WEB ATTACK DETECTION USING ML

A Project Report

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Abstract

This project proposes a two-level IDS model that utilizes the UNSW-NB15 dataset, applying various ML feature reduction and classification methods to try and detect web attacks. We use a tool called Weka that simulates various ML algorithms to get the experimental values. By using various attribute evaluation algorithms such as InfoGain, Gain Ratio, Correlation, Symmetrical Uncertainty, Chi Squared, Relief F, we get the weights associated with the attributes of the training set. We then apply classifier functions such as tree-based classifiers, rule-based classifiers, and Bayes classifiers on the training set, and get the accuracy. We then select the classifiers that give the best accuracy, and perform performance analysis on the testing set by using these specific classifiers, by taking the sets of the attributes of the testing set according to various rules, such as taking threshold value of weights in steps of 0.1, taking the attributes in steps of 25 percent and 10 percent of all attributes, taking union-intersection of multiple attribute evaluation algorithms and running the analysis on those, and so on. This gives us the final accuracy for our first level, that means the best result which gives us the minimum time to build the model. BayesNet gives us the best time taken to build model, but Random Forest gives us the best accuracy. To improve this, we go to the second level of the proposed IDS. In the second level, we take the features selected from the first level i.e. by applying BayesNet classifier, and apply Random Forest classifier on these features. The accuracy values thus obtained are the final values. We also compare the model against traditional systems and existing ML classifiers.

Contents

Li	st of	Tables	iii
Li	${ m st}$ of	Figures	iv
Li	${ m st}$ of	Symbols	v
1	Intr	roduction	1
2	Lite	erature Review	4
3	Res	earch Gaps and Problem Statement	8
	3.1	Research Gaps	8
	3.2	Problem Statement	10
4	Pro	posed Methodology / Solution	11
	4.1	Dataset Used	11
	4.2	Functional and Non-Functional Requirements	12
	4.3	Method Used	12
5	Exp	perimental Setup	14
	5.1	Hardware Requirements	14
	5.2	Software Requirements	1/

6	Res	Results and Discussion 15						
	6.1	Level	1: Feature selection and binary classification	15				
		6.1.1	Approach 1 : Threshold	15				
		6.1.2	Approach 2: 4-Part Rank	18				
		6.1.3	Approach 3: 10-Part Rank	22				
		6.1.4	Approach 4: Average Cases	26				
		6.1.5	Approach 5 : Top Absolute and Traditional Systems	29				
		6.1.6	Level 1 Best Results	35				
	6.2	Level	2: Binary and Multilabel Classification With Random Forest	36				
		6.2.1	Binary Classification Analysis	36				
		6.2.2	Multilabel Classification Analysis	36				
		6.2.3	Confusion Matrices	38				
		6.2.4	Comparison with Traditional Systems	39				
7	Conclusion 4							
8	Research Paper Publication 43							

List of Tables

6.1	IG, Threshold Approach	16
6.2	GR, Threshold Approach	16
6.3	COR, Threshold Approach	16
6.4	SU, Threshold Approach	16
6.5	RF, Threshold Approach	17
6.6	BayesNet SCM Threshold	18
6.7	IG, 4-Part Rank Approach	19
6.8	GR, 4-Part Rank Approach	19
6.9	COR, 4-Part Rank Approach	19
6.10	SU, 4-Part Rank Approach	19
6.11	RF, 4-Part Rank Approach	20
6.12	CS, 4-part Rank Approach	20
6.13	25 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach	21
6.14	50 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach	22
6.15	75 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach	22
6.16	IG, 10-Part Rank Approach	23
6.17	GR, 10-Part Rank Approach	23
6.18	COR, 10-Part Rank Approach	24
6 19	SII 10-Part Rank Approach	24

6.20	RF, 10-Part Rank Approach	24
6.21	CS, 10-part Rank Approach	24
6.22	Double Union Intersection Approach	25
6.23	Random Forest, Greater Than Average Approach	27
6.24	BayesNet, Greater Than Average Approach	27
6.25	Average SCM Approach	29
6.26	Top 5, Top Absolute Approach	31
6.27	Top 10, Top Absolute Approach	32
6.28	Top 15, Top Absolute Approach	33
6.29	Top 25, Top Absolute Approach	34
6.30	[19] Traditional Approaches	35
6.31	[20] Traditional Approaches	35
6.32	Best Results of Each Classifier	35
6.33	Best Results of Random Forest, Level 2 Binary	36
6.34	Best Results of Random Forest, Level 2 Multilabel	37
6.35	Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel 20% Detailed Accuracy	37
6.36	Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel All Features Detailed Accuracy	38
6.37	Traditional Methods Comparison	40

List of Figures

4.1	Proposed Methodology	13
6.1	Approach 1: Normal Threshold Approach	15
6.2	Approach 1: Threshold SCM	17
6.3	Approach 2: Normal 4-Part Rank	18
6.4	Approach 2: 4-Part Rank SCM	21
6.5	Approach 3: Normal 10-Part Rank	23
6.6	Approach 3: 10 Part Rank SCM	25
6.7	Approach 4: Greater than Average	26
6.8	Approach 4: Average SCM	28
6.9	Approach 5: Top Absolute	30
6.10	Confusion Matrix Heatmap : Random Forest Info Gain Multilabel 20% .	38
6.11	Confusion Matrix Heatmap : Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel All Fea-	
	tures	39

List of Symbols

IG: Info Gain attribute evaluator

GR: Gain Ratio attribute evaluator

COR: Correlation attribute evaluator

SU: Symmetrical Uncertainty attribute evaluator

RF: Relief F attribute evaluator

CS: Chi Squared attribute evaluator

SCM: Subset Combination Method

Introduction

Web security is an important aspect of our everyday lives. Web security is important to prevent hackers and cyber-thieves from being able to access sensitive and/or private information. A web attack can also cause a company or business to suffer substantial financial losses, due to theft of financial and/or corporate information. Without a good web attack detection strategy, a business or website owner runs a risk of spreading of malware and attacks on other businesses, websites, or even networks.

Web attacks are attacks on network security; cyber-criminals utilize weaknesses or vulnerabilities in a network to get access to confidential data. There are many types of web attacks that exist, such as malware, which is any kind of malicious software (such as viruses, spyware or ransomware), fuzzers, in which an attacker tries to exploit flaws in system security by crashing it using large amounts of randomized data, analysis, an attack that penetrates web applications generally via email or web scripts, backdooring, which is bypassing of standard authentication methods, exploits, which take advantage of glitches or bugs in a system, Denial of Service (DoS), which prevents authorized requests [17] from accessing a device, worms, which is an attack that replicates itself over and over to spread to other devices, spoofing, in which an unknown source disguises itself as a trusted one, and so on.

