

TITLE

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Wan, X; Kuhanestani, PK; Farmani, R; et al.

JOURNAL

Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management

DEPOSITED IN ORE

10 June 2022

This version available at

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Literature Review of Data Analytics for Leak Detection in Water Distribution Networks: A Focus on Pressure and Flow Smart Sensors

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ABSTRACT

Leakage detection is one of the important aspects of water distribution management. Water companies are exploring alternative approaches to detect leaks in a timely manner with high accuracy to reduce water losses and minimise environmental and economic consequences. In this article, a literature review is presented to develop a step-by-step analytic framework for the leakage detection process based on flow and pressure data collected from water distribution networks. The main steps of the data analytic for leakage detection are: setting up the goals, data collection, preparing the gathered data, analysing the prepared data, and method evaluation. The issues of concern for each step of the proposed leakage detection framework are analysed and discussed. The smart sensor-based leakage detection methods can be categorised as data-driven methods and model-based methods. Data-driven methods can be further categorised as statistical process control-based methods, prediction-classification methods, and clustering methods. Hydraulic model-based methods can be further categorised as calibration-based methods, sensitivity analysis, and classifier-based methods. The advantages and disadvantages of each method are discussed, and suggestions for future research are

28 provided. This review represents a new perspective on the subject from five aspects: 1) most of the
29 leakage detection methods are focused on burst detection, and different types of leakages should be
30 considered in future research; 2) it is important to consider data uncertainties, and more robust real-time
31 leakage detection methods should be developed; 3) it is important to consider hydraulic model
32 uncertainties; 4) unrealistic assumptions should be addressed in future research; 5) spatial relations
33 between sensors could provide more information and should be considered.

34 **INTRODUCTION**

35 Leakage is the loss of water from the supply network through uncontrolled actions. In addition to
36 water loss, there are other negative consequences caused by leakage (Colombo et al. 2009; Farah and
37 Shahrour 2017), such as: 1) potential risks to public health (Romano et al. 2011) due to the entrance of
38 contaminants from the environment into the pipes with negative pressure and changes in water quality
39 (Xu et al. 2014), 2) environmental issues due to energy used by pumps to deliver water to compensate
40 for the pressure drop, and chemicals used to treat the water in the treatment plant, and 3) leaked water
41 that ends up in surface water with a potential negative impact on living organisms due to high chlorine
42 concentration. All of these lead to great socio-economic losses (Colombo et al. 2009; Farah and
43 Shahrour 2017; Romano et al. 2011; Wu et al. 2010a), and thus, timely detection and localisation of
44 leakage events in Water Distribution Networks (WDNs) have received considerable attention for more
45 than two decades (Zaman et al. 2020).

46 Leakage detection and localisation are the processes to identify leakage in the WDN and specify the
47 leakage location. Timely detection of leaks could decrease the amount of water loss from the system. It
48 can also have other benefits (Bohorquez et al. 2020; Puust et al. 2010). For example, it can (i) reduce
49 environmental impacts by reducing water losses, (ii) allow planned interruption of supply and therefore
50 reduce the impact on customers and (iii) reduce financial costs by reducing the level of pumping and
51 financial losses linked to the amount of water lost. After detecting a leak, the location of the leakage
52 should be determined, so that repair can take place. The determination of leakage location has three
53 different phases. The first phase is to “localise”, i.e., limit the location of a leak to a specific district.

54 The second phase is to “locate” the pipes in a district area where leaks occur. The third phase is to
55 “pinpoint”, i.e., limit the leakage location to an area with a small radius of 2-3 feet (Qahtani et al. 2020).

56 Almost all leakage detection methods can be broadly categorised into hardware-based methods and
57 software-based methods (Ismail et al. 2019). Hardware-based methods, also called direct methods
58 (Zaman et al. 2020) or passive methods (Chan et al. 2018), usually rely on hardware devices to detect
59 leak events. Based on the principles that apply to the hardware devices, hardware-based methods can
60 be further divided into acoustic techniques and non-acoustic techniques (see Fig. 1). The detailed
61 information about the hardware-based methods can be found in Ismail et al. (2019) and Chan et al.
62 (2018). Although the accuracy of the hardware-based methods is increasingly high, they are costly,
63 time-consuming and labour-intensive, as expensive equipment and professional staff are needed.
64 Furthermore, the results could be influenced by pipe materials (e.g. acoustic methods), soil types and
65 conditions (e.g. infrared thermography, ground penetrating radar), and other factors depending on the
66 equipment. Therefore, hardware-based methods are mostly used in the third phase of leakage detection
67 and localisation, i.e. “pinpoint”.

68 Software-based methods, also called indirect methods (Zaman et al. 2020) or active methods (Chan
69 et al. 2018), could detect leaks by inference from internal pipeline parameters (such as pipe flow and
70 pressure data) rather than detect leak-related information (e.g. leak noise, infrared radiation) directly.
71 Software-based methods use computer software systems to monitor hydraulic parameters to detect
72 possible leaks continuously. Unlike hardware-based methods that try to pinpoint the leakage location
73 accurately, software-based methods aim to detect leakage and limit the area to a specific district. Based
74 on the hydraulic state of the pipeline system, the software-based methods can be classified as transient-
75 state methods and non-transient methods.

76 Colombo et al. (2009) and Abdulshaheed et al. (2017) provided a comprehensive review of the
77 transient-state leakage detection method. Transient analysis is based on the idea that any changes (e.g.
78 blockage, leakage) in the pipe’s physical structure will alter the flow and pressure response. To
79 adequately capture the transients at all time scales, the system requires many measurement points with
80 high sampling frequency, which results in a costly, labour-intensive process. Moreover, this technique
81 often relies on complex transient simulation models and is mainly applied to a single pipeline to predict

82 its features (Bohorquez et al. 2020; Keramat et al. 2019). This type of analysis is computationally
83 expensive and unsuitable for real-time monitoring of large urban areas.

84 Non-transient methods, which is the focus of the present study, can be further classified as hydraulic
85 model-based methods and data-driven methods according to whether a hydraulic model is used.
86 Compared with transient-state methods, non-transient methods could use monitoring data with a much
87 lower sampling rate (e.g. 5 minutes, 15 minutes), which is readily available. Non-transient methods
88 provide a promising solution for the long-term monitoring of large-scale WDNs. When a leak occurs,
89 it will change the hydraulic behaviour in the WDS, and flow and pressure readings also will change.
90 The flow will increase by additional demand, which results in larger head loss, and leads to different
91 pressures within the network. Leakage detection is based on the difference between the predicted
92 hydraulic parameter in the absence of leakage provided by hydraulic model or data-driven methods and
93 the field observations collected by sensors.

94 Therefore, real-time monitoring of changes in water distribution networks to detect leaks is one of
95 the most promising methods. The monitoring is often performed by installing pressure sensors in
96 different parts of the system or installing flow sensors in the transmission mains. With the rapid
97 development of the internet of things and big data technologies in recent years, smart and intelligent
98 water systems could be more connected and operated with more data in real-time to achieve maximum
99 efficiency and effectiveness. The sensors create big data, and by applying appropriate data analytics to
100 them, valuable information could be obtained and make the detection and localisation of leakages
101 possible. However, the focus on big data is relatively new in the water industry, and most of the decision
102 making is done either independently or with limited use of available data. Therefore, this paper focuses
103 on smart sensor-based leakage detection systems that use time-series data from pressure and flow
104 sensors to detect leakage in distribution networks.

105 The literature review on existing methods allows researchers to form reasoned, logical and
106 confirmed arguments (Denyer and Tranfield 2006). Several literature review articles have been
107 published on leakage management with the main focus on detection. Puust et al. (2010) presented a
108 review of leakage management methods and classified these methods into three groups: leakage
109 assessment methods, leakage detection methods and leakage control models. The authors concluded

110 that future works should focus on the real-time models for pipe networks. Gupta and Kulat (2018)
111 carried out a similar review to Puust et al. (2010) and highlighted that more effort is needed in online
112 monitoring and online leakage detection. El-Zahab et al. (2016) reviewed leakage detection methods
113 focusing on: 1) classification of leak detection phases (identification, localisation, and pinpointing
114 leaks), 2) sensor installation type (static and dynamic leak detection systems). Wu and Liu (2017)
115 reviewed data-driven methods using data from Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
116 systems but only for burst detection. They categorised the methodologies into three groups:
117 classification method, prediction method, and statistical method. Hu et al. (2021a) reviewed model-
118 based and data-driven approaches for leakage detection and location from the aspect of methodology.
119 Hu et al. (2021a) provide a good overview of methodologies that have been developed for leakage
120 detection, but in this paper, a more comprehensive step-by-step analysis of the process for leakage
121 detection is provided, including the data pre-processing techniques, the types of case study, the size of
122 leaks that are possible to be detected, etc. In order to thoroughly discuss those topics, this paper provide
123 a step-by-step analytic framework for real-time leakage detection process based on big data gathered
124 from pressure and flow sensors, from the perspective of water resources planning and management.

125 The aim of this review is to clarify the state of knowledge, identify research gaps, and form a
126 consensus on the subject. A five-step framework has been developed to analyse and compare a suite of
127 leakage detection and localisation methods for low-frequency (compared with data for transient analysis)
128 pressure and flow data measured by in situ sensors (Fig. 2). It is no doubt that goal identification is the
129 prerequisite of data analysis. After installing sensors in the distribution network, the first step is to
130 collect data for the following analysis. Identifying the characteristics of the collected data is a crucial
131 stage for data analytics-based studies, and suitable data analytic methods could be chosen accordingly.
132 By applying the appropriate methodology, the information will gain more value and be used in decision
133 making. Based on the data collected from the SCADA system and the analysis of the characteristics of
134 collected data, different methods have been applied to detect and localise leakage events. Each step will
135 be analysed step by step in the following research.

136 **GOAL IDENTIFICATION (STEP 0)**

137 Identifying the needs and goals of the end-user is the first step in the leakage detection and
138 localisation framework. Setting goals has a direct impact on the selection of the most suitable detection
139 methods. In most proposed methods, leakage identification and localisation are the two goals of leakage
140 detection based on data analytics. Tables 1 and 2 provide the summary of steps 0 and 1 of data-driven
141 and hydraulic model based leakage detection methods, respectively. Data-driven methods model the
142 system behaviour based on historical data mining, and model-based methods use a well-calibrated
143 hydraulic model to represent the current state of a network. Therefore, for leakage identification,
144 hydraulic model-based methods are preferred when the amount of historical data is limited, and data-
145 driven methods could be more efficient and provide more accurate predictions when a long-term
146 monitoring dataset is available. For leakage localisation, model-based methods are more preferred since
147 the hydraulic model can provide more topological information of the network.

