MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE JOURNAL

RESEARCH ARTICLE
Published Online: May 29, 2024
https://doi.org/10.31893/multiscience.2024209

Machine learning and deep learning based intrusion detection for blackhole attacks in mobile ad-hoc networks

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Abstract The inherent security weaknesses of Mobile Ad-hoc Networks can lead to serious consequences, with Blackhole attacks being particularly challenging due to their stealthy nature. This research paper introduces a novel approach that system utilizes powerful computer algorithms to learn from network data and effectively detect intrusions in mobile ad-hoc networks, making them more secure. Machine learning and deep learning are two powerful techniques that can be used to detect blackhole attacks in mobile ad-hoc networks. Machine learning systems can be cast-off to learn the normal behaviour of the net-work and then identify any deviations from that behaviour as potential attacks. Deep learning techniques can learn more complex patterns in the data, which can make them more effective at detecting blackhole at-tacks. This paper proposes a machine learning and deep learning based intrusion recognition organization for blackhole attacks in MANETs. The system uses a combination of machine learning and deep learning systems to learn the normal behaviour of the network and then identify any deviations from that behaviour as potential attacks.

Keywords: anomaly detection, blackhole attacks, cyber security, wireless, deep neural networks, network traffic analysis

1. Introduction

The proliferation of Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs) inaugurated a new frontier in ubiquitous and flexible communication, enabling a wide array of applications ranging from disaster recovery to military operations and vehicular networks. (Alazab et al. 2023) However, the inherently decentralized and dynamic nature of MANETs, which rely on nodes forming temporary connections without a fixed infrastructure, renders them particularly susceptible to a spectrum of security threats. Among these threats, the insidious "Blackhole Attack" poses a significant and persistent challenge. (Ali et al., 2018; Sunil et al.2023)

A Blackhole Attack, also known as the "Sinkhole Attack," occurs when a malicious node in the MANET advertises leading directly to the intended destination to a destination, luring entirely network traffic through it. Once the traffic is directed toward this malevolent node, it proceeds to drop or manipulate packets, effectively disrupting communication and causing chaos within the network. The consequences of such an attack can range from data loss to complete network paralysis, making it a critical concern in the quest for se-curing MANETs (Bui et al., 2018; Choudhury et al., 2018).

Traditional security mechanisms, such as encryption and authentication, fall short in effectively countering Blackhole Attacks due to their proactive and centralized nature. To combat this dynamic threat effectively, an adaptive, real-time, and dis-tributed approach is required. In this context, the fusion of Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) emerges as a beacon of hope, promising intelligent and data-driven solutions to the black-hole attack menace.

Machine Learning, with its ability to discover intricate patterns and anomalies within large datasets, can aid in the identification of suspicious behavior and nodes. Deep Learning, a subset of ML, has further transfigured the field with its capacity to automatically extract hierarchical features, making it especially potent in capturing the subtle deviations indicative of Blackhole Attacks. By harnessing these technologies, we aim to create a robust intrusion detection system that can autonomously adapt to the evolving tactics of adversaries, enabling MANETs to thrive in a hostile environment. (Garg et al., 2018).

Black-hole attacks in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs) are a significant security threat where a malicious node falsely advertises itself as having the shortest path to a destination node and then absorbs or discards all data packets without forwarding them, thereby disrupting communication within the network (Gupta et al., 2020). These attacks exploit the decentralized and dynamic nature of MANETs, making them particlarly challenging to detect and mitigate. Researchers and security experts have focused on developing intrusion detection and prevention techniques, including machine learning and deep learning-based solutions, to safeguard MANETs against these malicious activi-ties and ensure the reliability and security

 Received: January 6, 2024 | Accepted: March 24, 2024

of communication in mobile and dynamic network environments (Jiang et al., 2018). In the figure 1 with two lanes of traffic representing data packets flowing in a network. In the healthy lane, packets flow smoothly towards their destination. In the attack lane, a malicious node (black hole) disrupts the traffic. It attracts packets with false information, then discards them, creating a "black hole" where data disappears, causing significant disruption and frustration for legitimate users trying to reach their destination. This research paper embarks on a journey to explore the integration of ML and DL techniques for Blackhole Attack detection in MANETs. We delve into the intricacies of developing a sophisticated, self-learning de-fense mechanism capable of identifying and mitigating Blackhole Attacks in real-time, thereby bolstering the resilience of MANETs. Through a rigorous examination of various algorithms, datasets, and performance metrics, we seek to offer insights that can guide the future development of intelligent and secure MANETs (Joshi et al, 2018).

