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A Hybrid Data-driven Model for Intrusion Detection in VANET

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Abstract

Nowadays, VANET (Vehicular Ad-hoc NETwork) has gained increasing attention from many researchers with its various applications, such as enhancing traffic safety by collecting and disseminating traffic event information. This increased interest in VANET has necessitated greater scrutiny of machine learning (ML) methods used for improving the security capabilities of intrusion detection systems (IDSs), such as the need to solve computationally intensive ML problems due to the increased vehicular data. Therefore, in this paper, we propose a hybrid ML model to enhance the performance of IDSs by dealing with the explosive growth in computing power and the need for detecting malicious incidents timely. The proposed approach mainly uses the advantages of Random Forest to detect known network intrusions. Besides, there is a post-detection phase to detect possible novel intruders by using the advantages of coresets and clustering algorithms. Our approach is evaluated over a very recent IDS dataset named CICIDS2017. The preliminary results show that the proposed hybrid model can increase the utility of IDSs.

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Keywords: VANET, Clustering, IDS, Coreset, Security, Data Approximation;

1. Introduction

VANET (Vehicular Ad-hoc Network) [1, 2] is emerging as a promising communication technology in intelligent transportation systems. It aims to support safety-critical traffic applications by enabling vehicles to exchange information among themselves to avoid critical situations through Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) communications, such as avoiding traffic jams, black ice, and unseen obstacles. Furthermore, VANET provides real-time services to drivers, such as Internet access on the move, weather information, and route recommendation. This particular type of mobile ad-hoc network not only uses V2V and V2I to disseminate data but also it uses the potential of various communications, namely V2X (Vehicle-to-Everything) [3], to improve the performance of mes-

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| Table 1: Machine learning algorithms in VII (2) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Papers | Methods used | Description of the solution | | |
| [7] | SVM | Develop a trust-aware framework to improve the safety of vehicles. | | |
| [8] | k-means based on self-organized map | Address the high accuracy and precision demands of intrusion detection systems. | | |
| [9] | Neural Networks | Propose a model for estimation traffic and anomaly detection. | | |
| [10] | SVM | Use an optimized IDS for securing a multi-cluster head anomaly. | | |
| [11] | SVM, Neural network | Propose an intelligent IDS for dealing with grey hole and rushing attacks in self-driving vehicular networks. | | |
| [12] | SVM | Develop a collaborative intrusion detection framework for getting a low false positive rate, high detection rate, | | |
| | | lower communication overhead, and faster attack detection. | | |
| [13] | K-means, linear splines | Propose an IDS model to deal with the nature of VANET. | | |
| [14] | Random Forest, k-NN | Propose an IDS model against spoofing attacks in connected electric vehicles. | | |
| [15] | Naive Bayes, Logistic Regression | Propose a distributed IDS for detecting unknown intrusions in VANET. | | |
| [16] | Bayesian Filter | Propose an IDS for identifying attackers and reducing false positive of nodes. | | |
| [17] | Neuro-Fuzzy | Propose an enhanced framework for attack detection in VANET. | | |
| [18] | Neural Networks | Propose a hybrid intrusion detection for connected self-driving vehicles. | | |
| | | | | |

Table 1. Machine learning algorithms in VANET

sage dissemination in VANET, and allow vehicles to communicate with other entities over multiple communications (e.g., Vehicle-to-Pedestrian)[3]. As a result, VANET has attracted the attention of research and industrial communities thanks to its gradual maturity in the transportation domain.

Due to the high data dissemination through V2X communications, VANET technology is one of the smart technologies that play a crucial role in critical infrastructure systems that are vital for the national health, security, and economy [4, 5]. For example, the smart grids infrastructure requires transmitting a massive amount of real-time data to computing centers through communication networks to enable efficient system operation, such as detecting anomalies and failures, forecasting electricity usage, and evaluating power quality. In such a situation, the exploitation of VANET as a temporal computing core could capture, manage, and process the mounting volume of data timely. As a result, it can make the smart grids infrastructure more reliable since VANET supports real-time processing requirements. However, network security issues still significantly affect VANET and its fusion with critical systems that need to store, transmit, archive, and retrieve data via networks timely [6]. Yet, the development of data-driven intrusion detection systems (IDSs) is required in VANET to assure its advancement and avoid attacks that might cause destructive consequences.

