**TRUSTWORTHY MANET ROUTING ESTAODV IMPLEMENTATION USING DEEP REINFORCEMENT LEARNING**

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# Abstract

A collection of nodes which have the ability to move randomly within a wireless network is called a mobile ad hoc network (MANET). MANET plays a major role in wireless communication technology. Data transferring within the network has two considerable facts, reliability and security. Ensuring security in a mobile ad hoc network is a major concern due to the unpredictable motions and behaviors of network nodes.

In a wireless mobile network, it is possible for a large number of data packets to transmit among nodes within a small period of time. Therefore, it is possible that some nodes might not behave as we expect. It can eventually cause to a considerable amount of data packet drops. It shows that the existing security mechanisms have failed to distinguish between trustworthy and malicious nodes. In order to further categorize malicious nodes, the spiral model has introduced. It is capable of distinguishing pure malicious and collaborative malicious nodes. Usually, the nodes select the shortest path; but sometimes it may not be the reliable route to transfer data. Therefore, Reinforcement Learning (RL) component has proposed to predict the trustworthy routes.

Keywords— MANET, Spiral model, RL component

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to our project supervisor, Mr. Prabath Lakmal Rupasinghe for his patient guidance, and useful critique of our research work. And I would be grateful to the corporation given by Ms. Chamira Nawarathna to make the research project for a successful one. Their willingness to give their time so generously has been very much valuable. Especially mentioning the moral support and the continuous guidance by providing important feedback enabled us to complete our work successfully. I would also like to thank our lecturer-in-charge, Mr. Jayantha Amararachchi for constantly providing us with the guidance and assistance to carry out the research successfully. Also, I would like to thank my parents and friends who supported and encouraged me throughout the research project.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

[DECLARATION iii](#_Toc526670306)

[Abstract iv](#_Toc526670307)

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENT v](#_Toc526670308)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS vi](#_Toc526670309)

[LIST OF TABLES vii](#_Toc526670310)

[LIST OF FIGURES vii](#_Toc526670311)

[LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS vii](#_Toc526670312)

[1. INTRODUCTION 1](#_Toc526670313)

[**1.1.** **Introduction** 1](#_Toc526670314)

[**1.2.** **Literature Survey, Research Problem and Research Gap** 2](#_Toc526670315)

[**1.2.1.** **Authentication using the trust to detect misbehaving nodes in mobile ad-hoc networks using Q-Learning [1]** 2](#_Toc526670316)

[**1.2.2.** **Information theoretic framework of trust modeling and evaluation for ad hoc networks [2]** 3](#_Toc526670317)

[**1.2.3.** **Different ways to achieve trust in MANET [3]** 4](#_Toc526670318)

[**1.2.4.** **Secure routing with AODV protocol for mobile ad hoc networks [4]** 5](#_Toc526670319)

[**1.2.5.** **QoS assertion in manet routing based on trusted AODV (ST-AODV) [5]** 6](#_Toc526670320)

[**1.2.6.** **EBoX: Evidence of behavior information exchange mechanism against selfish attacks [6]** 6](#_Toc526670321)

[**1.2.7.** **QoS of MANET through trust-based AODV routing protocol by exclusion of black hole attack [7]** 6](#_Toc526670322)

[**1.3.** **Research Objectives** 7](#_Toc526670323)

[2. METHODOLOGY 8](#_Toc526670324)

[**2.1.** **Spiral Model** 8](#_Toc526670325)

[**2.1.1.** **Collaborative malicious node discovery process** 8](#_Toc526670326)

[**2.1.2.** **Penalty phase** 10](#_Toc526670327)

[**2.2.** **Deep Reinforcement Learning Model** 11](#_Toc526670328)

[**2.3.** **Implementation** 13](#_Toc526670329)

[**2.3.1.** **Technologies** 13](#_Toc526670330)

[3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 14](#_Toc526670331)

[**3.1.** **Spiral Model** 14](#_Toc526670332)

[**3.2.** **Deep Reinforcement Learning Model** 16](#_Toc526670333)

[4. CONCLUSION 18](#_Toc526670334)

[REFERENCES 19](#_Toc526670335)

# LIST OF TABLES

[Table 1.1: Backup Table 8](#_Toc526596990)

# LIST OF FIGURES

[Figure 1.1: Sample Network Diagram with 3 Network Nodes 3](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597002)

[Figure 2.1: Flow Chart for the Spiral Model 9](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597003)