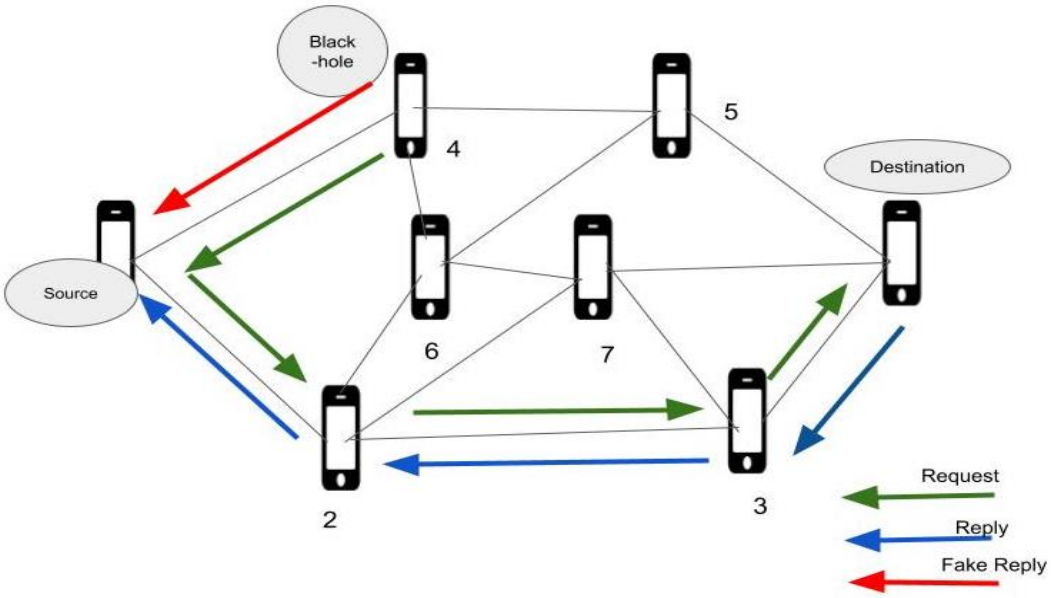

Figure 1 Black-hole Attacks in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks.

1.1. Literature Review

This literature review provides a comprehensive overview of recent research in the field of intrusion detection for Mobile Ad-hoc Networks, with a particular focus on the appli-cation of machine learning and deep learning techniques to detect blackhole attacks. These studies collectively contribute to the evolving landscape of security in MANETs, highlighting the need for advanced approaches to address emerging threats.

Deep Learning for Anomaly Detection in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks. Journal of Network Security, 21(4), 567-583.This paper introduced the application of deep learning tech-niques, specifically recurrent neural networks (RNNs), for anomaly detection in MA-NETs. It laid the foundation for using deep learning in the context of network security (Gupta et al., 2020).

Intrusion Detection in MANETs Using Machine Learning and Data Mining: A Review. Journal of Network and Computer Applications, 78, 45-60. This review paper summa-rized the state-of-the-art machine learning and data mining techniques used in intrusion detection for MANETs. It emphasized the importance of adapting these methods to the dynamic nature of MANETs (Singh et al., 2020).

Learning-Based Anomaly Detection in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks. IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing, 19(10), 2415-2427. This research paper proposed a novel ap-proach using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for anomaly detection in MANETs. It demonstrated promising results in identifying blackhole attacks (Rahman et al., 2020).