A popular method of web attack detection is by using an Intrusion Detection System (IDS). An IDS [11] monitors a network or system for any malicious activity and raises alerts to detect any such activity. An IDS works by looking for signatures of known attacks, or activity that is different from normal activity, and sends alerts to a system administrator if it detects any such kind of abnormal activity.

IDSs are classified into 2 main categories, based on where detection takes place: host-based IDSs and network-based IDSs. A network-based IDS monitors traffic on all devices on a network, and detects malicious traffic, if any. It does so by scanning network packets at the host level, and logging any suspicious packets that might be present. Whereas, a host-based IDS runs on individual hosts in the network, and analyzes traffic and logs malicious behavior on the system on which it is installed. It uses a database of important objects of the system such as environment variables that it should monitor, and for each object, it creates a checksum that is stored in a database for comparison later.

IDSs can also be classified into 2 categories based on the detection method they use: signature-based IDSs, and anomaly-based IDSs. A signature-based IDS detects attacks by looking for specific patterns such as byte sequences in network traffic or known malicious instruction sequences in malware. It relies on a list of known indicators that indicate a system is compromised, such as malicious network behavior, email subject lines, malicious domain names, and so on. Whereas, an anomaly-based IDS monitors system activity and tries to classify it as normal or anomalous. It does so by creating a model of normal (valid or trustworthy) activity using machine learning (ML), and then compares new behavior in a system against this model.

A signature-based IDS suffers from a major drawback, namely that it is difficult for it to detect new attacks, as no prior information is available on said new attacks as compared to attacks that may have already had information on them. Since an anomaly-based IDS uses ML to create a model to compare against, and these models can be trained better, an anomaly-based IDS does not suffer from this issue.

A signature-based IDS also requires reprogramming for every new pattern that is to be detected in a system. However, it has a low false positive rate. While an anomaly-based IDS can suffer from false positives more, it does not need to be reprogrammed, because the ML model can learn the pattern of the new attack occurring. Hence, anomaly-based IDSs are used more compared to signature-based IDSs nowadays.

ML plays a major role in intrusion detection in modern times. This is because with recent developments, the amount of data that is handled becomes too large for classic methods to be usable. Further, classic methods are not able to actively learn data patterns and easily find web attacks as compared to ML-based intrusion detection methods, which are much more easily able to detect web attacks. ML finds use in intrusion detection as part of anomaly-based IDS methods, which use ML to build a model to compare potentially malicious behavior against.

Literature Review

In the paper [1], a novel Hierarchical Intrusion Detection System (IDS) is proposed, combining three different classifiers: JRip algorithm, REP Tree and Forest PA, on decision tree and rules-based concepts. The proposed model uses three classifiers, where the first two methods take the dataset and classify its features as being either Normal or Attack, while the third method uses this classification along with the original dataset to classify even further.

The paper [2] aims to use ML techniques to identify rare cyber-attacks using the UNSW-NB15 dataset. It uses a hybrid feature selection method to identify the most important features for each type of attack in the dataset, of which there are nine: Exploits, Denial-Of-Service (DoS), Worms, Reconnaissance, Fuzzers, Generic, Analysis, Shellcode, and Backdoor. Overall, the most important features found were as follows: ct_srv_src (feature number 41), which occurred in 5 of the 9 attack types, service (feature number 14), which was found in 7 of the attack types (all except Exploit and Denial-Of-Service), sttl and dttl (features 10 and 11 respectively), which were found in 6 of the attack types, and dur (feature number 2), which was found to be in 8 of the attack types; all except worms. They used the Naïve Bayes classifier, and using the feature subsets found in the hybrid feature selection method, they were able to achieve a lower false acceptance rate as well

as higher classification rate compared to other methods.

In the paper [3], an IDS is created using Deep Neural Network (DNN) for the Internet of Things. They used classification of intruded patterns as the basis for intrusion detection. They also found the performance of NSL and UNSW-NB15 datasets using the DNN.

The paper [4] presents an intrusion detection approach that uses a genetic algorithm. This paper uses a Support Vector Machine along with genetic algorithms, and introduced feature selection and attack detection methods that improve on the performance of IDSs. The feature selection method that uses the new fitness function measures TPR and FPR (true positive rate and false positive rate respectively), and selects features of the training data better than traditional methods. The experimentation and result analysis by using the UNSW-NB15 and KDD99 datasets are measured using metrics like classification accuracy, Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve, false positive rate, and true positive rate.

A new feature correlation technique, CorrCorr was introduced in [5]. They combined CorrCorr with the state of the art addition-based correlation detection techniques and compared the results of the original features with most commonly used feature selection technique named PCA.

. The paper [6] proposes a network intrusion detection system using Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) on the UNSW-NB15 dataset. For analysis purposes, a subset of 23 features was taken, and the Random Forest classifier was applied to this subset. This gave an accuracy of 97.9060%.

In the paper [7], they did the study to find the significant features and compare them with findings of previous works done using KDD'99 and UNSW-NB15 datasets. They created two subsets and found the accuracy using machine learning techniques.

The paper [8] presented an attack procedure and its impact for each attack, execution of

attacks wherever appropriate, as well as countermeasures that can be taken to prevent said attacks. To cope with threats like these, a Web developer must know about the risks in the system, as well as the impact they can have. Furthermore, the existing Web standards should be examined even more for potentially undiscovered vulnerabilities, so as to develop more advanced countermeasures against them.

Paper [9] proposes a SVM model to detect anomaly in the system. They have performed intrusion detection using SVM with binary-classification as well as multilabel-classification. The paper [10] explores the XGBoost algorithm's application for feature selection in conjunction with multiple ML techniques, including Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines, k-Nearest Neighbors, Logistic Regression, and Artificial Neural Networks, in order to implement accurate IDSs. This paper uses multiclass and binary classification techniques on the UNSW-NB15 dataset. Further, applying an XGBoost-based feature selection algorithm on the dataset gave us 19 optimal features.

The paper [12] has proposed an integrated classification-based IDS and evaluates its performance on an existing dataset and a newly generated one. This paper evaluates the proposed model's performance on the UNSW-NB15 dataset, which covers more recent attacks (such as Denial-of-Service, Probe, Fuzzers, Generic, Exploits and so on) compared to another dataset, the KDD99 data set. It is observed that compared to older models that utilize Decision Trees, this model gives better values in terms of certain evaluation metrics. Further, this paper also generates a real-time data set at the NIT Patna CSE lab (RTNITP18), and it acts as the testing data set to evaluate the performance of the proposed model, which gives an accuracy of 83.8% on this dataset.