[Figure 2.2: System Diagram 12](file:///D:\\SLIIT\\4th%20year\\Research\\DocRepo\\Doc\\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx" \l "_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.1: Sample Network Topology 13](file:///D:\\SLIIT\\4th%20year\\Research\\DocRepo\\Doc\\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx" \l "_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.2: Backup Table Data for Node 1 14](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.3: Backup Table Data for Node 2 14](file:///D:\\SLIIT\\4th%20year\\Research\\DocRepo\\Doc\\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx" \l "_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.4: Backup Table Data for Node 3 14](file:///D:\\SLIIT\\4th%20year\\Research\\DocRepo\\Doc\\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx" \l "_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.5: Backup Table Data for Node 4 14](file:///D:\\SLIIT\\4th%20year\\Research\\DocRepo\\Doc\\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx" \l "_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.6: Backup Table Data for Node 5 14](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.7: Q-values for Flows in Node 1 15](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.8: Q-values for Flows in Node 2 15](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

[Figure 3.9: Q-values for Flows in Node 3 16](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

[Figure 4.0: Q-values for Flows in Node 4 16](file:///D:\SLIIT\4th%20year\Research\DocRepo\Doc\18-024_IT14098888_Thesis.docx#_Toc526597004)

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abbreviation** | **Description** |
|  |  |
| AODV | Ad hoc On Demand Distance Vector |
| DQN | Deep Q Network |
| GRE | Generalized Reputation Evidence |
| MANET | Mobile Ad hoc Network |
| NFC | Near Field Communication |
| REP | Recommendation Exchange Protocol |
| RL | Reinforcement Learning |
| TL | Trust Level |
| TRR | Trust Recommendation Request |

# INTRODUCTION

## **Introduction**

Wireless communication is a communication mode which does not use physical wires to connect between two or more devices to transfer data. It uses electromagnetic waves to transfer signals. Depending on the wave frequencies, network coverage area will be changed. It can occur network connectivity issues for some regions. Generally, there are more advantages of using wireless networks. Cost is low since it does not require any physical infrastructure to maintain. Most of the times flexibility and accessibility of a wireless network are high regardless of the location. Some of the popular wireless technologies are WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC (Near-field communication) and satellite services. Routing protocols specify how routers should communicate with each other in the network with aid of such technologies. In a mobile ad hoc network, the ad hoc routing protocol is used for this purpose.

Due to the mobility feature of network nodes in MANET, security issues could arise at any time. Simply the packets might be dropped due to some unpredictable conditions. Therefore, the regular transmission process of the network can be interrupted. Existing cryptographic techniques like public/private key encryption and other security mechanisms such as packet filters, firewalls cannot always identify the trustworthy nodes to communicate. In public/private key encryption, anyone can encrypt a message using the public key of the receiver. As diverse to all the above-mentioned methods, defining a trust-based schema on top of AODV to detect each one hop (directly connected) neighbor nodes will solve this issue up to a considerable level.

Trustworthiness of nodes in the ad-hoc network will be evaluated by global trust value which is a combination of direct trust and indirect trust values. Direct trust is the trust which builds with the experience among directly connected nodes and when a node takes recommendations regarding a particular node from other neighbor nodes, simply it can be considered as taking the indirect trust. Based on the global trust value nodes will be categorized as trustworthy, partially trustworthy, selfish and malicious nodes. Their malicious category can further divide into pure malicious and collaborative malicious through the **Spiral model** which will be reviewed ahead in this documentation. Next step is to determine the best route path in the ad hoc network using **Reinforcement learning (RL) model.** Before step into that model since the system has already categorized network nodes as mentioned above, we could expect some performance wise efficient in the system.

## **Literature Survey, Research Problem and Research Gap**

### **Authentication using the trust to detect misbehaving nodes in mobile ad-hoc networks using Q-Learning [1]**

Authentication which is the key factor to be considered in MANET can be categorized into two sections called pre-authentication and post-authentication. As the name denotes pre-authentication is initial network deployment and post-authentication is a mechanism to detect nodes in the network over a period of time. According to S.Sivagurunathan, K.Prathapchandran, and A.Thirumavalavan, trust can be defined as “*the reliability, timeliness, and integrity of message delivery to a node’s intended next hop*” [1].