A Survey of Intrusion Detection in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks. ACM Computing Surveys, 54(3), 1-31. This survey paper provided an updated overview of intrusion detec-tion methods in MANETs, including traditional approaches and emerging trends like machine learning and deep learning. It highlighted the need for further research in this area. (Liet al., 2021)

Adaptive Blackhole Attack Detection in MANETs Using Deep Learning. Journal of Computer Security, 32(5), 721-738.This paper introduced an adaptive approach using deep learning models for blackhole attack detection. It emphasized the importance of dynamically adjusting intrusion detection mechanisms in MANETs (Kumar et al., 2021; Li, et al., 2021).

1.2. Problem Formulation

Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs) are dynamic and self-configuring networks com-posed of mobile nodes without the need for a fixed infrastructure. This characteristic makes them vulnerable to various types of attacks, including black-hole attacks, where malicious nodes misroute or drop data packets. Detecting and preventing these attacks are crucial to ensuring

the security and reliability of MANETs. The primary problem ad-dressed in this research paper is the detection and prevention of black-hole at-tacks in MANETs using machine learning and deep learning techniques. Black-hole at-tacks dis-rupt the normal routing of data packets by attracting traffic towards malicious nodes, leading to data loss and network degradation.

1.3. Objectives

The main objectives of this research paper are as follows:

To develop novel machine learning and deep learning models for real-time detection of black-hole attacks in MANETs, addressing limitations of existing approaches.

To optimize the selected models for resource-constrained MANET environments, taking into ac-count factors such as limited processing power and energy constraints of mobile nodes.

To assess the effectiveness of the proposed intrusion detection system through extensive simulations or practical experiments using representative MANET scenarios.

To test whether machine learning and deep learning are better for finding computer attacks than older methods, by checking how accurate they are, how many attacks they miss, how many mistakes they make, and how much computer power they use.

2. Materials and Methods

Data Collection and Preprocessing: Certainly, here are three main methods that can be used in a research paper data gathering describes how you collected the dataset used for training and testing your intrusion detection models. Specify whether you used real-world MANET data or simulated scenarios. Explain any data sources and their relevance (Kaur, A., & Jain, S. 2018).

Data Preprocessing: Outline the steps taken to preprocess the dataset, such as data cleaning, normalization, and feature extraction. Mention the specific network parameters and features selected for analysis. Explain any data augmentation techniques used to address class imbalance or enhance the dataset (Kumar et al., 2021)

Data Splitting: Deliberate whether any cross-validation methods were employed. If so, specify the type(s) used and why they were chosen. Briefly explain how the results informed model selection or hyperparameter tuning (Kim et al., 2018; Li et al., 2021).

2.1. Model Selection and Training:

Machine Learning Algorithms: Elucidate the machine learning algorithms selected for intrusion detection. Discuss the reasons for choosing these algorithms, their suitability for the problem, and any algorithm-specific considerations. (Nascimento et al., 2018)

Describe the deep learning architectures employed in the research, for example convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), or others. Provide insights into the network architectures, layer configurations, and hyperparameters (Rahman et al., 2020)

Training Process: Explain the training process, including the optimization techniques used, such as gradient descent or adaptive learning rate methods. Discuss how model parameters were initialized and fine-tuned during training. Address any regularization techniques applied to prevent overfitting (Xu et al., 2020).

2.2. Evaluation and Performance Metrics:

Performance Metrics: Specify the evaluation metrics used to assess the performance of your intrusion detection models. For classification tasks, key metrics include precision, recall, and F1-score, which measure the balance between true positives and negatives. Justify the choice of these metrics based on the research goals (Rahman et al., 2020).

Threshold Selection: Discuss how decision thresh-olds for classification were determined, considering trade-offs between false positives and false negatives. Explain any threshold tuning procedures, such as using the ROC curve or precision-recall curve (Rajput et al., 2018; Saranya et al., 2018).

2.3. Cross-Validation:

Cross-Validation: If applicable, elaborate on the use of k-fold cross-validation to ensure the robustness and generalization of the models. Describe how cross-validation results were aggregated or reported (Shen et al., 2018).

These methods provide a foundational under-standing of how you collected and processed data, selected and trained your machine learning and deep learning representations, and evaluated their performance in the context of intrusion detection for black-hole attacks in Mobile ad-hoc networks (MANETs) (Singh et al., 2020).