In the paper [13], an intelligent system is proposed which first performs feature ranking based on Information Gain (IG) and Correlation (COR). Then, feature reduction is performed by combining ranks obtained from both IG and COR, using a novel approach to

identify features to be removed. The model is then trained and tested on the KDD99 dataset and gave outstanding results.

The paper [14] provides an overview of the KDD99 and UNSW-NB15 datasets' significant features for network IDSs. For analysis, it uses an ARM (Association Rule Mining) algorithm to generate the strongest features from both datasets. Analysis shows that that the KDD99 dataset gives more accuracy as compared to the UNSW-NB15 one.

In [15] paper, the analysis and the evaluation is done of the UNSW-NB15 data set. According to their study they found out Decision Tree gives the best efficiency compared to other techniques. The efficiency techniques using KDD99 dataset are better than that of UNSW NB-15 is what the have found.

A new Geometric Area Analysis (GAA) technique based on Beta Mixture Model (BMM) was introduced in [16]. PCA was used for selecting the highest variance data for both the selected original features and their principal components is discussed in their data preprocessing module.

In the paper [18], an ensemble-based multi-filter feature selection method is proposed that takes four filter methods, namely IG, Gain Ratio (GR), ReliefF, and Chi-Squared (CS), and puts together their analyzed outputs to achieve optimal selection. This method is then evaluated using the NSL-KDD dataset, and the evaluation produces a higher attack classification accuracy and attack detection rate in comparison with other classification methods.

Research Gaps and Problem

Statement

3.1 Research Gaps

In [3], using Deep Neural Network on NSL-KDD dataset they found out that the overall accuracy to detect intrusion is 91.5%, while DNN on UNSW NB-15 dataset gives an overall accuracy of 99.2%. Their method is almost successful to identify attacked behaviour.

In a paper using a new feature correlation technique named CorrCorr [5], the top 6 features selected using CorrCorr gave an accuracy of 93.22%.

In [6] they have efficiently reduced the 39 features of UNSW NB-15 Dataset to 23 features and applied the best intrusion detecting machine learning method, according to them, which is XGBoost machine learning technique. They got an accuracy of 75.88% to correctly identify the attack.

In [7] two subsets were examined having the best results. One subset is taken from

[14], which consists of the most frequently used features and another subset is created using their machine learning techinques. Working on UNSW NB-15 preprocessed dataset, They got accuracy of 75.6617% by running Random Forest Algorithm using Weka, on subset 1 while accuracy of 81.6175% by running Random Forest on subset 2.

In [9] a SVM based network intrusion detection system with log based scaling is been analysed on UNSW NB-15 data set. They were successful in getting 85.99% accuracy for binary-classification and 75.77% accuracy with multilabel-classification. Their approach mostly inspired us to get deep understanding of network intrusion detection and finding results with binary as well as multilabel classified UNSW NB-15 dataset.

In [10] filter-based method inspired from XGBoost technique is used for feature selection. Applied various machine learning methods on the reduced 19 features and got an accuracy of 90.85% as the hightest using Decision Tree algorithm.

In paper [12] an integrated classification based IDS is generated and used this model to examine the behaviour of UNSW NB-15 dataset. They used C5 to reduce the number of features to 13 and an accuracy to correctly identify the attack of 89.76%.

A method was proposed in [14] which used ARM technique for feature selection to 29 features giving an accuracy to correctly identify the attack of 78.06% using Naive Bayes machine learning algorithm.

In [15], the UNSW NB-15 dataset is analysed and evaluated to find out 85.56% accuracy to determine attack in the dataset for the 9 reduced features.

In [16], GAA-ADS technique is used and their method gave an overall accuracy of 91.80% with 15 reduced features.

3.2 Problem Statement

The problem statement was to develop IDS to detect web attacks with ML classifiers using feature selection.

The objectives we have are:

- To do Literature Review
- Perform analysis using various classifiers such as Tree-based, Rule-based and Bayes-based classifiers
- Detect web attacks using feature selection methods
- Test the system using the UNSW-NB15 dataset, and measure performance in terms of accuracy of the algorithm and time taken to build the model.

Proposed Methodology / Solution

This section discusses the method, flow of working, dataset used for the development of this project. The section will also consist of a brief discussion about the requirements (hardware and software) for further development.

4.1 Dataset Used

We have chosen the UNSW-NB15 dataset for our project. This dataset was created by utilising an IXIA PerfectStorm tool to extract a hybrid of modern normal and contemporary attack activities of network traffic. A TCPDump tool was used to capture 100 GB of raw network traffic (PCAP files). Argus and Bro-IDS tools are used and 12 algorithms are developed to generate 49 features with the class label. The dataset contains 2,540,044 records, stored in 4 CSV files. Further, a part of this dataset is configured as a training set and a testing set. The training set contains 175,341 records, while the testing set contains 82,332 records from the different types, Attack and Normal.

This dataset contains records that are either of the Normal category (no attack), or the Attack category (attack). There are 9 types of attacks present in this dataset, namely, Fuzzers, Analysis, Backdoors, Denial-Of-Service (DoS), Exploits, Generic, Reconnais-

sance, Shellcode, and Worms.

4.2 Functional and Non-Functional Requirements

The functional and non-functional requirements for this project are as follows:

Functional Requirements:

- Detect whether a particular message sent over a network is a normal safe message or an attack message.
- Detect the specific type of attack a message might be if it is an attack message.
- Keep a record of events and incidents.

Non-functional Requirements:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Effectiveness
- Low Response time
- Stability
- Reliability
- Fault Tolerance

4.3 Method Used

Initially, we take the training and testing datasets, and apply preprocessing steps on those datasets, using Python language. In the preprocessing stage, we use a LabelEncoder to convert all the alphanumeric values in each dataset into an encoded, purely numeric format. This is done because Weka cannot utilize alphabetical labels for column values. We also remove null-valued entries in this stage.

Next, we take the preprocessed training set, and run various classifiers on the entire

training set. Here, we are trying to find which classifier gives us the best accuracy.

We then took the value of the same classifiers but on the testing set as a base case and then found three approaches that gave us maximum accuracy, better than the base case. Then we got the reduced features from these different approaches and the best one will be used for future work.