148 Leakage identification usually ends with binary results (i.e. alarm on or off) that represent whether
149 or not a leakage is happening in the system. In order to provide more information for the operator,
150 Mounce et al. (2007, 2010) have provided fuzzy values and probability values between 0 to 1 to
151 represent the likelihood of a leakage event. Ye and Fenner (2011, 2014) defined the burst size as the
152 difference between the predicted value and the observed value. The determined burst size may not be
153 very accurate due to prediction errors, measurement errors, unpredictable random consumers'
154 behaviour, etc. The results of leakage localisation are presented as a leak map to compare the predicted
155 leak area and the actual leak location. Visualisation of the results helps the decision-makers to gain
156 knowledge and make informed decisions.

157 **DATASET GENERATION (STEP 1)**

158 One of the essential stages of data analytics-based studies is data collection and data characteristics.
159 Data specifications should be based on the needs of the study and the goals that have been set. Most of
160 the studies have applied their method to a sample case to validate or explain the presented methodology
161 of leakage detection. Those algorithms are usually tested on three kinds of datasets:

- 162 • A synthetic dataset generated by a hydraulic model (such as EPANET, WNTR etc.) that usually
163 made simplifications to the network's condition and customers' behaviour (such as following
164 a very regular pattern or assuming that consumers' behaviour are known in advance);
- 165 • Engineered tests operated in real water distribution systems by opening fire hydrants that
166 usually simulated burst events with sudden water loss and short duration.
- 167 • Historical monitoring data that contain real leakage events.

168 The artificially synthesised dataset allows researchers more flexibility to adjust parameters and
169 model different types of leakage events. However, it is difficult to model the high uncertainties in a
170 real-life network. The simplifications of simulations can generate a clean and easy-to-learn dataset that
171 is beneficial for evaluating the tested algorithms and leaves a question of the suitability of the algorithms
172 for real-life networks. Therefore, these methods should be validated in engineered test datasets or
173 historical datasets. As shown in Table 1, engineered tests that can introduce artificial leakage to the real
174 system are widely-used when researchers evaluate their methods. It should be noted that the engineered
175 tests used in the current studies only simulated burst events but not incipient leakage. However, incipient
176 leakage can cause more water loss than bursts due to a longer awareness time. Furthermore, incipient
177 leakages may last for days, or even weeks, unlike burst events that lasted for a few hours simulated in
178 the engineered tests. Therefore, it is crucial to generate an early warning for incipient leakage before it
179 reaches its maximum level. Historical monitoring datasets that contain real leakage events can reflect
180 the efficacy of detection methods in real-life scenarios. However, it is hard to know the exact starting
181 time of leakages in real life, and the information can only be inferred from the maintenance work or
182 customer contacts, which brings difficulty for method evaluation. Within this context, the Battle of the
183 Leakage Detection and Isolation Methods (BattleDIM) (Vrachminis et al. 2020) provides a hydraulic
184 model called L-Town that contains two years of real-life demand data. The datasets of BattleDIM
185 provide two years of monitoring dataset, including flow data, pressure data, and demand data. Different
186 types of leakages are modelled in the system, including background leakages, gradual leakages, and
187 bursts. These datasets could be a good option to evaluate the performance of leakage detection and
188 localisation methods.

189 The commonly used data are flow and pressure monitoring data, which are critical hydraulic
190 parameters that change with any alteration in the distribution system. In some cases, the flow values are
191 reported as the average value, while pressure values are reported instantaneously (Mounce et al. 2012).
192 Therefore, the data shows smoothed flow values and missing some changes in flow between time
193 intervals (Farley et al. 2013). Compared with flow time series, pressure time series have more variation
194 in their profile than flow time series (Romano et al. 2011). Furthermore, flow instruments are usually
195 installed at inlets, and they are sensitive to downstream changes, while pressure values are affected by
196 head loss and pressure changes upstream and around the instrument position (Geiger 2005). Therefore,
197 in the experiment conducted by Ye and Fenner (2011), pressure-based detection seems less sensitive to
198 a burst event than flow-based detection, especially when a pressure sensor is remote from the burst
199 location. It can also be observed from Tables 1 and 2 that most of the burst identification methods
200 preferred to use flow data. However, the installation of flow sensors is more expensive than pressure
201 sensors (Romano et al. 2011). Hence, usually, there are fewer flow data available than pressure data. It
202 has been suggested that the pressure data can be used to provide additional information as a way of
203 confirming the flow-based detection results (Ye and Fenner 2011). Therefore, pressure data are
204 preferred when the goal is leakage localisation.

205 **DATA PREPARATION (STEP 2)**

206 Raw monitoring data may contain lots of noises, missing data, or data from faulty loggers. Therefore,
207 it is necessary to perform data pre-processing before data is analysed by data analytics. Furthermore, it
208 is difficult to construct a proper function to model the pattern of the raw monitoring data because it is
209 highly nonlinear. In addition, the variation over different weekdays makes the flow and the pressure
210 pattern more complicated to model. While some papers have tried to model water usage patterns directly,
211 most papers adopted pre-processing techniques before leakage detection. Moreover, different methods
212 have different requirements that need to be prepared before analysing. Tables 3 and 4 summarise steps
213 2-4 of each leakage detection method.

214 **Data-Driven Methods**

215 As shown in Table 3, the most frequently used data preparation procedures for data-driven methods are:

- 216 1. Data correction: Data collected by the sensors is a type of big data, and due to its real-time
217 nature, sometimes incomplete/incorrect data may exist in the time series, due to missing data,
218 data from faulty loggers, erroneous timestamps etc. To ensure a continuous data stream, in some
219 studies, the missing data are replaced by an alternative value that is calculated through a
220 statistical process such as a filter interpolation (Mounce et al. 2002; Mounce and Machell 2006;
221 Romano et al. 2014). Furthermore, statistical tests could be applied to the time series to ensure
222 that an adequate amount of good quality data is available for the analysis (Romano et al. 2014).
- 223 2. Data de-noising: Recorded pressure and flow data are usually accompanied by noise. The
224 presence of this noise may cause some small leaks to be undetected or cause false alarms.
225 Therefore, in some studies, this noise is removed in the pre-processing stage. Misiunas (2006)
226 used an adaptive recursive least squares filter, and Romano et al. (2014) used discrete wavelet
227 transform to remove noise from data.
- 228 3. Data selection: In most studies, a range of normal data (data without leakage events) is needed
229 to train machine learning models or used as a reference library so that the normal behaviour of
230 the distribution network can be accurately represented. However, data collected from real
231 WDNs usually contains both leak and non-leak events. Therefore, data selection is needed to
232 ensure the performance of the detection method. For example, Palau et al. (2012) used an
233 iterative procedure to eliminate outliers during Principle Component Analysis (PCA) model
234 construction. Wu et al. (2020) used an abnormal subsequence searching (ASS) algorithm to
235 search and remove the abnormal subsequences in the library.
- 236 4. Data reformatting: Different techniques require different formats for the data, such as
237 normalisation, label information assigning, time-series restructure etc. When the analytic
238 method is sensitive to the numerical ranges of the variables, such as PCA (Palau et al. 2012),
239 mean centring and scaling processes are needed to normalise the data to ensure that the data
240 falls within the same range. Label information such as time of day, day of the week could
241 provide more information to the machine learning model and improve the prediction accuracy.
242 Furthermore, given a sequence of numbers for a time series dataset, data needs to be pre-
243 processed (e.g. a tapped delay line format) to prepare for neural network presentation.

244 **Hydraulic Model-Based Methods**

245 As shown in Table 4, the most frequently used data preparation procedures for hydraulic model-based
246 methods are:

247 1. Model calibration: For hydraulic model-based methods, hydraulic model calibration is
248 unavoidable for hydraulic model-based methods. The aim of the model calibration is to develop
249 the best values for the unknown model parameters, so that the hydraulic model could reasonably
250 represent the performance of the WDN. A poorly calibrated model could result in significant
251 errors in leak detection. A reliable hydraulic model requires structural and hydraulic data for
252 calibration and validation (Giorgio Bort et al. 2014). Due to the fact that it is extremely difficult
253 to accurately obtain the roughness and diameter of every pipe and water demand at each node,
254 these parameters should be properly calibrated and validated before the hydraulic model can be
255 used. Evolutionary methods and least-squares are the most frequently used methods for model
256 calibration (Sanz et al. 2016).

257 2. Data generation: With the availability of a well-calibrated hydraulic model, various leakage
258 scenarios (including the non-leakage scenario) under different boundary conditions can be
259 modelled (Soldevila et al. 2019). By simulate different leakages with different locations and
260 different scales, a hydraulic model could provide numerous training example for leakage area
261 classification. The leakage can be modelled as an emitter flow that represented as a function of
262 the pressure at the junction node, given as

$$263 \quad Q_i(t) = k_i[P_i(t)^\alpha] \quad (1)$$

264 where Q_i is the leak flow at node i at time t , k_i is the emitter coefficient at node i , $P_i(t)$ is the
265 nodal pressure at node i at time t , α represent the emitter pressure exponent.

266 Historical leak-free monitoring measurements (such as pressures, flows, reservoir conditions,
267 etc.) must be provided to the hydraulic model as boundary conditions. The network behaviour
268 can be described by steady-state models concatenated in an extended period simulation (EPS)
269 (Perez et al. 2014). In addition, pressure-driven analysis (PDA) (Wagner et al. 1988) in
270 EPANET provides a more realistic representation of the pressure-leakage relationship.

271 3. Zone division: Usually, a small number of monitoring devices are equipped in WDNs. Thus, it
272 is hard to locate the exact location of leakage with limited monitoring devices since leakage
273 that happened at neighbouring pipes might have a very similar influence on available devices.
274 Therefore, in order to locate the leakage in a small possible area within a district meter area
275 (DMA), one solution is to divide the DMA into small zones. Zhang et al. (2016) used k-means
276 clustering algorithm to divide WDNs into k leakage zones. Wu et al. (2022) used fuzzy c-means
277 (FCM) to cluster pipes and place the sensors. Romero et al. (2022) adopted a method called
278 graph agglomerative clustering (GAC) to cluster the network based on its topology.