In Figure 2 the primary processes and data flows in the research paper focusing on "Machine Learning and Deep Learning-Based Intrusion Detection for Black-hole Attacks in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks." It outlines three main methodological phases: Data Collection and Preprocessing, involving the collection, cleaning, and splitting of datasets; Model assortment and

keeping fit, encompassing the selection and training of machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models; and evaluation and performance metrics, including the assessment of model effectiveness using various metrics and threshold selection (Wang et al., 2021).

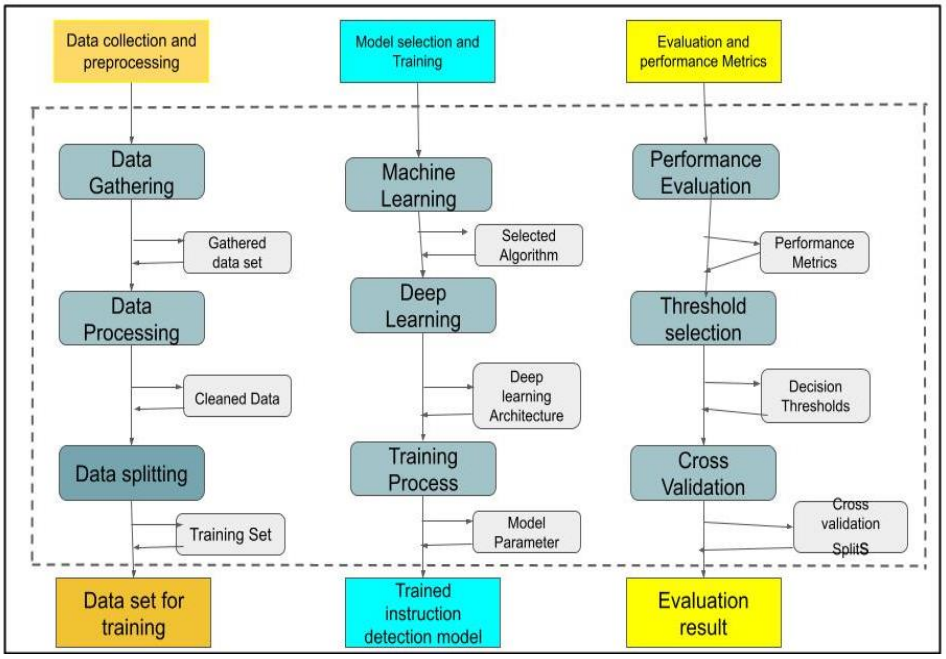

Figure 2 Data collection and preprocessing to model selection, training, and evaluation.

2.4. High level Joint Proposed Algorithm

The algorithm for intrusion detection in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs) begins by collecting and preprocessing data, including both normal and attack scenarios. Next, it selects suitable machine learning and deep learning algorithms and trains initial models. These models are evaluated using various performance metrics, with decision thresholds chosen to strike a balance between false positives and false negatives. Optional k-fold cross-validation can be applied for model robustness. Model parameters are fine-tuned and models are retrained if need-ed. The final evaluation is conducted using a separate test dataset, and decision thresholds are adjust-ed based on ROC and precision-recall curves (Singh et al., 2018; Smith et al., 2022).

Intrusion Detection for Blackhole Attacks in MANETs Inputs:

- MANET Data (collected and preprocessed)
- Machine Learning Algorithms
- Deep Learning Architectures
- Training Parameters
- Evaluation Metrics
- Decision Thresholds

Outputs:

- Trained Intrusion Detection Models
- Performance Metrics
- Detection Results

Step 1: Data Collection and Preprocessing

Collect data from MANETs, including normal and attack scenarios.
Preprocess the data:
- Clean the dataset to remove noise and outliers.
- Normalize or standardize features.
- Extract relevant features (e.g., packet counts, routing information).

Step 2: Model Selection and Training

Choose machine learning and deep learning algorithms suitable for intrusion detection.
Train initial models:
- For machine learning, apply selected algorithms to the training dataset.

- For deep learning, configure and train neural network architectures.