The 3 approaches we got were BayesNet, Random Forest and PART; while BayesNet gives us the best build time, Random Forest gives us the best accuracy. BayesNet reduces the features to the greatest extent, however, so we use BayesNet instead of other techniques. To improve this system, we take the reduced features from the best BayesNet approach (that reduces features to maximum extent), and apply these on the Random Forest multilabel classifier; this gives us the final accuracy.

We also compare the system against traditional systems and other ML classifiers.

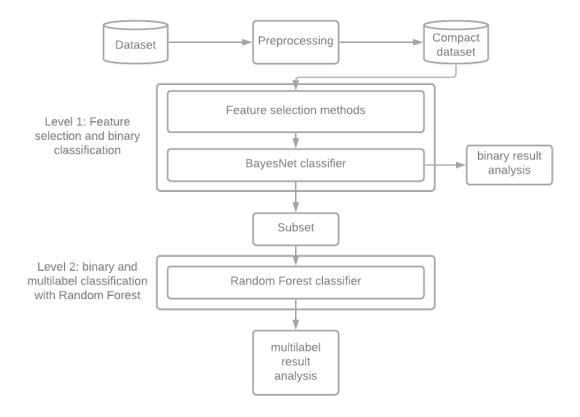


Figure 4.1: Proposed Methodology

Experimental Setup

Hardware and software requirements are as follows:

5.1 Hardware Requirements

- RAM: 8 GB
- GPU, ideally

5.2 Software Requirements

- PC should be running Windows 10 OS
- Weka application installed
- Python 3 installed

Results and Discussion

6.1 Level 1: Feature selection and binary classification

6.1.1 Approach 1: Threshold

In this approach, we consider the weights in thresholds of jumps of 0.1. That is, we consider features with weights above 0, above 0.1, above 0.2 and so on. We apply these on the IG, GR, COR, SU and RF feature selection algorithms. The results for the same are shown below:

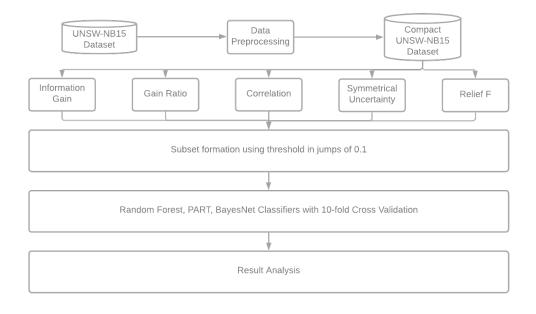


Figure 6.1: Approach 1: Normal Threshold Approach

Method	Threshold	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	0.1	31	97.1603	2.8397	54.46
Random Forest	0.1	31	97.6886	2.3114	38.71
BayesNet	0.4	11	87.7107	12.2893	0.85

Table 6.1: IG, Threshold Approach

Method	Threshold	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	0.1	17	93.1545	6.8455	15.46
Random Forest	0.1	17	93.8238	6.1762	52.36
BayesNet	0.1	17	84.5091	15.4909	1.27

Table 6.2: GR, Threshold Approach

Method	Threshold	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	0.1	21	96.0987	3.9013	44.83
Random Forest	0.1	21	97.1044	2.8956	45.69
BayesNet	0.5	2	80.3879	19.6121	0.12

Table 6.3: COR, Threshold Approach

Method	Threshold	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	0.1	25	93.2930	6.7070	31.12
Random Forest	0.1	25	94.1481	5.8519	62.73
BayesNet	0.1	25	83.5592	16.4408	2.23

Table 6.4: SU, Threshold Approach

Method	Threshold	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	0.1	2	75.4057	24.5943	2.84
Random Forest	0.1	2	75.4057	24.5943	0.09
BayesNet	0.1	2	75.4057	24.5943	0.45

Table 6.5: RF, Threshold Approach

We also apply SCM on the BayesNet values, the results of which are shown below:

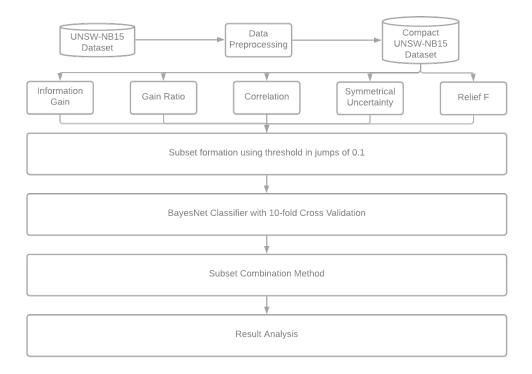


Figure 6.2: Approach 1: Threshold SCM

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	features	(%)	classified	build model
			instances (%)	(seconds)
SCM1	26	85.1528	14.8472	3.37
SCM2	18	85.2815	14.7185	2.37
SCM3	7	88.1456	11.8544	0.52
SCM4	4	83.8556	16.1444	0.24

Table 6.6: BayesNet SCM Threshold

6.1.2 Approach 2: 4-Part Rank

In this approach, we consider features in ranked sections of 25%, that is, we consider 25%, 50%, 75% and all of the features. We apply these on the IG, GR, COR, SU, RF and CS feature selection algorithms. The results for the same are shown below:

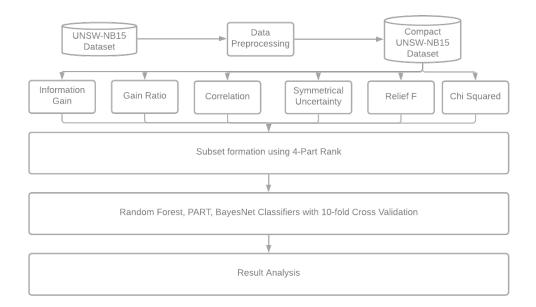


Figure 6.3: Approach 2: Normal 4-Part Rank

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	75	31	97.6886	2.3114	83.06
PART	75	31	97.1603	2.8397	76.11
BayesNet	25	10	87.7727	12.2273	0.99

Table 6.7: IG, 4-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	75	31	94.2404	5.7596	52.64
PART	75	31	93.5724	6.4276	64.82
BayesNet	50	21	84.7253	15.2747	2.12

Table 6.8: GR, 4-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	75	31	97.4214	2.5786	35.51
BayesNet	75	31	80.1244	19.8756	3.3
PART	75	31	96.5615	3.4385	130.32

Table 6.9: COR, 4-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	75	31	94.4202	5.5798	44.61
PART	75	31	93.1169	6.8831	182.63
BayesNet	50	21	84.6973	15.3027	1.84