279 **DATA ANALYTIC METHODS (STEP 3)**

280 Various techniques have been explored to mining the monitoring data and to provide effective
281 solutions for leakage detection. As mentioned before, leakage detection methods can be categorised as
282 data-driven methods and hydraulic model-based methods.

283 **Data-Driven Methods**

284 Currently, data-driven methods are mainly used for leakage identification (especially for burst
285 detection) instead of leakage localisation. With a large amount of historical data, the pattern can be
286 analysed by statistical methods or learnt automatically by machine learning models. If the
287 characteristics of new data are substantially different from historical data, it can be inferred that an
288 abnormal event occurred in the distribution system. For example, a sudden pressure drop and flow
289 increase are the most frequently used criteria for burst events. Fig. 3 shows the flowchart of data analytic
290 steps for data-driven leakage detection methods, and Table 3 summarises the techniques used in each
291 method. Based on the principle of the data analysis techniques, data-driven methods can be further
292 categorised into three categories: statistical process control (SPC)-based methods, prediction-
293 classification methods, and clustering-based methods.

294 *SPC-based methods*

295 Statistical process monitoring charts, also called control charts, with a set of control limits, are used
296 to display and detect the unusual variability in the data. SPC methods are the most intuitive and simple
297 but powerful methods used to monitor the unusual behaviour of a process. These charts contain three

298 characteristics: a target representing the mean value for the in-control process, upper control limit, and
299 lower control limit used to determine the in-control limits. The control limits can be set by calculating
300 the statistical characteristics of the historical data. Data that is outside these thresholds are assumed as
301 invalid or abnormal. For example, the well-known “3-sigma” method is a Shewhart-type method, which
302 means that the data three standard deviations from the mean are considered under normal conditions.

303 The most common SPC methods include univariate methods such as Shewhart chart (Loureiro et al.
304 2016), Western Electrical Company (WEC) rules (Ahn and Jung 2019; Jung et al. 2015), cumulative
305 sum (CUSUM) control chart (Misiunas et al. 2006), exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA)
306 (Jung et al. 2015), and multivariate methods that consider the correlation between data from multiple
307 sensors, such as Hotelling T^2 (Palau et al. 2012), multivariate EWMA (Jung et al. 2015), and
308 multivariate CUSUM (Jung et al. 2015). Shewhart-type approaches provide effective detection of large
309 faults, while CUSUM and EWMA are more sensitive in detecting small changes but do not guarantee
310 to detect large faults (Harrou et al. 2020). Some of the SPC methods can be viewed as a simpler version
311 of prediction model-based methods discussed in the next category. For example, Shewhart uses the
312 mean of historical value as the predicted value for the next data point, and EWMA uses an exponentially
313 weighted moving average value.

314 It should be noted that some assumptions that underlie the quality control process are: 1. Data comes
315 from a single statistical distribution; 2. The data distribution is a normal (Gaussian) distribution; 3. The
316 errors are uncorrelated over time. It is clear that none of these assumptions holds true in the raw
317 monitoring data. Therefore, some researchers (Jung et al. 2015; Loureiro et al. 2016) assumed that the
318 data at the same time every day comes from the same distribution and reformat the data before applying
319 the SPC methods. The Minimum Night Flow (MNF) analysis proposed by Farah and Shahrour (2017)
320 also implies this idea, in which the minimum value of a day is checked based on the calculation of
321 moving average and moving standard deviation. Loureiro et al. (2016) improved SPC methods by using
322 a quantile-based approach instead of a sample mean to consider the asymmetric behaviour of flow data.
323 Besides, instead of considering each data point separately, Palau et al. (2012) divided a day of
324 monitoring data into different time periods (such as morning, afternoon, and night) and used PCA to
325 compress the data and to reduce the unnecessary variability. Then, Hotelling T^2 and distance to model

326 can be calculated to determine the outliers. However, this method takes a relatively long time to make
327 the decision, which may not be conceived as very effective for burst detection.

328 *Prediction-classification methods*

329 Prediction-classification methods are the most common approaches in the literature. While SPC-
330 based methods try to construct boundaries directly for the monitoring data points based on unrealistic
331 assumptions, prediction-classification methods construct more complicated and accurate models that
332 can represent the expected behaviour of the distribution system in a healthy state. The prediction model
333 is trained with the collected historical data and then gives predicted values. If there is no leakage in the
334 future, there will be a reasonable match between predicted and measure values. Therefore, anomalies
335 representing leakage events can be detected by analysing the residuals between the observed value and
336 the predicted value (see Fig. 3).

337 Various approaches have been explored to detect leakage events in WDNs. Ye and Fenner (2014)
338 have proposed the weighted least squares with the expectation-maximisation algorithm for burst
339 detection. They (Ye and Fenner 2011) also explored the application of Kalman Filter (KF) for burst
340 detection and achieved very good results. However, one shortcoming of these two approaches is that
341 they considered data within the same day separately. If the sampling rate is 15 minutes, it needs to build
342 672 independent models to eliminate diurnal patterns. If complex patterns are considered, such as
343 weekly patterns, more models need to be built. Thus, building a large number of filters cannot radically
344 solve the problem of equal-state assumption.

345 Machine learning techniques can learn from data without relying on rules-based programming.
346 Mounce et al. (2002, 2010, 2011) have used support vector regression (SVR) and artificial neural
347 network (ANN) for leakage detection on real data from a water distribution system. Romano et al. (2014)
348 provided an online system for leakage detection using ANN combined with the Bayesian inference
349 system (BIS). However, a standard ANN does not share features across different steps of time series.
350 In contrast, the recurrent neural network (RNN) is widely recognised as a suitable method to deal with
351 sequential data due to its ability to connect previous information to the present task. Therefore, Wang
352 et al. (2020) used the long short-term memory (LSTM) network - a special kind of RNN - for flow
353 prediction and the detection of burst events.

354 Besides the methods that have been explored in water leakage detection (see Table 3), various kinds
355 of regression or prediction models can be applied in the prediction stage (Han et al. 2019), as long as
356 the models are capable of time series modelling. Prediction-classification detection methods highly rely
357 on the accuracy of the prediction model (Wu and Liu 2017). However, time-series predictors generally
358 have no inbuilt mechanism for subsequent classification. Thus, additional classification methods, such
359 as control charts, have been used for the final alarm raising or decision making. However, setting the
360 threshold for event detection is not a trivial issue. The determination of thresholds often depends on
361 experience, which greatly influences the detection effect (Wang et al. 2020). Additionally, most of these
362 prediction-classification methods need to be updated regularly to adapt to time changes (Mounce et al.
363 2010).

364 *Clustering-based methods*

365 Clustering-based methods are based on comparing time series subsequences or their representations,
366 using a reference of normality, without the need for fitting a prediction model. Clustering analysis is
367 used to create clusters by grouping points or subsequences that are similar to each other and separating
368 dissimilar points or subsequences into different clusters. Abnormal subsequences are those that are
369 dissimilar to normal subsequences, and they can be determined based on the distance to the centroid of
370 the cluster of normal sequences belongs.

371 Wu et al. (2016) used cosine distance to calculate the dissimilarity between vectors combined with
372 the information from different sensors. Aksela et al. (2009) proposed a method based on the self-
373 organising map (SOM) to detect leakage by finding similarities between flow data from other weeks,
374 facilitated by a leak function that describes the relationship between the confidence in the existence of
375 a leak and the distance between flow meters and leakage locations. Wu et al. (2020) proposed a shape
376 similarity-based (SSB) method that detected bursts by analysing the shape of flow time series data
377 within the same period from different days. Huang et al. (2018) applied dynamic time warping (DTW)
378 to study the similarity of daily water demand and found the most unusual daily pattern.

379 The construction of the reference library is the most critical step of clustering-based methods. In
380 order to consider various uncertainties in the data, such as weekday patterns, weekend patterns, holiday
381 patterns, etc., a large amount of historical data may be needed. Furthermore, those discord discovery

382 techniques (e.g. Wu et al. (2020), Huang et al. (2018)) require the users to specify the length of the
383 leakage event in advance, which in many cases may not be known and could only be determined by
384 experience. It should be noted that most of the methods are designed for burst detection. Most of the
385 clustering-based methods are based on the assumption that leakage events will cause unusual shapes in
386 the data. However, the shape of the pattern of incipient leakage may stay the same during the beginning
387 stage but grow in the long term. Thus, the ability of clustering methods for incipient leakage detection
388 is still a question.

389 **Hydraulic Model-Based Methods**

390 Hydraulic model-based approaches rely on a hydraulic model of a network. The accuracy of these
391 models depends on their calibration, and a prerequisite of accurate leakage localisation is a well-
392 calibrated hydraulic model. By comparing the simulations generated by the well-calibrated hydraulic
393 model and the data collected from pressure and flow sensors, the leakage can be detected, and the most
394 probable area of the network can be found. Currently, hydraulic model-based methods are mainly used
395 for leakage localisation. In most studies, the leakage detection is based on the results that a leakage
396 event has already been known to exist in the network. Based on the principles used to detect leakage,
397 hydraulic model-based methods can be further categorised as calibration-based methods, sensitivity
398 analysis-based methods, and classification-based methods. Details of these methods can be found in
399 Table 4. The general steps of hydraulic model-based leakage detection methods have been described in
400 Fig. 4.

401 *Calibration-based methods*

402 Leakage detection based on model calibration is defined as an inverse problem of parameter
403 identification of the hydraulic model. The leakage detection is initiated by obtaining the well-calibrated
404 hydraulic model and the field measurements. Model calibration is used to minimise the discrepancies
405 between the observed flow and pressure values and the values simulated at junctions in the hydraulic
406 model affected by possible leaks. After selecting the optimisation criteria and the optimisation objective,
407 an optimiser will be used to seek the best solution from all possible solutions automatically. Possible
408 solutions are usually represented as a number of leakage nodes with positive emitter coefficients (Wu

409 et al. 2010a). Table 4 summarises the objective function and the optimisation method that have been
410 explored in each study.

