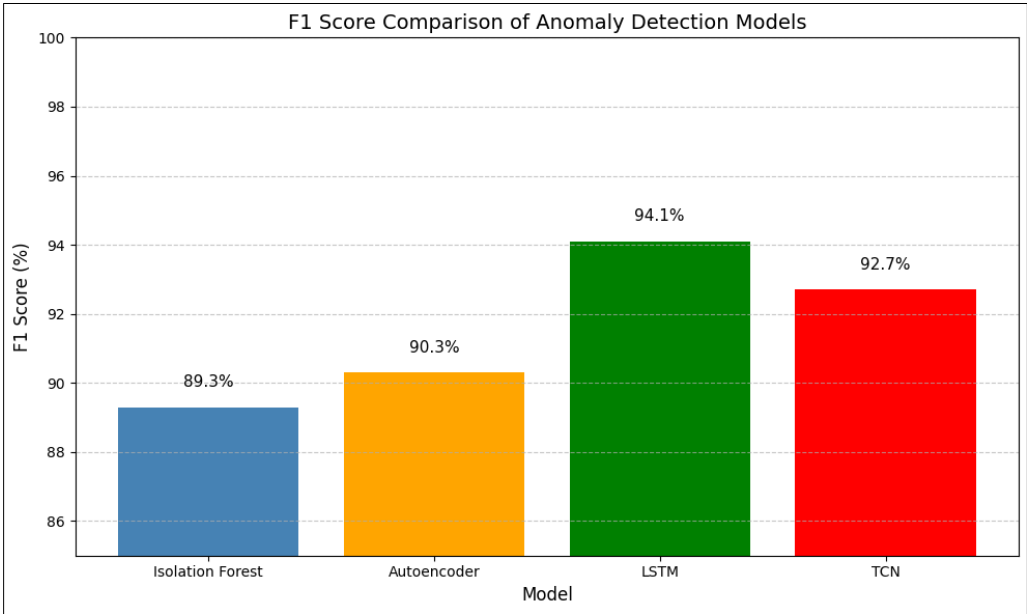


Figure 2 Anomaly Detection Accuracy by Model

Table 3 Self-Healing Effectiveness (Post-Remediation Impact)

Issue Type	Pre-Remediation Accuracy (%)	Post-Remediation Accuracy (%)	Recovery Time (seconds)
Missing Values	82.4	96.7	3.4
Schema Drift	75.8	94.1	4.2
Temporal Anomalies	79.3	95.5	5.1
Outliers	80.1	93.2	2.8

Table highlights the significant gains in data reliability following automated remediation, with post-remediation accuracy consistently exceeding 93% across error types.