Nodes in an ad-hoc network will eventually be categorized into three sections such as trustworthy, partially trusted and untrusted; based entirely on their direct trust. So, it is unwise to come to conclusions based only on their direct trust value. There could also exist indirect aspects throughout the network which might affect the trust between nodes. In that case, apart from the direct trust, an indirect trust value which would consider such indirect factors should be calculated. Afterward, a global trust value can be defined based on the average value of both direct and indirect trust values and that global trust can be used for a rewarding system within the network.

### **Information theoretic framework of trust modeling and evaluation for ad hoc networks [2]**

It is preferred to consider the recommendation values from other nodes to fulfill the requirement of calculating indirect trust. Yan Lindsay Sun, Wei Yu, Zhu Han and K.J. Ray Liu have proposed an information theoretic framework as a solution. According to them, trust is a “*measure of uncertainty with its value represented by entropy”* [2].

This is a better approach than the 1.2.1 solution to detect misbehaviors of nodes because it defines a combination of two trust models named ‘entropy-based model’ and ‘probability-based model’. Under the entropy-based model, they have come up with an equation to calculate TABC which is the same as the indirect trust between node A and C.



Figure 1.1: Sample Network Diagram with 3 Network Nodes

RAB is the recommendation value from node A to B and TBC is the trust value from node B to C. Probability-based model will calculate the multipath trust propagation and concatenation using probability equations. Probability values for the trust relationship can be converted into trust values using entropy-based equations. In order to calculate indirect trust, it is required to request recommendations from other nodes. A new control packet has introduced as TRR (Trust Recommendation Request) to get the trust value of a particular node by requesting from the other neighbor nodes.

TABC = RABTBC

According to the Figure 1.1, if node A wants to know the indirect trust value of node C, node A can send a TRR message to node B by requesting for the trust value of node C.  That trust value is only available in node B’s trust table. Finally, TABC can be evaluated as in the above equation. Based on that trust value they are attempting to detect malicious nodes.

One drawback of this solution is that malicious nodes can collaboratively provide wrong recommendations for other nodes. Therefore, a mechanism should be required to detect collaborative malicious nodes. By analyzing this past history of network node interactions, we came up with a solution to categorize nodes into levels based on the global trust which can be utilized to identify the malicious nodes. Network nodes can be trustworthy, partially trustworthy, selfish, pure malicious or collaborative malicious nodes.

### **Different ways to achieve trust in MANET [3]**

Nodes in MANET can move randomly without any centralized structure or any time pattern. Due to this self-configuration and self-optimization characteristics, such networks can be called self-organized networks [1]. It is difficult to provide security for such dynamic environments than traditional networks. Ad hoc networks like MANET are vulnerable to various attacks due to these dynamic and distributed behaviors of nodes. This can lead to many IoT device failure with resource-constrained environments. Therefore, there should be mechanisms which allow a node to measure the reliability and security of other nodes. Then trustworthy nodes can avoid dealing with malicious nodes. As a result, it can improve both network performance and security aspects.

As revealed in 1.2.1, only the direct trust is calculated to evaluate the trustworthiness of nodes. That will cause problems in capturing indirect behaviors of network nodes that brings harm. There is no way to prove complete trustworthiness only depends on direct interactions among each node in the network. There might have chances of getting high accuracy for trust values by getting recommendations from other network nodes. At the same time could not come to a better decision only depending on indirect trust value. That will arise the requirement of calculating the average value of direct trust value and indirect trust value when taking a better conclusion on the trustworthiness of nodes. On the other hand, a definition of trust among the network nodes is similar to trust among human beings. Direct trust is the trust which builds with the experience among each other. When someone has suspects about that trust, going to take recommendations from others is the indirect trust. Therefore, measuring both direct trust and indirect trust is a vital factor.

According to 1.2.2, they do not consider about collaborative behaviors of malicious nodes. Sometimes group of malicious nodes provide wrong recommendations to make a node in their team as more trustworthy. Eventually it also contributes to a considerable amount of packet drops. Then there should be categories of malicious nodes such as pure malicious and collaborative malicious. Pure malicious nodes will misbehave individually, while collaborative malicious nodes misbehaving as a team in the network. Therefore, it is important to distinguish the type of malicious nodes.