In this paper, we propose a hybrid data-driven detection model based on a machine learning with two main components: the first detection component aims to detect the known attacks by using a classification algorithm. As the second component, the anomaly detection is to filter the dishonest nodes by using a clustering algorithm based on the coresets technique. The model is used to improve the security in VANET by enhancing the accuracy of detection against various attacks in real-time.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a brief review of the machine learning application for the detection against attacks. Section 3 describes the proposed hybrid detection based on machine learning techniques. Section 4 describes the experimental environment, along with the discussion of experiment results. Section 5 provides concluding remarks that could open new research directions for security in VANET. Finally, Section 6 summarizes the paper and outlines future work.

2. Related Work

Different machine learning algorithms have been applied for IDSs in VANET to detect various attacks simultaneously (Table 1), such as in [8], an intelligent scheme using clustered self-organized map (SOM) has been presented in order to address the high accuracy and precision demands of intrusion detection systems. To do that, k-means is applied to SOM neurons during the detection phase. Likewise, in [7], the authors have proposed a novel trust-aware approach for both intrusion detection and prevention in VANET by combing modified promiscuous mode for data collection and SVM for data analysis to establish a precise trust score table for each vehicle. As a result, this method can improve the safety of vehicles by detecting any sign of a compromised node that can affect the network performance.

Despite the large implication of machine-learning based IDSs algorithms (Table 1), IDSs are still facing many security issues (e.g., high false-positive rate and false-negative rate) due to increased vehicular data that is not well addressed. Indeed, the existing work only focuses on using machine learning methods for analyzing small VANET databases without suggesting any strategy to deal with large databases and speed up the process of data analytics (e.g., training time) to go with the needs of volatilized and distributed VANET environments. Moreover, applying machine-learning algorithms on very big traffic datasets containing noise representatives might reduce the attack

detection accuracy. Yet, the traditional implication of machine learning for IDSs has limitations in scaling up to meet the security VANET requirements.

3. Data-driven Intrusion Detection Model

We propose a hybrid detection model that is based on data classification and clustering with coresets. The process of this data-driven model is described in Figure 1. It consists of two main components that are further described below.

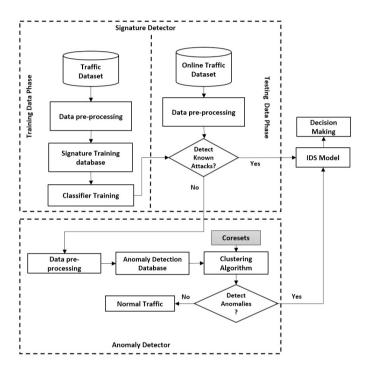


Fig. 1. Hybrid data-driven model for intrusion detection

3.1. Signature Detector

The first component of the proposed model is for detecting known attacks by using a classification algorithm. In other words, this component is dedicated to the signature detection technique that refers to the detection of known attacks by using an existing database behavior with specific attacks, which are already registered. As a result, this model helps to recognize malicious attacks faster by using a classifier for matching their signatures against those stored in the signature database.

We propose to use Random Forest as a classifier due to its advantages compared to other supervised algorithms, such as dealing with the imbalanced database easily, randomizing the selection of feature variables to improve the decision tree method, and being faster to predict the class label [19, 20]. Random Forest is an ensemble technique [21], in which "individual weak learners" collaborate to form a "strong learner." Random Forest algorithm generates many classification trees to avoid overfitting to training datasets, where each tree is constructed by using a bootstrap randomized re-sampling technique [22]. For making a classification decision, the algorithm obtains the prediction results from each tree, establishes a voting mechanism, and finally takes a plurality vote among the classifiers.

