International Research Journal on Advanced Engineering Hub (IRJAEH)
e ISSN: 2584-2137
Vol. 04 Issue: 07 July 2026
Page No: 4727-4731
https://irjaeh.com
https://doi.org/10.47392/IRJAEH.2026.0621

Real-Time Big Data Analytics with Apache Flink and Python APIs

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Abstract

Real-time big data analytics plays an important role in modern Internet of Things environments where large volumes of sensor data are generated continuously. Traditional batch processing systems analyze data only after storage, which causes delays in detecting critical events. This paper presents a real-time big data analytics system using Apache Flink and Python APIs for processing IoT sensor streams. The proposed system simulates sensor readings such as temperature, humidity, pressure, and vibration from multiple IoT devices. The generated data is processed using a real-time stream processing pipeline that performs anomaly detection, window-based aggregation, statistical analysis, visualization, and report generation. Threshold-based anomaly detection is used to identify abnormal sensor behavior instantly. The system also applies tumbling, sliding, and session window concepts to summarize continuous data streams over time. Experimental evaluation was carried out using 600 simulated sensor readings from five sensors. The system detected 45 anomalous readings with an anomaly rate of 7.50 percent and achieved a throughput of 3.34 records per second in the simulated environment. The results show that Apache Flink with Python APIs can be used effectively for low-latency real-time analytics, IoT monitoring, and anomaly detection applications.

Keywords: *Apache Flink, PyFlink, Real-Time Analytics, Big Data, IoT Sensors, Stream Processing, Anomaly Detection, Window Analytics, Python APIs.*

1. Introduction

The rapid growth of Internet of Things devices has increased the need for real-time data processing. Sensors, machines, smart devices, and industrial systems continuously generate huge amounts of data. This data is highly valuable only when it is processed quickly and converted into meaningful insights. In many real-world applications, delayed processing can reduce the usefulness of the data and may cause important events to be missed. Traditional data analytics systems are mainly based on batch processing.

2. Existing System

Existing analytics systems often depend on batchprocessing or near-real-time processing. In these systems, data is first collected from sensors and stored in databases, files, or data lakes. After storage, the data is processed periodically. This creates a delay between data generation and analysis. The major drawback of the existing system is processing latency. Batch systems may take minutes, hours, or days to analyze data. This delay is not acceptable in applications where immediate action is required. For example, abnormal pressure in an industrial pipeline or sudden temperature rise in a machine must be detected immediately. Another drawback is scalability. Traditional databases and batch systems may not handle high-velocity sensor streams efficiently. As the number of sensors increases, the data volume also increases. This creates challenges in storage, processing speed, and system performance.

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Existing systems also require large storage infrastructure because data must be stored before processing. If a system failure occurs, data may be lost unless proper font-tolerant mechanisms are available. Due to these limitations, a real-time stream processing system is required for continuous data analysis and instant anomaly detection.

3. Literature Survey

[1] Apache Software Foundation presented a study on stateful computations over data streams in 2022. The study explained how Apache Flink supports real-time stream processing by managing continuous data streams efficiently. It discussed features such as fault tolerance, distributed processing, low-latency analytics, and event-driven architecture. The authors concluded that Apache Flink is highly suitable for large-scale real-time analytics applications.

[2] Apache Software Foundation introduced the PyFlink documentation in 2022, which explained the Python API support for Apache Flink. The study described how developers can use Python for building stream processing applications with Flink. It highlighted features such as DataStream APIs, Table APIs, window operations, and stream transformations. The documentation concluded that PyFlink simplifies real-time analytics development using Python programming.

[3] Google presented Google Colab in 2023 as a cloud-based Python notebook environment. The platform supports online code execution, data analysis, visualization, and Machin learning development without requiring local installation. It also provides GPU support and collaborative features for research and academic projects. The study concluded that Google Colab is a useful environment for implementing and testing data analytics applications.

[4] WJAETS Research Team proposed a real-time AI analytics system using Apache Flink in 2023. The study focused on processing continuous streaming data and generating instant analytical insights using artificial intelligence techniques. The system supported real-time monitoring, anomaly detection, and live visualization. The authors concluded that Apache Flink improves the efficiency and speed of AI-based streaming analytics systems.

[5] S. Polepaka et al. presented a cloud-based marketing analytics framework using Apache Flink in IEEE during 2024. The study explained how streaming data from online platforms can be analyzed in real time for marketing insights and customer behavior analysis. The system performed continuous data ingestion, processing, and visualization using Flink technologies. The study concluded that Apache Flink supports scalable and efficient cloud-based analytics solutions.