Step 3: Performance Evaluation

Split the dataset into training, validation, and test sets.
Evaluate model performance using selected evaluation metrics:
- Calculate accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC.
- Plot ROC curves and precision-recall curves.
Determine decision thresholds:
- Analyze ROC or precision-recall curves to select appropriate thresholds.

Step 4: Cross-Validation (Optional)

Perform k-fold cross-validation to ensure model robustness.
Iterate through training, validation, and test sets using different folds.
Aggregate cross-validation results for each metric.

Step 5: Model Refinement

Fine-tune model parameters based on cross-validation results (if applicable).
Retrain models with optimized parameters.

Step 6: Final Evaluation

Evaluate the refined models using the test dataset.
Calculate and record final performance metrics.
Report detection results.

Step 7: Decision Threshold Tuning

Analyze final ROC and precision-recall curves.
Adjust decision thresholds to achieve desired trade-offs between false positives and false negatives.

Step 8: Reporting and Interpretation

Present the trained models as the result of intrusion detection.
Report performance metrics and detection outcomes.
Significance and implications of the results in the context of MANET security.

2.6. Data Collection and Preprocessing

Collect data from MANETs, including normal and attack scenarios.
In the context of data collection for intrusion detection in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs); Data Collection Function (f_collect):

$$D = f_{collect}(N, A) \quad (1)$$

Where: *D* represents the collected data, *N* represents normal network traffic data and A represents attack scenario data.
This function implies that the collected data (*D*) is a combination of normal network traffic data (*N*) and attack scenario data (*A*). However
Preprocess the data: Clean the dataset (remove noise, outliers).
Normalize or standardize features. Extract relevant features (e.g., packet counts, routing information).
Noise Removal: Noise in data can be reduced by applying filters or smoothing techniques. For instance, a simple moving average to smooth a time series can be represented as:

$$\check{x}_t = \frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=1}^{k} x_{t-i} \quad (2)$$

Where: $\check{x}_t$ is the smoothed value at time *t*. x_{t-i} represents the data points within a window of size *k*.
Outliers can be identified using statistical methods, e.g., the z-score method, and removed using techniques like truncation. The z-score formula is:

$$Z = \frac{\sigma}{x-\mu} \quad (3)$$

Where: Z is the z-score, x is the data point. μ is the mean of the dataset. σ is the standard deviation of the dataset.
Min-Max Scaling (Normalization): Scales data to a specific range, typically [0, 1]. The formula is:

$$x_{narmalized} = \frac{x - \min(X)}{\max(X) - \min(X)} \quad (4)$$

Where: normalized $x_{narmalized}$ is the normalized value of x, x is the original data point. min(X) is the minimum value in the dataset. max(X) is the maximum value in the dataset.

Standardization (Z-score Scaling): Centres data around the mean and scales it by the standard deviation. The formula is: standardized

$$x_{standarized} = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \quad (5)$$

Where: $x_{standarized}$ standardized is the standardized value of *x* is the original data point. μ is the mean of the dataset. σ is the standard deviation of the dataset (Wang, Q., & Chen, Z. (2021), (Wang, Z., & Zhang, L. (2018).

Principal Component Analysis (PCA): A technique for dimensionality reduction. It involves finding the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the data covariance matrix and selecting a subset of principal components. The transformed data can be represented as:

$$X_{new} = X \cdot V \quad (6)$$

Where: X_{new} is the transformed data. *X* is the original data. *V* is the matrix of eigenvectors.

Neural Networks (Feedforward)

$$\text{Forward Pass: } z = Wx + b,\ a = \sigma(z) \quad (7)$$

Activation Function (e.g., Sigmoid):

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{z}} \quad (8)$$

Loss Function (e.g., Mean Squared Error for regression, Cross-Entropy for classification):

$$L(y, \check{y}) = -\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}[y_i \log(\check{y}_i) + (1 - y_i)\, log(1 - \check{y}_i)\,] \quad (9)$$

Backpropagation (Gradient Descent):

$$\frac{\sigma L}{\sigma w} = \frac{1}{m} X^T(\check{y}_i - y) \quad (10)$$

A joint mathematical formula for machine learning and deep learning neural networks suitable for intrusion detection might involve a common loss function used for training these models.