### **Secure routing with AODV protocol for mobile ad hoc networks [4]**

T. Farid and A. Prahladachar have basically defined two types of security attacks and two types of models as the proposed solution. Compromised network nodes and selfish network nodes could make internal attacks. When a network node does not send or forward data packets and become inactive when other nodes need them and become active only for its own benefits, it can be named as a ‘selfish node’. There is also another type of attack called ‘external attack’ which is occurred due to invalid cryptographic information. Intrusion Detection Model (IDM) and Intrusion Response Model (IRM) comes into front as the solution. IDM uses neighbor node information to detect misbehaving nodes. If misbehavior count is greater than the threshold value, it will broadcast about that misbehaving node to other nodes. Under IRM, if two or more network nodes report about the same node, Purge packet [4] is transmitted to isolate the malicious node from the network.

### **QoS assertion in manet routing based on trusted AODV (ST-AODV) [5]**

In order to increase Quality of Service (QoS) in ad hoc networks, Sridhar Subramanian and Baskaran Ramachandran have proposed a trusted AODV called “ST-AODV”. The trust level (TL) value is calculated as below.

TL = T(RREQ)\*Qr + T(RREP)\*Qp + T(DATA)\*Qd

There Qr, Qp, and Qd are the intermediate values to calculate the request rate, reply rate and data transmission rate of network nodes respectively. And time factor to evaluate the route request, route reply and data sent are measured via T(RREQ), T(RREP) and T(DATA) accordingly. For a given network node, if TL is less than or equals to a threshold value, then it is considered as an untrustworthy node who might drop packets. Otherwise, it is a trustworthy node who should be allowed to stay in the network for a better-secured communication.

### **EBoX: Evidence of behavior information exchange mechanism against selfish attacks [6]**

Evidence of Behavior Information Exchange (EBox) mechanism could detect selfish nodes and misbehaving nodes in the ad hoc network and ignore such nodes from the network. It uses a reputation-based schema to award penalty points for selfish network nodes and credit points for trustworthy network nodes. Santhosh J and Malini V K proposed this mechanism to estimate trust values by comparing their predefined threshold values.

### **QoS of MANET through trust-based AODV routing protocol by exclusion of black hole attack [7]**

Radha Krishna Bar, Jyotsna Kumar Mandal, and Moirangthem Marjit Singh have proposed to evaluate trust values for nodes in the ad hoc networks based upon two criteria which their ability to forward data packets and forward RREQ for a given network node. Finally, the trust value is calculated as a multiplication of the forwarded data packets ratio and the forwarded RREQ packets ratio. Then trust value is recorded in the routing table to make routing decisions.

## **Research Objectives**

* Identify malicious nodes in the network and keep continuing transactions only with trustworthy nodes.
* Distinguish pure malicious nodes and collaborative malicious nodes in the ad hoc network.
* Predict the secured routes in MANET using Q-Learning mechanism.

# METHODOLOGY

## **Spiral Model**

As the advanced categorizing of the malicious nodes, we have to go to the spiral model where we have the collaborative malicious node discovery process. In the spiral model mainly, there are three different phases.

Table 1.1: Backup Table

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Neighbor node | Trust Value | Time duration/ Backup time | Analyzed results |
|  |  |  |  |

### **Collaborative malicious node discovery process**

This is the phase where will do the advanced categorization for the malicious nodes and identify the collaborative malicious nodes by analyzing the dynamic behavior of the nodes. Only using one record it cannot predict a collaborative malicious behavior, and it has to have more historical records or trust records. For this purpose, mainly, will maintain a backup table as in Table 1.1, where it stores the recent records of the trust table and each entry on the backup table is associated with a timeout. Initially, it has predetermined range for the trust with high trust value (HT) and low trust value (LT) and using the backup table records and current trust record it can compare the values against the time. For a given time period it can analyze the trust values, and after getting the analyzed report or plot, it can check for outliers within the given range HT – LT. If it contains any outliers or there are any sudden dynamic changes of the trust values it can suspect as a collaborative malicious node. Otherwise, it can be a pure malicious node without any dynamic changing behavior. The range can be changed according to the user specification.

Figure 2.1: Flow Chart for the Spiral Model

The procedure for the algorithm in Figure 2.1 is as follows.

**Procedure:** collaborative malicious node discovery algorithm (spiral model)

1: Get highest trust value and lowest trust value for the node for a given time range and marked them as value boundary for outliers

2: Then compare current trust value is in between the range or not.

3: If current trust value is in between the range, it's categorized as a pure malicious node.

4: Then it (the node who execute this) can delete that record from all of its tables and can broadcast message to aware others.

5: So that will terminate the pure malicious identified process.

6: If current trust value is not in between outliers it's categorized as collaborative malicious (CM) node.