411 Misiunas (2006) searched for all the locations, and the node with the smallest objective value (i.e.
412 the sum of difference squares) is declared to be the burst position. This method is based on the leakage
413 identification procedure, the amount of water loss needs to be estimated, and the demand value is
414 assigned uniformly to all nodes. However, the leakage demands should be pressure-dependent, which
415 is more in line with reality. Therefore, Wu et al. (2010b) developed a pressure-dependent leakage
416 detection (PDL) method that uses pressure-dependent emitter flow at a junction to represent a leakage
417 event. A Genetic algorithm (GA) was then used to search for the optimal solution. Then, Wu et al.
418 (2010b) provided an application report of the PDL method to two water systems and proved its
419 effectiveness compared with acoustic leak loggers.

420 The number of decision variables is directly related to the number of candidate leak locations in a
421 DMA, which means that the optimisation algorithm needs to solve a nonlinear inverse problem with
422 thousands of decision variables for a medium-sized system. When there are a large number of decision
423 variables because multiple combinations of decision variables may generate equally fit solutions and
424 result in inaccurate localisation results (Sophocleous 2019), which greatly limits the applicability of
425 calibration-based methods. Although the decision variables have been reduced by specifying the
426 maximum number of possible leaks within a system, this information heavily relies on engineering
427 judgment. Therefore, Sophocleous et al. (2018, 2019) introduced a search space reduction stage before
428 leak localisation to reduce the search area of the optimisation. A real case from the UK is investigated
429 by this method and proved its effectiveness. However, these methods have only been demonstrated in
430 single-leak cases because of the combinatorial complexity and a large number of decision variables. In
431 order to take into account multiple leakage scenarios, Berglund et al. (2017) proved that multiple leaks
432 could be modelled as a linear combination of single-leak scenarios under certain limitations (e.g. leak
433 coefficients, leak number). Based on linear programming (LP) and mixed-integer linear programming
434 (MILP), a linear combination of leaks can be determined to approximate the observed pressure values.

435 The advantages of calibration-based methods are: 1) the leak position can be accurately determined;
436 2) the leak amount can also be determined. However, one major drawback of these methods is that they

437 are computationally demanding and have limited real-time applicability (Berglund et al. 2017). Sanz et
 438 al. (2016) proposed an online leakage detection method based on model calibration. The leak can be
 439 determined based on the demand difference between the hydraulic model being calibrated before and
 440 after. However, this method is computationally demanding. The calibration-based methods are mostly
 441 applied to small networks since the effectivity of the optimisation algorithm can be greatly limited.

442 *Sensitivity analysis-based methods*

443 Sensitivity analysis-based methods detect leaks based on the comparison of modelled data versus
 444 observed data. The quantification of the difference between the actual pressure measurements with the
 445 predictions predicted by the hydraulic model is called pressure residual. After the model has been
 446 calibrated using the historical data, the pressure residual set for n_s sensors can be obtained by calculating
 447 the theoretical pressure difference between the non-leak scenario, $\hat{p}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_s}$, and all potential leak
 448 scenarios, $p \in \mathbb{R}^{n_s}$, simulated at each junction in turn:

$$449 \quad r = p - \hat{p}_0 \quad (2)$$

450 Based on evaluating the theoretical effect of all potential leaks f_i of all monitored nodes, p_i , the
 451 sensitivity matrix S can be determined as:

$$452 \quad S = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial p_1}{\partial f_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial p_1}{\partial f_{n_p}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial p_{n_s}}{\partial f_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial p_{n_s}}{\partial f_{n_p}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

453 where n_s is the number of sensors, n_p is the number of potential leaks (network nodes). However, it is
 454 extremely difficult to calculate the sensitivity matrix S analytically for a real network since the WDS is
 455 a nonlinear system without an explicit solution (Perez et al. 2014). Therefore, many ways have been
 456 proposed to approximate the sensitivity matrix. For example, Giorgio Bort et al. (2014) and Okeya et
 457 al. (2015) estimated the burst flow before leakage localisation, and the estimated burst flow was
 458 simulated in turn at each node to obtain the sensitivity matrix. Perez et al. (2011, 2014) introduced the
 459 same leakage in each node and recorded the pressure increment to approximate the sensitivity matrix.
 460 To construct a more robust sensitivity matrix, Farley et al. (2013) used the chi-squared value of pressure
 461 increment. Furthermore, to consider the uncertainties that exist in real-life, Pérez et al. (2011) applied

462 a threshold to the sensitivity matrix so that only the strong relations between leaks and pressure sensors
463 could be considered.

464 The possible leak area can be determined by ranking the sensitivity of sensors to leaks and compared
465 with the observed pressure residual. Giorgio Bort et al. (2014) performed PCA analysis on the
466 sensitivity matrix to rank the measurement nodes according to the most important feature. Perez et al.
467 (2014) and Steffelbauer et al. (2022) located the most probable leak nodes by identifying the largest
468 correlation values between the observed pressure residual and sensitivity matrix. Theoretically, the
469 residuals should be zero under non-leakage scenarios. However, due to the existence of measurement
470 errors, calibration errors, random customer behaviour etc., the residual will not remain zero even under
471 healthy conditions. Furthermore, the sensitivity of pressure sensors to different leak scenarios is hard to
472 quantify using a constant value, which reduces the accuracy of leak localisation.

473 *Classification-based methods*

474 With the development of machine learning techniques, the classification of leakage scenarios can
475 automatically be trained by a classifier. In the first stage, the pressure map or pressure residual map of
476 each leakage scenario can be generated by the hydraulic model and used as training data. In the second
477 stage, the training data will be processed and fed to train a classifier. After a burst is detected, observed
478 pressure values will be processed, and the trained classifier could be used to determine the leak area.

479 Zhou et al. (2019a) used the fully-linear DenseNet (FL-DenseNet) to extract features in pressure
480 patterns for burst localisation. Javadiha et al. (2019) used a convolutional neural network (CNN) to
481 learn the different pressure residual maps. Since the number of pressure sensors in a system is limited,
482 some node leaks may present a similar leak signature and can be indistinguishable. Therefore, Soldevila
483 et al. (2016) used a node grouping procedure prior to the k-Nearest Neighbour (kNN) classifier training.
484 Zhang et al. (2016) used K-means clustering to divide the network into different k zones based on the
485 pressure residual matrix generated by the hydraulic model. Then, the leakage events were represented
486 by adding a random leakage demand to the junction selected by the Monte-Carlo method in the
487 hydraulic model. Training samples are generated by the hydraulic model and used to train the M-SVM
488 model. Romero et al. (2022) used an image coding procedure called Gramian angular field (GAF) to
489 transform pressure vectors into images, and the task of leakage localisation has been transformed into

490 image classification. A set of deep neural networks (DNNs) are organised hierarchically to obtain a
491 classification tree to localise the leakage area. Zhang et al. (2022) used FCM to divide network into
492 different zones and combined the extreme gradient boosting (XGBoost) to identify the leakage zone.
493 The results showed superior performance than the back-propagation neural network (BPNN). More
494 information can be found in Table 4.

495 With the benefit of a hydraulic model, a large number of training data can be generated and provided
496 for classifier training. Once the classifier is well-trained, the results can be generated efficiently.
497 However, a well-calibrated hydraulic model is hard to be maintained to reflect the real-time condition
498 of the network. Any changes in the network will cause inaccurate estimation, such as the addition or
499 elimination of any element (pipes, valves, tanks, etc.), the changes of pipe roughness coefficient and
500 the changes of pipe diameter caused by increasing pipe ages. Furthermore, consumers' demand is hard
501 to determine and difficult to adjust its real-time variation. Currently, hydraulic model-based methods
502 have not reached the maturity of real-time monitoring for WDNs.

503 **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (STEP 4)**

504 Method evaluation has a critical role in method development, and different goals need different
505 metrics. Each method should be evaluated before being applied to real life. In this section, model
506 validation and method performance with real-life data will be analysed.

507 **Leakage Identification**

508 For leakage identification, the process usually ends up with binary classification. Essentially, each
509 data point or a data subsequence needs to be labelled as an anomaly or not. If leakage happens and data
510 points during that time period are identified as anomalies, this case is a true positive. If there is no
511 leakage happening and the detection results showed negative all the time (meaning the system is
512 healthy), then it's called a true negative. However, there are cases the detection method can fail. If the
513 system is healthy, but an alarm is rising, this case is a false positive. If leakage happens but the detection
514 results show negative, this case is a false negative. Therefore, as one of the most comprehensive ways,
515 confusion matrices (Alla and Adari 2019) have been widely used to evaluate leakage identification
516 methods' performances. True Positive Rate (TPR) and False Positive Rate (FPR) are the two most

517 commonly used criteria for the evaluation of leakage detection methods. This is because failure events
518 rarely occur in real-life scenarios, resulting in considerable parts of the observed data being labelled as
519 normal, and a few parts of it are labelled as abnormal. As such, other indicators such as F1 score,
520 Receiver Operating Curve (ROC) or area under the curve (AUC) can be used to evaluate such biases in
521 data. For prediction-classification methods, in the prediction stage, additional evaluation metrics such
522 as rooted mean square error (RMSE), mean absolute error (MAE), mean absolute percentage error
523 (MAPE) should be used to measure and quantify the prediction error. It is important to emphasize that
524 the prediction error will never be zero because no model can perfectly predict the future. From Table 5,
525 it could be observed that the current methodologies have achieved very high accuracy, but it should be
526 noted that most of them focused on burst events. Furthermore, only a few of them are applied in real
527 life.

528 Furthermore, the false alarm presents a serious issue. Some results could have false positives every
529 day (Jung et al. 2015, Jung and Lansey 2015, Xu et al. 2020), it is clearly impossible to raise alarms at
530 every false positive point. It is well-known that one abnormal data point cannot solely represent the
531 leakage event, because it has a high probability that it is generated by the data noise or the random
532 behaviour of water consumption, while continuous disruptive data is more suitable to indicate the
533 occurrence of a leakage event. For example, Mounce et al. (2007) combined ANN with Fuzzy Inference
534 System (FIS). Mounce et al. (2011) applied a time window for the detection results, and an alarm will
535 be raised only if enough anomalies occur within a moving event window. Romano et al. (2014) used
536 the BIS to generate probabilities for burst events. However, there is no consensus on the issue of how
537 to represent a leakage event, and currently, the rules that have been used to raise the alarm are
538 determined intuitively by researchers.