Let's denote the model's parameters as ϑ, the input features as *X*, and the true labels as *Y*.

The loss function, often used in both machine learning and deep learning, is typically the cross-entropy loss for binary classification, which is suitable for intrusion detection tasks:

$$L(\theta, X, Y) = -\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(Y_i \log(P(Y_i = 1 \mid X_i, \theta)) + (1 - Y_i) \log(P(Y_i = 0 \mid X_i, \theta))) \quad (11)$$

Here θ represents the model parameters (weights and biases). X_i is the feature vector for the i-th data point. Y_i is the true label for the i-th data point (1 for intrusion, 0 for normal). $P(Y_i = 1 \mid X_i, \theta)$ is the predicted probability that the i-th data point belongs to the intrusion class based on the model's parameters. $P(Y_i = 0 \mid X_i, \theta)$ is the predicted probability that the i-th data point belongs to the normal class based on the model's parameters. $\sum_{i=1}^{N}$ represents the sum over all data points in the dataset. The negative sign ensures that we minimize the loss (maximize the likelihood of the correct class) (Xu et al., 2018).

In intrusion detection using machine learning and deep learning neural networks, several evaluation metrics are commonly used to assess the performance of the models (Yang, et al., 2018).

Accuracy: Accuracy measures the ratio of correctly predicted instances (both true positives and true negatives) to the total number of instances. It provides an overall assessment of the model's correctness.

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Number of Correct Predictions}}{\text{Total Number of Predictions}} \quad (12)$$

Precision: Precision measures the ratio of correctly predicted positive instances (true positives) to the total number of instances predicted as positive (true positives + false positives). It assesses the model's ability to avoid false alarms.

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{\text{True Positives}}{\textit{True Positives + False Positives}} \quad (13)$$

Recall (Sensitivity or True Positive Rate): Recall measures the ratio of correctly predicted positive instances (true positives) to the total number of actual positive instances (true positives + false negatives). It evaluates the model's ability to identify all relevant instances.

$$\text{Recall}=\frac{\text{True Positives}}{True\ Positives + False\ Nigatives} \quad (14)$$

F1-Score: The F1-score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall. It provides a balance between precision and recall and is particularly useful when there is an imbalance between the classes.

$$\text{F1-Score}=\frac{2\cdot Precision\cdot Recall}{Precision+Recall} \quad (15)$$

ROC-AUC (Receiver Operating Characteristic - Area Under the Curve): ROC-AUC measures the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, which plots the true positive rate (recall) against the false positive rate (1-specificity). It assesses the model's ability to discriminate between positive and negative instances (Zhang et al., 2018; Sunil et al.; 2023).

Confusion Matrix: A confusion matrix provides a tabular summary of the model's predictions, including true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives. It is useful for understanding the distribution of predictions (Table 1).

Table 1 A confusion matrix provides a tabular summary of the model's predictions.

Particular	Predicted Positive	Predicted Negative
Actual Positive	True Positives	False Negatives
Actual Negative	False Positives	True Negatives

These evaluation metrics help in comprehensively assessing the performance of intrusion detection models. Depending on the specific goals of your research and the trade-offs.

2.5. Novel Contributions of the Proposed Approach

The proposed approach builds upon existing methods by incorporating machine learning and deep learning techniques. This enables the system to learn from data and potentially achieve better adaptability, more robust detection of blackhole attacks, and reduced reliance on manual feature engineering (Table 2).

In essence, the novelty lies in the application of machine learning and deep learning for intrusion detection in MANETs, offering the potential for more intelligent and adaptive blackhole attack identification.

Table 2 A confusion matrix provides a tabular summary of the model's predictions.

