Case Study: ARIMA for Anomaly Detection in DDOS Attacks

Ben Harris

DS 4002: Prototyping – 4/28/2025

Context

You are a data scientist at a cybersecurity firm and your client's servers are under attack!

A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is flooding their servers with traffic, and your job

is to intervene before serious, costly damage is done. Your supervisor has tasked you with

developing a model to detect these attacks early before they spiral out of control.

Mission

In this case study, you will use real Amazon Web Services CloudWatch data on CPU

utilization, inbound network traffic, and request counts to detect anomalies that may signal a

DDoS attack. You will construct a statistical model using time series data and evaluate its

performance across these distinct server metrics. If successful, you will be able to spot and

mitigate the damage from cyber attacks.

Your job is to replicate and evaluate an ARIMA model for anomaly detection. You will

submit a reproducible script along with reports on the dataset and the model's effectiveness.

Through this case study you will learn technical skills as well as good data and communication

practices.

Link to the Github repository: https://github.com/harrisvben/arima ddos detection