3.2. Anomaly Detector

Since the signature detection technique cannot recognize new intrusions that are not stored in the labeled misuse database, the second component of our proposed model is dedicated to anomaly detection. This latter refers to the detection of unknown intrusions by using an analyzer model that is capable of learning and detecting the event deviating from normal behavior as an intrusion behavior. Therefore, we use clustering algorithms to detect novel intrusions, particularly, we use weighted k-means [23, 24] since we exploit the data labeling from the first component.

Algorithm 1 Weighted K-means

Require: Data set $D = \{x_1, x_2, ..., x_n\}$, K for clustering step. **Ensure:** the set of k clusters $S = \{S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_{k-1}\}$.

- 1: Use the feature importance that is calculated by Random Forest as the weights vector W.
- 2: for each x_i do
- 3: $\omega_{x_i} = RandomForest(x_i)$.
- 4: end for
- 5: Sort Features x_i to obtain its importance set. $W = Sort(\omega_{xi})$
- 6: Select *K* objects as the initial centroids.
- 7: Repeat
- 8: Assign each object to its nearest centroid C_i
- 9: Find the distance between the centroids using the weighed euclidean distance.
- 10: Re-compute the centroids C_i of all clusters.
- 11: **Until** there is no reassignment of objects to new centroids

On the other hand, we apply the coreset method to deal with computational complexity in clustering [25] and the large volume of vehicular datasets by extracting critical contents without examining all data content, and then enable IDSs to ensure timely network security. This approximate technique is not only just giving a quick viewability of original data, but also helps with scaling Big Data Analytics techniques during data processing [25]. The details of the implication of coresets for clustering are given below.

3.2.1. Construction of Coresets via Clustering

We exploit the results of Random Forest algorithm from the Signature Detector section to assign each data point to each cluster with a certain probability. Algorithm 2 represents the details followed to construct coreset C and approximate clustering. It is composed of three steps described below.

In the first step, we use a unified framework for coreset construction described in [26]. This generic solution aims to obtain a rough approximation B of the set D by labeling the original data points as sampled or removed. Then, we get the initial clustering that will be used to select the set of k centroids in step 2 and sample the data points containing coreset C in step 3.

The second step consists of adding the other k-1 clusters by projecting samples according to a probability onto the bicriteria centers B. Moreover, in this work, the probability is computed by using the feature importance measurements of Random Forest as the weights vector. Then, we construct clusters P by applying weighed k-means (Algorithm 1) over the representatives of P.

In the last step, we apply a coreset construction introduced by [27] to sample the points by calculating new weights, which are associated with the sampling probabilities. Finally, we can build a proper coreset from the entire dataset based on the adapted weights; simultaneously, the representatives of P are updated.

3.2.2. Post-Coresets processing

After constructing approximate clusters, we referred to our previous work [28] in which we proposed a post-Coresets processing to find sample points that have low representativeness and remove them from the sample. The details of the method are given in Algorithm 3.

Given a dataset $P = \{x_i\}$, for i = 1, 2, ..., n and a given $\epsilon > 0$, the method first calls Algorithm 4 to obtain $C = \{y_j\}$ and $P(y_j)$ for j = 1, 2, ..., c. Line 4 determines which sample points will be selected into our sample C'. This is

