



UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

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# Methods for Automatic Sensitive Data Detection in Large Datasets: a Review

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"Digital platform for ensuring data privacy and prevention of malicious manipulation of the  
personal data – AIPD2"

# Overview

Introduction

Approaches

- Rule-based
- Machine learning

Comparison and best performance

Conclusion

# Introduction

What is sensitive data?

Presence and requirements of different domains.

Automatization

# Approaches to sensitive data detection

Rule-based

Machine  
learning

# Rule-based approaches



LOOKUP TABLE



REGULAR  
EXPRESSIONS



IDENTIFYING  
METADATA

# Rule-based approaches

## Pros:

- No samples
- Adding/changing rules

## Cons:

- Knowing and writing all rules
- Low generalizability

# Machine learning approaches

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Hidden Markov model (HMM)

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Conditional random fields (CRF)

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Recurrent neural networks (RNN)

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Long short-term memory (LSTM)

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Bidirectional Encoder Representations  
from Transformers (BERT)

# Machine learning approaches

## Pros:

- Generalizable
- Learns edge cases by itself

## Cons:

- Large amounts of data
- Hard to add/change edge cases later



Best  
performance

Depends  
on the  
task!

Latest and most  
advanced modules

Combination  
of approaches



# Conclusion

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Automation detection processes

Comparison of various detection approaches

Need for more research

Questions?