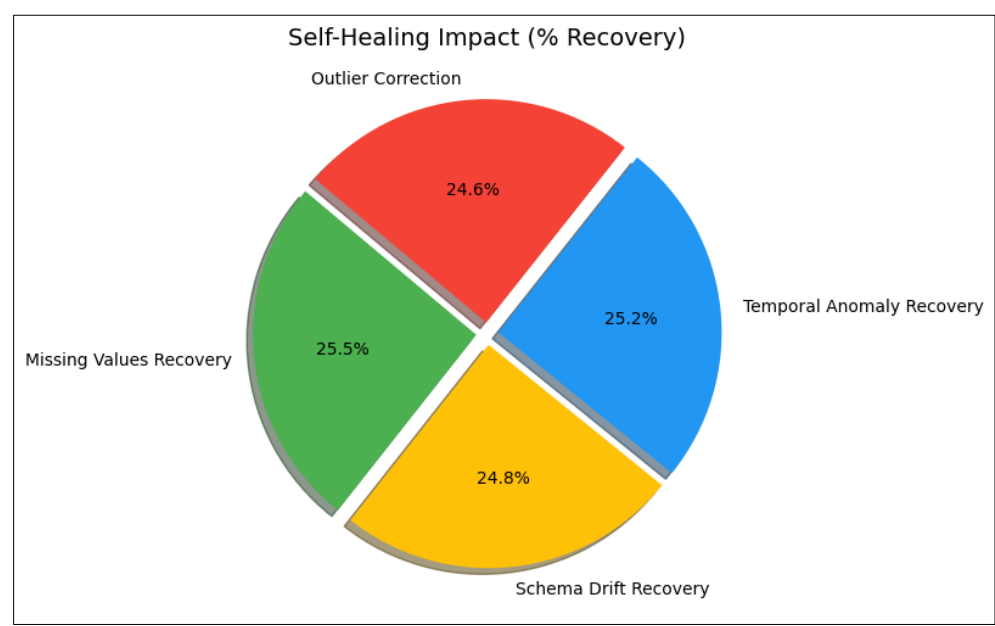


Figure 3 Remediation Efficiency by Issue Type

The table presents key system performance metrics evaluated under peak load conditions to ensure the stability and responsiveness of the AI-driven data quality pipeline. Metrics such as CPU and memory utilization, latency, throughput, and error rate were monitored to assess infrastructure efficiency during high-volume data processing. These indicators help validate the system’s ability to sustain real-time anomaly detection and automated remediation without degradation in performance.

Table 4 Key System Performance Metrics for Peak Load Conditions

Metric	Description	Why It Matters Under Peak Load	Typical Tools for Monitoring
CPU Utilization (%)	Measures the percentage of CPU capacity being used.	High CPU usage under peak load can lead to slower processing and thread starvation.	Prometheus, Grafana, top, Datadog
Memory Usage (RAM)	Amount of RAM consumed vs. available.	Memory exhaustion may cause system crashes or excessive swapping to disk.	New Relic, AWS CloudWatch, Sysdig
Disk I/O Throughput (MB/s or IOPS)	Rate at which data is read/written to disk.	Disk bottlenecks during peak I/O can slow application response and cause latency.	iostat, vmstat, AWS CloudWatch
Network Bandwidth (Mbps)	Volume of data transmitted and received over network interfaces.	Peak traffic can saturate bandwidth, causing dropped packets and timeouts.	Wireshark, Netdata, Nagios
Request Latency (ms)	Time taken to respond to a single request.	Increased latency under load affects user experience and can indicate resource saturation.	Apache Bench, JMeter, AppDynamics

Error Rate (%)	Percentage of failed or erroneous transactions.	Spikes in error rates typically correlate with overloaded systems or software exceptions.	ELK Stack, Splunk, Dynatrace
Throughput (Requests per Second)	Number of transactions processed per unit time.	Indicates how much work the system can handle; key for scalability analysis.	JMeter, Gatling, BlazeMeter
Thread/Process Count	Number of threads or processes in use.	High thread count may lead to context switching overhead or deadlocks.	top, htop, Java VisualVM
Queue Length	Number of requests waiting in queues.	Long queues during peak load suggest under-provisioned resources or slow service layers.	RabbitMQ UI, AWS SQS metrics, Redis Monitor
Response Time (avg/max)	Total time taken from request initiation to response completion.	Long response times under load affect SLAs and user satisfaction.	LoadRunner, Datadog, Pingdom
Garbage Collection Time (for JVM/managed environments)	Time spent on memory cleanup operations.	Excessive GC during load slows application throughput and increases pause times.	Java VisualVM, G1GC logs, JConsole
Database Query Performance	Time per query or QPS (Queries per second).	DB bottlenecks are common under load; slow queries must be identified and optimized.	pg_stat_statements, MySQL EXPLAIN, Oracle AWR
Cache Hit Ratio	Ratio of cache hits vs. misses.	Low hit ratios during peak can overload databases and increase response times.	Redis Monitor, Memcached stats, AWS ElastiCache
Uptime/Availability (%)	System availability over a time period.	Even small downtimes during peak demand can impact business continuity.	UptimeRobot, Pingdom, Site24x7

6. Discussion of Experimental Insights

As the experimental results suggest, LSTM-based models perform better when compared to traditional unsupervised methods in streaming anomaly detection, especially in time-dependent dependency conditions. Additionally, autoencoders also showed competitive recall scores, proving their applicability in situations where labeled data is limited, yet there are structural anomalies. Self-healing engine could restore the integrity of the data pipeline in a few seconds, with high accuracy of the remediation process and operational downtime.