[6] The Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity introduced the CIC IoT-DIAD 2024 dataset for IoT anomaly detection research. The dataset contains IoT sensor and network traffic data for identifying abnormal activities and cyber threats. It supports machine learning and real-time analytics research in IoT environments. The study concluded that the dataset is useful for evaluating anomaly detection systems and streaming analytics models.

[7] Research Review presented a survey on streaming data anomaly detection in 2025. The survey analyzed different techniques and algorithms used for identifying abnormal patterns in real-time streaming data. It discussed statistical methods, machine learning models, and deep learning approaches for anomaly detection. The study concluded that real-time anomaly detection improves monitoring and decision-making in streaming environments.

[8] Research Study proposed an LSTM-based autoencoder model for real-time streaming data anomaly detection in 2025. The study used deep learning techniques to identify unusual patterns and abnormal sensor behaviors in continuous data streams. The model achieved improved detection accuracy for streaming environments. The authors concluded that LSTM-based models are effective for real-time anomaly detection applications.

[9] Research Study conducted a performance comparison of Apache Flink, Apache Spark Streaming, and Kafka Streams in 2026. The study

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evaluated these stream processing frameworks based on latency, scalability, throughput, and fault tolerance. Experimental results showed that Apache Flink provided lower latency and better performance for real-time analytics applications. The study concluded that Flink is highly suitable for continuous streaming data processing.

[10] Research Study proposed a real-time stream analytics framework for smart city applications using IoT sensor data in 2026. The framework processed continuous sensor streams for monitoring traffic, environmental conditions, and public infrastructure. The system supported real-time analytics, dashboard visualization, and anomaly detection. The study concluded that stream analytics frameworks improve smart city monitoring and decision-making systems.

4. Proposed System

The proposed system is a real-time analytics pipeline designed for IoT sensor data. It uses a sensor simulator to generate continuous readings from five virtual sensors. Each sensor produces readings for temperature, humidity, pressure, and vibration. The generated readings are processed by a stream processing pipeline. The system checks each reading against predefined threshold values. If any sensor value crosses the normal range, the reading is marked as an anomaly. The system stores processed data and detected anomalies separately. It also calculates metrics such as total readings, total anomalies, anomaly rate, average temperature, average humidity, average pressure, and throughput. The proposed system also uses window-based analytics. Tumbling windows divide the stream into fixed non-overlapping time intervals. Sliding windows provide overlapping time-based analysis. Session windows group readings based on activity gaps. These techniques help in summarizing continuous data streams. The final output includes dashboards, statistical summaries, anomaly reports, and performance results. [11-15]

5. Methodology

The methodology of the proposed system consists of the following stages:

- **Stage 1:** Environment setup using Python, Apache Flink, PyFlink, Pandas, NumPy, and visualization libraries in Google Colab.
- **Stage 2:** Configuration of five virtual IoT devices simulating high-velocity telemetry datasets.
- **Stage 3:** Stream pipeline creation via PyFlink execution environments.
- **Stage 4:** Rule-based conditional disjunction for inline error labeling.
- **Stage 5:** Micro-windowing aggregation configurations. [16-20]
- **Stage 6:** Mathematical extraction of real-time validation matrices.

6. Anomaly Detection Formulas

The proposed system uses threshold-based anomaly detection rules. For each reading, the system validates metrics against explicit boundary ranges.

$A_{Temp} = 1$ if $T < 15$ or $T > 30$ A_{Hum} $= 1$ if $H < 30$ or $H > 70$ $A_{Press} = 1$ if $P < 1000$ or $P > 1025$

7. Results and Discussion

The system was evaluated using 600 simulated IoT sensor readings generated from five sensors. The time span of the simulation was 179.70 seconds. The system detected 45 anomalous readings, resulting in an anomaly rate of 7.50 percent. The average processing throughput was 3.34 records per second.

The confusion matrix shows that the system detected all generated anomalies. There were no false negatives, which means no actual anomaly was missed. The system produced 8 false positives because some normally generated readings slightly crossed the threshold range. In real-time monitoring, this behavior is acceptable because detecting suspicious readings is more important than missing critical failures.