539 Detection time (DT) or average detection time (ADT) describes the time duration between the start
540 time of leakage and the time when a method successfully raised the alarm. It is important to raise the
541 alarm as early as possible. In a real-life dataset, the DT could be difficult to be determined, and it could
542 only be inferred from the customers' contacts or maintenance history. Based on the summary provided
543 in Table 5, it could be observed that prediction-classification methods could receive the quickest
544 response time for burst detection. It is hard to draw a conclusion about which method is the best method

545 for leakage detection since each method has their own advantages and disadvantages. Also, the
546 performance of a leakage detection method may depend on the time of occurrence and the magnitude
547 and types of leakage. Moreover, different evaluation criteria are used in those studies, and thus it
548 becomes more difficult to compare the performance.

549 **Leakage Localisation**

550 Currently, there is no consensus about the evaluation of leakage localisation methods. Most methods
551 show their results using graphical representations of the probable leak nodes or areas and the true leak
552 locations. The visualisation of the leak map could provide an intuitive view of the accuracy of leak
553 localisation. However, quantification metrics are needed so that different methods can be compared
554 with each other. Graphical distance to real leak and pipeline distance to real leak are the two
555 quantification metrics that have been used in literature, and currently, the accuracy could only achieve
556 200 m (see Table 5). In addition, for classification-based method, the classification accuracy for leakage
557 zone localisation have been used for method evaluation.

558 Leakage localisation is important to reduce disruption to customers and traffic by identifying the
559 leak's location as close as possible. However, it is clear that accuracy and effectiveness have a great
560 potential for improvement. Furthermore, it is important to evaluate the localisation methods and assess
561 their capability in real-life datasets. The accuracy of leakage localisation is affected by several factors
562 such as: (1) the size and types of leakage; (2) location of the leakage; (3) calibration of the model; (4)
563 number and location of the sensors. Therefore, it is obvious that more comprehensive evaluation criteria
564 for leakage localisation are needed. Considering the burst events, Qi et al. (2018) proposed a
565 methodology to investigate the capacity of pressure-based burst detection using several quantitative
566 metrics: (1) undetectable nodes, represent the effectiveness of a detection method and provide
567 information of the need for additional sensors; (2) undetectable demands at those undetectable nodes to
568 assess the potential capacity of a method; (3) detection dimension that indicates the correlation between
569 nodes and the entire pressure sensor distribution; (4) spatial partition that investigate the influence of
570 each sensor considering the distance of the sensor to the leakage; (5) detectable threshold that represents
571 the minimum detectable burst flow. It is important to assess these quantitative metrics for a localisation
572 method in the future research, especially for a system equipped with a large number of sensors.

573 **CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS**

574 Although the advantages and disadvantages of some methods have been discussed in step 3 and step
575 4, there are some other issues in leakage detection methods that still need to be addressed.

576 **Different Types of Leakage**

577 Leaks could happen in all WDNs. Depending on the size of leakage, they can also be categorised as:
578 1) Background leaks (small flow rate, invisible), 2) Unreported leaks (moderate flow rate, invisible), 3)
579 Reported leaks/bursts (high flow rate, visible above ground). The burst events can be easily detected
580 due to a large amount of water loss, but it will have a negative impact on customer satisfaction and may
581 also cause contamination intrusion (Wu and Liu 2017). Compared with bursts, background and
582 unreported leaks can accumulate into greater water loss due to a longer time to awareness. Pre-
583 detection/detection of background and unreported leaks is challenging since the magnitude of leaks is
584 small. Jung and Lansey (2015) seem reached an accurate detection result for small magnitude burst
585 events, but the results were generated using synthetic data. Furthermore, the proposed method used
586 nearly 2,000 days of normal data for statistics calculation, and this kind of information usually is
587 unavailable in real life.

588 As shown in Table 1 and Table 2, most studies, especially data-driven methods, are focused on burst
589 detection and did not evaluate the detection ability for gradual leakage events that developed from
590 incipient leakages to burst events. Unlike bursts that can cause variation in a relatively short period (a
591 few hours) and can be characterised by sudden flow increase and sudden pressure drop, gradual leakages
592 will not generate noticeable deviation in the beginning stage and can be more challenging to detect. In
593 addition, gradual leakage can cause more damage if they remain undetected. However, to the best of
594 the authors' knowledge, there is no literature currently that have addressed this issue, and an early
595 warning system for gradual leakage events could be a topic in future research. The dataset created by
596 BattleDIM (Vrachminis et al. 2020) modelled different types of leakage (including burst, gradual
597 leakage and background leakage) to evaluate the performance of competitors' methods. The automatic
598 meter readings (AMRs) provide valuable information for accurate demand calibration, and most of
599 those methods are developed based on the well-calibrated hydraulic model (Steffelbauer et al. 2022,
600 Marzola et al. 2022). However, it should be noted that most water companies do not equip smart water

601 meters in real-life. Moreover, due to the complexity of BattleDIM, Marzola et al. (2022) used
602 engineering judgement and visual inspection instead of automated detection.

603 **Data Uncertainties**

604 In general, WDNs display the same daily water demand pattern, an increase in the early morning
605 and late afternoon during weekdays and a slightly different pattern during weekends. Leakage acts as a
606 demand in the network and affects pressure and flow values, but it does not follow the consumption
607 patterns. The uncertainties within the data have posed great difficulties for leak detection. Most methods
608 did not consider the demand variation caused by weather or the demand variation caused by population
609 increases. The model needs to be retrained regularly to adapt to the changing situation, which may be
610 time-consuming. Moreover, how to differentiate the variation caused by leakage and by weather,
611 holiday behaviour, human activities etc., is still an issue that needs to be addressed.

612 How to handle the spurious outliers is also a question that needs to be considered during leakage
613 detection. The current statistical information can be twisted by the incoming outliers and make the
614 baseline that represents the normal behaviour inaccurate. In order to reduce the influence caused by
615 outliers, Ye and Fenner (2014) used the expectation maximum algorithm to assign different weights to
616 the data to reduce the influence of spurious points. Wang et al. (2020) designed a feedback loop to
617 replace the detected outliers with a more appropriate value. Therefore, a feedback control system that
618 can combine the information of online detection results and model updating is needed. It is especially
619 important for real-time leak detection methods to involve the automatic adjustment of parameters during
620 failed conditions or develop a method that is robust to outliers.

621 **Hydraulic Model Uncertainties**

622 Hydraulic model-based methods are influenced by uncertainties in both the model and the
623 measurements. In the context of the hydraulic model, several simplifications in modelling will cause an
624 unrealistic representation of the WDN, such as: 1) pipes that are considered not essential will be
625 removed since it is computationally impractical to model all pipes of a large WDN; 2) water demands
626 are aggregated at junctions during the modelling process, but in real life, water usage happened along
627 pipes; 3) WDN input parameters contain uncertainties, such as pipe roughness, emitter coefficient. In
628 addition, the accuracy of the hydraulic model could be influenced by uncertainty in nodal demands,

629 measurements errors, etc. Thus, the residual between actual measurements and model output can be
630 different from zero, even in the absence of leaks. It is important to consider these uncertainties and
631 reduce the impact of these uncertainties so that a robust leak localisation method can be developed.
632 Cugueró-Escofet et al. (2015) studied the effect of demand uncertainty on the ability of localisation
633 methods, and Blesa and Pérez (2018) proposed a method of modelling the effect of these uncertainties
634 on model-based localisation methods. The results suggested that future works should consider the
635 uncertainty in the nominal value of the leak, inflow, and sensor measurements.

636 **Unrealistic Assumptions**

637 Most of the data-driven methods have a very important hidden assumption is that the historical data
638 used for model training doesn't contain any leakage events and is under normal operation. This is
639 because the accurate parameter estimation of the health situation of a WDN is needed to distinguish the
640 abnormal event. Romano et al. (2014) used SPC for historical data selection to ensure the quality of
641 training data. The accuracy of SPC is limited, and many normal data could be deleted even there are no
642 leakage events. Another frequently used assumption is that the system operation stage is assumed stable
643 during detection because it changes the behaviour of monitoring data. For example, if there is a pump
644 station located downstream of a DMA that pumps water to a water tank, the pumping station will also
645 cause sudden water outflow in the system, and the impact of the sudden pumping flow on the data
646 pattern will be the same as a burst event. Future research should consider how to detect burst or leakage
647 events even under the changing operation situation so that methods could be more robust in real-life
648 applications.

649 Most hydraulic model-based methods use some unrealistic assumptions for real-world deployment
650 such as: 1) assuming no measurement error, modelling error, calibration error, etc. 2) assuming that
651 customer behaviour doesn't change; 3) modelling leakage events as aggregated demands at junctions
652 or nodes, but in reality, the majority of leaks happen on pipes; 4) assuming that there are no uncertainties
653 in pipe roughness coefficient, which may vary depending on the pipe materials, age, or encrusted
654 materials on the pipe walls. Therefore, hydraulic model-based methods are targeted at finding leaks that
655 occur after calibration. For leaks that have not been correctly identified and located, pipeline roughness
656 values are often misadjusted to compensate for the head loss caused by those unidentified leaks (Wu et

657 al. 2010a). Currently, model-based methods still have room for improvement and have not reached the
658 maturity for mainstream adoption (Sophocleous et al. 2019). Thus, the question of how to develop a
659 robust method to overcome these assumptions is not easily solved.

660 **Spatial Relation of Sensors**

661 Currently, very few studies (Wu et al. 2018a; b) have considered the data from multiple sensors at
662 the same time, but developing a model for every sensor and the decision are made separately. Mounce
663 et al. (2003) proposed a data fusion technology to fuse the information from different sensors and
664 consider the cascading effect between each DMA. Multivariate methods which have been widely
665 applied in fault detection of smart-grid (Zhou et al. 2019b) have a bright future in leakage detection.
666 Compared with the univariate methods, multivariate analysis-based methods can consider the
667 correlations and, therefore, should provide a more efficient detection performance (Ni et al. 2020).

668 From Table 1, it can be observed that the application of data-driven methods is mainly focused on
669 leakage identification. However, it is worth exploring the application of data-driven methods for
670 leakage localisation. Since the reference behaviour can be described by a prediction model or statistical
671 characteristics, the influence of leakage to each sensor can be estimated by the deviance between leak
672 data and reference value. The influence of leakage is relative to the distance between leakage and the
673 sensor, and by quantifying the deviance value, the possible leakage area can be determined. Following
674 this idea, Wu et al. (2018) identified the approximate location information by calculating the
675 abnormality degree of each pressure sensor. Soldevila et al. (2019) have proposed data-driven leakage
676 localisation methods by comparing the pressure map estimated by Kriging spatial interpolation, and
677 Bayesian reasoning is applied to consider the temporal evolution to improve the accuracy of leakage
678 localisation.