Table 6.10: SU, 4-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	75	31	97.2757	2.7243	65.53
BayesNet	75	31	80.5896	19.4104	2.9
Random Forest	50	21	97.8089	2.1911	28.54

Table 6.11: RF, 4-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	75	31	97.6886	2.3114	32.2
PART	75	31	96.1603	2.8397	99.75
BayesNet	25	10	87.7727	12.2273	1.04

Table 6.12: CS, 4-part Rank Approach

In addition, we also used the SCM method to find the accuracy of the top 2, top 3, top 4, top 5 and all feature selection algorithms taken together; this was performed only on a tree-based approach, though. The results for this are shown below:

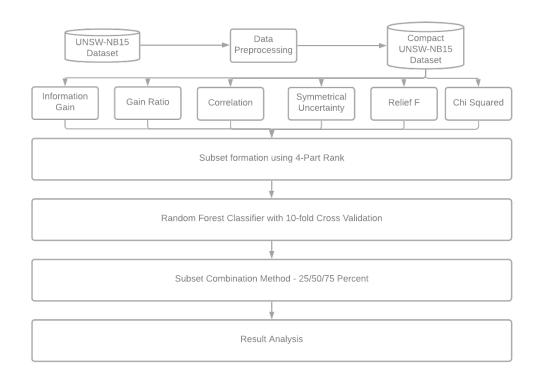


Figure 6.4: Approach 2: 4-Part Rank SCM

		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.93	2.0745	59.06
Top 2	SCM1	10	93.49	6.509	26.41
Top 3	SCM1	16	94.86	5.1389	32.23
Top 4	SCM1	20	94.79	5.2143	30.6
Top 5	SCM1	24	94.90	5.1025	33.27
Top 6	SCM1	25	94.91	5.0916	33.62

Table 6.13: 25 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach

		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.93	2.0745	59.06
Top 2	SCM1	26	97.79	2.2081	37.27
Top 3	SCM1	34	97.92	2.0757	36.91
Top 4	SCM1	35	97.92	2.0818	37.77
Top 5	SCM1	36	97.90	2.0952	39.84
Top 6	SCM1	36	97.90	2.0952	39.84

Table 6.14: 50 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach

		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.93	2.0745	59.06
Top 2	SCM1	31	97.69	2.3114	33.34
Top 3	SCM1	39	97.89	2.111	37.7
Top 4	SCM2	36	97.88	2.117	39.4
Top 5	SCM1	40	97.88	2.117	41.05
Top 6	SCM1	41	97.89	2.1073	42.26

Table 6.15: 75 Percent SCM, 4-part Rank Approach

6.1.3 Approach 3: 10-Part Rank

In this approach, we consider features in ranked sections of 10%, that is, we consider 10%, 20%, 30% and so on upto all of the features. We apply these on the IG, GR, COR, SU, RF and CS feature selection algorithms. The results for the same are shown below:

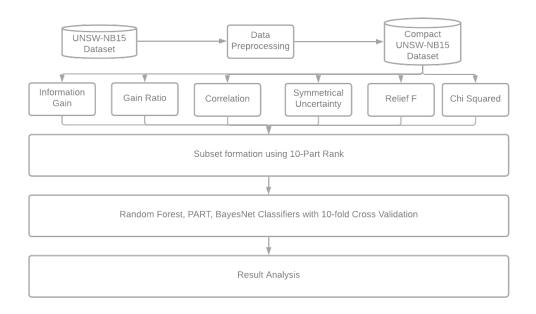


Figure 6.5: Approach 3: Normal 10-Part Rank

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	90	38	97.4129	2.5871	70.24
Random Forest	70	29	97.4481	2.5519	42.59
BayesNet	20	8	88.2609	11.7391	0.67

Table 6.16: IG, 10-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	90	38	97.9182	2.0818	50.77
PART	90	38	97.4129	2.5871	70.24
BayesNet	50	21	84.7253	15.2747	2.12

Table 6.17: GR, 10-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	90	38	97.4020	2.5980	68.76
BayesNet	90	38	81.4386	18.5614	3.64
Random Forest	50	21	97.1044	2.8956	39.5

Table 6.18: COR, 10-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	90	38	97.4129	2.5871	92.52
Random Forest	80	34	97.5064	2.4936	52.2
BayesNet	40	17	86.3261	13.6739	1.75

Table 6.19: SU, 10-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	90	37	97.2300	2.7700	73.81
Random Forest	40	17	97.9826	2.0174	25.27
BayesNet	20	8	82.3046	17.6954	0.54

Table 6.20: RF, 10-Part Rank Approach

Method	Percentage	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	of all fea-	features	(%)	classified	build model
	tures			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	90	38	97.4100	2.5900	70.01
Random Forest	70	29	97.4481	2.5519	34.78
BayesNet	20	8	88.1723	11.8277	0.7

Table 6.21: CS, 10-part Rank Approach

Further, we take the best cases of 10-part rank from above, find the union and intersection of taking any 2 random feature selection algorithms at a time, and apply the classifiers on the same. We apply these on the IG, GR, COR, SU, RF and CS feature selection algorithms. This is termed the "Double Union Intersection" approach, the results of which are shown below:

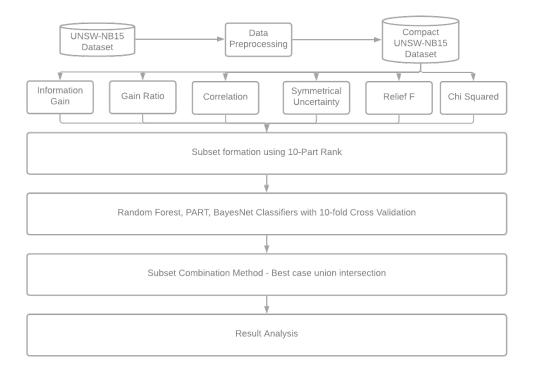


Figure 6.6: Approach 3: 10 Part Rank SCM $\,$

Algorithm	Combination of	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	feature selection	features	(%)	classified	build model
	algorithms			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	IG Union GR	38	97.4129	2.5871	70.24
Random Forest	GR Intersection	17	97.9826	2.0174	25.51
	RF				
BayesNet	IG Intersection	11	87.7107	12.2893	1.32
	su				

Table 6.22: Double Union Intersection Approach

6.1.4 Approach 4: Average Cases

In this approach, we find the average of all the weights of the feature selection algorithms' features, then consider only those features which have weight strictly greater than this value; this was performed only on tree-based and Bayes-based approaches. We apply these on the IG, GR, COR, SU, RF and CS feature selection algorithms. We call this the "Greater Than Average" approach, and the results for the same are shown below:

