

**CSIS 3290-001**

**Fundamentals of Machine Learning**

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**Project 03**

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# Introduction and discovery

## Introduction

The business domain revolves around traffic data analysis with a focus on encrypted malicious traffic detection. The dataset is a compilation of balanced sizes of encrypted malicious and legitimate traffic from five public datasets. This dataset is intended for machine learning model training in the domain of cybersecurity.

The target organization, in this case, is not explicitly mentioned, but the focus is on creating a dataset that aids in developing models for the detection of encrypted malicious traffic. This is crucial in the context of increasing cyber threats, where the distinction between legitimate and malicious traffic becomes challenging due to encryption.

## Framing the problem

Framing the problem involves addressing questions related to the effective identification of encrypted malicious traffic within network data. The importance of this analysis lies in enhancing cybersecurity measures by developing accurate and efficient models that can distinguish between normal and potentially harmful network activities.

## Initial hypotheses

* The proportion of encrypted malicious traffic within the dataset is expected to be relatively small compared to legitimate traffic due to the nature of cybersecurity threats.
* The balance between malicious and legitimate traffic, along with the inclusion of both conventional and IoT devices, aims to create a dataset that represents real-world scenarios, leading to robust model training.

# Data Preparation

## Data inventory

The dataset is composed of five public traffic datasets, including the Malwares Capture Facility Project dataset and the CICIDS-2017 dataset. The data has been pre-processed to ensure balance, both in terms of the malicious and legitimate traffic and the contributions from individual datasets. Details of each selected public dataset and the final composed dataset are provided in the "Dataset Statistic Analysis Document."

The dataset was obtained from <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/ztyk4h3v6s/2> searching with <https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/>

## Data processing

1. Most machine learning algorithms can only work with numerical data. But, in many cases, what we have is categorical data. Because algorithms cannot perform mathematical operations on them, it is necessary to transform them before they can be used to train any machine learning model. Something that can be achieved by creating dummy variables or binary variables. The most common method for creating dummy variables is to convert each of the categories of the original variable into a new binary column. If the row corresponds to the category, it will have a value of 1, in any other case it will have 0. Let's see how it works. You can create dummy variables with Pandas using the function.
2. As we have a type of high-dimensional data sets and they are all used for the creation of Machine Learning models, it can cause:

* The additional features act as noise, which the Machine Learning model can perform extremely poorly.
* The model takes longer to train.
* Allocation of unnecessary resources for these features.

For all this, feature selection must be implemented in Machine Learning projects.

Feature Selection is the process of selecting the most important and/or relevant features of a data set, intending to improve the prediction performance of predictors, providing faster and more cost-effective predictors, and providing a better understanding of the process.

1. Check to avoid null data in the data set.
2. As SelectKBest is the best feature selection method we will work with it. Avoiding executing the test again in Jupiter Notebook because of machine resources.

A screenshot of a computer program

Description automatically generated

1. In the dataset, it appears that the target variable is the "label" column. This column contains binary values, with 1 indicating a certain condition or class and 0 indicating another. The specific meaning of these classes would depend on the context of your dataset and the problem you are trying to solve.

For instance, in some network security or intrusion detection scenarios, the label could represent whether a network activity is classified as normal (0) or malicious (1). Alternatively, it could represent different types of network activities or any binary classification task relevant to your domain.

# Model Planning and Implementation

## Proposed model(s) and justification

Given the constraint that a deep learning approach is not feasible, a more traditional machine learning model will be employed. A Random Forest classifier is a suitable choice. Random Forest is known for its efficiency, interpretability, and ability to handle diverse datasets without overfitting. Its ensemble nature makes it robust against noise and suitable for capturing complex relationships within the data.

## Determination of Model Workflow

The workflow will involve initial data preprocessing, feature selection, and training a Random Forest classifier. Instead of clustering, which might add complexity and computational overhead, we will focus on a single model. The model will be trained on the balanced and preprocessed dataset.

## Efficiency of Workflows

To meet the time constraint, the workflow will be streamlined using pipelines for data preprocessing, feature selection, and model training. This ensures a sequential and efficient process.

## Testing Hypotheses and Modeling Objectives:

The Random Forest model will be evaluated based on its ability to accurately detect encrypted malicious traffic within the given time constraint. Insights gained from the model will contribute to understanding the features crucial for distinguishing between malicious and legitimate traffic.

Random Forest is known for its efficiency, and the use of pipelines will contribute to meeting the 2-minute runtime requirement. Feature selection techniques will be applied judiciously to reduce dimensionality and speed up the training process.

# Results Interpretation and Implications

## Results

In

## Assess

The

## Major insights

The major insights

# Out-of-sample Predictions

## Using new data

In