679 **CONCLUSIONS**

680 Leakage affects the majority of water utilities in developed and developing countries. Many efforts
681 have been made to reduce leakage in water distribution systems. Leakage management has five aspects:
682 prevention, assessment, control, detection, and localization and repair. In this article, the systematic
683 review of leakage detection methods provides a compendium of information on existing technologies,

684 their main implementation steps and issues of concern for each step, their suitability for different cases
685 studies and their advantages and disadvantages.

686 A framework was developed to assess these methods. The framework has the following main steps:
687 1) definition of the main goal of the study, 2) data collection, 3) pre-processing of data, 4) data analysis
688 and 5) method evaluation. Leakage detection methods based on pressure and flow data were categorized
689 into hydraulic model-based and data-driven approaches. For leakage identification, data-driven methods
690 can take advantage of a large amount of monitoring data and explore more valuable information. For
691 leakage localisation, hydraulic model-based methods could take into account pressure data from
692 multiple sensors and provide more accurate localisation. For each method, the advantages and
693 disadvantages are provided in this paper.

694 In the future, researchers need to consider the limitations of current methodologies. Firstly, almost
695 all papers focus on burst events, but it is crucial to develop an early warning system to detect gradual
696 leakage before it causes obvious disruption and causes more water loss. Secondly, the uncertainties in
697 both monitoring data and hydraulic models have impeded the application of leakage detection methods,
698 and methods that can be robust to these uncertainties are needed in the future. Furthermore, it is
699 important for leak detection methods to involve the automatic adjustment of parameters to achieve
700 better real-time performance. Thirdly, it is important to realise the assumptions that have been made
701 when developing the method, and real-life scenarios are the final goal that makes fewer assumptions.
702 Fourthly, an information interaction system that can consider the information from multiple sensors is
703 needed so that decision making could be made comprehensively instead of independently. Finally, a
704 more comprehensive leakage detection evaluation method needs to be developed.

705 **DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENTS**

706 No data, models, or code were generated or used during the study (e.g. opinion or dateless paper).

707 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

708 The first author is funded by the China Scholarship Council (No. 202006370080), and the work is
709 supported by a Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Fellowship to resource Raziye Farmani's
710 involvement (IF\192057).

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Table 1. Summary of steps 0-1 of data-driven leakage detection studies

Category	Reference	Goal (Step 0)	Data Collection (Step 1)				
			Case Study	Data Type	Frequency	Leak Type	Leak Size
SPC-based methods	Misiunas et al. 2006	Identification/ Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow	1 min	Burst	5-10 L/s
	Palau et al. 2012	Identification	1 historical dataset	Flow	5 min	Burst	Around 5% of the average flow
	Jung et al. 2015	Identification	2 simulated datasets, 1 historical dataset	Flow, Pressure	5 min	Burst	0.13%-0.72% of the average flow
	Loureiro et al. 2016	Identification	1 historical dataset	Flow	15 min	Burst	--
	Ahn and Jung 2019	Identification	1 simulated dataset	Flow	5 min	Burst	0.1%-3.3% of the mean total demand
Prediction-classification methods	Mounce et al. 2002	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst	--
	Mounce et al. 2007	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow	15 min	Burst	5-7 L/s
	Mounce et al. 2010	Identification	1 historical dataset	Flow	15 min	Burst/Leak	9%-32% of the average demand
	Romano et al. 2011, 2014	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow	15 min	Burst	5%-16% of the average inflow
	Mounce et al. 2011	Identification	1 engineered test dataset, 1 historical dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst	6%-12% of the average daily maximum flow
	Ye and Fenner 2011, 2014	Identification	1 engineered test dataset, 1 historical dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst/Leak	1-5 L/s
	Bakker et al. 2014	Identification	1 historical dataset	Flow, Pressure	5 min	Burst	150 m ³ /h for largest area, 7 m ³ /h for smallest area
	Jung and Lansey 2015	Identification	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure	5 min	Burst	0.3%–7.0% of the mean total demand
	Wang et al. 2020	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow	5 min	Burst	2.8%-14% of the average inflow
	Xu et al. 2020	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow, Pressure	5 min	Burst	--
Clustering-based methods	Aksela et al. 2009	Identification	1 historical dataset	Flow	1 hour	Leak	--
	Wu et al. 2016	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow	5 min	Burst	13.3%-23.1% of current inflow
	Wu et al. 2018a	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Pressure	5 min	Burst	13.3%-23.1% of current inflow
	Huang et al. 2018	Identification	1 engineered test dataset	Flow	15 min	Burst	10%-20% of the average inflow
	Wu et al. 2020b	Identification	1 simulated dataset, 1 engineered test dataset	Flow	5 min, 15 min	Burst	6%–12% of the average inflow

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Table 2. Summary of steps 0-1 of hydraulic model-based leakage detection studies

Category	Reference	Goal (Step 0)	Data Collection (Step 1)				
			Case Study	Data Type	Frequency	Leak Type	Leak Size
Calibration-based methods	Misiunas et al. 2006	Identification, Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Pressure	1 min	Burst	5-10 L/s
	Wu et al. 2010b	Localisation	1 engineered test dataset, 1 historical dataset	Pressure	30 min	Leak	--
	Sanz et al. 2016	Identification, Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure	10 min	Burst	2.5%-13% of total consumption
	Berglund et al. 2017	Localisation	3 simulated datasets	Pressure	1 hour	Leak	Less than 0.5% of the total inflow
	Sophocleous et al. 2018, 2019	Localisation	1 simulated dataset, 1 historical dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst	5%-50% of the inlet flow
Sensitivity analysis-based methods	Farley et al. 2013	Localisation	1 engineered test dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst	--
	Kang and Lansley 2014	Identification, Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure	1 hour	Burst	Emitter coefficient of 0.1
	Perez et al. 2014	Localisation	1 engineered test dataset	Flow, Pressure	10 min	Leak	About 5.6 L/s
	Okeya et al. 2015	Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure	15 min	Burst	5%-50% of the average demand
	Giorgio Bort et al. 2014	Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Pressure	--	Leak	--
	Steffelbauer et al. 2022	Identification, Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure, AMR	5 min	Burst and leak	5-30 m ³ /h
Classification-based methods	Soldevila et al. 2016	Localisation	3 simulated datasets	Flow, Pressure	1 hour	Leak	0.84%-2.51% of the total demand
	Zhang et al. 2016	Localisation	2 simulated datasets	Pressure	--	Leak	Around 3% of the average demand
	Porwal et al. 2017	Localisation	1 simulated dataset	Flow, Pressure	30 min	Leak	Emitter coefficient of 0.005-0.1
	Zhou et al. 2019a	Localisation	2 simulated datasets	Pressure	15 min	Burst	Intensity coefficient of 10%-30%
	Hu et al. 2021b	Localisation	1 engineered test dataset	Flow, Pressure	--	Leak	10-38 L/s
	Romero et al. 2022	Localisation	1 historical dataset	Pressure	2 min	Leak	1.15 L/s
	Wu et al. 2022	Localisation	2 simulated datasets	Pressure	--	Leak	0-25 L/s

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Table 3. Summary of steps 2-4 of data-driven leakage detection studies

SPC-Based Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (Step 2)	Data Analytics (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
Misiunas et al. 2006	RLS (Denoising)	CUSUM		DT
Palau et al. 2012	Mean centering and scaling, PCA	Hotelling T^2 , DMOD		Detection effectiveness
Jung et al. 2015	Normalisation	WEC, CUSUM, EWMA, M-CUSUM, M-EWMA, Hotelling T2		ADT, TPR, NF
Loureiro et al. 2016	Moving average, data correction, normalisation	Modified Shewhart chart		TPR, FPR
Ahn and Jung 2019	Normalisation	Hybrid method of WEC and CUSUM		ADT, TPR, FPR
Prediction-Classification Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (Step 2)	Data Analytics (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
		Prediction model	Classification	
Mounce et al. 2002	Data correction, normalisation, reformatting	MDN	A classification module	--
Mounce et al. 2007, 2010	Data correction, normalisation, reformatting	ANN	FIS	--
Romano et al. 2011, 2014	SPC (Data selection), data correction, WT (de-noising)	ANN	SPC, BIS	DT, AUC
Mounce et al. 2011	Reformatting	SVR	Binomial event discriminator	--
Ye and Fenner 2011	Reformatting	KF	A user-defined threshold	--
Ye and Fenner 2014	Reformatting	Weighted least squares	A user-defined threshold	--
Bakker et al. 2014	--	Adaptive forecasting model (Bakker et al. 2013)	A user-defined threshold	DT, TPR, FPR, AUC
Jung and Lansy 2015	--	KF, NKF	CUSUM, Hotelling T^2	ADT, TPR, FPR
Wang et al. 2020	Reformatting	LSTM	Multithreshold classification based on time-varying z-score	DT, TPR, FPR
Xu et al. 2020	Linear interpolation (data correction), WT (data de-noising), normalisation	A parallel LSTM tandem deep neural network	A user defined value	DT, NF
Clustering-Based Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (step 2)	Data Analysis (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
		Similarity measure	Clustering	
Aksela et al. 2009	--	A leak function	SOM	
Wu et al. 2016	Reformatting	Euclidean distance	Clustering algorithm	TPR, FPR
Wu et al. 2018a	Data selection, reformatting, normalisation	Cosine distance	Clustering algorithm	TPR, FPR
Huang et al. 2018	Data selection	DTW	Random forest	TPR, FPR
Wu et al. 2020b	Normalisation, data selection, reformatting	Increase-state distance	ASS algorithm	TPR, NF, FPR
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Table 4. Summary of steps 2-4 of hydraulic model-based leakage detection studies