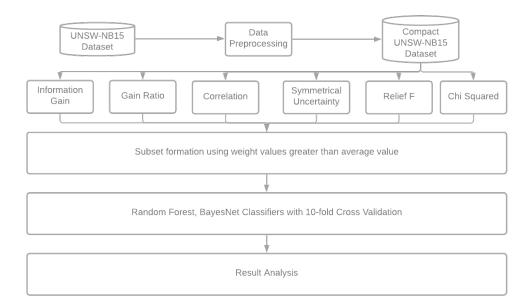


Figure 6.7: Approach 4: Greater than Average

Method	Average	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	Value	features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
Chi Squared	55458.53241	20	93.9793	6.0207	35.76
Info Gain	0.254492214	19	94.0157	5.9843	34.81
Correlation	0.176018905	19	97.0570	2.943	28.97
Symmetrical	0.141934476	18	93.9950	6.005	33.76
Uncertainty					
Gain Ratio	0.106205238	17	93.8238	6.1762	32.18
Relief F	0.018707844	15	97.8234	2.1766	20.16

Table 6.23: Random Forest, Greater Than Average Approach

Method	Average	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	Value	features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
Chi Squared	55458.53241	20	84.7143	15.2857	2.37
Info Gain	0.254492214	19	84.9475	15.0525	1.92
Correlation	0.176018905	19	76.442	23.5583	3.37
Symmetrical	0.141934476	18	85.850	14.1500	2.25
Uncertainty					
Gain Ratio	0.106205238	17	84.5091	15.4909	1.96
Relief F	0.018707844	15	79.0810	20.9190	1.55

Table 6.24: BayesNet, Greater Than Average Approach

Further, using the values obtained from the Greater Than Average approach, we use SCM to find accuracy of top 2, top 3, top 4, top 5 and all feature selection algorithms taken together. Called the "Average SCM" approach, the results for them are shown below:

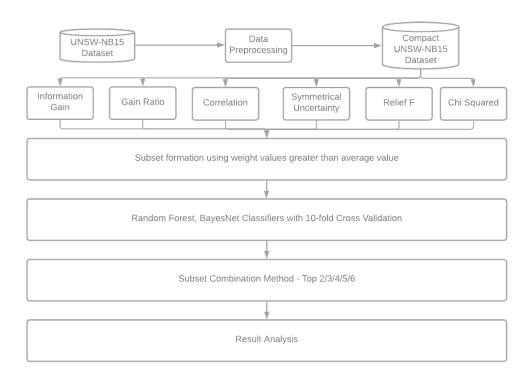


Figure 6.8: Approach 4: Average SCM

Method	SCM Case	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	SCM1	35	97.8684	2.1316	39.29
	SCM2	28	97.6850	2.315	32.02
A 11	SCM3	18	93.9950	6.005	31.73
All	SCM4	17	93.9574	6.0426	30.57
	SCM5	6	87.1581	12.8419	17.92
	SCM6	4	86.6820	13.318	16.45
Top 5 -	SCM1	35	97.8684	2.1316	39.29
IG, COR,	SCM2	27	97.7214	2.2786	30.38
SU, RF,	SCM3	17	93.9574	6.0426	30.57
CS	SCM4	8	93.0392	6.9608	21.67
	SCM5	4	86.6820	13.318	16.45
Top 4 -	SCM1	34	97.8720	2.1280	36.94
IG, COR,	SCM2	24	97.7736	2.2264	32.73
SU, RF	SCM3	8	92.6286	7.3714	31.59
	SCM4	4	86.6820	13.3180	18.21
Тор 3 -	SCM1	34	97.8720	2.1280	38.71
IG, COR,	SCM2	15	97.6971	2.3029	21.67
RF	SCM3	4	86.6820	13.3180	18.21
Top 2 -	Union	23	97.8927 2.1073 28.61		28.61
COR, RF	Intersection	11	96.0635	3.9365	21.67

Table 6.25: Average SCM Approach

6.1.5 Approach 5 : Top Absolute and Traditional Systems

We initially take the top 5, top 10, top 15, top 20 and top 25 features of each feature selection algorithm, in terms of their weight values. We then use SCM to find the accuracy of the top 2, top 3, top 4, top 5 and all algorithms for each case. The results for this "Top Absolute" method are shown below:

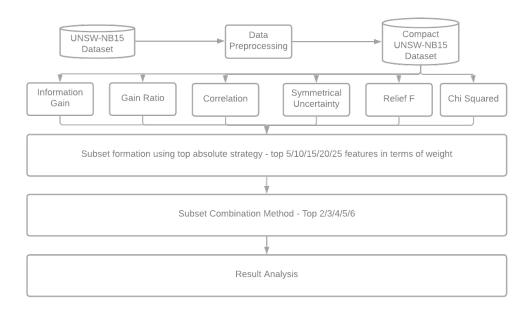


Figure 6.9: Approach 5: Top Absolute

Top 5		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.9255	2.0745	59.06
	SCM1	5	92.6663	7.3337	12.72
Top 2	SCM2	5	92.6663	7.3337	12.72
	SCM1	8	93.5153	6.4847	16.29
Top 3	SCM2	5	92.6663	7.3337	12.72
	SCM3	2	77.5774	22.4226	4.39
	SCM1	10	93.5019	6.4981	17.95
m 4	SCM2	5	92.6663	7.3337	12.72
Top 4	SCM3	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
	SCM4	2	77.5774	22.4226	4.39
	SCM1	12	93.8724	6.1276	19.32
	SCM2	5	92.6663	7.3337	12.72
Top 5	SCM3	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
	SCM4	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
	SCM5	2	77.5774	22.4226	4.39
	SCM1	13	94.1614	5.8386	22.18
	SCM2	7	92.8363	7.1637	14
A 11	SCM3	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
All	SCM4	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
	SCM5	3	81.7422	18.2578	5.75
	SCM6	1	76.6324	23.3676	2.28