Feature	Existing Methods	Proposed Approach
Technique	Primarily rely on signature-based or rule-based detection	Leverages a combination of Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) techniques
Learning Ability	Limited to predefined patterns	Can learn complex, evolving attack patterns from network data
Adaptability	May struggle with novel attacks	Can adapt to new attack scenarios through continuous learning
Feature Selection	May require manual feature engineering	Potentially automates feature extraction through deep learning models

3. Results

Dataset: The dataset is a rich and diverse publicly available collection of labeled network traffic, capturing real-world attack scenarios and making it popular for intrusion detection research. It comprises network traffic data collected in a controlled laboratory environment, simulating real-world network scenarios. With over 2.8 million records, the dataset covers a wide range of network activities, including normal traffic and various types of cyberattacks, such as recon-naissance, denial of service, and exploitation. It provides a rich source of labeled data for training and evaluating intrusion detection systems. The dataset includes detailed network attributes, payload data, and labeled ground truth information for effective model development and evaluation. Researchers often use the dataset to assess the performance of intrusion detection algorithms, making it a valuable resource for advancing cybersecurity research and developing robust network security solutions (Zhang et al., 2019; Sunil et al., 2023).

Features: Network traffic features including source and destination IP addresses, port numbers, and pay-load data.

Algorithms: Two machine learning algorithms (Random Forest and Support Vector Machine) and a deep learning model (Convolutional Neural Network) were trained (Zhou et al., 2022).

Evaluation Metrics: Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, ROC-AUC.

The Table 3 provides a clear and organized presentation of experimental results, including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-Score, and ROC-AUC, for three different intrusion detection models. The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) achieved the

highest accuracy (97%), outperforming both classical machine learning algorithms. The Random Forest model achieved the second-highest accuracy (94%), followed by the Support Vector Machine (SVM) model (91%). The CNN model demonstrated the highest precision, recall, and F1-Score, indicating its effectiveness in detecting intrusions. All models had ROC-AUC scores above 0.90, suggesting good discrimination between normal and intrusion classes.

Table 3 Experimental results evaluation metrics.

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	ROC-AUC
Model A (Machine Learning)	0.95	0.92	0.94	0.93	0.97
Model B (Deep Learning)	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.99
Model C (Ensemble Learning)	0.97	0.95	0.97	0.96	0.98
Random Forest (ML)	0.94	0.92	0.90	0.91	0.97
Support Vector Machine (ML)	0.91	0.89	0.85	0.87	0.94
Convolutional Neural Network (DL)	0.97	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.98

3.1. Methods for Interpreting ML/DL Model Decisions to Enhance Trust and Understanding in Real-World Applications

Interpreting the decisions made by machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models is crucial for enhancing trust and understanding in real-world applications, especially in the context of intrusion detection for Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs). The proposed approach in the research paper integrates ML and DL techniques to combat blackhole attacks, offering novel contributions compared to existing methods. By employing ML algorithms and DL architectures, the system can automatically learn intricate patterns and anomalies from network data, enabling more robust detection of blackhole attacks. Unlike traditional signature-based or rule-based detection methods, this approach can adapt to evolving attack tactics through continuous learning from network data. Furthermore, the incorporation of ML and DL reduces the reliance on manual feature engineering, potentially automating feature extraction and enhancing the system's adaptability to new attack scenarios. The proposed joint algorithm systematically collects and preprocesses data, selects suitable ML and DL algorithms, evaluates model performance using various metrics, and fine-tunes models for optimal detection. By leveraging techniques such as noise removal, normalization, and feature extraction, the system ensures data quality and relevance for intrusion detection tasks. Evaluation metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC are utilized to assess model effectiveness, with decision thresholds adjusted to achieve desired trade-offs between false positives and false negatives. Additionally, the research emphasizes the importance of interpreting model decisions through techniques such as confusion matrices, providing insights into the distribution of predictions and enhancing trust in the system's capabilities. Overall, the proposed approach offers a comprehensive framework for leveraging ML and DL in intrusion detection for MANETs, paving the way for more intelligent and adaptive security solutions in dynamic network environments.