Calibration-Based Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (Step 2)	Data Analytics (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
		Objective Function	Optimisation Algorithm	
Misiunas et al. 2006	De-noising (RLS), model calibration	Minimising the sum of difference squares	Trial-and-error	Comparison of candidate node and predict node
Wu et al. 2010b	Model calibration	1. Minimise the sum of difference squares 2. Minimise the sum of absolute differences 3. Minimise the maximum absolute difference	Genetic Algorithm (GA)	Geographic distance to leak
Sanz et al. 2016	Model calibration	Minimising the error in pressure and flow measurements	Least squares	Graphical distance to leak, Pipe distance to leak
Berglund et al. 2017	Model calibration	Minimising the sum of absolute pressure difference	LP, MILP	Comparison of candidate node and predict node
Sophocleous et al. 2018, 2019	Model calibration	1. single-leak: minimise the weighted sum of squared flow 2. n leak: minimise the weighted sum of squared differences for both pressure and flow	Search space reduction, GA	Geographic distance to leak
Sensitivity Analysis-Based Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (Step 2)	Data Analytics (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
		Sensitivity Analysis	Decision Making	
Farley et al. 2013	Model calibration	Jacobian sensitivity matrix	GA	--
Giorgio Bort et al. 2014	Model calibration	Sensitivity matrix	PCA, Least squares	--
Kang and Lansey 2014	Model calibration	Binarised sensitivity matrix	Statistical analysis	--
Perez et al. 2014	Reformatting, Model calibration	Sensitivity matrix	Biggest correlation values	Visualization of leak map
Okeya et al. 2015	Model calibration	Binarised matrix	Trial-and-error	Visualization of leak map
Steffelbauer et al. 2022	Model calibration based on a so-called dual approach	Jacobian sensitivity matrix	Highest pearson correlation sum	Geographic distance to leak
Classification-Based Methods				
Reference	Data Preparation (Step 2)	Data Analytics (Step 3)		Evaluation metrics (Step 4)
		Training Data	Classifier	
Soldevila et al. 2016	Model calibration, data generation, node grouping	Pressure residuals	kNN	Graphical distance to leak
Zhang et al. 2016	Model calibration, zone division (k-means), data generation	Pressure residuals	M-SVM	Visualization of leak map, classification accuracy
Porwal et al. 2017	Model calibration, data generation	Leakage and non-leakage scenario	SVM	Classification accuracy
Zhou et al. 2019a	Model calibration, data generation	Leakage and non-leakage scenario	FL-DenseNet	Visualization of leak map
Hu et al. 2021b	Model calibration	Pressure and flow residuals	DBSCAN-MFCN	Comparison of candidate node and predict node

Romero et al. 2022	Data generation, image encoding (GAF), zone division (GAC)	Pressure data	DNN	Pipe distance to leak
Wu et al. 2022	Data generation, zone division (FCM)	Pressure residuals	XGBoost	Classification accuracy

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Table 5. Summary of performance evaluation of each method

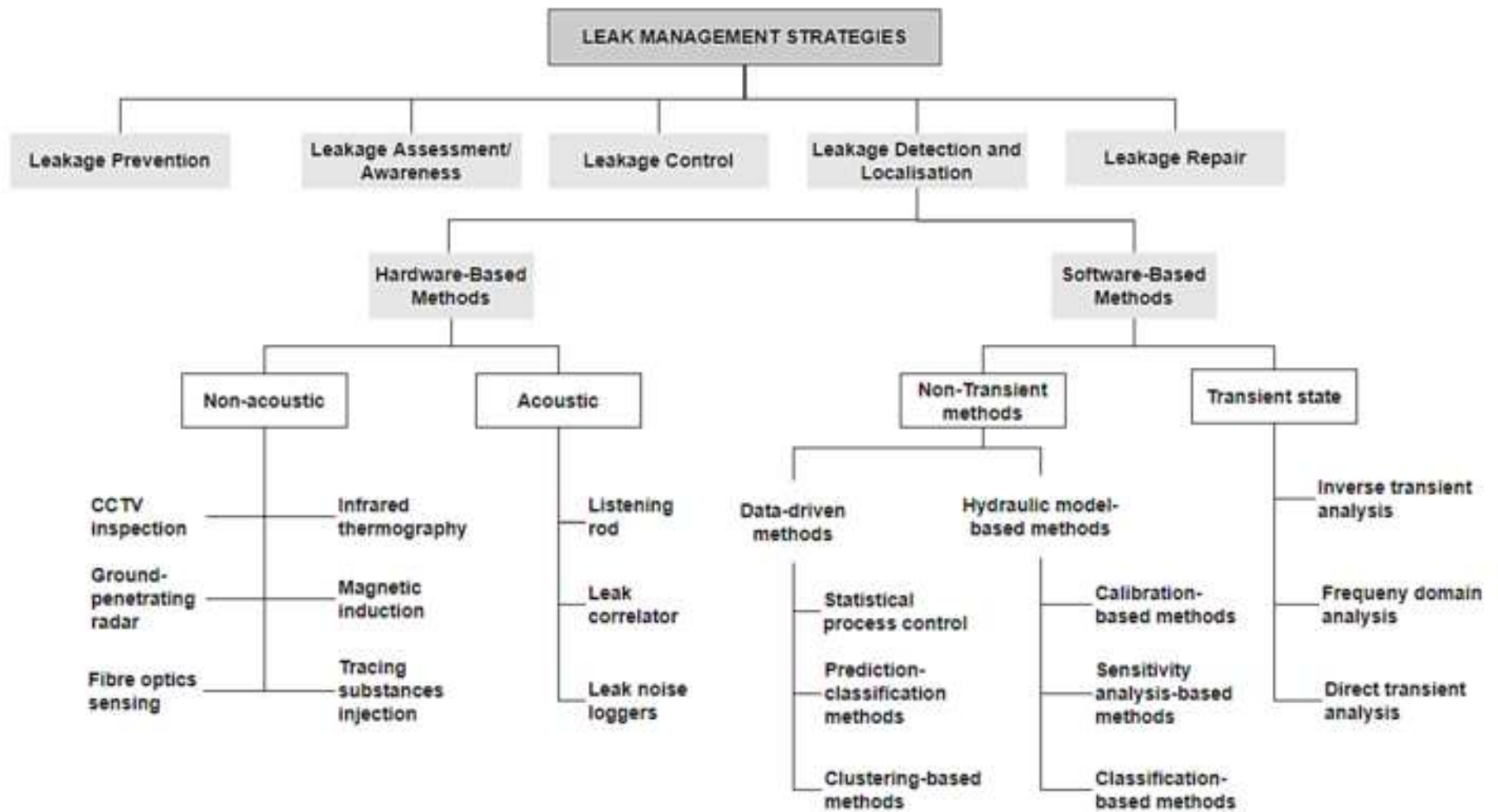
Performance evaluation criteria	Results	References	Categories
Leak identification			
Detection time (DT) or average detection time (ADT)	Within 5 minutes	Misiunas et al. 2006	SPC-based
	Around 2-12 hours	Jung et al. 2015	SPC-based
	1 hour 45 minutes average		Prediction-classification
	In most cases, within 15 minutes	Romano et al. 2011, 2014	Prediction-classification
	Less than 30 minutes	Bakker et al. 2014	Prediction-classification
	Around 1 – 5 hours	Jung and Lansey 2015	Prediction-classification
	Within 10 minutes	Wang et al. 2020	Prediction-classification
	Within 10 minutes	Xu et al. 2020	Prediction-classification
True positive rate (TPR) Or detection probability (DP)	Around 55% - 78%	Jung et al. 2015	SPC-based
	Around 80% - 93%	Loureiro et al. 2016	SPC-based
	In the beset model 81%	Ahn and Jung 2019	SPC-based
	In the best case, 90%	Bakker et al. 2014	Prediction-classification
	In the best model, 98%	Jung and Lansey 2015	Prediction-classification
	In the best model, 100%	Wang et al. 2020	Prediction-classification
	In the best model, 71.43%	Wu et al. 2016	Clustering-based
False Positive rate (FPR)	In the best model, 100%	Huang et al. 2018	Clustering-based
	In the best model, 90%	Wu et al. 2020b	Clustering-based
	Around 10% - 16%	Loureiro et al. 2016	SPC-based
	Around 0 - 1% per day	Ahn and Jung 2019	SPC-based
	In the best cases, 2.1%	Bakker et al. 2014	Prediction-classification
	Around 0 – 1% per day	Jung and Lansey 2015	Prediction-classification
	In the best model, 0.41%	Wang et al. 2020	Prediction-classification
Number of false positives (NF)	Around 0.4% – 0.8%	Wu et al. 2016	Clustering-based
	In the best model, 0%	Huang et al. 2018	Clustering-based
	Around 5% - 10%	Wu et al. 2020b	Clustering-based
	1-18 false positives per day	Jung and Lansey 2015	Prediction-classification
	2 false positives per day	Xu et al. 2020	Prediction-classification
	50-100 false positives	Wu et al. 2020b	Clustering-based
AUC	0.88	Romano et al. 2011, 2014	Prediction-classification
	0.972 for larger bursts, 0.535 for all bursts	Bakker et al. 2014	Prediction-classification
Leak localisation			
Geographic distance to leak	In most cases, around 200 m	Sanz et al. 2016	Calibration-based
	Within an area of 100 m radius	Wu et al. 2010b	Calibration-based
	In most cases, within 200 m	Sophocleous et al. 2018, 2019	Calibration-based
	Around 200 m	Soldevila et al. 2016	Classification-based
Pipe distance to leak	Within 500 m	Porwal et al. 2017	Classification-based
	In most cases, around 200-400 m	Sanz et al. 2016	Calibration-based
	In most cases, within 250 m	Steffelbauer et al. 2022	Sensitivity analysis-based
	Leakage scope is narrowed to the pipelines near the predicted leakage nodes	Zhang et al. 2016	Classification-based
	442 m	Romero et al. 2022	Classification-based
Classification accuracy	Around 80.78% - 99.25%	Zhang et al. 2016	Classification-based
	Around 40% - 90%	Porwal et al. 2017	Classification-based