Algorithm 2 Coreset Construction via Weighted k-means

Require: Data set $D = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$, number of clusters K, failure probability δ , approximation factor α , coreset size m.

```
1: Step I: Obtaining the initial approximate partition B of the clustering solution
 2: D' \leftarrow D: B \leftarrow \emptyset: b \leftarrow 10dkln(1/\delta):
 3: while |D'| > b do
          S \leftarrow \text{Sample } b \text{ points uniformly at random from } D':
 4:
 5:
          P \leftarrow [|D'|/2] points from D' closest to S;
          D' \leftarrow \text{Remove } D'/P \text{ points } x \in D' \text{ closest to } S \text{ from } D';
 6:
 7:
          Set B \leftarrow B \cup S;
 8: end while
 9: Set B \leftarrow B \cup D';
10: Step II: Adding K-1 Cluster centers
11: Substitute the weights vector (W_x) by the feature importance measurements of Random Forest, W_x \leftarrow RandomForest(x);
12: for j \leftarrow 2, ..., K do
13:
          for x \in D do
                                 W_x d(x,B)^2
                Pr(x) \leftarrow \frac{W_x d(x,B)^-}{\sum_{x' \in D} W_{x'} d(x',B)^2};
14:
15:
          Sample x \in D with probability Pr(x);
16:
          B \leftarrow B \cup \{x\};
17:
18: end for
19: Induce dataset partition P,P \leftarrow B(D), where B(D) = \{Blocks(D)\}_{Blocks \in B} and Blocks(D) = \{x \in D : x \text{ lies on } Blocks \in B\};
20: Step III: Constructing Coreset
21: for c \in B do
          D_c \leftarrow \text{point } x \in D \text{ whose closest center in } B \text{ is } c. \text{ Ties broken arbitrarily;}
22:
23: end for
24: for c \in B and x \in D_c do
          s(x) \leftarrow \alpha d(x, B)^2 + \frac{2\alpha}{D_c} \sum_{x' \in D_c} d(x', B)^2 + \frac{2}{D_c} \sum_{x' \in D} d(x', B)^2
25:
26: end for
27: for x \in D do
          q(x) \leftarrow \tfrac{s(x)}{\sum_{x \, \prime \in D} s(x\prime)};
                          s(x)
28:
29: end for
30: C \leftarrow \text{Sample } m \text{ weighted points from } D, \text{ where each point } x \text{ is sampled with probability } q(x) \text{ and assigned a weight } \frac{1}{m_{\sigma(x)}};
31: Update dataset partition P, P \leftarrow B(C);
32: Return C and P;
```

```
Algorithm 3 Post-Coresets-processing
Require: P = \{x_i\}, for i = 1, 2, ..., n, a tolerance \epsilon > 0.
Ensure: A sample C = \{y_i\} and P(y_i), for j = 1, 2, ..., c.
 1: Call Algorithm 2 for P and \epsilon to obtain C = \{y_i\} and P(y_i).
 2: C' = \emptyset.
 3: for all y_i \in S do
         if |P(y_i)| is greater than a threshold then
 4:
 5:
              y_k^* =_{y_k \in P(y_j)} \sum_{y_l \in P(y_j)} d(y_k, y_l).
              \hat{C'} = C' \cup \{y_k^*\}.
 6:
 7:
         end if
 8: end for
 9: C = C'.
10: return C and P(y_i^*), for j = 1, 2, ..., c', where c' \le c.
```

Table 2. Number of records

| Туре | Label | Number of instances |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Normal | BENIGN | 233 107 |
| DoS/DDoS Attacks | DDoS, DoS, DoS slowloris, DoS | 24 350 |
| | Slow,Httptest, DoS Hulk,DoS Gold- | |
| | enEye,Heartbleed | |
| Botnet Attack | Bot | 1560 |
| PortScan Attack | PortScan | 8000 |
| Brute Force Attack | FTP-Patator, SSH-Patator | 4000 |
| Infiltration Attack | Infiltration | 30 |
| Web Attacks | Web Attack-Brute Force, Web Attack- | 2050 |
| | XSS, Web Attack-Sql Injection | |
| Toral of Instances | 273 097 | • |

performed using a threshold. $|P(y_j)|$ denotes the number of patterns in P with $y_j \in C$ being their representative. Small value of $|P(y_j)|$ means that the representativeness of y_j is low. Accordingly, it is removed from the sample. The value of the threshold should be chosen based on the distribution characteristics of datasets. For $y_j \in C$ that is not removed, line 5 computes the center of the group represented by y_j , to consider replacing it. The center here, denoted with y_k^* , is defined to be the point in $P(y_j)$ such that the total distance to all others in the group is minimized. The set C' including such y_k^* is the output sample of the algorithm.