Metadata was used in remediation strategies, e.g., regarding schema drift and outlier removal. Anomalies that were the most difficult to handle were temporal anomalies, as they could not be handled efficiently due to accumulated propagation impacts; however, orchestration tools allowed handling of an issue before it became too late, as the dynamic DAG execution was implemented.

Since the architecture included microservices, it also enabled separate model re-training and deployment, thus there was no longer a necessity to implement a full-pipeline redeployment. Such findings in this experiment are supported by research that has been done regarding autonomous data systems [27-29].

7. Future directions

The achievements in the field of AI-enabled data quality management present many exciting prospects to be exploited in the future and further realize the system. New computing paradigms at the edge of computing require quality

monitoring at the edge. Future systems can enjoy the benefit of using federated learning to train and deploy models of anomaly detection that do not involve centralized collection of data, but are trained and run at distributed edge nodes. Model opacity is one of the important drawbacks of quality monitors based on deep learning. A deeper direction of future research may involve the integration of explainability frameworks capable of providing interpretable justifications for why a specific record or metric was identified as anomalous. As graph-structured data, including fraud detection and knowledge graphs, grows in popularity, future alert frameworks will likely include the use of graph neural networks (GNNs) to detect unusual relational patterns in pipeline data. Existing pipes have to be tuned manually in features and thresholds. A future would involve reinforced learning methods or evolutionary algorithms to make the feature engineering autonomous, tackle the issue of data drift, and evolve features with time changes to the schema. Proactive data quality assurance can become more effective by incorporating anomaly detectors as well as data contracts and observability systems monitoring Service Level Indicators (SLIs) and Service Level Objectives (SLOs). Uniform benchmarks and an evaluation framework should be established in order to compare the behavior of various anomaly detection models concerning realistic data scenarios, performance, resilience, and efficiency. Automation is only preferable, but a human interface is still useful in uncertain situations. The provision of active learning systems within future platforms that provide feedback of each domain expert to clarify model predictions and remediation actions may also be included. These guidelines are at the changing crossroads of AI, data engineering, and system reliability. Ongoing interdisciplinary research aims at ensuring the complete realization of fully autonomous intelligent data quality pipelines that could respond to large-scale dynamic data environments.

8. Conclusion

The techniques of data quality assurance in the scalable and distributed settings shifted the focus on rule-based validation to a direct focus on anomalous detection and automated remediation. Due to the growing complexity and might latency of data pipelines, the shortcomings of the static monitoring frameworks have recently become apparent. True contrast, AI-based models with streaming analytics and workflow automation-enabled architectures provide a more flexible and resilient system to support data reliability. This review has discussed the multi-dimensional aspects of data quality and the different approaches on how the different machine learning models, such as supervised, unsupervised, and temporal models, can be used in a layered architecture to allow real-time detections and responses to anomalies in data. Contributing to this architectural paradigm are more modern tools, including Kafka, Flink, TensorFlow Serving, and Airflow, which together facilitate ingestion, inference, alerting, and remediation. The block diagram and the theoretical model provided describe a modular, event-driven system that encourages reusability, isolation of faults, and constant deployment. Management in governance and models is essential in support of traceability, version control, and compliance throughout the pipeline lifecycle. Although AI-enhanced data quality models provide great opportunities, they come with explainability issues, performance improvements, and integration of operations. The need to be able to deploy, monitor, and refine AI models into a production environment is an important condition of realizing the objective of having real autonomy in handling data. AI-based data quality alerting systems, as such, mark a great step in facilitating trust, accuracy, and resilience in any contemporary data landscape.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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