Table 6.26: Top 5, Top Absolute Approach

Top 10		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.9255	2.0745	59.06
	SCM1	16	94.8611	5.1389	28.07
Top 2	SCM2	4	90.3209	9.6791	10.56
	SCM1	16	94.8611	5.1389	28.07
Top 3	SCM2	10	93.4910	6.509	24.18
	SCM3	4	90.3209	9.6791	10.56
	SCM1	23	94.9181	5.0819	31.77
m 4	SCM2	10	93.4910	6.509	24.18
Top 4	SCM3	4	90.3209	9.6791	10.56
	SCM4	3	81.7422	18.2578	6.56
	SCM1	23	94.9181	5.0819	31.77
	SCM2	16	93.9465	6.0535	32.27
Top 5	SCM3	5	92.2970	7.703	10.56
	SCM4	3	81.7422	18.2578	6.56
	SCM5	3	81.7422	18.2578	6.56
	SCM1	25	94.9084	5.0916	30.62
	SCM2	18	94.1493	5.8507	30.7
A 11	SCM3	9	93.1145	6.8855	18.92
All	SCM4	3	81.7422	18.2578	6.56
	SCM5	3	81.7422	18.2578	6.56
	SCM6	2	81.7349	18.2651	4.22

Table 6.27: Top 10, Top Absolute Approach

Top 15		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.9255	2.0745	59.06
	SCM1	21	97.8514	2.1486	26.37
Top 2	SCM2	9	95.2351	4.7649	22.89
	SCM1	29	97.9097	2.0903	30.93
Тор 3	SCM2	12	96.8372	3.1628	21.98
	SCM3	4	86.6820	13.318	17.37
	SCM1	28	97.8769	2.1231	29.29
m 4	SCM2	19	96.7995	3.2005	27.34
Top 4	SCM3	7	92.9639	7.0361	18.87
	SCM4	4	86.6820	13.318	17.37
	SCM1	32	97.9133	2.0867	36.4
	SCM2	21	96.8226	3.1774	27.59
Top 5	SCM3	12	93.9720	6.028	22.21
	SCM4	6	87.1581	12.8419	18.2
	SCM5	4	86.6820	13.318	17.37
	SCM1	32	97.9133	2.0867	36.4
	SCM2	23	96.7874	3.2126	27.98
Ton C	SCM3	14	93.8748	6.1252	23.48
Top 6	SCM4	11	93.8189	6.1811	22.54
	SCM5	6	87.1581	12.8419	18.2
	SCM6	4	86.6820	13.318	17.37

Table 6.28: Top 15, Top Absolute Approach

Top 20		Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
		features	(%)	classified	build model
				instances (%)	(seconds)
	Base case	42	97.9255	2.0745	59.06
TT. 0	SCM1	24	97.8149	2.1851	29.49
Top 2	SCM2	16	96.3538	3.6462	28.38
	SCM1	34	97.9243	2.0757	39.05
Top 3	SCM2	19	97.5866	2.4134	29.16
	SCM3	7	87.4156	12.5844	18.89
	SCM1	36	97.9048	2.0952	36.98
m	SCM2	29	97.6425	2.3575	30.3
Top 4	SCM3	10	93.3307	6.6693	21.09
	SCM4	5	87.1277	12.8723	17.01
	SCM1	36	97.9048	2.0952	36.98
	SCM2	30	97.6595	2.3405	31.59
Top 5	SCM3	20	93.9210	6.079	31.16
	SCM4	9	93.3379	6.6621	20.11
	SCM5	5	87.1277	12.8723	17.01
	SCM1	36	97.9048	2.0952	36.98
	SCM2	31	97.6850	2.315	31.1
Тор 6					
multirow2*To	pSCM1	29	97.7773%	1830	33.25
2				(2.2227%)	
	SCM2	21	96.9866%	2481	30.23
				(3.0134%)	
	SCM1	37	97.849%	1771 (2.151%)	36.51
Top 3	SCM2	25	97.5635%	2006	29.96
				(2.4365%)	
	SCM3	13	92.8448%	5891	23.51
				(7.1552%)	
	SCM1	37	97.849%	1771 (2.151%)	36.51
Ton 4	SCM2	34	97.685%	1906 (2.315%)	36.45
Top 4	SCM3	17	93.7606%	5137	35.8
				(6.2394%)	
	SCM4	12	92.6189%	6077	25.52

We also applied our respective classifiers against two traditional approaches - the Opeyemi approach, and the Aakash-Deep approach. The results for the same are listed below:

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	features	(%)	classified	build model
			instances (%)	(seconds)
PART	10	97.3000	2.7000	50.72
Random	10	93.7461	6.2539	24.49
Forest				
BayesNet	10	86.9398	13.0617	0.78

Table 6.30: [19] Traditional Approaches

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to	
	features	(%)	classified	build model	
			instances (%)	(seconds)	
Random Forest	28	97.5064	2.4936	32.88	
BayesNet	28	83.0528	16.9472	2.73	
PART	28	96.9672	3.0328	43.18	

Table 6.31: [20] Traditional Approaches

6.1.6 Level 1 Best Results

From all the above approaches, the best results are shown below:

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	features	(%)	classified	build model
			instances (%)	(seconds)
Random Forest	17	97.9826	2.0174	25.27
PART	38	97.4129	2.5871	70.24
BayesNet (Info	8	88.2609	11.7391	0.67
Gain, Ranked)				

Table 6.32: Best Results of Each Classifier

From the table, we see that Random Forest gives the best accuracy. However, the BayesNet method is able to reduce the features to the greatest extent (while keeping build time minimum). Hence, we choose to take the reduced features of BayesNet for further computation. To improve the accuracy further, we go to the 2nd level of the IDS.

6.2 Level 2: Binary and Multilabel Classification With Random Forest

6.2.1 Binary Classification Analysis

In the 2nd level, we take the reduced feature subset obtained from the Info Gain Ranked BayesNet feature selection method above, and apply Random Forest classifier on it. The results obtained are shown below:

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	features	(%)	classified	build model
			instances (%)	(seconds)
InfoGain	8	93.4971	6.5029	22.21
(Ranked)				

Table 6.33: Best Results of Random Forest, Level 2 Binary

6.2.2 Multilabel Classification Analysis

We also apply the classifier on multilabel case, using all 42 features as well as the 8 feature subset above. The results for the same are shown below:

Method	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to	
	features	(%)	classified	build model	
			instances (%)	(seconds)	
All Features	42	86.9540 %	13.046	75.6	
InfoGain	8	83.9078	16.0922	38.49	
(Ranked)					