4. Evaluation

We evaluated the proposed model in MATLAB environment by conducting experiments on the IDS dataset of CICIDS2017 [29]. This real-world traffic dataset covers the most cutting-edge frequent attack scenarios based on simulation of seven attack families, namely: brute force attack, heart-bleed attack, botnet, DoS attack, DDoS attack, web attack, and infiltration attack. A total number of 80 features were extracted based on the information present in the PCAP file. The total number of records used in this experiment is 273 097. Table 2 shows the detail of records used in this evaluation, where the dataset is divided into two parts using train-test_split [30], 80% for training and 20% for testing the model.

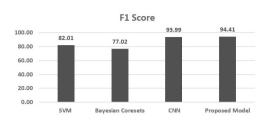
We have compared our proposed model with other machine learning algorithms, particularly, the work including coresets. Indeed, we found one work that has combined coresets with Bayesian machine learning for network intrusion detection systems [31]. The performance of IDSs is evaluated in term of F1-score, accuracy, and computation time.

4.1. Experimental Results

Figures 2 and 3 present the evaluation metrics, namely, F1-score, and Accuracy. Figure 3 shows that our proposed method has achieved the highest of 96.93% Accuracy while the lowest is with Bayesian-Coresets 82.4%. The F-measure of the proposed method (Figure 2) obtained 94.41% compared to the existing classification models, such as Bayesian-Coresets and SVM attained 77.02% and 82.01% respectively. This is because our model is composed of two phases, where the first one corresponds to the misuse detection approach in IDS, and the second phase corresponds to the anomaly detection approach that detects the compromise indicators. On the other hand, we noticed that CNN reached significant results (Figures 2 and 3), i.e. it is very close to the highest accuracy with 95.14%; however, our proposed model's computation time (140.6s) was much lower than CNN (754.18s) thanks to the use of random forest and coresets models for near-real time (Figure 4). As a result, the approximate technique aids the hybrid learning approach to produce better results for IDS models.

5. Discussions

Data approximation using coresets [32] has gained significant attention in Big Data due to the ability of coresets to produce summaries, which are compact representatives of the original data with a provable approximation guarantee. Data approximation is performed on data by applying several rules enabling learning methods to use only the necessary data. It prevents data replication by reducing the size of the collected data, and removes all ineffective data. As a result, it supports the development of IDSs by predicting future sequences in fast manner, providing early warning features



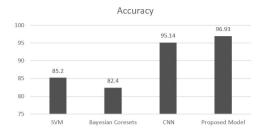


Fig. 3. Accuracy (%)

Fig. 2. F1-Score (%)

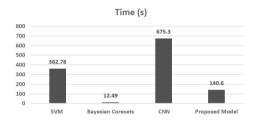


Fig. 4. Time (s)

to different types of intrusion, identifying the places where it is vulnerable to an attack, capturing malicious events before they occur, improving estimated risk measures of security alerts.

Furthermore, data approximation can become one of the key steps to filter the expected attack automatically and support to connect different critical information services in VANET that benefit from the transmitted information being secured. However, to achieve a faster IDS, it is important to understand how data augmentation influences the construction of summarized data, what type of approximation techniques should be used for machine learning and how data approximation can affect the IDS decision making.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have proposed a hybrid machine learning model to efficiently conduct comprehensive intrusion detection in VANET. The proposed solution combines data classification and coresets-based clustering. It takes advantage of coresets to achieve lower overhead of computational time consumption and enhances the reasoning process of IDSs in VANET. To validate the proposed model, we have conducted an experiment with a public IDS evaluation dataset, CICIDS2017. Our preliminary results have shown that the proposed solution can increase the detection accuracy, which improves further the utility of IDSs. As future work, we plan to deploy our solution in different real-world scenarios such as Internet of Vehicles and benchmark the performance of the proposed solution.

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