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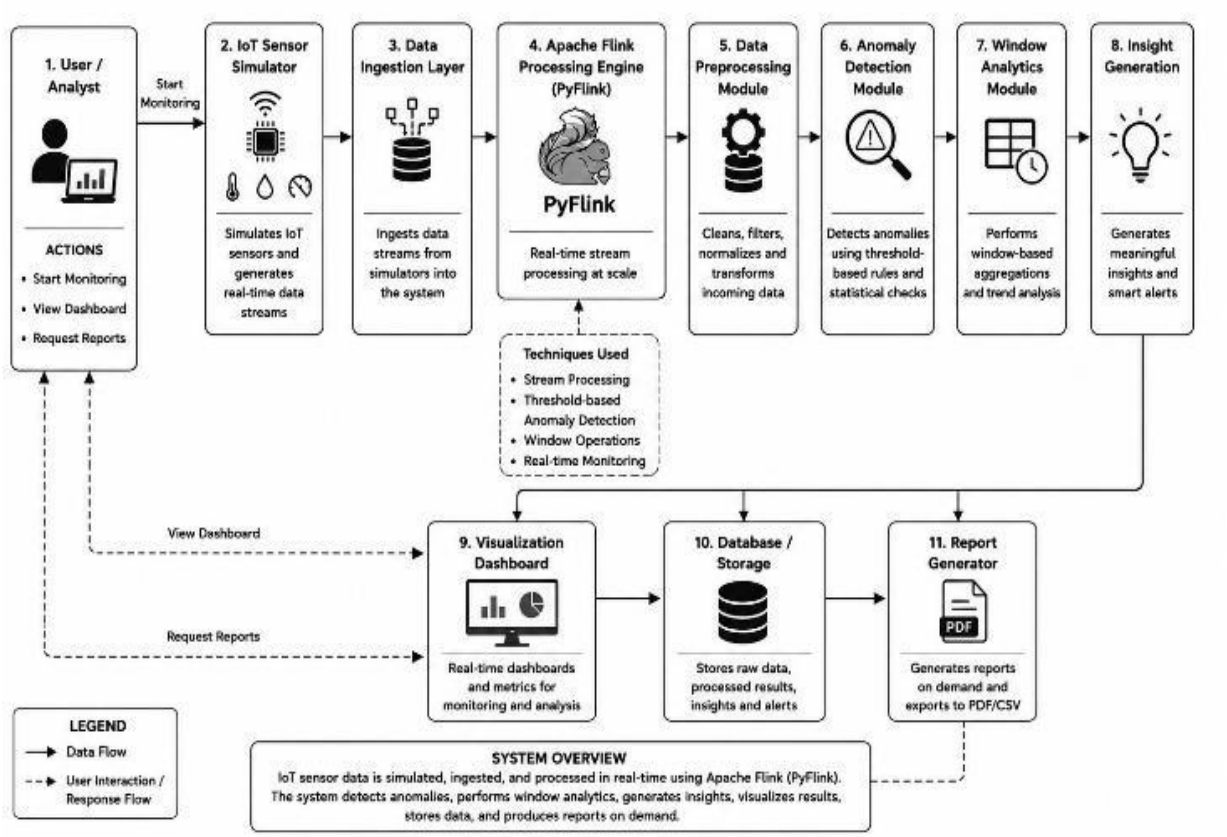

Figure 1 System Architecture of Real – Time Big Data Analysis Using Apache I-Link and Python APIs

Table 1 Tumbling Window Summary

Window Time	Records	Avg Temp	Anomalies
14:00:00 - 14:00:30	100	21.82	7
14:00:30 - 14:01:00	100	22.16	5
14:01:00 - 14:01:30	100	22.98	8
14:01:30 - 14:02:00	100	22.43	9
14:02:00 - 14:02:30	100	22.65	9
14:02:30 - 14:03:00	100	22.47	7

8. Future Enhancements

The system can be improved by integrating Apache Kafka for real-time data ingestion. Real IoT sensors or MQTT devices can be connected to replace simulated data. Machine learning models such as Isolation Forest, LSTM, or autoencoders can be added for advanced anomaly detection. The dashboard can be improved with live auto-refreshing charts. Cloud deployment can be done using AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud. A database can be added to store historical data. Alerting systems can be integrated to send notifications when critical anomalies are detected.

Conclusion

This paper presented a real-time big data analytics system using Apache Flink and Python APIs for IoT

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sensor stream processing. The system simulated continuous readings from five sensors and processed 600 records in real time. It detected 45 anomalies with an anomaly rate of 7.50 percent. The system achieved 98.67 percent accuracy and 100 percent recall in the simulated experiment. The project demonstrates the importance of real-time stream processing for IoT monitoring applications. Apache Flink provides the foundation for scalable and low-latency processing, while Python supports data analysis, visualization, and report generation. The proposed system can be used as a base model for real-time industrial monitoring, smart city analytics, and sensor-based anomaly detection systems.

Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the department, institution, project guide, and supporting faculty members for their guidance and support during the completion of this project. The authors also acknowledge the use of Apache Flink, PyFlink, Python libraries, and Google Colab for implementing and testing the proposed system.

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