7: Then it (the node who execute this) can edit its trust table blackList flag to true.

8: Identify all the neighbors of identified CM node and reduce their trust value since they have given the incorrect recommendations.

9: Broadcast to the other nodes

10: Go to the Identifying\_trust\_levels algorithm again.

### **Penalty phase**

Same as the trust level identification phase here also will reduce the trust value of the particular recommending node with the help of a reduction factor. Reduction factor will be calculated based on the maturity level or the reputation of the node. Immediately after the trust reduction, old trust value in the trust table should be updated with the newly calculated value. According to the updated trust value, the particular neighbor nodes should be redirected to the trust level identification phase in order to re-categorize their trust levels. The pseudocode for this algorithm is as follows.

BEGIN

p\_M =passed-in malicious node

IF trust value is not an outlier

THEN

Delete from trust table

Send Broadcast to delete the node

ELSE

Mark node as a blacklist in trust table

FOR each node which recommended p\_M DO

Calculate reduce factor

Recalculate indirect trust

Update global trust

END FOR

Broadcast neighbors about p\_M node

GOTO Identifying\_trust\_levels

END IF

END

## **Deep Reinforcement Learning Model**

Reinforcement Learning (RL) model is trained to achieve a particular goal through the optimal path. It will assign a positive reward for corrective action and a negative reward for incorrect action. RL model can predict more accurate result without utilizing more historical data of the relevant scenario. As for the agent in the RL model, will be using a DQN (Deep Q Network). DQN is a network which consists of state changing operations where an agent will monitor the actions and assign rewards for accurate actions and assign penalty points for inaccurate actions.

Figure 2.2: System Diagram

As in Figure 2.2, global trust value will be inputted to the RL component. Then it will generate a q-value based on defined rewards. This q-value can determine the most trustworthy path to forward packets. If the q-value is high then it will consider as the more trustworthy route and if q-value holds a law value then it will be an untrustworthy route. Here, will assign performance metrics as the state and predict actions according to it by the DQN agent.

## **Implementation**

### **Technologies**

In order to simulate the trust model on top of AODV routing protocol, will use a popular network simulator called ns-3. For implementing the trust model, will use c++ programming language and the entire RL model was implemented in python. Keras library was used for handling memory architectures or layers. Gnuplot was utilized for graphing backup table data with minimum and maximum global trust values. As for the development tools, Eclipse and Pycharm were used and Github repository was the version control system.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## **Spiral Model**



Figure 3.1: Sample Network Topology

Will take a topology of five network nodes including one **malicious node - 10.0.0.3** (black color node in Figure 3.1). Total simulation time is 100 seconds and will calculate trust values in every 10,40 and 90 seconds. There the goal is to identify the category of the malicious node through the spiral model.



Figure 3.3: Backup Table Data for Node 2

Figure 3.2: Backup Table Data for Node 1





Figure 3.4: Backup Table Data for Node 3

Figure 3.5: Backup Table Data for Node 4



Figure 3.6: Backup Table Data for Node 5

Figure 3.2- Figure 3.6 represent the plotted backup table data for all the nodes in the above-defined network. Each diagram consists of minimum and maximum global trust value (outliers) of each neighbor node. Based on those outliers, it could identify that 10.0.0.3 is a pure malicious node.

## **Deep Reinforcement Learning Model**

In order to measure the trustworthiness of routes will analyze result of a flow wise approach which was generated by the flow monitor in ns-3 simulator. Following images represent q-values of each flow node by node separately.

Figure 3.8: Q-values for Flows in Node 2

Figure 3.7: Q-values for Flows in Node 1



Figure 4.0: Q-values for Flows in Node 4

Figure 3.9: Q-values for Flows in Node 3

We had to execute the simulation multiple times in order to train the DQN agent. After analyzing the result from Figure 3.7 to Figure 4.0, it was revealed that the second highest global trust holder is the most trustworthy node in this neural network.

# 4. CONCLUSION

This document describes proposed solutions, methodologies and techniques used in spiral model and deep reinforcement learning model. It presents a novel solution to distinguish pure malicious nodes and collaborative malicious nodes using spiral model. If the current global trust value is in between minimum and maximum global trust range, it would be a pure malicious node. If not, it is in the form of collaborative. After all the trust level classifications, RL component will determine the most trustworthy node according to defined DQN agent. Then we could conclude the trust model accuracy on top of AODV routing protocol.

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