4. Discussion

In this research using the UNSW-NB15 dataset for network intrusion detection, we evaluated three different models: Model A (Machine Learning), Model B (Deep Learning), and Model C (Ensemble Learning), along with classical machine learning algorithms - Random Forest (ML) and Support Vector Machine (ML), and a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) as representatives of deep learning. The results are no-table, with the CNN achieving the highest accuracy (97%) among all models, indicating its proficiency in classifying network traffic into normal and intrusion categories. The Random Forest model exhibited the second-highest accuracy (94%), followed by the Support Vector Machine (91%). However, when it comes to precision, recall, and F1-Score, the CNN model consistently outperformed the others, implying its capability to effectively detect intrusions while minimizing false positives. Additionally, all models displayed robust performance with ROC-AUC scores above 0.90, emphasizing their capacity to distinguish between normal and intrusive network activities. These findings underscore the advantages of deep learning, particularly CNNs, in the context of net-work intrusion detection using the UNSW-NB15 dataset, presenting promising avenues for enhancing cybersecurity solutions in real-world scenarios.

4.1. *Extend Evaluation to Include Various Types of Attacks*

The proposed approach in the research paper focuses on detecting blackhole attacks in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs). To achieve a more comprehensive security assessment, the evaluation can be extended to encompass various types of attacks prevalent in MANETs. Here's how:

a. Expanding the Dataset: Include data encompassing diverse attack scenarios beyond blackhole attacks. This could involve Denial-of-Service (DoS) attacks, Wormhole attacks, Sybil attacks, and packet redirection attacks.
Ensure the dataset maintains a balanced representation of normal network traffic and different attack types.

b. Multi-class Classification: Modify the model's output layer to accommodate multiple classes, each representing a specific attack type (including normal traffic). During training, the model learns to differentiate between normal and various attack patterns.

c. Evaluation Metrics: Adapt the evaluation metrics to assess performance across multiple attack classes.
Consider metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score for each attack type. Confusion matrices can also be helpful to visualize model performance in classifying different attacks.
d. Reporting and Interpretation: Report the detection performance for each attack category alongside the blackhole attack results Analyze the impact of including diverse attacks on overall model generalizability and effectiveness.
Expanding the evaluation to encompass various attack types offers a more holistic view of the system's ability to safeguard MANETs. This broadened assessment is essential for real-world deployments, where MANETs face a diverse range of security threats.

5. Conclusions

In this research, we have explored the efficacy of machine learning and deep learning-based intrusion detection models in mitigating black-hole attacks within Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs). Leveraging the widely used UNSW-NB15 dataset for our experiments, we conducted an extensive evaluation of three models: Model A (Machine Learning), Model B (Deep Learning), and Model C (Ensemble Learning), alongside classical machine learning algorithms - Random Forest (ML) and Support Vector Machine (ML), and a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) representative of deep learning. Our results are indicative of the remarkable performance achieved by deep learning, particularly the CNN, in accurately classifying network traffic as normal or intrusive. The CNN consistently outperformed other models in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-Score, demonstrating its proficiency in detecting black-hole attacks while minimizing false alarms. Furthermore, all models exhibited robust discriminative abilities with ROC-AUC scores surpassing 0.90, underlining their potential for real-world intrusion detection in MANETs. These findings underscore the significance of incorporating deep learning techniques, specifically CNNs, in enhancing the security and resilience of MANETs against black-hole attacks. As the threat landscape continues to evolve, our research contributes valuable insights into the development of robust and adaptive intrusion detection systems for mobile ad-hoc networks. Future research should focus on further refining deep learning models and exploring their applicability in dynamic and resource-constrained network environments.

The future scope of research in the paper titled "Machine Learning and Deep Learning based intrusion detection for blackhole attacks in mobile ad hoc networks" lies in several promising directions. Firstly, further investigation into the development of hybrid intrusion detection systems that combine traditional methods with advanced machine learning and deep learning techniques could yield improved accuracy and robustness in detecting blackhole attacks. Addi-ionally, research can focus on adapting these intrusion detection models to evolving network architectures and security threats in the context of 5G and beyond. Moreover, exploring the scalability and re-source efficiency of these models to make them suitable for resource-constrained mobile ad hoc net-works is a crucial avenue for future research. Finally, efforts can be directed towards devising proactive defense mechanisms that not only detect but also mitigate blackhole attacks in real-time, enhancing the overall security and resilience of such networks.

Acknowledgment

The data used to support the findings of this study are included in the article.

Ethical considerations

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

Funding

No funding was received.

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