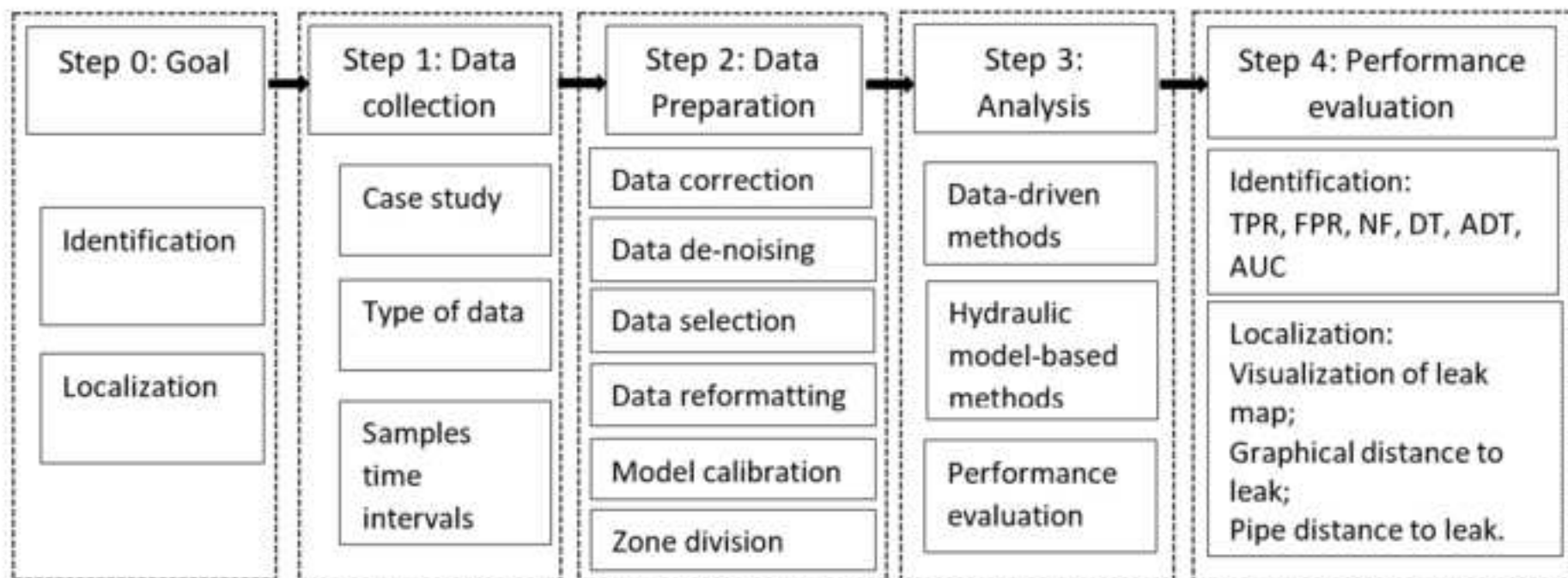
Around 85 % - 100%
Around 67.2% - 90.4%

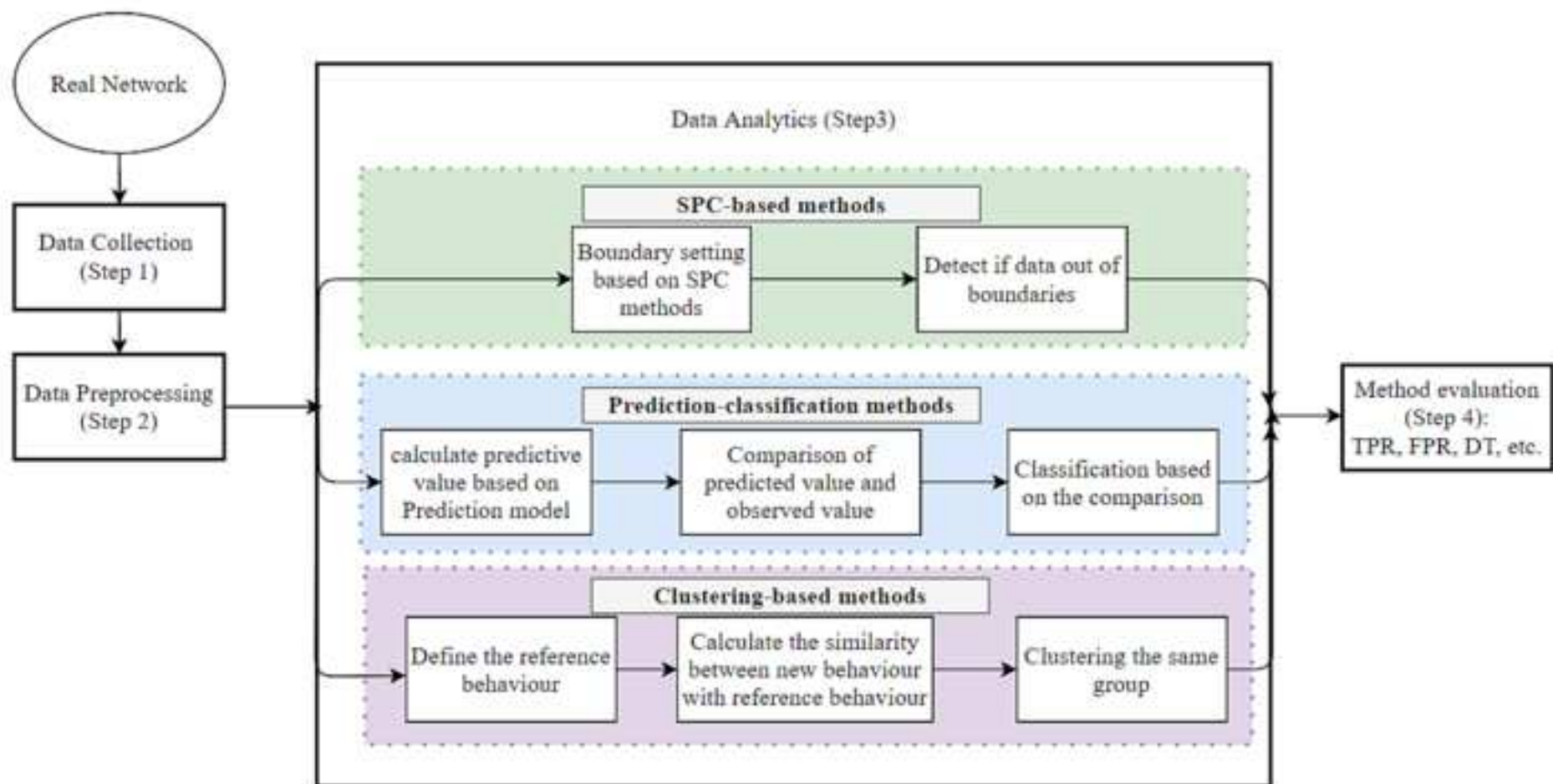
Zhou et al. 2019
Wu et al. 2022

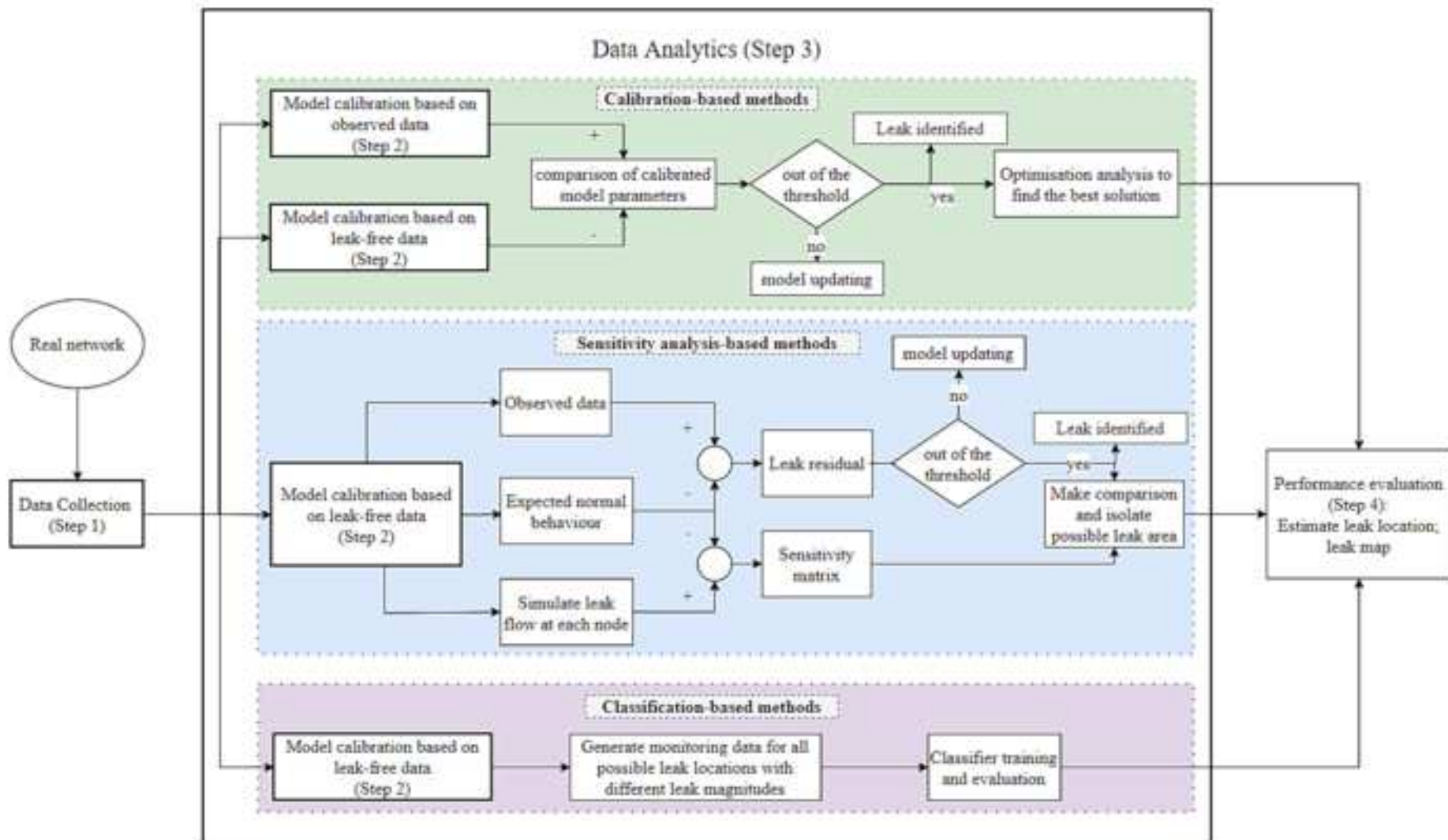
Classification-based
Classification-based

Fig. 1. Classification of leakage management and leakage detection methods









List of Figures

Fig. 1. Classification of leakage management and leakage detection methods

Fig. 2. The framework of data analytics for leakage detection

Fig. 3. Data analytic steps for data-driven leakage detection methods

Fig. 4. Data analytic steps for hydraulic model-based leakage detection methods