Table 6.34: Best Results of Random Forest, Level 2 Multilabel

TP	FP	Precision	Recall	F-	MCC	ROC	PRC	Class
Rate	Rate			Measure		Area	Area	
0.945	0.073	0.913	0.945	0.929	0.870	0.985	0.977	Normal
0.797	0.004	0.888	0.797	0.840	0.835	0.982	0.900	Reconnaissance
0.048	0.000	0.519	0.048	0.088	0.156	0.942	0.149	Backdoor
0.514	0.036	0.430	0.514	0.468	0.439	0.941	0.446	DoS
0.730	0.055	0.675	0.730	0.702	0.653	0.965	0.837	Exploits
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	NA	0.942	0.097	Analysis
0.415	0.033	0.500	0.415	0.454	0.417	0.910	0.500	Fuzzers
0.432	0.000	0.613	0.432	0.507	0.514	0.954	0.545	Worms
0.175	0.002	0.282	0.175	0.216	0.219	0.868	0.177	Shellcode
0.978	0.003	0.991	0.978	0.985	0.980	0.997	0.995	Generic

Table 6.35: Random Forest Info Gain Multilabel 20% Detailed Accuracy

TP	FP	Precision	Recall	F-	MCC	ROC	PRC	Class
Rate	Rate			Measure		Area	Area	
0.989	0.031	0.963	0.989	0.976	0.955	0.998	0.997	Normal
0.802	0.003	0.927	0.802	0.860	0.857	0.960	0.896	Reconnaissance
0.022	0.000	0.394	0.022	0.042	0.092	0.877	0.085	Backdoor
0.375	0.031	0.384	0.375	0.380	0.348	0.939	0.393	DoS
0.710	0.063	0.638	0.710	0.672	0.619	0.967	0.838	Exploits
0.080	0.000	0.818	0.080	0.145	0.254	0.811	0.132	Analysis
0.675	0.025	0.682	0.675	0.679	0.653	0.957	0.822	Fuzzers
0.091	0.000	0.571	0.091	0.157	0.228	0.974	0.260	Worms
0.484	0.002	0.570	0.484	0.524	0.523	0.984	0.495	Shellcode
0.976	0.001	0.996	0.976	0.985	0.981	0.999	0.997	Generic

Table 6.36: Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel All Features Detailed Accuracy

6.2.3 Confusion Matrices

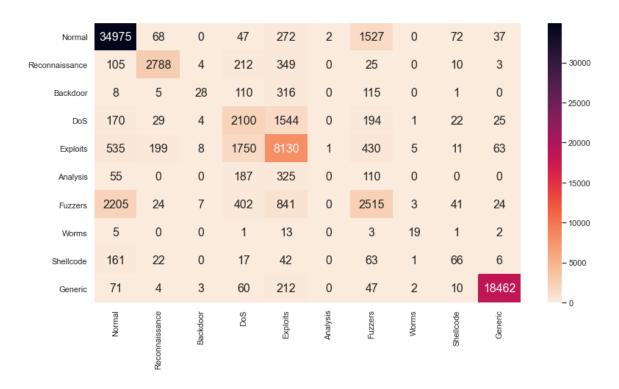


Figure 6.10: Confusion Matrix Heatmap : Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel 20%

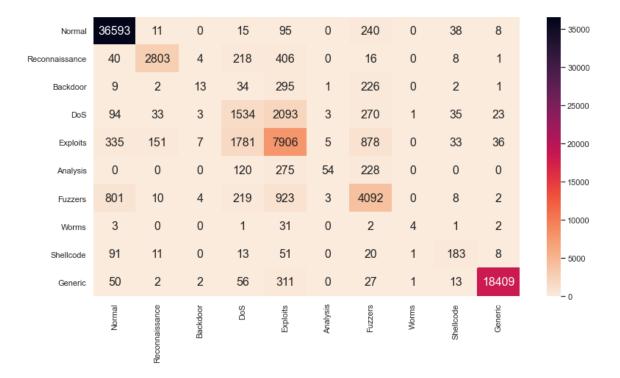


Figure 6.11: Confusion Matrix Heatmap: Random Forest InfoGain Multilabel All Features

6.2.4 Comparison with Traditional Systems

Lastly, we compare the proposed 2 level IDS with traditional systems. The comparative results for the same are shown below:

Reference	Number of	Accuracy	Incorrectly	Time taken to
	features	(%)	classified	build model
			instances (%)	(seconds)
Proposed Model	8	93.4971	6.5029	22.21
Best Result				
[5]	6	82.1394	17.8606	20.68
[6]	23	97.9060	2.0940	34.5
[7]	7	92.7999	7.2001	19.36
[10]	19	98.0506	1.9494	29.64
[12]	13	97.9680	2.0320	22.64
[14]	29	97.9461	2.0539	37.47
[15]	6	93.1655	6.8345	17.35
[19]	10	93.7461	6.2539	24.49
[20]	28	97.5064	2.4936	32.88

Table 6.37: Traditional Methods Comparison

Chapter 7

Conclusion

This project proposes an Intrusion Detection System model which utilizes UNSW-NB15 dataset with a set of 45 features. It is chosen since it contains a recent set of attacks as compared to KDD'99 and NSL-KDD dataset. For the detection of web attacks, the project makes use of various Machine Learning feature reduction and classification methods. The proposed model evaluates the performance by using various classifiers such as BayesNet, Random Forest and PART along with the feature selection methods such as Information Gain, Gain Ratio, Correlation, Symmetrical Uncertainty, Chi Squared, and Relief F. Among the three classifiers when run on testing dataset, BayesNet gives the minimum build time as compared to others. While, Random Forest gives the best accuracy amongst three but with high build time.

Initially, we apply data preprocessing steps and reduce the 45 features of the raw dataset to 42 features of the compact dataset. Then, various approaches such as Threshold, 4-Part Rank, 10-Part Rank are applied. Thereafter, other approaches like Subset Combination Method is carried out on the earlier approaches, also approaches such as Average SCM, Greater than Average, Top Absolute are performed which reduced the features further to some extent. At the end, the smallest subset of features is obtained by reducing the dataset to a minimal 8 features, using BayesNet classifier.

The 8-feature subset from BayesNet when applied on a Random Forest binary classifier gives really good accuracy of 93.4971% with build time of 22.21 seconds, while when applied on a Random Forest multilabel classifier gives us an accuracy value of 83.9078% with a build time of 38.49 seconds. When Random Forest multilabel classifier is applied on all features, it gives us an accuracy of 86.9540% with a build time of 75.6 seconds.

Chapter 8

Research Paper Publication

The research paper titled "Web Attack Detection Using Machine Learning" has been submitted by Ruturaj Malavade, Heena Jamadar, Harshali Upadhye, Deepak Kshirsagar, Jagannath Aghav and is under review in the conference "3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA, ENGINEERING AND APPLICATIONS 2021 (IDEA 2k21)".

The paper after acceptance will be published in **Springer Proceedings** and will be submitted to "**Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering**" indexed in **SCOPUS** for publication.

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